

North West India - 2009.

January 11th-30th 2009



Participants. Jim Cone, Marianne Brown, Glenn Lee, Janet Lee, John Beugg.,
Leaders. Eustace Barnes, John van der Dol and local guides.

Itinerary.

- Day 01: Arrive in Delhi Ohkla Barrage wetlands. Night Delhi.
- Day 02: Fly Delhi to Amedabad. Drive to Rann Riders.
- Day 03: Little Rann of Kutch. Night Rann Riders.
- Day 04: Rann Riders to Jamnagar. Stopping at various wetlands. Night Jamnagar.
- Day 05: Morning Khijadiya Sanctuary. Afternoon at the Marine Park. Night Jamnagar.
- Day 06: Drove to woodlands along road to Kelavada. Drove Sasan Gir.
- Day 07: Gir Forest NP. Gate 6 - Gate 2. Gir Birding Lodge.
- Day 08: Gir Forest NP. Gate 2 – Gate 6. Gir Birding lodge.
- Day 09: Sasan Gir to Velavadar NP. Night Bhavnagar.
- Day 10: Velavadar NP. Night Bhavnagar.
- Day 11: Travel day. Fly Mumbai to Nagpur for our drive to Kanha. Night Kanha
- Day 12: Kanha NP.
- Day 13: Kanha NP.

Day 14: Morning safari Kanha NP. Train to Agra.

Day 15: Arrive Agra. Drive Chambal River. Visit to Taj Mahal. Drive to Delhi.

Day 16: Sultanpur Reserve. Sleeper train to Kathgodam.

Day 17: Drive to Dhikala in Corbett NP.

Day 18: Morning safari. Afternoon drive to Riverine Woods Camp.

Day 19: Drive to Pangot.

Day 20: Morning birding. Drive to Delhi.

Day 21: Flight home.



Male Asiatic Lion

DAILY DIARY

On arrival in Delhi, we headed for our hotel, unloaded our bags and took off to the Okhla Barrage for the day. Took off does suggest an ease of movement not technically possible in India but we did eventually arrive; having negotiated the sacred cows, rickshaws, police traffic check points and other impediments to movement.



Spotted Owlets

In return for running the entrance gauntlet of Indian petty bureaucracy, we did find White-tailed Stonechats and a huge flock of Bar-headed Geese on the open grassy marshes along the river. In nearby scrub, Common Babbler, Bluethroat, Plain and Ashy Prinias and a pair of Spotted Owlets were located. We saw good numbers of Greenish Warblers and Lesser Whitethroats. We returned to the hotel to meet the Panamanian contingent, enjoy a much needed rest and engage in the mental preparation necessary for what we knew lay ahead.

The following morning we returned to Delhi airport to catch our flight to Ahmedabad where we met up with our local guide, Rathan. In the airport car park, we witnessed the now rare sight of White-rumped Vultures and maybe 3 Indian Vultures wheeling over the runway, the only vultures we saw in the area. We drove for 2.5 hours to Rann Riders near Dasada on the edge of the Little Rann of Kutch. At Rann Riders we found Pheasant-tailed Jacana and a flock of Sand Martins, the latter a vagrant to the region. This became a feature of birding in this area as we recorded a good many species not mapped as occurring in this part of Gujarat. We had a pleasant lunch and drove to a known wintering site for Pale Scops Owl. After some searching, a local guy spotted the bird roosting above our parked vehicle.



Pale Scops Owl

This was excellent start with a little known species, new to most of us. We left and went to a large marshy wetland nearby. At this site we found Purple Swamphen, Dalmatian and White Pelicans, Painted Stork, Glossy Ibis, Woolly-necked Stork and countless waders and wildfowl which were to become another feature of our birding in this region. The highlights of our visit here were 3 White-tailed Plovers and a Greater-spotted Eagle.

After an early dinner we took a short night-birding excursion, finding 3 Syke's Nightjars, a single Indian Stone Curlew and a Common Quail before retiring to very comfortable accommodations. A condition only possible as the paperwork (another provocation associated with travel in India) was not arduous. The endless forms and visitor books requiring extraordinary amounts of data usually have to be filled in and passed to the relevant authorities (often an illiterate barman) before rooms are allotted or drinks are served to travel-worn visitors.



Syke's Nightjar

The next morning we had an early breakfast and then drove to the Little Rann of Kutch, a sanctuary for the Asiatic Wild Ass. This huge region is dominated by an ancient seabed turned to saline desert plains. We quickly located a herd of Asiatic Wild Asses and spent some time watching these beautiful animals.



Asiatic Wild Ass

We headed for the elevated patches of vegetation or betts, that break the endless monotony of a bleak, dry moonscape. We found seven Macqueen's Bustards, a target species, which we duly celebrated later as one of the top birds of the trip. Other highlights included a pair of Cream-coloured Coursers in the open desert a Long-legged Buzzard, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Crested and Bimaculated Lark, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark and a single Hoopoe Lark. A surprise was a single Asian Desert Warbler; another species not mapped for the locale.



Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse.

We saw Desert and Isabelline Wheatears, Rufous-fronted Prinia and a few Long-billed Larks before visiting a marshy area on the return to camp which produced all 3 cranes; a pair of Sarus Cranes, a small flock of Common Cranes and 40 or so Demoiselle Cranes. There were more White-tailed Plovers and huge numbers of wildfowl and waders, including more White-tailed Plovers.



Demoiselle Crane.

In the afternoon we found several Ferruginous Ducks and much to our surprise another Pale Scops Owl along a heavily travelled local road in acacia scrub. This was second known site for what surely must be a much commoner winter visitor than recorded. We searched in vain for Sociable Plovers (Insatiable Plovers) but did find 6 Indian Coursers, a pair of Sarus Cranes and a stunning pair of Red-headed Falcons. At dusk we returned to Rann Riders for another fantastic meal and much needed rest. The area is very rich in birdlife and we were very pleased with the great day of birding.



Common Crane

Taking our leave, we drove south to Jamnagar on our first travel day. We stopped for various birds and found a very cooperative Sirkeer Malkoha; an infrequently seen cuckoo, that we photographed.



Sirkeer Malkoha

Further along the road, at a large wetland we picked up the lovely Yellow-wattled Plover, Indian River Tern, White-browed and Grey Wagtails, Comb Duck and Cotton Pygmy Goose before continuing into Jamnagar. In the remaining fading light, we watched as thousands of ducks, egrets, ibises and Rosy Starlings poured in to roost in the trees and fetid lake waters of the central park amid the thronging mass of humanity and the overwhelming cacophony and stench of Indian life. Jamnagar was not pretty and may well have won the much discussed 'hell hole' of the trip award.



Yellow-wattled Lapwing

After an early breakfast, more paperwork and the addition of yet another local guide, we visited the nearby Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary. Paperwork in order, we were permitted entry and saw good numbers of Lesser and Greater Flamingos together with the usual mass of Pintail, Shoveler, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Indian Spot-billed and Pochard ducks. In this spectacular little reserve, there were several Brahminy Kites, Greater-spotted Eagles and Oriental Honey Buzzards. Storks were well represented with up to 3 Black-necked and numerous Painted Storks and later, in a group of 60 Oriental Darters, we spotted our first Indian Shags; a very distinctive species, with a slim yellowish bill and blue irises. This species is not mapped as occurring here. We found the dusky *adamsi* race of Sand Lark and good numbers of the Pale Sand Martin both species not mapped for the region. These were accompanied by Yellow Wagtail and Blyth's Reed Warbler also not mapped as being present. From a watch tower along the long straight track, we watched a Jungle Cat and a family of Wild Boar wandering about making for another trip highlight. We ended the morning with 5 Great Thick-knees, before making a vehicular journey that might have inspired Dante, somewhat more bearable.



Painted Stork

After lunch we visited the Marine Park south west of Jamnagar along the Gulf of Kutch, another spectacular stretch of coastline. On arrival we found Terek Sandpiper, Great Sandplover, Dunlin, Whimbrel, Curlew and Marsh Sandpipers and many other waders but not the Crab Plover. We had missed the tide that pushes them onto the mudflats and we scored the coast for the roost site. On the way we found Black-necked Grebe, Tawny Pipits and a Peregrine and eventually a huge flock of roosting Crab Plovers on the pan bunds. This was a huge relief, as this is the reason to visit the Jamnagar area. We returned to hubbub of bustling Jamnagar for a delicious Indian dinner. The curries are a redeeming feature of a trip to this extraordinary country.

The next morning, en route to the Gir Forest NP, along the road to Kelavada, we stopped to search a scrubby field and picked up the rare Syke's Lark, Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark and Indian Bushlark along with a pair of Indian Stone Curlews and numerous Yellow-wattled Lapwings before moving on to an extensive area of light woodland. We had read this site contained White-naped Tit, a very rare species, recently discovered on the eastern Gulf of Kutch. Unfortunately we had arrived far too late and had no time to search the site for this enigmatic species. We did find Eastern Orpean Warbler, a pair of Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpeckers, Rufous-fronted Prinias, Common Tailorbird, Black Redstart and others but the site really warrants a dawn visit to find the Tit. We left and continued on to Gir, where we picked up Tawny-bellied and Jungle Babbler, Small Minivet, and Grey-breasted Prinia.



Woolly-necked Stork

The main reason for visiting the Gir Forest is the endangered Asiatic Lions although Gir is great for wildlife. The mosaic of dry deciduous forests, acacia scrub and grasslands make this a birding and wildlife bonanza. Although the park was created to save the Asiatic Lion and many people were relocated from the area, a great many families live in the park with their herds of cattle. At the lodge we prepared to go birding but the paperwork had to be completed and complex negotiations ensued to arrange for it to be done after dark. The complexity of arrangements for jeeps, drivers, park guides and entrance fees plus the mandated tips was daunting. Still thank god we got the paperwork done, shame we lost so much birding time doing it.



Indigenous settlement in Gir National Park

Our first safari drive started slowly with Crested Hawk Eagle and some large groups of Jungle Babbler. Soon we had news that a Lion had been spotted and we drove wildly along a dusty, dry, dirt road to see them. With some patience and long after many of the other tourist jeeps departed, we were treated to a tremendous display. First, a pair of Lions crossed the road behind us and began hunting alongside our vehicles for the numerous Chital. There are 49,000 in the park but it is much easier to kill the nearly recumbent cattle. After watching the young lions and keeping pace with their rather lame attempts to stalk

the deer, we had both animals right by the road and indeed in the road in front of us. An absolutely amazing event that we felt very fortunate to witness and a clear contender for 'magic moment' of the trip.



We saw Crested Serpent Eagle, Bonneli's Eagle, a stunning male Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker, Indian Pygmy Woodpecker and Black-rumped Flameback, Plum-headed Parakeet, numerous Rufous Treepies, Large Cuckoo Shrike, White-bellied Minivet and several groups of Tawny-bellied Babbler. The most spectacular bird was undoubtedly the Mottled Wood Owl, subsequently most consistently billed as bird of the trip, in a tree with branches overhanging the road.



Girl at Rann Riders

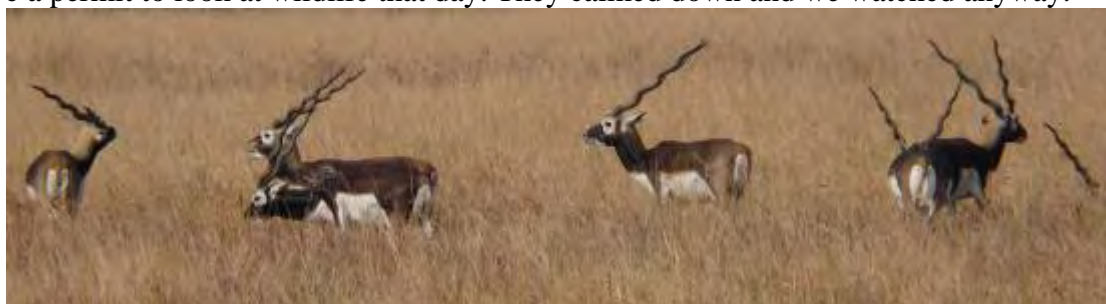
Continuing the 'not mapped ranges in Gujarat by Rasmussen and Anderton' theme, we did continue to pick up an astonishing number of species. A good example is the full adult Black Eagle we saw soaring over the park at length. We were gaining the impression the area was not well birded as succeeding races of Yellow Wagtail, Sand Lark, Pale Sand Martin demonstrated.

Another journey loomed before us as we left of Gir Forest for the unknown delights of Bhavnagar and the Velavadar NP. On the way we saw a nice herd of Indian Gazelle and several Jackals along with huge flocks of Ashy-crowned Finch-Larks, Short-toed Larks and Tawny Pipits. On the way we did see good numbers of Pallid and Montagu's Harriers hunting over the endless cotton fields.



Mottled Wood Owl

At Velavadar, we immediately saw the pretty little Blackbuck Antelope in its single sex herds scattered across the grasslands. However, the paperwork was not in order and we were aggressively informed that we did not have a permit to look at wildlife that day. They calmed down and we watched anyway.



We waited for dusk and saw reasonable numbers of Montagu's and Pallid Harriers flying in to roost before continuing on to our pleasant hotel in Bhavnagar, an Indian city of no surprises. Our entry to the city ground to a halt by hundreds of tractors and trucks parking and unloading garlic in the highway, giving us more than the usual chaos on the roads; tractors, rickshaws, cyclists and much through traffic using the opposite lane of the highway with predictable results. India repeatedly slides seamlessly from the sublime to the ridiculous making any trip a joy and an agony of contrasting experiences.

At dawn, the next morning, we returned to the park and headed to a low watch tower overlooking the grasslands. In no time we saw a single wolf drag down a young Nilgai and try to kill it. Although rather horrific, this was the stuff of epic wildlife programmes. After ten minutes or so it seemed the young animal was dead and the single Wolf tried to drag it towards some scrub. The next moment 2 Striped Hyaenas were seen running towards the Wolf and there ensued a frenzied chase as a Hyaena pursued the Wolf across the plains in a huge circle. The Wolf outran the Hyaena and sat at a safe distance to watch the Hyaena finish off the Nilgai, which it subsequently abandoned. The wolf then returned to its prey. The whole drama was an extraordinary spectacle and watching 2 of the most elusive mammals in India kill and fight over a carcass was one of the most memorable moments of the trip.



Blackbuck at Velavadar NP

We saw large numbers of Blackbuck, Wild Boar and Nilgai along with many birds. These included a number of raptors with up to 6 Greater-spotted Eagles, an Eastern Imperial Eagle and several Short-toed Eagles amongst the dozens of Pallid and Montagu's Harriers. We visited a marsh in the park and saw a Dalmatian and White Pelicans, Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Spoonbills, Black-necked Ibis and countless waders. As the temperature soared we left and finished the day's birding with a superb Red-necked Falcon before having an easy afternoon back at our hotel. A helicopter would make travel much more pleasant in India. As it is, one is forced to ride the white knuckle highways which makes life here more ghastly than necessary.

Our next stop was Kahna NP; one of the best parks in India for mammals. Our first morning was an outstanding success with stunning views of a huge male Tiger from the back of an even larger elephant. This beautiful animal is continuing its inexorable slide into extinction. There is simply not enough space for it to survive except under zoo-like conditions.



The park was spectacularly good for mammals and we saw good numbers of Gaur and Barasingha and four tigers and single Leopard and Sloth Bear. We found much of the birdlife endemic to the region, including Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, Tawny-bellied Babblers, Indian Yellow Tit and White-spotted Fantail in the numerous mixed flocks. Along with these we sited White-rumped Shama, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher and others. Indian and White-rumped Vultures were seen every day in tiny numbers whirling over the park searching for the latest kill along with Crested Hawk Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Tawny Eagle and many other raptors.

We left midday for an overnight train ride to Agra. On arrival, after a reasonable night on the train, we drove to the Chambal River. This famous site provided us with a spectacular river trip on which we found Gangetic River Dolphin, Gharial and Mugger Crocodiles. The birdlife was excellent with good views of Lesser Whistling Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Ruddy Shelduck and Bar-headed Goose. The river banks held River Lapwing, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and Great Thick-knee.



Mugger Crocodiles

The highlights included a few Black-bellied Terns, a Brown Crake and a Bonelli's Eagle on its nest perched on a cliff above the river. At the Chambal Lodge gardens we enjoyed watching a pair of Brown Hawk Owls and following a pleasant lunch we drove back to Agra to visit the mausoleum of Mumtaz or the Taj Mahal. The seething mass of humanity made our visit a distinctly Indian experience.



Taj Mahal

At the monument we saw Egyptian Vultures, Painted Stork, River Lapwing, White-breasted Waterhen, Ruddy Shelduck, Indian Grey Hornbill and Brown-headed Barbet, which made this crowded park a rich area for wildlife. Never a disappointment, the Taj Mahal and our river trip kept us going on the return journey to Delhi. We departed from the Taj Mahal a 'little late' partly because of the crowds and arrived at our Delhi hotel at 11.30 pm. The traffic in Delhi has to be a contender for worst in the world which when added to the non-existent driving skills makes for a harrowing experience. The highway agency in India places numerous

homilies to drivers along the central reservations which although amusing are brought sharply into focus when suffering the horrors of the road. The following examples are instructive... 'Impatient on the road...patient in hospital' ... or ... 'this is a highway, not a runway'. However, the best is ... 'arrive in peace not in pieces' ... I think 'go plane and train only' is the best advice, as these roadside homilies are not heeded. We did see the most spectacular head to head collision of 2 huge trucks along the highway. This resulted from one of the vehicles careering along the hard shoulder of the wrong side of the highway to avoid a traffic jam.



Female Elephant with young

We spent the next morning at Sultanpur after which we took the sleeper train to Haldwani and Kathogdam. Arriving at 6am we drove west to Corbett NP and passed through endless miles of pristine forest to Dhikala on the western side of the park; a beautiful location comprised of extensive grasslands and Sal woodlands adjacent to a lake.



Corbett National park.

We viewed a fantastic Tawny Fish Owl and a surprising number of woodpeckers; Lesser Yellownappe, Himalayan Flameback, Grey-faced Woodpecker, and Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker amongst them. The Lesser and Grey-headed Fish Eagles were common and we saw several Pallas's Fish Eagles as well.



Lesser Fish Eagle

After an indifferent lunch, the group split up with some taking an elephant ride while the rest of us drove the trails through the nearby grasslands. Dhikala, is a lovely location and the opportunity it affords for the government to develop tourism in the area is seriously hampered by its surly legions of drivers and park officials permanently grinning as they stand about in the expectation of being given a tip.



Tawny Fish Owl

Our ride through the grassland produced good numbers of Elephant and Hog Deer. The birdlife was good with small numbers of Hodgson's Bushchat found; a localized and rare winter visitor to the park. We found a single Pied Harrier and numerous Lesser Coucals. In the morning we rode back to Tiger Camp for lunch. On the way we saw 3 or 4 Great Slaty Woodpeckers, a superb Green-billed Malkoha and Streak-throated

Woodpeckers. After lunch we headed north to the new Riverine Woods Camp where we saw Great Hornbill, Black-chinned Babbler, Wallcreeper, Little Forktail, Lesser Fish Eagles, Pallas's Fish Eagle.



Departing from Riverine Woods Camp

On leaving the Riverine Woods Camp we made our way to Nainital and the final leg of the trip. A brief stop at Corbett Falls produced Oriental Pied Hornbill, Slaty-backed Forktail and Pin-tailed Green Pigeon. As we wound our way up through the forested Himalayan foothills we reached the Snow Ridge View point; a spectacular location from which Kashmiri, Tibetan and Nepalese peaks are all visible in one vista. This site is a big tourist attraction and many Indians and foreigners alike stop to admire the view. Not to miss a trick the locals had devised an ingenious way to make money out of the stream of visitors. A length of nylon string had been tied to 2 trees across part of the view and empty plastic bottles attached along its length. The hapless visitor is besieged by young men waving loaded rifles about and invited to shoot at the plastic bottles for the princely sum of 15 rupees a shot. An obvious business opportunity if ever there was one. Other young men had telescopes so Indians from the big smoggy cities could view the stars which many never see from their homes.



Snow Ridge view point

Our final morning found us climbing up to a ridge above Pangot where we found Himalayan Pied Woodpecker, Blue-capped Redstart, Altai Accentor, Plain Mountain Finch, Spot-winged Tit, Hume's Leaf Warbler and a number of Himalayan Griffon Vultures. We had almost given up on our target, the Cheer Pheasant, when suddenly a single male was spotted. We watched this increasingly rare and lovely bird creeping about on the lower warm slopes accompanied by a Goral. The area is primarily Oak Forest with pine, cedar and rhododendron species. We found Large-billed Crow, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches and Bar-tailed Treecreeper. At the Jungle Lore Lodge we saw White-throated, Streaked and Chestnut-crowned Laughing Thrushes and Green-tailed Sunbird and Himalayan Greenfinch. We were late and after the usual misery of 'faffing' about around the lodge waiting for six men and a boy to load the luggage, we left. The Delhi return trip was dreaded but it took less time than envisaged although the traffic in Delhi proper was much like wading through setting concrete. The contrast between the serenity of rural life in the Himalayas and the vile horror of the floodplain towns could not be greater. The highway was under construction and all traffic used whichever side they wished providing us with innumerable heart stopping moments as combine harvesters or tractors hauling sugarcane came creeping towards us in the fast lane. The ever present problem in rural areas of India is that there are few if any open clean flat places to set up ones shop, fix vehicles, park, meet friends or go for a walk except the highway. As such, the highway is precisely where much of this activity takes place. A new highway is being built to get around this problem by building 15 meter high flyovers through all villages. The villages will find more convenient locations to set up market or have their lives split asunder by the new road.



Our Elephant ride

BIRD LIST (400 species recorded)

GREBES (*PODICETIDAE*)

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) A few seen in brackish ponds near the marine reserve south of Jamnagar.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) Common.

Great-crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) 1 seen near Jamnagar.

CORMORANTS (*PHALACROCORACIDAE*)

Indian Shag (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) Saw up to 50 at the Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar. This site is not within the mapped range in the 'Ripley' guide. An easily mistaken species. This is apparently an extralimital record.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) Seen throughout.

Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*) Abundant.

DARTERS (*ANHINGIDAE*)

Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) Common at wetland sites around Jamnagar.

PELICANS (*PELICANIDAE*)

Dalmation Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) Seen at Rann Riders and wetlands around Jamnagar. Also, a few seen at Velavadar NP. This is considered a near threatened species.

Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) Seen near Rann Riders, Jamnagar and in Velavadar NP.

WILDFOWL (*ANATIDAE*)

Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) Up to 200 at the Ohkla Barrage in Dehli and others along the Chambal River.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) Common at Ohkla Barrage.



Lesser Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*) 25 in Kahna NP and also seen along the Chambal river.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) Common in Gujarat.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuliga*) Seen in Jamnagar.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) Seen in Gujarat at several wetlands.

Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotus*) Seen at several sites in Gujarat.

Common Teal (*Anas crecca*) Seen throughout Gujarat.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) Seen at some wetlands near Rann Riders.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) Seen throughout Gujarat.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) Seen throughout Gujarat.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) Seen in good numbers throughout Gujarat.

Indian Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poelirhyncha*) Common.

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) A few seen at smaller wetlands near Rann Riders and Jamnagar.

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) Common.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) Common along the Chambal River.

Cotton Pygmy-Goose (*Rhodonessa caryophyllaceae*) A pair seen near Jamnagar.

FLAMINGOS (*PHOENICOPTERIDAE*)

Greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) Common in Gujarat on the coast and in the Little Rann of Kutch.

Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*) A flock of 80 seen at Khijadiya Bird sanctuary. A few seen near Bhavnagar.

HERONS (*ARDEIDAE*)

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) Common.

Great Egret (*Egretta alba*) Common.

Intermediate Egret (*Egretta intermedius*) Common.

Western Reef Heron (*Egretta gularis*) Seen on the coast near Jamnagar and at Bhavnagar. A very smart heron.

Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubuculus coromandelus*) Abundant.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) Seen throughout.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) Seen throughout.

Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) Common.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) Seen in good numbers near Rann Riders.

(L) Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*) 2 seen at Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary.

STORKS AND IBISIES (*CICONIDAE*)

Asian Openbill (*Anatamus oscitans*) A few seen in Gujarat.

Wooly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) Only a few pairs noted in Gujarat from Rann Riders to Gir Forest, several in Kahna NP.

Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) Common at most wetland sites.

Black Stork (*Ciconia niger*) A few at Gir.

Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) Up to 3 at Khijadiya Bird sanctuary.
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) Commonly seen in small numbers.
Black-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) Common.
Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucocephala*) Seen in good numbers in Gujarat.
Indian Black Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*) Seen in small numbers throughout Gujarat.
Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilus javanicus*) 3 seen in Kahna NP.

VULTURES (*GYPS*)

White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) Up to 10 at Amedabad airport. A maximum of 15 seen in Kahna NP. A few pairs in Corbett NP. A rare species now.
Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*) 6 at Amedabad airport together with the above species. Also 2 seen in the Gir Forest NP and 6 or so in Kahna NP.
Griffon Vulture (*Gyp fulvus*) Several pairs near Ramnagar and Haldwani.
Himalayan Vulture (*Gyps himalayanensis*) 7 seen near Pangot.
Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percopterus*) Several seen near Amedabad, Gir Forest NP,
Red-headed Vulture (*Aegyptius calvus*) A few seen in and around Corbett NP.
Cinereous Vulture (*Aegyptius monachus*) 2 seen near Ramnagar.

RAPTORS (*ACCIPITRIDAE*)

Osprey (*Pandion halieatus*) 3 at the Marine park near Jamnagar, 1 Corbett NP..
Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) Common.
Brahminy Kite (*Haliaster indicus*) 2 seen near Jamnagar.
Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) Common in cities.
Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*) 1 seen at Velavadar, 3 in Corbett NP..
Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) Common in Gujarat.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) Several seen in Gujarat. The birds were tiny and somewhat reminiscent of Merlin.
Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) 1 seen Riverine woods.
Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) 2 seen near Rann Raiders, 2 at Chambal River.
Oriental Honey buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) 3 seen near Jamnagar, 1 Gir Forest.
White-eyed buzzard (*Butastur teesa*) 2 seen. 1 in the Gir Forest NP. Up to 6 in Kahna NP.
Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) Seen in Gir Forest NP. A generally common raptor.
Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) Several seen near Rann Riders and others in the Gir Forest.
Booted Eagle (*Hieraetus pennatus*) Seen in the Gir Forest.
Bonelli's Eagle (*Hierratus fasciatus*) A sub-adult bird seen in the Gir Forest NP, an adult on nest at Chambaal River.
Crested Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetuas cirrhatus*) 1 pair seen in Gir Forest and common in Kahna NP.
Variable Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus*) Several pairs seen in Corbett NP.
Mountain Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetuas nipalensis*) 1 Riverine Woods Camp near Ramnagar.
Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*) 1 bird seen in Gir Forest represents yet another range extension for Gujarat. Extralimital record.
Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) 1 near Rann Riders, 2 Khijadiya Sanctuary near Jamnagar, 5 Gir Forest, 6 at Velavadar NP.
L - Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) 1 immature bird seen near Rann Riders.
Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*) 1 adult in Kahna NP, 1 Sultanpur Reserve.
Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) 1 at Gir Forest, 1 sub-adult at Velavadar NP, 2 Sulltanpur Reserve.
Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) 3 at the Khidjadiya Sanctuary, 2 or 3 Velavadar NP.
Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) 2 near Jamnagar, common Velavadar NP.
Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) Fairly common around Rann Riders and Velavadar NP.
Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) Common in Gujarat on wetlands near Rann Riders and Jamnagar.
Pied Harrier (*Circus melanleucos*) 1 male at Dhikala. A rare species this far west.

FALCONS (*FALCONIDAE*)

Red-headed Falcon (*Falco chicquera*) 1 pair near Rann Riders. A superb sighting of 2 adults near Bhavnagar.

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) 1 at the marine park near Jamnagar.

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) A few throughout.

Collared Falconet (*Microhierax cinerascens*) Up to 10 in Corbett NP

GAMEBIRDS (*PHASIANIDAE*)

Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*) 2 seen at Dhikala.

Grey Francolin (*Francolinus ponicus*) Common.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) 1 seen well during a night excursion at Rann Riders.

Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) Several birds heard in Kahna NP.

Cheer Pheasant (*Catreus wallichi*) 1 superb male seen near Pangot. An excellent way to finish the tour.

Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) Common.

CRANES (*GRUIDAE*)

Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) 2 pairs near Rann Riders. 7 en route to Dehli from Pangot.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*) Common in Gujarat.

Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*) A single flock of 39 birds near Rann Riders.

RAILS (*RALLIDAE*)

Ruddy-breasted Crake (*Porzana fusca*) 1 seen at the Ohkla Barrage reserve.

Brown Crake (*Porzana akool*) 1 along the Chambal River.

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amauornis phoenicurus*) Seen at the Khijadiya Sanctuary.

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) Common.

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chlorops*) Common.

Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*) Common.

BUSTARDS (*OTIDAE*)

Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) 7 seen in the Little Rann of Kutch.

WADERS (*CHARADRIIFORMES*)

Ibisbil (*Ibidorhynchus struthersii*) 2 seen near Ramnagar. A stunning bird for which time was made in a tight schedule.

Crab Plover (*Dromas ardeola*) Approximately 700 seen at the Marine reserve near Jamnagar.

Avocet (*Recurvirostre avocetta*) Common in Gujarat.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) Common.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostalegus*) 20 seen at the Marine reserve near Jamnagar.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirugus*) Seen near Rann Riders and in Jamnagar.

Indian Courser (*Cursorius coromandelicus*) Up to 7 seen near Rann Riders.

Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*) 2 seen in the Little Rann of Kutch.



Great Thick-knee (*Esacus recurvirostris*) 5 at Khijadiya reserve, 2 at the marine park. 8 along the Chambal River.

Indian Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus indicus*) Seen at scattered sites throughout.

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) Common.

Yellow-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus malbaricus*) Seen at several sites in drier areas.

White-tailed Plover (*Vanellus leucurus*) Seen at several wetlands near Rann Riders and a pair seen at Khijadiya Sanctuary.



River Lapwing (*Vanellus duvacelii*) Fairly common along the larger rivers.

Little-ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) Seen near Rann Riders and 1 at Kahna NP.

Kentish (Snowy) Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) Seen at the marine reserve.

Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) Common at the Marine park.

Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) Seen at the Marine reserve.

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) Seen near Rann Riders and near Jamnagar.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeops*) Common at the Marine park.

Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*) Common in Gujarat.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) Seen at many wetlands in Gujarat.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinerea*) Seen at the marine park.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) Common in Gujarat.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochrops*) Common in Gujarat.

Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleuca*) Seen at many sites.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatalis*) Common in Gujarat.
Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) Seen at several sites near Jamnagar.
Spotted redshank (*Tringa erythroptera*) A few seen near Jamnagar.
Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) Common in Gujarat.
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) A few seen on the coast in Gujarat.
Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) 1 seen near Jamnagar.
Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temmincki*) Seen at sites from Rann Riders to Jamnagar.
Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) Seen on the coast near Jamnagar and inland near Rann Riders.
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) Seen in Gujarat.

GULLS (*LARIDAE*)

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) A large flock at Ohkla Barrage and others seen near Jamnagar.
Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunneiceps*) Seen at many localities.
Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*) Seen in Jamnagar, at the Marine park and along the Chambal River.
Heuglin's Gull (*Larus h. heuglini*) Seen along the coast at the Marine park.
'Steppe' Gull (*Larus heuglini barbadensis*) Several seen at Jamnagar
Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*) Seen in Jamnagar and at the Marine park.

TERNES (*STERNIDAE*)

Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) 1 near Jamnagar.
Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) Seen on many inland wetlands.
River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*) A good number seen on wetlands near Jamnagar and smaller numbers elsewhere.
Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna acuticauda*) 2 along the Chambal River.
Lesser-crested Tern (*Thalassidroma bengalensis*) Seen at the Marine Park.
Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) Seen at sites near Jamnagar.
Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) Common at wetland sites near Jamnagar.

SANDGROUSE (*PTEROCLIDAE*)

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*) Common in the Little Rann of Kutch. A flock of 40 seen at Velavadar NP. Several along the Chambal River.

PIGEONS (*COLUMBIDAE*)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) Common
Oriental Turtle Dove (*Turtur orientalis*) Up to 10 in Kahna NP.
Red-collared Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) Seen at Rann Riders and in the Little Rann of Kutch..
Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) Common to abundant.
Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) Seen in the Gir Forest NP.
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Abundant.
Emerald dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) 1 seen at Riverine woods.
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (*Treron phoenicopterus*) Seen in small numbers throughout. Common in Kahna NP.
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon (*Treron apicauda*) Up to 20 seen at Corbett Falls.

PARROTS (*PSITTACIDAE*)

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) Common.
Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) Common in the Gir Forest.
Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) A few in Dehli.
Himalayan Parakeet (*Psittacula himalayana*) Common at Riverine Woods Camp.
Red-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*) Abundant at Dhikala.

CUCKOOS (*CUCULIDAE*)

Asian Koel (*Cacomantis sonnerati*) Heard and seen at Gir Forest.

Sirkeer Malkoha (*Taccocua leschenaultii*) A single bird seen near Jamnagar. It posed for all to see and photograph.

Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*) 1 seen at Dhikala. A superb bird found by Jim.

Common Hawk-Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx sparveroides*) Common.

Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) Heard and seen in Gujarat.

Southern Coucal (*Centropus parroti*) Common in Kahna.

Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*) Common in the grasslands at Dhikala.

OWLS (*STRIGIDAE*)



Brown Hawk Owl (*Ninox scutulata*) A pair found in the gardens of the Chambal River Lodge.

Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) 1 adult in Kahna NP. Another seen in Corbett NP

Tawny Fish Owl (*Ketupa flavipes*) A single roosting bird found in Corbett NP.

Mottled Wood Owl (*Strix ocellatus*) A pair seen at Gir Forest. A fantastic highlight amongst many, on this spectacular trip.

Spotted Owlet (*Athene brahma*) A pair at Ohkla Barrage, another at Gir Forest,

Pale Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*) 2 seen at separate sites near Ran Riders. One at a known site and the other at a new site nearby. Extralimital record but considered a vagrant.

Indian Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*) Heard and seen in Kahna NP. A bird at a nest hole in Corbett.

Jungle Owlet (*Glaucidium radiatum*) Common in Kahna NP.

Collared Owlet (*Glaucidium brodei*) The bird hunter in the Himalayas. 1 heard at Jungle lore lodge.

NIGHTJARS (*CAPRIMULGIDAE*)

Syke's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus mahrattensis*) 3 seen at Rann Riders.

SWIFTS (*APODIDAE*)

Crested Treeswift (*Hemiprocne coronatus*) Several seen at Gir Forest.

Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*) Seen in Kahna NP.

Himalayan Swiftlet (*Aerodramus brevirostris*) Common in drier areas.

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) Fairly common.

Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*) Seen near Sasan Gir. Also up to 80 seen at Dhikala.

ROLLERS

Indian roller (*Coracicus bengalensis*) Common.

HOOPOES (*UPUPIDAE*)

Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) Seen in small numbers throughout.

KINGFISHERS (*ALCEDINIDAE*)

Stork-billed kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*) 1 seen near Dhikala.

White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) Common.

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) Common.

Crested Kingfisher (*Ceryle lugubris*) Seen at Ramnagar and Riverine Woods Camp

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) Seen throughout.

BEE-EATERS

Little green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) Abundant

HORNBILLS (*BUCEROTIDAE*)

Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyeros birostris*) Several groups seen in Kahna NP.

Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) A pair seen at Corbett Falls.

Great Pied Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) A single bird seen at Riverine Woods Camp

BARBETS (*MEGALAIMA*)

Coppersmith Barbet (*Megaliama megacephala*) Common.

Blue-throated Barbet (*Megalaima asiatica*) Heard at Riverine Woods Camp

Brown-headed Barbet (*Megalaima zelonica*) Common in Kahna.

Lineated Barbet (*Megalaima lineata*) Common at Riverine Woods Camp and Dhikala.

Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*) Heard at Riverine Woods Camp

WOODPECKERS (*PICIDAE*)

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) 1 seen near Ramnagar along the river.

Indian Pygmy-Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus nanus*) Several pairs noted in the Gir Forest and at Kahna NP.

Grey-capped Pygmy-Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus canicapillus*) Seen at Dhikala and above Ramnagar.

Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus macei*) seen near Dhikala.

Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus mahattrensis*) 1 pair found near Khelavadar at the White-naped Tit 'site'. Also another pair seen in Kahna NP.

Himalayan Pied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus himalayensis*) 1 female seen near Pangot.

Streak-throated Woodpecker (*Picus xanthopygius*) Seen at Dhikala.

Grey-faced (Headed) Woodpecker (*Picus canus*) Seen at Dhikala and Ramnagar.

Greater Yellownape (*Picus flavinucha*) Seen north of Ramnagar.

Lesser Yellownape (*Picus chlorolophus*) Seen near Dhikala.

Rufous Woodpecker (*Micropternus brachyurus*) Seen and heard at Dhikala.

Himalayan Flameback (*Dinopium shortii*) Common in Corbett NP.

Black-rumped Flameback (*Dinopium bengalense*) Several heard and a pair seen in Gir Forest. Another extralimital record. Also common in Kahna and a pair near Dhikala..

Great Slaty Woodpecker (*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*) 3 or possibly 4 seen together near Dhikala after considerable patience for the birds to show. A much wanted bird and certainly one of the trip highlights.

LARKS (*ALAUDIDAE*)

Indian Bushlark (*Mirafra erythroptera*) Seen near Jamnagar.

Crested Lark (*Galleria cristata*) Common in Gujarat.

Syke's Lark (*Galleria deva*) A single bird found just east of Jamnagar

Bimaculated Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculatus*) A small flock found on the Little Rann of Kutch.

Ashy-crowned finch-Lark (*Eremopterix griseus*) Common in Gujarat.
Rufous-tailed Lark (*Ammomanes phoenicura*) Fairly common in Gujarat.
Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) Abundant in Gujarat
Sand Lark (*Calandrella raytal adamsi*) A flock of 5 at Khijadiya Sanctuary.
Greater Hoopoe Lark (*Allaemon alaudipes*) A single bird found in the Little Rann of Kutch.

MARTINS AND SWALLOWS (*HIRUNDINIDAE*)

Grey-throated Sand Martin (*Riparia chinensis*) Seen at several sites in Gujarat.
Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) Seen in small numbers at Rann Riders. Picked up on call and subsequently seen perched on telegraph wires. The well demarcated breast and dark olive brown plumage being clearly visible. Not mapped as occurring in the region.
Pale Sand Martin (*Riparia diluta diluta*) Up to 15 seen at Khijadiya sanctuary. The diffuse pale breast band and pale grey brown plumage clearly noted on perched birds. In retrospect we had thought that many small groups of Sand Martins were this species from Rann Riders to Jamnagar. Not mapped as occurring in the area.
Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) Small flock seen near Pangot.
Dusky Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne concolor*) Common.
Northern House Martin (*Delichon urbica*) At least 2 seen at Kahna NP. A vagrant in the region.
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Common.
Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*) A few seen.
Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) Small numbers seen at numerous sites.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS (*MOTACILLIDAE*)

Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) In Gujarat not subspecies mapped as occurring in Rasmussen and Anderton. The following taxa were noted. *M. f. feldegg* seen near Rann Riders. Small flocks of *M. f. beema* and *M. f. thunbergi* noted near Bhavnagar, Jamnagar and Rann Riders.
Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) A few seen at widely scattered sites.
Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) Common in Gujarat.
White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba personata*) A few seen along the larger rivers of this highly distinctive form. Also forms *M. a. alboides* and *M. a. dukhunensis*, *M. a. baicalensis* seen and *M. a. leucopsis* seen at Kahna and along the Chambal River.
White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla madaraspatisensis*) Several seen along the larger rivers in Gujarat and a pair at Kahna NP.
Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*) Common.
Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) 1 seen en route to Jamnagar. Several seen at Chambal.
Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus*) 1 seen at Rann Riders.
Blyth's Pipit (*Anthus godlewskii*) Several seen on the edge of the Little Rann of Kutch.
Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) Common near Gir and at sites en route to Gir from Jamnagar.
Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*) 4 seen in the Little Rann of Kutch and others seen at Velavadar NP. A huge pipit.

CUCKOO-SHRIKES (*TEPHRODORNIS*)

Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*) Several pairs seen in the Gir Forest NP. Fairly common in Kahna NP.
Large Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis gularis*)
Pied Flycatcher Shrike (*Hemipus picatus*) Common in Corbett NP.
Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina melashistos*) 2 seen in Kahna NP
Large Cuckooshrike (*Coracina macei*) Seen in Gir Forest and Kahna NP.

MINIVETS (*PERICROCOTUS*)

Long-tailed Minivet (*Pericrocotus ethologus*) Fairly common.
Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus speciosus*) Common in Kahna NP and Corbett NP..
White-bellied Minivet (*Pericrocotus erythropygus*) 1 female seen in the Gir Forest NP. A rather uncommon species
Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*) Fairly common in Gir Forest NP.

BULBULS (*PYCNONOTIDAE*)

- Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) Common throughout.
Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) Seen at Riverine Woods Camp.
White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) Common in Gujarat.
Himalayan Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucogenys*) Seen at Riverine Woods Camp.
Ashy Bulbul (*Hemixos flava*) Several seen near Ramnagar.
Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus flaviventris*) Common at Riverine Woods Camp.

IORAS (*AEGITHINA*)

- Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*) Common at Gir, where despite searching hard we failed to find Marshall's Iora. The recordings attributed to the latter all attracted Common Ioras. Of the twenty or so birds checked all were seen and heard to make calls attributed to both species.

LEAFBIRDS (*CHLOROPSIS*)

- Jerdon's Leafbird** (*Chloropsis jerdoni*) A pair at Kahna NP.

SHRIKES (*LANIIDAE*)

- Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach erythronotus*) A fairly common species.
Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) A few seen in Gujarat.
Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) Common in Gujarat.
Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) Several seen in the Rann of Kutch.
Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) Common in western Gujarat.

MONARCHS (*HYPOTHYMIS*)

- Asian Paradise Flycatcher** (*Tersiphonus paradisae*) A stunning white male seen in the Gir Forest NP. Others seen in Kahna NP.
Black-naped Blue Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) Common in Kahna NP.

FANTAILS (*RHIPHIDURA*)

- Yellow-bellied Fantail (*Chelidorhynchus hypoxantha*)
White-browed Fantail (*Rhiphidura aureolus*) Common in Gujarat.
White-throated Fantail (*Rhiphidura albicollis*). Seen at several sites in Corbett NP.
White-spotted Fantail (*Rhiphidura albogularis*). A pair in Kahna NP.

THRUSHES and CHATS (*TURDIDAE*)

- Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) A few pairs seen.
Blue-headed Rock Thrush (*Monticola cinclorhynchus*). 1 in Kahna NP. A lovely bird, not mapped as occurring at this locality.
Orange-headed Thrush (*Zoothera citrina*) Fairly common in Kahna NP with up to 6 seen. This being the stunning peninsula form that may deserve specific recognition.
Blue whistling Thrush (*Myophonus blighi*). Common at Corbett NP.
Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecia*) A second at Velavadar.
White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) A pair seen in Kahna NP.
Oriental Magpie robin (*Copsychus saulris*) Common.
Indian Black Robin (*Saxicoloides fulicatus*) Common.
Brown Rockchat (*Cercomela fusca*) Seen in Delhi and elsewhere around Agra.
Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) Seen throughout.
Blue-capped Redstart (*Phoenicurus cyanocephala*) 1 male near Pangot.
Plumbeous Waterstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosa*) Common at Riverine Woods Camp.
White-capped Riverchat (*Chaimarrhornis leucocephala*) Common at Riverine Woods Camp.
Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*) Common in Gujarat.
Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferreus*) seen at Riverine Woods Camp.
Common Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) Common.

White-tailed Stonechat (*Saxicola leucurus*) Several pairs at the Ohkla Barrage.

Hodgson's (White-throated) Bushcat (*Saxicola insignis*) Up to 3 seen at Dhikala in the grasslands near camp. A rarely seen species.

Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*) A few in Gujarat.

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) 1 seen in Gujarat.

Variable Wheatear (*Oenanthe picata*) 1 seen in Gujarat, 1 along Chambal River.

Little Forktail (*Enicurus scouleri*). Seen at Riverine Woods Camp.

Slaty-backed Forktail (*Enicurus schistaceus*) 1 adult seen at Corbett Falls.

FLYCATCHERS (*MUSCICAPIDAE*)

Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa daurica*) 1 in Kahna NP.

Little Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula westermanni*) Seen in Corbett NP and at Corbett Falls..

Red-breasted flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) Several females seen in Gujarat.

Red-throated flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) 1 adult male and probably others seen in Kahna NP.

Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher (*Ficedula strophiatea*) Seen near Ramnagar.

Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*) 1 superb male seen at Riverine Woods Camp and another found at Corbett Falls.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyris tickelli*) Common in Gujarat.

BABLERS (*TIMALLINI*)

Streaked Laughing Thrush (*Trochalopteryx lineatum*) Fairly numerous at Pangot.

Red-headed Laughing Thrush (*Trochalopteryx erythrocephalum*) Small flock at Pangot.

White-throated Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax albogularis*) Single flock at Pangot.

White-crested Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax leucolophax*) Several large flocks at Riverine Woods Camp and along the road to Ramnagar. A lovely bird.

Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Chrysomna sinense*) Common in Kahna NP.

Tawny-bellied Babbler (*Dumetia hyperythra*) Two groups seen in the Gir Forest and common in Kahna NP.

Black-chinned Babbler (*stachyris nigriceps*) Several small groups seen at Riverine Woods Camp.

Large Grey Babbler (*Turdoides malcomi*) Common.

Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striatus*) Very common.

Indian Scimitar-Babbler (*Pomatorhinus horsefieldii*) Several seen in Kahna NP. A lovely looking species.

(Brown) Grey-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe poicephala*) Abundant in Kahna NP.

Rufous Sibia (*Heterophasia capistrata*) 2 at Pangot.

Blue-winged Minla (*Minla cyanouroptera*) Seen at Ramnagar and Riverine Woods Camp.

WARBLERS (*SYLVIDAE*)

Zitting Cisticolas (*Cisticola juincidus*) Common in open farmlands and grassland areas.

Bright-capped Cisticola (*Cisticola exilis*) 1 in Kahna NP.

Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*) Common in Gujarat and Kahna NP.

Grey-breasted Prinia (*Prinia hodgsoni*) Common in Gir Forest and Kahna NP.

Jungle Prinia (*Prinia sylvatica*) Several seen in Kahna NP.

Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*) Seen at Ohkla Barrage.

Striated Prinia (*Prinia crinigera*) 1 at Pangot.

Rufous-fronted Prinia (*Prinia buchani*) Common the Little Rann of Kutch.

Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) Seen at the Khijadiya Sanctuary.

Indian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus brunnescens*) Common in Gujarat.

Paddyfield Warbler (*Acrocephalus agricola*) Common in Gujarat at wetland sites.

Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus blythii*) 1 seen at the Khijadiya Sanctuary.

Syke's Warbler (*Hippolais nana*) Seen in Gujarat.

Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) Several seen at sites throughout.

Grey-hooded Warbler (*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*) Common near Corbett NP.

Green-crowned (Golden-spectacled) Warbler (*Seicercus burkii*) Probably seen near Ramnagar. An altogether confusing group.

Whistler's Warbler (*Seicercus whistleri*) Seen at Riverine Woods Camp.

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher (*Culicapa ceylonensis*) 1 near Rann Riders and several in Kahna NP.

Siberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus tristis*) Common in Gujarat.

Mountain Chiffchaff () 2 near Pangot.

Tickell's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*) 2 seen in Kahna presumed to be this species. Slightly paler than illustrated but deep yellowish wash below and yellowish bill and legs.

Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) Common at Ohkla Barrage and in Kahna NP.

Bright-green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*) 1 seen in Gir Forest NP, a couple in Kahna NP.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler (*Phylloscopus griseolus*) Common in Gir Forest NP. Another extralimital record.

Brooke's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus brooksei*) 2 seen in scrub along the Chambal River.

Hume's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*) Seen in Kahna NP

Orange-banded Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus pulcher*) Seen in Corbett NP.

Lemon-rumped Leaf-Warbler (*Phylloscopus chloronotus*) Seen in Corbett NP

Asian Desert Warbler (*Sylvia nana*) 1 seen in the Little Rann of Kutch.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) Common in Gujarat.

Eastern Orphee Warbler (*Sylvia crassirostris*) Seen in Gujarat.

TITS (*PARIDAE*).

Spot-winged Tit (*Parus melanolophus*) 2 near Pangot.

Great Tit (*Parus major*) seen in Gujarat and at Kahna NP.

Green-backed tit (*Parus monticolus*) Small numbers seen at Pangot.

Red-headed (Black-throated) Tit (*Aegithalos concinnans*) Seen at Corbett NP.

Indian yellow Tit (*Parus aplonotus*) Seen in Kahna.

Black-lored Yellow Tit (*Parus xanthogenys*) Small numbers seen in Corbett NP.

TREECREEPERS (*CERTHIDAE*)

Bar-tailed Treecreeper (*Certhia himalayana*) Small numbers seen north of Ramnagar.

NUTHATCHES (*SITTIDAE*)

Indian Nuthatch (*Sitta castanea*) Several pairs at Kahna NP.

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (*sitta cinnamoventris*) Fairly common near Ramnagar.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*) A pair seen in Kahna NP, Corbett NP and Ramnagar.

Wallcreeper (*Tichodroma muraria*) Several seen along the river at Riverine Woods.

FLOWERPECKERS (*DICAEINI*)

Pale-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythronorhynchus*) Seen in Gir Forest NP.

Thick-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum agile*) A pair seen in Gir Forest NP.

WHITEEYES (*ZOSTEROPIDAE*)

Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) common.

SUNBIRDS (*NECTARINIINI*)

Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) Common.

Crimson Sunbird (*Aethopygia siparaja*) several seen in and near Corbett NP.

Green-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopygia nipalensis*) Common at Pangot.

ACCENTORS (*PRUNELLIDAE*)

Altai Accentor (*Prunella himalayana*) Several small flocks seen near Pangot.

BUNTINGS (*EMBERIZIDAE*)

Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathami*) Several seen near Chambal River sanctuary and at Dhikala..

Grey-necked Bunting (*Emberiza buchani*) Several pairs in Gujarat.

FINCHES (*CARDUELIIDAE*)

Plain Mountain Finch (*Leucosticta nemoricola*) Several large flocks near Pangot.

Himalayan Greenfinch (*Carduelis spinoides*) A few seen near Pangot.

Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) Seen at Dhikala.

Red Avadavat (*amadava amandava*). Found at Sultanpur Reserve.
Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*) Common.
Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctualta*) 10 near Kahna NP.

SPARROWS (*PASSERIDAE*)

House Sparrow (*Passer omeisticus*) Common.
Yellow-throated Sparrow (*Petronia xanthocollis*) Common throughout.

ORIOLES AND DRONGOS (*ORIOLIDAE*)

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*) Common in Kahna NP.
Maroon Oriole (*Oriolus traillii*) Common in Corbett NP.
Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) Common.
Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) Common throughout.
Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*) A few seen at Dhikala .
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) Up to 15 in Kahna NP.
Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) Seen near Ramnagar.

STARLINGS (*STURNIDAE*)

Rosy Starling (*Sturnus roseus*) Abundant in Gujarat.
Brahminy Starling (*Temnuchus pagodorum*) Common.
Asian Pied Starling (*Gracupica contra*) Seen at Ohkla Barrage.
Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) Abundant.



Bank Myna (*Acridotheres gingianus*) Common in Gujarat.
Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*) Several seen at Dhikala.

CROWS (*CORVIDAE*)

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) Common in urban areas.
Indian Jungle Crow (*Corvus culminatus*) Common at forested sites.
Large-billed Crow (*Corvus japonensis*) Common near Pangot.
Black-headed Jay (*Garrulus lanceolatus*) 1 seen at Pangot.
Green Magpie (*Cissa chinensis*) A pair near Dhikala.
Red-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*) Common near Jungle Lore Lodge.
Grey Treepie (*Dendrositta formosa*) Common near Ramnagar where a flock of up to 25 seen..
Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) Common.

MAMMALS. (32 species recorded)

Rhesus Macaque (*Macacca assamensis*) Common in northern India.

Hanuman (Grey) Langur (*Presbytis entellus*) Common in Kahna NP, Corbett NP and elsewhere.

Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*) Seen at many sites throughout.

Wolf (*Canis lupis*) 1 animal hunting a Nilgai at Velavadar NP. We watched for twenty minutes or so until it was disturbed and chased off by a Striped Hyaena.

Bengal Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) 1 seen at Rann Riders.

Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*) 1 seen at Kahna NP.

Ruddy Mongoose (*Herpestes smithii*) 2 seen near Kahna NP.

Indian Grey Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*) Several groups seen in Gujarat.



Asiatic Wild Ass (*Equus onager*) 50 or so seen in the Little Rann of Kutch.

Striped Hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*) 2 seen at Velavadar NP. 1 was seen chasing a Wolf from a kill.

Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*) A single animal seen hunting along the access track at the Khijadiya Sanctuary and another seen at the entrance gate to Corbett NP.



Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persicus*) 2 seen in the Gir Forest. These animals were watched stalking Chital at length. We were often very close to the cats as they used the vehicles to conceal their presence..
Leopard (*Panthera pardalis*) 1 seen in Kahna NP.



Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) 4 seen in Kahna NP.

Goral (*Nemorhaedus goral*) 1 at Pangot.

Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) A herd of over thirty noted at Dhikala. Another smaller group of 7 seen near Dhikala camp and subsequently 2 'tuskers'.

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) Common in the national parks.

Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) (*Muntiacas muntias*) Seen at Kahna NP and common at Corbett NP.

Chital (*Cervus axis*) Common in Gir Forest NP and Kahna NP.



Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) Seen in Kahna.



Barasingha (*Cervus duvaucelii*) Up to twenty seen in Kahna NP



Nilgai (*Boscephalus tragocamelus*) Common in Gujarat.

Four-horned Antelope (*Tetracerisa quadricornis*) Seen in Gir NP and Kahna NP.

Hog Deer () Small herds noted at Dhikala.



Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) A total of 20 seen in Kahna NP. An impressive beast.



- Blackbuck** (*Antelope cervicapra*) Common in Velavadar NP.
Indian Gazelle (*Gazelle bennettii*) 8 seen on the northern side of Gir NP.
Northern Palm Squirrel (*Funambulus pennantii*) Common.
Indian Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*) Seen near Rann Riders.
Short-nosed Fruit Bat (*Cynopterus spinx*) Seen at Rann Riders.
Indian Fruit Bat () Several seen at the Chambal.
Gangetic River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) 3 along the Chambal River.