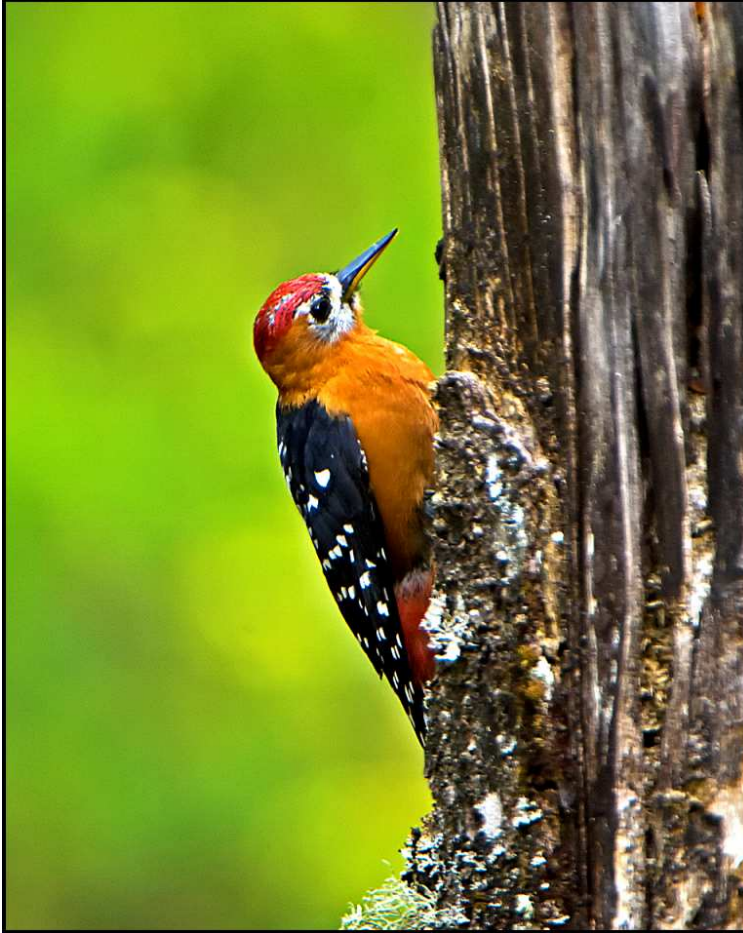


Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

Bhutan 2010

Leader: Dion Hobcroft

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker (photo by Spike Baker)



The Birds and Mammals recorded on the 2010 VENT Bhutan Tour

TOUR REPORT BHUTAN 2010

Dion Hobcroft

Our late 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 eighth consecutive tour. Acquiring our desired left hand seats the great peaks of the eastern Himalaya put on a fine display (Dave's finger getting a shutter button work out as we passed Everest). 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. A quick foray to the Drukgyel Dzong turned up a superb **Black-tailed Crake**, photographic opportunities of several migrant **Pin-tailed Snipe** whilst the Dzong turned on a perched **Eurasian Hobby**.

The following morning we are up early and the birding soon kicks off well with several **Kalij Pheasants** wing-whirring in display followed by a flock of wonderful **Blood Pheasants**. Up at the pass and **Himalayan Monal** is in good form and we get multiple repeat views of the stunningly beautiful male. Plenty of good birds follow including a tantalising **Golden Bush-Robin**, **Fire-tailed Sunbird** and outstanding **Spotted Laughingthrush**. In the afternoon we search for **Ibisbill** and some determined scanning turns up this most enigmatic shorebird that specialises on soft-bodied invertebrates in glacial rivers.

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 the delightful **Rufous-fronted Tit**. We enjoy scope views of **Goral**, one of the curious hoofed mammals of Asia and **Snow Pigeons** give some excellent flight views. Our standout bird today is a cracking male **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** we can enjoy for as long as we like or was it the **Brown Dipper** feeding chicks. A visit to the Takin Breeding Centre reveals the national mammal and we even get the opportunity to stroke a Takin calf-a first for me! 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 a sensational **Pallas's Fish-Eagle**. **Blyth's Pipit**-definitely a bird for those who enjoy little brown jobs is a good discovery (only my second Bhutan sighting). Before dinner we go out for a bit of a spot-lighting session and have exceptional views of **Grey Nightjar** perched.

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. It is hard not to be impressed when you have **Small** and **Rufous-bellied Niltava** lining up next to each other along with the dashing woodpeckers the **Greater** and **Lesser Yellownap**. Our afternoon visit to the inner sanctum of the Punakha Dzong is a humbling experience.

Next morning we enjoy the birds coming into the lights at the Zangtho Pelri Hotel with a **Blyth's Reed Warbler** quite a good sighting. A stop mid morning places the rare **Yellow-rumped Honeyguide** in the scope amongst a myriad of other great birds including a beautiful **Asian Emerald Cuckoo**. We follow up a report of a pair of over-summering **Black-necked Cranes** in Phobjikha Valley. After a bit of patient scanning the word is out and we enjoy some good scope views of this unexpected bonus. 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 colours. Again this is always exciting birding and our first morning turns up a perched male **Himalayan Monal** followed by a flashy **Fire-tailed Myzornis** with more stunning views of **Fire-tailed Sunbird** and **Spotted Laughingthrush**. Not a bad start, with other great sightings of **Himalayan Vulture**, **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie**, **Hume's Bush-Warbler** and **Mrs. Gould's Sunbird**.

We drive through to Trongsa, have a lovely hot shower and get prepared for jungle birding in Tingtibi. Birding along the way turns up **Little Forktail**, **Spotted Forktail** plus sightings of the rare **Spot-winged Starling** and scarce **Grey-bellied Cuckoo**. We set up camp in the Orange Orchard and enjoy the goldilocks climate of this altitude. The camp is alive with birds and we cannot help but be distracted in siesta hours by our resident **Rufous Woodpecker** and **Rufous-necked Laughingthrush**. Birding is scintillating with point blank views of **Great Hornbill**, nesting **Long-tailed Broadbill**, **Indian White-hooded Babbler** and both **Greater** and the rare **Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill** in one memorable mixed flock, nest building **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush**, **Rusty-cheeked** and **White-browed Scimitar-Babblers**, the amazing **Sultan Tit**. This is not to forget the troops of **Golden Langur**.

We again enter the upland birding habitats between Jakar and Sengor. We have some absolutely magic encounters. Three stunning male **Satyr Tragopan** on the road is a dream. **Great** and **Brown Parrotbills** plus the amazing **Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler** and a pair of **Pygmy Blue Flycatchers** give sensational views of scarce birds.

As we descend to Yongcola the bird biomass takes off exponentially and we have some electrifying birding here. The **Cutia** display we encounter is extraordinary. **Ward's** and **Red-headed Trogons** make vital appearances; **Scarlet Finch** is excellent; localised babblers like **Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler**, **Yellow-throated** and **Golden-breasted Fulvetta** and **Scaly Laughingthrush** focus crisply for the group. Scarce birds like **Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler**, **Broad-billed Warbler** and **Black-throated Parrotbill** shimmer through the bamboo. We enjoy an excellent night drive with wonderful views of both **Particolored** and **Hodgson's Giant Flying Squirrel** and have a minor miracle when we flush a **Mountain Scops-Owl** that perches out right next to the bus. The sleepless leader continues his exploration and hits the jackpot when after forty minutes of playback he lures a **Hodgson's Frogmouth** right over his head. This is definitely a birthday present as it confirms a heard record from two years previously of this enigmatic rarity.

It will be hard to top this but we keep batting away. We wend our way through the far-east of the kingdom. Plenty of new birds come for the trip list with easily our best views of the celebrated **Rufous-necked Hornbill**, **Pin-tailed Pigeon**, colourful **Asian Fairy Bluebird** and **Black-eared Shrike-Babbler**, secretive **Red-faced Liocichla** and **Blue-winged Laughingthrush** delight us dense bamboo, the rare **Dark-rumped Swift** is sighted during an amazing electrical storm. A stint of border birding in Samdrup Jonkhar racks up some rarities in the form of a **Black Stork** on migration and a surprise **Striated Heron**.

Finally we must depart fairy tale land. We make our way to Gauhati in the Indian state of Assam. A smooth journey punctuated with birding stops highlighted by **Lesser Adjutant**, an amazing **Watercock** male in breeding condition, **Common Hawk-Cuckoo** in the scope and a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**.

It should also be mentioned about our first full day in Delhi. We give it our best shot finishing with 108 species for the day! Amongst our many memorable sightings are **Comb Duck**, **Red-naped Ibis**, **Painted Stork**, **Sarus Crane**, **Indian Thick-knee**, **Spotted Redshank** in breeding plumage, **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **Sulphur-bellied Warbler**, **Bluethroat**, **Indian Golden Oriole**, **Citrine Wagtail** and **White-tailed Stonechat**. All up on this tour we recorded 432 species of bird.

I would like to thank the participants Sharon and David, Spike and Judy, Veronica and Stirling and Pamela for a thoroughly delightful Bhutanese birding adventure!

Dion Hobcroft

Sydney

27 July 2010

ITINERARY

Sun 11 Apr 10: Morning Yamuna River; Afternoon Sultanpur National Park 108sp.

Mon 12 Apr 10: Fly Delhi to Paro direct arriving at 12 noon allowing time for afternoon birding at Drukgyel Dzong.

Tue 13 Apr 10: Paro to Cheli La where we watch birds till about 1400 then drive onto Thimphu.

Wed 14 Apr 10: Morning at Cheri Monastery including a visit to the Takin Breeding Centre. Afternoon shopping in Thimphu. 171sp.

Thu 15 Apr 10: 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.

Fri 16 Apr 10: A full morning at Tashitang before a visit to the Punakha Dzong. 233 sp.

Sat 17 Apr 10: Punakha to Pele La via Phobjikha Valley detour for our first night of camping.

Sun 18 Apr 10: Morning and lunch at Pele La before driving to Trongsa. 266 sp.

Mon 19 Apr 10: Drive from Trongsa to Tingtibi via Shemgang camping at the orange orchard.

Tue 20 Apr 10: Tingtibi camp area

Wed 21 Apr 10: Birding between Tingtibi and Shemgang

Thu 22 Apr 10: Return to Trongsa

Fri 23 Apr 10: Trongsa to Jakar via Yutong La

Sat 24 Apr 10: Jakar to Sengor via Thrumsingh La 358sp.

Sun 25 Apr 10: Sengor to Namling in the morning and then up to Thrumsingh La in the afternoon.

Sun 26 Apr 10: AM: Sengor to Thrumsingh La. PM Shift camp down to Yongcola via Namling.

Mon 27 Apr 10: AM and PM Yongcola to Namling

Tue 28 Apr 10: Yongcola to Mongar 385sp.

Wed 29 Apr 10: Mongar to Rotong via Khori La

Thu 30 Apr 10: Rotong to Morong via Narphung La

Fri 1 May 10: Morning birding at Morong then drive to Samdrup Jonkhar.

Sat 2 May 10: Morning and afternoon birding Samdrup Jonkhar with thunderstorms a feature of the morning!

Sun 3 May 10: Drive from Samdrup Jonkhar to Gauhati. Fly from Gauhati to Delhi

BIRDLIST

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: (2) Yamuna

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

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*: (3) Yamuna

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: **B:** (1) on 13 Apr, (3-5) on 15-16 Apr and (2) a bit of a surprise at Tingtibi on 21 Apr.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: (5) at both Sultanpur and Yamuna.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: (4) at both Sultanpur and Yamuna

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: (2) Yamuna.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: (5) Sultanpur

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*: (1) Sultanpur

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*: (100) Yamuna and (50) Sultanpur.

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*: (1) Yamuna and (5) Sultanpur

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: (1) on 2 Apr in migration over Samdrup Jonkhar was a very good bird for one's Bhutan list.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephalus*: (6) Yamuna

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*: (10) Assam

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*: (2) Assam gave great views.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: (6) Yamuna

Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa*: (4) Yamuna and (1) on the drive to Sultanpur.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*: (1) Yamuna

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*: (10) Sultanpur

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*: **B:** (2) on the Mo Chu near Punakha Dzong on 16 Apr was a fortuitous sighting of this scarce passage migrant in Bhutan and well appreciated by all.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*: (5) Yamuna **B:** (1) on 24 Apr near Jakar was seen only in flight.

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

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotus*: (10) Sultanpur

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*: (20) Yamuna **B:** (4) on the Po Chu on 15 Apr.

Indian Spotbill *Anas poecilorhyncha*: (20) Yamuna and (20) Sultanpur

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*: (100) Yamuna and (500) Sultanpur

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*: (2) Assam

Garganey *Anas querquedula*: (30) Yamuna and (1) Sultanpur

Common Teal *Anas crecca*: (10) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*: (2) Yamuna

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: (20) Yamuna

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

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

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*: **B:** recorded on three days; 18, 22 and 23 Apr all singles in high altitude sites. This bird is split by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) as Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* from Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: (30) Yamuna

Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*: **B:** (1) adult seen in flight and perched at the Po Chu, Punakha on 15 Apr gave a brilliant view. Globally threatened.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*: **B:** A good year for this gigantic species, (2) at Cheli La on 15 Apr, (2-15) on 17-18 Apr at Pele La and (2) on 30 Apr at Narphung La.

Crested Serpent-eagle *Spilornis cheela*: (1) Yamuna **B:** Recorded on four days with a max. (2) on 20 Apr. Some excellent studies of this handsome raptor.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: (1) female at Yamuna.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*: **B:** (1) on 28 Apr.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*: **B:** (1) on 2 Apr gave a good view at SJ.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus*: **B:** (1) on 17 Apr at Cheri Goempa.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*: B: Recorded on three days, all singles but an especially good perched view of a female at Ura Valley on 24 Apr.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*: B: (1-2) recorded on six days with often pairs encountered.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii*: B: (1) adult in flight at distance over Tingtibi on 20 Apr.

Mountain Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*: B: Recorded on an amazing 11 days with a high count of (5) on 30 Apr. We had this species scoped in trees, performing spectacular display flights and in hunting mode.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: B: Widespread and moderately common in open, non-forested country. Recorded on 10 days with a maximum of (4) on 19 Apr around Punakha.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*: B: (2) on 12 Apr at Drukgyel Dzong gave a good perched view in the scope.

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*: B: (2) in flight at a distance over forest 10 km W SJ on 2 Apr.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: B: Singles seen three dates; (1) Thimphu on 14 Apr gave a spectacular view hunting Rock Pigeons; (1) on 20 Apr in Jakar Valley and (1) on 30 Apr.



Satyr Tragopan (photo by Spike Baker)

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*: (5) Sultanpur gave good views.

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*: (1) Assam

Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola*: B: Heard only on 10 days.

Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis*: B: Heard only on 8 days mostly on the road between Tingtibi to Shemgang.

Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii*: B: Heard only on 4 days on the Limithang Rd.

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*: B: A quiet year for this spectacular bird with excellent views of (10) birds on 13 Apr as we approached Cheli La. Heard at Thrumsingh La on 26 Apr.

Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra*: B: A great result for this spectacular bird this year with three outstanding males and two females watched on or near the road centred on Sengor on 24-26 Apr. Also heard on 15 Apr at Dochu La and interestingly heard at Khori La 29 Apr.

Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus*: B: Everyone enjoyed incredible views of (2) males on 13 Apr at Cheli La; (2) males and (1) female gave great views at Pele La on 18 Apr with a female seen on both 22 Apr near Trongsa and 26 Apr at Thrumsingh La.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelana*: B: A very good year for this species seen on 4 days with max. (12) on the morning drive to Cheli La on 13 Apr. Also seen on 15, 20 and 30 Apr.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*: B: Heard only at Tingtibi-Khose La stretch on 19-20 Apr and SJ on 2 May.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*: (5) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur including some superb males.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*: (1) Yamuna, (1) Sultanpur and (1) Assam.

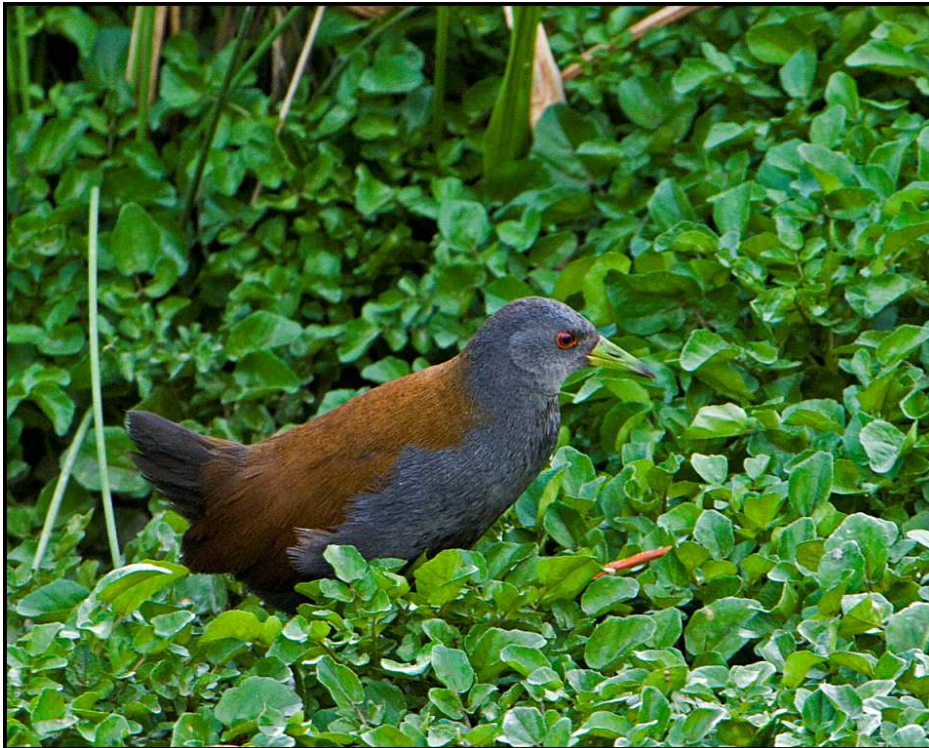
Black-tailed Crake *Porzana bicolor*: B: A great view of (1) in Paro on 12 Apr with (2) at Rontong on 29 Apr.

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*: (1) male in Assam in breeding condition gave a wonderful scope view as he called away. Some great spotting by Judy to get us on this disappearing mega.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio (porphyrio) poliocephalus*: (20) Sultanpur and (20) Yamuna. Indian population split as Grey-headed Swamphen in a recent review.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: (5) Yamuna, (20) Sultanpur and (1) Assam.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*: (10) Yamuna



Black-tailed Crake (photo by Spike Baker)

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*: (2) Sultanpur gave superb views trumpeting and bugling before eventually flying off to roost outside the park.

Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*: B: (2) over summering in the Phobjikha Valley on 17 Apr was a rare event-one bird showing a damaged wing.

Eurasian (Indian) Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus indicus*: (1) in Sultanpur gave a superb view in the late afternoon. Recommended as a split by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Ibisbill *Ibidorhynchos 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

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*: (5) Assam

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*: (1) well spotted by Judy in Assam.

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

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvauceli*: (1) Yamuna **B:** (5-6) recorded on 15-16 Apr at Punakha with a day old chick seen on 16 Apr.

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

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: (3) Yamuna

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: (6) Sultanpur

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: (3) Sultanpur

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*: (1) Sultanpur

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: (10) Yamuna and (5) Sultanpur

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: (1) Yamuna **B:** Recorded on three days (2) on the larger rivers in Punakha, Paro and Jakar.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: (5) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: (20) Yamuna

Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*: (3) at Paro on 12 Apr and (1) at migrant trap Jakar on 23 Apr.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: (1) at Paro on 12 Apr.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*: (1) seen by Dave at Pele La on 18 Apr and heard at Thrumsingh La on 24 Apr.

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*: (10) Yamuna

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*: (10) Yamuna

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: (10) Yamuna

Rock Dove *Columba livia*: Widespread and common recorded in Bhutan on 15 days with max. (100).

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*: **B:** (30) Cheri Monastery on 14 Apr and (108) in Ura Valley on 24 Apr: a good result for of this handsome high altitude specialist.

Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsoni*: **B:** (4) on 23 Apr as we approached Yutong La and (20) on 25 Apr near Sengor.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decocto*: (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

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: **B:** (1-5) recorded on 7 days in Bhutan.

Barred Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia unchall*: **B:** (2-3) recorded on three days on 26 and 30 Apr and 1 May.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*: **B:** (2) on 20 Apr near Shemgang

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*: (5) Yamuna **B:** (30) at Samdrup Jonkhar on 2 May.

Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda*: **B:** (1) Tingtibi on 20 Apr with over (3-10) in a fruiting fig on both days forest birding above SJ.

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura*: **B:** (1-3) seen well on four days at Tingtibi and SJ.

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*: **B:** (10) on 2 May at SJ.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*: B: (2) on 21 Apr near Shemgang and (1) on 30 Apr near Morong.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*: (10) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus*: B: Heard only on four days at Tingtibi and Yongcola.

Common Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius*: (1) showed well in the scope in Assam on drive to Gauhati on 3 May.

Whistling Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor*: Previously part of the Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo complex this elusive bird gave a good view on 21 Apr near Shemgang and on 27 Apr near Yongcola. Heard on nine other days.

Large Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides*: B: (1-2) seen on five days with good perched scope views near Trongsa on 22 Apr. Heard on nine other days.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: B: (1-2) seen on three days around Shemgang. Heard on three other days.

Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*: B: A split out of the Oriental Cuckoo complex, (1-3) seen well on three days with high count on 22 Apr. Heard on 10 other days.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*: B: This annoying bird was heard on eight days and we spent quite a bit of time trying to see it unsuccessfully!

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus*: B: (1) at Tashitang on 15 Apr and (2) on 29 Apr at Khor La. Heard on six days.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*: B: Heard only on three days this year.

Grey-bellied Cuckoo *Cacomantis passerinus*: B: (1) gave an excellent perched view near Shemgang on 19 Apr. A scarce summer visitor to Bhutan.

Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus*: B: (1) female on 17 Apr was a good discovery as this species is scarce and inconspicuous.

"Square-tailed" Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*: B: (1-2) seen well on four dates and heard on three 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 *Eudynamis scolopacea*: (1) Yamuna and (2) Assam **B:** Heard only on 15-16 Apr at Punakha and 1-2 May at SJ.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*: (1) Yamuna and (2) Sultanpur

Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus*: B: (1) gave a good brief perched view whilst spotlighting near Yongcola on 27 Apr. Heard on 6 nights, this species is quite famously elusive and has driven many an Asian birder to distraction for years!

Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*: B: Heard only on four days my usual stake out birds letting me down this year.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodei*: B: Heard only on six days never particularly close.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*: B: (1) seen very well at Tashitang on 16 Apr and (1) on 20 Apr at Tingtibi. Heard on 4 days.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*: (1) Yamuna

Himalayan Wood Owl *Strix nivicola*: **B:** Heard only on 18 Apr at Pele La and 25 Apr at Sengor. This is split from Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* on plumage features and voice by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Hodgson's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus hodgsoni*: (1) gave an excellent 10 minute perched view on 27 Apr near Yongcola at night after a 45 minute playback session that lured it up out of a deep ravine. A female plumaged bird with rufous chestnut body and bold white spots on lower chest and scapulars. Absolute magic!

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus*: **B:** (2) gave great views on 15 Apr at Punakha. Heard on 5 other nights.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris*: **B:** Flocks of (2-20) seen on 11 days.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*: **B:** (1-20) seen on eight days allowing us to enjoy excellent views of this fastest flying bird.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: **B:** (20) at SJ on 2 May with (10) Assam on 3 May typically associated with Sugar Palms.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*: **B:** Widespread and locally common recorded on 12 days with a high count of over 100 on 22 Apr between Tingtibi and Shemgang.

Dark-rumped Swift *Apus acuticauda*: **B:** (1) on 2 May at SJ gave an excellent flight view showing the key features of this rare and highly localised species.

House Swift *Apus affinis*: **B:** (1) near Tingtibi on 20 Apr with (5) on 29 Apr near Rontong.

Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardii*: **B:** (1) female on 27 Apr at Yongcola was scoped well on two occasions.

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*: **B:** (2) at Yongcola on 28 Apr gave some good repeat views.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: **B:** (1) near Punakha on 16 Apr and (1) SJ on 2 May giving very good views.

Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca*: **B:** (1) seen briefly in flight by Dion near SJ on 2 May.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*: (2) Yamuna **B:** (1-5) recorded on 5 days.

Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris*: **B:** Singles seen on four days with several mega views of this spectacular bird.

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctiornis athertoni*: **B:** (2-3) on 19-20 Apr near Tingtibi and (1) seen on 28 Apr near Yongcola. Some great views of this unusual forest bee-eater.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*: (10) Sultanpur and (10) Yamuna.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*: (3) near Gauhati Airport, Assam on 3 May.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*: (1) Sultanpur **B:** Recorded on 6 days, all singles.

Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris*: (2) Yamuna

Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis*: **B:** Sensational views of (1-6) birds on 6 days including perched along the road from Shemgang to Tingtibi, the Limithang Road and Morong.

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*: **B:** (1) perched at eye level in Tingtibi on 20 Apr was one of the many great trip highlights. A further (2) seen at SJ on 1-2 May.

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*: **B:** Widespread and common, recorded on 13 days, with the gull like wailing call a constant feature of forest birding in Bhutan and repeated excellent views.

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*: **B:** (1) at SJ on 2 May was a good bird for the Bhutan list.

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

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*: **B:** (1-5) seen on 5 days. Several great views of this colourful species.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*: Heard only at both Yamuna and Sultanpur **B:** (1) at SJ on 2 May.

Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*: (1) Sultanpur

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus*: **B:** (1) male on 17 Apr between Wangdi and Pele La and (1) photographed on 27 Apr near Namling was a good record of this scarce and inconspicuous species.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*: **B:** (2) watched mating near Morong on 1 May and (2) near SJ on 2 May.

White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*: **B:** (1) on 21 Apr at Tingtibi.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Picoides canicapillus*: **B:** (3) on 20 Apr and (2) on 21 Apr in Tingtibi area.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Picoides hyperythrus*: **B:** (1-2) seen well on five days in widespread locations.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Picoides macei*: **B:** (1) male at Tingtibi on 20 Apr was a good record of this scarce species in Bhutan.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Picoides cathpharius*: **B:** Singles seen well on 17, 19 and 28 Apr gave several outstanding views.

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Picoides darjellensis*: **B:** (3) at Dochu La on 15 Apr gave great views-the only sighting of the tour.

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus*: **B:** (1-2) on 19-22 Apr at Tingtibi included our faithful drumming campsite bird. Heard also on 29-30 Apr.

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*: **B:** (2) on 16 Apr at Tashitang, (1) on 19 Apr and (3) on 20 Apr in Tingtibi area made it a good tour for this species.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*: B: (3) on 16 Apr at Tashitang was our only sighting.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: B: (1) on 16 Apr at Tashitang and (1) on 20 Apr in Tingtibi. Heard on six days.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium bengalense*: Heard only in Assam

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*: B: Heard only at SJ on 2 May.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*: B: A male gave a megaview at Tashitang on 16 Apr and (1) seen well on 28 Apr in Yongcola but true to this elusive species form it was heard only on a further 8 days.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*: B: (1) on 20 Apr and (2) on 21 Apr at Tingtibi gave superb views of this most beautiful almost unreal species.



Long-tailed Broadbill (photo by Spike Baker)

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*: B: Heard only at SJ on 2 May.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*: (2) of the southern rufous-backed subspecies *erythronotus* observed Yamuna **B:** Recorded on 9 days with a maximum of (6) on 29 Apr. All birds seen in Bhutan were of the black-headed subspecies *tricolor*.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*: B: (1) at our Paro hotel on 17 Apr with (1) also seen in Assam on 3 May.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*: B: Widespread. Recorded on 11 days with a maximum of (20) on 24 Apr.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschistos*: B: Recorded on 9 days, typically in pairs.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*: (1) female at Sultanpur

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*: B: Recorded on 5 days with a max. (6) on 27 Apr at Yongcola.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*: B: Recorded on 5 days with a maximum of (6) on 14 Apr at Cheri.

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*: B: Recorded on 7 days with a max. (4) on 29 Apr in Yongcola area.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*: B: Recorded on 8 days with a maximum of (10) on 20-21 April near Tingtibi.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*: B: Recorded on 4 days with a maximum of (5) on 21 Apr near Tingtibi.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*: B: Recorded on 7 days with max. (5) recorded on 19 Apr around Tingtibi.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*: B: (2) near SZ on 1 May.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris*: B: One of the many great birds of Bhutan. Seen on 9 days with a maximum count of (10) at Pele La on 18 Apr.

Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*: B: Heard only this year on 27 Apr and 1 May.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: B: (1) on 15 Apr and (2) on 29 Apr.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*: B: Widespread and locally moderately common, recorded on 10 days with a max. (20) almost daily at Tingtibi.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*: (1) on 3 May on drive to Gauhati Airport.

Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica*: B: Common in the upland valleys of the Bumthang Region with (10-20) recorded on 23-24 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 9 days with a high count of (10) on 18 Apr at Pele La.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*: B: Moderately common and seen on 7 days with a high count of (20) on 24 April near Jakar.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*: B: Abundant in Delhi. (5) on 14 Apr in Thimphu and (5) SJ on 2 May.

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: (1) on both 20-21 Apr at Tingtibi with (2) SZ on 1 May. A split from Large-billed Crow by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus (macrorhynchus) culminatus*: Split in Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) from Large-billed Crow with (2) seen at Sultanpur.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*: B: (3) at SZ on 2 May gave good views.

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*: (1) female at Sultanpur

Greater Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*: (1) Sultanpur.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*: B: (1-10) recorded on four days with high count at migrant trap Jakar on 23 Apr.

Grey-throated Sand-martin *Riparia chinensis*: (100) Yamuna and (50) Sultanpur

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*: (3) Sultanpur

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: B: (10) Mongar on 28 Apr with (2) on 30 Apr.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*: B: (1-2) on 30 Apr and 1-2 May in far east of Bhutan.

Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalensis*: B: Fabulous views of large flocks hawking over the roads and cliffs. Recorded on 5 days with a high count in excess of (50) on 25 Apr.

Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubidiventris*: B: Recorded on 7 days, moderately common at high altitude. Highest count was (8) at Cheli La on 13 Apr.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*: B: Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests. Recorded on 5 days with a high count of (4) on 15 Apr at Dochu La.

Grey-crested Tit *Lophophanes dichrous*: B: Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests. Recorded on 4 days with a high count of (4) on both 13 and 15 Apr at Cheli La and Dochu La.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*: B: Moderately common and ubiquitous in suitable forested habitat. Seen on 18 days with counts exceeding (6 plus) on at least 4 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, recorded on 6 days typically in pairs.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*: B: (1) on 17 Apr and (2) on 23 Apr were the only sightings this year.

Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*: B: (2) Tingtibi on 20 Apr; superb views of this stunner.

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*: B: A delightful species and a great favourite with everyone. Recorded on 5 days with a maximum of (10) on 1 May.

Rufous-fronted Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos*: B: Recorded on 6 days with a maximum count of (4) on 15 Apr in forest at Cheri Monastery.

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta cinnamoventris*: B: (2-4) on 20-21 Apr on Shemgang-Tingtibi Road. This population has been split from those in the plains of India and south-east Asia.

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 6 days this year, typically in pairs.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*: B: (1) of the subspecies *mandelli* was seen very well on both 17 and 24 Apr at Pele La and Thrumsingh La respectively.

Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis*: B: (2) on 15 Apr at Dochu La in the forest interior provided good views of this scarce species.

Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor*: B: Singles seen on 26-28 Apr at Yongcola. Also heard on a couple of days.

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*: B: (2) at Cheli La on 13 Apr.

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*: B: Recorded on 4 days with a max. (5) on 14 Apr at Cheri which consisted of an adult feeding four chicks.

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*: B: (2-10) recorded on 9 days with excellent views of this good looking bird.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*: B: (4-5) on 1-2 May at SJ.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*: B: (2) at Tingtibi on 20-21 Apr with (10) on 2 May at SJ.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*: B: (2) Yamuna and (2) Sultanpur B: Widespread and common, (10-20) recorded on 12 days.

White-cheeked Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys*: B: (10) on 29 Apr between Mongar and Rontong.

White-throated Bulbul *Alphoixus flaveolus*: B: (3-4) recorded on 20-21 Apr at Tingtibi with (1) at SJ on 2 May.

Ashy Bulbul *Hypsipetes flavala*: B: (2-10) recorded on three days along the Tingtibi Road with (2) SJ on 2 May.

Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes maclellandii*: B: (2-5) recorded on 6 days including Tashitang, Tingtibi and Morong.

Himalayan Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* B: Widespread and common to abundant sometimes in flocks of (40) in suitable wooded habitat. Recorded on 12 days with a high count of (50) on the 19-20 Apr.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*: B: (1) on both 24 and 26 Apr in Thrumsingh La area.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*: B: Heard only at both Yamuna and Sultanpur B: (1-2) seen on three days.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*: B: (2) Yamuna

Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger*: B: Recorded on 9 days (5 days heard only) with max. (2) on 19 Apr on drive between Trongsa and Tingtibi. (chitzereet-chitzereet-chitzereet).

Black-throated Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*: B: (3) on 22 Apr, (1) on 27 Apr and (2) on 1 May. 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) SZ on 2 May gave good views to playback.

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*: (2) Yamuna

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*: (10) Yamuna (jimmy-jimmy-jimmy).

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*: (2) Yamuna (tlik-tlik-tlik)

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*: (4) Yamuna gave some spectacular courtship song displays almost at our feet.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*: B: (1) on 23 Apr and (3) on 25 Apr allowed everyone a good view of this elusive sprite. Heard on a further five days.

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea*: B: (1) gave a reasonable but very fast view a couple of times when it popped onto the suggested log “prefocus your bins” site on 1 May near Morong. Heard on a further 6 days.

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*: B: Heard only this year on four days.

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*: B: (3) on 20 Apr at Tingtibi gave some great views.

Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*: B: (2-5) recorded on five days from Yongcola eastward.

Broad-billed Warbler *Tickellia hodgsoni*: B: (1) on both 26-27 Apr at Namling were typically elusive mixed in with parrotbills and fulvettas in dense bamboo.

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

Grey-sided Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons*: B: (2) seen on 18 Apr at Pele La and heard on three days. Great views of this tiny skulker.

Hume’s Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnescens*: B: (1) taped in on 18 Apr at Pele La delighted everyone with the remarkable song and gave great views. This Himalayan population has been split from Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: (1) Yamuna identified as subspecies *halimodendri* with the brown back and grey crown contrasting with dark cheeks.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus tristis*: (2) Yamuna

Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus*: (1) Yamuna

Tickell’s Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*: B: Seen on 5 days with max. (10) on 23 Apr between Yutong La and Jakar.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*: B: (1-10) birds seen on 8 days.

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*: B: (1-4) recorded on 4 days.

Pale-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus*: B: (1-6) recorded on 4 days.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*: B: (1) on 23 Apr near Jakar.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*: B: Recorded on 13 days with a maximum of (10) in forest around Cheri on 14 Apr. This species is the most common *Phylloscopus* in the broadleaf evergreen forest.

Yellow-vented Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus cantator*: B: Recorded on 4 days all singles. This is a distinctive and little known *Phylloscopus* species.

Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*: B: Recorded on 4 days with a maximum of (4) at Tingtibi. A recent genetic review removed this species from the genus *Seicercus*.

Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii*: B: (1-2) recorded on 5 days identified by song, narrow yellow eye ring broken at rear and absent wingbar.

Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*: B: (1-2) on 16, 17 and 29 Apr identified by broad yellow eye ring and obvious wing bar if they were lucky enough to give such good views!

Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys*: B: (1-6) recorded on 4 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 (1-2) daily on the Limithang Road.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*: (2) Yamuna B: (1) taking insects attracted by the lights at the hotel in Punakha was skulking in a hedge on 17 Apr. This passage migrant was new for my Bhutan list!

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). (1) Yamuna

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*: (1) Yamuna

Russet Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus mandellii*: B: (1) on 30 Apr gave good views in a scrubby paddock edge taking a combination of scrambling up a hillside and some playback after we heard it from the bus as we were driving along.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*: (3) Yamuna

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*: B: (1-3) recorded on six days with high count on 29 Apr.

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea*: B: (1) on 26 Apr at Namling was my first sighting for Bhutan.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 9 days with a maximum of (6).

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*: B: (2) on 20 Apr at Tingtibi.

White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula monileger*: B: This skulker was heard only on 22 and 27 Apr.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: B: Seen on 4 days with max. (3) near Morong on 1 May.

Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris*: B: Noticeably scarce this year with (1) male on 12 Apr at Drukgyel Dzong, (4) including males with a white eyebrow of the west Himalayan form at Cheri on 14 Apr and (3) on 23 Apr.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*: B: (1-3) recorded on 4 days with high counts on 25-26 Apr at Thrumsingh La.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*: B: Widespread and often common, recorded on 14 days with a maximum of (10) on eight dates. A truly spectacular bird.

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*: B: Singles seen on 22 Apr and 28 Apr and heard on a further four days.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*: B: Seen on 3 days and heard on a further two dates. Several excellent views of the jewel like male.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*: B: (1-3) seen on 5 dates mostly in the Yongcola area.

Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*: B: A pair on 21 Apr near Shemgang gave great views after a lengthy taping session.

Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides*: B: (2-4) on 20-22 Apr at Tingtibi. Heard on three other days.

Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni*: B: (2) on 23 Apr near Trongsa gave a good view for all of this scarce species.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*: (1) male at Yamuna gave a fine view.

Indian Blue Robin *Luscinia brunnea*: B: (1) male gave a great view on 29 Apr at Khor La.

Himalayan Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger rufilatus*: B: (5) at Cheli La on 13 Apr and (1) male on 26 Apr at Thrumsingh La. Also heard at Pele La and Dochu La. This population is split by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) from Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus*.

Golden Bush-Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus*: B: (1) female at Cheli La on 13 Apr and a great view of a pair at Thrumsingh La on 26 Apr.

White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus*: B: (1) male at Thrumsingh La gave a great view on 24 Apr. Heard on two other days.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*: (2) Yamuna. B: Moderately common at low and medium elevations in lightly wooded farmland and around settlements. Recorded on 10 days with a maximum of (10) at SZ on 2 May.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus saularis*: B: (2) very shy birds gave some views near SJ on 2 May.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: (3) Sultanpur B: (1) on 12 Apr near Paro and (1) female on 27 Apr.

Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*: B: (1) at Cheli La on 13 Apr was the only sighting of this winter visitor.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*: B: (6) at Cheli La, (2) at Dochu La, (1) at Pele La and (2) at Thrumsingh La.

White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*: B: Widespread and moderately common; (1-5) seen on 7 days.

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*: B: Widespread and common; seen on 11 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 30 Apr gave a brief view in flight across the road; heard on three other days.

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri*: B: (2) on a torrent between Trongsa and Shemgang on 19 Apr.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*: B: (1-2) seen well on three days. Typically very skittish but some good scope views obtained.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*: B: (2) near Trongsa on 28 Apr required some patience but the wait was well worth it when we enjoyed excellent views of this scarce and shy bird.

Purple Cochoa *Cochoa purpurea*: B: We heard this species clearly and closely on 28 Apr below our Yongcola camp but did not get the hoped for sighting of this elusive species despite spending nearly forty minutes on it. First time I have heard this species in Bhutan.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*: (4) Yamuna B: (2) seen well near Punakha on 15 Apr. The subspecies *maura* is sometimes split as Siberian Stonechat.

White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura*: (1) male Yamuna gave some great scope views of this rare and localised Indian endemic.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*: (1) male at Yamuna.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 11 days.

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

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

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 9 days with a maximum of (3) on 18 and 25 Apr.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*: B: Recorded on 3 days, all singles of the subspecies *pandoo* on 15, 28 and 29 Apr.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*: B: Common and ubiquitous; recorded everyday in Bhutan (21 days) with a maximum count of (30 plus) on 19 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.

Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixonii*: B: Heard only at Thrumsingh La on dusk on 25 Apr.

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

Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus bouboul*: B: Scarce this year, recorded on 3 days with max. (10) on 29 Apr at Khoru La.

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*: B: Heard at Tashitang, Shemgang and Yongcola.

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*: B: A very quiet year for this tiny gem, recorded on 5 days with a maximum of (2) on 23 Apr.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*: B: Recorded on 9 days with a maximum of (4) on 26 Apr near Yongcola.

White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 14 days with a maximum count of (10).

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*: B: One of the most attractive of Asia's laughingthrushes, (5) gave great views on 21 Apr at Tingtibi with (6) on 29 Apr at Khor La. Heard on three other days.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*: B: (2) watched building a nest near Tingtibi, the repeat visits giving everyone a good view with patience even allowing us to see diagnostic features like the pale iris and unstreaked ear coverts.

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Dryonastes ruficollis*: B: (1-4) on 19-21 Apr around Tingtibi. Placed in the genus *Dryonastes* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striatus*: B: Common and recorded widely in suitable forested habitat on 12 days with a high count of (10) on at least three days. Road. Placed in the genus *Grammatoptila* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *lanthocincla rufogularis*: B: (2) on 16 Apr at Tashitang gave everyone a view of this scarce inveterate skulker with (2) in our camp at Tingtibi on 22 Apr seen by Dion only. Placed in the genus *lanthocincla* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Spotted Laughingthrush *lanthocincla ocellatus*: B: (2) gave a great view on the road to Cheli La on 13 Apr and (1) gave a great view at Pele La on 18 Apr. Also heard at Narphung La on 30 Apr. Placed in the genus *lanthocincla* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Bhutan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron imbricatum*: B: Recorded on 7 days in numbers of (1-10) with the high count near Morong on 1 May. Elevated to full species status from Streaked Laughingthrush by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron squamatus*: B: (2) at Khor La took some patience but finally gave a good view for everyone of this shy species. Placed in the genus *Trochalopteron* by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Scaly Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron subunicolor*: B: (2) on 25 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 *Trochalopteron affine*: B: Widespread and moderately common and very vocal at high elevations; recorded on 7 days with a maximum count of (5) on 2 Apr at Pele La. Reclassified by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

Red-headed Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*: B: An excellent year for this species recorded on 7 days with max. (4) on 15 and 30 Apr.

Reclassified by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) as *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*, a split out of the Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush.

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

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogeus*: B: (2) seen on 19 Apr and (1) on 19 Apr allowing all a great view. Heard on a further five days.

White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*: B: (1-2) at Tingtibi on 19-21 Apr gave good views for all.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*: B: (1) seen on 25 Apr at Namling and (1) on 30 Apr.

Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*: B: (2) responding to playback in Thrumsingh La NP on 24 Apr gave a sensational view with (1) seen above Yongcola camp on 26 Apr by Sterling.

Long-billed Wren-Babbler *Rimator malacoptilus*: B: Heard only on 24 Apr.

Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*: B: Heard calling on at least 6 days but stubbornly refused to show.

Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler *Sphenocichla humei*: B: (1) responded to playback at Yongcola on 26 Apr but was very shy and gave only brief glimpses.

Rufous-throated Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis caudatus*: B: Fabulous views for everyone of (2) on 27 Apr on Limithang Road between Namling and Yongcola.

Spotted Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis formosus*: B: (1) on 1 May near Morong gave a great view.

Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyris rufifrons*: B: (1) at Tingtibi on 21 Apr.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps*: B: (1-2) on 25-27 Apr at Yongcola.

Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea*: B: (1-5) seen on 5 days. Everyone had the chance to see this great little bird up close.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*: B: (1) on 21 Apr at Tingtibi and heard on two other days.

Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*: B: (2) at SZ on 2 May were difficult to see well in a large vine tangle but most people managed a view.

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

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris*: B: (4) on 22 Apr between Tingtibi and Shemgang with over (10) near Morong on both 30 Apr and 1 May.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*: B: (2) on 27 Apr and (4) on 29 Apr at Yongcola; heard on two other days.

Himalayan Cutia *Cutia nipalensis*: B: (1-4) above our Yongcola camp on 27-29 Apr gave some sensational displays between the pairs with wings extended and powerful song.

Indian White-hooded Babbler *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*: B: (4) on 20 Apr near Tingtibi in a classic bamboo mixed flock saw the leader running down the road in hot pursuit!

Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni*: B: (1-10) seen on 5 days with max. on 1 May near Morong.

Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis*: B: (1-2) seen on five days was a good result for this species.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*: B: Recorded on 5 days with max. (50) near Yongcola on 25 Apr came in and had a mass bathing session in a small waterfall pool.

Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula*: B: Recorded on 5 days, always in pairs showing breeding was underway.

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta*: B: Recorded on 3 days with max. (5) on 25 Apr between Namling and Yongcola.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis*: B: (2-4) daily in montane bamboo Namling on the Limithang Road on 25-27 Apr with (2) on 17 Apr at Pele La. 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. (8) on 27 Apr with (4) on 28 Apr near Namling.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps*: B: Widespread and moderately common, seen on 6 days with a maximum of (4) on both 24 and 30 Apr.

White-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe vinipectus*: B: Widespread and common, seen on 8 days with a maximum of (8) on 23 Apr. Usually with mixed species flocks in the understorey of both mixed evergreen and broad-leaved forest.

Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis*: B: Skulking although locally quite numerous; recorded on 3 days with max. (5) on both 20-21 Apr at Tingtibi.

Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata*: B: Common and ubiquitous; seen on 15 days with the highest daily count of (10).

Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps*: B: Recorded on 20-21 Apr in the Tingtibi area with a high count of (10).

White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri*: B: Recorded on 5 days at both Tingtibi and Yongcola (4-8) 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 14 days with a maximum count of (30) on 27 Apr in Yongcola area.

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*: B: Widespread and moderately common, especially at high elevations. Recorded on 6 days with a high count of (10 plus) on 23 April.

Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis*: B: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 6 days with a high count of (5) on 23-26 April.

Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*: B: (2) on both 20-21 Apr at Tingtibi.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa*: (2) Sultanpur B: Recorded on 9 days with a high count of (10) on 20-21 Apr in secondary scrub around Tingtibi. The white-eyes were recently absorbed into the Asian babbler family following a genetic review.

Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhoura*: B: (1) stunning individual at Pele La on 18 Apr; often hard to find this species later in the season.

Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium*: B: (2) at Thrumsingh La on 24 Apr where curious and whistled in giving some megaviews.

Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor*: B: (4) in a bamboo field near Jakar on 23 Apr gave good views.

Black-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis nipalensis*: B: (2) on 25 Apr and (4) on 26 Apr near Namling gave some good views shimmering through the bamboo.

Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis ruficeps*: B: (2) on 20 Apr near Tingtibi in a mixed flock with the following species and Indian White-hooded Babbler was a good result.

Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris*: B: (4) on 20 Apr near Tingtibi gave great views, even allowing Spike some photo opportunities of this global rarity.

White-browed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*: B: Seen on three days and heard on a further 4 dates; several great views of this beautiful species. Recent genetic assessment suggests this genus should be placed in the Vireo family.

Black-eared Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*: B: (1) male on 1 May near Morong was well appreciated by all.

Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*: (2) Yamuna and (2) Sultanpur including some megaviews of males.

Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*: B: Scarce this year with (1-2) sighted well on four days with high count on 25 Apr.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*: B: (1) male on 13 Apr at Cheli La, (1) male at Pele La on 18 Apr and (1) male at Thrumsingh La on 26 Apr.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*: B: Common and often ubiquitous; seen on 10 days with a high count of (20) on 25 Apr.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*: B: Sparse but widespread especially at elevations generally lower than the previous two species; seen on 6 days with a high count of (4) at Morong on 1 May.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*: B: (2) stunning males in forest edge on 20 Apr near Tingtibi.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*: B: (1-3) seen on five days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Road and Rontong and Morong.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*: B: Widespread and moderately common at middle elevations. Seen on 3 days and heard only on 7 days.

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum*: B: (1) feeding in mistletoe flowers near Tingtibi on 20 Apr.

Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris*: B: Singles seen on 16, 17 and 22 Apr.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus trailli*: B: Recorded on 10 days with a maximum of (4) on 16 Apr.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus*: (2) on drive to Gauhati on 3 May gave good views.

Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus kundoo*: Recommended split by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) we had a good view of a male at Sultanpur.

Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella*: B: (10) including numerous glamour males at SZ on 2 May.

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*: (2) Sultanpur

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*: (10) Sultanpur and (10) Yamuna. B: (1) rather sad looking specimen with a damaged eye at Thimphu on 14 Apr was a first for me in Bhutan.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: (1) Sultanpur B: Widespread and common to very common, recorded on 15 days with a max. (50) on 19 Apr.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*: B: Recorded on 5 days with max. (4) on 19-20 Apr at Tingtibi.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*: B: (1) on 21 Apr near Tingtibi and (1) on 27 Apr near Shemgang.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*: B: (1) on 16 Apr and (2) on 20 Apr.

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*: B: (4) distantly near Tingtibi on 20 Apr and (4) at SZ on 2 May.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*: B: (2-20) recorded on 4 days in Punakha, Tingtibi and SZ.

Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra*: (10) Sultanpur and (5) Yamuna B: (10) SZ on 2 May.

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus*: (100) Yamuna and (200) Sultanpur in migrant flocks.

Spot-winged Starling *Saroglossa spiloptera*: B: (2) on 19 Apr near Khoshe La gave a good view for the leader but flew away when we left the bus.

Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*: B: (4) on both 1-2 May at SZ.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: (1) Yamuna and (20) Sultanpur B: Recorded on 8 days with a high count of (20) around Punakha and SZ.

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*: (2) Assam

Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*: (5) Yamuna and (5) Sultanpur

White-vented Myna *Acridotheres grandis*: (2) Assam B: (2) SZ on 2 May.

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

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiatea*: B: Widespread but rather scattered within scrubby areas adjoining farmland; recorded on 6 days with a maximum count of (5) near Cheri Monastery on 12 Apr.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: (4) Sultanpur B: Widespread and moderately common along creeks and rivers and associated open habitats such as farmland. Subspecies present was the black backed *alboides*.

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla madaraspatisensis*: B: (1) at Punakha on 15 Apr was a surprise and a new bird for my Bhutan list.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: B: (1-2) on 5 days with high count on 19 Apr.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*: B: (2) Yamuna and (1) Sultanpur

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: B: (1) near Sultanpur **B:** (1) on the road 10 km W of SJ appeared to be a migrant pushed down by a large thunderstorm.

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*: B: (1) in Punakha Valley on 15 Apr and (2) Jakar migrant trap on 23 Apr.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*: B: Recorded on 10 days with a max. (10) on 25-26 Apr.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*: B: (1) Paro on 12 Apr; (2) Cheli La on 13 Apr and (4) Jakar on 24 Apr. Several in breeding plumage showing the rosy pink underparts.

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami*. B: (1-3) mostly males recorded on 5 days. Most common around Punakha and on the drive between Shemgang and Trongsa in agricultural areas.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*: B: (1) at Pele La on 18 Apr was seen by Dion only with (10) on 23 Apr at migrant trap Jakar.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides*: B: (3-6) on 19-20 Apr at Tingtibi with (50) on 22 Apr.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*: B: (1) at Pele La on 18 Apr was the only sighting.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis*: B: (2) on 25 Apr at Thrumsingh La.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*: B: (2) Yamuna **B:** (2-20) recorded on four days.

Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii*: B: (2) on both 25-26 Apr at Thrumsingh La.

Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura*: B: (4) on 13 Apr at Cheli La.

Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis*: B: Heard only in flight on 30 Apr near Morong.

Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala*: B: (1) male on 15 Apr and (1) female on 23 Apr made this a difficult species this year.

Collared Grosbeak *Coccothraustes affinis*: B: (2) Pele La on 17 Apr.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*: B: Recorded on 4 days with max. (2) in juniper forest at Pele La on 15 Apr and 24 Apr.

Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi*: B: (1-7) recorded on four days with high count at Yongcola on 27 Apr.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*: B: Common in suitable scrub and open country especially around farm buildings. Recorded on 8 days with a high count of (50) feeding in a field on 24 Apr in the Jakar-Ura area.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: B: Ubiquitous in suitable open country especially around farm buildings. Recorded on 15 days with generally (20) birds on these days.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: B: (10) in downtown SZ on 2 May.

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*: B: (10) in seeding bamboo near Tingtibi on 20 Apr was our only sighting this year.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: (2) Assam B: (2) on 2-3 May in SZ.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*: (1) male in reed beds at Yamuna.

MAMMALS

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

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*: (2) Yamuna and (20) Sultanpur

Common (Hanuman) Langur *Presbytis entellus*: B: (15) on 14 Apr between Thimphu and Cheri. 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 (2-15) of these handsome primates on five days in the far east of Bhutan from Namling.

Golden Langur *Presbytis geei*: B: Notably common from just below Trongsa to Shemgang and down to our camp near Tingtibi. Large numbers (20 – 30) seen on four days with several troops feeding on or at the side of the road from 19-22 Apr.

Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus*: (2) Yamuna

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*: B: (1) on 15 Apr, (3) on 25 Apr and (2) on 1 May allowed everyone excellent views of this striking carnivore.

Hodgson's Flying Squirrel *Petaurista magnificus*: B: (1) seen on 25 Apr at night in Thrumsingh La NP above Sengor whilst spotlighting in forest. (3) gave superb views below the Yongcola camp at night on 27 Apr. This is a cat-sized squirrel strikingly bright orange with black stripes through eyes and ears, a black tail tip and maroon back.

Parti-coloured Flying Squirrel *Hylopetes alboniger*: B: (3) seen very well while spotlighting on 27 Apr below our Yongcola camp. This is a small species with a white belly.

Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*: B: (2) on 19 Apr near Shemgang and (1) on 21 Apr near Tingtibi. This is a spectacular squirrel, the largest in the world.

Hoary-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus*: B: (1-2) seen daily around Tingtibi and (1) SZ.

Orange-bellied Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah*: B: (1) on 18 Apr at Pele La; (1) on 28 Apr and (1) 1 May.

Red-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pallasii*: B: (1) on 30 Apr near Morong watched nest-building acrobatically collecting bark and leaves and then leaping across to a vine tangle.

Five-striped Squirrel *Funambulus pennanti*: (10) Yamuna and (10) Sultanpur

Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops macclellandi*: B: Moderately common and widespread, seen on 6 days typically (1-2). This species is often associated with mixed foraging flocks of birds.

Goral *Nemorhaedus goral*: B: (1) scoped while feeding unconcernedly next to the monastery at Cheri on 14 Apr; (1) below Trongsa on 19 Apr and (2) near Rontong on 29 Apr.

Common Barking Deer (Muntjac) *Muntiacus muntjak*: B: (3) seen near Tingtibi on 19 Apr with (1) also here on 21 Apr. Heard barking on four other nights.

Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus*: (6) Sultanpur

Large-eared Pika *Ochotona macrotis*: B: (1-2) seen in scree slopes at the high passes at Cheli La and Thrumsingh La.

Royle's Pika *Ochotona roylei*: B: (1) seen on 26 Apr at Thrumsingh La.

Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis*: (1) Sultanpur

Himalayan Rat *Rattus nitidus*: (1) juvenile found in the day near Namling on 21 Apr.

Cave Nectar Bat *Eonycteris spelaea*: B: (1) seen repeatedly visiting the flowers of a *Duabanga grandiflora* tree near our Tingtibi camp at night on 19 Apr.

REPTILES

Calotes *Calotes versicolor*: B: (2) on 29 Apr and (1) on 2 May near SZ. All were males with the coloured orange head. The Calotes is a lizard in the Agamid family.

***Sphenomorphus* Skinks: B:** (1) with black stripes on 16 Apr at Tashitang and 28 Apr at Yongcola and (1) at 1600 m at Morong without black stripes on 1 May.

False Cobra (Large-eyed Keelback) *Pseudoxenodon macrops*: B: (1) on 28 Apr near Yongcola and (1) on 30 Apr near Morong gave good views even hooding up as they mimic the cobra. A mildly venomous uncommon species.

Eastern Trinket Snake *Orthriophis cantoris*: B: (1) juvenile found on the road near Morong on 1 May proved to be not only the first record for Bhutan but the first record of the genus in the country as well. A non venomous uncommon species.

Himalayan Toad *Bufo himalayensis*: (1) on 21 Apr near Tingtibi

Unidentified Frog: B: A large spotted gray frog with fully webbed toes and a broad rounded short head seen with a smaller green male at Sengor in a water catchment basin on 24 Apr. Disappeared before I could photograph them!

GPS references

Riverview Hotel, Thimpu 89° 38.81' E.	2308 metres	27° 28.29' N.,
Cheri Valley 89° 38.09' E.	2711 metres	27° 35.19' N.,
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.,



Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill above with Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler below
(photos by Spike Baker)

