



NORTHWEST INDIA: LIONS AND DESERT BIRDING IN GUJARAT SET DEPARTURE TRIP REPORT

13 - 26 FEBRUARY 2020

By Dylan Vasapolli



Asiatic Lion is one of the main targets for this tour and showed very well.

Overview

This 14-day set departure tour takes in the best of Gujarat, India, and combines some of the best desert-based birding in the country with a number of prized and monotypic birds along with some of the enigmatic mammals of the desert region, including the localized Asiatic subspecies of Lion. The tour starts in Ahmedabad and quickly moves south to Velavadar and the Blackbuck National Park, where we get our first taste of the jewels to be sought in the region. The famous Gir National Park follows, where Lion is the main target, before we transfer to the coast at Jamnagar for a suite of coastal wetland birding. The tour then proceeds first to the Great Rann of Kutch and then to the Little Rann of Kutch for some more extended desert-based birding before returning to Ahmedabad, where the tour ends.



*We saw many large flocks of the stunning **Demoiselle Crane** during the tour.*

This tour had a small group, with only two participants joining, namely Pam and Julie, and everything went ahead smoothly, with no unforeseen interruptions and an added bonus of good weather all around. The birding was excellent throughout, and we did extremely well to record nearly all of the region's various specialties, including the hoped-for monotypic birds. The tour's top specials were **Crab-plover**, **Sociable Lapwing**, **Indian Skimmer**, **Sykes's Nightjar**, **Ruddy-breasted Crake**, **Red-necked Falcon**, **Grey Hypoclius**, **Marshall's Iora**, **White-naped Tit**, **Greater Hoopoe-Lark**, **Sykes's Lark**, and **White-browed Bush Chat**, with a good supporting cast including **Painted Francolin**, **Garganey**, **Ferruginous Duck**, **Cotton Pygmy Goose**, **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**, **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon**, **Baillon's and Spotted Crakes**, **Demoiselle Crane**, **Barred Buttonquail**, **Great Knot**, **Broad-billed and Terek Sandpipers**, **Indian Courser**, **Lesser Crested Tern**, **Yellow Bittern**, **Dalmatian Pelican**, **Greater Spotted** and **Eastern Imperial Eagles**, **Pallid and Montagu's Harriers**, **White-eyed Buzzard**, **Indian Eagle-Owl**, **White-spotted Fantail**, **Indian Bush Lark**, **Sand Lark**, **Paddyfield** and **Sykes's**

Warblers, Red Avadavat, Blyth's Pipit, and Grey-necked, Black-headed, and Red-headed Buntings. Mammals are also an important part of this tour, and we did well on this front also, enjoying an excellent sighting of the main target, **Asiatic Lion**. A number of other sought mammals included **Asiatic Wild Ass, Blackbuck, Indian Crested Porcupine**, a brief sighting of the **Indian Leopard** subspecies, **Indian Wolf** subspecies, **Bengal Fox**, and **Chinkara**. Species lists are found at the end of this report.

Detailed Report

Day 1, February 13, 2020. Arrival and transfer from Ahmedabad to Bhavnagar

The group arrived a day early, and met during the previous evening, so we were all good to go this morning, departing our Ahmedabad hotel after breakfast, bound for Bhavnagar. While it was a relatively long transfer we made a few stops on our way, picking up many species – an excellent start to the tour. The bulk of the stops were at small wetlands, but we also birded some scrub areas as well. Some of the species we found included **Greylag Goose** and stunning **Painted Storks** along with an assortment of herons and egrets, **Red-naped Ibis**, our first **Common Crane**, some shorebirds including **Common Snipe, Indian Roller, Paddyfield Warbler, Rosy Starling, Western Yellow and Citrine Wagtails, Red Avadavat**, and a somewhat surprising **Purple-rumped Sunbird**. With a wedding going on it was a bit chaotic checking into our hotel in Bhavnagar, but once we had checked in, and following a brief break, we set off to the nearby Victoria Park, where we spent the rest of the day walking around. There was some frustration when we were being denied cameras at the gate and we had to make do without them for our walk. The park was pretty birdy, and we enjoyed a productive time picking up some great birds, top of which was the scarce **Marshall's Iora**, of which we enjoyed several great views. It was also good getting our eyes on some of the more-widespread Indian species like **Red Turtle Dove, Greater Coucal, Asian Koel, Crested Honey Buzzard** flying overhead, the cute **Spotted Owlet**, stunning **Green Bee-eaters, Eurasian Hoopoe**, the neat **Coppersmith Barbet**, a flock of **Small Minivets**, the boisterous **Rufous Treepie, Rufous-fronted, Plain, and Grey-breasted Prinias, Dusky Crag Martin, Large Grey Babbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher**, and **Indian Silverbill**. Not to be forgotten, we also enjoyed our first mammals with the large **Nilgai** and **Five-striped Palm Squirrel** commonly seen, and just before the park's closing we came across a surprising **Indian Crested Porcupine**, which showed well, albeit briefly, and a **Golden Jackal**, which gave us a more prolonged view. With the sun going down we called time on our first day out – which was largely successful!

Day 2, February 14, 2020. Birding Blackbuck National Park

We had a full day in store as we left our hotel early, bound for Blackbuck National Park near Velavadar. We made good progress, arrived just after daybreak, and started exploring the area just outside the park. We got off to a great start when we ran into one of the prized **Indian Wolves** (the Indian subspecies of Grey Wolf) slowly trotting along the road before it disappeared. A stunning **Short-eared Owl** was perched atop an embankment while we were delighted by masses of **Common Cranes** flying overhead, heading into the fields to feed for the day. We were also able to enjoy **Grey Francolin**, our first **Eagle – Bonelli's, Isabelline Shrike, Greater Short-toed**

Lark, Common Babbler, and Red-headed Bunting. An opportunistic stop allowed us to observe the sought-after **Sykes's Lark**, enjoying excellent looks as a small group moved around on the ground, along with **Black-headed Bunting** and a few **Common Quails** walking about in the open. As if that weren't enough another **Indian Wolf** popped into view and gave us a prolonged sighting! We then proceeded into the park proper, where we explored some of the tracks that go through the reserve with its mix of thornveld and open grassland. The birding was good, and we did well early on, finding our two main targets at the same spot soon into the drive – the stunning **Painted Francolin**, of which a male gave us quite a show, and the threatened **White-browed Bush Chat**, of which a young male gave us extended views! Many other birds were seen and included **Indian Stone-curlew**, **Greater Spotted**, **Booted**, **Steppe**, and **Eastern Imperial Eagles**, **Short-toed Snake- Eagle**, **Shikra**, **Bay-backed Shrike**, **Rufous-tailed** and more **Sykes's Larks**, **Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Desert Wheatear**, and a brief **Long-billed Pipit**. A dam was heaving with birds, and here we picked up a few **Dalmatian Pelicans** among the more common **Great White Pelicans**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Gadwall**, **Northern Pintail**, **Eurasian Teal**, **Common Pochard**, **Pied Avocet**, **Spotted** and **Common Redshanks**, **Gull-billed**, **Whiskered**, and **River Terns**, **Purple Heron**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, and a large flock of **Eurasian Spoonbills**, among other more-widespread species. The unique **Blackbuck** was common in the reserve, and we enjoyed many good looks at this handsome antelope, with smaller numbers of **Wild Boar** and **Nilgai** seen as well. After breaking for lunch and relaxing for a bit we started birding again, but, feeling a bit tired and with activity limited in the hot conditions, we decided to call it a day, make our way back to our hotel, and take the rest of the afternoon off. A stop en-route back for a group of **Lesser Flamingos** also yielded **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Eurasian Curlew**, and **Ruff**.



*We had a few sightings of the prized **Indian Wolf** during the morning around Blackbuck National Park.*

Day 3, February 15, 2020. Transfer from Bhavnagar to Sasan Gir

With a long transfer in store we departed Bhavnagar early, bound for Sasan Gir, where we would be based for two nights to explore the Gir National Park area. We made good time and arrived at lunchtime after a few birding stops on the way. These gave us many of the region's common species, but we were also able to add the likes of the impressive **Great Stone-curlew** (Thick-knee), **Ashy Prinia**, **Brahminy Starling**, **Yellow-throated Sparrow**, and **Olive-backed Pipit** to our growing list. A large **Mugger** (Marsh Crocodile) also gave us good views. Following a rest during the heat of the day we resumed later in the afternoon with a walk along a nearby river. The whole area was birdy, and as we walked along the river banks we noted many species between the diverse riverine woodlands and the river. Some of our main highlights were a stunning male **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** after a concerted effort, getting excellent looks at **Plum-headed Parakeet** (with a large flock sitting in the treetops), some excitement with a few **Yellow Bitterns** flying up and down the river, a surprising **Black-naped Monarch**, a much more obliging **Indian Paradise Flycatcher**, and enjoying a **Sykes's Warbler** that hung around for all of us to admire! This was only a handful of some 70-odd species seen during our afternoon walk, with other birds including **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon**, **Asian Koel**, **Grey-headed Swamphen**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **River Tern**, **Purple Heron**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Western Reef Heron**, **Brahminy Kite**, **Common and Pied Kingfishers**, **Green Bee-eater**, **Coppersmith Barbet**, **Common Woodshrike**, **Common Iora**, **Greenish Warbler**, our first **Jungle Babbler**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, **Scaly-breasted Munia**, and both **Grey** and **White-browed Wagtails**. We rounded the day off with masses of **Indian Flying Foxes** flying overhead before we settled in for the evening, filled with excitement about our safaris on the following day.



*The lovely **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher** is surprisingly inconspicuous, despite its bright colors.*

Day 4, February 16, 2020. Birding Gir National Park

We had a full day available to explore the area and would have two safaris in the park in the morning and the afternoon. We set off early at pre-dawn and covered the short distance to the gate, where after completing the required formalities we were assigned route 12 for the morning. It was a quiet start, with little moving and calling, although a showy **Crested Serpent Eagle** posed well for us early into the drive. Except for the numerous **Chital** (Spotted Deer) mammals weren't well represented either, and it took a long time before we found **Northern Plains Gray Langurs**, and **Indian Grey Mongoose**. Only later in the morning, on our drive back, did the birding actually begin to pick up with a few feeding flocks. We stopped and searched through them, noting a number of new species such as **Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Large Cuckooshrike**, **White-browed Fantail**, **Cinereous Tit**, and **Thick-billed Flowerpecker** while also enjoying looks at **Common Iora**, **Common Woodshrike**, and **Indian Paradise Flycatcher**, among others. After seeing a few in the air we finally found a perched **Crested Treeswift**, which gave us glorious views and was one of the best sightings of the morning. An otherwise quiet morning came to an end as we exited the park after our morning safari, slightly disappointed. A midday walk around the lodge grounds gave us a sampling of the common species of the area, with showy **Tickell's Blue** and **Red-breasted Flycatchers** being the main standouts.



*We eventually found a perched **Crested Treeswift**, allowing us to appreciate its finer details.*

Following a short break after lunch it was time for us to head into the park once more for our afternoon safari. We had to go through the same formalities once more and were assigned route 6 for the afternoon. In contrast to the mornings safari the afternoon was far more active, with us enjoying some excellent birding. Feeding parties held species such as **Small Minivet**, **Sykes's Warbler**, **Ashy Prinia**, **White-browed Fantail**, **Brahminy Starling**, and **Black Redstart** among others, and we did well to find a roosting **Mottled Wood Owl**. A group of the prized **Yellow-wattled Lapwings** stalked some open land, while shy **Indian Stone-curlews** sheltered under some

bushes and noisy **Grey Francolins** called from the clearings. We then heard of a Lion seen nearby, and as the viewing of Lions here is strictly controlled, with each group only being allowed a short period of time for viewing, we joined a small cue of vehicles waiting to see it. Soon it was our turn, and we enjoyed some stellar looks at a female **Asiatic Lion** as she sat in an open clearing. Having young cubs meant she was separated from the main pride and was by herself, and although we didn't see her cubs (which were hiding nearby) we couldn't complain with the fantastic views we had! While the Asiatic Lion is not a separate species but rather a different subspecies of Lion from the more-widespread subspecies found in Africa, it was great to be able to see this localized and Endangered (IUCN) subspecies. Following this great sighting, and with time running out before we had to exit the park, we started making our way back, enjoying a few more stops and birds, most notable of which was a stunning **Indian Scops Owl** peeking out of its hole. Following dinner we took a night walk around the lodge, but it was extremely quiet, with not much moving around and nothing calling. Regardless we rested easy following our successful day out, with the main target (Lion) under our belt!

Day 5, February 17, 2020. Birding Gir National Park, transfer to Jamnagar

Our morning began with another predawn start as we headed into Gir National Park for our last safari there. Similar to the previous day the morning period was a bit on the slow side with not too much activity. We were eventually able to find a few mixed feeding flocks but enjoyed a similar suite of species to those seen yesterday rather than adding more new species. During the course of the morning we found species such as **Greater Coucal**, **Crested Honey Buzzard**, **Shikra**, **Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**, and **Grey Wagtail**. We did well on the mammal side of things, however, enjoying another **Asiatic Lion** sighting before running into a stunning **Indian Leopard**, another local subspecies, which unfortunately didn't hang around for long and quickly disappeared into the bushes. All too soon our time in the park had come to an end and we departed this magnificent area, bound for the coastal town of Jamnagar, where we would spend two nights. It was a long transfer, and we arrived in the late afternoon at our birding site near the port area on the outskirts of the town. Our primary target here was **Indian Skimmer**, which we fortunately found early on and of which we enjoyed some good scope views.

The birds were part of a massive mixed gull/tern roost and were a considerable distance away in the mudflats. We slowly worked our way closer to them, enjoying progressively better views, before a raptor flew in and put the huge flock into the air and sent them scattering. They landed closer to another berm, and we backtracked and tried again. We were much more successful this time and after a bit of walking were enjoying great looks at these prized birds and even could watch them skimming. The bulk of the gulls were **Brown-headed** and **Slender-billed Gulls**, but we also picked up **Black-headed Gull** and **Gull-billed** and **Little Terns** among them all. The mudflats were alive with species, and we enjoyed a heap of shorebirds, with the standout species being a single **Great Knot** feeding with a group of **Grey Plovers**. Two **Lesser Sand Plovers** stood out from the hordes of **Common Redshanks** and **Marsh Sandpipers**, while the massive **Eurasian Curlews** dwarfed those around them. A bright flock of **Lesser Flamingos** added a splash of color to the otherwise brown areas, as did a number of **Western Reef Herons**. A handful of other common and expected species were seen before we called it a day when the sun was going down and settled in for the evening.



*Part of the flock of **Indian Skimmers** we found near Jamnagar*

Day 6, February 18, 2020. Birding Jamnagar and surroundings

One of the main drawcards for birders in this area is the excellent coastal birding, and, most importantly, the area is one of the most reliable for the monotypic Crab-plover. Having succeeded with Indian Skimmer the previous day, our main focus today was Crab-plover. A look at the tides the previous evening had revealed that the midday/early afternoon period would be best, when the tide would begin to drop, bringing the intertidal zone, where Crab-plovers feed, into play. Following breakfast at a more 'normal' hour we were off to bird some of the salt pans north of the town. We worked the area for some time, scanning on, around, and in between the many salt pans and enjoying a number of excellent species. On top of the list was a group of around 20 **Red-necked Phalaropes**, a scarce visitor to the area. A number of other shorebirds we had seen yesterday were again present in good numbers, with us enjoying good looks at **Pied Avocet**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Ruff**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Little Stint**, **Spotted** and **Common Redshanks**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, and **Common Greenshank**, among others. A few **Indian Spot-billed Ducks** were a welcome addition, as was a group of **Black-necked** and some flighty **Great Crested Grebes**. Endless numbers of both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** dotted the pans, while scanning through a gull/tern roost we found produced a few **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and a **Common Tern** among the masses of **Brown-headed** and **Slender-billed Gulls**. A few vocal **Sand Larks** also were a good find. Then we continued to the Narara Marine National Park, where we hoped to find our main target. We made good progress, allowing us to bird some of the outlying pans, which proved productive. Huge masses of shorebirds congregated here while the tide was still high. Most of them were **Lesser Sand Plover**, but among them we also noted a few **Greater Sand Plovers** and a few of the tricky **Broad-billed Sandpipers**. **Western Osprey** watched the area from its perch, as did **Peregrine Falcon**, while some of the surrounding scrubby areas held **Graceful Prinia**, **Desert Wheatear**, **Long-billed Pipit**, and a pair of courting **Sykes's Larks** that gave us wonderful views! Following a quick lunch break we were off and went into the park. Here we waded out into the now receding tidal area, and after a bit of walking we were looking at a group

of the prized **Crab-plovers**! We slowly approached the birds, being able to get quite close to a few individuals as they went about their business and even to watch them catch and eat a number of crabs! Well pleased with our efforts we began to focus on the many other birds in the area, and over our time scanning we compiled a decent list of shorebirds, including **Eurasian Oystercatcher**, masses of **Lesser** and **Greater Sand Plovers**, **Kentish Plover**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Eurasian Curlew**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Great Knot**, and **Terek Sandpiper** among many of other species we were now that well acquainted with. A gull/tern roost on a sandspit held a few massive **Pallas's Gulls** along with numbers of **Lesser Crested Terns**, while a few **Little Terns** worked up and down the shoreline. It was also incredible to see the huge numbers of **Western Reef Herons** spread out throughout the area and fascinating to watch **Painted Storks** feeding in the ocean. This brought to an end a wonderful day on the coast, and we settled in for a good evening.



*Spending time with the strange **Crab-plover** was one of the major tour highlights.*

Day 7, February 19, 2020. Transfer from Jamnagar to the Great Rann of Kutch

Today was essentially a travel day as we made the long journey from Jamnagar to the Bhuj region, where we would be based for the next three nights while we would explore the Great Rann of Kutch. The travel went smoothly, and we arrived in the area in the afternoon, with a bit of roadside birding en route under our belts. While we hadn't found anything too exciting it had been great to catch up with **Indian Spot-billed Duck**, **Common Crane**, **Bank Myna**, **Pied Bush Chat**, and a few of the smart **Black-headed Buntings**, along with another batch of shorebird-watching, which had produced many of the species we had seen already along with a small group of **Dunlins**. Our afternoon birding saw us exploring the dry acacia thornveld of the area near Nakhatrana, where our primary target was the localized White-naped Tit. It was great to get out of the car for a while, and it was as if the birds wanted to put on a show, as we did extremely well, finding almost all of our targets in next to no time. We started with a vocal **Marshall's Iora**, which showed well,

improving on the views we had had earlier in the trip, before we heard the characteristic call of our primary target. We headed a short way deeper into the thornveld, and after a quick burst of playback our quarry, **White-naped Tit**, flew in and proceeded to put on quite a show for us. We sat back and soaked in the stunning and prolonged views we had of this scarce bird, watching it call and feed and go about its business. After having had our fill we tried to find Pallid Scops Owl but were unsuccessful. However, we enjoyed a bonus with great looks at **Yellow-crowned Woodpecker** and a perched **White-eyed Buzzard**. With the afternoon moving on we had to slowly start making our way to our accommodation, enjoying the likes of **Black-winged Kite**, **Common Woodshrike**, **Bay-backed Shrike**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, and **Brown Rock Chat** on the way. We eventually arrived at our comfortable lodge and settled in for the evening, looking forward to our days exploring the Great Rann of Kutch, a salt marsh reputed to be one of the largest salt deserts in the world.



*We had some knock-out views of the scarce and localized **White-naped Tit**.*

Day 8, February 20, 2020. Birding the Great Rann of Kutch

Following an early tea and biscuits we started at predawn, bound for the Chhari Dhand area, with our primary target being the enigmatic and monotypic Grey Hypocolius. We made good progress and enjoyed a few stops on the way, where we found our first **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** and **Variable Wheatear**. But we were soon halted and forced to find another site because the track we were driving on went into some rougher stuff on the edge of a lake – meaning we couldn't get through. As a consolation immense numbers of **Common Cranes** and **Great White Pelicans** were present on the flats and showed well. We headed onward to another site and after a short walk found ourselves surrounded by our target's favorite bushes filled with berries. After a short wait the first call of **Grey Hypocolius** went up. We had to wait a little while longer until we all got our first views – a female bird that came out into the open, feeding atop one of the bushes. We enjoyed good views for a little while before the bird disappeared into cover. We had to wait a little while

longer, and just when thoughts of ‘should we move on’ began to creep into our minds our patience was rewarded as we were treated to stunning and prolonged looks at a pair of these stunning birds out in the open. We soaked up the views of this highly prized species before beginning to concentrate on some of the other birds in the area.



*The monotypic **Grey Hypocolius** is a major target for the region, and a highly prized world bird.*

A few **Alpine Swifts** moved overhead, while the grassy verges hosted **Zitting Cisticola** and **Graceful Prinia**, among others. Following our satisfying packed breakfast we resumed birding the area, and checked a number of sites on our way back to our lodge. We were fortunate and enjoyed a healthy sampling of some of the species of the area, including more **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**, **Steppe Eagle**, **Pallid Harrier**, **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **Great Grey Shrike**, **Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark**, **Rufous-tailed** and **Greater Short-toed Larks**, **Dusky Crag Martin**, **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Common Chiffchaff**, both **Lesser** and the scarce **Desert Whitethroats**, which gave us good views, improved views of **Eastern Orphean Warbler** (which we had seen earlier on the trip, albeit briefly), numbers of **Rosy Starlings**, **Desert Wheatear**, **Brown Rock Chat**, **Yellow-throated Sparrow**, **Tawny** and **Long-billed Pipits**, and a **Grey-necked Bunting** that left us wanting more. Following a successful morning in the Great Rann of Kutch we eventually returned to our lodge in time for a late lunch, following which we took it easy for a while before resuming birding in the late afternoon. With the main focus being on the night birding to come, we first birded the last bit of the afternoon along a dry riverbed, which was on the quiet side, but we could better our views of **Grey-necked Bunting** and found a surprise **Eurasian Wryneck** skulking around among many of the area’s other common species. The nocturnal part then followed, but it was pretty quiet, with not much calling or moving about. However, close to our end point we finally found a calling **Indian Nightjar**, which we managed to locate and then enjoyed good views of, albeit rather briefly. A pair of **Spotted Owlets** that allowed prolonged views rounded off another successful day.

Day 9, February 21, 2020. Birding the Great Rann of Kutch

Our second full day exploring the Great Rann of Kutch saw us heading westward from our base, where we would explore a mix of agricultural/cultivated lands, acacia thornveld, and open grasslands. We began things in a mix of acacia thornveld and cultivation and enjoyed a birdy morning exploring these habitats. The fields supported a wide array of species, and we spent the bulk of our time working them. We did well, enjoying groups of **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**, a large flock of **Common Cranes**, **Common Quail**, a number of the prized **White-browed Bush Chats**, a mix of larks including **Indian Bush Lark**, **Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark**, and two of the scarce **Hume's Short-toed Larks** among many **Greater Short-toed Larks**, and a variety of **Pipits** including **Paddyfield**, **Long-billed**, **Tawny** and a **Blyth's**, of all of which we enjoyed good views. Not to be forgotten the acacia too produced some good birds, and we enjoyed sightings of a perched **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, the scarce **Marshall's Iora**, **Rufous-fronted Prinia**, **Sykes's Warbler**, and masses of **Grey-necked Buntings** that were scattered all over the area. During our walk back to the vehicle the wind picked up substantially, which didn't bode well for the rest of the day. We then moved to the Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary, where we would spend the afternoon – well that had been the plan, at least. With the day being a holy day (unknown to us at the time) this meant that the park was closed and we couldn't get in. Beaten, we retreated back to the Fulay area, where we spent the afternoon instead, trying for a few of the species we had missed so far. We birded a few different areas, but with a strong wind and a fairly intense sun there wasn't much activity, and we retired in the late afternoon, ready to call it a day. Our afternoon efforts, however, did reward us with a few species, which included a pair of **Garganeys** and a pair of **Eurasian Wigeons**, numbers of **Greater Short-toed Larks**, **Western Yellow Wagtail**, and further groups of **Grey-necked Buntings**, which seemed to have invaded the whole area en masse.

Day 10, February 22, 2020. Great Rann of Kutch to Little Rann of Kutch

We had the morning available for some further local birding and spent it near Nakhatrana in the hills dominated by acacia thornveld. We tried again chiefly for some species which had been evading us so far, such as **White-bellied Minivet** and **Rock Bush Quail**, but were sadly unsuccessful on both accounts. But we still enjoyed a productive morning session that offered a number of great birds, such as the prized **White-naped Tit** and the scarce **Marshall's Iora**. Other species here were **Pallid Harrier**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Common Woodshrike**, **Small Minivet**, **Grey-breasted Prinia**, **Sykes's Warbler**, and **Grey-necked Bunting**, but the undoubted highlight was finding a pair of **Barred Buttonquails** that were on the edge of a small puddle. We spooked them before they could get to the water and, anticipating that they would try and drink again, moved to a good vantage area a bit farther away and waited. We didn't need to wait long before the pair appeared again, sauntered to the edge of the puddle, and spent a short time drinking. Buttonquails are notoriously shy birds and often very difficult to see well on the ground (compared to the often typical 'flushed' views), and we were thrilled at getting such excellent and prolonged views of these birds. Following breakfast we checked out and began the long drive to the Little Rann of Kutch, which would take the rest of the day. We had a few more cultural stops along the way to admire some of the region's unique craftwork and even saw a number of methods and designs in action. No birds of major interest were seen during the day, but we did round it off with the sunset over a bridge in the Little Rann of Kutch filled with nesting **Streak-throated Swallows** and **Little Swifts**.



*The scarce **Marshall's Iora** was a sought-after bird in and around the Great Rann of Kutch.*

Day 11, February 23, 2020. Full day birding the Little Rann of Kutch

An early start got things under way as we headed for the Nalsarovar area in the southern part of the Little Rann of Kutch for the day. We made good progress, and an opportunistic stop at a roadside dam gave us a handful of **Pheasant-tailed Jacanas** and a large group of **Knob-billed Ducks** among other more widespread waterbirds. Soon enough we had linked up with our local guide who would take us around the area, and we were whisked off to a nearby field, where the prized and nomadic **Indian Courser** was the main target. Fortunately the birds were present in the field, and we counted seven individuals in total and enjoyed some great and prolonged looks at these curious birds. After spending some time watching them we headed for our next destination, which was a small roadside stream with a clearing cut into the reeds, which had been attracting a few crakes recently. After settling in, sitting on the ground next to the clearing, we were amazed when almost immediately a tiny **Baillon's Crake** popped out into the open before a much larger, immaculately marked **Spotted Crake** appeared. As if that weren't enough a short while later a scarce **Ruddy-breasted Crake** joined the melee. We spent the next hour at this site, taking in the breathtakingly excellent views of all these cryptic skulkers and watching them feed, paying no attention to us at all – just pure magic! In the end there were no less than three **Baillon's Crakes**, two **Spotted Crakes**, and one **Ruddy-breasted Crake** working the area, and we also noted a number of **Paddyfield Warblers** and a few **Yellow Bitterns** as well. **Red-necked Falcon** was the next target to fall, and we enjoyed stellar looks at a nesting pair after a short walk. Coincidentally a pair of **Red-naped Ibis** were nesting in the same tree, and it was interesting to watch the falcons dive-bomb the ibis every time they flew into the tree as well. Our next target was the Critically Endangered (IUCN) **Sociable Lapwing**, and following a short drive to get to the area where a small flock of around 40 individuals had been wintering we set about trying to find them. They weren't in any of their regular haunts, and we began searching some of the surrounding areas, when we picked up a small group of four birds flying in. They fortunately landed not too far away, and after a short walk we found ourselves in a good position and enjoyed excellent looks at these

highly prized birds – which were resplendent in their fine breeding-plumage colors! Some distant **Sarus Cranes** along with **Asian Openbill** and **Woolly-necked Stork** were also noted as new birds in the area.



Baillon's Crake kept us entertained for some time, together with other crakes.



*The Critically Endangered (IUCN) **Sociable Lapwing** is a great bird to find on any tour, and we were very privileged to see this species.*

Following a break for lunch we resumed with a visit to a nearby wetland, which hosted a large flock of wintering **Demoiselle Cranes**. We estimated the flock to be between 1500-2000 birds, and it was wonderful to see these elegant cranes so well. A wide array of other more widespread waterbirds were also present here, and we found our first **White-tailed Lapwing** along with both **Sand** and **Grey-throated Martins**. Today was a very birdy day, and we recorded well over 100 species, with some of the other highlights being **Common Quail**, **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**, **Pallid** and **Montagu's Harriers**, **Isabelline Shrike**, **Clamorous Reed Warbler**, and **Bluethroat**. We returned to our lodge in the late afternoon after a highly successful day.

Day 12, February 24, 2020. Birding the Little Rann of Kutch

With another full day at our disposal for birding the area, we set off predawn once more, this time venturing for the Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary and its vast salt flats and scattered trees. We arrived in good time and started exploring the area. One of our main targets was the scarce Macqueen's Bustard, which winters in the area in low numbers. We covered a lot of ground during the morning and searched many good areas, but luck wasn't on our side and the bustard eluded us. Fortunately the other one of our main targets, the **Asiatic Wild Ass**, was for more cooperative, and we enjoyed several great looks at this handsome mammal and ended up seeing many individuals, including several large herds. We also did well to find the scarce **Wild Cat**, although it didn't hang around too long and disappeared into its den before we could all get good looks at it. Birds were on the sparser side, and species seen during our time on the flats included **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**, **Crested Lark**, **Long-billed Pipit**, and **Desert Wheatear**. A stop at a roadside pan on our way back held a huge flock of **Demoiselle Cranes**, with a few **Common Cranes** scattered among them, and also produced great looks at numbers of **Greater Flamingo**, **Spotted Redshank**, and a showy **Clamorous Reed Warbler**. We took a break over the midday period before resuming later in the afternoon.



Asiatic Wild Ass is a big target on this tour and didn't disappoint.

Our first stop was at a small roadside pond, which was teeming with ducks, and we found our first **Cotton Pygmy Goose**, including a few handsome males, and a group of **Ferruginous Ducks** among others like **Common Pochard**, **Knob-billed Duck**, **Gadwall**, and most of the 'common' species. We then ventured to a nearby quarry where a pair of the sought-after **Indian Eagle-Owls** were nesting. We kept our distance and enjoyed great views of both adults; the female was sitting on the nest with three small chicks underneath while the male looked on from a perch near the nest. Following our stellar looks at these birds we continued to our last stop at one of the larger dams, but not before finding a field littered with **Indian Coursers** and **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**. We spent the last bit of daylight scouring the dam for any unusual birds but were unable to find any new species. There were absolute masses of birds around the dam, however, with huge numbers of **Common Cranes** roosting, along with others such as **Dalmatian Pelican**, **Greylag Goose**, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Kentish Plover**, **Temminck's Stint**, and a stunning male **Montagu's Harrier** that sent all the birds flying. As it started to get dark we staked out a Bengal Fox den but had to leave without them having ventured out when we began searching for our main quarry, the localized **Sykes's Nightjar**. We worked a patch of thorny scrub for some time, and after a few brief views that left us wanting more we eventually found a relaxed individual that allowed us to approach, giving excellent views! With the nightjar under our belts we retired for the evening after another successful day.



*The scarce **Sykes's Nightjar** eventually gave us good views.*

Day 13, February 25, 2020. Birding the Little Rann of Kutch and transfer to Ahmedabad

We had one final morning available for birding the area, so we had another pre-dawn start as we ventured deeper into the Rann to try for a few more species. After a bit of a drive we arrived at our birding site and immediately started trying to find one of our main targets, the **Greater Hoopoe-Lark**. After a short search we finally heard one and moments later had it in our sight. This is an incredibly difficult bird to find in India, right on the edge of its range, and was a big bonus for us!

We were able to get a bit closer to the bird and found there to be a pair working the area. They were fairly active and soon disappeared from view, and we left them be. We tried to track down one of our other targets, Macqueen's Bustard, but our luck wouldn't hold for this species and again we didn't find it. Following a picnic breakfast we continued working the area and found another pair of **Greater Hoopoe-Larks**, these birds being a bit more accommodating than the earlier ones had been. We watched as the male dug up a grub of sorts and then flew far into the vast salt flats. We kept track of it, noted where it landed, and made our way there. After another short search we found it again, and a short while later our suspicions were confirmed when we found a very-well-camouflaged youngster hiding on the ground near the adult. We sat tight and waited, and sure enough we could watch the young bird being fed by the adult at length. We couldn't believe the great views we had of these sought birds and after this very special sighting left them in peace. We had an uneventful drive back to our lodge, with the only notable sighting being a large flock of **Demoiselle Cranes** (well into the thousands). Following lunch we checked out, made our way to Ahmedabad, and settled in for the evening. Traditionally the tour would conclude in the morning, but as we had flights one day later, so we had one final day to explore Gujarat.



*The young **Greater Hoopoe-Lark** about to be fed by a parent – what a sighting!*

Day 14, February 26, 2020. Birding Indroda Nature Park and exploring Ahmedabad

Our last day of the tour had come, and the morning saw us heading to the excellent Indroda Nature Park on the outskirts of town, where we spent a few hours exploring the area. This park has a botanic garden, picnic area, and a small zoo, together with an extensive 'wild' area with tons of good habitat to explore. The birding was great, and there was never a dull moment, with some early excitement coming from a few **Black-rumped Flamebacks**, which put on a show for us, along with the snazzy **Spot-breasted Fantail**. We spent a short while admiring the subtle differences between **Hume's Leaf Warbler**, **Greenish Warbler**, and **Blyth's Reed Warbler** before running into a feeding party that held **Purple-rumped Sunbird**, **Small Minivet**, and two

White-browed Bulbuls right on the edge of their range here. A pair of **Large Cuckooshrikes** wasn't happy with a group of **House Crows**, and we witnessed some heated exchanges between these birds, while an **Indian Stone-curlew** provided some calm. A large, active group of **Tawny-bellied Babblers** was a pleasant surprise and added another species to our tally. We also enjoyed a wide array of other species during our time here, which included **Greater Coucal**, **Crested Honey-Buzzard**, **Booted Eagle**, **Rufous Treepie**, **Indian White-eye**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, and **Yellow-throated Sparrow**. **Nilgai** and **Northern Plains Gray Langurs** provided entertainment on the mammalian side of things. Following a short lunch break we took in some of the area's historic sites, including the Adalaj Stepwell and the Hutheesing Jain Temple – all of which showcased incredible early architecture and were excellent to see. We retired in the afternoon, and, following dinner, the tour concluded with the group departing at different times the following day.



*Finding owls is always exhilarating, and this **Indian Eagle Owl** near its nest was no exception.*

I just want to thank the group for joining the tour and for being excellent clients that made the trip all the more enjoyable and the birding a delight! Thanks must also go to our trusty local guide, Shyam. Overall we had a mighty successful tour, finding nearly all of the possible bird and mammal specialties the region has to offer! There were too many highlights to mention, but some of our top experiences were finding some of the scarce and highly prized birds such as Crab-plover and Sociable Lapwing, while some of the more common species were also appreciated, such as the ever-stunning Greater Flamingo, the immense flocks of Demoiselle Cranes we encountered, and the exquisite Green Bee-eaters. Spending time with some incredibly confiding Crakes, Baillon's, Spotted, and Ruddy-breasted, was another major highlight, as was our excellent sighting of the Asiatic Lion.

Bird List - Following IOC 10.1

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CE = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened. Indian endemics are bolded.

Common name	Scientific name
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Painted Francolin	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>
Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Common Pochard - VU	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Ferruginous Duck - NT	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Sykes's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus mahrattensis</i>
Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>
Treeswifts (Hemiprocnidae)	
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiproctne coronata</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
Common Hawk-Cuckoo (H)	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>
Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)	
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Red Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>
Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Porzana fusca</i>
Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Sarus Crane - VU	<i>Antigone antigone</i>
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo - NT	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Buttonquail (Turnicidae)	
Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>
Great Stone-curlew - NT	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
Eurasian Oystercatcher - NT	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
Sociable Lapwing - CR	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Eurasian Curlew - NT	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit - NT	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Black-tailed Godwit - NT	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Great Knot - EN	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>
Curlew Sandpiper - NT	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Crab-plover (Dromadidae)	
Crab-plover	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>
Courasers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
Indian Skimmer - VU	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyiaetus ichthyiaetus</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
River Tern - NT	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Painted Stork - NT	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
Woolly-necked Stork - VU	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
Oriental Darter - NT	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
Black-headed Ibis - NT	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Dalmatian Pelican - NT	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Changeable Hawk-Eagle (H)	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
Greater Spotted Eagle - VU	<i>Clanga clanga</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Steppe Eagle - EN	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
Eastern Imperial Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Pallid Harrier - NT	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>
Indian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bengalensis</i>
Mottled Wood Owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
Asian Barbets (Megalaimidae)	
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus nanus</i>
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)	
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
Ioras (Aegithinidae)	
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>
Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Indian Golden Oriole (H)	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Fantails (Rhipiduridae)	
White-spotted Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albogularis</i>
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>
Hypocolius (Hypocoliidae)	
Grey Hypocolius	<i>Hypocolius ampelinus</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>
White-naped Tit - VU	<i>Machlolophus nuchalis</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>
Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicura</i>
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>
Indian Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>
Sykes's Lark	<i>Galerida deva</i>
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Hume's Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella acutirostris</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Sand Lark	<i>Alaudala raytal</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
White-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Grey-throated Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Streak-throated Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>
Leaf Warblers & Allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
Sykes's Warbler	<i>Iduna rama</i>
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Rufous-fronted Prinia	<i>Prinia buchanani</i>
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
Babblers, Scimitar Babblers (Timaliidae)	
Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Large Grey Babbler	<i>Argya malcolmi</i>
Common Babbler	<i>Argya caudata</i>
Jungle Babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Desert Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia minula</i>
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>

Common name	Scientific name
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>
Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
White-browed Bush Chat - VU	<i>Saxicola macrorhynchus</i>
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
Brown Rock Chat	<i>Oenanthe fusca</i>
Variable Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>
Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)	
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>
Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>

Total seen	260
Total heard	3
Total recorded	263

Mammal List

Common name	Scientific name
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Northern Plains Gray Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>
Squirrels and relatives (Sciuridae)	
Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>
Old World Porcupine (Hystricidae)	
Indian Crested Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>
Rabbits and Hares (Leporidae)	
Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Bats (Chiroptera)	
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>
Asiatic Lion	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>
Indian Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus fusca</i>
Mongoose and Fossa (Herpestidae)	
Indian Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>
Canids (Canidae)	
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Indian Wolf	<i>Canis lupus pallipes</i>
Bengal Fox	<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>
Horses, Asses and Zebras (Equidae)	
Asiatic Wild Ass	<i>Equus hemionus</i>
Hogs and Pigs (Suidae)	
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
Deer, Elk and Moose (Cervidae)	
Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>
Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Blackbuck	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>
Chinkara	<i>Gazella bennettii</i>
Total	19

Reptile List

Common name	Scientific name
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Mugger	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
Softshell Turtles (Trionychidae)	
Indian Softshell Turtle	<i>Nilssonia gangetica</i>
Boas (Boidae)	
Brown Sand Boa	<i>Eryx johnii</i>
Total	3