

INDIA – EAGLENEST 2008



Day 1 Sunday 4th May

After all the preparation, excitement and swotting up the big day finally arrived and after an uneventful 9 hour flight we arrived in a very warm and humid Kolkata at 5.30am and after all the formalities were completed we walked the short distance to the Domestic Terminal and checked in for the short flight to Guwahati in the North East Indian state of



Assam. So by 11am we had arrived and were met by my good friend and guide Peter Lobo, headed out into the manic streets of Guwahati and drove to the nearby rubbish dump where we saw around 500+ **Greater Adjutants** of various ages and states of plumage. We really didn't expect so many or to get so close to these range restricted beauties! Around the dump we also had a flight view of **Cinnamon Bittern** which was a real bonus for this tour and there were a few **Lesser Whistling-ducks**, a posing **Striated Grassbird** and a **Citrine Wagtail**. From here we headed towards our first night's stop at Nameri Eco-Camp. Along the way we saw plenty of common birds such as **Little, Eastern Cattle** and **Great Egrets**, a couple of soaring **Lesser**

Adjutants, Black Kite, Shikra, White-throated Kingfisher, Blue-throated Barbet, Asian Koel, Common and Jungle Mynas, Grey-headed Starling, Tree Sparrow, Black-hooded Oriole, Eastern Baya Weaver, and both **Eastern Jungle** and **House Crows**. By the time we crossed the Brahmaputra River it was dark and eventually after a long drive the welcoming lights of Nameri Eco-Camp greeted us through the trees.

Day 2 Monday 5th May

After a comfortable night's sleep hearing an **Asian Barred Owlet** and **Brown Hawk-owl**, we awoke refreshed and full of anticipation as to what the day would bring. Well, a pair of **Oriental Hobbies** was a



pretty good way to begin, along with **Red-breasted Parakeet, Blue-throated Barbet, Green Imperial-pigeon, Indian Cuckoo, Greater Flameback, Greater Yellowname** and a **Capped Langur**. Leaving here we drove towards Bhalukpong and the border crossing into Arunachal Pradesh seeing a flock of 13 **Wreathed Hornbills** flying and landing briefly in some large trees above the road. One of our vehicles broke down somewhere along the 24 kilometre drive to the border, but we made the best of it and found a **Dollarbird, Black-billed Roller, Large Cuckooshrike, Banded Bay Cuckoo**, and a **Striated Grassbird** amongst some other more common species.

Eventually we made it to Bhalukpong and after the formalities were taken care of, including a compulsory beer purchase during which we saw a **Coppersmith Barbet**, we headed up into the magnificent forested hills of the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary and began birding along the road. Despite the heat we saw a **Crested Goshawk** displaying and a pair of **Grey-throated Babblers** before driving up higher. At the next site we had a few **Pin-tailed Green-pigeons** and as we watched one of these perched above a clump of bamboo, also managed to see a singing and rather unexpected **Rufous-fronted Babbler**, as well as a few skulking

White-throated Bulbuls, a pair of **White-crested Laughingthrushes** and a little group of **Yellow-bellied Warblers**.

Peter's secret site for **Buff-breasted Babbler** only resulted in a brief yet distinctive call somewhere in the distance so we drove higher, hoping to find some cooler weather and more bird activity. At this higher elevation a **Mountain Hawk-eagle** and a flock of **Nepal House-martins** were seen. Moving on at around 6,000 feet we hit a purple patch, starting with a sluggish pair of **Beautiful Sibias**, a flyover **Black Eagle** and a couple of **Striated Bulbuls**. Whilst watching these a mixed flock appeared moved our way along the road and we had good looks at several **Black-faced Warblers**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, a pair of



beautiful **Black-eared Shrike-babblers**, **Whiskered Yuhinas**, **Grey-chinned Minivet**, and a close **Black-throated Sunbird**. Continuing down the road through great habitat produced another flock full of new species for us, beginning with a few **Rusty-fronted Barwings**, **Golden Babbler**, **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** and **Yellow-cheeked Tit**, with a couple of **Great Barbets** nearby. We carried on walking and managed to call in a pair of **Himalayan Cutia** that gave superb views from a roadside tree and we marvelled at their bright yellow feet! Nearby, a **Golden-throated Barbet** and **White-tailed Robin** were nice finds, and with a calling trio of **Barred Cuckoo-dove**, **Lesser Shortwing** and **Striated**

Laughingthrush ringing in our ears we headed to the vehicles. Yet we couldn't leave as on the bank above us a **White-spectacled Warbler**, another **Golden Babbler** and scope views of **Great Pied Hornbill** delayed us even further! Lunch was taken at a nice restaurant in Tenga before driving on through magnificent river valleys to Bombdila and on to Dirang. Along the way saw **Crested Kingfisher**, **Brown Dipper**, **Plumbeous Water-redstart** and **Yellow-throated Marten**. During the course of our afternoon drive we experienced an extremely heavy thunderstorm which restricted visibility greatly and resulted in a later than scheduled arrival at our hotel, but by the time we arrived it had eased.

Day 3 Tuesday 6th May

We awoke to a rather dull day with low cloud obscuring the tops of the surrounding mountains but it did clear quite quickly as we drove towards SeLa Pass this morning. Without doubt the **scenery** of today's

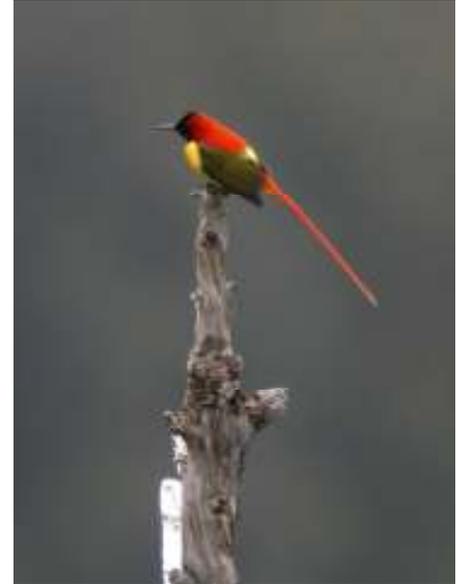


journey was the most dramatic of the entire tour with deep river valleys bisecting tall, jagged-topped

mountains and views to take the breath away. Anyway, we started just a stone's throw from the hotel with a male **Blue-capped Rock-thrush** perched on some telegraph wires over the road and inevitably we found other birds with pride of place going to our first **Crested Bunting** of the trip and also a male **Grey Bushchat** and **Short-billed Minivet**. Our route took us alongside the fast-flowing rocky Sangti River before eventually rising into the hills where our next stop produced decent views of a **Russet Bush-warbler** creeping across the scrub-covered hillside just above the road. Whilst watching this we found a



Bhutan Laughingthrush and a **Red-billed Leoithrix** tried to pass by unnoticed, as did a flyby male **Blanford's Rosefinch**. A little higher up amongst some dwarf conifers a cracking male **Golden Bush-rob**in was seen, along with a **Grey-sided Bush-warbler** and the first of several amazingly bright breeding-plumaged **Fire-tailed Sunbirds** to be seen today. I think by now everyone was in awe at the amount and volume of songbirds present amidst such a perfect mountainous scene, and what a better setting in which to obtain excellent views of a pair of



Spotted Laughingthrushes, although the low cloud returned briefly to hamper the views for a while. We also tried in vain for **Himalayan Monal** throughout the day at several spots along the increasingly bumpy and uneven road, but at one such location managed to call in an awesome **Fire-tailed Myzornis** that simply refused to go away and even circled us several times, often perching on the Rhododendrons close by and was an early contender for bird of the trip! Continuing ever upwards there was another **Golden Bush-rob**in and **Blue-fronted Redstarts** became numerous, before reaching the wonderful **SeLa Pass** where a pair of **Alpine Accentors** was waiting to greet us.



Despite the dense, low cloud and occasional hail shower and chilly mountain air we persevered and walked over the pass where a couple of us found a flock of **Grandala** on a distant hillside and a closer **Rosy Pipit**. We were eventually beckoned back to the tea hut where a hot drink and bowl of noodles revived us enough to continue on. Whilst us latecomers remained by the fire, a flock of **Plain Mountain-finches** were found beside the lake by a few brave souls before we drove around to the far side and had close views of a male **Grandala** perched atop a mossy boulder. Further scanning of the boulder-strewn hillside produced a totally unexpected flock of **Brandt's Mountain-finches** feeding avidly amongst the short-cropped grasses. The barren snow-covered **landscape** was the most dramatic yet but

unfortunately the weather came in and we had to contend with a light and constant drizzle for the next few hours, during which time we scanned the sides of the beautiful valley for monals without success. Some

compensation came in a trio of superb **Snow Pigeons** perched beside a small river, **Red-billed** and **Alpine Choughs**, 2 male **White-collared Blackbirds** and our only **White-throated Dipper** of the tour.

We returned to the pass and the sanctuary of the 'tea shed' for lunch before heading back down the mountain to clearer weather. A heard only **Blood Pheasant** preceded our next stop to search for a **Rufous-breasted Bush-rob**in that flew across the road and perched up in full view, and found a **Rufous-breasted Accentor** perched in a small bush which was joined by a **Black-faced Laughingthrush** and a female **Golden Bush-rob**in. On the slope behind us a **Hume's** (formerly **Yellowish-bellied**) **Bush-warbler** was lured in before we headed further down. Stopping to look at a fine **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie** turned out to be a fortuitous move as both **Lesser Cuckoo** and **Large Hawk-cuckoo** put in an appearance, whilst **Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler** could be heard singing in the valley below us. We had better views of another **Lesser Cuckoo** lower down which turned out to be the last stop of the day and we returned to the hotel in darkness at 7pm with the front vehicle disturbing a **Grey Nightjar** from the roadside on the way in.

Day 4 Wednesday 7th May

We headed the short distance down to the **Sangti Valley** early this morning with a packed breakfast and



as we drove alongside the river yet another male **Blue-capped Rock-thrush** got the ball rolling. We stopped on a corner over the river to search for **Ibisbill**, but they weren't present, although some compensation came in the form of a **Crested Kingfisher**. So we didn't stay too long and quickly headed off further up the valley to the rice paddies at the end of the village and began to scan the area below us. A whole pile of **Russet Sparrows** were present in the large tree beside us, but we didn't give them much attention as

we were quickly looking at the first record of **Slaty-breasted Rail** for Western Arunachal Pradesh. In fact there were 3 present and we had exceedingly good views of a pair stood motionless beside a patch of ferns below us. Once everyone had scoped these beauties a **Black-tailed Crake** put in an appearance at the edge of some tall vegetation and we had a good look at this local specialty for a few minutes before it disappeared. So as we were eating breakfast a **Slender-billed Oriole** began calling from the small woodland on the hillside above us and once everyone was ready we yomped up the steep field and tried in



vain to find it. An inquisitive **Blue-throated Flycatcher** came in to the owl call and stayed ages for us all to enjoy before we called it a day here and concentrated our efforts on something far more worthwhile.

So we walked around to the river and had excellent views of a pair of **Long-billed Plovers** with chicks and walking alongside the river there was **White Wagtail** of the *Alboides* race and several **Paddyfield Pipits**. We checked further up river for **Ibisbill** without success again but a flock of **Himalayan Swiftlets** and **Pacific (Fork-tailed) Swifts** was quite nice, but we were flagging in the heat so returned to the vehicles.

We got back to the hotel for a 12 o'clock lunch and headed to the Mandala Road later in the afternoon, with a pair of **Grey-winged Blackbirds** heralding the beginning of one of the typical Eastern Himalayas birding sessions. It was much cooler this afternoon with an occasional light shower which made for a very pleasant environment amidst yet more spectacular scenery. A **Common Cuckoo** and **White-browed Shrike-babbler** were seen first at the next stop and also present were **White-tailed Nuthatch**, **Yellow-vented** and **Tickell's Leaf-warbler**, **Red-billed Leiothrix** and a **Mrs Gould's Sunbird**. Further up a quick moving flock held **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, **Ultramarine Flycatcher** and several **Grey-headed Bullfinches**, with a skulking **Lesser Shortwing** playing hard to get. Next up was **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** and a pair of **Streak-breasted Scimitar-babblers** that circled us a few times before perching in the shadows of a large tree, with a **Broad-billed Warbler** heard from the bamboo. We walked further up the road and came across a big flock containing **Short-billed Minivet**, **Stripe-throated** and **Whiskered Yuhinas**, **Chestnut-tailed Minla**, **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, **Yellow-browed Tit** and **Ashy-throated Leaf-warbler**, with an **Ashy Woodpigeon** flying over. Further up a flock of **White-throated Laughingthrushes** showed well and there was a brief **Chestnut-crowned** and a **Grey-sided Laughingthrush**, as well as our first **Dark-sided Flycatcher**, a **Collared Owlet** showed well and we heard a **Blue-fronted Robin**.

Day 5 Thursday 8th May

We spent the whole day birding along the Mandala Road or as we like to call it – Magic Mountain! After spending an hour trying to see the **Blue-fronted Robin** without success despite it singing constantly and Trevor doing his best to do some acrobatics, had to admit defeat. So we headed up higher through superb habitat, seeing **Blue-winged Minla** and **Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush**, and Pat seeing a **Red-tailed Minla** during breakfast.

Higher up the first of several **Spotted Nutcrackers** put in an appearance before we enjoyed first-class views of a male **White-browed Shortwing** singing and displaying in a clearing below us. Nearby, there was a lot of activity with a **Grey-sided Bush-warbler** showing well, and there was also a pair of **Slaty-blue Flycatchers**, **White-collared Blackbird**, **Rufous-fronted Tit**, **Rusty-flanked Treecreeper**, **Lemon-rumped Warbler**, a group of **Gold-naped Finches**, a mixed flock of **Grey-headed** and **Brown**



Bullfinches and **Rufous-vented Yuhina**. Walking along the road to view an open area amidst the bamboo, after the leader had heard a **Satyr Tragopan**, only produced a **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie**. But higher up near the pass had **Whistler's** and **Green-crowned** (formerly **Golden-spectacled**) **Warblers**, **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** and **Large-billed Leaf-warbler**, once again amidst some splendid habitat and scenery. We drove another 10kms or so to another good section of mature forest and had a close **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker** and a few **Olive-Backed Pipits** before coming across a big flock with **Green Shrike-babbler**, **Grey-crested Tit**, **Red-tailed Minla** and **Rusty-**

flanked Treecreeper being the highlights amongst many of the commoner species. Shortly afterwards there was another **Rufous-breasted Accentor** beside the road, at which point we decided to have our picnic lunch and were joined by two very confiding male **Golden Bush-robins**.

Driving ever higher up the road, we found several very showy **Brown-throated Fulvettas** and a **Lemon-rumped Warbler** besides the vehicles in some bamboo as we headed up through the low cloud. Then we

started to walk back down and bumped into a pair of **Fire-tailed Myzornis** nearby and yet more **Brown-throated Fulvettas**, as well as a fine male **Ultramarine Flycatcher** before enjoying a nice big flock that included lots of **Red-tailed** and **Chestnut-tailed Minlas** amongst more common species. But by now it was getting quite cold, so we drove most of the way back down to the place where the **Blue-fronted Robin** was singing this morning and gave it another crack without success again. But we did hear an unusual shortwing song which was recorded and played-back but unfortunately the light had just about gone and we could not conclusively identify the species.

Day 6 Friday 9th May

We returned to SeLa Pass today which necessitated a very early departure (4.30am) as we still had some key species to find there. On the way up Peter heard an **Indian Blue Robin** singing and we hopped out of the vehicles and watched the little beauty singing from the top of a sapling on the hillside above us. A short distance from the actual pass we made our first attempt for **Himalayan Monal** and as Peter played the call we scanned the forested hillside below us, but only managed in seeing a female **Gold-naped Finch**, a few **Rufous-vented Tits** and a

cracking male **Fire-tailed Sunbird**. So we then drove up to the pass and took a trail in search of the monal which took us beside a small lake, across a small **snow-field** and through some fine mountainous scenery with jagged peaks all around and moss-covered boulder scree below us. Amazingly, we found a **Gould's Shortwing**, one of the most sought-after of all Himalayan birds, perched on a boulder below the trail. In fact we saw it a couple of times later across a fast-flowing stream, despite the mist which kept descending and retreating – much to our frustration. As we searched for him a little later, a pair of **Plain-backed Thrushes** appeared,



shortly followed by a covey of 3 **Snow Partridges** which were quite close on the hillside above us. This is one of the main reasons we time our tour to visit in May, as from November to April when other tour companies visit, the area is cut off due to snow! We continued along the path across the mountainside seeing more partridges and eventually heard a **Himalayan Monal** calling ahead of us. As we strained our eyes to peer through the suddenly clearing mist towards the sound we saw it perched briefly on the path ahead before flying across in front of us, showing off its spectacular iridescent plumage. Wow! In fact we had another 2 monals on the return journey, along with **White-browed Rosefinch** and a leader only **White-winged Grosbeak**. Unfortunately the cloud and mist came down for good later on, obscuring all but our path so we walked back to the vehicles slowly, well it is 13,700 feet after all!

Back at the pass there was a group of 5 **Alpine Accentors** and a **Himalayan Buzzard** present, before we descended in mist and rain to lower altitudes, trying in vain for **Blood Pheasant** at several sites along the way, but a **Yellow-throated Marten** may well have scared our quarry off at one point!

Lunch (!) was a late affair taken in the shelter of a roadside house in driving rain, so with no sign of the weather abating we decided to call it a day and returned to the hotel at 5pm, much earlier than usual and prepared for dinner to the background song of an **Oriental Cuckoo** calling close by.

Day 7 Saturday 10th May

We left the hotel early and headed back to the Mandala Road, this time driving much further than on our previous visit. The weather was totally clear this morning revealing the snow-clad Himalaya to the north



and as we travelled ever higher, passed **White-collared Blackbird** and **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie** along the way. A random stop amidst a nice patch of forest produced a male **Dark-rumped Rosefinch**, as well as a flock containing **Snowy-browed** and **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers**, **Buff-barred Warbler**, **Rufous-vented Tit**, **Red-tailed** and **Bar-throated Minla**, and a small flock of **Black-faced Laughingthrushes**. Breakfast was taken in the forest a short while later, and it was rather bizarre to hear several **Ruddy Shelducks** this high up and see them perched in the trees. We assumed that they must be breeding around the lake we saw a little later. As we perched on a log eating our omelettes and toast, a

Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler began singing and some of us managed a few glimpses. The habitat here looked very promising with large tracts of Rhododendrons on the moss encrusted forest floor between the tall pine trees. A short walk down the track produced both **Chestnut-crowned** and **Grey-sided Bush-warblers** on opposite sides of the road and the distinctive local race of **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** caused much excitement before we identified it!

Later on we drove through some small villages and parked beside an interesting looking marshy area, where we found some good birds beginning with a pair of **Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robins**, followed by a **Dark-breasted Rosefinch** found by Granville, **Brown-throated Fulvetta**, **Rusty-flanked Treecreeper** and **Rufous-fronted Tit**. Further on we stopped the vehicles to watch a pair of cracking **White-browed Bush-robins**, and found a **Pygmy Wren-babbler** skulking in the narrow ditch below us, as well as a **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, **Winter Wren**, **Golden Bush- robin**, a brief **White-winged Grosbeak** and several **Russet Sparrows**.



We tried driving further on, but had to turn back when the track became too rough and headed back down through low cloud and rain before reaching a beautiful valley where it was clear enough to stop and have our picnic lunch. Walking down from here we had a few good birds including **Grey-winged Blackbird**, **Striated Bulbul**, **White-throated Fantail**, **Blue-winged Minla**, **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush**, brief **Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler**, **Large-billed Leaf-warbler** and pride of place going to a small flock of skulking **Fulvous Parrotbills**.

Day 8 Sunday 11th May

Today we had to leave Dirang, but not before having one final visit to the Sangti Valley where the pesky **Slender-billed Oriole** eventually showed really well in the scope after another protracted search, along with **Yellow-breasted Greenfinch**, **Brown Dipper** and a pair of **Slaty-breasted Rails**. So with the main target bird tucked safely 'in the bag' it was time to return to the hotel for breakfast, load the luggage into

the vehicles, scope a nearby **Grey Treepie** and head out on the 60km drive to Tenga. Along the way a small group of 3 **Scarlet Finches** showed briefly, and there was also a **Black Eagle**, more **Yellow-breasted Greenfinches**, a couple of flyby **Dark-rumped Swifts** and a **Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo** seen in the valley below the road. Eventually we reached Tenga in glorious sunshine, bought some necessary supplies and got one of the vehicles repaired before driving about an hour to **Lama Camp** at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.

So we had finally made it and it was with much anticipation that everyone ‘checked in’ to their rather spacious tents. After lunch in the dining room we were very keen to get cracking and walked down the track, immediately bumping into a feeding flock



containing **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, **Verditer Flycatcher**, **Red-tailed and Blue-winged Minlas**, **Red-billed Leoithrix** and **Rufous-capped Babbler**. Further down we paused to scan an open area when the distinctive ‘song’ of a **Purple Cochoa** rang out from the forest below. After some astute playback and much anxious scanning of the forest we located a male perched on top of a tree and were extremely privileged to have cracking views through the scope. What a way to kick-start our birding here! Nearby, there was a **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, several cute little **Lemon-rumped Warblers**, a noisy flock of calling **Himalayan Cutias**, and a **Hodgson’s Hawk-**

cuckoo flew by a couple of times. Continuing downwards, a **Large Hawk-cuckoo** sat on top of a close tree, a **Grey-bellied Tesia** gave a couple of typically quick views, and we also saw **Striated and Grey-sided Laughingthrushes**, **Rusty-fronted Barwing**, **Grey-cheeked Warbler**, and heard the **Bugun Liocichla** in the distance.

But it was just great to be here and as we enjoyed our tea and biscuits back at camp a bit later, the calls of **Collared Owlet**, **Great Barbets**, and both **Indian** and **Lesser Cuckoos** rang out from the surrounding forest.

Day 9 Monday 12th May



After a night of listening to various cuckoos and **Grey Nightjar** we awoke to clear blue skies and after tea and biscuits in the dining room we drove downhill a short distance to a particular gulley. Within 10 minutes we were watching the major bird of the whole tour, the recently discovered and endemic **Bugun Liocichla**, a pair of which were found very close to the path and one bird in particular was extremely confiding as it perched on top of several prominent bushes for several minutes. A **White-gorgeted Flycatcher** was equally prominent and we watched this for about 10 minutes, followed by **Crested Goshawk**, **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, brief **Maroon Oriole**, **Rufous-capped Babbler**, **Whiskered Yuhina**

and **Grey-cheeked Warbler**, whilst a rather tired looking **Plain Mountain-finch** was probably the first record here.

Breakfast was a lavish affair with tables and chairs and copious amounts of food, but we were in no mood for relaxing and were soon watching our first **Blyth's Leaf-warbler** as we walked uphill. But by now it was getting quite warm, so hopped in the vehicles and headed up towards Eaglenest Pass, stopping



to watch a flock of **Pacific Swifts** zooming over the tree tops below us. Once at the pass we walked into the dense moss encrusted forest and tried for **Temminck's Tragopan** without luck, but a **Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler** came in close in response to the tape and we had a flock of birds with **White-tailed Nuthatch**, **Red-tailed Minla** and **Brown-throated Fulvetta** being the pick of the bunch. A **Broad-billed Warbler** gave some views in the bamboo and a female **Collared Grosbeak** also showed to some of the group, but probably the main highlight here was the pair of **Brown Parrotbills** watched feeding in the

bamboo above the track. After watching these for a while a couple of skulking **Scaly Laughingthrushes** were eventually seen quite while before returning to the camp for lunch.

After lunch we walked downhill in the drizzle, seeing **Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo**, **Lesser Cuckoo**, **Rufous-winged Fulvetta** and **Black-faced Warbler**. A nice flock passed close to the track with **Ultramarine Flycatcher**, **Blue-winged Minla**, **Blyth's Leaf-warbler**, **Chestnut-crowned** and **Yellow-browed Warblers**, **Yellow-cheeked** and **Black-throated Tits**, and of course, several attendant **Beautiful Sibias**, plus all the usual common birds.

We returned to camp at 5pm and found an extremely confiding **Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler** just behind the tents that gave repeatedly prolonged and exceptionally close views. And as with every evening spent at Eaglenest we enjoyed a veritable feast each night, complemented by our own beer and musical entertainment!

Day 10 Tuesday 13th May

After an early breakfast we loaded the vehicles with our luggage and got ready for the drive up to Eaglenest Pass, but as we were about to leave a **Common Rosefinch** and then a **Brown Bullfinch** appeared on top of a nearby tree. Almost at the same time a **Black-headed Shrike-babbler** began calling just up the track and after a short search we located it and had good views. As we drove up the track a **Barred Cuckoo-dove** and then a displaying **Northern Goshawk** were found before reaching the pass. Most of us followed an old Elephant path into the forest in search of **Temminck's Tragopan** but despite scrambling across the hillside for quite a while and numerous attempts at calling one in, nothing appeared. The lucky few who bailed on the muddy track walked along the Jeep Track seeing **Mountain Hawk-eagle**, **Chestnut-headed Tesia** and a **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie**.

We all then walked down towards Sunderview seeing **Orange-gorgeted** and several **Dark-sided Flycatchers**, **Streak-throated Barwing** and **Green-crowned Warbler**, with the most bizarre sighting of the tour being an apparently migrating **Common Moorhen** perched precariously in a bush at the top of the cliff at 2,800m! Lunch was set up for us on tables beside the track and when it rained the crew set up a canvas sheet to keep us dry! But the rain didn't last long and neither did lunch, so we took a side trail where an **Ashy Woodpigeon** feeding in a berry laden tree gave good views, and there was also a calling **White-browed Shortwing**, several inquisitive **Streak-throated Barwings** and more **Green-tailed Sunbirds** than you could wave a stick at, but a **Chestnut-headed Tesia** refused to play ball.

By mid afternoon we arrived at **Sunderview Camp** and sorted out our belongings before walking down the road seeing a very obliging pair of **Broad-billed Warblers** and a pair of **Golden-breasted Fulvettas**. The rest of the walk was pretty quiet, with nothing new found amongst a couple flocks of commoner species until a **Ward's Trogon** began calling, but we only managed brief views of a female. So with the light fading fast we decided to leave the area and return for another crack in the morning.



Meanwhile back at camp a **Grey Nightjar** called as we ate supper, and some of us saw it fly overhead.

Day 11 Wednesday 14th May

You can't get much better than a **Ward's Trogon** to start the day and

that's just what we did and a fine male as well. In fact we got really lucky and it took just a few minutes to locate it perched on a hanging vine in a moss encrusted section of forest and most of us had a good look in the scope before it flew off. We followed this up with a drive back up towards the pass and after much searching, managed to get crippling views of a **Bar-winged Wren-babbler** which perched on a branch for a couple of minutes on the bank above us.

Walking back down the Jeep track we had a fine male **Gold-naped Finch** and a short while later a bright male **Scarlet Finch**, as well as a singing **Striated Laughingthrush** and an extremely close **Black Eagle**. We also had a big flock containing **Rufous-bellied Niltava**, **Dark-sided Flycatcher**, **Brown-throated Fulvetta**, **Whiskered Yuhina**, **Rufous-capped Babbler**, **Green-tailed Sunbird**, **Broad-billed Warbler**, **Ashy-throated** and **Blyth's Leaf-warblers**, **Yellow-browed Tit**, **Hodgson's Treecreeper** and a fine male **Gold-naped Finch**. Just before the vehicles caught us up to take us back to camp for lunch a **Large-billed Leaf-warbler** gave excellent views in a close tree and a **Black-headed Shrike-babbler** could be heard singing from somewhere inside the dense forest. We had a couple of hours off around lunchtime to rest and wash as the camp crew brought us buckets full of hot water. Afterwards, we drove downhill and walked along a new section of the Jeep Track seeing **Striated Laughingthrush**, a flock of 7 **Ashy Woodpigeons** feeding in a fruiting tree below us, **Blue-fronted Robin** briefly and an **Oriental Cuckoo**



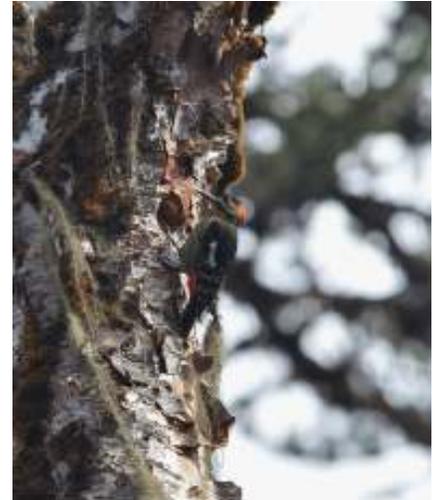
perched on top of a tree. But it was quiet this afternoon so we returned to camp at a decent time for yet another fabulous evening meal in the dining tent.

Day 12 Thursday 15th May

We awoke at first light to the songs of **Hodgson's** and **Large Hawk-cuckoos** and **Indian Cuckoo** before leaving Sunderview and driving down along the Jeep track, again making several attempts to nail **Blue-fronted Robin** without any joy –



apart from hearing several singing birds. Birds were numerous this morning and we had **Mountain Imperial-pigeon**, **Barred Cuckoo-dove**, **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, several **Sapphire Flycatchers**, **Mountain Bulbul**, **Blue-winged Minla**,



several groups of **Yellow-throated Fulvetta**s, **Yellow-cheeked Tit**, **White-browed** and **Green Shrike-babblers**, **Blyth's Leaf-warbler**, **Broad-billed Warbler** and nice views of **Grey-bellied Tesia**.

As the track wound ever downwards we came across an old landslide area below us which was now overgrown with secondary growth and although it appeared birdless we decided to wait a while which proved a very fortuitous move as after a few minutes a flock of **Black-throated Parrotbills** passed by in front of us. Shortly after a pair of **Streak-breasted Scimitar-babblers** appeared below us and we also saw a fine male **Sapphire Flycatcher**, **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush**, **Black-eared Shrike-babbler** and **Yellow-browed Tit**. So continuing on the track we passed through some dense, lush vegetation which was home to a very obliging **Rufous-throated Wren-babbler** that decided to sing from an exposed perch, and along the same stretch of road there was **Golden-breasted Fulvetta**, **Broad-billed** and **Grey-cheeked Warbler**, **Ashy-throated Leaf-warbler** and more **Black-throated Parrotbills**.

After a late picnic lunch we continued our walk with a few more **Himalayan Cutias**, **White-tailed Robin**, a flock of **Black-throated Tits**, **Golden Babbler**, and both **Blue-winged** and **Red-tailed Minlas**. So by the time we reached Bompou Camp it was late in the day and after a nice cup of tea picked up a few birds in the surrounding area including **Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon**, **Mountain Imperial-pigeon** and **Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike**.

Day 13 Friday 16th May

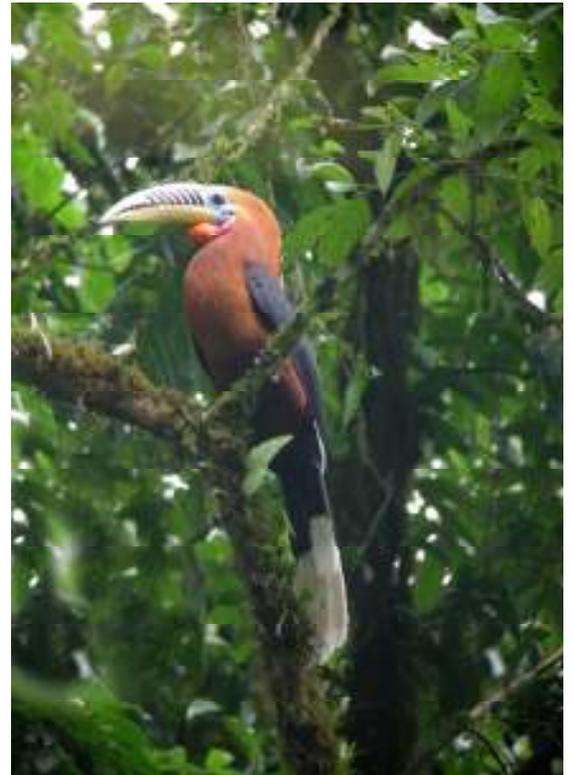
Early this morning we drove down towards Sessni, stopping along the way to check out a few favoured gullies but only succeeded in hearing **Long-billed**, **Spotted** and **Eye-browed Wren-babblers** which was a little frustrating. As we crossed the ford 3 **Black Eagles** and a **Mountain Hawk-eagle** flew over. So we spent the next hour or so trying the wren-babblers again without success until finally from way up a densely vegetated and wide gully a **Sikkim Wedge-billed Wren-babbler** began calling. Fortunately there was a narrow trail through the shoulder high bushes and we walked as quietly as possible towards the bird. Luck was on our side as we reached a relatively open area and a quick burst of tape resulted in the bird coming straight in. It circled us a few times and everyone had very good looks at what you can

only describe as a mega-bird. Even Pat who had not made the climb saw the bird as it seemed to follow us back down to the **track** and sang from an exposed perch for several minutes!

So we were all elated with this and walked down the track seeing **Streaked Spiderhunter**, **Long-tailed Sibia**, a pair of **Sultan Tits**, more **Yellow-throated Fulvettas**, and both **Lesser Racket-tailed** and **Bronzed Drongos**. As we neared Sessni Camp the rain came in, although we dallied to look in the scope at a spectacular **Asian Emerald Cuckoo** calling from the top of a tree. Lunch was taken beneath a canvas sheet erected by the drivers and fortunately the rain didn't last long as no sooner had we finished eating than it began to ease. Around the camp several **Silver-eared Mesias** sang and appeared close by, whilst a pair of **Grey-chinned Minivets** also showed well, but a **Red-faced Liocichla** picked up by Trevor only showed briefly on the hillside above us.



So with the weather clearing we drove up a short way, stopping when Granville saw a **Rufous-necked Hornbill** perched over the track. It was very close and despite the group of excited birders congregated below, it didn't move very far at all! Further up we had more views of **Slaty-bellied Tesia**, as well as **Grey-cheeked Warbler**, **Black-chinned Yuhina** and several close **Black-breasted Sunbirds**. So we returned to camp a little earlier than usual and were greeted with tea and pakoras in the dining tent. With plenty of daylight left some of the group chose to have a shower with the staff bringing buckets of piping hot water to the bathroom cubicles, whilst the rest of us walked up the track a short distance. This turned out to be a very good decision, as a **Black-throated Prinia** showed well close to camp before a **Blue-naped Pitta** began calling from the bottom of a gully. Despite playing the tape it didn't respond despite a long wait, and it wasn't until we had walked away that Rafik saw it at close quarters below a fallen tree. So it had come in to the call unnoticed – damn! A **Slaty-bellied Tesia** was very obliging and came out into the open for a few seconds and a pair of **Rufous-backed Sibias** came close to the path but moved away quickly. But just then a **Blue-winged Laughingthrush** began calling nearby, and at the same time so did a **Chestnut-breasted Hill-partridge**, so we walked quickly back and had decent views of one scuttling up a bare section of bank and into the forest.



We returned to camp more than happy with our late evening haul and to one of the most impressive views of the tour.

Day 14 Saturday 17th May

Several **Striated Bulbuls** were present around the camp this morning, along with an obliging **Verditer Flycatcher** whilst amongst a cacophony of songbirds we could hear **Spotted Laughingthrush**, **Large Hawk-cuckoo** and **Himalayan Cutia**. We tried the pitta again without any response after breakfast before driving a short distance down towards Sessni and spending most of the morning walking downhill. Our



first **Beautiful Nuthatch** certainly got our adrenalin going as well as stretching our neck muscles to look at it in a tall tree right over our heads, but it flew away rather too soon for our liking! The next couple of hours were very productive with **Crested Goshawk**, **Rufous-necked Hornbill**, **Indian Cuckoo**, **Large** and **Small Niltavas**, **Slaty-bellied Tesia**, **White-naped Yuhina**, **White-tailed Robin** and a few flyover **Silver-backed Needletails** all being seen. However, when we were trying to track down a **Spot-throated Babbler** calling from somewhere inside the forest, a **Green Cochoa** began calling from right over our heads! So we dived back out onto the track and managed prolonged views of this much-wanted bird

perched nearby. Wow!

By early afternoon the rain came in so we headed back up to camp for lunch before returning to the cochoa spot and as luck would have it, spent the rest of the day walking back down in good weather. More **Silver-backed Needletails** were seen, along with **Oriental Honey-buzzard**, another **Rufous-necked Hornbill**, and best of all a flock of **Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbills** passed right below us. One particular corner of the Jeep Track was quite open and gave decent views into the slopes and valley below



and here we found a stunning **Beautiful Nuthatch** which was singing from an exposed perch for ages. Then a flock appeared close by and we had **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker**, **Grey-chinned Minivet**, **Yellow-vented** and **Grey-hooded Warblers**, **Black-throated Tit** and several **White-naped Yuhinas**. Moving on, we saw **Great** and **Golden-throated Barbets**, **Long-tailed Sibia**, a brief **Long-billed Wren-babbler**, **Mountain Tailorbird**, **Sultan Tit**, and a showy **White-spectacled Warbler**.

Day 15 Sunday 18th May

We headed back to the promised land of “lower down” where all the best birds are meant to hang out, such as the **Kalij Pheasant** feeding on the track in front of the vehicles as we neared Sessni. Once again the **Long-billed Wren-babbler** remained a distant voice in the darkness of the undergrowth, and a real cacophony was made by a group of **White-crested Laughingthrushes** nearby. Yet a couple of **Rufous-throated Partridges** flushed from the track resulted in one of them perching in a metre high shrub and seemed quite out of place - but the views were awesome. We continued down below Sessni to the bamboo zone and had a pretty good time with **Pale Blue Flycatcher** getting the ball rolling, followed by lots of **Silver-eared Mesias**, a **Besra**, **Black-throated Prinia**, **Grey-bellied Cuckoo**, **Streaked Spiderhunter** and a **Lesser Yellownape**. A group of **Asian Elephants** proved slightly problematical for us as it wasn't safe to pass until they had moved on, but a few firecrackers later and we could continue!



Despite the humid conditions and accompanying light showers birds were plentiful and the next section produced **Crested Goshawk**, **Blue-winged Minla**,

Golden Babbler, several **Yellow-bellied Warblers**, **White-naped** and **Striated Yuhinas**, **Pied Flycatcher-shrike**, a confiding **White-browed Piculet** and **Small Minivet**. **Rufous-faced Warblers** were very common here and we had the most amazing views, with a pair even watched building a nest, but the star bird was a **Long-tailed Broadbill** that put on a real show for us just before we had lunch at a ranger's hut. Whilst here there was also a great appearance by a **Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo** sat in a nearby leafless tree before we drove even lower down beyond Khellong to the **Doi Mara River**.



We managed to bump the list up here with some commoner species such as **White-rumped Shama**, **Black-crested Bulbul**, **Black-backed Forktail**, **Emerald Dove**, **Asian Fairy Bluebird** and a superb **Crimson Sunbird** spotted by Pat. The **Pied Falconet** we found was possibly the first here for a long time, and it was a shame that we couldn't entice the **Grey Peacock-pheasant** to come into view that was calling below us. Also seen in this area were **Red**

Junglefowl, **Wreathed Hornbill**, **Nepal Fulvettas** and lots of **Ashy Drongo's**.

Day 16 Monday 19th May

We birded lower down again this morning, seeing **Common Green Magpie** and a close calling **Spotted Wren-babbler** on our way back to the bamboo zone where there was a lot more activity than on our previous visit. Amongst the commoner species we saw **Small Niltava**, **White-throated**, **Striated** and **Mountain Bulbuls**, brief **White-browed Scimitar-babbler**, **Golden Babbler**, **Striated** and **White-naped Yuhinas**, **Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill** and **Rufous-faced Warbler**, whilst an **Indian White-hooded Babbler** was a leader only sighting. We also had good scope views of a **Plaintive Cuckoo** from our dining table beside the road as well!

It was a shame the unseasonal rain was hampering proceedings but during breaks we had a fantastic afternoon below Sessni. Starting off with an obliging **White-browed Shrike-babbler**, Peter eventually found us a cooperative **Long-billed Wren-babbler**, followed by some low flying **White-throated Needletails**. Then we came across a huge flock comprising mainly **Silver-eared Mesias** and commoner species, but there was also **Long-tailed Sibia**, **Pygmy Blue Flycatcher**, **Grey-headed Parrotbill**, **Sultan Tit**, **Black-eared Shrike-babbler** and **White-naped Yuhina** present as well. The flock eventually disappeared up the hill but we relocated it around the corner and also found **Red-faced Liocichla**, **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush** and a pair of very close **Rufous-backed Sibias**.

So we headed back to Bompou through a violent thunderstorm and found the camp swamped under a couple inches of water. Fortunately the tents withheld the torrent more or less and after a couple of hours we were treated to clear skies and a **Black-crowned Night-heron** flying over at dusk!

Day 17 Tuesday 20th May

The road down to the plains was blocked by a few small **landslides** which took a time to clear this morning which all added to the 'adventure' side of the tour, but with the entire camp crew and some local villagers helping, we made short work of it! As we descended towards the lowlands of Assam we managed to pull out a few new birds for the trip, such as **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**, **Asian Palm Swift**, **Vernal Hanging-parrot**, and **Black-crested Bulbul**. Driving across Assam to Guwahati we also had **Great Pied Hornbill**, **House Swift**, **Yellow-footed Green-pigeon** found by Pat, **Cinnamon Bittern**, **Scaly-breasted Munia** and a few **Rufous Treepies**.

We eventually made it to the airport in good time and said goodbye to Peter and the other guides and drivers and were soon heading back to Kolkata where we had a nice hotel before returning to the airport and arriving back in the UK the following day.

On behalf of Peter and myself I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the group for making this tour such a pleasure to lead.

Nick Bray

BIRDLIST FOR INDIA – EAGLENEST

Sunday 4th May – Tuesday 20th May 2008

SPECIES		SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
1.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Just a couple seen near Guwahati at either end of the tour.
2.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Seen driving between Guwahati and the border with Arunachal Pradesh.
3.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Quite a few seen in the Assam lowlands.
4.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Just a couple recorded on 4 th may
5.	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	A recent split from the 'western' species and seen on 3 dates.
6.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	A single flying over Guwahati on arrival on 04/05
7.	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	A few seen in the lowlands.
8.	Cinnamon Bittern		A surprise find at Guwahati rubbish dump.
9.	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	50+ present at Guwahati rubbish dump on 4 th May was a good count for this time of year. There were also a few seen on the return drive across Assam on 20 th May.
10.	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	A couple seen flying over Guwahati on 4 th May and several present during the return journey on 20 th May.
11.	Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	A globally endangered species. We recorded an unprecedented number of 500+ at the rubbish dump on the outskirts of Guwahati on 4 th May.
12.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	We were surprised to see pair on one of the small lakes at SeLa Pass (13,700ft) and also several pairs were at a breeding site along the Mandala Road.
13.	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Only seen at Guwahati rubbish dump and near the border with Arunachal Pradesh.
14.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i>	A common sight around Guwahati.
15.	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Seen briefly below Sessni Camp on 18 th May.
16.	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	A couple of sightings at the start of the tour.
17.	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	A single observed soaring near Eaglenest Pass on 13 th May was the only one seen.
18.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus nisosimilis</i>	This very distinctive race perplexed us when first seen along the Mandala Road.
19.	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Several close views of displaying birds over 6 dates in the Eaglenest area.
20.	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>	A recent split from Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i> Seen well on both visits to SeLa Pass.
21.	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	Single observed below Sesni on 17 th May.
22.	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Just a couple seen at Dirang and near Lama Camp.
23.	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Hieraetus kienerii</i>	Single observed as we dropped down towards the lowlands from Eaglenest on 20 th May.
24.	Mountain Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	Several good views at various sites within Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
25.	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Common and seen on 12 dates.
26.	Pied Falconet	<i>Microhierax melanoleucos</i>	A single bird as scoped in a dead tree below Khellong on 18 th May and is the first one reported from this site for quite a while.
27.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen just the once as we drove up towards SeLa Pass.
28.	Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>	The pair present at Nameri Eco-Camp are most probably the most watched birds in Asia at present. We had great views of both birds on our first morning, including one bird with a kill.
29.	Snow Partridge	<i>Lerwa lerwa</i>	On our second visit to SeLa Pass we were very fortunate to obtain crippling views of 3 birds beside the path. At least 2 other small coveys were seen and we had them calling and flying around us.
30.	Common Hill-partridge	<i>Arborophila torquolea</i>	Heard on 5 dates and first seen on one of our forays along the Mandala Road by Trevor who remained behind and

			saw them when the rest of us rushed off to investigate a calling Satyr Tragopan.
31.	Chestnut-breasted Hill-partridge	<i>Arborophila mandelli</i>	We investigated an unusual call just above Bompu Camp one evening and were rewarded with decent views of one bird scrambling up the bare bank alongside the road. Another bird called from the opposite side of the road and we had obviously interrupted them crossing. The call was unknown by us and must have been a distress or alarm note.
32.	Rufous-throated Hill-partridge	<i>Arborophila rufogularis</i>	As we drove down towards Sessni, a pair of these elusive birds was flushed from the side of the track, with one bird landing in a small bush allowing some of us an amazing view of what was a bizarre and totally precarious position for this usually inveterate skulker. Also heard on 2 other dates.
33.	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	A few were flushed from the track below Sessni.
H	Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>	Although we had a very responsive bird calling 30 feet away from us on the way down from SeLa Pass, an untimely movement by one of the group probably resulted in our dip! Subsequent attempts proved fruitless.
H	Blyth's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan blythii</i>	Heard above Sunderview Camp only.
H	Satyr Tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>	Heard on the Mandala Road only.
34.	Himalayan Monal	<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>	Our first visit to SeLa Pass resulted in a distant bird calling. However
H	Grey Peacock-pheasant	<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	Heard above Sessni on 16 th May although quite distant, but 2 days later we had a close calling male below Khellong that didn't respond to the tape.
35.	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos lathami</i>	A few seen on the Jeep track between Bompu and Sessni by the front jeeps.
36.	Black-tailed Crake	<i>Porzana bicolor</i>	On both our visits to the Sangti Valley we had good views of this small, isolated population that maintains a foothold here against the odds.
37.	Slaty-breasted Rail		Our first of 12 write-ins for this tour was certainly a surprise and is the first record for western Arunachal Pradesh. At least 3 different birds were observed, with a pair feeding out in the open beside a stand of bracken at the edge of the paddyfields.
38.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Our only record was of a migrating bird just below Eaglenest Pass on the 13 th May. It really did seem out of place at this high altitude (c2800m) in a trackside bush!
39.	Common Sandpiper		Singles observed in the Sangti Valley on 11 th May.
40.	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Seen near Guwahati and in Sangti Valley.
41.	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>	We located a pair with 2 small chicks in the Sangti Valley, proving they do actually breed here. The nearest known breeding range is in China.
42.	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
43.	Snow Pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>	During our first visit to SeLa Pass we found 3 birds resting on a rock beside a small stream and later had flight views of this high altitude specialist despite the mist and drizzle.
44.	Green Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	Several seen as we drove towards Tenga on 5 th May.
45.	Mountain Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	Was a frequent sight around our camp at Bompu.
46.	Ashy Woodpigeon	<i>Columba pulchicollis</i>	First seen in flight above the Mandala Road and then good perched views of a couple flocks below Sunderview.
47.	Oriental Turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Seen on 4 dates at scattered sites.
48.	Red Collared Dove		A single bird observed at our lunch stop as we drove to Nameri Eco-Camp was the only one seen.
49.	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
50.	Eurasian Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	A few seen as we drove to Nameri on the first afternoon.
51.	Barred Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>	Heard at the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary and seen on 3

			further dates between Sunderview and Sessni.
52.	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	A leader only sighting at Sessni was followed by at least 3 birds below Khellong on 18 th May.
53.	Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sphenura</i>	Several birds were present around Bompou Camp most afternoons.
54.	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron p. phoenicoptera</i>	Pat found a perched bird as we filled up with fuel on the return journey across Assam to Guwahati.
55.	Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>	Seen on 2 dates.
56.	Vernal Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	A perched bird was seen by some of the group as we left Eaglenest and dropped down towards the lowlands.
57.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	A few flyovers in Guwahati were the only ones.
58.	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	Several seen around Nameri Eco-Camp.
59.	Asian Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx maculatus</i>	As we walked to Sessni Camp for lunch, Abhid located this beautiful bird at the top of a tree and we all had superb scope views.
60.	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	Good views of a calling bird on the slope above our picnic tables above Khellong on 19 th May.
61.	Grey-bellied Cuckoo		A pair gave brief views as we walked along the Jeep Track below Bompou.
62.	Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	One of our jeeps broke down between Nameri and Bhalukpong and were fortunate to find our only one of the trip.
63.	Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	As we left Dirang and headed towards Eaglenest, we managed to scope a distant calling bird in the valley below us. A closer calling bird at Khellong in a bare tree proved much more obliging. A recent split with Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo found in Southern India and Sri Lanka.
H	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>	A calling bird near Nameri could not be enticed any closer and remained a voice in the forest.
64.	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	Only seen as we drove across the plains of Assam and heard a couple of times elsewhere.
65.	Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	A common sound in the Himalayas at this time of the year. Recorded on 13 dates, but seen well only on a couple of occasions.
66.	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Seen on the Mandala Road and heard at Eaglenest.
67.	Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>	Common. Recorded on 12 dates and seen well on 3 dates along the Mandala Road and at Eaglenest.
68.	Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>	First seen below SeLa Pass and we soon got used to the call with birds heard on 3 further dates and seen a couple of times at Eaglenest.
69.	Large Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>	A very common sound at all areas visited. Recorded on 15 dates, with several nice close views.
70.	Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx nicolor</i>	A couple were seen and also heard below Lama Camp. Also heard a few times below Bompou.
H	Brown Hawk-owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Heard at Nameri Eco-Camp.
H	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Heard at Nameri Eco-Camp.
71.	Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	Seen well along the Mandala Road and also a constantly calling bird close to Lama Camp proved invisible.
72.	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>	A bird was seen flying in front of the vehicles early one evening as we returned from SeLa Pass. Heard calling most evenings at Lama and Sunderview Camps.
73.	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensi</i>	Only seen as we returned to Guwahati on our last day.
74.	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>	Seen in Sangti Valley and along the Mandala Road.
75.	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Several seen in the lowlands as we returned to Guwahati on our last day.
76.	Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Several flocks seen in the Sangti Valley and also a flock at eye-level below Eaglenest Pass.
77.	White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	Finally had several confirmed sightings of a small mixed flock with the next species near Sessni.
78.	Silver-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus cochinchinensis</i>	A few seen well as we walked down the Jeep track below

			Bompu and also in a mixed flock with the previous species near Sessni.
79.	Dark-rumped Swift	<i>Apus acuticauda</i>	An endemic breeding bird to India. A few lucky people saw some as we drove from Dirang to Eaglenest on 11 th May.
80.	Black-billed Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis affinis</i>	A distinctive subspecies which may well be a split from nominate Indian Roller in the future. A few seen in the lowlands.
81.	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	One was seen by the lucky few in the jeep that broke down as we drove to Bhalukpong on our first full day.
82.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops ceylonensis</i>	Only one seen as we drove from Nameri to Dirang.
83.	Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	A fine male was located below Bompu on 16 th May. A pair showed pretty well near Sessni on 19 th May.
84.	Ward's Trogon	<i>Harpactes wardi</i>	Heard distantly along the Mandala Road and seen reasonably well on 2 successive dates near Sunderview.
85.	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	A few seen in the lowlands before we entered Arunachal Pradesh.
86.	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	Seen as we drove to Dirang, in the Sangti valley and on the way up to SeLa Pass!
87.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Just a coupe seen in Assam as we returned to Guwahati on our last day.
88.	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>	Pair present beside the road as we neared the plains of Assam from Eaglenest. But they didn't stay long and flew away before everyone got a decent view.
89.	Rufous-necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	One of the stars of the trip and we had amazing views of a male spotted by Granville as we drove back up the Jeep track from Sessni. We saw the same male 2 days later, plus a different individual closer to Bompu and heard the distinctive call on another date as well.
90.	Great Pied Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Seen en-route to Bhalukpong and also on our final day as we left Eaglenest.
91.	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	A group of 13 flew over the road and landed briefly in some huge trees shortly after leaving Nameri Eco-Camp. The only other bird was a leader only sighting below Khellong.
92.	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Singles at Bhalukpong and at the fuel stop in Assam on our last day.
93.	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Common in the lower areas at either end of the tour.
94.	Golden-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>	Odd ones seen at several places during the tour.
95.	Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	A common voice of the higher forests and recorded on 14 dates, with numerous good views here and there.
96.	White-browed Piculet	<i>Sasia ochracea</i>	We were fortunate to get stunning views in the bamboo as we headed towards Khellong on 18 th May.
97.	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>	Had good views of this most attractive <i>dendrocopos</i> on our first visit to the Mandala Road, followed by another one there a few days later and a single by Lama Camp.
98.	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos cathparius</i>	Singles observed along the Mandala Road and below Bompu – the latter in a nice mixed species flock that involved a Beautiful Nuthatch.
99.	Darjeeling Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>	Quite common and observed on 6 consecutive dates at Eaglenest.
100.	Greater Yellownape	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>	Only seen at the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary.
101.	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	A couple were seen below Khellong on 18 th May.
102.	Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	Always a frustrating bird to try and see and although recorded on 5 dates we only had flight views a brief perched view on our first visit to the Mandala Road.
H	Pale-headed Woodpecker	<i>Gecinulus grantia</i>	A distant bird was heard near Khellong on 18 th May.
	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Leader only sighting as we left Eaglenest.
103.	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	One of the many species which involve a recent split from The Ripley Guide, with the Sri Lanka birds now elevated to full species status. Only seen in the Sessa

			Orchid Sanctuary as we drove towards Dirang.
104.	Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>	Very good views of this incredible bird were had at Khellong on 18 th May just before our lunch stop and it came in several times in response to the tape, perching in the open for several minutes at close range before disappearing up the hillside.
H	Blue-naped Pitta	<i>Pitta nipalensis</i>	Heard just above Bompu Camp on the evening of the 16 th May. Despite playback attempts it didn't respond, until we walked away and Rafik saw it out in the open just below our previous vantage point! Others were heard below Bompu and at Khellong.
105.	Nepal House Martin	<i>Delichon nipalensis</i>	Seen at Tippi, below SeLa Pass and Khellong.
106.	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	The species on Sri Lanka has been recently split according to The Ripley Guide. A few seen at either end of the tour.
107.	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola citreola</i>	Only seen at Guwahati rubbish tip.
108.	Himalayan White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alboides</i>	Seen a few times during the first half of the tour.
109.	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	A few seen along the Mandala Road and on the way up to SeLa Pass on our first visit.
110.	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	Seen at SeLa Pass on both visits and on the higher section of the Mandala Road.
111.	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi rufulus</i>	3 seen in the Sangti Valley appeared to be breeding.
112.	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	At least 5 present near our dinner stop in Assam on our first day.
113.	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Surprisingly scarce this year and only seen towards the end of the trip during one of our visits to Sessni.
114.	Pied Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	A loose flock was present on 2 consecutive days as we approached Khellong.
115.	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	Recorded on 6 dates at various sites, with several good views around the camp at Bompu.
116.	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	A pair was seen as we drove to Bhalukpong from Nameri Eco-Camp.
117.	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	Only recorded on the Mandala Road on 8 th May.
118.	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	The commonest minivet here and seen on 10 dates.
119.	Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	Seen at Sessa and along the Mandala Road, and on several dates between Bompu and Sessni.
120.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Seen on 9 dates, mainly during the first week.
121.	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Only seen as we approached Bhalukpong on 5 th May.
122.	Himalayan Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	A recent split according to the Ripley Guide. Seen on 9 dates, mostly in small flocks.
123.	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flavala</i>	First seen above Bompu Camp, with a few present around the Khellong area.
124.	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mcclllandii</i>	Several good views, and always in company with the previous species.
125.	White-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaveolus</i>	First had poor views in the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, followed by close looks at a flock near Khellong.
126.	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>	Recently split into 3 species – see Ripley Guide. Just a few seen on 18 th May below Khellong.
127.	Striated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>	Common and several large flocks seen at various sites
128.	Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	Unusually scarce and only seen once below Khellong.
129.	Asian Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	Great views of at least 2 birds in the scope along the river below Khellong on 18 th May.
130.	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach tricolor</i>	Seen on 3 dates along the Sangti River.
	<i>Long-tailed Shrike</i>	<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i>	A pair present in the Sangti Valley.
131.	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	A couple were seen on the way up SeLa Pass.
132.	Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>	Small numbers were present at Eaglenest.
133.	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Another species that may well be a split in the future according to The Ripley Guide. A common sight in most areas visited.

134.	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallastii</i>	First seen as we drove to Dirang on 5 th May and then John B found one in the Sangti Valley on 11 th May.
135.	White-throated Dipper		Only seen on our first visit to SeLa Pass.
136.	Purple Cochoa	<i>Cochoa purpurea</i>	Shortly after our late lunch on arrival at Lama Camp we heard the distinctive call and were soon scoping a male perched on top of a large tree in the valley below us. Also heard another 2 birds during the course of the following week. One of the best birds of the tour.
137.	Green Cochoa	<i>Cochoa viridis</i>	We completed the double whammy with amazing close views of this stunning species, a few kilometres below Bompu. It was on view for 20 minutes beside the Jeep Track and allowed us to watch it in the scope for a long time.
138.	Grandala	<i>Grandala coelicolor</i>	This high altitude specialist was seen on both visits to SeLa Pass. A flock of 20+ set our pulses racing on 6 th May and we had a couple very inquisitive birds beside our vehicles on 9 th May. Another good reason for coming in May!
139.	Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	Common along the Mandala Road and at Eaglenest.
140.	Blue-capped Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>	Seen on 3 consecutive days at Dirang, below SeLa Pass and on the Mandala Road. A real stunner!
141.	Blue Whistling-thrush	<i>Myiophonus caeruleus</i>	Seen on 4 dates at the higher altitude sites during the first half of the tour.
142.	White-collared Blackbird	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>	A fine male was our first sighting as we drove up to SeLa Pass, and also quite regularly seen along the Mandala Road.
143.	Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>	Seen on every visit to the Mandala Road.
	Chestnut Thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>	Leader only sighting on the Mandala Road.
144.	Plain-backed Thrush	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i>	A pair were quite out of place above the tree line at SeLa Pass on 9 th May.
145.	White-browed Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx montana</i>	Amazing prolonged views of a singing male right out in the open high up the Mandala Road takes some beating. Another showed briefly below Eaglenest Pass and a few others were heard.
146.	Lesser Shortwing	<i>Brachypterus leucophrys</i>	Heard on 3 dates along the Mandala Road, but only one bird obliged us with brief views despite many attempts.
147.	Gould's Shortwing	<i>Heteroxenicus stellatus</i>	A single bird was observed at SeLa Pass perched on some large boulders. We saw it several times before the mist rolled in and seemed to be on a breeding territory. Bird of the tour and most unexpected.
148.	Blue-fronted Robin	<i>Cinclidium frontale</i>	Our bogey bird of the tour, as we recorded it singing on 5 dates. Despite numerous attempts pushing the boundaries of tedium we only managed brief views. The first bird along the Mandala Road circled us several times without being seen. Another bird between Sunderview and Bompu actually perched long enough for some of us to see it.
149.	White-tailed Robin	<i>Mylomela leucura</i>	After only hearing one near the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, we had a couple views below Bompu.
150.	Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>	A recent split from the more northerly species seen in NW Europe. A male along the Mandala Road was the only one seen.
151.	Rufous-breasted Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger hyperythrus</i>	A single male on the way up to SeLa Pass on our first visit gave good views.
152.	White-browed Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger indicus</i>	We located a pair high up the Mandala Road that gave amazing views in an open patch of forest.
153.	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>	A male sang from the top of a sapling as we drove down from SeLa Pass on 9 th May.
154.	Golden Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>	Several pairs were present near SeLa Pass and several extremely showy birds were seen on the Mandala Rd.
155.	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	A single bird was perched beside the road bridge below

			Khellong.
156.	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	A few seen during the first half of the tour.
157.	Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>	Despite a scarcity of Forktails, a few of the group managed to catch a glimpse towards the end of the tour.
158.	Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	Single observed at Eaglenest on 12 th May.
159.	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	Several good views, always at mid-higher altitudes.
160.	Plumbeous Water-redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	A common sight during the first half of the tour along fast flowing streams and rivers.
161.	White-capped River-chat	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Several were seen during the first half of the tour.
162.	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata maura</i>	Pair present at Eaglenest on 14 th May.
163.	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	A regular sight during the first week of the tour.
164.	Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>	A common bird along the Mandala Road and at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary where we had very close views on numerous occasions.
165.	White-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula monileger</i>	An unknown call led us to a superb bird just below Lama Camp and it showed uncharacteristically very well over a 20 minute period. One of the main highlights of the tour.
166.	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula supercilialis</i>	A few seen on each visit to the Mandala Road, but only seen once at Eaglenest.
167.	Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophitata</i>	Seen at several places along the Mandala Road and Eaglenest.
168.	Slaty-blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	Several good views along the glorious Mandala Road, and also a pair present a few kilometres below SeLa Pass were very showy.
169.	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	A fine male showed well along the Mandala Road.
170.	Pygmy Blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapella hodgsoni</i>	A male was present in the big bird wave on our last afternoon at Eaglenest – and we thought we had missed this little beauty!
171.	Sapphire Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula sapphire</i>	A female and a couple males were seen in the tree tops as we walked from Sunderview to Bompou.
172.	Blue-throated Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>	A male sang its heart out in the trees next to us as we tried to lure in a Slender-
173.	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	Common and seen on 14 dates.
174.	Pale Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>	After hearing one below Sessni, we had good views of a male and female over the next couple of days there.
175.	Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava oatesi</i>	Seen several times at scattered localities.
176.	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	We had excellent views of several confiding pairs below Sessni on 3 consecutive days.
177.	Large Niltava	<i>Niltava grandis</i>	Seen well below Bompou and a few others heard.
178.	Bhutan Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron imbricatum</i>	A recent split from Streaked Laughingthrush. A small group skulked around a narrow gulley beside the road as we drove up to SeLa Pass early one morning. A couple of them were very inquisitive and were seen well.
H	Blue-winged Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax squamatus</i>	Heard a few times between Sunderview and Bompou and although a couple called very close to us on more than one occasion we just could not obtain decent views.
179.	Scaly Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax subunicolor</i>	A flock eventually gave good views just below Eaglenest Pass on 12 th May.
180.	Red-headed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i>	Previously called Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush. Seen on 5 dates at scattered localities.
181.	Red-faced Liocichla	<i>Liocichla phoenicea</i>	Trevor spotted one in a large flock at Sessni and another pair showed to some of the group on our last afternoon. Also heard several times below Sessni.
182.	Bugun Liocichla	<i>Liocichla bugunensis</i>	Endemic. No one could believe our luck when a pair gave us crippling views in their favourite gulley below Lama Camp within a few minutes of searching. We had already heard them the evening before but they proved frustratingly elusive.
183.	Spotted Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ocellatus</i>	At least 2 pairs came in to the tape as we headed up to SeLa Pass on our first visit. It was a magical moment as

			the birds gave their evocative call in the mist, before appearing close by.
184.	Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax affinis</i>	Quite common in the higher areas and seen on 6 dates.
185.	Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax striatus</i>	Quite common at various sites and recorded on 8 dates.
186.	White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>	A large flock was located beside the Mandala Road on our first afternoon there.
187.	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	First seen in the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, and also a couple of times at Khellong.
188.	Grey-sided Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax caerulatus</i>	Quite common and recorded on 7 dates.
H	Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>	Heard distantly as we left Eaglenest on our last day.
189.	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>	At least one bird was observed by some of us in the huge flock on our last afternoon near Sessni.
H	Striped Tit-babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>	A single bird was heard as we approached Bhalukpong on our first morning.
190.	Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyris ruficeps</i>	Quite a few seen in the mixed species flock at Eaglenest.
191.	Rufous-fronted Babbler	<i>Stachyris rufifrons</i>	It was quite a surprise when we heard this bird singing and it was eventually lured in to a roadside bush in the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary for good views.
192.	Golden Babbler	<i>Stachyris chrysis</i>	First seen at Sessa Orchid Sanctuary and then quite frequently from Sunderview to Sessni.
193.	Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	First seen on the drive to Dirang in a roadside gully and the only other sighting was below Sessni.
194.	Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Xiphirhynchus superciliaris</i>	An inquisitive bird came very close as we waited for tragopans at Eaglenest Pass on 12 th May. Another one appeared in the bamboo there the following day.
195.	Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	Quite a number of widespread sightings this year, but our first ones were the best along the Mandala Road.
H	White-browed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i>	Heard in the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary and around the Khellong area.
H	Coral-billed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ferruginosus</i>	A bird called beside the Jeep Track as we left after the big storm to head back to Guwahati.
196.	Fire-tailed Myzornis	<i>Myzornis pyrrhoura</i>	Amazing views on our first visit to SeLa Pass beside a patch of Rhododendrons was followed by more prolonged views on the Mandala Road. Who says you don't see them in May! Amazing!
197.	Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argentauris</i>	Quite common in the Sessni area this year, with a big flock of 30+ present one lunchtime and seen extremely well at close quarters.
198.	Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	Seen at several places along the Mandala Road and at Eaglenest.
199.	Black-chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	A small flock appeared as we walked down towards Khellong on 16 th May.
200.	White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>	A couple were present along the river below Khellong
201.	Striated Yuhina	<i>Staphida castaneiceps</i>	Only seen in the areas below Sessni this year.
202.	Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	A very common bird in most areas visited.
203.	White-naped Yuhina	<i>Yuhina bakeri</i>	Several small flocks were present beside the Jeep Track on 3 dates below Sessni.
204.	Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>	Seen on 7 dates.
205.	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>	Seen on 6 dates.
206.	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe castaneiceps</i>	Seen on 4 dates between Lama and Sunderview.
207.	Yellow-throated Fulvetta	<i>Acippe cinerea</i>	Became increasingly common during the second half of the tour and something of a nuisance!
208.	Golden-breasted Fulvetta	<i>Acippe chrysotis</i>	This little beauty was first seen briefly on the Mandala Road. We had repeated good views later on 4 dates at Eaglenest.
209.	Brown-throated Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe ludlowi</i>	This superb bird gave itself up easily this year and we enjoyed fine views on 5 dates.

210.	Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	Several were seen in the Khellong area.
211.	Rusty-fronted Barwing	<i>Actinodura egertoni</i>	Reasonably common and seen on 9 dates.
212.	Streak-throated Barwing	<i>Actinodura waldeni</i>	Several seen above Sunderview. The situation at Eaglenest with this and the previous species is not straightforward. Some authorities claim both species hybridise, other that a 3 rd species may be involved.
213.	Rufous-backed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia annectans</i>	After a fast moving pair above Bompu, we located a pair at a nest beside the Jeep Track a few kilometres below Sessni.
214.	Long-tailed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	A small flock appeared in the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, this became an increasingly common sighting between Bompu and Khellong.
215.	Beautiful Sibia	<i>Heterophasia pulchella</i>	A common bird of the higher regions, and seen on 10 dates at various sites.
	Indian White-hooded Babbler	<i>Gampsorhynchus rufulus</i>	A recent split. Leader only sighting in the bamboo between Sessni and Khellong.
216.	Blue-winged Minla	<i>Minla cyanouoptera</i>	A regular sighting at all forested areas visited.
217.	Chestnut-tailed Minla	<i>Minla strigula</i>	Seen several times, usually in the mixed flocks.
218.	Red-tailed Minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>	Slightly more common than the previous species and we enjoyed many good views at close range.
219.	Green Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i>	After a relatively brief sighting in a mixed feeding flock below Sunderview on 8 th , a singing bird at the top of a large tree was eventually located on 15 th as we walked to Bompu.
220.	Black-eared Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius melanotis</i>	We enjoyed several really close views of this exquisite little bird.
221.	White-browed Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>	Seen on 3 dates, with several fine males seen singing.
222.	Black-headed Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius rufiventer</i>	Just as we were about to leave Lama Camp we heard one singing and it was tracked down to a nearby tree where we had good scope views of a male.
223.	Himalayan Cutia	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i>	As we were leaving the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary a pair was lured in to the tree right next to us where we were fortunate to have point blank views. Also seen between Bompu and Sunderview.
224.	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	A few were seen along the Mandala Road.
225.	Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i>	As we reached the higher elevations along the Mandala Road the song of this species became quite common. After quite a bit of searching we enjoyed really good views, and even a few scope views
226.	Pygmy Wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	Really good views by everyone in a ditch beside the Mandala Road, and also heard a few times elsewhere.
227.	Rufous-throated Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaornis caudatus</i>	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. The area just above Bompu proved a reliable site for this species and our first was very obliging and sang in a relatively open area for quite some time. Another was seen the next day and we heard one close to the camp as well.
H	Spotted Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaornis formosus</i>	Heard and only seen very poorly near Sessni.
228.	Bar-winged Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaornis troglodytoides</i>	Took some finding but eventually had great views of a singing bird a few kilometres below Eaglenest Pass. This was the same bird Paul had seen the day before.
H	Eye-browed Wren-babbler	<i>Napothera epilepidota</i>	Despite numerous attempts this bird remained just a voice in the dense undergrowth around Sessni Camp.
229.	Long-billed Wren-babbler	<i>Rimantor malacoptilus</i>	This species was actually seen on 3 consecutive dates around Sessni, involving at least 2 different pairs but our last views proved to be crippling as one sat in full view apparently oblivious to our presence.
230.	Sikkim Wedge-billed Wren-babbler	<i>Sphenocichla humei</i>	After much searching we had totally amazing views of an individual above Sessni. Everyone saw this very rare bird extremely well as it circled us a few times before giving itself up close to the path.

H	Buff-breasted Babbler	<i>Pellorneum tickelli</i>	An unexpected voice in the dense forest but unfortunately it wasn't tape responsive.
H	Spot-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum albiventris</i>	Heard only.
231.	Fulvous Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis fulvifrons</i>	A small flock in the bamboo along the Mandala Road proved frustratingly elusive.
232.	Black-throated Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis nipalensis</i>	A couple good sightings of some big, fast moving flocks between Lama Camp and Bompou.
233.	Grey-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis gularis</i>	At least 2 birds were present in the huge mixed feeding flock on our last afternoon and this species is infrequently encountered at Eaglenest.
234.	Brown Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis unicolor</i>	We had a couple of encounters with an obliging pair over 2 dates at Eaglenest Pass. They were obviously on territory and came to check us out!
235.	Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris</i>	We were fortunate to encounter a pair near Khellong on 19 th May which stayed beside the path for a while.
236.	Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis ruficeps</i>	A flock of 10+ was observed a few kilometres below Bompou on 17 th May and we had repeated views as they followed us along the Jeep Track.
237.	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	A few seen at Guwahati rubbish dump.
238.	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>	Seen at Guwahati rubbish dump and as we drove the next day to Bhalukpong.
239.	Black-throated (Hill) Prinia	<i>Prinia atrogularis khasiana</i>	Seen on 3 dates between Bompou and Khellong. This is a recent split from Hill Prinia <i>Prinia superciliaris</i> which is found in Myanmar and further east.
240.	Hume's Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia acanthizoides</i>	Also called Yellowish-bellied Bush-warbler. Seen very well on the way down from SeLa Pass and its distinctive song was heard a few times on the Mandala Road. This species may well be split from the forms found in China (<i>acanthizoides</i>) and Taiwan (<i>concolor</i>).
241.	Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia fortipes</i>	Also called Strong-footed Bush-warbler. After hearing the song numerous times, we eventually saw one high up the Mandala Road. Although no-one will ever forget the amazingly confiding individual at Lama Camp that sat singing just a few feet away. In fact this species was recorded on 11 dates in all.
242.	Chestnut-crowned Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia major</i>	Also called Large Bush-warbler. Peter located our only confirmed sighting high up the Mandala Road and we enjoyed very close views.
243.	Grey-sided Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>	Recorded on 8 dates at various sites and seen very well on the Mandala Road.
244.	Russet Bush-warbler	<i>Bradypterus mandelli</i>	Very close views on the way up to SeLa Pass on our first visit. A recent split from brown Bush-warbler <i>Bradypterus luteoventris</i> .
245.	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Seen in Guwahati.
246.	Mountain Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus cuculatus</i>	Heard on the drive to Dirang on 5 th May and then seen well after quite a hunt alongside the Jeep Track as we walked down from Bompou on 17 th May.
247.	Slaty-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia olivacea</i>	Seemingly quite common from Bompou to Sessni and we had several good views, as well as the usual fleeting glimpses and moving vegetation!
248.	Grey-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>	Our first sighting was on the bank above the Jeep Track, on our first afternoon at lama Camp. Another good view was had as we left Sunderview.
249.	Chestnut-headed Tesia	<i>Tesia castaneocoronata</i>	As with the other tesia, this species was heard more often than it was seen although we had decent views of a couple confiding birds on the Mandala Road and just below Sunderview Camp.
250.	Broad-billed Warbler	<i>Tickellia hodgsoni</i>	After an unresponsive calling bird on the Mandala Road, we had numerous sightings at Eaglenest.
251.	Black-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>	This attractive species was seen on 8 dates at various sites.
252.	Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albugularis</i>	Unbelievably common between Sessni and Khellong in the bamboo zone. We probably heard at least 25 singing

			birds and were privileged to get point-blank views of several and even watched a pair nest-building.
253.	Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus superciliaris</i>	A few seen in Sessa Orchid Sanctuary and below Sessni as well.
254.	Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>	Seen on 9 dates at various sites, usually singles only.
255.	Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistus</i>	Quite a few were noted at either end of the trip.
256.	Grey-cheeked Warbler	<i>Seicercus poliogenys</i>	Several seen between lama Camp and Sunderview.
257.	White-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus affinis</i>	Our first was noted as we left the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, and was followed by several more on the Mandala Road and at Eaglenest.
258.	Green-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus burkii</i>	A recent split from what was formerly called Golden-spectacled Warbler.
259.	Whistler's Warbler	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>	One of the other splits from the Golden-spectacled Warbler complex. Seen along the Mandala Road and at Eaglenest several times.
260.	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Common. Recorded on 12 dates.
261.	Tickell's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	A few seen during the first half of the tour.
262.	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	A couple birds were noted just below SeLa Pass on our first visit, and also a pair above Bompu on 15 th .
263.	Large-billed Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>	Several good views over 4 dates.
264.	Blyth's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	Seen on 6 dates between Lama Camp and Bompu.
265.	Buff-barred Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	Several seen during the first half of the tour.
266.	Lemon-rumped Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	A few seen on the Mandala Road and near Lama Camp.
267.	Ashy-throated Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	Seen on 8 dates at various sites.
268.	Yellow-vented Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus cantator</i>	First seen on the lower section of the Mandala Road, and not seen again until we dropped down to Sessni towards the later stages of the tour.
269.	Rufous-vented Tit	<i>Parus rubidiventris</i>	Seen in some of the higher places visited of the Mandala Road and below SeLa Pass.
270.	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Usually seen in the same areas as the previous species.
271.	Grey-crested Tit	<i>Parus dichrous</i>	A few seen on the higher reaches of the Mandala Road in the mixed feeding flocks.
272.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Only seen in the lowlands of Assam on our first day.
273.	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
274.	Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	Also called Red-headed Tit. Seen on 3 dates at Eaglenest, but usually only in pairs or small groups.
275.	Rufous-fronted Tit	<i>Aegithalos iouschistos</i>	Seen very well on 2 visits to the Mandala Road.
276.	Yellow-checked Tit	<i>Parus spilonotus</i>	Seen on 5 dates at various sites.
277.	Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	A pair at the top of a large tree above Sessni showed pretty well, but 3 birds in the huge flock on our last afternoon performed outrageously!
278.	Hodgson's Treecreeper	<i>Certhia hodgsoni mandelli</i>	A bird appeared beside the path as we walked down to Sunderview. A recent split from Eurasian Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i> .
279.	Rusty-flanked Treecreeper	<i>Certhia nipalensis</i>	A couple sightings of this attractive creeper were had along the Mandala Road.
280.	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	Several views over 6 dates of this inquisitive little bird.
281.	White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>	Regularly encountered from Lama Camp to Bompu.
282.	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>	A recent split with Indian Nuthatch <i>Sitta castanea</i> confined to peninsular India. Several birds seen.
283.	Beautiful Nuthatch	<i>Sitta formosa</i>	Our first bird was located at the top of a tall tree beside the Jeep track as we walked down from Bompu, but disappeared quite quickly. Later in the day a small bird wave produced a very close bird which flew across a clearing and began calling from an exposed branch for 5 minutes. One of the star birds of the tour.
284.	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	A few were seen along the Mandala Road and at

			Eaglenest.
285.	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Only seen on one date.
286.	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	A single bird was observed at Doi Mara Bridge below Khellong on 18 th May. This species involves one of the latest splits from The Ripley Guide, with Vigors's Sunbird confined to the Western Ghats.
287.	Fire-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>	This stunning high altitude sunbird was seen very well on both visits to SeLa Pass.
288.	Mrs Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae isolata</i>	Seen on 7 dates at scattered localities.
289.	Black-breasted Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	Seen on 5 dates.
290.	Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	Widespread and seen on 7 dates.
291.	Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera magna</i>	Quite common from Sessni onwards.
292.	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	Up to 5 were present at SeLa Pass.
293.	Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophhiata</i>	First seen on the way up to SeLa Pass and then on the higher part of the Mandala Road.
294.	Crested Bunting	<i>Melophus lathami</i>	Quite common along the Sangti Valley.
295.	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	We were surprised to find this species at this time of year, but a couple were present on an open, grassy hillside along the Mandala Road.
296.	Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	Paul picked up this species in the fields in the Sangti Valley.
297.	Plain Mountain-finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>	Several large flocks were present on our first visit to SeLa Pass. A single bird below Lama Camp was out of place and was the first record for Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
298.	Brandt's Mountain-finch	<i>Leucosticte brandii</i>	A flock of 20+ above the road on the north side of SeLa Pass was a bonus.
299.	Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis spinoides</i>	Also called Himalayan Greenfinch. Only seen in the Sangti Valley on 11 th May.
300.	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	A few were noted along the Mandala Road and at Lama Camp.
301.	Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus thura</i>	Several birds present around SeLa Pass on 9 th May.
302.	Dark-rumped Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus edwardsii</i>	First seen below SeLa Pass on 9 th May and then the following day at around 3200m on the Mandala Road where it caused some confusion perched high up in a pine tree before we had decent views.
303.	Dark-breasted Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus nipalensis</i>	Granville found a couple found feeding around the edges of a marsh on the Mandala Road on 10 th May.
304.	Blanford's Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rubescens</i>	Poor views were obtained on both visits to SeLa Pass and only some of the group were lucky enough to be looking in the right direction at the right time!
305.	Scarlet Finch	<i>Haematospiza sipahi</i>	A small feeding party showed to some of the group as we drove from Dirang to Eaglenest on 11 th May. A fine male was observed above Sunderview on 14 th May.
306.	Gold-naped Finch	<i>Pyrrhoptectes epauletta</i>	Several good views of a pair below SeLa Pass, as well as a small feeding flock high up the Mandala Road, and another flock below Eaglenest Pass.
307.	Grey-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>	A couple feeding flocks were observed along the Mandala Road on 2 separate dates.
308.	Brown Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>	A few were seen on the Mandala Road in company with the previous species, and there was a single perched bird at Lama Camp which was very nice in the scope!
309.	Collared Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas affinis</i>	A couple birds were present at Eaglenest Pass on 12 th
310.	White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>	A few were present along the Mandala Road.
311.	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Seen on the return journey to Guwahati on 20 th May
312.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus indicus</i>	Observed on 4 dates.
313.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	A common sight during the first week of the tour.
314.	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>	Also called Cinnamon Sparrow. The usual small colony in the Sangti Valley gave us our first views, but we also

			found them at several other sites.
315.	Eastern Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus burmanicus</i>	At least 3 were present in the rice paddies opposite our lunch stop on 4 th May. A potential split – see Ripley Guide.
316.	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	A regular sight during the second half of the tour.
317.	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Only seen during the drive to Nameri on the first day.
318.	Slender-billed Oriole	<i>Oriolus tenuirostris</i>	After only hearing up to 5 birds in the Sangti Valley, we finally managed prolonged scope views on our next visit of a preening bird.
319.	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Common in the lowlands of Assam.
320.	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	A very common bird and seen on 13 dates.
321.	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	A relatively common bird from Sessni onwards.
	Crow-billed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus annectans</i>	A leader only sighting above Sessni.
322.	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	Seen a few times over the last couple of days, mainly around Sessni.
323.	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Just seen a few times at either end of the tour.
324.	Spangled (Hair-crested) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	Seen on 4 dates at various sites.
325.	Grey-headed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	Formerly called Chestnut-tailed Starling, which was split to include this species and Malabar White-headed Starling. A few seen at the beginning of the tour.
326.	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	Seen on the first couple of days of the tour only.
327.	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Seen a few times in the lowlands.
328.	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Seen a few times in the lowlands.
329.	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres cinereus</i>	A few seen as we returned to Guwahati on the last day.
330.	Common Hill-myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	Seen at Nameri Eco-Camp. Another recent split from The Ripley Guide.
331.	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	Seemingly quite common along the higher parts of the Mandala Road and around Eaglenest Pass.
332.	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>	Seen on both visits to SeLa Pass.
333.	Alpine Chough		A few were present on our first visit to SeLa Pass.
334.	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendensponensis</i>	Seen a few times in the lowlands.
335.	Eastern Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus leuallantii</i>	Seen during the first half of the tour.
336.	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus japonensis</i>	A common sight during the first half of the tour. Formerly lumped with the previous species.
337.	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius interstinctus</i>	A single observed on the Mandala Road on 7 th May was the only one.
338.	Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>	A single bird was observed at Doi Mara Bridge and another above Sessni showed better the following day.
339.	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	Several good sightings over 7 dates.
340.	Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	Seen just twice at Eaglenest.
341.	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Seen in the lowlands of Assam only.

341 species seen - 19 species heard or leader only - 361 species recorded in total.

OTHER SIGHTINGS

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1.	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>
2.	Capped Langur	<i>Presbytis pileata</i>
3.	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
4.	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
5.	Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>
6.	Malayan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>
7.	Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>
8.	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>
9.	Yellow-throated Marten	<i>Marted flvigula</i>
10.	Large-eared Pika	<i>Ochotona macrotis</i>