Eastern Himalaya
Mishmi Hills, Assam & Eaglenest

12th – 29th April 2015

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This mammoth tour of the Eastern Himalaya lived up to everything it was set up to be – we recorded a total of 508 species (the biggest number on any of our tours to date), but as always in this region, it is quality, not quantity that impressed us most. We began in western Arunachal Pradesh, soaking in Fire-tailed Myzornis, Himalayan Monal, Snow Partridge and Solitary Snipe amid the dramatic alpine landscape at Se La before spending 4 days inside the now well-known Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary. The park’s main prize, Bugun Liocichla was seen well again, though it was up against stiff competition as the highlight of our stay, which surely went to the prolonged views of a fiery-red Blyth’s Tragopan, and a ‘supporting cast’ comprising of Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, nesting Beautiful Nuthatch, Long-billed Wren Babbler, Ward’s Trogon, Large Blue Flycatcher and outrageous views of Chestnut-breasted Partridge. Working our way east along the floodplain of the Brahmaputra we scored big time with the grassland specialities – Slender-billed and Marsh Babblers, Indian Grassbird, displaying Bengal Florican and Black-breasted Parrotbill, while the surrounding forests held White-cheeked Partridge, Pale-chinned Flycatcher and Collared Treepie. Back up in the hills, at Mishmi, we finished the tour off with a bang – Gould’s and Rusty-bellied Shortwings singing literally just beneath our toes, Black-headed Shrike Babbler and some wonderful encounters with Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler.
After gathering together at Guwahati airport in western Assam, what better way to introduce ourselves to the wonders of the Eastern Himalaya than a trip to the local rubbish dump to take in the sight of 300 Greater Adjutants feasting on whatever scraps they could find – makes you wonder how this species has become so rare and endangered!

Our first morning, looking up at the mighty Himalayan foothills, was spent at the riverside where we picked up River Lapwing, River Tern and Pied Kingfisher – mainstays of the Indian rivers. The surrounding scrub held a few surprises too – resident Blunt-winged Warbler, with unknown taxonomic affinities eventually showed, wintering Thick-billed Warbler was also eventually cooperative and of greatest surprise was a rather furtive, singing Chinese Bush Warbler.

Meandering our way up the bamboo-dominated foothills inside Arunachal Pradesh produced a few birds; Yellow-vented and Rufous-faced Warbler, Rufous-fronted Babbler, Blue-throated Flycatcher and White-browed Piculet but with time constraints we had to plough ahead with a stop only once we hit a bit of height to enjoy our first (of literally, thousands!) Green-tailed Sunbird, various yuhina and fulvettas, and even a pair of Grey-sided Laughingthrush. A pair of Bhutan Laughingthrush fed actually on the road before arriving into the cozy hotel in Dirang ready for a ridiculously early start!

Snow Partridge and Grandala, Se La

The high mountains around Se La (a 4,200m pass) were glorious in the early morning sunlight, as was the birding. At the tree-line an immature male Himalayan Monal was sat quietly right beneath the road to start proceedings, both Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks typically appeared at first light before disappearing for the rest of the day, a scattering of rosefinch included Himalayan White-browed, Dark-breasted and the universally scarce Dark-rumped, gorgeous Red-headed Bullfinches, and a flash of green signaled the appearance of a pair of Fire-tailed Myzornis joined the party, twittering their high-pitched calls just metres from us in beautiful light.

With the weather appearing rather bleak we headed up and over the pass hoping for clearer conditions on the opposite side, which was largely true as we soon found a group of iridescent male Grandala floating over the road, regularly perching close by, occasionally joined by a less dapper female. Over 50 Snow Pigeons favoured the no-stop zone around an Army camp then further downslope we enjoyed a particularly productive area, picking up a female monal, several Tibetan Blackbird and an aptly named Solitary Snipe. With time ticking and another target still to find we retraced our steps and quickly found a confiding group of feeding Snow Partridges – unfortunately for them their raucous vocalisations aren’t quite as inconspicuous as their wonderfully cloaked plumage!

Back down in Dirang we found our first Blue-capped Rock Thrush and Black-throated Prinia.

Heading out early again, this time toward the highland village of Mandala at around 3,000m. Below the ridge the mixed forest produced the universally-scarce Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, prolonged views of a bright male Fire-capped Tit, a pair of Brown Bullfinch, our first Yellow-bellied Fantail (even though it’s not a fantail!!), Mrs Gould’s Sunbird, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Grey-winged Blackbird and a plethora of leaf warbler we would eventually get our heads around over the coming weeks. Excitedly we were treated to much better views of Blue-fronted Robin than we would normally expect as it climbed surprisingly high up the roadside foliage, and also glided slowly across the road a couple of times.

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, White-collared Blackbird, Spotted Nutcracker, Coal, Rufous-vented, Yellow-browed and Grey-crested Tits, Rufous-
bellied Woodpecker, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, Ludlow's Fulvetta, Slaty-blue and Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers and Gold-naped Finch.

Finding more feeding flocks further on added a number of additional species – Golden and White-browed Bush Robins, Humé's Bush Warbler (not the brightest for your 5000th, right Alan?!), Crimson-browed Finch, Green Shrike Babbler, Streak-throated Barwing, Rufous-fronted Tit, and another Collared Grosbeak. An area of dying weeds surprised us with its abundance of thrushes – Plain-backed, Black-throated and Dusky Thrush all showed well while on the edge a couple pairs of Spotted Laughingthrush did their thing, playing hide-and-seek before popping up ridiculously close as they performed their wonderful fluty whistles.

To top off our morning, a Bar-winged Wren Babbler announced his presence just as lunch was served on the bonnet, even with the sun shining this most intricately marked of all wren babblers sat out and performed, even preening in the sunlight for us to all the enjoy.

Short on time, we reluctantly headed back down the hill, and through a couple of valleys to the centerpiece of the tour, five nights camping at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.

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 400m 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 seemingly 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.

Our first morning was obviously devoted to the Bugun Liocichla, which is always a nail-biting search and making it difficult to diligently search for is the number of other species knocking on the door, attempting to grab our attentions. One did – a very distant Purple Cochoa eventually made it down to the roadside, though chose to perch perfectly in the open right in front of the sun! After a couple of hours of trying different spots after our usual area drew a blank we headed back there, finding a flock of Rusty-fronted Barwing, with predictably a pair of liocichla in tow. Unfortunately they were too intent on feeding just out of sight for some of us, leaving us largely frustrated with the brief, albeit unmistakable views. It was time for breakfast and refocus! That couldn’t have worked better, as moments later the sweet song of the liocichla was by the roadside, and after a patient wait we were treated to great views as four of them fed unobscured right at the roadside. A gaudy male Scarlet Finch briefly attempted to distract our attentions.

Success! Time to leave Lama camp and head up and over Eaglenest pass, stopping by to admire eye-level close views of Blyth’s Swifts at a colony, and heading down to the vast swathe of beautiful mossy forest. As lunch was calling we decided to head briefly into the forest, just in case there were any trogons. Amazingly, we didn’t find a trogon but a loud series of wails grabbed our attention as a tomato-red Blyth’s Tragopan was sat on a log in the middle of a bush just in front of us! It was sat there for half an hour before deciding to move off the log and walk across an open area, right in the sunlight, WHOA! After lunch we ventured back to the same area, amazingly finding the tragopan as it fed among the ferns, gradually creeping towards us in search of food for yet another half hour until we decided it really was time to move on.

Obviously following that morning it was impossible for the afternoon to compete – and so it was, with just a rather pesky Rufous-throated Wren Babbler dragging out the afternoon as it took a long time for it show.

We were full of anticipation the next day as some very important, mega birds lay ahead. We enjoyed great weather in the morning that certainly helped with our impressive haul of hitting every target. We started with a flock of Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler (rightfully split from Coral-billed), a cutia singing just that bit too far away, then moving on to a calling male Rufous-necked Hornbill – a first of several during the morning. A pair of Beautiful Nuthatch called as they flew high overhead, but our frustration was soon put to rest, as after a

Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler and Bar-winged Wren Babbler
particularly low perching Green Cochoa (our morning was that good, it barely received a mention despite the views), Don refound presumably the same nuthatch pair feeding quietly above the trail. We soon realized not only were they near their nest but seemingly protecting it by continually brushing a white caterpillar across all the main branches leading to the nest. We presumed this was releasing some kind of toxin onto the branches to guard off predators – either way it meant we had prolonged views of one of the most wanted birds of the trip, which can be particularly tricky in April. Before we had gotten our breath back from that performance, the monotone whistle of a Long-billed Wren Babbler emanated from the nearby thick ‘sessni’ nettles, and within a few seconds the mini-kiwi bounded in, though it took some time before it calmed down, and when it did, it just sat there, for several minutes, calling away at arms length with its mate in close proximity.

Our final target, that has taken us up to 3 days to find in previous years was heard just a short while later, but it took us some time to work out where the very occasional, distant call was coming from. Once we guesstimated where it might be and appear, we once again only had to wait a few seconds for a Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler to sit out on the exact branch we had hoped it might, where it sat for several chorus's totally oblivious to our open-mouthed expressions of delight! With our work done before lunch, we headed back up, only to be stopped halfway by a huge feeding flock made up primarily of singing Himalayan Cutia – there must have been 20 or so, Rusty-fronted Barwing, and, finally several White-breasted (Rufous-headed) Parrotbill. Though the flock also contained Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler, and a fine Rufous-backed Sibia, it was the cutia that really stole the show with males at eye-level, too busy feeding in the moss and singing to the females to bother about our presence.

The afternoon became quite wet, with a few bits and pieces to add to our list, including Crimson-breasted Woodpecker and Golden-breasted Fulvetta. We also enticed a Chestnut-breasted Partridge across an open area, though the vegetation between it and us, and the darkening wet conditions meant it wasn’t meant to be for most of us – yet.

Bugun Liocichla and Blyth’s Tragopan, Eaglenest

The lower parts of Eaglenest have been off-limits for the past few years but have now opened up. It was generally a very wet morning, though despite the rain we did find the one flock we were looking for in the bamboo-dominated area – a bit of a tick-fest for everyone here as White-hooded Babblers, Black-browed (Pale-billed) Parrotbills and Red-billed Scimitar Babblers were in a close-knit group, as they always are in this region. Also in the bamboo we heard the slow, sombre notes of a Large Blue Flycatcher, a bit of an enigma until recently, and a new bird for James (about time!). The flycatcher showed well, flashing his pink boots, hook-tipped bill, rufous flanks and long wings. The rest of the morning was very birdy but a bit of a wash-out! Back up at Bomphu camp for lunch was a complete wash-out as an almighty thunderstorm dragged its heels overhead. Eventually we managed to get out for an hour finding an unconcerned Pygmy Cupwing but little else as the partridge refused to put on a show – we would be back.

We decided to head out early morning for Chestnut-breasted Partridge again, being very keen to see this scarce, East Himalayan endemic. We picked our spot after much deliberation. Our patience was richly rewarded as a bird soon appeared, sat in an open spot, breast-on, calling, and calling, and calling in clear view! After wandering around for a bit, totally perplexed, his mate joined him and off they went, as a Rufous-throated Wren Babbler also put in an appearance. Smiles all round as we never realized just how intricately marked the partridge actually is. We then headed straight back up to the mossy forest. A Scaly Thrush feeding on the road was swiftly followed by prolonged views of a pair of Sickle-billed Scimitar Babbler and a quietly feeding Rufous-throated Wren Babbler. In the bamboo we finally located some Black-throated Parrotbills and a calling White-spectacled Warbler also appeared. Finally, and so typically once the mist descends, the loud, rolling notes of a Ward’s Trogon crept down from high above us. Trudging up into the haunting, misty, damp forest the rosy-male trogon was found fly-catching from a low-level stump and with the mist masking our silhouettes we were able to get very close, prolonged views of one of THE most important birds of the region.
After taking in Scaly Laughingthrushes, at last, the rest of the afternoon was a bit of a washout again as we headed back to Lama camp for a final nights camping and a toast to our brilliant success in our short stay here.

The long-winding road down to the humid lowlands of Assam was relatively quiet, with just Spotted Forktail new. After lunch at Nameri Tiger (-less) Reserve, we spent much of the afternoon here enjoying a variety of birds new to the trip, including Ashy-headed and Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker and Greater Flameback, Small Pratincole, displaying Sand Lark and a solitary, distant Wreathed Hornbill flying across the river. After this we spent the evening driving over and along the southern side of the Brahmaputra to Kaziranga, ready for our next two days.

Kaziranga is renowned for its high density and number of large mammals, in particular Asian Elephant, Indian Rhinoceros, Swamp Deer and Asian 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, we were disappointed to wake-up to a torrential downpour and thunderstorm, which would last until the mid-morning and end any hope of the elephant-back rides (sorry Alan!).

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 monsoon of 2013 wiped out up to 40% of the populations), Asian Water Buffalo and Indian Rhinoceros. Complementing this spectacle was the sheer number of birds – Asian Openbills, Black-necked and Painted Storks, Lesser Adjutants, Grey-headed Fish Eagles and River Terns. Pallas’s Fish Eagle eventually showed too, as did a pair of Swamp Francolin but they were a bit too distant to satisfy us. It was the small party of Slender-billed Babblers 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!). That was until an Indian Grassbird popped up besides the babblers, a very rarely seen species, and only the second time we have found it here.

At a large water body large numbers of waterbirds were present (but gone the next day), with several Greater Adjutants dwarfing everything bar the rhinos. Another party of Slender-billed Babbler appeared, putting to bed any suggestion it’s a rarely seen, elusive species. A resting flock of Himalayan Griffon contained a handful of Slender-billed Vulture, still classified as critically endangered. Before we knew it, our time was up – time flies when you’re having fun.

The Western Range was unusually slow going in the afternoon. The vast plain and lake here was heaving with megafauna, with 96 buffalo and 66 rhinos on offer in a single scan, along with Grey-headed Lapwing and a few waders including good numbers of black-plumaged Spotted Redshank. It became dark very quickly here and birding soon subsided with just Chestnut-capped Babbler found in the grassland of note.

Once again it was a wet start on our second morning. After much of the same as the previous day, with the exception of prolonged views of a pair of Swamp Francolin feeding by the waters-edge. We spent more time in the woodland. A pair of Pale-chinned Flycatcher was the most noteworthy bird, though the most beautiful was undoubtedly the male Kalij Pheasant displaying to his mate who looked anything but impressed.

In the afternoon, a torrential downpour halted our birding for much of our time inside the park, reducing visibility to almost nothing, until the early evening when we enjoyed a family of ‘porpoising’ Smooth Otter, with the kits chasing after mother and her catch. A male Amur Falcon floated overhead, each time it attempted to
After a spell of birding not far from our lodge (both necklaced laughingthrushes, breeding Baya Weaver, Blue-bearded Bee-eater) we headed east once more for the afternoon at Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, a mosaic of grassland that provides one of the last remaining refuge for some extremely rare grassland resident, and tens of thousands of wintering and migrating passerines. With the rain lashing down once more we took a walk out across to the grassland, finding Bluethroat and a Watercock for some. With the darkened skies and flooded tracks the chance of much singing was vastly reduced so it was a pleasant surprise to hear an already agitated Marsh Babbler in close proximity. A few moments later, this arch skulker was perched atop a grass stem, frantically calling for us all to see very clearly. Moments later our second lifer babbler appeared, as a pair of Jerdon's Babblers put in a prolonged viewing. The same couldn't be said for both Baikal and Spotted Bush Warblers that had begun to sing as the light started slipping away from us, though a gaudy male Himalayan Rubythroat still shone like a beacon in the darkness. We returned the following morning for a short boat ride downriver – wintering Citrine and 'Tibetan' Wagtails lined the shoreline, 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! Just as we went onshore the grating song of a Baikal Bush Warbler started up (we found the first for India here in 2012), and sure enough it perched up on several occasions. Next was a moment of real excitement as a pair of Black-breasted Parrotbill had taken up residence here this year – a much, much easier location than when they were last accessible, some 4 years ago. We soon found the male, with the female presumably on nest at this time of year, and by letting him be we ended up getting brilliant views, so close you could hear the snapping of the elephant grass as he fed, while we also found a singing Spotted Bush Warbler (about time Denzil!). It wasn’t even 7am and our work was done here, so we bolted, and headed down for a late morning session at Digboi Oilfields. As in recent years access into the main block of forest, actually within the oilfields was out-of-bounds so we had to be content with birding the periphery. This proved fine for most of the majority of reasons for visiting the area. Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes were on view as soon as we arrived, clambering around the scrub, once we hit an area of bamboo the first of several Collared Treepies appeared though, most unusually, a singing Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush refused to show itself.

In the afternoon we decided to explore a little, given it’s such a massive area of forest with great potential. The area we choose was great, upon arrival White-cheeked Partridges were calling, a species rarely encountered due to its range being in restricted areas, and after much perseverance and patience one eventually appeared, twice crossing an open area, though a little on the quick side for some of us. Further on a Pied Falconet circled over us while calling, both Common Green Magpie and White-browed Scimitar Babbler put in appearances and a troop of Assamese Macaque were found going to roost.

Returning for the laughingthrush the following morning drew a blank, worryingly we didn’t even hear one, but we enjoyed a wide range of species that we had seen previously, including more treepies, with a couple of notable additions, Hodgson’s Hawk Cuckoo, Rufous Woodpecker and Jerdon’s Baza. It was then time for our next foray into the hills, this time to north-easternmost Arunachal Pradesh. Fortunately, as the weather had remained dry for the past couple of days, the Brahmaputra floodplain was relatively dry, enabling a safe passage across to the shoreline (with flocks of Greater Short-toed Lark busy feeding by the vehicles, and White-rumped Vulture overhead) to board the rather rickety wooden ferry to transport us, and our vehicles, allowing us to reach the base of the Mishmi Hills in time for a short excursion to an area of grassland that holds several pairs of Bengal Florican, of which we found a female and 2 males shortly after starting our search. A particular fine moment was a male taking flight towards us before rising up to perform his display-flight. This critically endangered bird is in steep decline in India, Nepal and Cambodia as

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**Black-breasted Parrotbill and Slender-billed Babbler**

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hunting and conversion of its natural grassland habitat into agriculture, with just a few hundred displaying birds left.

The Mishmi Hills has only been open to foreigners for the past 10 years or so and hit the birding headlines in 2004 with the rediscovery of the Mishmi Wren Babbler, prior to this, only known from a single specimen taken in 1947. As important as the wren babbler was to us, this area is home to an array of other sought-after megas. The area is renowned for its wet weather so it was no surprise on our first morning we were greeted by light drizzle which gradually became more intense, just as a Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler was on the verge of showing itself. We gave up on this bird as the rain was leaving us rather bedraggled, only to find a pair of Blue-winged Laughingthrush perching out for us – we had only had several brief glimpses up to this point – then further on another Cachar was located, but this time a pair, and with some delicate maneuvering and a substantial amount of time waiting, the birds proved why they are one of James's absolute favourite birds as they jumped onto the roadside wall, peering round, looking up, calling away – awesome. A cup of chai was followed by a Crimson-faced Liocichla singing in front of us, normally a real pain to see, this bird wasn't fussed in the slightest.

Further up the road the resident male Yellow-rumped Honeyguide was guarding 'his' bee-hive below the road, with a Little Forktail feeding in the stream. Moving to the upper reaches of the road, into the mossy forest, a female Ward’s Trogon was the first bird we clapped our eyes on, though a Hill Partridge refused to budge. Then it was time for the area’s most famous resident as we found a Mishmi Wren Babbler that announced its presence among the tangles and moss on an outcrop by the roadside. The bird then went about its business, feeding in the nooks and crannies, peering out once in a while, giving us a real insight into its daily chores. The specialities kept on coming, several Manipur Fulvetta and a Pygmy Blue Flycatcher showed up in a feeding flock, then following this a Purple Cochoa perched up by the road, offering views in better light than at Eaglenest.

The Myodia Pass at Mishmi is an exciting place to be in the morning, as activity is buzzing as the summering passerines attempt to find food sources, primarily from the abundant rhododendrons. Fulvetta (Ludlow’s and Manipur), sunbirds, warblers, flycatchers are all at it, and this morning was no exception. We soon found other birds, a handsome male Crimson-browed Finch, nesting Darjeeling Woodpecker, another Bar-winged Wren Babbler, finally a Scaly-breasted Cupwing showed up (we hadn’t even heard them up to this point), more Sickle-billed Scimitar Babbler, and then, out of the blue, a silent Gould’s Shortwing was randomly perched up, above the roadside. Pandemonium ensued as we all attempted to clap eyes on one of the region’s most sought-after, rarely-seen megas. Fortunately it hung around long enough for everyone to get a view, if a little distant. We needn’t have worried though as although it disappeared for some time, we took a walk up the gulley and choose a likely looking spot, and bang, there it was, sat on top of a stump, at eye-level, so close we didn’t dare whisper, just excited, knowing smiles all round.

Just when the morning couldn’t get any better, a pair of Fire-tailed Myzornis were next to appear, and so busy collecting nectar they paid no attention to us eye-balling them for 20 minutes. They were incredibly active and paid no attention to us, or to any of the photographers wishing and praying for them to sit still as they continually buzzed around. Finally Black-headed Shrike Babbler, two males, also came into view, and like London buses, two more Gould’s Shortwings were found singing by the roadside, offering seriously great views. It was certainly time for a breather after all the action.

The high-octane birding continued straight after lunch as another sought-after, unlikely bird ‘just popped-up’ right by our toes, a Rusty-bellied Shortwing was singing in the open just too close depending which brand of binocular you were using!

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We heard another shortwing nearby (Rusty-bellied that is!), and found another co-operative Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler. Feeding flock after feeding flock kept us entertained throughout the afternoon, full of the same
minla, barwings, fulvettas, warblers, sunbirds and shrike babblers we had already enjoyed so much earlier on in the trip. A confiding Scaly-breasted Cupwing showed again when we decided we wouldn’t push our luck and called it a day – and boy what a day!

As we had just about cleaned-up already, we decided that today was the day for ‘the hike’. Back in 2007 when James first visited Mishmi he found a rather long and arduous trail that led to one of the holy grails of Asian birding – Sclater’s Monal. Unfortunately our efforts reaching the look-out point didn’t bring us the results we felt we deserved after a 4 hour slog up the hill! Fulvous Parrotbill was a bonus, but unfortunately other than that, and several White-browed Shortwing we had little to show for our attempts. We did however arrive back to the guesthouse within seconds of an almighty hailstorm! The storm eventually subsided so we ventured downslope, picking up Hodgson’s Hawk Cuckoo and Red-headed Trogon, and once dusk arrived it was just a matter of minutes before a female Hodgson’s Frogmouth was peering down at us in the spotlight. A long drive back up the hill resulted in little except for a Particoloured Flying Squirrel (very rarely seen, a great mammal tick for those interested!).

A final morning here, and a freshly arrived Large-billed Leaf Warbler was present at the pass, singing away. Very pleasant birding was had, though little of real note after spending two weeks in the hills already. A single, distant note of a monal pricked our ears, but alas, it wasn’t meant to be. Venturing down towards the lowlands we made a couple of stops, a pair of Large Blue Flycatcher at one, followed by the most obliging Pale-headed Woodpecker which kept feeding at various points in the roadside bamboo. The drive back to ‘east Assam’s best hotel’, the Hotel Centre Point in Tinsukia was uneventful, and we toasted, with one last sumptuous curry and naan meal what a wonderful time we had all enjoyed.

With a partial morning still available to us we headed back to Digboi for one last effort. This time we were granted permission into the core-area of the reserve, so our hopes were understandably high. We started well, as Les’s long-time bogey bird, a bird we had assured him on a near-daily basis would be easy at some point on this trip FINALLY showed up – Asian Emerald Cuckoo. Inexplicably missing up to this point, the bird did the decent thing and after his display flight landed on the open branches above us, though in the dour weather the scope was required to actually see just how emerald the bird really is. A mimicking Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush briefly raised the alarm, before much further down the road we eventually heard the telltale fluty tune of a dueting pair of Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush. Oddly it took a while to show, but that they did, really nicely, and a superb way to end what had been a quite remarkable 18 days in the Eastern Himalaya.

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.
Grey-sided Bush Warbler and Hume’s Bush Warbler

Streak-throated Barwing and White-browed Bush Robin

Ludlow’s Fulvetta and Green Shrike Babbler
Green Cochoa and Striated Bulbul

Asian Barred Owlet and Yellow-throated Fulvetta

Orange-bellied Leafbird and Blyth’s Pipit
Long-billed Wren Babbler and Sickle-billed Scimitar Babbler

Black-necked Stork and Greater Adjutant

Asian Water Buffalo and Indian Rhinoceros
Black-breasted Parrotbill and Indian Grassbird

Manipur Fulvett and Purple Cochoa

Ward’s Trogon and Crimson-browed Finch
**Systematic List**

**ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**
- **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*
- **Lesser Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica*
- **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
- **Eurasian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*
- **Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
- **Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca*
- **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
- **Indian Spot-billed Duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha*
- **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*
- **Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

**GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**
- **Swamp Francolin** *Francolinus gularis*
- **Hill Partridge** *Lerwa lerwa*
- **Chestnut-breasted Partridge** *Arborophila torqueola*
- **White-cheeked Partridge** *Arborophila mandelli*
- **Rufous-throated Partridge** *Arborophila atrogularis*
- **Blyth’s Tragopan** *Tragopan blythii molesworthi*
- **Temminck’s Tragopan** *Tragopan temminckii*
- **Himalayan Monal** *Lophophorus impejanus*
- **Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus*
- **Kaleej Pheasant** *Lophura leucomelanos lathami*
- **Grey Peacock Pheasant** *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*

**PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**
- **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**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 melanoccephalus*

**CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**
- **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
Purple Heron  
Eastern Great Egret  
Intermediate Egret  
Little Egret  
Indian Pond Heron  
Eastern Cattle Egret  
Striated Heron  
Black-crowned Night Heron  
Black Bittern  
Cinnamon Bittern  
Yellow Bittern

Purple Heron  
Eastern Great Egret  
Intermediate Egret  
Little Egret  
Indian Pond Heron  
Eastern Cattle Egret  
Striated Heron  
Black-crowned Night Heron  
Black Bittern  
Cinnamon Bittern  
Yellow Bittern

**PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**
Great Cormorant  
Little Cormorant  
Oriental Darter  
Spot-billed Pelican

**PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**
Great Cormorant  
Little Cormorant  
Oriental Darter  
Spot-billed Pelican

**ACIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**
Osprey

**ACIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**
Osprey

**ACIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**
Jerdon's Baza  
Himalayan Buzzard  
Oriental Honeybuzzard  
Black-shouldered Kite  
Black Kite  
Black-eared Kite  
Pallas's Fish Eagle  
Grey-headed Fish Eagle  
White-rumped Vulture  
Slender-billed Vulture  
Himalayan Goshawk  
Crested Serpent Eagle  
Pied Harrier  
Crested Goshawk  
Shikra  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk  
Northern Goshawk  
Black Eagle  
Changeable Hawk Eagle  
Mountain Hawk Eagle

**ACIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**
Jerdon's Baza  
Himalayan Buzzard  
Oriental Honeybuzzard  
Black-shouldered Kite  
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Pied Harrier  
Crested Goshawk  
Shikra  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk  
Northern Goshawk  
Black Eagle  
Changeable Hawk Eagle  
Mountain Hawk Eagle

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**
White-breasted Waterhen  
Black-tailed Crane  
Watercock  
Indian Smew  
Common Moorhen

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**
White-breasted Waterhen  
Black-tailed Crane  
Watercock  
Indian Smew  
Common Moorhen

**GRUIFORMES: Otididae**
Bengal Florican

**GRUIFORMES: Otididae**
Bengal Florican

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**
Pheasant-tailed Jacana  
Bronze-winged Jacana

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**
Pheasant-tailed Jacana  
Bronze-winged Jacana

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae**
Barred Buttonquail

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae**
Barred Buttonquail

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**
Small Pratincole

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**
Small Pratincole

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**
River Lapwing
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grey-headed Lapwing</td>
<td>Vanellus cinereus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-wattled Lapwing</td>
<td>Vanellus indicus</td>
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<td>Little Ringed Plover</td>
<td>Charadrius dubius jerdoni</td>
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<td>Pacific Golden Plover</td>
<td>Pluvialis fulva</td>
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<td><strong>CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Solitary Snipe</td>
<td>Gallinago solitaria</td>
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<td>Common Snipe</td>
<td>Gallinago gallinago</td>
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<td>Common Redshank</td>
<td>Tringa totanus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spotted Redshank</td>
<td>Tringa erythropus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marsh Sandpiper</td>
<td>Tringa stagnatilis</td>
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<td>Common Greenshank</td>
<td>Tringa nebularia</td>
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<td>Green Sandpiper</td>
<td>Tringa ochropus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood Sandpiper</td>
<td>Tringa glareola</td>
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<td>Ruff</td>
<td>Philemarchus pugnax</td>
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<td>Temminck's Stint</td>
<td>Ereunetes temminckii</td>
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<td><strong>CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae</strong></td>
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<td>River Tern</td>
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<td><strong>COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Snow Pigeon</td>
<td>Columba leuconota</td>
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<td>Ashy Woodpigeon</td>
<td>Columba pulchricolis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speckled Woodpigeon</td>
<td>Columba hodgsonii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oriental Turtle Dove</td>
<td>Streptopelia orientalis agricola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Collared Dove</td>
<td>Streptopelia tranquebarica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spotted Dove</td>
<td>Streptopelia chinensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laughing Dove</td>
<td>Streptopelia senegalensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barred Cuckoo Dove</td>
<td>Macropygia unchall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerald Dove</td>
<td>Chalcophaes indica</td>
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<td>Ashy-headed Green Pigeon</td>
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<td>Yellow-footed Green Pigeon</td>
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<td>Pin-tailed Green Pigeon</td>
<td>Treron apicauda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon</td>
<td>Treron sphenura</td>
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<td>Green Imperial Pigeon</td>
<td>Ducula aenea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain Imperial Pigeon</td>
<td>Ducula badia</td>
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<td><strong>CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chestnut-winged Cuckoo</td>
<td>Clamator coromandus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Hawk Cuckoo</td>
<td>Hierococcyx sparverioides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo</td>
<td>Hierococcyx nisiclor</td>
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<td>Indian Cuckoo</td>
<td>Cuculus micropterus</td>
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<td>Common Cuckoo</td>
<td>Cuculus canorus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oriental Cuckoo</td>
<td>Cuculus saturatus</td>
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<td>Banded Bay Cuckoo</td>
<td>Cacomantis sonnerati</td>
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<td>Plaintive Cuckoo</td>
<td>Cacomantis merulinus</td>
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<td>Asian Emerald Cuckoo</td>
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<td>Violet Cuckoo</td>
<td>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</td>
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<td>Asian Drongo-Cuckoo</td>
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<td>Asian Koel</td>
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<td>Green-billed Malkoha</td>
<td>Phaenicophaeus tristis</td>
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<td>Greater Coucal</td>
<td>Centropus sinensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesser Coucal</td>
<td>Centropus bengalensis</td>
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<td><strong>STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain Scops Owl</td>
<td>Otus spilocepalus spilocepalus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collared Owlet</td>
<td>Glaucidium brodiei garoense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian Barred Owlet</td>
<td>Glaucidium cuculoides</td>
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<td>Spotted Owlet</td>
<td>Athene brama ultra</td>
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<td>Short-eared Owl</td>
<td>Asio flammeus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Podargidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hodgson's Frogmouth</td>
<td>Batrachostomus hodgsoni</td>
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**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**
- Grey Nightjar: *Caprimulgus jotaka*
- Large-tailed Nightjar: *Caprimulgus macrurus bimaculatus* (heard only)

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**
- Himalayan Swiftlet: *Aerodramus brevirostris brevirostris*
- White-throated Needletail: *Hirundapus caudacutus nudipes*
- Brown-backed Needletail: *Hirundapus giganteus*
- Asian Palm Swift: *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
- Blyth's Swift: *Apus leuconyx*
- House Swift: *Apus [affinis] nipalensis*

**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**
- Red-headed Trogon: *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
- Ward's Trogon: *Harpactes wardi*

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**
- Common Kingfisher: *Alcedo atthis*
- Stork-billed Kingfisher: *Pelargopsis capensis capensis*
- Ruddy Kingfisher: *Halcyon coromanda*
- White-throated Kingfisher: *Halcyon smyrnensis perpulchra*
- Pied Kingfisher: *Ceryle rudis*

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**
- Blue-bearded Bee-eater: *Nyctyornis athertoni*
- Blue-tailed Bee-eater: *Merops philippinus*
- Little Green Bee-eater: *Merops orientalis*
- Chestnut-headed Bee-eater: *Merops leschenaulti*

**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*
- Wreathed Hornbill: *Aceros undulatus*

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

**PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae**
- Yellow-rumped Honeyguide: *Indicator xanthonotus*

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**
- Eurasian Wryneck: *Jynx torquilla*
- White-browed Piculet: *Sasia ochracea*
- Grey-capped Woodpecker: *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
- Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker: *Dendrocopos maei maei*
- Rufous-bellied Woodpecker: *Dendrocopos darjellensis*
- Darjeeling Woodpecker: *Dendrocopos cathpharius*
- Crimson-breasted Woodpecker: *Micropterus brachyrurus phaioceps*
- Rufous Woodpecker: *Picus chlorolophus chlorolophus*
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<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Yellownape</td>
<td>Picus flavinucha lavinucha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Streak-throated Woodpecker</td>
<td>Picus xanthopygaeus</td>
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<td>Grey-faced Woodpecker</td>
<td>Picus canus hessei</td>
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<td>Black-rumped Flameback</td>
<td>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</td>
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<td>Greater Flameback</td>
<td>Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacristatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pale-headed Woodpecker</td>
<td>Gecinulus grantia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Woodpecker</td>
<td>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</td>
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<tr>
<td>FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pied Falconet</td>
<td>Microhierax melanoleucus</td>
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<td>Common Kestrel</td>
<td>Falco tinnunculus</td>
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<td>Amur Falcon</td>
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<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>Falco peregrinus calidus</td>
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<td>PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandrine Parakeet</td>
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<td>Red-breasted Parakeet</td>
<td>Psittacula alexandri</td>
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<td>Vernal Hanging Parrot</td>
<td>Loriculus vernalis</td>
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<td>PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Broadbill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver-breasted Broadbill</td>
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<td>Blue-naped Pitta</td>
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<td>Hooded Pitta</td>
<td>Pitta sordida</td>
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<td>Large Woodshrike</td>
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<td>Common Woodshrike</td>
<td>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike</td>
<td>Hemipus picatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashy Woodswallow</td>
<td>Artamus fuscus</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Iora</td>
<td>Aegithina tiphia</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae</td>
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<td>Large Cuckoo-shrike</td>
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<td>Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike</td>
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<td>Pericrocotus ethologus laetus</td>
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<td>Short-billed Minivet</td>
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<td>Grey-chinned Minivet</td>
<td>Pericrocotus solaris</td>
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<td>Long-tailed Shrike</td>
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<td>Grey-backed Shrike</td>
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<td>Black-headed Shrike Babbler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blyth's Shrike Babbler</td>
<td>Pteruthius aerolatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Shrike Babbler</td>
<td>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</td>
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<td>Black-eared Shrike Babbler</td>
<td>Pteruthius melanotis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erpornis</td>
<td>Erpornis zantholeuca</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
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<tr>
<td>PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-naped Oriole</td>
<td>Oriolus chinensis diffusus</td>
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</table>
Slender-billed Oriole  
Oriolus tenuirostris

Black-hooded Oriole  
Oriolus xanthornus

Maroon Oriole  
Oriolus traillii

**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: Rhipiduridae**

White-throated Fantail  
Rhipidura albicollis

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**

Black-naped Monarch  
Hypothymis azurea

Asian Paradise Flycatcher  
Terpsiphone paradisi

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

Eurasian Jay  
Garrulus glandarius interstinctus

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie  
Urocissa flavirostris flavirostris

Common Green Magpie  
Cissa chinensis

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] levallantii

Large-billed Crow  
Corvus [macrorhynchos] japonensis

**PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae**

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher  
Culicicapa ceylonensis

Yellow-bellied Fantail  
Chelidorhynx hypoaxantha

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

Coal Tit  
Periparus ater aemodius

Grey-crested Tit  
Lophophanes dichrous dichrous

Rufous-vented Tit  
Parus rubidiventris

Cinereous 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: Remizidae**

Fire-capped Tit  
Cephalopyrus flammiceps

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

Bengal Bushlark  
Mirafra assamica

Sand Lark  
Calandrella rayal rayal

Greater Short-toed Lark  
Calandrella brachydactyla dukhenensis

Oriental Skylark  
Alauda gulgula vernayi

**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

Striated Bulbul  
Pycnonotus striatus

Black-crested Bulbul  
Pycnonotus flaviventris

Red-whiskered Bulbul  
Pycnonotus jocosus

Red-vented Bulbul  
Pycnonotus cafer

White-throated Bulbul  
Alophoixus flaveolus

Ashy Bulbul  
Hemixos flavala flavala

Mountain Bulbul  
Ixos mclellandii mclellandii

Himalayan Black Bulbul  
Hypsipetes leucocephalus
### PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae
- Grey-throated Martin: *Riparia chinensis*
- Barn Swallow: *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*
- Red-rumped Swallow: *Cecropis daurica japonica*
- Striated Swallow: *Cecropis striolata*
- Asian House Martin: *Delichon dasypus*

### PASSERIFORMES: Pnoepygidae
- Scaly-breasted Cupwing: *Pnoepyga albiventer*
- Pygmy Cupwing: *Pnoepyga pusilla*

### PASSERIFORMES: Cettidae
- Hume's Bush Warbler: *Horornis [acanthizoides] brunnescens*
- Slaty-bellied Tesia: *Tesia olivae*
- Grey-bellied Tesia: *Tesia cyaniventer*
- Chestnut-headed Tesia: *Cettia castaneocoronata*
- Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler: *Cettia fortipes fortipes*
- Grey-sided Bush Warbler: *Cettia brunnifrons muroides*
- Rufous-faced Warbler: *Abroscopus albogularis*
- Yellow-bellied Warbler: *Abroscopus superciliaris*
- Black-faced Warbler: *Abroscopus schisticeps flavimentalis*
- Broad-billed Warbler: *Tickellia hodgsoni*
- Mountain Tailorbird: *Phyllogrates cuculatus*

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

### PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae
- Dusky Warbler: *Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*
- Tickell's Leaf Warbler: *Phylloscopus affinis*
- Buff-barred Warbler: *Phylloscopus pulcher*
- Ashy-throated Warbler: *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
- Lemon-rumped Leaf Warbler: *Phylloscopus chloronotus chloronotus*
- Yellow-browed Warbler: *Phylloscopus inornatus*
- Hume's Leaf Warbler: *Phylloscopus humei mandellii*
- Greenish Warbler: *Phylloscopus trochiloides trochiloides*
- Large-billed Leaf Warbler: *Phylloscopus magnirostris*
- Blyth's Leaf Warbler: *Phylloscopus reguloides reguloides*
- Yellow-vented Warbler: *Phylloscopus cantator*
- Grey-hooded Warbler: *Phylloscopus xanthochis*
- Whistler's Warbler: *Seicercus whistleri whistleri*
- White-spectacled Warbler: *Seicercus affinis*
- Grey-cheeked Warbler: *Seicercus poliogenys*
- Chestnut-crowned Warbler: *Seicercus castaniceps*

### PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae
- Indian Reed Warbler: *Acrocephalus [stentoreus] brunnescens* heard only
- Thick-billed Warbler: *Acrocephalus aedon*
- Blyth's Reed Warbler: *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
- Blunt-winged Warbler: *Acrocephalus concinens stevensi*

### PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae
- Spotted Bush Warbler: *Locustella thoracicus*
- Baikal Bush Warbler: *Locustella davidii*
- Russet Bush Warbler: *Locustella mandelli* heard only
- Chinese Bush Warbler: *Locustella luteoventris*
- Striated Grassbird: *Megalurus palustris*

### PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae
- Zitting Cisticola: *Cisticola juncidis*
- Golden-headed Cisticola: *Cisticola exilis tytleri*
- Dark-necked Tailorbird: *Orthotomus atrogularis*
Common Tailorbird
Orthotomus sutorius
Black-throated Prinia
Prinia atrogularis atrogularis
Grey-breasted Prinia
Prinia hodgsonii rufula
Yellow-bellied Prinia
Prinia flaviventris flaviventris
Ashy Prinia
Prinia socialis stewarti
Plain Prinia
Prinia inornata fusca

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

Chestnut-capped Babbler
Timalia pileata
Pin-striped Tit Babbler
Mixornis gularis
Rufous-fronted Babbler
Cyanoderma rufifrons ambiguа
Rufous-capped Babbler
Cyanoderma ruficeps ruficeps
Golden Babbler
Cyanoderma chrysaeum
Rufous-throated Wren Babbler
Spelaeornis caudatus
Mishmi Wren Babbler
Spelaeornis badeigularis
Bar-winged Wren Babbler
Spelaeornis troglodytoides sherriffi
White-browed Scimitar Babbler
Pomatorhinus schisticeps
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler
Pomatorhinus rufocollis godwini
Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler
Pomatorhinus ferruginosus
Red-billed Scimitar Babbler
Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps
Sickle-billed Scimitar Babbler
Pomatorhinus superciliaris
Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler
Stachyris humei
Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler
Stachyris roberti
Grey-throated Babbler
Stachyris nigriceps nigricollis heard only
White-hooded Babbler
Gampsorhynchus rufulus
Yellow-throated Fulvetta
Schoeniparus cinereus
Rufous-winged Fulvetta
Schoeniparus castaneiceps
Puff-throated Babbler
Pellorneum ruficeps
Marsh Babbler
Pellorneum palustre
Long-billed Wren Babbler
Napothera malacoptilus
Eye-browed Wren Babbler
Napothera epilophoda guttaticollis heard only
Abbott's Wren Babbler
Turdinus abbotti abbotti
Indian Grassbird
Graminicola bengalensis
Manipur Fulvetta
Alcippe manipurensis
Nepal Fulvetta
Alcippe nipalensis nipalensis
Ludlow's Fulvetta
Alcippe ludlowi
Striated Laughingthrush
Grammatoptila striata
Himalayan Cutia
Cutia nipalensis
Bhutan Laughingthrush
Trochalopteron imbricatum
Scaly Laughingthrush
Trochalopteron subunicolor
Blue-winged Laughingthrush
Trochalopteron squamatus
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush
T. erythrocephalum nigrimentum
Black-faced Laughingthrush
Turdoïdes affinis bethalae
Slender-billed Babbler
Turdoïdes longirostris
Striated Babbler
Turdoïdes earleī
Spotted Laughingthrush
Iantherocincla ocellatus ocellata
Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush
Iantherocincla nuchalis
Rufous-necked Laughingthrush
Iantherocincla ruficollis
Grey-sided Laughingthrush
Iantherocincla caeruleus caeruleus
White-crested Laughingthrush
Garrulax leucopholus leucopholus
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush
Garrulax monileger monileger
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush
Garrulax pectoralis pectoralis
Long-tailed Sibia
Heterophasia picaoides
Beautiful Sibia
Heterophasia pulchella nigroaurita
Silver-earred Mesia
Leiothrix argentauris argentauris
Red-billed Leiothrix
Leiothrix ruficapilla heard only
Red-tailed Minla
Minla ignotincta
Rufous-backed Sibia
Minla annectens
Crimson-faced Liocichla
Liocichla phoeonica
Bugun Liocichla
Liocichla bugunorum
Rusty-fronted Barwing
Actinodura egertoni
Hoary-throated Barwing
Actinodura nipalensis
Streak-throated Barwing
Actinodura waldeni daflaensis
Actinodura waldeni saturatior
Blue-winged Minla
Actinodura c. cyanouroptera
Chestnut-tailed Minla
Actinodura strigula yunnanensis
Fire-tailed Myzornis
Myzornis pyrrhoptera

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae

Black-breasted Parrotbill
Paradoxornis flavirostris
Fulvous Parrotbill
Sinornis fulvifrons
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<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Species</th>
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<td><strong>PASSERIFORMES:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Zosteropidae</strong></td>
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<td>Oriental White-eye</td>
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<td>Stripe-throated Yuhina</td>
<td>Yuhina gularis gularis</td>
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<td>Rufous-vented Yuhina</td>
<td>Yuhina occipitalis</td>
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<td>Black-chinned Yuhina</td>
<td>Yuhina nigrimenta</td>
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<td><strong>Irenidae</strong></td>
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<td>Asian Fairy Bluebird</td>
<td>Irena puella</td>
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<td><strong>Regulidae</strong></td>
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<td>Goldcrest</td>
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<td><strong>Elachuridae</strong></td>
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<td>Rusty-flanked Treecreeper</td>
<td>Certhia nipalensis</td>
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<td><strong>Sturnidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Hill Myna</td>
<td>Gracula religiosa peninsularis</td>
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<td>Jungle Myna</td>
<td>Acridotheres fuscus</td>
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<td>Common Myna</td>
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<td>Asian Pied Starling</td>
<td>Gracupica contra</td>
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<td>Chestnut-tailed Starling</td>
<td>Sturnia malabarica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange-headed Thrush</td>
<td>Geokichla citrina citrina</td>
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<td>Zoothera dauma</td>
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<td>Turdus albocinctus</td>
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<td>Grey-winged Blackbird</td>
<td>Turdus boulboul</td>
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<td>Black-throated Thrush</td>
<td>Turdus [ruficollis] atrocularis</td>
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<td>Turdus eunomus</td>
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<td><strong>Muscicapidae</strong></td>
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<td>Dark-sided Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Ferruginous Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Ficedula strophiata</td>
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<td>Snowy-browed Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Ultramarine Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Slaty-blue Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Sapphire Blue Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Scientific Name</td>
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<td>Verditer Flycatcher</td>
<td>Eumyias thalassina</td>
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<td>Large Niltava</td>
<td>Niltava grandis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Niltava</td>
<td>Niltava macgrigoriae</td>
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<td>Rufous-bellied Niltava</td>
<td>Niltava sundara</td>
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<td>Large Blue Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Pygmy Blue Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Himalayan Rubythroat</td>
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<td>Bluethroat</td>
<td>Lusciniia sveica sveica</td>
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<td>Himalayan Bluetail</td>
<td>Tarsiger rufilatus</td>
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<td>Golden Bush Robin</td>
<td>Tarsiger chrysaeus chrysaeus</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-browed Bush Robin</td>
<td>Tarsiger indic</td>
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<td>Oriental Magpie Robin</td>
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<td>White-rumped Shama</td>
<td>Copsychus malabaricus indic</td>
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<td>Plumbeous Redstart</td>
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<td>Little Forktail</td>
<td>Enicurus sculieri</td>
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<td>Blue Whistling Thrush</td>
<td>Myophonus caeruleus eugenei</td>
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<td>Green Cochoa</td>
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<td>Grey Bushchat</td>
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<td>Blue-capped Rock Thrush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush</td>
<td>Monticola rufiventris</td>
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<td>Blue Rock Thrush</td>
<td>Monticola solitarius</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gould's Shortwing</td>
<td>Heteroxenicus stellata</td>
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<td>Lesser Shortwing</td>
<td>Brachypteryx leucophrys nipalensis</td>
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<td>Rusty-bellied Shortwing</td>
<td>Brachypteryx hyperthra</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-browed Shortwing</td>
<td>Brachypteryx montana crulias</td>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae**

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<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown Dipper</td>
<td>Cinclus pallasis dorjei</td>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golden-fronted Leafbird</td>
<td>Chloropsis aurifrons aurifrons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange-bellied Leafbird</td>
<td>Chloropsis hardwickii hardwickii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-winged Leafbird</td>
<td>Chloropsis c. chlorocepha</td>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-vented Flowerpecker</td>
<td>Dicaeum chrysorrheum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker</td>
<td>Dicaeum melanoxanthum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plain Flowerpecker</td>
<td>Dicaeum minullium</td>
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<td>Fire-breasted Flowerpecker</td>
<td>Dicaeum ignipactus</td>
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<td>Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker</td>
<td>Dicaeum cruentatum</td>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruby-cheeked Sunbird</td>
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<td>Purple Sunbird</td>
<td>Cinnyris asiaticus intermedius</td>
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<td>Mrs Gould's Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga gouldiae isolata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green-tailed Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga nipalensis nipalensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-throated Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga saturata assamensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crimson Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga siparaja labecula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire-tailed Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga ignicauda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaked Spiderhunter</td>
<td>Arachnothera magna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baya Weaver</td>
<td>Ploceus philippinus burmanicus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-breasted Weaver</td>
<td>Ploceus benghalensis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae
- White-rumped Munia: Lonchura striata acuticauda
- Scaly-breasted Munia: Lonchura punctulata subundulata

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

### PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae
- Rufous-breasted Accentor: Prunella strophiata

### PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae
- White (East Siberian) Wagtail: Motacilla alba ocularis
- Himalayan Wagtail: Motacilla alba alboides
- Citrine Wagtail: Motacilla citreola citreola
- ‘Tibetan’ Wagtail: Motacilla [citreola] calcarata
- Western Yellow Wagtail: Motacilla flava thunbergi
- Eastern Yellow Wagtail: Motacilla tschutschensis
- Grey Wagtail: Motacilla cinerea
- Paddyfield Pipit: Anthus rubrulus
- Blyth’s Pipit: Anthus godlewskii
- Olive-backed Pipit: Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni
- ‘Tibetan’ Wagtail: Motacilla [citreola] calcarata
- Rosy Pipit: Anthus roseatus

### PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae
- Plain Mountain Finch: Leucosticte nemoricola
- Brandt’s Mountain Finch: Leucosticte brandti
- Crimson-browed Finch: Pinicola subhimachala
- Dark-breasted Rosefinch: Carpodacus nipalensis
- Common Rosefinch: Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus
- Dark-rumped Rosefinch: Carpodacus edwardsii
- Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch: Carpodacus thura
- Brown Bullfinch: Pyrrhula nipalensis
- Red-headed Bullfinch: Pyrrhula erythrocephala
- Grey-headed Bullfinch: Pyrrhula erythaca
- Collared Grosbeak: Mycerobas affinis
- White-winged Grosbeak: Mycerobas carnipes
- Common Crossbill: Loxia curvirostra himalayana
- Gold-naped Finch: Pyrrhulectes epauletta
- Scarlet Finch: Haematospiza sipahi

### PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae
- Crested Bunting: Melophas lathami
- Little Bunting: Emberiza pusilla

### Mammals
- Black Giant Squirrel: Ratufa bicolor
- Orange-bellied Squirrel: Dremomys lokriah
- Pallas’s Squirrel: Callosciurus erythraeus
- Irrawaddy Squirrel: Callosciurus pygerythrus
- Himalayan Striped Squirrel: Tamiops macclellandi
- Particoloured Flying Squirrel: Hylotyes alboniger
- Asian Palm Civet: Paradoxurus hermaphroditus
- Small Indian Mongoose: Herpestes auropunctatus
- Smooth Otter: Lutrogale perspicillata
- Indian Flying Fox: Pteropus giganteus
- Capped Langur: Trachypithecus pileatus
- Assam Macaque: Macaca assamensis
- Rhesus Macaque: Macaca mulatta
- Western Hoolock Gibbon: Hoolock hoolock
- Hoolock leuconedys: heard only
- Eastern Hoolock Gibbon: Hoolock leuconedys
- Northern Treeshrew: Tupaia belangeri
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ganges River Dolphin</td>
<td><em>Platanista gangetica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Wild Pig</td>
<td><em>Sus Scrofa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Muntjac</td>
<td><em>Muntiacus muntjak</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Deer</td>
<td><em>Cervus duvauceli</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambar</td>
<td><em>Cervus unicolor</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hog Deer</td>
<td><em>Axis porcinus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Water Buffalo</td>
<td><em>Bubalus arnee</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Rhinoceros</td>
<td><em>Rhinoceros unicornis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Elephant</td>
<td><em>Elephas maximus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**508 species recorded including 20 heard only**

For information regarding our tours to north-east India please click [here](#). Alternatively please contact us via [e-mail](mailto:) regarding organising a custom tour to India.