

Bhutan

Land of the Thunder Dragon

A Greentours Trip Report

27th April to 13th May 2017

Led by Paul Cardy

Days 1 & 2 Thursday 27th & Friday 28th April Journey to Delhi

The Jet flight from Heathrow was comfortable with good service. In Delhi we were met by the ground agents and driven through busy suburbs to our hotel in leafy grounds. The only Red-wattled Lapwing of the tour was seen, and there were of course Black Kites in the air. We met for a welcome lunch, with a great choice of curries, but some chose Italian! I was especially interested and surprised to learn that none of my well travelled group had been to India before, it was a country tick for all! In the grounds, in the midday heat, were Green Bee-eaters and Rose-ringed Parakeets.

We were here to rest after the flight, before we continued to Bhutan. That we did, enjoying a restful afternoon, meeting again for dinner. We had a short night ahead of us as we had a 5am flight.

Day 3 Saturday 29th April Journey to Paro and Tiger's Nest Monastery

At 1.45am the traffic was still remarkably heavy. And the night was hot! Things went superbly smoothly at the airport, none of us had to pay for any excess luggage, even me with my second bag, and both of them heavy. Rahindra even managed to get my rupees changed. We had learnt that NO Indian rupee notes above 100 Rupees denomination are usable in Bhutan. They are illegal there! To note for future visits.

The flight was excellent with Druk Air, smooth, and the dawn beautiful. Incredible views of close Mount Everest in the morning light were sublime, announced by the pilot. I sat next to very friendly Bhutanese neighbours and the whole experience was very enjoyable. An excellent breakfast too.

The descent was an experience. The sudden drop and spiral down to the Paro valley was spectacular. Even I enjoyed it. Arrival at the characterful airport saw many passengers hurriedly taking photos of the architecture and scenery, and all very relaxed. Immigration was quick in the quiet terminal. We were met by Kinley who was expecting us to set out immediately for a five hour plus walk to the Tiger's Nest Monastery. We made it obvious that that was not a possibility! Instead we drove to the hotel, fascinated by the Bhutanese architecture along the way. The airport has a stunning location and another plane approaching the runway showed us what a spectacular landing it was here.

At the hotel the group took tea whilst I checked out the rooms, and worked out a much more friendly leisurely first day. The hotel was staffed by many helpful young girls!

There followed a couple of hours break so we could settle in, unpack, and rest a little, and we met again for a pre-lunch excursion. Yellow-billed Blue Magpies flew over the scrub around the rooms. Eurasian Cuckoo was calling, a sound that would become a regular backdrop at many sites we visited. There was much of the cream flowered *Rosa sericea* in bloom in the area, and *Lepidium virginicum* was a trackside weed. Russet and Tree Sparrows were much in evidence around the hotel.

We drove through the characterful town of Paro, with its attractive painted buildings. Now alongside the river we made a few stops. Plumbeous Water Redstart was typical of the habitat, and the striking White-capped Water Redstart was seen too, although more elusive. White Wagtail was here, and Grey-backed Shrike was much in evidence, individuals regularly perched atop shrubs. Oriental Turtle Dove was common, and Black Bulbuls flew over. A Hoopoe, on the river gravels close to us, was well photographed. There were fine views of White-throated Needletails swooping low over the river.

There was an interesting flora, with a selection of weeds, and more interesting native species. There was a *Rumex* species, a very common aromatic *Artemisia*, *Cannabis sativa* common on the roadsides, *Verbascum thapsus*, bracken, *Rubus* spp., *Oxalis corniculata*, and *Persicaria chinense*. The oleaster *Eleagnus parvifolia* was in attractive flower. *Stellaria vestita* and *Ranunculus chinensis* were identified.

The morning's highlight was Ibisbill. This most unusual of Himalayan birds was seen very closely on the river gravels, enabling good photo opportunities. There were a few Eastern Pale Clouded Yellows on the wing, the only place we would see the species on the tour, and Indian Tortoiseshell was flying too.

Lonicera quinquelocularis had many yellow flowers. Wet flushes had *Primula erythrocarpa*, pretty little *Gentiana capitata*, and *Viola betonicifolia*.

It was time to retire to a small hotel in town where an excellent lunch awaited us. Early afternoon saw us scouring the tourist shops in town in search of natural history books. We finally found a stock of 'Birds of Bhutan', requested by some of the group, and there were also a few interesting photographic flower books.

Now heading up the valley, we started collecting the superb road sense slogans, which would disappear later in the tour, they seemed limited to western Bhutan. 'Enemies of the Road, Liquor, Speed, and Load', or 'It is not Rally, Enjoy the Valley'.

The afternoon excursion was towards the Tiger's Nest Monastery. An iconic site in western Bhutan, and the most famous of Bhutan's monasteries, there were many visitors here, most making the arduous climb up to the precipitously perched monastery. We had established earlier that the five hour (!) walk to the monastery itself was not for us, but a short walk towards it allowed great views of this impressive structure perched above on the cliffs. Taking side tracks to avoid the crowds we were soon finding many interesting plants, and a few birds too.

Here we were in Blue Pine forest, *Populus ciliata* among the broadleaves, and very spiky *Quercus semecarpifolia* in the understory. *Pieris formosa* was much in evidence with cascades of blooms, and *Lyonia ovalifolia* was here too. The strawberry *Fragaria nubicola* was numerous on the forest floor. A highlight was many fine yellow *Primula sikkimensis* in fine flower. This was followed by mauve flowered *Primula denticulata*. *Euphorbia griffithii* was a striking red-tinged species. Plants continued with *Berberis praecipua*, *Mazus surculosus*, a *Viburnum* species, and *Clematis montana*.

The yellow flowered cudweed *Pseudognaphalium affine* was identified, a species we would see at many sites. *Valeriana jatemansi* flowered beside the stream, where wet rocks had yellow *Mimulus nepalensis*. An androsace, which had distinctive very geranium like leaves, was indeed *Androsace geraniifolia*, aptly named. *Tiarella polyphylla* and *Viola bhutanica* bloomed beside a small waterfall. Nearby was beautiful yellow flowered *Rhododendron triflorum* and *Leycesteria formosa*, the Himalayan Honeysuckle. The forget-me-not here was *Myosotis alpestris asiatica*.

White-collared Blackbird fed on the ground, and Black Eagle soared in the air. Nutcrackers were typically noisy in the conifers.

Back at the hotel we enjoyed a pleasant dinner, but they had made 'European' food for us!

Day 4 Sunday 30th April Chele La

We departed at 6.20, the morning fine with the sun rising over the hills. We took the road up from the Paro Valley that climbs to the pass of Chele La, the border with Ha District. In fine light the first thing of interest was the impressively large Spotted Laughingthrush, and stopping to get a better look at these we also saw the more prosaic Grey Bush Chat, and Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike. *Rhododendron arboreum* was commonly in flower and Yellow-billed Blue Magpies flew alongside the bus. Kalij Pheasant was on the road.

'While on bend, speed you mend.'

Breakfast was awaiting us in a clearing beside a forest of tall prayer flags. Table and chairs had been set out by the excellent cooking team who, with superb attentive service, prepared us all sorts from porridge to omelettes to tea to toast. (Try as we might we could not escape the porridge during the tour!).

Here we were in *Abies densa* forest. *Piptanthus nepalensis* was a yellow flowered leguminous shrub. Very many fine *Primula denticulata* bloomed on one grassy slope, and we would see very many more today. White-throated Laughingthrushes crossed the road one by one. Blue Whistling Thrush was seen well (another had been singing near our rooms in the night). Birds continued with Blue-fronted Redstart in the open, and moving through the conifers Rufous Sibia, Grey-crested Tit, Rufous-vented Tit, and Rufous-fronted Tit. Long-tailed Minivets were stunning in the sunlight and Himalayan Bluetail was here.

We had great views of a characterful little Royle's Pika, with a pale spot behind its rather large ears. Superb *Bryocarpum himalaicum*, a primula relative with yellow flowers, became rather common. Beautiful *Rhododendron cinnabarinum* was in fine flower, these campanulate and orange/red. Next was superb purple *Primula calderiana*. Hodgson's Treecreeper, split from Eurasian, worked tree trunks, there were more Spotted Laughingthrushes, Coal Tit, and Red-headed Bullfinch.

The next rhododendron was the mauve flowered *Rhododendron wallichii*. Walking up a slope to admire this we found *Androsace strigillosa* and *Gentiana bryoides* flowering in the turf. Here was a colony of Royle's Pikas, seemingly unconcerned by our presence.

It was now not far to the pass, for which figures for the height varied widely! 3900, 3600? Of course from here we had superb views of snow capped peaks. More prayer flags and a surprising number of people characterised the pass. This part of the country is well toured, later in the tour we would be

in areas with no visitors at all. Fine patches of the buttercup *Oxygraphis endlicheri* on the ground were the plant highlight here.

Late morning saw us heading a little on to the Ha side of pass. *Viburnum grandiflorum* had flowers on still leafless branches. Comma was on the wing and there were several Swallowtails (*machaon*) flying back and forth. A male Blue-fronted Redstart was admired. *Callianthemum pimpinelloides* in flower was a good find, and *Cotoneaster microphyllus* was here. Of interest was the joint pine *Ephedra gerardiana*. Back over the pass we enjoyed an excellent al fresco lunch, the cook team having relocated to an expansive grassy slope.

Stops in the afternoon yielded *Ranunculus brotherusii*, a creeping yellow flowered *Potentilla*, and *Chrysosplenium nepalense* in flower. Golden-spectacled Warbler was active in the conifers. Sword-leaved Helleborine, the familiar European species, was our first orchid, and a pleasing find. *Viola biflora* was already in flower, apparently rather early for the species here.

Olive-backed Pipits were seen, and stunning Mrs Gould's Sunbird nectared. There was much fine *Rhododendron triflorum* in bloom, and we stopped so that Sheila, who had missed this species yesterday, could catch up with it. One wet flush had much impressive yellow *Primula smithiana*. Speckled Wood Pigeon was seen back near Paro.

That evening, having put in a request for typical food, we enjoyed a selection of Bhutanese dishes. There was also the usual European buffet for those who did not care for spicy food. But oh my, those chillis! I also discovered that the Bhutanese Raven wine was not at all bad.

Day 5 Monday 1st May Thimphu, Dochu La, Botanic Garden, Lobesa

'Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished'.

It was farewell to the pleasant hotel at Paro, and the friendly staff. Again leaving in good time a sunny scenic route took us to the capital Thimphu. Breakfast had been good in the hotel, but there were no chillis for the omelettes, as we had completely cleared them out with our Bhutanese dishes last night!

We made a short stop to look at a fifteenth century bridge. Chris saw two Scarlet Finches as we drove.

Thimphu was predictably a small compact capital. Once past Thimphu we climbed up towards the pass of Dochu La. Purple *Rhododendron hodgsonii* and yellow *Rhododendron falconeri* were in impressive bloom. A mixed flock of tits, Rufous-vented, Grey-crested, and Green-backed, together with Rufous-vented Yuhinas worked through the *Quercus lanata*. Large Hawk Cuckoo called, and a male Slaty-blue Flycatcher was seen.

Reaching the pass, we found it remarkably busy with many tourists admiring the many stupas here, atmospheric in the mist. Of course we headed away from the crowds, but there was surprisingly little bird activity up here today, although Sparrowhawk was seen briefly.

Among the plants here were the club moss *Lycopodium clavatum*, the composite *Ainslaea aptera*, *Daphne bholua*, and *Viola bhutanica*. A highlight was our first arisaema, beautiful *Arisaema nepenthoides*.

This genus would be a great feature of the tour. This one had beautifully chequered blotches on the pseudostem, petiole, and peduncle, and the spathe blade arching over the spadix.

Now on the Punakha side of the pass, *Rhododendron falconeri* was in abundant flower. A stop in *Quercus griffithii* forest produced Green-tailed Sunbird, Whiskered Yuhina, White-tailed Nuthatch, Olive-backed Pipits, and Eurasian Cuckoo was seen and heard.

The epiphytic orchid *Coelogyne corymbosa* became common, with some on fallen logs being easily photographable, the flowers white with yellow blotches. *Viburnum erubescens* was in flower, the ivy *Hedera nepalensis* flowered on tree trunks, and leaves of *Sambucus adnata* were a feature of roadsides. A gentian similar to *Gentiana carinata* flowered on a fallen log. The mistletoe *Scurrula elata*, here on oaks, had green and red flowers.

Lunch was waiting for us in a marshy forest edge clearing at the botanic garden gates. A single white flowered herbaceous bramble here was *Rubus calycinus*, *Ranunculus ficariifolius* was identified, there was the small white *Cardamine circaeoides*, *Rumex nepalensis*, and *Sagina japonica*.

The afternoon was spent exploring the botanic garden, with much native forest as well as the plantings. The garden boasts a fine collection of Rhododendrons, and the *Rhododendron keysii* was especially fine today. *Chrysosplenium adoxoides* was in flower.

The birds here were superb. Black-faced, Striated, White-throated, and Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes were all here. Brown Parrotbill was a highlight, and the lovely Bar-throated Minla was admired. A very dark squirrel was Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel. Rufous Sibia was much in evidence and formed the core of the mixed flocks. Whiskered Yuhina was here again and a male Rufous-bellied Niltava perched at the trackside. Speckled Wood Pigeons were seen perched and in flight. Active Ultramarine Flycatcher and Blyth's Leaf Warbler worked the trees.

Sadly, just as bird activity was really heating up, rain came. In fact we were caught out by very heavy rain, but at least there was a small museum building in which we could shelter.

There was nothing for it but to get back in the bus and continue the drive. From the vehicle I saw irises, *Iris decora*, in flower in a forest clearing, but the continued heavy rain made stopping impossible.

It was not far now to our hotel. This initially looked unpromising, situated right beside the road as it was, but it was in fact the best of the tour. The rooms were lovely, with views to the paddies below. The staff were excellent, with a whole host of young girls to look after us. My room at least was furnished with a very large wooden phallus!

The rain having now all but stopped, a short stroll below the hotel yielded many of the expected common birds such as Red-vented Bulbuls, Oriental Turtle and Spotted Doves, Oriental Magpie Robin, Common Myna, and Tree Sparrow. But there were also two Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babblers, quite a surprise. We saw them well as they worked through the scrub. Long-tailed Shrike was here too, with the usual Grey-backed. There were even a couple of butterflies, Large White, and Himalayan Fivering. Among the shrubs were *Berberis asiatica* and *Osyris lanceolata*.

At dinner we learnt to avoid the Takin red wine!

Day 6

Tuesday 2nd May

Tashithang Valley, Punakha Dzong

Superb weather saw us heading towards Punakha, the district capital, passing on the way the 'Phallus bar' in Lobesa. *Asclepias curassavica* and *Euphorbia pulcherrima* were naturalised on the roadsides.

The first stop was for a small colony of *Callerebia annada* (*ananda*?) patrolling a rocky roadside. This is a very special satyrid, closely related to that fascinating holarctic genus *Erebia*. A day that has this as the first butterfly would surely be very special. Osprey flew along the river, Striated Prinia sang, and Blue-capped Rock Thrush perched on the wires.

We reached the stunning Punakha Dzong, fronted by impressive flowering jacarandas. Behind the monastery our breakfast crew were awaiting us and we enjoyed the morning sunshine and the fine surroundings as we ate. The first of very many Spot Puffins was here, and our first dragonflies were Globe Skimmer and Asian Pintail.

Now in the Tashithang Valley, there was another Ibisbill along the river. Initially it seemed it would be quiet for butterflies, but that soon changed at the first stop. On a sunny corner where a small stream crossed the road were Staff Sergeant, Common Map, and Bright Sunbeam, and metalmarks featured with Orange Punch, Tailed Punch, and Mixed Punch. Black Bulbuls flew from tree to tree, and dragonflies continued with Triangle Skimmer. The attractive blue pea *Parochoetus communis* was in flower, and a small st.john's wort was *Hypericum japonicum*. Yellow Coster was on the wing and its pupae were found too.

Reaching an open cultivated area we found a very fresh Painted Lady, as well as Blue Pansy, *Zizina otis*, and Plain Tiger. The fine Stately Nawab was superb, and we would see many more. The lizard *Calotes versicolor* basked. Slaty-backed Forktail frequented a very productive stream where were both Crested and Common Kingfishers. Red Helen flew past and the impressive skipper *Darpa hanria* perched. Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike was in the trees. Metalmarks continued with Dark Judy, Chestnut Tiger was here, and we admired the first beautiful Paris Peacock, a species that would be common on the tour.

Another stop was prompted by puddling Hill Jezebel. Scaly-breasted Munias were active in disturbed habitat, Common Sailor was on the wing, and *Orthetrum pruinosum* was attractive. Black-faced Tits worked through low vegetation. Punchinello and Red Lacewing continued the butterflies. A *Mussaenda* was in flower, and a 'golden tortoise beetle' was admired.

The nymphalid Chocolate Commodore was a good find, and Orange Staff Sergeant was in fine condition. Dark Caerulean was strikingly metallic in flight. Himalayan Swiftlets and Fork-tailed Swifts were in the air over a small settlement where most houses sported phallus paintings.

New butterflies were now coming thick and fast, Glassy Bluebottle, Nettle-tree Butterfly, another Stately Nawab, Spectacle Swordtail, Dingy Line-blue, and Blue-tail Jester among them. A blue-tipped forest damsel awaits identification. The first of many sapphires was on the wing. Tiny Grass Blue, Spotless Grass Yellow, Peacock Pansy, and Indian Red Admiral continued the variety. Verditer Flycatcher perched conspicuously.

We reached the boundary of Jigme Dorje National Park, marked by a pristine river, to find lunch awaiting us in a roadside clearing. Pale Hockey Stick Sailor was the butterfly highlight here, settling on the ground around the vehicle.

The afternoon saw more fine sightings, but we soon learnt that butterfly activity here quiets considerably by early afternoon. Yellow Orange-tip was much in evidence. Blue Whistling Thrush was seen well. A flowering rosaceous shrub was *Pyracantha crenulata*. Fantastic broadleaf forested slopes were all around, with Tree Ferns a feature too.

Eastern Scarlet Darter was vividly coloured, and Green Commodore and Great Nawab were butterfly highlights of the afternoon.

There was time for a late afternoon visit to Punakha Dzong, so we joined the tourists! The monastery is only open to visitors late afternoon so the timing was ideal for us. This is one of the most impressive in the country so was a good choice for a visit. River Lapwing was along the river shore. Pendulous bee nests hung from the eaves of the monastery.

Day 7 Wednesday 3rd May Jigme Dorje National Park

We made an early start, leaving the hotel at 6.15, as breakfast was awaiting us just inside the southern boundary of Jigme Dorje National Park. Before we left, tea, coffee and biscuits were available to start the day. The morning was again fine with clear blue skies. We motored purposefully along the Tashithang Valley, it of course being too early yet for any butterflies. A troop of Assamese Macaques at the roadside and spread through the trees prompted a first stop.

And there it was, the table and chairs, the tents, in the beautiful clearing where we had enjoyed lunch yesterday. The three cooks were immediately welcoming and coming round with tea, toast, porridge(!), omelettes, etc.

I could not sit still as there was bird activity around us. Lesser Yellownappe appeared briefly, as did Mountain Bulbuls and Maroon Oriole. Crimson Sunbird was stunning in the early sunlight. Grey Treepie flew from tree to tree and along the rushing stream, the boundary of the park, was Plumbeous Water Redstart. Golden-throated Barbet called and was seen.

Replete with breakfast we set off on foot. A short way to the north brought us into the park HQ clearing, with a map of the extensive protected area, and Takin statues (this the 'valley of Takins').

A female Crimson-browed Finch worked a seep on a rocky cliff by the road, completely undisturbed by our presence. Great Barbets called, and were a continuous presence at many sites we visited. Verditer Flycatcher was again much in evidence. Mountain Hawk Eagle soared over the fine forested slopes. The group understandably spent some time with a beautiful silk moth, *Caligula anna*. The fierce looking nettle, *Girardinia diversifolia*, grew at the roadsides.

I spotted a superbly impressive orchid in the oaks, *Dendrobium nobile*. This turned out to be locally common here, in abundant bloom. Himalayan Striped Squirrel was highly active scampering from trunk to trunk. Butterflies began with sapphires, Common Jester, and Common Sailor. There was again a blue-tipped forest damsel. Dragonflies seen today included *Diplacodes trivialis* and *Indothemis carnatica*.

Grey-sided Laughingthrushes crossed the road from bush to bush. Spotted Demon was an interesting skipper, and a beautiful Hill Jezebel mud puddled.

Blue flowered *Cynoglossum furcatum* was identified. Two fine nymphalids were Siren and Tabby. There was also closer *Dendrobium nobile*. On a shady roadside were a few flowering *Corydalis leptocarpa*. Of the over thirty Bhutanese species, this occurs at the lowest altitude.

An impressive waterfall prompted another stop. The primula mostly in leaf here was *Primula denticulata*, with a couple of flowers left. A very colourful large cicada was seen briefly. The first of several *Calinaga buddha*, a very unusual nymphalid, a fact shown by the English name, The Freak, was found and a little higher we saw several more. This was the only site at which we would see the species.

We reached the boundary with Gasa District, a vast wilderness, which until recently had no road access, that stretches all the way to Tibet. Five of the swallowtail *Graphium cloanthus* puddling was a great find. Numerous small tadpoles swam in small pools which we feared would soon dry out, although one was fed by a trickle of water. Stately Nawab was here again. Black-tailed Sunbird was seen well, and Six-bar Swordtail took to landing on us.

A spider hunting wasp battling with a spider was watched for some time! *Colias fieldii* was in fine condition, and we found a species of footman moth. Perched Besra prompted another stop. The unusual swallowtail Brown Gorgon was a highlight.

Lunch was someway back down the road, still inside the park. Here sitting at our table, the river rushing by, surrounded by Bhutanese forest, we ate pizza. Yes, really. Pizza prepared in the forest.

Plants here included *Alnus nepalensis*, *Mahonia napaulensis*, *Phytolacca acinosa*, and the creeping scrophulariaceaeous *Ellisiophyllum pinnatum*. Butterflies continued with Fulvous Pied Flat and Common Line-blue.

Melastoma normale was in fine flower. The beautiful colourful ginger *Cucurma aromatica* flowered in dry paddies. Here a very long tailed calotes sat still right beside us for many minutes. *Cirsium verutum* was in flower.

Day 8 Thursday 4th May Journey to Trongsa

Today we faced the longest drive of the tour. It turned out to be an eventful day!

We left our pleasant hotel at 7.30, and said farewell to the excellent staff, and the phalluses. Initially the road was not nearly as bad as feared, there being few roadworks, little traffic, and progress was excellent. We were soon in continuous superb forest.

An early highlight was at a stop where large pendulous rock bee nests hung from cliffs above the road. Here we were hoping to see Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, a scarce, unobtrusive, and very special bird associated with the bees. Before too long I located a male, and we all had fine views in the telescope. Certainly a bird highlight of the tour. Also here were Plumbeous Water Redstart, Black Bulbul, and Ashy Drongo. The white flowered *Buddleja asiatica* was in bloom.

Back on the road the next stop was for a troop of Hanuman or Grey Langurs, the only ones we saw on the tour. Soon after was Assamese Macaque too.

Birds followed one after the other. Great and Golden-throated Barbets were both here, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Verditer Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Fantail, Rufous Sibia, and Crimson-breasted Woodpecker. A Muntjac was seen briefly, and heard too. The fagaceous tree *Castanopsis indica* had impressive sprays of green flowers.

It had all been going too well, when we rounded a corner and met a traffic jam. We joined it and waited. We would be here for five hours! We soon learnt there was a major rockslide a little way ahead. Clearance had begun, but due to the risk of further falls progress was understandably tentative. We were at least in fine forest and there was a lot to see whilst we waited.

A very spread out mixed bird flock began with a pair of Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrushes, followed by a female Slaty-blue Flycatcher, Dark-sided Flycatcher, a pair of Spot-winged Grosbeaks, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, White-capped Water Redstart, Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike, Short-billed Minivet, and Olive-backed Pipit.

Lunch was being prepared for us some way the other side of the rock slide and we had no idea when we would reach there. So we made the decision to drive back some kilometres to a small roadside 'restaurant' we'd passed. This proved a fine decision, and if we had not done this when we did we would have gone very hungry until late evening. Obviously not expecting many customers, the small cafe had prepared its usual small amount of food. We just about cleared them out, and were just in time before others decided to do the same as us and head back from the jam to find some lunch.

And the food was superb, to me the best we had on the tour, really authentic Bhutanese dishes. There were even a few birds near the cafe, the beautiful White-browed Shrike-babbler, now known to be a vireo, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker atop a twiggy tree, and Grey-hooded Warbler.

Having driven back to the now much longer traffic queue we just had to sit and wait and hope that the rockslide would be cleared in due course. Of course Kinley and I were making contingency plans just in case it was not, but the only other option was not appealing, and would entail a drive back to where we had started this morning, there finding a different hotel as surely ours would have no rooms at such short notice, then continuing the next day via Gelephu, thence to Tingtibi, losing several days in doing so and missing much fine habitat.

Birds continued with Rufous-winged Fulvetta, the stunning Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Red-billed Leiothrix, Blyth's Leaf Warbler, Rufous-capped Babbler, White-tailed Nuthatch, Green-backed Tit, and Ashy-throated Warbler. Hill Partridge called.

Sange spotted a small group of Goral grazing down the slope. Our interest in these, and my putting up the 'scope, resulted in quite a gathering of many of our fellow travellers caught in the traffic jam, and there was much pointing as everyone tried to point out the Gorals to each other! This all dissolved when the news filtered through that the road was clear, and vehicles were being allowed through. Finally at 4 pm the road was open. Of course clearing the traffic queues in either direction was going to take some time. We held back as we wanted to see what would happen, and make sure the road was safe, and the road work team monitored the stability of the remaining cliff as each vehicle rumbling through threatened to cause further landslides.

We got through about 5 pm, thankfully, but there followed another 4 hours or so of heroic driving by Sange, particularly trying after dark, with heavy fog an extra challenge.

A large white flowered epiphytic orchid was striking at Pele La, but we just did not have time to stop. We had to motor purposefully, making only a short comfort stop at a 'guest house' where I was able to buy some snacks to keep us going until what would be a late dinner.

Finally we were very relieved to see the lights of Trongsa, but first the road took us further away again as we had to head down the valley where a bridge allowed us to cross the river. Here an immigration post was heaving with moths around the lights, very frustrating as we just had to get on. However in a few minutes we got an impression of the fine variety of moths, among them arctiids, hawk moths, clouded magpies, and also impressive longhorn beetles.

We finally rolled up at the hotel at about 9 pm, hurriedly settled in to the pleasant rooms, and met for a very welcome dinner. Very heavy rain came.

Day 9 Friday 5th May Trongsa to Tingtibi

We awoke to clear blue skies and, from the balconies, superb views of Trongsa Dzong and the verdant valley below. Blue Whistling Thrush and Russet Sparrows frequented the hotel.

We set out along the rough road that had brought us here late last night, and soon reached the attractive town, and a much better paved road. At a fuel stop were a few moths, among them another clouded magpie. Green-backed Tit, Mrs Gould's Sunbirds, and White-bellied Erpornis (another vireo) were active in the trees. Slaty-backed Forktail flew up from the road.

Next we had fine close views of the endemic Bhutan Laughingthrush, split from the extralimital Striated Laughingthrush. We watched it displaying. Grey Bushchat was more prosaic. Here Chris spotted *Vanda cristata* flowering on rocks, in fine condition. The flora gives it for this area but states it is an epiphyte on oaks, and in fact nearby were some others epiphytic on *Quercus*. However it is obviously also a lithophyte. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker was seen well, and more Bhutan Laughingthrushes in the fine sunlight. Golden Langurs were the next highlight, a troop active by the road. This beautiful primate is almost endemic to Bhutan, ranging just over the border into Assam. Classified as endangered, it is pleasingly rather regularly seen within its small range and we had several fine sightings over the next week.

Nesting Fork-tailed Swifts sped around the vehicle as we negotiated a narrow stretch of road, cliffs to one side. White-capped Water Redstart was seen again. A bridge stop had more impressive pendulous rock bee nests, but no honeyguides today. There was however Little Forktail, rather elusive, around the river below, and Plumbeous Water Redstart too. Black-throated Tits worked through low vegetation. A perched Long-tailed Broadbill was a highlight, fine in the telescope. It was carrying nesting material.

There was a steady procession of well dressed students walking the road, gathering to celebrate today's national holiday.

Crested Buntings were a feature of one scenic stretch of road. Now in fine forest, two Orange Oakleafs prompted a stop, always a superb butterfly to find. In the undergrowth here was the morpho Pallid Fawn, a rather scarce species. There was the more prosaic Yellow Orange-tip, and both Dark Blue and Chestnut Tigers. Noisy White-throated Bulbuls moved through the vegetation and Mountain Hawk Eagle was in the air.

It was already time for lunch, today set out in a small pavilion at a pass. Here we found Indian Fritillary, Spotted Sawtooth, and a female Colour Sergeant. Blue-capped Rock Thrush was seen well and Streaked Spiderhunter was much in evidence.

Fine flowering *Albizia* trees became a feature of the forest. Another flowering tree attracted many Spot Puffins. At another short stop was Common Gull, and Spangle was added to the growing swallowtail list. Here a memorable encounter was with an injured Nepal House Martin laying on the road, apparently having been hit by a vehicle (a real misfortune as there was so little traffic!). It had no external signs of serious damage, and as I carried it away from the road, it soon flew away. We think it will be OK!

Next were fine views of close Sultan Tits, a beautiful bird. Characterful Himalayan Bulbuls were here, and Ashy Bulbul and Orange-bellied Leafbird. Sheila was lucky enough to see Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler. *Duabanga grandiflora*, a tree with distinctive flowers and fruits, became rather common in the area.

Having reached the river, a search for White-bellied Heron was unsuccessful. This species is now very scarce in the whole of its fragmented range. It occurs very locally in north east India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. At least it is known to still nest in this area, the nest being several hours walk away from the village we could see across the river. The birds do travel down to the river here and are not infrequently seen.

Late afternoon saw us arriving in the leafy small spread out town of Tingtibi. We had been prepared for basic accommodation and that it certainly was. It was not too bad though really! We were in fine habitat, amid verdant lush forested hills.

Dinner was enjoyed in the hotel.

Day 10 Saturday 6th May Zhemghang circuit

Very heavy rain overnight led to a misty morning, but there was much bird activity in the leafy streets of Tingtibi outside the hotel. Most notable were Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes, much in evidence, and there were Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes too.

Once in the bus the first thing of interest was perched Pin-tailed Green Pigeons. Crimson Sunbird was admired. White-crested Laughingthrushes moved noisily through the trees and Scarlet Minivets were impressively bright. Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel leapt from trunk to trunk (we call this species Irrawaddy Squirrel in Burma).

Next were the first Great Hornbills of the tour, in fruiting silk cottons, we watched them feeding in the trees, and heard them whooshing in flight. Forest Pierrot was a good butterfly find, the only one we saw. We walked a beautiful leafy lane, where an excellent breakfast awaited us. Rufous-necked Hornbills flew over whilst we ate. Nearby were Assamese Macaques, more Great Hornbills, Blue-bearded Bee eater, and Fire-breasted Flowerpecker.

Today Sange drove us on a beautiful circuitous route through fine forest up to the district capital of Zhemghang, and down the northern slopes of the mountain. Now a little driven road as a bypass has been built skirting the mountain at its base alongside the river below, so it was beautifully tranquil.

A fine forest walk yielded a small white flowered terrestrial orchid on a mossy bank, a challenge to identify, but this was *Cheirostylis moniliformis*. Blue-throated Barbet was seen well, and Greater Yellownappe was here. The satyrid Bamboo Forester flew low at the forest edge. Lycaenids were represented by Pale Grass Blue, Tiny Grass Blue, and Metallic Caerulean.

A highlight was two more Pallid Fauns, the scarce amathusiid, now known to be old world morphos, and then another two were seen. And that was it, we saw no more on the tour. Ferruginous Flycatcher was a good find. Yellow Orange-tip and Yellow Pansy were typical open country butterflies. A beautiful silver and green spider was admired, and there was a variety beetles.

A stop was prompted by fine flowering *Arisaema tortuosum* on the roadside, and *Lindenbergia hookeri* was a yellow flowered scrophulariaceous herb. A fine large troop of Golden Langurs, with many young, in the trees above us was watched very closely for ages. There were more Rufous-necked Hornbills, and Bhutan Laughingthrush. Crow-billed, Lesser Racket-tailed, and Bronzed Drongos were all new for the tour. Black-chinned Yuhina and Blue-capped Rock Thrush continued the variety.

Geranium nepalense was in flower, and we found a fine example of *Dendrobium densiflorum*, an orange flowered epiphyte, close to the road.

We enjoyed another excellent lunch at the pass, in very warm sunshine. This was a supremely tranquil site with no traffic. Striated Bulbul and Blue-winged Minla were here. The *Quercus* supported red flowered epiphytic *Agapetes serpens*. There was also much *Coelogyne corymbosa* in flower. The small yellow flowered monocot *Hypoxis aurea* was a fine find. And there was another arisaema, this one *Arisaema consanguineum*, with narrow lobes to the palmate leaves, the spathe with a long filiform tip.

Soon we reached another finely situated Zhong in the small settlement of Zhemghang, the capital of what is now a very large district extending all the way south to the Indian border.

Descending the northern slopes we walked a beautiful lane, a site for Beautiful Nuthatch. Sadly none of this much hoped for species today. We did see however two White-tailed Nuthatches, fine Rusty-fronted Barwings, Grey-throated Babbler, Striated Laughingthrush, and Silver-eared Mesia. *Viola hamiltoniana* was in flower.

Next were three striped young Wild Boar running along the roadside, apparently with no accompanying adults. Two Slaty-backed Forktails flew up from the road.

We tried again for White-bellied Heron from the river viewpoint, but still no luck. Striated Prinia sang.

Day 11 Sunday 7th May Tingtibi to Gongphu

A beautiful quiet sunny Sunday morning in the quiet streets of Tingtibi. Surprisingly in this better weather there were considerably fewer birds in evidence, and notably no Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes, which had been so prominent yesterday.

Having loaded up we said farewell to the hotel and set off south. Emerald Dove on the road prompted the first stop. Again of course we were in fine forest, here at the northern limits of the extensive Manas National Park. Yellow-breasted Greenfish was an interesting record.

The breakfast site was hot and sunny. Banded Bay Cuckoo called continuously but remained hidden. Scarlet Minivets, of which the cuckoo is a brood parasite, flew from tree to tree. Oriental White-eyes and Common Tailorbird worked tangles.

A shady corner had a water driven prayer wheel enclosed in a small building. Here Sange called us over to show us a female Red Junglefowl pecking on the forest floor. Soon butterflies started gathering, signalled by Spot Puffins which at the slightest disturbance took to the air, chasing each other in a line of white. Green Commodore landed on the road, and Striped Blue Crow was stunning as it caught the sunlight. Black Prince settled characteristically on the ground. Dingy Sailor and Clear Sailor were both seen, various hedge blues, and the beautiful sapphire *Heliophorus epicles*.

Great Hornbills whooshed over. A cucurbit with tasselled white flowers was *Hodgsonia macrocarpa*. A species of *Dysphania*, a yellow, black and white geometer, was probably *Dysphania subrepleta*.

We drove only a short distance before we reached what proved to be a superb butterfly spot, again signified by hyperactive Spot Puffins. Common and Glassy Bluebottles were already mud puddling, and Paris Peacocks, Common Mormons, and Great Mormons patrolled the track. Pale Jezebel was new for us. Butterflies continued with Orange Staff Sergeant, Common Map, Bright Sunbeam, various line blues, One-spot Grass Yellow, Great Orange-tip, Tree Yellow, Common Jester, Common Yeoman, Stately Nawab, and Four-bar Swordtail. Scarce White Commodore in pristine condition was a highlight. Common Windmill mud puddled in the middle of the track.

A pink flowered *Impatiens* bloomed at the shady streamside, but I ran out of time to identify it (some 25 species occur). There were several dragonflies and damselfly here, including *Orthetrum pruinatum*, and a red *Ceriatrigona*. Remarkable here were several cicadas apparently mud puddling. This was a large species, or maybe more than one species, very wary, but we did get good views. A species of Humming-bird Hawk was here too.

Crested Serpent Eagle was in the air and Sheila saw a Yellow-throated Marten cross the road.

The next stop was to admire a good number of Striped Blue Crows around a wet cliff face. Common Gull and Club Beak were here too, and Long-banded Silverline was a great find.

Next highlight was a Serow, licking salt from another wet runnel at the roadside. We watched it for ages on this beautiful road with almost no traffic at all.

A small settlement with two houses even had a name! Here was much more mud puddling including Common Mime, Tailed Jay, and Spotted Sawtooth. Nearby was a view point. Muntjac was the next mammal, a fine red individual. Paradise Flycatcher flew across the road.

A bird highlight was a male Violet Cuckoo atop a tree, fine in the telescope. I had found a new bird for all the team in the vehicle. Rufous-necked Hornbills are a feature of the area and we began to have regular fine views of this striking bird. Orange-bellied Leafbird was new to us, and the always impressive Black Giant Squirrel fed in a large tree. Red-breast Jezebel was on the wing.

Lunch was as always excellent, in another beautiful roadside clearing. Here were more Rufous-necked Hornbills. Nearby a stream had another Orange Oakleaf, *Ypthima confusa*, a tiger moth, and various damselfly. The attractive *Lethe verma*, Chestnut Tiger, and beautiful Popinjay continued the butterfly variety. *Aristocrypha cuneata* was a beautiful damselfly.

We reached a junction and turned up towards the remote settlement of Gongphu, where we would stay for one night. We arrived mid afternoon and settled into the basic rooms finely situated at the forest edge. Few or no foreigners get here, and we were surely only the second group to ever stay here, the earlier Greentours group this year being the first.

It was soon apparent that aroids were a feature here. In the 'gardens' were striking *Amorphophallus nepalensis* and under the trees was *Arisaema concinnum*. Cascading from large tree trunks was the monstera like *Rhapidophora grandis*.

A dead Large Hawk Cuckoo was a puzzling find. The calls of this species were heard at many sites we visited on the tour. There were yet more Rufous-necked Hornbills.

Having organised ourselves we set out to walk the short distance from the village which took us into superb mid altitude broadleaf forest. *Arisaema tortuosum* was in fine flower. In this species the curved spadix greatly exceeds the spathe. Here was again the showy epiphytic orchid *Dendrobium nobile* in fine flower and a frilled yellow orchid, common on one tree, was *Bulbophyllum odoratissimum*. Our next aroid was *Arisaema speciosum*, very robust, with purplish flowers and an appendix with a very long flagellum up to half a meter long! A woody *Lobelia* was in flower, and a blue *Cynoglossum*. Black Eagle soared over the forest and Asian Barred Owlet was heard. The second small group of Yellow-breasted Greenfinches of the day was here. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler skulked in the vegetation.

The cooks did their best in the basic camp kitchen and served another fine meal. We then went for a night walk, being in such promising habitat. It was Sange who was keen to come with us. As expected we didn't see a huge amount but a tree climbing Yellow-throated Marten, seen well, was the highlight. Muntjac was here too. Many frogs gave a soundtrack, and there were a few bats in the air. There were even a couple of leeches!

Day 12 Monday 8th May Gongphu to Panbang

We met for a pre breakfast walk, back into the fine forest near the camp. Rufous-necked, Bhutan, and Streaked Laughingthrushes were all seen again. Yellow-throated Marten was again seen well but briefly, obviously a rather common mammal in the area as we were having several sightings. Another new aroid was a species of *Remusatia*. Rufous-necked Hornbills were again much in evidence and Crimson-breasted Woodpecker was seen well. White-browed Piculet was a highlight but only I saw it, whilst everyone was looking elsewhere. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler was seen again. The lovely Small Niltava sallied for flies at the forest edge.

Back at the lodge we ate breakfast, a troop of Golden Langurs nearby. Loaded up we headed out. Female Crested Bunting was on a wire.

A first butterfly stop had Long-banded Silverline, Orange Punch, fine Indian Purple Emperor, Tabby, and Club Beak, unusually settled with open wings. A scorpion fly was an interesting find. Next Sange spotted *Aerides multiflorum* in flower, a pink cascading raceme. Lemon Pansy was on the wing, and a variety of damsels.

Another puddling site had Great Nawab, Common Raven, Common Gull, Chocolate and Striped Albatrosses, Circe, Paris Peacock, and Orange Oakleaf.

Lunch had been prepared at a superb butterfly rich waterfall site. The Manas river rushed by on the other side of the road. Many pierids here included Three-spot Grass Yellow, Common Albatross, and Spotted Sawtooth. Autumn Leaf, Small Yellow Sailor, a Common Mime, Veined Jay, and several Common Bluebottles continued the variety. Skippers included Tree Flitter, and among lycaenids were Malayan and Fluffy Tit.

We arrived early at the hotel near the village of Panbang, and settled into the clean pleasant rooms. We were surrounded by fine habitat and we soon set off on an exploratory walk. Mountain Imperial Pigeon flew over the forest. *Papilionanthe teres* was an impressive epiphytic orchid, and there was another *Aerides multiflorum* in flower. We watched nesting Indian Roller, and then two policemen on a motorbike stopped to tell me of a nearby nesting hornbill! Blue-throated Barbet was seen superbly, more Pin-tailed Green Pigeons, and Lesser Yellownappe. Asian Palm Swifts were associated of course with, palms!

Dinner in the hotel was good, but sadly still tempered down for what they thought was European taste.

Days 13 & 14 Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th May Manas National Park

We had two full days to explore the fine lowland forests of Manas National Park. A very short drive took us from the hotel to Panbang village and from there to the park gate. Formalities there were straightforward and we drove the beautiful forested road that leads down to the Indian border, currently closed, so there was very little traffic.

Things started well with a pair of Wreathed Hornbills, a Large Woodshrike, and Black-crested and Red-whiskered Bulbuls. Even though the first morning was overcast, there was already mud puddling by 8 O'Clock. Yellow Jezebel appeared briefly. There were beautiful Common Purple Sapphires, Common Castor, Tailed Sulphur, various blues, and *Lethe confusa*. A Globba species with orange flowers was probably *Globba racemosa*, and a white Thunbergia was *Thunbergia grandiflora*.

We drove onto the river gravels from where a boat awaited us to ferry us across the Manas River to the HQ buildings and army camp. Buildings here owned by the royal family led to a rather officious guy with a walkie talkie being very keen we not take any photos of them. Greeting us on the shore was one of the butterflies of the tour, the scarce Jezebel Palmfly, and the only one we saw. This fine satyrid as its name suggests mimics a jezebel.

Red-breasted Parakeets were a feature of the tall woodland here. Common Rose and Common Tiger flew in the understory. Noisy Hill Mynas, and Spangled Drongo, were seen.

A track took us into fine forest, and although the skies grew ever darker and heavy rain threatened, we stayed dry, the rains not coming until lunch time when we were safely in shelter.

There was a very dark *Calotes*, probably a forest calotes. Satyrids were a feature here, the overcast weather ideal for them, and they had been noticeably absent from most sites visited so far. Various *Ypthimas* and *Mycalesis* flew as we walked, there was *Orsotroiena medus*, and Psychees too.

The highlight was a Hooded Pitta that, alerted by its call, I spotted sitting on a log in the understory. We all had prolonged views of this superb bird in the telescope, a real trip highlight. Birds continued with Golden-fronted Leafbird, Asian Fairy Bluebird, and more Rufous-necked and Great Hornbills. I saw a Red-headed Trogon in flight. There was Elephant evidence and Gaur tracks, and we saw

another Muntjac. A stick insect was found, and then another, probably of a different species. Various moths, bugs, and other insects punctuated the walk.

Back by the HQ was the beetle of the trip, a huge green species with a yellow patch on each elytron. This was a Buprestid, a species of *Megaloxantha*, and probably *Megaloxantha longiantennata*. More or less 'wild' water buffalo grazed in the wooded grounds of the army camp, some with especially impressive horns. Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrels scampered among the trees.

Lunch had been set out for us again. Rain finally came but we were sheltered on the verandah of interesting colonial building. A pair of Oriental Pied Hornbills completed the set of four today, all four Bhutan species of hornbill.

Last time I was here I had walked into Bhutan from India, taken a boat across the river, and spent a fine morning in Bhutanese Manas, not fully legally however (!). We'd seen Rufous-necked Hornbills and Golden Langurs, both so typical of the area, and a Binturong curled up atop a tree. We'd been very fortunate to see that I think.

Back to this year. After lunch we had an exciting trip back across the rushing river. Once back on the entrance road, mud puddling was also now exciting. Tiger Hopper was a beautiful little skipper. A very large shield bug was admired, and Oriental Greenwing flashed over rocks in the stream. There were several Ciliate Blues, and the hedge blue *Actyolepis puspa*. The wing of a species of Sergeant, an intriguing find, does not quite fit *Athyma larymna*, although the markings are closest to that large species. A pendulous pink orchid was.....

Skinks scuttled in the leaf litter. Butterflies continued with Plain Puffin, Fluffy Tit, Purple Leaf Blue, beautiful *Jamides elpis*, and another Orange Oakleaf. *Begonia hatacoa* was in flower. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo flew from tree to tree.

There were still many butterflies flying late afternoon. Blackvein Sergeant was new for us, and Common Yeoman and Fulvous Pied Flat continued the variety. Birds continued with Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Lesser Yellownape, and White-throated Bulbul. A large pill millipede was a good find. There was more *Papilionanthe teres* in flower.

We ended the day with a selection of common open country birds including Greater Coucal, White-throated Kingfisher, and Brown Shrike.

That evening there was a large Himalayan Toad at the hotel, and a hawk moth.

On the second morning at Panbang Red-headed Trogon called near the hotel, and Greater Coucal flew clumsily past. It dawned a beautiful sunny morning, although it soon clouded over. We headed back into the park where Slaty-backed Forktails flew up from the roadside streamlets as we drove.

At a bridge stop was Black Prince, and Common Gull, but surprisingly few other butterflies. A troop of Assamese Macaques was in the roadside trees. A small cicada was found, Collared Owlet called from the forest, and a breeding Forest Calotes had an orange head. Again we had this fine forest all to ourselves. Various insects included a narrow stick-like grasshopper and more cicadas. A beautiful forest libellulid, with a red and orange abdomen, and two broad yellow bands laterally on the thorax was *Calicnemia eximia*.

Golden-fronted Leafbird was seen again. Despite extensive views of the riverine grasslands below, no mammals were seen. Mountain Hawk Eagle was in the air, probably the raptor we saw most

regularly on the tour. A species of *Peperomia* grew epiphytically. The white flowered sedge *Kyllinga brevifolia* was attractive and common on the damp roadsides, where were also many different *Cyperus* sedges.

Chain Swordtail was a new swallowtail, there was Common Map, and several butterflies were attracted to civet droppings, including Common and Fluffy Tits. Both Common and Himalayan Jesters were on the wing. A Batwing was an unfortunate casualty of one of the very occasional vehicles along this road. Spot Swordtail was seen too. Orange-sided Skinks scuttled in the leaf litter.

One of the highlights of the tour for most of us was a ridiculously active clearwing with ornamented hindlegs that could not get enough of our hands, I wonder if we were giving off pheromones! Chris managed a stationary photo, and although in appearance we thought it a minute humming-bird hawk, it was in fact a sesiid, probably *Melittia eurytion*. Another clearwing was here too, with dusky forewings and an orange tip to the abdomen. There were also a tiger moth and a saturniid.

Whilst we were kept busy by all these butterflies and moths, Sange found the second Hooded Pitta of the tour.

Again we took the boat across to the Manas HQ. Today a fine tiger beetle greeted us on the other shore. Purple Leaf Blue was new to us, Red-breasted Parakeets again much in evidence, and Apefly was seen briefly.

A group of rather unfriendly government officials were visiting today, not keen to say hello to us, but perfectly happy to oust us from our lunch verandah! We had to sit elsewhere, in the open, but fortunately there was no rain today during the lunch. An epiphytic orchid was in bud near where we ate, and I opened out one of the small flowers, photographed by Pauline so I could identify it, and it was (unfortunately not easy to identify!).

A wander after lunch yielded a fine selection of dragonflies including Red Velvetwing, Sombre Skimmer, and *Orthetrum pruinosum*. Among butterflies were *Everes lacturnus* and Leopard. Osprey hunted along the river.

Back across the river, the best mud puddling site again had a different composition, different from yesterday and even from this morning! Scarce White Commodore was again in fine condition.

Our next new orchid was the yellow flowered hairy *Eria lasiopetala*, commonly in flower on one tree. An excellent stream stop had briefly Ruddy Kingfisher, which called and flew swiftly along the stream. Dusky Diadem, a typical streamside satyrid, perched beautifully over the water. I took off my shoes and socks to bathe my sore feet and immediately a shoal of tiny fish started nibbling at my toes. You pay a lot for that in Japan or Europe! Elbowed Pierrot liked my wet socks! Also here were Common Imperial and Vagrant. Two friendly guys were gathering mushrooms, interestingly their bag was full of all one species.

We were keen to do a night drive into the fine forest above the hotel. Sange was keen too, and the cooks came with us too. Of course we saw Yellow-throated Marten! Collared Owlet called. The highlight was the eyeshine of a flying squirrel but unfortunately seen only briefly, so we could not identify which of the several possible species it was. Cicadas and frogs provided a soundtrack. There were other mammals that night in the roof over my room. Thankfully only above my room, no-one else was disturbed, but what ever they were it sounded as if they had hammers, and they were playing some sort of team game too!

Day 15 Thursday 11th May Panbang to Gelephu via Tingtibi

Today we faced a long drive, but it was not nearly as arduous as feared and amazingly, having left at 6.30, by 8.30 we had already passed our two lunch sites from when we had travelled from Tingtibi and Gongphu, so that allowed plenty of time at the most productive sites before we reached today's lunch site the other side of Tingtibi. All day saw us following the borders of Manas as we travelled back to Tingtibi and then took the road along the western side of the park down to Gelephu, on the Indian border.

Wreathed and Rufous-necked Hornbills were seen well, White-crested Laughingthrushes moved noisily through the trees, Grey-headed Woodpecker was new for the tour, and Blue-throated Barbet was seen well. At a first butterfly stop was Autumn Leaf, and the prosaic Indian Small White. There was a variety of dragonflies, and a species of *Polygonum*.

Near the 'village with only two houses' was some superb mud-puddling. There were several *Graphium chironides* and *Graphium cloanthus*, and *Graphium xenocles* was yet another new swallowtail. Paris Peacock as always impressed, there were at least two Indian Purple Emperors, Common Map, and Club Beak.

We made a long stop at the bridge site which had been so excellent the other day. And it was of course again, signified by many pierids. Grey Baron was a new nymphalid, and the stunning and scarce Khaki Silverline was a special find. A superb large male Three-coloured Kaiser on the track was surely the highlight. A very imposing insect, this butterfly has a complex taxonomic history but it is a danaid mimicking satyrid. Other fine species here were Common Nawab, Common Yeoman, Scarce White Commodore, and Yellow Helen.

A beautiful slaty blue hairstreak with distinctive spots on the underside was *Ancema ctesia*. Eastern Courtier and Tawny Rajah were special finds, and Yellow Pansy was again here.

We again stopped at the water driven prayer wheel site where was another large impressive Kaiser. There was another Eastern Courtier, Four-bar Swordtail, many Spot Puffins puddling, and another Scarce White Commodore. There were again several puddling large cicadas, and mating Triangle Skimmers.

Passing Tingtibi we reached the lunch site remarkably already at 12.15! *Dendrobium densiflorum* was in fine flower in a tree above us. It was time to say farewell to the three excellent cooks who had looked after us so attentively with a great variety of food in many fine locations during the tour, and we showed our appreciation.

We were still in superb forest. 'Arisaema alley' had at least four species, but these were very confusing here. There were at least robust *Arisaema speciosum* and *Arisaema nepenthoides* (altitude?). A begonia with red spines on the leaves and flowers was possibly *Begonia annulata*.

Nepalese Cutia was a bird highlight, with the more usual Rufous Sibia, and a male Kalij Pheasant flew up from the road whilst we were on foot. White-throated Fantail was here too. The familiar *Aruncus dioicus* flowered on the roadsides. A fine Black Giant Squirrel scampered across the road, a species much more commonly seen in trees.

Another fine forest stop was serendipitously beside a tree with fine *Dendrobium devonianum* (originally collected for the Duke of Devonshire). There was another Begonia here, with larger leaves, purplish above, red below, fringed, the stem densely white prickly hairy, possibly *Begonia cathcartii*.

There followed more Assamese Macaques and Rufous-necked Hornbills. Next I spotted a pair of Orange-headed Thrushes which prompted a stop, a new species for Sange. And we saw another Muntjac.

Late afternoon saw us reaching the border town of Gelephu, a pleasant enough place in the lowlands. The high street, where was our hotel, was bustling. The hotel was as expected basic, but OK.

Of note is that since we left Trongsa, we had not seen a single other western tourist, in more than a week. And there were none here either. Not until Guwahati airport tomorrow would we see any, and there only a few.

We enjoyed a good dinner in the hotel, caught up on the lists, and reflected on the wealth of things we'd seen in Bhutan.

Day 16 Friday 12th May Gelephu to Guwahati to Delhi

We were very soon at the border. It was all pretty straightforward.

My favourite 't-shirt quote' of the trip was on that worn by a young man walking past:- '99% of all women are beautiful. The remaining 1% are in my college'.

A longish drive in our two cars took us through a no mans land, where we had great views of a Wreathed Hornbill that flew right over our vehicles. We arrived at a superbly tranquil 'foreigner immigration post', a tidy house amid gardens, and were welcomed by a very polite officer who made sure we all had chairs and were comfortable whilst he dealt with our passports.

Now on the Assam plains we finally saw common open country birds such as Cattle Egret, in breeding plumage (on Day 16!), and Great, Intermediate, and Little too. This was a beautiful drive, at least as far as the highway. (I'm sure that fast highway was not here the last time I was in Assam!).

Storks were a feature in India and we saw Woolly-necked Stork, White Stork, Asian Openbill, and Lesser Adjutant. Also added to the bird list were Lesser Whistling Duck, Indian Pond Heron, Little Cormorant, Grey-headed Swamphen (Purple Gallinule), Red Collared Dove, Rufous Treepie, Black-hooded Oriole, and Black Drongo.

In good time we reached the bustling Guwahati Airport. All was very friendly at check in. But oh my, we had fun at the chaotic security. To beware in future, the staff here can just take whatever they like out of your bags, and they just put it in separate trays, or just to one side. You have to keep a keen eye on all your belongings, and check thoroughly that everything has been returned to you before leaving security!

The departure lounge was packed, with many flights departing, most of them to Delhi. As one by one departed we had more and more space to relax. The flight was punctual, pleasant, and smooth. We arrived in Delhi to find a remarkable 32°C, even after 8 o'clock in the evening!

We were met by Rahindra, good to see him again. The journey to the hotel was straightforward, although busy this Friday evening. It was fortunately much quieter at the hotel this evening, no weddings, and we enjoyed a good dinner, being very pleased to be able to enjoy curry again.

Day 17 Saturday 13th May Departure

Our flight was at a civilised hour of the morning allowing us to fully enjoy the buffet breakfast in the hotel. In the pleasant air conditioned vehicle we travelled the short distance through the hot busy streets. All went smoothly, and the flight was punctual, again with good service.

At Heathrow I rushed away as my hire car awaited, so many thanks to all for great company and an enjoyable and very productive tour.

Systematic List Number 1 Butterflies

Various works were used, but the taxonomy follows 'Butterflies of Thailand' by Ek-Amnuay, 2nd revised edition, 2012. Despite the distance between Bhutan and Thailand this book is still the best illustrated field guide for the area.

Papilionidae

<i>Troides</i> sp.	birdwing species	Remarkably the only one seen was in flight as we drove through Assam. Too far away to tell if it was <i>T.helena</i> or <i>T.aeacus</i> .
<i>Atrophaneura aidonius</i>	Lesser Batwing	A recent road casualty at Manas
<i>Atrophaneura polyeuctes</i>	Common Windmill	Between Tingtibi and Gongphu
<i>Atrophaneura</i> spp.	windmill spp.	Several high in flight
<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>	Common Rose	Scattered records, mostly at Manas
<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Swallowtail	Several around Chele La
<i>Papilio castor</i>	Common Raven	3+ north of Pandang
<i>Papilio helenus</i>	Red Helen	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Papilio nephelus</i>	Yellow Helen	Manas
<i>Papilio polytes</i>	Common Mormon	Widespread in Manas
<i>Papilio memnon</i>	Great Mormon	Between Gongphu and Panbang
<i>Papilio alcmenor</i>	Redbreast	1 at Manas
<i>Papilio protenor</i>	The Spangle	Between Trongsa and Tingtibi, and from there to Gongphu
<i>Papilio paris</i>	Paris Peacock	Widespread and common. The commonest Swallowtail. Seen on 8 days.
<i>Papilio clytia</i>	Common Mime	Tingtibi to Gongphu and from there to Panbang
<i>Meandrusa lachinus</i>	Brown Gorgon	1 in Jigme Dorje NP
<i>Graphium mandarinum</i>	Spectacle Swordtail	1 in Tashithang Valley
<i>Graphium eurous</i>	Sixbar Swordtail	1 in Jigme Dorje NP
<i>Graphium agetes</i>	Fourbar Swordtail	Scattered Manas records
<i>Graphium nomius</i>	Spot Swordtail	Manas NP
<i>Graphium xenocles</i>	Great Zebra	1 at Manas
<i>Graphium cloanthus</i>	Glassy Bluebottle	Widespread, seen on 5 days
<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>	Common Bluebottle	Scattered records in Manas
<i>Graphium chironides</i>	Veined Jay	On two days in Manas
<i>Graphium agamemnon</i>	Tailed Green Jay	Tingtibi to Gongphu

Pieridae

Pierinae

<i>Delias sanaca</i>	Pale Jezebel	Tingtibi to Gongphu
<i>Delias belladonna</i>	Hill Jezebel	Tashithang Valley on 2 days
<i>Delias acalis</i>	Red-breast Jezebel	Tingtibi to Gongphu
<i>Delias descombesi</i>	Red-spot Jezebel	Manas NP
<i>Delias agostina</i>	Yellow Jezebel	Manas NP
<i>Leptosia nina</i>	Psyche	Scattered Manas records
<i>Prioneris thestylis</i>	Spotted Sawtooth	Trongsa to Tingtibi, there to Gongphu, and from there to Panbang
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White	Lobesa and Tashithang Valley
<i>Artogeia canidia</i>	Indian Small White	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Cepora nerissa</i>	Common Gull	Widespread in Manas
<i>Cepora nadina</i>	Lesser Gull	
<i>Appias lycnida</i>	Chocolate Albatross	Gongphu to Panbang

<i>Appias olferna</i>	Striped Albatross	Trongsa to Tingtibi, and Gongphu to Panbang
<i>Appias albina</i>	Common Albatross	Widespread in Manas
<i>Appias paulina</i>	Lesser Albatross	
<i>Appias indra</i>	Plain Puffin	Scattered Manas records
<i>Appias lalage</i>	Spot Puffin	Widespread and numerous
<i>Ixias pyrene</i>	Yellow Orange Tip	Widespread and often common
<i>Hebomoia glaucippe</i>	Great Orange Tip	Scattered Manas records

Coliadinae

<i>Dercas verhuelli</i>	Tailed Sulphur	1, Manas NP
<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>	Mottled Emigrant	Scattered records
<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	Lemon Emigrant	Only on 2 days
<i>Eurema laeta</i>	Spotless Grass Yellow	Tashithang Valley
<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	Common Grass Yellow	Manas on 4 days
<i>Eurema blanda</i>	Three-spot Grass Yellow	Scattered Manas records
<i>Eurema andersoni</i>	Anderson's Grass Yellow	Scattered Manas records
<i>Gandaca harina</i>	Tree Yellow	Scattered Manas records
<i>Colias fieldii</i>	a clouded yellow	Chele La and Jigme Dorje NP
<i>Colias erate</i>	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	Several around Paro, mostly males, one female

Nymphalidae

Danainae

<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Plain Tiger	A few records in disturbed habitat
<i>Danaus genutia</i>	Common Tiger	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Tirumala septentrionis</i>	Dark Blue Tiger	Seen on 3 days
<i>Parantica aglea</i>	Glassy Tiger	Tingtibi to Gongphu and Manas NP
<i>Parantica melaneus</i>	Chocolate Tiger	Trongsa to Tingtibi and from there to Gongphu
<i>Parantica sita</i>	Chestnut Tiger	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Euploea algea</i>	Long-branded Blue Crow	Tingtibi to Gongphu and from there to Panbang
<i>Euploea mulciber</i>	Striped Blue Crow	Widespread and reasonably common in Manas
<i>Euploea midamus</i>	Blue-spotted Crow	Tingtibi to Gongphu

Satyrinae

<i>Elymnias vasudeva</i>	Jezebel Palmfly	This fine species, seen at Manas NP, was surprisingly the only <i>Elymnias</i> species seen
<i>Lethe confusa</i>	Banded Treebrown	On 2 days at Manas
<i>Lethe verma</i>	Straight Treebrown	Tingtibi to Gongphu
<i>Lethe kansa</i>	Bamboo Forester	Tingtibi area
<i>Ethope himachala</i>	Dusky Diadem	A fine individual at Manas NP
<i>Penthenia darlisa</i>	Three-coloured Kaiser	2 fine males south of Tingtibi
<i>Mycalesis perseus</i>	Common Bushbrown	
<i>Mycalesis mineus</i>	Dark Brand Bushbrown	Common at Manas
<i>Mycalesis visala</i>	Long-branded Bushbrown	Tingtibi area and Manas NP
<i>Orsotriaena medus</i>		Manas NP
<i>Ypthima baldus</i>	Common Fivering	Numerous at Manas
<i>Ypthima sakra</i>	Himalayan Fivering	Scattered records, e.g. Lobesa and Zhemghang circuit
<i>Ypthima huebneri</i>	Common Fourring	Manas NP
<i>Ypthima confusa</i>	Confusing Threering	North of Panbang
<i>Callerebia annada</i>	Ringed Argus	This fine species was found near Lobesa, c.5 individuals (sometimes spelt ananda!)

Morphinae

Melanocyma faunula Pallid Faun The only 'amathusiid' seen was this fine species. 1 Trongsa to Tingtibi, and 4 on the Zhemgang circuit.

Charaxinae

Polyura athamas Common Nawab Several at Manas NP
Polyura eudamippus Great Nawab 1 Tashithang Valley, and Gongphu to Panbang
Polyura dolon Stately Nawab Several in Tashithang Valley and Jigme Dorje, and Gongphu to Panbang
Charaxes bernardus Common Tawny Rajah 1 at Manas

Calinaginae

Calinaga buddha The Orange Freak Several in Jigme Dorje National Park

Heliconiinae

Acraea issoria Yellow Coster Tashithang Valley
Cethosia biblis Red Lacewing Scattered records
Argyreus hyperbius Indian Fritillary Trongsa to Tingtibi and from there to Gongphu
Phalanta phalantha Common Leopard Delhi and Manas NP
Vagrans sinha The Vagrant Manas NP, only 1
Cirrochroa tyche Common Yeoman Daily at Manas

Limenitidinae

Pantoporia hordonia Common Lascar
Neptis clinia Clear Sailor Tingtibi to Gongphu
Neptis hylas Common Sailor Widespread in small numbers
Neptis omeroda Dingy Sailor Tingtibi to Gongphu
Neptis miah Small Yellow Sailor North of Panbang and Manas NP
Neptis ananta Ananta Yellow Sailor Manas NP
Neptis manasa Pale Hockey-stick Sailor Jigme Dorje National Park
Athyma larymna Great Siam Sergeant An intriguing find was a forewing of a large *Athyma* species, found at Manas NP. It is closest to this species, rare in the region, but the markings differ in several details.
Athyma selenophora Staff Sergeant A male, Tashithang Valley
Athyma cama Orange Staff Sergeant Scattered records, seen on 5 days
Athyma nefte Colour Sergeant A female, Trongsa to Tingtibi
Athyma ranga Black-veined Sergeant 1, Manas NP
Sumalia daraxa Green Commodore Tashithang Valley and Tingtibi to Gongphu
Sumalia zulema Scarce White Commodore On three days in Manas
Auzakia danava Chocolate Commodore 2, Tashithang Valley
Euthalia anosia Grey Baron 1 south of Tingtibi
Euthalia lubentina Common Gaudy Baron Day 14 (CM photo)

Cyrestinae

Cyrestis thyodamus Common Map Widespread in small numbers
Pseudergolis wedah Tabby 2 Jigme Dorje National Park, and Gongphu to Panbang
Stibochiona nicea Popinjay 1 Tingtibi to Gongphu

Biblidinae

Ariadne merione Common Castor Manas

Apaturinae

Mimathyma ambica Indian Purple Emperor A total of 5 in Manas
Rohana parisatis Black Prince Daily in Manas
Rohana parvata Brown Prince
Sephisa chandra Eastern Courtesan 2 south of Tingtibi
Hestina nama The Circe 1, Gongphu to Panbang
Hestina persimilis The Siren Jigme Dorje NP

Nymphalinae

Polygonia c-aureum Golden-C Comma Chele La
Vanessa indica Indian Red Admiral Punakha area
Vanessa cardui Painted Lady Punakha area and Manas
Vanessa ladakhensis Indian Tortoiseshell Scattered records, larvae seen also
Symbrenthia lilaea Common Jester Scattered records
Symbrenthia hypselis Himalayan Jester Jigme Dorje NP and Manas NP
Symbrenthia niphanda Blue-tail Jester Tashithang Valley
Junonia iphita Chocolate Pansy Widespread
Junonia almana Peacock Pansy Tashithang Valley
Junonia lemonias Lemon Pansy Common at Manas
Junonia orithya Blue Pansy Tashithang Valley
Junonia hierta Yellow Pansy Zhemghang circuit and Manas
Doleschallia bisaltide Autumn Leaf On 2 days at Manas
Kallima inachus Indian Leaf Butterfly Seen on 5 days in the south

Libytheinae

Libythea celtis Common Beak Tashithang Valley and Manas
Libythea myrrha Club Beak Several in Manas

Lycaenidae

Riodininae

Zemeros flegyas The Punchinello Widespread in small numbers
Dodona ouida Mixed Punch Tashithang Valley
Dodona egeon Orange Punch Tashithang Valley and Gongphu to Panbang
Dodona eugenes Tailed Punch Tashithang Valley
Abisara fylla Dark Judy Tashithang Valley
Abisara echerius Common Plum Judy CM photo

Poritiinae

Miletinae

Taraka hamada Forest Pierrot Near Tingtibi
Spalgis epius The Apefly 1, Manas NP

Curetinae

Curetis bulis Bright Sunbeam Widespread in small numbers

Polyommatainae

Caleta elna Elbowed Pierrot Several in Manas
Everes lacturnus Indian Cupid Manas NP

<i>Megisba malaya</i>	The Malayan	Gongphu to Panbang
<i>Actyolepis puspa</i>	Common Hedge Blue	Tingtibi to Gongphu and from there to Panbang
<i>Udara dilecta</i>	Pale Hedge Blue	Punakha area
<i>Celastrina lavendularis</i>	Plain Hedge Blue	Zhemghang
<i>Celastrina albidisca</i>		
<i>Celastrina marginata</i>		
<i>Zizina otis</i>	Lesser Grass Blue	Scattered records
<i>Zizeeria maha</i>	Pale Grass Blue	Scattered records
<i>Zizula hylax</i>	Tiny Grass Blue	Zhemghang circuit
<i>Catachrysops strabo</i>	Forget-me-not	Manas NP
<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Long-tailed Blue (Pea Blue)	Punakha area and Trongsa to Tingtibi
<i>Jamides bochus</i>	Dark Caerulean	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Jamides celeno</i>	Common Caerulean	Scattered records
<i>Jamides elpis</i>	Glistening Caerulean	Manas NP
<i>Jamides alecto</i>	Metallic Caerulean	Scattered records
<i>Nacaduba kurava</i>	Transparent Six-line Blue	Manas
<i>Nacaduba beroe</i>	Opaque Six-line Blue	
<i>Prosotas nora</i>	Common Lineblue	Widespread
<i>Prosotas dubiosa</i>	Tailless Lineblue	Tashithang Valley etc.
<i>Prosotas lutea</i>	Banded Lineblue	Manas NP
<i>Prosotas aluta</i>	Barred Lineblue	
<i>Petrelaea dana</i>	Dingy Lineblue	
<i>Anthene emolus</i>	Common Ciliate Blue	Manas NP
<i>Anthene lycaenina</i>	Pointed Ciliate Blue	Manas NP

Lycaeninae

<i>Heliophorus androcles</i>	Powdery Green Sapphire	Tashithang Valley
<i>Heliophorus epicles</i>	Common Purple Sapphire	Several at Manas
<i>Heliophorus indicus</i>	Indian Purple Sapphire	Punakha
<i>Heliophorus sp.</i>		

Theclinae

<i>Cigaristis rukmini</i>	Khaki Silverline	2 south of Tingtibi
<i>Cigaritis lohita</i>	Long-banded Silverline	Gongphu to Panbang
<i>Surendra quercetorum</i>	Common Acacia Blue	Manas NP
<i>Amblypodia anita</i>	Purple Leaf Blue	
<i>Cheritra freja</i>	Common Imperial	1 at Manas NP
<i>Hypolycaena erylus</i>	Common Tit	3 at Manas NP
<i>Hypolycaena amasa</i>	Fluffy Tit	Several in Manas

Hesperiidae

Surprisingly, very few skippers were seen. However a few more will be added from additional photo ids.

Coeliadinae

Pyrginae

<i>Darpa hanria</i>	Hairy Angle	Tashithang Valley
<i>Pseudocoladenia dan</i>	Fulvous Pied Flat	Tashithang Valley and Manas NP

Hesperiinae

<i>Ochus subvittatus</i>	Tiger Hopper	Manas NP
<i>Halpe sp.</i>	ace sp.	At least two seen.

Notocrypta feisthamelii
Hyarotis adrastus
Potanthus sita
Polytremis lubricans
Thoressa cerata

Spotted Demon
Tree Flitter
Yellow and Black Dart
Contiguous Swift
Northern Ace

Tashithang Valley
Gongphu to Panbang
Manas NP. CM photo.
Manas NP. CM photo.
CM photo Day 14

Systematic List Number 3 Mammals

Bat spp.		A few insectivorous species seen
Assamese Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>	Punakha area, Pele La, Trongsa, and Manas
Grey Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>	A troop west of Pele La
Golden Langur	<i>Trachypithecus geei</i>	Several fine sightings, from Trongsa south. Seen on 6 days.
Black Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>	Tingtibi to Gongphu, and Day 14
Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>	Scattered records (also known as Irrawaddy Squirrel)
Pallas's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>	
Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>	Dochu La
Himalayan Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops maclellandii</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park
flying squirrel sp.		eyeshine at night near Panbang
Royle's Pika	<i>Ochotona roylei</i>	Chele La
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Sign only, Manas NP
Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	Prints, Manas NP
Wild Buffalo	<i>Bubalis bubalis</i>	Semi-domesticated, Manas NP
Goral	<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>	3, Pele La
Serow	<i>Capricornis sumatraensis</i>	1 seen very well between Tingtibi and Gongphu
Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	Pele La, between Tingtibi and Gongphu, Gongphu, and Manas NP
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	3 young, with no adult, Zhemghang. Sign elsewhere.

Systematic List Number 4

Himalayan Toad	<i>Bufo himalayanus</i>
Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
skink spp.	
Garden Calotes	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
Forest Calotes	<i>Calotes rouxi</i>
	<i>Calotes sp.</i>
Common Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>

Amphibians and Reptiles

	Panbang
	Scattered records in habitation
	Scattered records
	Manas NP
	A large individual at Panbang

Systematic List Number 4 Birds

The nomenclature and systematic order generally follow 'Birds of South Asia, The Ripley Guide' by Rasmussen and Anderton, Lynx Edicions 2005. Some more recent taxonomic changes are taken from 'Birds of South-east Asia' by Craig Robson, Second Edition 2015. The standard field guide is 'Birds of Bhutan' by Inskipp, Inskipp, and Grimmett, Helm.

Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Assam
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Assam
Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Assam
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Assam
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	Assam
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Assam
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Assam
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Several in Assam
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Assam
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	1 in Assam
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Assam
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Singletons at Lobesa and Manas NP
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Zhemghang and Tingtibi areas
Mountain Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	Seen on 4 days
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Seen on 4 days
Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1 at Dochu La
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Delhi
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Scattered records
Common Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>	Heard Pele La, Trongsa, Zhemghang, and Gongphu
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	A female south of Tingtibi
Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>	Scattered records, seen on 4 days
Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>	Seen in Assam
Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>	3 at Paro, 1 Tashithang Valley
River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	2 at Punakha
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Delhi
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Feral Pigeon widespread
Speckled Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba hodgsonii</i>	Paro and Dochu La
Mountain Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	Panbang and Manas NP
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Widespread and common
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Widespread, commoner in the south
Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Seen in Assam
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Tingtibi and Manas NP
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>	Zhemghang and Panbang
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Delhi
Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	Numerous in Manas NP
Large Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>	Widespread, often heard
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	Heard at various sites
Violet Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>	A male between Tingtibi and Gongphu
Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	Heard at various sites
Eurasian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Often heard, sometimes seen
cuckoo sp.	<i>Cuculus sp.</i>	Pele La
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Manas NP
Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus lettia</i>	Heard at Panbang
Asian Barred Owllet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Heard at Gongphu

Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	Heard between Tingtibi and Gongphu, and Manas NP
Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>	Punakha area
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	Panbang
Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Tashithang Valley and south of Trongsa
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	Paro
Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	1, Manas NP (PGC)
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Manas and Assam
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Paro, Lobesa, and often heard
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Tashithang Valley
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Day 8, Manas, and Assam
Ruddy Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon coromanda</i>	1, Manas NP (PGC)
Crested Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle lugubris</i>	Tashithang Valley
Little Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Delhi
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>	Zhemghang and Manas NP
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Many sightings in Manas, seen on 6 days
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	2 in Manas NP
Rufous-necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	Many sightings in Manas, seen on 6 days
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	A few Manas sightings, and in Assam, seen on 4 days
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide	<i>Indicator xanthonotus</i>	A male seen very well west of Pele La
Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	Widespread and common. Heard almost continuously.
Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	Heard in Manas
Golden-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>	Widespread at mid altitudes
Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Widespread in the south
White-browed Piculet	<i>Sasia ochracea</i>	1 at Gongphu
Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos cathpharius</i>	West of Pele La, and Gongphu
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Hypopicus hyperythrus</i>	Dochu La and Trongsa
Greater Yellownappe	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>	Zhemghang and Gongphu
Lesser Yellownappe	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park, Panbang, and Manas NP
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	Day 14
Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	Gongphu
Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>	1 near Trongsa
Hooded Pitta	<i>Pitta sordida</i>	2 in Manas NP
Blyth's Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius aeralatus</i>	A male west of Pele La
White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>	Trongsa
Nepal House Martin	<i>Delichon nipalense</i>	1 between Trongsa and Tingtibi was remarkably the only hirundine seen!
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Paro
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Scattered records
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Scattered records
Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>	Manas NP
Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	Scattered records
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	Chele La, Pele La, Zhemghang
Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	Chele La and Dochu La
Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	Pele La
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	Zhemghang and Manas
Striated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>	Zhemghang and Day 14
Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>	Manas
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Manas
Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenis</i>	Tingtibi area

Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Widespread and very common
Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flava</i>	Trongsa to Tingtibi, and from there to Gongphu
Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mccllellandii</i>	2, Jigme Dorje National Park
White-throated Bulbul	<i>Alphoixus flaveolus</i>	On 4 days from Trongsa south
Himalayan Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	Widespread, seen on 11 days
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	Manas NP
Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	Tingtibi, Zhemghang, Gongphu
Asian Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	Manas NP
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Manas NP
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Lobesa, Zhemghang, Tingtibi to Gongphu, ssp. <i>tricolor</i>
Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	Widespread and reasonably common
Asian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	Near Gongphu
White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Zhemghang and Day 14
Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Chelidorhynch hypoxantha</i>	Pele La
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	Tingtibi
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	A pair, Pele La
Blue-capped Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>	Scattered records, seen on 5 days
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	Widespread in small numbers, seen on 10 days
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	2 near Gelephu
White-collared Blackbird	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>	Several in the Paro area
Himalayan Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>	Chele La
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Widespread
Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>	1 near Trongsa
Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	Scattered records, seen on 5 days
Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	Chele La
Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosa</i>	Scattered records along watercourses, last seen near Trongsa
White-capped Water Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Paro, Pele La, and Trongsa
Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	Scattered records
Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>	Pele La, Tingtibi to Gongphu, and from there to Panbang
Ferruginous Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>	Near Tingtibi
Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	Gongphu
Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>	Males at Dochu La, and Pele La
Slaty-blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	Dochu La and Pele La
Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>	Widespread, seen on 7 days
Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	Gongphu
Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>	A male at Chele La
Bhutan Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron imbricatum</i>	Trongsa, Zhemghang, and Gongphu. Endemic. Split from Streaked Laughingthrush, <i>T. lineatum</i> .
Red-headed Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron erythrocephalum</i>	Dochu La and Zhemghang
Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron affine</i>	Dochu La
Rufous-necked Laughingthrush	<i>Dryonastes ruficollis</i>	Seen very well in Tingtibi and Gongphu areas
Grey-sided Laughingthrush	<i>Dryonastes caerulatus</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park
Spotted Laughingthrush	<i>Ianthocinclia ocellata</i>	Chele La
Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Grammatoptila striata</i>	Dochu La, Jigme Dorje NP, Zhemghang, Gongphu
White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	Zhemghang, Gongphu, and Day 14
White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>	Chele La, Dochu La, Pele La

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>	Zhenghang circuit
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>	Manas NP
Crimson-faced Liocichla	<i>Liocichla phoenicea</i>	Heard Zhemghang
Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyridopsis ruficeps</i>	Pele La
Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	Zhemghang
Sickle-billed Scimitar Babbler	<i>Xiphirhynchus superciliaris</i>	North of Tingtibi
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus erythrogenys</i>	Lobesa, and Gongphu
Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Mesia argentauris</i>	Zhemghang
Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	Pele La
Black-chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	Zhemghang
Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	Dochu La and Pele La
Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>	Dochu La
Striated Yuhina	<i>Staphida castaniceps</i>	Zhemghang, and Tingtibi to Gongphu
Rufous-winged Fulvetta	<i>Pseudominla castaneiceps</i>	Pele La
Golden-breasted Fulvetta	<i>Lioparus chrysotis</i>	Pele La
Rusty-fronted Barwing	<i>Actinodura egertoni</i>	2, Zhemghang
Rufous Sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>	Common at mid altitudes
Blue-winged Siva	<i>Siva cyanouoptera</i>	Zhemghang
Bar-throated Minla	<i>Chrysominla strigula</i>	Dochu La
Himalayan Cutia	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i>	Day 14
Brown Parrotbill	<i>Cholornis unicolor</i>	Dochu La
Striated Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera</i>	Lobesa and Tingtibi
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Scattered lowland records
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>	Pele La
Golden-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus burkii</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery, Chele La, Pele La
Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	Gongphu to Panbang
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery and Dochu La
Large-billed Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>	Pele La
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	Dochu La and Pele La
Ashy-throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	Pele La
Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i>	Pele La and Zhemghang
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery, Chele La, Dochu La
Rufous-vented Tit	<i>Periparus rubidiventris</i>	Chele La and Dochu La
Grey-crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes dichrous</i>	Chele La and Dochu La
Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	Widespread
Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	Tingtibi area
Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	Tashithang Valley and near Trongsa
Rufous-fronted Tit	<i>Aegithalos iouschistos</i>	Chele La
Hodgson's Treecreeper	<i>Certhia hodgsoni</i>	Chele La
White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>	Scattered records, Dochu La, Pele La, Zhenghang
Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum</i>	Zhemghang
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	Pele La and Zhemghang
Mrs Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>	Chele La and Trongsa to Tingtibi
Black-throated Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park, Zhemghang, and Tingtibi to Gongphu
Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	Dochu La
Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	Pele La
Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera magna</i>	Pele La and Zhemghang
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Near Tingtibi
Crested Bunting	<i>Emberiza lathamii</i>	Trongsa to Tingtibi and Gongphu
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	<i>Chloris spinoides</i>	Tingtibi and Gongphu
Crimson-browed Finch	<i>Propyrrhula subhimachala</i>	A female, Jigme Dorje National Park

Scarlet Finch	<i>Haematospiza sipahi</i>	Paro
Red-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythrocephala</i>	Chele La
Spot-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas melanozanthos</i>	A pair Pele La, Zhemghang
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Tashithang Valley
Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>	Paro and Trongsa
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Widespread and common
Slender-billed Oriole	<i>Oriolus tenuirostris</i>	Day 7
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Assam
Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Assam
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Widespread and reasonably common
Crow-billed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus annectens</i>	Zhemghang
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	Zhemghang and Manas
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	Zhemghang and Manas
Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentotus</i>	Manas NP
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Manas NP
Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	Punakha and Assam
Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	Zhemghang
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Widespread and common
Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	Manas NP
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Assam
Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	Widespread and rather common
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Paro
Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	Paro and Chele La
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery and Chele La
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus japonensis</i>	Widespread
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	India, Gelephu, and Lobesa

Betulaceae	
<i>Alnus nepalensis</i>	an alder
Fagaceae	
<i>Quercus lanata</i>	
<i>Quercus griffithii</i>	
<i>Quercus semecarpifolia</i>	
<i>Quercus</i> spp.	
<i>Lithocarpus</i> spp.	
<i>Castanopsis indica</i>	
<i>Castanopsis hystrix</i>	
<i>Castanopsis tribuloides</i>	
Moraceae	
<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Bo-tree
<i>Ficus</i> spp.	
Urticaceae	
<i>Urtica</i> spp.	
<i>Girardinia diversifolia</i>	
<i>Pilea</i> spp.	
Cannabaceae	
<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	
Santalaceae	
<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>	Lobesa
Loranthaceae	
<i>Scurrula parasitica</i>	Various hosts
<i>Scurrula elata</i>	East side of Dochu La on <i>Quercus</i> , also occurs on other hosts
<i>Taxillus kaempferi</i>	On conifers
<i>Viscum</i> sp.	
Polygonaceae	
<i>Persicaria chinensis</i>	
<i>Persicaria capitata</i>	
<i>Persicaria</i> spp.	
<i>Rumex nepalensis</i>	Outside the botanic garden
Phytolaccaceae	
<i>Phytolacca acinosa</i>	
Caryophyllaceae	
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear
<i>Stellaria vestita</i>	Paro
<i>Pseudostellaria heterantha</i>	Chele La
<i>Sagina japonica</i>	Dochu La
Chenopodiaceae	

<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen
<i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i>	Lobesa
Cactaceae	
<i>Opuntia vulgaris</i>	Prickly Pair
Magnoliaceae	
<i>Magnolia campbellii</i>	Dochu La
Annonaceae	
<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i>	Ashok
Lauraceae	
Various Lauraceous trees an important component of forests	
Ranunculaceae	
<i>Clematis montana</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery, in flower
<i>Callianthemum pimpinelloides</i>	Ha side of Chele La, in flower
<i>Ranunculus ficariifolius</i>	Outside botanic garden
<i>Ranunculus brotherusii</i>	
<i>Ranunculus diffusus</i>	Lobesa
<i>Ranunculus chinensis</i>	Paro
<i>Oxygraphis endlicheri</i>	Common at Chele La
Berberidaceae	
<i>Berberis praecipua</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery
<i>Berberis asiatica</i>	Asiatic Barberry. Lobesa.
<i>Mahonia napaulensis</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park
Piperaceae	
<i>Peperomia</i> sp.	Manas National Park
<i>Piper</i> spp.	A few in the south. 10 species occur.
Hypericaceae	
<i>Hypericum japonicum</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park
Fumariaceae	
<i>Corydalis leptocarpa</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park and Zhemghang
Capparaceae	
<i>Capparis</i> sp.	
Cruciferae	
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	a pepperwort
<i>Cardamine circaeoides</i>	Possibly this, streamside outside botanic garden.
<i>Barbarea intermedia</i>	Intermediate Wintercress
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Water-cress. Paro.
Saxifragaceae	
<i>Tiarella polyphylla</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery
<i>Chrysosplenium nepalense</i>	opposite leaves, Chele La
<i>Chrysosplenium adoxoides</i>	alternate leaves, wild in the botanic garden

Rosaceae

Aruncus dioicus
Rubus calycinus
Rubus pentagonus
Rubus ellipticus
Rubus biflorus
Rubus indotibetanus
Rubus spp.
Potentilla spp.
Potentilla cuneata
Potentilla sundaica
Fragaria nubicola
Duchesnea indica
Rosa sericea
Cotoneaster microphyllus
Pyracantha crenulata
Sorbus spp.

Goatsbeard Spiraea
Single white flowered herb. Outside botanic garden.

Yellow Himalayan Raspberry
Silver-stemmed Bramble

Confusing. Several seen. The most likely species are:-

a strawberry. Common in the highlands.

False Strawberry

Silky Rose. Much in flower in Paro.

Chele La

Jigme Dorje National Park

Fabaceae

Bauhinia variegata
Albizia julibrissin
Albizia chinensis
Indigofera cassioides
Desmodium spp.
Erythrina stricta
Erythrina arborescens
Astragalus sp.
Vicia sativa
Parochetus communis
Trifolium repens
Crotalaria spp.
Piptanthus nepalensis

White Purple Orchid Tree. In fine flower.

In fine flower

In fine flower

a coral tree

Coral Tree

Common Vetch. Paro.

White Clover

A yellow flowered shrub. Chele La.

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis corniculata
Oxalis latifolia

Paro

Tashithang Valley

Geraniaceae

Geranium nepalense

Zhemghang

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia pulcherrima
Euphorbia griffithii
Ricinus communis
Sapium insigne

Poinsettia

Tiger's Nest Monastery and Chele La

Castor Oil Plant

Tree

Meliaceae

Azadirachta indica

Neem. Roadside tree in India.

Anacardiaceae

Mangifera indica

Mango

Aceraceae <i>Acer campbellii</i> <i>Acer</i> spp.	
Balsaminaceae <i>Impatiens</i> spp.	At least three species seen in the south
Aquifoliaceae <i>Ilex</i> spp.	
Malvaceae <i>Sida</i> spp. <i>Urena lobata</i>	
Bombacaceae <i>Bombax ceiba</i>	Silk Cotton Tree
Thymelaeaceae <i>Daphne bholua</i>	Dochu La
Elaeagnaceae <i>Elaeagnus parvifolia</i>	In flower at Paro
Violaceae <i>Viola biflora</i> <i>Viola betonicifolia</i> <i>Viola bhutanica</i> <i>Viola hamiltoniana</i>	In early flower Chele La Paro Tiger's Nest Monastery, Dochu La Zhemghang
Begoniaceae <i>Begonia hatacoa</i> <i>Begonia cathcartii</i> <i>Begonia annulata</i>	Manas North of Gelephu North of Gelephu
Cucurbitaceae <i>Hodgsonia macrocarpa</i>	Yellow and white flowers with long tassels
Lythraceae <i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>	Red-flowered shrub
Myrtaceae <i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Red Bottle Brush
Sonneratiaceae <i>Duabanga grandiflora</i>	Tree with distinctive subglobose capsules
Punicaceae <i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate
Melastomataceae <i>Melastoma normale</i>	Shrub with showy five petalled purple flowers

Araliaceae

Brassaiopsis mitis
Hedera nepalensis

an ivy. Dochu La, Punakha side.

Apiaceae

Ericaceae

Rhododendron falconeri

Creamy yellow flowers with a purple base. Numerous Dochu La.

Rhododendron hodgsonii

Flowers pinkish-red to purple. Dochu La.

Rhododendron arboreum

Red flowers. Common above 3000m.

Rhododendron triflorum

Pale yellow flowers. Tiger's Nest Monastery and Chele La.

Rhododendron cinnabarinum

Orange-yellow tubular campanulate flowers. Chele La.

Rhododendron wallichii

Lilac flower. Chele La.

Rhododendron keysii

Orange/red/crimson flowers. In fine flower in the botanic Garden.

Lyonia ovalifolia

Tiger's Nest Monastery

Pieris formosa

Agapetes serpens

Epiphyte with tubular red flowers. Zhemghang.

Primulaceae

Primula calderiana

Flowers purple with yellow eye. Chele La.

Primula griffithii

Blue flowers with yellow eye

Primula smithiana

Yellow flowers. Above Paro.

Primula sikkimensis

Yellow flowers. Tiger's Nest Monastery and Chele La.

Primula denticulata

Purple flowers with yellow eye. Drumstick Primrose.

Primula erythrocarpa

Flowers blue-violet with orange eye. Paro.

Androsace geraniifolia

Tiger's Nest Monastery

Androsace strigillosa

Chele La

Bryocarpum himalaicum

Yellow flowers. Chele La.

Gentianaceae

Gentiana bryoides

Chele La

Gentiana capitata

Paro and Dochu La

Apocynaceae

Thevetia peruviana

Asclepiadaceae

Calotropis gigantea

Giant Milkweed

Asclepias curassavica

a milkweed

Hoya sp.

Manas NP

Rubiaceae

Mussaenda roxburghii

a handkerchief tree

Mussaenda treutleri

a handkerchief tree

Convolvulaceae

Ipomoea quamoclit

Ipomoea spp.

Boraginaceae	
<i>Myosotis alpestris asiatica</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery
<i>Cynoglossum lanceolatum</i>	Flowers white with blue centre
<i>Cynoglossum furcatum</i>	Flowers blue
Verbenaceae	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana
<i>Callicarpa arborea</i>	Tree with mauve flowers in rounded cyme
<i>Clerodendrum</i> spp.	
Lamiaceae	
<i>Salvia</i> sp.	
Solanaceae	
<i>Physalis divaricata</i>	Annual with campanulate yellow flowers
<i>Solanum americanum</i> ssp.nodiflorum	
<i>Solanum viarum</i>	
<i>Solanum virginianum</i>	
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thorn Apple
<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	
Buddlejaceae	
<i>Buddleja asiatica</i>	White Butterfly Bush
Scrophulariaceae	
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Aaron's Rod
<i>Mimulus nepalensis</i>	Paro
<i>Mazus surculosus</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery
<i>Mazus dentatus</i>	
<i>Mazus delavayi</i>	
<i>Lindenbergia hookeri</i>	Zhemghang
<i>Ellisiophyllum pinnatum</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park
Bignoniaceae	
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	
Acanthaceae	
<i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i>	
Plantaginaceae	
<i>Plantago erosa</i>	
Caprifoliaceae	
<i>Lonicera quinquelocularis</i>	In flower Paro Valley
<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Himalayan Honeysuckle. Tiger's Nest Monastery.
<i>Viburnum cotinifolium</i>	
<i>Viburnum nervosum</i>	
<i>Viburnum erubescens</i>	Dochu La, Punakha side
<i>Viburnum grandiflorum</i>	Chele La
<i>Sambucus adnata</i>	an elder

Valerianaceae <i>Valeriana jatamansi</i>	Tiger's Nest Monastery
Campanulaceae <i>Campanula</i> sp. <i>Lobelia</i> sp.	Gongphu
Asteraceae <i>Ainsliaea aptera</i> <i>Cirsium verutum</i> <i>Taraxacum parvulum</i> <i>Sonchus asper</i> <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> <i>Vernonia</i> sp. <i>Pseudognaphalium affine</i> <i>Erigeron</i> sp. <i>Artemisia</i> spp. <i>Erechites valerianifolia</i> <i>Emilia sonchifolia</i> <i>Galinsoga parviflora</i> <i>Galinsoga ciliata</i> <i>Tridax procumbens</i> <i>Sigesbeckia orientalis</i> <i>Bidens pilosa</i> <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> <i>Ageratina adenophora</i> <i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	Dochu La Tashithang Valley a dandelion Prickly Sow-thistle Smooth Sow-thistle widespread Various species common Coat Buttons
Monocotyledonae	
Dioscoreaceae <i>Dioscorea</i> spp.	
Smilacaceae <i>Smilax</i> spp.	
Hypoxidaceae <i>Hypoxis aurea</i>	Zhemghang
Iridaceae <i>Iris clarkei</i> <i>Iris decora</i>	In leaf Chele La Dochu La to Lobesa (PGC) seen from vehicle in very heavy rain
Araceae <i>Rhaphidophora grandis</i> <i>Rhaphidophora</i> spp. <i>Amorphophallus napalensis</i> <i>Remusatia</i> sp. <i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Robust liana with dissected leaves. On trees at Gongphu. Gongphu Gongphu Taro

<i>Arisaema nepenthoides</i>	Dochu La and Day 14
<i>Arisaema tortuosum</i>	Zhemghang, Gongphu
<i>Arisaema consanguineum</i>	Zhemghang
<i>Arisaema concinnum</i>	Gongphu
<i>Arisaema speciosum</i>	Gongphu and Day 14
<i>Arisaema galeatum</i>	North of Gelephu
<i>Arisaema</i> spp.	Others seen?
Pontederiaceae	
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water Hyacinth. Assam.
Musaceae	
<i>Musa</i> sp.	Manas NP. No species given for the area in the flora.
Zingiberaceae	
<i>Globba racemosa</i>	This species rather common Manas NP
<i>Cucurma aromatica</i>	Paddies in Tashithang Valley
Commelinaceae	
<i>Commelina</i> spp.	several seen, possibilities are:-
<i>Commelina paludosa</i>	
<i>Commelina maculata</i>	
<i>Commelina sikkimensis</i>	
<i>Commelina caroliniana</i>	
<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	
Juncaceae	
<i>Juncus</i> spp.	c.34 species occur
<i>Luzula effusa</i>	
<i>Luzula plumosa</i>	
Cyperaceae	
<i>Eleocharis</i> spp.	
<i>Fimbristylis</i> spp.	
<i>Cyperus cyperoides</i>	
<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	
<i>Cyperus difformis</i>	
<i>Cyperus iria</i>	
<i>Cyperus laxus</i>	
<i>Cyperus distans</i>	
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	
<i>Kyllinga brevifolia</i>	
<i>Carex</i> spp.	
Poaceae	
Many grasses were seen. To work on next time!	
<i>Poa annua</i>	
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	
<i>Thysanolaena latifolia</i>	
Pandanaaceae	
<i>Pandanus furcatus</i>	a tree

<i>Pandanus unguifer</i>	a shrub
Both seen Gelephu area?	
Orchidaceae	
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Chele La
<i>Cheirostylis moniliformis</i>	Terrestrial, fringed white flowers. Near Tingtibi.
<i>Bulbophyllum odoratissimum</i>	Gongphu
<i>Coelogyne corymbosa</i>	Dochu La and Zhemghang
<i>Coelogyne</i> spp.	Others possibly present
<i>Papilionanthe teres</i>	Manas NP
<i>Aerides multiflorum</i>	Gongphu to Panbang, and Manas NP
<i>Eria lasiopetala</i>	Manas NP
<i>Dendrobium densiflorum</i>	Zhemghang and Day 14 lunch site
<i>Dendrobium devonianum</i>	Tingtibi to Gelephu
<i>Dendrobium nobile</i>	Jigme Dorje National Park and Gongphu, many fine
flowering	
	plants
<i>Vanda cristata</i>	Trongsa