

India - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 - 15 April 2013



Tiger



Common Langur



Taj Mahal



Indian Skimmer

Report & images compiled by Durgesh Singh & Harish Sharma



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Participants:	James Hepburn Lorraine Hepburn Neil Lane David Preston Jane Miles Keith Womble Rebecca Womble Joshua Womble Aimee Burrows Margaret Butterfield Steve Baily Amanda Regan Lorna Jones Richard Spicker Judith Spicker

Day 1

Thursday 4th April

Bright, clear, mild weather

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 farms of wheat getting harvested and enjoyed the setting sun from the moving train. We saw some birds like Black Kite, Bank Myna, Cattle Egret, Rock Dove, Black Drongo etc.

Day 2

Friday 5th April

Clear sunny day, pleasant cool night

We arrived early morning at Katni railway station and then drove two and a half hours to Bandhavgarh. We settled and rested in the lodge, and after lunch we headed into Bandhavgarh National Park for our afternoon safari. One jeep had a sighting of a male Tiger in Khitauli. Other mammals seen were Chital, Sambar, Nilgai, Jungle Cat and Jackal.

Day 3

Saturday 6th April

Clear sunny day

After our early morning, tea, coffee and biscuits before dawn we started the drive from the hotel at 5.30 am to queue up at the park entrance to enter at 6am.

All the four vehicles returned having seen their first Tiger in the park! Two sub-adults of the Chakradhara female, and the Banbehi female and her two cubs. Two sub-adults were seen feeding on a Porcupine kill. Guests in one of the vehicles saw a Sloth Bear from the elephant back ride. There were no tiger sightings in the afternoon. Other mammals seen were Sambar, Barking Deer, Chital, Chinkara, Wild Boar and Jackal. A pair of Bonelli's Eagle was also sighted. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served at the lodge.

Day 4

Sunday 7th April

Clear morning, hot day, warm evening

In the morning game drive one vehicle saw a family of four Tigers (one female with three sub-adults) at Badi Gumpha, and then the Banbehi female also. In the afternoon game drive a male Tiger was seen in Khitauli walking out of a waterhole. Two vehicles in the morning also saw a Sloth Bear in the park. A Malabar Pied Hornbill was sighted in Khitauli. Other mammals seen were Sambar, Barking Deer, Grey Mongoose, Gaur (Indian Bison), Chital, Wild Boar and Jackal.

Day 5

Monday 8th April

Clear morning, hot day, warm evening

There were no Tiger sightings in the morning. Some had a good sighting of Blue Bearded Bee-eaters in the morning. One vehicle saw a female Tiger behind Rajbhera dam in the evening. Other mammals seen were Sambar, Barking Deer, Gaur (Indian Bison), Chital, Wild Boar, Ruddy Mongoose and Jackal. Rock Python and Rat Snakes were also seen by two vehicles in the park. Some had a good close sighting of a Brown Fish Owl.

Day 6

Tuesday 9th April

Warm bright & sunny

All of the four vehicles in the morning had a good luck with the Tigers! A vehicle even saw a female Tiger feeding on a kill. A male sub-adult of the Banbehi female was also seen stalking some Chital in grassland. After brunch 10 people of the group left with Harish in the afternoon for boarding a train to Agra before the main tour ended. The remaining five of the group doing the Satpura extension (Steve, Amanda, Richard, Judith & Lorna) stayed back and did a couple of hours of birding followed by a short trip through the local village before sunset. They saw a Cinnamon Bittern during the walk.

Satpura Extension begins;

Day 7

Wednesday 10th April

Bright & sunny day, cloudy evening, thundershower with light drizzle in night

After having an early breakfast we drove to Jabalpur to catch the train to Pipariya, and transferred to Forsyth Lodge at Satpura at 4pm. We had tea and coffee and went off to bird around the campus of the lodge and planned our days ahead in Satpura. We saw a male and two female Blackbucks on the way to the lodge.

Day 8**Thursday 11th April**

Cloudy morning, Warm day & night

We started for the park at 5.30am and entered by 6am. Both the vehicles saw Sloth Bears in the morning and one of the vehicles saw a Leopard drinking water in the Kali Mati waterhole. Other mammals seen were Spotted Deer, Gaur (Indian Bison), Malabar Giant Squirrel, Wild Boar, Sambar, Rufus-tailed Hare etc. Some saw the Eurasian Eagle Owl after the morning drive, outside the park and a Chameleon in the lodge. We did the afternoon walking safari in the park. We saw track and signs of animals including Sloth Bear, and Wild Dogs during the walk, as well as seeing a Small Pratincole also.

Day 9**Friday 12th April**

Warm, bright clear day

A Sloth Bear with a cub on its back was seen by everyone in the morning. We had breakfast at the ruins of an old temple in the park. For the afternoon we did some canoeing on the river and found Indian Skimmers and other river birds; Terns, Stints, Kingfishers, Plovers, Spoonbill etc.

Day 10**Saturday 13th April**

Warm cloudy morning, Sunny day

We did the morning safari on elephant back which turned out to be an excellent experience. We saw Gaurs, Nilgai, Spotted Deer, Changeable Hawk Eagle on nest, and Malabar Giant Squirrel. On the way we also saw a Grey Headed Fish Eagle. After the ride we went back to the lodge for breakfast. We then had to drive to Bhopal to catch the train for Agra, arriving at about 9pm. After dinner at the hotel we retired to bed.

Day 11**Sunday 14th April**

Clear morning, cloudy day

We did the magnificent Taj Mahal at sunrise, and were back at the hotel for breakfast at about 8.30am. Before lunch we did Agra Fort which is another great example of the Mughal architecture. We had a lovely Indian lunch at a restaurant. After lunch we visited the Baby Taj and later we were transferred to the railway station to catch the train to Delhi. On arrival, guests were dropped at the airport for their departures...

Day 12**Monday 15th April**

Arrival in the UK

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Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	April													
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
1	Indian Skimmer	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>											✓			
2	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>											✓			
3	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>											✓		✓	
4	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓						✓	✓			
5	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>							✓			✓	✓			
6	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓			
7	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓												✓	
8	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>								✓						
9	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>							✓							
10	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>		✓									✓			
11	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>											✓			
12	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
13	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
14	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
15	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>											✓			
16	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>											✓			
17	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>											✓			
18	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
19	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓						
20	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓								✓				✓	
21	Grey-headed Fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>												✓		
22	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			✓										✓	
23	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
24	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>			✓	✓	✓									
25	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
26	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			
27	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
28	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciatus</i>			✓											
29	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓							✓		
30	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>				✓										
31	Jungle Bush-quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>				✓	✓						✓			
32	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>				✓	✓					✓	✓			
33	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
34	Grey Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>										✓	✓			
35	Painted Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>							✓							
36	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
37	Small Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>				✓						✓				
38	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>					✓					✓				
39	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓										✓			
40	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>		✓	✓		✓									
41	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>										✓				
42	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>											✓			
43	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>				✓										
44	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
45	Little -ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>											✓			
46	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>										✓				
47	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	April											
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
48	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>										✓		
49	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>										✓		
50	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>									✓	✓		
51	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>									✓	✓		
52	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>										✓		
53	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		✓			✓							
55	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>								✓				
56	Red Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>								✓				
57	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
58	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>								✓				
59	Yellow-footed Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>				✓		✓						
60	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
61	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
62	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
63	Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>												
64	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
65	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>										✓		
66	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>					✓							
67	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
68	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>									✓			
69	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
70	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>								✓				
71	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>					✓							
72	Savannah Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>					✓					✓		
73	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>				✓	✓					✓		
74	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓	✓			✓						
75	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>				✓						✓		
76	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
77	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>										✓		
78	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>			✓	✓	✓							
79	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
80	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
81	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>								✓				
82	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
83	Malabar Pied-hornbill	<i>Anthracoeros coronatus</i>				✓								
84	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>			✓		✓	✓						
85	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>					✓	✓	✓					
86	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓						
87	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
88	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>				✓								
89	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>				✓	✓							
90	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>									✓			
91	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>									✓	✓		
92	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓							
93	Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>			✓	✓	✓							
94	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>		✓		✓								
95	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>										✓		
96	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
97	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>										✓		
98	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>						✓	✓					

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			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
99	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>			✓	✓								
100	Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>				✓								
101	Tickell's Blue-flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
102	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
103	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
104	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				✓								
105	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓		
106	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>			✓	✓								
107	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>								✓				
108	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
109	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				✓					✓	✓		
110	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
111	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓			
112	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>		✓	✓	✓								
113	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>									✓			
114	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
115	Bar winged Flycatcher Shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>										✓		
116	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>					✓	✓						
117	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>					✓							
118	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>						✓				✓		
120	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>			✓									
121	Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>												
122	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
123	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>			✓									
124	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
125	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓										✓	✓
126	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	✓									✓	✓	✓
128	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>						✓	✓	✓				
130	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓			
131	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
132	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>					✓							
133	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>					✓		✓					

Mammals

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
2	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>									✓			
3	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus kelaarita or kutas</i>		✓										
4	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Common Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>			✓	✓					✓			
9	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>					✓					✓		
10	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
12	Sloth Bear	<i>Merursus ursinus</i>			✓	✓					✓	✓		
15	Indian Tree Shrew	<i>Anathana ellioti</i>						✓						
17	Hispid Hare	<i>Caprolagus hispidus</i>									✓			
19	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
20	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>												✓
22	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	April											
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
24	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
25	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>			✓	✓						✓		
26	Black Buck	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>								✓			✓	
28	Khincara (Indian Gazelle)	<i>Gazella bennetti</i>			✓									
29	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>		✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
30	Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
31	Gaur (Indian Bison)	<i>Bos gaurus</i>					✓				✓	✓		
32	Malabar Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>									✓	✓	✓	

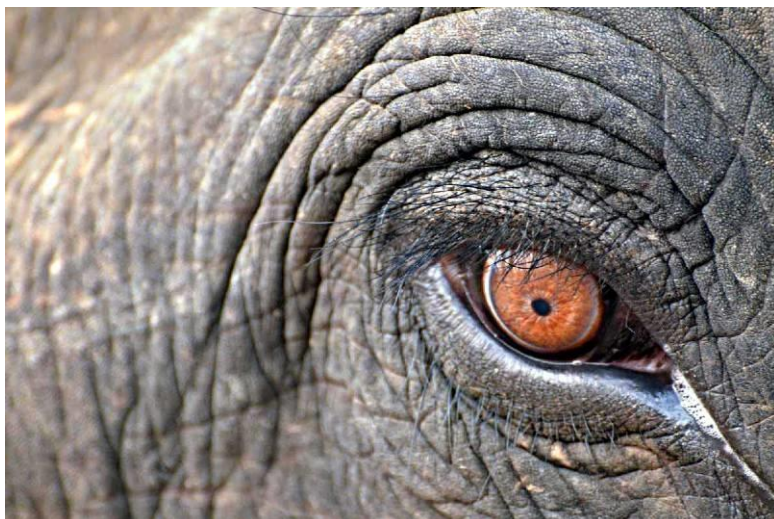
Naturetrek Facebook

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Eurasian Eagle Owl



Eye of an elephant!