

Arunachal Pradesh & Assam, NE-India

Feb.-March 2008

- With an extension to Chambal (Madhya Pradesh).

NOTES ON BIRDS, MAMMALS, and REPTILES

by Joergen Bech and Jette Lyager (Copenhagen, Denmark)

Primary Himalayan forests unlimited! From foothill to 3200 meter. Combine it with the inner valleys and a snow-covered pass at 4200 meter and the low terai where the highlands meet the plains. This is unique to anyone who loves the Himalayas and appreciates to stay in its wilderness. This is Eaglenest and Lama Camp, Dhirang area, Se La Pass, and Nameri. Situated in the eastern Himalayas it offers a unique diversity of birds and a row of pearls are ready to be dugged out of the forests. But never forget to enjoy this as a whole and inhale the tranquillity. These localities merit more than stressing around for maximal species in a too short time-schedule.

INTRODUCTION

This report deals with a trip primary to Arunachal Pradesh in winter/early spring from 20. February to 10. March 2008. The trip was extended to Kaziranga 10.-14. March and a very short trip 15.-16. March to Chambal south of Delhi. Originally planned for 4 the trip was made only by the 2 of us. Though adding to our expenses we would not give up the trip being so close to this unique part of India. We did Arunachal Pradesh with Dorjee Raptan, Lobsang Tsing, and Krishna (our Nepali driver). They are local people based in Tenga, somewhat limited in English, but we cannot imagine any better company through almost 3 weeks. Logistics worked, atmosphere was splendid, and they had full knowledge of the places to visit – and a play-back! With a Buddhist, a Christian, and a Hindu in the car nothing could go wrong. We did the major bird-watching together and in the end managed to cover all the species we could expect without one of the "top-guides". One of the reasons is the system of road signs and maps which are excellent keys to the difficult species. Arriving to Namiri we met Shashank Dalvi, who gave invaluable information including maps and instructions to bring with us through the AP-adventure.

LOCALITIES

Eaglenest: Sesni, Bompu, and Lama camp.

Eaglenest covers 218 sq.km as part of a 3500 sq.km protected forest! And altitudes from 100 to 3300 meters! One road runs through this pristine forest – where no settlements exist. The road was neglected after a new highway was constructed and today is only used by very sporadic transports – at our stay only related to the project apart from one group of Sherkdupens camping overnight before continuing. The name Eaglenest is probably derived from a division of the Indian Army – the Eagles – who once was operating in the area.

Best birding road of the world? Anyway – gives easy and undisturbed access to any bird-community from the lush subtropical forest at the bottom, through the temperate forests of the middle zone, to the mossy cool forests of the highest elevations.

Arunachal is tribal country – thinly populated (1,5 mill) in contrast to neighbouring Assam – and Nepal with its often very populated valleys. Only the Indian military is visible and occupies some broader valleys. About 45 major tribes inhabit A.P. – in the visited area of West Kameng they are Mompas (from Tawang close to Tibet), Mijis, Sherkdupen, Bugun, Akas, and Nihis. Thus, a cultural diversity exists along with the biodiversity. Generally few or no settlements exist in the forests. Some of these tribes have natural claims of the forests.

After A.P. opened up as late as 2004 birds-trips began and the infra-structure was created by Ramana Athreya and the local tribe through the Bugun Welfare society. This ecotourism offers benefits for the locals and motivate preservation of the forests – especially in Lama Camp area – an "endemic" hotspot – which is in the bufferzone north of the Eaglenest Sanctuary. The infrastructure is ideal: tented camps at Sesni (1200 m), Bompu (1950 m), and Lama camp

(2100 m). Small abandoned houses serve as kitchen and restrooms – including a fire for the cold evenings. Food is good and vegetarian. First and foremost: atmosphere is splendid and it is all run by locals.

Lama Camp north of the pass is actually outside the Eaglenest reserve and is located in a small Bugun village – the neighbouring valley and slopes being very rewarding birding-sites.

Inner Valleys and Alpine Zone: Dhirang, Mandala Ridge, and Se La Pass.

These sites can be investigated from Dhirang – a small hotel in the town provides the basics. Close to Dhirang are Sanghti Valley and torrent streams under rocky walls. The Mandala Ridge ascends from 1700 to 3100 meter through a variety habitats, some very degraded, little is left of the coniferous forest (relict and burned stands cover a huge area). Some very good sites are left including bamboo.

The ascent to the highest elevations needs a drive to Se La Pass at 4200 meter above tree-line. The road continues to Tawang, but in late February it was very icy with the risk of being trapped by snow as weather can quickly change. This is cold and oxygen is definitely low but entering the open snow-covered slopes adds a further dimension to this AP-altitudinal bird transect!

Low Terai: Namiri.

Arunachal stands as a wall behind this small Assam forest reserve. The Eco-camp has an atmosphere of its own and is a highly recommendable place to acclimate or relax before or after the mountains and offer very good birding! In the camp itself, in the forest across the river, and through a rubber boat rafting down the river including flat torrents – which is not to be missed!

Kaziranga.

Based on the old traditional Wild Grass resort the park was investigated through drives into the park with some additional birding at neighbouring tea-plantations and hills. The last wilderness of grassland and woodland – a sanctuary holding many endangered species including BIG wildlife. Limited access. We could not get permission to visit more remote parts of the park (like Debeshvari).

Chambal.

This appendix to the trip was very rewarding but too short. A 7 hours drive from Delhi via Agra takes you to the Chambal Safari Lodge. The lodge is ½ hours drive from the river and has good acacia-stands attracting many birds. A very relaxing spot to visit. The Chambal River drains the Deccan plateau where "development" has not yet polluted or emptied the river. Water is clear! 3 endangered species inhabit this river – a mammal, a bird, and a reptile.

WEATHER – BIRD SEASONS (when to go?)

Arunachal Pradesh is very wet – annual rainfall 3000 mm, ¾ during the monsoon June-October. This leaves a lot of rain to fall outside the monsoon period. The driest period is winter November-early February. Rain can fall any day and especially the middle altitude (1700-2500 m) is very exposed to mist and drizzles. Higher altitudes can be windy. Snow occurs commonly at high altitudes and even down to about 2000 meter – Lama Camp had one heavy snowfall this year in a cold period. Bird activity especially at higher altitudes is low until late March and the peak season is late March-April when bird activity is high and birds are on traditional breeding grounds often responding to play-back. This period is a pre-monsoon period and tends to be wetter.

So be prepared: for cold nights and even days, also rains and periods with mist.

We did an early trip mid. February to mid. March. Weather was at times cold but most days were sunny. One day with showers including light snow at Mandala Ridge, one misty day in Eaglenest and a half day of steady rain was the only brakes to activity. Se La Pass was reached on a sunny day though on icy roads.

Many birds were not yet in season and response to play-back was generally low with a few exceptions. Especially elevations above 2000 meters were quite silent. On the other hand we managed to see almost all species we could hope for in the "old-fashioned" way working through the field with open eyes and ears. Some species being absent on traditional sites were found a little lower – especially in the valley below Lama Camp.

This pre-season period also was very peaceful – and we withdrew 14. March when the major part of bird-groups began to arrive.

A couple of species are limited to the winter-season. The Black-necked Cranes of Sanghti Valley where a small group regularly roosts as a satellite to the birds in Bhutan valleys. The birds arrive November or December and stay to February. We arrived 10 days after the bird disappeared (as early as 10. Feb) – and the species was lost for us! In December a group only found 1 bird.

White-winged Wood-Duck occurs in the forest-ponds of Namiri until they begin to dry up. We found them on February 21, at our return in the middle of March they were gone.

TRIP-PLANNING

Always through Ramana Athreya! He has got the infra-structure and ensures the ecotourism set-up to benefit locals and preservation. Any plan should start with a contact to Ramana (Email: kaati.tours@gmail.com or ramana.athreya@gmail.com.)

The typical bird-trip is a 8-12 persons group going through with one of the top guides (Ramama, Shasshank Dalvi). In the peak-period this is the only way to go, but outside the top period other arrangements might be possible – ask Ramana. February-March was very rewarding to our experience! Also November-December could be a good period, many birds probably stay in their territories until winter. Late April and May is a very active bird-period as well and the interior highlands are open. On the other hand conditions get wetter and the plains are getting extremely hot. We had an arrangement with 3 local people without a top-guide and this was just what we needed.

PERSONS; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Birdobservation: Joergen Bech, Jette Lyager, and in AP Dorjee Raptan and Lobsang Tsing.

In Nameri, Kaziranga, and Chambal also local guides/forest rangers.

DORJEE RAPATAN: From Tawang and now based in Tenga. Project-man through years and can cope with any practical problem. Found some very good birds. Relaxed with a natural authority.

LOBSANG TSING: From Tenga, worked hard including play-back against the early conditions. Good communicator, a very pleasant companion and co-watcher – need a little more English, but absolutely a talent for the future!

KRISHNA: Our driver, nepali and 21 years! Definitely a very good driver – through any road-condition and on the edge of deep slopes. He has eagle-eyes and spotted a Serow on a mountainside km's away – hardly detectable – with bins! Also we met INDI GLOW several times, who is a Bugun and a very important link between the tribe and the ecotourism.

As mentioned SHASHANK DALVI gave invaluable information in Namiri before entering A.P. Shasshank is a very keen birder and a top guide working with Ramana for this project for some years and based in Bombay. RAMANA we met very briefly in Namiri – but we sure used the structure he created.

Robin Abraham – student worker at the pygmy hog-project (and from Kerala) invited us for a visit to the pre-release project neighbouring Namiri Eco-camp.

As with earlier trips to India we want to thank VIKRAM SING and his co-operator GAURAV from WildWorldIndia. Vikram made the arrangements in Namiri, Kaziranga, and Chambal and coordinated with Ramana. We met Vikram and Gaurav in Delhi – (and our old friend and former Gujarat-driver - now a professional WW-India contributor, Laxman Shah). Vikram's Email is wvi@wildworldindia.com or vikram@wildworldindia.com

ITINERARY

All species observed are delt with in the species account in respect to numbers, altitude, observation-condition etc.

This gives the itinerary and only a few major target-birds.

Also include major dips – that is: notes on birds NOT seen at our trip.

20.02: Had arrived to Delhi after midnight with Finair via Helsinki. Night in the small Ahuja Residency and a morning with Delhi city-birds. Flight to Guwaharti, Assam, and picked up for transfer to Namiri. In dusk reached Nagaon – a big buzzing village – and the first target, Greater Adjutant, roosting in the colony close to the road. Arrived Namiri after dark . Met with Sashank.

21.02: Namiri: Early morning crossed the river and walked the forest which at this time of the year is very much alive with a lot of local and esp. wintering birds. Including Yellow-vented Warbler and Black-breasted Thrush. White-

winged Wood-Duck found on two forest-pools. Rest of the day drive to Dirang (1600 m) with Dorjee, Lobsang, and Krishna.

Pemang hotel on the hillside overlooking Dhirang – a small highland town. Cold nights!

22.02. Sanghti Valley with Black-tailed Crake in a small tussock-moor left among dry rice-fields. One disappointment of this trip: Black-necked Cranes left 10 days earlier. Nor did we find Long-billed Plover. Wallcreeper at a river bank, and again in the gorge towards Dirang with other "torrent-species" like Brown Dipper and Little Forktail. Low Mandala Ridge in the afternoon.

23.02. Se La Pass leaving before dark and arriving to the last ascent at day-break and a sunny day. Himalayan Monal at roadside just below the pass. Entered the snowfields, 2 mystery birds turned out to be imm/female Grandalas, Snow Pigeon, vocal Choughs. Very spectacular scenery but this is cold and the altitude makes some physical impact. . White-winged Grosbeak and 2 species of Rosefinch around the pass. We did not find Solitary Snipe or Blood Pheasant also possible here.

24.02. Mandala Ridge – 1700-3100 m. A cold, cloudy day with some drizzles and light snow-fall. Birds not too active and Great Parrotbill negative. Best birds Chestnut Thrush (Gouldii), 2 spp. Bullfinch, and Fulvous Parrotbill. Learned that Beautiful Sibia is one of the commonest birds of these forests.

25.02. Moved Dhirang-Tenga-Lama Camp and from here entered Eaglenest via the pass. A cold, cloudy day with a lot of mist completely covering Lama Camp. Heavy winds further up. At Bombu clearing and we occupied our tent – home for the next 7 days. Superb forest all around with very good bamboo just above the camp and Golden-breasted Fulvetta's buzzing around.

26.02. Bompu (1900) to Sesni (1200). Clear and sunny. This day needs canonization. Extremely rewarding. Walking down about 100 meter a little noise from the underground led to superb views of Wedge-billed Wren-Babbler. Rufous-necked Hornbill another 100 meter down. At about 1400 meter we came across 2 mixed forest flocks. The first led by Red-tailed Minla with White-browed and Black-eared Shrike-babbler and busy Seicercus-warblers. A little further on a big flock was touring in the forest – turned out to be the greatest bird-company I have ever dealt with: Streak-throated Barwing was the locomotive and among about 10 species stars like Beautiful Nuthatch, Sultan Tit, Black-headed Shrike-babbler and Rufous-backed Sibia! A little below Sesni Red-headed Trogon. Returning uphill for Bompu a very good observation of roosting Rufous-necked Hornbills – heard at every visit to this altitude but not always easy to see.

27.02. Investigating Bompu-Sunderview (1900-2600) – clear, partly clouded sky. More silent forest, cool. Cutia climbing mossy trunks with epiphytes. Golden-breasted Fulvetta today joined by Yellow-throated. Krishna spotted something at a distant forest slope – what eyes! we had to scope before revealing a Serow with a calf.

28.02. Another day in the forest. Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler singing behind the camp. Walked down and got very good observation of Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill. Ascended in the afternoon. At 2300 meter Lobsang managed to locate THE jewel of the Himalayan Forests: Fire-tailed Myzornis.

29.02. Drove down to the low gate at Khellong around 700 meter arriving a bit late and for the first time it was rather hot – also affecting bird-activity. Worked back to Sesni – the camp was closed at our period, due to Elephants! (so we kept based in Bombu – in these days as the only visitors). Grey Peacock-Pheasant, White-browed Piculet, Bay Woodpecker, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Red-faced Liocichla, and Scarlet Finch among many good birds .

01.03. Bompu morning after a slight frost in the night and a vocal Brown (Himalayan) Wood-Owl. A new sunny day in the mountains. Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler close to the camp, Sultan Tit, etc. At dusk just sitting overlooking the forested valleys. Light wind moves the Buddhist prayer-flags and Elephant's call from a valley-bottom!

02.03.

Last day based in Bompu. Stayed in the 1900-2500 meter zone. Again clear sky and a Greater Spotted Eagle on a very vertical migration-route. Day of the robins: Orange-flanked (common), Golden, White-browed, and the rare Blue-fronted Robin. Bird activity still low and the play-back had little effect.

03.03.

Rains in the night, day cloudy with showers. Left Bompu and transferred to Lama camp (via a very cold Eaglenest Pass). Occupied a tent in Lama Camp which is in a small Bugun settlement. Very damp and cool but birded the valley

just below in the afternoon. Which was alive with bird – including some of the species missed at higher elevations – in particular: A Ward’s Trogon female found in the sub-canopy! Also a nice Rufous-bellied Woodpecker. The rocky slope rising over the valley produced another highlight - Yellow-rumped Honeyguide - before the mist closed further observation.

04.03.

Heavy rains – cool and damp - waiting for a chance to re-enter the valley. A few hours in the afternoon gave us Golden-naped Finch and a frustratingly short glimpse of Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler – which we missed in the bamboos around Bompu. Lobsang reported the Liocichla – we missed it. Evening: early closing mist.

05.03.

Cloudy – clots of mist coming and going. When possible excursions to the valley – Cutia, Brown Bullfinch, and again Golden-naped Finch. In the afternoon walked the Tragopandatrail through adventurous mossy forest. The name implies two secretive species – Red Panda and Temminck’s Tragopan. The closest we came to a Tragopan-sighting was a flush in the middle of this track. A female Temminck? - or was this due to bias and just representing another Hill Partridge? Anyway – the dream of a male Tragopan did not come through. Sightings are very casual for both species (Blyth is around and above Bompu). They call in April.

06.03.

Clearing, partly even sunny. Went to Eaglenest Pass and walked 5-6 km down. Close to the pass Upland Buzzard – maybe uncommon in Eaglenest as such, got some documentary photos. Spotted Laughing-Thrush, but never found Brown Parrotbill. Dorjee managed to play a Bar-winged Wren-Babbler out in the open!. One of quite few real play-back responders and what a hidden jewel to watch. Rushed down the valley in the afternoon. Two huge events! Bugun Liocichla popped up from its skulky hide in the forest understorey – a Liocichla of olive-yellow with red tips to feathers of wings and tail. And at last a superb view of a Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, one bird only, following Chestnut-crowned Laughing-thrush.

07.03.

Last day in the mountains – sunny with snow-capped peaks in the distance! Morning with another observation of a Bugun Liocichla – a male shortly exposing. Descended by the new highway – again driving through very good forest habitat especially from 1000 m to the edge of the plains. This forest could have been worth a longer stay (looking for Pied Falconet, Pale-headed Woodpecker, Collared Tree-pie..) Only a few brief stops on the way – at one narrow forested gully a bird slipped over – somewhat aubergine-like ground-colour. Purple Cochoa? Never ruled out for sure... Moved out of A.P. and were dumped in Namiri. Met briefly with Ramana, but they were all busy and rushed back – it was top-season and birder-groups were moving in.

In Namiri temperature had raised considerably since February. Enjoyed the camp – with its breeding Oriental Hobby, ripe fig-trees attracting Wreathed Hornbills and 3 species of Green Pigeons, and 3 vocal Owls from dusk. Paid a visit to the Pygmy Hog centre and Robin Abraham whom we had given a lift from Lama Camp. Robin was doing a study of the hog-project – the breeding centre is in Guwaharti and the pre-release program is in Namiri.

08.03.

Long walk through the forest on the other side of the river, where the ponds now had dried down to a low level and the WWW-duck had left. Rich bird-life – a Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon inside the forest was our 5th species of Green Pigeons in Namiri. Vernal Hanging-Parrot rushing around, Grey-bellied Tesia, Puff-throated and Abbott’s Babbler. Most surprising a Hodgson’s Bush-Chat female in the riverine grassland.

09.03.

A warm sunny day. Made a river-raft, boat taken about 10 km up by car and slowly rafting down including some flat torrents for about 4 hours through a lot of good habitats with almost no human activity. Ibisbill found at 3 sites – total of 18 – and very close observations from the boat of this otherwise quite shy bird. The boatmen managed to “park” the boat in the torrents of the ibisbill habitat. A very nice walk on empty seasonally flooded sandy islets and shrub revealed dew-fresh Tiger-prints – and a Wryneck. White-tailed Rubythroat at the bank and Pallas’Sea-Eagle overhead, active nest close to the Namiri “ferry”-point. An immature Pied Harrier in the grasslands. Met a couple of hard core birders – they had found Green Cochea in the forest...

10.-13.03.

Transfer to the old colonial-style Wild Grass lodge – starting point for the daily excursions to Kaziranga. Last of paradise lost – grasslands, riverbeds, woodlands – a dynamic system of habitats under heavy influence of the loads of water during the monsoon. Herds of Rhinoceros, Elephants, and Wild Buffaloes still move on these plains and are very easily watched. Also the endangered Swamp Deer is readily seen. Waterbirds abundt – including Spot-billed Pelicans, Storks, Herons, Bar-headed Geese, Ducks...Pallas' and Grey-headed Fish-eagle are seen daily, Greater Spotted Eagle in the Eastern Range. The impact of the Vulture crisis is obvious: only very few (Slender-billed) Vultures hang around this tonnage of meat and potential carcass. Among the grass specialists Swamp Francolin is heard and seen often. Elusive Slender-billed and Chestnut-capped Babblers heard and with patience seen – all in intact (not burned) grassland. Prolonged view of a Blue-bearded Bee-Eater.

Best bird-area is definitely Eastern Range with the extensive wetlands – also the place to go for the shores of the great Brahmaputra. Tigers roam around – no sightings, many prints.

The access follows strict rules and esp. in Central Range cars drive pretty close. This means that access to more distant parts of the park was not possible – among others excluding the possibility of the Black-throated Parrotbill (Debesvari).

14.03.

Morning a planned trip to Panburi Forest for some reason was cancelled! Tea-gardens and small hills behind Wild Grass was the substitute and a group of Laughing-thrushes including Rufous-necked and Greater Neclaced and a Whitebrowed Scimitar-Babbler was located as well as Siberian Rubythroat. Afternoon transfer to Guwaharti passing the Greater Adjutants at Nagaon – 8 of these huge, declining birds. Flight delayed for hours – arrived Delhi after midnight.

15.03.

Long drive to Chambal south of Agra. Dry and hot landscape – Jammu River completely dried out! The Chambal Safari Lodge has a very pleasant atmosphere and is situated at the fringe of a small traditional village. Highly recommendable! It was once a cattle-station and this has left some good acacia-stands. A migratory Ultramarine Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, and Yellow-wattled Lapwing. Palm Civet at dusk.

16.03.

Drive to Chambal River, the last morning-hours looking for dry area-species before entering the boat. The water floats from Deccan and is still clear and pollution low – conditions needed for the 3 endangered species: Indian Skimmer (a total of 28), Gangetic Dolphin (3), and Gharials (20). Last paradise? – development in India is fast and the environmental impact is all too obvious!

Long drive back, long rows of wagons of any kind loaded with potatoes wait for days to unload at the store-houses. Patience – India! Met with Indian and Danish friends in the evening, but time was running out and the night-flight for Europe closed another adventure in India.

Litt:

I used "Birds of the Indian Subcontinent" by Krys Kazmierczak and Ber van Perlo as the field guide.

A lot of good reading found in "Handbook of the Birds of the World" (Lynx) – especially volume 12 covering Babblers, Laughing-thrushes, Parrotbills etc. They are very much up to date – even Bugun Liocichla described as late as 2006 (Athreya) is included. In the Eaglenest camps some books and manuals are available.

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPECIES OF BIRDS, MAMMALS, AND REPTILES RECORDED ON THIS TRIP: SEE SYSTEMATIC LIST BELOW

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Some species commented.

Systematics: Roughly follows the traditional checklists (cf the field guide Birds of the Indian Subcontinent, Kazmierczack&van Perlo)

Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus phillipensis*)

As: 10/3 40, 11/3 50+, 12/3 40 and 13/3 60 Kaziranga. A stronghold for this species!

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

As: 21/2 10 Nameri, 8/3 5 Nameri, 9/3 30 Nameri (river-raft), 11/3 15, 12/3 30 and 13/3 50 Kaziranga.

Little Cormorant (*P.niger*)

As: 21/2 5 Nameri, 7/3 2 Nameri, 12/3 20 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 30 Chambal River.

Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*)

As: 10/3 15, 11/3 25 and 12/3 40 Kaziranga.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

As: 11/3 30 and 12/3 25 Kaziranga.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)

As: 20/2 5 Guwahati-Nagaon, 7/3 1 Nameri, 10/3 10, 11/3 10 and 12/3 70 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 2 Chambal River.

Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedius*)

As: 11/3 10 and 12/3 50 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

As: 20/2 5 Guwaharti-Nagaon, 21/2 1 Nameri, 9/3 4 Nameri, 10/3 20, 11/3 50 and 12/3 50 Kaziranga

Chambal: 15/3 5 Chambal River.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

As: 20/2 500 Guwaharti-Nagaon, 10/3 250, 11/3 300, 12/3 ++ Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 25+ Chambal River.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinera*)

As: 10/3-13/3 10+ Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 5 Chambal River.

Purple Heron (*A..purpurea*)

As: 11/3 1 Kaziranga (eastern range).

Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*)

As:20/2 2 Guwaharti-Nagaon, 21/2 4 Nameri in forest pools, 7/3 2 Nameri, 10/3-13/3 50-75 Kaziranga

Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*)

As: 10/3 6, 11/3 5, 12/3 5 and 13/3 5 Kaziranga.

Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos minor*)

As: 20/2 10 and 14/3 20 Nagaon, 21/2 1 Nameri, 8/3 1+1 Nameri, 10/3 15, 11/3 10, 12/3 10 and 13/3 40 Kaziranga.

Greater Adjutant (*L.ruber*)

As: 20/2 12 and 14/3 8 Nagaon – at the colony, roosting, a few soaring.

Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*)

As: 20/2: 105 (80+25) Guwaharti-Nagaon, 11/3 9, 12/3 90 (70 night-roost) Kaziranga.

Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)

Chambal: 16/3 1+1 Chambal River.

Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorrhynchus asiaticus*)

As: 11/3 12 (6 ad, 6 juv), 12/3 8 and 13/3 8 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 1 ad Chambal River.

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Chambal: 15/3 5 Chambal River.

Black Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*)

Chambal: 6 (1+1+1+3) Chambal River.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

As: 10/3 30 and 11/3 20 Kaziranga.

Bar-headed Goose (*A.indicus*)

As: 10/3 275, 11/3 300, 12/3 250 Kaziranga – at different sites = about 825 in total.

AP: 29/2 31 migrating north Bompou at 7.10 – on a bright sunny day and a good day to move for the Tibetan highlands.

Chambal: 16/3 40 Chambal River.

Lesser Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*)

Chambal: 16/3 35 Chambal River.

Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotus*)

Chambal: 16/3 3 Chambal River.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

As: 21/2 4 Nameri, 8/3 6 Nameri, 9/3 20 Nameri (river-raft), 10/3 2, 11/3 30, 12/3 20 Kaziranga.

AP: 21/2 2 Sanghti Valley

Chambal: 16/3 6 Chambal River.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

As: 11/3 70 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 25 Chambal River.

Common Teal (*A.crecca*)

As: 21/2 30 Nameri, 8/3 15 Nameri, 10/3-12/3 200+ Kaziranga.

AP: 22/2 30 Sanghti Valley,

Spot-billed Duck (*A.poecilorhynca*)

As: 10/3 40, 11/3 40 and 12/3 20 Kaziranga.

Mallard (*A.platyrhyncos*)

As: 21/2 4 Nameri, 8/3 3 Nameri, 10/3 2 and 11/3 20 Kaziranga.

Gadwall (*A.strepera*)

As: 11/3 75 and 12/3 50 Kaziranga.

Eurasian Wigeon (*A.penelope*)

As: 21/2 6 Nameri, 10/3 2, 11/3 125, 12/3 150 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 10 Chambal River.

Garganey (*A.querquedula*)

As: 11/3 40 and 12/3 50 Kaziranga.

Northern Shoveler (*A.clypeata*)

As: 10/3 10, 11/3 50 and 12/3 50 Kaziranga.

White-winged Wood-Duck (*Cairina scutulata*)

As: 21/2 1 male + 1 male, 1 female Nameri – at each of 2 pools inside the forest north of the river. The lone male was flushed from cover under the bank, the pair was swimming in the small pool. At our return to Nameri in mid March water levels had fallen and the ducks had retreated to unknown pools inside the jungle – no sightings for a couple of weeks!

Ferruginous Pochard (*Aythya nyroca*)

As: 11/3 60 Kaziranga (eastern range) – at one locality.

Tufted Duck (*A.fuligula*)

As: 11/3 20 and 12/3 75 Kaziranga.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)

As: 21/2 1 Namiri, 9/3 8 Nameri - all birds were females.

Oriental Honey-buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)

As: 11/3 1 Kaziranga, 14/3 1 Kaziranga/hills& tea-garden.

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

Chambal: 15/3 1 Chambal Safari lodge, 16/3 1+1 Chambal River.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

As: 20/2 6 Guwaharti-Nagaon.

Chambal: 15/3 50 en route driving to Chambal, 16/3 2 Chambal River.

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

As: 12/3 1 Kaziranga, 13/3 3 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15/3 1 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*A.nisus*)

AP: 24/2 1 Mandala Ridge, 27/2 1 Bompou-Sunderview, 28/2 1 Bompou.

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*)

Chambal: 16/3 1+1 Chambal River.

Upland Buzzard (*B. hemilasius*)

AP: 6/3 1 Eaglenest Pass – slopes just before reaching the pass coming from Lama Camp. Took perch on the top of dead, relict cornifers gliding or flying active between perches. A large, strong, long-winged buzzard (like the northern Rough-legged Buzzard) showing whitish patches on the upperwing, whitish tail, and brownish marking on belly and trousers (photo uptained) – probably a rather scarce bird.

Common (Himalayan) Buzzard (*B.(buteo) burmanicus*)

AP: 22/2 1+1 Sanghti Valley, 1 Mandala Ridge, 24/2 1 Mandala Ridge.

Mountain Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus nipalensis*)

AP: 22/2 1 Mandala Ridge, 25/2 1 + 1 Bompou, 26/2 1 Bompou, 27/2 1+1 Bombu-Sunderview, 28/2 2 + 1 imm Bompou, 29/2 1+1 Bompou, 1/3 1 Bompou, 4/3 1 Lama Camp.

Changeable Hawk Eagle (*S.(cirrhatus)limnaetus*)

As: 11/3 2 Kaziranga, 12/3 3 Kaziranga – all solitary birds in woodland.

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)

As: 9/3 1 ad Nameri.

Greater Spotted Eagle (*A.clanga*)

AS: 11/3 3 imm Kaziranga (eastern range) – together on meadows bordering lakes, moving a little around, flushing the ducks.

AP: 2/3 1 ad Bompou – migrating/attempting to migrate north, typical adult bird, all dark with some wing-contrast with darker coverts and yellow legs/bill, soaring and probably descended back towards the plains in the end.

Indian Spotted Eagle (*A.hastata*)

As: 13/3 1 ad Kaziranga – flew by with good views (central range).

Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*)

AP: 2/3 1 Bompou-Sunderview, only and very brief observation of the species.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri, 11/3 2 (1+1) Kaziranga (eastern range), 12/3 3 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River.

Pallas Fish-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*)

As: 21/2 1 ad Nameri, 7/3 1 ad at the river and 1 on nest Nameri (close to the river and "ferry"), 9/3 2 ad Nameri on the nest (river-raft) – all observations representing one breeding pair, 11/3 1 ad Kaziranga, 12/3 4 (2ad + 1ad, 1 juv) Kaziranga, 13/3 1 ad, 2 juv Kaziranga – representing 2-3 breeding pairs.

Grey-headed Fish-Eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichtyaethus*)

As: 10/3 1 ad Kaziranga, 11/3 6 Kaziranga – mainly singles at different locations.

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)

Chambal: 16/3 4 ad Chambal River.

Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*)

AP: 29/2 1 imm Bompou – soaring on a bright sunny day – and the only bird of the trip, so quite uncommon probably due to the very limited livestock.

Long-billed Vulture (*G. tenuirostris*)

As: 11/3 3 Kaziranga, 12/3 4 Kaziranga. Same area – vulture-crisis! At 10/3 another 4 gyps sp. – most probably this species. No white-backed vultures during the entire trip.....

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

As: 13/3 1 adult female Kaziranga.

Pied Harrier (*C.melanoleucos*)

As: 9/3 1 imm (1.year bird) Nameri in riverine grassland - dark, quite uniformly brown upperwing conspicuous, 11/3 1 imm (1.year) Kaziranga.

Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)

As: 7/3 2 Nameri, 10/3 2 Kaziranga, 11/3 6 Kaziranga, 12/3 6 Kaziranga, 13/3 4 Kaziranga.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

AP: 23/2 2 ad Se La Pass (south of the pass).

Common Kestrel (*F.tinnunculus*)

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River.

Oriental Hobby (*F.severus*)

21/2 and 7/3-10/3 2 ad Nameri inside the Eco-camp – a breeding pair through some years. Often roosting in a big tree within the camp where at least one bird was frequently seen. One afternoon the two birds were hunting close to the camp, one evening one was scoped when foraging on a bird-prey, probably a mynah, in its favourite tree. A rarely seen, extremely smart bird!

Swamp Francolin (*Francolinus gularis*)

As: 10/3 7(2+2+3) seen, 11/3 3, 12/3 heard, 13/3 6 (1+2+3) seen + heard Kaziranga – quite easily seen and heard in Kaziranga - a stronghold for this vulnerable species.

Grey Francolin (*F.pondicerianus*)

Chambal: 16/3 10 Chambal River.

Hill Partridge (*Arborophila torquela*)

AP: 23/2 1 seen Se La Pass, 24/2 1 heard Mandala Ridge, 26/2 2 heard Bompou, 29/2 1 heard above Bompou, 2/3 1 seen + 2 heard above Bompou, 3/3 2 heard above Bompou, 6/3 1 Eaglenest Pass.

Rufous-throated Partridge (*A.rufogularis*)

AP: 1/3 heard + 1 seen (probably this partridge) below Sesni.

Chestnut-breasted Partridge (*A.mandelli*)

AP: 25/2 2-3 heard at dusk Bompou, 28/2 about 5 birds Bompou - several calls heard at 10.00, 29/2 heard briefly Bompou.

Himalayan Monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*)

AP: 23/2 2 (1 male, 1 female) Se La Pass around 7.30 flushed from the hillside (4100 m) close to the road, then running away in the semi-open vegetation. Male was in full plumage and it was a very good sighting of this classic high-altitude bird.

Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*)

As: 7/3 1 flushed Nameri, 10/3 3, 11/3 2, 12/3 1, 13/3 2 Kaziranga.

AP: 24/2 4 (2 males, 2 females) Mandala Ridge, 1/3 2 Sesni.

Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)

Chambal: 15/3 2 males, 4 females and 16/3 5 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Grey Peacock-Pheasant (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*)

AP: 29/2 2 heard Sesni (1200 m) – loud ascending "kraa...kraa...."

Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*)

As: 7/3 heard Nameri, 9/3 1 male seen + 1 heard Nameri, 10/3 5, 11/3 20, 12/3 35 and 13/3 30 Kaziranga.

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri, 12/3 1 Kaziranga, 13/3 1 Kaziranga.

Brown Crake (*A. akool*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri.

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River.

Black-tailed Crake (*Porzana bicolor*)

AP: 22/2 1 Sanghti Valley – the valley-bottom was dominated by dry rice-fields with a few small patches of tussock-moors – the habitat of the Black-tailed Crake. Stays under cover, but probably provoked by play-back the bird came on the move and was seen several times in the small open spaces between the tussocks.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

As: 11/3 15 and 13/3 3 Kaziranga.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)

As: 10/3 1 imm Kaziranga (western part) - only bird, outnumbered by Bronze-winged J.

Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*)

As: 11/3 1 ad, 1 imm Kaziranga, 13/3 3 ad Kaziranga.

Eurasian Thick-knee (*Burhinus oediconemus*)

Chambal: 16/3 2 Chambal River in small hills with scattered acacias (by some even called Indian Thick-knee).

Great Thick-knee (*Esacus recurvirostris*)

As: 8/3 2 Nameri, 9/3 2 Nameri – during river-raft.

Chambal: 16/3 6 Chambal River.

Ibisbill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*)

As: 9/3 18 Nameri – main-target of the river raft. During a three hour raft found on 3 sites roosting on typical islets of white stones in falls, and allowing very close approach! – to my experience takes off at quite a distance when approached by foot, but much more confident by boat – great bird, great experience, and great photos.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Chambal: 15/3 5 driving close to Agra, 16/3 4 Chambal (village).

Small Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*)

21/2 160 Namiri – one flock, roosting and dispersing up-river, lively and vocal, 8/3 1 Nameri, 9/3 110 (30+80) Nameri during the river-raft.

Chambal: 16/3 15 Chambal River.

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

As: 11/3 40, 12/3 20 Kaziranga.

Grey-headed Lapwing (*V.cinereus*)

As: 11/3 1 or 2 Kaziranga (eastern range) – only!

Yellow-wattled Lapwing (*V.malabaricus*)

Chambal: 15/3 2 (a pair) Chambal Safari Lodge – close to the lodge and the nearby village on dry, worn soil – very confident, running a little ahead.

Red-wattled Lapwing (*V.indicus*)

As: 21/2 1 Guwahati-Nagaon, 8/3 1 Nameri, 10/3 8, 11/3 40, 12/3 10 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15/3 3 fields at the Chambal Safari Lodge, 16/3 4 Chambal River.

River Lapwing (*V.duvaucelii*)

As: 21/2 2 Nameri, 9/3 20 (10 pairs) Nameri at the river-raft.

Chambal: 16/3 10 Chambal River.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

As: 21/2 2 Nameri, 9/3 6 (1+2+1+2) Nameri during the river-raft (and no long-billed), 10/3 3 Kaziranga, 12/3 7 Kaziranga.

Kentish Plover (*C.alexandrinus*)

Chambal: 16/3 2.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

As: 11/3 4 Kaziranga.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

As: 10/3 30 Kaziranga.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

As: 11/3 2 Kaziranga, 12/3 30 (single flock) Kaziranga.

Common Redshank (*T.totanus*)

As: 11/3 60 and 12/3 15 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 4 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Common Greenshank (*T.nebularia*)

As: 21/2 2 Nameri, 8/3 1 Nameri, 9/3 4 Nameri, 10/3 2, 11/3 5 and 12/3 10 Kaziranga.

Marsh Sandpiper (*T.stagnatilis*)

As: 10/3 2 Kaziranga – seems to be quite uncommon in the NE.

Green Sandpiper (*T.ochropus*)

As: 21/2 3 Nameri, 9/3 1 Nameri, 11/3 4 Kaziranga, 12/3 3 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 4 Chambal River.

Wood Sandpiper (*T.glareola*)

As: 13/3 3 Kaziranga.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

As: 21/2 3 Nameri, 8/3 1 Nameri, 9/3 5 Nameri.

AP: 22/2 3 Sanghti Valley.

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River.

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

As: 9/3 1 flushed Nameri – surprisingly low altitude.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

As: 11/3 1 Kaziranga, 12/3 3 Kaziranga, 13/3 1 Kaziranga.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Chambal: 16/3 3 Chambal River.

Temminck's Stint (*C.temminckii*)

Chambal: 16/3 2 Chambal River.

Little Stint (*C.minuta*)

As: 12/3 30 Kaziranga.

Pallas' Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*)

Chambal: 16/3 1 imm Chambal River – the only gull of the trip.

River Tern (*Sterna aurentia*)

As: 21/2 8 Nameri, 9/3 10 Nameri at the river-raft, 11/3 1, 12/3 3 and 13/3 2 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 2 (nest) Chambal River.

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybridus*)

As: 11/3 4 Kaziranga.

Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*)

Chambal: 16/3 28 Chambal River – during the boat-trip 22 were seen roosting on an island in the river – surrounded by Gharials and with Gangetic Dolphins in the nearby watersurface! This is certainly a very important locality holding 3 endangered species in one of the few remaining rivers with clear water and limited pollution! The 22 Skimmers allowed close inspection without being lifted – later 2+4 flew by including some skimming.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*)

Chambal: 16/3 11 (6+5) Chambal River - flying to and settling close to the river.

Barred Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia unchall*)

AP: 7/3 7 Nameri, 9/3 15 Nameri.

Red Collared Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)

As: 9/3 4 Nameri.

Chambal: 15/3 2 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Eurasian Collared Dove (*S.decaocto*)

Chambal: 15-16/3 + lodge/riversurroundings.

Laughing Dove (*S.senegalensis*)

15/3 2+ driving for Chambal.

Spotted Dove (*S.chinensis*)

As: 21/2 4 Namiri, 10/3-14/3 recorded daily up to 60 Kaziranga.

Oriental Turtle Dove (*S.orientalis*)

As: 7/3 2+2 Nameri inside the forest.

AP: 24/2 1 Mandala Ridge (small village).

Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)

26/2 4 (1+1+2) Bompu-Sesni, 29/2 3 Bompu-Sesni, 1/3 1 Sesni, 12/3 2 Kaziranga.

Pin-tailed Green Pigeon (*Treron apicauda*)

As: 7/3 30 Nameri in a big fig-tree close to the eco-camp, 8/3 20 Nameri, 9/3 5 Nameri.

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon (*T.sphenura*)

As: 7/3 1 Nameri – inside the forest.

Ashy-headed (Pompadour) Green Pigeon (*T.(pompadora)phayrei*)

As: 21/2 1 Namiri – single bird found inside the forest.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (*T.phoenicoptera*)

As: 21/2 5 Nameri, 7/3 70 Nameri in the big fig tree, 8/3 20 Nameri, 9/3 15 Nameri, 10/3 60, 11/3 10, 12/3 150, 14/3 15 Kaziranga.

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon (*T.bicineta*)

As: 8/3 5 Nameri – between numerous yellow-footed in the big fig tree.

Green Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula aenea*)

As: 7/3 3 Nameri, 9/3 1 Nameri, 10/3 4, 11/3 10, 13/3 1 Kaziranga.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon (*D.badia*)

1/3 1 Bompu, 1 heard Sesni, 2/3 1 Bompu-Sunderview.

Snow Pigeon (*Columba leuconota*)

AP: 23/2 3 Se La Pass – a little north of the pass.

Rock Pigeon (*Colomba livia*)

AP,As: + - all feral?

Speckled Wood Pigeon (*C.hodgsonii*)

AP: 26/2 1 Bompu flew by (in poor light), probably this species (the alternative is Ashy Wood-Pigeon)

Red-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*)

As: 21/2 20 Nameri, 7/3 25+ Nameri, 8/3 25+ Nameri, 9/3 30 Nameri, 10/3 30 Kaziranga, 11/3 50 Kaziranga, 12/3 150 Kaziranga.

Plum-headed Parakeet (*P.cyanocephala*)

Chambal: 15/3 4 (2 pairs breeding in holes in acacias) Chambal Safari Lodge.

Blossom-headed Parakeet (*P.roseata*)

As: 11/3 2 Kaziranga.

Alexandrine Parakeet (*P.eupatria*)

As: 11/3 12 Kaziranga.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*P.krameri*)

As: 13/3 15 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15-16/3 about 10 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Vernal Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus vernalis*)

8/3 2+3 Nameri – both groups seen as fast-flying birds almost stooping into canopies.

Large Hawk Cuckoo (*H. sparverioides*)

AP: 28/2 1 Bompou at 2100 m, 2/3 1 above Bompou.

Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*)

As: 11/3 1 Kaziranga, 12/3 3 Kaziranga.

Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)

As: 9/3 2 Nameri, 14/3 1 Kaziranga /tea-garden.

Chambal: 15/3 1 Chambal Safari Lodge, 16/3 2 Chambal River.

Lesser Coucal (*C. bengalensis*)

As: 10/3 2, 11/3 4 and 12/3 2 Kaziranga – obviously confined to grassland habitat.

Brown (Himalayan) Wood Owl (*Strix leptogrammica newarensis*)

AP: 1/3 1 heard Bompou at 3.45-4.15 from the hillside behind the camp, a low (ua)-whoo monotonously repeated with ab. 15 sec.s interval in the otherwise silent night, 4/3 1 heard above Lama Camp 0.00-0.30 from the gully close to the camp – seems to prefer the middle of the night and the call is not far-carrying.

Oriental Scops Owl (*Otus sunia*)

As: 8/3 heard Nameri, only at dusk as a steady 3-toned call, 9/3 1 heard Nameri – non-stop 17.50-18.10, then silent.

Brown Hawk Owl (*Ninox scutulata*)

As: 20/2 1 heard in a short interval at dusk Nameri, 8/3 1 heard Nameri – again only a short series of "ho-wup"

Asian Barred Owllet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*)

As: 21/2 2 Nameri – very vocal!, 7/3 1 heard Nameri – starts at 17.00, 8/3 2 heard Nameri, 9/3 1 heard Nameri, 10/3 3 seen Kaziranga, 11/3 6 Kaziranga, 12/3 1 Kaziranga, 14/3 1 Kaziranga at the lodge. Common and frequently seen!

AP: 24/2 1 seen Mandala Ridge (low part, watermill).

Spotted Owllet (*Athene brahma*)

As: 11/3 1 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15/3 1 seen Chambal Safari Lodge.

Himalayan Swiftlet (*Collocalia brevirostris*)

As: 8/3 10 Nameri.

AP: 28/2 10 Bompou, 7/3 2 around Tenga.

House Swift (*Apus affinis*)

Chambal: only seen over buildings during the drive to Chambal.

Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)

As: 11/3 5, 12/3 5 and 13/3 20 Kaziranga.

Indian Roller (*Coracias bengalensis*)

As: 21/2 1 Guwahati-Nagaon, 8/3 2 Nameri, 9/3 2+2 Nameri, 10/3 10, 11/3 30 and 12/3 10 Kaziranga.

Red-headed Trogon (*Harpactes erythrocephalus*)

AP: 26/2 1 male Sesni (1200 m) - shortly roosting in a tree and then flying across the road.

Ward's Trogon (*H. wardi*)

AP: 3/3 1 female Lama Camp – absent on traditional sites above 2300 m, but a female found in the valley just below Lama Camp, sitting motionless on a mossy branch in the middle storey. An impressive and huge trogon with a very long, broad tail, a key species! – very restricted range and altitude.

Crested Kingfisher (*Megaceryle lugubris*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri at the river-raft.

AP: 22/2 2+2 Sanghti Valley.

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

As: 21/2 4 Nameri, 8/3 5 Nameri, 9/3 10 Nameri, 12/3 15 Kaziranga (Brahmaputra).

Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Halcyon capensis*)

As: 12/3 1 Kaziranga, 13/3 1 Kaziranga.

White-throated Kingfisher (*H. smyrnensis*)

As: 21/2 5 Guwahati-Nagaon, 8/3 2 Nameri, 9/3 10 Nameri, 11/3 4 Kaziranga, 12/3 10 Kaziranga.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

21/2 2 Nameri, 8/3 2 Nameri, 9/3 3 Nameri.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops lechenaulti*)

As: 8/3 6 Nameri, 9/3 3 Nameri, 10/3 3, 11/3 10, 12/3 25 Kaziranga.

Blue-bearded Bee-eater (*Nyctyornis athertoni*)

As: 12/3 1 Kaziranga (eastern range) – only one, but prolonged excellent views of this huge bee-eater inside a woodland settled on a low branch.

Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri, 12/3 1 Kaziranga, 13/3 1 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15/3 1 driving for Chambal.

Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)

AP: 24/2 2 Mandala Ridge – seen, not vocal, 26/2 1 heard Bompu-Sesni, 26/2 2 heard Bompu-Sunderview, 28/2 1+ heard Bompu, 29/2 10 heard Sesni, 1/3 2 heard Sesni, 2/3 10 heard Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 10+ heard Bompu-Lama camp, 4/3 1 seen, 2 heard Lama Camp, 5/3 5 Lama Camp, 6/3 10+ Lama Camp, 7/3 2 Lama Camp.

Lineated Barbet (*M.lineata*)

As: 21/2 1 h Nameri, 7/3 1 seen, 10+ heard Nameri, 8/3 10+ Nameri, 9/3 5 Nameri, 10-13/3 ab.50 daily Kaziranga.

Brown-headed Barbet (*M.zeylanica*)

Chambal: 15/3 3 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Blue-throated Barbet (*M.asiatica*)

As: 21/2 1 seen Nameri, 8/3 10+ h Nameri, 9/3 10 Nameri, 10-13/3 about 50 daily Kaziranga.

Coppersmith Barbet (*M.haemacephala*)

As: 8/3 2 heard Nameri.

Chambal: 15/3 7 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Indian Grey Hornbill (*Oxyceros birostris*)

Chambal: 15/3 6 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri, 10/3 2 Kaziranga, 12/3 12+6 Kaziranga.

Wreathed Hornbill (*Aceros undulatus*)

21/2 heard – early morning Nameri, 7/3 3 Nameri at a big fig-tree, 8/3 7 Nameri – showtime!, 9/3 13 Nameri around the eco-camp, 10/3 18 Nameri morning flying to fig trees.

Rufous-necked Hornbill (*A.nipalensis*)

AP: 26/2 4 seen (3 males) Bompu-Sesni – fine observation of this species roosting at close range, an impressive and rare and decreasing hornbill - found about 1400-1700 meter (between Bompu and Sesni) on all our days in the area, 28/2 heard far below Bompu, 29/2 heard above Sesni, 1/3 heard a little above Sesni.

Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)

As: 10/3 1 Kaziranga, 11/3 2 Kaziranga (one in a tea-garden), 12/3 2 Kaziranga, 13/3 3 Kaziranga.

Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*)

As: 11/3 1 male Kaziranga/hills behind tea-plantation.

Streak-throated Woodpecker (*P.xanthopygaeus*)

As: 11/3 2 Kaziranga, 12/3 2 Kaziranga.

Greater Yellownape (*P.flavinucha*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri.

AP: 26/2 2 Sesni.

Lesser Yellownape (*P.chlorolophus*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri, 14/3 2 Kaziranga/hills-tea-garden.

Rufous Woodpecker (*Celeus brachyurus*)

As: 8/3 2 Nameri inside the forest, 11/3 2 Kaziranga.

Bay Woodpecker (*Blythipicus pyrrhotis*)

AP: 29/2 2 Sesni – 1 heard, 1 seen flying.

Black-rumped Flameback (*Dinopium benghalense*)

As: 12/3 2 Kaziranga, 13/3 4 Kaziranga.

Greater Flameback (*D. lucidus*)

As: 8/3 1+2 Nameri, 10/3 1 Nameri.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos cathpharius*)

AP: 24/2 2 (male,female) Mandala Ridge, 3/3 1 above Bompu.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker (*D.macei*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (*D.canicapillus*)

As: 21/2 1 + 2 Nameri, 8/3 1 Nameri, 12/3 1 Kaziranga.

AP: 29/2 1 below Sesni near Khellong.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker (*D.hyperythrus*)

AP: 3/3 1 male in the valley below Lama Camp – excellent view.

Darjeeling Woodpecker (*D.darjellensis*)

AP: 27/2 1 seen + another 2 heard Bompu-Sunderview (2400 m), 28/2 1 above Bompu, 2/3 1 seen and 1 heard Bompu-Sunderview, 7/3 1 below Lama Camp.

White-browed Piculet (*Sasia ochracea*)

AP: 29/2 1 above Khellong seen (frustratingly) briefly moving inside dense, mature bamboos.

Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri – found during the raft on a river-island with sandy soil, shrub, and some woodland – and dew-fresh tiger-prints!

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide (*Indicator xanthonotus*)

AP: 3/3 1 Lama Camp, a few km below on the rocky, forested hillside, "odd" bird with a thick somewhat broadbill-like bill and a rounded, slightly elongated shape uttering a weak "tweet" a few times, underpart-details seen before the bird vanished uphill.

Common Iora (*Aegihina tiphia*)

As: 12/3 2 Kaziranga.

Orange-bellied Leafbird (*Chloropsis hardwickii*)

AP: 26/2 2 (1+1) Sesni, 28/2 1 Bompu, 3/3 4 below Lama Camp, 4/3 3 below Lama Camp, 5/3 4 below Lama Camp, 6/3 4 Lama Camp, 7/3 2 Lama Camp.

Golden-fronted Leafbird (*C.aurifrons*)

As: 21/2 2 Nameri.

Asian Fairy Bluebird (*Irena puella*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri.

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri, 10/3 1 Kaziranga, 12/3 1 Kaziranga, 13/3 1 Kaziranga, 14/3 2 Kaziranga/tea-garden.

Maroon Oriole (*O.traillii*)

As: 8/3 2 Nameri – females/imm.

Oriental Sandlark (*Alauda gulgula*)

As: 11/3 2 Kaziranga.

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)

Chambal: 16/3 4 Chambal River.

Sand Lark (*C.raytal*)

As: 8/3 2 Nameri, 9/3 1 singing male Nameri – on sandy, riverine flats.

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)

Chambal: 16/3 4 Chambal River.

(Grey-throated) Plain Martin (*Riparia (paludicola)chinensis*)

As: 8/3 30 Nameri, 9/3 40 Nameri incl breeders in the river-banks, 12/3 100 Kaziranga.

Dusky Crag Martin (*Hirundo concolor*)

Chambal: 16/3 2 Agra.

Barn Swallow (*H.rustica*)

As: 21/2 30 Namiri, 10/3 5 Kaziranga, 11/3 30 Kaziranga, 13/3 50 Kaziranga.

Wire-tailed Swallow (*H.smithii*)

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River.

Streak-throated Swallow (*H.fluvicola*)

Chambal: 15/3 20 driving for Chambal – north of Agra and typically dense, breeding flock around a bridge.

Nepal House Martin (*Delichon nipalensis*)

AP: 22/2 30 Sanghti Valley around a small stupa.

Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

As: 21/2 50 Guwahat-Nagaon, 10/3-14/3 daily ab 50 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15/3 5 Chambal Safari Lodge, 16/3 2 Chambal River.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo (*D.remifer*)

AP: 26/2 2 (1+1) Sesni.

Sprangled Drongo (*D.hottentottus*)

As: 21/2 10 Nameri, 8/3 20 Nameri, 13/3 1 Kaziranga.

AP: 1/3 1 Sesni.

Bronzed Drongo (*D.aeneus*)

As: 21/2: 5 Namiri, 8/3 50 Nameri.

AP: 29/2 10 Khellong, 1/3 5 Sesni.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus picatus*)

AP: 26/2 15 (one flock) Sesni.

Large Woodshrike (*T.gularis*)

As: 13/3 1 Kaziranga.

Grey-backed Shrike (*Lanius tephronotus*)

As: 11/3 1 Kaziranga, 12/3 2 Kaziranga, 13/3 3 Kaziranga, 14/3 3 Kaziranga/tea-plantation-hills.

Long-tailed Shrike (*L.schach*)

As: 21/2 1 Nameri, 8/3 1 Nameri, 9/3 1 Nameri, 10/3 4, 11/3 2, 12/3 3 Kaziranga

AP: 22/2 2 Sanghti Valley (tricolor).

Brown Shrike (*L.cristatus*)

As: 11/3 3 Kaziranga.

Spot-winged Starling (*Saroglossa spiloptera*)

As: 11/3 2 Kaziranga – only and brief observation.

Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnus malabarica*)

As: 7/3 4 Nameri, 8/3 6 Nameri, 10/3 5, 11/3 10, 12/3 30 Kaziranga

Brahminy Starling (*S.pagodarum*)

Chambal: 15/3 6 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Asian Pied Starling (*S.contra*)

As: 21/2 10 Guwahati-Nagaon, 8/3 4 Nameri, 9/3 1 Nameri, 10/3 10, 12/3 10 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15/3 10 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Bank Mynah (*Acridotheres ginginianus*)

As: 13/3 6 Kaziranga – bank! of a former river-bend.

Chambal: 15/3 50+ driving for Chambal in urban areas.

Common Mynah (*A.tristis*)

As: 20/2 100+ Guwahati-Nagaon, 21/2 30 Nameri, 7/3-9/3 20 Nameri, 10-13/3 + Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15/3 10 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Jungle Mynah (*A.fuscus*)

7/3 10 Nameri, 8/3 10 Nameri, 10/3 50-13/3 up to 150 Kaziranga.

Great Mynah (*A.grandis*)

As: 8/3 2 Nameri – all dark with big crests but seen at some distance...

Common Hill Mynah (*Gracula religiosa*)

As: 7/3-9/3 40 Nameri – eco-camp, very vocal! – in the vicinity of the productive fig-tree.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (*Urosissa flavirostris*)

AP: 22/2 2 Mandala Ridge, 23/2 2 Se La Pass, 24/2 2 Mandala Ridge, 27/2 4 and again 2/3 1 and 3/3 3 Sunderview.

Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*)

As: 7/3 1 Nameri, 8/3 1 Nameri, 9/3 1 Nameri, 10/3 6, 11/3 3, 12/3 3 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15/3 2 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Grey Treepie (*D.formosae*)

AP:24/2 2 Mandala Ridge.

Spotted Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*)

AP: 24/2 4 Mandala Ridge, 25/2 1 Dirang, 3/3 3 Eaglenest Pass, 6/3 1 Eaglenest Pass.

Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)

AP: 23/2 40 Se La Pass (4200 m) seen (and heard) in snow-covered landscapes close to the pass.

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*)

As: 10-14/3 + around habitation Kaziranga.

Large-billed Crow (*C.macrorhynchos*)

As: 7/3 2 Nameri, 8/3 5 Nameri, 9/3 50 Nameri.

AP: 22/2 2 Mandala Ridge, 23/2 10 Se La Pass, 24/2 4 Mandala Ridge, 3/3 2 Lama Camp, 4/3 1 Lama Camp, 10/3-14/3 + Kaziranga.

Large Cuckooshrike (*Coracina macei*)

As: 14/3 1 Kaziranga/ tea-plantation-hills.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike (*C.melaschistos*)

As: 8/3 2 Nameri, 9/3 1 Nameri.

AP: 29/2 1 Sesni-Khellong.

Grey-chinned Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*)

AP: 26/2 10 Bompou-Sesni.

Small Minivet (*P.cinnamomeus*)

As: 8/3 10 Nameri, 12/3 12+10 Kaziranga, 13/3 3 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 3 Chambal River.

Long-tailed Minivet (*P.ethologus*)

As: 21/2 20 Nameri, 8/3 30 Nameri.

AP: 29/2 8 Khellong.

Scarlet Minivet (*P.(flammeus)speciosus*)

As: 21/2 20 Nameri, 9/3 10 Nameri.

Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*)

As: 21/2 25 Nameri, 7/3 10 Nameri, 8/3 40 Nameri, 11/3 50+ Kaziranga.

AP: 27/2 2 Bompou-Sunderview, 29/2 12 Khellong.

Mountain Bulbul (*H.mccllellandii*)

AP: 24/2 3 Mandala Ridge.

White-throated Bulbul (*Alophoixus flaveolus*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri.

Striated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus striatus*)

29/2 12 Khellong, 1/3 5 Khellong.

Red-vented Bulbul (*P.cafar*)

As: 21/2 2 Nameri, 9/3 10 Nameri, 10-14/3 + Kaziranga.

AP: 22/2 20 Sanghti Valley, 24/2 6 Mandala Ridge (villages), 29/2 6 Khellong at the gate.

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*P.jocosus*)

As: 8/3 + Nameri, 9/3 20 Nameri, 10-14/3 + Kaziranga.

White-eared Bulbul (*P.leucotis*)

Chambal: 16/3 5 Chambal River.

Eye-browed Wren Babbler (*Napothera epilepidota*)

AP: 29/2 2 heard Sesni in response to playback – but kept invisible.

Rufous-throated Wren Babbler (*Spelaornis caudatus*)

AP: 28/2 2 Bompou, singing at the camp site, one responded to play-back and was seen in a glimpse, 29/2 2 heard Bompou camp, 1/3 1 heard + 1 heard and a brief view Bompou in early morning.

Bar-winged Wren Babbler (*S.troglodytoides*)

AP: 6/3 1 seen and heard Eaglenest Pass – one of few real play-back responders, played out of cover allowing splendid observations at close range and a jewel to watch!

Spotted Wren-Babbler (*S.formosus*)

AP: 26/2 1 heard Bompou in response to tape.

Wedge-billed Wren-Babbler (*Sphenocichla humei*)

AP: 26/2 3 Bompou – found at a higher altitude than expected just below Bompou at about 1800 meter. A discrete noise from leaves at the forest-bottom lead to the observation of this large, strange, taxonomic diverging species roosting in the forest bottom just a few meters down-slope and seen at close range. We tried a playback provoking a short song-sequence and a second look at the bird – enabling also Lobsang to see this bird which he tended to deny due to the altitude. The one and only observation of this species.

Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellornium ruficeps*)

As: 8/3 1 heard and seen briefly Nameri, 12/3 1 seen Kaziranga, 14/3 1 seen and heard Kaziranga/tea-plantation-hills.

Abbott's Babbler (*Melacocincla abbotti*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri – very good views inside the forest of this uniform bird.

White-browed Scimitar Babbler (*Pomathorinus schisticeps*)

As: 14/3 1 Kaziranga/hills-tea-plantations with Greater Neclaced and Rufous-necked Laughing-thrushes, low altitude!

AP: 3/3 4 below Lama Camp, 5/3 3 (2+1) below Lama Camp.

Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler (*P.ferruginosus*)

AP: 26/2 2 Sesni, 1/3 12 Bompou + 20 above Sesni. Beauties!

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler (*Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*)

AP: 3/3 1 below Lama Camp glimpsed (only the back) and a short call in company with a group of Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes, ascended under cover, 6/3 1 below Lama Camp – same spot and the same single bird as 3/3 and this time we got it: a real speciality with its long – and slender – down-curved sickle-bill. We had chased it for days in the bamboos of Eaglenest with no result until this one bird was dugged out of the shrubbery.

Striped Tit-Babbler (*Macronous gularis*)

As: 8/3 3 Nameri.

Rufous-fronted Babbler (*Stachyris rufifrons*)

As: 10/3 2 heard Kaziranga.

Rufous-capped Babbler (*S. ruficeps*)

AP: 3/3 1 Bompou Camp heard only.

Large Grey Babbler (*Turdoides malcolmi*)

Chambal: 15/3 20 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Jungle Babbler (*T.striatus*)

Chambal: 15/3 30 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Common Babbler (*T.caudatus*)

Chambal: 16/3 12 Chambal River.

Slender-billed Babbler (*T.longirostris*)

As: 12/3 1 heard Kaziranga (central range) in rich grassland.

Chestnut-capped Babbler (*Timalia pileata*)

As: 11/3 2 Kaziranga – good observations, grassland-bird (central range).

Cutia (*Cutia nipalensis*)

AP: 27/2 6 + 2 Bompu-Sunderview seen at ab. 2100 meter – prolonged observation of this strange species foraging in a nuthatch-way on mossy trunks and branches, 5/3 2 below Lama Camp.

Black-headed Shrike Babbler (*Pteruthius rufiventer*)

AP: 26/2 5 Sesni – as part of a superb bird-wave, 29/2 4 Khellong were on their own, 4/3 1 below Lama Camp.

White-browed Shrike Babbler (*P.flaviscapis*)

AP: 26/2 10 Sesni, 3/3 4 below Lama Camp.

Black-eared Shrike-Babbler (*P. melanotis*)

AP: 26/2 5 Sesni.

Brown-throated Fulvetta (*Alcippe ludlowi*)

AP: 24/2 6 Mandala Ridge (ab. 3000 m), 27/2 2 Sunderview (2500 m), 3/3 20 Eaglenest Pass (3100 m), 6/3 10 Eaglenest Pass.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta (*A.castaneiceps*)

AP: 22/2 20 Mandala Ridge.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta (*A.chrysolis*)

AP: 25/2 10 Bompu in bamboo just above the camp, 27/2 40 (2 flocks) Bompu in the same good bamboo above the camp and again 28/2 15 Bompu and 2/3 15 Bompu – moves in restless flocks giving constant contact-calls – one day in company with Yellow-throated Fulvetta and on another day Black-throated Parrotbill.

Yellow-throated Fulvetta (*A.cinera*)

AP: 27/2 15 Bompu associating with Golden-breasted Fulvetta, somewhat atypical, warbler-like Fulvetta, but typically for the family operating in a restless, communicating flock.

Chestnut-tailed Minla (*Minla strigula*)

AP: 26/2 20 + 10 Bompu-Sesni, 27/2 50 Bompu-Sunderview (in 3-4 flocks), 1/3 10 above Bompu, 2/3 10 Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 5 below Lama Camp, 4/3 6 below Lama Camp, 5/3 15 below Lama Camp, 6/3 10 below Lama Camp.

Long-tailed Sibia (*Heterophasia picaoides*)

AP: 26/2 35 Sesni – taking flying insect, balancing with the long tail, 29/2 20 Khellong-Sesni, 1/3 20 Sesni .

Beautiful Sibia (*H.pulchella*)

AP: 22/2 7 Mandala Ridge, 24/2 8 Mandala Ridge, 26/2 15 Bompu-Sesni, 27/2 20 Bompu-Sunderview, 29/2 30+ Bompu, 29/2 4 Bompu, 2/3 6 Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 15 below Lama Camp, 4/3 40 below Lama Camp, 5/3 20+ below Lama Camp, 6/3 40 below Lama Camp, 7/3 10 Lama Camp. A common bird in these forests covering a broad altitude-spectrum, always 2 or a few together, never formed bigger flocks.

Rufous-backed Sibia (*H.annectens*)

AP: 26/2 6 (3+3) Sesni – the rare Sibia! and member of "mixed-flock number 1."

Fulvous Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis fulvifrons*)

AP: 24/2 10 (one travelling flock) Mandala Ridge – bamboo at 3000 meter, working through dense bamboo, constant contact-calls.

Black-throated Parrotbill (*P.nipalensis*)

AP: 2/3 5 Bompu in bamboo just above the camp joining Golden-breasted Fulvetta.

Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill (*P.ruficeps*)

AP: 28/2 4 Bompu – moving through bamboo just below Bompu Camp around 1700 m, seen within a few meters for some minutes before vanishing down-slope, 1/3 12 in one flock above Sesni in a mixed bamboo-forest habitat joining Coral-billed Scimitar-B. and Rusty-fronted Barwing.

Grey-headed Parrotbill (*P.gularis*)

AP: 29/2 2 Khellong-Sesni in mixed tall bamboo and forest at about 900 m, seen for only a few seconds before vanishing into dense bamboo.

Striated Yuhina (*Yuhina castaniceps*)

AP: 29/2 10 Khellong-Sesni (probably this Yuhina).

White-naped Yuhina (*Y.bakeri*)

AP: 24/2 6 Mandala Ridge, 26/2 30 Bompu-Sesni, 27/2 50 Bompu-Sunderview, 1/3 10 above Bompu.

Stripe-throated Yuhina (*Y.gularis*)

AP: 22/2 1 Mandala Ridge, 24/2 5 Mandala Ridge, 25/2 4 Bompu, 26/2 10 Bompu-Sesni, 27/2 30 Bombu-Sunderview, 28/2 5 Bompu, 2/3 5 Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 50 esp. below Lama Camp, 4/3 50 below Lama Camp, 5/3 75 below Lama Camp, 6/3 75 below Lama Camp, 7/3 20 below Lama Camp.

Rufous-vented Yuhina (*Y.occipitalis*)

AP: 25/2 2 Dirang, 27/2 15 Bompu-Sunderview, 28/2 75 Bompu-Sunderview, 1/3 20 above Bompu, 2/3 75 Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 30 Bombu-Eaglenest Pass and Lama Camp, 4/3 10 below Lama Camp, 5/3 50 Eaglenest Pass, 6/3 50 Eaglenest Pass.

Black-chinned Yuhina (*Y.nigrimenta*)

AP: 27/2 4 Bompu-Sunderview, peculiar humming voice, only observation.

Fire-tailed Myzornis (*Myzornis pyrrhoura*)

AP: 28/2 1 above Bompu at 2350 m – the jewel of Himalayan forests!, Lobsang found this bird after a prolonged search in the area, moving around in rhododendron-scrub, but emerges out in the open on a mossy trunk clinging and creeping almost like a tree-creeper and we had perfect views before the bird retreated to closed forest.

Rusty-fronted Barwing (*Actinodura egertoni*)

AP: 26/2 15 Bompu-Sesni, 29/2 6 (2+2+2) Sesni, 1/3 18 (2+10+6) Sesni.

Streak-throated Barwing (*A.waldeni*)

AP: 26/2 10+ Sesni – locomotive of the great mixed flock, 27/2 2+2 Bompu-Sunderview, 2/3 8(2+6) Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 6(4+2) below Lama Camp, 4/3 12 below Lama Camp, 6/3 15 below Lama Camp.

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (*Garrulax erythrocephalum*)

AP: 24/2 4+ Mandala Ridge, 29/2 4 Sesni, 1/3 5 Bompu-Sesni, 2/3 6 Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 30 below Lama Camp, 4/3 25 below Lama Camp, 5/3 20 below Lama Camp, 6/3 10 below Lama Camp (with the Slenderbilled Scim.Bab), 7/3 4 below Lama Camp.

Spotted Laughingthrush (*G.ocellatus*)

AP: 3/3 1-2 heard Eaglenest Pass, 6/3 3 Eaglenest Pass – good views.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush (*G.pectoralis*)

As: 14/3 10 Kaziranga/hills-tea plantation.

Striated Laughingthrush (*G.striatus*)

AP: 26/2 20 Bompu-Sesni at several locations, 27/2 4+4 Bombu-Sunderview, 28/2 2 Bompu, 29/2 10(4+4+2) Sesni, 1/3 10(2+6+2) Bompu-Sesni, 2/3 20 (several groups of 2-4) Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 4 Bompu, 4/3 5 below Lama Camp, 5/3 6 below Lama Camp, 6/3 2 below Lama Camp.

Streaked Laughingthrush (*G.lineatus*)

AP: 3/3 2 below Lama Camp – by some split to "Bhutan Laughingthrush"(G.imbicattus).

Grey-sided Laughingthrush (*G.caerulatus*)

AP: 2/3 2 Bompu-Sunderview – one bird gave very good views at about 2300 m.

Black-faced Laughingthrush (*G.affinis*)

AP: 24/2 1 Mandala Ridge, 26/2 4 (2+1+1) Bompu-Sesni, 29/2 7(4+3) Sesni, 1/3 10 (day-total) Bompu-Sesni, 2/3 4 Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 10 below Lama Camp, 4/3 2 below Lama Camp, 5/3 4 below Lama Camp, 6/3 4 Eaglenest Pass + 2 below Lama Camp.

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush (*G.ruficollis*)

As: 14/3 6 Kaziranga/hills-teaplantation in mixed-flock with gr.necklaced l.thr.+whitebrowed scimitar-bab.

White-throated Laughingthrush (*G.albogularis*)

AP: 22/2 20 Mandala Ridge, 24/2 20 Mandala Ridge.

White-crested Laughing-Thrush (*G.leucolophus*)

AP: 26/2 ab.10 Sesni – heard and glimpsed only, 29/2 20+10 Khellong.

Red-faced Liocichla (*Liocichla phoenicea*)

AP: 29/2 1 seen + ab. 3 heard Sesni – at the (temporarily) abandoned campsite – Liocichlas are often hard undergrowth-skulkers, but Dorjee got vocal response behind the campsite in the dense scrub of a small cleared area and the bird eventually popped out showing fine, 1/3 1 heard from the same scrub at Sesni Camp.

Bugun Liocichla (*L.buguensis*)

AP: 6/3 1 found by Dorjee 3 km below Lama Camp in hill-side undergrowth – skulky, but suddenly moved a short distance in the open allowing sufficient views, 7/3 1 below Lama Camp – good observation of a male exposing itself for enough time to see the plumage including very red tips to feathers in the tale and wing. Newly described species (Ramana Athreya 2006), extremely local, and the flag-ship species for the Bugun-area.

Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri.

Red-throated Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri. Most likely to be eastern F.(parva) albicilla (by some treated as a species).

Chambal: 15/3 2 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Ultramarine Flycatcher (*F.superciliaris*)

Chambal: 15/3 1 male Chambal Safari Lodge – a splendid male! – just arrived for a period roost before migrating further north.

Little Pied Flycatcher (*F.westermanni*)

As: 21/2 2 Nameri, 8/3 1 Nameri.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher (*F.hyperythra*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher (*F.strophciata*)

AP: 29/2 1 female Sesni at camp-area, 1/3 1 female Sesni (maybe same bird).

Slaty-blue Flycatcher (*F.tricolor*)

AP: 1/3 1 female Sesni

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri, 11/3 1 Kaziranga, 12/3 1 Kaziranga.

AP: 29/2 5 Khellong-Sesni, 1/3 10 Sesni, 2/3 4 Bompu, 3/3 1 Bompu.

Small Niltava (*Niltava macgrigoriae*)

As: 7/3 1 male Nameri, 8/3 2 Nameri.

Rufous-bellied Niltava (*N.sundara*)

AP: 21/2 1 drive Namiri-Dirang,

Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassinus*)

As: 8/3 2 Nameri.

Chambal: 15/3 1 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri, 11/3 2 Kaziranga, 12/3 2 Kaziranga.

White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*)

AP: 26/2 1+1 Sesni, 29/2 4 Khellong, 1/3 2 Sesni .

White-browed Fantail (*R.aureola*)

Chambal: 16/3 2 Chambal River.

Yellow-bellied Fantail (*R.hypoxantha*)

AP: 1/3 1 Sesni.

Broad-billed Warbler (*Tickellia hodgsoni*)

AP: 27/2 1 Bompu-Sunderview.

Yellow-bellied Warbler (*Abroscopus superciliaris*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri, 14/3 1 Kaziranga/hills-tea plantation in relict stands of bamboo.

Black-faced Warbler (*A.schisticeps*)

AP: 26/2 5 Sesni, 27/2 10 Bompu-Sunderview, 3/3 10 below Lama Camp, 4/3 25 below Lama Camp, 5/3 20 below Lama Camp, 6/3 10 below Lama Camp, 7/3 5 below Lama Camp.

Grey-hooded Warbler (*Seicercus xanthoschistos*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri.

AP: 26/2 10+ Sesni, 27/2 10 Bompu-Sunderview, 28/2 2 Bompu, 1/3 2 Sesni.

Golden-spectacled Warbler (*S.burkii*)

AP: 26/2 10+ Sesni, 29/2 20(flock) Sesni, 1/3 20 Sesni, 2/3 2 Bompu. (This species is undergoing several splits and these birds are most likely Whistler's Warbler).

Chestnut-crowned Warbler (*S.castaniceps*)

AP: 26/2 2 associated with other spp Seicercus Bompu-Sesni.

Grey-bellied Tesia (*Tesia cyaniventer*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri – inside the forest, seen hopping around + small flights inside the vegetation close to the ground.

Chestnut-headed Tesia (*T.castaneocoronata*)

AP: 4/3 1 below Lama Camp, 6/3 1 below Lama Camp.

Grey-breasted Prinia (*P.hodgsonii*)

As: 11/3 1 Kaziranga .

Plain Prinia (*P.inornata*)

Chambal: 15/3 1 + some spp Chambal Safari Lodge.

Ashy Prinia (*P.sociali*)

Chambal: 15/3 1 (at least) Chambal Safari Lodge.

Black-throated (Hill) Prinia (*P.atrogularis*)

AP: 2/3 2 seen and heard Bompou Camp at the small shrubby hill.

Striated Prinia (*P.criniger*)

AP: 22/2 2 Sanghti Valley, 29/2 2 Khellong.

Striated Grassbird (*Megalurus palustris*)

As: 8/3 3 Nameri, 9/3 5 Nameri, 10/3-13/3 20+ daily Kaziranga – all in mature grassland habitat.

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*)

Chambal: 15/3 2 fields close to Chambal Safari Lodge.

Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)

As: 8/3 3 Nameri, 10/3 2, 11/3 2, 12/3 2 Kaziranga (village,lodge-area), 14/3 3 Kaziranga/teaplantation-hills.

Mountain Tailorbird (*O.cuculatus*)

AP: 7/3 1 Tenga.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

Chambal: 15/3 6 Chambal Safari Lodge, 16/3 10 Chambal River.

Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)

As: 8/3 3 Nameri, 9/3 4 Nameri.

AP: 29/2 1 Sesni at camp-area.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler (*P.griseolus*)

Chambal: 15/3 1 Chambal Safari Lodge – typical behaviour with terrestrial tendencies. Somewhat surprising, a little off the normal range if a wintering bird, but could also be an early migrant.

Greenish Warbler (*P.trochiloides*)

As: 8/3 2 Nameri, 13/3 4 Kaziranga

Chambal: 15/3 1 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Yellow-browed Warbler (*P.inornatus*)

As: 21/2 3 Nameri, 8/3 10 Nameri.

AP: 25/2 1 Dirang (1600m).

Hume's Warbler (*P.humei*)

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River – the one and only, seems absent in the northeast.

Yellow-vented Warbler (*P.cantator*)

As: 21/2 1 Namiri – seen well with yellow-browed warbler, a striking phyll with intense yellow breast and vent, double wing-band and black eye-stripe.

Ashy-throated Warbler (*P.maculipennis*)

AP: 22/2 1 Mandala Ridge, 26/2 1 Sesni, 27/2 2 Bompou-Sunderview, 2/3 1+2 Bompou-Sunderview, 3/3 2 Bompou-Sunderview, 4/3 1 below Lama Camp.

Siberian Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*)

As: 14/3 1 Kaziranga/tea-plantation in some small shrubby holes, probably a female, gave a deep "sjak" and seen moving to cover.

White-tailed Rubythroat (*L.pectoralis*)

As: 9/3 1 male Nameri at the river-raft, typical habitat in shrub at the river-bank close to the water – a beautiful male!, formerly called Himalayan Rubythroat.

Orange-flanked Blue Robin (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)

AP: 26/2 6 (4 males, 2 females) Bompou-Sesni – often at road-edge, 27/2 5 (3 males, 2 females) Bompou-Sunderview, 28/2 4 (1 male, 3 females) Bompou, 29/2 4 (1 male, 3 females) Bompou-Sesni, 1/3 5 (all females) Sesni, 2/3 5 (all males) Bompou-Sunderview, 5/3 2 below Lama Camp, 6/3 2 females Lama Camp, 7/3 1 female Lama Camp.
(also called Himalayan Orange-flanked Blue Robin (*T.rufilatos*) if accepting a split from Siberian (*T.cyanurus*))

Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin (*T.hyperythrus*)

AP: 24/2 1 Mandala Ridge.

White-browed Bush-Robin (*T.indicus*)

AP: 2/3 1 male just above Bompou at 2000 meter – at the small stream used as camp water resource, very good views of this fine Tarsiger.

Golden Bush-Robin (*T.chrysaesus*)

AP: 2/3 1 female above Bompou at 2200 meter in scrub in mossy forest – good views.

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

As: 7/3 1 male, 1 female Nameri eco-camp, 8/3 2 Nameri.

AP: 22/2 10 Sanghti-Dirang, 5 Mandala Ridge (villages at the bottom), 24/2 1 Mandala Ridge (village).

Chambal: 15/3 1 male Chambal Safari Lodge.

Hodgson's Redstart (*P.hodgsoni*)

AP: 4/3 1 Lama Camp just behind the camp (probably over-looked at road-sides in the highlands).

Blue-fronted Redstart (*P. frontalis*)

AP: 21/2 1 Namiri-Dirang (drive), 22/2 3 Dirang, 24/2 1 Mandala Ridge, 6/3 1 male below Eaglenest Pass.

White-throated Redstart (*P. schisticeps*)

AP: 23/2 1 female + 1 male Se La Pass at very high altitude about 4000 meter, 24/2 2 (male, female) Mandala Ridge.

Daurian Redstart (*P. auroreus*)

As: 14/3 1 male Kaziranga/tea-plantation.

Brown Rock Chat (*Cercomela fusca*)

Chambal: 15/3 1 driving for Chambal on some old ruins in Agra outskirts.

Blue-fronted Robin (*Cinclidium frontale*)

AP: 2/3 1 male above Bompou at 2100 meter in road-side shrub, very skulky, and found by Jette.

White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*)

As: 10/3 1 Kaziranga, 12/3 3 Kaziranga.

Oriental Magpie Robin (*C. saularis*)

As: 13/3 3 Kaziranga, 14/3 3 Kaziranga/hills-tea plantations.

Indian Robin (*Saxicoloides fulicata*)

Chambal: 15/3 3 Chambal Safari Lodge, 16/3 10 Chambal River.

White-capped Water Redstart (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*)

AP: 22/2 2 Dirang.

Plumbeous Water Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)

As: 8/3 1 Nameri.

AP: 22/2 15 Sanghti-Dirang, 7/3 1 driving through Pakke Tiger-reserve at ab 700 m.

Black-backed Forktail (*Enicurus immaculatus*)

As: 21/2 1 Namiri, typical habitat – shady forest pool shared with WWW-duck, 14/3 1 Kaziranga/village area.

Slaty-backed Forktail (*E. schistaceus*)

AP: 2/3 1 Bompou-Sunderview.

Spotted Forktail (*E. maculatus*)

AP: 7/3 1 driving through Pakke Tiger-reserve at ab. 700 m.

Little Forktail (*E. scouleri*)

AP: 22/2 1 Dhirang in the rivergorge with torrent stream.

Common Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

As: 9/3 3 Nameri, 10/3 2 Kaziranga, 11/3 5 Kaziranga, 12/3 6 Kaziranga, 13/3 4 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 15/3 1 male Chambal Safari Lodge.

Hodgson's Bushchat (*S. insignis*)

As: 8/3 1 female Namiri in grassland close to the river – excellent views and good photo obtained of this big, rare Saxicola.

Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush (*Monticola rufiventris*)

As: 8/3 2 Nameri.

AP: 2/3 2 above Bompou.

Blue Rock-Thrush (*M. solitarius*)

AP: 22/2 1 Sanghti Valley.

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River.

Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus caeruleus*)

As: 9/3 1 Nameri, 13/3 1 Kaziranga, 14/3 3 Kaziranga/hills-tea plantation.

AP: 22/2 3 Sanghti Valley, 3 Mandala Ridge, 24/2 4 Mandala Ridge, 25/2 2 Bompou, 26/2 1 Bombu-Sesni, 29/2 1 Bompou-Sesni, 7/3 1 after Tenga.

Grandala (*Grandala coelicor*)

AP: 23/2 2 Se La Pass – "unfortunately" female/immature birds flying uphill just north of the pass on barren, snow-covered hillsides – quite a mystery-bird at the time of observation, consultation of the guide-book told the species.

Plain-backed Thrush (*Zoothera mollissima*)

AP: 22/2 2 Mandala Ridge, 24/2 4 Mandala Ridge, 25/2 1 Bompou, 26/2 1 Bompou-Sesni, 4/3 1 below Lama Camp, 6/3 1 Eaglenest Pass.

Long-tailed Thrush (*Z. dixonii*)

AP: 5/3 1 just above Lama Camp.

White-collared Blackbird (*Turdus albocinctus*)

AP: 22/2 2 (pair) Sanghti Valley, 24/2 1 Mandala Ridge.

Grey-winged Blackbird (*T. bouboul*)

As: 21/2 2 Nameri.

Chestnut Thrush (*T.rubrocanus*)

AP: 24/2 1 male Mandala Ridge – at the watermill at lower parts – of the dark-headed race gouldii.

Note: In Dhirang we met with an American birder-group lead by Sutan Chatterjee. They reported a Kessler's Thrush at this place. So we searched at the ascent as well as at the decent at the water-mill, at both occasions finding a beautiful, well-observed Chestnut Thrush. It was of the race Gouldii – the head not totally black but a very dark grey and no creamy plumage-parts.

Black-breasted Thrush (*T.dissimilis*)

As: 21/2 3 (2 ad males) Nameri - in forest gallery close to the river giving very good views, - did not expect to find this rather small, fine, restricted-area-thrush , but later informed (Shasshank Dalvi) that the species is seen here regularly.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

AP: 22/2 1 Mandala Ridge, 24/2 2 Mandala Ridge.

Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasi*)

AP: 22/2 2 Dirang – river-gorge.

Green-backed Tit (*P.monticolus*)

AP: 22/2 2 Mandala Ridge, 24/2 2 Mandala Ridge, 25/2 2 Dirang, 3/3 2 below Lama Camp, 5/3 1 Lama Camp, 6/3 1 Lama Camp, 7/3 2 Lama Camp.

Yellow-cheeked Tit (*P.spilonotus*)

AP: 27/2 6 Bompu-Sunderview.

Rufous-vented Tit (*Aegithalos iouschistos*)

AP: 23/2 6 Se La Pass – north of the pass at ab. 4100 m, 6/3 4 Eaglenest Pass (3200 m).

Coal Tit (*P.ater*)

AP: 24/2 2 Mandala Ridge.

Grey Crested Tit (*P.dichorus*)

AP: 23/2 2 Se La Pass, 24/2 3 Mandala Ridge.

Black-throated Tit (*Aegithalos concinnus*)

AP: 24/2 6 Mandala Ridge.

Sultan Tit (*Melanochloa sultanea*)

AP: 26/2 3 (2 males, 1 female) Sesni – part of the great mixed-flock (including Beautiful Nuthatch), staying at about 30 minutes before drifting away, 1/3 4 Sesni – this time "on their own" – prolonged views!

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

27/2 2 Nameri.

White-tailed Nuthatch (*S.himalayensis*)

AP: 24/2 1 Mandala Ridge, 5/3 2 Lama Camp.

Beautiful Nuthatch (*S.formosa*)

AP: 26/2 4 Sesni – as part of the great mixed flock, climbing around and seen at a very close range for a prolonged period of time as the flock kept around for about 30 minutes. Huge and beautiful indeed with the unique blue markings! - a strange Sitta. Found a little above Sesni around 1300 m.

Wallcreeper (*Tichodroma muraria*)

AP: 22/2 1 Sanghti Valley, 1 Dirang, 1 Mandala Ridge – day of wallcreepers!, 3 birds on 3 localities.

Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

AP: 25/2 15 Lama Camp, 10 Bompu Camp, 26/2 5 Camp+10 forest Bompu, 27/2 10 Bompu Camp, 28/2 10 Bompu Camp, 29/2 10 Bompu Camp, 1/3 4 Bompu Camp, 2/3 4 Bompu Camp and 4 above Bompu, 3/3 12 Lama Camp, 4/3 4 Lama Camp, 5/3 4 Lama Camp, 6/3 15 Lama Camp. This bird like to camp!

Tree Pipit (*A.trivialis*)

Chambal: 15/3 1+ 1 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Paddyfield Pipit (*A.rufulus*)

As: 10/3 2 Kaziranga, 11/3 2 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 2 Chambal River.

Rosy Pipit (*A.roseatus*)

As: 11/3 2 Kaziranga, 12/3 6 Kaziranga, 13/6 1 Kaziranga.

White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*)

Chambal: 16/3 2 Chambal River.

Grey Wagtail (*M.cinera*)

AP: 7/3 1 Tenga.

White Wagtail (*M.alba*)

As: 21/2 4 Namiri, 8/3 1 Nameri, 9/3 15 Nameri, 10/3 1, 11/3 10, 12/3 10 Kaziranga (blackbacked races).

AP: 22/2 10 Sanghti Valley (blackbacked races).

Chambal: 10 Chambal River (greybacked races).

Citrine Wagtail (*M.citreola*)

As: 11/3 2 (male+1.year) Kaziranga, 13/3 2 Kaziranga.

Chambal: 16/3 2 ad Chambal River.

Yellow Wagtail (*M.flava*)

As: 10/3 2, 11/3 10, 12/3 50, 13/3 100 Kaziranga.

Streaked Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera magna*)

As: 21/2 2 Nameri, 8/3 1 Nameri.

AP: 3/3 1 Bompou.

Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*)

As: 8/3 3 Nameri.

Purple Sunbird (*Nectarinia asiatica*)

Chambal: 15/3 5 Chambal Safari Lodge, 16/3 2 Chambal River.

Black-throated Sunbird (*Aethopyga saturata*)

AP: 1/3 10 Sesni.

Green-tailed Sunbird (*A.nipalensis*)

AP: 22/2 2 Mandala Ridge, 25/2 2 Bompou, 26/2 5 Bompou-Sesni, 27/2 10 Bompou-Sunderview, 28/2 20 Bompou, 2/3 75 Bompou-Sunderview, 3/3 50 Bompou-Eaglenest – majority above 2500 m, 4/3 15 below Lama Camp, 5/3 10 below Lama Camp, 6/3 20 Eaglenest Pass and Lama Camp. Very common at higher altitude in the otherwise quiet forest above 2200 m.

Mrs Gould's Sunbird (*A.gouldiae*)

AP: 1/3 1 male Sesni – shrubby, semi-open area at the camp-site, surprisingly low – 1200 meter – but definitely a shiny Gould male.

Crimson Sunbird (*A.siparaja*)

As: 8/3 1 male Nameri – inside the forest, 12/3 1 Kaziranga.

Indian Silverbill (*Lonchura malabarica*)

Chambal: 16/3 5 Chambal River.

White-rumped Munia (*Lonchura striata*)

As: 10/3 2 Kaziranga.

AP: 29/2 8 Khellong.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

As: 10/3-14/3 + Kaziranga (villages).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*P.montanus*)

AP: 22/2 20+ Dirang, 7/3 25+ Tenga.

Russet Sparrow (*P.rutilans*)

AP: 25/2 2 (male,female) Dirang.

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia (*Petronia xanthocollis*)

Chambal: 15/3 12 Chambal Safari Lodge.

Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)

As: 11/3 20 Kaziranga, 13/3 10 Kaziranga.

Alpine Accentor (*Prunella collaris*)

AP: 23/2 10 Se La Pass – flock around the pass at 4200 m.

Rufous-breasted Accentor (*P.strophiata*)

AP: 22/2 1 Sanghti Valley, 4/3 1 Lama Camp – village, 5/3 1+1 below Lama Camp some km down in a semi-open area.

Maroon-backed Accentor (*P.immaculata*)

AP: 26/2 4 Bompou-Sesni – invariably and easily seen at the road, 27/2 6 Bompou-Sunderview, 28/2 4+5 Bompou, 29/2 15 Bompou-Sesni (as 3-4 birds along the road), 1/3 10 Bompou-Sesni, 7/3 3 below Lama Camp.

Plain Mountain Finch (*Leucosticte nemoricola*)

AP: 22/2 1 Mandala Ridge, 23/2 20 Se La Pass, 24/2 40 (one flock) + 2 Mandala Ridge.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch (*Carduelis spinoides*)

AP: 22/2 8 Sanghti Valley.

Scarlet Finch (*Haematospiza sipahi*)

AP: 29/2 3 (2 males, 1 female) Sesni – scarlet indeed!, 1/3 2 males Sesni – both days in the semiopen area close to the campsite.

Brown Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula nipalensis*)

AP: 5/3 2 below Lama Camp – double-noted call (differing from the typical bullfinch-call of the other 2 species) provoked the attention to these birds – good observation, no black mask, oval wing-band.

Grey-headed Bullfinch (*P. erythaca*)

AP: 22/2 11 (5+3+2+1) Mandala Ridge, 24/2 25 Mandala Ridge, 25/2 4 Bompou, 26/2 heard Bompou, 27/2 2 Bompou-Sunderview, 28/2 2 Bompou, 3/3 20 Eaglenest Pass, 5/3 10 Lama Camp, 6/3 10 Eaglenest Pass + 5 Lama Camp.

Red-headed Bullfinch (*P. erythrocephala*)

AP: 24/2 3 males Mandala Ridge – seen at 2 places associating with Grey-headed Bullfinch.

Golden-naped Finch (*Pyrrhoptes epauletta*)

AP: 4/3 1 male, 2 females below Lama Camp at the hill-side, wet after the rains, 5/3 4 (1 male, 3 females/imm) below Lama Camp –dried up today, a star finch! 7/3 1 male, 3 females below Lama Camp.

Collared Grosbeak (*Mycerobas affinis*)

AP: 24/2 8 (6 males, 2 females) Mandala Ridge – beautiful grosbeak, female green-coloured!, 3/3 2 males Eaglenest Pass, 6/3 2 males Eaglenest Pass.

White-winged Grosbeak (*M. carnipes*)

AP: 23/2 12 Se La Pass, at the southern slope just under the pass at ab. 4100 m – gregarious, foraging in low bushes and dwarf-rhododendron.

Common Rosefinch (*Cardopacus erythrinus*)

AP: 1/3 1 male Sesni.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch (*C. nipalensis*)

AP: 22/2 4 – all female/imm Mandala Ridge, 25/2 2 Bompou, 3/3 6 (1 male + 2 males, 3 females/imm) Lama Camp on the small village-fields.

White-browed Rosefinch (*C. thura*)

AP: 23/2 2 (male,female) Se La Pass.

Dark-rumped Rosefinch (*C. edwardsii*)

AP: 23/2 12 (5 males, 7 females/imm) Se La Pass, 27/2 2 Sunderview – incl.beautiful male.

Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathami*)

Chambal: 16/3 1 Chambal River.

Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)

As: 11/3 10 Kaziranga.

White-capped Bunting (*E. stewarti*)

Chambal: 16/3 1 male Chambal River

MAMMALS and REPTILES:

(Assamese) Maquaque (*Macaca sp*)

As: 10/3 + Kaziranga.

Grey Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*)

As: 8/3 5 Nameri.

AP: 27/2 2+ Bompou-Sunderview.

Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*)

As: 10/3-13/3 50+ daily Kaziranga.

Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*)

As: 10/3 2, 11/3 15, 12/3 10, 13/3 10 Kaziranga.

Swamp Deer (*Cervus duvaucelii*)

As: 10/3 50+ daily Kaziranga and more than 150 seen in total – common her, but globally threatened species.

Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) (*Muntiacus muntjac*)

8/3 1 seen+2 heard Nameri, 11/3 2 Kaziranga.

Serow (*Naemorhedus sumatraensis*)

AP: 27/2 1 female + young Bompou - ab 2300 meter – spotted by Krishna on the opposite slope far away, but standing in the open. Identified when scoped x 30. A strange goat-antelope hiding in thickly forested valleys.

Asiatic Wild Buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*)

As: 10/3-13/3 30+ Kaziranga. Thus a daily and easily sighted species – has got incredibly big flat sweeping horns – actually the biggest horns on any animal! Endangered – few habitats left and also threatened by hybridization with domestic animals.

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*)

As: 10/3 1, 11/3 5, 12/3 7, 13/3 8 Kaziranga

(Pygmy Hog (*Sus salvanius*))

As: 7/3 2 in captivity Nameri – a small centre close to the eco-camp run a pre-release program for this specialist of the terai grassland. The smallest pig in the world. Apart from a few in Manas extinct in the wild! The program has a

breeding centre in Guwahati and one breeding pair in Nameri. Young hogs are put in a fenced area avoiding human contact. They are diurnal and built nice nests in the grass for the night with a roof against the wet conditions. From here releases are being prepared to the very limited suitable habitats left (kindly invited by Robin Abraham, who is doing a study of this project – whom we met in Lama Camp far a way from his home-province of Kerala).

Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

As: 10/3-13/3 25+ daily Kaziranga.

AP: 3/3 in the evening heard from the bottom of a valley under Bompou, male blowing! Signs of elephants common in the whole area even at 3200 m! in Eaglenest Pass – in summer ascends to this altitude, probably highest in the world? – forced upwards due to increasing conflicts with man at the lower altitudes. Very active around Sesni – our jeep had a dent from an elephant-collision during the night at Sesni camp.

Greater One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

As: 10/3 30, 11/3 40+, 12/3 30, 13/3 + Kaziranga - more than 100 seen in total.

A relict with armour plates weighing about 2 tons! By far the biggest population left of this endangered species (up to 1800 after a steady increase due to poaching-control).

Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*)

Chambal: 15/3 1 Chambal River.

(Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

As: 9/3 fresh prints from a big male Nameri – close to AP and continuous with the Pakke Tiger-reserve, 10/3-13/3 prints in Kaziranga, esp. in the sandy soil close to Brahmaputra found quite easily – no sightings.

Hog Badger (*Mellivora capensis*)

As: 11/3 1 Kaziranga.

Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)

Chambal: 15/3 1 at late dusk Chambal Safari Lodge – big trees close to the bat-roost.

Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*)

As: 10/3 4 Kaziranga, 13/3 7 Kaziranga – different localities.

Bat sp. (*Chiroptera sp*)

AP: 1/3 2 Bompou.

Indian Flying Fox (*Pteropus giganteus*)

Chambal: 15/3 and 16/3 30+ Chambal Safari Lodge – day roost in the middle of the camp.

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel (*Dremomys locriah*)

AP: very commonly seen and heard all days in Eaglenest – about 10/day.

Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel (*Callosciurus pygerythrus*)

As: 11/3-13/3 + Kaziranga.

Malayan Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*)

8/3 2 Nameri.

Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*)

Chambal: 16/3 3 Chambal River – seen touching the riversurface for seconds until – eventually – one dolphin came out of the water showing head/snout + majority of the body.

Mugger Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*)

Chambal: 16/3 10 Chambal River – include some huge individuals.

Gharial Crocodile (*Gavialis gangeticus*)

Chambal: 16/3 20 Chambal River – some big adults – of this threatened species – very vulnerable to pollution, during last monsoon a majority of the young died due to polluted fish ascending from further downstream. The wild stock is supplied with some released Gharials (all marked).

Swamp Monitor

13/3 1 Kaziranga – a very big one!

Freshwater Turtle sp (*Emydidea sp*)

As: 10/3 10 Kaziranga.

TWO RECORDS – not probably identified species:

Temminck's Tragopan

AP: 6/3 1 flush (female) above Lama Camp (tragopanda trail) – in the end could not rule out the possibility of too much bias and just another hill partridge...

Purple Cochea

AP:7/3 1 bird flying over a narrow ravine at a stop driving through Pakke Tigerreserve in lush subtropical forest around 1200 m could have been this species – a strange bird initially taken as a (Maroon) Oriole but had a dark purplish basic colour and did not show stronger contrasts during the short flight.
