

India - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Naturetrek Tour Report

14 - 24 April 2011



Tiger cub – Bandhavgarh N.P.



Bandhavgarh Tiger Cubs



Tiger at Bandhavgarh National Park

Report compiled by Bharat Mandhyan

Images by kind courtesy of Ric Harding



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader: Bharat Mandhyan (Bunty)

Participants: Andy Pay
Denise Pay
Ric Harding
Elaine Harding
Alan Bennett
Lesley Bennett

Day 1

Thursday 14th April

Open, bright, warm and sunny day

The group arrived on time at 0915 hrs at Delhi International airport. After lunch we headed for the railway station to board the overnight train to Katni. Before settling for the night, we looked at the flat farm cultivation of mostly wheat throughout our journey, and mammals seen from the carriage were Nilgai browsing on the crops, and the magnificent Sarus Crane close to the rail track.

Day 2

Friday 15th April

Open, bright, warm and sunny day mostly, with traces of clouds

We arrived early morning at Katni railway station and then drove two and a half hours to Bandhavgarh. We headed into Bandhavgarh NP in the afternoon for our safari. One jeep from the group experienced a sighting of a Tiger. Other mammals seen were chital, sambar etc.

Day 3

Saturday 16th April

Pleasant morning, warm afternoon, cool at night

After having our tea, coffee and biscuits before dawn we started the drive from the hotel at 6.00 am to queue up at the park entrance to enter at 6.30 am. One jeep had a good tiger sighting in the morning - a Jhurjhura male, while one of the other jeeps from the group experienced a tiger sighting on the afternoon game drive - a big new male tiger at Sidh Baba. Other mammals seen were Sambar, Chital, Wild Boar and Jackal. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served at the hotel

Day 4

Sunday 17th April

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

In the morning game drive some managed to see the two Mirchahni male cubs at Andhiyari Jhiriya. Other mammals seen were Chital, Sambar, and Wild Boar.

Day 5

Monday 18th April

Dry and bright, warm in the evening

On the morning game drive we saw a tigress at Chorbahera, and in the afternoon we saw the Bamera male at Sidhbaba.

Day 6

Tuesday 19th April

Warm, bright and sunny

A sighting of three 20 months old cubs and their mother and father from elephant back on the morning game drive was mesmerizing, and what a way of saying goodbye to Bandhavgarh on our last day. The afternoon game drive was shortened because of unexpected rainfall. After having early dinner at the hotel Andy and Denise left for the railway station and boarded the overnight train to Delhi. The rest of the group stayed overnight at the hotel.

Day 7

Wednesday 20th April

Warm and sunny

After having an early breakfast we drove to Jabalpur to catch the train to Pipariya, and transferred to Forsyth Lodge at Satpura at 5 p.m. We had tea and coffee and went off to birding around the campus of the hotel, and planned the days ahead.

Day 8

Thursday 21st April

Warm and sunny

After having our tea, coffee and biscuits before dawn we entered the park at 6.00 am, and did the park entry paper work before doing the gamedrive by jeep. Mammals seen were Gaur (Indian Bison), Chital, Sambar, Wild Boar and more. Later for the afternoon excursion we did the boat ride which was productive for birds and was a nice change doing the drives.

Day 9

Friday 22nd April

Warm and sunny

During the morning game drive we had an excellent Sloth Bear sighting. Other mammals seen were gaur, sambar, chital, and jackal.

Day 10

Saturday 23rd April

Warm and sunny

We did the morning safari by elephant and went back to the lodge for breakfast. We then had to drive to Bhopal to catch the train for Agra. We arrived at about 9 p.m. and went to bed after dinner at the hotel.

Day 11

Sunday 24th April

Warm and sunny

We did the magnificent Taj Mahal at sunrise, and went back at the hotel for breakfast at about 9.30 a.m. Before lunch we did Agra Fort and after lunch we went to the Baby Taj and later transferred to the railway station to catch the train to Delhi. On arrival guests were dropped at the airport for their various departures home.

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Taj Mahal and reflection at Agra



Great Egret at Satpura



Dusky leaf-nosed bat at Bandhavgarh

Species Lists

Mammals

Mammal Species	Scientific name	Sightings
Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	8
Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	1
Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macca mulatta</i>	6
Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	6
Common Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>	2
Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>	2
Sloth Bear	<i>Merursus ursinus</i>	1
Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	1
Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	2
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	1
Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funabulus pennarum</i>	2
Five-Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>	6
Indian Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>	2
Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>	1

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.

Bird species	Scientific Name	No.Seen	Remarks
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1	
Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	3	
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	2	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	3	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	3	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	2	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5	
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	5	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	6	
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	1	
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	2	
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	2	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2	
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	5	
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	5	
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiomis melanocephalus</i>	2	
Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	2	

Bird species	Scientific Name	No.Seen	Remarks
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	1	
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	1	
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	2	
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	2	
Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	2	
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	2	
Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	2	
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	1	
Goosander		1	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1	
Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	3	
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	4	
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
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	2	
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	3	
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	4	
Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	5	
Eurasian Griffon	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	1	
Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sacrogyps calvus</i>	4	
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1	
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela cheela</i>	4	
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	2	Quite common and widespread
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	
White-Eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	1	
Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	2	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrines</i>	1	
Painted Francolin	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>	1	
Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	1	
Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdicula asiatica</i>	1	
Painted Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>	1	
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	5	
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	4	
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	1	
White-Breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	1	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	Reasonably common at suitable waterbodies
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	2	

Bird species	Scientific Name	No.Seen	Remarks
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	4	
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>	1	
Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lacteal</i>	2	
River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelli</i>	2	
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	2	
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus indicus</i>	6	Very common, widespread and noisy
Little-ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	2	
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	1	
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	2	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	2	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	2	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	2	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	4	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	2	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	2	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	2	
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris teminckii</i>	2	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1	
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	2	
River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	1	
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	3	
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia neglecta</i>	3	
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2	
Eurasian Collard Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaoto</i>	3	
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	5	Fairly common
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	2	Common and very widespread
Yellow-footed Pigeon	Green <i>Treron phoenicoptera phoenicoptera</i>	4	
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	4	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	6	Common and widespread, one of very few species seen every day
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	3	
Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>	2	
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	2	
Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultia</i>	1	
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	2	Regularly encountered in a range of scrubby and grassland settings
Indian Scops-owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	1	

Bird species	Scientific Name	No.Seen	Remarks
Brown-fish owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	2	
Mottled Wood-owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>	2	
Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium</i>	2	
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama indica</i>	2	
Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	1	
Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	1	
Savannah Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	1	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	3	
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiproctne corona</i>	3	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	3	
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	1	
Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>	1	
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	5	Common and very widespread, a frequent sight on roadside wires
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	2	
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>	1	
Green Bee-Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	5	
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis benghalensis</i>	5	Frequently seen, often along roadsides
Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	1	
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1	
Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	3	Small numbers were seen at most wooded or parkland sites
Brown-Headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	2	
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	2	Quite common, though much more often heard than seen
Brown-capped Woodpecker	Pygmy <i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	1	
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis pallescens</i>	2	
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	4	The commonest and most widespread woodpecker with records coming from all wooded locations
White-Naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	2	
Ashy-crowned Lark	Sparrow <i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	2	
Rufous-tailed lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	2	
Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	3	
Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	1	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundu rustica</i>	2	
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundu smithii</i>	2	

Bird species	Scientific Name	No.Seen	Remarks
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	2	
Streaked-throated Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>	2	
White Wagtail	<i>Motallica alba</i>	3	
White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motallica madaraspatensis</i>	1	
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motallica flava</i>	2	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motallica cinerea</i>	4	
Oriental Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	3	
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	1	
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	1	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2	
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	2	
Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei macei</i>	4	
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	2	
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	1	
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	6	Very common and widespread
Golden-Fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	1	
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	2	
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	1	
Tickell's Thrush	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>	1	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1	
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	1	
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	2	
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inomata</i>	1	
Blyth's Reed Warbler		1	
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	3	Widespread in small numbers with birds recorded at all sites
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2	
Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>	1	
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	3	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	2	
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	2	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	4	
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	4	
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	1	
Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulica</i>	3	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoebastria ochruros</i>	2	
Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	1	
Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	2	
Indian Chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	1	

Bird species	Scientific Name	No.Seen	Remarks
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	1	
Black-naped Monarch		2	
Asian paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradise</i>	1	
Puff-throated babbler	<i>Pellomeum ruficeps</i>	2	
Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	2	
Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	1	
Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	1	
Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	6	Generally common and widespread
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poiocephala</i>	2	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major(cinereus group)</i>	3	
Black-lored Tit		1	
Purple Sunbird	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>	5	Present throughout at low densities
Thick-Billed Flowerpecker	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	3	
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	2	
Oriental White-eye	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	4	
Black-Hooded Oriole	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	4	
Brown shrike	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	1	
Bay-backed shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	2	
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	4	
Common Woodshrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	4	
Black Drongo	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	5	Very common, a frequent site on roadside wires
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	2	
Greater Racket-Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	2	
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	5	Widespread at fairly low densities
House Crow	<i>Dendrocitta agabunda</i>	3	common around settlements, but less frequently seen in wooded areas
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus splendens splendens</i>	6	Generally found in more wooded settings than the last species, though with some habitat overlap, and never in such large concentrations
Bank Myna	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus</i>	2	Rather localised, sometimes the dominant myna but generally scarce and heavily outnumbered by Common Mynas
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	6	Ubiquitous
Asian Pied Starling	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i>	2	Common in the vicinity of water
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	3	
House Sparrow	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>	3	Fairly common in most urban settings and in some more rural areas

Bird species	Scientific Name	No.Seen	Remarks
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	4	
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	1	
White-throated Munia	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	1	
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	1	
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	2	