



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Bhutan I

*25<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011*

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## Assam Extension I

*21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011*



**Tour leaders: Glen Valentine & Rainer Summers**

**Trip report compiled by Glen Valentine**

### Top 10 Birds for the Bhutan section of the tour as voted by participants:

1. Satyr Tragopan
2. Blood Pheasant
3. Ward's Trogon
4. Himalayan Monal
5. White-bellied Heron
6. Beautiful Nuthatch
7. Fire-tailed Sunbird
8. Black-throated Parrotbill
9. Rufous-necked Hornbill
10. Spotted Forktail

### Top 5 mammals for the Bhutan section of the tour as voted by participants:

1. Yellow-throated Marten
2. Golden Langur
3. Black Giant Squirrel
4. Red Giant Flying Squirrel
5. Hodgson's Giant Flying Squirrel

### Tour Summary:

India and Bhutan are two truly magical countries, both offering a wealth of fabulous birds, impressive mammals, awe-inspiring scenery and fascinating and unique cultures. Very few tours can combine such a diversity of habitats, scenery and culture with the likes of some of Asia's most sought-after birds: Blood Pheasant, Satyr Tragopan, Himalayan Monal, Swamp Francolin, White-winged Duck, White-bellied Heron, Ibisbill, Ward's Trogon, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, Black-headed Shrike-babbler, Fire-capped Tit, Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, Long-billed Wren-babbler, Himalayan Cutia, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Beautiful Nuthatch, Fire-tailed Sunbird and Golden-naped Finch were just a few of the legendary species seen on this unbeatable birding adventure!

Our tour to Assam and Bhutan kicked off in the bustling town of Guwahati, the gateway to the world-renown Kaziranga National Park. Leaving Guwahati we made a brief stop at the local dump where we were treated to a multitude of Greater Adjutants, a very localized and special bird that is now almost completely restricted to Assam province in North East India. Also wandering about in this less than surreal environment were a handful of Lesser Adjutant, Jungle, Pied and White-vented Mynas, Citrine and White Wagtails, Paddyfield Pipit and calling and displaying Striated Grassbird. Not a bad way to start the trip! It was then back on the busy road towards



Kaziranga. The markets, shops, makeshift constructions, never-ending road works and masses of human beings, cattle and dogs really are something to behold! We pressed on and finally arrived at our lovely lodge at the edge of the Reserve where a scrumptious lunch awaited us. Excitement mounted as we made our way to the Western entrance of the park for our first of four game drives in Kaziranga. Bird-watching and game-viewing in Kaziranga is primarily done from open safari vehicles and we also undertook an extremely enjoyable and highly rewarding elephant-back ride through the open grasslands in the central range. Over the next two days we were treated to many fabulous and incredibly memorable sightings. Mammal highlights included herds of Water Buffalo, Indian Elephant, large numbers of Indian One-horned Rhinoceros, Swamp and Hog Deer, Wild Boar, Common Otter, Rhesus

Macaque, Capped Langur and Hoary-bellied Squirrel. The grasslands yielded specialties such as Chestnut-capped and Striated Babblers, Swamp Francolin, Red Junglefowl, Pied Harrier, Lesser Coucal, superb Blue-tailed and Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters, Eurasian Wryneck, Bengal Bush Lark, White-tailed Rubythroat, Black-breasted, Streaked and Baya Weavers, Western Yellow Wagtail and Rosy Pipit, while the vast wetlands supported an array of waterbirds such as Lesser Whistling Duck, Bar-headed Goose, Common and Ruddy Shelducks, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Ferruginous and Tufted Ducks, elegant Black-necked Stork, Lesser and Greater Adjutants, Spot-billed Pelican, Western Osprey, stately Pallas's and Grey-headed Fish Eagles, Western Marsh Harrier,



Greater Spotted Eagle, handsome Grey-headed and Northern Lapwings, Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas and Pin-tailed Snipe. Traversing the many tracks that meander through the Park's woodland and forest-edge habitat produced a bounty of great birds including Crested Honey Buzzard, Crested Serpent Eagle, Crested Hawk-Eagle, yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Green Imperial Pigeon, Alexandrine, Rose-ringed, Blossom-headed and Red-breasted Parakeets, a beautiful pair of Brown Fish Owls, Spotted and Asian Barred Owlets, giant Stork-billed Kingfisher, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Lineated, Blue-throated and Coppersmith Barbets, Streak-throated Woodpecker,

Lesser and Greater Goldenbacks, Large Cuckooshrike, gorgeous Long-tailed and Scarlet Minivets, Black-hooded Oriole, noisy Rufous Treepie, Cinereous Tit, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Chestnut-tailed Starling.

Leaving Kaziranga, we drove north along some rugged roads towards our next destination, Nameri National Park. This beautiful forest reserve is bordered in the south by the Jia Bhoreli River, a classic, large, clear, boulder-strewn Himalayan river. The forested foothills of the Himalayas rise up from Nameri and these forests are home to some mouth-watering birds indeed. One the first birds that we found upon arrival was a pair of Oriental Hobby! These crepuscular falcons are extremely scarce throughout their range so we were thrilled to find this species so quickly and easily and we were treated to fabulous scope views as they continued to rip apart their prey from the top of a tall, dead tree. Brown Hawk-Owl serenaded us throughout the night and we managed to obtain excellent views of this species. We spent a full morning exploring these forests, targeting the rare and elusive White-winged Duck, which we finally found on a small pond deep inside the forest.

We also picked up a number of other lovely birds that included Himalayan Buzzard, Ruddy-breasted Crake, Greater Painted Snipe, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, gigantic Great and Wreathed Hornbills, Oriental Dollarbird, miniscule Grey-capped Pygmy and Fulvous-breasted Woodpeckers, Lesser Yellownappe, Dusky and Blyth's Reed Warblers, Abbott's Babbler, Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher, Daurian Redstart, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker and Common Hill Myna. In the afternoon we undertook a rafting trip down the Jia Bhoreli, which was enjoyed by all. We encountered some great birds during this boat trip including a group of three Ibisbills, Indian and Great Stone-curlews, as well as very close views of Small Pratincole and River Tern. A final walk from the lodge to the river on our last morning produced our main target, Sand Lark, before packing up and beginning the drive west towards the Bhutanese border at Samdrup Jongkhar. Arriving in the late afternoon we fitted in a little



bit of birding before dark and picked up Red-rumped Swallow, Asian Brown and Verditer Flycatchers, Chestnut-tailed Starling and our first of many Blue Whistling Thrushes. Settling into our lovely new, comfortable hotel we enjoyed a wonderful Bhutanese dinner before going to bed early in anticipation of our first full day in Bhutan that we had ahead of us.

Our early morning departure saw us strolling down the road enjoying the sights and sounds of this unique country. We soon added some nice new birds to the ever-growing list and some of the exciting species we encountered in the lowland hill forest above the town included Grey-headed Woodpecker, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, White-throated Needletail, Blue-eared Barbet, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Large Woodshrike, Bronzed and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, unexpected Thick-billed Warbler, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, outstanding Asian Fairy-bluebird, brilliant Long-tailed Broadbill, Plumbeous Water and White-capped Redstarts, Taiga Flycatcher, sought-after Black-backed Forktail, Black-crested and White-throated Bulbuls, beautiful Orange-bellied and Golden-fronted Leafbirds, exquisite Black-throated and Crimson Sunbirds and lively Streaked Spiderhunter. Carrying on further up the road after lunch towards our campsite near Morong we were lucky to pick up the rare and little-known Dark-rumped Swift as well as a surprise flock of Jungle Babbler along the way. The drive north was an extremely rewarding one indeed and as we passed through endless miles of incredible mid-altitude forest so the scenery became increasingly spectacular and a few roadside stops yielded some very special sightings! One of the major trip highlights of this short drive were the many sensational Rufous-necked Hornbills that were frequently encountered.



We also enjoyed excellent views of the gaudy Golden-throated Barbet, Long-tailed Sibia as well as our first of many Whiskered Yuhina, Rusty-fronted Barwing and Blue-winged Minla for the trip. We were also extremely fortunate to find a stunning adult Beautiful Nuthatch right beside the road only seconds after entering its range! Unbeatable, prolonged views ensued and we were all left utterly gob-smacked and in awe at the end of this very special and exceedingly lucky encounter!

The birding around Morong was spectacular as always and by the end of our full day in the area we had managed to rack up some really great birds. The good birding already began around our campsite with the likes of Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, Bhutan Laughingthrush, Black-throated Thrush, Grey Bush Chat, Russet Sparrow and Little Bunting making an appearance during breakfast. The monotonous wails of Great Barbet echoed throughout the valleys as did the desperate calls of Large Hawk-Cuckoo, both of which showed well from their respective perches. Mixed flocks produced Grey-cheeked and Chestnut-crowned Warblers, Grey-chinned, Long-tailed and Short-billed Minivets, Blyth's Shrike-babbler, White-throated and Yellow-bellied Fantails, striking Yellow-cheeked Tit, Striated and Mountain Bulbuls, Black-throated Bushtit, nuthatch-like Red-tailed Minla, the first of many Rufous Sibia, outrageously vivid Silver-eared Leiothrix, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker as well as a brief encounter with a flock of the very sought-after Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler associating with a much more confiding party of Rusty-fronted Barwing. We also encountered the impressive Mountain Hawk-Eagle, scarce Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, a small flock of nomadic Spot-winged Grosbeak, several confiding Blue-fronted



Redstarts, a female Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, a very co-operative pair of Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, often elusive Besra and a flock of brilliant Scarlet Finch. We were also delighted to get good views of extremely vocal Scaly-breasted and Rufous-throated Wren-babblers.

We left Morong on a high and while crossing over Narphung La we encountered a male Golden Bush Robin before heading further north. A tea stop soon thereafter produced an array of great birds like Golden-breasted and Rufous-winged Fulvettas, Bar-throated Minla and Rufous-capped Babbler. With spirits at an all time high we returned back to the main road and continued north towards Trashigang. While on this spectacular stretch of road, the subtle request for a toilet stop brought the bus to a halt at the side of the road. Everyone hopped out and within seconds the distinctive call of one of Bhutan's most desirable birds rang out right next to us...Ward's Trogon! This mega bird is, for many reasons, one of Bhutan's must-see birds as it is rare, elusive, extremely localized and beautiful! Well, needless to say, within no time at all we were gawking at three of these stunners, two males and a smart female! What an incredibly lucky find – this sighting quite literally put the excitement levels through the roof! Arriving at Trashigang in the late afternoon, after picking up Yellow-rumped Honeyguide along the way, and then spent the last bit of the day enjoying the magnificent Trashigang Dzong.



The drive east towards the fabled Lingmethang Road is another beautifully scenic one and crosses over Kori La on its decent into the low-lying valley near the town of Lingmethang. We picked up Himalayan Bulbul, Hodgson's Redstart, Striated Prinia, Fork-tailed Swift and yet another pair of Rufous-necked Hornbill along the way before arriving at the top of Kori La in the mid-morning. The roadwork activity near the town of Lingmethang meant that we had some time constraints on this day and we could therefore only spend a very short time birding the top of Kori La. Despite our lack of time, however, we still managed to locate some great birds on the pass. These included Grey-winged Blackbird, White-tailed Nuthatch, the dazzling Fire-tailed Sunbird, Black-faced Warbler and a rather aberrant Common Cuckoo. We then wound our way down through the town of Mongar towards our perfectly situated lunch spot, which yielded a number of interesting species including Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Crested Bunting, Common Green Magpie and Slaty-backed Forktail. The forested gullies further up the road produced some more quality birding and when a large mixed flock moved through us we weren't sure where to look as the action soon became very intense: Striated Yuhina, Yellow-vented Warbler, Greater Yellownape, Speckled Piculet, White-bellied Erpornis, Ashy and Black Bulbuls, Grey Treepie and Ultramarine Flycatcher were all in attendance and provided much excitement. Our final bit of birding this day was on the lower portion of the Lingmethang Road above the town of Yongkhola. This vast expanse of lush, pristine mid-altitude forest within the borders of the Thruming La National Park supports some of Asia's best birds and would be our focal point for the next three days. We were delighted to have a little taste of things to come and we were already impressed by what we found in our very short escapade along the road: Striated and White-crested Laughingthrushes, the extremely sought-after Himalayan Cutia and the tiny, bright blue Small Niltava were some of the notable species we find here before it became too dark to bird anymore and we



returned to our campsite. Settling into our comfortable camp we enjoyed another great Bhutanese dinner and then fell sound asleep to the distant calls of Mountain Scops Owl.

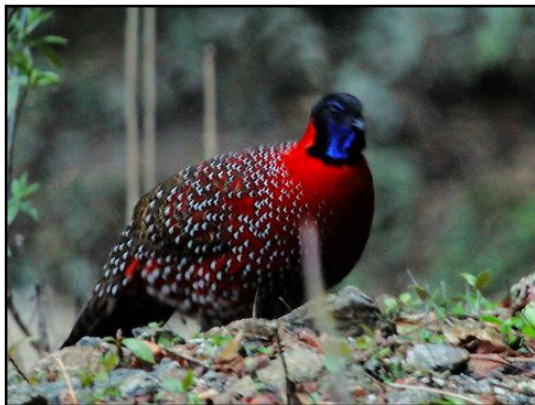
The next two days spent along the lower section of Thrumsing La National Park produced some extremely memorable and outstanding birds! We managed to find a host of Bhutan's most sought-after



species and these included Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, the near-mythical Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, equally rare and little-known Long-billed Wren-Babbler, elusive Grey-sided and Scaly Laughingthrushes, Red-faced Liocichla, White-breasted and Black-throated Parrotbills, immaculate Golden-breasted and Yellow-throated Fulvettas, Black Eagle, Collared Owlet, Black-headed and Black-eared Shrike-babblers, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Mountain Tailorbird, Brown-flanked and Grey-sided Bush Warbler, White-spectacled, Grey-cheeked and Whistler's Warblers, Brown-throated Treecreeper, White-naped Yuhina, Little Forktail, Large Niltava and brightly-coloured Pygmy Flycatcher. A

night drive above Yongkhola also produced two great mammals; the rare, localized and little-known Hodgson's Giant Flying Squirrel and more widespread but equally attractive Red Giant Flying Squirrel.

Alas, it was time to leave Yongkhola and venture higher up to our campsite at Sengor on the upper Lingmethang Road. As one climbs up this amazing road so the forest becomes more temperate with mixed coniferous forest dominating much of the habitat. Our lunch stop en route yielded a brilliant pair of Fire-tailed Myzornis and further up the road we were lucky to bump into a very obliging Plain-backed Thrush as well as a loose flock of Rufous-breasted Accentor. Sifting through the regular mixed species flocks that typifies the area we located a range of specialties that included Green Shrike-babbler, White-browed Fulvetta, Stripe-throated and Rufous-vented Yuhinas, Hoary-throated Barwing, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper and Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler. To boot, we also managed to obtain excellent views of the often-heard but seldom-seen Hill Partridge, as well as Snow Pigeon, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Spotted Nutcracker, White-collared Blackbird, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, three female Crimson-browed Finch, two stunning male Golden-naped Finch and the extremely range-restricted and quite striking Bar-winged Wren-Babbler.



This is also the habitat of one of the most desired birds on earth, the exquisite, unequivocal and near-mythical Satyr Tragopan. This large, red, forest pheasant is without a doubt one of Bhutan and Asia's top birds and a view of any of the world's five Tragopan species would rank extremely high on all birders wish-lists. We were not disappointed and during our two days in the area we were treated to several amazing encounters with these fabulous birds. A total of three stunning males and two females were encountered with some of the sightings being enjoyed for an extended period at close range!

The high pass of Thrumsing La was our other target site for this leg of the trip and our explorations of the pass revealed some exciting high-altitude birds. These included

Rufous-vented, Coal, Grey-crested and Yellow-browed Tits, Rufous-fronted Bushtit, striking Black-faced Laughingthrush, vociferous Great Parrotbill, Eurasian Wren, Eurasian Treecreeper, Hume's Bush Warbler, White-browed Bush Robin and the scarce Dark-rumped Rosefinch.

Dropping down from Thrumsing La into the pastoral valleys of Bumthang, we passed by several small, quaint villages on our way to Jakar. Birds of interest en route included outstanding views of an outrageously brilliant, male Himalayan Monal, very attractive White-throated Redstart, Himalayan Bluetail, Eurasian Magpie, Red-billed Chough, White-winged Grosbeak and Red Crossbill. Scouring the rocky shingle beds in Jakar produced our quarry, the bizarre Ibisbill, another top class bird and a major target for most of the group. It was then onto a site where we struggled for quite some time to obtain glimpses of Brown Parrotbill. Fortunately, the birds eventually obliged by showing exceptionally well upon our return to the same area the next morning. We also took some time out to bird a few of the small seasonal wetlands at the edge of town and these short stops produced Pin-tailed Snipe, and Rosy and Water Pipits, the latter being a very rare vagrant to Bhutan.



The pass of Yutong La beckoned, and after a fairly quick shopping stop and a little stroll through town to pick up Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, we climbed up to the top of the pass to begin our birding. The pass was, however, fairly quiet and the best bird by far was a pair of attractive Alpine Accentors. We packed in the birding by the late morning and then headed down the west side of the pass towards the town of Trongsa, where we settled into our hotel and enjoyed a hearty lunch. Thereafter we walked down the hill to the Dzong where we spent some time admiring this impressive structure. Birding was quite productive along this little walk and we were delighted to find several extremely vocal Russet Bush Warblers, one of which eventually showed exceptionally well. Also encountered along this trail were Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler and a lovely perched Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle. After our Dzong visit we drove to a nearby forested corner where we spent the remainder of the afternoon. This wonderful mid-altitude forest produced some fabulous birds including Spotted Forktail, Grey-bellied Tesia, Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo and, unbelievably, another pair of Ward's Trogon!



It was time to venture into the lowlands once again for our final two nights of camping. The forests around Zhemgang and Tingtibi are alive with the sights and sounds of many spectacular birds as well as the handsome Golden Langur, a species of monkey which we commonly encountered over the next three days. We left Trongsa on an amazingly clear morning and the view of the rugged Black Mountain Range was absolutely spectacular! Birding highlights during our time in this wonderful area included the large, black and yellow Sultan Tit, furtive Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, localized Rufous-faced Warbler,

Grey-throated and Golden Babblers, incredibly co-operative Spotted Wren-Babbler, Nepal Fulvetta, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Long-tailed Broadbill, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, White-tailed Robin and Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher. We did also make a few worthwhile birding stops during the long drive back to Trongsa and these produced great

birds like Collared Owlet, Crested Kingfisher, Brown Dipper, Speckled and White-browed Piculets and Rufous Woodpecker.

Making our way further west over Pele La, where we bumped into a rather late Wallcreeper and several soaring Himalayan Vultures, and on towards the town of Punakha, we enjoyed our final lunch with our superb camp staff. These gentlemen were outstanding in the field and campsites and were an integral part of the tour and it was sad to see them go. Thanks to these fellows we were able to enjoy every night in the field knowing that we were being looked after by the country's finest and I know the camping experience in Bhutan will always remain a very pleasant and warm memory for everyone.

With excitement mounting as we neared Punakha we started our way up the gentle Po Chu, picking up River Lapwing and yet another Ibisbill along the way and it wasn't long before we had the scopes set up on one of the world's rarest heron's, the massive and truly impressive White-bellied Heron. This species is extremely rare and localized and Bhutan is definitely one of the best places on earth to see this sought-after bird.

Our next day was spent in the very pleasant and extremely picturesque Jigme Dorji National Park. Here the mighty Mo Chu cascades through the forested Tashitang Valley and eventually joins the Po Chu lower down near Punakha to form the Punasang Chu. Searching through mixed species flocks in the riparian forest yielded a host of new flycatchers that included the rare Slaty-backed, Ferruginous and Pale Blue Flycatchers. In attendance too were Lesser and Asian Emerald Cuckoos, Bay Woodpecker, Maroon Oriole and an amazing and very unexpected encounter with yet another Wallcreeper that showed exceptionally well at close range. We were also treated to an amazing encounter but brief encounter with a magnificent Tawny Fish Owl while strolling along the road after lunch. Out of no-where this huge owl swooped down into the shallows of the Mo Chu and came up with a massive fish in its talons before heading off into the nearby forest. What a lucky sighting and a great way to end off an excellent day in this remarkably beautiful Park. The remainder of the afternoon was spent admiring the grand Punakha Dzong and its elaborate and rather spectacular temple.

Before leaving Punakha we picked up Slender-billed Oriole and a few stops along the way to Dochu La yielded Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon and Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush. An enjoyable, pre-lunch walk through the forest on the lower stretch of the Pass produced Fire-capped Tit, Mrs. Gould's Sunbird and Rufous-bellied Woodpecker with an incredibly close Darjeeling Woodpecker straight after lunch.

A short stop at the top of Dochu La before our descent down to Thimphu yielded a fair selection of high altitude species that we'd already encountered like Spotted Nutcracker and Yellow-billed Blue Magpie as well as another sighting of Fire-tailed Myzornis and a pair of Spotted Laughingthrush.

We arrived in Thimphu, Bhutan's capital in the late afternoon and settled into our hotel in town for a night's stay. The next morning had us visiting the nearby Golden Takin Sanctuary. This large, bizarre creature is Bhutan's national animal and is restricted in Bhutan to a tiny area of high altitude grassland in summer and an equally small area of mid-altitude forest within the Jigme Dorji National Park in winter. After the sanctuary we spent a short while near the waterworks outside town which saw us adding a pair of very obliging Black-tailed Crake, White-breasted Waterhen and Red-wattled Lapwing. The drive to Paro was a short but enjoyable one with pleasant scenery along the way to pass the time before arriving at our final destination. After a divine lunch in town, we headed towards the start of the trail that leads up to the awesome Tiger's Nest Monastery, nestled on a cliff face high above the town



and this was to be our adventure for the afternoon.

Our last full day in this Himalayan Kingdom was spent on the high pass of Chele La. At 3870m above sea level the top of the pass is the highest point on the tour. Home to a number of highly delectable species, Chele La also offers one fabulous views of several extremely high Himalayan peaks including Jumolhari at over 7000m. We had an absolutely wonderful day up Chele La enjoying some fantastic high-altitude birds like Kalij and Blood Pheasants, Himalayan Monal, Speckled Wood Pigeon, three outrageously-patterned Spotted Laughingthrushes, White-winged and Collared Grosbeaks, Plain Mountain Finch, smart Red-headed Bullfinch, White-browed and Common Rosefinches and a rather surprising flock of Altai Accentor. The day was then topped off with a live traditional dancing performance at our first class hotel. This was indeed a fitting way to end an extremely successful and superbly memorable Rockjumper birding tour to the magical wonderland of



Bhutan and Assam.

**Photo Credits in order of appearance:** Blood Pheasant, Rhesus Macaque, Chestnut-tailed Starling, Great Hornbill, Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, Rufous-necked Hornbills, Ward's Trogon, Black-throated Parrotbill, Golden-naped Finch, Plain-backed Thrush, Satyr Tragopan, Bhutanese Scenery, Black Mountain Range, Fire-tailed Myzornis and Spotted Laughingthrush. All photographs taken by Glen Valentine in India and Bhutan.

## ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS (472 Species recorded including 16 heard only)

*Note: Names and taxonomical order of the bird species list follows that of IOC (International Ornithological congress), Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2011; Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press (version 2.8). Names in square brackets represent names given by IOC and omitted by Clements whereas names in round brackets represent names given by Clements and omitted by IOC. Names without square or round brackets represent the name given by both IOC and Clements. A notes section can be found where names differ and splitting or lumping is involved.*

**E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic.

### Pheasants and Partridges *Phasianidae*

**Swamp Francolin (NE)**

*Francolinus gularis*

This extremely localized species was seen on a single occasion in Kaziranga NP.

**Hill Partridge**

*Arborophila torqueola*

Phenomenal views were obtained of this seldom-seen species on the upper Lingmethang Road. We also heard this species on most days of the tour.

**Rufous-throated Partridge**

*Arborophila rufogularis*

Although not as numerous as Hill Partridge, we still heard this species on several days during the tour in lower altitude forest.

**Blood Pheasant**

*Ithaginis cruentus*

This spectacular species was seen extremely well on several occasions on Thrumsing La and Chele La.

**Satyr Tragopan**

*Tragopan satyra*

Certainly one of Bhutan's most sought-after specialties, a visual of any of the world's five tragopans

will surely make any birder's list of top birding experiences of a lifetime! We were incredibly lucky with this species and encountered a total of five individuals on the upper Lingmethang Road, which included three superb males.

**Himalayan Monal***Lophophorus impejanus*

A spectacularly vivid species, of which we had a fabulous male on Thrumsing La with another sighting of a male in flight on Chele La.

**Red Junglefowl***Gallus gallus*

We had numerous intimate encounters with this gaudy pheasant in Kaziranga NP.

**Kalij Pheasant***Lophura leucomelanos*

We had great views of a several birds during our time in Bhutan where both the silver bellied and silver rumped races were seen.

*NOTE: Clements splits this species into two separate species; Kalij Pheasant L. leucomelanos and Imperial Pheasant L. imperialis whereas IOC only recognizes one species, Kalij Pheasant L. leucomelanos.*

**Grey Peacock-Pheasant***Polyplectron bicalcaratum*

This elusive pheasant was heard calling on consecutive mornings in the lowland forest near Tingtibi.

**Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae****Lesser Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna bicolor*

Small numbers were encountered in Nameri NP.

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

This species was pleasantly common at wetlands in Kaziranga with a singleton being found on the Punasang Chu near Punakha.

**Common Shelduck***Tadorna tadorna*

A single bird was seen very well at a huge wetland in Kaziranga NP.

**Ruddy Shelduck***Tadorna ferruginea*

Commonly seen in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks with two further sightings in Bhutan.

**White-winged Duck***Asarcornis scutulata*

A globally endangered species, we were thrilled to find this rare duck on a quiet water body in Nameri NP.

**Cotton Pygmy Goose***Nettapus coromandelianus*

A small raft of these tiny geese was seen at a large wetland in Kaziranga NP.

**Gadwall***Anas strepera*

Small numbers were encountered in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

**Eurasian Wigeon***Anas penelope*

Small numbers were found on wetlands in Kaziranga NP with a further sighting of a single female along the Mo Chu.

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

We encountered small numbers daily at wetlands in Kaziranga.

**Northern Shoveler***Anas clypeata*

As with the previous species we located small numbers daily in Kaziranga NP.

**Northern Pintail***Anas acuta*

A small group was seen in Kaziranga NP.

**Garganey***Anas acuta*

We found a small group of these widespread ducks in Kaziranga NP.

**Eurasian (Green-winged) Teal***Anas crecca*

Small numbers were seen in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

*NOTE: IOC splits the above species into Eurasian Teal A. crecca and Green-winged Teal A. carolinensis whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Green-winged Teal A. crecca.*

**Ferruginous Duck (Pochard)***Aythya nyroca*

A small raft of these uncommon ducks was encountered at a large wetland in Kaziranga NP.

**Tufted Duck***Aythya fuligula*

A raft of around twenty birds was scoped in Kaziranga NP followed by a small group on the Punasang Chu.

**Common Merganser***Mergus merganser*

Two birds were seen flying down the Jia Bhoreli River bordering Nameri National Park.

**Grebes Ardeidae****Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

This common and widespread bird was seen in small numbers in Kaziranga NP.

**Great Crested Grebe***Podiceps cristatus*

This handsome wetland species was seen on the Mangde Chu en route to and from Zhemgang where just a singleton was seen. This is a very rare bird in Bhutan!

**Storks Ciconidae****Asian Openbill***Anastomas oscitans*

Fairly large numbers were seen throughout India, especially in Kaziranga National Park.

**Black Stork***Ciconia nigra*

This species was seen in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

**Woolly-necked Stork***Ciconia episcopus*

Small numbers were seen in Kaziranga NP.

**Black-necked Stork***Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

This tall, elegant stork was seen daily in Kaziranga NP.

**Lesser Adjutant***Leptoptilos javanicus*

This species was pleasantly common in Kaziranga with further sightings near Guwahati and en route to Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Greater Adjutant***Leptoptilos dubius*

Over 200 of these rare and localized birds were seen at exceptionally close range at the dump at the edge of Guwahati – an incredibly large percentage of its world population! Another four individuals were seen in more pleasant surroundings in Kaziranga NP.

**Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae****Black-headed Ibis***Threskiornis melanocephalus*

A handful was seen in Kaziranga NP. This is a rare and irregularly recorded species in Assam and is far more common and widespread on the Indian Peninsula.

**Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae****Striated Heron***Butorides striata*

A single bird was seen in Nameri NP with a further sighting near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Indian Pond Heron***Ardeola greyii*

This wetland species proved to be fairly common in Assam and we also had a sighting near Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

**[Eastern] Cattle Egret***Bubulcus coromandus*

Large numbers were encountered throughout India with a few birds being seen around Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Western Cattle Egret B. ibis as Cattle Egret B. ibis.

**Grey Heron***Ardeola cinerea*

Several were encountered at wetlands in Kaziranga National Park.

**White-bellied Heron***Ardea insignis*

This magnificent and extremely rare heron was seen fantastically well and for a prolonged period along the Po Chu. A very fortunate encounter!

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

Singletons were seen around the edges of wetlands in Kaziranga NP.

**Great Egret***Ardea modesta*

Several were seen in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

**Intermediate Egret***Mesophoyx intermedia*

Another bird that was seen in small numbers in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta*

Several individuals were seen throughout Assam with a few encounters being had around Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

**Pelicans *Pelicanidae*****Spot-billed Pelican***Pelecanus philippensis*

Small numbers were seen daily inside Kaziranga NP, where we obtained great views of these huge birds.

**Cormorants *Phalacrocoracidae*****Little Cormorant***Phalacrocorax niger*

Small numbers were encountered on most days in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

**Indian Cormorant***Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

A single bird was seen by some of the group at our lodge near Kaziranga NP.

**Great Cormorant***Phalacrocorax carbo*

Several sightings of this widespread species were had in Assam and on large rivers in Bhutan.

NOTE: IOC splits the above species into two separate species; Great Cormorant *P. carbo* and White-breasted Cormorant *P. lucidus* whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Great Cormorant *P. carbo*.

**Anhingas, Darters *Anhingidae*****Oriental Darter***Anhinga melanogaster*

Several of these striking birds were seen daily in Kaziranga NP.

**Ospreys *Pandionidae*****[Western] Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

A few individuals were seen during our time in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Eastern Osprey *P. cristatus* and just names it Osprey.

**Hawks, Eagles & Kites *Accipitridae*****Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard***Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Several birds were seen in Kaziranga NP with another sighting in the Jigme Dorji NP.

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

Hundreds were seen in Assam with especially large numbers around towns and human settlements. We also saw this species at Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

NOTE: IOC splits the above species into two separate species; Black Kite *M. migrans* and Yellow-billed Kite *M. aegyptius* whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Black Kite *M. migrans*.

**Pallas's Fish Eagle***Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

This smart raptor was seen daily in Kaziranga NP with a further sighting in Nameri. We also encountered this species along the Po Chu and Mo Chu rivers in Bhutan. This is another rare and highly sought-after species and Kaziranga is one of the best places in the world to see it.

**Grey-headed Fish-Eagle** *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*

We had good views of several birds in Kaziranga NP.

**Himalayan Vulture (Griffon)** *Gyps himalayensis*

Small numbers were seen in Assam with further, more regular sightings throughout Bhutan. Our highest count was on Pele where good numbers were seen soaring overhead.

**Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus*

This is a rare bird for Assam and some of the group were lucky to see a single bird in flight near our lodge at the edge of Kaziranga NP.

**Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*

Superb flight and perched views were had of several birds first in Assam and later on in Bhutan.

**Western (Eurasian) Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

A single female was seen perched at the edge of a wetland in Kaziranga NP.

**Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos*

This scarce and highly sought after harrier was seen well on three occasions in Kaziranga NP. A total of two females and a juvenile were seen.

**Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Two separate sightings were had in Bhutan.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

A few individuals were encountered in Assam.

**Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*

A good-looking, shy, forest accipiter that we found on three separate occasions in Bhutan.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Individuals were seen fairly regularly during our time in Bhutan.

**Himalayan (Common) Buzzard** *Buteo refectus*

Regular sightings were had of this species in Bhutan with our first sighting being of an adult near Nameri NP.

*NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Common Buzzard B. Buteo, Eastern Buzzard B. japonicus and Socotra Buzzard B. socotraensis as one species, Common Buzzard B. buteo.*

**Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*

Frequently encountered throughout Bhutan.

**Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

An impressive eagle that was seen daily in Kaziranga NP.

**Steppe Eagle** *Hieraetus nipalensis*

This massive eagle was seen in flight en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

**Rufous-bellied [Hawk-] Eagle** *Hieraetus kienerii*

This uncommon species was first seen in flight from our campsite at Yongkhola and later seen perched above the Trongsa Dzong.

**Crested (Changeable) Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus cirrhatus*

This impressive raptor was seen well on a single occasion in Kaziranga NP.

**Mountain Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus nipalensis*

A fairly common but nonetheless awesome eagle in Bhutan – we saw this species on 9 days of the trip.

### Caracaras, Falcons *Falconidae*

**Common (Eurasian) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

This widespread species was commonly recorded in open areas throughout the trip.

NOTE: IOC splits the above species into two separate species; Common Kestrel *F. tinnunculus* and Rock Kestrel *F. rupicolus* whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Eurasian Kestrel *F. tinnunculus*.

**Oriental Hobby** *Falco severus*

We enjoyed great scope views of a pair of these rare falcons perched around our lodge near Nameri NP.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

A single bird was seen on consecutive days at our camp at Yongkhola.

### Rails, Crakes & Coots *Rallidae*

**White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

A fairly common bird that was seen almost daily in Kaziranga NP. We also were extremely surprised to find this species near Thimphu.

**Black-tailed Crake** *Amaurornis bicolor*

We were rewarded with great views of this often reclusive *rallid* in the Thimphu Valley.

**Ruddy-breasted Crake** *Amaurornis bicolor*

We were surprised to see a pair of these crakes at a small wetland in Nameri NP.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

This common and widespread species was seen on several occasions in the Assam lowlands.

### Buttonquail *Turnicidae*

**Barred Buttonquail** *Turnix suscitator*

Some of the group were lucky enough to see this species as it was flushed from elephant-back in Kaziranga National Park.

### Stone-curlews, Thick-knees *Burhinidae*

**Indian Stone-curlew (Eurasian Thick-knee)** *Burhinus indicus*

A single bird was flushed from a grassy island during our rafting trip down the Jia Bhoreli River.

NOTE: Clements lumps Indian Stone-curlew *B. indicus* with Eurasian Stone-curlew *B. oedicnemus* as Eurasian Thick-knee *B. oedicnemus*.

**Great Stone-curlew** *Esacus recurvirostris*

This boldly-marked and attractive species was seen during our rafting trip down the Jia Bhoreli River bordering Nameri NP.

### Ibisbill *Ibidorhynchidae*

**Ibisbill** *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

Our first sighting of this special and charismatic species was along the Jia Bhoreli River bordering Nameri NP where three birds were seen. Later in Bhutan we were spoilt with regular sightings of this species.

### Plovers *Charadriidae*

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus Vanellus*

Good numbers were seen in the moist grasslands of Kaziranga NP.

**River Lapwing** *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Another common bird within its habitat, it was first seen in Nameri NP with further views of several birds along rocky rivers in Bhutan.

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

We were pleased to have great views of several of these scarce migrants at the edge of a large wetland in Kaziranga NP.

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

Small numbers were seen daily in Assam with two further sightings in Bhutan.

**Painted Snipes *Rostratulidae*****Greater Painted Snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

We were fortunate to find a pair of these scarce and unique waders at a small wetland in Nameri NP.

**Jacanas *Jacanadae*****Pheasant-tailed Jacana***Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

A handful of these elegant waders were seen at a large wetland in Kaziranga NP.

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

Small numbers of this attractive “lilly trotter” were seen during our time in Assam.

**Sandpipers, Snipes *Scolopacidae*****Pin-tailed Snipe***Gallinago stenura*

Four birds were seen at a wetland in Jakar with a further three seen in the Paro Valley.

**Common Snipe***Gallinago gallinago*

A single bird was seen well in Kaziranga NP with a further two individuals being flushed in the Paro Valley.

**Spotted Redshank***Tringa erythropus*

Several birds were seen in Kararanga NP.

**Marsh Sandpiper***Tringa stagnatilis*

A few birds were seen in Kaziranga NP.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

Small numbers were found in Kaziranga NP.

**Green Sandpiper***Tringa ochropus*

We found this species in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks as well as in Bhutan.

**Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola*

Small numbers were seen on two consecutive days in Kaziranga NP.

**Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers were encountered in Nameri and irregularly in Bhutan.

**Courasers, Pratincoles *Glareolidae*****Small Pratincole***Glareola lacteal*

Great views were had of large numbers of these attractive waders while rafting along the Jia Bhoreli River bordering Nameri NP.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers *Sternidae*****Brown-headed Gull***Croicocephalus brunnicephalus*

A singleton was seen in flight over a large wetland in Kaziranga NP.

**River Tern***Sterna aurantia*

Small numbers were seen at close range along the Jia Bhoreli River bordering Nameri NP. A beautiful and elegant species indeed!

**Pigeons & Doves *Columbidae*****Common (Rock) Pigeon***Columba livia*

Numerous in towns and villages throughout India and Bhutan.

**Snow Pigeon***Columba leuconota*

This stunning pigeon was seen exceptionally well with three separate flocks being found during our time in Bhutan.

**Speckled Wood Pigeon***Columba hodgsonii*

Small flocks were seen in flight on consecutive days while birding along the lower Lingmethang Road. We later were rewarded with fabulous views of a single perched bird on Chele La that shows particularly well in the scope.

**Oriental Turtle Dove***Streptopelia orientalis*

Commonly seen on the Assam extension and throughout Bhutan.

**Red Turtle (Collared) Dove***Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Small numbers were seen in and around Kaziranga NP with a further sighting for some of the group in Bhutan.

**Spotted Dove***Streptopelia chinensis*

Large numbers were seen daily in India as well as at lower altitudes in Bhutan.

**Barred Cuckoo-Dove***Macropygia unchall*

Our first views of this forest species were in Nameri NP with further regular sightings in Bhutan.

**[Common] Emerald Dove***Chalcophaps indica*

Our only sighting of this shy forest-dweller was in the lowlands near Tingtibi.

**Yellow-footed [Green] Pigeon***Treron phoenicoptera*

This attractive pigeon was commonly seen in Kaziranga NP.

**Pin-tailed [Green] Pigeon***Treron apicauda*

Some of the group was lucky to see this species near our campsite at Tingtibi.

**Wedge-tailed [Green] Pigeon***Treron sphenura*

After only hearing this species south of Morong we were thrilled to finally find a pair near Punakha where we enjoyed good scope views of these attractive birds.

**Green Imperial Pigeon***Ducula aenea*

We had several views of this impressive species in Kaziranga NP.

**Mountain Imperial Pigeon***Ducula badia*

Several birds were seen, mainly in flight, just above the border town of Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Parrots *Psittacidae*****Alexandrine Parakeet***Psittacula eupatria*

A large, noisy parakeet that was seen well in and around Kaziranga NP.

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

Commonly encountered throughout India.

**Blossom-headed Parakeet***Psittacula roseate*

This scarce and petit parakeet was seen well but relatively briefly on two occasions in Kaziranga NP.

**Red-breasted Parakeet***Psittacula alexandri*

A handsome parrot that was seen exceptionally well on numerous occasions in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

**Cuckoos *Cuculidae*****Greater Coucal***Centropus sinensis*

We encountered this widespread Asian species on several occasions on the Assam extension.

**Lesser Coucal***Centropus bengalensis*

A much shyer and scarcer bird than the above species, we had a single sighting in the vast, dense grasslands of Kaziranga NP.

**Green-billed Malkoha***Phaenicophaeus tristis*

A pair of these large, outrageous birds was seen well in Kaziranga NP.

**Asian Koel***Eudynamys scolopacea*

This widespread species was unfortunately only heard on the odd occasion in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks and again near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Asian Emerald Cuckoo***Eudynamys scolopacea*

A pair of these stunning, tiny cuckoos was seen remarkably well in the Tashitang Valley.

**Banded Bay Cuckoo***Cacomantis sonneratii*

This lowland species was heard in the distance on one occasion in Nameri NP.

**Plaintive Cuckoo***Cacomantis merulinus*

A single male was seen briefly in the scope near Nameri NP.

*NOTE: IOC splits the above species into two distinct species: Plaintive Cuckoo C. merulinus and Grey-bellied Cuckoo C. passerinus whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Plaintive Cuckoo C. merulinus.*

**Square-tailed (Asian) Drongo-Cuckoo***Surniculus lugubris*

This species was unfortunately only heard on consecutive days at our campsite near Tingtibi.

*NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo S. dicruroides and Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo S. musschenbroeki as Asian Drongo-Cuckoo S. lugubris.*

**Large Hawk-Cuckoo***Cuculus sparverioides*

One of the dominant sounds of Bhutan, this species was heard virtually daily and seen well on a few occasions including great scope views.

**Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo***Hierococcyx nisicolor*

Fabulous scope views were had of this scarce and often elusive species near Trongsa.

**Lesser Cuckoo***Cuculus poliocephalus*

A single bird was seen briefly in the Tashitang Valley/Jigme Dorji NP.

**Indian Cuckoo***Cuculus micropterus*

A single bird was seen by some of the group in Kaziranga NP.

**Himalayan Cuckoo***Cuculus saturatus*

Heard on many days in Bhutan and was seen very well on several occasions.

**Common Cuckoo***Cuculus canorus*

Several good views were obtained of this species although it was much more often heard than seen.

**Owls Strigidae****Mountain Scops Owl***Otus spilocephalus*

This seldom-seen species was heard on 7 nights of the tour in low to mid-altitude forest throughout Bhutan but unfortunately never close enough to see.

**Collared Scops Owl***Otus bakkamoena*

This scarce species was heard briefly on one night at Nameri.

**Brown Fish Owl***Ketupa zeylonensis*

Excellent views were had of this large owl during the day in Kaziranga NP.

**Tawny Fish Owl***Ketupa flavipes*

We were exceptionally lucky to see this huge, nocturnal owl during the day as it came swooping down into the Mo Chu from the riverine forest and collapsed on a massive fish, which it duly swept up into its talons and carried away to a nearby perch where it perched briefly and then flew off into the nearby dense forest. An amazing sighting!

**Collared Owlet***Glaucidium brodiei*

Although frequently heard, this diminutive owl is seldom seen, and we were extremely lucky to be afforded such good views along the lower Lingmethang Road. We later enjoyed great views of another individual near Zhemgang.

**Asian Barred Owllet***Glaucidium cuculoides*

We had fantastic views of this beautiful little owl on several occasions during our stay at Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks. We also heard this species from our campsite near Tingtibi.

**Spotted Owllet***Athene brama*

We enjoyed good views of this cute, partly diurnal owllet in Kaziranga NP.

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

Wonderful views were obtained of a single calling bird at our lodge near Nameri NP.

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

This rapid flyer was seen in small flocks on a few days in Bhutan.

**White-throated Needletail***Hirundapus caudacutus*

This handsome and unpredictable species was observed on a single occasion above Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Asian Palm Swift***Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Good numbers were seen throughout Assam, with a few seen in the lowlands in Bhutan.

**Fork-tailed Swift***Apus pacificus*

By far the most common *apus* in Bhutan with birds observed on 8 days of the tour.

**Dark-rumped Swift***Apus acuticauda*

A single bird associating with a small flock of Asian Palm Swift flew past us at high speed but at close range above Deothang and we could obviously make out all the features of this rare bird before it disappeared out of sight.

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

Small flocks were seen on two separate occasions in the east of Bhutan.

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

Unfortunately this species was only heard in Nameri NP.

**Ward's Trogon***Harpactes wardi*

This spectacular trogon was seen remarkably well on two separate occasions without even searching for it. Our first sighting was an extremely lucky one and included two males and one female north of Morong and our second encounter was of a very confiding pair near Trongsa. A gorgeous and highly sought after species that showed extremely well!

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

This superbly coloured bird was seen in good numbers throughout the Assam extension.

**[Oriental] Dollarbird***Eurystomus orientalis*

This lowland forest species was only seen in Nameri NP.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae****Stork-billed Kingfisher***Halcyon capensis*

Several of these very impressive kingfishers were seen in Kaziranga NP.

**White-throated Kingfisher***Halcyon smyrnensis*

The commonest kingfisher, good numbers were seen daily on the extension. Small numbers of this gorgeous and demonstrative bird were also found at lower elevations in Bhutan.

**Common Kingfisher***Alcedo atthis*

Encountered in small numbers at water bodies on the Extension and in Bhutan.

**Crested Kingfisher***Megaceryle lugubris*

This denizen of large, rocky rivers was first seen along the Jia Bhoreli River bordering Nameri NP with further sightings on most large rivers in Bhutan.

**Pied Kingfisher***Ceryle rudis*

This cosmopolitan species was seen on several occasions in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

**Bee-eaters *Meropidae*****Blue-bearded Bee-eater***Nyctyornis athertoni*

This huge bee-eater was enjoyed on a few occasions, with our first views being in Kaziranga NP where we had two separate sightings. We later enjoyed two further sightings in the Tingtibi area.

**Green Bee-eater***Merops orientalis*

A few birds were seen during our time in Assam.

**Blue-tailed Bee-eater***Merops philippinus*

We found this passage migrant in Kaziranga NP where it was seen on only one of our days there.

**Chestnut-headed Bee-eater***Merops leschenaulti*

Small numbers of this extremely attractive bee-eater was enjoyed in both Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

**Hoopoes *Upupidae*****Eurasian Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

Many great views were had during both the Assam and Bhutan parts of the tour.

*NOTE: IOC splits the above species into two separate species: Eurasian Hoopoe U. epops and African Hoopoe U. Africana whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Eurasian Hoopoe U. epops.*

**Hornbills *Bucerotidae*****Oriental Pied Hornbill***Anthracoceros albirostris*

Small numbers of these hornbills were seen from our lodge near Kaziranga NP.

**Great Hornbill***Buceros bicornis*

Fabulous views were had of this massive, gaudy hornbill in Nameri NP as well as near Samdrup Jongkhar and at Tingtibi .

**Rufous-necked Hornbill***Aceros nipalensis*

Another charismatic and spectacular hornbill and undoubtedly one of the major targets on any Bhutan tour, this range-restricted species was seen extremely well on 9 separate days in Bhutan with over 30 individuals being recorded.

**Wreathed Hornbill***Aceros undulatus*

Yet another fabulous hornbill that was seen in Nameri NP and again just above Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

**Asian Barbets *Capitonidae*****Great Barbet***Megalaima virens*

One of the dominant sounds of middle-altitude Himalayan forests, we enjoyed sightings of this charismatic bird on many days of the tour.

**Lineated Barbet***Megalaima lineata*

This species was commonly heard and seen on the Kaziranga and Nameri extension.

**Golden-throated Barbet***Megalaima franklinii*

This exquisite barbet was seen well and scoped on several occasions during our time spent in the mid-altitude hill forest that blankets Bhutan.

**Blue-throated Barbet***Megalaima asiatica*

This gaudy bird was enjoyed by everyone on numerous occasions throughout India and in the lowlands of Bhutan.

**Blue-eared Barbet***Megalaima australis*

After hearing this species in Nameri NP we were all rewarded with wonderful views of four birds at the edge of the hill forest just above Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Coppersmith Barbet***Megalaima haemacephala*

Great views were had of these stunning barbets in Kaziranga NP. This species was also heard around Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Honeyguides Indicatoridae****Yellow-rumped Honeyguide***Indicator xanthonotus*

Another scarce species best located in Bhutan, we enjoyed awesome scope views of these unique birds on three separate occasions.

**Woodpeckers Picidae****Eurasian Wryneck***Picumnus innominatus*

A single bird was seen in grassland habitat in Kaziranga NP.

**Speckled Piculet***Picumnus innominatus*

Good views were obtained on three separate occasions in the lowlands of Bhutan.

**White-browed Piculet***Sasia ochracea*

A pair of these tiny, scarce woodpeckers was seen in shrubby habitat en route from Zhemgang to Trongsa.

**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker***Dendrocopos hyperythrus*

This gorgeous woodpecker was first seen en route from Zhemgang to Tingtibi with a further fabulous sighting on Dochu La.

**Grey-capped [Pygmy] Woodpecker***Dendrocopos canicapillus*

Small numbers of this tiny woodpecker were encountered in Nameri NP and in the lower altitudes of Bhutan.

**Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker***Dendrocopos macei*

A rather uncommon bird that was only seen by some of the group in Nameri NP.

**Crimson-breasted Woodpecker***Dendrocopos cathpharius*

Another uncommon Woodpecker that was seen well on one occasion on the Lower Lingmethang road.

**Darjeeling Woodpecker***Dendrocopos darjellensis*

Fantastic, close views were had of this impressive species on Dochu La.

**Greater Yellownape***Picus flavinucha*

A strikingly large and wonderfully patterned woodpecker that was seen extremely well on three separate occasions in Bhutan.

**Lesser Yellownape***Picus chlorolophus*

Our only sighting of this species on the tour was in Nameri NP.

**Streak-throated Woodpecker***Picus xanthopygaeus*

We saw this species on a single occasion in Kaziranga NP.

**Grey-headed (-faced) Woodpecker***Picus canus*

Our first sighting of this impressive woodpecker was above Samdrup Jongkhar with a further more prolonged sighting in the Tingtibi area.

**Lesser (Black-rumped) Goldenback (Flameback) *Dinopium benghalense***

Some great views were obtained of this woodland woodpecker in Kaziranga NP.

**Greater Goldenback (Flameback)***Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

Fabulous views were had just outside Kaziranga NP with further views in and around Nameri NP.

**Bay Woodpecker***Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

Good views were enjoyed on several occasions at various localities throughout Bhutan. Another good-looking woodpecker!

**Rufous Woodpecker***Celeus brachyurus*

A single bird was seen with a mixed species flock in shrubby habitat en route from Zhemgang to Trongsa.

**Broadbills *Eurylaimidae*****Long-tailed Broadbill***Psarisomus dalhousiae*

Excellent views were had of a pair of these stunning birds above Samdrup Jongkhar with further views of a pair near Tingtibi.

**Woodshrikes & allies *Tephrodornithidae*****Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike***Hemipus picatus*

Small numbers of this bird were found in mixed flocks on several days in Bhutan.

**Large Woodshrike***Tephrodornis virgatus*

We found this relatively scarce lowland species in broadleaf forest above the town of Samdrup Jongkhar.

*NOTE: IOC splits this species into two distinct species; Large Woodshrike T. virgatus and Malabar Woodshrike T. sylvicola whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Large Woodshrike T. gularis.*

**Woodswallows *Artamidae*****Ashy Woodswallow***Artamus fuscus*

Small numbers were located on the Assam Extension.

**Ioras *Aegithinidae*****Common Iora***Aegithina tiphia*

This common and widespread lowland species was seen in mixed species flocks in Nameri NP.

**Cuckooshrikes *Campephagidae*****Large Cuckooshrike***Coracina macei*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

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

Several individuals were seen during our time in Bhutan.

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

Commonly recorded in all low and mid-altitude forest throughout Bhutan.

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

A really stunning bird that was first seen in Kaziranga and again on several days in Bhutan.

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

Sightings of this gorgeous species were enjoyed on 7 days of the tour in Bhutan.

**Scarlet Minivet***Pericrocotus speciosus*

The dominant minivet of lower altitudes; numerous sightings were had in both Assam and Bhutan.

*NOTE: Clements lumps Scarlet Minivet P. speciosus with Orange Minivet P. flammeus as Scarlet Minivet P. flammeus.*

**Shrikes *Laniidae***

**Brown Shrike***Lanius cristatus*

This species was seen in open habitat in Assam with another sighting for some of the group in the Tingtibi area.

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

A striking and commonly recorded species in open habitats throughout the trip.

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

This species also proved to be numerous throughout India and Bhutan.

**Vireos, Greenlets Virionidae****White-bellied Erpornis (Yuhina)***Erpornis zantholeuca*

We had a total of three sightings and eight individuals in the lowland areas of Bhutan.

**Black-headed Shrike-babbler***Pteruthius rufiventer*

Two separate but brief sightings were had by some of the group on the lower Lingmethang Road.

**Blyth's (White-browed) Shrike-babbler***Pteruthius aeralatus*

An attractive and extremely vocal species, we enjoyed several scattered sightings of both sexes during the Bhutan section of the tour.

*NOTE: Clements lumps Blyth's Shrike-babbler P. aeralatus with Pied Shrike-babbler P. flaviscapis, Himalayan Shrike-babbler P. ripleyi and Dalat Shrike-babbler P. annamensis as White-browed Shrike-babbler P. flaviscapis.*

**Green Shrike-babbler***Pteruthius xanthochlorus*

This high altitude shrike-babbler showed well on two consecutive days along the upper Lingmethang Road.

**Black-eared Shrike-babbler***Pteruthius melanotis*

One of the most spectacularly colourful birds of the trip, we enjoyed numerous looks at this gaudy little gem, mostly in mixed-species flocks.

**Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae****Slender-billed Oriole***Oriolus tenuirostris*

We had great views of a number of vocal individuals around our hotel in Punakha.

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

Small numbers were encountered in the lowlands with the majority of sightings on the Assam Extension and only one sighting in Bhutan.

**Maroon Oriole***Oriolus traillii*

Another very attractive species that was seen fairly regularly in mid-altitude broadleaved forest; first in Nameri and later throughout Bhutan.

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

An especially numerous and conspicuous species throughout India with a few sightings in open areas in Bhutan.

**Ashy Drongo***Dicrurus leucophaeus*

By far the most commonly encountered drongo in Bhutan with a few birds seen in Nameri NP as well.

**Bronzed Drongo***Dicrurus aeneus*

This iridescent species was seen regularly at all lowland sites on the tour.

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

A relatively scarce species that was seen on five separate days in Bhutan.

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

This spectacular and extremely noisy species was seen on several occasions in Kaziranga and Nameri as well as in the lowlands of Bhutan.

NOTE: Clements splits this species into two species: Hair-crested Drongo *D. hottentottus* and Tablas Drongo *D. menagei* whereas IOC only recognizes one species, Hair-crested Drongo *D. hottentottus*.

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

This lowland species was only seen in the forests around Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

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

This lively species was quite numerous at lower altitudes and we recorded it on 10 days in Bhutan.

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

This widespread but attractive Asian species was only observed in the forests around Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

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

Our only encounter with this species was en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

**Yellow-billed Blue (Gold-billed) Magpie***Urocissa flavirostris*

Another extremely bold and attractive species that was seen on several occasions in the highland areas.

**[Common] Green Magpie***Cissa chinensis*

Wonderful views were had of this brilliant green magpie near the town of Lingmethang.

**Rufous Treepie***Dendrocitta vagabunda*

A great-looking and pleasantly common species throughout Kaziranga NP..

**Grey Treepie***Dendrocitta formosae*

A fairly commonly recorded species at lower altitudes throughout Bhutan.

**Eurasian Magpie***Pica pica*

Several loose flocks and singletons were encountered on consecutive days whilst in the Bumthang district.

**Spotted (Eurasian) Nutcracker***Nucifraga caryocatactes*

Great views were had of this charismatic species at high altitudes with especially large numbers on Thrumsing La and Chele La.

NOTE: IOC splits this species into two separate species: Spotted Nutcracker *N. caryocatactes* and Large-spotted Nutcracker *N. multipunctata* whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Eurasian Nutcracker *N. caryocatactes*.

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

These distinctly vocal corvids were commonly seen in higher-lying areas on the tour.

**House Crow***Corvus splendens*

The commonest bird of urban India, where hundreds occur around the towns and cities. Small numbers were later recorded in the Thimphu area of Bhutan.

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

The common crow throughout Bhutan and seen on every day in the country.

**Eastern Jungle (Large-billed) Crow***Corvus levaillantii*

The numerous crow throughout India and replaces the later species at low altitudes, we saw this species daily on the Assam Extension.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Indian Jungle Crow *C. culminates* and Large-billed Crow *C. macrorhynchos* as Large-billed Crow *C. macrorhynchos*.

**Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae****Yellow-bellied Fantail***Rhipidura hypoxantha*

This animated species was commonly encountered in mid elevation broadleaf forest where it was a regular member of mixed flocks.

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

This sprightly species was a conspicuous member of mixed foraging flocks throughout the tour.

**Tits & Chickadees Paridae****Rufous-vented Tit***Periparus rubidiventris*

Small numbers of this species were seen in high altitude coniferous forest on Thrumsing La and Pele La.

*NOTE: Clements splits this species into two separate species: Rufous-vented Tit P. rubidiventris and Black-crested Tit P. melanolophus whereas IOC only recognizes one species, Rufous-vented Tit P. rubidiventris.*

**Coal Tit***Periparus ater*

By far the most numerous high altitude tit in Bhutan, we saw this species on all the high passes.

**Grey Crested Tit***Lophophanes dichrous*

A subtly attractive species that was again seen in small numbers in the higher-lying coniferous forests of Bhutan.

**Cinereous (Great) Tit***Parus cinereous*

A pair was seen foraging outside our lodge at the edge of Kaziranga NP.

*NOTE: Clements lumps Cinereous Tit P. cinereous with Great Tit P. major and Japanese Tit as Great Tit P. major. Clements does however recognize another split of Great Tit P. major that IOC does not recognize, this being Turkestan Tit P. bokharensis.*

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

By far the most common and widespread tit in Bhutan, recorded on most days.

**Yellow-cheeked Tit***Parus spilonotus*

This brightly coloured species was pleasantly widespread and common throughout Bhutan in mid-altitude forest.

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

This species was fairly common in mid and high altitude forest throughout Bhutan.

**Sultan Tit***Melanochlora sultanea*

This incredibly beautiful, large and rather uncommon tit was first seen in Nameri with later sightings around Samdrup Jongkhar and in the Tingtibi area where we were rewarded with particularly good views.

**Penduline Tits Remizidae****Fire-capped Tit***Cephalopyrus flammiceps*

This extremely uncommon and often elusive species was seen exceptionally well on Dochu La. A total of three birds were seen.

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

We recorded this species in short grassland habitat in Kaziranga NP.

**Sand Lark***Calandrella raytal*

After searching and scanning the edges of the Jia Bhoreli River bordering Nameri NP we finally found a pair of these tiny, grey larks.

**Oriental Skylark***Alauda gulgula*

We found this species on three consecutive days in the Sengor and Bumthang areas where several individuals were in full song and display flight.

### Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

**Striated Bulbul***Pycnonotus striatus*

This boldly marked bulbul was seen very well on several occasions during our time in the lower-lying areas of Bhutan.

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

We first recorded this lowland forest species in Nameri NP and had further sightings in the forests around Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

*NOTE: Clements Black-crested Bulbul P. flaviventris with Black-capped Bulbul P. melanicterus, Ruby-throated Bulbul P. dispar, Flame-throated Bulbul P. gularis and Bornean Bulbul P. montis as Black-crested Bulbul P. melanicterus.*

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

Regularly encountered in open areas throughout India with several more being found above Samdrup Jonkhar.

**Himalayan (White-cheeked) Bulbul***Pycnonotus leucogenys*

This funky bird was only encountered in the Trashigang area.

**Red-vented Bulbul***Pycnonotus cafer*

Abundant in secondary habitat throughout the extension and main tour.

**White-throated Bulbul***Alophoixus flaveolus*

A few birds were seen in the forests above Samdrup Jongkar with several more being found in the Tingtibi area.

**Mountain Bulbul***Ixos mccllellandii*

Small numbers were encountered throughout the mid-altitude broadleaved forest areas of Bhutan.

**Ashy Bulbul***Hemixos flavala*

Small numbers were first encountered in the lowlands of Bhutan.

**Black Bulbul***Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Good numbers were recorded throughout the tour with our first sightings in Nameri.

*NOTE: IOC splits the above species into two species: Black Bulbul H. leucocephalus and Square-tailed Bulbul H. ganeesa whereas Clements only one species, Black Bulbul H. leucocephalus.*

### Swallows & Martins *Hirundinidae*

**Brown-throated (Plain) Martin***Riparia paludicola*

Small numbers were found feeding over the grasslands in Kaziranga NP.

**Sand Martin (Bank Swallow)***Riparia riparia*

As with the previous species this swallow was seen in small flocks over the grasslands in Kaziranga NP.

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Large numbers were found throughout India with smaller numbers at scattered localities in Bhutan.

**Asian House Martin***Delichon dasypus*

A scarce species that was recorded on only one occasion near Punakha.

**Nepal House Martin***Delichon nipalensis*

The commonest *Hirundine* of the trip, we encountered numerous flocks along the roadside and had the pleasure of watching a colony around their nests on one occasion.

**Red-rumped Swallow***Cecropis daurica*

This extremely widespread species was seen around Samdrup Jongkhar with a further encounter at Trashigang.

*NOTE: IOC splits the above species into three distinct species; Red-rumped Swallow C. daurica, Sri Lanka Swallow C. hyperythra and West African Swallow C. domicella whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Red-rumped Swallow C. daurica.*

**Wren-babblers *Pnoepygidae*****Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler***Pnoepyga albiventer*

We were fortunate to obtain good and fairly prolonged views of this arch skulker near our campsite at Morong.

**Pygmy Wren-babbler***Pnoepyga pusilla*

Another secretive forest mite that was seen relatively well on the lower Lingmethang Road after hearing it on numerous occasions. We were later rewarded with a fabulous encounter in the Jigme Dorji NP.

**Cettia bush warblers and allies *Cettidae*****Slaty-bellied Tesia***Tesia olivea*

Tesias are notoriously difficult to see and only some of the group managed glimpses of this species in the Tashitang Valley. The calls of this skulker were however heard on many occasions in suitable habitat.

**Grey-bellied Tesia***Tesia cyaniventer*

Another tricky bird that was first seen above Samdrup Jongkhar and later seen remarkably well near Trongsa! This particular individual really put on an amazing show and although the views were always brief, everyone managed to obtain some kind of view of this tough-to-see forest dweller.

**Chestnut-headed Tesia***Tesia castaneocoronata*

This colourful understory skulker was only seen briefly by some on Dochu La.

**Brown (ish) -flanked Bush Warbler***Cettia fortipes*

This common *cettia* was heard on numerous days of the trip and was seen well on a few occasions.

**Hume's (Yellowish-bellied) Bush Warbler***Cettia brunnescens*

We had good views of a single bird on Thrumsing La.

*NOTE: Clements lumps Hume's Bush Warbler C. brunnescens with Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler C. acanthizoides as Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler C. acanthizoides.*

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

Excellent views were had of a single bird on the middle Lingmethang Road.

**Broad-billed Warbler***Tickellia hodgsoni*

Although we heard this rare bird on two consecutive days along the middle and lower Lingmethang Road we were unable to get a view of this species.

**Rufous-faced Warbler***Abroscopus albogularis*

An extremely localized bird in Bhutan, we obtained views of several individuals in the Tingtibi area.

**Black-faced Warbler***Abroscopus schisticeps*

This beautiful warbler was seen on numerous occasions throughout the country, mainly in the east.

**Yellow-bellied Warbler***Abroscopus superciliaris*

This widespread south-east Asian species was only heard in a bamboo-clad gulley near Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Mountain Tailorbird***Orthotomus cuculatus*

After hearing this skulking species near Morong and along the lower Lingmethang Road we finally managed good views of a single calling bird near Yongkhola.

**Bushtits *Aegithalidae*****Black-throated Bushtit (Tit)***Aegithalos concinnus*

Regular sightings were had of this gorgeous, little tit throughout the mid-altitude forests in Bhutan.

**Rufous-fronted Bushtit (Black-browed Tit)***Aegithalos iouschistos*

A higher altitude version of the previous species, we were treated to fabulous views on many occasions

in coniferous forest in Bhutan.

NOTE: IOC splits this species into three separate species; Rufous-fronted Bushtit *A. iouschistos*, Black-browed Bushtit *A. bonvaloti* and Burmese Bushtit *A. sharpei* whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Black-browed Bushtit *A. iouschistos*.

### Leaf warblers and allies *Phylloscopidae*

#### **Dusky Warbler**

*Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Two separate sightings were had in Nameri NP with a further, close encounter near Punakha in Bhutan.

#### **Tickell's Leaf Warbler**

*Phylloscopus affinis*

We first saw this obvious *phylloscopus* at Trongsa and thereafter we enjoyed many sightings.

#### **Buff-barred Warbler**

*Phylloscopus pulcher*

Good numbers were recorded in the east of the country, especially on the lower Lingmethang Road.

#### **Ashy-throated Warbler**

*Phylloscopus maculipennis*

This distinctive and attractive *phylloscopus* species was seen well on the upper Lingmethang Road and on Dochu La.

#### **Lemon (Pale)-rumped Warbler**

*Phylloscopus chloronotus*

This was by far the most abundant warbler of the trip; we had numerous sightings on most days.

#### **Yellow-browed Warbler**

*Phylloscopus inornatus*

This migrant was first seen in Assam with further regular sightings throughout Bhutan.

#### **Hume's [Leaf] Warbler**

*Phylloscopus humei*

This species is extremely similar to the previous species. Only two sightings were had of this warbler; one near Morong and another on the lower Lingmethang Road.

#### **Greenish Warbler**

*Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Small numbers were encountered irregularly on the extension and in Bhutan.

NOTE: IOC splits this species into two separate species; Greenish Warbler *P. trochiloides* and Two-barred Warbler *P. plumbeitarsus* whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Greenish Warbler *P. trochiloides*.

#### **Large-billed Leaf Warbler**

*Phylloscopus magnirostris*

This large, distinctive *phylloscopus* was only seen in the Zhemgang area and was heard again on Dochu La.

#### **Blyth's Leaf Warbler**

*Phylloscopus reguloides*

This tiny but distinctive *phylloscopus* was seen regularly throughout Bhutan with our first sighting in Nameri NP on the extension.

#### **Yellow-vented Warbler**

*Phylloscopus cantator*

This attractive species was first seen on the extreme lower Lingmethang Road with further regular sightings in the Tingtibi area.

#### **Grey-hooded Warbler**

*Seicercus xanthoschistos*

This species was pleasantly common and vocal throughout Bhutan.

#### **White-spectacled Warbler**

*Seicercus affinis*

We enjoyed excellent sightings of this beautiful and rare warbler on consecutive days on the lower and middle Lingmethang Road.

#### **Green-crowned (Golden-spectacled) Warbler**

*Seicercus burkii*

Our only sighting of this warbler was of a single bird in a mixed species flock near Zhemgang.

#### **Whistler's Warbler**

*Seicercus whistleri*

Similar looking to the previous species, this higher altitude warbler was seen well on the middle Lingmethang Road and again on Dochu La.

#### **Grey-cheeked Warbler**

*Seicercus poliogenys*

We encountered this attractive species commonly on the lower Lingmethang Road with our first encounter being near Morong in the south-east.

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler***Seicercus castaniceps*

Another very attractive and minute warbler that was seen on numerous occasions throughout the tour especially with mixed flocks.

**Reed Warblers & allies *Acrocephalidae*****Blyth's Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus dumetorum*

A single bird was seen in a thicket in Nameri NP.

**Thick-billed Warbler***Acrocephalus aedon*

We found a single bird in extensive thickets above Samdrup Jongkhar. A good and rather unexpected find!

**Grassbirds & allies *Megaluridae*****Striated Grassbird***Chaetornis striatus*

Excellent and repeat views were had of several individuals in full song and display flight at various wetland localities in Assam.

**Russet (Taiwan) Bush Warbler***Bradypterus mandelli*

We were thrilled to find several birds associating with dense thickets in the Trongsa area. After some hard work we managed to obtain fabulous views of this skulking species.

*NOTE: Clements lumps Russet Bush Warbler B. mandelli with Taiwan Bush Warbler B. alishanensis as Taiwan Bush Warbler B. alishanensis.*

**Cisticolas & Allies *Cisticolidae*****Zitting Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis*

Small numbers were found in moist grasslands near Guwahati and in Kaziranga NP.

**Striated Prinia***Prinia criniger*

Good numbers were found in dry grassy and shrubby habitat in the Trashigang and Zhemgang areas of Bhutan.

**Black-throated (Hill) Prinia***Prinia atrogularis*

Unfortunately this scarce Prinia was only seen by Steve near Zhemgang.

*NOTE: IOC splits this species into two separate species; Black-throated Prinia P. atrogularis and Hill Prinia P. superciliaris whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Hill Prinia P. atrogularis.*

**Ashy Prinia***Prinia socialis*

Some of the group were lucky to see this species in Kaziranga NP.

**Common Tailorbird***Orthotomus sutorius*

This common and vocal species was seen well on many occasions in Assam and in the lowlands of Bhutan.

**Babblers, Scimitar Babblers *Timaliidae*****Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler***Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*

This large, loud and pleasantly common babbler was seen very well on several occasions with our first highly memorable sighting being at our campsite near Morong.

**White-browed Scimitar Babbler***Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

Great views were had on consecutive days in the Tingtibi area.

**Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler***Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

Excellent views were had of this attractive species near our campsite at Morong with further views in Trongsa.

**Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler***Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*

This uncommon, striking and often elusive scimitar babbler was seen remarkably well on three

consecutive days along the lower Lingmethang Road. Our first encounter though was a typically brief one near Morong.

**Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler***Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*

After hearing this species on the middle and upper Lingmethang Road and after hours of trying near Sengor we finally bumped into a fabulous pair that showed extremely well for a prolonged period and we even managed to get them in the scopes for everyone. Without a doubt one of Bhutan's most bizarre and sought-after species!

**Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler***Spelaeornis caudatus*

We had an incredibly close and extended sighting of this stunning bird near Morong. Later on we heard the calls of this vocal species ringing out from several locations along the lower Lingmethang Road.

**Bar-winged Wren-Babbler***Spelaeornis troglodytoides*

Cracking views were had of this rare, exquisitely-patterned and extremely localized babbler along the upper Lingmethang Road.

**Spotted Wren-Babbler***Spelaeornis formosus*

This shy, skulking babbler was seen exceptionally well and for an amazingly long time near Tingtibi on our final day in the area.

**Sikkim Wedge-billed (Blackish-breasted) Babbler** *Spelaeornis humei*

This extremely sought-after world mega was located and, with a lot of patience, drawn out briefly on the lower Lingmethang Road.

**Grey-throated Babbler***Stachyris nigriceps*

A fairly secretive and bizarre babbler that was seen relatively well on a few occasions in the Tingtibi area.

**Rufous-capped Babbler***Stachyris ruficeps*

This common babbler was heard and seen on many occasions throughout the tour.

**Golden Babbler***Stachyris chrysaea*

This stunning babbler of the undergrowth was seen well on several occasions with memorable sightings along the lower and middle Limnethang Road, near Tingtibi and in the Tashitang Valley.

**Pin-striped Tit-Babbler***Macronous gularis*

We first saw this species in Nameri NP and later had excellent views of a pair above Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Chestnut-capped Babbler***Timalia pileata*

Unbeatable views were had of this usually difficult-to-see species in an open patch of burnt elephant grass in Kaziranga NP.

**Fulvettas, Ground Babblers *Pellorneidae*****Yellow-throated Fulvetta***Alcippe cinerea*

Several small flocks were encountered moving low down in the forest undergrowth near Morong and along the lower Lingmethang Road.

**Rufous-winged Fulvetta***Alcippe castaneiceps*

Numerous at higher altitudes, where they were often seen in amongst the mixed flocks along the passes.

**Nepal Fulvetta***Alcippe nipalensis*

We only found this species in low altitude forest in the Tingtibi and Zhemgang area.

**Long-billed Wren-Babbler***Rimator malacoptilus*

This strange, little known and incredibly sought after species was seen amazingly well along the lower Lingmethang Road where a single bird popped up extremely close by and for a prolonged view!

**Abbott's Babbler***Malacocincla abbotti*

This songster was seen very well in Nameri NP during our full day there.

**Puff-throated Babbler***Pellorneum ruficeps*

We unfortunately only heard this species on two occasions on the Assam Extension.

**Laughingthrushes *Leiothrichidae*****Striated Babbler***Turdoides earlei*

A small flock was seen very well at relatively close range in Kaziranga NP.

**Slender-billed Babbler***Turdoides longirostris*

This extremely rare and localized denizen of dense Elephant Grass was unfortunately only heard in Kaziranga NP.

**Jungle Babbler***Turdoides Striata*

A rare bird for this trip, we were lucky to find a flock near Deothang in south-eastern Bhutan.

**White-throated Laughingthrush***Garrulax albogularis*

One of the most commonly recorded laughingthrushes on the tour. We encountered massive flocks on many occasions with the highest numbers being along the lower Lingmethang Road.

**White-crested Laughingthrush***Garrulax leucolophus*

This handsome bird was seen on a few occasions, with our best views being just above our campsite near Tingtibi.

**Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush***Garrulax rufogularis*

After hearing this skulking species on several occasions we finally found a pair that showed excellently near Punakha.

**Spotted Laughingthrush***Garrulax ocellatus*

After hearing this species and struggling to get views of a pair on Dochu La we managed to coax three birds out into the open and across the road on Chele La. A fabulous laughingthrush and definitely one of Bhutan's top birds!

**Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush***Garrulax monileger*

We encountered two separate flocks in the Tingtibi area.

**Rufous-necked Laughingthrush***Garrulax caerulatus*

A great-looking bird! Flocks were seen well on the extreme lower Lingmethang Road as well as near Tingtibi.

**Grey-sided Laughingthrush***Garrulax caerulatus*

This can be a very difficult bird to see and we were extremely fortunate to have had such incredibly good views of a flock on the lower Lingmethang Road.

**Striated Laughingthrush***Garrulax striatus*

This very common laughingthrush gave good views on most days in Bhutan.

**Bhutan (Streaked) Laughingthrush***Garrulax imbricatus*

This species was commonly encountered in shrubby habitat throughout Bhutan.

*NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Streaked Laughingthrush G. lineatus as Streaked Laughingthrush.*

**Blue-winged Laughingthrush***Garrulax squamatus*

This extremely shy and often hard-to-see species was seen amazingly well near Zhemgang.

**Scaly Laughingthrush***Garrulax subunicolor*

Not only is this species extremely uncommon, it is also rated as one of the world's toughest laughingthrushes to see! We however managed to obtain unbeatable views of a wonderful pair on the middle Lingmethang Road. Two more individuals were also seen briefly along the same stretch of road with another with a single bird near Sengor. Amazing stuff!

**Black-faced Laughingthrush***Garrulax affinis*

This species was fairly common at higher elevations and we had good views on several days.

**Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush***Garrulax erythrocephalus*

Fairly regular sightings were had throughout Bhutan.

**Himalayan Cutia***Cutia nipalensis*

Our first views of this highly attractive and sought after species were of a small party in a distant tree near Morong. However, we later had excellent, repeat views of several groups along the lower Lingmethang Road.

**Blue-winged Minla***Minla cyanouroptera*

This species was encountered in fair numbers in Bhutan, where they were often members of mixed-species flocks.

**Bar-throated (Chestnut-tailed) Minla***Minla strigula*

This lively and gorgeous species was seen on many occasions throughout the Bhutan section of the tour.

**Red-tailed Minla***Minla ignotincta*

Less common than the above two species, behaving nuthatch-like, it was seen in small numbers in the Morong, Lingmethang and Zhemgang areas.

**Red-faced Liocichla***Liocichla phoenicea*

This arch skulker was seen by some of the group along the lower Lingmethang Road.

*NOTE: IOC splits this species into two separate species; Red-faced Liocichla L. phoenicea and Scarlet-faced Liocichla L. ripponi whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Red-faced Liocichla L. phoenicea.*

**Rusty-fronted Barwing***Actinodura egerton*

This large and striking flock species of the lower strata was recorded on 7 days in Bhutan.

**Hoary-throated Barwing***Actinodura nipalensis*

This, the much less common of the 2 barwing species in Bhutan showed very well on the middle Lingmethang Road with a further encounter en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

**Silver-eared Leiothrix (Mesia)***Leiothrix argentauris*

This spectacular undergrowth species was seen very well on two consecutive days in the Morong area with a further sighting of a massive flock of at least 40 birds near Zhemgang.

**Red-billed Leiothrix***Leiothrix lutea*

This secretive ground-dwelling forest babbler was seen briefly in a mixed species flock near Zhemgang.

**Rufous Sibia***Heterophasia capistrata*

One of the most common species of Bhutanese forests and recorded most days with up to 30 daily in some areas.

**Long-tailed Sibia***Heterophasia picaoides*

This lowland species was only seen on one occasion in amongst a mixed species flock above Deothang.

**Sylviid Babblers, Parrotbills, Myzornis Sylviidae****Fire-tailed Myzornis***Myzornis pyrrhoura*

This avian gem is without a doubt one of Bhutan's most desirable birds! We found a total of five birds on the trip with three separate sightings! Our first extremely unexpected sighting was of a pair on the lower Lingmethang Road. We later had extended views of a pair on the middle Lingmethang Road and finally ended off with a single bird on Dochu La. Sometimes you just get lucky!

**Golden-breasted Fulvetta***Alcippe chrysotis*

Excellent sightings were had of this stunning babbler on three separate days in Bhutan. Our first sighting was a brief one to the north of Narphung with further sightings being enjoyed along the lower, middle and upper Lingmethang Road.

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

The highest altitude fulvetta in Bhutan, we saw this species regularly in amongst mixed species flocks in high elevation coniferous forest throughout the country.

**Great Parrotbill***Conostoma oemodium*

This massive, noisy species was seen well on Thrumsing La.

**Brown Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis unicolor*

After struggling to glimpse this species in the evening we returned to the same site in the morning and were treated to truly amazing views of a large group of these great birds near Jakar.

**Black-throated Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis nipalensis*

Excellent views were attained of this gorgeous species with our first sighting being of a small, fast-moving group on the lower Lingmethang Road. Later the same day we were blown away by a flock of around 60 birds that moved through a large stand of bamboo on the middle Lingmethang Road offering unbeatable views!

**White-breasted (Rufous-headed) Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis ruficeps*

Several small flocks were found on three consecutive days along the lower Lingmethang Road.

Another very striking bird that provided some extremely memorable experiences!

*NOTE: IOC splits this species into two species; White-breasted Parrotbill P. ruficeps and Rufous-headed Parrotbill P. bakeri whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Rufous-headed Parrotbill P. ruficeps.*

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

**Striated Yuhina** *Yuhina castaniceps*

This low elevation yuhina was seen on several occasions in the Tingtibi and Zhemgang areas with our first encounter being on the extreme lower Lingmethang Road.

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

A very uncommon species that was seen well along the lower Lingmethang Road on one occasion.

**Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis*

The most commonly encountered yuhina in Bhutan and a conspicuous member of mixed flocks.

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

This large yuhina with its erect crest was commonly encountered at higher altitudes throughout the trip.

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

This species was fairly common during our tour with small numbers seen most days at higher altitudes.

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

Another lowland bird that was seen extremely well on several days with peak numbers in the Tingtibi area.

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

This lively species was commonly seen on the extension as well as on many days in Bhutan.

### Fairy-bluebirds Irenidae

**Asian Fairy-bluebird** *Irena puella*

This delightfully electric bird was seen in Nameri and in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

### Goldcrests, Kinglets Regulidae

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

A single bird was encountered in a mixed flock on the upper Lingmethang Road.

*NOTE: Clements splits this species into two separate species; Goldcrest R. regulus and Canary Islands Kinglet R. teneriffae whereas IOC only recognizes one species, Goldcrest R. regulus.*

### Wrens Troglodytidae

**Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

This tiny mouse-like species was seen on two consecutive days on Thrumsing La.

### Nuthatches Sittidae

**Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch***Sitta cinnamoventris*

This lowland nuthatch was first seen in Nameri NP with further encounters above Samdrup Jongkhar and at Tingtibi.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Indian Nuthatch *S. castanea* and Burmese Nuthatch *S. neglecta* as Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *S. castanea*.

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

The higher altitude nuthatch in Bhutan with several great sightings throughout Bhutan.

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

This species was encountered in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks on the Assam Extension.

**Beautiful Nuthatch***Sitta formosa*

This boldly patterned nuthatch is one of the most sought-after species in Bhutan as it is rare, localized and indeed beautiful. We were absolutely blown away to find this species from the bus while driving along slowly just after entering the birds range for the first time. Unbelievable views ensued and we were all completely satisfied and in awe of this sighting of one of Asia's best birds.

**Wallcreeper Tichodromidae****Wallcreeper***Certhia discolor*

We were really surprised to find this wonderful species on four occasions – These included one near Pele La, one on the Po Chu, another in the Tashitang Valley and the final sighting on the cliffs below the Tiger's Nest Monastery in Paro!

**Treecreepers Certhiidae****Eurasian Treecreeper***Certhia familiaris*

This widespread species was seen on a few occasions in high altitude coniferous forest during the tour.

**Rusty-flanked Treecreeper***Certhia nipalensis*

A single bird showed well on the upper Lingmethang Road near Sengor. A scarce bird indeed!

**Brown-throated Treecreeper***Certhia discolor*

Our first bird was seen on the lower Lingmethang Road with a further encounter on Dochu La.

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

This is a rare passage migrant through Bhutan and we were extremely fortunate to find a small flock of these starlings en route from Trongsa to Zhemgang.

**Common Hill Myna***Gracula religiosa*

Good numbers of these gaudy mynas were seen in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks with further sightings in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

**Great (White-vented) Myna***Acridotheres javanicus*

A few birds were seen, first near Guwahati, then in Kaziranga NP and again en route from Nameri to Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Jungle Myna***Acridotheres fuscus*

This species was commonly seen throughout India.

**Common Myna***Acridotheres tristis*

This ubiquitous species was present in large numbers throughout India and in most built up areas in Bhutan.

**Pied Myna (Asian Pied Starling)***Gracupica contra*

An atypical myna that was fairly numerous on the Kaziranga and Nameri extension.

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

This attractive species was fairly numerous in and around Kaziranga and Nameri NPs, where we had

records on most days. We also found this species in Samdrup Jongkhar and in Punakha.

### Thrushes *Turdidae*

#### **Blue Whistling Thrush**

*Myophonus caeruleus*

Perhaps Bhutan's most conspicuous roadside bird, we recorded this bird in large numbers daily.

#### **Orange-headed Thrush**

*Zoothera citrina*

Steve was extremely fortunate to find this species during one of his afternoon walks near Tingtibi.

#### **Plain-backed Thrush**

*Zoothera mollissima*

Excellent, prolonged views were had of this scarce and secretive species at the road edge along the upper Lingmethang Road.

#### **White-collared Blackbird**

*Turdus albocinctus*

We recorded a number of these birds on 7 days of the trip in Bhutan, mainly at higher altitudes.

#### **Grey-winged Blackbird**

*Turdus boulboul*

We had good views of this species on a few occasions with our first encounter on Kori La.

#### **Black-throated Thrush**

*Turdus atrogularis*

Small numbers were seen fairly regularly at scattered localities throughout Bhutan.

#### **Red-throated Thrush**

*Turdus ruficollis*

We were very lucky to encounter this scarce winter visitor on this trip. Just the one adult male seen on Chele La.

#### **Lesser Shortwing**

*Brachypteryx leucophrys*

This arch skulker was heard along the lower Lingmethang Road but could not be coaxed out.

#### **White-browed Shortwing**

*Brachypteryx montana*

This songster was also just heard en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

### Chats, Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

#### **White-tailed Rubythroat**

*Luscinia pectoralis*

A male showed relatively well but briefly in Kaziranga NP.

#### **White-browed Bush Robin**

*Tarsiger indicus*

Excellent views were had of this shy, understory bird on Thrumsing La.

#### **Himalayan Bluetail**

*Tarsiger rufilatus*

Several individuals were encountered during the trip, mainly at high altitudes.

#### **Golden Bush Robin**

*Tarsiger chrysaeus*

This stunning but secretive and elusive robin was encountered near Narphung and again on Yotong La.

#### **Oriental Magpie-Robin**

*Copsychus saularis*

Fairly common throughout the tour, with highest numbers recorded at lower and mid-altitudes.

#### **White-rumped Shama**

*Copsychus malabaricus*

This beautiful songster was unfortunately only heard on several occasions in Nameri NP and in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

#### **Black Redstart**

*Phoenicurus ochruros*

Small numbers of this migrant were encountered on the Assam extension.

#### **Hodgson's Redstart**

*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

Small numbers of this smart winter visitor were found throughout Bhutan.

#### **White-throated Redstart**

*Phoenicurus schisticeps*

This stunning but rather shy redstart was seen extremely well on a few occasions in Bhutan. Our first sighting was of two males and two females on Thrumsing La.

#### **Daurian Redstart**

*Phoenicurus aureoreus*

A lovely male was seen well and scoped near our accommodation at Nameri NP.

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

This attractive species was seen on nearly every day throughout Bhutan.

**Plumbeous [Water] Redstart***Rhyacornis fuliginosus*

Another very common redstart that was first seen above Samdrup Jongkhar with many sightings later along streams and rivers in Bhutan.

**White-capped Redstart***Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

A wonderful feature of Bhutanese rivers, this attractive species was encountered on streams and rivers throughout the tour, mainly in Bhutan with our first sighting in Nameri NP.

**White-tailed Robin***Cinclidium leucurum*

Phenomenal views were achieved of a handsome male near Zhemgang.

**Little Forktail***Enicurus scouleri*

This most diminutive of forktails was seen well on three occasions in Bhutan.

**Black-backed Forktail***Enicurus immaculatus*

This low elevation Forktail was first seen briefly above Samdrup Jongkhar and later seen very well carrying nesting material in the same area.

**Slaty-backed Forktail***Enicurus schistaceus*

This species was seen just once near the town of Lingmethang.

**Spotted Forktail***Enicurus maculates*

This fabulous bird, the largest and probably the most spectacular of Bhutan's forktails, was first seen rather briefly near Trongsa but was later seen extremely well and for an extended period in the same area.

**Siberian (Canary Island) Stonechat***Saxicola maurus*

This widespread species was common in grassland habitat in Kaziranga and Nameri NPs and we had a single sighting in Bhutan near Punakha.

*NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Canary Islands Stonechat S. dacotiae, European Stonechat S. rubicola and Stejneger's Stonechat S. stejnegeri as Canary Island Stonechat S. dacotiae.*

**Grey Bush Chat***Saxicola ferrea*

A conspicuous feature at the roadside of Bhutan with abundant individuals, even singing conspicuously at the edge of our campsites.

**Blue Rock Thrush***Monticola solitarius*

This bird was seen at scattered localities during the tour, with our first views in Assam.

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

This species was also fairly common and we had sightings on 7 of the days that we spent in Bhutan.

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

This superbly attractive species was seen in amazing numbers around Zhemgang, where we recorded around 20 males on a single day. Also recorded in the Yongkola and Punakha areas.

**Dark-sided Flycatcher***Muscicapa sibirica*

A few individuals were found in the Tashitang Valley with further sightings on Chele La.

**Asian Brown Flycatcher***Muscicapa dauurica*

We first located this species in Nameri NP with further sightings in the Samdrup Jongkhar area of Bhutan.

*NOTE: Clements splits this species into two separate species; Asian Brown Flycatcher M. dauurica and Brown-streaked Flycatcher M. siamensis whereas IOC only recognizes one species, Asian Brown Flycatcher M. dauurica.*

**Ferruginous Flycatcher***Muscicapa ferruginea*

This summer visitor was seen in the Tashitang Valley where several birds were found.

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

This rare and elusive flycatcher was seen in the Tashitang Valley and in a forest patch near Punakha.

**Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher***Ficedula strophiiata*

Easily the most common *Ficedula* in Bhutan, where we had some great views of this lovely species.

**Taiga Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*

This species was first seen on a few occasions in Kaziranga NP and was later found around Samdrup Jongkar in Bhutan.

**Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*

A pair of these uncommon flycatchers was seen briefly on Dochu La.

**Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*

This striking little species was seen on several days of the trip.

**Ultramarine Flycatcher** *Ficedula superciliaris*

This extremely handsome flycatcher was enjoyed on several occasions during the Bhutan portion of the tour.

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

This secretive species was seen briefly on the Zhemgang/Tingtibi Road.

**Sapphire Flycatcher** *Ficedula sapphira*

This elusive species was heard on the lower Lingmethang Road and was later seen by Steve in the Tashitang Valley.

**Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassina*

This beautiful and radiant bird was one of the most common species of the tour, mainly in Bhutan.

**Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor*

We first encountered a female in Nameri NP and were later treated to excellent views of a pair in the Tashitang Valley.

**Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis poliogenys*

We saw this species briefly in Nameri NP.

**Blue-throated [Blue] Flycatcher** *Cyornis rubeculoides*

Excellent views were obtained of this exquisite flycatcher near Lingmethang and in the Tingtibi area.

**White-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula monileger*

Unfortunately this scarce and secretive flycatcher was only heard on one occasion near Zhemgang.

**Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara*

Two separate males were seen briefly near Zhemgang.

**Large Niltava** *Niltava grandis*

Good views were had of this electric blue flycatcher on a few occasions in mid-altitude forest with our first encounters being on the Middle Lingmethang Road.

**Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae*

More numerous than the above species, we enjoyed good sightings of this endearing species on a number of occasions.

**Pygmy (Blue-) Flycatcher** *Muscicapella hodgsoni*

This tiny but extremely beautiful flycatcher was seen well on the lower Lingmethang Road and heard again on Dochu La.

### Dippers *Cinclidae*

**Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasii*

Several encounters were had with this star bird on large, rocky rivers in the west of the country.

### Leafbirds *Chloropseidae*

**Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons*

Good views were had of this species in Nameri and in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii*

This extremely colourful species was encountered fairly regularly at all lower elevation sites in Bhutan with our first sighting in Nameri NP.

### Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae*

**Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum ignipectus*

Numerous sightings were had of this canopy-dweller throughout Bhutan.

**Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum cruentatum*

Regular sightings were had on the Assam Extension.

### Sunbirds *Nectariniidae*

**[Mrs.] Gould's Sunbird** *Aethopyga gouldiae*

This resplendent bird was seen very well in Trongsa with further sightings on Dochu La.

**Green-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga nipalensis*

The most commonly encountered sunbird during the time we spent at mid- to high altitudes in Bhutan.

**Black-throated Sunbird** *Aethopyga saturata*

Another fairly numerous and stunning sunbird with birds on most days at lower altitudes.

**(Eastern) Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja*

We found this stunning sunbird in the lowland forest in Nameri NP and around Samdrup Jongkar in Bhutan.

**Fire-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga ignicauda*

This exquisite, high altitude sunbird was seen brilliantly on Kori La and on several occasions along the upper Lingmethang Road with a final encounter in Chele La.

**Streaked Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera magna*

We enjoyed several sightings of this attractive species in the lowland areas of Morong and Tingtibi in Bhutan, after a first record in Nameri NP in India.

### Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches *Passeridae*

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

This widespread species was commonly encountered throughout India.

**Russet Sparrow** *Passer rutilans*

Extremely numerous throughout Bhutan.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Another widespread Asian species that was seen in good numbers throughout the Assam extension and in Bhutan.

### Weavers, Widowbirds *Ploceidae*

**Black-breasted (Bengal) Weaver** *Ploceus benghalensis*

Two males were seen in breeding plumage with a large flock of Baya Weaver at the central entrance to Kaziranga NP.

**Streaked Weaver** *Ploceus manyar*

A single male in breeding plumage was seen with a large flock of Baya Weaver at the entrance to Kaziranga NP.

**Baya Weaver** *Ploceus philippinus*

A large flock was seen at the entrance to Kaziranga's central range with further sightings in the Park itself.

### Waxbills, Munias & Allies *Estrildidae*

**White-rumped Munia***Lonchura striata*

A small flock was located at forest edge above Samdrup Jongkhar.

**Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannikin)***Lonchura punctulata*

A flock of these widespread Asian munias was seen along the extreme lower Lingmethang Road.

**Accentors *Prunellidae*****Alpine Accentor***Prunella collaris*

A wonderful pair was encountered on Yotong La.

**Altai Accentor***Prunella himalayana*

A surprise find indeed! We bumped into a flock of these high altitude birds on Chele La. A very good bird for the route!

**Rufous-breasted Accentor***Prunella strophiatea*

We regularly recorded this species in small numbers at various scattered localities in Bhutan.

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

A few birds were seen in moist grasslands in Kaziranga NP.

**Citrine Wagtail***Motacilla citreola*

A fairly common wagtail in north-east India, we enjoyed some gorgeous males in full breeding plumage.

**Grey Wagtail***Motacilla cinerea*

Singles were encountered at scattered sites in Bhutan.

**White Wagtail***Motacilla alba*

Good numbers were located in and around Kaziranga and Nameri followed by numerous views along rivers in Bhutan.

**Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit***Anthus rufulus*

Several were seen in dry grassland on the extension in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

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

Encountered almost daily throughout the tour.

**Rosy Pipit***Anthus roseatus*

Small numbers were seen in Kaziranga NP, with a few more records at scattered sites in Bhutan.

**Water Pipit***Anthus spinoletta*

At least one and possibly two birds were seen extremely well and for an extended period at a patch of rank grassland near Jakar. This is a serious vagrant for Bhutan and represents one of very few records of this species for the country.

**Finches *Fringillidae*****Yellow-breasted Greenfinch***Carduelis spinoides*

A small flock was encountered near Zhemgang.

**Plain Mountain Finch***Leucosticte nemoricola*

Our first sighting was of a large flock flying overhead on Thrumsing La. We later had great perched views on Chele La.

**Dark-breasted Rosefinch***Carpodacus nipalensis*

Two females were located on Thrumsing La although they were rather flighty.

**Common Rosefinch***Carpodacus erythrinus*

We only encountered the highland race of this extremely variable species on this trip with sightings on Thrumsing La and Chele La.

**[Himalayan] Beautiful Rosefinch***Carpodacus pulcherrimus*

After many hours of searching we finally found a small flock that showed well in a small town in Bumthang.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch *C. davidianus* as Beautiful Rosefinch *C. pulcherrimus*

**Dark-rumped Rosefinch***Carpodacus edwardsii*

Excellent views were had of two separate males on Thrumsing La.

**[Himalayan] White-browed Rosefinch***Carpodacus thura*

A group of three birds were seen well on Chele La.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *C. dubius* as White-browed Rosefinch *C. thura*

**Crimson-browed Finch***Pinicola subhimachalus*

Three females were seen near our campsite at Sengor.

**Scarlet Finch***Haematospiza sipahi*

Small numbers of this vividly coloured bird was seen on two consecutive days near Morong.

**Red Crossbill***Loxia curvirostra*

Small flocks of these unique finches were seen on Thrumsing La and Chele La.

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

One adult male, an adult female and a juvenile male were seen feeding on the ground together on Chele La. Excellent views of a super bird!

**Collared Grosbeak***Mycerobas affinis*

Good views of this bright black and yellow bird were had on Chele La.

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

A single flock of these uncommon birds was encountered near Morong.

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

Small numbers were found on Thrumsing La and Chele La.

**Gold[en]-naped Finch***Pyrrhoptes epauletta*

A rare, striking and unpredictable species, we obtained great views of two males on the upper Lingmethang Road.

**Buntings, New World Sparrows & Allies *Emberizidae*****Crested Bunting***Melophus lathami*

We found this attractive bunting in scrubby countryside at low elevations in the Lingmethang, Zhemgang and Punakha areas.

**Little Bunting***Emberiza pusilla*

Sightings of this species were had at our campsite near Morong and near the town of Punakha.

**ANNOTATED LIST OF MAMMALS (24 Species)****Large-eared Pika***Ochotona macrotis*

A total of three were seen on our day over Thrumsing La and Ura La with at least a further 10 being seen on Chele La.

**Hodgson's Giant Flying Squirrel***Petaurista magnificus*

This rare, attractive and extremely localized mammal was seen very well on a night drive near Yongkola.

**Red Giant Flying Squirrel***Petaurista petaurista*

We found one of these brightly coloured squirrels on a night drive near Yongkola.

**Black Giant Squirrel***Ratufa bicolor*

Great, extended views of this impressive squirrel were enjoyed at several low elevation sites.

- Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel** *Dremomys lokriah*  
Commonly seen throughout Bhutan.
- Hoary-bellied Squirrel** *Callosciurus pygerythus*  
First seen in Kaziranga with further sightings in Nameri and later in Bhutan.
- Himalayan Striped Squirrel** *Tamiops mcclllandii*  
This tiny and extremely lively critter was commonly encountered in Bhutan.
- Pallas's Squirrel** *Callosciurus erythraeus*  
A handful of these animals were seen in the Tingtibi area.
- Yellow-throated Marten** *Martes flavigula*  
These crepuscular and very impressive mustellids were seen on two occasions with a particularly memorable sighting of one trying to climb up a gulley just below the road on the upper Lingmethang Road en route to Sengor.
- Common Otter** *Lutra perspicillata*  
Small numbers of these quizzical creatures were seen in the wetlands of Kaziranga NP with further views for some of the group in the Tashitang Valley.
- Golden Langur** *Trachypithecus geei*  
These handsome creatures were locally abundant around Zhemgang and Tingtibi where we had some great views of this charismatic primate at close quarters.
- Nepal Grey Langur** *Semnopithecus schistaceus*  
Another beautiful primate that was seen on only one occasion near Nobding/Pele La.
- Capped Langur** *Trachypithecus pileatus*  
Small troops of these playful monkeys were seen on several occasions in Assam and in the lowland forests around Samdrup Jongkhar and Yongkola.
- Assamese Macaque** *Macaca assamensis*  
Small numbers were seen at various localities throughout Bhutan.
- Rhesus Macaque** *Macaca mulatta*  
This abundant species was commonly seen in Assam with further views at Tingtibi in Bhutan.
- Greater One-horned Rhinoceros** *Rhinoceros unicornis*  
Good numbers of this magnificent creature were seen daily in Kaziranga National Park, which harbours the majority of the world's remaining population.
- Indian Elephant** *Elephas maximus*  
Small herds of these monstrous mammals were enjoyed in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks in Assam.
- Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa*  
Small numbers of these widespread pigs were seen in Kaziranga National Park.
- Water Buffalo** *Bubalus bubalus*  
This huge beast proved to be quite numerous in Kaziranga NP, where these animals are some of the few that have not interbred with local domesticated individuals.
- Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)** *Muntiacus muntjak*  
After hearing this species at Morong we finally saw our first one on a night drive near Yongkola with a second being seen in the Tashitang Valley.
- Hog Deer** *Axis porcinus*  
Harge numbers were seen daily in Kaziranga NP.
- Swamp Deer** *Cervus duvauceli*  
This extremely localized deer was seen in good numbers in Kaziranga NP.
- Common Goral** *Nemorhaedus goral*  
Three separate sightings were had of this mountain goat; our first being near Morong, the second being at the Trashigang Dzong and the third was seen on the lower Lingmethang Road.

**Rat sp.**

An unidentified species of rat was seen on during our night drive above Yongkhola.

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