



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Bhutan II

20th April to 9th May 2011

&

Assam Extension II

16th to 20th April 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. Himalayan Monal | 6. Ibisbill |
| 2. Satyr Tragopan | 7. Himalayan Cutia |
| 3. Rufous-necked Hornbill | 8. Blood Pheasant |
| 4. Ward's Trogon | 9. Fire-tailed Sunbird |
| 5. White-bellied Heron | 10. Beautiful Nuthatch |

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

1. Golden Langur
2. Nepal Grey Langur
3. Black Giant Squirrel
4. Capped Langur
5. Large-eared Pika

Tour Summary:

Our second scheduled tour of 2011 to the spectacular Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan and adjacent Assam was timed to coincide with the end of spring and the beginning of summer, offering an exceptional visual and cultural spectacle like nothing on earth. This included mountain passes littered with Bhutanese prayer flags, magnificent Dzong fortress temples emulating ornamental splendor across the country, and mountainsides blanketed with pristine, mossy forests. Bhutan is a remote country still remarkably isolated from much of the modern world's depredation and we were privileged to be some of the lucky few to visit this fascinating hidden treasure before it is too late.

We were treated to a banquet of fantastic and little known species during this magical birding adventure and some of these mouth-watering specialties that were seen included the near-mythical Satyr Tragopan, Blood Pheasant, resplendent Himalayan Monal, endangered White-bellied Heron, incredibly rare and localized White-winged Duck, Greater Adjutant, Pied Harrier, Ward's and Red-headed Trogons, impressive Rufous-necked Hornbill, much sought-after Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, spectacular Long-tailed Broadbill, elusive Black-headed Shrike-babbler, Coral-billed and Slender-billed Scimitar Babblers, Long-billed Wren-Babbler, Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, seldom-seen Rufous-rumped and Bristled Grassbirds, aptly-named Beautiful Nuthatch, Fire-tailed Myzornis, rare and secretive Blue-fronted Robin, exquisite Golden-naped Finch and a staggering six species of Parrotbill!

Our tour to Assam and Bhutan kicked off in the bustling city of Guwahati, the gateway to the world-renown Kaziranga National Park. Leaving Guwahati we stopped briefly at the local dump on the outskirts of town 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. Some of the other species inhabiting this area included a handful of Lesser Adjutant, Temminck's Stint, Black-necked Stork, Jungle, Pied and White-vented Mynas, Citrine and White Wagtails, Paddyfield Pipit, Scaly-breasted Munia, Yellow-bellied Prinia and displaying Striated Grassbird. A great way to start the

trip! We then made our way back onto the busy main road towards Kaziranga. The melee of 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. Our first birding excitement prior to lunch occurred when a Yellow-vented Flowerpecker was spotted in the lodge gardens. After lunch we made our way to the Western entrance of the park from where we'd undertake 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 exceedingly 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 and Hoary-bellied Squirrel. We were also extremely fortunate to have had close views of Ganges River Dolphin along a seldom-visited stretch of the Brahmaputra River. The extensive grasslands that cover much of the reserve yielded specialties such as Chestnut-capped, Yellow-eyed and Puff-throated Babblers, Swamp Francolin, Red Junglefowl, rarely-seen Rufous-rumped and Bristled Grassbirds, nomadic King Quail, Pied Harrier, Lesser Coucal, superb Blue-tailed and Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters, Eurasian Wryneck, Bengal Bush Lark, Ashy and Plain Prinias, White-tailed Rubythroat, Streaked and Baya Weavers, Western Yellow Wagtail and Rosy Pipit, while the vast wetlands supported an array of waterbirds such as Lesser Whistling Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Indian Spot-billed Duck, elegant Black-necked Stork, Lesser and Greater Adjutants, Spot-billed Pelican, Western Osprey, stately Pallas's and Grey-headed Fish Eagles, Greater Spotted and Indian Spotted Eagles, exquisite Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas as well as good numbers of waders that included several Spotted Redshanks in full breeding plumage! 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, White-rumped, Himalayan and Red-headed Vultures, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Green Imperial Pigeon, Green-billed Malkoha, handsome Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Alexandrine, Blossom-headed and Red-breasted Parakeets, a beautiful pair of Brown Fish Owl, Spotted Owlet, giant Stork-billed Kingfisher, Oriental

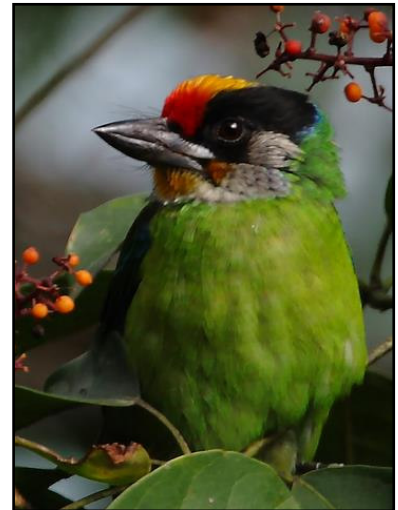


Pied and Great Hornbills, Lineated, Blue-throated and Coppersmith Barbets, Streak-throated Woodpecker, Lesser Goldenback, Large Cuckooshrike, Black-hooded Oriole, noisy Rufous Treepie, Cinereous Tit, Pale-chinned Blue and Taiga Flycatchers, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird and Chestnut-tailed Starling. We heard the secretive Blue-naped Pitta tantalizingly close on two occasions but unfortunately this sought-after species would not show itself.

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! Brown Hawk-Owl serenaded us throughout the night and we managed to obtain excellent views of this species. We spent a full day exploring these

forests, targeting the rare and elusive White-winged Duck. This creature proved devilishly tricky this trip and after starting our return back to the boat we were struck by the shouts of, "White-winged Duck overhead!" A single bird went cruising past us and disappeared very quickly out of sight! This view was not satisfactory in the least and so we made sure that we had one last look in the last possible back-water and there they were, a pair of these gorgeous ducks swimming around unconcerned right in front of us! A marvellous sighting, a major highlight for all and a deserving way to end a tough morning! During our time in the park we also picked up a number of other great birds that included Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, rarely seen Ashy Wood Pigeon, Pin-tailed and Thick-billed Green Pigeons, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, Asian Barred Owlet, miniscule Vernal Hanging Parrot, gigantic Great and Wreathed Hornbills, miniscule Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Greater Yellowape, Greater Goldenback, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, skulking Thick-billed Warbler, scarce Black-backed Forktail, Scarlet-backed and Plain Flowerpeckers and Common Hill Myna. Some of the group opted to enjoy the afternoon rafting down the Jia Bhoreli River and a few of the interesting birds encountered during this boat trip were Great Stone-curlew, hundreds of Small Pratincole and River Tern. After breakfast on our final morning at Nameri we began the long drive west towards the Bhutanese border at Samdrup Jongkhar. Arriving in the early evening we drove straight to our lovely new, comfortable hotel where we settled in and enjoyed a wonderful Bhutanese dinner before crashing 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 Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Oriental Dollarbird, Crested Kingfisher, stunning Scarlet Minivet, Bronzed and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, Black-naped Monarch, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Rufescent Prinia, outstanding Asian Fairy-bluebird, brilliant Long-tailed Broadbill, choral White-rumped Shama, sought-after Black-backed and Slaty-backed Forktails, Black-crested and White-throated Bulbuls, beautiful Orange-bellied and Golden-fronted Leafbirds and exquisite Black-throated and Crimson Sunbirds. While enjoying a mid-morning tea break in the field we were extremely lucky to have a single Dark-rumped Swift fly fairly low over us for an extended period. The shy and very seldom-seen Grey Peacock-Pheasant called



fairly close on several occasions and although we tried very hard to lure this species into a gap we were unfortunately unable to do so. As we carried on further up the road after lunch, towards our campsite near Morong, traversing endless miles of incredible mid-altitude forest, so the scenery became increasingly spectacular and a few roadside stops yielded some very special sightings indeed! We picked up our first of many White-throated Needletail as well as one of the major trip highlights, the sensational Rufous-necked Hornbill, which we frequently encountered over the next two days. We also enjoyed excellent views of the gaudy Golden-throated Barbet as well as Blue-winged and Bhutan Laughingthrushes, Sultan Tit and outrageously colourful Silver-eared Leiothrix along the way.

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 monotonous wails of Great Barbet echoed throughout the valleys as did the desperate calls of Large Hawk-Cuckoo, both of which eventually showed very well. Mixed species flocks produced the likes of Grey-chinned Minivet, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Grey-cheeked and Chestnut-crowned Warblers, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Blue-winged Minla, Rufous Sibia, White-naped and Whiskered Yuhinas, elusive Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Green-tailed Sunbird, dazzling Scarlet and Crimson-browed Finches and the absolute cherry on top, the extremely

attractive and much desired Beautiful Nuthatch that showed exceedingly well at close range for an extended period!

We left Morong for the town of Trashigang reeling in Streak-breasted and Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babblers, Blue-capped Rockthrush, Striated and Mountain Bulbuls, Grey-sided and Blue-winged Laughingthrushes, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch and Common Rosefinch soon after leaving our campsite. A tea stop en route yielded three female Golden-naped Finches as well as great views of Bar-throated Minla, Ultramarine Flycatcher and a troop of Capped Langur. Carrying on towards Trashigang we picked up Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, Little Bunting and Stripe-throated Yuhina along the way, and then spent the last bit of the day enjoying the magnificent Trashigang Dzong as well as a herd of rather confiding Common Goral.



The drive east towards the fabled Lingmethang Road is another wonderfully scenic one and crosses over Kori La on its decent into the low-lying valley near the town of Lingmethang. On the way we picked up Himalayan Bulbul, uncommon Besra, Greater Coucal, Fork-tailed Swift, Himalayan Swiftlet, an impressive pair of Grey-headed Woodpecker and a showy group of White-crested Laughingthrush before arriving at the top of Kori La in the mid-morning. During our fairly short time here we managed to locate some good-looking birds on the pass. These included Grey-winged Blackbird, White-tailed Nuthatch, Black-faced and Whistler's Warblers, Eurasian Jay, extravagant Yellow-billed Blue Magpie and yet another female Golden-naped Finch! We then wound our way down through the town of Mongar towards our perfectly situated lunch spot, which yielded several attractive Crested Buntings. A few short stops were made in the forested corners en route to our campsite and these provided us with Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Hair-crested Drongo, Grey Treepie and White-rumped Munia.



Our focal point for the next five days would be the extensive Thruming La National Park. The vast expanse of lush, pristine mid and high-altitude broad-leaved and coniferous forest protected within the borders of the Park supports some of Asia's most desirable birds and we were super excited to start our birding in this avian paradise!

The next two days spent along the lower section of Thruming La National Park produced some extremely memorable and outstanding



birds! Despite a fair amount of rain in the area we managed to find a host of Bhutan's most sought-after species and these included Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, the rare and very elusive Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, equally rare and little-known Long-billed Wren-Babbler, Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler, White-breasted and Black-throated Parrotbills, immaculate Golden-breasted and Yellow-throated Fulvettas, Black Eagle, Mountain Tailorbird, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Common Green Magpie, Blyth's Shrike-babbler, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, gigantic Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Little Forktail, Large and Small Niltavas, brightly-coloured Pygmy and Sapphire Flycatchers,

Striated and Black-chinned

Yuhinas, secretive White-tailed Robin, rare and elusive Broad-billed Warbler, seldom-seen Blue-fronted Robin, a stunning male Golden-naped Finch, raucous Bay Woodpecker, a pair of Black-throated Prinia and one of the main target birds for the trip, the rare, localized and superb Ward's Trogon, of which we had excellent, long and close views of a single male after a lot of effort. A night drive above Yongkhola also produced one of Bhutan's great mammals; the rare, localized and little-known Hodgson's Giant Flying Squirrel!

After much success, 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. We found an obliging pair of Scaly Laughingthrush before our lunch stop, which yielded an awesome male Black-headed Shrike-babbler at extremely close range! Further up the road we were thrilled to find a fabulous pair of Slender-billed Scimitar Babblers, as well as Rufous-vented Yuhina, White-browed and Rufous-winged Fulvettas, gaudy Mrs. Gould's Sunbird and a very cooperative Bar-winged Wren-Babbler.



The area around Sengor produced a whole new suite of mouth-watering specialties that included Green Shrike-babbler, Hoary-throated Barwing, a ridiculously showy Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler, White-browed Shortwing, Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, Chestnut-headed Tesia, Spotted Nutcracker, White-collared Blackbird, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, a small group of Rufous-breasted Accentor and an adult Steppe Eagle.

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 three females were encountered with some of the sightings being enjoyed for an extended period at close range!



The high pass of Thrumsing La rises up above Sengor to an altitude of 3810 meters above sea level and our explorations of the pass revealed some exciting high-altitude birds. These included a pair of spectacular Spotted Laughingthrushes, Rufous-vented, Coal, Grey-crested and Yellow-browed Tits, Rufous-fronted Bushtit, striking Black-faced Laughingthrush, vociferous Great Parrotbill, Eurasian Treecreeper, Hume's Bush Warbler, Golden Bush Robin, Himalayan Bluetail, scarce Long-tailed Thrush, Fire-tailed Myzornis and dazzling Fire-tailed Sunbird. Dropping down from Thrumsing La into the cultivated valleys of Bumthang,

we passed by several small, quaint villages on our way to Jakar. 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 on to a site where a large flock of Brown Parrotbills put on an amazing display! What a way to end a fabulous day!

The pass of Yutong La beckoned, and after a fairly quick handicraft-shopping stop we climbed up to the top of the pass to begin our birding for the morning. We found a few good birds on the pass that included a lovely male White-browed Bush Robin, several immaculate Yellow-bellied Fantails and a pair of White-winged Grosbeak. By midday we started our descent down the west side of the pass

towards the town of Trongsa, where we settled into our hotel and enjoyed a hearty lunch. In the afternoon we headed down into town for a visit of the impressive Trongsa Dzong but not before coaxing out an extremely cooperative Russet Bush Warbler. We spent some time admiring this impressive structure along with an archery match that was taking place adjacent to the Dzong, and after a short bout of chocolate-shopping in town it was onto a nearby forested corner where we spent the remainder of the afternoon. This wonderful mid-altitude forest produced two good birds in the form of Spotted Forktail and Grey-bellied Tesia.

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. Before leaving Trongsa we tried one last time to see Lesser Shortwing, an arch skulker that had been calling all around our hotel during our stay here. This time we got lucky and a male popped out into the open very briefly for most of the group. Our journey south towards our campsite near Tingtibi was a long one and entailed mostly driving but we were treated to a few highlights along the way and these included several wonderful pairs of Rufous-necked Hornbill, Striated Prinia, Rufous Woodpecker, Crested Kingfisher and Brown Dipper.



As we reached Zhemgang the ominous clouds that surrounded us all morning finally closed in and torrential rain had set in for most of the afternoon. With the unbirdable weather around we made our way down into the Mangde Chu Valley towards our campsite. Here the weather had lifted ever so slightly and we were able to squeeze in an hour's birding, which yielded a brief flock of Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, several Barred Cuckoo-Doves, Pin-tailed and Wedge-tailed Green Pigeons and further views of Great Hornbill. We spent the next day and a half in these lowlands and some of the memorable and noteworthy birds we encountered included a flock of the rare Pale-billed Parrotbill as well as White-breasted Parrotbill, gorgeous Red-headed Trogon, brilliant Red-faced Liocichla, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, brief views of a pair of localized Rufous-faced Warbler, Nepal Fulvetta, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Lesser Yellownape, Green-billed Malkoha, Chestnut-winged and Asian Lesser Cuckoos, Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher and lively Streaked Spiderhunter. A very worthwhile stop near Zhemgang on the way back to Trongsa produced an outstanding flock that seemed to stay around for ages. This amazing flock supported a host of fabulous species, top of the list being a large family group of much sought-after Himalayan Cutia that showed exceptionally well! We



also added Pale Blue Flycatcher, White-bellied Erpornis, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Grey-throated and superb Golden Babblers and a female Asian Emerald Cuckoo to the ever-growing list. The rest of the journey back to Trongsa proved to be a rather eventful one indeed as we bumped into two consecutive delays due to road construction. It was quite amazing witnessing the process and we were in awe at how a single team of workers would swiftly clear an entire stretch of road laden with monstrous boulders in precipitous conditions within no time at all! Arriving at

Trongsa in the early evening we settled into our comfortable and now familiar hotel where we enjoyed

yet another wonderful Bhutanese meal, a hot shower and good night's sleep.

Leaving Trongsa the next morning we made our way further west over Pele La and on towards the town of Punakha, stopping en route for mid-morning tea and coffee where we found a soaring pair of Crested Goshawk, a pair of nomadic Brown Bullfinch, a highly vocal male Indian Blue Robin, exquisite Golden-breasted Fulvetta and a large flock of Red-billed Leiothrix. After crossing Pele La 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; it was therefore 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 countries' finest, and I know that 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 and almost immediately the cries of "White-bellied Heron" rang through the bus. Bringing the vehicle to a grinding halt we watched as this massive and truly impressive heron flew past us towards the Punakha Dzong. We jumped out and walked back to where we thought the bird had landed and as we neared the area we picked it up again soaring towards us and back over our heads to where it had first come from. What an amazing and extremely lucky encounter! This is without a doubt one of the world's

rarest herons, as it occurs at extremely low densities within its tiny range in the Eastern Himalayas and Bhutan remains 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. The birding in these forests was rather quiet and we left the park soon after lunchtime to spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the grand Punakha Dzong and its elaborate and rather spectacular temple. We did however still find some good birds during our morning along the Mo Chu and highlights included Maroon Oriole, Slaty-backed Forktail, Plumbeous Water and White-capped Redstarts and a pair of copulating Speckled Piculet.

Before leaving Punakha we picked up Slender-billed Oriole, while a few stops along the way to Dochu La yielded both Spotted and Pygmy Wren-babblers and exquisite Fire-capped Tit. An enjoyable, pre-lunch walk through the lush forest on the lower slopes of the Pass produced Rufous-bellied and Darjeeling Woodpeckers, Speckled Wood Pigeon, Brown-throated Treecreeper, Ferruginous and Snowy-browed Flycatchers, and a pair of unexpected Hill Partridge that scurried up the slope next to the trail before flushing back over our heads.

A short stop at the top of Dochu La before our descent down to Thimphu produced an excellent find in the form of a small flock of seldom-seen Fulvous Parrotbill that fed on a patch of dwarf bamboo for an extended period allowing for fabulous views!

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, Red-wattled and River Lapwings, another three Ibisbill and a vagrant female Isabelline Wheatear. 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. We had an absolutely wonderful day up Chele La enjoying some fantastic high-altitude birds including Kalij and Blood Pheasants, mind-blowing Himalayan Monal (of which we encountered an amazing total of three males, two females and two chicks), White-winged and Collared Grosbeaks, a high-flying flock of Plain Mountain Finch, smart Red-headed Bullfinch and White-browed, Common, Dark-breasted and Dark-rumped Rosefinches. The day was then topped off with a lively traditional dancing performance at

our lovely 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: Rufous-necked Hornbill, Indian One-horned Rhinoceros, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Golden-throated Barbet, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler, Satyr Tragopan, Golden Langur, Himalayan Scenery – Jigme Dorji National Park, Punakha Dzong, Ibisbill and Himalayan Monal. All photographs taken by Glen Valentine in India and Bhutan.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS (467 Species recorded including 12 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

We enjoyed fabulous views of this very special francolin in Kaziranga NP.

King Quail

Excalfactoria chinensis

Excellent views were obtained of this seldom-seen species by most of the group while on elephant back in Kaziranga NP.

Hill Partridge

Arborophila torqueola

After hearing this shy species on numerous days and some of the group seeing one briefly en route from Trongsa to Pele La, we finally obtained perched and flight views of a pair on Dochu La.

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 forested areas.

Chestnut-breasted Partridge*Arborophila mandelli*

A single bird was heard calling on one afternoon on the lower Lingmethang Road near Yongkhola.

Blood Pheasant*Ithaginis cruentus*

Several excellent sightings were had of these gorgeous pheasants 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 two males and two females on the upper Lingmethang Road and a further stunning male and another female later on Thrumsing La.

Himalayan Monal*Lophophorus impejanus*

An incredibly vivid species, of which we had an amazing three males, two females and two chicks on our day up Chele La. We also were tantalized by a brief sighting of a male on Thrumsing La earlier in the trip.

Red Junglefowl*Gallus gallus*

We had numerous intimate encounters with this gaudy pheasant in Kaziranga NP with a further sighting of a male near Zhemgang.

Kalij Pheasant*Lophura leucomelanos*

Our first encounter with this handsome species was in Kaziranga NP. We later had excellent views of both the silver bellied and silver rumped races on several occasions in Bhutan with peak numbers on our day up Chele La.

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 at extremely close range in the lowland forests above Samdrup Jonkhar.

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

Small numbers were observed in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

Ruddy Shelduck*Tadorna ferruginea*

These beautiful ducks were seen at wetlands in Kaziranga NP.

White-winged Duck*Asarcornis scutulata*

After a long and extensive search for this rare and globally threatened species in Nameri NP we finally found the quarry. Extreme excitement and huge relief for all!

Cotton Pygmy Goose*Nettapus coromandelianus*

Several birds were scoped at a large wetland in Kaziranga NP.

Gadwall*Anas strepera*

Several birds were seen in Kaziranga NP at the start of the Assam extension.

Eurasian Wigeon*Anas penelope*

Small numbers were found on wetlands in Kaziranga NP with a single male also being found in Jakar, Bhutan.

Indian Spot-billed Duck*Anas poecilorhyncha*

These handsome birds were seen in reasonable numbers in Kaziranga NP.

Northern Shoveler*Anas clypeata*

Several birds were seen at a large wetland in Kaziranga NP.

Garganey*Anas acuta*

A small flock was encountered in Kaziranga NP.

Eurasian (Green-winged) Teal*Anas crecca*

Small numbers seen in Kaziranga NP.

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*.

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

Small numbers were seen in Kaziranga NP.

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

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

Woolly-necked Stork*Ciconia episcopus*

Several birds were seen well in the Kaziranga NP.

Black-necked Stork*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

This tall, elegant stork was seen on several occasions within Kaziranga NP, one of the best places to see this scarce species.

Lesser Adjutant*Leptoptilos javanicus*

This species was pleasantly common in Kaziranga and several birds were also found near Guwahati and while travelling in Assam.

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! A couple of birds were also seen in more pleasant surroundings in Kaziranga NP.

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

A rare winter visitor to this area of Assam, we had sightings of a few birds on consecutive days in Kaziranga NP.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae**Cinnamon Bittern***Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

A single bird was flushed up from the edge of a small wetland in Nameri NP.

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

This widespread species was seen in flight in Nameri NP.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

A couple of birds were seen in Nameri NP.

Indian Pond Heron*Ardeola greyii*

We saw this species on many occasions, with several individuals sporting their full breeding dress in Kaziranga NP. We also had a single sighting near Punakha, Bhutan.

Chinese Pond Heron*Ardeola bacchus*

A very rare vagrant to Bhutan, we were exceptionally lucky to find a single bird coming into breeding plumage in Thimphu.

[Eastern] Cattle Egret*Bubulcus coromandus*

Large numbers were encountered throughout India with a single bird being found later near Punakha.

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 rare, elusive and extremely range-restricted heron was seen remarkably well near Punakha. A very lucky encounter indeed!

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Singletons were seen around the edges of wetlands in Kaziranga National Park.

Great Egret *Ardea modesta*

Several were seen at Kaziranga and Nameri NPs with a further encounter near Punakha, Bhutan.

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*

Small numbers were seen at scattered wetlands in Kaziranga NP.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Several individuals were seen throughout Assam.

Pelicans *Pelicanidae*

Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*

Great looks were had at several of these uncommon pelicans in Kaziranga NP.

Cormorants *Phalacrocoracidae*

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*

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

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

A single juvenile bird was sighted on consecutive days near Punakha.

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 NPs.

Ospreys *Pandionidae*

[Western] Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Singletons were seen at both 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 encounters were had with this striking raptor, both in India and in Bhutan.

Black-winged (shouldered) Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

A few birds were seen, mainly while in transit, in Assam.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Good numbers were seen on the Kaziranga and Nameri Extension.

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 great raptor was seen on several occasions with excellent views being obtained of birds in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks. This is another rare and highly sought-after species and

Kaziranga is arguably the best place in the world to see it.

Grey-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*

Wonderful views were obtained of this species in Kaziranga NP.

White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*

Flight views were had of several juvenile birds on consecutive days in Kaziranga NP.

Himalayan Vulture (Griffon) *Gyps himalayensis*

We found a handful of birds in Assam with further sightings in Bhutan.

Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*

A single bird was seen in flight in Kaziranga NP.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

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

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*

Good views were had of a total of four of these scarce and incredibly striking harriers soaring over the grasslands in Kaziranga NP.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

A pair was seen in display flight near Trongsa.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Two birds were encountered in Assam.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus*

Several good sightings were had of this scarce forest *accipiter* with one sighting in Nameri NP and the other three in Bhutan.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

We found this species on several occasions on the tour with our first sighting in Nameri NP and the remainder in Bhutan.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*

We frequently encountered this impressive eagle on several occasions in Bhutan.

Indian Spotted Eagle *Aquila hastata*

We were fortunate to find this very scarce eagle in Kaziranga NP where we obtained excellent, close flight views of a single bird.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*

This large, bold eagle was seen on one occasion in Kaziranga NP.

Steppe Eagle *Hieraaetus nipalensis*

This large, dark brown eagle was seen once in flight on the upper Lingmethang Road.

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

This uncommon and attractive raptor was seen very well in flight on three separate occasions in Bhutan.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*

This massive, well-marked eagle proved to be the second most numerous eagle on this trip. A very impressive raptor indeed!

Caracaras, Falcons *Falconidae*

Common (Eurasian) Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Several birds were encountered in open areas throughout Bhutan.

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.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco severus*

Excellent views were had by some of the group near Paro on the final day of the trip.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

A single bird was seen at Nameri with a further sighting at the Trashigang Dzong.

Rails, Crakes & Coots *Rallidae***White-breasted Waterhen***Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Singletons were seen at wetlands in Assam with a further encounter in a drainage ditch near Thimphu. This widespread Asian species is surprisingly scarce in Bhutan!

Black-tailed Crake*Amaurornis bicolor*

We were rewarded with exceptional views of this often reclusive *rallid* in the Thimphu Valley, where a pair crossed the road and fed in an open grassy field for an extended period.

Ruddy-breasted Crake*Amaurornis bicolor*

A great surprise! A pair showed well in the Thimphu Valley.

Watercock*Gallicrex cinerea*

A single bird was flushed from a patch a short, rank grass in Kaziranga NP but unfortunately disappeared very quickly out of sight.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

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

Stone-curlews, Thick-knees *Burhinidae***Great Stone-curlew***Esacus recurvirostris*

This attractive species was seen very well by those that opted for the rafting trip down the Jia Boreli River bordering Nameri NP.

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

Excellent views were had of a single bird near Jakar with a further sighting of three birds near Thimphu that also showed exceptionally well.

Stilts & Avocets *Recurvirostridae***Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

A few individuals were located in Kaziranga NP.

Plovers *Charadriidae***River Lapwing***Vanellus duvaucelii*

This handsome lapwing was first seen at Nameri NP and we later had numerous good sightings at most large, boulder-strewn rivers in Bhutan.

Red-wattled Lapwing*Vanellus indicus*

Small numbers were seen daily on the Assam Extension.

Pacific Golden Plover*Pluvialis fulva*

A small flock of these migrants were encountered in a dry field near the eastern entrance to Kaziranga NP.

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

Excellent views were had of these attractive birds in full breeding plumage in Kaziranga NP.

Bronze-winged Jacana*Metopidius indicus*

Small numbers of this attractive “lilly trotter” were seen in Kaziranga NP.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

Pin-tailed Snipe

Gallinago stenura

A single bird was seen briefly in flight near Jakar.

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Small numbers were encountered in Kaziranga NP with many birds being in splendid breeding plumage.

Common Redshank

Tringa totanus

A few birds were seen in Kaziranga NP.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

A handful was seen in Kaziranga NP.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Small numbers were found in Kaziranga NP.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

We observed this species at various scattered localities during the trip.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

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

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

This species was occasionally seen at wetlands throughout the trip.

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

A single bird was seen near Guwahati with a couple more being found in Kaziranga NP.

Couriers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

Small Pratincole

Glareola lactea

Great views were had of a good number of these boldly-patterned birds over the Jia Bholeli River bordering Nameri NP.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Sternidae

River Tern

Sterna aurantia

A single bird was seen on a sandbank in a wetland in Kaziranga NP with further encounters along the Jia Bholeli 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.

Speckled Wood-Pigeon

Columba hodgsonii

A total of eight of these large and generally uncommon pigeons were encountered on three consecutive days towards the end of the trip on Dochu La and in the Paro area.

Ashy Wood Pigeon

Columba pulchricollis

We were blown away to find four of these rare and nomadic pigeons that showed extremely well in the scope in Nameri NP. A very surprising and fabulous find!

Oriental Turtle Dove

Streptopelia orientalis

Fairly numerous both during the extension and 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

Huge numbers of these impressive doves were seen at fruiting trees in Nameri NP. We also encountered this species on a few occasions in lowland areas of Bhutan, especially in the Tingtibi region.

[Common] Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Our first sighting was of a single bird that was seen briefly at our lodge near Kaziranga NP. We also found this species in the Tingtibi area in Bhutan.

Ashy-headed (Pompadour) Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora*

Susan was lucky to see this scarce species in Nameri NP.

Thick-billed [Green] Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*

A small loose flock of these attractive birds were seen at fruiting trees in Nameri NP with a further pair being found above Samdrup Jongkhar.

Yellow-footed [Green] Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*

This beautiful pigeon was regularly seen in Kaziranga NP with a few birds in the Nameri area too.

Pin-tailed [Green] Pigeon *Treron apicauda*

We had brilliant scope views of several birds in a fruiting tree in Nameri NP with further views in the forests around Tingtibi.

Wedge-tailed [Green] Pigeon *Treron sphenura*

After briefly seeing this species at our hotel in Trashigang we enjoyed excellent views of several birds in the Tingtibi and Zhemgang areas as well as in the Tashitang Valley.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

Several of these large pigeons were seen, mostly in flight, in Kaziranga NP.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*

Large numbers were seen in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar and in the Morong area.

Parrots *Psittacidae*

Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*

A total of four of these tiny, endearing parrots were seen in Nameri NP.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Small numbers of these large, noisy parakeets were encountered in the Kaziranga NP.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

This widespread species was commonly encountered in and around Kaziranga NP.

Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseate*

A pair of these gorgeous little parrots were seen very nicely in Kaziranga NP where they were seen nesting.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*

One of the most commonly encountered birds on the Kaziranga and Nameri extension, this beautiful bird occurs in noisy flocks.

Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

We encountered this widespread Asian species on several occasions on the extension with further views of a single bird near Trashigang.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

A much shyer and scarcer bird than the above species, we had a total of three birds in the tall, rank grasslands in Kaziranga NP.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*

Good views were had of a single bird in Kaziranga NP with a further individual seen above Samdrup

Jongkhar as well as a pair near Gomphu.

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo

Clamator coromandus

We enjoyed fabulous views of this lowland specialty in Kaziranga NP and in the Tingtibi area, Bhutan.

Asian Koel

Eudynamys scolopacea

This widespread Asian species was fairly regularly seen in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks with a further sighting of a calling adult in Punakha.

Asian Emerald Cuckoo

Eudynamys scolopacea

A stunning, tiny species that was heard near Lingmethang and finally seen near Zhemgang.

Plaintive Cuckoo

Cacomantis merulinus

A pair of these cuckoos was seen well in Nameri NP with a further calling bird being spotted near Zhemgang.

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

Regular sightings were had of this bizarre cuckoo.

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

We managed to locate a calling bird on the lower Lingmethang Road which afforded us great scope views. Later we also found a calling bird near Zhemgang that was too scoped.

Lesser Cuckoo

Cuculus poliocephalus

After briefly seeing this species near Morong we all obtained epic views of a single bird near Gomphu.

Indian Cuckoo

Cuculus micropterus

We heard this species on many days of the tour but unfortunately it only showed on occasion for a lucky few.

Himalayan Cuckoo

Cuculus saturatus

Heard on most days of the tour, it was seen very well on the middle Lingmethang Road.

Common Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Several good views were obtained of this migrant in Kaziranga NP and throughout Bhutan.

Owls Strigidae

Mountain Scops Owl

Otus spilocephalus

Individuals were heard calling throughout the night at Yongkhola on the lower Lingmethang Road.

Collared Scops Owl

Otus bakkamoena

This species was heard briefly early one evening at Nameri.

Oriental Scops Owl

Otus sunia

This species called for a prolonged period at Nameri but was unfortunately too far away to try for.

Brown Fish Owl

Ketupa zeylonensis

We enjoyed excellent views of a pair of these large owls during the day in Kaziranga NP.

Collared Owlet

Glaucidium brodiei

Although frequently heard, this species remained unseen.

Asian Barred Owlet

Glaucidium cuculoides

We saw this species well in Kaziranga NP and near our lodge at Nameri.

Spotted Owlet

Athene brama

This partly diurnal owl was seen well on several occasions in Kaziranga NP.

Brown Hawk-Owl*Ninox scutulata*

We saw this attractive medium-sized owl at our lodge near Nameri NP.

Nightjars *caprimulgidae***Grey Nightjar***Caprimulgus jotaka*

Some of the group were lucky to see this species on their way back from the Tiger's Nest Monastery near Paro. Another brief sighting was had from the bus on our early morning excursion up Chele La.

NOTE: IOC splits this species into two separate species, Grey Nightjar C. jotaka and Jungle Nightjar C. indicus whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Grey Nightjar C. indicus.

Large-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus macrurus*

We heard this species very close at Nameri but the bird could unfortunately not be seen.

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 many occasions throughout Bhutan.

Silver-backed Needletail*Hirundapus cochinchinensis*

Brief views were had of this elusive swift by some of the group in Nameri NP.

Asian Palm Swift*Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Good numbers were seen on a number of the days we had in Assam, with a few encountered in the Samdrup Jongkhar area of Bhutan.

Fork-tailed Swift*Apus pacificus*

This commonly seen *apus* was a regular sight in the sky throughout Bhutan.

Dark-rumped Swift*Apus acuticauda*

This rare, localized and extremely little known swift was seen well as a single bird soared close by for an extended period at the forest edge above the town of Samdrup Jongkhar.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

Small flocks were seen in Assam and in the lowland areas of the first two days in Bhutan.

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

We were delighted to find this gorgeous bird near Tingtibi. Great looks were had at a single female.

Ward's Trogon*Harpactes wardi*

This spectacular trogon was seen remarkably well on the middle Lingmethang Road. Just a single male of this gorgeous and highly sought-after species was seen. A major trip highlight for all!

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

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

[Oriental] Dollarbird*Eurystomus orientalis*

A few birds were found during the Assam extension in Nameri NP with another two birds being found near Samdrup Jonkar.

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

A few of these large, stately kingfishers were found in Kaziranga NP.

White-throated Kingfisher*Halcyon smyrnensis*

The commonest kingfisher with small numbers being seen in Assam and in the lower lying areas of Bhutan.

Common Kingfisher*Alcedo atthis*

Encountered occasionally at wetlands in Assam and in Bhutan.

Crested Kingfisher*Megaceryle lugubris*

This denizen of large, rocky rivers was first seen near the town of Samdrup Jongkar with further sightings on the Mande Chu and near Punakha.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

This cosmopolitan species was seen a few times in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

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

This stunning bird was first seen in Kaziranga where it only showed briefly on two occasions. Later in Bhutan we were treated to fantastic views on several occasions.

Green Bee-eater*Merops orientalis*

This subtly beautiful bee-eater was seen hawking insects over an open, grassy area in Nameri NP.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater*Merops philippinus*

Small numbers were found in Kaziranga NP.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater*Merops leschenaulti*

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

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

Great views were had of this bizarre bird on several occasions throughout 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*

We found this species in small numbers in Kaziranga NP with a further sighting for some of the group in Nameri NP.

Great Hornbill*Buceros bicornis*

We were ecstatic to see these outrageously spectacular birds! Our first sightings were in Kaziranga NP and thereafter we obtained great views of several birds in Nameri, in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar and in the Tingtibi area.

Rufous-necked Hornbill*Aceros nipalensis*

Another charismatic and oversized hornbill and undoubtedly one of the biggest targets on any Bhutan tour, this range-restricted species was seen well and on several occasions in the Morong, Yongkhola and Zhemgang areas of Bhutan.

Wreathed Hornbill*Aceros undulatus*

Yet another spectacular hornbill that was seen well in flight in Nameri NP and in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

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 most days of the tour in Bhutan.

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 scoped and seen extremely well during the time we spent in the mid-altitude forest that blankets Bhutan.

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*

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

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*

Several of these stunning barbets were seen well in and around Kaziranga NP.

Honeyguides *Indicatoridae*

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus*

Another scarce species best located in Bhutan, we enjoyed scope views of these sought-after birds on three occasions.

Woodpeckers *Picidae*

Eurasian Wryneck *Picumnus innominatus*

A single bird was seen in an area of shrubby grassland in Kaziranga NP.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*

A pair of these delightful birds was seen in full courtship in the Tashitang Valley. What an amazing performance!

White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*

Unfortunately this species was seen only briefly in a dense bamboo patch near Gomphu.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*

This gorgeous bird was seen and scoped at close range and on several occasions on Dochu La.

Grey-capped [Pygmy] Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

This tiny woodpecker was first seen in Nameri NP with a further sighting near Tingtibi.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos cathpharius*

Another uncommon Woodpecker that was seen on three consecutive days on the lower Lingmethang Road.

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis*

Very good, close views were had of a single bird on Dochu La.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*

Excellent views were had of this very impressive woodpecker on several occasions on the extension and in the Tingtibi and Tashitang areas of Bhutan.

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*

Two separate sightings were had of this species; one near Gomphu and another at our campsite near Tingtibi.

Streak-throated Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus*

Good sightings were had of this species on consecutive days in Kaziranga NP.

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

A total of three birds were seen en route from Trashigang to Yongkhola with further individuals heard during our time in the Tingtibi area.

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

A few individuals were seen very well in Kaziranga NP.

Greater Goldenback (Flameback)*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

Several sightings were had of this large, impressive woodpecker in the Nameri area.

Bay Woodpecker*Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

This large, noisy woodpecker was seen exceptionally well on a few occasions with our most memorable sighting of a pair along the lower Lingmethang Road on our last day in the area.

Rufous Woodpecker*Celeus brachyurus*

After obtaining only brief views of this species in Nameri and near Samdrup Jongkhar we finally saw this woodpecker incredibly well en route from Trongsa to Zhemgang.

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

A pair was seen nesting in the hill forest above Samdrup Jongkhar, which allowed for fabulous looks!

Pittas *Pittidae***Blue-naped Pitta***Pitta nipalensis*

We heard this rare and elusive pitta on two occasions in Kaziranga NP but unfortunately neither bird would show themselves.

Hooded Pitta*Pitta sordida*

This widespread Asian pitta was heard on two occasions in Nameri NP but as with the previous species they refused to show.

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

Fairly regular sightings were had of this species at various scattered sites in Bhutan.

Large Woodshrike*Tephrodornis virgatus*

This lowland species was only seen in the Tingtibi area where we had small numbers daily.

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*

Great flight and perched views were obtained of this attractive species, mainly in transit, in Assam.

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

This vocal species was seen briefly in Nameri with excellent views to follow in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

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

Several birds were encountered in low-lying woodland habitats around Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike*Coracina melaschistos*

Small numbers were encountered on several scattered days of the tour in Bhutan.

Grey-chinned Minivet*Pericrocotus solaris*

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

Long-tailed Minivet*Pericrocotus ethologus*

A really stunning bird that was seen on several occasions in Bhutan.

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

Small numbers were observed on three days of the tour in Bhutan.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*

The dominant minivet of lower altitudes, this species was seen commonly on many days of the tour in Bhutan.

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

Shrikes *Laniidae*

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Singletons were encountered irregularly in Assam with our first sighting just outside Guwahati.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

This conspicuous but attractive roadside bird was seen almost daily in open habitats.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*

Similar to the above species, this species is extremely numerous throughout India and Bhutan.

Vireos, Greenlets *Virionidae*

White-bellied Erpornis (Yuhina) *Erpornis zantholeuca*

A single bird was found in a substantial mixed flock near Zhemgang with a further sighting for some near Punakha.

Black-headed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer*

This extremely elusive, striking and highly desirable vireo was seen exceptionally well and for a staggeringly long time at our lunch spot along the upper Lingmethang Road. What a fabulous and unexpected surprise!

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

An attractive and extremely vocal species, we enjoyed good views of both sexes during the Bhutan section of the tour with a female on the lower Lingmethang Road and a highly hormonal male near Zhemgang.

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 scarce, high altitude shrike-babbler finally showed well on Thrumsing La after brief views of a single bird on the upper Lingmethang Road.

Figbirds, Orioles *Oriolidae*

Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris*

We had great views of several birds in and around our lodge grounds on consecutive days in Punakha.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*

Several good views were had of this beautiful species in Kaziranga NP.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*

Another very attractive species that was heard and glimpsed on several occasions until we finally had great views of a female in the Tashitang Valley. Further views of both sexes ensued thereafter.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

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

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Abundant throughout Bhutan!

Bronzed Drongo

Dicrurus aeneus

A bird that was encountered quite often in the low- and mid-altitude forests of Bhutan.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus remifer

This is a scarce bird associating with mixed flocks in mid-altitude broad-leaved forest. We managed a couple of views on the lower Lingmethang Road and near Zhemgang.

Hair-crested Drongo

Dicrurus hottentottus

This species was fairly common in the lowlands of Bhutan with our first encounter in Kaziranga NP.

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

A single bird was seen near our lodge at Nameri with another individual showing in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

Fantails Rhipiduridae

White-throated Fantail

Rhipidura albicollis

This species was quite numerous in the Morong and Yongkhola areas of Bhutan.

Monarchs Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch

Hypothymis azurea

This delightful flycatcher was seen in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

Asian Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone paradisi

A single female was seen in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

Crows, Jays Corvidae

Eurasian Jay

Garrulus glandarius

A single bird was seen on Kori La with another pair being found on Dochu La.

Yellow-billed Blue (Gold-billed) Magpie

Urocissa flavirostris

Another attractive bird that was seen on several occasions in higher altitude forests throughout Bhutan.

[Common] Green Magpie

Cissa chinensis

A dramatically coloured yet elusive bird that we managed to see briefly above Lingmethang town.

Rufous Treepie

Dendrocitta vagabunda

We enjoyed several good views of this attractive species on the Kaziranga and Nameri extension.

Grey Treepie

Dendrocitta formosae

This species is pleasantly common throughout much of the lower altitude areas in Bhutan.

Eurasian Magpie

Pica pica

Several loose flocks and singletons were encountered in the Bhumthang district over two days.

Spotted (Eurasian) Nutcracker

Nucifraga caryocatactes

Great views were had of this charismatic species at high altitudes with fairly good numbers seen on several days.

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 corvids were commonly seen in a good number of 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 Zhemgang and Thimphu in 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 leuillantii*

The numerous crow throughout India and replaces the later species at low altitudes, we saw this species daily on the Assam Extension with a few birds also seen in the Samdrup Jongkhar area of Bhutan.

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 usually common species was surprisingly only encountered on one day of the trip on Yutong La where a handful of birds were seen well.

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

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

Tits & Chickadees *Paridae*

Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubidiventris*

Much scarcer than some other tit species in Bhutan, we only found this species on Thrumsing La and again at Chele La on the final day of birding.

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*

Fairly numerous in coniferous forests on Thrumsing La, Yutong La and Chele La.

Grey Crested Tit *Lophophanes dichrous*

A subtly attractive species that was seen on a few occasions in the higher-lying coniferous forests on Thrumsing La and Chele La.

Cinereous (Great) Tit *Parus cinereous*

This lowland woodland species was seen every day at our lodge near 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 sibilator*

This brightly coloured species was seen occasionally amongst mixed flocks in mid-altitude forest.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*

This species was seen fairly regularly throughout Bhutan.

Sultan Tit *Melanochloa sultanea*

This large, uncommon tit was first heard in Nameri NP and later seen briefly south of Morong.

Penduline Tits *Remizidae*

Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps*

A total of six of these exquisite and usually scarce little penduline tits were seen during our morning on Dochu La.

Larks *Alaudidae*

Bengal Bush Lark *Mirafra assamica*

Good numbers of these larks were seen flushing from the ground and in display flight during our elephant ride in Kaziranga NP.

Sand Lark*Calandrella raytal*

We had good views of at least two birds on a gravel sand bank in Nameri NP.

Oriental Skylark*Alauda gulgula*

Several birds were seen perched and in display flight near Sengor and in the Bumthang Valley.

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

This attractive bulbul was seen very well on many occasions during our time in the mid-altitude forests of Bhutan.

Black-crested Bulbul*Pycnonotus melanicterus*

Small numbers of these handsome bulbuls were encountered in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar and in the Tingtibi area.

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*

Commonly encountered in open areas throughout India.

Himalayan (White-cheeked) Bulbul*Pycnonotus leucogenys*

This very impressive bird was first seen below Trashigang with further sightings above the town of Lingmethang.

Red-vented Bulbul*Pycnonotus cafer*

Abundant in secondary habitat throughout the extension and main tour.

White-throated Bulbul*Alophoixus flaveolus*

We saw this species very well near Samdrup Jongkhar and again in the Tingtibi area where the species is common.

Mountain Bulbul*Ixos mccllellandii*

Small numbers were encountered on several days in Bhutan.

Ashy Bulbul*Hemixos flavala*

Small numbers were encountered in the lowlands of Bhutan.

Black Bulbul*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

A ubiquitous species that was seen on most days of the tour.

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*

Good numbers were seen daily feeding over the grasslands and wetlands in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow)*Riparia riparia*

A few birds were spotted amongst the above species, hawking insects in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

Large numbers were found throughout India and also around Trashigang and Tingtibi in Bhutan.

Eurasian Crag Martin*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

A single bird was spotted from the bus en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

Nepal House Martin*Delichon nipalensis*

Small numbers of this species were encountered on several days in Bhutan and we also had the fortune of watching a colony around their nests on one occasion.

Red-rumped Swallow*Cecropis daurica*

This widespread species was only seen in the Deothang and Trashigang areas in Bhutan.

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*

Outrageous views were had of this usually shy and secretive forest mite near Sengor on the upper Lingmethang Road with further views of two separate birds on Thrumsing La.

Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*

The high pitched whistled song of this tiny skulker was frequently heard in mid altitude forests throughout the trip. We first managed to get brief views of this species near Morong and later on we enjoyed excellent views of a single calling bird near Punakha.

Cettia bush warblers and allies *Cettidae*

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea*

This shy species was commonly heard along the lower Lingmethang Road and in the Tashitang Valley but despite intense efforts to see this species we only managed very brief views on a few occasions.

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*

Another tricky bird that ended up showing 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 a view of this tough-to-see forest dweller.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*

This colourful skulker was seen briefly on the upper Lingmethang Road near Sengor with a further sighting 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 great views of this often tough-to-see species 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*

We had many encounters with this highly vocal warbler on Thrumsing La, Yutong La, Dochu La and Chele La.

Broad-billed Warbler *Tickellia hodgsoni*

This rare, secretive and seldom-seen under story warbler was first heard on the middle Lingmethang Road while searching for Blue-fronted Robin and some of the group later managed to obtain brief views of a single bird as it moved quickly amongst a mixed feeding flock on the same stretch of road.

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*

A very localized bird in Bhutan, we found a pair that unfortunately moved very quickly amongst a mixed species flock near Tingtibi.

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*

A single bird was seen at our lunch stop above Samdrup Jongkhar with a further, much longer encounter near Gomphu.

Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*

This striking and rather secretive species was first heard near Morong and was later seen rather well

along the lower Lingmethang Road.

Bushtits *Aegithalidae*

Black-throated Bushtit (Tit)

Aegithalos concinnus

Occurring at lower altitudes than the following species, this tiny but highly attractive species was seen near Morong and again near Zhemgang and en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

Rufous-fronted Bushtit (Black-browed Tit)

Aegithalos iouschistos

Small numbers of this high altitude tit were encountered on Thrumsing La and again on Dochu La.

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

A single bird was heard calling from a dense thicket in Kaziranga NP.

Tickell's Leaf Warbler

Phylloscopus affinis

We encountered small numbers of this species occasionally in lower altitude areas throughout Bhutan.

Buff-barred Warbler

Phylloscopus pulcher

Good numbers were seen on the high passes of Thrumsing La, Dochu La and Chele La.

Ashy-throated Warbler

Phylloscopus maculipennis

This distinctive species was seen fairly regularly along the lower Lingmethang Road as well as on Yutong La.

Lemon (Pale)-rumped Warbler

Phylloscopus chloronotus

This *phylloscopus* was commonly seen on most days in Bhutan with really large numbers along the Lingmethang Road.

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

This was one of the most commonly recorded species of the tour; we encountered large numbers on most days in Bhutan.

Hume's Leaf Warbler

Phylloscopus humei

Excellent views were had of this species on several occasions.

Greenish Warbler

Phylloscopus trochiloides

Sightings were had near Morong, on the lower Lingmethang Road and near Trongsa.

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 distinctive *phylloscopus* was seen and heard fairly regularly, especially in the western part of the country.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler

Phylloscopus reguloides

This usually abundant species was surprisingly scarce on this trip and we only encountered it on a few occasions on Thrumsing La.

Yellow-vented Warbler

Phylloscopus cantator

This attractive species was first seen above the town of Lingmethang with further regular sightings in the Tingtibi area.

Grey-hooded Warbler

Seicercus xanthoschistos

This species was pleasantly common and vocal throughout Bhutan.

Whistler's Warbler

Seicercus whistleri

Many good, close views were had of this attractive species in mid altitude forest throughout Bhutan.

Grey-cheeked Warbler

Seicercus poliogenys

We encountered this beautiful warbler commonly near Morong and along the lower Lingmethang Road.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*

Another very attractive, small warbler that was seen on numerous occasions in the Morong and Yongkhola areas of Bhutan.

Reed Warblers & allies *Acrocephalidae*

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

We had good views of this species on a single occasion in Kaziranga NP.

Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon*

Several birds were heard at close range in Nameri NP and we managed to obtain brief views of one of these shy, skulking warblers.

Grassbirds & allies *Megaluridae*

Striated Grassbird *Chaetornis striatus*

Excellent views were obtained of this species on several occasions in Kaziranga NP and near Guwahati.

Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striata*

This is an extremely rare and seldom recorded species throughout its range and we were blown away to find two separate pairs in full song and display flight while on elephant back in Kaziranga NP.

Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus mandelli*

Excellent views were had of this usually shy and skulking *bradypterus* near our hotel in Trongsa.

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*

Several individuals were seen in Kaziranga NP.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

This widespread species was heard on a few occasions in Kaziranga NP.

Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger*

First seen near Lingmethang we later encountered good numbers in shrubby habitat en route from Trongsa to Zhemgang.

Black-throated (Hill) Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*

This striking prinia was first seen near Morong with particularly memorable views being had later of a pair on the lower Lingmethang Road.

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.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*

A pair of these handsome prinias was seen at forest edge just above the town of Samdrup Jongkhar.

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*

Excellent views were had of this striking bird in Kaziranga NP.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

This widespread subcontinent prinia was seen on a single occasion in Kaziranga NP.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Several were seen in Kaziranga NP with further views on a number of days in the lowlands of Bhutan.

Babblers, Scimitar Babblers *Timaliidae*

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*

This large, loud and striking babbler was seen very well on several occasions with our first sighting at our campsite near Morong.

White-browed Scimitar Babbler*Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

A single bird was located in a dense stand of bamboo near Gomphu.

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

Wonderful views were had of this attractive species near our campsite at Morong with a further sighting near Trongsa.

Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler*Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*

This uncommon, striking and highly sought-after species was finally seen well along the lower Lingmethang Road on our last morning in the area.

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler*Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*

Our first sighting of this much desired species was of a single bird that appeared briefly amongst a mixed flock along the middle Lingmethang Road. Later on we enjoyed incredible views of a pair near Sengor on the upper Lingmethang Road with a further sighting of another pair along the same stretch of road. Amazing stuff!

Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler*Spelaeornis caudatus*

After hearing this species near Morong and again on many occasions on the lower and middle Lingmethang Road we finally got one to show itself very well near Namling.

Bar-winged Wren-Babbler*Spelaeornis troglodytoides*

This unusual Wren-babbler is extremely localized and sought-after and was seen very well on the upper Lingmethang Road.

Spotted Wren-Babbler*Spelaeornis formosus*

This shy, skulking babbler was finally seen well near Punakha after brief views near Trongsa and several unresponsive calling birds in the Tashitang Valley.

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

With much patience, this little known and highly sought-after species was seen briefly when three birds flitted across a gap in some dense vegetation on the lower Lingmethang Road. This wasn't satisfactory and after a trawling effort the next day along the same stretch of road we managed to locate another individual that responded sensationally well and afforded us unbeatable views! A true Himalayan mega!

Grey-throated Babbler*Stachyris nigriceps*

A fairly secretive and strange species that was first seen briefly near Lingmethang with further views of several birds near Tingtibi and near Zhemgang.

Rufous-capped Babbler*Stachyris ruficeps*

We first found this species near Morong and thereafter had fairly regular sightings throughout the trip.

Golden Babbler*Stachyris chrysaea*

This beautiful species of the undergrowth was first seen in mixed flocks along the lower Lingmethang Road with excellent views being obtained later on near Zhemgang.

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

A pair was encountered in a mixed species flock in Nameri NP.

Chestnut-capped Babbler*Timalia pileata*

After much effort everyone finally enjoyed good views of this secretive and highly attractive denizen of tall elephant grass in Kaziranga NP.

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

Small flocks were encountered on a few occasions near Morong and along the lower Lingmethang

Road.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps*

Sightings were had on Kori La and on the upper Lingmethang Road.

Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis*

Good views were had of several birds above the town of Lingmethang with further encounters near Tingtibi and Zhemgang.

Long-billed Wren-Babbler *Rimator malacoptilus*

This very rare, little known and highly localized Himalayan specialty was seen remarkably well along the lower Lingmethang Road.

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*

Brief views were had of a single bird while trying for Blue-naped Pitta in Kaziranga NP.

Rufous-rumped Grassbird *Graminicola bengalensis*

This is another rare and very seldom-seen species throughout its range and we were extremely fortunate to obtain excellent views of a single bird while on elephant back in Kaziranga NP. A great find indeed!

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*

This boldly-marked species was seen extremely well in Kaziranga NP.

Laughingthrushes *Leiothrichidae*

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 very handsome and noisy species was first seen very well en route to Kori La with further sightings near Tingtibi and Gomphu.

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufogularis*

A pair was encountered below Yongkhola with further excellent views of a single calling bird near Tingtibi and another brief encounter near Punakha.

Spotted Laughingthrush *Garrulax ocellatus*

Fabulous views were had of a pair of these bold and attractive Laughingthrushes on the lower reaches of Thruming La.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*

Views were had near Tingtibi on consecutive days.

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax caerulatus*

Singletons and pairs were encountered fairly regularly along the extreme lower portion of the Lingmethang Road with further encounters in the Tingtibi area.

Grey-sided Laughingthrush *Garrulax caerulatus*

After hearing this species on a few occasions near Morong we finally had great views of a single fast-moving and extremely vocal bird near our campsite at Morong. Later on we had further but briefer views on the lower Lingmethang Road.

Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus*

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

Bhutan (Streaked) Laughingthrush *Garrulax imbricatus*

This species was fairly common in shrubby habitat throughout Bhutan.

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

Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus*

This very shy species was seen well on two occasions in the Morong area

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 great views of a wonderful pair along the middle Lingmethang Road.

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Garrulax affinis*

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

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus*

Views were obtained near Morong and fairly regularly on the middle and upper Lingmethang Road with an especially good sighting of a single bird en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

Himalayan Cutia *Cutia nipalensis*

One of the Himalayas most sought after species! We were delighted to find a large flock of these very special birds that showed exceptionally well for an extended period near Zhemgang. Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tour!

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*

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

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

This gorgeous species was seen on several occasions in mid and high altitude forest, again often as a member of mixed flocks.

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta*

Less common than the above two species, with a distinctive nuthatch-like behaviour, it was seen in small numbers on a few occasions.

Red-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea*

This arch skulker showed incredibly well this year, when we had a single highly responsive bird near Tingtibi and two further sightings near Zhemgang.

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 lower strata flock species was seen consecutively for seven days in the east of Bhutan.

Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis*

We were lucky to find this scarce, higher altitude barwing near our campsite at Sengor.

Silver-eared Leiothrix (Mesia) *Leiothrix argentauris*

This spectacular undergrowth species was commonly encountered in the Morong area.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*

This secretive and highly attractive ground-dwelling forest babbler was first seen along the middle Lingmethang Road with further wonderful sightings en route from Trongsa to Pele La and again on Dochu La.

Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata*

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

Sylviid Babblers, Parrotbills, Myzornis Sylviidae

Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhoura*

This tiny, high altitude denizen gave us a serious headache and run-around as we encountered a single bird near Sengor and a total of 4 birds on Thrumsing La, of which every one showed extremely briefly and unfortunately only for some of the group.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis*

Excellent views were had of this stunning understory species along the middle Lingmethang Road and

again en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

White-browed Fulvetta

Alcippe vinipectus

Fairly common at high altitudes, we enjoyed regular sightings of these attractive birds.

Yellow-eyed Babbler

Chrysomma sinense

We were quite surprised but nonetheless thrilled to find a pair of these babblers in Kaziranga NP.

Great Parrotbill

Conostoma oemodium

A large, noisy species restricted to high altitude bamboo stands. We had good but rather brief views during our first trip up Thrumsing La with another pair being heard very close and seen briefly on the same pass the next day.

Brown Parrotbill

Paradoxornis unicolor

This species showed remarkably well for a prolonged period near Jakar.

Fulvous Parrotbill

Paradoxornis fulvifrons

One of Asia's scarcest and most elusive parrotbills, we were extremely fortunate to find this species on two occasions: first on Thrumsing La where we had brief views of three birds moving very quickly in a mixed feeding flock and later, very unexpectedly on Dochu La where a flock of at least 10 birds was seen feeding for ages on dwarf bamboo! Absolutely amazing!

Black-throated Parrotbill

Paradoxornis nipalensis

This species was unfortunately only seen briefly by some of the group on two occasions along the middle Lingmethang Road.

Pale-billed (Black-browed) Parrotbill

Paradoxornis astrosuperciliaris

An excellent find! We were thrilled to encounter a flock of these scarce parrotbills near Gomphu.

White-breasted (Rufous-headed) Parrotbill

Paradoxornis ruficeps

Several small flocks of these birds were found on the lower Lingmethang Road with another flock being encountered near Gomphu.

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

Small flocks were encountered below Yongkhola and in the Zhemgang and Tingtibi areas.

White-naped Yuhina

Yuhina bakeri

This uncommon yuhina was seen in the Morong area and near Zhemgang.

Whiskered Yuhina

Yuhina flavicollis

By far the most commonly encountered yuhina in Bhutan and a conspicuous member of mixed flocks.

Stripe-throated Yuhina

Yuhina gularis

This large yuhina was commonly encountered at higher altitudes.

Rufous-vented Yuhina

Yuhina occipitalis

This species was fairly common during the tour with small numbers seen on four days at higher altitudes.

Black-chinned Yuhina

Yuhina nigrimenta

This low altitude species was found below Yongkhola, below Zhemgang and in the Tingtibi area.

Oriental White-eye

Zosterops palpebrosus

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

Fairy-bluebirds Irenidae

Asian Fairy-bluebird

Irena puella

This electric bird was seen on several occasions in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

Goldcrests, Kinglets *Regulidae***Goldcrest***Regulus regulus*

Brief views were had below Sengor and on Thrumsing La.

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*.

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

This lowland nuthatch was seen occasionally in the lowlands of Bhutan.

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 great sightings on Kori La and along the middle Lingmethang Road.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch*Sitta frontalis*

A pair was encountered in a mixed flock in Nameri NP.

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 found two birds amazingly quickly associating with a mixed flock near Morong. Another cracking Bhutanese bird and a major trip highlight!

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

This widespread species was seen on consecutive days in the high altitude coniferous forests on Thrumsing La.

Brown-throated Treecreeper*Certhia discolor*

We initially heard this species near Morong and later obtained excellent views of a single bird on Dochu La.

Starlings *Sturnidae***Common Hill Myna***Gracula religiosa*

Small numbers of these impressive birds were seen in both reserves during the Assam extension with further sightings in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

Great (White-vented) Myna*Acridotheres javanicus*

Several birds were seen, first near Guwahati and then again in Kaziranga NP.

Jungle Myna*Acridotheres fuscus*

This species was commonly encountered during our time in Assam.

Common Myna*Acridotheres tristis*

This ubiquitous species was present in large numbers throughout India and in all more built-up areas of 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 regularly encountered on the Assam extension and in the Punakha area of Bhutan.

Thrushes *Turdidae***Blue Whistling Thrush***Myophonus caeruleus*

Perhaps Bhutan's most conspicuous roadside bird, we recorded this species on every day in Bhutan.

Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixonii*

This seldom-recorded species was seen well on a single occasion on Thrumsing La.

White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus*

We recorded a number of these striking thrushes at higher altitudes throughout Bhutan.

Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul*

We first saw this species on Kori and later had further good views near Sengor and on Dochu La.

Tibetan (Eurasian) Blackbird *Turdus maximus*

Giles was lucky to see this vagrant during a shopping stop in the Bumthang Valley.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Common Blackbird T. merula and Indian Blackbird T. simillimus as Eurasian Blackbird T. merula.

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*

This exceptionally vocal but incredibly difficult-to-see species was seen on a single occasion at our hotel in Trongsa after many attempts prior thereto.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*

After many unsuccessful attempts, this smart bird was finally seen well as it hopped up a shaded gully on the upper Lingmethang Road. Although extremely vocal and fairly common at higher altitudes this is always a tough bird to see.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis*

Two separate males were seen in Kaziranga NP.

Indian Blue Robin *Luscinia brunnea*

Outstanding views were had of a very smart male en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus*

After briefly seeing a female on Thrumsing La we were thrilled to get cracking views of a superb male on Yutong La.

Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus*

Several males and females were seen well on Thrumsing La, Yutong La and Chele La.

Golden Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus*

Two females were seen well on Thrumsing 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*

A single vocal male was seen exceptionally well in the forests above Samdrup Jongkar in Bhutan after hearing this species in both Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

Some of the group were lucky to spot this winter visitor near Thrumsing La. A good record for this time of year!

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*

This blue and orange redstart was seen near Morong, on Thrumsing La and on Chele La. Abundant in winter, most individuals have migrated to much higher altitudes by May.

Plumbeous [Water] Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*

This pleasantly common redstart was seen regularly 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 country.

White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum*

This shy understory species was first glimpsed on Kori La and we later managed to coax out a singing male below Yongkhola.

Blue-fronted Robin*Cinclidium frontale*

This rare, secretive and seldom-seen species was seen rather well along the middle Lingmethang Road. A very special bird and a great find!

Little Forktail*Enicurus scouleri*

This most diminutive of forktails was scoped along the middle Lingmethang Road. A single bird was also encountered near the Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Black-backed Forktail*Enicurus immaculatus*

After much searching, this target was finally located along a small stream above Samdrup Jongkar where a pair showed exceptionally well for an extended period.

Slaty-backed Forktail*Enicurus schistaceus*

This handsome forktail was first seen near Samdrup Jongkhar with further excellent sightings along the extreme lower Lingmethang Road and in the Tashitang Valley.

Spotted Forktail*Enicurus maculates*

We all enjoyed brilliant views of this extremely attractive species near Trongsa. What a great bird!

Siberian (Canary Island) Stonechat*Saxicola maurus*

This widespread species was common in grassland habitat in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks with a few being seen near Paro as well.

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 several birds singing conspicuously at the edge of our campsites.

Isabelline Wheatear*Oenanthe isabellina*

This is a serious vagrant to Bhutan. We had good, long views of a female in the Thimphu Valley.

Blue Rock Thrush*Monticola solitarius*

Two separate sightings were had of this species in Bhutan with our first encounter above Samdrup Jongkhar.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush*Monticola rufiventris*

This species was fairly common throughout Bhutan and we had sightings on 9 days in the country.

Blue-capped Rock Thrush*Monticola cinclorhynchus*

This extremely attractive species was seen in amazing numbers along the lower Lingmethang Road as well as near Zhemgang, Tingtibi and Trongsa.

Dark-sided Flycatcher*Muscicapa sibirica*

Regular sightings were had of this drab summer visitor.

Ferruginous Flycatcher*Muscicapa ferruginea*

This richly coloured flycatcher was seen well on Dochu La with a total of 3 birds being found.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher*Ficedula hodgsonii*

We were very fortunate to have had such incredibly good views of a male near Morong. This is another rare and infrequently recorded flycatcher throughout its range.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher*Ficedula strophciata*

This subtly attractive *Ficedula* was frequently seen at higher altitudes throughout Bhutan.

Taiga Flycatcher*Ficedula albicilla*

Small numbers were encountered in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks with a singleton being found above Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher*Ficedula hyperythra*

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

Little Pied Flycatcher*Ficedula westermanni*

This striking little species was seen near Morong and along the lower Lingmethang Road.

Ultramarine Flycatcher*Ficedula superciliaris*

A very attractive flycatcher that was seen en route to Trashigang and again on Dochu La and near the Tiger's Nest Monastery in Paro.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher*Ficedula tricolor*

Excellent views were had of three of these often-secretive flycatchers on Thrumsing La.

Sapphire Flycatcher*Ficedula sapphira*

Two separate sightings were had of this beautiful and elusive flycatcher! Firstly a female was seen on the lower Lingmethang Road and later we encountered a fabulous pair on the middle Lingmethang Road that showed very well.

Verditer Flycatcher*Eumyias thalassina*

This beautiful and radiant bird was one of the most common species of the Bhutan section of the tour.

Pale Blue Flycatcher*Cyornis unicolor*

A pair of these scarce flycatchers was found near Zhemgang.

Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher*Cyornis poliogenys*

Excellent views were finally attained of an extremely vocal pair in Kaziranga NP.

Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher*Cyornis rubeculoides*

This stunning flycatcher was seen on several occasions above the town of Lingmethang and in the Tingtibi and Gomphu areas.

Rufous-bellied Niltava*Niltava sundara*

Another gorgeous species that was encountered on several occasions throughout Bhutan.

Large Niltava*Niltava grandis*

After hearing this species on several occasions we finally managed excellent views of a sublime male on the lower Lingmethang Road.

Small Niltava*Niltava macgrigoriae*

More numerous than the previous species, we enjoyed good sightings of this endearing species near Morong and along the lower Lingmethang Road.

Pygmy (Blue-) Flycatcher*Muscicapella hodgsoni*

This tiny and rather scarce flycatcher was seen well on a single occasion along the lower Lingmethang Road.

Dippers *Cinclidae***Brown Dipper***Cinclus pallasii*

This popular species was seen on a small stream en route from Trongsa to Zhemgang and again on the same stream on the return journey. Another bird was sighted on the Mo Chu near Punakha later in the trip.

Leafbirds *Chloropseidae***Golden-fronted Leafbird***Chloropsis aurifrons*

This species was seen in Nameri NP and again in the forests above Samdrup Jongkhar.

Orange-bellied Leafbird*Chloropsis hardwickii*

Fair numbers of this colourful species were encountered throughout the lowlands on the Bhutan portion of the tour.

Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae***Yellow-vented Flowerpecker***Dicaeum chrysorrheum*

A scarce and often elusive species, we were delighted to find a single bird feeding on mistletoe in the grounds of our lodge at the edge of Kaziranga NP.

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor*

A single bird was seen briefly feeding on mistletoe in Nameri NP.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*

Regular sightings were had in Bhutan.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*

Small numbers were seen feeding on mistletoe in the grounds of our lodge at the edge of Kaziranga NP with several more birds being heard on occasion in the Park itself.

Sunbirds *Nectariniidae*

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*

A brief sighting was had of a male in Kaziranga NP.

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

This resplendent bird was seen very well on several occasions with particularly good views being had along the upper Lingmethang Road below Sengor.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*

The most commonly encountered sunbird during our time in Bhutan.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*

Another commonly encountered and stunning sunbird with birds seen on most days at lower altitudes.

(Eastern) Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*

We found this stunning sunbird in the lowland forest around Samdrup Jongkar and again near Tingtibi.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*

We were lucky to have several males and females on Thrumsingla, and although they gave us quite a run-around, we all managed to eventually get great views of this spectacular sunbird.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*

Small numbers were seen in the lower altitude forests in Bhutan with especially large numbers near Gomphu.

Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches *Passeridae*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

This widespread species was only commonly encountered throughout India with a few birds being seen near Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*

Extremely numerous in fields and villages throughout Bhutan!

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Another widespread Asian species that was seen in small numbers throughout the Assam extension and on most days in Bhutan.

Weavers, Widowbirds *Ploceidae*

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*

Two birds were seen relatively briefly and at some distance while on elephant back in Kaziranga NP.

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*

Several small flocks were encountered in the grasslands in Kaziranga National Park.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies *Estrildidae*

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

Small flocks were seen near Samdrup Jongkhar, above Lingmethang and near Gomphu.

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

Two birds were found feeding in tall grass at the edge of the Guwahati dump.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*

A surprise find indeed! We encountered a flock of these birds at the edge of a wetland in Kaziranga NP.

Accentors *Prunellidae*

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiatea*

Small numbers were found on the upper Lingmethang Road near Sengor as well as on Thrumsing La and Chele La.

Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae*

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*

Some of the group were lucky to see this species on our last game drive in Kaziranga NP.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

A few birds were seen in moist grasslands in Kaziranga NP with a further sighting along the Paro River in Bhutan.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

A fairly common wagtail in north-east India, we enjoyed several gorgeous males in exquisite plumage.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Singletons were encountered at scattered sites throughout Bhutan.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

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

Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Several of these widespread pipits were seen in dry grassland in Kaziranga NP.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Encountered almost daily in forest edge habitat throughout the tour.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*

A few birds were seen well in Kaziranga NP, with two further sightings in Bhutan.

Finches *Fringillidae*

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides*

Seen on 4 days in Bhutan, with views in the Morong and Yongkhola areas.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*

A single large flock of these nomadic finches flew over us while birding near the top of Chele La.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis*

Two females showed briefly on Thrumsing La with a further encounter with a male that perched up briefly near the top of Chele La.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Numerous sightings were had throughout the Bhutan section of the trip, both of the plains and of the highland races.

Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii*

A pair of these scarce rosefinches was seen at close quarters on Chele La.

[Himalayan] White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura*

A total of two females and two males were seen together and showed very 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*

This scarce bird was seen on two consecutive days in the Morong area where a total of five females showed well for all. Another sighting was later had on the Lingmethang Road.

Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi*

This vividly coloured bird was seen on consecutive days in both the Morong and Yongkhola areas.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

A small flock was seen on the upper Lingmethang Road below Sengor with another small flock being found on Yutong La.

Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis*

Two of these uncommon and nomadic finches were found en route from Trongsa to Pele La.

Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala*

This scarce species was recorded only once, when we had a pair on our way down Chele La. We were extremely lucky as these birds fed on the ground at the edge of the road and allowed us to get amazingly close.

Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*

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

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*

A pair was seen on Yutong La with further sightings on Chele.

Gold[en]-naped Finch *Pyrrhoptes epauletta*

A rare and unpredictable species, we found three females en route to Trashigang, one female on Kori La and finally a stunning male at the edge of the road above Yongkhola.

Buntings, New World Sparrows & Allies *Emberizidae*

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami*

We found this attractive bunting in scrubby countryside at low elevations in three areas: near the town of Lingmethang, en route from Trongsa to Zhemgang and near Punakha.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Several birds were found at our lunch stop on Yongphu La.

ANNOTATED LIST OF MAMMALS (27 Species)

Large-eared Pika *Ochotona macrotis*

A few of these small pikas were seen on Thrumsing La, Dochu La and Chelela where good views were obtained.

Forrest's Pika *Ochotona forresti*

A singleton was seen below Sengor on the upper Lingmethang Road.

Hodgson's Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista magnificus*

We were very lucky to spot this rare, nocturnal mammal on a night drive above Yongkhola.

Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*

Great, extended views of this impressive squirrel were enjoyed in the Morong and Gomphu areas.

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah*

We found this species in good numbers throughout the tour.

Hoary-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythus*

First encountered on the Assam extension, we continued to find this species in the lowlands of Bhutan.

Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops mccllellandii*

This tiny squirrel was seen in Kaziranga NP and was later encountered fairly regularly in Bhutan.

Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus*

One of these squirrels was found on the extreme lower Lingmethang Road below Yongkhola.

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*

Dale was very lucky to see this shy, crepuscular mammal dash across the road in the Tashitang Valley.

Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes javanicus*

Two of these creatures were seen briefly near the eastern entrance to Kaziranga NP.

Common Otter *Lutra perspicillata*

A small family group of these cute, endearing mammals was seen in a small wetland in Kaziranga NP.

Golden Langur *Trachypithecus geei*

Locally abundant around Zhemgang and Tingtibi where we had some great views of this charismatic primate, sometimes at a distance of no more than eight meters!

Nepal Grey Langur *Semnopithecus schistaceus*

A troop of these scarce and highly localized primates was seen on one occasion near Nobding/Pele La.

Capped Langur *Trachypithecus pileatus*

Small troops of these playful monkeys were seen in Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks as well as above Samdrup Jongkhar and in the Morong and Yongkhola areas.

Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis*

Small troops were seen fairly regularly in Bhutan.

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*

These monkeys were seen daily in Assam.

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 on two days in Kaziranga National Park and again in Nameri National Park where we had fairly close encounters on foot.

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*

Small numbers of these widespread pigs were seen in both Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks.

Water Buffalo *Bubalus bubalus*

This huge beast was commonly seen 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*

This attractive and rather secretive deer was heard on several occasions, and seen by some in Nameri NP and near Tingtibi.

Hog Deer *Axis porcinus*

Large 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*

Several animals were seen feeding at close quarters around Trashigang Dzong.

Ganges River Dolphin *Platanista gangetica*

We were extremely fortunate to see this mammal in the Brahmaputra River bordering Kaziranga NP.

Rat sp.

An unidentified species of rat was seen during our night drive in the Tingtibi area.

Mouse sp.

An unidentified species of mouse was seen during our night drive in the Tingtibi area.

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