Introduction

Thanks to geological history, the Himalayas loom large over the plains of India, creating a steep, nearly inaccessible fortress of rock and forest. This creates a barrier to atmospheric moisture that permits wetlands and massive rivers to persist south of the mountains and lush montane forest on the slopes themselves, while depriving the areas to the north of the mountains of water. The overall effect is that over a short distance, one can see vastly different birds in the flatlands of India and the adjacent forests of Bhutan’s mountainous peaks and valleys.

Thanks to that same geology, those inaccessible Himalayan slopes protected Bhutan from foreign invaders over the centuries. This isolation led Bhutan’s culture remained virtually unchanged for four centuries, until in recent years the kingdom—now a constitutional monarchy—has slowly opened up its borders to tourists and foreign investment.

All of this adds up to both an utterly unique tourist experience and absolutely superb birding. Starting in Kaziranga, in the plains and lowland forests of the northeast Indian state of Assam, we saw well over 100 species that we would not see again in Bhutan. The park is best known for its charismatic megafauna—we saw innumerable Indian one-horned rhinos, Indian elephants, wild Asian water buffalo, as well as deer, otters, boars, and primates. But the birding there offers access to some rare grassland dwellers, and we did well seeing Bengal Florican, Swamp Francolin, and Slender-billed and Chestnut-capped Babblers, and a variety of other grassland specialties. Its wetlands hosted birds like Greater and Lesser Adjutant, Black-headed Ibis, Spot-billed Pelican, and River Tern. Meanwhile, in the park’s and adjacent forests we found Blue-naped Pitta, Orange-headed Thrush, and Abbott’s Babbler.

The birding in Bhutan is entirely different; its vast tracts of Himalayan forests host incredible birding and great opportunities to see unusual mammals. Perhaps most famous for pheasants and forest-dwelling babblers, this years trip was long on both, including some of the rarest and most sought-after among them, like Satyr Tragopan and Himalayan Monal and Wedge-billed Babbler and Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler. Other specialties that we saw included Blood Pheasant, Dark-rumped Swift, Black-
tailed Crake, Ward’s Trogon, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, Beautiful Nuthatch, Great Parrotbill, 14 species of laughingthrush, Fire-tailed Myzornis, and Spot-winged Starling, and babblers galore. And top of all that, we found Bhutan’s first record of Red-necked Phalarope.

More photos from this trip can be found on Tropical Birding’s Facebook page.
Kaziranga is brimming with both wetland birds and raptors. Top: two huge waterbirds in flight: Spot-billed Pelican (left) and the endangered Greater Adjutant. Bottom: Two common raptors: Pied Harrier (left) and Changeable Hawk-Eagle.

The grasslands also held some superb birds, including Chestnut-capped, the rare Slender-billed, and Yellow-eyed Babblers, Swamp Francolin, a small group of Yellow-breasted Buntings, and some gorgeous Pied Harriers. White-tailed Rubythroats sang from the grasslands, but remained unseen. Bengal Bushlark showed beautifully in the agriculture on the park’s edge. The forests inside the park were teeming with birds, including cooperative Orange-headed Thrush, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Gray-winged Blackbird, and Abbott’s Babbler. Finding Brown Hawk-Owl in the middle of the day was a very welcome surprise.

The wetlands in Kaziranga were alive with birds. Wintering ducks were still present in large numbers, and included Common and Ruddy Shelducks and Garganey among larger numbers of more common waterfowl. Black-headed Ibis, Black-necked Stork, Greater and Lesser Adjutant, and Spot-billed Pelicans were all seen several times along with large numbers of herons and egrets. A pair of Greater Painted-Snipe skulked along the grassy edge of one marsh where graceful River Terns plied the waters. Gray-headed Lapwings graced the edge of another large wetland.
Among Kaziranga’s rare grassland birds is the critically endangered Bengal Florican. The great park, however, is most famous for mammals, like elephants, rhinos, and buffalo.

Raptors put on a great show during our visit. Besides the common Gray-headed and Pallas’s Fish-Eagles, we found Black Baza and Imperial, Steppe, and Greater Spotted Eagles. A carcass on the edge of one wetland attracted large numbers of Eurasian Griffon who squabbled with several of the endangered Greater Adjutants and a pair of the critically endangered Slender-billed Vulture.

Outside the park, woodlands hosted further great birding. Blue-naped Pitta was elusive, with several heard and one brief glance. We did see Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Rufous-fronted and Puff-throated Babbler, and White-browed Scimitar-Babbler, though we had to wait to see the skulking Gray-throated Babbler until we reached Bhutan. A brawny Brown Fish-Owl sat in the open for us one morning. The bright colors of five species of minivets and four species of parakeets (including Blossom-headed) were soaked in both inside and outside the park.

BHUTAN
Samdrup Jonkhar to Trashigang

We started in Bhutan by passing easily through the border at Samdrup Jonkhar, immediately noting the more peaceful, less hectic atmosphere of Bhutan, and over the first two days made our way to Trashigang. Along the lower parts of the road, we found birds typical of low-elevation forest, like Wreathed and Great Hornbill, Asian Fairy Bluebird, and Greater Racket-tailed Drongo.

Our lunch stop on the first day was perfectly placed; just as we were finishing up, we got incredible looks at an unusually large group of the rare Dark-rumped Swift as they repeatedly passed low overhead. After lunch we made a couple of sudden stops for Asian Emerald Cuckoo and the uncommon Lesser Cuckoo sitting up by the roadside; we watched the latter catch a large insect while pondering the bird’s identification.
We saw virtually the entire Bhutan population of the rare Dark-rumped Swift (left, in a composite of two photos) in a single flock our first day in the country while eating lunch. We also spotted a cuckoo from the moving bus, which proved very obliging. It sat long enough for us to determine it was a Lesser Cuckoo, then showed off a bit by catching a large insect.

As we got higher up, a fantastic mixed flock materialized, which included an incredibly cooperative Black-eared Shrike-Babbler and several new warblers, yuhinas, and flycatchers. The following morning this same area yielded several more goodies, including a wonderful female Cutia, Gray-cheeked Warbler and the near-endemic Bhutan (Streaked) Laughingthrush. Eventually we made our way to our hotel in Trashigang for an afternoon visit to the town’s majestic dzong.

Trashigang to Trongsa

We spent several days birding Thrumsingla National Park, along one of the best roads for birding in all of Asia. It certainly didn’t disappoint. A Blue-bearded Bee-eater greeted our arrival to the famed Lingmethang Road, where mixed flocks of babblers, minlas, fulvettas, yuhinas, warblers, and others were frequent finds. The very rare Wedge-billed Babbler gave us walk-away, point-blank views, something almost unheard of for the species. A male Ward’s Trogon showed brilliantly, posing for leisurely scope views. Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler showed off its namesake bill early on and an Asian Emerald Cuckoo glowed green in the early morning sunlight.

We had great views of two of Bhutan’s rarest and most highly-sought species in a single morning on the famed Lingmethang Rd. through Thrumsingla National Park. At left is a male Ward’s Trogon, at right the little-known Wedge-billed Wren-Babbler.
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrushes hopped around on the road in front of us in response to playback, while a small group of the reclusive Scaly Laughingthrush showed off its yellow-edged wings flying across the road. Rufous-necked Hornbill was elusive, giving only brief views (it made us sweat a bit, but we got incredible views later on). A Rufous-bellied Eagle highlighted the cast of raptors, which also included up-close views of a hunting Black Eagle. One of the harder *Glaucidium* owls to actually see, a Collared Owlet provided incredible looks, eventually being chased off by the relentless harassment of a Black-throated Sunbird.

Reaching the higher parts of the road, a Yellow-rumped Honeyguide sallied for bees next to huge rock bee hives. A distant Little Forktail fed in a gushing waterfall. A pair of Gold-naped Finches fed on roadside berries under a canopy of bamboo. A Chesnut-headed Tesia fed in a flowering rhododendron for part of the group without any taping; while we were trying to lure it back for the rest of the group a Red-flanked Bluetail and a party of Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes showed up. Mrs. Gould’s Sunbirds fought for our attention with the more common Green-tailed.

![Sunbird images](image-url)

*Sunbirds are common sights throughout Bhutan, including Green-tailed (left) and Mrs. Gould’s.*

Finally it was time for the Satyr Tragopan hunt. A fleeting glimpse of a male whetted our appetites, but it was the third roadside male that we found that sated it. Incredible, prolonged looks at this amazing bird feeding on grass provided a major trip highlight. We continued climbing up towards Thrumsingla, where two more pheasant targets showed off their brilliant hues. Blood Pheasants were particularly cooperative, while a female monal showed off right on the road. The multi-hued male perched up on a rock for all to see before taking off down the rhododendron-laden slope.

A responsive Great Parrotbill sang uncharacteristically from an open perch above its usual bamboo thicket lair, while equally uncharacteristic was a Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler doing likewise, belting out one of the best songs in the bird world. A male Crimson-browed Finch lurked nearby, feeding on fresh buds. Fire-tailed Sunbird males chased each other aggressively as we neared the pass, while other high-altitude denizens also entertained us after crossing the prayer flag-draped pass, including a cooperative male White-browed Bush-Robin.
We finally wound our way to Trongsa, though shortly after our morning departure we screeched to a halt for a calling Ibisbill, a fantastic Himalayan specialty that is often placed in its own family. A well-timed shopping stop also allowed for (besides wonderful souvenirs) great views of a large flock of Himalayan Griffons. Heading over another pass, a drably plumaged Brown Parrotbill picked a colorful spot for its lunch, ripping apart hot pink rhododendron flowers. A few more stops before reaching town yielded goodies like Beautiful Rosefinch and Green-crowned Warbler. We spent the afternoon watching archery, exploring the stunningly situated dzong, and visiting the charming town.

The south road

We spent three nights in the beautiful, remote Mangde Chhu Valley of south central Bhutan. This forested valley hosts some spectacular birding, which we took full advantage of. In the lower parts of the valley we found nest-building Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Blue-winged and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes, and Rufous Woodpecker. A little higher up we found Sultan Tit, Red-faced Liocichla, Pale Blue Flycatcher, Large Niltava, and had scope looks (!) at singing Spotted Wren-Babbler.

On the drives there and back we had great looks at Little Forktail after earlier very distant views, and we finally caught up with our first Brown Dipper, a very actively feeding juvenile.

Judging by the blood on the Gray-backed Shrike’s face, it had just finished a successful hunt. As usual, Golden Langurs, nearly endemic to Bhutan, were easy to find.

Golden Langurs were common throughout, and, after many good views, we finally had perfect views of Rufous-necked Hornbill on our final morning. That same morning, though, was reserved for a last-ditch effort to find Beautiful Nuthatch, a normally elusive bird that remained that way during our earlier efforts to track it down. But that last morning, as we were sitting down to breakfast in the forest before heading out of its
range, a pair showed up. After some scrambling and some effort, everyone got great looks at the stunning blue streaking on its back from which it derives its well-deserved name.

**Trongsa to Paro, including Cultural Extension**

We continued westward, stopping as several passes along the way. We picked up birds like the rare Fire-tailed Myzornis, Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin, Besra, Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, and a superb flock of Spot-winged Grosbeaks. A dip into the Phobjika Valley yielded a lingering duo of Black-necked Cranes which we enjoyed watching feeding at the bottom of the valley (we could even see them from inside the Black-necked Crane Information Center!). Oriental Skylarks were common here as well, and we finished up our visit there with a visit of the beautiful Gangtey Goempa monastery.

Our last detour from the main road was into the Mo Chhu Valley. The birding was strangely slow here, but we did see several goodies, including Ferruginous and Dark-sided Flycatchers, an amazingly cooperative flock of the uncommon Gray-sided Laughingthrush, and everyone had great looks at two super-skulkers: Slaty-bellied Tesia and Pygmy Wren-Babbler, both after many tries at various stops across Bhutan. The rivers here provided some further good birds, including Crested Kingfisher, White-browed Wagtail, and an Ibisbill with two fuzzy chicks. The rarest find was a Red-necked Phalarope that Joanna spotted, providing Bhutan with its first ever record of the species.

Collared Owlets (left) are surprisingly difficult to see, given how frequently they are heard. This was the only showing off one real eye and one false one, was the only one we saw. Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, despite favoring secondary habitats, is not common, but we had perfect views of a pair.

Finally we arrived in the capital, Thimphu. Preparations were underway for the upcoming SAARC meeting to be held there, and colorful banners and flags welcoming the region’s heads of state brightened the city’s streets. One morning, we visited a local hillside monastery not just to see the impressive temple but also to get close-up views of one of the Himalaya’s strange goat-antelopes, the goral. A morning visit to some local wetlands yielded superb views of Black-tailed Crake, before we moved on to Paro, our final destination.

From Paro we had an early morning departure for the highest point on the tour, the 4000m high Chelela (la means pass in Dzongka). The early departure paid off, and not
just because through the clear early morning air we were able to see the summit of the 7300m Jomolhari. Beautiful in an entirely different way, we easily found two male Himalayan Monals, positively glowing in the early morning sunshine. Blood Pheasants were numerous: we were lucky enough to see a group of five males singing, displaying, and fighting over a nearby female.

Although we had seen both of these pheasants previously on the trip, we saved our best views for the last day of birding, when these photos were taken. At left is a male Himalayan Monal whose colors look painted on. At right, a male Blood Pheasant, one of a group of five that we watched singing, displaying, and fighting over a lone female.

It was not only a gloriously clear day, but the birding was remarkable and new birds came quickly. Eurasian (Himalayan) Treecreeper and Collared Grosbeak were early finds, as were improved looks at two stunning laughingthrushes, whose intricate plumage we were able to admire in detail: Spotted and Black-faced. We were lucky to find two new Zoothera thrushes, the normally reclusive Scaly Thrush and a distant singing Long-tailed Thrush that we finally found a good angle from which to view it. A stunning black-masked Golden Bush Robin skulked through the underbrush while a White-browed Bush-Robin sang unabashedly from a high perch. It was a fitting last full day of birding, with some spectacular and rare Himalayan specialties in the beautiful forests of Chelela.

All of the tour participants stayed on for the cultural extension in Paro as well, a perfect way to wind down at the end of the tour. We visited the wonderful National Museum, with its narrow passageways and its abundance of Bhuddist reliquaries. Afterwards we peeked into the Paro Dzong before crossing the famous cantilever bridge below the dzong to meet the bus.

The final day of the tour was devoted to visiting the astonishing Taksan—Tiger’s Nest Monastery. The hike up was beautiful and birdy, with clear weather and the accompaniment of Asian Martins, Fork-tailed Swifts, and a Peregrine Falcon overhead. A mixed flock in the oak-rhododendron forest held a Green Shrike-Babbler, our only one for the trip. The monastery is situated on the side of a cliff, where it is impossible not to ponder how it was originally constructed in the 17th century. It was a long and wonderful hike, and we took advantage of a well-deserved hot stone bath at a local farmhouse afterwards. It was a great way to end our journey through the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan.
TRIP LIST

The definitive field guide for the region is Rasmussen and Anderton (2005), *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide (Volumes 1&2)*, Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. Their taxonomy is in brackets.

Conservation status is noted for threatened and near-threatened species, according to Birdlife International’s listings. NT=Near-threatened, VU=Vulnerable, EN=Endangered, CR=Critically Endangered. For more information, see www.birdlife.org.

Heard only birds are marked by an ‘H’.

**ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**

*By placing the Kaziranga extension before the main Bhutan trip, we are there before most of the wintering waterfowl have departed. So while we saw few waterfowl in Bhutan, we saw an excellent variety in Kaziranga.*

Graylag Goose
Anser anser

Bar-headed Goose
Anser indicus

First seen in Kaziranga, we also saw a pair by the side of the Mo Chhu near Punakha in Bhutan. One of the pair wore a neck band; some sleuthing on the Internet revealed that it was banded in 2007 in Mongolia as part of avian flu research.

Ruddy Shelduck
Tadorna ferruginea

Common Shelduck
Tadorna tadorna

Gadwall
Anas strepera

Eurasian Wigeon
Anas penelope

Indian Spot-billed Duck
Anas poecilorhyncha

Northern Shoveler
Anas clypeata

Northern Pintail
Anas acuta

Garganey
Anas querquedula

Green-winged [Common] Teal
Anas crecca

**GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**

*Pheasants are among the most spectacular birds in the world and the most sought in Asia, and some of the best of all live in Bhutan. Pheasants are always a highlight of the Bhutan trip, and that was certainly true this year.*

Swamp Francolin (VU)
Francolinus gularis

Kaziranga is perhaps the best place in the world to see this rare francolin. We had great views a few times.

Hill Partridge (H)
Arborophila torqueola

Chestnut-breasted Partridge (H) (VU)
Arborophila mandelli

Bhutan's partridges are devilishly hard to see. We heard all three species many times, and came closest to seeing this one, but it wouldn't come out.

Rufous-throated Partridge (H)
Arborophila rufogularis

Blood Pheasant
Ithaginis cruentus

We saw a remarkable number of this beautiful pheasant. A highlight of the tour was watching a group of five males singing, displaying, and fighting over a lone female.

Satyr Tragopan (NT)
Tragopan satyra

This is a bird that needs to be seen to be believed. Voted bird of the tour, we had incredibe, prolonged looks on the roadside at Sengor.

Himalayan Monal
Lophophorus impejanus
Like the tragopan, the monal's plumage looks painted on. After excellent views of a female at Thrumsingla, we caught up with the stunning males at Chelela.

**Red Junglefowl**  *Gallus gallus*
Common in Kaziranga, where we saw many.

**Kalij Pheasant**  *Lophura leucomelanos*
We got to see a whole range of plumage types as we traveled from Kaziranga through Bhutan, where the breast and rump colors, in particular, are variable.

**PODICEPIDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**
**Great Crested Grebe**  *Podiceps cristatus*

**PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae**
**Spot-billed Pelican (NT)**  *Pelecanus philippensis*

**PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**
**Indian Cormorant**  *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
**Great Cormorant**  *Phalacrocorax carbo*
**Little Cormorant**  *Phalacrocorax niger*

**PELECANIFORMES: Anhingidae**
**[Oriental] Darter (NT)**  *Anhinga melanogaster*

**CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**
**Gray Heron**  *Ardea cinerea*
**Purple Heron**  *Ardea purpurea*
**Great Egret**  *Ardea alba*
**Intermediate Egret**  *Egretta intermedia*
**Little Egret**  *Egretta garzetta*
**[Eastern] Cattle Egret**  *Bubulcus [coromandus] ibis*
**Indian Pond-Heron**  *Ardeola grayii*
**Striated Heron**  *Butorides striata*

**CICONIIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**
**Black-headed Ibis (NT)**  *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

**CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**
**Asian Openbill**  *Anastomus oscitans*
**Woolly-necked Stork**  *Ciconia episcopus*
**Black-necked Stork (NT)**  *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
**Lesser Adjutant (VU)**  *Leptoptilos javanicus*
**Greater Adjutant (EN)**  *Leptoptilos dubius*
We saw this prehistoric-looking giant very well several times in Kaziranga, including with a large flock of vultures at an unidentifiable carcass.

**FALCONIFORMES: Pandionidae**
**Osprey**  *Pandion haliaetus*

**FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae**
The number and diversity of raptors in Kaziranga was truly impressive, with migrants and residents both present in great numbers. Bhutan also came through with a good diversity of montane forest raptors.

**Black Baza**  *Aviceda leuphotes*
**Black Kite**  *Milvus migrans*
**Pallas's Fish-Eagle (VU)**  *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
Rare globally, it is common in Kaziranga.
Gray-headed Fish-Eagle (NT)  *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
Another common, but certainly welcome, sight over Kaziranga's wetlands.

Slender-billed Vulture (CR)  *Gyps tenuirostris*
We got lucky with this one. The rain had made the road to a known nest impassable, but we found a pair feeding on a carcass with other vultures.

Himalayan Griffon  *Gyps himalayensis*
A large flock was seen while we made a shopping stop between Jakar and Trongsa.

Eurasian Griffon  *Gyps fulvus*
Many seen at Kaziranga, particularly at the carcass we found in the Western Range.

Crested Serpent-Eagle  *Spilornis cheela*
Northern [Hen] Harrier  *Circus cyaneus*
Pied Harrier  *Circus melanoleucus*
Perhaps the most beautiful of a striking genus of raptors, we saw several brilliant males in Kaziranga.

Crested Goshawk  *Accipiter trivirgatus*
We had great views of one being harassed by drongos just above Sandrup Jonkhar.

Shikra  *Accipiter badius*
Besra [Sparrowhawk]  *Accipiter virgatus*
Eurasian Sparrowhawk  *Accipiter nisus*
Northern Goshawk  *Accipiter gentilis*
Eurasian [Himalayan] Buzzard  *Buteo [burmanicus] buteo*
Black Eagle  *Ictinaetus malayensis*
Greater Spotted Eagle (VU)  *Aquila clanga*
Kaziranga is absolutely full of raptors in late March, but our visit to Kaziranga's Eastern Range was particularly raptor-filled, and included seeing individuals of each the three *Aquila* eagles over the course of just a few minutes.

Steppe Eagle  *Aquila nipalensis*
[Eastern] Imperial Eagle (VU)  *Aquila heliaca*
Rufous-bellied Eagle  *Aquila kiienerii*
We had great views of the uncommon forest eagle, including an immature chasing flocks of Rock Pigeons over the dzong at Trongsa.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle  *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
Fairly common in Kaziranga, it is replaced by the next species in Bhutan's higher altitude forests.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle  *Spizaetus nipalensis*
The most common raptor seen in Bhutan, we saw this beauty nearly daily when at the right altitudes.

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Eurasian [Common] Kestrel  *Falco tinnunculus*
Peregrine Falcon  *Falco peregrinus*
We had two memorable Peregrine sightings: one shot overhead while we stood surrounded by prayer flags flapping in the wind at a pass in Eastern Bhutan; another was flying around the cliffs at Tiger's Nest monastery.

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

White-breasted Waterhen  *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Black-tailed Crake  *Amaurornis bicolor*
After some effort, we had great views of a pair in Thimphu.

Purple [Gray-headed] Swamphen  *Porphyrio [poliocephalus] porphyrio*

**GRUIFORMES: Otididae**

Bengal Florican (CR)  *Houbaropsis bengalensis*
We had wonderful flight views of a male while on elephant-back at Kaziranga. We then saw another (or maybe the same) male later that day on the ground.

**GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**
Kaziranga and Bhutan 29 March-25 April 2010

**Black-necked Crane (VU)**  *Grus nigricollis*
Another trip highlight was seeing a pair of this rare crane feeding in the Probhjika Valley, home to most of Bhutan's wintering population. One appeared to be injured and the other may have been its offspring.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**
- **Northern Lapwing**  *Vanellus vanellus*
- **River Lapwing**  *Vanellus duvaucelii*
- **Gray-headed Lapwing**  *Vanellus cinereus*
For a little while I was worried that this rare lapwing had departed its Indian wintering grounds before we got there, but thanks to our local guide's sharp eyes we had nice views.
- **Red-wattled Lapwing**  *Vanellus indicus*
- **Little Ringed Plover**  *Charadrius dubius*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Ibidorhynchidae**
- **Ibisbill**  *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*
More than almost any other bird, this species conjures images of the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas. We saw it a few times, including once with two tiny chicks near Punakha.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**
- **Bronze-winged Jacana**  *Metopidius indicus*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**
- **Common Sandpiper**  *Actitis hypoleucos*
- **Green Sandpiper**  *Tringa ochropus*
- **Spotted Redshank**  *Tringa erythropus*
- **Common Greenshank**  *Tringa nebularia*
- **Marsh Sandpiper**  *Tringa stagnatilis*
- **Temminck's Stint**  *Calidris temminckii*
- **Dunlin**  *Calidris alpina*
A rarity for northeast India, one was with other shorebirds at Kaziranga.
- **Common Snipe**  *Gallinago gallinago*
Several were at Kaziranga. We also flushed a snipe near Thimphu that was probably this species.
- **Red-necked Phalarope**  *Phalaropus lobatus*
Joanna spotted Bhutan's first record in river near Punakha. Details will be published elsewhere.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Rostratulidae**
- **Greater Painted-snipe**  *Rostratula benghalensis*
We had wonderful views of this strange shorebird at Kaziranga.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**
- **River Tern**  *Sterna aurantia*
Kaziranga is a great place to see this beautiful tern.

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**
- **Rock Pigeon**  *Columba livia*
- **Speckled Wood-Pigeon**  *Columba hodgsonii*
This species was elusive this year, but we finally caught up with it in Paro.
- **Oriental Turtle-Dove**  *Streptopelia orientalis*
- **Red Collared-Dove**  *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
- **Spotted Dove**  *Streptopelia chinensis*
- **Barred Cuckoo-Dove**  *Macropygia unchall*
- **Emerald Dove**  *Chalcophaps indica*
Kaziranga and Bhutan 29 March-25 April 2010

Yellow-footed [Green-]Pigeon  Treron phoenicopterus
Pin-tailed [Green-]Pigeon  Treron apicauda
We watched a pair nest-building near Tingtibi.
Green Imperial-Pigeon  Ducula aenea
We saw this low-elevation species nicely in Kaziranga.
Mountain Imperial-Pigeon  Ducula badia
The higher elevation replacement of the previous species, we saw it nicely in Eastern Bhutan.

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae
We saw all four of these species very well in Kaziranga, where parakeets are a nearly constant presence.
Alexandrine Parakeet  Psittacula eupatria
Rose-ringed Parakeet  Psittacula krameri
Blossom [Rosy]-headed Parakeet  Psittacula roseata
Red-breasted Parakeet  Psittacula alexandri

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae
Migrant cuckoos had shown up en masse by the time we hit Bhutan, and their far-carrying songs accompanied us throughout the trip.
Large Hawk-Cuckoo  Cuculus sparverioides
Very common but difficult to see, we eventually managed good views.
Common Hawk-Cuckoo  Cuculus varius
One was seen by one vehicle in Kaziranga.
Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo (H)  Cuculus nisicolor
Indian Cuckoo (H)  Cuculus micropterus
Heard once in Kaziranga
Common Cuckoo  Cuculus canorus
Himalayan [Oriental] Cuckoo  Cuculus saturatus
Lesser [Small] Cuckoo  Cuculus poliocephalus
We had great views of two individuals; we watched one grab and eat a large green insect.
Plaintive Cuckoo  Cacomantis merulinus
Asian Emerald Cuckoo  Chrysococcyx maculatus
We saw this lovely little cuckoo extremely well on the Lingmethang Rd.
Asian [Square-tailed] Drongo-Cuckoo  Surniculus lugubris
Asian Koel  Eudynamys scolopaceus
Green-billed Malkoha  Phaenicophaeus tristis
Greater Coucal  Centropus sinensis
Lesser Coucal  Centropus bengalensis

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae
Owls are notoriously difficult to see in Bhutan, but we were certainly content to see six species—all during the day—between Kaziranga and Bhutan.
Mountain Scops-Owl (H)  Otus spilocephalus
A little devil to actually see, we only heard them in Bhutan.
Collared Scops-Owl (H)  Otus lettia
We got really close to a responsive bird near our Tingtibi camp, but couldn't see it.
Brown Fish-Owl  Ketupa zeylonensis
We had nice views of one during the day near Kaziranga.
Collared Owlet  Glaucidium brodiei
Given how frequently this species is heard in Bhutan, it is surprisingly hard to see. This year we got lucky with an incredible looks at a very responsive individual in Thrumsingla National Park.
Asian Barred Owlet  Glaucidium cuculoides
We saw it first in Kaziranga, but better in Bhutan, near Shemgang, while looking for Beautiful Nuthatch.
Jungle Owlet  Glaucidium radiatum

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It was a nice surprise to see one in Kaziranga.

**Spotted Owlet** *Athene brama*
We saw it first on a side trip to the Kaziranga Zoo before the tour had officially started.

**Brown Hawk-Owl** *Ninox scutulata*
Yet another daytime owl sighting was this beauty, in riverine forest at Kaziranga.

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

**Gray Nightjar** *Caprimulgus indicus*
We at least saw the eyeshine of this guy at our hotel in Paro.

**Large-tailed Nightjar (H)** *Caprimulgus macrurus*

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*
We saw one torpedo into a presumed nest site at an incredible speed on the Lingmethang Rd.
We also had distant looks near Dochula.

**Himalayan Swiftlet** *Aerodramus brevirostris*

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*

**Dark-rumped Swift (VU)** *Apus acuticauda*
We saw probably the entire Bhutan population in a single flock above Samdrup Jonkhar, providing exceptionally good views while we ate lunch.

**House Swift** *Apus nipalensis*

**Asian Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**

**Red-headed Trogon (H)** *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
We tried several stake-outs of this stunning forest dweller, but despite hearing it at close range we never got views.

**Ward's Trogon (NT)** *Harpactes wardi*
One of Bhutan's key species, we had spectacular views of a male in Thrumsingla National Park.

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

**Stork-billed Kingfisher** *Pelargopsis capensis*
This large kinfisher was seen a few times in Kaziranga.

**White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*

**[Himalayan Pied] Crested Kingfisher** *Megaceryle lugubris*
We saw this rocky river kingfisher very well near Punakha.

**[Lesser] Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

**Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctyornis athertoni*
A beautiful forest-dwelling bee-eater, we saw it first on the lower Lingmethang Rd.

**Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*

**Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*

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

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**

**Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

**CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae**

**Eurasian [Common] Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

**CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

**Oriental Pied-Hornbill** *Anthracoceros albirostris*
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Great [Pied] Hornbill (NT)  *Buceros bicornis*
We saw this massive hornbill in flight a couple times in Bhutan.

Rufous-necked Hornbill (VU)  *Aceros nipalensis*
After many brief views and much searching, we finally had perfect, personal views of several near Shemgang.

Wreathed Hornbill  *Aceros undulatus*
Seen briefly in flight near Samdrup Jonkhar.

PICIFORMES: Megalaimidae

Great Barbet  *Megalaima virens*
This barbet's noisy crying is a constant companion in Bhutan.  We had many good views.

Lineated Barbet  *Megalaima lineata*

Golden-throated Barbet  *Megalaima franklinii*

Blue-throated Barbet  *Megalaima asiatica*

Blue-eared Barbet  *Megalaima australis*
We saw this uncommon barbet in the rain near Kaziranga.

Coppersmith Barbet  *Megalaima haemacephala*

PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide (NT)  *Indicator xanthonotus*
Another rarity that is easier to find in Bhutan than elsewhere, we saw it near huge rock bee hives in Thrumsingla National Park.

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Speckled Piculet  *Picumnus innominatus*

White-browed Piculet  *Sasia ochracea*

We spent a while tracking down a calling bird on the Upper Lingmethang Rd., eventually getting great views of this diminutive stunner.

Gray-capped [Pygmy]-Woodpecker  *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
A lower elevation species that we saw in Kaziranga.

Fulvous-breasted [Pied]-Woodpecker  *Dendrocopos macei*

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker  *Dendrocopos hypyrrhus*
A beautiful, unusual-looking woodpecker that we saw nicely at Korila.

Crimson-breasted [Pied]-Woodpecker  *Dendrocopos cathpharius*

Darjeeling [Pied]-Woodpecker  *Dendrocopos darjellensis*

Rufous Woodpecker  *Celeus brachyurus*

Lesser Yellownape  *Picus chlorolophus*

Greater Yellownape  *Picus flavinucha*

Streak-throated Woodpecker  *Picus xanthopygaeus*
We played hide-and-seek with several of these in Kaziranga before eventually prevailing.

Gray-faced Woodpecker  *Picus canus*

Black-rumped Flameback  *Dinopium benghalense*

Bay Woodpecker  *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae

Long-tailed Broadbill  *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
We saw this stunning broadbill a few time in Bhutan, first on the Lingmethang Rd.

PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae

Blue-naped Pitta  *Pitta nipalensis*
A few lucky people saw one dart across the trail in front of us near Kaziranga, but most people only heard it.

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae
Brown Shrike  
Long-tailed Shrike  
Gray-backed Shrike  
Lanius cristatus  
Lanius schach  
Lanius tephronotus  

**PASSEIRIFORMES: Campephagidae**  
Large Cuckoo-shrike  
Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike  
Small Minivet  
Coracina macei  
Coracina melaschistos  
Pericrocotus cinnamomeus  
This species was seen only by a couple of people at Kaziranga. The other minivets were all seen several times in Bhutan, often in colorful flocks that contained two or more minivet species.  
Long-tailed Minivet  
Short-billed Minivet  
Scarlet Minivet  
Gray-chinned Minivet  
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike  
Pericrocotus ethologus  
Pericrocotus brevirostris  
Pericrocotus flamineus  
Pericrocotus solaris  
Hemipus picatus  

**PASSEIRIFORMES: Chloropseidae**  
Golden-fronted Leafbird  
Orange-bellied Leafbird  
Chloropsis aurifrons  
Chloropsis hardwickii  

**PASSEIRIFORMES: Aegithinidae**  
Common Iora  
Aegithina tiphia  

**PASSEIRIFORMES: Corvidae**  
Eurasian Jay  
Gold-billed [Yellow-billed Blue] Magpie  
Green Magpie  
Rufous Treepie  
Gray Treepie  
Eurasian Magpie  
Eurasian [Spotted] Nutcracker  
House Crow  
Large-billed Crow  
Garrulus glandarius  
Urocissa flavirostris  
Cissa chinensis  
Dendrocitta vagabunda  
Dendrocitta formosae  
Pica pica  
Nucifraga caryocatactes  
Corvus splendens  
Corvus macrorhynchos  

**PASSEIRIFORMES: Monarchidae**  
Black-naped [Blue] Monarch  
Hypothymis azurea  

**PASSEIRIFORMES: Alaudidae**  
Bengal Bushlark  
Oriental Skylark  
Mirafra assamica  
Alauda gulgula  
We had nice looks at these in agricultural lands around Kaziranga.  
We had great looks in the Probhjika Valley.  

**PASSEIRIFORMES: Hirundinidae**  
Plain [Grey-throated Sand]-[Martin]  
Bank Swallow [Common Sand-Martin]  
Barn Swallow  
Red-rumped Swallow  
Asian [House]-[Martin]  
Nepal House-[Martin]  
Riparia [chinensis] paludicola  
Riparia riparia  
Hirundo rustica  
Cecropis daurica  
Delichon dasypus  
Delichon nipalense  
This species was only seen on the cultural extension; they seemed to be nesting in the cliffs below Tiger's Nest Monastery.  

**PASSEIRIFORMES: Paridae**  
Coal Tit  
Periparus ater  

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Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubidiventris*
Great Tit *Parus major*
Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*
Yellow-cheeked [Black-spotted Yellow-]Tit *Parus spilonotus*
Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*
Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*
A strange tit, huge, colorful, and striking, we saw it near Shemgang.

**PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae**
Black-throated [Red-headed] Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*
Black-browed [Rufous-fronted] Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae**
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*
White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*
Beautiful Nuthatch (VU) *Sitta formosa*
We looked and looked and looked for this Eastern Himalayan specialty, finally finding it at the last possible second near Shemgang. Luckily the pair was reasonably cooperative, and we all got to see the blue streaking that gives it its name.

**PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae**
Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*
The Himalayan forms are sometimes split as Hodgson's or Mandell's Treecreeper.
Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor*

**PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae**
Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
We had really nice looks at Thrumsingla. The taxonomic revision of this group has started, with the eastern and western American forms being split, but much more work is necessary on a global scale.

**PASSERIFORMES: Cinelidae**
Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasi*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**
Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*
Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*
Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*
Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
White-eared [Himalayan] Bulbul *Pycnonotus [leucogenys] leucotis*
White-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus flaveolus*
Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mceellandi*
Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala*
[Himalayan] Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**
Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera*
Hill [Black-throated] Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*
Rasmussen splits the nominate subspecies off as the near-endemic Black-throated Prinia.
Gray-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*
Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**
Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*
A couple of people got great looks near Sengor.
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**Slaty-bellied Tesia**  *Tesia olivacea*
We tried several times and a couple of people got good looks below Pelela.

**Gray-bellied [Yellow-browed] Tesia**  *Tesia cyaniventer*
After many attempts, everyone had great looks at this super-skulker in the Mo Chhu Valley.

**Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler**  *Cettia fortipes*

**Yellowish-bellied [Hume's] Bush-Warbler**  *Cettia brunnescens*  *acanthizoides*
A highlight for me was watching one of these drab warblers sitting in the open belting out its absolutely remarkable song, one of the most unusual in the bird world.

**Gray-sided Bush-Warbler**  *Cettia brunnifrons*

**Blyth's Reed-Warbler**  *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
We heard them singing near Thimphu and at our riverside hotel near Paro, where a couple of people saw it.

**Common Tailorbird**  *Orthotomus sutorius*

**Common [Siberian] Chiffchaff**  *Phylloscopus tristis*  *collybita*
Uncommon in this part of the world, we saw multiples in Kaziranga.

**Dusky Warbler**  *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
We pished one up for brief but good views near Kaziranga.

**Tickell's Leaf-Warbler**  *Phylloscopus affinis*
This was the most common Phylloscopus in Kaziranga, which we also saw in Trongsa.

**Buff-barred [Orange-barred Leaf-]Warbler**  *Phylloscopus pulcher*

**Ashy-throated [Grey-faced Leaf-]Warbler**  *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

**Pale-rumped [Lemon-rumped Leaf-]Warbler**  *Phylloscopus chloronotus*

**Yellow-browed Warbler**  *Phylloscopus inornatus*

**Greenish Warbler**  *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

**Large-billed Leaf-Warbler**  *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

We seemed to be in Bhutan when they arrived to their breeding grounds. Once they arrived, we heard them almost daily. Our best views, though, were on the cultural extension as we hiked to Tiger's Nest.

**Blyth's Leaf-Warbler**  *Phylloscopus reguloides*
One of the most common birds in Bhutan's forests.

**Yellow-vented Warbler**  *Phylloscopus cantator*
Fairly common at mid-elevations in Bhutan, we saw it several times.

**Golden-spectacled [Green-crowned] Warbler**  *Seicercus burkii*
We lucked into a singing male near Trongsa, then saw it again near Shemgang.

**Whistler's Warbler**  *Seicercus whistleri*

**Gray-hooded Warbler**  *Seicercus xanthoschistos*

**White-spectacled Warbler**  *Seicercus affinis*

**Gray-cheeked Warbler**  *Seicercus poliogenys*

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler**  *Seicercus castaniceps*

**Rufous-faced Warbler**  *Abroscopus albogularis*

**Black-faced Warbler**  *Abroscopus schisticeps*

**Striated Grassbird**  *Megalurus palustris*

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

**Dark-sided Flycatcher**  *Muscicapa sibirica*
A single bird was seen well in the Mo Chhu Valley.

**Ferruginous Flycatcher**  *Muscicapa ferruginea*
We had great views of this sometimes tough-to-find bird twice, first in the Mo Chhu Valley.

**Rufous [Orange]-gorgeted Flycatcher**  *Ficedula strophiata*

**Red-breasted [-throated] Flycatcher**  *Ficedula albicilla*  *parva*
This taxon is now often called Taiga Flycatcher. We saw it well in both India and Bhutan.

**Little Pied Flycatcher**  *Ficedula westermanni*
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Ultramarine Flycatcher  
*Siderula superciliaris*

Sapphire Flycatcher  
*Siderula sapphira*

Verditer Flycatcher  
*Eumyias thalassinus*

Large Niltava  
*Niltava grandis*

Small Niltava  
*Niltava macgregoriae*

Rufous-bellied Niltava  
*Niltava sundara*

Pale-chinned Blue-Flycatcher (H)  
*Cyornis poliogenys*

We heard these a couple of times in Kaziranga, but they were always unresponsive to playback.

Pale Blue-Flycatcher  
*Cyornis unicolor*

Nice views of some near Shemgang.

Blue-throated Flycatcher  
*Cyornis rubeculoides*

Pygmy Blue-Flycatcher  
*Muscicapella hodgsoni*

After hearing them several times, we had great looks at a pair of this skulking flycatcher near Dochula.

Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher  
*Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Siberian Rubythroat (H)  
*Luscinia callipe*

We heard it near Kaziranga and only the guide saw one in Bhutan.

White-tailed [Himalayan] Rubythroat (H)  
*Luscinia pectoralis*

We heard it several times in Kaziranga, but unfortunately none were responsive to playback.

Red-flanked Bluetail  
*Tarsiger [rufilatus] cyanurus*

After briefly seeing a female near Sengor, we had nice views of a male on Chelela. Rasmussen splits the Himalayan form as Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin.

Golden Bush-Robin  
*Tarsiger chrysaeus*

We had great looks at this uncommon and spectacular robin at the top of Chelela.

White-browed Bush-Robin  
*Tarsiger indicus*

We had good looks twice, including a male perched up singing at Chelela.

Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin  
*Tarsiger hyperythrus*

A male was seen fairly well near Dochula.

Oriental Magpie-Robin  
*Copsychus saularis*

White-rumped Shama  
*Copsychus malabaricus*

Black Redstart  
*Phoenicurus ochruros*

We saw a few of these migrants in Kaziranga.

Hodgson’s Redstart  
*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

Most seemed to have moved far upslope before we arrived,

Daurian Redstart  
*Phoenicurus auroreus*

A male on the grounds of our hotel at Kaziranga was the only one.

Blue-fronted Redstart  
*Phoenicurus frontalis*

After a couple brief views early in the trip and worrying that they had retreated upslope for the summer, we caught up with great views towards the end of the trip.

White-capped Redstart  
*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

Plumbeous Redstart  
*Rhyacornis fuliginosa*

White-tailed [Blue] Robin  
*Cinclidium leucurum*

We heard their beautiful song several times, but only a couple people glimpsed one as a male darted across the road near Shemgang, flashing their white tail.

Little Forktail  
*Enicurus scouleri*

Forktails were scarce this trip, but we did have great views of Little.

Slaty-backed Forktail  
*Enicurus schistaceus*

We also had a lovely pair of Slaty-backeds near Punakha.

[Common] Stonechat  
*Saxicola torquatus*

Gray Bushchat  
*Saxicola ferreus*

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

Blue-capped Rock-Thrush  
*Monticola cinclorhynchus*

Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush  
*Monticola rufiventris*

Blue Rock-Thrush  
*Monticola solitarius*
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Blue Whistling-Thrush  Myophonus caeruleus
Orange-headed Thrush  Zoothera citrina
We had great views of one hopping around on the road in front of our vehicles at Kaziranga.

Long-tailed Thrush  Zoothera dixoni
We saw this uncommon thrush piecemeal through many layers of branches at Chelela, but looking from enough angles at the singing bird we could (almost) put the whole bird together!

[Small-billed] Scaly Thrush  Zoothera dauma
Another uncommon thrush we saw on a particularly thrushy morning at Chelela.

White-collared Blackbird  Turdus albocinctus
Gray-winged Blackbird  Turdus boulboul
Lesser Shortwing  Brachypteryx leucophrys
We recorded a confusing song near Shemgang, and luckily the bird responded extremely strongly to playback. It turned out to be confusing-looking too, a young male Lesser Shortwing that with a little effort everyone in the group saw.

PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae

Yellow-bellied Fantail  Rhipidura hypoxantha
A cute and fairly common species that often accompanies mixed flocks, it was recently shown to be completely unrelated to fantails. Instead, it is in the same family as canary-flycatchers!

White-throated Fantail  Rhipidura albicollis
We saw it many times, but surely the most satisfying was watching a pair nest-building near Shemgang while searching for Beautiful Nuthatch.

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

White-throated Laughingthrush  Garrulax albogularis
White-crested Laughingthrush  Garrulax leucolophus
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush  Garrulax monileger
A calling flock was eventually seen near Tingtibi.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush (H)  Garrulax pectoralis
We almost had a clean sweep of possible laughingthrushes over the course of the trip--no mean feat!--but this one was only heard, near Kaziranga.

Striated Laughingthrush  Garrulax striatus
Rufous-necked Laughingthrush  Garrulax ruficollis
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush  Garrulax rufogularis
We had spectacular views of a very responsive pair on the lower Lingmethang Rd. Another was traveling with a flock of Gray-sided Laughingthrushes in the Mo Chhu Valley.

Spotted Laughingthrush  Garrulax ocellatus
Some people saw it first at Thrumsingla, where a pair was responsive yet furtive. The rest of the group caught up with this stunning laughingthrush at Chelela.

Gray-sided Laughingthrush  Garrulax caerulatus
Always a hard bird to see, we had great views of a flock fifteen in the Mo Chhu Valley.

Streaked [Bhutan] Laughingthrush  Garrulax [imbricatum] lineatus
Scaly Laughingthrush  Garrulax subunicolor
Probably the hardest to see of all the possible laughingthrushes, we had nice views of a small flock flying across the road in front of us on the Lingmethang Rd.

Blue-winged Laughingthrush  Garrulax squamatus
Uncommon this year, we only saw it near Tingtibi where we had nice views of a pair feeding on the ground.

Black-faced Laughingthrush  Garrulax affinis
After several encounters with a few people seeing it, everyone caught up with great views at Chelela.

Chestnut-crowned [Red-headed] Laughingthrush  Garrulax erythrocephalus
Red-faced Liocichla  Liocichla phoenicea
It took several attempts before we connected with this beautiful and skulking laughingthrush near

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Shemgang.
Abbott's Babbler Malacocincla abbotti
Puff-throated Babbler Pellorneum ruficeps
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler Pomatorhinus erythrogenys
White-browed Scimitar-Babbler Pomatorhinus schisticeps
Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler Pomatorhinus ruficollis
Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler Xiphirhynchus superciliaris
Most of the group had nice looks at this extraordinary bird on the Lingmethang Rd.
Pygmy Wren-Babbler Pnoepyga pusilla
Another skulker that took several attempts before we connected, we ultimately had awesome views in the Mo Chhu Valley.
Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler (H) (NT) Spelaeornis caudatus
Spotted Wren-Babbler Spelaeornis formosus
After looking and looking for a singing bird near Shemgang, we eventually found it singing from viney tangles five meters off the ground! Then it sat there long enough for the whole group to get scope views.
[Sikkim] Wedge-billed Wren-Babbler Sphenocichla humei
We had absolutely amazing views of the rare species on the Lingmethang Rd.
Rufous-fronted Babbler Stachyris rufifrons
Rufous-capped Babbler Stachyris ruficeps
Golden Babbler Stachyris chrysea
Gray-throated Babbler Stachyris nigriceps
Chestnut-capped Babbler Timalia pileata
This striking grassland babbler was seen well in Kaziranga.
Yellow-eyed Babbler Chrysonoma sinense
Slender-billed Babbler (VU) Turdoides longirostris
A rare grassland babbler that most saw nicely in Kaziranga.
Silver-eared Mesia Leiothrix argentauris
Red-billed Leiothrix Leiothrix lutea
Cutia Cutia nipalensis
We saw this strange, beautiful babbler several times in Bhutan.
White-browed Shrike-Babbler Pteruthius flaviscapis
Green Shrike-Babbler Pteruthius xanthochlorus
We lucked out with this uncommon bird as we hiked to Tiger's Nest on the cultural extention.
Black-eared Shrike-Babbler Pteruthius melanotis
Rusty-fronted Barwing Actinodura egertoni
Hoary-throated Barwing Actinodura nipalensis
A species that endemic to the eastern Himalaya, we saw few of them this year, but did have nice views near Sengor.
Blue-winged Minla Minla cyanouroptera
Chestnut-tailed Minla Minla strigula
Red-tailed Minla Minla ignotincta
Golden-breasted Fulvetta (H) Alcippe chrysotis
This cute bamboo specialist was hard to come by this year, with a small, chattering party seen only by the guide in Thrumsingla National Park.
Yellow-throated Fulvetta Alcippe cinerea
Rufous-winged Fulvetta Alcippe castaneiceps
White-browed Fulvetta Alcippe vinipectus
Streak-throated Fulvetta Alcippe cinereiceps
Nepal Fulvetta Alcippe nipalensis
Rufous Sibia Heterophasia capistrata
Long-tailed Sibia Heterophasia picaoides
We had nice views of this striking species above Samdrupt Jonkhar.
Striated Yuhina Yuhina castaneiceps
White-naped Yuhina Yuhina bakeri

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<tr>
<td>White-bellied Yuhina [Erpornis]</td>
<td>[Erpornis] Yuhina zantholeuca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire-tailed Myzornis</td>
<td>Myzornis pyrrhous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This rare bird, now thought to be a warbler, was elusive this year and only seen by some, near Trongsa.

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

| Oriental White-eye             | Zosterops palpebrosus |

**PASSERIFORMES: Paradoxornithidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Great Parrotbill</th>
<th>Conostoma oemodium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After seeing monal and Blood Pheasant at Thrumsingla, we made it to this bird's favored bamboo habitat where we had incredible looks at a tape-responsive individual sitting right in the open, singing away.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Parrotbill</td>
<td>Paradoxornis unicolor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another rare parrotbill that we saw very well, at Yotongla, feeding in a dramatic flowering rhododendron bush.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rufous-headed Parrotbill</td>
<td>Paradoxornis ruficeps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We saw a small flock of this beautiful parrotbill near Shemgang.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purple Sunbird</th>
<th>Cinnyris asiaticus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gould's Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga gouldiae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green-tailed Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga nipalensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-throated Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga saturata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Crimson Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga siparaja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire-tailed Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga ignicauda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The least common of Bhutan's highland sunbirds, they were numerous this year at Thrumsingla.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaked Spiderhunter</td>
<td>Arachnothera magna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**

| Fire-breasted Flowerpecker    | Dicaeum ignipectum |

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eurasian [Indian] Golden Oriole</th>
<th>Oriolus [kundoo] oriolus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This species may be increasing in abundance in Bhutan, given that groups are regularly encountering it now. We saw it one our first day in the country above Samdrup Jonkhar.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-hooded Oriole</td>
<td>Oriolus xanthornus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroon Oriole</td>
<td>Oriolus traillii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A common and noisy denizen of mid-altitude forests in Bhutan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae**

| Asian Fairy-bluebird           | Irena puella            |

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicuridae**

| Black Drongo                   | Dicrurus macrocercus    |
| Ashy Drongo                    | Dicrurus leucophaeus    |
| Bronzed Drongo                 | Dicrurus aeneus         |
| Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo    | Dicrurus remifer        |
| Hair-crested Drongo            | Dicrurus hottentottus   |
| Greater Racket-tailed Drongo   | Dicrurus paradiseus     |
PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae
Ashy Woodswallow  
*Artamus fuscus*

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae
Spot-winged Starling  
*Saroglossa spiloptera*
A rare starling that we caught up with nicely between Trongsa and Shemgang. We saw a nondescript female first, before eventually getting scope views of a pair.

Common Hill Myna  
*Gracula religiosa*
A noisy and striking myna that we saw nicely in both India and Bhutan.

White-vented Myna  
*Acridotheres grandis*

Jungle Myna  
*Acridotheres fuscus*

Common Myna  
*Acridotheres tristis*

Asian Pied Starling  
*Gracupica contra*

Chestnut-tailed [Grey-headed] Starling  
*Sturnia malabarica*

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae
Western Yellow Wagtail  
*Motacilla flava*

Citrine Wagtail  
*Motacilla citreola*
The gray-backed nominate subspecies was seen in Kaziranga.

Gray Wagtail  
*Motacilla cinerea*

White Wagtail  
*Motacilla alba*

Two distinct subspecies were noted:  
*alboides* was common in both Kaziranga and Bhutan, and at least one  
*leucopsis* (sometimes split as Amur Wagtail) was seen well in Kaziranga.

White-browed Wagtail  
*Motacilla madaraspatensis*
We saw this subcontinent endemic as we were on our way out of Punakha.

Oriental [Paddyfield] Pipit  
*Anthus rufulus*

Rosy Pipit  
*Anthus roseatus*

Seen only in Kaziranga.

Olive-backed Pipit  
*Anthus hodgsoni*
One of the most common species in open habitats at high elevations in Bhutan.

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae
Crested Bunting  
*Melophus lathami*

Little Bunting  
*Emberiza pusilla*

Yellow-breasted Bunting (VU)  
*Emberiza aureola*
We got lucky with a small flock of these cute buntings in the grasslands of Kaziranga.

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae
Gold-naped Finch  
*Pyrrhoperetes epaulette*
We had very nice looks at a pair of this uncommon finch feeding on berries in a patch of bamboo in Thrumsingla National Park.

Crimson-browed Finch  
*Pinicola subhimachala*
Lynn spotted a sluggish male cooperatively feeding on buds at Thrumsingla.

Common Rosefinch  
*Carpodacus erythrinus*

[Himalayan] Beautiful Rosefinch  
*Carpodacus pulcherrimus*
We found a flock of exclusively females at Yotongla.

Scarlet Finch  
*Haematospiza sipahi*
We had great views of this beautiful finch on the Lingmethang Rd.

Yellow-breasted [Himalayan] Greenfinch  
*Carduelis spinoides*

Collared Grosbeak  
*Mycerobas affinis*
After great looks at the other two grosbeaks, we eventually caught up with many of these stunners on our last day of birding, at Chelela.

Spot-winged Grosbeak  
*Mycerobas melanozanthos*
Norbu spotted a group of these montane beauties near our Tingtibi campsite while the group rested. Luckily they stuck around for us to see them.
Kaziranga and Bhutan 29 March-25 April 2010

White-winged Grosbeak  
**Mycerobas carnipes**

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**

House Sparrow  
*Passer domesticus*

Russet Sparrow  
*Passer rutilans*

This is the common *Passer* in much of Bhutan--a nice change from the usual House and Tree Sparrows in the rest of Asia!

Eurasian Tree Sparrow  
*Passer montanus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae**

[Eastern] Baya Weaver  
*Ploceus philippinus [burmanicus]*

Weavers were scarce in Kaziranga, but we did manage nice views of a group of these, which is split by Rasmussen.

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**

Nutmeg Mannikin [Scaly-breasted Munia]  
*Lonchura punctulata*

Black-headed [Chestnut] Munia  
*Lonchura [atricapilla] malacca*

**MAMMAL LIST**

Golden Langur  
*Presbytis geei*

One of Bhutan's flagship species, and nearly endemic to the country, it is common in the central Bhutan where we had great views several times.

Capped Langur  
*Trachypithecus pileatus*

Gray Langur  
*Semnopithecus schistaceus*

We first saw a group going to sleep on a cliff face in the drizzling rain in the Mo Chhu Valley.

Assam Macaque  
*Macaca assamensis*

This was the most commonly encountered monkey in Bhutan. We saw them frequently, including many young ones clinging to their mother's belly.

Rhesus Macaque  
*Macaca mulatta*

Yellow-throated Marten  
*Martes flavigula*

Most of the group had nice views of one between Trongsa and Pelela.

Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)  
*Muntiacus muntjak*

After a couple of very quick looks, we had fantastic views of this shy little deer near Punakha.

Swamp Deer  
*Cervus duvauceli*

This rare deer is common in Kaziranga, where we saw it daily.

Hog Deer  
*Axis porcinus*

The most common deer in Kaziranga.

Royle's Pika  
*Ochonota roylei*

We had great views of a pika in the forested slopes below Chelela that was probably this species. A few brief views of pikas elsewhere, as well.

Black Giant Squirrel  
*Ratufa bicolor*

We had great views of this magnificent animal on the lower Lingmethang Rd.

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel  
*Dremomys lokriah*

Hoary-bellied Squirrel  
*Callosciurus pygerythrus*

Himalayan Striped Squirrel  
*Tamiops mclellandii*

Common Goral  
*Nemorhaedus goral*

Scarce this year, we only saw it where it is habituated at a monastery near Thimphu, where we had up-close and personal looks at a family group.

Indian One Horned Rhinoceros  
*Rhinoceros unicornis*

One of Kaziranga's big attractions, these beasts are still common there and we saw many daily. We even had one charge one of our jeeps!

Wild Asian Water Buffalo  
*Bubalus bubalis*

Another Kaziranga specialty, we saw many groups of these bovids.

Indian Elephant  
*Elephas maximus*
Yet another huge mammal that is common in Kaziranga, we had many wonderful views in the park's grasslands.

**Indian Wild Boar**  
*Sus scrofa*  
Another mammal that is perhaps easier to see at Kaziranga than elsewhere, we only saw it a couple of times, best as a family group paused on the road in front of our jeeps.

**Smooth-coated Otter**  
*Lutrogale perspicillata*  
We saw these highly social otters twice in the same day in Kaziranga in different areas of the park.