

# India - A Wildlife Cruise on the Brahmaputra River

With a Sunderbans pre-tour extension

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 - 21 December 2016

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Report compiled by Sujan Chatterjee



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Tour participants:        Sujan Chaterjee (leader) with 15 Naturetrek clients

## Summary

This was a successful tour, with 224 species of birds, 24 mammal species and 8 reptile species recorded. Charaidew is a glorious old boat with its own character. The highlights were the sightings of many large mammals and several grassland and wetland species of birds. Our first mammal was the rare Gangetic Dolphin, seen from our boat, the Charaidew. Our visit at the Hollongapar Hoolock Gibbon Sanctuary produced the Western Hoolock Gibbon and Capped Langurs, along with a few Rhesus Macaques. We also spotted the large Malayan Giant Squirrel and Orange-bellied Squirrel. We had some cultural visits at the Majuli Island where we were entertained by the Monastic dances at the Kamalabari Chatra.

We then visited Vekeli Chapori village on the south bank of the Brahmaputra where we met the local Mishing villagers and learnt about their life and ways of living. We, of course, visited the mega hotspot, Kaziranga. Four visits in Kaziranga gave us the Indian One-horned Rhinoceros, Asiatic Wild Buffalo, Asiatic Elephants, Smooth-coated Otters, Swamp Deer, Hog Deer, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Grey-headed Fish Eagle and even a distant Tiger, on the sand bank, from our boat. We spotted a family of Gibbons from the highway on one of our bus rides. One of the enigmatic birds we spotted was Pied Falconet. On the night of the Bihu show on board, we even had a wild Makhna (tuskless) elephant walking past our boat in Silghat at the end of the show, as if on cue.

Large flotillas of ducks and geese were seen from the boat while we were on the move. Harriers, Buzzards & Peregrine Falcons were seen on the sand banks along with large flocks of 50+ Black Storks. Rafting on the beautiful Jia Boreli river along the Nameri Tiger Reserve gave us Common Mergansers, Ruddy Shelducks, Mallard, Great Stone-curlew and Small Pratincoles on the shingle bed islands. The fig tree behind the Pygmy Hog conservation centre gave us great views of the Great Hornbill and Capped Langurs. Before our last sunset, we visited the Peacock Island which has a Shiva temple and a few feral Golden Langurs. We finally finished off at Guwahati with a visit to the famous Kamakhshya temple. And on the way, we stopped at the rubbish tip for some close-up views of the world's rarest Storks...the Greater Adjutants.

We also had a pre-tour extension at Sunderbans. Set in the idyllic village setting, the Sunderbans Jungle Camp is like a little paradise. We used our boat to cruise the channels and saw Wild Boar, Chital deer, innumerable kingfishers of several species, and large Saltwater Crocodiles.

## Extension Day 1

**Saturday 3rd December**

Five clients flew to Kolkata for the Sunderbans extension tour, checking in to the Hyatt Regency hotel.

## Extension Day 2

**Sunday 4th December**

Sightseeing round Kolkata.

## Extension Day 3

Monday 5th December

The group, with Sujan, left the Hyatt at 8am...and drove for three hours to Godkhali jetty via Baruipur Road. We drove down the narrow road which wound through the small suburban towns, dodging rickshaws, trucks, tuktuks, school kids, hay stacks and even goats. We reached Godkhali at 10.30 and got on to our boat, the Baba Nabin, and set sail down south towards our camp, the Sunderbans Jungle Camp. On our way we recorded Collared Kingfisher, and got a fleeting glimpse of the Black-capped Kingfisher.

We reached camp by 12pm and, after lunch, we set sail again for Sajnekhali, the park headquarters, for permits. On the way we saw a pair of the gorgeous Brahminy Kites. As the paper work was processed, we strolled around and picked up a Brown-winged Kingfisher sitting in the crocodile enclosure. We also saw Rhesus Macaques in the terrapin pond, swimming out to steal pumpkins floating around for the terrapins. We closed the day with a glorious sunset over the River Matla.

## Extension Day 4

Tuesday 6th December

The morning started off with the calls of the roosting Rose-ringed Parakeets. While we had our tea, they all flew back and forth from the roost in the palm trees, calling their heads off. We set sail at 6.30am amidst a lot of mist. We sailed south and reached the Dobanki Canal. We recorded a few Lesser Sand Plovers and a Grey Plover. Next was a large Saltwater Crocodile; it did not stay long and slid off the mud as we approached. We spotted a Wild Boar in the distance, which was approaching the water fast. The captain mentioned that he might cross, and so he did – it was the first time I ever saw a Wild Boar swimming across the channel. An enthusiastic Brown-winged Kingfisher gave us some good action, while trying to catch mudskippers from the mud bank. We then got off at the Dobanki tower and saw a few deer drinking at the sweet-water pond. Back on the boat we spotted our crocodile again, it went into a shallow creek and started to hunt fishes by churning the water.

The rest of the day was spent clocking White-bellied Sea Eagles, Small Minivets and several kingfishers amongst the birds, plus more crocodiles and Chital deer during the day.

## Extension Day 5

Wednesday 7th December

We set off north today, soon reaching the Sudhanyakhali Watchtower. A Spot-tailed Pit Viper was spotted curled up on the bathroom wall. We then ticked off the pretty Loten's Sunbird, a Rufous Treepie and a whole bunch of Bronze Drongos. Later, we got large flocks of Lesser Whistling Ducks at a junction of two channels. We saw several Wild Boar, Chital, Crocodiles and Water Monitors. We had great views of a beautiful Shikra and a Crested (also known as Oriental) Honey Buzzard too. After several kingfishers and Brahminy Kites, we finished off with several Lesser Sand Plovers on a mudflat. The same flat had a few deer on high alert and sounding alarmed. We had our eyes peeled and ears cocked... but there was no sign of the striped cat.

We returned to our camp at dusk. A cultural show of a folk drama was organized by the villagers for us.

## Main Tour Day 1/Extension Day 6

Thursday 8th December

This was our last day in Sunderbans so we went for a walk in the village, along the embankment. We visited a home to look at the manual threshing of their rice. A couple of lambs were cuddled and a few goats dodged

while on the walk; cow pats were inspected too. We also ticked off quite a few new birds in the process. Black-rumped Flameback, Greater Coucal, Pale-billed Flowerpecker and Purple Sunbirds were amongst the birds we added to our list. After an early lunch, we said goodbye to Sunderbans and the beautiful Sunderban Jungle Lodge and headed back to Kolkata.

The main group left London today, to fly to Kolkata.

## Day 2

Friday 9th December

The main group arrived today and we went for a walk in the Indian Botanic Gardens in the afternoon. It's an oasis of peace in the middle of all the chaos that is Kolkata. The drive took us through middle of busy Kolkata and we enjoyed the sights of the beautiful Victoria Memorial, Eden Gardens (cricket ground) and the beautiful Howrah Bridge over the Hoogly River. The short walk in the garden produced, other than some common birds, a pair of Yellow-footed Green Pigeons, Lineated Barbet, a pair of Booted Eagles, White-throated Kingfishers and large flocks of Jungle Babblers. We strolled till 4pm and then headed back home.

## Day 3

Saturday 10th December

We were off to the airport at 8am. The Jet airways flight took us to Jorhat via a stop at Guwahati. We arrived at Jorhat at 2.30pm, due to a slight delay. Mohan, our guide from Charaidew, was waiting for us at the gate. We drove about 45 minutes to the Neemati Ghat and boarded our country boat to reach the Charaidew, which would be our home for the next 10 days. Pratik, the manager of the boat, waited eagerly for our arrival. We had a small late lunch and set about settling down. Later over a 'Brahmaputra Sunset' Cocktail, we got our instructions regarding the boat and did our daily log.

## Day 4

Sunday 11th December

We started early and took the country boat ashore and drove for an hour to the 'Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary'. A bunch of Rhesus Macaques paced up and down near the entrance of the park. Accompanied by three spotters-cum-guards, we trekked down a forest path to look for Gibbons. We first found a troop of rich golden-brown-coloured Capped Langurs. They were sunning themselves after a very misty morning. The forest was very quiet, until a bird wave came along. Maroon Orioles, warblers, and Greater and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongos kept passing through the canopy, keeping us occupied for some time. Soon our spotters picked up some signs of Gibbons and we went off-trail into the deep forest in search. We found a family of three. They showed well but kept moving, so we followed them around until we had had our fill. We later came back for a great picnic breakfast laid out for us in the forest guest house campus.

After breakfast we went for another walk and found Malayan Giant Squirrel and Orange-bellied Squirrel. At the end of the walk we drove back to the gate and found the family of Gibbons we worked so hard to search for was feeding on berries very close to the road. On our way back, we stopped at two wetlands close to the road. They were filled with whistling ducks, Spot-billed Ducks, Swamphens, plovers, ibis and Lesser Adjutants.

We later reached our boat for late lunch. We then set sail into a glorious sunset.

## Day 5

Monday 12th December

First thing in the morning some of us went ashore, in the tamarisk scrub, to look for birds. We got flocks of Striated Babblers, few Stonechats, and a Pallas's Gull but not much else.

Later, after breakfast, we all boarded our country boat and reached the Majuli Island. We stopped at Sakoli Bheel, which was teeming with birds, primarily Ferruginous Duck and large flocks of Grey-headed Lapwings. On another side we had a big flock of Greylags actively feeding along with Black-headed Ibis and egrets. Next we stopped at the centuries-old Annuati Monastery. We looked around the monastery prayer halls as Mohan explained to us the rituals and the ways of life of the monks. The garden is also good for birds and we had good views of Tickell's Leaf Warblers, Cinereous Tits, Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds, Grey-headed Canary-Flycatchers etc. We next visited the more cultural Monastery of Kamalabari. A short musical involving drums and cymbals was presented to us. A real foot-tapping beat was belted out along with some good dance moves with heavy drums. We were next treated with a beautiful flute recital by Monk Niranjan. After a quick stop at a Flying Fox roost; we headed back to our boat.

We then sailed for a couple of hours to Pohumara Vekeli Chapori. This was a new village for us. The villages we usually visited had now lost access from the river and could not be reached with our boat. We still had some light, so we got off and wandered around among the lentil fields before we retired for the night.

## Day 6

Tuesday 13th December

Again some of us went for a pre-breakfast walk in the thick mist. We added a few new birds to our list: Oriental Skylark, Rufous-winged Bushlark, Hoopoe, a few Little Stints feeding in the mudflats, Blyth's Pipit etc. Later we took a walk around the village, inhabited by a small population of displaced Mishing tribe. They had lost their land on the Majuli Island, due to erosion and had to settle in this new land. We went around inspecting their sows and the little piglets, their chicken and their homes. Meanwhile a distracting, female Hen Harrier sailed over the rice stubbles, looking for some easy prey. After we came back to Charaidew, we set sail for our next destination, Kaziranga.

## Day 7

Wednesday 14th December

We set off early in the morning mist on our country boat. It took us an hour to reach the disembarkation point. The safari jeeps were waiting as we reached and we set off for the entry point. At the gate we had some picnic breakfast while paperwork was sorted by Mohan. Kaziranga, as usual, had much to offer. The Sohola wetland was full of birds and mammals. Swamp Deer herds sat resting on the islands, buffaloes grazed in the distance. Ducks, geese, waders, pelicans, cormorants were all over the place. A Smooth-coated Otter rushed across the wetland and disappeared before we could get a good look. But later we got a whole family of them on the bank of a pond. We also got some great views of the One-horned Rhinoceros which was wallowing in the water. We ended the trip with few Oriental Pied Hornbills and a great Brown Fish Owl. We came back to Charaidew and set sail.

After lunch we sat on the top deck keeping our eyes peeled. At times we were close to the park and we saw deer, buffaloes and rhinos from the boat. We even saw a herd of elephants on the north bank. We turned our boat to

get better views of the pachyderms dusting themselves. But the best was yet to come. A distant Tiger was spotted, marching on the sand bank. It walked for a while and then stopped and sat down and started eyeing a buffalo - a superb moment to close the day. We kept watching completely mesmerized as we sailed away from the location. We moored near Biswanath for the night.

## Day 8

## Thursday 15th December

We sailed as soon as the fog lifted and reached Silghat at about 10am. We quickly got off and headed for Kaziranga. Along the highway we spotted a family of Hoolock Gibbons. They sat quietly watching the road gang re-tarring the road. We had great views of the family and then headed for Diphlu River Lodge for lunch. The gorgeous lady, Laxmi Purnima, was waiting for us near the river. Her calm demeanour and swaying gait attracted everybody's attention. What caught our attention most was her love for bananas...she gobbled all the bananas we could provide. Then she ambled down to the river and plonked herself in the mud. Some of us got down in the water and scrubbed her ears and her belly till she had had enough.

After cleaning up, we had some lunch and headed for the Kohora range of Kaziranga for our afternoon safari. We got more rhinos, a few good birds like the Great Hornbill, Pallas's and Grey-headed Fish Eagles and the two target turtles...Assam Roof and Indian Tent Turtles.

## Day 9

## Friday 16th December

We started extremely early for our elephant ride. We reached the park at 5.30am and got on top of our designated elephants. The loaded pachyderms then ambled off in the mist. As we walked through the grass, the sun rose behind us over the Karbi hills. The golden light hit the Swamp Deer and they glowed in the grass, the stags with full heads of horns. Several rhinos were spotted, some with babies and some without. We came back to base after an hour's ride and headed for some breakfast.

The breakfast place gave us an Emerald Dove and Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. Next we headed for the Western (Bagori) Range for our safari. We got a few River Terns from the Donga Tower and a lone Otter along with 30+ rhinos, several Water Buffaloes and Swamp Deer. Next we got a herd of elephants in the tall grass, but some showed very well, slowly and gently feeding on the soft green grass. We got a few good birds later: Kalij Pheasant, White-rumped Shama and the very rare Pied Falconet. We again encountered a few elephants close to the road. A lot of rumbling and sniffing went on amongst the family group. As this was happening, two of our jeeps had driven off and two had stayed back for a few extra minutes. Later, as we started to drive, we found fresh pug marks of a tigress on the jeep tyre tracks. She had walked across the road and we had missed her by a whisker. We later came back to Charaidew for lunch.

In the afternoon we walked along the edge of the forest and saw a Blue Rock Thrush and a few dolphins. Lots of elephant dung was around so we turned around before dark. We had a bihu dance organized for all, on the top deck. The young girls and boys, beautifully dressed in traditional attire and playing the traditional musical instruments, gave us a superb performance. Everyone joined in at the end. To top it all, as the performance finished, a large tuskless elephant walked past us on the sand bank, like ghostly shadow, towards the rice fields in the distance.

## Day 10

Saturday 17th December

Today was our last day in Kaziranga. We drove to Burrapahar Range. This range is very beautiful and less visited. Other than the usual suspects, we got some Oriental Pied Hornbills in the distance. Great Hornbills and Hoolock Gibbons called in the hills but we could not get on to them. We added Great Barbets, Himalayan Griffons, Large Woodshrikes etc to our list. We stopped on the banks of the Brahmaputra briefly, before carrying on with our drive. We got some big rhinos in the dry golden grass, which gave us some good photo opportunities. We finished the drive with some great views of a Pallas's Fish Eagle harrying Bar-headed Geese.

## Day 11

Sunday 18th December

Today was slightly different. We drove up north to the banks of Jia Bhoreli. On the way we stopped along the roadside and saw Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Streaked Spiderhunter etc. We got into the rubber dinghies which were waiting for us on the bank. We started paddling and looking out for birds. Osprey, Pied Kingfisher, Great Stone-curlew, Small Pratincole and Pallas's Fish Eagle were seen from the raft. After we disembarked, we stopped at the Nameri Eco Camp for a cup of tea and went to have a look at the Pygmy Hog Breeding Centre. These rare and endangered pigs are rehabilitated here before release into the wild. A fig tree in the hog campus gave us a pair of beautiful Great Hornbill and a family of Capped Langurs gorging on the ripe figs. Later we drove back to the boat and set sail. We moored on a sand bank and the stage was set for a great BBQ.

## Day 12

Monday 19th December

Today was a long day of sailing. We sailed along the eroded banks of the villages which are homes of the Bangladeshi refugees. Some places which we had visited last year had been washed away. The bank sliced off, as if one had sliced through butter. At 10am we had 'Bidhan', our chief chef, giving us a short cookery class. Easy chicken curry and various kinds of bread kept some of us occupied for some time. We reached Peacock Island by late afternoon. We disembarked and took our country boat to visit the island. This is a popular destination from all across for its religious connection. But we were there for the Golden Langurs. These blond langurs were released here many years back and the numbers have increased to six. The cake-eating monkeys entertained us while some went to take a quick look at the temple. After the visit we made our last sail to Pandu Jetty amidst another glorious sunset.

## Day 13

Tuesday 20th December

Today was our last day on board the grand old Charaidew and on the mighty Brahmaputra. We left for the Kamakshya Temple after breakfast. After a short drive up the hill, we reached the Hindu religious hotspot of Assam. Mohan explained to us the history of the temple and then we walked around the temple premises, dodging goats, pigeons and one mad man. We came back then to Charaidew for the last time. A large Gangetic Dolphin came to say goodbye to us too.

We left Charaidew for the last time and headed for Garchuk rubbish tip for a grand finale. The tip is the feeding ground of the largest concentration of Greater Adjutant Stork. We came across hundreds of them along with vast number of Black-eared Kites. We then headed for the airport with a short stop at the Deepor Bil wetland. Here we added Black-winged Stilts to our list before saying goodbye to Assam.

## Day 14

Wednesday 21st December

It was the day to say good bye to all...

As usual, Charaidew and the always smiling and very helpful staff on board, plus the naturalists, made this trip memorable for all. Many thanks to all on behalf of Naturetrek

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## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	Pre-tour Ext.		Main Tour															
			December																	
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
1	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>													H	H				
2	Red Junglefowl	<i>Francolinus gallus</i>			✓								✓	✓	✓	✓				
3	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>												✓	✓					
4	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>								✓		✓								
5	Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>								✓	✓									
6	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>			✓					✓	✓						✓			✓
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>									✓		✓							
8	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
9	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓										✓						
11	Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>											✓							
12	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>											✓	✓						✓
14	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
16	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	✓										✓		✓					✓
17	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>											✓							✓
18	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>									✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
19	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>									✓									
20	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>									✓	✓		✓						
21	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>									✓	✓	✓				✓			
22	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>											✓							
23	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>																	✓	
24	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</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>				✓	✓			✓		H	H	✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	Pre-tour Ext.		Main Tour														
			December																
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
28	Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>					✓				✓		✓		H	✓	✓		
29	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>																✓	
30	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>					✓					✓	✓	✓					
31	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>										✓		✓	✓				
32	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>										✓		✓	✓				
33	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>									✓	✓	✓						
34	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
35	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓								
36	Brown-winged Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis amauroptera</i>	✓	✓	✓														
37	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>										✓	✓		H				
38	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
39	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>		✓	✓														
40	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓													
41	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
42	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		✓	✓			
43	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>				✓													
44	Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>														✓			
45	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>				✓							✓						
46	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>										✓							
47	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓			
48	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>					✓			✓							✓		
49	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>											✓			✓	✓		
50	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>				✓	✓									✓			
51	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>										✓							
52	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>															✓		
53	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>								H									
54	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>				✓					✓		✓						
55	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>										✓	✓						
56	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
57	Red Turtle (Collared) Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>									✓	✓	✓						
58	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓								✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	Pre-tour Ext.		Main Tour														
			December																
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
59	Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>														✓			
60	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>					✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
61	Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>															✓		
62	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>										✓				✓			
63	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓								✓				
64	Grey-headed Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>								✓	✓								
65	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓						✓	✓								
66	Common Coot	<i>Fulicata atra</i>								✓	✓								
67	Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>														✓			
68	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>											✓						
69	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓	✓														
70	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		✓	✓														
71	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓	✓														
72	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>								✓									
73	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>										✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
74	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>										✓	✓			✓			
75	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>								✓	✓		✓						
76	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓	✓							✓		✓		✓	✓		
77	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>										✓							
78	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>								✓			✓						
79	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>						✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
80	Great Stone-curlew (Thick-knee)	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>											✓	✓			✓		
81	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>																	✓
82	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	✓							✓	✓		✓						
83	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓															
84	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>								✓		✓				✓	✓		
85	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>		✓	✓														
86	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>									✓		✓		✓	✓			
87	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>												✓					
88	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>									✓		✓			✓			
89	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	Pre-tour Ext.		Main Tour															
			December																	
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
90	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>													✓			✓		
91	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus (Larus) ichthyaeus</i>										✓	✓				✓			
92	Steppe Gull	<i>Larus barabensis</i>										✓	✓							
93	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>									✓		✓							
94	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>														✓				
95	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
96	Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>			✓						✓					✓		✓		
97	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>										✓	✓			✓	✓			
98	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>						✓												
	Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>															✓			✓
99	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	✓	✓	✓															
100	Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
101	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>		✓	✓															
102	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaeus</i>												✓	✓	✓	✓			
103	Slenderbilled Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>												✓						
104	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>												✓			✓			
105	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>										✓			✓					
106	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>									✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
107	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>														?		✓		
108	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>												✓						
109	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>												✓						
110	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		✓	✓										✓					
111	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>										✓	✓						✓	
112	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>												✓						
113	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>						✓												
114	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>		H										✓			✓			
115	Pied Falconet	<i>Microhierax melanoleucus</i>													✓					
116	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓					
117	Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>															✓			
118	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>									✓		✓			✓				
119	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>										✓	✓	✓						✓

	Common name	Scientific name	Pre-tour Ext.		Main Tour															
			December																	
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
120	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>																✓		
121	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
122	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
123	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
124	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓						✓		✓	✓	✓					
125	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
126	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>								✓								✓		
127	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
128	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>								✓	✓									
129	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
130	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
131	Striated (Little) Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		✓	✓									✓						✓
132	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>									✓		✓		✓					
133	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>								✓										
134	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>												✓	✓	✓				
135	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
136	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
137	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>											✓	✓	✓					
138	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
139	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
140	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>												✓	✓					✓
141	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>															✓		✓	
142	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>				✓							✓	✓						
143	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach tricolor</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
144	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
145	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>			✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
146	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓				✓	✓												✓
147	Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓										
148	Eastern Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus levaillantii</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
149	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>		✓													✓	✓	✓	
150	Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>					✓													

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			December																
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
151	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>		H		✓	H			✓	✓				✓		✓		
152	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>								✓									
153	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>											✓				✓		
154	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>								✓							✓		
155	Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>													✓				
156	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>		✓	✓														
157	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>														✓			
158	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>								✓			✓				✓		
159	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>		✓		✓				✓									
160	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
161	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>		✓	✓														
162	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>								✓									
163	Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>				✓				✓							✓		
164	Greater Racket Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>								✓							✓		
165	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>		✓		✓					✓						✓		
166	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>															✓		
167	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>														✓			
168	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>								✓							✓		
169	Pale-chinned Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>								✓									
170	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>								✓					✓				
171	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓		✓						✓	✓	✓					
172	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>												✓	✓				
173	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>																✓	
174	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
175	White-tailed Stonechat	<i>Saxicola leucurus</i>									✓	✓							
176	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>																	✓
177	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>				✓					✓			✓	✓	✓			
178	Pied Myna (Asian Pied Starling)	<i>Gracupica contra</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
179	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
180	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>																	✓
181	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	Pre-tour Ext.				Main Tour													
			December																	
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
182	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>									✓	✓						✓		
183	Common (Northern) Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>											✓					✓		
184	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>											✓		✓					
185	Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>										✓							✓	
186	Grey-throated Martin (split fr Plain)	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
187	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
188	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>																		✓
189	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>																✓		
190	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>		✓									✓							
191	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓				
192	White-throated Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus flaveolus</i>									H									
193	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>										✓	✓							
194	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>										✓						✓		
195	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>									✓	✓	✓							
196	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>				✓	✓					✓	✓							
197	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>										✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
198	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>										✓								
199	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>									✓	✓								
200	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>		✓			✓											H		
201	Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>									✓									
202	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>													✓	✓				
203	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla abbotti</i>									✓									
204	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>										✓								
205	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>	✓				✓	✓												✓
206	Rufous-winged Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>											✓							
207	Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>																	H	
208	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>											✓							H
209	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhyncos</i>					✓													
210	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>										H			✓					
211	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i>									✓	✓								
212	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>			✓															

	Common name	Scientific name	Pre-tour Ext.		Main Tour																
			December																		
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
213	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>				✓	✓														
214	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>				✓															
215	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>								✓											
216	Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera magna</i>																		✓	
217	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓								
218	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
219	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
220	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>									✓	✓	✓								
221	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>										✓									
222	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>																		✓	
223	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>												✓	✓						

## Mammals

1	Western Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Hoolock (Bunopithecus) hoolock</i>								✓				✓						H				
2	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
3	Golden Langur	<i>Trachypithecus geei</i>																					✓	
4	Capped Langur	<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i>								✓											✓			
5	Swamp deer	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
6	Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
7	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Axis axis</i>	✓	✓	✓																			
8	Asiatic Wild Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
9	Wild Boar (Pig)	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓							
10	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>												✓	✓	✓								
11	Greater One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>												✓	✓	✓	✓							
12	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>												✓										
13	Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>												✓										
14	Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>													✓									
15	Indian Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>	✓																					
16	Small Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>								✓														
17	Malayan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>									✓										✓			
18	Himalayan Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops mccllellandii</i>													✓									



	Common name	Scientific name	Pre-tour Ext.		Main Tour														
			December																
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
19	Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>									✓								
20	Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
21	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>										✓							
22	Indian Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus coromandra</i>	✓																
23	Gangetic River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>							✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	bat sp																✓		

## Other Taxa

1	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>	✓		✓								✓		✓				
2	Checkered Keelback	<i>Xenocrophis piscator</i>	✓																
3	Saltwater Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>		✓	✓														
4	Spot-tailed Pit Viper	<i>Trimeresurus erythrurus</i>			✓														
5	Indian Tent Turtle	<i>Pangshura tentoria</i>										✓		✓					
6	Spotted Pond Turtle	<i>Geoclemys hamiltonii</i>											✓						
7	Assam Roof Turtle	<i>Pangshura sylhetensis</i>												✓	✓				
8	Frog sp																✓		
9	Yellow-green House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus flaviviridis</i>																	✓