

Brahmaputra Cruise (plus Sunderbans Extension)

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 -27 February 2012

Report compiled by Nick Acheson



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Day 1

Friday 10th February

Getting to Assam is necessarily a slow business, so today was spent gathering clients from overnight flights and, after a quick break, taking you to the Kolkata Botanical Garden, across the Hooghly in Howrah. Getting there proved a tricky enough business in itself. Kolkata's streets, always busy, always noisy and always fun, are yet further clogged for now by the construction of an overhead railway, proposed to revolutionise transport in this historic, elegantly dilapidated city. Despite these tribulations, as soon as we reached the garden we were immersed in eastern India's charming common wildlife.

Scowling Five-striped Palm-Squirrels scolded from the tops of walls and from the wiry trunk of a *Pandanus* palm. Rose-ringed and Red-breasted Parakeets yelled from the treetops, Asian Koels bubbled exuberantly from the

garden's vast, ancient banyan tree and the light forest was loud with the rolling purrs of Lineated Barbets. Above us dozens upon dozens of light-winged Black-eared Kites looped and swirled and among them was a single dark-morph Booted Eagle. Crouched over water were Little Cormorants and a day-brightening White-throated Kingfisher and the trees fairly dripped with Yellow-footed Green-Pigeons, each one with the same look of bemusement on its face. I reassured the concerned-looking non-birders in the group that soon we would be seeing plenty of big, charismatic mammals; but in fact your only concern was tiredness and, heading back to your stylish hotel, everyone agreed that the quixotic streets of Kolkata and the beautiful birds of the Botanical Garden were both, in their separate ways, well worth a visit.

Day 2

Saturday 11th February

Mini-bus to Kolkata airport. Plane to Dibrugarh. Road to Neemati Ghat. Birds and mammals to lighten our long drive through the lovely floodplain landscape of Assam: Rhesus Macaque, Indian Flying Fox, Grey-backed Shrike, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Bronze-winged Jacana and Purple Swamphen, among many others.

Day 3

Sunday 12th February

Happily, we saw far too much today to recount in detail. We spent the morning in the wonderful humid forest of Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary. On the way back we stopped briefly at an ever-eventful marsh near Neemati Ghat. This afternoon we sailed to Majuli Island, watching birds and dolphins along the river, and this evening we strolled for an hour through grassland and a light forest of silk cotton trees. Succinctly put, we saw lots!

At Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary our highlights were, needless to say, the Western Hoolock Gibbons who hoot and loop here. The extraordinary pulsating song of these agile animals should be heard by everyone once in their lives. Also popular here were the wonderfully apricot-coloured Capped Langurs and the dippily long-tailed Malayan Giant Squirrels which crashed and thumped through the trees. A Little Spiderhunter lisped high in the canopy, Greater Flamebacks shouted from the forest, Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds blazed from flowering bushes and we were enchanted by this beautiful reserve.

At our roadside stop marsh White-vented Mynas perched on buffalos grazing belly-deep in the water. Here too were long-necked Purple Herons, short-necked Indian Pond-herons and medium-necked Intermediate Egrets (handily named). Spot-billed Ducks squelched through the mud, Lesser Adjutant Storks plodded through it and Citrine Wagtails trotted delicately by. Sailing this afternoon we saw ducks, thousands of ducks, and Gangetic River Dolphins, though it would be days yet before we could say that *everyone* had seen a dolphin.

Day 4

Monday 13th February

Today was a beautiful day, with many highlights, both natural and cultural. In the morning we visited Majuli Island, stopping at two celebrated vaishnavite monasteries, Auniati Satra (excellent wildlife: Dusky Warbler, Thick-billed Warbler, Cinnamon Bittern, Oriental Honey-Buzzard, Spotted Owlet, Pin-tailed Snipe and several Grey Pansy butterflies) and Uttar Kamalabari (spectacular drumming and dancing plus our first Peacock Pansy butterfly).

This afternoon we set sail downriver and delighted in the thousands of ducks and geese which line the silty banks of this magnificent river and in the death-eyed eagles and falcons which gather here to hunt them. A terrific spectacle, unless you were the duck in question, was a White-tailed Eagle bearing down on a panicked Spot-billed duck. The duck escaped and the eagle went hungry.

Day 5

Tuesday 14th February

A Valentine's Day stuffed full of love for Assam and her beautiful wildlife (cheesy I know but I couldn't resist). Early this morning the hardiest birders in the group took a short walk through a Mising tribal village, in search of birds. Little Green Bee-eaters gave their soft *whip* calls and zipped over stands of giant bamboo, an Indian Roller flapped its heavy turquoise wings over the rice paddies and new birds here included a posse of vociferous Black Bulbuls in a flowering silk cotton tree and two delightful flycatchers: Verditer and Little Pied.

Reinforced by breakfast and coffee the whole group headed once more into the village to meet the Mising people and gain insight to their pastoral lives. Our visit coincided with the start of the sowing of rice so, for the first time ever on our cruise, the graceful ladies of the village danced their sowing dance in the hope of a good crop. If you'll allow me a second dreadful pun, we too had a good crop here, of wildlife! Asian Palm Swifts chattered at daredevil speed over our heads, Hoary-bellied Squirrels bounced and scurried along the branches of silk cotton trees in search of a sugar-hit from their newly-opened flowers, and a droop-winged Greater Spotted Eagle circled indolently overhead

This afternoon we sailed downriver passing hundreds, if not thousands, of Gadwall, and with them plenty of Ruddy Shelduck, Greylags, Bar-headed Geese, Mallard and Great Crested Grebes. Small Pratincoles flicked their sharp wings over a sandbar, Great Cormorants lined the beaches, Black-shouldered Kites haunted the villages, and Long-legged Buzzards watched the world go by from the beaches and from the tops of trees.

Reaching the northeast corner of Kaziranga National Park this evening, and mooring on the north shore of the river to the east of Dhansiri Mukh, we walked through tall grass and watched both Eastern and White-tailed Stonechats and a Long-tailed Shrike. A Short-eared Owl burst from the ground here, and see-sawed away... We turned home at the insistence of two feisty feral Water Buffalos who stood their ground and flared their nostrils and made it quite clear that their patch was not open to Naturetrekkers.

Day 6

Wednesday 15th February

This morning's visit was to the charming, if dusty, eastern range of the magnificent Kaziranga National Park. This park is a humbling conservation success story, where more than 2,000 of an estimated world population of 2,600 Greater One-horned Rhinoceroses live. These curiously nimble pachyderms take pride of place in the park's fauna, but only by a whisker; for here there are also great herds of Asian Elephants, the majority of the world's population of the northeastern subspecies of Barasingha, a very significant population of Asian Water Buffalo, numberless thousands of Hog Deer and the densest population of Tigers known anywhere in the world. We saw all these, bar the Tigers.

But did I mention the birds? Today the silk cotton trees were ablaze with flowers and full of sugar-hungry birds: Jungle Mynas, Chestnut-tailed Starlings, Spot-winged Starlings, and a single Northern Hill Myna, giving his loud plimsoll-on-gym-floor call. Here too were Hoary-bellied Squirrels while a flock of Grey-chinned and Scarlet Minivets wove through the trees like strings of gaudy decorations. Green Imperial Pigeons flapped their lumpish wings over a Pallas' Fish-Eagle who yelled his grating song. Nearby a pair of Grey-headed Fish-Eagles yodelled from the treetops as a One-horned Rhino bathed in the mud and round him swam a family of Smooth-coated Otters.

Rose-ringed, Alexandrine, Red-breasted and oh-so-pretty Blossom-headed Parakeets shrieked their species-specific shrieks and glowed bright in the happy sunshine of the morning. At a marsh grazed countless hundreds of Bar-headed and Greylag geese, while in the water were Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveler, Wigeon and a beautiful drake Falcated duck. Among them strode gangly Black-necked Storks, scruffy Lesser Adjutants and, scruffier yet, a single Greater Adjutant. In trees nearby a young Eastern Imperial Eagle and an adult Greater Spotted Eagle watched the comings and the goings of herds of Buffalos, a long train of Elephants with their dome-headed youngsters, and several bow-winged Ospreys. Kaziranga is a fine place indeed for watching wildlife.

In the afternoon we sailed once more, towards Silghat, our point of access to the central, western and Burapahar ranges of the park. Pallas' Gulls in perfect spring plumage sat on the wet silt bank of the river and with them was a crisp-plumaged Steppe Gull. Small Pratincoles darted over the water and there were still more ducks, hundreds upon hundreds of ducks.

Day 7

Thursday 16th February

The western range, by jeep, this morning and the central range, by elephant, this afternoon. A glorious park full of glorious wildlife! Our elephant-ride was universally agreed to have been a triumph. Our mighty steeds plodded right past One-horned Rhinos, including mothers with their young, past herds of Barasingha and families of Hog Deer, allowing superb looks and photographic opportunities. Swamp Francolins burst up from the long grass and we felt deeply privileged to have had the opportunity to see these extraordinary animals on their own terms.

Day 8

Friday 17th February

As we drove to the central range of Kaziranga this morning, we came across a party of macaques in roadside trees. On stopping for a look we found that they were not bog-standard Rhesus but much scarcer Assamese Macaques, told by their heavy-jowled greyish faces, the lack of orange hue in their rumps and trousers, and their horizontally-held tails. Their high vocalisations were also quite distinct, as indeed was their wariness of humans; Rhesus by contrast are brazen creatures.

Once inside the park things carried on getting better. A jeep ahead of one of our own jeeps was watching otters but, when a mother and three well-grown cubs scampered across the road, it was clear, from their small size, their snub snouts, their rough coats and their dull grey-brown throats, that these were not the commonly-seen Smooth-coated Otters (we saw them yesterday and the day before). No, these were the largely nocturnal and entirely adorable Oriental Small-clawed Otter: a first for the Brahmaputra Cruise and quite possibly a first for Naturetrek!?

A little further on Hog Deer grazed the edges of wetlands and Rhinos lay in the mud looking dejectedly primeval. Great Cormorants crowded round a shoal of fish and Spot-billed Pelicans flew in to join them. In the forest we bumped into (not literally, thank goodness) three female Elephants with small youngsters and elsewhere a muscular young tusker strode along the edge of a lake sprinkled with Woolly-necked Storks, Black-necked Storks and Lesser Adjutants. All the while Red-breasted Parakeets zipped by giving their loud bleating calls, Grey-headed Fish-Eagles vanished into the lofty blue sky, Red-vented Bulbuls burred contentedly from tall stems of grass and Indian Rollers (black-billed subspecies, for the bird geeks) flashed their impossibly blue wings.

Back at the riverside Sand Larks and five subspecies of White Wagtail hopped and scurried over the sand and River Lapwings trotted through the shallows while Ruddy Shelducks moaned in the vastness of the Assamese landscape. What's not to love about Assam?

Day 9

Saturday 18th February

Today the birdy half of our group visited Burapahar in the west end of Kaziranga and saw a fine sprinkling of birds, including wonderful Wreathed Hornbills and no fewer than three new species of cuckoo: Banded Bay Cuckoo, Green-billed Malkoha and Large Hawk-Cuckoo. Meanwhile the mammal-watchers went back to the Central Range for more handsome Rhinos, furtive Hog Deer and stately Barasingha. It's always a shame to leave this magnificent park but this was our last day here. Lucky for us, many splendid adventures were still to come along the Brahmaputra.

Day 10

Sunday 19th February

This morning's adventure was a ride on rubber inflatables down the Jia Bhareli River in Nameri National Park, in the Himalayan foothills towards the Chinese and Bhutanese borders. This is a beautiful experience in itself and gave us the chance to see some birds we could not have encountered in the silty, sluggish waters of the Brahmaputra. Silk cotton trees flowered all along two hours' worth of riverbank and played host to countless hundreds of sugar-sipping Black Bulbuls and small numbers of Northern Hill Mynas. Ibisbills crouched in the stony shallows and Common Mergansers (that's Goosanders to you and me) poked their lipstick beaks into the glass-green water. On riverside stones Plumbeous Water-Redstarts fanned their tails in display while a Crested Kingfisher called sharply from an overhanging tree. Overhead were hundreds of Barn Swallows, Plain Martins and Small Pratincoles, joined from time to time by River Terns and Himalayan Swiftlets. Damp toes and damp bottoms were worth it for the privilege of visiting such a splendid place.

Back at Nameri Eco Camp, where we stopped for coffee, we saw the north-shore subspecies of Capped Langur extremely well; these lovely monkeys are much slatier than the animals of the southern subspecies we'd seen at Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary a few days ago. Meanwhile Blue-throated and Lineated Barbets fed in the trees and we buzzed with excitement at such a beautiful morning.

Day 11

Monday 20th February

Sailing for most of today - from our mooring near Orang National Park to Guwahati, the capital of Assam.

Highlights here included many Gangetic River Dolphins, lots of Ospreys and two big eagles: an adult Golden, perched incongruously on a banana palm lost on a sandbank, and a couple of Steppe Eagles over the rocky hills near the city.

In the afternoon many of us visited the Kamakhya temple high on a hill above Guwahati while others enjoyed excellent birding in the dry forest nearby.

Day 12

Tuesday 21st February

Before travelling to Kolkata, this morning we visited Umananda, an island temple in the river off Guwahati. In addition to the cultural interest of the temple, still rubbish-strewn from yesterday's Sivaraatri celebrations, here were Jungle Babblers, Blue-throated Barbets and singing Purple Sunbirds. Here too was the dingy, corpulent family of released Golden Langurs which lives here and accepts bribes of cake for photographic opportunities.

On our way to Guwahati airport we called at the remarkable tip at Gorchuk where Black-eared Kites swirl through the air and a huge chunk of the world population of Greater Adjutant Storks picks through the mounds of rubbish (beside immigrant families from Bangladesh). It's a powerful last image to take from Assam.

This afternoon, with rhinos in our minds and eagles in our daydreams, we reached Kolkata once more.

Sunderbans extension

Day 13

Wednesday 22nd February

Today, having left the main tour group to travel home from Kolkata, we journeyed to the Sunderbans by road, through miles and miles of fishponds, paddies and villages. From the end of the road we sailed through the high-tide waters of the mangroves for an hour, past our first dazzling Black-capped Kingfisher and a small group of worried-looking Pacific Golden Plovers.

Having checked into our camp we sailed for the range office at Sajnekhali where carmine-bottomed Rhesus Macaques trotted across the mud and terrorised tourists in the compound. Here too mudskippers skipped over the mud, though I am afraid we didn't know which as there are several species which no-one seems to know how to identify in the field. Nearby, our first Water Monitor scrambled through the roots of the mangroves.

Our permits to visit the park granted, we briefly explored a broad channel where a young Brahminy Kite sat sentinel, Collared Kingfishers shone turquoise from dead branches in the dying light and a fluffy-tailed Grey Mongoose scampered delicately across the tidal gloom.

Day 14

Thursday 23rd February

The tide was prohibitively high this morning so we postponed our sailing until after a thoroughly civilised breakfast, including the Sunderbans' deservedly celebrated honey. This didn't stop the birdiest among us strolling to the village at first light, before breakfast.

White-throated Kingfishers flashed their tropical-ocean wings from the treetops, Purple and Purple-rumped Sunbirds crowded to a bean tree in flower, and both Dusky and Blyth's Reed Warblers gave their distinctive *tek* calls from the mangroves along the levee.

The rest of our day was spent in the park, travelling south to the Neti Dhopani camp on the edge of the core area and north again through the creeks of the sanctuary. Kingfishers in five flavours were much in evidence: Black-capped (everywhere), Common (common), Collared (quite common), White-throated (just the one, but we weren't in its habitat and after the torrent of these gorgeous birds in Assam we can hardly complain), and Brown-winged (just one but what a superb creature!). Curlews and Common Sandpipers were often to be seen on the mud at the edge of the forest and as a single Whiskered Tern bounced delicately over the waves our first Whimbrel flew past on sharp dark wings.

Heading back, after a delicious lunch, cooked and eaten on the boat, we found two Saltwater Crocodiles basking in the sun on the mudflats exposed as the tide fell. Finally, as the sun oozed to the horizon we met a pair of Irrawaddy Dolphins, one of the Sunderbans' signature animals and the silent star of Amitav Ghosh's fascinating novel *The Hungry Tide*. Having so recently seen dozens of Ganges Dolphins we were well placed to compare the two species, especially as today's animals were very obliging. Perhaps most immediately noticeable was the Irrawaddys' loud blow as they surfaced, though we could also see their globe-shaped heads, their stronger dorsal fins and their lovely pearly-grey colour shining in the light of an estuarine evening.

Day 15

Friday 24th February

We had fine encounters this morning with very friendly Brown-winged Kingfishers, strange creatures the colour of European carrots, with heaven-blue rumps and bills the exact shape and flame-pink colour of Indian carrots (quite different from their European culinary cousins). We also saw two basking Saltwater Crocodiles, a couple of Chital, plenty of Curlew, Whimbrel, Redshank and Common Sandpipers, a very brief Mangrove Whistler and the very fresh tracks of a passing Tiger (but not THE Tiger, I regret).

This afternoon we walked round the village on the edge of which we're staying. We were delighted to see into the lives of these friendly people. In the evening the local people came to camp to perform the beautiful Bonobibi Dukhe Yatra which recounts the story of a young boy lost in the forest whose faith in the Sunderbans deity Bonobibi saves him from peril at the hands of the demon Dokhin Roy.

Day 16

Saturday 25th February

This morning's highlights, for me, were the many cherry-red and startling blue *Uca* fiddler crabs we saw on the low-tide mud in the Dobanki area of the park. At Dobanki park authorities are engaged in a release scheme for Chital and at the release site we saw both captive deer and others recently released. Across the channel we heard a Chital give, several times, its alarm call. Tigers were around us at least! Here too we saw a female Black Redstart, a Greenish Warbler, a singing male Purple Sunbird and a crowing cock Red Junglefowl. Later, on our way back to Bali Island, we had the briefest of encounters with an Irrawaddy Dolphin...but Tigers came there none, save the many Striped Tiger butterflies which fluttered cheerily across the path of our boat Joy Ma Kali.

For this afternoon's adventure we sailed to an island which, at around thirty years of age, is considered new. A thick growth of young mangroves is developing but, unlike many of the other islands, it still has mudflats around it and is therefore very popular with waders. Seeing these flighty birds proved tricky and we never saw them very well, but as soon as we arrived three hyperactive Terek Sandpipers hurtled away across the melted-Bournville mud. Nearby was a big posse of Lesser Sandpipers and with them a sprinkling of Kentish Plovers.

Day 17

Sunday 26th February

Before breakfast, leaving everyone else to a lie-in on their last morning in the Sunderbans, Apurba, the two birders and I went for a long walk around the village. Here men lugged baskets of mud to shore up the bund which holds the tide from swallowing the village; there children smoked their family's cows with a handful of smouldering rice-straw to keep away mosquitoes. The young shoots of rice blazed green in the tired, dusty landscape of the start of summer and little boys with enormous grins raced past along the brick-built path spinning old bicycle tyres with crude sticks. All the while there were Purple Sunbirds chattering in the trees and Asian Pied Starlings strutting in gardens and fields.

At the top of a stack of straw sat two Indian Silverbills, keeping company with a family of House Sparrows. Nearby a subtly beautiful Plaintive Cuckoo repeatedly dived from its perch in a tree to the furrows of a rice field to pounce on insects. And in a back garden, into which we were welcomed by its owners, a pair of Black-headed Cuckooshrikes moved slowly through the trees as a Black-hooded Oriole swooped past and Green Bee-eaters parachuted across a tank of water.

This afternoon we sailed away from Sunderbans Jungle Camp on our very own Joy Ma Kali and drove back to Kolkata through the lovely countryside of West Bengal to catch our flights back to the UK.

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Species List

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

	Common name	Scientific name	Main Tour											Sunderbans extension						
			February											22	23	24	25			
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					21		
1	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>			h				✓	✓	✓	✓								
2	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓
3	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓								
4	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			✓	✓														
5	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>				✓						✓								
6	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓							
7	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
8	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
9	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			✓	✓							✓							
10	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
11	Falcat Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>							✓											
12	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			
13	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
14	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
15	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				✓		✓	✓				✓				✓			
16	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
17	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
18	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>				✓														
19	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						✓				✓	✓							
20	Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓					✓							
21	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				✓	✓					✓		✓						
22	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓								
23	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>					✓	✓												
24	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>						✓												
25	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>								✓								✓		
26	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>							✓	✓										
27	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>				✓		✓										✓	✓	✓
28	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>			✓			✓	✓											

	Common name	Scientific name	Main Tour											Sunderbans extension					
			February											22	23	24	25		
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					21	
29	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	✓		h	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
30	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓				h	
31	Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Megalaima australis</i>			h									✓					
32	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>								h			✓						
33	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓							
34	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>									✓	✓							
35	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>							✓		✓	✓							
36	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓			✓						
37	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
38	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓				✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Brown-winged Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon amauropterus</i>															✓	✓	
40	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i>		✓		✓				✓		✓							
41	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todirhampus chloris</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓	
44	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>											✓						
45	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
46	Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>			✓														
47	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>			✓				✓			✓	✓						
48	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Large Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>										✓							
50	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>																	✓
51	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>										✓							
52	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	✓																
53	Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>										✓							✓
54	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓
55	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓		h			✓	✓	✓	✓								
56	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
57	Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>						✓	✓										
58	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
59	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>											✓						

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			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21					
60	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>					✓												
62	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>						✓		✓	✓								
63	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>				✓		✓		✓						✓			
64	Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>														h			
65	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓															
66	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>						✓					✓						
67	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
69	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			✓	✓				✓									
70	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
71	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>						✓	✓	✓		✓							
72	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓						✓	✓			
73	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		✓	✓														
74	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓		✓											
75	Common Coot	<i>Fulicata atra</i>				✓													
76	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>				✓													
77	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>														✓	✓	✓	
79	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>							✓	✓									
80	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	
81	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>							✓	✓									
82	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
83	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>						✓											
84	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓				✓										
85	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>																✓	
86	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>							✓										
88	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>				✓													
89	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓								
90	Great Thick-knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>						✓											

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91	Indian Stone Curlew											✓							
92	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>												✓					
93	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>														✓			
94	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>												✓					
95	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>														✓			
96	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>						✓				✓			✓				
97	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>																	✓
98	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>																	✓
99	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓						
100	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>									✓	✓	✓						
101	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓							
102	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
103	Oriental Praticole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>											✓						
104	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓					
105	Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓					✓						
106	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>			✓								✓						✓
107	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>			✓			✓					✓						
108	Steppe Gull	<i>Larus barabensis</i>						✓											
109	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓							
110	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>																	✓
111	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓					
112	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>				✓		✓			✓								
113	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>					✓												
114	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓		✓						✓	✓	✓					
115	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>														✓	✓		✓
116	Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
117	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				✓													
118	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
119	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	✓																
120	Slenderbilled Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>						✓		✓	✓								
121	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓								

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122	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>							✓										
123	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>			h			✓	✓	✓	✓								
124	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓						
125	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓									
126	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		
127	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				✓	✓					✓	✓						
128	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>						✓											
129	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
130	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>								✓		✓							
131	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>										✓							
132	Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>						✓				✓							
133	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	✓			✓			✓										
134	Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>						✓			✓								
135	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓							
136	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓		✓				✓	✓						
137	Little Grebe	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>				✓													
138	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓						
139	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	
140	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
142	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
143	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
144	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓								
145	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
146	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
147	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
148	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
149	Little Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>				✓		✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
150	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓													
151	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>				✓													
152	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>			✓			✓	✓										

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153	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			✓														
154	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
155	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
156	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				✓		✓		✓		✓							
157	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓								
158	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓								
159	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
160	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>		✓				✓											
161	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>				✓					✓								
162	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>			✓			✓											✓
163	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach tricolor</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						
164	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
165	Mangrove Whistler	<i>Pachycephala grisola</i>															✓		
166	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	
167	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
168	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
169	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>		✓	✓				✓			✓				✓			
170	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓		h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		h	✓	✓	✓	
171	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>							✓										
172	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>			✓				✓	✓		✓							
173	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>			✓							✓							
174	Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>																	✓
175	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>							✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
176	Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>							✓			✓							
177	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>					✓												
178	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>			✓														
179	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓								
180	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>			✓	✓													
181	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
182	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>				✓					✓								
183	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>			✓			✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	

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184	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>										✓							
185	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>			✓				✓		✓	✓		✓					
186	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>			✓		✓	✓			✓						✓	✓	
187	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>			✓					✓									
188	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>								✓									
189	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>									✓			✓					
190	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>								✓	✓								
191	Red-throated Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				✓	✓					✓				✓	✓	✓	h
192	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>			✓		✓												
193	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>					✓	✓				✓							
194	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>									✓								
195	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>			✓	h	h	✓				✓							
196	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>			✓		✓			✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
197	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>			✓							✓							
198	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>															✓		
199	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>							✓					✓					
200	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>												✓					
201	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
202	White-tailed Stonechat	<i>Saxicola leucura</i>					✓					✓	✓						
203	Spot-winged Starling	<i>Saroglossa spiloptera</i>							✓	✓	✓								
204	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
205	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
206	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
207	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
208	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
209	Northern Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>							✓		✓			✓					
210	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>							✓										
211	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓						
212	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓					
213	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
214	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>															✓		

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215	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓								
216	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓						✓	✓	✓
217	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
218	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>					✓			✓		✓							
219	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>									✓								
220	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>					✓												
221	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>			h	h					✓							✓	
222	Grey-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>			h														
223	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>															✓	✓	
224	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>				✓													
225	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓	h	✓	✓			✓	✓		h				✓	✓	✓
226	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>				✓											✓	✓	✓
227	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
228	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>			✓			✓			✓								
229	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>				✓		✓											
230	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>						✓			✓	✓							
231	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>				✓													
232	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>											✓					✓	✓
233	White-bellied Yuhina	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>			✓														
234	Rufous-winged Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>				✓				✓									
235	Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		✓							
236	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>				✓	✓												
237	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>				✓					✓							✓	
238	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes singalensis</i>			✓	✓													
239	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>											✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
240	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>														✓	✓		
241	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>				✓													
242	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>			✓														
243	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓						
244	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓					✓						
245	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	

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246	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>			✓	✓			h	✓	✓							✓		
247	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓								
248	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>			✓					✓										
249	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓							
250	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>																	✓	
251	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>				✓			✓	✓										
252	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							✓		
253	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>				✓														
254	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>				✓														✓

Mammals

256	Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Bunopithecus hoolock</i>			✓															
257	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
258	Assam Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>									✓									
259	Capped Langur	<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i>			✓							✓	✓							
260	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>							✓			✓								
261	Swamp deer	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓								
262	Indian Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>									✓		✓							
263	Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓								
264	Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis</i>														✓	✓	✓	✓	
265	Asiatic Wild Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓								
266	Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓								
267	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓								
268	Greater One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓								
269	Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>							✓	✓	✓									
270	Oriental Short-clawed Otter									✓										
271	Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>								✓	✓			✓		✓				
272	Small Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>				✓														
273	Malayan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>			✓					✓		✓								
274	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>	✓																	
275	Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>			✓															

	Common name	Scientific name	Main Tour											Sunderbans extension					
			February											22	23	24	25		
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					21	
276	Hoary- bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
277	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>			✓	✓													
278	Gangetic River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
279	Irrawaddy Dolphin	<i>Orcacella brevirostris</i>															✓		✓

Reptiles

282	Assam Roof Turtle	<i>Pangshura sylhetensis</i>								✓	✓								
283	Tokay Gecko	<i>Gekko gekko</i>								✓									
284	House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>								✓	✓								
285	Reticulated Python	<i>Python reticulatus</i>								✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
286	Indian Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>																	
287	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>													✓				
288	Saltwater Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>														✓	✓	✓	

Amphibians

291	Asian Common Toad	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>																✓	
292	Indian Bullfrog	<i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i>																	✓
293	Green Pond Frog	<i>Euphlyctis hexadactylus</i>																	✓