A region long neglected has now become a popular destination due to the large number of very rare and, in many cases declining, subcontinent endemics reliant on the natural grasslands of Central and West India. We managed a clean-sweep of all of the specialities of the region, with pride of place going to the regal Great Indian Bustard after just an hour of searching. Among the 344 species recorded, the list of megas was impressive; Rufous-vented Grass-babbler, Jerdon’s Babbler, Mountain Chiffchaff, Yellow-eyed Dove, Green Avadavat, Macqueen’s Bustard, Hypocolius, Sociable Lapwing, Sykes’s Nightjar, White-naped Tit, Crab Plover, Stoliczka’s Bushchat, Mottled Wood Owl, Vigor’s Sunbird and to finish off, the critically endangered Forest Owlet. Add in some impressive mammals and some of the finest food in Asia, and this was a wonderful visit to one of India’s most exciting areas.

The tour started in Amritsar, deep in the heart of the Punjab. Our reason for visiting the Punjab was the wetlands of Harike, an avian oasis surrounded by miles and miles of agriculture. The main star of Harike is Rufous-vented Grass-babbler (or what was a prinia), a bird otherwise known only from the Indus valley in Pakistan and a relict population clinging on in Nepal. A lot has seemingly gone on since our visit the previous year, as construction is underway on what appears to be a new damming exercise and widening of tracks to the detriment of the sanctuary. As we walked towards the first patches of Phragmites skeens of Greylag and Bar-headed Geese flew...
over – one flock containing a couple of Greater White-fronts, while the numerous ducks were generally a little too distant to be of interest, we concentrated our efforts on the smaller birds. On the edge of the reeds, Yellow-bellied and Plain Prinias were conspicuous, while a single Blyth’s Reed Warbler showed nicely. Not long after this our prize started to sing, loudly. Over the next 20 minutes we enjoyed increasingly better views of this long-tailed stripey sprite, and typically just five minutes on, we found another, feeding quietly as it followed some prinias. Looking across at the open water, a Smooth Otter was playing around both in the water and on long

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our prize started to sing, loudly.

Later in the morning, a walk along the canal brought about a pair of Sind Sparrow in the same bush we had them in on the previous two tours, feeding very close but quietly. It’s now a harder bird to find here than it is on the outskirts of Delhi as it rampaged east through the country with the introduction of the canal. A further two females fed with some Striated Babblers and a bonus was a female Pine Bunting – even a new Indian bird for James. Siberian Chiffchaff is an abundant winter visitor here and after carefully checking through them all we found two very co-operative Mountain Chiffchaff showing off their full-suite of characteristics before it was time for lunch.

After lunch, we visited a different corner of the sanctuary. Water Pipits were abundant this year, flushing up in droves from the partially wet fields, along with Oriental Skylarks. In the tall elephant grass, Jerdon’s Babblers took less than a minute to find, as it came straight over to check us out, perching on open stems for all to enjoy.

The species was only discovered in the Punjab in 2013 and otherwise restricted to pockets of north-east India, Pakistan and Myanmar. Further along the river, our first White-tailed Lapwing appeared, while a pair of Jerdon’s Babblers were located, with Yellow-eyed Babblers following another group of Striated Babblers. As the sun began to set we still had a couple more aces up our sleeves, as a Brooks’s Leaf Warbler was found feeding lowdown, a real surprise here, followed by a Moustached Warbler feeding in typical fashion with tail cocked, taking insects off the water.

The next morning, we returned for a short visit, though thick mist hung in the air making it difficult to enjoy anything more than a few metres away! It took a while before we found anything of note; Black-rumped Flameback, then a couple of wintering surprises in the form of Lemon-rumped and Grey-hooded Warblers mingling with the Chiffchaff’s and Hume’s Leaf Warblers. Finally, the one remaining speciality, White-crowned Penduline-tit appeared but couldn’t have been much less cooperative, revealing itself to three of us, and only then very briefly before flying off into the distance. With a long drive ahead we departed south for a 450km drive alongside the Pakistani border and into Rajasthan, arriving after dark at our guesthouse at the entrance of Tal Chhapar Reserve, with nothing of note en route through the constant throng of mustard and castor fields.

Tal Chhapar is a tiny wildlife sanctuary tucked away in the vastness of arable farmland and acacia dominated landscape for Blackbuck, one of the world’s most beautiful antelopes. Blackbuck are everywhere due to the lack of predators but it was outside the park we spent the vast majority of our time, birding for one of India’s seldom encountered endemics – Indian Spotted-creeper – in the heavily degraded acacia ‘forest’. We spent the morning scouring the open landscape for the bird, without success as seems the norm this season unfortunately. We did however have a productive morning with several nice additions – our first Desert Whitethroats, Rufous-fronted Prinia, Tawny Eagle, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Indian Bushlark and Yellow-crowned Woodpecker. Knowing the importance of the creeper, we headed further afield too, in search of some ‘tape virgins’. Within 15 minutes we found our first two Spotted-creepers, performing brilliantly with wings and tail spread, feeding on the lower half of the trunks. It’s flight and mannerisms so akin to Wallcreeper, which unsurprisingly has found to be its sister family. We then moved to another spot and found another pair within minutes of searching, and not only that but a male White-bellied Minivet sat directly above it in the same tree! The minivet hung around for as long as we pleased, though a pair of Eastern Orphean Warblers were briefer in their stay – what a remarkable success! We returned to Tal Chhapar for the evening harrier roost, enjoying rutting Blackbuck but an abysmally

![Rufous-vented Grass-babbler and Jerdon’s Babbler, Harike](image-url)
low number of Pallid and Montagu’s Harrier that barely reached double figures, maybe the unusually cold winter was moving them elsewhere.

An early start in the misty morning allowed us to arrive at the rather less than scenic ‘carcass dumping ground’ on the outskirts of Bikaner, out in the scrubby desert. This is where all the cattle carcasses from the area are dumped and as a result it is full of rather vocal dogs and hundreds of raptors, predominately Steppe Eagles, Eurasian Griffon and Egyptian Vultures but with three immature Imperial Eagles, 5 Monk Vulture and a single Himalayan Griffon – quite a scene and definitely well away from the well-trodden tourist route. The ONLY reason for our visit here was to view the flocks of Yellow-eyed Doves that winter here from central Asia, around 250 were either flying past or feeding on the ground. Once this foul scene was over, we headed west to the outskirts of Jaisalmer and with an hour’s daylight remaining we hit all three of our targets – Striolated Bunting, Desert Lark and wintering Red-tailed Wheatear easily enough.

The golden city of Jaisalmer, with its spectacular fort dominating the horizon, is not something we usually see in the daylight on the tour as our reason for being here was to see India’s, and indeed one of the world’s, most endangered birds, the Indian Bustard. It’s a nerve-wracking day here, hoping to find a bird in the vast swath of farmland and heavily degraded grassland, the very reason why it is now Critically Endangered. Starting as usual from the bustard enclosure and tower it was familiarly vacant but we did get wind that one of the rangers had seen them nearby the previous evening, so we soon zoomed over to this locality, an area of reasonable grassland, shortly after arrival Mark picked up a White-capped Bunting but it was almost immediately forgotten as Bill very calmly announced ‘I’ve got one’! Sure enough, he had, a male that dwarfed the Indian Gazelle’s it was feeding with, and for those that struggled to get on it initially, we had Don at hand to give the most succulent of directions ‘it’s by the tree, with the trunk’! Relief and excitement all rolled into one as we enjoyed these views, before Bill then picked up another, a female this time. Over the next hour we eventually found five, including two males. We watched them from a comfortable distance not wanting to disturb this magnificent bird before they eventually strolled out of view.

Now we had the rest of the day to concentrate on other birds. The next must-see bird of the area is the equally rare Stolitzka’s Bushchat. Wintering here and in isolated pockets elsewhere in Rajasthan and Gujarat, it’s breeding grounds remain undiscovered and is only found in the better quality grassland. We soon found a female on her wintering territory, regularly hovering before diving down into the grass. On top of this, the grasslands revealed Black-crowned Finch-lark, Long-billed Pipit, Graceful and more Rufous-fronted Prinia and Asian Desert Warbler. Time for lunch, but not before several Cream-coloured Coursers were found by the roadside. As we had completed the main targets in the morning, we visited the fort of Jaisalmer then returned to Akal Fossil Wood park for Indian Eagle Owl, which we eventually found, attempting to conceal itself, unsuccessfully, in a bush. In addition, Trumpeter Finch also showed well for some of us.

Departing really early from Jaisalmer meant at sunrise as we were perched on our strategic roof-top watch-point in the small village of Keechan. Wave after wave of hundreds of Demoiselle Cranes soon began to appear from the distant sand-dunes, flying around, over and below us, the sheer noise of the birds was deafening as they were literally metres from us, lasting an hour before a single bird plucked up the courage and landed into the grain-filled ‘compound’. This was followed by our guesstimate of some 7000 cranes feeding inside at one point, a quite incredible sight with a moving carpet of silky-grey bodies, contrasting with jet black heads and red eyes.
Following another long drive, we reached the village of Siyana, lying deep in the middle of nowhere, in time for an evening excursion to a secluded pond in time to enjoy several Painted Sandgrouse coming in to drink, gingerly making their way to the shoreline for a few sips before bursting back into the darkness. Heading to the rocky areas after dusk we found several Striped Hyena, including two that posed nearby in the scope, peering straight down at us by their den.

**Demoiselle Cranes, Kheechan**

With a full day around Siyana we had a handful of targets to find. We started in cultivation, driving across and around the fields until we found a covey of six Rock Bush Quail attempting to conceal themselves and we were able to peer down at them from just feet away before leaving them to their business. A Red-necked Falcon was found feeding on what appeared to be a Lesser Whitethroat, and other additions during the morning included perched Lagger Falcon, Indian Bushlark, our first of several Eastern Orphean Warblers, a surprise Plum-headed Parakeet, distant Indian Vulture on nest and outstanding views of two Common Quail, as they crouched rigidly in their attempts to go unnoticed.

With our targets rounded up already, the afternoon was a rather relaxed affair as we just went birding in the old acacia grove. A new addition was Sykes’s Warbler, a Grey-necked Bunting for some, a good number of Indian Vultures soaring over the hills with a pair of Bonelli’s Eagles joining in, and right at the allotted hour, 11 White-bellied Minivets at our usual spot. Post-dusk, a night-drive produced Indian Nightjars, repeat views of two Striped Hyena and a confiding Jungle Cat, seemingly dazzled in the spotlight.

With just a single morning at Mount Abu we had no time to waste. The whole reason for visiting this hill station, a haven of cool rising above the heat of the surrounding plains, was for another of India’s very special, rare and localised endemics – Green Avadavat. After breakfast we enjoyed the first of several Crested Bunting, but literally our second passerine on our walk was a small party of adult Green Avadavats, calling in the lantana scrub before dropping down to feed. Shortly after the first Sulphur-bellied Warbler also appeared, as did Indian Yellow Tit, White-bellied Drongo, a White-capped Bunting for David, White-spotted Fantail, plenty of Indian Grey Mongoose looking like they were up to no good, a fine male Red-breasted Flycatcher and wonderful views of a covey of Jungle Bush Quail attempting to evade detection. We ended up finding a couple of additional groups of Green Avadavat – our best total for some time.

Following another naan-filled lunch we drove south and into the dry state of Gujarat, arriving at our wonderful, characterful accommodation on the edge of the Little Rann of Kutch with enough daylight left to saviour one of the properties wintering Pallid Scops Owl at roost.

Just hearing the name of ‘The Little Rann of Kutch’ conjures up images of an oasis in a desert, birds and animals around every corner and some wild, remote and beautiful scenery. However, during much of the dry season it is little more than a saline, desolate wasteland; the cracked, parched earth carries on, and on, and on, with a grassy margin, the only thing that breaks the horizon is the exotic, thorny mesquite, introduced long ago from the Neotropics, that has now spread throughout the region. In the early morning we drove to the mesquite-infested border, with a Sykes’s Nightjar briefly appearing on the road too close for some of us. After less than half an hour our driver suddenly screeched to a halt, and there, just 100 metres away were two (male and female) Macqueen’s Bustard, feeding fairly unconcerned by our quiet presence. It was a joy to watch them feed at such close quarters, a few birds still manage to navigate their way through the hordes of hunters from their Central Asian breeding range to here, their chosen wintering sanctuary. A 50km drive straight through the dried
up lake, with a full 360 panorama of absolutely nothing, giving a real moonscape feel was then required to reach a tiny hillock, home to Greater Hoopoe-lark, presumably here as their usual barren ground wasn’t dry enough for them yet. We found an adult feeding two fledglings that allowed extremely close, prolonged views, before we drove back out, admiring Asian Wild Ass before we departed.

White-bellied Minivet, Siyana and Green Avadavat, Mount Abu

Red-necked Falcon, Siyana and Pallid Scops Owl, Little Rann of Kutch

After lunch we refound the Pallid Scops Owl roosting, though frustratingly a group of photographers got too close and flushed it, a few choice words were spoken about that! A birdy afternoon was spent at a large lake, brimming with ducks, both flamingos, shorebirds and Coot (10,000 at a guess!). Notable highlights included great views of a Jack Snipe – a great bird for either our American birders or those keen on bulking up their Indian list, and interestingly for the Brits was just how far they flush in warmer temperatures! A few feldegg Western Yellow Wagtails joined the thunbergi and Citrine Wagtails, a small group of Little Pratincole was sat on the shoreline, while two White-winged Terns were a surprise write-in for this tour. A large flock of Bar-headed Geese were found feeding later on, while Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans were found, but distant. A post-dusk drive was surprisingly unproductive bar a dazzled Indian Nightjar.

An enjoyable day was followed by a long mornings drive west. A single stop at some salt-pans gave us our first of a number of shorebirds, and Western Reef Egret. After reaching the Greater Rann of Kutch the usual field held several Sykes’s Lark feeding on their favoured sparse, rocky ground. While in the native thorn forest, the first birds we found were a group of Marshall’s Iora, shortly followed by great views of the much-wanted White-naped Tit, yet another highly threatened species, perhaps the most striking and beautiful of all Paridae. We found more iora later – in the last 15 years this species range has contracted hundreds of kilometres as it’s favoured habitats become increasingly marginalised. A pair of Painted Sandgrouse were then found on the deck,
allowing a very close approach as they relied on their immaculate camouflage, and to finish off a great start here we had scope views of Grey-necked Bunting.

**Painted Sandgrouse and Hypocolius, Greater Rann of Kutch**

We had two full days around the Greater Rann, exploring a range of different habitats in search of the regions specialities. Our main reason for visiting this area was for the increasingly small numbers of Hypocolius that winter here. Though 50+ were quite easy to find just a few years ago, we felt ourselves fortunate to find a total of eight mostly feeding together, though once again flushed by a different set of photographers (this is becoming a reoccurring theme over in areas now!), fortunately we had incredibly close views shortly afterwards, though a Bluethroat attempted to steal the show, running around between us. Some manic bulbuls led us to another roosting Pallid Scops Owl, nestled deep in the mesquite though otherwise few birds were added. After this highlight we drove back to the lodge via a single Indian Courser, that had a whole field all to itself – a rarity in itself.

Back out in the afternoon it was a very dusty drive out to the Banni grasslands, but as soon as we got to our spot the nine Sociable Lapwing flew in and landed on the track right in front of us! We had an hour enjoying watching the birds feed, and good news was that the majority appeared to be immatures.

Before sunset Chhari Lake was spilling over with birds – 108 Dalmatian Pelican, over 300 Great Crested Grebe, Greater Spotted Eagle, Black-necked Grebe, ultra confiding Little and Temminck’s Stint side-by-side, and we even witnessed a Western Marsh Harrier pluck an Indian Pond Heron out of mid-air and bring it down! Thousands of Common Crane called as they flew overhead to their roost site – quite a spectacle. Though a post-dusk night-drive produced nothing to write home about!
Our final mornings birding in Gujarat was spent at the beach. The sight of a flock of gulls barely rises a smile or a pulse except for a very limited number of birders, the latter of which were largely absent among us! However, we still located several Steppe Gulls among the Heuglin’s, along with Pallas’s and Slender-billed Gulls. Greater Flamingos were present in numbers along the coastline though shorebird numbers were quite moderate – Great Thick-knee, Terek Sandpiper, Lesser and Greater Sandpipers, Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Oystercatcher, both Lesser Crested and Caspian Terns and a complete surprise, a flock of Bimaculated Lark, dwarfing the stilts fed on the mud – we usually see tens of thousands in Rajasthan but they had been in short supply this year, and these were our only grounded birds of the trip, so that came as a bit of a relief. Crab-plover was eventually found, just a single bird, frustratingly distant across the river but definitely better than nothing, even if it did take a while to see all the discernible features of one of the most distinctive species on earth! It was good to finally stretch the legs too, the 13km round walk was just what was needed after spending so much time on the bus on this tour.

A late finish to the morning, coupled with the long drive back meant a fairly relaxing afternoon with us finishing back up at the Banni Grasslands to enjoy several Montagu’s Harriers passing at super close range before we finished off with several Sykes’s Nightjars caught in the spotlight at close range. The complete lack of mammals (not even a Jackal!) caught us by surprise, but it wasn’t for lack of effort.

A flight across to Maharashtra was solely for the quest to find the critically endangered Forest Owlet. Having gone missing for 113 years, it was rediscovered in 1997 but is known from just five sites. On site by late afternoon we failed in our first attempt to find the bird but did come across our other main target here, the range restricted Vigor’s Sunbird. Jerdon’s Leafbird, White-eyed Buzzard, Grey-fronted Green Pigeon and both Bright-green and Western Crowned Warblers were also noted before we enjoyed several Jungle Nightjars floating overhead at dusk.

Predawn the next morning, after hearing Mottled Wood Owls in the distance we soon enough had one spot-lit just overhead offering wonderful views as it peered down on us. Heading to the Forest Owlet locality we found a distant adult, hunting low to the ground, tail-twitching, before it dashed off leaving us wanting more. Eventually we found one randomly perched at eye-level but were surprised to see it was a recently fledged bird, its small size and tiny head making it appear more Spotted than Forest. He was curious throughout, barely taking its eye off us, while we also enjoyed scope views of Jungle Prinia and another Sulphur-bellied Warbler.

Leaving it in peace we visited another owlet territory – the birds were calling before we even got there, and soon found one sat high in the canopy, shortly before we found another being mobbed by a huge flock of Eurasian Crag Martins (!). This was a bizarre sight as the flock would zoomed down and flew around the owlet like a tight swarm of bees, eventually chasing the bird off, closer to us.

In the afternoon we birded more of the evergreen gullies and shaded areas, finding some reasonable feeding flocks, after a couple of fine Jungle Owlets were screeching around us, containing a new set of species – wintering Ultramarine Flycatcher, Black-hooded and Indian Golden Orioles, Indian Pygmy Woodpecker, Indian Paradise-flycatchers, Pale-billed and Agile Flowerpeckers, White-spotted Fantail, a brief Tickell’s Blue-flycatcher and more Jerdon’s Leafbirds. A pair of Puff-throated Babblers also appeared before dusk descended on us and an Indian Scops Owl made it be known we needed to return early the next morning.

Forest Owlet (juvenile), and Mottled Wood Owl, Tansa WS © Mark Lopez

Our final day of birding started as hoped, with an Indian Scops Owl sat calling – our eighth owl of the tour. Another pair of Mottled Wood Owl floated in, being manically harried by the Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, much to their annoyance and our amusement. Light was quickly up on us, and as the temperature would reach 38°C today we wanted to make the most of the early morning – a party of White-naped Woodpeckers started us off, then our first feeding flock was a beauty, loads of the usual suspects were joining in on the action but the biggest surprise was the sight of three Malabar Parakeets flying in – right at the northern-tip of their range. Much of the morning was productive, with views of much of the same as the previous day with additional
bonuses included Golden-fronted Leafbirds, Rufous Woodpecker, Besra for a couple of us then a final feeding flock containing a few understorey dwellers including a nice male Tickell’s Blue-flycatcher, several Tawny-bellied Babblers and Brown-cheeked Fulvetta before we called it quits for the morning. The drive back to Mumbai was uneventful, though we decided no birding trip was complete without a visit to a sewage farm, and under a faint whiff we enjoyed thousands of Black-tailed Godwits at their high-tide roost along with two very showy Sykes’s Warblers, a final Blyth’s Reed Warbler and several Great Spotted Eagles before a final dinner and toast in Mumbai to a great tour.

For information regarding our tours to Western India please click here. Alternatively please contact us via e-mail to arrange custom tours to India.

**Bird-of-the-tour**

1. Indian Bustard  
2. Forest Owlet  
3. Macqueen’s Bustard  
4. Painted Sandgrouse  
5. White-naped Tit

**More photos from the tour:**

*Mountain Chiffchaff and Sind Sparrow, Harike*

*Imperial Eagle, Bikaner and Pine Bunting, Harike*
Stoliczka’s Bushchat and Southern Grey Shrike, Desert National Park

Demoiselle Cranes, Kheechan

Striped Hyena © Mark Lopez, and Rock Bush Quail, Siyana
Jungle Bush Quail and Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Mount Abu

Greater Hoopoe-lark and Indian Nightjar, Little Rann of Kutch

Marshall’s Iora and Bluethroat, Greater Rann of Kutch

© Mark Lopez
# Systematic List

## ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

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<td>Black-necked Grebe</td>
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**PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae**
Greater Flamingo \( Phoenicopterus roseus \)
Lesser Flamingo \( Phoenicopterus minor \)

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**
Rock Dove \( Columba livia intermedia \)
Yellow-eyed Dove \( Columba eversmanni \)
Oriental Turtle Dove \( Streptopelia orientalis erythrocephala \)
Eurasian Collared Dove \( Streptopelia decaocto \)
Red Collared Dove \( Streptopelia tranquebarica \)
Spotted Dove \( Streptopelia chinensis \)
Laughing Dove \( Streptopelia senegalensis \)
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon \( Treron phoenicopterus chlorigaster \)
Grey-fronted Green Pigeon \( Treron affinis \)

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**
Asian Koel \( Eudynamys scolopaceus \)
Greater Coucal \( Centropus sinensis parroti \)

**APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae**
Crested Treeswift \( Hemiprocne coronata \)

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**
Asian Palm-Swift \( Cypsiurus balasiensis \)
Alpine Swift \( Tachymarptis melba \)
Little Swift \( Apus affinis \)

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**
Jungle Nightjar \( Caprimulgus indicus \)
Sykes's Nightjar \( Caprimulgus mahattensis \)
Indian Nightjar \( Caprimulgus asiaticus \)

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**
White-breasted Waterhen \( Amaurornis phoenicurus \)
Purple Swamphen \( Porphyrio [porphyrio] poliocephalus \)
Common Moorhen \( Gallinula chloropus \)
Eurasian Coot \( Fulica atra \)

**GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**
Demoiselle Crane \( Anthropoides virgo \)
Common Crane \( Grus grus \)

**GRUIFORMES: Otididae**
Great Indian Bustard \( Ardeotis nigriceps \)
Macqueen's Bustard \( Chlamydotis macqueenii \)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**
Pheasant-tailed Jacana \( Hydrophasianus chirurgus \)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**
Black-winged Stilt \( Himantopus himantopus \)
Pied Avocet \( Recurвроstra avosetta \)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Dromadidae**
Crab-plover \( Dromas ardeola \)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Haematopodidae**
Eurasian Oystercatcher \( Haematopus ostralegus \)
**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**
Indian Thick-knee  *Burhinus bengalensis*
Great Thick-knee  *Burhinus recurvirostris*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**
Yellow-wattled Lapwing  *Vanellus malabaricus*
Red-wattled Lapwing  *Vanellus indicus*
Sociable Lapwing  *Vanellus gregarius*
White-tailed Lapwing  *Vanellus leucurus*
Pacific Golden Plover  *Pluvialis fulva*
Grey Plover  *Pluvialis squatarola*
Little Ringed Plover  *Charadrius dubius curonicus*
Kentish Plover  *Charadrius a. alexandrinus*
Lesser Sandplover  *Anarhynchus mongolus*
Greater Sandplover  *Anarhynchus leschenaultii*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**
Jack Snipe  *Lymnocryptes minimus*
Common Snipe  *Gallinago gallinago*
Black-tailed Godwit  *Limosa limosa*
Bar-tailed Godwit  *Limosa lapponica*
Eurasian Whimbrel  *Numenius phaeopus*
Eurasian Curlew  *Numenius arquata*
Terek Sandpiper  *Xenus cinereus*
Common Sandpiper  *Actitis hypoleucos*
Green Sandpiper  *Tringa ochropus*
Spotted Redshank  *Tringa erythropus*
Common Greenshank  *Tringa nebularia*
Ruddy Turnstone  *Arenaria interpres*
Marsh Sandpiper  *Tringa stagnatilis*
Wood Sandpiper  *Tringa glareola*
Common Redshank  *Tringa totanus*
Little Stint  *Calidris minuta*
Temminck’s Stint  *Calidris temminckii*
Dunlin  *Calidris alpina*
Sanderling  *Calidris alba*
Ruff  *Calidris pugnax*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae**
Barred Buttonquail  *Turnix suscitator*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**
Cream-coloured Courser  *Cursorius cursor*
Indian Courser  *Cursorius coromandelicus*
Small Pratincole  *Glareola lactea*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**
Steppe Gull  *Larus [cachinnans] barabensis*
Heuglin’s Gull  *Larus [fuscus] heuglini*
Pallas’s Gull  *Larus ichtyaetus*
Brown-headed Gull  *Larus brunnicephalus*
Black-headed Gull  *Larus ridibundus*
Slender-billed Gull  *Larus genei*
Gull-billed Tern  *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Caspian Tern  *Hydroprogne caspia*
Lesser Crested Tern  *Thalasseus bengalensis*
Whiskered Tern  *Chlidonias hybridus*
White-winged Tern  *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Little Tern  *Sternula albifrons albifrons*
River Tern  
*Sterna aurantia*

**PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**
- Indian Cormorant  *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
- Great Cormorant  *Phalacrocorax carbo*
- Little Cormorant  *Phalacrocorax niger*
- Oriental Darter  *Anhinga melanogaster*

**CICONIIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**
- Black-headed Ibis  *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
- Red-naped Ibis  *Pseudibis papillosa*
- Glossy Ibis  *Plegadis falcinellus*
- Eurasian Spoonbill  *Platalea leucorodia*

**CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**
- Painted Stork  *Mycteria leucocephala*
- Asian Openbill  *Anastomus oscitans*
- Woolly-necked Stork  *Ciconia episcopus*
- White Stork  *Ciconia ciconia*
- Black-necked Stork  *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

**CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**
- Grey Heron  *Ardea cinerea*
- Purple Heron  *Ardea purpurea*
- Eastern Great Egret  *Ardea [alba] modestus*
- Intermediate Egret  *Ardea intermedia intermedia*
- Cattle Egret  *Ardea ibis coromandus*
- Little Egret  *Egretta garzetta*
- Western Reef Heron  *Egretta gularis*
- Indian Pond Heron  *Ardeola grayii*
- Black-crowned Night Heron  *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae**
- Great White Pelican  *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
- Dalmatian Pelican  *Pelecanus crispus*

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**
- Osprey  *Pandion haliaetus*

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**
- Oriental Honeybuzzard  *Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis*
- Black-shouldered Kite  *Elanus caerulesus*
- Black Kite  *Milvus migrans govinda*
- 'Black-eared' Kite  *Milvus [migrans] lineatus*
- Egyptian Vulture  *Neophron percnopterus*
- Indian Vulture  *Gyps indicus*
- Eurasian Griffon  *Gyps fulvus*
- Monk Vulture  *Aegypius monachus*
- Short-toed Eagle  *Circaetus gallicus*
- Crested Serpent Eagle  *Spilornis cheela*
- Western Marsh Harrier  *Circus aeruginosus*
- Pallid Harrier  *Circus macrourus*
- Montagu's Harrier  *Circus pygargus*
- Shikra  *Tachyphaga badius dussumieri*
- Besra  *Tachyphaga virgatus*
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk  *Accipiter nisus nisosimilis*
- White-eyed Buzzard  *Butastur teesa*
- Eurasian Buzzard  *Buteo buteo vulpinus*
- Long-legged Buzzard  *Buteo rufinus*
Greater Spotted Eagle  
Tawny Eagle  
Steppe Eagle  
Imperial Eagle  
Bonelli’s Eagle  
Booted Eagle  

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

Indian Scops Owl  
Pallid Scops Owl  
Indian Eagle Owl  
Mottled Wood Owl  
Forest Owlet  
Jungle Owlet  
Spotted Owlet  
Brown Boobook  
Short-eared Owl  

**CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

Indian Grey Hornbill  

**PICIFORMES: Capitonidae**

Brown-headed Barbet  
Coppersmith Barbet  

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Indian Pygmy Woodpecker  
Yellow-fronted Woodpecker  
Rufous Woodpecker  
Black-rumped Flameback  
White-naped Woodpecker  

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Common Kingfisher  
White-throated Kingfisher  
Pied Kingfisher  

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

Green Bee-eater  

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**

Indian Roller  

**CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae**

Eurasian Hoopoe  

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Eurasian Kestrel  
Red-necked Falcon  
Merlin  
Laggar Falcon  
Peregrine Falcon  
'Shaheen' Falcon  

**PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae**

Alexandrine Parakeet  
Rose-ringed Parakeet  
Plum-headed Parakeet  

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<td>'Shaheen' Falcon</td>
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<td><em>Psittacula cyanocephala</em></td>
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Malabar Parakeet  
Psittacula columboides

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**
- Indian Golden Oriole  
  Oriolus kundoo
- Black-hooded Oriole  
  Oriolus xanthornus maderaspatanus

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**
- Large Cuckoo-shrike  
  Coracina macei macei
- Scarlet Minivet  
  Pericrocotus flammeus flammeus
- Small Minivet  
  Pericrocotus c. cinnamomeus
- White-bellied Minivet  
  Pericrocotus erythropygius

**PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae**
- Common Iora  
  Aegithina tiphia
- Marshall’s Iora  
  Aegithina nigrolutea

**PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae**
- Common Woodshrike  
  Tephrodornis pondicerianus

**PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae**
- White-spotted Fantail  
  Rhipidura albogularis
- White-browed Fantail  
  Rhipidura aureola

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**
- Black Drongo  
  Dicrurus macrocercus
- Ashy Drongo  
  Dicrurus leucophaeus longicaudatus
- White-bellied Drongo  
  Dicrurus caerulescens
- Greater Racket-tailed Drongo  
  Dicrurus paradiseus rangoonensis
- Hair-crested Drongo  
  Dicrurus hottentottus  
  heard only

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**
- Black-naped Monarch  
  Hypothymis azurea
- Indian Paradise Flycatcher  
  Terpsiphone paradisi paradisi
  Terpsiphone paradisi leucogaster

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**
- Xinjiang Shrike  
  Lanius [isabellinus] arenarius
- Bay-backed Shrike  
  Lanius vittatus
- Long-tailed Shrike  
  Lanius schach erythronotus
  Lanius schach caniceps
- Southern Grey Shrike  
  Lanius meridionalis lahtora

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**
- Rufous Treepie  
  Dendrocitta vagabunda
- House Crow  
  Corvus splendens
- Indian Jungle Crow  
  Corvus culminatus

**PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae**
- Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher  
  Culicicapa ceylonensis

**PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae**
- White-crowned Penduline Tit  
  Remiz coronatus

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**
- Indian Yellow Tit  
  Machlolophus aplonotus
- White-naped Tit  
  Machlolophus nuchalis
- Cinereous Tit  
  Parus cinereus

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**
- Indian Bushlark  
  Mirafra erythroptera
### PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae
- **Common Sand Martin**: *Riparia riparia*
- **Grey-throated Sand Martin**: *Riparia chinensis*
- **Eurasian Crag Martin**: *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
- **Dusky Crag Martin**: *Ptyonoprogne concolor*
- **Barn Swallow**: *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*
- **Red-rumped Swallow**: *Hirundo daurica erythropygia*
- **Wire-tailed Swallow**: *Hirundo smithii*

### PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae
- **White-eared Bulbul**: *Pycnonotus leucotis*
- **Red-whiskered Bulbul**: *Pycnonotus jocosus*
- **Red-vented Bulbul**: *Pycnonotus cafer*

### PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae
- **Tawny-bellied Babbler**: *Dumetia hyperythra hyperythra*

### PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae
- **Rufous-vented Grass-babbler (Prinia)**: *Laticilla burnesii*
- **Puff-throated Babbler**: *Pellorneum ruficeps*

### PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae
- **Brown-cheeked Fulvetta**: *Alcippe poioicephala brucei*
- **Common Babbler**: *Turdoides caudata caudata*
- **Large Grey Babbler**: *Turdoides malcolmi*
- **Jungle Babbler**: *Turdoides striata sindia*
- **Striated Babbler**: *Turdoides earlei*

### PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae
- **Yellow-eyed Babbler**: *Chrysomma sinense*
- **Jerdon’s Babbler**: *Chrysomma altirostre scindicum*
- **Eastern Orphean Warbler**: *Sylvia crassirostris*
- **Asian Desert Warbler**: *Sylvia nana*
- **Lesser Whitethroat**: *Sylvia curruca halimodendri*
- **Desert Whitethroat**: *Sylvia [curruca] minula*

### PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae
- **Oriental White-eye**: *Zosterops palpebrosus*

### PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae
- **Siberian chiffchaff**: *Phylloscopus [collybita] tristis*
- **Mountain Chiffchaff**: *Phylloscopus sindianus*
- **Lemon-rumped Warbler**: *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
- **Hume's Leaf Warbler**: *Phylloscopus humei humei*
- **Greenish Warbler**: *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*
- **Bright-green Warbler**: *Phylloscopus nitidus*
- **Western Crowned Warbler**: *Phylloscopus occipitalis*
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<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sulphur-bellied Warbler</td>
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Desert Wheatear  Oenanthe deserti deserti
Isabelline Wheatear  Oenanthe isabellina
Brown Rock-chat  Cercomela fusca

**PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae**
Jerdon’s Leafbird  Chloropsis jerdoni
Golden-fronted Leafbird  Chloropsis aurifrons frontalis

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**
Agile [Thick-billed] Flowerpecker  Pachyglossa agile
Pale-billed Flowerpecker  Dicaeum erythrorhynchos

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**
Purple Sunbird  Cinnyris asiaticus
Purple-rumped Sunbird  Leptocoma zeylonica
Vigors’s Sunbird  Aethopyga vigorsii

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**
House Sparrow  Passer domesticus
Sind Sparrow  Passer pyrrhonotus
Spanish Sparrow  Passer hispaniolensis
Yellow-throated Petronia  Petronia xanthocollis

**PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae**
Streaked Weaver  Ploceus manyar
Baya Weaver  Ploceus philippinus philippinus

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**
Red Avadavat  Amandava amandava
Green Avadavat  Amandava formosa
Indian Silverbill  Euodice malabarica

**PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae**
Trumpeter Finch  Bucanetes githagineus

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**
Long-billed Pipit  Anthus similis jerdoni
Tawny Pipit  Anthus campestris griseus
Tree Pipit  Anthus trivialis trivialis
Water Pipit  Anthus spinola blakistoni
White Wagtail  Motacilla alba alba
White-browed Wagtail  Motacilla madaraspatensis
Western Yellow Wagtail  Motacilla flava feldegg
Citrine Wagtail  Motacilla citreola citreola
Grey Wagtail  Motacilla cinerea

**PASSERIFORMES: Hypocoliidae**
Hypocolius  Hypocolius ampelinus

**PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae**
Crested Bunting  Melophus lathami
Grey-necked Bunting  Emberiza buchanani
White-capped Bunting  Emberiza stewarti
Striolated Bunting  Emberiza striolata
Pine Bunting  Emberiza leucocephala
## Mammals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhesus Macaque</td>
<td><em>Macaca mulatta</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Plains Grey Langur</td>
<td><em>Semnopithecus entellus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Palm Squirrel</td>
<td><em>Funambulus pennanti</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Palm Squirrel</td>
<td><em>Funambulus palmarum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Desert Jird</td>
<td><em>Meriones hurrianae</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Hare</td>
<td><em>Lepus nigricollis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Flying Fox</td>
<td><em>Pteropus giganteus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jungle Cat</td>
<td><em>Felis chaus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Palm Civet</td>
<td><em>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Asian Mongoose</td>
<td><em>Herpestes javanicus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Grey Mongoose</td>
<td><em>Herpestes edwardsi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Hyaena</td>
<td><em>Hyaena hyaena</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert (Red) Fox</td>
<td><em>Vulpes vulpus pusilla</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Fox</td>
<td><em>Vulpes bengalensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Otter</td>
<td><em>Lutra perspicillata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Wild Ass</td>
<td><em>Equus hemionus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Wild Pig</td>
<td><em>Sus scrofa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackbuck</td>
<td><em>Antilope cervicapra</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Gazelle</td>
<td><em>Gazella bennettii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nilgai</td>
<td><em>Boselaphus tragocamelus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Humpback Dolphin</td>
<td><em>Sousa plumbea</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

344 species seen including two heard only

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**Demoiselle Cranes, Kheechan**

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*James Eaton/Birdtour Asia*