

# India - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 17 March 2011

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Report compiled by Bharat Mandhyan

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Gillian Broadbent  
Nick Carter  
Ann Carter  
Tony Mainwood  
Helen Mainwood  
David Warden  
Janet Warden

## Day 1

**Monday 7th March**

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 in for the night, we saw through the carriage windows amazing rural India and the flat farm cultivation of mostly wheat throughout our journey, mammals seen from the carriage were Nilgai browsing on the crops, and the highlight was the magnificent Sarus Crane close to the rail track.

## Day 2

**Tuesday 8th March**

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. After having breakfast everybody got ready for the afternoon safari. We headed into Bandhavgarh NP and once through the gate, we had a pleasant afternoon safari, one jeep experienced a wonderful sighting of a Tiger. Other mammals seen were chital, sambar etc.

## Day 3

**Wednesday 9th March**

Pleasant morning, warm afternoon, cool at night

After having our tea, coffee and biscuits before dawn 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 in the morning game drive while one of the other jeeps experienced a tiger sighting on the afternoon game drive. Other mammals seen were Sambar, Chital, Wild Boar and Jackal. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served at the hotel

## Day 4

**Thursday 10th March**

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

In the morning game drive we followed various alarm calls from the Chital Deer, and a guest from one jeep managed to see a new male tiger, as it sat along the track with the complete indifference before looking over its shoulder and turning into deep cover. Other mammals seen were Chital, Sambar, and Wild Boar.

## Day 5

Friday 11th March

Dry and bright, warm in the evening

After having our tea, coffee and biscuits before dawn we queued up at the park entrance to enter at 6.30 am, and luckily today everybody managed to see a Tiger. The highlight of the day 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 barbecued chicken, vegetables etc.

## Day 6

Saturday 12th March

Warm, bright and sunny

Today we did both the game drives and the sighting of three 20 months old cubs on both the drives was fantastic, just doing their boisterous things -what a way to say goodbye to Bandhavgarh.... After having an early dinner at the hotel David and Janet left for the railway station and boarded the overnight train to Delhi. The rest of the group stayed overnight at the hotel.

## Day 7

Sunday 13th March

Warm and sunny

After having an early breakfast we drove to Jabalpur to catch the train to Pipariya, and were transferred to Forsyth Lodge at Satpura at around 5 p.m, where after having tea and coffee we went birding in the campus of the hotel. Later we had dinner and talked about the plans for the days ahead.

## Day 8

Monday 14th March

Warm and sunny

After having our tea, coffee and biscuits before dawn we started the drive from the hotel at 6.00 am and took our packed breakfast to the park entrance to enter at 6.30 am. After doing all the park entry paper work we crossed the reservoir by boat to do the park drive in the jeeps which are placed on the other side. Mammals seen were Gaur (Indian Bison), Chital, Sambar, Wild Boar and more. Later for the p.m. excursion we did the boat ride which was very productive for birds.

## Day 9

Tuesday 15th March

Warm and sunny

We did both the game drives by jeep. During the morning game drive we had an excellent Sloth Bear sighting. The rest of the game drives remained quiet but other mammals seen were gaur, sambar, chital, jackal and more.

## Day 10

Wednesday 16th March

Warm and sunny

We did the morning safari on elephant back which turned out to be an excellent experience. After the elephant 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 9 p.m. After dinner at the hotel we retired to bed.

## Day 11

Thursday 17th March

Warm and sunny

We did the magnificent Taj Mahal at sunrise, and were back at the hotel for breakfast at about 9.30 a.m. Before lunch we did Agra Fort which is again a great example of the Mogul empire architecture, and 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 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.

Bird species	Scientific Name	Sightings	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>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	2	
Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	2	
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	

Bird species	Scientific Name	Sightings	Remarks
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	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	4	
Stone Curlew	<i>Burbinus oediconemus</i>	1	
Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</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	

Bird species	Scientific Name	Sightings	Remarks
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2	
Eurasian Collard Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	3	
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	5	Fairly common
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	2	Common and very widespread
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i> <i>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	
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>Hemiprocne 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</i> <i>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>Ocyroceros 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>		
Grey-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	2	Quite common, though much more often heard than seen
Brown-capped Pygmy	<i>Dendrocopos mabrattensis</i>	1	

Bird species	Scientific Name	Sightings	Remarks
Woodpecker	<i>pallescens</i>		
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	2	
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	4	The commonest and most widespread woodpecker with records coming from all wooded locations
White-Naped Woodpecker	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	2	
Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	2	
Rufous-tailed lark	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	2	
Plain Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	3	
Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Hirundu rustica</i>	1	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundu smithii</i>	2	
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	2	
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>	2	
Streaked-throated Swallow	<i>Motallica alba</i>	2	
White Wagtail	<i>Motallica madaraspatensis</i>	3	
White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motallica flava</i>	1	
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motallica cinerea</i>	2	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	4	
Oriental Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	3	
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	1	
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	1	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	2	
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Coracina macei macei</i>	2	
Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	4	
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	2	
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	1	
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	6	Very common and widespread
Golden-Fronted Leafbird	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	1	
Common Iora	<i>Zootbera citrine</i>	2	
Orange-headd Thrush	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>	1	
Tickell's Thrush	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	1	
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	1	
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia inomata</i>	2	
Plain Prinia	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	1	
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	1	
Common Tailorbird	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	3	Widespread in small numbers with birds recorded at all sites
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>	2	
Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	1	
Greenish Warbler	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	3	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	2	
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	2	



Bird species	Scientific Name	Sightings	Remarks
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	4	
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	4	
White-rumped Shama	<i>Saxicoloides fulica</i>	1	
Indian Robin	<i>Phoebastria ophurostoma</i>	3	
Black Redstart	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	2	
Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	1	
Grey Bushchat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	2	
Indian Chat	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	1	
White-browed Fantail	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	1	
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Terpsiphone paradise</i>	2	
Asian paradise-flycatcher	<i>Pellomeum ruficeps</i>	1	
Puff-throated babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	2	
Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	2	
Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	1	
Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	1	
Jungle Babbler	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>	6	Generally common and widespread
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Parus major(cinereus group)</i>	2	
Great Tit		3	
Black-lored Tit	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>	1	
Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	5	Present throughout at low densities
Thick-Billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	3	
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	2	
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	4	
Black-Hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	4	
Brown shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	1	
Bay-backed shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	2	
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	4	
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	4	
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>	5	Very common, a frequent site on roadside wires
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	2	
Greater Racket-Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	2	
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta agabunda</i>	5	Widespread at fairly low densities
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens splendens</i>	3	common around settlements, but less frequently seen in wooded areas
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
Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	2	Rather localised, sometimes the dominant myna but generally scarce and heavily outnumbered by C. Mynas
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i>	6	Ubiquitous

<b>Bird species</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Sightings</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	2	Common in the vicinity of water
Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>	3	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus (indica group)</i>	3	Fairly common in most urban settings and in some more rural areas
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	

## Mammals

<b>Mammal Species</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Sightings</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	8	
Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	1	
Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macca mulatta</i>	6	Fairly common and widespread
Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	6	Fairly common and widespread, commoner in heavy woodland than the previous species
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>Funambululus pennantii</i>	6	
Indian Giant Squirrel		2	
Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>	1	
Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	5	
Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	2	
Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>	5	
Black Buck	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>	3	
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	2	
Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	5	
Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	3	