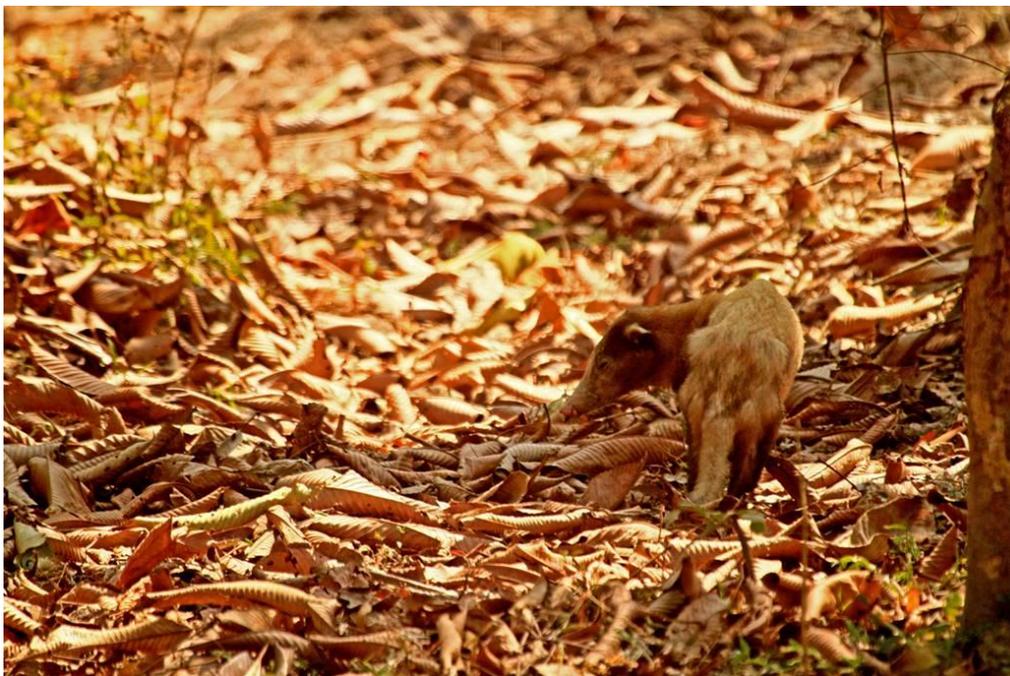


# Brahmaputra Cruise

Naturetrek Tour Report

11 - 23 March 2011

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## Day 1

Friday 11th March

All adventures must begin with a beginning and ours was at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata (writing that was an adventure in itself). Always I am amazed by the vim – not to say verve – with which Naturetrekkers leap off landing planes, binoculars in hand, and launch themselves into the ornithological thick of it, despite a long night with no sleep. You were no exception and – having checked in to the refined and comfortable Hyatt Regency – almost all of you were soon braving with us the delightful lunacy of Kolkata's traffic en route to the city's Botanical Garden.

Almost all of us, I say, as some had already visited the gardens and some – alas – were waylaid by an unexpected visit to a hospital, courtesy of a very slippery bathroom floor at the Hyatt (a problem now fixed, in case you're reading this with a mind to joining us on the tour in the future). Rain! Thunder! Lightning! Our arrival at the Botanical Garden was nothing if not dramatic; but the rain-flash took little time to abate – time we spent discussing the natural and cultural history of Bauhinia and Ashok trees – and very quickly we were striding through the gardens in search of our first birds. Red-breasted Parakeets shrieked overhead and Asian Koels koel-ed from the treetops. The light forest – ablaze with the flowers of African Tulip and Tabebuia trees – was full of the whispers and murmurs of Jungle Babblers, Black-hooded Orioles, Five-striped Palm-Squirrels and Asian Pied Starlings. White-throated Kingfishers shone from branches overhanging the lakes, Little Cormorants hunched at the water's edge and a pair of Shikras deigned even to mate at the top of a tree. Meanwhile Black Kites swooped and swirled overhead and all was well in our quiet corner of Kolkata. After this, we reached once more the elegance of the Hyatt and slumped into well earned rest after a long journey.

## Day 2

## Saturday 12th March

Today's plan was to reach the Brahmaputra and the charms of our ship Charaidew – a plan we executed admirably with the help of Indigo (airlines), Imran, Babu and Niv (our superb local guides), our drivers, and the ever-beaming crew of Charaidew.

Generally we fly into Jorhat and thence take a short journey by road to Neemati Ghat and our ship. Jorhat airport – alas for us – is closed this year for renovations (imagine that at Heathrow: 'Sorry love, we're closed') so again on this cruise we were obliged to fly to the splendid new airport Dibrugarh (good loos!). Dibrugarh is much further east (upriver) and from here we travelled by land to Neemati Ghat, a journey of around four hours. These were hours well spent as they offered us a first glimpse of the life of the Brahmaputra floodplain – neat homes and gardens, diminutive brown cows, stumpy black goats, horizon-less paddies of rice-stubble, a Black Drongo or a White-throated Kingfisher on every post and – everywhere – smiling faces.

Our arrival at Charaidew and check-in to our rooms were run with the Assam Bengal Navigation Company's customary grace, efficiency and style and – after the first of many delicious suppers on board – we were soon in bed, dreaming of the excitements of the following day.

## Day 3

## Sunday 13th March

And what excitements they would prove to be... On our first day in Assam we visit Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary near Mariani. This large patch of protected humid forest is home to no fewer than seven primate species (not counting the humans who inhabit it too) including its namesake – the Western Hoolock Gibbon. It was with gibbons in mind that we made a very early start today, but for a long time the gibbons resolutely refused to play ball. It's true we found many things to entertain us – Malayan Giant Squirrels, an Orange-bellied Squirrel, Scarlet Minivets, Crested Serpent Eagles and Ashy Woodswallows, to name but a few – but gibbons came there none. Indeed no-one in the sanctuary had seen one anywhere this morning. It looked horribly as though for the first time ever we might miss the peerless primate altogether. Imran went ahead along the track and Sujan took to the forest in the hope of finding the beast and – after a tense wait – a cry went up from Imran that he had found one. This pair, however, proved painfully reclusive and afforded only the briefest and most unsatisfactory glimpses, at some distance.

So off into the woods went Imran and he found a trail from which it was possible for us to see them. And did we ever see them well! The pair – a glossy black male and a tastefully golden-brown female – sat chewing fresh leaves in the top of an almost bare tree above us for several minutes before eventually brachiating off at breakneck speed.

Breakfast was served in a clearing on the edge of the sanctuary by Pratik and his perpetually-smiling crew. Toast, scrambled eggs, tea, coffee, cornflakes – all were served with impeccable style in this unlikeliest of locales. Breakfast taken, we were soon back in the forest where another pair of Western Hoolock Gibbons, accompanied by a youngster, serenaded us with their gorgeous, dippy, synchronised song. All the while a large family of Capped Langurs – elegantly clad in warm apricot and the subtlest of slaty greys – was eating leaves in a nearby tree.

With the happy hooting of the gibbons still loud in our ears we left the sanctuary and returned to Charaidew, calling in on the way at two marshes which, between them, were host to a fine list of birds. Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas helpfully stood side by side, just as they do in the field guides; Pacific Golden Plovers trotted among the feet of grazing cows; Lesser Whistling-Ducks whistled lesserly; Citrine and White Wagtails tiptoed over the mud; Purple Herons craned their necks at every conceivable angle; and great flocks of Purple Swamphens moaned and squawked in the shallows.

In the afternoon, after a tasty lunch courtesy of Charaidew's accomplished kitchen, we sailed the short distance to Majuli Island. Along the way we encountered our first Brahmaputra waterbirds. There were far fewer birds here than there had been as recently as December but nonetheless there were hundreds of Gadwall and Greylags and lesser numbers of Pintail, Wigeon, Spotbills and Ruddy Shelduck.

In the evening we took a gentle stroll on the bank of the river. Little Green and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters looped and bleated overhead; Indian Rollers (of the north-eastern Black-billed form) perched on trees and huts; Rufous-winged Bushlarks, Indian Skylarks and Paddyfield Pipits blended masterfully with the grey silt soils; a Hoopoe bounded past; and after much deliberation we identified a far-distant flock of LBJs in the top of a Silk Cotton Tree as Scaly-breasted Munias.

## Day 4

## Monday 14th March

Today's delights were both cultural and natural. Majuli Island is home to twenty-two historic Vaishnavite monasteries where – in timeless tradition – the incarnations of Vishnu are worshipped. Before visiting some of them, however, we stopped as always at a roadside marsh on the island. Birds throbbed from every square inch of water at this excellent site while local people all around us farmed their farms and smiled their beautiful smiles. An osprey was relentlessly harried here by a Jungle Crow and a Booted Eagle gave two fly-pasts. Little Grebes, Ferruginous Ducks, Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, Grey-headed Lapwings and Indian Pond-Herons swam, hid and clambered in the beds of water hyacinth; Northern Lapwings, Little Ringed Plovers, Temminck's Stints and Wood Sandpipers trotted lightly over muddy shores; Rosy Pipits pipped overhead and behind us a Plaintive Cuckoo sat quietly in a bush.

The first monastery we visited was Auniati Satra where we heard the end of morning prayers (and the sounding of the great cymbal, signalling the all-clear for breakfast) and visited the monks' simple quarters.

Birds were all around us too: a Common Kingfisher darted over a fishpond, a Green Sandpiper bobbed in the shallows, Bronze-winged Jacanas picked at floating vegetation, while a male Red Collared Dove shared a treetop with a splendid male Alexandrine Parakeet.

Our next stop was a second monastery – Uttar Kamalabari – where young acolyte monks astounded us with the suppleness of their spines as they danced in honour of Lord Vishnu. From here – past Lesser Adjutants, Black Drongos, White-throated Kingfishers and Cattle Egrets in every field – we returned to Charaidew for lunch and for an afternoon of sailing past Gangetic Dolphins, flocks of many species of duck, Great-crested Grebes and miles of vast, open scenery.

In the evening we moored close to the Mising tribal village of Sohaguri.

## Day 5

**Tuesday 15th March**

Today's visit to Sohaguri was Charaidew's first ever to this charming village and it seemed we were quite as interesting to the local people as they were to us. The Mising people live in traditional stilt-houses with walls of plaited bamboo and front-door-ladders hewn from tree-trunks, surrounded by fragrant gardens full of coriander, tomatoes, chillies and onions. They are also extremely welcoming to unexpected strangers who turn up on cruise boats and we were positively overcome by the delight they showed while peering through a telescope at a distant drongo or seeing photos of themselves. A visit to their school – complete with a rendition of the school song – and two little boys riding a buffalo were among the many highlights of a wonderful morning spent in the company of the people of Sohaguri. Avian delights here included a Common Buzzard circling overhead during almost our whole visit and Yellow Wagtails tottering round the feet of the village cattle. Black baby pigs and white newborn goat kids also attracted admiration here.

In the afternoon, having torn ourselves reluctantly away from the manifold charms of the village, we sailed for Dhansiri Mukh. This river mouth marks the north east corner of Kaziranga National Park and, as such, signals an exciting change of gear on our tour. Exactly as on last December's Brahmaputra Cruise, this change of gear was marked by the appearance in the distance of a tusker Asian Elephant (in precisely the same spot as in December too). Keeping the Dhansiri River between us and him (and any other fierce creatures of the forest) we strolled along a sandbank towards him for a better view. Our first Sand Larks were un-cooperative and our first Great Thick-knees, Grey-headed Fish-Eagles and Great Pied Hornbill were vanishingly distant. Green Imperial Pigeons feeding on the far side of the river were somewhat easier to see and those who stayed back with Imran for a few extra minutes of birding were rewarded with superb views of Great Pied Hornbill, apparently at a nest.

This evening the staff and crew of Charaidew surpassed themselves with a delicious barbecue on the silt shore of the Brahmaputra and in no time we were tucked up in our cabins, excited at the prospect of our first Greater One-horned Rhinos the following day.

## Day 6

**Wednesday 16th March**

And the rhinos far from failed us. This morning we visited the peaceful Eastern Range of Kaziranga National Park.

We obtained permission from the range office to send half of our jeeps one way round the circuit and the other half in the other direction, thereby reducing the significant dust problem here and hugely increasing our chances of seeing good wildlife.

The highlight of the day for a lucky few in Sujan's half of the convoy was a brief encounter of a Hog Badger. This little-known animal is probably not very rare but it's very nocturnal so to see one on tour is exceptional. We believe this is the first time one has ever been seen on a Naturetrek tour and we're very chuffed with the record!

There were many other highlights too: several Greater One-horned Rhinoceroses (including a female with a small calf), a few Asian Elephants (also including a female with a small calf, plus a tuskless male or makhna), our first Swamp Deer (of the very rare *ranjitsinghi* subspecies) grazing peacefully on a wetland, our first Hog Deer and a very entertaining family of Smooth-coated Otters basking on a sandbar. Bird highlights included excellent views for everyone of a pair of Great Pied Hornbills feeding on the fruits of a Banyan tree, large flocks of luminescent Short-billed Minivets, a male Pied Harrier and Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters atop every tree in the gallery forest along the river.

At the main wetland in the eastern range, every pool and puddle seemed crowded with Bar-headed Geese, Wigeon, Gadwall, Green Sandpipers and Spotted Redshank. Pallas' Fish-Eagles and Grey-headed Fish-Eagles drifted overhead and Ospreys were everywhere. Dusty but excited, in the afternoon we sailed to Silghat and along the way we saw more Gangetic River Dolphins, and our first rafts of Tufted Duck and Pochard.

## Day 7

## Thursday 17th March

The Central Range of Kaziranga National Park was our destination this morning and very fine it proved to be. Once again, it was possible for our jeeps to go in opposite directions for some of our route and this is always a recipe for better wildlife viewing. There were more rhinos today and many more elephants – including a herd of around thirty seen from a watchtower as they drank and bathed in a waterhole. Here too were flocks of ducks – Spotbills, Wigeon, Teal – Purple Herons, Indian Pond Herons, Oriental Darters and Great Cormorants. Long-tailed Shrikes flashed from the tops of tall grass stands and the forest resounded with the shrieks of Rose-ringed and Alexandrine Parakeets. Red Junglefowl roosters crowed from the shade of the forest floor and Spot-billed Pelicans harried the fish in the dwindling waterholes. Two vulture species were seen superbly today too: two Himalayan Griffons sat on the shore of wetland and two critically-endangered Slender-billed Vultures were seen attending their nests at the top of tall Silk Cotton Trees.

Having thoroughly enjoyed the wildlife of the Central Range, we headed for the culinary pleasures of Diphlu River Lodge, not before first pausing to scrub Manjula the lodge elephant. With a delicious lunch taken, some headed to the Hathikuli plantation to buy tea by weight for friends and relatives while others returned to the ship for a peaceful afternoon and perhaps a stroll through the village of Silghat.

## Day 8

## Friday 18th March

Our elephant ride through the grasslands of the Central Range is always one of the pinnacles of the whole cruise and thus it proved again today. We wouldn't have complained if the weather had been a bit better but the light rain did little to dampen our spirits.

The advantage of approaching wild animals on elephants is that they seem to have no idea you're there. We came within metres of a herd of Swamp Deer and Hog Deer – many bucks with fully-grown antlers in velvet – were all around us. The little denizens of the grasslands were represented by Eastern Stonechats (everywhere!), Rufous-winged Bushlarks and Oriental Skylarks while their bigger denizens were also much in view: of a dozen rhinos we saw, our favourites were a female and her calf who, perhaps sensing that some unknown creature was near, retreated rump-first into an isolated stand of grass and sat down. The rarest grassland creature we saw was undoubtedly the male Bengal Florican which burst into flight ahead of our fan of elephants. These spectacular birds are both highly endangered and very beautiful and the sight of one flashing its startling white wings across a plain (rainy or otherwise) is a rare thrill.

But there was still much more to accomplish this morning and, having thanked our elephants with bananas, we visited Jupuri Lodge for our own breakfast. Having decided that the rain had definitely abated we set off for our final Kaziranga safari, in the Western Range which many consider the most attractive. Here, thanks to the early morning rain, we had some of the best birding of the tour. A family of Puff-throated Babblers bounded over a termite colony, flocks of Red-whiskered, Black-crested and Black Bulbuls, Velvet-fronted Nuthatches and Common Ioras zipped and chipped through the trees (as did Hoary-bellied and Himalayan Striped Squirrels). Out in the grassland, exquisite Blossom-headed Parakeets sped past chiming noisily, a male Siberian Rubythroat wagged his tail and flashed his gorgeous gorget and Black Drongos, Common Mynas and Asian Pied Starlings admired the view from the tops of passing pachyderms. From the main tower we watched numerous rhinos and numberless Hog Deer grazing. A Common Kingfisher whistled beneath us and on distant mud a Marsh Sandpiper trotted among Redshanks.

After so much excitement, in the afternoon we relaxed as Charaidew sailed for Tejpur from where, the next day, we would travel to the Himalayan foothills of Nameri. Many of you took a walk through the village on the edge of Tejpur where we had moored. For some the smiles and offers of tea of the local people, the game of cricket watched and the wheel-rolling skills shared were the highlights here; for others though the highlights were Lesser Racket-tailed and Bronzed Drongos and other birds of interest.

## Day 9

## Saturday 19th March

There are days when it all works wonderfully and there are days when it doesn't. Today, frankly it didn't. Our vehicles were on time, the drive to Nameri National Park was smooth and uneventful, our reception at Nameri Eco-Camp was efficient and the food was good. There were even Capped Langurs (of the dark grey north shore form) in the trees above the camp and breakfast was punctuated by Oriental Hobbies (tucking into their own breakfast) and Blue-throated Barbets. Moreover, our rafts were sturdy and buoyant, and our raft paddlers were skilled and safe. Everything that was in our power went well.

But it rained. And it rained. And then it rained some more for good measure. The dastardly part of it all was that it waited to rain until we had made the decision to set sail (or more accurately set float) on the basis that it wasn't really raining at all. In fact for the first hour the rain did nothing but flirt with us. In the second hour all thoughts of flirtation were off and as our rafts sliced through the curtain of rain we were sustained only by the knowledge that the journey couldn't last forever. That for many of you the sight of the vehicles waiting on the riverbank was the highlight of the day is distressing but telling.

There were birds, however, especially during the drier first hour. Brown Shrike and Striated Grassbird had been seen on the drive to Nameri, while along the river there were lots of Small Pratincoles and a modest sprinkling of River Terns and Common Mergansers. A Blue Rock Thrush was seen on the river's shore, our only Crested Kingfisher was much admired, and a Pallas' Fish Eagle was spotted overhead.

It rained all afternoon too but we didn't mind so much as we were safely and warmly ensconced in Charaidew's saloon as we sailed for Orang National Park. Here we moored, in advance of our final safari the following morning.

## Day 10

## Sunday 20th March

And for good measure, it rained today too. It didn't rain quite so constantly as in Nameri but it definitely rained and at times it poured. Nonetheless we soldiered round Orang National Park, largely with the tarpaulins up over our jeeps. We came within a tiger's whisker of seeing two tigers which had just strolled across the road a couple of minutes from where we were...a chap on a bike who had witnessed the tigers seemed entirely nonchalant about the affair but the tigers' moments-old pugmarks were a source of much interest to Naturetrekkers.

Despite the rain, much wonderful wildlife was seen in this beautiful park (really, it is beautiful when it's not raining). A mother Asian Elephant and her calf swayed past us as we searched for the tigers and shy Hog Deer (much shyer than in Kaziranga) tiptoed through the edge of the forest. Short-toed and Eastern Imperial Eagles made their first appearances on the list, supported by a fine cast of raptors we'd seen previously. Damp, disgruntled Lesser Adjutants perched atop almost every tree and half the group had a second encounter with a male Bengal Florican. A few even saw a lustrous male Grey-winged Blackbird. This afternoon, having left our great friend Imran in Orang whence he would travel to meet his next group in Kaziranga, we sailed again, this time for our final port, Guwahati.

## Day 11

## Monday 21st March

I missed today due to an unidentified bug. You were nonetheless in the finest of hands with Niv, Babu and Sujan to look after you. First thing, a walk was taken through light forest on the banks of the river where we had moored outside Guwahati. Good views were had of many birds we had seen earlier in the tour while some also saw a female Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush here. Later in the morning you visited Umananda Temple on the top of its rocky island in the river off Guwahati. The small family of introduced Golden Langurs which lives here (apparently released by authorities having been seized some years ago from poachers) had to be bribed with cake to make an appearance. However, once they had appeared they were as obliging as ever, sitting in the open and shoving their snouts into camera lenses.

In the afternoon, you visited a second temple, Kamakhya, on the Nilachal Hill outside Guwahati. Here you enjoyed the swirling sights, sounds and smells of Hindu devotion and learned from Niv about the history of the site. Our final evening on Charaidew was spent at Pandu Ghat in the city of Guwahati's port.

## Day 12

## Tuesday 22nd March

This morning's visit was more typical of hard-core birding tours than dreamy cruises through Assam. We made our customary whistle-stop trip to the Gorchuk rubbish dump where a tremendous chunk of the world population of Greater Adjutant Storks may be seen.

Many of the storks were in red-collared breeding dress, though we weren't sure whether this made these spectacular creatures more beautiful or more hideous. Black Kites were on every post (though far less numerous than they often are at this site) and among the many wheeling overhead was a single first-winter Steppe Eagle. A White Wagtail picking through the rubbish was out-graced only by the Bangladeshi people who live here doing the same to earn their daily keep.

From here we were thrown firmly back into the twenty-first century with a flight back to Kolkata from Guwahati airport and check-in to the almost dauntingly luxurious Hyatt Regency. Many of you ventured to the city centre this evening to eat at its selection of excellent restaurants.

## Day 13

## Wednesday 23rd March

And just as all adventures have beginnings, so too must they have ends. The first of you left early this morning for the airport, bound for the UK (where, as I write, I understand you are enjoying unseasonably balmy weather). A little later the rest of you were swept by Sujan onto a bus bound for the Sunderbans (where I like to imagine you are watching Irrawaddy Dolphins and Black-capped Kingfishers while sipping the latter's namesake beer). And I was left all alone in the splendours of the Hyatt. Nothing for it: head for Delhi, scoop up another group of unsuspecting Naturetrekkers and take them to the forest in search of Tigers. Wish me luck!

### The Sunderbans Extension – by Sujan Chatterjee

A new journey and a new adventure for nine of us... After we said good bye to some of the group, Les, Joan, Ian, Debbie, David, Chris, Mary, Jude, Del and myself set off towards the Sunderbans. A three hour journey took us through the narrow and busy highway of the Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve. The motorized indigenous tricycles, the brick kilns, the fish farms and lush green rice fields kept all glued to the windows. We honked our way through milling cyclists, goats, cows and even ducks and reached Godkhali Jetty. The crew awaited our arrival and we were swiftly escorted to our motor boat 'Joi Ma Kali' with Mahadev at its helm. An hours sailing and a few Golden Plovers and Collared Kingfishers later, we reached Bali Island and toured our pretty camp 'Sunderban Jungle Camp'. Sitting in an idyllic village the camp was to be our home for the next two days. An afternoon visit to Sajnekhali watchtower produced a Black-capped Kingfisher, Purple & Purple-rumped Sunbirds and a few Oriental White-eyes.

## Day 14

## Thursday 24th March

We left camp early and sailed upstream in the cool of the morning to reach 'Sudhanyakhali' watchtower. The freshwater pond attracted Chital Deer, Red Junglefowl and even Water Monitors. Other birds seen from here were Loten's Sunbirds, Common Ioras, and Clamorous Reed Warbler. We sailed till noon and found our glam bird - the Brown-winged Kingfisher. It sat in the overhanging branches and gave us great views. We returned to camp for lunch and some rest.

The afternoon walk in the village was highly entertaining for both guests and the kids. Some of us led them around like the Pied Piper. Few more birds were added to our list Blyth's Leaf warblers, a pair of young Spotted Owlets and a Barn Owl (perched at a poor lady's mud oven!)

## Day 15

## Friday 25th March

Today we headed south along the main Matla River and reached Dobanki Mangrove Walk. As we reached the walk a majestic White-bellied Sea Eagle took off from the bank of the pond. It flew away from us with long wings held high behind its back. Green Bee-eaters, Striated Babblers, and Collared & Black-capped Kingfishers put up a great show. We left after a while and were very lucky to chance upon a pod of the elusive Irrawaddy Dolphins. The pod breached not too far from us for a few minutes and gradually moved away from us. The overcast sky gave us some respite from the heat as activity slowed down after 10am. The tide rose and fell as we cruised through the creeks and eventually reached the Sudhanyakhali tower again. The Chital deer kept sounding alarms and stamped their feet. Our hopes were high but instead a Water Monitor came up the slope, spooking everyone, while the Orange-breasted Green Pigeons looked on and smiled. In the evening the local folk drama group put up a 'Goddess Bonobibi' play for the guests with lots of pomp and loud music.

## Day 16

## Saturday 26th March

A unanimous decision was to split the cruise between morning and afternoon sailing. We sailed back to the Dobanki mangrove walk. A tiger has been around after we left yesterday so we decided to take a chance. Instead we got some distant views of White-bellied Sea Eagle and a great view of the beautiful Brahminy Kite. After spending some time there we returned to camp for a break. We made another visit to Sudhanyakhali tower in the afternoon. A Short-toed Eagle with a snake in its mouth flew over us giving some great photo opportunities. After we reached the tower a few Orange-breasted Pigeons and a pair of Collared Kingfishers greeted us. Three very large Water Monitors were seen and a small but pretty venomous Green Pit Viper curled up in a thatch made us very happy. After a tease from a pair of calling but not showing Mangrove Pittas, we headed back.

## Day 17

## Sunday 27th March

On the final morning in the Sunderbans, we decided to go for walk in the village. The fields were full of Barn & Red-rumped Swallows. A new trip-bird the Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike was seen calling from a tree canopy. We left for Kolkata after a late breakfast.

## Day 18

## Monday 28th March

We all took a city tour today. An early morning again and off to the flower market on the bank of the Hoogly River. The colours, the sites and the vibrancy left all speechless. We watched Kolkata doing its morning chores from brushing teeth with Neem branches; Mud Wrestling; tiny tea shop selling thimble fulls of tea to the flower sellers; mounds of marigolds; people rushing to the huge railway station over the Howrah Bridge (apart from withstanding the stormy weather of the Bay of Bengal region, it successfully bears the weight of the daily traffic of approximately 80,000 vehicles and, possibly, more than 1,000,000 pedestrians. It is the sixth longest bridge of its type in the world) to Holy dip in the river.

After a break at the Hyatt, we headed to the 150 year old Jain Temples and the south Park Street Cemetery. After a final stop at the Victoria Memorial, we called it a day and headed back to Hyatt to prepare for the long haul journey back to the UK

## Summary - by Nick Acheson

Thanks to you all for a wonderful trip. Sujan and I have by now covered countless hundreds of miles along the Brahmaputra but each time it's a fresh adventure. Much of the credit for this must of course go to the river herself – to her changing sandbanks, arriving birds, departing birds, leaping fish and gracious people. But much credit goes too to you. Your interest, your questions, your jokes, your enthusiasm, your considerateness to the people of the river, your dauntless energy and your laughter conspire to make it such an enjoyable experience each time. Thank you.

Thanks are owed to so many more. Pratik's crew and staff on board Charaidew provide such considerate and flawless service that it almost passes un-noticed. Thanks to Poidau, Lulu, Lydia and Shanawaz in the dining room and saloon, Noim and Salaam on the country boat, Mangal in the kitchen and a host of others below decks and largely out of sight. The drivers and staff of Jungle Travels India also deserve high praise for safe driving, efficient transfers and consistently good service. Good food was enjoyed at both Diphlu River Lodge and Jupuri Lodge. And thanks must go too to Manjula the elephant at Diphlu for once more consenting to be scrubbed by inexperienced white hands. Our greatest thanks go to the masterminds of our tour: our Assamese, Bengali and Manipuri hosts, Pratik, Imran, Niv and Babu.

And thanks to the river herself for sharing with us her secrets: her wide silty vistas in the silvered light of midday; her scarcely-seen dolphins; her warm-hearted people on boats, in stilt-houses, on rafts and in riverside villages; her mighty wildlife and her tiny wildlife; even, yes, her mighty rains. We are grateful for them all.

## Species Lists

Birds ( H = heard only; ✓ recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>						H	H	✓									
2	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>						✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	
3	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>							✓										
4	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			✓														
5	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>			✓			✓				✓				✓			
6	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>			✓	✓													
7	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>				✓		✓		✓		✓							
8	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓						
9	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			✓		✓			✓	✓	✓							
10	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
11	Falcat Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>				✓													
12	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
13	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		✓							
14	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
15	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓							
16	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓	✓					✓							
17	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>							✓	✓		✓							
18	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
19	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>				✓													
20	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						✓		✓		✓							
21	Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				✓			✓			✓							
22	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>						✓				✓							
23	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>										✓							
24	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>									✓		✓						
25	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>											✓	✓		✓	✓		
26	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>														✓			
27	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>															✓		
28	Greater Yellownape	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>															✓		
29	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>									✓					✓		✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
30	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>						✓		✓									
31	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓					✓		✓		✓				✓			
32	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>			✓			H	H	✓							✓		
33	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>			✓	H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
34	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>								✓	✓	✓							
35	Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Megalaima australis</i>			H				H			✓							
36	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	H					H	✓	✓									
37	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓									
38	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>							✓										
39	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓		✓							
40	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
41	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>									✓								
42	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓			✓		✓					✓	✓		
43	Brown-winged Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon amauropterus</i>														✓			
44	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i>				H		✓	✓	✓									
45	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
46	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓	
47	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todirhampus chloris</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓	
48	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>									✓							✓	
49	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
50	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>							✓										
51	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>			✓	✓		✓		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓	
52	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓			✓				✓		
53	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>						✓	✓	✓									
54	Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	✓															H	
55	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>				✓													
56	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	✓							H						✓	✓	✓	
57	Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>						✓	✓	✓									
58	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
59	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>								✓									
60	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	H			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓							
61	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
62	Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>						✓	✓	✓									
63	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓									
64	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>						✓			✓								
65	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>			✓			✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>																✓	
67	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>														✓			
68	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>						✓		✓									
69	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓		✓							
70	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	H			✓		✓				✓				✓			
71	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>								✓	✓								
72	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
74	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
75	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>								✓									
76	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicincta</i>														✓		✓	
77	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓							✓	✓		✓	✓					
78	Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>									✓								
79	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓									
80	Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>								✓		✓							
81	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>				✓		✓								✓		✓	
82	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		✓	✓	✓													
83	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓										
84	Common Coot	<i>Fulicata atra</i>				✓													
85	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			✓														
86	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>															✓	✓	
87	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>															✓	✓	
88	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						✓	✓										
89	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						✓	✓							✓			
90	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>							✓	✓									
91	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
92	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓										
93	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓			✓										

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
94	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>															✓	✓	
95	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>				✓													
97	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>			✓	✓		✓											
98	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓									
99	Great Thick-knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>					✓	✓			✓								
100	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>													✓				
101	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>			✓										✓	✓			
102	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓											
103	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓											
104	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>									✓	✓							
105	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓									
106	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>			✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
107	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓							
108	Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>				✓		✓			✓	✓							
109	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>									✓						✓	✓	
110	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>									✓								
111	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>							✓	✓	✓								
112	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>																✓	
113	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
114	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓									
115	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
116	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliaeetus indus</i>																	✓
117	Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓								
118	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>																✓	✓
119	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			✓														
120	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
121	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>																	✓
122	Slenderbilled Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>							✓										
123	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									
124	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>										✓					✓	✓	
125	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓									

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
126	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			✓						✓								
127	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>						✓			✓		✓						
128	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>										✓							
129	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓							
130	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>					✓												
131	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>										✓							
132	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>						✓											
133	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>			✓			✓	✓										
134	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>						✓		✓		✓							
135	Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>										✓							
136	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	✓			✓						✓							
137	Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
138	Pied Falconet	<i>Microhierax melanoleucus</i>									✓								
139	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
140	Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>										✓							
141	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓							
142	Little Grebe	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>				✓													
143	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓							
144	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
145	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
146	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>																	✓
147	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							
148	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
149	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
150	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓									
151	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
152	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
153	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
154	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
155	Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>								✓									
156	Little Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>				✓						✓					✓		
157	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓		✓													

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
158	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>			✓				✓										
159	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
160	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓							
161	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				✓		✓				✓							
162	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>						✓	✓	✓									
163	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
164	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
165	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>						✓					✓						
166	Mangrove Pitta	<i>Pitta megarhyncha</i>																H	
167	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>				✓		✓	✓										
168	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>									✓								
169	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach tricolor</i>							✓	✓		✓							
170	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
171	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
172	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓					
173	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
174	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>			✓				✓							✓			
175	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
176	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>						✓	✓	✓									
177	Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>																✓	
178	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>										✓					✓	✓	
179	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>						✓	✓										
180	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>			✓														
181	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>										✓							
182	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>															✓		
183	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
184	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
185	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>			✓					✓									
186	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
187	Asian Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>															✓		
188	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>				✓			H	✓		✓			✓	✓			
189	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>										✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
190	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>									✓								
191	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>				✓					✓								
192	Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>										✓							
193	Red-throated Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				H	H	✓			H		✓		✓				
194	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>				H													
195	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia calliope</i>									✓								
196	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
197	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>									✓								
198	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>						✓		✓			✓					✓	✓
199	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
200	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>						✓		✓		✓	✓						✓
201	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
202	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
203	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>										✓	✓						
204	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
205	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓									
206	Northern Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>			✓														
207	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>									✓								
208	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			✓						
209	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						
210	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
211	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>									✓		✓					✓	✓
212	Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>										✓							
213	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>									✓								
214	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	
215	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
216	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>									✓								
217	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>										✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
218	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>														✓	✓		✓
219	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>														✓	✓		
220	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>				✓	H			H	✓				H	✓	✓		✓
221	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>								✓						✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
222	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>									✓								
223	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>											✓			✓			✓
224	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>											✓					✓	
225	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>										✓	✓						
226	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla abbotti</i>								✓									
227	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>									✓								
228	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>			✓						✓		✓					✓	
229	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓										✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
230	Rufous-winged Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>			✓						✓			✓					
231	Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>					✓												
232	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>			✓	H					H								
233	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>											✓						
234	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	H		H										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
235	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
236	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>														✓			
237	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
238	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓									
239	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>																✓	
240	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
241	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓						
242	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			✓	✓	✓												
243	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>						✓											
244	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>			✓										✓				
245	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>								✓	✓								
246	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>								✓							✓		✓
247	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>			✓														

## Mammals

1	Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Bunopithecus hoolock</i>			✓														
2	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>						✓	✓	✓					✓				✓
3	Golden Langur	<i>Trachypithecus geei</i>												✓					
4	Capped Langur	<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i>			✓					✓		✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
5	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>						✓											
6	Swamp deer	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>						✓	✓	✓									
7	Indian Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>							✓										
8	Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>						✓	✓	✓		✓							
9	Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis</i>												✓	✓	✓			
10	Asiatic Wild Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓									
11	Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>						✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		
12	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
13	Greater One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>						✓	✓	✓									
14	Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>						✓											
15	Malayan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>			✓														
16	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>			✓														
17	Himalayan striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops macclellandi</i>						✓	✓	✓		✓							
18	Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>			✓														
19	Hoary- bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>						✓	✓	✓		✓							
20	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>				✓													
21	Gangetic River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
22	Irrawaddy Dolphin	<i>Orcacella brevirostris</i>																✓	
23	Hog Badger	<i>Arctonyx collaris</i>						✓											

### Other Taxa

Assam Roofed turtle *Pangshura sylhetensis*  
 House Gecko sp. *Hemidactylus* sp.  
 Fiddler Crab sp. *Uca* sp

Bengal Monitor *Varanus bengalensis*  
 Pit Viper sp. *Trimeresurus* sp.

Water Monitor *Varanus salvator*  
 Mudskipper *Periophthalmus argentilineatus*

### Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit