

**ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO INDIA**  
*Bharatpur, Kanha and Pench National Parks*

**30 January – 11 February 2010**



**Leader: Roger Lawrence**

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**A Personal Diary**

**Saturday 30 January.**

Despite the huge size of the Heathrow Terminal Five building I managed to meet up with all the members of our party. Compared with the other terminals Five's calm, airy space and lack of congestion is a pleasure. The severe winter in the UK continues and the wings of our Boeing 747-400 had to be de-iced before we could take off, delaying us for 30 minutes before our eight-hour flight to Delhi.

**Sunday 31 January.**

We touched down at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi at 10.40, just 15 minutes behind schedule, but huge queues in the Immigration Hall meant delays in finding our baggage that had been removed from the carousel. We finally located Harish Sharma who was to be our guide for the whole tour and we were soon aboard our bus and off into the mid-day Delhi traffic heading north to our hotel.

Once checked-in we ate lunch and then set off on a tour of Old Delhi, first visiting the Jama Masjid, a beautiful mosque built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Shah Jehan, the fifth Moghul emperor and builder of the Taj Mahal. Having left our shoes at the gate we wandered round this vast red sandstone and white marble building thronging with many hundreds of visitors. From here we had wonderful views of the Red Fort, another vast but decaying red sandstone edifice spoiled only by the huge smoke-belching chimney of a nearby coal-fired power station.

When we left the mosque Asha, our guide for the cultural part of our stay in Delhi, took us through the crowded Muslim quarter with its many small shops, most it seemed, selling car accessories, tyres etc., and halal meat while Black Kites wheeled overhead looking for an easy meal. Although only 16% of India's population is Muslim, there are still more Muslims here than in Pakistan! We drove past a huge pavement market where, it seemed, most of Delhi's 17 million people were out looking for a bargain. We moved on to the cremation ghat of Mahatma Gandhi. This simple monument takes the form of a huge lantern with a perpetually burning flame – a place of homage to 'the Father of the Nation'. His body was burned here after his assassination by a fellow Hindu in 1947 just after independence. In contrast to everything else we had experienced so far today, this was a place of tranquillity. House Crows, Asian Pied Starlings, Yellow Wagtails (of the sub-species *Motacilla flava beema* with a prominent white supercilium), Common Mynas and, as we left, a male Purple Sunbird in eclipse plumage, were the first birds we had seen. We said goodbye to Asha at the gate and drove back to our hotel for dinner and much needed sleep after what had been a very long day.

**Monday 01 February**

We all appeared for breakfast at 06.30 and left the hotel a little after 07.00. The drive to our first birding destination of the tour was south to Okhla Bird Sanctuary, close to a barrage across the Yamuna River. This took only fifty minutes as the traffic was relatively light at this hour and we were birding just before 08.00. It was misty but as the sun rose and the temperature began to climb, visibility improved.

Birds were numerous and confiding. Waterbirds, mostly winter visitors from Tibet, Siberia and northern Europe were the most numerous, but there were plenty of passerines in the bushes lining the walkway and the road along the Uttar Pradesh side of the river. A Greenish Warbler, many Lesser Whitethroats, Siberian Chiffchaffs, Indian Silverbills and at least three Bluethroats all gave good views. A White-throated Kingfisher caught quite a large fish that it beat repeatedly on a branch before attempting to swallow it. A Long-tailed Shrike and several Spotted Owlets were diversions as we scanned through the ducks appearing on the river out of the mist. Most were Northern Shovelers but there were many other species too, the most memorable being a pair of Indian Spot-billed Ducks very close inshore. Purple Swamphens, a Bronze-

winged Jacana, Common Moorhens and Eurasian Coots were all added to our rapidly growing list. Black Kites were constantly overhead with an occasional Western Marsh Harrier and a single Shikra.

Distantly at first we saw Painted Storks, a single Asian Openbill, a couple of Greater Flamingos and even some mammals in the murky shape of two Nilgai shrouded in the mist. The Nilgai is Asia's largest antelope and is the size of a small cow. Ashy Prinias flitted busily in the undergrowth, tails wagging from side to side and we also saw Plain, Graceful and a very close Yellow-bellied Prinia in the tall reeds at the end of our walk. Here too a very obliging Striated Babbler sat atop a high reed stem. Not all groups manage to find this Okhla speciality.

After four very happy and productive hours here we left Okhla at mid-day to drive to a nice restaurant with excellent food. Our timing was perfect as the lunchtime crowds began to arrive and soon all the tables were full, always a good measure of a restaurant's quality.

Asha joined us here and after an excellent lunch she accompanied us on a tour of New Delhi. We visited India Gate, a huge war memorial honouring fallen Indian and Allied troops from the First World War and the Parliament Building designed by Sir Edward Lutyens. We went on to visit Humayun's Tomb, the resting place of the second Moghul emperor and a World Heritage Site. Unfortunately, our arrival coincided with the arrival of several hundred excited schoolgirls in their smart uniforms. Next we were taken to a Kashmiri craft outlet where we were given tea and listened to a fascinating talk on carpet weaving. We were shown dozens of beautiful silk and wool carpets, all beyond our modest means, although Margaret did purchase a red pashmina.

When we arrived back at the hotel at 17.15 we found that our room keys had been taken away to be polished. India really is an amazing country!

We had to pack our bags to give to our driver Vipin who was to drive them in the bus to Agra overnight, so that we would be free of encumbrance when we caught the train to Agra in the morning.

We ate in the less formal hotel restaurant before turning in early in preparation for an early start and a long day tomorrow. We had seen about 70 species and all agreed it was a thoroughly good day.

## **Tuesday 02 February**

We left the hotel at 05.00 to drive to New Delhi Railway Station to catch the Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express at 06.15. With no fog and light traffic we reached the station in good time. The train left punctually and the two-hour journey in a comfortable chair car was very pleasant. We were given first a bottle of water, then tea or coffee and a biscuit followed by an Indian breakfast as we sped towards Agra. It was misty, but the agricultural countryside, mainly wheat and mustard fields with innumerable birds, meant there was always something to look at. Harish spotted eight Sarus Cranes, but only I managed to see them as the ladies were on the wrong side of the compartment.

We pulled into Agra just behind schedule, but were quickly transferred to our minibus. Vipin who had driven through the night with our luggage, took us straight to the Taj Mahal. Luckily it was not too crowded and we were able to appreciate the sublime beauty of this building built to house the tomb of Shah Jehan's favourite wife Mumtaz.

We were also able to see some interesting birds. Once through the first gate we found a Dusky Eagle Owl sitting on its nest while Bank Mynas fed on corn thrown down for them below. Little Swifts flew overhead and an Egyptian Vulture perched on the Taj itself. From the back of the Taj overlooking the Yamuna River we added River Lapwing, Eurasian Spoonbill and Ruddy Shelduck also Ruff, Common Redshank, Common Greenshank and several dozen Painted Storks.

Our next destination was Bharatpur. We drove to our wonderful hotel, The Bagh, set in extensive grounds and after a sumptuous lunch met up with Harish again for our first visit to the renowned Keoladeo Ghana National Park, usually just known as Bharatpur. Vehicles are not allowed in the park, so three cycle rickshaws took us in. Almost our first bird was a colourful Orange-headed Thrush on the ground amongst dry leaves. An Indian Scops Owl roosting in a bush by the causeway was just visible through the tangle of

vegetation. A Crested Serpent Eagle sat in a bush waiting for an unsuspecting snake, overhead a Greater Spotted Eagle soared.

Sadly, the poor monsoon of 2009 meant there was little water in the park so the usual huge colonies of storks, egrets, herons and cormorants were not present. Some water was being pumped in and this attracted many Yellow Wagtails, a few Citrine Wagtails, Wood Sandpipers, White-tailed and Red-wattled Lapwings and Common Snipe. A remarkably confiding White-breasted Waterhen wandered past us as we stood on the causeway usually completely surrounded by water but now parched grassland. Red-collared Doves sat with Eurasian Collared Doves in an acacia bush. A Shikra had caught a Common Moorhen and was eating it when a Greater Coucal tried to chase it away. This attempt was unsuccessful and the raptor's meal continued.

A White-eyed Buzzard sat on a tree stump and a Steppe Eagle sat on another behind it. Mammals seen included Sambar, Chital and Nilgai. As the light began to fade we were pedalled back to our minibus accompanied by the howling of jackals.

Harish's home is in a village near the park so we bade him farewell for the day before returning to the Bagh for log call in the bar and another excellent meal before retiring to our elegant rooms.

### **Wednesday 03 February**

Breakfast this morning was at 07.00 and we were ready to leave by 07.30. However Eileen was feeling a little unwell and Margaret had opted for an easy morning, so just Barbara and I went birding this morning. After only a ten minute drive we arrived at the park gates to find Harish waiting for us.

Most of this morning's birding was done on foot. We started in the area known as The Nursery where several Grey Francolins calling as they ran about and a small flock of Yellow-eyed Babblers were our first species. There were birds everywhere – Brown-headed and Coppersmith Barbets, Plain Prinias, Brahminy Starlings, Yellow-footed Green Pigeons, well camouflaged against the leaves and many more but the highlight here was undoubtedly a superbly camouflaged roosting Large-tailed Nightjar. In a clearing an Oriental Honey-buzzard was searching for bees' nests.

We took the cycle rickshaw along the main path, pausing to admire a fine roosting Indian Scops Owl. Where ground water was being pumped to form some surface water Eurasian Spoonbills fed close to the causeway and there were plenty of Wood Sandpipers, a few Common Snipe and other wetland species. Our first Intermediate Egret was close to the track. Raptors included a Booted Eagle, a fine Eastern Imperial Eagle, a Steppe Eagle, the same Crested Serpent Eagle from yesterday and Greater Spotted Eagle. Two Indian Grey Mongooses stood on their hind legs to check out the lie of the land.

Our main target species, Indian Courser, was in the savanna-type grassland that would normally be under water after a good monsoon. It did not take Harish long to spot one very distantly in the shorter grass area. In fact we eventually saw five together. We remained still and their curiosity got the better of them and these normally shy birds eventually ran quite close to us. An Oriental Skylark was in song flight and others were on the ground. A flock of twenty or so Greater Short-toed Larks flew about. By the time Barbara and I left to drive back to The Bagh we had added 20 new species to our trip list. It had been an excellent morning's birding despite the lack of water in the park.

Eileen felt better after her relaxing morning so we all returned to the park after lunch. We added several new waders at one of the few areas still holding water – Pied Avocet, Temminck's Stint, Common Sandpiper and there were also Green Sandpiper and several White-tailed Lapwings. A Peregrine Falcon and a Short-toed Eagle were new raptors and we also added Dusky Warbler, Indian Reed Warbler and Red-throated Flycatcher, now split from Red-breasted. The icing on the cake was a pair of huge Sarus Cranes, distant but since they stand five feet tall, not difficult to see in the short grass.

We were back at The Bagh with time to freshen up before meeting in the bar to call the log and going to the restaurant for dinner. Our vows not to eat too much quickly faded as more and more delicious dishes were brought to our table.

### **Thursday 04 February**

We were sad to leave The Bagh after breakfast as it had been a wonderful place to stay. We drove into the town of Bharatpur first stopping at a tank right by the road full of rubbish and filth, but also full of birds. We added Indian Shag, Striated Heron and Little Egret. A little beyond was a dirty canal, really an open sewer, but packed with the most confiding waders. With a couple of Marsh Sandpipers, no fewer than 14 Painted Snipe were all in full view, a mixture of colourful females and less colourful males. A Brown Rock Chat was on top of an adjacent building, another first for the tour.

We then had a long drive to the Domestic Terminal at Delhi Airport, but we broke the journey three times for some birding at roadside wetlands. We added Spotted Redshank and Common Babbler at one, where Common Teal glowed in the sunlight.

From the moving vehicle we saw a tremendous variety of birdlife, several Sarus Cranes, at least half a dozen Black-winged Kites and even a fine male Black Redstart. We added Little Grebe to our count. En route we passed several groups of Rajasthanis from a nomadic caste herding their camels, sheep and goats along the road and dressed in colourful clothing, the men wearing huge turbans.

As we neared Delhi the traffic was dreadful, but we finally arrived at the airport and checked in without a hitch. Our flight to Raipur was slightly delayed by fog, but once we touched down the procedures worked like clockwork and two comfortable 4x4 Toyotas whisked us to our hotel only 15 minutes away. Our rooms were spacious and after we had called the log we had dinner and then turned in for an early night with the prospect of a long drive tomorrow. Our tally had now reached 150 with eight new birds today, quite surprising as we had spent all day travelling.

### **Friday 05 February**

We had a buffet breakfast at 06.30 and departed from the Hotel Babylon for a five and a half hour journey in our two Toyota Innovas. The journey started in thick fog that persisted for well over an hour, but once the sun burnt it off it was a glorious day. Again we saw plenty of birds en route. Indian Rollers were everywhere, perched on overhead wires along the entire route and Black Drongos were almost as abundant. Pied Bushchats, several Black-winged Kites and much else meant there was always something to look at. We also added Pied Kingfisher and Barn Swallow along with Great and Indian Yellow Tits and White-bellied Drongo. The villages here were much cleaner and the agriculture more prosperous. Sprinklers replaced the normal ditch irrigation in many fields and sugar cane was an important cash crop. A sugar refinery was rather incongruous with a huge chimney belching black smoke.

At 12.30 we arrived at The Bagh, our hotel inside the buffer zone of Kanha National Park. It is quite remote and eight or so kilometres from the Mukki Gate entrance to this vast reserve. We ate at one o'clock before the arrival of about 80 schoolchildren who are staying here tonight. In the extensive grounds we added Gold-fronted Leafbird, Plum-headed Parakeet and Hair-crested Drongo while overhead Alpine Swifts and Red-rumped Swallows were also new.

At 14.30 we met up with Harish again and climbed aboard our Gypsy, a jeep-type vehicle used in all reserves for game drives. Mammals were our main target. We saw several Swamp Deer, a scarce and threatened species but doing quite well here although there are still fewer than 50 of them. Chital, a Barking Deer and Sambar were also seen, but no big cats; although we did hear a Tiger growling that had been seen this morning with cubs.

We added more birds to our list. The first was an Indian Black Ibis, followed by Lesser Whistling Duck, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo and a Zitting Cisticola that dived into the long grass then obligingly sidled up a grass stem next to a fine male Siberian Stonechat. An Indian Scops Owl peered at us from a hole in a tree and we all eventually managed good views of a Jungle Owlet. By the time we got back to The Bagh as darkness fell we had added 19 new species for the day, not bad since we had spent most of it travelling.

Before dinner we were treated to dancing by the local Boringa tribespeople round a huge log fire. There was much drumming, singing and shaking of rattles. The schoolchildren joined in at the end and had a fine old time.

## **Saturday 06 February**

After tea or coffee and biscuits we set off for the National Park to be in time for the 06.00 opening. We were in the first Gypsy to arrive at the Mukki Gate but it took another half hour for all the paperwork to be completed and we could go in. It was cold in the back of the Gypsy despite the blankets provided. We drove all the trails where Tigers had been seen in the last few days, but we were out of luck. The only traces we saw were pugmarks in the dusty trail. We just missed seeing a pair of Leopards too. A breakfast stop at about 9 o'clock was very welcome. Our driver had brought a packed meal with us consisting of boiled eggs, bajhees, bread and butter, bananas and tea or coffee, all kept quite hot in an insulated bag. This was laid out on a tablecloth also brought with us, all very civilised and most welcome.

We were back by 11.30 for some relaxation before lunch. In the local village we saw an interesting example of intermediate technology. Each house had a concrete-lined pit outside with a pipe leading into the hut. In the tank animal dung was decaying to produce bio-gas used for cooking and a more efficient alternative to the 'dung pancakes' burned on an open fire for heat in much of the sub-continent.

On our arrival we were greeted with hot facecloths and cold drinks as it was by now very warm and we all felt over dressed in our fleeces, hats and gloves. Butterflies in the hotel grounds were numerous and colourful - Plain Tiger, The Baronet and Common Grass Yellow being identified. We also saw Thick-billed Flowerpecker and Purple Sunbird.

After another delicious meal we set out in the Gypsy to Mukki Gate for the afternoon game drive. We failed to see a Tiger but birding was good. We came upon a feeding flock of Oriental White-eyes, Velvet-fronted Nuthatches and Small and Scarlet Minivets. Although we did not see it well, Barbara called a treecreeper, really seen only in silhouette. The short tail, not pressed against the tree trunk, and speckled appearance suggested that it was almost certainly a Spotted Creeper, a very good bird to see. We also added Grey Bushchat and Common Kestrel. We had several Jungle Owlets and many Racket-tailed Drongos and brief views of White-naped and Black-rumped Flamebacks. Our last new bird of a dozen for today was a Woolly-necked Stork seen as we headed for the gate at sunset. We also came upon several hundred butterflies feeding around a single tree in sal forest. The vast majority were Common Indian Crow, but there were Plain and Striped Tigers too, an amazing sight. At the shop at the gate we indulged in some retail therapy. I bought a useful butterfly pocket guide and the ladies all bought hats of one sort or another. Dinner tonight was a much quieter affair as the children had returned to Mumbai.

## **Sunday 07 February**

Would we be in luck today? Again we left The Bagh at 05.30 after tea and biscuits and were at the gate by 06.00, third in line this time. A Silk Cotton Tree was the focus of much activity by Greater Racket-tailed and Hair-crested Drongos as the sky glowed pink with the approaching dawn.

We drove the many Tiger trails again, passing several other Gypsies, but no news of Tiger and no deer alarm calls. We had several birding stops when we came across flocks, Common Iora, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Tickell's Leaf Warbler were added and a stunning male Black-hooded Oriole. We came across a group of seven Gaur, the largest bovine in the world, browsing by the track. We also saw a pack of Wild Boar on the track as well as numerous Sambar, Chital and Swamp Deer, our first Northern Palm Squirrels for this location and, of course, Common Langurs. We were lucky enough to have good views of a Jungle Cat hunting in the long grass, quite close to the stream.

We made a stop with the intention of having breakfast, but this was not to be. A female Tiger had been located and the "Tiger show" had started, so we set off to join the throng. Five Elephants were transporting people, two at a time, into the forest where the tigress and two cubs were resting deep inside a bamboo thicket. Ladders were placed against the Elephants' sides to enable us to climb up and our small group was split between three Elephants. The Tigress, a magnificent animal, was lying down resting and we got very close. She seemed to take no notice at all of the activity in front of her. The cubs were more difficult to see, but the mahout of the Elephant I was on got it to clear some of the bamboo away to give better views. A Tiger at last!

We returned to the breakfast stop to eat our picnic and then drove back to The Bagh to relax a while in the

hot sun before lunch.

At 14.45 we set off again, this time to go to higher ground to a plateau called Bamhidadur at 870 metres above sea level and 275 metres above the plain making up much of the Kanha reserve. This was very different territory to the part of the reserve we had seen before, part of the Maikal Range of the Satpuras. The soil here was red and stony, weathered basalt of the Deccan Plateau, not the white, dusty soil of the lowland. The vegetation was very different too – grassland with scrubby bushes on the plateau's top. Here we saw our second Jungle Cat, watching us carefully and giving excellent views.

Three species of shrike, Brown, Long-tailed and Southern Grey were perched on the top of any convenient stick, as were Siberian Stonechats. Yellow-eyed Babblers, Grey-breasted Prinias and lots of Yellow-throated Sparrows flew about as the sun began to set and a fiery glow suffused the western sky. Then a real surprise – one, then three Short-eared Owls quartered the plateau, often coming quite close to give wonderful views. They are birds rarely seen on our tours to this part of central India.

As the sun sank below the horizon we set off for home, leaving the core area by a different gate. A Large-tailed Nightjar flew overhead, followed by three Savanna Nightjars and our third Jungle Cat of the day crossed the road and was seen clearly in the Gypsy's headlights.

Dinner tonight was outside despite the cool temperature, but the terrace had a roaring wood fire in a brick hearth, a welcome change from the normal restaurant. During dinner, one of our number, who shall remain nameless, managed to drop her bird checklist down a gap between the boards of the decking. Amidst great mirth six of the hotel's staff finally prised up a board in order to retrieve it

### **Monday 08 February**

Breakfast was at 07.00 followed by a walk in the garden of The Bagh that we had not seen for any length of time in daylight until now. A small reservoir in the very extensive grounds held Grey Wagtail and a Painted Francolin flew up out of the rough grass. The hotel garden is deliberately left fairly wild to attract wildlife. Two Black-winged Kites sat in a tree together and a Lesser Whitethroat crept about in a bush.

Our departure from this lovely place was at 08.20 for the four and a half hour drive to our next and final destination - Pench National Park. We had a couple of stops en route, one to look at several trees full of Indian Flying Foxes, huge fruit eating bats the size of a buzzard and the other at a reservoir where we had our best views of Asian Openbill and a distant view of an Osprey perched on a tree stump in the water. We saw 'kettles' of Indian Vultures en route, but we were unable to stop.

We arrived at Pench Jungle Camp at 13.00 to be greeted by a waiter with hot towels and cold drinks. Our tents were tents only in name. Although covered by a canvas roof they were the height of camping luxury, huge and equipped with electricity, comfortable beds, a bathroom, air-conditioning and even a refrigerator. After lunch we set off for our first game drive. Our vehicle was a purpose built Gypsy, much larger than the standard. It could comfortably sit eight passengers so we had plenty of room. The forest here is dry, deciduous forest and is much more open than the sal forest in Kanha, so birds are easier to see properly. We soon caught up with Black-naped Monarch which we had only fleeting glimpses of in Kanha. We had our best views too of Black-rumped Flameback and then we found two new woodpeckers, the tiny Indian Pygmy Woodpecker and Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker. Five Yellow-wattled Lapwings were also new birds for the trip and Yellow-throated Sparrows close to our vehicle actually showed the yellow spot, often difficult to see. A distant view of Indian Vultures was an encouraging sign since their drastic and sudden decline a few years ago caused by the veterinary drug Diclofenac. White-eyed Buzzards are common raptors in the park and we had really excellent views of one at close range.

There were many more birds but mammals were equally numerous, far more Chital here than in Kanha and we also saw Golden Jackal, a huge Wild Boar, Sambar, Nilgai and plenty of Common Langurs and Rhesus Macaques. Yet again, despite spending much of the day in transit, we added several new species to our list that has now passed the two hundred mark. We met at seven o'clock to sit around a huge log fire out in the open and have a welcome drink before going in for another tasty meal. We all opted for an early night in our comfortable tents in preparation for more good sightings tomorrow.

## **Tuesday 09 February**

We had another early start for the short drive to the main gate of Pench. At a flooded section of woodland with dead tree stumps forming perfect perches we added a bag of new species – Black Stork, Common and Stork-billed Kingfishers, Cotton Teal and Lesser Adjutant, all in the space of a few minutes. There was a drake Garganey with a group of Common Teal at an open wetland where a Malabar Pied Hornbill and two Indian Grey Hornbills were in full view perched high in the surrounding trees along with a Crested Serpent Eagle. Yellow, Citrine and White Wagtails, with one Grey Wagtail, were all in the wet grass close to the track. At another spot an ID test was provided by a group of pipits very close to us in the long grass, but eventually they showed well enough for us to see they were Rosy Pipits.

When we pulled into the breakfast area we learned that a “Tiger show “ was taking place about twenty minutes drive away, so food had to wait as we sped off to join the party. This time all four of us mounted the same Elephant and we swayed and bumped our way slowly into the forest. This time we had really excellent views of two Tigers resting, the male with the remains of a Wild Boar. There were also two cubs, although we could not see them so well. We spent some time watching the pair and taking advantage of the photo opportunities on offer, before heading back for breakfast. A young Elephant was also making its way in the same direction to where park staff were preparing huge chapatis, treats for the Elephants when they returned from the show, The youngster did not want to wait for its elders and had to be chased off several times.

Margaret decided to have a quiet afternoon at Jungle camp after lunch while the rest of us set off for the second game drive of the day. We were not expecting more new birds, so were pleasantly surprised when we added half a dozen more species. There was an Asian Koel as we entered the park gate, a scarce bird here at this time of year. We drove towards the Pench River that forms the boundary of the National Park, stopping for alarm calls, but we had had our share of big cats for the day. We were able to get out of the Gypsy and set up the telescopes when we sighted a distant Grey-headed Fish Eagle, then stopped at a small lake where we were treated to the sight of about a dozen Jungle Bush Quail running across the track. A Little Ringed Plover and a Richard’s Pipit were the new species here plus a couple of Ospreys, not new but our first in Pench, as was Great Egret.

We returned after another memorable day in a superb and tranquil environment, our last full day in Pench and of the holiday. It was almost dark when we arrived back at Jungle Camp. Before dinner we watched a BBC film shot here over a three-year period following the fortunes of four Tiger cubs. The prospect of a long day tomorrow sent us early to our beds but with much to reflect on.

## **Wednesday 10 February**

As a Tiger census began today in the park tourists were not admitted until 08.30, so we had a more leisurely breakfast followed by a short walk before our Gypsy picked us up for our final game drive. An overhead wire full of Yellow-throated Sparrows was probably the highlight of our stroll but all the expected birds were seen too – including Green Bee-eaters, Indian Rollers and Red-wattled Lapwings.

The drive was a short one compared to our others. We made for the Pench River. We were to return to Jungle Camp at 11.30 to pack for our journey back to Delhi. Without doubt our best sighting was of one White-rumped and nine Indian Vultures sitting in two dead trees, a good thing to see after the Diclofenac disaster. White-billed Vultures in particular are rare birds in India now.

We set off in our two Toyota Innovas for Nagpur and the short flight to Delhi. Five minutes from the airport we had a most pleasant visit to a homestay owned by the transport manager for the company. We were treated to chocolate cake, fruit and tea or coffee, much better than having a long wait at the airport. At Indira Gandhi Airport Prem was waiting and so was Vipin with our familiar minibus. Our hotel was only 20 minutes drive from the airport. There we had the use of three rooms and had time for dinner and some relaxation. Harish and Vipin returned to pick us up just before midnight. It was a short drive to the International Terminal where I had to bid the group farewell before their flight back to Heathrow.

It had been a very good tour. We had seen good birds, despite the water shortage in Bharatpur, had excellent mammal sightings including Tigers in two reserves and had a happy and enjoyable two-week stay in a wonderful country.

**Thursday 11 February**

The BA flight landed slightly behind its scheduled arrival time and the tour participants made their way home on the final leg of their journeys.

**Acknowledgements**

My thanks to everyone who made this such a successful and enjoyable tour and especially to Harish whose sharp eyes, sound knowledge and patience ensured that everyone was able to enjoy both the wildlife and the whole Indian experience. Our drivers were excellent and the staff at all the hotels were attentive and most helpful.

Last, but certainly not least, I wish to thank you, the Ornitholidays' clients, for your punctuality, interest and very good humour. We certainly had some amusing experiences and hopefully have happy memories of a most enjoyable tour. My appreciation to Barbara for allowing me to use her pictures in this report.

I sincerely hope to see you all again on another Ornitholidays' tour in the near future.

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March 2010

## Itinerary and Weather

- 30 January** Fly London (Heathrow)
- 31 January** Arrive Dehi Indira Gandhi Airport at 10.40. Met by Harish & transfer to hotel.  
After lunch visit Jama Masjid Mosque & Raj Ghat.  
Warm, bright & sunny. 18°C.
- 01 February** Okhla Bird Park after breakfast. Lunch in Delhi restaurant  
pm sightseeing in Delhi.  
Early mist then warm & sunny. 20°C.
- 02 February** By train to Agra. Taj Mahal then Bharatpur for lunch.  
pm Keoladeo Ghana National Park.  
Misty to start then very warm & sunny. 22°C.
- 03 February** am Keoladeo Ghana N P  
pm Lunch in hotel then the N P again until dusk.  
Warm & sunny. 20°C.
- 04 February** Birding sites around Bharatpur then to Delhi's Domestic Terminal for afternoon  
flight to Raipur. Overnight in a hotel in Raipur.  
Hot & sunny but it had rained in Raipur. 22°C.
- 05 February** Drive to Kanha N P arriving for lunch.  
pm first game drive.  
Very foggy at first, then sunny & warm. 20°C.
- 06 February** am early game drive (packed breakfast)  
Lunch in hotel.  
pm second game drive of the day until dark.  
Hot & sunny. 26°C.
- 07 February** am game drive & Elephant ride to see Tiger.  
Lunch in hotel.  
pm Up to Bamhidadur Plateau until dusk.  
Hot & sunny. 26°C.
- 08 February** Birding in the hotel garden. Transfer to Pench N P.  
Lunch at camp at Pench.  
pm game drive until dusk  
Hot & sunny. 28°C.
- 09 February** Morning game drive and Elephant ride for Tigers.  
Lunch at camp then game drive pm.  
Hot & sunny. 25°C.
- 10 February** Short birding walk and shorter game drive. Lunch then drive to Nagpur and fly to Delhi  
and hotel.  
Depart hotel at midnight and fly from Indira Gandhi Airport.  
Hot & sunny. 25°C.
- 11 February** Arrive London.

## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days. Max 11.	D = Delhi and Okhla Bird Park B = Bharatpur & Keoladeo Ghana NP K = Kanha N P P = Pench N P T = Transfers between locations	maximum for any one day 1 = 1 - 4 2 = 5 - 9 3 = 10 - 100 4 = 100 - 1000 5 = > 1000

Species	No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance scale	Scientific name
Little Grebe	4	K P	1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Little Cormorant	5	D B T K P	3	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
Indian Shag (Cormorant)	1	B	1	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
Great Cormorant	5	D B P	4	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Oriental Darter	2	D P	1	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Little Egret	4	B T K P	3	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	5	B T P	3	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	3	B	1	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Grey Heron	4	D B	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	2	D	1	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret <sup>1</sup>	10	D B T K P	5	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
Indian Pond Heron	4	D B P	3	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
Striated Heron	1	B	1	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	D	1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Painted Stork	5	D B P	2	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
Asian Openbill	3	D T P	1	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
Black Stork	1	D P	1	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	2	K P	1	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Black-necked Stork	2	B	1	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>
Lesser Adjutant	1	P	1	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
Glossy Ibis	2	D	3	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Black-headed Ibis	2	B	1	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
Indian Black Ibis	3	K P	1	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	2	B	3	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Greater Flamingo	1	D	2	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
Lesser Whistling-Duck	1	K	3	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
Greylag Goose	1	D	3	<i>Anser anser</i>
Bar-headed Goose	3	D B	2	<i>Anser indicus</i>
Ruddy Shelduck	4	B P	1	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Comb Duck	2	B	1	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Cotton Teal (Pygmy-Goose)	1	P	1	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
Gadwall	3	D K	1	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	3	D K	2	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Indian Spot-billed Duck	3	D B P	1	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
Northern Shoveler	2	D	2	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Northern Pintail	4	D K	2	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Garganey	2	P	1	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Common Teal	7	D K P	2	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Common Pochard	1	D	2	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Tufted Duck	2	D B	2	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Oriental Honey-buzzard	2	B P	1	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Black-winged (shouldered) Kite	6	B T K	1	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Black Kite	5	D B T	2	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	1	P	1	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>
Egyptian Vulture	3	B	2	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
White-rumped Vulture	1	P	1	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>
Indian (Long-billed) Vulture	2	T P	2	<i>Gyps indicus</i>
Short-toed Eagle	1	B	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>

Crested Serpent Eagle	6		B		K	P	1	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	2		D	B			1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		
Shikra	4		D	B		K	P	1	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	
White-eyed Buzzard	5			B			P	2	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	
Black Eagle	1						P	1	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	
Greater Spotted Eagle	2			B				1	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	
Steppe Eagle	2			B				1	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	
Eastern Imperial Eagle	1			B				1	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	
Booted Eagle	1			B				1	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	
Crested (Changeable) Hawk Eagle <sup>1</sup>	2					K	P	1	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	
Osprey	2				T		P	1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
Common Kestrel	2					K		1	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	
Peregrine Falcon	1			B				1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
Painted Francolin	2					K		1	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>	
Grey Francolin	2			B				2	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	
Jungle Bush Quail	1						P	3	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>	
Red Jungle Fowl	3					K		1	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	
Indian Peafowl	8			B		K	P	3	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	
Sarus Crane	2			B				1	<i>Grus antigone</i>	
White-breasted Waterhen	5			B			P	1	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	
Purple Swampphen	2			D	B			2	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	
Common Moorhen	5			D	B			2	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
Eurasian Coot	2			D	B			2	<i>Fulica atra</i>	
Bronze-winged Jacana	1			D				1	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	
Greater Painted-snipe	1			B				3	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	
Little Ringed Plover	1						P	1	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	3						P	2	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	
River Lapwing	1			B				2	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	
Red-wattled Lapwing	11			D	B	T	K	P	2	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
White-tailed Lapwing	4			B				1	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	
Common Snipe	2			B				1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
Spotted Redshank	1					T		1	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	
Common Redshank	3			B				1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
Common Greenshank	3			B		K		1	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
Marsh Sandpiper	1			B				1	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	
Green Sandpiper	7			B	T	K	P	1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
Wood Sandpiper	5			B			P	1	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	
Common Sandpiper	2			B				1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
Temminck's Stint	2			B				1	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	
Ruff	5			D	B			1	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	
Black-winged Stilt	5			D	B			2	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
Pied Avocet	2			B				2	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	
Indian Stone-curlew <sup>1</sup>	3	1h				K	P	1	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>	
Indian Courser	1			B				2	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	
Great Black-headed (Pallas') Gull	1			D				1	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	
Brown-headed Gull	1			D				3	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>	
Black-headed Gull	1			D				4	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	
River Tern	2						P	1	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	
Rock (Feral) Pigeon	6			D	B			3	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Laughing Dove	8			B		K	P	2	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	
Spotted Dove	5					K	P	2	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	
Red Collared Dove	2			B				1	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	
Eurasian Collared Dove	7			D	B		P	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	5			B		K	P	2	<i>Treron Phoenicopterus</i>	
Alexandrine Parakeet	6	1h		D	B	K	P	2	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	7			D	B		P	3	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	
Plum-headed Parakeet	5	1h				K	P	1	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	
Greater Coucal	6			D	B	T	K	P	1	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
Asian Koel	1						P	1	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	
Indian (Collared) Scops Owl <sup>1</sup>	7			B		K	P	1	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	
Dusky Eagle Owl	1					T		1	<i>Bubo coromandus</i>	
Short-eared Owl	1					K		1	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	
Jungle Owlet	6					K	P	1	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	

Spotted Owlet	4	D	B		P	2	<i>Athene brama</i>	
Large-tailed Nightjar	2		B		K	1	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	
Savanna Nightjar	1				K	1	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	
Little (House) Swift	1		B			3	<i>Apus affinis</i>	
Alpine Swift	2				K	3	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	
Crested Treeswift	2				K	2	<i>Hemiprogne coronata</i>	
Common Kingfisher	1					P	1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Stork-billed Kingfisher	1					P	1	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
White-throated Kingfisher	10	D	B	T	K	P	2	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
(Lesser) Pied Kingfisher	2			T			1	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
(Little) Green Bee-eater	8	D			K	P	2	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
Indian Roller	10	D	B		K	P	3	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
Common Hoopoe	5	D	B		K	P	2	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Indian Grey Hornbill	4			T		P	1	<i>Ocyroceros birostris</i>
Malabar Pied Hornbill	2					P	1	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>
Brown-headed Barbet	4	3h		T	K	P	1	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>
Coppersmith Barbet	2	2h	D	T	K		1	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
Indian Pygmy Woodpecker <sup>2</sup>	1						1	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>
Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker	1						1	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>
Black-rumped Flameback	5	1h		B	K	P	1	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
White-naped Flameback	2				K		1	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	1			B			3	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Oriental Skylark	2			B		P	1	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
Grey-throated Sand (Plain) Martin <sup>1</sup>	5	D		T		P	2	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>
Barn Swallow	1			T	K		2	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	3			B	T		2	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	5				K	P	2	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
White Wagtail	5	D	B		K	P	3	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
White-browed Wagtail	4		B	T		P	1	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>
Citrine Wagtail	3		B	T		P	1	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Yellow Wagtail	5	D	B	T		P	2	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Grey Wagtail	4				K	P	1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Rosy Pipit	1					P	1	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>
Richard's Pipit	1					P	1	<i>Anthus richardi</i>
Paddyfield Pipit	4		B			P	1	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
Large Cuckooshrike	2				K	P	1	<i>Coracina macei</i>
Small Minivet	6		B		K	P	2	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
Scarlet Minivet	2				K		1	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>
Common Woodshrike	2		B			P	1	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
Black-naped Monarch	1					P	1	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
White-browed Fantail	1					P	1	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
White-eared Bulbul	2		B				1	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	8	D	B		K	P	3	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Common Iora	2				K	P	1	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
Gold-fronted Leafbird	4				K		1	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
Brown Shrike	3		B		K		1	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
Bay-backed Shrike	3		B			P	1	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>
Long-tailed Shrike	7	D	B		K	P	2	<i>Lanius schach</i>
Southern Grey Shrike	2		B		K		1	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Orange-headed Thrush	1		B				1	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>
Red-breasted Flycatcher <sup>3</sup>	7	D	B		K	P	1	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
Red-throated (Taiga) Flycatcher <sup>3</sup>	1		B				1	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	1				K		1	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	1		B				1	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
Bluethroat	2	D	B				1	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Oriental Magpie Robin	6		B		K	P	1	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
Indian (Black) Robin	1	D					1	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>
Black Redstart	5		B	T		P	1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Siberian Stonechat <sup>4</sup>	4		B		K		2	<i>Saxicola maura</i>
Pied Bushchat	4		B	T		P	1	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Grey Bushchat	1				K		1	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>
Brown Rock-Chat	2		B	T			1	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>
Yellow-eyed Babbler	3		B		K		1	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>

Common Babbler	1				T	1	<i>Turdoides caudata</i>	
Striated Babbler	1	D				1	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	
Large Grey Babbler	1		B			3	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	
Jungle Babbler	10	D	B		K P	3	<i>Turdoides striata</i>	
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	1				K	1	<i>Alcippe poiocephala</i>	
Zitting Cisticola	3				K	1	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	
Grey-breasted Prinia	3				K	2	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	
Yellow-bellied Prinia	1	D				2	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	
Ashy Prinia	2	D	B			1	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	
Plain Prinia	3	D	B		K	1	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	
Graceful Prinia	1	D				1	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	
Common Tailorbird	4	1h	D	B		K	1	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
Blyth's Reed-warbler	1			B			1	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
Indian Reed-warbler	1			B			1	<i>Acrocephalus( stentoreus) brunnescens</i>
Common (Siberian) Chiffchaff	2	D				P	2	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>
Dusky Warbler	1			B			1	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
Tickell's Leaf-warbler	1					K	1	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>
Hume's Warbler	1			B			1	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
Greenish Warbler	4	D	B		K		2	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
Lesser Whitethroat	7	D	B		K	P	2	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Great Tit	4				T	K P	1	<i>Parus major</i>
Indian Yellow Tit	1				T		1	<i>Parus aplonotus</i>
Spotted Creeper	1					K	1	<i>Salpornis spilonotus</i>
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	1					K	1	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	3					K P	1	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	1					K	1	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
Purple Sunbird	8	D	B		K	P	1	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>
Oriental White-eye	5					K P	2	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Indian Silverbill	2	D	B				2	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	1					K	1	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
House Sparrow	4	D	B	T			4	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Yellow-throated Sparrow <sup>5</sup>	6			B		K P	3	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>
Brahminy Starling	5			B		P	2	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>
Common Starling	1	D					3	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Asian Pied Starling	5	D	B				3	<i>Gracupica contra</i>
Common Myna	11	D	B	T	K	P	4	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Bank Myna	3			B			4	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>
Black-hooded Oriole	5					K P	1	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
Black Drongo	9	D	B	T	K	P	3	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
Ashy Drongo	1			B			1	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
White-bellied Drongo	3				T	K	1	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	4					K	2	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
Hair-crested Drongo	3						2	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
Rufous Treepie	9	D	B		K	P	1	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
House Crow	7	D	B	T	K		3	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Indian Jungle Crow	6			B		K P	2	<i>Corvus (macrorhynchos) culminatus</i>

#### TAXONOMIC NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> These species are all recent splits (or in many cases historical splits that were later lumped): see Rasmussen & Anderton *Birds of South Asia*, 2005. The splits are based on morphology and vocalization, not DNA.
- <sup>2</sup> Indian Pygmy Woodpecker is alternatively known as Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker.
- <sup>3</sup> Beware confusion of names here: both Kazmierczak and Grimmett and Inskipp lump *F. parva* and *F. albicilla* as one species and call it Red-throated Flycatcher.
- <sup>4</sup> Here we follow Urquhart, 2002, *Stonechats: A Guide to the Genus Saxicola*. (This also splits European Stonechat, *S. rubicola*, from African Stonechat, *S. torquata*.)
- <sup>5</sup> Yellow-throated Sparrow is alternatively known as Chestnut-shouldered Petronia.

**MAMMALS**

									<b>Scientific name</b>
Rhesus Macaque	8	D	B	T	K	P	3		<i>Macaca mulatta</i>
Hanuman (Common) Langur	6			T	K	P	2		<i>Presbytis entellus</i>
Golden Jackal	6		B		K	P	1		<i>Canis aureus</i>
Indian Grey Mongoose	1		B				1		<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>
Jungle Cat	1				K		1		<i>Felis chaus</i>
Tiger	2				K	P	1		<i>Panthera tigris</i>
Wild Boar	5		B		K	P	2		<i>Sus scrofa</i>
Chital (Spotted Deer)	8		B		K	P	4		<i>Cervus axis</i>
Sambar	8		B		K	P	2		<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	3				K		2		<i>Cervus duvauceli</i>
Barking Deer (Muntjac)	4				K		1		<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>
Nilgai	5		B		K	P	2		<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>
Gaur	2				K	P	2		<i>Bos gaurus</i>
Northern Palm Squirrel	7	D	B		K		3		<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>
Three-striped Palm Squirrel	1					P	1		<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
Indian Flying Fox	1				K		4		<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>

(Sequence of Mammals follows *Field Guide to the Mammals of the Indian Subcontinent* by Gurung and Singh (1996))

**BUTTERFLIES**

Common Rose									<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>
Common Mormon									<i>Papilio polytes</i>
Yellow Orange Tip									<i>Ixias pyrene</i>
Common Grass Yellow									<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
Striped Tiger									<i>Danaus genutla</i>
Plain Tiger									<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Common Indian Crow									<i>Euploea core</i>
Baronet									<i>Euthalia nais</i>
Great Eggfly									<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>
Chocolate Pansy									<i>Junonia iphita</i>
Large Oakblue									<i>Arphopala amantes</i>

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.



**Tiger**



**Gaur**



**White-breasted Waterhen**



**Large-tailed Nightjar**



**The group at the Taj Mahal**



**Spotted Owlet**



**Malabar Pied Hornbill**



**Yellow-wattled Lapwing**

**Cover photograph: Taj Mahal**

**All photographs: ©Barbara Palmer**