

India - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BM)

Naturetrek Tour Report

27 December 2010 - 2 January 2011

Report compiled by Bharat Mandhyan



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- Michael Ramsden
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- Christopher Cooper
- Alexander Cossarini
- Georgie McMaster
- Louisa Spawls
- Timothy Hollands
- Daniel Hollands
- Mathew Hollands

Day 1

Monday 27th December

Open, bright and sunny day, moderately cold weather

Group arrived on time at 0915 hrs at Delhi International airport. The first birds to be seen on Indian soil were a pair of Rock Pigeons that found the top of a drive way of the airport to be a suitable place for nesting. After lunch we headed for the railway station to board the overnight train to Katni. We saw amazing rural India and the flat farm cultivation of mostly wheat throughout our journey, and mammals seen from the carriage were Nilgai browsing on the crops, and before we settled for the night we saw a magnificent Sarus Crane close to the rail track.

Day 2

Tuesday 28th December

Open, bright and sunny day mostly, moderately cold, with traces of clouds

We arrived early morning at Katni railway station then drove two and half hours to Bandhavgarh. After having breakfast everybody settled in before the afternoon safari. We had a pleasant afternoon safari, one jeep from the group experienced wonderful sighting of a Tigris, and other mammals seen were Chital, Sambar etc.

Day 3

Wednesday 29th December

Pleasant morning, warm afternoon, cool at night

After having our tea, coffee and biscuits we started the drive from the hotel to queue up at the park entrance to enter at 6.30 am. One jeep had a good tiger sighting on the morning game drive while one of the other jeeps from experienced a tiger sighting on the afternoon game drive. Other mammals seen were Sambar, Chital, Wild Boar and Jackal.

Day 4**Thursday 30th December**

Windy and cloudy morning, hazy conditions, sunny afternoon and cool and cloudy evening

After following various alarm calls from the Chital Deer, guests from one jeep managed to see a twenty month old female cub from the litter of three - it sat along the track with the complete indifference to humans which Tigers always show, before looking over its shoulder and turning into deep cover. Other mammals seen were Chital, Sambar, and Wild Boar.

Day 5**Friday 31st December**

Dry and bright, cold in the evening

Today both the morning and afternoon game drives were successful and luckily everybody managed to see a Tiger. Another highlight was later in the evening when we watched a melodious Folk- Dance and Lore performed by the Gonds tribesmen and women, accompanied by beer and barbequed chicken, vegetables etc.

Day 6**Saturday 1st January**

Cold in the morning, dry and bright,

We left at dawn for the park entrance and did two game drives. The highlight of the afternoon (and last) game drive was the sighting of the three 20 months old cubs which was fantastic and lasted for about an hour, and we enjoyed just watching them doing their boisterous things - what a way to say goodbye to Bandhavgarh. After having an early dinner at the hotel we left for the railway station and boarded the overnight train.

Day 7**Sunday 2nd January**

Cold and foggy later windy

We had our breakfast at Gwalior railway station supplied to us by our agent. We reached Delhi at 1600 hrs, and after taking a little tour to India Gate and the President's Palace we checked in at Leela Kempenski, Gurgaon.

Day 8**Monday 3rd January**

We departed New Delhi at 1045 hrs and started our journey back 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:

	Common Name	Scientific name	Sightings	Remarks:
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	3	
2	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	2	
3	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	1	
4	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	3	
5	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1	
6	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	2	
7	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5	
8	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	5	
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	6	
10	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	1	
11	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	2	
12	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	2	
13	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2	
14	Wolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	5	
15	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	5	
16	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	2	
17	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	2	
18	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	1	
19	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	1	
20	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	2	
21	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	2	
22	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	3	
23	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	4	
24	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
25	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	3	
26	Black-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	4	
27	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	5	
28	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela cheela</i>	4	
29	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	2	Quite common and widespread
31	White-Eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	1	
32	Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatu</i>	2	
33	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	
34	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	1	
35	White-Breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	1	

	Common Name	Scientific name	Sightings	Remarks:
36	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	Reasonably common at suitable waterbodies
37	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	2	
38	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	4	
39	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus indicus</i>	6	Very common, widespread and noisy
40	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	4	
41	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	1	
42	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia neglecta</i>	3	
43	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2	
44	Eurasian Collard Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaoto</i>	3	
45	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	5	Fairly common
46	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	2	Common and very widespread
47	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera phoenicoptera</i>	4	
48	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	4	
49	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	6	Common and widespread, one of very few species seen every day
51	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	3	
52	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	2	Regularly encountered in a range of scrubby and grassland settings
53	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium</i>	2	
54	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama indica</i>	2	
55	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	3	
56	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne corona</i>	3	
57	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	3	
58	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	5	Common and very widespread, a frequent sight on roadside wires
59	Green Bee-Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	5	
60	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis benghalensis</i>	5	Frequently seen, often along roadsides
61	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1	
62	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyroceros birostris</i>	3	Small numbers were seen at most wooded or parkland sites
63	Brown-Headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	2	
64	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	2	Quite common, though much more often heard than seen,
65	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	1	
66	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis pallescens</i>	2	
67	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	4	The commonest and most widespread woodpecker with records coming from all wooded locations
69	White-Naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	2	
70	Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	1	
71	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2	
72	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	2	
73	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	2	
74	White Wagtail	<i>Motallica alba</i>	3	
75	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motallica madaraspatensis</i>	1	

	Common Name	Scientific name	Sightings	Remarks:
76	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motallica flava</i>	2	
77	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motallica cinerea</i>	4	
78	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	1	
79	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2	
80	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei macei</i>	4	
81	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	2	
82	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	6	Very common and widespread
83	Golden-Fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	1	
84	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	2	
85	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	1	
86	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inomata</i>	1	
87	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	3	Widespread in small numbers with birds recorded at all sites
88	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	3	
89	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	2	
90	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	4	
91	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulica</i>	3	
92	Black Redstart	<i>Phoeicurus ochruros</i>	2	
93	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	1	
94	Indian Chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	1	
95	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	1	
96	Puff-throated babbler	<i>Pellomeum ruficeps</i>	2	
97	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	1	
98	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	6	Generally common and widespread
99	Great Tit	<i>Parus major(cinereus group)</i>	3	
100				
101	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	5	Present throughout at low densities
102	Thick-Billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	3	
103	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	4	
104	Black-Hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	4	
105	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	4	
106	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	4	
107	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	5	Very common, a frequent site on roadside wires
108	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	2	
109	Greater Racket-Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	2	
110	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta agabunda</i>	5	Widespread at fairly low densities
111	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens splendens</i>	3	common around settlements, but less frequently seen in wooded areas
112	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
113				Rather localised, sometimes the dominant myna but generally scarce
114	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	2	and heavily outnumbered by Common Mynas
115	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i>	6	Ubiquitous

	Common Name	Scientific name	Sightings	Remarks:
116	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	2	Common in the vicinity of water
117	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>	3	
118	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus (indica group)</i>	3	Fairly common in most urban settings and in some more rural areas
119	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	4	
120	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
121	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	3	
122	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	4	
123	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	2	

Mammal

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	8	
2	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	2	
3	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macca mulatta</i>	6	Fairly common and widespread
4	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	6	Fairly common and widespread, commoner in heavy woodland than the previous species
5	Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	1	
6	Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	2	
7	Five-Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>	6	
8	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	5	
9	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	2	
10	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>	5	
11	Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	2	
12	Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	5	