

**INDIA – GOA AT LEISURE**  
*Birds, Beaches and Bhajees*

**20 November – 06 December 2012**



**Leaders: Mike Witherick and Leio de Souza**

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**A Personal Diary**

**Saturday, 24 November**

Our fully-laden Boeing 777 left Heathrow's Terminal 4 on time, leaving behind a wet and windy England.

**Sunday, 25 November**

The night was shortened by no less than five and a half hours – the curious time difference between West India time and GMT. We touched down at 11.30 am local time and two and a half hours later we finally reached the Domestic Terminal for our onward flight to Goa. In that time, we had passed through immigration, reclaimed our baggage, passed through customs, checked in our baggage once again and caught a bus that trundled us around the airport perimeter to the Domestic Terminal. There we met up with Julian and Fay who had flown into Mumbai from Brisbane. They were a little worried by the narrow margin of time between our arrival there and the scheduled departure of our onward flight to Goa.

The flight to Dabolim Airport took just over 40 minutes. We collected our baggage and were met by Leio, our guide for the tour. The drive to our hotel in Baga, with Ajid at the wheel, took around an hour. Our checking in was slightly complicated by the fact that the rooms assigned to us were occupied by guests who homeward flight by charter had been delayed by 24 hours. Thus we were shown to rooms that we would occupy for just the one night. Some 30 minutes later met together for a cold drink and birdwatch from the pool terrace of the nearby Beira Mar Hotel. Among the birds we saw for the first time were Scaly-breasted and White-rumped Munias, Ashy Prinia and Blyth's Reed Warbler. Particularly admired were a White-throated Kingfisher fishing from a telegraph wire, several White-breasted Waterhens and a Brown Flycatcher. Leio instructed us on how to distinguish Black from Black-eared Kites. Several Brahminy Kites and a Shikra flew over; a Eurasian Marsh Harrier landed in the short grass. At dusk, a Spotted Owlet came out and started to hunt.

After the light had gone, we strolled back to our hotel and some 30 minutes later gathered at a poolside table for a most acceptable evening meal. We all opted for the Pomfret, a local sea fish and a very tasty one too. After the meal, we did a brief log call and then hastened to our rooms to catch up on lost sleep.

**Monday, 26 November**

As early morning in prime birding time, the hotel agreed to serve us an early breakfast – at 6.30 am. There was freshly-made porridge on offer together with eggs cooked to request. We met up with Leio at 7 am and drove the short distance to the foot of the Baga Hills. Our walk involved following the winding track to the summit and back, and walking for a short while across the summit area.

Flowering or fruiting trees fringing the track were alive with birds and we soon amassed a list approaching 50 species. The highlights included two species of barbet (White-cheeked and Coppersmith), three species of sunbird (Purple-rumped, Purple and Loten's), two species of bulbul (Red-whiskered and White-browed), several Lesser Goldenbacks, Gold-fronted Leafbird, Alexandrine Parakeet, Common Iora and Small Minivets. Three species of kite dominated the air space, but we did see among them Booted Eagle (pale morph) and White-bellied Sea Eagle. Whilst on the top, Fay spotted a single Alpine Swift. Others species seen there included Grey-breasted Prinia, Tawny-bellied Babbler and Little Swifts. During this first session we were impressed by the abundance of butterflies and their colourfulness; our sightings included Southern Birdwing (the largest butterfly in Asia),

The final part of the morning's birding took place on the flood plain of a small river. Here we found a variety of posts bedecked with perched birds, such as Indian Roller, Pied Bushchat, Siberian Stonechat and Oriental Magpie Robin. Green Bee-eaters hawked for insects from telegraph wires. On the ground, Paddyfield Pipits showed well. Two Oriental Honey-buzzards flew over.

We returned to the hotel around 11 am and found that we could now move into the rooms in V Block that we had been promised. After a little settling in time, we ventured outside the hotel principally to exchange into local currency and to bulk-buy bottled water. We also wandered down to Baga Beach where Simon drew our attention to some House Sparrows! We returned to the hotel for a light lunch.

After the meal, we took advantage of two hours of R and R before meeting up again with Leio for a second spell of birding. Our focus now was the rice paddies fairly close to the hotel; we undertook the excursion on foot. Fortunately, by now the temperature had begun to fall. It was Simon who eventually came up with the species that we were all hoping for – Painted Snipe. We watched four of them (one female and three males) in fairly open shade on the edge of a paddy. This paddy and its neighbour held a good range of other waders and we were given the opportunity to compare Marsh Sandpiper with Greenshank, Greater with Lesser Sand Plover. Other species present were Wood and Green Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilts and Redshanks. Other notable sightings included Asian Openbill, Purple and Indian Pond Herons, Intermediate and Little Egrets, Eurasian Marsh Harrier and Osprey. Among the more colourful birds we saw were White-throated and Common Kingfishers and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters. A fruiting tree attracted large numbers of Chestnut-tailed Starlings and Jungle Mynas.

With the light just beginning to fade, we called in at a bar with a good view over a small area of ponds and some more paddies. For the price of a most welcome cold drink, we were permitted to birdwatch from the terrace. The only new species, briefly seen, was a White-spotted Fantail. In some nearby trees, Leio had hoped to find a Brown Hawk Owl, but we were out of luck. We sought comfort in the lime drinks, mixed with either salt or sugar, which certainly hit the thirst button. On return to the hotel, Leio and I were asked if we would not mind being filmed discussing bird and butterfly matters – this was to be part of a film promoting the hotel and was being made for the benefit of Thomas Cook. Sadly, there was no mention of appearance fees!

We dined poolside and then did the log call in the indoor dining area where the light was rather better.

### **Tuesday, 27 November**

In order to maximise our use of the early morning coolness, we left the hotel with a boxed breakfast and made our way north to Morjim. The roads were relatively traffic free. At Morjim we walked out to a sort of spit that marks the boundary between the estuary and the sea. We found hundreds of Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers roosting on the sands – another first-class opportunity to compare these two species. Today, the big gull roost was some way up the river on the southern shore. Nonetheless, a large numbers of Brown- and Black-headed Gulls flew over us heading in that direction. We also saw Pallas's and Slender-billed Gulls as well as Caspian and Greater Crested Terns. The only other waders on the shore were two Sanderling.

Eventually, we returned to where we had parked our vehicle and consumed our picnic breakfasts. After that we walked along the coastal zone of short grass and scattered bushes lying inland from the sandy shore, now filling up with Russian ladies doing their early morning exercises. Here we found two species of shrike – Long-tailed and Bay-backed – which posed as obligingly as the Green and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters. New sightings included that of Richard's Pipit and Southern Coucal. But perhaps our greatest triumph was to spot a Barred Buttonquail with its amazingly cryptic plumage – full credit to Fay for putting us onto this bird.

We then re-boarded the vehicle and headed back in the direction of Baga. However, we stopped at the Siojim marshes and walked the causeway that carries the road across. Here we saw our first Pied Kingfisher, Western Reef Egret and a Greater Spotted Eagle being hassled out of the local air space by a considerable number of Black and Black-eared Kites. Asian Openbills posed for the photographers. Once across the causeway, we turned west to a couple of spots that afford views over some paddies. Here we saw Grey and White-browed Wagtails. Here we also added two more species to our wader list with sightings of Kentish Plover and Spotted Redshank, whilst Julian had a close encounter with a well-disguised hole.

We gathered at 12.30 pm for a relaxed lunch and a glass of Kingfisher beer. During the meal, the new manager (Denis) came and introduced himself and spoke briefly about his company's plans for the hotel. Afterwards we retired to our rooms for a siesta before meeting up with Leio at 3.30 pm.

The afternoon session was spent in wooded scrubland close to the Club Cubana. We were driven there by Ajid's elder brother. This area used to hold Indian Pitta, but we failed to make any contact with the species today. However, there were compensations in our sightings of Puff-throated Babblers, White-browed and Grey-headed Bulbuls, White-spotted Fantail, White-bellied Drongo, Nilgiri Flowerpecker and Crimson-backed Sunbird. We finished off our visit to that locality with two particularly attractive species – Jerdon's Leafbird and Rufous Woodpecker. Our final stop of the day was at the Beira Mar where we enjoyed a cold drink, but were unable to spot any new species.

The rest of the day followed its now established sequence, except that after the log call, Julian bought us a round of cold Kingfishers – a very acceptable nightcap!

### **Wednesday, 28 November**

The hotel provided us with a special early breakfast at 6 am – the porridge was delicious. We left at 6.30 am and headed south, picking up Leio close to Panjim. Our first stop was at Dona Paula to the south of the Mandovi estuary. Here on the lateritic and sparsely vegetated plateau our target species was Yellow-wattled Lapwing. As if to order, a pair was waiting for us as we left the vehicle. New species seen for the tour during our short walk included Eurasian Hoopoe, Tree Pipit and Indian Robin.

From Dona Paula we continued our journey southwards and across the Zuari River. We then left the main road and descended to the south bank just upstream from the bridge. Here a covered boat was awaiting us. Quickly aboard, we first motored a little downstream to some palm posts the tops of which were hosting a number of roosting Greater Crested Terns, two Brahminy Kites and a splendid White-bellied Sea Eagle. The photographers had a heyday.

Turning round, we then proceeded up a tributary of the Zuari River known as the Cumbarjua Canal. Our two hours plus spent in this mangrove-fringed waterway and some of its creeks produced a wealth of birds. Kingfishers were among the stars with many sightings of Common, four of Stork-billed and best of all prolonged views of the very scarce Collared. Other sightings included Lesser Adjutant, Black-headed and Glossy Ibis, Great and Intermediate Egrets, Striated Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron. Indian Golden Orioles were seen in good numbers – they seem to like the mangrove as a wintering habitat. Two Cotton Pygmy-Geese were seen on the water, but unusually out in the middle of the river. Perhaps one of the best sightings was of a Terek Sandpiper perched on a small island of floating driftwood. Adding to the enjoyment of the cruise were the delicious freshly-baked beef patties purchased by Leio as we made our way to the rendezvous with the boat. Adding to the excitement were several close and rather large Marsh Muggers, as well as the large flock of hitchcock-esque Indian Flying Foxes. We finished off the cruise by watching a Peregrine perched high above us on the structure of the road bridge.

With the heat of the day fast approaching, we made a brief stop at Batim Lake. Here we identified familiar duck species, such as Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Teal and Eurasian Wigeon alongside good numbers of Lesser Whistling-duck. We saw our first Bronze-winged Jacana. From there, we drove into Panjim for a three-hour lunch break which we spent in the character-ful but cool Restaurant Veneti. Three of us tried the Goan sausages; the banana dessert was excellent.

It was just before 3 pm when we ventured out into the heat of the afternoon. We spent the remaining daylight birdwatching in the Carambolim area. The first wetland areas we visited allowed us to extend our wader list to include Little Stint, Dunlin and Black-tailed Godwits. We came across our first Ruddy Shelduck; a Black Eagle gave good views as it circled upwards. A small area of scrubby woodland proved surprisingly productive, yielding good views of Eurasian Wryneck, Coppersmith Barbet, Clamorous Reed Warbler and Asian Paradise-flycatcher; a Blue-faced Malkoha gave only tantalising glimpses. The final stop of the day was on the shores of Carambolim Lake where we witnessed huge numbers of Lesser Whistling-duck and, by the standards of the species, a remarkable number of Purple Swamphens. In amongst the water lilies we managed to spot a lone Pheasant-tailed Jacana.

We arrived back at the hotel at 6.30 pm which meant that we had an hour's leisure before meeting up for another poolside evening meal. The log was called after the meal.

### **Thursday, 29 November**

Our promised early morning breakfast nearly did not materialise because the covered restaurant area had been decorated overnight and the furniture and fittings had not been put back in their proper places. However, an enterprising member of staff soon produced tea, coffee, porridge and toast. So we were adequately fortified for our morning in the field. The opening session took place in the wooded, hilly areas of Saligao. It has to be said that our morning's birding started very slowly and for quite a while we did nothing but watch the local ladies doing their washing at the community laundering point – a couple of piped springs. We had hoped to find both Asian Pygmy Kingfisher and Brown Wood Owl, but both turned out to be 'no show' birds.

After a while, however, our luck suddenly turned and we were enjoying a flurry of new birds. These included Black-hooded Oriole, Jungle Babbler, Bronzed Drongo, Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike and Greenish Warbler. A male Vigor's Sunbird perched briefly in a nearby small tree. We also had 'repeat' sightings of interesting or colourful species such as Nilgiri Flowerpecker, Indian Golden Oriole, Jerdon's Leafbird and White-cheeked and Coppersmith Barbets.

Our second stop was at a look-out commanding good views over a pond partially filled with lilies. Fay spotted the star bird on the far shore – a species we had hoped to see yesterday – a splendid Black-capped Kingfisher. We also enjoyed good views of two species of jacana – Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed. Unfortunately, those representing the latter species were all in non-breeding plumage. Much to our surprise, the damp grassy area at one end of the pond held both Yellow-wattled and Red-wattled Lapwings – the former species is supposed to prefer dry habitats. The pond also yielded a second new species for the tour – a Common Coot!

The final stop of the morning was at Paithona and involved following the road across a wide flood plain. Despite the rising heat, we continued to encounter new species. Thermaling quite high in the skies, we saw two Indian Spotted Eagles, a Crested Goshawk and a Steppe Buzzard. A flock of over ten Asian Openbills also wheeled overhead. A number of Common Snipe took off from water-filled vehicle tracks close to the road followed by a single Jack Snipe. A small flock of Yellow Wagtails did likewise. On the roadside telegraph wires we saw a Tawny Pipit and two Chestnut-shouldered Petronias. A Plain Prinia and a Clamorous Warbler shared the same clump of dry vegetation.

We returned to the hotel a little after 11 am and relaxed for an hour before sitting down to a light lunch. Afterwards, there was time for a short siesta before starting the afternoon birding session. This afternoon we were driven by yet another of Ajid's brothers – clearly a younger one. We headed south to the Curcar area and to Batim Lake in particular. As yesterday, there were large numbers of Lesser Whistling-duck, Common Teal and Northern Pintail. But today there was a noticeable presence of Garganey and Simon spotted a single Spot-billed Duck. Eurasian Wigeon and Northern Shoveler were also present in small numbers.

The remaining hour or so of sunlight was spent on the Dona Paula plateau. We were hoping to come across larks, but the scale of recent controlled burning to reduce the overall fire risk seemed to have prompted all larks to move elsewhere. However, there was one bonus at the very close of play when we spotted a Desert Wheatear. Leio initially thought that this was the first sighting of this species in Goa, but he subsequently discovered that one had been 'claimed' back in 1993. Nonetheless, Leio was excited and such was the tameness of the bird that he was able to take some excellent photos for record purposes.

We arrived back at the hotel slightly later than usual but we kept to our established routine of meeting up at 7.30 pm for dinner followed by log call.

### **Friday, 30 November**

We left the hotel at 6 am and made our way south to a rendezvous point with Leio. From there, we continued over the Mandovi River and eventually reached the point where we took the road ferry across to the so-called Chorao Island (in fact, it is an isthmus formed by the confluence between the Mandovi and Mapusa Rivers. Two White-bellied Sea Eagles were seen on top of some posts out in the river.

Our first birding stop of the day was at Mayem Lake, a tree-fringed body of water. Leio had two particular species in mind, namely Indian Scimitar Babbler and Grey Nightjar. In the event, we only managed to hear

the former species, but we did have tantalising glimpses of Tawny-bellied Babblers. The visit produced four new sightings – Grey-fronted Green Pigeon, Plum-headed Parakeet, Orange Minivet and Asian Brown Flycatcher. We ate our picnic breakfasts on a terrace overlooking the lake and during the short break we had good views of Crimson Sunbird, whilst Red-rumped Swallows hawked for insects over the water. Other sightings during our time at Mayem included Small Minivet, Lesser Goldenback and White-bellied Drongo.

From Mayem we drove to Carambolim where we stopped at several locations. We saw plenty of wader and water birds, but did not encounter any new species. A Lesser Adjutant flew over and good views were had of Glossy Ibis.

We arrived back at the hotel about 12.45 pm and met up for lunch a little later. A short siesta followed before reconvening at 3.30 pm for a final spell of birding in the Morjim area. We found that the tide was low and that most of the gulls were resting on recently-exposed 'islands' of muddy sand. Leio chartered a small boat to take us out to the main 'island' and to leave us there for the best part of an hour. The gulls were all Black-headed or Brown-headed. The terns were mainly Gull-billed, but we did spot a few Little and Lesser Crested. Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers amused us by the speed with which they raced across the mud, but even they were outpaced by a small number of Terek Sandpipers which their head-down, insect-chasing mode of feeding. Curlew were seen in good number and were new for the tour list. A flock of 13 Bar-tailed Godwits was, according to Leio, a noteworthy sighting to be reported to the Goan Recorder.

We arrived back at the hotel at 6.30 pm which allowed us an hour in which to gather ourselves for our evening meal and then for our journey to Backwoods Camp early tomorrow morning.

### **Saturday, 01 December**

We left the hotel at 5.30am in Leio's 4WD and reached the sanctuary of Backwoods Camp in just under two hours. We were shown to our chalets and then led to the dining room for a hot drink and biscuits. For the remainder of the morning, and either side of a 10 am breakfast, we made two gentle walks mainly along the drive to as far as the road and back. New birds came thick and fast and indeed we amassed a total of nearly 50 species during the course of both walks. It is difficult to discriminate between our bird sightings. Perhaps the most impressive in close-up were the three Sri Lanka Frogmouths sleeping at a height of a little more than two metres above the ground. In terms of size, perhaps most notable was the elusive White-bellied Woodpecker and the Common Hawk Cuckoo – and not to forget a high-flying Woolly-necked Stork. We did well for bulbuls with sightings of Yellow-browed, Grey-headed, Black and Flame-throated. Four species of drongo were recorded – Greater Racket-tailed, Bronzed, Ashy and Black. We had several sightings of our first hornbill – Malabar Grey. A new parakeet was Malabar and we all enjoyed good views of the diminutive Vernal Hanging Parrot. Thrushes were also prominent with sightings of Orange-headed, Indian Blackbird and Malabar Whistling Thrush. Male sunbirds showed off their stunning colours in the sunshine, with Crimson-backed stealing the show. Black-naped Orioles and Black-naped Blue Monarchs showed off their lovely plumages.

But the morning was not just about birds. We enjoyed close views of two Giant Squirrels with their rich coats flashing almost red in the sunlight. Common Langurs crashed around in the tree tops. Also adding to the appeal of the location was its peace, quiet and freedom from litter. At 1 pm we gathered for a reviving beer and a tasty vegetarian lunch followed by a siesta.

The afternoon session took us out of the camp, but before we had left the premises we had added two new species for the tour – Brown-breasted Flycatcher and Forest Wagtail. Our first stop was at the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Dambti Sur Temple – a protected national monument. The open grassy square surrounding the temple provided a good area from which to birdwatch. Here we enjoyed good views of Greater Flameback and had flight views of several Mountain Imperial Pigeons. Subsequent stops allowed us to hear and glimpse Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters and Malabar Lark. It was the penultimate stop that allowed us to almost get within striking distance of Indian Pitta as several were heard calling from the wooded fringe of another clearing as the light faded. But in the spotlight we enjoyed a very close encounter with a Jerdon's Nightjar. At the final stop, our luck continued as a Brown Hawk Owl was seen perched on a telegraph wire.

We arrived back at the Camp around 6.45 pm and 45 minutes later met up for an interesting and very acceptable evening meal. After log call, everyone hurried off to bed – it had been a long day but an excellent one full of ‘new birds’.

### **Sunday, 02 December**

Today started with a long spell of pre-breakfast birding. Coffee and biscuits were served at 6.15 am and we then drove to the Temple car park. Our route involved walking up the river valley with its rock-strewn river course now reduced to a modest flow in the dry season. We had two particular species heading our agenda – Blue-eared and Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher. The nearest we came was when Leio glimpsed one of the latter as it made off – never to be seen again. The walking may have been a bit rough at times, but we did encounter some new species, namely Tickell’s Blue Flycatcher, Dark-fronted Babbler and a female Indian Blue Robin. However, the find that gave us most pleasure was the male Malabar Trogon which posed for us for a fair length of time.

It was a little before 11 am, but after a late breakfast, when we left for a second spell of birding, this one with raptors in mind. On the way to the watching point we made a brief stop so that everyone could catch up with Malabar Lark. We took advantage of the shade provided by one of the guard shelters out in a complex of small paddies. During the course of an hour we observed four species of raptor – Black Eagle, Crested Goshawk, Booted Eagle and Mountain Hawk Eagle (now split and renamed Legge’s Hawk Eagle). We were also able to get our best views to date of Chestnut-headed Bee-eater.

We arrived back at the Camp in good time for a 1 pm lunch. Afterwards, we either retired to our rooms or drifted around the campus in photographic mode. Tea and biscuits at 3.30 pm fortified us for the day’s last spell of birding. Part of the time was spent driving slowly and trying to spot birds from the vehicle. This technique produced two excellent sightings of perched Crested Serpent Eagles at fairly close hand. Another new species spotted in this way was Ashy Wood Swallow. Other noteworthy sightings included a very photogenic Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, a pair of Small Minivets, a Black-naped Blue Monarch and several Grey-fronted Green Pigeons. We rounded off this session with a spell standing out in some rice paddies and taking advantage of a 360 degree field of view. As we crossed the fields to take up position we flushed a Yellow-legged Buttonquail. A Nilgiri Wood Pigeon flew over our heads and we enjoyed the sight and sound of hundreds of bee-eaters (mainly Chestnut-headed) gathering to roost. As the light began to fail, and to round off the field part of the day, we watched three pairs of Malabar Pied Hornbills fly low and majestically to their roost.

The day ended in the usual way with an enjoyable buffet evening meal, followed by log call and some chat before turning in – another early start tomorrow.

### **Monday, 03 December**

Wake-up tea and coffee were served at 6 am today and some 20 minutes later we were making all speed for the protected area at Bondla, a 45-minute drive away. A notable sighting early on during the drive was of a considerable number of Orange-headed Thrushes on the road verge. Some way on, Leio brought the vehicle to a grinding halt in order to show us Heart-spotted Woodpecker.

At Bondla we stopped at the bottom of the hill in a rather open area with good all-round visibility. Here we spent the best part of three hours and also found time to consume our packed breakfast. We gradually accumulated a list of first sightings for the tour starting with a close Red Spurfowl. This was quickly followed by Brown-headed Barbet and several White-headed Starlings in the same tree. These were followed by sightings of White-rumped Sharma. A Crested (as distinct from a Legge’s) Hawk Eagle flew by. Much admired was a male Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike. We were a bit surprised when Leio called ‘Bright Green Warbler’ – in the book we are using it is called Green Warbler. We rounded off our time at this birder-friendly spot with a sighting of Drongo Cuckoo – not an easy bird to find. Other recollections from this location include the large numbers of Jerdon’s Leafbirds, Black-throated Munias, Red-whiskered Bulbuls and Indian Magpie-Robins

Around mid-morning, we drove up to the hill-top zoo. In the event, little was gained except for views of Spotted Deer. It being a public holiday, the zoo was being well patronised by visitors. On the way down, however, Fay’s wish to see Crested Tree Swifts was granted, and a little further down the road, some

members of the group were able to catch up with Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Dark-fronted Babbler. Also at that spot a White Paradise-Flycatcher showed well as it actively flitted for food.

We arrived back at the Camp a little before 1 pm, thus allowing time for a freshen-up and a reviving beer before lunch. Afterwards, there was the customary time-out until tea at 3.30 pm. After that, we spent a fair amount of the remaining daylight in the vicinity of the Temple. Our target species was Blue-eared Kingfisher and in due time one alighted fairly close to where we were sitting. Some of us needed a little time to check that we were not misidentifying a Common Kingfisher. As the light began to fade, we moved to a nearby location for another shot at finding Indian Pitta. Again we failed, but one was heard calling. Back at the Camp, we heard a Jungle Owlet call, but it could not be persuaded to show itself.

The rest of the day was passed away in its now usual way. The buffet tonight was another tasty meal; the dessert (coconut candy) was delicious.

### **Tuesday, 04 December**

The day started at 6.15 am with coffee and biscuits and 15 minutes later we set off into the field with three species in mind – Indian Peafowl, Grey Junglefowl and Indian Pitta. It was to be said that, despite our best efforts, we could only find the first of these. However, in the same field where we found the Indian Peacock we realised that some telephone wires were literally alive with birds – Yellow Wagtails were most numerous and amongst them we noted at least two Citrine Wagtails. Also present, along with good numbers of Chestnut-shouldered Petronia, were a few Black-headed Buntings and a male Red-headed Bunting. This run of good luck continued a little later when we added Asian Palm Swift to the tour list.

Breakfast today comprised scrambled egg and onion bhajees. With packing complete and bar bills settled we loaded up the vehicle and headed in the direction of Ponda. On the way, we stopped briefly at a cashew nut factory and were shown the various processes involved in the preparation of the nut for human consumption. Simon and I made purchases for taking home. It has to be said that the factory was the epitome of a sweatshop – the women employees were working in an environment that would have seriously contravened health and safety regulations in the UK!

Near Ponda, we stopped at a spice plantation and after a refreshing welcome drink had an informative and amusing guided tour in which we were shown the various spice plants for which this part of India is famous. With a pleasant outlook across a lake, we enjoyed a tot of the spirit made from cashews and then dealt with a tasty buffet lunch.

It was not surprising that sleep overtook some of us as we continued the drive back to Baga. We eventually reached the hotel a little after 3 pm. Two of us were allocated the same rooms as we had occupied before going to Backwoods. We then had time to relax and recover from the journey. Shortly after 5 pm we went to the Beira Mar for a birdwatch until dusk. The Brown Shrike was still sitting on the same bush as 10 days ago. A male Rosy Starling in full breeding plumage was admired. The Spotted Owlet came out on cue. But, best of all, just as the light was going, a Cinnamon Bittern hopped out of a bush just below the terrace and remained in full view of a number of minutes.

At 7.45 pm we gathered at our usual poolside table for our final evening meal together. The main dish was a huge red snapper that had been specially prepared and cooked for us by Ruiz, a famous chef who now manages a chain of hotels, including the Ronil Beach Resort. The fish was delicious, but the quantity overwhelming! Afterwards we did the log call and hastily retired to our rooms.

### **Wednesday, 05 December**

Our early breakfast this morning was a well-organised affair. We left the hotel at 6.30 am, but without Fay and Julian who had decided to stay put. The rest of us headed once again for Morjim. The tide was high, but there was a steady stream of gulls coming in off the sea and flying up the estuary. They were predominantly Brown-headed and Black-headed, but in amongst them we spotted a single Heuglin's and a few Pallas's. But the early sighting that excited us most was of some 50 Small Pratincoles flying low overhead. After a while, we moved to the scrubby area immediately behind the beach where we renewed acquaintance with the Bay-backed Shrike and glimpsed another Barred Buttonquail. Even better, we found two new species for the tour – a Thick-billed Warbler and a Brahminy Starling.

On the way back to the hotel we stopped at the Siolim paddy-fields where, unlike the last time we visited this location, waders were in short supply today, but there were plenty of egrets and Asian Openbills.

We arrived back at the hotel a little after 10 am and were able to enjoy a second breakfast – if not that, then certainly a cup of coffee. Afterwards, it was a matter of packing and clearing out of all but one of our rooms. We all met up at 12.30 pm and went through the checklist for the whole tour. Lunch was followed by a spell of relaxation and waiting to settle our room accounts. At 3 pm the vehicle arrived to take us to the airport at Dabolim – Leio took his leave of us part way there. From Dabolim, we flew to Mumbai and there made the transfer from the Domestic to the International Terminal. Here we said goodbye to Fay and Julian heading to their home in Australia.

#### **Thursday, 06 December**

Our flight left on schedule and much to our pleasure and comfort the aircraft was little more than half full. We arrived into a very chilly Heathrow on time, collected our baggage and then went our separate ways.

#### **Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to Leio de Souza for being such an excellent guide and having such a good sense of humour. The friendly staff at the Ronil Beach Resort Hotel and Backwoods Camp did much to make us feel 'at home'. Many thanks to Simon for allowing me to use his photos in this report. Thanks to you all for coming on the tour. I very much enjoyed this 'taste' of India, and hope that we might meet up again in the not-too-distant future.

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December 2012

## Itinerary and Weather

Saturday, 24 November	London Heathrow >
Sunday 25 November	> Mumbai > Dabolim > Baga Beira Mar Hot and humid 34°C
Monday 26 November	am: Baga Hills pm: Baga rice paddies Hot and slightly less humid 32 °C
Tuesday 27 November	am: Morjim & Siolim marsh pm: Club Cubana > Beira Mar Hot and sunny 32 °C
Wednesday 28 November	am: Dona Paula plateau > Zuari River cruise > Batim Lake pm: Panjim > Carambolim area Hot and sunny 32°C
Thursday 29 November	am: Saligao > Pilerne Lake pm: Curcar > Batim Laske > Dona Paula plateau Hot and sunny 31°C
Friday 30 November	am: Mayem Lake > Carambolim pm: Morjim Hot and sunny 32°C
Saturday 1 December	> Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary > Backwoods Hot and humid 30°C
Sunday 2 December	Bhagwan Mahaveer WS and environs Hot and humid 31°C
Monday 3 December	am: Bondla pm: Bhagwan Mahaveer WS Hot and sunny 30°C
Tuesday 4 December	am: Bhagwan Mahaveer WS pm: > Baga (via Spice Plantation nr Ponda) > Beira Mar Cloudy becoming hot and sunny 34°C
Wednesday 5 December	am: Morjim and Siolim pm: Baga > Dabolim > Mumbai Hot and sunny 33 °C
Thursday 6 December	Mumbai > London Heathrow 'climate change' 30 to -2 °C

## CHECKLIST OF SPECIES SEEN DURING THIS TOUR

No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	A = Coastal areas (Baga, Dona Paula, Morjim; Saligao & Siolim) B = Transitional zone (Carambolim & Mayem) C = Western Ghats (Bhagwan Mahaveer & Bondla)	1 = < 5 2 = 6 – 9 3 = 10 - 99 4 = 100 – 999 5 = 1,000+

Species	No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	Scientific Name		
Yellow-legged Buttonquail	1		C	1	<i>Turnix tanki</i>	
Barred Buttonquail	2	A		1	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	
Red Spurfowl	1		C	1	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	
Grey Junglefowl	-	1h	C	1	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	
Indian Peafowl	1	3h A	C	1	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	
Lesser Whistling-duck	6	A	B	5	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	
Ruddy Shelduck	1		B	1	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	
Cotton Pygmy-goose	2	A	B	2	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	
Eurasian Wigeon	2	A		1	<i>Anas penelope</i>	
Indian Spot-billed Duck	1	A		1	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	
Northern Shoveler	2	A		1	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
Northern Pintail	2	A		4	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
Garganey	1	A		3	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	
Common Teal	2	A		4	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
Little Grebe	2	A		1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
Asian Openbill	5	A		3	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	
Woolly-necked Stork	1		C	1	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	
Lesser Adjutant	2	A	B	1	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	
Black-headed Ibis	3	A		3	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	
Glossy Ibis	2	A	B	3	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	
Cinnamon Bittern	1	A		1	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	
Striated Heron	1	A		1	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	A		1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
Indian Pond Heron	10	A	B	C	3	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
Grey Heron	5	A	B		1	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	5	A	B		2	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Cattle Egret	11	A	B	C	4	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Great Egret	2	A	B		1	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Intermediate Egret	7	A	B		3	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>
Little Egret	8	A	B	B	3	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Western Reef Egret	2	A			1	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
Darter	2	A	B		3	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Little Cormorant	8	A	B		3	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
Indian Cormorant	4	A		C	3	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
Common Kestrel	3	A		C	1	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	1	A			1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Black Kite	6	A	B		3	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Black-eared Kite	8	A	B		3	<i>Milvus (migrans) lineatus</i>
Brahminy Kite	11	A	B	C	3	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
Osprey	2	A			1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
White-bellied Sea Eagle	4	A			1	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
Black Eagle	3		B	C	1	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
Oriental Honey-buzzard	2	A		C	1	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Crested Serpent Eagle	2			C	1	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	7	A	B		2	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Crested Goshawk	2			C	1	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
Shikra	3				1	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Steppe Buzzard	1	A			1	<i>Buteo vulpinus</i>
Indian Spotted Eagle	1	A			1	<i>Aquila hastata</i>

Greater Spotted Eagle	2	A			1	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	
Booted Eagle	4	A		C	1	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	
Crested Hawk Eagle	1			C	1	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>	
Legge's Hawk Eagle	1			C	1	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis kelaarti</i>	
White-breasted Waterhen	4	A	B		1	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	
Purple Swampphen	2		B		3	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	
Common Moorhen	2	A	B		1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
Eurasian Coot	1	A			1	<i>Fulica atra</i>	
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	3	A	B		1	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	
Bronze-winged Jacana	3	A	B		2	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	
Black-winged Stilt	5	A	B		3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	2	A			1	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	
Red-wattled Lapwing	5	A	B		2	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	
Kentish Plover	2	A			1	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	
Greater Sand Plover	4	A			4	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	
Lesser Sand Plover	4	A			4	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	
Greater Painted-snipe	1	A			1	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	
Jack Snipe	1	A			1	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	
Common Snipe	1	A			2	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
Black-tailed Godwit	2		B		4	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	A			3	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
Whimbrel	1	A			1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
Eurasian Curlew	1	A			2	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
Spotted Redshank	3	A	B		2	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	
Common Redshank	5	A	B		2	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
Marsh Sandpiper	5	A	B		2	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	
Common Greenshank	4	A	B		2	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
Green Sandpiper	4	A			1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
Wood Sandpiper	5		B		2	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	
Terek Sandpiper	2	A			1	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	
Common Sandpiper	5	A			1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
Little Stint	2		B		3	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	
Sanderling	1	A			1	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
Dunlin	1		B		3	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
Small Pratincole	1	A			3	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	
Heuglin's Gull	1	A			1	<i>Larus heuglini</i>	
Pallas's Gull	2	A			3	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>	
Brown-headed Gull	3	A			4	<i>Larus brunnecephalus</i>	
Black-headed Gull	3	A			4	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	
Slender-billed Gull	1	A			2	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	
Gull-billed Tern	4	A			4	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	
Caspian Tern	1	A			1	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	
Lesser Crested Tern	1	A			1	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	
Greater Crested Tern	2	A			3	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	
Little Tern	2	A			1	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	
Common Pigeon (feral)	11	A	B	C	3	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Nilgiri Wood Pigeon	1			C	1	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>	
Mountain Imperial Pigeon	1			C	1	<i>Ducula badia</i>	
Spotted Dove	7	A	B	C	2	<i>Stigmatopelia chinensis</i>	
Grey-fronted Green Pigeon	3		B	C	1	<i>Treron (pompadora) affinis</i>	
Emerald Dove	1	A			1	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	
Vernal Hanging Parrot	4	A		C	1	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	
Alexandrine Parakeet	1	A			1	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	3	A			1	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	
Plum-headed Parakeet	4		B	C	2	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	
Malabar Parakeet	2			C	2	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>	
Common Hawk Cuckoo	1			C	1	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	
Indian Cuckoo	-	1h		C	1	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	
Drongo Cuckoo	1			C	1	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	
Asian Koel	6	2h	A	B	1	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	
Blue-faced Malkoha	1			B	1	<i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>	
Southern Coucal	3	4h	A		C	1	<i>Centropus ( sinensis) parroti</i>
Jungle Owlet	-	1h			C	1	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>

Spotted Owlet	3	A			1	<i>Athene brama</i>
Brown Hawk Owl	1			C	1	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
Sri Lanka Frogmouth	1			C	1	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>
Jerdon's Nightjar	1			C	1	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>
Asian Palm Swift	1			C	1	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
Alpine Swift	1	A			1	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Crested Treeswift	1			C	1	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
Little Swift	7	A			4	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Common Hoopoe	2	A			2	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Malabar Trogon	1			C	1	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>
Indian Roller	5	A	B		1	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
Stork-billed Kingfisher	2	A			1	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
White-throated Kingfisher	10	A	B	C	2	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Black-capped Kingfisher	1		B		1	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>
Collared Kingfisher	1	A			1	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
Blue-eared Kingfisher	1			C	1	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>
Common Kingfisher	7	A	B		3	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Pied Kingfisher	1	A			1	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Green Bee-eater	10	A	B	C	3	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	4	A			2	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	2			C	4	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
Malabar Grey Hornbill	3	A		C	1	<i>Ocyroceros griseus</i>
Malabar Pied Hornbill	2			C	2	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>
Brown-headed Barbet	1			C	1	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>
White-cheeked Barbet	2	4h	A		1	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>
Malabar Barbet	2	2h		C	1	<i>Megalaima malabarica</i>
Coppersmith Barbet	4	3h	A	C	1	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
Eurasian Wryneck	1		B		1	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
Heart-spotted Woodpecker	2			C	1	<i>Hemicircus canente</i>
Rufous Woodpecker	1	A			1	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
White-bellied Woodpecker	1	1h		C	1	<i>Dryocopus javensis</i>
Lesser Goldenback	6	A	B	C	1	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
Greater Goldenback	1	1h		C	1	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>
Indian Pitta	-	2h		C	1	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
Malabar Woodshrike	2			C	1	<i>Tephrodornis (virgatus) silvicola</i>
Common Woodshrike	2	A			1	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
Ashy Woodswallow	3			C	1	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	1			C	1	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	2	A		C	1	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
Common Iora	6	A	B	C	1	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
Small Minivet	5	A	B	C	1	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
Orange Minivet	1		B		1	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>
Brown Shrike	4	A		C	1	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
Bay-backed Shrike	2	A			1	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>
Long-tailed Shrike	5	A			1	<i>Lanius schach</i>
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	3			C	1	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
Black Drongo	6	A			2	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
Ashy Drongo	10	A	B	C	2	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
White-bellied Drongo	2	A	B		1	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
Bronzed Drongo	4	A	B	C	1	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>
Indian Golden Oriole	8	A	B	C	3	<i>Oriolus (oriolus) kundoo</i>
Black-naped Oriole	1			C	1	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
Black-hooded Oriole	2	A		C	1	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
White-spotted Fantail	2	A			1	<i>Rhipidura (albicollis) albogularis</i>
Asian Paradise-flycatcher	4	A	B	C	1	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
Black-naped Blue Monarch	3			C	1	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
Rufous Treepie	4	A		C	1	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
India Jungle Crow	5	A		C	3	<i>Corvus (macrorhynchos) culminatus</i>
House Crow	11	A	B	C	3	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
India Yellow Tit	1	A			1	<i>Parus (xanthogenys) aplonotus</i>
Sand Martin	1	A			3	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	4	A		C	1	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Barn Swallow	9	A	B	C	3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>

Red-rumped Swallow	5		A	B		2	<i>Cecrepis daurica</i>
Malabar Lark	3				C	1	<i>Galerida malabarica</i>
Grey-headed Bulbul	2	1h	A		C	1	<i>Pycnonotus priocephalus</i>
Flame-throated Bulbul	2				C	1	<i>Pycnonotus (melanicterus) gularis</i>
Red-whiskered Bulbul	9		A		C	3	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	3		A	B	C	2	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
White-browed Bulbul	4		A			2	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
Yellow-browed Bulbul	3				C	2	<i>Acritillas indica</i>
Black Bulbul	2				C	1	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
Grey-breasted Prinia	2		A		C	1	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
Ashy Prinia	3		A		C	1	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
Plain Prinia	1		A			1	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
Common Tailorbird	3	1h	A		C	1	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
Thick-billed Warbler	1		A			1	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>
Clamorous Reed Warbler	2		A			1	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>
Paddyfield Warbler	1		A			1	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>
Blyth's Reed Warbler	9	2h	A	B	C	1	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
Greenish Warbler	3		A	B		1	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
Bright Green Warbler	1				C	1	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>
Western Crowned Warbler	1				C	1	<i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>
Puff-throated Babbler	3		A		C	1	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>
Dark-fronted Babbler	3				C	1	<i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i>
Tawny-bellied Babbler	2		A	B		1	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
Indian Scimitar Babbler	-	2h		B	C	1	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>
Jungle Babbler	3		A		C	2	<i>Turdoides striata</i>
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	1	1h	A			1	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	2				C	1	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
Jungle Myna	8		A	B	C	3	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
Grey-headed Starling	3		A			3	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>
White-headed Starling	1				C	3	<i>Sturnia erythropygius</i>
Brahminy Starling	1		A			1	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>
Rosy Starling	6		A			3	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
Malabar Whistling Thrush	3	1h			C	1	<i>Myophonus horsfieldii</i>
Orange-headed Thrush	4				C	2	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>
Indian Blackbird	2				C	1	<i>Turdus (merula) simillimus</i>
Oriental Magpie Robin	9	1h	A	B	C	2	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
White-rumped Shama	1				C	1	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
Indian Blue Robin	1				C	1	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>
Indian Robin	4		A	B	C	1	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>
Desert Wheatear	1		A			1	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>
Siberian Stonechat	4		A			1	<i>Saxicola maura</i>
Pied Bushchat	4		A			2	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Asian Brown Flycatcher	2			B	C	1	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
Brown-breasted Flycatcher	2				C	2	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1				C	1	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	3				C	1	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
Asian Fairy-bluebird	1				C	1	<i>Irena puella</i>
Jerdon's Leafbird	4		A		C	2	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>
Gold-fronted Leafbird	3		A	B		1	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	3		A		C	1	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	2		A			1	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
Nilgiri Flowerpecker	3		A		C	1	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>
Purple-rumped Sunbird	8		A	B	C	1	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>
Crimson-backed Sunbird	6		A	B	C	1	<i>Leptocoma minima</i>
Purple Sunbird	7		A		C	1	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
Loten's Sunbird	1		A			1	<i>Cinnyris lotenia</i>
Vigor's Sunbird	2		A	B		1	<i>Aethopyga (siparaja) vigorsii</i>
Little Spiderhunter	1				C	1	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>
House Sparrow	6		A	B		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	6		A		C	3	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>
Baya Weaver	1		A			2	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
White-rumped Munia	7		A	B	C	2	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	4		A		C	2	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>

Black-throated Munia	2		C	2	<i>Lonchura kelaarti</i>
Yellow Wagtail	2	A	C	4	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Citrine Wagtail	1		C	1	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Grey Wagtail	5	A	C	1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White-browed Wagtail	3	A		1	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>
Forest Wagtail	1		C	1	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
Richard's Pipit	1	A		1	<i>Anthus richardi</i>
Paddyfield Pipit	5	A		1	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
Tawny Pipit	1	A		1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Tree Pipit	1	A		1	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Black-headed Bunting	1		C	1	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>
Red-headed Bunting	1		C	1	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>

#### MAMMALS

Common Langur  
Bonnet Macaque  
Short-nosed Fruit-bat  
Indian Flying Fox  
Indian Giant Squirrel  
Three-striped Palm Squirrel  
Spotted Deer (Chital)  
Common Mongoose

*Presbytis entellus*  
*Macaca radiata*  
*Cynopterus sphinx*  
*Pteropus giganteus*  
*Ratufa indica*  
*Funambulus palmarum*  
*Axis axis*  
*Herpestes edwardsii*

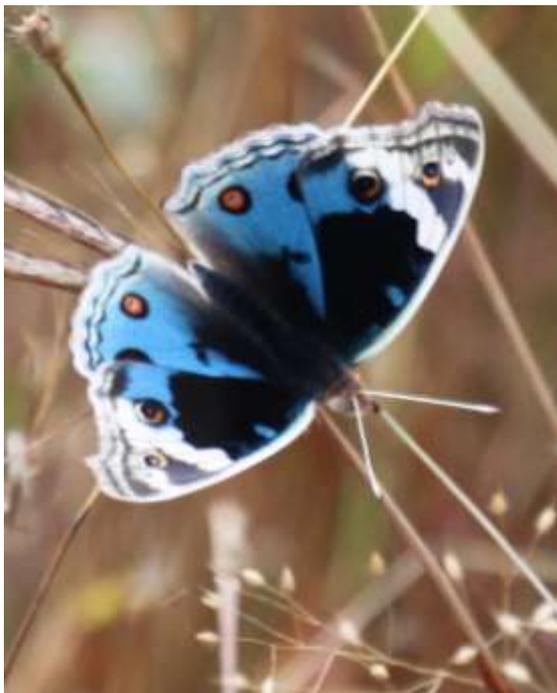
#### REPTILES

Marsh Mugger

*Crocodylus palustris*

This list represents those species as seen by party members of this tour.

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**Blue Pansy**



**Blue Oakleaf**



**Brahminy Kite**



**Chestnut-headed Bee-eater**



**Desert Wheatear**



**Greater Crested Tern**



**White-throated Kingfisher**



**Purple Sunbird**



**Crimson-backed Sunbird**



**Lesser Adjutant**



**White-browed Wagtail**



**Indian Flying Foxes**



**White-bellied Sea Eagle**



**Common Langur**



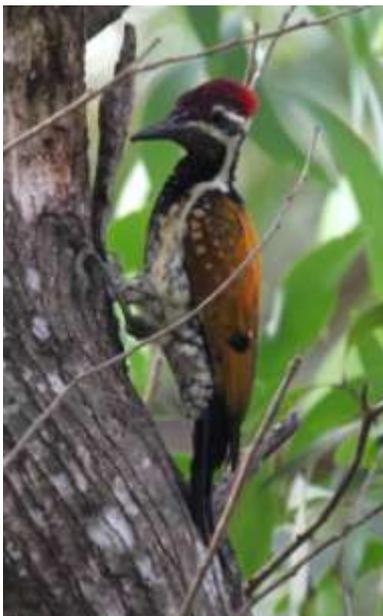
**Red Whiskered Bulbul**



**Yellow-wattled Lapwing**



**Sri Lanka Frogmouth**



**Lesser Goldenback**



**Indian Giant Squirrel**

**Front cover: Indian Roller**

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