

Just Tigers!

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 17 March 2015



Jackal



Sloth Bear



Tiger (Munna)



Golden glow of the *Ficus* tree

Report and images compiled by: Kaustubh Mula



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Day 1

Friday 6th March

In flight to India

Day 2

Saturday 7th March

Cloudy, slight drizzle, cold

The group were met at the airport and then we went to the Hotel Holiday Inn where we checked in. Later we met again and went to Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary where we spent a couple of hours birding. It began to drizzle so we returned to the hotel, arriving back at 6.30pm. After a briefing about the plan for tomorrow we were free to relax for the rest of the evening.

Day 3

Sunday 8th March

Sunny and pleasant

Today we spent some time sightseeing in Delhi before leaving for Jabalpur. We went to Qutb Minar with our local tour guide, and later we saw India Gate and Rashtrapati Bhavan on the way to lunch at Pindi restaurant.

After lunch we saw some more of Lutyen's Delhi before going to Humayun's Tomb. After visiting the monument we headed for Hazrat Nizamuddin train station where we picked up our packed dinner and boarded the train to Jabalpur. We had our dinner on the train before sleeping on board.

Day 4

Monday 9th March

Sunny and pleasant morning; thunder and rain in the afternoon

We reached Jabalpur at 10am and went to the Narmada Jackson Hotel for a wash and change before breakfast. We then started our journey to Kanha which took us three and a half hours. We arrived at Tuli Tiger Resort in time for lunch, and then we set off on an afternoon drive in the park. We went to the Sarhi area of Kanha

National Park and enjoyed a good first drive seeing Gaur, Sambar Deer, Spotted Deer and some birds before it rained.

Back at the lodge we did our checklist before dinner and bed.

Day 5

Tuesday 10th March

Sunny and cold morning; warm afternoon

We started our morning at 5.30am with tea and biscuits in the lodge before leaving for the park gate. Our drive was in the Kanha zone where we heard a few alarm calls, watched some Spotted Deer and Langur monkeys, and saw a Jackal in the grassland. People in one of the jeeps had a glimpse of a Tiger which later disappeared into the dense bushes. We waited patiently but the tiger moved further inside the bushes so we headed for our breakfast.

We went back to the lodge for lunch and started our afternoon drive at 2.45pm. We went towards the Sonf area and as we reached Karai Ghati there was sheer excitement as we saw a Tiger: it was Munna, the dominant male of that territory. We were amazed to watch him as he was walking straight towards us! It was an incredible sighting. Two of our group's three jeeps enjoyed this sighting, whereas people in the other jeep watched a Sloth Bear. Later we also saw some Gaur and Sambar, and a Spangled Drongo too.

We returned to the lodge after our drive, did our daily checklist, had dinner and then retired to bed.

Day 6

Wednesday 11th March

Sunny and cold morning; warm afternoon

We had our drive in Mukki this morning. We heard some alarm calls around Rajakachchar and waited for any predator to come out. The calls stopped so we moved on. We had some good birding in terms of raptors spotting Crested Serpent Eagle and Crested Hawk Eagle. At Sondar Tanks we saw Little Grebe and a few Ducks. There was little news of tiger sightings till we reached Kisli and as we drove past one of the dry streams, there was a sub adult Tiger sitting in one of the pools. Unfortunately, with vehicles rushing to the spot, the cub got up and disappeared into the dense undergrowth. We had our breakfast in the park and checked some more areas before returning to the lodge.

In the afternoon the park was closed so we went for a walk to the nearby village market in Mocha. It was a weekly market and had all kinds of things on display. After visiting the market we came back to the lodge just before sunset. In the evening we did our checklist and had dinner before retiring to bed.

Day 7

Thursday 12th March

Cold morning; warm afternoon

Today we drove towards Kanha. In the Bandrichappar meadows we heard Spotted Deer alarm calls, and while driving and watching into the dense bamboo, we caught a glimpse of a Tiger. It was walking so we followed it to the same puddle before it went into the forest and out of sight. We continued, taking the Salghat road to Kanha.

As we were driving along there were a lot of alarm calls, and then we caught a fleeting glimpse of a very shy Tigress as she scampered across the road.

After breakfast we returned to the gate, en route checking the meadows and watching some Black Bucks in an enclosure, which were soon to be released into the Kanha Meadows.

After lunch we again entered the park and watched Barasingha and a huge herd of Gaur. We enjoyed the sight of a Scarlet Minivet as it flew overhead, and a wonderful Jungle Owlet. We also managed to get a glimpse of a Tiger near Salghat road, and group members in one of our jeeps saw a male Tiger in Sarhi Zone.

Day 8

Friday 13th March

Pleasant morning; warm afternoon

We were at Mukki in the morning. Here we heard some alarm calls but the tiger remained elusive. We saw some birds including Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Black-rumped Flameback and White-naped Woodpecker. We also had a beautiful sighting of a Jackal which we saw for a long time.

In the evening we went to the Sarhi area where we watched a lot of bird activity and saw many big Barasingha stags. Then we drove to the confluence of the two big streams; a beautiful and serene place where we watched Common Kingfisher and Cormorants, and saw a tree covered with beehives. One of our jeeps went to Kisli and had a sighting of a male Tiger on the main road.

After returning to the lodge, we did our checklist before dinner and then retired for the night.

Day 9

Saturday 14th March

Warm and cloudy

We drove to Mukki in the morning. It was very quiet till we reached the Minkur Road where we heard Sambar Deer alarm calls next to the road. We waited till the calls moved so we followed them to the end when it became quiet again.

After lunch at the lodge we drove to Kanha for the afternoon. We watched some Barasingha, Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer, a Barking Deer and a Jackal. We also saw two Sloth Bears in the grassland before returning to the lodge.

Day 10

Sunday 15th March

Cloudy morning; overcast afternoon

In the morning we went to the Kanha area where we took the Nakti Ghati Road. We followed the fresh tracks of a male Tiger before moving to a hilly tract where we heard Barking Deer alarm calls. As we reached Benipat we heard a big growl and saw two Tigers in a fight. They were cubs which soon vanished into the bushes, and then suddenly there was another cub at the other side of the road which it crossed. As we drove forward we also saw a Ruddy Mongoose.

After breakfast we watched Crested Serpent Eagle, and White-rumped, Long-billed and Red-headed Vultures soaring above the meadows. We also saw a lot of Soft-shelled Turtles as we returned to the lodge.

On our afternoon drive we enjoyed some good birdwatching. Also we heard a lot of Sambar Deer alarm calls and again we had a Sloth Bear sighting in the same meadow.

Day 11

Monday 16th March

Rain in morning; warm afternoon

In the morning we were in the Kisli area. It rained heavily but just after breakfast there was clear blue sky. We continued our last drive and were delighted to watch a Tigress with her three cubs cross the road. Later we did some birding.

We came back to lodge to pack our bags before having lunch, and then at 1.30pm we left for Jabalpur. After tea at Kalchuri we continued to the railway station where we picked up our packed dinner and settled onto the train.

Day 12

Tuesday 17th March

Bright and sunny

Our train reached Agra at 9.30am and we went directly to ITC Mughal for breakfast, and then for a wash and change. With a local tour guide we started sightseeing at 11.30am. First we went to the Taj Mahal, and then we went for lunch at the Only Place restaurant. After lunch we went to see some marble works, finishing our visit in the workshop. We also went to the Itmad-Ud-Daula (Baby Taj) followed by a visit to the Red Fort.

After the Red Fort the group split into three. Margaret and Sergio returned to Delhi to catch an early morning flight back to the UK to end the main tour. Meanwhile there were two post-tour extensions: Steve, Sarah, Brian and Judith went with Kaustubh to Chambal while Betty, Judith, Alison, and Carolyn went with Yusuf to Bharatpur.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	March											Extensions			
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
2	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	✓												✓	✓	
5	Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>													✓		
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓											✓	✓	✓	
7	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	✓												✓	✓	
8	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
9	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
10	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
11	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>													✓	✓	
14	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>												✓	✓	✓	
15	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>												✓			
16	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					
17	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>													✓	✓	
18	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>				✓	✓	✓									
19	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>												✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
21	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>													✓	✓	✓
22	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>													✓	✓	
23	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>												✓	✓	✓	
25	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>												✓	✓	✓	
26	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>												✓	✓	✓	
27	Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>							✓	✓							
28	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>													✓		
29	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	✓														

	Common name	Scientific name	March											Extensions						
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
30	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	✓									✓						✓	✓	
31	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	?																	✓
32	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	✓														✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	✓																✓	
34	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				✓	✓	✓										✓	✓	
35	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	✓															✓	✓	✓
36	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>															✓			
37	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
38	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				✓		✓	✓			✓	✓							
39	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓		✓			
40	Grey-headed Fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>				✓	✓													
41	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>													✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
42	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>								✓	✓	✓								
43	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>									✓	✓								
44	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>					✓					✓	✓							
45	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
46	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>																✓	✓	✓
47	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
48	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>				✓	✓	✓												
49	Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila hastate</i>	✓																	✓
50	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>																✓	✓	
51	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>																✓		
52	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciatus</i>															✓			
53	Crested Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
54	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓					✓	✓		
55	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>																✓	✓	
56	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
57	Painted Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>			✓															
58	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
59	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>															✓	✓		✓
61	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>															✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March											Extensions					
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
62	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	✓														✓	✓	✓
63	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓														✓	✓	✓
64	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓														✓	✓	
65	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>															✓	✓	
66	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>				✓													
67	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓	✓	✓										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>				✓	✓	✓											
69	Great Thick-knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>														✓			
70	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>														✓			
71	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>														✓			
72	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
73	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Little Ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>														✓			
75	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>														✓			
76	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>															✓		
77	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓													✓	✓	✓	
78	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>																	✓
79	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				✓			✓								✓	✓	
80	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
81	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>								✓								✓	
82	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>																✓	
83	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>													✓	✓			
84	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>														✓			
85	Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyæetus</i>														✓			
86	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>														✓			
87	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>														✓			
88	Indian Skimmer	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>														✓			
89	Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>				✓	✓		✓				✓						
91	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				✓	✓		✓							✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March											Extensions			
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
94	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>						✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
95	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
96	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
97	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
99	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓						
100	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>					✓		✓				✓				
101	Southern Coucal	<i>Centropus {sinensis } parroti</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
102	Dusky Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo coromandus</i>													✓	✓	
103	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	
104	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
105	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>		✓											✓	✓	✓
106	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>									✓						
107	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
108	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓	✓						✓		✓		
109	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>													✓	✓	✓
111	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
112	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		
114	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
115	Malabar Pied-hornbill	<i>Anthraceroceros coronatus</i>							✓								
116	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
117	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	
118	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>				✓			✓				✓				
119	Lesser Goldenback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
120	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>							✓	✓							
121	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>												✓			
122	Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>			✓												
123	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
124	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
125	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						

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			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
126	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>														✓			
127	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>														✓			
128	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>																✓	
129	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
130	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
131	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>														✓			
132	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
133	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>					✓												
134	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
135	White-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>														✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>							✓	✓	✓								
138	Blue-capped Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>												✓					
139	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					✓	✓								✓			
140	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>					✓												
141	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓										
142	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	✓							✓							✓	✓	
143	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>				✓	✓				✓						✓	✓	
144	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>				✓	✓				✓		✓				✓	✓	
145	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>																	✓
146	Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>				✓													
147	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>				✓													
148	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>								✓	✓								
149	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	✓			✓				✓									✓
150	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>				✓													
151	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
152	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia calliope</i>																	✓
153	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>															✓	✓	
154	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
155	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
156	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>				✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	
157	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				✓							✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	March											Extensions				
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
158	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
159	Asian Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>								✓								
160	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>									✓							
161	Indian Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>									✓							
162	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>							✓	✓	✓							
163	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>					✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			
164	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>													✓	✓		
165	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>												✓	✓	✓		
166	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
167	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
168	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
169	Indian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>									✓							
170	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
171	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>									✓							
172	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							
173	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>					✓	✓	✓									
174	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
175	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>								✓								
176	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>														✓		
177	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>				✓		✓				✓			✓	✓		
178	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
179	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>									✓	✓						
180	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>				✓	✓		✓			✓						
181	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>					✓											
182	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
183	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
184	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
185	Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus {macrorhynchos}culminatus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
186	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
187	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
188	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
189	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>				✓	✓	✓										

	Common name	Scientific name	March											Extensions			
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
190	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓
191	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
192	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	
193	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>													✓		
194	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>									✓	✓					
195	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>										✓					

Mammals

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					
2	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
4	Common Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>												✓	✓		
5	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓					
6	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
7	Sloth Bear	<i>Merursus ursinus</i>				✓				✓	✓						
8	Indian or Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>									✓				✓	✓	
9	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>														✓	
11	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
12	Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	<i>Cervus duvauceli branderi</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
13	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
14	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
15	Black Buck	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>				✓					✓						
16	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	✓												✓	✓	
17	Indian Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
18	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa cristatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
19	Fulvous Fruit Bat	<i>Rousettus leschenaultii</i>												✓	✓	✓	
20	Pipistrelle sp.														✓	✓	
21	Asian Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>												✓			

Other Fauna

1	Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
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	Common name	Scientific name	March											Extensions					
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
2	Indian Rock Python	<i>Python molurus</i>																✓	
3	Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>																✓	
4	Gangetic River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>																✓	
5	Marsh Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>																✓	
6	Water Snake species	<i>Natrix sp</i>																✓	✓
7	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>							✓										
8	House Gecko species	<i>Hemidactylus or Gehyra sp</i>						✓						✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
9	Bullfrog sp.								✓		✓								



Indian Skimmer



Siberian Rubythroat



Sarus Crane

Chambal and Bharatpur Extension

Tour Leader: Kaustubh Mulay

Participants: Brian Abrahams
Judith Abrahams
Steve Gingell
Sarah Gingell

Day 12

Tuesday 17th March

Bright and sunny

After visiting the Red Fort we continued on our post-tour extension.

We drove in a coach from Agra to Chambal Safari Lodge. The road was pretty damaged in some patches, and it took us about 2.5 hours to reach our destination, en route watching some Jackals. On reaching the lodge we had time for a quick visit to our rooms before meeting for dinner. As it had been a long day, we postponed the checklist till tomorrow. Just as we were finishing our dinner we saw an Asian Palm Civet outside the dining hall. We followed and watched it for a while and all together we saw three Civets that night.

Day 13

Wednesday 18th March

Sunny and windy

We met for breakfast at 7am and then headed to the river. It was a drive of about 45 minutes before we reached the jetty. On the way we had a stop where we saw some Spotted Owlets, a Shikra in beautiful light, some Yellow-eyed Babblers, along with some robins, starlings and mynas. Near the Jetty we watched some River Lapwing, Common Redshank, Greater Short-toed Lark and Osprey. On the boat we saw a large flock of Bar-headed Geese, Ruddy Shelduck, Temminck's Stint, Kentish Plover and Painted Stork. We also saw a large number of Marsh Muggers, Crocodiles and Gharials basking on the islands, and a dead Gangetic Dolphin being fed upon by the crocodiles. We all were very excited to watch a pair of Bonelli's Eagles feeding on a kill at a close distance, a good number of Indian Skimmers, a Black-bellied Tern and some basking turtles before we returned to the coach. On our drive back to the lodge we saw a large flock of Painted Storks in an open field just near the lodge. Back at the lodge we enjoyed lunch under the trees on the open lawns watching three Grey Mongoose.

We left the lodge at 2.45pm to drive to Bharatpur. We drove through the busy markets of Agra, and made a stop at Fatehpur Sikri for a restroom break. Further on we were delighted to see a pair of Sarus Cranes in flight. We reached Birder's Inn at 7pm and did our checklist before dinner. Then we had an early night as we wanted to start early the next morning.

Day 14

Thursday 19th March

Sunny and warm

We met at 6.30am and after tea/coffee, we proceeded to the park in cycle rickshaws. After all the formalities at the entrance were completed, we made our first visit into the park. The drier region of the park held a large variety of birds and sightings included Indian Peafowl, Grey Francolin, Large Grey Babbler, Jungle Babbler and Common Babbler. As we proceeded further we had wonderful sightings of Grey Mongoose, Rhesus Macaques, Nilgai (Blue Bull) and Jackal as we were riding along. Upon reaching the wetlands we had good sightings of Greater Spotted Eagle, Oriental Darter, Garganey, Northern Pintail and Northern Shoveler. We had a wonderful time in the park, and as it started to get hot we returned to our lodge.

After lunch we left the lodge at 2.30pm and returned to the park. We took a ride to the wetlands where we watched Bar-headed Geese, Painted Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Common Teal, Black-necked Stork, Marsh Harrier, Steppe Eagle, and a Sarus Crane display. Further on we watched Checkered Keelback snakes which were lying over a small rock and trying to catch the fishes jumping in the water. We also saw the pair of Dusky Eagle Owls with their offspring before returning to the lodge. Later we met for the checklist and after dinner we retired to our rooms.

Day 15

Friday 20th March

Sunny and warm

We started off at 6.30am and watched Spotted Owlet, Common Teal, Pintail, Eurasian Widgeon, Comb Duck, Garganey, Teal and Pied Kingfisher. On our way out we visited the temple and watched some huge Soft-Shell Turtles and Catfish, and we also saw a huge basking Indian Rock Python.

After lunch back at the lodge Sarah and Steve went to Fatehpur Sikri, whilst Brian and Judith returned to the park with Kaustubh. The park highlights were Siberian Rubythroat and Bluethroat. We also saw Marsh Harrier and Dusky Eagle Owl again. We returned to the lodge and did our checklist and planned the next day before calling it a night.

Day 16

Saturday 21st March

Sunny and warm

Today we hired a car and left early to visit areas outside the park. We had a beautiful sighting of a very close pair of Sarus Cranes. Other sightings included Mallard, Marsh Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Spot-billed Duck, and just as we were leaving, another pair of Sarus Cranes very close to the road and a Black-rumped Flameback. Later we returned to the lodge to pack.

After lunch we drove to the railway station and caught the train to Delhi. We met Yusuf and the others, who had been to Ranthambhore, on the train. At Delhi we went to the Holiday Inn for a wash and change before bidding goodbye to Kaustubh and Yusuf.

Bharatpur & Ranthambhore Extension

Tour leader: Yusuf Rizvi

Participants: Carrie Hands
Betty McAskie
Judith O'Keefe
Alison Ruddock

Day 12

Tuesday 17th March

Agra to Bharatpur

After a full day of sightseeing at Agra we started our journey to Bharatpur. We reached our hotel, Birder's Inn, around 8.30pm and after checking in we had dinner, did our checklist and called it a night..

Day 13

Wednesday 18th March

Bharatpur.

We had about two hours to spend in Bharatpur before catching our train at 10.30am. We went to the park on two rickshaws and spent a pleasant morning seeing quite a few birds which were new for our list including Dusky Eagle Owl, Sarus Crane, Garganey, Gadwall and Northern Shoveler. We were back at the hotel about 8.45am and had breakfast before going to Bharatpur railway station and caught a train to Sawai Madhopur. We reached Sawai Madhopur around 1.30pm and went to Hotel Pug Mark. After checking in we had a briefing about the next day's program.

Day 14

Thursday 19th March

It was a pleasant morning as we started our safari in Zone 4. We heard the alarm calls of Sambar and Langur and saw the fresh tracks of a Tiger. During the safari we saw several species of birds including Common Woodshrike, Large Grey Babbler, Common Babbler and River Tern. We also saw the beautiful Mallik Lake.

After lunch we had another safari, this time in Zone 1. We saw a very old fig tree and spotted quite a few mammals including Nilgai, Spotted Deer and Sambar. We also saw quite a few birds as well. Back at the lodge we were briefed about our program for tomorrow.

Day 15

Friday 20th March

It was another pleasant morning and today we had a different route in the park: Zone 6 through another gate. The drive through Sawai Madhopur town to reach that gate was through quite undulating terrain. Once in the park we had good views of Chinkara (Indian Gazelle), quite a few Nilgai, and we enjoyed some good birding.

After lunch we were in Zone 2, a beautiful area, where we had a close encounter with Rufous Treepies and Jungle Babblers. We also heard a few calls but the tiger remained elusive.

Day 16

Saturday 21st March

Today was our last morning drive and we went to Zone 3. Although we didn't see any tigers, we did see quite a few animals and birds. Back in the lodge we had enough time to pack and change before breakfast.

We reached Sawai Madhopur railway station on time, boarded our train and did our checklist for the last three days. We met the other post-extension group with Kaustubh on the train. At Delhi we went to the Holiday Inn where we washed and changed before saying goodbye to Kaustubh and Yusuf.



Ghariall