

28 June 2005

**The Birds and Mammals recorded on
BHUTAN
April 12 – March 6, 2005**



Bhutan

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BHUTAN 2005

“The Paro Dzong (monastery), guarded by icy crags, sits warming under the late afternoon sun. It seems to welcome our approach to our beautifully located hotel. An Ibisbill, so subtle as to be taken for a glacial stone, dips quietly in the snowmelt. This is indeed the Kingdom of Bhutan and the land of the peaceful Dragon.” As Steve Hilty remarked on first setting foot in the kingdom, "This is fairytale land."

K. David Bishop

This was a very special tour, one of the very best I have ever had the pleasure of leading to Bhutan. In large part this success was due to a wonderful group of participants and I would like to thank you all for making the entire tour such a great experience.

I consider myself very privileged to have travelled so often and so extensively throughout the kingdom of Bhutan (1994 to the present). To have the opportunity to regularly explore such an incredible and special destination and in company with wonderful friends such as Chhimmi, Wangdi, Pema and many others is something I look forward to every year. It is memorable indeed. The vastness and beauty of Bhutan's forests is to experience a window onto what Asia and the Himalayas once were which combined with the opportunity to make very real discoveries never fails to rejuvenate my soul and make me want to return there time after time.

The following is a summary of our daily activities, including some of the trip's highlights together with a list of what we heard and saw. Nevertheless it only conveys part of the story and can never really express the wonderful sights and sounds of Bhutan, its land, its forests, wildlife and its people.

Thank you

David Bishop

Diary

- 14 April** We departed early on our Druk Air flight via Kathmandu to Paro, Bhutan. *En route* we were treated to spectacular views of the Himalayas – the world’s highest mountain range, before an equally spectacular descent into the Kingdom of the peaceful Dragon. After settling into our hotel and lunch we explored the Paro valley north to the idyllic ruin of Drygyel Dzong. NIGHT: Detchen Hotel, Paro. HIGHLIGHTS: a very stropy Black-tailed Crake!
- 15 April** Early departure for Chelila and a spectacular birding drive up to the pass at 14,400 feet that included seemingly endless numbers of pheasants. Our ground-crew were waiting for us with the first of many wonderful breakfasts before we birded our way down into the recently opened Ha Valley. The remainder of the day was spent birding our way through a never ending panoply of vast untouched forests and enchanting farms and dwellings before arriving into Thimpu early in the evening. NIGHT: Riverside Hotel, Thimpu. HIGHLIGHT: The beautiful fir forests; the sublime, tranquillity of the Ha Valley; a fabulous, lingering study of a male Himalayan Monal glowing in the morning sun; several Blood and Kalij pheasants; our first Ibisbill and a rare Serow.
- 16 April** A moderately early start for the drive up to the attractive Cheri Valley and breakfast below the vertiginous Cheri Monastery. Returned in time for lunch but not before stopping to imbibe the imposing Taschidodzong – Bhutan’s equivalent of Parliament or the Senate. The afternoon was spent wandering the streets of the capital and some really fun shopping. NIGHT: Riverside Hotel, Thimpu. HIGHLIGHTS: A male Yellow-rumped Honeyguide; an extraordinarily confiding male Rufous-bellied Woodpecker and a flock of lovely Snow Pigeons.
- 17 April** And so our journey began in earnest with our first venture along the lateral road, at last we were to get to grips with Bhutan’s famous mixed broad-leaved and evergreen forests. As we breasted Dochu La the sense of amazement was quite audible at the beauty of the flowering rhododendrons and magnolias not to mention those magnificent forests that stretch away, seemingly for ever. We birded down the east slope to breakfast before continuing further down slope to warm mixed broad-leaved forest. We then drove via the Tsang Chu to a late lunch in the Mo Chu valley and an unproductive search for the White-bellied Heron. And of course we drank in our first views of the impressive Punakha Dzong. NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri Hotel. HIGHLIGHTS: Crested Kingfisher; Pallas’s Fish-Eagle low overhead and the magnificent Rhododendron/Magnolia lit broadleaved forests of Dochula.
- 18 April** Departed early for the valley of the Mo Chu and the lovely Tashitang Trail (actually a very easily walked vehicle track). B’fast at one of my favourite sites of the whole trip, resplendent with spring colours, a waterfall erupting hundreds of feet above - an amphitheatre for so many classic Himalayan birds. A morning of genteel birding, wandering through fields of “Mary-Jane” and gamboling butterflies. After lunch we returned to the winter capital where Kipchu, my esteemed Bhutanese co-leader, escorted us on a fascinating and mind-opening exploration of the inner sanctum of Punakha Dzong. Quite, quite spellbiding. NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri Hotel. HIGHLIGHTS:

Slaty-backed Forktaill; a brilliant (literally) Small Niltava; a Himalayan river that is everything one might dream of; and, as the itinerary says, this is the day of the Spotted Wren-Babbler (the ultimate in real birds!); and was it ever.

19 April Passing under the ramparts of imposing Wangdi Dzong we gradually made our way through the dry scrub of a narrow gorge before slowly climbing and birding our way through increasingly lovely mixed broad-leaved forests on the west slope of Pelela. Patches of cultivation and prayer-flag bedecked farmhouses completed a seeming unending panoply of memories. Added to which an astonishing array of birds including flock after flock of Himalayan specialties.

And then there was the Leopard! Much to the group's astonishment this gorgeous creature actually stood on the road right in front of us all before scampering up a dry creek bed and then flushing a female Satyr Tragopan! **Quite incredible!**

As the advertising says "another glorious day in a fairytale land." NIGHT: Camp Pelela. HIGHLIGHTS: The Leopard and flock after mixed flock of Himalayan birds.

20 April An enchanting, morning walk before breakfast all to the sounds of the Himalayas in Spring. Who will ever forget our 'mystical' and oh so incredible experience with one resplendent male Satyr Tragopan creeping through the bamboo. This is the second year in a row that we have seen males of all the possible Bhutan pheasants!

After breakfast we broke camp and gradually made our way to Trongsa via the King's chorten at Chendibji. As always seems be the case in Bhutan, birds were everywhere not to mention myriads of photographic opportunities so actually getting to our destination in reasonable time was always going to be a lottery. And just to add spice to our journey Trongsa Dzong, located at the head of three valleys and key to the security of the kingdom, shone in the afternoon sun – it was just 200 metres away and we had only another hour of our journey to go! NIGHT: Trongsa. HIGHLIGHTS: Male Satyr Tragopan; superlative 'scope views of yet another Serow; hordes of Himalayan Monal that were incredibly tame; a very confiding Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler.

21 April Yet another wonder-filled day replete with magical landscapes, great birds, mammals and plants. Today's journey began with a 'fallout' of several hundred birds just below Trongsa, following an overnight storm. From thereon we journeyed southwards down the Shemgang Road all the way to 900 m and the Trongsa Chu all the while constantly beguiled by a fascinating mosaic of bird-rich forests, terraced fields and erotically daubed Bhutanese farmhouses. With so much to see we were hard pressed to make our camp near Tingtibi (650 m) by dark. What a truly delightful site. NIGHT: Camping near Tingtibi. HIGHLIGHTS: Golden Langurs; a Goral that wandered across the road in front of our bus and a very confiding male Crimson Sunbird.

22 – 23 April With an altitudinal range of c. 500 - 2000 m the Shemgang Road nicely compliments its more illustrious cousin, the Limithang Road. Furthermore, the Shemgang Road sees very little traffic, leaving one in peace and serenity to enjoy the beauty of its quite remarkable forests. Typically we worked the somewhat degraded Subtropical Forest below our camp during the early morning and then worked upwards from camp after a late breakfast. As the day warmed up we drove to cooler elevations. NIGHTS: Camping near Tingtibi.

HIGHLIGHTS: And all this in a wondrous landscape filled with mixed species flocks; Rufous-necked and hordes of impressive Great hornbills, Pin-tailed Green Pigeons, Sultan Tits and an extraordinarily confiding pair of Beautiful Nuthatches. VENT has now recorded this highly sought after species on all of its recent tours to the kingdom.

24 April Our return trip to Trongsa produced more birds and mammals, more wonderful landscape and an opportunity to listen to some traditional Bhutanese music. **NIGHT:** Trongsa

25 April Yet another wonderful day in 'Fairytaleland'. We drove up to the pass – Yutong La before turning around and walking back downhill to breakfast. We then worked our way back up through magnificent Hemlock and Silver Fir forests before descending into the Bumthang valleys. Needless to say along the way we helped ourselves to a bevy of new birds and flowering plants. Hmmm.

The second half of the day brought quite a change of pace with a delightful ramble through the Bumthang valleys; a stop at the weaving centre for a rare opportunity to shop and on to the Jakar Valley and some time to catch up on notes and revel in the intricacies of Aum Leki's extraordinary weavings. **NIGHT:** Aum Leki's Guest House, Jakar Valley. **HIGHLIGHTS:** Cosmic views of a pair of Spotted Laughingthrushes and Fulvous Parrotbills; Aum Leki's weavings.

26 April The journey to our camp on the Gayzam Chu is surely one of the engineering marvels of the world. And this year despite that at times the weather was less than perfect we were still treated to vistas that constantly left us stopping to stare in awe. And, as we surmised, Bhutan's forests really do extend as far as the eye can see. This was indeed one of the great days of the entire tour. **NIGHT:** Camp Gayzam Chu. **HIGHLIGHTS:** Pride of place must surely go to the scintillating Blood Pheasants which provided a captivating show and of course the male Satyr Tragopan.

27 April Pouring rain that turned to snow in combination with thunder and lightning that rumbled around the mountains produced a spectacular storm and an equally spectacular view out of our tents this morning! Deciding that sheer cowardice was the better part of valour we meekly packed up camp and birded our way up over Thrumsing La, down past the village of Sengor to our very attractive and comfortably warm Yongkola camp at 6,200 feet on the Limithang Road. The pass at Thrumsingla (12,400 feet) is the start of the now famous Limithang Road. Birding down the east slope of Thrumsingla we made the spectacular but rather vertiginous descent, as ever amidst seemingly unending and untouched primeval forests and the panoply of flowering rhododendrons on this descent is surely one of the world's great floral displays. The forests were as beautiful as it is possible to imagine and graced with some marvellous birds not least of which was a pair of Ward's Trogons that just wouldn't leave us. And literally left us gasping with excitement. **NIGHT:** Yongkola Camp. **HIGHLIGHTS:** That drive and of course the pair of Ward's Trogons.

28-29 April Oh just another bird-filled day along, arguably, one of the best birding roads in the whole of Asia. Despite the cloud and occasional rain we all revelled in the serene beauty of these ancient forests and the beautiful light effects on ridge after pastel ridge rendering it all quite unreal. Time to draw breath and enjoy the beauty of this oh so

wonderfully remote part of the world. Surely the Limithang Road is truly one of the great birding roads of the world. These two days along the Limithang Road lived up to its deserved reputation and produced some cracking birds. From our delightfully located camp in the forest above Yongkola we wound our way through forest as beautiful as it is possible to imagine. Our time here was never to be enough. Stretching away, seemingly endlessly, towards the horizon, this road sports some truly magnificent forests with many tall trees of impressive girths on huge buttresses, jutting out over our path. Orchids abound, and the understory of the forest is often relatively clear, although the higher strata are often strung with enormous woody vines and lianas. And then there are the patches of bamboo so full of secrets and realised promise. NIGHTS: Yongkola Camp, Limithang Road. HIGHLIGHTS: Glorious views of several Rufous-necked Hornbills in the 'scope; a troop of dapper Capped Langurs; two very proud Rufous-throated Wren-Babblers;

- 30 April** After spending much of the day birding the Limithang Road we gradually wound our way back to Aum Leki's and the Jakar Valley. NIGHT: Aum Leki's Guest House, Jakar Valley.
- 1 May** A fairly long drive today but what a day. Despite the rain in the Jakar and thanks to David Wolf we had some great fun shopping and trying to figure out the identity of a small fall-out of larks. One of which turned out to be new for Bhutan – Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark. I for one will never forget the beauty of the snow covered forests as we wound our way up over Yutong La. NIGHT: Camping Pele La. HIGHLIGHTS: Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark, Blood Pheasants.
- 2 May** An extraordinary morning that confirmed the value of spending another night at this very attractive camp site before descending to the town of Wangdi and on to our hotel near Punakha. NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri, Punakha. HIGHLIGHTS: Sensational views of yet another pair of Satyr Tragopans; 7 Great Parrotbills; 8 Fulvous Parrotbills and a flock of Dusky Thrushes.
- 3 May** A picture perfect setting for our final breakfast along the the enchanting PoChu. And despite that we failed in our search for the elusive White-bellied Heron it was such a lovely morning and there was so much else to see. From the PoChu we birded our way up Dochu La to our final luncheon at the pass. A poignant moment to say goodbye to our wonderful crew before making the last stage of our journey back to Paro. NIGHT: Detchen Hotel, Paro. HIGHLIGHTS: The Po Chu valley in the early morning; wonderful flight views of a Northern Hobby.
- 4 May** An early morning Druk Air flight took us back to Delhi via Kathmandu. As we soared above the Paro Valley there they were, the entire Himalayas, Jhomalhari, Kanchenchunga, Everest and K2, in all their glory and so incredibly close! The sheer magnitude and mystical beauty of these mountains was almost overpowering. What a way to end a truly wonderful tour. With a few hours in hand we made a quick dash to the Yamuna River where despite the rain we encountered an almost overwhelming collection of new birds. NIGHT: Uppal's Orchid Hotel, Delhi. HIGHLIGHTS: Them there mountains!; White-tailed Stonechat and the very rare Bristled Grassbird.

5 May The day that was originally scheduled for the start of the tour was re-scheduled to this day. Departing early we made the long but fascinating drive out to the little known Bhindiwas Reserve. Despite water levels being low we still came up with a bonanza of special birds. Returning in time for a late lunch we cleaned up and relaxed before making final fairwells and heading home. **HIGHLIGHTS:** Fine views of Greater Painted-Snipe; the rare Black-necked Stork and Sind Sparrow.

T = Globally threatened or Near Threatened

BIRDS

NON-PASSERINES

1. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.

Also known as Red-throated Little Grebe.

2. Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* **I:** Bhindiwas.
3. Indian Shag (Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* **I:** Excellent study of two adults, Bhindiwas.
1. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* **B:** Three on the gravel beds of the Po Chu near Punakha; 3 along the Mo Chu; 6 on 3 May again on the Po Chu. **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.
2. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* **I:** One or two along the Yumuna R; and at Bhindiwas. Currently classified as Near Threatened.

NOTE: The Old World populations of the Darter represent one of a handful of species whose taxonomic status has flipped back-and-forth at the vagary of taxonomic opinion. Some authorities treat the three Old World forms of the Darter which inhabit Africa, Asia and Australia as a single species, *Anhinga melanogaster*. Other authorities treat the taxa of each region as separate species. Clearly the three taxa represent a superspecies, whether or not these taxa have yet evolved into fully-fledged species is open to conjecture. The taxon found in the America's, *Anhinga anhinga* is widely regarded as specifically distinct from Old World form(s).

3. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* **B:** A surprise record; one along the Tsang Chu, above Wangdi. **I:** Several birds on the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
4. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.
5. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.
6. Great Egret *Egretta alba* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.

NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Casmerodius* or *Ardea*.

7. Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* **I:** Bhindiwas.

8. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas – including some birds in breeding plumage.

NOTE: Consistent differences between *B. ibis* and *B. coromandus* in breeding plumage, proportions and vocalisations indicate they are better treated as two species. Rasmussen & Anderton. 2005 'Birds of South Asia The Ripley Guide'. Birds in north America are referable to Western or Common Cattle Egret *B. ibis*.

9. Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas – including some birds in breeding plumage.
10. Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.
11. Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* **I:** Eight along the Yumna R. ten at Bhindiwas. **Globally threatened.**
12. Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* **I:** One adult male at Bhindiwas. **Globally threatened.**
13. Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* **I:** Yamuna R. and 12 at Bhindiwas. **Globally Near Threatened.**
14. Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* **I:** Yamuna R. and ca. 20 at Bhindiwas.
15. Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* **I:** A magnificent flock of ca. 400 along the Yumna River.
- NOTE:** Sometimes treated as conspecific with *P. ruber*.
16. Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* **I:** Bhindiwas.
17. Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* **I:** Something of a surprise, four winter birds still lingering, Bhindiwas.
18. Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* **B:** Eight along the Tsang Chu, just below Punakha; **I:** Twelve along the Yamuna R.
19. Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* **I:** One on the Yamuna R. and 14 at Bhindiwas.
20. Gadwall *Anas strepera* **B:** One drake on the Po Chu near Punakha; a flock of 15 flying up and down the Mangde Chu. **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
21. Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* **B:** One drake along the Po Chu; **I:** Yamuna R.
22. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* **B:** One female along the Po Chu near Punakha; **I:** One drake at Bhindiwas.

23. Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* **I:** Common along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.

NOTE: This distinctive population has recently been given full species status by some authorities (see for example Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). It can be separated from Chinese Spot-billed Duck by the less uniform sooty black upperparts; green as opposed to a blue speculum and the presence of a pink-red bill spot. This is the resident population that breeds throughout the Indian subcontinent and SE Asia. The second part of the equation is referred to as Chinese Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha* and this taxon breeds in north and eastern Asia and is a rarely recorded passage migrant in the Indian subcontinent.

24. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
25. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* **B:** One drake along the Ha Chu; **I:** Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
26. Garganey *Anas querquedula* **I:** Several along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
27. Common Teal *Anas crecca* **I:** At least one at Bhindiwas.
28. Ferruginous Duck *Aythya ferruginea* **I:** One female at Bhindiwas.
29. Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* **I:** Two along the Yamuna R. and one at Bhindiwas.
30. Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* **B:** One seen by Karen along the Tsang Chu, just below Wangdi.
31. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* **B:** One female fishing along the Tsang Chu at Punakha.
32. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* One at Nepal airport; **B:** One between the Jakar and Ura valleys; **I:** Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.

NOTE: The large and distinctive form found in Asia is treated by some authorities as a separate species, Black-eared Kite, *Milvus lineatus*. However, there is extensive hybridisation in the broad area of contact.

33. Pallas's Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* **B:** Two adults seen superbly, soaring over the pine forests lining the Po Chu; fabulous views as an adult soared up from the Mangde Chu valley right in front of our bus. **Globally threatened.**
34. Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis* **B:** A good year for this gigantic species: 19 April - 5 soaring over Pele La; 20 April - 20+ soaring over the west slope of Pele La including several individuals at close eye-level.
35. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela* **B:** Two pairs, including a probable pair attending a nest on the lower slopes of Pele La; one adult between Trongsa and Tingtibi; singles on two days along the Limithang Rd; three between Punakha and Paro.

36. Shikra *Accipiter badius* **I**: Singles seen briefly along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
37. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* **B**: A total of three over forest along the road between Shemgang and Tingtibi.
38. Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* **B**: Notably common this year. Two in the Cheri valley; three between Dochu La and Punakha; three along the Mo Chu valley; one female on the lower slope of Pele La; three between Jakar and Gayzam Chu; ne female along the Limithang Rd; one between Yongkola and Bumthang.

Also known as Northern Sparrowhawk.

39. Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* **B**: Three over the Paro valley; four from Cheli La thru Ha to the confluence; one over the west slope of Pele La; one over Yutong La.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) argue strongly that *burmanicus* is specifically distinct from Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

40. Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* **B**: One, probably two individuals, including one very whitish headed individual on Pele La.
41. Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius* **B**: One over Cheli La; one over Pele La and one between Gayzamchu and Ura.
42. Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* **B**: Notably widespread, with several individuals seen on many days: One over the west slope of Pele La; a total of three between Trongsa and Shemgang; three between Shemgang and Tingtibi and four or more the following day on the same road; four between Jakar and Pele La and one on the lower west slope of Pele La.
43. Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* **B**: One immature flying north along the Mangde Chu below Trongsa; presumably a migrant heading north.

NOTE: Clark's (1992) excellent study of the Tawny Eagle and Steppe Eagle shows conclusively that these two act as good species towards one another.

44. Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* **B**: One near the Tsang Chu, below Punakha.
45. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* **I**: One second year male, near Bhindiwas.
46. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii* **B**: One over forest near our Yongkola camp.
47. Mountain Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis* **B**: Notably widespread and fairly common with 1 2 seen most days and occasionally as many as 3 between Trongsa and Shemgang and along the Limithang Rd. between Namling and Yongkola. The latter included an immature begging from an adult. Several outstanding close views of this impressive raptor as evidenced by David Cahlander's wonderful images.

48. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* **B:** Widespread and moderately common in open, non forested country:

Also known as Eurasian Kestrel.

49. Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* **B:** One adult in flight over the Paro valley and superb views of a second bird on our last full day in the field, near the Tsang Chu below Punakha.

Also known as Northern Hobby

50. Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* **I:** One female at the edge of *Typha* sp beds, along the Yamuna R; heard at Bhindiwas.

51. Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* **I:** Heard at Bhindiwas.

52. Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* **B:** Widespread and heard most days.

Also known as Common Hill Partridge.

53. Rufous-throated Hill Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* **B:** One heard on the west slope of Pele La.

54. Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii* **B:** Heard commonly along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road and along the Limithang Rd. **Globally threatened.**

55. Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* **B:** An outstanding year for this gorgeous bird: a total of ten seen superbly well on the slopes of Cheli La; three seen and several others heard between Ura and Gayzamchu; one pair on the road on the west side of Yutong La.

56. Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra* **B:** Arguably **THE** highlight of a brilliant tour. 19 April – One female flushed by a Leopard as the latter bounded away, up a dry creek bed on the west slope of Pele La; 20 April – One male heard then seen skulking through dense bamboo on a steep slope within partially disturbed rhododendron forest, Pele La; 26 April – One male foraging at the roadside between Ura and Gayzamchu; 30 April – An amazing group of three adult males on the road during the late afternoon on the west slope of Shutong La; subsequently heard and responded to our tape permitting additional views of this stunning bird; 2 May – A gorgeous male and female put on a wonderful show as they paraded right in front of the entire group at the very same site we had previously seen the male on Pele La. At least two others were heard.

Surely this is one of the most beautiful birds in the world. **Globally threatened.**

57. Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* **B:** Two males and one female seen superbly within and at the edge of magnificent Silver Fir forest on the slopes of Cheli La; a total of at least 15 birds, mostly adult males were seen, and seen superbly, within mixed Rhododendron, Silver Fir, Birch forest on Pele La; one male and one female near Gayzamchu; one male and one female on Pele La.

This too is one of the world's most iridescent and spectacular birds.

Also known as Impeyan Pheasant.

58. Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* **B:** One seen briefly between Tingtibi and Shemgang.
59. Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelana* **B:** Notably uncommon this year except on Cheli La. One female on the road within Blue Pine forests, above the Paro valley; a total of 18 counted between Cheli La, the Ha valley and the confluence; three along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road.
60. Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* **I:** Several seen along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
61. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* **B:** One along the Po Chu. This is a rare and local species in Bhutan. **I:** Several along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
62. Black-tailed Crake *Amaurornis bicolor* **B:** A sensational experience! One very responsive individual came 'roaring' out at us on a small pond at Drugyel Dzong. This species was only known from one specimen prior to VENT's tours to Bhutan. It now appears to be locally throughout the kingdom.
63. Purple Swampphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
64. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.

Also known as Common Gallinule.
65. Common Coot *Fulica atra* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
66. Also known as Eurasian Coot.
67. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* **I:** Three gorgeous males in full breeding plumage at Bhindiwas and one individual giving a 'song' I would never have imagined from this species!
68. Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula bengalensis* **I:** At least seven including several handsome females, Bhindiwas.
69. Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* **B:** Three on the Ha Chu, including one bird on a nest; one pair with two chicks along the Po Chu near to Punakha Dzong; two along the Jakar Chu; a total of eight along the Tsang Chu and Po Chu. Yet again we enjoyed multiple, superb views of this grand bird, illustrating yet again that Bhutan is indeed a stronghold for this very special species.
70. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* **I:** Common along the Yamuna R. and several at Bhindiwas.
71. Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* **I:** 100+ along the Yamuna R.

72. Small Pratincole *Glareola lacteal* **I:** One along the Yamuna R.
73. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
74. River Lapwing *Vanellus duvauceli* **B:** A total of six along the Paro Chu; two along the Ha Chu; several along the Tsang, Po and Mo chus; ca. 40 including a flock of 19 along the Po Chu (3 May); **I:** One along the Yamuna R.
75. Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* **B:** A good year for this species with 1-2 heard and then seen 'roding' at dusk and dawn over our camp on Pele La.
76. Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* **B:** Three flushed from the scrubby river gravel beds of the Paro river valley.
77. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* **I:** Approximately 60 along the Yamuna R.
78. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* **I:** Several, including two in near full breeding plumage, Bhindiwas.
79. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* **B:** Two along the Paro river valley.
80. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
81. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* **B:** One in the Paro river valley; two along the Po Chu.
82. Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* **I:** Many along the Yamuna R.
83. Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus* Ten along the Yamuna R.
84. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Several hundreds along the Yamuna R. including some in near full breeding plumage.
85. Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* Widespread and common. **Feral.**
86. Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota* **B:** A flock of c. 30 in flight between the Ha valley and the confluence; c. 20 in flight over Blue Pine forest at the foot of Cheri Monastery.
87. Speckled Pigeon *Columba hodgsoni* **B:** Two perched in secondary woodland just below Namling, Limithang Rd.
88. Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* **B:** Widespread, common and observed almost daily, often foraging on the road.
89. Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.

90. Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* **B:** Moderately common locally in open country. Four on the lower slopes of Dochu La; Mo Chu valley; Tsang Chu valley; Widespread and along the Tsang Chu; Punakha; Tashigang trail; above Wangdi; and near Tingtibi.
91. Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decoacto* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
92. Barred Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia unchall* **B:** Good looks at six or more in degraded Sub-tropical Forest surrounding our campsite above Tingtibi.
93. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* **B:** Three along the lower section of the Shemgang – Tingtibi road within degraded Subtropical Forest.
- Also known as Green-winged Ground-Dove.
94. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera* **I:** One in flight at along the Yamuna R.
95. Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda* **B:** Four seen on our first morning, and one on our last morning, at ca. 650m within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi. Exceptional 'scope views!
96. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura* **B:** Ten or more in woodland within rather dry scrub along a narrow gorge above the town of Wangdi; one male on the Shemgang – Tingtibi Rd; ca. 15 at a fruting tree on the lower slopes of Pele La; two along the Po Chu in a remanant forest patch.
97. Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* **B:** Just one seen along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.
98. Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
99. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* **B:** Heard right within our camp and two birds seen superbly, chasing one another, ca. 650m within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.
100. Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* **B:** Widespread and common. Seen or heard almost daily from Cheri and Thimpu eastwards to our camp at Yongkola on the Limithang Road.
101. Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus fugax* **B:** Widespread but sparse; heard on the lower slope of Pele La; two seen well between Shemgang and Tingtibi and heard daily in the forests above and below our camp near Tingtibi; similarly heard daily in the forests above our Yongkola camp, Limithang Rd.
102. Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* **B:** Heard daily from near our camp above Tingtibi; one seen briefly and others heard between Namling and our Yongkola camp along the Limithang Rd.; heard along the Po Chu.

103. Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* **B:** Widespread; seen and heard almost daily except between Shemgang and Tingtibi.
Also known as Eurasian Cuckoo.
104. Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* **B:** Widespread and common; seen or heard most days with one individual providing an excellent 'scope study at our breakfast site on Dochu La.
105. Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* **B:** Heard on Dochu La; two birds seen in flight including one hepatic phase individual on the lower slope of Pele La.
106. Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* **B:** One taped in for fine 'scope views, within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi, c. 730 m elevation.
107. Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus* **B:** One male seen by Pete within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi Rd.
108. Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* **B:** Heard and seen rather infrequently this year: seen and heard daily along the Shemgang Rd. and just once on the Limithang Rd. and on the lower slopes of Pele La.
109. Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas - heard only.
110. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
111. Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* **B:** Heard at our Yongkola Camp along the Limithang Road.
112. Collared Scops-Owl *Otus lettia* **B:** Heard close to our Tingtibi camp.

NOTE: Until very recently this taxon was treated as part of a widespread species *Otus bakkamoena* found throughout the Oriental region. However the recent book 'Owls of the World' – Koenig, Weick and Becking (2000) provides evidence that this taxon actually comprises four species: Indian Scops Owl *O. bakkamoena* throughout the Indian subcontinent below 2,200m although absent from the north-west and north-east; Collared Scops Owl *O. lettia* replaces the above species immediately to the north and extends throughout much of China; Sunda Scops Owl *O. lempiji* Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali; and Japanese Scops Owl *O. semitorques*.

113. Himalayan Wood Owl *Strix nivicola* **B:** Heard one evening within our Yongkola camp.

NOTE: Split from Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (see Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

114. Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodei* **B:** One seen all too briefly on the west slope of Pele La; heard daily along the Limithang Rd; and finally one seen superbly between Namling and Yongkola on the Limithang Rd.

115. Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* **B:** Heard between Shemgang and Tingtibi; heard and seen daily near our Yongkola camp.
116. Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* **I:** Two along the Yamuna R; and three at Bhindiwas.
117. Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* **B:** Super views of at least three birds hawking every morning outside our hotel near Punakha.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that Himalayan (*jotaka*) South India (*indicus*) and Sri Lanka (*kelaarti*) populations exhibit clear, consistent morphological and vocal differences such that they should be treated as separate species.

118. Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* **B:** Locally common; ca. over Cheri; 100+ over Dochu La; ca. 500 over the Tashitang Trail; several over the west slope of Pele La; common between Trongsa and Shemgang; 60+ over the Limithang Rd. on two days; several over Pele La (3 May).
119. White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* **B:** Notably scarce this year with just ten seen between Trongsa and Shemgang; 40+ near Tingtibi; 2 over the Po Chu valley.
120. Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* **B:** Four near our camp above Tingtibi. There are very few records of this species for Bhutan.
121. Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* **B:** Widespread and locally common: 10 Dochu La; 20+ Pele La including several nesting birds; Pele La to Trongsa; Trongsa to Tingtibi; Sengor to Yongkola on the Limithang Rd; 5 Yutong La.
122. Little Swift *Apus affinis* **B:** Two over Pele La.
123. Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardii* **B: Perhaps the ultimate Bhutan bird experience.**

What a truly wondrous experience; a pair of very territorial and confiding birds put on a never to be forgotten show as they flirted, called and fed at a fruiting tree for *ca.* 40 minutes, providing a life-time of visual memories as they perched for truly amazing 'scope, video and ETE views. **Globally threatened.**

124. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* **B:** One heard along the Po Chu and one seen along the Mo Chu.

Also known as Eurasian or River Kingfisher.

125. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* **B:** Three along the Tsang and Po chus near Punakha; one near Wangdi; heard between Shemgang and Tingtibi; four along the Po Chu. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
126. Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris* **B:** Two seen superbly along the Po Chu near Punakha; four along the Mo Chu valley; one near Wangdi; one on the lower slope of Pele La; two along the Po Chu.

127. Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* **I:** Three at Bhindiwas put on a delightful show.
128. Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctiornis athertoni* **B:** Singles daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd; one heard near Yongkola along the Limithang Rd.
129. Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* **I:** Several along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
Also called Green Bee-eater
130. Indian Roller *Coracias bengalensis* **I:** Two between Bhindiwas and Delhi.
131. Hoopoe *Upupa epops* **B:** One in the Paro valley; two in the Cheri Valley; singles daily near Tingtibi; one at Ural; two between Jakar and Yutong La; two along the Po Chu. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
132. Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* **B:** A flock of 10 (22 April) and 15+ (24 April) worked their way up the valley from near Tingtibi to near our camp, stopping briefly to feed at fruiting trees; stunning views and photos of a single adult preeding within Chir Pine woodland on the Geylephug Rd.
133. Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis* **B:** Without doubt, for many a major highlight of a great tour. Sensational views of several birds along the road from Shemgang to Tingtibi: 22 April: 2-3 between Shemgang and Tingtibi and six near our camp above Tingtibi; 23 April: a total of five between Shemgang and Tingtibi; 24 April: three between Tingtibi and Shemgang; 29 – 30 April: 1-3 seen and heard daily from above our Yongkola camp down to the Shonkhar Chu valley. **Globally threatened.**
134. Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* **B:** Widespread and common, recorded almost daily.
135. Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii* **B:** Widespread and generally common; recorded in low numbers.
136. Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica* **B:** Several heard and seen between Trongsa and Shemgang and Shemgang and Tingtibi; one heard in the Shonkhar Chu valley
137. Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus* **B:** One male provided superb 'scope studies as he attended a Rock Bee hive along the Thimpu Chu; another male was seen well at our breakfast site along the slopes of Pele La. This is a little known and rarely observed species. **Globally threatened.**
138. Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* **B:** One seen nicely on two days within degraded Subtropical Forest near Tingtibi; one with a mixed species flock on the lower slopes of Pele La.
139. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus* **B:** One pair seen daily within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.
140. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei* **B:** One male in degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.

141. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Picoides hyperythrus* **B:** Fabulous views of a male digging a nest hole – amazingly this bird permitted us to approach to within just a few feet; at least four other birds seen on that same morning in the Cheri valley; heard on Yutong La and Pele La.
142. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Picoides cathpharius* **B:** Great looks at a male in secondary woodland on Pele La; 1-2 seen on two days along the Limithang Rd; two on the Tashitang Trail; one on the lower slopes of Pele La.
143. Darjeeling Woodpecker *Picoides darjellensis* **B:** Heard in the Cheri Valley; two on two days along the Limithang Rd.
144. Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus* **B:** Good looks at a single adult male within a sparsely wooded narrow valley above Wangdi; one pair within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi Rd; one along the Po Chu.
145. Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus* **B:** One male along the Tashitang Trail; one male on the Shemgang Rd; one male along the Limithang Rd. above our Yongkola camp and a total of four between Yongkola camp and the Shonkar Chu valley.
146. Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha* **B:** One male along the Tashitang Trail; heard on the lower slopes of Pele La; two on the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; one on the Limithang Rd.
147. Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* **B:** Several heard and one seen along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.
148. Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benalense* **I:** One pair seen superbly, Bhindiwas.
149. Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* **B:** Heard at several locations including: Dochu La; Tashitang Trail; Trongsa to Tingtibi where one finally seen superbly – after a bit of persuasion; several heard along the Limithang Rd.

PASSERINES

150. Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* **B:** A pair of these striking and wonderfully evocative sounding birds were seen and heard below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
151. Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis* **B:** 1 May - Thanks to some good work by David Wolf we observed a flock of at least seven for 40+ minutes as they foraged together with several other larks including Oriental Skylark and three putative Greater or Hume's Short-toed larks *C. brachydactyla* and *C. acutirostris*. Apparently part of a fall-out of migrating larks that dropped into the Jakar valley, Bumthang region in response to the extreme weather conditions prevailing at that time over the Tibetan Plateau and Bhutan.

This is almost certainly the first record of this species from Bhutan and one of only very few records from the entire Indian sub-continent.

NOTE: Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark is treated as a good species in the Oriental Bird Club Checklist (1996) and this is followed by Grimmett *et al* (1998) in their 'Birds of the Indian Subcontinent'. However, some authors e.g. The Handbook of the Birds of the World (2004), lumps this taxon together with Lesser Short-toed Lark *C. rufescens*. Notwithstanding Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that treatment of Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark as a full species is probably correct (see R & A 2005 for their discussion).

152. Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris* **B:** At least three with the above group foraging in the Jakar valley, Bumthang region. Based on bill shape and some plumage details I think it more likely these birds belonged to this species rather than Greater Short-toed Lark. If confirmed this will be only the third record of this species for Bhutan.
153. Oriental Skylark *Alauda gagula* **B:** Several singing in the open country and farmland between the Jakar and Ura valleys; several in the Jakar valley. **I:** Bhindiwas.
154. Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* **B:** 100-200 foraging over the Tsang Chu just below Punakha Dzong. New identification information presented in the publication 'Birds of South Asia, The Ripley Guide' (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) suggests that several of the birds we observed were likely Pale Sand-Martin *R. diluta*. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
- In the New World generally referred to as Bank Swallow.
155. Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* **B:** Several with the above flock along the Tsang Chu just below Punakha Dzong. **I:** Good looks at many birds along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
156. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* **B:** Three in the Ha valley is an unusual record for Bhutan as were a flock of *ca.* 40 over the Tsang Chu just below Punakha Dzong; two between Trongsa and Shemgang.
157. Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* **B:** Fine views of a pair attending a nest under a bridge at Bhindiwas.
158. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* **B:** Ten with other 'hirundines' over the Tsang Chu just below the Punakha Dzong.
159. Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* **B:** Approximately 10-20 together with many more Nepal House Martins at a mixed nesting colony, just below Shemgang.
160. Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalensis* **B:** Approximately 100 attending nests together with several Asian House Martins at a colony just below Shemgang; two along the Limithang Rd; and *ca.* 20 on the slopes of Pele La.
161. Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indica* **B:** Thanks to Tim a single bird seen well within a remnant patch of forest along the Po Chu. There are very few records of this species for Bhutan.

162. Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* **B:** Widespread and moderately common along creeks and rivers and associated open habitats such as farmland: Paro Valley; Cheli La and Ha Valley; Thimpu; Tsang and Po chus; Jakar Chu; Gayzamchu; Pele La.

Also known as White Wagtail

163. White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis* **I:** Three at Bhindiwas.
164. Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* **B:** One gorgeous male and a female of the nominate subspecies foraging together with the 'fall-out' flock of larks in the Jakar Valley.
165. Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* **I:** One seen briefly at Bhindiwas.

NOTE: 'Yellow' Wagtail taxonomy is currently being re-evaluated. Until now most authorities have included all races within *M. flava*. However, Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that the results of three separate studies strongly suggest that the 'Yellow' Wagtail actually comprises several discrete species.

166. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* **B:** One between Trongsa and Shemgang; 2 seen daily between Shemgang and Tingtibi; singles seen daily along the Limithang Rd. near our Yongkola camp.

167. Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* **B:** Several individuals displaying and singing within rice-fields along the Po Chu. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

NOTE: The recent revision of the taxonomy of the Richard's Pipit (including Paddyfield Pipit) complex has resulted in the large northern migratory form *richardi* being accepted as a distinct species *Anthus richardi*. Consequently the name *Anthus novaeseelandiae* is now restricted to the species occurring in New Zealand and Australia. The relatively small(ish) form found in the cultivated lowlands of south and south-east Asia is now treated as Paddyfield Pipit *A. rufulus*.

168. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* **B:** Widespread and common; seen in moderate numbers (range 2-20) most days, including several individuals uttering their full song.

169. Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* **B:** At least four in breeding plumage along the Paro River valley; a total of eight on Cheli La in various plumage states from delicate, near-full breeding plumage to relatively drab, in grassy open areas; ca. 15 in the Jakar Valley; ca. 20 on Pele La near our camp.

170. Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundoo* **I:** Superb close views of an adult male as it foraged at a fruiting shrub along the Yamuna R.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) have split the resident Indian population from European Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*.

171. Slender-billed Oriole *Oroilus tenuirostris* **B:** Heard around our hotel near Punakha; two seen very nicely in the lightly wooded, dry valley above Wangdi.

172. Maroon Oriole *Oriolus trailli* **B:** Notably common this year: two on the slopes of Pele La; several heard and seen daily along the Trongsa to Shemgang Rd.; two seen on two days between Shemgang and Tingtibi; several seen and heard daily along the Limithang Road, 1900 – 2400m; two on Pele La.
173. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschista* **B:** Widespread and moderately common. Recorded: Dochu La; Tashitang Trail; western slope Pele La; Pel La to Trongsa; Trongsa to Shemgang; Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; between Ura and Gayzam Chu.
174. Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* **B:** One female at Cheri; two and six on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; two between Ura and Gayzamchu; two on Pele La.
175. Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* **B:** Notably local this year: *ca.* 20 from Cheli La, the Ha Valley to the confluence; one pair in the Cheri Valley; *ca.* 40 between Trongsa and Shemgang; one male near our Yongkola camp, Limithang Rd; Pele La.
176. Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* **B:** One pair between the Ha Valley and the confluence; four between Ura and Gayzamchu; ten along the Limithang Rd; two on Yutong La; and several on Pele La.
177. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* **B:** Ten on Pele La; common on the Shemgang Rd. near Tingtibi including one pair nesting within degraded Subtropical Forest; two in the Shonkar Chu Valley.
178. Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* **B:** One seen and photographed by John and Karen in the Jakar valley. If accepted this will be the first record of this species for Bhutan.
179. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus* **B:** Several daily within degraded Subtropical Forest below our Tingtibi camp and several between Tingtibi and Shemgang; two in the Shonkar Chu Valley.
180. Large Wood-shrike *Tephrodornis virgatus* **B:** One pair within degraded Subtropical Forest below our Tingtibi camp.
181. Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus* **B:** A strikingly handsome bulbul. Two on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; two near our Yongkola camp, Limithang Rd. and two on Pele La.
182. Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys* **B:** Two between Shemgang and Tingtibi.
183. Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris* **B:** Two in degraded Subtropical Forest surrounding our camp near Tingtibi.

NOTE: The Black-crested Bulbul group is better treated as a superspecies consisting probably of five allopatric species: *P. melanicteris* – Sri Lanka; *P. gularis* Western Ghats, South India; *P. flaviventris* – Himalayas and Central India eastwards to Vietnam; *P. dispar* – Sumatra; and *P. montis* – Borneo. (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

184. Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
185. Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* **B:** Ubiquitous in all but the most densely forested areas up to c. 2300m. **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
186. White-throated Bulbul *Alphoixus flaveolus* **B:** Several within scrubby woodland in an arid narrow valley just above Wangdi; several heard and seen within Subtropical Forest below our camp near Tingtibi.
187. Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* **B:** Seen superbly in secondary woodland on three days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road (common 2-12+).

NOTE: For the change of genus see Inskipp *et al* (1996).

188. Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes mccllellandi* **B:** Six on Pele La; several seen daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; four along near our Yongkol a camp, Limithang Rd.
189. Himalayan Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* **B:** Common and widespread; seen almost daily including ca. 150 on the lower slopes of Pele La (19 April).

NOTE: For details of the revised taxonomy of this interesting but complex group see Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

190. Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* **B:** One or two seen daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; one male near our Yongkola camp, Limithang Road.
191. Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* - **B:** Widespread and 1-3 seen on most days except along the Limithang Rd.
192. Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* **B:** Two between Ura and Gayzam Chu and two between Gayzam Chu and Sengo; heard on Yutong La.
193. Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* **B:** Three seen nicely near our camp on Pele La (1 May).
194. Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophhiata* **B:** Widespread but rather uncommon this year with just a handful of birds seen scattered within scrubby areas adjoining farmland: 4 Chelila; 6 Cheri Valley; 1 Trongsa to Shemgang; 1 Yutong La; several in the Jakar Valley to the Gayzam Chu; two on Yutong and two on Pele La.
195. Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculate* **B:** One seen all too briefly on Yutong La.
196. Blue-capped Rock-Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus* **B:** The male is not only a beautiful looking creature but a great songster. Widespread and common with several individuals and pairs being recorded on most days.
197. Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* **B:** Excellent views of a male on Dochu La; one male on Yutongla; three males between Jakar and Gayzam Chu; four males along the Limithang Rd; six on Yutong La; two on Pele La and several on Dochu La..

198. Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius* **B**: Four in the lightly wooded, dry, narrow valley above Wangdi; one male between Trongsa and Shemgang; one male on Yutong La.
199. Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* **B**: Common and ubiquitous; recorded daily 150 - 3200m; at times pairs were recorded along every 100 - 200m of road; many nest in the concrete road culverts.
200. Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima* **B**: Two seen near our camp on Pele La by a couple of lucky observers.
201. White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus* **B**: Notably common in the Blue Pine forests of the west east to Trongsa, thereafter sparse and uncommon: Chelila; Cheri Valley; Dochula; Pelela; Pelela to Trongsa; Shemgang to Tingtibi; Yutongla.
202. Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus bouboul* **B**: One male and one female in the Cheri Valley; a total of 15 on Dochu La.
203. Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni eunomus* **B**: A flock of eight in and around our camp on Pele La (2 May). This species is currently regarded as a vagrant to Bhutan.
- NOTE:** The subspecies *eunomus* is given full species status by some authors.
204. Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor* **B**: Three seen by Tim near our lunch stop as we descended from Gayzam Chu to the Ura valley.
205. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* **B**: Heard along the Tashitang Trail; one seen well above our Yonkola Camp and several others heard on two days along the Limithang Rd.
206. White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* **B**: Heard notably commonly this year and several seen: Yutongla; Gayzamchu to Sengor where one male seen superbly.
207. Bluethroat *Luscinia obscura* **I**: At least three including one superb individual in splendid full breeding dress, Yamuna R.
208. Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus* **B**: One female on Chelila; a total of 20, including some superb males between Jakar and Gayzamchu; and just one male between Gayzamchu and Sengor.
209. Golden Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* **B**: One skulking female in dense undergrowth, c. 2500m, west slope, Yutongla; one male on Pele La.
210. Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* **B**: Moderately common at low and medium elevations in lightly wooded farmland and around settlements.
211. Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata* **I**: Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
212. Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* **B**: One female along the Tashitang Trail and one female along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.

213. Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* **B:** Locally common, several birds appeared to have arrived on their breeding grounds: 10 Chelila; 2 Cheri Valley; 3 Yutong La; 1 male Pele La (2 May).
214. White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* **B:** Widespread and common; seen almost daily and found on virtually every creek, stream and river that we encountered; c. 700 - 3500m. A thoroughly delightful and dapper bird.

Also known as River Chat, River Redstart, White-capped Chat, White-capped River Chat.

215. Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* **B:** Widespread and common; seen almost daily with as many as 12+ on one day; usually seen in pairs with many males singing; found along virtually every stretch of creek, stream and river we encountered in addition to cliff-side waterfalls and springs; from near the Paro Valley east to the Jakar Valley, seemingly absent from the Limithang Rd.

Also known as Plumbeous Redstart.

216. White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum* **B:** Heard fairly but only glimpsed on the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd; Yutong La; and Limithang Road; Pele La.
217. Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* **B:** Two on the spectacular waterfall that tumbles over the road between Trongsa and Shemgang; one on Yutong La.
218. Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* **B:** Great looks at one foraging along a lovely creek at the entrance to the Tashitang Trail; one pair on the creek below our camp above Tingtibi.
219. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura* **B:** Two along the Tsang Chu; ten in the Jakar valley with the small fall-out of larks; and several in the Po Chu valley.

NOTE: Some authorities treat the population wintering in the Indian sub-continent as a full species separate from Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*. See, however, Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

220. White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura* **I:** One adult male, one adult female and at least three immatures seen very nicely in the 'scope in tall riverside grasslands along the Yamuna R. An increasingly uncommon and localised species.
221. Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
222. Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* **B:** Widespread and common; observed almost daily in open scrubby country, especially farmland.
223. Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata* **B:** Widespread; heard on Dochula, Tashitang Trail, Pele La; Trongsa to Shemgang; two seen very nicely on Pele La and one seen superbly on Yutongla and along the Limithang Rd.

224. Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea* **B:** Two seen and several heard along the Tashitang Trail; one seen and several heard along the Limithang Road, on Pele La and Dochu La.
225. Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* **B:** Heard on the Tashitang Trail; two seen nicely on the slopes of Pelela and several heard along the Limithang Rd.
226. Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Cettia fortipes* **B:** Heard or seen on several days, invariably in open, scrubby country: Pelela; heard between Trongsa and Shemgang; others heard and seen along the Limithang Rd.
227. Chestnut-crowned Bush-Warbler *Cettia major* **B:** One seen well in dense undergrowth along the Limithang Rd.
228. Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler *Cettia acanthizoides* **B:** Several heard and then one seen superbly on the upper slopes of Yutong La.
229. Grey-sided Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons* **B:** Widespread and fairly common. Superb views of several individuals and pairs as they responded dramatically to our tape.
230. Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cucullatus* **B:** Heard and then thanks to some good work by David Wolf great views of a very responsive pair, just above our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
231. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* **B:** One or two on two days near our camp above Tingtibi.
232. Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* **I:** Yamuna R.
233. Syke's Warbler *Hippolais rama* **I:** One seen very well foraging in a low tree, Yamuna R.
- NOTE:** Recently split from Booted Warbler *H. caligata*.
234. Tickell's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus affinis* **B:** Moderately common: ca. 30 near Thimpu (David Wolf); Tashigang Trail; Pele La; Trongsa to Shemgang and Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; Yutongla; Jakar to Gayzamchu; Limithang Rd.; Yutong La; 3 Po Chu valley (3 May).
235. Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* **B:** Several seen and heard: one Yutong La; four Jakar to Gayzamchu; several along the Limithang Rd.
- Also known as Orange-barred Warbler
236. Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* **B:** Most frequently encountered in mixed species flocks: Dochu La; Pele La; Yutong La.
- Also known as Grey-faced Warbler, Grey-faced Leaf-Warbler, Grey-throated Willow Warbler.

237. Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus* **B:** Widespread and fairly common this year: Cheli La; Pele La; common on Yutong La and between Jakar and Gayzamchu; Limithang Rd.

NOTE: Several small and very similar *Phylloscopus* warblers were until recently considered to be sub-species of Pallas's Warbler *P. proregulus*. Fieldwork in the mountains of central China by Per Alstrom and Urban Olsson has established that the forms *chloronotus* and *kansuensis* which were formerly considered to be subspecies of *P. proregulus* are in fact distinct species; Lemon-rumped Warbler *P. chloronotus* and Gansu Leaf Warbler *P. kansuensis*.

238. Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* **B:** Two seen well on the lower slopes of Cheli La. Others almost certainly seen but by then we had gotten ourselves in a bit of a tangle over this and a couple of other very similar and very confusing species.

239. Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* **B:** Several on Yutong La and between Jakar and Gayzam Chu.

240. Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* - **B:** One seen very well between Ura and Gayzam Chu and several along the Limithang Rd.

241. Large-billed Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris* **B:** Widespread and fairly common this year: Cheli La; Dochu La; Pele La; several Yutong La; Jakar to Gayzam Chu; Thrumsing La; and the Limithang Rd. Common on Pele La on 2 May.

242. Blyth's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* **B:** Widespread and common, locally very common e.g. Pele La 2 May, Po Chu valley and Dochu La, 3 May.

Also known as Blyth's Crowned Leaf Warbler, Blyth's Crowned Willow Warbler.

243. Yellow-vented Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus cantator* **B:** Great looks at two along the Tashitang Trail; two Pele La; common along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd. especially below 900m; several in the Shonkhar Chu valley. This is a distinctive and little known *Phylloscopus* species.

Also known as Yellow-faced Leaf Warbler or Yellow-throated Leaf Warbler

244. Whistler's Spectacled Warbler *Seicercus whistleri* **B:** Most of the Golden Spectacled Warblers we encountered belonged to this taxon: 10+ Dochu La; 3 Tashitang Trail; Pele La; Yutong La; Limithang Rd.

245. Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii* **B:** Following a spectacular overnight storm we heard and saw at least one Golden-spectacled Warbler with the impressive fallout of passerines just below Trongsa.

NOTE: The Golden-spectacled Warbler has until very recently been treated as a single species, *Seicercus burkii*, widely distributed in the mountains of southern Asia. A recent paper by Per Alstrom provides strong evidence that this taxon is actually a complex of four or five species. At least two species occur and probably breed in Bhutan: Golden-spectacled

- Warbler *S. burkii* and Whistler's Warbler *S. whistleri*. See Ibis (1999)141, pp 545-568.
246. Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos* **B**: Common along the Tashitang Trail and from Trongsa to Tingtibi; several on one day along the Limithang Rd.; Pele La; Dochu La.
247. White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* **B**: One between Ura and Gayzam Chu; two on the upper Limithang Rd.
248. Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys* **B**: Common along the Limithang Rd. above our Yongkola camp.
249. Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* **B**: Widespread in low numbers, often with mixed species flocks: Pele La; Chendibji area; several along the Limithang Rd.; 10+ Pele La (2 May).
250. Broad-billed Warbler *Abroscopus hodgsonii* **B**: One responded nicely to tape play-back and put on a great show within bamboo understorey in Cool Mixed Broad-leaved Forest, c. 2300m, Limithang Rd. **Globally threatened.**
251. Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* **B**: Two on Pele La; notably common along the Limithang Rd. below Namling with as many as 20+ seen on one day. One of the most attractive and charming of all Old World Warblers.
252. Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* **I**: Four along the Yamuna R.
253. Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striatus* **I**: One of the finds of the trip. A single bird singing at the edge of *Typha* sp beds, Yamuna R. **Globally threatened and very poorly known species.**
254. Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* **B**: Several seen well in Silver Fir Forest on Yutong La and between Ura and Gayzam Chu.
255. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* **I**: Two along the Yamuna R.
256. Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger* **B**: Several between Trongsa and Shemgang and along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; heard on Pele La; one pair in the Po Chu valley.
257. Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis* **B**: Superb views of a singing male in breeding plumage in roadside scrub along the Limithang Rd.; one seen by Karne between Gayzam Chu and Ura.
258. Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis* **I**: Good looks at this dainty prinia in scrub along the Yamuna R.
259. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* Several in superb fresh breeding plumage along the Yamuna R.
260. Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* **I**: Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
261. Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rudescens* **I**: Heard in the Shonkhar Chu valley.

262. Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* **I:** Yamuna R.
263. Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* **B:** 21 April – one with the fallout of small passerines, just below Trongsa; 24 April - one on the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; 25 April – one on Yutongla; 26 April – four between Jakar and Gayzam Chu; 28 April – one on the Limithang Rd.; one in the Po Chu valley.
- Also known as Siberian Sooty Flycatcher.
264. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa (latirostris) dauurica* **B:** Notably uncommon this year with just one near our camp above Tingtibi.
265. Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* **B:** One with a mixed species flock on the slopes of Pele La (19 April).
266. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiate* **B:** Widespread and locally common, recorded: 12 Dochu La; 2 Pele La; one Yutong La; two Jakar to Gayzamchu; several Gayzamchu to Sengor; >20 from Sengor to Jakar; locally common from Jakar up to Yutong La; several on Pele La.
267. White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula monnileger* **B:** Exceptional views of relatively confiding individual along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd. This is usually heard only and regarded as an almost impossible bird to see.
268. Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* **B:** Astonishingly scarce this year with just two males along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; and two in a mixed species flock on the Limithang Road, c. 2000m elevation. Exactly the same as in 2004!
269. Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris* **B:** A superb little bird. Recorded: One male Cheli La; one male Cheri valley; one male Dochul La; four on Pele La; one male on the Limithang Rd.; two males on Yutongla; an exceptional total of twenty, usually with mixed species flocks as we descended the west slope of Pele La; two on Dochu La.
270. Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolour* **B:** A very handsome and charming but usually very elusive flycatcher: One female Pele La; two males on Yutongla; one male between Ura and Gayzamchu; two males singing on Pele La (2 May).
271. Verditer Flycatcher *Muscicapa thalassina* **B:** Widespread and often very common, seen almost daily except at high elevations on Cheli La and the Limithang Rd. A truly spectacular bird.
272. Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* **B:** Heard at our diesel pumping station outside Trongsa; one female seen along the Limithang Rd.
273. Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* **B:** Several superb views of glowing males and females singing on territory including one incredible 'scope study of a male along the Tashitang Trail;

- two between Shemgang and Tingtibi; one female seen and others heard along the Limithang Rd.
274. Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* **B:** Rather uncommon this year: one male and one female on Pele La; a total of three handsome males along the Limithang Rd.; and one male on Pele La (2 May).
275. Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* **B:** One female on the Limithang Rd., below Namling.
276. Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* **B:** Heard on Pelela; one male between Trongsa and Shemgang and several daily between Shemgang and Tingtibi; two males on the Limithang Rd.; one male in the Po Chu valley.
277. Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni* **B:** One male and one female on one day and another female on the following days, all with a mixed species flocks above our Yongkola camp along the Limithang Rd.; superb views of a glowing male with a mixed species flock on Pele La.
278. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicacapa ceylonensis* **B:** Widespread and moderately common; seen daily except at higher elevations.
279. Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha* **B:** One Tashitang Trail; several Pele La and from Pele La to Trongsa; as many as 70+ with a 'fallout' just below Trongsa (21 April); two on the Limithang Rd.; two on Pele La (2 May).
280. White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* **B:** Several neat Chendibji; six below Trongsa with the 'fallout' (21 April); several along the Limithang Rd.
281. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* **B:** Two within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.
282. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogegens* **B:** Moderately common and several pairs seen superbly well: three pairs in scrub at the edge of farmland Mo Chu valley; heard just above Wangdi; several heard and seen daily between Trongsa and Tingtibi; one between Thrumsing La and Jakar and Punakha and two along the Po Chu valley.
283. White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* **B:** Sensational views of a single, eventually, very responsive bird within partially degraded Subtropical woodland, c. 650m elevation, near Tingtibi; one in the Shonkhar Chu valley.
284. Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* **B:** Only a handful of records this year: heard and then two seen on Pelela; several seen along the Limithang Road below 2200m elevation; heard again on Pele La and Dochu La.
285. Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* **B:** One seen just below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.

286. Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris* **B:** One of **THE** highlights of the tour with a very responsive pair providing incredible views within their bamboo habitat: one pair c. 3100m elevation, Dochu La; heard on Yutongla and Pele La.
287. Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer* **B:** An exceptional year for this charming sprite! One jumped up and sang at us just below our camp on Pele La; one very skulking but quite visible Rufous morph on Yutong La; one or two seen near our Gayzam Chu camp and four heard on the Limithang Rd.
288. Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* **B:** Widespread and rather uncommon as well as being very difficult to see this year.
289. Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis caudatus* **B:** Absolutely astounding views of this fabulous little songster, including singles and then an amazing pair that just would not go away, along the Limithang Rd. **Globally threatened.**
290. Bar-winged Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis troglodytoides* **B:** One heard in bamboo on Yutong La and then one seen by half the group on the Limithang Rd.
291. Spotted Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis formosus* **B:** Two seen well, naturally after first leading us on a merry dance along the Tashitang Trail, ; one heard on the west slope of Pelela; one heard in the Chendibji area; one heard below Trongsa; several heard on the Limithang Rd.
292. Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyris rufifrons* **B:** Two seen on two days near our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
293. Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps* **B:** One seen in the Ha valley; two on Pele La; two in the Chendibji area; several heard and two seen along the Limithang Rd.
294. Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea* **B:** Three along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; a total of eight on one day and several on two other days along the Limithang Rd., c. 2300 – 1900m elevation.
295. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps* **B:** 1-2 seen on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road.
296. Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei* **I:** Several seen in scrub surrounding the Okhla marshes along the east bank of the Yumna River.
297. Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus* **B:** Several in the grounds of our hotel, Delhi.
298. Common Babbler *Turdoides caudatus* **I:** Several seen in scrub surrounding the Okhla marshes along the east bank of the Yumna River.
299. Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris* **B:** Two seen superbly along the Geylephug Rd. and two along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road.

300. Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* **B:** tOne seen very nicely near Chendibji together with our first Golden-breasted Fulvetta; six along the Limithang Rd., below Namling.
301. Cutia *Cutia nipalensis* **B:** Fantastic views of a flock of six along the Limithang Road, below Namling. A very handsome species.
302. Black-headed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer* **B:** One seen by John and Karen along the Ha Valley rd.
303. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis* **B:** Heard daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd; heard once along the Limithang Rd. A surprising omission from our lists, suggesting that this species was nesting at the time of our visit.
304. Green Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius aenobarbus* **B:** One with a mixed species flock along the Ha valley Rd.; great looks at one with a mixed species flocks at ca. 9,000 feet on the Limithang Rd. Bhutan is probably the most reliable place to see this elusive species.
305. Black-eared Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis* **B:** Stunning views of this truly gorgeous gem in mixed species flocks: one pair on the slopes of Pele La; two near our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
306. Indian White-hooded Babbler *Gampsorhynchus rufulus* **B:** One seen by John within degraded Subtropical Forest behind our camp near Tingtibi. This is a very rare bird in Bhutan.
- NOTE:** Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that this taxon is surely not conspecific with populations (*cf. G. torquatus*) in SE Asia, which have very different vocalisations as well as exhibiting several different morphological differences.
307. Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni* **B:** Moderately common along the Limithang Rd. below Namling down to and beyond our Yongkola camp.
- Also known as Spectacled Barwing.
- NOTE:** This taxon should not be confused with *Actinodura ramsayi*, which occurs in Thailand, and is also referred to as Spectacled Barwing.
308. Hoary Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis* **B:** Exceptional views of two on Yutong La.
309. Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* **B:** Notably very uncommon this year: several on the Limithang Rd. below our Yongkola camp; two on Pele La with mixed species flocks.
310. Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula* **B:** Common and widespread with groups of as many as 15 seen: 3 Dochu La; 15 Pele La; 4 Pele La to Trongsa; common Trongsa to Shemgang; several between Ura and Gayzam Chu; several on Pele La (2 May).

Also known as Bar-throated Siva.

311. Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* **B:** Two with a mixed species flock along the Ha valley Rd.; two on Pele La; two between Sengor and Yongkola and a pair with a mixed species flock in the Ura valley.
312. Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis* **B:** Superb views of a single bird with Red-billed Leiothrix near Chendibji; three in a mixed species flock on Pele La.
313. Yellow-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe cinerea* **B:** In many ways this species epitomises the quality of the birding in Bhutan. A little known and rarely if ever seen species throughout most of its range it is locally common in Bhutan especially along the Limithang Road. We saw as many as eight on one day and several the next above and below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
314. Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps* **B:** Widespread and locally common; often in mixed species flocks in cool mixed Broad-leaved Forest: 10 Dochul La; 2 Pele La; 2 Pele La to Trongsa; notably uncommon this year along the Limithang Rd. with just a total of three seen.
315. White-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe vinipectus* **B:** Widespread and locally common usually with mixed species flocks in the understorey of both mixed Evergreen and Cool Mixed Broad-leaved Forest at high elevations: Cheli La; Dochu La; Pele La; Pele La to Trongsa; Yutong La; Ura to Gayzam Chu; Thrumsing La, and higher elevations along the Limithang Road.
316. Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis* **B:** Usually very skulking and locally quite numerous, this year, however, we were treated to several very good views of this interesting looking Fulvetta: ca. 20 along the Tashitang Trail; Trongsa to Shemgang; Shemgang to Tingtibi; several along the Limithang Rd. near our Yongkola camp.
317. Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe rufogularis* **B:** One heard singing on steep slopes at ca. 1000 m along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd. This is a very poorly known species in Bhutan.
318. Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata* **B:** Common to occasionally abundant and ubiquitous; seen almost daily.
- Also known as Black-capped Sibia.
319. Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* **B:** A rather localised species; notably common along the along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd. and in the Shonkhar Chu valley, with 6 – 30 recorded daily, often in large flocks.
320. White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri* **B:** A group of six seen daily around our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
321. Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* **B:** Wonderfully widespread and common; recorded almost daily; observed in mixed species flocks and mono-specific flocks in mixed Broad-leaved Forest.
322. Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* **B:** Widespread and common, especially at high elevations. Recorded: Dochu La; Pele La; Yutong La; and between Ura and Gayzam Chu.

323. Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis* **B:** Ten Cheli La; 4 Dochu La; 6 Pele La; Yutong La; very common Jakar to Gayzam Chu; common Thrumsing La; 2 Pele La (2 May).

324. Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta* **B:** Ten along the Tashitang Trail; six on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; a group of six in the Shonkhar Chu valley.

Also known as Black-lored Yuhina.

325. White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis* **B:** Widespread and common, locally very common; occasionally in flocks of >50. Recorded almost daily.

326. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* **B:** One of the most attractive and effervescent of Asia's laughingthrushes. Common, seen daily over four days (range 3-30) along the road between Trongsa and Tingtibi; several in the Shonkhar Chu Valley.

327. Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* **B:** Two to three in secondary woodland and partially degraded Subtropical Forest below our camp near Tingtibi.

328. Greater-necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* **B:** Two in secondary woodland and partially degraded Subtropical Forest below our camp near Tingtibi. Sorting out this species from Lessers is no mean feat.

329. Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striata* **B:** Common and recorded widely in suitable forested habitat on most days.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

330. Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Dryonastes ruficollis* **B:** Fabulous views of three very responsive birds in scrubby areas of woodland below our camp near Tingtibi.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

331. Grey-sided Laughingthrush *Dryonastes caerulatus* **B:** Two seen well plus others heard on the west slope of Pele La; one seen on the Limithang Rd.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

332. Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla rufogularis* **B:** Two along the Tashitang Trail and then absolutely sensational views of a single individual in scrub at the edge of field within the Shonkhar Chu valley.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

333. Spotted Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ocellatus* **B:** Superb and prolonged views of pair, thanks to some great spotting by David Wold, on the upper slopes of Yuting La. Wow! Two on Pele La at the Tragopna site. Definitely one of the most attractive of all laughingthrushes.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

334. Bhutan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron imbricatum* **B:** A total of fifteen between Trongsa; several on the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; and two individuals on the Limithang Rd.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) present good evidence for splitting this taxon from Streaked Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron (Garrulax) lineatus*. The Bhutan Laughingthrush ranges throughout Bhutan eastwards to W Aranachal Pradesh.

335. Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron squamatum* **B:** Two heard so close and yet only glimpsed as it snivelled and grovelled in the densest thicket imaginable, just below Shemgang; two seen above our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

336. Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affinis* **B:** Widespread and but rather uncommon this year. Typically found at high elevations: Cheli La; Dochu La; Yutong La; a total of four between Ura and Gayzam Chu; six on Pele La.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

337. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum* **B:** Heard in the Ha Valley; one seen in the Cheri Valley; two on Dochu La; one on Pele La; a total of 15 between Pele La and Trongsa, especially near Chendibji; several between Jakar and Gayzam Chu.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

338. Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium* **B:** At least six very confiding birds hopping and hollering at the tragopna site on Pele La.

339. Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor* **B:** Fabulous views of a pair feeding on grass seed heads at the roadside along the Ha Valley Rd.; one on Yutong La; three on Dochu La.

340. Fulvous Parrotbill *Paradoxornis fulvifrons* **B:** Fabulous close views of a pair at the roadside, high on Yutong La; equally wonderful views of a group of eight as they foraged confidingly in bamboo on Pele La.

341. Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis ruficeps* **B:** A group of 6-8 seen beautifully on two days, just below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.

342. Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* **B:** Superb views of three including a very fine male along the Ha valley road; a single male with a mixed species flock in the Cheri valley.

343. Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris* **B:** Small number seen regularly at high elevations: Cheli La; Dochu La; Pele La; singing on Yutong La; Ura to Gayzam Chu; common Thrumsing La.

344. Coal Tit *Parus ater* **B:** Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests: Cheli La; Dochu La; Pele La; Yutong La; Ura to Gayzam Chu; common Thrumsing La.
345. Grey-crested Tit *Parus dichrous* **B:** Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests: Cheli La; Pele La; Yutong La; Ura to Gayzam Chu; common Thrumsing La.
- Also known as Brown-crested Tit.
346. Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* **B:** Common to locally abundant and ubiquitous in suitable forested habitat. Seen daily at all localities visited. One of the most frequently seen but nevertheless most attractive Himalayan species.
347. Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* **B:** This is a very snazzy looking bird. One on Pele La; one along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; eight along the Limithang Rd.
348. Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* **B:** Widespread and moderately common, especially in mixed species flocks: notably common on Dochu La; Pele La; two on Yutong La; several between Ura and Gayzam Chu; and then finally on Pele La we get to see why this species is so named, one individual conspicuously flashed its bright, yellow eye-brow – this is the first time I have seen this behaviour in nearly 30 years of birding in Asia!
349. Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* **B:** What a stunner! Exceptional views of a pair along the Geylephug Rd.; even better views of a pair along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; and another male the following day on the same road.
350. Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* **B:** A delightful species and a great favourite with everyone: ten along the Tashitang Trail; Pele La; four along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; several on the Limithang Rd.; and ten on Pele La (2 May).
- Also known as Red-headed Tit.
351. Rufous-fronted Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos* **B:** Lower slopes Cheli La; two on Pele La; four on Yutong La.
- Also known as Black-browed Tit.
352. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea* **B:** One pair seen 'beautifully' along the Trongsa to Shemgang Rd.; several daily within partially degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.
353. White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* **B:** Widespread but notably scarce this year; usually in mixed species flocks: one on Pele La; common along the Limithang Rd.; two on Pele La (2 May).
354. Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta formosa* **B:** What a bird! For the umpteenth year running we were all treated to totally fabulous views of an adult male as he sang and conducted display flights over us. Totally, totally amazing; c. 1750m elevation, along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road. Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the entire tour. This is one of Asia's most infrequently seen and consequently least known birds. **Globally Threatened.**

355. Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* **B:** Two on the lower slopes of Cheli La.
Also known as Common Treecreeper
356. Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis* **B:** Exceptional views of two on Pele La on two separate days.
357. Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor* **B:** Excellent views of one just below our Yongkola camp along the Limithang Rd.
358. Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica* **I:** Several in scrub along the Yamuna R.
359. Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* **B:** Rather sparse this year. The resident subspecies in Bhutan is especially spectacular. Recorded: Cheli La; Pele La; great looks at two males with a mixed species flock just below Sengor on the Limithang Rd.; common on the drive back from Yongkola to Jakar; several on Pele La (2 May).
360. Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* **B:** Widespread and common to abundant and often ubiquitous. Seen virtually daily except in the Paro Valley, Cheli La and below c. 1200 m elevation.
361. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* **B:** Common and widespread especially at elevations generally lower than the previous two species.
362. Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* **B:** Great looks at a gorgeous and very confiding male in scrubby woodland along the Mangde Chu.
363. Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda* **B:** A One male in flight right in front of us on the lower slopes of Cheli La is our first record for this locality; we then didn't see any more of these spectacular birds until we found a sensational male perched on a low fir in the midst of snow on Thrumsing La. Amazing!
364. Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* **B:** Three to six seen on the three days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; heard along the Limithang Rd. near our Yongkola camp.
365. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* **B:** Notably uncommon this year: Tashitang Trail; Pele La; Limithang Rd.
Also known as Buff-bellied Flowerpecker.
366. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa* **B:** Widespread, locally common, seen most days except at high elevations.
367. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* **B:** Moderately common and widespread.

368. Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* **B:** Widespread, common and seen almost daily especially in areas of open country; very common in the upland valleys of the Bumthang region.

369. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

NOTE: Asian populations once united with African Black Drongo under *D. adsimilis* are now widely treated as a separate species *macrocercus*.

370. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* **B:** Widespread and common to very common; recorded almost daily except on Cheli La and between Ura and Gayzam Chu.

371. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* **B:** Notably common along the lower section of the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.

372. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* **B:** Common, seen daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.

373. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus* **B:** Notably sparse this year: singles on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; one along the Limithang Rd.; and one in the Shonkhar Chu valley.

NOTE: Dear old Ripley again. This time he lumped all the drongos from India to Melanesia and Australia as one huge polymorphic species Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*. This was very unfortunate as the islands of Indonesia e.g. Sumatra, Sulawesi, and the Lesser Sundas all support distinctive and intervening forms. As a consequence the taxonomy of this group has been revised and at least four well-defined species have resulted. The specific name *hottentotus* now only applies to populations in south and south-east Asia. They are characterised by their filamentous hair-like crest (hence the common name). This species ranges east to the Moluccas. The Spangled Drongo, which is confined to New Guinea, Australia and nearby islands, now receives the specific scientific name *D. bracteatus*. For more information see Sibley & Monroe (1990).

374. Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* **B:** A loose flock of ten on Dochu La; one along the Tashitang Trail; one on Pele La.

375. Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris* **B:** One of the many great birds of Bhutan and the Himalayas. Widespread and common, especially at the forest edge and around relatively undisturbed farm-houses from Chelila east to Yongkola on the Limithang Rd.

Also known as Gold-billed Magpie or Gold-billed Blue Magpie.

376. Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* **B:** One near our Yongkola camp along the Limithang Rd.

377. Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* **I:** Two at Bhindiwas.

378. Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* **B:** Widespread and locally moderately common: common along the Tashitang Trail; seen commonly, daily along the Trongsa to Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; common in the Shonkhar Chu Valley; Po Chu Valley.

Also known as Himalayan Treepie.

379. Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica* **B:** Common in the upland valleys of the Bumthang Region.

380. Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* **B:** Widespread and common in higher elevation evergreen forests from Cheli La and the Cheri Valley east to the Limithang Road.

NOTE: This taxon is split from populations to the west viz. Larger Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga multipunctata*.

381. Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* **B:** Moderately common in the Paro Valley; Cheli La; Ha Valley; Cheri Valley; common in the Bumthang valleys, east to Thrumsingla. Mostly seen in small flocks and pairs around human habitation and in agricultural land.

382. House Crow *Corvus splendens* **B:** Two in Punakha. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

383. Large-billed Crow *Corvus japonensis* **B:** Common to very common and widespread, recorded daily.

384. **NOTE:** The entire 'Large-billed Crow' complex has been revised (see Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). The very large-billed birds that inhabit the Himalayas from Afghanistan eastwards to Arunachal Pradesh are the birds we observed in Bhutan and they appropriately retain the name Large-billed Crow but are given the specific name *japonensis*. Populations in the lowlands of NE India are now referred to as Eastern Jungle Crow *C. levaillantii* and populations in peninsula India, south from the base of the Himalayas are referred to as Indian Jungle Crow *C. culminatus*. Based on my own observations of Indian sub-continent and populations elsewhere in SE Asia I completely concur with these authors revision of this fascinating group.

385. Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminatus* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

386. Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus* **B:** Several on the lower slopes of Dochu La and around our hotel at Punakha.

Also known as Grey-headed Starling.

387. Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

Previously placed in *Sturnus*.

388. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Common and ubiquitous in open country including the midst of urban madness! **B:** Common in and around the Paro Valley east to Trongsa. **I:** Delhi, Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

389. Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus* **I:** Moderately common especially as a commensal of man, sometimes in horribly yucky areas.
390. Sind Sparrow *Passer pyrrhonotus* **I:** Wonderful looks at a single male. A new bird for KDB!
391. Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* **B:** Common in suitable scrub and open country especially around farm buildings such as between Paro Valley; Ha Valley; Thimpu; Cheri Valley; Punakha Valley; lower slopes of Pele La; Trongsa to Shemgang; Ura Valley. Often together with Eurasian Tree Sparrows.
- Also known as Cinnamon Sparrow.
392. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* **B:** Ubiquitous in suitable open country especially around farm buildings.
393. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Common and ubiquitous, especially as a commensal of man. **B:** Thimpu; Punakha; Trongsa; Shemgang; Jakar. **I:** Delhi; Yamuna R.; Bhindiwas.
394. Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* **I:** Several in breeding plumage, Yamuna R.
395. Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* **I:** A total of c. 30, in various plumage states, scrub, grassy areas and farmland adjacent to marshes on the east bank of the Yumna R.
396. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* **B:** A group of four feeding quietly in a patch of seeding bamboo, within partially degraded Subtropical Forest, c. 850m elevation, above Tingtibi.
397. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* **B:** Two flocks of c. 30 and 50 in scrub and secondary woodland bordering farmland between Trongsa and Shemgang.
398. Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola* **B:** A group of c. 30 between Jakar and Ura and two with the 'lark fallout' in the Jakar valley.
399. Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis* **B:** One female studied at length along the Limithang Rd. between Namling and Sengor; a flock of c. 70 seen by David Wolf near our Pele La Camp (2 May).
400. Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii* **B:** One female and two males on Pele La; one male between Ura and Gayzam Chu; two females on Pele La (2 May).
401. White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura* **B:** A total of six females high on Cheli La; 12 on Pele La including some lovely males; ten between Ura and Gayzam Chu; one female on Pele La (2 May).
402. Crimson-browed Finch *Propyrrhula subhimachala* **B:** Two females seen at very close range on Pele La.

403. Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi* **B:** One pair along the Tashitang Trail; one superb male on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; absolutely stunning 'scope views of two males along the Limithang Rd. and a further eight the following day.
404. Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* **B:** A flock of ca. 40 in flight just below Sengor.
405. Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis* **B:** A group of six put on a great show near Chendibji.
406. Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala* **B:** Rather few seen this year: five on the Limithang Rd. between Namling and Sengor and a pair seen very nicely on Pele La.
407. Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis* **B:** What a gorgeous bird! Several heard on Cheli La; one female on Dochul La; and then a wonderful flock of 11 feeding on the forest floor between Ura and the Gayzam Chu.
408. Spot-winged Grosbeak *Coccothraustes melanozanthos* **B:** A total of 17 seen superbly on Dochu La; 3 along the Tashitang Trail; and 12 on Pele La. A good year for this handsome species.
409. White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* **B:** Great looks at a total of six on Cheli La; two on Pele La; one male on Yutongla; four between Ura and Gayzamchu; one pair on Pele La (2 May).
410. Gold-naped Finch *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta* **B:** One female on the Limithang Rd. between Namling and Sengor; one female on Pele La (2 May).
411. Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami* **B:** Six in dry scrub along the Mo Chu valley; common between Trongsa and Shemgang; one male in the narrow, dry valley above Wangdi.

MAMMALS

1. Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis* **B:** Widespread and common especially at lower elevations.
2. Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatto* **I:** Delhi – Roz's monkey!.
3. Common (Hanuman) Langur *Presbytis entellus* **B:** Pele La. Notably larger and more heavily furred than populations in India.
4. Capped Langur *Presbytis pileatus* **B:** Wonderful looks a troop of these handsome primates along the Limithang Road.
5. Golden Langur *Presbytis geei* **B:** Notably common from just below Trongsa to Shemgang and down to our camp near Tingtibi. Large numbers (20 – 70) seen on four days with several troops feeding on or at the side of the road including taking dirt from exposed cliffs.

6. Common Leopard *Panthera pardus* **B:** Quite simply amazing. This gorgeous creature camp up through a stream bed and stood on the road, stared us down and then gambolled up the hill-side, flushing a female Satyr Tragopan for good measure. Cool Mixed Broadleaved Forest on the slopes of Pele La.
7. Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* **I:** One seen by Roz along the Yamuna R.
8. Hodgson's Flying Squirrel *Petaurista magnificus* **B:** One spotted brilliantly by David Wolf along the Ha Valley Rd.; one gliding over our Yongkola camp at dusk. A truly gorgeous creature.
9. Giant Pied Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* **B:** One or two seen daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; two along the Limithang Rd.
10. Orange-bellied Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah* **B:** One in the Cheri Valley; one on the Limithang Rd.; one on Pele La.
11. Hoary-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus* **B:** Several seen daily along the Trongsa to Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.
12. Five-striped Squirrel *Funambulus pennanti* **I:** Surprisingly just one at Bhindiwas.
13. Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maccllellandi* **B:** Common and widespread especially along the Limithang Road.
14. Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erthraeus* **B:** One on Pele La; one between Pele La and Trongsa; two below Trongsa.
15. Black-naped Hare *Lepus nigricollis* **I:** One *en route* to Bhindiwas.
16. Goral *Nemorhaedus goral* **B:** One seen briefly in the Cheri valley and then one seen amazingly well as it trundled across the road right in front of our bus, between Trongsa and Shemgang.
17. Serow *Capricornis sumatraensis* **B:** A great trip for this very rarely seen species: one brilliantly spotted by Kipchu on Cheli La; and one dwelt in the 'scope for all to see on Pele La.
18. Common Barking Deer (Muntjac) *Muntiacus muntjak* **B:** One on Pele La; several seen and heard along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; heard near our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd. and one seen on Pele La (2 May).
19. Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus* **B:** Good looks at a single male near the Gayzam Chu. This is an endangered mammal.
20. Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* **I:** Three near Bhindiwas.
21. Royle's Pika *Ochotona roylei* **B:** Cheli La; Pele La.

22. House Mouse *Mus musculus* **B**: One along the Tashitang Trail

And all this in addition to a wonderful variety of skinks, lizards, frogs, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. Not to mention of course a profusion of delightful flowering plants.

GPS references

Riverview Hotel, Thimpu	2308 metres	27° 28.29' N., 89° 38.81' E.
Cheri Valley	2711 metres	27° 35.19' N, 89° 38.09' E.
Dochu La (summit)	3112 metres	27° 29.39' N., 89° 45.14' E.
Zangtho Pelri Hotel, Wolakha	1397 metres	27° 32.16' N., 89° 52.21' E.
Spotted Wren Babbler site in Mo Chu valley	1397 metres	27° 48.76' N., 89° 46.69' E.
Wangduephodrang town centre	1311 metres	27° 28.76' N., 89° 54.11' E.
Honeyguide site	2011 metres	27° 30.33' N, 90° 04.98' E
Gantey La	3347 metres	27° 31.42' N, 90° 10.28' E
Pele La	3404 metres	27° 32.15' N, 90° 12.12' E
Pele La camp	3367 metres	27° 32.41' N, 90° 11.97' E
Gangtey La	3360 metres	27° 31.44' N., 90° 10.54' E.
Yeshey Zam bridge	1908 metres	27° 25.32' N., 90° 29.78' E.
Tingtibi Camp site	740 metres	27° 10.37' N, 90° 41.90' E
Om Leki's Lodge	2607 metres	27° 33.92' N, 90° 44.45' E
Thrumsing La	3763 metres	27° 24.07' N., 90° 59.47' E.
Thrumsing La is 43 kms after the Ura (Sheltang) La, 17 kms before Sengor, 33 before the Namling cliffs & 38 before Namling.		
Namling village	2309 metres	27° 20.15' N., 91° 06.37' E.
Yongkola Campsite	1855 metres	27° 19.16' N, 91° 07.42' E

28 June 2005

**The Birds and Mammals recorded on
BHUTAN
April 12 – March 6, 2005**



Bhutan

© Steve Hilty

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BHUTAN 2005

“The Paro Dzong (monastery), guarded by icy crags, sits warming under the late afternoon sun. It seems to welcome our approach to our beautifully located hotel. An Ibisbill, so subtle as to be taken for a glacial stone, dips quietly in the snowmelt. This is indeed the Kingdom of Bhutan and the land of the peaceful Dragon.” As Steve Hilty remarked on first setting foot in the kingdom, "This is fairytale land."

K. David Bishop

This was a very special tour, one of the very best I have ever had the pleasure of leading to Bhutan. In large part this success was due to a wonderful group of participants and I would like to thank you all for making the entire tour such a great experience.

I consider myself very privileged to have travelled so often and so extensively throughout the kingdom of Bhutan (1994 to the present). To have the opportunity to regularly explore such an incredible and special destination and in company with wonderful friends such as Chhimmi, Wangdi, Pema and many others is something I look forward to every year. It is memorable indeed. The vastness and beauty of Bhutan's forests is to experience a window onto what Asia and the Himalayas once were which combined with the opportunity to make very real discoveries never fails to rejuvenate my soul and make me want to return there time after time.

The following is a summary of our daily activities, including some of the trip's highlights together with a list of what we heard and saw. Nevertheless it only conveys part of the story and can never really express the wonderful sights and sounds of Bhutan, its land, its forests, wildlife and its people.

Thank you

David Bishop

Diary

- 14 April** We departed early on our Druk Air flight via Kathmandu to Paro, Bhutan. *En route* we were treated to spectacular views of the Himalayas – the world’s highest mountain range, before an equally spectacular descent into the Kingdom of the peaceful Dragon. After settling into our hotel and lunch we explored the Paro valley north to the idyllic ruin of Drygyel Dzong. NIGHT: Detchen Hotel, Paro. HIGHLIGHTS: a very stropy Black-tailed Crake!
- 15 April** Early departure for Chelila and a spectacular birding drive up to the pass at 14,400 feet that included seemingly endless numbers of pheasants. Our ground-crew were waiting for us with the first of many wonderful breakfasts before we birded our way down into the recently opened Ha Valley. The remainder of the day was spent birding our way through a never ending panoply of vast untouched forests and enchanting farms and dwellings before arriving into Thimpu early in the evening. NIGHT: Riverside Hotel, Thimpu. HIGHLIGHT: The beautiful fir forests; the sublime, tranquillity of the Ha Valley; a fabulous, lingering study of a male Himalayan Monal glowing in the morning sun; several Blood and Kalij pheasants; our first Ibisbill and a rare Serow.
- 16 April** A moderately early start for the drive up to the attractive Cheri Valley and breakfast below the vertiginous Cheri Monastery. Returned in time for lunch but not before stopping to imbibe the imposing Taschidodzong – Bhutan’s equivalent of Parliament or the Senate. The afternoon was spent wandering the streets of the capital and some really fun shopping. NIGHT: Riverside Hotel, Thimpu. HIGHLIGHTS: A male Yellow-rumped Honeyguide; an extraordinarily confiding male Rufous-bellied Woodpecker and a flock of lovely Snow Pigeons.
- 17 April** And so our journey began in earnest with our first venture along the lateral road, at last we were to get to grips with Bhutan’s famous mixed broad-leaved and evergreen forests. As we breasted Dochu La the sense of amazement was quite audible at the beauty of the flowering rhododendrons and magnolias not to mention those magnificent forests that stretch away, seemingly for ever. We birded down the east slope to breakfast before continuing further down slope to warm mixed broad-leaved forest. We then drove via the Tsang Chu to a late lunch in the Mo Chu valley and an unproductive search for the White-bellied Heron. And of course we drank in our first views of the impressive Punakha Dzong. NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri Hotel. HIGHLIGHTS: Crested Kingfisher; Pallas’s Fish-Eagle low overhead and the magnificent Rhododendron/Magnolia lit broadleaved forests of Dochula.
- 18 April** Departed early for the valley of the Mo Chu and the lovely Tashitang Trail (actually a very easily walked vehicle track). B’fast at one of my favourite sites of the whole trip, resplendent with spring colours, a waterfall erupting hundreds of feet above - an amphitheatre for so many classic Himalayan birds. A morning of genteel birding, wandering through fields of “Mary-Jane” and gamboling butterflies. After lunch we returned to the winter capital where Kipchu, my esteemed Bhutanese co-leader, escorted us on a fascinating and mind-opening exploration of the inner sanctum of Punakha Dzong. Quite, quite spellbiding. NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri Hotel. HIGHLIGHTS:

Slaty-backed Forktaill; a brilliant (literally) Small Niltava; a Himalayan river that is everything one might dream of; and, as the itinerary says, this is the day of the Spotted Wren-Babbler (the ultimate in real birds!); and was it ever.

19 April Passing under the ramparts of imposing Wangdi Dzong we gradually made our way through the dry scrub of a narrow gorge before slowly climbing and birding our way through increasingly lovely mixed broad-leaved forests on the west slope of Pelela. Patches of cultivation and prayer-flag bedecked farmhouses completed a seeming unending panoply of memories. Added to which an astonishing array of birds including flock after flock of Himalayan specialties.

And then there was the Leopard! Much to the group's astonishment this gorgeous creature actually stood on the road right in front of us all before scampering up a dry creek bed and then flushing a female Satyr Tragopan! **Quite incredible!**

As the advertising says "another glorious day in a fairytale land." NIGHT: Camp Pelela. HIGHLIGHTS: The Leopard and flock after mixed flock of Himalayan birds.

20 April An enchanting, morning walk before breakfast all to the sounds of the Himalayas in Spring. Who will ever forget our 'mystical' and oh so incredible experience with one resplendent male Satyr Tragopan creeping through the bamboo. This is the second year in a row that we have seen males of all the possible Bhutan pheasants!

After breakfast we broke camp and gradually made our way to Trongsa via the King's chorten at Chendibji. As always seems be the case in Bhutan, birds were everywhere not to mention myriads of photographic opportunities so actually getting to our destination in reasonable time was always going to be a lottery. And just to add spice to our journey Trongsa Dzong, located at the head of three valleys and key to the security of the kingdom, shone in the afternoon sun – it was just 200 metres away and we had only another hour of our journey to go! NIGHT: Trongsa. HIGHLIGHTS: Male Satyr Tragopan; superlative 'scope views of yet another Serow; hordes of Himalayan Monal that were incredibly tame; a very confiding Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler.

21 April Yet another wonder-filled day replete with magical landscapes, great birds, mammals and plants. Today's journey began with a 'fallout' of several hundred birds just below Trongsa, following an overnight storm. From thereon we journeyed southwards down the Shemgang Road all the way to 900 m and the Trongsa Chu all the while constantly beguiled by a fascinating mosaic of bird-rich forests, terraced fields and erotically daubed Bhutanese farmhouses. With so much to see we were hard pressed to make our camp near Tingtibi (650 m) by dark. What a truly delightful site. NIGHT: Camping near Tingtibi. HIGHLIGHTS: Golden Langurs; a Goral that wandered across the road in front of our bus and a very confiding male Crimson Sunbird.

22 – 23 April With an altitudinal range of c. 500 - 2000 m the Shemgang Road nicely compliments its more illustrious cousin, the Limithang Road. Furthermore, the Shemgang Road sees very little traffic, leaving one in peace and serenity to enjoy the beauty of its quite remarkable forests. Typically we worked the somewhat degraded Subtropical Forest below our camp during the early morning and then worked upwards from camp after a late breakfast. As the day warmed up we drove to cooler elevations. NIGHTS: Camping near Tingtibi.

HIGHLIGHTS: And all this in a wondrous landscape filled with mixed species flocks; Rufous-necked and hordes of impressive Great hornbills, Pin-tailed Green Pigeons, Sultan Tits and an extraordinarily confiding pair of Beautiful Nuthatches. VENT has now recorded this highly sought after species on all of its recent tours to the kingdom.

24 April Our return trip to Trongsa produced more birds and mammals, more wonderful landscape and an opportunity to listen to some traditional Bhutanese music. **NIGHT:** Trongsa

25 April Yet another wonderful day in 'Fairytaleland'. We drove up to the pass – Yutong La before turning around and walking back downhill to breakfast. We then worked our way back up through magnificent Hemlock and Silver Fir forests before descending into the Bumthang valleys. Needless to say along the way we helped ourselves to a bevy of new birds and flowering plants. Hmmm.

The second half of the day brought quite a change of pace with a delightful ramble through the Bumthang valleys; a stop at the weaving centre for a rare opportunity to shop and on to the Jakar Valley and some time to catch up on notes and revel in the intricacies of Aum Leki's extraordinary weavings. **NIGHT:** Aum Leki's Guest House, Jakar Valley. **HIGHLIGHTS:** Cosmic views of a pair of Spotted Laughingthrushes and Fulvous Parrotbills; Aum Leki's weavings.

26 April The journey to our camp on the Gayzam Chu is surely one of the engineering marvels of the world. And this year despite that at times the weather was less than perfect we were still treated to vistas that constantly left us stopping to stare in awe. And, as we surmised, Bhutan's forests really do extend as far as the eye can see. This was indeed one of the great days of the entire tour. **NIGHT:** Camp Gayzam Chu. **HIGHLIGHTS:** Pride of place must surely go to the scintillating Blood Pheasants which provided a captivating show and of course the male Satyr Tragopan.

27 April Pouring rain that turned to snow in combination with thunder and lightning that rumbled around the mountains produced a spectacular storm and an equally spectacular view out of our tents this morning! Deciding that sheer cowardice was the better part of valour we meekly packed up camp and birded our way up over Thrumsing La, down past the village of Sengor to our very attractive and comfortably warm Yongkola camp at 6,200 feet on the Limithang Road. The pass at Thrumsingla (12,400 feet) is the start of the now famous Limithang Road. Birding down the east slope of Thrumsingla we made the spectacular but rather vertiginous descent, as ever amidst seemingly unending and untouched primeval forests and the panoply of flowering rhododendrons on this descent is surely one of the world's great floral displays. The forests were as beautiful as it is possible to imagine and graced with some marvellous birds not least of which was a pair of Ward's Trogons that just wouldn't leave us. And literally left us gasping with excitement. **NIGHT:** Yongkola Camp. **HIGHLIGHTS:** That drive and of course the pair of Ward's Trogons.

28-29 April Oh just another bird-filled day along, arguably, one of the best birding roads in the whole of Asia. Despite the cloud and occasional rain we all revelled in the serene beauty of these ancient forests and the beautiful light effects on ridge after pastel ridge rendering it all quite unreal. Time to draw breath and enjoy the beauty of this oh so

wonderfully remote part of the world. Surely the Limithang Road is truly one of the great birding roads of the world. These two days along the Limithang Road lived up to its deserved reputation and produced some cracking birds. From our delightfully located camp in the forest above Yongkola we wound our way through forest as beautiful as it is possible to imagine. Our time here was never to be enough. Stretching away, seemingly endlessly, towards the horizon, this road sports some truly magnificent forests with many tall trees of impressive girths on huge buttresses, jutting out over our path. Orchids abound, and the understory of the forest is often relatively clear, although the higher strata are often strung with enormous woody vines and lianas. And then there are the patches of bamboo so full of secrets and realised promise. NIGHTS: Yongkola Camp, Limithang Road. HIGHLIGHTS: Glorious views of several Rufous-necked Hornbills in the 'scope; a troop of dapper Capped Langurs; two very proud Rufous-throated Wren-Babblers;

- 30 April** After spending much of the day birding the Limithang Road we gradually wound our way back to Aum Leki's and the Jakar Valley. NIGHT: Aum Leki's Guest House, Jakar Valley.
- 1 May** A fairly long drive today but what a day. Despite the rain in the Jakar and thanks to David Wolf we had some great fun shopping and trying to figure out the identity of a small fall-out of larks. One of which turned out to be new for Bhutan – Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark. I for one will never forget the beauty of the snow covered forests as we wound our way up over Yutong La. NIGHT: Camping Pele La. HIGHLIGHTS: Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark, Blood Pheasants.
- 2 May** An extraordinary morning that confirmed the value of spending another night at this very attractive camp site before descending to the town of Wangdi and on to our hotel near Punakha. NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri, Punakha. HIGHLIGHTS: Sensational views of yet another pair of Satyr Tragopans; 7 Great Parrotbills; 8 Fulvous Parrotbills and a flock of Dusky Thrushes.
- 3 May** A picture perfect setting for our final breakfast along the the enchanting PoChu. And despite that we failed in our search for the elusive White-bellied Heron it was such a lovely morning and there was so much else to see. From the PoChu we birded our way up Dochu La to our final luncheon at the pass. A poignant moment to say goodbye to our wonderful crew before making the last stage of our journey back to Paro. NIGHT: Detchen Hotel, Paro. HIGHLIGHTS: The Po Chu valley in the early morning; wonderful flight views of a Northern Hobby.
- 4 May** An early morning Druk Air flight took us back to Delhi via Kathmandu. As we soared above the Paro Valley there they were, the entire Himalayas, Jhomalhari, Kanchenchunga, Everest and K2, in all their glory and so incredibly close! The sheer magnitude and mystical beauty of these mountains was almost overpowering. What a way to end a truly wonderful tour. With a few hours in hand we made a quick dash to the Yamuna River where despite the rain we encountered an almost overwhelming collection of new birds. NIGHT: Uppal's Orchid Hotel, Delhi. HIGHLIGHTS: Them there mountains!; White-tailed Stonechat and the very rare Bristled Grassbird.

5 May The day that was originally scheduled for the start of the tour was re-scheduled to this day. Departing early we made the long but fascinating drive out to the little known Bhindiwas Reserve. Despite water levels being low we still came up with a bonanza of special birds. Returning in time for a late lunch we cleaned up and relaxed before making final fairwells and heading home. **HIGHLIGHTS:** Fine views of Greater Painted-Snipe; the rare Black-necked Stork and Sind Sparrow.

T = Globally threatened or Near Threatened

BIRDS

NON-PASSERINES

1. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.

Also known as Red-throated Little Grebe.

2. Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* **I:** Bhindiwas.

3. Indian Shag (Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* **I:** Excellent study of two adults, Bhindiwas.

1. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* **B:** Three on the gravel beds of the Po Chu near Punakha; 3 along the Mo Chu; 6 on 3 May again on the Po Chu. **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.

2. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* **I:** One or two along the Yumuna R; and at Bhindiwas. Currently classified as Near Threatened.

NOTE: The Old World populations of the Darter represent one of a handful of species whose taxonomic status has flipped back-and-forth at the vagary of taxonomic opinion. Some authorities treat the three Old World forms of the Darter which inhabit Africa, Asia and Australia as a single species, *Anhinga melanogaster*. Other authorities treat the taxa of each region as separate species. Clearly the three taxa represent a superspecies, whether or not these taxa have yet evolved into fully-fledged species is open to conjecture. The taxon found in the Americas, *Anhinga anhinga* is widely regarded as specifically distinct from Old World form(s).

3. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* **B:** A surprise record; one along the Tsang Chu, above Wangdi. **I:** Several birds on the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.

4. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.

5. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.

6. Great Egret *Egretta alba* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.

NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Casmerodius* or *Ardea*.

7. Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* **I:** Bhindiwas.

8. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas – including some birds in breeding plumage.

NOTE: Consistent differences between *B. ibis* and *B. coromandus* in breeding plumage, proportions and vocalisations indicate they are better treated as two species. Rasmussen & Anderton. 2005 'Birds of South Asia The Ripley Guide'. Birds in north America are referable to Western or Common Cattle Egret *B. ibis*.

9. Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas – including some birds in breeding plumage.
10. Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* **I:** Yamuna R; Bhindiwas.
11. Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* **I:** Eight along the Yumna R. ten at Bhindiwas. **Globally threatened.**
12. Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* **I:** One adult male at Bhindiwas. **Globally threatened.**
13. Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* **I:** Yamuna R. and 12 at Bhindiwas. **Globally Near Threatened.**
14. Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* **I:** Yamuna R. and ca. 20 at Bhindiwas.
15. Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* **I:** A magnificent flock of ca. 400 along the Yumna River.
- NOTE:** Sometimes treated as conspecific with *P. ruber*.
16. Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* **I:** Bhindiwas.
17. Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* **I:** Something of a surprise, four winter birds still lingering, Bhindiwas.
18. Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* **B:** Eight along the Tsang Chu, just below Punakha; **I:** Twelve along the Yamuna R.
19. Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* **I:** One on the Yamuna R. and 14 at Bhindiwas.
20. Gadwall *Anas strepera* **B:** One drake on the Po Chu near Punakha; a flock of 15 flying up and down the Mangde Chu. **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
21. Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* **B:** One drake along the Po Chu; **I:** Yamuna R.
22. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* **B:** One female along the Po Chu near Punakha; **I:** One drake at Bhindiwas.

23. Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* **I:** Common along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.

NOTE: This distinctive population has recently been given full species status by some authorities (see for example Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). It can be separated from Chinese Spot-billed Duck by the less uniform sooty black upperparts; green as opposed to a blue speculum and the presence of a pink-red bill spot. This is the resident population that breeds throughout the Indian subcontinent and SE Asia. The second part of the equation is referred to as Chinese Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha* and this taxon breeds in north and eastern Asia and is a rarely recorded passage migrant in the Indian subcontinent.

24. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
25. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* **B:** One drake along the Ha Chu; **I:** Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
26. Garganey *Anas querquedula* **I:** Several along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
27. Common Teal *Anas crecca* **I:** At least one at Bhindiwas.
28. Ferruginous Duck *Aythya ferruginea* **I:** One female at Bhindiwas.
29. Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* **I:** Two along the Yamuna R. and one at Bhindiwas.
30. Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* **B:** One seen by Karen along the Tsang Chu, just below Wangdi.
31. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* **B:** One female fishing along the Tsang Chu at Punakha.
32. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* One at Nepal airport; **B:** One between the Jakar and Ura valleys; **I:** Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.

NOTE: The large and distinctive form found in Asia is treated by some authorities as a separate species, Black-eared Kite, *Milvus lineatus*. However, there is extensive hybridisation in the broad area of contact.

33. Pallas's Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* **B:** Two adults seen superbly, soaring over the pine forests lining the Po Chu; fabulous views as an adult soared up from the Mangde Chu valley right in front of our bus. **Globally threatened.**
34. Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis* **B:** A good year for this gigantic species: 19 April - 5 soaring over Pele La; 20 April - 20+ soaring over the west slope of Pele La including several individuals at close eye-level.
35. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela* **B:** Two pairs, including a probable pair attending a nest on the lower slopes of Pele La; one adult between Trongsa and Tingtibi; singles on two days along the Limithang Rd; three between Punakha and Paro.

36. Shikra *Accipiter badius* **I**: Singles seen briefly along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
37. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* **B**: A total of three over forest along the road between Shemgang and Tingtibi.
38. Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* **B**: Notably common this year. Two in the Cheri valley; three between Dochu La and Punakha; three along the Mo Chu valley; one female on the lower slope of Pele La; three between Jakar and Gayzam Chu; ne female along the Limithang Rd; one between Yongkola and Bumthang.

Also known as Northern Sparrowhawk.

39. Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* **B**: Three over the Paro valley; four from Cheli La thru Ha to the confluence; one over the west slope of Pele La; one over Yutong La.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) argue strongly that *burmanicus* is specifically distinct from Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

40. Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* **B**: One, probably two individuals, including one very whitish headed individual on Pele La.
41. Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius* **B**: One over Cheli La; one over Pele La and one between Gayzamchu and Ura.
42. Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* **B**: Notably widespread, with several individuals seen on many days: One over the west slope of Pele La; a total of three between Trongsa and Shemgang; three between Shemgang and Tingtibi and four or more the following day on the same road; four between Jakar and Pele La and one on the lower west slope of Pele La.
43. Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* **B**: One immature flying north along the Mangde Chu below Trongsa; presumably a migrant heading north.

NOTE: Clark's (1992) excellent study of the Tawny Eagle and Steppe Eagle shows conclusively that these two act as good species towards one another.

44. Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* **B**: One near the Tsang Chu, below Punakha.
45. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* **I**: One second year male, near Bhindiwas.
46. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii* **B**: One over forest near our Yongkola camp.
47. Mountain Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis* **B**: Notably widespread and fairly common with 1 2 seen most days and occasionally as many as 3 between Trongsa and Shemgang and along the Limithang Rd. between Namling and Yongkola. The latter included an immature begging from an adult. Several outstanding close views of this impressive raptor as evidenced by David Cahlander's wonderful images.

48. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* **B:** Widespread and moderately common in open, non forested country:

Also known as Eurasian Kestrel.

49. Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* **B:** One adult in flight over the Paro valley and superb views of a second bird on our last full day in the field, near the Tsang Chu below Punakha.

Also known as Northern Hobby

50. Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* **I:** One female at the edge of *Typha* sp beds, along the Yamuna R; heard at Bhindiwas.

51. Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* **I:** Heard at Bhindiwas.

52. Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* **B:** Widespread and heard most days.

Also known as Common Hill Partridge.

53. Rufous-throated Hill Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* **B:** One heard on the west slope of Pele La.

54. Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii* **B:** Heard commonly along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road and along the Limithang Rd. **Globally threatened.**

55. Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* **B:** An outstanding year for this gorgeous bird: a total of ten seen superbly well on the slopes of Cheli La; three seen and several others heard between Ura and Gayzamchu; one pair on the road on the west side of Yutong La.

56. Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra* **B:** Arguably **THE** highlight of a brilliant tour. 19 April – One female flushed by a Leopard as the latter bounded away, up a dry creek bed on the west slope of Pele La; 20 April – One male heard then seen skulking through dense bamboo on a steep slope within partially disturbed rhododendron forest, Pele La; 26 April – One male foraging at the roadside between Ura and Gayzamchu; 30 April – An amazing group of three adult males on the road during the late afternoon on the west slope of Shutong La; subsequently heard and responded to our tape permitting additional views of this stunning bird; 2 May – A gorgeous male and female put on a wonderful show as they paraded right in front of the entire group at the very same site we had previously seen the male on Pele La. At least two others were heard.

Surely this is one of the most beautiful birds in the world. **Globally threatened.**

57. Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* **B:** Two males and one female seen superbly within and at the edge of magnificent Silver Fir forest on the slopes of Cheli La; a total of at least 15 birds, mostly adult males were seen, and seen superbly, within mixed Rhododendron, Silver Fir, Birch forest on Pele La; one male and one female near Gayzamchu; one male and one female on Pele La.

This too is one of the world's most iridescent and spectacular birds.

Also known as Impeyan Pheasant.

58. Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* **B:** One seen briefly between Tingtibi and Shemgang.
59. Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelana* **B:** Notably uncommon this year except on Cheli La. One female on the road within Blue Pine forests, above the Paro valley; a total of 18 counted between Cheli La, the Ha valley and the confluence; three along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road.
60. Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* **I:** Several seen along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
61. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* **B:** One along the Po Chu. This is a rare and local species in Bhutan. **I:** Several along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
62. Black-tailed Crake *Amaurornis bicolor* **B:** A sensational experience! One very responsive individual came 'roaring' out at us on a small pond at Drugyel Dzong. This species was only known from one specimen prior to VENT's tours to Bhutan. It now appears to be locally throughout the kingdom.
63. Purple Swampphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
64. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.

Also known as Common Gallinule.
65. Common Coot *Fulica atra* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
66. Also known as Eurasian Coot.
67. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* **I:** Three gorgeous males in full breeding plumage at Bhindiwas and one individual giving a 'song' I would never have imagined from this species!
68. Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula bengalensis* **I:** At least seven including several handsome females, Bhindiwas.
69. Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* **B:** Three on the Ha Chu, including one bird on a nest; one pair with two chicks along the Po Chu near to Punakha Dzong; two along the Jakar Chu; a total of eight along the Tsang Chu and Po Chu. Yet again we enjoyed multiple, superb views of this grand bird, illustrating yet again that Bhutan is indeed a stronghold for this very special species.
70. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* **I:** Common along the Yamuna R. and several at Bhindiwas.
71. Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* **I:** 100+ along the Yamuna R.

72. Small Pratincole *Glareola lacteal* **I:** One along the Yamuna R.
73. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
74. River Lapwing *Vanellus duvauceli* **B:** A total of six along the Paro Chu; two along the Ha Chu; several along the Tsang, Po and Mo chus; ca. 40 including a flock of 19 along the Po Chu (3 May); **I:** One along the Yamuna R.
75. Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* **B:** A good year for this species with 1-2 heard and then seen 'roding' at dusk and dawn over our camp on Pele La.
76. Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* **B:** Three flushed from the scrubby river gravel beds of the Paro river valley.
77. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* **I:** Approximately 60 along the Yamuna R.
78. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* **I:** Several, including two in near full breeding plumage, Bhindiwas.
79. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* **B:** Two along the Paro river valley.
80. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
81. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* **B:** One in the Paro river valley; two along the Po Chu.
82. Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* **I:** Many along the Yamuna R.
83. Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus* Ten along the Yamuna R.
84. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Several hundreds along the Yamuna R. including some in near full breeding plumage.
85. Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* Widespread and common. **Feral.**
86. Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota* **B:** A flock of c. 30 in flight between the Ha valley and the confluence; c. 20 in flight over Blue Pine forest at the foot of Cheri Monastery.
87. Speckled Pigeon *Columba hodgsoni* **B:** Two perched in secondary woodland just below Namling, Limithang Rd.
88. Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* **B:** Widespread, common and observed almost daily, often foraging on the road.
89. Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.

90. Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* **B:** Moderately common locally in open country. Four on the lower slopes of Dochu La; Mo Chu valley; Tsang Chu valley; Widespread and along the Tsang Chu; Punakha; Tashigang trail; above Wangdi; and near Tingtibi.
91. Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decocto* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
92. Barred Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia unchall* **B:** Good looks at six or more in degraded Sub-tropical Forest surrounding our campsite above Tingtibi.
93. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* **B:** Three along the lower section of the Shemgang – Tingtibi road within degraded Subtropical Forest.
- Also known as Green-winged Ground-Dove.
94. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera* **I:** One in flight at along the Yamuna R.
95. Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda* **B:** Four seen on our first morning, and one on our last morning, at ca. 650m within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi. Exceptional 'scope views!
96. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura* **B:** Ten or more in woodland within rather dry scrub along a narrow gorge above the town of Wangdi; one male on the Shemgang – Tingtibi Rd; ca. 15 at a fruting tree on the lower slopes of Pele La; two along the Po Chu in a remanant forest patch.
97. Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* **B:** Just one seen along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.
98. Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
99. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* **B:** Heard right within our camp and two birds seen superbly, chasing one another, ca. 650m within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.
100. Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* **B:** Widespread and common. Seen or heard almost daily from Cheri and Thimpu eastwards to our camp at Yongkola on the Limithang Road.
101. Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus fugax* **B:** Widespread but sparse; heard on the lower slope of Pele La; two seen well between Shemgang and Tingtibi and heard daily in the forests above and below our camp near Tingtibi; similarly heard daily in the forests above our Yongkola camp, Limithang Rd.
102. Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* **B:** Heard daily from near our camp above Tingtibi; one seen briefly and others heard between Namling and our Yongkola camp along the Limithang Rd.; heard along the Po Chu.

103. Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* **B:** Widespread; seen and heard almost daily except between Shemgang and Tingtibi.
Also known as Eurasian Cuckoo.
104. Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* **B:** Widespread and common; seen or heard most days with one individual providing an excellent 'scope study at our breakfast site on Dochu La.
105. Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* **B:** Heard on Dochu La; two birds seen in flight including one hepatic phase individual on the lower slope of Pele La.
106. Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* **B:** One taped in for fine 'scope views, within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi, c. 730 m elevation.
107. Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus* **B:** One male seen by Pete within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi Rd.
108. Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* **B:** Heard and seen rather infrequently this year: seen and heard daily along the Shemgang Rd. and just once on the Limithang Rd. and on the lower slopes of Pele La.
109. Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas - heard only.
110. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
111. Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* **B:** Heard at our Yongkola Camp along the Limithang Road.
112. Collared Scops-Owl *Otus lettia* **B:** Heard close to our Tingtibi camp.

NOTE: Until very recently this taxon was treated as part of a widespread species *Otus bakkamoena* found throughout the Oriental region. However the recent book 'Owls of the World' – Koenig, Weick and Becking (2000) provides evidence that this taxon actually comprises four species: Indian Scops Owl *O. bakkamoena* throughout the Indian subcontinent below 2,200m although absent from the north-west and north-east; Collared Scops Owl *O. lettia* replaces the above species immediately to the north and extends throughout much of China; Sunda Scops Owl *O. lempiji* Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali; and Japanese Scops Owl *O. semitorques*.

113. Himalayan Wood Owl *Strix nivicola* **B:** Heard one evening within our Yongkola camp.

NOTE: Split from Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (see Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

114. Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodei* **B:** One seen all too briefly on the west slope of Pele La; heard daily along the Limithang Rd; and finally one seen superbly between Namling and Yongkola on the Limithang Rd.

115. Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* **B:** Heard between Shemgang and Tingtibi; heard and seen daily near our Yongkola camp.
116. Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* **I:** Two along the Yamuna R; and three at Bhindiwas.
117. Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* **B:** Super views of at least three birds hawking every morning outside our hotel near Punakha.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that Himalayan (*jotaka*) South India (*indicus*) and Sri Lanka (*kelaarti*) populations exhibit clear, consistent morphological and vocal differences such that they should be treated as separate species.

118. Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* **B:** Locally common; ca. over Cheri; 100+ over Dochu La; ca. 500 over the Tashitang Trail; several over the west slope of Pele La; common between Trongsa and Shemgang; 60+ over the Limithang Rd. on two days; several over Pele La (3 May).
119. White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* **B:** Notably scarce this year with just ten seen between Trongsa and Shemgang; 40+ near Tingtibi; 2 over the Po Chu valley.
120. Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* **B:** Four near our camp above Tingtibi. There are very few records of this species for Bhutan.
121. Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* **B:** Widespread and locally common: 10 Dochu La; 20+ Pele La including several nesting birds; Pele La to Trongsa; Trongsa to Tingtibi; Sengor to Yongkola on the Limithang Rd; 5 Yutong La.
122. Little Swift *Apus affinis* **B:** Two over Pele La.
123. Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardii* **B: Perhaps the ultimate Bhutan bird experience.**

What a truly wondrous experience; a pair of very territorial and confiding birds put on a never to be forgotten show as they flirted, called and fed at a fruiting tree for *ca.* 40 minutes, providing a life-time of visual memories as they perched for truly amazing 'scope, video and ETE views. **Globally threatened.**

124. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* **B:** One heard along the Po Chu and one seen along the Mo Chu.

Also known as Eurasian or River Kingfisher.

125. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* **B:** Three along the Tsang and Po chus near Punakha; one near Wangdi; heard between Shemgang and Tingtibi; four along the Po Chu. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
126. Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris* **B:** Two seen superbly along the Po Chu near Punakha; four along the Mo Chu valley; one near Wangdi; one on the lower slope of Pele La; two along the Po Chu.

127. Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* **I:** Three at Bhindiwas put on a delightful show.
128. Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctiornis athertoni* **B:** Singles daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd; one heard near Yongkola along the Limithang Rd.
129. Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* **I:** Several along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
Also called Green Bee-eater
130. Indian Roller *Coracias bengalensis* **I:** Two between Bhindiwas and Delhi.
131. Hoopoe *Upupa epops* **B:** One in the Paro valley; two in the Cheri Valley; singles daily near Tingtibi; one at Ural; two between Jakar and Yutong La; two along the Po Chu. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
132. Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* **B:** A flock of 10 (22 April) and 15+ (24 April) worked their way up the valley from near Tingtibi to near our camp, stopping briefly to feed at fruiting trees; stunning views and photos of a single adult preeding within Chir Pine woodland on the Geylephug Rd.
133. Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis* **B:** Without doubt, for many a major highlight of a great tour. Sensational views of several birds along the road from Shemgang to Tingtibi: 22 April: 2-3 between Shemgang and Tingtibi and six near our camp above Tingtibi; 23 April: a total of five between Shemgang and Tingtibi; 24 April: three between Tingtibi and Shemgang; 29 – 30 April: 1-3 seen and heard daily from above our Yongkola camp down to the Shonkhar Chu valley. **Globally threatened.**
134. Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* **B:** Widespread and common, recorded almost daily.
135. Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii* **B:** Widespread and generally common; recorded in low numbers.
136. Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica* **B:** Several heard and seen between Trongsa and Shemgang and Shemgang and Tingtibi; one heard in the Shonkhar Chu valley
137. Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus* **B:** One male provided superb 'scope studies as he attended a Rock Bee hive along the Thimpu Chu; another male was seen well at our breakfast site along the slopes of Pele La. This is a little known and rarely observed species. **Globally threatened.**
138. Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* **B:** One seen nicely on two days within degraded Subtropical Forest near Tingtibi; one with a mixed species flock on the lower slopes of Pele La.
139. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus* **B:** One pair seen daily within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.
140. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei* **B:** One male in degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.

141. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Picoides hyperythrus* **B:** Fabulous views of a male digging a nest hole – amazingly this bird permitted us to approach to within just a few feet; at least four other birds seen on that same morning in the Cheri valley; heard on Yutong La and Pele La.
142. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Picoides cathpharius* **B:** Great looks at a male in secondary woodland on Pele La; 1-2 seen on two days along the Limithang Rd; two on the Tashitang Trail; one on the lower slopes of Pele La.
143. Darjeeling Woodpecker *Picoides darjellensis* **B:** Heard in the Cheri Valley; two on two days along the Limithang Rd.
144. Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus* **B:** Good looks at a single adult male within a sparsely wooded narrow valley above Wangdi; one pair within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi Rd; one along the Po Chu.
145. Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus* **B:** One male along the Tashitang Trail; one male on the Shemgang Rd; one male along the Limithang Rd. above our Yongkola camp and a total of four between Yongkola camp and the Shonkar Chu valley.
146. Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha* **B:** One male along the Tashitang Trail; heard on the lower slopes of Pele La; two on the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; one on the Limithang Rd.
147. Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* **B:** Several heard and one seen along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.
148. Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benalense* **I:** One pair seen superbly, Bhindiwas.
149. Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* **B:** Heard at several locations including: Dochu La; Tashitang Trail; Trongsa to Tingtibi where one finally seen superbly – after a bit of persuasion; several heard along the Limithang Rd.

PASSERINES

150. Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* **B:** A pair of these striking and wonderfully evocative sounding birds were seen and heard below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
151. Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis* **B:** 1 May - Thanks to some good work by David Wolf we observed a flock of at least seven for 40+ minutes as they foraged together with several other larks including Oriental Skylark and three putative Greater or Hume's Short-toed larks *C. brachydactyla* and *C. acutirostris*. Apparently part of a fall-out of migrating larks that dropped into the Jakar valley, Bumthang region in response to the extreme weather conditions prevailing at that time over the Tibetan Plateau and Bhutan.

This is almost certainly the first record of this species from Bhutan and one of only very few records from the entire Indian sub-continent.

NOTE: Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark is treated as a good species in the Oriental Bird Club Checklist (1996) and this is followed by Grimmett *et al* (1998) in their 'Birds of the Indian Subcontinent'. However, some authors e.g. The Handbook of the Birds of the World (2004), lumps this taxon together with Lesser Short-toed Lark *C. rufescens*. Notwithstanding Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that treatment of Asian Lesser Short-toed Lark as a full species is probably correct (see R & A 2005 for their discussion).

152. Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris* **B:** At least three with the above group foraging in the Jakar valley, Bumthang region. Based on bill shape and some plumage details I think it more likely these birds belonged to this species rather than Greater Short-toed Lark. If confirmed this will be only the third record of this species for Bhutan.
153. Oriental Skylark *Alauda gagula* **B:** Several singing in the open country and farmland between the Jakar and Ura valleys; several in the Jakar valley. **I:** Bhindiwas.
154. Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* **B:** 100-200 foraging over the Tsang Chu just below Punakha Dzong. New identification information presented in the publication 'Birds of South Asia, The Ripley Guide' (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) suggests that several of the birds we observed were likely Pale Sand-Martin *R. diluta*. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
- In the New World generally referred to as Bank Swallow.
155. Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* **B:** Several with the above flock along the Tsang Chu just below Punakha Dzong. **I:** Good looks at many birds along the Yamuna R. and at Bhindiwas.
156. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* **B:** Three in the Ha valley is an unusual record for Bhutan as were a flock of *ca.* 40 over the Tsang Chu just below Punakha Dzong; two between Trongsa and Shemgang.
157. Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* **B:** Fine views of a pair attending a nest under a bridge at Bhindiwas.
158. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* **B:** Ten with other 'hirundines' over the Tsang Chu just below the Punakha Dzong.
159. Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* **B:** Approximately 10-20 together with many more Nepal House Martins at a mixed nesting colony, just below Shemgang.
160. Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalensis* **B:** Approximately 100 attending nests together with several Asian House Martins at a colony just below Shemgang; two along the Limithang Rd; and *ca.* 20 on the slopes of Pele La.
161. Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indica* **B:** Thanks to Tim a single bird seen well within a remnant patch of forest along the Po Chu. There are very few records of this species for Bhutan.

162. Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* **B:** Widespread and moderately common along creeks and rivers and associated open habitats such as farmland: Paro Valley; Cheli La and Ha Valley; Thimpu; Tsang and Po chus; Jakar Chu; Gayzamchu; Pele La.

Also known as White Wagtail

163. White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis* **I:** Three at Bhindiwas.
164. Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* **B:** One gorgeous male and a female of the nominate subspecies foraging together with the 'fall-out' flock of larks in the Jakar Valley.
165. Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* **I:** One seen briefly at Bhindiwas.

NOTE: 'Yellow' Wagtail taxonomy is currently being re-evaluated. Until now most authorities have included all races within *M. flava*. However, Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that the results of three separate studies strongly suggest that the 'Yellow' Wagtail actually comprises several discrete species.

166. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* **B:** One between Trongsa and Shemgang; 2 seen daily between Shemgang and Tingtibi; singles seen daily along the Limithang Rd. near our Yongkola camp.
167. Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* **B:** Several individuals displaying and singing within rice-fields along the Po Chu. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

NOTE: The recent revision of the taxonomy of the Richard's Pipit (including Paddyfield Pipit) complex has resulted in the large northern migratory form *richardi* being accepted as a distinct species *Anthus richardi*. Consequently the name *Anthus novaeseelandiae* is now restricted to the species occurring in New Zealand and Australia. The relatively small(ish) form found in the cultivated lowlands of south and south-east Asia is now treated as Paddyfield Pipit *A. rufulus*.

168. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* **B:** Widespread and common; seen in moderate numbers (range 2-20) most days, including several individuals uttering their full song.
169. Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* **B:** At least four in breeding plumage along the Paro River valley; a total of eight on Cheli La in various plumage states from delicate, near-full breeding plumage to relatively drab, in grassy open areas; ca. 15 in the Jakar Valley; ca. 20 on Pele La near our camp.
170. Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundoo* **I:** Superb close views of an adult male as it foraged at a fruiting shrub along the Yamuna R.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) have split the resident Indian population from European Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*.

171. Slender-billed Oriole *Oroilus tenuirostris* **B:** Heard around our hotel near Punakha; two seen very nicely in the lightly wooded, dry valley above Wangdi.

172. Maroon Oriole *Oriolus trailli* **B:** Notably common this year: two on the slopes of Pele La; several heard and seen daily along the Trongsa to Shemgang Rd.; two seen on two days between Shemgang and Tingtibi; several seen and heard daily along the Limithang Road, 1900 – 2400m; two on Pele La.
173. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschista* **B:** Widespread and moderately common. Recorded: Dochu La; Tashitang Trail; western slope Pele La; Pel La to Trongsa; Trongsa to Shemgang; Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; between Ura and Gayzam Chu.
174. Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* **B:** One female at Cheri; two and six on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; two between Ura and Gayzamchu; two on Pele La.
175. Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* **B:** Notably local this year: *ca.* 20 from Cheli La, the Ha Valley to the confluence; one pair in the Cheri Valley; *ca.* 40 between Trongsa and Shemgang; one male near our Yongkola camp, Limithang Rd; Pele La.
176. Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* **B:** One pair between the Ha Valley and the confluence; four between Ura and Gayzamchu; ten along the Limithang Rd; two on Yutong La; and several on Pele La.
177. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* **B:** Ten on Pele La; common on the Shemgang Rd. near Tingtibi including one pair nesting within degraded Subtropical Forest; two in the Shonkar Chu Valley.
178. Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* **B:** One seen and photographed by John and Karen in the Jakar valley. If accepted this will be the first record of this species for Bhutan.
179. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus* **B:** Several daily within degraded Subtropical Forest below our Tingtibi camp and several between Tingtibi and Shemgang; two in the Shonkar Chu Valley.
180. Large Wood-shrike *Tephrodornis virgatus* **B:** One pair within degraded Subtropical Forest below our Tingtibi camp.
181. Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus* **B:** A strikingly handsome bulbul. Two on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; two near our Yongkola camp, Limithang Rd. and two on Pele La.
182. Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys* **B:** Two between Shemgang and Tingtibi.
183. Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris* **B:** Two in degraded Subtropical Forest surrounding our camp near Tingtibi.

NOTE: The Black-crested Bulbul group is better treated as a superspecies consisting probably of five allopatric species: *P. melanicteris* – Sri Lanka; *P. gularis* Western Ghats, South India; *P. flaviventris* – Himalayas and Central India eastwards to Vietnam; *P. dispar* – Sumatra; and *P. montis* – Borneo. (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

184. Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
185. Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* **B:** Ubiquitous in all but the most densely forested areas up to c. 2300m. **I:** Yamuna R. and Bhindiwas.
186. White-throated Bulbul *Alphoixus flaveolus* **B:** Several within scrubby woodland in an arid narrow valley just above Wangdi; several heard and seen within Subtropical Forest below our camp near Tingtibi.
187. Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* **B:** Seen superbly in secondary woodland on three days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road (common 2-12+).

NOTE: For the change of genus see Inskipp *et al* (1996).

188. Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes mccllellandi* **B:** Six on Pele La; several seen daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; four along near our Yongkol a camp, Limithang Rd.
189. Himalayan Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* **B:** Common and widespread; seen almost daily including ca. 150 on the lower slopes of Pele La (19 April).

NOTE: For details of the revised taxonomy of this interesting but complex group see Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

190. Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* **B:** One or two seen daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; one male near our Yongkola camp, Limithang Road.
191. Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* - **B:** Widespread and 1-3 seen on most days except along the Limithang Rd.
192. Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* **B:** Two between Ura and Gayzam Chu and two between Gayzam Chu and Sengo; heard on Yutong La.
193. Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* **B:** Three seen nicely near our camp on Pele La (1 May).
194. Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophhiata* **B:** Widespread but rather uncommon this year with just a handful of birds seen scattered within scrubby areas adjoining farmland: 4 Chelila; 6 Cheri Valley; 1 Trongsa to Shemgang; 1 Yutong La; several in the Jakar Valley to the Gayzam Chu; two on Yutong and two on Pele La.
195. Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculate* **B:** One seen all too briefly on Yutong La.
196. Blue-capped Rock-Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus* **B:** The male is not only a beautiful looking creature but a great songster. Widespread and common with several individuals and pairs being recorded on most days.
197. Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* **B:** Excellent views of a male on Dochu La; one male on Yutongla; three males between Jakar and Gayzam Chu; four males along the Limithang Rd; six on Yutong La; two on Pele La and several on Dochu La..

198. Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius* **B:** Four in the lightly wooded, dry, narrow valley above Wangdi; one male between Trongsa and Shemgang; one male on Yutong La.
199. Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* **B:** Common and ubiquitous; recorded daily 150 - 3200m; at times pairs were recorded along every 100 - 200m of road; many nest in the concrete road culverts.
200. Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima* **B:** Two seen near our camp on Pele La by a couple of lucky observers.
201. White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus* **B:** Notably common in the Blue Pine forests of the west east to Trongsa, thereafter sparse and uncommon: Chelila; Cheri Valley; Dochula; Pelela; Pelela to Trongsa; Shemgang to Tingtibi; Yutongla.
202. Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus bouboul* **B:** One male and one female in the Cheri Valley; a total of 15 on Dochu La.
203. Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni eunomus* **B:** A flock of eight in and around our camp on Pele La (2 May). This species is currently regarded as a vagrant to Bhutan.
- NOTE:** The subspecies *eunomus* is given full species status by some authors.
204. Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor* **B:** Three seen by Tim near our lunch stop as we descended from Gayzam Chu to the Ura valley.
205. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* **B:** Heard along the Tashitang Trail; one seen well above our Yonkola Camp and several others heard on two days along the Limithang Rd.
206. White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* **B:** Heard notably commonly this year and several seen: Yutongla; Gayzamchu to Sengor where one male seen superbly.
207. Bluethroat *Luscinia obscura* **I:** At least three including one superb individual in splendid full breeding dress, Yamuna R.
208. Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus* **B:** One female on Chelila; a total of 20, including some superb males between Jakar and Gayzamchu; and just one male between Gayzamchu and Sengor.
209. Golden Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* **B:** One skulking female in dense undergrowth, c. 2500m, west slope, Yutongla; one male on Pele La.
210. Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* **B:** Moderately common at low and medium elevations in lightly wooded farmland and around settlements.
211. Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
212. Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* **B:** One female along the Tashitang Trail and one female along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.

213. Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* **B:** Locally common, several birds appeared to have arrived on their breeding grounds: 10 Chelila; 2 Cheri Valley; 3 Yutong La; 1 male Pele La (2 May).

214. White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* **B:** Widespread and common; seen almost daily and found on virtually every creek, stream and river that we encountered; c. 700 - 3500m. A thoroughly delightful and dapper bird.

Also known as River Chat, River Redstart, White-capped Chat, White-capped River Chat.

215. Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* **B:** Widespread and common; seen almost daily with as many as 12+ on one day; usually seen in pairs with many males singing; found along virtually every stretch of creek, stream and river we encountered in addition to cliff-side waterfalls and springs; from near the Paro Valley east to the Jakar Valley, seemingly absent from the Limithang Rd.

Also known as Plumbeous Redstart.

216. White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum* **B:** Heard fairly but only glimpsed on the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd; Yutong La; and Limithang Road; Pele La.

217. Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* **B:** Two on the spectacular waterfall that tumbles over the road between Trongsa and Shemgang; one on Yutong La.

218. Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* **B:** Great looks at one foraging along a lovely creek at the entrance to the Tashitang Trail; one pair on the creek below our camp above Tingtibi.

219. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura* **B:** Two along the Tsang Chu; ten in the Jakar valley with the small fall-out of larks; and several in the Po Chu valley.

NOTE: Some authorities treat the population wintering in the Indian sub-continent as a full species separate from Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*. See, however, Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

220. White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura* **I:** One adult male, one adult female and at least three immatures seen very nicely in the 'scope in tall riverside grasslands along the Yamuna R. An increasingly uncommon and localised species.

221. Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

222. Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* **B:** Widespread and common; observed almost daily in open scrubby country, especially farmland.

223. Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata* **B:** Widespread; heard on Dochula, Tashitang Trail, Pele La; Trongsa to Shemgang; two seen very nicely on Pele La and one seen superbly on Yutongla and along the Limithang Rd.

224. Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea* **B**: Two seen and several heard along the Tashitang Trail; one seen and several heard along the Limithang Road, on Pele La and Dochu La.
225. Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* **B**: Heard on the Tashitang Trail; two seen nicely on the slopes of Pelela and several heard along the Limithang Rd.
226. Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Cettia fortipes* **B**: Heard or seen on several days, invariably in open, scrubby country: Pelela; heard between Trongsa and Shemgang; others heard and seen along the Limithang Rd.
227. Chestnut-crowned Bush-Warbler *Cettia major* **B**: One seen well in dense undergrowth along the Limithang Rd.
228. Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler *Cettia acanthizoides* **B**: Several heard and then one seen superbly on the upper slopes of Yutong La.
229. Grey-sided Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons* **B**: Widespread and fairly common. Superb views of several individuals and pairs as they responded dramatically to our tape.
230. Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cucullatus* **B**: Heard and then thanks to some good work by David Wolf great views of a very responsive pair, just above our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
231. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* **B**: One or two on two days near our camp above Tingtibi.
232. Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* **I**: Yamuna R.
233. Syke's Warbler *Hippolais rama* **I**: One seen very well foraging in a low tree, Yamuna R.
- NOTE:** Recently split from Booted Warbler *H. caligata*.
234. Tickell's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus affinis* **B**: Moderately common: ca. 30 near Thimpu (David Wolf); Tashigang Trail; Pele La; Trongsa to Shemgang and Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; Yutongla; Jakar to Gayzamchu; Limithang Rd.; Yutong La; 3 Po Chu valley (3 May).
235. Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* **B**: Several seen and heard: one Yutong La; four Jakar to Gayzamchu; several along the Limithang Rd.
- Also known as Orange-barred Warbler
236. Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* **B**: Most frequently encountered in mixed species flocks: Dochu La; Pele La; Yutong La.
- Also known as Grey-faced Warbler, Grey-faced Leaf-Warbler, Grey-throated Willow Warbler.

237. Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus* **B:** Widespread and fairly common this year: Cheli La; Pele La; common on Yutong La and between Jakar and Gayzamchu; Limithang Rd.

NOTE: Several small and very similar *Phylloscopus* warblers were until recently considered to be sub-species of Pallas's Warbler *P. proregulus*. Fieldwork in the mountains of central China by Per Alstrom and Urban Olsson has established that the forms *chloronotus* and *kansuensis* which were formerly considered to be subspecies of *P. proregulus* are in fact distinct species; Lemon-rumped Warbler *P. chloronotus* and Gansu Leaf Warbler *P. kansuensis*.

238. Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* **B:** Two seen well on the lower slopes of Cheli La. Others almost certainly seen but by then we had gotten ourselves in a bit of a tangle over this and a couple of other very similar and very confusing species.

239. Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* **B:** Several on Yutong La and between Jakar and Gayzam Chu.

240. Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* - **B:** One seen very well between Ura and Gayzam Chu and several along the Limithang Rd.

241. Large-billed Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris* **B:** Widespread and fairly common this year: Cheli La; Dochu La; Pele La; several Yutong La; Jakar to Gayzam Chu; Thrumsing La; and the Limithang Rd. Common on Pele La on 2 May.

242. Blyth's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* **B:** Widespread and common, locally very common e.g. Pele La 2 May, Po Chu valley and Dochu La, 3 May.

Also known as Blyth's Crowned Leaf Warbler, Blyth's Crowned Willow Warbler.

243. Yellow-vented Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus cantator* **B:** Great looks at two along the Tashitang Trail; two Pele La; common along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd. especially below 900m; several in the Shonkhar Chu valley. This is a distinctive and little known *Phylloscopus* species.

Also known as Yellow-faced Leaf Warbler or Yellow-throated Leaf Warbler

244. Whistler's Spectacled Warbler *Seicercus whistleri* **B:** Most of the Golden Spectacled Warblers we encountered belonged to this taxon: 10+ Dochu La; 3 Tashitang Trail; Pele La; Yutong La; Limithang Rd.

245. Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii* **B:** Following a spectacular overnight storm we heard and saw at least one Golden-spectacled Warbler with the impressive fallout of passerines just below Trongsa.

NOTE: The Golden-spectacled Warbler has until very recently been treated as a single species, *Seicercus burkii*, widely distributed in the mountains of southern Asia. A recent paper by Per Alstrom provides strong evidence that this taxon is actually a complex of four or five species. At least two species occur and probably breed in Bhutan: Golden-spectacled

- Warbler *S. burkii* and Whistler's Warbler *S. whistleri*. See Ibis (1999)141, pp 545-568.
246. Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos* **B**: Common along the Tashitang Trail and from Trongsa to Tingtibi; several on one day along the Limithang Rd.; Pele La; Dochu La.
247. White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* **B**: One between Ura and Gayzam Chu; two on the upper Limithang Rd.
248. Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys* **B**: Common along the Limithang Rd. above our Yongkola camp.
249. Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* **B**: Widespread in low numbers, often with mixed species flocks: Pele La; Chendibji area; several along the Limithang Rd.; 10+ Pele La (2 May).
250. Broad-billed Warbler *Abroscopus hodgsonii* **B**: One responded nicely to tape play-back and put on a great show within bamboo understorey in Cool Mixed Broad-leaved Forest, c. 2300m, Limithang Rd. **Globally threatened.**
251. Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* **B**: Two on Pele La; notably common along the Limithang Rd. below Namling with as many as 20+ seen on one day. One of the most attractive and charming of all Old World Warblers.
252. Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* **I**: Four along the Yamuna R.
253. Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striatus* **I**: One of the finds of the trip. A single bird singing at the edge of *Typha* sp beds, Yamuna R. **Globally threatened and very poorly known species.**
254. Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* **B**: Several seen well in Silver Fir Forest on Yutong La and between Ura and Gayzam Chu.
255. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* **I**: Two along the Yamuna R.
256. Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger* **B**: Several between Trongsa and Shemgang and along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; heard on Pele La; one pair in the Po Chu valley.
257. Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis* **B**: Superb views of a singing male in breeding plumage in roadside scrub along the Limithang Rd.; one seen by Karne between Gayzam Chu and Ura.
258. Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis* **I**: Good looks at this dainty prinia in scrub along the Yamuna R.
259. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* Several in superb fresh breeding plumage along the Yamuna R.
260. Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* **I**: Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.
261. Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rudescens* **I**: Heard in the Shonkhar Chu valley.

262. Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* **I:** Yamuna R.
263. Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* **B:** 21 April – one with the fallout of small passerines, just below Trongsa; 24 April - one on the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; 25 April – one on Yutongla; 26 April – four between Jakar and Gayzam Chu; 28 April – one on the Limithang Rd.; one in the Po Chu valley.
- Also known as Siberian Sooty Flycatcher.
264. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa (latirostris) dauurica* **B:** Notably uncommon this year with just one near our camp above Tingtibi.
265. Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* **B:** One with a mixed species flock on the slopes of Pele La (19 April).
266. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiiata* **B:** Widespread and locally common, recorded: 12 Dochu La; 2 Pele La; one Yutong La; two Jakar to Gayzamchu; several Gayzamchu to Sengor; >20 from Sengor to Jakar; locally common from Jakar up to Yutong La; several on Pele La.
267. White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula monnileger* **B:** Exceptional views of relatively confiding individual along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd. This is usually heard only and regarded as an almost impossible bird to see.
268. Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* **B:** Astonishingly scarce this year with just two males along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; and two in a mixed species flock on the Limithang Road, c. 2000m elevation. Exactly the same as in 2004!
269. Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris* **B:** A superb little bird. Recorded: One male Cheli La; one male Cheri valley; one male Dochul La; four on Pele La; one male on the Limithang Rd.; two males on Yutongla; an exceptional total of twenty, usually with mixed species flocks as we descended the west slope of Pele La; two on Dochu La.
270. Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolour* **B:** A very handsome and charming but usually very elusive flycatcher: One female Pele La; two males on Yutongla; one male between Ura and Gayzamchu; two males singing on Pele La (2 May).
271. Verditer Flycatcher *Muscicapa thalassina* **B:** Widespread and often very common, seen almost daily except at high elevations on Cheli La and the Limithang Rd. A truly spectacular bird.
272. Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* **B:** Heard at our diesel pumping station outside Trongsa; one female seen along the Limithang Rd.
273. Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* **B:** Several superb views of glowing males and females singing on territory including one incredible 'scope study of a male along the Tashitang Trail;

- two between Shemgang and Tingtibi; one female seen and others heard along the Limithang Rd.
274. Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* **B:** Rather uncommon this year: one male and one female on Pele La; a total of three handsome males along the Limithang Rd.; and one male on Pele La (2 May).
275. Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* **B:** One female on the Limithang Rd., below Namling.
276. Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* **B:** Heard on Pelela; one male between Trongsa and Shemgang and several daily between Shemgang and Tingtibi; two males on the Limithang Rd.; one male in the Po Chu valley.
277. Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni* **B:** One male and one female on one day and another female on the following days, all with a mixed species flocks above our Yongkola camp along the Limithang Rd.; superb views of a glowing male with a mixed species flock on Pele La.
278. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicacapa ceylonensis* **B:** Widespread and moderately common; seen daily except at higher elevations.
279. Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha* **B:** One Tashitang Trail; several Pele La and from Pele La to Trongsa; as many as 70+ with a 'fallout' just below Trongsa (21 April); two on the Limithang Rd.; two on Pele La (2 May).
280. White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* **B:** Several neat Chendibji; six below Trongsa with the 'fallout' (21 April); several along the Limithang Rd.
281. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* **B:** Two within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.
282. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogegens* **B:** Moderately common and several pairs seen superbly well: three pairs in scrub at the edge of farmland Mo Chu valley; heard just above Wangdi; several heard and seen daily between Trongsa and Tingtibi; one between Thrumsing La and Jakar and Punakha and two along the Po Chu valley.
283. White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* **B:** Sensational views of a single, eventually, very responsive bird within partially degraded Subtropical woodland, c. 650m elevation, near Tingtibi; one in the Shonkhar Chu valley.
284. Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* **B:** Only a handful of records this year: heard and then two seen on Pelela; several seen along the Limithang Road below 2200m elevation; heard again on Pele La and Dochu La.
285. Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* **B:** One seen just below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.

286. Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris* **B:** One of **THE** highlights of the tour with a very responsive pair providing incredible views within their bamboo habitat: one pair c. 3100m elevation, Dochu La; heard on Yutongla and Pele La.
287. Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer* **B:** An exceptional year for this charming sprite! One jumped up and sang at us just below our camp on Pele La; one very skulking but quite visible Rufous morph on Yutong La; one or two seen near our Gayzam Chu camp and four heard on the Limithang Rd.
288. Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* **B:** Widespread and rather uncommon as well as being very difficult to see this year.
289. Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis caudatus* **B:** Absolutely astounding views of this fabulous little songster, including singles and then an amazing pair that just would not go away, along the Limithang Rd. **Globally threatened.**
290. Bar-winged Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis troglodytoides* **B:** One heard in bamboo on Yutong La and then one seen by half the group on the Limithang Rd.
291. Spotted Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis formosus* **B:** Two seen well, naturally after first leading us on a merry dance along the Tashitang Trail, ; one heard on the west slope of Pelela; one heard in the Chendibji area; one heard below Trongsa; several heard on the Limithang Rd.
292. Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyris rufifrons* **B:** Two seen on two days near our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
293. Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps* **B:** One seen in the Ha valley; two on Pele La; two in the Chendibji area; several heard and two seen along the Limithang Rd.
294. Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea* **B:** Three along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; a total of eight on one day and several on two other days along the Limithang Rd., c. 2300 – 1900m elevation.
295. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps* **B:** 1-2 seen on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road.
296. Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei* **I:** Several seen in scrub surrounding the Okhla marshes along the east bank of the Yumna River.
297. Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus* **B:** Several in the grounds of our hotel, Delhi.
298. Common Babbler *Turdoides caudatus* **I:** Several seen in scrub surrounding the Okhla marshes along the east bank of the Yumna River.
299. Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris* **B:** Two seen superbly along the Geylephug Rd. and two along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road.

300. Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* **B:** tOne seen very nicely near Chendibji together with our first Golden-breasted Fulvetta; six along the Limithang Rd., below Namling.
301. Cutia *Cutia nipalensis* **B:** Fantastic views of a flock of six along the Limithang Road, below Namling. A very handsome species.
302. Black-headed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer* **B:** One seen by John and Karen along the Ha Valley rd.
303. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis* **B:** Heard daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd; heard once along the Limithang Rd. A surprising omission from our lists, suggesting that this species was nesting at the time of our visit.
304. Green Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius aenobarbus* **B:** One with a mixed species flock along the Ha valley Rd.; great looks at one with a mixed species flocks at ca. 9,000 feet on the Limithang Rd. Bhutan is probably the most reliable place to see this elusive species.
305. Black-eared Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis* **B:** Stunning views of this truly gorgeous gem in mixed species flocks: one pair on the slopes of Pele La; two near our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
306. Indian White-hooded Babbler *Gampsorhynchus rufulus* **B:** One seen by John within degraded Subtropical Forest behind our camp near Tingtibi. This is a very rare bird in Bhutan.
- NOTE:** Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that this taxon is surely not conspecific with populations (*cf. G. torquatus*) in SE Asia, which have very different vocalisations as well as exhibiting several different morphological differences.
307. Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni* **B:** Moderately common along the Limithang Rd. below Namling down to and beyond our Yongkola camp.
- Also known as Spectacled Barwing.
- NOTE:** This taxon should not be confused with *Actinodura ramsayi*, which occurs in Thailand, and is also referred to as Spectacled Barwing.
308. Hoary Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis* **B:** Exceptional views of two on Yutong La.
309. Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* **B:** Notably very uncommon this year: several on the Limithang Rd. below our Yongkola camp; two on Pele La with mixed species flocks.
310. Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula* **B:** Common and widespread with groups of as many as 15 seen: 3 Dochu La; 15 Pele La; 4 Pele La to Trongsa; common Trongsa to Shemgang; several between Ura and Gayzam Chu; several on Pele La (2 May).

Also known as Bar-throated Siva.

311. Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* **B:** Two with a mixed species flock along the Ha valley Rd.; two on Pele La; two between Sengor and Yongkola and a pair with a mixed species flock in the Ura valley.
312. Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis* **B:** Superb views of a single bird with Red-billed Leiothrix near Chendibji; three in a mixed species flock on Pele La.
313. Yellow-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe cinerea* **B:** In many ways this species epitomises the quality of the birding in Bhutan. A little known and rarely if ever seen species throughout most of its range it is locally common in Bhutan especially along the Limithang Road. We saw as many as eight on one day and several the next above and below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
314. Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps* **B:** Widespread and locally common; often in mixed species flocks in cool mixed Broad-leaved Forest: 10 Dochul La; 2 Pele La; 2 Pele La to Trongsa; notably uncommon this year along the Limithang Rd. with just a total of three seen.
315. White-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe vinipectus* **B:** Widespread and locally common usually with mixed species flocks in the understorey of both mixed Evergreen and Cool Mixed Broad-leaved Forest at high elevations: Cheli La; Dochu La; Pele La; Pele La to Trongsa; Yutong La; Ura to Gayzam Chu; Thrumsing La, and higher elevations along the Limithang Road.
316. Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis* **B:** Usually very skulking and locally quite numerous, this year, however, we were treated to several very good views of this interesting looking Fulvetta: ca. 20 along the Tashitang Trail; Trongsa to Shemgang; Shemgang to Tingtibi; several along the Limithang Rd. near our Yongkola camp.
317. Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe rufogularis* **B:** One heard singing on steep slopes at ca. 1000 m along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd. This is a very poorly known species in Bhutan.
318. Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata* **B:** Common to occasionally abundant and ubiquitous; seen almost daily.
- Also known as Black-capped Sibia.
319. Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* **B:** A rather localised species; notably common along the along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd. and in the Shonkhar Chu valley, with 6 – 30 recorded daily, often in large flocks.
320. White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri* **B:** A group of six seen daily around our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
321. Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* **B:** Wonderfully widespread and common; recorded almost daily; observed in mixed species flocks and mono-specific flocks in mixed Broad-leaved Forest.
322. Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* **B:** Widespread and common, especially at high elevations. Recorded: Dochu La; Pele La; Yutong La; and between Ura and Gayzam Chu.

323. Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis* **B:** Ten Cheli La; 4 Dochu La; 6 Pele La; Yutong La; very common Jakar to Gayzam Chu; common Thrumsing La; 2 Pele La (2 May).

324. Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta* **B:** Ten along the Tashitang Trail; six on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; a group of six in the Shonkhar Chu valley.

Also known as Black-lored Yuhina.

325. White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis* **B:** Widespread and common, locally very common; occasionally in flocks of >50. Recorded almost daily.

326. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* **B:** One of the most attractive and effervescent of Asia's laughingthrushes. Common, seen daily over four days (range 3-30) along the road between Trongsa and Tingtibi; several in the Shonkhar Chu Valley.

327. Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* **B:** Two to three in secondary woodland and partially degraded Subtropical Forest below our camp near Tingtibi.

328. Greater-necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* **B:** Two in secondary woodland and partially degraded Subtropical Forest below our camp near Tingtibi. Sorting out this species from Lessers is no mean feat.

329. Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striata* **B:** Common and recorded widely in suitable forested habitat on most days.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

330. Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Dryonastes ruficollis* **B:** Fabulous views of three very responsive birds in scrubby areas of woodland below our camp near Tingtibi.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

331. Grey-sided Laughingthrush *Dryonastes caerulatus* **B:** Two seen well plus others heard on the west slope of Pele La; one seen on the Limithang Rd.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

332. Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla rufogularis* **B:** Two along the Tashitang Trail and then absolutely sensational views of a single individual in scrub at the edge of field within the Shonkhar Chu valley.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

333. Spotted Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ocellatus* **B:** Superb and prolonged views of pair, thanks to some great spotting by David Wold, on the upper slopes of Yuting La. Wow! Two on Pele La at the Tragopna site. Definitely one of the most attractive of all laughingthrushes.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

334. Bhutan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron imbricatum* **B:** A total of fifteen between Trongsa; several on the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; and two individuals on the Limithang Rd.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) present good evidence for splitting this taxon from Streaked Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron (Garrulax) lineatus*. The Bhutan Laughingthrush ranges throughout Bhutan eastwards to W Aranachal Pradesh.

335. Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron squamatum* **B:** Two heard so close and yet only glimpsed as it snivelled and grovelled in the densest thicket imaginable, just below Shemgang; two seen above our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

336. Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affinis* **B:** Widespread and but rather uncommon this year. Typically found at high elevations: Cheli La; Dochu La; Yutong La; a total of four between Ura and Gayzam Chu; six on Pele La.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

337. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum* **B:** Heard in the Ha Valley; one seen in the Cheri Valley; two on Dochu La; one on Pele La; a total of 15 between Pele La and Trongsa, especially near Chendibji; several between Jakar and Gayzam Chu.

NOTE: This species is no longer placed in *Garrulax*.

338. Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium* **B:** At least six very confiding birds hopping and hollering at the tragopna site on Pele La.

339. Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor* **B:** Fabulous views of a pair feeding on grass seed heads at the roadside along the Ha Valley Rd.; one on Yutong La; three on Dochu La.

340. Fulvous Parrotbill *Paradoxornis fulvifrons* **B:** Fabulous close views of a pair at the roadside, high on Yutong La; equally wonderful views of a group of eight as they foraged confidingly in bamboo on Pele La.

341. Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis ruficeps* **B:** A group of 6-8 seen beautifully on two days, just below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.

342. Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* **B:** Superb views of three including a very fine male along the Ha valley road; a single male with a mixed species flock in the Cheri valley.

343. Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris* **B:** Small number seen regularly at high elevations: Cheli La; Dochu La; Pele La; singing on Yutong La; Ura to Gayzam Chu; common Thrumsing La.

344. Coal Tit *Parus ater* **B:** Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests: Cheli La; Dochu La; Pele La; Yutong La; Ura to Gayzam Chu; common Thrumsing La.
345. Grey-crested Tit *Parus dichrous* **B:** Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests: Cheli La; Pele La; Yutong La; Ura to Gayzam Chu; common Thrumsing La.
- Also known as Brown-crested Tit.
346. Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* **B:** Common to locally abundant and ubiquitous in suitable forested habitat. Seen daily at all localities visited. One of the most frequently seen but nevertheless most attractive Himalayan species.
347. Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* **B:** This is a very snazzy looking bird. One on Pele La; one along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; eight along the Limithang Rd.
348. Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* **B:** Widespread and moderately common, especially in mixed species flocks: notably common on Dochu La; Pele La; two on Yutong La; several between Ura and Gayzam Chu; and then finally on Pele La we get to see why this species is so named, one individual conspicuously flashed its bright, yellow eye-brow – this is the first time I have seen this behaviour in nearly 30 years of birding in Asia!
349. Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* **B:** What a stunner! Exceptional views of a pair along the Geylephug Rd.; even better views of a pair along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; and another male the following day on the same road.
350. Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* **B:** A delightful species and a great favourite with everyone: ten along the Tashitang Trail; Pele La; four along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; several on the Limithang Rd.; and ten on Pele La (2 May).
- Also known as Red-headed Tit.
351. Rufous-fronted Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos* **B:** Lower slopes Cheli La; two on Pele La; four on Yutong La.
- Also known as Black-browed Tit.
352. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea* **B:** One pair seen 'beautifully' along the Trongsa to Shemgang Rd.; several daily within partially degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.
353. White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* **B:** Widespread but notably scarce this year; usually in mixed species flocks: one on Pele La; common along the Limithang Rd.; two on Pele La (2 May).
354. Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta formosa* **B:** What a bird! For the umpteenth year running we were all treated to totally fabulous views of an adult male as he sang and conducted display flights over us. Totally, totally amazing; c. 1750m elevation, along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road. Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the entire tour. This is one of Asia's most infrequently seen and consequently least known birds. **Globally Threatened.**

355. Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* **B:** Two on the lower slopes of Cheli La.
Also known as Common Treecreeper
356. Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis* **B:** Exceptional views of two on Pele La on two separate days.
357. Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor* **B:** Excellent views of one just below our Yongkola camp along the Limithang Rd.
358. Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica* **I:** Several in scrub along the Yamuna R.
359. Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* **B:** Rather sparse this year. The resident subspecies in Bhutan is especially spectacular. Recorded: Cheli La; Pele La; great looks at two males with a mixed species flock just below Sengor on the Limithang Rd.; common on the drive back from Yongkola to Jakar; several on Pele La (2 May).
360. Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* **B:** Widespread and common to abundant and often ubiquitous. Seen virtually daily except in the Paro Valley, Cheli La and below *c.* 1200 m elevation.
361. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* **B:** Common and widespread especially at elevations generally lower than the previous two species.
362. Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* **B:** Great looks at a gorgeous and very confiding male in scrubby woodland along the Mangde Chu.
363. Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda* **B:** A One male in flight right in front of us on the lower slopes of Cheli La is our first record for this locality; we then didn't see any more of these spectacular birds until we found a sensational male perched on a low fir in the midst of snow on Thrumsing La. Amazing!
364. Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* **B:** Three to six seen on the three days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; heard along the Limithang Rd. near our Yongkola camp.
365. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* **B:** Notably uncommon this year: Tashitang Trail; Pele La; Limithang Rd.
Also known as Buff-bellied Flowerpecker.
366. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa* **B:** Widespread, locally common, seen most days except at high elevations.
367. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* **B:** Moderately common and widespread.

368. Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* **B:** Widespread, common and seen almost daily especially in areas of open country; very common in the upland valleys of the Bumthang region.

369. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

NOTE: Asian populations once united with African Black Drongo under *D. adsimilis* are now widely treated as a separate species *macrocercus*.

370. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* **B:** Widespread and common to very common; recorded almost daily except on Cheli La and between Ura and Gayzam Chu.

371. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* **B:** Notably common along the lower section of the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.

372. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* **B:** Common, seen daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.

373. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus* **B:** Notably sparse this year: singles on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; one along the Limithang Rd.; and one in the Shonkhar Chu valley.

NOTE: Dear old Ripley again. This time he lumped all the drongos from India to Melanesia and Australia as one huge polymorphic species Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*. This was very unfortunate as the islands of Indonesia e.g. Sumatra, Sulawesi, and the Lesser Sundas all support distinctive and intervening forms. As a consequence the taxonomy of this group has been revised and at least four well-defined species have resulted. The specific name *hottentotus* now only applies to populations in south and south-east Asia. They are characterised by their filamentous hair-like crest (hence the common name). This species ranges east to the Moluccas. The Spangled Drongo, which is confined to New Guinea, Australia and nearby islands, now receives the specific scientific name *D. bracteatus*. For more information see Sibley & Monroe (1990).

374. Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* **B:** A loose flock of ten on Dochu La; one along the Tashitang Trail; one on Pele La.

375. Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris* **B:** One of the many great birds of Bhutan and the Himalayas. Widespread and common, especially at the forest edge and around relatively undisturbed farm-houses from Chelila east to Yongkola on the Limithang Rd.

Also known as Gold-billed Magpie or Gold-billed Blue Magpie.

376. Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* **B:** One near our Yongkola camp along the Limithang Rd.

377. Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* **I:** Two at Bhindiwas.

378. Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* **B:** Widespread and locally moderately common: common along the Tashitang Trail; seen commonly, daily along the Trongsa to Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; common in the Shonkhar Chu Valley; Po Chu Valley.

Also known as Himalayan Treepie.

379. Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica* **B:** Common in the upland valleys of the Bumthang Region.

380. Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* **B:** Widespread and common in higher elevation evergreen forests from Cheli La and the Cheri Valley east to the Limithang Road.

NOTE: This taxon is split from populations to the west viz. Larger Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga multipunctata*.

381. Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* **B:** Moderately common in the Paro Valley; Cheli La; Ha Valley; Cheri Valley; common in the Bumthang valleys, east to Thrumsingla. Mostly seen in small flocks and pairs around human habitation and in agricultural land.

382. House Crow *Corvus splendens* **B:** Two in Punakha. **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

383. Large-billed Crow *Corvus japonensis* **B:** Common to very common and widespread, recorded daily.

384. **NOTE:** The entire 'Large-billed Crow' complex has been revised (see Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). The very large-billed birds that inhabit the Himalayas from Afghanistan eastwards to Arunachal Pradesh are the birds we observed in Bhutan and they appropriately retain the name Large-billed Crow but are given the specific name *japonensis*. Populations in the lowlands of NE India are now referred to as Eastern Jungle Crow *C. levaillantii* and populations in peninsula India, south from the base of the Himalayas are referred to as Indian Jungle Crow *C. culminatus*. Based on my own observations of Indian sub-continent and populations elsewhere in SE Asia I completely concur with these authors revision of this fascinating group.

385. Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminatus* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

386. Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus* **B:** Several on the lower slopes of Dochu La and around our hotel at Punakha.

Also known as Grey-headed Starling.

387. Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* **I:** Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

Previously placed in *Sturnus*.

388. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Common and ubiquitous in open country including the midst of urban madness! **B:** Common in and around the Paro Valley east to Trongsa. **I:** Delhi, Yamuna R. & Bhindiwas.

389. Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus* **I:** Moderately common especially as a commensal of man, sometimes in horribly yucky areas.
390. Sind Sparrow *Passer pyrrhonotus* **I:** Wonderful looks at a single male. A new bird for KDB!
391. Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* **B:** Common in suitable scrub and open country especially around farm buildings such as between Paro Valley; Ha Valley; Thimpu; Cheri Valley; Punakha Valley; lower slopes of Pele La; Trongsa to Shemgang; Ura Valley. Often together with Eurasian Tree Sparrows.
- Also known as Cinnamon Sparrow.
392. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* **B:** Ubiquitous in suitable open country especially around farm buildings.
393. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Common and ubiquitous, especially as a commensal of man. **B:** Thimpu; Punakha; Trongsa; Shemgang; Jakar. **I:** Delhi; Yamuna R.; Bhindiwas.
394. Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* **I:** Several in breeding plumage, Yamuna R.
395. Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* **I:** A total of c. 30, in various plumage states, scrub, grassy areas and farmland adjacent to marshes on the east bank of the Yumna R.
396. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* **B:** A group of four feeding quietly in a patch of seeding bamboo, within partially degraded Subtropical Forest, c. 850m elevation, above Tingtibi.
397. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* **B:** Two flocks of c. 30 and 50 in scrub and secondary woodland bordering farmland between Trongsa and Shemgang.
398. Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola* **B:** A group of c. 30 between Jakar and Ura and two with the 'lark fallout' in the Jakar valley.
399. Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis* **B:** One female studied at length along the Limithang Rd. between Namling and Sengor; a flock of c. 70 seen by David Wolf near our Pele La Camp (2 May).
400. Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii* **B:** One female and two males on Pele La; one male between Ura and Gayzam Chu; two females on Pele La (2 May).
401. White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura* **B:** A total of six females high on Cheli La; 12 on Pele La including some lovely males; ten between Ura and Gayzam Chu; one female on Pele La (2 May).
402. Crimson-browed Finch *Propyrrhula subhimachala* **B:** Two females seen at very close range on Pele La.

403. Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi* **B:** One pair along the Tashitang Trail; one superb male on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road; absolutely stunning 'scope views of two males along the Limithang Rd. and a further eight the following day.
404. Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* **B:** A flock of ca. 40 in flight just below Sengor.
405. Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis* **B:** A group of six put on a great show near Chendibji.
406. Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala* **B:** Rather few seen this year: five on the Limithang Rd. between Namling and Sengor and a pair seen very nicely on Pele La.
407. Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis* **B:** What a gorgeous bird! Several heard on Cheli La; one female on Dochul La; and then a wonderful flock of 11 feeding on the forest floor between Ura and the Gayzam Chu.
408. Spot-winged Grosbeak *Coccothraustes melanozanthos* **B:** A total of 17 seen superbly on Dochu La; 3 along the Tashitang Trail; and 12 on Pele La. A good year for this handsome species.
409. White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* **B:** Great looks at a total of six on Cheli La; two on Pele La; one male on Yutongla; four between Ura and Gayzamchu; one pair on Pele La (2 May).
410. Gold-naped Finch *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta* **B:** One female on the Limithang Rd. between Namling and Sengor; one female on Pele La (2 May).
411. Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami* **B:** Six in dry scrub along the Mo Chu valley; common between Trongsa and Shemgang; one male in the narrow, dry valley above Wangdi.

MAMMALS

1. Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis* **B:** Widespread and common especially at lower elevations.
2. Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatto* **I:** Delhi – Roz's monkey!.
3. Common (Hanuman) Langur *Presbytis entellus* **B:** Pele La. Notably larger and more heavily furred than populations in India.
4. Capped Langur *Presbytis pileatus* **B:** Wonderful looks a troop of these handsome primates along the Limithang Road.
5. Golden Langur *Presbytis geei* **B:** Notably common from just below Trongsa to Shemgang and down to our camp near Tingtibi. Large numbers (20 – 70) seen on four days with several troops feeding on or at the side of the road including taking dirt from exposed cliffs.

6. Common Leopard *Panthera pardus* **B:** Quite simply amazing. This gorgeous creature camp up through a stream bed and stood on the road, stared us down and then gambolled up the hill-side, flushing a female Satyr Tragopan for good measure. Cool Mixed Broadleaved Forest on the slopes of Pele La.
7. Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* **I:** One seen by Roz along the Yamuna R.
8. Hodgson's Flying Squirrel *Petaurista magnificus* **B:** One spotted brilliantly by David Wolf along the Ha Valley Rd.; one gliding over our Yongkola camp at dusk. A truly gorgeous creature.
9. Giant Pied Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* **B:** One or two seen daily along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; two along the Limithang Rd.
10. Orange-bellied Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah* **B:** One in the Cheri Valley; one on the Limithang Rd.; one on Pele La.
11. Hoary-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus* **B:** Several seen daily along the Trongsa to Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.
12. Five-striped Squirrel *Funambulus pennanti* **I:** Surprisingly just one at Bhindiwas.
13. Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maccllellandi* **B:** Common and widespread especially along the Limithang Road.
14. Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erthraeus* **B:** One on Pele La; one between Pele La and Trongsa; two below Trongsa.
15. Black-naped Hare *Lepus nigricollis* **I:** One *en route* to Bhindiwas.
16. Goral *Nemorhaedus goral* **B:** One seen briefly in the Cheri valley and then one seen amazingly well as it trundled across the road right in front of our bus, between Trongsa and Shemgang.
17. Serow *Capricornis sumatraensis* **B:** A great trip for this very rarely seen species: one brilliantly spotted by Kipchu on Cheli La; and one dwelt in the 'scope for all to see on Pele La.
18. Common Barking Deer (Muntjac) *Muntiacus muntjak* **B:** One on Pele La; several seen and heard along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd.; heard near our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd. and one seen on Pele La (2 May).
19. Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus* **B:** Good looks at a single male near the Gayzam Chu. This is an endangered mammal.
20. Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* **I:** Three near Bhindiwas.
21. Royle's Pika *Ochotona roylei* **B:** Cheli La; Pele La.

22. House Mouse *Mus musculus* **B**: One along the Tashitang Trail

And all this in addition to a wonderful variety of skinks, lizards, frogs, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. Not to mention of course a profusion of delightful flowering plants.

GPS references

Riverview Hotel, Thimpu	2308 metres	27° 28.29' N., 89° 38.81' E.
Cheri Valley	2711 metres	27° 35.19' N, 89° 38.09' E.
Dochu La (summit)	3112 metres	27° 29.39' N., 89° 45.14' E.
Zangtho Pelri Hotel, Wolakha	1397 metres	27° 32.16' N., 89° 52.21' E.
Spotted Wren Babbler site in Mo Chu valley	1397 metres	27° 48.76' N., 89° 46.69' E.
Wangduephodrang town centre	1311 metres	27° 28.76' N., 89° 54.11' E.
Honeyguide site	2011 metres	27° 30.33' N, 90° 04.98' E
Gantey La	3347 metres	27° 31.42' N, 90° 10.28' E
Pele La	3404 metres	27° 32.15' N, 90° 12.12' E
Pele La camp	3367 metres	27° 32.41' N, 90° 11.97' E
Gangtey La	3360 metres	27° 31.44' N., 90° 10.54' E.
Yeshey Zam bridge	1908 metres	27° 25.32' N., 90° 29.78' E.
Tingtibi Camp site	740 metres	27° 10.37' N, 90° 41.90' E
Om Leki's Lodge	2607 metres	27° 33.92' N, 90° 44.45' E
Thrumsing La	3763 metres	27° 24.07' N., 90° 59.47' E.
Thrumsing La is 43 kms after the Ura (Sheltang) La, 17 kms before Sengor, 33 before the Namling cliffs & 38 before Namling.		
Namling village	2309 metres	27° 20.15' N., 91° 06.37' E.
Yongkola Campsite	1855 metres	27° 19.16' N, 91° 07.42' E