



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Northern India

### *Birds & Tigers I*

*26<sup>th</sup> January - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009*



*Bengal Tiger by Keith Valentine*

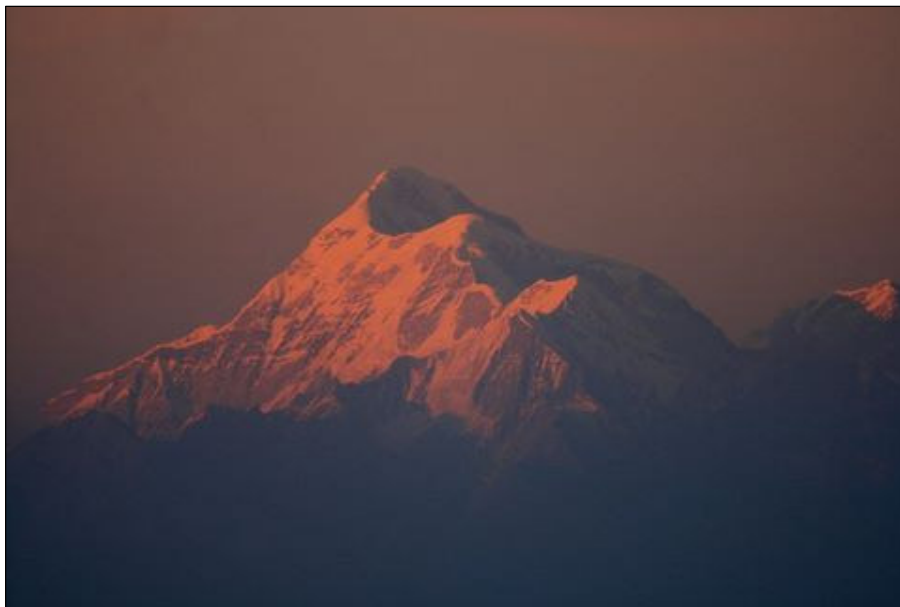
**Tour leaders: Keith & Glen Valentine**

**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Glen Valentine**

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## **Top 10 Birds as voted by participants:**

- 1: Wallcreeper
- 2: Spotted Forktail
- 3: Brown Dipper
- 4: Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler
- 5: Collared Owlet
- 6: Mistle Thrush
- 7: White-tailed Rubythroat
- 8: Chestnut-headed Tesia
- 9: Mottled Wood Owl
- 10: Tawny Fish Owl



## **Tour Summary**

The morning smog had settled over the city of Delhi and our group of keen birders, nature enthusiasts and adventure travellers bustled into the comfortable bus that awaited us at our hotel. Thus began the first day of another extremely successful Rockjumper birding tour to magical Northern India!

Excitement mounted as we headed south west towards the highly acclaimed Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur). Formally the hunting sanctuary for the regional prince and the upper caste elite, it has gained fame as a reserve that protects substantial numbers of migrant waterbirds. This year was one of the best seasons at Bharatpur as all the seasonal ponds were inundated once again. We were already treated to a fantastic assembly of waterbirds en route to the park that included most of the region's ducks and waders. We also picked up several wonderful pairs of classy Sarus Crane, a pair of confiding Brown Bush Hen, a gorgeous male Black Francolin and a rather confiding male Bluethroat, which stood out as highlights on the morning's drive.

Thousands of waterfowl blanketed the ponds, whilst hundreds of storks, egrets, herons and cormorants attended their nests at the water's edge. Good effort was spent transecting the seasonal pans and we came up trumps with specialties such as Black Bittern, Common Crane, stunners like Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, a vagrant Grey-headed Lapwing and the elegant Black-necked Stork, whilst Greater and Lesser Spotted and Imperial Eagles entertained us overhead, along



with a number of other more common and widespread raptors. The surrounding woodland was also highly productive for passerines and we added sought-after species such as the rare and highly elusive Marshall's Iora, scarce Brook's Leaf Warbler and good numbers of the bold and richly-coloured Rufous Treepie. Other highlights in the area included a small flock of Yellow-wattled Lapwing, highly nomadic Indian Courser and several owls and nightjar species at their nests and roost sites. Those that delighted us during our stay here were Spotted Owlet, Brown Hawk-Owl, Dusky Eagle and Indian Scops Owls and the immaculate Large-tailed and Grey (Indian Jungle) Nightjars. The huge Nilgai was observed on small grassy islands and herds of playful Spotted Deer were a constant feature of this prolific wildlife refuge.

Venturing further north towards the monstrosities of Fatepur Sikri, the Taj Mahal and the Agra Red Fort, anticipation began to envelop us as we knew that we were about to

gaze at some of the world's most fantastic man-made structures. Most of the day was spent staring in awe at the fine architecture and sheer size and beauty of these massive buildings before boarding a rather pleasant train ride to Umari.

Exiting the station into the chilly winter air, we jumped into our transit vehicles that would take us to our lovely lodge bordering Bandhavgarh National Park – land of Tigers! Many amazing highlights were to ensue that the next few days will surely live with every one of us for the rest of our lives! The birding in and around the reserve is tremendous and we managed to locate all the targets of the dry deciduous woodlands and bamboo thickets that dominate the area. Highlights included the beautifully-patterned Painted Spurfowl, uncommon White-naped Woodpecker, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Malabar Pied Hornbill and Stork-billed Kingfisher with its gigantic beak. White-eyed Buzzard, and soaring White-rumped, Long-billed and Red-headed Vultures were a few of the many raptor highlights. Owls were also well represented and we added Brown Fish and Mottled Wood Owls and Jungle Owlet to the ever-growing list of these endearing creatures. Hard work, dedication, motivation and local knowledge finally paid off for all when a huge, splendid male Tiger was found sprawled out in the open for all to enjoy. This sighting was followed by a beautiful female and another sighting of the same male – a perfect way to end our wonderful stay at Bandhavgarh.

Bidding farewell to this incredible park, we boarded the train back to Agra where we were greeted with the usual hustle and bustle of the station. Our next destination was that of the Chambal River. This area is much dryer than any other region that one visits during our North India trip, offering a whole different selection of species that are restricted to the arid landscape surrounding the river. Two of the key species here are Indian Skimmer and the delicate Black-bellied Tern and we were thrilled to locate both of these elegant birds. Other highlights at and around the river included flocks of Common Babbler, Rufous-fronted Prinia, Sand Lark, the impressive Bonelli's Eagle, Dalmation and Great White Pelicans, rafts of Red-crested Pochard and a host of waders.

It was time to leave the Chambal as the lush, verdant forests of the Himalayan foothills beckoned. We were anxious to start birding at the highly acclaimed site of Sattal, a forest station situated at around 1600m and famous for attracting several mouth-watering specialties during the winter months. The secondary forest and thickets surrounding our lodge was abuzz with birds of all varieties and colour; fast-moving flocks of exquisite Red-billed Leiothrix, parties of extravagant Red-billed Blue Magpie, delightful Black-lored Tit, diurnal Asian Barred Owlet and the rarely seen Brown Wood Owl stole the show. As we wended our way through more luxurious forests on the outskirts of town we were blown away by outrageous views of the difficult to see Rufous-throated Partridge, boldly-patterned Rufous-chinned and White-throated Laughingthrushes and a host of woodpeckers, warblers, tits, nuthatches, minivets, redstarts and flycatchers. Brief views were obtained of the extremely secretive Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler, whilst Black-throated Accentor, White-capped Bunting, noisy Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler and vibrant Black-headed Jay were some of the delicacies located in the bushy areas around town.

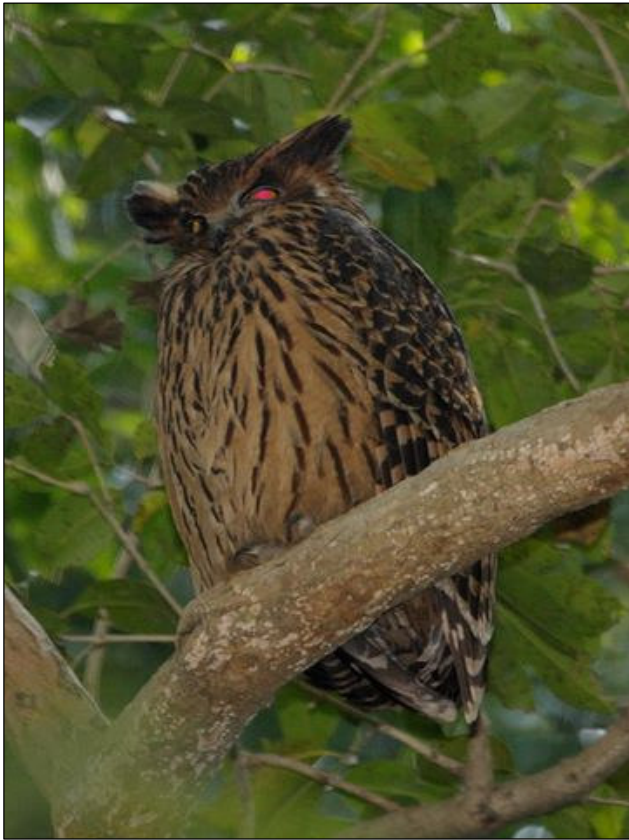
The higher-lying village of Nainital incorporates breath-taking scenery, wonderful, temperate Himalayan forest and a fair deal of mystery as the possibility of finding something unusual during winter is very real and provides great excitement and anticipation. It is an awe-inspiring experience indeed to be standing in the crisp, cool mountain air just as the sun breaks over the endless vistas of the vast Himalayan peaks listening and scanning for the rare Cheer Pheasant, with Himalayan Griffons circling at eye level and roving flocks of Altai Accentors wheeling overhead. Mixed flocks were scoured in search of the many target species of the surrounding forests; Rufous-bellied and Himalayan Woodpeckers were two of the most striking woodpeckers that we saw on several occasions. White-browed and Green Shrike-Babblers provided great excitement, as did the immaculate Spotted Forktail. Several species of attractive thrushes were located amongst the blazes of flowering



Rhododendrons and included Chestnut, Mistle, Black-throated and Tickell's Thrushes as well as Grey-winged Blackbird. The stunning Green-tailed Sunbird was a delight to the senses, as were the pairs of Striated Laughingthrushes that put in an appearance. Some of the group was also fortunate to have views of two seldom-seen mammals, the crepuscular Yellow-throated Martin and Indian Fox.

The drive to the world-famous Corbett National Park took us via the Mongoli Valley where we found the huge Scaly-bellied Woodpecker, Whiskered Yuhina and zippy Ashy-throated Leaf-Warbler amongst other delightful species, whilst a stop in the afternoon near the Kosi River provided crippling views of the outrageous Long-billed Thrush and delicate Slaty-backed Forktail.

The icy clear waters of the Kosi River is a beautiful sight as it slowly meanders its way through the temperate broadleaved "sal" forests that dominate the area. Many delectable species are to be found here and we wasted no time in racking up some really classy birds. The numerous rapids along the Kosi produced fantastic sightings of Little Forktail, entertaining Brown Dipper and



bold and demonstrative Crested Kingfisher, whilst the lodge grounds added the gaudy Orange-bellied Leafbird and dazzling Crimson Sunbird. Corbett National Park itself is a wonderful reserve where bolder-strewn streams, enormous “sal” forest and riverine thickets give way to extensive grasslands, protecting a great diversity of wildlife in this wide range of habitats. Raptors were particularly note-worthy as we were treated to several sightings of Pallas’s and Lesser Fish Eagles, the miniscule Collared Falconet and Cinereous Vulture among others. Some participants opted to partake in the morning’s elephant ride, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and yielded sightings of Hog and Spotted Deer, Sambar and Wild Boar in the grasslands. Those who opted for a morning’s game drive scored on the birding side with unbeatable views of both Chestnut-headed and Grey-bellied Tesias as highlights. The extremely rare and localized Hodgson’s Bush Chat was observed whilst patrolling the grasslands along with the scarce Lesser Coucal and tiny Bright-headed Cisticola.

Other avian highlights of these magnificent forests included the brilliant Green Magpie, gorgeous White-tailed Rubythroat and flamboyant Hair-crested Drongo. Golden Jackal was seen scampering down the track, active troops of Rhesus Macaque and Hanuman Langur bounded through the forest as did the skittish Barking Deer, whilst Indian Elephant fed at the edge of the reservoir – sheer paradise indeed!

Heading back to Ramnagar and on to Delhi meant that we had some time to recap on our amazing adventure through North India - what a trip it had been but it wasn’t over yet. We still had the Yamuna River to come and this large expanse of water in the middle of Delhi did not disappoint with huge numbers of waterbirds being in attendance. Literally thousands of ducks and gulls put on an awesome display on our last morning in the vibrant capital. We were delighted to find a small raft of Ferruginous Duck amongst the vast squadrons of Tufted Duck. Small parties of Striated Babbler, Graceful and Yellow-bellied Prinias provided our last bit of birding entertainment before our farewell lunch.

The vibrant forests, snow-capped Himalayan scenery, misty savannas and vast wetlands of North India will delight the senses of all who are fortunate enough to experience it. Whatever your interest may be, this unbeatable tour has something special for everyone!

**Photo credits:** Royal Bengal Tiger, Trident Peak at Sunset, Black-necked Stork and Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, K. Valentine; Tawny Fish Owl, M. Lilje.

## **BIRD SPECIES LIST**

**(409 Species)**

*Note: Names and taxonomical order of the bird species list follows that of IOC (International Ornithological congress), Birds of the World.*

E = Endemic, SE = Sub-continent endemic.

### Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

#### **Black Francolin**

*Francolinus francolinus*

Birds were seen en route to Keoladeo NP, near the Chambal River and in Corbett NP with good views obtained on all occasions.

#### **Grey Francolin**

*Francolinus pondicerianus*

A common species that was seen particularly well and in good numbers IN Keoladeo NP.

#### **Jungle Bush Quail**

*Perdicula asiatica*

Everyone enjoyed phenomenal views of 11 birds for an extended period in Bandhavgargh NP.

#### **Hill Partridge**

*Arborophila torqueola*

A single bird was heard in the Nainital area.

#### **Rufous-throated Partridge**

*Arborophila rufogularis*

Outrageous views were had of this incredibly difficult species in the Sattal area.

#### **Painted Spurfowl (E)**

*Galloperdix lunulata*

Everyone managed to obtain good views of this secretive species during our time in Banhavgargh NP.

#### **Red Junglefowl**

*Gallus gallus*

Several of these gaudy birds were seen in Bandhavgargh and Corbett National Parks.

#### **Cheer Pheasant**

*Catreus wallichii*

Some of the group was extremely fortunate to obtain views of this scarce pheasant in the Nainital area.

#### **Kalij Pheasant**

*Lophura leucomelanos*

Numerous good sightings were had in the Himalayan foothill areas of Sattal, Nainital and Corbett.

#### **Indian Peafowl**

*Pavo cristatus*

A truly spectacular species that was recorded on most days of the trip. A male was seen performing its marvelous display in Bandhavgargh NP.

### Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

#### **Lesser Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna javanica*

Good numbers were found in Keoladeo NP and surrounding areas.

#### **Greylag Goose**

*Anser anser*

Large numbers were seen in Keoladeo NP and on the Yamuna River.

#### **Bar-headed Goose**

*Anser indicus*

Large numbers were seen in Keoladeo NP with further spectacular close-up views on the Chambal River.

#### **Knob-billed Duck**

*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Large numbers were seen in Keoladeo NP.

NOTE: IOC splits *S.melanotos* into two species, Knob-billed Duck (*S.melanotos*) of the old world and Comb Duck (*S.sylvicola*) of the new world.

#### **Ruddy Shelduck**

*Tadorna ferruginea*

Small numbers were found in Keoladeo NP with further sightings along the Chambal, Kosi and Yamuna Rivers.

#### **Cotton Pygmy Goose**

*Nettapus coromandelianus*

A small group totaling around 20 birds were found in Keoladeo NP.

#### **Gadwall**

*Anas strepera*

Good numbers were seen in Keoladeo NP and at the Chambal and Yamuna Rivers.

#### **Eurasian Wigeon**

*Anas Penelope*

Three birds were found at Keoladeo NP with further several more on the Yamuna River.

#### **Indian Spot-billed Duck**

*Anas poecilorhyncha*

Good numbers were found in Keoladeo NP with further views along the Chambal River.

NOTE: *A.poecilorhyncha* is split by IOC into two species, Indian Spot-billed Duck (*A.poecilorhyncha*) and Eastern Spot-billed Duck (*A.zonorhyncha*) of China and SE Asia.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

A very common species seen at most waterbodies.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Large numbers were encountered in Keoladeo NP with further sightings on the Yamuna River.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Several birds were seen in Keoladeo NP with further views along the Yamuna River.

**Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca*

Large numbers were found in the Keoladeo NP with hundreds more being seen along the Yamuna River.

NOTE: IOC splits *A.crecca* into two species, Eurasian Teal (*A.crecca*) of the old world and Green-winged Teal (*A.carolinensis*) of the new world.

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

Small flocks totaling at least 100 birds were seen extremely well on the Chambal River.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya farina*

Good numbers were seen along the Yamuna River.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

A real bonus was seeing a flock of six of these scarce birds on the Yamuna River.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Large numbers were found on the Yamuna River.

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*

Two birds flew over us in the afternoon whilst scanning the Kosi River.

### Grebes Podicipedidae

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Small numbers were found at most waterbodies throughout the tour.

### Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*

At least ten birds were found at the Yamuna River.

### Storks Ciconidae

**Painted Stork** *Mycteria leucocephala*

Huge numbers were found in Keoladeo NP with further sightings at scattered waterbodies throughout.

**Asian Openbill** *Anastomus oscitans*

Ten birds were seen in Keoladeo NP.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

A flock of around 25 birds was seen in Corbett NP.

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

Small numbers seen at scattered localities.

**Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

This spectacular stork was seen at close range in Keoladeo NP with further views at the Chambal River and in Corbett NP.

**Lesser Adjutant** *Leptoptilos javanicus*

This scarce species was sighted on every day in Bandhavgarh NP.

### Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

**Black-headed Ibis** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Good numbers were seen at waterbodies throughout the tour with at least 100 birds at Keoladeo NP.

**Red-naped Ibis** *Pseudibis papillosa*

Wonderful views were had of a single bird just outside Bandhavgarh NP with further sightings near the Chambal River.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

Good numbers were encountered in Keoladeo NP.

**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Small numbers were found in Keoladeo NP with several more at the Yamuna River.

### Bitterns & Herons Ardeidae

**Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis*

Three of these good-looking birds were located in Keoladeo NP.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax Nycticorax*

Small numbers were seen in Keoladeo NP.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

Several were encountered in Keoladeo NP.

*NOTE: Controversial to some authorities, Clements includes a full twenty-nine subspecies under this species. The only split he recognizes is the Green Heron (B. virescens) of North and Central America. IOC splits B. Striata into three species, Striated Heron (B. striata), Green Heron (B. virescens) and Lava Heron (B. sundevalli)*

**Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*

A very common species that was seen almost daily.

**(Eastern) Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis (coromandus)*

Commonly recorded throughout northern India. Seen almost every day of the tour.

*NOTE: B. coromandus is split by IOC according to the latest update but Clements does not accept this split as yet.*

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Seen at most wetland localities, with peak numbers in the Keoladeo NP.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

This sleek heron was sighted on several occasions with memorable views in Keoladeo NP.

**(Eastern) Great Egret** *Ardea alba (modesta)*

*NOTE: A. modesta is split by IOC according to the latest update but is not yet recognized as a full species by Clements.*

A common sight, particularly in Keoladeo NP.

*NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

**Yellow-billed Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

This egret was seen in similar numbers as the previous species.

*NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, the Africa Yellow-billed Egret (E. brachyrhyncha), Plumed Egret (E. plumifera) and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements or IOC.*

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Encountered at many wetland locations around the region with peak numbers in Keoladeo NP..

*NOTE: Clements lumps Little, Western Reef (E. gularis) and Madagascar's Dimorphic (E. dimorpha) Egret into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted as IOC accepts all three splits.*

### Pelicans Pelecanidae

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocratalus*

Singletons seen at Keoladeo NP and near the Taj Mahal with further sightings of at least 30 birds along the Chambal River.

**Dalmation Pelican** *Pelecanus crispus*

A rather scarce and localized pelican. We had close-up views of around 20 birds on the Chambal River.

### Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

**Little Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax niger*

Large numbers were encountered at waterbodies throughout the tour.

**Indian Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

This species is by far the scarcer of the three cormorants in the region but we did manage to find five birds in Keoladeo NP.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Commonly recorded at most wetland localities during the tour.

*NOTE: The white-breasted African subspecies of the widely distributed Great Cormorant P. carbo is sometimes considered a different species: P. lucidus. This split is recognized by IOC according to the latest update.*

### Anhingas Anhingidae

**(Oriental) Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*

Small numbers were seen in Keoladeo NP with a further sighting in Corbett NP.

*NOTE: The African form P. rufa is sometimes lumped with the Asian P. melanogaster and the enlarged species called Darter. Clements uses the latter treatment of lumping these forms, whereas IOC splits "Darter" into three species.*

### Falcons & Caracaras Falconidae

**Collared Falconet** *Microhierax caerulescens*

An incredible total of six birds were seen in and around Corbett NP. This is usually a very uncommon species and this represents unprecedented numbers in the region!

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Small numbers were observed at widely scattered localities.

*NOTE: M.caerulescens is split into two species by IOC according to the latest update, Common Kestrel (F.tinnunculus) and Rock Kestrel (F.rupicolus) in S Africa.*

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

Two birds were seen: one in the Nainital region and another in Corbett NP.

*NOTE: IOC splits F.peregrinus into two species, Peregrine Falcon (F.peregrinus) and Barbary Falcon (F.pegrinoides) of SW Europe & N Africa. Clements doesn't recognize this split.*

### Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

**(Western) Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Our only sighting was of a single bird in Corbett NP.

*NOTE: P.haliaetus is now split into two species by IOC according to the latest update. Clements does not, however, recognize this split.*

**Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Singletons were seen at Keoladeo NP and in the Himalayan Foothills.

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

This widespread raptor was commonly seen at most locations during the tour.

*NOTE: Clements has split the two species Black-shouldered Kite (Elanus caeruleus) of the Old World and White-tailed Kite (Elanus leucurus) of the New World. This split is not universally accepted. IOC splits it into three species.*

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

This common raptor was recorded on most days at most sites throughout the tour.

*NOTE: M. migrans is sometimes split into two species. This split is not recognized by either Clements or IOC. We saw the breeding resident race/species, M.migrans.*

**Pallas's Fish-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

A magnificent species that was seen very well daily in and around Corbett NP.

**Lesser Fish Eagle** *Ichthyophaga humilis*

A total of about three of these wonderful raptors were seen in Corbett NP.

**Bearded Vulture** *Gypaetus barbatus*

Wonderful views were had of a single bird near Nainital with a further sighting of two birds in the Mongoli Valley.

**Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*

A very distinctive species of vulture that was seen at various locations throughout the country, with peak numbers in the Keoladeo NP.

**White-rumped Vulture** *Gyps bengalensis*

A species that suffered huge population crash in recent years; we were thrilled to see several birds soaring the skies daily in the Banhavgargh area.

**Indian Vulture***Gyps indicus*

This species has also suffered a major decline in numbers throughout the region and we were excited to see such good numbers in the Banhavgargh area with at least 50 birds seen in one day. The species breeds on cliffs in the park and we had good views daily.

*NOTE: IOC splits G.indicus into two species, Indian Vulture (G.indicus) in N, C & S India & Slender-billed Vulture (G.teruirostris) of the Himalayas and SE Asia.*

**Himalayan Griffon***Gyps himalayensis*

Small numbers were encountered in the Nainital area with several adults showing really well.

**Griffon Vulture***Gyps fulvus*

Several birds were found in the Nainital area with a further sighting in Corbett NP.

**Red-headed Vulture***Sarcogyps calvus*

Several birds were found in Keoladeo, Bandhavgargh and Corbett NP.

**Cinereous Vulture***Aegypius monachus*

Three sightings were had of this huge vulture in Corbett NP.

**Short-toed Snake Eagle***Circaetus gallicus*

Two birds were seen exceptionally well near the Chambal River.

**Crested Serpent Eagle***Spilornis cheela*

An attractive raptor that was seen regularly in Bandhavgargh NP with further encounters in the foothills of the Himalayas.

**Western Marsh Harrier***Circus aeruginosus*

About half a dozen were found in Keoladeo NP with further views at the Yamuna River.

*NOTE: IOC splits C.aeruginosus into two species, Western Marsh Harrier (C.aeruginosus) of Arica and India and Eastern Marsh Harrier (C.spilonotus) of E Asia.*

**Northern Harrier***Circus cyaneus*

Just a single bird was seen quartering over the grasslands in Corbett NP.

**Pallid Harrier***Circus macrourus*

Two birds were seen in Keoladeo NP with a further sighting in Corbett NP.

**Shikra***Accipiter badius*

This widespread *accipiter* was seen on several occasions at scattered sites throughout the island.

**Besra***Accipiter virgatus*

We were thrilled to find this uncommon forest raptor at the edge of the Yamuna River.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk***Accipiter nisus*

A single bird was seen flying over some of the group whilst in the Nainital area.

**Northern Goshawk***Accipiter gentiles*

This large raptor was seen in flight over the Kosi River near Ramnagar.

**White-eyed Buzzard***Butastur teesa*

We had wonderful views of this attractive species on several occasions whilst in the Banhavgargh area.

**Common Buzzard***Buteo buteo*

A single bird was seen in the Keoladeo NP.

*NOTE: B.buteo is split by IOC into three species according to the latest update, Common Buzzard (B.buteo), Eastern Buzzard (B.japonicus) and Himalayan Buzzard (B.refectus) in the Himalayas.*

**Long-legged Buzzard***Buteo rufinus*

A few birds were located near the Chambal River.

**Indian Spotted Eagle***Aquila pomarina (hastata)*

This scarce species was seen in flight amongst a variety of other raptors in Keoladeo NP.

*NOTE: IOC splits pomarina into two species, Lesser Spotted Eagle (A.pomarina) and Indian Spotted Eagle (A.hastata) of India.*

**Greater Spotted Eagle***Aquila clanga*

Several of these bold eagles were seen very well perched and in flight in the Keoladeo NP.

**Steppe Eagle***Aquila nipalensis*

Regular sightings were had in Keoladeo NP and throughout the Himalayan Foothills.

**Bonelli's Eagle***Hieraetus fasciatus*

We had wonderful views of a single bird at the nest at the Chambal River.

**Booted Eagle***Hieraaetus pennatus*

A singleton was seen flying over us in the Keoladeo NP.

**Crested Hawk-Eagle***Spizaetus cirrhatus*

Two birds showed magnificently in Banhavgargh NP. One of them was seen hunting a female junglefowl and made for great entertainment!

*NOTE: Some authorities split this species from the Changeable Hawk-Eagle, which inhabits mountainous areas and higher altitudes. This split is not accepted by either Clements or IOC.*

**Changeable Hawk-Eagle***Spizaetus cirrhatus (linnaeetus)*

In India this is a species of montane forests and we had great views of a single bird in Corbett NP.

**Mountain Hawk-Eagle***Spizaetus nipalensis*

Two birds were seen in flight in the Nainital area.

*NOTE: IOC splits S.nipalensis into two species, Mountain Hawk Eagle (S.nipalensis) and Legge's Hawk Eagle (S.kelaarti) of S India and Sri Lanka).*

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae****Brown Bush-hen***Amaurornis akool*

We were exceptionally fortunate to bump into a pair of these great birds, which performed well en route from Delhi to Bharatpur.

**White-breasted Waterhen***Amaurornis phoenicurus*

This common but none-the-less attractive species was seen on numerous occasions in Keoladeo NP.

**Purple Swamphen***Porphyrio Porphyrio (poliocephalus)*

Hundreds of birds were seen in the Keoladeo NP with further sightings at the Yamuna River.

*NOTE: This cosmopolitan species is currently in taxonomic review and several forms are expected to be recognised as distinct species. The form we recorded would then become Gray-headed Swamphen (P. poliocephalus) Other forms to be recognised may include African Swamphen (P. madagascariensis), Philippine Swamphen (P. pulverulentus) and Eastern Swamphen (P. melanotus).*

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

Large numbers were encountered in Keoladeo NP.

**Eurasian Coot***Fulica atra*

A species that was, like the last species, seen at most waterbodies throughout the tour.

**Cranes Gruidae****Sarus Crane***Grus antigone*

Several pairs were seen spectacularly well en route to Bharatpur with further encounters at Keoladeo NP. The world's tallest flying bird and one of the many star attractions to North India.

**Common Crane***Grus grus*

We were fortunate to find a small flock of these beautiful birds in Keoladeo NP.

**Buttonquails Turnicidae****Barred Buttonquail***Turnix suscitator*

Two birds were seen in flight as they flushed from dense grass in Keoladeo NP.

**Stone-curlews, Thick-knees Burhinidae****Eurasian (Indian) Stone-curlew***Burhinus oedicephalus (indicus)*

A pair was seen in Bandhavgargh NP with a further pair being found in the woodland outside the park.

*NOTE: B.indicus is split by IOC according to the latest update but is not recognized as a full species by Clements.*

**Great Stone-curlew***Escacus recurvirostris*

This impressive species was encountered in fair numbers on several occasions with particularly memorable sightings along the Chambal River.

**Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae**

**Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

A common species that was encountered at most wetland localities throughout the country, in particularly large numbers in Keoladeo NP.

**Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avosetta*

A single bird was seen from the Taj Mahal.

**Plovers Charadriidae****River Lapwing***Vanellus duvaucelii*

This boldly patterned species was seen on many occasions on all large rivers in the region.

**Yellow-wattled Lapwing (SE)***Vanellus malabaricus*

A bird of dry, open areas that was encountered in fields around Keoladeo NP and around Banbhavgarh NP.

**Red-wattled Lapwing***Vanellus indicus*

A very common species that was encountered almost daily on tour.

**White-tailed Lapwing***Vanellus leucurus*

Three birds were located in the Keoladeo NP.

**Grey-headed Lapwing***Vanellus cinereus*

A rarity for the region! We were absolutely blown away to find a single bird in the Keoladeo NP.

**Little Ringed Plover***Charadrius dubius*

Several were seen on the banks of the Chambal River.

**Kentish Plover***Charadrius alexandrinus*

Small numbers were seen along the banks of the Chambal River.

*NOTE: IOC splits C.alexandrinus into two species, Kentish Plover (C.alexandrinus) widespread and Snowy Plover (C.nivosus) of the New World.*

**Lesser Sand Plover***Charadrius mongolus*

Small numbers were seen along the banks of the Chambal River, associating with the previous species.

**Painted Snipes Rostratulidae****Greater Painted Snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

Four of these unique and sought-after birds were seen in a drainage ditch near Keoladeo NP.

**Jacanas Jacanidae****Pheasant-tailed Jacana***Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

About half a dozen birds were seen amongst Bronze-wings in Keoladeo NP.

**Bronze-winged Jacana***Metopidius indicus*

Good numbers were seen in Keoladeo NP.

**Snipes & Sandpipers Scolopacidae****Common Snipe***Gallinago gallinago*

Two birds were seen in Keoladeo NP.

**Black-tailed Godwit***Limosa limosa*

A singleton was seen in Keoladeo NP.

**Common Redshank***Tringa tetanus*

This widespread species was seen on several occasions at scattered waterbodies throughout.

**Marsh Sandpiper***Tringa stagnatilis*

Several birds were seen in Keoladeo NP with a further sighting on the Kosi River.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

Small numbers were encountered quite regularly at various waterbodies throughout the region.

**Green Sandpiper***Tringa ochropus*

A commonly recorded bird in Northern India, where we had sightings of small numbers on many days.

<b>Wood Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Small numbers were found in Keoladeo NP.	
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Another regularly encountered species at waterbodies throughout.	
<b>Little Stint</b>	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
A single bird was seen at the Chambal River.	
<b>Temminck's Stint</b>	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
One of the commonest waders on the trip, we had many sightings of this species.	
<b>Ruff</b>	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Several birds were found at widely scattered localities.	

### Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae

<b>Indian Courser</b>	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>
We were ecstatic to find a small flock of these beautiful and nomadic birds in a field near Keoladeo NP.	
<b>Small Pratincole</b>	<i>Glareola lacteal</i>
A surprise find! We had great views of this attractive species at the Chambal River where at least ten birds were found.	

### Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

<b>Yellow-legged Gull</b>	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
At least three adults were scoped at the Yamuna River.	
<b>Great Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>
Two birds were seen at the Chambal River with further sightings at the Yamuna River.	
<b>Brown-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>
Hundreds were found along the Yamuna River.	
<b>Common Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Large numbers were seen along the Yamuna River.	
<b>River Tern</b>	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>
Brilliant close-up views were had of these classy terns along the Chambal River with further sightings in Corbett NP.	
<b>Black-bellied Tern</b>	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>
A total of 2 birds were found on our boat trip along the Chambal River. This has become a very rare bird and we were thrilled to obtain such cracking views!	
<b>Indian Skimmer</b>	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>
We were extremely lucky to see a single bird flying down the Chambal River. It is extremely worrying to see how quickly this species' numbers are dropping due to disturbance.	

### Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

<b>Common Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common at every locality throughout the entire tour.	
<b>Oriental Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Small numbers were seen at scattered localities with memorable sightings near Nainital.	
<b>Eurasian Collared Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
We had many sightings of this species, especially in the drier areas.	
<b>Spotted Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
Commonly found in Bandhavgarh NP with further encounters thereafter.	
<b>Laughing Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Commonly encountered at many localities throughout India.	
<b>Common Emerald Dove</b>	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
A total of seven birds were seen in Corbett NP, although all the sightings were unfortunately brief.	

**Yellow-footed Green Pigeon***Treron phoenicoptera*

This attractive species was seen on several days of the tour with good numbers in Keoladeo NP..

**Pin-tailed Green Pigeon***Treron apicauda*

We had brilliant views of this good-looking pigeon in Corbett NP where a large flock was seen.

**Parrots & Cockatoos Psittacidae****Alexandrine Parakeet***Psittacula eupatria*

Good views were enjoyed of these large parakeets in Bandhavgargh NP.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet***Psittacula krameri*

Encountered almost daily throughout northern India, particularly numerous in the lower lying areas.

**Slaty-headed Parakeet***Psittacula himalayana*

Good numbers were seen in the Sattal area with further views near Nainital

**Plum-headed Parakeet (SE)***Psittacula cyanocephala*

These gaudy birds were present in good numbers in Bandhavgargh NP with further sightings in Corbett NP.

**Red-breasted Parakeet***Psittacula alexandri*

Our only views of this beauty was in and around Corbett NP where we had views daily.

**Cuckoos Cuculidae****Greater Coucal***Centropus sinensis*

This large, obtrusive coucal was seen on several days of the tour.

**Lesser Coucal***Centropus bengalensis*

This species is much scarcer and shyer than the latter and we were fortunate to see two birds in non-breeding plumage in Corbett NP.

**Green-billed Malkoha***Phaenicophaeus tristis*

A major surprise! A pair of these flamboyant stunners were seen exceptionally well in Corbett NP – an extremely good find!

**Sirkeer Malkoha***Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*

Some of the group were very fortunate to obtain good views of a pair of these skulkers in Bandhavgargh NP.

**Asian Koel***Eudynamis scolopacea*

This species was seen on two occasions, once in Bandhavgargh NP and again at our lodge near the Chambal River.

**Common Hawk-Cuckoo***Hierococcyx varius*

A single bird was seen exceptionally well by some in Corbett NP.

**Grey-bellied Cuckoo***Cacomantis passerinus*

Most of the group obtained views of this species in Keoladeo NP, where a single juvenile was seen.

*NOTE: IOC splits C.merulinus into two species, Plaintive Cuckoo (C.various) and Grey-bellied Cuckoo (C.passerinus) of India.*

**Owls Strigidae****Indian Scops Owl***Otus bakkamoena*

These cute little owls were seen on day roosts at Keoladeo NP and at our accommodation near Bandhavgargh NP.

*NOTE: IOC splits O.bakkamoena into four species, Indian Scops Owl (O.bakkamoena) of India and Sri Lanka, Collared Scops Owl (O.lettia) of Himalayas and E Asia, Japanese Scops Owl (O.semitorques) of NE Asia and Sunda Scops Owl (O.lempiji) of SE Asia.*

**Dusky Eagle-Owl***Bubo coromandus*

A single bird was seen at the nest in Keoladeo NP.

**Brown Fish Owl***Ketupa zeylonensis*

These huge owls were seen every day in Bandhavgargh NP with a further sighting in Corbett NP.

**Tawny Fish Owl***Ketupa flavipes*

Cracking views were had of this sought-after species during the day in forest in Corbett NP. A total of 5 birds were seen.

**Mottled Wood Owl** *Strix ocellata*

A loose group of four birds were seen brilliantly during the day near Bandhavgargh NP.

**Brown Wood Owl** *Strix leptogrammica*

Fantastic views of a pair of these beautiful owls were enjoyed near our accommodation in Sattal.

**Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*

This tiny, diurnal owl was seen exceptionally well near Nainital. Several more were heard in the Nainital area.

**Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*

A total of three of these owls were encountered in the Sattal area.

**Jungle Owlet** *Glaucidium radiatum*

Good views were obtained on several occasions in Bandhavgargh and Corbett National Parks.

**Spotted Owlet** *Athene brama*

A single bird was seen at close range at the nest in Keoladeo NP.

**Brown Hawk-Owl** *Ninox scutulata*

Brilliant views were obtained during the day; once near Keoladeo NP and again at our accommodation near the Chambal River.

### Nightjars Caprimulgidae

**Grey (Indian Jungle) Nightjar** *Caprimulgus indicus*

Three of these beautifully-patterned nightjars were seen near Keoladeo NP during the day.

*NOTE: C.indicus has been split into two species by IOC according to the latest update, C.indicus in India and Sri Lanka and C.jotaka in the Himalayas and East Asia. We saw C.indicus at Keoladeo. Clements does not yet recognize this split.*

**Large-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Brilliant views were had of a single bird on the day roost near Keoladeo NP.

### Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae

**Crested Treeswift** *Hemiproctne coronata*

This distinctive species was encountered in small numbers in Bandhavgargh NP and in the Corbett area.

### Swifts Apodidae

**Himalayan Swiftlet** *Aerodramus brevirostris*

Several of these highland swifts were seen in the Corbett area.

**White-rumped Needletail** *Zoonavena sylvatica*

A total of three birds were found associating with other swifts in the Corbett area.

**Little (House) Swift** *Apus affinis (nepalensis)*

Small numbers were encountered in the Agra area and in the Himalayan foothills.

*NOTE: IOC splits A.affinis into two species, Little Swift (A.affinis) of Africa and House Swift (A.nepalensis) of Asia.*

**Asian Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

A single bird was seen briefly in open woodland near Bandhavgargh NP.

*NOTE: IOC splits C.parvus into two species, African Palm Swift (C.parvus) of Africa and Asian Palm Swift (C.balasiensis) of Asia.*

### Rollers Coraciidae

**Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*

This flashy species was seen on most days in the Keoladeo and Bandhavgargh areas.

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

**Stork-billed Kingfisher** *Halcyon capensis*

A single bird was seen very well during our time in Bandhavgarh NP.

**White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*

The region's most common Kingfisher, we recorded this species on almost every day.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

A stunning and quite common species that was seen at most water-bodies throughout the country.

**Crested Kingfisher** *Megaceryle lugubris*

This magnificent kingfisher of large mountainous rivers was seen on several occasions in the Kosi River and Corbett areas.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

The world's most widespread kingfisher, was seen along the Chambal and Kosi Rivers and in Corbett NP.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

**Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctyornis athertoni*

We were extremely fortunate to obtain cracking views of this highly elusive, huge bee-eater in Bandhavgarh NP where a pair was seen on one occasion.

**Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*

Several of these delightful birds were seen in Bandhavgarh NP.

### Hoopoes Upupidae

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

A striking species that was encountered at several localities throughout the tour.

*NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar (U. marginalis) and Eurasian (U. epops) as does IOC. The white-winged African form is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe (U. senegalensis) with the fourth species being African Hoopoe (U. africana). However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African.*

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

**Indian Grey Hornbill (SE)** *Tockus birostris*

A common species, which was seen regularly in the lowlands of north India.

**Malabar Pied Hornbill** *Anthracoceros coronatus*

A total of six birds were seen sitting and flying in the distance in hilly woodland in Bandhavgarh NP.

### Barbets & Toucans Capitonidae

**Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens*

Good views were had of these huge, gaudy barbets in the Nainital area, their calls were also commonly heard.

**Brown-headed Barbet (SE)** *Megalaima zeylanica*

Several sightings were had of this attractive species in the lowlands.

**Lineated Barbet** *Megalaima lineata*

Small numbers were seen every day in the Corbett area.

**Blue-throated Barbet** *Megalaima asiatica*

Excellent views were had of this colourful bird in and around Corbett National Park.

**Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*

A woodland species that was quite regular in the lowlands.

### Woodpeckers Picidae

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

A single bird was seen briefly in Keoladeo NP with a further sighting in Corbett NP.

**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*

A gorgeous woodpecker species. We had two sightings during our time in the forests of Nainital.

**Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (SE)** *Dendrocopos nanus*

This species was seen on a few occasions in and around Bandhavgarh NP.

**Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

Several birds were seen well in the Nainital and Corbett areas.

**Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos macei*

First seen at Sattal, we later had more good views of this species in the Corbett area.

**Brown-fronted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos auriceps*

Several birds were seen in the Sattal and Nainital areas.

**Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*

Only two of these tiny woodpeckers were found in Keoladeo NP.

**Himalayan Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos himalayensis*

A very attractive and boldly patterned woodpecker, which we saw a few times in the Nainital area.

**Rufous Woodpecker** *Celeus brachyurus*

Another striking woodpecker, which we were lucky to find on a single occasion in Corbett NP.

**Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus*

We caught up with this species at Sattal and again in Corbett NP.

**Greater Yellownape** *Picus flavinucha*

A pair was encountered and seen well at Sattal.

**Streak-throated Woodpecker** *Picus xanthopygaeus*

A single bird was seen by some of the group in Corbett NP.

**Scaly-bellied Woodpecker** *Picus squamatus*

Brilliant close-up views were enjoyed of this large woodpecker in the Mongoli Valley.

**Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*

Another large and attractive woodpecker that was seen on several occasions throughout the Himalayan foothills.

**Himalayan Goldenback** *Dinopium shorii*

A singleton was seen by some of the group in Corbett NP.

**Lesser Goldenback** *Dinopium benghalense*

This species is fairly common in low-lying wooded areas.

**Greater Goldenback** *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

This impressive Woodpecker was seen at Sattal and in Corbett NP.

**White-naped Woodpecker** *Chrysocolaptes festivus*

Three separate sightings were had of this uncommon Woodpecker in Bandhavgarh NP.

### Family Uncertain Incertae sedis

**Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis virgatus*

An uncommon species in this area, we had one sighting in Bandhavgarh NP.

*NOTE: IOC splits T.virgatus into two species, Large Woodshrike (T.virgatus) and Malabar Woodshrike (T.sylvicola) of S India. Clements does not recognize this split.*

**Common Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

A fairly common species that was regularly seen throughout the trip.

*NOTE: IOC splits T.pondicerianus into two species, Common Woodshrike (T.pondicerianus) and Sri Lanka Woodshrike (T.affinis) of Sri Lanka.*

### Ioras Aegithinidae

**Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*

A fairly common species around Bandhavgarh and Corbett areas.

**Marshall's Iora** *Aegithina nigrolutea*

A rare, localized and rather elusive species, of which we had mind-blowing views in Keoladeo NP!

### Cuckoo-shrikes Campephagidae

**Large Cuckooshrike***Coracina macei*

This species was regularly seen in the tall woodland found within and around Bandhavgarh NP with further sightings in Corbett NP.

**Small Minivet***Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

This stunning species was found to be fairly common in Bandhavgarh and Corbett NP.

**Long-tailed Minivet***Pericrocotus ethologus*

Sightings were had at Sattal, Nainital and in Corbett NP.

**Scarlet Minivet***Pericrocotus flammeus*

This exquisite bird was seen on several occasions in the Sattal and Corbett areas.

*NOTE: P.flammeus is the race/species that we saw and is endemic to South India and Sri Lanka. This is not split by Clements but is regarded as a full species by IOC according to the latest update.*

**White-bellied Minivet***Pericrocotus erythropygus*

Some of the group were outrageously lucky to find a pair of these rare and nomadic minivets in Bandhavgarh NP.

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike***Hemipus picatus*

A commonly seen species associated with mixed flocks in the Himalayan foothills.

**Shrikes Laniidae****Brown Shrike***Lanius cristatus*

A few were very well seen in tall grasslands in Bandhavgarh NP.

**Bay-backed Shrike***Lanius vittatus*

Several of these striking shrikes were seen in Keoladeo NP.

**Long-tailed Shrike***Lanius schach*

A very common species that was seen frequently throughout the whole tour.

**Southern Grey Shrike***Lanius meridionalis*

A single bird was seen near Bharatpur with a further sighting near the Chambal River.

*NOTE: There is a possible split of this species into two species, Southern Grey Shrike (L.meridionalis) of Europe, N Africa and India and Steppe Grey Shrike (L.pallidirostris) of C Europe. This split is not yet recognized by IOC.*

**Orioles & Figbirds Oriolidae****Black-hooded Oriole***Oriolus xanthornus*

Several individuals were seen in Bandhavgarh and Corbett National Parks.

**Maroon Oriole***Oriolus traillii*

A beautiful oriole that was seen only once in by some of the group in Corbett NP.

**Drongos Dicruridae****Black Drongo***Dicrurus macrocercus*

The most common Drongo in India that was seen daily, particularly in low-lying areas.

**Ashy Drongo***Dicrurus leucophaeus*

A forest-dwelling drongo, which we saw at Sattal and near the Kosi River.

**White-bellied Drongo (SE)***Dicrurus caerulescens*

This species was regularly seen in Bandhavgarh NP and again in Corbett NP.

**Bronzed Drongo***Dicrurus aeneus*

A forest species that was recorded near the Kosi River.

**Hair-crested Drongo***Dicrurus hottentottus*

Good numbers of this handsome drongo were found in the Corbett area.

**Greater Racket-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus paradiseus*

This species was found in tall woodland within Bandhavgarh NP.

*NOTE: D.lophorinus is not split by Clements but is regarded as a separate species endemic to Sri Lanka by IOC according to the latest update.*

**Fantails Rhipiduridae****Yellow-bellied Fantail***Rhipidura hypoxantha*

A striking bird that was seen regularly throughout the Himalayan foothills.

**White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*

A species that was fairly common at higher elevations.

*NOTE: IOC splits R.albicollis into two species, White-throated Fantail (R.albicollis) and White-spotted Fantail (R.albogularis) of S India.*

**White-browed Fantail** *Rhipidura aureola*

Replaces the previous species at lower altitude and was seen commonly at Bandhavgarh NP.

### Monarchs Monarchidae

**Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea*

This stunner was seen on consecutive days in Bandhavgarh NP.

### Jays & Crows Corvidae

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Fair numbers were seen in the Nainital area.

**Black-headed Jay** *Garrulus lanceolatus*

This beautiful, restricted species was seen exceptionally well in the highlands, our first sighting at Sattal with many more sightings at Nainital.

**Red-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

An extravagant bird that always provided great entertainment whenever seen, we found small groups in the Sattal and Nainital areas.

**Common Green Magpie** *Cissa chinensis*

A single bird was seen briefly by some participants in Corbett NP with brilliant scope views later near the Kosi River.

**Rufous Treepie** *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

This common and beautiful species was seen at most localities.

**House Crow** *Corvus splendens*

An often abundant species, especially around people throughout the country.

**Large-billed (Eastern Jungle) Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchus (levaillanti)*

An abundant species that was seen on every day of the tour.

*NOTE: C.macrorhynchus is split into three species by IOC according to the latest update, Eastern Jungle Crow (C.levaillanti), Large-billed Crow (C.cacrorhynchus) and Indian Jungle Crow (C.culminatus). Clements does not accept these splits.*

### Tits & Chickadees Paridae

**Rufous-naped Tit** *Periparus rufonuchalis*

This is a rare bird in North India. One participant was lucky to obtain a view at Nainital.

**Rufous-vented Tit** *Periparus rubidiventris*

Another rarely recorded tit on the route; one participant was fortunate to see this species at Nainital.

**Spot-winged Tit** *Periparus melanolophus*

This highland forest species was seen on many occasions in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

**Great (Cinereous) Tit** *Parus major (cinereous)*

A common species that was regularly encountered throughout the country.

*NOTE: IOC splits P.major into three species, Great Tit (P.major), Cinereous Tit (P.cinereous) and Japanese Tit (P.minor).*

**Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus*

A common species that was found mainly in forest around the towns of Nainital and the Sattal area.

**(Himalayan) Black-lored Tit (SE)** *Parus xanthogenys*

This good-looking species was seen daily in the Corbett, Nainital and the Sattal areas.

*NOTE: P.xanthogenys is split into two species, Himalayan Black-lored Tit (P.xanthogenys) and Indian Black-lored Tit (P.aplonatus) of South India. Clements does not accept this split.*

**Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus*

Small numbers of these drab tits were a regular feature of bird parties in the Nainital area.

**Martins & Swallows Hirundinidae****Brown-throated Martin***Riparia paludicola*

Large numbers were found in the skies above Corbett NP and Keoladeo NP.

**Sand Martin***Riparia riparia*

Small numbers were seen at scattered localities.

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Large numbers were seen at Keoladeo NP with further sightings in the Sattal area.

**Wire-tailed Swallow***Hirundo smithi (filifera)*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Bandhavgargh and Chambal areas.

*NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form that would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow that would be H. filifera. Clements nor IOC recognise this split.*

**Eurasian Crag Martin***Hirundo rupestris*

Two small flocks were seen in the Nainital area.

**Dusky Crag Martin***Hirundo concolor*

Small numbers were seen in Bandhavgargh NP.

*Egyptian Swallow.*

**Red-rumped Swallow***Hirundo daurica*

Several birds were seen in Bandhavgargh and Corbett National Parks.

*NOTE: IOC splits H. daurica into three species, Red-rumped Swallow (H. daurica), Sri Lanka Swallow (H. hyperythra) of Sri Lanka and West African Swallow (H. domicella) of W Africa. Clements does not yet recognize these splits.*

**Bushtits Aegithalidae****Black-throated Bushtit***Aegithalos concinnus*

This striking tit was one of the commonest flock species in the Himalayan hoothills.

**Larks Alaudidae****Indian Bushlark (SE)***Mirafra erythroptera*

Two birds were scoped near the Chambal River.

**Greater Short-toed Lark***Calandrella brachydactyla*

Good numbers of this nomadic lark were found in the Chambal area.

**Sand Lark***Calandrella raytal*

Two of these special larks were seen at the edge of the Chambal River.

**Crested Lark***Galerida cristata*

A single bird was seen exceptionally well near Bharatpur with a further two being found at the Chambal River.

**Oriental Skylark***Alauda gulgula*

Four birds were seen at the Chambal River with several more being seen in Corbett NP.

**Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae****Zitting Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis*

Small numbers were seen at most grassland areas.

**Striated Prinia***Prinia criniger*

This species was seen around the town of Nainital and in the Mongoli valley.

**Rufous-fronted Prinia***Prinia buchanani*

We had brilliant views of several small groups around the Chambal River.

**Grey-breasted Prinia***Prinia hodgsonii*

Several birds were seen daily in Bandhavgargh with further sightings in Corbett NP.

**Graceful Prinia***Prinia gracilis*

A total of three birds showed briefly at the Yamuna River.

**Jungle Prinia (SE)***Prinia sylvatica*

Just a single bird was seen on one occasion in Bandhavgargh NP.

**Yellow-bellied Prinia***Prinia flaviventris*

A beautiful species that was seen well at the Yamuna River.

**Ashy Prinia (SE)** *Prinia socialis*

A good-looking little species that was recorded often at several different localities.

**Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*

We had small numbers of these common and widespread prinias in Keoladeo NP.

### Family Uncertain Incertae sedis

**Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*

This species was commonly sighted in the Banhavgargh area.

### Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

**Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus melanicterus (flaviventris)*

Small numbers were seen in the Corbett area.

*NOTE: P.melanicterus is split by IOC into six full species, Black-capped Bulbul (P.melanicterus) of Sri Lanka, Black-crested Bulbul (P.flaviventris) of N India to SE Asia, Ruby-throated Bulbul (P.dispar) of Sumatra, Java & Bali, Flame-throated Bulbul (P.gularis) of S India, Bornean Bulbul (P.montis) of Borneo & Andaman Bulbul (P.fuscoflavescens) of the Andaman Islands. Clements does not recognize these splits.*

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Several birds were seen in the vicinity of the Kosi area.

**Himalayan Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucogenys*

A very common species that we found every day in the highlands of the country.

**White-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucotis*

Small numbers were found in the dry areas of the tour such as Bharatpur and the Chambal River.

**Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*

An extremely common bird that was seen in all habitats and on nearly every day of the tour.

**Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos flavala*

Fair numbers were recorded almost daily in the Himalayan foothills.

**Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

A good number of these birds were encountered around the higher-lying areas around Nainital.

*NOTE: H.leucocephalus is split into two species by IOC according to the latest update, Black Bulbul (H.leucocephalus) and Square-tailed Bulbul (H.ganeesa) of S India and Sri Lanka. Clements does not recognize this split.*

### Old World Warblers Sylviidae

**Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Oligura cataneocoronata*

After struggle to see this species in the Mongoli Valley, we were blown away by unbeatable, saturation views of this prime skulker in Corbett NP. Unfortunately not everyone saw this individual as most of the group were enjoying elephant rides at the time.

**Grey-bellied Tesia** *Tesia cyaniventer*

A species that is generally unknown from North India; Some of the group were extremely fortunate to obtain brilliant views of these secretive "egg on legs" in Corbett NP.

**Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler** *Cettia fortipes*

Several birds were seen in thick shrubbery throughout the highlands.

**Aberrant Bush Warbler** *Cettia flavolivacea*

This secretive warbler was seen very well on several occasions in the highland areas

**Clamorous (Indian) Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus (brunnescens)*

A single bird was seen in Keoladeo NP.

*NOTE: A.stentoreus may be split into a further species, Indian Reed Warbler (A.brunnescens) but neither Clements nor IOC recognize this split as yet.*

**Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Several individuals were found in Keoladeo NP.

**Sykes's Warbler** *Hippolais rama*

We enjoyed good views of this species near the Chambal River.

NOTE: IOC splits *H.caligata* into two species, Booted Warbler (*H.caligata*) and Sykes's Warbler (*H.rama*). Clements does not recognize this split.

**Common Chiffchaff***Phylloscopus collybita*

A common species that was seen at most low-altitude localities on the tour.

**Sulphur-bellied Warbler***Phylloscopus griseolus*

This bizarre little warbler was seen exceptionally well on a few occasions in and around Banhavgharh NP

**Buff-barred Warbler***Phylloscopus pulcher*

We encountered this species every day while in the Corbett, Nainital and Sattal areas.

**Ashy-throated Warbler***Phylloscopus maculipennis*

At least six birds were seen in the Mongoli Valley.

**Lemon-rumped Warbler***Phylloscopus proregulus*

This species was seen on a number of occasions around the Nainital and Sattal area.

**Brooks's Leaf Warbler***Phylloscopus subviridis*

A scarce warbler that was seen in Keoladeo NP and again near the Chambal River.

**Hume's Leaf Warbler***Phylloscopus [inornatus] humei*

A few birds were seen in Keoladeo, Bandhavgharh and Corbett National Parks.

**Greenish Warbler***Phylloscopus trochiloides*

This common species was seen on several occasions throughout the tour.

NOTE: IOC splits *trochiloides* into two species, Greenish Warbler (*P.trochiloides*) and Green Warbler (*P.nitidus*) of India.

**Blyth's Leaf Warbler***Phylloscopus reguloides*

Small numbers were found in the highland forests.

**Grey-hooded Warbler***Seicercus xanthoschistos*

A beautiful but extremely common species seen every day in the highland areas.

**Whistler's Warbler***Seicercus whistleri*

This gorgeous little warbler was seen briefly at Sattal with a further sighting near the Kosi River.

NOTE: IOC splits *S.burkii* into two species, Green-crowned Warbler (*S.burkii*) of the Himalayas to N India and Whistler's Warbler (*S.whistleri*) of the Himalayas to Burma.

**Black-faced Warbler***Abroxcopus schisiceps*

Several of these stunning little birds were seen well at Nainital.

**Lesser Whitethroat***Sylvia curruca*

Good numbers of this migrant were encountered throughout the lowland areas.

NOTE: IOC splits *S.carruca* into three species, Lesser Whitethroat (*S.carruca*), Desert Whitethroat (*minula*) and Hume's Whitethroat (*S.althaea*).

**(Eastern) Orphean Warbler***Sylvia hortensis (crassirostris)*

We were thrilled to see this species near the Chambal River.

NOTE: IOC splits *S.hortensis* into two full species, Eastern Orphean Warbler (*S.crassirostris*) and Western Orphean Warbler (*S.hortensis*) but Clements does not yet recognize this split.

### Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae

**Puff-throated Babbler***Pellorneum ruficeps*

This species was seen by some in Bandhavgharh NP with further great views in Corbett NP.

**Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler***Pomatorhinus erythrogastrus*

Several of these highly active and striking birds were found in the Sattal area.

**Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler***Pnoepyga albiventer*

2 birds were seen by some participants in dense undergrowth in the lake area of Sattal. This is an extremely difficult bird to see when it is not calling.

**Nepal Wren-Babbler***Pnoepyga immaculate*

A singleton was glimpsed by some in the Mongoli Valley. Another killer bird to see during winter!

**Black-chinned Babbler (SE)***Stachyris pyrrhops*

Small flocks were encountered almost daily in the highland areas.

**Tawny-bellied Babbler***Dumetia hyperythra*

Several sightings were had in Banhavgharh NP.

- Yellow-eyed Babbler** *Chrysomma sinense*  
A small flock gave us quite a run-around in the Keoladeo NP but we later had good views in Corbett NP.
- Common Babbler** *Turdoides caudatus*  
A flock was encountered in Keoladeo NP with large numbers being seen around the Chambal River.
- Striated Babbler** *Turdoides earlei*  
Small groups were seen around the Yamuna River.
- Large Grey Babbler (SE)** *Turdoides malcolmi*  
This large confiding babbler was seen on a few occasions in the dryer areas.
- Jungle Babbler (SE)** *Turdoides striatus*  
A very common species that was encountered on most days of the tour.
- White-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax albogularis*  
Large flocks were encountered in the Sattal and Mongoli areas.
- White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus*  
These outrageous birds were seen extremely well on a few occasions in the Corbett area.
- Striated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax striatus*  
A large and showy laughingthrush that was seen very well on a few occasions in the Nainital area.
- Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax rufogularis*  
A small flock of these immaculate birds were seen exceptionally well on a few occasions in the Sattal area.
- Streaked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax lineatus*  
A common species in the more open, bushy areas around Nainital, Sattal and Mongoli areas.  
*NOTE: IOC splits G.lineatus into two species, Streaked Laughingthrush (G.lineatus) and Bhutan Laughingthrush (B.imbricatus). Clements does not recognize this split.*
- Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*  
This stunning species of the forest edge was located on many occasions, often in large fast-moving flocks in the highland areas.
- White-browed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius flaviscapis*  
A delightful species that was located on one occasion above Nainital: a pair was seen.
- Green Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*  
A smaller and less common species that was located on one occasion in the Nainital area.
- Blue-winged Minla** *Minla cyanouroptera*  
Several of these flock-associated birds were seen at Sattal.
- Rufous Sibia** *Heterophasia capistrata*  
This beautiful species was fairly common in mature forest around Nainital and Sattal.
- Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis*  
A rather uncommon species in Northern India that was seen once at Nainital and again in the Mongoli Valley.

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

- Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*  
A common species that was regularly and well seen at most localities on tour.

### Nuthatches & Wallcreeper Sittidae

- Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** *Sitta cinnamovenstris*  
Small groups of these attractive nuthatches were encountered on several occasions in woodland in the Corbett area.  
*NOTE: IOC splits S.castanea into three species, Indian Nuthatch (S.castanea) in N, C and S India, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (S.cinnamovenstris) in the Himalayas and across N and E Asia and Burmese Nuthatch (S.neglecta) from Burma to Vietnam. Clements does not recognize these splits.*
- Indian Nuthatch** *Sitta castanea*  
Small numbers were seen in woodland in the Bandhavgargh area.
- White-tailed Nuthatch** *Sitta himalayensis*

This species is restricted to montane forests where it was seen daily in the Sattal and Nainital areas.

**Velvet-fronted Nuthatch***Sitta frontalis*

This beauty was a familiar site in the Corbett area.

**Wallcreeper***Tichodroma muraria*

A highly sought-after monotypic family – voted as the bird of the trip! A singleton was seen exceptionally well by all as it was seen fiddling around the large boulders in the Kosi River.

**Treecreepers Certhiidae****Bar-tailed Treecreeper***Certhia himalayana*

Good numbers were found in feeding flocks around Nainital and Sattal, with a further sighting near the Kosi River.

**Starlings Sturnidae****Jungle Myna***Acridotheres fuscus*

This common and widespread Asian species was only seen in one area of Corbett NP.

**Bank Myna (SE)***Acridotheres ginginianus*

A species that was encountered at most urban centres throughout the country though in smaller numbers than the next species.

**Common Myna***Acridotheres tristis*

Common in and around urban centres throughout the country, seen most days.

**Pied Myna***Gracupica contra*

A common species that was seen at several localities.

**Brahminy Starling***Temenuchus pagodarum*

A good looker that was encountered in Keoladeo and Bandhavgargh National Parks.

**Common Starling***Sturnus vulgaris*

A single bird was seen on our last day at the Yamuna River.

**Thrushes Turdidae****Blue Whistling-Thrush***Myophonus caeruleus*

A very common species that was seen every day on the Himalayan stretch of the tour.

**Orange-headed Thrush***Zoothera citrina*

This gorgeous thrush was seen by everyone at our accommodation near Keoladeo NP.

**Long-billed Thrush***Zoothera monticola*

This spectacular, rare and secretive species was seen exceptionally well at a stop near the Kosi River.

**Tickell's Thrush***Turdus unicolor*

A rather nomadic migrant that was seen by some in Bandhavgargh NP and near Nainital.

**Grey-winged Blackbird***Turdus boulboul*

This is a Nainital winter specialty and we were thrilled to get good views of at least six birds in the Nainital area.

**Chestnut Thrush***Turdus rubrocanus*

This is an absolute stunner! We had mind-blowing views of a wonderful male in the forest above Nainital.

**Black-throated Thrush***Turdus ruficollis*

A huge flock numbering around 80 birds was seen in the Nainital area.

**Mistle Thrush***Turdus viscivorus*

This scarce winter visitor was seen well near Nainital. A remarkable four birds were seen!

**Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae****Bluethroat***Luscinia svecica*

Several good views were had in thickets throughout the tour.

- Siberian Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*  
A stunning male was seen by some of the group in Keoladeo NP with further views of a female at Sattal.
- White-tailed Rubythroat** *Luscinia pectoralis*  
A superb male was seen by all near the Kosi River – what a cracker!
- Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*  
This shy species was located in the Nainital and Sattal areas.
- Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*  
A common species that was particularly widespread in the lowlands.
- Indian Robin (SE)** *Saxicoloides fulicata*  
This attractive species was seen commonly in the lowlands.
- Blue-capped Redstart** *Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus*  
Several birds were seen in the Nainital area.
- Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*  
This beautiful species was seen almost daily in the lowlands.
- Plumbeous Water Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*  
Small numbers of these spunky little redstarts were seen in rivers in the highland areas.
- White-capped Redstart** *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*  
A species that is closely associated with water and was seen on most Rivers in the Himalayan foothills.
- Little Forktail** *Enicurus scouleri*  
Only a single bird was seen along the Kosi River.
- Slaty-backed Forktail** *Enicurus schistaceus*  
A couple of these awesome birds were seen well at a stop near the Kosi River.
- Spotted Forktail** *Enicurus maculates*  
This lovely species was seen exceptionally on numerous occasions in the streams and rivers of the Himalayan foothills.
- White-throated Bush Chat** *Saxicola insignis*  
After much searching and frustration we did find a pair of these rare birds in the distance in Corbett NP.
- Eurasian (Siberian) Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus (maurus)*  
This widespread species was seen on several occasions in grassland areas throughout the tour.  
*NOTE: IOC splits S.torquatus into three species, African Stonechat (S.torquatus), European Stonechat (S.rubicola) and Siberian Stonechat (S.maurus).*
- Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata*  
This, like the previous species, was seen in grasslands throughout the trip.
- Grey Bush Chat** *Saxicola ferrea*  
A common species that was found throughout the higher lying areas.
- Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isanellina*  
A single bird was scoped at the Chambal River.
- Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*  
Several attractive males were seen well near the Chambal River.
- Brown Rock Chat (SE)** *Cercomela fusca*  
Birds were located around buildings at scattered localities with our first sightings near Bharatpur.
- Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa dauurica*  
We were surprised to find this species in secondary forest at Sattal.
- Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophciata*  
A beautiful species that was first seen in the Sattal area with further sightings at Corbett Falls.
- Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*  
This species was located in at Bandhavgarh NP and Keoladeo NP with a further sighting of a female in Corbett NP, which may refer to Taiga (Red-throated) Flycatcher.  
*NOTE: Clements considers F. albicilla to be a subspecies of F. parva and does not recognise the split. IOC does recognize this split.*

- Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*  
A single male was seen very well near the Kosi River.
- Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*  
A pair was seen at Corbett Falls with a further sighting of a splendid male near the Kosi River.
- Ultramarine Flycatcher** *Ficedula superciliaris*  
A single male was seen well in degraded woodland near Bandhavgarh NP.
- Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor*  
This secretive species was seen at Sattal, Nainital and near the Kosi River.
- Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassina*  
Our first sighting was at Keoladeo NP with another sighting at Corbett Falls.
- Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis tickelliae*  
This stunning flycatcher was seen every day in the Bandhavgarh area.
- Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara*  
A superb gem of tall forest in the Himalayan foothills; we had brilliant views in the Sattal area.
- Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*  
Fair numbers were found at Bandhavgarh and in the Corbett area.

### Dippers Cinclidae

- Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasii*  
Two of these highly sought-after crowd-pleasers were enjoyed at rapids in the Kosi River.

### Leafbirds Chloropseidae

- Blue-winged (Jerdon's) Leafbird** *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*  
This good looking species was found in woodland around Bandhavgarh NP.  
*NOTE: IOC splits C.cochinchinensis into three species, Blue-winged Leafbird (C.cochinchinensis) which is widespread, Jerdon's Leafbird (C.jerdoni) and Bornean Leafbird (C.kinabaluensis) of Borneo. IOC does not recognize this split.*
- Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons*  
This forest-dweller was seen at Bandhavgarh and in the Corbett area.
- Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii*  
We were excited to find several of these attractive birds in the Corbett area.

### Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae

- Thick-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum agile*  
We had several views in and around Bandhavgarh NP.
- Pale-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum erythrorhynchus*  
At least three birds were found in the woodland surrounding Bandhavgarh NP.
- Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum erythrorhynchus*  
Just a single male was observed by some of the group at our accommodation along the Kosi River.

### Sunbirds Nectariniidae

- Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiatica*  
A common sunbird that was encountered on several occasions.
- Green-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga nipalensis*  
Several females were seen in the highlands of Nainital and Sattal with a single stunning male seen very well near Nainital.
- Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja*  
Another jewel that was seen exceptionally well on several occasions in the Corbett area.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
Widespread and common in urban areas throughout India.

**Russet Sparrow***Passer rutilans*

This species prefers open areas at higher altitude and we observed several birds in the Nainital and Sattal areas.

**Yellow-throated Sparrow***Petronia xanthocollis*

Good numbers were seen in Keoladeo and Bandhavgargh National Park.

**Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae****Baya Weaver***Ploceus philippinus*

Two birds in non-breeding plumage were seen near the Chambal River.

**Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae****Indian Silverbill***Lonchura malabarica*

Small groups were encountered on a few occasions at widely scattered localities.

**White-rumped Munia***Lonchura striata*

A small flock was noted in Bandhavgargh National Park.

**Accentors Prunellidae****Altai Accentor***Prunella himalayana*

While in the Nainital area we came across several large roving flocks of these highland specialties.

**Rufous-breasted Accentor***Prunella strophiata*

Only a single bird was seen briefly by some at Sattal.

**Black-throated Accentor***Prunella atrogularis*

Good views were had of several birds on consecutive days in the Sattal area.

**Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae****Western Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava*

We were lucky to find a single bird in the Bharatpur area.

**Citrine Wagtail***Motacilla citreola*

A couple of these attractive wagtails were seen near Bharatpur.

**Grey Wagtail***Motacilla cinerea*

This common and widespread species was seen on several occasions in Bandhavgargh NP and at Corbett Falls.

**White Wagtail***Motacilla alba*

India's most common Wagtail, we found this species on many days of the tour.

**White-browed Wagtail (SE)***Motacilla madaraspatensis*

Small numbers were found on several days of the trip.

**Paddyfield Pipit***Anthus rufulus*

This common Asian pipit was encountered in dry grassy areas on several days of the tour.

**Tawny Pipit***Anthus campestris*

A species of dry open areas; we had good scope views of several birds near Bharatpur and near the Chambal River.

**Long-billed Pipit***Anthus similis*

A single bird was seen very well near the Chambal River.

**Tree Pipit***Anthus trivialis*

Several birds were seen in the woodlands in and around Bandhavgargh NP.

**Olive-backed Pipit***Anthus hodgsoni*

Good numbers were seen at forest edge at Sattal.

**Rosy Pipit***Anthus roseatus*

Three birds were seen well in Keoladeo NP.

**Finches Fringillidae**

**Common Rosefinch***Carpodacus erythrinus*

A single female was seen at Sattal with further views of a large flock above Nainital.

**Buntings Emberizidae****Crested Bunting***Melophus lathami*

A pair of these good-looking birds was seen near the Chambal River.

**White-capped Bunting***Emberiza stewarti*

This species was first located at Sattal; thereafter we were treated to wonderful views of a small flock at Nainital.

**MAMMAL SPECIES LIST****(24 Species)****Fruit Bats Pteropodidae****Indian Flying Fox***Pteropus giganteus*

A large roost was seen on consecutive days in the Chambal area.

**Horseshoe Bat sp.**

A large flock of horse-shoe bats were seen in Bandhavgargh NP.

**Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae****Rhesus Macaque***Macaca mulatta*

Very common at all localities and along the roads while traveling.

**Hanuman Langur***Semnopithecus entellus*

This attractive primate was seen on many occasions in moist woodlands throughout.

**Dogs & Allies Canidae****Golden Jackal***Canis aureus*

Several were encountered in Keoladeo and Bandhavgargh National Parks as well as at the Chambal River.

**Indian Fox***Vulpes bengalensis*

Some of the group was fortunate to see this delightful species in the early morning above the town of Nainital.

**Mongoose Herpestidae****Common Mongoose***Herpestes edwardsii*

A singleton was seen in Keoladeo NP with a further sighting in Corbett NP.

**Small Indian Mongoose***Herpestes javanicus*

One of these mammals was seen near Bharatpur.

**Ruddy Mongoose***Herpestes smithii*

A singleton was seen in Bandhavgargh NP.

**Genets & Civets Viverridae****Asian Palm Civet (Toddy Cat)***Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

This awesome nocturnal mammal was seen exceptionally well during the middle of the day in Bandhavgargh NP. We were all thrilled at this rare sighting.

**Cats Felidae****Bengal Tiger***Panthera tigris*

For many participants this was the number one target of the trip. After considerable effort and a little concern we were all eventually treated to breath-taking views of this great cat from the Jeeps in Bandhavgargh NP.

**Jungle Cat***Felis chaus*

Everyone managed to obtain fantastic views of this great cat in Bandhavgargh NP.

**Elephants Proboscidae****Indian Elephant***Elephas maximus*

We were fortunate to see a small herd of these giants in Corbett NP.

**Pigs Suidae****Wild Boar***Sus scrofa*

This widespread Asian pig was seen on several occasions throughout the tour.

**Deer Cervidae****Barking Deer (Indian Muntjac)***Muntiacus muntjak*

Several of these secretive mammals were found in wooded habitats throughout with our best sightings in Bandhavgargh and Corbett National Parks.

**Spotted Deer (Cheetal)***Cervus axis*

Very common in the large national parks of Corbett, Bandhavgarh and Keoladeo.

**Hog Deer***Axis porcinus*

This localised deer was observed at a distance by some of the group in Corbett NP.

**Sambar***Cervus unicolor*

Fair numbers of this massive deer were seen in most of the parks.

**Bovids Bovidae****Nilgai***Bosephalus tragocamelus*

This huge species was seen in Keoladeo NP.

**Squirrels Sciuridae****Northern Palm Squirrel***Funambulus pennantii*

Common and regularly encountered at most lowland localities.

**House Rats Muridae****Brown Rat***Rattus norvegicus*

A few of these very successful animals could be seen at some train stations.

**Otters Mustelidae****Yellow-throated Martin***Martes flavigula*

This bizarre Asian mustelid was seen only briefly by some of the group on a few occasions in the Nainital area.

**Hares & Rabbits Leporidae****Indian (Black-naped) Hare***Lepus nigricollis*

This species was seen at two widely scattered localities during the tour.

**Dolphins Delphinidae****Gangetic Dolphin***Platanista gangetica*

We were extremely lucky to have had views of this rare and localized dolphin during our boat cruise along the Chambal River.

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Photo Credits: Trident Peak at sunset, Black-necked Stork and Rufous-bellied Woodpecker by Keith Valentine.  
Tawny Fish Owl by Markus Lilje.

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