India
Northern: Birds & Tigers II
4th to 21st December 2017 (18 days)
Trip Report

Mother and Cub by Sandy Sutherland

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Rich Lindie
Our first official birding excursion began after a group lunch consisting of butter chicken, garlic naan and, of course, some masala chai, where, in and around the grounds of our Delhi hotel, we acquainted ourselves with some of the region's more common birds, as well as some of the goings-on involved in a large (is there any other kind?) Indian wedding preparation. Highlights of the former distraction included great views of Alexandrine Parakeet, Red-wattled Lapwing, Indian Grey Hornbill, Ashy Prinia and Jungle Babbler; whilst the latter left us merely a little overwhelmed. As predicted, wedding festivities livened up during the night, but we were very lucky they didn't last into the wee hours of the morning – as they so often do!

Kicking off in a deliberately relaxed manner the next morning, we departed for eastern Delhi just in time to enjoy lunch at a rather quirky restaurant (replete with ape-in-suit crockery), before heading out to the western edge of the Yamuna River for a stroll along the main walkway through the Oklha Bird Sanctuary. Needless to say, we saw several water birds during our few hours there, including our only Tufted Ducks of the trip, as well as a handful of interesting reed-dwellers, including a few Yellow-bellied Prinias, and a few small parties of Striated Babbler – also never seen again during our trip. Also noteworthy, was a small flock of Red Avadavats, some Bronze-winged Jacanas and a couple of demonstrative Coppersmith Barbets.

After that, we enjoyed a little rest at a nearby pub, before diving straight back into more cultural experiences by boarding a night train to Ramnagar – always an experience to remember!
Waking up in Ramnagar train station the next morning, we enjoyed a treat of relatively fresh air and clear skies after the terrible pollution we had experienced in Delhi. A short distance away from the train station, we then enjoyed another cup of masala chai with breakfast, before heading straight down to the Kosi River, where it didn't take long to pick up a Wallcreeper, amid several other new delights, like White-capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts, Lineated Barbet, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, both Himalayan and Black-rumped Flamebacks, River Lapwing and Black-chinned Babbler.

Further along the road to Rhaniket, we then took even less time to pick up our next target – Long-billed Thrush, followed shortly by a very (relatively) demonstrative Chestnut-headed Tesia. Other highlights seen in the same area included Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker and our first of many Grey-hooded Warblers, succeeded not long after by our first Collared Falconets, not far from our hotel! At the hotel itself, the next activity of the day was a 45-minute check-in process, followed by lunch and a short break – spent enjoying the lovely surroundings of our lodge.

Following that, we meandered down to the Kosi River, picking up a flock of the ever-popular White-crested Laughingthrush on our way, as well as our first Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrikes and a couple of Brown Dippers down at the water. We then ended the day by amusing ourselves with the antics of a nearby tractor driver who had managed to get his trailer, full of bricks, well and truly stuck in the riverbed.
Having missed Ibisbill the day before, an early wake-up saw us heading down to the Kosi River yet another time, before our departure for Jim Corbett National Park. Valiant as our efforts were, we had to leave the Ibisbill for another day, though our timing couldn't have been better, as we were greeted by a magnificent leopard only a minute after entering the park gates, not to mention a Yellow-throated Marten that put in an appearance just as we were returning to the gate to get my chai!

Back on the road to Dhikala and the centre of the park, we then enjoyed several more great sightings, which included our only Rufous-bellied Eagle of the trip, a couple of handsome Gharial, numerous Mahseer, several uncharacteristically showy Common Green Magpies, and our first of several Changeable Hawk-Eagles. Some of the best action, however, was to greet us inside the camp itself, when a mixed-species flock and some lakeside birding provided us with fantastic views of Blue-bearded Bee-eater, an Oriental Hobby, Red-headed Vulture, Pallas's Fish Eagle, a very unexpected Common Wood Pigeon and yet more dazzling groups of minivets. Post all the action, and yet another lengthy check-in, we headed straight back out into the park, where we enjoyed an exhilarating encounter with a couple of Tigers that were heard grunting and roaring right beside the road! Dashing back to camp to make it before gate-closing time, we then spotted a Red-necked Falcon by the roadside.

For our full day in the park, we started with a drive around the Dhikala grasslands, where the early morning mist and rising sun made for a very fitting way to see in, what would end up being, one of the highlight days of the tour. Birds seen along the way included yet more Changeable Hawk-Eagles, Pintailed Green Pigeon, Crested Bunting, Jungle Myna and Long-billed Pipit, though it wasn't until after
breakfast (and chai, naturally) that the real action began, when, after one of the longest reversing parades in which I've ever been involved, we enjoyed a magical sighting of a mother tiger and her boisterous cub, as they strolled along the river's edge for what seemed like an eternity. *Tiger and Leopard in the bag within the first few days of the tour, and both within the first 24 hours in the park!*

Post-lunch, a successful 'twitch' for Black Francolin, and sightings of Stork-billed Kingfisher and Lesser Fish Eagle were not to top the morning’s highlights, but were much appreciated, all the same; not to mention the sighting of a Eurasian Bittern that we enjoyed during our midday break in camp.

All in all, we departed Dhikala for Nainital the next day with a very healthy list of sightings, though one significant bird on the list of possibilities for the park still remained unseen – Tawny Fish Owl. It wasn't long, however, before some great spotting by San Mari gave us not only great views of one, but two of these stately birds, in what can only be described as a very fitting end to our time in the park. And then, as if that wasn't enough, we stumbled across a very unexpected bonus in the form of a Eurasian Woodcock by the side of the road, just moments later!

That wasn’t it for the morning, however, as one last attempt at finding an Ibisbill down at the Kosi River culminated in one of the most thrilling sightings of the trip. Some great teamwork and a healthy dose of patience produced superb views of this super bird!

This lead us straight into lunch, and obviously left us on a very high note, and soon thereafter, we were on our way to Nainital, where lofty heights and a change in hotel were also highlights of the day.
Even higher we climbed the following morning – to the Vinayak area, where top birds continued to perform well, starting with a Koklass Pheasant that waltzed up to our speaker and gave us the full Monty. This was followed by a couple of Cheer Pheasants, which posed for us throughout breakfast and beyond; while further up the road, a vigil at a waterhole eventually nabbed us views of a Black-throated Accentor, several Rock Buntings, a Mistle Thrush and a handful of Yellow-breasted Greenfinches. ‘Flock birding’ throughout the morning was, of course, also rewarding – providing us with goodies like Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-browed Tit, Brown-fronted Woodpecker, and White-tailed Nuthatch in the forests between Vinayak and Pangot.

The afternoon – spent mostly below Pangot – by contrast, was a little slow, though a little persistence added Asian Barred Owlet, a male Crimson Sunbird, Great Barbet and Black-headed Jay to our burgeoning list.

Another early morning start saw the beginning of our second day in the mountains, though this time we were to find ourselves winding our way down the hill a little. First, stopping in at the Champi area, we picked up a Slaty-backed Forktail, Greater Yellownape, several Kalij Pheasants, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Striated Laughingthrush and another very unexpected bonus in the form of Pygmy Wren-Babbler – a first on a Rockjumper northern India tour. Heading off to Sattal next, we then enjoyed superlative views of Spotted Forktail, Blue-winged Minla, Red-billed Leiothrix, Golden Bush Robin, both Black and Ashy Bulbuls, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher and Slaty-headed Parakeet; before lunch with macaques and another welcome cup of masala chai preceded a quick Brown Fish Owl twitch – making up for our first sighting of this species, which had been interrupted by a dash to see a
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Tiger. In the same area as the Brown Fish Owl, we then had great views of a flock of Whiskered Yuhina for our final new species of the day.

Our third morning in the Nainital area began with breakfast at the hotel – by then, something of a novelty in itself – and a short stroll along a nearby village track, where not much put in an appearance in the misty conditions, until a great flock near the main road gave us wonderful views of both Himalayan and Green Shrike-Babblers, and Black-faced Warblers. Down in Bajun, we then picked up our first Green-tailed Sunbirds, a flock of Black-chinned Yuhina, a pair of perched Mountain Hawk-Eagles, and a gorgeous Blue-throated Barbet, before returning for another restaurant meal. An afternoon back at the 'Polytechnic Village' produced little of interest beyond a small flock of Pink-browed Rosefinch and our second good views of Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler.

Heading off in different directions the following morning – some to the Sri Satya Temple, others to Snowview Point – we managed to add a couple of birds to the trip list (Long-tailed Thrush and Hill Partridge), but were more than ready to drop back down into the lowlands for a break from the cold, and a change from the Gipsies, to a comfortable train, for a ride all the way to Delhi, where we spent another night at the Ashok Country Inn.

Early the next morning, we departed on a very long bus ride to Ranthambore National Park. While the journey wasn't filled with birding stops, we did enjoy seeing a different part of the country, enormous groups of Bank Mynas, lunch at a rather unusual hotel, our only Red Turtle Doves of the trip, and one or two shopping stops.
For the following three full days, we explored several zones within Ranthambore National Park, as well as some of the dry country around our fabulous lodgings, and even a couple of streets in the nearby town of Sawai Madhopur...

Rufous Treepie by Rich Lindie

Zone 3, on our first morning, provided us with great views of several Spotted Owlets and a couple of Indian Scops Owls, close-ups of Painted Stork and Painted Spurfowl, River Tern, Indian Cormorant, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Indian Silverbill and White-eyed Buzzard; whilst the entrance gate area gave us our only views of White-naped Woodpecker, and unbeatable looks at Plum-headed Parakeet. The highlight, however, was obviously the sighting we had of Sloth Bear that morning – well, it was for me anyway. Zone 4, and its interminably bumpy tracks, on the other hand, was not a highlight, making our late-morning stroll, near our accommodation, the second-most productive excursion of the day; even if we did get a little lost. Highlights of that walk were great views of Painted Sandgrouse, Eurasian Wryneck, Indian Bush Lark and a bit of wader-watching that produced, among several other species, Temminck's Stint.
Route 6 – our destination for both the following mornings – was also a productive zone, where a drier habitat provided us with great views of Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Rufous-tailed Lark, Indian Vulture, Dorcas Gazelle and even a pair of Tiger teens; while Route 1 – visited on our second afternoon in the park – provided us with yet more enjoyable wetland birding, whilst a night drive near Sawai Madhopur, later that day, gave us great views of both Jungle Cat and Striped Hyaena.

Likewise, a short drive to another patch of scrub on the outskirts of the town the following morning would reward us with sightings of Rufous-fronted Prinia and Bay-backed Shrike.

No trip to Ranthambore would be complete without close-up encounters of Rufous Treepie, of course, so our final excursion in the park, to Zone 3 for a second time, provided us one last opportunity for selfies with these great little birds, as well as wonderful views of Great Stone-curlew and a gorgeous Bluethroat hopping around in the open.

Having seen most of what we expected and wanted in Ranthambore, we opted to skip a final drive in the park, in favour of more comfortable transport and extra time in another part of the country – Bharatpur. It was, therefore, that we arrived in Bharatpur with enough time to fit in a few hours of birding in the park, bagging us several new birds, including a couple that we never saw again – Egyptian Vulture, Spotted Redshank, Rosy Starling, Orange-headed Thrush and White-eared Bulbul, Indian Spotted Eagle and Laggar Falcon being among the highlights.
Wasting no time the following morning in completing the hunt for our targets in the bird sanctuary, our early departure from Ranthambore finally paid off, when we found ourselves with a spare afternoon with which to explore areas around the small village of Khumer. At the former site, great looks at Sarus Crane were a highlight, as were good looks at Bar-headed Goose, Woolly-necked Stork, Black-necked Stork, Ruff, Red-crested Pochard, Black Bittern, Eastern Imperial Eagle, White-tailed Lapwing, Dusky Eagle-Owl and Pheasant-tailed Jacana. Near Khumer, highlights included Desert Wheatear, Indian Stone-curlew, Indian Courser, Crested Lark and Greater Short-toed Lark. Oh, and let’s not forget, the brief stop in town that turned up our only Greater Painted-snipe and Pied Bush Chat of the tour!

The next morning, we took a break from birding to explore some of the great historic sites of the region – indeed, the country. Starting at Fatehpur Sikri, we commenced our immersion into the ancient culture of the region amid some very impressive sandstone architecture, before heading to the main highlight of the day, the grand Taj Mahal! Enjoying smaller crowds than expected, we breezed our way around this must-see testament to love, all the while getting the scoop from our indefatigable local buff.

After lunch (a barbeque, of sorts), we then popped into the Agra Fort, before making our way to the Chambal River area for the final night of the tour.

The final morning of our tour was almost a complete whitewash. Almost, but not completely! Indeed, the fog was so thick that we took twice as long to reach the river as we should have. Once there, it was still so dense that I don't remember seeing both sides of the river at any one time while boating around. At one point, it even took us a good few minutes to locate the second boat that had managed to run aground in the terrible conditions. By that stage, we had at least picked up a couple of Pallas's Gulls and Black-bellied Terns, but none of our main quarry. We were about to give up, of course, when a last-minute decision to race downriver for just a few minutes paid off, when a small flock of Indian Skimmers emerged out of the fog to circle our boats for a magical few seconds – nothing short of a miraculous send-off to the tour! Had it not been for the Red-naped Ibis we saw moments later, and the Brown Hawk-Owl seen roosting at our lodge after that, Indian Skimmer would have been the last new bird of the trip – though it still ranked as one of the top eleventh-hour sightings I've ever had.
Further Tour Images

Plum-headed Parakeet by Rich Lindie

Fighting Sambar Deer by Rich Lindie
White-throated Kingfisher by Rich Lindie

Brown Fish Owl by Rich Lindie
Annotated List of species recorded
List powered through the report generator of our partner, iGoTerra.

Birds (371 in total: 370 seen)
Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.3).
Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced
IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient
Key: (H) = Heard-only, (LO) = Sighted by a leader only.

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae

**Lesser Whistling Duck**
*Dendrocygna javanica*
Numerous in Bharatpur.

**Bar-headed Goose**
*Anser indicus*
Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.
**Greenlag Goose**  
*Anser anser rubrirostris*  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Bharatpur.

**Knob-billed Duck**  
*Sarkidiornis melanotos*  
First sighted by all in Bharatpur.

**Ruddy Shelduck**  
*Tadorna ferruginea*  
Several sites, including Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Jim Corbett NP, Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

**Garganey**  
*Spatula querquedula*  
One female in Ranthambore NP.

**Northern Shoveler**  
*Spatula clypeata*  
Several sightings, including some in Ranthambore NP, and at Bharatpur.

**Gadwall**  
*Mareca strepera strepera*  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Jim Corbett NP and Bharatpur.

**Eurasian Wigeon**  
*Mareca penelope*  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Bharatpur.

**Indian Spot-billed Duck**  
*Anas poecilorhyncha*  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Bharatpur.

**Mallard**  
*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*  
Jim Corbett NP – in the wetlands out in front of the lodge.

**Northern Pintail**  
*Anas acuta*  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

**Eurasian Teal**  
*Anas crecca crecca*  
Several sites, including Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Bharatpur.

**Red-crested Pochard**  
*Netta rufina*  
A few at Bharatpur.

**Common Pochard**  
*Aythya ferina*  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Jim Corbett NP and Bharatpur.

**Ferruginous Duck (NT)**  
*Aythya nyroca*  
Bharatpur only.

**Tufted Duck**  
*Aythya fuligula*  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary only.

**Common Merganser**  
*Mergus merganser*  
One sighting from our lodge in the Kosi River area.

**Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies Phasianidae**

**Black Francolin**  
*Francolinus francolinus*  
Two sightings in Jim Corbett NP, one (for some of the group) near Champi.

**Grey Francolin**  
*Francolinus pondicerianus*  
Great sightings in Ranthambore NP.

**Hill Partridge**  
*Arborophila torqueola*  
One pair at the Sri Satya Temple in Nainital.

**Painted Spurfowl**  
*Galloperdix lunulata*  
Several great views during our time in Ranthambore NP.

**Koklass Pheasant**  
*Pucrasia macrolopha*  
Unbeatable views (of a responsive male which we called into the road!), during our drive to Vinayak.

**Red Junglefowl**  
*Gallus gallus murgha*
Several sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

**Kalij Pheasant**

Several sightings in and around Nainital.

**Cheer Pheasant (VU)**

Fantastic views at the traditional site above Vinayak.

**Indian Peafowl**

Near-daily sightings in the lowlands and foothills.

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**Grebes Podicipedidae**

**Little Grebe**

First sighted at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

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**Storks Ciconiidae**

**Painted Stork (NT)**

A few wonderful sightings in both Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

**Asian Openbill**

As with the species above.

**Black Stork**

A couple of sightings in Ranthambore NP.

**Woolly-necked Stork (VU)**

Jim Corbett NP and Bharatpur.

**Black-necked Stork (NT)**

As with the species above.

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**Ibises and Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

**Black-headed Ibis (NT)**

Several sightings during the last week of the tour.

**Red-naped Ibis**

One great sighting at the Chambal River.

**Glossy Ibis**

One sighting in Bharatpur.

**Eurasian Spoonbill**

A handful of sightings, including a few in Ranthambore NP.

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**Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns Ardeidae**

**Eurasian Bittern**

One sighting from Dhikala camp.

**Black Bittern**

Great views of one in Bharatpur.

**Black-crowned Night Heron**

One sighting in Ranthambore NP.

**Striated Heron**

One sighting near the Kosi River, another in Bharatpur.

**Indian Pond Heron**

Numerous in suitable habitat in the lowlands.

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**Eastern Cattle Egret**  
*Bubulcus coromandus*  
Near-daily sightings during the last week of the tour.

**Grey Heron**  
*Ardea cinerea cinerea*  
Several sightings scattered throughout the tour.

**Purple Heron**  
*Ardea purpurea manilensis*  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

**Great Egret**  
*Ardea alba*  
Sighted throughout the lowlands.

**Intermediate Egret**  
*Ardea intermedia intermedia*  
As above.

**Little Egret**  
*Egretta garzetta garzetta*  
As with the species above.

**Pelicans Pelecanidae**

**Dalmatian Pelican (VU)**  
*Pelecanus crispus*  
One sighting, and only for some of us, of a flock flying near our accommodation near Ranthambore NP.

**Cormorants and Shags Phalacrocoracidae**

**Little Cormorant**  
*Microcarbo niger*  
Several sightings.

**Indian Cormorant**  
*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*  
A couple of good looks in Ranthambore NP.

**Great Cormorant**  
*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*  
Near-daily sightings during out times at lower elevations.

**Anhingas Anhingidae**

**Oriental Darter (NT)**  
*Anhinga melanogaster*  
Several in Ranthambore NP, and in the Bharatpur area.

**Osprey Pandionidae**

**Western Osprey**  
*Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*  
A handful of sightings split between Jim Corbett NP and Ranthambore NP.

**Hawks, Eagles, and Kites Accipitridae**

**Black-winged Kite**  
*Elanus caeruleus vociferus*  
Several sightings, throughout the tour.

**Egyptian Vulture (EN)**  
*Neophron percnopterus*  
Several great sightings around Bharatpur and Agra.

**Crested Honey Buzzard**  
*Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis*  
A handful of sightings, including a few in Ranthambore NP.

**Indian Vulture (CR)**  
*Gyps indicus*  
Daily sightings in Ranthambore NP, including two of perched individuals.

**Himalayan Vulture (NT)**  
*Gyps himalayensis*  
Near-daily sightings during our time in the foothills and around Nainital.

**Red-headed Vulture (CR)**  
*Sarcogyps calvus*  

A few sightings in, and around, Jim Corbett NP, one in Ranthambore NP.

**Crested Serpent Eagle**  
*Spilornis cheela*
Several incredibly close looks, in both Jim Corbett and Ranthambore NPs.

**Short-toed Snake Eagle**  
*Circaetus gallicus*
One sighting in Ranthambore NP.

**Changeable Hawk-Eagle**  
*Nisaetus cirrhatus*
Superb looks at a few in Jim Corbett NP.

**Mountain Hawk-Eagle**  
*Nisaetus nipalensis nipalensis*
Also seen well in Jim Corbett NP, as well as in the Bajun Valley.

**Rufous-bellied Eagle**  
*Lophotriorchis kienerii kienerii*
One sighting in Jim Corbett National Park – above the pool where we saw our first Gharial.

**Indian Spotted Eagle (VU)**  
*Clanga hastata*
One sighting in Bharatpur – during our first trip to the sanctuary.

**Greater Spotted Eagle (VU)**  
*Clanga clanga*
A few sightings in Bharatpur.

**Booted Eagle**  
*Hieraaetus pennatus*
One sighting in Bharatpur.

**Steppe Eagle**  
*Aquila nipalensis nipalensis*
Daily sightings around Nainital and nearby areas.

**Eastern Imperial Eagle (VU)**  
*Aquila heliaca*
A handful of sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

**Bonelli’s Eagle**  
*Aquila fasciata fasciata*
One sighting in Ranthambore NP.

*Originally thought to be a Booted Eagle, a single bird seen in flight in Ranthambore NP showed some unusual features, prompting us to take a few snapshots. Subsequent analysis of the images showed the bird to be a subadult of this species, and not a Booted.*

**Shikra**  
*Accipiter badius*
A few sightings, including a couple of unbeatable ones in Ranthambore NP.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk**  
*Accipiter nisus*
A few sightings spread over our time in the foothills and lowlands.

**Northern Goshawk**  
*Accipiter gentilis buteoides*
One sighting (of a single individual in flight) in Ranthambore NP.

**Western Marsh Harrier**  
*Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*
Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Jim Corbett NP and Bharatpur.

**Hen Harrier**  
*Circus cyaneus*
A handful of sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

**Black Kite**  
*Milvus migrans*
Near-daily sightings.

**Pallas's Fish Eagle (VU)**  
*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
A few great looks during our time in, and around, Corbett NP.

**Lesser Fish Eagle**  
*Haliaeetus humilis plumbeus*
As with the species above.

**White-eyed Buzzard**  
*Butastur teesa*
A couple of great looks during our time in Ranthambore NP.

**Himalayan Buzzard**  
*Buteo burmanicus***
One sighting (for some of us) during our drive from the Bajun Valley to Nainital.

### Rails, Gallinules, and Coots *Rallidae*

**Brown Crake**  
_Amaurornis akool akool_  
Two sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

**White-breasted Waterhen**  
_Amaurornis phoenicurus_  
Near-daily sightings during the last week of the tour.

**Grey-headed Swamphen**  
_Porphyrio poliocephalus_  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Bharatpur.

**Common Moorhen**  
_Gallinula chloropus_  
Several sites, including Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Bharatpur.

**Eurasian Coot**  
_Fulica atra atra_  
Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

### Cranes *Gruidae*

**Sarus Crane (VU)**  
_Antigone antigone antigone_  
Great views during our second visit to Bharatpur.

### Thick-knees *Burhinidae*

**Indian Stone-curlew**  
_Burhinus indicus_  
A dozen or so individuals near Khumer.

**Great Stone-curlew (NT)**  
_Esacus recurvirostris_  
First sighted in Jim Corbett NP, best views in Ranthambore NP.

**Ibisbill *Ibidorhynchidae***  
_Ibidorhyncha struthersii_  
A rather unforgettable sighting on the Kosi River.

### Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

**Black-winged Stilt**  
_Himantopus himantopus_  
Near-daily sightings during the last week of the tour.

### Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

**River Lapwing (NT)**  
_Vanellus duvaucellii_  
Several sightings in and around Jim Corbett NP, followed by more along the Chambal River.

**Yellow-wattled Lapwing**  
_Vanellus malabaricus_  
A few sightings, though the best were in Bharatpur.

**Red-wattled Lapwing**  
_Vanellus indicus_  
Near-daily sightings.

**White-tailed Lapwing**  
_Vanellus leucurus_  
A few sightings in Bharatpur.

**Little Ringed Plover**  
_Charadrius dubius_  
A couple of sightings in Ranthambore NP, followed by more in Bharatpur.

### Painted-Snipes *Rostratulidae*
Greater Painted-snipe  
*Rostratula benghalensis*
Great views of one in canal in the middle of Bharatpur.

**Jacanas Jacanidae**

Pheasant-tailed Jacana  
*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
A few in Bharatpur.

Bronze-winged Jacana  
*Metopidius indicus*
Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Bharatpur.

**Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae**

Eurasian Curlew (NT)  
*Numenius arquata*
One sighting in Ranthambore NP (for part of the group).

Black-tailed Godwit (NT)  
*Limosa limosa*
A few individuals in Ranthambore NP.

Ruff  
*Calidris pugnax*
Corbett NP and Bharatpur.

Temminck's Stint  
*Calidris temminckii*
Daily sightings in the Ranthambore area, and in Bharatpur.

Little Stint  
*Calidris minuta*
One sighting near our accommodation in the Ranthambore area.

Eurasian Woodcock  
*Scolopax rusticola*
A very surprise sighting in Jim Corbett NP.

Common Snipe  
*Gallinago gallinago gallinago*
Several sightings split between our visits to Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

Common Sandpiper  
*Actitis hypoleucos*
In and around Jim Corbett NP, Ranthambore and Bharatpur.

Green Sandpiper  
*Tringa ochropus*
As for the species above.

Common Redshank  
*Tringa totanus*
Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

Marsh Sandpiper  
*Tringa stagnatilis*
Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

Wood Sandpiper  
*Tringa glareola*
Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

Spotted Redshank  
*Tringa erythropus*
A few individuals in Bharatpur.

Common Greenshank  
*Tringa nebularia*
Sighted at several locations.

**Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae**

Indian Courser  
*Cursorius coromandelicus*
Great views of a pair, just outside Khumer.

**Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Laridae**

Indian Skimmer (VU)  
*Rynchops albicollis*

Rockjumper Birding Tours  

View more tours to India
Another unforgettable sighting!

**Black-headed Gull**  
*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Jim Corbett NP.

**Pallas's Gull**  
*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*

A few sightings during our boat trip on the Chambal River.

**River Tern (NT)**  
*Sterna aurantia*

Several great sightings, first in the Kosi River area.

**Black-bellied Tern (NT)**  
*Sterna acuticauda*

Also sighted a few times during our boat trip on the Chambal River.

**Whiskered Tern**  
*Chlidonias hybrida*

A few sightings split between Jim Corbett NP and Bharatpur.

**Sandgrouse**  
*Pteroclididae*

**Painted Sandgrouse**  
*Pterocles indicus*

Great views of a handful near our accommodation in the Ranthambore area.

**Pigeons and Doves**  
*Columbidae*

**Rock Dove**  
*Columba livia*

Ubiquitous.

**Common Wood Pigeon**  
*Columba palumbus*

One, very unexpected, sighting – in Jim Corbett NP.

**Oriental Turtle Dove**  
*Streptopelia orientalis*

A few sightings during our time in the mountains.

**Eurasian Collared Dove**  
*Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

Several sightings, most of which were in Ranthambore NP.

**Red Turtle Dove**  
*Streptopelia tranquebarica*

A few sightings during our drive from Delhi to Ranthambore.

**Spotted Dove**  
*Spilopelia chinensis*

Jim Corbett NP, Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

**Laughing Dove**  
*Spilopelia senegalensis cambayensis*

Sighted at all the dry-country sites visited.

**Common Emerald Dove**  
*Chalcophaps indica*

Jim Corbett NP and Sattal.

**Yellow-footed Green Pigeon**  
*Treron phoenicopterus*

Delhi, Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

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

A couple of sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

**Cuckoos**  
*Cuculidae*

**Greater Coucal**  
*Centropus sinensis*

Sighted at all lowlands sites visited.

**Lesser Coucal**  
*Centropus bengalensis bengalensis*

Two brief sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

**Asian Koel**  
*Eudynamys scolopaceus*

First sighted around our hotel in Delhi.
Owls *Strigidae*

**Indian Scops Owl**  
*Otus bakkamoena*  
A few sightings in Ranthambore NP.

**Brown Fish Owl**  
*Ketupa zeylonensis*  
A few great looks, the best of which was in Ranthambore NP.

**Tawny Fish Owl**  
*Ketupa flavipes*  
Fantastic views of a pair during our drive out of Jim Corbett NP.

**Asian Barred Owlet**  
*Glaucidium cuculoides*  
A few great looks during our time in the mountains.

**Jungle Owlet**  
*Glaucidium radiatum*  
Also seen well on a few occasions – in the foothills.

**Spotted Owlet**  
*Athene brama*  
Several great looks during our time in Ranthambore NP, followed by more in Bharatpur.

**Brown Hawk-Owl**  
*Ninox scutulata*  
Wonderful views of one in the grounds of our lodge near the Chambal River.

Treeswifts *Hemiprocnidae*

**Crested Treeswift**  
*Hemiprocne coronate*  
A couple of sightings in Jim Corbett NP, though only of birds in flight.

Swifts *Apodidae*

**Little Swift**  
*Apus affinis*  
A few during our drive to Ranthambore, and around Agra.

Rollers *Coraciidae*

**Indian Roller**  
*Coracias benghalensis*  
Daily sightings in Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

**Stork-billed Kingfisher**  
*Pelargopsis capensis*  
Daily sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

**White-throated Kingfisher**  
*Halcyon smyrnensis*  
Ubiquitous but enjoyed on several occasions.

**Common Kingfisher**  
*Alcedo atthis*  
Much as the above species.

**Crested Kingfisher**  
*Megaceryle lugubris*  
A few great looks during our time in the foothills.

**Pied Kingfisher**  
*Ceryle rudis*  
Several sightings, mostly concentrated in and around the two national parks.

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

**Blue-bearded Bee-eater**  
*Nyctyornis athertoni athertoni*  
Brilliant views, just after our arrival at Dhikala.

**Green Bee-eater**  
*Merops orientalis*  
First sighted at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.
Hoopoes *Upupidae*

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
Several sightings, including a handful in Ranthambore NP.

**Hornbills *Bucerotidae***

**Oriental Pied Hornbill** *Anthracoceros albirostris albirostris*
One brief sighting during our first visit to the Kosi River.

**Indian Grey Hornbill** *Ocyceros birostris*
A few great sightings, starting with a singleton at our hotel in Delhi.

Asian Barbets *Megalaimidae*

**Great Barbet** *Psilopogon virens*
A few sightings during our time in the highlands.

**Brown-headed Barbet** *Psilopogon zeylanicus*
First picked up in the grounds of our Delhi hotel, and then again at Bharatpur.

**Lineated Barbet** *Psilopogon lineatus hodgsoni*
Great looks at a few during our time in the foothills.

**Blue-throated Barbet** *Psilopogon asiaticus asiaticus*
Wonderful looks at a responsive male in the Bajun Valley.

**Coppersmith Barbet** *Psilopogon haemacephalus indicus*
Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Ranthambore NP – where seen well a few times.

Woodpeckers *Picidae*

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
Two sightings near our accommodation in the Ranthambore area.

**Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Yungipicus canicapillus*
First sighted at Okhla Bird Sanctuary, and then in the foothills on a few occasions.

**Brown-fronted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos auriceps auriceps*
A couple of very nice looks during our time around Nainital.

**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
Nice looks at a couple above Vinayak.

**Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos macei*
Nice looks at two during our time in Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

**Himalayan Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos himalayensis*
A few great encounters up in the mountains.

**Greater Yellownape** *Chrysophlegma flavinucha flavinucha*
Wonderful views on a couple of occasions, most notable of which was the sighting we had in Champi.

**Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus*
Sighted a few more times than the species above, and seen together with that species on one occasion (in Champi).

**Streak-throated Woodpecker** *Picus xanthopygaeus*
A few sightings in the foothills.

**Scaly-bellied Woodpecker** *Picus squamatus squamatus*
One brief sighting for some of us, during our drive up to Nainital from Jim Corbett NP.

**Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*
A few sightings in the foothills – on four days.

**Himalayan Flameback**  
*Dinopium shorii*  
Wonderful looks at a few during our time around the Kosi River.

**Black-rumped Flameback**  
*Dinopium benghalense*  
As with the above species, in addition to more good looks in Ranthambore NP.

**Greater Flameback**  
*Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*  
One sighting near the Kosi River.

**White-naped Woodpecker**  
*Chrysocolaptes festivus festivus*  
Two sightings in Ranthambore NP, both brief, and first near the entrance to Zone 3.

**Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae**

**Collared Falconet**  
*Microhierax caerulescens caerulescens*  
A handful of great sightings during the first three days in the foothills.

**Common Kestrel**  
*Falco tinnunculus*  
Several, scattered sightings.

**Red-necked Falcon (NT)**  
*Falco chicquera chicquera*  
A great sighting of a bird perched on a dead snag close to the road, in Corbett NP.

**Oriental Hobby**  
*Falco severus*  
Another surprise sighting – also in Corbett NP!

**Laggar Falcon (NT)**  
*Falco jugger*  
One sighting in Bharatpur, ensuring a complete haul of the falcon list for the tour!

**Peregrine Falcon**  
*Falco peregrinus*  
Great looks at one in Jim Corbett NP.

**Old World Parrots Psittaculidae**

**Slaty-headed Parakeet**  
*Psittacula himalayana*  
Near-daily sightings in the foothills and highlands, most notably around Sattal.

**Plum-headed Parakeet**  
*Psittacula cyanocephala*  
Unbeatable views during our time in Ranthambore NP.

**Red-breasted Parakeet (NT)**  
*Psittacula alexandri*  
A few sightings, split between Jim Corbett NP and Sattal.

**Alexandrine Parakeet (NT)**  
*Psittacula eupatria*  
Several great sightings.

**Rose-ring Parakeet**  
*Psittacula krameri*  
As with the species above.

**Woodshrikes and allies Tephrodornithidae**

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike**  
*Hemipus picatus*  
Sighted on all four days spent in and around Jim Corbett NP.

**Common Woodshrike**  
*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*  
First sighted near our accommodation on the banks of the Kosi River.

**Ioras Aegithinidae**

**Common Iora**  
*Aegithina tiphia*  
Two sightings in Jim Corbett NP.
Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

**Black-winged Cuckooshrike**  
Coracina melaschistos melaschistos  
One sighting in Corbett NP.

**Small Minivet**  
Pericrocotus cinnamomeus  
A few great looks in Ranthambore NP.

**Long-tailed Minivet**  
Pericrocotus ethologus  
A few sightings around the Kosi River.

**Scarlet Minivet**  
Pericrocotus speciosus  
As with the species above.

Shrikes *Laniidae*

**Isabelline Shrike**  
Lanius isabellinus  
One sighting near our accommodation in Ranthambore, another near Khumer.

**Bay-backed Shrike**  
Lanius vittatus vittatus  
One sighting just outside Sawai Madhopur village (Ranthambore).

**Long-tailed Shrike**  
Lanius schach  
Ubiquitous.

**Grey-backed Shrike**  
Lanius tephronotus  
Sightings on all three full days spent in the highlands.

**Southern Grey Shrike**  
Lanius meridionalis lahtora  
Several in Ranthambore NP, followed by a couple more near Khumer.

Vireos *Vireonidae*

**Himalayan Shrike-Babbler**  
Pteruthius ripleyi  
One in the forest above Vinayak, a couple more near the climbing wall in Nainital.

**Green Shrike-Babbler**  
Pteruthius xanthochlorus  
One sighting – also near the climbing wall in Nainital.

Old World Orioles *Oriolidae*

**Black-hooded Oriole**  
Oriolus xanthornus  
A couple of nice sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

**Maroon Oriole**  
Oriolus traillii traillii  
Also sighted in Jim Corbett NP.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

**Black Drongo**  
Dicrurus macrocercus  
Sighted throughout the lowlands.

**Ashy Drongo**  
Dicrurus leucophaeus  
Just one sighting, and only for some, in Corbett NP.

**White-bellied Drongo**  
Dicrurus caerulescens caerulescens  
One sighting in Dhikala, followed by numerous in Ranthambore NP and beyond.

**Bronzed Drongo**  
Dicrurus aeneus aeneus  
Several sightings, split between all foothill sites visited.

**Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**  
Dicrurus remifer tectirostris  
Great views of a singleton in Jim Corbett NP.
Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* hottentottus
One sighting, not long after we left the Kosi River area for Nainital.

**Fantails Rhipiduridae**

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*
Near-daily sightings during our time in the foothills and highlands.

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*
Several sightings in and around Ranthambore NP.

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies Corvidae**

Black-headed Jay *Garrulus lanceolatus*
A couple of sightings during our time in the mountains, our first being in Pangot.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha occipitalis*
Several great sightings, including a few around the Kosi River.

Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis chinensis*
A few great sightings during our first day in Jim Corbett NP – a very pleasant surprise.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
Near-daily sightings, in addition to some very close encounters.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*
First sighted at a small roadside shrine during our journey to Nainital from the Kosi River.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Near-daily sightings in the lowlands.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
Daily sightings during our time in the highlands.

Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminatus*
Daily sightings in both national parks visited, in addition to a few other sites.

**Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Chelidorhynx hypoxanthus*
Several great encounters, spread between all the foothill sites visited.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
Sighted on all three days spent in Jim Corbett NP.

**Chickadees and Tits Paridae**

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*
A few sightings in and around Nainital.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*
As with the species above.

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus*
Sighted in and around Jim Corbett National Park, in the Sattal area and in Ranthambore NP.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*
A common sight during our time in the highlands.

Himalayan Black-tered Tit *Machlolophus xanthogenys*
Several sightings, including some in the Kosi River area and around Nainital.
**Larks Alaudidae**

**Rufous-tailed Lark**  
*Anmomanes phoenicura*  
Great views during one of our drives in Zone 6, Ranthambore NP.

**Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark**  
*Eremopterix griseus*  
A handful of scattered sightings, though the best was of several flocks in Zone 6, Ranthambore NP.

**Indian Bush Lark**  
*Mirafra erythroptera*  
Sighted during both walks near our accommodation in the Ranthambore area.

**Oriental Skylark**  
*Alauda gulgula*  
A very brief sighting in Jim Corbett NP.

**Crested Lark**  
*Galerida cristata*  
Great looks at a few during our visit to some farmland near Khumer.

**Greater Short-toed Lark**  
*Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis*  
Also seen well near Khumer area.

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**

**Red-whiskered Bulbul**  
*Pycnonotus jocosus*  
Daily sightings during the first week of the tour.

**Himalayan Bulbul**  
*Pycnonotus leucogenys*  
Daily sightings of this great bird during out time in the foothills and highlands.

**White-eared Bulbul**  
*Pycnonotus leucotis leucotis*  
Common in Bharatpur.

**Red-vented Bulbul**  
*Pycnonotus cafer*  
Ubiquitous.

**Mountain Bulbul**  
*Ixos mcclellandii mcclellandii*  
A brief sighting in the Sattal area.

**Ashy Bulbul**  
*Hemixos flavala flavala*  
Great views during a stakeout at a small stream in the Sattal area.

**Black Bulbul**  
*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*  
As with the species above.

**Swallows Hirundinidae**

**Grey-throated Martin**  
*Riparia chinensis chinensis*  
Multiple sightings.

**Barn Swallow**  
*Hirundo rustica*  
As with the species above.

**Wire-tailed Swallow**  
*Hirundo smithii filifera*  
A couple of sightings in Ranthambore NP.

**Eurasian Crag Martin**  
*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*  
One small group at the Cheer Pheasant site.

**Dusky Crag Martin**  
*Ptyonoprogne concolor concolor*  
A few good sightings, most of which were in Ranthambore NP.

**Red-rumped Swallow**  
*Cecropis daurica*  
First sighted around the Kosi River and Jim Corbett NP.

**Streak-throated Swallow**  
*Petrochelidon fluvicola*  
Great close-ups, on a couple of occasions, in Ranthambore NP.
Cupwings *Pnoepygidae*

Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler  
*Pnoepyga albiventer*
Disappointingly, only a few glimpses during our time in the mountains.

Pygmy Wren-babbler  
*Pnoepyga pusilla*
A very unexpected bonus from our visit to Champi – not to mention the great views!

Bush-Warblers and Allies *Cettiidae*

Black-faced Warbler  
*Abroscopus schisticeps*
Great views of several during our third full day in the Nainital area – once near the climbing wall.

Aberrant Bush Warbler  
*Horornis flavolivaceus*
A brief sighting during a stopover on the drive from the Bajun Valley to Nainital.

Chestnut-headed Tesia  
*Cettia castaneocoronata castaneocoronata*
Fantastic views on two occasions – once near the Kosi River, and again in the Sattal area.

Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalidae*

Black-throated Bushtit  
*Aegithalos concinnus*
More than a few great sightings during our time in the mountains.

Leaf-Warblers *Phylloscopidae*

Common Chiffchaff  
*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*
First sighted in Okhla Bird Sanctuary, though most only caught up in Ranthambore NP, where the species this species was sighted daily.

Dusky Warbler  
*Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*
One sighting in Dhikala camp, Jim Corbett NP.

Buff-barred Warbler  
*Phylloscopus pulcher*
The common leaf-warbler around Nainital.

Lemon-rumped Warbler  
*Phylloscopus chloronotus*
Almost equally common in Nainital during our visit, in addition to being seen in the Kosi River area.

Hume's Leaf Warbler  
*Phylloscopus humei*
Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Bharatpur – common at the latte site during our visit.

Greenish Warbler  
*Phylloscopus trochiloides*
‘Ticked’ by all over the course of the first three days, heard thereafter on numerous occasions.

Grey-hooded Warbler  
*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*
Several, often close, sightings during our time in the foothills and highlands.

Whistler's Warbler  
*Seicercus whistleri*
One sighting near the entrance to Jim Corbett NP, another near Champi.

Reed-Warblers and Allies *Acrocephalidae*

Clamorous Reed Warbler  
*Acrocephalus stentoreus*
Two sightings in Bharatpur.

(LO) Moustached Warbler  
*Acrocephalus melanopogon*
Bharatpur.

Blyth's Reed Warbler  
*Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Also sighted at Bharatpur.
### Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zitting Cisticola</td>
<td><em>Cisticola juncidis</em> One sighting in Jim Corbett NP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden-headed Cisticola</td>
<td><em>Cisticola exilis</em> Several in Jim Corbett NP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striated Prinia</td>
<td><em>Prinia crinigera</em> One sighting in farmland above Vinayak.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rufous-fronted Prinia</td>
<td><em>Prinia buchanani</em> Great views in a patch of scrub on the outskirts of Sawai Madhopur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey-breasted Prinia</td>
<td><em>Prinia hodgsonii</em> Multiple sightings – most of which were in the foothills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Prinia</td>
<td><em>Prinia flaviventeris</em> A handful of individuals at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashy Prinia</td>
<td><em>Prinia socialis</em> Several, scattered sightings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain Prinia</td>
<td><em>Prinia inornata</em> Also sighted on several occasions, and throughout the tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Tailorbird</td>
<td><em>Orthotomus sutorius</em> Sighted at almost all lowland and foothill sites visited.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Babblers Timaliidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler</td>
<td><em>Pomatorhinus erythrogenys</em> Great views near the horse stables in Nainital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-chinned Babbler</td>
<td><em>Stachyridopsis pyrrhops</em> A handful in the Kosi River area, and near Sattal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fulvettas and Ground Babblers Pellorneidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(H) Puff-throated Babbler</td>
<td><em>Pellorneum ruficeps</em> Jim Corbett NP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Babbler</td>
<td><em>Turdoides caudata</em> First sighted during a walk around the hill, near our accommodation in Ranthambore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striated Babbler</td>
<td><em>Turdoides earlei</em> A couple of small flocks at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Grey Babbler</td>
<td><em>Turdoides malcolmi</em> Daily sightings in and around Ranthambore NP, as well as at subsequent sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jungle Babbler</td>
<td><em>Turdoides striata</em> Ubiquitous in the lowlands and foothills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-crested Laughingthrush</td>
<td><em>Garrulax leucolophus</em> Great views of a flock near our accommodation in the Kosi River area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush</td>
<td><em>Garrulax rufogularis</em> A couple of nice sightings in the Champi area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Laughingthrush</td>
<td><em>Garrulax albogularis</em> A few good sightings in and around Jim Corbett NP, and above Nainital.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Striped Laughingthrush**  
*Garrulax striatus*  
Great looks at a few, including pairs in the Champi area, and in the Bajun Valley.

**Streaked Laughingthrush**  
*Trochalopteron lineatum*  
Daily sightings during our time in the highlands.

**Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush**  
*Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*  
A few good looks during our time in the highlands, too.

**Blue-winged Minla**  
*Minla cyanouroptera*  
Great views of a handful, bathing in a small stream in the Sattal area.

**Red-billed Leiothrix**  
*Leiothrix lutea*  
Seen together with the species above.

**Rufous Sibia**  
*Heterophasia capistrata*  
Numerous sightings in the highlands.

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**Old World Warblers Sylviidae**

**Lesser Whitethroat**  
*Sylvia curruca*  
Daily sightings around Delhi, Ranthambore NP and Bharatpur.

**Yellow-eyed Babbler**  
*Chrysomma sinense*  
A couple of sightings in Ranthambore NP, followed by more in Bharatpur.

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**Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies Zosteropidae**

**Whiskered Yuhina**  
*Yuhina flavicollis*  
Great looks at a couple of flocks, the first of which was in the Champi area.

**Black-chinned Yuhina**  
*Yuhina nigrimenta*  
Great views of a small flock in the Bajun Valley.

**Oriental White-eye**  
*Zosterops palpebrosus*  
Daily sightings during the first half of the tour.

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**Nuthatches Sittidae**

**Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**  
*Sitta cinnamoventris*  
Sighted at all foothill sites visited.

**White-tailed Nuthatch**  
*Sitta himalayensis*  
Great looks at several during our time in the highlands.

**Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**  
*Sitta frontalis frontalis*  
Also sighted at all foothill sites visited.

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**Wallcreeper Tichodromidae**

**Wallcreeper**  
*Tichodroma muraria nepalensis*  
Several sightings along the Kosi River, followed by another above Vinayak.

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**Treecreepers Certhiidae**

**Bar-tailed Treecreeper**  
*Certhia himalayana himalayana*  
A couple of sightings in the Kosi River area, followed by several more in the highlands.

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**Starlings Sturnidae**

**Jungle Myna**  
*Acridotheres fuscus*  

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View more tours to India
Good looks at one near Dhikala Camp.

**Bank Myna** *Acridotheres ginginianus*
Near-daily sightings during the last week of the tour.

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis tristis*
Ubiquitous.

**Pied Myna** *Gracupica contra*
First sighted in Delhi, near-daily sightings during the final week of the tour.

**Brahminy Starling** *Sturnia pagodarum*
Great views at Bharatpur.

**Rosy Starling** *Pastor roseus*
As with the species above.

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*
Sighted by a few of us during the drive from the Chambal area to Delhi.

**Thrushes and Allies Turdidae**

**Orange-headed Thrush** *Geokichla citrina*
Great looks at a few in Bharatpur.

**Long-tailed Thrush** *Zoothera dixoni*
Wonderful views of one near the Sri Satya Temple in Nainital.

**Long-billed Thrush** *Zoothera monticola monticola*
A handful of great sightings in the Kosi River – Corbett area.

**Grey-winged Blackbird** *Turdus boulboul*
A couple of brief sightings in Nainital.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus bonapartei*
Great looks at a couple above Vinayak.

**Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**

**Indian Robin** *Copsychus fulicatus*
Several sightings, most of which were during the final week of the tour.

**Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*
As with the species above.

**Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis tickelliae tickelliae*
A couple of great looks in Ranthambore NP.

**Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara*
Great looks at a male in the Sattal area.

**Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae*
A couple in the Kosi River area, and another in Nainital.

**Bluetroat** *Luscinia svecica*
A few sightings, the best of which was of a male on the edge of a lake in Ranthambore NP.

**Himalayan Rubythroat** *Calliope pectoralis*
A few of us saw one of these near the Kosi River.

**Himalayan Bluetail** *Tarsiger rufilatus*
A couple of sightings during our time in the mountains.

**Golden Bush Robin** *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
Great views of one during a walk in the Sattal area.
**Slaty-backed Forktail**  
*Enicurus schistaceus*  
Great views of one in the Champi area.

**Spotted Forktail**  
*Enicurus maculatus*  
Unbeatable views of one at Sattal.

**Blue Whistling Thrush**  
*Myophonus caeruleus*  
Ubiquitous in the foothills and highlands.

**Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher**  
*Ficedula strophiata strophiata*  
Great views of one bathing at Sattal.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher**  
*Ficedula parva*  
A handful of sightings, including a few in Ranthambore NP.

**Slaty-blue Flycatcher**  
*Ficedula tricolor*  
Two brief sightings – one near the Kosi River, the other near Champi.

**Blue-capped Redstart**  
*Phoenicurus coeruleocephala*  
A few individuals near Vinayak.

**Black Redstart**  
*Phoenicurus ochrurus*  
Daily sightings in Ranthambore NP.

**Blue-fronted Redstart**  
*Phoenicurus frontalis*  
A couple of sightings near Pangot.

**Plumbeous Water Redstart**  
*Phoenicurus fuliginosus fuliginosus*  
Near-ubiquitous at streams and rivers in the foothills and highlands.

**White-capped Redstart**  
*Phoenicurus leucocephalus*  
As with the species above.

**Blue Rock Thrush**  
*Monticola solitarius*  
A couple of sightings in the foothills.

**Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush**  
*Monticola rufiventris*  
Nainital and Sattal.

**Siberian Stonechat**  
*Saxicola maurus*  
Several sightings, including countless in the Dhikala grasslands.

**Pied Bush Chat**  
*Saxicola caprata*  
One sighting at a small channel in Bharatpur town.

**Grey Bush Chat**  
*Saxicola ferreus ferreus*  
Daily sightings in the foothills and highlands.

**Isabelline Wheatear**  
*Oenanthe isabellina*  
Good looks at a couple near Khumer.

**Desert Wheatear**  
*Oenanthe deserti*  
As with the species above.

**Brown Rock Chat**  
*Oenanthe fusca*  
A few, scattered sightings.

**Variable Wheatear**  
*Oenanthe picata*  
One sighting near our accommodation in the Ranthambore area.

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**Dippers Cinclidae**

**Brown Dipper**  
*Cinclus pallasii*  
Great views down at the Kosi River near our accommodation there.
Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae*

**Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**  
*Dicaeum ignipectus ignipectus*

Two sightings at Sattal.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

**Purple Sunbird**  
*Cinnyris asiaticus*

Near-daily sightings in the lowlands.

**Green-tailed Sunbird**  
*Aethopyga nipalensis*

Great views of a few in the Bajun Valley.

**Crimson Sunbird**  
*Aethopyga siparaja*

A lovely male near Pangot.

**(LO) Fire-tailed Sunbird**  
*Aethopyga ignicauda*

Pangot.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

**House Sparrow**  
*Passer domesticus*

Russet Sparrow  
*Passer rutilans*

A few sightings in the highlands.

**Yellow-throated Sparrow**  
*Gymnoris xanthocollis*

Daily sightings in the Ranthambore area.

Weavers and Allies *Ploceidae*

**Baya Weaver**  
*Ploceus philippinus*

One sighting near Sawai Madhopur.

Waxbills and Allies *Estrildidae*

**Red Avadavat**  
*Amandava amandava amandava*

Great views at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

**Indian Silverbill**  
*Euodice malabarica*

Daily views in the Ranthambore area.

**Scaly-breasted Munia**  
*Lonchura punctulata*

One sighting in the foothills, another near our accommodation in the Ranthambore area.

Accentors *Prunellidae*

**Altai Accentor**  
*Prunella himalayana*

A couple of flocks in the Vinayak area.

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

Daily sightings in the highlands.

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

One or two individuals in the Vinayak area.

Wagtails and Pipits *Motacillidae*

**Western Yellow Wagtail**  
*Motacilla flava*

Several in the Bharatpur area.
Citrine Wagtail  
*Motacilla citreola*
Several, scattered sightings.

Grey Wagtail  
*Motacilla cinerea cinerea*
As with the species above.

White Wagtail  
*Motacilla alba*
Also sighted on several occasions, at various sites.

White-browed Wagtail  
*Motacilla maderaspatensis*
Several in the foothills, and in Ranthambore NP.

Paddyfield Pipit  
*Anthus rufulus*
A couple near the Kosi River and a few in Jim Corbett NP.

Blyth's Pipit  
*Anthus godlewskii*
One sighting near our accommodation in the Ranthambore NP.

Tawny Pipit  
*Anthus campestris*
A handful of sightings, including a couple in the Ranthambore area.

Long-billed Pipit  
*Anthus similis*
Great views of one in the Dhikala grasslands.

Tree Pipit  
*Anthus trivialis*
One sighting near our accommodation in the Ranthambore area.

Olive-backed Pipit  
*Anthus hodgsoni*
A few in the mountains.

**Finches, Euphonias Fringillidae**

Common Rosefinch  
*Carpodacus erythrinus*
First sighted in Jim Corbett NP.

Pink-browed Rosefinch  
*Carpodacus rodochroa*
A small flock near the Polytechnic, Nainital.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch  
*Chloris spinoides*
One sighting in the Dhikala grasslands, a few individuals near Vinayak area.

**Buntings, Sparrows and Allies Emberizidae**

Crested Bunting  
*Emberiza lathami*
Great looks at a few in the Dhikala grasslands.

Rock Bunting  
*Emberiza cia*
A few in the highlands.

White-capped Bunting  
*Emberiza stewarti*
A couple of sightings in Ranthambore NP.

**Mammals (26 in total: 26 seen)**

**Status codes:**  
E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

**IUCN codes:**  
CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Elephants *Elephantidae*
Asian Elephant
One herd in the Kosi River, followed by a few more sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

Old World monkeys Cercopithecidae

Rhesus Monkey
Ubiquitous.

Northern Plains Gray Langur
In the Ranthambore area.

Tarai Gray Langur
In the foothills.

Nepal Gray Langur
In the highlands.

Old World monkeys Cercopithecidae

Asian Elephant
Elephas maximus indicus
One herd in the Kosi River, followed by a few more sightings in Jim Corbett NP.

Old World monkeys Cercopithecidae

Rhesus Monkey
Macaca mulatta
Ubiquitous.

Northern Plains Gray Langur
Semnopithecus entellus
In the Ranthambore area.

Tarai Gray Langur
Semnopithecus hector
In the foothills.

Nepal Gray Langur
Semnopithecus schistaceus
In the highlands.

Rabbits, Hares Leporidae

Indian Hare
Lepus nigricollis
A couple during our Ranthambore night-drive.

True Mice and Rats, Gerbils, Spiny Mice, Crested Rat Muridae

Brown Rat
Rattus norvegicus
First sighted at the Delhi Train Station.

True Mice and Rats, Gerbils, Spiny Mice, Crested Rat Muridae

Brown Rat
Rattus norvegicus
First sighted at the Delhi Train Station.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Five-striped Palm Squirrel
Funambulus pennantii
Daily sightings during the final week of the tour, first sighted in Delhi.

Cats Felidae

Jungle Cat
Felis chaus
Great views during our Ranthambore night-drive.

Leopard
Panthera pardus
A wonderful sighting in Jim Corbett NP.

Tiger
Panthera tigris tigris
Two unforgettable sightings – both for different reasons. Four individuals in total.

Cats Felidae

Jungle Cat
Felis chaus
Great views during our Ranthambore night-drive.

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Panthera tigris tigris
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Mongooses Herpestidae

Indian Grey Mongoose
Herpestes edwardsii
Jim Corbett NP and Ranthambore NP.

Hyenas, Aardwolf Hyaenidae

Striped Hyaena
Hyaena hyaena
Two great encounters during our Ranthambore Night Drive.

Mystax, Aardwolf Hyaenidae

Striped Hyaena
Hyaena hyaena
Two great encounters during our Ranthambore Night Drive.

Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals Canidae

Golden Jackal
Canis aureus
Both national parks and Bharatpur.
Bears, Giant Panda *Ursidae*

**Sloth Bear**

*Melursus ursinus*

An unforgettable encounter in Ranthambore NP.

**Pigs Suidae**

**Wild Boar**

*Sus scrofa*

Both national parks and Bharatpur.

**River Dolphins Platanistidae**

(H) **Ganges River Dolphin**

*Platanista gangetica gangetica*

Chambal River.

**Deer Cervidae**

**Chital**

*Axis axis*

Both national parks and Bharatpur.

(H) **Hog Deer**

*Axis porcinus*

Jim Corbett NP.

**Northern Red Muntjac**

*Muntiacus vaginalis*

Jim Corbett NP and Sattal.

**Sambar**

*Rusa unicolor*

Both national parks.

**Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats Bovidae**

**Nilgai**

*Boselaphus tragocamelus*

Several sightings, mostly during the final week.

**Dorcas Gazelle**

*Gazella dorcas*

Zone 6, Ranthambore NP.

**Himalayan Goral**

*Naemorhedus goral*

Two sightings near Nainital.

**Sac-winged or Sheath-tailed Bats Emballonuridae**

**Naked-rumped Tomb Bat**

*Taphozous nudiventris*

Agra Fort.

**Indian Flying Fox**

*Pteropus giganteus*

Ranthambore NP.

**Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae**

Reptiles (5 in total: 5 seen)

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**Indian softshell turtle**
Jim Corbett NP and the Chambal River.

**Softshell Turtles Trionychidae**
*Nilssonia gangetica*

**Bengal Monitor**
Jim Corbett NP.

**Monitor Lizards Varanidae**
*Varanus bengalensis*

**Checkered Keelback**
Kosi River and Ranthambore NP.

**Colubrid snakes Colubridae**
*Xenochrophis piscator*

**Mugger Crocodile**
Both national parks.

**Indian Gharial**
Jim Corbett NP.

**Crocodiles and relatives Crocodylidae**
*Crocodylus palustris*
*Gavialis gangeticus*

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