

Brahmaputra Cruise

Naturetrek Tour Report

9 - 26 March 2012



Indian Rhino



Pied Starling



Small Minivet



Northern Birdwing

Report compiled by Sujan Chatterjee
Images courtesy of Roy John



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Bibby Horwood
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Stephanie John
Jean Menzies
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Day 1

Friday 9th March

The team arrived at Kolkata minus one. Jean had a memorable moment of watching her flight taking off without her because her bags did not get offloaded from the previous flight (but she arrived safely in the evening). We drove to our hotel Hyatt Regency through the ever busy roads of Kolkata. As we got closer a few egrets and Openbills were spotted feeding in the roadside marshes. In the afternoon we drove to the 150 year old Indian Botanic Gardens in Howrah. Howrah is the sister town of Kolkata on the western side of River Hooghly. The garden has been renamed, as 'Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose Botanic Gardens', and houses a mammoth Great Banyan Tree. From here we strolled through the park and saw some of the common city birds like Lineated Barbets, very pretty Rufous Treepie, ever so noisy Red-breasted Parakeets, Booted Eagles, White-throated Kingfishers, Orange-headed Ground Thrush, and Pale-billed Flowerpecker and many others. We returned to the Hyatt at sundown for a quick meeting and a well deserved rest.

Day 2

Saturday 10th March

After a large breakfast we were ready for our flight to Dibrugarh. The flight was on time and we flew east, with great mountain views, and were received by the ever smiling Imran (also referred to as Immy), Babu our on board naturalist and young Bidyut who was to be our culture guide. Next we drove for 4 hours to the Neemati Ghat (jetty) through the busy towns of Dibrugarh, Sibsagar and Moran. We arrived at the Neemati Ghat in the dark. On arrival we boarded the 'country boat' and sailed to the grand 'Charidew' which was to be our home for the next eleven days. Varun and his crew were all there to lend us a helping hand. Before dinner we were given an introduction of the boat by Varun and a demo of how to wear the life float, and settled into our boat for the night...

Day 3

Sunday 11th March

Today we had an early start and had a 10 minute ride to the shore. We then boarded our waiting vehicle and drove for an hour to a Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary. We drove through Jorhat town, a small town Moriani, and various tea gardens. We arrived at the sanctuary at 6:30am. Our first stop was for a pair of Rhesus Macaques feeding from a road side treetop. Next stop was for a large troop of Capped Langurs gorging on young shoots from the trees, close to the railway tracks. It was a super photo op; the young langurs put up great show for us while the adults munched on the leaves without a break. After the langurs, we hit the trail in search of India's only ape - the Hoolock Gibbon. As we started to walk we heard the calls of a pair from the other side of the rail tracks. We quickly back-tracked and went straight for it. After a while we spotted them high in a tree. After everybody had a good look we went looking for other macaques. As our Forest Guards went off the track to look, we watched a few birds. After a lot of searching the guards came back empty handed but meanwhile we picked up some birds and several butterflies.

We returned to base and attacked the breakfast spread out on the table before us by the Charaidew crew. A Malayan Giant Squirrel (claimed to be battery operated) plonked itself on a tree close to us while we had our breakfast. After breakfast we again strolled through the forest looking for birds. We came across more Giant Squirrels. Our walk ended at 10.15am and we drove back from the sanctuary and stopped at a wetland on the way to the jetty. This wetland had large flocks of Purple Swamphen, Glossy Ibis, Lesser Adjutant Stork, Spot-billed Ducks etc.

Before we settled down on the ship we made a quick visit to a nearby stake out for owls. We quickly spotted a family of Barn Owls sitting in a tree hole, and a Spotted Owlet. As we returned back Babu spotted an Asian Barred Owlet which grabbed a toad and devoured it in front of us. After returning to Charaidew we had lunch and set sail at 2.30pm. We sailed for forty-five minutes and anchored on the banks of South Asia's largest river-island Majuli. We took a short impromptu walk through a small hamlet, and spotted a few birds like Bee-eaters, Shrikes, Kestrels, Wagtails and Pipits.

Day 4

Monday 12th March

Today was a day of some birding and more culture. The cool misty morning created a surreal atmosphere around the boat. After breakfast we took the country boat and landed at the Kamalabari Ghat in Majuli Island. We drove to the large Sakuli Bheel, which had a few waders, some ducks, pochards, and cormorants. We saw a flock of very beautiful Streaked Weavers in the nearby reeds. Before we arrived at the Anuiati Monastery we spotted a beautiful Cinnamon Bittern sitting unmoved in a puddle. We then drove on to visit the monastery. We walked around and watched the monks performing their daily prayers. As we strolled through the monk's quarters, we saw more birds like Flowerpeckers, warblers, barbets and Spotted Owlets.

Next we visited the Uttar Kamalabari Temple where we sat for a powerful performance of dance and drums presented to us by the young and agile monks. The dancing, drumming, the co-ordination of the movements and the clashing of the large cymbals kept us mesmerized throughout. We left this monastery and came back aboard 'Charaidew' and sailed further westward. We anchored on the edge of a village 'Bokaduar' in the evening.

Day 5

Tuesday 13th March

After breakfast we strolled through the Bokaduar village - the long 'Morang' thatched houses built on stilts, the handmade textiles, the little piglets, Imran's demonstration of the de-husking the rice and other day-to-day activities. One of the guests started to take pictures of the kids with a Polaroid camera. This stirred the kids and their mother who followed the camera lady until she ran out of shots! As retail therapy was happening, we spotted a few birds like White-throated Fantails and a Daurian Redstart in the bamboo groves. As we walked back we saw Kestrel, Common Kingfishers and several starlings.

We started to sail further downstream towards Kaziranga at 2 pm. We sailed westwards along the vast sandbanks of the Brahmaputra. We kept crossing flocks of Ruddy Shelducks, Gadwalls; swarms of Small Pratincoles kept hawking insects. As we moored a shout rang out 'White-tailed Stonechat'. We all scanned over the dry grass and there it was, sitting pretty, a male White-tailed Stonechat. We got off the boat and wandered into the grassland and got wonderful views of this beautiful stonechat. It was belting out its breeding song not paying heed to any of us. We finished the day with a short stroll on the soft sand bank near Kaziranga and a few wagtails and a very shy Plain Prinia.

Day 6

Wednesday 14th March

An early day today - we took the country boat to the shore and got on to our waiting safari vehicles. We drove 20 minutes through the morning mist to the gates and entered Kaziranga through its eastern or Agratoli Range. It was a big raptor day today. After a stop for Spotted Owlets, woodpeckers and parakeets, we came to this vast swamp; Sohola Bheel; filled with ducks, geese, waders, and storks including the rare Black-necked, Greater and Lesser Adjutant. Along with the birds there was a large herd of Asiatic Water Buffalo, Swamp Deer and some distant Elephants. We carried on with the ride and then we came across our first Rhino! As well as this, other highlights were a group of Smooth Coated Otters, very well seen; Spotted and a Brown Fish Owl. Several raptors were also seen; Pallas's Fish Eagle, Grey-Headed Fish Eagle, Ospreys and a very obliging Changeable Hawk Eagle.

After seeing our first Rhino, we carried on driving until we reached the banks of the Brahmaputra; we then made a climb down the slope to board the country boat (a short cut taken to save on time). As we sailed in our country boat, we looked out for herons and kingfishers and stayed very quiet, thinking of lunch. The silence was broken by a shout of a 'Tiger' from the top of the boat. As we looked towards the bank we saw a huge big male Tiger had just finished his drink and was lumbering up the slope and vanished into the grasses on the high bank! We then caught up with Charaidew and sailed downstream for Silghat. As we sailed we saw, in two separate instances, several Hog Deer and the back of a Rhino. In the late afternoon, after sunset, we reached Silghat.

Day 7

Thursday 15th March

Today we had plans to visit Bagori (Western range). As we got off the boat on the sandy beaches of Silghat, a pair of Wreathed Hornbills flew in and landed on the distant treetops. The light was poor thus we did not get good views. We carried on towards Bagori, but we had to stop on the way to see a family of Gibbons feeding quietly, in foliage the on the side of the highway.

The Bagori range provided a lot of entertainment for us. A pair of Rhinos was jostling for a mate and one chased the other across the track. The victor eventually wanted to get back to his mate but our vehicles acted as a barrier. That caused a bit of a stir. After many other birds like the Blossom-headed Parakeets, Wood-shrikes and several raptors, we came out of the park at noon. Next we drove to the beautiful Diphlu River Lodge for some lunch. And some lunch it was! We had more plans for the day...

We went back to the park, but this time to the Kohora (Central Range) for our afternoon elephant ride. We rode the pachyderms through the open fields. The grass has been freshly burnt so the animals had moved into the covers. We searched for a while to get our first Rhino. This one had a calf and then another and another. After we had many more encounters with the rhino kind, and Hog Deer, Swamp Deer and Wild Boar we returned, by elephant back, to base. Here Imran was waiting with a bunch of bananas for our majestic beasts. Thereafter we drove back to the Charaidew for a well deserved rest.

Day 8

Friday 16th March

A third visit was made to Kaziranga. This time we made a visit to the Burra Pahar (far western) range of the park. Burra Pahar is well wooded with small grassland areas. We stopped on the road to see Barred Owlets, Cuckooshrikes and Rhesus Macaques. As we entered the park we got great views of Blue-eared Barbets and a Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. Next was a troop of Capped Langurs; they stayed around for a long time and gave great views and photo opportunities. We drove to the end of the road and got off for a short walk. There were fewer mammals on this range but great birds like Dollarbirds, Griffon Vultures, Dark-necked Tailorbirds, Spot-throated Babbler, River Lapwing and several species of butterflies.

Next we drove to this small piece of grassland and got on to a watchtower. I had prior information that Bengal Florican has been sighted here. As we looked around, a dark-head popped out from the grass! There it was, a male Bengal Florican! The bird played hide and seek with us for while and then vanished in the grass. Next treat was fantastic view of a male Pied Harrier. There was a unanimous decision that the Pied Harrier was the most beautiful of all harriers. Before we exited the park we got another view of Capped Langurs.

An afternoon walk gave us great views of Gangetic Dolphins, and birds like Sand Larks, Wagtails, Blue Rock & Blue Whistling Thrush, Striped Tit Babbler, Wreathed and Great Hornbill and a pair of Hill Mynas.

There was more entertainment lined up in the evening. The local boys and girls dressed up in their best traditional dress and performed a 'bihu' dance for us, on the sandy beach of Silghat. This got everybody grooving with beat of the drums!

Day 9

Saturday 17th March

Another day of our safari, and our final one too... (we skipped Orang as the landing point of the park had collapsed and the detour was considered too long and tedious by all) so we headed for the Central (Kohora) Range of Kaziranga instead. The morning safari produced several Rhinos, a few distant Small Clawed Otters, Swamp & Hog Deer, Buffaloes and even some Assam Roof Turtles. We then returned to Charaidew and set sail for Tezpur. We finished the day with a walk in the village and a Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher.

Day 10

Sunday 18th March

Today we had plans for a different kind of adventure – rafting! We got off Charaidew early and drove from the Ghats of Tezpur. We then drove northwards for two hours and arrived at the sand bank of the beautiful Jia Bhoreli River (also famous for its Golden Mahasheer game fishes). The team geared up with life jackets and boarded the rubber dinghies.

After sailing for a while we spotted a pair of Ibisbill feeding close to the shore. They flew across the river and gave us good views, later we spotted a few more feeding amongst the pebbles of the fast flowing Jia Bhoreli River. We floated downstream through the spectacular landscape. We saw some birds while trying to protect our camera and binoculars from the splashes of the river. We saw some a female Peregrine Falcon, Goosanders, Pied Kingfishers, Blue Rock Thrush and had great views of Pallas' Fish Eagles. Large flocks of Small Pratincoles and River Terns flew over us as we sailed downstream.

On the way back we stopped at the Eco Camp for a cup of 'Chai' and a look at the Pygmy Hog Conservation Centre. We eventually returned to Charaidew and start sailing further downstream for Guwahati. We moored on the sandy beach in the evening where the crew organised a fabulous beach barbeque.

Day 11

Monday 19th March

Today was our last day of sailing. We sailed after breakfast towards Guwahati. We floated past the vast expanses of sandy beaches of the mighty Brahmaputra. We moored close to the Peacock Island to visit the Umananda Temple. We took our country boat and landed on the crowded shores of the island. We walked up the steps and arrived at the base of the temple. We quickly spotted the cake-eating Golden Langurs. We tried hard to feed some bananas to one of the langurs but we only got steely stares and later we found out that some may have shifted back to their diet of cheap cakes! We then sailed downstream for the final mooring of Charaidew at Pandu Ghat of Guwahati. The evening ended with our farewell dinner.

Day 12

Tuesday 20th March

A late start today and a visit to the most famous temple of Assam, the Kamaksya Temple... We drove to the base and walked up to the door of the temple, then we walked barefoot on the stone floors amongst a large crowd of devotees. An hour or so was spent at the temple looking at the ancient architecture. We came back to Charaidew and bid adieu to the superb team of the boat which was our home for the last 10 days.

We drove to the famous Gorchuk rubbish tip to look for the Greater Adjutant Stork. We drove through heaps of garbage and stopped on the edge of a lake. There were hundreds of Greater Adjutants, along with them there were hundreds of Black Kites and Cattle Egrets and a few Lesser Adjutants. Next we tried our luck at the Deepor Bheel wetland. We saw a small flock of Lesser Whistling Teal and a few Moorhens and egrets. Next step was to arrive at the airport and to fly to Kolkata. This was the end of the main tour, and the start of the extension to the Sunderbans!

Extension to the Sunderbans

Day 13 - 17

Wednesday 21st - Sunday 25th March

The Sunderbans! A new journey and a new adventure for nine of us... After we said good bye to most of the group, Michael & Bibby; Roy & Stephanie; Jean & Christine 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 bus 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 'Ma Golapi'. An hour's sailing and a few Golden Plovers and Collared Kingfishers later we reached Bali Island and tour 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; Water Monitors and Chital deer. In the next three days in the Sunderbans we visited two watchtowers, and sailed in the creeks. Some days we cruised all day and some days we split up the cruise in two parts. One afternoon we spent walking through the village and meeting the smiling locals. In the lodge premises, a breeding pair of Common Kingfishers kept us entertained during the afternoons. On the day of departure, we spent some time in the morning looking for more birds and saw the beautiful Asian Paradise Flycatcher. After a late breakfast we bid goodbye to the cheerful staff of the Sunderbans Jungle Camp and headed back to Kolkata.

Day 18

Monday 26th March

On the last day, 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; a tiny tea shop selling thimble-fulls of tea to the flower sellers; mounds of marigolds; to a Holy dip in the river, and people rushing to the huge railway station over the Howrah Bridge (as well as bearing the stormy weather of the Bay of Bengal region, it successfully bears the weight of a 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).

After a break in the Hyatt, we headed to the 150 year old Jain temples and the south park street cemetery, Victoria Memorial. After a final stop at the famed Fluries Cafe, we called it a day and headed back to the hotel to prepare for the long haul journey back to UK

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Species List

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

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>							✓		✓									
2	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>									✓									
4	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>				✓				✓				✓						
5	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓										
6	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
7	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
8	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>						✓				✓	✓							
9	Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>				✓														
10	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓							
11	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				✓		✓			✓	✓	✓							
12	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓				✓			✓								
13	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
14	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>							✓											
15	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓		✓						✓						
16	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				✓														
17	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
18	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>									✓		✓							
19	Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				✓		✓												
20	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				✓	✓						✓							
21	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>										✓								
22	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>							✓							✓				
23	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>								✓					✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
24	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>							✓	✓	✓						✓	✓		
25	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓						✓								✓	✓	✓	
26	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>							✓	✓		h					✓	✓		
27	Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓								
28	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>							✓			✓	✓	✓						
29	Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Megalaima australis</i>			✓						✓									
30	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>					h			h	h									✓
31	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>							✓		✓	✓								
32	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>								✓	✓									
33	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>										✓								
34	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓				✓	✓										
35	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
36	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>								✓	✓									
37	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Brown-winged Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon amauropterus</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓		
39	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
40	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smymensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓		
42	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todirhampus chloris</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
44	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>								✓										
45	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
46	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>							✓	✓	✓									
47	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
48	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>																✓	h	
49	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	✓									✓		✓	✓		h	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
50	Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>						✓	✓	✓										
51	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓						✓		✓	✓	
52	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>						✓												
53	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>							✓		✓									
54	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
55	Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>							✓			✓								
56	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
57	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
58	House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓							✓		✓					✓			
59	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>			✓															
60	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>						✓												
61	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓									
62	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>			✓	✓		✓								h	h			
63	Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>													h					
64	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓								
65	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓			✓								
67	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>					✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>							✓	✓	✓									
69	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicincta</i>														✓	✓			
70	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓									✓
71	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>						✓	✓			✓								
72	Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>								✓										
73	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	
74	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		✓	✓	✓														
75	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓		✓												

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
76	Common Coot	<i>Fulicata atra</i>				✓														
77	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				✓			✓	✓										
78	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓		
79	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>														✓	✓	✓		
80	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						✓	✓											
81	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>									✓					✓	✓			
82	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>								✓										
83	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				✓	h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
84	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>						✓			✓	✓								
85	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓	✓		✓												
86	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
87	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>											✓							
88	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>									✓									
89	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>				✓														
90	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓						
91	Great Thick-knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>			✓							✓								
92	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>										✓								
93	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓									✓					
94	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>															✓			
95	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓							
96	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓											
97	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>								✓	✓	✓								
98	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓						
99	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
100	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓							
101	Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyæetus</i>						✓				✓	✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
102	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnecephalus</i>			✓							✓			✓	✓				
103	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>			✓							✓								
104	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>							✓			✓								
105	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
106	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									
107	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				✓				✓	✓	✓	✓							
108	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
109	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>			✓											✓	✓	✓		
110	Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>							✓		✓	✓								
111	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									
112	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	✓																	
113	Slenderbilled Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>									✓									
114	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
115	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>														✓				
116	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						✓			
117	Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>				✓														
118	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>					✓		✓	✓		✓								
119	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>					✓			✓										
120	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>								✓										
121	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>							✓		✓	✓						✓		
122	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			✓	✓							✓							
123	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>							✓											
124	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>								✓										
125	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>					✓													
126	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	✓																	
127	Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓						h	h		

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
128	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓							
129	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>				✓														
130	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			✓					✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
131	Little Grebe	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>				✓								✓						
132	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓		✓						✓						
133	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓							
134	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>																		✓
136	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							
137	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
138	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
139	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓									
140	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									
142	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
143	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Little Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>			✓	✓				✓		✓	✓							
145	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			✓	✓														
146	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>				✓														
147	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>						✓			✓									
148	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			✓															
149	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓						
150	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓					
151	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				✓		✓				✓	✓							
152	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓									
153	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓										

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
154	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		
155	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>						✓	✓					✓						
156	Mangrove Pitta	<i>Pitta megarhyncha</i>															h			
157	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>			✓					✓										
158	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>						✓		✓					✓			✓	✓	
159	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach tricolor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓											
160	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
161	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	
162	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓					
163	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
164	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓									
165	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
166	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>			✓					✓										
167	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>					✓			✓	✓								✓	
168	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>								✓										
169	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>														✓	✓	✓		
170	Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>					✓													
171	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>								✓										
172	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>			✓															
173	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓								
174	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>					✓									✓				✓
175	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
176	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>			✓											✓	✓	✓		
177	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
178	Greater Racket Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>							✓	✓		✓								
179	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓													

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
180	Asian Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>																	✓	
181	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>			✓		✓			✓						✓	✓		✓	
182	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>			✓															
183	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>							✓											
184	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>								✓		✓								
185	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>			✓					✓										
186	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	✓													✓	✓			
187	Red-throated Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				✓	✓								✓					
188	Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>																	✓	
189	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>			✓		✓			✓										
190	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>						✓												
191	Mangrove Whistler	<i>Pachycephala grisola</i>														h	h			
192	White-tailed Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>							h											
193	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
194	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓									
195	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							✓	✓										
196	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>					✓													
197	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
198	White-tailed Stonechat	<i>Saxicola leucura</i>					✓					✓								
199	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓
200	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
201	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
202	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			
203	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓							
204	Northern Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>								✓										
205	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>						✓												

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
206	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	h	✓		✓				✓		
207	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>										✓							
208	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
209	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
210	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>									✓								
211	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>			✓					✓									
212	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓							✓	
213	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
214	White-throated Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus flaveolus</i>			✓														
215	Bright-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>							✓										
216	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>														h		h	
217	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>							✓										
218	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>					✓	h											
219	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>					✓									✓		✓	
220	Blunt-winged Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus concinens</i>														✓			
221	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>				✓											✓		✓
222	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>							✓										
223	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
224	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>								✓									
225	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>				✓										✓	✓		
226	Smoky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuligiventer</i>							✓										
227	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>				✓	✓	✓					✓						
228	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>				✓	✓						✓						
229	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>														✓			✓
230	Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>									✓								
231	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>			h			h		✓	✓								

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
232	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla abbotti</i>							✓											
233	Spot-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum albiventre</i>								✓										
234	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>								h										
235	Striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>								✓						h	h			
236	Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>									h									
237	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>					✓													
238	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓										✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
239	Rufous-winged Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>			✓	✓			✓											
240	Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>								✓			✓							
241	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>					✓													
242	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	✓																	
243	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>				✓		✓		✓						✓	✓			
244	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes singalensis</i>			✓															
245	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>														✓	✓			
246	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>									✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
247	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>												✓	✓	✓	✓			
248	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>			✓															
249	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>			✓															
250	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
251	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓												
252	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
253	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓					✓	
254	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓							✓	✓
255	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>			✓															
256	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓										
257	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>								✓										

	Common name	Scientific name	March																	
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
258	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>				✓			✓	✓										
259	Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>				✓														
260	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</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>			✓					✓		✓								
5	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>							✓											
6	Swamp deer	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓									
7	Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>							✓	✓	✓									
8	Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓		
9	Asiatic Wild Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>						✓	✓		✓									
10	Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>							✓	✓						✓	✓			
11	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephus maximus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓									
12	Greater One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓									
13	Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>									h									
14	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>						✓												
15	Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>						✓												
16	Oriental Short-clawed Otter										✓									
17	Small Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>	✓																	
18	Malayan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>			✓				✓	✓										
19	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>	✓																	
20	Hoary- bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									
21	House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>						✓												

	Common name	Scientific name	March																
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>		✓		✓			✓		✓								
23	Gangetic River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						

Reptiles & Amphibians

Assam Roof Turtle

Tokay Gecko

Reticulated Python

Bengal Monitor

Assam Brown Turtle

Bengal eyed Turtle

Northern house gecko

Water Monitor

Green Pond Frog

Common Indian Toad

Butterflies

Yellow Helen

Peacock Pansy

Common Sailor

Commander

Striped Tiger

Plain Tiger

Psyche

Great Mormon

Dark Archduke

Chocolate pansy

Common Evening brown

Grey Count

Common Lascar

Dingy Sailor

Grey pansy

Chocolate Albatross

Indian cabbage white

Lime Butterfly

Common Castor

Common Blue Bottle

Great Orange Tip

Glassy Blue Tiger

Blue Tiger

Brown King Crow

Northern Birdwing

Common Crow

Common Rose

Blue King Crow

Danaid Eggfly

Grass Jewel

Common Banded Peacock

Blue Mormon

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 is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!