

Taj and Tiger Tour with Sandwich Bird Tours

Feb 22- March 8 2009

Led by John van der Dol and Lokesh Singh



Participants

Sheila Creasey, Geoff Halliwell, Sue Marshall, Michael McDonough, Sheila Poulton, Sue Reed, Pat Thompson

Saturday Feb 21st

Left Heathrow at 1020 am on time and arrived in Helsinki just five minutes late. A comfortable flight without any hitches. Booking in and controls at Heathrow went incredibly smoothly with more than a dozen X-ray machines manned and working.

I don't think I have ever got through the system so quickly. Let's hope Delhi works equally efficiently.

Sunday Feb 22nd

And so it did. We got through the system fairly quickly, were met by Benny and taken to the Sunstar Hotel. Just as grubby as I remember it. I think there are moves afoot to change the Delhi transit hotel for the future.

After a wash and brush up we again left the hotel for Lohti Park where we did a bit of birding but most of us were really too tired to do it justice. However it gave us the chance to stretch our legs which was a welcome change from sitting in planes and airport lounges.

Mohit met us in the park from where we proceeded to his "private club" for lunch which was very smart indeed. We then set off for the station to catch our train for our journey south to Katni and Bandhavgarh. We eventually got on to the train and in to our pre-booked seats and settled down after all the associated chaos that goes with Indian railway journeys. Michael and I had to settle for 2nd class accommodation but

we were far too tired to notice. The rest of the group had the luxury of first class compartments.

Monday Feb 23rd

After a noisy and frequently disturbed night we eventually arrived at Katni Junction virtually on time at 05.15 where we were met by three taxis. Another couple joined us and we all set off for Bandhavgarh where we arrived two hours later.

We settled into our rooms and immediately had breakfast. We now had to wait for lunch (more food!). It gave some of us a chance to do some local birding in and just outside the grounds of the Natural Heritage lodge. A beautiful Orange Ground Thrush frequented the gardens as did a couple of Tawny-bellied Babblers and a stunning Tickell's Blue Flycatcher. Good views of Indian Robins, Yellow-throated Sparrows and some Hume's Warblers were had outside the lodge.

At 3 o'clock we wet off in two Gypsies (jeeps) in search of tigers which is what we had come here for. We were un-prepared for the events about to happen. Having done many tiger drives in other parks I was amazed that within 30 minutes we were watching a beautiful female Tiger resting in the long grass. We waited perhaps another half an hour seeing what she might do. The number of vehicles, all with their noisy drivers and punters, were increasing by the minute until by the end there were probably 25 jeeps present. However we were concentrating on feline matters.

Eventually she got up, walked through the grass until she got to a track where she started walking towards us but the amassed vehicles and noisy people caused her to change course back into the thick grass where she disappeared. Another half an hour passed when an Elephant appeared with his Mahout on board. They eventually disturbed the cat from her sleep and pushed her towards the waiting cars. Fantastic views were had and could have been better had it not been for some of the drivers being rather too keen to please their clients. However this happens the same in every park I have been to and some sort of a code of conduct would be a good idea if only it could be enforceable. To be fair all the trackers and drivers were nervous and anxious as they wanted to please their clients but also had just 15 minutes left to get out of the park before being fined for being late. I understand their predicament which was not helped by yet another sighting of a second female tiger close to the road on the way back. Hardly any time to stop and we just had to leave this one walking parallel to the road at close range. Criminal! But what an experience we had had. I am beginning to understand why this park in particular has the reputation for the sightings it has.

We returned and shared our experiences with a gin and tonic or two before dinner and an early night. The latter was well needed and we all went to bed excited in anticipation of what tomorrow might bring.

I am sitting here in my room at lunchtime writing these notes and a cat has just entered my room and knicked my packet of biscuits, not once but twice after it came back for the biscuits it dropped on the way out. Fortunately it was one of the domestic varieties.

Tuesday Feb 24th

After our wake-up call at 05.30 we were having tea and biscuits and 15 minutes later we boarded our trusty jeeps.

The two jeeps soon separated and unbelievably again within 30 minutes of entering the park our second jeep was following another female Tiger. Again amazing views were had over a period of about half an hour of tracking this cat. It turned out that

this morning this was the only Tiger seen “on the road” and only us and another jeep were present to experience it. However there was a “Tiger Show” and our entire group were able to mount elephants and have fantastic views of yet another, our fourth one, female at very close range. At last we were able to get some decent photos.



We returned for breakfast at 10.30, waited for lunch and just three hours later set off again for another safari. Again the jeeps split up and our crew had this morning's Tiger again while the other had the good fortune of good views of a female with three 15 month old cubs. They also saw Painted Spurfowl which was indeed a lucky find. Red-headed and Long-billed Vultures were nice to see also especially these days with the lack of vultures being very apparent. This evening we were treated to a film show of the wildlife of Bandhavgarh before dinner and yet another early night.



Pugmarks of a male Tiger

Wed Feb 25th

Another early start but rather unproductive. Only one Tiger was seen all morning by just one jeep and all the drivers were trying hard to produce something for their customers but without success. Four species of Vultures were seen by our group, Red-headed, White-rumped, Long-billed and Egyptian but not a great deal else. Can't be brilliant all the time. I am sure this afternoon will produce the goods.

And it certainly did. Again within no time of entering the park our driver had spotted a Tiger at the far end of a dry river bed. It was our friend Bhitari again. A 3 ½ year old female whom we have now encountered for the third time. She was having her siesta and after about an hour of us watching here some elephants turned up and eventually disturbed her after which we did not see her again. On the way back to the entrance we had our first Jungle Owlet of the trip followed shortly after by another Tiger. A one year old cub was seen getting off the road and disappearing into the bamboo before again coming out, crossing the road and vanishing into the forest to join her mum and two other siblings who would have been nearby.

The other jeep also had a Tiger somewhere the gate. What a day again! One more drive left tomorrow. What could possibly surpass the experiences so far? Only time will tell.

Thursday Feb 26th

Another early start. We set off again at six with our usual driver Lala. Things appeared a little quiet this morning and birdwatching was becoming the order of the day. Some nice species were encountered including White-eyed Buzzards, Changeable Hawk Eagle, several Crested Serpent Eagles, three Malabar Pied Hornbills which here are at the extreme end of their range, being more commonly found in the Western Ghats. The other group saw a Stork-billed Kingfisher and we all saw three Black Storks, a Racket-tailed Drongo, Black-naped Monarch, a couple of Golden-fronted Leafbirds and three Yellow-wattled Lapwings. A nice collection of birds.



Yellow-wattled Lapwing

Gradually we were returning towards the entrance when we came across a group of jeeps. Clearly there was a Tiger around. Sure enough within minutes a giant male got up out of the grass and started walking along the river valley, up the bank on to the rocks giving amazing intermittent views. It continued, stood posing on a rock, crossed the road in front of the first vehicles, and carried on walking along the river. We drove on and anticipating it to arrive near a bridge, which it duly did, crossed the road again and disappeared into thick bamboo where it was seen killing a Sambar fawn.



Male Tiger

As the park was about to close we had to leave it to its lunch, but we could not have scripted the last experience better. What a superb finale and I hope the drivers whose vehicles were involved in several crunches along the way feel the same. That is the end of Bandhavgarh only to definitely return another day. So with regret we had to leave and after two hours we arrived at Katni Junction where we boarded the train to Agra.

Friday Feb 27th

This journey took an amazing 11 hours overnight not including the 45 minutes we were late arriving. We immediately set off for another 1 ½ hour journey in the bus to Chambal Safari Lodge where we were met by my Devere, our naturalist guide for our stay here. I had met him back here last month and he is the nephew of Rathan Singh, the guide I usually have, and therefore the cousin of Lokesh. After breakfast and settling into our rooms we set off for a short walk round the local agricultural fields which was very pleasant with good views of a pair of Collared Scops Owls at their nest, some colourful Rollers and Hoopoes, Koel, lots of Indian Grey Hornbills, Black Redstart of the eastern race, Grey Francolin, and a nice Black-breasted Weaver. A superb Black-winged Kite put in an appearance too. We were all a little tired after last night's travels so a rest seemed in order. This we did for a couple of hours, followed by lunch (more food) and an afternoon boat ride down the Chambal River. This was really successful with many Gharials, Marsh Muggers and Turtles. The Dolphins however refused to make an appearance. The birds were excellent though. Three huge Sarus Cranes stood on the bank of the river

while Bar-headed Geese were here in good numbers on the water's edge accompanied by the odd couple of Ruddy Shelducks. Waders included a few hundred splendid Small Pratincoles, Kentish Plovers, Little and Temminck's Stints, Green and Redshanks. Red-crested Pochards were well represented too. A few Black Ibis were present but the stars of the show were some 15 Indian Skimmers settled on the sandbank in the middle of the river. They would occasionally get up to give a display flight and even did some "skimming" showing off their unique feeding practice. Black-bellied and River Terns were seen too.

Other birds of note were Bonelli's Eagle, two Long-legged Buzzards and the really beautiful River Lapwings and Greater Thick-knees both were here in good numbers. That was a really successful boat ride.

We returned to base and had an attempt at finding the Common Palm Civet by torchlight. It was seen by three of us but unfortunately missed by the rest of the group, but we did have great views of some Indian Flying Foxes in the spotlight.

Dinner was preceded by the delivery of a rather splendid chocolate birthday cake to celebrate both Sues' birthdays. It was a beautiful but very rich cake and the phrase "Death by chocolate" came to mind, but we were all very restrained. The bird list was done after dinner and a nice evening was had by all before retiring perhaps a little later than normal.

Saturday Feb 28th Taj Mahal

We could have done with another night here but unfortunately we had to leave after breakfast for the famous Taj Mahal. After an hour or two we arrived there, were met by our guide and transferred into an electric Tuk-tuk. This is the whole group in one Tuk-tuk, Indian style." No room for no more". The monument was very very interesting and we learnt a bit about the history of it. After 1 ½ hours we left, had a quick lunch in a restaurant before proceeding at 1300 for an 8 hour journey to the Mud Fort at Kuchesar. Not much seen on the way but we did note a party of three Sarus Cranes. Interesting accommodation in the form of an old fort which could do with some attention and a serious paint job. Nevertheless it was fun to stay there and the rooms were huge and very comfortable.



Sunday March 1st

Drove from Kuchesar to Jungle Birding Lodge at Pangot. Another 7 hours on the road, and although it was Sunday there was plenty of traffic and a mass of humanity

wherever we went. I dread to think where this is all going to end up. There are just people everywhere.

Not many birds on the way but at Nainital there were a Steppe Eagle and a Grey-hooded Warbler.

After settling into the lodge some of us did a bit of birding round the lodge. We saw some great birds starting with Black-headed Jays and a fair sized flock of White-throated Laughingthrushes in the garden. In the rough ground behind the lodge an Upland pipit was found singing and good views were had of that. Also a party of three Black-throated Accentors and another group of three Pink-browed Rosefinches made the long journey here all worthwhile.

This was followed by a nice meal before retiring early in anticipation of another early start.

Monday March 2nd: Pangot

Out as dawn was breaking in the hope of finding some the pheasants this place is well known for. Unfortunately only a single Kalij Pheasant was seen all too briefly on the road. However a flock of Altai Accentors were nice and some Himalayan Vultures were waiting for the thermals before starting their daily chores. On the way back for breakfast we were treated to brief but close views of a pair of Yellow-throated Martens. That was a welcome surprise.

One of the reasons for getting up so early was to see the Himalayas at dawn when the sun turns the snow-covered peaks pink. Unfortunately it was very misty and hazy so the sight was not as spectacular as it had been in January. The clearly was a lot of pollution hanging around in the valleys.

After breakfast some of the group decided to relax at the lodge whilst the rest of us set out to try and find some more birds. This we duly did in locating Long-billed Thrush and Grey-crowned Prinias, both lifers for the leader. Other interesting species included a beautiful pair of Red-billed Blue Magpies, a Speckled Piculet, A Fire-breasted Flowerpecker and some other bits and pieces. A very interesting couple of hours.

We returned for lunch and spent a couple of hours in Nainital pursuing the art of retail therapy. Most the ladies in the group enjoying the fabric shops which apparently are extremely good value for money. We eventually returned and had a few gin and mango juices with dinner which helped to increase the decibel level for the evening before retiring.

March 3rd: Pangot-Corbett NP

A fairly late start although Pat and I were treated to great views of Lammergeier and Short-toed Eagle before breakfast from our patios. Today we were off to Corbett via Sat Tal for lunch. We passed the tented camp and stopped at a place not unlike the Godavari Gardens in Kathmandu and the birds were not dissimilar. A flock of about 30 or more Red-billed Leiothrix gave stunning views while other birds of particular interest included White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, Asian Barred Owlet, Verditer and Grey-headed Canary Flycatchers, Ultra-marine Flycatcher, Rufous-throated and White-crested Laughingthrushes and many more. But the stars of the day were two Nepal Wren-Babblers which were also new for the leader. Unfortunately most of the group did not really see them apart from a flight view across the path. So I won't go on about them anymore other than to say they

were stunning and well sought after. Until they were discovered in this region they were considered to be one of two Nepal endemics.

We then had lunch at Sat Tal Camp. Another nice place where we could easily bring a group for a couple of nights before moving on to Pangot and Corbett. A three hour drive to Tiger Camp was broken by a visit to Corbett Falls. There were quite a few local people there so birds were noticeable by their absence. However amazingly Lokesh did find another Long-billed Thrush and this one sat out in the open for at least 10 minutes giving the whole group stunning views. Excellent views were also had of a Stork-billed Kingfisher. Then on to our next accommodation via the White-rumped Vulture nests just five minutes from camp. Four birds were present.

A lovely meal and a very pleasant evening at Tiger camp before getting ready for our two day stint to Dhikala and back.

March 4th: Corbett NP

After breakfast we stopped just along the road from Tiger Camp where Lokesh had located a pair of Brown Hawk Owls last night. They were still there this morning at roost and we all had great views. We then spent about half an hour along the river not far from the camp. We were looking for Ibisbill but clearly these have now left on their way to their breeding grounds. However some nice Crested Kingfishers and a Wallcreeper were fair compensation. We then drove to Dhangarhi gate and entered the famous Corbett National Park on our way to Dhikala tourism zone.



Jim Corbett

This is a jeep safari in its own right and quite a few birds were noted on the way. Good views of Barking Deer (Muntjac) were had too as well as the odd Samba and many Spotted Deer. This is a beautiful Sal forest thankfully preserved from the ravages of deforestation and the home of some 165 Tigers, although many of these live in the mountainous areas which, even if it is possible we would not be visiting. Our destination was the extensive grasslands of Dhikala. We arrived just before lunch to be met with the usual chaos, extensive form filling etc. We were shown to our rooms which were more than unsatisfactory. Sue and Sheila

refused their room and were given another one only for me to be given that room. I too refused this filthy stinking hole and threatened to take the group back to Corbett Tiger camp. This spurred the men in charge into action and the room was cleaned and clean bedding provided. Not perfect but just about acceptable for one night. The other Sheila too had all her bedding replaced with brand new stuff, to prove that it can be done. This accommodation requires a serious upgrade but the political will is not there

by the governmental department that runs it. They are only interested in the conservation of the area and its tigers and tourism is a necessary evil in their eyes. As money becomes tight in this worldwide recession it may dawn on them that conservation will increasingly rely on the income that tourism brings.

Unfortunately this is the only accommodation available as there are no private lodges within the park itself and if one wishes to visit the grasslands of Dhikala one is forced to stay there. For one night it is well worth it though.



Hanuman Langur

However what a wonderful location. En route we travelled the lower jungle track along the Ramganga River and crossed it at the river at the Gethia Rao Bridge for the Kanda Range, where Jim Corbett shot the famous Kanda man-eater.

After lunch we did a jeep safari of the grasslands which amazingly resulted in yet another male Tiger. A huge and very brightly coloured beast which had been down to the river for a drink. It was a fairly brief view but spectacular nonetheless.

Some interesting birds included the rare White-throated (Hodgson's) Bushchat, a female Hen Harrier, Pallas' and Lesser Fish Eagles and a couple of Brown Crakes.

Wild Elephants at Corbett

March 5th: Corbett National Park

This morning we had early start in the form of an elephant safari through the open chauras (grasslands) and dense forests of Dhikala. This is

the best mode of transport for wildlife viewing. We got close to a Tiger but unfortunately did not manage to find it in the forest. Lots of Black Francolins and a few Red Junglefowl were noted and quite a number of Yellow-eyed Babblers were spotted.



After 2 ½ hours on the back of the elephant it was time to give our legs some exercise, but only as far as the restaurant for our breakfast. We then had to check out from our rooms and on this occasion it was not with sadness that we left our accommodation. Another jeep safari before lunch took us through the grasslands and another look at the Elephant herd, a bit closer this time, and the amazing collection of stag Spotted Deer which were collecting out on the short grasslands as it is now their rutting season. Quite a sight.

Another look at the Corbett forest was largely quiet but we were able to appreciate the beauty of the forest itself and a few more Gharials in the river.

After more food at lunchtime, some of us watched a number of Vultures homing in on last night's tiger kill just outside the camp boundary. I counted the group and thankfully we were all still present. The scavengers included Black, Eurasian Griffons, Egyptian and Red-headed Vultures. A nice collection considering how few we have been seeing. So where are they when there are no kills to attract them? We drove back to Tiger Camp and settled in to our very luxurious chalets. What a treat after Dhikala!

More gin and orange was consumed by some.



Corbett National Park

Modes of transport



Some of the group on elephant back



Crossing the river at Riverine Woods

March 6th: Corbett to Riverine Woods

After a leisurely breakfast we were re-acquainted with our bus and transported to Riverine Woods Camp. We had to de-camp into our jeeps for our ride through the river which was an experience in itself. Even then we had to walk the last bit as vehicles were unable to drive the rough terrain. At the camp we were met by Ollie, the English volunteer, and the rest of the staff and more coffee and food was served. A brief walk along the river in the afternoon was very pleasant followed by coffee and biscuits at the river's edge. All the time watched by Tiger and Leopards which live in the area as pug marks just by the camp indicated.



This is a beautiful lodge set in a quiet valley alongside the river and after the hustle and bustle of the last two weeks it was a great chance to relax and re-charge our batteries before the long journey back to Delhi and our flights back home the next day.

March 7th

During breakfast we could hear the alarm call of a Samba which meant there was a Tiger in the area. We knew of a female with two cubs in the vicinity and so I went looking for her (on foot) After a while I got a bit nervous and although I knew she was likely to be on the far side of the river I thought it better to return to the relative safety of the camp. The alarm calls continued so we all went back to

see if we could see her. The monkeys high in the canopy were watching her but we could not see her through the dense foliage. We gave it an hour but without success. Still it was just great to appreciate the morning sun bouncing off the red cliffs knowing that it was freezing cold back home. Unfortunately we were about to leave and so we did. 8 ½ hours later we arrived in Delhi. After my dismay at the Sunstar, Mohit said he would upgrade us for our last night. We were taken to a nice restaurant where we had a lovely meal before being taken to the Intercontinental Hotel for the night. Five star luxury indeed.

We all had an early night under our luxurious duvets.

The next morning Sue set off very early to catch a flight to Sidney while the rest of set off for London where a bus was waiting to take us all home.

In conclusion, this has been an excellent tour with a great bunch of people. Thirteen sightings of Tiger were astonishing. I would like to thank all the participants for their company on this tour and their patience at the times when Indian bureaucracy took over. It is easy to let frustration get the better of you, but as they say “Hey, this is India” and it demands a return visit.

John



Jungle Babbler and Five-striped Palm Squirrel

TIGER SIGHTINGS

BANDHAVGARH

Day 1 (pm) Chakrohara female aged 7 (has four cubs but not seen) sitting in the grass and then walking towards the vehicles.

Also Chorbahra female aged 7 walking parallel to the road as we were leaving the park.

Day 2 (am) Bhitari female aged 3 ½ seen walking through the forest

Also Chorbahra seen again from an Elephant. Slight limp in rear leg when she first gets up but does not inhibit her.

And Bhitari seen again walking through the forest.

Also Vanbei female with two cubs seen by one of the jeeps. She actually has three cubs.

Day 3

No sightings in the morning

(pm) Bhitari seen again sleeping at the end of a dry river bed. Disturbed by Elephants and seen disappearing into the forest.

Also one year old cub belonging to Vanbei seen disappearing into the undergrowth. It had been resting on the road. It returned and crossed the road, presumably to join her family.

The other jeep had a female crossing the road near the exit gate.

Day 4

(am) A new male aged about 7 or 8 which has just arrived in the area. He has no name. He put on a spectacular show lasting about 15 minutes walking along the river valley often out in the open. Seen taking a fawn Samba and devouring it underneath some dense bamboo. Great views and a wonderful finale.

DHIKALA, CORBETT

A big male seen leaving the river where it had been having a drink. Brief but good views.



Tawny Fish Owl

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS SEEN or HEARD

Little Grebe	Tawny Pipit
Great Cormorant	Blyth's Pipit
Little Cormorant	Tree Pipit
Grey Heron	Olive-backed Pipit
Great Egret	Upland Pipit
Intermediate Egret	Large Cuckoo-shrike
Little Egret	Long-tailed Minivet
Indian Pond Heron	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Cattle Egret	Himalayan Bulbul
Painted Stork	Red-vented Bulbul
Asian Openbill	Ashy Bulbul
Black Stork	Golden-fronted Leafbird
Woolly-necked Stork	Common Iora
Black-necked Stork	Altai Accentor
Lesser Adjutant	Rufous-breasted Accentor

Black Ibis	Black-throated Accentor
Eurasian Spoonbill	Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush
Lesser Whistling Duck	Blue Rock-Thrush
Grey Lag Goose	Blue Whistling Thrush
Bar-headed Goose	Orange-headed Thrush
Ruddy Shelduck	Long-billed Thrush
Comb Duck	Grey-winged Blackbird
Pintail	Mistle Thrush
Red-crested Pochard	Zitting Cisticola
Osprey	Striated Prinia
Oriental Honey Buzzard	Grey-crowned Prinia
Black-shouldered Kite	Grey-breasted Prinia
Black Kite	Ashy Prinia
Pallas' Fish Eagle	Plain Prinia
Lesser Fish Eagle	Chestnut-headed Tesia (heard only)
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler
Lammergeier	Aberrant Bush Warbler
Egyptian vulture	Common Tailorbird
White-rumped Vulture	Siberian Chiffchaff
Long-billed Vulture	Lemon-rumped Warbler
Himalayan Griffon Vulture	Greenish Warbler
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	Hume's warbler
Cinereous (Black) Vulture	Buff-barred Warbler
Red-headed Vulture	Grey-hooded Warbler
Short-toed Eagle	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher
Crested serpent Eagle	Taiga Flycatcher
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	Snowy-browed Flycatcher
Hen Harrier	Ultramarine Flycatcher
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Slaty-blue Flycatcher
Crested Goshawk	Verditer Flycatcher
White-eyed Buzzard	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher
Long-legged Buzzard	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher
Black Eagle	Oriental Magpie Robin
Steppe Eagle	Indian Robin
Bonelli's Eagle	Blue-capped Redstart
Changeable Hawk Eagle	Black Redstart
Mountain Hawk Eagle	White-capped Water Redstart
Eurasian Kestrel	Plumbeous Redstart
Black Francolin	Hodgson's Bushchat
Grey Francolin	Siberian Stonechat
Jungle Bush Quail	Pied Bushchat
Painted Spurfowl	Grey Bushchat
Red Junglefowl	Variable Wheatear
Kalij Pheasant	Desert Wheatear
Indian Peafowl	Yellow-bellied Fantail
Sarus Crane	Black-naped Monarch
Brown Crake	White-throated Laughingthrush
White-breasted Waterhen	Streaked Laughingthrush

Purple Swamphen	White-crested Laughingthrush
Moorhen	Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush
Black-winged Stilt	White-browed Scimitar Babbler
Great Thick-knee	Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler
Small Pratincole	Nepal Wren Babbler
River Lapwing	Black-chinned Babbler
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	Yellow-eyed Babbler
Red-wattled Lapwing	Common Babbler
Little Ringed Plover	Jungle Babbler
Kentish Plover	Large Grey Babbler
Pintail Snipe	Red-billed Leiothrix
Common Redshank	Blue-winged Minla
Greenshank	Rufous Sibia
Green Sandpiper	Black-throated (red-headed) Tit
Common Sandpiper	Great Tit
Little Stint	Green-backed Tit
Temminck's Stint	Black-lored Tit
Curlew Sandpiper	Chestnut-bellied (Indian) Nuthatch
Caspian Gull	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch
Pallas's Gull	Wallcreeper
River Tern	Bar-tailed Treecreeper
Black-bellied Tern	Purple Sunbird
Indian Skimmer	Crimson Sunbird
Rock Dove	Thick-billed Flowerpecker
Oriental Turtle Dove	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker
Collared Dove	Oriental White-eye
Red Collared Dove	Indian Golden Oriole
Spotted Dove	Black-hooded Oriole
Laughing Dove	Brown Shrike
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	Bay-backed Shrike
Alexandrine Parakeet	Long-tailed Shrike
Rose-ringed Parakeet	Black Dongo
Slaty-headed Parakeet	Ashy Drongo
Plum-headed Parakeet	White-bellied Drongo
Red-breasted Parakeet	Spangled (Hair-crested) Drongo
Asian Koel	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo
Greater Coucal	Black-headed Jay
Lesser Coucal	Red-billed Blue Magpie
Collared Scops Owl	Rufous Treepie
Brown Fish Owl	Grey Treepie
Tawny Fish Owl	House Crow
Collared Owlet (heard only)	Large-billed Crow
Asian Barred Owlet	Jungle Crow
Jungle Owlet	Raven
Spotted Owlet	Bank Myna
Brown Hawk Owl (heard only)	Common Myna
Large-tailed Nightjar (heard only)	Asian Pied Starling
Savanna Nightjar	House Sparrow

Alpine Swift	Russet Sparrow
House Swift	Chestnut-shouldered (Yellow-throated Petronia)
Crested Treeswift	Baya Weaver
Common Kingfisher	Black-breasted Weaver
Stork-billed Kingfisher	Common Rosefinch
White-throated Kingfisher	Pink-browed Rosefinch
Crested Kingfisher	Crested Bunting
Pied Kingfisher	
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	
Green Bee-eater	
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	MAMMALS
Indian Roller	Tiger
Hoopoe	Jackal
Indian Grey Hornbill	Hanuman Langur
Great Hornbill	Rhesus Macaque
Malabar Pied Hornbill	Wild Boar
Great Barbet (heard only)	Sambar
Brown-headed Barbet	Spotted Deer
Blue-throated Barbet	Barking Deer
Coppersmith Barbet	Hog Deer
Speckled Piculet	Nilgai
Indian (Brown-capped) Pygmy Woodpecker	Common Palm Civet
Grey-capped Woodpecker	Five-striped Palm Squirrel
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Marten
Greater Yellownape	Indian Hare
Streak-throated Woodpecker	Asian Elephant
Grey-headed Woodpecker	Indian Flying Fox
Black-rumped Flameback	
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	REPTILES
Crested Lark	Marsh Mugger
Oriental Skylark	Gharial
Plain Martin	Turtle sp
Dusky Crag Martin	
Barn Swallow	
Red-rumped Swallow	
White Wagtail	
White-browed Wagtail	
Citrine Wagtail	
Grey Wagtail	



Siberian Stonechat



Indian Roller

John van der Dol
www.sandwichbirdtours.co.uk
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