This mammoth tour of the Eastern (and central!!) Himalaya lived up to everything it was set up to be – in total we recorded 502 species, but as always in this region, it is quality, not quantity that impressed us most. We started in the rain-drenched Mishmi Hills, that was so wet the road bridge had been washed away and we considered ourselves fortunate to still find Mishmi Wren Babbler, a splendid showing by a group of Cachar Wedge-billed Babblers, hive-loving Yellow-rumped Honeyguides, Bar-winged Wren Babbler and Manipur Fulvetta. Moving westwards through the lowlands of Assam we notched up Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush, Collared Treepie, Blue-naped Pitta, Slender-billed, Marsh and Jerdon’s Babblers, along with the mammals of Kaziranga before heading back for the hills, to Dirang in westernmost Arunachal Pradesh. Fabulous high-altitude birding resulted in Fire-tailed Myzornis, Snow Partridge, Solitary Snipe and Tibetan Blackbird. Next, entering the now famous Eaglenest...
We gathered together at Dibrugarh airport in eastern Assam, and headed immediately for the wetlands of Dibru-Saikhowa some 90 minutes away. A huge thunderstorm during the drive had us worried, but it soon stopped at our meeting point with a couple of small boats that soon had us drifting up a side river to the first expanse of elephant grass. Almost immediately we had our first target waiting for us, as a pair of vocal Jerdon’s Babblers sat up a few times in the gloom. There were ticks and tacks all over the place, this vast expanse of grassland must be the wintering grounds of just about every LBJ known in Asia! We heard the grating song of Baikal Bush Warbler but it remained unseen (we found the first for the Indian subcontinent here last year), a group of Black-faced Bunting led us to a grass-fringed pool containing a feeding Smoky Warbler and Himalayan Rubythroat as thousands of Rosy Pipits congregated in the distance in one big locust-like swirling mass, with Western Yellow and Citrine Wagtails in numbers all around us – it was frustrating that the light faded so fast, but we would return in a few days time.

On our first morning we visited the town of Digboi, the home of the oldest oilfield in the world that still protects a large expanse of lowland forest, which for the second year running remained out of bounds so we had to make do with some heavily logged, bamboo dominated vegetation not far from breakfast spot. This worked out nicely, even in the car-park a fruiting tree was hosting several Oriental Pied Hornbills, Chestnut-tailed Starlings, Thick-billed and Yellow-footed Green Pigeons and Asian Fairy Bluebirds. As soon as we hit the trail our first target, Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, popped up to sing away, then a mixed flock of Baya and Black-breasted Weavers appeared before we got to the scrub and bamboo. A Jerdon’s Baza briefly rose up before perching in a bare tree, with a pair of our second target, Collared Treepie, immediately below, posing in the scope for several minutes. Pressing onwards we eventually heard the rich, melodic notes of the near-endemic Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush at its only known, freely accessible site, and though they took a long time to tease out we all eventually got good looks at a pair, singing and feeding above, below and around us. Though it almost seemed tinged with frustration with the amount of species around us, making it difficult to concentrate on our intended target as Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Nepal Fulvetta and Black-backed Forktail all popped up at various stages! The rarely-encountered White-cheeked Partridge called excruciatingly close to us, so once we had our fill of the Laughingthrush we moved ourselves over to the partridghe, of which only half of us managed view. After a quick lunch we headed north, briefly halted by a rain-sodden grassy floodplain as we attempted to cross the Brahmaputra, after pushing ourselves out a couple of times, we reached the rather rickety wooden ferry to transport us, and our vehicles across, allowing us to reach the base of the Mishmi Hills, at Roing just after sunset.

An almighty thunderstorm overnight had apparently been a nightly occurrence for some time, and it was to our horror that the road bridge crossing the small river to the Mishmi Hills had been washed away! After a couple of hours working out our strategy, and a vehicle waiting the other side for us, we plucked up the courage and strode over the double-bamboo swing bridge, though the term bridge is used rather loosely! We now had just a couple of days at our disposal and plenty of birds to find. Our two mornings and afternoons were generally a rather wet, cold and windy experience, apart from our first afternoon that eventually cleared up. We enjoyed a few minor flocks containing a typical Himalayan species we would grow accustomed to over the next few weeks, particularly the yuhinas, with White-naped and Whiskered being particularly numerous here. A pair of Ward’s Trogon flew across the road, perching out briefly for those in the right place at the right time but rather bizarrely promptly vanished. Further up a couple of Yellow-rumped Honeyguides were not going anywhere any time soon with those massive bee-hives clinging to a steep cliff beneath the road and a female Rufous-breasted Bush Robin appeared to have made a small stream its winter territory. Just as the light began to fade, the areas single endemic, rediscovered in 2004, and previously only known from a single specimen taken in 1947, the Mishmi Wren Babbler started to call from a roadside patch of bamboo. Careful positioning and a good deal of patience was required until he eventually popped on to the branch we had hoped, singing his little heart-out for precious seconds for most of us to get a good look in the gloom – the others would have to wait a little longer...

We awoke again to the tail-end of another huge thunderstorm and deluge, so we drove up-and-down for a while without much doing apart from a brief Long-tailed Thrush perched by the roadside, so we headed for the pass – 5 metres visibility in the pouring rain and mist! Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch, Grey-headed Bullfinch and a couple of Maroon-backed Accentor could just about be made out as they fed at the side of the road. Heading back, the rain eased off, to be replaced by a bitterly cold wind and so we attempted a walk, soon picking up two prized fulvetas – Ludlow’s and Manipur, the latter being particularly confiding, showing to just a couple of metres, though even these views were incomparable to an inquisitive Bar-winged Wren Babbler that fed in the moss too close for the bins! On the wet verge we encountered a couple more Long-tailed Thrushes scratching at the roadside, not too concerned by our close proximity, along with a stunning male Himalayan Bluetail, and several Hoopoe, apparently grounded in their attempt to cross the Himalaya.

After lunch, and the onset of more rain, we headed lower down, and despite only being 1000 meters high it was cold – we only managed to see one single Phylloscopus today – usually we would expect to see, or hear well over 100! Fortunately we were startled to hear the diagnostic call of our most-wanted bird here, Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler way up the road somewhere, the chase was on! After a sprint/jog/walk (delete as appropriate!) we were
soon alongside the vocal babbler, and after formulating a strategy we had the bird sat out calling, though unfortunately backlit but still good views of this notorious skulker – in fact, the bird is so elusive it wasn’t known from this region until James discovered it here in 2007. Satisfied, we hung around for a while, waiting for some calling cochoas to come into view (both Purple and Green were calling distantly!), then we decided to play with the babbler again, only this time their hormones were obviously on fire as next thing we knew, one of the three decided to sit right out on a fallen log to give us its full repertoire for several minutes – incredible!

Brown Fish Owl and Pallas’s Fish Eagle, Kaziranga

Obviously our final morning was greeted by rain once more, so we drove up and down hoping for a tragopan to brighten up the morning, though we heard one calling up close in the dense bamboo, it wasn’t to be, yet..! Back up at the pass and the surrounding area after coffee, the rain had stopped and the area was full of birds, what a contrast. A Grey-faced Woodpecker was a rather odd sighting up here, and several female Dark-rumped Rosefinch were most welcome. Feeding flocks contained Black-faced, Ashy-throated and Buff-barred Warblers – our first multiple record of a Phylloc, Streak-breasted and Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler, Streak-throated and Rusty-fronted Barwings, 6 very showy Himalayan Cutia, Golden-breasted and Manipur Fulvetta, Chestnut-tailed Minla, a male Fire-tailed Sunbird, and plenty of Yellow-billed Blue Magpie were hanging around, this is what Himalayan birding should be like!

Just below our guesthouse a female Hen Harrier was perched in the forest – very odd. We then heard the unmistakable mournful notes of a Blue-fronted Robin from the roadside bamboo. This rarely-encountered speciality of the area doesn’t have the notorious nickname, the ‘black bullet’ for nothing, and we soon found out why as it flash three times across the road, though quite incredibly it then went to perch on top of a roadside tree-stump, and then when we were waiting for it to do the unlikely, it sat out for a crucial few seconds in the open, briefly flashing his electric blue forecrown – result! With time now pressing we reluctantly headed down, just as the skies were parting and as we entered the mid altitude forest it was noticeably humid and warm – what a contrast to our previous two days and what better way for Mishmi to let us go than with a Mishmi Wren Babbler finally hopping out to sing his little heart out on a ginger stem!

Returning to Dibru-Saikhowa for a full mornings birding was excellent, though despite the two hour boat ride it was obvious that the torrential monsoon from 2011 was still having a detrimental effect as the Black-breasted Parrotbill area was still in poor condition and the parrotbills had still not returned – a worrying sign for this, now very rare species. The grasses were still full of birds however, walking along the riverbank Striated Babbler and Striated Grassbird were both a common sight, Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes were nest-building, plenty of Siberian Stonechats caused confusion as to their racial identity, a fine pair of Jerdon’s Babblers give stunning views and a Chestnut-capped Babbler popped up a few times. We were concentrating on another very rare, seldom-seen Brahmaputra floodplain endemic – Marsh Babbler – and after a couple of failed attempts we finally found a spot that might work in this very dense, claustrophobic habitat. Sure enough the pair darted straight in and continued to show off-and-on for the next 15 minutes. The grassland was still full of wintering migrants despite the late date, and with a lot of patience we had quite a haul – Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler being the pick of the bunch, singing away just metres from us, a couple of male Himalayan Rubythroat perched out in full song, Abberant and Spotted Bush Warblers, plenty of Paddyfield Warblers, another Smoky Warbler, Tickell’s Leaf Warbler, though a distinctive, long-billed Acro would have to remain frustratingly unidentified.
With our mornings birding stretching into the afternoon it was a long day, arriving much further west, at the world famous Kaziranga World Heritage Site cum Tiger Reserve in the late evening.

Kaziranga is renowned for its high density and number of large mammals, in particular Asian Elephant, Indian Rhinoceros, Swamp Deer and Wild Water Buffalo, whilst its natural grassland habitats support small populations of a number of scarce and threatened bird species. With two full days to enjoy Asia’s closest thing to the Serengeti, where better to spend our first morning than on the back of a domestic elephant. Our main target on the elephant ride was the critically endangered Bengal Florican, which had apparently not been seen in the area for several months, and continued to be the case for us unfortunately. Despite this it was still a humbling experience to witness the behavior of so many Rhinos up close and personal, several of which had youngsters in tow, with the chorus of Oriental Skylark and Bengal Bushlark overhead. With an hour or so still remain before the opening of the park we sat in the perimeter, doing some general birding and scanning, notching up most of the expected plus a perched Greater Spotted Eagle.

Once the park proper had opened (a good three hours after dawn!), we spent time driving through the ‘Central Range’. Occasional stops revealed huge numbers of game, primarily made up of Hog and Swamp Deer (though numbers were noticeably down after the previous monsoon wiped out up to 40% of the populations), Wild Water Buffalo and Indian Rhinoceros. Complimenting this spectacle was the sheer number of birds – Asian Openbills, Black-necked and Painted Storks, Lesser Adjutants, Grey-headed Fish Eagles and River Terns. A pair of Pallas’s Fish Eagle groaned from a roadside tree, but it was the small party of Slender-billed Babbler that were most captivating – a rare denizen of the park, giving great views in a burnt area of grass (and probably the reason, the mass-burning, that this and other grassland birds are so rare here!). At a large waterbody, up to 200 Temminck’s Stints were busy feeding on the muddy margins with a range of other waterbirds and an impressive Pallas’s Fish Eagle circled and flew just over our heads. In the skies Himalayan Griffons were floating by, with a few huge Greater Adjutants mixed in. The park now has a silly new rule, with only two hours allowed inside the ‘Western Range’, though we managed to stretch this by a further 30 minutes we could do no more. Greeted at the observation tower by a fine Brown Fish Owl lurking in the shadows, the vast expanse of water and grassland were filled with over 60 rhino, a ‘porpoising’ Smooth Otter, and a hidden carcass was being fought over by several Himalayan Griffin with a couple of critically endangered Slender-billed Vulture, two vagrant Monk Vulture and some Greater Adjutants mixed in. After a bit of initial excitement followed by puzzlement as some tourists and local guides pointed out something that was supposed to resemble a tiger – quite incredible considering they were picking it out with the naked eye and we couldn’t even make it out in the telescopes (!), we picked out a singing Pale-chinned Flycatcher in a brief foray into the forest and as the light began to fade a pair of Swamp Francolin came out to feed in their favoured clearing.

Back at the lodge, we enjoyed another fantastic dinner, though an Oriental Scops Owl persistently calling finally got its way, so we briefly halted dinner, walked over, spot-lit the owl, and returned back for dinner!

The following day we were given permission to spend a short while in the local Tea Estate – an unlikely setting for birding but it was fabulous, though who would have thought that despite excellent views for everyone of a male Blue-naped Pitta that froze on a track just as we were expecting it to, it still didn’t make bird-of-the-day as a bogey bird for most of the group over the years was finally laid to rest – a responsive, and very agitated Chestnut-winged Cuckoo! Asian Barred Owlets, another Pale-chinned Flycatcher, Large Cuckoo-shrike, Asian Drongo Cuckoo and a large flock of migrating Long-tailed Minivet made for an enjoyable pre-breakfast amble. Spending the rest of the morning and afternoon inside Kaziranga we enjoyed the wildlife spectacle once more, though bird-wise adding little new, other than a fine pair of Kalij Pheasant.
Awaking before dawn we left Kaziranga behind us, for what was to be primarily a travel-day. We crossed the Brahmaputra at dawn, watching River Lapwing and Great Thick-knee during breakfast, with two Thick-billed Warblers uncharacteristically feeding in the open, along with a bonus Blunt-winged Warbler in the nearby scrub, before crossing the state border to travel into the steep hills of Arunachal Pradesh, twisting our way up the windy roads into the beautiful vistas and untouched forests in the vicinity of the Sessni Orchid Sanctuary. Although we only had a limited time to explore the bamboo forests of this area, we hit a purple patch as a mixed flock, being led by White-hooded Babblers contained several Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbills, two Red-billed Scimitar Babblers and a pair of White-browned Scimitar Babblers, and just as these finally had enough of our presence, they were replaced by a pair of rather agitated Pale-headed Woodpecker, then a pair of Rufous-faced Warblers (noting their distinctive song from Chinese birds), followed by a Yellow-vented Warbler and finally an Asian Emerald Cuckoo perched up in the scope! Further on the mist rolled in, though not thick enough to hide a pair of tail-flicking Little Forktail feeding beneath a small waterfall, but thick enough to conceal a pair of Spotted Forktail that weren't keen on hanging around. After lunch at Bomdila, we spent a bit of time around a pass, not seeing a great deal before heading to Dirang (with Blue-capped Rock Thrushes en-route), arriving just before sunset.

**Rufous-necked Hornbill and Bugun Liocichla**

The following morning, after a ridiculously early start, we set off to the high mountains and the Se La. As it got light, huge numbers of Brandt’s and Plain Mountain Finches were much in evidence as we approached the treeline, and a couple of Plain-backed Thrushes close to the roadside in the heavy rain, a sign of bad weather higher up. Eventually, we stopped for breakfast at the treeline, a bitter wind was blowing and further up towards the pass looked truly horrendous! After admiring the shimmering display of several dazzling male Fire-tailed Sunbirds we attempted to go up and over the pass, though upon reaching the pass it was plainly obvious we were not going any further as the snow was covering the road just as another heavy duty army truck slowly rolled through it, complete with their snow chains. The day was not looking great! Deciding to bird lower down, we found a party of Snow Partridge feeding above us, giving us a renewed sense of hope, so Marcus and James decided to head back up to the pass after lunch to try our luck – with the rest of the group favouring the more sensible option, having seen most of the hoped-for species previously in Sichuan, and heading down to enjoy Long-billed Plovers in the Sangti Valley. Back up at the pass, the weather was much clearer, though still a bitter wind swirled around. A group of Snow Pigeon fed by the roadside in a brief moment of sun before we headed down to a small marsh, finding a pair of Solitary Snipe that attempted unsuccessfully to conceal themselves – one decided to hide by a huge boulder in the stream! A pair of Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch fed beside us while we enjoyed the snipe, before we switched our attentions to more pressing matters – Galliforms! Distant screeches soon had us soaking in the intricate patterning of a male Blood Pheasant and his rather less intricate partner across the valley from us, and even after this success, we still had time to find a flock of Tibetan Blackbird before it really was time to make the long drive back to the hotel and a welcome rest in oxygen-filled air.

Another full day birding out of Dirang took us in a different direction, this time toward the highland village of Mandala at around 3,000m. Our first bird of the morning was a singing Tickell’s Thrush perched in a bare tree, while our breakfast spot was full of exciting new birds – Ultramarine Flycatchers, Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, Grey-winged Blackbird, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Red-billed Leiothrix, Yellow-bellied Fantails, Mrs Gould’s Sunbirds and a plethora of Leaf Warblers we would all eventually get our heads around over the coming weeks.
Along the burnt out ridge-tops numerous flowering rhododendrons brightened an otherwise depressing scene in which the once magnificent old-growth coniferous forest is increasingly being cleared for seemingly no good reason. Despite this, many of the high-altitude birds are still present in good numbers, and our first feeding flock was an absolute feast - Rufous-vented and Stripe-throated Yuhinas, *Phylloscopus* warblers such as Buff-barred, Ashy-throated and Lemon-rumped Leaf Warblers, Whistler’s Warblers, Olive-backed Pipit, Hume’s Bush Warbler, White-collared Blackbird, Spotted Nutcracker, Coal, Rufous-vented, Yellow-browed and Grey-crested Tits, Darjeeling Woodpecker, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, Ludlow’s Fulvetta, Slaty-blue and Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers, Spotted Laughingthrush, and all these being joined by a lone male Blanford’s Rosefinch.

Our second feeding flock however was the icing on the cake as a pair of Fire-tailed Myzornis led us to these! For the next ten minutes we had these delightful, unique species to enjoy and observe as they mixed in with a bagful of other Himalayan birds – can birding get any better?! Well, sometimes it can, and this morning was no exception. Next was a pair of Spotted Laughingthrush belting out their wonderful repertoire – confirming why it is James’s favourite Himalayan bird, then a pair of Scaly-breasted Cupwing (formerly a wren babbler!) that seemed to forget how to conceal themselves. Moving further along the road, a Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler didn’t know what to do as he attempted to hide himself behind a tree trunk but kept going left and right to work out what to do next – and a Golden Bush Robin fed below him. Then our final feeding flock of the morning contained yet more new species in amongst a vast swarm of the now familiar species – Brown Parrotbills and a vocal Green Shrike Babbler.

Short on time, we reluctantly headed back down to the hotel for lunch, checked-out and headed to the centerpiece of the tour, five nights camping at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary. On the way we were still picking up new species – our best-ever views of Russet Bush Warbler, more Blue-capped Rock Thrush and further views of Blyth’s Swift, the Himalayan split from Pacific Swift.

Access to Eaglenest is via an old military road originating in the valley, set up during the 1960’s when China briefly attempted to invade Arunachal Pradesh (and remains disputed territory even to this day). This road cuts through the heart of the sanctuary, allowing access to elevations from around 1000m to 2800m, and there is almost no traffic to disturb birding. Eaglenest shot into fame in 2006 with the extraordinary discovery of a new bird to science, the apparently highly localized Bugun Liocichla. Whilst seeing this bird was a major aim of our visit, the extensive forests of the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary offers very much more than this single species.

**Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, Eaglenest and Fire-tailed Myzornis, Mandala Road**

On our first morning we birded below our first camp – Lama Camp – in search of the liocichla, as its core-range is actually outside the sanctuary in the dense thickets and scrubs that continue to expand as the forest is cut – not a bad thing for the region’s most significant bird! Scaly Laughingthrushes were feeding actually on the road, with Striated Laughingthrushes favouring the forest canopy. A shout from our local guide Abid had us scrambling down the road as he had found a liocichla feeding with, surprise surprise, a flock of Rusty-fronted Barwing. Though James kept getting the liocichla in his bins, everyone else was finding more barwings and despite the bird singing closely at one point, we were left empty-handed and frustrated. After a flock of eye-level Cutia it was time for breakfast. Just seeing what was round the corner while porridge was being served James was surprised to discover a pair of Bugun Liocichla feeding totally out in the open! Frantic waving eventually got noticed (it is very good porridge!) and after a nail-biting wait eventually out popped the male to sing away from a shady branch – job done. Though what happened next was truly a once in a life time event as the bird then decided to hop out on to the closest vegetation possible to us for the next ten minutes, in glorious sunshine revealing itself in all his splendour, while his more reluctant partner followed in a more typical, skulking liocichla habit. Now it was time to enjoy breakfast.
How does one follow that? With great difficulty... carrying on with our birding in this area resulted in plenty more notable species, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Gold-naped Finch, dazzling Scarlet Finches, Blyth’s Shrike Babbler, Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes, though the Rufous-throated Wren Babbler that revealed itself sporadically would be best left for another day. After heading to camp, we upped sticks and moved up and over the Eaglenest pass (after stopping for a Hume’s Short-toed Lark feeding while taking a rest from its migration) and down the other side to bird the wonderful, tall mossy forest. The afternoon was rather quiet, with no sign of any trogons, leaving us content with laying down another ghost as a Chestnut-headed Tesia, the ‘egg on legs’ hopped around just in front of us, though the Grey-bellied Tesia was just as tame but much more elusive before eventually succumbing; also our first of several Broad-billed Warbler among the never-ending throng of other warblers, minlas, yuhinas, sunbirds, tits and fulvettas.

With such a limited amount of time at our disposal we spent a full day lower down at ‘Sessni’, a beautiful valley with huge mossy trees in this lower, subtropical climate. As we headed down, several Kalij Pheasant were on the road – a regular occurrence over the next two days. The weather was horrible though, misty, murky, dark but just about dry. We soon cheered up as at our very first stop the call of Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler rose up from the gulley beneath us – choosing an ideal spot to watch and wait it took just a couple of minutes before we were ogling one of the region’s most elusive birds sitting up at eye-level, peering at us from an open branch – just a shame the heavy fog masked some of the intricate breast patterning. This bird has taken 3 days to find on some occasions!

Just as a Long-billed Wren Babbler started up, the heavens opened and we ran to the nearby camp for cover and breakfast for the next hour or so, during the most momentous downpour. By mid-morning it had subsided and we were back out – a Long-billed Wren Babbler played hide-and-seek in the thick undergrowth before our attentions turned to Marcus silently yelling us to SLOWLY turn around as a stunning male Rufous-necked Hornbill was perched just metres from us, perhaps wanting a look at the kiwi-like wren babbler? He gracefully stood still for a while before jumping along the branch, and eventually making his way up through the trees.

With another target under our belt, we moved further along the track, disturbing a pair of the very rarely encountered Rufous-vented Laughingthrush, though most frustratingly only James managed more than movement before they quickly fled upslope and away. We hung around a promising looking area in the hope that Beautiful Nuthatch would appear, and after a long wait, they did, in a large feeding flock just as the fog reduced visibility to just 10 metres, and all the while the nuthatches were calling continually in the canopy leaving us feeling desperately unlucky and hopeless, so we decided to stick it out and have another excellent field lunch. After lunch presumably the same pair of nuthatches flew over and started calling once more so we dashed up 100m to find them feeding along the mossy branches at eye-level, though despite excellent views for some of us, the others would have to sweat it out a few days more! The rest of the day was generally murky, and we again missed out on another nuthatch as the fog closed in around us, though we picked up an impressive list of species – Hodgson’s and Large Hawk Cuckoos in the scope, a furtive White-gorgeted Flycatcher, a flock of over 40 Striated Bulbul, Crimson-faced Liocichla moving across the road, as did pairs of Blue-winged Laughingthrush on two occasions, Slaty-bellied Tesia, Pygmy Blue Flycatcher, White-crowned Forktail on the road, several Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler, another, incredibly confounding Long-billed Wren Babbler calling two metres from us, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes, flocks of Silver-eared Mesia and Rusty-fronted Barwing were regular, Rufous-backed Sibia, tame Yellow-throated Fulvetas, Black-chinned Yuhina, Red-headed Trogon, Sultan Tit and Long-tailed Broadbill. On the drive back up yet more Kalij Pheasants were accompanied by a pair of Rufous-throated Partridge on the road – then we were done for the day.
Considering our incredible luck over the previous couple of days, it surely couldn’t continue much longer, so we pushed and went for a ‘gamebird drive’ the next morning, all huddled together in the one vehicle. The usual pairs of Kalij Pheasants scampered along in front of us, and a pair of Scaly Thrushes flushed up for the third time though with not much else we headed back up towards camp when a bright scarlet lump appeared on the verge – a male Blyth’s Tragopan – then he ran up the road ahead of us and walk carefully back onto the verge, had a look around and disappear over the edge and melt back into the forest – superb! We got out here, and after some brief toying with the bird, it failed to reappear but this mattered little, especially considering a flock of White-breasted Parrotbill appeared in front of us, together with their usual companions, Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler and Rusty-fronted Barwing, then just as these headed back to the forest, out popped a Chestnut-breasted Partridge enticed across the road! We almost needed reminding we were an hour late for breakfast. Heading back down after breakfast, our next big target of the day eventually succumbed – a singing male Green Cochoa gave us prolonged views perched above the roadside. The rest of the days birding was largely irrelevant given what we had seen already, which was great, as the weather closed in once more we didn’t see much!

As we were moving back to Lama Camp we spent time higher up in the mossy, bamboo-infested forest as we had three remaining targets in this area. A Rufous-throated Wren Babbler started proceedings by testing our patience, though the flock of Ashy Woodpigeon and White-breasted Parrotbills proved much more cooperative – even in the misty gloom. After enjoying some cutia in the mid-morning sunshine (I should add ‘brief’ sunshine), a Himalayan Cuckoo going back-and-forth and a singing Large Niltava we hit our first target while waiting for another Blue-fronted Robin as another Rufous-throated Wren babbler randomly popped up next to us to sing his little heart out for us in clear view. Second up, a small group of Black-throated Parrotbills buzzed in front of us; moving further up we encountered even more parrotbills, and another male Sapphire Blue Flycatcher, though as we watched the latter a single call from a certain trogon species emanated from somewhere up ahead. We waited around for a long time, listening, watching and waiting but the silence was deafening – had we been hearing things? All of a sudden the call was heard once more, but sounded like it was very, very quiet and close, rather than loud and distant when low-and-behold up fluttered the unmistakable wing-whirring and silhouette of a fly-catching Ward’s Trogon – and not just one, but a pair. This ridiculously tame pair quietly sat and fed just feet from us at times, totally unconcerned by our excited presence and after an enjoyable session with them, we left them to it as we headed for the pass.

Lunch at the pass was a rather wet affair, thick fog and rain took it in turns to dampen our spirits – always a good excuse to delve into the Cadbury’s 5-star box in moments like this. During brief attempts at birding we picked up our only, male Crimson-browed Finch of the trip, and yet more ultra mega Spotted Laughingthrushes, perched out, singing away and generally having a lot more fun than we were in this weather. Heading back to Lama Camp was rather uneventful except for the final hours walk being significantly less wet than earlier.

Flushed with success, the final morning at Eaglenest was a rather relaxed affair, other than attempting to string a flock of Plain Mountain Finches perched on overhead wires into a range of species, from siskin, to greenfinches, to buntings and finally, to ‘Arunachal Finch’ before we finally realized what they were, we headed off but even as we
departed we had to make several stops as Blue-capped Rock Thrushes were out singing, a flock of Yellow-breasted Greenfinch flew up to a roadside conifer, then a pair of Slender-billed Oriole, a very rare bird here, sang away from the tree-tops. The long-winding road down to the lowlands was relatively quiet compared to what we had been used to, bird-wise, though to complete our success with wren babblers, it seems justified that we should find such a cooperative Spotted Wren Babbler, usually the trickiest of the lot, refusing to leave us alone! By lunchtime we had crossed the border back into the hot and humid lowlands of Assam to Nameri Tiger(-less) Reserve to spend a relaxing couple of hours, before leaving Marcus behind while the remaining five of us headed overland to the kingdom of Bhutan for the final week of our tour.

Beautiful Nuthatch and Wood Snipe, Bhutan

There is very little new that we could write about Bhutan, the land of the thunder dragon, and boy did it roar during our week traversing east to west! Overall, we found the cultural aspect sublime, with most of the country, and particularly in the little-visited east still drenched in culture, tradition and natural heritage. The birds were noticeably tamer than anywhere else, and we didn’t see a single kid with a catapult. Birding along the country’s national highway without having to worry about traffic was delightful, however, we noted a country in the midst of change, struggling to cope with the weight of modernization and commercialization as the roadworks spanning nearly the entire length of the highway made for some difficult birding at times and the so-called pristine wilderness was largely noted on the opposite hillsides. The less said about the food the better and after two days we were able to predict the five dishes that would appear for both lunch and dinner!

We had just a week in the country, and travelling at an average of 18km/h made every day a long travel day, but as we had only a very select bunch of birds to find, that was no problem and we still had time to take in plenty of dzongs and monasteries of this fabulous Tibetan Buddhist Kingdom.

Upon entering Bhutan, at Samdrup Jongkar the first thing we and our Indian drivers noticed was the complete lack of litter and horns – we fell in love with the country instantly! Considering the bureaucracy and red-tape involved with any form of travel in India we were stunned upon getting our Bhutanese visa and stamp at the border that we hadn’t been stamped out of India! After enquiries we realized we had missed a tiny building by the roadside with just a single sign (on the wrong side of the road!) pointing to the Indian immigration a few kilometres before the border so back we went to find the inspector had closed it for his lunch for a short period of time.

With a full afternoon to search for the occasionally encountered Dark-rumped Swift – one of the least-known, and range restricted swifts in the world - we were surprised to find that at our very first stop – a police check-point – that some distant dots were indeed our target and with a bit of patience we had them occasionally swirling overhead. Above the swifts a raptor migration was underway, with several Oriental Honey Buzzards and Himalayan Griffons passing by, and the odd eagle and *accipiter* passing with them, frustratingly a couple of Amur Falcon were circling over just a little too high for comfort. Some casual birding resulted in a few new birds for the trip – Crested Kingfisher, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch and Rufous-fronted Babbler being the most notable.

Yet another predawn departure saw us awaken to glorious steep hillsides covered in moist evergreen forest as far as the eye could see (in this instance, not too impressive with fog vastly reducing visibility!)! Excitedly we began our mornings birding, though the rain didn't help, and the mist rolled in just as the Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush came right into the roadside bushes for us, leaving most of us wanting more. Further up, and running out of time we suddenly, and dramatically picked out a Beautiful Nuthatch quietly feeding further up along the road, dashing up we all had an immense sense of satisfaction and relief for Judy and Ann having missed it in India that the bird, and its mate hung around for the next half hour, and twice even one bird perched at minimum focal distance above James’s head. We moved on, having a nosey around a couple of small villages, village life and the
dedication and beautiful embroidery involved in making local clothing. Our night was spent high up a valley, looking down on Trashigang Dzong.

Next day was another long one; we birded just a little in the morning as we were keen to press on. Our short breakfast stop held a pair of Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babblers, along with several Blue-capped Rock Thrush and Striated Prinias, and just before we reached the famous Lingmethang Road we were greeted by a wonderful pair of Rufous-necked Hornbills floating by below us, and a vocal Green-crowned Warbler. Due to a combination of time constraints, our previous successes and priorities, we had to more-or-less drive through the wonderful forests that the road twists and turns up through, except for a lunch stop and another Yellow-rumped Honeyguide. A male Satyr Tragopan was flushed as it was attempting to cross the road – hopefully a sign of things to come as this was our single reason for camping at ‘Sengor’. After meeting our camping crew we headed back out, slowly driving along the road, eyes peeled into every gulley, clearing and grassy verge that we passed – our efforts first revealed three female tragopans, and then, in the rain, finally a glorious male strutted along the road, with another quietly feeding just above us in a grass clearing – it came as a surprise to us all to see a tragopan out feeding like a Common Pheasant would! Another cold, wet night ‘greeted’ us as we slept under canvas, awakening to the song of Plain-backed Thrushes around us and the continual sounds of rain. Once again we went out on a ‘chicken-hunt’, notchting up another female, and the same roadside male (complete with radio-tag). With no sign of an improvement in the weather, we decided to head over the Thumsing La (La = pass), often described as the most scenic surroundings in all of Bhutan. Unfortunately the snow and fog meant that we saw very little scenery but this was made up by the Blood Pheasants – 47 in total, feeding on the verge, along with yet another female tragopan.

We later learnt that our camping crew actually got stuck at the pass due to the worsening weather and had to be rescued in the evening with the snow blocking their path.

Eventually we escaped the weather, along with a flock of some 2000 bedraggled Plain Mountain Finches, entering the sheltered, verdant pastures of the Bumthang Valley at Jakar. Our hotel overlooking the entire Bumthang Valley was fabulous, and the heaters inside the room meant that we could dry everything thoroughly before spending the afternoon visiting the fabulous Jakar Dzong – one of the largest in Bhutan with a circumference of more than 1500 metres, and then moving on to Jampey Lhakhang, allegedly one of 108 temples built in a single day in 659 AD by the Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo, to pin down an ogress to earth forever and one of just a handful that still remain, the rest having been destroyed. Bird-wise, little was noticed, apart from the Hoopoes and Eurasian Magpies.

Leaving early (as we did every day!) we had yet more non-avian highlights to search for and look forward to. This time it wasn’t a building but a primate. First though were our first rays of sunshine in Bhutan as we headed over the Yotung La, revealing glorious snow-capped mountains above a thick layer of forest and valley-bottom pastures. The birds were electric – White-browed Fulvettas, yuhinas, sunbirds, rosefinches, laughingthrushes and warblers buzzed all around us, and a male Spot-winged Grosbeak was new, making us feel alive again. Excitedly we dropped down to Trongsa, driving through subtropical forests, slowly being eaten away by the country’s thirst for hydropower, and finding some roadside cutia and another honeyguide from the vehicle while we stopped for the wrong primate – Assamese Macaque. Further south along this road Golden Langur is common but on our limited time we wouldn’t get there, so we asked around locally if any of one had seen the langurs in the area. Being greeted with a mixed reception things were not looking promising, and after some careful scanning for a couple of hours it was almost time to admit defeat, so we headed back to Trongsa for lunch, just before the town a langur was spotted sitting on the verge having just crossed the road, talk about making your own luck! This, and a younger individual were then enjoyed jumping loudly through the canopy, and crossing back over the road to the

*Satyr Tragopan and Blood Pheasant, Thumsing La, Bhutan*
rest of the partially hidden party, allowing us to continue for lunch and admire the largest of all dzongs at Trongsa, strategically perched overlooking a beautiful steep gorge. An afternoon in the wet and fog brought us back down to earth as we went up and over the Pele La, and down into the beautiful valley of Phobjikha for the night. Arriving post-dusk due to a windscreen wiper fault was a real blessing as just as we were about to enter the hotel a familiar sound turned James’s ear, what on earth was a Wood Snipe doing calling at this hour?! It soon materialized that we were hearing several roding Wood Snipe in front of us, and what excitement, especially considering it was the big dip for all of the group on a previous tour to Sichuan, tomorrow morning it was hoped would rectify the issue.

Punakha Dzong, Bhutan © James Eaton/Birdtour Asia

So, there we were, in the middle of a marsh at 0430. There was silence all around us, bar a distant hoot of a Chinese Tawny Owl as we waited, and waited when just as the first signs of light appeared, so did the unmistakable sound of a displaying Wood Snipe. We hurriedly scampered around, trying to work out where was best as we were surrounded by several calling birds – we pin-pointed two birds and after much scanning Ann and James latched on to one, circling above the horizon but then the light came, the skylarks sang and the snipes dropped in silence – surely it couldn’t be that difficult to flush one up? As we trampled round the marsh, trying not to get wet it was looking less and less likely when suddenly one started calling again – we edged nearer, and nearer – finding out just how far the call carries! Eventually Andrew and James thought they had the bird nailed down, just in front of them so we went in, the marsh soon appearing above the ankles but still no snipe. We turned around in bemusement, especially when the snipe started to call again behind us, just where we had come from! As John then edged towards us, we suddenly all picked up on a familiar sight – a snipes head poking up above the grass – gotcha. For the next 15 minutes four of us had mind-blowing views as two birds just sat metres from us presuming their camouflage was working and offering us unrivalled views of this seldom-seen species. We presume this site is probably the largest lekking grounds found in recent times as there are now extremely few records of birds on potential breeding grounds, primarily due to over-grazing.

An afternoon along the Mo Chhu, a river running behind the fabulous Punakha Dzong was spent in hope of a lingering White-bellied Heron, and though we were not expecting to see it due to our late arrival, as the birds generally move upstream and away from habitation by the end of March, our expectations rose as the locals told us how a pair had spent the entire previous afternoon ‘just there’, pointing in front of us. Surely even a non-birder cannot mistake a bird that stands nearly 1.5m tall! Despite not finding the heron we did find other specialities of the area, including plenty of River Lapwing, typically chasing anything that moved and squeaked, and they particularly enjoyed chasing off the pair of Ibisbill close-by.

An afternoon along the Mo Chhu, a river running behind the fabulous Punakha Dzong was spent in hope of a lingering White-bellied Heron, and though we were not expecting to see it due to our late arrival, as the birds generally move upstream and away from habitation by the end of March, our expectations rose as the locals told us how a pair had spent the entire previous afternoon 'just there', pointing in front of us. Surely even a non-birder cannot mistake a bird that stands nearly 1.5m tall! Despite not finding the heron we did find other specialities of the area, including plenty of River Lapwing, typically chasing anything that moved and squeaked, and they particularly enjoyed chasing off the pair of Ibisbill close-by. Despite several locals telling us the Herons are only present in the afternoon, we ventured back at dawn, scanning the birds usual haunts, drawing a blank at each and every one of those, and heading further upstream when James shouted to STOP, repeatedly and profusely (one of our able drivers few downfalls was his inability to stop when asked!), as there was a great big thing standing in the water beneath us – a White-bellied Heron! There
were a lot of smiles and jubilation all round as seeing this critically endangered mega was seen as such a remote possibility that for it to be made real was quite brilliant. We had over an hour watching the bird from a distance that wasn’t disturbing the bird, and during this entire time, it only moved twice and the only thing we saw it catch was a brown leaf. Eventually it got fed-up spread its huge wings and slowly flew upstream and away, leaving us with plenty of time to spend the rest of the morning at the Punakha Dzong. This particularly majestic, six-storied structure was constructed in 1637-38 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and is situated at the confluence of the Pho Chhu (Father) and Mo Chhu (Mother) rivers, and the sunshine provided us with the ideal photographic opportunities before we headed off for lunch in Thimpu (and a welcome relief with Indian food being served), and a nose around town, then heading further west, to our final point, Paro. The river en-route provided us with a closer study of Ibisbill, and once in town our first, unsuccessful search for Black-tailed Crake led us to another Solitary Snipe, and then just above town, in a rather smelly wetland, a very inquisitive pair of Black-tailed Crake that were so excited to see us, one even leapt up into a bush to peer down at us. Our hotel was fabulously situated; our rooms peered across the valley at the Tiger’s Nest Monastery, perched precariously up a cliff.

Our final day in Bhutan was a non-birding one, we felt we had deserved this day! We headed across to visit Bhutan’s most spectacular monastery – Taktsang Palphug, or Tiger’s Nest Monastery to most of us. It requires quite a walk to get eye-level, across the deep gorge from this fabulous building, perched halfway up a precipitous cliff. The legend holds that a former wife of an emperor transformed into a Tigress and carried Guru Rinpoche here on her back. The Guru then performed meditation and emerged in eight manifestations, and making this place holy. It is now only possible to get up to the monastery using the back of a donkey, or using your own two feet. A highly recommended visit, and shouldn’t be missed by any birder visiting Bhutan, even despite the lack of birds. After lunch we visited Kyichu Lhakhang, another of the 108 temples built in 659 AD, and similar in style to Jampey Lhakhang in Jakar. Following this a visit to the national museum, Paro Dzong and finally a walk about town before a toast to a fabulous, bird-filled tour that will leave all of us with many once-in-a-lifetime memories and moments.

This wasn’t quite the end, as the five of us had onward connections to Kathmandu in central Nepal. We skirted the southern edge of the Himalaya, eventually passing by Mount Everest with a grandstand view of her in all her glory. Touching down in Kathmandu we had four hours at our disposal, and as the temperature was getting hot we headed for some nearby hills for a quick birding session. Nepal has a single country endemic, Spiny Babbler, and it is notoriously skulking and localized but thanks to a couple of very helpful local birders we were pointed in the right direction and were soon enjoying a pair of Spiny Babblers singing away from exposed branches – now it was the end!

For information regarding our tours to north-east India please click here. Alternatively please contact us via e-mail regarding organising a custom tour to India.
Swamp Francolin and Slender-billed Babbler, Kaziranga (top)
Kalij Pheasant, Kaziranga and Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Arunachal Pradesh (middle)
Ward’s Trogon and Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Eaglenest (bottom)
Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch and Solitary Snipe, Se La (top)
Ludlow’s Fulvetta and Blanford’s Rosefinch, Mandala (middle)
Grey-sided Bush Warbler, Mandala and Snow Pigeon, Se la (bottom)
Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher and Scaly-breasted Cupwing, Mandala (top)
Bugun Liocichla, Ealgenest (middle)
Green Cochoa, Eaglenest and Spotted Wren Babbler, Sessa (bottom)
Callambulyx junonia, and Rusty-fronted Barwing, Eaglenest (top)
Dark-rumped Swift and Beautiful Nuthatch, Bhutan (middle)
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide and Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Bhutan (bottom)
Green Shrike Babbler and Gold-naped Finch, Bhutan (top)
Rufous-fronted Tit and Ibisbill, Bhutan (middle)
Wood Snipe and Black-tailed Crake, Bhutan (bottom)
Systematic List

**PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**
- Little Cormorant: Phalacrocorax niger
- Oriental Darter: Anhinga melanogaster
- Spot-billed Pelican: Pelecanus philippensis

**CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**
- Grey Heron: Ardea cinerea
- Purple Heron: Ardea purpurea
- White-bellied Heron: Ardea insignis
- Eastern Great Egret: Egretta intermedia
- Intermediate Egret: Egretta garzetta
- Little Egret: Ardeola ralloides
- Indian Pond Heron: Bubulcus coromandus
- Eastern Cattle Egret: Bubulcus ibis
- Striated Heron: Butorides striata
- Black-crowned Night Heron: Nycticorax nycticorax
- Cinnamon Bittern: Ixobrychus cinnamomeus

**CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**
- Black Stork: Ciconia nigra
- Asian Openbill: Anastomus oscitans
- Woolly-necked Stork: Ciconia episcopus
- Black-necked Stork: Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus
- Greater Adjutant: Leptoptilos dubius
- Lesser Adjutant: Leptoptilos javanicus
- Black-headed Ibis: Threskiornis melanocephalus

**ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**
- Bar-headed Goose: Anser indicus
Greylag Goose
Fulvous Whistling Duck
Lesser Whistling Duck
Ruddy Shelduck
Common Shelduck
Eurasian Wigeon
Eurasian Teal
Indian Spot-billed Duck
Northern Pintail
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
Tufted Duck

FALCONIFORMES: Pandionidae
Osprey

FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae
Jerdon's Baza
Himalayan Buzzard
Oriental Honey Buzzard
Black-shouldered Kite
Black Kite
Black-eared Kite
Pallas's Fish Eagle
Grey-headed Fish Eagle
White-rumped Vulture
Slender-billed Vulture
Himalayan Griffon
Monk Vulture
Crested Serpent Eagle
Hen Harrier
Western Marsh Harrier
Crested Goshawk
Shikra
Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Northern Goshawk
Black Eagle
Changeable Hawk Eagle
Mountain Hawk Eagle
Steppe Eagle
Greater Spotted Eagle

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae
Common Kestrel
Amur Falcon
Peregrine Falcon

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae
Swamp Francolin
Snow Partridge
Common Hill Partridge
Chestnut-breasted Partridge
White-cheeked Partridge
Rufous-throated Partridge
Blood Pheasant
Blyth's Tragopan
Satyr Tragopan
Himalayan Monal
Red Junglefowl
Kaleej Pheasant
Grey Peacock Pheasant

GALLIFORMES: Rallidae
White-breasted Waterhen
Black-tailed Crake

FALCONIFORMES: Pandionidae
Osprey

FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae
Jerdon's Baza
Himalayan Buzzard
Oriental Honey Buzzard
Black-shouldered Kite
Black Kite
Black-eared Kite
Pallas's Fish Eagle
Grey-headed Fish Eagle
White-rumped Vulture
Slender-billed Vulture
Himalayan Griffon
Monk Vulture
Crested Serpent Eagle
Hen Harrier
Western Marsh Harrier
Crested Goshawk
Shikra
Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Northern Goshawk
Black Eagle
Changeable Hawk Eagle
Mountain Hawk Eagle
Steppe Eagle
Greater Spotted Eagle

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Common Kestrel
Amur Falcon
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Snow Partridge
Common Hill Partridge
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Rufous-throated Partridge
Blood Pheasant
Blyth's Tragopan
Satyr Tragopan
Himalayan Monal
Red Junglefowl
Kaleej Pheasant
Grey Peacock Pheasant

GALLIFORMES: Rallidae
White-breasted Waterhen
Black-tailed Crake
Grey-headed Swamphen Porphyrio poliocephalus
Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae
Bronze-winged Jacana Metopidius indicus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Ibitorhynchidae
Ibisbill Ibidorhyncha struthersii

CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae
Great Thick-knee Burhinus recurvirostris

CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae
Small Pratincole Glareola lactea

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae
Northern Lapwing Vanellus vanellus
River Lapwing Vanellus duvaucelii
Grey-headed Lapwing Vanellus cinereus
Red-wattled Lapwing Vanellus indicus
Long-billed Plover Charadrius placidus
Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius jerdonii

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae
Eurasian Woodcock Scolopax rusticola
Solitary Snipe Gallinago solitaria
Wood Snipe Gallinago nemoricola
Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago
Pintail Snipe Gallinago stenura
Common Redshank Tringa totanus
Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus
Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia
Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus
Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola
Ruff Philomachus pugnax
Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos
Temminck’s Stint Calidris temminckii

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae
Brown-headed Gull Larus brunnicephalus
Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Sterndae
River Tern Sterna aurantia
Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae
Snow Pigeon Columba leuconota
Ashy Woodpigeon Columba pulchricollis
Oriental Turtle Dove Streptopelia orientalis agricola
Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto
Red Collared Dove Streptopelia tranquebarica
Spotted Dove Streptopelia chinensis
Barred Cuckoo Dove Macropygia unchall
Emerald Dove Chalcophaps indica
Thick-billed Green Pigeon Treron curvirostra
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon Treron p. phoenicopterus
Green Imperial Pigeon Ducula aenea
Mountain Imperial Pigeon Ducula badia
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandrine Parakeet</td>
<td><em>Psittacula eupatria</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose-ringed Parakeet</td>
<td><em>Psittacula krameri</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blossom-headed Parakeet</td>
<td><em>Psittacula roseata</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-breasted Parakeet</td>
<td><em>Psittacula alexandri</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vernal Hanging Parrot</td>
<td><em>Loriculus vernalis</em></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut-winged Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Clamator coromandus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Hawk Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Cuculus sparverioides</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Cuculus nisicolor</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Cuculus micropterus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Cuculus canorus</em></td>
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<td>Oriental Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Cuculus saturatus</em></td>
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<td>Plaintive Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Cacomantis merulinus</em></td>
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<td>Asian Emerald Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Chrysococcyx maculatus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Violet Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian Drongo-Cuckoo</td>
<td><em>Surniculus lugubris lugubris</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Koel</td>
<td><em>Eudynamys scolopacea</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Green-billed Malkoha</td>
<td><em>Phaenicophaeus tristis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Coucal</td>
<td><em>Centropus sinensis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesser Coucal</td>
<td><em>Centropus bengalensis</em></td>
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<th><strong>STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Scops Owl</td>
<td><em>Otus spilocephalus spilocephalus</em> heard only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collared Scops Owl</td>
<td><em>Otus lettia lettia</em> heard only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oriental Scops Owl</td>
<td><em>Otus sunia sunia</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Fish Owl</td>
<td><em>Ketupa zeylonensis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Tawny Owl</td>
<td><em>Strix nivicola</em> heard only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collared Owlet</td>
<td><em>Glaucidium brodiei garoense</em> heard only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Barred Owlet</td>
<td><em>Glaucidium cuculoides</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Boobook</td>
<td><em>Ninox scutulata burmanica</em> heard only</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grey Nightjar</td>
<td><em>Caprimulgus jotaka</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Large-tailed Nightjar</td>
<td><em>Caprimulgus macrurus bimaculatus</em></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>APODIFORMES: Apodidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Himalayan Swiftlet</td>
<td><em>Aerodramus brevirostris brevirostris</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>White-throated Needletail</td>
<td><em>Hirundapus caudacutus nudipes</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown-backed Needletail</td>
<td><em>Hirundapus giganteus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Palm Swift</td>
<td><em>Cypsiurus balasiensis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blyth's Swift</td>
<td><em>Apus leuconyx</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dark-rumped Swift</td>
<td><em>Apus acuticauda</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>House Swift</td>
<td><em>Apus [affinis] nipalensis</em></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Red-headed Trogon</td>
<td><em>Harpactes erythrocephalus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward's Trogon</td>
<td><em>Harpactes wardi</em></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Kingfisher</td>
<td><em>Alcedo atthis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stork-billed Kingfisher</td>
<td><em>Pelargopsis capensis capensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Kingfisher</td>
<td><em>Halcyon smyrnensis perpulchra</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crested Kingfisher</td>
<td><em>Megaceryle lugubris guttulata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied Kingfisher</td>
<td><em>Ceryle rudis</em></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue-bearded Bee-eater</td>
<td><em>Nyctyornis athertoni</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-tailed Bee-eater</td>
<td><em>Merops philippinus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Green Bee-eater</td>
<td><em>Merops orientalis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut-headed Bee-eater</td>
<td><em>Merops leschenaulti</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae
Black-billed Roller  Coracias [benghalensis] affinis
Dollarbird  Eurystomus orientalis cyanicollis

CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae
Hoopoe  Upupa epops

CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae
Oriental Pied Hornbill  Anthracoceros albirostris
Great Hornbill  Buceros bicornis
Rufous-necked Hornbill  Aceros nipalensis

PICIFORMES: Capitonidae
Great Barbet  Megalaima virens
Lineated Barbet  Megalaima lineata
Golden-throated Barbet  Megalaima franklinii
Blue-throated Barbet  Megalaima asiatica
Coppersmith Barbet  Megalaima haemacephala

PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide  Indicator xanthonotus

PICIFORMES: Picidae
Grey-capped Woodpecker  Dendrocopos canicapillus
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker  Dendrocopos macei macei
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker  Dendrocopos hyperythrus hyperythrus
Darjeeling Woodpecker  Dendrocopos darjelensis
Crimson-breasted Woodpecker  Picus chlorolophus chlorolophus
Lesser Yellownape  Picus flavinucha lavinucha
Greater Yellownape  Picus xanthopygaeus
Streak-throated Woodpecker  Picus canus hessei
Black-rumped Flameback  Dinopium benghalense
Greater Flameback  Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacristatus
Pale-headed Woodpecker  Gecinulus grantia
Bay Woodpecker  Blythipicus pyrrhotis  heard only

PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae
Long-tailed Broadbill  Psarisomus dalhousiae
Silver-breasted Broadbill  Serilophus lunatus  heard only

PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae
Blue-naped Pitta  Pitta nipalensis

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae
Bengal Bushlark  Mirafra assamica
Sand Lark  Calandrella raytal raytal
Oriental Skylark  Alauda gulgula vernayi
Hume’s Short-toed Lark  Calandrella acutirostris

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae
Grey-throated Sand Martin  Riparia chinensis
Barn Swallow  Hirundo rustica gutturalis
Striated Swallow  Cecropis striolata
Asian House Martin  Delichon dasypus
Nepal House Martin  Delichon nipalensis cuttingi
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>White Wagtail</strong></td>
<td>Motacilla alba alba/dukhunensis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>East Siberian Wagtail</strong></td>
<td>Motacilla alba ocularis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amur Wagtail</strong></td>
<td>Motacilla alba leucopsis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Himalayan Wagtail</strong></td>
<td>Motacilla alba alboides</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>White-browed Wagtail</strong></td>
<td>Motacilla maderaspatensis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Citrine Wagtail</strong></td>
<td>Motacilla citreola citreola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tibetan Wagtail</strong></td>
<td>Motacilla [citreola] calcarata</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Western Yellow Wagtail</strong></td>
<td>Motacilla flava thunbergi</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grey Wagtail</strong></td>
<td>Motacilla cinerea</td>
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<td><strong>Paddyfield Pipit</strong></td>
<td>Anthus rufulus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Olive-backed Pipit</strong></td>
<td>Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Red-throated Pipit</strong></td>
<td>Anthus cervinus</td>
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<td><strong>Rosy Pipit</strong></td>
<td>Anthus roseatus</td>
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<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Large Cuckooshrike</strong></td>
<td>Coracina macei nipalensis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Black-winged Cuckooshrike</strong></td>
<td>Coracina melaschistos</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Small Minivet</strong></td>
<td>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus peregrinus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long-tailed Minivet</strong></td>
<td>Pericrocotus ethologus laetus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Short-billed Minivet</strong></td>
<td>Pericrocotus brevirostris</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scarlet Minivet</strong></td>
<td>Pericrocotus speciosus semiruber</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grey-chinned Minivet</strong></td>
<td>Pericrocotus solaris</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike</strong></td>
<td>Hemipus picatus</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Striated Bulbul</strong></td>
<td>Pycnonotus striatus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Black-crested Bulbul</strong></td>
<td>Pycnonotus flaviventeris</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Red-whiskered Bulbul</strong></td>
<td>Pycnonotus jocosus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Red-vented Bulbul</strong></td>
<td>Pycnonotus cafer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Himalayan Bulbul</strong></td>
<td>Pycnonotus leucogenys</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>White-throated Bulbul</strong></td>
<td>Alopeixus flaveolus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ashy Bulbul</strong></td>
<td>Hemixos flavala flavala</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mountain Bulbul</strong></td>
<td>Ixos mcclellandii mcclellandii</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Himalayan Black Bulbul</strong></td>
<td>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goldcrest</strong></td>
<td>Regulus regulus himalayensis</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Golden-fronted Leafbird</strong></td>
<td>Chloropsis aurifrons aurifrons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Orange-bellied Leafbird</strong></td>
<td>Chloropsis hardwickii hardwickii</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common Iora</strong></td>
<td>Aegithina tiphia</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brown Dipper</strong></td>
<td>Cinclus pallasii dorjei</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter Wren</strong></td>
<td>Troglydotes troglodytes nipalensis</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alpine Accentor</strong></td>
<td>Prunella collaris</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maroon-backed Accentor</strong></td>
<td>Prunella immaculata</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rufous-breasted Accentor</strong></td>
<td>Prunella strophiata</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue-capped Rock Thrush</strong></td>
<td>Monticola cinchlorhynchus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Common Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Monticola rufiventris</em></td>
<td>Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Monticola solitarius</em></td>
<td>Blue Rock Thrush</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Myoophonus caeruleus eugenei</em></td>
<td>Plain-backed Thrush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Zoothera dixoni</em></td>
<td>Long-tailed Thrush</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Zoothera dauma</em></td>
<td>Small-billed Scaly Thrush</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Turdus maximus</em></td>
<td>Tibetan Blackbird</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Turdus albocinctus</em></td>
<td>White-collared Blackbird</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Turdus boulboul</em></td>
<td>Grey-winged Blackbird</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Brachypteryx leucophrys nipalensis</em></td>
<td>Tickell's Thrush</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Brachypteryx montana</em></td>
<td>Lesser Shortwing</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Brachypteryx flaviventris</em></td>
<td>Plain-browed Shortwing</td>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Prinia crinigera</em></td>
<td>Striated Prinia</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Prinia atrogularis atrogularis</em></td>
<td>Black-throated Prinia</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Prinia rufescens</em></td>
<td>Rufescent Prinia</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Prinia flaviventris flaviventris</em></td>
<td>Yellow-bellied Prinia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Prinia socialis stewarti</em></td>
<td>Ashy Prinia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Prinia inornata fusca</em></td>
<td>Plain Prinia</td>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Tesia olivea</em></td>
<td>Slaty-bellied Tesia</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Tesia cyanventer</em></td>
<td>Grey-bellied Tesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cettia castaneocoronata</em></td>
<td>Chestnut-headed Tesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cettia brunnifrons muroides</em></td>
<td>Grey-sided Bush Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cettia major</em></td>
<td>Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Horornis [acanthizoides] brunnescens</em></td>
<td>Hume's Bush Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Horornis [flavolivacea] flavolivacea</em></td>
<td>‘Himalayan’ Aberrant Bush Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Horornis fortipes fortipes</em></td>
<td>Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Locustella davidii</em></td>
<td>Baikal Bush Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Locustella thoracicus</em></td>
<td>Spotted Bush Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Locustella mandelli</em></td>
<td>Russet Bush Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Acrocephalus agricola</em></td>
<td>Paddyfield Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Acrocephalus concinens stevensi</em></td>
<td>Blunt-winged Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Acrocephalus dumetorum</em></td>
<td>Blyth’s Reed Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Iduna aedon</em></td>
<td>Thick-billed Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phyllergates cuculatus</em></td>
<td>Mountain Tailorbird</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Orthotomus atrorubens</em></td>
<td>Dark-necked Tailorbird</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Orthotomus sutorius</em></td>
<td>Common Tailorbird</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus</em></td>
<td>Dusky Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus fuliginetor fuliginetor</em></td>
<td>Smoky Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus affinis</em></td>
<td>Tickell’s Leaf Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus pulcher</em></td>
<td>Buff-barred Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus maculipennis</em></td>
<td>Ashy-throated Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus chloronotus chloronotus</em></td>
<td>Lemon-rumped Leaf Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus inornatus</em></td>
<td>Yellow-browed Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus trochiloides trochiloides</em></td>
<td>Greenish Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus reguloides reguloides</em></td>
<td>Blyth’s Leaf Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus cantator</em></td>
<td>Yellow-vented Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</em></td>
<td>Grey-hooded Warbler</td>
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<td><em>Seicercus whistleri whistleri</em></td>
<td>Whister’s Warbler</td>
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<td><em>Seicercus burkii</em></td>
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<td><em>Seicercus poliogenys</em></td>
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<td><em>Tickellia hodgsoni</em></td>
<td>Broad-billed Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Megalurus palustris</em></td>
<td>Striated Grassbird</td>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Muscicapa sibirica</em></td>
<td>Dark-sided Flycatcher</td>
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<td><em>Ficedula strophiata</em></td>
<td>Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Taiga Flycatcher</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Ficedula hyperythra</em></td>
<td>Snowy-browed Flycatcher</td>
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<td><em>Ficedula monileger monileger</em></td>
<td>White-gorgeted Flycatcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Pied Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ficedula westermanni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ultramarine Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ficedula supercilialis aestigma</td>
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<td>Slaty-blue Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ficedula tricolor tricolor</td>
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<td>Sapphire Blue Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ficedula sapphira</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verditer Flycatcher</td>
<td>Eumyias thalassina</td>
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<td>Niltava grandis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Niltava</td>
<td>Niltava macgrigoriae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rufous-bellied Niltava</td>
<td>Niltava sundara</td>
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<td>Cyornis rubeculoides rubeculoides</td>
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<td>Pygmy Blue Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Luscinia pectoralis tschebaeiwi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluethroat</td>
<td>Luscinia svecica svecica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Bush Robin</td>
<td>Tarsiger chrysaeus chrysaeus</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tarsiger indicus</td>
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<td>Rufous-breasted Bush Robin</td>
<td>Tarsiger hypertyrus</td>
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<td>White-rumped Shama</td>
<td>Copsychus malabaricus indicus</td>
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<td>Black Redstart</td>
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<td>Phoenicus schisticps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-fronted Redstart</td>
<td>Phoenicus frontalis</td>
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<td>White-capped Water Redstart</td>
<td>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</td>
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<td>Plumbeous Water Redstart</td>
<td>Rhyacornis fuliginos</td>
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<td>White-tailed Robin</td>
<td>Cinclidium leucur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-fronted Robin</td>
<td>Cinclidium frontale</td>
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<td>Black-backed Forktail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spotted Forktail</td>
<td>Enicurus maculatus guttatus</td>
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<td>Cochoa purpurea</td>
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<td>Green Cochoa</td>
<td>Cochoa viridis</td>
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<td>Saxicola maura stenjegeri</td>
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<td>Saxicola maura maurus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saxicola maura haringtoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Bushchat</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**Passeriformes: Rhipiduridae**

- Yellow-bellied Fantail: Rhipidura hypoxantha
- White-throated Fantail: Rhipidura albicollis

**Passeriformes: Monarchidae**

- Asian Paradise Flycatcher: Terpsiphone paradisi

**Passeriformes: Timaliidae**

- Bhutan Laughingthrush: Trochalopteron imbricatum
- Scaly Laughingthrush: Trochalopteron subunicolor
- Blue-winged Laughingthrush: Trochalopteron squamatus
- Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush: T. erythrocephalus nigrimentum
- Black-faced Laughingthrush: Trochalopteron affinis balthaeh
- Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush: Lanthocincla rufogularis rufogularis
- Spotted Laughingthrush: Lanthocincla ocellatus ocellatus
- Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush: Dryonastes nuchalis
- Rufous-necked Laughingthrush: Dryonastes ruficollis
- Striated Laughingthrush: Grammatoptila striata
- White-throated Laughingthrush: Garrulax albogularis albogularis
- White-crested Laughingthrush: Garrulax leucolophus leucolophus
- Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush: Garrulax monileger monileger
- Grey-sided Laughingthrush: Garrulax caeruleus caeruleus
- Crimson-faced Liochilcha: Liocichla phoenicea
- Bugun Liochilcha: Liocichla bugunorum
- Puff-throated Babbler: Pellorneum ruficeps
- Marsh Babbler: Pellorneum palustre
- White-browed Scimitar Babbler: Pomatorhinus schisticps
- Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler: Pomatorhinus ruficollis godwini
- Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler: Pomatorhinus ferruginosus
Red-billed Scimitar Babbler  
Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler  
Pomatorhinus erythrogenys
Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler  
Xiphirhynchus superciliaris
Long-billed Wren Babbler  
Rimator malacoptilus
Scaly-breasted Cupwing  
Pnoepyga albiventer
Pygmy Cupwing  
Pnoepyga pusilla
Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler  
Sphenocichla humei
Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler  
Sphenocichla roberti
Rufous-throated Wren Babbler  
Spelaeornis caudatus
Mishmi Wren Babbler  
Spelaeornis badeigularis
Bar-winged Wren Babbler  
Spelaeornis troglodytoides sherriffi
Spotted Wren Babbler  
Spelaeornis formosus
Rufous-fronted Babbler  
Stachyris rufifrons ambiguus
Rufous-capped Babbler  
Stachyris ruficeps ruficeps
Golden Babbler  
Stachyris chrysaea
Grey-throated Babbler  
Stachyris nigriceps nigriceps
Pin-striped Tit Babbler  
Macronous gularis
Chestnut-capped Babbler  
Timalia pileata
Yellow-eyed Babbler  
Chrysochroa sinensis sinus
Jerdon's Babbler  
Chrysochroa altirostre griseigula
Slender-billed Babbler  
Turdooides longirostris
Striated Babbler  
Turdooides earlei
Spiny Babbler  
Turdooides nipalensis
Silver-eared Mesia  
Leiothrix argentauris argentauris
Red-billed Leiothrix  
Leiothrix lutea calpyga
Himalayan Cutia  
Cutia nipalensis
White-hooded Babbler  
Gampsorhynchus rufulus
Rusty-fronted Barwing  
Actinodura egertoni
Hoary-throated Barwing  
Actinodura nipalensis
Streak-throated Barwing  
Actinodura waldeni dacardi
Blue-winged Siva  
Siva cyanourophtera cyanourophtera
Chestnut-tailed Minla  
Chrysominla strigula yunnanensis
Red-tailed Minla  
Minla ignotincta
Golden-breasted Fulvetta  
Liparus chrysotis chrysotis
Yellow-throated Fulvetta  
Pseudominla cinerea
Rufous-winged Fulvetta  
Pseudominla castaneiceps
Manipur Fulvetta  
Fulvetta manipurensis
Ludlow's Fulvetta  
Fulvetta ludlowi
White-browed Fulvetta  
Fulvetta viniceps
Nepal Fulvetta  
Fulvetta manipurensis
Rufous-backed Sibia  
Heterophasia annectens
Long-tailed Sibia  
Heterophasia picoidea
Beautiful Sibia  
Heterophasia pulchella nigraurita
Rufous Sibia  
Heterophasia capistatara
White-naped Yuhina  
Yuhina bakeri
Whiskered Yuhina  
Yuhina flavicollis
Stripe-throated Yuhina  
Yuhina gularis gularis
Rufous-vented Yuhina  
Yuhina occipitalis
Black-chinned Yuhina  
Yuhina nigmenta
Fire-tailed Myzornis  
Myzornis pycrhoura

PASSERIFORMES: Paradoxornithidae
Brown Parrotbill  
Cholornis unicolor
Black-throated Parrotbill  
Sinornis nipalensis poliotis
Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill  
Chleuasicus atrosupericiliaris
White-breasted Parrotbill  
Psittiparus ruficeps

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae
Red-crowned (Black-throated) Tit  
Aegithalos concinnus rubricapillus
Rufous-fronted Tit  
Aegithalos iouschistos

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae
Coal Tit  
Periparus ater aemodius
Grey-crested Tit  
Lophophanes dichrous dichrous
Rufous-vented Tit  
Parus rubidiventris
Grey Tit  
Parus [major] cinereus nipalensis
Green-backed Tit  
Parus monticolus
Yellow-cheeked Tit  
Parus spilonotus
Yellow-browed Tit  
Sylviparus modestus
Sultan Tit  
Melanochlora sultanea

PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch  
Sitta cinnamoventris
White-tailed Nuthatch  
Sitta himalayensis
Beautiful Nuthatch  
Sitta formosa

PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae
Rusty-flanked Treecreeper  
Certhia nipalensis

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird  
Chalcoparia singalensis
Mrs Gould's Sunbird  
Aethopyga gouldiae isolata
Green-tailed Sunbird  
Aethopyga nipalensis nipalensis
Black-throated Sunbird  
Aethopyga saturata assamensis
Crimson Sunbird  
Aethopyga siparaja labecula
Fire-tailed Sunbird  
Aethopyga ignicauda
Streaked Spiderhunter  
Arachnothera magna

PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae
Plain Flowerpecker  
Dicaeum minullum
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker  
Dicaeum ignipectus
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker  
Dicaeum cruentatum

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae
Oriental White-eye  
Zosterops palpebrosus

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae
Slender-billed Oriole  
Oriolus tenuirostris
Black-hooded Oriole  
Oriolus xanthornus
Maroon Oriole  
Oriolus traillii

PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae
Asian Fairy Bluebird  
Irena puella

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

PASSERIFORMES: Prionopidae
Large Woodshrike  
Tephrodornis gularis

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae
Black Drongo  
Dicrurus macrocercus albrictus
Ashy Drongo  
Dicrurus leucophaeus hopwoodi
Bronzed Drongo  
Dicrurus aeneus
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo  
Dicrurus remifer
Hair-crested Drongo  
Dicrurus hottentottus hottentottus
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo  
Dicrurus paradiseus grandis

PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae
Ashy Woodswallow  
Artamus fuscus
### PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae
- **Eurasian Jay** *(Garrulus glandarius interstinctus)*
- **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie** *(Urocissa flavirostris flavirostris)*
- **Common Green Magpie** *(Cissa chinensis)*
- **Eurasian Magpie** *(Pica pica bottanensis)*
- **Rufous Treepie** *(Dendrocitta vagabunda vagabunda)*
- **Grey Treepie** *(Dendrocitta formosae himalayensis)*
- **Collared Treepie** *(Dendrocitta frontalis)*
- **Spotted Nutcracker** *(Nucifraga caryocatactes macella)*
- **Red-billed Chough** *(Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax)*
- **House Crow** *(Corvus splendens splendens)*
- **Eastern Jungle Crow** *(Corvus [macrorhynchos] levaillantii)*
- **Large-billed Crow** *(Corvus [macrorhynchos] japonensis)*

### PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae
- **Common Hill Myna** *(Gracula religiosa peninsularis)*
- **Jungle Myna** *(Acridotheres fuscus)*
- **White-vented Myna** *(Acridotheres grandis)*
- **Common Myna** *(Acridotheres tristis)*
- **Asian Pied Starling** *(Gracupica contra)*
- **Chestnut-tailed Starling** *(Sturnia malabarica)*

### PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae
- **Baya Weaver** *(Ploceus philippinus burmanicus)*
- **Black-breasted Weaver** *(Ploceus benghalensis)*

### PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae
- **White-rumped Munia** *(Lonchura striata acuticauda)*

### PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae
- **Crested Bunting** *(Melophus lathami)*
- **Little Bunting** *(Emberiza pusilla)*
- **Black-faced Bunting** *(Emberiza spodocephala)*

### PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae
- **Plain Mountain Finch** *(Leucosticte nemoricola)*
- **Brandt’s Mountain Finch** *(Leucosticte brandti)*
- **Crimson-browed Finch** *(Pinicola subhimalacha)*
- **Dark-breasted Rosefinch** *(Carpodacus nipalensis)*
- **Common Rosefinch** *(Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus)*
- **Blanford’s Rosefinch** *(Carpodacus rubescens)*
- **Dark-rumped Rosefinch** *(Carpodacus edwardsii)*
- **Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch** *(Carpodacus pulcherrimus)*
- **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch** *(Carpodacus thura)*
- **Yellow-breasted Greenfinch** *(Carduelis spinoides)*
- **Brown Bullfinch** *(Pyrrhula nipalensis)*
- **Red-headed Bullfinch** *(Pyrrhula erythrocephala)*
- **Grey-headed Bullfinch** *(Pyrrhula erythaca)*
- **Spot-winged Grosbeak** *(Mycerobas melanozanthos)*
- **White-winged Grosbeak** *(Mycerobas caripes)*
- **Gold-naped Finch** *(Pyrrhoplectes epaulette)*
- **Scarlet Finch** *(Haematospiza sipahi)*

### PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae
- **House Sparrow** *(Passer domesticus)*
- **Russet Sparrow** *(Passer rutilans)*
- **Tree Sparrow** *(Passer montanus)*

### PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidea
- **Blyth’s Shrike Babbler** *(Pteruthius aeralatus)*
- **Black-headed Shrike Babbler** *(Pteruthius rufiventer)*
- **Green Shrike Babbler** *(Pteruthius xanthochlorus)*
- **Heard only**
Black-eared Shrike Babbler
Pteruthius melanotis

Erpornis
Erpornis zantholeuca

**Mammals**

Black Giant Squirrel
Ratufa bicolor

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel
Dremomys lokriah

Pallas's Squirrel
Calosciurus erythraeus

Irrawaddy Squirrel
Calosciurus pygyerythrus

Himalayan Striped Squirrel
Tamiops macclellandi

Smooth Otter
Lutrogale perspicillata

Yellow-throated Marten
Martes flavigula

Indian Flying Fox
Pteropus giganteus

Capped Langur
Trachypithecus pileatus

Golden Langur
Trachypithecus geei

Assam Macaque
Macaca assamensis

Rhesus Macaque
Macaca mulatta

Ganges River Dolphin
Platanista gangetica

Eurasian Wild Pig
Sus Scrofa

Red Muntjac
Muntiacus muntjak

Swamp Deer
Cervus duvaucelli

Hog Deer
Axis porcinus

Blue Sheep
Pseudois nayaur

Wild Water Buffalo
Bubalus arnee

Indian Rhinoceros
Rhinoceros unicornis

Asian Elephant
Elephas maximus

502 species recorded including 11 heard only

**Bird-of-the-trip**

1. Bugun Liocichla
2. Ward’s Trogon
3. Beautiful Nuthatch
4. Satyr Tragopan
5. White-bellied Heron

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