Eastern Himalaya
Eaglenest, Assam and Mishmi Hills
17th April – 5th May 2017
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Participants: Dick Byrne, Nigel Hewitt, Andy and Gill Swash and David Garner

This mammoth tour of the Eastern Himalaya lived up to everything it was set up to be – we recorded a total of 455 species, but as always in this region, it is quality, not quantity that impressed us most. We began in western Arunachal Pradesh, soaking up Fire-tailed Myzornis, Himalayan Monal, Snow Partridge and the newly-described Himalayan Forest Thrush and its Alpine counterpart amid the dramatic alpine landscape at Se La before spending four days inside the now well-known Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary. The park’s main prize, Bugun Liocichla was seen well, though it was up against stiff competition as the highlight of our stay with Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, Long-billed Wren Babbler, Ward’s Trogon, fiery-red Blyth’s Tragopan, Rufous-vented Laughingthrush and outrageous views of Chestnut-breasted Partridge all competing for top-spot. 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, Bengal Florican and Black-breasted Parrotbill, while the surrounding forests held Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush, Pale-chinned Flycatcher and Collared Treepie. Back up in the hills, at Mishmi, we finished the tour off with a bang – several Gould’s and Rusty-bellied Shortwings singing away, walkaway Hodgson’s Frogmouth, Mishmi Wren Babbler, Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler and, topping it all off, absolutely outrageous views of a party of Beautiful Nuthatch at eye-level.
After gathering 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 several 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, with little activity on the river we birded the surrounding scrub, which held the resident race of Blunt-winged Warbler (surely a little-known future split), a wintering Thick-billed Warbler was also cooperative as was a single Blyth’s Reed Warbler, while Striated Grassbirds were prominent both by voice and sight.

Meandering our way up the bamboo-dominated foothills inside Arunachal Pradesh produced a few noteworthy birds; Yellow-vented Warbler below eye-level, followed by the classic bamboo-dominated foothill species – White-hooded Babblers mixed with Black-browed Parrotbills, Pale-headed Woodpecker, White-browed Scimitar Babbler and White-browed Piculet, just the Red-billed Scimitar Babbler missing! After White-throated Bulbuls and a Crested Goshawk displaying overhead we set off, with just a couple of minor birding stops, before arriving into the cozy hotel in Dirang in the late afternoon, with an Orange-headed Thrush singing away to welcome us by the entrance.

Our first days proper birding was spent either above-and-below of the highland village of Mandala at around 3,000m. Below the ridge the mixed forest produced a whole array of enticing Himalayan birds and a kaleidoscope of colour that would take us a while to figure out. Warblers, fantails, flycatchers, yuhinas, sunbirds, fulvettas – they were coming thick-and-fast though we all realized that a flock of Grey-headed Bullfinch were worth scoping, especially as it contained a single Red-headed and in addition, Crimson-browed Finch perched nearby. Streak-throated and Hoary-throated Barwing were next (seemingly a mixed pair of this
dubious species divide), then Grey-winged Blackbird appeared while the often furtive Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush was feeding on the grassy verge, along with a confiding, knackered Little Bunting. The fluty melody of a Blue-fronted Robin grabbed our attention next, and true to form it kept itself low and evasive but tantalized us by perching up for precious seconds on two occasions.

Higher, 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, second and third feeding flocks were an absolute feast – Blanford’s Rosefinches, Golden Bush Robin, Rufous-vented and Stripe-throated Yuhinas, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Phylloscopus warblers such as Buff-barred, Ashy-throated and Lemon-rumped Warblers, Whistler’s Warblers, Coal, Yellow-browed and Grey-crested Tits, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, Ludlow’s Fulvetta, Slaty-blue and Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers, seven male Red-headed Bullfinches and Gold-naped Finch.

Taking our eyes off the flocks momentarily we stared into the tangled undergrowth to appreciate the finer things in life as a Bar-winged Wren Babbler, one of the most intricately marked of all wren babblers sat out and performed for us. This was followed up by one of the finest songsters and beautifully patterned of all Laughingthrushes; Spotted Laughingthrush.

Birding a more bamboo-dominated landscape gave us several new species that had been missing – Hume’s Bush Warbler, Sickle-billed Scimitar Babbler, Brown Parrotbill, while Himalayan Forest Thrush appeared twice, though too brief for most of us. In an open area of rotting roots, four Black-throated Thrush were lingering on to enjoy the feast and a Mountain Hawk Eagle cruised by. On the return home, A White-collared Blackbird was singing from a prominent perch before we reached the farmland and prolonged views of a Russet Bush Warbler buzzing away.

The high mountains around Se La (a 4,200m pass) were glorious in the early morning sunlight, as was the birding. Stunningly, one of the first species encountered was a party of six Fire-tailed Myzornis, soaking up the early morning sun, and these additional birds would occasionally reappear over the next hour. At the tree-line, the stunted conifers were a hive of activity, even more so than usual as being later in the Spring many species were just regaining their territories after a winter lower down. Golden Bush Robins chased and harried, Himalayan White-browed, Dark-rumped and Dark-breasted Rosefinches regularly appeared and fine views of a singing Himalayan Forest Thrush were had this time. A new rubbish dump attracted a flock of Snow Pigeon, making them much easier than usual. A pair of Blood Pheasant were next up, crossing a landslide right on queue. Venturing into the forest to find more, a pair of which ran out to the group, James flushed up a male Himalayan Monal which basked in the increasingly bright sunlight from the comforts of a tree, with another male, and female, nearby. In addition, two Himalayan Brown Goral were also sat in clear view, seemingly asleep. Moving higher, a distant Alpine Thrush was heard singing but remained too distant to locate so we headed over the pass and down to the other side, adding a single Tibetan Blackbird but little else for our troubles. The weather was starting to close in, and just as we found a party of Grandala floating overhead in the gathering gloom, a deluge of rain, mist and wind knocked us back into the vehicles, deciding to descend we had an emergency stop as a pair of Snow Partridge were sat, silhouetted against the misty backdrop, and were completely drenched, like us! We had to spiral all the way down to the valley bottom to find clearer skies and some mildly productive birding including our only Indian Blue Robin of the trip and several Bhutan Laughingthrushes.

With a handful of species evading us the previous day we headed back to Se La to mop-up. Once again a beautiful dawn greeted us, as did several species missed the previous day including Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks, Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, White-browed Bush Robin and slightly improved views of a pair of
Grandala gliding overhead, though this wasn’t to last long and we had to run round pretty quick – three Alpine Thrush were singing away from their rocky song perches, such a contrast to the forest-dwelling Himalayan Forest Thrush it was formerly considered conspecific with. The weather then closed in, but despite the dreadfully poor visibility another pair of Fire-tailed Myzornis appeared close-by and finally a pair of Rufous-breasted Bush Robin were located – a clean-sweep allowed us back down in time for lunch and a drive 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, and Critically Endangered 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. It was Spot-winged Grosbeak that first grabbed our attentions as four birds sat above us, a welcome distraction from staring into the scrub, though within minutes James located a pair of liocichla but it took some time before they eventually reappeared further downslope. We then enjoyed watching a pair quietly feeding in the undergrowth for more than 15 minutes, occasionally popping up to the top, the red-tipped male and yellow-tipped female of this Critically Endangered species that is still only known from three localities and less than 10 pairs, quite amazing when you see the trash habitat they so love! Then the misted rolled in – a Blue-winged Laughingthrush appeared for some of us, so typical of this species and would prove that way throughout the tour, though a party of White-breasted Parrotbill showed way better. Later, a huge mixed feeding flock contained Blyth’s Shrike Babbler, the parrotbills once more, and several Himalayan Cutia – we would go on to see this charismatic species several times during the tour.

Success! Time to leave Lama camp, though a short walk up a trail produced a splendid male Black-headed Shrike Babbler practically at eye-level and a heard-only Ward’s Trogon tantalized us. We headed up and over Eaglenest pass, shrouded in mist and down the other side, still in mist! This would be a reoccurring theme over the coming days unfortunately. Lunch was enjoyed before we ventured back into the forest, hitting a small feeding flock with Streak-throated Barwing and Green Shrike Babbler, a small party of Brown Bullfinch, while the undergrowth held Broad-billed Warbler, Himalayan Shortwing and Scaly Laughingthrush before we headed further down, as the gloom gathered once more. Fortunately, our usual pair of Ward’s Trogon were still on territory and the male came straight in, perching high, meaning to get alongside it we had to trudge up through the thick ferny undergrowth and eventually get up close and personal with a pair of trogons busy sailing around and above us until dusk.

It’s always a big day, around what was formerly Sessni camp. Loads of mega birds possible and usually it takes a lot of time and persistent to drag them all out, one-by-one, but today was one of those days when everything clicked and was probably the best day of the whole tour for specialties and excitement levels. It took a while to get going, with the dampness lingering in the early morning air and it was a couple of hours before things kicked on – first up, the whole reason this tour was setup in the first place, with our one-and-only Elachura finally heard and putting in a vague appearance when it was expected to do so, great for Nigel, his penultimate family now crossed off the list. Things began to look up – the miniature kiwi - Long-billed Wren Babbler was next, with a pair scuttling down to greet us, regularly perching on open branches in their little arena, swiftly being followed by one of the hardest birds to connect with in the area, Sikkim Wedge-billed...
Babbler that performed way, way beyond expectations, as this arch super-skulker pranced around on bare branches and a mossy log allowing close scrutiny of it’s intricate plumage. Unfortunately, from this point on, the weather turned from already sub-optimal to downright useless! A pair of Beautiful Nuthatch, such a hard species at this time of the year perched directly overhead in a leafless tree but due to the dense fog it took minutes for some of us to even see them, let alone discern any plumage detail! As lunch was now approaching we decided to try and get below the weather, to the bamboo foothills around the settlement of Khellong. Sure enough, we got away from the mist but, entered the rain – there was no getting away from the weather so onward we went. A ridiculously successful purple-patch followed. First up was a singing Large Blue Flycatcher, full of mimicry and mournful notes, so different from the other regional Cyornis flycatchers. As the rain descended further on us, a small party of White-crested Laughingthrush, such a charismatic species, cross the road in front of us, and seemingly leading a huge mixed-flock containing several Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler, then followed several rufous-tailed birds – Rufous-vented Laughingthrushes! Left open-mouthed as one of Asia’s most difficult species crossed in front of us, one-by-one we had at least 20 of them, jumping up tangled vines offering the best views James has ever had of the species (and only the third sighting anywhere). Once these had passed we found one more feeding flock, the classic bamboo flock here, 16 White-hooded Babblers, several Black-browed Parrotbill and Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, all this before the thick mist joined the heavy downpour meaning an early bath for us. On the way up several Kalij Pheasant stood on the road, trying their best to avoid the soaking, cold undergrowth!

Unfortunately, the next day was just very, very wet and misty. We managed to pull in a Rufous-throated Wren Babbler in the morning, but then that was it, for the rest of the day! Even Rufous-necked Hornbill evaded us, despite perching right in front of us, all we could hear was its call and wingbeats. A pair of Slaty-bellied Tesia were close enough to see their bright orange gapes however and a Rufous-backed Sibia was new, then the odd bird here-and-there but otherwise it was a day largely to forget and enjoy the milk teas and bhaji’s!

Hoping for clearer weather and a need for hornbills we headed straight back down to Sessni, just in time for sunrise and lovely views of a male Rufous-necked Hornbill in a fruiting tree, then the weather closed in once more. We moved back up towards Bomphu, with Chestnut-breasted Partridges toying with us, we enjoyed few birds bar the front vehicles managing three separate Scaly Thrushes flushed from the road as the rain began to increase as the mist swirled around us. With plenty still to see, we opted for an early lunch then the unthinkable happened – the clouds parted and all of a sudden, the sun appeared! During a magical two hours of dry, clear conditions we went to town on the specialities. A battle through the bamboo took us well off the road but we were richly rewarded as a regional-endemic Chestnut-breasted Partridge strolled back-and-forth, just below us, regularly in clear view for over half an hour before we left it in peace. On the walk back we had ridiculous views of a tame pair of Rufous-throated Wren Babblers, before the bamboo starting dripping once more, only this time not with rain but with Black-throated Parrotbills! Well over 40 of them, also containing Golden-breasted Lioparus (= fulvetta) and a White-spectacled Warbler (a late returning bamboo-specialist in the Eastern Himalaya). Back on the road, elated, we had our first Red-crowned Bush tits too, then, out of nowhere the crying calls of a Blyth’s Tragopan emanated down the road. Not wanting to mess it up, we carefully chose a spot where we hoped the bird might appear below us, roughly where we thought he might be hiding. Incredibly, within a couple of minutes of our patient silence the rustling of the leaf-litter become louder and louder, then a flash of crimson was glimpsed before the tragopan suddenly appeared right beneath us, crimson breast and orange throat glowing as it thundered straight towards us, took one look at us, then
realizing the error of its way to turned around and took flight, back down the slope! It attempted a second try but this time just jumped out of the undergrowth and away, for good. After that high the weather descended once more, and our brief attempt to get out at Eaglenest pass was a horrid time, as the thick mist was this time combined with a gale howling around us!! How we had managed the birds we did with such weather was a real blessing! Fortunately, down at Lama Camp the weather cleared sufficiently for us to enjoy several hawkimg Grey Nightjars at last.

We gave ourselves a few hours birding from Lama Camp on the final morning, noting a few additional species, including a fine female Black-headed Shrike Babbler, great looks at several Chestnut-headed and a single Grey-bellied Tesia, Hume’s Treecreeper and excellent views of a surprisingly lowdown Yellow-rumped Honeyguide attending his bee-hive, before the long drive back down the hills, in the thickest fog I think any of us have witnessed before, with a brief moments respite providing Sultan Tit, Lesser Yellownape and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch to the humidity of the Assamese floodplains. A late lunch at Nameri Ecocamp enabled us to visit the Pygmy Hog captive breeding program, and wild Capped Langurs before heading back over the Brahmaputra and east to our very comfortable lodge, and welcome hot showers outside Kaziranga.

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 one day and a morning to enjoy Asia’s closest thing to the Serengeti there is always a tinge of disappointment that entry to the park is a full three hours after sunrise! To make up for these lost hours we visit the nearby Tea Estate, picking up a displaying Bengal Bushlark over breakfast. A pair of Rosy Minivets soon appeared, then Indian Cuckoo, Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Plain Flowerpecker, Rufous-fronted Babbler and, right at the death, Pale-chinned Flycatcher, before the heavens opened once more and we all made a mad dash for the vehicles!

Fortunately, the rains cleared just as we were entering the ‘Central Range’ of the park proper. Occasional stops revealed huge numbers of game, primarily made up of Hog and Swamp Deer (though numbers were still noticeably down after the monsoon of 2013 wiping out up to 40% of the population), Asian Water Buffalo and Indian Rhinoceros. Complimenting this spectacle was the sheer number of birds – Asian Openbills, Black-necked and Painted Storks, Lesser Adjutants, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Pallas’s Fish Eagles, Streak-throated Woodpecker and a magnificent Great Hornbill feeding low down in a roadside fruiting tree with Yellow-footed Green Pigeons. Swamp Francolin appeared briefly close to one vehicle but otherwise the birding was quite quiet. A large area of the range was closed due to the recent floods but careful scrutiny of the roadside grass eventually revealed one of the regions most difficult and seldom-seen species, Indian Grassbird. Despite remaining feet away for some time it was so hard to see even bits of the bird as it largely sat motionless, or creeping quietly through, calling occasionally – a nice bonus. A Slender-billed Vulture flew high overhead, with Changeable Hawk Eagle and Oriental Honeybuzzard also making appearances.

We birded the Western Range in the afternoon, always full of game and birds. In one scope view we had rhino, buffalo, elephant, deers, Greater Adjutant, Black-necked Stork and Wild Pig – where else could that possibly happen?! Birding was quite slowing, but pleasant with Small Minivet, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Streak-throated Woodpecker, perched Slender-billed Vulture and Himalayan Griffon, a close adult Pallas’s Fish Eagle and an ‘Indochinese’ Roller in wonderful light, sunbathing on the track had the photographers salivating. Again, half the drive was off-limits due to the floods, making our lives difficult for tracking down Slender-billed Babbler, but we did get a party of Swamp Francolin, distantly, fighting, jumping up, wings flapping, making a nice end to the day.

A walk from the lodge before breakfast was pleasant enough – more Rosy Minivet, Red Muntjac, a breeding colony of Baya Weaver and Grey-faced Woodpecker. Then it was back into the Central Range, with the drier
weather the mammals were noticeably thinner on the ground though a group of 10 Smooth Otter, periscoping in the water was a joy to watch. We finally found a pair of Slender-billed Babbler, though the high winds were keeping them low to the ground making life difficult for us with just brief perched views after they flew around a bit. A huge, presumed Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle in the shallows beside us was a surprise and a lifer for James!

It was then time to hit the road, and what an appalling road and scene the drive east to Tinsukia is – road widening appears to have been abandoned, pot-holes are everywhere, with just a general state of decay about the road here makes for one of the less pleasant journeys of the trip! Needless to say, we arrived later than expected to the hotel, but dinner was worth the wait, a North Indian culinary delight – the best of the tour, as per the norm here!

A morning at Digboi Oilfields followed, this year access inside the oilfields was allowed, allowing us the areas two specialities within half an hour of arrival! Straight after breakfast we heard a Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush and with some careful planning we picked the right spot to watch a pair displaying for ten minutes – tails fanned and quivering from side-to-side, regularly in clear view for this unique opportunity, never before had we seen this display. Collared Treepie then appeared, the first of a handful of this striking bird. The oilfield always provides enjoyable birding, and we picked off a range of species either new or seen previous, with notable species being Rufous Woodpecker, Blue-throated Flycatcher, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Rufous-faced Warbler, perched Asian Emerald Cuckoo, White-throated and Ashy Bulbuls, white male Blyth’s Paradise-flycatcher, Red-headed Trogon, Rufous-necked, Greater and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes and an obliging Thick-billed Warbler. Given our early success we were able to spend the afternoon at Maguri Grasslands, close to 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. Spotted Bush Warbler showed extremely well, as did several Striated Babbler and Yellow Bitterns while Striated Grassbirds were in full aerial display. However, it had been so wet that we had to take a boat to the ‘babbler area’, where usually it’s a pleasant walk! Despite James’s earlier assertions that we look for the babbles from foot, there we were, huddled together under umbrellas in our dugout canoes waiting for the show to begin. Jerdon’s Babbler predictably perched up, a pair showing really well, looking and acting more parrotbill-like than babbler (and hence, why they are now considered Sylviidae). Marsh Babbler then called, and would continue to do so until we both got bored of hearing each other, while the rain lashed down on us, in between the bouts of heavy rain Black-faced Buntings, Smoky Warbler, Black-breasted Weavers, Chestnut-capped Babbler and a singing male Chinese Rubythroat put in appearances though it wasn’t to be with the babbler – we would have to return!

It was now time for our next foray into the hills, this time to north-easternmost Arunachal Pradesh. With the usual route across the Brahmaputra flooded (have I mentioned it was a wet trip??) we had to take a rather more circuitous route across. On the other side, some fine lowland forest persists, and a Hooded Pitta flying across the road gave us the incentive to briefly stop. We soon located the pitta, perched at eye-level, calling away, and a Pale-chinned Flycatcher was also perched nearby. We arrived at the base of the foothills in reasonable time, even after a clutch failure, enough in fact to head down to Dering Floodplain where a regal male Bengal Florican was waiting for us! This critically endangered bird is in steep decline in India, Nepal and Cambodia as hunting and conversion of its natural grassland habitat into agriculture, with just a few hundred displaying birds left, though this area has proved to be one of the last remaining strongholds.

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
Misty, but dry around the pass we began our search along the road for what was once one of Asia’s most little-known, but most-wanted gems; Gould’s Shortwing. In recent years they have become slightly more prominent in the region, and this morning we would see four singing individuals, including some wonderful views perched at the roadside. For the rest of the morning we were largely reacquainting ourselves with old friends from Eaglenest with some subtle differences – a more prominent race of Streak-throated Barwing, a grey-throated race of Beautiful Sibia and also some classic Eastern Himalaya species like Black-headed Shrike Babbler. Mist and rain were now in full force, but that didn’t stop us further down enticing a Rusty-bellied Shortwing to play, and boy did it – perching on completely exposed branches but how Andy got the photo he did given the weather conditions really showed the difference between pro and amateur! A few hours of complete frustration followed, copious amounts of milk tea in the little iron ‘hotel’, a term used rather loosely here, complete with a pig as acting receptionist, as the rain and thick mist just wouldn’t relent until mid-afternoon. Once it did we were straight out and enjoy some excellent birding as the birds needed a break, too. Mind-blowing views of Himalayan Cutia was first up then lower down much better views of Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler as a pair sneaked around in front of us. After checking into the Mayodia Guesthouse – renowned more for its views than its facilities we went back out for a final hours birding. Manipur Fulvetta was new for the group, Sickle-billed Scimitar Babbler appeared once more, and it was great to be back in the land of the Green-tailed Sunbird, a singing Gould’s Shortwing remained unseen, and a reminder of the goodies that lay in wait for us here.

In the morning clear skies and sunshine greeted us, at last, the first time in a week – we just knew it would be a great days birding and so it proved! As predicted, one of the first birds was Purple Cochoa, it must have been desperate to get up and sing, and the best views we’ve ever had of this species proved that, ‘only’ a female but many will argue they are better looking than the males in this species. A swarm of Black-throated Parrotbills moved through, then a few more. Next up was a Hill Partridge, perfectly placed stood on a trail in clear view beneath us for as long as we wanted. As well as White-spectacled, Whistler’s and Grey-cheeked Warbler, we had now picked out a fourth Seicercus singing in the area – Green-crowned Warbler. This write-in must have just arrived as once we picked up the first of this distinctive triller, we heard a few more. Everything was going swimmingly except for the absence of the one bird named after the area – Mishmi Wren Babbler. Fortunately, we needn’t have worried as the briefest of calls is all we needed as we picked the perfect spot, and log even, for the bird to show increasing better, eventually in clear view as it called away before we left it in peace. Still only mid-morning, we ventured further down, twice hearing distant Green Cochoa’s, but bizarrely without a sniff of clapping eyes on either. At this elevation one of the main targets, despite our previous extended silhouette-only view was Beautiful Nuthatch. Eventually, by early afternoon we had a distant...
response before four came into view, offering very nice views as they fed in the canopy. Usually these views would be considered exceptionally good, only today was different as we were all left completely open-mouthed as three of them decided to drop all the way down to eye-level, right next to the road as the fed in a fig tree for the next ten minutes, outrageous! Between Andy and James there must have been over 1000 photos taken of these in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of this much-heralded species. What happened for the rest of the day was largely irrelevant now though the birding still carried on being excellent, though without anything new. We had just one more bird to find, and the male Hodgson’s Frogmouth did just that, taking ten minutes or so before sitting almost motionless in the spotlight, occasionally moving tail and body side-to-side, presumably trying to evade detection as a leaf?! Walkaway views of an eye-level frogmouth was the perfect icing to our cake.

A final morning, and we were greeted by thick mist, so we drove down below the mist, stopping once we heard our first Lesser Cuckoo – one of the last migrants to return - from the moving vehicles enabling us to jump out, set up the bird on an open branch, followed by a Whistling Hawk Cuckoo circling us on multiple occasions. A little further down a pair of Jerdon’s Baza were sat out to dry, and finally a Lesser Shortwing came into view. Driving down we hit the heavy rain, of course. You couldn’t make this up at times! Yet more chai in a little roadside shack, staring out produced little. A fly-by Scarlet Finch was a disappointment for this species but we did enjoy some very confiding Red-crowned Bushtits and finally, at the death, Black-throated Prinia, what better way to complete our time in the hills than with this species! The drive back to ‘east Assam’s best hotel’, the Hotel Centre Point in Tinsukia was uneventful (just one puncture), bar some White-rumped Vultures with a single Slender-billed, and we toasted, with one last sumptuous curry and naan meal what a wonderful time we had all enjoyed – minus beer, as a new law in India meant that no restaurants within 500m of a main road could serve alcohol!

With a partial morning still available some of us headed back to Maguri Grasslands – amazingly it hadn’t rained in Assam for the past three days so we could actually walk over to the Marsh Babbler spot. Luck was on our side, to begin with anyway, as the babbler took less than a minutes to sweep down and land on a completely open branch to burst into song, then turned around and evaporated back into the grass – now it was time to rush back as the lightening and thunder were getting ominously closer. Too close actually, as we were on the end of our biggest drenching yet, the rain was so intense that our local guide, Praveen, striped to his vest and jumped into the river, in true Bollywood fashion to save the day and get a boat for us that was on the wrong side of the water. Typically, by the time he got there the boatman, head to toe in rain gear, had arrived and the rain subsided! We couldn’t think of a better way to sum up our remarkable 18 days in the Eastern Himalaya.

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**Bird-of-the-tour**

1. Beautiful Nuthatch
2. Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler
3. Fire-tailed Myzornis
4. Long-billed Wren Babbler
5. Hodgson’s Frogmouth
Greater Adjutant and White-hooded Babbler

Rufous-winged Fulvetta and Ludlow’s Fulvetta, Mandala

Red-headed Bullfinch and Chestnut-tailed Minla
Bar-winged Wren Babbler and Green-tailed Sunbird

Beautiful Sibia and Grey-crested Tit

Golden Bush Robin and Collared Grosbeak
Snow Pigeons and Alpine Thrush

Rufous-breasted Bush Robin and Fire-tailed Sunbird

Black-throated Parrotbill and Rufous-throated Wren Babbler
Long-billed Wren Babbler and Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler

Chestnut-breasted Partridge and Ward’s Trogon

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide and Large Blue Flycatcher
Hog Deers and Yellow-footed Green Pigeon

Lesser Coucal and Indochinese Roller

Great Hornbill and Red Junglefowl
Rufous Woodpecker and Blue-bearded Bee-eater

Jerdon’s Babbler and Marsh Babbler

Himalayan Cutia and Beautiful Nuthatch
Beautiful Nuthatches

Green-crowned Warbler and Grey-hooded Warbler

Black-eared Shrike-babbler and Yellow-cheeked Tit
Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler and Black-breasted Parrotbill

Pale Blue Flycatcher and Manipur Fulvetta

Large Hawk Cuckoo and Black-throated Prinia
Additional tour photos from Andy & Gill Swash / WorldWildlifeImages.com

Greater Adjutant and Yellow-vented Warbler © Andy & Gill Swash / WorldWildlifeImages.com

White-browed Piculet and Golden-throated Barbet © Andy & Gill Swash / WorldWildlifeImages.com

Small Niltava and Russet Grasshopper Warbler © Andy & Gill Swash / WorldWildlifeImages.com
White-capped Redstart and Short-billed Minivet © Andy & Gill Swash / WorldWildlifeImages.com

Brown Parrotbill and Alpine Thrush © Andy & Gill Swash / WorldWildlifeImages.com

Bar-winged Wren Babbler & Snowy-browed Flycatcher © Andy & Gill Swash
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Snow Partridge and Himalayan Monal © Andy & Gill Swash / WorldWildlifeImages.com

Alpine Accentor and Fire-tailed Myzornis © Andy & Gill Swash / WorldWildlifeImages.com
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Ward’s Trogon © Andy & Gill Swash / WorldWildlifeImages.com

Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler and Rufous-throated Wren Babbler © Andy & Gill Swash
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Hooded Treepie & Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush © Andy & Gill Swash/WorldWildlifeImages.com

Pale-chinned Flycatcher and Hooded Pitta © Andy & Gill Swash/WorldWildlifeImages.com
Gould’s Shortwing and Beautiful Nuthatch © Andy & Gill Swash/WorldWildlifeImages.com

Chestnut-breasted Partridge and Hill Partridge © Andy & Gill Swash/WorldWildlifeImages.com

Hodgson’s Frogmouth and Bengal Florican © Andy & Gill Swash/WorldWildlifeImages.com
# Systematic List

## ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae
- Lesser Whistling Duck: *Dendrocygna javanica*
- Ruddy Shelduck: *Tadorna ferruginea*
- Indian Spot-billed Duck: *Anas poecilorhyncha*
- Northern Pintail: *Anas acuta*
- Cotton Pygmy Goose: *Nettapus coromandelianus*

## GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae
- Swamp Francolin: *Francolinus gularis*
- Snow Partridge: *Lerwa lerwa*
- Hill Partridge: *Arborophila torqueola*
- Chestnut-breasted Partridge: *Arborophila mandelli*
- Rufous-throated Partridge: *Arborophila rufogularis* heard only
- Blood Pheasant: *Ithaginis cruentus tibetanus*
- Blyth’s Tragopan: *Tragopan blythii molesworthi*
- Himalayan Monal: *Lophophorus impejanus*
- Red Junglefowl: *Gallus gallus*
- Kaleej Pheasant: *Lophura leucelomelanos lathami*
- Grey Peacock Pheasant: *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* heard only

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

## COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae
- Snow Pigeon: *Columba leuconota*
- Ashy Woodpigeon: *Columba pulchricollis*
- Speckled Woodpigeon: *Columba hodgsonii*
- Oriental Turtle Dove: *Streptopelia orientalis agricola*
- Red Collared Dove: *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
- Spotted Dove: *Streptopelia chinensis*
- Barred Cuckoo Dove: *Macropygia unchall*
- Asian Emerald Dove: *Chalcophaps indica*
- Thick-billed Green Pigeon: *Treron curvirostra*
- Yellow-footed Green Pigeon: *Treron p. phoenicopterus*
- Pin-tailed Green Pigeon: *Treron apicauda*
- Green Imperial Pigeon: *Ducula aenea*
- Mountain Imperial Pigeon: *Ducula badia*

## CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae
- Large Hawk Cuckoo: *Hierococcyx sparverioides*
- Whistling Hawk Cuckoo: *Hierococcyx nisicolor*
- Indian Cuckoo: *Cuculus micropterus*
- Common Cuckoo: *Cuculus canorus* heard only
- Oriental Cuckoo: *Cuculus saturatus*
- Lesser Cuckoo: *Cuculus poliocephalus*
- Plaintive Cuckoo: *Cacomantis merulinus*
- Asian Emerald Cuckoo: *Chrysococcyx maculatus*
- Asian Drongo-Cuckoo: *Surniculus lugubris lugubris*
- Asian Koel: *Eudynamys scolopacea*
- Green-billed Malkoha: *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
- Greater Coucal: *Centropus sinensis*
- Lesser Coucal: *Centropus bengalensis*

## APODIFORMES: Apodidae
- Himalayan Swiftlet: *Aerodramus brevirostris brevirostris*
Asian Palm Swift  Cypsiurus balasiensis
Blyth’s Swift  Apus leuconyx
House Swift  Apus nipalensis

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Podargidae**

Hodgson’s Frogmouth  Batrachostomus hodgsoni

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

Grey Nightjar  Caprimulgus jotaka

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

White-breasted Waterhen  Amaurornis phoenicurus
Watercock  Gallicrex cinerea
Purple Swamphen  Porphyrio porphyrio poliocephalus
Common Moorhen  Gallinula chloropus

**GRUIFORMES: Otidae**

Bengal Florican  Houbaropsis bengalensis

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**

Pheasant-tailed Jaçana  Hydrophasianus chirurgus
Bronze-winged Jaçana  Metopidius indicus

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Red-wattled Lapwing  Vanellus indicus

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Spotted Redshank  Tringa erythropus  heard only
Green Sandpiper  Tringa ochropus
Wood Sandpiper  Tringa glareola  heard only
Common Sandpiper  Actitis hypoleucos

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

River Tern  Sterna aurantia
Whiskered Tern  Chlidonias hybrida

**PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

Indian Cormorant  Phalacrocorax fuscicollis
Little Cormorant  Phalacrocorax niger
Oriental Darter  Anhinga melanogaster

**CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**

Asian Openbill  Anastomus oscitans
Woolly-necked Stork  Ciconia episcopus
Black-necked Stork  Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus
Greater Adjutant  Leptoptilos dubius
Lesser Adjutant  Leptoptilos javanicus

**CICONIIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**

Black-headed Ibis  Threskiornis melanocephalus

**CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**

Grey Heron  Ardea cinerea
Purple Heron  Ardea purpurea
Eastern Great Egret  Ardea [albus] modestus
Intermediate Egret  Ardea intermedia
Little Egret  Egretta garzetta
Indian Pond Heron  
Eastern Cattle Egret  
Striated Heron  
Black-crowned Night Heron  
Cinnamon Bittern  
Yellow Bittern

**PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae**

Spot-billed Pelican

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Jerdon’s Baza  
Eurasian 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 Griffon  
Crested Serpent Eagle  
Pied Harrier  
Crested Goshawk  
Shikra  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk  
Black Eagle  
Changeable Hawk Eagle  
Mountain Hawk Eagle

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

Chinese Tawny Owl  
Collared Owlet  
Asian Barred Owlet  
Spotted Owlet  
Brown Boobook

**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**

Red-headed Trogon  
Ward’s Trogon

**CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

Oriental Pied Hornbill  
Great Hornbill  
Rufous-necked Hornbill

**PICIFORMES: Capitonidae**

Great Barbet  
Lineated Barbet  
Golden-throated Barbet  
Blue-throated Barbet  
Coppersmith Barbet

**PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae**

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide
## PICIFORMES: Picidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speckled Piculet</td>
<td>Picumnus innominatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-browed Piculet</td>
<td>Sasia ochracea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey-capped Woodpecker</td>
<td>Dendrocopos canicapillus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker</td>
<td>Dendrocopos macei macei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rufous-bellied Woodpecker</td>
<td>Dendrocopos hyperythrus hyperythrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darjeeling Woodpecker</td>
<td>Dendrocopos darjellensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson-breasted Woodpecker</td>
<td>Dendrocopos cathpharius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rufous Woodpecker</td>
<td>Micropterus brachyurus phaiocps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Yellownape</td>
<td>Chrysophlegma flavinucha lavinucha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Yellownape</td>
<td>Picus chlorolophus chlorolophus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streak-throated Woodpecker</td>
<td>Picus xanthopygaeus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey-faced Woodpecker</td>
<td>Picus canus hessei</td>
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<tr>
<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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## CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Kingfisher</td>
<td>Alcedo atthis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-eared Kingfisher</td>
<td>Alcedo meninting coltarti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-backed Kingfisher</td>
<td>Ceyx erithacus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stork-billed Kingfisher</td>
<td>Pelargopsis capensis capensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Kingfisher</td>
<td>Halcyon smyrnensis perpulchra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pied Kingfisher</td>
<td>Ceryle rudis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue-bearded Bee-eater</td>
<td>Nyctyornis athertoni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Green Bee-eater</td>
<td>Merops orientalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut-headed Bee-eater</td>
<td>Merops leschenaulti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indochinese Roller</td>
<td>Coracias [benghalensis] affinis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dollarbird</td>
<td>Eurystomus orientalis cyanicollis</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hoopoe</td>
<td>Upupa eops</td>
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## FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>Falco peregrinus calidus</td>
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## PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae

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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandrine Parakeet</td>
<td>Psittacula eupatria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose-ringied Parakeet</td>
<td>Psittacula krameri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blossom-headed Parakeet</td>
<td>Psittacula roseata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-breasted Parakeet</td>
<td>Psittacula alexandri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Hanging Parrot</td>
<td>Loriculus vernalis</td>
</tr>
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## PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Broadbill</td>
<td>Psarismus dalhousiae</td>
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<td></td>
<td>heard only</td>
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## PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae

<table>
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<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hooded Pitta</td>
<td>Pitta sordida</td>
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## PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike</td>
<td>Hemipus picatus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae
Ashy Woodswallow  
*Artamys fuscus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae**

Common Iora  
*Aegithina tipher*

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike  
*Coracina melaschistos*

Rosi Minivet  
*Pericrocotus roseus*

Small Minivet  
*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus peregrinus*

Long-tailed Minivet  
*Pericrocotus ethologus laetus*

Short-billed Minivet  
*Pericrocotus brevirostris*

Scarlet Minivet  
*Pericrocotus speciosus semiruber*

Grey-chinned Minivet  
*Pericrocotus solaris*

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**

Brown Shrike  
*Lanius cristatus cristatus*

Long-tailed Shrike  
*Lanius schach tricolor*

Grey-backed Shrike  
*Lanius tephonotus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidea**

Black-headed Shrike Babbler  
*Pteruthius rufivent*

Blyth's Shrike Babbler  
*Pteruthius aerolatus validirostris*

Green Shrike Babbler  
*Pteruthius xanthochlorus*

Black-eared Shrike Babbler  
*Pteruthius melanotis*

Erpornis  
*Erpornis zantholeuca*

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**

Black-hooded Oriole  
*Oriolus xanthornus*

Maroon Oriole  
*Oriolus tralili*

**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*

Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher  
*Terpsiphone affinis saturator*

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

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] levaillantii*

Large-billed Crow  
*Corvus [macrorhynchos] japonensis*
PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae
- Yellow-bellied Fairy-fantail *Chelidorhynx hypoxantha*
- Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

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

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae
- Bengal Bushlark *Mirafra assamica*

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 mcclellandii mcclellandii*
- 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
- Pygmy Cupwing *Pnoepyga pusilla*

PASSERIFORMES: Cettidae
- Hume’s Bush Warbler *Horornis {acanthizoides} brunnescens*
- Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivacea*
- Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventris*
- Chestnut-headed Tesia *Cettia castaneocoronata*
- Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes fortipes*
- Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons muroides*
- Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia major*
- Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*
- Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus supercilialis*
- Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps flavimentalis*
- Broad-billed Warbler *Tickellia hodgsoni*
- Mountain Tailorbird / Leaftoiler *Phyllergates cuculatus*

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae
- Red-crowned (Black-throated) Bushtit *Aegithalos concinnus rubricapillus*

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae
- Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*
Smoky Warbler
Tickell's Leaf Warbler
Buff-barred Warbler
Ashy-throated Warbler
Lemon-rumped Leaf Warbler
Hume's Leaf Warbler
Greenish Warbler
Large-billed Leaf Warbler
Blyth's Leaf Warbler
Yellow-vented Warbler
Green-hooded Warbler
Whistler's Warbler
White-spectacled Warbler
Grey-cheeked Warbler
Chestnut-crowned Warbler

PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae
Indian Reed Warbler
Thick-billed Warbler
Blyth's Reed Warbler
Paddyfield Warbler
Blunt-winged Warbler

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae
Spotted Bush Warbler
Baikal Bush Warbler
Russet Bush Warbler
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler
Striated Grassbird

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae
Zitting Cisticola
Golden-headed Cisticola
Common Tailorbird
Black-throated Prinia
Grey-breasted Prinia
Yellow-bellied Prinia
Ashy Prinia
Plain Prinia

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae
Chestnut-capped Babbler
Pin-striped Tit Babbler
Rufous-fronted Babbler
Rufous-capped Babbler
Golden Babbler
White-browed Scimitar Babbler
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler
Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler
Red-billed Scimitar Babbler
Sickle-billed Scimitar Babbler
Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler
Rufous-throated Wren Babbler
Mishmi Wren Babbler
Bar-winged Wren Babbler
Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler
Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler  
Grey-throated Babbler  

**PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manipur Fulvetta</td>
<td>Alcippe manipurensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepal Fulvetta</td>
<td>Alcippe nipalensis nipalensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ludlow’s Fulvetta</td>
<td>Alcippe ludiowi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-throated Fulvetta</td>
<td>Schoeniparus cinereus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rufous-winged Fulvetta</td>
<td>Schoeniparus castaneiceps</td>
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<td>Long-billed Wren Babbler</td>
<td>Rimator malacoptilus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbott’s Wren Babbler</td>
<td>Turdinus abbotti abbotti</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-hooded Babbler</td>
<td>Gampsorhynchus rufulus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Grassbird</td>
<td>Graminicola bengalensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puff-throated Babbler</td>
<td>Pellorneum ruficeps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marsh Babbler</td>
<td>Pellorneum paluste</td>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Striated Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Grammatoptila striata</td>
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<td>Bhutan Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Trochalopteron imbricatum</td>
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<td>Scaly Laughingthrush</td>
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<td>Blue-winged Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Trochalopteron squamatus</td>
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<td>Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush</td>
<td>T. erythrocephalum nigrimentum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-faced Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Turdoides affinis bethalae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slender-billed Babbler</td>
<td>Turdoides longirostris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Striated Babbler</td>
<td>Turdoides earlei</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Ianthocincla rufogularis rufogularis</td>
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<td>Spotted Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Ianthocincla ocellatus ocellata</td>
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<td>Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Ianthocincla nuchalis</td>
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<td>Rufous-necked Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Ianthocincla ruficollis</td>
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<td>Grey-sided Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Ianthocincla caerulatus caerulatus</td>
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<td>White-crested Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Garrulax leucolophus leucolophus</td>
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<td>Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Garrulax monileger monileger</td>
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<td>Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Garrulax pectoralis pectoralis</td>
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<td>Rufous-vented Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Garrulax gularis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Himalayan Cutia</td>
<td>Cutia nipalensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-tailed Minla</td>
<td>Minla ignotincta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rufous-backed Sibia</td>
<td>Minla annectens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rusty-fronted Barwing</td>
<td>Actinodura egertoni</td>
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<td>Hoary-throated Barwing</td>
<td>Actinodura nipalensis</td>
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<td>Streak-throated Barwing</td>
<td>Actinodura waldeni daflaensis</td>
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<td>Blue-winged Minla</td>
<td>Actinodura c. cyanouroptera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chestnut-tailed Minla</td>
<td>Actinodura strigula yunnanensis</td>
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<td>Long-tailed Sibia</td>
<td>Heterophasia picaoides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beautiful Sibia</td>
<td>Heterophasia pulchella nigroaurita</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver-eared Mesia</td>
<td>Leiothrix argentauris argentauris</td>
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<td>Red-billed Leiothrix</td>
<td>Leiothrix lutea calipyga</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crimson-faced Liocichla</td>
<td>Liocichla phoenicea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bugun Liocichla</td>
<td>Liocichla bugunorum heard only</td>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire-tailed Myzornis</td>
<td>Myzornis pyrrhoura</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Parrotbill</td>
<td>Cholornis unicolor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-breasted Parrotbill</td>
<td>Paradoxornis flavirostris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-throated Parrotbill</td>
<td>Sinornis nipalensis poliotis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-browed Parrotbill</td>
<td>Chleuasicus atrosuperciliaris</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-breasted Parrotbill</td>
<td>Psittiparus ruficeps</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Jerdon's Babbler  
Chrysomma altirostre griseigulare

Golden-breasted Lioparus (Fulvetta)  
Lioparus chrysotis chrysotis

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

Oriental White-eye  
Zosterops palpebrosus palpebrosus

Striated Yuhina  
Staphida castaniceps rufigenis

White-naped Yuhina  
Yuhina bakeri

Whiskered Yuhina  
Yuhina flavicollis

Stripe-throated Yuhina  
Yuhina gularis gularis

Rufous-vented Yuhina  
Yuhina occipitalis

Black-chinned Yuhina  
Yuhina nigrimenta

**PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae**

Asian Fairy Bluebird  
Irena puella

**PASSERIFORMES: Elachuridae**

Elachura  
Elachura formosus

**PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae**

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch  
Sitta cinnamoventris

White-tailed Nuthatch  
Sitta himalayensis

Beautiful Nuthatch  
Sitta formosa

**PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae**

Hodgson's Treecreeper  
Certhia hodgsoni mandellii

Rusty-flanked Treecreeper  
Certhia nipalensis

Hume's Treecreeper  
Certhia discolor

**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: Turdidae**

Orange-headed Thrush  
Geokichla citrina citrina

Alpine Thrush  
Zoothera mollissima

Himalayan Forest Thrush  
Zoothera salimalii

Small-billed Scaly Thrush  
Zoothera dauma

Tibetan Blackbird  
Turdus maximus

White-collared Blackbird  
Turdus albocinctus

Grey-winged Blackbird  
Turdus boulboul

Black-throated Thrush  
Turdus [ruficollis] atrogularis

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

Dark-sided Flycatcher  
Muscicapa sibirica cacabata

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher  
Ficedula strophiata

Taiga Flycatcher  
Ficedula albicilla

Snowy-browed Flycatcher  
Ficedula hypertyra

White-gorgeted Flycatcher  
Ficedula monileger monileger  
heard only

Ultramarine Flycatcher  
Ficedula superciliaris aestigma

Slaty-blue Flycatcher  
Ficedula tricolor tricolor

Sapphire Blue Flycatcher  
Ficedula sapphira

Verditer Flycatcher  
Eumyias thalassina

Large Niltava  
Niltava grandis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Niltava</td>
<td>Niltava macgrigoriae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rufous-bellied Niltava</td>
<td>Niltava sundara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pale-chinned Flycatcher</td>
<td>Cyornis poliogenys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pale Blue Flycatcher</td>
<td>Cyornis unicolor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-throated Flycatcher</td>
<td>Cyornis rubeculoides rubeculoides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Blue Flycatcher</td>
<td>Cyornis magnirostris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Rubythroat</td>
<td>Calliope [pectoralis] tschebaiewi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluethroat</td>
<td>Luscinia svecica svecica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Blue Robin</td>
<td>Larvivora brunnea</td>
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<tr>
<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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<td>White-browed Bush Robin</td>
<td>Tarsiger indicus</td>
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<td>Rufous-breasted Bush Robin</td>
<td>Tarsiger hyperythrus</td>
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<td>Oriental Magpie Robin</td>
<td>Copsychus saularis erimelas</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-rumped Shama</td>
<td>Copsychus malabaricus indicus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-fronted Redstart</td>
<td>Phoenicurus frontalis</td>
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<td>White-capped Redstart</td>
<td>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</td>
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<td>Plumebeous Redstart</td>
<td>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</td>
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<td>White-tailed Robin</td>
<td>Myiomela leucurum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-fronted Robin</td>
<td>Cinclidium frontale</td>
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<td>Grandala</td>
<td>Grandala coelicolor</td>
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<td>White-crowned Forktail</td>
<td>Enicurus leschenaulti</td>
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<td>Blue Whistling-thrush</td>
<td>Myophonus caeruleus eugenei</td>
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<td>Purple Cochoa</td>
<td>Cochoa purpurea</td>
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<td>Green Cochoa</td>
<td>Cochoa viridis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siberian Stonechat</td>
<td>Saxicola mauro mauro</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saxicola mauro przewalskii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey Bushchat</td>
<td>Saxicola ferrea haringtoni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue-capped Rock-thrush</td>
<td>Monticola cinclorhynchus</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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<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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<tr>
<td>Rusty-bellied Shortwing</td>
<td>Brachypteryx hyperythra</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-browed Shortwing</td>
<td>Brachypteryx montana crulias</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae**

- Brown Dipper: *Cinclus pallasii dorjei*

**PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae**

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**

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

**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*
- Little Spiderhunter: *Arachnothera longirostra*
- Streaked Spiderhunter: *Arachnothera magna*
PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae
Baya Weaver  
Black-breasted Weaver

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae
Scaly-breasted Munia  
Black-breasted Munia

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae
House Sparrow  
Russet Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow

PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae
Alpine Accentor  
Rufous-breasted Accentor

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae
White Wagtail  
Eastern Yellow Wagtail  
Grey Wagtail  
Paddyfield Pipit  
Olive-backed Pipit  
Rosy Pipit

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae
Plain Mountain Finch  
Crimson-browed Finch  
Dark-breasted Rosefinch  
Common Rosefinch  
Dark-rumped Rosefinch  
Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch  
Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch  
Blanford’s Rosefinch  
Brown Bullfinch  
Red-headed Bullfinch  
Grey-headed Bullfinch  
Collared Grosbeak  
Spot-winged Grosbeak  
White-winged Grosbeak  
Gold-naped Finch  
Scarlet Finch

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae
Little Bunting  
Black-faced Bunting

Mammals
Royle’s Pika  
Black Giant Squirrel  
Orange-bellied Squirrel  
Pallas’s Squirrel  
Ayewaddy Squirrel  

Ploceus philippinus burmanicus  
Ploceus benghalensis  
Lonchura punctulata subundulata  
Lonchura atricapilla  
Passer domesticus  
Passer rutilans  
Passer montanus  
Prunella collaris  
Prunella strophiata  
Motacilla alba alboides  
Motacilla citreola citreola  
Motacilla [citreola] calcarata  
Motacilla tschutschensis tschutschensis  
Motacilla cinerea  
Anthus rufulus  
Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni  
Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis  
Anthus roseatus  
Leucosticte nemoricola  
Pinicola subhimachala  
Carpodacus nipalensis  
Carpodacus erythrinus erythrinus  
Carpodacus edwardsii  
Carpodacus pulcherrimus  
Carpodacus thura  
Carpodacus rubescens  
Pyrrhula nipalensis  
Pyrrhula erythrocephala  
Pyrrhula erythaca  
Mycerobas affinis  
Mycerobas melanozanthos  
Mycerobas carnipes  
Pyrrhoplectes epauletta  
Haematospiza sipahi  
Emberiza pusilla  
Emberiza spodocephala  
Ochotona roylei  
Ratufa bicolor  
Dremomys lokriah  
Callosciurus erythraeus  
Callosciurus pygerythus
Himalayan Striped Squirrel  
Smooth Otter  
Yellow-throated Marten  
Capped Langur  
Assam Macaque  
Rhesus Macaque  
Arunachal Macaque  
Western Hoolock  
Eurasian Wild Pig  
Red Muntjac  
Swamp Deer  
Hog Deer  
Himalayan Brown Goral  
Wild Water Buffalo  
Indian Rhinoceros  
Asian Elephant

Tamiops macclelandi  
Lutrogale perspicillata  
Martes flavigula  
Trachypithecus pileatus  
Macaca assamensis  
Macaca mulatta  
Macaca muntzala  
Hoolock hoolock  
Sus Scrofa  
Muntiacus muntjak  
Cervus duvaucelii  
Axis porcinus  
Naemorhedus hodgsoni  
Bubalus arnee  
Rhinoceros unicornis  
Elephas maximus

'Babbler waiting', Maguri  
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