



## Birding with Buddha in BHUTAN

November 4-17, 2018

**Tour leaders: Josh Engel and Norbu**

**Photo gallery: [redhillbirding.com/bhutan-2018-gallery](http://redhillbirding.com/bhutan-2018-gallery)**

**Next trip: [November 1-14, 2020](#)**

Bhutan is a magical place, where the roads are lined with forest, birds are everywhere, the people are wonderful, and breakfast and lunch materialize out of nowhere just as you are getting hungry. This two-week trip took in many of Bhutan's best birding locations in the subtropical and temperate forests, high mountain passes, and fast flowing rivers. We had wonderful weather, tremendous birding, beautiful scenery, fantastic hotels, and an absolutely great group and superb local team to enjoy it all with. We also enjoyed some fascinating and illuminating cultural stops, including visiting Punakha Dzong, hiking to Tiger's Nest Monastery, and watching an archery match.

We did extremely well finding the birds that birders come to Bhutan to see, with birds like Ibisbill, White-bellied Heron, Black-necked Crane, Himalayan Monal, Blood Pheasant, Ward's Trogon, Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Beautiful Nuthatch, Rufous-necked Hornbill, and Great Parrotbill. We had some real bonuses, too, including an incredible Hodgson's Frogmouth and a surprise Green Cochoa, which became quite the talk of the Bhutanese birding community. Wintering birds and migrants were around in good numbers, including waterbirds like Long-billed Plover and Ruddy Shelduck, good numbers of migrating Steppe Eagles, and passerines like the abundant roadside Hodgson's Redstarts, numerous Wallcreepers, and good numbers of Red-throated Thrushes.

### ***TOP 5 BIRDS AS VOTED BY THE GROUP***

- 1. Great Hornbill**
- 2. Himalayan Monal**
- 3. Hodgson's Frogmouth**
- 4. Black-necked Crane / White-bellied Heron / Wallcreeper / Yellow-billed Blue Magpie / Blood Pheasant**



*Ibisbill is an iconic bird of Himalayan rivers. It's also the only member of its family. And we saw it on the first day!*

### Day 1, Arrival, to Thimphu

The group met in the wee hours of the morning at the Bangkok Airport and off to Bhutan we were. We met Norbu at the airport and headed towards Thimphu, Bhutan's capital. We saw our first few birds along the way, roadside birds like **Hodgson's Redstart** and **Red-billed Chough**. After dropping our things at the hotel, we stopped in at the giant hillside Buddha for some sightseeing, then went to Thimphu's best birding spot, the local sewage lagoons. Just about the first bird we saw was **Ibisbill**, an iconic species of the Himalayas and a bird we hoped to see here. A male **Ferruginous Duck** was a treat as well, as was the flock of **Ruddy Shelducks**, the many **White Wagtails**, and the **Oriental Skylark**. We saw our first **Plumbeous** and **White-capped Redstarts**, **Brown Dipper**, **River Lapwing**, and other characteristic river birds. It was a great way to start the trip.

### Day 2, Thimphu to Punakha

We set off early to bird along the road near Dochula before traffic got heavy. We tried for Ward's Trogon with no luck, but a mixed flock kept us busy, with our first **Green-tailed Sunbird**, **Gray-hooded Warbler**, and **Green-backed Tit**. Things got real busy when we reached the botanical gardens. **White-throated Laughingthrushes** were everywhere, and mixed in were **Eurasian Jay** and **Striated Laughingthrush**. **Whiskered** and **Rufous-vented Yuhinas** were abundant and with them we found several **Brown Parrotbills**. Along our walk we came across **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush**, **Blue-fronted Redstart**, and a friendly **Sambar Deer**. Raptors were active as well, and we had several **Steppe Eagles** passing over along with **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** and **Mountain Hawk-Eagle**.

We stopped a few times along the road again on our way to Punakha. A mixed flock had a **Rusty-flanked Treecreeper** and **Pale-rumped Warbler**. A cliff with huge rock bee hives had a pair of **Yellow-rumped Honeyguides** which gave us great looks. A **Scaly-breasted Cupwing** was singing here, too, but wouldn't come into view.

We arrived along the rivers of Punakha and got started looking for the critically endangered White-bellied Heron. It was great birding in a beautiful setting, with the endangered **Pallas's Fish-Eagle**, **Common**, **White-throated**, and **Crested Kingfishers**, and White-browed Wagtail, but we couldn't find the heron. This is one of the species' last strongholds. Just as we were nearing the end of our search, we received word from locals that one was along the river where we had just passed, so we jumped in the bus and hurried that way. Sure enough, there it was, a huge **White-bellied Heron** with a fish in its beak. What a way to end the day. We could only hope that the bird continues to thrive on this peaceful stretch of river.



*White-bellied Heron is one of the world's rarest birds. Bhutan is its last stronghold; nevertheless, we felt very lucky to see one!*

### Day 3, Punakha

We started our day heading into the forests of Jigme Dorji National Park, along the Mo Chhu. It's a beautiful forested river along a quiet road. Our drive there was peppered with new birds, including **Russet Sparrow**, **Slaty-backed Forktail**, and a wonderfully cooperative **Wallcreeper**. The forest was relatively quiet, but we did find **Little Forktail**, several flocks of **Gray-chinned Minivets** with a few **Scarlet Minivets** mixed in, **Small Niltava**, and a flock of **Black-chinned Yuhinas**. **Nepal House-Martins** and **Himalayan Swiftlets** were flying around overhead and a large flock of **Yellow-breasted Greenfinches** was seen well in flight. A singing **Chestnut-headed Tesia** came out of dark thickets where it was hiding and everyone had great views. A **Scaly-breasted Cupwing** was less cooperative, but some people did get to see it. Overhead, raptors were out including migrating **Steppe Eagles** and several **Himalayan Griffons**. We enjoyed seeing a troop of **Assam Macaques** here, too.

We returned to Punakha, stopping when we came across a flock of **sparrows** that included a **Common Rosefinch**, and toured the beautiful dzong. To end the day, we birded an area of the Punatsang Chhu that is a good place for waterbirds. On the way there we spotted a **European Otter** running over the riverside rocks and jumping into the river, swimming away upstream. We found an excellent diversity of waterbirds here, including **Tufted Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Green-winged Teal**, and many **Ruddy Shelducks**, shorebirds including **Temminck's Stint**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Kentish Plover**, and **Little Ringed Plover**, a single **Eurasian Coot**, and a huge number of **White Wagtails**.

#### Day 4, Punakha to Phobjikha Valley

We departed our hotel early and stopped again along the river where we noticed some waterbirds. The same spot as we visited yesterday had a number of birds that weren't there yesterday, including several rarities for Bhutan, like **Pied Avocet**, **Little Sint**, **Black-headed Gull**, and **Heuglin's (Lesser Black-backed) Gull**. Best of all was the uncommon **Long-billed Plover**.

We continued on to bird in the roadside forests, looking for Ward's Trogon and enjoying the birding and scenery. As soon as we got out of the car we noticed a mixed flock—we would continue watching different mixed flocks without pause for the next hour. Luckily for us, the flocks were at eye level in the canopy of the forest downslope from us and were in no hurry, so most people got good views of most of the birds. This included **Himalayan Cutia**, **Gray-winged Blackbird**, **Hoary-throated Barwing**, **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, **Red-tailed** and **Chestnut-tailed Minlas**, **Black-faced Warbler**, and **Great Barbet**. A **Fire-tailed Myzornis** made a brief appearance, but wasn't so cooperative so only a few people saw it. Most exciting of all, however, and a massive shock, were two male **Wreathed Hornbills** that flew past us at close range. This might be the highest elevation that the species has ever been recorded and is surely the first record for this region of Bhutan. We also enjoyed a cooperative **Barred Cuckoo-Dove** and a **Black Eagle** flying overhead. A troop of **Nepal Gray Langurs** was along the road, including several females with babies.

It was a beautifully clear day and we could see all the way to Jomolhari, Bhutan's second highest peak, as we neared our turnoff from the main road. We also came across a migrating flock of **Black-necked Cranes** there as they, like us, approached the Phobjikha Valley. As we entered the valley, we could see the valley floor littered with cranes. We counted 97 of them and got great views, including some close fly-bys. We made it to our beautiful new hotel, where we could see and hear the **cranes** from our rooms. We took a walk from the hotel with the remaining daylight, finding typical scrubby area birds like **Rufous-breasted Accentor**, **Little Bunting**, **Rufous-fronted Tit**, and **Blue-fronted Redstart**.





*Some of the 100 Black-necked Cranes that had arrived for the winter in the Probjhika Valley.*

### **Day 5, Phobjikha Valley to Jakar**

We woke up to the sounds of **Black-necked Cranes** calling and hit the road. As we left the Valley we spotted a flock of **Red-throated Thrushes** feeding on fruit before walking along the old road at Pelela. It was a stunning, clear morning, with views to the snow-capped Jomolhari. The first birds we saw were a few female **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinches**. Continuing on, we found typical high-elevation birds like **White-browed Fulvetta**, **Rufous-vented** and **Coal Tits**, and **Black-faced Laughingthrush**. A few people got good views of **Blood Pheasant** before they disappeared into the thick scrub, but we all enjoyed views of the beautiful **White-throated Redstart**. Meanwhile, **Steppe Eagles** and **Himalayan Griffons** soared overhead.



*Himalayan Monal is a technicolored wonder of the high mountains.*

We continued eastward after breakfast, getting good views of **White-winged Grosbeak**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor**, and a few other birds along the road. Before reaching Jakar, we took a side road into the mountains to a monastery where monks feed the birds, including **Himalayan Monal**. Sure enough, the must-be-seen-to-be-believed technicolored **Himalayan Monals** were there. We enjoyed incredible, leisurely views of male and female in a stunning setting as the sun set over the mountains. What an end to the day.

#### Day 6, Jakar to Phrumsengla National Park

Before we left, a few of us took a walk around the hotel, where there was a layer of frost on the ground. **Red-billed Choughs** were leaving their roost somewhere in the area and flocks streamed overhead. **Hodgson's** and **Blue-fronted Redstarts** were both around, birds we were getting used to seeing in the countryside. We then packed up and continued on. We stopped for birds by the roadside, getting great views of birds like **White-winged Grosbeak**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor**, **White-throated Redstart**, **Alpine Accentor**, and the recently split **Black-rumped Magpie**. We also watched a small group of **Snow Pigeons** flying in circles below us.

Our guide knew a spot where **Solitary Snipe** sometimes spends the winter, and after a bit of scanning we spotted it. We got great views of this rare shorebird as it fed in a muddy roadside creek. Eventually we reached Phrumsengla, the beautiful pass that sits at 3,740m, before descending into wonderful forest on the other side. We found a couple of nice flocks that included various **tits**, **laughingthrushes**, **Goldcrest**, another uncooperative **Fire-tailed Myzornis**, **Hoary-throated Barwing**, and we got great views of **Hodgson's Treecreeper**. Our driver found a female **Satyr Tragopan** while the group was walking along the road, but a car flushed it before we could get there, so the best we could do was hear it calling from the steep slope below us.



*One of the best surprises of the trip was this Hodgson's Frogmouth.*



As it got dark and we neared the hotel, we stopped to check for a **Hodgson's Frogmouth** that another birding group had seen the day before. We got out and gave it a go and we were shocked when it flew in and sat right in the open for us, lit up by a flashlight, giving everybody scope views. At times it would sway like a dead leaf in the wind, as frogmouths do. What an extraordinary bird to see, and one that has only recently been discovered in Bhutan. It certainly wasn't anything I expected to see on this trip!

### Day 7, Phrumsengla National Park

We spent the morning birding the subtropical forests of the national park not far from our hotel. It was a tremendous morning of birding, with nearly constant activity, excellent mixed flocks, and some great birds. We first stopped the bus because a female **Scarlet Finch** was sitting on a dead branch (we would later see a bright red male). From then on, birds kept on coming. One highlight was a large group of birds scolding something that remained unseen by us, but the birds were in dead branches right in the open, including an entire flock of **White-breasted Parrotbills**. Nearby, a flock of the rare **Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler** showed uncharacteristically well on the edge of the road. We also found lots of birds coming into flowering wild cherry trees for the nectar. Among the ever-present **Rufous Sibilas** were **Orange-bellied Leafbird**, **Oriental White-eye**, and **Green-tailed** and **Fire-tailed Sunbird**. After hearing several, we were treated to perfect views of a pair of the magnificent, huge **Rufous-necked Hornbills**, which seemed to be checking out a nesting cavity. We had nice views of a flock of **Wedge-tailed Pigeons**, a flock of **White-naped Yuhinas**, and both **Bronzed** and the remarkable **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**. **Capped Langurs** kept us company at lunch, before we returned to the hotel for an afternoon break.

For the afternoon, we birded a side road near the hotel, looking especially for **Beautiful Nuthatch**. We got lucky—an entire flock of the nuthatches was commuting up the valley just as we were in the right spot. They hardly stopped, but everyone got to see them. We also heard **Spotted Elachura** singing its extraordinary song and several **Scaly-breasted Cupwings** along the road, but they wouldn't come out. An understory flock was difficult to see in the shade of the mountainside, but we did pick out **Chestnut-crowned** and **White-spectacled Warblers** and **Rufous-capped Babbler**.

We went out again after dinner to spotlight along the road. We didn't hear any owls, but we did get to see a **Hodgson's Flying Squirrel**, which uncharacteristically sat for scope views.

### Day 8, Phrumsengla National Park

It was another incredibly birdy morning. As we headed to the higher elevations where we were going to spend the morning, we had fantastic views of **Scaly Laughingthrush** on the road and **Rufous-necked Hornbill**—possibly the same pair as yesterday—sitting in bare snags along the road. We finally started our birding and among the first birds we saw was a flock of four **Fire-tailed Myzornis**. After two other all-too-brief sightings over the past few days, this was worth

the wait. We watched the flock at close range as they sang and displayed to each other, showing off their exquisite, unique plumage.

We continued on down the road, trying in vain for Ward's Trogon, but finding a steady supply of birds (and a steady supply of **Rufous Sibias**) to keep us entertained, including **Golden-throated Barbet**, **Black-browed Tit**, **Whistler's Warbler**, and **Streak-chested Scimitar-Babbler**. A cooperative understory flock held **Rufous-capped Babbler**, **Rufous-winged Fulvetta**, and **Gray-cheeked Warbler**. We stopped walking for breakfast, but the birds kept coming. A flock of minivets, with both **Small-billed** and **Gray-chinned Minivets**, provided us with great breakfast company. A flock of **Golden-breasted Fulvettas** showed up just as we were finishing eating and gave everyone in the group great views. Walking on, we came across a cooperative singing **Orange-bellied Leafbird**. While we were watching it, Norbu shouted out "**Black-headed Shrike-Babbler!**" It was a female of this rare bird and she showed magnificently for the group. Raptors were also coming out, and we had views of a perched **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** and a displaying **Crested Goshawk**.



*We had tremendous views of this Black-headed Shrike-Babbler, followed soon thereafter by Bhutan's other three shrike-babbler species!*

A short while later, we found a mixed flock along the road, getting only brief views of several birds, until we found them in a bountiful fruiting tree, at eye level, in perfect light and at close range. Birds came fast and furious, but the birds were brilliantly cooperative, and we had incredible looks at pairs of **Green**, **Blythe's**, and **Black-eared Shrike-Babblers**, all in the same tree, which also held a group of **Yellow-cheeked Tits**. It was altogether almost too many birds for one morning.



After lunch and a break, we headed to lower elevations for the evening. We hadn't yet birded at this low an altitude, so we found a good number of new birds, including **White-crested**, **Rufous-necked**, and (for some) **Rufous-chinned Laughingthrushes**. We had great views of a **Streaked Spiderhunter**, **Blue-winged Minla**, and a flock of **Striated Yuhina**. A responsive **Scaly-breasted Cupwing** came out into the open and showed incredibly well for the whole group, but only a lucky few saw a **Barred Buttonquail** flush from the side of the road. Monkeys were active here, too, with troops of **Assam Macaques** and **Capped Langurs**.

### Day 9, Yongkola area

We had one last full day in this Mecca of Asian birding. We spent the morning birding along a newly built road through the forest. It was a quiet road through excellent habitat. The first birds we saw were a pair of **Rufous-chinned Laughingthrushes** that showed us all of the details of their plumage. Next up was a male **Lesser Yellownape** that did the same. The birds kept coming. We encountered several mixed flocks, which contained our first **Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher**, **Sikkim Treecreeper**, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, **Rufous-bellied Eagle** and **Oriental Honey-Buzzard** soared overhead. As we were watching a large flock of **Gray Treepies**, a bird with an unfamiliar shape caught my attention. Pretty soon it was in view—**Green Cochoa**! It was a totally unexpected bird (and a lifer for Norbu), which sat long enough for a few people in the group to get a view, before disappearing.

As we were nearing our breakfast spot and looking deep into the forest, the call went out—**Great Hornbill**! Three **Great Hornbills**, one after another, flew high overhead and landed in a ridgetop tree where we got excellent scope views of this incredible bird. We would see the three again later flying across the valley. As we enjoyed our breakfast in the forest, we noticed a flock of finches flying around that turned out to be **Spot-winged Grosbeaks**. They kept circling, enough that everyone got good views.

We continued on after breakfast. With the sun shining down, butterflies were active, and we enjoyed seeing and photographing a wide diversity of them. The birding slowed down, but we did find **Spotted Forktail** at a stream crossing and had excellent views of **Striated** and **Black-throated Prinias**. We thoroughly enjoyed close scope views of **Oriental White-eye** and **Golden-throated Barbet** as well.

After lunch and a rest, we headed back to lower elevations for the late afternoon. Before we had even left the village where our hotel was, we stopped for **Gray Bushchats** next to the road, which turned into a fortuitous stop as a flock of **Rufescent Prinias** was in the same area. It was quite birdy in the lower valley. We found our first **Mountain Tailorbirds** in the roadside bamboo. We had great views of **Blue-throated** and **Great Barbets** right next to each other, with **Ashy Drongo** and **Black-crested Bulbul** in the same dead tree as the barbets. We also had excellent scope views of **Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush**, **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**, and **Gray-headed Woodpecker**. Only a couple of people saw the first **Kalij Pheasant** fly across the road, but luckily four more followed the first one. As the light was fading, we found our first **Verditer Flycatcher** and heard our first **Pygmy Cupwing**. All in all, it was an extremely satisfying day.

### Day 10, Yongkola to Trongsa

We left Yongkola early to start the long drive to Trongsa. We couldn't pass through prime **Ward's Trogon** territory without giving this iconic bird of Himalayan forests one last shot. At our first stop, we heard one, which gave us some encouragement, but we couldn't track it down. At our second stop, we heard another, this time much closer. Norbu followed a small trail into the forest to see if he could find it, and before long he was calling us to follow. With some maneuvering, everyone got great looks at two female **Ward's Trogons**. We returned to the road, where a couple of the group had waited for us, only to find them looking at the birds!

With that success, we continued west. Our next stop was in the high elevation forest with bamboo understory near Phrumsengla. We tried for **Great Parrotbill** and heard it responding, but only far off. The forest was fairly quiet, but we noted some **Fulvous Parrotbills** that quickly disappeared. Some of us scrambled up the slope into the bamboo to try and get better views, and lo and behold there were the **Great Parrotbills**! We never did see the Fulvous again.

### Day 11, Trongsa to Paro

We had another long drive today. Setting off from Trongsa, we found some good birds not far from the town. **Spotted Forktail** was on the roadside and nearby was a mixed flock with birds like **Gray-hooded Warbler** and **Rufous-winged Fulvetta**. The bus screeched to a halt a short while later when Norbu spotted **Bhutan Laughingthrush** by the roadside. We all enjoyed great views of it along with a female **Golden Bush-Robin** and a flock of **Nepal House-Martins**. Not too far away, a **Yellow-throated Marten** bounded across the road, but not before stopping to look around and giving us all great views.

We stopped to scope the Punatsangchhu, looking down at the river from the hillside road at the same area that we had birded a week previously from the opposite side of the river. There were many **Ruddy Shelducks** and careful scanning revealed a female **Northern Pintail**, two female **Common Mergansers**, and two **Pied Avocets**, twice the number that were there on our previous visit.

We spent much of the rest of the day driving, stopping when we saw birds by the roadside, which included a whirling flock **Snow Pigeons**, **Steppe Buzzard**, **Red-headed Bullfinch**, and, as we got close to Paro, a **Mallard**, which was a new bird for Josh's Bhutan list.

### Day 12, Chelela

We set off in the morning to the highest drivable pass in Bhutan, Chelela. The forests on the way up can be good for pheasants if you beat the traffic, and that was certainly true today, when we had great views of flocks of **Kalij** and **Blood Pheasants** (and we heard **Himalayan Monal** singing at the pass). We also stopped for a mixed tit flock on the way up which turned out to be fortuitous when we heard **Collared Grosbeaks** and found a whole flock of these beautiful finches sitting on top of a tall fir. After breakfast we made it to the pass itself, where

we were greeted by **Alpine Accentor** and a flock of “throated” thrushes that gave us great views, including a beautiful male **Red-throated Thrush** and an immature male **Black-throated Thrush**. We continued birding along the road, finding **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** and **Himalayan Buzzard**, **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch**, and a flock of **White-winged Grosbeaks**.

We returned down after lunch and headed to Paro for some shopping after an afternoon break. Before shopping, though, we stopped in at a small marsh near town to look for **Black-tailed Crake**, which we ended up getting great views of. A couple of us were lucky enough to hear a **Himalayan Owl** on the hotel grounds before dinner, but it quickly disappeared.

### Day 13, Tiger’s Nest

Today was our much-anticipated hike to Taktsang, Tiger’s Nest Monastery, Bhutan’s most sacred temple. The weather was great for the hike and we enjoyed our tour of the temple. It’s not the best place for birding, but a few in the group saw our first **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, along with **Wallcreeper**, **Spotted Forktail**, **White-browed Fulvetta**, **Snow Pigeon**, and **Alpine Accentor**.

We took a well-deserved rest when we got back to the hotel, trying unsuccessfully for the local Himalayan Owl before dinner.



*Tiger’s Nest (Taktsang) Monastery. Worth the walk!*



## Day 14, Departure

We spent the early part of the morning birding around the hotel grounds. We had excellent views of **Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler**, **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie** (which made it into the trip's Top 5 birds), and only our second sighting of **Eurasian Jay**. We enjoyed watching the now-familiar **Eurasian Nutcracker** picking seeds out of the chir pine cones, watched a flock of **Yellow-breasted Greenfinches** flying around overhead, and ensured that **Large-billed Crow** and **Blue Whistling-Thrush** were true "everyday birds."

We still had plenty of time before our flight out, so we visited the National Museum, Paro Dzong (where there was an **Ibisbill** in the river below), and the local weekend produce market before saying our farewells and departing from one of the prettiest airports in the world. What a trip!

**BIRD LIST.** 242 species. Taxonomy follows the Clements/eBird Checklist, 2018 update. Former (or alternate) English names are in parentheses. (H) = heard only. IUCN Red List status listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened.

Ruddy Shelduck - *Tadorna ferruginea*  
 Gadwall - *Mareca strepera*  
 Mallard - *Anas platyrhynchos*  
 Northern Pintail - *Anas acuta*  
 Green-winged Teal - *Anas crecca*  
 Ferruginous Duck (NT) - *Aythya nyroca*  
 Tufted Duck - *Aythya fuligula*  
 Common Merganser (Goosander) - *Mergus merganser*  
 Hill Partridge (H) - *Arborophila torqueola*  
 Chestnut-breasted Partridge (H) - *Arborophila mandellii*  
 Rufous-throated Partridge (VU) (H) - *Arborophila rufogularis*  
 Blood Pheasant - *Ithaginis cruentus*  
 Himalayan Monal - *Lophophorus impejanus*  
 Satyr Tragopan (NT) (H) - *Tragopan satyra*  
 Kalij Pheasant - *Lophura leucomelanos*  
 Rock Pigeon - *Columba livia*  
 Snow Pigeon - *Columba leuconota*  
 Speckled Wood-Pigeon - *Columba hodgsonii*  
 Oriental Turtle-Dove - *Streptopelia orientalis*  
 Barred Cuckoo-Dove - *Macropygia unchall*  
 Wedge-tailed Pigeon - *Treron sphenurus*  
 Hodgson's Frogmouth - *Batrachostomus hodgsoni*  
 Himalayan Swiftlet - *Aerodramus brevirostris*

Eurasian Coot - *Fulica atra*  
Black-tailed Crake - *Zapornia bicolor*  
Black-necked Crane (VU) - *Grus nigricollis*  
Pied Avocet - *Recurvirostra avosetta*  
Ibisbill - *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*  
River Lapwing (NT) - *Vanellus duvaucelii*  
Red-wattled Lapwing - *Vanellus indicus*  
Kentish Plover - *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
Long-billed Plover - *Charadrius placidus*  
Little Ringed Plover - *Charadrius dubius*  
Temminck's Stint - *Calidris temminckii*  
Little Stint - *Calidris minuta*  
Solitary Snipe - *Gallinago solitaria*  
Common Sandpiper - *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Green Sandpiper - *Tringa ochropus*  
Common Greenshank - *Tringa nebularia*  
Black-headed Gull - *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*  
Lesser Black-backed (Heuglin's) Gull - *Larus fuscus*  
Great Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
White-bellied Heron (CR) - *Ardea insignis*  
Oriental Honey-buzzard - *Pernis ptilorhynchus*  
Himalayan Griffon (Vulture) (NT) - *Gyps himalayensis*  
Crested Serpent-Eagle - *Spilornis cheela*  
Mountain Hawk-Eagle - *Nisaetus nipalensis*  
Rufous-bellied Eagle (NT) - *Lophotriorchis kienerii*  
Black Eagle - *Ictinaetus malaiensis*  
Steppe Eagle (EN) - *Aquila nipalensis*  
Crested Goshawk - *Accipiter trivirgatus*  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk - *Accipiter nisus*  
Black Kite - *Milvus migrans*  
Pallas's Fish-Eagle (EN) - *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*  
Common (Steppe) Buzzard - *Buteo buteo*  
Himalayan Buzzard - *Buteo refectus*  
Collared Owlet (H) - *Glaucidium brodiei*  
Asian Barred Owlet - *Glaucidium cuculoides*  
Himalayan (Tawny) Owl (H) - *Strix nivicolum*  
Ward's Trogon (NT) - *Harpactes wardi*  
Eurasian Hoopoe - *Upupa epops*  
Great Hornbill (VU) - *Buceros bicornis*  
Rufous-necked Hornbill (VU) - *Aceros nipalensis*

Wreathed Hornbill (VU) - *Rhyticeros undulatus*  
Common Kingfisher - *Alcedo atthis*  
White-throated Kingfisher - *Halcyon smyrnensis*  
Crested Kingfisher - *Megaceryle lugubris*  
Blue-bearded Bee-eater - *Nyctyornis athertoni*  
Great Barbet - *Psilopogon virens*  
Golden-throated Barbet - *Psilopogon franklinii*  
Blue-throated Barbet - *Psilopogon asiaticus*  
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide (NT) - *Indicator xanthonotus*  
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*  
Darjeeling Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos darjellensis*  
Bay Woodpecker - *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*  
Lesser Yellownape - *Picus chlorolophus*  
Gray-headed Woodpecker - *Picus canus*  
Greater Yellownape - *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*  
Eurasian Kestrel - *Falco tinnunculus*  
Peregrine Falcon - *Falco peregrinus*  
Gray-chinned Minivet - *Pericrocotus solaris*  
Short-billed Minivet - *Pericrocotus brevirostris*  
Long-tailed Minivet - *Pericrocotus ethologus*  
Scarlet Minivet - *Pericrocotus speciosus*  
Long-tailed Shrike - *Lanius schach*  
Gray-backed Shrike - *Lanius tephronotus*  
Black-headed Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius rufiventer*  
Blyth's Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius aeralatus*  
Green Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*  
Black-eared Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius melanotis*  
White-bellied Erpornis (Yuhina) - *Erpornis zantholeuca*  
Ashy Drongo - *Dicrurus leucophaeus*  
Bronzed Drongo - *Dicrurus aeneus*  
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo - *Dicrurus remifer*  
Hair-crested Drongo - *Dicrurus hottentottus*  
White-throated Fantail - *Rhipidura albicollis*  
Eurasian Jay - *Garrulus glandarius*  
Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie - *Urocissa flavirostris*  
Gray Treepie - *Dendrocitta formosae*  
Black-rumped (Eurasian) Magpie - *Pica bottanensis*  
Eurasian Nutcracker - *Nucifraga caryocatactes*  
Red-billed Chough - *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*  
House Crow - *Corvus splendens*



Large-billed Crow - *Corvus macrorhynchos*  
Oriental Skylark - *Alauda gulgula*  
Nepal House-Martin - *Delichon nipalense*  
Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail - *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus*  
Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher - *Culicicapa ceylonensis*  
Yellow-browed Tit - *Sylviparus modestus*  
Coal Tit - *Periparus ater*  
Rufous-vented Tit - *Periparus rubidiventris*  
Gray-crested Tit - *Lophophanes dichrous*  
Green-backed Tit - *Parus monticolus*  
Yellow-cheeked Tit - *Machlolophus spilonotus*  
Black-throated Tit - *Aegithalos concinnus*  
Black-browed Tit - *Aegithalos iouschistos*  
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - *Sitta cinnamoventris*  
White-tailed Nuthatch - *Sitta himalayensis*  
Beautiful Nuthatch (VU) - *Sitta formosa*  
Wallcreeper - *Tichodroma muraria*  
Hodgson's (Eurasian) Treecreeper - *Certhia hodgsoni*  
Rusty-flanked Treecreeper - *Certhia nipalensis*  
Sikkim (Brown-throated) Treecreeper - *Certhia discolor*  
Eurasian (Winter) Wren - *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
Brown Dipper - *Cinclus pallasii*  
Black-crested Bulbul - *Rubigula flaviventris*  
Striated Bulbul - *Pycnonotus striatus*  
Red-vented Bulbul - *Pycnonotus cafer*  
Black Bulbul - *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*  
Mountain Bulbul - *Ixos mcclellandii*  
Goldcrest - *Regulus regulus*  
Scaly-breasted Cupwing (Wren-Babbler) - *Pnoepyga albiventer*  
Pygmy Cupwing (Wren-Babbler) - *Pnoepyga pusilla*  
Chestnut-headed Tesia - *Cettia castaneocoronata*  
Black-faced Warbler - *Abroscopus schisticeps*  
Mountain Tailorbird - *Phyllergates cucullatus*  
Ashy-throated (Leaf-)Warbler - *Phylloscopus maculipennis*  
Pale-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Warbler - *Phylloscopus chloronotus*  
Tickell's Leaf Warbler - *Phylloscopus affinis*  
Gray-cheeked Warbler - *Phylloscopus poliogenys*  
Whistler's (Golden-spectacled) Warbler - *Phylloscopus whistleri*  
Chestnut-crowned Warbler - *Phylloscopus castaniceps*  
Blyth's Leaf Warbler - *Phylloscopus reguloides*

Gray-hooded Warbler - *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*  
Common Tailorbird - *Orthotomus sutorius*  
Striated Prinia - *Prinia crinigera*  
Black-throated Prinia - *Prinia atrogularis*  
Rufescent Prinia - *Prinia rufescens*  
Fire-tailed Myzornis - *Myzornis pyrrhura*  
Golden-breasted Fulvetta - *Lioparus chrysotis*  
White-browed Fulvetta - *Fulvetta vinipectus*  
Great Parrotbill - *Conostoma aemodium*  
Brown Parrotbill - *Cholornis unicolor*  
White-breasted (Greater Rufous-headed) Parrotbill - *Psittiparus ruficeps*  
Fulvous Parrotbill - *Suthora fulvifrons*  
Striated Yuhina - *Yuhina castaniceps*  
White-naped Yuhina - *Yuhina bakeri*  
Whiskered Yuhina - *Yuhina flavicollis*  
Stripe-throated Yuhina - *Yuhina gularis*  
Rufous-vented Yuhina - *Yuhina occipitalis*  
Black-chinned Yuhina - *Yuhina nigrimenta*  
Oriental White-eye - *Zosterops palpebrosus*  
Golden Babbler - *Cyanoderma chrysaeum*  
Rufous-capped Babbler - *Cyanoderma ruficeps*  
Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler - *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*  
Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler - *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*  
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler - *Megapomatorhinus erythrogenys*  
Gray-throated Babbler - *Stachyris nigriceps*  
Yellow-throated Fulvetta - *Schoeniparus cinereus*  
Rufous-winged Fulvetta - *Schoeniparus castaneiceps*  
Nepal Fulvetta - *Alcippe nipalensis*  
Striated Laughingthrush - *Grammatoptila striata*  
Himalayan Cutia - *Cutia nipalensis*  
White-crested Laughingthrush - *Garrulax leucolophus*  
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush - *Lanthocincla rufogularis*  
Spotted Laughingthrush (H) - *Lanthocincla ocellata*  
White-throated Laughingthrush - *Lanthocincla albogularis*  
Rufous-necked Laughingthrush - *Lanthocincla ruficollis*  
Bhutan Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron imbricatum*  
Scaly Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron subunicolor*  
Blue-winged Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron squamatum*  
Black-faced Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron affine*  
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*

Rufous Sibia - *Heterophasia capistrata*  
Red-billed Leiothrix - *Leiothrix lutea*  
Red-tailed Minla - *Minla ignotincta*  
Red-faced Liocichla (H) - *Liocichla phoenicea*  
Hoary-throated Barwing - *Actinodura nipalensis*  
Rusty-fronted Barwing - *Actinodura egertoni*  
Blue-winged Minla - *Actinodura cyanouroptera*  
Chestnut-tailed Minla - *Actinodura strigula*  
Oriental Magpie-Robin - *Copsychus saularis*  
Large Niltava (H) - *Niltava grandis*  
Small Niltava - *Niltava macgrigoriae*  
Verditer Flycatcher - *Eumyias thalassinus*  
Blue Whistling-Thrush - *Myophonus caeruleus*  
Little Forktail - *Enicurus scouleri*  
Spotted Forktail - *Enicurus maculatus*  
Slaty-backed Forktail - *Enicurus schistaceus*  
Golden Bush-Robin - *Tarsiger chrysaeus*  
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - *Ficedula strophciata*  
Blue-fronted Redstart - *Phoenicurus frontalis*  
Plumbeous Redstart - *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*  
White-capped Redstart - *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*  
Hodgson's Redstart - *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*  
White-throated Redstart - *Phoenicurus schisticeps*  
Black Redstart - *Phoenicurus ochruros*  
Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush - *Monticola rufiventris*  
Siberian Stonechat - *Saxicola maurus*  
Gray Bushchat - *Saxicola ferreus*  
Green Cochoa - *Cochoa viridis*  
Gray-winged Blackbird - *Turdus bouboul*  
Black-throated (Dark-throated) Thrush - *Turdus atrogularis*  
Red-throated (Dark-throated) Thrush - *Turdus ruficollis*  
Common Myna - *Acridotheres tristis*  
Orange-bellied Leafbird - *Chloropsis hardwickii*  
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - *Dicaeum ignipectus*  
Fire-tailed Sunbird - *Aethopyga ignicauda*  
Black-throated Sunbird - *Aethopyga saturata*  
Green-tailed Sunbird - *Aethopyga nipalensis*  
Streaked Spiderhunter - *Arachnothera magna*  
Alpine Accentor - *Prunella collaris*  
Rufous-breasted Accentor - *Prunella strophciata*



Gray Wagtail - *Motacilla cinerea*  
White-browed Wagtail - *Motacilla maderaspatensis*  
White Wagtail - *Motacilla alba*  
Olive-backed Pipit - *Anthus hodgsoni*  
Spotted Elachura (Wren-Babbler) - *Elachura formosa*  
Collared Grosbeak - *Mycerobas affinis*  
Spot-winged Grosbeak - *Mycerobas melanozanthos*  
White-winged Grosbeak - *Mycerobas carnipes*  
Common Rosefinch - *Carpodacus erythrurus*  
Scarlet Finch - *Carpodacus sipahi*  
Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch - *Carpodacus thura*  
Red-headed Bullfinch - *Pyrrhula erythrocephala*  
Plain Mountain-Finch - *Leucosticte nemoricola*  
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch - *Chloris spinoides*  
Red Crossbill - *Loxia curvirostra*  
Little Bunting - *Emberiza pusilla*  
Russet Sparrow - *Passer cinnamomeus*  
Eurasian Tree Sparrow - *Passer montanus*  
Scaly-breasted Munia - *Lonchura punctulata*

**MAMMAL LIST.** 10 species. As there is no standard list of names for mammals, the names used here are simply commonly used names. IUCN Red List status listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened.

Assam Macaque (VU) - *Macaca assamensis*  
Gray Langur - *Semnopithecus entellus*  
Capped Langur (VU) - *Trachypithecus pileatus*  
Hodgson's (Bhutan) Giant Flying Squirrel - *Petaurista magnificus*  
Himalayan Striped Squirrel - *Tamiops macclellandi*  
Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel - *Dremomys lokriah*  
Fruit bat sp. - Pteropodidae sp.  
Red Fox - *Vulpes vulpes*  
Yellow-throated Marten - *Martes flavigula*  
European Otter - *Lutra lutra*  
Sambar (Deer) - *Cervus unicolor*



*Field breakfast with a view*



*One of the trip's mammal highlights was a pair of Yellow-throated Martens.*





*Fire-tailed Myzornis gave us the run-around until we found a small group displaying.*



*We regularly saw Capped Langurs along the roadsides in eastern Bhutan.*