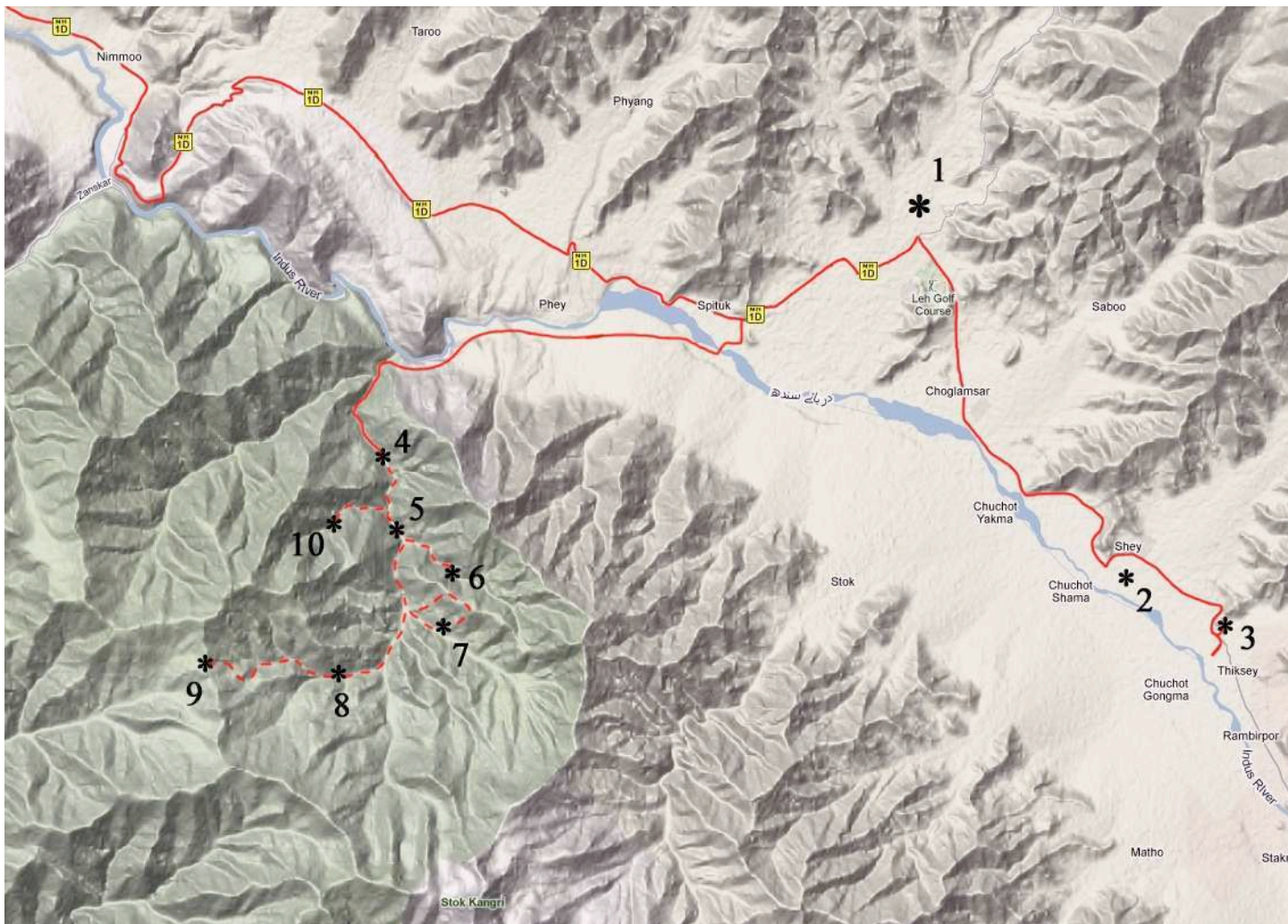


LADAKH

November - December 2010



A Snow Leopard Quest



Map of the Indus Valley near Leh and the Rumbak section of Hemis National Park.
 Numbered localities: 1 Leh, 2 Shey Marshes, 3 Thiksey Monastery, 4 Zingchen, 5 Campsite, 6 Husing Valley,
 7 Rumbak Village, 8 Urutse, 9 Ganda La / Kandala and 10 Tarbung Valley
 (map by Jon Lehmborg)

Cover photo: Scenery in Tarbung Valley, 29th November 2010, ©Erling Krabbe
 Front page design by Jon Lehmborg.

Trip report written by Ulrik Andersen, reviewed and improved by all participants.

Bird and mammal lists by Morten Heegaard and Erling Krabbe. Photographs as indicated.

Copenhagen, Denmark, January 2011.

Mammals recorded in Ladakh

Mammal taxonomy as in "Birds and Mammals of Ladakh" by Otto Pfister (Oxford University Press, 2004), except as described in taxonomic notes.

List compiled by Morten Heegaard.

Snow Leopard *Panthera uncia*

Several registrations of faeces, urine-markings and tracks during our stay in the area. A brief sighting of one walking high on a ridge against the sky at dusk by two observers (LH,UA) on 26th Nov.

A very prolonged (over 4 hours), completely fantastic and unbelievable observation by the whole group of a "younger", but fully grown male (maybe 5 years old or so) in Tarbung Valley on 29th Nov. As noted in the diary, we were fortunate enough to observe a wide variety of behaviours and actions. A professional film crew would have been able to capture a lot of "BBC class" footage! How lucky can you get?!

Taxonomic note: Recent research has demonstrated that the Snow Leopard is a *Panthera*. Earlier, it was placed in its own genus, and until recently the scientific name was *Uncia uncia* (the name used by Pfister).



Snow Leopard focusing on potential prey

©Erling Krabbe

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

One heard from the tent during the night between 25th and 26th Nov, barking, and probably the same individual was spotlighted close to the camp just before bedtime on 26th Nov (MH). One seen by the road to Spituk 1st Dec (KA).

Bharal (Blue Sheep) *Pseudois nayaur*

The main prey of the Snow Leopard was common in the Rumbak Valley with daily observations of 25-75 animals.

(Asiatic) Ibex *Capra (ibex) sibirica*

Only seen in Ulley where a male and 3 female/young were found on the 2/12.

Taxonomic note: Today the ibex is normally split into six species of which Siberian/Asiatic (*C. sibirica*) is the one occurring in Ladakh.

Tibetan Argali *Ovis ammon hodgsoni*

Six animals were seen beyond Kandala on 30th Nov (ES).



Left: Tibetan Argali ©Eric Schaumburg
Right: Presumed Large-eared Pika ©Erling Krabbe

Ladakh Urial (Red Sheep) *Ovis vignei vignei*

One female with 3 young and - separately from those - 3 males were seen south of Ulley on 1st Dec, and 2 were scoped from Ulley on 2nd Dec.

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus*

A single animal passed by our observation post at the start of Husing Valley on 27th Nov, and 7 were noted in the upper (highest) part of Rumbak Valley on 30th.

Large-eared/Royle's Pika *Ochotona macrotis/roylei*

Two animals seen in Husing Valley on 24th Nov at 3900 m. Most likely to be Large-eared, but both species occur in Hemis NP, and they are difficult to separate.

Birds recorded in Ladakh



Ladakhi birds: Chukar (top), Golden Eagle (bottom left) and Lammergeier (bottom right). Golden Eagle is ©Erling Krabbe, the others ©Stig Jensen.

Taxonomy as in "Birds of South Asia. The Ripley Guide" (Pamela C Rasmussen & John C Anderton, 2005). List compiled by Morten Heegaard.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

One observation of two birds flying over the Indus River near Thiksey on the 22nd Nov (MH).

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

A flock of 30 geese, most likely this species, was seen flying south in Tarbung Valley (EK)

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

Two seen in shallow water of the Indus River near Thiksey on 21st Nov.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Single birds were recorded in two very different habitats, one in the Indus Valley on 22nd and one in Rumbak Valley on 25th Nov.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

One observation of a single bird in Rumbak Valley on 25th Nov.

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*

One bird noted in Rumbak Valley (near the village) on 25th Nov.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*

A single bird was registered sitting on the same rock in a rocky area near Thiksey on both 21st and 22nd Nov.

Note: A recent split from Common Buzzard, not recognized by (e.g.) Clements. The IOC does recognize this split - but calls it *B. refectus*. The earliest valid name for "Himalayan Buzzard" is indeed *burmanicus*, used by Hume in 1875, and therefore should take precedence. This is also the name (correctly) used by Rasmussen & Anderton, the current authority on Indian birds. Despite looking almost exactly like *B. buteo*, DNA-wise it is apparently closer to *B. hemilasius*! The species is not mentioned in Pfister's book at all - so our sighting may be rather unusual.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Common in the Rumbak Valley where up to five birds were noted every day. A single bird was seen at several occasions in Leh and a single bird was seen in Ulley on 2nd Dec.

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*

Common. Daily observations all over the Rumbak area with up to 5 birds per day.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*

Most numerous the first day in the Rumbak Valley with seven birds seen on the way between Zingchen and our campsite on 23rd, 3 birds settling for communal roosting in the Husing Valley on 24th and 5 near Rumbak Village on 25th Nov. After that not seen until 30th Nov when two adult birds were seen over the upper Rumbak Valley.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

One bird chasing pigeons in Rumbak Village on 27th Nov and another soaring above our lunch stop between Ulley and Leh on 2nd Dec.

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

Abundant. Encountered nearly every day in all areas from the river bed of the Indus to the higher mountain valleys up to about 4400 m. Small and large groups were encountered – highest daily total was 55 around Zingchen.

Himalayan Snowcock *Tetraogallus himalayensis*

3 in Husing Valley 24th Nov, 8 + 1 at the junction of Rumbak Valley and Husing Valley 26th Nov, 2 more seen the same day by our guides in Tarbung Valley, 12 on 30th Nov at Kandala (ES).

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

One observation of a single bird in the Shey Fish Ponds on 21st Nov.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Wintering in the Shey Marshes – five birds were noted on 20th and 21st Nov.

Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria*

A single bird was flushed from a nearly frozen stream in Rumbak Valley on 28th Nov.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

One bird was seen in a side stream of the Indus near Spituk 22nd Nov. An unidentified snipe flushed in the Shey Marshes the day before probably also belonged to this species.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A single bird noted in the Shey Marshes on the 22nd Nov.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Six birds noted in the Shey Marshes and the Indus Valley on 21st and 22nd Nov.

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

A single bird was seen very well in a rocky part of the Indus River between Shey and Spituk on 21st Nov.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

One bird was seen in the Shey Marshes on 22nd Nov.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Even in these remote parts of the Himalayas you can't avoid this pest! It was numerous in Leh and the Indus Valley, but also encountered in small numbers in Rumbak Village. However, we also saw some that we believe were genuine wild Rock Pigeons, including a flock of 50 in the stone desert west of Thiksey on 22nd Nov.

Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*

Most observations were done around Rumbak Village where up to 60 birds were seen on 25th Nov. Single flocks also noted in Tarbung Valley (25 birds seen on 29th), above our campsite (5 on 30th), and finally two birds were seen in Ulley on 2nd Dec (EK).

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*

Uncommon. Five birds were seen in Husing Valley on 24th and 6 in Rumbak Valley on 27th Nov.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Two late migrants were observed over the Shey Marshes on 22nd Nov.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*

Only found in the Shey Marshes with 10 on 21st and 3 on 22nd November.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Only seen in the Shey Marshes with 3 and 5-6 birds on 21st and 22nd Nov, respectively.



Hill Pigeons flying near Rumbak Village

©Erling Krabbe



Accentors of Hemis NP: Robin Accentor (top, ©Ulrik Andersen and Erling Krabbe), Brown Accentor (lower left, ©Erling Krabbe) and Black-throated Accentor (lower right, ©Jon Lehmsberg).

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Only found in the Shey Marshes with 6-7 birds on 21st and 9 on 22nd Nov.

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Uncommon. A few birds in the Indus Valley on 21st and 22nd and single birds in Husing Valley on 24th and 25th and in Rumbak Valley on 26th Nov. Also one in Ulley on 1st and 2nd Dec.

Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides*

8 were seen in Leh and the Indus Valley on 21st Nov. Fairly common in the valleys of Hemis NP with up to 8 birds noted daily. In Rumbak Village itself we saw up to 18 birds on 28th Nov while 8 birds were recorded in Ulley on 2nd Dec and 6 in Leh on 3rd Dec.

Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens*

Single birds were seen in the Indus Valley on 21st-22nd Nov while up to 25 birds were noted in the Rumbak Valley area. Also five birds in Ulley on 2nd Dec and another five in Leh on 3rd Dec.

Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis*

One ♂ was seen on several dates from 23rd Nov in riverine vegetation near our campsite.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*

One bird seen on several dates along the stream next to Hotel Omasila in Leh and one seen in the Indus Valley on 21st Nov. Two birds were noted in Tarbung Valley on 26th and one bird on 29th Nov.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*

Common winter visitor in the Indus Valley – app. 20 birds seen on 21st and 30+ on 22nd Nov. Also one in Leh on 21st Nov and nine on 3rd Dec.

Note: Often considered conspecific with Red-throated Thrush, *T. ruficollis* (but split by both Rasmussen & Anderton and the latest IOC checklist). If lumped, the combined species is called Dark-throated Thrush.

Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni eunomus*

A single bird in the Indus Valley on 21st Nov, a hybrid *naumanni/eunomus* there on 22nd Nov and two in Leh on 3rd Dec.

Note: The hybrid is quite remarkable given that there are apparently no records of the nominate race from India (the superspecies is now often split into Dusky Thrush and Naumann's Thrush).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A single bird was found in the Shey Marshes on 21st Nov (EK,UA).

White-winged Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogaster*

Abundant winter visitor to the Indus Valley. More than 100 were observed on every visit in the area and smaller numbers were present in the side valleys of the Indus – six birds noted around Zingchen and 5 between Ulley and the main road.

White-browed Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae*

One pair in the vegetation along the stream by our camp at Husing Nallah. Four birds were seen here on the 27th Nov.



White-winged Redstart

©Stig Jensen



Brown Dipper

©Erling Krabbe

Great Tit *Parus major*

Quite common in all visited areas with up to 12 birds daily.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*

Uncommon in suitable habitat. Two birds found in a rocky area west of the Thiksey Monastery on 22nd, two birds in Husing Valley on 24th and 27th, and one in Tarbung Valley on 29th Nov. Also one near Zingchen on 1st and two birds in Ulley on 2nd Dec.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

One bird seen in the Shey Marshes on 22nd Nov.

Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica*

Abundant throughout. Most numerous in Leh and the Indus Valley where up to 20 birds were noted daily. In the Rumbak Valley the highest count was 12 in Rumbak Village on 27th Nov. Also at least 10 birds counted in Ulley on 2nd Dec.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*

Yellow-billed Chough *Pyrrhonorax graculus*

Choughs were seen daily in large numbers, but often too far away for identification.

Red-billed Choughs were noted as follows: 12-14 around our camp on 23rd, 50+ in Husing Valley on 24th, 7-8 over the Kharlung Ridge on 28th and 4 in Rumbak Valley + 2 in Tarbung Valley on 30th Nov.

Yellow-billed Chough was identified as follows: 75 above Leh on 21st, 75 in Husing Valley on 24th, 5 in Rumbak Valley on 25th and 50 on 27th, 6-8 over the Kharlung Rindge on 28th and 90, 50 and 35 in Tarbung Valley on 26th, 29th and 30th Nov, respectively. In addition up to 100 unidentified choughs were noted daily.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

One bird seen in Leh on 21st Nov.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Only found in the Indus Valley. We noted 7-8 and 2 birds on 21st and 22nd November and at least 75 on the way from Leh to Ulley on the 1st Dec.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

A single bird was seen above the camp on 29th Nov (ES). We had expected to see more!

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*

Fairly common along the icy streams in the Rumbak Valley and side valleys – up to 5 birds observed daily.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

A single observation of one bird in fields near Rumbak Village on 28th November.

Fire-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus*

Four birds were seen in the Indus River Valley on 22nd Nov while it was recorded nearly daily with up to over 30 birds in the Rumbak Valley area. We found more than 60 in the Ulley area on 2nd Dec, and Jon found 18 in Leh in the morning of 3rd Dec.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Three birds were found in Leh on 3rd Dec (JL).

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Three birds were flying by in the Indus Valley on 22nd Nov (JL, MH).

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*

Two birds on 25th in Rumbak Valley (ES) and a single bird in Tarbung Valley on 29th Nov. Ten birds around the camp on 23rd Nov may have been this species as well.

Brandt's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti*

Five birds in Tarbung Valley on 26th, one in Rumbak valley on 27th and 3 on Kharlung Ridge on 28th Nov.

Streaked Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides*

One seen near Zingchen on 23rd (UA), and 1♂ + 2♀♀ and 1♂ + 1♀ in Tarbung Valley on 26th and 30th November, respectively.

Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilla*

One bird was seen flying by in Tarbung Valley on 26th and 1♂ + 2♀ were seen on 27th and 28th Nov in Rumbak Village.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Small flocks noted in Leh and the Indus Valley.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

One female was seen in the Shey Marshes on 21st Nov (ES, MH).

Tibetan Snowfinch *Montifringilla adamsi*

A single bird flew over the hotel in Leh on 21st Nov. Numerous in Hemis NP with up to 75 birds counted nearly daily, mostly high on the slopes.

Appendix: Delhi day trips and Chambal River extension

Both before and after the Ladakh adventure, some of us undertook day trips from Delhi, mostly for birdwatching.

Six of us (i.e. all except Lene and Stig) had a full Day in Delhi on December 19th. On this day, we visited two areas: Sultanpur National Park and Basai Wetlands. Both were outstanding localities this year due to plentiful monsoon rains. Therefore, Jon decided to revisit both localities on his last day in India, December 5th.

Sultanpur National Park is an ideal place to go if one is a birder and has half a day to kill. It is well known and often visited by both Delhi and visiting birders. It is less than an hour's drive from the hotels near the airport. The bulk of the reserve is a wetland which in wet years (like 2010) is a large shallow lake teeming with waterbirds. Large numbers of Painted Stork and Indian Cormorant and smaller numbers of other cormorants as well as herons and egrets were nesting at the time of our visits. There is also a pair of Black-necked Stork and a pair of Sarus Crane. Lots of ducks spend the winter here. Not least, near the "causeway" to the observation point in the lake, the tall grasses are home to Sind Sparrow, most easily found when nesting in spring. The fields south of the park are reliable for Indian Courser from January to July or so. The most conspicuous mammal here - apart from the ubiquitous Five-striped Palm-Squirrels - is the Nilgai which is quite common.

Basai Wetlands. Not as well known as Sultanpur, this is a low-lying flooded area near the village of the same name. It is not far from Sultanpur and closer to Delhi. It only has water in wet years - but when it does, the birding is outstanding with thousands of waterbirds to be seen.

Bhindawas Bird Sanctuary is considerably farther from Delhi, something like a three-hour drive west of the city. Birdwise it resembles Sultanpur, but it covers a larger area and is more remote so it has more potential for the rare or unexpected. Blackbuck, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful antelopes of the World, can be seen quite easily en route from Delhi. Visited by Jon, Eric and Stig on December 4th.

The Chambal River National Sanctuary is certainly a very important locality, holding three endangered species (Indian Skimmer, Gharial and Ganges River Dolphin) in one of the few remaining unpolluted and clear rivers of Northern India.

Half the group (Erling, Morten, Kate and Ulrik) did a three-day extension trip to the Chambal River area from 4th to 6th December. There is only one decent place to stay nearby, the Chambal Safari Lodge, about a five-hour drive from Delhi if you are lucky enough to avoid congestion on the way (our return drive to New Delhi Airport on the 6th took more like seven hours).

The Chambal Safari Lodge is a nice and friendly hotel just outside the village of Bah. The lodge is situated in a good grove of trees, a true oasis in a heavily cultivated area. Beware that the lodge is NOT situated near the river; it is about a 40-minute drive to get there.

The food is very good, the staff is friendly, and they even have a good bird guide, Dalweer Singh. Try to get him as your guide here - but be warned that he will usually be allocated to visiting groups from the professional birding companies; e.g., at the time of our visit, he was guiding a Birdingbreaks group.

The rooms are good, but very cold in winter since there are no heaters or fireplaces available at all.

To birders, this is almost a must-go area due to the presence of Indian Skimmer from late November to June (they leave the area when the monsoons set in in earnest). To mammal enthusiasts, the main attraction is probably the World's only completely blind cetacean, the Ganges River Dolphin, which can be seen here all year round.

Our itinerary for 4th to 6th December was as follows:

4th: AM drive from Delhi to the lodge; lunch there and afternoon boat trip downstream

5th: Morning boat trip upstream, lunch at the lodge, afternoon birding around the lodge

6th: Morning excursion by car to an agricultural area (called "Chambal fields" in the lists) frequented by Blackbuck, lunch at the lodge, afternoon/evening drive to New Delhi Airport (from where we flew out at 3 AM on the 7th)

The main attraction here is definitely the boat trips. On our afternoon trip downstream, we managed to get excellent views of Ganges River Dolphins, including views of the peculiar long, almost Gharial-like snout. On our morning trip upstream, we saw eleven much desired Indian Skimmers. On both trips, we saw plenty of Gharials and Muggers (Marsh Crocodiles) and many commoner species of birds, e.g. Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Black-bellied Tern, Pallas's Gull, Indian Horned Owl and Bonelli's Eagle. Mammals spotted along the shore included Sambar and Nilgai.

Birding around the lodge is quite good and we saw (among others) Brown Hawk-Owl, Indian and Greater Spotted Eagle, Wryneck and Brooks' Leaf-Warbler. Lodge mammals were Nilgai, Common Palm Civet, Golden Jackal, Indian Flying-Fox and Indian Hare.

On the next pages follow the lists of recorded Birds and Mammals & Reptiles, respectively, for Sultanpur, Basai, Bhindawas and Chambal. The lists were compiled by Erling based on the field notes of Morten (complemented by Jon for 4th and 5th December). Bird taxonomy follows Rasmussen & Anderton (op.cit.) while species order is "classical" (Wetmore/Voous). Dates are provided in short notation (dd/mm).

BIRDS

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

20/11 Sultanpur 40 and 5/12 12, 4/12 Delhi –
Bhindawas 4 and Bhindawas 14, 5/12 Basai 19

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 and 5/12 5, 5/12 Chambal River 9,
4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 4 and Bhindawas 16

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*

20/11 Sultanpur 350 and 5/12 140 (many breeding).
4/12 Chambal River 40 and 5/12 30, 4/12 Delhi –
Bhindawas 35 and Bhindawas 150, 5/12 Basai 3

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*

20/11 Sultanpur 200 and 5/12 250 (many breeding).
5/12 Chambal River 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 60 and
Bhindawas 400

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

20/11 Sultanpur 5 (2 ad. + 3 pulli in nest) and 5/12 13
and Bhindawas 19

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 imm. and 5/12 4 adults 4/12 Delhi –
Bhindawas 2 adults and Bhindawas 45

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*

20/11 Sultanpur 80 and 5/12 8, 20/11 Basai 10 and
5/12 16, Delhi – Chambal common, 4/12 Chambal
River 10 and 5/12 6, Delhi – Bhindawas 8 and
Bhindawas 11

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Common throughout, highest number 20/11 Sultanpur
400

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

20/11 Sultanpur 100 and 5/12 12, 4/12 Chambal River
6 and 5/12 8, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 6 and
Bhindawas 35, 5/12 2

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*

20/11 Sultanpur 50 and 5/12 35, 20/11 Basai 15 and
5/12 13 and Bhindawas 70

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*

20/11 Sultanpur 40 and 5/12 11, 4/12 Delhi – Chambal
30 and 4/12 Chambal River 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas
7 and Bhindawas 50, 5/12 Basai 5

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

20/11 Sultanpur 100 and 5/12 30, 20/11 Basai 6 and
5/12 6, 5/12 Chambal River 6, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas
2 and Bhindawas 25

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

20/11 Sultanpur 25 (nesting) and 5/12 6, 20/11 Basai 2
and 5/12 8, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 5, Bhindawas 35

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

20/11 Sultanpur 800 and 5/12 180 (nesting), 20/11
Basai 10 and 5/12 4, 4/12 Delhi – Chambal 15, 4/12
Delhi – Bhindawas 9 and Bhindawas 20

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

20/11 Sultanpur 4 and 5/12 1

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

20/11 Basai 2, 4/12 Delhi – Chambal 2, 4/12 Chambal
River 4 and 5/12 7 and Bhindawas 2

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorrhynchus asiaticus*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 ♀ in the same area as the Sarus
Cranes

Black-headed ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

20/11 Sultanpur 50 and 5/12 60, 20/11 Basai 75 and
5/12 3, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 11 and Bhindawas 60

Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa*

20/11 Sultanpur 2, 4/12 Chambal River 22 and 5/12
12, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 22, 5/12 Basai 24

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

20/11 Sultanpur 3 and 20/11 Basai 3

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

4/12 Chambal River 85 and 5/12 1 and Bhindawas 30

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

20/11 Basai 9 and Bhindawas 17, 5/12 Sultanpur 19

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

20/11 Basai 6 and 5/12 193, 4/12 Chambal River 165
and 5/12 100 and Bhindawas 11

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

4/12 Chambal River 160 and 5/12 50

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotus*

20/11 Basai 20 and 5/12 8 and Bhindawas 35

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

5/12 Chambal River 1 ♀ hiding in floating vegetation.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

20/11 Sultanpur 40 and 5/12 28, 4/12 Chambal River 1
and Bhindawas 34, 5/12 Basai 4

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

20/11 Sultanpur 60 and 5/12 350, 20/11 Basai 20 and
5/12 120, 4/12 Bhindawas 110

Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhynca*

20/11 Sultanpur 10 and 5/12 6, 20/11 Basai 15 and
5/12 17 and Bhindawas 140

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

20/11 Sultanpur 4000 and 5/12 8000, 20/11 Basai 200 and 5/12 550, 4/12 Chambal River 2 and Bhindawas 1400

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

20/11 Sultanpur 400 and 5/12 650 and Bhindawas 600, 5/12 Basai 300

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

5/12 Basai 3 ♀♀.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

20/11 Sultanpur 600 and 5/12 1800, 20/11 Basai 60 and 5/12 350 and Bhindawas 90

Red-crested Pochard *Rhodonessa rufina*

4/12 Chambal River 1 ♀ and Bhindawas 1 ♀.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

4/12 Bhindawas 14

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

4/12 Bhindawas 12

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*

4/12 Chambal River 4 (3 ♂♂, 1 ♀)

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

20/11 Sultanpur 1, 5/12 Chambal S. Lodge 1 and 6/12 2, 6/12 Chambal fields 1 and Bhindawas 1

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 and 5/12 1, 20/11 Basai 1, 4/12 Delhi – Chambal 1, 4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 and 5/12 3, 6/12 Chambal fields 4, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 11

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Abundant in Delhi, common elsewhere.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

4/12 Delhi – Chambal 1, 4/12 Chambal River 5 and 5/12 One adult on the nest, quite close to the Eagle-Owl nest! 6/12 Chambal fields 1

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

20/11 Sultanpur 2, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 3

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

4/12 Chambal River 1 adult and Bhindawas 1 adult

Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

20/11 Sultanpur 2, 20/11 Basai 2 and 5/12 4 ♀/imm. 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1f. 4/12 Bhindawas 4 ♀/imm.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

5/12 Chambal River 1 imm. bathing at the river bank

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 and 5/12 4, 4/12 Chambal River 2,

5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 imm., 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 4 and Bhindawas 2

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

5/12 Sultanpur 1, 5/12 Basai 1

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 and 5/12 1 adult. 6/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 and Bhindawas 1 imm.

Indian Spotted Eagle *Aquila hastata*

5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2 and Bhindawas 1 adult, 5/12 Sultanpur 1-2 adults

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

5/12 Sultanpur 1 imm.

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*

20/11 Sultanpur 4 dark phase, and 5/12 4

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 imm. and 5/12 2 imm., 5/12 Chambal River 2 adults on the river bank and Bhindawas 2 imm.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

4/12 Chambal River 3 and 5/12 1

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

6/12 Chambal fields 2, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1♀+2, 5/12 Basai 1♂

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

20/11 Basai 1 adult sitting on a pylon

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

20/11 Sultanpur 8 and 5/12 3, 4/12 Delhi – Chambal 1, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 7, 5/12 Chambal River 1 and 6/12 Chambal fields 10, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 20

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*

20/11 Sultanpur 14 and 5/12 h+2, commonly heard along Chambal River, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas h+1 and Bhindawas h+5, 5/12 Basai h+5.

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 heard (seen ES) in dry farmland, 20/11 Basai 1 (ES). 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1♂.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 5, 5/12 Basai 1

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

20/11 Sultanpur 5 and 5/12 8, 20/11 Basai 4 and 5/12 2, 6/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 8, 4/12 Bhindawas 4

Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool*

4/12 Chambal River 1 along the riverside

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
20/11 Sultanpur 25 and 5/12 30, 4/12 Delhi –
Bhindawas 25 and Bhindawas 110, 5/12 Basai 20

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*
20/11 Sultanpur 2, 20/11 Basai 10 and 5/12 6 and
Bhindawas 340

Common Coot *Fulica atra*
20/11 Sultanpur 10 and 5/12 200 and Bhindawas 700,
5/12 Basai 80

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*
20/11 and 5/12 Sultanpur 4 (pair with 2 juv.), 4/12
Delhi – Chambal 2, 5/12 Basai 2 adults + 1 imm.
Note: Considered vulnerable

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
20/11 Basai 2 in non-breeding plumage and 5/12 5

Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*
20/11 Sultanpur 1 ♂ at small pond in dry farmland

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
20/11 Sultanpur 50 and 5/12 30, 20/11 Basai 2000 and
5/12 1100, 4/12 Chambal River 3 and 5/12 10, 4/12
Delhi – Bhindawas 35 and Bhindawas 35

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
20/11 Basai 20 and 5/12 32

Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris*
4/12 Chambal River 12 and 5/12 12

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
5/12 Chambal River 1

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
4/12 Chambal River 4

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
5/12 Chambal River 4

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
4/12 Chambal River 1

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*
4/12 Chambal River 40 and 5/12 40

Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus*
20/11 Sultanpur 16 at a pond in dry farmland, 6/12
Chambal fields 2

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
20/11 Sultanpur 50 and 5/12 25, 20/11 Basai 50 and
5/12 30, 4/12 Chambal River 6 and 5/12 18, 5/12
Chambal Safari Lodge 6, 6/12 Chambal fields 20, 4/12
Delhi – Bhindawas 30 and Bhindawas 20,

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*
4/12 Bhindawas 3, 5/12 Sultanpur 11, 5/12 Basai 9,

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
20/11 Sultanpur 2 early birds migrating high over
Sultanpur

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
20/11 Basai 500 and 5/12 250, 4/12 Chambal River 7

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
20/11 Basai 250 and 5/12 200, 4/12 Chambal River 2
and 5/12 1

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
5/12 Basai 3,

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
20/11 Sultanpur 30 and 5/12 2, 20/11 Basai 400 and
5/12 800

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
20/11 Basai 3 and 5/12 23 and Bhindawas 2, 5/12
Sultanpur 3

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
4/12 Bhindawas 1, 5/12 Sultanpur 1,

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
5/12 Basai 7,

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*
20/11 Basai 1, and 5/12 1

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
20/11 Sultanpur 3, 4/12 Chambal River 10 and 5/12 4,
4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 7

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
20/11 Sultanpur 6, 20/11 Basai 2 and 5/12 11, 5/12
Chambal River 1 and 6/12 Chambal fields 1, 4/12
Delhi – Bhindawas 13 and Bhindawas 9

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
5/12 Sultanpur 1, 5/12 Basai 3

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
20/11 Sultanpur 1 heard and 5/12 11, 20/11 Basai 1
and 5/12 3, 4/12 Chambal River 10

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
20/11 Basai 10, 4/12 Chambal River 1

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
20/11 Sultanpur 4, 20/11 Basai 10 and 5/12 8

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
20/11 Sultanpur 1 and 5/12 4, 4/12 Chambal River 5
and 5/12 10 and Bhindawas 1, 5/12 Basai 8

Pallas' Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*
4/12 and 5/12 Chambal River 3 birds in winter
plumage, the only gulls during the entire trip.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

20/11 Sultanpur 1

River Tern *Sterna aurantia*

4/12 Chambal River 15 and 5/12 4,

Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*

4/12 Chambal River 8 and 5/12 3.

Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis*

5/12 Chambal River 11. The birds were eventually found upstream on a sand bank after 2 hours of sailing, just when we were about to give up and return. The birds were roosting and preening during the whole observation, no skimming was seen, but some social display was noted. The birds allowed close approach by boat, and superb views were possible without disturbing the flock.

Note: Classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife / IUCN

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

5/12 Chambal River 60 birds coming to drink at the river in the morning

Feral Pigeon *Colomba livia*

20/11 Sultanpur 40, 4-6/12 common

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

6/12 Chambal fields 1 (MH). 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 2, 5/12 Sultanpur 1

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common throughout

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

20/11 Sultanpur 8 and 5/12 7, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 and 6/12 Chambal fields 5, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 10 and Bhindawas 3, 5/12 Basai 2

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*

5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 50

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*

5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 14, Delhi – Bhindawas 2

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

4/12 Bhindawas 2

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

20/11 Sultanpur 10 and 5/12 16, 4/12 Delhi – Chambal common, Chambal Safari Lodge more than 100, 4/12 Chambal River 6 and 5/12 common along the river, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 18 and Bhindawas 26, 5/12 Basai 6

Common Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococyx varius*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 juv. in open woodland and 5/12 3 and Bhindawas 1

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

20/11 Sultanpur 4 and 5/12 6, 5/12 Chambal Safari

Lodge 2 and 6/12 2, 6/12 Chambal fields 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 13 and Bhindawas 15

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 ♂ in the garden

Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 together at roost near the restaurant

Indian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bengalensis*

4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1 roosting in bushes along a channel near Bhindawas Bird Sanctuary, 5/12 Chambal River: a pair at a nest in a hollow in the river bank, a site used by a pair of Brown Fish-Owl until recently when they were kicked out by this pair of Indian Eagle-Owls!

Note: A fairly recent split from Eurasian Eagle-Owl, *B. bubo*.

Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*

5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 at day roost in a large acacia tree in the garden

Spotted Owlet *Athene brahma*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 at day roost near the restaurant, 4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 heard and seen and 5/12 2-3 calling

Little swift *Apus affinis*

20/11 Sultanpur 17 and 5/12 20

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

20/11 Sultanpur 10 and 5/12 5, 4/12 Delhi – Chambal 10, 4/12 Chambal River 5 and 5/12 2, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1, 6/12 Chambal fields 4, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 14 and Bhindawas 6, 5/12 Basai 3

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

4/12 Chambal River 10 and 5/12 6 and Bhindawas 1,

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 2 and Bhindawas 2

Indian Roller *Coracias bengalensis*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 in dry farmland outside Sultanpur, and 5/12 1, 4/12 Delhi – Chambal 10 and 6/12 Chambal fields 3, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 5 and Bhindawas 1

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

20/11 Sultanpur 25 and 5/12 5, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 6 and 6/12 Chambal fields 6, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 6 and Bhindawas 7, 5/12 Basai 2

Indian Grey Hornbill *Oxyceros birostris*

20/11 Sultanpur 2, 4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2, 5/12 4 and 6/12 14

Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*

4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2, 5/12 6 and 6/12 10

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
20/11 Sultanpur 1 and 5/12 5, 4/12 Chambal Safari
Lodge 3 and 5/12 2

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1, 5/12 Basai 1

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*
20/11 Sultanpur 6, 4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2 and
5/12 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1 and Bhindawas 2,

Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark *Eremopterix grisea*
20/11 Sultanpur 2 in dry farmland outside Sultanpur.
6/12 Chambal fields 10

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
4/12 Chambal River 35 in a flock at the river bank

Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal*
6/12 Chambal fields 2 (MH)

Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris*
Chambal River 5/12 3-4 at the sand bank near the boat
boarding place. Extended, close views enabled us to
identify them from the very similar, pale north-western
race of Greater Short-toed Lark. Especially we noted
the yellowish bill with dark (grey) tip and culmen.
Probably subspecies *C. a. tibetana*, showing less
distinct facial pattern, especially eyebrow, than Greater
Short-toed Lark. According to Rasmussen & Anderton,
Indian races of Greater Short-toed Lark have pinkish
bills.

Crested lark *Galerida cristata*
Basai 4 on both visits

(Grey-throated) Plain Martin *Riparia (paludicola)*
chinensis
20/11 Sultanpur 45 and 5/12 30, 4/12 Chambal River
50 and 5/12 40, 6/12 Chambal fields 30, 4/12 Delhi –
Bhindawas 10 and Bhindawas 12, 5/12 Basai 45
Note: IOC splits *chinensis* which is indeed very different
from African *paludicola*; Clements does not yet accept this
split.

Pale Sand Martin *Riparia diluta*
5/12 Basai 16

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
20/11 Sultanpur 10 and 5/12 10, 5/12 Chambal River 3
and 6/12 Chambal fields 2, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 25
and Bhindawas 15, 5/12 Basai 600

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*
20/11 Sultanpur 20 and 5/12 20, 4/12 Delhi –
Bhindawas 6, 5/12 Basai 15

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
20/11 Sultanpur 20 and 5/12 4, 5/12 Basai 14

Streak-throated Swallow *Hirundo fluvicola*
20/11 Sultanpur 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 7, 5/12
Basai 9

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*
20/11 Sultanpur 1, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
6/12 Chambal fields 3

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*
4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 7,

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
20/11 Sultanpur 15 and 5/12 2, 5/12 Chambal Safari
Lodge 3 and Bhindawas 2

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
20/11 Sultanpur 3 and 5/12 3, 5/12 Basai 18,

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
20/11 Basai 3 and 5/12 130, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 7
and Bhindawas 40

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
20/11 Sultanpur 10 and 5/12 6, 4/12 Chambal River 6
and 5/12 18, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 5, 6/12
Chambal fields 2, 5/12 Basai 8,

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis*
4/12 Chambal River 20 and 5/12 7, 6/12 Chambal
fields 2 and Bhindawas 2,

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*
20/11 Sultanpur 25 and 5/12 11, 4/12 Chambal Safari
Lodge 4 and 5/12 Chambal River 3

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
20/11 Sultanpur 1 and 5/12 3, 5/12 Chambal Safari
Lodge 1 and Bhindawas 2

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*
20/11 Sultanpur 6 and 5/12 20, 4/12 Chambal River 2
and 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 4, 4/12 Delhi –
Bhindawas 18, 4/12 Bhindawas 10

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*
4/12 Chambal River 5 and Bhindawas 6

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*
4/12 Bhindawas 2

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
20/11 Sultanpur 12 and 5/12 15, 20/11 Basai 1 and
5/12 6 and Bhindawas 8

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*
20/11 Sultanpur 2 and 5/12 1♂ and Bhindawas 2♀♀.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
20/11 Sultanpur 6 and 5/12 8, 5/12 Chambal Safari
Lodge 2 ♂♂. 5/12 Chambal River 2 and 6/12 Chambal

fields 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1 ♀ and Bhindawas 1 ♂ + 2 ♀♀.

Brown Rock Chat *Cercomela fusca*

20/11 Sultanpur 6 and 6/12 Chambal fields 1

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

20/11 Sultanpur 5 and 5/12 2, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 3, 5/12 Chambal River 1 and 6/12 Chambal fields 10 and Bhindawas 1 ♂, 5/12 Basai 2

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

20/11 Sultanpur 4 and 5/12 3 ♂♂, 20/11 Basai 1, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 and 6/12 Chambal fields 4 and Bhindawas 3 ♂♂ + 1 ♀. 5/12 Basai 1 ♂.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

4/12 Chambal River 1 and 5/12 1

Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*

5/12 Chambal River 1 along the riverside

Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata*

20/11 Sultanpur 6 and 5/12 7, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2, 5/12 Chambal River 3 and 6/12 Chambal fields 2 and Bhindawas 3 ♂♂ + 2 ♀♀.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

5/12 Chambal River 1 ♀ at the river bank

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*

20/11 Sultanpur 3, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1
Note: Split from *ruficollis* by the IOC (but not Clements)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

20/11 Basai 2 and 5/12 3, 5/12 Sultanpur 8

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 and 5/12 18, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 12 and Bhindawas 9, 5/12 Basai 4

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

20/11 Sultanpur 10 and 5/12 10, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 5, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 5

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

6/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1 and Bhindawas 3, 5/12 Sultanpur 2

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon*

20/11 Basai 1 in a reedbed, seen by some, heard by most and Bhindawas 2

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

4/12 Bhindawas 1, 5/12 Sultanpur 1, 5/12 Basai 1

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

20/11 Sultanpur 10 and 5/12 14, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 3 and Chambal River 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 7 and Bhindawas 6, 5/12 Basai 2

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 and 5/12 4, 4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 and 5/12 5, 5/12 Chambal River 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 2 and Bhindawas 1

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 and 5/12 13, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 10 and Bhindawas 6

Brook's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus subviridis*

4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 3 heard and 5/12 4 seen, in acacia trees in the garden, 5/12 Sultanpur 1

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

20/11 Sultanpur 8 and 5/12 25, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 4 and Bhindawas 8, 5/12 Basai 2

Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 (1 red ♂) and 5/12 13, 4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1, 5/12 1 and 6/12 2, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 8 and Bhindawas 6

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

6/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 ♂
Note: A fairly recent split from *F. parva*

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1 and 6/12 2

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*

4/12 Bhindawas 3

Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi*

20/11 Sultanpur 30 and 5/12 35, 4/12 Chambal River 4, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 6 and 6/12 Chambal fields common, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 45 and Bhindawas 18

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*

20/11 Sultanpur 8 and 5/12 9, 4/12 and 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 30, 5/12 Chambal River 40, 6/12 Chambal fields common, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 18 and Bhindawas 13

Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 and 5/12 2, 4/12 Chambal River 2, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 3 and Bhindawas 4

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

20/11 Sultanpur 6, 4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 6 and 5/12 8

Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundoo*

20/11 Sultanpur 1
Note: This recent split from Eurasian Golden Oriole (*O. oriolus*) is accepted by the IOC, but not Clements

Rufous-tailed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

20/11 Sultanpur 3 and 5/12 1, 20/11 Basai 3 and 5/12 4, 6/12 Chambal fields 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 5 and Bhindawas 2

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 and 5/12 1, 6/12 Chambal fields 1

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

20/11 Sultanpur 10 and 5/12 7, 20/11 Basai 3 and 5/12 2, 5/12 Chambal River 1 and 6/12 Chambal fields 1, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1 and Bhindawas 1

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

6/12 Chambal fields 3, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 2,

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

20/11 Sultanpur 40 and 5/12 16, 4/12 Delhi – Chambal common, 4/12 Chambal River 3, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 3 and 6/12 Chambal fields 30, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 40 and Bhindawas 20, 5/12 Basai 7

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

20/11 Sultanpur 12 and 5/12 4, 4/12 Chambal River 1 and 5/12 1, 6/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 8 and Bhindawas 7

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Common and widespread throughout

Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus (macrorhynchos) culminatus*

4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 4, 4/12 Chambal River 4, 6/12 Chambal fields 5, 5/12 Sultanpur 2

Note: Large-billed Crow (*C. macrorhynchos*) has been split in 3 species by the IOC; this split is not accepted by Clements. Rasmussen & Anderton state that Large-billed Crow definitely consists of a number of species based on different vocalizations; exact species limits await further study.

Brahminy Starling *Sturnus pagodarum*

5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 5 and 6/12 1

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

20/11 Basai 30 and 5/12 75 and Bhindawas 7

Asian Pied Starling *Sturnus contra*

20/11 Sultanpur 6 and 5/12 4, 20/11 Basai 50 and 5/12 180, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 14 and 6/12 Chambal fields 50, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 35 and Bhindawas 35

Bank Mynah *Acridotheres ginginianus*

Common, highest count 5/12 Basai 250

Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*

Common throughout

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

20/11 Sultanpur 6, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 25 and Bhindawas 30,

Sind Sparrow *Passer pyrrhonotus*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 (♂ (EK) and ♀) in tall grass at the small bank leading to the viewpoint in the wetland.

A main target species during the first excursion to Sultanpur.

4/12 Bhindawas 3 ♂♂ + 2 ♀♀ feeding in a small patch of reeds in the ditch bordering the western side of the sanctuary.

The Sind Sparrow is a fairly recent colonizer of a number of localities near Delhi, including the above. It is easiest to find when nesting in spring and summer.

Yellow-throated Sparrow *Petronia xanthocollis*

5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 23

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*

20/11 Sultanpur 1 at reedbeds. 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 8 and 6/12 Chambal fields 200, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 4 and Bhindawas 5

Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis*

20/11 Basai 2 in reedbeds and 5/12 45, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 3

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*

20/11 Sultanpur 2 ♂♂ in breeding plumage at reedbeds.. and 5/12 1 ♂ + 3

Indian Silverbill *Lonchura malabarica*

20/11 Sultanpur 6 and 5/12 2, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 12, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 2

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrurus*

5/12 Sultanpur 1 ♀/imm.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*

20/11 Basai 3

MAMMALS and REPTILES

Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*

4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1 hanging from a wire in farmland, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 100 at their day roost in a large tree at the edge of the garden.

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*

20/11 Sultanpur 12 and 5/12 5, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 13, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 1

Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*

5/12 and 6/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 3 near the cottages, where they were seen in the morning hours. Rather shy.

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

4/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2 (1 adult + 1 juv.) and 5/12 1 adult, seen after dark. Fed and shown to us by the staff, and apparently a nightly and very popular show for new visitors. The family of civet cats lived in a big hollow tree in the park / garden.

Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus*

4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1

Indian Grey Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii*

4/12 Bhindawas 1

Jungle Cat *Felis chaus*

4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 1 juv.

Sambar *Cervus unicolor*

5/12 Chambal River 4 (3 ♂♂ and 1 ♀)

Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus*

20/11 Sultanpur 8 and 5/12 15, 4/12 Chambal River 3, 5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 12 and Bhindawas 15

Blackbuck Antelope *cervicapra*

4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 12 ♂♂ + 5 ♀♀ + 1 imm. and 1 ♂ (two locations), 6/12 Chambal fields 40, mixed ♀♀, young ♂♂ and a single dominant ♂. Seen in open large fields at quite close range. Not shy.

Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis*

5/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 2

Five-striped Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennanti*

20/11 Sultanpur 3 and 5/12 6, 4/12 Delhi – Bhindawas 6 and Bhindawas 13, 4-6/12 Chambal Safari Lodge 20+

Ganges River Dolphin *Platanista gangetica*

4/12 Chambal River 5-6 downstream usually just briefly breaking the surface, but with patience several were seen leaping out the water, showing the long, pointed snout.
5/12 Chambal River 1-2 around the boat, far upstream.
Note: Listed as Endangered by the IUCN

Mugger (Marsh Crocodile) *Crocodylus palustris*

4/12 Chambal River 4, including some huge individuals. 5/12 Chambal River 12

Gharial *Gavialis gangeticus*

4/12 Chambal River 20 and 5/12 30 – including some very large adults. The Chambal River is one of the main strongholds for this species.
Note: Listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN

Flap Shell Turtle *Lissemys punctata*

4-5/12 Chambal River up to 30 per day

Crowned River Turtle *Hardella thurjii*

4-5/12 Chambal River about 10 per day

Pictures on back cover:

Indian Skimmer and Woolly-necked Stork ©Erling Krabbe

Shikra ©Ulrik Andersen

Sind Sparrow ©Stig Jensen

(Skimmer, Stork and Shikra from Chambal, Sind Sparrow from Bhindawas)

