

Northern India
(Corbett, Naini Tal, Bharatpur, Ranthambore, Varanasi)



31 January – 12 February 2008

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General

This was a family holiday rather than a hard-core birding odyssey. However, I could not resist the temptation of chipping in a pre-tour birding extension with three days in Corbett and Naini Tal. Also our Tiger leg of the trip provided some essential birding at Ranthambore. I also made a record short unplanned twitch (1.5 hrs!) into Keoladeo Ghana. Having been to some of these parts of India only briefly a couple of times before, these birding days provided me with some real nice lifers.

Highlights

How about Tiger?! First I saw a female Tigress with two grown up youngsters in Corbett. When the rest of my family joined, we eventually tracked down one old Tigress at Ranthambore at the very last minute, much to the delight of my two sons, born in the year of the Tiger. Nothing less than Mega!



From a birding perspective there were actually a whole bunch of goodies in spite of the limited birding. Top of the list would include Nepal Wren-Babbler, Hodgson's Bushchat, Smoky Warbler and Tawny Fish-Owl in Corbett; Black-and-yellow Grosbeak and Black-headed Jay at Naini Tal; Indian Courser and Indian Spotted Eagle at Bharatpur; Painted Sandgrouse, Jungle and Rock Bush-Quails, Painted Spurfowl, Dusky Eagle-Owl and White-naped Woodpecker at Ranthambore, Indian Skimmer and Yellow-wattled Lapwing en route to Jaipur and Red-naped Ibis at Varanasi.

On the dip side, it was the lack of Cheer Pheasant sightings near Naini Tal, so a repeat visit is due soon.

From a plain touristic point of view there were also some real highlights such as Taj Mahal, Amber Fort in Jaipur and the steps into Ganges River at Varanasi.

Itinerary

31/1

I left Beijing on January 30th with the 20.35 Air China flight, which was almost one hour late. On arrival at Delhi airport at 03.00 in the morning, the drivers from Tragopan Tours, who had made my arrangements for the first three days of birding, met me. We were soon on our way out of Delhi towards Ramnagar, which is the gateway to Corbett National Park. The drive takes almost six hours, in spite of it being only 260 km. Fact is that India's road network is so much worse than China's. Large portions we were actually driving against the traffic stream, because our half of the road was not even drivable. Nevertheless, we eventually arrived at Ramnagar and my birding guide that would take me inside the park met me with a jeep. First though I was invited to have breakfast, this was good, plentiful and quick.

One of my key targets was Tawny Fish-Owl and we therefore drove straight to Kumeria near Corbett, which took almost an hour including a few quick birdy stops. At the site, I immediately lay my eyes on a big fluffy tawny clump in a tree. How easy can it get? We could then admire this beast at point blank distance, until both parties got enough of staring at each other. Next target was to go to Dhikala to search for Hodgson's Bushchat, and we therefore retraced along the road to the gate to the National Park itself. From there it was a two-hour drive to the grasslands of Dhikala. The distance is only 31 km, but the road leads through very nice Sal forest, so there are plenty of reasons to stop. The best of all reasons was when we came around a corner and saw a tiger walking along the road away from us. It turned out to be a female with two grown-up youngsters. A dream came true!! We followed this majestic Queen of the Jungle, as she slowly walked along the road, soon catching up with her teenagers. At last they decided to leave the road and silently they vanished into the roadside scrub. This was a mammalian killer application to say the least.



Another stop was made when we heard an interesting call by the roadside. I caught a glimpse of the bird and realized it was a *Pnoepyga* Wren-Babbler. I quickly hauled the iPod and within minutes a stunning Nepal Wren-Babbler showed off nicely!

By 14.15 we arrived at Dhikala camp and quickly checked in and had a lunch. By 15.00 we drove west from the camp through the grasslands in search of Bushchats. After having scanned through the ubiquitous Common Stonechats, we eventually found two female Hodgson's Bushchats in its prime habitat. Alas there was no male present, so we decided to go back the day after, and instead spent the rest of the late afternoon along the river-side road east of the camp. A male Kalij Pheasant thought he could get away undiscovered at 4 meters distance and even better was a Smoky Warbler that responded to the playback, although did not show off very well.

By dusk we were back at the camp after a super successful day.

1/2

We left Dikhala Camp at 7.30 and started to drive along the riverbank. A new Smoky Warbler gave itself up and we chanced upon one Tawny Fish-Owl and just minutes later a Brown ditto. By late morning we returned towards the camp and continued to the grasslands. No male Hodgson's Bushchat today either, but one female was still around at the same place. The rest of the day was spent slowly driving and birding back to the gate, where we arrived at 17.00. From there it was around two hours drive to Naini Tal. It was much colder at this altitude of 2200 masl and the heater in the hotel room had to work hard.

2/2

Left 5.30 for a one-hour drive to Vinaik, northwest of Naini Tal. Patches of snow were still on the ground after some recent snowfall. Shortly before dawn we were at the spot where Cheer Pheasants can be seen. We scanned the grassy hillsides and open areas until 9.30 without a sniff of any. Only Koklass Pheasants gave themselves up and eventually we had to give up and return to Naini Tal for a quick brunch. Then we birded just outside town on a boulderfield and among some gardens. Lots of Fringillids around, especially memorable was the gathering of Collared Grosbeaks, with some Black-and-yellows chipped in. One of the target birds was Pink-browed Rosefinch, but it was nowhere to be found. We briefly checked another site and then returned to the first spot again, but still the same result. One upside was the Himalayan Greenfinches, which provided a nice complement to the southeastern taxon that must surely be a separate species. At 15.30 we started return journey to Kathgodam. The journey was however interspersed with a late afternoon stop near Sat Tal (actually the factory about 7 km before Sat Tal), which yielded mega views of a Black-headed Jay. The drive from this site to Kathgodam took between 17.00-18.00 and it was time for a dinner before going to the train station for the 20.40 sleeper train to Delhi.

3/2

I arrived at Delhi train station slightly delayed at 5.30 (scheduled at 4.45) in the morning. The rest of my family had arrived with the flight from Beijing only an hour earlier, so we all teamed up at the hotel for an early breakfast. The rest of the day was spent sightseeing in Delhi until the late afternoon when we returned to the hotel. The evening was spent in great company with a birding "colleague". Million of thanks for a delicious dinner Peter!

4/2

This morning we took the 6.15 train from Delhi to Agra, where we arrived two hours later. First we drove to Jaypee Hotel for check-in and breakfast, before it was time for the prize of temples, Taj Mahal. 22 years ago I visited Agra, but due to some major misunderstandings, we only got to see Taj Mahal at a distance from the Red Fort. Therefore it was with great expectations that we entered this world heritage site. It was truly amazing and well worth the long wait! We spent a couple of hours admiring the shining marble mausoleum. During the afternoon we visited a tomb on the opposite side of Yamuna River and in the late afternoon sun we entered the Red Fort, again watching Taj Mahal further along the river.



Taj Mahal, really a must see

5/2

In the early morning I spent about 45 minutes in the hotel garden. I alerted the gardener to try to find me a Dusky Eagle-Owl, something they all knew about but failed in locating. After breakfast we departed for Fadhepur Sikri along the way to Bharatpur. We arrived at Bharatpur at 13.00 and as the train to Ranthambore was not leaving until 15.45, there was an unexpected two-hour time slack. What must be the world's quickest dash through Kheoladeo Ghana quickly materialized. We rented a horse-cart, much to the amusement of my kids, and a guide that was supposed to know my two key birds: Dusky Eagle-Owl and Indian Courser. In less than two hours we were back at the gate not only with both birds bagged, but also with a surprise Indian Spotted Eagle. Besides the birds, it was a nice dejavu to get back to this birdy place after 22 years!

At 15.00 we arrived at the train station and by 16.00 we were on our way towards Sawai Madhopur, which is close to Ranthambore. We were picked up at the train station and driven to Tiger Moon Resort, which was only some 10 km away.

6/2

After a quick morning tea at 6.15, we were soon on our way to the entrance of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. Tobias was lucky to draw Zone 3 for us (supposed to be one of the better zones) and we then spent between 7.00 and 10.00 driving around on tracks looking for Tigers. The closest we got was some fresh tracks and droppings, but nothing more than that. Two lifers in the form of Jungle Bush-Quail and Painted Spurfowl was some compensation. Back at the lodge, I joined the local guide Rakesh for a walk in the surroundings. The wanted White-naped Woodpecker gave itself up as did an Indian Pygmy Woodpecker. Lunch was at 13.30 and then we hit the Tiger tracks again. This time it was Jesper who was lucky to draw Zone 3 again. For the first hour it seemed to be a repeat performance from the morning, but then we found very fresh tracks. The footprints were actually on top of some of the recent wheel-tracks! Our guide assumed it had walked into a grassy area near one of the lakes, so during the next hour we staked it out by patrolling this area. When waiting for something to happen, we suddenly heard the warning call of a Spotted Deer and all the Deers panicked. So did we and quickly repositioned ourselves. The guide saw the Tiger for a split second, although it immediately vanished into an inaccessible area along the shore. We waited for another hour and tried different viewpoints. Eventually after 18.00 we had to give up and we drove back. It was then that I spotted the Tiger on the opposite side of the lake. It slowly moved along the shoreline under the overhanging trees. Nonne and Tobias quickly got onto it, but Jesper never saw it as it was mostly invisible behind trees and logs. Time was running out and it certainly did not look good. However, I could follow the Tiger as it continued to

walk. We speedily repositioned and could then see her coming towards us. At the end she walked completely unconcerned right past us at 10-15 meters, entirely focused on the Deers. The day could not have ended much better! The kids were quite excited to say the least.

7/2

Between 7.00 and 10.00 I walked together with Rakesh in the semi-desert area near Tiger Moon Resort. Nice birding although nothing major. We had nice views of Rock Bush-Quail and some of the more common birds. After a late breakfast, we left Ranthambore and drove towards Jaipur. About 40 km from Ranthambore we stopped at a, to me until now unknown, dam called Onerati Ban (Onerati Dam). Rakesh had told me about this site and my expectation was set on Skimmer and as we drove up over the dam, one of the first birds I lay my eyes on was a small party of Skimmers. How lucky can one get? The entire area would have deserved a lot more attention than we had the possibility to give, but during half an hour I noted a nice selection of waterbirds.

It was then a long (3 hours) drive to Jaipur. One of my wanted birds was Yellow-wattled Lapwing, so during the entire journey, I scanned every single field. Perseverance pays off as I suddenly glimpsed a good candidate somewhat near Jaipur. The driver reversed and I could confirm my suspicion when a pair could be photographed at close range. After a few more km I actually found another.

By 16.00 we reached Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan and we checked in at Alsisar Haveli Hotel. This hotel was one of the most special I have stayed at from a decoration point of view. The place has to be experienced!

8/2

The entire day was spent sightseeing in Jaipur. We started off with the spectacular Amber Fort on top of the nearby hill and then toured various sites in the old city. Some of these I visited during a business trip in 2006, but it was anyway nice to do it again. Almost no birds were recorded. The night was again spent at Alsisar Haveli.

9/2

We left the hotel early in the morning in order to catch the 9.00 flight from Jaipur to Delhi. With only a slight delay, we were able to catch the flight further on to Varanasi, our last destination of the trip. After having checked in at Ramada Plaza, we visited Sarnath, which is the holy place where Lord Buddha did his first preaching after his enlightening. No birds today either.

10/2

Pre-dawn we visited the Ganges River in Varanasi. One of those places I learned about in school and always wanted to see for myself. It was a truly spectacular sight to see all the people bathing, washing clothes and pouring ashes in the river. We traveled by boat along the edge of the river both upstream and downstream. With the first rays of sun, there were infinite number photo opportunities.



The largest cremation site in Varanasi



The ashes is spread in the river



Bathing in the holy river

I decided to give the birding a last chance on our final morning. The driver told me about a small patch of wood at Raj Ghat near the Ganges River just outside Varanasi. From the hotel it was a mere half hour drive to the site and I birded there between 6.30 and 8.00. I recorded a few new birds for the trip list, but nothing really exciting. I then took the opportunity to show a picture of Red-naped Ibis to some of the locals including my driver. They told me rather convincingly that it could sometimes be seen one hour downriver by boat. As I did not really have that much of time, I convinced my driver to go by car and foot instead. The driver took off and navigated through tiny dirtroads and villages and finally we came to a halt. It happened to be his wife's home village and he quickly got hold of a local guy that promised to take me by foot to the river. Half an hour later we reached the vast sandbanks of the Ganges and it was a matter of minutes before I lay my eyes on one of my few last ibis species in the world. Walking back I spent some extra time on the various larks and finally managed to identify a couple of Sykes's Larks.

By 10.30 I was back at the hotel for a late breakfast before it was time to take off for the airport and the flight bound for Delhi. In Delhi we did a bit more of sightseeing before having a yet another nice dinner with birding colleague Peter. Thereafter it was time to leave for the airport and the beyond midnight flight to Beijing

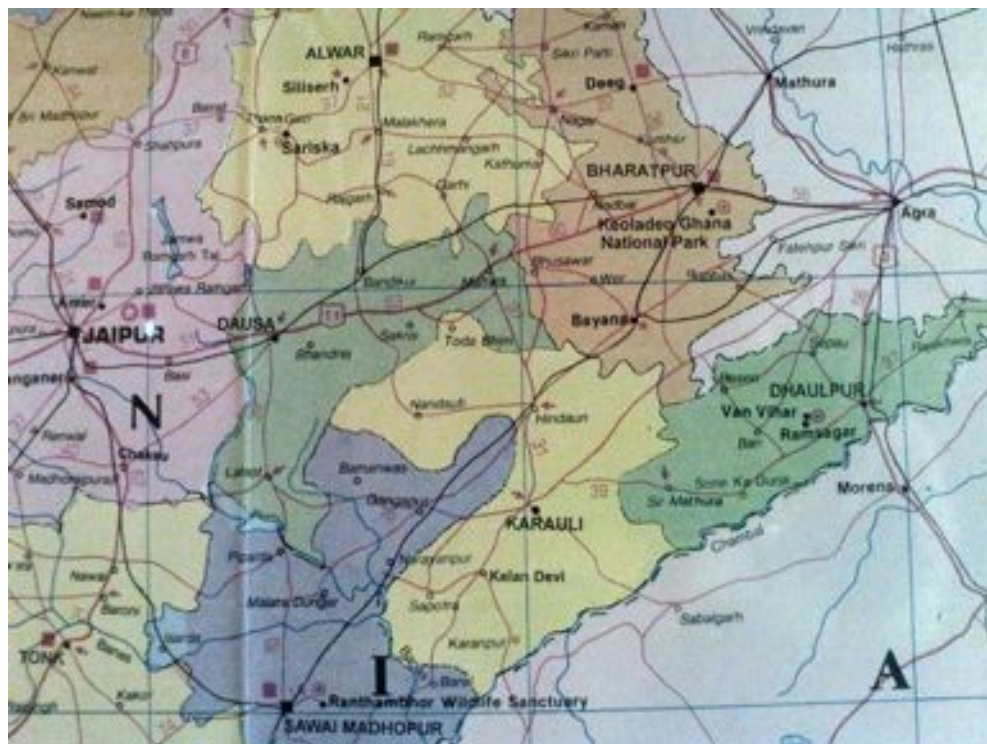
Weather

Apart from it being the coldest winter for 58 years, it was in general very good weather. The nights were decidedly colder than I had imagined, and this was especially true for the Corbett and Naini Tal section of the trip. Gloves and fleece plus jacket were definitely advantageous. In Delhi there was briefly a few drops of rain, but otherwise we were treated to sunny and rather comfortable weather during daytimes.

Logistics

Due to the compressed itinerary, I decided to arrange everything in advance. The initial birding part was arranged by Tragopan Tours, and Indian Holidays did the main leg of the trip. Both did a great job and were swift and accurate in the mail-correspondence. On the road, everything worked like a clock, and both companies can be highly recommended.

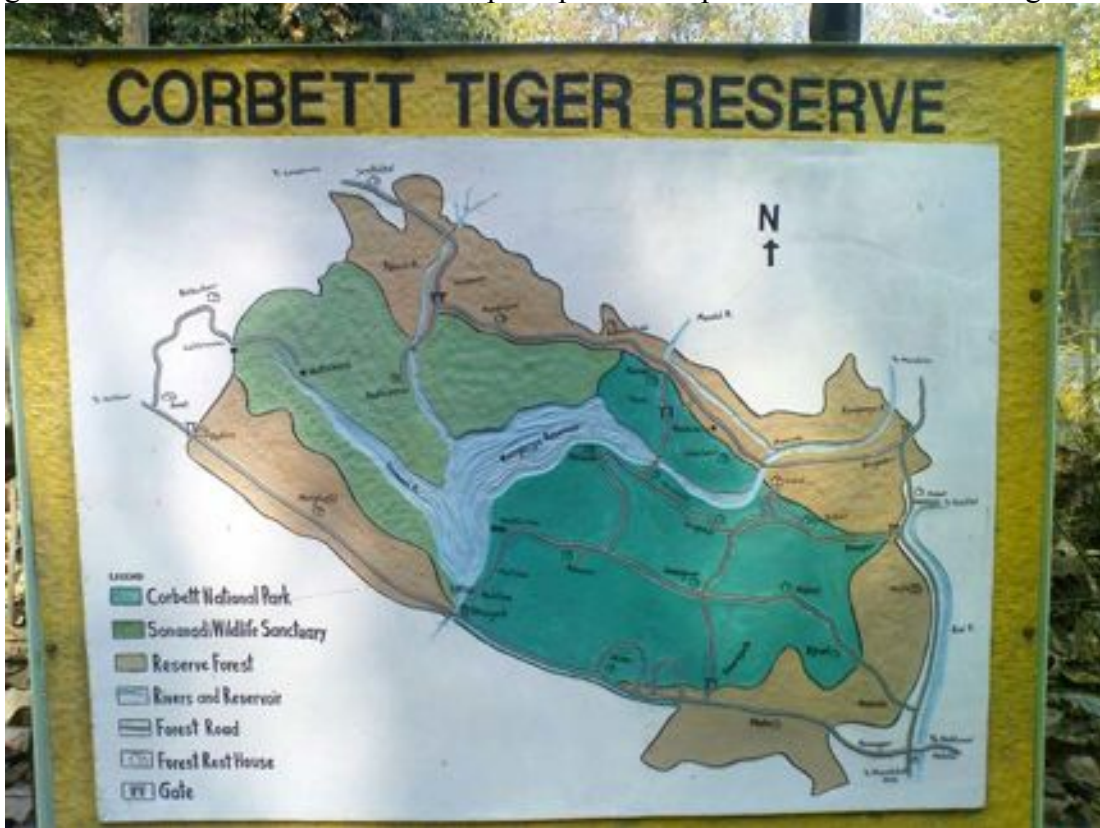
Site descriptions



Map of some areas visited, e.g. Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Keoladeo Ghana, Ranthambore and Jaipur.

Corbett

Corbett is a famous Tiger reserve in the lowlands north of Delhi. Key habitats are the tall Sal forest and the grasslands near Dhikala. The latter is perhaps the best place on earth to see Hodgson's Bushchat in the winter.



Naini Tal

Naini Tal is situated in the Himalayan foothills, not far away from Corbett. It is frequently visited by birders and gives access to higher altitudes where e.g. Cheer Pheasant can be seen by those being lucky.



View towards Nepal from Vinaik near Naini Tal

Keoladeo Ghana (Bharatpur)

This is yet another well-known national park in north India situated at the outskirts of Bharatpur. Its former waterbird galore is nowadays gone as the area is almost completely dried up. Nevertheless it harbours many nice savanna type of birds and is still well worth visiting. It was not really on our itinerary to visit, but as we had two spare hours when passing through, we hired a bird guide and targeted two species. The name of the guide was Captain (+919214171254) and he was a seemingly a knowledgeable bird guide and can be recommended.

Ranthambore

Ranthambore was previously one of the best Tiger reserves, but has for many years not yielded any Tiger sightings. It has even been speculated that they would be gone and it was with some hesitation that we decided to go. Before the trip I was assured that Tigers were still around and it fitted our itinerary much better than Bandavgarh, which is supposedly a much better place to see Tiger. Ranthambore has 6 different tracks where tourists have driven around in the park's fleet of jeeps and open trucks. As far as I understand, track No 1&2 are almost never yielding any Tiger sightings and it is almost the same situation for track No 5&6. Track 3&4 seems to be the best bet and No 3 has some nice lakes. The problem is that there is a lottery each morning and afternoon and it is therefore completely arbitrary which track you are given. We were very fortunate to pick No 3 both our trips and saw Tiger tracks on the first one and even fresher tracks on the afternoon trip, the latter also produced a stunning view of an adult Tigress!

Inside the park there is a wealth of birds that can be easily seen from the jeep (make sure to hire a personal jeep instead of joining one of the tourist trucks).

Good birding can also be performed outside the reserve, near the different hotels and lodges. Key birds in this habitat are e.g. White-naped Woodpecker and Painted Sandgrouse.

Onerati Ban

We did not know about this site until our guide at Ranthambore told me about it. It is a large shallow dam only a few km off the main road between Ranthambore and Jaipur. Best way to find it is probably to ask for directions at Ranthambore and then ask the local people when getting closer. The key bird here was Indian Skimmer, which is apparently seen reasonably regularly.

Vavhan Pura

This was an area that I coincidentally found by asking some local people while birding at Raj Ghat just outside Varanasi along the river. Vavhan Pura consists of extensive fields and sandy river banks along the Ganges river. The key bird for me was Red-naped Ibis and I was also pleasantly surprised to find Sykes's Lark as well as the more expected Sand Lark. I have no clue on how to give direction to the area as it was a myriad of small dirt roads to get there. Driving time from Varanasi was roughly 30 minutes.

Birds

Little Grebe, *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*

Several at Ranthambore, between Ranthambore and Jaipur, one at Jaipur and 15 at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Indian Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

One at Onerati Ban.

Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

200-300 at Dikhala at Corbett, one at Agra and common at Ranthambore.

Little Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax niger*

Ten between Ramnagar and Naini Tal, ten at Agra, common at Ranthambore and common at Onerati Ban.

Darter, *Anhinga melanogaster melanogaster*

One at Dikhala at Corbett and three at Ranthambore.

Grey Heron, *Ardea cinerea cinerea*

Five at Dikhala at Corbett, several at Ranthambore and several at Onerati Ban.

Purple Heron, *Ardea purpurea manilensis*

One at Ranthambore.

Great Egret, *Ardea alba modesta*

20+ at Dikhala at Corbett, one at Agra, two at Keoladeo Ghana, several at Ranthambore and Onerati Ban.



Great Egret

Intermediate Egret, *Egretta intermedia intermedia*

Five at Dikhala at Corbett. Others might have been missed elsewhere.

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

20+ at Dikhala at Corbett, two at Agra, common at Ranthambore and common at Onerati Ban.

Indian Pond-Heron, *Ardeola grayii*

Five at Dikhala at Corbett, several at Ranthambore, common at Onerati Ban, a few at Jaipur and a few at Varanasi.



Indian Pond-Herons

Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*

Common between Delhi and Corbett, at Corbett, between Delhi and Agra, Agra to Bharatpur, at Ranthambore, at Onerati Ban, around Jaipur and around Varanasi.

Painted Stork, *Mycteria leucocephala*

Two between Delhi and Agra and six at Ranthambore.



Painted Storks

Black Stork, *Ciconia nigra*

One near Dikhala at Corbett and one at Ranthambore.

Woolly-necked Stork, *Ciconia episcopus episcopus*

Two at Dikhala at Corbett and one between Delhi and Agra.

Black-headed Ibis, *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Two at Keoladeo Ghana and ten at Ranthambore.

Red-naped Ibis, *Pseudibis papillosa*

One pair feeding on the sand banks in the Ganges River at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.



Red-naped Ibises

Eurasian Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*

Five at Keoladeo Ghana and ten at Ranthambore.

Bar-headed Goose, *Anser indicus*

40+ at Keoladeo Ghana and five at Ranthambore.



Bar-headed Geese

Ruddy Shelduck, *Tadorna ferruginea*

100 between Ramnagar and Naini Tal, 50 at Agra and many at Ranthambore.

Comb Duck, *Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos*

Two at Keoladeo Ghana.

Eurasian Wigeon, *Anas Penelope*

A few at Ranthambore and one at Onerati Ban.

Eurasian Teal, *Anas crecca crecca*

Common at Ranthambore.

Spot-billed Duck, *Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha*

20 at Keoladeo Ghana and several at Onerati Ban.

Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta*

Rather common at Ranthambore.

Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*

Several at Ranthambore.

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

One at Dikhala at Corbett.

Oriental Honey-buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis*

One near Ranthambore.

Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*

Two at Dikhala at Corbett, two between Ramnagar and Naini Tal, one between Delhi and Agra, and several around Ranthambore and Jaipur.

Black Kite, *Milvus migrans govinda*

Common between Delhi and Corbett, between Delhi and Agra, around Jaipur and Varanasi. None seemed to be of the taxon *lineatus*.

Pallas' Fish-Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

One adult at Dikhala at Corbett and one immature between Dikhala and Corbett gate.

Lesser Fish-Eagle, *Ichthyophaga humilis plumbea*

One at Corbett.

Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus ginginianus*

Four south of Ramnagar, one between Delhi and Agra, three at Agra and two at Keoladeo Ghana.

Indian Vulture, *Gyps indicus*

Six at Ranthambore.

Himalayan Griffon, *Gyps himalayensis*

Five at Corbett and a few at Naini Tal.

Eurasian Griffon, *Gyps fulvus fulvescens*

Ten at Corbett and 20+ at Naini Tal.

Cinereous Vulture, *Aegypius monachus*

Three at Corbett.

Red-headed Vulture, *Sarcogyps calvus*

Three at Corbett.



Red-headed Vulture

Crested Serpent-Eagle, *Spilornis cheela cheela*

Three at Corbett.

Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus cyaneus*

Two at Dikhala at Corbett.

Shikra, *Accipiter badius ssp*

One at Agra, one at Keoladeo Ghana and several at Ranthambore.

Himalayan Buzzard, *Buteo burmanicus*=*refectus*

One or two at Vinaik near Naini Tal.

Indian Spotted Eagle, *Aquila hastata*

One at Keoladeo Ghana was an unexpected bonus lifer. I found it overhead just as we were to jump onto the horse-cart to leave the area.

Tawny Eagle, *Aquila rapax*

Two at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Steppe Eagle, *Aquila nipalensis nipalensis*

One immature near Dikhala at Corbett and three at Naini Tal.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus cirrhatu* *limnaeetus*

Four at Corbett.



Changeable Hawk-Eagle

Mountain Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus nipalensis nipalensis*

One at Kumeria near Corbett.



Mountain Hawk-Eagle

Collared Falconet, *Microhierax caerulescens caerulescens*

One at Corbett.



Collared Falconet

Eurasian Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus interstinctus*

One at Dikhala at Corbett.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus peregrinator*

One at Vinaik near Naini Tal. This morphologically different taxon is sometimes named Shaheen.

Black Francolin, *Francolinus francolinus asiae*

Three sightings at Dikhala at Corbett.

Grey Francolin, *Francolinus pondicerianus interpositus*

Rather common at Ranthambore with many seen around Tiger Moon Resort and two at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Jungle Bush-Quail, *Perdicula asiatica asiatica*

About ten in one flock at Zone 3 at Ranthambore.



Jungle Bush-Quail

Rock Bush-Quail, *Perdicula argoondah meinertzhageni*

Three small flocks near Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Painted Spurfowl, *Galloperdix lunulata*

Two males at the gate of Zone 3 at Ranthambore.



Painted Spurfowl

Koklass Pheasant, *Pucrasia macrolopha macrolopha*

Four heard at dawn at Vinaik near Naini Tal and later five seen. One flushed at Naini Tal.

Red Junglefowl, *Gallus gallus murghi*

Seen several times, at least 30, near Dikhala at Corbett.

Kalij Pheasant, *Lophura leucomelanos hamiltoni*

Three separate males at extremely close range near Dikhala at Corbett.



Kalij Pheasant

Indian Peafowl, *Pavo cristatus*

Five at Dikhala at Corbett, ten between Agra and Bharatpur, very common at Ranthambore and a few at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Sarus Crane, *Grus antigone antigone*

One pair between Delhi and Agra

White-breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*

One at Keoladeo Ghana and several at Ranthambore.

Ruddy-breasted Crake, *Porzana fusca fusca*

One heard at dusk at Dikhala at Corbett.

Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

Two at Dikhala at Corbett and several at Ranthambore.

Eurasian Coot, *Fulica atra atra*

Common at Ranthambore, Onerati Ban and at Jaipur.

Bronze-winged Jacana, *Metopidius indicus*

One immature at Dikhala at Corbett and two at Ranthambore.

Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus*

30+ at Dikhala at Corbett, several between Delhi and Corbett, several between Delhi and Agra, 20 at Agra, 20 between Agra and Bharatpur, common at Ranthambore, common between Ranthambore and Jaipur and at Jaipur.

Great Thick-knee, *Burhinus recurvirostris*

Two at Ranthambore and two at Onerati Ban.



Great Thick-knee

Indian Courser, *Cursorius coromandelicus*

About ten at Keoladeo Ghana was a long-wanted lifer and an unexpected such. Due to the extreme dry conditions at Keoladeo Ghana, they were present in the dry fields.



Record shot of Indian Courser beyond the Red-wattled Lapwing

Small Pratincole, *Glareola lacteal*

10+ at Onerati Ban.

River Lapwing, *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Three near Kumeria near Corbett, 50+ at Dikhala at Corbett, one at Onerati Ban and a few at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Yellow-wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus malabaricus*

One pair and a separate single about one hour southwest of Jaipur. The ketchup effect also produced an additional pair at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.



Yellow-wattled Lapwing

Red-wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus indicus indicus*

Several between Delhi and Corbett, two between Delhi and Agra, many between Agra and Bharatpur, ten at Keoladeo Ghana, common at Ranthambore, common between Ranthambore and Jaipur, at Jaipur and at Varanasi.

Little Ringed Plover, *Charadrius dubius* ssp

Several at Ranthambore.

Kentish Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*

40+ at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

A few at Ranthambore and between Ranthambore and Jaipur.

Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa limosa*
20+ at Ranthambore and two at Jaipur.



Black-tailed Godwit

Eurasian Curlew, *Numenius arquata arquata*
Two at Onerati Ban.

Common Redshank, *Tringa totanus ssp*
One between Delhi and Agra and several at Ranthambore.

Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*
20+ at Dikhala at Corbett, one at Agra, many at Ranthambore and between Ranthambore and Jaipur.

Green Sandpiper, *Tringa ochropus*
A few at Dikhala at Corbett and a few at Ranthambore.

Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*
Several at Ranthambore.

Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*
Two at Dikhala at Corbett, one at Agra and one at Jaipur.

Temminck's Stint, *Calidris temminckii*
Five at Agra, many at Ranthambore and Onerati Ban, and at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.



Temminck's Stint

Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*
One at Onerati Ban.

Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*
One between Agra and Bharatpur, a few at Ranthambore and a few at Jaipur.

Brown-headed Gull, *Larus brunnicephalus*
20+ at Varanasi.

Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*
100+ at Varanasi.

Gull-billed Tern, *Sterna nilotica nilotica*

40+ at Onerati Ban.

River Tern, *Sterna aurantia*

Five at Dikhala at Corbett, 10-20 at Ranthambore and 20+ at Onerati Ban.



River Tern

Whiskered Tern, *Chlidonias hybridus indicus*

A few at Onerati Ban.

Indian Skimmer, *Rynchops albigollis*

13 at Onerati Ban was a long awaited lifer and an unexpected such.



Indian Skimmers

Painted Sandgrouse, *Pterocles indicus*

6-8 near Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore at 18.30 (dusk) and a pair was flushed nearby the next morning. In the evening they came to drink at the small pools that are between Tiger Moon Resort and the Tiger Reserve entrance.

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia* ssp

Commonly seen at several places, e.g. Corbett, Naini Tal, Delhi, Agra, Bharatpur, Ranthambore, Jaipur and Varanasi.

Oriental Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia orientalis meena*

Five at the factory near Sat Tal.

Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

One between Delhi and Corbett, several at Delhi and Agra, very common between Ranthambore and Jaipur, at Jaipur and at Varanasi.

Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis suratensis*

A few at Corbett.

Laughing Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis cambayensis*

A few between Delhi and Corbett, several around Agra, very common between Ranthambore and Jaipur, at Jaipur and common at Varanasi.

Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica indica*

Two at Corbett.

Yellow-footed Pigeon, *Treron phoenicoptera chlorigaster*

50+ at Ranthambore and five at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.



Yellow-footed Pigeon

Alexandrine Parakeet, *Psittacula eupatria nipalensis*

One at Kumeria near Corbett.

Rose-ringed Parakeet, *Psittacula krameri borealis*

Common in Delhi, Agra, Keoladeo Ghana, Ranthambore, Jaipur and Varanasi.



Rose-ringed Parakeets

Slaty-headed Parakeet, *Psittacula himalayana*

Seen a few times, once with about 30 feeding together, at Corbett.



Slaty-headed Parakeet

Plum-headed Parakeet, *Psittacula cyanocephala*

30+ at Corbett, rather common (but much less common than Rose-ringed) at Ranthambore.



Mr and Mrs Plum-headed Parakeet

Red-breasted Parakeet, *Psittacula alexandri fasciata*

Rather common at Corbett.

Asian Koel, *Eudynamys scolopaceus scolopaceus*

One at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Greater Coucal, *Centropus sinensis sinensis*

Three at Raj Ghar at Varanasi. Also one between Delhi and Agra and one near Jaipur were not seen well enough to assign to specific taxon.

Southern Coucal, *Centropus [sinensis] parroti*

One at Ranthambore.

Indian Scops-Owl, *Otus bakkamoena gangeticus*

One at Ranthambore.

Dusky Eagle-Owl, *Bubo coromandus coromandus*

One pair at a nest in Keoladeo Ghana and one adult at the nest at Zone 3 at Ranthambore.



Dusky Eagle-Owl

Brown Fish-Owl, *Ketupa zeylonensis leschenaultii*

One seen twice at a day-roost along the river east of Dikhala at Corbett.



Brown Fish-Owl

Tawny Fish-Owl, *Ketupa flavipes*

One seen at a day-roost at Kumeria near Corbett. Also one unidentified large owl, probably a *Ketupa*, seen at dusk at Dikhala at Corbett. One found at a day-roost along the river east of Dikhala at Corbett.



Tawny Fish-Owl

Collared Owlet, *Glaucidium brodiei brodiei*

One heard at Vinaik near Naini Tal.

Asian Barred Owlet, *Glaucidium cuculoides cuculoides*

One at Corbett.



Asian Barred Owlet

Jungle Owlet, *Glaucidium radiatum radiatum*

A total of seven near Corbett, always along the road in cultivated habitat. One at Naini Tal and one between Naini Tal and Kathgodam.



Jungle Owlet

Spotted Owlet, *Athene brama indica*

One at Ranthambore and one at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.



Spotted Owlet

Himalayan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus brevirostris brevirostris*

Rather common at Corbett.

White-rumped Needletail, *Zoonavena sylvatica*

Small numbers seen at Kumeria near Corbett, at Corbett gate and inside Corbett, always in mixed swift/treeswift/swallow flocks.



White-rumped Needletail

Asian Palm-Swift, *Cypsiurus balasiensis balasiensis*

A few at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Alpine Swift, *Tachymarptis melba nubifugus*

20-30 at Dikhala at Corbett.



Alpine Swift

House Swift, *Apus nipalensis nipalensis*

One at Kumeria near Corbett, common at Ranthambore, a few at Onerati Ban and a few at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Crested Treeswift, *Hemiprocne coronata*

10-15 at Kumeria near Corbett and 10-15 at Corbett.

Common Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis ssp*

Three at Corbett and one at Ranthambore.

White-throated Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis smyrnensis*

One at Dikhala at Corbett, a few between Delhi and Corbett, one at Agra, three between Agra and Bharatpur, three at Keoladeo Ghana, many around Ranthambore and two at Varanasi.



White-throated Kingfisher

Crested Kingfisher, *Megaceryle lugubris continentalis*

One at Kumeria near Corbett and one at Corbett.

Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis leucomelanurus*

Five near Dikhala at Corbett, six at Onerati Ban, two at Varanasi and two at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Green Bee-eater, *Merops orientalis orientalis*

Several at Ranthambore and between Ranthambore and Jaipur.



Green Bee-eater

Indian Roller, *Coracias benghalensis benghalensis*

One near Corbett, one between Delhi and Agra, one between Agra and Bharatpur, rather common between Ranthambore and Jaipur and two at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Eurasian Hoopoe, *Upupa epops ceylonensis*

Two in Delhi, one at Keoladeo Ghana and two at Ranthambore.



Hoopoe at Varanasi

Indian Grey Hornbill, *Ocyrceros birostris*

Two between Agra and Bharatpur, one at Keoladeo Ghana and three at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Oriental Pied-Hornbill, *Anthracoceros albirostris albirostris*

One pair at Corbett.

Great Barbet, *Megalaima virens marshallorum*

Two at Kumeria near Corbett.

Brown-headed Barbet, *Megalaima zeylanica caniceps*

Five at Kumeria near Corbett and five at Varanasi.

Lineated Barbet, *Megalaima lineate hodgsoni*

One at Corbett.

Coppersmith Barbet, *Megalaima haemacephala indica*

Two heard at Ranthambore.

Indian Pygmy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos nanus nanus*

One pair near Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore. Split from Brown-capped/moluccensis.



Indian Pygmy Woodpecker

Grey-capped Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos canicapillus mitchellii*

Two near Dikhala at Corbett.

Brown-fronted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos auriceps*

One at Vinaik near Naini Tal and four at Naini Tal.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos macei westermanni*

At least five at Corbett.

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos mahrattensis mahrattensis*

Two near Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Himalayan Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos himalayensis himalayensis*

One at Vinaik near Naini Tal.

Lesser Yellownape, *Picus chlorolophus simlae*

A total of five at Corbett.

Scaly-bellied Woodpecker, *Picus squamatus squamatus*

One at Naini Tal.

Grey-faced Woodpecker, *Picus canus sanguiniceps*

A total of at least ten at Corbett and one at the factory near Sat Tal.

Himalayan Flameback, *Dinopium shorii shorii*
A total of four at Corbett.



Himalayan Flameback

Black-rumped Flameback, *Dinopium benghalense benghalense*
One at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

White-naped Woodpecker, *Chrysocolaptes festivus festivus*
One female seen nicely as she pulled caterpillars from a tree-hole near Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.



White-naped Woodpecker

Greater Flameback, *Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacrastatus*
One pair at Corbett.

Indian Bushlark, *Mirafra erythroptera*
Five near Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, *Eremopterix grisea*
50+ at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.



Mrs and Mr Ashy-crowned Sparrowlark

Rufous-tailed Lark, *Ammomanes phoenicurus*
20 at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.



Rufous-tailed Lark

Greater Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis*
Two at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Sand Lark, *Calandrella raytal raytal*
At least one at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Tawny (Sykes's) Lark, *Galerida deva*
At least two at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.



Sykes's Lark

Oriental Skylark, *Alauda gulgula* ssp

Two at Dikhala at Corbett and one at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Grey-throated Sand Martin, *Riparia chinensis chinensis*

10+ at Dikhala at Corbett, several at Onerati Ban and at Jaipur.

Dusky Crag-Martin, *Ptyonoprogne concolor concolor*

Common at Ranthambore and several at Jaipur.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica rustica*

Common at Dikhala at Corbett, one between Agra and Bharatpur, a few at Ranthambore and common at Varanasi.

Wire-tailed Swallow, *Hirundo smithii filifera*

A few at Onerati Ban and at Jaipur.

Red-rumped Swallow, *Cecropis daurica* ssp

Common at Kumeria near Corbett and at Dikhala at Corbett.

Streak-throated Swallow, *Petrochelidon fluvicola*

Several at Ranthambore.

Asian Martin, *Delichon dasypus cashmiriensis*

A few at Kumeria near Corbett.

Nepal Martin, *Delichon nipalensis nipalensis*

Several at Kumeria near Corbett.

White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba dukhunensis* & *personata*

One at Agra, many at Ranthambore and one at Jaipur were all *dukhunensis* and at least one at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi was a *personata*.

White-browed Wagtail, *Motacilla madaraspatensis*

Four at Dikhala at Corbett, a few at Ranthambore, one at Jaipur, two at Varanasi and one at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.



White-browed Wagtail

Citrine Wagtail, *Motacilla citreola citreola/calcarata*

Two at Jaipur.

Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava* ssp

One at Onerati Ban, one at Jaipur and many at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*

One at Ranthambore.

Oriental Pipit, *Anthus rufulus rufulus*

One at Jaipur and several at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Long-billed Pipit, *Anthus similis jerdoni*

One at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Tree Pipit, *Anthus trivialis* ssp

One at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Olive-backed Pipit, *Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni*

Ten at Corbett and five at the factory near Sat Tal.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina melaschistos melaschistos*

One male at Ranthambore.

Small Minivet, *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus peregrinus*

Ten at Dikhala at Corbett and five at Ranthambore.

Long-tailed Minivet, *Pericrocotus ethologus favillaceus*

A few at Kumeria near Corbett and ten near Dikhala at Corbett.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, *Hemipus picatus capitalis*

A total of about 20 at Corbett.

Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus* ssp

Ten at Corbett and two at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

White-cheeked Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucogenys leucogenys*

Rather common at Corbett and Naini Tal.



White-cheeked Bulbul

Red-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer* ssp

10+ at Corbett, several around Naini Tal, at Agra, a few at Keoladeo Ghana, common around Ranthambore and two at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Ashy Bulbul, *Hemixos flavala flavala*

Seen twice with a total of 10+ at Corbett.

Mountain Bulbul, *Ixos mcclellandii mcclellandii*

Small flocks around Naini Tal.



Mountain Bulbul

Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus psaroides*

Five at the factory near Sat Tal.

Common Iora, *Aegithina tiphia* ssp

Two at Corbett.

Himalayan Accentor, *Prunella himalayana*

20+ at Vinaik near Naini Tal.

Rufous-breasted Accentor, *Prunella strophciata strophciata*

Two at Naini Tal.

Blue Rock-Thrush, *Monticola solitarius pandoo*

One at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Blue Whistling-Thrush, *Myophonus caeruleus temminckii*

Ten at Corbett and common around Naini Tal. Orange bill.

Scaly Thrush, *Zoothera dauma dauma*

One at Corbett.

White-collared Blackbird, *Turdus albocinctus*

One at Naini Tal.

Grey-winged Blackbird, *Turdus bouboul*

One at Naini Tal.



Grey-winged Blackbird

Chestnut Thrush, *Turdus rubrocanus rubrocanus*

Two at Naini Tal.

Black-throated Thrush, *Turdus [ruficollis] atrogularis*

One at Dikhala at Corbett.

Zitting Cisticola, *Cisticola juncidis cursitans*

Five at Dikhala at Corbett and one at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Striated Prinia, *Prinia criniger criniger*

Two at Naini Tal.

Rufous-fronted Prinia, *Prinia buchanani*

15-20 at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.



Rufous-fronted Prinia

Grey-breasted Prinia, *Prinia hodgsonii rufula*

A few small flocks at Corbett and around Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Jungle Prinia, *Prinia sylvatica* ssp

One at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore and one at the Yellow-wattled Lapwing stop near Jaipur.

Ashy Prinia, *Prinia socialis* ssp

One at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.



Ashy Prinia

Plain Prinia, *Prinia inornata* ssp

Three at Dikhala at Corbett.

Grey-sided Bush-Warbler, *Cettia brunnifrons brunnifrons*

Two near Dikhala at Corbett.

Blyth's Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

At least two at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Sykes's Warbler, *Hippolais rama*

One half-way between Ranthambore and Jaipur.

Common Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sutorius guzuratus*

Two at Corbett, a few at Ranthambore and a few at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Common Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Two at Dikhala at Corbett, one at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore and two at Vavhan Pura near Varanasi.

Smoky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fulgiventis fulgiventis*

Two near Dikhala at Corbett.

Tickell's Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus affinis*

One near Dikhala at Corbett.

Buff-barred Warbler, *Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher*

Three at Naini Tal.

Pale-rumped Warbler, *Phylloscopus chloronotus chloronotus*

Five at Corbett and two at Naini Tal.

Hume's Warbler, *Phylloscopus humei humei*

Ten at Corbett, one at Agra, common at Ranthambore.

Blyth's Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus reguloides kashmiriensis/reguloides*

One at Naini Tal.

Grey-hooded Warbler, *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos xanthoschistos*

At least ten at Corbett and several at Naini Tal.

Whistler's Warbler, *Seicercus whistleri whistleri*

Four at Corbett. Slight wingbar, white outer tailfeathers, sometimes calling schweep, another did a dzhu-dzhu.

Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia curruca* ssp

One at the factory near Sat Tal, one at Keoladeo Ghana, two at Ranthambore and one at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Eastern Orphean Warbler, *Sylvia crassirostris jerdoni*

One at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula strophinata strophinata*

One at Corbett.

Red-breasted Flycatcher, *Ficedula parva*

A few at Ranthambore.

Taiga Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicilla*

Four at Dikhala at Corbett and one at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Little Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula westermanni collini*

One near Dikhala at Corbett.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher, *Ficedula tricolor tricolor*

Three at Corbett.



Slaty-blue Flycatcher

Rufous-bellied Niltava, *Niltava sundara whistleri*

One female at Kumeria near Corbett.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea*

Five at Corbett and one at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Bluethroat, *Luscinia svecica* ssp

One at Keoladeo Ghana.

Orange-flanked Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger rufilatus*

Ten at Naini Tal.

Oriental Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus saularis saularis*

One at Keoladeo Ghana, two at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Indian Robin, *Saxicoloides fulicata cambaiensis*

One at Corbett, common around Ranthambore and between Ranthambore and Jaipur and one at Jaipur.

Blue-capped Redstart, *Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus*

10-15 at Naini Tal and three at Vinaik near Naini Tal.



Blue-capped Redstart, try spotting the red ;-)

Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* & *rufiventris*

One at Keoladeo Ghana. One male *rufiventris* at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore and several *phoenicuroides* at Ranthambore.

Blue-fronted Redstart, *Phoenicurus frontalis*

Two at Naini Tal and one at the factory near Sat Tal.

White-capped Redstart, *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

One at Corbett.

Plumbeous Redstart, *Rhyacornis fuliginosus fuliginosus*

Five at Corbett.

White-throated (Hodgson's) Bushchat, *Saxicola insignis*

Two females at Dikhala at Corbett and one female at the same site the day after.



Hodgson's Bushchat

Sibeiran Stonechat, *Saxicola maurus przewalskii* & *indicus/maurus*

50+ at Dikhala at Corbett, a few at the factory near Sat Tal and five at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.



Siberian Stonechat

Pied Bushchat, *Saxicola caprata bicolor*

One between Agra and Bharatpur, three at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore and a few between Ranthambore and Jaipur.

Grey Bushchat, *Saxicola ferrea*

Rather common at Corbett and a few around Naini Tal and one at Ranthambore.



Grey Bushchat

Variable Wheatear, *Oenanthe picata*

One male at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore of the form *opistholeuca*, i.e. all sooty brown-black underparts except the vent

Isabelline Wheatear, *Oenanthe isabellina*

Two near Ranthambore and one at Onerati Ban.

Indian (Brown Rock) Chat, *Cercomela fusca*

A few at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore, one at Jaipur and one at Varanasi.

White-throated Fantail, *Rhipidura albicollis canescens*

Four at Corbett.

White-browed Fantail, *Rhipidura aureola aureola*

10+ at Ranthambore.



White-browed Fantail

White-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax albogularis whistleri*

Two at Corbett.

White-crested Laughingthrush, *Garrulax leucolophus leucolophus*

Five flocks at Corbett.

Streaked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax lineatus lineatus*

Two at Vinaik near Naini Tal and common at Naini Tal and the factory near Sat Tal.



Streaked Laughingthrush

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, *Garrulax erythrocephalus erythrocephalus*

Five at Naini Tal.



Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*
Five at Corbett and ten at Naini Tal.



Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler

Nepal (Immaculate) Wren-Babbler, *Pnoepyga immaculata*

One at Corbett. First heard calling in the road-side scrub and then lured into view. About 3-4 km from the gate towards Dikhala at Corbett. Described as recently as 1991 and only very recently found to occur outside Nepal.

Black-chinned Babbler, *Stachyris pyrrhops*

Rather frequent member of under-storey flocks at Corbett.

Yellow-eyed Babbler, *Chrysomma sinense hypoleucum*

Five at Dikhala at Corbett.



Yellow-eyed Babbler

Common Babbler, *Turdoides caudatus caudatus*

Three flocks at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Large Gray Babbler, *Turdoides malcolmi*

Three flocks at Ranthambore and a few flocks at Varanasi.

Jungle Babbler, *Turdoides striatus* ssp

Several flocks at Corbett, six at the factory near Sat Tal, 20 at Agra, 20 at Keoladeo Ghana, common at Ranthambore and common at Varanasi.



Jungle Babbler

Rufous Sibia, *Heterophasia capistrata nigriceps*
Three at Vinaik near Naini Tal and ten at Naini Tal.



Rufous Sibia

Whiskered Yuhina, *Yuhina flavicollis albicollis*
Three at Corbett.

Stripe-throated Yuhina, *Yuhina gularis vivax*
Two at Naini Tal.

Black-throated Tit, *Aegithalos concinnus iridalei*
Three at Vinaik near Naini Tal and one at Naini Tal.

Black-crested (Spot-winged) Tit, *Periparus melanolophus*
One at Vinaik near Naini Tal.

Great Tit, *Parus major ssp*
30+ at Corbett and several at Ranthambore.

Green-backed Tit, *Parus monticolus monticolus*
10-15 at Naini Tal.

Black-lored Tit, *Parus xanthogenys xanthogenys*
One at Corbett.

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, *Sitta cinnamoventris almorae*
Five at Corbett.



Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch

White-tailed Nuthatch, *Sitta himalayensis*
Two at Vinaik near Naini Tal and about ten at Naini Tal.

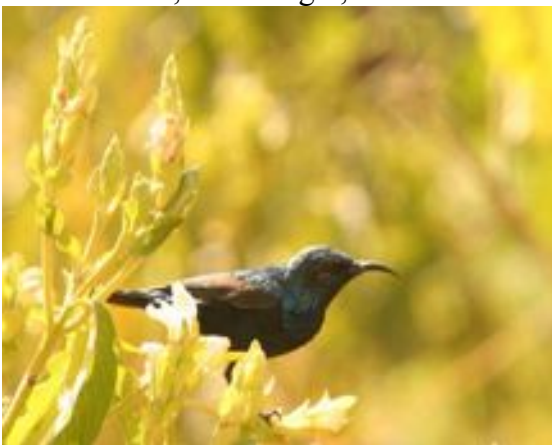
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, *Sitta frontalis frontalis*
Ten at Corbett.

Bar-tailed Treecreeper, *Certhia himalayana himalayana*
One at Vinaik near Naini Tal and one at Naini Tal.



Bar-tailed Treecreeper

Purple Sunbird, *Cinnyris asiaticus* ssp
Two in Delhi, two at Agra, common at Ranthambore and a few at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.



Purple Sunbird

Oriental White-eye, *Zosterops palpebrosus egregius*
Two at the factory near Sat Tal and a few at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Black-hooded Oriole, *Oriolus xanthornus xanthornus*
One near Dikhala at Corbett.

Bay-backed Shrike, *Lanius vittatus vittatus*
Several between Ranthambore and Jaipur.

Long-tailed Shrike, *Lanius schach erythronotus*
A few around Dikhala at Corbett, around Naini Tal and many around Ranthambore.

Southern Grey Shrike, *Lanius meridionalis lahtora*
One between Agra and Bharatpur, rather common around Ranthambore and between Ranthambore and Jaipur.



Southern Grey Shrike

Common Woodshrike, *Tephrodornis pondicerianus pallidus*

One near Dikhala at Corbett and a few at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Black Drongo, *Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus*

Rather common outside Corbett, two between Delhi and Agra, many between Agra and Bharatpur, common between Ranthambore and Jaipur, and several at Varanasi.

White-bellied Drongo, *Dicrurus caeruleus caeruleus*

One at Dikhala at Corbett, a few at Ranthambore.



White-bellied Drongo

Bronzed Drongo, *Dicrurus aeneus aeneus*

Ten at Corbett.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus remifer tectirostris*

One at Corbett.

Hair-crested Drongo, *Dicrurus hottentottus hottentottus*

Five near Corbett.

Black-headed Jay, *Garrulus lanceolatus*

One at the factory near Sat Tal.



Black-headed Jay

Rufous Treepie, *Dendrocitta vagabunda pallida*

A few at Corbett, one between Delhi and Agra, two at Agra, a few at Keoladeo Ghana, common at Ranthambore and one at Varanasi.



Rufous Treepie

House Crow, *Corvus splendens splendens*

Common around Delhi, Agra, Bharatpur, Ranthambore and Varanasi.

Large-billed Crow, *Corvus macrorhynchos intermedius*

30+ at Corbett, many around Agra and common around Ranthambore, Jaipur and Varanasi were of the smaller-billed form with not so wedge-shaped tail.

Indian Jungle Crow, *Corvus culminatus*

Common at Vinaik near Naini Tal and Naini Tal with larger bill, not steep forehead and wedge-shaped tail. Different call from Corbett and often seen soaring.

Bank Myna, *Acridotheres ginginianus*

One between Delhi and Corbett, many at Agra, common between Ranthambore and Jaipur and common at Varanasi.

Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis tristis*

Common around Delhi, Corbett, Naini Tal, Agra, Bharatpur, Ranthambore, Jaipur and Varanasi.

Asian Pied Starling, *Gracupica contra contra*

Common between Delhi and Corbett, two at Agra, a few between Agra and Bharatpur, several between Ranthambore and Jaipur, and common at Varanasi.

Chestnut-tailed Starling, *Sturnia malabarica*

Four at Raj Ghar at Varanasi.

Brahminy Starling, *Temenuchus pagodarum*

Five at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Rosy Starling, *Pastor roseus*

Three between Ranthambore and Jaipur.

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus indicus*

Common at Naini Tal, several at Agra, common around Ranthambore and at Jaipur.

Russet Sparrow, *Passer rutilans cinnamomeus*

20 at the factory near Sat Tal.

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia, *Petronia xanthocollis transfuga*

300+ at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Red Avadavat, *Amandava amandava amandava*

Ten at Dikhala at Corbett.

White-throated Munia (Indian Silverbill), *Euodice malabarica*

20+ at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch, *Carpodacus nipalensis nipalensis*

One female at Naini Tal.



Dark-breasted Rosefinch

Himalayan [Yellow-breasted] Greenfinch, *Carduelis [spinoidea] spinoidea*

One pair at Naini Tal. The taxon *heinrichi*, that occurs in S Assam hills and into W Myanmar, may be better treated as a separate species.



Himalayan Greenfinch

Black-and-yellow Grosbeak, *Mycerobas icteroides*

One male and two females at Naini Tal in the big flock of Collared Grosbeaks. There may actually have been more males, as some had very limited rufous/chestnut on the nape. It was a bit of a (nice!) surprise to find this species this far east.



Black-and-yellow Grosbeak

Collared Grosbeak, *Mycerobas affinis*

A large gathering of at least 100 birds at Naini Tal.



Collared Grosbeak

Crested Bunting, *Melophus lathami*

One at Dikhala at Corbett.

Rock Bunting, *Emberiza cia* ssp

Ten at Naini Tal. Difficult to assign to subspecific taxon (*par* vs *stracheyi*) even after study of photos, but probably *par*.



Rock Bunting

Chestnut-breasted (White-capped) Bunting, *Emberiza stewarti*

Five at Tiger Moon Resort at Ranthambore.

Mammals

Indian Hare, *Lepus nigricollis*

One near Vinaik near Naini Tal presumed to be this species.

Squirrel sp (Northern or Five-striped Palm Squirrel, *Fanambulus palmarum* or *pennanti*?)

Common.

Tiger, *Panthera tigris*

One female with two older youngsters at Corbett and one old female at Ranthambore.

Mongoose sp

One at Dikhala at Corbett and one at Ranthambore.

Indian Elephant, *Elephas maximus*

Two at Dikhala at Corbett.

Golden Jackal, *Canis aureus*

One near Dikhala at Corbett.

Yellow-throated Marten, *Martes flavigula*

Two at Naini Tal.

Indian Flying Fox, *Pteropus giganteus*

Common in Delhi.

Hanuman Langur, *Semnopithecus entellus*

Common at Corbett and Ranthambore.

Rhesus Macaque, *Macaca mulatta*

Common at Corbett and Ranthambore.

Wild Boar, *Sus scrofa*

Many around Dikhala at Corbett and a few at Ranthambore.

Indian Muntjac, *Muntiacus muntjac*

Many at Corbett.

Sambar Deer, *Cervus unicolor*

Common at Corbett, at Keoladeo Ghana and at Ranthambore.

Spotted Deer, *Axis axis*

Common at Corbett and Ranthambore.

Hog Deer, *Axis porcinus*

Many around Dikhala at Corbett

Nilgai, *Boselaphus tragocamelus*

A few at Keoladeo Ghana, common at Ranthambore

Other beasts

Gharial

Five at Corbett.

Mugger Crocodile

Many around Dikhala at Corbett and a few at Ranthambore.



The proud Tigers at Corbett