

BHUTAN

MARCH 26 – APRIL 20, 2008

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TOUR REPORT

By: Dion Hobcroft

Our early spring tour to this jewel-like Himalayan kingdom surpassed everyone's expectations. It was a total delight to be back in the land of the peaceful thunder dragon for my sixth consecutive tour. Despite acquiring our desired left-hand seats on the plane, the clouds covered the great peaks of the eastern Himalaya. It is not often westerners applaud when a plane touches down. Such was the case this year as the pilot negotiated the rather complex landing. We had arrived in Bhutan at perhaps the most idyllic airport in the world.

The following morning we are up early and have superb weather more than compensating us for yesterday's clouds. A heavy dusting of snow has covered the pass, and clear conditions light up Jomolhari, definitely amongst the most beautiful of the great peaks. The birding kicks off well with several Kalij Pheasants wing-whirring in display, followed by a quartet of wonderful Blood Pheasants. A Eurasian Woodcock almost collides with the windscreen, but happily gets away. Up at the pass, Himalayan Monal are in good form, although sometimes frustratingly hunkered under cover. A beautiful male White-throated Redstart augurs well for lingering winter visitors. We retire in the afternoon to the agricultural terraced fields of Paro. We have magical encounters with the beautiful Black-tailed Crake and a swirling mass of several thousand Plain Mountain Finches. I have not seen a flock like this in my life.

From the capital, Thimphu, we explore the delightful environs of Cheri Monastery. The rhododendrons are superb and we are soon enjoying glittering gems like Mrs. Gould's Sunbird and delightful Rufous-fronted Tits. We enjoy scope views of goral, one of the curious hooped mammals of Asia, and our only Snow Pigeons fly in. Our standout bird today is a cracking male Yellow-rumped Honeyguide at his rock beehive cliff. A visit to the Takin Breeding Centre reveals the national mammal to be frisky in the cool conditions. After some shopping we continue on our journey across Bhutan.

A leisurely birding stroll through hemlock and fir forests bedazzled by rhododendrons makes for a lovely morning at Dochu La. Darjeeling Woodpecker and the scarce Rusty-flanked Treecreeper are amongst a host of new birds. In the afternoon we are a world away exploring the Po Chu valley for migrants. We have superb views of Wallcreeper, the first of four we see in total on this trip. Even better is a sensational Pallas's Fish-Eagle that almost parts our hair in the middle as it cruises over. Before dinner we go out for a bit of a spot-lighting session and have exceptional views of both Gray Nightjar perched and a delightful Collared Scops-Owl.

Tashitang is a glorious location. Heavily-jungled hillsides meet a roaring Himalayan river. The birding is always exciting here and we see some great birds with Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush always a standout. A cosmic Ibisbill flies up right next to us, its lilac legs not well-illustrated in any guide. It is hard not to be impressed when you have Small and Rufous-bellied niltavas lining up next to each other. Our afternoon visit to the inner sanctum of the Punakha Dzong is a humbling experience. A vagrant Asian Koel is a surprise here.

We head for the hills and find ourselves camping at Sengor. Some trepidation often greets this first night in the tents, but everyone comes through with flying colors. This is always exciting birding, and a male and three female Satyr Tragopans greet the leader on his first wander down the road. Not a bad start, with other great sightings including Crimson-browed Finch, Lammergeier, Green Shrike-Babbler, and a real rosefinch festival with Himalayan White-browed, Beautiful, Dark-rumped, and Dark-breasted all putting in appearances. The locals report the resident tiger has not been heard for a week, although it had dispatched a bull 10 days before our visit. We were lucky enough to hear this animal roaring in 2006.

We drive through to Trongsa, have a lovely hot shower, and get prepared for jungle birding in Tingtibi. Rufous-necked Hornbills put on several wonderful performances, and a flock of 20 Great Hornbills flying and perching around us is a hard encore to surpass. A night of spotlighting turns up a trio of Himalayan civets in a fruiting tree, and we have a great view of a krait crossing the road. Bay Woodpecker, Sultan Tit, Rufous-faced Warbler, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, and superb views of both the rare Long-billed Wren-Babbler and its scarce cousin, the Spotted Wren-Babbler, are amongst the many highlights. This is not to forget the troops of golden langurs.

We again enter the upland birding habitats between Jakar and Sengor. While at times we struggle for activity, we have some absolutely magical encounters. Two stunning male Satyr Tragopans on the road are a dream. Spotted Laughingthrush, Plain-backed Thrush, Himalayan Wood Owl, and Great and Brown parrotbills are all one-off encounters with scarce birds.

As we descend to Yongcola, the bird biomass improves and we have some electrifying birding here. The cutia display we encounter is extraordinary. Ward's and Red-headed trogons make vital appearances; Scarlet and Gold-naped finches are excellent; and rare babblers like Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Black-headed Shrike-Babbler, and Scaly Laughingthrush focus crisply for the group. It does not stop. After our final lunch, as we break camp, we have our most fantastic bit of luck for the tour. Margaret spots a cat, Chitra hits the brakes, Bob relocates said feline, and we have a once-in-a-lifetime lengthy observation of the ultra-rare marbled cat stuck up against a roadside embankment. This is definitely my birthday present.

It will be hard to top all of this, but we keep battling away. We wend our way through the Far East. Plenty of new birds for our trip list include Wreathed and Oriental Pied hornbills, Black-backed Forktail, fruiting trees alive with Thick-billed Pigeons and Fairy Bluebirds, and secretive Red-faced Liocichla and Blue-winged Laughingthrush—all frustrating or delighting us, depending on our angle of viewing in dense bamboo. Finally, we must depart fairytale land. We make our way to Gauhati in the Indian state of Assam. A smooth journey punctuated with birding stops is highlighted by both Greater and Lesser adjutants and a surprise Alexandrine Parakeet.

On our final full day in Delhi we give it our best shot, finishing with 114 species for the day! Amongst our many memorable sightings are Black-necked Stork, Sarus Crane, Greater Flamingo, Red-naped Ibis, Indian Peafowl, Indian Courser, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Spotted Owlet, Coppersmith Barbet, Citrine Wagtail, White-tailed Stonechat, Striated Babbler, Brahminy Starling, Sind Sparrow, and Red-headed Bunting. I look forward to birding back in Bhutan with my good friend David Bishop next year!

I would like to thank the participants Brian and Meg, Bob and Rosie, Joe and Judy, Wim, and Ann for a thoroughly delightful Bhutanese birding adventure!

Dion Hobcroft

15 May 2008

ITINERARY

Fri 28 Mar 08: Fly Delhi to Paro via Kathmandu arriving at 5 pm not allowing much time for afternoon birding.

Sat 29 Mar 08: Paro to Cheli La where we watch birds till about 1400. Birdwatch in wetlands near Paro then drive onto Thimphu. 45 sp.

Sun 30 Mar 08: Morning at Cheri Monastery including a visit to the Takin Breeding Centre. Afternoon shopping in Thimphu. 66 sp.

Mon 31 Mar 08: Morning birding at Dochu La then after lunch at Lamperi we drive beyond Punakha exploring the riverine habitats. A bit of spotlighting in the evening for owls and nightjars. 91 sp.

Tue 1 Apr 08: A full morning at Tashitang before a visit to the Punakha Dzong. 124 sp.

Wed 2 Apr 08: Morning breakfast on the Po Chu before driving to Pele La for our first night of camping. 153 sp.

Thu 3 Apr 08: Morning and lunch at Pele La before driving to Trongsa. 164 sp.

Fri 4 Apr 08: Drive from Trongsa to Tingtibi via Shemgang camping near the river. 199 sp.

Sat 5 Apr 08: Tingtibi river camp area 223 sp.

Sun 6 Apr 08: Birding between Tingtibi and Shemgang 236 sp.

Mon 7 Apr 08: Return to Trongsa 241 sp.

Tue 8 Apr 08: Trongsa to Jakar via Yutong La 247 sp.

Wed 9 Apr 08: Jakar to Sengor via Thrumsingh La 250 sp.

Thu 10 Apr 08: Sengor to Yongcola via Namling 268 sp.

Fri 11 Apr 08: Yongcola to Sengor via Namling 274 sp.

Sat 12 Apr 08: Yongcola to Namling 282 sp.

Sun 13 Apr 08: Yongcola to Namling to Mongar 287 sp.

Mon 14 Apr 08: Mongar to Rotong via Khori La 295 sp.

Tue 15 Apr 08: Rotong to Morong via Narphung La 300 sp.

Wed 16 Apr 08: Morning birding at Morong then drive to Samdrup Jonkhar. 315 sp.

Thu 17 Apr 08: Morning and afternoon birding Samdrup Jonkhar with thunderstorms a feature of the morning! 330 sp.

Fri 18 Apr 08: Drive from Samdrup Jonkhar to Gauhati. Fly from Gauhati to Delhi via Bagdogra. 357 sp.

Sat 19 Apr 08: Morning Yamuna River; Afternoon Sultanpur National Park 435sp.

BIRDLIST

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*: (1) on 2 Apr near Wangdi. A rare winter visitor in Bhutan.

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*: (5) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: **B:** regularly encountered in small numbers on most rivers in Bhutan with a high count of (20) on the Mo Chu River.

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*: (2) Sultanpur

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: (5) Sultanpur.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: **B:** (1) on 1 Apr and an amazing (3) on 2 Apr between Punakha and Wangdi. A rare winter visitor in Bhutan.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: (1) Sultanpur and (10) Yamuna.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: (1) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*: (1) Sultanpur

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: (30) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*: (2) Yamuna and (5) Sultanpur

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*: (2) Sultanpur.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*: (2) Sultanpur; a globally threatened species.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*: (50) Assam and (1) Sultanpur

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*: (3) Assam gave great views.

Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius*: (1) Assam gave a great view. This is a globally threatened species.

Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa*: (1) Yamuna was my first sighting here and (1) on the drive to Sultanpur.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*: (5) Sultanpur

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*: (30) Sultanpur

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*: (1) Sultanpur

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*: **B:** (1) Punakha was our only sighting on 2 Apr.

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*: (10) Assam gave a great view.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotus*: (10) Sultanpur

Gadwall *Anas strepera*: (2) Yamuna

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*: (2) Yamuna and (2) Sultanpur **B:** (2) Thimphu STW on 29 Mar and (2) on the Po Chu on 31 Mar.

Indian Spotbill *Anas poecilorhyncha*: (40) Yamuna and (40) Sultanpur

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*: (40) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur with (10) in a flooded field in Assam.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*: (1) Yamuna

Garganey *Anas querquedula*: (50) Yamuna and (1) Sultanpur

Common Teal *Anas crecca*: (1) Yamuna

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*: (2) Yamuna and (1) Sultanpur **B:** (1) drake Thimphu STW on 29 Mar.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: (50) Yamuna **B:** (2) Tashitang on 1 Apr.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: **B:** (1) near Punakha on 1 Apr and (1) on the drive from Trongsa to Tingtibi following the river on 4 Apr.

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: (1-2) possibly the same bird seen near SJ on 16 Apr.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*: (1) Sultanpur

Common (Himalayan) Buzzard *Buteo buteo*: **B:** recorded on eight days with a maximum count of 3 on 31 March around Pele La. This bird is split by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) as Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Abundant in the vicinity of Delhi.

Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*: **B:** (1) adult seen in flight over Mo Chu River, Punakha on 31 Mar gave a brilliant view. Globally threatened.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*: (1) Yamuna

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*: **B:** (1) Pele La on 3 Apr was an adult that gave an excellent flight view on two occasions.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*: **B:** A good year for this gigantic species, (10) at Pele La on 3 Apr; (5) on 8 Apr at Yutong La. In Assam we had (10) mostly juveniles about 30 km E Gauhati.

Crested Serpent-eagle *Spilornis cheela*: **B:** Recorded on 3 days with a max. (1). Some excellent studies of this handsome raptor.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: (2) Yamuna.

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*: (1) female in flight with Greater Adjutant distracting us.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*: **B:** (1) on 17 Apr seen in flight near SJ.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus*: **B:** (1) female at Cheli La on 29 Apr and (1) male on 1 Apr at Tashitang.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*: (1) Yamuna

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*: **B:** Recorded on four days with max. (2) on 9 Apr.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*: **B:** Recorded on six days with often pairs encountered.

Mountain Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*: **B:** Recorded on 3 days, always singly but included a perched adult in the scope near Shemgang on 4 Apr.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: (1) Sultanpur **B:** Widespread and moderately common in open, non-forested country. Recorded on 7 days with a maximum of (4) on 29-31 Mar around Punakha.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: **B:** (1) Jakar valley on 8 Apr went in to a spectacular stoop with another seen on 14 Apr at Khori La.

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*: (2) Yamuna and (6) Sultanpur gave good views.

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*: Heard only Yamuna

Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola*: **B:** Heard only on 8 days.

Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis*: **B:** Heard only on 4 days mostly on the road between Tingtibi to Shemgang.

Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii*: **B:** Heard only on the Limithang Rd.

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*: **B:** A quiet year for this spectacular bird with excellent views of 4 birds on 29 March as we approached Cheli La. A further stunning male, unusually by itself was recorded on 9 Apr as we drove across the pass at Thrumsingh La.

Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra*: **B:** A great result for this spectacular bird this year with two outstanding males watched on the road near Sengor on 11 Apr. A male and three female were seen by Dion at Pele La on 2 Apr. Also heard on 4 days.

Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus*: **B:** Everyone enjoyed incredible views of a total of 6 individuals on 29 March at Cheli La including two males. Another knockout two males at Pele La on 2 April.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelana*: **B:** A very good year for this species seen on 5 days with max. (8) on the morning drive to Cheli La 29 Mar. Also seen at Tashitang, Tingtibi, Yongcola and Narphung.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*: (10) Sultanpur including some superb males.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*: (2) Sultanpur

Black-tailed Crake *Porzana bicolor*: **B:** A great view in Paro thanks to some sharp spotting by Chitra on 29 Mar. Another great view of a single bird at Rotong on 14 Apr.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio (porphyrio) poliocephalus*: (5) Sultanpur and (5) Yamuna. Indian population split as Grey-headed Swamphen in a recent review.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: (2) Yamuna and (5) Sultanpur.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*: (1) Yamuna and (1) Sultanpur

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*: (2) Sultanpur

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*: **B:** (1) near the Punakha Dzong on 1 Apr and then a pair with a recently hatched chick on the Po Chu on 2 Apr. (2) on 8 Apr on the Jakar Chu. Bhutan is indeed a stronghold for this very special species.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: (20) Yamuna and (20) Sultanpur

Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malarbaricus*: (2) Sultanpur-scope views of this scarce Indian endemic.

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*: (10) Sultanpur and (20) Yamuna.

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvauceli*: **B:** Recorded on 3 days with a max. (20) on 1 Apr.

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*: (2) in a flooded field in Assam on 18 Apr was a good record for this declining winter visitor from North Asia.

Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus*: (5) of these stunning scarce and local endemics on the Sultanpur flats.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: (20) Yamuna

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: (1) Sultanpur

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: (10) Sultanpur

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*: (10) Yamuna. **B:** (1) on both 31 Mar and (1) Apr near Punakha with (2) SJ on 17 Apr.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: (20) Yamuna

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: (4) Yamuna **B:** Recorded on five days (1-2) mostly on the larger rivers in Punakha and SJ.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: (1) Sultanpur

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: (10) Yamuna and (50) Sultanpur

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: (20) Yamuna

Rock Dove *Columba livia*: Widespread and common recorded in Bhutan on 16 days with max. (200) at Punakha Dzong.

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*: **B:** (4) Cheri Monastery on 30 March was our only sighting of this handsome high altitude specialist.

Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsoni*: **B:** Heard only at Khori La on 14 Apr.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decoacto*: (10) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*: **B:** Widespread, common and observed on 17 days, often foraging on the road.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*: (5) Yamuna and (2) Sultanpur

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: **B:** (1-10) recorded on 11 days in Bhutan.

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*: (5) Sultanpur

Barred Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia unchall*: B: (4) on 12 Apr feeding in a fruiting *Schefflera* tree at Yongcola gave superb views and (2) seen distantly near SJ on 17 Apr.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*: B: (1-3) seen on 4 days near Shemgang and Tingtibi gave some great views feeding on the road.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*: B: (2) Yamuna **B:** (20) at Samdrup Jonkhar on 16-17 Apr.

Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda*: B: (3) Tingtibi on 5 Apr with over (50) in a fruiting fig on both days forest birding above SJ.

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura*: B: (1) male was well spotted by Margaret on 16 Apr near Morong on 16 Apr made for excellent digiscoping. (2) on the following day above SJ. Also heard near Rotong.

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*: B: (2) on 16 Apr and (20) on 17 Apr in a fruiting fig near SJ. Rarely encountered in Bhutan.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*: B: (3) near Morong on 16 Apr and (1) near SJ on 17 Apr.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*: Widespread and common at all sites visited in Delhi.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*: (1) well spotted by Wim was scoped near Darranga in Assam on 18 Apr.

Common Hawk-cuckoo *Cuculus (Hierococcyx) varius*: Heard only on drive to Gauhati on 18 Apr.

Whistling Hawk-cuckoo *Cuculus (Hierococcyx) nisicolor*: Previously part of the Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo complex this elusive bird was heard only on three days but refused to show.

Large Hawk-cuckoo *Cuculus (Hierococcyx) sparveroides*: B: Excellent scope views of one bird near Narphung 15 Apr with another good view near Tingtibi on 4 Apr. A third bird seen near Namling on 11 Apr. Heard on 11 other days.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: B: (1) scoped at Khori La on 14 Apr. Heard only on 9, 10 and 11 Apr in Yongcola.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*: B: Excellent views of single birds perched and in the scope on 7 Apr near Shemgang and 13 Apr near Namling. Heard on 12 other days.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*: (1) seen well in flight in Assam on 18 Apr.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*: B: (2) taped in near Tingtibi on 5 Apr. Also heard the following day.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*: B: (1) gave a great view near our Morong camp on 15 Apr.

Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus*: B: (1) female on 4 Apr and (1) male on 16 Apr gave great views of this scarce and inconspicuous species.

“Square-tailed” Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*: B: (2) on 6 Apr at Tingtibi and (1) 16 Apr at Morong. Heard on two other days. The term Square-tailed differentiates this from the Fork-tailed population in southern India considered a separate species by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*: B: (1) immature male taped in at the Punakha Dzong on 1 Apr with an adult male seen briefly in flight in the town of SJ on 16 Apr. Also (3) seen in Assam on 17 Apr and (2) Yamuna.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*: B: (2) gave a great view on the drive to Shemgang on 4 Apr with (1) the following day near Tingtibi.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*: (1) Sultanpur

Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus*: B: Heard only on 7 nights including an interesting record of a bird calling in the day at 0845 near Shemgang.

Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*: B: (1) responded like a rocket to playback at Punakha on 1 Apr giving a wonderful view.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodei*: B: (1) on 14 Apr at Khori La gave an amazing view. Heard also on 10 days.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*: B: (1) seen very well at Tashitang on 1 Apr. Heard on 6 days.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*: (1) Yamuna

Himalayan Wood Owl *Strix nivicola*: B: (1) responded to my mimicry on dusk on 11 Apr near Sengor and gave a good view. Also heard at Paro and, Pele La. This is split from Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* on plumage features and voice by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus*: B: Five birds hawking around the lights at dusk Punakha on 29 March gave repeat great views. Heard on 5 other nights.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris*: B: Flocks of (20-200) seen on 8 days.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*: B: (3) on 15 Apr with (10-20) on both days near SJ gave excellent views of this fastest flying bird.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: B: (5) at SJ on 17 Apr. (20) seen on drive in Assam typically associated with Sugar Palms.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*: B: Widespread and locally common recorded on 7 days with a high count of over 30 on 7 Apr between Tingtibi and Shemgang.

Dark-rumped Swift *Apus acuticauda*: B: (4) on 6 Apr at Tingtibi at our camp in the hydro area gave an excellent flight view showing the key features of this rare and highly localised species. My second record for this area following on from 2006. Also excellent views of 4-5 birds on both 16-17 Apr in SJ.

House Swift *Apus affinis*: B: (2) near Shemgang on 7 Apr with (4-5) on both 16-17 Apr near SJ. (3) Yamuna

Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardii*: B: (1) female on 11 Apr at Yongcola was scoped well on two occasions.

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*: B: (2) Tingtibi on 12 Apr gave some good repeat views for those who could get the window.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: B: (1) near Punakha on both 1-2 Apr; (2) SJ on 17 Apr giving very good views.

White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*: B: (2) Yamuna and (2) Sultanpur. B: (1-3) recorded on 11 days.

Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris*: B: (2-3) seen on four days with several mega views of this spectacular bird.

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctiornis athertoni*: B: (1) seen on 7 Apr near Shemgang and (1) seen on 12 Apr near Yongcola. Heard also on 4 Apr.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*: (20) Sultanpur and (20) Yamuna.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*: (5) near Gauhati Airport on 18 Apr.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*: B: Recorded on 6 days with a maximum of (3) at Punakha on 31 Mar.

Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris*: (1) Yamuna and (3) Sultanpur.

Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis*: B: Without doubt, for many, THE highlight of a great tour. Sensational views of (1-4) birds on 7 days including perched along the road from Shemgang to Tingtibi, the Limithang Road and Morong. A pair observed mating on 6 Apr in our camp at Tingtibi.

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus*: B: (4) on 17 Apr at SJ gave some great views.

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*: B: (3) SJ on 17 Apr.

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*: B: (20) in flight and perched around us in Tingtibi on 5 Apr was one of the many great trip highlights. A further (1-2) seen at Tingtibi on 6 Apr and SJ on 16-17 Apr.

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*: B: Widespread and common, recorded on 16 days, with the gull like wailing call a constant feature of forest birding in Bhutan and repeated excellent views.

Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*: B: Widespread and regularly recorded in small numbers including several superb views. Seen on four days and heard on several more.

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*: B: Seen on 5 days and heard on three others. Several great views of this colourful species.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*: (1) Sultanpur gave a great view of this colourful favourite.

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus*: B: (1) male near Cheri gave a superb eye level view of this inconspicuous and rare bird.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Picoides canicapillus*: B: Recorded only in secondary forest above SJ on 17 Apr where a single bird finally gave everyone a good view.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Picoides hyperythrus*: B: (1) at Pele La on 3 Apr and (1) at Khor La on 14 Apr.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Picoides macei*: B: (1) at Tingtibi on 5 Apr was a good record of this scarce species in Bhutan.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Picoides cathpharius*: B: (3) on 13 Apr near Namling gave several outstanding views.

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Picoides darjellensis*: B: (1-2) on 4 days including Cheri, Dochu La, Pele La and Yutong La allowed everyone a great view of this handsome species.

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*: B: (3) gave repeat super views at Tingtibi on 5 Apr with (1) SJ on 17 Apr.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*: B: (1) Tingtibi on 5 Apr was our only sighting.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: B: (2) at Tingtibi on both 5-6 Apr gave great scope views.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*: B: (1) scoped in pouring rain at SJ on 17 Apr.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*: B: (2) at Sultanpur gave a brief late afternoon view.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*: B: A male gave a megaview at Tingtibi on 6 Apr but true to this elusive species form it was heard only on a further 7 days.

Indian Bush Lark *Mirafra erythroptera*: B: (1) Yamuna

Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark *Eremopterix grisea*: B: (2) on the flats at Sultanpur.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*: B: (5) Sultanpur.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*: B: (6) on 8 Apr near Jakar.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*: B: (2) Yamuna and (50) Sultanpur

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*: B: (1) Yamuna and (5) Sultanpur: some good views of this spectacular swallow.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: B: (1) on 4 Apr between Trongsa and Shemgang with (10) Mongar appeared to be preparing to nest on 13 Apr with (1) on 15 Apr between Rontong and Morong.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Hirundo rupestris*: B: (2) on 2 Apr between Punakha and Wangdi was our only sighting this year.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*: B: (2) Sultanpur **B:** (4) on 17 Apr at SJ.

Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalensis*: B: Fabulous views of large flocks hawking over the roads and cliffs. Recorded on 6 days with a high count in excess of (200).

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*: B: (10) at Cheri Monastery on 30 Mar was our only sighting.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: B: Widespread and moderately common along creeks and rivers and associated open habitats such as farmland. Subspecies present was the black backed *alboides* (max. count 10) on 31 March in Punakha area. (2) *leucopsis* migrants seen in Punakha area on 2 Apr.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: B: (1-3) on 3 days with high count at SJ on 17 Apr.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*: (2) Sultanpur including a stunning male of the black-backed Tibetan breeding subspecies *calcarata*.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*: (1) Sultanpur

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*: B: (1) in Punakha Valley on 2 Apr.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*: B: Recorded on 15 days with a max. (20) on 2 Apr in Pele La.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*: B: (1) Paro on 29 Mar; (6) Pele La on 2 Apr and (3) Jakar on 8 Apr. Several in breeding plumage showing the rosy pink underparts.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus trilli*: B: Recorded on 10 days with a maximum of (4) on 14 Apr between Mongar and Rontong.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus*: (1) on drive to Gauhati on 18 Apr seen by Wim.

Large Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina macei*: (3) on drive to Gauhati on 18 Apr.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschistos*: B: Recorded on 6 days with max. (2) on 15 Apr near Rontong. Strangely scarce this year.

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*: B: Recorded on 5 days with a max. (10) on 12 Apr at Yongcola.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*: B: Recorded on 10 days with a maximum of (10) on 4 Apr between Trongsa and Shemgang.

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*: B: Recorded on 5 days with a max. (10) on 12 Apr in Yongcola area.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*: B: Recorded on 7 days with a maximum of (6) on 5 April near Tingtibi.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*: B: Recorded on 3 days in small numbers daily near Tingtibi.

Large Wood-Shrike *Tephrodornis virgatus*: B: (2) on 5 Apr at Tingtibi.

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*: B: (1-6) recorded on 7 days with excellent views of this good looking bird.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*: (1) Yamuna **B:** (5) on 17 Apr at SJ.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*: B: (3) at Tingtibi on 5 Apr with (4) on 17 Apr at SJ.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*: (10) Yamuna and (20) Sultanpur **B:** Widespread and common, recorded on 13 days with a maximum count of (50 plus) on 14 Apr between Mongar and Rotong.

White-cheeked Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys*: B: (10) on 14 Apr between Mongar and Rotong.

White-throated Bulbul *Alphoixus flaveolus*: B: Recorded on 5-6 Apr at Tingtibi; heard only at SJ. Quite a shy species with a restricted range.

Ashy Bulbul *Hypsipetes flavala*: B: (4-10) recorded on three days along the Tingtibi Road.

Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes maclellandii*: B: Recorded on 4 days including Tashitang, Tingtibi and between Mongar and Rontong.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* B: Widespread and common to abundant sometimes in flocks of (40) in suitable wooded habitat. Recorded on 14 days with a high count of (50) on the drive between Trongsa and Tingtibi.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*: B: Recorded on 7 days with max. (4) recorded on 6 Apr around Tingtibi.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*: B: (1) male at SZ on 16 Apr.

Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella*: B: (5-10) including numerous glamour males at SZ on 16-17 Apr.

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*: B: Recorded on 9 days with a max. (5) on 1-2 Apr at Tashitang-Punakha. Numerous very good views including adults' ouzelling in the fast flowing rivers and attending recently fledged chicks.

Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana*: B: (10-40) on 2-3 Apr at Pele La with (10) on 8 Apr at Yutong La.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*: B: (1) at Pele La on 2 Apr was our only record of this high altitude confiding species.

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophia*: B: Widespread but rather scattered within scrubby areas adjoining farmland. Recorded on 6 days with a maximum count of (5) near Cheri Monastery on 30 Mar.

Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata*: B: (1) on 10 Apr at Sengor was a good sighting of this scarce and often secretive species.

Blue-capped Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus*: B: Widespread, recorded on 9 days with a maximum count of (20). Most frequently recorded on the Shemgang and Limithang Roads. The male is a beautiful bird and everyone had frequent excellent views.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*: B: Excellent views of males and the distinctive female. Recorded on 12 days with a maximum of (5) on 14 Apr between Mongar and Rontong.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*: B: Recorded on 8 days with a maximum count of (2) on 2, 4, 13 and 14 Apr.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*: B: Common and ubiquitous; recorded on 20 days with a maximum count of (100) on 4 Apr on the drive between Trongsa and Tingtibi. At times pairs were recorded every 100 - 200m of road with many nesting in the concrete road culverts.

Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima*: B: (1) gave great roadside views on 11 Apr near Namling. Also (1) leader only at Yutong La on 8 Apr and one probable on 15 Apr. A quiet year for this species.

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*: B: (2) at Tingtibi on 5 Apr were leader only.

White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 8 days with a maximum of (10) on 3 Apr at Pele La.

Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul*: B: Scarce this year, recorded on 3 days with max. (10) on 14 Apr at Khorī La.

Tibetan Blackbird *Turdus maximus*: B: (1) male was scoped at length at Khorī La on 14 Apr was a vagrant. Perhaps a result of the severe Chinese winter this year.

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*: B: Heard at Tashitang, Shemgang and Yongcola. (1) seen by Wim on 15 Apr at Morong.

Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus*: B: (1) male at Cheri on 30 Mar; (1) female on 10 Apr at Sengor and (1) male at Khentno Mani on 15 Apr. Also heard at Cheli La and Yutong La. This population is split by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) as Himalayan Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger rufilatus*.

White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus*: B: (1) female at Yutong La gave a good view on 8 Apr.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*: (1) Sultanpur and (1) Yamuna. B: Moderately common at low and medium elevations in lightly wooded farmland and around settlements. Recorded on 11 days with a maximum of (10) at SZ.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: B: Recorded on 3 days with (1) male on both 1-2 Apr near Punakha and (1) female near Morong on 16 Apr.

Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*: B: Widespread and moderately common this year, recorded on 9 days with a maximum of (10) on 4 Apr. Numerous good views of the handsome males.

White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps*: B: A pair just below the pass at Cheli La on 29 March; (1) male at our hotel in Trongsa seen by Wim on 7 Apr and (1) male near Ura on 9 Apr. An outstanding year for this near Chinese endemic.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*: B: Common and widespread this year, recorded on 7 days with a maximum of (10). A beautiful little bird.

White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*: B: Widespread and moderately common; seen on 15 days and found on virtually every creek, stream and river that we encountered; c. 700 - 3500m. A thoroughly delightful and dapper bird.

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*: B: Widespread and common; seen on 13 days with as many as (10) 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.

White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum*: B: (1) on 6 Apr and (1) on 16 Apr were both seen fleetingly by the leader only.

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri*: B: (2) on a torrent between Trongsa and Shemgang on 4 Apr.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*: B: (1) Tashitang on 1 Apr; (1) Tingtibi on 5 Apr with (1) SZ on both 16-17 Apr. Typically very skittish but some good scope views obtained.

Black-backed Forktail *Enicurus immaculatus*: B: (1) SZ on 17 Apr.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*: B: (1) at Yutong La on 8 Apr was well spotted by Anne.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*: (4) Sultanpur **B:** Recorded on 5 days typically (1-2). The subspecies *maura* is sometimes split as Siberian Stonechat. At least one male of the subspecies *przewalskii* with the deep Rufous-buff underparts was seen at Tingtibi in riverine grassland on 5 Apr.

White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura*: (2) Yamuna gave some great scope views of this rare and localised Indian endemic.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*: (10) Sultanpur and (2) Yamuna where seen nesting.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*: **B:** Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 12 days.

Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata*: (2) Yamuna and (2) Sultanpur.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*: **B:** (1) seen briefly near Namling on 10 Apr.

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea*: **B:** Heard only on 6 days.

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*: **B:** (1) taped in on 12 Apr Namling gave a good but brief view.

Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Cettia fortipes*: **B:** (1-2) seen on 3 days and heard on a further three dates. Several good views of this spirited songster.

Grey-sided Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons*: **B:** (2) seen on 10 Apr at Sengor and (1) on 16 Apr near Morong. Great views of this tiny skulker.

Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler *Cettia acanthizoides*: **B:** (2) taped in at Yutong La delighted everyone with their remarkable song and gave great views. This Himalayan population has been split by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) as Hume's Bush-warbler *Cettia brunnescens*.

Russet Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus mandellii*: **B:** (1) in bamboo near Jakar gave a feeble glimpse for a couple of observers with (1) near Mongar giving repeat good views on 14 Apr.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*: (2) Yamuna **B:** (1-2) seen on four days and heard on a day.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*: (5) Yamuna gave some great views.

Indian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus brunnescens*: Formerly lumped in with Clamorous Reed Warbler *A. stentoreus* this subspecies is given full species status in Rasmussen and Anderton (2005). (3) Yamuna

Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*: **B:** Seen on 4 days with max. (3) near Mongar on 14 Apr.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*: **B:** (2-4) birds seen on 5 days.

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*: **B:** (2-5) recorded on 9 days.

Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus*: **B:** (1-2) recorded on 7 days.

Hume's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus humei*: **B:** Singles recorded on 3 days including a singing bird on 16 Apr at Morong.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*: **B:** Singles recorded on 3 days.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*: B: Recorded on 12 days with a maximum of (10) in forest around Tingtibi and Yongcola. The most common *Phylloscopus* in the broadleaf evergreen forest.

Yellow-vented Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus cantator*: B: Recorded on 6 days with max. (5) near Tingtibi on 5 Apr. This is a distinctive and little known *Phylloscopus* species.

Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii*: B: (1-4) recorded on 7 days identified by song, narrow yellow eye ring broken at rear and absent wingbar.

Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*: B: (1-2) on 11, 12 and 15 Apr identified by broad yellow eye ring and obvious wing bar if they were lucky enough to give such good views!

Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos*: B: Recorded on 9 days with a maximum of (10) daily at Tingtibi.

Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys*: B: (1-4) recorded on 3 days including at Shemgang, Yongcola and Morong.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*: B: Widespread in low numbers, recorded on 7 days with a maximum of (2-4) daily on 7-9 Apr on the Limithang Road. Observed nest building under a roadside rock overhang-crevice on 12 Apr.

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*: B: (2) on both 5-6 Apr at Tingtibi gave some great views. Also heard at Morong.

Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*: B: Recorded on 4 days with max. (6) on 10-12 Apr near Yongcola. One of the most attractive and charming of all Old World Warblers.

Broad-billed Warbler *Tickellia hodgsoni*: B: (2) on 11 Apr and (1) on 13 Apr near Namling were typically hard to get on to in their dense bamboo home they flit restlessly about.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: (5) Yamuna. All identified as subspecies *halimodendri* with the brown back and grey crown contrasting with dark cheeks.

Common Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*: B: (1) Chele La on 29 Mar gave a great view of the normally concealed gold crest!

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*: (1) Yamuna

Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger*: B: Recorded on 5 days with max. (4) on 14 Apr between Mongar and Rontong. (chitzereet-chitzereet-chitzereet).

Hill (Black-throated) Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*: B: (1) on 15 Apr at Narphung and (2) near Morong on 15 Apr. This population is split by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) from Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris* that occurs in Burma, Thailand and China.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*: B: (2-4) at Rontong on 14-15 Apr with (2) SZ on 17 Apr.

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*: (20) Yamuna (jimmy-jimmy-jimmy).

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*: (5) Yamuna and (5) Sultanpur (tlik-tlik-tlik)

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*: (10) Yamuna gave some spectacular courtship song displays almost at our feet.

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*: B: (1) on 5 Apr at Tingtibi and (2) 15 Apr below Khentno Mani.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 13 days with a maximum of (4).

Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*: B: (1) male on 16 Apr and (2) females on 17 Apr at SZ. Sometimes referred to as Taiga Flycatcher.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: B: Seen on 3 days with max. (2) near Morong on 16 Apr.

Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris*: B: Noticeably scarce this year with (1) male on 4 Apr and (2) on 14 Apr at Khori La.

Sapphire Flycatcher *Ficedula sapphira*: B: (1) female gave a great view on 10 April near Namling.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*: B: Widespread and often common, recorded on 12 days with a maximum of (10-20) on seven dates. A truly spectacular bird.

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*: B: Singles seen on 3 days and heard on a further six days.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*: B: Seen on 4 days and heard on a further two dates. Several excellent views of the jewel like male.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*: B: (1-4) seen on 4 dates mostly in the Yongcola area.

Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*: B: (1) male on 6 Apr near Shemgang gave great views after a lengthy taping session.

Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides*: B: (2-4) on 4-6 Apr at Tingtibi with another male on 15 Apr near Rontong. Heard on two other days.

Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni*: B: (1) female at Khentno Mani on 15 Apr.

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*: B: Widespread and moderately common, seen on 11 days.

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*: B: A very quiet year for this tiny gem, recorded on 2 days with a maximum of (4) on 12 Apr in forest between Sengor and Yongcola.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*: B: Recorded on 7 days with a maximum of (6) on 16 Apr near Morong.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*: B: (2) males in a mixed flock between Trongsa and Shemgang on 4 Apr and (1) female at SZ on 17 Apr.

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*: B: (1-4) seen on 4 days with max. (4) on 5 Apr at Tingtibi.

White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*: B: (2) at Tingtibi on 5 Apr gave a good view and a pair at Morong on 16 Apr.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*: B: (2) seen very well at Namling on 13 Apr and (2) near Morong on 16 Apr.

Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*: B: (1) responding to a tape at Namling on 13 Apr gave a great view.

Long-billed Wren-Babbler *Rimator malacoptilus*: B: (1) on 7 Apr near Shemgang gave a wonderful view of this rare and enigmatic species.

Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*: B: (1) seen on 6 Apr at Shemgang by some. Heard calling on at least 10 days.

Bar-winged Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis troglodytoides*: B: (1) near Pele La was a new locality record of this little known mega rarity.

Rufous-throated Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis caudatus*: B: Fabulous views for everyone of (1) on 10 Apr on Limithang Road between Namling and Yongcola.

Spotted Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis formosus*: B: (1) on 7 Apr near Shemgang gave a great view. Another seen fleetingly by leader only on 5 Apr near Tingtibi.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps*: B: Recorded on 5 days, typically in pairs. Several excellent views.

Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea*: B: (1-2) seen on 4 days. Everyone had the chance to see this gorgeous little bird up close.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*: B: (2) on both 5-6 Apr above our Tingtibi camp.

Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi*: (10) Sultanpur.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*: (10) Yamuna. **B:** (5) on 29 Mar near Thimphu seen by Wim.

Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei*: (5) Yamuna

Common Babbler *Turdoides caudatus*: (2) Yamuna

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris*: B: (5-10) on 6-7 Apr between Tingtibi and Shemgang with over (20) near Morong on 16 Apr.

Cutia *Cutia nipalensis*: B: (4) above our Yongcola camp on 12 Apr gave some sensational displays between the pairs with wings extended and powerful song. Quite extraordinary. (1) also seen on 14 Apr at Khor La.

Black-headed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer*: B: (1) male near Namling on 13 Apr was a great sighting of this rare species. (1) seen poorly on 10 Apr in same area.

White-browed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*: B: Seen on four days and heard on a further 5 dates. Several great views of this beautiful species.

Green Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius aenobarbus*: B: (2) at Pele La on 2 Apr in a mixed flock of yuhinas and tits was our only sighting this year for this scarce species.

Black-eared Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*: B: An excellent year for this species seen on 6 days with a max. (3) on 6 Apr near Shemgang and 13 Apr near Namling.

Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni*: B: An excellent year for this species seen on 5 days with max. (10) on 12 Apr above our Yongcola camp.

Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis*: B: (1) at Yutong La on 8 Apr was our only sighting this year.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*: B: Recorded on 6 days with max. (50) near Yongcola on 12 Apr.

Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula*: B: Recorded on 6 days with max. (10) on 2 Apr near Pele La.

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta*: B: Recorded on 6 days with max. (20) on 12 Apr between Namling and Yongcola.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis*: B: (4-6) daily in montane bamboo Namling on the Limithang Road on 10-11 Apr. Stunning views of this stunning bird.

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. (2) on 7 Apr near Shemgang with (4-10) on 11-12 Apr near Namling.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps*: B: Widespread and moderately common, seen on 5 days with a maximum of (2) on 2 Apr at Tashitang.

White-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe vinipectus*: B: Widespread and common, seen on 7 days with a maximum of (4). Usually with mixed species flocks in the understorey of both mixed evergreen and broad-leaved forest.

Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis*: B: Very skulking although locally quite numerous. Seen on 3 days with max. (10) on 5 Apr at Tingtibi.

Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata*: B: Common and ubiquitous. Seen on 17 days with the highest daily count of (20) on 12 Apr.

Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps*: B: A very localised species. Recorded on 3 days 4-6 Apr in the Tingtibi area with a high count of (10).

White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri*: B: Recorded on 2 days at Yongcola (2-6) being the range of individuals estimated daily. A good result for this rare bird throughout its entire range.

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*: B: Widespread and moderately common; recorded on 12 days with a maximum count of (20) on 11 Apr in Yongcola area.

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*: B: Widespread and moderately common, especially at high elevations. Recorded on 9 days with a high count of (20 plus) on 2-3 April at Pele La.

Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 8 days with a high count of (20) at Pele La on 2-3 April.

Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*: B: Recorded on 3 days with a max. (10) on 3-4 Apr at Tingtibi.

White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina xantholeuca*: B: (2) near Shemgang on 6 Apr was the only sighting this tour. Reclassified in Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) as the White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* on the basis of a genetic reassessment.

White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 11 days with a maximum count of (50) on 11-12 Apr around Yongcola.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*: B: One of the most attractive of Asia's laughingthrushes. Seen daily along the road between Trongsa and Shemgang and Shemgang and Tingtibi. Also heard Yongcola and east of Mongar.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*: B: (10) in partially disturbed subtropical forest above our camp near Tingtibi on 6 Apr.

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax ruficollis*: B: (6-20) on 4-5 Apr around Tingtibi. Placed in the genus *Dryonastes* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)

Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus*: B: Common and recorded widely in suitable forested habitat on 10 days with a high count of (20) on the Limithang Road. Placed in the genus *Grammatoptila* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufogularis*: B: (1) on 1 Apr at Tashitang was our only sighting of this scarce and shy species. Placed in the genus *Ianthocincla* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Spotted Laughingthrush *Garrulax ocellatus*: B: (2) gave a great view on the road near Sengor on 11 Apr. Also heard at Pele La. Placed in the genus *Ianthocincla* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Streaked Laughingthrush *Garrulax lineatus*: B: Recorded on 9 days in numbers of (1-10) with the high count near Morong on 16 Apr. Elevated to full species status by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) as Bhutan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron imbricatum*.

Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus*: B: A great year for this skulker with (1-2) seen 6, 7 and 16 Apr with some good views. Placed in the genus *Trochalopteron* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Scaly Laughingthrush *Garrulax subunicolor*: B: (2) on 13 Apr near Namling was our only sighting of this uncommon and local species. Placed in the genus *Trochalopteron* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Garrulax affinis*: B: Widespread and notably common and very vocal at high elevations. Seen on 5 days with a maximum count of (5) on 2 Apr at Pele La. Reclassified by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) as *Trochalopteron affine*.

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus*: B: An excellent year for this species recorded on 6 days with max. (5) on 29 Mar at Cheli La. Reclassified by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) as *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*.

Red-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea*: B: (1) in secondary scrub below Morong on 16 Apr gave a good view of this skulker.

Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium*: B: (1) at Thrumsingh La on 9 Apr where curious and whistled in giving some megaviews.

Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor*: B: (3) in a bamboo field near Jakar on 9 Apr gave super views.

Black-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis nipalensis*: B: (5) on 11 Apr near Namling in two separate sightings gave some great views shimmering through the bamboo.

Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis ruficeps*: B: (4) on 12 Apr on Limithang Road gave everyone superb views.

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*: B: A delightful species and a great favourite with everyone. Recorded on 4 days with a maximum of (4) on 10 and 12 Apr near our Yongcola camp.

Rufous-fronted Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos*: B: Recorded on 5 days with a maximum count of (10) on 31 Mar in forest at Cheri Monastery.

Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris*: B: Recorded on 5 days, moderately common at high altitude. Highest count was (4) at both Cheli La and Pele La.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*: B: Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests. Recorded on 5 days with a high count of (5) on 31 Mar at Dochu La.

Grey-crested Tit *Parus dichrous*: B: Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests. Recorded on 3 days with a high count of (4) on 4 Apr at Pele La.

Great Tit *Parus major*: B: (2) SZ on 17 Apr. Also one, seen entering a nest hollow at Darranga, Assam while we awaited immigration formalities.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*: B: Moderately common and ubiquitous in suitable forested habitat. Seen on 19 days with counts exceeding (10 plus) on at least 2 days. One of the most frequently seen but nevertheless most attractive Himalayan species.

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus sibilans*: B: A truly spectacular but rather uncommon species, (2-4) on 10-12 Apr on the Limithang Road with (2) near Morong on 16 Apr.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 6 days with a high count of (4) at Dochu La on 31 Mar.

Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*: B: A great year for this spectacular bird recorded on three days with (3) Tingtibi on 6 Apr; heard at Yongcola on 11 Apr and (3) at Morong on 16 Apr. Several superb views of this stunner.

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*: B: (6) on 5 Apr on Shemgang-Tingtibi Road with a further (2) here on 7 Apr.

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 8 days this year, typically in pairs.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*: B: A great year for this scarce passage migrant with (2) near Punakha on 31 Mar; (1) between Trongsa and Shemgang on 4 Apr and (1) near Namling on 11 Apr. We had several great views.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*: B: (1) of the subspecies *mandelli* was seen very well at Cheli La on 29 Mar.

Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis*: B: (2) on 31 Mar at Dochu La in the forest interior with (1) at Pele La on 2 Apr. A good result for this scarce species.

Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor*: B: (3) at Khori La on 14 Apr gave amazing scope views below eye level. Also heard on a couple of days.

Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*: (5) Yamuna and (5) Sultanpur including some megaviews of males.

Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*: **B:** Often together with Green-tailed Sunbirds and mixed species flocks. The resident subspecies in Bhutan is especially spectacular. Recorded on 5 days with a maximum count of (5) on 30 Mar at Cheri Monastery.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*: **B:** (1) male seen by Dion and Brian at Yutong La on 8 Apr was our only sighting this year.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*: **B:** Common and often ubiquitous. Seen on 11 days with a high count of (10) on both 3 and 13 Apr.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*: **B:** Sparse but widespread especially at elevations generally lower than the previous two species. Seen on 7 days.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*: **B:** (2) stunning males in forest edge on 4 Apr between Trongsa and Shemgang with (2-4) in SZ area on 16-17 Apr.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*: **B:** (2-3) seen on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road with (1-4) recorded on three days between Rontong and Morong.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*: **B:** Widespread and moderately common at middle elevations. Seen on 5 days and heard only on 6 days.

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum*: **B:** (1) feeding in Mistletoe flowers right beside us at SZ on the afternoon of 17 Apr was our only sighting.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa*: **B:** Recorded on 7 days with a high count of (20) on 14 Apr in secondary scrub around Rontong.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*: (2) of the southern rufous-backed subspecies *erythronotus* observed Yamuna with (1) also at Sultanpur **B:** Recorded on 10 days with a maximum of (6) on 4 Apr seen on the drive between Tingtibi and Trongsa. All birds seen in Bhutan were of the black-headed subspecies *tricolor*.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*: (1) Yamuna **B:** (1) SZ on 16 Apr with (2) also seen in Assam on 18 Apr.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*: **B:** Widespread but sparse. Recorded on 10 days with a maximum of (5) on 9 Apr between Jakar and Sengor.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*: (10) Sultanpur and (10) Yamuna.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: **B:** Widespread and common to very common, recorded on 15 days with a max. (20).

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*: **B:** Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) on 5 Apr at Tingtibi. A pair seen on a nest on this day.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*: **B:** (1-2) on 10,12 and 13 Apr near Shemgang gave great views as they led some of the massive mixed flocks we enjoyed.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*: B: (1) on both 16-17 Apr in bamboo forest above SZ gave great views.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*: B: (2) Tingtibi on 5-6 Apr and (1) SZ on 17 Apr and (1) in Assam the following day.

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*: B: (1-2) at SZ on 16-17 Apr.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris*: B: One of the many great birds of Bhutan. Widespread and common from near to Paro and Thimpu and east to the Limithang Road. Seen on 8 days with a maximum count of (8) at Pele La.

Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*: B: (1) on both 5-6 Apr between Tingtibi and Shemgang.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: B: (2) on 15 Apr below Khentno Mani.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*: B: Widespread and locally moderately common, recorded on 12 days with a max. (10) at Tingtibi.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*: B: (1) on 15 Apr on drive to Gauhati Airport. (3) Sultanpur

Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica*: B: Common in the upland valleys of the Bumthang Region with (10) recorded on 8-9 April. The subspecies that occurs in the Bumthang Valley is *bottae*. This subspecies has a black rump. This subspecies has been split recently, by some authorities, as the Tibetan Magpie *Pica bottae*.

Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*: B: Widespread and common in higher elevation evergreen forests from Paro and the Cheri Valley east to the Limithang Road. Recorded on 7 days with a high count of (10) on 29 March at Cheli La.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*: B: Moderately common and seen on 5 days with a high count of (200) on 8 April near Jakar.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*: B: Abundant in Delhi. (10) on 31 Mar in Thimphu.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus (macrorhynchus) japonensis*: B: Common to very common and widespread, recorded on 19 days with as many as (50) around our camp at Sengor on 8 Apr.

Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus (macrorhynchus) levillantii*: B: (10) on both 16-17 Apr at SZ with (10) seen in Assam on 18 Apr. A split from Large-billed Crow by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus (macrorhynchus) culminatus*: B: Split in Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) from Large-billed Crow with (3) seen at Sultanpur where it was feeding fledgelings.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*: B: (3-4) in Punakha 1-2 Apr; (2) Rontong on 15 Apr and (20) SZ on 17 Apr.

Asian Pied Starling *Sturnus contra*: B: (10) Sultanpur (10) Yamuna (2) SZ 16-17 Apr.

Brahminy Starling *Temenuchus pagodarum*: B: (2) near Sultanpur

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: Common and ubiquitous in open country in the Delhi area. **B**: Recorded on 9 days with a high count of (50) around Punakha.

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*: (10) Assam

White-vented Myna *Acridotheres grandis*: (2) Assam

Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*: (10) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur

Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*: **B**: (10) at SZ on 16-17 Apr mostly attracted to one fruiting fig.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*: **B**: Common in suitable scrub and open country especially around farm buildings. Recorded on 9 days with a high count of (50) feeding in a field on 9 Apr in the Jakar-Ura area.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: **B**: Ubiquitous in suitable open country especially around farm buildings. Recorded on 14 days with generally (20) birds on these days.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: (10) Yamuna; **B**: (4) in downtown Thimphu on 31 Mar seen by Wim and (5-10) in downtown SZ on 16-17 Apr.

Sind Sparrow *Passer pyrrhonotus*: (3) Sultanpur: this scarce endemic has colonised Sultanpur in the past couple of years and we had great views of a couple of males showing the key diagnostic features.

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*: (1) male at Yamuna

Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis*: (10) Yamuna

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*: **B**: (5) on 16 Apr at Morong was our only sighting this year.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: (5) Yamuna **B**: (10) on both 31 Mar and 1 Apr near Punakha.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*: (5) in reed beds at Yamuna.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides*: **B**: (10) on 4 Apr and (10) on 13 Apr gave some great views.

Tibetan Siskin *Serinus thibetanus*: **B**: (20) below Morong on 16 Apr were skittish refusing to perch though giving a good flight view.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*: **B**: (20) at Cheli La on 29 Mar with an incredible flock of (2000) on the same day in the Paro valley. Seen in 9 days in total with other quite large flocks encountered but none of the size of that memorable flock in Paro.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis*: **B**: (4) on 3 Apr at Pele La.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*: (2) Yamuna **B**: (2-3) recorded on 15-16 Apr between Khentno Mani and Morong.

Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*: **B**: (4) on 3 Apr at Pele La; (3) near Jakar on 8 Apr and (2) Ura on 9 Apr.

Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii*: **B**: (2) females on 31 Mar at Dochu La with (2) at Yutong La on 8 Apr.

Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura*: B: (10) including several males on 3 Apr at Cheli La; (4) at Yutong La on 8 Apr; (1-2) near Sengor on 9-10 Apr.

Crimson-browed Finch *Propyrrhula subhimachala*: B: (4) two pairs on 3 Apr on the Old Pele La Road gave repeat sensational views around our campsite thanks to some good spotting by Ann.

Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi*: B: (10) near Shemgang on 6 Apr and (2) below Namling on 11 Apr in the scope absolutely glowed.

Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis*: B: (5) on 13 Apr in forest below Namling gave an outstanding view of this uncommon bird.

Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala*: B: (5) on 31 Mar at Dochu La and (10) on 4 Apr at Shemgang.

Collared Grosbeak *Coccothraustes affinis*: B: (10) on 29 Mar at Cheli La and (10) Pele La on 2 Apr.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*: B: Recorded on 3 days with max. (4) in juniper forest at Pele La on 3 Apr. Several superb views.

Gold-naped Finch *Pyrrhoptes epauletta*: B: Seen on 3 days with a max. (6) on 13 Apr at Yongcola.

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami*. B: (1-10) mostly males recorded on 3 days. Most common around Punakha and on the drive between Shemgang and Trongsa in agricultural areas.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*: (2) females at Yamuna.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*: B: Seen on 5 days with (10) near Punakha on 2 Apr our high count.

MAMMALS

Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis*: B: Widespread and moderately common especially at lower elevations. Recorded on 7 days including Tingtibi, Yongcola and SZ. Maximum count of (20) on 4 Apr at Tingtibi.

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*: (1) spotted by Wim near Sultanpur

Common (Hanuman) Langur *Presbytis entellus*: B: Recorded on 2 days with max. (40) on 26 March between Paro and Thimphu. Notably larger and more heavily furred than populations in India, THIS Himalayan subspecies is sometimes given full species status.

Capped Langur *Presbytis pileatus*: B: Wonderful looks a total of (5-10) of these handsome primates below our Yongcola campsite on 7-9 Apr with (10) in forest above SZ on 14 Apr.

Golden Langur *Presbytis geei*: B: Notably common from just below Trongsa to Shemgang and down to our camp near Tingtibi. Large numbers (20 – 100) seen on four days with several troops feeding on or at the side of the road from 1-4 Apr.

Marbled Cat *Pardofelis marmorata*: B: (1) on 13 Apr near Yongcola. My field notes: "Marbled Cat seen on left hand side of road after leaving Yongcola camp from lunch at 1300 descending to Yongcola itself. First sighted by Margaret once

we had driven past it, I saw it moving up a rocky embankment briefly and thought it had gone when Bob said he could still see it. Moved to the back of the bus and it gave an excellent view for a further 30 seconds-undoubtedly a Marbled Cat with small head and ears; very long richly furred tail and exquisite marbling pattern much more diffuse and scattered than Clouded Leopard (not to mention the much smaller size). We leapt out of the bus and had a further brief view as it scuttled up the bank. It was above the Thrumsingh La National Park sign near the rocky area that is good for Capped Langurs". So despite most references saying this rare feline is nocturnal and arboreal it is possible to see it in the day on the ground.

Himalayan Palm Civet *Paguma larvata*: B: (3) observed in a fruiting tree in Tingtibi on a night drive on 5 Apr, gave several good views of this handsome carnivore.

Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus*: (1) Yamuna
Common Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsi*: (1) in urban Delhi

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*: B: Some good spotting by Brian enabled the group to see one from the bus on 9 Apr near Sengor. We enjoyed another excellent view of (1) feeding on rhododendron fruit below Morong on 16 Apr.

Indian Flying-fox *Pteropus giganteus*: (100) seen in two separate daytime roosting camps on the drive in Assam on 18 Apr.

Great Himalayan Leaf-nosed Bat *Hipposideros arminger*: B: Some particularly large micro bats seen hawking over the forest at dusk near Sengor on 13 Apr were possibly this high altitude species.

Hodgson's Flying Squirrel *Petaurista magnificus*: B: (3) seen on 11 Apr whilst spotlighting in forest above the Yongcola camp. We had a great view of (1) in the scope sheltering from rain on a cliff face. This is a cat-sized squirrel strikingly bright orange with black stripes through eyes and ears, a black tail tip and maroon back.

Gray's Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista nobilis*: B: (2) seen when spotlighting below Sengor on 9 Apr in high altitude hemlock forest. This is a medium-sized species with a grey head, orange belly, dull rufous woolly pelage and variable blackish tail tip.

Parti-coloured Flying Squirrel *Hylopetes alboniger*: B: (1) seen while spotlighting on 11 Apr between Namling and Yongcola. This is a small species with a white belly.

Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*: B: (1) on 4 Apr near Tingtibi and (1) below Namling on 12 Apr. This is a spectacular squirrel the largest in the world.

Hoary-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus*: B: (2-10) seen daily around Tingtibi.

Dochu La (summit) 89° 45.14' E.	3112 metres	27° 29.39' N.,
Zangtho Pelri Hotel, Punakha 89° 52.21' E.	1397 metres	27° 32.16' N.,
Pele La 90° 12.12' E	3404 metres	27° 32.15' N,
Campsite on eastern side of Pele La 90° 12.57' E.	3291 metres	27° 32.51' N.,
Thrumsing La 90° 59.47' E.	3763 metres	27° 24.07' N.,
Thrumsing La is 43 kms after the Ura (Sheltang) La, 17 kms before Sengor, 33 before the Namling cliffs & 38 before Namling.		
Sengor Campsite 91° 01.53' E;	2965m	27° 21.21' N,
Namling village 91° 06.37' E.	2309 metres	27° 20.15' N.,
Yongcola Campsite 91° 07.42' E	1855 metres	27° 19.16' N,