

Brahmaputra Cruise with Sunderbans extension

Naturetrek Tour Report

25th March – 10th April 2023



Brown-winged Kingfisher



Indian Rhino



Tiger



Asian Elephants

Tour report and images by Sujan Chatterjee



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Day 1

Saturday 25th March

Today the team landed at Kolkata airport at 7am by Virgin/Indigo, tired and bleary eyed. We were shipped quickly to Taj gateway for a good night sleep.

Day 2

Sunday 26th March

Today we were joined by Dev our co-leader for Sunderbans. By 9 am we started to drive through the busy village roads to Godkhali. We spotted a few birds along the drive through the fishponds and the brick kilns. After three hours, we reached our destination, unscathed. Our lodge representative, Manoj, met us on arrival, being followed by a string of men. They ferried our bags while we walked up to our boat-in-waiting 'Vagini Nivedita'. After the porters loaded our bags, we set sail downstream for our home for next few days, 'Sunderban Jungle Camp' on Bali Island. We stopped along the way to see various species of kingfishers etc. We reached the camp by midday, and after sorting out the bags and a drink of coconut water, we settled down for a sumptuous lunch. Some of us got busy photographing every critter on the campground but at 3:30 you were ushered back on the boat and we set sail again. We spotted a few waders like Whimbrels, Indian Pond Herons, Common Sandpipers etc. We even spotted a few Rhesus Macaques, lounging on dead trees. After some tea and biscuits, we came back before dark, and settled down for checklist and dinner.

Day 3

Monday 27th March

We split our group in two boats and left early at 5:30 am. The sky was overcast for the first two hrs. We spotted a few Curlews near Dobanki. We spotted Black-capped, Collared and Common Kingfishers on the way. We also spotted Wild Boar digging for roots along the bank, Water Monitors swimming across the rivers. As the day went by, the tide rose, and sightings slowed down. At 12:30 the two boats joined up and everyone came aboard one boat, and we settled down for lunch. As we were finishing off, Krishna, our guide frantically shouted "Tiger, Tiger!" ... only a handful of us saw the head of a Tiger disappear from the river on the bank. Ouch! We moved our boat in a position, where we would be able to see the whole stretch of the channel. We waited with bated breath. Then after 10 minutes, we spotted the Tigress crossing in the distance. We covered some distance to catch up, by which time, the Tigress had gone ashore. 'Phew', at least all of us had seen her. We then back tracked and entered a different channel, and again we spotted her crossing a narrow creek. By that time, we had figured out which direction she was heading. We kept spotting her a few times in the next two hours. We all got great views by the end of the day. We then said goodbye and left the reserve and headed for our lodge. What a great day it was.

Day 4

Tuesday 28th March

Today we started at 5:30 am. again. It was less misty than yesterday. We sailed north and entered the park from near the Sudhanykhali Tower. We got off at the tower before breakfast. Here we spotted several new birds for the trip; like Loten's Sunbird, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, Orange-breasted Green Pigeons, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Common Iora, Bronzed Drongo etc. We spent an hour on the tower before sailing again. By midday, the

tide had risen, and we headed south, in hope to see something different. Meanwhile we got some information, that a Tiger has been spotted, she too was seen a few times crossing narrow creeks, eventually we saw her sitting in the water, cooling off. When she saw us, quite reluctantly she got out of the water and wandered off. Two consecutive days of Tigers in Sunderbans is what we never expected.

Day 5

Wednesday 29th March

We went for a village walk at 6:30am. We walked about 1 km along the embankment spotting common birds like woodpeckers, cuckooshrikes, minivets, sunbirds. We had good views of some of the species, which we had glimpsed before. We walked into a neighbour's garden. He has been designing the garden to attract lots of dragonflies and butterflies. We walked around and interacted with his students. His beautifully painted house got lot of appreciation from our guests.

After breakfast, some of us went for a walk in the village to soak up some culture.

After lunch we said goodbye to Sunderbans and the staff of the Jungle camp and left for Kolkata.

Day 6

Thursday 30th March

The advance team decided to go on a private visit, while the rest of the team arrived by the afternoon flight.

Day 7

Friday 31st March

Today we left the hotel at 9:30 and headed for the airport. We finished the check in process and then flew to Jorhat. We were received by Kirti, Babu and Imran. After being welcomed with the traditional 'gamosa', we drove for an hour to reach Neemati Ghat.

The crew and the manager of Sukapha waited eagerly for our arrival. Sukapha waited for us on the far bank, so we boarded the tender/country boat and sailed to what would be our home for next 10 days. On the top deck, we had some snacks with onions bhajis, samosas and sandwiches.

Day 8

Saturday 1st April

We had an early start today. We grabbed some coffee, donned our ridiculous looking leech socks and boarded out waiting buses. We drove through some thick fog for an hour and reached the Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary. The sky was dark, and low cloud hung over us. As we arrived, we spotted a Black Giant Squirrel close to the forest office. We also spotted Asian barred Owlet, Orange-bellied and Golden-fronted Leafbirds along the trail. We then followed our local guards and guides into the forest trail in search of the elusive Hoolock Gibbons. We were lucky this time... a female gibbon was quickly spotted feeding on the freshly sprouted leaves of the tree. Soon the black male was spotted in a nearby tree. They showed very well and for long. Their black coats wet in the dew, but the white eye-brows glistening in the dark. We then had to turn back as the rain hit us. On our way back we had a troop of Capped Langurs leaping over the path. The team had set up the breakfast in a sheltered spot and we settled down for lovely picnic breakfast of hot porridge, bacon and bread. After breakfast, we walked back into another trail. It was a bit slow going with birds because of the gloomy weather, but we managed to see a few new

species like; Green-billed Malkoha, White-throated Bulbul, Maroon Oriole etc. as rain caught us up again, we decided to head back to our boat.

The afternoon birding plan had to be shelved due some heavy rain. In the evening, a very renowned flautist from Kamalabari Monastery of Majuli Island, Niranjan came aboard to entertain us with his beautiful musical repertoire. We moored in the middle of the river for the night.

Day 9

Sunday 2nd April

Today, after breakfast, we all boarded our country boat and reached Majuli Island. We stopped at Sakoli Bheel, which had a few Bronze-winged Jacanas, Grey-headed Swamphe, and small flocks of Ferruginous Ducks. We got great views of Blue-tailed Bee-eaters which had migrated up north to breed during summer. We drove to the centuries-old Annuati Monastery. We peeked inside the monastery prayer halls as Kirti, explained the rituals and the way of life of the monks. The chanting of the monks from the hall, filled the air. The garden was good for birds, and we had good views of Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Changeable Hawk-eagle, nesting Baya Weavers, Black-crowned Night Herons etc. Next, we visited the more cultural Kamalabari Monastery. A short musical involving drums and cymbals was presented to us. Niranjan was the lead drummer today. Next, we stopped at a place which was known for its roost for the Indian Flying Fox. The tree was full of bats that has been roosting here traditionally for years. After having a good look, the bats, we headed back to our boat. We then sailed for three hours to Kerkeri village. In the evening we moored near a sand bank. We decided to walk on the sand for some exercise. The walk produced some birds like Small Pratincole, Sand Larks, Little Ringed Plovers etc.

Day 10

Monday 3rd April

Before breakfast we got off to visit the Kerkeri village. This pretty and quaint village is under threat from severe erosion by the river. We walked through this unique village belonging to the Indo-tibetan Mishing tribe. The Mishing 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.

A bit of retail therapy helped the ladies from both parties. We wandered around the village ticking off some birds, like Crimson Sunbirds, White-throated Fantail, Shikra. As we headed back, heavy rain caught us up again. We took shelter for some time in the local school. As rain stopped, we headed back to the boat and ticked off Rosy Pipits and Eastern Yellow Wagtails close to the bank. We then boarded our country boat to sail back to Sukapha for breakfast.

We had a long sail today, as we had to cross the whole of Kaziranga before sunset. By lunch, we were close to Kaziranga. We all stood on the top deck, hoping to see some wildlife from the ship. Solitary male Water Buffaloes started showing up as we started crossing the reserve. Then we spotted a pair of One-horned Rhinos and two solitary ones; next we saw several Swamp Deer and a few Hog Deer. We ticked off Peregrine Falcons, Pallas' Fish Eagle and Imperial Eagles along the way. In the late afternoon, as we sailed, we saw that our boat was turning in a circle...we were grounded.... In spite of lot of wiggling around, we could not free ourselves, so we eventually dropped anchor and retired for the night hoping to be rescued next day.

Day 11

Tuesday 4th April

We waited till 9am for the rescue tug to arrive. After a lot of tactical manoeuvring, and tugging amidst some very heavy rain, eventually we got free from the bank.

By midday, we reached Silghat and moored along a pontoon. We would be here for next three days. After lunch we boarded our waiting buses and drove to Bagori Range for our first safari in Kaziranga. We left our boat and drove through the nearby tea garden. Babu and I had our eyes peeled, to see something something unexpected in the lush gardens. Within a few minutes, a yellow apparition was spotted walking with her head high behind the tea bushes. It was a Tigress..... she sat down when we stopped our bus. What an incredible sight. The magnificent creature sat on her haunches and kept looking at us 100 metres away. She then laid down on the ground, rolled around, gave such magnificent views to all of us. We stood on the tarmac snapping away. After a few minutes, she got up and slowly disappeared into the brush. Wow! Those who had missed the Tiger in Sunderbans, now had their fill.

We then drove one hour and met our safari vehicles, waiting for us at the gate of the reserve. Within a few minutes of us entering, we started getting good numbers of Rhinos. Many were seen with young calves. Some even came up few meters from us. Scores of Buffaloes grazed in the distance along with Swamp Deer and Hog Deer. The Silk Cotton Trees had pods on them now, which attracted a few birds. Several parakeets had already been breeding and were flying around the nesting holes. An Indochinese Roller, put up a great show, sitting very close to the car, not bothered about us at all. We even spotted a few Tokay Geckos roosting in the cracks of a Giant Strangler Fig tree. We reached the Donga watchtower from where we counted up to 30 Rhinos. "What a conservation success story". We left the park at sun down and then drove back to Sukapha. What a day for all of us....

Day 12

Wednesday 5th April

Today we left very early after some coffee and mini sandwiches. We had a long drive to the Central gate of the park. After almost 1.5 hours, we reached Kohora, where we had some picnic breakfast at a parking area. We drove in the park in convoy. Even though the sky stayed a bit gloomy, we didn't get any rain. The grass had all been burnt and fresh shoots were growing, the herbivores were having a good time. At the Daflang tower, we saw a mother Elephant and her calf swimming across the lake. The other highlights today were, a Bengal Monitor Lizard, A Burmese Reticulated Python. We left the park and got caught in a traffic jam for a while, then stopped at shop selling some great tea. We drove back to Sukapha for lunch. We ended the day with another hazy sunset. There was some entertainment in store for us... before dinner a bunch of local youths arrived in traditional Bihu dress and gave a thoroughly entertaining performance of their traditional dance and music.

Day 13

Thursday 6th April

We set off for a half hour drive to the western most Range of the park, the Burrapahar. On the way, we stopped at the tea garden, and saw Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Common Hill Mynas and a Green-billed Malkoha. Burrapahar range is visited by fewer tourists, but as some parts of the park were closed for the visiting President of India, we saw more vehicles than usual. We ticked off a flock of Little Swifts near the gate. As we drove in, we scared a wallowing Rhino, who wandered off in a huff. We stopped at the lake and spotted a pair of Wreathed Hornbill, feeding in the distant tree. This is the most scenic part of the park. We then stopped at the camp on the river side

for a bit of leg stretch. We then headed off in a different route. As we passed the hill, two families of gibbons started to sing. What a lovely sound... it travelled well in the wind. We spotted more birds and some magnificent male Rhinos. Some of whom decided to showcase their running skills.

In the late afternoon, some of us went for a visit to the nearby village and entertained the local population.

Day 14

Friday 7th April

Today we had a long day ahead. We set off for a long drive for Agratoli range. As we approached Kohora, we were stopped by the security on the highway and had to wait for a few minutes for the President's cavalcade to pass. Then we reached the gates, and after breakfast, we drove in. On the large wetland at the entrance to the park were some waterbirds: Spot-billed Duck, a selection of herons and egrets, Bar-headed Geese, Black-necked Storks, Shovelers, Gadwalls and Wigeons. Grey-headed Fish Eagles were sitting close to the road. On our return trip, things got more interesting, as we spotted a pair of Great Hornbills. We then spotted a family of Elephants crossing the lake while feeding on succulent aquatic grass. They wiggled their trunk to wash off the mud and then put them in their mouth. A bull Elephant meanwhile was lurking in the forest next to us with intent to cross over to the water. But he had spotted the other big bull with family and was very nervous. Eventually he took a wide berth and took flight. After the ride, we headed to Diphlu River Lodge for some lunch. The superb outdoor lunch was organised by the lodge. But before we could even look at lunch, we saw the magnificent Elephant Laxmi Purnima and her mahout waiting for us on the bank of the canal nearby. She needed to be scrubbed and washed, so some of us quickly waded into the thigh-high water with some tufts of grass to use as scrubs. They went about scrubbing as if they have done it many times before! Ears, toes, foot pads and trunk were all scrubbed with earnest, until we thought Laxmi would never have enough of this, and we retreated to dry ground! After a great lunch, a cup of tea, we left for Sukapha. We drove through the tea gardens again and saw the ladies plucking tea. Two busses stopped for photos, while one kept driving. And lo and behold, there was a Tiger standing on the curb. She took a step back hoping we would pass. But we stopped for photos...she sat down 20 ft away from us being very patient but glaring at us tourists. We called the other two buses. When they arrived, the Tigress slunk into a bush and waited for us to go away. But we had more patience, eventually she came out and walked behind our bus and past the tea planters and crossed the road. Oh, what a sight.....

We drove off to catch the boat which waiting to sail. No one would stop smiling today.

Day 15

Saturday 8th April

We set off after an early breakfast. We boarded our buses and drove an hour through the Tejpur City. We drove past all the Rhesus Macaques along the road and reached a small camp where we had a cup of tea, used the facilities and drove another 20 minutes to our rafting point. We boarded our rafts and bobbed down the river Jia Bholeli. We ticked off small flocks of Small Pratincoles, pair of Great Thick-knees, River Lapwings, Assam Roofed Turtles, and several flocks of bee-eaters as we sailed down. With wet bottoms, and sandy feet, we came ashore after two hours. We then boarded our buses back to the lodge, to clean up and nourish ourselves with bananas and juice. Later we drove back to the boat and set sail downstream. At 3:30, a session was organised to introduce us to the Indian spices, by BK & Romeet. A demonstration of cooking chicken and roti making was also given. As light fell, we chose a sandy beach to moor for the evening. After lot of manoeuvring, we managed to get the mooring right. As pratincoles hawked insects in front of the boat, the crew setup a bar-b-que station on the beach.

Dinner involved, starry sky, music, kababs, demonstration in making of naan bread, plenty of alcohol and a campfire on the beach.

Day 16

Sunday 9th April

Today we started sailing at 5:30 am. We sailed through the abstract landscape in the mist till 8:30. As we came to the Kataguri Village, we took the country boat and went ashore. It was a very small habitation. As we landed, we saw people carrying household items on their head and shifting them elsewhere. It turned out that the river has been eating into their land and has now arrived right at their doorstep. The land here is fertile, and every open space was cultivated with corn, cabbage, watermelon, chillies, and pumpkin. We walked along followed by curious kids. We spend a few hours checking out the little goats and their freshly harvested peanuts. We returned to our boat and set sail again. By 3:30 we sailed past Guwahati and reached a village called Sualkuchi. This is a village setup 11th century, by King Dharma Pala with a group of silk weavers. We went ashore and boarded our waiting e-tuk-tuks and drove in a snake like convoy through the narrow village lane. We stopped at a sericulture farm, and was introduced to the three different kind of silkworms, namely Golden Muga (*Antheraea assamensis*), White Pat (*Bombyx textor*) & Warm Eri or non-violent silk (*Samia cynthia ricini*) silks. We then reached a home of a weaver, where live weaving was happening and with some demonstration of silk extraction process. Thereafter, we headed back to our boat and sailed upstream, closer to Guwahati and dropped anchor for the last time. Small flocks of ducks flew past and a pair of dolphins appeared to say goodbye in the failing light.

At gala dinner, all 23 crew members were introduced to us. Many of whom we had never met seen until now. The journey would have been incomplete without these hidden treasures of Sukapha.

Day 17

Monday 10th April

We sailed early morning and moored along the pontoon at Pandu Ghat. We got off to visit the Kamakhya Temple, in the Guwahati City, set up on the Nilachal Hills. It is one of the oldest and most revered centres of Tantric practices. It's an old sacrificial site for an Austroasiatic tribal goddess Kameikha (old-cousin-mother) of the Khasi and Garo people. The site goes back to 350-650 AD., while the current temple structure dates back to 8-9th Century. But has been rebuilt several times. The obscure place of worship for much of its history it became an important pilgrimage destination, especially for those from Bengal in the 19th Century. We drove for 15 minutes and walked through the noisy and busy lanes and climbed up the steps to reach the temple complex. Shoes off and a walk around the premises was next. We mingled with the several devotees, who had queued up to get a glimpse and ask for favours from the Goddess. We then returned to Sukapha for the last time. After breakfast we said goodbye to the six who left for Manas, under the leadership of Imran. While the rest of us left after a 'light' lunch at 11:30. We said goodbye to the crew and then we stopped on the way at the Holi grail (the Gorchuk Rubbish tip) to have a look at the Greater Adjutants. As our senses were overcome by olfactory overload, we decided to say goodbye to Assam.

We reached Taj gateway in Kolkata at 5:30pm.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	March – April 2023															
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>											✓					
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>		✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓			
Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>							✓				✓					
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>											✓	✓	✓			
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>								✓		✓			✓	✓		
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>										✓						
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>								✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>													✓			
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>									✓	✓		✓	✓			
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>										✓			✓			
Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>									✓	✓						
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>										✓			✓			
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>								✓						✓		
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓						✓		
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>												✓	✓			
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>		✓						✓								
Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>							✓				✓	✓				
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	H	✓		✓				H			✓					
Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>															H	
Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>														✓		
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>								✓				✓				
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓					
Red Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>						✓	✓				✓		✓			
Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>			✓	✓												

Common name	Scientific name	March – April 2023															
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	Treron phoenicopterus			✓	✓						✓	✓		✓			
Green Imperial Pigeon	Ducula aenea									✓				✓			
White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		
Grey-headed Swampphen	Porphyrio poliocephalus						✓	✓	✓								
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus							✓	✓				✓	✓			
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis								✓								
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus								✓								
Great Stone-curlew	Esacus recurvirostris									✓					✓		
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	✓															
River Lapwing	Vanellus duvaucelii												✓		✓		
Grey-headed Lapwing	Vanellus cinereus										✓						
Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Pacific Golden Plover	Pluvialis fulva							✓									
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius								✓							✓	
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirurgus													✓			
Bronze-winged Jacana	Metopidius indicus				✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Eurasian Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus		✓														
Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata	✓	✓						✓								
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago							✓	✓								
Greater Painted Snipe	Rostratula benghalensis										✓						
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos		✓	✓					✓								
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus													✓			
Common Redshank	Tringa totanus		✓	✓													
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis											✓					
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia							✓			✓	✓		✓			
Small Pratincole	Glareola lactea								✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Brown-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus		✓							✓	✓						
Pallas's Gull	Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus		✓														
River Tern	Sterna aurantia										✓	✓					
Asian Openbill	Anastomus oscitans	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus											✓	✓	✓			

		March – April 2023															
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>										✓						
Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>							✓							✓		
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>										✓			✓			
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>							✓				✓		✓			
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>											✓					
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>							✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>							✓	✓				✓				
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>								✓		✓						
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>									✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>							✓		✓					✓		
Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>			✓									✓				
Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>										✓			✓			
Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>									✓	✓						
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>			✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓													
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>								✓			✓					
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>													✓			
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>									✓	✓						
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>				✓					✓	✓			✓			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>													✓			

Common name	Scientific name	March – April 2023															
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>											✓	✓				
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>											✓					
Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus [migrans] lineatus</i>												✓	✓	✓		
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>		✓														
Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>									✓	✓	✓		✓			
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓			
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								✓					✓	✓		
Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>							✓				✓		✓			
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			✓			
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>										✓	✓	✓				
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>											✓		✓			
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>											✓		H			
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>												✓	✓			
Black-billed Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>							✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			
Brown-winged Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis amauroptera</i>		✓	✓													
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>		✓	✓													
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓												
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓	✓	✓									✓	✓		
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>											✓	✓	✓			
Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>						✓		✓				✓	✓	✓		
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>						✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>							✓					✓	✓		✓	
Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Psilopogon duvaucelii</i>							H					H				
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>												✓				
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i>			✓								✓					

Common name	Scientific name	March – April 2023															
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	✓		✓	✓							✓					
Greater Yellownappe	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>							✓									
Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>		H														
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓	H								✓						
Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>		H										✓	✓			
Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>			✓													
Pied Falconet	<i>Microhierax melanoleucos</i>											✓					
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>							✓			✓			✓			
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓							✓							
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>							✓									
Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>										✓	✓		✓			
Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>							✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>										✓			✓	✓		
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>											✓					
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>		✓	✓													
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>		H	✓				✓		✓							
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓												
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>							✓					✓				
Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>							✓									
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melaschistos</i>							✓									
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>			✓					✓				✓				
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>											✓	✓	✓			
Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>							✓									
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓	✓									✓	✓				
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

		March – April 2023															
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus											✓	✓				
Bronzed Drongo	Dicrurus aeneus		✓	✓				✓					✓	✓			
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus remifer												✓				
Hair-crested Drongo	Dicrurus hottentottus							✓				✓	✓	✓			
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus paradiseus												✓				
White-throated Fantail	Rhipidura albicollis									✓							
Black-naped Monarch	Hypothymis azurea			✓													
Rufous Treepie	Dendrocitta vagabunda		H						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
House Crow	Corvus splendens	✓						✓	✓	✓						✓	
Eastern Jungle Crow	Corvus leuclantii							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Indian Jungle Crow	Corvus culminatus	✓	✓	✓													
Mangrove Pitta	Pitta megarhyncha		H														
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	Culicicapa ceylonensis							✓									
Cinereous Tit	Parus cinereus						✓		✓							✓	
Bengal Bush Lark	Mirafra assamica									✓							
Sand Lark	Alaudala raytal								✓	✓						✓	
Black-crested Bulbul	Pycnonotus flaviventris												✓				
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus			✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-throated Bulbul	Alophoixus flaveolus							✓									
Black Bulbul	Hypsipetes leucocephalus													✓			
Grey-throated Martin (Plain M)	Riparia chinensis								✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia													✓	✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	✓															
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus affinis								✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Dusky Warbler	Phylloscopus fuscatus								✓			✓					
Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopus trochiloides			✓	✓												
Striated Grassbird	Megalurus palustris							H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H		

		March – April 2023															
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Plain Prinia	Prinia inornata																
Common Tailorbird	Orthotomus sutorius			✓	✓				✓	✓			✓				
Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	Macronus gularis		H										H				
Chestnut-capped Babbler	Timalia pileata											H					
Abbott's Babbler	Malacocincla abbotti													✓			
Puff-throated Babbler	Pellorneum ruficeps											✓					
Dark-necked Tailorbird	Orthotomus atrogularis							H									
Jungle Babbler	Argya striata	✓		✓	✓											✓	
Indian White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus	H		✓						✓				✓			
Common Hill Myna	Gracula religiosa												✓				
Great Myna	Acridotheres grandis									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Jungle Myna	Acridotheres fuscus			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bank Myna	Acridotheres ginginianus										✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pied Myna (Asian Pied Starling)	Gracupica contra							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Chestnut-tailed Starling	Sturnia malabarica				✓				✓		✓	✓		✓			
Oriental Magpie-Robin	Copsychus saularis	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
White-rumped Shama	Copsychus malabaricus							✓						H			
Taiga Flycatcher	Ficedula albicilla											✓					
Little Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula westermanni							✓									
Asian Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa dauurica			✓													
Magrove Whistler	Pachycephala cinerea			H													
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros											✓	✓				
Siberian Stonechat	Saxicola maurus								✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Golden-fronted Leafbird	Chloropsis aurifrons							✓					✓				
Orange-bellied Leafbird	Chloropsis hardwickii							✓									
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Dicaeum cruentatum			✓									✓				
Purple Sunbird	Cinnyris asiaticus			✓	✓					✓						✓	
Loten's Sunbird	Cinnyris lotenia			✓													
Crimson Sunbird	Aethopyga siparaja									✓							
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	

Common name	Scientific name	March – April 2023															
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Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>							✓		✓							
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>								✓			✓					
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>				✓												
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>									✓							
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>									✓		✓	✓	✓			
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>				✓						✓		✓	✓			
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>											✓	✓	✓			
Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>									✓	✓	✓					

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	March – April 2023															
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>								✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Wild Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Chital (Chital)	<i>Axis axis</i>		✓	✓													
Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Southern Red Muntjac (Indian M)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>							✓				✓		✓			
Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	<i>Rucervus duvaucelii</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>											✓	✓				
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Small Asian Mongoose	<i>Urva javanica</i>										✓						
Indian Rhinoceros (Greater O-h R)	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓			
Rhesus Monkey (R Macaque)	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Capped Langur	<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i>							✓					✓				
Western Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Hoolock hoolock</i>							✓					H				

Common name	Scientific name	March – April 2023															
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hoary-Bellied / Irrawaddy Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>								✓			✓		✓			
Orange-Bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>							✓									
Black Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>							✓									
Himalayan Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops mccllellandii</i>													✓			
Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>		✓	✓							✓			✓			
Ganges River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>									✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	March – April 2023															
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<i>Varanus salvator</i>		✓	✓								✓	✓				
Northern house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus flaviviridis</i>		✓	✓													
Bengal Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>											✓					
Tokay Gecko	<i>Gekko gekko</i>										✓		✓				
Spotted Pond Turtle	<i>Geoclemys hamiltonii</i>													✓			
Narrow-headed soft shell turtle	<i>Chitra chitra</i>									✓							
Burmese Python	<i>Python bivittatus</i>											✓					
Assam Roofed Turtle	<i>Pangshura sylhetensis</i>									✓			✓	✓	✓		
Oriental Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>												✓				