



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Bhutan

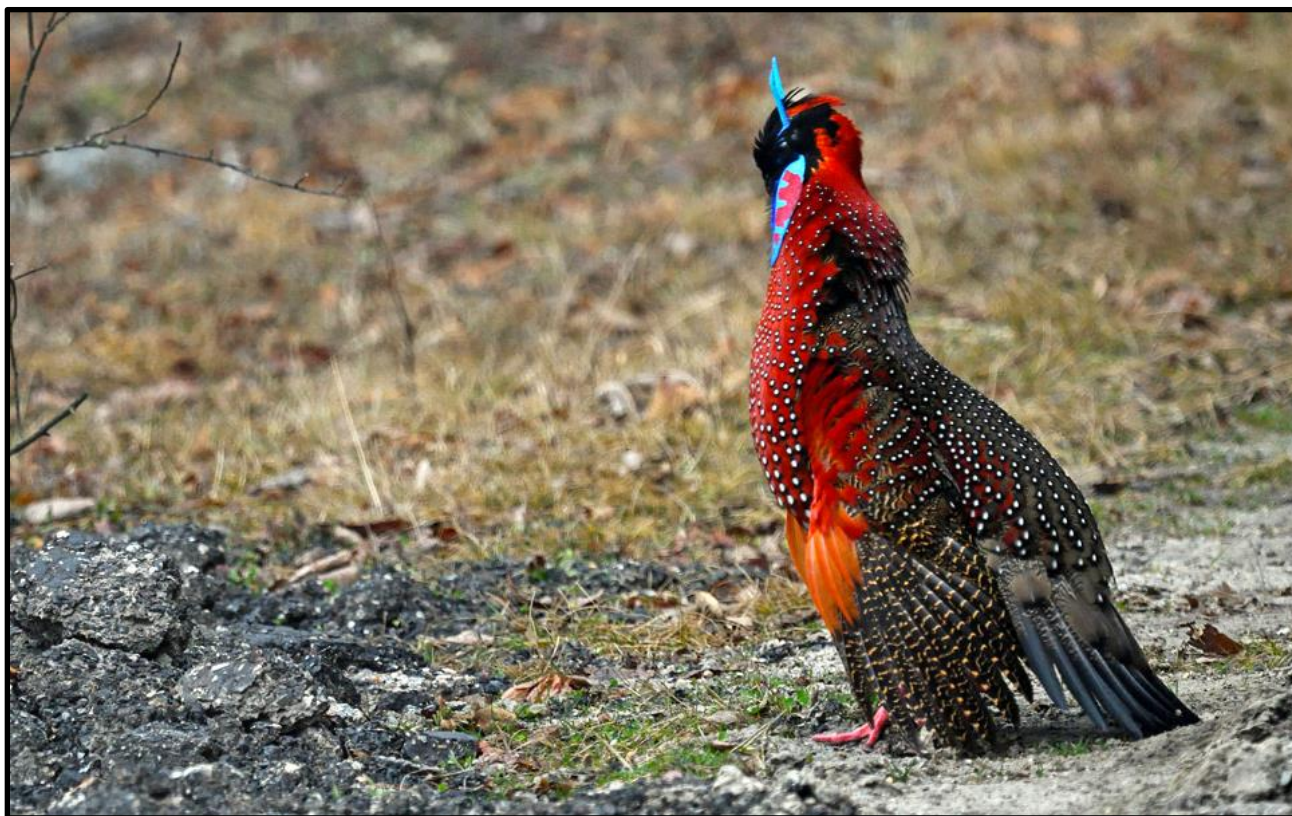
### Assam Extension I

*14th to 18th March 2017 (5 days)*

### Birding the Buddhist Kingdom I

*18th March to 6th April 2017 (20 days)*

## Trip Report



Satyr Tragopan by Rich Lindie

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader, Rich Lindie**

---

## Tour Summary

Our birding adventure in Assam began, as most do, at the local dump. Needless to say, the general ambience to be had there was much like that found at just about any dump on the planet, though the presence of such large numbers of adjutants, including several of the greater persuasion, meant we could have only been in Guwahati. Indeed, the city's official tip is undoubtedly the most accessible site for getting up close and personal with this very endangered bird.

It is also a great spot for racking up a decent bird list within the city's limits, and so, after admiring the adjutants at leisure, we focused our attention on some of the other avian denizens of the area, before beginning our long journey north-eastwards, and on to Kaziranga National Park, where a late afternoon drive in the western section of the park sealed off the day nicely. Highlights of the day's sightings, other than the adjutants, of course, included several great birds, though most notable were Grey-headed Swamphen, Striated Grassbird and Cinereous Vulture, simply because they were never to be seen again on the trip!



**Greater Adjutant by Rich Lindie**

In great contrast to the previous day's first excursion, we spent the first two hours of the following morning in the pristine surroundings of Kaziranga National Park's central grasslands. Not only this, we did so from elephant-back! This thrilling mode of transport offers not only a unique experience, but is also a great way to get away from the often dusty and relatively busy park roads, as well as being the best way to see some of the grassland-dwelling specials found within the park, including Indian One-horned Rhinoceros and Bengal Bushlark – *both of which we enjoyed close-encounters with*. A little uncomfortable for some of us, though, it was probably with mixed feelings that our goliath-taxi rides only lasted as long as they did – though breakfast back at our hotel thereafter was welcomed by all.



Post breakfast, and back in the central grasslands, it wasn't long before we began picking up yet more great birds, only this time from the back of our little Gypsies. Remarkably, one of the very first birds to put in an appearance was our only Bengal Florican of the trip – a beautiful female of which flapped slowly over the plains until dropping out of sight, followed shortly by our first sighting of a stunning male Pied Harrier, only a hundred metres down the road! This, little did we know at the time, was actually to be somewhat of a prelude to the remainder of the morning, as we continued to take only brief drives from one good sighting to the next, including sightings of a pair of showy Swamp Francolins, an even showier Red-headed Vulture, several Stork-billed Kingfishers, a stunning River Tern, Black-rumped Flamebacks, handfuls of Alexandrine Parakeets, Chestnut-capped babblers, Puff-throated Babblers, Striated Babblers and, of course, several more One-horned Rhinoceros.



**Grey-sided Laughingthrush by Rich Lindie**

Eventually reaching the end of the road, we climbed to the top of a watch-tower for one last scan over the grasslands, but soon found ourselves immersed in conversation with a few dozen national tourists who were excitedly chatting about their recent sighting of a certain bar-coded feline that haunts these grasslands. Sadly, that was as close as we ever came to that particular Tiger. Still, we headed back to our hotel for lunch with high spirits nonetheless.

After lunch and such a great morning in the central sector, we decided to spend our afternoon in the easternmost part of the park. With the largest and best wetlands in the area, bordered themselves by equally great woodland, an afternoon along the eastern roads in Kaziranga is a great way to pad the list, so to speak. It's also the best time of the day for photography (given the sun's favourable position), and we all thoroughly enjoyed the large numbers of ducks, jacanas, storks, pelicans and other shorebirds bathing in the sunlight, the best of which included Cotton Pygmy and Bar-headed Goose, Ferruginous Duck, Spot-billed Pelican, Grey-headed Lapwing, Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Temminck's Stint. On our way out of the park, we were also treated to great views of a Changeable Hawk-Eagle, whilst the woodlands also gave us our first Spotted Owlet, a couple of demonstrative Green-billed Malkohas,

Blue-bearded Bee-eater and a Ruby-cheeked Sunbird or two.

The next morning, we made yet another change to our mode of transport, setting out for a little birding-on-foot for a change. This time, we did so outside the park's boundaries, taking advantage of a quiet track along the edge of the Hathikuli Tea Estate. There, over the course of just a couple of hours, our efforts were duly rewarded as we bagged some real gems, including a pair of lovely (and amazingly responsive!) Rosy Minivets, Golden-fronted Leafbirds, a few Asian Fairy Bluebirds, Ashy Woodswallows, a couple of Blue-eared Barbet and several Blue-tailed Bee-eaters.



**Black-tailed Crake by Rich Lindie**

Then, after a quick breakfast – *a-la-Gypsy-hood style* – we made our way to our final stop in the Kaziranga area, stopping once along the way to see a pair of Oriental Hobbies atop their favourite tower. At our destination, along the extreme western edge of the park this time, we were unable to find any Slender-billed Vultures but did turn up two groups of the ever-popular Pied Falconet, more Blue-bearded Bee-eaters (as well as Green and Chestnut-headed), our first Pin-striped Babbler of the trip, as well as our only Lesser Whistling Ducks of the trip, before embarking on our drive to Nameri, via a roadside restaurant for lunch.

Arriving at our base in Nameri in the late afternoon, there wasn't much time to bird the area, but we did pick up our first Slaty-backed Flycatcher and Indian Stone-curlews of the trip, whilst a pair of Brown Hawk-Owl roosting above one of the tents was our last new species of the day.

What could have been a pretty short morning, the next day, turned into something of a long-distance march, thanks to the antics of some of the local White-winged Ducks in Nameri National Park. That said, things could have ended up a lot worse, sighting-wise, and the terrain in the park is nothing if not easy to walk. Besides, after just a short river-crossing, it wasn't even a few minutes after before we were getting stuck into the forest birds, and, despite the general focus on getting to and from the 'duck



ponds', we saw Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Greater Flameback, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Abbott's Babbler, Black-crested Babbler, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Black-breasted Thrush, Peregrine Falcon, Large Hawk-Cuckoo, Maroon Oriole, Plain Flowerpecker (two feet off the ground, and six feet away!) and Orange-bellied Leafbird, among many other birds that morning!

Along the river's edge, we also had great views of Great Stone-curlew, more Indian Stone-curlews, our first Small Pratincoles, and several River Terns and River Lapwing to boot. *But back to the duck.* 'Pond number one' took us an anxious hour of walking to reach, only for our arrival to be met with the wingbeats and flashes (for some of us) of a pair of our quarry disappearing into the forest. And so it was off to 'pond number two' that we trudged, arriving after some great bird distractions but now very anxious about a potential walk to the third pond, and possibly even a return trip to the forest. Fortunately, just as some of us had probably had enough of the marching, we arrived at the edge of the pond, quietly and unobtrusively enough, to find a pair of these endangered beauties more-or-less going about their usual behaviour, allowing for fantastic views for everyone in the group!



**Pygmy Flycatcher by Rich Lindie**

Lunch back at camp and an appreciated siesta was then followed by a very relaxing rafting trip down the Jia Bhoreli River, almost back to camp itself. Along the way, we enjoyed fantastic views of an Ibisbill in the shallows, more River Terns, Sand Lark, and the much hoped-for Wreathed Hornbill. An evening excursion to see Large-tailed Nightjar, back on the shores of the Jia Bhoreli, and another fun-filled checklist were all that remained in the day of any noteworthiness.

With so much success the previous day, we allocated ourselves a relatively leisurely morning, taking a short stroll along the road between camp and the river, seeing Siberian Rubythroat and Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (finally) among a handful of other previously-seen species, before breakfast in daylight(!), and our journey to Samdrup Jongkar.

Our journey to 'SJ', as we began to refer to it, was mostly uneventful, but for one unexpected stop – this time a puncture, though the resultant attention we drew from villagers, who clearly came from far and wide to interact with us, certainly goes down as one of the more entertaining experiences of the trip. The Indian border post, and its equivalent in Samdrup Jongkar were also entertaining experiences, though it was the immediately apparent changes from India to Bhutan that we noticed more than anything, I'm sure. It wasn't long, however, until we all retired to a comfortable bed and hot shower (again, for some).



**Little Forktail by Rich Lindie**

Our first day in Bhutan saw us bidding farewell to the flat plains of the Brahmaputra Valley pretty early on, though not before a slurry of trip firsts, including Crested Goshawk, Crested Kingfisher, White-browed Piculet (sitting near motionless for several minutes, grub in bill, and all), Lesser Yellownap, Grey-chinned Minivet, White-bellied Erpornis, Sultan Tit (superlative views on three occasions!), Green-backed Tit, Ashy Bulbul, Yellow-vented Warbler, Rufescent Prinia, Grey-throated and Jungle Babbler, White-rumped Shama, Slaty-backed Forktail and a point-blank Yellow-vented Flowerpecker. Further up the road and closer to midday, we were introduced to our wonderfully hospitable camp crew, who prepared our first of many sumptuous warm field lunches.

From then on, we made our way slowly toward our campsite in the Morong area, stopping for several goodies along the way, highlights of which included our first Black Eagle, Bay Woodpecker, Bhutan Laughingthrush, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Long-tailed Sibia, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Wallcreeper, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Crimson Sunbird and Scarlet Finch.

The camping experience on our Bhutan tours is, of course, also a much-anticipated one for many participants; so, being the first night for us under canvas, we also had more to write home about that day, for all kinds of reasons. Highlights among the discoveries, though, certainly went to that of our first Dragon Warmers, raised beds, hot-water showers, hot-water bottles(!), and a dining-tent-cum-bar (to borrow a little Indian-Bhutan grammar)!



Bound to traffic restrictions due to roadworks, we were forced to while away the following morning between Morong and the small village of Narphung for several hours. Ordinarily, there'd be plenty to see there, bird-wise, but we couldn't find much of anything at all and, as a result, we spent a little more time exploring Narphung itself than we had anticipated; not that we didn't enjoy ourselves. Narphung is the first village of much interest along the main east-west 'highway' from Samdrup Jongkar to Paro. There, above typically beautiful Bhutanese forested valleys, one is able to glimpse through a window into the traditional lives of Bhutan's mountain folk, from the food they grow and trade to the homes and clothes they call normal. It's also a photogenic little village, particularly when filled with traditionally decorated trucks – *as it was on the day of our visit*. It wasn't a completely birdless morning, though – we did all get to see a lovely female Golden Bush Robin in one of the small vegetable patches on the edge of town!



**Satyr Tragopan by Rich Lindie**

Once through the roadblock, we had a lot of ground to cover to get to Trashigang; and so the rest of our day was mostly a travel one. The few birding stops we did make along the way gave us our first Himalayan Buzzards, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babblers, Red-headed Bullfinches and Rufous-vented Yuhinas of the trip, as well as our only Black-eared Shrike-Babblers! The highlight for many, however, was surely our first views of Yellow-rumped Honeyguide – a very relaxed individual, which we watched until everyone had had their fill. That evening saw us arrive at our well-perched Trashigang hotel with just enough time to marvel at the sunset-lit valley and Dzong below.

Gathering for breakfast in the pre-dawn light the following day, we could hear the cries of Grey Nightjars both near and far away. Our mission for the morning, however, lay not within the realms of birding, but rather in the task of getting through three consecutive roadblocks before their imminent closure! Stopping only for a handful of showy Crested Buntings, and little else, helped ensure our

success in this regard, but it has to be highlighted that the superb driving by Tenzing (that day, as well as every other) had much more to do with it.

Not long after passing the third and final section of roadworks, we entered the lower portion of mountain forest that leads up to Kori Pass. Having traversed through mostly dry valleys and Chir Pine forests until that point, the moist forests of Kori Pass were not only a welcome sight for birding eyes, but also a delightful change in scenery. Eager to get birding and to stretch our legs, we wasted no time in hopping off the bus for a closer look. Incredibly, the first sizable mixed-species flock that we bumped into attracted at least two Fire-tailed Myzornis – *the only one the group ever saw!* A handful of new birds followed, including a couple of Plain-backed Thrush, until we found ourselves at the top of Kori Pass, where a break for lunch with a view and a visit to the pass's prayer room made for an interesting diversion.



**Red-headed Bullfinch by Rich Lindie**

Not quite done with the forests, and with a little spare time on our hands, we birded a little more before leaving for Yongkola and the lower Lingmethang Road. All in all, we didn't add too many species to the list, but our first sighting of Nepal Fulvetta and Hoary-throated Barwing were not under-appreciated, as were the repeat sightings we had of several previously seen species.

Later in the day, we reached the lower end of the Lingmethang Road, where, after a little effort, we all managed unbeatable views of Black-tailed Crake, followed not long after by White-crested Laughingthrush – a widespread but spectacular species that's always a hit.

Two full days in the Yongkola area is always appealing, not least of all because one gets to unpack for three nights – *made even more appealing by the recent completion of a lovely hotel there.* From a birding standpoint, of course, the extra time is not only enjoyable, as it provides the time in which to familiarise oneself with many of Bhutan's mid-elevation species, but also necessary, as several critical



species found in the area are tricky to find.

We wasted no time in birding the wonderful forests in the area, bagging just about everything we hoped for. The first of the major targets to fall was, believe it or not, the aptly-named Beautiful Nuthatch – *found in the first flock sighted on the first morning, and seen on and off for over an hour thereafter!* In the same mixed flock, we also found our first Blyth's Shrike-Babblers, which also put on a great show. In fact, the theme of birds putting in stellar appearances turned out to be a bit of a theme during our time along the Lingmethang Road, and we ended up with fantastic views of many of our targets, including Rufous-chinned, White-throated and Grey-sided Laughingthrush, Rufous-throated and Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler, Pygmy Flycatcher, Dark-breasted Rosefinch, White-breasted Parrotbill, Yellow-throated Fulvetta, Yellow-bellied Fantails, Black-faced Warblers and even Ward's Trogon – *though the latter took a little more work than usual.*



**Striated Laughingthrush by Rich Lindie**

Other targets also seen, though not quite so well by all, were Pygmy Wren-Babbler, Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler and Red-faced Liocichla; while species like Red-headed Trogon, Blue-capped Rock Thrush and Mrs Gould's Sunbird added great additional colour to the mix. Night drives, too, provided us with some great sightings, and I think it's safe to say that we had more than satisfactory looks at giant flying squirrels.

Amazingly, the day we left Yongkola for Sengor, we continued to enjoy unusually great success on the target front, when some very productive birding along the middle and upper stretches of the Lingmethang Road, including some areas around Sengor camp and the nearby village, produced sightings of such great birds as Golden-naped Finch, Maroon-backed and Rufous-breasted Accentor, Fire-tailed Sunbird, White-browed Shortwing, three species of yuhina, Black-faced Laughingthrushes, Rufous-fronted Bushtit, nesting Nepal House Martins, Grey-crested Tit and Yellow-billed Blue Magpie. That said, we couldn't help our minds from being distracted by the most sought-after of the area's

quarry – Satyr Tragopan – not least because of the number of other passing birders we had bumped into over the previous days who had either missed it altogether or only had very poor views. And so, without any hesitation, we opted for an earlier-than-usual drive along their favoured stretch. Not only did this pay off very quickly, it did so before the evening mist blew in – *a rare occurrence in itself!*

The lower reaches of Thrumsing Pass played host to our second day in the Sengor area, and while the weather was typically uncooperative, and we didn't see a particularly high number of species, we did find most of what we were looking for. Not long after leaving camp, the first significant sighting was that of a Spotted Nutcracker feeding on the roadside, followed shortly by a flurry of new birds, including Spotted Laughingthrush, Darjeeling Woodpecker, and Collared and White-winged Grosbeak. Things quietened down for a while after that – especially as we focused on Great Parrotbill – but our efforts were again rewarded around tea time, when David spotted one of these unusual birds in the gully below us. As a bonus, we managed great views of a male Dark-rumped Rosefinch, but the weather soon got worse and we abandoned the mountainside for a break back at camp, where a flock of Snow Pigeons were once again present.



Coal Tit by Rich Lindie

Given the popularity of the Satyr Tragopan sighting, and knowing some wanted to improve on their photos, we decided one more drive to their favoured area would be more than justified. That, and the fact that their favoured stretch happens to also be one of the best areas for Bar-winged Wren-Babbler. Little did we know that the wren-babbler would put on such a great show so early on, that we ended up with more time than expected. Even less did we know that this would lead us to the star-performance of the tour, indeed longer for some, from none other than another male Satyr Tragopan. That we watched him for so long initially because we thought he was injured is beside the point.

Wing-flapping and head-bobbing soon turned into more rhythmic moves, which can only be described as a bizarre dance, and then the two-part finale... Two horns and his throat flap suddenly became very



distended, as he raised and lowered his neck more and more rapidly, before standing bolt upright and finally darting toward a female, who had mostly gone unnoticed by us, only a few metres from him. Only to repeat the process a few more times! A few thousand shots later, a curtain of mist, and a presumably exhausted male, and it was all over – *firmly placed as the highlight of the trip*.

With quite a bit of ground to cover of the following two days, and with no sightings of Blood Pheasant the previous day, we set off early from Sengor Camp, back to the lower reaches of Thrumsing Pass. Fortunately, we were rewarded with several sightings of the pheasant early on, as well as Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, allowing us a little time to work on White-browed Bush Robin, and to get to the top of the pass in good time. Spectacular views awaited us at the top of the pass, but the drive down the other side was uneventful, to say the least.



**Green-tailed Sunbird by Rich Lindie**

Well over the other side, we did, however, bump into a group of White-throated Redstarts and our first Eurasian Magpies of the trip – the latter only seen over the course of two or three days during our standard tours. Further on, we stopped for lunch in the Ura Valley, where a Water Pipit was our most unexpected sighting. We then drove to Jakar, where howling winds thwarted our first attempts to find Brown Parrotbill, though the sound of hot water showers probably attracted more interest than the parrotbill ever did until that point. I imagine the fireplaces in the rooms went down well too.

Thankfully, our second attempt to see Brown Parrotbill was met with early success, yet again allowing for an early start to another long morning's drive. A drive, however, that turned into almost nothing more than just that, with bad weather and roadworks helping to ensure that birding stops were just shy of completely unproductive, save for the great views we did get of Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush. Fortunately, neither bad weather nor roadworks mattered for our afternoon's activity, as a change of pace saw us exploring another fascinating aspect of Bhutan – its cultural history. And what better way to do so than in the impressive surrounds of the Trongsa Dzong, and in the hands of our esteemed

Bhutanese escorts.

Two nights in the Tingtibi area lay ahead of us when we awoke in Trongsa the following morning, but with quite a bit of road and birding to be covered beforehand. *Not to mention one of the scarier sections of roadworks we encountered on our entire trip!* For the birding part, we had great success, finding some wonderfully rich mixed-species flocks, as well as our first Little Forktail (nesting!) and, finally, a Spotted Elachura that was willing to show – even if it took hearing it from the moving bus to find it in the first place! Some also had looks at Chestnut-headed Tesia, whilst Fire-capped Tit was much more obliging. Further down the hill, and our first Golden Langurs were a worthy distraction, followed not long after by Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike and a couple of flocks of Striated Yuhina. Silver-eared Mesia, on the other hand, took a position as our last new bird of the day, a flock of which was seen just as we arrived at our campsite.



**Great Parrotbill by Rich Lindie**

For the following full day, the Tingtibi area continued to produce the goods, albeit after we abandoned our first intended excursion as a result of some very heavy mist. Highlights of the day included our first of several Pin-tailed Green Pigeons (actually seen just after we left camp), Common Emerald Dove, some vociferous White-throated Bulbuls, nest-building Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes (in the town itself), Common Green Magpie (just on the edge of town, and also seen super well), White-browed Scimitar Babbler and White-hooded Babbler in bamboo near the river, Yellow-bellied and Rufous-faced Warblers, Black-chinned Yuhina, Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher and Maroon Oriole; whilst sightings of Long-tailed Broadbill, Spot-winged Starling and Brahminy Starling were certainly the rarest of the lot.

With just one more new species likely in the area, namely Pale-billed Parrotbill, we spent a little more time around Tingtibi – unfortunately, without any luck. The road back to Trongsa, however, did provide us with some new species, the first of which was a Blue Rock Thrush that was seen, perched



by the roadside above town, followed by a Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle that cruised right over our heads as we stepped out of the bus for lunch. Then, a little further up the hill, a super mixed-flock provided us with great views of both Red-tailed Minla and Golden-breasted Fulvetta, as well as further looks at Nepal Fulvetta, Chestnut-crowned Warbler and Fire-capped Tit. Again, some also glimpsed a Chestnut-headed Tesia; while a Pygmy Wren-Babbler put in an equally unsatisfactory appearance. *Nonetheless, a good day's birding.*

Back on the country's main highway again, the following morning saw us entering the third major leg of our journey through Bhutan, in which we'd find ourselves in the evidently more 'civilised' western region of the country, ending the day in the decidedly more built-up town of Punakha. Not without a brief stop for the much less impressive Russet Bush Warbler, of course.



**Ibisbill by Rich Lindie**

Once in town, and with a little extra daylight to spare, we focused our attention on searching for White-bellied Heron. Alas, we didn't find any, but great views of Kalij Pheasant, Pallas's Fish Eagle and several Ibisbills were a decent consolation.

Failing to find the heron again the following morning, we took some more time off to enjoy the cultural wonders of Bhutan, this time in the truly impressive, and picturesque, Punakha Dzong – *a real highlight of any tour to Bhutan*. Armed once again with our indefatigable team of local guides – dressed to the nines in their Ghost, we all thoroughly enjoyed our time exploring the ancient quarters of past and present holy men and their government counterparts; almost to the point that we forgot about all the birding for a while. But not quite, as we still had the heron to settle a score with.

Sadly, as a result of the severely low numbers of this special bird, possibly coupled with affected breeding patterns in the unseasonal weather that year, we never did find the heron, despite our attempts the previous

afternoon, and again the following morning. Some of us did, on the other hand, manage to find a superb Pallas's Gull; whilst all of us got to see the female Mandarin Duck discovered a few weeks earlier – *a rare bird in Bhutan*, and a superbly cooperative Slender-billed Oriole. We also had our first views of Barred Cuckoo-Dove during our time in Punakha.

Further west, and not far from Thimpu, we stopped for lunch and a bit of birding in the Royal Botanical Gardens, where things were soon looking up again when David picked up a Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler (finally!), marking off one of our final major targets for the tour! Also seen there were our first Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers, more Brown Parrotbills, a large flock of confiding White-throated Laughingthrushes and even a Black-tailed Crake. Another cultural immersion followed that: as we found ourselves in central Thimpu, and in the company of just about our entire ground operations team not long after.



**Tiger's Nest Monastery by Glen Valentine**

Our cultural experience didn't stop there, of course – we still had one very significant stop to make on the 'regular tourist' map. Needless to say, there's nothing regular about Tiger's Nest Monastery, nor is the climb up there something that only tourists do. In fact, it's as much an important pilgrimage for many Bhutanese people as it is one of the top attractions in the sub-continent. Getting there is no mean feat, either, and there's a good reason we set aside much of the day to make the journey up to the monastery and back. *Or at least as far as our respective legs could make it.* Some, for just that reason, didn't make it all the way, though everyone had great views of the monastery, and some even made it a lot further than they expected.

On the down side, we had to get up very early the next morning, so we called it a day very early the previous evening and hauled ourselves into the car at a rather ungodly hour for one final birding trip – this time to the lofty heights of Chele Pass. Pleasingly, and made all the more worthwhile for the sunrise we saw from atop the pass, our efforts were rewarded one last time, with a great morning's birding that followed.



The star bird, of course, was Himalayan Monal, our final major target, and one we saw on more than a handful of occasions, for superb views. We even watched as one soared from the slopes above us down, and along to the cliffs way below our below feet – almost eagle-like in its efforts. We also saw several more Blood Pheasant, a handful of Rufous-vented Tits, another Fire-tailed Sunbird, several Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch and a Red Crossbill to boot. All amid some spectacular scenery, in the company of some very handsome Zoes and never far from the flap of waving prayer flags – a very fitting way to end a tour to the 'kingdom of the dragon'!

## Annotated List of species recorded

**Note:** Number in brackets ( ) indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.  
List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

### Birds (448 in total)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.1).

**Status codes:** **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

**General codes:** **(LO)** = Sighted by one or both of the tour leaders only, **(H)** = Heard only

### Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl *Anatidae*

**Lesser Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica*

Surprisingly, just a handful sighted in and around Kaziranga.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser rubrirostris*

Several sighted in eastern Kaziranga.

**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

Several sighted in eastern Kaziranga, and during our transfer to Nameri.

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

A few sightings in Kaziranga and along the Jia Bhoreli.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

Sighted daily during the Assam extension and then in western Bhutan.

**White-winged Duck (EN)** *Asarcornis scutulata*

Great views of a pair in Nameri – well worth the march!

**Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

One female near Punakha – presumably the same individual seen by the Rockjumper group that preceded us.

**Cotton Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus coromandelianus*

Several in eastern Kaziranga.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera strepera*

Eastern Kaziranga, *en route* to Nameri, and western Bhutan.

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

As with the species above.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*

Eastern Kaziranga and western Bhutan.

**Indian Spot-billed Duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha*

Eastern Kaziranga and *en route* to Nameri.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Several sightings throughout Assam.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Several in and around Kaziranga, and in western Bhutan.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Several sightings in and around Kaziranga.

**Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca crecca*

Sighted throughout Assam, and around Punakha.

**Ferruginous Duck (NT)** *Aythya nyroca*

A handful in eastern Kaziranga.

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*

A few pairs sighted along the Jia Bholeli.

### **Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies Phasianidae**

**Swamp Francolin (VU)** *Francolinus gularis*

Good views of this sought-after species in central Kaziranga.

**Hill Partridge** *Arborophila torqueola*

Heard on several occasions throughout Bhutan, sighted by some along the Lingmethang road and below Chela Pass.

**(H) Chestnut-breasted Partridge (VU)** *Arborophila mandellii*

Heard on several occasions - at lower elevations in Bhutan.

**Blood Pheasant** *Ithaginis cruentus*

Several sightings on both Chele and Thrumsing Passes.

**Satyr Tragopan (NT)** *Tragopan satyra*

An unforgettable and pretty much unbeatable encounter near Sengor. Not to mention several other great sightings in the area!

**Himalayan Monal** *Lophophorus impejanus*

A handful of good sightings around Chele pass, including a male seen 'gliding' below us.

**Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus murghi*

Several sighted in Kaziranga, followed by a couple in Nameri.

**Kalij Pheasant** *Lophura leucomelanos*

Great views, on a few occasions, in rice fields near Punakha.

### **Storks Ciconiidae**

**Asian Openbill** *Anastomus oscitans*

Sighted throughout Assam.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

One sighting, near the Jia.Bholeli

**Woolly-necked Stork (VU)** *Ciconia episcopus episcopus*

Daily sightings during our time near the Brahmaputra.

**Black-necked Stork (NT)** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus asiaticus*

As with the species above.



**Lesser Adjutant (VU)** *Leptoptilos javanicus*

Also sighted several times throughout our time near the Brahmaputra.

**Greater Adjutant (EN)** *Leptoptilos dubius*

Great views at the Guwahati dump, followed by a few others in and around Kaziranga.

### **Ibises and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae***

**Black-headed Ibis (NT)** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Near-daily sightings in Assam.

**(LO) Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

Guwahati.

### **Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae***

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

A handful sighted in the Kaziranga area.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

A handful of sightings in Kaziranga and Nameri.

**Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*

Daily sightings in Assam.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*

As with the species above.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea cinerea*

A few sightings split between the first two days in Assam.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea manilensis*

As with the species above.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Near-daily sightings in Assam.

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia intermedia*

A handful of sightings in Assam.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

Near-daily sightings in Assam, followed by a couple more in the Punakha area.

### **Pelicans *Pelecanidae***

**Spot-billed Pelican (NT)** *Pelecanus philippensis*

A few sightings in and around Kaziranga.

### **Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae***

**Little Cormorant** *Microcarbo niger*

Daily sightings during the Assam extension, followed by a couple near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

Daily sightings during Assam extension, followed by regular sightings at larger rivers in Bhutan.

### **Anhingas *Anhingidae***

**Oriental Darter (NT)** *Anhinga melanogaster*

Several sightings in and around Kaziranga.

### **Osprey *Pandionidae***

#### **Western Osprey**

*Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

Daily sightings in Assam.

### **Hawks, Eagles, and Kites *Accipitridae***

#### **Himalayan Vulture (NT)**

*Gyps himalayensis*

Several sightings in and around Kaziranga, followed by a handful of individuals between Morong and Trashigang.

#### **Red-headed Vulture (CR)**

*Sarcogyps calvus*

Great views in central Kaziranga.

#### **Cinereous Vulture (NT)**

*Aegypius monachus*

Sighted on the first day of the Assam extension only.

#### **Crested Serpent Eagle**

*Spilornis cheela*

Several individuals sighted in Assam, followed by a couple more in Bhutan, including one near our accommodation on the Lingmethang Road.

#### **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**

*Nisaetus cirrhatus*

Great views in eastern Kaziranga.

#### **Mountain Hawk-Eagle**

*Nisaetus nipalensis nipalensis*

Several sighted during our time in Bhutan, of both perched and soaring individuals.

#### **Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle**

*Lophotriorchis kienerii kienerii*

A fantastic sighting during our lunch stop between Tingtibi and Trongsa.

#### **Black Eagle**

*Ictinaetus malaiensis perniger*

Several sightings throughout eastern and central Bhutan.

#### **Greater Spotted Eagle (VU)**

*Clanga clanga*

A couple of sightings in Kaziranga.

#### **Steppe Eagle**

*Aquila nipalensis nipalensis*

A few sightings in Assam, followed by two more in Bhutan (near Punakha).

#### **Crested Goshawk**

*Accipiter trivirgatus*

A handful of sightings in Bhutan, beginning with one near Samdrup Jongkhar.

#### **Shikra**

*Accipiter badius*

A few sightings in Assam.

#### **Besra**

*Accipiter virgatus*

First sighted near Kori Pass.

#### **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**

*Accipiter nisus*

Sighted at a few sites, including Kaziranga and near Kori Pass.

#### **Northern Goshawk**

*Accipiter gentilis*

Also sighted at a few sites, including the Ura Valley.

#### **Pied Harrier**

*Circus melanoleucos*

Great views of a male in central Kaziranga.

#### **Black Kite**

*Milvus migrans*

Common around habitation in Assam, sighted only around Punakha in Bhutan.



**Pallas's Fish Eagle (VU)***Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

Several sightings in Assam, followed by another near Punakha.

**Grey-headed Fish Eagle***Haliaeetus ichthyaetus*

Great views of a handful in and around Kaziranga.

**Himalayan Buzzard***Buteo burmanicus*

Several sightings throughout Bhutan.

**Bustards *Otididae*****Bengal Florican (CR)***Houbaropsis bengalensis bengalensis*

One female in flight in central Kaziranga.

**Rails, Gallinules, and Coots *Rallidae*****White-breasted Waterhen***Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Several sightings in Assam.

**Black-tailed Crake***Porzana bicolor*

Great views of a two - at the base of the Lingmethang road, followed by another - in the Royal Botanical Gardens near Thimpu.

**Grey-headed Swampphen***Porphyrio poliocephalus*

A couple of sightings near Guwahati.

**Eurasian Coot***Fulica atra atra*

A few sightings in and around Kaziranga.

**Buttonquails *Turnicidae*****Barred Buttonquail***Turnix suscitator*

A few flushed during our elephant-ride in central Kaziranga.

**Thick-knees *Burhinidae*****Indian Stone-curlew***Burhinus indicus*

Great views of a handful during our time in the Nameri area.

**Great Stone-curlew (NT)***Esacus recurvirostris*

As with the species above.

**Ibisbill *Ibidorhynchidae*****Ibisbill***Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

Several sighted, including two along the Jia Bholeli and a handful in the Punakha area.

**Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae*****Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avosetta*

Sighted on two out of the three days we spent in the Punakha area.

**Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*****Northern Lapwing***Vanellus vanellus*

Several sightings in and around Kaziranga.

**River Lapwing (NT)***Vanellus duvaucelii*

Sightings along the Jia Bhareli and throughout the Punakha area.

**Grey-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus cinereus*

A few sightings near Kaziranga.

**Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*

Near-daily sightings in Assam, followed by several in the Punakha area.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

Several dozen in eastern Kaziranga.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Kaziranga, Nameri and Punakha.

### **Jacanas Jacanidae**

**Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

Several in and around Kaziranga.

**Bronze-winged Jacana** *Metopidius indicus*

As with the species above.

### **Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae**

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

A few sightings - split between central and eastern Kaziranga.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Several sightings in and around Kaziranga.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Sighted on our first day in Assam only.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Daily sightings in Assam, followed by a few more in the Punakha area.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

A handful of sightings, including a few in Kaziranga and one near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Several individuals sighted in and around Kaziranga.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

A handful of sightings, including a few in Assam, and a few around Punakha.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

A handful during our first two days in Assam.

### **Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae**

**Small Pratincole** *Glareola lactea*

Great views during our time in the Nameri area.

### **Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Laridae**

**Pallas's Gull** *Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus*

One sighting (for some) near Punakha.

**River Tern (NT)** *Sterna aurantia*

A few individuals sighted in Kaziranga and Nameri.

### Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

<b>Rock Dove</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>
Throughout Assam, and central and eastern Bhutan.	
<b>Snow Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba leuconota</i>
Great views during our time in Sengor.	
<b>Speckled Wood Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba hodgsonii</i>
Also seen well in the Sengor area.	
<b>Oriental Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
A couple of sightings in Assam and near-daily sightings throughout Bhutan.	
<b>Red Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
A couple of sightings between Kaziranga and Nameri.	
<b>Spotted Dove</b>	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Regular sightings throughout Assam and eastern Bhutan.	
<b>Barred Cuckoo-Dove</b>	<i>Macropygia unchall tusalia</i>
Two sightings near Punakha.	
<b>Common Emerald Dove</b>	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Following a few brief sightings in Assam, we were pleased to get great views in Tingtibi.	
<b>Yellow-footed Green Pigeon</b>	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>
Several sightings during the first two days of the Assam extension.	
<b>Pin-tailed Green Pigeon</b>	<i>Treron apicauda apicauda</i>
A few great looks during our time in the Tingtibi area.	
<b>Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon</b>	<i>Treron sphenurus sphenurus</i>
A few sightings in Nameri.	
<b>Green Imperial Pigeon</b>	<i>Ducula aenea</i>
Several sightings in Assam.	
<b>Mountain Imperial Pigeon</b>	<i>Ducula badia</i>
A handful of sightings in Bhutan, including a few around Morong.	

### Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

<b>Greater Coucal</b>	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
A handful of sightings spread throughout the Assam extension.	
<b>Green-billed Malkoha</b>	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis tristis</i>
A few good sightings in and around Kaziranga, as well as near Samdrup Jongkhar.	
<b>Asian Koel</b>	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
A couple of sightings on the first day of the Assam extension.	
<b>(H) Banded Bay Cuckoo</b>	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii sonneratii</i>
Nameri.	
<b>(H) Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo</b>	<i>Surniculus lugubris lugubris</i>
Tingtibi.	
<b>Large Hawk-Cuckoo</b>	<i>Hierococcyx sparveriioides</i>
Two sightings in Nameri, heard throughout Bhutan.	



**Owls *Strigidae*****(H) Mountain Scops Owl***Otus spilocephalus*

Heard along the Lingmethang road and in the Bumthang Valley.

**(H) Himalayan Owl***Strix niviculum niviculum*

Heard around Sengor.

**Collared Owlet***Glaucidium brodiei brodiei*

Heard in Nameri and throughout Bhutan but sighted only once - near Morong.

**Asian Barred Owlet***Glaucidium cuculoides*

A handful of sightings including a few in the Kaziranga area and two in the Morong area.

**Spotted Owlet***Athene brama*

Several sightings in Assam.

**Brown Hawk-Owl***Ninox scutulata*

A pair seen roosting in Nameri Ecocamp.

**Nightjars and Allies *Caprimulgidae*****(H) Grey Nightjar***Caprimulgus jotaka hazarae*

Heard outside our accommodation in Trashigang.

**Large-tailed Nightjar***Caprimulgus macrurus*

A few brief but decent sightings during an evening excursion to the Jia Bhoreli River.

**Swifts *Apodidae*****Himalayan Swiftlet***Aerodramus brevirostris brevirostris*

Several sightings throughout Bhutan.

**Asian Palm Swift***Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Daily sightings in Assam.

**Blyth's Swift***Apus leuconyx*

Also sighted several times in Bhutan.

**House Swift***Apus nipalensis nipalensis*

A few in the Nameri area, and during our first day in Bhutan.

**Trogon *Trogonidae*****Red-headed Trogon***Harpactes erythrocephalus erythrocephalus*

A brief sighting near Samdrup Jongkhar, followed by great views along the Lingmethang Road.

**Ward's Trogon (NT)***Harpactes wardi*

Persistence eventually rewarded during our second day along the Lingmethang Road.

**Rollers *Coraciidae*****Indian Roller***Coracias benghalensis*

Daily sightings in Assam.

**Oriental Dollarbird***Eurystomus orientalis*

Sighted on all visits to Nameri National Park and surrounds.

**Kingfishers *Alcedinidae***

---

<b>Stork-billed Kingfisher</b> Several sighted in Assam.	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
<b>White-throated Kingfisher</b> Numerous sightings throughout both tours.	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
<b>Common Kingfisher</b> A handful of sightings on both tours.	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
<b>Crested Kingfisher</b> Sighted near Samdrup Jongkhar and at several sites in western Bhutan.	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>
<b>Pied Kingfisher</b> Near-daily sightings in Assam.	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>

### **Bee-eaters *Meropidae***

<b>Blue-bearded Bee-eater</b> A surprisingly high number of sightings in Assam, as well as several in and above Tingtibi.	<i>Nyctornis athertoni athertoni</i>
<b>Green Bee-eater</b> A handful of sightings during our time in Assam.	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
<b>Blue-tailed Bee-eater</b> Great views of a few in western Kaziranga.	<i>Merops philippinus javanicus</i>
<b>Chestnut-headed Bee-eater</b> Near-daily sightings in Assam, followed by a few in the Tingtibi area.	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>

### **Hoopoes *Upupidae***

<b>Eurasian Hoopoe</b> Several sightings split between the two tours.	<i>Upupa epops</i>
--	--------------------

### **Hornbills *Bucerotidae***

<b>Great Hornbill (NT)</b> Near-daily sightings in Assam, and in the Tingtibi area.	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
<b>(LO) Oriental Pied Hornbill</b> Kaziranga and Nameri.	<i>Anthraceroceros albirostris albirostris</i>
<b>Rufous-necked Hornbill (VU)</b> A handful of fantastic sightings in Bhutan – most along the Ligmethang road.	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>
<b>Wreathed Hornbill</b> A few sightings near/from the Jia Bhoreli, followed by another near Morong.	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>

### **Asian Barbets *Megalaimidae***

<b>Great Barbet</b> Heard at the Hathikuli tea estate, sighted throughout Bhutan.	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>
<b>Lineated Barbet</b> Daily sightings in Assam.	<i>Psilopogon lineatus hodgsoni</i>
<b>Golden-throated Barbet</b> Great views of a few in the Morong area, and along the Ligmethang Road.	<i>Psilopogon franklinii franklinii</i>
<b>Blue-throated Barbet</b>	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus asiaticus</i>

Sighted at several sites, including Kaziranga, Nameri and Tingtibi.

**Blue-eared Barbet**

*Psilopogon duvaucelii cyanotis*

A handful sighted at the Hathikuli Tea Estate.

**Coppersmith Barbet**

*Psilopogon haemacephalus indicus*

Several sightings in and around Kaziranga.

### **Honeyguides Indicatoridae**

**Yellow-rumped Honeyguide (NT)**

*Indicator xanthonotus*

Sightings on three days, and at three separate sites, in Bhutan!

### **Woodpeckers Picidae**

**White-browed Piculet**

*Sasia ochracea ochracea*

A fantastic sighting of a pair near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**

*Yungipicus canicapillus*

A handful of sightings split between Nameri National Park and the Tingtibi.

**Crimson-breasted Woodpecker**

*Dryobates cathpharius cathpharius*

Several sightings in Bhutan, including one of a nest-building pair.

**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos hyperythrus*

A few individuals in and around the Royal Botanical Gardens.

**Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos macei*

A handful in Nameri National Park.

**Darjeeling Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos darjellensis darjellensis*

A couple of sightings below Thrumsing Pass.

**Greater Yellownappe**

*Chrysophlegma flavinucha flavinucha*

Sighted at several locations, including Morong, the Lingmethang road and Tingtibi.

**Lesser Yellownappe**

*Picus chlorolophus*

A couple of sightings during our first two days in Bhutan.

**Streak-throated Woodpecker**

*Picus xanthopygaeus*

A brief sighting in central Kaziranga National Park.

**Grey-headed Woodpecker**

*Picus canus*

A few sightings, including a few in Kaziranga and in Tingtibi.

**Black-rumped Flameback**

*Dinopium benghalense*

A handful sighted in central and eastern Kaziranga.

**Greater Flameback**

*Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*

A few individuals in Nameri National Park.

**Bay Woodpecker**

*Blythipicus pyrrhotis pyrrhotis*

Several heard and a handful sighted during our time in Bhutan.

**Rufous Woodpecker**

*Micropternus brachyurus*

A handful of sightings in the Nameri area.

### **Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae**

**Pied Falconet**

*Microhierax melanoleucos*



A couple of small groups in western Kaziranga.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

A few sightings in Assam, near-daily sightings in western Bhutan.

**Oriental Hobby** *Falco severus severus*

A pair sighted at their usual tower, alongside the Kaziranga border road.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

Great views near the Nameri National Park guard huts.

### **Old World Parrots *Psittaculidae***

**(LO) Blossom-headed Parakeet (NT)** *Psittacula roseata*

Hathikuli and western Kaziranga.

**Red-breasted Parakeet (NT)** *Psittacula alexandri*

Daily sightings in Assam.

**Alexandrine Parakeet (NT)** *Psittacula eupatria*

At least a handful of sightings in Kaziranga.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Sighted throughout Kaziranga.

**(H) Vernal Hanging Parrot** *Loriculus vernalis vernalis*

Nameri National Park.

### **Broadbills *Eurylaimidae***

**Long-tailed Broadbill** *Psarisomus dalhousiae dalhousiae*

A fantastic sighting near our camp in Tingtibi.

### **Woodshrikes and allies *Tephrodornithidae***

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

Great views in the Tingtibi area.

**Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis virgatus pelvius*

A couple of sightings at the Hathikuli Tea Estate.

**Common Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

As with the species above.

### **Woodswallows, butcherbirds and allies *Artamidae***

**Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus*

A few sightings in and around Kaziranga.

### **Ioras *Aegithinidae***

**Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*

Several sightings in Assam, a few during our first day in Bhutan.

### **Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae***

**Large Cuckooshrike** *Coracina macei*

Hathikuli Tea Estate, western Kaziranga and Nameri.

**Black-winged Cuckooshrike***Coracina melaschistos melaschistos*

A couple of sightings at Hathikuli Tea Estate, several in Bhutan.

**Rosy Minivet***Pericrocotus roseus*

A pair in Hathikuli Tea Estate.

**Grey-chinned Minivet***Pericrocotus solaris solaris*

Several sightings during our first week in Bhutan.

**Long-tailed Minivet***Pericrocotus ethologus*

Sightings throughout Assam, and at a few locations in Bhutan, including Tingtibi.

**Short-billed Minivet***Pericrocotus brevirostris*

Just two definite sightings – one during our drive to Tingtibi, the other between Trongsa and Punakha.

**Scarlet Minivet***Pericrocotus speciosus*

Regular sightings in Assam and around Tingtibi.

**Shrikes Laniidae****Brown Shrike***Lanius cristatus*

Two sightings in the Kaziranga area, followed by another between Samdrup Jongkhar and Morong.

**Long-tailed Shrike***Lanius schach*

Several sightings on both tour segments.

**Grey-backed Shrike***Lanius tephronotus*

As with the species above.

**Vireos Vireonidae****White-bellied Erpornis***Erpornis zantholeuca zantholeuca*

Surprisingly few sightings but a few seen very well in a mixed bird party on our first morning in Bhutan.

**Blyth's Shrike-Babbler***Pteruthius aeralatus validirostris*

Unusually good views of both males and females – in a mixed-species flock, along the Lingmethang Road.

**Green Shrike-Babbler***Pteruthius xanthochlorus*

Great looks at a few individuals, mostly coming in to investigate owl recordings/imitation.

**Black-eared Shrike-Babbler***Pteruthius melanotis melanotis*

One sighting during our last morning in the Morong area.

**Old World Orioles Oriolidae****Slender-billed Oriole***Oriolus tenuirostris tenuirostris*

Fantastic views near our hotel in Punakha.

**Black-hooded Oriole***Oriolus xanthornus*

Near-daily sightings in Assam.

**Maroon Oriole***Oriolus traillii traillii*

Sighted in Nameri National Park and around Tingtibi.

**Drongos Dicruridae****Black Drongo***Dicrurus macrocercus*

Near-daily sightings in Assam.

**Ashy Drongo***Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Two sightings in Assam (Hathikuli) and numerous sightings throughout Bhutan.

**Bronzed Drongo***Dicrurus aeneus aeneus*

Also sighted in Hathikuli and throughout Bhutan.

**Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus remifer tectirostris*

Eventually seen very well just outside Tingtibi.

**Hair-crested Drongo***Dicrurus hottentottus hottentottus*

Several throughout Assam and in the Tingtibi area.

**Greater Racket-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus paradiseus*

Sighted at several locations, including Kaziranga and the Lingmethang Road.

**Fantails *Rhipiduridae*****White-throated Fantail***Rhipidura albicollis*

Several sightings, throughout Bhutan.

**Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*****Black-naped Monarch***Hypothymis azurea*

Sighted in the Kaziranga area, near Samdrup Jongkhar and along the lowest section of the Lingmethang Road.

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*****Eurasian Jay***Garrulus glandarius*

Several sightings in Bhutan, mostly in the west.

**Yellow-billed Blue Magpie***Urocissa flavirostris*

Sighted at all high-elevation sites in central and western Bhutan.

**Common Green Magpie***Cissa chinensis chinensis*

Great views in Tingtibi.

**Rufous Treepie***Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Daily sightings in and around Kaziranga.

**Grey Treepie***Dendrocitta formosae*

A couple of sightings in the Kaziranga area, numerous more in Bhutan.

**Eurasian Magpie***Pica pica*

Several in the Ura and Bumthang valleys.

**Spotted Nutcracker***Nucifraga caryocatactes macella*

Sighted along the highest passes, including Thrumsing and Chele.

**Red-billed Chough***Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax himalayanus*

As with the species above.

**House Crow***Corvus splendens*

Large cities in both countries, including Guwahati, Samdrup Jongkhar and Thimpu.

**Large-billed Crow***Corvus macrorhynchos*

Near-daily sightings Bhutan.

**Eastern Jungle Crow***Corvus levaillantii*

Sighted throughout Assam, and possibly in Bhutan.



**Fairy Flycatchers *Stenostiridae*****Yellow-bellied Fantail***Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus*

Several sightings along the Lingmethang road and below Trongsa.

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

Kaziranga and several locations in Bhutan.

**Chickadees and Tits *Paridae*****Fire-capped Tit***Cephalopyrus flammiceps*

A few sightings in central and western Bhutan, including two below Trongsa.

**Yellow-browed Tit***Sylviparus modestus*

A handful of sightings in eastern and central Bhutan.

**Sultan Tit***Melanochlora sultanea sultanea*

Great views of several during our first morning in Bhutan, followed by more around Tingtibi.

**Rufous-vented Tit***Periparus rubidiventris*

Surprisingly few sighted, and only around Thrumsing Pass and Chele Pass.

**Coal Tit***Periparus ater*

Sighted at several of the high-elevation sites visited, including the Sengor are and Chele Pass.

**Grey Crested Tit***Lophophanes dichrous*

As with the species above.

**Cinereous Tit***Parus cinereus*

A handful of sightings in and around Kaziranga.

**Green-backed Tit***Parus monticolus*

Near-daily sightings in Bhutan.

**Yellow-cheeked Tit***Machlolophus spilonotus*

Several sightings in eastern Bhutan, most of which were in the Morong area, and along the Lingmethang Road.

**Larks *Alaudidae*****Bengal Bush Lark***Mirafra assamica*

Great views in central Kaziranga.

**Oriental Skylark***Alauda gulgula*

Also sighted during our elephant rides, as well as at a few sites in Bhutan, including the Ura Valley.

**Sand Lark***Alaudala raytal*

A couple of sightings during our raft trip down the Jia Bhoreli.

**Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*****Striated Bulbul***Pycnonotus striatus*

First sighted in the Morong area.

**Black-crested Bulbul***Pycnonotus flaviventris flaviventris*

Nameri, Samdrup Jongkhar and Tingtibi.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul***Pycnonotus jocosus*

Nameri and the Samdrup Jongkhar area.

**(LO) Himalayan Bulbul***Pycnonotus leucogenys*

Trongsa and Lingmethang.

**Red-vented Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus cafer*

Sighted throughout Assam and Bhutan.

**White-throated Bulbul**

*Alophoixus flaveolus flaveolus*

Great views during our time in the Tingtibi area.

**Mountain Bulbul**

*Ixos mcclellandii mcclellandii*

Morong, the Lingmethang road, and between Trongsa and Punakha.

**Ashy Bulbul**

*Hemixos flavala flavala*

Samdrup Jongkhar and around Tingtibi.

**Black Bulbul**

*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Nameri National Park and throughout Bhutan (at low and mid-elevation sites).

### **Swallows *Hirundinidae***

**Grey-throated Martin**

*Riparia chinensis chinensis*

A couple of sightings along the Jia Bholeli.

**Sand Martin**

*Riparia riparia*

Several sightings in Assam.

**Barn Swallow**

*Hirundo rustica*

Daily sightings in Assam, and a handful in Bhutan.

**Asian House Martin**

*Delichon dasypus cashmeriense*

One sighting in Assam, and another near Punakha.

**Nepal House Martin**

*Delichon nipalense nipalense*

Several great sightings in Bhutan, including a few of nest-attending birds.

**Red-rumped Swallow**

*Cecropis daurica*

A few sightings in and around Kaziranga, and another from our accommodation in Yongkhola.

**Striated Swallow**

*Cecropis striolata mayri*

A few individuals at the Hathikuli Tea Estate.

### **Cupwings *Pnoepygidae***

**Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler**

*Pnoepyga albiventer*

Amazing views near Morong.

**Pygmy Wren-Babbler**

*Pnoepyga pusilla pusilla*

A chance sighting (for some) along the Lingmethang road, and one we had to work hard for below Trongsa.

### **Bush-Warblers and Allies *Cettiidae***

**Yellow-bellied Warbler**

*Abroscopus superciliosus*

A few sightings in the Tingtibi area.

**Rufous-faced Warbler**

*Abroscopus albogularis albogularis*

As with the species above.

**Black-faced Warbler**

*Abroscopus schisticeps*

Several great views, along the Lingmethang road and around Morong.

**Brown-flanked Bush Warbler**

*Horornis fortipes*

Several heard and a few sighted near Morong.

**Aberrant Bush Warbler**

*Horornis flavolivaceus*

Morong campsite.

**(H) Slaty-bellied Tesia**

*Tesia olivea olivea*

Heard along the road below Trongsa.

**Chestnut-headed Tesia**

*Cettia castaneocoronata castaneocoronata*

Two sightings between Trongsa and Tingtibi – one during our trip down, and another on our way back up.

**Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalidae***

**Black-throated Bushtit**

*Aegithalos concinnus*

Sighted at a handful of sites in Bhutan, including the Morong area and the Lingmethang Road.

**Rufous-fronted Bushtit**

*Aegithalos iouschistos*

First sighted along the lower reaches of Thrumsing Pass.

**Leaf-Warblers *Phylloscopidae***

**Dusky Warbler**

*Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*

Near-daily sightings in Assam.

**Tickell's Leaf Warbler**

*Phylloscopus affinis*

As with the species above.

**Buff-barred Warbler**

*Phylloscopus pulcher*

Several sightings throughout eastern and central Bhutan.

**Ashy-throated Warbler**

*Phylloscopus maculipennis*

Also sighted throughout eastern and central Bhutan.

**Lemon-rumped Warbler**

*Phylloscopus chloronotus*

As with the above two species, in addition to sightings around Chele Pass.

**Yellow-browed Warbler**

*Phylloscopus inornatus*

Near-daily sightings in Assam.

**Greenish Warbler**

*Phylloscopus trochiloides*

As with the species above.

**Blyth's Leaf Warbler**

*Phylloscopus reguloides*

Sightings at a handful of sites in Bhutan, including the upper Lingmethang Road.

**Yellow-vented Warbler**

*Phylloscopus cantator cantator*

A few sightings near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Grey-hooded Warbler**

*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*

Recorded at most mid-elevation forest sites in east and central Bhutan.

**Grey-cheeked Warbler**

*Seicercus poliogenys*

A few sightings along the Lingmethang Road.

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler**

*Seicercus castaniceps castaniceps*

Sightings around Morong, the Lingmethang Road, and around Trongsa.

**Reed-Warblers and Allies *Acrocephalidae***

**Thick-billed Warbler**

*Iduna aedon aedon*



Two sightings in Nameri National Park.

### **Grassbirds and Allies *Locustellidae***

- Russet Bush Warbler** *Locustella mandelli mandelli*  
One sighting between Trongsa and Punakha.
- Striated Grassbird** *Megalurus palustris toklao*  
A couple of individuals at the Guwahati dump.

### **Cisticolas and Allies *Cisticolidae***

- Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*  
A handful in central Kaziranga NP.
- Striated Prinia** *Prinia crinigera*  
Several sightings throughout Bhutan.
- Rufescent Prinia** *Prinia rufescens rufescens*  
A few sightings near Samdrup Jongkhar.
- (H) Yellow-bellied Prinia** *Prinia flaviventris*  
Heard along the shores of the Jia Bholeli.
- Ashy Prinia** *Prinia socialis*  
A few in central Kaziranga NP.
- Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*  
As with the species above.
- Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*  
Several sightings in Assam, a couple near Samdrup Jongkhar.
- Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthotomus atrogularis nitidus*  
A couple in Kaziranga NP.

### **Babblers *Timaliidae***

- Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*  
Great views of a few, in farmland between Morning and Trashigang.
- White-browed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*  
Two or three individuals in the Tingtibi area.
- Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*  
A few, scattered sightings, including a couple along the Lingmethang Road.
- Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus superciliaris*  
One sighting at the Royal Botanical Gardens.
- Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler (NT)** *Spelaeornis caudatus*  
One sighting along the lower Lingmethang Road.
- Bar-winged Wren-Babbler** *Spelaeornis troglodytoides*  
An unbeatable sighting near Sengor.
- Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler (NT)** *Sphenocichla humei*  
One sighting along the lower Lingmethang Road.
- Grey-throated Babbler** *Stachyris nigriceps*

One sighting near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Rufous-fronted Babbler**

*Stachyridopsis rufifrons*

Also only sighted near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Rufous-capped Babbler**

*Stachyridopsis ruficeps ruficeps*

A few sightings along the middle and upper sections of the Lingmethang Road.

**Golden Babbler**

*Stachyridopsis chrysaea*

Also sighted a few times along the Lingmethang Road.

**Pin-striped Tit-Babbler**

*Macronus gularis rubicapilla*

One sighting in Kaziranga NP, a few more in Nameri NP.

**Chestnut-capped Babbler**

*Timalia pileata bengalensis*

One sighting of a small flock in central Kaziranga NP.

### **Fulvettas and Ground Babblers *Pellorneidae***

**Yellow-throated Fulvetta**

*Alcippe cinerea*

A couple of small flocks along the Lingmethang Road.

**Rufous-winged Fulvetta**

*Alcippe castaneiceps castaneiceps*

Several sightings along the Lingmethang Road, followed by a few more between Trongsa and Tingtibi.

**Nepal Fulvetta**

*Alcippe nipalensis*

Sightings near Kori Pass and between Trongsa and Tingtibi.

**White-hooded Babbler**

*Gampsorhynchus rufulus*

A couple of great sightings in the Tingtibi area.

**Abbott's Babbler**

*Malacocincla abbotti*

Nameri NP only.

**Puff-throated Babbler**

*Pellorneum ruficeps*

Great views of a pair in central Kaziranga NP, followed by another near Samdrup Jongkhar.

### **Laughingthrushes *Leiothrichidae***

**Striated Babbler**

*Turdoides earlei*

A couple of sightings in the grasslands of central Kaziranga.

**Jungle Babbler**

*Turdoides striata*

Two sightings near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**White-crested Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax leucolophus*

Sightings near Morong and below Yongkola.

**Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax rufogularis*

Unbeatable views along the Lingmethang Road.

**Spotted Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax ocellatus*

Two sightings at the lower end of Thrumsing Pass.

**White-throated Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax albogularis*

Several great encounters along the Lingmethang Road and in western Bhutan.

**Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax monileger*

Two sightings near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax pectoralis pectoralis*

A couple of sightings in Hathikuli Tea Estate.

**Rufous-necked Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax ruficollis*

Great views of several in the Tingtibi area.

**Grey-sided Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax caerulatus*

Unusually great views of a few individuals feeding on the edge of the Lingmethang Road.

**Striated Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax striatus*

First sighted during our drive to Yongkola, most common along the Lingmethang Road.

**Bhutan Laughingthrush**

*Trochalopteron imbricatum*

Several sightings in the Morong area.

**(LO) Blue-winged Laughingthrush**

*Trochalopteron squamatum*

Near Trashigang.

**Black-faced Laughingthrush**

*Trochalopteron affine*

Sightings around Sengor, Thrumsing Pass and Chele Pass.

**Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush**

*Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*

A few, scattered sightings, the best of which was a responsive individual near Trongsa.

**Himalayan Cutia**

*Cutia nipalensis nipalensis*

Just the one sighting- along the Lingmethang Road.

**Blue-winged Minla**

*Minla cyanouroptera*

One sighting near Samdrup Jongkhar, another along the Lingmethang Road.

**Bar-throated Minla**

*Minla strigula*

Several sightings along the Lingmethang Road, as well as a few near Kori Pass.

**Red-tailed Minla**

*Minla ignotincta ignotincta*

One sighting below Trongsa.

**Red-faced Liocichla**

*Liocichla phoenicea*

One sighting along the Lingmethang Road.

**Rusty-fronted Barwing**

*Actinodura egertoni*

Sightings around Morong and along the Lingmethang Road.

**Hoary-throated Barwing**

*Actinodura nipalensis*

A few, scattered sightings, including a couple near Sengor.

**Silver-eared Mesia**

*Leiothrix argenteauris*

One flock near our campsite in Tingtibi.

**(H) Red-billed Leiothrix**

*Leiothrix lutea*

Near Trongsa, during our drive to Punakha.

**Rufous Sibia**

*Heterophasia capistrata*

Near-daily sightings in eastern and central Bhutan.

**Long-tailed Sibia**

*Heterophasia picaoides picaoides*

A few sightings near Morong.

### **Old World Warblers Sylviidae**

**Fire-tailed Myzornis**

*Myzornis pyrrhura*

One sighting near Kori Pass.

**Golden-breasted Fulvetta**

*Lioparus chrysotis*



A brief sighting along the Lingmethang Road, followed by a decent one below Trongsa.

**White-browed Fulvetta***Fulvetta vinipectus*

Sighted at several of the higher elevation sites, including the Sengor area and around Chele Pass.

**Great Parrotbill***Conostoma aemodum*

One sighting along the lower reaches of Thrumsing Pass.

**Brown Parrotbill***Cholornis unicolor*

Great sightings at both the Jakar airport and in the Royal Botanical Gardens.

**Pale-billed Parrotbill***Chleuasicus atrosuperciliaris*

One sighting, and only for some of us, near Tingtibi.

**White-breasted Parrotbill***Psittiparus ruficeps*

One sighting along the Lingmethang Road, a couple more around Tingtibi.

**Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies Zosteropidae****Striated Yuhina***Yuhina castaniceps*

Two flocks near Tingtibi.

**White-naped Yuhina***Yuhina bakeri*

A few sightings, split between Morning and the Lingmethang Road.

**Whiskered Yuhina***Yuhina flavicollis*

Several sightings, throughout eastern and central Bhutan.

**Stripe-throated Yuhina***Yuhina gularis*

A few sighted in the Sengor area and around Yutong Pass.

**Rufous-vented Yuhina***Yuhina occipitalis occipitalis*

A few around Kori Pass and around Sengor.

**Black-chinned Yuhina***Yuhina nigrimenta*

A couple of flocks near Tingtibi.

**Oriental White-eye***Zosterops palpebrosus*

Several sightings, throughout Bhutan and in Nameri NP.

**Fairy-bluebirds Irenidae****Asian Fairy-bluebird***Irena puella*

Hathikuli Tea Estate, Nameri NP and the Samdrup Jongkhar area.

**Kinglets Regulidae****Goldcrest***Regulus regulus*

Two sightings near Sengor, followed by a few more around Chele Pass.

**Elachuras Elachuridae****Spotted Elachura***Elachura formosa*

One sighting between Trongsa and Tingtibi.

**Wrens Troglodytidae****Eurasian Wren***Troglodytes troglodytes*

A handful of sightings, including a few around Thrumsing Pass.

**Nuthatches Sittidae****Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch***Sitta cinnamoventris*

Sightings around Samdrup Jongkhar and Tingtibi.

**White-tailed Nuthatch***Sitta himalayensis*

Near-daily sightings in eastern and central Bhutan.

**Velvet-fronted Nuthatch***Sitta frontalis frontalis*

A few seen well in Nameri NP.

**Beautiful Nuthatch (VU)***Sitta formosa*

Great views of at least two along the Lingmethang Road.

**Wallcreeper Tichodromidae****Wallcreeper***Tichodroma muraria nepalensis*

A handful of sightings, spread throughout Bhutan.

**Treecreepers Certhiidae****Hodgson's Treecreeper***Certhia hodgsoni mandellii*

A few sightings along the Lingmethang Road, and below Chele Pass.

**Sikkim Treecreeper***Certhia discolor*

Also sighted along the Lingmethang Road, as well as the road to Tingtibi and in the Royal Botanical Gardens.

**Starlings Sturnidae****Spot-winged Starling***Saroglossa spiloptera*

On sighting in Tingtibi.

**Common Hill Myna***Gracula religiosa*

One sighting near our camp in Nameri.

**Great Myna***Acridotheres grandis*

Daily sightings in Assam.

**Jungle Myna***Acridotheres fuscus*

Also sighted daily in Assam, as well as around Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Bank Myna***Acridotheres ginginianus*

A handful of sightings in Assam.

**Common Myna***Acridotheres tristis tristis*

Near-daily sightings in Assam, and in central and western Bhutan.

**Pied Myna***Gracupica contra*

Several sightings, throughout Assam.

**Chestnut-tailed Starling***Sturnia malabarica*

Common in Assam, as well as around Samdrup Jongkhar and Tingtibi.

**Brahminy Starling***Sturnia pagodarum*

One sighting in Tingtibi.

**Thrushes and Allies Turdidae****Plain-backed Thrush***Zoothera mollissima mollissima*

First sighted near Kori Pass.

**Black-breasted Thrush**

*Turdus dissimilis*

A few brief sightings in Nameri NP.

**White-collared Blackbird**

*Turdus albocinctus*

Several sightings, throughout Bhutan.

**Grey-winged Blackbird**

*Turdus bouboul*

Kori Pass, Royal Botanical Gardens and Chele Pass.

**Black-throated Thrush**

*Turdus atrogularis*

Several sightings, throughout Bhutan.

**Red-throated Thrush**

*Turdus ruficollis*

First sighted in the Bumthang Valley.

### **Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae***

**Oriental Magpie-Robin**

*Copsychus saularis*

Sighted throughout Assam and Bhutan.

**White-rumped Shama**

*Copsychus malabaricus*

One sighting near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**White-gorgeted Flycatcher**

*Anthipes monileger*

A couple of brief sightings along the Lingmethang Road.

**Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher**

*Cyornis rubeculoides rubeculoides*

Great views of a handful in the Tingtibi area.

**Large Niltava**

*Niltava grandis grandis*

Great views of a few in the Morong area.

**Small Niltava**

*Niltava macgrigoriae*

Sighted around Nameri and in the Morong area.

**Verditer Flycatcher**

*Eumyias thalassinus thalassinus*

Several sightings, throughout both Assam and Bhutan.

**White-browed Shortwing**

*Brachypteryx montana cruralis*

One brief sighting near Sengor.

**Siberian Rubythroat**

*Calliope calliope calliope*

A couple of sightings near our camp in Nameri, followed by another in Morong.

**White-browed Bush Robin**

*Tarsiger indicus indicus*

A few frustratingly brief sightings below Thrumsing Pass.

**Himalayan Bluetail**

*Tarsiger rufilatus*

Great looks at a few around Chele Pass.

**Golden Bush Robin**

*Tarsiger chrysaeus*

A couple around the Morong camp, another in Narphung.

**Little Forktail**

*Enicurus scouleri*

Great views of a nest-building pair, between Trongsa and Tingtibi.

**Slaty-backed Forktail**

*Enicurus schistaceus*

A few individuals near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Spotted Forktail**

*Enicurus maculatus*



A few sightings in the Morong area, followed by another near Trongsa.

**Blue Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*

Near-daily sightings, throughout the trip.

**Slaty-backed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hodgsonii*

A few sightings in the Nameri area, another between Samdrup Jongkhar and Morong.

**Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophinata strophinata*

A few, scattered sightings, including some along the Lingmethang Road.

**Taiga Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*

A handful of sightings in Assam.

**Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*

One sighting in Hathikuli Tea Estate.

**Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor*

One sighting in the Morong area.

**Sapphire Flycatcher** *Ficedula sapphira sapphira*

One female was seen near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Pygmy Flycatcher** *Muscicapella hodgsoni hodgsoni*

Great views on two occasions, along the Lingmethang Road.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Two sightings in Kaziranga NP, another near Trongsa.

**Hodgson's Redstart** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

Several sightings, throughout Bhutan.

**White-throated Redstart** *Phoenicurus schisticeps*

A small group, west of Thrumsing Pass.

**Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*

Sighted on about half the days we spent in Bhutan.

**Plumbeous Water Redstart** *Phoenicurus fuliginosus fuliginosus*

As with the species above.

**White-capped Redstart** *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*

Also seen on about half the days we spent in Bhutan.

**Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*

One brief sighting (for some) on the shores of the Jia Bhoreli, first seen well near Tingtibi.

**Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris*

Several great sightings, mostly in eastern Bhutan.

**Blue-capped Rock Thrush** *Monticola cinclorhynchus*

A few sightings, most of which were had around Tingtibi and Trongsa.

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*

Daily sightings in Assam, a few in Bhutan, including some at the Jakar airport.

**Grey Bush Chat** *Saxicola ferreus*

Several sightings, throughout Bhutan.

### **Dippers Cinclidae**

**Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasii*

A handful of sightings, mostly around Punakha.

### **Leafbirds *Chloropseidae***

#### **Golden-fronted Leafbird**

*Chloropsis aurifrons*

Sightings in Kaziranga NP and throughout the Nameri area.

#### **Orange-bellied Leafbird**

*Chloropsis hardwickii hardwickii*

Nameri NP, Samdrup Jongkhar and Tingtibi.

### **Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae***

#### **Yellow-vented Flowerpecker**

*Dicaeum chrysorrheum chrysochlore*

Great views in roadside flowering bushes near Samdrup Jonkhar.

#### **Plain Flowerpecker**

*Dicaeum minullum olivaceum*

Incredibly close views of one in Nameri NP.

#### **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**

*Dicaeum ignipectus ignipectus*

Also seen in roadside flowers near Sumdrup Jongkhar, in addition to a few other sightings in Bhutan.

#### **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker**

*Dicaeum cruentatum cruentatum*

Eventually seen well - near our accommodation in Nameri.

### **Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae***

#### **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird**

*Chalcoparia singalensis assamensis*

A couple of sightings in eastern Kaziranga NP.

#### **Purple Sunbird**

*Cinnyris asiaticus*

A couple of sightings in Assam, including one in the grounds of our Kaziranga hotel.

#### **Mrs Gould's Sunbird**

*Aethopyga gouldiae*

Several sightings, throughout Bhutan.

#### **Green-tailed Sunbird**

*Aethopyga nipalensis*

Near-daily sightings in Bhutan.

#### **Black-throated Sunbird**

*Aethopyga saturata*

Several sightings during our first week in Bhutan, and again around Tingtibi and Trongsa.

#### **Crimson Sunbird**

*Aethopyga siparaja*

A few near Samdrup Jongkhar and around Tingtibi.

#### **Fire-tailed Sunbird**

*Aethopyga ignicauda*

One sighting near Sengor, others near Chele Pass.

#### **Streaked Spiderhunter**

*Arachnothera magna magna*

A few sightings in Nameri NP, near Samdrup Jongkhar, Morong and Tingtibi.

### **Old World Sparrows *Passeridae***

#### **House Sparrow**

*Passer domesticus*

Sighted on one day in Assam, and the same in Bhutan.

#### **Russet Sparrow**

*Passer rutilans*

Several sightings, throughout Bhutan.

#### **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**

*Passer montanus*

Several sightings, scattered throughout both trip segments.

**Waxbills and Allies *Estrildidae*****White-rumped Munia***Lonchura striata*

One sighting near Samdrup Jongkhar, another near Tingtibi.

**Scaly-breasted Munia***Lonchura punctulata*

Daily sightings in the Punakha area.

**Accentors *Prunellidae*****Rufous-breasted Accentor***Prunella strophiatea*

First sighted along the upper reaches of the Lingmethang Road.

**Maroon-backed Accentor***Prunella immaculata*

One sighting during our drive to Sengor from Yongkola.

**Wagtails and Pipits *Motacillidae*****Western Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava*

A few in the central and eastern sectors of Kaziranga NP.

**Citrine Wagtail***Motacilla citreola*

Several sightings during the first three days of the Assam extension.

**Grey Wagtail***Motacilla cinerea cinerea*

Only a handful of sightings, including one in the Tingtibi area, and another in Nameri NP.

**White Wagtail***Motacilla alba*

Daily sightings in Assam, several sightings in Bhutan.

**Richard's Pipit***Anthus richardi*

A couple of sightings in Assam.

**Paddyfield Pipit***Anthus rufulus*

Several sightings in Kaziranga NP.

**Olive-backed Pipit***Anthus hodgsoni*

Several sightings – in well-wooded areas, throughout the trip.

**Rosy Pipit***Anthus roseatus*

Near-daily sightings in Assam, a handful of sightings in Bhutan.

**Water Pipit***Anthus spinoletta blakistoni*

One sighting in the Ura Valley.

**Finches, Euphonias *Fringillidae*****Collared Grosbeak***Mycerobas affinis*

Great views of a few, all along the lower reaches of Thrumsing Pass.

**Spot-winged Grosbeak***Mycerobas melanozanthos*

A couple of sightings in the Morning area.

**White-winged Grosbeak***Mycerobas carnipes carnipes*

Sightings along Thrumsing Pass and along Chele Pass.

**Red-headed Bullfinch***Pyrrhula erythrocephala*

A few great sightings, including a couple along the Lingmethang Road.

**Golden-naped Finch***Pyrrhoplectes epauletta*

A handful of sightings, including two along the Lingmethang Road.



---

<b>Dark-breasted Rosefinch</b> Two sightings along the Lingmethang Road.	<i>Procarduelis nipalensis</i>
<b>Plain Mountain Finch</b> First sighted along the upper section of the Lingmethang Road.	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>
<b>Common Rosefinch</b> A few, scattered sightings – on both trip segments.	<i>Carpodacus erythrurus</i>
<b>Scarlet Finch</b> Three sightings in the Morning area, another along the Lingmethang Road.	<i>Carpodacus sipahi</i>
<b>Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch</b> A few near Sengor.	<i>Carpodacus pulcherrimus pulcherrimus</i>
<b>Dark-rumped Rosefinch</b> Great views of a male along the lower section of Thrumsing Pass.	<i>Carpodacus edwardsii rubicundus</i>
<b>Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch</b> Several around Chele Pass.	<i>Carpodacus thura</i>
<b>Yellow-breasted Greenfinch</b> One sighting in the Morong area.	<i>Chloris spinoides</i>
<b>Red Crossbill</b> One sighting during our drive up Chele Pass.	<i>Loxia curvirostra himalayensis</i>

### **Buntings, Sparrows and Allies *Emberizidae***

<b>Crested Bunting</b> One sighting near Trashigang.	<i>Emberiza lathami</i>
<b>(LO) Little Bunting</b> Jakar.	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>

## **Mammals (21 in total: 21 seen)**

**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild,

NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

### **Elephants *Elephantidae***

<b>Asian Elephant</b> Kaziranga NP.	<i>Elephas maximus indicus</i>
--	--------------------------------

### **Old World monkeys *Cercopithecidae***

<b>Assam Macaque</b> Throughout Bhutan.	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>
<b>Rhesus Monkey</b> Assam and near Samdrup Jongkhar.	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>
<b>Gee's Golden Langur</b> In and around Tingtibi.	<i>Trachypithecus geei</i>
<b>Capped Langur</b>	<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i>

Eastern Bhutan.

### **Squirrels *Sciuridae***

**Hoary-bellied Squirrel***Callosciurus pygerythrus*

Several in Assam.

**Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel***Dremomys lokriah*

A handful of sightings, split between both trip segments.

**Hodgson's/Bhutan Giant Flying Squirrel***Petaurista sp*

Sengor. Note that, whilst previous reports suggest the species of giant flying squirrel most commonly found around Sengor is Hodgson's GFS, it appears there was a mistake in earlier general literature.

**Black Giant Squirrel***Ratufa bicolor*

A couple of sightings in Assam and in central Bhutan.

**Himalayan Striped Squirrel***Tamiops macclellandii*

Several sightings in eastern Bhutan.

### **Mongoose *Herpestidae***

**Indian Grey Mongoose***Herpestes edwardsii*

Morong.

### **Weasels, Skunks, Otters *Mustelidae***

**Eurasian Otter***Lutra lutra*

Near Punakha.

**Smooth-coated Otter***Lutrogale perspicillata*

Kaziranga NP.

### **Rhinoceroses *Rhinocerotidae***

**Indian Rhinoceros***Rhinoceros unicornis*

Several great sightings in Kaziranga NP.

### **Pigs *Suidae***

**Wild Boar***Sus scrofa*

Throughout Kaziranga NP.

### **Deer *Cervidae***

**Hog Deer***Axis porcinus*

Kaziranga NP.

**Northern Red Muntjac***Muntiacus vaginalis*

Nameri and Lingmethang Road.

**Barasingha***Rucervus duvaucelii*

Kaziranga NP.

### **Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats *Bovidae***

**Asian Buffalo***Bubalus arnee*

---

Kaziranga NP.

**Himalayan Goral**

*Naemorhedus goral*

Upper Lingmethang Road and near Tingtibi.

**Old World Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae***

**Indian Flying Fox**

*Pteropus giganteus*

The first day in Assam.

---

**Rockjumper Birding Ltd**

Labourdonnais Village

Mapou

Mauritius

**Tel:** (USA & Canada) toll-free: 1-888-990-5552

**Email:** info@rockjumperbirding.com

**Alternative email:** rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com

**Website:** www.rockjumperbirding.com