

India's Wildlife - A Photography Tour

With Chambal & Bharatpur Extension

Naturetrek Tour Report

25 October - 5 November 2017



Gharial



Black-bellied Tern



Jungle Cat



White-eyed Buzzard

Report and images by Aditya Panda



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Tour participants: Aditya Panda (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Wednesday 25th October

In flight

Group members boarded their overnight British Airways flight at London Heathrow Airport for Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

Day 2

Thursday 26th October

New Delhi

The flight landed 20 minutes early at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, and we met Aditya in the international arrivals lounge. We boarded our coach around 10am and drove to the Holiday Inn. After freshening up, we had a sumptuous lunch from an extensive buffet, over which we got to know each other better. After lunch, we relaxed for a bit before boarding our coach again for Delhi's Nizamuddin Railway Station. Here we had a half-hour wait before our train arrived and we used the time to photograph the chaotic, colourful and fascinating way of life in India, which was quite overwhelming, particularly for the India 'first timers' in our group.

At 5pm we boarded the MP Sampark Kranti Express to our destination; Katni, a small station on the line to Jabalpur. We had comfortable sleeper berths with fresh linen in air-conditioned carriages. After chats and laughs, we had an early dinner that we had carried with us from Delhi, and then retired early. We were to arrive at sunrise the next morning at Katni.

Day 3

Friday 27th October

Katni - Bandhavgarh

Our train chugged into Katni Junction on schedule. We had slept surprisingly well despite this being a first experience for some of us. A company representative was waiting on the platform with porters to receive us. We walked out to the parking lot where two comfortable, chauffeured Toyota vehicles waited for us.

The drive from Katni to Bandhavgarh was a comfortable two-hour drive through scenic countryside. We arrived at our destination, Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge, around 9am. We received a briefing before going to our cozy, aesthetically-done cottages to unpack and shower before meeting over breakfast.

After breakfast we wandered about the property, which is located next to Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, and engaged in some birdwatching. The highlight was a very cooperative Tickell's Blue Flycatcher. We were then briefed about Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, our preferences and safari goals were shared, and expectations were set for the thirteen game drives that we were to have here. This being a photography tour, a presentation was given on the quirks and challenges of wildlife photography in an Indian jungle scenario. Best camera settings were discussed and tips and tricks were shared from experience. We then had lunch and got ready for our maiden game drive at 2.30pm.

All of us had our game drives booked in the Tala zone this afternoon. Our group of seven was divided into three safari vehicles: light, agile and quiet petrol driven 4x4s called Maruti Gypsies. We had a nice introduction to the park, its topography, flora and fauna. Cameras clicked at everything that moved, though because of the overcast weather, not much moved this afternoon. Yet, we saw herds of Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer, Langur Monkeys, Rhesus Macaque, Wild Pigs and the majestic Indian Gaur.

We heard the promising alarm calls of Spotted Deer and Langur Monkeys, indicating the presence of a predator. We had seen the pugmarks of a Tigress close to that area earlier on our drive, but the sun sets early at this time of the year and we had to leave and head back.

Having carried all the park's dust back with us to the lodge, we went to our rooms for a shower - but not before a cup of tea. We met later for dinner and to complete our species checklist.

Day 4

Saturday 28th October

Bandhavgarh

We got into our Gypsies at 5.30am after early morning tea and biscuits. The clear skies were letting the early winter chill set in, and we had blankets in the Gypsies. All of us were in the Magdhi zone this morning. Besides watching ungulates such as Spotted and Sambar Deer, we had many interesting new birds to watch and photograph. The winter migrants start arriving in India around this time of year and, sure enough, at a beautiful lake in the park we came across the first flocks of wintering ducks (Garganey, in this case) and what was probably the first Western Marsh Harrier seen in the park this winter. This harrier was giving a hard time to a flock of Little Grebes in the water, and we watched in awe at its aerobatics as it sortied around like a fighter plane trying to get its sights on its target, sending the grebes into panicked scoots. Another raptor, and a rather less elegant hunter, was a White-eyed Buzzard which we found on the ground in grassland as it walked around awkwardly trying to catch grasshoppers. A Grey Mongoose was another good addition to the list. Of Tigers, there were plenty of signs, but a sighting still awaited us.

On the afternoon game drive we were back again in the Magdhi zone. We found Tiger tracks and the forest rang with intense alarm calls, but alas, no cat sighting yet. A Tree Shrew was a new addition. On our way out of the park we had a brief, distant glimpse of a Sloth Bear as it disappeared into the sunset.

Day 5

Sunday 29th October

Bandhavgarh

We were in the picturesque Tala zone this morning. It was nice to spend a morning drive in this zone, which is the quintessential Bandhavgarh as shown in many television classics. The Bandhavgarh hill with an ancient fort atop, the smaller Bandheini next to it, and sprawling grasslands surrounded by beautiful Sal forest made for the perfect setting of typical central Indian tigerland. We went back to Tala in the afternoon as well. There was no Tiger action today, but we did have good sightings of the commoner mammals and steadily improved our bird list.

After breakfast we drove to the picturesque Rajbahera grassland, which has a bunded pool nearby and overlooks the hills. This is one of the best parts of the park to simply park in winter sunshine, turn the engine off and observe. Giving us company this morning, were vultures. While we could watch some of them soaring in the distance, near the cliffs of Bandhavgarh where they nest, just a few feet from us was a large flock of Indian Vultures that had come down for a drink. There were some squabbles before the thermals rose and got them airborne again. Amongst them was a Griffon Vulture, and perched on a treetop nearby was a Red-headed Vulture. We got some brilliant photographic opportunities as the sun was behind us and the vultures were in gentle golden light with the bluest of skies behind them.

Day 6

Monday 30th October

Bandhavgarh

While on the train to Katni from Delhi, Aditya had, in the course of conversation, mentioned to Wendy that in his experience, winter season tiger sightings in central India probably averaged around one in every five or six game drives. Alan gently reminded Aditya that this was our sixth drive, quickly adding “No pressure”. Aditya reminded him with a wink that that was only an *average* figure, as we boarded our Gypsies in the pre-dawn darkness.

Shortly, we were back in the Magdhi zone after clearing the usual permit checks, and picking up our spotter/park guide. Not too long after entering, we saw a lone Gypsy parked on a small bridge where the road crossed a stream. In an outstanding feat of spotting, they had picked up the white on the belly of a Tiger as it lay fast asleep under a bush over 100 metres away, despite the low light and mist! Many Gypsies had sped ahead of us, having totally missed seeing the Tiger. It was a large male. He was lying absolutely still as a log and there were no alarm calls or other signs. We anticipated that he would get up and move as the sun rose higher, as Tigers found asleep in the open early in the morning almost always do. Our three Gypsies positioned themselves at the best likely spots from which we expected to see him as he got up and walk in search of a more secluded, shaded place to nap through the day.

On the narrow bridge there was some chaos as Gypsies following us squabbled for space to get a glimpse of the sleeping Tiger's head, or now and then a flicking ear. We knew we might have to wait a good hour or more for it to be warm enough to make him uncomfortable and choose to move, so we decided to use that time birding the canopy above. Soon, most of the other Gypsies lost patience and drove on ahead further into the zone and it was just our three vehicles, along with a couple of others, which chose to wait for the Tiger in the hand instead of chasing the many in the bush! Our wait paid off. The occupants of the Gypsy on the bridge abruptly broke from bored silence into new commotion, and we knew that the Tiger was now waking up and probably already on the move. We held our positions, resisting the urge to drive back on to the bridge and see what was happening. Soon, we saw a massive head break the screen of Lantana, and an exceedingly handsome male Tiger walked towards us. He checked on his scent markings and continued walking towards the road. We hoped and expected that he might choose to cross the road, or better still, walk on it for a good distance, but he walked in the brush, parallel to us as we drove along, and then veered back into the forest. Our bush breakfast was particularly nice this morning, as everything always is after a Tiger sighting!

In the afternoon we were back in the Magdhi zone. Quite late in the evening, we again found the same male that we had seen in the morning, perched about fifty feet above us on a rocky hillock by the roadside. He did not

oblige us with as good a view as in the morning, but we didn't complain. It was a good day. We had finally earned our stripes!

Day 7

Tuesday 31st October

Bandhavgarh

Today was an easy day in the Tala zone again. The highlight of the morning safari was a Brown Fish Owl pair near a stream called Andhiari Jhiria. This area is frequented by Tigers and, sure enough, there were pugmarks from a family of a Tigress and about three cubs for quite a distance along the jeep track. Alarm calls were frantic and our hopes were high. We waited for a good hour, expecting the Tigers to appear from the patch of jungle on a hillside, but they chose to move further in. This was later confirmed by mahouts who had set out to track them on elephant back.

The afternoon drive threw little in the way of new species for the list, but we did get some nice opportunities to photograph Indian Grey Hornbills, that had so far eluded us. We also got to watch interesting feeding behaviour of a Sambar stag which was in a pool of water quite close to the road with its head fully submerged when we came upon him. He was feeding on aquatic plants and the water dripping off his muzzle every time he lifted his antlered head gave us some good pictures.

Day 8

Wednesday 1st November

Bandhavgarh

Wednesday is a half-day in the Tiger reserves of Madhya Pradesh, and the parks are closed for afternoon safaris. Our only game drive of the day was a morning drive in Tala zone. Every Gypsy is allotted a separate route through which it can enter a zone in the reserve. This is done to avoid overcrowding in any one part. Mark and Wendy were the lucky couple this morning as the route they were allotted brought them through a meadow where they spotted a young male Tiger in the grass. The rest of us saw a largish herd of Gaur with a lot of young calves. This was good news as Gaur had been brought back to Bandhavgarh through a reintroduction project from Kanha Tiger Reserve after Bandhavgarh's original Gaur population went extinct in the 1990s.

This being our last drive in the Tala zone, we decided to pay a visit to Sesh Saiyya; an ancient, 10th century statue of the Hindu god Vishnu lying down, his head shielded by the hood, a seven-headed cobra and the phallic statue of the Hindu god Shiva behind it. The drive to the statue goes up a hill and there are several ancient artificial caves that were used as stables and offices in the days when the Maharajas of Rewa held sway over the Bandhavgarh Fort.

A half-day gave us the opportunity for an afternoon siesta today, and everybody needed it after a hectic week of travel and safari. About 4pm we had a cup of tea and then went on a nature walk. Our lodge, being next to the park, gave us an opportunity to walk in the buffer zone of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, along a fence that has been erected to keep cattle out of the core area. This gave us an opportunity to watch birds on foot, observe tracks and signs, and get close to critters such as the Wandering Spider.

Around sunset, when it becomes too dangerous to walk (Tiger, Leopard and Sloth Bear frequently use these paths), we drove to a nearby village of the indigenous Baiga community; one of India's most primitive tribes and amongst the earliest human occupants of central India. We visited a Baiga family and it was a rare opportunity for us to get to know a totally different way of life. Not only was it cultural education, but the hospitality of the family we visited, the frugality of their consumption habits, and yet the health and contentment of the life they enjoyed, really touched us.

Back at the lodge in the evening, it was time for some wildlife conservation lessons and we watched 'The Truth about Tigers'; a hard-hitting film by Shekar Dattatri that raises the various conservation issues that Tigers face in India. We had a question and answer session on conservation issues, and long discussions on the subject over the dinner table.

Day 9

Thursday 2nd November

Bandhavgarh

We were in the Magdhi zone today. The morning game drive had the usual birding and small game sightings. Find of the morning was our first flock of Eurasian Teal, which looked like they had recently landed on their trip from Palearctic nesting grounds. There were Tiger signs everywhere, but none were spotted.

In the afternoon game drive, we followed Tiger tracks that we had seen in the morning, and were hoping to find one waking up from his midday nap and out on evening patrol. This particular Tiger was not to be seen either. Giving up, we headed in the general direction of the gate with a plan that we would wait and listen for alarm calls where we had seen other Tiger tracks. We saw fresh, new pugmarks - had he given us the slip? We headed back a short distance and tried for a Tigress from Tala zone who had started visiting this part of the park. Bingo! There she was, in the tall grass; a Tigress who had come to be known as Solo. Solo crossed a fire line about 200 metres from where we were parked and was briefly visible before disappearing into the jungle. The sun was going down and it was nearly time for us to leave. We had only a few minutes to wait for her to hopefully reappear on the other side of the patch of forest she had gone into. But we were unsure if we could make it there and back in time. Solo solved the problem for us. She decided to give us a show and actually appeared out of the forest near to where we were parked and contemplating. There was a narrow trough of water close to the road and Solo wanted to have a drink. She walked regally towards us and crouched to have a long drink. We could hear her tongue lapping up the water. There was just one other Gypsy besides ours, and we had her nearly to ourselves. After the drink, she leisurely got up and walked back towards the forest with a few audible grunts. "Show's over folks", she seemed to say!

Day 10

Friday 3rd November

Bandhavgarh

Our last game drive in Bandhavgarh was unusually quiet. We were in the Magdhi zone and the forest seemed to have gone to sleep this morning - as sometimes happens in the jungle. There were very few mammal sightings and surprisingly little bird activity as well. The day was saved by a very obliging Golden Jackal that we saw on our way out and which allowed us to take some nice photographs. Thus ended our week of safaris at Bandhavgarh.

Our bags were packed and ready when we went to have lunch, and our vehicles arrived to ferry us back to Katni Junction Railway Station. We experienced the scenes of an Indian Railways waiting room before we boarded the Mahakaushal Express, bound for Agra in northern India. After boarding and taking up our cabins, we completed the day's wildlife checklist and enjoyed the nice dinner that Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge had packed for us.

Day 11

Saturday 4th November

Agra

Our train was an hour late arriving at Agra Cantonment Railway Station. It took us a while to adjust again to crowds, the urban setting and the smog and haze, which were in stark contrast to the clear blue skies of central Indian tigerland.

We drove to our hotel for an elaborate breakfast and a wash and change. Our local cultural guide was waiting for us at the hotel. After breakfast we went to Agra Fort, whose history our guide explained to us in interesting detail. We then had lunch at a restaurant, before going to the Taj Mahal. Today a visiting head of state meant traffic was haywire in Agra, and the Taj Mahal had been shut to the public for several hours. This led to a long security queue to enter the Taj Mahal and a lot more visitors than usual. But the grandeur of the Taj Mahal wasn't diminished one bit and we spent ample time admiring it, learning about its history and taking photographs. We also managed some birding at the River Yamuna, on whose banks the Taj Mahal is situated.

As our day of sightseeing at monuments in Agra came to an end, it was also getting to the end of the main tour. We said goodbye to Mark, Wendy and Roy, who boarded the new Gatiman Express at Agra Cantt. This took them to Delhi in a record (by Indian Railways standards) 90 minutes, from where they would fly home.

The rest of us started the tour extension by travelling to Chambal Safari Lodge, a drive of about an hour and half from Agra. We checked into Chambal Safari Lodge, based around an erstwhile Zamindari state. With plans to start early the next morning with a river safari in the National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary, we had dinner and called it a night.

Day 12 / Extension Day 1

Sunday 5th November

Return to the UK / Chambal

Those on the Main Tour flew back to the UK, where the Main Tour ended. Meanwhile, for those on the Extension, a half hour drive took us from our lodge to the jetty, from where we boarded our boat for a river safari on what is considered to be India's cleanest river, the Chambal.

On the walk from the coach to the boat we photographed a Long-legged Buzzard and Indian Tent Turtles. Osprey, Marsh Harrier and a nesting pair of Bonelli's Eagles were other notable raptors seen this morning. River Terns, Black-bellied Terns, Pallas's Gulls, Little Ringed Plover and Egyptian Vulture were very approachable and added to our lengthening bird list, which also included a multitude of egrets, herons, storks and ducks.

As Tim mentioned this morning, a day on which one has seen two critically endangered species before breakfast could not possibly be anything but outstanding, and we were having such a day: the critically endangered Gharial

Crocodile and the Gangetic Dolphin had allowed us glimpses into their lives before breakfast. Mugger Crocodiles had also been more than obliging, as had the giant Indian Soft-shelled Turtles. As we docked our boat close to a sand bank to have breakfast, several Gangetic Dolphins kept popping up around us in every direction. It felt truly surreal!

We headed back to the lodge after what had been a lovely morning, and had lunch and some rest. At 4.30pm we had tea and then went for a nature walk around the property. We managed to get some good photographs of a pair of Spotted Owlets, a large flock of roosting fruit bats (Indian Flying Foxes), many scrub birds such as munias, babblers, thrushes, etc., and we disturbed some herds of Nilgai antelope and a few jackals.

It got dark early and we came back to freshen up and sip our gin and tonics while updating the checklist. After dinner we went for another short walk, hoping to see creatures of the night, and Carol helped us spot a Palm Civet up a tree!

Extension Day 2

Monday 6th November

Chambal

We went back to the river for another river safari. This morning we had what could qualify as the natural history moment of the trip. The following quote is David's entry in the Rare Sightings Register at Chambal Safari Lodge: *"Soon after the start of the boat ride we spotted a female Jungle Cat hunting on the bank. It was some time before she spotted us and disappeared into the undergrowth. We continued on our way until we heard the Jungle Cat mating calls. We caught glimpses of a large male and the female as they went about their business accompanied by a lot of cat noises. A once in a lifetime experience, lots of photos and sound recording."* It was a once in a lifetime experience indeed!

The rest of the morning was no less fantastic. We found an Osprey feeding on a kill, and got more photographs of Bonelli's Eagles. Mugger, Gharial and Gangetic Dolphins were seen again, and we also achieved our target of seeing an adult male Gharial - a very large specimen with the trademark 'ghara' at the end of its snout that gives the species its name.

Back at the lodge, we had lunch and packed our bags for Keoladeo National Park at Bharatpur, Rajasthan. It was a three-hour drive and it was dark by the time we checked in at the Birder's Inn at Bharatpur.

Extension Day 3

Tuesday 7th November

Bharatpur

We had an early breakfast at the Birder's Inn. Three tricycle rickshaws were waiting for us outside with our local bird guide. The national park was a five minute rickshaw ride away. Once inside, we spent our time covering distances on the rickshaw and intermittently getting off and birdwatching and photographing on foot. Bharatpur is a birdwatcher's paradise. The profusion of woodland, wetland and scrub birds here, and their approachability, is unmatched. Star sightings this morning included a pair of Sarus Cranes very close to our path, feeding together. Patient waiting allowed us to get a view of the famous dance of the Sarus - an incredible display of courtship that everybody strives to see but few are lucky, and that too from so close. A Marsh Harrier hunting

Coots thrilled us as much as a herd of deer or antelope fleeing a big cat would have. A troupe of Rhesus Macaques entertained us as they dived and swam in a pond.

Notable sightings on the afternoon excursion included Dusky Eagle-Owl, Greater Spotted Eagle, Greylag Geese, a very obliging Common Kingfisher, and a profusion of waders and ducks.

Extension Day 4

Wednesday 8th November

Bharatpur

This was our last morning of wildlife watching on the trip and we decided to carry a packed breakfast with us into the park. We slowly proceeded towards the area where we had seen a large flock of Greylag Geese the previous day, and had watched several ducks, egrets, herons, storks, passerines and some Scops Owls by the time we reached our spot by the geese flock. There was a platform overlooking the wetlands and we chose this to have a lovely breakfast in the pleasant sunshine as the geese did several fly-pasts. On our way back we had some very close views of a Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard and a Greater Spotted Eagle, which gave us some excellent portrait images of these species. Somehow, we hadn't seen any Green Bee-eaters here.

We headed back to the Birder's Inn as the day began to get uncomfortably warm, and had lunch. After lunch we were ferried to the railway station for our train to Delhi. As we waited on the pleasantly sparse and clean railway platform, we saw our Green Bee-eaters lined-up on wires!

The journey back to Delhi in our air-conditioned first class cabin was comfortable. Once at Delhi, we navigated peak traffic in our coach to the Hotel Holiday Inn, and then to the airport, from where we had a late night flight home.

Extension Day 5

Thursday 9th November

Return to UK

Our flight landed back in the UK, where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓											✓	
2	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>													✓	✓
5	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>													✓	✓
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>													✓	✓
8	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>								✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>												✓	✓	✓
10	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>											✓	✓	✓	
14	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>														✓
15	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>													✓	
16	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>											✓	✓	✓	
18	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>													✓	✓
19	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>		✓											✓	✓
21	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓		
22	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>													✓	
23	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>					✓		✓	✓					✓	
24	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>														✓
25	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>										✓			✓	✓
26	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>													✓	✓
28	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>													✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
30	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>								✓				✓	✓	
31	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>													✓	✓
32	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		✓												
33	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>										✓	✓			
34	Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>		✓							✓			✓	✓	✓
35	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>										✓		✓		✓
36	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>										✓				
37	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>												poss.		
38	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>											✓			
39	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓								
40	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			✓			✓								
41	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>						✓		✓						
42	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		✓				✓	✓							
43	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓											✓	✓
44	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>		✓		✓			✓							
45	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>											✓	✓		
46	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>													✓	✓
47	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciatus</i>											✓	✓		
48	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>		✓		✓	✓									
49	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>		✓	✓	✓										
50	Jungle Bush-Quail	<i>Perdicula asiatica</i>						✓	✓	✓						
51	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓						
52	Painted Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>						✓				✓				
53	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
54	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>													✓	✓
56	Brown Crake	<i>Amauornis akool</i>										✓				
57	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>						✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	
58	Grey-headed Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>													✓	
59	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>									✓				✓	✓
60	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>										✓			✓	✓
61	Lesser Florican	<i>Sypheotides indica</i>										✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
62	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>													✓	✓
63	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>										✓	✓	✓		
64	Great Stone-curlew	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>											✓	✓		
65	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>											✓	✓		
66	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>											✓	✓		
67	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>											✓	✓	✓	
68	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
69	White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>													✓	
70	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>											✓	✓		
71	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>											✓	✓		
72	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>											✓	✓		
73	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>											✓			
74	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>											✓	✓		
75	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>								✓						
76	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓									✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>											✓			
78	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>											✓	✓		
79	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>											✓	✓		
80	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		✓					✓		✓					
82	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>											✓	✓	✓	
83	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
84	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>													✓	✓
85	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>								✓	✓				✓	
86	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
87	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
89	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>								✓						
90	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>												✓		
91	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>				✓				✓						
92	Southern Coucal	<i>Centropus {sinensis } parroti</i>												✓	✓	✓
93	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	✓		✓				✓						✓	✓

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			27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
94	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>					✓									
95	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>			✓	✓			✓							
96	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓		
97	Dusky Eagle-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>												✓		
98	Savannah Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	✓													
99	White-rumped Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>													✓	
100	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓										✓	✓	
101	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	✓													
102	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
103	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>		✓		✓			✓					✓		
105	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
106	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
107	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
108	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>								✓						
109	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>										✓				
110	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>				✓										
111	Lesser Goldenback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>		✓				✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	
112	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓						
113	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>										✓				
114	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>												✓		
115	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>												✓		
116	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>										✓	✓			
117	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>										✓	✓			
118	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>							✓							
119	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓		
120	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					✓					✓				
121	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>		✓					✓							
122	White-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>												✓	✓	
123	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
124	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>			✓			✓								
125	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>		✓												

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126	Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>					✓		✓							
127	Rufous-fronted Prinia	<i>Prinia buchanani</i>		✓		✓										
128	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>										✓		✓	✓	
129	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>										✓	✓		✓	
130	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
131	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>												✓		
132	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>		✓			✓	✓								
133	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>												✓		
134	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
135	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>							✓	✓						
136	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>										✓				
137	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
138	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>														
139	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>					✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		
140	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>											✓			
141	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>						✓								
142	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>										✓	✓			
143	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
144	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>							✓							
145	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>				✓										
146	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>				✓										
147	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>												✓	✓	
148	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
149	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>		✓						✓	✓	✓				
150	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
151	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
152	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	
153	Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
154	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>								✓						
155	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>									✓	✓	✓		✓	
156	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
157	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>										✓	✓			

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158	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>											✓		✓	✓
159	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>													✓	
160	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>												✓		
161	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>				✓			✓							
162	Nutmeg Mannikin	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>											✓			
163	Tricolored Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>				✓										
164	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>														✓
165	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>							✓	✓						
166	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>											✓			

Mammals:

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>				✓		✓	✓							
2	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>											✓			
3	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
4	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
5	Common Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>	✓	✓												
6	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>		✓			✓									
7	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>			✓	✓				✓			✓	✓		
8	Sloth Bear	<i>Merursus ursinus</i>		✓				✓								
9	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>										✓				
10	Indian Tree Shrew	<i>Anathana ellioti</i>		✓		✓	✓									
11	Indian (Black-naped) Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>										✓				
12	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
13	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>										✓	✓			
14	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
15	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Axis axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
16	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>					✓									
17	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>										✓		✓	✓	
18	Indian Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓			
19	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓									
20	Indian Fox	<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>					✓		✓							

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Others:

1	Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>											✓	✓		
2	Gangetic River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>											✓	✓		
3	Marsh Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>											✓	✓		
4	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	✓	✓												
5	House Gecko species	<i>Hemidactylus spp</i>	✓										✓	✓		
6	Indian Tent Turtle	<i>Pangshura tentoria</i>											✓	✓		
7	Indian Soft-shell Turtle	<i>Chitra indica</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
8	a Giant Wood Spider		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
9	a Wolf Spider		✓	✓	✓	✓										
10	a Jumping Spider		✓													
11	a Funnel Spider		✓	✓	✓											
12	a Wandering Spider								✓							
13	a Dung Beetle			✓					✓							



Common Kingfisher



Tigress



Displaying Sarus Cranes