

# India - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BM)

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 - 21 March 2009

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Report compiled by Bharat Mandhyan (Bunty)

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Johan Eykmans  
Christine Hall  
James Blair  
Christopher Amos  
Catriona McKeane  
Andreas Mattle

## Day 1

**Friday 13th March**

Departed UK

## Day 2

**Saturday 14th March**

Weather: cool & hazy

Flight was on time, landed at 0930 hrs, picked up the guests from the airport, on arrival guests were checked in at Ashok Country Inn, for a wash & change. After having lunch at the hotel we were off to the railway station and boarded the overnight train to Katni, a packed dinner from Delhi was served on the train.

## Day 3

**Sunday 15th March**

Weather: warm and sunny

Reached Katni railway station early, and were transferred to Bandhavgarh. Checked into the Tiger Trails Resort, and after having breakfast everybody went for wash, to be fit and fine for the afternoon safari. Had a pleasant afternoon safari, mammals seen were Chital, Sambar, etc.

## Day 4

**Monday 16th March**

We went for both the morning and afternoon game drives, and the guests from one jeep managed to see a Tiger on the morning drive. Other mammals seen were Five Striped Palm Squirrel, Wild Boar etc. Had great bird sightings too - the main highlights were Lesser Adjutant Stork, Shikra, Crested Serpent Eagle etc.

## Day 5

**Tuesday 17th March**

Weather: cool in the morning and sunny later

We went for both the game drives, and two jeeps managed to see Tiger. Other mammals included Jackal, Wild Boar etc. Birds seen were, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, Coppersmith Barbet, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Yellow Crowned Wood-Pecker, etc.

**Day 6****Wednesday 18th March**

Weather: cool and dry

We went for both morning and evening drives. Again guests from one jeep saw a Tiger. Other mammals seen were Sambar, Chital and Wild Boar. Birds sighted were Red headed Vulture, Crested Serpent Eagle, Green Sandpiper, Common Hawk Cuckoo, Brown Capped Pigmy Woodpecker, Greater Racket tailed Drongo etc. Later in the day we watched a Folk-dance show.

**Day 7****Thursday 19th March**

In the morning drive everybody managed to see a Tiger! The afternoon drive was also wonderful. After having our dinner at the resort we left for the railway station and boarded the overnight train.

**Day 8****Friday 20th March**

We had our breakfast at Gwalior railway station and reached Delhi at 1500 hrs. We then decided to go to Okhla Barrage and experienced good birding. Then we checked-in at The City Park Hotel.

**Day 9****Saturday 21st March**

Breakfast was at the hotel, checked out at 0730 hrs, and we transferred to the airport for the departure to the UK.

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## Species Lists

### Birds

Nomenclature and taxonomy generally follows Grimmett and Inskipp's *The Birds of Northern India* (2003) which follows the treatments in *The Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (1999) by the same authors. Figures refer to the number of days the species was recorded out of the 7 days of the main tour

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>records</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1	
2	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	1	
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1	
4	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	3	
5	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	1	
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	
7	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2	
8	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	2	
9	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5	
10	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	5	
11	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	6	
12	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	2	
13	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	2	
14	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	5	
15	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	2	
16	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	2	
17	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	1	
18	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	2	
19	Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	2	
20	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	2	
21	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	2	
22	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	1	
23	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	1	
24	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	1	
25	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	2	
26	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	2	
27	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	3	
28	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	4	
29	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	3	Often abundant in urban settings, especially common in Delhi, but much scarcer or even absent in more rural areas
30	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	3	
31	Black-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	4	
32	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	5	
33	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1	
34	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela cheela</i>	4	
35	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1	
36	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	2	Quite common and widespread
37	White-Eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	1	
38	Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatu</i>	2	
39	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>records</b>	<b>Location</b>
40	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	1	
41	Jungle Bush-quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>	1	
42	White-Breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	1	
43	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	1	
44	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	Reasonably common at suitable waterbodies
45	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	2	
46	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	4	
47	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicecemus</i>	1	
48	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	1	
49	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus indicus</i>	6	Very common, widespread and noisy
50	White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	1	
51	Little-ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	1	
52	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	1	
53	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	
54	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	1	
55	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	1	
56	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	2	
57	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	4	
58	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	2	
59	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	2	
60	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	1	
61	Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyæetus</i>	1	
62	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>	1	
63	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	1	
64	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia neglecta</i>	3	
65	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2	
66	Eurasian Collard Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaoto</i>	3	
67	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	5	Fairly common
68	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	2	Common and very widespread
69	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera phoenicoptera</i>	4	
70	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	4	
71	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	6	Common and widespread, one of very few species seen every day
72	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	3	
73	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	2	Regularly encountered in a range of scrubby and grassland settings
74	Brown-Fish Owl	<i>Keputa zeylonensis</i>	3	
75	Mottled Wood-owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>	1	
76	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium</i>	2	
77	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama indica</i>	2	
78	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	3	
79	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne corona</i>	3	
80	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	3	

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>records</b>	<b>Location</b>
81	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i>	2	
82		<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	5	Common and very widespread, a frequent sight on roadside wires
83	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	1	
84	Green Bee-Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	5	
85	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis benghalensis</i>	5	Frequently seen, often along roadsides
86	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1	
87	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	3	Small numbers were seen at most wooded or parkland sites
88	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>	1	
89	Brown-Headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	2	
90	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	2	Quite common, though much more often heard than seen,
91	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	1	
92	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis pallescens</i>	2	
93	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	4	The commonest and most widespread woodpecker with records coming from all wooded locations
94	White-Naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	2	
95	Indian Bushlark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>	1	
96	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopternix grisea</i>	1	
97	Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	1	
98	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	1	
99	Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	1	
100	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundu rustica</i>	2	
101	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundu smithii</i>	2	
102	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	2	
103	White Wagtail	<i>Motallica alba</i>	3	
104	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motallica madaraspatensis</i>	1	
105	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motallica citreola</i>	1	
106	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motallica flava</i>	2	
107	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motallica cinerea</i>	4	
108	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	1	
109	Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	1	
110	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2	
111	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	1	
112	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei macei</i>	4	
113	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	2	
114	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	6	Very common and widespread
115	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	1	
116	Golden-Fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	1	
117	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	2	
118	Blue Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	1	

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>records</b>	<b>Location</b>
119	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	1	
120	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1	
121	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	1	
122	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inomata</i>	1	
123	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	1	
124	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	1	
125	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	3	Widespread in small numbers with birds recorded at all sites
126	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	2	
127	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	3	
128	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	2	
129	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia</i>	2	
130	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	2	
131	Red-Throated Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	6	
132	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	4	
133	Black-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	1	
134	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulica</i>	3	
135	Black Redstart	<i>Phoeicurus ochruros</i>	2	
136	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	1	
137	Indian Chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	1	
138	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	1	
139	Black-Naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	1	
140	Puff-throated babbler	<i>Pellomeum ruficeps</i>	2	
141	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperytha</i>	2	
142	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	1	
143	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	1	
144	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	6	Generally common and widespread
145	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>	1	
146	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>	1	
147	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	5	Present throughout at low densities
148	Thick-Billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	3	
149	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	1	
150	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	4	
151	Black-Hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	4	
152	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	2	
153	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	1	
154	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	4	
155	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	4	
156	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	5	Very common, a frequent site on roadside wires
157	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>	2	
158	Greater Racket-Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	2	
159	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta agabunda</i>	5	Widespread at fairly low densities
160	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens splendens</i>	3	common around settlements, but less frequently

	Common Name	Scientific Name	records	Location
				seen in wooded areas
161	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus</i>	6	Generally found in more wooded settings than the last species, though with some habitat overlap, and never in such large concentrations
162	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	2	Rather localised, sometimes the dominant myna but generally scarce and heavily outnumbered by Common Mynas
163	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i>	6	Ubiquitous
164	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	2	Common in the vicinity of water
165	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>	3	
166	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus (indica group)</i>	3	Fairly common in most urban settings and in some more rural areas
167	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	4	
168	Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	1	
169	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	6	Rather common and widespread though some of those seen in more urban areas were presumably of semi-feral origin
170	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	3	
171	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	4	
172	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	2	



	Common Name	Scientific Name	records	Location
<b>Mammals</b>				
1	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macca mulatta</i>	3	Fairly common and widespread
2	Hanuman Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	6	Fairly common and widespread, commoner in heavy woodland than the previous species
3	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	5	
4	Chital	<i>Cervus axis</i>	5	
5	Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	2	
6	Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	5	
7	Common Jackal			
8	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	5	
9	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	1	
10	Five-Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>	6	
11	Theobald's Tomb Bat	<i>Taphozous theobaldi</i>	1	
12	Indian Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus coromandra</i>	3	
13	Intermediate Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus affinis</i>	1	
14	Indian Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	2	

**Reptiles**

1	Indian Mud Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	1	
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