

Just Tigers!

Naturetrek Tour Report

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Weather

Overnight and early morning temperatures were low so that early morning and late evening game drives in open-topped vehicles required warm clothes, though blankets were provided. Midday temperatures were quite high (up to 32C) but had subsided somewhat by the time of our evening drives. It was generally very sunny though some mornings were briefly quite misty.

Days 1 and 2

Outbound and New Delhi

After leaving a chilly UK our Emirates flights to New Delhi via Dubai arrived on time at 0900 the next morning and we were soon on our way to The Claridges hotel in a leafy suburb of the city. There was time to relax and for a spot of lunch before those who wished to set off for a couple of hours birding at The Yamuna River at Okhla, the top birding spot on Delhi. Amidst the murky black waters and assembled detritus of the city we soon found a wide variety of birds which included a number of fairly familiar species like Hoopoe, Bluethroat and Pintail that winter in the area but also several less familiar faces such as Coppersmith Barbets, Indian Grey Hornbills and River Lapwings. A short boat ride to one of the islands in the great river allowed excellent views of most of the assembled species

Day 3

New Delhi

An optional visit to the Red Fort in Old Delhi was undertaken by about half of the group while everyone else relaxed at the hotel in preparation for the forthcoming overnight train journey to Jabalpur. We arrived at Nizarruddin Station shortly after 1300 and enjoyed a leisurely lunch at one of the station restaurants before making our way to our train and the inevitable hurly burly associated with finding our seats and being reunited with our luggage but we quite soon settled in. The train left early (!) at 1620 and dinner was delivered to us at Agra; quite soon after everyone was tucked up in their berths for the night. Despite the unfamiliar surroundings most people managed to get some sleep.

Day 4

En route to Kanha

The morning was spent watching rural India pass by from the train before we finally pulled into Jabalpur station nearly three hours late at noon, our journey having taken nearly 20 hours! We quickly transferred the short distance to Narmada Jackson's hotel for a quick wash and a bite to eat and at 1400 we set off on a scenic four hour drive to Kanha which was punctuated by a drinks stop at the halfway point near Mandla. Arriving at the excellent Tuli Tiger Resort shortly before dark we had a welcome drink and sandwiches before settling into our home for the next seven nights. The first of many excellent meals was enjoyed as we anticipated the prospect of encounters with Tigers in the coming days.

Day 5

Kanha

The pattern of our daily activities at Kanha was pretty much mapped out today: morning and afternoon game drives were divided by a leisurely lunch break back at Tuli Tiger Resort. A wake up call at 0515 was followed by tea or coffee and biscuits at the hotel lobby at 0545 and at 0600 we set off for the park in five comfortable jeeps. Once in the park, which lay about 8km from our hotel, we more or less split up and explored different routes before regrouping for breakfast, somewhat chaotically today as it turned out as the prospect of a 'Tiger show' (when Elephants are used to view a Tiger that has been found by the Mahouts) was briefly in the offing though the Tigers soon moved on unfortunately.

After breakfast, which consisted of sandwiches, delicious parathas, hard-boiled eggs and tea and coffee and biscuits served on the jeep bonnets we paid a leisurely visit to the orientation centre at Kanha Village which all agreed was a very well laid out and instructive. Even before reaching the main gate earlier on everyone had managed their first views of impressively huge Gaur (the largest bovines in the world) in the half-light of dawn but apart from encounters with some of the commoner herbivores such as numerous Chital (Spotted Deer) mammal sightings were at a premium though some good birds were seen including excellent views of a young Crested or Changeable Hawk Eagle. However, just as we were leaving the park for lunch the park staff drew our attention to a most unusual sighting, an Indian Giant Flying Squirrel that for some reason had left its daytime roost hole and was posing right out in the open.

We returned to the park at 1500 and it was at the meadows (where staff had briefly seen a Tiger earlier) that four of our five jeeps had an encounter with a Sloth Bear late on as it rummaged about in fairly long grass, though it did briefly show more clearly. Sloth Bears are actually much harder to see than Tigers so this was a very lucky encounter which, together with the Flying Squirrel, made for a very good first day, the absence of any Tigers notwithstanding.

After dinner Raghu, one of the resident naturalists at Tuli gave a presentation on Kanha which concluded with a slideshow featuring some of his excellent photographs of the park and its wildlife, including, of course, some mouth-watering images of Tigers. Perhaps tomorrow would be our day....

Day 6

Kanha

We set off once more at 0600 and explored different areas before meeting up for breakfast. News came through that Elephants had located a Tiger near the Mukki gate, 45 minutes away, and we set off in the hope that it would remain. Unfortunately by the time of our arrival the Tiger had become restless and the show was no longer taking bookings so we made our way back to Kisli, the gate nearest to our hotel. Although no predators had been seen the morning had produced numerous sightings of large herbivores, including several more Gaur and a good selection of birds to keep the keener birders occupied most notably White-naped Woodpeckers and a wheeling flock of Alpine Swifts.

The afternoon drive was rather more productive with one jeep getting a glimpse of hunting Dhole (Wild Dogs) while others had a close encounter with a Jungle Cat and a couple of Golden Jackals while a Painted Francolin was the avian highlight.

Day 7

Kanha

Vehicle numbers at the Kisli gate were higher than before, not least due to a large school party visiting the park and as we arrived for breakfast at Kanha Village the car park was full to brimming. Soon after, the Kanha rumour mill swung into action and several jeeps sped off towards Kisli in the mistaken belief that the Elephants there had located a stationary Tiger. We resisted the temptation to follow and soon found ourselves in an almost deserted car park when news finally arrived that the Kanha Elephants actually had located a stationary Tiger and we were now in pole position for the ensuing show.

The air was thick with anticipation as we left the car park, Shiva, our guide, clutching the token that would allow us to board the Elephants and within ten minutes we arrived at the appointed spot where a couple of jeeploads of visitors were already rolling around on Elephant back. The Tiger (actually a full grown tigress cub) was on a small rocky outcrop about 100 metres away and as we watched the Elephants milling around the area she occasionally appeared stalking along the ridge of the hill and gave good binocular views. Soon we were boarding Elephants though and approaching more closely, very closely indeed in many cases as the Tigress was still mobile on the hillside and even appeared at eye level from time to time. Everyone enjoyed superb views and some remained on Elephants back for up to 30 minutes as the mahouts tried to keep track of the Tiger. Our prime tour objective had been fulfilled and everyone was naturally in high spirits at lunch.

The afternoon drive produced another Jungle Cat for some as well as more Jackals while species such as Gaur, Wild Boar, Barasingha and other herbivores, as well as the lovely landscape, could be enjoyed more fully now that the number one predator had been seen so well. The birders in the group were well pleased with encounters with a showy Baillon's Crake and a handful of Painted Snipe at a trackside pool near Kisli. Park opening hours changed today so that our evening drives now began at 4pm rather than three though as most activity tended to occur in the final hour of daylight, or even the final half hour, this barely affected us and did allow for an even more leisurely lunch break in the delightful surroundings of Tuli Tiger Resort

Day 8

Kanha

Late the previous evening news had reached Tuli that a Tigress had made a large kill near Kisli and that she was expected to linger in the area by the mahouts. As a result we headed immediately for the area in question, stopping briefly to admire the Baillon's Crake and Painted Snipes again, and by 0700 the Elephants had already relocated the Tigress (along with her four cubs) and were waiting for permission to begin a Tiger show. News eventually came through that permission had been granted and we were soon boarding the Elephants for a short journey through thick bamboo jungle to where a very well fed looking Tigress was dozing at close range, though her cubs had by now taken cover nearby. The afternoon drive provided a couple of jeeps with further sightings of a Jungle Cat and one jeep came across a couple of Dhole.

In a change to our routine we paid a pre-dinner visit to the nearby residence of Ernie Hulsey and Carroll Moulton, we had yesterday been kindly invited for drinks by these two returning winter migrants from North America. Our hosts have built themselves a fabulous residence near Tuli and we enjoyed our G&T's (generally with far more G than T - which led to a very relaxed ambience) in delightful designer surroundings as tasty snacks were delivered by their staff. Ernie and Carroll are co-authors of Kanha Tiger Reserve, Portrait of an Indian National Park, and are the creators of the only usable map of the park; several of us left clutching signed copies of their excellent book.

Day 9

Kanha

Having thoroughly explored the more easily accessible parts of the park, and to avoid the weekend crowds around Khana village, we set off today towards a high plateau which gave a commanding view of the jungle and scattered meadows below, on the way one jeep had an encounter with a Brown Fish Owl. A leisurely breakfast was enjoyed in this delightful spot where a fine male Red-breasted Flycatcher performed for us and as we drove back across the plateau a pair of Chousingha (Four-horned Antelopes) showed well. On the way back down birds of prey were a notable feature and as the air began to warm species such as White-eyed Buzzard, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Red-headed Vulture and Shikra appeared in the sky although an immature Rufous-bellied Eagle was the best find.

Our afternoon drives also aimed to take us to less heavily explored areas in order to avoid the crowds and in a remote meadow covered in termite mounds one jeep had an amazing encounter when no less than three Sloth bears were spotted together. The animals soon took fright and ran off towards the nearby forest but gave great views as they went. Fortunately the only people who had failed to see the earlier Sloth Bear were in the jeep in question. Others saw another Jungle Cat while some were privileged to see the Kanha Elephants being bathed.

Day 10

Kanha

In order to avoid the weekend crowds again we set off straight for the Mukki area, a much quieter region of the park, and soon found ourselves virtually alone as we breakfasted overlooking the wide meadows there. As luck

would have it the local Elephants located a Tiger with cubs nearby and we soon set off to find ourselves virtually the only people there. After a short Elephant ride everyone was able to enjoy fair to good views of the Tigress with two large cubs in dense Lantana (which is a favoured resting place as the scent of this introduced plant disguises their presence from marauding males). As it would have involved a rush to get back to the Kisli gate before the noon departure deadline from the park we decided instead to leave via the nearby Mukki gate and enjoy a ride through villages and agricultural land on the outside of the park which provided a pleasant change of scene and the only Asian Openbill of the tour.

Our final drive at the park saw us concentrating on the Kanha area and with luck still on our side our time at Kanha concluded with great views of a Tiger slumbering in full view about 50 metres from the track, a perfect end to a most enjoyable week at this still rather remote location.

Day 11

En route to Agra via Jabalpur

Those who chose to rise early and spent some time birding in and around Tuli Tiger Resort before breakfast. During the week a fruiting Fig Tree in the garden had been attracting good numbers and variety of birds during our lunch breaks and most attention was focussed there again this morning. Brown-headed and Coppersmith Barbets vied for our attention with Black-hooded Orioles, Common Koels, Chestnut-tailed and Brahminy Starlings, Large Cuckooshrikes and best of all an obliging pair of Jerdon's Leafbirds. At 0930 we boarded our vehicles and began to retrace our route back to Jabalpur, complete with a tea or coffee break en route near Mandla, and arrived at Narmada Jackson's hotel soon after noon. Before travelling to the station we enjoyed a fine lunch but were soon re-boarding the Makhasaul Express which seemed like a much less alien environment now. Packed dinners had been provided by the hotel and eventually everyone eventually settled into their bunks for the night as we rolled towards Agra and its remarkable landmarks.

Day 12

Agra

We arrived at Agra virtually on time at 0730. Transferring to the Mughal Sheraton, we quite soon settled down to a hearty breakfast in the very luxurious surroundings before retiring to some rooms eventually provided for a wash and change. It was now time to visit the fabled Taj Mahal, a short distance away, where our local guide informed us about some of the history of this remarkable building and escorted us inside. Marvelling completed, and numerous photographs taken, we set off to the nearby Priya Hotel for lunch before completing our sightseeing in Agra with an escorted tour of the imposing fort, though not before a couple of shopping excursions saw off the fiercer heat of the day. Returning to the Mughal Sheraton in the early evening we then parted ways: Eileen and Paddy were heading to Delhi with Dushyant on the Shatabdi Express (Jim and Pat having left for there by road before lunch), Jenny and Graham and Chris and Pete set off for a night (and an early mornings birding) at Bharatpur as part of their Ranthambore extension while everyone else drove for an hour or so to the Chambal Safari Lodge, the first stage of the Chambal and Bharatpur extension described below.

Day 13

Chambal

After a night of rustic charm at the Chambal Safari Lodge (well, there was no electricity for most of the time but the accommodation was more than adequate once torches had been found and hurricane lamps lit) there was time for a short post-breakfast stroll around the grounds before we set off for the river nearby and our boat trip on the Chambal River. This produced new birds in the shape of Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Indian Black Robin and Egyptian Vulture but we were soon on the bus and heading for the river. On arrival at the shore a pair of Indian Skimmers, one of our main targets here, were immediately in evidence on a small island and even before boarding our boat for a three hour cruise other highlights were a fine male Desert Wheatear, a couple of Great Thick-knees and a large flock of Red-crested Pochards. Once on board our small boat we were soon travelling upstream right past the Skimmers and Thick-knees and very soon came across our first magnificent Gharial, the first of thirty or so that came in all sizes but which included some truly huge individuals. This was a photographers dream as we were able to pass very close by and soon we were seeing further new species in the shape of Little Pratincoles and both Indian River Terns and Black-bellied Terns. At the furthest point of our upstream odyssey some distant shapes were detected and proved to be a feeding group of Gangetic River Dolphins, we got a bit closer so that views were satisfactory, though not stunning, before heading back towards the bus where Short-toed Eagles, Long-legged Buzzards and a single Red-headed Vulture graced the now increasingly warm air. An Osprey perched on a post in the river as a tyre was changed on the bus and both Tawny Pipit and Ashy-crowned Sparrow Larks were seen before we set off back to Chambal Safari Lodge for lunch. It had been an excellent and very memorable morning.

After lunch we travelled back to Agra and then turned west towards Bharatpur where we were to spend three nights at the lovely Laxmi Villas Palace hotel which put us in prime position for daily excursions into the fabled National Park around the corner. We arrived after about three hours and settled in before darkness fell.

Day 14

Bharatpur

In the company of Pramod, our local guide, we set off for the nearby National Park (properly known as Keoladeo Ghana but more usually just referred to as Bharatpur) at the very civilised hour of 0800. Disembarking at the barrier we began to stroll south towards the temple where our packed lunch was to be delivered later. Within minutes three Spotted Owlets were found perched together on a branch and soon after Pramod located a roosting Collared Scops Owl just off the path. The Owl fest resumed a short while later when we stopped to look at three enormous Dusky Eagle Owls in a large tree near the track and eventually managed to find a position from which a couple could be seen quite clearly. Up until now the surrounding landscape had been quite dry, though this allowed us views of Grey Francolins and three Indian Thick-knees, but water soon began to appear either side of the path and with it some of the abundant birdlife for which the park is so widely renowned. Numerous Egrets of three species, stunning Black-necked and Painted Storks and many Spoonbills vied for our attention with large numbers of ducks and waders that crowded into the wetlands. A Tawny Eagle was perched close-by and before lunch Greater Spotted, Imperial and Steppe Eagles had also been added to our list along with a flock of White Pelicans and many other species.

By noon the temperature was quite high so we took shelter under the trees near the temple and ate our packed lunches before exploring the jheels (flooded fields) nearby where both Common and Sarus Cranes were found alongside a group of Dalmation Pelicans and five Greater Flamingos while Little Pratincoles hawked overhead. Birds were everywhere until the end of our visit and were supplemented by our first views of the strange Nilgai (a giant antelope) and several Golden Jackals.

Day 15

Bharatpur

Today's exploration of the park began with a long rickshaw ride to the far end of Keoladeo Ghana where we hoped to find the exquisite Indian Coursers that shun wetter areas. Our quest was successful as about 15 birds were watched running about along with a Yellow-wattled Lapwing while nearby a Bay-backed Shrike was new for most. Returning towards the temple at a more leisurely pace we stopped to scan wetlands where large numbers of ducks were gathered and enjoyed very close views of a magnificent Sarus Crane and more subtle fare in the shape of several Citrine Wagtails and a handful of Garganey. Back at the temple we spent some time overlooking the expanse of water where the Dalmation Pelicans were settled along with numerous other species before the heat began to rise and we returned to the hotel for a lunch break.

After lunch a return to the park saw us exploring the Sapin Mori trail which gave a much closer view of the Dalmation Pelicans and numerous waders including our first Kentish Plovers. As the sun began to set the photographers took up positions for classic Bharatpur shots while the cacophony of the nearby Painted Stork colony began to slowly die down.

Days 16 and 17

Bharatpur/ en route to Delhi/ inbound to UK

With the morning available to us before our afternoon train departure for Delhi we returned to the park and enjoyed a very restful hour being punted about the jheels near Shanti Kutir where numerous bird species were seen at close range and a pair of Golden Jackals showed particularly well. Afterwards a short stroll along the Shanti Kutir trail itself provided us with a perched Eastern Imperial Eagle, a couple of scarce Red Collared Doves and unusually close and clear views of a Brook's Leaf Warbler before we took a look at the new visitors centre. We then returned to the hotel for some final packing before the noon checkout. Lunch was followed by a period of relaxation in the shade before we made our way to the station and the train (45 minutes late) to Delhi. On board we met up once more with the Ranthambore group and were delighted to hear that their quest for more Tigers had proved a success. Arriving at the chaotically busy main station in Delhi we soon found our way to the bus and transferred for 40 minutes or so to the tranquillity of the Ashok Country Resort where rooms were available for a shower and change and the restaurant provided a fine dinner. At 0100 we set off to the nearby airport for our Emirates flights home via Dubai.

Systematic Lists

Incorporating records from the main Just Tigers Tour and the Chambal & Bharatpur extension

Mammals

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows Duff and Lawson's Mammals of the World: A Checklist (A&C Black) 2004

Bengal Tiger *Panthera tigris tigris*

A total of 6 were seen at Kanha NP, 5 from Elephant back during three 'Tiger shows' and one from the jeeps as it lazed in a glade on our final drive in the park to provide a perfect finale. Two further Tigers were seen by those who undertook the Ranthambore extension

Jungle Cat *Felis chaus kelaarita* or *kutas*

A total of five sightings at Kanha NP was quite a good haul and everyone managed to see at least one

Dhole (Asiatic Wild Dog) *Cuon alpinus dukhunensis*

About a third of group members had encounters with these elusive predators on three dates at Kanha NP but only one jeep had any kind of extended view

Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*

Everyone had encounters with at least a couple of animals at Kanha NP and several more were seen well at KGNP, Bharatpur

Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus*

One foraging in the Kanha meadows on our first evening in the park represented a good start to our stay and later in the week a remarkable sighting involved a group of three together, fortunately they were seen by the only group members who had missed the first one

Indian Grey Mongoose or Common Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii*

After one at Okhla, others, presumed to be this species, were seen on about half of our days at Kanha NP

[Ruddy Mongoose *Herpestes smithii*

A mongoose seen briefly at KGNP, Bharatpur was thought most likely to have been this species]

'Northern Plains' Grey Langur *Semnopithecus entellus*

Very common at Kanha NP

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*

A few along the road from Jabalpur to Kanha were the first, thereafter this largely urban species was found at Agra and Bharatpur

Barasingha or (Kanha) Swamp Deer *Cervus duvaucelii branderi*

A fenced enclosure at Kanha NP contained at least 50 animals (and offered some added protection to this highly endangered and very localised population). Otherwise small numbers of more wild looking animals were seen most days at a range of wetter areas throughout the park

Sambar *Cervus unicolor*

Although seen everyday at Kanha NP numbers were much lower than for the next species and most animals were spotted lurking in quite dense forest whereas the Chital tended to congregate in quite open areas

Chital or Spotted Deer *Cervus axis*

Very common at Kanha NP with small numbers at KGNP Bharatpur

Indian Muntjac or Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjak*

Only seen at Kanha NP where a handful were encountered, this species is much more retiring than its larger cousins

Nilgai or Blue Bull or Large Indian Antelope *Boselaphus tragocamelus*

Up to ten were found at KGNP, Bharatpur

Chousingha or Four-horned Antelope *Tetracerus quadricornis*

A pair were found in the high plateau grasslands of Kanha NP

Gaur (Indian 'Bison') *Bos gaurus*

Up to 20 or more per day were seen at Kanha NP, just prior to our arrival very few had been around but the herds had just begun to move down from higher ground during our visit. Several young calves were seen

Eurasian Wild Boar *Sus scrofula*

Quite common at Kanha NP where up to dozen were seen most days, smaller numbers were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Five-striped Ground Squirrel *Funambulus pennanti*

Abundant everywhere away from the densest natural forests, even in the centre of Delhi

Three-striped Ground Squirrel *Funambulus palmarum*

Just one was seen at Kanha NP though others may have been overlooked there as they look very similar to the much commoner and more widespread Five-striped Ground Squirrel

Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*

A large colony was near our hotel in Delhi, several roosted along the main road at Kanha and a noisy colony was in the grounds of Chambal Safari Lodge

Indian Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista philippensis*

One, probably an immature, was very uncharacteristically sitting right out in the open on a fairly low branch at the buffer zone gate at Kanha NP at the end of our first drive in the park.

Indian or Black-naped Hare *Lepus nigricollis*

A handful were seen in and around KGNP, Bharatpur

Gangetic River Dolphin *Platanista gangetica*

About half a dozen were seen quite distantly at Chambal

Birds

Nomenclature, taxonomy and species order generally follows Rasmussen and Anderton's Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide Vols. I & II (Lynx) 2005 which seems destined to become the new standard treatment for South Asian birds although unnecessary hyphens have been removed from some names. When different, the names used by Grimmett et al in the widely used Pocket Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent (Helm) are also given

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*

Small numbers at Okhla and Kanha NP were followed up to 50 birds at KGNP, Bharatpur

Dalmation Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*

Up to 20, mostly adults, were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Eurasian or Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

A flock of about 50 were in flight over KGNP, Bharatpur on our first morning and a couple of others were seen there subsequently

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

The least common of the three cormorants seen but birds were present at Okhla, Kanha NP, Chambal and especially KGNP, Bharatpur

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

Common and widespread at suitably large wetlands

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*

Common and widespread at many wetlands

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Only seen at KGNP, Bharatpur where about 20 were noted

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

Common and widespread at most wetlands

Great Egret *Egretta alba modesta*

Common and widespread at suitably large wetlands

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia intermedia*

One's and two's were at a variety of pools at Kanha NP and several were amongst the large numbers of mixed egrets at KGNP, Bharatpur

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea cinerea* / '*retirostris*'

A handful were at Okhla, Kanha and Chambal with larger numbers at KGNP, Bharatpur

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea purpurea* / *manilensis*

Only found at KGNP, Bharatpur where about 10 were seen in total

'Eastern' Cattle Egret *Bubulcus (ibis) coromandus*

The largest numbers were always in the vicinity of cattle but birds were found throughout. Some authors regard the relatively long-necked Asiatic race as a separate species from birds further west

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii grayii*

Very common and widespread at wetlands of various sizes

Striated, Green-backed or Little Heron *Butorides striata javanica*

One was seen at KGNP, Bharatpur

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

About 30 were roosting near the temple at KGNP, Bharatpur with odd birds seen elsewhere on the reserve

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

After the first at Chambal this proved to be rather common at KGNP Bharatpur where adults were raising second broods after failing to breed at all during the previous season due to drought conditions

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

One on a trackside pool between Mukki and Tuli Tiger Resort was the only one seen

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Up to 10 at Kanha NP were seen each day and one was at KGNP, Bharatpur

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus episcopus*

Up to half a dozen were regularly to be found near the entrance to Kanha NP with a few others seen elsewhere there

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*

One was seen on most days on a small lake near the entrance to Kanha NP

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Two pairs and a couple of juveniles were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*

Up to 50 were scattered about at KGNP, Bharatpur

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Only seen at KGNP Bharatpur where about 50 were found

Indian Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosus*

This species was seen at Okhla and Kanha NP, several showed well at the latter and birds could often be heard calling from Tuli Tiger Resort

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia/ major*

Only seen at KGNP, Bharatpur where over 100 were found, some of which were nesting in the Painted Stork colony there

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Five were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Up to 50 were regularly seen at Kanha NP with smaller numbers at KGNP, Bharatpur

Greylag Goose *Anser anser rubirostris*

Only seen at KGNP, Bharatpur where about 20 were present

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

A handful seen in flight at Okhla were followed by several hundred scattered about at KGNP, Bharatpur

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

After about 50 were seen at Okhla further birds were seen at Chambal, KGNP, Bharatpur and from passing trains

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

One at Okhla was quite a local rarity!

Gadwall *Anas strepera strepera*

Up to fifty at Okhla were followed by a handful at Kanha NP but up to 1000 were found at KGNP, Bharatpur

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Small numbers were mixed in with Gadwall at KGNP, Bharatpur

'Indian' Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha*

About 10 at Okhla were followed by many more at KGNP, Bharatpur

Northern Shoveler *Anas dypeata*

One at Okhla was followed by several hundred at KGNP, Bharatpur

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta acuta*

A handful were at Okhla, up to 100 were at Kanha NP and over 1000 were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Common Teal *Anas creca creca*

A couple of dozen at Okhla, Chambal and Kanha NP were followed by several hundred at KGNP, Bharatpur

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

At least 10 were at KGNP, Bharatpur and others may have been overlooked amongst the numerous other ducks there

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

About 150 were on the River Chambal

Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis*

Three or four at Kanha NP were followed by singles at Chambal and KGNP, Bharatpur

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

Three or four were seen during our boat trip at Chambal

Black-winged or Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*

Ones and two's were seen on several occasions at Kanha NP

Black Kite *Milvus nigans gvinnda*

Although this species was abundant in urban Delhi and, to a lesser extent, Jabalpur and Agra, it was largely absent elsewhere

White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*

One's and two's were seen on a couple of occasions at Kanha NP. Just 10 years ago this was regarded as the commonest bird of prey in the world with an estimated population of over 30 million individuals but most have since succumbed to poisoning by the veterinary drug Diclofenac and the species is now regarded as critically endangered with captive breeding programmes being set up to try to combat the decline

Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*

Singles were seen at or near Kanha NP on three occasions. This once abundant species (formerly regarded as part of a now subdivided species called Long-billed Vulture) has suffered a similar catastrophic decline to White-rumped Vulture in the last decade

Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* (aka King Vulture)

One or two adults were seen on several occasions at Kanha NP and another was found at Chambal

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Three or four at Chambal were followed by a similar number at KGNP, Bharatpur

White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur indica*

Two were seen at Kanha NP

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela cheela*

Only seen at Kanha NP where one or two were seen or heard most days

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*

About four immature birds were at KGNP, Bharatpur where they caused havoc amongst the ducks and especially the coots which, surprisingly, seemed much less anxious about eagles flying overhead

Shikra *Accipiter badius cendroides/ dussumieri*

After the first in central Delhi one or two were seen most days

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila danga*

At least five individuals, including a couple of adults and several juveniles were at KGNP, Bharatpur which is one of the best places in the world to observe this scarce and declining species

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

One or two adults and an immature were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis orientalis*

Two were seen at KGNP Bharatpur

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

An adult was seen perched at close range at KGNP, Bharatpur allowing both its tell-tale gape length and nostril shape to be seen!

Crested (Changeable) Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus (cirrhatus) cirrhatus*

Birds were seen on several dates at Kanha NP with some posing for the cameras at close range. Birds of the race *cirrhatus* are increasingly viewed as a separate species (Crested Hawk Eagle) from Changeable Hawk Eagles from further north and east

Short-toed Eagle *Circus gallus*

Three were overhead during our Chambal boat trip

Rufous-bellied Eagle

A single immature bird was seen at Kanha NP where it is quite a scarcity

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

One was sitting on a post in the Chambal River

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*

One was seen at Kanha NP

[Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus calidus*

One that flew past our hotel at Bharatpur was seen by the tour leader only]

Painted Francolin *Francolinus pictus pictus*

A single male showed briefly but well in the meadows at Kanha NP

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus interpositus*

Small numbers were seen or more often heard at KGNP, Bharatpur

Jungle Bush Quail *Pedicularia asiatica asiatica*

A group of about ten noisy 'bubbling' birds were seen briefly in flight at Kanha NP

Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea spadicea*

Two or three were seen on most days at Kanha NP

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus murghi*

At least a couple were seen each day at Kanha NP

India or Blue Peafowl (Peacock) *Pavo cristatus*

Quite common at Kanha NP where some males were displaying, otherwise a few were seen at scattered localities throughout

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*

Three seen from the train near Mathura as we headed towards Jabalpur were followed by one in flight between Kanha and Jabalpur and two pairs at KGNP, Bharatpur

Common Crane *Grus grus*

At least 60 were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool*

One was seen at Kanha NP

Baillon's Crake *Pusilla pusilla pusilla*

An obliging individual showed on several dates on a roadside pool at Kanha NP

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*

One or two at Okhla were followed by several at KGNP, Bharatpur

Purple Swamphen (or Gallinule) *Porphyrio porphyrio poliocephalus*

Up to 20 at Okhla were followed by about 40 at KGNP, Bharatpur

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus indica*

Widespread and quite common, small numbers were at many wetlands with emergent vegetation

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra atra*

Probably over 1000 were gathered at KGNP, Bharatpur were they grouped into agitated tight flocks in the presence of marauding Marsh Harriers. Much smaller numbers were at Okhla

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

A small handful were seen rather distantly at KGNP, Bharatpur

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*

Two immature birds were seen at Kanha NP and another immature was at KGNP, Bharatpur

(Greater) Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

A group of five were seen on several occasions at Kanha NP

Indian (Eurasian) Stone Curlew *Burhinus (oediacnemus) indicus*

Three birds were seen sitting under bushes at KGNP, Bharatpur. Recent authors tend to regard indicus as a separate species from birds from further north and west including Europe

Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirotris*

About ten of these amazing looking birds were seen at Chambal

Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus*

After some searching we eventually managed to find about 15 of these stunning birds in the dry grasslands at the back of KGNP, Bharatpur

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius curonius* or *jerdoni*

Very small numbers were at a few wetlands but at least 50 were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

About 40 migrants were at KGNP, Bharatpur

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Several were seen at Okhla and Chambal

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus indicus*

Quite common and very widespread, its characteristic calls were heard everywhere

Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus*

A small handful of these localised arid country birds were found at both Kanha NP and at KGNP, Bharatpur

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*

A couple seen distantly at Okhla were followed by 50 or so at KGNP, Bharatpur

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

A couple at Okhla, Kanha NP and Chambal were eclipsed by about 100 at KGNP, Bharatpur

'Western' Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa limosa*

A handful at Okhla were followed by about 30 at KGNP, Bharatpur

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

At least 15 were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Small numbers on the Yamuna at Okhla were followed by a few at Kanha and Chambal but over 30 were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

About 10 were seen at KGNP, Bharatpur after a couple of earlier birds at Okhla and one at Chambal

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

At least four were at KGNP, Bharatpur

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Up to half a dozen were seen at Okhla and Kanha and KGNP, Bharatpur held at least twice that number

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Only seen at KGNP, Bharatpur were at least 50 were found

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleuca*

Widespread in small numbers and seen at most wetlands visited

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

A handful at Okhla were seen mostly in flight, a couple more were found at Chambal but at least 30 were scattered about at KGNP, Bharatpur

Little Stint *Calidris minutus*

Although its distribution was very similar to the previous species numbers were somewhat higher with well over 100 seen at KGNP, Bharatpur

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

A handful at Okhla were followed by one at KGNP, Bharatpur

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

A dozen at Okhla were followed by over 50 at KGNP, Bharatpur

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus himantopus*

Quite commonly seen on a range of wetlands, including several road and railside pools though the largest numbers were inevitably at KGNP, Bharatpur where hundreds gathered

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avocetta*

Four at Okhla were followed by a singleton at KGNP, Bharatpur

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans cachinnans* etc

About eight were at Okhla. Also there were several darker-backed birds that were either of the form heuglini or, more likely, barabensis which are variously regarded as separate species' or races of Lesser Black-backed Gull, for example

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*

One that flew past with a group of Black-headed Gulls at Okhla was the only one seen

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Several hundred were at Okhla

River Tern *Sterna aurantia*

A handful were at Chambal and KGNP, Bharatpur

Whiskered Tern *Chidonias hybridus indicus*

Only seen at KGNP, Bharatpur where at least three or four were present

Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*

About five of these declining birds were seen during our Chambal boat trip

Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis*

Four birds at the River Chambal included two very obliging individuals that lingered next to where the bus parked

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia intermedia*

Feral pigeons were in all urban areas but all of the 20 or so birds at Chambal showed a consistent and wild Rock Dove-like appearance and may actually have been genetically 'pure' wild birds

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis erythrocephala*

Up to 10 pr day (but more normally just one or two) were seen at Kanha NP

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis cambayensis*

Small numbers were in urban areas such as Delhi and Bharatpur with a handful inside KGNP, Bharatpur

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis suratensis*

Common in and around Kanha NP but not seen elsewhere

Red Collared-dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica tranquebarica*

Five were briefly in the grounds of Chambal Safari Lodge and a couple more were seen at KGNP, Bharatpur on our final morning

Eurasian Collared-dove *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

Small numbers at Kanha NP were followed by larger numbers in and around Chambal and KGNP, Bharatpur

'Southern' Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treeron phoenicopterus chlorigaster*

Quite common at Kanha NP and Chambal Safari Lodge with smaller numbers at KGNP, Bharatpur

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria eupatria/ nipalensis*

A couple were seen or heard in Delhi near The Claridges hotel (a regular location) and this species was quite common at Kanha NP

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri borealis/ manillensis*

Abundant almost everywhere except Kanha NP where it was outnumbered by the other two parakeet species

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala cyanocephala*

Common in and around Kanha NP but not noted elsewhere

'Southern' Greater Coucal *Centropus (sinensis) parroti*

Birds were seen on about half of our days at Kanha and at KGNP, Bharatpur. Birds of the peninsular race are sometimes regarded as a separate species from those found further north

Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius varius*

Far more often heard than seen but a couple were observed at Kanha NP

Sirkeer Malkoha *Taccoua leschenaulti leschenaulti*

One was seen at Kanha NP on one date only

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus scolopaceus*

Far more often heard than seen but several showed well at various sites

Indian (Collared) Scops Owl *Otus (letitia) bakkamoena gangeticus/ marathae*

One at Kanha NP was followed by two different birds at KGNP, Bharatpur. Most authors now regard birds from the plains as a distinct species from birds from the Himalayas and further east which have quite different voices

Dusky Eagle Owl *Bubo coromandus coromandus*

Two adults and their full grown, but still slightly downy, youngster were in a large tree near the main road through KGNP, Bharatpur

Brown Fish Owl *Bubo zeylonensis leschenault*

One was at Kanha NP on one date only

Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum radiatum*

Up to five per day (but more usually just one or two) were seen and heard at Kanha NP

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama brama/ indica*

A pair at Kanha NP showed occasionally and at least seven birds were found at KGNP, Bharatpur where three sat together on a branch at one point. Another was sometimes to be found on the walls of the Laxmi Villas Palace at Bharatpur

'Indian' White-rumped Spinetail *Zonavena sylvatica*

A couple were seen very distantly as we waited to board elephants near Mukki at Kanha NP

Little or House Swift *Apus affinis affinis/ nipalensis*

Quite common over built up areas such as Agra and Bharatpur City but scarce or absent in rural contexts

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Up to thirty per day were seen over Kanha NP during the early part of our stay there, this species does not appear to have been regularly recorded there before. All were presumably northbound migrants

Crested Tree Swift *Hemiprogne coronata*

Up to 10 were mixed in with swallows over Kanha NP on a couple of occasions

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis atthis ('pallasi')/ bengalensis*

One's and two's were found at a wide range of suitable wetlands; one regularly visited the hotel lake at Tuli Tiger Resort

White-breasted or White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smymensis smymensis/ fusca*

Quite common and widespread, several were seen well away from water

(Lesser) Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis leucomelanurus*

After the first few at Chambal about half a dozen were noted at KGNP, Bharatpur

Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis orientalis*

Small numbers were found at virtually every site visited

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis benghalensis/ indica*

Small numbers were seen each day that we were away from urban areas

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops epops/ ceylonensis*

After two at Okhla up to three were found at Kanha NP on a few occasions

Indian Grey Hornbill *Tockus birostris*

After the first at Okhla a handful were seen most days

Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica inornata*

Very common at Kanha NP though far more were heard than seen, at least three visited a fruiting Ficus in the grounds of Tuli Tiger Resort where they showed well

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima aemacephala indica*

Quite common and widespread, more were heard than seen though several gave excellent views including up to four together in the fruiting Ficus at Tuli Tiger Resort

Indian or Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopus nanus*

One was seen briefly at KGNP, Bharatpur

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopus mahrattensis*

One at Chambal was followed by two at KGNP, Bharatpur

Streak-throated Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus*

Three of four were seen at Kanha NP including a couple of showy duelling males

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense benghalense/ dilutum*

A couple were seen most days at Kanha NP with others found at Chambal and KGNP, Bharatpur

White-naped Flameback *Chrysocolaptes festivus festivus*

A good haul with birds seen on a total of three dates at Kanha NP where four were together in the same tree at one point!

Grey-throated or Plain Sand Martin *Riparia chinensis chinensis*

Up to 50 were over the Yamuna at Okhla with smaller numbers at KGNP, Bharatpur.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica rustica*

Quite common and widespread, the largest gatherings were over the meadows at Kanha NP

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii filifera*

Small numbers were seen at Okhla and KGNP, Bharatpur

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica erythropygia* etc

Up to 20 per day were hawking over the meadows at Kanha NP

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* ('*dukhunensis*'), *personata* and *leucopsis*

Small numbers at Okhla, Kanha NP and especially KGNP, Bharatpur were predominantly nominate *alba* from Siberia and Central Asian *personata* though a couple of Chinese *leucopsis* were also noted

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis*

A pair were regularly around the lake at Tuli Tiger Resort and another was at KGNP, Bharatpur

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola citreola*

A couple at Okhla were followed by one at Kanha NP and about 20 at KGNP, Bharatpur

'Western' Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* - subspecies' not established

Very small numbers were at Okhla and KGNP, Bharatpur

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea melanope*

One at Kanha NP was the only one seen

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus rufulus*

Small numbers were around the meadows at Kanha NP with a few more in the drier areas of KGNP, Bharatpur

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris griseus*

A couple were found at Chambal

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

One was seen calling in flight at Kanha NP

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni/ yunnanensis*

About half a dozen birds were heard or glimpsed in flight during our boat trip at KGNP, Bharatpur

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis trivialis*

At least 20 were seen from time to time at Kanha NP

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*

Of about 10 seen in and around Kanha, three were in the hotel grounds on our final morning there

Black-headed Cuckooshrike *Coracina melanoptera*

A female was seen briefly at Tuli Tiger Resort

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus*

A couple were briefly in trees at Tuli Tiger Resort

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*

A handful were seen at Kanha NP

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*

A small flock were seen at Kanha NP on one date only

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer cafer*

Very common and widespread

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*

One at Chambal was followed by a pair at KGNP, Bharatpur

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

A noisy pair were attending a nest near the restaurant at Tuli Tiger Resort on several occasions and a couple of others were seen elsewhere

Gold-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons aurifrons/ frontalis*

A couple in and around Kanha NP included one in the fruiting Ficus at Tuli Tiger Resort

Jerdon's (or Blue-winged) Leafbird *Chloropsis (ochinchinensis) jerdoni*

One at Kanha NP was followed by a pair that showed very well at Tuli Tiger Resort on our final morning there. Most recent authors regard this as a separate species from the more widespread Blue-winged Leafbird which seems fitting as jerdoni lacks blue wings!

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus cristatus*

A total of three were noted at Kanha NP

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus arenarius*

One was at our tea stop between Jabalpur and Kanha and another was in the meadows at Kanha NP

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach erythronotus*

Three or four were noted in the meadows of Kanha NP

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*

Only seen at KGNP, Bharatpur were three were noted

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Regularly heard and occasionally seen at Kanha NP, Chambal and especially KGNP, Bharatpur. A couple of red-breasted males were seen

Taiga or Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

Recorded, mainly by voice, at both Kanha NP and KGNP, Bharatpur. Probably outnumbered by the previous species (with which it was once considered a subspecies) by about 10 or 20 to 1

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina thalassina*

One was wintering in the grounds of the Tuli Tiger Resort

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

A single was seen on one date at Kanha NP

Bluethroat *Lusinia svecia*

A couple were at Okhla

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis saularis*

Common and quite widespread

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

Birds were seen on two occasions at Kanha NP with others heard

Indian Black Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata cambaiensis*

Singles were noted at Chambal and Bharatpur

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides/ rufiventris*

Small numbers were seen, mainly around hotel gardens at Kanha and Bharatpur

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata indicus/ maurus*

Quite common in the Kanha meadows with a few more noted elsewhere

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata burmanica*

Quite common in the grasslands at Kanha and at KGNP, Bharatpur

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

A lovely male was found near the river at Chambal

Brown Rock Chat *Ceromela fusca*

Only seen in and around the Laxmi Villas Palace at Bharatpur were a pair were in residence. Sadly one was found dead there on our final afternoon

Indian Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii horsfieldii*

Although heard with some regularity in bamboo thickets at Kanha NP this rather skulking species often proved hard to see well

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense hypoleucum*

One was seen at Kanha NP

Common Babbler *Turdoides caudatus caudatus/ edipes*

A handful were seen at Okhla

Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi*

Only recorded at KGNP, Bharatpur were a handful were found

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus striatus/ sindiana/ orientalis*

These busy and characterful birds were very common and widespread

Brown-cheeked *Fulvetta Alcippe poiocephala brucei*

Quite common in the bamboo areas at Kanha NP though not always easy to see well

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis cursitans*

A handful were seen in the Kanha NP meadows

Grey-breasted *Prinia Prinia hodgsonii hodgsonii*

Small numbers were seen quite regularly at Kanha NP

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis socialis*

One or two were seen at several sites including hotel gardens

Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica sylvatica*

In total three or four singing birds were noted at Kanha NP

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata inornata*

Overall this was the commonest Prinia with daily encounters in the meadows at Kanha NP and couple elsewhere

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*

About half a dozen were found at Okhla

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius guzuratis*

Quite common and widespread

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Small numbers were at Kanha and KGNP, Bharatpur

[Indian (Clamorous) Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus (stentoreus) brunescens*

Heard singing but not seen at KGNP, Bharatpur]

(Siberian) Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus (collybita) tristis*

A couple at Okhla were followed by two occasionally to be found in the grounds of Tuli Tiger Resort

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

Much more often heard than seen though several showed well at various locations including the grounds of Tuli Tiger Resort

Brook's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus brookei*

One showed uncharacteristically well along the Shanti Kutir trail at KGNP, Bharatpur on our final morning there

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*

Another species heard more often than seen though several showed well in the grounds of Tuli Tiger Resort

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca (perhaps halimodendri)*

This species was heard at Kanha but only seen at KGNP, Bharatpur where it was moderately common

Great Tit *Parus major stupae*

Small numbers were seen most days at Kanha NP

Indian (Chestnut-bellied) Nuthatch *Sitta castanea castanea*

A pair were in the grounds of Tuli Tiger Resort on one date only. Birds in the plains are now sometimes regarded as a separate species from those found in the foothills of the Himalaya

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

One was seen briefly at Kanha NP

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile agile*

One was seen briefly at Kanha NP

Pale-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos erythrorhynchos*

Rather common at Kanha NP though the large majority of those seen were hurtling overhead calling

Purple Sunbird *Nectarina asiatica asiatica*

Very common and widespread

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa palpebrosa*

Quite common and widespread after the first were seen in the hotel car park in Delhi

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava amandava*

A small group at Okhla were the only ones encountered

Indian Silverbill *Londura malabarica*

A couple were seen briefly at KGNP, Bharatpur

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Although singing birds were heard all over Kanha NP all but a handful proved fiendishly hard to see

Indian (House) Sparrow *Passer (domesticus) indicus*

Small numbers were found in all urban contexts

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis*

Small numbers were found in drier areas at Kanha NP and KGNP, Bharatpur

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*

At least four attended the fruiting Ficus at Tuli Tiger Resort

Brahminy Starling *Tenenuchus pagodarum*

After the first at Okhla this attractive species was seen regularly in the grounds of Tuli Tiger Resort and elsewhere

Asian Pied Starling *Gracula contra contra*

Recorded at Okhla, Kanha, Chambal and Bharatpur in generally small numbers

Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis tristis*

Very common and widespread

Bank Mynah *Acridotheres ginglyanus*

Gatherings occurred in more built up areas, especially in the vicinity of train stations

Jungle Mynah

Two were in trees at our tea stop between Jabalpur and Kanha

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*

At least a couple were seen each day at Kanha NP

Black Drongo *Dicurus macrocerus*

Common and widespread away from denser forest

White-bellied Drongo *Dicurus caerulescens caerulescens*

A handful were seen daily at Kanha NP

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicurus paradiseus paradiseus*

Tolerably common at Kanha NP with about half a dozen or more seen most days

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda vagabunda*

Quite common in all wooded contexts

House Crow *Corvus splendens splendens*

Common to abundant in urban areas but largely replaced by the next species in more rural contexts

'Indian' Jungle Crow or Large-billed Crow *Corvus (macrorhynchos) culminatus*

Common at Kanha NP but with fewer elsewhere

Other fauna

Indian Flapshell Turtle *Lissemys punctata*

Unnamed Lizard: *Varanus griseus koniecznyi*

Indian Rock Python *Python molurus*

Gharial *Gavialis gangeticus*

Marsh Mugger Crocodile *Croodylus palustris*

Water Snake species *Natrix* sp

Common Garden Lizard *Calotes versicolor*

House Gecko species *Hemidactylus* or *Gehyra* etc sp

A few other unidentified Snake and Lizard/Gecko species were also recorded