

Just Tigers!

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 March - 5 April 2011



Royal Bengal Tiger



Tiger (male) at Kisli Gate



Spotted Owlets at Kanha National Park



Elephant back Tiger tracking

Report compiled by Nick Acheson

Images by kind courtesy of Sue & Paul Edwards



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader: Nick Acheson (Naturetrek Leader & Naturalist)

Participants: Stephen Debenham
Judith Debenham
Paul Edwards
Sue Edwards
Tony Flay
Pete Heywood
Loz Heywood
Steve Phillips
Annette Phillips

Introduction

Often on tour, when the wild creatures really aren't cooperating, and the clients are understandably disgruntled, tour leaders lie in bed at night and dream of tours on which Tigers stroll out from behind every tree, they're seen superbly every day, and clients have seen so many so well that they're even a little tigered-out. I never imagined these tours actually happened; but they do and this is the story of one.

Day 0

Friday 25th March

Travel from the UK

Day 1

Saturday 26th March

So we didn't see a Tiger today; well you have to cut me a little slack. However, having collected you all from the airport, and settled you into the absurdly luxurious Leela Kempinski Hotel in Gurgaon, we did see a host of wonderful wildlife at Sultanpur National Park in Haryana. The Painted Stork colony here had largely done its stuff for the year but there were still plenty of these lovely birds around and they were much admired by the group. Purple Sunbirds sang their chippy, descending songs from the tops of every tree (a song that would prove the soundtrack to our entire tour), Five-striped Palm-Squirrels bounded and scampered along the slenderest branches and a herd of delicately-toffee-coloured female Nilgai stood in the dry grass. I am a big fan of Nilgai but whenever I see them I can't help feeling as though they've been made with leftover parts of other ungulates. I'm not even remotely a fan of Rhesus Macaques (you've heard the stories; you know what they did to me) but they were here too, shamelessly flashing their raspberry bottoms at all and sundry.

Enough about macaques, the dwindling waters of the jheel were host to a very fine selection of waders: Black-winged Stilt, Little Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Common Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper and Red-wattled Lapwing. It was like a plate from a field guide. Even a Stone Curlew hid in the shade of a stand of Acacias while Ashy Prinias wagged their tails in the tall grasses nearby.

Despite the magnificent heat we strolled a short way through the park's dry forest and encountered our first Black-rumped Flamebacks, Rufous Treepies, Small Minivets, Green Bee-eaters and Common Hawk Cuckoo – all this to the nasal accompaniment of Large Grey Babblers. A superb male Oriental Magpie Robin was very popular here and, all in all, we agreed that it had been a fine start to the tour. Little did we imagine what was to come...

Day 2

Sunday 27th March

Today was effectively a non-wildlife day. After a sumptuous breakfast at the Leela Kempinski we took advantage of the Sunday lull in Delhi traffic to cross the city to Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station. After a simple lunch here we boarded our train for the all-night adventure that would take us to Jabalpur. Indian trains get very bad press so I feel it's incumbent on me to stand up in defence of Second Class A/C Sleepers. The beds are a little hard and perhaps some of them have more than a little camber. And yes, the loos are relatively basic. But there are clean sheets and blankets, curtains for privacy, and drums of steaming chai to wake you in the morning. Even the percussive swaying of the train has a meditative quality... or so I like to think at three o'clock... and again at four. From the train, before the dusk descended, we saw quite a crop of birds and mammals including more Nilgai, Black Drongo, Black-shouldered Kite, Bank Myna (official bird of Indian railway stations), Little Cormorant, Indian Pond Heron, Cattle Egret, Woolly-necked Stork and Rock Dove.

Day 3

Monday 28th March

As day dawned we were still rolling along in our train and still watching beautiful Indian birds. Common Koels hopped through trackside trees and a Golden Oriole blazed past. In no time we were reaching Jabalpur where we were efficiently whisked to Jackson's Hotel for bathrooms and breakfast.

From here our three comfortable vehicles drove us expertly to Tuli Tiger Resort, close to the Kisli Gate of Kanha National Park. Along the way there were Black-shouldered Kites and Red-wattled Lapwings, Black Drongos and Jungle Crows. Lunch at Tuli set the tone for a week of delicious meals but, if we're honest, it wasn't lunch that was at the front of our minds. No, it was our first drive in the park which was occupying everyone's thoughts, not least mine. After so many tours and so many Tigers I still feel the same thrill every time I enter the forest.

What a glorious park Kanha is. Before we reached the gate we saw our first Golden Jackals and no sooner had we passed it than we were watching handsome Chital nodding their superb antlers. At Kisli we had our introduction to the resident Spotted Owlets, and overhead were Red-headed Vultures and Shikras. Sambar strutted through the forest, muscle-heavy Gaur strode from stands of bamboo, Wild Boar crowded at the water's edge and rare Barasingha glowed gold in the afternoon light in the meadows.

But all of this seems like a backdrop, a faint haze, when you remember the highlight of our first glorious afternoon in Kanha. For this afternoon – in our first staggering stroke of luck – we all saw Tigers and for most of you they were the very first of your lives. All three of our jeeps pulled up in Kanha Meadows at a group of vehicles and quickly we were all watching one of the resident sixteen-month-old cubs (all three of whom would soon become our firm friends) sitting alert in the open a short distance away. The cub moved closer, into taller grass, and, just as we were expecting it to emerge, its mother strode from the same patch of grass. Even were she not wearing a radio-collar, this magnificent female would instantly be recognised by her deep burnished orange colour.

She crossed the road and disappeared along a stream, followed moments later by her much paler cub. I cast my binoculars over our three jeeps and saw nine faces beaming with elation and not a few Tiger-tears. Nor would they be the last!

Day 4

Tuesday 29th March

I'm in the habit of challenging my groups to do new things each day. Yesterday I challenged you all to see a Tiger and you all did brilliantly. Today I challenged you to see a Tiger from an elephant and you did even more brilliantly. You saw three. This morning the Kanha mahouts and their noble steeds found the three cubs dozing in a stand of grass and we were all privileged to see these peerless creatures at close quarters with the patient help of the elephants. Later one of our jeeps saw two of the cubs leaving their morning nap and striding across the meadows, close to where we had seen their mother the previous evening. It must be said that as you watched them I had one eye on the pair of Shikras that was displaying right over our heads – but could I get you to look at them? Another jeep raised the stakes this morning by seeing the tour's first Jungle Cat. Tigers? Huh, they're easy; we all want to see Jungle Cats; (just you wait, oh ye of little faith).

Another of our jeeps had the first encounter with some of the most charismatic and charming creatures of the whole tour – a family of five very small Golden Jackal pups which were living very close to the Kanha headquarters. White-rumped Vultures circled in the skies, a Grey-headed Fish-Eagle scowled from a pond-side tree, Greater Racket-tailed Drongos quivered their remarkable tails in the sal forest, Oriental Honey-Buzzards displayed over the trees and Indian Rollers flashed their impossibly blue wings over the golden grassland. There were butterflies too, with poetic names: Common Emigrant, Common Crow, Large Oakblue, Baronet and, appropriately, Blue Tiger.

In the afternoon... well, we just watched a couple of Tigers. All three of our jeeps were again present when one of the cubs made a failed attempt to catch a Chital before sitting on a bank in the shade of a tree. As we watched him, at some distance, a sudden buzz went through the assembled jeeps as we realised a Tiger was on the road behind us. And not just any Tiger: this was Munna, the father of the cubs, the most photogenic Tiger in India and – if you'll forgive a well-merited cliché – the King of Kanha Meadows. Munna padded past the jeeps, without so much as a glance at us and, as if to show his utter disdain, sat down in a bare patch just a few metres from us. More tears? I should think so. As the shadows grew longer we watched a fascinating drama in the lives of the wild creatures of Kanha. The cub sat on the bank on one side of the stream, his father sat in the open on the other and between them – but in a hollow – grazed a herd of Chital, entirely oblivious to the stripy danger on both flanks. Only when a few of them strayed up to the bank of the stream did they notice Munna – alarm calls rang out, white tails were flashed and composure was most distinctly lost. And that wasn't all. As we had driven into the park this afternoon, all three of our jeeps had seen a well-known male Wild Dog with one broken ear and one jeep also saw his female. The first Ruddy Mongooses of the tour were also seen this afternoon and there were more Jackals. The poor Gaur, Sambar, Chital and Barasingha – exotic and beautiful as they are – don't even get a look in on days like these.

Day 5

Wednesday 30th March

This morning, feeling that the Tiger-watching just couldn't be bettered, we took a risk and drove to Mukki with a view to seeing the wonderful landscapes of the park and increasing our chances of seeing some of the wildlife living on the drier ridges. Glorious Gaur grazed along our way and Changeable Hawk-Eagles flapped overhead.

On arrival at Sondar we heard that the Mukki elephants had found a Tiger but we decided not to go on the Tiger Show as we were quite low on the list. Instead, we had a delicious breakfast in the beautiful surroundings of Sondar and headed to a corner of Sondar Tank where a Leopard had been seen several times at its Chital kill in a mahua tree. The tree we saw, the Chital we saw, and no doubt the Leopard saw us...but we unfortunately we didn't see it. Nevertheless, the grasslands were full of the quiver of Peacocks' tails and the forest chimed and rang to the tune of Coppersmith and Brown-headed Barbets, Black-headed Orioles and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos.

A tigerless morning? No fear! On the way out of the park, two of our jeeps saw the Kisli male Tiger passing the heat of the day in a saucer of water near the Kisli Gate (for those reading this who haven't been to Central India, a saucer is a cement pond in the forest, kept artificially full of water in order to make the habitat more suitable for Tigers and their prey). After lunch he was still there! Now all three of our jeeps had seen this gorgeous animal – less magnificent than Munna but equally assured. Over him a flock of Common Rosefinches picked seeds from the bamboos. Still we weren't done for the day with Tigers. One of our jeeps watched the most brazen of the cubs – a male – stroll down to the river at Badrinath and sit watching the mahouts as they scrubbed their elephants.

Another jeep saw the other two cubs. And the third jeep saw a new female Tiger (their seventh individual in just three days), a superb Jungle Cat and a Ruddy Mongoose. Meanwhile White-eyed Buzzard, Zitting Cisticola and Yellow-eyed Babbler were all added to our mounting list of incidental birds. What a day!

Day 6

Thursday 31st March

Continuing our quest to get off the beaten track, today we sent two jeeps onto the plateau at Bamhni Dadar and one jeep to Sarhi. The latter jeep briefly encountered a family of seven Wild Dogs, saw a Rhesus Macaque (a real rarity in Kanha) and added some new birds to the list including Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Rufous Woodpecker. The jeeps on the plateau also had fun: Chestnut-shouldered Petronias chipped from the tops of the trees, Green Bee-eaters dived and looped from low branches, Paddyfield Pipits pipped from the tops of termite mounds and an Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark skipped through the lateritic dust in front of us. As we ate breakfast gazing from the plateau onto the whole of the park we heard the frantic calls of a family of Common Langurs beneath us and watched as they crept to the trees' highest branches to get away from a Leopard which only they could see.

This afternoon, however, four of you did see a Leopard. And what a Leopard! Initially lying in light cover near Badrinath, your Leopard bolted up a tree, apparently for no reason, allowing itself to be seen superbly. The reason soon revealed itself in the form of one of the Tiger cubs. A Leopard driven up a tree by a Tiger: the stuff of legends! Our other two jeeps were hardly slacking. One saw another of the Tiger cubs, our first Black Ibis and a fascinating stand-off between a Jackal and a Changeable Hawk-Eagle, each carrying the leg of a hapless Chital fawn. And the other jeep saw the charismatic Jackal pups.

Day 7

Friday 1st April

This morning we swapped routes, sending two jeeps to beautiful Sarhi and the third to Bamhni Dadar. There were more new birds in the form of a Mottled Wood Owl at the Sarhi Gate, displaying Sirkeer Malkohas and flocks of Grey-breasted Prinias. Meanwhile up on the plateau, Red-whiskered Bulbuls were seen in their usual spot. The Sarhi jeeps saw very fresh tracks of Tiger, Leopard and Sloth Bear but none of those responsible. However one of the jeeps had a splendid encounter with a huge Indian Rock Python. Meanwhile the Bamhni Dadar jeep just couldn't stop themselves from watching cats: they saw a Tiger cub in Kanha Meadows and their third Jungle Cat.

It continued this afternoon. One of our jeeps managed to see two cubs. The second jeep had still not seen Jungle Cat so I sent them on a mission with our wonderful local naturalist Sunil – our very own billi malik – and he managed to find them two of these exquisite creatures. My jeep, also on a mission to see Jungle Cats, went to Indri where two had been seen in the morning. We saw no cats but the forest was blissfully empty of other jeeps; Jungle Babblers exploded from every stand of bamboo; Jungle Owlets cleared their throats from the sal trees, Three-striped Palm-Squirrels bounced along what seemed like every branch and, as we drove out in the evening, pairs of Red Spur-fowl scurried away from us round every corner.

Day 8

Saturday 2nd April

Having sent you off (at your behest) into the far corners of the park in search of rare creatures over the past couple of days, today I let you stay in the meadows and play with the Tigers.

Two of our jeeps drove here via the remarkable balancing rock at Digdola while the other had a brilliant encounter with the flop-eared male Wild Dog and his female before hopping on an elephant to see a young male Tiger cub. The two Digdola jeeps left breakfast hurriedly, having heard that Munna was heading for Mainha Nala. As soon as we got there, Chital alarm calls went up from the forest and this most glorious of Tigers strode across the grassland towards us. The assembled jeeps very responsibly gave him plenty of space to cross the road... but he chose to walk through the jeeps anyway. In doing so he walked right under one of Naturetrek's Tiger Direct jeeps, led by my good friend Harish Sharma. At one point Munna was so close that I could see Harish pointing his camera almost straight downwards to get a photo!

In the afternoon, the last two not to have seen a Jungle Cat were sent in a remedial jeep with Sunil the billi malik and – yes – with Sunil's tutelage you saw a Jungle Cat beautifully as it climbed a tree in the meadows. At this point I was the only person on the tour not to have seen a jungli billi and, although I kept saying how many I'd seen in the past and feigning indifference, I was smarting.

Another of our jeeps this afternoon made the beautiful drive from the bridge at Naktighati up into the hills of Umarpani. A fabulous male Malabar Pied Hornbill flapped past in the burnished light of the late afternoon and as we drove down from the ridge we saw two Ruddy Mongooses. All of our jeeps had a quick, distant look at the same two Wild Dogs at China Nala this evening as we left the park. As we went to bed India and Sri Lanka battled for victory in the cricket world cup and every one of India's billion people sat spellbound by a radio or television.

Day 9

Sunday 3rd April

A very fine day indeed: India won the cricket last night, and this morning everybody saw Munna superbly from an elephant. He was found this morning by the Kanha mahouts close to Sravan Tal in a tiny patch of grass. As we watched from above him on elephants he stood up, wandered round, peered into the distance and behaved every bit as nonchalantly as he does around jeeps. What's more, everybody saw the baby Jackals today too and one jeep saw yet another Jungle Cat.

Late in the morning – and much to our driver's embarrassment – I had to take two of you on a squirrel safari. Despite at this point having seen (if I remember rightly) seven Tigers eighteen times, in addition to a superb Leopard and three Jungle Cats, two of you had somehow contrived to miss both Five-striped Palm-Squirrel at Sultanpur and Three-striped every day in Kanha.

Though I knew that Five-striped would be a doddle at the Taj Mahal, I wasn't standing for anyone dipping Three-striped in Kanha. So we sat under a mango tree at the Kisli Gate – a great place for them – until one appeared. Hurrah! Despite these excitements, this morning was weird. Every morning so far we'd driven into the park with the sounds of Jungle Owlets, Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, Coppersmith Barbets and Brown-headed Barbets ringing in our ears and we'd practically had to shove Common Langurs from the roads in front of our jeeps. This morning, with the weather heavy and humid, the forest felt entirely different: the birds were all but silent and the Langurs were nowhere to be seen. Migrant birds were on the move – a party of Bar-headed Geese dropped into Sravan Tal next to the Tiger Show (on precisely the same date as last year according to my friend Kaustubh).

Snakes were suddenly everywhere. A Common Cobra slid from the roadside as we left the park and a beautiful Bronze-backed Tree-Snake squirmed in the road near Digdola in the afternoon and one more unidentified snake was seen. Nonetheless, the highlight of the afternoon was – predictably – a Tiger, or rather a Tigress. Just when we thought our luck had come to an end, all three of our jeeps reached the meadow where – in the tangerine light of the Indian evening – the gorgeous collared mother was stalking Chital. We watched in rapture, not sure whether to cheer her on or wish the Chital a safe escape. In the end she lost her cover and disappeared into the forest still hungry – our last Tiger of the tour. As we left the park after yet another blissful day, the flop-eared male Wild Dog hopped onto the track in front of a couple of our jeeps, as if saying good-bye at the end of a super-successful tour.

Day 10

Monday 4th April

This morning's was our last drive of the tour and – almost unbelievably – nobody saw a Tiger. My jeep heard sustained alarm calls from a Sambar near Naktighati and even heard the Tiger responsible roaring several times from far beneath us in the forest. We reflected – amused – that, even after a week of quite unbelievable Tiger-watching, it was exhilarating to hear one and hope that it might come out onto the track. For everyone today, the forest sounded with the chattering of Rufous Treepies, the sci-fi whistles of Black-hooded Orioles, the chiming of Coppersmith Barbets and the rolling purr of Brown-headed Barbets. Common Mynas shrieked in the grasslands and Indian Rollers tutted harshly. Barasingha stags waved their huge antlers and big Gaur bulls shone in the morning sun. Wild Boar trotted over trails with tails raised in alarm and Common Langurs seemed to swing from every branch. But in no time we had to leave the beauties of our park and head back to Jabalpur to catch our train. Woolly-necked and Black Storks were both seen on the drive, as were all the common open-country birds which had become our friends. In the evening we caught our train, bound this time for Agra.

Day 11

Tuesday 5th April

Alas we reached Agra two hours late and – if we're honest – a little worse for our journey. But it was nothing that breakfast and bathrooms at the splendid Mughal Sheraton hotel couldn't fix and in no time, having picked up our local guide Rajiv, we were heading for the Taj Mahal. Nothing could interfere with your enjoyment of this exceptional building. Despite the imposing grace of the Taj Mahal, some of you felt able to multi-task and see the Egyptian Vultures landing on the minarets, the three Spoonbills on the Yamuna, the River Lapwing also there and the by-now celebrated Five-striped Palm-Squirrels on every tree. From the Taj Mahal we made the short journey to Agra Fort where Shah Jahan spent his last lovesick years gazing at the perfect mausoleum he had created for his wife. Time alas was short and we were soon sharing a final meal together before some headed to the Bharatpur and Ranthambore extension, others to the Chambal and Bharatpur extension, and still others to Delhi and on to their homes.

Summary

None of the above – the flawless logistics and the flights of feline fancy – would have been possible without the help of many people. Our thanks for this remarkable spell of Tiger-worship must go particularly to the staff of Tuli Tiger Resort, none of whom was ever seen without a glowing smile. The rooms were immaculate, the food delicious, and the setting beautiful (and full of birds). Particular thanks must go to Dr Siva for masterminding everything behind the scenes and to Dinesh for taking such care of us in the dining room. Our wonderful guide Sunil shared his deep and loving knowledge of the forest with us and played a huge part in the success of our tour; and our drivers – Sel, Vijay, Patel, Raju, Navir and Tara – were all attentive, helpful, careful and in their own right brilliant naturalists. Thanks too go to the elephants of Kanha and their mahouts, for showing us the Tigers at close quarters and for watching the lives of these wonderful creatures and helping to keep them from harm.

And thanks to the forest and the grasslands too. Thanks for crows of the Junglefowl and the wails of the Peacocks; thanks for the alarm-coughs of the Langurs and the high barks of the startled Chital; thanks for syrup-gold Barasingha in the grass and chestnut Barking Deer among the dry leaves of the forest floor; thanks for Little Cormorants on spindly poolside branches and Common Kingfishers on spindlier branches still; thanks for Sloth Bear footprints, for twitching Ruddy Mongoose noses, for scowling Spotted Owlets and light-pawed Jungle Cats. Thanks above all for the greatest of the cats. We wish Munna and his big cat family long lives and healthy progeny. And we ourselves wish to be back in timeless Kanha to see them.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans. Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Jungle Cat



Sleepy Tiger

Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only; ✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April											
			26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3			
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓	✓			✓							
2	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓									
4	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	✓											
5	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓		✓									
6	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓				
8	Indian Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	✓	✓										
11	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
12	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				✓								
13	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓										
14	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptotilos javanicus</i>						✓				✓	✓	
15	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
16	Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
18	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>						✓	H				✓	
19	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>												✓
20	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>						✓						
21	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	✓											
22	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	✓											
23	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	✓											
24	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓									
27	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>												
28	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>				✓			✓	✓			✓	
29	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>							✓					✓
30	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>			✓									
31	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>						✓	✓			✓		
34	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>	✓											
35	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
36	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓									✓	
37	Painted Francolin	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>				✓			✓	✓				
38	Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>						H	✓					
39	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	H					✓						
40	Jungle Bush-Quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
41	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
44	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	✓											
45	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>	✓		✓				✓					
46	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓											
47	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>			✓									

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April											
			26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3			
48	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓	✓										
49	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	✓							✓				✓
50	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>												
51	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
53	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	✓											
54	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	✓											
55	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	✓		✓			✓						
56	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓		✓			✓						
57	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	✓		✓			✓						
58	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓											
59	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓							✓				
60	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	✓											
61	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓									
62	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>			✓									
66	Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>	✓		✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓
71	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>			✓				H					✓
72	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	H		✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓
73	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>								✓	✓			
74	Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>							✓	✓			✓	
75	Mottled Wood Owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
76	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	White-rumped Needletail	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>				✓							✓	
79	Little (House) Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>			✓	✓			✓					
81	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓	✓				H	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	H		✓					✓				
87	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>											✓	
88	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>			H	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓
90	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	H		✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	H	✓
91	Brown-capped Pygmy-Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>							✓					
92	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
94	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	✓			✓	H	H			H	H	H	✓
95	Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	✓						✓					
96	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	✓											
97	Eurasian House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April									
			26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
99	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>			✓	✓				✓		
100	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓									
101	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓				✓		✓	✓
102	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
103	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	✓						✓		H	
104	Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
106	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>							✓	✓		
107	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pyconotus jocosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
108	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pyconotus cafer</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>				✓	✓					
110	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>								✓	✓	
111	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>							✓	✓	✓	
112	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>					✓	✓				
113	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>								✓		✓
114	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	✓									
115	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>						✓				✓
116	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>				✓						
117	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>			✓	✓						✓
118	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus (collybita) tristis</i>	✓									
119	Hume's Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>						H				H
120	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>				H	H	H	H	H	H	H
121	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
122	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	✓		H	H	H	H	✓	H	✓	
123	Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
124	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
125	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>					✓		✓			
126	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochuros</i>	✓								✓	
127	Eastern Stonechat	<i>Saxicola (torquata) maura</i>				✓	✓	✓				
128	White-spotted (White-throated) Fantail	<i>Rhipidura (albicollis) albogularis</i>									✓	
129	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>			H	H		H	H			
130	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Tersiphone paradisi</i>						✓		✓		
131	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>						✓				✓
132	Indian Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>									✓	
133	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	✓					✓				✓
134	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	✓									
135	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>			✓			✓		✓		
137	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓				h			
138	Black-lored Tit	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>						✓				
139	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>			✓			✓				
140	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
142	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	H		✓	✓	H		H			
143	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓							✓	
145	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>									✓	
146	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
147	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
148	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
149	Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentotus</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March/April										
			26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3		
150	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
151	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
152	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓		✓	✓				✓			
153	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
154	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	✓										
155	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
156	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
157	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	✓		✓								✓
158	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓	H	H	H					H
159	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
160	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>							✓			✓	✓
161	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>						✓	✓			✓	

Mammals

1	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓		✓			✓					
2	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Asian Wild Dog	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>				✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
9	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Barking Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Barasingha	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	✓	✓						✓			
15	Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Five-striped Palm-Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>	✓										
17	Three-striped Palm-Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>			✓	H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Indian Flying-Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Reptiles and Amphibians

Indian Rock Python *Python molurus*

Bronze-backed Tree-Snake *Dendrelaphis tristis*

House Gecko *Hemidactylus* sp.

Common Cobra *Naja naja*

Garden Lizard *Calotes* sp.

Butterflies

Lime Butterfly *Papilio demoleus*

Common Rose *Atrophaneura aristolochiae*

Tailed Jay *Graphium Agamemnon*

Grass Yellow sp. *Eurema* sp.

Striped Tiger *Danaus genutia*

Common Crow *Euploea core*

Commander *Moduza procris*

Common Sailor *Neptis hylas*

Common Jezebel *Delias eucharis*

Common Emigrant *Catopsila crocale*

Blue Tiger *Tirumala limniace*

Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*

Danaid Eggfly *Hypolimnas misippus*

Great Eggfly *Hypolimnas bolina*

Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya*

Lemon Pansy *Junonia lemonias*

Yellow Pansy *Junonia hierta*

Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites*

Common Leopard *Phalantha phalantha*

Baronet *Euthalia nais*

Chocolate Pansy *Precis iphita*

Common Cerulean *Jamides celeno*

Large Oakblue *Arhopala amantes*

Plum Judy *Abisara echerius*



Royal Bengal Tiger (male)