

Central India

Kanha & PENCH

A Greentours Reconnaissance

23rd December 2007 – 2nd January 2008

by Ian Green & Fiona Dunbar

Daily Accounts by Fiona Dunbar and Systematic Lists by Ian Green

Day 1 December 23rd Arrive Delhi

We arrived at a very civilised midday Indian time after a night flight.

Day 2 December 24th Delhi markets and night train to Nagpur

As the Nagpur train leaves Delhi at 5.30 pm, we took the opportunity to visit some of the many highlights of the old town of Delhi; the spice market and Chandri Chowk as we had visited the magnificent Red Fort on other trips. We took up residence in our first class sleeper compartment and had a very good chapatti and curry brought in from the pantry car. Someone else brought sheets pillows and blankets and made up the comfortable but rather firm bunk beds. As it was Christmas eve, the girls who accompanied us on the trip, wrote a letter to Father Christmas and hung up two of our socks before bed!

Days 3 – 6 December 25th – 28th PENCH

The train arrived at Nagpur at 9.30, so there was no rush after waking up, and we had cup after cup of tea from chai wallah. The girls woke up to discover that the big red man had successfully found their stockings despite being on the moving train, and the heartfelt request for chocolate and dollies had been answered.

We were met at the station and were driven to PENCH (2 hours) in time for a bite of lunch. The rooms are referred to as tents – in the loosest sense of the word – marble floored, en suite, two beds, table and chairs etc, large, high and airy, with, OK, elegant layers of canvas, mosquito netting and an inner muslin as the walls of the bedroom. To avoid repetition, I shall just say now that the food was excellent and I did not notice the same dish twice. We enjoy Indian food very much, but it may be worth mentioning that the English food made for our girls who were not into the spicier dishes was also very good, in a chicken and chips/macaroni cheese sort of way.

Afternoon jeep rides are 2.30 – 5.50, morning ones could start any time from 6.30 am at the park gate and jeeps could stay in the park up to 11am. The lodge is only a few minutes from the gate. The afternoon temperature was very comfortable, and dropped to cool but still comfortable by the time of our return, though we did don a fleece before the end. Mornings started out chilly – thick coats hats and gloves required, but these get shed as the morning goes on. The landscape was undulating, with golden coloured grass, scattered trees or open woodland. White-barked Ghost trees stood out from the greenery, some with great long gouges down the main trunk where Tigers had been using them as a scratching post. Spotted Deer or Chital were common, the stags with much larger antlers than their relatives in more Northern areas, and covered with a thick velvet. These were frequently only a few metres from the vehicle, and often the herds were underneath troupes of Langurs, in order that both sets of eyes could look out for Tiger or Leopard, and the deer could eat leaves dropped by the monkeys. Sambar were more scattered and some fine Nilgai or Blue Bulls were seen. Parakeets were everywhere, Alexandrine and Blossom-headed being common, with occasional Rose-ringed. As our reconnaissance fell over the Christmas period it was exceptionally busy in the reserve, but the jeeps soon disperse – one can go anywhere within the reserve, on really very good tracks.

Thick coated Jackals were not uncommon, and on our first morning drive we saw Tiger! A series of Chital warning calls made us prick up our ears, and a few minutes later a large, beautiful female tiger appeared, and covering the ground with long strides, approached us along the track. She turned off along a dry stream bed, and after spaying a couple of trees, headed off into the grass. Not long after we headed to the ‘elephant area’, passing into more open grassland with Ashy-crowned Finch-larks, and a group of Stone Curlews. It was pleasant to get out of the jeeps and stretch legs, and do a bit of birdwatching; Yellow-wattled Lapwings, Malabar Pied and Malabar Grey Hornbills and Black-rumped Flamebacks. In the same area, on another drive we had a fine Gaur crossing the track in front of us as the highlight, with some lovely herds of Chital, Jackals and several Indian Grey Mongooses. A Besra and a Jungle Owlet were good finds on the way back. A further mammal highlight was a long-tailed, enormous-eared mouse on the outside of the tent – a Long-tailed Tree Mouse.

Another area of the reserve was the ‘leopard area’, jungle with numerous smooth rocky outcrops. This not too surprisingly is a very good area for leopard sightings, but we saw only mongoose and jackal, and there was a bird party comprising Greater Racket-tailed, Black, and White-bellied Drongoes.

One morning we went down to the lake and took a boat ride out on to the lake. These are reservoirs and so there is no real emergent vegetation and as a consequence bird life is limited. We saw a bunch of Pintail and thousands of hirundines in the trees. Black-headed Ibis, various egrets and herons and the occasional stork flew past. There were plenty of Spotted Deer along the banks though scanning the large open riverbed revealed little else. We found Otter (Smooth Indian?) footprints along the edge. Back on dry land we looked at Collared Scops Owls in tree trunk and enjoyed the lively forest mid-morning birding.

Ian visited Koka Lake one afternoon. This is a small lake about three kilometres from the hotel. The journey there is through little tracks where the usual common birds were plentiful. By the lake is a village, itself a great fascination, and we stopped here by one of the houses. A quick word with owners and we were off through their backyard and then through their bean crop to

a large Ficus tree beyond. This held a large colony of Flying Foxes. These waved their wings in the afternoon sun or just snoozed, though the odd one had a quick fly. Stonechats and both Ashy and Junge Prinias scurried through the Cockscomb flowers. Beyond, a ditch proved to be good for Odonata, with many species. A snake chased frogs in another muddy ditch. Up on the 'dam' we looked out over the small lake. A group of Red-crested Pochard were augmented by Teal and Spot-billed Duck. An Osprey sat on some dead wood. Various egrets and a few cormorants were the only other obvious waterbirds. However a little sortie round to one corner of the lake proved that there was much to see. Various little birds frequented the lake shore with a roving group of Tytler's Leaf Warblers prominent and also Orphean Warblers, Hoopoes, Citrine, Yellow, White and White-browed Wagtails. Pipits were here and there, Long-billed on the bund and Paddyfield too, Tree also seen. Further round we found some marshy areas which proved productive. An abundance of Paddybirds were coming in to roost and as we searched among them we started to encounter some choice species. Best was possibly the number of Painted Snipe, more than ten being seen. There was a snipe, probably Pin-tailed, and a dark-barked crane that disappeared rapidly. Then there were the two Small Buttonquail that erupted from under my feet. A great area. We returned as darkness fell. Spotted Owlet was seen and plenty of nightjars, in particular Small Indian and Savannah.

On a second trip here there were many prinias and the like plus several shrikes in the rough fields round the tree. Tytler's Leaf Warblers were common. A large falcon flew into the tree, seemingly not disturbing the bats, but we were unable to get a good look at it. Crested Honey Buzzard and Osprey proved more amenable. The bats were very active this afternoon and we watched many fluttering about, mostly within a wing-tip or two of the tree. Down by the lake there were plenty of egrets and across the water a few Woolly-necked Storks. We looked at the shore for footprints finding Leopard though not much else. On the way back we once again spot-lighted and saw many nightjars. This time three species with Savannah and Indian Jungle joined by Grey.

Surinda, one of the local naturalists took us for a night walk in the hotels local reserve, where Leopard is frequently present, as it abuts the main reserve. He clearly knew how to move at night but was rather hampered by a feeble torch! However we had our torches also and as we were nearing the hotel again we turned round again, drawn back by monkey alarm calls. Moving rapidly we found the monkeys, still calling, and heard the leopard cough very close by, maybe one or two hundred metres away. Some more rapid walking got us a glimpse of the beast at the edge of the clearing before he moved off.

Pottering around the grounds of the lodge was also productive. Looking under stones revealed an Ornate Microhylid, a tiny rather flat frog! Butterflies were abundant and included Common Crow, Common Rose, Lime Butterfly, plentiful Plain Tigers, grass yellows, Lemon Pansies and Chocolate Pansies. A Common Castor settled on the banana bait by our tent but by far the best was a spectacular Gaudy Baron that came and poised for the camera. Birds were plentiful too with the usual run of flowerpeckers (today including Pale-billed) and Purple Sunbirds joined by Yellow-wattled Lapwings down by the pond and a superb Verditer Flycatcher in the scrubland.

In the evening Ian went on a night walk back to the Leopard area. A few Jackals on route and a Grey Nightjar. Over the river and Nilgai and Spotted Deer were abundant (so no Leopard there right now!). In the trees was a superb Indian Giant Flying Squirrel, this allowing great views

and eventually flying so the glide was witnessed at close range. Even closer was a Palm Civet with a large white tail tip, probably a form of Common Palm Civet though looking rather like the southern Indian endemic palm civet which should not come up this far. This even allowed photography!

Day 7 December 29th Pench to Khana

Ian did the morning drive, heading into the areas most known for bison (Gaur) sightings. The landscapes were as ever beautiful with lots of bamboo amongst the varied trees. Birdlife was somewhat patchy though species seen did include plenty of attractive species such as Racket-tailed Drongos, goldenbacks, and today, a single confiding Sirkeer Malkoha. We didn't see any bison though there was plenty of sign, nor did we encounter Dhole, which is not infrequently encountered in parts of the park. Tiger tracks delayed our progress and we didn't see one though we later heard others did. One particular little pond proved very pleasant not least for the amazing sound of a male Tiger roaring in the forest beyond. The local guides estimated that the Tiger was some 500m – 1000m away though the roar seemed very deep and loud from where we were! Stork-billed Kingfisher was seen well at this spot along with plenty of parakeets and doves. We visited some areas close to the Pench River where Spotted Deer, Sambar and Wild Boar were all common – the numbers were impressive. The river itself was quite a sight too, as though it now held little water it clearly carried lots in monsoon time. You certainly would have been met with an impressive sight on its banks in mid-summer! On the way back we saw Jungle Bush Quail crossing the road.

We set off for Khana after an early lunch. A good drive along good roads with lovely varied scenery went downhill somewhat when our driver turned out not to know where the hotel was and took us to the wrong side of Khana. This meant that we had a further 50 km to drive after dark, much of it along dirt tracks through the buffer zone. The upside was the very large male Tiger that crossed the track in front of us! It was right by the vehicle at one point, the driver was going beserk! As we continued we encountered Chevrotain and Bengal Fox.

Day 8 December 30th Khana

We opted for a late start and headed out at 7.30. Butterflies and dragonflies looked very promising, and in addition to Spotted Deer, Langur and Sambar, Barasingha or Swamp Deer proved easy to see and very handsome with it, the males with antlers adorned with grass and water weed to make them look more, well, er, handsome, intimidating, not sure really. The bird life was very varied, with lots of wetland birds and I can't remember what else. Racket-tailed Drongos were very common!

A short drive (40 minutes very slow) through dryish paddies and fields with scattered farmhouses and the odd little village is a little bund holding back a small lake. En route we saw Brown, Bay-backed and Long-tailed Shrikes, Indian Bushlark, various pipits, and Shikra and Black-shouldered Kite. A pair of Sarus Cranes and quite a good range of other wetland birds were here, and it was a very pleasant spot. Ducks included Common Teal and Pygmy Cottontail, the latter being common. There were several Common Snipe, Wood and Green

Sandpipers, and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas too, though perhaps most surprising bird title had to go to the Grey-headed Lapwing. Several Quail flushed as Sarah, Ian and Vishnu walked around the back of the pool, either Common or Rain Quail, and there were pipits, larks and Citrine Wagtails. The water was covered in Lotus and Fringed Waterlily (*Nymphoides cristata*) flowers. Ian circumnavigated it without much difficulty.

After an excellent meal in the restaurant we had a quick scan with the spotlight around the hotel grounds and pool. Eye shine at one of the stone structures drew us – three Jungle Cats – teenage kittens, which allowed us to come within twenty feet whilst they did various kittenish things.

Ian did a later nightwalk towards the base of the small hill behind the lodge. A superb Indian Jungle Nightjar allowed close-up photography and there were also Rufous-naped Hares and one of the rare mammal sightings of the trip, two Chowsingha, daintily stepping their way through the thick Cockscomb scrub.

Day 9 December 31st Khana

The morning drive, starting at 6.20 at the gate, was somewhat chilly for the first couple of hours! However, we had fantastic views of a large male Sambar stag who along with his small harem, grazed a few metres off the track for some time. Birding highlights included Indian Scimitar Babbler and Scarlet Minivets (heard)

Back at the lodge Ian looked after the girls whilst seeing some fine wildlife. Large Cuckooshrike, White-bellied Drongo and Jungle Owlet all came and sat in the tree next to where the girls were making some drawings! There was again plentiful Odonata by the pool and Skittering Frogs sat by the water., Butterflies are plentiful here and common were Common Rose, Common Jezebel, Lemon and Grey Pansies, Plain and Common Tigers. Blues included Metallic Caerulean. Hiding amongst the Bougainvillea bases were Bamboo Tree Browns. Overhead were lots of Red-rumped Swallows, Northern House Martins and the odd White-rumped Vulture.

In the afternoon we visited the nearby river with the girls. Bird life was mostly confined to pigeons though the area looked very good (children were being a bit noisy!) and there were feathers everywhere which kept our eldest, Sarah, very happy. So too did the large troupe of Hanuman Langurs that watched us warily.

Day 10 January 1st Khana

In the morning we tried for an elephant ride, but they were still not operating. Instead after a wait we headed for the higher parts of Kanha and the grassland dadars on top of the plateaux. We passed through the most beautiful forests and saw a good deal of butterflies and birds. The stunning Blue-capped Rock Thrush was seen twice and a lovely White-rumped Shama. Birds parties included both Velvet-fronted and Indian (recently split from Chestnut-bellied) Nuthatches, Indian Yellow Tit and Scarlet Minivets. In the undergrowth lurked Brown-cheeked Fulvettas and Puff-throated Babbler. It was a great morning for flycatchers with many species

seen the best of which were Asian Paradise, Brown-breasted and the gorgeous Ultramarine. Black-naped Monarchs and Golden-fronted Leafbirds too!

Returning, our driver spotted a silver snake meandering across the road, which I got out to photograph. This became rather easier when it reared and displayed its fantastic hood, with a beautiful mark like a pair of spectacles – Spectacled Cobra, what a beauty.

Ian and the girls stayed in at the lodge. Much dancing in the temples and drawing, and all spent some time trying to photograph the numerous butterflies that lived around the bougainvillea draped over our part of the lodge.

On the way into the park in the afternoon I finally remembered to stop and take some photographs of the wonderful farm houses – mud over brick, two storey, with the large roofing timbers projecting out of the smooth, blue and white painted walls. Many of the farmers were winnowing the chaff from the wheat by hand, and one group were using seven oxen harnessed to a central post to thresh the wheat from the straw. Once in the park we drove along a tarmac road that follows the edge of the core zone through the buffer zone, but which is open to local traffic, although there wasn't much. This meant one could get out of the vehicle whenever a bird party was spotted. It was a lovely drive, very scenic. We saw Malabar Whistling Thrush, Muntjac, Puff-throated Bulbuls, and lord knows what else. A stream by a little shrine to Shiva had White-throated Fantails and large numbers of vigorous Leith's Frogs.

Day 11 January 2nd Khana and the night train to Agra

Our last game drive through Khana. We had not yet got the girls a ride on an elephant, and one of the mahouts had promised them a short ride if we were there before they started work. They loved it! Then after the picnic breakfast, we got a second go (elephant rides to look for Tiger had been suspended over the Christmas period due to the number of visitors in the park). A few minutes later we were all atop the same elephant, lurching up a nullah at speed, to where a young male tiger was resting in the undergrowth. We were with him for half an hour or so, the elephant moving from spot to spot so we could see the tiger in gaps in the undergrowth. It was amazing. We could hear growling quite often too – tigers don't like elephants much. We were finishing our drive on the other side of the park, so we drove through the central areas which were very little disturbed by other vehicles. Jackals, a family of Wild Boar, and a heavily muscled Gaur bull crossed the path. Bird parties were good, and included some lovely Scarlet Minivets.

From the Kisli Gate, it was an interesting and scenic three hour drive along good roads to the train station, the packed lunch being eaten at a 'tourist resort' (= eatery/tea shop) on the way. A recently deceased Dhole (roadkill) proved they exist outside of national parks and in this same very promising looking area we saw Rosy Minivet. The train left at six pm, and arrived at Agra at 8 am the following morning.

Systematic List Number 1 Mammals

Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	Widespread and common, more so outside of the national parks than within
Common Langur	<i>Presbytis priam</i>	Widespread and common
Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	An adult female seen at Pench. En route to Kanha we encountered a large male Tiger in the buffer zone. This was at close range and after dark – awesome! Also a young male seen from Elephant back inside Kanha
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	One seen on a nightwalk at Pench Jungle camp
Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	A total of three Jungle Cats seen in the Kanha area, all at night out in the buffer zone
Indian Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	One seen and photographed on a night walk near the Jungle Camp at Pench. Unusually marked animal with long bushy white-tipped tail.
Common Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>	A few in the national parks.
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	Scattered throughout
Indian Fox	<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>	Two seen in the buffer zone at Kanha at night
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	A large roost at Koka Lake near Pench and also a few seen in the Kanha area
Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>	?possibly this species in towns e.g. Jabalpur?
Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	Common in Pench and Kanha and surrounding areas
Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>	One seen very well (and watched flying) on a night walk near the Jungle Camp at Pench.
Indian Field Mouse	<i>Mus booduga</i>	One near the lodge at Kanha
Long-tailed Tree Mouse		Pench Lodge
Rufous-tailed Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	A few in the Kanha area
Four-horned Antelope	<i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i>	2 seen very well at night near the lodge at Kanha
Gaur (Indian Bison)	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	A female at Pench and a superb male at Kanha
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	A few here and there
Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	Common

Barasingha	<i>Cervus duvaucelii</i>	One of India's rarest animals, the dry ground form of 'Swamp Deer' is only found in Kanha. However it is very easy to see here and we saw many!
Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>	Very Common
Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	Noted at Kanha
Chevrotain (Mouse Deer)	<i>Moschiola meminna</i>	One seen in the buffer zone at Kanha
Wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Common at both Pench and Kanha

Sign Only

Sloth bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>	Much sign at Kanha but no sightings
Fishing Cat	<i>Felis viverrina</i>	A dead one seen, examined and photographed between Pench and Kanha – seemingly a long way out of range!
Dhole	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>	a dead one between Kanha and Jabalpur

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

The taxonomy and nomenclature is taken 'Birds of South Asia, The Ripley Guide' by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005). Note that there are several important changes from Grimmet, Inskipp & Inskipp (1998). None of Rasmussen's splits have yet been adopted by the Clements 'Birds of the World' checklist.

Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Pench
Little cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Pench
Oriental darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Pench & Kanha
Great egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	Scattered
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Widespread
Intermediate egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Scattered
Eastern cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	Widespread. Split in Rasmussen.
Indian pond heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Widespread and very common.
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Scattered records
Striated heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Widespread
Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Pench
Woolly-necked stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Kanha and Pench, common at latter
Asian openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Pench
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Pench
Black-headed ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	Scattered
Lesser whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Abundant at Kanha
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Pench
Common teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Scattered
Spot-billed duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Scattered
Cotton pygmy goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Common Kanha
Red-crested pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	Pench
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Pench
Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Scattered
Oriental honey buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Scattered
Crested serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Scattered
Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Scattered
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Scattered
Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Pench
Crested hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	Kanha
	<i>Aquila sp</i>	Kanha – one or two not specifically identified
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	A few at Kanha
Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Scattered
Grey francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	Noted on journeys
Common/Rain Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix/japonica</i>	Several at Kanha
Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>	Pench & Kanha
Barred buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	Scattered
Small buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>	Pench
Red spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	Mostly in Buffer zone, Kanha
Painted Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>	Kanha
Grey junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Pench
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	Kanha where common
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	Pairs seen near Kanha
Common moorhen	<i>Gallinuula chloropus</i>	Scattered

Common coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Scattered
Greater Painted snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	10+ near Pench
Bronze-winged jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Scattered
Pheasant-tailed jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Kanha
Eurasian thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Pench
Red-wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Widespread
Yellow-wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	Scattered
Grey-headed lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	Kanha. A good record!
Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Scattered
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Scattered
Pintail snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	probably this species at Pench
River tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Scattered
Whiskered tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Scattered
Rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Widespread near habitation
Spotted dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Widespread and common
Oriental turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Kanha
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	Scattered
Ring-necked parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Scattered
Blossom-headed parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>	Locally common
Alexandrine parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Locally common
Asian koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	Scattered
Sirkeer malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>	One at Pench
Indian scops-owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	Pench and Kanha
Jungle owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	Pench
Spotted owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	Pench & Kanha
House swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Scattered records
Asian palm swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	Scattered
Crested tree-swift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	Scattered
Indian Jungle nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	Pench and Kanha
Common Indian nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	Pench and Kanha
Savanna nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	Pench
Indian roller	<i>Coracina benghalensis</i>	Scattered
Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Scattered
Stork-billed kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Pench and Kanha
White-throated kingfisher	<i>Halycon smyrnensis</i>	Widespread and common
Green bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Widespread
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Pench
Malabar grey hornbill	<i>Oxyceros griseus</i>	Pench
Indian grey hornbill	<i>Oxyceros birostris</i>	Kanha
Malabar pied hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>	Pench
Brown-headed barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	Widespread
Heart-spotted woodpecker	<i>Hemicircus canente</i>	Kanha
Black-rumped flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Widespread
Greater flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Kanha
Yellow-crowned woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>	Scattered
Indian bushlark	<i>Mirafr erythroptera</i>	Kanha
Syke's lark	<i>Galerida deva</i>	Pench
Ashy-crowned finch-lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>	Pench
Dusky crag martin	<i>Pytonoprogne concolor</i>	Scattered
Red-rumped swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Scattered
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Scattered

Wire-tailed swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	between Kanha and Pench
Northern House	<i>Martin Delichon urbica</i>	Kanha
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Scattered
Citrine wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Scattered
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Scattered
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Pench
White-browed wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	Pench
Paddyfield pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	Scattered
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Pench
Long-billed pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	Pench
Ashy woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	Scattered
Common woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	widespread
Large cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	Frequent at Kanha
Scarlet minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	Kanha
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	Scattered
Rosy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>	A small group north of Kanha
Red-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	widespread
Red-whiskered bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Scattered
Yellow-browed bulbul	<i>Iole indica</i>	Small numbers Kanha
Common iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Scattered
Gold-fronted leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	Kanha
Asian fairy bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	Heard at Thattekad. Small numbers at Periyar.
Brown shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Widespread
Long-tailed shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Kanha
Bay-backed shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	Kanha
Black-naped monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	Several in Kanha
Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradise</i>	Kanha
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	Scattered
White-spotted Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albogularis</i>	Kanha
Malabar whistling-thrush	<i>Myiophoneus horsfieldii</i>	Kanha
Blue-capped rock thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>	Kanha
Blue rock thrush	<i>Monticola soilitarius</i>	Scattered
White-rumped shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	Kanha
Oriental magpie robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Scattered
Indian black robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulvatus</i>	Scattered
Common stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Pench
Asian brown flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	Kanha
Brown-breasted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>	Kanha
Ultramarine flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa superciliaris</i>	Kanha
Red-throated flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	Kanha
Tickell's blue flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	Scattered
Verditer flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>	Kanha and Pench
Tawny-bellied babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythria</i>	scattered
Yellow-eyed babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	Kanha
Large grey babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	Pench
Jungle babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>	Scattered
Indian scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>	Kanha
Puff-throated babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	Kanha
Brown-cheeked fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>	Kanha
Grey-breasted prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	Scattered

Plain prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	Pench
Ashy prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	Scattered
Jungle prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	Pench
Common tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Scattered
Blyth's reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	Scattered
Tytler's leaf warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tytleri</i>	Common at Pench
Tickell's leaf warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	Scattered
Eastern orphean warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	Pench
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Scattered
Indian yellow tit	<i>Parus aplonotus</i>	Kanha
Velvet-fronted nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	Scattered
Indian nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>	Kanha
Pale-billed flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	Scattered
Thick-billed flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	Pench
Purple-rumped sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>	Scattered
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	Scattered
Oriental white-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Kanha
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	only near habitation
Indian silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>	Scattered
Black-hooded oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Scattered
Black drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>	Widespread and common in open areas
Greater racket-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Widespread and common in forests
Ashy drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Widespread and reasonably common in forests
Asian pied starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	mostly noted on journeys
Common myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Widespread and common
Jungle myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Widespread and common
Rufous treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Widespread in small numbers
House crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Widespread and locally abundant
Indian jungle crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>	Widespread and common

Systematic List Number 3

Butterflies

Much of the nomenclature and taxonomy for this list was taken from Wynter-Blyth's 'Butterflies of the Indian Region' which was published in 1957 and thus most of it is out of date. This list does not really do justice to the number and variety present, only common easily identifiable species being recorded here.

Common bluebottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>	Scattered
Lime	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	Lodges!
Common rose	<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>	Scattered throughout
Common mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	Scattered
Glassy tiger	<i>Parantica aglea</i>	Scattered
Plain tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Widespread
Common tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i>	Kanha
Common Indian crow	<i>Euploea core</i>	Scattered
Common castor	<i>Ariadne merione</i>	Pench
Common sailor	<i>Neptis hylas</i>	Kanha
Commander	<i>Moduza procris</i>	Kanha
Baronet	<i>Euthalia nias</i>	Widespread – very common at Pench
Gaudy baron	<i>Euthalia lubentina</i>	Superb! Pench
Danaid eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>	Scattered
Chocolate soldier	<i>Precis iphita</i>	Pench
Grey pansy	<i>Precis atlites</i>	Kanha
Lemon pansy	<i>Precis lemonias</i>	Scattered
Common evening brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>	Scattered
Bamboo treebrown	<i>Lethe europa</i>	Kanha
Common five-ring	<i>Ypthima baldus</i>	Scattered
Common grass yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	Widespread
Pioneer	<i>Anaphaeis aurota</i>	Scattered
Lemon emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	Scattered
Mottled emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>	Scattered
Common Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i>	Kanha
Common Gull	<i>Cepora nerissa</i>	Kanha
Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i>	Scattered
Common cerulean	<i>Jamides celeno</i>	Scattered
Metallic cerulean	<i>Jamides alecto</i>	Kanha
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Pench