

# India - Just Tigers!

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 March - 5 April 2009

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Report compiled by Bharat Mandhyan (Bunty)



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Participant: Heather Maclean  
Elizabeth Wicken  
Edna Davies  
Graeme Robinson  
Anne Perry  
Lee Midgley  
Philip Whiting  
Jane Whiting

## Day 1

Friday 20th March

Departed UK

## Day 2

Saturday 21st March

Weather: warm & hazy

Flight was on time (landed at 0945 hrs), picked up the guests from the airport, on arrival guests were checked in to their accommodation, then we headed to Sultanpur National Park for afternoon of birding at 1400 hrs. We returned back to the hotel before having dinner and retiring.

## Day 3

Sunday 22nd March

Weather: warm and sunny

Checked out early from the hotel to catch the flight to Jabalpur, on arrival stopped for breakfast at Jacksons Hotel and afterwards drove to Kanha. We checked in at the Royal Tiger Resort (Mukki) and after having lunch at the hotel did the afternoon game drive and one of the jeeps managed to have a Tiger sighting.

## Day 4

Monday 23rd March

Weather: warm and sunny

We went for both the morning and afternoon game drives, and experienced some lovely sightings of Tiger on both the drives.

## Day 5

Tuesday 24th March

Weather: cool in the morning and sunny later

We went for both the game drives. Mammals seen were Jackal, Wild Boar, etc. Birds seen were Egyptian Vulture, Coppersmith Barbet, Yellow Crowned Wood-Pecker, etc.

**Day 6****Wednesday 25th March**

Weather: warm and sunny

We went for both the drives, and on the afternoon drive we went to see the elephant camp where we fed an elephant and the calf.

**Day 7****Thursday 26th March**

Weather: warm and sunny

Went for both the drives, and experienced some lovely sightings of Tiger on both. We watched them on elephant back...

**Day 8****Friday 27th March**

Weather: cool and dry

We went for both morning and evening drives. Guests from one vehicle got to see Tiger today. Other mammals seen were Sambar, Chital and Wild Boar. Birds sighted were Red headed vulture, Crested Serpent Eagle, Green Sandpiper, Common Hawk Cuckoo, Brown Capped Pigmy Woodpecker, Greater Racket Tailed Drongo etc. Later we watched a Folk-dance show.

**Day 9****Saturday 28th March**

Went for both the game drives as usual, but during the morning drive we managed to see a Tigress with her two 8 month old cubs! Other mammals seen were Jackal, Wild Boar, etc. Birds seen were Egyptian Vulture, Coppersmith Barbet, Yellow Crowned Wood-Pecker, etc.

**Day 10****Sunday 29th March**

Weather: warm and sunny

Today we did only the morning safari as we had to drive to Jabalpur. In the morning everybody managed to see Tiger from the elephant back. After lunch we left the hotel at 1230 hrs to reach Jabalpur to catch the overnight train to Agra. Packed dinner was supplied by the hotel.

**Day 11****Monday 30th March**

Weather: warm and sunny

On arrival at Agra we checked in at the Trident Agra. After breakfast we had a full day sight-seeing of two monuments i.e. Baby Taj and Agra Fort. Overnight was at the Hotel.

**Day 12****Tuesday 31st March**

Weather: warm and sunny

Visited the Taj at sunrise, had breakfast at the hotel and then checked out.

After lunch at the local restaurant at Agra we headed for Fatehpur Sikri, and from there we drove by surface to Bharatpur, (leaving off one of the clients who was returning to Delhi). On arrival we checked in at Laxmi Vilas Palace where we had dinner and overnighted.

## Day 13

Wednesday 1st April

Weather: warm and sunny

Did some morning birding, and after breakfast at the hotel we were transferred by coach to the railway station to catch the train for Swai Madhopur at 1140 hrs. On arrival at Swai Madhopur we were transferred to Ranthambhore where we checked in at Ranthambhore Forest Resort. We had lunch at 1400 hrs then left for the park at 1500 hrs for a pleasant afternoon safari. Mammals seen were Chital, Sambar, etc. Dinner was served at the hotel.

## Day 14

Thursday 2nd April

Weather: warm and dry

We went for both morning and evening drives. Guests from one vehicle saw Tiger today. Other mammals seen were Sambar, Chital and Wild Boar. Birds sighted were Long-billed Vulture, Crested Serpent Eagle, Green Sandpiper, Common Hawk Cuckoo, Brown Capped Pigmy Woodpecker, Greater Racket Tailed Drongo etc.

## Day 15

Friday 3rd April

Weather: warm and sunny

Went for both the morning and afternoon drives, and experienced some lovely sightings Tigers on both the drives!

## Day 16

Saturday 4th April

Weather: warm and sunny

We did only the morning safari as we had to catch the train to Delhi. On arrival at Delhi we checked in at Ashok Country Resort.

## Day 17

Sunday 5th April

In the early morning we were transferred to the airport and arrived London mid-morning.

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## Species Lists

### Birds

Nomenclature and taxonomy generally follows Grimmett and Inskipp's *The Birds of Northern India* (2003) which follows the treatments in *The Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (1999) by the same authors. Figures refer to the number of days the species was recorded out of the 7 days of the main tour

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Location
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1	
2	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	1	
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1	
4	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	3	
5	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	1	
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	
7	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2	
8	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	2	
9	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5	
10	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	5	
11	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	6	
12	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	2	
13	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	2	
14	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	5	
15	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	2	
16	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	2	
17	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	1	
18	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	3	
19	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	4	
20	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
21	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	3	
22	Black-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	4	
23	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	5	
24	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela cheela</i>	4	
25	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	2	Quite common and widespread
26	White-Eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	1	
27	Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatous</i>	2	
28	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	
29	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	1	
30	Jungle Bush-quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>	1	
31	White-Breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	1	
32	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	Reasonably common at suitable waterbodies
33	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	2	
34	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	4	
35	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus indicus</i>	6	Very common, widespread and noisy
36	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	4	
37	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	2	
38	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	1	
39	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia neglecta</i>	3	

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Records</b>	<b>Location</b>
40	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2	
41	Eurasian Collard Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaoto</i>	3	
42	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	5	Fairly common
43	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	2	Common and very widespread
44	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera phoenicoptera</i>	4	
45	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	4	
46	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	6	Common and widespread, one of very few species seen every day
47	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	3	
48	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	2	Regularly encountered in a range of scrubby and grassland settings
49	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium</i>	2	
50	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama indica</i>	2	
51	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	3	
52	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne corona</i>	3	
53	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	3	
54	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	5	Common and very widespread, a frequent sight on roadside wires
55	Green Bee-Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	5	
56	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis benghalensis</i>	5	Frequently seen, often along roadsides
57	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1	
58	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	3	Small numbers were seen at most wooded or parkland sites
59	Brown-Headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	2	
60	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	2	Quite common, though much more often heard than seen,
61	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	1	
62	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis pallescens</i>	2	
63	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	4	The commonest and most widespread woodpecker with records coming from all wooded locations
64	White-Naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	2	
65	Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	1	
66	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundu rustica</i>	2	
67	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundu smithii</i>	2	
68	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	2	
69	White Wagtail	<i>Motallica alba</i>	3	
70	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motallica madaraspatisensis</i>	1	
71	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motallica flava</i>	2	
72	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motallica cinerea</i>	4	
73	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	1	
74	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2	
75	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei macei</i>	4	
76	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	2	
77	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	6	Very common and widespread
78	Golden-Fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	1	
79	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	2	

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Records</b>	<b>Location</b>
80	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	1	
81	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inomata</i>	1	
82	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	3	Widespread in small numbers with birds recorded at all sites
83	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	3	
84	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	2	
85	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	4	
86	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulica</i>	3	
87	Black Redstart	<i>Phoeicurus ochruros</i>	2	
88	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	1	
89	Indian Chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	1	
90	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	1	
91	Puff-throated babbler	<i>Pellomeum ruficeps</i>	2	
92	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	1	
93	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	6	Generally common and widespread
94	Great Tit	<i>Parus major(cinereus group)</i>	3	
95	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	5	Present throughout at low densities
96	Thick-Billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	3	
97	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	4	
98	Black-Hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	4	
99	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	4	
100	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	4	
101	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	5	Very common, a frequent site on roadside wires
102	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>	2	
103	Greater Racket-Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	2	
104	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta agabunda</i>	5	Widespread at fairly low densities
105	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens splendens</i>	3	common around settlements, but less frequently seen in wooded areas
106	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
107	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	2	Rather localised, sometimes the dominant myna but generally scarce and heavily outnumbered by Common Mynas
108	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i>	6	Ubiquitous
109	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	2	Common in the vicinity of water
110	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>	3	
111	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus (indica group)</i>	3	Fairly common in most urban settings and in some more rural areas
112	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	4	
113	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	6	Rather common and widespread though some of those seen in more urban areas were presumably of

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Location
				semi-feral origin
114	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	3	
115	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	4	
116	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	2	

## Mammals

1	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macca mulatta</i>	3	Fairly common and widespread
2	Hanuman Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	6	Fairly common and widespread, commoner in heavy woodland than the previous species
3	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	5	
4	Chital	<i>Cervus axis</i>	5	
5	Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	2	
6	Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	5	
7	Common Jackal			
8	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	5	
9	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	1	
10	Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	2	
11	Five-Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>	6	
12	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>	2	
13	Intermediate Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus affinis</i>	1	
14	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>	2	

## Reptiles

1	Indian Mud Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	1	
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