

India - Brahmaputra Cruise (and Sunderbans extension)

Naturetrek Tour Report

17 - 29 December 2010



Hoolock Gibbons



One-horned Rhino



Golden Langur

Main report compiled by Nick Acheson

Images by kind courtesy of Geoff and Stella Harwood

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Introduction

‘At 5am the generator will be switched on; tea, coffee and biscuits will be served in the saloon.’

I rather fancied that would catch your attention! But in fairness to us, every time we hauled you from your beds so early, it was hugely worth it, wasn't it? Without early mornings would you have witnessed the exuberant hooting of the Western Hoolock Gibbon on a branch right above you? Would you have marvelled at the lofty landscape of Nameri as we drifted on rafts down the Jia Bareli? Could you have scrubbed Manjula the elephant after a delightful, rhino-sprinkled safari in the Western Range? Enough said, enough said. Each of the early mornings was more than justified by the delights it brought.

Day 1

Friday 17th December

Task number one: gather twenty-one Naturetrekkers from their several starting points and settle them comfortably into the refined surroundings of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Task accomplished admirably.

Task number two: guide them through the lunacy of Kolkata's streets to visit the Botanic Gardens. Once there, despite large crowds, we had a good stretch of travel-weary legs and enjoyed seeing our first Indian birds. Pairs of Red-breasted and Alexandrine Parakeets were greatly admired perching in the boughs of dead trees, Little Cormorants and White-throated Kingfishers sat hunched by quiet corners of the lake, Jungle Babbler babbled (what else?) and crowds of Yellow-footed Green Pigeons flew home to their roosts. Even our first Indian mammal made its appearance, in the form of a Five-striped Palm-Squirrel (though we remained hopeful for more spectacular mammals later in the tour). Soon though, tired bodies and minds were yearning for bed so we headed once more into the breach of India's roads and gave you all a night off to recuperate from your travels and prepare yourselves for Assamese adventures ahead...

Day 2

Saturday 18th December

I don't think I've ever previously not made a list of the wildlife we saw on any day of a Naturetrek tour. The reason for not doing so today was that we saw almost none! The blame here lies with Indian Airlines who, in their infinite wisdom, cancelled our flight to Jorhat just a few days before the start of our tour! Now on an ordinary Brahmaputra cruise (as though the Brahmaputra or anything about her could ever be described as ordinary) we normally touch down in Jorhat in the middle of the day and well before dark we are on board our ship at Neemati Ghat, teas or beers in hand, watching Common Cranes fly in to roost ahead of the encroaching dusk. Not so today. Thanks to the hard work of the good folk of the Naturetrek office and of the Assam Bengal Navigation Company, we had arranged to fly much farther east to the impressive new airport at Dibrugarh. Here we were seamlessly met by Niv and Imran, garlanded with gamchas and – quite unexpectedly – handed generous packed lunches.

Our journey through the countryside of Assam lasted for the rest of the afternoon and was for many of you the first highlight of the tour. It was inkily dark when we reached Dikau Mukh, where RV Charaidew lay anchored await for us, but the lantern-bearing crew guided us smoothly down the beach and onto the ship. As is always the case on our Brahmaputra cruises, we were swiftly and warmly welcomed aboard by our charming hosts, settled into our cabins and ushered to a delicious meal.

Day 3

Sunday 19th December

Thanks to our not being where we would normally be on the river (good old Indian Airlines!), we changed the first two days' programme around and so visited Majuli Island today. But first we sailed to reach the island and in so doing had an introduction to the magnificent wildlife of the Brahmaputra. Gadwall, Pintail and Ruddy Shelduck teemed in their thousands in bays and backwaters and with them were Common Shelduck, Wigeon, Pochard, Red-crested Pochard, Tufted Duck and Teal. We even witnessed the heart-stopping spectacle of a Peregrine tiercel hitting a Pintail and repeatedly harrying the ill-starred duck.

On reaching Majuli – reputedly the largest river island in the world – we stopped at a roadside marsh which was full to overflowing with water. Both Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas tiptoed over floating plants, a dark-phase Booted Eagle circled overhead, Grey-headed Lapwings patrolled the shores, and we admired our first Ferruginous (aka Poisonous) Ducks.

Stopping only to admire Lesser Adjutant Storks in the fields and Mising tribal ladies fishing (where did you say they store their catch?), we next visited the ancient monastery of Auniati Satra and explored the daily lives of the

hundreds of Vaishnavite monks who live here. Binoculars were still kept at the ready during our monastic education and it was here that we found our first Common Kingfisher, Dusky Warbler, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Common Iora, Oriental White-eye and Large Cuckooshrike.

Our next port of call was the world-renowned Uttar Kamalabari monastery where monks dance and drum in an age-old tradition in honour of Vishnu. Many Naturetrekkers were moved by their powerful performance and some were moved even to tears (though they swore me to keeping their identity secret lest certain other Naturetrek leaders read this report).

Day 4

Monday 20th December

The beautiful forests of the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary were our destination this morning. We had yet to reach the gates of the sanctuary when we encountered a family of beautiful pinky-grey Capped Langurs on the edge of the forest. Once inside the park we quickly found a couple of absurd and wonderful Malayan Giant Squirrels chewing fruit in the garden of one of the park rangers. Leopard Lacewing butterflies skipped and danced in the sunlight and we were soon on the trail of our first pair of Western Hoolock Gibbons. These marvellous creatures are now greatly threatened in India but they are well-protected in this reserve. The first pair proved hard to find, however, and even harder, once found, to show to the whole group. Fearful that this neck-craning, eye-straining pair might be our lot, we continued into the forest and were delighted to find another pair low in the trees right by the track. They kept us entertained, eating, swinging and cuddling, until finally we decided we ought to leave them. And lucky for us that we did as nearby we met a family of Pig-tailed Macaques crossing the track in the safety of the canopy. Nearby our only Dark-necked Tailorbird called from a tangle of vines and high overhead Ashy Woodswallows darted and Lesser Adjutants soared. As we returned to the charismatic gibbons they began to sing from a perch over the track. We watched and listened in smiling delight until eventually we were forced by time to tear ourselves away. It is telling that, after ten days of astonishingly good wildlife-watching, more of you chose this as your favourite moment of the tour than any other.

On our return to the park gates, a sumptuous breakfast was served by Pratik and his team in a forest clearing while Short-billed Minivets, Black-winged Cuckooshrikes and Hume's Leaf-Warblers zipped through the trees overhead. Our subsequent journey back to Charaidew was broken by two stops: the first to admire a vast flock of Lesser Whistling-Ducks – among them two much rarer Fulvous Whistling-Ducks – on a flooded playing field, and the second at a large marsh carpeted with Purple Swamphens, Spot-billed Ducks, Purple Herons and Indian Pond-Herons.

Back on board Charaidew we sailed in the afternoon and again revelled in the tremendous wildlife along the shores of the Brahmaputra. A first-winter White-tailed Eagle hunkered down on a sandbank and another Peregrine – this one a female – took a daring pass at a Pintail. It's a tough place to be a Pintail!

The sun finally set – dramatically, in a glorious display of apricot and orange – as Gangetic Dolphins played in the water around us and Ospreys flapped past in the dying light. The night sky was then lit by a fat moon of such brightness one could have read by it.

Day 5

Tuesday 21st December

This morning we sailed again, past vast sandy beaches strewn with the corpses of fallen trees, to Bokaduar, a Mising tribal village. Here Niv explained to us the lifestyle of the Mising people and showed us their stilted homes and bamboo-fenced gardens. Some sampled rice wine, some bought exquisite hand-woven textiles (and modelled them), some gurgled over newborn twin goat kids and I spectacularly failed to climb a betel nut palm. The only salve to my dignity was that, unlike the little lad who demonstrated the technique to us, I lost neither my sarong nor my modesty in the process! I nonetheless quite impressively failed to get anywhere near the betel nuts: I shall train hard before the March cruise in the hope of getting a little higher then...

Wildlife too was much in evidence in the village. Asian Palm Swifts hurtled by at speed, a Black-naped Monarch shone from the shade of a stand of bamboo, and Oriental Magpie Robins were admired in gardens heady with the scent of coriander. However all other species were eclipsed on our return to Charaidew. As we disembarked from the country boat an adult Golden Eagle flew over the ship but vanished from view before any of you could see it. We raced to the other side of Charaidew and quickly saw that the eagle had landed with prey on the sandbank right next to us. We watched in delight, and photographed it, for the best part of an hour before finally sailing and leaving it there. Wonderful!

We sailed for Dhansiri Mukh and along the way saw many wonderful creatures. Huge roosts of Great Cormorants adorned the sandbanks, bright winter-plumaged Great Crested Grebe skittered over the water and in a huge flock of Mallard we found a Goldeneye - a very rare bird in India, this was a first for Sujan, Imran, Babajan and was Sujan's 932nd species seen in India. A single Hog Deer was spotted on the riverbank, a precursor of many hundreds more, and as we moored Babajan found a distant makhna (tuskless male) Asian Elephant in the forest of Kaziranga National Park. Later we walked over the sandbank towards him (with a large river channel between us, ensuring we were safe). Sand Larks larked on the sand, Greater Thick-knees crouched on the beach and some of you saw a distant Grey-headed Fish-Eagle perched in the edge of the forest.

Day 6

Wednesday 22nd December

We awoke today to the sight and sound of hundreds of Bar-headed Geese flying from their roost on a sandbank next to us, harried by a White-tailed Eagle. Shortly thereafter, our approach to the magical Eastern Range of Kaziranga National Park was hampered slightly by our running aground in very shallow water in the country boat. Even this adventure we enjoyed – ever positive group that we were – as we shifted from side to side in an effort to move the boat off the sandbank. This achieved, we were quickly ashore. We ventured into the Eastern Range, and were immediately surrounded by birds and mammals. On the huge wetland at the entrance to the park thousands of Bar-headed and Greylag Geese grazed. Gadwall, Teal and Pintail crowded every inch of shallow water and Spot-billed Pelicans fished in deeper water. Asian Water Buffalos (wild ones) chomped contentedly while a herd of Swamp Deer dozed on the edge of the marsh. From the first observation tower we watched Pallas' Fish Eagles upsetting the waterfowl while an Osprey and a Crested Serpent Eagle swept past overhead. We all agreed Kaziranga was a very fine park indeed.

After a drive into the forests of the park we returned to the marsh and were delighted by yet more charismatic wildlife. An otter ducked through the ducks on the edge of the lake, four One-horned Rhinos were seen along the shore, and with them was one small baby rhino (is that a rhinoleet or a rhinoling?).

Indian Rollers tutted and scowled from bushes, Spotted Owlets peered from a cleft in a tree and as two Wild Boar trotted past they drew our attention to a first-winter Eastern Imperial who had been crouching in front of us – unseen in a dip – for several minutes. This glorious creature flew up to a nearby tree (under which a Hog Deer grazed), permitting us to admire him in his full magnificence.

Back to Charaidew for lunch and straight-away sailing, past Gangetic Dolphins, Black Storks, a big herd of Asian Water Buffalo and a huge herd of Hog Deer: such are our lazy afternoons of sailing on the incomparable Brahmaputra.

Day 7

Thursday 23rd December

Fog stopped play this morning, or at least it stopped us sailing. This rather scuppered our plan to visit the Western Range of Kaziranga in the morning. But we are hearty souls and we bore the wait with fortitude; indeed we positively enjoyed snuggling into the saloon with cups of coffee and our books in hand. As the fog lifted we set sail and quickly reached our destination where we boarded vehicles and were ferried to the charming Diphlu River Lodge. Here we watched the lodge elephant Manjula being scrubbed after his morning's exertions and many were moved to hop into the muddy water to help with the scrubbing (Note to self: advise clients not to tug Manjula's tail on future cruises). With mud removed from elephant and human feet alike we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the lodge before venturing to the gate of Kaziranga's Western Range.

Our first port of call here was the magnificent tower overlooking countless acres of wetland and grassland. A cursory count revealed 30 One-horned Rhinos grazing here in addition to thousands of Bar-headed Geese and many hundreds of Hog Deer and Swamp Deer. River and Whiskered Terns floated over the water on light wings, Spot-billed Pelicans fished, weirdly beautiful Yellow-footed Green-Pigeons plucked figs from the tree beside us, and all was well with our corner of the world.

As we drove further into the park we met a family of Asian Elephants, including a female with a young calf. One by one the elephants appeared from the aptly-named elephant grass, accompanied, for comparison's sake, by two rhinos. The female elephant with young was the last to cross the road and was photographed by many as she did so; Pratik's shot of the moment appeared on the Christmas cards he kindly made for us the next day. More rhinos and more elephants dotted the beautiful grasslands of the Western Range, Spot-billed Pelicans flew into a dead tree to roost, Swamp Francolins chimed cheerfully from the grass and tight flocks of Blossom-headed Parakeets pinged at speed through the trees as the light died.

Day 8

Friday 24th December

'Once upon a time there was a beautiful park in North-East India.' (It's an old one but a good one so bear with me.) 'The park was home to over 2,000 rhinos, 1,000 elephants, countless Hog Deer and Swamp Deer and innumerable other animals and plants. But perhaps the jewel in the park's crown was the densest wild Tiger population in the world. So proud was the Park Director of his Tigers that every year he organised a special census. To carry out the census he needed to use all of the working elephants in the park with the result that none was available for tourists to ride.' (Groans from assembled company).

‘There was also – happily for us – a charming, handsome naturalist called Imran who greatly cared for his clients and wanted them all to see the very best of Assam. Long ago he had called the Chief Elephant Officer to ask whether his clients could ride elephants on Christmas Eve but he had been told, ‘No, I’m very sorry, they can’t, on account of the Tiger census.’ Never one for accepting ‘No’, especially where his clients are concerned, Imran called again and again and again but always received the answer ‘No’. So frequently did he call that eventually he was told, ‘OK, your clients can ride the elephants but only if they go in two groups, at different times.’ Imran wasn’t taking this for an answer either, as it would mean his clients sitting around waiting for one another, so he continued to call the Chief Elephant Officer, who was kind enough to extend a special offer to us: ‘OK,’ he said, ‘your clients can all go together, but they have to be here by 5.30am.’ So it was that Imran, Sujan and Nick devised a plan to persuade their clients that it really was in their best interests to get to the park (at least an hour from the ship) by 5.30am for the peerless experience of an elephant ride through herds of buffalo and past nonchalantly chomping rhinos. But just as Nick was about to present their plan to the group, disaster struck: the Chief Elephant Officer rang to announce that he was very sorry: no elephant rides were possible the following morning at all! ‘We wheedled, we pleaded, we begged (I’m not ashamed to admit it) but all we could wrest from the CEO was the promise of elephant rides in the afternoon, which would mean missing our sailing for Tejpur the following day. Ever mindful of your best interests, we took the brave (some would say foolhardy) decision that you would ride elephants in the afternoon, while the ship sailed without us for Tejpur, and we would ferry you by road to the waiting ship under cover of darkness.’ ‘And as a result they all lived happily ever after.’ Seriously though: what a legend our Imran is. Thanks Imran-da!

So in the end, we visited the Central Range by jeep for the whole morning. Two of our jeeps are now definitely in a position to confirm to the Park Director that there is at least one Tiger in the park as they saw her strolling along the distant shore of a wetland, having been alerted to her presence by the panicked skedaddling of the Hog Deer. Even those who didn’t see a Tiger saw many wonderful creatures in the beautiful grasslands and forests of the Central Range. Short-toed, Greater Spotted, Pallas’ Fish-Eagles and Grey-headed Fish-Eagles planed overhead, a Black-necked Stork crouched on its treetop nest, Smooth-coated Otters squeaked and dived through a lake, Himalayan Griffon Vultures clung to the tops of Silk Cotton Trees and Assam Roofed Turtles crowded onto fallen logs along ox-bows. Nonetheless the highlight of the day came in the afternoon when, having made propitiatory offerings of bananas to demanding trunks, we sent you off into the grassland astride your elephants. You swayed through a family of Asian Water Buffalo, you visited newborn Hog Deer in the long grass, you paid court to One-horned Rhinos and you startled an oh-so-rare Bengal Florican in the grass and photographed him as he flapped away on ice-white wings. All the while you were charmed by the beaming mahouts and their stories of the park. What a place this Kaziranga is! And as a final delight, the crew held a barbecue for us on the sands of the Brahmaputra’s shore this evening. A Christmas Eve like no other...

Day 9

Saturday 25th December

Happy Christmas everyone! And it was a happy Christmas. We spent it visiting Nameri National Park, over which loom the snow-clad Himalayas of Bhutan. After breakfast at the Nameri Eco-Camp, to the sound of Common Mynas, expert local oarsmen guided us aboard rafts down the shining waters of the Jia Bareli River. Common Mergansers fished the shallows and an Oriental Honey Buzzard sped over the river on flat wings. Rare Ibisbills probed the fastest stretches and Ruddy Shelducks moored and moaned from the beaches.

Our descent of the river was impeded by your great-and-glorious leaders' raft deflating and taking more-than-advisable quantities of river water on board. We stopped on a tiny, squelchy island in the river, peppered with otter footprints, and re-inflated our raft with a foot-pump; thereafter all was well. As we came to the end of our beautiful raft journey we were amazed by the spectacle of Indian Rollers pouring in to feed on fleeing insects over a patch of burning grassland.

Back at the Brahmaputra, we were collected in the country boat by multi-talented Pratik and were quickly seated for another delicious Assam Bengal Navigation lunch as Charaidew sailed on downriver. We were rejoined at lunch by a couple of the party, who in lieu of visiting Nameri, had honoured Christmas with a visit to a local church in Tejpur and had been lovingly followed throughout by news cameras intent on recording a rare visit by Westerners. Ospreys and Ruddy Shelducks brightened our afternoon's sailing and we glimpsed a pair of White-tailed Stonechats in the long grasses of the bank. We moored in the evening on the edge of Orang National Park where a gorgeous rose-pink sun set over the timeless Brahmaputra.

After another wonderful Charaidew dinner, Pratik thoughtfully produced for us a cake in honour of four birthdays: Christmas, Babajan's 25th birthday, Mahindra the laundry-man's birthday and Imran's wife's birthday. Dear Imran, married for just over a year, hadn't been sure of the date of his wife's birthday so he rang her every day from the 22nd until finally she told him that her birthday was Christmas Day! After dinner and cake, certain of the rowdier members of the party produced pea-shooters and challenged the Assamese, Bengali and Naga dining room staff to an all-out pitched battle. We hadn't laughed so much in years!

Day 10

Sunday 26th December

I had trouble selling the clients the idea of an early morning visit to Orang National Park. After all, it doesn't boast the all-star, easy-to-see cast of creatures to be found with ease in Kaziranga. Our visit today was, however, an unsullied success. For a start, the park is very beautiful – a mix of tall grassland and light Silk Cotton woodlands. In addition it is rarely visited so, after the Christmas holiday traffic in Kaziranga, we felt privileged to visit a secret corner of Assam. Then of course there were the creatures we saw. Three of our jeeps, led by Sujan and Babajan went in search of birds and were rewarded with a spectacular tally of raptors – including Changeable and Mountain Hawk Eagles, Crested Goshawk, Booted Eagle and Greater Spotted Eagle – and warblers – including Blyth's Leaf, Tickell's Leaf and Thick-billed. The other three jeeps, led by Imran and me, headed off through the myna-sprinkled forest and were delighted to encounter Assam's celebrated elephant twins. These beautiful babies, born just 13 days previously to a domestic female, were the first example of elephant twins born in many decades in Assam. The field naturalist in me wishes to resist admitting it but they were absurdly sweet. We did well for pachyderms in general, also encountering a wild male Asian Elephant and one of the closest and wildest-looking One-horned Rhinos of the tour. This afternoon we made our last major journey on Charaidew, towards Guwahati, mooring by dusk amid a flock of thousands of Pintail and hundreds of Pochard.

Day 11

Monday 27th December

This morning we sailed into our final port, Guwahati. It took a while, as for three hours we were marooned in the morning mist, but we got there in the end.

We first visited the Umananda Temple, on the crest of Peacock Island. Each time I visit I try to get excited about the small family of introduced Golden Langurs here but each time I come away having found them corpulent, imperious and scruffy. No change this time I'm afraid but they did enjoy offerings of cakes from some of the bolder among you.

In the afternoon we visited the Kamakhya Temple atop the Nilanchal Hill outside town. Some went into the temple to hear from Niv about its venerable history while others stayed in the streets outside and visited the endless stalls selling objects of Hindu veneration. And tonight: a final delicious dinner aboard Charaidev and a good night's sleep in the knowledge that there would be no early-morning call the following day.

Day 12

Tuesday 28th December

All too soon these wonderful trips come to an end. This morning two of our number left us for the beauty of Darjeeling and Sikkim while the rest returned to Kolkata. On our way to Guwahati airport we called at Gorchuk to visit the by-now celebrated rubbish dump. Like it or loathe it, a visit here is a powerful experience. A huge proportion of the world's remaining Greater Adjutant Storks prowls the steaming piles of refuse, wild clouds of Black Kites swirl as far as sight allows and a solitary first-winter Steppe Eagle soars past. Amid it all the graceful Bangladeshi immigrants who live here gather whatever can be recycled for re-sale. Amazed and thoughtful we reached Guwahati airport and, after only a short delay, boarded our plane. All too soon we were back in the bustle of Kolkata and settling into the plush delights of the Hyatt Regency.

Day 13

Wednesday 29th December

Goodbyes and journeys were the order of today. At seven o'clock eleven of us left the hotel for the airport, bound for the UK while shortly thereafter the rest of you headed for the Sunderbans to begin the next leg of your North-East Indian adventure. As I write you should still be enjoying yourselves there.

What a marvellous tour! What landscapes! What creatures! What people! Carry them with you through the rest of the British winter and hurry back to India when you can. Sujan, Imran, Babajan, Pratik, the rhinos and I all look forward to seeing you there again.

Summary: Ours was a tour of logistical hiccups (none of them our fault, I hasten to add) but as a result it was also a tour of triumphs, of new territory covered and of great good humour. We were rewarded for our efforts with much charismatic wildlife, much fine food, much excitement shared and much to laugh about.

There are many to thank for making it all happen. Thanks must go first to our outstanding naturalist guides: smiling Babajan and the incomparable Imran, whose tireless fixing and calling-in-of-favours meant that we overcame even the trickiest of situations. Thanks go too to Niv for his many insights into life in North East India and his friendly helpfulness. Pratik and his superb staff and crew deserve huge praise: they include Lydia, Poidau, Charani, Shahnawaz, Saby and Rajiv in the dining room and behind the bar; Mangal and his team in the kitchen; Noim and Salam on the country boat; Mahindra in the laundry room and many others working hard behind the scenes. Our jeep drivers, minibus drivers, rafters, mahouts and, not least, placid elephants all also contributed greatly to the success of a superb tour. We most sincerely thank them all.

And our thanks go to you too, for having chosen to travel with us to Assam, for having lent such enthusiasm and interest to every visit and every adventure, for having brought so many of your own stories and reminiscences to share, for your tolerance and understanding when changes of plan had to be made, and for having marvelled open-mouthed at the beauty of the Brahmaputra. May you sail on her still in your dreams for many years to come...

Species Lists (Brahmaputra Cruise)

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name												
			17	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓										
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
3	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>					✓	✓	✓					
4	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
7	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
8	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					
9	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
10	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					
11	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
12	Indian Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>		✓	✓		✓							
15	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓										
16	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					
17	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓	✓		✓							✓
18	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓					✓
19	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>					✓	✓	✓					✓
20	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptotilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓
21	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptotilos dubius</i>					✓	✓						
22	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>						✓						
23	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>			✓									
24	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>		✓	✓		✓							
25	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
26	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓										✓
29	Indian Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>					✓							
30	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓				
31	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
33	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
35	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓
36	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>			✓									
37	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		✓	✓		✓							
38	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		✓			✓							
39	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		✓										✓
40	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		✓										
41	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓					✓					

42	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				✓							
43	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>										✓	
44	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>										✓	✓
46	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>											✓
47	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓									✓	✓
48	Pallas' Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓				✓
49	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			✓	✓	✓						
50	Grey-headed Fish-Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
51	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓				
52	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>						✓					
53	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>								✓			
54	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>								✓			✓
55	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓									
57	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				✓	✓					✓	✓
58	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>			✓		✓						
59	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				✓						✓	✓
60	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	✓										
61	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>											✓
62	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>		✓									
63	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>					✓						✓
64	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				✓							
65	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
66	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>											✓
68	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						
69	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
70	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>						✓	h				h
71	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>					✓	✓	✓				
72	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		✓	✓								
73	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	✓		✓					✓			
74	Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		✓	✓								
75	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓	✓								
76	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓									
77	Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>								✓			
78	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>		✓									
79	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			
80	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>										✓	
81	Great Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus recurvirostris</i>				✓	✓						
82	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>										✓	✓
83	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
84	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓			✓
85	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
86	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>				✓	✓	✓					
87	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>								✓			
88	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				✓							
89	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					✓	✓	✓				✓
90	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					✓						
91	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓			✓			
93	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					✓			✓			
94	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						

95	Pallas' Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>		✓		✓				✓	
96	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunicephalus</i>								✓	✓
97	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>		✓							
98	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>					✓	✓		✓	
99	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>						✓			
100	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>							✓		
101	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		h							
102	Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>						✓			✓
103	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓				✓	✓			✓
105	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
106	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓			✓	h	✓		✓
107	Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>						✓			h
108	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	✓		✓					✓	h
109	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	✓								
110	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	✓	h							✓
111	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>						✓		✓	
112	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>		✓							
113	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>					✓		✓		
114	Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>					✓				
115	House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	✓	✓							
116	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓
117	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>		✓					✓		✓
118	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>									✓
121	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓			✓				✓
122	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>								✓	
124	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>							✓		
125	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	✓	✓	✓	h		✓		✓	✓
126	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>		✓						✓	
127	Grey-capped Pygmy-Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>									✓
128	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>									✓
129	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓								✓
130	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>							h		✓
131	Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>					✓		✓		
132	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		✓			✓			✓	✓
133	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					✓				
134	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>						✓	✓		
136	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>			✓		✓		✓		✓
138	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>					✓	✓	✓		
139	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>					✓		✓		
140	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>					✓			✓	
141	Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>		✓			✓				✓
142	Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>			✓						
143	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>			✓						✓
144	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>							✓		✓
145	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pyconotus jocosus</i>							✓		
146	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pyconotus cafer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>		✓		✓					✓

148	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>						✓				
149	Blue Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>				✓					✓	
150	Striated Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera</i>										✓
151	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	✓	h	h	✓						
152	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>				✓						
153	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>										✓
154	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>				✓						h
155	Hume's Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	✓									
156	Blyth's Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>										✓
157	Tickell's Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>		✓								✓
158	Red-throated Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		✓						✓		h
159	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>							✓			
160	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>										✓
161	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	✓			✓	h		✓			✓
162	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
163	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>										✓
164	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>				✓						
165	Eastern Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maura</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
166	White-tailed Stonechat	<i>Saxicola leucura</i>									✓	
167	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>				✓				h		
168	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>										✓
169	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓									✓
170	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	h				h			
171	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>				✓						
172	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓	✓			h	h	✓	h	✓	
173	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>					✓					
174	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>		✓					✓	✓		✓
175	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
176	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
177	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentotus</i>				✓						✓
178	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>				✓			✓			✓
179	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
180	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓								
181	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
182	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i>		✓						✓		✓
183	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
184	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
185	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
186	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>										✓
187	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>						✓				
188	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓				
189	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>										✓

Mammals

1	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>		✓								
2	Northern Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca leonina</i>				✓						
3	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	
4	Capped Langur	<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i>				✓						
5	Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Bunopithecus hoolock</i>				✓						
6	Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Aonyx cinerea</i>						✓		✓		
7	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>								✓		
8	Gangetic Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
9	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

10	Greater One-horned Rhino	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
11	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
12	Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
13	Barasingha	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>					✓	✓	✓		
14	Wild Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>					✓	✓	✓		
15	Five-striped Palm-Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>	✓								
16	Hoary-bellied Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓
17	Himalayan Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops macclellandi</i>					✓				
18	Malayan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>			✓						

Reptiles

Assam Roofed Turtle *Pangshura sylhetensis*

Butterflies

Common Mormon *Papilio polytes*

Grass Yellow sp. *Eurema* sp.

Chocolate Albatross *Appias lycinda*

Common Jezebel *Delias eucharis*

Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*

Common Crow *Euploea core*

Leopard Lacewing *Cethosia cyane*

Yellow Pansy *Junonia hierta*

Peacock Pansy *Junonia almana*

Great Eggfly *Hypolimnna bolina*

Lime Butterfly *Papilio demoleus*

White Orange-Tip *Ixias marianne*

Red-base Jezebel *Delias pasitoe*

Striped Tiger *Danaus genutia*

Glassy Tiger *Parantica aglea*

Evening Brown sp. *Melanitis* sp.

Grey Count *Tanaecia lepida*

Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites*

Lemon Pansy *Junonia lemonias*

Sunderbans Extension

Sunderbans report compiled by Sujan Chatterjee

Day 1

Wednesday 29th December

After we said goodbye to our 10 guests, Rodney, Gillian, Adam & Pamela, Pauline, Robert & Jennifer, Ian & Freda and myself set off on the next leg of our adventure to the Sunderbans. The three hour bus ride provided many kaleidoscopes of the village life of rural Bengal. We were greeted by Mr Sambhu and his team and welcomed on our boat 'Sundari'. We sailed for two hours to our camp at Tigerland in Pakhirala. The camp was pretty and picturesque. We sorted ourselves out and after lunch visited the Sajnekhali office and watchtower. A Grey Mongoose entertained us for a while. The watchtower produced a few Chital Deer and Ashy Woodswallows and Small Minivets.

Day 2

Thursday 30th December

We left early and sailed towards the Sudhanyakhali watchtower. We spend some time there watching Purple-rumped and Loten's Sunbirds fleeing around in the surrounding trees. We then moved on as tourist boats appeared at the jetty. We quickly saw our first Brown-winged Kingfisher and we saw more Brown-wings as we sailed on. Big crocs were seen today along with more Chital.

We came back to the tower in the afternoon and spotted Rufous, Streak-throated and three Black-rumped Woodpeckers on one dead tree! Black-naped Monarchs and Bronze Drongo were having a dip and a drink while we watched. Then emerged in full view, the bird of the day...a Black Bittern! It came out in full view and stayed long enough to give everybody great pictures.

Day 3

Friday 31st December

Today we travelled south taking the outer route towards Dobanki canopy walk. The walk did not produce much but we saw a few great crocodiles in the course of the day along with some Brown-winged Kingfishers and many Black-capped Kingfishers. A White-bellied Sea-eagle put up a great aerial display when it mobbed a young Brahminy Kite off his patch. On the way back we stopped at the Sudhanyakhali tower. A big troop of Rhesus Macaques were feeding on some berries from a tree close to the watchtower, and a big drama unfolded in the troop when a big male appeared on site. We were also rewarded by a super view of a 6ft King Cobra!

Day 4

Saturday 1st January

Our plan was to hit the Burirdabri Tower. This is a less visited tower and as usual we started early to avoid the other tourist boats. But weather had some other plans for us. We were hit by fog. A lot of fog! We decided to give up sailing and anchored ourselves to the mudflats as the fog gradually lifted after a couple of hours. We reached the tower a bit later than planned. On the return journey we got a distant view of the iconic Irrawaddy Dolphins, but later, as we approached the camp in the evening sun, an Irrawaddy Dolphin mother and calf showed up close to the fishing nets, and they put on a glorious show! They stayed around for a while breaching every so often until a third dolphin appeared! As we approached the village the sun was setting for us for the final time in the Sunderbans.

Day 5

Sunday 2nd January

Today was the day of departure. We packed our bags and said good bye to the crew of the camp. We set sail down south circumnavigating the Bali Island in hope to get a glimpse of the elusive Jungle Cat. But unfortunately there was no luck. We sailed on and then turned northwards. We came up to Amlabethi Island where we came across a few hundred ducks like Common Shelducks, Gadwalls, Shoveler, and Lesser Whistling Ducks. A flock of Grey-headed Lapwings were also seen on the mudflats. We then arrived at Godkhali and boarded the waiting bus for Kolkata and the start of our return journey back to the UK...

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Species Lists for the Sunderbans Extension

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; h = heard only)

	Scientific name	Common name	December/January				
			29	30	31	1	2
1	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>		✓		✓	
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓		✓	
4	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					✓
5	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>					✓
6	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>					✓
7	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>					✓
8	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>					✓
9	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>			✓		
10	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>		✓			
11	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>		✓			
12	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>		✓	✓		
13	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓			
14	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓	✓	✓		
15	Brown-winged Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon amauropterus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓		
17	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>	✓	✓	✓		
18	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todirhampus chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓				
20	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓		✓		
21	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>		✓	✓		
22	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	✓				
24	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓		
26	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓		
27	Baillon's crane	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>			✓		
28	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓	✓		✓
31	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>		✓	✓		✓
32	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓	✓		
33	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	✓				
34	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>		✓			
35	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>				✓	✓
36	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>			✓		
37	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>		✓			
38	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>		✓	✓		
39	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>			✓		
40	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	
41	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		✓	✓		
42	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	✓	✓	✓		
43	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓		
44	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓				
45	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	✓	✓	✓		
46	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓				
47	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓		

	Scientific name	Common name	December/January				
			29	30	31	1	2
48	Little Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>		✓	✓		
49	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓				
50	Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>		✓			
51	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓		
52	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>		✓	✓	✓	
53	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓				
54	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓			
55	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	✓				
56	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>		✓	✓		
57	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	✓	✓		✓	
58	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>			✓		
59	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>		✓	✓		
60	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>		✓			
61	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>		✓	✓		
62	Red-throated Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		✓			
63	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓	✓		
64	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>			✓		
65	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓		
66	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓		
67	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>		✓	✓		
68	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓		
69	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>		✓			
70	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>		✓	✓		
71	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>		✓			
72	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓			
73	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>		✓			
74	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		✓	✓		
75	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>			✓		
76	Striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>			h	h	
77	Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>		✓			
78	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>			✓		
79	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>		✓		✓	
80	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>		✓			
81	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>		✓			
82	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓		✓	
83	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓		✓	
84	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓			
85	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓	

Mammals

1	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓		✓		
2	Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis</i>	✓		✓		
3	Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			✓	✓	
4	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>					
5	Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>	✓				
6	Irrawaddy Dolphin	<i>Orcacella brevirostris</i>				✓	

Other species of note:

Salt Water Crocodile

Water Monitor

King Cobra