

Northeast India

Assam & Arunachal Pradesh



March - April
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NE India 2012

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Preface.

After an extremely successful quest to see Snow Leopard in the Indian region of Ladakh in 2010

(see our report here: <http://mammalwatching.com/Oriental/Otherreports/UA%20LadakhNovDec2010.pdf>) ,

it seemed obvious for the same people to make another trip together. Well , as it turned out , it wasn't going to be exactly the same group , because the two ladies didn't fancy a holiday with so much emphasis on birdwatching , but all the guys were certainly ready for new adventures in India. The two gentlemen – Stig Jensen and Ulrik Andersen – who had organized the trip to Ladakh also masterminded the plan this time , and even though we had to leave out a visit to Nagaland because of time issues , the final itinerary still looked very exiting indeed.

Sadly even the best laid plans can fail , and as we approached the beginning of our holiday , we ran into some serious trouble regarding Ulrik's visa. As it happened , we had not been aware of a new rule saying that after leaving India , you can't reenter for the next two months , and since Ulrik was finishing a trip to Northwest India just a month before our journey to the Northeast , he couldn't be granted a new tourist visa for a second entry! Of course , this was a major blow to our plans , and was really putting us down , but at least we managed to find a substitute – Hans Ulrik Skotte Møller – who could take his place on short notice.

The team therefore ended up consisting of Stig Jensen (contact: sejcuuf@yahoo.dk) , Eric Schaumburg , Erling Krabbe , Hans Ulrik Skotte Møller , Morten Heegaard and Jon Lehmberg.

In addition to the Danish members of the group , we were also joined by our good friend Mr Vikram Singh. Vikram is the founder of the travel agency Wild World India , who made the trip for us in 2010 , and since we were very pleased then , it was only natural for us to use their services again. We enjoyed his company tremendously and even though he's not a hardcore birder he did really well , showing good spotting skills in the field and enduring three weeks of a lot of Danish being spoken. Vikram had made all the arrangements in cooperation with his good friend Mr Peter Lobo , who is a well known and respected guide in these parts , and we were very lucky to have him along on all but the last couple of days. He is an extremely capable birder who knows all the areas we visited inside out , and on top of that he's also a really pleasant and jolly fellow to be around. In addition to Peter , we were also joined by some of "his boys" on different stages of the trip. Lobsang was with us in the Dirang area , Rafick joined us on our visit to Kaziranga NP and Abid traveled with us to Mishmi Hills and the Tinsukia area – we had met Abid before along the way , since he was guiding a small British party following the same initial itinerary as ours. Lobsang had just started training with Peter and was already very useful , Rafick was considerably more skilled with a good knowledge of birds and butterflies , and Abid was really a very capable birder and naturalist. They were all very nice guys with a wonderful enthusiasm , and we were thrilled to have them along!

In addition to the exceptional guiding , the logistics also worked without a hitch throughout the entire trip. The drivers and camp crews also did very well , and it's hard to see how the arrangement could have been bettered. Last but not least we were very pleased with Peter's sense of the importance of being adaptable and flexible , which is of paramount importance in a place where the weather can be a real challenge , and some species very difficult to see. Of course , we were pretty lucky in both respects but as an example , he managed to get us to a place to see Hoolock Gibbon , when he found out that it was a high priority for some of us , and we hadn't seen it in Mishmi Hills. A big thanks therefore to Vikram , Peter and the entire team – we don't hesitate to recommend the services of both Peter and Wild World India!

As mentioned , the weather in this region is definitely an important factor and notoriously unpredictable , but we were actually pretty lucky all in all. Yes , we had some light showers on our first afternoon in Eaglenest WS , and we did cut our stay in Mishmi Hills a bit short due to rain , and the last few days were mostly overcast , but the majority of the trip was done in really nice weather conditions , and apart from the missing bridge in Roing , we didn't experience any major weather related logistical problems , which is a real risk out here.

In general the weather was warm , sunny and calm in the lowland , though it was , as mentioned , rather overcast on our visits to Dibru-Saikhowa NP and the small forest reserves – Borajan and Mesaki – on the last couple of days. In the mountains the weather was rather more variable , but it was mainly dry , clear or partly cloudy and also mostly calm , with the exception of a windy morning in Eaglenest Pass on our last day there.

Diary

A very early flight from Delhi saw us arriving at the airport in Guwahati in the morning of March 18th. Peter and the two drivers were there to meet us , and we immediately started seeing birds like barbets and sunbirds in the parking lot. As soon as the two 4x4 cars had been packed , we were on our way to the big dump on the outskirts of town to look for Greater Adjutant. We found good numbers of this globally threatened species without problems , and also saw a few Steppe Eagles , lots of Black Kites and quite a few other birds. The surroundings weren't the most charming , but actually it wasn't as bad as expected. Anyway , we didn't stay for long , since we had rather a long drive to Nameri ahead of us – a good opportunity to catch up on some sleep.

Nameri.

We arrived at Nameri Eco Camp early in the afternoon , and managed to see the first birds such as Daurian Redstart and Scaly Thrush around the grounds before moving in to our nice tented accommodation , and taking a late lunch in the restaurant. The next couple of hours were spent sleeping , showering or birding the camp grounds , before we gathered for a walk down to the river.

The dry woodland between the camp and the river proved to be quite good , and the view toward the forest and Himalayan foothills on the other side of the river was really nice. A group of Capped Langurs , the first of many Asian Barred Owlets , various woodpeckers and barbets , our only Wreathed Hornbill and the impressive Great Hornbill , an unexpected Mountain Tailorbird , wonderful Sultan Tits , bee-eaters and Dollarbirds , River Lapwings and Small Partincoles were some of the many great sightings we had before the sun finally set on the way back to the camp. Some spotlighting there didn't yield much , but the dinner was very good , and it was nice falling asleep to the sound of a calling Brown Hawk Owl.

As the sun rose on day two in Nameri , we were being ferried over the river , for a walk in the really nice forest on the other side. Both elephants and tigers live here , and we found tracks of both in the sand along the river , as well as scratch marks of the later on a tree next to the path. We were accompanied by a armed ranger , and to our surprise he was actually really useful. Not only was he very alert , but he also knew many of the bird calls and knew the area really well , so it was good to have him along. The primary target on this side of the river was the rare and "beautiful" White-winged Duck , and we walked rather quickly towards a small pond inside the forest to try our luck there. Despite the brisk pace we managed to see birds like our first Black-naped Monarch and a nice male Black-breasted Thrush on the way , but unfortunately didn't have much time to enjoy them. As it turned out there was no ducks , but a couple of Blue-eared Kingfishers , at the pond , but some of us had by then already caught a brief glimpse of a single individual flying by – discovered by the ranger , of course.

Well , having failed to see the ducks here , we moved on to some pools along the forest edge , and in the second one four White-winged Ducks were flushed , and passed us at really close quarters. Relieved that everyone had seen them now , we could concentrate on other birds as well , and saw a number of exciting species before returning to the pond in the forest.

Here a couple of ducks had now turned up , and while we were watching them , a Gaur suddenly came out of the forest for a drink and some fresh grass from the meadow surrounding the lake. We also saw several Wild Boars and a small group of Northern Red Muntjacs here , not to mention a Great Hornbill , Sultan Tits and a small party of Scarlet Minivets. No doubt

this was a fantastic place , and there is no telling what could have been seen if more time had been spent here.

Back in the camp we enjoyed yet another good meal , before driving a bit up river where this afternoons boat ride was to begin. We didn't really see all that many birds while rafting on the river , but even so it was a nice experience to watch the beautiful landscape pass by in a leisurely pace – not exactly white water rafting this! Of course , there were a few avian highlights as well , including lots of Small Pratincoles , a couple of Crested Kingfisher and some nice River Lapwings , but we somehow managed to dip out on Ibisbill. We walked back to the camp as the sun was setting , but didn't add anything new to our list , though a couple of Brown Hawk Owls put on quite a show for Erling , who was the first one to get back. We tried again with some spotlighting in the evening , and heard a calling Oriental Scops Owl not to far from the road but still impossible to see.

18/3.

Guwahati -> Nameri 8.30 – 14.00.

Fulvous Whistling Duck 30 , Blue-throated Barbet 1 , Coppersmith Barbet 1 , White-throated Kingfisher 8 ,
Spotted Dove 4 , Common Moorhen 6 , Bronze-winged Jacana 2 , Black Kite 150 , sparrowhawk sp. 1 ,
Steppe Eagle 3imm , Common Kestrel 1 , Little Cormorant 3 , Little Egret 1 , Cattle Egret 160 , Indian Pond Heron 6 ,
Asian Openbill 230 , Lesser Adjutant 1 , Greater Adjutant 90 , Long-tailed Shrike 1 , Rufous Treepie 1 , House Crow 100 ,
Black Drongo 11 , Asian Pied Starling 50 , Common Myna 50 , Jungle Myna 8 , White-vented Myna 3 , Plain Prinia 1 ,
Striated Grassbird 1 , Purple Sunbird 1m+1 , Crimson Sunbird 1m , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 8 , White Wagtail 1 ,
Citrine Wagtail 5 , Paddyfield Pipit 1.

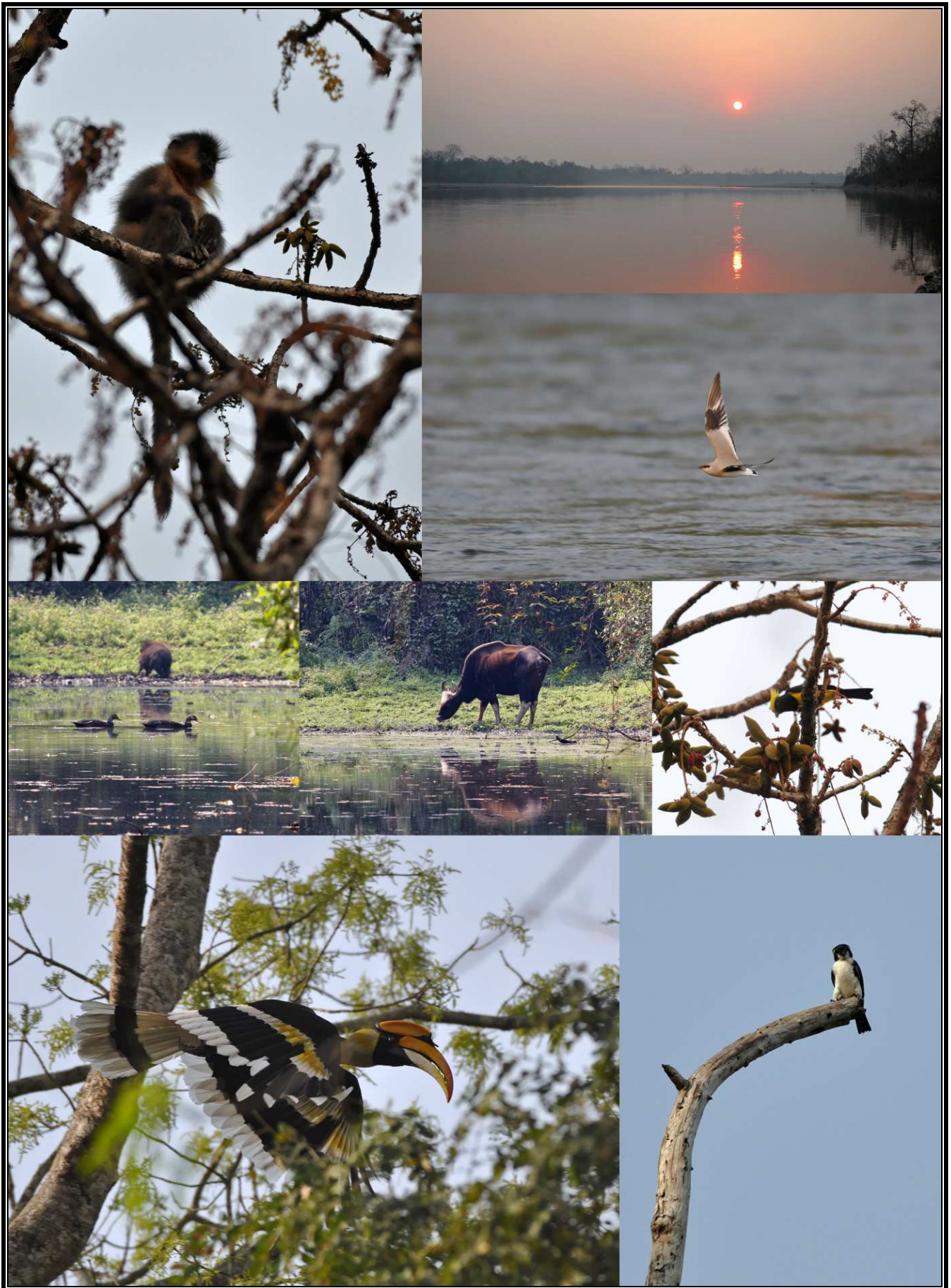
Nameri 14.00 – 20.00.

Red Junglefowl 1h , Ruddy Shelduck 10 , Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker 1m+2 , Black-rumped Flameback 4 ,
Lineated Barbet 4 , Blue-throated Barbet 2 , Great Hornbill 1 at nest , Wreathed Hornbill 1 , Indian Roller 6 , Dollarbird 2 ,
White-throated Kingfisher 2 , Pied Kingfisher 2 , Chestnut-headed Bee-eater 5 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 1 ,
Red-breasted Parakeet 90 , Himalayan Swiftlet 25 , Asian Barred Owl 1 , Brown Hawk Owl 1h , Spotted Dove 10 ,
Small Pratincole 7 , ringed plover sp. 2 , River Lapwing 1 , River Tern 4 , Crested Serpent Eagle 1 , Great Cormorant 4 ,
Great Egret 1 , Orange-bellied Leafbird 1 , Grey-backed Shrike 1 , Large-billed Crow 16 , Ashy Woodswallow 1 ,
Ashy Drongo 6 , Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo 1 , Hair-crested Drongo 2 , Scaly Thrush 1 , Red-throated Flycatcher 1 ,
Daurian Redstart 1m+1f , Siberian Stonechat 2m , Chestnut-tailed Starling 2 , Common Myna 20 , Hill Myna 6 ,
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch 1 , Sultan Tit 1m+1f , Plain Martin 40 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 2 , Red-vented Bulbul 14 ,
Thick-billed Warbler 1 , Mountain Tailorbird 1 , Common Tailorbird 2 , Tickell's Leaf Warbler 2 , Capped Langur 9 ,
Small Asian Mongoose 1 , Northern Red Muntjac 1 , Hoary-bellied Squirrel 1.

19/3.

Nameri 5.30 – 18.55.

Red Junglefowl 3h , Kalij Pheasant 1 , Ruddy Shelduck 35 , White-winged Duck 4-5 , Gadwall 3 , Eurasian Wigeon 4 ,
Mallard 2m+1f , Eurasian Teal 7 , Goosander 1m+3f , Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker 1f+2 , Greater Yellownappe 1 ,
Grey-headed Woodpecker 1 , Black-rumped Flameback 2 , Greater Flameback 5 , Lineated Barbet 4 ,
Blue-throated Barbet 16 , Great Hornbill 8 , Common Hoopoe 2 , Indian Roller 9 , Dollarbird 1 , Common Kingfisher 1 ,
Blue-eared Kingfisher 2 , White-throated Kingfisher 8 , Crested Kingfisher 2 , Pied Kingfisher 2 ,



Capped Langur , Small Pratincole , White-winged Ducks , Gaur , Sultan Tit , Great Hornbill and Pied Falconet ; Nameri

Blue-bearded Bee-eater 1 , Chestnut-headed Bee-eater 18 , Asian Koel 2h , Green-billed Malkoha 2 ,
 Red-breasted Parakeet 60 , Himalayan Swiftlet 75 , Oriental Scops Owl 1h , Asian Barred Owllet 1h+2 ,
 Brown Hawk Owl 2 , Green Imperial Pigeon 25 , Oriental Turtle Dove 15 , Spotted Dove 30 , Red Collared Dove 3 ,
 Barred Cuckoo Dove 2 , Emerald Dove 1 , Thick-billed Green Pigeon 1 , Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon 1f ,
 Common Greenshank 3 , Green Sandpiper 1 , Common Sandpiper 7 , Eurasian Stone-curlew 6 , Great Thick-knee 4 ,
 Small Pratincole 500+ , River Lapwing 12 , Red-wattled Lapwing 2 , River Tern 16 , Pallas's Fish Eagle 1 ,
 Grey-headed Fish Eagle 1ad , Crested Serpent Eagle 1-2 , Changeable Hawk Eagle 1imm , Little Cormorant 5 ,
 Indian Cormorant 1 , Great Cormorant 210 , Little Egret 5 , Great Egret 2 , Intermediate Egret 1 , Indian Pond Heron 3 ,
 Striated Heron 1 , Black Stork 11 , Asian Fairy Bluebird 1m+2f , Golden-fronted Leafbird 4 , Orange-bellied Leafbird 2 ,
 Large-billed Crow 20 , Slender-billed Oriole 1m , Maroon Oriole 1m+2f , oriole sp. 1h , Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 1m ,
 Rosy Minivet 1m , Short-billed Minivet 20 , Scarlet Minivet 8 , White-throated Fantail 1 , Black drongo 4 ,
 Ashy Drongo 2 , Black-naped Monarch 1f , Common Iora 2 , Large Woodshrike 1 , Common Woodshrike 1 ,
 Blue Rock Thrush 1m , Blue Whistling Thrush 2m , Black-breasted Thrush 1m , Slaty-backed Flycatcher 2m ,
 Little Pied Flycatcher 1f , Verditer Flycatcher 13 , Small Niltava 1m+1f , Pale-chinned Flycatcher 1 ,
 Hill Blue Flycatcher 1f , Pygmy Blue Flycatcher 1m , Oriental Magpie Robin 1 , White-capped Water Redstart 1m ,
 Siberian Stonechat 3m+1f , Chestnut-tailed Starling 8 , Common Myna 20 , Jungle Myna 8 , White-vented Myna 4 ,
 Hill myna 8 , Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch 1 , Velvet-fronted Nuthatch 2 , Great Tit 2 , Sultan Tit 2m , Plain Martin 130 ,
 Black-crested Bulbul 10 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 30 , Red-vented Bulbul 20 , White-throated Bulbul 3 , Black Bulbul 55 ,
 Blyth's Reed Warbler 1 , Striated Grassbird 1 , Common Tailorbird 4 , Yellow-browed Warbler 5 , Striped Tit Babbler 7 ,
 Sand Lark 2h , Crimson Sunbird 1m+1f , Streaked Spiderhunter 1 , White Wagtail 40 , Citrine Wagtail 6 ,
 Olive-backed Pipit 2 , bat sp. 1 , Rhesus Macaque 15 , Capped Langur 20 , Wild Boar 7 ,
 Northern Red Muntjac 1m+1f+1 , Gaur 1 , Hoary-bellied Squirrel 1 .
 Also tracks of Tiger and Asian Elephant.

After breakfast , and having found Peters laser pointer , which he had lost in the bush the night before , we were ready to head for Arunachal Pradesh and the mountains in the morning of March 20th. Passing the border post , in a small village where we picked up one of Peter's guides in training – Lobsang , went smoothly and soon the road started to climb. Road conditions were generally reasonably good and we made fair progress towards Dirang , giving us time to make some stops along the way. Especially the first one was really good with both our first Asian Elephants and Pale-headed Woodpecker heard , and sightings of such cracking birds as White-browed Scimitar Babbler , Maroon Oriole , Red-tailed Minla and the spectacular Asian Fairy Bluebird. In the afternoon we also managed to squeeze in a quick visit to Sangti Valley where the Black-tailed Crakes responded well to playback , though never showing themselves in spite of patient scanning of the small marsh below the road.

It was getting dark when we finally reached Dirang , where we checked in to the pleasantly comfortable Hotel Pemaling on the outskirts of town. There were few other guests – mostly birders – at the hotel which meant that we had a very quiet stay and never struggled to find room in the restaurant. Anyway , we were a bit tired after the long drive today , and since we had to get up very early the next morning , we went to bed immediately after dinner.

20/3.

Nameri -> Dirang 4.45 – 17.55.

(Including Sangti Valley)

Red Junglefowl 4 , Pale-headed Woodpecker 1h , Bay Woodpecker 1h , Greater Yellownape 1 , Black-rumped Flameback 1 ,
 Great Barbet 9 , Lineated Barbet 1 , Blue-throated Barbet 3 , Great Hornbill 1 , Red-breasted Parakeet 7 ,

Himalayan Swiftlet 40 , Asian Barred Owlet 1h+3 , Brown Hawk Owl 1h , Green Imperial Pigeon 1 , Spotted Dove 55 , Pin-tailed Green Pigeon 4 , Black-tailed Crake 3-4h , Red-wattled Lapwing 1 , Eurasian Sparrowhawk 1 , Buzzard 2 , Cattle Egret 10 , Asian Fairy Bluebird 2m , Orange-bellied Leafbird 7 , Long-tailed Shrike 1 , Grey-backed Shrike 2 , Large-billed Crow 18 , Maroon Oriole 2 , Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 1 , Long-tailed Minivet 1m+2f , Short-billed Minivet 6 , Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike 1 , Ashy Drongo 16 , Greater Racket-tailed Drongo 1 , Black-naped Monarch 1f , Brown Dipper 2 , Blue Rock Thrush 1m+2 , Blue Whistling Thrush 2m , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 1 , Oriental Magpie Robin 4 , Blue-fronted Redstart 3m , White-capped Water Redstart 4 , Plumbeous Water Redstart 10 , Slaty-backed Forktail 1 , Siberian Stonechat 2 , Siberian/White-tailed Stonechat 2m , Grey Bushchat 2m , Common Myna 75 , Hill Myna 2 , Green-backed Tit 1 , Sultan Tit 1 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 10 , Red-vented Bulbul 15 , Black Bulbul 20 , Common Tailorbird 20 , Grey-hooded Warbler 1 , Rufous-faced Warbler 2h , Black-faced Warbler 1 , Yellow-bellied Warbler 9 , White-crested Laughingthrush 4 , Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush h , White-browed Scimitar Babbler 1 , Grey-throated Babbler 1 , Striped Tit Babbler 2 , Red-tailed Minla 1 , Striated Yuhina 5 , Long-tailed Sibia 6 , Mrs Gould's Sunbird 1m , Green-tailed Sunbird 3f , Streaked Spiderhunter 13 , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 10 , White Wagtail 4 , Olive-backed Pipit 2 , Scaly-breasted Munia 21 , Rhesus Macaque 5 , Capped Langur 1 , Asian Elephant h.

The Dirang area.

It was kind of hard to get up when the alarm clock started ringing at 2.50 am! However , a lot of really cool birds were waiting to be seen by us today , making it a little bit easier to leave the nice warm bed. The weather looked promising when we left the hotel a bit after 3 , but unfortunately we were met by clouds/fog on the long drive up toward

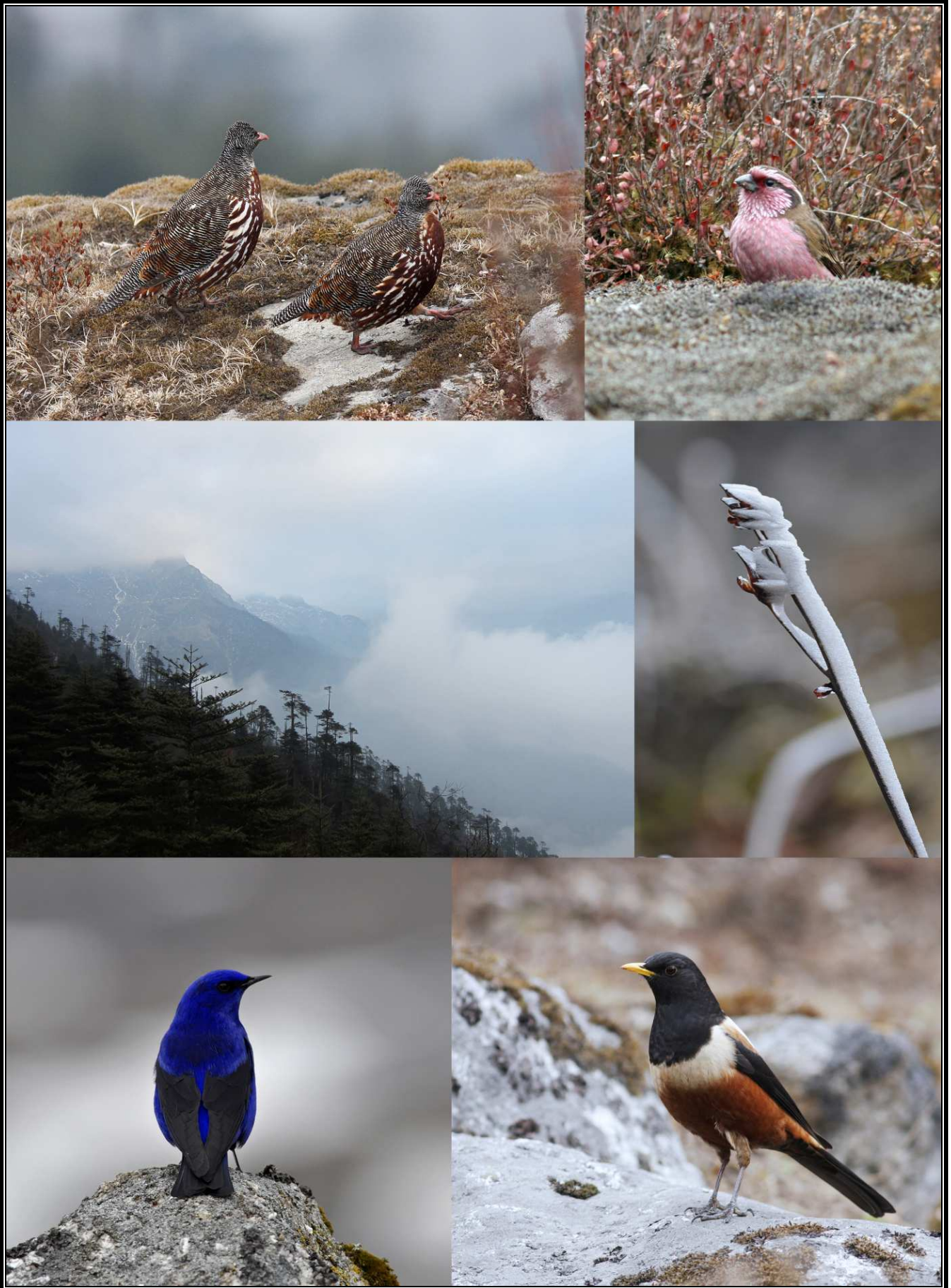
Se La.

Before reaching the pass itself , we stopped at an abandoned house , where we had breakfast at the cold and damp crack of dawn. Much to our relief , however , the clouds started breaking up shortly after resuming our drive upwards , and visibility was actually pretty good when we first stopped to walk for a while along the road. Birds soon began to show here and there , and on the lower reaches of the mountain , we managed to see such wonderful species as Himalayan Monal , Fire-tailed Sunbird and White-winged Grosbeak.

Further up we made another nice walk just before reaching the pass , and saw a couple of additional monals and a very confiding Alpine Accentor. When we descended on the other side of the pass , the partly snow covered mountainside was suddenly teeming with life , and while both species of mountainfinches were nice to see , the star of the show was undoubtedly a flock of rather confiding Grandalas , mostly consisting of extremely beautiful males – fantastic! After some of us had paused for a cup of tea , while others stayed outside enjoying the Grandalas , we moved further down the valley. Here we unexpectedly stumbled across a big flock of Blackbirds and Kessler's Thrushes , and also managed to find some other passerines like a nice pair of Himalayan White-browed Rosefinches. To top it all off , Eric suddenly spotted a group of Blood Pheasants moving through the snow in the forest on the hillside across the stream , and we had prolonged scope views of the birds , before having to return to the other side of the pass.

Our aim there was to look for Snow Partridge , and we finally found a group pretty far down the mountainside. Luckily the walk down wasn't that difficult , and since the birds were quite approachable , we soon had excellent views of the last of our "most wanted species" in the high mountains. A real bonus up here was a group of 11 Pallas's Gulls passing by (followed by a single individual) , probably migrating and certainly very rare in Arunachal Pradesh according to Peter.

Before driving back to Dirang , we had lunch in the place where we had eaten breakfast. We could easily have spent more time up here , but the drivers were getting pretty tired by now , and one of the cars needed to be repaired anyway. The upside to this early departure was , that when we came back to Dirang , there were still almost a couple of hours left till dusk ,



Snow Partridges , Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch , Grandala and Kessler's Thrush ; Se La

meaning that there was a choice between relaxing at the hotel , or going out for a short walk. Most of the group chose the first option , which was a bit of shame , since there were some really nice birds to be seen along the road leading out of town. The following day was also spent focusing on a single location , but since it was considerably closer to Dirang , we didn't have to get up at an equally ungodly hour. It was kind of nice to catch up on some sleep this way and still be ready for action at a reasonable hour on

Mandala Road.

We made a quick stop to listen for Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler at the very beginning of the road , but soon we were on our way up , only stopping to look at the occasional thrush along the way. Among the many Plain-backed Thrushes we found a single Long-tailed and small flock of Tickell's. We didn't spend much time on the lower part of the road since Peter didn't want us to reach the higher altitudes too late in the morning. However , we did make one stop to see Spotted Laughingthrush on the way up , and succeeded by seeing four birds together moving through the bushes along the road , though only showing themselves in short flashes. Finally we reached the small settlement that we were apparently aiming for , and from here we continued along the road by foot. Sadly the forest up here was very degraded , but even so we saw a lot of nice birds. A feeding party containing different species of tits , a Darjeeling Woodpecker showing nicely , and more colourful species like Yellow-billed Blue Magpie and Red-flanked Bluetail were all noted , but perhaps best of all , a couple of Bar-winged Wren Babblers close to the road were seen extraordinarily well by all. Having seen what is arguably the most beautiful of the wren babblers , it was time for us to turn around and head back down the road.

On the way down we stopped much more often than on the way up , and even walked some longer stretches , thus seeing many more birds. Lots of different yuhinas and sunbirds were seen , and we also had good numbers of White-collared Blackbirds and Beautiful Rosefinches. A couple of female Crimson-browed Finches was a nice find , and so was the Wood Snipe we flushed a couple of times. After a nice lunch we proceeded further down the road where the quality of the forest was somewhat better , and here we found exactly what we were looking for when a Fire-tailed Myzornis flew across the road before showing itself nicely in a small tree. This was a bird that all of us had very badly wanted to see , so of course we were all really excited by this little gem!

We ended our visit on Mandala Road late in the afternoon at relatively low altitude , where a "little brown bird" played hide and seek with us for more than half an hour before we could finally identify it as a Grey-sided Bush Warbler. Smarter looking birds like Large Niltava and Long-tailed Minivet were also seen here , making it a fitting end to a really good day. Well , actually not quite the end , because when we got back to the hotel , we made a short stroll down the road to listen for the Mountain Scops Owl that had been heard there yesterday.

We were a bit sad to leave Hotel Pemaling and the fantastic locations in the area around town , but at least we had some time to spare on the morning of March 23rd to revisit

Sangti Valley.

The Crakes were not more cooperative this time round , but a walk along the river turned out to be a good idea. Water redstarts of both species were common in the rocky riverbed , and we also saw both Long-billed Plover and Ibisbill which were our main targets here. A pair of Common Kingfishers were also seen , and so was a small flock of Little Buntings , a Hodgson's Redstart and several Paddyfield Pipits. On the way back to Dirang we stopped along the river , where a Little Forktail was seen on a big boulder , while a Rufous-bellied Eagle was soaring over a ridge nearby.

21/3.

Se La 5.55 – 14.55.

Snow Partridge h+9 , Blood Pheasant 12 , Himalayan Monal 6m , Bar-headed Goose 14N , Snow Pigeon 35 ,

Pallas's Gull 11N , sparrowhawk sp. 1 , Eurasian Sparrowhawk 1 , Red-billed Chough 17 , Large-billed Crow 11 , Blackbird 60 , Kessler's Thrush 75 , Blue-fronted Redstart 5m+1f , Grandala 20m+4f , treecreeper sp. 1 , Winter Wren 3 , Coal Tit 3 , Spotted Laughingthrush 1 , Stripe-throated Yuhina 3 , Rufous-vented Yuhina 4 , Green-tailed Sunbird 2m+2f , Fire-tailed Sunbird 1m , White Wagtail 1 , Rosy Pipit 12 , Alpine Accentor 4 , Rufous-breasted Accentor 3 , Plain Mountain Finch 10 , Brandt's Mountain Finch 3 , Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch 2m+3f , White-winged Grosbeak 1m.

Dirang 16.20 – 18.05.

Woodpecker sp. h , Large Hawk Cuckoo h , Mountain Scops Owl 1h , Grey Nightjar 2-3h , Eurasian Sparrowhawk 1f , Little Pied Flycatcher 1m , Verditer Flycatcher 1m , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 2 , Green-backed Tit 4 , Black-throated Tit 11 , Oriental White-eye 7 , Ashy-throated Warbler 2 , Grey-hooded Warbler 5 , Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush 14 , Blue-winged Minla 5 , Chestnut-tailed Minla 1 , Rufous-vented Yuhina 1 , bat sp. 1.

22/3.

Mandala Road 6.00 – 17.30.

Hill Partridge 2h , Darjeeling Woodpecker 1 , Great Barbet 1 , Mountain Scops Owl 1h (Dirang) , Grey Nightjar 1h (Dirang) , Oriental Turtle Dove 4 , Wood Snipe 1 , Buzzard 3 , Common Kestrel 1 , Yellow-billed Blue Magpie 8 , Spotted Nutcracker 10 , Large-billed Crow 6 , Long-tailed Minivet 4 , Short-billed Minivet 2 , White-throated Fantail 1 , Blue Whistling Thrush 8 , Plain-backed Thrush 25 , Long-tailed Thrush 1 , Scaly Thrush 1 , Tickell's Thrush 3 , White-collared Blackbird 17 , Slaty-backed Flycatcher 1f , Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher 1m , Little Pied Flycatcher 2m , Verditer Flycatcher 2 , Large Niltava 1h+1m , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 10 , Red-flanked Bluetail 1m+2f , Hodgson's Redstart 2m , Blue-fronted redstart 15 , Grey Bushchat 2 , White-tailed Nuthatch 2 , Hodgson's Treecreeper 7 , Brown-throated Treecreeper 1 , Winter Wren 1h , Fire-capped Tit 1m , Rufous-vented Tit 3 , Coal Tit 10 , Grey Crested Tit 4 , Green-backed Tit 8 , Yellow-browed Tit 2 , Black-throated Tit 4 , Rufous-fronted Tit 13 , Red-vented Bulbul 8 , Black Bulbul 2 , Oriental White-eye 2h , Grey-sided Bush Warbler 1 , Buff-barred Warbler 3 , Ashy-throated Warbler 4 , Lemon-rumped Warbler 2 , Blyth's Leaf Warbler 1 , Grey-hooded Warbler 2 , Grey-checked Warbler 1 , Black-faced Warbler 3 , Goldcrest 2 , Striated Laughingthrush group h , Spotted Laughingthrush 4 , Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush 21 , Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler 1 , Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler 1h , Bar-winged Wren Babbler 2 , Rufous-capped Babbler 1 , Green Shrike Babbler 3 , Chestnut-tailed Minla 3 , Brown-throated Fulvetta 2 , Whiskered Yuhina 4 , Stripe-throated Yuhina 1 , Rufous-vented Yuhina 20 , Fire-tailed Myzornis 1 , Beautiful Sibia 23 , Brown Parrotbill 2h , Fire-breasted Flowerpecker 1m+2 , Mrs Gould's Sunbird 2m , Green-tailed Sunbird 12 , Fire-tailed Sunbird 1m , Russet Sparrow 25 , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 4 , White Wagtail 2 , Olive-backed Pipit 14 , Rufous-breasted Accentor 10 , Yellow-breasted Greenfinch 3 , Beautiful Rosefinch 30 , Crimson-browed Finch 2f , Grey-headed Bullfinch 20 , Little Bunting 2 , bat sp. 1 (Dirang).

23/3.

Sangti Valley 6.10 – 8.40.

(Including Dirang – Sangti Valley)

Common Kingfisher 1pair , Crested Kingfisher 2 , Oriental Turtle Dove 5 , Black-tailed Crake 1h , Green Sandpiper 1 , Common Sandpiper 1 , Ibisbill 3 , Long-billed Plover 1 , Red-wattled Lapwing 1 , Northern Goshawk 1m , Long-legged Buzzard 1 , Rufous-bellied eagle 1ad , Common Kestrel 1 , Long-tailed Shrike 1 , Verditer Flycatcher 1 ,

Hodgson's Redstart 1m , Blue-fronted Redstart 10 , White-capped Water Redstart 2m , Plumbeous Water Redstart 11 , Little Forktail 1 , Green-backed Tit 22 , Red-vented Bulbul 20 , Black Bulbul 3 , Common Tailorbird 1 , Grey-hooded Warbler 1 , Green-tailed Sunbird 1m , House Sparrow 6 , Russet Sparrow 14 , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 20 , White Wagtail 16 , Paddyfield Pipit 2 , Olive-backed Pipit 2h , Yellow-breasted Greenfinch 35 , Little Bunting 7.

Tenga (lunch stop).

Large-billed Crow 20 , Long-tailed Minivet 1m+1f , Blue Whistling Thrush 1 , Oriental Magpie Robin 1 , Hodgson's Redstart 1m , Blue-fronted Redstart 10 , White-capped Water Redstart 1m , Plumbeous Water Redstart 4 , Grey Bushchat 4 , Common Myna 6 , Green-backed Tit 4 , Red-vented Bulbul 15 , tailorbird sp. 1 , Grey-sided Laughingthrush 8 (->) , Streaked Laughingthrush 1 h (->) , Green-tailed Sunbird 1 m , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 20.

On the way from Dirang we made a short stop seeing a few Laughingthrushes and stocking up on snacks , before resuming the rather uneventful drive to Tenga where we had lunch before moving on towards

Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.

Of course , this was one of the main localities of our trip , and with such a great start in Nameri and Dirang , we were ready to conquer this enigmatic place. Unfortunately the weather had taken a turn for the worse on the way up from Tenga , and the later part of the afternoon were spent birding below Lama Camp in overcast conditions with the odd light shower. The dull weather was clearly having an effect on bird activity , and we didn't really see much , though a Brown Wood Owl called a few times , and we actually did hear a couple of Bugun Liocichlas from the dense thicket but didn't manage to see them.

Luckily it was the only real rain we had during our stay in Eaglenest WS , so we really couldn't complain about that. All in all we spent almost six days in Eaglenest WS , staying in Lama Camp for the first two nights and then moving up to Sunderview Camp on the other (southern) side of Eaglenest Pass for the next four nights. Both camps offered tented accommodation and fairly basic , but adequate , facilities , which was all right since we weren't going to spend much time here apart from sleeping and dining. To most if not all of us , Sunderview Camp was probably the favourite place , since it was smaller and more intimate , with larger tents and nicer eating-facilities , but most of all because the surrounding forest was of much better quality than at Lama Camp.

The forest around Lama Camp was heavily degraded or cut down all together , replaced by dense shrubbery and herbs. On the other hand this is where you'll find the Bugun Liocichla , which must surely be the species that most visiting birders want to see above anything else. Of course , there are also other nice species to see there , and we actually compiled quite a good list while waiting patiently for the liocichlas to show themselves , which they did brilliantly after a couple of days. Best of the rest were such beauties as Golden-breasted Fulvetta , Golden Babbler , Gold-naped and Scarlet Finches , Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler and a dazzling male Red-flanked Bluetail. In spite of this array of colourful birds , most of us were really pleased when we finally saw the liocichlas , because it (also) meant that we could move on to other hunting grounds.

The gravel road between the two camps traverses the highest altitude parts of Eaglenest WS crossing Eaglenest Pass along the way. Up here the view was spectacular with mountainsides covered in flowering rhododendron and magnolia trees and the birds were equally impressive with such amazing species as Temminck's Tragopan (which we only heard in spite of several hours spent silently at lookout points) , Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler , richly coloured Sunbirds , Spotted and Black-faced Laughingthrushes , Crimson-browed Finches , Collared Grosbeaks and many more. Unfortunately the patches of bamboo forest up here had all died , meaning that some of the associated bird species weren't found , and that our faint hopes of seeing Red Panda evaporated completely.

The last section of the area , where we spent a good deal of time , was the southern slopes below Sunderview Camp. Here the forest is mostly in a fairly good condition , and birding is rather easy since the road runs all the way from Sunderview , via the

now abandoned Bompou Camp , to the bottom of the valley with Doimara River. Traffic is not an issue up here since the road is closed further ahead , and because it mostly winds up and down steep mountainsides , we had the treetops at eye level on one side and the understorey on the other most of the time. Ward's Trogon is one of the prime attractions in this area , and we had phenomenal views of a pair along the road near Sunderview Camp. Unfortunately for the photographers it was early in the morning , so light conditions were far from good , but we certainly all enjoyed seeing this enigmatic bird so well. Another beautiful bird of the higher reaches is Blyth's Tragopan which we heard calling repeatedly on two separate occasions. We tried to sneak up on a couple calling below the road , but only one of us managed to catch a glimpse of them. Further down Kalij Pheasants were seen a couple of times feeding and displaying on the road , while other notable species like Rufous-necked Hornbill , Beautiful Nuthatch , Cutia , White-tailed Robin , Long-billed and "Sikkim" Wedge-billed Wren Babbler were all seen really well.

With so many things to see , we only managed to make it all the way down to the river in the bottom of the valley once. Elephants seemed to be quite common down here , with piles of fresh dung all over , and we also saw a number of interesting birds like Crested Goshawk , Slaty- and Black-backed Forktails , Yellow-vented Warbler and Chestnut-headed Tesia , not to mention several big and beautiful species of butterfly enjoying the warmer weather down here.

23/3.

Eaglenest WS 15.30 – 18.00.

(Below Lama Camp)

Hill Partridge 1h , Bay Woodpecker 1h , Great Barbet 2h+1 , Large Hawk Cuckoo 4h , Brown Wood Owl 1h , Grey Nightjar 3h , Ashy Wood Pigeon 4 , Black Eagle 1 , White-throated Fantail 1 , Ashy Drongo 5 , Black-throated Tit 2 , Red-vented Bulbul 5 , Black Bulbul 3 , Ashy-throated Warbler 3 , Grey-cheeked Warbler 6 , Black-faced Warbler 9 , Striated Laughingthrush 22 , Bugun Liocichla 2h , Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler 1h , Rufous-throated Wren Babbler 2h , Rufous-capped Babbler 9 , Golden Babbler 3 , Rusty-fronted Barwing 19 , Yellow-throated Fulvetta 25 , Beautiful Sibia 5 , Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill 6 , Himalayan Striped Squirrel 8.

24/3.

Eaglenest WS 4.30 – 18.00.

(Below Lama Camp)

Hill Partridge 4h , Bay Woodpecker 1 , Great Barbet 5h , Large Hawk Cuckoo 4h , Collared Owlet 1h , Grey Nightjar 2 , Speckled Wood Pigeon 1 , wood pigeon sp. 1 , Black Eagle 3 , Mountain Hawk Eagle 1 , Large-billed Crow 2h , Long-tailed Minivet 1m , Yellow-bellied Fantail 20 , White-throated Fantail 4 , Ashy Drongo 4 , Blue Whistling Thrush 1 , Verditer Flycatcher 1 , Pygmy Blue Flycatcher 2m+1f , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 15 , Red-flanked Bluetail 1m , Blue-fronted Redstart 1m+2f , Grey Bushchat 1 , White-tailed Nuthatch 5 , Hodgson's Treecreeper 1 , Brown-throated Treecreeper 2 , Fire-capped Tit 1m+1f , Green-backed Tit 5 , Yellow-browed Tit 3 , Black-throated Tit 40 , Striated Bulbul 1 , Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler 8h+1 , Ashy-throated Warbler 20 , Lemon-rumped Warbler 12 , Grey-cheeked Warbler 4 , Broad-billed Warbler 1 , Black-faced Warbler 35 , Striated laughingthrush 8 , Blue-winged Laughingthrush 1 , Black-faced Laughingthrush 2 , Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler 1h , Scalp-breasted Wren Babbler 1h , Pygmy Wren Babbler 1h , Rufous-throated Wren Babbler 4h , Rufous-capped Babbler 4 , Golden Babbler 5 , Green Shrike Babbler 2 , Black-eared Shrike Babbler 1m , Rusty-fronted Barwing 25 , Golden-breasted Fulvetta 3 , Yellow-throated Fulvetta 30 , Rufous-winged Fulvetta 9 , Black-chinned Yuhina 8 , Beautiful Sibia 20 , Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill 3 , Fire-breasted Flowerpecker 2 , Mrs Gould's Sunbird 1m , Green-tailed Sunbird 6 , Russet Sparrow 2 , Maroon-backed Accentor 3 , Crimson-browed Finch 1f , Scarlet Finch 5m+3f , Grey-headed Bullfinch 35 ,

Gold-naped Finch 4m+3f , Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel 1 , Himalayan Striped Squirrel 9.

25/3.

Eaglenest WS 5.00 – 18.00.

(Below Lama Camp and Lama Camp → Eaglenest Pass → Sunderview Camp)

Hill Partridge 4h , Temminck's Tragopan 1h , Bay Woodpecker 1 , Darjeeling Woodpecker 3 , Great Barbet 3h+1 ,
Large Hawk Cuckoo 5h , Mountain Scops Owl 1h , Collared Owlet 2h , Tawny Owl 1h , Grey Nightjar 4h+1 ,
Speckled Wood Pigeon 2 , Mountain Imperial Pigeon 1h , Black Eagle 3 , Mountain Hawk Eagle 1 , Spotted Nutcracker 4 ,
Grey-chinned Minivet 1f , Yellow-bellied Fantail 5 , White-throated Fantail 1 , Ashy Drongo 2 ,
Verditer Flycatcher 1m+1f , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 10 , Blue-fronted Redstart 1f , Grey Bushchat 1m ,
White-tailed Nuthatch 5 , Rusty-flanked Treecreeper 1 , Brown-throated Treecreeper 2 , Green-backed Tit 4 ,
Yellow-cheeked Tit 3 , Yellow-browed Tit 3 , Black-throated Tit 8 , Rufous-fronted Tit 6 , Black Bulbul 4 ,
Hill Prinia 1 , Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler 4h , Buff-barred Warbler 4 , Ashy-throated Warbler 5 ,
Lemon-rumped Warbler 9 , Yellow-browed Warbler 2 , Black-faced Warbler 10 , Striated Laughingthrush 2 ,
Spotted Laughingthrush 2h , Black-faced Laughingthrush h+1 , Red-faced Liocichla 1h , Bugun Liocichla 2h+2 ,
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler 1h+1 , Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler 4h+3 , Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler 1h ,
Rufous-throated Wren Babbler 2h , Bar-winged Wren Babbler 1h , Rufous-capped Babbler 2 , Green Shrike Babbler 3 ,
Rusty-fronted Barwing 15 , Streak-throated Barwing 6 , Chestnut-tailed Minla 3 , Rufous-winged Fulvetta 2 ,
Whiskered Yuhina 1 , Stripe-throated Yuhina 50 , Rufous-vented Yuhina 50 , Fire-tailed Myzornis 5 , Beautiful Sibia 30 ,
Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill 3 , Fire-breasted Flowerpecker 1 , Mrs Gould's Sunbird 75 , Green-tailed Sunbird 50 ,
Fire-tailed Sunbird 13 , Dark-breasted Rosefinch 1f , Crimson-browed Finch 7 , Brown Bullfinch 5 ,
Grey-headed Bullfinch 6 , Collared Grosbeak 2f , Gold-naped Finch 2f , bat sp. 1 , Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel 1 ,
Himalayan Striped Squirrel 4.

26/3.

Eaglenest WS 5.10 – 18.00.

(Sunderview Camp – Bompu)

Hill Partridge 1h , Rufous-throated Partridge 2h , Chestnut-breasted Partridge 3h , Blyth's Tragopan 1pair+1h ,
Kalij Pheasant 1pair , Bay Woodpecker 1 , Crimson-breasted Woodpecker 1m , Greater Yellowape 1 ,
Great Barbet 12h+4 , Golden-throated Barbet 5h+4 , Rufous-necked Hornbill 1 , Common Hoopoe 1 , Ward's Trogon 1h ,
Large Hawk Cuckoo 5h , Collared Owlet 2h , Grey Nightjar 2h , Mountain Imperial Pigeon 1h , Emerald Dove 4 ,
Black Eagle 3 , Mountain Hawk Eagle 1 , Orange-bellied Leafbird 8 , Common Green Magpie 1h , Spotted Nutcracker 1h ,
Maroon Oriole 3h+1f , Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 1m , Grey-chinned Minivet 25 , Short-billed Minivet 30 ,
Yellow-bellied Fantail 4 , White-throated Fantail 2 , Ashy Drongo 15 , Bronzed Drongo 4 , Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo 3 ,
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush 1m , Little Pied Flycatcher 1m , Verditer Flycatcher 8 , Small Niltava 3 ,
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 15 , White-tailed Nuthatch 1 , Beautiful Nuthatch 5 , Green-backed Tit 4 ,
Yellow-cheeked Tit 1 , Sultan Tit 1 , Black-throated Tit 6 , Striated Bulbul 9 , Mountain Tailorbird 7h+1 ,
Lemon-rumped Warbler 10 , Ashy-throated Warbler 3 , Yellow-browed Warbler 3 , Grey-hooded Warbler 1 ,
White-spectacled Warbler 2 , Grey-cheeked Warbler 4 , Chestnut-crowned Warbler 2 , Broad-billed Warbler 2 ,
Striated Laughingthrush 8 , Scaly Laughingthrush h+1 , Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler 1 ,
Rufous-throated Wren Babbler 1h , Rufous-capped Babbler 6h+3 , Golden Babbler 4 , Grey-throated Babbler 2 , Cutia 4 ,
Black-headed Shrike Babbler 1h+1m+1f , White-browed Shrike Babbler 5h+2 , Hoary-throated Barwing 4 ,
Golden-breasted Fulvetta 3 , Yellow-throated Fulvetta 20 , Rufous-winged Fulvetta 6 , White-naped Yuhina 20 ,



Gold-naped Finch , Ward's Trogon , Black-faced Warbler and Crimson-browed Finch ; Eaglenest WS

Whiskered Yuhina 3 , Rufous-backed Sibia 1h+2 , Beautiful Sibia 12 , Long-tailed Sibia 13 ,
Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill 5 , Fire-breasted Flowerpecker 3 , Green-tailed Sunbird 4 , Black-throated Sunbird 1m ,
Streaked Spiderhunter 5 , Olive-backed Pipit 4 , Brown Bullfinch 8 , Northern Tree Shrew 1 ,
Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel 8 , Black Giant Squirrel 1 , Himalayan Striped Squirrel 4.

27/3.

Eaglenest WS 5.20 – 18.00.

(Sunderview Camp – Bompu – Sessni – Doimara River)

Rufous-throated Partridge 4h , Chestnut-breasted Partridge 6h , Red Junglefowl 1h , Kalij Pheasant 1pair ,
Grey Peacock Pheasant 4h , Pale-headed Woodpecker 1m + 1-2 , Great Barbet 30 , Golden-throated Barbet 12 ,
Blue-throated Barbet 3 , Rufous-necked Hornbill 7 , Red-headed Trogon 1pair , Large Hawk Cuckoo 10h+2 ,
Himalayan Swiftlet 30 , White-throated Needletail 12 , Fork-tailed Swift 1 , Collared Owlet 2h , Grey Nightjar 2 ,
Mountain Imperial Pigeon 5h+3 , Emerald Dove 1 , Crested Serpent Eagle 2 , Black Eagle 4 , Crested Goshawk 1pair+1 ,
Besra 1 , Rufous-bellied Eagle 1 , Mountain Hawk Eagle 1 , Blue-naped Pitta 1h , Orange-bellied Leafbird 14 ,
Yellow-billed Blue Magpie 3 , Common Green Magpie 2h , Grey Treepie 1 , Collared Treepie 1 , Maroon Oriole 6h+3 ,
Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 2 , Grey-chinned Minivet 25 , Short-billed Minivet 5 , Yellow-bellied Fantail 4 ,
White-throated Fantail 5 , Ashy Drongo 40 , Bronzed Drongo 11 , Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo 8 ,
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo 1 , Large Woodshrike 5 , Brown Dipper 1 , Blue Rock Thrush 1m ,
Blue Whistling Thrush 2 , Long-tailed Thrush 1 , Grey-winged Blackbird 1m , White-gorgetted Flycatcher 1h ,
Snowy-browed Flycatcher 1h , Verditer Flycatcher 3 , Small Niltava 3 , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 7 ,
Oriental Magpie Robin 1 , Blue-fronted Redstart 1f , White-capped Water Redstart 2m , Plumbeous Water Redstart 1m ,
Black-backed Forktail 1pair , Slaty-backed Forktail 1 , Beautiful Nuthatch 2 , Green-backed Tit 1 , Yellow-cheeked Tit 5 ,
Sultan Tit 2 , Nepal House Martin 20 , Striated Bulbul 1 , Black-crested Bulbul 4 , White-throated Bulbul 2h ,
Mountain Bulbul 25 , Black Bulbul 2 , Chestnut-headed Tesia 2 , Slaty-bellied Tesia 3 ,
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler 1 , Mountain Tailorbird 9h , Buff-barred Warbler 2 , Lemon-rumped Warbler 3 ,
Yellow-browed Warbler 1 , Yellow-vented Warbler 1 , Grey-hooded Warbler 1 , Rufous-faced Warbler 2 ,
Black-faced Warbler 2 , White-crested Laughingthrush h+1 , Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush h ,
Grey-sided Laughingthrush h , Streaked Laughingthrush 3 , Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush 4 ,
Large Scimitar Babbler 1h , Red-billed Scimitar Babbler 1h , Pygmy Wren Babbler 3h ,
“Sikkim” Wedge-billed Wren Babbler 1h+1 , Rufous-fronted Babbler 1 , Rufous-capped Babbler 1 , Golden Babbler 2 ,
Silver-eared Mesia 18 , White-browed Shrike Babbler 3 , White-hooded Babbler h+3 , Hoary-throated Barwing 2 ,
Nepal Fulvetta 4 , White-naped Yuhina 17 , Stripe-throated Yuhina 10 , Rufous-vented Yuhina 14 ,
Black-chinned Yuhina 6 , Beautiful Sibia 8 , Long-tailed Sibia 21 , Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill 3 ,
Mrs Gould’s Sunbird 10 , Black-throated Sunbird 2m , Streaked Spiderhunter 25 , Scarlet Finch 3 , Black Giant Squirrel 1.

28/3.

Eaglenest WS 5.30 – 17.45.

(Below Sunderview Camp and Sunderview Camp – Eaglenest Pass)

Hill Partridge 3h , Rufous-throated Partridge 3h , Chestnut-breasted Partridge 2h , Temminck’s Tragopan 1h ,
Grey Peacock Pheasant 4h , Crimson-breasted Woodpecker 1 , Greater Yellownape 1 , Great Barbet 13h+4 ,
Golden-throated Barbet 5h+2 , Red-headed Trogon 2h+1 , Ward’s Trogon 1pair , Large Hawk Cuckoo 7h ,
Collared Owlet 1h , Grey Nightjar 2h+1 , Mountain Imperial Pigeon 2h , Orange-bellied Leafbird 9 ,

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie 1 , Maroon Oriole 3h+1m+1f , Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 5 , Grey-chinned Minivet 80 ,
 minivet sp. 35 , White-throated Fantail 3 , Ashy Drongo 23 , Bronzed Drongo 6 , Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo 8 ,
 Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush 1m , Scaly Thrush 1 , Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher 1pair , White-gorgetted Flycatcher 2h+1 ,
 Verditer Flycatcher 13 , Small Niltava 4 , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 9 , Blue-fronted Redstart 1m ,
 White-tailed Robin 1m+1f , Beautiful Nuthatch 6 , Striated Bulbul 6 , Chestnut-headed Tesia 2h+1 , Slaty-bellied Tesia 4h ,
 Mountain Tailorbird 2h , Lemon-rumped Warbler 6 , Yellow-browed Warbler 1 , Whistler's Warbler 1 ,
 Grey-cheeked Warbler 1 , Chestnut-crowned Warbler 3 , Black-faced Warbler 7 , Striated Laughingthrush 3 ,
 Grey-sided Laughingthrush 2 , Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush 2 , Rufous-throated Wren Babbler 2h+1 ,
 Long-billed Wren Babbler 1 , Rufous-capped Babbler 3 , Cutia 1 , Black-headed Shrike Babbler 1f ,
 White-browed Shrike Babbler 10h+4 , Hoary-throated Barwing 2 , Chestnut-tailed Minla 2 , Yellow-throated Fulvetta 20 ,
 Rufous-winged Fulvetta 6 , White-naped Yuhina 5 , Whiskered Yuhina 13 , Rufous-vented Yuhina 11 , Beautiful Sibia 10 ,
 Green-tailed Sunbird 1m+2f , Black-throated Sunbird 2m , Streaked Spiderhunter 20 , Maroon-backed Accentor 1.

29/3.

Eaglenest WS 5.30 – 8.45.

(Sunderview Camp -> Eaglenest Pass -> Lama Camp -> Tenga)

Darjeeling Woodpecker 1 , Great Barbet 3 , Golden-throated Barbet 1h , Large Hawk Cuckoo 3h , Grey Nightjar 1h ,
 Spotted Nutcracker 1 , Yellow-bellied Fantail 1 , White-throated Fantail 1 , Ashy Drongo 10 , Red-flanked Bluetail 1m ,
 Blue-fronted Redstart 2m+1f , Grey Bushchat 1m+1f , Yellow-browed Tit 2 , Hill Prinia 1 , Yellow-browed Warbler 1 ,
 Spotted Laughingthrush 1 , Streaked Laughingthrush 1 , Black-faced Laughingthrush 4-5 ,
 Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler 5 , Chestnut-tailed Minla 2 , Rufous-winged Fulvetta 5 , Stripe-throated Yuhina 3 ,
 Rufous-vented Yuhina 10 , Beautiful Sibia 3 , Mrs Gould's Sunbird 2 , Green-tailed Sunbird 1m , Fire-tailed Sunbird 1m ,
 Olive-backed Pipit 1 , Common Rosefinch 1m , squirrel sp. 1.

Having left the glory of Eaglenest WS behind , it was time for us to head for the lowland again. We made a few stops on the way down , before arriving at Nameri Eco Lodge where we had our lunch , and were lucky enough to see a pair of minute Pied Falconets and the huge Great Hornbill bringing food to its nest hole – great stuff!

The rest of the afternoon were spent driving to Kaziranga , and we arrived shortly before sunset , seeing the first Indian Water Buffaloes and Indian Rhinoceroses along the last stretch of road on the outskirts of the national park. As darkness fell , we checked in at Jupuri Gahr which was to be our accommodation the following nights , and much to our delight it was a nice place with a very good restaurant.

Eaglenest WS -> Nameri (N) -> Kaziranga (K) 8.45 – 17.30.

Blue-throated Barbet 1h , Great Hornbill 1 at nest (N) , Rufous-necked Hornbill 1 , Common Hoopoe 1 , Indian Roller 2 ,
 Dollarbird 2 (N) + 1 , White-throated Kingfisher 1 , Pied Kingfisher 1 , Chestnut-headed Bee-eater 1 ,
 Red-breasted Parakeet 7 , Asian Palm Swift 18 , Fork-tailed Swift 2 , Large-tailed Nightjar 1h (K) , Spotted Dove 1 ,
 Yellow-footed Green Pigeon 2 , snipe sp. 1 , Red-wattled Lapwing 1 , River Tern 1 , Black Kite 2 , Black Eagle 1 ,
 Upland Buzzard 1 , Pied Falconet 1pair (N) , Cattle Egret 60 , egret sp. 7 , Indian Pond Heron 2 , Asian Openbill 1 ,
 Black Stork 1 , Lesser Adjutant 1 (K) , Large-billed Crow 1 (K) , Ashy Woodswallow 20 (K) , Grey-chinned Minivet 20 ,
 White-throated Fantail 1 , Black Drongo 1 , Ashy Drongo 8 , Hair-crested Drongo 1 , Greater Racket-tailed Drongo 1 ,
 Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush 1m , Blue Whistling Thrush 5 , Small Niltava 1 , Black Redstart 1m (K) ,
 Blue-fronted Redstart 7 , White-capped Water Redstart 1m , Plumbeous Water Redstart 1m , Common Myna 300 ,
 Asian Pied Starling 4 , Jungle Myna 4 , Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch 2 , Great Tit 2 , Plain Martin 15 ,

Red-vented Bulbul 15 , Yellow-vented Warbler 1 , Whistler's Warbler 3 , White-crested Laughingthrush h ,
Silver-eared Mesia 2 , Yellow-throated Fulvetta 10 , Black-throated Sunbird 1 , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 20 ,
White Wagtail 6 , bat sp. 15 (min. 3 arter) , Rhesus Macaque 35 , Indian Rhinoceros 3 (K) , Indian Water Buffalo 13 (K).

Kaziranga NP.

Unfortunately the first day of our stay coincided with a visit by the Assamese Prime Minister , which meant that the national park was partly closed. Luckily the eastern sector wasn't affected so that was where we started in the morning of March 30th. Since the park is rather big , the drive out there took a while. However , as it also opens rather late in the morning , we had time for some initial birding around the lodge at sunrise before leaving.

A big shallow lake is a prominent feature in the eastern part of the park , but we also drove through some very nice lowland forest and shrubbery , and even reached the shores of the Brahmaputra River at one point. Lots of big mammals were seen out here , and amongst the birds we had great views of such cool species as Grey-headed Fish Eagle , smart males of Pied and Pallid Harrier , Cinnamon Bittern and the local race of Indian Roller – a possible split. The afternoon produced a rather less impressive list of birds , but on our visit to a local tea estate we did see Blue-naped Pita well , and Citrine Wagtail , Grey-backed Shrike and Pintail Snipe were all seen behind the lodge around noon.

Much to our relief , the Prime Minister had moved on late in the afternoon , and the park was therefor open for business again the following day. Determined to make the most of our time , we opted to take an elephant ride early in the morning of March 31st. The good thing about these elephant safaris is , that it allows you to leave the road , that it allows you to get inside the park at sunrise , and that it still leaves time for two game drives , and apart from that it's also a fun experience. Not surprisingly the mahouts concentrate on the big mammals , but we also did see birds like Red Avadavat , Striated Babbler and an unidentified buttonquail on the ride.

The two game drives today took us to the central section following the elephant ride , and to the western part of the park in the afternoon. Both areas were excellent for birds and mammals with loads of rhinos , several herds of Indian Elephants which we hadn't seen further east , a nice Smooth-coated Otter and lots of Swamp and Hog Deer. Notable among the birds were good numbers of starlings , some really nice Pallas's Fish Eagles , our first Swamp Francolins , several Slender-billed Babblers , a flock of beautiful Blue-tailed Bee-eaters and many other wonderful species. In spite of such varied birdlife , there's no doubt that today's ornithological highlight was a male Bengal Florican walking slowly in the meadows just inside the park from the entrance in the morning. This bird was shown to us by a group of birders standing on the roof of a small building , and we were really happy to get this rare and cool species , which we all had high on our wish list.

However , it wasn't the last Florican to be seen by us on the day , because late in the afternoon , Vikram spotted another male well inside the western sector , and that bird was seen even better than the first one while moving slowly through tall grass , but eventually coming out into the open , where it even displayed briefly! The mood was therefore good when we drove towards the gate while enjoying the splendour of the sun setting over meadows filled with grazing rhinos and buffaloes – magical!

Before leaving Kaziranga we had time for one more game drive in the morning of April 1st. Since again we weren't allowed into the park very early , some of us made a short morning birdwalk behind the lodge , where we saw quite a few nice birds like Great Hornbill , Hill Myna , Yellow-vented Flowepecker and a good mix of Woodpeckers and Cuckoos. The drive itself added a couple of babbler-species to our ever growing list , and was again just a delightful experience even though we didn't see the Tiger which were probably close by , judging by the alarm calls from some of the other animals.

We returned to the lodge for lunch , before driving east toward the town of Tinsukia. The drive lasted the rest of the afternoon , and apart from a couple of Greater Adjudants and our first house Swifts , we didn't see all that much along the way.

30/3.

Kaziranga (E) 5.00 – 18.00.

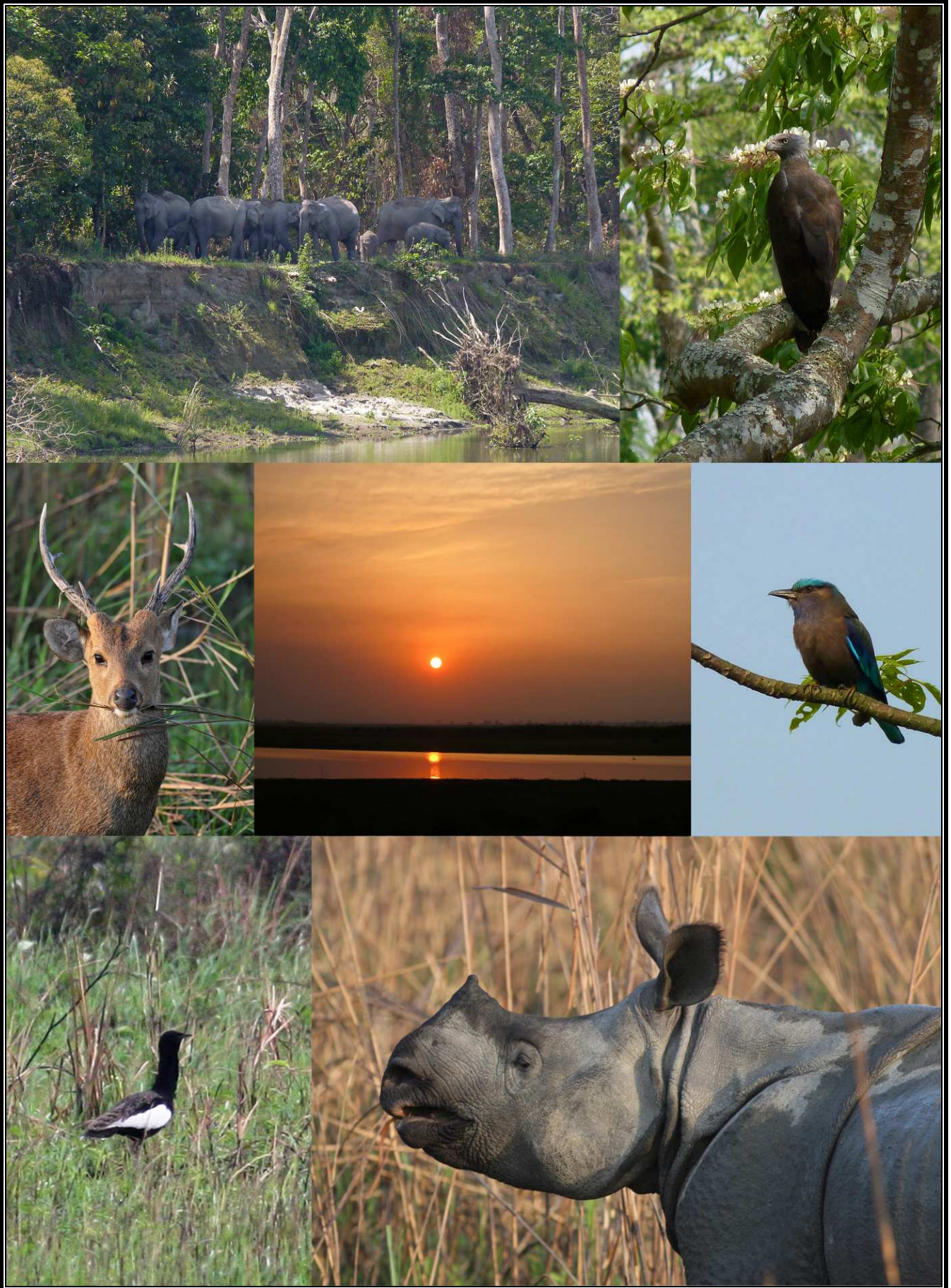
Including Jupuri Gahr (JG) and tea estate (T).

Red Junglefowl 4h+1m , Bar-headed Goose 15 , Ruddy Shelduck 6 , Gadwall 3 , Eurasian Wigeon 15 , Indian Spot-billed Duck 2 , Eurasian Teal 20 , Garganey 12 , Northern Pintail 1f , Northern Shoveler 1m , Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker 3 , Lesser Yellownape 1 (JG) , Greater Yellownape 2 (JG) , Streak-throated Woodpecker 2 (T) , Black-rumped Flameback 1 , Lineated Barbet 1 , Blue-throated Barbet 1 (JG) , Blue-eared Barbet 1h (T) , Common Hoopoe 1 , Indian Roller 12 (+ 2 JG) , White-throated Kingfisher 8 , Pied Kingfisher 1 , Chestnut-headed Bee-eater 7 , Asian Koel 1h (JG) , Greater Coucal 1 (JG) , Lesser Coucal 1 , Alexandrine Parakeet 9 (T) , Rose-ringed Parakeet 75 , Blossom-headed Parakeet 5 , Red-breasted Parakeet 25 , Asian Palm Swift 20 , Collared Owllet 1h (JG) , Asian Barred Owllet 1h (JG) , Spotted Owllet 6 , Green Imperial Pigeon 1 , Spotted Dove 35 , White-breasted Waterhen 1 , Common Moorhen 2 , Pintail Snipe 1 (JG) , Spotted Redshank 2 , Common Redshank 1 , Marsh Sandpiper 2 , Common Greenshank 3 , Wood Sandpiper 6 , Common Sandpiper 1 , Pheasant-tailed Jacana 2 , Bronze-winged Jacana 10 , Northern Lapwing 8 , Grey-headed Lapwing 3 , Red-wattled Lapwing 2 , Whiskered Tern 1 , Osprey 3 , Pallas's Fish Eagle 2ad+2imm , Grey-headed Fish Eagle 2ad+1imm , Himalayan Vulture 7-10 , Crested Serpent Eagle 3 , Pied Harrier 1m , Pallid Harrier 1m , Shikra 1 , Oriental Honey Buzzard 2 (+ 1 JG) , Changeable Hawk Eagle 2imm , Common Kestrel 3 (+ 1 JG) , Peregrine Falcon 1 , Oriental Darter 25 , Little Cormorant 10 , Great Cormorant 1 , Little Egret 4 , Great Egret 6 , Intermediate Egret 25 , Cattle Egret 35 , Indian Pond Heron 20 , Grey Heron 3 , Purple Heron 4 , Cinnamon Bittern 2 , Black-headed Ibis 4 , Spot-billed Pelican 20 , Asian Openbill 65 , Woolly-necked Stork 9 , Black-necked Stork 3 , Lesser Adjutant 20 , Blue-naped Pitta 2h (+ 2 T) , Brown Shrike 1 , Grey-backed Shrike 4 , Rufous Treepie 7 , Large-billed Crow 11 , Ashy Woodswallow 8 (JG) , Black-hooded Oriole 4 , Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 1 , minivet sp. 100 (JG) , Black Drongo 30 , Hair-crested Drongo 11 , Greater Racket-tailed Drongo 1 (JG) , Large Woodshrike 2 (T) , Red-throated Flycatcher 1 (T) , Oriental Magpie Robin 2 , Black Redstart 1f , Siberian Stonechat 1m+2f , Chestnut-tailed Starling 12 (+ 60 JG) , Asian Pied Starling 14 , Common Myna 500 , Bank Myna 3 , Jungle Myna 400 , White-vented Myna 1 , Hill Myna 2 , Plain Martin 50 , Barn Swallow 9 (JG) , Red-rumped Swallow 1 (JG) , house martin sp. 10 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 15 , Red-vented Bulbul 15 (JG) , Oriental White-eye 2 (JG) , Common Tailorbird 2 , Buff-breasted Babbler 1h (T) , Grey-throated Babbler 1 (T) , Striped Tit Babbler 3 , Bengal Bushlark 1 , Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker 1m+1f , Crimson Sunbird 1m (JG) , House Sparrow 25 , White Wagtail 2 , Citrine Wagtail 2 (+ 1 JG) , Olive-backed Pipit 4 , Scaly-breasted Munia 12 (JG) + 1 (T) , Indian Flying Fox 1 , bat sp. 10 (3+ species) , Smooth-coated Otter 1 , Small Asian Mongoose 1 , Indian Rhinoceros 6 , Wild Boar 1 , Hog Deer 55 , Swamp Deer 50 , Indian Water Buffalo 40 , Water Monitor Lizard 1 , Softshell Turtle 1.

31/3.

Kaziranga (C & W) 5.15 – 18.00.

Swamp Francolin h+3 , buttonquail sp. 1 , Red Junglefowl h+2m+1f , Kalij Pheasant 1pair , Bar-headed Goose 14 , Ruddy Shelduck 8 , Eurasian Wigeon 4 , Indian Spot-billed Duck 16 , Eurasian Teal 5 , Northern Shoveler 1m+1f , Streak-throated Woodpecker 1 , Grey-headed Woodpecker 1 , Black-rumped Flameback 1h+2 , Lineated Barbet 6 , Blue-throated Barbet 1h , Oriental Pied Hornbill 11 , Common Hoopoe 2 , Indian Roller 12 , White-throated Kingfisher 5 , Pied Kingfisher 2 , Green Bee-eater 3 , Blue-tailed Bee-eater 21 , Chestnut-headed Bee-eater 2 , Large Hawk Cuckoo 1h , Green-billed Malkoha 1 , Greater Coucal 3 , Lesser Coucal 2 , Alexandrine Parakeet 45 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 16 , Blossom-headed Parakeet 3 , Red-breasted Parakeet 20 , Asian Palm Swift 20 , Asian Barred Owllet 1h (JG) ,



Asian Elephants , Grey-headed Fish Eagle , Hog Deer , Indian Roller , Bengal Florican and Indian Rhinoceros ; Kaziranga NP

Spotted Owlet 1 , Brown Hawk Owl 1h , Large-tailed Nightjar 1 (JG) , Green Imperial Pigeon 17 ,
 Oriental Turtle Dove 25 , Spotted Dove 60 , Emerald Dove 2 , Yellow-footed Green Pigeon 28 , Bengal Florican 2m ,
 White-breasted Waterhen 2 , snipe sp. 6 , Spotted Redshank 1 , Common Redshank 1 , Marsh Sandpiper 1 ,
 Common Greenshank 1 , Green Sandpiper 2 , Wood Sandpiper 3 , Common Sandpiper 3 , Temminck's Stint 23 ,
 Bronze-winged Jacana 25 , Little Ringed Plover 1 , Northern Lapwing 2 , Red-wattled Lapwing 10 , River Tern 1 ,
 Osprey 1 , Black-winged Kite 1 , Pallas's Fish Eagle 1ad+1imm , Grey-headed Fish Eagle 2ad+1imm ,
 Himalayan Vulture 50 , Crested Serpent Eagle 4 , Pied Harrier 1m , Shikra 4 , Oriental Honey Buzzard 2 ,
 Indian Spotted Eagle 1ad , Greater Spotted Eagle 1 , Steppe Eagle 1imm , Common Kestrel 2 , Oriental Darter 25 ,
 Little Cormorant 5 , Little Egret 6 , Great Egret 3 , Intermediate Egret 10 , Cattle Egret 15 , Indian Pond Heron 20 ,
 Grey Heron 2 , Purple Heron 2 , Black-headed Ibis 1 , Great White Pelican 1 , Spot-billed Pelican 26 , Asian Openbill 11 ,
 Woolly-necked Stork 7 , Black-necked Stork 13 , Lesser Adjutant 35 , Greater Adjutant 2 , Long-tailed Shrike 1 ,
 Grey-backed Shrike 6 , Rufous Treepie 5 , Large-billed Crow 40 , Ashy Woodswallow 9 (JG) , Black-hooded Oriole 2 ,
 Large Cuckoo-shrike 2 , Black Drongo 30 , Hair-crested Drongo 7 , Greater Racket-tailed Drongo 1 , Large Woodshrike 3 ,
 Common Woodshrike 3 , Red-throated Flycatcher 1m (JG) , Oriental Magpie Robin 2 , Black Redstart 1m+1f (JG) ,
 Siberian Stonechat 25 , Chestnut-tailed Starling 14 , Asian Pied Starling 75 , Common Myna 125 , Jungle Myna 200 ,
 White-vented Myna 13 , Great Tit 2 , Plain Martin 60 , Barn Swallow 15 , Asian House Martin 4 ,
 Red-whiskered Bulbul 4 , Red-vented Bulbul 75 , Grey-breasted Prinia 2 , Yellow-bellied Prinia 3 , Ashy Prinia 4 ,
 Striated Grassbird 4 , Common Tailorbird 3 (+ 1 JG) , Dark-necked Tailorbird 1 (JG) , Tickell's Leaf Warbler 3 ,
 Yellow-browed Warbler 2 , Puff-throated Babbler 1h , Chestnut-capped Babbler 1h , Striated Babbler 8 ,
 Slender-billed Babbler 4 , Bengal Bushlark 3 , Oriental Skylark 2 , Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker 1m (JG) ,
 Crimson Sunbird 1m (JG) , House Sparrow 35 , White Wagtail 3 , Yellow Wagtail 30 , Citrine Wagtail 4 ,
 Olive-backed Pipit 9 , Baya Weaver 30 , Black-breasted Weaver 25 , weaver sp. 50 , Red Avadavat 10 ,
 bat sp. 20 (3+ species) , Rhesus macaque 1 , Smooth-coated Otter 1 , Asian Elephant 27 , Indian Rhinoceros 40-50 ,
 Wild Boar 14 , Hog Deer 130 , Swamp Deer 70 , Northern Red Muntjac 1 (JG) , Indian Water Buffalo 75 , squirrel sp. 1 ,
 Monitor Lizard 1.

1/4.

Jupuri Gahr 4.45 – 7.00 & 11.00 – 12.30.

Rufous Woodpecker 1 , Grey-headed Woodpecker 1 , Black-rumped Flameback 2 , Blue-throated Barbet 2h+2 ,
 Great Hornbill 1 , Banded Bay Cuckoo 1h , Plaintive Cuckoo 1h , Lesser Coucal 2 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 13 ,
 Red-breasted Parakeet 4 , Asian Palm Swift 8 , Asian Barred Owlet 1 , Green Imperial Pigeon 6 ,
 Thick-billed Green Pigeon 7 , Yellow-footed Green Pigeon 4 , Oriental Honey Buzzard 2 , Orange-bellied Leafbird 1 ,
 Grey-backed Shrike 1 , Grey Treepie 2 , Ashy Woodswallow 2 , Black-hooded Oriole 1m , Short-billed Minivet 6 ,
 Black Drongo 6 , Hair-crested Drongo 2 , Greater Racket-tailed Drongo 1 , Common Iora 1 , Large Woodshrike 2 ,
 Red-throated Flycatcher 1m+2 , Oriental Magpie Robin 3 , Black Redstart 1m , Chestnut-tailed Starling 8 , Hill Myna 2 ,
 myna sp. 50 , Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch 3 , Great Tit 1 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 12 , Red-vented Bulbul 25 ,
 Oriental White-eye h , Common Tailorbird 2 , Dusky Warbler 1 , Yellow-browed Warbler 1 , Striped Tit Babbler 2h ,
 Yellow-vented Flowerpecker 1pair , Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker 1f , Crimson Sunbird 1m+1f , House Sparrow 5 ,
 Rhesus Macaque 2 , Hoary-bellied Squirrel 1.

Kaziranga (C) 7.30 – 10.50.

Red Junglefowl 2m+1f , Kalij Pheasant 1pair+1m , Indian Spot-billed Duck 8 , Grey-headed Woodpecker 1m ,
 Black-rumped Flameback 1 , Lineated Barbet 6 , Blue-eared Barbet 1 , Great Hornbill 1 , Common Hoopoe 1 ,
 Indian Roller 5 , White-throated Kingfisher 3 , Pied Kingfisher 1 , Green Bee-eater 4 , Chestnut-headed Bee-eater 1 ,

Alexandrine Parakeet 10 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 7 , Blossom-headed Parakeet 1 , Red-breasted Parakeet 6 , Asian Barred Owllet 2 , Green Imperial Pigeon 2 , Spotted Dove 30 , Red Collared Dove 2 , Yellow-footed Green Pigeon 9 , White-breasted Waterhen 1 , Bronze-winged Jacana 7 , Grey-headed Lapwing 1 , Red-wattled Lapwing 8 , River Tern 1 , Osprey 2 , Pallas's Fish Eagle 2ad+1imm , White-rumped Vulture 1 , Himalayan Vulture 45 , Crested Serpent Eagle 4 , Pied Harrier 1m , Shikra 1 , Oriental Honey Buzzard 1 , spotted eagle sp. 1imm , Steppe Eagle 2imm , Oriental Darter 6 , Little Cormorant 4 , Little Egret 3 , Great Egret 1 , Intermediate Egret 3 , Cattle Egret 7 , Indian Pond Heron 10 , Spot-billed Pelican 55 , Asian Openbill 30 , Black-necked Stork 1 , Lesser Adjutant 12 , Grey-backed Shrike 6 , Large-billed Crow 7 , Black-hooded Oriole 1 , Black Drongo 22 , Hair-crested Drongo 9 , Pale-chinned Flycatcher 1 , Oriental Magpie Robin 2 , White-rumped Shama 1m , Siberian Stonechat 17 , Chestnut-tailed Starling 12 , Asian Pied Starling 16 , Common Myna 23 , Bank Myna 1 , Jungle Myna 100 , White-vented Myna 3 , Sand Martin 4 , Plain Martin 45 , Barn Swallow 6 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 10 , Red-vented Bulbul 35 , Ashy Prinia 1 , Common Tailorbird 3 , Tickell's Leaf Warbler 2 , Abbott's Babbler 1 , Puff-throated Babbler 1 , Striped Tit Babbler 2h , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 3 , Citrine Wagtail 1m+2f , Olive-backed Pipit 4 , Black-breasted Weaver 25 , Baya Weaver 1m+3 , Smooth-coated Otter 3-4 , Asian Elephant 22 , Indian Rhinoceros 30 , Wild Boar 2 , Hog deer 25 , Swamp Deer 65 , Northern Red Muntjac 1h , Indian Water Buffalo 35 , squirrel sp. 1.

Kaziranga -> Tinsukia 12.40 – 18.30.

House Swift 10 , Purple Swamphen 40 , snipe sp. 1 , Cattle Egret 300 , Asian Openbill 50 , Greater Adjutant 2 , Common Myna 1000 , Jungle Myna 20 , Great Tit 2 , mongoose sp. 1.

After having checked out from our hotel in Tinsukia , we continued eastwards to Saikhoa Ghat where we struggled a bit to find the ferry point , which apparently moves depending on the moods of the river. We did find the right spot , however , and while the cars were being driven on to the ferry , we enjoyed breakfast on a sunny morning. The river crossing lasted about an hour , and we saw our first Brown-headed Gull and Oriental Pratincoles while relaxing on deck. After a safe crossing of both the river and the Arunachal Pradesh border , we arrived at Roing which is the main town out here in the far eastern part of the country.

2/4.

Tinsukia -> Roing 5.00 – 13.00.

Ruddy Shelduck 2 , Indian Spot-billed Duck 5 , Blue-throated Barbet 3h+2 , Indian Roller 2 , White-throated Kingfisher 2 , Pied Kingfisher 4 , Green Bee-eater 6 , Asian Palm Swift 14 , Spotted Dove 60 , Yellow-footed Green Pigeon 8 , Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon 1 , White-breasted Waterhen 1 , Common Greenshank 3 , Common Sandpiper 2 , Oriental Pratincole 12 , Pacific Golden Plover 11 , Little Ringed Plover 2 , Red-wattled Lapwing 2 , Pallas's Gull 1ad , Brown-headed Gull 1ad , White-rumped Vulture 5 , Oriental Honey Buzzard 2 , Common Kestrel 1 , Peregrine Falcon 1ad , Little Cormorant 7 , Great Cormorant 2 , Little Egret 4 , Cattle Egret 90 , Indian Pond Heron 4 , Grey Heron 1 , Black Stork 1imm , Lesser Adjutant 4 , Long-tailed Shrike 1 , Grey-backed Shrike 8 , House Crow 150 , Large-billed Crow 2 , Black Drongo 15 , Hair-crested Drongo 6 , Siberian Stonechat 20 , Asian Pied Starling 8 , Common Myna 500 , White-vented Myna 3 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 15 , Red-vented Bulbul 40 , Grey-breasted Prinia 2 , Oriental White-eye 2 , Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler 1h , Striated Grassbird 1 , Oriental Skylark 4 , House Sparrow 8 , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 10 , White Wagtail 4 , Citrine Wagtail 1 , Yellow Wagtail 10 , Paddyfield Pipit 2 , Olive-backed Pipit 5.

Since heavy rains had washed away a bridge across the river on the way to the mountains , we had to leave the cars behind in Roing (they were to join us later if/when possible , and so they did) , but luckily Peter's crew had a truck on the other side.

After having made the crossing on a flimsy suspension bridge by foot , we were picked up and immediately headed for

Mishmi Hills.

We drove straight to the low altitude camp , where we unloaded our luggage and had lunch before going out for our first afternoon of birding above the camp. Rusty-throated Wren Babbler , Lesser Shortwing , White-bellied Yuhina and beautiful

Red-billed Leiothrixes were new birds for the trip , and so was "Cachar" Wedge-billed Wren Babbler which we saw spectacularly well in a small gully. We also enjoyed seeing birds like Cutia , Beautiful Nuthatch and Sultan Tit again , not to mention the beautiful views of the mountains in the warm light of the setting sun. The "day" wasn't quite over yet , though , and a spotlighting session below the camp yielded several small owls calling and our first Hodgson's Frogmouth , which was also very vocal and was seen flying by once.

The weather was equally beautiful on our first full day in Mishmi Hills , and in the morning we were driven a couple of kilometers up the road from the camp , from where we continued on foot for a while. The birding was pretty good , and a group of Hoolock Gibbons starting to call when the sun rose above the mountains was really nice! During the morning we moved further up the road , reaching the pass well before lunch , and in the afternoon we descended again slowly. Birding was excellent throughout the day , and we added species like Yellow-rumped Honeyguide , Rusty-bellied Shortwing , Eye-browed Wren Babbler and Streak-throated Fulvetta to our list. We also saw the subspecies souliei of Bar-winged Wren Babbler very well , and a host of other nice birds. When darkness fell we gave the Hodgson's Frogmouth another shot , but only managed to hear several birds calling. However , while waiting in vain for the Frogmouth to show itself , a huge owl came flying in , landing in a tree right above our heads. It sat there for a short while before taking off again , leaving us to discuss which species it was. No doubt the bird was one of the big species of Bubo or Ketupa owls , but we just didn't see eye to eye on what we had actually witnessed , thus sadly having to put it down as unidentified.

The weather was still nice when we woke up on April 4th , and today we started by walking up the road from the camp. We didn't have to go far before the first birds were seen. A group of Coral-billed Scimitar Babblers showed well , as did some Yellow-cheeked Tits , but unfortunately a Rufous-bellied Niltava was only seen by a lucky few. Further up we completed our list of possible species of wren babblers , when a singing Spotted Wren Babbler was seen in the dense shrubbery – yet another species difficult to pinpoint in the low vegetation , but expertly found by Peter and Abid.

Grey-bellied Tesia was another skulker added to the list , and of course we saw lots of other nice birds on the way up also. We had lunch at a lookout point with a small temple , about half way up to the pass , but we were suddenly interrupted when a Blyth's Tragopan started calling not too far from the road. The mountainside was pretty steep here , so we didn't attempt to climb it , but rather waited on the road hoping for the bird to show itself – of course that never happened. Oh well , no worries (almost) because the afternoon was set aside for a trek down a path through the forest where the chances of actually seeing a tragopan was good , so we were told.

Unfortunately the weather started to change when we began our walk , and soon we were engulfed in clouds/fog which obviously didn't do anything good for the birding. As it turned out , we saw next to nothing on our way down , and instead we were for the first time confronted with the "joy" of leeches. This may all sound rather gloomy , but in fact there was a certain special atmosphere in the silent foggy forest , and none of us regretted venturing down the path. Because of the clouds it had become somewhat dark when we approached the main road again , and just when we were about to exit the forest , a male Blyth's Tragopan was suddenly spotted by our local guide in a small clearing. We all saw the bird really well walking carefully along the edge of the forest , before it finally raced past us disappearing behind a fallen tree. We were ecstatic to say the least , and the fact that we had been sitting in what appeared to be a real leech hot spot while watching the bird , didn't dampen our joy the least bit , when we walked the last 100 meters to the cars waiting by the road.

After having groomed ourselves , removing any bloodsucking beast , we entered the cars and drove up to the guesthouse where we were to spend the night. The temperature up there was noticeably lower than down in the camp due to the weather and altitude , but it wasn't much of a problem , and after having carried our luggage inside , another good meal was served. The location of the guesthouse is very nice and the architecture kind of interesting , but apart from that it's a bit of a dump! We did manage to get through the night without problems – even those of us who had to share a double bed – and got up at the crack of dawn the next day. Unfortunately the weather had only worsened during the night , and it was raining when we entered the cars and headed for the pass. From here we walked slowly back down the road again , and there was actually a very nice view across the valley between showers.

We were meant to stay up here for at least one more night , but Peter was sure that the weather would only get worse , so instead we decided to move down to the camp again , hoping for better weather in the lower parts of the mountains. On the way down it didn't look very good , but eventually the rain stopped when we reached the part of the road below the camp. It was still cloudy and partly foggy , but at least we weren't getting wet , and the forest was actually quite beautiful in the damp conditions. Again , the sound of calling gibbons also helped create a magical atmosphere , but unfortunately we didn't manage to spot them this time either.

Later we visited Sally Lake further down the road , seeing Crested Kingfisher and Black-backed Forktail , a group of smart but skulky Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes and some nice orchids. In the camp a male Pale Blue Flycatcher was singing while we had our lunch , and along the road in between we were treated to some good sightings of different species of woodpeckers and a flock of Nepal House Martins. We also finally managed to hear a calling Green Cochoa , another one of those species from our list of target birds.

As darkness fell , we decided to have yet another go at the frogmouth , but the forest had gone eerily silent with the change in weather , even the small owls were quiet. However , Peter eventually coaxed a single frogmouth into responding to his playback , and after some searching we actually found the bird and had stellar views of it sitting in a small tree for a minute or two before it took off – great to finally see the bird well!

As predicted the weather hadn't changed for the better when we woke up in the morning of April 6th , and expecting Peter to be right about it only getting worse from here , we decided to leave Mishmi Hills a bit ahead of schedule. After packing our stuff we set down the road , and since there was still some dry spells between the showers , we managed to do a couple of hours birdwatching along the way. The Green Cochoa(s) were heard again but sadly not seen , a feeding party included a pair of large Blue-bearded Bee-eaters , Buff-breasted Babbler and Collared Treepie were both seen well and we finally manage to find a cute White-browed Piculet pecking loudly from the bamboo.

Some of us were a bit sad to leave the area without seeing the Hoolock Gibbons , but Peter knew of a place “just” outside Roing , where a group should be reasonably easy to see. After an hours drive or so , we arrived at a place which didn't exactly look like the right habitat for gibbons , but after a short hike we actually found the small group in some large trees , and we saw them very well indeed. They were really cool to watch , but at the same time it was a bit heartbreaking to see them in this small isolated patch of trees , while we could here the sound of forest being chopped down close by – the gibbons , we were told , were meant to be relocated before to long. Apart from the apes , we also saw nice birds like Rufous-bellied Niltava , Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush and Brown-backed Needletail in this area , where we also had our lunch. While we were eating , a couple of youngsters turned up on a small motorbike trying to shoot the local Hoopoe before taking off again , luckily without success. The rest of the day was spent going back to Tinsukia and , unlike the Birdquest group which preceded us , we didn't have any problems reaching the ferry across the Brahmaputra River , since the rain hadn't really begun down here yet. Back in Tinsukia we checked in to the same hotel (jolly good food here!) as on the way out , and our visit this time coincided with a big Hanuman festival with a very noise and colourful parade right outside the hotel – fun to watch but luckily gone when we went to bed.

2/4.

Mishmi Hills 13.20 – 20.30.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker 1 , yellownape sp. 1 , Black-rumped Flameback 1 , Great Barbet 10h+1 , Golden-throated Barbet 2h , Large Hawk Cuckoo 4h+2 , Mountain Scops Owl 5h , Collared Owlet 3h , Asian Barred Owlet 1h , Hodgson's Frogmouth 1 , Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon 1h , Black Kite 3N , Mountain Hawk Eagle 2 , Common Kestrel 1 , Maroon Oriole 1m , Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 2 , Grey-chinned Minivet 1m+1f , White-throated Fantail 4 , Ashy Drongo 3 , Blue Whistling Thrush 2 , Lesser Shortwing 1h , Verditer Flycatcher 3 , Small Niltava h+2m , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 1 , White-tailed Robin 1m , Beautiful Nuthatch 4 , Fire-capped Tit 1f , Yellow-cheeked Tit 4 , Sultan Tit 2 , Black-throated Tit 4 , Striated Bulbul 5 , Ashy Bulbul 2 , Black Bulbul 3 , Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler 3h , Mountain Tailorbird 4h , Blyth's Leaf Warbler 2 , Grey-hooded Warbler 1 , Grey-cheeked Warbler 1 , Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush h+1 , Striated Laughingthrush 2 , Blue-winged Laughingthrush h , Red-faced Liocichla 1h , Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler 1 , Pygmy Wren Babbler 2h , Rusty-throated Wren Babbler 1h , "Cachar" Wedge-billed Wren Babbler 1h+2 , Rufous-capped Babbler 1h , Golden Babbler 1 , Silver-eared Mesia 3 , Red-billed Leiothrix 7 , Cutia 1f+1 , Rusty-fronted Barwing 45 , Rufous-winged Fulvetta 4 , White-naped Yuhina 8 , Rufous-vented Yuhina 14 , White-bellied Yuhina 1 , Rufous-backed Sibia 2 , Beautiful Sibia 6 , Long-tailed Sibia 15 , Fire-breasted Flowerpecker 2 , Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker 1f , Black-throated Sunbird 2m+3f , Fire-tailed Sunbird 1m , Streaked Spiderhunter 5 , Hoary-bellied Squirrel 2 , Himalayan Striped Squirrel 2.

3/4.

Mishmi Hills 4.15 – 20.00.

Hill Partridge 2h , Rufous-throated Partridge 1h , Yellow-rumped Honeyguide 1m , Great Barbet 15h+6 , Golden-throated Barbet 5h+6 , Red-headed Trogon 1f , Large Hawk Cuckoo 10h , Fork-tailed Swift 2 , Mountain Scops Owl 4h , Collared Owlet 5h , Asian Barred Owlet 2h , eagle/fish owl sp. 1 , Hodgson's Frogmouth 3-4h , Barred Cuckoo Dove 2 , Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon 3h , Black Eagle 2 , Crested Goshawk 1 , Oriental Honey Buzzard 1imm , Common Green Magpie 1 , Grey Treepie 1 , Maroon Oriole 2h+1m+1f , Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 2 , minivet sp. 7 , Yellow-bellied Fantail 2 , White-throated Fantail 8 , Ashy Drongo 7 , Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo 2 , Blue Whistling Thrush 8 , Rusty-bellied Shortwing 4h+1 , Lesser Shortwing 2h+1 , Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher 2pairs , White-gorgetted Flycatcher 2h , Little Pied Flycatcher 2h+1pair , Verditer Flycatcher 11 , Small Niltava 4h+1 , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 2 , Blue-fronted Redstart 2m , White-capped Water Redstart 1m , Plumbeous Water Redstart 1m , Chestnut-tailed Starling 2 , Beautiful Nuthatch 2 , Yellow-cheeked Tit 6 , Sultan Tit 1 , Black-throated Tit 8 , Striated Bulbul 7 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 2 , Black Bulbul 10 , Oriental White-eye 5 , Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler 4h , Mountain Tailorbird 7h , Ashy-throated Warbler 2 , Yellow-browed Warbler 1 , Blyth's Leaf Warbler 1 , Grey-hooded Warbler 2 , Grey-cheeked Warbler 2 , Chestnut-crowned Warbler 2 , Black-faced Warbler 9 , White-crested Laughingthrush h+3 , Red-faced Liocichla 2h+5 , Long-billed Wren Babbler 1h , Eyebrowed Wren Babbler 2 , Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler 1h , Pygmy Wren Babbler 1h , Rusty-throated Wren Babbler 1 , Bar-winged Wren Babbler 1 , "Cachar" Wedge-billed Wren Babbler 1 , Rufous-capped Babbler 6 , Golden Babbler 4 , Grey-throated Babbler 1 , Silver-eared Mesia 5 , White-browed Shrike Babbler 1h , Black-eared Shrike Babbler 3 , Rusty-fronted Barwing 45 , Chestnut-tailed Minla 2 , Yellow-throated Fulvetta 3 , Brown-throated Fulvetta 1 , Streak-throated Fulvetta 3 , Nepal Fulvetta 5 , White-naped Yuhina 7 , Whiskered Yuhina 8 , Rufous-vented Yuhina 14 , Rufous-backed Sibia 9 , Beautiful Sibia 7 , Long-tailed Sibia 13 , Green-tailed Sunbird 3m , Black-throated Sunbird 4 , Fire-tailed Sunbird 2m+3f , Little Spiderhunter 1 , Streaked Spiderhunter 25 , Dark-breasted Rosefinch 1m+1f , Hoolock Gibbon 1 group h ,

Northern Red Muntjac 1h , Hoary-bellied Squirrel 1.

4/4.

Mishmi Hills 5.00 – 16.10.

Hill Partridge 2h , Blyth's Tragopan 2h+1m , Grey Peacock Pheasant 1h , Great Barbet 8h+3 , Large Hawk Cuckoo 3h , Mountain Scops Owl 2h , Collared Owlet 2h , Asian Barred Owlet 3h , Mountain Imperial Pigeon 1h+2 , Barred Cuckoo Dove 4 , Emerald Dove 1 , Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon 2h , sparrowhawk sp. 1 , Oriental Honey Buzzard 1 , Mountain Hawk Eagle 2 , Orange-bellied Leafbird 1m+1f , Yellow-billed Blue Magpie 2 , Common Green Magpie 3 , Grey Treepie 2 , Maroon Oriole 2h , minivet sp. 3f , Yellow-bellied Fantail 1 , White-throated Fantail 4 , Ashy Drongo 6 , Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo 3 , Blue Whistling Thrush 5 , Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher 1f , Verditer Flycatcher 6 , Small Niltava 4 , Rufous-bellied Niltava 1m , Plumbeous Water Redstart 1 , White-tailed Robin 1 , Chestnut-tailed Starling 4 , Yellow-cheeked Tit 14 , Yellow-browed Tit 4 , Striated Bulbul 6 , White-throated Bulbul 2h , Black Bulbul 25 , Chestnut-headed Tesia 1h , Grey-bellied Tesia 2h+1 , Grey-sided Bush Warbler 1 , Mountain Tailorbird 8h , Buff-barred Warbler 1 , Yellow-browed Warbler 3 , Blyth's Leaf Warbler 6 , Grey-cheeked Warbler 2 , Black-faced Warbler 7 , Chestnut-crowned Warbler 2 , White-crested Laughingthrush 15 , Striated Laughingthrush 2 , Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush 1 , Red-faced Liocichla 2h , Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler 7 , Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler 1h , Pygmy Wren Babbler 2h , Rusty-throated Wren Babbler 1h+1 , Spotted Wren Babbler 1 , Rufous-capped Babbler 6 , Golden Babbler 5 , Silver-eared Mesia 7 , White-browed Shrike Babbler 1m , Black-eared Shrike Babbler 1m , Rusty-fronted Barwing 11 , Chestnut-tailed Minla 1 dead + 3 , Rufous-winged Fulvetta 3 , Streak-throated Fulvetta 3 , Striated Yuhina 20 , White-naped Yuhina 7 , Whiskered Yuhina 5 , Stripe-throated Yuhina 3 , Rufous-backed Sibia 1h , Beautiful Sibia 4 , Long-tailed Sibia 18 , Green-tailed Sunbird 6m , Streaked Spiderhunter 19 , Dark-rumped Rosefinch 1f , Grey-headed Bullfinch 5 , Hoary-bellied Squirrel 2.

5/4

Mishmi Hills 5.30 – 19.40.

(Including Sally Lake)

Hill Partridge 1h , Chestnut-breasted Partridge 1h , Grey Peacock Pheasant 3h , Rufous Woodpecker 1 , Pale-headed Woodpecker 1-2h + 2 , Bay Woodpecker 1 , Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker 1 , Lesser Yellownappe 1m , Grey-headed Woodpecker 1 , Great Barbet 9h , Blue-throated Barbet 4h+3 , (Rufous-necked Hornbill 1 dead) , Common Kingfisher 1 , Crested Kingfisher 2 , Chestnut-winged Cuckoo 1h , Large Hawk Cuckoo 5h , Banded Bay Cuckoo 1 , Himalayan Swiftlet 8 , Mountain Scops Owl 1h , Collared Owlet 1h , Asian Barred Owlet 1h , Hodgson's Frogmouth 1 , Spotted Dove 7 , Orange-bellied Leafbird 5 , Large-billed Crow 1 , Maroon Oriole 1f , Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 1 , Grey-chinned Minivet 1m+1f , Yellow-bellied Fantail 4 , White-throated Fantail 2 , Ashy Drongo 8 , Bronzed Drongo 6 , Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo 1 , Asian Paradise Flycatcher 1pair , Blue Whistling Thrush 1 , Little Pied Flycatcher 1 , Verditer Flycatcher 7 , Small Niltava 1h+2m+1f , Pale Blue Flycatcher 2m , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 2 , Oriental Magpie Robin 1 , Blue-fronted Redstart 1m , Blue-fronted Robin 2h , Black-backed Forktail 1 , Green Cochoa 1-2h , Chestnut-tailed Starling 2 , Plain Martin 5 , Nepal House Martin 55 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 20 , Red-vented Bulbul 40 , Ashy Bulbul 2 , Black Bulbul 25 , Oriental White-eye 8 , Chestnut-headed Tesia 1 , Mountain Tailorbird 2h , Ashy-throated Warbler 1 , Lemon-rumped Warbler 2 , Yellow-browed Warbler 2 , Blyth's Leaf Warbler 2 , Yellow-vented Warbler 2 , Chestnut-crowned Warbler 6 , Rufous-faced Warbler 7 , White-crested Laughingthrush 6 , Striated Laughingthrush 2 , Rufous-necked Laughingthrush 10-15 , Black-faced Laughingthrush 7 , Red-faced Liocichla 1h ,



*Green-tailed Sunbird , Bar-winged Wren Babbler , Hodgson's Frogmouth , White-naped Yubina ,
Yellow-cheeked Tit and Rusty-fronted barwing ; Mishmi Hills*

Large Scimitar Babbler 1h , Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler 3h , Spotted Wren Babbler 1h , Rufous-fronted Babbler 1h+1 ,
 Rufous-capped Babbler 2h , Golden Babbler 5 , Silver-eared Mesia 9 , Blue-winged Minla 6 , Chestnut-tailed Minla 2 ,
 Streak-throated Fulvetta 4 , Nepal Fulvetta 7 , Striated Yuhina 80 , Beautiful Sibia 12 , Long-tailed Sibia 25 ,
 Green-tailed Sunbird 3m+2f , Black-throated Sunbird 1m , Streaked Spiderhunter 17 , Crimson-browed Finch 1m+1f ,
 bat sp. 1 , Assam Macaque 12 , Hoolock Gibbon h , Himalayan Striped Squirrel 1.

6/4.

Mishmi Hills 6.15 – 8.30.

White-browed Piculet 1 , Bay Woodpecker 1 , Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker 2 , Great Barbet 1 , Blue-throated Barbet 4h ,
 Blue-bearded Bee-eater 2 , Large Hawk Cuckoo 3h , Mountain Scops Owl 1h , Mountain Imperial Pigeon 1 ,
 Emerald Dove 1 , Orange-bellied Leafbird 2 , Collared Treepie 1 , Maroon Oriole 3 , Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike 2 ,
 Ashy Drongo 4 , Bronzed Drongo 2 , Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo 1 , Verditer Flycatcher 2 , Small Niltava 1 ,
 Hill Blue Flycatcher 1m , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 6 , Green Cochoa 1-2h , Red-whiskered Bulbul 4 ,
 Red-vented Bulbul 20 , Black Bulbul 15 , Striated Laughingthrush 2 , Buff-breasted Babbler 1 ,
 Red-billed Scimitar Babbler 1 , Golden Babbler 3 , Blue-winged Minla 7 , Nepal Fulvetta 3 , Striated Yuhina 20 ,
 Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill 5 , Streaked Spiderhunter 11 , Himalayan Striped Squirrel 3.

The Roing area 9.05 – 12.00.

Blue-throated Barbet 5h , Common Hoopoe 1 , Indian Roller 3 , Himalayan Swiftlet 4 , Brown-backed Needletail 8 ,
 Asian Palm Swift 3 , Spotted Dove 11 , Black-winged Kite 1 , Shikra 1 , Cattle Egret 16 , Large-billed Crow 4 ,
 Black-hooded Oriole 2m , Ashy Drongo 4 , Large Woodshrike 2 , Verditer Flycatcher 1 , Rufous-bellied Niltava 1m ,
 Oriental Magpie Robin 1 , Black Redstart 1m , Chestnut-tailed Starling 55 , Common Myna 13 , Hill Myna 1 ,
 Barn Swallow 30 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 6 , Red-vented Bulbul 15 , Common Tailorbird 2 ,
 Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush 4 , Blue-winged Minla 3 , House Sparrow 5 , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 5 ,
 Olive-backed Pipit 11 , Hoolock Gibbon 3m+2f.

Roing -> Tinsukia 12.00 – 17.15.

Ruddy Shelduck 1 , Indian Spot-billed Duck 4 , Common Hoopoe 1 , Indian Roller 4 , Common Kingfisher 2 ,
 Pied Kingfisher 3 , Spotted Dove 30 , Red Collared Dove 2 , Common Crane 11 , White-breasted Waterhen 5 ,
 Common Snipe 1 , Common Greenshank 1 , Temminck's Stint 5 , Little Ringed Plover 1 , Kentish Plover 1 ,
 Lesser Sand Plover 1 , Red-wattled Lapwing 1 , Black-winged Kite 1imm , White-rumped Vulture 5 ,
 Slender-billed Vulture 1 , Pied Harrier 1m , Little Cormorant 1 , Little Egret 12 , Great Egret 1 , Cattle Egret 80 ,
 Grey Heron 1 , Striated Heron 2 , Spot-billed Pelican 1 , Grey-backed Shrike 6 , Rufous Treepie 1 , House Crow 20 ,
 Large-billed Crow 2 , Bluethroat 1m+1f , Oriental Magpie Robin 2 , Black Redstart 1m+1f , Siberian Stonechat 7 ,
 White-tailed Stonechat 1m+1f , Asian Pied Starling 7 , Common Myna 75 , Plain Martin 17 , Barn Swallow 25 ,
 Red-vented Bulbul 50 , Plain Prinia 2 , Striated Grassbird 3 , Dusky/Radde's Warbler 1 , Sand Lark 2 , Oriental Skylark 4 ,
 White Wagtail 5 , Citrine Wagtail 1f , Yellow Wagtail 7.

Waking up the following morning , we actually thought we had outrun the poor weather , since the sky was obviously clear ,
 and as it turned out that's exactly what we had done... – for a while anyway. We had breakfast at a small place on the way to

Digboi Oilfields

and once there , visited a couple of very degraded places. Even though this was by no means pristine nature , there was plenty
 of birds around , and we saw species like Great and Oriental Pied Hornbills , Little Spiderhunter and Thick-billed Green

Pigeon well , and also heard a White-cheeked Partridge calling nearby. Of course , the main attraction out here was the Chestnut-backed Laughingthrushes , and after a while we caught on to a group , and eventually managed to get some decent views of them moving through the dense bushes. Had we not seen the Hoolock Gibbons yesterday , we would probably have spent some time trying to find them here , since two groups were heard several times , but as the day was getting quite hot , we returned to Tinsukia well before noon.



Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker ; Digboi Oilfields

After lunch and a bit of relaxing at the hotel , we opted to try our luck in a small forest not too far from town. Abid was now in charge since Peter was preparing for the next group of birders , which was fine by us. Not so fine was the weather which had taken a turn for the worse , but maybe that actually worked to our advantage since the afternoon wasn't as hot as could be expected , and to our relief it stayed dry on our visit to

Borajan Forest.

Our very first bird in the forest was our only Sapphire Flycatcher of the trip , and though it didn't really want to reveal itself , Abid was determined for us to see it well , and so we did. We also saw Pale-chinned Flycatcher here , as well as a small party of migrating Black Kites , an Emerald Dove almost flying into one of us , different species of babblers and some nice butterflies and orchids. As darkness fell , rollers and drongos became very conspicuous and we had a feeling that this place could be really productive if visited early in the morning.

7/4.

Digboi Oilfields 6.30 – 10.15.

White-cheeked Partridge 1h , Grey Peacock Pheasant 1h , Fulvous Whistling Duck 30 , flameback sp. 1h ,
Blue-throated Barbet 13h+5 , Coppersmith Barbet 1h , Oriental Pied Hornbill 1 , Great Hornbill 1 ,

Common Kingfisher 1 , White-throated Kingfisher 2 , Plaintive Cuckoo 1h , Asian Koel 4h , Green-billed Malkoha 1 , Greater Coucal 2h , Red-breasted Parakeet 2 , Brown-backed Needletail 3 , Asian Palm Swift 11 , Spotted Dove 25 , Thick-billed Green Pigeon 16 , White-breasted Waterhen 3 , Common Moorhen 4 , (Black Kite 2 – Tinsukia) , Crested Serpent Eagle 2 , Shikra 1 , Little Cormorant 1 , Grey-backed Shrike 3 , Common Green Magpie 1h , House Crow 25 , Large-billed Crow 11 , Black-hooded Oriole 1 , Black-naped Monarch 1m , Red-throated Flycatcher 1m , Oriental Magpie Robin 4 , Chestnut-tailed Starling 8 , Asian Pied Starling 25 , Common Myna 50 , Striated Swallow 2 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 18 , Red-vented Bulbul 30 , Oriental White-eye 4 , Slaty-bellied Tesia 1h , Common Tailorbird 4 , Yellow-bellied Warbler 1 , Striped Tit Babbler 2h , Rufous-necked Laughingthrush 3 , Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush h+4 , Puff-throated Babbler 2h , Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker 2m+2f , Crimson Sunbird 1m+1f , Little Spiderhunter 4 , House Sparrow 3 , Eurasian Tree Sparrow 15 , White-rumped Munia 4 , Hoolock Gibbon 2 groups h.

Borajan Forest 14.30 – 17.10.

Lineated Barbet 2h , Blue-throated Barbet 2n+2 , Indian Roller 5 , Asian Koel 2h , Greater Coucal 2h , Red-breasted Parakeet 8 , Asian Barred Owlet 2h , Spotted Dove 3 , Emerald Dove 1 , Black Kite 7N , Shikra 1 , Large-billed Crow 3 , Black-hooded Oriole 1 , Black Drongo 6 , Hair-crested Drongo 2 , Greater Racket-tailed Drongo 1 , Sapphire Flycatcher 1m , Pale-chinned Flycatcher 1f , Jungle Myna 15 , Hill Myna 12 , Red-whiskered Bulbul 2 , Red-vented Bulbul 4 , Common Tailorbird 3 , White-crested Laughingthrush 4 , Rufous-fronted Babbler 1 , Grey-throated Babbler 1 , Striped Tit Babbler 3h , Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker 1f , Crimson Sunbird 1m+1f , squirrel sp. 1.

The next morning we were up early , driving from the hotel to a small village in the dark. Our destination out here was

Dibru-Saikhowa NP

which we were going to reach by boat. It had just started to dawn as we sailed out , but since a long trip was now taking its toll on the participants , only a few were awake to see a Gangetic Dolphin coming up for a breath of air near the boat , on the way out to the main water way of the Brahmaputra River. As the light increased , it was clear to us , that it was probably going to be an overcast day , but luckily it turned out that the showers we encountered was only light and mostly while we were in the boat.

Anyway , on our trip up the river , we added Common Shelduck and Knob-billed Duck to our list and also saw a few other birds before going ashore inside the national park. Here we were aiming for Marsh Babbler , and a pair of pretty confiding birds were seen well , but rather outperformed by some smart Chestnut-capped Babblers. Next stop was to see Black-breasted Parrotbill , and again we were in luck , as a pair was obviously breeding in a small patch of elephant grass and bushes , and we had good views of the male singing. We also had the only Wryneck of the trip here , before moving on to the next target species on our list. Jerdon's Babbler proved to be not much more of a challenge than the previous two , though it was a bit more of a skulker , and we quickly obtained satisfactory looks at this rather dull but rare bird. Other bird's here were a Streak-throated Woodpecker , some flying Green-billed Malkohas and a couple of singing Bright-headed Cisticolas. On the other side of the small canal , we heard another singing Black-breasted Parrotbill , but when we came over there , the thicket was so dense to penetrate , so we didn't succeed in seeing the bird. We did , however , see both Dusky and

Blunt-winged Warblers before going back to the boat.

A bit further up river we stopped again to look for White-tailed Rubythroat and found a beautiful male , and a less beautiful female , along the edge of the elephant grass. Raptors was also fairly plentiful here , and we saw the only Red-headed Vulture of the trip along with other vulture species , a Black Kite and a small party of elegant Black-winged Kites. Another nice bird in this area was a Ruddy-breasted Crake which was feeding in a small puddle of water and was seen really well.

It was now time for lunch which we had in the village at the house of our local guide. The food was basic but good , and

re-energized we set out in the boat again to look for Swamp Prinia. Unfortunately we never did find the little bugger, but we flushed a Greater Painted-snipe trying, and also managed to find the dolphin again, this time seen by the entire group. Back at the “harbour” we caught a glimpse of a Peregrine Falcon rushing by, and an impressive sight of thousands of wagtails coming in to roost for the night in the park. They were unfortunately quite far away, but as far as we could see, the flock mainly consisted of Yellow Wagtails, but probably mixed with smaller numbers of White and Citrine Wagtails, and possibly some pipits as well.

An excellent dinner was once again prepared for us back at the hotel, where we also had to say goodbye to Peter who was leaving early next morning on the reverse itinerary as ours with a couple of American birdwatchers.

8/4.

Dibru-Saikhowa NP 4.30 – 17.15.

Swamp Francolin 1h, Red Junglefowl 2h+1pair, Fulvous Whistling Duck 35, Ruddy Shelduck 48, Common Shelduck 1, Knob-billed Duck 2, Gadwall 7, Indian Spot-billed Duck 30, Eurasian Wryneck 1, Streak-throated Woodpecker 1, Lineated Barbet 1, Blue-throated Barbet 7h, Indian Roller 4, White-throated Kingfisher 12, Pied Kingfisher 9, Asian Koel 4h, Green-billed Malkoha 2, Greater Coucal 6h+2, Lesser Coucal 3h+2, Himalayan Swiftlet 45, Large-tailed Nightjar 1 (->), Green Imperial Pigeon 3, Spotted Dove 17, White-breasted Waterhen 2, Ruddy-breasted Crake 1, Watercock 1, Purple Swampphen 1, Common Moorhen 6, Pintail Snipe 2, snipe sp. 4, Eurasian Curlew 1, Marsh Sandpiper 1, Common Greenshank 5, Green Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 14, Greater Painted-snipe 2, Red-wattled Lapwing 4, Black-winged Kite 5, Black Kite 7, White-rumped Vulture 8, Slender-billed Vulture 1, Himalayan Vulture 3ad+1imm, Griffon Vulture 2, Red-headed Vulture 1, Crested Serpent Eagle 1, Shikra 2, Peregrine Falcon 1ad m + 1, Little Cormorant 125, Indian Cormorant 2, Great Cormorant 13, Little Egret 30, Great Egret 6, Intermediate Egret 40, Cattle Egret 17, egret sp. 75, Indian Pond Heron 2, Purple Heron 2, Asian Openbill 6, Grey-backed Shrike 2, Rufous Treepie 2, House Crow 35, Large-billed Crow 25, Black Drongo 6, White-tailed Rubythroat 1m+1f, Bluethroat 1m +2, Black Redstart 1m, Siberian Stonechat 35, Asian Pied Starling 8, Common Myna 45, Jungle Myna 25, White-vented Myna 6, Plain Martin 60, Barn Swallow 125, Red-whiskered Bulbul 3, Red-vented Bulbul 10, Yellow-bellied Prinia 12, Zitting Cisticola 1, Bright-headed Cisticola 2, Paddyfield Warbler 3, Blunt-winged Warbler 1, Thick-billed Warbler 1, Striated Grassbird 18, Common Tailorbird 1h, Dusky Warbler 2, Tickell's Leaf Warbler 2, Rufous-necked Laughingthrush 3, Marsh Babbler 2, Chestnut-capped Babbler 6, Striped Tit Babbler 2h, Jerdon's Babbler 7, Striated Babbler 2, Black-breasted Parrotbill 1-2h+2, Sand lark 3, House Sparrow 2, Eurasian Tree Sparrow 13, White Wagtail 9, Citrine Wagtail 25, Yellow Wagtail 40, wagtail sp. 5000+, Paddyfield Pipit 1, Olive-backed Pipit 5, Scaly-breasted Munia 16, Indian Flying Fox 1, Gangetic Dolphin 2, Asian Elephant h.

Our final day in India was mostly a day of transportation, but we did have some time in the morning to go birding in the vicinity of Tinsukia. We contemplated doing another trip to Borajan Forest to see what it would be like in the morning, but instead decided to try out

Mesaki Forest.

On the way out there we had breakfast at the house of a local naturalist, who was growing lots of different species of orchids in his garden. He accompanied us to the forest, which we found after having driven quite a bit longer than expected. We walked the paved road going through the forest and, in spite of the rather dull weather, saw quite a few interesting birds.

Cuckoos were much more vocal now than at the beginning of our trip, and we added both Indian Cuckoo and

Drongo Cuckoo to our list. In addition a nice white phase male Asian Paradise Flycatcher showed well , two pairs of Rosy Minivet were the second record of this species of the trip , which was surprising since we didn't expect to see it at all. Both species of yellownape and the last beautiful Sultan Tits were also seen , and so was good numbers of Asian Barred Owlet. As we approached a small village , our walk came to an end shortly after seeing a couple of Silver-backed Needletails racing past us through the forest , making themselves the last new entry on our tour list.

All in all a pretty good mornings birdwatching , before the time came for us to return to our hotel in Tinsukia , get a quick shower , pack our bags and head to the airport near Dibrugarh for our flight to New Delhi via Kolkata.

9/4.

Mesaki Forest 7.15 – 9.00.

Greater Yellownape 3 , Lesser Yellownape 1 , Blue-throated Barbet 1h , Indian Cuckoo 2h ,
Drongo Cuckoo 2 , Asian Koel 2h , Greater Coucal 4h , Rose-ringed Parakeet 1 , Red-breasted Parakeet 4 ,
Himalayan Swiftlet 4 , Silver-backed Needletail 2 , Asian Barred Owlet 6 , pigeon sp. 3 , Spotted Dove 15 ,
Emerald Dove 1 , Yellow-footed Green Pigeon 5 (->) , Black-winged Kite 1 (->) , White-rumped Vulture 2 ,
Crested Serpent Eagle 1imm , Oriental Honey Buzzard 2 , Asian Openbill 1 (->) , Grey-backed Shrike 3 ,
Black-hooded Oriole 3 , Large Cuckoo-shrike 1 , Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike 1m , Rosy Minivet 2pairs , Black Drongo 4 ,
Bronzed Drongo 1 , Hair-crested Drongo 6 , Greater Racket-tailed Drongo 5 , Black-naped Monarch 1m+1 ,
Asian Paradise Flycatcher 1m , Common Iora 1h+2 , Red-throated Flycatcher 1 , Verditer Flycatcher 1 ,
Oriental Magpie Robin 4 , Chestnut-tailed Starling 2 , Common Myna 12 , Jungle Myna 3 , Great Tit 2 , Sultan Tit 2 ,
Striated Swallow 2 (->) , Red-whiskered Bulbul 50 , Red-vented Bulbul 4 , White-throated Bulbul 5 ,
Common Tailorbird 4h , Dusky Warbler 1 (->) , Tickell's Leaf Warbler 2 , Yellow-browed Warbler 1 ,
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush 3 , Puff-throated Babbler 1h , Striped Tit Babbler 4h , Crimson Sunbird 2m ,
Little Spiderhunter 2 , Baya Weaver 1m , Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel 1.

The following bird list is based on the first edition (1999) of the field guide "Pocket Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent" by Richard Grimmett , Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp.

Of course , a lot has happened in the field of taxonomy since then , but since absolute consensus is hard to find , we've kept a pretty conservative approach. A few well established splits – mostly following www.Globaltwitcher.com - have been incorporated in our list , however , and we've tried to address other possible changes in the text following each species.

Only a couple of month before our departure a second edition of the Grimmett & Inskipp guide was published. We brought a copy of that as well , and also took with us the two volume set "Birds of South Asia" (1st edition) by Pamela Rasmussen and John C. Anderton , which has since also been published in a new edition.

Both editions are more up to date – but still vary considerably – regarding the taxonomy , and offer a general improvement compared with the originals. It's hard to tell which is best since it is partly a matter of personal taste , though , in our group we had a few guys advocating strongly that Rasmussen & Anderton has made the superior field guide.



Kalij Pheasant ; Eaglenest WS

Bird list

Snow Partridge (*Lerwa lerwa*) : 21/3 h+9 Se La

Eventually seen extremely well on the lower reaches of Se La.

Swamp Francolin (*Francolinus gularis*) : 31/3 h+3 Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 1h Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Buttonquail sp. (*Turnix sp.*) : 31/3 1 Kaziranga NP

Flushed on the elephant ride.

Hill Partridge (*Arborophila torqueola*) : 22/3 2h Mandala Road ; 23-26+28/3 1h+4h+4h+1h+3h Eaglenest WS ;
3-5/4 2h+2h+1h Mishmi Hills

Rufous-throated Partridge (*Arborophila rufogularis*) : 26-28/3 2h+4h+3h Eaglenest WS ; 3/4 1h Mishmi Hills

White-cheeked Partridge (*Arborophila atrogularis*) : 7/4 1h Digboi Oilfields

Heard calling at close quarters from the thicket , but not seen despite attempts to lure it out by playback.

Chestnut-breasted Partridge (*Arborophila mandellii*) : 26-28/3 3h+6h+2h Eaglenest WS ; 5/4 1h Mishmi Hills

Blood Pheasant (*Ithaginis cruentus*) : 21/3 12 Se La

This group provided distant but good views while making their way through the snow-covered forest on the other side of the valley.

Blyth's Tragopan (*Tragopan blythii*) : 26/3 1pair+1h Eaglenest WS ; 4/4 2h+1m Mishmi Hills

We came desperately close to seeing a couple calling at Eaglenest WS , but only Eric saw the birds as they slipped away. However , in Mishmi Hills we got stellar views of a beautiful male after a strenuous trek through forest shrouded in mist.

Temminck's Tragopan (*Tragopan temminckii*) : 25+28/3 1h Eaglenest WS

Himalayan Monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*) : 21/3 6m Se La

An absolutely spectacular species which we saw well but only in flight.

Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) : 18-19/3 3-4h Nameri ; 20/3 4 Nameri -> Dirang ; 27/3 1h Eaglenest WS ;
30/3-1/4 5h+5m+2f Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 2h+1pair Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP ; 26+27/3 1pair+1pair Eaglenest WS ;
31/3-1/4 1m+2pairs Kaziranga NP
Seen very well in both Kaziranga NP and Eaglenest WS , where a male was displaying on the road right in front of us.

Grey Peacock Pheasant (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*) : 27+28/3 4h+4h Eaglenest WS ; 4-5/4 3h Mishmi Hills ;
7/4 1h Digboi Oilfields

Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) : 21/3 14N Se La ; 30+31/3 15+14 Kaziranga NP

Fulvous Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) : 18/3 30 Guwahati -> Nameri ; 7/4 30 Digboi Oilfields ;
8/4 35 Dibru Saikhowa NP

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) : 18+19/3 10+35 Nameri ; 30+31/3 6+8 Kaziranga NP ;
2+6/4 2+1 Brahmaputra River ; 8/4 48 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) : 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

White-winged Duck (*Asarcornis scutulata*) : 19/3 4-5 Nameri NP
We had incredible views of several birds in flight , and a pair swimming on one of the ponds in the forest. Not the most attractive of ducks , but certainly on of the rare species of the trip.

Knob-billed Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) : 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP
Somewhat out of range , but seen well by Eric on the boat trip.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) : 19/3 3 Nameri ; 30/3 3 Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 7 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) : 19/3 4 Nameri ; 30+31/3 15+4 Kaziranga NP

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) : 19/3 2m+1f Nameri

Indian Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) : 30/3-1/4 2+16+8 Kaziranga NP ; 2+6/4 5+4 Brahmaputra River ;
8/4 30 Dibru-Saikhowa NP
Now split from Eastern Spot-billed Duck (*A. zonorhyncha*).

Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*) : 19/3 7 Nameri ; 30+31/3 20+5 Kaziranga NP

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) : 30/3 12 Kaziranga NP

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) : 30/3 1f Kaziranga NP

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) : 30-31/3 2m+1f Kaziranga NP

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*) : 19/3 1m+3f Nameri

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide (*Indicator xanthonotus*) : 3/4 1m Mishmi Hills
One of our eagle-eyed local guides picked out this nice male sitting on a branch near a vertical cliff face.

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) : 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

White-browed Piculet (*Sasia ochracea*) : 6/4 1 Mishmi Hills
Though pecking was heard from piculets several times , this was the only one we actually managed to see. What a sweet little bird.

Rufous Woodpecker (*Micropternus brachyurus*) : 1/4 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 5/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Pale-headed Woodpecker (*Gecinulus grantia*) : 20/3 1h Nameri -> Dirang ; 27/3 1m+1-2 Eaglenest WS ;
5/4 1-2h+2 Mishmi Hills
We enjoyed excellent views of this hard to see species , which was also recorded more frequently than expected.

Bay Woodpecker (*Blythipicus pyrrhotis*) : 20/3 1h Nameri -> Dirang ; 23-25/3 1h+1+1 Eaglenest WS ;
5+6/4 1+1 Mishmi Hills

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*) : 18/3 1m+2 Nameri ; 19/3 1f+2 Nameri NP

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos macei*) : 30/3 3 Kaziranga NP ; 2+5+6/4 1+1+2 Mishmi Hills

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos cathpharius*) : 26+28/3 1m+1 Eaglenest WS

Darjeeling Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos darjellensis*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 25+29/3 3+1 Eaglenest WS

Lesser Yellownape (*Picus chlorolophus*) : 30/3 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 5/4 1m Mishmi Hills ; 9/4 1 Mesaki Forest

Greater Yellownape (*Picus flavinucha*) : 19+20/3 1 Nameri ; 26+28/3 1+1 Eaglenest WS ;
30/3 2 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 9/4 3 Mesaki Forest

Streak-throated Woodpecker (*Picus xanthopygaeus*) : 30/3 2 Tea estate , Kaziranga ; 31/3 1 Kaziranga NP ;
8/4 1 Dibru Saikhowa NP

Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP ; 31/3+1/4 1+1m Kaziranga NP ;
1/4 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 5/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Black-rumped Flameback (*Dinopium benghalense*) : 18-20/3 4-5 Nameri ; 30-1/4 1h+4 Kaziranga NP ;
1/4 2 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 2/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Greater Flameback (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*) : 19/3 5 Nameri

Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*) : Common in the highland

Lineated Barbet (*Megalaima lineata*) : 18-20/3 4+4+1 Nameri ; 30/3-1/4 1+6+6 Kaziranga NP ;
7/4 2 Borajan Forest ; 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Golden-throated Barbet (*Megalaima franklinii*) : Fairly common at medium altitude in Eaglenest WS and Mishmi Hills

Blue-throated Barbet (*Megalaima asiatica*) : Widespread and common at lower altitudes

Blue-eared Barbet (*Megalaima australis*) : 30/3 1h Tea estate , Kaziranga ; 1/4 1 Kaziranga NP

Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*) : 18/3 1 Guwahati Airport ; 7/4 1h Digboi Oilfields

Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) : 31/3 11 Kaziranga NP ; 7/4 1 Digboi Oilfields

Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) : 18+20+29/3 1 pair Nameri Eco Camp ; 19/3 8 Nameri NP ;
1/4 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 1/4 1 Kaziranga NP ; 7/4 1 Digboi Oilfields
An amazing species which we saw especially well by its nest at Nameri Eco Camp.

Rufous-necked Hornbill (*Aceros nipalensis*) : 26+27/3 1+7 Eaglenest WS ; 29/3 1 Eaglenest WS -> Nameri ;
5/4 1 dead Mishmi Hills
The flight formation of seven birds in Eaglenest WS was fantastic , while
hunters carrying a dead bird in Mishmi Hills was a rather more
depressing sight.

Wreathed Hornbill (*Aceros undulatus*) : 18/3 1 Nameri
We only managed to see a single bird flying across the river at Nameri.

Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) : 19/3 2 Nameri NP ; 26/3 1 Eaglenest WS ; 29/3 1 Eaglenest WS -> Kaziranga ;
31/3-1/4 3 Kaziranga NP ; 6/4 1 Roing area ; 6/4 1 Roing -> Tinsukia

Red-headed Trogon (*Harpactes erythrocephalus*) : 27/3 1pair Eaglenest WS ; 28/3 2h+1 Eaglenest WS ;
3/4 1f Mishmi Hills

Ward's Trogon (*Harpactes wardi*) : 26/3 1h Eaglenest WS ; 28/3 1 pair Eaglenest WS
We had superb views of a pair not far from Sunderview Camp. No doubt one of the
highlights of the entire trip.

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) : Fairly common in the lowland.
All birds seen were of the subspecies *affinis* which looks quite different from the
nominate race seen on the rest of the subcontinent. A possible split.

Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) : 18+19+29/3 2 Nameri

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) : 19/3 1 Nameri ; 23/3 1 pair Sangti Valley ; 5/4 1 Mishmi Hills ;
6/4 2 Saikhoa Ghat ; 7/4 1 Digboi Oilfields

Blue-eared Kingfisher (*Alcedo meninting*) : 19/3 2 Nameri NP

Seen well at the pond where we later saw the White-winged Ducks.

White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) : Common in the lowland

Crested Kingfisher (*Megaceryle lugubris*) : 19/3 2 Nameri ; 23/3 2 Sangti Valley -> Dirang ; 5/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) : Fairly common in the lowland

Blue-bearded Bee-eater (*Nyctyornis athertoni*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP ; 6/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) : 31/3-1/4 7 Kaziranga NP ; 2/4 6 Tinsukia -> Roing

Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*) : 31/3 21 Kaziranga NP

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*) : 18+19/3 5+18 Nameri ; 29/3 1 Nameri -> Kaziranga ;
30/3-1/4 7+2+1 Kaziranga NP

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*) : 5/4 1h Mishmi Hills

Large Hawk Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx sparveroides*) : 31/3 1h Kaziranga NP ; Common in the highland

Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*) : 9/4 2h Mesaki Forest

Banded Bay Cuckoo (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) : 1/4 1h Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 5/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*) : 1/4 1h Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 7/4 1h Digboi Oilfields

Dronko Cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*) : 9/4 2 Mesaki Forest

Asian Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*) : 19/3 2h Nameri NP ; 30/3 1h Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ;
7/4 4h Digboi Oilfields ; 7/4 2h Borajan Forest ; 8/4 4h Dibru-Saikhowa NP ;
9/4 2h Mesaki Forest

Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*) : 19/3 2 Nameri NP ; 31/3 1 Kaziranga NP ; 7/4 1 Digboi Oilfields ;
8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) : Commonly heard in the lowland

Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*) : 30+31/3 1+2 Kaziranga NP ; 1/4 2 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ;
8/4 3h+2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) : 30/3 9 Tea estate , Kaziranga ; 31/3-1/4 45+10 Kaziranga NP

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) : Common in and around Kaziranga NP

Blossom-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula roseata*) : 30/3-1/4 5+3+1 Kaziranga NP

Red-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*) : Common in the lowland

Himalayan Swiftlet (*Collocalia brevirostris*) : Widespread and common

White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) : 27/3 12 Eaglenest WS

Silver-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus cochinchinensis*) : 9/4 2 Mesaki Forest

Racing through the forest , and thus somewhat surprisingly
completing the possible needletail trio on the last day.

Brown-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus giganteus*) : 6/4 8 Roing area ; 7/4 3 Digboi Oilfields

Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasienensis*) : Widespread and common in the lowland

House Swift (*Apus affinis*) : 1/4 10 Kaziranga -> Tinsukia

Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) : 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS ; 29/3 2 Dirang -> Kaziranga ; 3/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Mountain Scops Owl (*Otus spilocephalus*) : 21+22/3 1h Dirang ; 25/3 1h Eaglenest WS ; 2-5/4 5h Mishmi Hills

Playback was widely used by our guides throughout the trip , but not with this
species. We were told that it reacts poorly , often moving further away or
going completely silent.

Oriental Scops Owl (*Otus sunia*) : 19/3 1h Nameri

Great efforts were made to see this bird calling from between the camp and the river ,
but it was just sitting to far inside the thicket , and refused to come out.

Eagle/fish owl sp. (*Bubo/Ketupa sp.*) : 3/4 1 Mishmi Hills

While searching for Frogmouths this beast came flying in , landing in a tree where
it sat briefly before flying off again. Afterwards we couldn't quite agree on what we
had actually seen , but the bird was probably either a

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl (*Bubo nipalensis*) or a Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*).

Brown Wood Owl (*Strix leptogrammica*) : 23/3 1h Eaglenest WS

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*) : 25/3 1h Eaglenest WS

Of the subspecies *nivicola* (Himalayan Owl) , which is a possible split.

Collared Owlet (*Glaucidium brodiei*) : 30/3 1h Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ;

widespread and fairly common in Eaglenest WS and Mishmi Hills

Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*) : Widespread and fairly common at lower altitude

Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*) : 30+31/3 6+1 Kaziranga NP

Brown Hawk Owl (*Ninox scutulata*) : 18-20/3 2 Nameri ; 31/1 1h Kaziranga NP

Heard often in Nameri Eco Camp , where Erling had good views of two birds
displaying early in the evening of March 19th.

Hodgson's Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus hodgsoni*) : 2-5/4 3-4h+1-2 Mishmi Hills

After a couple of attempts where we "only" heard the frogmouths , or saw
them briefly in flight , we finally managed to get great views of a perched
individual.

Grey Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*) : 21+22/3 2-3h Dirang ; fairly common in Eaglenest WS

A possible split , with this race *jotaka* retaining the name Grey Nightjar.

Large-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus macrurus*) : 29+31/3 1h Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ;

8/4 1 Tinsukia -> Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Snow Pigeon (*Columba leuconota*) : 21/3 35 Se La

Speckled Wood Pigeon (*Columba hodgsonii*) : 24+25/3 1+2 Eaglenest WS

Ashy Wood Pigeon (*Columba pulchricollis*) : 23/3 4 Eaglenest WS

Green Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula aenea*) : Fairly common in the lowland

Mountain Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula badia*) : 25-28/3 6-9h+3 Eaglenest WS ; 3-6/4 1h+3 Mishmi Hills

Oriental Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*) : 19/3 15 Nameri ; 22/3 4 Mandala Road ; 23/3 5 Sangti Valley ;
31/3 25 Kaziranga NP

Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) : Very common in the lowland

Red Collared Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) : 19/3 3 Nameri ; 1/4 2 Kaziranga NP ; 6/4 2 Roing -> Tinsukia

Barred Cuckoo Dove (*Macropygia unchall*) : 19/3 2 Nameri NP ; 3+4/4 2+4 Mishmi Hills

Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP ; 26+27/3 4+1 Eaglenest WS ; 31/3 2 Kaziranga NP ;
4+6/4 1+1 Mishmi Hills ; 7/4 1 Borajan Forest ; 9/4 1 Mesaki Forest

Thick-billed Green Pigeon (*Treron curvirostra*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP ; 1/4 7 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ;
7/4 16 Digboi Oilfields

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (*Treron phoenicoptera*) : 29/3 2 Nameri -> Kaziranga ; 31/3 28 Kaziranga NP ;
1/4 4 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 1/4 9 Kaziranga NP ;
2/4 8 Tinsukia -> Roing ; 9/4 5 Mesaki Forest -> Tinsukia

Pin-tailed Green Pigeon (*Treron apicauda*) : 20/3 4 Nameri -> Dirang

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon (*Treron sphenura*) : 19/3 1f Nameri NP ; 2/4 1 Tinsukia -> Roing ;

2-4/4 1+3+2 Mishmi Hills

Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) : 31/3 2m Kaziranga NP

A distant male was seen in the morning from the roof of a small building by the entrance to the central section. In the afternoon we saw another male well, displaying briefly, in the western section.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*) : 6/4 11 Brahmaputra River

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) : 30/3-1/4 1+2+1 Kaziranga NP ; 2/4 1 Tinsukia -> Roing ;

6/4 5 Roing -> Tinsukia ; 7/4 3 Digboi Oilfields ;

8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Black-tailed Crake (*Porzana bicolor*) : 20+23/3 3-4h Sangti Valley

Despite some effort, we couldn't lure any of the crakes out into the open.

Ruddy-breasted Crake (*Porzana fusca*) : 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Unlike its black-tailed cousin, this species shovelled really well.

Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*) : 8/4 1ad Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Purple Swampphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) : 1/4 40 Kaziranga -> Tinsukia ; 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) : 18/3 6 Guwahati -> Nameri ; 30/3 2 Kaziranga NP ;

7/4 4 Digboi Oilfields ; 8/4 6 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Wood Snipe (*Gallinago nemoricola*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road

We flushed this bird a couple of times from a patch of open coniferous forest, and saw it pretty well.

Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*) : 30/3 1 Jupuri Gahr, Kaziranga ; 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) : 6/4 1 Brahmaputra River

Also scattered sightings of unidentified snipes in the lowland.

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) : 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) : 30+31/3 2+1 Kaziranga NP

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) : 30+31/3 1+1 Kaziranga NP

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) : 30+31/3 2+1 Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) : 19/3 3 Nameri ; 30+31/3 3+1 Kaziranga NP ;

2+6/4 3+1 Tinsukia - Roing ; 8/4 5 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) : 19/3 1 Nameri ; 23/3 1 Sangti Valley ; 31/3 2 Kaziranga NP ;

8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) : 30+31/3 6+3 Kaziranga NP

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) : 19/3 7 Nameri ; 23/3 1 Sangti Valley ; 30+31/3 1+3 Kaziranga NP ;

2/4 2 Brahmaputra River ; 8/4 14 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) : 31/3 23 Kaziranga NP ; 6/4 5 Brahmaputra River

Greater Painted-snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*) : 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Eurasian Stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedipnemos*) : 19/3 6 Nameri

The race *indicus* is a possible split – Indian Stone-curlew.

Ibisbill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*) : 23/3 3 Sangti Valley

Surprisingly we didn't see this species while river rafting in Nameri, but we found it easily on our walk along the river in Sangti Valley.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) : 30/3 2 Kaziranga

Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) : 18/3 2 "The Dump" near Guwahati ; common in Kaziranga NP

Great Thick-knee (*Esacus recurvirostris*) : 19/3 4 Nameri

Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) : 2/4 12 Brahmaputra River

Small Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*) : 18+19/3 7+500 Nameri

Very common , with several breeding colonies , along the river where we rafted in the afternoon of March 19th.

Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) : 2/4 11 Brahmaputra River

Long-billed Plover (*Charadrius placidus*) : 23/3 1 Sangti Valley

According to Peter , Sangti Valley has recently been discovered as a breeding site.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) : 31/3 1 Kaziranga NP ; 2+6/4 2+1 Brahmaputra River

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) : 6/4 1 Brahmaputra River

Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) : 6/4 1 Brahmaputra River

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) : 30+31/3 8+2 Kaziranga NP

River Lapwing (*Vanellus duvaucelii*) : 18+19/3 1+12 Nameri

Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*) : 30/3+1/4 3+1 Kaziranga NP

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) : 20+23/3 1 Sangti Valley ; widespread in the lowland

The bird(s) seen in Sangti Valley were of the race *indicus* , while the birds seen in the lowland were of the race *atronuchalis*.

Pallas's Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*) : 21/3 11ad N Se La ; 2/4 1ad Brahmaputra River

The sight of a migrating flock at Se La was surprising , and might , according to Peter , be a first for Arunachal Pradesh. However , given its breeding and wintering grounds , we suspect that it should actually be a regular migrant here.

The bird at the Brahmaputra River was more expected.

Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*) : 2/4 1ad Brahmaputra River

River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*) : 18+19/3 4+16 Nameri ; 29/3 1 Dirang -> Nameri ; 31/3+1/4 1+1 Kaziranga NP

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybridus*) : 30/3 1 Kaziranga NP

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) : 30/3-1/4 3+1+2 Kaziranga NP

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) : 31/3 1 Kaziranga NP ; 6/4 1 Roing area ;

6/4 1imm Brahmaputra ferry point S of Sadiya ; 8/4 5 Dibru-Saikhowa NP ;

9/4 1 Tinsukia – Mesaki Forest

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) : 18/3 150 "The dump" near Guwahati ; 29/3 2 Nameri -> Kaziranga ;

2/4 3N Mishmi Hills ; 7/4 2 Tinsukia ; 7/4 7N Borajan Forest ;

8/4 7 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Only the birds seen over the dump near Guwahati were identified as belonging to the *lineatus* subspecies. No other birds were seen well enough to determine the subspecies with certainty.

Pallas's Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) : 19/3 1 Nameri ; 30/3-1/4 3ad+3imm Kaziranga NP

Grey-headed Fish Eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*) : 19/3 1ad Nameri ; 30+31/3 4ad+2imm Kaziranga NP

White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) : 1/4 1 Kaziranga NP ; 2+6/4 5 Brahmaputra ferry point S of Sadiya ;

6/4 1 Roing -> Tinsukia ; 8/4 8 Dibru-Saikhowa NP ;

9/4 2 Mesaki Forest

Slender-billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*) : 6/4 1 Roing -> Tinsukia ; 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Himalayan Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) : 30/3-1/4 50+ Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 3ad+1imm Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) : 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*) : 8/4 1ad Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) : 18+19/3 1-2 Nameri ; 27/3 2 Eaglenest WS ;
30/3-1/4 3+4+4 Kaziranga NP ; 7/4 2 Digboi Oilfields ;
8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP ; 9/4 1imm Mesaki Forest

Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*) : Fairly common at Eaglenest WS ; 2/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*) : 30/3-1/4 1m+1m+1m Kaziranga NP ; 6/4 1m Brahmaputra ferry point S of Sadiya

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) : 31/3 1m Kaziranga NP

Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) : 30/3 1m Kaziranga NP

Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) : 27/3 1pair+1 Eaglenest WS ; 3/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) : 30/3-1/4 1+4+1 Kaziranga NP ; 6/4 1 Roing area ; 7/4 1 Digboi Oilfields ;
7/4 1 Borajan Forest ; 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*) : 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) : 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang ; 21/3 1 Se La ; 21/3 1f Dirang
Also a few unidentified sparrowhawks seen.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) : 23/3 1m Sangti Valley

Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) : A few seen in and around Kaziranga NP ; 2/4 2 Tinsukia -> Roing ;
3+4/4 1imm+1 Mishmi Hills ; 9/4 2 Mesaki Forest

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) : 20/3 2 Nameri -> Dirang ; 22/3 3 Mandala Road
All birds seen were of the subspecies *burmanicus* , which some consider a separate species.

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) : 23/3 1 Sangti Valley

Upland Buzzard (*Buteo hemilasius*) : 29/3 1 Tenga
We just couldn't agree on this bird. Those who saw it best were adamant that it was an Upland Buzzard , while the other half of the group identified it as a Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*).

Indian Spotted Eagle (*Aquila hastata*) : 31/3 1ad Kaziranga NP

Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) : 31/3 1 Kaziranga NP
Also an unidentified spotted eagle at Kaziranga NP on April 1st.

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) : 18/3 3imm "The dump" near Guwahati ; 31/3-1/4 2-3imm Kaziranga NP

Rufous-bellied Eagle (*Hieraaetus kienerii*) : 23/3 1ad Sangti Valley -> Dirang ; 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS

Changeable Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*) : 19/3 1imm Nameri NP ; 30/3 2imm Kaziranga NP

Mountain Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus nipalensis*) : A few seen in Eaglenest WS and Mishmi Hills

Pied Falconet (*Microhierax melanoleucus*) : 29/3 1 pair Nameri Eco Camp
A very pleasant surprise to see this small raptor during our lunch stop en route between the mountains and Kaziranga NP.

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) : 18/3 1 Guwahati -> Nameri ; 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 23/3 1 Sangti Valley ;
30/3 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga NP ; 30-31/3 5 Kaziranga NP ;
2/4 1 Tinsukia -> Roing ; 2/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) : 30/3 1 Kaziranga ; 2/4 1ad Brahmaputra River ;
8/4 1ad m + 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) : 30/3-1/4 25+25+6 Kaziranga NP

Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*) : Common in the lowland

Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) : 19/3 1 Nameri ; 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) : 18+19/3 4+210 Nameri ; 30/3 1 Kaziranga NP ; 2/4 2 Brahmaputra River ;
8/4 13 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) : Fairly common in the lowland

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) : Widespread in the lowland

Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) : 19/3 1 Nameri ; 30/3-1/4 25+10+3 Kaziranga NP ;
8/4 40 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) : Very common in the lowland

Some treat the subspecies *coromandus* as a separate species – Eastern Cattle Egret.

Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) : Fairly common in the lowland , particularly in Kaziranga NP

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) : 30+31/3 3+2 Kaziranga NP ; 2+6/4 1+1 Brahmaputra River

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) : 30+31/3 4+2 Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*) : 19/3 1 Nameri ; 6/4 2 Brahmaputra River

Cinnamon Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*) : 30/3 2 Kaziranga NP

Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) : 30+31/3 4+1 Kaziranga NP

Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) : 31/3 1 Kaziranga NP

A bit surprising to see a single individual flying over the national park.

Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) : 30/3-1/4 20+26+55 Kaziranga NP ; 6/4 1 Brahmaputra River

Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*) : Common in the lowlands

Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) : 30+31/1 9+7 Kaziranga NP

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) : 19/3 11 Nameri ; 29/3 1 Eaglenest WS -> Nameri ; 2/4 1imm Brahmaputra River

Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) : 29/3-1/4 3+13+1 Kaziranga NP

Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) : 18/3 1 Guwahati ; 29/3-1/4 1+20+35+12 Kaziranga NP ;
2/4 4 Tinsukia -> Roing



Greater Adjutant ; "The dump" near Guwahati

Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) : 18/3 90 "The dump" near Guwahati ; 31/3 2 Kaziranga NP ;
1/4 2 Kaziranga -> Tinsukia

Blue-naped Pitta (*Pitta nipalensis*) : 27/3 1h Eaglenest WS ; 30/3 2h Kaziranga NP ; 30/3 2 Tea estate , Kaziranga
 Seen well , albeit briefly , in the tea estate.

Asian Fairy Bluebird (*Irena puella*) : 19/3 1m+2f Nameri NP ; 20/3 2m Nameri -> Dirang
 Surely the male is one of the most beautiful birds anywhere.

Golden-fronted Leafbird (*Chloropsis aurifrons*) : 19/3 4 Nameri NP

Orange-bellied Leafbird (*Chloropsis hardwickii*) : Widespread and fairly common

Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) : 30/3 1 Kaziranga NP

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) : 18/3 1 Guwahati -> nameri ; 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang ;
 23/3 1 Sangti Valley ; 31/3 1 Kaziranga NP ; 2/4 1 Tinsukia -> Roing

Grey-backed Shrike (*Lanius tephronotus*) : Common in the lowland

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa flavirostris*) : 22/3 8 Mandala Road ; 27+28/3 3+1 Eaglenest WS ;
 4/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Common Green Magpie (*Cissa chinensis*) : 26+27/3 1h+2h Eaglenest WS ; 3+4/4 1+3 Mishmi Hills ;
 7/4 1h Digboi Oilfields
 Surprising skulky and hard to find despite its striking plumage.

Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) : 18/3 1 Guwahati -> Nameri ; 30+31/3 7+5 Kaziranga NP ;
 6/4 1 Roing -> Tinsukia ; 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Grey Treepie (*Dendrocitta formosae*) : 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS ; 1/4 2 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 3+4/4 1+2 Mishmi Hills

Collared Treepie (*Dendrocitta frontalis*) : 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS ; 6/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Spotted Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*) : 22/3 10 Mandala Road ; 25+26+29/3 4+1+1 Eaglenest WS

Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) : 21/3 17 Se La

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) : Common around habitation in the lowland

Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) : Widespread and common , particularly in the lowland
 The two subspecies seen on the trip are considered to be separate species by some. The race *japonensis* (Large-billed Crow) was seen at higher altitudes , while the race in the lowland was *levaillantii* (Eastern Jungle Crow).

Ashy Woodswallow (*Artamus fuscus*) : 18/3 1 Nameri Eco camp ; 29/3-1/4 20+ Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga

Slender-billed Oriole (*Oriolus tenuirostris*) : 19/3 1m Nameri
 Seen by Eric from the car a few hundred yards down the road from Nameri Eco Lodge.

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*) : 30/3-1/4 4+2+1 Kaziranga NP ; 1/4 1m Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ;
 6/4 2m Roing area ; 7/4 1 Digboi Oilfields ; 7/4 1 Borajan Forest ;
 9/4 3 Mesaki Forest

Maroon Oriole (*Oriolus traillii*) : 19/3 1m+2f Nameri NP ; 20/3 2 Nameri -> Dirang ;
 26-28/3 12h+1m+2f+3 Eaglenest WS ; 2-6/4 4h+2m+2f+3 Mishmi Hills

Large Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina macei*) : 31/3 2 Kaziranga NP ; 9/4 1 Mesaki Forest

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*) : Widespread

Rosy Minivet (*Pericrocotus roseus*) : 19/3 1m Nameri NP ; 9/4 2m+2f Mesaki Forest
 Seeing this species was an unexpected bonus for us. However , it seemed to be a good year for minivets in general , with better than expected numbers of the other species as well.

Grey-chinned Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*) : 25-29/3 1f+25+25+80+20 Eaglenest WS ; 2+5/4 2m+2f Mishmi Hills

Long-tailed Minivet (*Pericrocotus ethologus*) : 20/3 1m+2f Nameri -> Dirang ; 22/3 4 Mandala Road ;
 23/3 1m+1f Tenga ; 24/3 1m Eaglenest WS

Short-billed Minivet (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*) : 19/3 20 Nameri NP ; 20/3 6 Nameri -> Dirang ;

22/3 2 Mandala Road ; 26+27/3 30+5 Eaglenest WS ;

1/4 6 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga

Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus speciosus*) : 19/3 8 Nameri NP

We also had scattered sightings of unidentified minivets at various locations ,
including a big flock flying past Jupuri Gahr on March 30th.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus picatus*) : 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang ; 6/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Yellow-bellied Fantail (*Chelidorhynch hypoxantha*) : 24-29/3 30 Eaglenest WS ; 3-5/4 7 Mishmi Hills

Highly fluctuating numbers in Eaglenest WS could indicate that
most were birds passing through on migration.

White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*) : Widespread in low numbers , mostly in forests at medium altitude

Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) : Common in the lowland

Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) : Common , particularly at medium altitude

Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*) : 26-28/3 4+11+6 Eaglenest WS ; 5+6/4 6+2 Mishmi Hills ; 9/4 1 Mesaki Forest

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus remifer*) : Widespread

Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) : Widespread and fairly common in the lowland

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) : Widespread in the lowland

Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) : 19/3 1f Nameri NP ; 20/3 1f Nameri -> Dirang ;

7/4 1m Digboi Oilfields ; 9/4 1m+1 Mesaki Forest

Asian Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) : 5/4 1 pair Mishmi Hills ; 9/4 1m Mesaki Forest

Both males were beautiful white phase individuals.

Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*) : 19/3 2 Nameri NP ; 1/4 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 9/4 1h+2 Mesaki Forest

Large Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis gularis*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP ; 27/3 5 Eaglenest WS ;

30/3 2 Tea estate , Kaziranga ; 31/3 3 Kaziranga NP ;

1/4 2 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 6/4 2 Roing area

Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP ; 31/3 3 Kaziranga NP

Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasi*) : 20/3 2 Nameri -> Dirang ; 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush (*Monticola rufiventris*) : 26+28/3 1m+1m Eaglenest WS ;

29/3 1m Eaglenest WS -> Nameri

Surprisingly few rock thrushes seen and no blue-headed at all!

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) : 19/3 1m Nameri NP ; 20/3 1m+2 Nameri -> Dirang ;

27/3 1m Eaglenest WS

Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus caeruleus*) : Widespread and fairly common

Plain-backed Thrush (*Zoothera mollissima*) : 22/3 25 Mandala Road

Long-tailed Thrush (*Zoothera dixonii*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS

Scaly Thrush (*Zoothera dauma*) : 18/3 1 Nameri Eco Camp ; 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 28/3 1 Eaglenest WS

Tickell's Thrush (*Turdus unicolor*) : 22/3 3 Mandala Road

Black-breasted Thrush (*Turdus dissimilis*) : 19/3 1m Nameri NP

White-collared Blackbird (*Turdus albocinctus*) : 22/3 17 Mandala Road

Grey-winged Blackbird (*Turdus boulboul*) : 27/3 1m Eaglenest WS

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) : 21/3 60 Se La

The birds were of the *maximus* subspecies , which is sometimes treated as a separate
species – Tibetan Blackbird.

Kessler's Thrush (*Turdus kessleri*) : 21/3 75 Se La

To find such high numbers of this species was very surprising. The birds were feeding on the ground together with almost equally impressive number of "Tibetan" Blackbirds.

Rusty-bellied Shortwing (*Brachypteryx hyperythra*) : 3/4 4h+1 Mishmi Hills

Lesser Shortwing (*Brachypteryx leucophrys*) : 2-3/4 3h+1 Mishmi Hills

Slaty-backed Flycatcher (*Ficedula hodgsonii*) : 19/3 2m Nameri NP ; 22/3 1f Mandala Road

The birds at Nameri caused considerable confusion , and not all members of our group agree on the identification.

Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher (*Ficedula strophciata*) : 22/3 1m Mandala Road ; 28/3 1 pair Eaglenest WS ;
3+4/4 1f+2pairs Mishmi Hills

Red-throated (Taiga) Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) : 18/3 1 Nameri ; 30/3 1 Tea estate , Kaziranga ;
31/3+1/4 1m+2 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ;
7/4 1m Digboi Oilfields ; 9/4 1 Mesaki Forest

White-gorgetted Flycatcher (*Ficedula monileger*) : 27+28/3 3h+1 Eaglenest WS ; 3/4 2h Mishmi Hills

Snowy-browed Flycatcher (*Ficedula hyperythra*) : 27/3 1h Eaglenest WS

Little Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula westermanni*) : 19/3 1f Nameri NP ; 21/3 1m Dirang ; 22/3 2m Mandala Road ;
26/3 1m Eaglenest WS ; 3+5/4 2h+1pair+1 Mishmi Hills

Sapphire Flycatcher (*Ficedula sapphira*) : 7/4 1m Borajan Forest

Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassina*) : Widespread and fairly common

Large Niltava (*Niltava grandis*) : 22/3 1h+1m Mandala Road

Small Niltava (*Niltava macgrigoriae*) : Widespread at medium altitudes

Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*) : 4/4 1m Mishmi Hills ; 6/4 1m Roing area

Both individuals were only seen by a few group members , which is a shame since it's such a beautiful species.

Pale-chinned Flycatcher (*Cyornis poliogenys*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP ; 1/4 1 Kaziranga ; 7/4 1f Borajan Forest

Pale Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis unicolor*) : 5/4 2m Mishmi Hills

Hill Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis banyumas*) : 19/3 1f Nameri NP ; 6/4 1m Mismi Hills

The race *magnirostris* might well be a seperate species – Large Blue Flycatcher.

Pygmy Blue Flycatcher (*Muscicapella hodgsoni*) : 19/3 1m Nameri NP ; 24/3 2m+1f Eaglenest WS

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) : Common at medium altitude

White-tailed Rubythroat (*Luscinia pectoralis*) : 8/4 1m+1f Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) : 6/4 1m+1f Brahmaputra ferry point S of Sadiya ; 8/4 1m+2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*) : 22/3 1m+2f Mandala Road ; 24+29/3 1m+1m Eaglenest WS

All birds were of the subspecies *rufilatus* , which is a possible split.

Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) : Widespread

White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) : 1/4 1m Kaziranga NP

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) : 29/3-1/4 1m+1f Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 6/4 1m Roing area ;
6/4 1m+1f Roing -> Tinsukia ; 8/4 1m Dibru-Saikhowa NP

All birds of the subspecies *rufiventris*.

Hodgson's Redstart (*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*) : 22/3 2m Mandala Road ; 23/3 1m Sangti Valley -> Dirang ;
23/3 1m Tenga

Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*) : 18/3 1 pair Nameri Eco Camp

Only seen by Stig and Jon while waiting for the other car to arrive.

Blue-fronted Redstart (*Phoenicurus frontalis*) : Fairly common at medium and high altitude

White-capped Water Redstart (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*) : 19/3 1m Nameri ; 20/3 4 Nameri -> Dirang ;
23/3 2m Sangti Valley ; 23/3 1m Tenga ;
27/3 2m Eaglenest WS ;
29/3 1m Eaglenest WS -> Nameri ; 3/4 1m Mishmi Hills

Plumbeous Water Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*) : 20/3 10 Nameri -> Dirang ; 23/3 9 Sangti Valley ;
23/3 2 Sangti Valley -> Dirang ; 23/3 4 Tenga ;
27/3 1m Eaglenest WS ;
29/3 1m Eaglenest -> Nameri ; 3+4/4 1m+1 Mishmi Hills

White-tailed Robin (*Myiomela leucura*) : 28/3 1m+1f Eaglenest WS ; 2+4/4 1m+1 Mishmi Hills
In Mishmi we caught a bird , feeding on the road in complete darkness , in the headlights of the small truck , while driving back to the camp.

Blue-fronted Robin (*Cinclidium frontale*) : 5/4 2h Mishmi Hills
Heard just below the guesthouse , but they refused to show themselves in the poor weather.

Grandala (*Grandala coelicolor*) : 21/3 20m+4f Se La
An absolute gem , and surely one of the highlights of the trip. The birds allowed close views much to the delight of the photographers!

Little Forktail (*Enicurus scouleri*) : 23/3 1 “Dirang River”

Black-backed Forktail (*Enicurus immaculatus*) : 27/3 1 pair Eaglenest WS ; 5/4 1 Sally Lake , Mishmi Hills

Slaty-backed Forktail (*Enicurus schistaceus*) : 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang ; 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS

Green Cochoa (*Cochoa viridis*) : 5+6/4 1-2h Mishmi Hills
Sadly only heard , but still much appreciated since time was running out for us.

Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maura*) : Common in the lowlands.
Highest numbers in Kaziranga NP and Dibru-Saikhowa NP

White-tailed Stonechat (*Saxicola leucura*) : 6/4 1pair Brahmaputra ferry point N of Saikhoa Ghat
A couple of male Stonechats in Sangti Valley looked suspiciously like this species , but the distance was too great for a positive identification.

Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferrea*) : 20/3 2m Nameri -> Dirang ; 22/3 2 Mandala Road ;
23/3 4 Sangti Valley -> Dirang ; 24-29/3 2m+1f+1 Eaglenest WS

Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnus malabaricus*) : Fairly common , particularly at lower altitude

Asian Pied Starling (*Sturnus contra*) : Common in the lowland

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) : Very common in the lowland , but also a few seen at medium altitude near habitation.

Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) : 30/3+1/4 3+1 Kaziranga NP

Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*) : Very common in the lowland

White-vented Myna (*Acridotheres grandis*) : 18/3 3 “The dump” near Guwahati ; 19/3 4 Nameri NP ;
30/3-1/4 17 Kaziranga NP ; 2/4 3 Tinsukia -> Roing ;
8/4 6 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*) : 18-20/3 6+8+2 Nameri ; 30/4 2 Kaziranga NP ; 1/4 2 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ;
6/4 1 Roing area ; 7/4 12 Borajan Forest

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta castanea*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP ; 29/3 2 Eaglenest WS -> Nameri ;
1/4 3 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga

White-tailed Nuthatch (*Sitta himalayensis*) : 22/3 2 Mandala Road ; 24-26/3 5+5+1 Eaglenest WS

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*) : 18/3 1 Nameri ; 19/3 2 Nameri NP

Beautiful Nuthatch (*Sitta formosa*) : 26-28/3 5+2+6 Eaglenest WS ; 2+3/4 4+2 Mishmi Hills

Luckily we had no trouble at all finding this species , and we had good and prolonged views on several occasions.



Beautiful Nuthatch ; Eaglenest WS

Hodgson's Treecreeper (*Certhia hodgsoni*) : 22/3 7 Mandala Road ; 24/3 1 Eaglenest WS

The two subspecies *mandellii* (the ssp. seen on this trip) and *hodgsoni* , has been split from Eurasian Treecreeper (*C. familiaris*) to form this species.

Rusty-flanked Treecreeper (*Certhia nipalensis*) : 25/3 1 Eaglenest WS

Brown-throated Treecreeper (*Certhia discolor*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 24+25/3 2+2 Eaglenest WS

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) : 21/3 3 Se La ; 22/3 1h Mandala Road

Fire-capped Tit (*Cephalopyrus flammiceps*) : 22/3 1m Mandala Road ; 24/3 1m+1f Eaglenest WS ;
2/4 1f Mishmi Hills

Rufous-vented Tit (*Parus rubidiventris*) : 22/3 3 Mandala Road

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) : 21/3 3 Se La ; 22/3 10 Mandala Road

Grey Crested Tit (*Parus dichrous*) : 22/3 4 Mandala Road

Great Tit (*Parus major*) : 19/3 2 Nameri NP ; 29/3 1 Dirang -> Kaziranga ; 31/3 2 Kaziranga NP ;
1/4 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 1/4 2 Kaziranga -> Tinsukia ; 9/4 2 Mesaki Forest
The grey form (ssp. *nipalensis*) found in this part of the world could be a separate species –
Grey Tit (*P. cinereus*).

Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus*) : 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang ; 21/3 4 Dirang ; 22/3 8 Mandala Road ;
23/3 18 Sangti Valley -> Dirang ; 23/3 4 Tenga ;
24-27/3 5+4+4+1 Eaglenest WS

Yellow-cheeked Tit (*Parus spilonotus*) : 25-27/3 3+1+5 Eaglenest WS ; 2-4/4 4+6+14 Mishmi Hills

Yellow-browed Tit (*Sylviparus modestus*) : 22/3 2 Mandala Road ; 24+25+29/3 3+3+2 Eaglenest WS ;
4/4 4 Mishmi Hills

Sultan Tit (*Melanochlora sultanea*) : 18/3 1m+1f Nameri ; 19/3 2m Nameri NP ; 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang ;
26+27/3 1+2 Eaglenest WS ; 2+3/4 2+1 Mishmi Hills ; 9/4 2 Mesaki Forest
Simply a magnificent species!

Black-throated Tit (*Aegithalos concinnus*) : 21/3 11 Dirang ; 22/3 4 Mandala Road ; 23-26/3 56 Eaglenest WS ;
2+3/4 4+8 Mishmi Hills

Rufous-fronted Tit (*Aegithalos iouschistos*) : 22/3 13 Mandala Road ; 25/3 6 Eaglenest WS

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) : 1/4 4 Kaziranga NP

Plain Martin (*Riparia paludicola*) : Common in the lowland

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) : Common in the lowland

Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*) : 30/3 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga

Striated Swallow (*Hirundo striolata*) : 7/4 2 Digbois Oilfields ; 9/4 2 Tinsukia -> Mesaki Forest

Asian House Martin (*Delichon dasypus*) : 31/3 4 Kaziranga NP

Nepal House Martin (*Delichon nipalensis*) : 27/3 20 Eaglenest WS ; 5/4 55 Mishmi Hills

Striated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus striatus*) : Fairly common in Eaglenest WS and Mishmi Hills

Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*) : 19/3 10 Nameri NP ; 27/3 4 Eaglenest WS

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) : Widespread and common at low altitude

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) : Common everywhere

White-throated Bulbul (*Alophoixus flaveolus*) : 19/3 3 Nameri NP ; 27/3 2h Eaglenest WS ; 4/4 2h Mishmi Hills ;
9/4 5 Mesaki Forest

Ashy Bulbul (*Hemixos flava*) : 2+5/4 2+2 Mishmi Hills

Mountain Bulbul (*Ixos mcclellandii*) : 27/3 25 Eaglenest WS

Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*) : Widespread and fairly common

Hill Prinia (*Prinia atrogularis*) : 25+29/3 1 Eaglenest WS

A possible split to Black-throated Prinia (*P. atrogularis*).

Grey-breasted Prinia (*Prinia hodgsonii*) : 31/3 2 Kaziranga NP ; 2/4 2 Tinsukia -> Roing

Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*) : 31/3 3 Kaziranga ; 8/4 12 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*) : 18/3 1 "The dump" near Guwahati ; 6/4 2 Brahmaputra ferry point S of Sadiya

Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*) : 31/3-1/4 4+1 Kaziranga NP

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) : 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Bright-headed Cisticola (*Cisticola exilis*) : 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) : Widespread

Chestnut-headed Tesia (*Tesia castaneocoronata*) : 27+28/3 2+3 Eaglenest WS ; 4+5/4 1h+1 Mishmi hills

Slaty-bellied Tesia (*Tesia olivea*) : 27+28/3 3+4h Eaglenest WS ; 7/4 1h Digboi Oilfields

Grey-bellied Tesia (*Tesia cyaniventer*) : 4/4 2h+1 Mishmi Hills

Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler (*Cettia fortipes*) : 24/3 8h+1 Eaglenest WS ; 25/3 4h Eaglenest WS ;
2/4 1h Tinsukia -> Roing ; 2+3/4 3h+4h Mishmi Hills

Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler (*Cettia major*) : 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS

Seen well by Hans Ulrik at Sunderview Camp.

Grey-sided Bush Warbler (*Cettia brunnifrons*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 4/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Paddyfield Warbler (*Acrocephalus agricola*) : 8/4 3 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Blunt-winged Warbler (*Acrocephalus concinens*) : 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP

Thick-billed Warbler (*Acrocephalus aedon*) : 18/3 1 Nameri ; 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Striated Grassbird (*Megalurus palustris*) : 18/3 1 "The dump" near Guwahati ; 19/3 1 Nameri ;
31/3 4 Kaziranga NP ; 2+6/4 1+3 Brahmaputra ferry point S of Sadiya ;
8/4 18 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Mountain Tailorbird (*Orthotomus cuculatus*) : 18/3 1 Nameri ; common on the southern side of the pass at Eaglenest WS and in Mishmi Hills

Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) : Common and widespread , particularly in the lowland

Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*) : 31/3 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga

Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*) : 1/4 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP ; 9/4 1 Tinsukia -> Mesaki Forest

Tickell's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*) : 18/3 2 Nameri ; 31/3-1/4 3+2 Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP ; 9/4 2 Mesaki Forest

Buff-barred Warbler (*Phylloscopus pulcher*) : 22/3 3 Mandala Road ; 25+27/3 4+2 Eaglenest WS ; 3/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Ashy-throated Warbler (*Phylloscopus maculipennis*) : 21/3 2 Dirang ; 22/3 4 Mandala Road ; 23-26/3 3+20+5+3 Eaglenest WS ; 3+5/4 2+1 Mishmi Hills

Lemon-rumped Warbler (*Phylloscopus chloronotus*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; Common in Eaglenest WS ; 5/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) : Widespread

Blyth's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus reguloides*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 2-5/4 2+1+6+2 Mishmi Hills

Yellow-vented Warbler (*Phylloscopus cantator*) : 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS ; 29/3 1 Eaglenest WS -> Nameri ; 5/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Whistler's Warbler (*Seicercus whistleri*) : 28/3 1 Eaglenest WS ; 29/3 3 Eaglenest WS -> Nameri

Grey-hooded Warbler (*Seicercus xanthoschistos*) : 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang ; 21/3 5 Dirang ; 22/3 2 Mandala Road ; 23/3 1 Sangti Valley -> Dirang ; 26-27/3 2 Eaglenest WS ; 2-3/4 3 Mishmi Hills

White-spectacled Warbler (*Seicercus affinis*) : 26/3 2 Eaglenest WS

Grey-cheeked Warbler (*Seicercus poliogenys*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 23-28/3 15 Eaglenest WS ; 2-4/4 5 Mishmi Hills

Chestnut-crowned Warbler (*Seicercus castaniceps*) : 26+28/3 2+3 Eaglenest WS ; 3-5/4 2+2+6 Mishmi Hills

Broad-billed Warbler (*Tickellia hodgsoni*) : 24+26/3 1+2 Eaglenest WS

Rufous-faced Warbler (*Abroscopus albogularis*) : 20/3 2h Nameri -> Dirang ; 27/3 2 Eaglenest WS ; 5/4 7 Mishmi Hills

Black-faced Warbler (*Abroscopus schisticeps*) : Fairly common at medium altitude

Yellow-bellied Warbler (*Abroscopus superciliosus*) : 20/3 9 Nameri -> Dirang ; 7/4 1 Digboi Oilfields

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) : 22/3 2 Mandala Road

White-crested Laughingthrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*) : 20/3 4 Nameri -> Dirang ; 27/3 h+1 Eaglenest WS ; 29/3 h Dirang -> Nameri ; 3-5/4 h+24 Mishmi Hills ; 7/4 4 Digboi Oilfields

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush (*Garrulax monileger*) : 20/3 h Nameri -> Dirang ; 2/4 h+1 Mishmi Hills ; 6/4 4 Roing area ; 9/4 3 Mesaki Forest

Striated Laughingthrush (*Garrulax striatus*) : 22/3 h Mandala Road ; 23-28/3 43 Eaglenest WS ; 2-6/4 8 Mishmi Hills

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush (*Garrulax ruficollis*) : 5/4 10-15 Mishmi Hills ; 7/4 3 Digboi Oilfields ; 8/4 3 Dibru Saikhowa

Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush (*Garrulax nuchalis*) : 7/4 h+4 Digboi Oilfields

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush (*Garrulax rufogularis*) : 27/3 h Eaglenest WS

Spotted Laughingthrush (*Garrulax ocellatus*) : 21/3 1 Se La ; 22/3 4 Mandala Road ; 25+29/3 2h+1 Eaglenest WS

Grey-sided Laughingthrush (*Garrulax caerulatus*) : 23/3 8 Dirang -> Eaglenest WS ; 27+28/3 h+2 Eaglenest WS

Streaked Laughingthrush (*Garrulax lineatus*) : 23/3 1h Dirang -> Eaglenest WS ; 27+29/3 3+1 Eaglenest WS

The race seen is a possible split – Bhutan Laughingthrush (*G. imbricatus*).

Blue-winged Laughingthrush (*Trochalopteron squamatus*) : 24/3 1 Eaglenest WS ; 2/4 h Mishmi Hills

Scaly Laughingthrush (*Trochalopteron subunicolor*) : 26/3 h+1 Eaglenest WS

Black-faced Laughingthrush (*Trochalopteron affine*) : 24+25+29/3 h+7-8 Eaglenest WS ; 5/4 7 Mishmi Hills

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (*Trochalopteron erythrocephalus*) : 21/3 14 Dirang ; 22/3 21 Mandala Road ;

27+28/3 4+2 Eaglenest WS ; 4/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Red-faced Liocichla (*Liocichla phoenicea*) : 25/3 1h Eaglenest WS ; 2-5/4 6h+5 Mishmi Hills

Bugun Liocichla (*Liocichla bugunorum*) : 23/3 2h Eaglenest WS ; 25/3 2h+2 Eaglenest WS

We heard the species shortly after arriving at Eaglenest WS , but had to wait patiently to finally see it two days later. However , it was certainly worth the wait , and we saw this rare and beautiful bird really well.

Abbott's Babbler (*Malacocincla abbotti*) : 1/4 1 Kaziranga NP

Buff-breasted Babbler (*Pellorneum tickelli*) : 30/3 1h Tea estate , Kaziranga ; 6/4 1 Mishmi Hills

There were some debate about the bird in the tea eastate , but the individual in Mishmi Hills was seen well.

Marsh Babbler (*Pellorneum palustre*) : 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Responded promptly to playback , giving us very good and close views.

Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*) : 31/3-1/4 1h+1 Kaziranga NP ; 7/4 2h Digboi Oilfields ;

9/4 1h Mesaki Forest

Large Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*) : 27/3 1h Eaglenest WS ; 5/4 1h Mishmi Hills

White-browed Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus schisticeps*) : 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 25-29/3 1h+7 Eaglenest WS

Red-billed Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus ochraceps*) : 27/3 1h Eaglenest WS ; 6/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*) : 4/4 7 Mishmi Hills

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler (*Xiphirhynchus superciljaris*) : 23-25/3 6h+3 Eaglenest WS ; 5/4 3h Mishmi Hills

An unforgettably bird which we managed to see really well at Eaglenest , where it came in quite close in the low shrubbery.

Long-billed Wren Babbler (*Rimator malacoptilus*) : 28/3 1 Eaglenest WS ; 3/4 1h Mishmi Hills

Another curiously long-billed species , which we had good views of eventually.

Eyebrowed Wren Babbler (*Napothera epilepidota*) : 3/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler (*Pnoepyga albiventer*) : 22/3 1h Mandala Road ; 24+25/3 1h+1h Eaglenest WS ;

2-4/4 2h+1 Mishmi Hills

Pygmy Wren Babbler (*Pnoepyga pusilla*) : 24+27/3 1h+3h Eaglenest WS ; 2-4/4 5h Mishmi Hills

Rufous-throated Wren Babbler (*Spelaeornis caudatus*) : 23-28/3 7h+1 Eaglenest WS

Rusty-throated (Mishmi) Wren Babbler (*Spelaeornis badeigularis*) : 2-4/4 2h+2 Mishmi Hills

Bar-winged Wren Babbler (*Spelaeornis troglodytoides*) : 22/3 2 Mandala Road ; 25/3 1h Eaglenest WS ;

3/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Both subspecies , *sherriffi* in Mandala Road and *souliei* in Mishmi , were seen extremely well.

Spotted Wren Babbler (*Spelaeornis formosus*) : 4-5/4 1h+1 Mishmi Hills

Wedge-billed Wren Babbler (*Sphenocichla humei*) : 27/3 1h+1 Eaglenest WS ; 2-3/4 1h+2 Mishmi Hills

A likely split. The birds seen in Eaglenest were of the subspecies *humei* (Sikkim W.W.B.), while the birds in Mishmi were the race *roberti* (Cachar W.W.B.).

Rufous-fronted Babbler (*Stachyris rufifrons*) : 27/3 1 Eaglenest WS ; 5/4 1h+1 Mishmi Hills ;
7/4 1 Digboi Oilfields

Rufous-capped Babbler (*Stachyris ruficeps*) : Fairly common at medium altitude

Almost impossible to distinguish from the former species, but Rufous-capped seems to be found at higher altitudes than Rufous-fronted, which makes it somewhat easier.

Golden Babbler (*Stachyris chrysaea*) : 23-27/3 14 Eaglenest WS ; 2-6/4 18 Mishmi Hills

Grey-throated Babbler (*Stachyris nigriceps*) : 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang ; 26/3 2 Eaglenest WS ;
30/3 1 Tea estate, Kaziranga ; 3/4 1 Mishmi Hills ;
7/4 1 Digboi Oilfields

Striped Tit Babbler (*Macronous gularis*) : Widespread and fairly common in the lowland

Chestnut-capped Babbler (*Timalia pileata*) : 31/3 1h Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 6 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

One of those species that doesn't look like much in the book, but is so much more attractive when seen in nature.

Jerdon's Babbler (*Chrysomma altirostre*) : 8/4 7 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

A bit of a skulker, but we did get some rather good views in the end.

Striated Babbler (*Turdoides earlei*) : 31/3 8 Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Slender-billed Babbler (*Turdoides longirostris*) : 31/3 4 Kaziranga NP

Silver-eared Mesia (*Leiothrix argentauris*) : 27+29/3 18+2 Eaglenest WS ; 2-5/4 3+5+7+9 Mishmi Hills
By no means a rare bird, but it sure is beautiful.

Red-billed Leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*) : 2/4 7 Mishmi Hills

Cutia (*Cutia nipalensis*) : 26-28/3 5 Eaglenest WS ; 2/4 1f+1 Mishmi Hills

Black-headed Shrike Babbler (*Pteruthius rufiventer*) : 26+28/3 1h+1m+2f Eaglenest WS

White-browed Shrike Babbler (*Pteruthius flaviscapis*) : 26-28/3 15h+9 Eaglenest WS ; 3-4/4 1h+1m Mishmi Hills

Green Shrike Babbler (*Pteruthius xanthochlorus*) : 22/3 3 Mandala Road ; 24-25/3 5 Eaglenest WS

Black-eared Shrike Babbler (*Pteruthius melanotis*) : 24/3 1m Eaglenest WS ; 3-4/4 1m+3 Mishmi Hills

White-hooded Babbler (*Gampsorhynchus rufulus*) : 27/3 h+3 Eaglenest WS

Rusty-fronted Barwing (*Actinodura egertoni*) : Common in Eaglenest WS and Mishmi Hills

Hoary-throated Barwing (*Actinodura nipalensis*) : 26-28/3 8 Eaglenest WS

Streak-throated Barwing (*Actinodura waldeni*) : 25/3 6 Eaglenest WS

Blue-winged Minla (*Minla cyanouroptera*) : 21/3 5 Dirang ; 5-6/4 13 Mishmi Hills ; 6/4 3 Roing area

Chestnut-tailed Minla (*Minla strigula*) : 21/3 1 Dirang ; 22/3 3 Mandala Road ; 25-29/3 7 Eaglenest WS ;
3-5/4 1dead+7 Mishmi Hills

Red-tailed Minla (*Minla ignotincta*) : 20/3 1 Nameri -> Dirang

Golden-breasted Fulvetta (*Alcippe chrysotis*) : 24-26/3 6 Eaglenest WS

Yellow-throated Fulvetta (*Alcippe cinerea*) : Common in Eaglenest WS ; 29/3 10 Eaglenest WS -> Nameri ;
3/4 3 Mishmi Hills

Rufous-winged Fulvetta (*Alcippe castaneiceps*) : Fairly common in Eaglenest WS and Mishmi Hills

Brown-throated Fulvetta (*Alcippe ludlowi*) : 22/3 2 Mandala Road ; 3/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Streak-throated Fulvetta (*Alcippe cinereiceps*) : 3-5/4 10 Mishmi Hills

Of the race *manipurensis* which is a possible split – Manipur Fulvetta

Nepal Fulvetta (*Alcippe nipalensis*) : 27/3 4 Eaglenest WS ; 3-6/4 15 Mishmi Hills

Striated Yuhina (*Yuhina castaniceps*) : 20/3 5 Nameri -> Dirang ; 4-6/5 120 Mishmi Hills

White-naped Yuhina (*Yuhina bakeri*) : 26-28/3 42 Eaglenest WS ; 2-4/4 22 Mishmi Hills

Whiskered Yuhina (*Yuhina flavicollis*) : 22/3 4 Mandala Road ; 25-28/3 17 Eaglenest WS ; 3-4/4 13 Mishmi Hills

Stripe-throated Yuhina (*Yuhina gularis*) : 21/3 3 Se La ; 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 25-29/3 63 Eaglenest WS ;
4/4 3 Mishmi Hills

Rufous-vented Yuhina (*Yuhina occipitalis*) : Common and widespread at medium and high altitude

Black-chinned Yuhina (*Yuhina nigrimenta*) : 24-27/3 14 Eaglenest WS

White-bellied Yuhina (*Yuhina zantholeuca*) : 2/4 1 Mishmi Hills

Fire-tailed Myzornis (*Myzornis pyrrhura*) : 22/3 1 Mandala Road ; 25/3 5 Eaglenest WS

High on the list of species we wanted to see , and it didn't let us down!

Rufous-backed Sibia (*Heterophasia annectans*) : 26/3 1h+2 Eaglenest WS ; 2-4/4 1h+11 Mishmi Hills

Beautiful Sibia (*Heterophasia pulchella*) : Common at medium altitude

Maybe not the most aptly named species , the locals certainly found it ridiculous.

Long-tailed Sibia (*Heterophasia picaoides*) : Fairly common at medium altitude

Brown Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis unicolor*) : 22/3 2h Mandala Road

Black-breasted Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis flavirostris*) : 8/4 1-2h+1pair Dibru-Saikhowa NP

A really cool species which we saw well.

Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris*) : 23-25/3 12 Eaglenest WS ; 6/4 5 Mishmi Hills

Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis ruficeps*) : 26-27/3 8 Eaglenest WS

Bengal Bushlark (*Mirafra assamica*) : 30-31/3 4 Kaziranga NP

Sand Lark (*Calandrella raytal*) : 19/3 2h Nameri ; 6/4 2 Brahmaputra River ; 8/4 3 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*) : 31/3 2 Kaziranga NP ; 2/4 4 Tinsukia -> Roing ;

6/4 4 Brahmaputra ferry point N of Saikhoa Ghat



Mrs Gould's Sunbird ; Eaglenest WS

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum chrysorrheum*) : 1/4 1 pair Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*) : 22/3 1m+2 Mandala Road ; 24-26/3 6 Eaglenest WS ;
2/4 2 Mishmi Hills

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*) : Widespread in the lowland

Purple Sunbird (*Nectarinia asiatica*) : 18/3 1m+1 Guwahati Airport

Mrs Gould's Sunbird (*Aethopyga gouldiae*) : 20/3 1m Nameri -> Dirang ; 22/3 2m Mandala Road ;
24-29/3 88 Eaglenest WS

Green-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga nipalensis*) : Fairly common at medium to high altitudes

Black-throated Sunbird (*Aethopyga saturata*) : 26-28/3 5m Eaglenest WS ; 29/3 1 Eaglenest WS -> Nameri ;
2-5/4 3m+3f+4 Mishmi Hills

Crimson Sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*) : Widespread in the lowland

Fire-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga ignicauda*) : 21/3 1m Se La ; 22/3 1m Mandala Road ;
25+29/3 13+1m Eaglenest WS ; 2-3/4 3m+3f Mishmi Hills

Little Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera longirostra*) : 3/4 1 Mishmi Hills ; 7/4 4 Digboi Oilfields ; 9/4 2 Mesaki Forest

Streaked Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera magna*) : 19/3 1 Nameri ; 20/3 13 Nameri -> Dirang ;
common in Eaglenest WS and Mishmi Hills

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) : Widespread and common

Russet Sparrow (*Passer rutilans*) : 22/3 25 Mandala Road ; 23/3 14 Sangti Valley ; 24/3 2 Eaglenest WS

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) : Widespread and common

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) : Widespread and fairly common

We probably should have made more of an effort identifying the wagtails in general by subspecies , but with so many new species to see , it wasn't really much of a priority for any of us , despite the possibility of future splits. Anyway , we did see at least three races of White Wagtail for sure: *Alba* , *alboides* and *leucopsis*.

Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) : Widespread in the lowland

The races *calacurata* and *citreola* were seen

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) : 31/3 30 Kaziranga NP ; 2+6/4 10+7 Roing – Tinsukia ;
8/4 40 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Two subspecies recorded for sure: *Thunbergi* and *beema*.

In addition to the ones mentioned above , we also saw a big flock of well over 5000 wagtails coming in to roost for the night in Dibru-Saikhowa NP , in the afternoon of April 8th. We only saw them at some distance , but most were undoubtedly Yellow Wagtails (M. Flava) , though there might well have been some other species of wagtails and/or pipits out there.

Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus*) : 18/3 1 "The dump" near Guwahati ; 23/3 2 Sangti Valley ;
2/4 2 Tinsukia -> Roing ; 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*) : Widespread and common

Rosy Pipit (*Anthus roseatus*) : 21/3 12 Se La

Alpine Accentor (*Prunella collaris*) : 21/3 4 Se La

Rufous-breasted Accentor (*Prunella strophia*) : 21/3 3 Se La ; 22/3 10 Mandala Road

Maroon-backed Accentor (*Prunella immaculata*) : 24-28/3 4 Eaglenest WS

Seen very well on the road around the liocichla site ; nice bird.

Black-breasted Weaver (*Ploceus benghalensis*) : 31/3+1/4 25 (+50 Ploceus sp.) Kaziranga NP

Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*) : 31/3+1/4 34 Kaziranga NP ; 9/4 1m Mesaki Forest

Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*) : 31/3 10 Kaziranga NP

This small flock was seen on the elephant-ride , and was actually a bit of a surprise.

White-rumped Munia (*Lonchura striata*) : 7/4 4 Digboi Oilfields

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) : 20/3 21 Nameri -> Dirang ; 30/3 12 Jupuri Gahr ;

30/3 1 Tea estate , Kaziranga ; 8/4 16 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch (*Carduelis spinoides*) : 22/3 3 Mandala Road ; 23/3 35 Sangti Valley

Plain Mountain Finch (*Leucosticte nemoricola*) : 21/3 10 Se La

Brandt's Mountain Finch (*Leucosticte brandti*) : 21/3 3 Se La

Dark-breasted Rosefinch (*Carpodacus nipalensis*) : 25/3 1f Eaglenest WS ; 3/4 1m+1f Mishmi Hills

Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrurus*) : 29/3 1m Eaglenest WS

Beautiful Rosefinch (*Carpodacus pulcherrimus*) : 22/3 30 Mandala Road

Dark-rumped Rosefinch (*Carpodacus edwardsii*) : 4/4 1f Mishmi Hills

Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch (*Carpodacus thura*) : 21/3 2m+3f Se La

Crimson-browed Finch (*Propyrrhula subhimachala*) : 22/3 2f Mandala Road ; 24+25/3 1f+7 Eaglenest WS ;

5/4 1m+1f Mishmi Hills

Scarlet Finch (*Haematospiza sipahi*) : 24-27/3 5m+3f+3 Eaglenest WS

Makes the rosefinches look almost boring in comparison!

Brown Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula nipalensis*) : 25-26/3 13 Eaglenest WS

Grey-headed Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula erythaca*) : 22/3 20 Mandala Road ; 24-25/3 41 Eaglenest WS ; 4/4 5 Mishmi Hills

Collared Grosbeak (*Mycerobas affinis*) : 25/3 2f Eaglenest WS

White-winged Grosbeak (*Mycerobas carnipes*) : 21/3 1m Se La

Gold-naped Finch (*Pyrrhoptes epauletta*) : 24-25/3 4m+5f Eaglenest WS

An absolutely beautiful bird , which we saw very well below Lama Camp.

Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*) : 22/3 2 Mandala Road ; 23/3 7 Sangti Valley



Hoolock Gibbon ; Roing

Mammal list

Bat sp. (*Microchiroptera sp.*) : At least three different species seen in at Jupuri Gahr outside Kaziranga NP , but also seen at other places both in the lowland and at higher altitude.

Northern Tree Shrew (*Tupaia belangeri*) : 26/3 1 Eaglenest WS

Indian Flying Fox (*Pteropus giganteus*) : 30/3 1 Kaziranga ; 8/4 1 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Assam Macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) : 5/4 12 Mishmi Hills

Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) : 19/3 15 Nameri ; 20/3 5 Nameri -> Dirang ; 29/3 35 Nameri -> Kaziranga ; 31/3 1 Kaziranga NP ; 1/4 2 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga

Capped Langur (*Trachypithecus pileatus*) : 18+20/3 9+1 Nameri ; 19/3 20 Nameri NP

Hoolock Gibbon (*Hylobates hoolock*) : 3+5/4 h Mishmi Hills ; 6/4 3m+2f Roing area ; 7/4 2 groups h Digboi Oilfields
Calling – or “singing” – gibbons gave a special atmosphere to the forest of Mishmi Hills , and despite the circumstances we were really excited to see them outside Roing.

Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) : 30/3-1/4 5-6 Kaziranga NP

Small Asian Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*) : 18/3 1 Nameri Eco Lodge ; 30/3 1 Kaziranga NP

An individual en route between Kaziranga and Tinsukia on April 1st might also have been this species.

Gangetic Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) : 8/4 1-2 Dibru-Saikhowa NP

Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) : 20/3 h Nameri -> Sangti ; 30/3+1/4 27+22 Kaziranga NP ; 8/4 h Dibru-Saikhowa NP

We also saw domesticated elephants here and there , found tracks in Nameri , and loads of fresh dung along Doimara River in Eaglenest WS.

Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) : 29/3-1/4 3+6+40-50+30 Kaziranga NP

One of the real positives of the trip was to see so many rhinos , especially considering their global status!

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) : 19/3 7 Nameri NP ; 30/3-1/4 1+14+2 Kaziranga NP

Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*) : 30/3-1/4 55+130+25 Kaziranga NP

Swamp Deer (*Cervus duvauceli*) : 30/3-1/4 50+70+65 Kaziranga NP

Northern Red Muntjac (*Muntiacus vaginalis*) : 18/3 1 Nameri ; 19/3 1m+1f+1 Nameri NP ; 31/3 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 1/4 1h Kaziranga NP ; 3/4 1h Mishmi Hills

Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) : 19/3 1 Nameri NP

Probably the most surprising mammal sighting of the trip , and a great one at that.

Indian Water Buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*) : 29/3-1/4 13+40+75+35 Kaziranga NP

Also quite a few domesticated buffaloes around , and some “somewhere-in-between” in Dibru-Saihowa NP.

Hoary-bellied Squirrel (*Callosciurus pygerythrus*) : 18/3 1 Nameri ; 19/3 1 Nameri NP ;

1/4 1 Jupuri Gahr , Kaziranga ; 2-4/4 5 Mishmi Hills

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel (*Dremomys lokriah*) : 24-26/3 10 Eaglenest WS ; 9/4 1 Mesaki Forest

Black Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*) : 26-27/3 2 Eaglenest WS

Himalayan Striped Squirrel (*Tamias maclellandii*) : 23-26/3 25 Eaglenest WS ; 2-6/4 6 Mishmi Hills

Also quite a few sightings of unidentified medium sized squirrels.

Pre-tour.

Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary.

The entire group , except Stig , arrived in Delhi with time to spare , and made a pre-tour to the small bird sanctuary Sultanpur on Saturday March 17th. The main objective out here was to see Indian Courser , and since our excellent local guide , Sanjee , knew of a nesting site , we succeeded easily – best views by far was had in the afternoon when most of the group had returned to Delhi , though. We also saw a lot of other nice birds like Black Francolin , Yellow-wattled Lapwings , Indian Spotted Eagles , a surprise Besra , Short-eared Owls , Variable and Desert Wheatears , Brook's Leaf Warbler and Sind Sparrows in and around the sanctuary , thus making it an excellent start to the holiday for most. Stig on the other hand , had a lousy start when he had to spend several hours outside the airport in the middle of the night , before linking up with the rest of the group early Sunday morning before flying out to Assam.

17/3.

Dee Marks Hotel , New Delhi – Sultanpur 6.20 – 7.30 & 17.40 – 18.20.

Indian Peafowl 8 , Indian Roller 3 , White-throated Kingfisher 2 , Green Bee-eater 12 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 250 , Eurasian Collared Dove 6 , Yellow-footed Green Pigeon 6 , Red-wattled Lapwing 4 , Black-winged Kite 1 , Black Kite 35 , Cattle Egret 22 , House Crow 70 , Black Drongo 3 , Asian Pied Starling 1 , Common Myna 400 , Bank Myna 200 , Wire-tailed Swallow 2 , Red-vented Bulbul 18 , Plain Prinia 2 , Common Tailorbird 1 , House Sparrow 3.

Sultanpur area 7.30 – 17.40.

Black Francolin 1m , Grey Francolin 5h+3 , Indian Peafowl 7 , Bar-headed Goose 1 , Knob-billed Duck 18 , Gadwall 80 , Eurasian Wigeon 33 , Indian Spot-billed Duck 9 , Eurasian Teal 240 , Garganey 8m+4f , Northern Pintail 1m , Northern Shoveler 1600 , Black-rumped Flameback 2 , Brown-headed Barbet 1 , Coppersmith Barbet 1h+2 , Indian Grey Hornbill 2 , Common Hoopoe 1pair+4 , Indian Roller 1pair+2 , White-throated Kingfisher 6 , Pied Kingfisher 1 , Green Bee-eater 60 , Common Hawk Cuckoo 1h , Greater Coucal 1 , Rose-ringed Parakeet 35 , Collared Scops Owl 1 , Spotted Owlet 2 , Short-eared Owl 2 , Laughing Dove 14 , Red Collared Dove 2 , Eurasian Collared Dove 40 , Yellow-footed Green Pigeon 2 , Sarus Crane 2 , Purple Swamphen 11 , Common Moorhen 60 , Common Coot 40 , Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 1 , Common Snipe 4 , Black-tailed Godwit 2 , Spotted Redshank 16 , Common Redshank 2 , Common Greenshank 9 , Green Sandpiper 14 , Wood Sandpiper 35 , Temminck's Stint 24 , Ruff 12 , Indian Courser 1par at nest + 2 , Black-winged Stilt 35 , Pied Avocet 3 , Little Ringed Plover 35 , Yellow-wattled Lapwing 1pair+8 , Red-wattled Lapwing 120 , White-tailed Lapwing 2 , Osprey 1 , Black Kite 13 , Egyptian Vulture 2ad+1imm , Pallid Harrier 2m , Shikra 4 , Besra 1imm , Indian Spotted Eagle 3-4ad , spotted eagle sp. 2 , Booted Eagle 3 , Common Kestrel 2-3 , Little Grebe 17 , Oriental Darter 16 , Little Cormorant 18 , Great Cormorant 45 , Little Egret 1 , Great Egret 5 , Intermediate Egret 20 , Cattle Egret 1 , Indian Pond Heron 17 , Grey Heron 14 , Purple Heron 5 , Glossy Ibis 7 , Black-headed Ibis 12 , Black Ibis 4 , Eurasian Spoonbill 1 , Painted Stork 6 , Black-necked Stork 1pair + 1imm , Bay-backed Shrike 1 , Long-tailed Shrike 5 , Rufous Treepie 3 , House Crow 35 , Black Drongo 23 , Common Woodshrike 1 , Red-throated Flycatcher 7 , Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher 1 , Oriental Magpie Robin 3m , Indian Robin 5m+2f , Black Redstart 5m , Siberian Stonechat 3m+1f , Pied Bushchat 11m+5f , Brown Rock Chat 3 , Variable Wheatear 2m , Desert Wheatear 1m+1f , Brahminy Starling 1 , Asian Pied Starling 5 , Common Myna 75 , Bank Myna 18 , Plain Martin 20 , Wire-tailed Swallow 4 , Red-vented Bulbul 2 , Plain Prinia 8 ,

Ashy Prinia 7 , Zitting Cisticola 7 , Oriental White-eye h+1 , Lesser Whitethroat 4 , Common Tailorbird 2 ,
Brook's Leaf Warbler 1 , Hume's Warbler 11 , Greenish Warbler 1 , Large Grey Babbler 22 , Jungle Babbler 6 ,
Indian Bushlark 4 , Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark 50 , Greater Short-toed Lark 300 , Crested Lark 18 , Oriental Skylark 1 ,
Purple Sunbird 13 , House Sparrow 5 , Sind Sparrow 6 , White Wagtail 25 , Citrine Wagtail 1f , Yellow Wagtail 2 ,
Paddyfield Pipit 1 , Tawny Pipit 8 , Baya Weaver 1 , Indian Silverbill 40 , Rhesus Macaque 20 , Nilgai 18 ,
Five-striped Palm Squirrel 9.



Indian Courser ; Sultanpur

The photos in this report have all been taken by Eric (frontpage) , Erling , Stig and Jon.