

TROPICAL BIRDING

Bhutan: Land of the Thunder Dragon

Custom tour

India extension: 24th – 29th March, 2018 Main tour: 29th March – 17th April, 2018

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A trip to the Kingdom of Bhutan is like no other. Not only did we see a fantastic array of Himalayan specialties, such as Satyr Tragopan, Himalayan Monal, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Beautiful Nuthatch, Fire-tailed Myzornis and Himalayan Cutia to name but a few, we found it a magical place that has preserved its culture and traditions more than most other places in the world. Almost every house is a visual wonder, and the majority of people wear traditional dress. The country has a delightful innocence and the brand new democracy aims to support the 'Gross National Happiness' and protect the natural environment. Buddhism is an important feature in the country, and our visits to temples and monasteries, including Tiger's Nest (above), were a strong reminder of this. Bhutan is a country difficult to not to be enchanted by. This was a custom tour but follows closely our set departure tour itinerary, including the India extension.

INDIA EXTENSION

25th March – Guwahati to Kaziranga

We set off from Guwahati at 8am on the 4-hour drive to Kaziranga. After a delicious lunch and a rest, we took an afternoon safari in the park. First, we had to get our tickets, and while the local guide dived into the scrum at the ticket office, I saw a few birds in the tea plantation, including a nice male **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**. Kaziranga is one of India's most popular parks, and with good reason. Effective protection against poaching has enabled the population of **Indian Rhino** to swell to 2400 individuals making it the most important reserve for the species in the world. The park also boasts healthy populations of wild **Asian Buffalo**, **Barasinga** (or swamp deer), **Hog Deer** and **Asian Elephants** along with countless birds. On our way in, we stopped to look at **Tickell's Leaf-Warbler** hopping around the roadside trees, and then a stop at our first lake where we saw **Black-necked Stork**, **Spot-billed Pelicans** and both **Pallas's** and **Grey-headed Fish-Eagles**, the latter giving its very strange vocalisation. We saw a small kettle of **Himalayan Griffons** and a single **Slender-billed Vulture** mixed in.



The attractive Chestnut-capped Babbler is a specialist of long grass.

The open woodland was alive with birds and we saw 4 species of parakeets, **Yellow-footed Pigeon**, **Green** and **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** and **Long-tailed Minivets**. The highlight of the afternoon though was a family of **Dusky Eagle-Owls** which the local guide proved his worth in finding. We passed through some shorter grasslands with **Citrine Wagtail** and **Rosy Pipits** and some longer grass, with **Striated Grassbirds** and **Chestnut-capped Babbler**. We even stumbled upon a **Swamp Francolin** which showed well. We ended up at a viewing platform where we not only saw many water birds, including **Ruddy Shelduck** and **Pied Avocet**, but also many large mammals, with several **Indian Rhinos**, a herd of **Asian Buffalo** and plenty of **Barasinga**. On the way out, we saw dozens of **Spot-winged Starlings** going to roost, **Blue-bearded Bee-eater** and a **Great Hornbill** flying past the sunset. In a short afternoon safari we had seen over 100 species of birds along with some pretty awesome mammals.

26th March – Kaziranga NP

We started with a bit of birding in the hotel garden before breakfast, and saw **Green Imperial-Pigeon, Green-billed Malkoha, Great Hornbill, Scarlet Minivet, Black-hooded Oriole, Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Oriental White-eye, Golden-fronted Leafbird** and **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird**. The central range of Kaziranga was closed for a rhino census today, so we visited the eastern range about 30 minutes away. This section is famous for its waterbirds, and we had a plethora of ducks, with **Lesser Whistling-Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Cotton Pygmy-Goose, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ferruginous & Tufted Duck**. Until a few days ago there had been a Baer's Pochard present, but it seemed to have left already. Other water birds seen included **Little Grebe, Asian Openbill, Woolly-necked & Black-necked Storks, Lesser & Greater Adjutant, Oriental Darter, Spot-billed Pelican, Glossy & Black-headed Ibis** and **Pheasant-tailed & Bronze-winged Jacanas**. There were plenty of shorebirds present too, with **Northern & Gray-headed Lapwings, Little Ringed Plover, Temminck's Stint, Common Snipe, Common, Green & Wood Sandpipers, Spotted & Common Redshanks** and **Common Greenshank**.



Day-roosting Brown Fish-Owls are well staked out at Kaziranga.

Having seen 100 species in an afternoon yesterday, we gave ourselves the target of 150 species today and we were well on our way. Other than water birds, this section also produced good raptors, and we saw **Osprey, Oriental Honey-buzzard, Himalayan Griffon, Crested Serpent-Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Steppe & Imperial Eagles, Pallas's & Gray-headed Fish-Eagles** and **Eurasian Kestrel**. We took a break for lunch at a restaurant just out of the park and in the nearby open areas added **Eurasian Hoopoe, Black Redstart, Chestnut-tailed Starling, Richard's & Rosy Pipits, Baya Weaver** and **Gray-throated Martin**. In the afternoon, we re-entered the park and concentrated on the forested areas where we saw **Red Junglefowl, Spotted Owlet, Oriental Pied-Hornbill, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Alexandrine Parakeet, Long-tailed & Scarlet Minivets, Abbott's Babbler** and **Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher**. The birding highlight of the day was a pair of **Brown Fish-Owls** which the local guide knew the day roost of. Luckily there were some birders already there photographing them. Of course, Kaziranga is world famous for its large mammals and we had amazing views of **Asian Elephants** and **Indian Rhinos** to finish up our day.



Indian Rhinoceros & Asian Elephant at Kaziranga National Park.

27th March – Kaziranga to Manas NP

We had a long drive to Manas National Park today, but we had enough time to do just a little bit of birding in the wonderful gardens of the hotel. From the balcony of my room I scoped a pair of **Great Hornbills** checking out a nest hole in a tree across the valley. The trees were alive with birds, and I saw **Lineated & Blue-throated Barbets**, **Alexandrine & Red-breasted Parakeets**, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Large Cuckooshrike**, **Rufous Treepie**, **Cinereous Tit**, **Oriental White-eye**, **Chestnut-tailed Starling** and **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker**. We stopped at Guwahati to pick up the participants who had been so unlucky with their cancelled flights, and we were soon on our way to Manas National Park. We had just an hour left of daylight when we arrived, and we took a short walk near our lodge. We had nice views of **Asian Barred Owlet**, **Gray-headed Woodpecker**, **Black-rumped Flameback** and **Rufous Treepie**, before heading back for a sun-downer and freshen up for dinner.



“Peacock dancing!” as the locals say.

28th March – Manas National Park

The late arrivals had just one full day on the extension and we intended to make the most of it. We had a several stops on the way to the entrance of the national park and picked up a few nice birds, including **Black Redstart**, **Cinereous Tit**, **Jungle Babbler**, **Purple Sunbird**, **Greater Flameback** and **Large Cuckooshrike**. We wanted to get to the grasslands inside the park early, but we were pleasantly delayed by some male **Indian Peafowl** displaying. Along the entrance road, we also saw **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker**, **Rose-ringed & Red-breasted Parakeets**, **Plaintive Cuckoo**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Black-winged Cuckooshrike**, **Rosy Minivet**, **Black-hooded Oriole**, **Rufous-necked Laughingthrush** and **Wedge-tailed Pigeon**. Our main target at the grasslands was the critically endangered **Bengal Florican** and we soon spotted a male striding through the grass from a viewing tower. In the grasslands we also saw **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Yellow-eyed & Striated Babblers**, **Ashy Prinia**, **Bluethroat** and **Bengal Bushlark**.

We went back to the lodge for lunch and a short rest, but were back in the park in the afternoon in search of our main quarry, the **Indian Rhino**. At Kaziranga, rhinos are easy to see, but we still had to find them for those that arrived late. The local guide said he knew a good spot. We passed a car with Indian tourists that said they had just seen one in the clearing ahead. When we arrived there, it had already left, but the guide ran to the top of the viewing tower, then shouted down for us to join him. We had brief views of one before it walked out of view. Luckily after a short while, it came back to the clearing and we had extended views. From the tower, we also saw **Lineated & Blue-throated Barbets** and a single **Thick-billed Pigeon** mixed in with the common **Yellow-footed Pigeons**. After leaving the clearing we soon came across another **Indian Rhino** with its calf walking towards us on the road. We next headed to the forest where we picked up **Asian Emerald Dove**, the stunning **Long-tailed Broadbill**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Indian Paradise-Flycatcher**, **White-throated Bulbul**, **Asian Fairy-bluebird**, **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** and some colourful **Scarlet Minivets**.



Dozens of Gaurs appeared from the shadows at dusk in Manas National Park.

We arrived at a river viewpoint where we got out to stretch our legs and scan for birds. We found a **River Lapwing**, several **Small Pratincoles**, **Pied Kingfisher** and **Sand Lark** running between the rocks near the river. It was getting late and we started our drive back. On the way, we found a **Collared Falconet**, our target **Silver-breasted Broadbill**, some silhouetted **Velvet-fronted Nuthatches** in the failing light and some **Spot-winged Starlings** going to roost. The local guide seemed to be taking the scenic route back, which produced some good mammal sightings, including numerous **Asian Buffalo**, **Gaur**, and some rather aggravated **Asian Elephants**. The drive continued into the dark and we started seeing a few **Large-tailed Nightjars**. Back in camp we had a delicious dinner waiting for us and we went to sleep to the sound of **Oriental Scops-Owl** hooting nearby.

29th March – Manas National Park to Bhutan

Today we were driving to the border with Bhutan which gave us one last morning in Manas, and we had a few targets which we had missed yesterday. On the drive in we had some more displaying male **Indian Peafowl**. We also picked up an assortment of other common birds, including **Jungle Babbler**, **Common Woodshrike**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, **Yellow-footed Pigeon** and **Green Imperial-Pigeon**. We were heading to the grasslands again and we managed to get there earlier than yesterday to catch the morning activity. We picked up some of the same birds as yesterday, like **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Ashy Prinia** and **Striated Babbler**, but today also picked up **Golden-headed Cisticola**, **Yellow-bellied Prinia**, **Paddyfield & Rosy Pipits**, **Chestnut-capped** and our target **Slender-billed Babbler**. We had seen **Bengal Florican** yesterday but didn't mind seeing it again and today we even had a pair in flight. We still had some time left so checked out a forest patch and picked up a **Gray-winged Blackbird** along the way. We saw many of the same forest birds as yesterday, like **Asian Fairy-bluebird**, **White-rumped Shama**, **Scarlet & Rosy Minivets**, **Large Cuckooshrike**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Cinereous Tit**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** and **Dollarbird**, but added **Gray-capped Woodpecker**, **Large Woodshrike** and our last minute target, the **Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher**. The latter somewhat of a speciality in the park. We also picked up a couple of raptors, namely **Oriental Honey-buzzard** and **Crested Serpent-Eagle**. The road we took out of the park went along the edge of the river and we got to add a few other interesting species, like **Black Stork**, **Indian Pond-Heron**, **River Lapwing**, **Pied & Stork-billed Kingfishers**. We made it back for an early lunch, packed our bags, said goodbye to the friendly manager and headed for the Bhutan border.



Manas National Park is one of the strongholds of the critically endangered Bengal Florican

MAIN TOUR

After an uneventful drive, we were stamped out at the Indian checkpoint and were met at the Bhutan border post by Thinley, our Bhutanese guide, decked out in full traditional dress. We drove the short way to the hotel, checked in and some of us took a quick look around town.

30th March – Samdrup Jongkhar to Trashigang

It was the start of our Bhutan adventure. Before setting off on our long drive to our destination of Trashigang, we had a short time birding at a stream just up from Samdrup Jongkhar where we saw some more typical lowland species such as **Scarlet Minivet**, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, **Golden-fronted Leafbird**, **Crimson Sunbird** and our main target, **Black-backed Forktail**. On the way out of town we added some more common birds like **Bronzed Drongo**, **Blue Whistling-Thrush**, **White-capped Redstart** and **Blue Rock-Thrush**. We climbed up into the hills and started seeing some beautiful scenery with forest cloaked slopes. We got brief views of a female **Rufous-necked Hornbill** which not everybody saw, and we hoped to catch up with it again during the tour. We spotted a bit of activity along the road and we stopped to check it out. We spent a while scanning the trees and bushes nearby and added many new birds, including **Barred Cuckoo-Dove**, **Mountain Imperial-Pigeon**, **Golden-throated Barbet**, **Black-winged Cuckooshrike**, **Striated Bulbul**, **Striated Laughingthrush**, **Long-tailed Sibia**, **Orange-bellied Leafbird** and **Streaked Spiderhunter**.



Grey-hooded Warbler is one of the more distinctive *Phylloscopus* warblers seen on this tour.

Onwards and upwards we went, in awe of the stunning scenery. At our next stop we saw a **Himalayan Cuckoo** calling, along with good views of **Great Barbet**, **Maroon Oriole**, **Gray Treepie** and **Striated & Black Bulbuls**. Our main birding site of the morning was a place called Morong and it was full of birds. We added many new species, with **Bay Woodpecker**, **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**, **White-throated Fantail**, **Black-throated Tit**, **Buff-barred**, **Gray-hooded & Chestnut-crowned Warblers**, **White-naped Yuhina**, **White-crested Laughingthrush**, **Silver-eared Mesia**, **Small Niltava**, **Verditer Flycatcher**, **Black-throated Sunbird** and **Olive-backed Pipit**. Our main target here was the **Beautiful Nuthatch**, and the guide knew just where to look. He soon found us one and we had good looks of it climbing upside down along the thicker epiphyte covered branches. Other target birds we saw were a pair of dapper **Spotted Forktails** flying up a small mountain stream and a **Wallcreeper**, doing what Wallcreepers do best, creeping up a wall. There was a timed road closure which we missed by 10 minutes so had to wait another hour and a half before we could get along it.

We turned back to the Morong area where we birded down a side road, adding many more species, including **Blue-fronted Redstart, Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush, Gray-chinned Minivet, Blyth's Shrike-Babbler, Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher, Sultan Tit, Yellow-cheeked & Green-backed Tit, Mountain Bulbul, Gray-hooded Warbler, Bhutan Laughingthrush, Rufous Sibia** and **Red-tailed Minla**. We made it through the blockage and birded a little more on the other side, adding a major target, **Ward's Trogon**, along with **Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Gray-winged Blackbird** and **Green-tailed Sunbird**. After a late lunch in the next town, we continued and had another excellent stop which produced **Yellow-browed & Black-throated Tits, Sikkim Treecreeper, Black-faced & Ashy-throated Warblers, Chestnut-tailed Minla** and **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher**. Everybody was tired after an epic birding day, but the local guide persuaded us to have one more stop for another major target, the unique **Yellow-rumped Honeyguide** which was hanging around a huge colony of bees. After an amazing day of birding, we arrived at our hotel in Trashigang.



Bhutan Laughingthrush is the only species that hold's this beautiful country's name.

31st March – Korila Pass to Yongkhola

We left Trashigang early and started the 2-hour drive to the Korila Pass. A few kilometres before the pass there was a side road which was great for birding, and we picked up **Grey Treepie, Bay Woodpecker, Asian Barred Owlet** and **Golden-throated Barbet**. We encountered several mixed flocks containing such species as **Black-chinned & Whiskered Yuhina, Red-billed Leiothrix, Chestnut-crowned, Grey-hooded & Black-faced Warblers, Chestnut-tailed Minla** and **White-tailed Nuthatch**. We reached a clearing where one eagle-eyed member of our group spotted a gorgeous male **Scarlet Finch** perched up in a tree. We also had a stunning male **Black-throated Sunbird**. We taped in the not quite so stunning **Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler** and some not unattractive laughingthrushes, namely **Striated, White-throated & White-crested Laughingthrushes**. One of our main targets of the morning was the **Himalayan Cutia**, but we came up blank. On the walk back to the vehicle we did pick up a nice male **Rufous-bellied Niltava**. We made our way up to the pass, where there was a beautiful, pink flowering tree full of **Rufous Sibilas, Rufous-vented Yuhinas** and **Green-throated Sunbirds**. We walked a bit further and heard a **Ward's Trogon** which flew in for scope views. After lunch we explored the Kurichu Dam area where we saw **River Lapwings, Great Cormorant, Verditer Flycatcher, Olive-backed Pipit, Himalayan Bulbul** and **Scaly-breasted Munia** and an **Osprey** flying over the dam. We continued to our birding lodge in the tiny village of Yongkhola.

1st April – Yongkhola to Namling

Today we had a full day to explore the road from Yongkhola up towards Namling; a 'birding paradise' as our guide had billed it. On the drive up, we spotted a raptor straight away, which turned out to be a **Crested Serpent Eagle**. We stopped to check out a dead tree with **Darjeeling Woodpecker** and scanning the nearby trees we were delighted to catch up with the BIG target, **Himalayan Cutia**. Soon after we enjoyed watching the antics of a small group of **Scaly Laughingthrushes** by the side of the road. After our field breakfast, we found a nice flock with **White-throated Fantail**, **White-tailed Nuthatch**, **White-spectacled Warbler** and some blood-red **Small-billed Minivets**. We concentrated on some skulkers, and some of us got views of **Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler** and **Pygmy Cupwing** (formerly a wren-babbler). We turned around and started to bird our way back down and mid-way way came across a very noisy, if not terribly cooperative group of **Common Green-Magpies**. The local guide also proved his worth by finding us a flock of **White-breasted Parrotbills** in the bamboo. Lower down still, the driver slammed his breaks on when he spotted a male **Satyr Tragopan** in the road. The bird had frozen, but taking pictures through the windshield wasn't ideal. Luckily it was good enough to stick around when we opened the door to take some unobstructed shots. Lower down we had a cooperative **Blue-bearded Bee-eater** perched up on an exposed limb.



One of the avian gems of Bhutan, the magnificent Satyr Tragopan.

We had some time left before lunch, so we drove past the lodge and checked another area a bit lower down, where we found **Blue-capped Rock-Thrush**, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, **Blyth's Shrike-Babbler**, **Nepal Fulvetta** and **Grey-throated Babbler**. In the afternoon, we drove downslope towards some farmland. On the way down, we had our first **Himalayan Swiftlets** flying over the valley, then the local guide spotted a **Crested Bunting** and we all jumped out to look at it in the scope. One of the clients saw the bird but could barely believe how un-bunting like a bunting it was. Mid-bunting we had a huge **Black Eagle** soar right overhead, and shortly after, a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**. We continued on down to the lower areas and got out at a stake out the local guide had for **Black-tailed Crake**. It wasn't long before it responded and walked out into a gap offering great views. In addition, we also saw **Striated Prinia** and a **Long-tailed Shrike**. On the way back up we also had a **Capped Langur** right next to the road. We finished a bit earlier than the previous days and everybody was glad of a rest



Crested Bunting & Black-tailed Crake were seen well in the Yongkola area.

2nd April – Yonkola to Ura

Today we were leaving our wonderful lodge at Yonkola and heading up over the Thrumsingla Pass to town of Ura. It was only about 50 miles but birding the slow, winding mountain road would take the whole day. We had several birding stops on the way to Namling. On our first we found a nice mixed flock with **Golden & Rufous-capped Babblers**, plus **Yellow-throated & Rufous-winged Fulvettas**. Further up, another pocket of activity with **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, **Short-billed Minivet**, **Verditer Flycatcher**, **Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher** and our first **Gray-cheeked Warbler**. We saw **Striated**, **Scaly** and the ever present **White-throated Laughingthrushes**, and let's not forget a gorgeous male **Blue-capped Rock-Thrush**. The local guide spotted some martins and we jumped out to find a colony of **Nepal House-Martins** busy building their nests, and a bonus **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** which soared over and perched nicely for scope views.



Blue-capped Rock-Thrush is one of the most attractive members of its group.

Higher up, we explored a side track which had **Ashy-throated Warbler**, large numbers of **Stripe-throated & Rufous-vented Yuhinas**, **Green-tailed Sunbird**, and many beautiful butterflies. We stopped in the high-elevation town of Sengor for lunch. The town's name means 'tree on a rock' and we saw the tree after which it was named. We had more birding stops after lunch with our first **White-browed Fulvetta** and gorgeous **Red-headed Bullfinch**, plus a singing **Olive-backed Pipit**. We moved up into pine forest where we had a couple of nice mixed bird parties with **Coal**, **Gray-crested & Black-browed Tits**, **Hodgson's Treecreeper**, and **Goldcrest**. The stunning pass was above 12,000ft and there was still some snow up there; very little in the way of birds though, and the best we could manage was a **Rufous-vented Tit**. It was also quiet on the drive down the other side although we did see **Blood Pheasant** 3 times. We managed a **Eurasian Kestrel** and several **Alpine Accentors** before pulling in to the town of Ura where we were welcomed by **Eurasian Magpie**, numerous **Red-billed Choughs** and a couple of **Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinches**. Ura is over 3000m and cold, but luckily there were wood-burning fires in each room to warm them up a little.



A beautiful frosty morning in the Ura Valley & white prayer flags for the dead.

3rd April – Ura to Jakar

We started the day with some nice easy birding near our hotel in Ura. There was a good layer of frost on the ground, but we wrapped up warm. We had the common **Eurasian Magpies** and **Red-billed Choughs** squabbling with each other, followed by some small flocks in the hedgerows with **White-browed Fulvetta**, **Coal & Black-browed Tits**. We added a few new species with **White-collared Thrush**, **Black-faced Laughingthrush**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor**, **Plain Mountain-Finch** and **Russet Sparrow**. After breakfast in our very rustic restaurant we packed up the vehicle and went down to check out the temple in town. Our guide was a cultural guide as well as a bird guide and gave us some interesting explanations about Bhutanese Buddhism. We left Ura and had a couple of short stops on the way to our next destination for **Red Crossbill** and **Spotted Nutcracker**. We were supposed to be visiting a museum up the Tang Valley but due to logistical difficulties we switched this with tomorrow's activity.



A beautiful flock of Snow Pigeons descending like snowflakes.

Before arriving in Jakar, where we would spend the next 2 nights, we stopped to check out the Burning Lake where an important historical figure apparently jumped in with a burning lamp and came out with some Buddhist artifacts and the lamp still burning. We didn't have a lamp on hand to try it ourselves, but it was a pretty location and we added some nice **Plumbeus Redstarts**. We had lunch at our luxurious hotel in Jakar (quite a change from last night), then set off on the drive to the Tarpaling Monastery for the afternoon. The road started off quite smoothly alongside the river and we spotted a family of **Brown Dippers**. Just like many of the roads we had seen so far in Bhutan, it was under construction and a bit bumpy. After a couple of hours drive, we got to Tarpaling and some of us got views of a female **Himalayan Monal** by the roadside. We reached the monastery and waited at a feeding spot for Himalayan Monal. Unfortunately, the monals never showed but we did see **Snow Pigeon**, **Chestnut-crowned & Black-faced Laughingthrushes**, **Rusty-flanked Treecreeper** and **Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch**. We stayed as long as we could, but in the end had to leave, although as luck would have it, we found another female monal on the way down which everyone got on. We finished another wonderful day with a delicious meal in our hotel.

4th April – Tang Valley

Today was more of a cultural day but we couldn't resist stopping for a few birds along the way. In the morning we were going up the Tang River valley to the Ugyen Choling Museum. On our first quick birding stop we saw **Long-tailed Minivet, Black Bulbul, Blyth's Leaf Warbler, Gray Bushchat, Rufous-breasted Accentor** and **Russet Sparrow**. A while later, somebody spotted a raptor soaring above the valley and on further inspection we found it was a **Himalayan Griffon**. Our last stop on the way up, was in some open habitat by the river and we added **Eurasian Magpie, Red-billed Chough, Blue Whistling-Thrush, Blue-fronted Redstart, Plumbeous Redstart** and **Rufous-breasted Accentor**. The Ugyen Choling Museum is a well-known tourist attraction and we joined an informative guided tour of the old palace in which we gained insight into the way of life in years gone by.



The beautiful Tang Valley, steeped in Buddhist history.

After a delicious home-cooked lunch using home-grown vegetables, we had a fascinating chat with the decendent of the original inhabitants and current manager of the museum, who was also a famous Bhutanese author. Some of us bought her books and had them signed by her before we drove back down the valley to Jakar. One more quick birding stop on the way down got us **Eurasian Hoopoe, Crested Kingfisher, Plumbeous & White-capped Redstarts, White-collared Blackbird** and **White Wagtail**. In the afternoon we visited the 2 most important temples in Jakar, the first one built in the 8th century. Our local guide was terrifically knowledgeable about Bhutanese culture and Buddhism and we very much enjoyed our cultural day.



Scenes from the Ugyen Choling Museum and a footbridge covered in prayer flags.

5th April – Jakar to Trongsa

Our birding site for the morning was the wonderful Yotongla Pass. It was an hour and a half drive which meant an early departure and a field breakfast. Our breakfast stop was pretty active and we added some excellent birds, including **Hume's Bush Warbler**, **Brown Parrotbill** and **Spotted Laughingthrush**. We drove on up to the pass itself, from where a side road went even higher. The pass was at 3425m so we were careful not to overexert ourselves. We saw some flocks here with **Yellow-browed, Rufous-vented & Gray-crested Tit** and **White-browed Fulvetta**. Back down at the pass we added **Eurasian Wren**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor** and a couple of people saw **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch**. We carried on down over the pass and had a couple of very productive birding stops. At one rather noisy road construction site we found an area with lots of flowering *Rhododendron* with attending **Stripe-throated & Rufous-vented Yuhinas**, **Rufous Sibia**, **Ashy-throated Warbler** and the stunning **Fire-tailed Myzornis**. At our last stop before lunch we found a really active spot where we saw **Green Shrike-Babbler**, **Yellow-browed Tit**, **Ashy-throated**, **Blyth's Leaf & Whistler's Warbler**, **Rufous-winged Fulvetta**, **Gould's & Green-tailed Sunbirds**. We reached the town of Trongsa with its towering and impressive *Dzong* (fortress).



The dazzling male Green-tailed Sunbird always delights.

We ate at a local restaurant that had a balcony where we added **Pale-rumped Warbler** and some cheeky **Assam Macaques**. We were told to keep the door shut as these naughty little chaps would sneak in and steal anything they could. We checked in to our hotel on the other side of the valley with an impressive view over the *Dzong*. After a short rest, we did some birding near Trongsa along the Tingtibi road that we would be driving along tomorrow. In a patch of bamboo we found **Rufous-capped Babbler** and **Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler**, and up in the trees we had mixed flocks containing **Green Shrike-Babbler**, **Green-backed & Black-throated Tits**, **Sikkim Treecreeper**, **Whiskered Yuhina**, **Red-tailed Minla**, **Verditer Flycatcher** and a female **Gold-naped Finch**. We had a couple of soaring raptors which we identified as **Rufous-bellied & Black Eagles** and finally added a noisy **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush**. Our highlight though, was a family of **Assam Macaques** doing huge jumps from tree to tree. Our last bird of the day was the noisy **Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie** back at the hotel.

6th April – Trongsa to Tingtibi

Today we had a long drive from Trongsa to Tingtibi. We had a very early breakfast at the hotel and set off just behind another birding group who we were to be jostling with for the whole day. Even though it was just 150km, the speed we could drive on the curving mountain roads meant that it would take us all day long. We tried to limit stops but it was difficult with so many birds around. At our first stop we saw flocks with **Rufous Sibia**, **White-throated Laughingthrush**, **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** and the satorial **Scarlet Minivet**. We had rare scope views of the tricky **Slaty-backed Forktail** at a small stream, and we had both **Kalij Pheasant** and **Red Junglefowl** flying across the road. We knew we were getting lower down when we started seeing things like **Chestnut-tailed Starling** and **Rufous-necked Laughingthrush**. Further down, we had a few opportunistic stops for things like **Crested Bunting**, **Ashy Bulbul** & **Blue-capped Rock-Thrush**.



This attractive Hodgson's Redstart was a welcome distraction on our long drive.

Our guide had received a tip off on a reliable spot for the critically endangered and mega rare White-bellied Heron, which involved us traversing some pretty interesting terrain down a steep side road into a valley. We arrived and had a nice field lunch before continuing on foot to a spot where we scanned the river. The heron had been seen at the confluence of 2 rivers and right there was a local person sitting just where the heron was supposed to be. It may have been flushed. We made it back up with some skilful manoeuvring from our fabulous driver and we continued down toward Tingtibi. The bird activity didn't let up in the afternoon and more birding stops produced **Hodgson's Redstart**, **Common & Dark-breasted Rosefinches**, **Long-tailed Sibia** and dozens of **Nepal House Martins**. We found a couple of particularly good patches of activity. At the first had **Whiskered Yuhina**, **Dark-sided Flycatcher**, **Short-billed Minivet**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** and finally our target **Golden-spectacled Warbler**, which closed out all our possible *Seicercus* warblers.

At the next stop, there were several fruiting trees which had **Golden-throated Barbet**, **Orange-bellied Leafbird** and **Striated Bulbul**, with other flocks passing through containing **Lesser Yellonape**, **Pale Blue Flycatcher** and **Grey-chinned Minivet**. We also had wonderful views of our first **Gee's Golden Langurs**, and proceeded to find several more groups of these gorgeous primates. We were on the look out for **Rufous-necked Hornbill**, as earlier in the trip only one half of a couple had seen one, and in the interest of marital harmony, we needed to remedy the situation. We had a false alarm with a large **Crested Serpent-Eagle** perched near the road, but soon after, an eagle-eyed participant spotted a pair of **Rufous-necked Hornbills** flying across the valley. After some tense few seconds, we all had good scope views, and all was well with the world again. We had just one more stop when we saw a **Great Hornbill** next to the road. We got out to photograph it, and we had another 16 hornbills fly overhead! After adding **Ultramarine Flycatcher** and **Black-throated Sunbird**, we finished the long ride to Tingtibi, and relaxed in our rustic hotel, thinking of the other birding group camping on the mountain.



Gee's Golden Langur are one of 3 langur species found in Bhutan.

7th April – Tingtibi area

We started our full day in the Tingtibi area by exploring the road towards Gomphu. We were looking in particular for a couple of bamboo specialists. We stopped to scan one area and spotted a couple of **Wedge-tailed Pigeons** and a small group of **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes**. Further along at a little stream crossing we all had views of **Slaty-backed Forktail**. There was a nice patch of bamboo, so we got out to investigate. We played the call of **Pale-billed Parrotbill**, and one shot right in and perched out for all to see. If only all birds were this cooperative. The local guide also heard our other target, the **White-hooded Babbler** and we spotted a small flock of them working their way along the bamboo on the other side of the stream. What luck! Our 2 targets even before breakfast. A little further along the same stretch we had 2 pairs of **Rufous-necked Hornbills** which posed very nicely for photos. A particularly important bird for one member of the group. After a well-deserved breakfast, we continued our birding, quickly finding **Blue-throated Flycatcher**, **Yellow-bellied Warbler**, **Asian Fairy-Bluebird**, **White-throated Bulbul** and **Streaked Spiderhunter** in the mixed bamboo forest.



We had incredible views of Rufous-necked Hornbill near Tingtibi.

Our other target laughingthrushes were conspicuous in their absence, but further stops produced **Blue-capped Rock-Thrush**, our first **Collared Owlet** and **Striated Yuhinas**. On the way back to lunch, we tried a spot for Long-tailed Broadbill but had to be content with a huge **Black Giant Squirrel** and an interesting lizard. Our afternoon start was delayed by rain, but we eventually made it out along the road towards the Indian border at Gelephu. An apparent drongo turned into **Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo**, and we had several mixed flocks containing such birds as **Grey-chinned Minivet**, **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike**, **Blue-winged Minla** and **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**. We had good scope views of **Grey-headed & Rufous Woodpeckers**, the latter new for the trip. Collared Owlet impersonations brought in some birds very close such as **Yellow-vented Warbler**, **Black-chinned Yuhina** and **Black-throated Sunbird**, but it had been drizzling and most of us had left our cameras in the car. One last stretch of the road produced good views of **Orange-bellied Leafbird**, **Maroon Oriole** and **White-bellied Erpornis** before we called it a day and headed back to our hotel in Tingtibi.

8th April – Tingtibi to Trongsa

It was our last morning in the Tingtibi area and we decided to check out the old road to Trongsa. Some other birders had been there yesterday and seen some birds that we still needed. We drove up from Tingtibi, listening for bird calls through the open windows. I heard the tell-tale, loud, whistled song of a laughingthrush and we got out to investigate. After some effort, one of our targets, the **Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush** finally showed. There were a few **Ashy & Black-crested Bulbuls** and **Blue-throated Barbets** hopping round in the canopy of a fruiting tree too, and a **Great Hornbill** perched in the distance. We drove on, looking and listening out for calls. We had a couple of false alarms with **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babblers** and **Bhutan Laughingthrush**, but eventually found a flock with **Greater Yellownape** and **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes**. While we were looking at them, Barbara said she had a bird perched in a red-flowering tree below. Checking it out we found it was our target **Red-faced Liocichla**, normally a very hard bird to see. Our last main target was the **Blue-winged Laughingthrush** which our local guide found for us in a dense patch of bamboo. In some seeding bamboo we found a small flock of **White-rumped Munias** and nearby we finally saw a **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** after hearing them for days.



Red-tailed Minla is one of many attractive flocking species.

We had a few stops on the way down and found some flocks with **White-throated Fantail**, **Nepal Fulvetta** and also saw a large group of **Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes** feeding by the side of the road, bringing our total number of laughingthrush species seen for the day to 6. Back at the hotel, we checked out and started the drive back to Trongsa along the new, shorter road. On the way we had a couple of close raptors which turned out to be **Black Eagle** and **Mountain Hawk-Eagle**. We had enough time for another spot of birding on the way back and we walked a stretch of road with good habitat. We first found **Blyth's & Black-eared Shrike-Babblers**, and after that, Collared Owlet calls brought in many birds, including **Red-tailed & Blue-winged Minla**, **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike**, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Whiskered Yuhina**, **Pale-rumped, Grey-hooded & Yellow-vented Warblers**, **Oriental White-eyes**, **Grey-throated Babbler**, **Ultramarine Flycatcher**, **Orange-bellied Leafbird** and **Blue-throated Flycatcher**. It had been a very productive stop, but we were keen not to get in too late and we finished the bumpy journey to Trongsa. We were happy to enjoy the comforts of hot water and wifi for a night.

9th April – Trongsa to Phobjikha

We left our hotel in Trongsa and drove up to a nice patch of habitat. One of the participants wasn't feeling great so we only birded for a short time but nevertheless saw some nice birds. We again saw **Large Hawk-Cuckoo**, and then found an active patch with **Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler**, **White-throated Laughingthrush**, **Yellow-browed Tit**, **Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie**, **Black-throated Tit** and **Green-tailed Sunbird**. The best bird though was the **Golden-breasted Fulvetta** which was new for the trip and an absolute beauty. We left Trongsa in order to get to Phobjikha for lunch and saw **Himalayan Swiftlets** and **Nepal House Martins** from the window. Much of this section of the road had recently been paved and it was a much more pleasant ride than some of the ones in the last few days. The main East-West highway is due to be finished by 2020 and it will be a much more comfortable trip once it is done. We went up and over the Pelela Pass which we are due to bird tomorrow and then down a side road into the Phobjikha Valley. The valley is famous for its wintering Black-necked cranes, and in the afternoon we visited the crane information centre. It seems the last crane had been seen the day before and we had just missed it. Next, we visited a local monastery and watched the young novices practicing their Tibetan trumpets. From there we walked down through forest into the valley below. It wasn't too birdy but we saw a few birds like **Plain Mountain-Finch** and **Oriental Skylark** and plenty of interesting plants.



Gantey Monastery & Phobjikha Valley

10th April – Pelela to Punakha

We left the Phobjikha Valley early, heading for the high Pelela Pass that would be our birding site for the morning. It was misty, overcast and threatened rain, but we hoped it would hold off long enough for us to see some birds. A short while down the side road from the pass, we spotted a raptor that turned out to be a **Himalayan Buzzard**. The spot seemed to be as good as anywhere else to enjoy our packed breakfast, and as we did, the surrounding trees and bushes seemed to fill up with **Yellow-browed, Coal, Rufous-vented, Gray-crested & Black-browed Tits, White-browed Fulvetta** and **Stripe-throated & Rufous-vented Yuhinas**. Soon after breakfast we found our target **Hoary-throated Barwing** which came in and gave us great views. We had seen a female **Himalayan Monal** earlier in the trip, but for such a gorgeous bird, you really want to see a male. We reached a bit of a clearing and spotted a male not to far away. We had already had killer views of a male **Satyr Tragopan** but weren't going to turn down another sighting. We spotted a male walking in the road some distance ahead of us. We watched him in the scope for a while and it became clear that he was getting ready to display. We got a bit closer and enjoyed the show. This was a wildlife documentary moment as he erected his horns, his bright red and blue bib, and gave us a show of shaking his wings, then puffing himself up and running towards a female. It was incredible!



In Greek mythology, a Satyr was a lustful woodland god with pointed ears. This tragopan looks pretty lustful.

We continued birding by adding **Eurasian Nutcracker, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Himalayan Bluetail, White-capped Redstart** and **White-collared Blackbird**. We drove on a bit and stopped at a huge **Himalayan Griffon** perched next to the road, followed by half a dozen more. We continued searching for one of our other major targets which was **Fire-tailed Sunbird. Green-tailed Sunbird** was numerous here but when I finally found some of their rarer cousins, they disappeared quickly, and the mist rolled in before we could relocate them. Don't you just hate it when that happens. We turned around and started heading back to the pass, stopping to look at a beautiful **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, and a flock of **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinches**. Back at Pelela Pass we turned down towards Punakha and lunch, on the way spotting dozens of **Nepal House-Martins**. After lunch we drove to Punakha where we scanned over the river. A lot of waterbirds seemed to have left already, but we did see **Ruddy Shelduck, Common Merganser, River Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper, Gray-throated Martin, White-browed Wagtail** and the unique **Ibisbill**. One last spot before getting to the hotel was to see **Pin-tailed Snipe**, which our local guide managed to find for us. After a long day we were happy to have a bit of downtime in our hotel.

11th April – Tashithang & Punakha

We set off to the Tashithang area where we would spend the morning birding. It was an early start, so we brought a packed breakfast with us and enjoyed eating it on the side of a lush valley overlooking a rushing river. While we ate, **Great & Golden-throated Barbets** and **Gray Treepie** hopped around in the top of a tree nearby. We started our birding and had an excellent morning with great views of many beautiful birds, including **Maroon Oriole**, **Asian Emerald Cuckoo** and **Striated Laughingthrush**. Our targets included some skulkers that had previously eluded us. One that we finally got the better of today was the tiny **Slaty-bellied Tesia**, which came in close and gave intermittent views of various parts of its body through gaps in the leaves. The trees were filled at times with **Black Bulbul**, **Whiskered & Black-chinned Yuhinas**, **Nepal Fulvetta**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** and **Black-throated Sunbird**, while **Nepal House-Martins** flew overhead. We saw some beautiful members of the flycatcher family, with **Small Niltava**, **Dark-sided, Verditer & Slaty-blue Flycatchers** and even a pair of **Slaty-backed Forktails**. One of the biggest shocks of the morning though was a vagrant **Brahminy Starling**.



Brahminy Starling, a widespread Indian bird, is rather attractive and a rarity in Bhutan.

One of the most noticeable features of larger towns in Bhutan are the fortresses. They follow a similar design, and our guide told us, if you are going to see one *dzong*, it should be the one in Punakha; which is the most spectacular and picturesquely situated between 2 rivers. We drove back to town and had a guided tour followed by a delightful meal on the banks of the river. Some birds seen in this area included **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Crested Kingfisher** and **Plumbeous Redstart**. The rest of the afternoon we went in search of the critically endangered White-bellied Heron and upstream on the 'male' river used to be the best site. Unfortunately though, it hadn't been sighted for a couple of months. We had a few stops where we got out and scanned the river, and at one, found a flock of 80 **Ruddy Shelduck** with a single **Bar-headed Goose** and a **Common Shelduck** mixed in. At our last stop we added **River Lapwing**, another **Crested Kingfisher**, **Brown Dipper** and nearby a **Crested Bunting**. Of course, there was no White-bellied Heron and it looks like the birds that used to inhabit the area are no more. Maybe it was disturbance from development or river rafting. Who knows. A very sad story indeed.



Our tour of the impressive Punakha Dzong with Thinley, our wonderful local guide.

12th April – Lampelri to Thimphu

We were driving to Bhutan's capital, Thimphu, but stopping on the way to bird at the wonderful Lampelri Royal Botanical Garden. We arrived early and had a walk around the gardens before the cafeteria opened to serve us breakfast. As soon as we got out, we heard a **Brown Bullfinch** and had good scope views. We walked slowly up into the park, where as well as lawns and planted areas, there was plenty of natural habitat. There was a lot of bamboo, but it had all seeded and died off, so we weren't sure how easy the bamboo specialists would be. On one of the upper trails, we saw a **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** tossing leaves about on a trail and **Ashy-throated, Blyth's Leaf & Whistler's Warblers** in the bushes. We had some activity in the dead bamboo and found a group of **Brown Parrotbills** moving through. Another bird was calling in the bamboo which turned out to be **Gray-sided Laughingthrush** which was new for the trip and the last species of laughingthrush on our list. We walked down towards the cafeteria for breakfast and in an open area had a group of **Kalij Pheasants** which showed nicely. There was also **Great Barbet** and **Darjeeling Woodpecker** perched out, and **Blue-fronted Redstart** and **Rufous-breasted Accentor** hopping on the ground. We were getting hungry now but were further held up by very photogenic **White-throated Laughingthrushes**, **Blue Whistling-Thrush** and **White-collared Blackbird**.



Laughingthrushes exude personality, and this White-throated Laughingthrush is no exception.

After breakfast, we went along another trail trying for **Hill Partridge** but only heard them distantly. From there, we went to the *Rhododendron* garden and after looking at the various beautiful blossoming bushes we saw **Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail** and **Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher**. It was time to leave the park but just at the exit we added **Eurasian Jay** and **Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie**. We tried again for **Hill Partridge** along the road, but unfortunately they did not come in. We drove on up to the Dochula Pass where hundreds of Indian tourists were visiting the area of 108 stupors built in honor of fallen soldiers. We also saw a few birds, like **Gray-backed Shrike**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor** and **Russet Sparrow** before continuing down to Thimphu. We had a nice lunch in a local restaurant and afterwards we checked in to our luxurious hotel and had a short break. Our afternoon birding was along a river beside the Thimphu sewage treatment plant where we saw **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Ibisbill**, **River Lapwing**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Plumbeous Redstart**, **Gray Wagtail** and **Rosy Pipit**. The big surprise of the afternoon was finding **Little Stint**, which may have been only the second record for the country!



A couple of common but attractive species: Blue Whistling-Thrush & Grey-backed Shrike.

13th April – Cheri valley

Today we had a morning's birding up the Cheri Valley about an hour north of Thimphu. There are 2 monasteries perched high up on the sides of the mountains. Cheri Monastery is a place where young novice monks learn meditation, and Tango Monastery had a school of Buddhist Studies. We started birding along the entry road which ran by the side of a cool, clear, rushing stream. Here we found **Long-tailed Minivet, Gray-backed Shrike, Black Bulbul, Gould's & Green-tailed Sunbirds, Rufous-breasted Accentor** and trees full of **Blyth's Leaf Warblers**. We crossed a bridge over the river, where we saw **Blue Whistling-Thrush, Plumbeous & White-capped Redstarts**, then arrived at the start of the trail to Cheri Monastery. It was way up above, but there was no need to hike all the way up, but rather we birded our way around the base of the mountain. It was fairly birdie and we saw **Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher, Blue-fronted Redstart, Green-backed, Black-browed & Fire-capped Tits, White-throated Laughingthrush, Rufous Sibia, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, White-collared Blackbird** and **Olive-backed Pipit**.



Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers showed very nicely for us in the Cheri Valley.

We moved on to the base of Tango Monastery and added **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** and had great views of **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**. The rain clouds had been gathering, but finally they broke and it started to rain. We drove back to Thimphu for lunch but first had a fantastic visit to the archery stadium where there was a competition going on between 2 company teams. We watched for about 30 minutes and learned the basic rules of Bhutan's national sport. The 2 teams took it in turns to fire their arrows, and it was 3 points for a bullseye, 2 for hitting the target and 1 for getting within an arrow's width of the target. If somebody hit the target, their team would get up and give a bit of a song and a dance. It was great fun to watch! After lunch, we visited the Centenary Farmer's Market where we saw lots of interesting produce, including *Cordyceps*, which is a fungus growing on a caterpillar that is worth its weight in gold. We then had some time to explore the handicraft markets and stock up on souvenirs before calling it a day.



Scenes from an archery competition in Thimphu.

14th April – Thimphu to Paro

Today was our cultural day in Thimphu. We started at the stupor commemorating the 3rd King, where many devotees were walking around the monument clockwise in true Buddhist fashion, uttering mantras with prayer beads in one hand and small prayer wheels in the other. Next, we drove up to Buddha Point, the site of the largest 'seated' Buddha statue in the world. It was an impressive sight, as were the paintings and 125,000 miniature Buddha statues inside. On to the Takin Park, a small zoo with large enclosures housing some of Bhutan's native wildlife, including Bhutan's national animal, the Takin, plus Goral, Serow, Sambar and Muntjac. Next, we went to the wonderful Textile Museum, where we watched an informative video and walked around the collection of traditional textiles from around the country. The Postal Museum was closed today, but the General Post Office was open, and we were able to make stamps featuring ourselves in front of a picture of Tiger's Nest Monastery. We had a nice lunch and met our ground agent who gave us the history of tourism in Bhutan. Afterwards, we left Thimphu and started our drive towards Paro, stopping at a famous chain bridge to Tamchog Temple. We had a brief bit of birding and spotted **Green & Common Sanpipers**, some wagtails and also watched the guide's hat blow off the edge of a cliff. In Paro, we arrived at our beautiful hotel with a stunning back drop of snowy mountains in the distance.



Yours truly, wearing the traitional *Gho* at Buddha Point.

15th April – Chelela & Paro

Today was our last day of designated birding and we visited the spectacular Chelela Pass. Although not a great distance from Paro, the winding road, leading up and up to almost 4000m took almost 2 hours. We hadn't planned any birding stops on the lower section, but a male **Kalij Pheasant** by the side of the road, showed well and we couldn't help but take a look. Higher up, there were numerous **Blood Pheasants** on and next to the road. Towards the top, we stopped to walk a stretch of the road, on which we saw **Coal, Rufous-vented & Gray-crested Tits, Darjeeling Woodpecker, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Olive-backed Pipit** and our target **Collared & White-winged Grosbeaks**. We had a breakfast stop on a scenic pull out and picked up **Eurasian Nutcracker, Himalayan Bluetail** and **White-collared Blackbird** while we ate. We had another stop higher up at a clearing where we enjoyed more great views of a dazzling male **Himalayan Monal**, along with the slightly less eye-catching **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch** and **Blue-fronted Redstart**. We reached the pass at an altitude of 3988m and couldn't help walking a bit higher up a trail to pass the 4000m mark. Yaks viewed us curiously and one young one even grunted aggressively so our local guide bravely chased it off. There were not too many birds up there other than a singing **Buff-barred Warbler** and a distant **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** soaring over the spectacular Haa Valley below.



The very cute Large-eared Pika is a common resident at higher elevations.

We walked down from the pass along the road, which was a gentle descent, and the sun even came out to warm us up a little. Along this stretch, we added **Eurasian Wren, Spotted Laughingthrush, Alpine & Rufous-breasted Accentors, Eurasian Kestrel** and our target **Fire-tailed Sunbird** which finally stuck around long enough for everyone to appreciate its beautiful plumage. Several **Large-eared Pikas** scooted around below us too. It was time to leave and everybody had already got in the van, but I had to pull them out again to show them a **Himalayan Buzzard** being mobbed by Bhutan's national bird, the **Common Raven**. On the way down, we went up a very rough side track to a nunnery built into the side of the cliffs. A few of us walked up to check it out and we also saw many **Snow Pigeons** perched above the buildings and **Red-billed Chough** circling in front. We drove back down the winding road and enjoyed a delicious lunch in Paro, after which we had some time to look around town and do a bit of souvenir shopping. In the afternoon, we visited the National Museum, but first took some pictures of the *Dzong* before it started raining. The museum had sections devoted to the local dance festival and they had an impressive display of masks and buddist artwork as well as a large section on the natural history of the country. We were tired after such an early start today and finished early to rest ahead of our important day tomorrow.



Chelela is a fantastic place for pheasants. We saw numerous Blood Pheasant and Himalayan Monals.

16th April – Chelela & Paro

On our last full day, we had one of the touristic highlights of the trip, with a hike up to Bhutan's most famous site, the **Tiger's Nest Monastery**. It was supposed to be a 10km round trip hike with an altitudinal climb of 700m. Not exactly 'a walk in the park'. With several viewpoints and a café dotted along the way, there were still things to see for those that felt that they wouldn't make it all the way. On the way from our hotel we saw a nice **Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie**, and on the very start of the trail, we added some great birds with groups of **Brown Parrotbills** and **White-throated Laughingthrushes**. There were dozens of ponies loitering around the bottom of the trail and many people go up to the café at the half-way mark on horseback. We however chose to walk instead, and doing some birding on the way turned out to be the perfect excuse for rest stops. We saw some nice birds, including **Ashy Drongo**, **Eurasian Nutcracker**, **Green-backed & Black-browed Tits**, **White-browed Fulvetta** and **Ultramarine Flycatcher**. We stopped for a break at the half way mark for a nice cup of tea. Some of the group decided that this was as far as they would go, and we bid them farewell as we climbed up higher. Towards the end of the trail, it descended down 400 steps before climbing the final 300 steps to the monastery. Along the last few steps, my burning legs were happy when I stopped to look at a **Wallcreeper** which flew along the cliff.



The beautiful Azure Sapphire butterfly from our hike up to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

They were strict about taking no cameras and phones in, and after depositing them in a locker, we enjoyed a guided tour by our hard-working guide who seemed to have an endless treasure trove of fun facts about Bhutanese Buddhism. Coming down we had a few birding stops. The first was to check out some **Black-faced Laughingthrushes** by a little stream at the base of a picturesque waterfall. Hopping around on the rocks below was a pair of dainty **Little Forktails** and a drab but new female **Dark-rumped Rosefinch**. We made it back down for lunch at the restaurant where we ate outside with a jaw-dropping view of the monastery we had just visited. In the trees nearby, we had several **Rufous Sibias** and our daily **Blue Whistling-Thrush**. A few other avian treats on the way down were stunning male **Gould's Sunbirds**, **Russet Sparrow** and **Gray-crested Tit**. Towards the bottom of the trail it started to rain, and as the rain got heavier, and we walked quicker and quicker. Before it really came down, most of us made it to the shelter of our vehicle and felt a sense of great relief to have finished the hike. We reconvened with the whole group for our last dinner in Bhutan and shared stories from the day and celebrated the end of an unforgettable trip.



Some great birds from our hike up to Tiger's Nest Monastery: Brown Parrotbill & Little Forktail.

BIRD LIST

Avian taxonomy follows ebird/Clements v2017

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl (Anatidae)

Bar-headed Goose Seen at Punakha.	<i>Anser indicus</i>
Lesser Whistling-Duck Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
Ruddy Shelduck Seen at Kaziranga, Phobjikha, Punakha & Thimpu.	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Common Shelduck Seen at Punakha.	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Cotton Pygmy-Goose Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
Garganey Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>
Northern Shoveler Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
Gadwall Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
Eurasian Wigeon Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
Indian Spot-billed Duck Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
Mallard Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Pintail Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Green-winged Teal Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Ferruginous Duck Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Tufted Duck Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Common Merganser Seen at Punakha.	<i>Mergus merganser</i>

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies (Phasianidae)

Hill Partridge Heard at Morong, Korila, Yongkola, Pelela & Lampelri.	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>
Indian Peafowl Seen at Manas.	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Swamp Francolin Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>
Black Francolin Seen at Manas.	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>
Red Junglefowl Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & on the way to Tingtibi.	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
Blood Pheasant Seen at Thrumsingla & Chelela.	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>
Himalayan Monal Seen at Tarpaling, Pelela & Chelela.	<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>
Satyr Tragopan Near-threatened. Seen at Yongkola & Pelela.	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos*
Seen at Manas, Yongkola, on the way to Tingtibi & Lampelri.

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

Little Grebe *Podiceps ruficollis*
Seen at Kaziranga.

Storks (Ciconiidae)

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
Seen at Manas.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*
Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*
Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga.

Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius*
Endangered. Seen at Kaziranga.

Cormorants and Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)

Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Seen at Kurichu, on the way to Tingtibi & at Tingtibi.

Anhingas (Anhingidae)

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga.

Pelicans (Pelicanidae)

Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*
Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Seen at Kaziranga.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Seen at Kaziranga.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*
Seen at Kaziranga.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Indian Pond-Heron *Ardeola grayii*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Seen at Kaziranga.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga.

Osprey (Pandionidae)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Seen in Kaziranga & Kurichu.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (Accipitridae)

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*
Critically endangered. A single bird seen at Kaziranga flying together with the following species.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*
Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga, Tang Valley & Pelela.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Yongkola & on the way to Tingtibi.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus limnaetus*
Seen at Kaziranga.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis*
Seen at Yongkola, Tingtibi, on the way from Tingtibi & below Pelela.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*
Seen at Yongtola.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*
Seen at Yongkola, Yongtola, on the way from Tingtibi, on the way to Phobjikha & below Pelela.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga*
Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*
Endangered. Seen at Kaziranga.

Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*
Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus*
Seen at Yongkola.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Seen at Yongkola, Cheri Valley, Chelela & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Seen on the way to Manas.

Pallas's Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
Endangered. Seen at Kaziranga.

Gray-headed Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus*
Seen at Kaziranga.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo refectus*
Seen at Jakar (GO), Pelela & Chelela.

Bustards (Otididae)

Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*
Critically endangered. Seen in Manas.

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Seen at Manas.

Black-tailed Crake *Zapornia bicolor*
Seen at Yongkola.

Brown Crake *Zapornia akool*
 Seen by one client and the local guide in Manas.
Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
 Seen at Kaziranga.
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
 Seen at Kaziranga.

Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
 Seen at Kaziranga.

Ibisbill (Ibidorhynchidae)

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*
 Seen at Punakha & Thimphu.

Plovers and Lapwings (Charadriidae)

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
 Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga.
River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*
 Near-threatened. Seen at Manas, Kurichu, Punakha & Thimphu.
Gray-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*
 Seen at Kaziranga.
Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
 Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
 Seen at Kaziranga.

Jacanas (Jacanidae)

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
 Seen at Kaziranga.
Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*
 Seen at Kaziranga.

Sandpipers and Allies (Scolopacidae)

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
 Seen at Kaziranga.
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
 Seen at Thimphu.
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
 Seen at Kaziranga.
Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
 Seen at Punakha.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
 Seen at Kaziranga, Thimphu & on the way to Paro.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
 Seen at Kaziranga, Punakha & on the way to Paro.
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
 Seen at Kaziranga.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
 Seen at Kaziranga.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
 Seen at Kaziranga.
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
 Seen at Kaziranga.

Pratincoles and Coursers (Glareolidae)

Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*
Seen at Manas.

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*
Introduced. Commonly seen throughout.

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*
Seen at Ura, Tarpaling & Chelela.

Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
Commonly seen throughout.

Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & Yongkola.

Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall*
Seen at Samdrup Jongkhar.

Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Thick-billed Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
Seen at Manas.

Yellow-footed Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Pin-tailed Pigeon *Treron apicauda*
Seen at Manas.

Wedge-tailed Pigeon *Treron sphenurus*
Seen at Manas & Tingtibi.

Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*
Seen near Samdrup Jongkhar.

Cuckoos (Cuculidae)

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
Seen at Kaziranga.

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus*
Seen in Kaziranga & Manas. Heard at Punakha.

Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus*
Seen at Kaziranga & Tashithang.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*
Heard at Kaziranga.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*
Seen at Tingtibi.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveriioides*
Seen at Tingtibi, Trongsa & Lampelri. Heard at Morong, Korila, Yongkola & Pelela.

Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius*
Heard in Manas.

Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*
Seen at Morong, Yongkola. Heard at Tingtibi, Tashithang, Lampelri & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Common Cuckoo

Heard at Pelela.

Cuculus canorus

Owls (Strigidae)**Mountain Scops-Owl**

Heard at Trongsa

Otus spilocephalus

Oriental Scops-Owl

Heard at Manas.

Otus sunia

Dusky Eagle-Owl

Seen at Kaziranga.

Bubo coromandus

Brown Fish-Owl

Seen at Kaziranga.

Ketupa zeylonensis

Collared Owlet

Seen at Tingtibi. Heard at Yongkola.

Glaucidium brodiei

Asian Barred Owlet

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Korila & Tingtibi.

Glaucidium cuculoides

Spotted Owlet

Seen at Kaziranga.

Athene brama

Brown Boobook

Heard at Manas.

Ninox scutulata

Nightjars and Allies (Caprimulgidae)**Gray Nightjar**

Heard at Trashigang & Paro.

Caprimulgus jotaka

Large-tailed Nightjar

Seen at Kaziranga.

Caprimulgus macrurus

Swifts (Apodidae)**White-throated Needletail**

Seen at Chelela.

Hirundapus caudacutus

Himalayan Swiftlet

Seen at Yongkola.

Aerodramus brevirostris

Blyth's Swift

Seen at Yongkola.

Apus leuconyx

Asian Palm-Swift

Seen at Kaziranga.

Cypsiurus balasiensis

Trogon (Trogonidae)**Ward's Trogon**

Near-threatened. Seen on the way to Trashigang & Korila. Heard at Yongkola

Harpactes wardi

Hoopoes (Upupidae)**Eurasian Hoopoe**

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & Punakha.

Upupa epops

Hornbills (Bucerotidae)**Great Hornbill**

Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga & on the way to Tingtibi.

Buceros bicornis

Oriental Pied-Hornbill

Seen at Kaziranga.

Anthracoceros albirostris

Rufous-necked Hornbill

Vulnerable. Seen near Morong, on the way to Tingtibi & at Tingtibi.

Aceros nipalensis

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

Common Kingfisher

Seen at Kaziranga.

Alcedo atthis

Stork-billed Kingfisher

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Pelargopsis capensis

White-throated Kingfisher

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Tashithang & Punakha. Heard at Kurichu.

Halcyon smyrnensis

Crested Kingfisher

Seen at the Tang Valley, Punakha

Megaceryle lugubris

Pied Kingfisher

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Ceryle rudis

Bee-eaters (Meropidae)

Blue-bearded Bee-eater

Seen at Kaziranga, Yongkola & on the way to Tingtibi.

Nyctyornis athertoni

Green Bee-eater

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Merops orientalis

Blue-tailed Bee-eater

Seen at Kaziranga.

Merops philippinus

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Merops leschenaulti

Rollers (Coraciidae)

Indian Roller

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Coracias benghalensis

Dollarbird

Seen at Manas.

Eurystomus orientalis

Asian Barbets (Megalaimidae)

Coppersmith Barbet

Seen at Kaziranga.

Psilopogon haemacephalus

Blue-eared Barbet

Seen at Kaziranga.

Psilopogon duvaucelii

Great Barbet

Seen at Morong, Yongkola, Tashithang & Lampelri. Heard on the way to Tingtibi & Tingtibi.

Psilopogon virens

Lineated Barbet

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Psilopogon lineatus

Golden-throated Barbet

Seen at Morong, Korila & Tashithang. Heard at Yongkola & on the way to Tingtibi.

Psilopogon franklinii

Blue-throated Barbet

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, on the way to Tingtibi & Tingtibi.

Psilopogon asiaticus

Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide

Near-threatened. Seen at Yongkola.

Indicator xanthonotus

Woodpeckers (Picidae)

Gray-capped Woodpecker

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Dendrocopos canicapillus

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & on the way to Tingtibi.

Dendrocopos macei

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker

Seen at Pelela & Cheri Valley.

Dendrocopos hyperythrus

Darjeeling Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>
Seen at Yongkola, Lampelri & Chelela.	
Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & on the way to Tingtibi.	
Greater Yellownape	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>
Seen on the way from Tingtibi.	
Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>
Seen at Kaziranga.	
Gray-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
Seen at Manas & Tingtibi.	
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
Seen at Manas.	
Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
Seen at Tingtibi.	
Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>
Seen at Manas.	
Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>
Seen at Morong, Korila, Heard at Samdrup Jongkhar, Yongkola & on the way to Tingtibi,	

Falcons and Caracaras (Falconidae)

Collared Falconet	<i>Microhierax melanoleucos</i>
Seen at Manas.	
Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Seen at Kaziranga, Thrumsingla, Punakha & Chelela.	

Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)

Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga.	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.	
Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>
Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga.	
Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
Near-threatened. Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.	

Asian and Grauer's Broadbills (Eurylaimidae)

Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>
Seen at Manas & by the guide at Tingtibi.	
Silver-breasted Broadbill	<i>Serilophus lunatus</i>
Seen at Manas.	

Vangas, Helmetshrikes, and Allies (Vangidae)

Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>
Seen at Manas.	
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
Seen at Manas.	
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
Seen on the way to Tingtibi & at Tingtibi.	

Woodswallows (Artamidae)

Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & Tingtibi.	

Ioras (Aegithinidae)

Common Iora

Aegithina tiphia

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)

Gray-chinned Minivet

Pericrocotus solaris

Seen at Morong, on the way to Tingtibi & at Tingtibi.

Short-billed Minivet

Pericrocotus brevirostris

Seen at Yongkola & on the way to Tingtibi.

Long-tailed Minivet

Pericrocotus ethologus

Seen at Kaziranga, Tingtibi & Pelela.

Scarlet Minivet

Pericrocotus speciosus

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Yongkola & Tingtibi.

Rosy Minivet

Pericrocotus roseus

Seen at Manas.

Large Cuckooshrike

Coracina macei

Seen at Manas.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike

Lalage melaschistos

Seen at Manas & Morong.

Shrikes (Laniidae)

Brown Shrike

Lanius cristatus

Seen at Kaziranga.

Long-tailed Shrike

Lanius schach

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Yongkola & Punakha.

Gray-backed Shrike

Lanius tephronotus

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Morong, Ura, Tingtibi, Trongsa, Punakha & Dochula.

Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis (Vireonidae)

Blyth's Shrike-Babbler

Pteruthius aeralatus

Seen near Morong, Yongkola & on the way from Tingtibi.

Green Shrike-Babbler

Pteruthius xanthochlorus

Seen at Yongtola.

Black-eared Shrike-Babbler

Pteruthius melanotis

Seen on the way from Tingtibi.

White-bellied Erpornis

Erpornis zantholeuca

Seen at Manas, Tingtibi & on the way from Tingtibi.

Old World Orioles (Oriolidae)

Black-hooded Oriole

Oriolus xanthornus

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Maroon Oriole

Oriolus traillii

Seen at Morong, Tingtibi & Tashithang. Heard at Korila.

Drongos (Dicruridae)

Black Drongo

Dicrurus macrocercus

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & Punakha.

Ashy Drongo

Dicrurus leucophaeus

Seen in Kaziranga, Manas, Korila, Yongkola, Yongtola, on the way to Tingtibi, at Tingtibi on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Bronzed Drongo

Dicrurus aeneus

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Morongm, Yongkola & Tingtibi.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus remifer

Seen at Morong.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Seen in Kaziranga, Manas, Tingtibi

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & Samdrup Jongkhar.

Fantails (Rhipiduridae)

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

Seen at Morong, Yongkola & on the way from Tingtibi.

Monarch Flycatchers (Monarchidae)

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

Seen at Manas.

Indian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*

Seen at Manas.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies (Corvidae)

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Seen at Lampelri.

Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris*

Seen at Trongsa, Lampelri & in Paro.

Common Green-Magpie *Cissa chinensis*

Seen at Yongkola & Tingtibi.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Gray Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*

Seen at Morong, Korila, Yongkola, Tingtibi & Tashithang.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Seen at Ura & Jakar.

Eurasian Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

Seen near Ura, Pelela, Chelela & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Seen at Sengor, Ura, Tarpaling, Yongtola, Phobjikha, Chelela & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Seen in Guwahati & Thimphu.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Commonly seen throughout

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

Seen at Chelela.

Larks (Alaudidae)

Bengal Bushlark *Mirafra assamica*

Seen at Manas.

Sand Lark *Alaudala raytal*

Seen at Manas.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*

Seen at Phobjikha.

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

Gray-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis*

Seen at Kaziranga & Punakha.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Seen near Trashigang & Tingtibi.

Nepal House-Martin***Delichon nipalense***

Seen at Yongkola, on the way to Tingtibi, on the way to Phobjikha, down from Pelela & Tashitang.

Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)**Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail*****Chelidorhynch hypoxantha***

Seen at Yongkola & Lampelri.

Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher***Culicicapa ceylonensis***

Seen at Morong, Korila, Yongkola & Lampelri.

Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice (Paridae)**Fire-capped Tit*****Cephalopyrus flammiceps***

Seen in the Cheri Valley.

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

Seen at Morong, Yongtola, Trongsa & Pelela.

Sultan Tit***Melanochlora sultanea***

Seen at Morong,

Coal Tit***Periparus ater***

Seen at Thrumsingla, Ura, Yongtola, Pelela & Chelela.

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

Seen at Thrumsingla, Yongtola, Pelela & Chelela.

Gray-crested Tit***Lophophanes dichrous***

Seen at Thrumsingla, Yongtola, Pelela, Chelela & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

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

Seen at Morong, Korila, Yongkola, Ura, Tarpaling, Trongsa, on the way to Tingtibi, Phobjikha, Lampelri & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Cinereous Tit***Parus cinereus***

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

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

Seen near Morong.

Long-tailed Tits (Aegithalidae)**Black-throated Tit*****Aegithalos corancinnus***

Seen at Morong, Korila, Yongkola & Trongsa.

Black-browed Tit***Aegithalos iouschistos***

Seen at Thrumsingla, Tarpaling, Pelela & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

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

Seen at Kaziranga, Yongkola & Tingtibi.

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

Seen at Korila, Yongkola & Lampelri.

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

Seen at Manas.

Beautiful Nuthatch***Sitta formosa***

Vulnerable. Seen at Morong.

Wallcreeper (Tichodromidae)**Wallcreeper*****Tichodroma muraria***

Seen near Morong & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Treecreepers (Certhiidae)**Hodgson's Treecreeper*****Certhia hodgsoni***

Seen at Thrumsingla.

Rusty-flanked Treecreeper Seen at Tarpaling.	<i>Certhia nipalensis</i>
Sikkim Treecreeper Seen near Morong & Trongsa.	<i>Certhia discolor</i>
<u>Wrens (Troglodytidae)</u>	
Eurasian Wren Seen at Yotongla & Chelela.	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
<u>Dippers (Cinclidae)</u>	
Brown Dipper Seen near Jakar & Punakha.	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
<u>Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)</u>	
Striated Bulbul Seen near Samdrup Jongkhar, Morong & Yongkola.	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>
Black-crested Bulbul Seen at Manas & Tingtibi.	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>
Red-vented Bulbul Commonly seen at many sites.	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Red-whiskered Bulbul Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
Himalayan Bulbul Seen at Kurichu.	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>
White-throated Bulbul Seen at Manas & Tingtibi.	<i>Alophoixus flaveolus</i>
Black Bulbul Seen near Trashigang, Yongkola, Trongsa, Tingtibi, Tashithang & Paro.	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
Ashy Bulbul Seen on the way to Tingtibi & at Tingtibi.	<i>Hemixos flavala</i>
Mountain Bulbul Seen near Morong & on the way to Tingtibi.	<i>Ixos maclellandii</i>
<u>Kinglets (Regulidae)</u>	
Goldcrest Seen at Thrumsingla.	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
<u>Cupwings (Pnoepygidae)</u>	
Pygmy Cupwing Seen at Yongkola.	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>
<u>Bush Warblers and Allies (Scotocercidae)</u>	
Gray-bellied Tesia Heard at Yongkola.	<i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>
Slaty-bellied Tesia Seen at Tashithang. Heard at Yongkola.	<i>Tesia olivea</i>
Chestnut-headed Tesia Seen at Thrumsingla.	<i>Cettia castaneocoronata</i>
Yellow-bellied Warbler Seen at Tingtibi.	<i>Abroscopus superciliaris</i>
Black-faced Warbler Seen on the road to Trashigang, at Korila & Yongkola.	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>
Mountain Tailorbird Seen at Yongkola. Heard near Samdrup Jongkhar & Morong.	<i>Phyllergates cucullatus</i>

Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes*
Seen at Korila. Heard near Morong & Yongkola.
Hume's Bush Warbler *Horornis brunnescens*
Seen at Yongtola.

Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
Seen at Kaziranga.
Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*
Seen at Kaziranga.
Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*
Seen near Samdrup Jongkhar, Morong & Chelela. Heard at Pelela.
Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
Seen on the road to Trashigang, Thrumsingla, Yongtola & Lampelri.
Pale-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
Seen at Trongsa, Yongtola & on the way from Tingtibi.
Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Seen at Kaziranga & Manas. Heard at Tingtibi.
Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Heard at Kaziranga.
Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*
Commonly seen throughout.
Yellow-vented Warbler *Phylloscopus cantator*
Seen at Tingtibi & on the way from Tingtibi.
Gray-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*
Seen at Morong, Korila & Yongkola.
Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii*
Seen on the way to Tingtibi & Tashithang. Heard at Pelela.
Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*
Seen at Yongtola & Lampelri.
White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*
Seen at Yongkola & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.
Gray-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys*
Seen at Yongkola.
Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*
Seen at Korila, Yongkola & Tashithang.

Grassbirds and Allies (Locustellidae)

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*
Seen in Kaziranga.

Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticolidae)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
Seen at Manas.
Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*
Seen at Manas.
Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & Yongkola. Heard on the way to Tingtibi.
Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*
Heard at Kaziranga.
Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera*
Seen at Yongkola. Heard on the way to Tingtibi.
Black-throated Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*
Seen near Morong & Yongkola.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*

Heard on the way to Tingtibi.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

Seen by the guide at Manas.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*

Seen at Manas.

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Parrotbills, Wrenit, and Allies (Paradoxornithidae)

Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhoura*

Seen at Yongtola.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Lioparus chrysotis*

Seen at Trongsa.

White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus*

Seen at Thrumsingla, Ura, Yongtola, Pelela & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Brown Parrotbill *Cholornis unicolor*

Seen at Yongtola, Lampelri & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

White-breasted Parrotbill *Psittiparus ruficeps*

Seen at Yongkola.

Pale-billed Parrotbill *Chleuasicus atrosuperciliaris*

Seen at Tingtibi.

White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies (Zosteropidae)

Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps*

Seen at Tingtibi.

White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri*

Seen at Morong.

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*

Seen at Morong, Korila, Trongsa, on the way to Tingtibi, Tingtibi & Tashitang.

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*

Seen at Thrumsingla, Yongtola & Pelela.

Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis*

Seen at Korila, Thrumsingla, Yongtola & Pelela.

Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*

Seen at Korila, Tingtibi & Tashitang.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Yongkola, Trongsa, Tingtibi & on the way from Tingtibi.

Tree-Babblers, Scimitar-Babblers, and Allies (Timaliidae)

Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Mixornis gularis*

Heard at Kaziranga & Manas.

Golden Babbler *Cyanoderma chrysaenum*

Seen at Yongkola. Heard at Tingtibi.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Cyanoderma ruficeps*

Seen at Yongkola & Trongsa. Heard at Tingtibi.

Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis caudatus*

Near-threatened. Seen at Yongkola.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

Seen at Trongsa.

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler *Megapomatorhinus erythrogenys*

Seen at Yongkola & on the way to Tingtibi.

Gray-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*

Seen at Yongkola & on the way to Tingtibi.

Ground Babblers and Allies (Pellorneidae)

White-hooded Babbler *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*

Seen at Tingtibi.

Yellow-throated Fulvetta *Schoeniparus cinereus*

Seen at Yongkola.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Schoeniparus castaneiceps*

Seen near Morong, Yongkola & Yongtola.

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*

Heard at Kaziranga & Manas.

Abbott's Babbler *Turdinus abbotti*

Seen at Kaziranga & heard at Manas.

Laughingthrushes and Allies (Leiothrichidae)

Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis*

Seen at Yongkola, on the way from Tingtibi & Tashitang.

Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striata*

Seen near Samdrup Jongkhar, Korila, Yongkola & Tashitang.

Himalayan Cutia *Cutia nipalensis*

Seen at Yongkola.

Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei*

Seen in Manas.

Slender-billed Babbler *Turdoides longirostris*

Seen in Manas.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata*

Seen at Manas.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*

Seen at Morong, Korila. Heard on the way to Tingtibi & at Tingtibi.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*

Seen at Tingtibi. Heard near Samdrup Jongkhar.

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla rufogularis*

Seen near Tingtibi.

Spotted Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ocellata*

Seen at Yotongla & Chelela.

White-throated Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla albogularis*

Seen at Korila, Yongkola, on the way to Tingtibi, Trongsa, Lampelri & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ruficollis*

Seen at Manas, on the way to Tingtibi & at Tingtibi.

Gray-sided Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla caerulata*

Seen at Lampelri.

Bhutan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron imbricatum*

Seen near Morong & Tingtibi.

Scaly Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron subunicolor*

Seen at Yongkola.

Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron squamatum*

Seen near Morong & Tingtibi.

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affine*

Seen at Ura, Tarpaling, Pelela, Chelela & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*

Seen at Tarpaling, Trongsa, below Pelela & Lampelri.

- Rufous Sibia** *Heterophasia capistrata*
 Seen near Morong, Korila, Seen at Yongkola, Yongtola, Trongsa, on the way to Tingtibi, Tashithang & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.
- Long-tailed Sibia** *Heterophasia picaoides*
 Seen near Samdrup Jongkhar & on the way to Tingtibi.
- Silver-eared Mesia** *Leiothrix argentauris*
 Seen at Morong.
- Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*
 Seen at Korila.
- Red-tailed Minla** *Minla ignotincta*
 Seen near Morong, Trongsa & on the way from Tingtibi.
- Red-faced Liocichla** *Liocichla phoenicea*
 Seen near Tingtibi.
- Hoary-throated Barwing** *Actinodura nipalensis*
 Seen at Pelela.
- Rusty-fronted Barwing** *Actinodura egertoni*
 Seen at Yongkola.
- Blue-winged Minla** *Actinodura cyanouroptera*
 Seen at Tingtibi & on the way from Tingtibi.
- Chestnut-tailed Minla** *Actinodura strigula*
 Seen on the way to Trashigang & at Korila.

Fairy-bluebirds (Irenidae)

- Asian Fairy-bluebird** *Irena puella*
 Seen at Manas & Tingtibi.

Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)

- Dark-sided Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sibirica*
 Seen on the way to Tingtibi & Tashithang.
- Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*
 Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Samdrup Jongkhar, Kurichu, Yongkola & on the way to Tingtibi.
- White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus*
 Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.
- Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis poliogenys*
 Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.
- Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor*
 Seen on the way to Tingtibi.
- Blue-throated Flycatcher** *Cyornis rubeculoides*
 Seen at Tingtibi & on the way from Tingtibi.
- Large Niltava** *Niltava grandis*
 Seen at Yongkola. Heard at Korila & Trongsa.
- Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae*
 Seen near Morong, Yongkola & Tashithang.
- Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara*
 Seen at Korila.
- Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus*
 Seen at Morong, Kurichu, Yongkola, Yotongla, on the way to Tingtibi, at Tingtibi, Tashithang & Lampelri.
- Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*
 Seen at Manas.
- Blue Whistling-Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*
 Commonly seen throughout.
- Little Forktail** *Enicurus scouleri*
 Seen on the hike to Tiger's Test Monastery.

Spotted Forktail Seen near Morong.	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>
Slaty-backed Forktail Seen on the way to Tingtibi, at Tingtibi & Tashithang.	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>
Black-backed Forktail Seen at Samdrup Jongkhar.	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>
Chinese Rubthroat Seen at Kaziranga.	<i>Calliope tschebaiewi</i>
Himalayan Bluetail Seen at Ura, Pelela & Chelela.	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>
Golden Bush-Robin Seen by the guide at Pelela.	<i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>
Slaty-blue Flycatcher Seen at Tashithang.	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>
Pygmy Flycatcher Seen at Tashithang.	<i>Ficedula hodgsoni</i>
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher Seen at Korila, Yongkola & Cheri Valley.	<i>Ficedula strophata</i>
Little Pied Flycatcher Seen Yongkola.	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>
Ultramarine Flycatcher Seen on the way to Tingtibi & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>
Taiga Flycatcher Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
Blue-fronted Redstart Seen near Morong, Tang Valley, on the way to Tingtibi, Pelela, Lampelri & Chelela.	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
Plumbeous Redstart Seen at Burning Lake, Tang Valley, on the way to Tingtibi, on the way to Phobjikha, Tashithang, Lampelri & Cheri Valley.	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>
White-capped Redstart Seen at Samdrup Jongkar, Yongkola, Burning Lake, Tang Valley, on the way from Tingtibi & Pelela.	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>
Hodgson's Redstart Seen on the way to Tingtibi & Tashithang.	<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>
Black Redstart Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush Seen at Yongkola & Yotongla.	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>
Blue-capped Rock-Thrush Seen at Yongkola, on the way to Tingtibi & Tingtibi.	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>
Blue Rock-Thrush Seen near Samdrup Jongkhar.	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Siberian Stonechat Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & on the way to Tingtibi.	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>
Gray Bushchat Seen near Morong, Korila, Yongkola, Ura, Jakar, Tang Valley, Phobjikha & Lampelri.	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>
<u>Thrushes and Allies (Turdidae)</u>	
White-collared Blackbird Seen at Ura, Tarpaling, Tang Valley, Jakar, Pelela, Lampelri, Cheri Valley & Chelela.	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>
Gray-winged Blackbird Seen at Manas, near Morong & Korila.	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>

Starlings (Sturnidae)

Common Hill Myna

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Gracula religiosa

Asian Pied Starling

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Gracupica contra

Brahminy Starling

Seen at Tashithang. A rarity in Bhutan.

Sturnia pagodarum

Chestnut-tailed Starling

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas & on the way to Tingtibi.

Sturnia malabarica

Common Myna

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, on the way to Tingtibi, Tingtibi & Punakha.

Acridotheres tristis

Jungle Myna

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Acridotheres fuscus

Great Myna

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Acridotheres grandis

Spot-winged Starling

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Saroglossa spiloptera

Leafbirds (Chloropseidae)

Golden-fronted Leafbird

Seen at Samdrup Jongkhar.

Chloropsis aurifrons

Orange-bellied Leafbird

Seen near Morong, Yongkola, on the way to Tingtibi & Tingtibi.

Chloropsis hardwickii

Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)

Plain Flowerpecker

Seen in Manas.

Dicaeum minullum

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker

Seen near Morong, Korila, Yongkola, Yotongla, on the way to Tingtibi, at Tingtibi, Trongsa & Tashithang.

Dicaeum ignipectus

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker

Seen in Kaziranga. Heard at Samdrup Jongkhar.

Dicaeum cruentatum

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters (Nectariniidae)

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird

Seen in Kaziranga.

Chalcoparia singalensis

Purple Sunbird

Seen at Manas.

Cinnyris asiaticus

Fire-tailed Sunbird

Seen at Pelela & Chelela.

Aethopyga ignicauda

Black-throated Sunbird

Seen at Korila, on the way to Tingtibi, at Tingtibi & Tashithang.

Aethopyga saturata

Gould's Sunbird

Seen at Yotongla, Cheri Valley & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Aethopyga gouldiae

Green-tailed Sunbird

Seen near Morong, Yongkola, Korila, Thrumsingla, Yotongla, Trongsa, Lampelri & Cheri Valley.

Aethopyga nipalensis

Crimson Sunbird

Seen at Samdrup Jonkhar.

Aethopyga siparaja

Streaked Spiderhunter

Seen near Morong, Tingtibi & on the way from Tingtibi.

Arachnothera magna

Accentors (Prunellidae)

Alpine Accentor

Seen near Ura & Chelela.

Prunella collaris

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophciata*
Seen at Ura, Tarpaling, Yotongla, Phobjikha, Pelela, Lampelri & Chelela.

Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

Seen in Kaziranga.

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Seen on the way to Trashigang & Thimphu.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Seen in Kaziranga, near Jakar, Tang Valley, Phobjikha, Thimphu & Paro.

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis*

Seen at Punakha & Paro.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Seen in Kaziranga.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Seen in Kaziranga & Manas.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*

Seen in Kaziranga, Manas, Phobjikha & Thimphu.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Seen in Kaziranga, Manas, near Morong, Kurichu, Thrumsingla, Tashithang, Cheri Valley & Chelela.

Spotted Elachura (Elachuridae)

Spotted Elachura *Elachura formosa*

Seen at Trongsa. Heard at Tashithang.

Old World Buntings (Emberizidae)

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami*

Seen at Yongkola, on the way to Tingtibi & Punakha.

Finches, Euphonias, and Allies (Fringillidae)

Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*

Seen at Chelela.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*

Seen at Chelela.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Seen on the way to Tingtibi.

Scarlet Finch *Carpodacus sipahi*

Seen at Korila.

Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*

Seen at Ura, Tarpaling.

Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii*

Seen on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura*

Seen at Yotongla, Pelela & Chelela.

Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis*

Seen at Lampelri.

Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala*

Seen at Thrumsingla & Takin Park.

Gold-naped Finch *Pyrrhoptes epauletta*

Seen at Trongsa.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Procarduelis nipalensis*

Seen on the way to Tingtibi.

Plain Mountain-Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*

Seen at Ura, Tarpaling & Phobjikha.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*
Seen near Ura.

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Commonly seen at lower altitudes.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*

Seen at Ura, Jakar, Phobjikha, Dochula & on the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Commonly seen throughout.

Weavers and Allies (Ploceidae)

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*

Seen at Kaziranga.

Yellow Weaver *Ploceus megarhynchus*

Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga.

Waxbills and Allies (Estrildidae)

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

Seen near Tingtibi.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

Seen at Kurichu.

MAMMAL LIST

Taxonomy follows <http://www.wikipedia.org>

Elephants (Elephantidae)

Asian Elephant *Elaphus maximus*

Endangered. Seen in Kaziranga & Manas.

Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)

Gee's Golden Langur *Trachypithecus geei*

Endangered. Seen on the way to Tingtibi & at Tingtibi.

Capped Langur *Trachypithecus pileatus*

Vulnerable. Seen at Manas, Morong, Korila & Yongkola.

Nepal Gray Langur *Semnopithecus schistaceus*

Seen down from Dochula.

Assam Macaque *Macaca assamensis*

Near-threatened. Seen at Korila, Yongkola, Trongsa, on the way to Tingtibi & Tingtibi.

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*

Seen at Manas & Samdrup Jongkhar.

Mongoose (Herpestidae)

Indian Gray Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii*

Seen by the guide on the way to Samdrup Jongkhar.

Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva*

Seen by some at Manas.

Weasels & Otters (Mustelidae)

Smooth-coated Otter

Lutragale perspicillata

Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga.

Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)

Indian Rhinoceros

Rhinoceros unicornis

Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Pigs (Suidae)

Wild boar

Sus scrofa

Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Deer (Cervidae)

Indian Hog Deer

Axis porcinus

Endangered. Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Barasingha

Cervus duvauceli

Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Sambar

Cervus unicolor

Vulnerable. Seen at Kaziranga & Lampelri.

Northern Red Muntjac

Muntiacus vaginalis

Seen at Manas & below Pelela. Heard between Tingtibi & Trongsa.

Bovids (Bovidae)

Asian Buffalo

Bubalus arnee

Endangered. Seen at Kaziranga & Manas.

Gaur

Bos gaurus

Seen at Manas.

Squirrels (Sciuridae)

Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus*

Seen at Kaziranga, Manas, Tingtibi & Pelela.

Himalayan (Orange-bellied) Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah*

Seen by the guide at Yongkola.

Black Giant Squirrel

Ratufa bicolor

Near-threatened. Seen at Tingtibi.

Himalayan Striped Squirrel

Tamiops maclellandii

Seen at Manas, Korila & Cheri Valley.

Pikas (Ochotonidae)

Large-eared Pika

Ochotona macrotis

Seen near Ura, Pelela & Chelela.

Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)

Indian Flying Fox

Pteropus giganteus

Seen on the way to Kaziranga.