One of Bhutan’s most sought-after birds is Ward’s Trogon, a rare denizen of high-quality forests in the eastern Himalayas.
INTRODUCTION

In the modern world, it’s difficult for a place to retain an air of mystery. Yet Bhutan, with its unclimbed peaks, rumors of yetis, revered monarchy, and vast forests is one such place. In birding terms, this means that virtually every tour makes an interesting discovery or two, while taking in the fascinating culture, beautiful scenery, tasty food, and of course the abundant and diverse birdlife. Birding highlights included many of the country’s top specialties—with pheasants like Himalayan Monal and Satyr Tragopan, wren-babblers galore, Ward’s Trogon, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Black-tailed Crake, five species of parrotbills and fourteen of laughingthrushes, and all of the possible rosefinches, including the rare Blanford’s. Additionally we found the first record for the country of Eared Grebe, and—thanks to a new and much improved itinerary—found many interesting birds that are very poorly known in Bhutan near Gelephu, where we crossed into the country from India.

The tour, however, didn’t start when we crossed into Bhutan. We spent four wonderful pre-trip days in the environs of the great Kaziranga National Park in the Indian state of Assam. Located not far from our Bhutan-tour starting point of Guwahati, it makes a natural pre-trip, where we saw over 100 species that we didn’t see in Bhutan. Although the park is most famous for its mammals (and we saw elephants, rhinos, buffalo, and others megafauna in abundance), the birding is extraordinary as well. This includes many of the birds that make Kaziranga famous—especially declining wetland species like Spot-billed Pelican, Greater and Lesser Adjutant, Black-necked Stork, Black-headed Ibis, Swamp Francolin, Gray-headed and Pallas Fish-Eagles, and River Tern. The raptors are also incredible here—among the 19 species here were Slender-billed Vulture, Imperial and Greater Spotted Eagle, Black Baza, and Pied Falconet. Additionally, we got in some quality forest birding, finding some tough birds like Pale-chinned Flycatcher, Blue-eared Barbet, and Jerdon’s Baza. We also run this trip before the Bhutan tour so that migrants are still around in abundance—our waterfowl, raptor, and shorebirds lists are a testament to this.

One of the five species of parrotbills we saw this trip was White-breasted Parrotbill, an eastern Himalayan endemic which we had excellent views of multiple times.
TOUR REPORT

Part 1: Kaziranga National Park (pre-trip extension)

We left the city of Guwahati to head east towards the great Kaziranga National Park, in the Indian state of Assam. We made sure to leave early enough that we had time to stop along the way when we saw birds but still have time for an afternoon drive in the park. We did pick up some nice birds en route, but things heated up when we got to the edge of the park. We saw many great birds along the road, including the critically endangered Slender-billed Vulture, Himalayan Griffon, and great views of a Changeable Hawk-Eagle. A Dollarbird sat for us at eye level, and Oriental Pied-Hornbills sat out while everyone got on a Yellow-vented Flowerpecker. Our first rhino was a female with a newborn calf. And we hadn’t even entered the park yet! For the afternoon, we set out in a safari jeep, soon finding many of the mammals that Kaziranga is rightfully famous for—Indian Rhinoceros, Indian Elephant, Swamp Deer, Hog Deer, Indian Wild Boar, and a beautiful European Otter. The birds were excellent too, with resident waterbirds like Spot-billed Pelican, Greater Adjutant, Black-necked Stork, and Black-headed Ibis mingling with abundant migrants. Swamp Francolin and both Gray-headed and Pallas’ Fish-Eagles were great to pick up on our first day as well.

There is no better place in Asia to see large mammals than Kaziranga, which provides critical habitat and protection to many endangered species. This includes Indian Rhinoceros, which we saw dozens of during our visit. Photo by Josh Engel.
For the second day, we started in the Eastern Range. This area of the park is the least visited, but contains the best birding. Migrant songbirds abounded, including Tickell’s Leaf-Warbler, Dusky Warbler, and Brown Shrike. Rain severely hampered our efforts, but the elephants didn’t mind, and we saw a wonderful family walk across the road, the baby carefully guarded by its elders. For the afternoon, we returned to the Central Range. Again it rained off-and-on, but we had point blank views of a Crested Serpent-Eagle, many ducks and shorebirds, and a gorgeous Great Hornbill. Several Sambar Deer came out in the evening as well.

Kaziranga offers outstanding birding. It is best known for its big birds—raptors, waterbirds, parrots, storks, and the like—but its forests and grasslands offer excellent birding for passerines as well, like this Puff-throated Babbler. Photo by Josh Engel.

We started our second morning in a forest adjacent to the park. Rain kept things quiet for a while, but once the rain stopped activity picked up. Frugivores were out taking advantage of the abundant fruit supply, including Great Hornbill, Blue-eared Barbet, and Asian Fairy Bluebird. As the morning warmed up, raptors started coming out, including a pair of the rare Jerdon’s Baza that conveniently perched right where we could put them in the scope. We also saw some excellent mammals, the enormous Himalayan Giant Squirrel and a troop of Capped Langur. Our walk back to the jeep
was punctuated by a pair of Common Cuckoos. After a few new birds at our hotel at lunchtime, including Rufous-capped Babbler, we returned to the park for the afternoon, visiting the Western Range. After some great elephant and rhino photo ops, we entered a wooded area where the tough Pale-chinned Flycatcher showed nicely. A male Red Junglefowl modeled for photos on our way out of the park. Perhaps the best sighting of the day, however, was when the rest of the tour participants finally joined us!

We had an early start, with our now-full group, for an elephant-back safari. It was great getting extremely close views of many of the park’s mammals, even though Bengal Florican had apparently abandoned the area. We did pick up a displaying Bengal Bushlark along the way. After breakfast at the hotel (punctuated by a Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker) and picking up our day permits (punctuated by a Pied Falconet), we returned to the park. Besides finding the key waterbirds for our newly arrived trip-mates, the warmer weather induced thermals to develop, and we found a great diversity of raptors, including Pallas’s and Gray-headed Fish-Eagles, Greater Spotted, Imperial, and Steppe Eagle, Himalayan Griffon, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, and others, often soaring with adjutants, storks, and pelicans. Our drive through the forest was also productive, picking up Great Hornbill and our first Lesser Yellownape. We found a beautiful Monacled Cobra on our way out of the park (from the safety of our jeep), which even spread its hood for us to show us the monocle pattern for which it is named.

Part 2: Bhutan

It was finally time to make our way towards the Himalayas—entirely obscured by clouds the entire day—and into Bhutan. A Black-rumped Flameback was a nice bonus during the journey while we waited at the Indian immigration checkpoint. The Bhutan border was full of birds, including great looks at Green Imperial-Pigeon, nesting Red-rumped Swallows, and some showy Alexandrine Parakeets. We checked into our hotel and chowed down a delicious dinner, full of excitement for the Bhutan adventure to come.
Our first morning birding started in a rather un-Bhutanese way—birding in flatland. We visited a river near town where we saw many birds that were new for Tropical Birding’s cumulative Bhutan tour list, including some very good ones like Cinnamon Bittern, Sand Lark, Small Pratincole, and Great Thick-knee. A Common Hawk-Cuckoo also showed incredibly well, and Pin-tailed Pigeons greeted our return to town. After breakfast we started heading up the mountains. Among the first birds we saw was a Pale Blue Flycatcher that posed in the scope. Frugivores were gorging themselves on the abundant fruit, and we got great looks at Great and Golden-throated Barbets and Long-tailed Sibia this way. A pair of Wreathed Hornbills flew over, while Rufous-necked Hornbills were more cooperative. Little Forktail showed well, but its larger cousin the Spotted Forktail played hard-to-get.

We started the next morning walking from camp. We quickly found a shy pair of Slaty-blue Flycatchers and an equally shy pair of Blue-winged Laughingthrush. We arrived at our breakfast spot but were immediately distracted by the birds in the vicinity, which included a wonderful group of White-breasted Parrotbills. We spent much of the rest of the day birding the excellent forest along the road. We heard a Beautiful Nuthatch, but it wouldn’t come out. We did manage to see Spotted Elachura (Wren-Babbler), now considered to belong in its own family, flocks of Rusty-fronted Barwings, all four of the local minivets, a stunning male Himalayan Cutia, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Golden Babbler, and Yellow-throated Fulvetta.

We quickly got distracted leaving camp the next morning by several understory flocks. We had spectacular views of the uncommon Gray-headed Parrotbill, but Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes proved less showy. Among the mixed flocks we encountered along the road was a Black-eared Shrike-Babbler. While we took some time to rest at camp, we were visited by a flock of Spot-winged Grosbeaks. Afterwards we walked from camp, enjoying the Golden Langurs and a surprise Wild Boar.

Today we had a whole day to explore the Tingtibi area. The morning started out well, with Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, and a cooperative Speckled Piculet among the rush of birds, but things quieted down after breakfast. At least raptors were out, including our first Rufous-bellied Eagle. We spent the afternoon on a quiet side road near our camp. A female of the locally rare Daurian Redstart showed wonderfully, as did a Blue-bearded Bee-eater and trio of Kalij Pheasants that wandered across the road and into an adjacent field.

The next morning started out well, with a showy pair of Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes—much different than our first experience with the species—along with a pair of White-browed Scimitar Babbler. We spent the rest of the morning birding along our short commute to the next camp, which gave us plenty of time for birding on the way. Our first Little Pied Flycatchers and Black-throated Prinia livened up the drive. As we crossed a relatively low pass, we enjoyed a flock of Spot-winged Grosbeaks gorging themselves on fruit, and a Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon shot past us. We also finally found our first Bhutan Laughingthrush, a very cooperative pair at that, while at the same spot we found our first Hodgson’s Redstart and a large party of Red-billed Leiothrix.
The only bird with Bhutan in its name is Bhutan Laughingthrush, which is nearly endemic to the country. Fortunately it’s easy to find in roadside scrub in the agricultural areas of Bhutan. Photo by Josh Engel.

We started the last leg of our northward journey towards Trongsa in a forest famous for its Beautiful Nuthatch. The first bird on this dreary morning was a pair of lovely Spotted Forktails feeding in a small stream. Our search was nuthatchless, but we found a lot of great birds otherwise, including Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Large Niltava, a perched Besra, and a cooperative Asian Emerald Cuckoo. It was strange to see a flock of six Great Cormorants migrating high overhead. After breakfast, we continued on our way, pausing for an amazingly showy Red-faced Liocichla hopping around the roadside, a Himalayan Giant Squirrel, an Ultramarine Flycatcher, and a pair of Himalayan Bulbuls. We made it to Trongsa, where our hotel had stunning views of the town’s dzong, for a well-deserved afternoon rest.

We took a short, productive pre-breakfast walk from our hotel. Several new birds greeted us, including very good views of Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler and Golden-spectacled Warbler. After breakfast we continued our climb up the Himalayas, eventually passing over Yotongla. It was our first foray into higher elevetations, and new birds came fast and furious. Among them were three species of tit, Buff-barred Warbler, and outstanding views Black-faced Laughingthrush. Eventually we reached the dry valleys of central Bhutan, where we found Oriental Skylark and other species typical of the area, as well as visiting a local weaving shop. Reaching Jakar, we visited a 19th century palace that is soon to be converted into a museum, but it wasn’t until we checked the river right in town that we found the Ibisbill that we had been searching for, three of them foraging in the river.
We left Jakar in the morning and continued heading east, towards the famed Thrumsingla National Park. The morning was wet and dreary, with snow along the higher portions of the road. It made for beautiful scenery as we climbed and crossed Thrumsingla, but birds were few and far between. We did find some cooperative Blood Pheasants near the pass. We stopped for lunch in Sengor, the weather cleared, and, like us, the birds were out celebrating. We found flock after flock in the forests past Sengor, coming across some excellent birds, including Hoary-throated Barwing, a male Gold-naped Finch, Red-headed Bullfinch, Fire-tailed and numerous Gould’s Sunbirds, and brief looks at Maroon-backed Accentor. Best, however, was an incredible male Satyr Tragopan. After flushing it off the road as we drove past, we waited patiently, eventually hearing it sing, then watching it slowly climb the slope, cross the road, and continue up the other side. We couldn’t have dreamt of better views.

We eventually reached our campground in the lower reaches of the Lingmethang Rd. in the national park. Our first morning here we began walking from camp, trying for but not finding Blackish-breasted Babbler. We did, however, find many other new birds, including unbelievable looks at a Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler just feet away right in the open. No binoculars necessary. We also found a party of Gray-sided Laughingthrushes, two parties of the adorable Black-throated Parrotbill, and many parties of White-naped Yuhina. We went upslope in the afternoon, for a first go at Ward’s Trogon. Amazingly, one responded right away, and after several tense minutes of looking a beautiful female popped into view! It even sat so that everyone got scope views. We also flushed a Hill Partridge here, which some people got to see as it scurried across the ground.

*Endemic to the eastern Himalayas, the skulking Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler gave us superb views in Thrumsingla National Park. Photo by Josh Engel.*
We returned upslope the following morning. We finally had looks at our first tesia, a Gray-bellied, so close that binoculars were hardly necessary. Other highlights included Scaly Laughingthrush, much improved views of Gray-sided Laughingthrush, and Mountain Tailorbird. We also took a break from birding to buy a freshly woven cane basket from a local weaver. The basket was intended for a neighbor, but he could make another one for her and was happy to have another customer. We headed downslope from camp in the afternoon, soon coming across a very impressive mixed flock—I counted later and it contained no fewer than 27 species! The only new bird for the trip among them was a Dark-sided Flycatcher, but had great views of many other birds, including Sultan Tit, Lesser Yellownape, and a variety of warblers. We also enjoyed photographing our first Capped Langurs is Bhutan.

We started our final morning on the Lingmethang Road early, searching hard for Blackish-breasted Babbler, but it wasn’t to be. As we made our way to our final camp of the trip, we did find other skulking birds, including such good looks at a Slaty-bellied Tesia that we could see its orange mouth lining. We also had stunning looks at a White-browed Piculet pecking away on bamboo. Black Eagles carried on a territorial battle right over our heads, full of impressive aerial maneuvers. We carried on to higher elevations, finding several new birds, including Black-browed Tit, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Little Bunting, particularly cooperative Red Crossbills, freshly arrived Large-billed Leaf-Warbler, and, briefly, Golden Bush Robin. An Orange-headed Thrush sang away contentedly from the forest, but wouldn’t come out for us.

We finished up the day with incredible looks at a male Satyr Tragopan for the second time.

*Not a bad view from our hotel room balcony. It’s Trongsa Dzong, which we also toured. Photo by Josh Engel.*
We left our final campsite early in the morning for a monal hunt on the slopes of Thrumsingla. It was a glorious, clear morning, and we found many Blood Pheasants, but not the hoped for monal. The birding was otherwise excellent. Searching through mixed flocks we found Dark-rumped and the rare Blanford’s Rosefinch, Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin, Collared Grosbeak, and many Red-headed Bullfinches. We also found a responsive group of the enormous Great Parrotbill and watched a stunning Fire-tailed Sunbird displaying in full sunlight at eye level. As we continued down the pass, Stuart pointed out a roadside bird that turned out to be our first Alpine Accentor. It was a fortuitous stop; when we got out to photograph them I scanned a distant cliff-face and found a group of Snow Pigeons! We bid farewell to our camping crew at lunch, and continued on to Jakar, where we enjoyed an overdue hot shower and a local beer.

Our return to Trongsa was mostly a travel and culture day, but it wasn’t without its good birds, too. A mixed flock as we neared Yotongla yielded Green Shrike-Babbler and a beautiful pair of White-browed Rosefinches, and a Scaly-breasted Cupwing showed very well for most of the group. After checking in to our hotel with its grand view of the valley and Trongsa Dzong, we toured the dzong and learned about its art, history, and functions.

We continued heading west, with a long travel day taking us over Pelela. It was another gloriously clear day, and our first stop to photograph the high snowy peaks of the Himalayas was a fortuitous one—we found our first Rufous-bellied Woodpecker of the trip. Soon thereafter we found a cooperative Pygmy Cupwing and a less cooperative Gray-winged Blackbird. Raptors were out in force, and at one point we found several species all circling overhead, including a Himalayan Buzzard and a Pallas’s Fish Eagle. After a delicious lunch stop and a pause for some yak photography, we came across a small lake with a breeding plumaged Eared Grebe on it—it turns out Eared Grebe had never before been seen in Bhutan. We crested Pelela and spent some time birding the old road. The moment Stuart found a Hodgson’s Treecreeper along the road we were immediately distracted by an incredibly close Lammergeier, enjoying the thermals with many Himalayan Griffons. The view from Pelela was astonishing, with unhindered views of Jomolhari and many other snow-capped peaks. We descended once again, ending the day in a luxurious hotel near Punakha.
We had extraordinary studies of a Lammergeier at the high pass Pelela with a jawdropping backdrop of Himalayan peaks.

We left the hotel early heading for the Po Chhu, the Father River, in search of White-bellied Heron. Despite very thorough morning and evening searches, it proved elusive yet again. We did find other birds to keep us occupied, including numerous Ibisbill, Brown Dipper, Crested Bunting, Northern Pintail, and Eurasian Wigeon. In between heron searches, we made a successful stop for Slender-billed Oriole, found a migrant Yellow-browed Warbler, and visited Punakha’s imposing and impressive dzong.

We left Punakha and started heading up towards Dochula. We made a couple of stops to get off the dusty road, including at the lovely Royal Botanical Gardens, which were full of birds. Highlights included Pygmy Blue Flycatcher, very cooperative Darjeeling and Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers, a singing Gray-winged Blackbird, a cooperative flock of Brown Parrotbills, and several nice photo ops of other common species. In the afternoon we visited the capital’s famous sewage works, but they were completely devoid of waterfowl. A Eurasian Sparrowhawk wreaked havoc among the wagtails and pipits and a locally unusual Little Egret was in the river.

We still had a full day to enjoy the birds and sights of Thimphu. We spent the morning in the Cheri Valley north of the city, including on the road climbing into Jigme Dorji National Park. A flock of Snow Pigeons torpedoed its way along the valley; fortunately our first Speckled Wood Pigeons were much more cooperative. We finally got our first looks at Chestnut-headed Tesia, after several attempts earlier in the trip. While we were staring into the low bamboo looking for its movement, we discovered a pair of gorgeous Golden-breasted Fulvetas that were fortunately more cooperative.
than the tesia. We spent the afternoon shopping and sightseeing around town, but we never fully stopped birding, finding our first Spotted Laughingthrush, which sat out for great views, during our visit to the Takin Sanctuary.

![Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher](image)

*Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher is common at high elevations in Bhutan, but you can never tire of them. Photo by Jean Halford.*

We started the day with a very successful search for Black-tailed Crake, getting great views of a pair. We then departed for Paro, the final stop on our journey across Bhutan. We took a short walk before lunch at the gorgeous hotel, getting great looks at White-throated Needletails and our first Asian House Martins while admiring Tiger’s Nest Monastery in the distance. We visited the national museum in the afternoon and took a short walk in the forest adjacent to the hotel in the evening.

Today was our last full day of birding, and we planned to make the most of it, with a very early departure to look for Himalayan Monal. The dark departure provided quick rewards in the form of Gray Nightjar sitting on the road, but we reached Chelela not having seen a monal and the tension mounting. Descending on the far side of the pass, all of the sudden Jean spotted one! A gorgeous male monal, right by the roadside, it sat still just long enough that everyone got to take in its rainbow of colors, before taking off. A few minutes later Jean spotted a female monal walking on a nearby hillside. The mountain views were also absolutely stunning, with snow-capped peaks from horizon to horizon. Our early morning paid off again; by breakfast time the mountains were completely shrouded in clouds. With the monal success, we could start our normal birding. We quickly found flocks of finches, which included many White-browed Rosefinches.
and **White-winged Grosbeaks**. Better yet, we found our first **Dark-breasted Rosefinches** of the trip, completing the very difficult sweep of all the possible rosefinches. We had a truly impressive breakfast, then starting working our way back down to Paro. Birding was a bit slow, but we had very nice looks at **Himalayan Bluetail** and **Blue-fronted Redstarts** and we found a showy pair of **Blood Pheasants**.

The birding part of the tour thus finished, we embarked on the one-day cultural extension, the hike the revered Tiger’s Nest Monastery. But since the birding never really stops, our hike started with the final new bird of the trip, a freshly arrived **Indian Blue Robin**. It was a cool, cloudy day, with off-and-on drizzle. The cool temperature made for pleasant hiking weather and the rain kept the dust down, even if it did make the trail slippery in places. We were in the monastery-on-a-cliff when the Nepal earthquake hit; we didn’t feel it, but many other people in the area did. After lunch at the half-way cafeteria, we returned down the slope, stopping for the occasional bird that crossed our path, and returned to the hotel for a well-deserved rest and our farewell dinner. It had been an exceptionally good trip, with smooth logistics, great birds, and a wonderful group.

*Photos of two of the top sightings of the trip, neither of which quite does justice to the bird or the sighting! Himalayan Monal (left; photo by Jean Halford) and Satyr Tragopan (right; photo by Josh Engel), two of the birds that every birder who visits Bhutan wants to see.*
SPECIES LISTS
Taxonomy follows the *Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*, through the 2014 update. Birds marked with a “K” were seen only on the Kaziranga (India) pre-trip. Birds marked with an “H” were heard-only. In Bhutan, we recorded 338 species, including 14 heard-only. On the Kaziranga pre-trip, we recorded 182 species, including 4 heard only. The total trip list was 437 species, including 17 heard-only.

Lesser Whistling-Duck (K) - *Dendrocygna javanica*
Graylag Goose (K) - *Anser anser*
Bar-headed Goose (K) - *Anser indicus*
Ruddy Shelduck - *Tadorna ferruginea*
Common Shelduck (K) - *Tadorna tadorna*
Cotton Pygmy-Goose (K) - *Nettapus coromandelianus*
Gadwall (K) - *Anas strepera*
Eurasian Wigeon - *Anas penelope*
Mallard (K) - *Anas platyrhynchos*
Indian Spot-billed Duck (K) - *Anas poecilorhyncha*
Northern Shoveler - *Anas clypeata*
Northern Pintail - *Anas acuta*
Garganey (K) - *Anas querquedula*
Green-winged Teal (K) - *Anas crecca*
Common Merganser - *Mergus merganser*
Swamp Francolin (K, VU) - *Francolinus gularis*

A Kaziranga specialty that we saw just once and heard several other times.

Hill Partridge - *Arborophila torqueola*
Some of the group actually got views of this very difficult-to-see species when we flushed one from the roadside and it scurried away through the bamboo understory.

Chestnut-breasted Partridge (H, VU) - *Arborophila mandelli*
Rufous-throated Partridge (H) - *Arborophila rufogularis*

Blood Pheasant - *Ithaginis cruentus*
We had many excellent views of this high-altitude specialist.

Satyr Tragopan (NT) - *Tragopan satyra*
Surely one of the world’s most beautiful birds, we had stunning views of several males, including one running up a rocky hillside and another feeding on the edge of a forest clearing.

Himalayan Monal - *Lophophorus impejanus*
Another outrageously beautiful pheasant, this one gave us the run-around. We finally found a beautiful male at the 11th hour right by the side of the road—on the last birding day of the trip.

Red Junglefowl (K) - *Gallus gallus*
It’s always a joy to watch these beautiful pheasants in Kaziranga, where they have the habit of picking insects out of piles of elephant dung.

Kalij Pheasant - *Lophura leucomelanos*
Several nice views of two different subspecies.

Eared Grebe - *Podiceps nigricollis*
The first record for Bhutan! We found a breeding-plumaged individual in a small natural lake near Pelela. This is the third first country record for Bhutan found on Tropical Birding tours.
Asian Openbill (K) - *Anastomus oscitans*
Woolly-necked Stork (K) - *Ciconia episcopus*
Black-necked Stork (K, NT) - *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
One of many rare and declining waterbirds that is still common in Kaziranga.
Lesser Adjutant (K, VU) - *Leptoptilos javanicus*
Greater Adjutant (K, EN) - *Leptoptilos dubius*
A bird whose numbers have declined severely across its range, it is still easy to find in Kaziranga and we had great views several times.
Indian Cormorant (K) - *Phalacrocorax fuscicolli*
Great Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Little Cormorant (K) - *Phalacrocorax niger*
Oriental Darter (K, NT) - *Anhinga melanogaster*
Spot-billed Pelican (K, NT) - *Pelecanus philippensis*
Cinnamon Bittern - *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
A major surprise was finding this species near Gelephu in Bhutan, where there may only be one previous record.
Gray Heron - *Ardea cinerea*
Purple Heron (K) - *Ardea purpurea*
Great Egret (K) - *Ardea alba*
Intermediate Egret (K) - *Mesophoyx intermedia*
Little Egret - *Egretta garzetta*
Common as always in Kaziranga, but more unusual was a bird flying around the sewage ponds in Thimphu.
Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis*
Indian Pond-Heron - *Ardeola grayii*
Black-headed Ibis (K, NT) - *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
Another one of the threatened Asian waterbirds that is easy to see in Kaziranga.
Osprey (K) - *Pandion haliaetus*
Black-shouldered Kite (K) - *Elanus caeruleus*
Lammergeier (NT) - *Gypaetus barbatus*
One of the Bhutan highlights was our incredible, prolonged views of a Lammergeier flying around Pelela, with a stunningly clear view of the Himalayas as the backdrop.
Oriental Honey-buzzard (K) - *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
Jerdon's Baza (K) - *Aviceda jerdoni*
A great surprise and a lifer for the guide was a pair of Jerdon’s Baza in a forest near Kaziranga.
Black Baza (K) - *Aviceda leuphotes*
Slender-billed Vulture (K, CR) - *Gyps tenuirostris*
Vulture numbers have declined precipitously in India, so any vulture sighting is a bonus. We were pleased to have a pair of Slender-billed Vultures fly over us as soon as we arrived in Kaziranga.
Himalayan Griffon (NT) - *Gyps himalayensis*
Crested Serpent-Eagle - *Spilornis cheela*
Changeable Hawk-Eagle (K) - *Nisaetus limnaeetus*
Mountain Hawk-Eagle - *Nisaetus nipalensis*
Rufous-bellied Eagle - *Lophotriorchis kienerii*
Because of the extensive forest and lack of persecution, forest dwelling raptors are numerous in Bhutan, including this beautiful eagle.

**Black Eagle - *Ictinaetus malaiensis***

**Greater Spotted Eagle (K, VU) - *Clanga clanga***

On our final morning in Kaziranga, the sun was shining and raptores came out to play including several Greater Spotted Eagles.

**Steppe Eagle (K) - *Aquila nipalensis***

**Crested Goshawk - *Accipiter trivirgatus***

**Imperial Eagle (K, VU) – *Aquila heliaca***

**Shikra (K) - *Accipiter badius***

**Besra - *Accipiter virgatus***

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk - *Accipiter nisus***

**Black Kite - *Milvus migrans***

**Pallas's Fish-Eagle (VU)- *Haliaeetus leucoryphus***

After seeing several in Kaziranga, we had great views of one that appeared to be migrating in central Bhutan.

**Gray-headed Fish-Eagle (K, NT) - *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus***

Yet another of those birds that is generally rare across is range, but is still common in Kaziranga.

**Common Buzzard - *Buteo buteo***

At least a few of the individuals we were “Himalayan” Buzzard, *B. b. burmanicus*.

**White-breasted Waterhen - *Amaurornis phoenicurus***

**Black-tailed Crake - *Amaurornis bicolor***

We had wonderful views near Thimphu, just as we were ready to give up looking.

**Eurasian Moorhen (K) - *Gallinula chloropus***

**Great Thick-knee (NT) - *Esacus recurvirostris***

A pair was along the river at Gelephu.

**Pied Avocet (K) - *Recurvirostra avosetta***

**Ibisbill - *Ibidorhyncha struthersii***

An iconic Himalayan bird, this unique river-loving species was seen several times.

**Northern Lapwing (K) - *Vanellus vanellus***

**River Lapwing (NT) - *Vanellus duvaucelii***

**Red-wattled Lapwing - *Vanellus indicus***

**Little Ringed Plover - *Charadrius dubius***

**Bronze-winged Jacana (K) - *Metopidius indicus***

**Common Sandpiper - *Actitis hypoleucos***

**Green Sandpiper - *Tringa ochropus***

**Spotted Redshank (K) - *Tringa erythropus***

Large numbers of the beautiful long-distance migrant were seen in Kaziranga.

**Common Greenshank - *Tringa nebularia***

**Marsh Sandpiper (K) - *Tringa stagnatilis***

**Wood Sandpiper (K) - *Tringa glareola***

**Common Redshank (K) - *Tringa totanus***

**Ruff (K) - *Calidris pugnax***

**Temminck’s Stint (K) - *Calidris temminckii***

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Small Pratincole - *Glareola lactea*
There were many of this beautiful shorebird along the river near Gelephu.

**River Tern (K, NT) - Sterna aurantia**
A beautiful tern that is still common in Kaziranga.

**Rock Pigeon - Columba livia**

**Snow Pigeon - Columba leuconota**
Wonderful views of a flock on a distant cliff-face. It was quite a lucky sighting—we stopped for the Alpine Accentors on the roadside and spotted these after getting out to photograph the accentors.

**Speckled Wood-Pigeon - Columba hodgsonii**
Great views of a flock near Thimphu.

**Oriental Turtle-Dove - Streptopelia orientalis**

**Red Collared-Dove - Streptopelia tranquebarica**

**Spotted Dove - Streptopelia chinensis**

**Barred Cuckoo-Dove - Macropygia unchall**

**Thick-billed Pigeon (K) - Treron curvirostra**

**Yellow-footed Pigeon (K) - Treron phoenicopterus**

**Pin-tailed Pigeon - Treron apicauda**

**Wedge-tailed Pigeon - Treron sphenurus**

**Green Imperial-Pigeon - Ducula aenea**

**Mountain Imperial-Pigeon - Ducula badia**

**Large Hawk-Cuckoo - Hierococcyx sparverioides**

**Common Hawk-Cuckoo - Hierococcyx varius**
Great views of one near Gelephu.

**Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo (H) - Hierococcyx nisicolor**

**Indian Cuckoo (H) - Cuculus micropterus**

**Common Cuckoo - Cuculus canorus**

**Himalayan Cuckoo - Cuculus saturatus**

**Plaintive Cuckoo - Cacomantis merulinus**

**Asian Emerald Cuckoo - Chrysococcyx maculatus**
We had prolonged views of one sitting in a bare treetop as we searched for Beautiful Nuthatch.

**Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo - Surniculus lugubris**

**Asian Koel - Eudynamys scolopaceus**

**Green-billed Malkoha - Phaenicophaeus tristis**

**Greater Coucal - Centropus sinensis**

** Lesser Coucal - Centropus bengalensis**

**Mountain Scops-Owl (H) - Otus spilocephalus**

**Collared Scops-Owl (H) - Otus lettia**

**Collared Owlet (H) - Glaucidium brodiei**

**Asian Barred Owlet - Glaucidium cuculoides**

**Spotted Owlet (K) - Athene brama**

**Himalayan Owl (H) - Strix nivicolum**

**Gray Nightjar - Caprimulgus jotaka**
One sat on the road in the pre-dawn darkness as we ascended Chelela in search of Himalayan Monal.

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

**White-throated Needletail - Hirundapus caudacutus**

We had some great views of this striking, particularly aerodynamic swift over our hotel in Paro.

**Himalayan Swiftlet - Aerodramus brevirostris**

**Blyth's Swift - Apus leuconyx**

**House Swift - Apus nipalensis**

**Asian Palm-Swift - Cypsiurus balasiensis**

**Ward's Trogon (NT) - Harpactes wardi**

There were some tense moments as we searched for the persistently singing trogon, but Peter finally spotted it and we had wonderful views of a female singing from the bamboo.

**Stork-billed Kingfisher (K) - Pelargopsis capensis**

**White-throated Kingfisher - Halcyon smyrnensis**

**Crested Kingfisher - Megaceryle lugubris**

**Pied Kingfisher (K) - Ceryle rudis**

**Blue-bearded Bee-eater - Nyctyornis athertoni**

**Green Bee-eater (K) - Merops orientalis**

**Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (K) - Merops leschenaulti**

**Indian Roller - Coracias benghalensis**

**Dollarbird (K) - Eurystomus orientalis**

**Eurasian Hoopoe - Upupa epops**

**Oriental Pied-Hornbill - Anthracoceros albirostris**

**Great Hornbill (NT) - Buceros bicornis**

Our best views of this immense hornbill were in Kaziranga.

**Rufous-necked Hornbill (VU) - Aceros nipalensis**

We had many great views of this species, which is still common in Bhutan despite becoming rare due to deforestation and hunting across much of its range.

**Wreathed Hornbill - Aceros undulatus**

**Coppersmith Barbet - Psilopogon haemacephalus**

**Blue-eared Barbet (K) - Psilopogon duvaucelii**

**Great Barbet - Psilopogon virens**

**Lineated Barbet (K) - Psilopogon lineatus**

**Golden-throated Barbet - Psilopogon franklinii**

**Blue-throated Barbet - Psilopogon asiaticus**

**Yellow-rumped Honeyguide (NT) - Indicator xanthonotus**

After being told by our local guide that we couldn’t stop near the beehives because it was too dangerous, he changed his tune when we spotted a honeyguide right there! And the bees were fortunately calm at the time, so we got great views.

**Speckled Piculet - Picumnus innominatus**

**White-browed Piculet - Sasia ochracea**

We had amazing, close looks at one, ranking as one of my favorite birds of the trip.

**Gray-capped Woodpecker - Dendrocopos canicapillus**

**Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker - Dendrocopos macei**
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
It’s always a treat to see this unusual looking woodpecker, we watched and photographed a pair for several minutes near Dochula.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos cathpharius*

Darjeeling Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos darjellensis*

Lesser Yellownape - *Picus chlorolophus*

Greater Yellownape - *Picus flavinucha*

Streak-throated Woodpecker (K) - *Picus xanthopygaeus*

Gray-headed Woodpecker - *Picus canus*

Black-rumped Flameback - *Dinopium benghalense*

We got lucky with one as we waited for our paperwork to clear at the Indian immigration checkpoint on our way into Bhutan!

Rufous Woodpecker (H) - *Micropternus brachyurus*

Greater Flameback (K) - *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*

Bay Woodpecker - *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

Pied Falconet (K) - *Microhierax melanoleucos*

Another “while we waited” bird, this time while waiting for our morning tickets into Kaziranga.

Eurasian Kestrel (K) - *Falco tinnunculus*

Peregrine Falcon - *Falco peregrinus*

Alexandrine Parakeet (NT) - *Psittacula eupatria*

Rose-ringed Parakeet - *Psittacula krameri*

Blossom-headed Parakeet (K, NT) - *Psittacula roseata*

The least common of the four parakeets, we had very nice views on our first wildlife drive in Kaziranga.

Red-breasted Parakeet (NT) - *Psittacula alexandri*

Long-tailed Broadbill - *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

After hearing them many times, we finally got views of a distant bird near Shemgang.

Blue-naped Pitta (K, H) - *Hydrornis nipalensis*

Large Woodshrike (K) - *Tephrodornis gularis*

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike - *Hemipus picatus*

Ashy Woodswallow - *Artamus fuscus*

Common Iora (K) - *Aegithina tiphia*

Gray-chinned Minivet - *Pericrocotus solaris*

Short-billed Minivet - *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

Long-tailed Minivet - *Pericrocotus ethologus*

Scarlet Minivet - *Pericrocotus speciosus*

Large Cuckoo-shrike - *Coracina macei*

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike - *Lalage melaschistos*

Brown Shrike - *Lanius cristatus*

Long-tailed Shrike - *Lanius schach*

Gray-backed Shrike - *Lanius tephronotus*

Blyth’s Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius aeralatus*

Green Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*

Black-eared Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius melanotis*
White-bellied Erpornis - *Erpornis zantholeuca*
Slender-billed Oriole - *Oriolus tenuirostris*
Black-hooded Oriole - *Oriolus xanthornus*
Maroon Oriole - *Oriolus trilili*
Black Drongo - *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Ashy Drongo - *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
Bronzed Drongo - *Dicrurus aeneus*
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo - *Dicrurus remifer*
Hair-crested Drongo - *Dicrurus hortentottus*
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (K) - *Dicrurus paradiseus*
White-throated Fantail - *Rhipidura albicollis*
Black-naped Monarch (K) - *Hypothymis azurea*
Asian Paradise-Flycatcher - *Terpsiphone paradisi*
Eurasian Jay - *Garrulus glandarius*
Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie - *Urocissa flavirostris*
Common Green-Magpie - *Cissa chinensis*
Rufous Treepie (K) - *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
Gray Treepie - *Dendrocitta formosae*
Eurasian Magpie - *Pica pica*
Eurasian Nutcracker - *Nucifraga caryocatactes*
Red-billed Chough - *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
House Crow - *Corvus splendens*
Large-billed Crow - *Corvus macrorhynchos*
Bengal Bushlark - *Mirafra assamica*
Sand Lark - *Calandrella raytal*

It was a bit of a surprise to find several of these scarce larks in the riverbed near Gelephu.

Oriental Skylark - *Alauda gulgula*
The high elevation lark in the Himalayas, we had nice views of birds displaying and on the ground in one of the country’s dry central valleys.

Gray-throated Martin (K) - *Riparia chinensis*
Bank Swallow (K) - *Riparia riparia*
Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica*
Red-rumped Swallow - *Cecropis daurica*
Asian House-Martin - *Delichon dasypus*
Nepal House-Martin - *Delichon nipalense*
Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail - *Chelidorhynx hypoxantha*
Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher - *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
Coal Tit - *Periparus ater*
Rufous-vented Tit - *Periparus rubidiventris*
Gray-crested Tit - *Lophophanes dichrous*
Cinereous Tit (K) - *Parus cinereus*
Green-backed Tit - *Parus monticolus*
Yellow-cheeked Tit - *Parus spilonotus*
Yellow-browed Tit - *Sylviparus modestus*
Sultan Tit - *Melanochlora sultanae*
It’s always a treat to see this massive, colorful tit. We had great views several times.
Black-throated Tit - *Aegithalos concinnus*
Black-browed Tit - *Aegithalos iouschistos*
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - *Sitta cinnamoventris*
White-tailed Nuthatch - *Sitta himalayensis*
Beautiful Nuthatch (H, VU) - *Sitta formosa*
This guy gave us the run-around this trip. We heard it once and we found several mixed flocks in exactly the right areas, but never could find one to give us a view.

Hodgson’s Treecreeper - *Certhia hodgsoni*
Rusty-flanked Treecreeper - *Certhia nipalensis*
Sikkim Treecreeper - *Certhia discolor*
Eurasian Wren - *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Brown Dipper - *Cinclus pallasii*
Striated Bulbul - *Pycnonotus striatus*
Black-crested Bulbul - *Pycnonotus flaviventris*
Red-vented Bulbul - *Pycnonotus cafer*
Red-whiskered Bulbul - *Pycnonotus jocosus*
Himalayan Bulbul - *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
White-throated Bulbul - *Alophoixus flaveolus*
Black Bulbul - *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
Ashy Bulbul - *Hemixos flavala*
Mountain Bulbul - *Ixos mcclellandii*
Scaly-breasted Cupwing - *Pnoepyga albiventer*
Most of the group had very nice views of one near Yotongla.

Pygmy Cupwing - *Pnoepyga pusilla*
After hearing it several times, we had great views along the roadside. One even snuck through a culvert to get to the other side of the road—where it ended up giving us great views.

Gray-bellied Tesia - *Tesia cyaniventris*
Slaty-bellied Tesia - *Tesia olivace*
We had such good views of this skulker that we could see its orange mouth lining!

Gray-sided Bush-Warbler - *Cettia brunnifrons*
Chestnut-headed Tesia - *Cettia castaneocoronata*
After hearing many, we finally had nice views of a very responsive individual in a mess of bamboo near Thimphu.

Black-faced Warbler - *Abroscopus schisticeps*
Mountain Tailorbird - *Phyllergates cucullatus*
Broad-billed Warbler (H) – *Tickellia hodgsoni*
Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler - *Horornis fortipes*
Dusky Warbler (K) - *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
Tickell’s Leaf Warbler - *Phylloscopus affinis*
Buff-barred Warbler - *Phylloscopus pulcher*
Ashy-throated Warbler - *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
Pale-rumped Warbler - *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
Yellow-browed Warbler - *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Greenish Warbler (K) - *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Large-billed Leaf Warbler - *Phylloscopus magnirostris*
Blyth’s Leaf Warbler - *Phylloscopus reguloides*
Yellow-vented Warbler - *Phylloscopus cantator*
Gray-hooded Warbler - *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*
Golden-spectacled Warbler - *Seicercus burkii*
Whistler’s Warbler - *Seicercus whistleri*
White-spectacled Warbler - *Seicercus affinis*
Gray-cheeked Warbler - *Seicercus poliogenys*
Chestnut-crowned Warbler - *Seicercus castaniceps*
Striated Grassbird (K) - *Megalurus palustris*
Common Tailorbird - *Orthotomus sutorius*
Striated Prinia - *Prinia crinigera*
Black-throated Prinia - *Prinia atrogularis*
Ashy Prinia (K, H) - *Prinia socialis*
Golden-breasted Fulvetta - *Lioparus chrysotis*
We eked out nice views of this beautiful little guy as we were chasing around Chestnut-headed Tesia near Thimphu.
White-browed Fulvetta - *Fulvetta viniceps*
Great Parrotbill - *Conostoma oemodium*
We had very nice views—and very loud “heards”—of this hulking parrotbill near Thrumsingla.
Brown Parrotbill - *Cholornis unicolor*
After several failed attempts, we came across a very cooperative flock at the botanical gardens at Dochula.
Gray-headed Parrotbill - *Psittiparus gularis*
A first for our Bhutan tour, we had nice views of a pair of these with a laughingthrush flock near Tama Camp.
White-breasted Parrotbill - *Psittiparus ruficeps*
We had great views several times of these lethargic bamboo-lovers.
Black-throated Parrotbill - *Suthora nipalensis*
Striated Yuhina - *Yuhina castaniceps*
White-naped Yuhina - *Yuhina bakeri*
Whiskered Yuhina - *Yuhina flavicollis*
Stripe-throated Yuhina - *Yuhina gularis*
Rufous-vented Yuhina - *Yuhina occipitalis*
Black-chinned Yuhina - *Yuhina nigrimenta*
Oriental White-eye - *Zosterops palpebrosus*
Chestnut-capped Babbler (K, H) - *Timalia pileata*
Golden Babbler - *Cyanoderma chrysaeum*
Rufous-capped Babbler - *Cyanoderma ruficeps*
Buff-chested Babbler (K) - *Cyanoderma ambiguum*
Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler (NT) - *Spelaeornis caudatus*
Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler (H) - *Pomatorhinus superciliaris*
We found one singing right next to the road, but a truck came by and scared it off before we could get a view.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler - *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*
White-browed Scimitar-Babbler - *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler - *Megapomatorhinus erythrogenys*
Gray-throated Babbler - *Stachyris nigriceps*
Yellow-throated Fulvetta - *Schoeniparus cinereus*
Rufous-winged Fulvetta - *Schoeniparus castaneiceps*
Puff-throated Babbler(K) - *Pellorneum ruficeps*
We had incredible, close-up views of these several times at Kaziranga.

Abbott's Babbler (K) - *Turdinus abbotti*
We had nice views of this sometimes skulking babbler a couple of times in Kaziranga.

Nepal Fulvetta - *Alcippe nipalensis*

Striated Laughingthrush - *Grammatoptila striata*

Himalayan Cutia - *Cutia nipalensis*
Always a highlight when seen well, we had a very loud, showy male early in the trip.

Striated Babbler (K) - *Turdoides earlei*

Jungle Babbler - *Turdoides striata*

White-crested Laughingthrush - *Garrulax leucolophus*
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush – *Garrulax monileger*
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla rufogularis*
Spotted Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla ocellata*
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla pectoralis*
White-throated Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla albogularis*
Rufous-necked Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla ruficollis*
Gray-sided Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla caerulata*
Bhutan Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron imbricatum*
Scaly Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron subunicolor*
Blue-winged Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron squamatum*
Black-faced Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron affine*

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*

Rufous Sibia - *Heterophasia capistrata*
Long-tailed Sibia - *Heterophasia picaoides*
Silver-eared Mesia - *Leiothrix argentauris*
Red-billed Leiothrix - *Leiothrix lutea*
Red-tailed Minla - *Minla ignotincta*

Red-faced Liocichla - *Liocichla phoenicea*
After several failed attempts, we found one hopping around on the road at a most unexpected time, giving us unlimited views of its red patches.

Hoary-throated Barwing - *Actinodura nipalensis*
Rusty-fronted Barwing - *Actinodura egertoni*
Blue-winged Minla - *Actinodura cyanourop tera*
Chestnut-tailed Minla - *Actinodura strigula*
Asian Fairy-bluebird (K) - *Irena puella*
Dark-sided Flycatcher - *Muscicapa sibirica*
Oriental Magpie-Robin - *Copsychus saularis*
White-rumped Shama (K) - *Copsychus malabaricus*
White-gorgeted Flycatcher (H) - *Anthipes monileger*
Pale-chinned Blue-Flycatcher (K) - *Cyornis poliogenys*
One of Kaziranga’s key passerines, we had great views in one of the forested areas.
Pale Blue-Flycatcher - *Cyornis unicolor*
Blue-throated Flycatcher - *Cyornis rubeculoides*
Large Niltava - *Niltava grandis*
Small Niltava - *Niltava macgrigoriae*
Rufous-bellied Niltava - *Niltava sundara*
Pygmy Blue-Flycatcher - *Muscicapella hodgsoni*
We heard many of these diminutive flycatchers before finally seeing one on a side road on our way to Thimphu.
Verditer Flycatcher - *Eumyias thalassinus*
Lesser Shortwing (H) - *Brachypteryx leucophrys*
Indian Blue Robin - *Larvivora brunnea*
One of the last passerines to arrive on their breeding grounds, we found it only on the very last day of the tour.
Blue Whistling-Thrush - *Myophonus caeruleus*
Little Forktail - *Enicurus scouleri*
Spotted Forktail - *Enicurus maculatus*
White-tailed Robin (H) - *Cinclidium leucurum*
Himalayan Bluetail - *Tarsiger rufilatus*
Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin - *Tarsiger hyperythrus*
Another first for a Tropical Birding Bhutan tour, we had very nice views of a pair near Thrumsingla.
White-browed Bush-Robin (H) - *Tarsiger indicus*
Golden Bush-Robin - *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
Little Pied Flycatcher - *Ficedula westermanni*
Taiga Flycatcher - *Ficedula albicilla*
Ultramarine Flycatcher - *Ficedula superciliaris*
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - *Ficedula strophiata*
Slaty-blue Flycatcher - *Ficedula tricolor*
Sapphire Flycatcher - *Ficedula sapphira*
Blue-fronted Redstart - *Phoenicurus frontalis*
Plumbeous Redstart - *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*
White-capped Redstart - *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*
Hodgson’s Redstart - *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*
Black Redstart - *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Daurian Redstart - *Phoenicurus auroreus*
Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush - *Monticola rufiventris*
Blue-capped Rock-Thrush - *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
Siberian Stonechat - *Saxicola maurus*
Gray Bushchat - *Saxicola ferreus*
Orange-headed Thrush (H) - *Geokichla citrina*
Plain-backed Thrush - *Zoothera mollissima*
One bird was very faithful to a particular grassy pullout on the Lingmethang Road.

White-collared Blackbird - *Turdus albocinctus*
Gray-winged Blackbird - *Turdus boulboul*
Common Hill Myna (K) - *Gracula religiosa*
Great Myna - *Acridotheres grandis*
Jungle Myna - *Acridotheres fuscus*
Bank Myna - *Acridotheres ginginianus*
Common Myna - *Acridotheres tristis*
Asian Pied Starling - *Gracupica contra*
Chestnut-tailed Starling - *Sturnia malabarica*
Golden-fronted Leafbird (K) - *Chloropsis aurifrons*
Orange-bellied Leafbird - *Chloropsis hardwickii*
Yellow-vented Flowerpecker (K) - *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - *Dicaeum ignipectus*
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (K) - *Dicaeum cruentatum*
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird (K) - *Chalcoparia singalensis*
Fire-tailed Sunbird - *Aethopyga ignicauda*
Black-throated Sunbird - *Aethopyga saturata*
Gould’s Sunbird - *Aethopyga gouldiae*
Green-tailed Sunbird - *Aethopyga nipalensis*
Crimson Sunbird (K) - *Aethopyga siparaja*
Streaked Spiderhunter - *Arachnothera magna*
Alpine Accentor - *Prunella collaris*
Rufous-breasted Accentor - *Prunella strophiata*
Maroon-backed Accentor - *Prunella immaculata*
We had brief views of this uncommon species near Sengor.

Western Yellow Wagtail (K) - *Motacilla flava*
Citrine Wagtail (K) - *Motacilla citreola*
Gray Wagtail - *Motacilla cinerea*
White Wagtail - *Motacilla alba*
We saw both the abundant breeding subspecies *alboides*, with its black head and white mask, as well as the migrant *leucopsis*, with its black cap and throat and white face.

White-browed Wagtail - *Motacilla madarastapensis*
A pair of this Indian subcontinent endemic was in the river near Gelephu.

Oriental Pipit - *Anthus rufulus*
Rosy Pipit - *Anthus roseatus*
Olive-backed Pipit - *Anthus hodgsoni*
Spotted Elachura - *Elachura formosa*
Recently “elevated” to its own family, we had very nice views of this little skulker—formerly considered a wren-babbler—in the forest below Tamala.

**Crested Bunting - *Melophus lathami***

**Little Bunting - *Emberiza pusilla***

We saw just one individual of this migrant, in a clearing along the Upper Lingmethang Road.

**Plain Mountain-Finch - *Leucosticte nemoricola***

**Gold-naped Finch - *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta***

We had great views of a male of this uncommon finch with a mixed flock near Sengor.

**Crimson-browed Finch - *Pinicola subhimachala***

Seen a couple of times this year.

**Red-headed Bullfinch - *Pyrrhula erythrocephala***

Seen a couple of times, best was a wonderful male near Thrumsingla.

**Blanford's Rosefinch - *Carpodacus rubescens***

A rare, unpredictable species, we had excellent views near Thrumsingla.

**Dark-breasted Rosefinch - *Carpodacus nipalensis***

Common at Chelela this year.

**Common Rosefinch - *Carpodacus erythrinus***

**Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch - *Carpodacus pulcherrimus***

A group of females was in Ura, in its preferred dry valley habitat.

**Dark-rumped Rosefinch - *Carpodacus edwardsii***

We saw a cooperative pair feeding on the road near Thrumsingla.

**Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch - *Carpodacus thura***

A pair was first seen near Yotongla, then was common at Chelela.

**Scarlet Finch - *Haematospiza sipahi***

**Yellow-breasted Greenfinch - *Chloris spinoides***

**Red Crossbill - *Loxia curvirostra***

We had great views of a male singing at eye level near Sengor.

**Collared Grosbeak - *Mycerobas affinis***

Often a tough one to find, we had great views of a female near Thrumsingla.

**Spot-winged Grosbeak - *Mycerobas melanozanthos***

We found several flocks feeding quietly that allowed us prolonged views of both sexes.

**White-winged Grosbeak - *Mycerobas carnipes***

We didn’t see this striking finch until our final morning of birding, in the snowy environment of Chelela.

**House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus***

**Russet Sparrow - *Passer rutilans***

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow - *Passer montanus***

**Baya Weaver (K) - *Ploceus philippinus***

**Scaly-breasted Munia - *Lonchura punctulata***

**MAMMAL LIST**
Assamese Macaque (NT) - *Macaca assamensis*
Rhesus Macaque - *Macaca mulatta*
Gray Langur - *Semnopithecus schistaceus*
Golden Langur (EN) - *Trachypithecus geei*
Nearly endemic to Bhutan, we had many close views of this beautiful primate.
Capped Langur (VU) - *Trachypithecus pileatus*
Himalayan Yellow-throated Marten - *Martes flavigula*
Seen just once this trip, and not by everybody on the tour.
Eurasian (Common) Otter (NT) - *Lutra lutra*
We had great views of otters both in the marshes of Kaziranga and in the Pochhu River in Bhutan.
Indian (Asian) Elephant (K, EN) - *Elephas maximus*
We had many wonderful views of wild elephants in Kaziranga, including sparring males, and a female that we watched come in from a kilometer away to cross the road right in front of us, followed a few minutes later by a male.
Indian Rhinoceros (K, VU) - *Rhinoceros unicornis*
As usual, we saw dozens of these rare beasts in Kaziranga, their main stronghold in the native range. We had many close views, including of mothers with their young.
(Indian) Wild boar - *Sus scrofa*
Easily seen in Kaziranga, it was a bit of a surprise to see one in a forested valley in Bhutan as well.
Hog Deer (K, EN) - *Axis porcinus*
Swamp Deer (K, VU) - *Cervus duvauceli*
Sambar (K, VU) - *Cervus unicolor*
Barking Deer - *Muntiacus muntjak*
Wild Buffalo (K) - *Bubalus arnee*
Himalayan Goral (NT) - *Naemorhedus goral*
A few people glimpsed one on the Lingmethang Road.
Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel - *Callosciurus pygerythrus*
Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel - *Dremomys lokriah*
Black (Himalayan) Giant Squirrel (NT) - *Ratufa bicolor*
We had very nice looks several times at this beast.
Himalayan Striped Squirrel - *Tamiops mcclellandii*
Large-eared Pika - *Ochotona macrotis*
Many pikas escaped unidentified, but we had great views of one of these at the botanical gardens at Dochula.