Northern India:

Himalayas, Taj Mahal, and Tiger

A Tropical Birding Custom Tour

January 19 – February 5, 2014
Guide: Ken Behrens

All photos taken by Ken Behrens

TOUR SUMMARY

India is an intoxicating place. It holds a vast range of people and cultures, colors and tastes, and complex history. Thankfully for travelling birders, it is also an excellent birding location. Birds are not persecuted, and therefore are abundant and tame. India is also perhaps the best mammal-watching location in the world outside of Africa. There is excellent Himalayan foothill birding, plains birding for subcontinental scrub birds and a bounty of waterbirds, boat trips for scarce riverine species, and of course the fabled tiger parks.

This was a custom trip arranged for a group of friends who have taken many trips with Tropical Birding. The group opted for a quick pre-tour that took in the cultural wonders of Jaipur, plus the impressive desert around Jaisalmer. They even notched up a few good birds including the huge and critically endangered Indian Bustard. For the birding portion of the trip, there were basically two goals: find as many new birds as possible for the two keen birders on the trip, and simply to soak in the mammals, birds, and different environments for the remainder of the group. This was not a tour where we tried to rack up a huge bird list; our birding was targeted, and we spent a lot of time watching and photographing mammals.

A male Kalij Pheasant is a spectacular and intricately-patterned bird.

The birding began in earnest when we all met up in Delhi, the second-"birdiest" city in the world. Before driving to the Himalayas, we spent a couple hours birding at Okhla Barrage, which was excellent for Striated Babbler, White-tailed Stonechat, Striated Grassbird, and loads of shorebirds and waterfowl. The long drive north was mainly of cultural interest, as the Ganges Plain is one of the most densely populated places on earth. It is fascinating to see the press of people and their endlessly ingenious ways of surviving in this intense environment. One field held a pair of gorgeous Sarus Cranes, the tallest bird in the world.

Although our plan had been to focus on the higher elevations around Pangot, an unusually heavy snowstorm had completely blocked the road up the mountains, and confined our Himalayan birding to the Sat Tal and Naini Tal areas. The cold and snow did considerably dampen bird activity, and flocks were few and far between, but on the other hand, there were some normally higher-elevation birds that had been pushed down by the extreme weather. Laughingthrushes are always a highlight of this part of the trip. We found all the possible species, including the

A Bar-tailed Treecreeper in the Himalayan foothills.

hefty Striated, sough-after Rufous-chinned, and beautiful Chestnut-crowned. Although we were blocked by snow from pursuing the higher-elevation pheasants, we still enjoyed views of the beautiful Kalij Pheasant, plus a couple of Black Francolins. Big flocks of Slaty-headed and Red-breasted Parakeets were flying around and making lots of noise. Good numbers of Black-throated Thrushes were joined by a couple of the scarcer Gray-winged Thrush, which tamely fed in the fallow winter fields. We hit the jackpot on a sunny south-facing slope where loads of desperate birds were feeding, as this was one of the few places without snow cover. There were both Rufous-breasted and Altai Accentors, Yellow-breasted Greenfinches, Pink-browed Rosefinches, and a single beautiful male of the rare Vinaceous Rosefinch. The jays are another highlight of the Himalayas. Perhaps the best is the long-tailed Red-billed Blue Magpie, but the Gray and Rufous Treepies are also excellent birds. Maroon Oriole was also a welcome site in a mixed flock in the snowy forest.

From the hill station of Naini Tal, we dropped down to the Ramnagar area, at the edge of the plains and the mountains. Despite being physically close to Naini Tal, the birding here is very different. Our first major target was a curve-billed, boulder-colored, river-dwelling oddity of a shorebird that makes up its own family: the Ibisbill. The normal stakeout on a massive riverbed, next to a Hindu temple, quickly produced two beautiful Ibisbills, plus a couple of huge Crested

Corbett has an abundant avifauna including the Ashy Bulbul.

Kingfishers.

Although Corbett National Park was our main destination in the Ramnagar area, we had an afternoon and morning to explore the area outside the park, which can hold excellent birding. Here we found Himalayan Swiftlet, Common Green-Magpie, Orange-bellied and Golden-fronted Leafbirds, Crimson Sunbird, Great Barbet, Whistler's Warbler, Brown Dipper, and Spotted Forktail. The rarest bird we found was the Immaculate Wren-Babbler, a highly localized species that was once thought to be endemic to Nepal.

Corbett National Park was to be the highlight of our time north of Delhi, especially for the mammal-lovers on the trip. We spent two nights inside of the park, and made many safari drives, exploring the wide rivers, golden grasslands, and mysterious forests of this big and wild park. Mammals including Chital, Sambar, Wild Boar, and Hog Deer were abundant. A herd of Asiatic Elephants was much enjoyed on a couple of occasions at close range. Although we heard a lot of alarm calls from deer, often a sign of the proximity of a tiger, we didn't manage to spot this fabled beast; that would have to wait for later in the trip at Bandhavgarh. On the bird front, highlights included River Tern, Lesser and Pallas's Fish-Eagles, Short-toed Eagle, Red-headed Vulture, Large Hawk-Cuckoo, Stork-billed Kingfisher, White-rumped Needletail, Rufous Woodpecker, Rosy Pipit, Gray-bellied Tesia, and Velvet-fronted Nuthatch. India is the best place on earth to see owls during the day, and Corbett produced Tawny and Brown Fish-Owls, and many sightings of Jungle Owlet.

Indian Skimmer is the main reason to visit the Chambal River,
where we take boat trips in search of these charismatic and rapidly declining birds.

Blackbuck might be the best antelope in the world.

We struck south, back across the Ganges Plain, then spent a transit night in Delhi before continuing on to the Chambal River. This tributary of the Ganges River has fortunately escaped the pollution that many of India's rivers have received. As such, it is a sanctuary for many waterbirds. We did two boat trips on the river, and found our main targets: Indian Skimmer and Great Thick-knee. Other good birds included Bar-headed Goose, Red-crested Pochard, Dalmatian Pelican, Red-naped Ibis, Brown Crake, Pallas's Gull, and Sand Lark. A bluff above the river held a nesting Dusky Eagle-Owl, yet another daytime owl on this amazing owl tour! Two huge crocodilians are another feature of this area: the mugger crocodile and prehistoric-looking gharial. The mammal highlight was Blackbuck, perhaps the most gorgeous of all the world's antelope. Away from the river, we did some garden, scrub, and field birding, and picked up Indian Scops-Owl, Brown Boobook, Brown-headed Barbet, Orange-headed Thrush, Jungle and Rufous-fronted Prinias, a bizarrely out-of-range Rufous-bellied Niltava, Ashy-crowned Sparrowlark, and the scarce Brooks's Leaf-Warbler.

Keoladeo National Park, better known as "Bharatpur" is a world heritage site and one of the world's most famous birding sites due to its vast numbers of wintering waterbirds, excellent scrub birding, dependable stakeouts for roosting owls and nightjars, and its culture of local guides and

rickshaw drivers who cater to birders. We had two full days to explore the wetlands and scrub park, both on foot and by rickshaw. We turned up Cotton Pygmy-Goose, Indian Cormorant, Large-tailed Nightjar, a vagrant Gray-headed Lapwing, Indian Spotted Eagle, Common Hawk-Owl, Ashy and White-bellied Drongos, and Sykes's Warbler. The bustling colony of breeding Painted Storks was a highlight as always. On our last morning, we made a long drive out into the countryside for Indian Courser, a particular target of the keen birders on the trip. Although it took a long march through fallow fields, we were victorious in the end, turning up a couple of these handsome sub-continental endemics. One of the highlights of Bharatpur is the place where we are based for birding this area. It's a former Maharaja's palace with a beautiful garden. It comes as quite a shock to some birders who are used to the remote lodges and simple hotels that are necessarily used on some birding tours! In India, we travel, eat, and sleep in style!

Our trip had one final mission: to head to central India's flagship park of Bandhavgarh, to find Asia's top mammal, the incredible Tiger. This adventure started with an overnight train ride in comfortable first-class cabins. We woke up in the central India, which is refreshingly sparsely populated after the teeming Ganges Plain. For four nights, we were based in a fabulously luxurious

Black-rumped Flameback is found throughout most of India.

lodge. Morning and afternoon, we made safari drives on “Gypsy” jeeps into the park, to seek out its birds, and of course the tiger. The big cat has become increasingly hard to find in recent years, both due to declines in its population, and more significantly because of stringent new regulations of safari drives by the Indian government. It wasn’t until our last of many drives that we finally spotted our first tiger, the huge male that is the top of the park’s food chain. Although the search had been long and sometimes frustrating, it was incredibly satisfying to finally see this magnificent creature.

Along the way, we enjoyed the excellent overall birding and mammaling of this beautiful national park. The open areas and marshes held birds like the localized Lesser Adjutant, while the woodlands held sub-continental endemic Painted Spurfowl, melodious White-rumped Shama, Black-naped Monarch, Crested Hawk-Eagle, White-browed Fantail, Scaly and Orange-headed Thrushes, and Tickell’s Blue-Flycatcher. Edge habitat harbored Plum-headed and Alexandrine Parakeets, White-eyed Buzzard, Sirkeer Malkoha, Crested Treeswift, Brown-capped and Yellow-crowned Woodpeckers, Thick-billed and Pale-billed Flowerpeckers, and White-rumped Munia. Indian parks are great for raptors, which included patrolling Indian, White-rumped, and Red-headed Vultures. A drive and a short plane flight brought us back to Delhi where we connected with our international departures and bid farewell to “Incredible India”.

Himalayan Bulbul (left) from the foothills of those great mountains, and Sirkeer Malkoha from Bandhavgarh National Park.

ITINERARY

January 19	Early morning at Okhla Barrage in Delhi. Afternoon to Sat Tal.
January 20	Sat Tal area.
January 21	Sat Tal to Naini Tal.
January 22	Naini Tal to Corbett area.
January 23	Corbett National Park.
January 24	Corbett National Park.
January 25	Corbett to Delhi.
January 26	Delhi to Chambal River.
January 27	Morning boat ride on Chambal River. Afternoon to Dholpur.
January 28	Morning boat ride on Chambal River. Afternoon in Agra (Taj Mahal).
January 29	Keoladeo Ghana National Park.
January 30	Keoladeo Ghana National Park.
January 31	Bharatpur to Agra (Taj Mahal). Overnight sleeper train to Bandhavgarh.
February 1	Bandhavgarh National Park.
February 2	Bandhavgarh National Park.
February 3	Bandhavgarh National Park.
February 4	Bandhavgarh National Park.
February 5	Bandhavgarh National Park to Delhi (flight).

This trip focused on both birds and mammals, like this Sambar.

PHOTO GALLERY

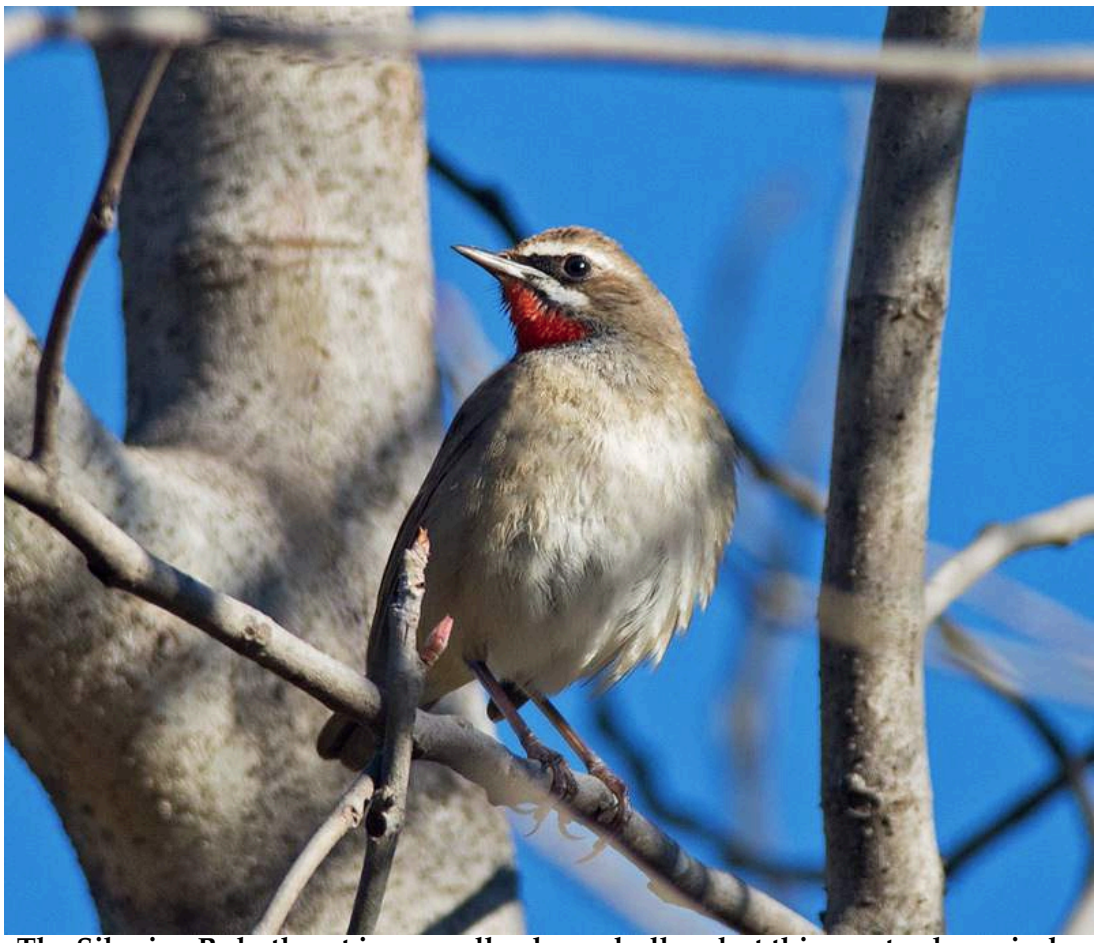
Follows tour's chronology

The reedbeds of the Yamuna River in Delhi hold some prizes like the localized Striated Babbler...

and the inquisitive Yelow-bellied Prinia.

The Himalayan foothills around Sat Tal hold a bounty of avian gems like this Red-billed Blue Magpie.

The Black-chinned Babbler is a skulky little bird.



The Siberian Rubythroat is normally also a skulker, but this one teed up nicely.

The Slaty-blue Flycatcher is one of a many birds which descend the mountains in winter.

The Slaty-headed Parakeet often forms noisy flocks in the foothills.

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush is a specialty of the Sat Tal area.

In Sat Tal, there had been a huge snowstorm, which did inconvenience our birding, but also meant that birds like this Blue Whistling-Thrush had a beautiful snowy backdrop!

Black-throated Tit is a typically dapper Himalayan bird.

A Lesser Fish-Eagle that swooped below us in Corbett National Park.

Striated Laughingthrush (left) and Rufous Sibia (right), two species often found in flocks.

Nepal Wren-Babbler was an excellent bird to locate just outside of Corbett.

Corbett is great for mammals like this Sambar (left) and roosting owls like this Tawny Fish-Owl (right).

An Indian Cobra soaking in the mid-winter sun.

We had several magical encounters with Asian Elephants.

Corbett's bird diversity is dazzling. Here a Collared Falconet (left) and a Black-throated Thrush (right).

Rosy Pipit (left) and Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker (right).

A Red-wattled Lapwing in glorious morning light on a Corbett safari drive.

This Short-toed Snake-Eagle flew right over our heads on one drive.

Jungle Owlets live right in the national park rest camp.

The Chambal River is a haven for waterbirds like these Bar-headed Geese.

The Common Kingfisher might be common, but it's a real beauty.

Handsome River Lapwing on the muddy banks of the Chambal.

Dalmatian Pelican buzzing our boat on a river trip.

The Red-naped Ibis is an Indian sub-continental endemic.

Gharial is wonderfully prehistoric and bizarre.

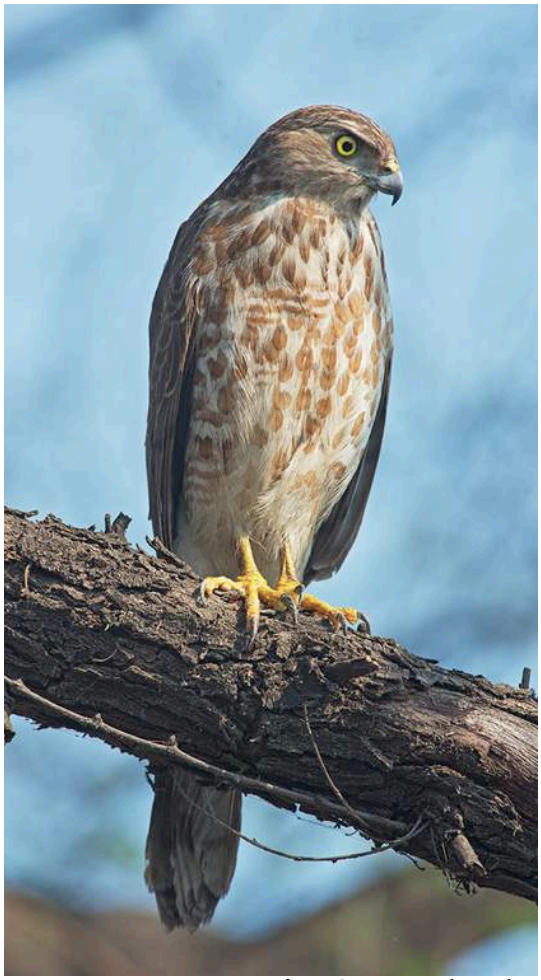
Brahminy Starling (left) and Pied Bushchat (right), common birds of the Indian plains.

Indian Peafowl is common but absolutely spectacular.

Bharatpur is all about the combination of scrub birds, like this White-eared Bulbul…

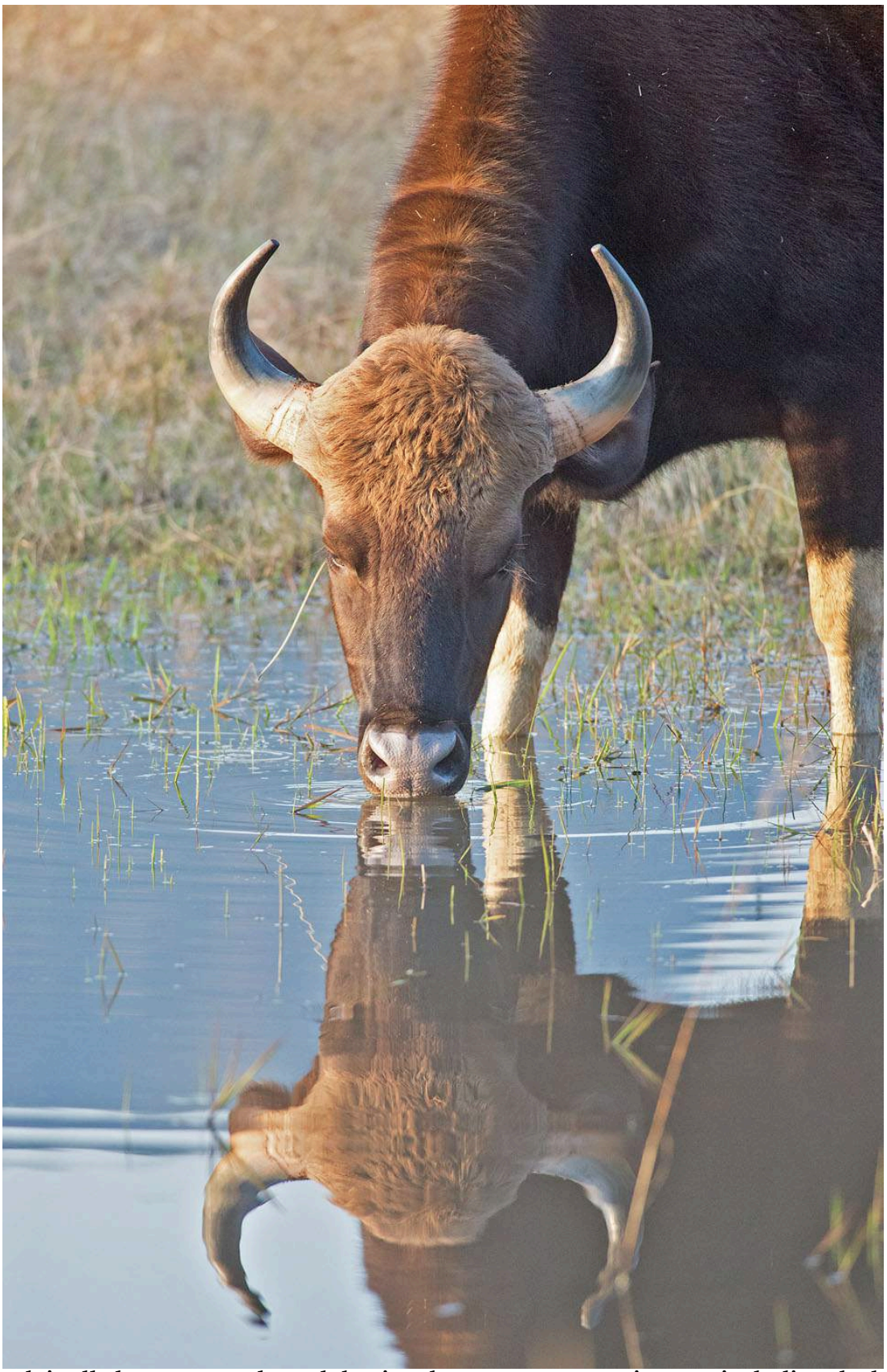
and wetland birds like these Great White Pelicans.

Common Hawk Cuckoo in the woodland of Bharatpur.



Eurasian Sparrowhawks (left) were in unusually high numbers, while Northern Palm Squirrels (right) are always abundant!

Spritely Indian Robin is a sub-continental endemic.



Bandhavgarh is all about mammals, and the tiger has a great supporting cast including the huge Gaur.

Large Cuckooshrike (left) flaunts itself in the open while Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (right) skulks in the jungle.

Lesser Adjutant, Asia's version of the Marabou Stork of Africa.

Mottled Wood-Owl at the normal roost site near the park gate.

Bandhavgarh is great for raptors like White-eyed Buzzard (left) and Crested Serpent-Eagle (right).

Spotted deer in one of the delightful open grasslands of the park.

Northern Plains Gray Langur, a beautiful and very common monkey.

A Little Green Bee-eater sat on the same wire throughout our days in Bandhavgarh!

BIRD LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World*, including updates through 2013.

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

Lesser Whistling-Duck	*Dendrocygna javanica*	
Graylag Goose	*Anser anser*	
Bar-headed Goose	*Anser indicus*	
Comb Duck	*Sarkidiornis melanotos*	
Ruddy Shelduck	*Tadorna ferruginea*	
Cotton Pygmy-Goose	*Nettapus coromandelianus*	
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 Teal	*Anas crecca*	
Red-crested Pochard	*Netta rufina*	
Common Pochard	*Aythya ferina*	
Ferruginous Duck (Pochard)	*Aythya nyroca*	
Tufted Duck	*Aythya fuligula*	

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Gray Francolin	*Francolinus pondicerianus*	
Black Francolin	*Francolinus francolinus*	
Jungle Bush-Quail	*Perdicula asiatica*	
Hill Partridge	*Arborophila torqueola*	H
Painted Spurfowl	*Galloperdix lunulata*	
Red Junglefowl	*Gallus gallus*	
Kalij Pheasant	*Lophura leucomelanos*	
Indian Peafowl	*Pavo cristatus*	

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Asian Openbill	*Anastomus oscitans*	
Black Stork	*Ciconia nigra*	
Woolly-necked Stork	*Ciconia episcopus*	
Black-necked Stork	*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*	
Lesser Adjutant	*Leptoptilos javanicus*	
Painted Stork	*Mycteria leucocephala*	

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Indian Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*	
Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	
Little Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax niger*	

SULIFORMES: Anhingidae

Oriental Darter	*Anhinga melanogaster*	

PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*	
Dalmatian Pelican	*Pelecanus crispus*	

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Black Bittern	*Ixobrychus flavicollis*	
Gray Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	
Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea*	
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*	
Intermediate Egret	*Mesophoyx intermedia*	
Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	
Indian Pond-Heron	*Ardeola grayii*	
Striated Heron	*Butorides striata*	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	
Black-headed Ibis	*Threskiornis melanocephalus*	
Red-naped Ibis	*Pseudibis papillosa*	

Eurasian Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia*	

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae

Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

Black-shouldered Kite	*Elanus caeruleus*	
Egyptian Vulture	*Neophron percnopterus*	
Oriental Honey-buzzard	*Pernis ptilorhynchus*	
Red-headed Vulture	*Sarcogyps calvus*	
Cinereous Vulture	*Aegypius monachus*	
White-rumped Vulture	*Gyps bengalensis*	
Indian Vulture	*Gyps indicus*	
Himalayan Griffon	*Gyps himalayensis*	
Eurasian Griffon	*Gyps fulvus*	
Crested Serpent-Eagle	*Spilornis cheela*	
Short-toed Eagle	*Circaetus gallicus*	
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	*Nisaetus limnaeetus*	
Crested Hawk-Eagle	*Nisaetus cirrhatus*	
Mountain Hawk-Eagle	*Nisaetus nipalensis*	
Indian Spotted Eagle	*Clanga hastata*	
Greater Spotted Eagle	*Clanga clanga*	
Booted Eagle	*Hieraaetus pennatus*	
Steppe Eagle	*Aquila nipalensis*	
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	
Bonelli's Eagle	*Aquila fasciata*	
White-eyed Buzzard	*Butastur teesa*	
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus*	
Northern Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	
Shikra	*Accipiter badius*	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	
Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	
Pallas's Fish-Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*	
Lesser Fish-Eagle	*Ichthyophaga humilis*	

Long-legged Buzzard	*Buteo rufinus*	G

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Brown Crake	*Amaurornis akool*	
White-breasted Waterhen	*Amaurornis phoenicurus*	
Purple Swamphen	*Porphyrio porphyrio*	
Eurasian Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	
Eurasian Coot	*Fulica atra*	

GRUIFORMES: Gruidae

Sarus Crane	*Grus antigone*	
Common Crane	*Grus grus*	

CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae

Great Thick-knee	*Esacus recurvirostris*	

CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	
Pied Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	

CHARADRIIFORMES: Ibidorhynchidae

Ibisbill	*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*	

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

River Lapwing	*Vanellus duvaucelii*	
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus malabaricus*	
Red-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*	
Gray-headed Lapwing	*Vanellus cinereus*	
White-tailed Lapwing	*Vanellus leucurus*	
Kentish Plover	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	
Little Ringed Plover	*Charadrius dubius*	

CHARADRIIFORMES: Rostratulidae

Greater Painted-Snipe	*Rostratula benghalensis*	

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*	
Wood Sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	
Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*	
Ruff	*Calidris pugnax*	
Temminck's Stint	*Calidris temminckii*	
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	
Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	
Pin-tailed Snipe	*Gallinago stenura*	

CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae

Indian Courser	*Cursorius coromandelicus*	

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Black-headed Gull	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	
Brown-headed Gull	*Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*	
Pallas's Great Black-headed) Gull	*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*	
Caspian Gull	*Larus cachinnans*	
Gull-billed Tern	*Gelochelidon nilotica*	
River Tern	*Sterna aurantia*	
Indian Skimmer	*Rynchops albicollis*	

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*	
Oriental Turtle-Dove	*Streptopelia orientalis*	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	
Red Collared-Dove	*Streptopelia tranquebarica*	
Spotted Dove	*Streptopelia chinensis*	
Laughing Dove	*Streptopelia senegalensis*	
Yellow-footed Pigeon	*Treron phoenicopterus*	

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

Large Hawk-Cuckoo	*Hierococcyx sparverioides*	
Common Hawk-Cuckoo	*Hierococcyx varius*	
Sirkeer Malkoha	*Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*	

Greater Coucal	*Centropus sinensis*	

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

Indian Scops-Owl	*Otus bakkamoena*	
Dusky Eagle-Owl	*Bubo coromandus*	
Brown Fish-Owl	*Ketupa zeylonensis*	
Tawny Fish-Owl	*Ketupa flavipes*	
Asian Barred Owlet	*Glaucidium cuculoides*	
Jungle Owlet	*Glaucidium radiatum*	
Spotted Owlet	*Athene brama*	
Mottled Wood-Owl	*Strix ocellata*	
Brown Boobook (Hawk Owl)	*Ninox scutulata*	

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Large-tailed Nightjar	*Caprimulgus macrurus*	
Savanna Nightjar	*Caprimulgus affinis*	H

APODIFORMES: Apodidae

White-rumped Needletail	*Zoonavena sylvatica*	
Himalayan Swiftlet	*Aerodramus brevirostris*	
Little Swift	*Apus affinis*	

APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae

Crested Treeswift	*Hemiprocne coronata*	

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	
Stork-billed Kingfisher	*Pelargopsis capensis*	
White-throated Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	
Crested Kingfisher	*Megaceryle lugubris*	
Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*	

CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae

Blue-bearded Bee-eater	*Nyctyornis athertoni*	
Green Bee-eater	*Merops orientalis*	

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

Indian Roller	*Coracias benghalensis*	

CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe	*Upupa epops*	

CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae

Indian Gray Hornbill	*Ocyceros birostris*	
Malabar Pied-Hornbill	*Anthracoceros coronatus*	

PICIFORMES: Megalaimidae

Great Barbet	*Megalaima virens*	
Brown-headed Barbet	*Megalaima zeylanica*	
Lineated Barbet	*Megalaima lineata*	
Blue-throated Barbet	*Megalaima asiatica*	
Coppersmith Barbet	*Megalaima haemacephala*	

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck	*Jynx torquilla*	
Brown-capped Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos nanus*	
Gray-capped Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos canicapillus*	
Brown-fronted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos auriceps*	
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos macei*	
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*	
Rufous Woodpecker	*Celeus brachyurus*	
Lesser Yellownape	*Picus chlorolophus*	
Greater Yellownape	*Picus flavinucha*	
Streak-throated Woodpecker	*Picus xanthopygaeus*	
Gray-faced Woodpecker	*Picus canus*	
Himalayan Flameback	*Dinopium shorii*	
Black-rumped Flameback	*Dinopium benghalense*	
Greater Flameback	*Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*	
White-naped Woodpecker	*Chrysocolaptes festivus*	

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Collared Falconet	*Microhierax caerulescens*	
Eurasian Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	
Laggar Falcon	*Falco jugger*	
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae

Alexandrine Parakeet	*Psittacula eupatria*	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	*Psittacula krameri*	
Slaty-headed Parakeet	*Psittacula himalayana*	
Plum-headed Parakeet	*Psittacula cyanocephala*	
Red-breasted Parakeet	*Psittacula alexandri*	

PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae

Common Woodshrike	*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*	
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	*Hemipus picatus*	

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae

Common Iora	*Aegithina tiphia*	

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

Small Minivet	*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*	
Long-tailed Minivet	*Pericrocotus ethologus*	
Scarlet Minivet	*Pericrocotus speciosus*	
Large Cuckooshrike	*Coracina macei*	
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	*Lalage melaschistos*	

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Isabelline Shrike	*Lanius isabellinus*	
Brown Shrike	*Lanius cristatus*	
Bay-backed Shrike	*Lanius vittatus*	
Long-tailed Shrike	*Lanius schach*	
Southern Gray Shrike	*Lanius meridionalis*	

PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae

Himalayan (White-browed) Shrike-Babbler	*Pteruthius ripleyi*	
Green Shrike-Babbler	*Pteruthius xanthochlorus*	

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

Indian Golden Oriole	*Oriolus kundoo*	
Black-hooded Oriole	*Oriolus xanthornus*	
Maroon Oriole	*Oriolus traillii*	

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Black Drongo	*Dicrurus macrocercus*	
Ashy Drongo	*Dicrurus leucophaeus*	

White-bellied Drongo	*Dicrurus caerulescens*	
Bronzed Drongo	*Dicrurus aeneus*	
Hair-crested Drongo	*Dicrurus hottentottus*	
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	*Dicrurus paradiseus*	

PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae

White-throated Fantail	*Rhipidura albicollis*	
White-browed Fantail	*Rhipidura aureola*	

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch	*Hypothymis azurea*	

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Black-headed Jay	*Garrulus lanceolatus*	
Red-billed Blue-Magpie	*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*	
Common Green-Magpie	*Cissa chinensis*	
Rufous Treepie	*Dendrocitta vagabunda*	
Gray Treepie	*Dendrocitta formosae*	
House Crow	*Corvus splendens*	
Large-billed Crow	*Corvus macrorhynchos japonensis*	
"Indian Jungle" Large-billed Crow	*Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus*	

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae

Indian Bushlark	*Mirafra erythroptera*	
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	*Eremopterix griseus*	
Rufous-tailed Lark	*Ammomanes phoenicura*	
Greater Short-toed Lark	*Calandrella brachydactyla*	
Sand Lark	*Calandrella raytal*	
Crested Lark	*Galerida cristata*	
Oriental Skylark	*Alauda gulgula*	

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

Gray-throated (Plain) Martin	*Riparia chinensis*	
Dusky Crag-Martin	*Ptyonoprogne concolor*	
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	

Wire-tailed Swallow	*Hirundo smithii*	
Red-rumped Swallow	*Cecropis daurica*	
Streak-throated Swallow	*Petrochelidon fluvicola*	
Asian House-Martin	*Delichon dasypus*	
Nepal House-Martin	*Delichon nipalense*	

PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae

Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail	*Chelidorhynx hypoxantha*	
Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher	*Culicicapa ceylonensis*	

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

"Spot-winged" Coal Tit	*Periparus ater melanolophus*	
Cinereous (Great) Tit	*Parus cinereus*	
Green-backed Tit	*Parus monticolus*	
Black-lored Tit	*Parus xanthogenys*	

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae

Black-throated Tit	*Aegithalos concinnus*	

PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae

Indian Nuthatch	*Sitta castanea*	
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	*Sitta cinnamoventris*	
White-tailed Nuthatch	*Sitta himalayensis*	
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	*Sitta frontalis*	

PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae

Bar-tailed Treecreeper	*Certhia himalayana*	

PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae

Brown Dipper	*Cinclus pallasii*	

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Red-vented Bulbul	*Pycnonotus cafer*	
Red-whiskered Bulbul	*Pycnonotus jocosus*	
White-eared Bulbul	*Pycnonotus leucotis*	
White-cheeked (Himalayan) Bulbul	*Pycnonotus leucogenys*	
Black Bulbul	*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*	
Ashy Bulbul	*Hemixos flavala*	

PASSERIFORMES: Pnoepygidae

Immaculate Cupwing	*Pnoepyga immaculata*	

PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae

Gray-bellied Tesia	*Tesia cyaniventer*	
Chestnut-headed Tesia	*Cettia castaneocoronata*	

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

Common Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*	
Tickell's Leaf-Warbler	*Phylloscopus affinis*	
Buff-barred Warbler	*Phylloscopus pulcher*	
Ashy-throated Warbler	*Phylloscopus maculipennis*	
Pale-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Warbler	*Phylloscopus chloronotus*	
Brooks's Leaf-Warbler	*Phylloscopus subviridis*	
Hume's Warbler	*Phylloscopus humei*	
Greenish Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochiloides*	
Gray-hooded Warbler	*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*	
Whistler's Warbler	*Seicercus whistleri*	

PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae

Sykes's Warbler	*Iduna rama*	
Paddyfield Warbler	*Acrocephalus agricola*	
Blyth's Reed-Warbler	*Acrocephalus dumetorum*	
Clamorous Reed-Warbler	*Acrocephalus stentoreus*	

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae

Striated Grassbird	*Megalurus palustris*	

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola	*Cisticola juncidis*	
Golden-headed Cisticola	*Cisticola exilis*	
Common Tailorbird	*Orthotomus sutorius*	
Rufous-fronted Prinia	*Prinia buchanani*	
Gray-breasted Prinia	*Prinia hodgsonii*	
Jungle Prinia	*Prinia sylvatica*	
Yellow-bellied Prinia	*Prinia flaviventris*	
Ashy Prinia	*Prinia socialis*	
Plain Prinia	*Prinia inornata*	

PASSERIFORMES: Sylvidae		
Hume's Whitethroat	*Sylvia althaea*	
Lesser Whitethroat	*Sylvia curruca*	
PASSERIFORMES: Paradoxornithidae		
Yellow-eyed Babbler	*Chrysomma sinense*	
PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae		
Oriental White-eye	*Zosterops palpebrosus*	
PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae		
Tawny-bellied Babbler	*Dumetia hyperythra*	
Black-chinned Babbler	*Cyanoderma pyrrhops*	
Indian Scimitar-Babbler	*Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*	H
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler	*Megapomatorhinus erythrogenys*	
PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae		
Puff-throated Babbler	*Pellorneum ruficeps*	
PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae		
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	*Alcippe poioicephala*	H
Striated Laughingthrush	*Grammatoptila striata*	
Common Babbler	*Turdoides caudata*	
Striated Babbler	*Turdoides earlei*	
Large Gray Babbler	*Turdoides malcolmi*	
Jungle Babbler	*Turdoides striata*	
White-crested Laughingthrush	*Garrulax leucolophus*	
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush	*Ianthocincla rufogularis*	
White-throated Laughingthrush	*Ianthocincla albogularis*	
Streaked Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron lineatum*	
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*	
Rufous Sibia	*Heterophasia capistrata*	
Red-billed Leiothrix	*Leiothrix lutea*	
Blue-winged Minla	*Actinodura cyanouroptera*	
PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae		
Indian Robin	*Copsychus fulicatus*	

Oriental Magpie-Robin	*Copsychus saularis*	
White-rumped Shama	*Copsychus malabaricus*	
Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher	*Cyornis tickelliae*	
Small Niltava	*Niltava macgrigoriae*	
Rufous-bellied Niltava	*Niltava sundara*	
Verditer Flycatcher	*Eumyias thalassinus*	
Bluethroat	*Luscinia svecica*	
Blue Whistling-Thrush	*Myophonus caeruleus*	
Spotted Forktail	*Enicurus maculatus*	
Siberian Rubythroat	*Calliope calliope*	
Himalayan Bluetail	*Tarsiger rufilatus*	
Little Pied Flycatcher	*Ficedula westermanni*	
Taiga Flycatcher	*Ficedula albicilla*	
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	*Ficedula strophiata*	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	*Ficedula parva*	
Slaty-blue Flycatcher	*Ficedula tricolor*	
Blue-fronted Redstart	*Phoenicurus frontalis*	
Plumbeous Redstart	*Phoenicurus fuliginosus*	
White-capped Redstart	*Phoenicurus leucocephalus*	
Blue-capped Redstart	*Phoenicurus caeruleocephala*	
Black Redstart	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	
Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush	*Monticola rufiventris*	
Blue Rock-Thrush	*Monticola solitarius*	
Siberian Stonechat	*Saxicola maurus*	
White-tailed Stonechat	*Saxicola leucurus*	
Pied Bushchat	*Saxicola caprata*	
Gray Bushchat	*Saxicola ferreus*	
Indian Chat	*Cercomela fusca*	
Desert Wheatear	*Oenanthe deserti*	

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

Orange-headed Thrush	*Geokichla citrina*	
Scaly Thrush	*Zoothera dauma*	

Tickell's Thrush	*Turdus unicolor*	
Gray-winged Blackbird	*Turdus boulboul*	
Black-throated Thrush	*Turdus atrogularis*	

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Jungle Myna	*Acridotheres fuscus*	
Bank Myna	*Acridotheres ginginianus*	
Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*	
Asian Pied Starling	*Gracupica contra*	
Brahminy Starling	*Temenuchus pagodarum*	

PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae

Jerdon's Leafbird	*Chloropsis jerdoni*	
Golden-fronted Leafbird	*Chloropsis aurifrons*	
Orange-bellied Leafbird	*Chloropsis hardwickii*	

PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae

Thick-billed Flowerpecker	*Dicaeum agile*	
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*	

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Purple Sunbird	*Cinnyris asiaticus*	
Green-tailed Sunbird	*Aethopyga nipalensis*	
Crimson Sunbird	*Aethopyga siparaja*	

PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae

Himalayan (Altai) Accentor	*Prunella himalayana*	
Rufous-breasted Accentor	*Prunella strophiata*	

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava beema*	
Citrine Wagtail	*Motacilla citreola*	
Gray Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	
White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba dukhunensis*	
White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba personata*	
White-browed Wagtail	*Motacilla madaraspatensis*	
Richard's Pipit	*Anthus richardi*	
Oriental Pipit	*Anthus rufulus*	

Blyth's Pipit	*Anthus godlewskii*	
Tawny Pipit	*Anthus campestris*	
Rosy Pipit	*Anthus roseatus*	
Tree Pipit	*Anthus trivialis*	
Olive-backed Pipit	*Anthus hodgsoni*	

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Crested Bunting	*Melophus lathami*	
Rock Bunting	*Emberiza cia*	
Chestnut-breasted (White-capped) Bunting	*Emberiza stewarti*	

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

Common Rosefinch	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	
Pink-browed Rosefinch	*Carpodacus rodochroa*	
Vinaceous Rosefinch	*Carpodacus vinaceus*	
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	*Chloris spinoides*	

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	
Russet Sparrow	*Passer rutilans*	
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	*Petronia xanthocollis*	

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

Baya Weaver	*Ploceus philippinus*	

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

Red Avadavat	*Amandava amandava*	
Indian Silverbill	*Euodice malabarica*	
White-rumped Munia	*Lonchura striata*	

H = Heard only
NL = not seen by TB guide

MAMMAL LIST

Rhesus Macaque	*Macaca mulatta*
Tarai Gray Langur	*Semnopithecus hector*
Northern Plains Gray Langur	*Semnopithecus entellus*
Sambar Deer	*Cervus unicolor*
Indian Muntjac	*Muntiacus muntjac*
Spotted Deer (Chital)	*Axis axis*
Indian Hog Deer	*Hyelaphus porcinus*
Nilgai (Blue Bull)	*Boselaphus tragocamelus*
Baur (Indian Bison)	*Bos gaurus*
Blackbuck	*Antilope cervicapra*
Chinkara (Indian Gazelle)	*Gazella bennettii*
Wild Boar	*Sus scrofa*
Indian Hare	*Lepus nigricollis*
Asian Elephant	*Elephas maximus*
Golden Jackal	*Canis aureus*
Common Palm Civet	*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*
Tiger	*Panthera tigris*
Leopard	*Panthera pardus*
Jungle Cat	*Felis chaus*
Ruddy Mongoose	*Herpestes smithii*
Indian Grey Mongoose	*Herpestes edwardsii*
Small Indian Mongoose	*Herpestes javanicus*
Northern Palm Squirrel	*Fanambulus palmarum*
Indian Hedgehog	*Paraechinus micropus*
Black Rat	*Ratus ratus*
Indian Flying Fox	*Pteropus giganteus*

OTHER ANIMALS

Gharial	*Gavialis gangeticus*
Marsh (Mugger) Crocodile	*Crocodylus palustris*
Indian Flap-shelled Turtle	*Lissimus punctata*
Bengal Monitor	*Varanus bengalensis*
Maseur	*Barbus tor*
Indian Cobra	*Naja naja*
Indian Rock Python	*Python molurus*
Asiatic Water Snake	*Xenochrophis piscator*

A sunny day at Bharatpur brought out this big Indian Rock Python.