

Trip report INDIA

18 December 2011 – 6 January 2012



Lasse Olsson
www.birding.se



After planning this trip for a year we were finally off for three weeks in India during the end of 2011 and the first week of 2012. Primarily this was a family trip, but as we didn't see any Tiger when we were here last time we decided to put much focus on nature, especially in the northern parts – me not disappointed! Our accompanying two boys – 13/15 years – might not have been always as excited, but they went along pretty patiently.

Itinerary: Car from Delhi to Agra and then on to Chambal River, train to Katni and car to Bandhavgarh N.P, train back from Katni to Delhi, car to Corbett N.P, then on to Pangot and finally the car took us back to Delhi from where we were flying off to Goa.

The trip consisted of two main parts, first eleven days in North India, a rather cold but rewarding business, filled with quite a lot of transportation between different locations. In an early stage we'd decided to let Asian Adventures and Mr. Mohit Aggarwal make all the arrangements regarding this first leg, a decision we never regretted. Everything worked smoothly and the drivers as well as most of the guides – Bandhavgarh the only exception – were superb. Two guides worth mentioning are *Dalweer Singh* (mob. 9536731831) at Chambal Safari Lodge, an exceptionally cunning and helpful guide, and *Hari Lama*, my guide in Corbett and the Pangot area, who, with sharp eyes and a friendly approach, found most of the most wanted on my wish-list.

Places visited in the north were Delhi, Agra – for Taj Mahal only, Chambal River (www.chambalsafari.com), Bandhavgarh N.P. (www.monsoonforest.com) – the return railway trip generated in total 16 hours delay because of foggy weather ☹, Corbett N.P. (www.indianwildlife.com/tigercamp/gallery.html) and Pangot (www.pangot.com). Due to train delays we missed two days safari trips but there was no one to be blamed. Bandhavgarh is probably the best place to see Tiger, with a told hit-rate of 70%, but going there in midwinter – e.g. 500 k's one way – is more time-consuming than you wish, so with a tight itinerary it would have been better to choose an easier to reach park, for example Ranthambore.

Than - after an internal flight – the last ten-day-leg was spent in a much warmer and relaxed Goa. Here we checked in at a place called Hacienda de Goa (www.haciendadegoa.com), situated two kilometers inland from Vagator Beach, with nice and birdy farmland right outside the entrance. The place, owned by Thomas Koruth, is definitely highly recommendable and they can be contacted at haciendadegoa@sify.com. In Goa there are numerous trip reports pointing out the various points of interest to a keen birder, and – as said by many others before – two nights at Backwoods Camp were definitely the highlight.

One of the very few things we really had to arrange ourselves was the tipping. This may seem trivial, but in India it's not. Many wages are so low that a reasonable tip can make the difference for e.g. the staff of a lodge or a hotel/restaurant. Also, the guides and the drivers deserve a good tip after having done so much for you all these long days. Just formulate for yourself a reasonable percentage of the total trip cost. This may lead to a rather large absolute amount of tip money, but for you it is just this percentage, whereas for them it really helps.

As it was midwinter, we saw very few mosquitos, not even in the warmer and more humid south and hence did not take malaria pills. Officially all of India has a malaria risk year-round below 2000 meters. Health is of course Always a problem when travelling in India and due to the cold weather in the north we were constantly snoring and coughing. The food was superb throughout, and with the regular precautions we managed to keep the worst outbursts of 'Delhi belly' away.

Really expect low temperatures in the mornings and late afternoons, so bring fleece and down clothing, with gloves and warm cap. All lodges up north had separate heaters for the room on demand, too. But ... this makes it even nicer to reach Goa after weeks of freezing mornings ☺.

Despite it was mainly a family trip I managed to spend quite some time with my bins and my camera and thanks to great guides the trip list reached 385 species of birds – of which 102 were new to me – and 25 species of mammals. Having visited the Ramnagar and Kosi River area back in the nineties, without seeing Ibisbill, this was now by far the best bird of the trip ... no doubt! The birds winter in the gravel plains along Kosi River, but always in very low numbers. This year there were three known birds in the area and it took two mornings to find them, at least two of them ... what a relief!

Other good birds of this trip were the Indian Skimmers, Black-bellied Terns, Brook's Leaf Warbler and Crested Bunting at Chambal River, White-naped Woodpecker at Bandhavgarh, Cheer Pheasant at Vinayak, Indian Courser between Katni and Bandhavgarh, Jerdon's Nightjar, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, the Kingfishers, Malabar Trogon, White-bellied Blue Flycatcher and Indian Blue Robin at Backwoods, Great Hornbill, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Long-billed Thrush and both of the Tesias at Corbett. But the most unexpected and probably rarest find, which I did only recognize afterwards, was a single Sedge Warbler at the Marinha Douranda salt pans in Goa– maybe not highest ranked on a Swedish birders wishlist ...

And ... it's hard to compile a trip report without mentioning the Tiger, one of the main reasons we were there at all. Two close encounters in Bandhavgarh the first two safaris made the train delays later on more bearable. What an animal! Having the dominant, rather scarred male of western Bandhavgarh within five meters for about ten minutes gave me and my whole family a once in a lifetime experience! A definite best of the trip memory!

If you're curious about something in this report or have any other question you think I'll be able to answer, don't hesitate to contact me at lasse.olsson@telia.com.



And this is what I saw ...

1. **Lesser Whistling Teal** *Dendrocygna javanica*
10+ seen in a pond along the way between Delhi and Agra and 20+ in a pond near Chambal Safari Lodge.



Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) – Chambal River, Dec 2011.

2. **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*
At least 200 flying past Chambal River.

3. **Knob-billed Duck / Comb Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
Five seen in a pond near Chambal Safari Lodge.

4. **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
Twenty at Yamuna River, about the same in small groups Chambal River and ten at Kosi River, just outside Ramnagar – all coming in pairs.



Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) – Chambal River, Dec 2011.

5. **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*
One male and two females at Chambal River.
6. **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*
One single male seen at Chambal River.
7. **Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*
A pair at Kosi River near the Ibisbill place, Kosi barrage.
8. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Single birds in ponds at Chambal River, between Delhi and Agra and Bandhavgarh.
9. **Indian Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
A few seen Yamuna River, Agra and a single bird Mandovi River at Panjim.
10. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*
10+ seen Bandhavgarh and a few at Yamuna River.

11. **Little Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax niger*
Seen in low numbers throughout.
12. **Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*
Common and widespread in low numbers.
13. **Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*
Seen every day and everywhere.

14. **Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*
One near the Ibisbill place at Kosi River and one bird at Marinha Dourada salt pans, Goa.



Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*) – Marinha Dourada salt pans, Jan. 2012

15. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
Single birds seen at Chambal River and in Goa.
16. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
Only two birds seen, both in Goa – Baga fields and close to Hacienda de Goa.
17. **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*
Fairly common throughout.
18. **Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*
A few birds in different places up north, but rather common in Goa.
19. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
Good numbers seen almost daily in suitable areas.
20. **Western Reef Egret** *Egretta gularis*
Only one bird seen - Marinha Dourada salt pans, Goa.



Western Reef Egret (*Egretta gularis*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

21. **Painted Stork** *Mycteria leucocephala*
Five birds seen foraging in a flooded area between Delhi and Agra.
22. **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*
One bird resting along Kosi River, Corbett N.P.
23. **Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*
Three birds altogether – one between Delhi and Agra, one at Chambal River and one seen overflying at Backwoods, Goa.
24. **Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
Only one seen, in a flooded area between Delhi and Agra.



Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) – Delhi - Agra, Dec. 2011



Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) – Bandhavgarh National Park, Dec. 2011

25. **Lesser Adjutant** *Leptoptilos javanicus*
One bird seen at Bandhavgarh and two found soaring when searching for raptors, Backwoods. It is classified as.
26. **Indian Black Ibis** *Pseudibis papillosa*
Five birds seen in the Chambal River area. An Indian Subcontinent endemic.
27. **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*
A single bird seen along Chambal River.
28. **Oriental Honey-buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
Two seen at Bandhavgarh, one in Backwoods and one from our hotel in Vagator, Hacienda de Goa.



Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

29. **Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*
Single birds seen at several places throughout.

30. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*
Common close to human inhabitation throughout, absent at Bandhavgarh. Probably more than a thousand birds at the same place in suburban Delhi.

31. **Black-eared Kite** *Milvus lineatus*
Seen in much more moderate numbers, more frequent in the south than in the north.

32. **Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*
It seems to show up everywhere in Goa, absent up north.

33. **White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
A total of five birds seen at various sites in Goa. Absent up north.

34. **Pallas' Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
An adult overflying at Ibisbill place, Kosi barrage and three birds near Dhikala, Corbett N.P.

35. **Lesser Fish Eagle** *Ichthyophaga humilis*
At least two birds along Kosi River inside Corbett National Park.

36. **Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*
Widespread and locally fairly common, with a maximum of ten birds in suburban Delhi.

It is considered as **Endangered** by Birdlife following a recent and extremely rapid population decline in combined with severe long term declines in Europe and West Africa, plus ongoing declines through much of the rest of its range, owing to a variety of threats.

37. **White-rumped Vulture** *Gyps bengalensis*
Seen only at Bandhavgarh, with a maximum total of five birds a day. This species is listed as **Critically endangered**. The population crash has been caused by the massive misuse of diclofenac in India in recent years. Hopefully the recent ban of the drug and a massive information campaign will help.

38. **Indian Vulture** *Gyps indicus*
Not uncommon at Bandhavgarh, where 20+ were recorded every day, but not seen elsewhere. According to the same reasons as the previous species it is listed as globally **Critically endangered**.

39. **Himalayan Vulture** *Gyps himalayensis*
Two birds before starting the climb to Naini Tal and 10+ seen between Pangot and Vinayak.



Pallas's Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – Corbett National Park, Dec. 2011



Bandhavgarh National Park, Dec. 2011

40. **Red-headed Vulture** *Sarcogyps calvus*
At least three birds seen Bandhavgarh and three or four seen around Dhikala, Corbett N.P.

41. **Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*
Three different birds around Backwoods.



Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) - Chambal River, Dec. 2011

42. **Shikra** *Accipiter badius*
Single birds at Chambal River, Bandhavgarh, Corbett N.P. and Goa. A fairly common bird.

43. **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Only one seen, a female near Chambal River.

44. **White-eyed Buzzard** *Butastur teesa*
Two different birds in Bandhavgarh and a single soaring close to Backwoods, Goa.



Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*) - Corbett National Park, Dec. 2011

45. **Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo japonicus*
Single bird just outside our hotel, Hacienda de Goa.

46. **Himalayan Buzzard** *Buteo burmanicus*
One bird soaring between Vinayak and Pangot. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*.

47. **Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*
Two different individuals seen in the Backwoods area.

48. **Indian Spotted Eagle** *Aquila hastata*
One first-winter bird was seen three days from the hotel grounds, Hacienda de Goa. An Indian Subcontinent endemic.

49. **Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*
At least five birds in different ages seen around Naini Tal.

50. **Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus*
An adult perched on the nest, Chambal River.

51. **Booted Eagle** *Hieraetus pennatus*
Three birds in total seen, two dark morphs en route up north and a pale morph around Hacienda de Goa.



Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) - Naini Tal, Dec. 2011

52. **Changeable Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
All together four birds – all pale morphs – were seen in Corbett N.P.

53. **Collared Falconet** *Microhierax caerulescens*
Four of these cute little creatures were seen in the Corbett area.
54. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
One female along Chambal River and one first-winter male behind Hacienda de Goa.
55. **Red-necked Falcon** *Falco chicquera*
A single bird seen en route between Pangot and Delhi.
56. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*
A male Shaheen Falcon *ssp. peregrinator* was seen from the hotel grounds in Goa.
57. **Grey Francolin** *Francolinus pondicerianus*
Single birds seen at several locations, with at least four pairs at Chambal River.
58. **Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*
One flushed twice and then seen well on the ground near Chambal Safari Lodge.
59. **Hill Partridge** *Arborophila torqueola*
A pair close to the road between Pangot and Naini Tal.
60. **Cheer Pheasant** *Catreus wallichii*
Thanks to my guide Lama's sharp eyes one beautiful male was found fouraging for an hour in the steep slopes at Vinayak.
61. **Koklass Pheasant** *Pucrasia macrolopha*
One male seen briefly on the roadside between Pangot and Vinayak.
62. **Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus*
All in all - three males in Corbett N.P. This species is endemic to Peninsular India.
63. **Grey Junglefowl** *Gallus sonneratii*
More than five seen and heard Backwoods, Goa. This species is endemic to Peninsular India.
64. **Kalij Pheasant** *Lophura leucomelanos*
Only one single male seen as it flew across the road in Corbett N.P.
65. **Indian Peafowl** *Pavo cristatus*
Fairly common throughout. Seen at Chambal, Bandhavgarh, Corbett and behind the hotel Hacienda de Goa. National bird of India and endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.
66. **Barred Buttonquail** *Turnix suscitator*
At least three different birds flushed Morjim beach, Goa.
67. **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** *Turnix tanki*
One single bird flushed repeatedly just outside Monsoon Forest Lodge, Bandhavgarh.
68. **White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Single birds at Chambal, Backwoods and Marinha Dourada salt pans, Goa.
69. **Brown Crake** *Amaurornis akool*
One single bird close to the ferry crossing, Chambal River.



Collared Falconet (*Microhierax caerulescens*) - Corbett National Park, Dec. 2011



Grey-headed Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*) – Delhi - Agra, Dec. 2011

70. Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus*

Five at a roadside pond between Delhi and Agra were the only sighting. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*.

71. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Single birds Chambal, Bandhavgarh and Corbett N.P.

72. Bronze-winged Jacana

Metopidius indicus

Three seen in a pond near Chambal Safari Lodge and fairly common in ponds, Goa.



Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

73. Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Common up north but only one single bird Baga fields, Goa.

74. Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Three seen Marinha Dourada salt pans, Goa.

75. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Small numbers at Chambal River and several places in Goa

76. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

More than five birds along the Chambal River and the same at Morjim beach, Goa.

77. Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius*

mongolus

Maybe a hundred at Morjim beach and at least twenty birds at Marinha Dourada salt pans, Goa.



Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) – Morjim Beach, Jan. 2012

78. Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius*

leschenaultii

Somewhere 5 – 10 birds at Morjim beach, Goa.

79. Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus*

malarbaricus

One pair Chambal River and one pair Bandhavgarh. Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent



Yellow-wattled Plover (*Vanellus malarbaricus*) – Bandhavgarh N.P, Dec. 2011

80. River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Twenty+ along the Chambal River, a pair at Yamuna River and more than ten at Kosi River, Ramnagar.

81. **Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*
Common and widespread throughout.
82. **Pintail Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*
One single bird flushed and then seen on the ground at Baga fields, Goa.
83. **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
Two birds seen Chambal River.
84. **Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*
Three birds seen on the beach at Morjim, Goa.
85. **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
Two seen at Marinha Dourada saltpans, Goa.
86. **Common Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*
One bird along Chambal River and several in different places, Goa.
87. **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
Two seen Chambal River, one Kosi River and two Marinha Dourada saltpans, Goa.
88. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*
More than five different birds Marinha Dourada saltpans, Goa.
89. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
Single birds seen in several places.
90. **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
More than ten birds at Chambal River and at least five at Marinha Dourada saltpans, otherwise small numbers.
91. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
Fairly common in most places.
92. **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*
Several birds along the Chambal River and a single bird at Marinha Dourada saltpans, Goa.
93. **Ibisbill** *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*
Superb views of two birds along Kosi River, Ramnagar. Definitely the birds of the trip!



Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) - Goa, Jan. 2012



BIRD OF THE TRIP!!! Ibisbill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*) -



Kosi Barrage, Ramnagar Dec. 2011

94. **Great Thick-knee** *Esacus recurvirostris*
Two birds in deep fog at Chambal River were the only ones.

95. **Indian Courser** *Cursorius coromandeldus*

An unsuspected surprise when one single bird flew over the road in front of our car between Katni and Bandhavgarh.



Small Pratincole (*Glareola lacteal*) – Morjim beach, Jan. 2012

96. **Small Pratincole** *Glareola lacteal*
Seen in Goa, with 30+ birds at Morjim beach and a large flock of 100+ birds at Marinha Dourada salt pans.

97. **Heuglin's Gull** *Larus heuglini*
At least five birds at Morjim beach, Goa.

98. **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus cachinnans barabensis*
Ten birds at Yamuna River behind Taj Mahal, twenty at the Ganges crossing and more than a hundred at Morjim beach, Goa.

99. **Pallas's Gull** *Ichthyiaetus ichthyiaetus*
Three birds along Chambal River and more than twenty at Morjim beach, Goa.

100. **Brown-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*
A thousand, maybe two, at Morjim beach, Goa.

101. **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
500+ birds at Morjim beach, Goa.

102. **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelocheledon nilotica*
One bird along Chambal River and ten at Morjim beach, Goa.

103. **River Tern** *Sterna aurantia*
Five or six birds were seen along Chambal River.

104. **Black-bellied Tern** *Sterna acuticauda*
Three of these beautiful terns were seen along Chambal River. The species is rapidly declining and now listed as **Near Threatened**.

105. **Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*
Only two birds together with other terns and gulls at Morjim beach, Goa.



Pallas's Gull (*Larus ichthyiaetus*) – Morjim beach, Jan. 2012



Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna acuticauda*) – Chambal River, Dec. 2011

106. **Indian Skimmer** *Rynchops albicollis*
Superb views of three flocks of together 25 birds along Chambal River. Due to recent decline it is now listed as **Vulnerable**.



Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*) – Chambal River, Dec. 2011



Lance Clasen © 2011

107. **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus*
At least twenty birds in scattered flocks were seen along Chambal River.

108. **Rock pigeon** *Columba livia*
Simply everywhere. India has a strong population of wild bird, of the *intermedia* subspecies.

109. **Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*
Two different birds seen in Pangot.

110. **Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*
Common at Bandhavgarh and Goa, single birds seen elsewhere.

111. **Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Seen in small numbers, mainly in drier places.

112. **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Fairly common up north, but only singles recorded in Goa.

113. **Red Collared Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
A single male seen at Chambal River.

114. **Grey-fronted Green Pigeon** *Treron affinis*
Common at Backwoods. Endemic to southern India. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Pompadour Green Pigeon** *Treron pompadora*.

115. **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon** *Treron phoenicoptera*
Fairly common at Bandhavgarh and one bird overflying at Baga fields, Goa.

116. **Mountain Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula badia*
At least ten birds seen from the temple area, Tambdi Surla.



Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*) – Chambal River, Dec. 2011



Grey-fronted Green Pigeon (*Treron affinis*) – Goa, Dec. 2011

117. **Vernal Hanging Parrot** *Loriculus vernalis*
More than twenty seen in the Backwoods area and singles/pairs seen in wooded areas around Goa.
118. **Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*
Surprisingly few seen, with only two at Bandhavgarh.
119. **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*
More frequent in Chambal and Bandhavgarh than in south, where only single birds were seen.
120. **Slaty-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula himalayana*
A flock of twenty birds seen in Corbett N.P.
121. **Plum-headed Parakeet** *Psittacula cyanocephala*
A pair flying over Chambal River were the only sightings up north. Fairly common in Goa. Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.
122. **Malabar Parakeet** *Psittacula columboides*
Fairly common in Backwoods and rest of Goa. A Western Ghats endemic.
123. **Red-breasted Parakeet** *Psittacula alexandri*
Single bird heard and later seen close to Ibisbill place, Kosi Barrage.
124. **Large Hawk Cuckoo** *Cuculus sparverioides*
One bird seen perched just outside Bandhavgarh N.P.
125. **Common Hawk Cuckoo** *Cuculus varius*
Three different seen Bandhavgarh



Male Plum-headed Parrot (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) – Goa, Dec. 2011



Banded Bay Cuckoo (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) – Tambdi Surla, Dec. 2011

126. **Banded Bay Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sonneratii*
One seen well in the temple area, Tambdi Surla.
127. **Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*
Common and widespread, but more often heard than seen.
128. **Asian Koel** *Eudynamys scolopacea*
Single birds seen in Chambal and Corbett. Very common and widespread in Goa.
129. **Sirkeer Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*
One bird seen well at the entrance to Chambal River.
130. **Collared Scops Owl** *Otus bakkamoena*
Three birds in Chambal area – with two in the Chambal Safari Lodge grounds, one at Bandhavgarh and one just outside Tiger Camp, Corbett.
131. **Oriental Scops Owl** *Otus sunia*
One single bird responding to playback just outside Backwoods camp.
132. **Indian Eagle Owl** *Bubo bengalensis*
A pair nesting on a cliff along Chambal River.



Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) - Corbett National Park, Dec. 2011

133. **Brown Fish Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis*
One bird in Corbett N.P. and one at Backwoods, Goa.

134. **Brown Hawk Owl** *Ninox scutulata*
One roosting Chambal Safari Lodge and one responding to playback and seen well, Backwoods.

135. **Jungle Owlet** *Glaucidium radiatum*
Three different birds seen at Bandhavgarh N.P. Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.

136. **Spotted Owlet** *Athene brama*
Only two birds seen, one bird roosting at Chambal Safari Lodge and one behind our hotel, Hacienda de Goa.

137. **Brown Wood Owl** *Strix leptogrammica*
One seen at the regular site Saligao Zor, Goa.



Sri Lanka Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*) - Backwoods Camp, Dec. 2011

138. **Sri Lanka Frogmouth** *Batrachostomus moniliger*
A pair containing one grey-morphed and one brown-morphed bird roosting at exactly the same branch all three days at Backwoods. A South Indian/ Sri Lankan endemic.

139. **Jerdon's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus atripennis*
Several heard and one seen extremely well in the Backwoods area. Also a South Indian/ Sri Lankan endemic.



Jerdon's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus atripennis*) - Backwoods Camp, Dec. 2011

140. **Indian Swiftlet** *Aerodramus unicolor*
Five birds seen near Backwoods.

141. **Himalayan Swiftlet** *Aerodramus brevirostris*
Seen in several places in the north, with 10+ birds at Kosi River and several birds around Pangot.

142. **Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
Seen in low numbers at Bandhavgarh, Katni, Backwoods and the rest of Goa.

143. **White-rumped Needletail** *Zoonavena sylvatica*
More than 20 seen along Kosi River, Corbett N.P.

144. **Brown-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus giganteus*
One single bird with other swifts near Backwoods.



Himalayan Swiftlet (*Aerodramus brevirostris*) - Corbett N.P., Dec. 2011

145. **Asian Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Twenty or so birds seen near Backwoods.

146. **Crested Treeswift** *Hemiprocne coronate*

More than twenty birds along Kosi River, Corbett N.P. and ten birds near Backwoods, Goa.

147. **Malabar Trogon** *Harpactes fasciatus*

A single male and a pair of these stunning birds were seen extremely well at Backwoods, Goa.

148. **Crested Kingfisher** *Megaceryle lugubris*

Two birds seen along Kosi River, Corbett N.P.

149. **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

Fairly common in Chambal River and Corbett N.P. In Goa a single bird at Baga fields is the only record.



A gorgeous male Malabar Trogon (*Harpactes fasciatus*) – Backwoods Camp, Dec. 2011



Another gem Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

150. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Single birds seen in Corbett N.P. Common in ponds and wetlands in Goa.

151. **Blue-eared Kingfisher**

Alcedo meninting
An obliging individual seen well along the stream behind Tambdi Surla.

B



Blue-eared Kingfisher (*Alcedo meninting*) – Tambdi Surla, Dec. 2011

152. **Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ceyx erithaca*

One at the favourite spot along the stream behind Tambdi Surla.

153. **Stork-billed Kingfisher** *Halcyon capensis*

Two seen in the Backwoods area and more than five at Marinha Dourada saltpans.

154. **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Widely distributed throughout.

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

A single bird of this beautiful species was seen in tall, flowering trees just outside Bandhavgarh N.P.

156. **Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*

Common at Bandhavgarh and in Goa.



Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) – Goa, Jan. 2012



Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

157. **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*

Only five birds of this supposed common species were seen in Baga fields, Goa.

158. **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** *Merops leschenaulti*

At least fifty birds together flying high near Backwoods, Goa.

159. **Indian Roller** *Coracias benghalensis*
Single birds seen at Chambal River and Bandhavgarh. Common and widespread in Goa.



Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) – Goa, Jan. 2012



Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

160. **Common Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

A few seen at Chambal River and one behind Hacienda de Goa.

161. **Malabar Grey Hornbill** *Ocyrceros griseus*

Between five and ten seen in the Backwoods area, Goa.

162. **Indian Grey Hornbill** *Ocyrceros birostris*

More than ten seen in Bandhavgarh N.P.

163. **Malabar Pied Hornbill** *Anthracoceros coronatus*

A few seen in Bandhavgarh National Park as well as near Backwoods, Goa.

164. **Great Hornbill** *Buceros bicornis*

Three of these impressive birds flying over in Corbett N.P. and two on their way to the evening roost near Tambdi Surla, Goa.



Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) – Tambdi Surla, Dec. 2011



Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) – Corbett National Park, Dec. 2011

165. **Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens*

Just a single, distant bird downhill from Pangot.

166. **Brown-headed Barbet** *Megalaima zeylanica*
Fairly common in Chambal, Bandhavgarh and Backwoods. An Indian subcontinent endemic.
167. **Lineated Barbet** *Megalaima lineata*
Fairly common Corbett N.P.
168. **White-cheeked Barbet** *Megalaima viridis*
Common in lowland Goa, where it's more often heard than seen. Endemic to South India.



White-cheeked Barbet (*Megalaima viridis*) – Goa, Jan. 2012



Lineated Barbet (*Megalaima lineata*) – Corbett National Park, Dec. 2011

169. **Malabar Barbet** *Megalaima malabarica*
Only seen at Backwoods, where it is fairly common. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Crimson-fronted Barbet** *Megalaima rubricapilla*.
170. **Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*
Common in Chambal, Bandhavgarh and lowland Goa. Its familiar call is heard all day, as long as there's a tree in sight.
171. **Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos nanus*
Two different birds seen in the Backwoods area. Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.
172. **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
Three seen in different birdgroups in Corbett N.P.
173. **Brown-fronted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos auriceps*
One at Woodpecker point, Pangot. A western Himalayan speciality.
174. **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos macei*
One male drumming near the gate, Corbett N.P.
175. **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*
Two birds seen at Bandhavgarh N.P.
176. **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
One bird seen briefly in Corbett N.P. and one exquisite male at Woodpecker point, Pangot.
177. **Himalayan Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos himalayensis*
One female loudly foraging near Woodpecker point, Pangot. A west Himalayan speciality.

178. **White-bellied Woodpecker** *Dryocopus javensis*

Three heard and seen well in the Backwoods area, Goa.



White-bellied Woodpecker (*Dryocopus javensis*) – Backwoods, Dec. 2011

179. **Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*

A not uncommon bird in the north, with several birds in Corbett N.P.

180. **Himalayan Flameback** *Dinopium shorii*

Five birds seen in different places, Corbett N.P.

181. **Black-rumped Flameback** *Dinopium benghalense*

Scattered sightings in the north as well as in Backwoods, Goa.

182. **White-naped Woodpecker** *Chrysocolaptes festivus*

Seen twice at Bandhavgarh National Park.

183. **Greater Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

Two birds seen at Bandhavgarh N.P. and at least three in the Backwoods area.

184. **Heart-spotted Woodpecker** *Hemicircus canente*

More than five of these enigmatic little birds were seen in the Backwoods area, Goa.



Heart-spotted Woodpecker (*Hemicircus canente*) – Backwoods, Dec. 2011

185. **Great Slaty Woodpecker** *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*

Four in a group flying across the road between Tiger Lodge and Kosi River, Ramnagar. Also heard inside Corbett N.P.

186. **Indian Pitta** *Pitta brachyuran*

Five birds heard and one seen briefly in the Backwoods area, Goa. Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.

187. **Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix grisea*

A single male seen flying at Chambal River.

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

Two birds in Chambal and a flock of at least twenty in the fields opposite Hacienda de Goa.



Malabar Lark (*Galerida malabarica*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

189. **Sand Lark** *Calandrella raytal*

Two birds not associating with the previous species at Chambal River.

190. **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*

Five birds seen at Chambal River.

191. **Malabar Lark** *Galerida malabarica*

Not uncommon in suitable habitat, coastal Goa. It is a South Indian endemic.

192. **Grey-throated Sand Martin** *Riparia chinensis*

Fairly common around Chambal and in Corbett N.P.

193. **Eurasian Crag Martin** *Hirundo rupestris*
A single bird seen when raptor-watching in the Backwoods area.
194. **Dusky Crag Martin** *Hirundo concolor*
Scattered birds at Bandhavgarh N.P. and a single bird up in Vinayak.
195. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
Very common throughout.
196. **Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*
Common throughout in lowland areas.
197. **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*
Fairly common up north, even more common in Goa.
198. **Streak-throated Swallow** *Hirundo fluvicola*
More than twenty birds seen in the Backwoods area.
199. **Northern House Martin** *Delichon urbica*
A single bird seen when raptor-watching in the Backwoods area.
200. **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
ssp alba: Several birds along Chambal River and in the Delhi area.
ssp personata: Several birds in the Chambal Safari Lodge area and elsewhere.
ssp alboides: Single bird at Kosi River
201. **Black-backed Wagtail** *Motacilla lugens leucopsis*
Two birds outside Bandhavgarh N.P.
202. **White-browed Wagtail** *Motacilla madaraspatensis*
Scattered birds in low numbers at Chambal, Corbett, Bandhavgarh and Goa.
203. **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*
Single birds seen en route Delhi – Agra and in the Chambal area.
204. **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
Single birds seen or heard at several locations.
205. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
Single birds seen at almost all locations.
206. **Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*
Single birds at Chambal, Bandhavgarh and in Goa.
207. **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*
Two birds at Chambal Safari Lodge and single observations in Corbett and Goa.



Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) – Goa, Jan. 2012



Black-backed Wagtail (*Motacilla lugens leucopsis*) – Bandhavgarh N.P, Dec. 2012



Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) – Delhi - Agra, Jan. 2011



Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) – Goa, Jan. 2011

208. **Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis*
One bird near the gate in Chambal River was the only noted.
209. **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*
Several birds seen and even more heard at Chambal Safari Lodge.
210. **Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*
Single birds in Chambal.
211. **Rosy Pipit** *Anthus roseatus*
A single bird seen distant, but well at the Ibisbill place, Kosi Barrage.
212. **Upland Pipit** *Anthus sylvanus*
One bird in the grassland near Vinayak.
213. **Large Cuckooshrike** *Coracina macei*
Singles in Bandhavgarh, one female at Saligao Zor, Goa and two birds elsewhere, Goa.
214. **Black-headed Cuckooshrike** *Coracina melanoptera*
Three different birds in the Backwoods area, Goa.
215. **Small Minivet** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
More than twenty around Backwoods and 10+ in the hotel area, Goa.
216. **Longtailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus*
The most frequent Minivet in Corbett, with more than 10+ seen.
217. **Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus flammeus*
Not seen in the north, but more than ten birds were seen in the Backwoods area. This is a species endemic to peninsular India and Sri Lanka.
218. **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus*
Five birds in birdgroups seen in Corbett and five birds in Backwoods.
219. **Malabar Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis sylvicola*
At least ten birds seen in the Backwoods area. An Indian peninsular endemic. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis gularis*.
220. **Common Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
Recorded in small numbers up north, with at least five birds in Corbett.



Asian Paradise-flycatcher (*Tersiphone paradisea*) - Backwoods, Dec. 2011



Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) - Backwoods, Dec. 2011

221. Asian Paradise-flycatcher

Terpsiphone paradisea

Seen in the southern part of the trip, with four birds – two cracking white males – in the Backwoods area and two birds behind the Hacienda de Goa.

222. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

Three of these magnificent birds in the Backwoods area.

223. **Yellow-bellied Fantail** *Rhipidura hypoxantha*
Not uncommon in wooded areas in the north, with at least ten seen in Corbett.
224. **White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*
Frequent in the north.
225. **White-spotted Fantail** *Rhipidura albogularis*.
At least ten birds seen in different locations in Goa. Endemic to the Indian peninsula. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **White-browed Fantail** *Rhipidura aureola*.
226. **Grey-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus priocephalus*
More easily heard than seen. Distant views of three birds in the Backwoods area. It is a South Indian endemic



Flame-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus gularis*) – Backwoods, Dec. 2011

227. **Flame-throated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus gularis*
Seen in small numbers all days around Backwoods camp. Also a South Indian endemic. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus melanicterus* .
228. **Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*
A single bird seen in Corbett. In the end of the trip small numbers seen every day in Goa.
229. **Himalaya Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
Common in Corbett and Pangot.
230. **White-eared Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucotis*
Only seen in the Chambal area, where five birds were noted.
231. **Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*
Seen daily on all locations.
232. **White-browed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus luteolus*
Fairly common in Goa. Noisy and more often heard than seen. An endemic to South India and Sri Lanka.
233. **Yellow-browed Bulbul** *Iole indica*
Seen daily in small numbers in the Backwoods area and two birds were seen behind Hacienda de Goa. Also endemic to South India and Sri Lanka.
234. **Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
About ten noisy birds at Woodpecker point, Pangot.
235. **Square-tailed Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes ganeesa*
Heard and seen daily in the Backwoods area. Also endemic to South India and Sri Lanka. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*.
236. **Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*
Fairly common throughout.

237. **Blue-winged Leafbird** *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
Four different birds seen in the Backwoods area.

238. **Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons*
A single bird seen at Bandhavgarh, 10+ around Backwoods and two birds behind Hacienda de Goa.

239. **Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii*
Two birds following a birdparty in Corbett N.P.

240. **Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*
Two different birds seen at Bandhavgarh N.P.

241. **Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*
One bird at Bandhavgarh, one just outside Backwoods camp, one in Baga fields and finally one behind Hacienda de Goa.



Blue-winged Leafbird (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*) - Backwoods, Dec. 2011

242. **Bay-backed Shrike** *Lanius vittatus*

A single bird in Chambal and four of them at Bandhavgarh N.P.

243. **Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*
Seen in small numbers on all locations.

244. **Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus*
A single bird in the village of Pangot is the only sighting.

245. **Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis lahtora*
One bird along Chambal River and single roadside birds between Katni and Delhi.



Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) - Bandhavgarh N.P, Dec. 2011

246. **Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasii*
A single bird at Kumeria River.

247. **Altai Accentor** *Prunella himalayana*
A flock of 30+ birds in Vinayak.

248. **Rufous-breasted Accentor** *Prunella strophhiata*
A single roadside bird seen when leaving downhill from Pangot.

249. **Orange-headed Thrush** *Zoothera citrina cyanota*
Seen daily at Backwoods and in coastal Goa.

250. **Long-billed Thrush** *Zoothera monticola*
One of these strange-looking birds was seen well in a birdy area just outside Corbett N.P.



Altai Accentor (*Prunella himalayana*) - Vinayak, Dec. 2011



Orange-headed Thrush (*Zoothera citrina cyanota*) - Backwoods, Dec. 2011

251. **Grey-winged Blackbird** *Turdus boulboul*
At least thirty birds foraging at Woodpecker point, Pangot.

252. **Nilgiri Blackbird** *Turdus simillimus*
One bird in the backyard kitchen in Backwoods camp. Endemic to peninsular India and Sri Lanka. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula*.

253. **Chestnut Thrush** *Turdus rubrocanus*
One or maybe two birds seen well at Woodpecker point, Pangot.

254. **Blue-capped Rock Thrush** *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
One striking male just outside the temple area, Tambdi Surla.



Male Blue-capped Rock Thrush (*Monticola cinclorhynchus*) - Tambdi Surla, Dec. 2011



Chestnut Thrush (*Turdus rubrocanus*) - Woodpecker point, Dec. 2011

255. **Blue Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*
Common and widespread in higher altitudes, Corbett and Pangot.

256. **Malabar Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus horsfieldii*
At least five birds seen at Backwoods and one in Saligao Zor. It's endemic to South India

257. **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa muttui*
At least three birds were seen in the Backwoods/ Tambdi Surla area.

258. **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophciata*
Only one bird was seen, at Kumaria.

259. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*
Heard and seen fairly frequently at Chambal, Bandhavgarh and Backwoods.

260. **Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassina*
One male in the Chambal Safari Lodge area and one male close to Tambdi Surla.

261. **White-bellied Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis pallipes*
One male seen in the understorage upstream from Tambdi Surla.

262. **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis tickelliae*
Single birds seen in Bandhavgarh, Corbett and in Goa.

263. **Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
Only heard in Bandhavgarh, but seen well at several locations in Corbett.

264. **Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*
Just one was seen in the crop fields opposite Hacienda de Goa.



Brown-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa muttui*) - Tambdi Surla, Dec. 2011

265. **Indian Blue Robin** *Luscinia brunnea*

A male and a female were seen fairly well upstream from Tambdi Surla, Goa.

266. **Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger rufilatus*

A roadside bird seen in the early morning between Pangot and Vinayak. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*.

267. **Oriental Magpie Robin** *Copsychus saularis*

Observed daily, but nowhere really common.

268. **White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus*

Two birds seen in the Backwoods area.

269. **Indian Robin** *Saxicoloides fulicatus*

Common in the Chambal area and scattered records from the rest of northern India. It's an Indian Subcontinent endemic.

270. **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris*

Single birds at Chambal and Bandhavgarh.

271. **Blue-capped Redstart** *Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus*

Three birds in the village gardens at Woodpecker point, Pangot.

272. **Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*

A single male in the Naini Tal area.

273. **White-capped Water Redstart** *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

Common along streams in the mountains, with for example more than twenty birds seen from the bridge at Kosi Barrage.

274. **Plumbeous Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*

As common as previous species along streams in the mountains, with even here more than twenty birds seen from the bridge at Kosi Barrage.

275. **Spotted Forktail** *Enicurus maculatus*

Two birds in Corbett, two at Kosi Barrage and one at Kumaria.

276. **Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*

Fairly common throughout.

277. **Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata*

Single birds at Chambal, Corbett and in Goa.



Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) - Backwoods, Dec. 2011



Blue-capped Redstart (*Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus*) - Woodpecker point, Dec. 2011



Male Plumbeous Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosa*) - Kosi Barrage, Ramnagar, Dec. 2011

278. **Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferreus*
Fairly common in the northern mountains.
279. **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*
A single bird seen along Chambal River.
280. **Brown Rock-chat** *Cercomela fusca*
Seen in low numbers at several locations in the north.
It is an Indian Subcontinent endemic.



Male Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferreus*) – Corbett N.P., Dec. 2011

281. **White-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax albogularis*
A flock of maybe fifteen bird flying off in Pangot village.
282. **Striated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax striatus*
Two birds heard and seen at Woodpecker point, Pangot.
283. **Streaked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax lineatus*
Fairly common in the Pangot area.

284. **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax erythrocephalus*
Five birds of this rather noisy species were seen at Woodpecker point, Pangot.

285. **Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps*
Only seen in the south, with five birds at Backwoods and five birds behind Hacienda de Goa.



Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

286. **Indian Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*
Only one bird and only heard in the Backwoods area. An Indian Subcontinent endemic.

287. **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
One bird showed itself well at Pangot village.

288. **Black-chinned Babbler** *Stachyris pyrrhops*
Seen in small numbers every day in Corbett.



Dark-fronted Babbler (*Rhopocichla atriceps*) – Backwoods, Dec 2011

289. **Dark-fronted Babbler** *Rhopocichla atriceps*

Not uncommon in the Backwoods/ Tambdi Surla area. It's a South Indian and Sri Lankan endemic.

290. **Common Babbler** *Turdoides caudatus*

A flock of twenty birds seen at Chambal River.

291. **Large Grey Babbler** *Turdoides malcolmi*

Common in Chambal and Bandhavgarh. Elsewhere absent.

292. **Jungle Babbler** *Turdoides striatus*
This noisy bird is common throughout.
Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.
293. **Brown-cheeked Fulvetta** *Alcippe poiocephala*
Common in the Backwoods area.
294. **Blue-winged Minla** *Minla cyanouroptera*
Three different sightings of birds in mixed
birdgroups in Corbett.



Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striatus*) – Backwoods, Dec. 2011

295. **Rufous Sibia** *Heterophasia capistrata*
One bird was seen in the village of Pangot
and up to ten birds at Woodpecker point,
Pangot.
296. **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
Small numbers seen or heard throughout.
297. **Striated Prinia** *Prinia criniger*
Two birds in the garden of Jungle Lore,
Pangot.



Rufous Sibia (*Heterophasia capistrata*) – Woodpecker point, Dec. 2011

298. **Rufous-fronted Prinia** *Prinia buchanani*
Not uncommon in the Chambal River area.
299. **Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii*
Seen at several places in the north with as many as 20+ birds in Corbett.
300. **Ashy Prinia** *Prinia socialis*
Common in the Chambal area and a few seen in Corbett.
301. **Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*
Widespread in the north and scattered
sightings in Goa.

302. **Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*
Fairly common throughout.

303. **Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Tesia castaneocoronata*
Two birds in the same area just outside
Corbett N.P.

304. **Grey-bellied Tesia** *Tesia cyaniventer*
One bird heard just outside Corbett N.P.

305. **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*
A single bird seen well in the fields opposite Hacienda de Goa.

306. **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
One bird seen well at the Marinha Dourada saltpans, Goa. Noted as vagrant to India!



Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*) – Goa, Jan. 2012



Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) – Goa, Jan. 2012



Indian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus brunnescens*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

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

Common and widespread throughout.

308. **Indian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus brunnescens*

One single bird heard and seen at the Marinha Dourada salt pans, Goa. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*.

309. **Sykes's Warbler** *Hippolais rama*

One bird near Backwoods camp, Goa.

310. **Sulphur-bellied Warbler**

Phylloscopus griseolus

One bird seen in Bandhavgarh N.P.

311. **Siberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus tristis*

Not uncommon at Chambal, Bandhavgarh, Corbett and Pangot.

312. **Tickell's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus affinis*

One bird seen along the stream, Tambdi Surla.

313. **Buff-barred Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher*

Two birds in the village gardens at Woodpecker point, Pangot.

314. **Brook's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus subviridis*

One bird in the garden at Chambal Safari Lodge.

315. **Lemon-rumped Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus chloronotus*

Not uncommon in Corbett National Park.

316. **Large-billed Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Two birds in the Backwoods/ Tambdi Surla area.

317. **Hume's Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei*

Common in Bandhavgarh, but otherwise only two birds seen outside Corbett N.P.

318. **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridianus*

Common in Bandhavgarh and in the mountains. Frequently sighted in Goa too.

319. **Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus nitidus*

At least one bird behind Hacienda de Goa was separated from the previous species by its diagnostic tri-syllabic call.

320. **Western Crowned Warbler**

Phylloscopus occipitalis

Two birds seen well at Backwoods, Goa.



Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

321. **Grey-hooded Warbler** *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*
Common in Corbett National Park.
322. **Whistler's Warbler** *Seicercus whistleri*
Several seen and heard in Corbett National Park.
323. **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*
Several birds at different locations in the north.
324. **Black-throated Tit** *Aegithalos concinnus*
Common in birdgroups in Corbett and Pangot.
325. **Spot-winged Tit** *Periparus melanolophus*
Several seen in the Pangot – Vinayak area.
326. **Grey Tit** *Parus cinereus*
Not uncommon in Corbett. But until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Great Tit** *Parus major*
327. **Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus*
Four birds noted in Corbett and two in the Pangot area.
328. **Black-lored Tit** *Parus xanthogenys*
A single bird seen in a birdgroup just outside Corbett National Park.
329. **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** *Sitta cinnamoventris*
Common in the Corbett and Pangot areas.
330. **Indian Nuthatch** *Sitta castanea*
A single bird seen at Bandhavgarh. Now an Indian Subcontinent endemic. But until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** *Sitta (cinnamoventris) castanea*
331. **White-tailed Nuthatch** *Sitta himalayensis*
Two birds seen well at Woodpecker point, Pangot.
332. **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis*
A few seen at Bandhavgarh and in the Backwoods area, Goa.



Wallcreeper (*Tichodroma muraria*) – Kosi Barrage, Ramnagar
Dec. 2011

333. **Wall Creeper** *Tichodroma muraria*
Two birds on two different days along Kosi river at Kosi Barrage, Ramnagar.

334. **Thick-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum agile*
Not uncommon in Bandhavgarh and one bird seen in Goa.

335. **Pale-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*
A few birds seen in the lodge garden, Bandhavgarh and one or two birds at Hacienda de Goa. Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.

336. **Nilgiri Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum concolor*
At least five birds in the Backwoods area and two birds behind Hacienda de Goa. A South Indian endemic. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Plain Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum minullum*

337. **Purple-rumped Sunbird** *Leptocoma zeylonica*

Common in Goa, with many birds visiting flowers in the hotel garden. It's an Indian Subcontinent endemic.



Purple-rumped Sunbird (*Leptocoma zeylonica*) – Goa, Dec. 2011

338. **Crimson-backed Sunbird** *Leptocoma minima*

Common in the Backwoods/ Tambdi Surla area. It's a South Indian endemic.

339. **Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus*

Noted in small numbers at Chambal, Bandhavgarh and in Goa.



Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) – Goa, Dec. 2011

340. **Loten's Sunbird** *Cinnyris lotenia*

A pair of them were seen close to Backwoods. It's a South Indian/ Sri Lankan endemic.

341. **Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja*

One male seen briefly outside Corbett N.P.

342. **Vigors's Sunbird** *Aethopyga vigorsii*

Two beautiful males seen at Saligao Zor, Goa. It's endemic to west-central India.

343. **Little Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera longirostra*

Two birds seen in the Backwoods area.

344. **Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Common in Bandhavgarh and Corbett.

345. **Crested Bunting** *Melophus lathami*

One male seen well in the village close to Chambal River.

346. **Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia*

At least ten birds seen in the Pangot – Vinayak area.



Male Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

347. **Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*

A flock of at least twenty birds was feeding in the fields opposite Hacienda de Goa.

348. **Red-headed Bunting** *Emberiza bruniceps*

Accompanying the previous species were at least two well-distinguished males.

349. **Yellow-breasted Greenfinch** *Carduelis spinoides*

A single male was seen when taking a brake on our way between Corbett and Pangot.

350. **Dark-breasted Rosefinch** *Carpodacus nipalensis*
- Three birds together at Woodpecker point, Pangot.

351. **Pink-browed Rosefinch** *Carpodacus rodochra*
- Two males were seen at Jungle Lore, Pangot.

352. **Indian Silverbill** *Lonchura malabarica*
Five birds at Chambal River were the only sighting.
353. **White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata*
Common and widespread in Goa.
354. **Black-throated Munia** *Lonchura kelaarti*
At least ten birds noted in the Backwoods area. Endemic to India and Sri Lanka.
355. **Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*
All Munias in a flock (50+ birds) in the fields opposite Hacienda de Goa belonged to this species.
356. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
Common in villages and towns throughout.
357. **Russet Sparrow** *Passer rutilans*
Ten birds in the Pangot area.
358. **Chestnut-shouldered Petronia** *Petronia xanthocollis*
Common in Chambal and Bandhavgarh. Less common in Goa.
359. **Baya Weaver** *Ploceus philippinus*
Twenty at Chambal River and a large flock (100+ birds) was seen opposite Hacienda de Goa.
360. **Black-breasted Weaver** *Ploceus benghalensis*
Fifteen or so along the road down to Chambal River.



Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnia malabarica*) - Goa, Jan. 2012

361. **Chestnut-tailed Starling** *Sturnia malabarica*

Twenty birds at Backwoods and as many behind Hacienda de Goa were the highest counts.

362. **Malabar White-headed Starling** *Sturnia blythii*

Ten birds in a fruiting tree just outside Backwoods camp. A South Indian endemic. Until recently and by some still regarded as a

subspecies of **Chestnut-tailed Starling** *Sturnia malabarica*

363. **Brahminy Starling** *Temenuchus pagodarum*
Common in the Chambal and Bandhavgarh region. Only one single bird seen in Goa. Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.



Rosy Starlings (*Sturnus roseus*) - Goa, Jan. 2012

364. **Rosy Starling** *Sturnus roseus*

Scattered flocks were seen in the fields along the coast, with 100 birds at Marinha Dourada salt pans being the highest count.

365. **Asian Pied Starling** *Gracupica contra*
Common in Delhi, Agra and Chambal. Less so in Bandhavgarh, absent elsewhere.

366. **Jungle Myna** *Acridotheres fuscus*

The commonest Myna in Goa.

367. **Bank Myna** *Acridotheres ginginianus*

Very common around human habitation, especially in the region between Delhi and Chambal. Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.

368. **Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

Common throughout in the north, a bit less so in the south.



Young Indian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*) – Goa, Jan. 2012

369. **Indian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus kundoo*

Seen daily in Goa, with a maximum of twenty behind Hacienda de Goa. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*.

370. **Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*

At least five birds were seen at Backwoods, Goa.

371. **Black-hooded Oriole** *Oriolus xanthornus*

Single birds seen almost daily in Goa.

372. **Asian Fairy Bluebird** *Irena puella*

Heard and seen at several occasions in the Backwoods area.

373. **Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Common and widespread.



Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) – Backwoods, Dec. 2011

374. **Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Small numbers noted most days in Goa.

375. **White-bellied Drongo** *Dicrurus caerulescens*

All together five birds in Bandhavgarh and Corbett. Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.

376. **Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*

About ten birds in Corbett and at least five birds in the Backwoods area.

377. **Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Two birds in Corbett and at least fifteen in the Backwoods area.

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

Up to ten birds were seen in the Backwoods area.

379. **Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus*

At least twenty birds seen at Backwoods.

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

Three different sightings of these marvelous birds in the Corbett region.

381. **Green Magpie** *Cissa chinensis*

A single bird heard distantly in Corbett N.P.

382. **Rufous Treepie** *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
Fairly common and widespread throughout.



Indian Jungle Crow (*Corvus culminates*) – Bandhavgarh, Dec. 2011

383. **Black-headed Jay** *Garrulus lanceolatus*

At least ten birds around Pangot.

384. **House Crow** *Corvus splendens*
Common and widespread.

385. **Indian Jungle Crow** *Corvus culminates*

Common throughout. Endemic to India and Sri Lanka. Until recently and by some still regarded as a subspecies of **Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchus*

MAMMALS

1. **Indian Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa indica*
Several of these gorgeous animals were seen in the Backwoods area, Goa.
2. **Northern Palm Squirrel** *Funambulus pennantii*
Not uncommon in the northern plains.
3. **Asian Palm Civet** *Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*
A single one seen after dusk in the Chambal Safari Lodge garden.



Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*) – Bandhavgarh, Dec. 2011

4. **Jungle Cat** *Felis chaus*

One seen briefly in the Chambal Safari Lodge garden and another just outside Bandhavgarh National Park.

5. **Tiger** *Panthera tigris*

One of the dominant males gave superb roadside views in Bandhavgarh and a female was seen shortly when sharpening her claws at a tree in the early morning.



Male Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) – Bandhavgarh, Dec. 2011

6. **Indian Grey Mongoose** *Herpestes edwardsii*
Only one seen at Chambal River.



Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*) – Corbett N.P, Dec. 2011

7. **Golden Jackal** *Canis aureus*
Heard every night in Bandhavgarh and a few seen in Corbett N.P.

8. **Striped Hyena** *Hyena hyena*
A single one heard at Chambal River.

9. **Indian Flying Fox** *Pteropus giganteus*
Thirty or so roosting in the Chambal Safari Lodge garden and a few seen in Goa.

10. **Fulvous Fruit Bat** *Rousettus leschenaultia*
A few seen after dark in the Backwoods area.

11. **Indian Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus coromandra*
Fairly common throughout.

12. **Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat** *Cynopterus sphinx*
A few individuals were seen at the Chambal Safari Lodge.

13. **Big-eared Horseshoe Bat** *Rhinolophus macrotis*
Hundreds of them were seen together in one of the caves at Bandhavgarh.



Northern Plains Grey Langur (*Presbytis entellus*) – Bandhavgarh, Dec. 2011

14. **Northern Plains Grey Langur** *Semnopithecus entellus*
Widespread and common at Bandhavgarh.

15. **Southern Plains Grey Langur** *Semnopithecus dussumieri*
Small numbers at scattered places, Goa.

16. **Terai Grey Langur** *Semnopithecus hector*
Several seen in the mountain region.



Bonnet Macaque (*Macaca radiata*) – Backwoods, Dec. 2011

17. **Rhesus Macaque** *Macaca mulatta*
Not uncommon at Bandhavgarh. In addition, good numbers were seen in the Chambal region.

18. **Bonnet Macaque** *Macaca radiata*
Small numbers were seen daily at Backwoods.

19. **Ganges River Dolphin** *Platanista gangetica*
A few individuals seen when jumping off the Chambal River water.
20. **Eurasian Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa*
Fairly common in protected areas.
21. **Indian Muntjac** *Muntiacus vaginalis*
A few seen at Bandhavgarh and fairly common in Corbett N.P.
22. **Sambar** *Cervus unicolor*
Common at Bandhavgarh and in Corbett N.P.
23. **Hog Deer** *Cervus porcinus*
A single animal seen well close to Dhikala, Corbett N.P.
24. **Chital** *Axis axis*
Common at Bandhavgarh and in Corbett N.P.
25. **Common Goral** *Naemorhedus goral*
Two together in the slopes near Vinayak, Pangot.



Sambar stag (*Cervus unicolor*) – Corbett N.P, Dec. 2011

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

1. **Gharial** *Gavialis gangeticus*
More than twenty along Chambal River and a couple in Corbett N.P.
2. **Mugger** *Crocodylus palustris*
About the same numbers along Chambal River.
3. **Soft-shell Turtle** *Aspideretes gangeticus*
A few seen along Chambal River.
4. **Indian Tent Turtle** *Pangshura tentoria*
Lots of them seen along Chambal River.



Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) – Corbett N.P, Dec. 2011



Soft-shell Turtle (*Trionyx gangeticus*) – Chambal River, Dec. 2011



Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*) – Chambal River, Dec. 2011