

India's Wildlife - A Photography Tour

With Chambal and Bharatpur extension

Naturetrek Tour Report

24 October - 4 November 2018



Big male Tiger in Bandhavgarh



Gangetic River Dolphin



Pied Kingfisher



Baby Gharial

Report and images by Anand Sinha



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Tour participants: Anand Sinha (leader) with four Naturetrek Clients

Summary

Starting in late October, we had a very successful photography tour to north India. On the first game drive in Bandhavgarh, having seen a lot of signs and tracks of the big cats, we narrowed down the area to a patch of forest where a Tigress had been seen on a kill that morning. After patiently waiting for some time, she came out in the opening and crossed the road. She went straight for water in the nearby stream, giving us great close-up views and wonderful images of her as she quenched her thirst.

On another occasion, a Tigress walked straight into a patch of light which was falling on the forest floor like a spotlight. The scene seemed to be an apt enactment of William Blake's poem 'Tyger Tyger burning bright'.

But the best sighting in Bandhavgarh happened right at the end. In the morning we found the dominant male Tiger of the area in the dense bushes, fast asleep and barely visible. In the afternoon, to our surprise, we found him still enjoying his slumber in exactly the spot. Then to our utter joy, this huge male Tiger stood up and walked in our direction as though it was scripted! We were so engrossed in our viewfinders that for one second, we forgot how close he had actually come to our jeep. Amazing!

As well as Tigers, in Agra we visited the recently cleaned Taj Mahal, at its shiniest best since it was built. At the Chambal river, the highlight was the Gangetic Dolphins: two small pods of them were very active around our boat in the evening. Finally, at Bharatpur we saw a great variety of migratory and resident birds.

An amazing tour full of wonderful photographic opportunities!

Day 1

Wednesday 24th October

In flight to Delhi.

Day 2

Thursday 25th October

Our overnight flight from UK arrived in Delhi on time and we were met by our tour leader Anand. After brief introductions we drove to the Holiday Inn hotel for a wash and change. We met again at lunch time and were briefed about the trip and the rest of the day's plan. We had some much-deserved rest before we left for Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station for our journey to a small station close to Bandhavgarh, named Katni. Delhi as usual was quite busy but we got some interesting shots of India at work.

We reached the station at 4.30 pm and were helped by porters with our luggage. The train was already at the platform and we boarded our reserved first-class cabin with four sleeper berths. The train departed on time. We were provided with packed dinner which we had around 7pm. After a brief conversation about the next day's plan, we went to sleep early.

Day 3

Friday 26th October

In the morning the train pulled into the Katni railway station just a few minutes late. We were met by the local representative who was already there with a team of porters. We left in two comfortable vehicles for the two-hour drive to our wildlife lodge in Bandhavgarh. The journey was smooth and very interesting. We got to see a lot of countryside and some of the buffer forest. On the way we also spotted some birds like the Indian Roller, White-throated Kingfisher, Eastern Cattle Egrets trailing the cattle, hovering Black-winged Kite etc. We reached the Bandhav Villas Lodge at 9am. The manager and his team welcomed us and we settled into our comfortable and spacious rooms. At 9:30 again we had a sumptuous breakfast and were briefed about the lodge and Bandhavgarh National Park. We were told about the different zones of the park, their terrain and the sightings that the naturalists had had in the last few days. There was also a briefing about the photography conditions and the correct equipment.

We had some rest before we left for our maiden game drive at 2 pm in the Tala zone of the park. It was such a beautiful area of the park. Being our first drive, we clicked everything that moved. Herds of Spotted Deer, Langur monkeys and Sambar deer were plentiful. We got news from one of the guides that a Tigress was seen in the morning with a kill in the area. We headed to the spot and learned from the mahouts that she was still there in the bushes nearby. It made sense to wait there. After a patient wait for nearly half an hour, one of the mahouts went in the bushes on his elephant. Tiger! Tiger! Tiger! As our driver exclaimed, a beautiful Tigress came out on the track and crossed right in front of our jeep. She seemed thirsty and headed straight to the nearby stream. Everyone made some beautiful pictures as she quenched her thirst for nearly 15 minutes. Everyone was over the moon, having scored the elusive stripes right on the first drive.

We returned back to the lodge around 6.45 pm. Later we met again for the checklist of the day, followed by a lovely dinner. Everyone was very happy about the sighting and excited about the next few days that we were there. After discussing the plan for the next day, we were off to sleep at 9.30pm.

Day 4

Saturday 27th October

The day started with 5.15 wake-up call. We had our morning tea and coffees and left for Magdhi zone. Due to the clear sky, the cold had set in and it was quite chilly; we felt comfortable with the blankets provided, though. As we went inside, we came across the enclosure where three sub-adult Tigers had been kept. Their mother had died and the cubs were rescued by the forest department. We saw two of the Tigers through the fence. After a nice breakfast inside the park, we approached a road where we got to know from another jeep that a Tigress had been briefly seen crossing the road. She was known to have cubs on the side where she went. With no other hints from the jungle we decided to wait there ourselves. But the Tigress seemed to have no reason to return back. We left the spot and exited the park. On the way out we had a sighting of a Golden Jackal.

After lunch we left for the park again at 2pm. Following the leads from the morning, we again tried the same area, hoping that the Tigress may have moved with the cubs in that area. But even after rigorous searching we got no hint of her movement. Coming down a small hill we had our first Gaur sighting of the trip. A lone female was browsing. We got good views but she was shy and we could not photograph her.

In the evening we got together again for the checklist and briefing for the next day, followed by a nice dinner.

Day 5

Sunday 28th October

After the morning tea and coffee we set off again at the same time. The morning was chilly, as usual. We were back in the Tala zone of the park. Following news from the previous evening from the guides, we headed straight to a road on a hillside. There was certainly a lot of Tiger movement in that area. Footprints of at least two different Tigers were on that road and also some fresh scat. But all this movement had obviously happened before we arrived. We stopped the engine to listen to what the jungle had to say. After a quiet stretch of around 10 minutes, the silence was pierced by a deep-throated alarm call of Langur monkeys. It came from probably 200 metres ahead of us. With wishful thoughts of maybe Tigers coming back on the road, we rushed to inspect. To our surprise there was already a jeep there. They said we missed a Leopard jumping off a tree by a millisecond. On close inspection with our binoculars we managed to spot the Leopard which had crouched low on the ground on hearing our vehicles. We kept a keen eye on him, but after some time he slowly slithered away into the dense thickets behind. Later on the drive we also saw a Ruddy Mongoose who was obliging enough to let us take some good shots.

Back at the lodge we had a freshly prepared lunch with a lot of local cuisines. In the afternoon we returned back to Tala zone. We took the same road where we had found the Tiger activity from the morning and had briefly seen the Leopard. There was no sign of either of the two in that area. It was still early in the afternoon, so we decided to drive around and return back at that spot later. We found a pair of Lesser Adjutant storks feeding in an open grassland area. There was also a Barking Deer seen, for the first time on the trip. As the sun started going down and guessing it to be the right time for predator movement, we went back on the same track as we started and to our great surprise found our Leopard sitting on a rock in the open. He was facing away from us but every now and then looked towards us. Although the light was not great, we managed some shots.

Day 6

Monday 29th October

Today we were in the Magdhi zone of the park. As we went past the enclosure, we saw one of the male sub-adults sitting right by the fencing. As we came out into the open area after the dense forest, we heard interesting bird calls from the grass. On closer inspection we found a flock of Common Quail. In fact, there were two flocks calling to each other alternately. It was indeed a very funny cacophony. We drove all around but, other than some random alarm calls, we didn't find anything. As the last move for the morning, we decided to check one particular waterhole. Even at the waterhole the jungle seemed to be dead quiet. Not even a leaf stirred.

The silence all of a sudden was pierced through a few shrill Spotted Deer calls. As we looked in that direction, a beautiful Tigress stood still at the edge of the forest. What was even better was that there was only one sunny spot with almost a spotlight effect, and this Tigress stood in the middle of that! Cameras were fired rapidly and everyone made some incredible shots. She came right out and walked parallel to our jeep. Crossing the road in front of us, she marked a tree and looked around. This was our second opportunity and all of us used it well. There was a waterhole next to the road and for some minutes she disappeared behind the dam wall. There were some Spotted Deer already drinking there and for a second we thought we might see some action. But the deer sensed her presence and left the spot. The Tigress reappeared and came down to drink. It was a sighting we would all remember. The group also saw a Red-headed Vulture for the first time which was very impressive.

In the afternoon we were in the same zone. We saw a White-eyed Buzzard sitting in the middle of a grassland feeding on something. Due to the grass, we could not see what it had killed but got some decent shots of the buzzard. There was no sign of any big cat movement in the area. And so we left the park. Back at the lodge we met again at 7.30pm for the checklist followed by dinner. Anand was carrying a UV torch with him and managed to find an Indian Red-tailed Scorpion (*Hottentotta tamulus*). It was incredible to see the scorpion glow under the UV.

Day 7

Tuesday 30th October

It was again a chilly morning and we were in the very picturesque Tala zone. In the Chakradhara grasslands we found a lot of vultures sitting on a dead tree. They were Indian Vultures. There was also one Red-headed Vulture amongst them. It seemed that previous evening they must have fed on carrion in the area. After leaving the vultures, we came across some very alert Spotted Deer. There were some more deer alarm-calling in the background and there seemed to be a definite predator movement. The alert deer herd also started running and scattering. Whatever the predator was, it never showed up but we could calculate its movement as the alarm calls went further and further away. There were no other sightings in the morning.

In the afternoon we returned to the Tala area. Thirty minutes into the drive, a jeep coming from the opposite direction informed us that they had seen a Tigress sitting on the road in front of them. A few minutes later she stood up and moved inside. This was a good lead and we rushed to the parallel road in the direction of her movement. After positioning ourselves, we sat quietly. A lone Red Junglefowl kept informing us about her presence. There was no doubt that the cat was in that patch but no one knew of her definite movements. But with no other news from anywhere else, we waited there itself. After 20 minutes of impatient waiting, the jungle came alive with Spotted Deer, Langur monkey, Junglefowl and Sambar deer all calling at once. Tiger! She came right where we had parked and walked in our direction. We all took some fantastic shots. Hearing the commotion other jeeps rushed to the spot. The Tigress continued walking on the track and this time the other jeep from our group was in the best position to get her head-on.

On the way out we found the vultures from the morning again. This time a lot of them were on the ground feeding on what looked like a Spotted Deer carcass. We left the park very cheerful.

Back at the lodge when we met again for checklist and dinner, our lodge naturalist, Ram, showed us some Fruit Bats feeding on the seasonal fruits.

Day 8

Wednesday 31st October

Today we were in the Tala zone. The jungle was pretty quiet this morning and we didn't get many promising signs of any big cat movement. We did see a nice herd of Gaur feeding. They had a young one amongst them and the herd seemed to be very protective about it. We also saw a pair of Ruddy Mongoose scratching the leaf litter, looking for food. Close to a thin stream of water we also found a pair of Emerald Doves. The light falling on them was excellent and we were mesmerised by the beautiful metallic colours on them.

The day being Wednesday, the park was closed so we had planned to go out birding. As we came out of the lodge, in the fields nearby we saw a pair of Golden Jackals and they both gave us some good shots. On the

birding front we did well, and found species like Long-tailed Shrike, Bay-backed Shrike, Southern Coucal, Spotted Owlet, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Red-wattled Lapwing, River Lapwing, White-throated Kingfisher, Common Kingfisher, Barn Swallows, White-eyed Buzzard, Racket-tailed Drongo and a few other species.

At the lodge after the checklist and dinner, we enjoyed a nice big bonfire.

Day 9

Thursday 1st November

Following the same drill, we all left for the park after fresh cups of tea and coffee. It was time for the Magdhi zone again. Driving all around the area, we found some Tiger tracks but there were no sign of the cat. After a while, we realised that we had not seen a jeep for quite long and this generally means that a sighting has held them all up. The search for jeeps or some news began. We found one of the jeeps itself. They reported seeing a male Tiger for about one hour but they said he was sleeping in the bushes and they only saw him every now and then when he moved. We went and found him exactly as described. By this time the sun was quite bright and we thought he was not going to move much. We left him and exited the park.

After lunch as we entered the Magdhi zone again; we drove around and decided to visit the male Tiger spot a bit later in the evening. When we reached there, to our surprise, the big boy was still fast asleep at the same spot. There seemed no other choice but to wait it out. We calculated the best position if we moved, and this placed us away from the other watchers. As he got up from the slumber, he choose our jeep to walk towards, almost as if it was all scripted. We kept firing our shutters as this big guy walked towards us. We almost forgot how close he was until we realised that we were even getting fine hair details in our shots! He was truly majestic and gave us the best shots of the trip. We followed him for another 20 minutes and he obliged us with several head-on and other behavioural shots. We left the park in complete awe of this beauty and memories that will remain forever etched in our minds.

At the lodge it was our last evening and the staff had a done a lovely dinner set up under a banyan tree. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening as we discussed the fantastic few days that we spent in Bandhavgarh.

Day 10

Friday 2nd November

It was our last morning in this wild paradise. The beautiful setting of the Tala area was just perfect to sum it all up. We checked all the promising spots for Tigers and Leopards but the jungle seemed very quiet. But having scored a perfect Tiger sighting last evening, we were enjoying the nature and the vibrant bird life that it has to offer. We had a sumptuous breakfast in the park and decided to visit the big Vishnu statue that everyone had seen in pictures. We began the climb as it is situated on a hill. On the way we also stopped at several 10th-century caves which hold a lot of Bandhavgarh history from the days of kings and maharajas.

During the climb we also saw a pair of stunning Malabar Pied Hornbills. The view on the way was also a sight to behold: literally bird's-eye view of the area we had driven in last one week. The old Vishnu statue itself is a great spot and everyone took some great wide-angle shots. We also found some Tiger scat close to it, reminding us that we were still in the big cat's domain.

We had lunch back at the lodge and some rest before our drive back to Katni railway station. The train was on time and with the help of the local representation and porters we boarded our first-class cabin. Our packed dinner was provided by the lodge which we had later.

Day 11

Saturday 3rd November

We woke up to the sights of the Indian countryside before the train arrived on time at the Agra Cantt station. It was quite a sight at the railway station, looking at the crowd hustling to get around. The sound and sights were a huge contrast to the quiet experience that we had for a week in the Central Indian Jungles. We drove to our hotel for a wash and change and a little later met for an extensive buffet breakfast. After breakfast, we met our local cultural guide and went to the Baby Taj, also correctly known as the Tomb of I'timad-ud-Daula. Everyone was impressed by the architectural details, the exquisite inlay work and beautiful paintings. Finishing at the Baby Taj, we then visited the formidable Agra Fort. Its commanding structure is mind-blowing and we saw all the major sections of the monument. From one area of the fort we had a very picturesque view of the Taj set on the side of the Yamuna river.

We then had lunch at a restaurant which we all enjoyed. By the time we finished there, it was just the perfect time to visit the Taj. With the help of the guide, the entry into the monument was smooth, although inside the premises was a bit crowded. The grandeur of the Taj was totally awe-inspiring. Taj had recently been treated by the 'mud-pack therapy' and this was the first time it had been done to clean the monument. It was at its shiniest best since its construction. Even the light was dramatic and with the setting sun it was crisp without the usual haze.

We finished the sightseeing in Agra and said goodbye to our cultural guide. This was the end of the main tour, but all of the participants were doing the Chambal and Bharatpur extension, so we left on the two-hour journey to Chambal Safari lodge. At the lodge we were welcomed by our naturalist Gajender. The lodge has been established at an old Zamindari estate and has this old-world charm. After checking into our individual cottages, we had dinner and called it a night.

Day 12 / Extension Day 1

Sunday 4th November

We woke up to the 5am wake-up call and the call of the peacocks on the estate. After our usual tea and coffee we left for the Chambal river. At the jetty there a boat was waiting for us, all geared up. The light in the morning was very good and we got incredible shots of numerous bird species like the Purple Heron, Grey Heron, Great Stone-curlew (also known as Great Thick-knee), Pied Kingfisher, various wagtails, Temminck's Stint, Kentish Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Small Pratincoles, Black-bellied Terns, River Terns, Osprey, Bonelli's Eagle nesting etc. Soon we also spotted our first highly endangered Gharial on the river bank. It was a small individual, yet a special one as there are very few left in the wild. Chambal river is one of the best habitats to see them. We also photographed numerous big and small Mugger crocodiles. Numerous species of turtles like the Indian Softshell Turtle, Tent Turtle and Indian Flapshell Turtle were also photographed.

We were also incredibly lucky to spot a pod of active Gangetic Dolphins, although the light had become a bit harsh and was not the best to photograph them. We returned to the lodge to enjoy our breakfast.

After lunch we returned back to the river for another river cruise. To start with, we spotted a huge male Gharial. Knowing their skittish behaviour, we all had good looks at it through our binoculars before it slithered into the water and disappeared. The pod of Gangetic Dolphins were soon found as well. This time we managed to spend a lot of time with them. They were more than obliging and breached several times next to our boat: some of us managed to click some shots of them out of the water. It was a superb feeling watching such a rare species up-close.

Extension Day 2

Monday 5th November

We did not have a very early start this morning as we had planned to do a walk in and around the estate. The day began with the Flying Foxes returning to their regular roosting spot on a tamarind tree. Everyone got some good shots in the first morning light as they squabbled for the right spot to sleep for the day. We saw hundreds of them on that single tree.

As the sun came up, we saw several birds like the Common Tailorbird, Purple Sunbird, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Large Grey Babbler, Jungle Owlet, Long-tailed Shrike, Black-rumped Flameback (also known as Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker), White-breasted Waterhen, several egrets and herons, coucals, Black-winged Stilts, White-throated Kingfishers etc. We also saw two Indian Hares and a few Nilgai (Blue Bull antelopes) on the estate itself. Outside the estate in a farmland we spotted a big flock of Rosy Starlings and several Yellow-footed Green Pigeons on a tree.

After an excellent lunch which was set up in the sprawling garden of the lodge, we said goodbyes and drove to our next destination, Bharatpur. It was the day of Dhanteras, the main shopping day before the festival of Diwali, and there was a lot of rush in the towns on the way. We reached Bharatpur in three and a half hours and checked into The Birder's Inn lodge.

Extension Day 3

Tuesday 6th November

We had an early breakfast at the lodge. There were two cycle rickshaws waiting for us outside and we left for the park in groups of two, while Anand was on his bicycle. The park is less than 500 metres from the lodge. Once inside the park, after completing the formalities, we started birding. We used the rickshaws to cover ground wherever it seemed empty and then got down where the bird concentrations were higher. The approachability of the birds was incredible. Bharatpur is like the bird watcher's Mecca. One can spot hundreds of both migratory and resident birds in a small area. Different waders, ducks, shrub birds, storks, cranes, pelicans can be seen and photographed. Some of the key species that were recorded were Osprey, Marsh Harrier, Crested Serpent Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Indian Scops Owl, Spotted Owlet, Asian Openbill, Painted Storks, Spoonbills, Black Stork, Grey-headed Swamphen (the species Purple Swamphen has now been split), Moorhen, Coots, Bronze-winged Jacanas, Common Snipe, Oriental Darters, several herons and egrets etc. A pair of Sarus Cranes were also spotted in the grassland.

We were supplied with packed lunch inside the park by the lodge which we enjoy by the side of a small pool. During lunch we were told by our local guide that at that same pool Darters hunt fish, and can be a good photography subject. We waited and were rewarded aptly. The Darter hunted several fish in front of us, every

time coming out with a small fish impaled in his beak which he flunked and then swallowed. This incredible feat was captured beautifully by Shaun.

There was also a big colony of nesting Painted Storks and we photographed them from a watchtower at eye level as they kept returning to their nests with twigs and branches. We also went to an area where pythons are known to bask in the open, but there were none when we were there, although we did see some huge snake scales which confirmed their presence. There was also a lot of Porcupine activity in the area. In the evening as the sun went down we positioned ourselves behind the nesting storks to get their silhouettes against the setting orange sun. This was beautifully captured by all of us.

Extension Day 4

Wednesday 7th November

It was our last morning of wildlife viewing on the trip. We were again back in the park on two rickshaws. Today we went to a completely different area where the migratory ducks had landed this year. The first bird that we encountered was a beautiful Eurasian Hobby. Once we reached the marshes, we were welcomed by several flying flocks of Lesser Whistling Ducks, cormorants and egrets. Important recordings included Spot-billed Ducks, Ruddy Shelduck, Ferruginous Duck, Greylag Geese, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Crested Honey Buzzard, Egyptian Vultures, Greater Spotted Eagle, Black Stork, Greater Painted-snipe, kingfishers, prinias and White-eared Bulbuls.

After lunch at the lodge, we left for Bharatpur railway station. With the help of the porters again we boarded the Golden Temple Express and settled down in our first-class coupe. It was the day of Diwali and, as it got dark, every single town and village that we passed though glittered with the beautiful light decorations. Once in Delhi, the traffic was one of the easiest to navigate through, because everyone was home celebrating the festival (although the air quality was terrible due to thousands of firecrackers everywhere!). We reached our hotel in no time and it was time to say goodbye to Anand. Another adventure had come to an end. After dinner we settled into our rooms and called it a night.

Extension Day 5

Thursday 8th November

After our breakfast we went to the airport for our flight back to the UK. We were assisted by the local representative. Our flight landed on time in the UK where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Painted Storks at sunset

Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	October - November													
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>										✓		✓	✓	
17	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>												✓		
18	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	
19	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>												✓		
20	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓		✓		✓			✓					
21	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>												✓	✓	
22	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>										✓		✓		
23	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>												✓	✓	
24	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>					✓							✓	✓	
25	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>												✓	✓	
26	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Knob-billed (Comb) Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>												✓		
28	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>												✓	✓	
29	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>												✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October - November													
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>													✓	✓
31	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>														✓
32	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>											✓		✓	✓
33	Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>							✓							
34	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		✓												
35	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓											✓	
36	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			✓							✓	✓			✓
37	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>							✓	✓		✓				
38	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>						✓	✓	✓						
39	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>													✓	
40	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>													✓	✓
41	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>			✓			✓				✓				
42	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>											✓			
43	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>													✓	✓
44	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciatus</i>											✓			
45	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>											✓			
46	Changeable (Crested) Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>			✓			✓			✓					
47	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>														
48	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>														✓
49	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>													✓	
50	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</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	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Grey-headed (Indian) Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus (split)</i>													✓	✓
58	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>													✓	✓
61	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>									✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	October - November													
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Great Stone-curlew (Thick-knee)	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>											✓			
64	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>											✓	✓		
65	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>								✓			✓			
66	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>						✓		✓						
67	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>											✓			
69	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>											✓			
70	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>													✓	
71	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>											✓		✓	
72	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>											✓		✓	
73	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>											✓			
74	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>											✓			
76	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>											✓			
77	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>											✓		✓	
78	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>											✓			
79	Rock Dove (Common Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>					✓			✓	✓					
81	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>													✓	✓
82	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
83	Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>								✓						
84	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>							✓			✓		✓	✓	
85	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
86	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
88	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>													✓	
89	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>									✓					
90	Southern (Greater) Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis parroti</i>							✓	✓			✓	✓		
91	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>					✓								✓	✓
92	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>				✓						✓				
93	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>					✓		✓	✓				✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	October - November													
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
94	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>								✓				✓	✓	✓
95	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
96	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>			✓				✓						✓	
98	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		
99	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓		✓									
100	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
101	Malabar Pied-hornbill	<i>Anthracosceros coronatus</i>											✓			
102	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>											✓			
103	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
104	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>											✓			
105	Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>											✓			
106	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>											✓			
107	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>								✓						
108	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>											✓			
109	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>								✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>											✓			
111	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓				✓		✓				
112	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>			✓		✓					✓				
113	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>							✓							
114	White-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>													✓	✓
115	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
116	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>		✓					✓	✓						
117	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>					✓									
118	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>												✓		
119	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>			✓										✓	✓
120	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>							✓							
121	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>											✓			
122	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>												✓		
123	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>								✓						
124	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
125	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>			✓											

	Common name	Scientific name	October - November													
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
126	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>			✓				✓	✓					✓	
127	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓		✓		✓							
128	Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>													✓	
129	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>					✓									
130	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>							✓							
131	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>													✓	
132	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
133	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>							✓					✓	✓	
134	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>													✓	
135	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>			✓											
136	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>							✓							
137	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>														✓
138	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
139	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>			✓					✓						
140	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
141	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
142	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus {macrorhynchos}culminatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
144	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>											✓	✓	✓	
146	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>											✓	✓	✓	
147	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>											✓			

Mammals

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓						
2	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>				✓										
3	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	'Northern Plains' Grey Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
5	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						
6	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓				✓	
7	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>						✓						✓	✓	
8	Indian Tree Shrew	<i>Anathana ellioti</i>									✓					
9	Indian or Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>										✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	October - November														
			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
10	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
12	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
13	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
14	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
15	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	
17	Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
18	Gangetic River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>											✓				

Reptiles

1	Marsh Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>											✓				
2	Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>											✓				
3	Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>											✓		✓	✓	
4	Indian Tent Turtle	<i>Pangshura tentoria</i>											✓				
5	Indian Softshell Turtle	<i>Nilssonina gangetica</i>											✓				
6	Unnamed Lizard	<i>Varanus griseus koniecznyi</i>					✓										
7	Water Snake species	<i>Natrix sp</i>															✓
8	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>					✓				✓					✓	✓
9	House Gecko species	<i>Hemidactylus or Gehyra etc sp</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

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