

**NOTES ON  
MAMMALS & BIRDS  
RECORDED IN**



**SOUTH INDIA (19/1-9/2 2007)**

**&**

**GUJARAT (9-15/2 2007)**



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## INTRODUCTION

The report summarizes all records of mammals and birds throughout the trip besides records of reptiles, amphibians and butterflies from travelling in two separate parts of India: Three weeks in Southern India and one week in Gujarat.

Being first time visitors to Southern India our visit was a round-trip to a number of spectacular cultural highlights besides selected wildlife areas. We had a vehicle with driver during most of the visit and were completely independent except for a six day programme to Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary (Thattakad) and Anamalai NP (Top Slip) with a professional bird guide. Despite whatever programme we had on a day a log of all observations was kept throughout. Figures are not accurate counts but rather rough estimates filled into the computer each evening.

The South is very relaxed compared to the hectic Gangetic plains in Northern India – it is genuine holiday country. Our cultural activities were in particular directed towards a number of Hindu temples and a stay in the cultural melting-pot of Kochi on the westcoast. Besides, the visit to Tarangambadi (Trankebar) was a very special experience as this former Danish tradeport (1616-1845) still holds buildings, churches etc. from the period as a Danish colony.

The observations of mammals by far surpassed expectations. Lion-tailed Macaque was the overall star and the observation of a roadside flock was indeed spectacular. But also the Nilgiri Tahr, the other primates (Bonnet Macaque, Nilgiri Langur and Tufted Grey Langur) and the squirrel diversity was something hoped for. Elephants always make a day but other large mammals proved difficult and remained unseen. A Gaur within smelling distance was the closest.

The birdlife is extremely rich – in particular the unique diversity induced by high variety of habitats in the Western Ghats. These mountains are spectacular when undisturbed – steep and forest clad or undulating grassland - in sharp contrast to the degraded parts and here in particular the evergreen ‘plastic’-landscapes formed by the tea-plantations. Most forest birds came in as hoped for and we saw most of the endemics – even when following the recent trend of splitting a number of species. Sri Lanka Frogmouth was the main target, but many other nice species could be mentioned: Spot-billed Pelican, Black Baza, Mountain Hawk-Eagle (southern subspecies), Painted Bush-Quail, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Blue-faced Malkoha, Brown Fish Owl, Malabar Trogon, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, White-bellied Woodpecker, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Indian Pitta, Malabar Lark, Hill Swallow, Nilgiri Pipit, Forest Wagtail, Grey-headed Bulbul, Yellow-throated Bulbul, White-bellied & Nilgiri Blue Robin, Black-and-Orange Flycatcher and many others. A Tawny Eagle at Munnar, a new site for Yellow-throated Bulbul (close to Top Slip) and three records of the ‘Phillipine’ Shrike – the eastern subspecies of Brown Shrike – are unusual records.

Following the three weeks in Southern India, UGS had an extension week in Gujarat – revisiting sites we both visited two years ago. In particular a five days stay with Jugal Tiwari at his ‘Center for Desert and Ocean’ near the Banni grassland was a most spectacular experience. Following a good monsoon there was plenty of water and birdlife was exceptionally rich. The Gujarat specialties were all co-operative: Great Indian Bustard, White-naped Tit and Grey Hypocottus. Unexpected were the first records in Gujarat of Caspian Plover and Water Pipit – the first a genuine vagrant but the last probably a regular visitor in wet years. Jugal Tiwari’s finding of the Kutch as a regular wintering-area for Sand Martins was confirmed. Some Grey-necked Buntings with yellowish wash to the eye-ring were a challenge to the law of the guide-books. Records in February of Steppe Buzzard (3) and White-winged Black Tern (5) are perhaps also unusual.

A brief visit to the Little Rann of Kutch produced the expected observations of the Khur but also the start of the spring-migration of Demoiselle Crane with 2000+ arriving during the morning. A final last day in Delhi was partly spent at the Sultanpur Jheel.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kaj Halberg and Ole Frode Jacobsen gave good advice during the planning phase of the trip. Hans Jørgen Bruun made as usual the booking of air-tickets. Thorkild Michaelsen did good guiding around Mysore.

Kalypso Adventures worked top professional with the vehicle and some accommodation and can only be strongly recommended. Thomas did the communication & booking, Satyan was a most pleasant companion and expert guide and Gorgi did all the driving throughout and was always in a splendid mood and helpful.

Jugal Tiwari, his family & staff made the visit to the Banni grassland a most memorable experience. Here I also enjoyed a brief chance-meeting with the local ornithologists, Shantilal N. Varu and Ashwin Pomal.

Mr. Malik at Desert Couser in Zainabad as usual helped with lots of information and generously took me on a couple of exciting spot-lighting drives.

Captain Suresh Sharma is thanked for the most pleasant last day around Delhi with multiple good discussions. Looking forward to the up-coming projects!

Lene Smith and Uffe Gjøl Sørensen

## PRACTICALITIES

Air tickets were booked through Hans Jørgen Bruun at BTI Nordic (Aarhus, Denmark). Copenhagen-Chennai & Bangalore-Copenhagen was combined for Lene, while Uffe had return-flight Delhi-Copenhagen and some domestic flights (Bangalore-Mumbai, Mumbai-Bhuj, Ahmedabad-Delhi). International flights were with Lufthansa while domestic flights were with Jet Airways - all flights on schedule and with no technical problems.

Southern India: Our hotel the first night in Mamallapuram was booked over the net and included transfer from Chennai Airport (1 hour drive). On the morning of the second day, we were picked up by a driver booked for 20 days through Kalypso Adventures in Kochi (735 €all costs included). KA is specialized in visits by birders to southern India and they can only be strongly recommended (Thomas ; info@kalypsoadventures.com). Everything worked smoothly. Gorgi was a most pleasant and efficient driver, who always took the necessary security precautions in the often rather chaotic Indian traffic. His English is sufficient for a smooth arrangement and he has an excellent outlook for up-coming practicalities on the way – and was constantly days ahead of us in the planning. He is used to the traditional birder-route and therefore knows e.g. where to stop for Yellow-throated Bulbul at Bodi Ghat. The car was a traditional Indian Ambassador. Not known for its speed and modern comfort but roomy and perfect for our use. In general the trip was improvised from day to day following a plan of where to go. We had no hotel-reservations but faced few problems – in Madurai the medium class hotels near the Temple were fully booked and we ended up a little out of the centre on our arrival and in a one star hotel on the second night with direct view over the temple. Exception from this general approach was the three days at Thattekad and the three days at Top Slip, where we had asked Kalypso Adventures to arrange accommodation. Top Slip is known for cumbersome bureaucracy and we didn't have the time to find such extra challenge amusing. In addition for these six days we had hired Satyan Meppayur as expert guide (270 €incl. accommodation & transport costs). Satyan is one of the top-birders of Kerala and he has a vast knowledge of the birds, their calls etc – he literally brought our birding up to a higher level.

Gujarat: Access to the Banni grassland and other interesting sites in western Gujarat has improved dramatically since Jugal Tiwari has established his 'Center for Desert and Ocean' (CEDO) in Moti Virani near Nakhtrana, 53 km west of Bhuj. I stayed at Jugal's excellent centre for five nights and enjoyed every second. Jugal has an intimate knowledge of the whole area and knows the whereabouts of the tricky Hypocolius. Finding this unique species on its most eastern winter-sites without knowing their roosts will be like finding the famous needle in the hay-stack. It became long days in the field with activities from dawn to dusk – and discussions continuing after dark. Jugal has a 4W and can arrange trips to any place around, guiding and full-board accommodation (with excellent Gujarati food) at very reasonable prices. Contact by e-mail: [cedoindia@yahoo.com](mailto:cedoindia@yahoo.com), telephone 02835-200025 or 221284, cell-phone 09825248135. CEDO is located on the quite outskirts of the Moti Virani village and is within walking distance from hills with a fair chance for White-naped Tit! - Jugal organized my transfer to the Little Rann of Kutch at Zainabad. Here I stayed at the long established Desert Coursers and enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and smoothly organized jeep-trips morning and afternoon to the nearby Kutch - lots of birds and the handsome Wild Asses are a guarantee. I stayed two nights and had an early transfer (04:00-06:15) to Ahmedabad Airport for my morning-flight to Delhi (local taxi, 1000 Rs).

New Delhi: I was picked up by Capt. Suresh Sharma (reptilist and tour leader, Wildhiss) and taken on a nice walk around Sultanpur Jheel – south of Gurgaon and close to the airport. Rest of the day was spent discussing multiple issues and visits to book-shops at Connaught Place in the centre before I was taken to the International Airport for my return flight.

Strikes seem not be an uncommon theme in Southern India and they may cause unforeseen problems. A strike in the transport sector of Kerala on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January forced us to rush to the Eravikulam NP late in the afternoon on the 24<sup>th</sup> as access to the Park was unlikely on the following day. Our drive to Kochi on the 25<sup>th</sup> was only initiated during the afternoon when the driver and lodge-manager felt it was possible to reach Kochi without problems. The strike had an obvious impact as we drove on nearly empty roads almost until Kochi. Later in Karnataka a general strike was close to blocking our last two days. Negotiations related to an interstate agreement btw Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh of how to share use of water in the rivers caused outspoken discontent among farmers in Karnataka. When the problem became imminently threatening we checked up on information at hotels, newspapers etc. whenever possible. We were just about to cancel our planned programme for the last two days for a stay at some hotel near the airport in Bangalore. However, on grounds of a four day long Aero India show in Bangalore with international attendance the strike was delayed from Friday to Monday, when we (and other visitors) were well out of the state.



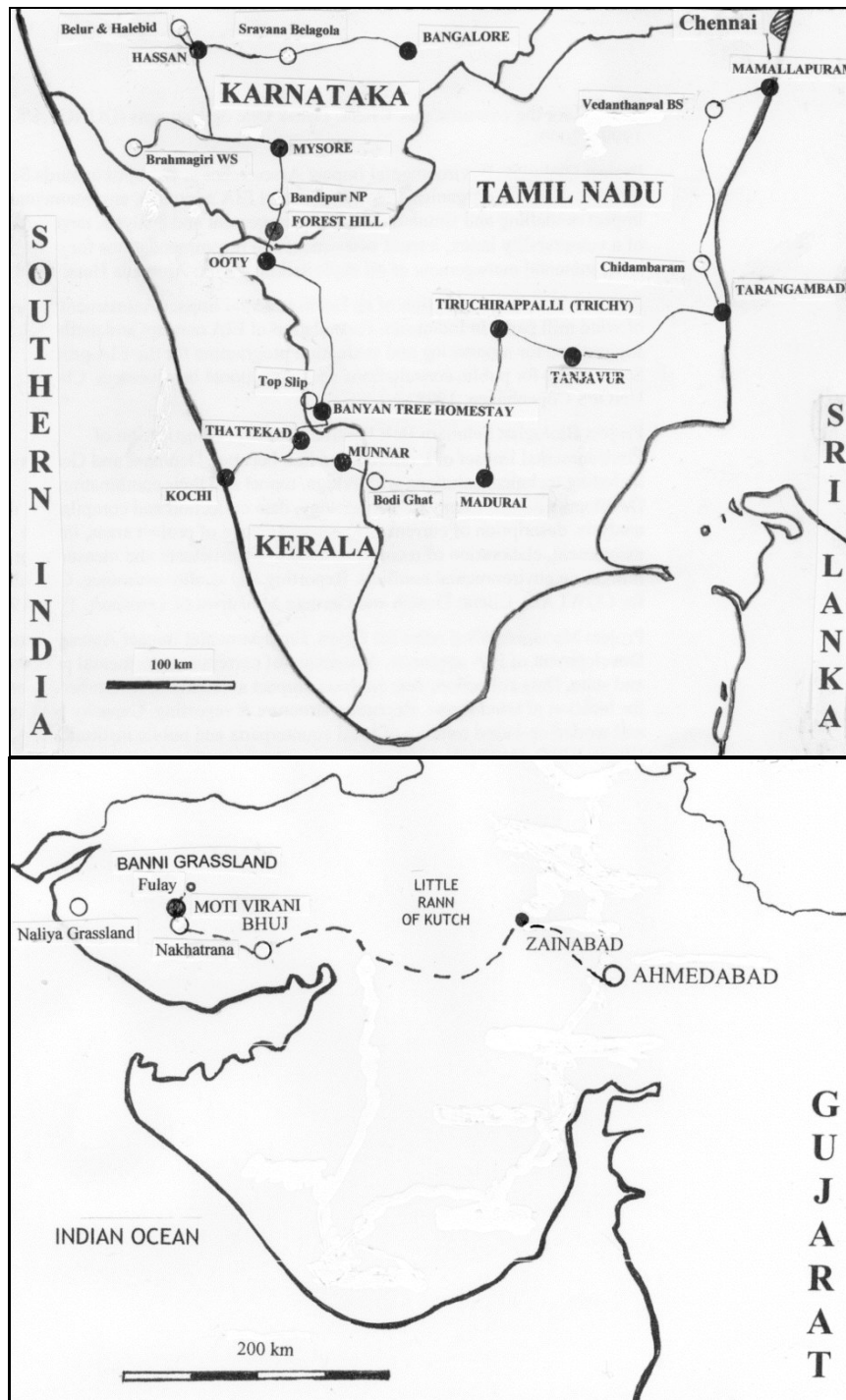
Little Rann of Kutch 15/2. Photo: Uffe Gjøel Sørensen

## ACTIVITIES

- 18/1 Departure Copenhagen (07.55, GMT +1). Stop-over in Frankfurt. Arrival Chennai 23.51 (GMT, +5½).
- 19/1 All day Mamallapuram. Morning-walk to the Shore and Rathas temples. Afternoon walk to Arjuna's relief.
- 20/1 Mallamapuram: Brief early morning walk to beach (06.35-07.10). Started driving 09:00. Brief photo stop at the Arjuna's relief. Stop at Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary (10.30-11.45). Lunch-stop at the highway north of Tindivanam and continued drive through Pondicherry to Chidambaram. Visited the temple in Chidambaram (17.45-18.30). Drive from dusk to Tarangampadi (Tranquebar) with arrival 19:50. Night at 'The Bungalow on the Beach'.
- 21/1 Tranquebar. Morning walk along beach (06:30-07:25), walk around town (08:00-10:00). Drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur (11:00-14:30) where visit to Brihadishwara temple (16:00-18:00).
- 22/1 Drive Thanjavur to Trichy (08:15-10:00). Visit to temple and rock temple. Departure 14:15 after lunch at local restaurant. Drive Trichy to Madurai (14:15-18:00) with a few stops en route.
- 23/1 Picked up at 09:00 and rest of the morning spent at the Minakshi Temple. Check-in at Hotel Sree Devi with view directly over the temple. After lunch a visit to the Thirumalai Nayaka Palace (14:25-15:00). Rest at the hotel. Late afternoon walk in and around the Minakshi temple and again late in the evening to see the Shiva procession.
- 24/1 Departure 07:30 from hotel. Stop at Bodi Ghat (10:30-11:30) btw 14 km and 10 km before Bodigatti. Drive to lunch in Munnar (13:30-14.15). Short drive to Tea Sanctuary. Late afternoon visit to Eravikulam National Park (16:15-18.55)
- 25/1 Morning at Windstate/Cardemomme Estate (07:00-11:30) – stop by dam and cave followed by walk past village and up to grassland above the highest resort. Lunch at Tea Sanctuary. Drive to Kochi (14:30-18:30).
- 26/1 Walk around Kochi Fort (09:45-13:15). Walk again to church and along beach (16:00-18:00).
- 27/1 Morning walk to the Chinese fishing net (06:30-07:55). Walk and tok-tok trip to places around the town (10:45-12:55). Drive to Hornbill Camp at Thattekkad with stops at mudflats near Kochi and fields near the airport. Walk in dry forest/scrub at Charupara - 3 km from the Hornbill Camp (17:15-19:15)
- 28/1 Departure 07:00. All morning in Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary (07:25-11:00). Afternoon trip with start 15.45 and walk in good forest (16:45-19:00).
- 29/1 Departure 07:00 All morning near Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (07:30-10.30). Walk in dry forest/scrub at Charupara - 3 km from Hornbill Camp (16.30-18.30).
- 30/1 All day drive from Thattekkad to Banyan tree Homestay near Top Slip (05:50-18:45). Took a short-cut through an estate (Athirappally (near water fall)) to reach long drive through the Sholayar Forest to Tamil Nadu border-post west of Valpareia. Continued through farmland in Tamil Nadu. Stop at Puthuthottam – a remnant forest patch 4 km from Valparei known for population of Lion-tailed Macaque (14:00-16:00). Drive up through tea-estates and had the fabulous drive down the Azhiyar Ghat (40 hairpins) with stops at viewpoint (by the hairpin 9) and at the bottom. Reached the coconut estate and drove slowly through this and farmland to the Banyan Tree Homestay (17:30-18:45).
- 31/1 Top Slip all day. Departure from lodge 07:05. Ascent 07.20-08:00. Morning walk around bamboo and rather open forest (08:30-11:30). Packed lunch and mid-day rest enjoyed at small botanical garden with medicinal plants. Afternoon walk in dense forest (15:30-18:00). Descent (18:00-18.25). Back at lodge 19:00.
- 1/2 Morning visit to Top Slip. Ascent 07:30-08:45. Walk 09:00-11:00. Descent 11:00-12:00. Farewell to Satyan. Afternoon visit to fields and scrub near Banyan Tree Homestay (16:00-18:30).
- 2/2 Drive to Ooty (07:00-14:00). With stop at lake south of Coimbatore and near the top of the ascent to Coonoor. Check-in at Regency Villas and short walk around. Afternoon visit to Cairnhills Forest (16.00-17:50).
- 3/2 Around the hotel (06:30-07:00). Cairnshill Forest (07:05-08:15). Descent Singhur Ghat to river (09:30-11:30). Check-in in Forest Hill Lodge. Drive to Theppakadu and bus-drive of fixed route through good forest (16.15-16.55). Afterwards we watched the feeding of the domestic elephants. 'Night'-drive along main road on the return drive to Forest hill Lodge (18:30-20:00).
- 4/2 Around camp (06:00-07:00). Fabulous walk from camp through dense forest and up steep slopes (07:15-11:15). Around camp (12:00-14:00). Drive to Bandipur NP and jeep-gamedrive (15:35-17:00). Drive to Mysore, with arrival after dark (19:40).
- 5/2 Visit by motorbike to farm 12 km outside Mysore (08:45-12.10). Afternoon visit to Chamundi Hills (16:10-18:00).
- 6/2 Drive to Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary (07:15-10:30). Visit to forest office and afterwards trekking to grassland through excellent forest with dense bamboo at Irpu Waterfall (9 km from Shrimangala). Return drive 15:30-19:00.
- 7/2 Drive from Mysore to Hassan (07:30-12:00). Check-in and lunch at hotel Southern Stars. Afternoon drive to Halebidu and Belur temples through degraded farmland (13:30-18:15).
- 8/2 Drive from Hassan to Bangalore (08:45-17:00), with stop at Sravana Belgola (10:30-14:00). Late afternoon arrival in Bangalore. Transfer for Lene before midnight to the airport.
- 9/2 Departure for Lene around 03.00 – start of flight back to Denmark. Departure for Uffe later in the morning. Flight Bangalore to Mumbai (08:55-10:35). Flight Mumbai to Bhuj (13:40-15:20). Taxi to Moti Virani. Late afternoon walk around village.
- 10/2 Drive to Fulay (07:00-07:35). Walk in farmland next to the village (07:35-10:00). On the return drive walk in Acacia-scrub (10:15-11:30). Afternoon visit to Vyara hills near Nakhatrana (15:00-19:00).
- 11/2 All day trip to coastal grassland and Acacia-forest. For most species all day combined, but some specific observations have been specified to the following sites: Jathavera Forest and nearby village, Naliya grassland, coast near Pingleshwararounds and Chiyasar Reserve Forest.



- 12/2 All day at Banni Grassland (07:00-19:25). Freshwater lake Chhari Dhand (10.00-13.00). Saltish lake Hodko Dhand (15:00-16:15). Brief visit to Servo Dhand lake. Sunset at Kar (near Chhari Dhand).
- 13/2 Morning walk to Pakhdo hills near Moti Virani (08:00-10:30). Banni grassland (15.00-18.45) with visit to Servo Dhand and Kar (sunset; near Chhari Dhand).
- 14/2 Drive from Moti Virani to Zainabad (06:45-14:00) with stops in Bhuj in order to cash money and at the extensive salines around the bridge across the Kutch. Drive from Zainabad to 'river-site' (16:15-19:30) – 40 min drive each way.
- 15/2 Short morning walk around Desert Coursers (07:00-07:40). Drive to lake and walk here (08:15-11:00). Afternoon drive to the dry Kutch (16:00-18:30) followed by a spotlighting from jeep in farmland (18:30-20:00) and again near the village (22:15-23:00).
- 16/2 Transfer by taxi from Zainabad to Ahmedabad Airport (04:10-06:15). Flight to Delhi (08:10-09:35). Picked up by Suresh Sharma and taken to Sultanpuhr Jheel (11:00-13:30). Rest of afternoon in Delhi center.
- 17/2 Flight departure 03.15 (GMT +05.30) and arrival in Copenhagen 09:25 (GMT +1) with a stop-over in Frankfurt (06:35-07:55, GMT +1).



## LITERATURE

Guide-books: Niven, C. et al. 2005. Lonely Planet Travel Guide: South India. Lonely Planet.

Lauridsen, S. & K. Halberg (2006): *Turen går til Indien*. Politikens Forlag  
*In Danish – has very useful general introductions.*

Kazmierczak, Krys & R. Singh (1998): *A Birdwatchers' Guide to India*. Birdwatchers' Guide.  
*Indispensable for the planning and constantly during the trip.*

Field guides:

Mammals:

Menon, Vivil. 2003. A Field Guide to Indian Mammals. DK Delhi.  
*Very usefull for most non-mice/bat species.*

Birds:

Rasmussen, P.C. & J. Anderton. 2005. *Birds of South Asia. The Ripley Guide*. Vols. 1 and 2. Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions, Washington, D.C. and Barcelona.  
*Unavoidable for a trip to Southern India with its new and refreshing view on the systematics of Indian birds. Vol. 1 with the plates is acceptable in the field but it's a limitation that the text only gives information on fieldcharacters. I.e. information of habitat is often ugently needed. Vol. 2 contains a wealth of information. I never got used to the histograms of song and calls but for a longer stay these are undoubtedly useful.*

Reptiles and Amphibians:

Daniel, J.C. 2002. *The Book on Indian Reptiles and Amphibians*. Bombay Natural History Society. Oxford University Press.  
*Very usefull for the non-specialist, who wants to find names for the common species seen.*

Whitaker, R. & A. Captain. 2004. Snakes of India. The Field Guide. Draco Books.  
*Excellent book for the specialist.*

## SITE NOTES

For Southern India there is not much to add to Kazmierczak & Singh (1998). Having a guide for six days made our birding here even easier. The record of Yellow-troated Bulbul at Azhiyar Ghat Road (at the view-point by hairpin 9) is conveniently near Top Slip and may save many a visit to Bodi Ghat – if it is a regular site. Western part of Gujarat is not covered in detail in Kazmierczak & Singh. Birding here is very much facilitated by the opportunity to hire Jugal Tiwari as a guide. The Hypocolius roosts are in most years occupied from November to late March with some variation from year to year. They are partly on private land and visits to these still remote rural areas need discretion and good local contacts. Jugal can fascilite all this. The White-naped Tit is quite a difficult species. It occurs in low desities and moves around a lot.

## ADDITIONAL USEFUL ADDRESSES

Accommodation in Munnar:

The Tea Sanctuary, Kanan Devan Hills Plantation Company Private Limited, KDPH House, Munnar-685 612, India, e-mail: [runsini\\_jacob@rediffmail.com](mailto:runsini_jacob@rediffmail.com). Co-ordinator/Operations by Runsini P. Jacob. Mobile 9447521894.

There are a few very good rooms available in this former residence of a tea estate owner. Very colonial style. While the location in the middle of a large tea plantation makes the site a bit boring in respect of the birds, the estate is part of the big Tata Tea Company and they issue a special permit for using your own vehicle on visits to the tourist-area of Eravikulam NP (access here is otherwise in busses run by the Park). A very good advantages and this also makes it possible to leave the Park after the formal closing hour of 17:00.

Accommodation in Mudumalai:

Forest Hills Farm & Guest House, Bokkapuram, Masinagudi Post, The Nilgiris, 643 223 South India. E-mail: [contact@foresthills-resort.com](mailto:contact@foresthills-resort.com). Web-site: [www.foresthills-resort.com](http://www.foresthills-resort.com).

The guesthouse is well run and has a number of huts and good food. It is one among a number of small lodges around Masinagudi. However, we can warmly recommend it for the junglewalk guided by the manager, Mr. K. Radha Krishnan. This was through dense forest and up steep ravines and slopes. Exciting beyond words.

Accommodation in Zainabad:

Desert Coursers. Telephone 02757-241333 (the lodge) or -241220 (residence). A well run lodge with excellent food and well organized jeep rides both morning and afternoon. The owners, the Malik family, has very detailed knowledge of the wildlife around and can assist with up-dates on most species.

## LISTS OF RECORDS

Notes are summarized in three sections: **SI:** Southern India, **G:** Gujarat and **D:** New Delhi-area. A \* indicates that photo-documentation of the species was obtained during the trip.

### MAMMALS

Systematic and sequence follows Duff, A. & A. Lawson. 2004. Mammals of the World. A Checklist. A & C Black, London.

- 1 **Indian (Black-naped) Hare** *Lepus nigricollis*. **SI:** 28/1 faeces Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 4/2 1 Forest Hills, 1 near Forest Hills. **G:** 10/2 2 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 15/2 2 (spot-lighting; farmland) dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 2 **\*Malabar Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa indica*. **SI:** 28/1 2 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 2 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 2 Puthuthottam (4 km from Valparai), 1/2 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 3/2 1 Cairnhill Forest (Ooty), 1 Singhur Ghat, 1 Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 4/2 4 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 2 Bandipur NP.
- 3 **Layard's Striped Squirrel** *Funambulus layardi*. **SI:** 25/1 5+ Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 31/1 1 Ascent to Top Slip.
- 4 **\*Three-striped Palm Squirrel** *Funambulus palmarum*. **SI:** 19/1 30+ Mamallapuram, 20/1 1 Mamallapuram, 2 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 3 Brishadishwra temple, 22/1 3 Rock Fort Temple, Trichy, 23/1 15+ Bodi Ghat, 24/1 2 Bodi Ghat, 26/1 Kochi Fort, 5/2 2 Chamundi Hills, 7/2 1 drive Mysore to Hassan, 2 Belur, 8/2 2 Sravana Belgola.
- 5 **Five-striped Palm Squirrel** *Funambulus pennantii*. **G:** 10/2 3 Fulay, 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 4 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 1 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 2 Banni Grassland, 14/2 30 Desert Courser (Zainabad), 15/2 30 Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 15 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 6 **Dusky Striped Squirrel** *Funambulus sublineatus*. **SI:** 29/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 31/1 2 Top Slip, 3/2 1 Singhur Ghat.
- 7 **Jungle Striped Squirrel** *Funambulus tristriatus*. **SI:** 30/1 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road, 31/1 1 Top Slip, 1/2 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay. Possible records of this sibling species to Three-striped Squirrel which Menon (2003) report 'indistinguishable from Three-striped Squirrel except for jungle distribution'.
- 8 **Un-identified Gerbil** *Muridae sp.* **G:** 15/2 2 dry Kutch near Zainabad, 16/2 2 drive Zainabad to Ahmedabad.
- 9 **House Mouse** *Mus musculus*. 13/1 2 Moti Virani.
- 10 **Lesser Bandicoot Rat** *Bandicota bengalensis*. 12/2 1 seen + immense numbers of burrows drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 immense number of burrows Servo Dhand.
- 11 **[Indian Porcupine** *Hystrix indica*]. **SI:** 6/2 2 quills Brahmagiri WS.
- 12 **Small Indian Civet** *Viverricula indica*. **SI:** 1/2 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay.
- 13 **Jungle Cat** *Felis chaus*. **G:** 15/2 1 Zainabad.
- 14 **[Leopard** *Panthera panter*]. **SI:** 4/2 faeces + 2 days old kill of a Spotted Deer walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 15 **[Tiger** *Panthera tigris*]. **SI:** 31/1 track Top Slip - morning, 4/2 claw marks in trees walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 16 **Small Indian Mongoose** *Herpestes auropunctatus*. **G:** 11/2 1 driving to Naliya grassland.
- 17 **\*Grey Mongoose** *Herpestes edwardsii*. **SI:** 3/2 1 near Forest Hills (Masainagudi). **G:** 9/2 1 near Moti Virani, 10/2 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 1 female 3 juveniles driving to Naliya grassland.
- 18 **\*Ruddy Mongoose** *Herpestes smithii*. **SI:** 4/2 1 ad + 1 immature Bandipur NP.



Photo: Lene Smith

- 19 **Stripe-necked Mongoose** *Herpestes urva*. **SI:** 4/2 1 Bandipur NP.
- 20 **Golden Jackal** *Canis aureus*. **SI:** 31/1 1 near Baynan Tree lodge. **G:** 11/2 1+2 Pingleshwar, 13/2 1 drive Fulay to Moti Virani.
- 21 **\*[Sloth Bear** *Melursus ursinus*]. **SI:** 1/2 track Top Slip - morning, 4/1 2 tracks + digged holes walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).  
**[Honey Badger** *Mellivora capensis*]. **G:** 11/2 tracks?? Jathavera Forest and nearby village.
- 22 **Long-eared Hedgehog** *Hemichinus collaris*. **G:** 12/2 1 drive btw Fulay and Moti Virama.
- 23 **Flying Fox** *Pteropus giganteus*. **SI:** 20/1 10+ Vadanthangal Bird Sanctuary.
- 24 **Un-identified Bat**. **SI:** Hz means frequency record by use of my bat detector. I have no details of frequencies used by Indian bats – so the records made were just a bit of extra fun. Not very many bats recorded, though. 19/1 at least two species perhaps more after sunset at the large rock panel – a small species flying like a typical bat and a significant larger with an almost falcon-like direct flight., 20/1 1+ temple in Chidambaram, 21/1 1 + heard Brishadishwra temple, 23/1 22-25 Hz species recorded from hotel balcony, 24/1 Tea Sanctuary (Munnar) 21-25 Hz different from species on 23/1, 28/1 1 large, slender-winged bat Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 12-20 Hz in regular rhythmic sequence recorded from Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 3 large, slender-winged bats flying high and coming rather early + 5+ small and low flying coming late Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 12-20 Hz in

regular rhythm from Hornbill Camp, 30/1 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 1/2 small and medium size seen flying near ground near Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 more sizes 'Night'-drive Mudumalai, 4/2 1 medium sized Forest Hills, 13/2 Moti Virama, 15/2 37.5 Hz Zainabad.

- 25 **Un-identified horseshoe bat** *Rhinolophidae* sp. **SI:** 22/1 10+ Rock Fort Temple, Trichy – large free-hanging bats in the ceiling of the stair to the temple – large free ears – pale backs, 23/1 50+ Minakshi temple.
- 26 **\*Tufted Grey Langur** *Semnopithecus [entellus] priam*. **SI:** 31/1 10+1 hybrid (with Nilgiri Langur) Ascent to Top Slip, 1 with Nilgiri Langur Top Slip, 1/2 8 Ascent to Top Slip, 6 Banyan Tree Homestay., **SI:** 3/2 12+ Singhur River, 50+ Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 4/2 2xflock walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 10+ Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 30+ Bandipur NP. Around Top Slip the weakly differentiated ssp. *terpsites* should be found, while the rest should belong to ssp. *priam*.
- 27 **\*Nilgiri Langur** *Trachypithecus johnii*. **SI:** 30/1 8+2+ 3 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 2 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 31/1 25 + 5+ hybrids Top Slip, 1/2 1+1+2 Top Slip – morning.
- 28 **Rhesus Macaque** *Macaca mulatto*. **D:** 16/2 4 Domestic Airport.
- 29 **\*Bonnet Macaque** *Macaca radiata*. **SI:** 19/1 30+ Mamallapuram, 20/1 3 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 7 temple in Chidambaram, 25/1 2 drive Munnar to Kochi, 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 30/1 50+ Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 1 Top Slip, 1/2 8 Top Slip Hq, 8 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 10+ flocks Ascent to Coonoor, 3/2 2 Singhur river, 20 Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 4/2 50+ Mudumalai, 300+ Bandipur, 50+ drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 20+ Chamundi Hills, 6/2 50+ drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS.
- 30 **\*Lion-tailed Macaque** *Macaca silenus*. **SI:** 30/1 20+ Puthuthottam (4 km from Valparai).
- 31 **Indo-Pacific Hump-backed Dolphin** *Sousa chinensis*. **SI:** 27/1 4-6 Fort Kochi.
- 32 **\*Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa*. **SI:** 31/1 10+ Top Slip, 1/2 18 Top Slip - morning, 3 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 30+ Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 4/2 1 Bandipur NP. **G:** 15/2 1+6 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 33 **Mouse Deer** *Moschiola meminna*. **SI:** 4/2 1 Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 34 **Indian Muntjac** *Muntiacus muntjak*. **SI:** 31/1 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 6/2 1 heard Brahmagiri WS.
- 35 **Sambar** *Cervus unicolor*. **SI:** 3/2 3 'Night'-drive Mudumalai, 4/2 6 Bandipur NP, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS.
- 36 **\*Spotted Deer** *Axis axis*. **SI:** 28/1 6 (introduced) Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1/2 2 Top Slip - morning, 3/2 50+ Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 5 'Night'-drive Mudumalai, 4/2 4 Forest Hills, 1 killed by leopard walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 100+ Bandipur NP.
- 37 **Chinkara** *Gazella bennettii*. **G:** 11/2 1 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 3 Pingleishwar, 14/2 2 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad).
- 38 **\*Nilgiri Tahr** *Hemitragus hylocrius*. **SI:** 24/1 25 Eravikulam National Park.
- 39 **\*Nilgai** *Boselaphus tragocamelus*. **G:** 10/2 faeces Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 12 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 35 Pingleishwar, 14/2 4 males river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 45+ dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 30 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 40 **Gaur** *Bos gaurus*. **SI:** 31/1 dung Top Slip, 1/2 dung Top Slip, 4/2 one bull so close that the smell was distinct but not seen for security reasons in the dense forest + dung walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 41 **\*Khur (Wild Ass)** *Equus hemionus khur*. 14/2 2+3+10 E of Dhrangahdra, 15+ near Patdi, 24+17 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 50+ dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 42 **\*Asian Elephant** *Elephas maximus*. **SI:** 28/1 faeces Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 30/1 dung Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 dung Top Slip, 1/2 dung Top Slip - morning, 3/2 9+4+10 Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 4/2 heard tree times + lots of dung walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 1 female with 1½ month old calf Bandipur NP, 6/2 dung Brahmagiri WS.



Mudumalai 3/2. Photo: Uffe Gjøl Sørensen



## BIRDS Systematics and sequence more or less follows Pamela Rasmussen & J.Anderton (2005).

- 1 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. **SI:** 22/1 25+ drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 25/1 1 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 2/2 500+ lake south of Coimbatore, 4/2 6 Bandipur NP, 5 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 7/2 25+ drive Mysore to Hassan, 10 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 75+ near Sravana Belgola. **G:** 11/2 4 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 12/2 75+ Chhari Dhand, 14/2 2 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 25 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 2 **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*. **G:** 12/2 8 Chhari Dhand.
- 3 **Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*. **G:** 12/2 75 Chhari Dhand, 14/2 9 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 15/2 10 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 4 **\*Dalmatian Pelican** *Pelecanus crispus*. **G:** 11/2 1 driving to Naliya grassland, 1 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 12/2 5 Chhari Dhand, 15/2 8 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 5 **\*Spot-billed Pelican** *Pelecanus philippensis*. **SI:** 20/1 400+ adults at a lot of nests (estimated 200+ pair) Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 5/2 2 drive to 12 km E of Mysore.



Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary. Photo: Uffe Gjøl Sørensen

- 6 **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. **SI:** 5/2 6 drive to 12 km E of Mysore. **G:** 12/2 1 Pingleshwar, 14/2 5 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 7 **Little Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax niger*. **SI:** 20/1 50+ at colony Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 22/1 10+ drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 1 Trichy, 5 drive Trichy to Madurai, 23/1 2 over-flying Madurai, 24/1 10 over flying drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 25/1 10 over flying Kochi, 27/1 1 Fort Kochi, 5 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 1 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 1 near Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 30/1 10 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 2/2 800+ lake south of Coimbatore, 4/2 5 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 6/2 10+ Mysore, 7/2 25+ drive Mysore to Hassan, 5 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 25 near Sravana Belgola, 5 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 11/2 5 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 5 Chhari Dhand, 14/2 5 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 2 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 200 Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 30 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 8 **\*Oriental Darter** *Anhinga [melanogaster] melanogaster*. **SI:** 20/1 100+ at colony Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 24/1 1 drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 28/1 1 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 2/2 50+ lake south of Coimbatore, 7/2 1 drive Mysore to Hassan. **D:** 16/2 1 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 9 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*. **SI:** 20/1 50+ at colony Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 25/1 1 Kochi, 2/2 1 lake south of Coimbatore, 7/2 1 drive around Halebid & Belur. **G:** 11/2 1 Pingleshwar, 12/2 15 Chhari Dhand, 13/2 5 Servo Dhand, 14/2 5 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 5 around Patdi, 15/2 10 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 5 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 10 **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*. **SI:** 27/1 4 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 1 juvenile Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1 ad drive towards Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 2/2 20+ lake south of Coimbatore, 7/2 1+1 drive Mysore to Hassan, 3 drive around Halebid & Belur. **G:** 12/2 1 Chhari Dhand, 15/2 12 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.

- 11 **Great White Egret** *Egretta alba*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Mamallapuram, 20/1 10+ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 50 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 22/1 5 all day, 27/1 2 Fort Kochi, 2 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 1 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 30/1 2 Athirappally (near water fall), 2/2 1 lake south of Coimbatore, 4/2 1 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 7/2 20 drive Mysore to Hassan, 8/2 5 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 1 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 1 Moti Virani, 12/2 25 Chhari Dhand, 14/2 1 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 15/2 30 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/210 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 12 **Intermediate Heron** *Egretta intermedia*. **SI:** 20/1 1 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 21/1 2 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 27/1 1 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 4/2 3 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 7/2 2 drive Mysore to Hassan, 8/2 50+ near Sravana Belgola. **G:** 14/2 1 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 15/2 5 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 13 **Little Egret** *Egretta garzatta*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Mamallapuram, 20/1 10+ at colony Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 22/1 5 all day, 24/1 2 drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 27/1 5 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 1 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 1 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 4/2 1 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 6/2 15+ drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 50+ drive Mysore to Hassan, 8/2 10+ drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 12/2 20 Chhari Dhand, 13/2 5 Servo Dhand, 14/2 10 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 5 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 40 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 50 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 14 **Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Mamallapuram, 26/1 2? White phase Fort Kochi, 27/1 4 dark phase Fort Kochi. **G:** 12/2 1 dark phase Chhari Dhand, 14/2 100+ bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya). An inland record at Chhari Dhand.
- 15 **\*Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus [ibis] coromandus*. **SI:** 20/1 50+ at colony Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 50+ drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 25+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 600+ all day, 23/1 7 over flying Madurai, 24/1 50+ drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 25/1 50+ around Kochi, 27/1 1 Fort Kochi, 250+ drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 5 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 5 over flying Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 20+ drive towards Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 6 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 20 Athirappally (near water fall), 2/2 50+ all day, 5/2 5 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 20 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 150 drive Mysore to Hassan, 20 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 300+ drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 20 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 10/2 20+ Fulay, 45 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 500+ driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 2 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 10 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 20 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 100+ Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 50+ Sultanpur Jheel.
- 16 **\*Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*. **SI:** 19/1 7 Mamallapuram, 20/1 50+ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 100+ drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 50+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 50+ all day, 24/1 10+ drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 27/1 75+ drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 10 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 10 drive towards Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 5 Athirappally (near water fall), 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 1/2 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 50+ lake south of Coimbatore, 3/2 3 near Ooty, 3/2 1 Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 4/2 2 Bandipur NP, 1 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 30+ Mysore, 6/2 50+ drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 2 Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 50+ drive Mysore to Hassan, 30 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 30+ drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 10/2 4 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 50 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 5 Chhari Dhand, 14/2 5 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 20 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 30 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 30 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 17 **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*. **SI:** 20/1 40+ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 22/1 1 Madurai.
- 18 **\*Painted Stork** *Mycteria leucocephala*. **SI:** 20/1 150+ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 7/2 2 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 10/2 1 Fulay, 11/2 1 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 13/2 2 juvenile Servo Dhand, 14/2 35 Patdi, 15/2 2 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 19 **\*Asian Openbill** *Anastomus oscitans*. **SI:** 20/1 500+ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 80 (flock) drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 5 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 5+3 drive Trichy to Madurai, 25/1 8 near Kochi, 7/2 3 drive Mysore to Hassan, 15 drive around Halebid & Belur.
- 20 **\*White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*. **G:** 12/2 26 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 25 Servo Dhand.
- 21 **Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*. **D:** 16/2 1 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 22 **Black-headed Ibis** *Threskionis melanocephalus*. **SI:** 20/1 15+ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 4/2 4 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 4 Mysore, 7/2 30 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 12/2 7 drive in Banni grassland, 15/2 2 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 23 **Indian Black Ibis** *Pseudibis papillosa*. **SI:** 6/2 7 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 2 drive Mysore to Hassan, 1 drive around Halebid & Belur. **G:** 9/2 3 Moti Virani, 11/2 20 driving to Naliya grassland, 14/2 3 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 2 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 24 **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*. **SI:** 20/1 1 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary. **G:** 12/2 1 Chhari Dhand, 15/2 8 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 25 **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*. **SI:** 20/1 30+ at colony Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary. **G:** 12/2 15 Chhari Dhand, 13/2 50 Servo Dhand, 14/2 50 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 60+ river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 100 + 2 nests with halfgrown chicks bird-lake near Zainabad, 50 (in farmland) dry Kutch near Zainabad. **D:** 16/2 10 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 26 **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*. **G:** 12/2 54 Hodko Dhand, 14/2 30 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 7 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad).
- 27 **\*Lesser Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus minor*. **G:** 12/2 3000 (incl. 300 juveniles) Hodko Dhand, 13/2 250 Servo Dhand, 14/2 250 (incl. juveniles) river-site near Patdi (Zainabad).
- 28 **Lesser Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica*. **SI:** 28/1 80 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 7/2 10 drive Mysore to Hassan.
- 29 **\*Grey-lag Goose** *Anser anser*. **G:** 15/2 200+ bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 300 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 30 **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*. **G:** 14/2 1 male river-site near Patdi (Zainabad).
- 31 **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*. **G:** 14/2 6 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 30 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 32 **Comb Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*. **G:** 11/2 2 Jathavera Forest and nearby village.
- 33 **Cotton Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*. **SI:** 7/2 12 drive Mysore to Hassan, 8/2 75+ near Sravana Belgola.
- 34 **Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*. **G:** 12/2 2000+ Chhari Dhand, 13/2 1 Servo Dhand, 14/2 1 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 15 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 10 Sultanpur Jheel.

- 35 **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*. **G:** 12/2 100+ Chhari Dhand, 15/2 200+ bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 300 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 36 **Common Teal** *Anas crecca*. **SI:** 4/2 10+ drive Bandipur to Mysore, **G:** 12/2 800 Chhari Dhand, 1100 Hodko Dhand, 13/2 2000 Servo Dhand, 15/2 50 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 100 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 37 **\*Spot-billed Duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha*. **SI:** 4/2 8 Bandipur NP, 15/2 8 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 20 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 38 **\*Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*. **SI:** 20/1 9 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 4/2 15+ drive Bandipur to Mysore, 7/2 5 drive Mysore to Hassan, **G:** 12/2 3000+ Chhari Dhand, 13/2 35 Servo Dhand, 15/2 2000+ bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 200 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 39 **Garganey** *Anas querquedula*. **SI:** 20/1 1 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 22/1 10+600 drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 2/2 150 lake south of Coimbatore, 4/2 12+ drive Bandipur to Mysore, **G:** 12/2 5 Chhari Dhand, 14/2 4 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 40 **\*Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*. **SI:** 20/1 3 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 2/2 75 lake south of Coimbatore, 4/1 25+ drive Bandipur to Mysore, **G:** 12/2 300 Chhari Dhand, 150 Hodko Dhand, 13/2 25 Servo Dhand, 14/2 1 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 1000 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 200+ bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 2000 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 41 **Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*. **G:** 12/2 50 Chhari Dhand, 14/2 1 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad.
- 42 **Black Baza** *Aviceda leuphotes*. **SI:** 29/1 1 immature Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekad). Seen briefly and identified by Satyan.
- 43 **Oriental Honey-Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhyncus*. **SI:** 24/1 1 drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 30/1 7 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 1/2 1 male in display Top Slip – morning, 4/2 2 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 2 Brahmagiri WS. **G:** 13/2 1 Moti Virani.
- 44 **Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Mamallapuram, 20/1 4 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 5 drive Trichy to Madurai, 24/1 2 drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 27/1 1 drive Kochi to Thattekad, 6/2 1 drive Brahmagiri WS to Mysore, 7/2 4 drive Mysore to Hassan, 1 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 2 Sravana Belgola. **G:** 9/2 1 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 10/2 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 15 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 1 driving to Naliya grassland, 14/2 25 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 2 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad, 1 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 45 **Pariah Kite** *Milvus migrans govinda*. **SI:** 19/1 2 Mamallapuram, 20/1 2 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram before Pondicherry, 25+ after Pondicherry, 21/1 2 Tarangambadi (Tranqebur), 50+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 30+ Brishadishwra temple, 22/1 100+ all day, 23/1 30+ (mainly pre-roosting late afternoon) Madurai, 24/1 5 Madurai, 25/1 1 near Kochi, 26/1 25+ Fort Kochi, 27/1 25+ Fort Kochi, 2/2 5 drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 2 Regency Villas (Ooty), 3/2 4 Mudumalai, 4/2 2 Mudumalai, 5+ (incl. at nest in village) drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 5 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 20 Chamundi Hills, 15 Mysore, 6/2 5 all day, 7/2 30+ drive Mysore to Hassan, 20 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 50+ drive Hassan to Bangalore, 10 Sravana Belgola, 9/2 20+ Mumbai. **G:** 15/2 1 Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 10 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 46 **Black-eared Kite** *Milvus [migrans] lineatus*. **D:** 16/2 1 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 47 **\*Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur Indus*. **SI:** 20/1 15+ drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram after Pondicherry, 21/1 150+ Tarangambadi (Tranqebur), 50+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 20+ Brishadishwra temple, 22/1 30+ all day, 25/1 2 adult by the dam, Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 25/1 1 near Kochi, 26/1 1 Fort Kochi, 27/1 2 Fort Kochi, 2 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekad, 28/1 1 Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 2/2 1 drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 5/2 1 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 3 Mysore, 6/2 2 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 3 drive Mysore to Hassan, 5 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 10+ drive Hassan to Bangalore, 1 Sravana Belgola.
- 48 **\*Grey-headed Fishing-eagle** *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*. **SI:** 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins).
- 49 **Short-toed Eagle** *Circus gallicus*. **SI:** 4/2 1+1 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 7/2 1 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 10/2 2 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 11/2 1 Pingleswar, 12/2 1 drive in Banni grassland.
- 50 **\*Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Thattekad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekad), 1 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 1/2 1 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 1 Bandipur NP, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS.
- 51 **\*Western Marsh-harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. **SI:** 20/1 1 male drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 2/2 5+ lake south of Coimbatore, 6/2 1 male Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 1 brown drive Mysore to Hassan, 1 male 1 brown drive around Halebid & Belur. **G:** 10/2 1 female Fulay, 12/2 75+ drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 30 Servo Dhand, 14/2 2 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 15 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- Un-identified small harrier *Circus pygargus/macrorurus*. **G:** 12/2 50+ to night-roost after sunset Kar (Banni Grassland), 13/2 50+ to night-roost Kar (Banni Grassland), 15/2 8 females mig. to night-roost dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 52 **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrorurus*. **SI:** 7/2 1 male drive around Halebid & Belur. **G:** 11/2 2 driving to Naliya grassland, 4 Pingleswar, 12/2 2 males 8 females drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 3 males 4 females Kar (Banni Grassland), 15/2 1 male mig to night-roost dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 53 **Montague's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*. **G:** 10/2 1 female btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 12/2 2 females drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 1 male Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 1 male Kar (Banni Grassland), 14/2 1 male bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 14/2 1 male river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 2 females bird-lake near Zainabad, 1 male mig. to night-roost + 1 immature male resting dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 54 **Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekad), 30/1 1+1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala).
- Un-identified Small Sparrowhawk *Accipiter sp.* **SI:** 20/1 3 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram. **G:** 10/2 1 Fulay, 15/2 3 (one possible Eurasian) dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 55 **Shikra** *Accipiter badius*. **SI:** 20/1 1 male drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 22/1 1 Madurai, 23/1 1 male in display over Minakshi, 31/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekad), 1/2 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 1 Ascent to Coonoor, 4/2 1 Bandipur NP, 5/2 1 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 7/2 1 male drive Mysore to Hassan, 1 Belur, 8/2 1 Sravana Belgola. **G:** 9/2 2 Moti Virani, 11/2 1 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 1 Moti Virani, 14/2 5 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 14/2 2 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 2 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 1 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 56 **Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*. **SI:** 25/1 2 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar.
- 57 **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*. **SI:** 2/2 1 Regency Villas (Ooty). **G:** 10/2 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana.

- 58 **White-eyed Buzzard** *Butastur teesa*. **SI:** 5/2 1 heard drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 7/2 1 drive Mysore to Hassan.

Un-identified Buzzard *Buteo* sp. **SI:** 1/2 1 flying high over (only seen briefly) Top Slip – morning.

- 59 **\*Steppe Buzzard** *Buteo buteo vulpinus*. **G:** 13/2 1 Kar (Banni Grassland), 14/2 1 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 1 (dark phase) dry Kutch near Zainabad.

Three of this distinctly small buzzard was seen. None of the recent guides to Indian birds shows the species to occur in Gujarat during winter.



Banni Grassland 13/2. Photo (digiscoped): Uffe Gjøl Sørensen

- 60 **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus*. **G:** 10/2 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 6 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 15 Banni grassland, 14/2 1 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya).

- 61 **Indian Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*. **SI:** 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala).

- 62 **Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*. **SI:** 25/1 1 immature flying over at fairly high altitude over grassland Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 7/2 1 immature drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 11/2 1 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 1 on nest Pingleshwar, 12/2 3 Chhari Dhand, 13/2 2 Banni Grassland.

- 63 **\*Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*. **G:** 12/2 15 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 70 Banni Grassland.



Banni grassland 13/2. Photo: Uffe Gjøl Sørensen

- 64 **Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*. **D:** 16/2 1 adult + 1 adult like without white on shoulders Sultanpur Jheel.

- 65 **Indian Spotted Eagle** *Aquila hastate*. **SI:** 7/2 1 ad + 1 ad drive Mysore to Hassan. **D:** 16/2 1 possibly this species Sultanpur Jheel.

- 66 **Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*. **SI:** 7/2 1 immature drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 12/2 3 Chhari Dhand, 13/2 3 Banni Grassland, 15/2 5 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 4 Sultanpur Jheel.

- 67 **Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus*. **SI:** 8/2 1 adult Sravana Belgola.

- 68 **Booted Eagle** *Hieraetus pennatus*. **SI:** 8/2 1 light phase drive Hassan to Bangalore.

- 69 **\*Crested Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus cirrhatius*. **SI:** 1 probaly this species Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 3/2 1 Singhur Ghat, 4/2 1 Bandipur NP.

- 70 **Mountain Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus nipalensis*. **SI:** 30/1 1 adult (and 1 possible juvenile) Sholayar Forest (Kerala). The adult bird showed rufous barring on underparts - as expected characters of ssp. *kelaarti*.

- 71 **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*. **SI:** 20/1 1 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 1 long-time dead Tarangambadi (Tranqebbar), 22/1 1 drive Trichy to Madurai, 24/1 1 Bodi Ghat, 25/1 1 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 1/2 1-2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS. **G:** 10/2 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 6 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 5 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 2 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/1 1 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 1 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 2 dry Kutch near Zainabad.

- 72 **\*Red-necked Falcon** *Falco chiquera*. **G:** 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.



Un-identified large falcon *Falco juggar/peregrinus*. **SI:** 24/1 1 Madurai.

- 73 **Lagggar Falcon** *Falco juggar*. **SI:** 23/1 1 (high over; seen briefly) Hotel Sree Devi, Madurai.
- 74 **Shaheen Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus peregrinator*. **SI:** 21/1 1 immature Brishadishwra temple (Tanjavur). Chasing pigeons without success.
- 75 **Black Francolin** *Francolinus francolinus*. **G:** 10/2 2 heard Fulay, 11/2 6+ heard Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 13/2 1 heard Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani.
- 76 **Grey Francolin** *Francolinus pondicerianus*. **SI:** 31/1 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 1/2 heard Banyan Tree Homestay, 1 heard near Banyan Tree Homestay, 4/2 4 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 6/2 10 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 4 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 9/2 2 heard Moti Virani, 10/2 6 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 2 + heard Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 75 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 heard drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 2 heard Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 5 Banni Grassland, 14/2 4 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 2 + heard river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 heard bird-lake near Zainabad, 3 + heard dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 heard Sultanpur Jheel.
- 77 **Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*. **G:** 10/2 7 Fulay, 2 btw Moti Virani and Fulay.
- 78 **\*Jungle Bush-quail** *Perdica asiatica*. **G:** 11/2 1 male road-kill driving to Naliya grassland.
- 79 **Painted Bush Quail** *Perdica erythrorhyncha*. **SI:** 2/2 1 pair Regency Villas (Ooty).
- 80 **Red Spurfowl** *Galloperdix spadicea*. **SI:** 29/1 heard Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad).
- 81 **Grey Junglefowl** *Gallus sonneratii*. **SI:** 24/1 1 heard Eravikulam National Park, 27/1 4 heard Thattekkad, 28/1 1 male + 5 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 2 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 1 heard Puthuthottam (4 km from Valparai), 31/1 8 Ascent to Top Slip, 3 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 4 males Ascent to Top Slip, 3/2 1 heard Cairnhill Forest (Ooty), 1 heard Singhur Ghat, 1 male 'Night'-drive Mudumalai, 4/2 5 heard walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 82 **\*Indian Peafowl** *Pavo cristatus*. **SI:** 22/1 1 drive Trichy to Madurai, 30/1 5 + heard near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 10 Banyan Tree Homestay, heard Top Slip - morning, 1/2 15 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 5+ near Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 8 Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 4/2 1 feather walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 6 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS. **G:** 9/2 1 Moti Virani, 11/2 150+ driving to Naliya grassland, 14/1 1 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad.
- 83 **\*Common Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvatica*. **G:** 13/2 2 Kar (Banni Grassland), 15/2 2 (photo of one) dry Kutch near Zainabad.



Fields near Zainabad 15/2. Photo: Uffe Gjøl Sørensen

- 84 **\*Common Crane** *Grus grus*. **G:** 9/2 4 near Bhuj Airport, 10/2 100+ Fulay, 11/2 60 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 15.000+ to night-roost Kar (Banni Grassland), 13/2 15.000+ to night-roost Kar (Banni Grassland), 14/2 300 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 75 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 85 **\*Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo*. **G:** 15/2 2 resting + 2000+ migrating in during the morning Desert Courser (Zainabad).
- 86 **White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Mamallapuram, 28/1 4 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 30/1 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 4/2 1 Bandipur NP.
- 87 **Purple Swampfen** *Porphyrio [porphyrio] poliocephalus*. **SI:** 2/2 5+ lake south of Coimbatore, 7/2 30 (incl. pullus) drive Mysore to Hassan, 10 drive around Halebid & Belur. **G:** 15/2 20 bird-lake near Zainabad, 16/2 20 Sultanpur Jheel.

- 88 **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*. **SI:** 20/1 2 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 22/1 1 drive Trichy to Madurai. 25/1 1 by dam Cardemomme Estate near Munnar. **G:** 11/2 1 driving to Naliya grassland, **D:** 16/2 30 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 89 **\*Coot** *Fulica atra*. **SI:** 22/1 100+ (incl. pullus being feed) drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 2/2 2500 (incl. pullus) lake south of Coimbatore, 7/2 100+ (incl. pullus) drive Mysore to Hassan, 15 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 30+ near Sravana Belgola. 15/2 1000+ bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 25 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 90 **\*Great Indian Bustard** *Ardeotis nicriceps*. **G:** 11/2: 2 males Pingleshwar.



Pingleshwar 11/2. Photo: Jugal Tiwari

- 91 **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*. **SI:** 2/2 7 lake south of Coimbatore, 7/2 2 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 2 near Sravana Belgola.
- 92 **Bronze-winged Jacana** *Metopidius indicus*. **SI:** 7/2 11 drive around Halebid & Belur.
- Un-identified small wader. 21/1 25+ Tarangambadi (Tranqbar).
- 93 **Oystercatcher** *Haemaotopus ostralegus*. **G:** 11/2 2 Pinglesawar.
- 94 **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus [himantopus] himantopus*. **SI:** 22/1 5 drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 27/1 2 muddy pool near Fort Kochi, 7/2 30 drive Mysore to Hassan, 8/2 4 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 11/2 2 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 50+ Chhari Dhand, 13/2 50 Servo Dhand, 14/2 50 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 150+ around Patdi, 15/2 50+ bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 95 **Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*. **G:** 12/2 200+ drive Servo Dhand, 13/2 500 Servo Dhand.
- 96 **Indian Courser** *Cursorius coromandelicus*. **G:** 15/2 2 (fields) bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 97 **\*Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*. **G:** 15/2 60 bird-lake near Zainabad. Must be early arrival by this winter-visitor to Africa. Serious attempt to make the birds to Oriental Pratincole failed completely: Long-winged, white trailing edge to secondaries and even nostrils like a small slit seen well.
- 98 **Small Pratincole** *Glareola lactea*. **SI:** 7/2 10 drive Mysore to Hassan.
- 99 **White-tailed Plover** *Vanellus leucurus*. **G:** 12/2 5 Chhari Dhand, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 7 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 100 **Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*. **SI:** 21/1 2 near Tarangambadi (Tranqbar), 2 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 2 drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 27/1 2 muddy pool near Fort Kochi, 10+ (fields near airport) drive Kochi to Thattakkad, 29/1 1 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 1/2 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 8/2 1 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 1 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 10/2 2 Fulay, 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 10 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 30+ drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 2 Servo Dhand, 14/2 20 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 10 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 30 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 101 **Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leucorhynchus*. **G:** 11/2 1 Pinglesawar.
- 102 **Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*. **G:** 12/2 25 Chhari Dhand, 200 Hodko Dhand, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 103 **\*Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus*. **G:** 12/2 1 w.pl. Hodko Dhand.

A highly unexpected record: There seems only to be few previous records from the Subcontinent. Details will be published elsewhere. The bird was seen resting inactively at the transition between mudflat and permanent water in a saline lake. Thousands of other waders were actively feeding around the bird. All birds were disturbed and the Caspian Plover could not be relocated. Seen together with Mongolian Plover, Marsh Sandpiper and Little Stint.

Photo: Uffe Gjøl Sørensen. The quality of the photo not the best but it was disgisoped with my handheld reflex camera.



- 104 **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*. **SI:** 20/1 5 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 22/1 2 drive Trichy to Maduari, 30/1 2 (display) Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 7/2 2 (voice slightly different from nominate subspecies) drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 12/2 4 Chhari Dhand, 15/2 6 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 105 **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*. **G:** 11/2 2 Pinglesawar, 12/2 50 Chhari Dhand, 300 Hodko Dhand, 14/2 30 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 30 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 106 **Pintail Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*. **SI:** 27/1 1 (fields near airport) drive Kochi to Thattekkad.
- 107 **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*. **G:** 15/2 3 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 108 **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*. **G:** 12/2 50 Chhari Dhand, 20 Hodko Dhand, 13/2 20 Servo Dhand, 14/2 75 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 15/2 400+ bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 109 **Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*. **G:** 11/2 1 probably this species driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 1 Chhari Dhand, 1 Hodko Dhand, 14/2 3 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 14/2 1 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad).
- 110 **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*. **G:** 12/2 1 Hodko Dhand, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 111 **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*. **G:** 14/2 50+ bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 15/2 20 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 112 **\*Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*. **SI:** 27/1 3 muddy flats near Fort Kochi, 7/2 4 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 12/2 50 Chhari Dhand, 500 Hodko Dhand, 13/2 50 Servo Dhand, 14/2 1 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 15/2 10 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 5 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 113 **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*. **SI:** 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 1 drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 4/2 1 Bandipur NP, 7/2 2 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 11/2 1 Pinglesawar, 14/2 2 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 114 **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*. **SI:** 20/1 1 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 4/2 2 Bandipur NP. **G:** 11/2 1 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 1 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 2 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 15/2 3 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 115 **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*. **SI:** 20/1 1 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 22/1 2 drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 27/1 1 drive Kochi to Thattekkad, 7/2 25 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 11/2 1 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 1 drive in Banni grassland, 15/2 5 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 116 **Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*. **SI:** 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 1 drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 24/1 1 Munnar, 26/1 1 Fort Kochi, 7/2 1 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 117 **\*Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*. **G:** 11/2 1 Pinglesawar, 12/2 200 Chhari Dhand, 600 Hodko Dhand, 15/2 150 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 118 **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*. **G:** 12/2 7 Chhari Dhand, 15/2 20 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 119 **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*. **G:** 11/2 25 Pinglesawar.
- 120 **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*. **G:** 12/2 4 Chhari Dhand, 25 Hodko Dhand, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 121 **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*. **G:** 12/2 50 Chhari Dhand, 600 Hodko Dhand, 14/2 30 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 15/2 40 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- Un-identified large gull *Larus heuglini/cachinnans*. **G:** 11/2 10 immatures – only seen flying at some distance - Pinglesawar, 12/2 1 immature Chhari Dhand.
- 122 **Steppe Gull** *Larus cachinnans barabensis*. **G:** 14/2 2 adult bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 14/2 2 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad).
- 123 **Great Black-headed Gull** *Larus ichthyatus*. **SI:** 21/1 4 Tarangambadi (Tranqebur). **G:** 12/2 3 adult Hodko Dhand, 13/2 1 adult Servo Dhand.
- 124 **Brown-headed Gull** *Larus brunnicephalus*. **SI:** 26/1 5 Fort Kochi, 27/1 2 Fort Kochi. **G:** 15/2 25 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 125 **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*. **SI:** 26/1 2 Fort Kochi, 27/1 40 Fort Kochi. **G:** 12/2 1 Hodko Dhand, 15 near Patdi, 500 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 200+ bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 126 **Slender-billed Gull** *Larus genei*. **G:** 14/2 40 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya).
- Un-identified Tern *Sterna sp.* **SI:** 21/1 5 Tarangambadi (Tranqebur).
- 127 **Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*. **SI:** 20/1 5 N Mamallapuram, 1 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 26/1 3 Fort Kochi, 27/1 2 Fort Kochi. **G:** 14/2 5 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 6 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 128 **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*. **SI:** 21/1 3 Tarangambadi (Tranqebur). **G:** 11/2 10+ Pinglesawar, 14/2 1 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 3 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 129 **Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*. **G:** 11/2 30+ probably this species Pinglesawar.
- 130 **River Tern** *Sterna aurantia*. **SI:** 27/1 5 Thattekkad, 28/1 1 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 5 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 7/2 6 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 12/2 30 Chhari Dhand.
- 131 **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*. **SI:** 20/1 1 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 15+ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 22/1 5 drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 26/1 30 Fort Kochi, 50 Fort Kochi, 20 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 20 Thattekkad, 28/1 45 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 10 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 10 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 2 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 7/2 1 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 12/2 40 Chhari Dhand, 50 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 10 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad).
- 132 **White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*. **G:** 12/2 5 Chhari Dhand. A winter-record seems to be unusual in Gujarat.

- 133 **\*Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus*. **G:** 10/2 3 over flying Fulay, 4 over flying btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 11/2 30 driving to Naliya grassland, 4 Chhari Dhand, 14/2 1 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 40 bird-lake near Zainabad, 40 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 134 **Painted Sandgrouse** *Pterocles indicus*. **G:** 10/2 3 flushed btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana.
- 135 **Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*. **SI:** Pigeons seen in most cities. At Tranqbar they looked like the wild-type. No notes taken. **G:** Rock Pigeon seen in many places and seems widespread and common. Often in large flocks away from humand habitation. Only few notes taken: 9/2 common, 10/2 15 Fulay, 10 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 common also away from villages driving to Naliya grassland.
- 136 **Nilgiri Wood Pigeon** *Columba elphinstonii*. **SI:** 25/1 1 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar.
- 137 **Oriental Turtle-dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*. **SI:** 31/1 1 Ascent to Top Slip.
- 138 **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*. **SI:** 19/1 1? Mamallapuram, 20/1 1 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 22/1 1 drive Trichy to Maduari, 4/2 2 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 2 drive to 12 km E of Mysore. **G:** 9/2 100+ drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 15 Moti Virani, 10/2 100+ Fulay, 5 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 11/2 50+ driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 50+ drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 10 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, + Banni Grassland, 14/2 50 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, + river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 + bird-lake near Zainabad, 20 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 139 **Red Turtle-dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*. **G:** 11/2 25 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 1 Chhari Dhand, 15/2 1 (farmland) dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 140 **Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*. **SI:** 20/1 3 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 5 Tarangambadi (Tranqbar), 5 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 10 all day, 24/1 1 Bodi Ghat, 27/1 2 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 3 Thattekkad, 28/1 5 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 5 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 20 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 10 Top Slip - morning, 5 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 5 Ascent to Top Slip, 2 Top Slip - morning, 5 Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 2 near Regency Villas (Ooty), 3/2 2 Regency Villas (Ooty), 2 drive Ooty to Mudumalai, 4/2 2 Forest Hills, 15 Bandipur NP, 5/2 5 heard drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 50+ drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 8/2 2 drive Hassan to Bangalore.
- 141 **Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*. **SI:** 4/2 1 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 7/2 15 drive Mysore to Hassan, 8/2 1 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 50+ drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 5 Moti Virani, 10/2 20+ Fulay, 10+ btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 50 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 hundreds driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 50 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 20 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, + Banni Grassland, 14/2 50 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, + river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 + bird-lake near Zainabad, 5 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 142 **Emerald Dove** *Chalophaps indica*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 30/1 5 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 3 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 1 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 2 Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 1 Singhur Ghat, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS.
- 143 **Grey-fronted Green-pigeon** *Treron [pompadora] affinis*. **SI:** 27/1 1 Thattekkad, 29/1 1 heard Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 5 Sholayar Forest (Kerala).
- 144 **Green Imperial Dove** *Ducula aenea*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 30/1 2 Athirappally (near water fall).
- 145 **Mountain Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula badia*. **SI:** 25/1 4 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar – came to drink at water seeping over a steep cliff in the forest – Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 28/1 2 + heard Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 31/1 1 heard Top Slip – afternoon. The song heard was a deep, slow booming with mostly three notes.
- 146 **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*. **SI:** 19/1 5 Mamallapuram, 20/1 5 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 35 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 2 Brishadishwra temple, 22/1 15 all day, 23/1 3 Minakshi, 26/1 3 Fort Kochi, 29/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 2/2 10+ lake south of Coimbatore, 4/2 1 Bandipur NP, 5 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 10 Mysore, 6/2 10+ drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 10 drive Mysore to Hassan, 30 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 5 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 15 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 10/2 5 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 8 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 1 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 2 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 1 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 5 bird-lake near Zainabad, 5 Desert Courser (Zainabad), 5 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 147 **Plum-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula cyanocephala*. **SI:** 27/1 25 Thattekkad, 28/1 10 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 10 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 15 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 10 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 5 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 5 Top Slip - morning, 4 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 6 Ascent to Top Slip, 5 Top Slip - morning, 3/2 2 Mudumalai, 4/2 2 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 2 Brahmagiri WS.
- 148 **Malabar Parakeet** *Psittacula columboides*. **SI:** 25/1 1 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 28/1 heard Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 5 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 2 Top Slip - morning, heard Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 2 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 1 near Brahmagiri WS.
- 149 **Vernal Hanging Parrot** *Loriculus vernalis*. **SI:** 25/1 1 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 28/1 25 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 25 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp).
- 150 **Pied Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*. **SI:** 22/1 1 drive Trichy to Madurai.
- 151 **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** *Clamator coromandus*. **SI:** 31/1 1 Top Slip – morning.
- 152 **Common Hawk-Cuckoo** *Cuculus varius*. **SI:** 27/1 2 heard Thattekkad, 29/2 2 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 4/2 1 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 6/2 1 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS.
- 153 **[Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus*]. **SI:** 21/1 1 probably this species Tarangambadi (Tranqbar), 24/1 1 another possible this species drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat. A *Cuculus*-species but no other details recorded. *Sp. micropterus* seems to the only likely species to occur during winter.
- 154 **Banded Bay Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sonneratii*. **SI:** 28/1 1 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 1 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 1/2 1 heard Top Slip – morning.



- 155 **\*\*Fork-tailed' Drongo-cuckoo** *Surniculus [lugubris] dicruroides*. **SI:** 28/1 1 juvenile (see photo) Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad).



Photo (digiscoping): Uffe Gjøl Sørensen

- 156 **Asian Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea*. **SI:** 19/1 5 Mamallapuram - one probable immature male had a tiny distinct white spot to the tips of each wing-covert, but otherwise jet-black as a nearby adult male. A heavily spotted juvenile/female was briefly seen in the same tree, 20/1 1 heard Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 22/1 Trichy, 23/1 1 heard Madurai, 24/1 1 heard Madurai, 26/1 1 + heard Fort Kochi, 27/1 1 heard Fort Kochi, 28/1 4 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 30/1 2 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 3 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 1/2 3 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 1 male drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 4/2 2 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 4 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 3 drive Mysore to Hassan, 2 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 1 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 5 Moti Virani, 10/2 1 heard Moti Virani, 1 Fulay, 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 1 Moti Virani, 12/2 1 heard Moti Virani, 13/2 1 heard Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani.
- 157 **Blue-faced Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*. **SI:** 31/1 4 Ascent to Top Slip, 2 Descent Top Slip, 1/2 3 Ascent to Top Slip, 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 5/2 1 drive to 12 km E of Mysore.
- 158 **Sirkeer Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*. **G:** 10/2 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana.
- 159 **Southern Coucal** *Centropus [sinensis] parroti*. **SI:** 20/1 1 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 1 drive Trichy to Madurai, 24/1 1 drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 27/1 1 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 1 + 3 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 3 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 heard Top Slip - morning, 1/2 1 heard near Banyan Tree Homestay, 1 heard Ascent to Top Slip, 3 heard near Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 1 heard Regency Villas (Ooty), 6/2 2 heard near Brahmagiri WS, 8/2 1 heard near Sravana Belgola. **G:** 9/2 1 Moti Virani, 10/2 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 1 heard Moti Virani, 12/2 1 heard Moti Virani, 13/2 1 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 heard Moti Virani, 15/2 heard Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 160 **Indian Scops-owl** *Otus bakkamoena*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 1 heard Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad).
- 161 **Oriental Scops-owl** *Otus sunia*. **SI:** 27/1 2 heard Thattekkad, 29/1 1 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp).
- 162 **Indian Eagle Owl** *Bubo [bubo] bengalensis*. **G:** 12/2 1 Chhari Dhand.  
[Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis*]. **SI:** 4/2 1 possible walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai). A large greyish eagle owl with a paler patch on the lower back was seen in a split-second as it retired further into the deep forest.
- 163 **Brown Fish Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis*. **SI:** 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala).
- 164 **Malabar Jungle Owlet** *Glaucidium radiatum malabaricum*. **SI:** 27/1 2 heard Thattekkad, 28/1 1 heard Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 heard Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 31/1 1 Descent Top Slip.
- 165 **Spotted Owlet** *Athene brama*. **SI:** 4/2 1 drive Bandipur NP to Mysore. **G:** 9/2 1 heard Moti Virani, 10/2 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 3 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 13/2 5 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 2 (one during dinner) Desert Courser, 1 dry Kutch (Farmland) near Zainabad.
- 166 **Brown Hawk Owl** *Ninox scutulata*. **SI:** 28-29/1 1 heard (Satyan!) Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad).
- 167 **Sri Lanka Frogmouth** *Batrachostomus moniliger*. **SI:** 28/1 1 pair seen well + 2+ heard Urulanthanni (Thattekkad).
- 168 **Great Eared-nightjar** *Eurostopodus macrotis*. **SI:** 27/1 1+ heard Thattekkad, 29/1 1 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp).  
Un-identified Nightjar *Caprimulgus* sp. **SI:** 24/1 1 Eravikulam National Park, 3/2 2 'Night'-drive Mudumalai, 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 169 **Jerdon's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus atripennis*. **SI:** 27/1 1 seen + 5+ heard Thattekkad, 29/1 1 + several heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 1/2 3 heard near Banyan Tree Homestay.
- 170 **Savannah Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis*. **SI:** 27/1 1 seen and heard Thattekkad, 29/1 1 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp).
- 171 **Indian Swiftlet** *Collocalia unicolor*. **SI:** 25/1 100+ leaving cave at daybreak Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 31/1 200 Top Slip - morning, 3/2 10 Singhur Ghat, 300+ Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai).
- 172 **White-rumped Needletail** *Zoonavena sylvatica*. **SI:** 28/1 30+ Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 150+ Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 30/1 10 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 5 near Banyan Tree Homestay.
- 173 **Asian Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*. **SI:** 19/1 25 Mamallapuram, 20/1 100+ drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 5 Tarangambadi (Tranquebar), 100+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 100+ all day, 24/1 50+ drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 2 Bodi Ghat, 30/1 20 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 50 Ascent to Top Slip, 1/2 25 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 100 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 50+ drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty.
- 174 **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarpis melba*. **SI:** 24/1 20 Eravikulam National Park, 28/1 2 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 2/2 3 Ascent to Coonoor, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 5 drive around Halebid & Belur.

- 175 **Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*. **SI:** 29/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekad).
- 176 **Little Swift** *Apus affinis*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Mamallapuram, 20/1 300+ Chidambaram, 100+ (bridge south of Chidambaram) drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 500+ Brishadishwra temple, 22/1 4 Trichy, 23/1 500+ Madurai, 24/1 50+ Madurai, 25/1 10+ Kochi, 29/1 5 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekad), 2/2 1 Ascent to Coonoor, 5/2 20+ Mysore, 7/2 100 drive around Halebid & Belur. **G:** 14/2 4 Bhuj, 3 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 177 **Crested Tree-swift** *Hemiprocne coronata*. **SI:** 27/1 2 Thattekkad, 29/1 2 Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 31/1 10 Top Slip - morning, 3/2 4 Singhur Ghat.
- 178 **Malabar Trogon** *Harpactes fasciatus*. **SI:** 29/1 1 female Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekad).
- 179 **Stork-billed Kingfisher** *Pelargopsis capensis*. **SI:** 28/1 2 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 1 heard Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 30/1 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 1/2 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 Mudumalai.
- 180 **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*. **SI:** 19/1 7 Mamallapuram, 20/1 4 Mamallapuram, 10 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 100+ drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 5 Tarangambadi (Tranqebur), 5 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 10+ drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 20+ drive Trichy to Maduari, 24/1 10 drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 27/1 2 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 2 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 1 heard Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 30/1 2 Athirappally (near water fall), 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 1 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 6 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 1 drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 3/2 1 Mudumalai, 4/2 1 Forest hills, 2 Bandipur NP, 5/2 2 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 5 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 15 drive Mysore to Hassan, 3 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 5 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 2 Moti Virani, 10/2 2 Fulay, 2 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 4 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 5 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 1 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 6 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 2 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 5 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 181 **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*. **SI:** 20/1 1 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 1 drive Trichy to Maduari, 29/1 1 Hornbill Camp (Thattekad). **G:** 11/2 2 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 182 **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*. **SI:** 20/1 3 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 6 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 29/1 1 Hornbill Camp (Thattekad).
- 183 **Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctornis athertoni*. **SI:** 29/1 1 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 1 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 184 **Little Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*. **SI:** 19/1 4 Mamallapuram, 21/1 2 Tarangambadi (Tranqebur), 2 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 27/1 5 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 29/1 2 near Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 2 Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 1 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 5 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 1/2 50+ near Banyan Tree Homestay, 5/2 1 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 5 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 40 drive Mysore to Hassan, 15 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 10 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 50+ drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 10 Moti Virani, 10/2 4 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 10 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 4 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 100+ drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 25 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 25 Desert Courser (Zainabad), 20 bird-lake near Zainabad, 10 dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 10 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 185 **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*. **SI:** 20/1 1 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 4 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 3 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 1 drive Trichy to Maduari, 26/1 12 Fort Kochi, 27/1 2 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 29/1 2 Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 5/2 5 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 2 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 5 drive Mysore to Hassan, 2 drive around Halebid & Belur.
- 186 **Bay-headed Bee-eater** *Merops lechenaulti*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 3 Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 30/1 12 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 3 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 8 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 15 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 3+ drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 3/2 2 Singhur Ghat, 4/2 20+ by bee-hives on high cliff walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 187 **\*Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*. **SI:** 20/1 25+ drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 1 Tarangambadi (Tranqebur), 22/1 20+ drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 30+ drive Trichy to Maduari, 24/1 25+ drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 5 drive Bodi Ghat to Munnar, 25/1 2 near Kochi, 27/1 1 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 3 near Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 near Hornbill Camp (Thattekad), 30/1 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 1/2 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 2 drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 4/2 2 Bandipur NP, 1 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 2 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 2 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 30 drive Mysore to Hassan, 5 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 15 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 4 Moti Virani, 10/2 1 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 4 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 10 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 2 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 2 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 2 Banni Grassland, 14/2 1 near Patdi, 1 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad, 2 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 188 **\*Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*. **SI:** 28/1 2 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 1 Hornbill Camp (Thattekad).
- 189 **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*.  
(a) *Ssp. ceylonensis*: **SI:** 19/1 3 (one at possible nest) Mamallapuram, 20/1 1 Mamallapuram, 21/1 1 Tarangambadi (Tranqebur), 22/1 2 drive Trichy to Maduari, 31/1 3 Ascent to Top Slip, 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 3/2 1 singing Regency Villas (Ooty), 1 Ooty, 1 Mudumalai, 4/2 1 drive Bandipur to Mysore.  
(b) *Probably ssp. epops*: **G:** 9/2 2 Moti Virani, 10/2 2 Fulay, 1 Moti Virani, 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 3 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 2 drive in Banni grassland, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 1 near Sultanpur Jheel. When coming directly from the south it was obvious that the Hoopoes in the north was a different subspecies, e.g. had a slightly longer crest.
- 190 **Malabar Grey Hornbill** *Ocyrceros griseus*. **SI:** 27/1 1 Thattekkad, 28/1 5 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 5 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 3 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekad), 2 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 2 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 2 Top Slip - morning, 3 Descent Top Slip, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS.
- 191 **Indian Grey Hornbill** *Ocyrceros borostris*. **SI:** 31/1 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 4/2 4 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 1 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 7/2 1 drive Mysore to Hassan.  
[Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*]. **SI:** 31/1 waited in vain for one hour at sealed nest with brooding female Top Slip – afternoon.
- 192 **Brown-headed Barbet** *Megalaima zeylandica*. **SI:** 24/1 1 + heard Bodi Ghat, 31/1 2 heard Ascent to Top Slip, 8/2 1 + heard Sravana Belgola.
- 193 **White-cheeked Barbet** *Megalaima viridis*. **SI:** (20/1 1 heard over the telephone when talking with Thomas from Mamallapuram – does this count as a new species?), 24/1 ?? Bodi Ghat, 2 heard Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 10+ + many heard Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 25/1 1 heard tea-stop drive Munnar to Kochi, 26/1 2 + heard Fort Kochi, 27/1 heard Fort Kochi, heard Thattekkad, 28/1 2 + many heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, heard

Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 1 + heard Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 heard Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), heard Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 heard Athirappally (near water fall), heard Sholayar Forest (Kerala), heard Puthuthottam (4 km from Valparai), heard Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), heard near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 heard all day, 1/2 heard Ascent to Top Slip, 1 + heard Top Slip - morning, 2/2 heard Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 heard Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), heard Singhur Ghat, 4/2 heard walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), heard Bandipur NP, 5/2 heard a 1, 6/2 2 + heard Brahmagiri WS.

- 194 **Malabar Barbet** *Megalaima malabarica*. **SI:** 25/1 heard Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 27/1 1 + 4+ heard Thattekkad, 28/1 1 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1 seen + heard Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 1 heard Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 2 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 2 heard Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 heard near Banyan Tree Homestay, 1 heard Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 1 heard Top Slip - morning, 6/2 3+ heard Brahmagiri WS.
- 195 **Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*. **SI:** 19/1 1 heard Mamallapuram, 22/1 1 heard Trichy, 24/1 probably this species heard Bodi Gath, 30/1 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 3/2 1 heard Mudumalai, 4/1 1 + heard walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 7/2 1 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 1 Sravana Belgola.
- 196 **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*. **G:** 13/2 1 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, **D:** 16/2 1 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 197 **Brown-capped Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus moluccensis*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 2 Sholayar Forest (Kerala).
- 198 **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus mahrattensis*. **SI:** 3/2 1 Mudumalai. **G:** 10/2 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 199 **White-bellied Woodpecker** *Dryocopus javensis*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad). Western Ghat ssp. *hodgsonii* may be distinct species (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
- 200 **Lesser Yellownappe** *Picus chlorolophus*. **SI:** 31/1 1 heard Top Slip (afternoon), 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai). Western Ghat ssp. *chorigaster* with its distinct red on crown may be distinct species (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
- Un-identified Flameback. **SI:** 25/1 2 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 29/1 1 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp).
- 201 **Common Flameback** *Dinopium javanese*. **SI:** 27/1 1 heard Thattekkad, 28/1 2 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 31/1 2 Top Slip - morning, 1 heard Top Slip – afternoon.
- 202 **Black-rumped Flameback** *Dinopium benghalense*. **SI:** 27/1 4 Thattekkad, 28/1 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 6/2 1 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS.
- 203 **Greater Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 31/1 2 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 1 Top Slip - morning, 3/2 1 Mudumalai, 4/2 2 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai). Another woodpecker, where Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) indicates that the Western Ghat ssp. *socialis* may be a distinct species.
- 204 **Heart-spotted Woodpecker** *Hemicircus canente*. **SI:** 27/1 1 Thattekkad, 29/2 2 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala).
- 205 **Indian Pitta** *Pitta brachyura*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad).
- 206 **Indian Bushlark** *Mirafra erythroptera*. **G:** 10/2 10 Fulay, 5 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 10 driving to Naliya grassland.
- 207 **\*Jerdon's Bushlark** *Mirafra [assamica] affinis*. **SI:** 3/2 2 Mudumalai, 6/2 2 bushlarks seen briefly were possibly this species drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS.



Jerdon's Bushlark at Mudumalai. A very long-legged bird.  
Photo: Lene Smith

- 208 **Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculata*. **G:** 11/2 3 Naliya grassland.
- 209 **Ashy-crowned Sparrow** Lark *Eremopterix grisea*. **SI:** 2/2 4 drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 4/2 4 drive Bandipur to Mysore. **G:** 10/2 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 100+ driving to Naliya grassland, 14/2 15 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 5 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 5 bird-lake near Zainabad, 10 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 210 **Rufous-tailed Lark** *Ammomanes phoenicurus*. **G:** 10/2 4 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 1 drive to Fulay, 14/2 1 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 2 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 211 **Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*. **G:** 10/2 15 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 50 (one leucistic) Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 11/2 2500+ driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 1000+ drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 400 Banni Grassland, 14/2 300+ drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 200 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 100 bird-lake near Zainabad, 300 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 212 **\*Sand Lark** *Calandrella raytal*. **G:** 11/2 5 Pinglesawar, 14/2 2 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya).

- 213 **\*Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*. **G:** 11/2 3 Pinglesawar, 12/2 20+ drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 6 Banni Grassland, 15/2 5 bird-lake near Zainabad, 2 dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 1 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 214 **Malabar Lark** *Galerida malabarica*. **SI:** 27/1 1 (fields near airport) drive Kochi to Thattekkad.
- 215 **Grey-throated Sand-Martin** *Riparia chinensis*. **G:** 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 10 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 216 **\*Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*. **G:** 12/2 1000+ drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 1000+ Kar (Banni Grassland), 15/2 2 bird-lake near Zainabad. At least following a wet monsoon like this season the species is a widespread and common visitor to the Banni grassland in contrast to the distributions maps in all recent guides (Jugal Tiwari, pers.comm).
- 217 **Eurasian Crag Martin** *Hirundo rupestris*. **SI:** 2/2 1 (in the room when checking in) Regency Villas (Ooty).
- 218 **Dusky Crag Martin** *Hirundo concolor*. **SI:** 25/1 1 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 1 drive Munnar to Kochi, 30/1 6 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 2/2 1 Ascent to Coonoor. **G:** 9/2 1 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 12/2 1 cliff near Fulay, 13/2 4 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 4 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya).
- 219 **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. **SI:** 19/1 25 Mamallapuram, 20/1 50+ Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 21/1 30+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 50+ all day, 24/1 50+ drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 25/1 thousands of unidentified swallows over the lagoon near Kochi, 26/1 25+ Fort Kochi, 27/1 10 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 2/2 100+ drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 3/2 1 drive Ooty to Mudumalai, 3/2 1 Mudumalai, 4/2 40 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 10 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 5 Chamundi Hills, 6/2 20 all day, 7/2 150 all day, 8/2 100+ all day. **G:** 9/2 30 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 10 Moti Virani, 10/2 6 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 20 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 1000 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 1000+ Kar (Banni Grassland), 14/2 75 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 15 bird-lake near Zainabad, 10 dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 25 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 220 **Hill Swallow** *Hirundo [tahitica] domicola*. **SI:** 24/1 10 Munnar, 5 Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 10 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 3/2 5 Singhur Ghat, 4/2 2 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 221 **Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*. **G:** 9/2 5 Moti Virani, 10/2 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 5 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 2 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 13/2 2 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani.
- 222 **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*. **SI:** 24/1 100+ drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 27/2 2 drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 29/1 2 near Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 30/1 2 Athirappally (near water fall), 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 1/2 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 4 Singhur Ghat, 4 Mudumalai, 5/2 10 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 10 all day, 7/2 25 all day. **G:** 10/2 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 10 driving to Naliya grassland, 14/2 10 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad.
- 223 **Indian Cliff Swallow** *Hirundo fluvicola*. **SI:** 7/2 10 (3 by bridge) drive Mysore to Hassan.
- 224 **\*Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus [novaeseelandiae] rufulus*. **SI:** 21/1 1 likely this species drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 27/1 8 (fields near airport) drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 31/1 10 (incl. feeding juvenile) Top Slip - morning, 1/2 1 Top Slip - morning, 6/2 1 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS.
- 225 **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*. **G:** 10/2 4 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 2 Pingleshwar, 12/2 15 Banni Grassland, 13/2 3 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 5 Banni Grassland, 15/2 5 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 226 **\*Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similes*. **G:** 10/2 1? Fulay, 11/2 2 Kar (Banni Grassland), 13/2 1 Kar (Banni Grassland), 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 227 **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*. **SI:** 5/2 1 + heard drive 12 km E from Mysore, 6/2 2 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS.
- 228 **\*Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*. **G:** 12/2 20+ Kar (Banni Grassland), 13/2 6+ Kar (Banni Grassland).

First records from Gujarat. The species is known from the Indus Valley in neighbouring Pakistan. During winter it is a typical wetland species and it seems possible it could be a regular visitor to Gujarat – at least in seasons following good monsoon – like this season. Characters noted within the variation of the likely ssp. *blankinstoni*.

Late in the afternoon, singles or small flocks up to five birds were passing over-head, while we were waiting for harriers and cranes to initiate movements to their night-roosts. A characteristic tsip-call drew my attention to the birds and realizing these to be small pipits and the call not being the slightly buzzing tsip call of Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* – the most likely small pipit-species in Gujarat – I was on full alert. One and five birds landed briefly on a gravel road less than 30 m ahead and good telescope-views immediately revealed the birds to be Water Pipits. One stayed so long that there was time to call Jugal, who also saw this single bird well. We returned to the same spot the following evening and reconfirmed the identification and Jugal succeeded in obtaining a single photo. Obviously, the Water Pipits came to night-roost in the long grass. The photo shows a Water Pipit taken by Jugal at the same place a few days after my visit.

Banni Grassland 4/3. Photo: Jugal Tiwari



- 229 **Nilgiri Pipit** *Anthus nilghiriensis*. **SI:** 24/1 6 Eravikulam National Park.
- 230 **Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus*. **SI:** 30/1 2 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 2/2 1 Regency Villas (Ooty).
- 231 **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*.  
 (a) *Ssp. thunbergi* ('Grey-headed Yellow Wagtail'). **SI:** 27/1 3 (fields near airport) drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 30/1 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 7/2 25+ drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 10+ near Sravana Belgola. **G:** 10/2 25+ Fulay, 20 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 12/2 50+ Chhari Dhand, 13/2 10+ Servo Dhand, 15/2 20 bird-lake near Zainabad.  
 (b) *Ssp. feldegg* ('Black-headed Yellow Wagtail'). **G:** 14/2 3 bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya). Call not the usual skarp, rolling 'shreep' but either a shorter, rolling 'sreee' or a clear 'pseeu' – very *flava*-like. I have never heard a *flava*-like call from typical *feldegg*-birds despite hundreds of observation in SE Europe, the Middle East and NE-Africa.  
 (c) *Ssp. beema* ('Sykes Yellow Wagtail'). **G:** 15/2 1 male bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 232 **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*. **G:** 12/2 40+ Chhari Dhand, 13/2 2 Servo Dhand, 15/2 25 bird-lake near Zainabad.



- 233 **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. **SI:** 24/1 2 drive Bodi Ghat to Munnar, 2 Munnar, 1 Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 5 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 30/1 3 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 2 Top Slip - morning, 1 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 1 Top Slip - morning, 2/2 1 Regency Villas (Ooty), 1 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 1 Cairnhill Forest (Ooty), 4/2 2 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 2 Bandipur NP.
- 234 **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*. **G:** 10/2 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 1 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 2 Moti Virani, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad. All of a pale-backed subspecies with a pronounced white wing patch, probably eastern *ssp. alba* ('*dukhunensis*').
- 235 **White-browed Wagtail** *Motacilla madaraspatensis*. **SI:** 19/1 2 Mamallapuram, 20/1 1 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 22/1 2 drive Trichy to Maduari, 23/1 1 temple, Madurai, 24/1 1 drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 1 Munnar, 25/1 2 at dam, Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 27/1 1 (fields near airport) drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 1/2 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 1 Forest Hill, 1 Bandipur NP, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS, 8/2 1 Sravana Belgola.
- 236 **Large Cuckooshrike** *Coracina macei*. **SI:** 27/1 2 Thattekkad, 28/1 2 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 31/1 1 Top Slip – morning.
- 237 **Black-headed Cuckooshrike** *Coracina melanoptera*. **SI:** 31/1 1 female Ascent to Top Slip, 6/2 2 near Brahmagiri WS.
- 238 **Small Minivet** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*. **SI:** 30/1 1 male Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 3/2 1 pair Mudumalai, 6/2 4 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS. **G:** 10/2 6 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 20 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 1 female Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani.
- 239 **Orange Minivet** *Pericrocotus [flammeus] flammeus*. **SI:** 25/1 1+4 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 3 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 30/1 1 male Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 4 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 4 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 2 Bandipur NP, 6/2 4 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 2 Brahmagiri WS.
- 240 **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** *Hemipus picatus*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 31/1 1 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 241 **Common Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*. **SI:** 1/2 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay. **G:** 10/2 3 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 10 driving to Naliya grassland.
- 242 **Malabar Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis sylvicola*. **SI:** 28/1 3 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 1 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 31/1 6 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip.
- 243 **Grey-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus priocephalus*. **SI:** 4/2 probably heard at daybreak Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 4-6 Brahmagiri WS.
- 244 **Flame-throated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus [melanicterus] gularis*. **SI:** 28/1 10+ Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 2 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 31/1 2 Top Slip - morning, 2 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 4 Top Slip - morning, 4 Banyan Tree Homestay.
- 245 **Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*. **SI:** 24/1 5+ Bodi Ghat, 5+ drive Bodi Ghat to Munnar, 2 Munnar, 15 Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 50+ Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 27/1 10+ Thattekkad, 28/1 5 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 2 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 10 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 5 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 2 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 31/1 10 Ascent to Top Slip, 5 Top Slip - morning, 5 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 15 Ascent to Top Slip, 5 Top Slip - morning, 10 Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 10+ Ascent to Coonoor, 5 Regency Villas (Ooty), 10+ Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 10 Regency Villas (Ooty), 5 Cairnhill Forest (Ooty), 3/2 20 Singhur Ghat, 4/2 10 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 10 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 5 all day.
- A weird probable juvenile Red-whiskered Bulbul was seen at Singhur Ghat: It looked bald with pure grey head with no crest at all, white throat, pronounced dark breast band (more marked than nearby adults), greybrown back and tail (which was fairly long and square-cut). Feeding in flowers in a tree and chasing off adult Red-whiskered Bulebuls; similar in size and proportions.
- 246 **Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*. **SI:** 20/1 3 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 4 Tarangambadi (Tranquebar), 22/1 2 drive Trichy to Maduari, 24/1 1 drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 10 Bodi Ghat, 5 drive Bodi Ghat to Munnar, 26/1 4 Fort Kochi, 30/1 4 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 31/1 30 Ascent to Top Slip, 5 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 10 Ascent to Top Slip, 15 Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 10 Singhur Ghat, 4/2 200+ walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 50+ near Forest Hills, 5/2 30 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 10 Chamundi Hills. 6/2 10 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 10 all day, 8/2 2 Sravana Belgola. **G:** 9/2 20 Moti Virani, 10/2 common Fulay, 5 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 15 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 + driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 10 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 20 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 5 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 10 Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 + Sultanpur Jheel.
- 247 **White-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucotis*. **G:** 9/2 1 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 1 Moti Virani, 10/2 very common Fulay, 20 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 + driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 10 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 10 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 10 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 5 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 2 Desert Courser (Zainabad).
- 248 **Yellow-throated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthalaeus*. **SI:** 24/1 3 Bodi Ghat, 30/1 3 (viewpoint at hairpin 9) Azhiyar Ghat Road.
- 249 **White-browed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus luteolus*. **SI:** 24/1 4 Bodi Ghat, 30/1 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 31/1 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 1/2 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 4/2 1 near Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 250 **Yellow-browed Bulbul** *Iole indica*. **SI:** 24/1 1 drive Madurai to Bodi Ghat, 25/1 6 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 28/1 3 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 2 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 1/2 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 3 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 3 Brahmagiri WS.
- 251 **Square-tailed Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes [leucocephalus] ganeesa*. **SI:** 25/1 15+ Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 31/1 heard Ascent to Top Slip, 4/2 10+ walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 10+ Brahmagiri WS.
- 252 **Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*. **SI:** 24/1 1 Bodi Ghat, 28/1 1 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 2 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 2 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 4 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 4 Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 1 Singhur Ghat, 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 253 **Marshall's Iora** *Aegithina nigrolutea*. **G:** 9/2 6 Moti Virani, 10/2 2 + heard Fulay, heard btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 15 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 2 driving to Naliya grassland, 4 Chiyasar Reserve Forest, 13/2 6 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani.

- 254 **Jerdon's Leafbird** *Chloropsis [cochinchinensis] jerdoni*. **SI:** 28/1 5 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 2 Banyan Tree Homestay.
- 255 **Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons*. **SI:** 30/1 5 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 4 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 2 Top Slip - morning, 2 Banyan Tree Homestay.
- 256 **Nilgiri Blue Robin** *Myiomela [major] major*. 2/2 1 male Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 1 male Cairnhill Forest (Ooty).
- 257 **White-bellied Blue Robin** *Myiomela [major] albiventris*. **SI:** 24/1 1 male Eravikulam National Park.
- 258 **Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecicus*. **G:** 11/2 1 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 12/2 1 Chhari Dhand.
- 259 **Indian Blue Robin** *Luscinia brunnea*. **SI:** 2/2 1 male Chairnhills Forest (Ooty).
- 260 **Maggie Robin** *Copsychus saularis*. **SI:** 25/1 1 drive Munnar to Kochi, 26/1 5 Fort Kochi, 27/1 5 Fort Kochi, 2 Thattekkad, 28/1 3 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 2 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 30/1 2 Athirappally (near water fall), 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 1 Top Slip - morning, 1 Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 2 drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 5/2 4 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 7/2 1 drive Mysore to Hassan, 1 drive around Halebid & Belur. **G:** 15/2 1 Desert Courser (Zainabad).
- 261 **White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus*. **SI:** 4/2 1 Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 262 **Indian Robin** *Saxicoloides fulicata*.  
 \*(a) *Ssp. with glossy back*: **SI:** 22/1 1 drive Tanjavur to Trichy, 3/2 2 Mudumalai, 5/2 1 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 1 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 1 drive Mysore to Hassan, 8/2 1 drive Hassan to Bangalore.  
 (b) *Ssp. with brownish back*: **G:** 9/2 5 Moti Virani, 10/2 5 Fulay, 10 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 20 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 50+ driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 5 drive to Fulay, 13/2 20 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 15 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 5 Desert Courser (Zainabad), 20 bird-lake near Zainabad, 10 (farmland) dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 20 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 263 **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*.  
 (a) *Ssp. phoenicuroides*. **G:** 9/2 1 male Moti Virani, 10/2 1 male Fulay, 1 male 1 female Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 13/2 1 female Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 1 male Zainabad, 15/2 1 female Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 1 male Sultanpur Jheel.  
 (b) *Ssp. rufiventris*. **G:** 14/2 1 male near bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya).
- 264 **Common Stonechat** *Saxicola [torquata] maura*. **SI:** 6/2 1 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS. **G:** 11/2 30+ driving to Naliya grassland, 14/2 10 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 1 (farmland) dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel. Not attempted identified to subspecies – but likely *maura/indica*.
- 265 **Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata*.  
 Judged from distribution and females, likely (a) *ssp. bicolor/burmaica*. **SI:** 20/1 2 male drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 5/2 4 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 20 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 15 drive Mysore to Hassan, 5 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 5 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 14/2 2 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 1 female Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 10 Sultanpur Jheel. Some certain (females) and likely (distribution, size) (b) *ssp. nilgiriensis*. **SI:** 24/1 1 male near Bodi Ghat, 1 male drive Bodi Ghat to Munnar, 10+ Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 1 male 1 female Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 30/1 1 male Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 30/1 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 1/2 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 3 Regency Villas (Ooty), 3/2 2 males 1 female Recency Villas (Ooty).
- 266 **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*. **G:** 11/2 3 Pingleishwar, 12/2 2 drive in Banni grassland, 15/2 1 (farmland) dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 267 **\*Red-tailed Wheatear** *Oenanthe [xanthopyrma] chrysopygia*. **G:** 12/2 2 cliff near Fulay.
- 268 **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe desert*. **G:** 11/2 3 Pingleishwar, 3 Pinglesawar, 12/2 50+ Chhari Dhand, 13/2 10 Banni Grassland, 14/2 1 male bridge across Little Rann of Kutch (N of Maliya), 5 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 10 bird-lake near Zainabad, 15 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 269 **Variable Wheatear** *Oenanthe picata picata*. **G:** 10/2 1 female + 1 Fulay, 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 15 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 2 Chhari Dhand, 13/2 1 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 1 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad.
- 270 **Blue-capped Rock Thrush** *Monticola cinclorhynchus*. **SI:** 25/1 2 females Cardemomme Estate near Munnar.
- 271 **Blue Rock-Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*. **SI:** 22/1 1 Rock Fort Temple, Trichy, 24/1 1 male Eravikulam National Park.
- 272 **Malabar Whistling-Thrush** *Myophonus horsfieldii*. **SI:** 24/1 3 Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 1 by dam Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 27/1 1 heard Thattekkad, 1/2 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 1 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 1 heard walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 273 **Orange-headed Thrush** *Zoothera citrina cyanota*. **SI:** 28/1 2 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary.
- 274 **Indian Blackbird** *Turdus [merula]simillimus*  
 Grey males with blackish head: (a) *ssp. nigropileus*. **SI:** 24/1 2 males Eravikulam National Park, 28/1 1 male 1 female Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 31/1 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip. All black males, likely (b) *ssp. bourdilloni*. **SI:** 24/1 2 males Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 2 + 1 sa Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, and likely (c) *ssp. simillius*. **SI:** 3/2 1 male Recency Villas (Ooty), 2/2 1 male Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 1 male Cairnhill Forest (Ooty).
- 275 **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola*. **G:** 11/2 2 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 12/2 3 probably this species Chhari Dhand.
- 276 **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. **SI:** 25/1 3 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 28/1 3 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 1 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 1 Singhur Ghat, 4/1 1 Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 5/2 4 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6 Chamundi Hills, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS.
- 277 **Indian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus [stentoreus] brunescens*. **G:** 11/2 1 heard Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 12/2 2 + heard Chhari Dhand, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 278 **Booted Warbler** *Hippolais [caligata] caligata*. **SI:** 5/2 4-5 drive to 12 km E of Mysore.

- 279 **Sykes' Warbler** *Hippolais [caligata] rama*. **SI:** 20/1 1 Mamallapuram. A short Sylvia-like call. Rather long-billed. Typical small Hippolais-warbler. Low bill pale, 5/2 1 drive to 12 km E of Mysore. **G:** 10/2 1 possibl btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 13/2 1 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 15/2 3 Desert Courser (Zainabad).
- 280 **Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*. **SI:** 19/1 4 Mamallapuram, 21/1 2 Tarangambadi (Tranqebar), 22/1 1 heard Trichy, 31/1 1 Top Slip - morning, 3/2 1 Mudumalai. **G:** 9/2 4 Moti Virani, 10/2 4 Fulay, 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana.
- 281 **Siberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus [collybita] tristis*. **G:** 9/2 4 Moti Virani, 11/2 1 Chiyasar Reserve Forest, 12/2 1 Chhari Dhand.
- 282 **Tickell's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus affinis*. **SI:** 24/1 2 Eravikulam National Park, 31/1 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 2/2 1 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 1 Cairnhill Forest (Ooty).
- 283 **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides trochiloides*. **SI:** 24/1 8 (either this ssp or nitidus) Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 50+ (either this ssp or nitidus) cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 28/1 5 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 30/1 3 heard Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 3 Top Slip - morning, 2/2 1 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 1 Cairnhill Forest (Ooty), 3/2 2 Singhur Ghat, 4/2 heard walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), heard Forest Hills (Mudumalai). **G:** 15/2 1 Desert Courser (Zainabad).
- 284 **Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus [trochiloides] nitidus*. **SI:** 24/1 1 Bodi Ghat, 28/1 1 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 1 + heard Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 31/1 1 + heard Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 2 heard Top Slip - morning, 2 heard Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 1 heard Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 5/2 2 heard drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 1 heard Chamundi Hills, 6/2 5 + heard Brahmagiri WS.
- 285 **Hume's Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei*. **D:** 16/2 3 Sultanpur Jheel.  
[Tytler's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tytleri*]. **SI:** 31/1 1 most likely but only seen very briefly Top Slip (afternoon), 3/2 1 probably Singhur Ghat.
- 286 **Large-billed Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus magnirostris*. **SI:** 29/1 1 heard Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 31/1 1 + 1 heard Top Slip - morning, 1 heard Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 1 heard Top Slip - morning, 4/2 1 possible Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 287 **Western Crowned Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus occipitalis*. **SI:** 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS.
- 288 **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*. **G:** 9/2 2 Moti Virani, 10/2 2 Fulay, 10 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 2 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 5 Chiyasar Reserve Forest, 14/2 1 Zainabad, 15/1 1 Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 289 **'Desert' Whitethroat** *Sylvia [curruca] minula*. **G:** 10/2 2 possibly this species btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 12/2 1 cliff near Fulay.
- 290 **Asian Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*. **G:** 12/2 1 (in Sueda-vegetation) drive in Banni grassland, 15/2 1 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 291 **Eastern Orphean Warbler** *Sylvia [hortensis] crassirostris*. **SI:** 29/1 1 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp). **G:** 10/2 1 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 15/1 2 males Desert Courser (Zainabad).
- 292 **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*. **G:** 12/2 4 Chhari Dhand.
- 293 **Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii*. **SI:** 4/2 1 family flock Bandipur NP. **G:** 9/2 2 Moti Virani, 10/2 5 Fulay, 13/2 2 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani.
- 294 **Jungle Prinia** *Prinia sylvatica*. **SI:** 1/2 1 likley this species near Banyan Tree Homestay, 5/2 1 drive to 12 km E of Mysore. **D:** 16/2 1 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 295 **Ashy Prinia** *Prinia socialis*. **SI:** 5/2 1 Chamundi Hills.
- 296 **Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*. **SI:** 24/1 4 Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 1 family in grassland Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 3/2 1 Recency Villas (Ooty).
- 297 **\*Rufous-fronted Prinia** *Prinia buchanani*. **G:** 9/2 3 Moti Virani, 10/2 4 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 5 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 20 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 5 drive in Banni grassland.
- 298 **Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa dauurica*. **SI:** 28/1 2 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1/2 1 Top Slip – morning.
- 299 **Rusty-tailed Flycatcher** *Muscicapa ruficauda*. **SI:** 20/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad).
- 300 **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa muttui*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 1 probably this species Brahmagiri WS.
- 301 **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*. **SI:** 3/2 1 Forest Hills (Mudumalai). **G:** 9/2 1 male 2 females Moti Virani, 14/2 1 Desert Courser (Zainabad), 15/2 1-2 Desert Courser (Zainabad), 1 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 302 **Red-throated Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis*. **SI:** 3/2 1 Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 303 **Black-and-orange Flycatcher** *Ficedula nigrorufa*. **SI:** 3/2 2 Cairnhill Forest (Ooty).
- 304 **Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyaïs thalassina*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 4/2 1 Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 305 **Nilgiri Flycatcher** *Eumyaïs albicaudata*. **SI:** 25/1 2 males 2 females Cardemomme Estate near Munnar.
- 306 **White-bellied Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis pallipes*. **SI:** 24/1 1 male Eravikulam National Park, 3/2 1 male Singhur Ghat.
- 307 **Blue-throated Flycatcher** *Cyornis rubeculoides*. **SI:** 28/1 1 male + 1 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary.
- 308 **Grey-headed Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*. **SI:** 25/1 6+ Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 2/2 1 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty).
- 309 **White-spotted Fantail** *Rhipidura [albicollis] albogularis*. **SI:** 2/2 1 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty).

- 310 **White-browed Fantail** *Rhipidura aureola*. **SI:** 4/2 5 near Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 311 **Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea*. **SI:** 27/1 1 heard Thattekkad, 29/1 1 male Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 1 heard Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 4/2 1 + 1 heard Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 1 female Brahmagiri WS.
- 312 **Asian Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradise*. **SI:** 21/1 1 white phase drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 28/1 1 rufous phase Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 1 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 5 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 1 rufous phase Top Slip - morning, 1 white phase male Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 1 Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 4/2 1 white phase walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 4 (incl. one white male with distinct black crest to black head in sharp contrast to white underside) Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 1 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS.
- 313 **Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps*. **SI:** 29/1 1 heard Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 1 near Banyan Tree Homestay.
- 314 **Indian Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*. **SI:** 25/1 2 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 30/1 1 Azhiyar Ghat Road (40 hairpins), 31/1 5 Top Slip – morning.
- 315 **Tawny-bellied Babbler** *Dumetia hypertyra*. **SI:** 3/2 2 Singhur Ghat, 4/2 3 Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 5/2 heard drive to 12 km E of Mysore.
- 316 **Dark-fronted Babbler** *Rhopocichla atriceps*. **SI:** 1/2 2+4 Top Slip - morning, 6/2 3 Brahmagiri WS.
- 317 **Brown-cheeked Fulvetta** *Alcippe poiocephala*. **SI:** 4/2 4 Forest Hills (Mudumalai).
- 318 **Common Babbler** *Turdoides caudatus*. **G:** 9/2 1 Moti Virani, 10/2 25+ Fulay, 30+ btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 50 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 300+ driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 5 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 10 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 25 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 10 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 15 bird-lake near Zainabad, 10 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 319 **Large Grey Babbler** *Turdoides malcolmi*. **SI:** 31/1 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip.
- 320 **Rufous Babbler** *Turdoides subrufus*. **SI:** 27/1 flock Thattekkad, 31/1 5+ Top Slip – morning.
- 321 **Jungle Babbler** *Turdoides striatus*. **SI:** 27/1 5 Thattekkad, 28/1 10 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 3 drive to Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 5 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 10 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 15 Top Slip - morning, 5 Top Slip (afternoon), 2 Descent Top Slip, 1/2 20 Ascent to Top Slip, 5 Top Slip - morning, 3/2 25 Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 6/2 5 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS. **G:** 15/2 8 Desert Courser (Zainabad).
- 322 **Yellow-billed Babbler** *Turdoides affinis*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Mamallapuram, 20/1 2 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 2? Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 30/1 30+ near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 15 Ascent to Top Slip, 1/2 40 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 4/2 10 Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 4 Bandipur NP, 5/2 5 drive to 12 km E of Mysore.
- 323 **Wynaad Laughingthrush** *Garrulax delesserti*. **SI:** 31/1 2 Top Slip – morning.
- 324 **Black-chinned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax cachinnans*. **SI:** 2/2 3 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty).
- 325 **Kerala Laughingthrush** *Garrulax fairbanki*. **SI:** 24/1 6 Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 4 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar.
- 326 **\*White-naped Tit** *Parus nuchalis*. **G:** 11/2 6 Chiyasar Reserve forest. Jugal's little juvel from the undisturbed Acacia-forest.

Photo: Jugal Tiwari.

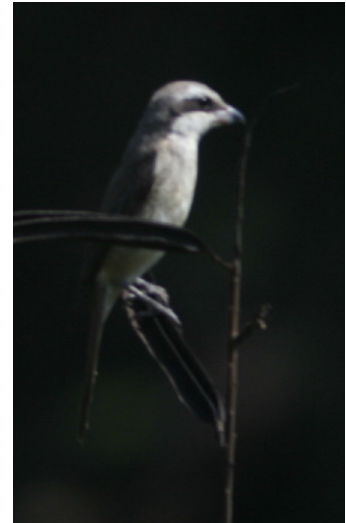


- 327 **Great Tit** *Parus major*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 31/1 1 Top Slip (afternoon), 2/2 1 Regency Villas (Ooty), 2 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 1 Recency Villas (Ooty), 4/2 2 Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 5/2 2 Chamundi Hills.
- 328 **Purple-rumped Sunbird** *Nectarinia zeylonica*. **SI:** 19/1 5 Mamallapuram, 20/1 2 Mamallapuram, 21/1 2 Tarangambadi (Tranqobar), 24/1 2 Bodi Ghat, 31/1 2 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 1 Ascent Top Slip, 4/2 1 male Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 5/2 1 male + 3 Chamundi Hills, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS, 8/2 2 Sravana Belgola.
- 329 **Crimson-backed Sunbird** *Nectarinia minima*. **SI:** 25/1 4 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 28/1 3 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 2 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 2 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 4 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 3/2 2 Singhur Ghat, 6/2 2 Brahmagiri WS.
- 330 **Purple Sunbird** *Nectarinia asiatica*. **SI:** 19/1 4 Mamallapuram, 20/1 2 Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 24/1 2 Bodi Ghat, 25/1 5 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 26/1 1 Fort Kochi, 27/1 1 Thattekkad, 28/1 25 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 5 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 2 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 2 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 5 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 2 Ascent to Top Slip, 2 Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 4 Singhur Ghat, 5/2 5 Chamundi Hills. **G:** 9/2 10 Moti Virani, 10/2 20+ Fulay, 5 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 5 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 5 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 15 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 2 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 2 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 6 Desert Courser (Zainabad), 4 bird-lake near Zainabad.
- 331 **Loten's Sunbird** *Nectarinia lotenia*. **SI:** 19/1 2 Mamallapuram, 24/1 5+ Bodi Ghat, 26/1 1 pair Fort Kochi.
- 332 **Little Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera longirostra*. **SI:** 28/1 1 heard Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 31/1 1 Top Slip - morning, 6/2 3+ singing Brahmagiri WS.



Un-identified Flowerpeckers seen almost daily in forests were not noted.

- 333 **Pale-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*. **SI:** 24/1 1 Bodi Ghat, 29/1 1 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 3/2 1 Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 5/2 1 drive to 12 km E of Mysore.
- 334 **Nilgiri Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum concolor*. **SI:** 29/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekad), 31/1 1 Top Slip - morning, 3/2 1 Singhur Ghat.
- 335 **Thick-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum agile*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad).
- 336 **Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*. **SI:** 24/1 15 Eravikulam National Park, 25/1 25+ Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 2/2 1 Regency Villas (Ooty), 1 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 2 Recency Villas (Ooty), 3/2 10 Singhur Ghat, 2 Forest bus drive (Mudumalai), 6/2 5 Brahmagiri WS.
- 337 **Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*. **SI:** 28/1 10 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary.
- 338 **Indian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus [oriolus] kondoo*. **SI:** 28/1 1 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 8 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 4 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 4 Banyan Tree Homestay, 6/2 1 near Brahmagiri WS.
- 339 **Black-hooded Oriole** *Oriolus xanthornus*. **SI:** 28/1 5 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 1 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 31/1 3 Ascent to Top Slip.
- 340 **Asian Fairy-Bluebird** *Irena puella*. **SI:** 28/1 heard Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 3 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 30/1 1 female Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 31/1 1 Top Slip (afternoon), 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 1 heard Brahmagiri WS.
- 341 **Red-tailed Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*. **G:** 11/2 6 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 40+ drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 5 Banni Grassland, 14/2 5 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 5 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 1 Desert Courser (Zainabad). 10 bird-lake near Zainabad, 2 dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 342 **Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*.  
(a) *Ssp. cristatus*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Mamallapuram, 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 2 drive Thanjavur to Trichy, 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 1 Top Slip - morning, 1 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 1 Banyan Tree Homestay, 6/2 2 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS.  
(b) *Ssp. lucionensis* ('**Phillippine**' **Shrike**): **SI:** 29/1 1 female/immature Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 1 adult near Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala).  
There seems only to be few records of birds showing characters of the 'Phillippine' Shrike from Southern India. The birds seen were not difficult to pick up with its grey crown and distinct mask only bordered by a narrow white line above. First reaction was 'Common Woodshrike'.
- Not a high quality picture but the digiscoped photo is at least documentation of an adult 'Phillippine' Shrike near Hornbill Camp on 29/1.
- Photo: Uffe Gjøøl Sørensen
- 343 **\*Bay-backed Shrike** *Lanius vittatus*. **SI:** 3/2 2 near Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 4/2 2 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai). **G:** 10/2 1 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 11/2 3 driving to Naliya grassland, 14/2 4 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 2 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 2 bird-lake near Zainabad, 2 (farmland) dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 344 **Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*. **SI:** 24/1 2 Munnar, 25/1 1 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 1 Munnar, 30/1 1 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 3/2 1 Singhur Ghat, 7/2 2 drive Mysore to Hassan, 9/2 1 Mumbai. **G:** 14/2 2 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 2 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 2 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 2 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 345 **Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*. **G:** 11/2 15 Pingleshwar, 12/2 2 drive in Banni grassland, 14/2 1 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 2 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 346 **Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*. **SI:** 19/1 10 Mamallapuram, 20/1 1 Mamallapuram, 150+ drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 10 Tarangambadi (Tranquebar), 50+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 2 Brishadishwra temple, 22/1 75+ all day, 24/1 20 drive Mudarai to Bodi Ghat, 25/1 5+ near Kochi, 27/1 10+ drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 30/1 3 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 31/1 5 Ascent to Top Slip, 1/2 15 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 10+ drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 5/2 2 drive to 12 km E of Mysore, 6/2 10 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 7/2 25 drive Mysore to Hassan, 15 drive around Halebid & Belur, 8/2 10 drive Hassan to Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 2 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 2 Moti Virani, 10/2 1 Fulay, 11/2 15 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 10 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 2 Banni Grassland, 14/2 25 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 10 river-site near Patdi (Zainabad), 15/2 25 Desert Courser (Zainabad), 10 bird-lake near Zainabad, 5 dry Kutch near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 5 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 347 **Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*. **SI:** 25/1 2 Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 27/1 4 Thattekkad, 28/1 10 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 5 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 2 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 5 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 20 Ascent to Top Slip, 10 Top Slip - morning, 5 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 5 Ascent to Top Slip, 1 Top Slip - morning, 5 Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 10 Singhur Ghat, 2 Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 4/2 5 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 2 Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 10 Bandipur NP, 5/2 2 Chamundi Hills, 6/2 2 Brahmagiri WS.
- 348 **White-bellied Drongo** *Dicrurus caerulescens*. **SI:** 24/1 1 near Bodi Ghat, 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 3 Banyan Tree Homestay, 4/2 2 Forest Hills (Mudumalai). **G:** 15/2 1 Desert Courser (Zainabad).
- 349 **Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*. **SI:** 28/1 5 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 31/1 10 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai).



- 350 **Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*. **SI:** 28/1 3 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary.
- 351 **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus paradiseus*. **SI:** 25/1 1 drive Munnar to Kochi, 27/1 1 Thattekkad, 28/1 15 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 6 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 10 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 2 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 5 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 4 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 10 Top Slip - morning, 4 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 2 Top Slip - morning, 1 Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 1 Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 6/2 1 drive Mysore to Brahmagiri WS, 2 Brahmagiri WS.
- 352 **Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus*. **SI:** 27/1 1 (fields near airport) drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 7 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary.
- 353 **Rufous Treepie** *Dendrocitta vagabunda*. **SI:** 20/1 3 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 1 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 4 Trichy, 27/1 2 Thattekkad, 28/1 5 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 3 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 1/2 2 Top Slip - morning, 2 Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 1 Banyan Tree Homestay.
- 354 **White-bellied Treepie** *Dendrocitta leucogastra*. **SI:** 28/1 6 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 2 Top Slip - morning, 2 Top Slip - afternoon.
- 355 **\*House Crow** *Corvus splendens*. **SI:** 19-20/1 very common Mamallapuram, 20/1 few here and there – not the concentration as in Mamallapuram – drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 200+ Tarangambadi (Tranqbar), 25+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 50+ Brishadishwra temple, 22/1 20+ all day, 23/1 5 Madurai, 24/1 50 drive Mudarai to Bodi Ghat, 25/1 50+, very common near Kochi, 26/1 very common Fort Kochi, 27/1 vc Fort Kochi, 100+ drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 10 Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 29/1 5 near Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad), 30/1 yes, 31/1 yes, 1/2 10 village near Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 yes all day, 3/2 10 Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai), 4/2 all villages drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 many all day, 6/2 'oo, 7/2 yes, 8/2 none drive Hassan to Bangalore, none Sravana Belgola, 5 Bangalore. 9/2 100+ Bangalore. **G:** 9/2 50+ drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 10 Moti Virani, 10/2 50 Fulay, 10 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 100 driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 50+ drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 10 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 13/2 25 Banni Grassland, 14/2 probably none drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 2 Zainabad, 15/2 10 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 50 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 356 **Indian Jungle Crow** *Corvus [macrohynchus] culminatus*. **SI:** 19/1 5 Mamallapuram, 20/1 4 drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 5 drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 22/1 50+ all day, 24/1 1 Madurai, 5 drive Mudarai to Bodi Ghat, 5 drive Bodi Ghat to Munnar, 25/1 30+ Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 30+ drive Munnar to Kochi, 26/1 1 Fort Kochi, 27/1 + drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 40+ Thattekkad, 28/1 15 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 15 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 10 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 20 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 yes, 31/1 yes, 1/2 10 Ascent to Top Slip, 5 Top Slip - morning, 5 Banyan Tree Homestay, 2/2 yes all day, 10 Regency Villas (Ooty), 10 Cairnhills Forest (Ooty), 3/2 20 Recency Villas (Ooty), 10 Cairnhill Forest (Ooty), 3/2 15 Singhur Ghat, 4/2 10 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 5 Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 20 Bandipur NP, 5/2 some all day, 6/2 50+ all day, 7/2 yes, 8/2 100+ drive Hassan to Bangalore, 10 Sravana Belgola.
- 357 **\*Grey Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus*. **G:** 10/2 15+ Fulay.
- 358 **White-headed Starling** *Sturnia [malabaricus] malabaricus*. **SI:** 29/1 5 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad).
- 359 **Malabar White-headed Starling** *Sturnia [malabaricus] blythii*. **SI:** 28/1 2 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 15 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 4 Sholayar Forest (Kerala).
- 360 **Brahminy Starling** *Temenuchus pagodarum*. **SI:** 21/1 2 Tarangambadi (Tranqbar), 24/1 2 drive Mudarai to Bodi Ghat, 3/2 1 near Forest Hills (Mudumalai), 42 2 near Forest Hills (Mudumalai). **G:** 9/2 4 Moti Virani, 10/2 2 Fulay, 11/2 6 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 2 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 4 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 2 bird-lake near Zainabad, 4 Desert Courser (Zainabad).
- 361 **\*Rosy Starling** *Sturnus roseus*. **SI:** 2/2 30 lake south of Coimbatore. **G:** 9/2 2 drive Bhuj Airport to Moti Virani, 400 Moti Virani, 10/2 2000+ Fulay, 10 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 1 Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 12/2 50+ Chhari Dhand, 13/2 30 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 25 Banni Grassland, 14/2 75+ drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 1 bird-lake near Zainabad, 20 (farmland) dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 362 **Asian Pied Starling** *Cracupica contra*. **D:** 16/2 3 near Sultanpur Jheel.
- 363 **Common Mynah** *Acridotheres tristis*. **SI:** 19/1 300+ Mamallapuram, 20/1 50+ Mamallapuram, ++ drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 75+ Tarangambadi (Tranqbar), 50+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur, 100+ Brishadishwra temple, 22/1 300+ all day, 23/1 2 Madurai, 24/1 300+ drive Mudarai to Bodi Ghat, 25/1 10+ near Kochi, 26/1 4 Fort Kochi, 27/1 + drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 4 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 4 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 5 drive to Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 10 Charupara (3 km from Hornbill Camp), 30/1 50 all day, 31/1 + Ascent to Top Slip, + Top Slip - morning, 1/2 30+ near Banyan Tree Homestay, 10 Top Slip - morning, 2/2 100+ all day, 3/2 1 Mudumalai, 4/2 30 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 all day, 6/2 all day, 7/2 some all day, 8/2 10 drive Hassan to Bangalore, 9/2 100+ Bangalore Airport. **G:** 9/2 20 Moti Virani, 11/2 25 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 10 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 10 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 5 bird-lake near Zainabad, **D:** 16/2 30 Sultanpur Jheel.
- 364 **Bank Mynah** *Acridithers ginginarius*. **G:** 11/2 1 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 11 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 10 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 4 near Desert Courser (Zainabad), **D:** 16/2 30 near Sultanpur Jheel.
- 365 **Jungle Mynah** *Acridotheres fuscus*. **SI:** 24/1 2 Munnar, 25/1 8 by dam, Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 27/1 8 (fields near airport) drive Fort Kochi to Thattekkad, 28/1 2 Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 2 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 20 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 50 all day, 31/1 + Top Slip - morning, 1/2 5 Ascent to Top Slip, 2/2 2 Regency Villas (Ooty), 3/2 30 Recency Villas (Ooty), 100+ Mudumalai, 4/2 10 Bandipur NP, 5/2 2 Chamundi Hills, 6/2 some all day, 7/2 50 all day, 8/2 5 drive Hassan to Bangalore.
- 366 **Southern Hill Mynah** *Gracula [religiosa] indica*. **SI:** 27/1 2 Thattekkad, 28/1 12 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad), 29/1 2 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 15 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 4 Ascent to Top Slip, 4 Top Slip - morning, 2 Top Slip (afternoon), 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS.
- 367 **\*House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. **SI:** 20/1 1 male drive from Mamallapuram to Chidambaram, 21/1 5 Tarangambadi (Tranqbar), 22/1 5 all day, 24/1 1 drive Mudarai to Bodi Ghat, 5 Munnar, 26/1 1 male + 6 Fort Kochi, 27/1 5 Fort Kochi, 30/1 10 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 2/2 20+ drive Banyan Tree Homestay to Ooty, 3/2 5 Recency Villas (Ooty), 2 Cairnhill Forest (Ooty), 2 drive Ooty to Mudumalai, 30+ Mudumalai, 4/2 15 drive Bandipur to Mysore, 5/2 10+ Mysore, 6/2 25 all day, 25 all day, 8/2 10+ Sravana Belgola. **G:** 9/2 + Moti Virani, 10/2 '00 Fulay, 200 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 hundreds driving to Naliya grassland, 12/2 5 drive in Banni grassland, 13/2 30 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 14/2 25 drive Moti Virani to Zainabad, 15/2 10 bird-lake near Zainabad.

- 368 **Chestnut-shouldered Petronia** *Petronia xanthocillius*. **SI:** 3/2 4 Mudumalai, 4/2 2 walk from Forest Hills (Mudumalai). **G:** 10/2 10 Fulay, 5 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 10 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 12/2 1 singing cliff near Fulay.
- Baya Weaver *Ploceus phillippinus*. **SI:** 1/2 old nests near Banyan Tree Homestay, 7/2 old nests drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 11/2 **G:** 11/2 1 old nest Jathavera Forest and nearby village.
- 369 **Tri-coloured Munia** *Lonchura malacca*. **SI:** 21/1 10+ drive Tarangambadi to Thanjavur (near Thanjavur).
- 370 **Indian Silverbill** *Lonchura malabarica*. **SI:** 1/2 2 near Banyan Tree Homestay, 3/2 2 Mudumalai, 7/2 3 drive Mysore to Hassan. **G:** 10/2 5 Fulay, 3 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 12 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 25 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 15 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani, 15/2 2 bird-lake near Zainabad, 2 dry Kutch near Zainabad.
- 371 **White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata striata*. **SI:** 29/1 2 near Hornbill Camp (Thattekad).
- 372 **Black-throated Munia** *Lonchura [kelaarti] jerdoni*. **SI:** 29/1 6 near Hornbill Camp (Thattekad).
- 373 **Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*. **SI:** 31/1 3 Ascent to Top Slip.
- 374 **Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrurus*. **SI:** 25/1 15+ Cardemomme Estate near Munnar, 31/1 1 male Top Slip - morning, 3/2 8 Singhur Ghat.
- 375 **\*Grey-necked Bunting** *Emberiza buechanani*. **G:** 10/2 2 btw Moti Virani and Fulay, 15 Vyar hills near Nakhatrana, 11/2 40 driving to Naliya grassland, 13/2 10 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani. Among the birds seen at Vyar Hills were 7-8 birds which showed yellowish eye-ring, submustacial stripe and chin, i.e. characters normally connected to the Ortulan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*.
- 376 **Striolated Bunting** *Emberiza striolata*. **G:** 13/2 6 Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani.

## REPTILES

1. **\*Indian Pond Terrapin** *Melanochelys trijuga*. **SI:** 1/2 3 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 14 Bandipur NP.
2. **\*Flap-Shell Turtle** *Lissemys punctata*. **G:** 11/2 10+ pond at Jathavera Forest and nearby village, 1 driving to Naliya grassland.
3. **Northern House Gecko** *Hemidactylus flaviridis*. **G:** 9/2 2 Moti Virani, 10/2 1 Moti Virani, 12/2 1 Moti Virani.
4. **\*Southern House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Se Breeze Hotel (Mamallapuram), 20/1 1 Tarangambadi, 23/1 2 Hotel Sree Devi, Madurai, 1/2 1 Ascent to Top Slip, 5/2 2 drive to 12 km E of Mysore.
5. **Snake Skink** *Lygosoma punctatus*. **SI:** 28/1 1 juvenile Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, 29/1 1 adulte 8 juvenile Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad).
6. **\*Common Garden Lizard** (Bloodsucker) *Calotes versicolor*. **SI:** 19/1 4 Mamallapuram, 20/1 1 Sea Breeze Hotel (Mamallapuram), 3/2 1 with brick red foreparts Forest bus drive (Theppakadu, Mudumalai). **G:** 13/2 1 Moti Virani.
7. **Fan-throated Lizard** *Sitana ponticeriana*. **G:** 11/2 2 btw Fulay and Moti Virani.
8. **Gliding Lizard** (Dragon) *Draco dussumieri*. **SI:** 29/1 1 Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad).
9. **Peninsular Rock Agama** *Psammodromus dorsalis*. **SI:** 8/2 4 Sravana Belgola.
10. **\*Spiny-tailed Lizard** *Uromastix hardwickii*. **G:** 11/2 5+ Pingleshwar.
11. **Un-identified lizard**. **SI:** 23/1 temple, Madurai, 6/2 1 Brahmagiri WS.
12. **Un-identified snake**. **SI:** 28/1 1 – came swimming across the river but dived before reaching the shore – 1.5+ m long - Hornbill Camp (Thattekkad).
13. **\*Saw-scaled Viper** *Echis carinatus*. **G:** 12/2 2 drive Fulay to Moti Virani, 13/2 2 drive Fulay to Moti Virani.
14. **\*Leith's Sandsnake** *Psammodromus leithii*. **G:** 10/2 1 btw Moti Virani and Fulay.

## AMPHIBIANS

1. **Skittering Frog** *Euphlychis cyanophlyctis*. **G:** 13/2 25+ Pakhdo Hills near Moti Virani
2. **Common Indian Toad** *Bufo melanostictus*. **SI:** 19/1 1 Sea Breeze Hotel, Mamallapuram, 3/2 1 'Night'-drive Mudumalai. **G:** 9/2 3 Moti Virani, 10/2 1 Moti Virani.
3. **Indian Bull Frog** *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*. **SI:** 29/1 1 spot-lighted in vegetation on the bank of Periyar river at Hornbill Camp. Peculiar pointed snout, white underside, marbled thighs, large size, and blue/red reflection in the eyes. **G:** 10/2 2 btw Moti Virani and Fulay.
4. Frog sp. **SI:** 20/1 1 Sea Breeze Hotel (Mamallapuram).

## BUTTERFLIES

**\*Southern Birdwing** *Troides minos*. **SI:** 29/1 1 pair mating Bhoothathankettu (by Irrigation Dam) (Thattekkad), 30/1 1 Sholayar Forest (Kerala), 31/1 2 Top Slip - morning, 1/2 1 Top Slip - morning, 4/2 1 walk from Forest Hill, 6/2 2 Brahmagiri WS.

Other species recorded: **Blue Mormon** *Papilio polymnestor*, **Lime Butterfly** *Papilio demoleus* (photo from Top Slip), **Common Rose** *Pachliopta aristolochiae* (very common, but other similar species also seen), **Common Lascar** *Pantoponia hordonia*, **\*Tawny Coster** *Acraea terpsicore* (photo from Kochi).

## OTHERS

Large millipede. **SI:** 28/1 1 Urulanthanni (Thattekkad)



Fulay 10/2. Grey Hypocolius. Photos. Jugal Tiwari



END