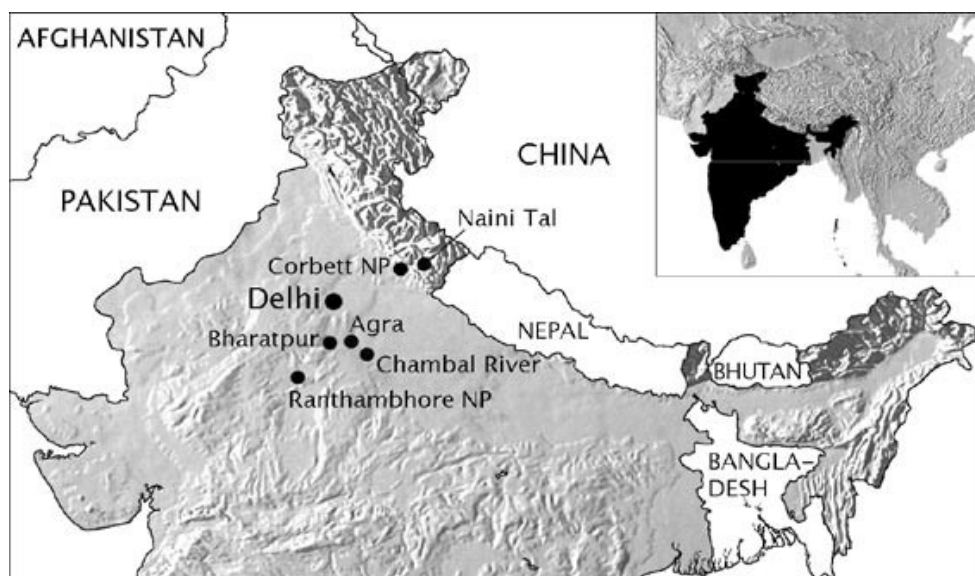


## NORTH INDIA & THE HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS.

15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009 – 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2009.



**Participants.** Chris Knox, Sam & Alex Taylor, Iain Robson, Janet Fairclough, Andy Mclevy, Tony Crilley, Tony Stewart, Paul Stewart, Les Robson, Tony James.

**Leader** – Leio de Souza of Indianature / Backwoods, plus local guide - Lokesh.

<http://www.indianaturetours.com/>

This trip to North India and the Himalayan foothills was hatched after a visit to Goa in January 2007, so impressed were we by the set up and guiding of the Backwoods camp that we signed up to use their tour company Indianature for this intensive 15 day birding trip. Our visit to North India followed the wettest monsoon period for several years in Rajasthan and as a consequence Bharatpur was full of water and birds, on the flip side, although we had packed clothing for cold weather in the foothills the weather here remained warm and sunny with no sign of snow and as a consequence many wintering species remained at altitude and were difficult to find or missing. As a group we recorded a total of 410+ species which surpassed indianature's previous best total for this trip of 376. This total included an excellent mix of Indian endemics; subcontinent endemics/near endemics and many sought after eastern Palearctic species, and avian highlights were just too many to mention. The mammal highlight was easy, the hour or so of close views we had of a male Tiger at Ranthambore NP, followed by another incident at Corbett NP when our open jeeps got between a female Tiger and her cubs which resulted in a warning roar at 40 metres, then a semi charge of the jeeps out of the undergrowth at 15 metres, a close call and a scary moment that will never be forgotten.

### **Itinerary.**

**15<sup>th</sup> January.** Flight from Newcastle 0600 arriving Delhi [via Amsterdam] 2330 local time.

Transfer to Sunstar Hotel. <http://www.hotel-sunstar.com/>

**16<sup>th</sup> January.** Breakfast 0600, coach to Delhi train station, 0740 train to Sawai Madhopur - Ranthambore NP, first Indian birds noted from train.

Arrival 1330, transfer to Ranthambore safari Lodge.

<http://www.ranthamborenationalpark.com/hotels-resorts-ranthambore-safari-lodge.html>

PM birding periphery of park in private center. Highlights Indian Vulture, Painted Sandgrouse.

**17<sup>th</sup> January.** AM/PM safaris in private canter inside Ranthambhore NP, undoubted highlight – male Tiger, also the Indian endemic – Painted Spurfowl. Overnight Safari Lodge.

**18<sup>th</sup> January.** AM safari inside Ranthambhore NP highlights – Jungle Bush-quail, Sirkeer Malakoha.

PM drive to Keoladeo NP – Bharatpur, arriving Hotel Sunbird approx 1830.  
<http://www.hotelsunbird.com/>

**19<sup>th</sup> January.** Full day birding Bharatpur within the sanctuary on cycle rickshaw.

Highlights –, Hordes of Wildfowl, Herons, Storks inc Black Bittern. Ruddy-breasted Crake, Indian Courser, Greater Painted Snipe, Large-tailed Nightjar and an unseasonal Jacobin Cuckoo. Overnight Hotel Sunbird.

**20<sup>th</sup> January.** AM Birding Bund Baretha,

PM Depart for Agra, brief visit to Taj Mahal, drive 3 hours to Jarar Village – overnight Chambal River Lodge. <http://www.chambalsafari.com/>

Highlights – Great Black-headed Gull, Red-headed Bunting.

**21<sup>st</sup> January.** Early am birding around Chambal Lodge. Chambal River cruise. Depart after lunch for 8 hour drive north to Kuchesar. Overnight Mud Fort Hotel. <http://www.mudfortkuchesar.com/>

Highlights – Indian Black Ibis, Black-bellied Tern, a pair of Sand Lark and Rufous fronted Prinia .  
(No sign of Indian Skimmer.)

**22<sup>nd</sup> January.** Depart early am [0430] for 5 hour drive to Sattal. Day spent birding valley, adjacent to Hotel Pine Crest.

Overnight Hotel Pine Crest. <http://www.himanshuresorts.com/abouthotel.htm>

Highlights – Himalayan Rubythroat, Himalayan Red-flanked Bush Robin, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler, Cinnamon Sparrow,

**23<sup>rd</sup> January.** Full days birding Sattal Valley. Overnight Hotel Pine Crest.

Highlights, Hill Partridge, Himalayan Flameback, Himalayan Pied Kingfisher, Siberian Rubythroat, Golden Bush-Robin, Tickells Thrush, an extralimital Dark sided Thrush and three species of Forktails,

**24<sup>th</sup> January.** Early am Sattal, mid morning drive to Pangot Area.

Overnight Jungle Lore Birding Lodge. <http://www.pangot.com/>

Highlights – White-crested Laughingthrush, Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Chestnut-headed Tesia, Pink browed Rosefinch,

**25<sup>th</sup> January.** Full day birding around Pangot. Overnight Jungle Lore.

Highlights – Blue-bearded bee-eater, Long-billed Thrush, White-browed Shrike-babbler, Nepal Wren-babbler, Fire-tailed Sunbird, and Spot winged grosbeak

**26<sup>th</sup> January.** Early am Pangot, pm drive to Corbett NP, en route birding Mongoli Valley, early evening birding Kumeria. Overnight Tiger Camp Hotel. <http://www.indianwildlife.com/tc-stay.htm>

Highlights – Cheer Pheasant, Grey winged Blackbirds, Rufous bellied Woodpecker, the endangered White rumped Vulture, and Wallcreeper.

**27<sup>th</sup> January.** Full day birding Corbett NP [Kumeria, Mohan, Bhijrani, Kosi River]. Overnight Tiger Camp Hotel.

Highlights – Ibisbill on CK's birthday ! Collared Falconet, 2 species Yuhina, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Oriental pied Hornbill.

**28<sup>th</sup> January.** AM Birding outside Corbett NP, afternoon drive to Dhikala. Overnight Dhikala Forest

Lodge. <http://www.dhikalaforestlodge.in/>

Highlights - three species of 'Fish' Eagle, Streak-throated Woodpecker, two species of 'Fish' Owl, Black-necked Stork.

**29<sup>th</sup> January.** AM Jeep drives around Dhikala, drive out of park after breakfast, lunch Tiger Camp Hotel, PM birding outside park. Overnight Tiger Camp Hotel. Highlights – Female Tiger roars and threatens group! Lesser racket tailed Drongo, White-throated Stonechat.

**30<sup>th</sup> January.** AM Thumeria Dam on the edge of Corbett NP, afternoon drive to Delhi [7 hours] dinner, arrival at airport 2130.

Highlights – Red Avadavat, Lesser Coucal, Crimson sunbird, and the wildfowl spectacle at Thumeria Dam.

**31<sup>st</sup> January.** Depart Delhi 0130 arriving Newcastle via Paris, 1100 local time.

### Systematic List.

- Only species recorded by CGK listed.
- Species heard and not seen indicated by symbol **[H]**.
- Figure at beginning i.e. 3/15, is number of days species recorded.

Little Grebe. *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. 6/15. First noted from train on 16<sup>th</sup>, occasional sightings thereafter.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*: 1/15. Only noted on 30<sup>th</sup>, 10+ Thumeria Dam.

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*: 6/15. Fairly common.

Indian Shag (Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*. 7/15. Regularly recorded especially in first half of trip.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: 5/15. Fairly common, large numbers Bharatpur.

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*: 3/15. 5+ noted Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, and Thumeria Dam.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: 11/15. Fairly common throughout.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*: 8/15. Fairly common throughout.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*: 4/15. The scarcest of the egrets, but never really looked for after first few days of trip.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: 6/15. Regularly seen throughout, common Bharatpur.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: 1/15. A single at Bharatpur the only record of trip.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*: 9/15 . Common throughout trip.

Indian Pond-heron *Ardeola grayii*: 11/5 . Common most areas.

Striated Heron (Little Heron) *Butorides striata*: 3/15. Singles Ranthambhore NP on 17<sup>th</sup>, Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup> and Bund Baretha on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: 4-5 Ranthambhore NP and Bharatpur.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*: Good flight views of two at Bharatpur on 20<sup>th</sup>, one early am, one dusk.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*: 5/15. The monsoon of 2008, resulted in large numbers nesting at Bharatpur with many seen here, also noted a handful of other sites in smaller numbers.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*: 2/15. Singles noted Bharatpur, and Bund Baretha.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: . 2/15. Noted only at Corbett NP, 2 at Dhikala on 28<sup>th</sup> with a group of 15 the following day.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*: 4/15. Noted from Train on 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 at Bund Baretha and singles at Dhikala 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*: 1/15. A single performed well from Dhikala, Corbett NP on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: 1/15. a single bird noted Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*: 5/15. Singles noted Ranthambhore, and a handful at Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

Indian Black Ibis (Red-naped Ibis) *Pseudibis papillosa*: 2/15. 3 noted from Chambal River cruise, with 4 Thumeria on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*: 3/15. 2 birds Ranthambhore, and a handful at Bharatpur and Bund Baretha.

Lesser Whistlingduck *Dendrocygna javanica*: 2/15. 200 + at Bharatpur and 50+ noted on Chambal River cruise.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*: 2/15. 3 eastern *rubrirostris* were seen at Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>, with 4+ at Thumeria Dam on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*: 2/15. 10+ noted Bharatpur, and Chambal River.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*: 6/15. Widespread and common in suitable habitat

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*: 2/15. 100's were noted at Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>, with smaller numbers at Bund Baretha on 21<sup>st</sup>. An excellent year for this species.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*: 3/15. Small numbers noted Bharatpur and Bund Baretha, max 10 Chambal River cruise.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*: 1/15. Scarce, only noted at Thumeria Dam, 100+.

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*: 3/15. 100's at Bharatpur, with 10's at Bund Baretha and Thumeria Dam.

Mallard. *Anas platyrhynchos*. 2/15. Scarce, a handful noted Bharatpur, and Thumeria.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*: 4/15. Small numbers at Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, Bund Baretha, and Thumeria Dam.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*: 4/15. Singles at Ranthambhore NP, and Bharatpur, with 20+ at Thumeria Dam.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*: 4/15. 10's noted Ranthambhore, Bharatpur and Thumeria.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*: 4/15. Max 40 Chambal River on 21<sup>st</sup>.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*: 1/15. Several hundred birds noted wintering at Thumeria Dam.

Tufted Duck. *Aythya fuligula*. 2/15. 2 noted Bund Baretha, with 200+ noted Thumeria Dam.

Ferruginous Duck (F Pochard) *Aythya nyroca*: 3/15. 20+ Bharatpur, 2 Bund Baretha, and 20+ Thumeria Dam.

Oriental Honey-Buzzard (Crested H B) *Pernis ptilorhyncus*: 3/15. Not common, 3+ observed Ranthambhore, 2+ Corbett NP.

White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*. 1/15. A nice perched adult Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered K) *Elanus caeruleus*: 8/15. Frequently seen throughout trip.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: 13/15. Common, although absent from Sattal – Pangot.

Black-eared Kite *Milvus lineatus*: 2/15. Several well marked juveniles noted in Delhi area.

Pallas's Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*: 2/15. Singles noted at Corbett NP – Dhikala 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*. 1/15. Single adult gave fantastic views at Dhikala.

Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*: 2/15. 2-3 seen 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> along the river in Corbett NP, including a bird that perched not 50m away allowing splendid views.

Grey-headed Fish -eagle. *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*. 2/15. Singles noted at Corbett NP.

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus*: 4/15. Surprisingly this bird was frequently seen 'up-north in the Sattal-Pangot area with 3+ daily between 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, often given close views including an adult perched up on cliff face.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*: 5/15. Fairly common including town centres

White-rumped Vulture (Indian White-backed V) *Gyps bengalensis*: 1/15. 12 of this threatened species were seen at their nesting tree just outside Ramnagar.

Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*: 3/15. Only noted at Ranthambhore NP, where 1-3 noted daily 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> including a bird at a cliff nest.

Himalayan Vulture ( H Griffon) *Gyps himalayensis*: 4/15. Common around Sattal -Pangot area.

Eurasian Griffon. *Gyps fulvus*. 3/15. Singles noted Corbett NP.

Cinereous Vulture (Eurasian Black V) *Aegypius monachus*: 1/15. Good flight views of a single at Corbett NP, a regular spot for this scarce vulture.

Red-headed Vulture *Aegypius calvus*: 5/15. Small numbers noted throughout trip, especially Ranthambhore NP.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*: 6/15. Scattered singles throughout.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*. 1/15. Single above Jungle Lore Lodge on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: 1/15. 2+ observed at Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*: 2/15. At least 5+ noted each evening at Dhikala, Corbett NP as they moved over area to roost.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*: 8/15. Scattered sightings of this regular raptor

Besra Sparrowhawk (Besra) *Accipiter virgatus*: 1/15. One perched on roadside wires at Thumeria Dam allowed scrutiny of main features.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*: 1/15. A single fly through near Chambal River on 21<sup>st</sup>

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*: 2/15. Single at Ranthambhore and 2+ Chambal River

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*: 1/15. Observed only at Bharatpur with 10+ present.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*: 8/15. Single at Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>, handful noted daily in Sattal-Pangot area.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. 1/15. Single above the Jungle Lore Lodge at Pangot.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*: 1/15. Single noted on drive to Dhikala, Corbett NP on 28<sup>th</sup>.

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*: 1/15. A pair at a nest on the riverside cliff at National Chambal Sanctuary showed very well.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*: 2/15. 5+ Bharatpur .

Changeable Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus limnaeetus*: 1/15. A confiding perched bird on outskirts of Corbett NP allowed excellent views.

Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*: 3/15. This species proved difficult to 'clinch' at range, however adequate flight views were had over the main lake at Sattal, and outside Corbett NP, before a perched bird performed brilliantly near Dhikala.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: 2/15. Noted only at Dhikala, Corbett NP.

Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens*: 4/15. Regular sightings of this dapper little falcon at Corbett NP and area.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: 3/15. Uncommon, 3 singles noted.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: 1/15. A single 'Shaheen' Falcon *Falco p. peregrinator* gave flight views above Sattal on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*: 1/15. Single male flushed from near Pine Crest Hotel early am on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*: 6/15. Fairly common throughout, in suitable habitat.

Jungle Bush-quail *Perdica asiatica*: 2/15. Covey 3 noted Ranthambhore on 16<sup>th</sup>, with a further 2 on 18<sup>th</sup>.

Painted Spurfowl *Galloperdix lunulata*: 1/15. Great views were obtained of this tricky endemic at Ranthambhore NP, where a pair eventually gave themselves up in thick undergrowth.

Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha*: 1/15. **[H]** Despite the early start we failed to see this

species at Pangot, despite 2+ birds calling tantalisingly close.

Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii*: 1/15. A pair seen well on favoured grassy slope above Pangot on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Kaleej Pheasant (Kalij P) *Lophura leucomelanos*: 4/15. First noted Pangot, and from three days in Corbett area, about 20 birds in total.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*: 3/15. Singles at Sattal, and a handful noted Corbett NP.

Indian Peafowl (Common P) *Pavo cristatus*: 9/15. Common.

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*: 1/15. 3 birds at Ranthambhore showed very well.

Hill Partridge *Arborophila torquelo*a 1/15. A single noted near to the Dam at Sattal Lake on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Common Crane. *Grus grus*. 1/15. 3 Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*: A total of 3 of these stately birds noted Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*: 7/15. Common on low ground.

Brown Crake *Porzana akool*: 1/15. One seen Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ruddy breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*. 1/15. An extralimital bird noted Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Grey-headed Swamphen (G-h Gallinule) *Porphyrio poliocephalus*: 1/15. 50 + Bharatpur.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: 5/15. Common in suitable habitat.

Eurasian Coot (Common C) *Fulica atra*: 4/15. Common, with many thousands at Thumeria Dam.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*: 3/15. Small numbers all in non breeding plumage noted Ranthambhore, Bharatpur and Thumeria Dam.

Bronze-winged Jacana. *Metopidius indicus*. 1/15. Handful noted Bharatpur.

Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus* 1/15. 6 birds showed well in field just south of Bharatpur main entrance.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: 5/15. Scattered in small numbers.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*: 1/15 2 Chambal the only record.

Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus*: 3/15. Noted early in the trip, 2 Ranthambhore NP, 6+ Bharatpur.

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*: 5/15. Common at Chambal, and regularly seen at Corbett NP.

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*: 11/15. Common throughout trip.

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*: 1/15. 3 at Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: 1/15. 3+ birds noted Ranthambhore NP.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: 2/15. Handful Ranthambhore NP, and Bharatpur.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: 2/15. Singles Ranthambhore NP and Bharatpur.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*: 5/15. Small numbers were regularly seen.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: 9/15. Commonly recorded throughout.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: 4/15. Small numbers in suitable habitat.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*: 8/15. Small numbers regular throughout.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: 6/15. Small numbers were regularly seen.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: Common.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: 3/15. 2 Bharatpur and Chambal River.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: 3/15. 10+ Ranthambhore NP, 5 Bharatpur and Chambal River.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: 5/15. Small numbers regularly noted in suitable habitat.

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 1/15. 4 males showed well at the so called 'market' in Bharatpur town.

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*: 1/15. Brilliant views of a feeding pair just outside Ramnagar- on the Kosi River on the 27th - an excellent birthday present !!

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: 9/15. Common.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*: 1/15. A single flew up the Chambal River.

Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris*: 3/15. 2 Ranthambhore, 10+ Chambal River, and 4 Dhikala, Corbett NP.

Great Black-headed Gull (Pallas's G) *Larus ichthyaetus*: 1/15. 4+ including an adult on the Yamuna River at the Taj Mahal.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*: 1/15. 5+ noted at Thumeria Dam.

Common Black-headed Gull (Black-headed G) *Larus ridibundus*: 1/15. 10+ Thumeria Dam.

'Steppe Gull' *Larus (cachinnans) barabensis*. 1/15. A 'yellow-legged' Gull on Thumeria Dam was considered this taxon.

River Tern *Sterna aurantia*: 6/15. Regular sightings of this impressive species in suitable habitat.

Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*: 1/15. Great views of a single at National Chambal Sanctuary.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: 1/15. 3+ non-breeding birds at Bund Baretha on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Painted Sandgrouse *Pterocles indicus*: 1/15. 12+ noted near the Safari Lodge just outside Ranthambhore NP.

Rock Pigeon (R Dove) *Columba livia*: 15/15. Recorded daily, examples of pure birds of the race *intermedia* lack white on the lower back.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*: 5/15. Regular in the lower areas.



Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: 10/15. Common.

Red Collared-dove (R Turtle-D) *Streptopelia tranquebarica*: 1/15. A single male noted from train on first day -the only record.

Eurasian Collared-dove *Streptopelia decaocto*:10/15. Fairly common throughout.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis meena* 2/15. Singles noted at Sattal, and Pangot.

Emerald Dove *chlorigaster indica* 2/15. 5+ noted at Corbett 28th-29<sup>th</sup>, several seen well, however most often flushed and seen flying fast 'woodcock' like through forest trails.

Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus chlorigaster*, 2/15. Good numbers in the Ranthambhore NP and Bharatpur areas.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*: 1/15. A single showed well outside Corbett NP on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri*: 9/15. One of the commonest and most widespread birds of our trip. Although very few / absent in higher areas.

Himalayan Parakeet (Slaty-headed P) *Psittacula himalayana*: 5/15. Regular in the Sattal-Pangot area.

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*: 4/15. Small numbers noted Ranthambhore NP, and Corbett NP.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* 1/15. A single on the edge of Corbett NP.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*: 7/15. Regular throughout.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*: 1/15. Only at Thumeria dam area, 4+.

Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius*: 1/15. One at Dhikala on 29<sup>th</sup> showed well.

Jacobin Cuckoo(Pied Cuckoo) 1/15. A immature bird was seen briefly at Bharatpur on 19<sup>th</sup> by several of group, an unseasonal record.

Sirkeer Malkoha. *Taccocua leschenaultii* 1/15. A bird flushed from roadside during a safari canter in Ranthambhore NP on 18<sup>th</sup> caused much excitement.

Indian Scops-owl ( Collared Scops)*Otus bakkamoena*: 5/15. Not uncommon, 4 Ranthambhore NP, 6 birds noted Bharatpur, a pair at Chambal River Lodge and also heard from Jungle Lore, Pangot.

Mountain Scops-owl *Otus spilocephalus* 2/15. **[H]** Heard during the evening from Jungle lore lodge Pangot, although never responded to a tape.

Dusky Eagle-owl *Bubo coromandus*: 1/15. Great views of a bird at the nest Bharatpur.

Brown Fish-owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*: 2/15. A roosting bird seen on two days near Dhikala, Corbett.

Tawny Fish-owl *Ketupa flavipes*: 2/15. As above a roosting bird was watched for two days by the main track into Corbett NP.

Brown Wood Owl. *Strix leptogrammica* 1/15. After missing this bird in Goa, it was thus pleasing to watch a roosting pair on the road out of the Pangot area.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*: 1/15. 2 seen well at Binayak, near Naini Tal.

Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum*: 1/15. A single during the day near Tiger Camp Lodge Corbett NP.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*: 6/15. Regular in the lowlands.

Brown Hawk-owl (B Boobook) *Ninox scutulata*: 2/15. A single at roost in park opposite Bharatpur entrance and a bird flying around and calling our Lodge at Chambal.

Indian Jungle Nightjar (Jungle N) *Caprimulgus indicus*: 1/15. Excellent views of 2 roosting high up in a tree at Bharatpur. This is a recent split from Grey Nightjar, seen in Goa in 2007, which is now *Caprimulgus jotaka*.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*: 1/15. Point blank views of this ground rooster at Bharatpur.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*: 1/15. A large flock of 100+ noted high above Sattal main lake.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*: 7/15. Occasionally recorded especially at lower levels.

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata* 2/15. Noted only at Dhikala – Corbett NP, about 20 birds in total.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: 8/15. Common

White-throated Kingfisher (W-breasted K) *Halcyon smyrnensis*: 12/15. Also common and widespread.

Himalayan Pied Kingfisher (Crested K) *Ceryle lugubris*: 3/15. 1-2 Kainchi River, Sattal, and a handful noted in the Corbett area.

Lesser Pied Kingfisher (Pied K) *Ceryle rudis*: 4/15. Scattered sightings throughout trip.

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*: 1/15. Two birds showed well at Binayak, near Naini Tal. on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*: 2/15. Scarce, a handful at Ranthambhore NP the only birds recorded.

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*: 7/15. Scattered singletons throughout trip.

Common Hoopoe (Eurasian H) *Upupa epops*: 6/15. Regularly seen throughout.

Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris*: 4/15. 2+ Bharatpur, 5+ were easily seen in the garden at Chambal Safari Lodge, and 2-3 at Corbett NP.

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*: 1/15. A single gave good flight views on the edge of Corbett NP.

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*: 4/15. This impressive species was regularly seen between 22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> in the Sattal-Pangot areas, with probably 10+ birds noted.

Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*: 2/15. Singles Bharatpur, and 2-3 Chambal Safari Lodge garden.

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*: 2/15. 2 birds noted both in Corbett NP.

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*: 2/15. 2 Sattal on 22<sup>nd</sup>, with 2 Pangot 25<sup>th</sup>.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*: 3/15. Singles Ranthambhore NP, Bharatpur and 2 on edge of Corbett NP.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*: 1/15. Prolonged views of 2 birds feeding low down at Sattal – on the path leading west from dam on main lake.

Indian Pygmy Woodpecker (Brown-capped P Wpecker) *Dendrocopos nanus*: 1/15. Pair showed well in our hotel garden – Safari Lodge, Ranthambhore NP.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (G-capped Woodpecker) *Dendrocopos canicapillus* 1/15. A single male on edge of Corbett NP on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Brown-fronted Pied Woodpecker (Brown-fronted Wpecker) *Dendrocopos auriceps*: 2/15. 5+ birds seen in the Sattal-Pangot area.

Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker (F-breasted Wpecker) *Dendrocopos macei*: 2/15. Observed well at Sattal and 1-2 noted Corbett NP.

Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker (Y-crowned Wpecker) *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*: 1/15. A male Ranthambhore NP.

Himalayan Pied Woodpecker (Himalayan Wpecker) *Dendrocopos himalayensis*: 1/15. 2+ noted whilst searching for Koklass Pheasant early am on 26<sup>th</sup>. above Pangot.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*: 1/15. This stonking woodpecker put on a show for over an hour at Pangot, showing low down to six foot!

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*: 5/15. Fairly easily seen around Sattal-Pangot, and Dhikala/ Corbett NP.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*: 1/15. A single seen well at Sattal from main path running west from Dam.

Grey-faced Woodpecker (Grey H Wpecker) *Picus canus*: 6/15. Handful of birds noted Sattal-Pangot-Corbett NP.

Streak-throated Woodpecker. *Picus xanthopygaeus*. 1/15. Scope views of a nice male Corbett NP.

Rufous Woodpecker. *Micropternus brachyurus*. 1/15. Single noted on drive to Dhikala, Corbett NP.

Himalayan Flameback *Dinopium shorii*: 2/15. Noted Sattal, and a showy male at Kumeria on edge of Corbett NP.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*: 4/15. Frequently encountered.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*: 1/15. Single near Dhikala Lodge, Corbett NP.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*: [ H ] Several heard during our time at Dhikala, and a single 'glimpsed' on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Ashy-crowned Finch-lark (A-c Sparrow-Lark) *Eremopterix grisea*: 5/15. Fairly regular in suitable habitat, about 10+ noted on trip.

Rufous-tailed Lark. *Ammomanes phoenicura*. 2/15. 2 near entrance to Ranthambhore, 2 Bund

Baretha.

Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*: 1/15. A single at Chambal River on 21<sup>st</sup>.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*: 2/15. 25+ Ranthambhore NP, 100+ Chambal River sanctuary.

Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal*: 1/15. A pair seen well by the Chambal River.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*: 1/15. Only at Chambal River – 3 birds.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*: 4/15. Scattered sightings, birds often identified on flushing by their dry 'buzzing' call. Birds noted in full song at Dhikala grasslands, Corbett NP.

Grey-throated Sand-martin *Riparia chinensis*: 8/15. Common in suitable habitat throughout.

Dusky Crag-martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor*: 3/15. 6 Ranthambhore NP, 10 Bund Baretha, 10+ Pangot.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: 2/15. 100+ noted Corbett NP, with 30 Thumeria Dam.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*: 2/15. 3+ Bharatpur, and a single Chambal River.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*: 7/15. Fairly common.

Nepal House-martin *Delichon nipalense* 1/15. A small group of 10 noted above Pangot, the only record.

White Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] alba*: 7/15. Regularly seen, particularly in lower areas.  
- several Amur Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] leucopsis* were identified at the Kosi River .

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla madaraspatensis*: 7/15. This subcontinent endemic was regularly recorded.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*: 6/15. Fairly common, one water-hole at Ranthambhore held 20+ birds.

Grey-headed Wagtail. *Motacilla [Flava] thunbergii*. 2/15. 2 birds at the 'market' Bharatpur, with 60+ noted Thumeria Dam.

Blue-headed Wagtail. *Motacilla Flava* 1/15. 50+ Thumeria Dam on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: 6/15. Regular sightings throughout.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: 1/15. Several 'big pipits' at Thumeria Dam were considered this species.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*: 2/15 5+ at the Kosi River- Ibisbill site, and 10+ Thumeria Dam.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*: 7/15. Fairly common, the grassy slopes at Thumeria held 20+ .

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis jerdonii*. 1/15. A large pipit at Thumeria with deeply coloured underparts and faintly streaked upperparts was considered this species.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*: 4/15. Small numbers seen .

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*: 5/15. Frequently seen, with several groups 5-10 in Sattal

area, regularly around channels near dam.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*: 2/15. 1-2 noted at Kosi River and 5+ Thumeria Dam.

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*: 2/15. Singles Ranthambhore NP and Dhikala, Corbett NP.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*: 2/15. Two birds Ranthambhore NP.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*: 6/15. 5+ Bharatpur, and fairly common Sattal-Pangot with 10+ birds noted, and Corbett NP -10+ .

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*: 1/15. Scarcer than above, close scrutiny of wing pattern confirmed a nice male at Corbett NP.

Pied Flycatcher-shrike (Bar-winged F-Shrike) *Hemipus picatus*: 2/15. Small numbers in Dhikala Corbett NP – circa 8+ birds noted.

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*: 3/15. 2 + Ranthambhore NP, singles Bharatpur, and Dhikala.

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*: 3/15. Handful in the southern locations.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*: 3/15. Handful in the northern locations.

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*: 4/15. 5+ birds noted in the Sattal-Pangot area, also noted at Corbett NP.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris*: 3/15. 3-4 seen in the Corbett NP area.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*: 4/15. Small numbers in and around Corbett NP.

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*: 1/15. Uncommon, 1-2 at Bharatpur.

Himalayan Bulbul (White-cheeked Bulbul) *Pycnonotus leucogenys*: Common in the north. Restricted to the Himalayan region of the Indian subcontinent.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus caffer*: 15/15. Seen daily one of the commonest birds of the trip.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala*: 4/15. 3 Sattal, 8-10 birds in total in Corbett NP area.

Mountain Bulbul. *Hypsipetes mccllellandi*. 1/15. A single at Pangot on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Himalayan Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*: 3/15. circa 20+ birds recorded, Pangot – Corbett NP.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*: 3/15. Small numbers around Ranthambhore.

Gold-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*: 1/15. 2 males Corbett NP.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*: 2/15. Singles at Bund Baretha, and Chambal River.

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*: 2/15. 2-3 birds observed Ranthambhore NP.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*: 15/15. Common throughout.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*: Singles Pangot, 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*: 4/15. A total of 4 birds Ranthambhore NP, and single Corbett NP. The race here is *lahtora*, which shows a dark mask that extends onto the forehead.

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*: 2/15. Noted at Kainchi Temple near Sattal, and Pangot.

Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana*: 2/15. Two mobile flocks of 15, 30, birds noted above Pangot.

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiiata*: 3/15. 3 Sattal-Pangot area.

Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis*: 2/15. Sattal, 1 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, with 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*: A male in the garden at Chambal Safari Lodge was the only one that we saw during the trip.

Long-billed Ground Thrush (Long-billed Thrush) *Zoothera monticola*. 1/15. A bird showed very well at Pangot on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dark-sided Thrush. *Zoothera marginata*. 1/15. An unexpected write in, a bird noted late afternoon in the dry gully at Sattal (approx 3km from main lake dam ) on 23<sup>rd</sup>, was first thought as above species, however notes were taking as this bird showed a smallish bill, variegated/tiger striped head, and visible chestnut in wings. A tour tick for Leio and life bird for Lokesh.

Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul*: 2/15. A male in the dry gully Sattal, and pair Pangot.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*: A flock of 20+ near Pangot on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Tickells Thrush *Turdus unicolor*. 1/15. A nice male near Kainchi temple, Sattal area.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*: 1/15. Single Pangot area.

Blue Whistling-thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*: 5/15. Daily Sattal -Pangot Area.

Chestnut-bellied Rock -thrush *Monticola rufiventris*. 2/15. Pair at Pangot, 25<sup>th</sup>, with a further male on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Blue Rock-thrush *Monticola solitarius* 1/15. Male watched well from Chambal River cruise.

Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher (Rufous-gorgeted F) *Ficedula strophiiata*: 3/15. 3 Sattal area, and a single Corbett NP.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*: 6/15. Regular in the lower areas.

Red-throated Flycatcher (Taiga F) *Ficedula albicilla*: 1/15. A single bird was studied , photographed and confirmed from Ranthambhore NP.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*: 1/15. A real skulking male eventually seen by all on edge of Corbett NP.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*. 4/15. 2-3 noted in the Sattal area including a showy male at our breakfast stop -The Green Glen Lodge. Also noted Corbett NP.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*: 2/15. Pair Pangot area.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*: 3/15. 3 noted Sattal area.

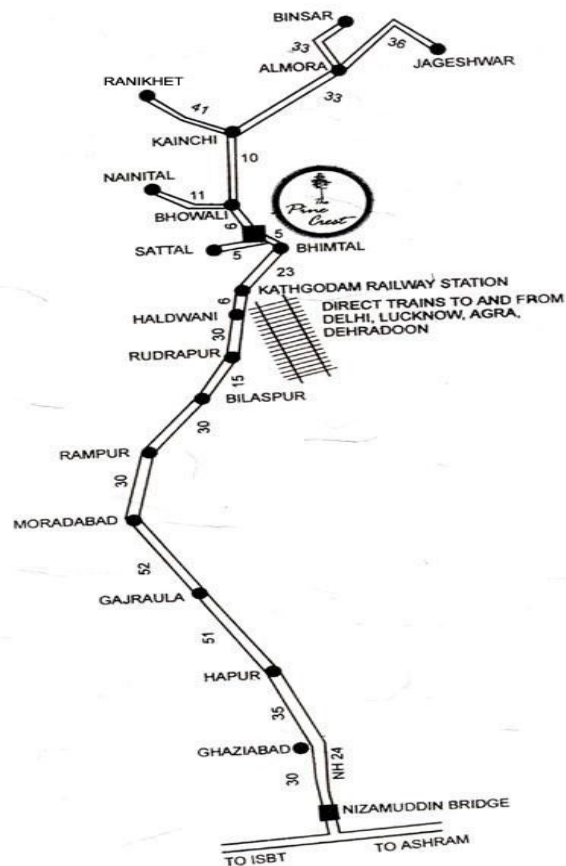
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*: A male was seen well at Ranthambhore NP.

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher (G-h Flycatcher) *Culicicapa ceylonensis*:5/15. Widespread.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*: 1/15. At least two males seen well [eventually] at Sattal on 23<sup>rd</sup>. They were frequenting an area of low bushes next to an obvious flat area at the base of the valley [ children were playing cricket here] approx 400 metres south east of Hotel Pine Crest. Approaching hotel turn left after 50m and follow road down past houses to open area on right.

Himalayan Rubythroat (White-tailed R) *Luscinia pectoralis*: 2/15. At the site above, a male showed well early evening on 22<sup>nd</sup>, having a white moustachical stripe it was assigned to *ssp Tschebaiewi*. Next day another male showed well in the dry gully 3km from Dam at main lake, Sattal.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*: 4/15. 2 unassigned to race Rathambhore NP, 3+ at Bharatpur and singles Bund Baretha.



**Map showing location of Pine Crest Hotel – Bhimtal /Sattal.**

Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin (Himalayan Bluetail) *Tarsiger rufilatus*:2/15. A recent split from Orange-flanked Bush Robin (Red-flanked Bluetail) *Tarsiger cyanurus*. A male showed incredibly well on 22<sup>nd</sup> from main path west of Dam, Sattal, and a female was note at Pangot.

Golden Bush-robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus*: Good views of a stonking male in the dry gully approx 3km from main dam,Sattal, early mornings 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>.

Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis*: 9/15. Quite common.

Indian Black Robin (Indian R) *Saxicoloides fulicatus*: 7/15. This Indian subcontinent endemic, was frequently encountered away from high ground.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: 8/15. 'Eastern Black Redstarts' Subspecies *rufiventris* ,

were fairly common.

Blue-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus caeruleocephala*: 2/15. Male 24<sup>th</sup> Sattal, and another Pangot next day.

White-capped River-Chat (W-c Water-Redstart, R Chat) *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*: 6/15. A common riverine species in the north of our tour.

Plumbeous Water-redstart (P Redstart) *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*: 7/15. As above.

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri*: 1/15. Excellent views of this bird on river by Kainchi Temple, Sattal.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* 1/15. As above.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*: 4+ in Sattal -Kainchi area, plus 2 Pangot.

White-throated Bushchat (Hodgson's B) *Saxicola insignis* .1/15. Male seen briefly at the Dhikala grasslands in newly burnt areas, Corbett NP. This Asian breeder was recently discovered wintering regularly in Corbett NP.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura*: 10/15. Common throughout.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*: 2/15. Quite uncommon, 2 birds seen , Bharatpur, Bund Baretha.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus*: 10/15. Fairly regular.

Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*: 2/15. Male '*picata*' seen well at Chambal River and Corbett NP.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*: 3/15. Singles Ranthambhore NP, Bharatpur, and Chambal River.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*: 2/15 Two noted Ranthambhore NP, and a single Chambal River.

Brown Rock-chat *Cercomela fusca*: 4/15. Handful Ranthambhore NP, plus one Corbett NP.

White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis*: 5/15. Common, Sattal – Pangot, including a flock each morning of 20-30 birds in garden of Jungle Lore Lodge.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucocephalus*: 6/15. Total 7 Sattal area, with more heard. Try path running west of main dam. Also heard at Corbett NP on two dates.

Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striata*: 4/15. Total 4 Sattal area, singles Pangot 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla rufogularis*: 2/15. Two seen well in Sattal area from woodland path running west from main dam.

Streaked Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron lineatum*: 5/15. This 'large Dunnock' was common around Sattal – Pangot.

Red-headed Laughingthrush (Chestnut-crowned L) *Garrulax erythrocephalum*: 1/15. 5 seen very well in garden of Jungle Lore – Pangot.

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogeus*: 2/15. 3 birds in total around Sattal.

Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler *Phnoepyga albiventer*: 2/15. Heard Sattal on 23<sup>rd</sup>, seen well next



morning in dry gully approx 3km from main lake dam.

Nepal Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga immaculata*: 1/15. A single bird Pangot, until quite recently this species was thought to be endemic to Nepal, but is now known as far west as Himachal Pradesh.

Black-chinned Babbler *Stachyris pyrrhops*: 6/15. Fairly common in the Sattal area, and noted at Corbett NP. This little babbler has a restricted range in the west and central Himalayas.

Common Babbler *Turdoides caudatus*: 4/15. Good numbers Ranthambhore NP.

Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi*: 4/15. 8 birds in total, Ranthambhore NP, and Bharatpur.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*: 12/15. One of the commonest birds of trip, although not seen at Sattal.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*: 3/15. Fairly common Sattal area, with obliging group daily at Green Glen birdwatchers lodge.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*: 2/15. As above - 3-5 regularly observed at Green Glen birdwatchers lodge.

Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata*: 4/15. Quite easily seen Sattal -Pangot, with 10 birds in total.

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*: 1/15. A single in a bird wave on edge of Corbett NP.

Black-chinned Yuhina. *Yuhina nigrimenta*. 1/15. 5+ birds showed very well and responded to playback on edge of Corbett NP on 27<sup>th</sup>.

White-browed Shrike-babbler. *Pteruthius flaviscapis*. 1/15. 3-4 including two wonderful males showed very well at Binayak, near Naini Tal.

Puff-throated Babbler. *Pellorneum ruficeps*. 1/15. 2-3 noted on edge of Corbett NP.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*: 1/15. 2+ in the Dhikala grasslands, Corbett NP.

Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera*: 2/15. 4 birds seen in total at Pangot including several in song.

Rufous-fronted Prinia *Prinia buchanani*: 2/15. A dry country specialist, 5 birds in the 'dunes' at Chambal river sanctuary, followed by brief views of a single at Pangot, the latter bird recently spread to this area.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*: 5/15. Widespread, noted both southern and northern areas.

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*: 7/15. Scattered sightings, widespread.

Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica*: 1/15. Brief views of 1-2 at the Dhikala grasslands, Corbett NP.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*: 4/15. Noted Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, Chambal, but none thereafter.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*: 6/15. Regularly seen in the southern areas visited during the trip.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata* 1/15. One showed well with patience near Sattal 24<sup>th</sup>.

Aberrant Bush-warbler *Cettia flavolivacea*: 3/15. A total of 4+ birds in the Sattal -Pangot area. Fairly easy to see from path running west from Sattal lake main dam.

Blyth's Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*: 2/15 Singles at Bharatpur, and Bund Baretha.

Sykes's Warbler *Hippolais rama*: 1/15 A bird at Bharatpur was identified on a combine of jizz, and its much softer/less harsh call than '*caligata*'.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus tristis*: 3/15. Few and far between in the southern areas, 2-3 Bharatpur, however more frequent at Sattal – Pangot where 8-10 noted. All remained silent.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*: 2/15. 3+ watched well low down in Bharatpur scrub, as was another near the Pine Crest Hotel, Sattal.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus*: 1/15. A single was seen well feeding on a 'dune bank' near the Chambal River sanctuary on 21<sup>st</sup>.

Orange-barred Leaf-warbler (Buff-barred Warbler) *Phylloscopus pulcher*: A total of 5 birds seen in Sattal area.

Lemon-rumped Leaf-warbler (L-r Warbler) *Phylloscopus chloronotus*: 6/15. Seen daily in the more northern areas, common around Pangot.

Hume's Leaf-warbler (Hume's W) *Phylloscopus humei*: 10/15. Commonly seen and heard.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*: A handful seen Ranthambhore – Bharatpur.

Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*: Common in the north.

Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*: 3/15. Pairs seen at Sattal and Corbett NP, were carefully observed to distinguish from 'Green-crowned' all birds observed showed a clear wing bar, and a lateral crown stripe that faded out at forehead. Both pairs were heard to call – a disyllabic 'sparrow like 'sch-leep', sch-leep'

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: 9/15. Fairly common.

Eastern Orphean Warbler. *Sylvia crassirostris*. 1/15. Single at Bharatpur.

Red-headed Tit (Black-throated T) *Aegithalos concinnus*: 5/15. Seen daily Sattal-Pangot. About 10 birds in total.

Spot-winged Tit *Parus melanolophus*: 1/15. A west Himalayan speciality. A total of two birds in pines above Pangot.

Grey Tit *Parus cinereus*: 5/15. A recent split from Great Tit *P. major*. 5+ Ranthambhore NP, Sattal-Pangot and Corbett NP.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*: 5/15. Regularly seen Sattal-Pangot-Corbett NP.

Black-lored Yellow Tit (Black-lored T) *Parus xanthogenys*: 3/15. A handful encountered in northern areas. This species, as currently defined, is restricted to the west and central Himalayas, a split from the Indian Black-lored Tit observed in Goa 2007.

Indian Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*: 5/15. Regularly seen in northern areas.

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*: 1/15. Uncommon, a single bird at Pangot.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*: 3/15. 3 birds in total, Pangot, and Dhikala – Corbett NP.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*: 1/15. 2 birds on the Kosi river cliffs just outside of Ramnager town.

Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana*: 3/15. 5+ in total in the Sattal-Pangot area, at close range the bars on the tail can clearly be observed.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*: 1/15. A bird seen well above Pangot.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (Buff-bellied F) *Dicaeum ignipectus*: A pair performed very well near Sattal on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*: 4/15. 5+ Ranthambhore NP, 'common' at Bund Baretha, also noted at Chambal river Sanctuary.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*: 1/15. The last notebook entry for the trip, a male showed very well near Thumeria Dam.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*: 1/15. Brilliant views of one at Binayak, near Naini Tal.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*: 2/15. Singles 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> Sattal. Path west of main dam.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*: 10/15. Common throughout.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*: 1/15. A pair noted near Pangot on 26<sup>th</sup>.

White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti*: 2/15. 10+ Ranthambhore NP, and 5+ at Binayak, near Naini Tal.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*: 1/15. A flock of 50 + near Bund Baretha the only birds noted.

Himalayan Greenfinch (Yellow-breasted G) *Carduelis spinoides*: 4/15. Small numbers noted at Sattal -Pangot, including a regular group from balcony at Jungle lore Lodge.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*: 5/15. Singles at scattered locations throughout.

Pink-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus rodochroa*: 2/15. 7 birds in total around Jungle lore Pangot.

Spot-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas melanozanthos*. 1/15. A group of three flew into pines Pangot, and caused much excitement, despite their size and vivid colour they proved difficult to observe. The lone male eventually came into open and showed very well briefly.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*: 1/15. Common at Thumeria Dam – 40 + birds.

Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica*: 3/15. Only recorded at Ranthambhore NP, 15 birds in total.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: 1/15. Two birds near Green glen Lodge Sattal on 24<sup>th</sup>.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: 14/15. Common .

Cinnamon Sparrow (Russet Sparrow) *Passer rutilans*: 3/15. 5+ birds noted in valley bottom below Pine Crest Hotel, Sattal. Pair also noted above Pangot.

Yellow-throated Sparrow (Chestnut-shouldered Petronia) *Petronia xanthocollis*: 4/15. Small numbers Ranthambhore, with 20+ Bharatpur.

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*: 1/15. 4 seen near Chambal River Lodge, the only record.

Brahminy Starling *Temenuchus pagodarum*: 6/15. Scattered sightings throughout trip, absent from the 'north'.

Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra*: 9/15. Commonly seen , although absent Sattal – Pangot.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: 13/15. Common throughout.

Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*: 9/15. Fairly common throughout, in the southern part of trip.

Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundoo*: 1/15. Two males at Bharatpur Temple. A recent split from European Golden Oriole *O. oriolus*.

Maroon Oriole. *Oriolus traillii*. 2/15. 2 birds noted on main drive to /from Dhikala , Corbett NP.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*: 2/15. Singles at Corbett NP, 27<sup>th</sup> /29<sup>th</sup>.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*: 9/15. Regularly seen throughout.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: 1/15. A single bird Bharatpur.

White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens*: 3/15. 5 birds in total Ranthambhore NP.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*: 1/15. Single bird from path heading west from Sattal main lake dam.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo. *Dicrurus remifer*. 1/15. Two birds seen well on main drive to/from Dhikala.

Hair -crested Drongo ( Spangled) *Dicrurus hottentottus*. 5-10 noted on edge of Corbett NP.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: 1/15. One in the garden of Jungle Lore Lodge on 25<sup>th</sup>, of the race *bispecularis*, showing an unmarked crown and lacking the white wing patch of European birds.

Black-headed Jay (Lanceolated J) *Garrulus lanceolatus*: 4/15. Handful of birds noted Sattal-Pangot area.

Red-billed Blue Magpie (Blue M) *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*: 4/15. Fairly easy to see Sattal -Pangot.

Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*: 1/15. A single on outskirts of Corbett NP showed well.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*: 7/15. Regular throughout, although not Sattal-Pangot, where replaced by next species.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*: 3/15. Regular in Sattal area, 5+ seen daily at Green Glen lodge.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*: 13/15. Common throughout.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*: 1/15. 2-3 birds high above Kainchi were first thought to be Raven, however their smaller size, shorter wings probably indicated this species

Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminatus*: 12/15. Common in lowland areas throughout.

(387 species.)

## MAMMALS

Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis*: 1/15. Sattal.

Northern Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennantii*: (5 striped Palm) 3/15. Rathambhore NP- 5+

Asian Palm Civet (Common P C) *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*: 1/15. Good views of one at Chambal Safari Resort .

Tiger *Panthera tigris*: 2/15. We were lucky to have prolonged views of a male at Ranthambhore NP early am on 17<sup>th</sup>. The male was obviously interested in some sort of kill high up in a tree and stayed in the vicinity of our jeep for an hour or so, at one point crossing our path at a range of 15-20 metres.

Our second encounter will long live in the memory, driving out from Dhikala lodge our driver thought he'd glimpsed a Leopard crossing the track up ahead. We speeded up and parked adjacent to the undergrowth where the 'leopard' had entered. We excitedly stood up and searched for the cat, behind us a group of 5 Asian Elephants appeared and remained on the track refusing to enter the jungle. Leio suggested that there was a Tiger in the area, then suddenly a deafening 'roar' reverberated around the jungle – TIGER, and close,! a mad panic ensued as our three jeeps jostled for position to get the best view. Then out of nowhere the undergrowth parted not 15m away and backed by an even louder roar was a female tiger beating the ground, soon to retreat, words cant describe the fear and chaos in the jeeps, we somehow vacated the area and knew we weren't going to get a third warning. The female Tiger then reappeared 50 metres away crossing the track, if she stopped and walk towards us – we were hemmed in what with the Elephants behind us fortunately she slipped back into the jungle and that was that, it came to light that evening that the Tigress had been seen the day before in the same area with cubs, and it was suggested that we had simply got too close..never again !

Indian Grey Mongoose (Common M) *Herpestes edwardsii*:6/15. Scattered sightings of singletons.

Ruddy Mongoose *Herpestes smithii*: 2/15. Rathambhore NP.

Golden Jackal (Jackal) *Canis aureus*: 5/15. Regularly seen away from Sattal-Pangot.

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*: 1/15. Two crossed our tracks on an early am safari out of Dhikala.

Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*: 3/15. Common around the garden of Chambal Safari Lodge, feeding on a fruiting fig. Also seen near Bund Baretha, and Rathambhore NP.

Hanuman Langar. *Semnopithecus entellus*. 10/15. Common.

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*: 15/15. Common throughout

Eurasian Wild Boar (Wild Boar, Indian W B) *Sus scrofa*: 7/15. Widespread.

Asian Elephant. *Elephas maximus*. 1/15. 25 + noted Corbett NP , especially Dhikala grasslands.

Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) *Muntiacus muntjak*: 1/15. Several noted on drive to Dhikala.

Hog Deer. *Axis porcinus*. 1/15. Single noted Dhikala.

Sambar *Cervus unicolor*: 7/15. Regular Ranthambhore NP, and Corbett NP.

Chital (Spotted Deer) *Cervus axis*: 8/15. Common.

Indian Gazelle(Chinkara) *Gazella benenetii* 2/15. Small numbers Ranthambhore NP.

Nilgai (Blue Bull) *Boselaphus tragocamelus*: 3/15. Regular sightings, Ranthambhore NP only.

**REPTILES etc.**

Mugger (Marsh Crocodile) *Crocodylus palustris*: 3/15. Small numbers at Corbett NP, National Chambal Sanctuary, and Ranthambhore.

Gharial *Gavialis gangeticus*: 2/15. 30+ seen well from Chambal River cruise, smaller numbers on Ramnagar river at Dhikala.

Common Indian Monitor *Varanus bengalensis*: 2/15. Bharatpur and Chambal River.

Golden Mahseer.(Indian salmon) *Tor putitora* 1/15. Lots on river in Corbett NP.

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**Chris Knox – February 2009.**