

Assam & Arunachal Pradesh

Kaziranga & Namdapha

A Greentours Tour Report

2nd – 18th February 2004

Led by Ian Green

This tour report is from a general wildlife trip run to both Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. I've also included the mammal list from two year's previously. Neither trip was a dedicated mammal watching trip and the itinerary was different to the current tour, however especially the Namdapha sections will give you a flavour of what to expect – of course we hope to see even more species and sightings of mammals as the 2024 version of the trip is very much concentrating on finding mammals.

Day 1 February 2nd Arrival

Having departed the UK from various airports we convened in Amsterdam for the onward flight to Delhi arriving there on schedule at half eleven in the evening. Vinod met us and took us to the nearby Centaur where we settled in for the night.

Day 2 February 3rd To Namdapha

From Delhi we took an early morning flight to Dibrugarh. The views of the Himalaya were wonderful as the sun shone on the majestic snowy peaks. We soon had marvellous views of Everest and then passed by Kanchenjunga before following the huge braided channels of the Brahmaputra up its wide valley through Assam. Now the snowy peaks soared away into Tibet to the north and steep forest-clad mountains rose to the south – a breathtaking setting. We landed at ten am, and set off for the long drive to Namdapha. Vinod dealt with the paperwork at the state borders while we bird-watched. Every little stop was rewarded with new and usually beautiful birds – barbets, minivets and drongos. We reached the gates of the park at dusk and drove on through increasingly forested landscapes. Dusk comes very early here – around five, and we finished the journey in darkness.

After unloading our bags into our basic but quite adequate rooms we went straight upstairs for an excellent dinner cooked by Viru, who would be cooking for us over the next few days.

Day 3 February 4th Namdapha – Deban

We awoke to a decidedly cool though nicely clear dawn. Muntjac were barking behind the ‘restaurant’. An early morning walk up the track from the guesthouse produced an ever-increasing wealth of birds as the sun started to warm the treetops. Groups of Ashy Bulbuls were soon followed by White-throated Bulbuls, these with a small posse of Whiskered Yuhinas. Glancing back towards the guesthouse we saw a superb Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo sat atop a dead branch and as we watched a Greater Yellowthroat furtled up the bough behind. After having a spot of flycatcher trouble (well, the light was still a bit murky) we returned to form with our first experience of tesias. These delightful little tail-less warblers are easy enough to locate as they constantly chatter, but are really hard to get a good look at! This beauty did eventually reveal himself to all – a Slaty-bellied Tesia. Yellow-bellied Fantails, Blue-throated Barbets and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches soon followed then it really started to liven up as a bird party came through. Minivets were obvious from the start and all appeared to be Scarlet. With them were Orange-bellied Leafbirds, stunning Sultan Tits, a Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike and a Rufous-backed Sibia. Then it was time for coffee, tea and biscuits in the garden before heading for further pre-breakfast excitement. Straightaway another bird party appeared – this one containing many ‘necklaced’ laughingthrushes, at least some of them Lessers, as well as a single White-crested Laughingthrush and a superb Bay Woodpecker. Down by the river were Plumbeous Water Redstart, White Wagtails and several Common Mergansers. Out in the open we could see what a splendid location we were in with high ridges rising beyond the forest – the one opposite us was snow-covered! Looking upward we saw a Great Indian Hornbill fly past followed moments later by two Wreathed Hornbills.

After an unusually well consumed breakfast we met up for the morning walk. We could hear Hoolock Gibbons both near and far so we decided to make a concerted effort for them. After a bit of searching we found them – a superb male sat looking at us – his rich blackish fur surmounted by white eyebrows. And nearby was a buffy coloured female. We watched them for ten minutes or so and though now quiet they did manage to stay put as a noisy working elephant went past.

Just highlights from the rest of the day – the resounding calls of gibbons everywhere, lots of pretty Blue-throated Barbets, about another twenty Wreathed Hornbills flying up the valley, female Barred Cuckoo-Dove, flocks of Pin-tailed Green Pigeons, 4 Mountain Imperial Pigeons as well as two Jungle Owlets (and later that night, a Brown Hawk Owl). A Mountain Hawk Eagle soared over the guesthouse with flocks of Nepal House Martins, and in the trees were flocks of minivets, yuhinas and drongos. We watched cute Yellow-bellied Fantails, our first Blue Whistling Thrushes, a Sapphire Flycatcher (female), a male Verditer Flycatcher, a male Grey Bushchat, a Hill Mynah and bulbuls were well-represented with Ashy, Black-crested, Red-vented and the common White-throated. We had our first encounters with the lovely colourful, tame yet elusive, Silver-eared Mesias. Sibias were in the trees with a Rufous-backed Sibia being seen and abundant Long-tailed Sibias flocking like magpies. Above all though it was the fabulous views up and down the monsoon-forest clad mountains either side of the Noa Dehing Valley that stole the show – it really is a gorgeous place.

Day 4 February 5th Namdapha – Deban to Haldibari

Six o’clock tea and coffee on Deban’s viewing platform (Indian Cormorant and Common Mergansers) was followed by a sortie up the track. In this we were accompanied by Athuna Dev,

daughter of the reserve's radio operator and incipient birder. Roger had already seen Green Magpie by the garden and we soon relocated this beautiful bird along with a couple of Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes and two fine woodpeckers – Bay and Greater Yellownap. Up the hill we found parties of bulbuls, nuthatches, yuhinas and minivets, the latter including Short-billed. In fruiting trees were flocks of Pin-tailed Green Pigeons, Black Bulbuls and Blue-throated Barbets. Nice additions included Maroon Oriole, Nepal House Martin, Golden Spectacled Warbler and Slaty-blue Flycatcher.

After breakfast we set off for Haldibari – a little over four kilometres through very fine forest. For much of the time up to lunch we made stop start progress as mostly birds, occasionally dragonflies and butterflies, flowers of mammals interrupted our progress. The latter came first with a troupe of Assamese Macaques managing to move surreptitiously and tree-flatteningly all at the same time along the river bank. A beautiful Malayan Giant Squirrel followed the same course and we also watched a pair of delightful little Himalayan Striped Squirrels. Butterflies were not prolific by any means with just a few bushbrowns, a sailor or two, a puffin and the lovely Purple Sapphire. We stopped for a long-bodied damselfly and for several reddish winged dragonflies. One of the morning's most spectacular finds was of what appeared to be a *Rafflesia* in flower. The fleshy red and white spotted flowers were about six inches across and looked typical of the genus. In fact they were same family but a different genus – *Sapria himalayana*. This is about as far west as this genus comes. They had the typical unpleasant carrion odour of the family. Further along Brian found a ginger with deep red bracts enclosing the pale seeds protruding from the open track.

The birds were continuously good, at least until lunchtime. Olive-backed Pipits were seen at the start of the walk. Then we came across several small flocks – there were more 'necklaced' laughingthrushes, Hill Mynas, Spangled, Ashy and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongos, a superb group of Long-tailed Broadbills, and Orange-bellied, Gold-fronted and Blue-winged Leafbirds. Blue-throated Barbets and both Long-tailed and Beautiful Sibilias occupied one flowering Bombax tree. In the undergrowth we saw Slaty-bellied Tesia and a male Small Niltava. Overhead a Crested Serpent Eagle soared later to be seen on the river bed and up a small stream we saw elegant Black-backed Forktail.

After lunch we moved straight on up to Haldibari to settle in to camp. A brief walk down a side track yielded female Red-headed Trogon, Large Niltava and a Pygmy Blue Flycatcher as well as a flock of Rufous-faced Warblers. Hornbills had been calling a lot behind the campsite so we went to explore – we'd seen several Wreathed fly over but on this occasion we were surprised by the sudden appearance of two Oriental Pied Hornbills. As dusk fell we were amazed to see a Great-eared Nightjar hawking right over our heads in the camp. A night walk produced superb views of a Hodgson's Flying Squirrel complete with orange-maroon body, white underside and a long furry grey tail with a black tip.

Day 5 February 6th Namdapha – Haldibari to Hornbill

We awoke to the trumpeting of one of the baggage elephants, the crowing of a rooster apparently brought along for the job and to an assortment of birdsong. We were soon out on the trail finding Black-chinned Yuhina and then in the undergrowth a pair of Spotted Wren-Babblers. We took a side track into the forest (apparently it goes on for 11km). This took us through some really fine

forest though birds were at a premium. Those we did find included Red-tailed Minla, Blue-winged Minla and an assortment of warblers. We spent awhile tracking down an ‘undergrowth brown job’ and this turned out to be the beautiful Rufous-breasted Fulvetta.

Breakfast was a very fine puree (like curried baked beans), roti (fried Indian bread) and omelette. Totally scrumptious. Before heading on we had a quick look along the track again with Brian locating a few grasshoppers and dragonflies and the birders more bulbuls, yuhinas and minivets as well as a ‘seen-by-some’ Pygmy Wren-Babbler. Down by the stream were a few butterflies including Purple Sapphire and Yellow Orange-tips. Crossing the stream we found some rather stunning nymphalids. First up was the ragged-winged Wizard and then a local speciality, the Blue-tailed Jester. Hornbills and Peacock-Pheasants called as we started our walk to Hornbill Camp and so too did a couple of groups of Gibbons. We passed Red Ginger flowers, red dragonflies, blue butterflies including the long-tailed ‘Imperial’, Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrels and just a few birds en route. Great Indian Hornbill flew overhead and we located more Rufous-breasted Fulvettas, a superb female Large Niltava, a Grey Tree-pie, a group of Grey-hooded Warblers and even a female Kaleej Pheasant. In treetops we saw the usual selection of Blue-throated Barbets, Long-tailed Sibias, Orange-bellied Leafbirds and Bronzed and Ashy Drongos as well as Hill Mynas and Blue-eared Barbet.

We arrived into Hornbill by three and settled into camp. Beautiful Sibias and some of the above were in the nearby trees. The baggage elephants gave us some fun. The little male made as if to charge us and we, not knowing he was tied up, legged it! Then we found the large female square across the path and has to get Biswaas to sweet talk our way round! Then it rained which sent us back to camp. The night walk was relatively unproductive with just two roosting Mountain Imperial Pigeons until we returned to camp and located a Hodgson’s Flying Squirrel.

Day 6 February 7th Namdapha – Hornbill towards Embeong and staying at Bulbulia

Apologies – no account for today – however a list of highlights – Hoolock Gibbons were seen again and both Capped Langurs and Assamese Macaques. Malay Tree Shrew was an indication of the proximity of Southeast Asia. Malayan Giant Squirrels too. The forests up around Bulbulia and especially above were stunning. The trees became festooned in epiphytes – mosses, lichens, ferns, orchids – absolutely beautiful. And misty too! Good for woodpeckers with numerous yellownapes as well as Bay, Rufous and Grey-headed. Red-headed trogon – our first male, Crested Goshawk, two female Orange-flanked Bushrobins by Bulbulia itself, several forktails, Lemon-rumped Warblers, White-spectacled Warblers and Rufous-faced Warblers were all seen. Amidst one particularly picturesque part of the forest we encountered a fine though difficult to observe bird party which contained numerous minivets, drongoes, orioles and no less than four Cutias – a most striking species of babbler. Later Grey-throated Babbler and Nepal Fulvettas were seen along with three species of Yuhina.

We camped overnight at Bulbulia – it was cold and not so comfortable and sadly we didn’t see any mammals at all, either on the nightwalk or from the camp.

Day 7 February 8th Namdapha – Bulbulia towards Embeong and then to Hornbill

We awoke early to see dawn rise over the sulphurous mud springs below. No animals, but the birdsong was already in full swing with Drongos particularly noisy. We walked up towards Embeong again, our intention to be in the rich area between one and three kilometres from Bulbulia during the most active part of the day. However it was rather cold this morning and the active part of the day didn't really start until after eight, though once going it was excellent until early afternoon.

Various skulking birds flashed across the track in front of us as headed upwards. It took awhile before we found our first viewable wildlife. A small bird party contained a number of good species the best of which was definitely not invited to the party – a Jerdon's Baza! Moving upwards and we could Grey Peacock Pheasants, a couple of them really rather close to the path. There were also numerous groups of Laughingthrushes as we neared the bamboo area though the only ones we got a look at were Greater and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes. By the path was the uncommon White-tailed Robin. A crashing in the bamboo edge alerted us to the presence of some mammals and though these proved somewhat tricky to see well we were able to get enough on them to be sure that they were Stump-tailed Macaques.

Bamboo offers a completely different habitat and becomes more common as one rises through the forest. During our stay we only came across a few small stands but today was our best bet of finding some of the 'bamboo specialists' amongst the regions birdlife – and there are plenty. A bunch of Grey-hooded Warblers squeaked quietly as they moved through the bamboo bases and we could hear movements amongst the dead leaf litter – everything appeared very shy though and a few birds sped across the track without us being able to get a good look at them. Then, peering through the gloom, I managed to get a good look at a party of about six stunning Snowy-throated Babblers though these were difficult to see. The bamboo proved difficult to find anything else in so we moved ahead to the stream where we enjoyed a well-earned break (and lunch) and a general pottering up and down the slippery stream bed yielded several sightings each of both Black-backed and Slaty-backed Forktails.

As we walked back towards Bulbulia we came across 'the flock'. This one advertised its presence initially as groups of both species of necklaced laughingthrushes plummeted across the path joined by a couple of White-crested Laughingthrushes. Noisy Greater Racket-tailed Drongos followed. Then in the stream-side thickets we saw movements – the uncommon Rufous-vented Laughingthrush – about ten of them. Now we were seeing birds in the low mossy and epiphyte-laden canopy too. A large group of Sultan Tits was passing through and with them our first Parrotbills – these ten or so Grey-headed. Then glory be – a shimmering blue and orange Beautiful Nuthatch appeared – and then a second. These really are well-named – the pattern so unusual and the colours intense – and on such a large nuthatch! There was also Rufous-backed Sibia and Grey-chinned Minivets with them. Again our attention turned to the streamside thicket as a pair of Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbills appeared, then back up in the trees their close relative, the Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill too. Parrotbills - like London buses!

We spent the afternoon walking back down to Hornbill each moving along at their own pace. I think we all saw the Rufous-necked Hornbills at various points and Red-headed Trogons were in the trees near Hornbill camp as were White-hooded Babblers. There was also a flock of Long-tailed Broadbills, our only Fair Bluebirds of the trip, Maroon Oriole, Crested Goshawk and Roger saw Gold-crested Mynahs. I spent a while exploring the dark stream by Hornbill camp and as well as Orange-flanked Bush Robin I also found the elusive Dark-sided Thrush.

As Viru was preparing the evening's delightful meal I popped up the track as dusk fell and found a trackside Slow Loris which we all went back to have a look at – it had moved further away by then but was still very visible.

Day 8 February 9th Namdapha - Hornbill to Deban

Was it a sudden gust of wind or was it the teenage hooligan elephant who woke some of the group members at five? The rest of us awoke at the more normal 05.30 and set about tea and biscuits before having a potter about on the other side of the stream. The sun was already warming up nicely and so birds were quite active. We watched as a party of Scarlet Minivets passed through. Up on their high perches were Great Barbet and Pied Falconets again. A large mixed flock contained Blue-winged Leafbirds, Sultan Tits (always great but on a fine sunny morning just superb), Ashy Drongos and White-throated Bulbuls. There were also White-hooded Babblers and Rusty-fronted Barwings. A commotion heralded the arrival of Green Magpie and this bird seemed to flush out a rather large 'eared' insectivorous bat which flew about for a minute or so, seemingly in slow motion. No less than four Red-headed Trogons were seen before breakfast!

After a breakfast of porridge and puree, toast and omelette we were off on the trail to Deban. Other than some loud ringing choruses by some Hoolock Gibbons and the appearance of a few Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrels it was mostly birds that were of interest on the track to Haldibari. First up were a flock of Silver-breasted Broadbills, these pretty birds with a Grey-cheeked Warbler for company. A female Sapphire Flycatcher clicked away in some undergrowth and we found two female Pygmy Blue Flycatchers doing the same. A Blue-bearded Bee-eater was a nice surprise and so too a Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. Butterflies en route included Circe and Great Orange-tip.

Lunch was taken at Haldibari. Butterflies were again good here with a variety of species – several 'blues' were seen notably the Monkey Puzzle, the White Caerulean and the Angled Sunbeam. Then a leisurely afternoon filled with birds before we eventually reach the Noa Dehing River and the canoe-ferry carried us across the relative civilisation of Deban.

In the evening I popped out for a dusk and early nightwalk up the road from Deban. Just before it got dark a Hodgson's Flying Squirrel came zooming over my head – like a doormat with a long shaggy tail streaming out behind! It landed on a tree ahead of me and stood there poised for the next jump until after dusk. Further up the road was a Slow Loris coming down out of its tree-top roost and intent on finding something for the evening. Another Hodgson's Flying Squirrel was sat atop a high stump sizing up the next tree as I neared the guesthouse area. Then it was the first hot shower (OK, bucket!) since last week and then an excellent meal courtesy of Viru's understudy (Viru was still up at Hornbill awaiting the Finns).

Day 9 February 10th Namdapha to Tinsukia

Tea was served on the lookout at the bottom of the garden from whence we walked down to the shores of the Noa Dehing River. A group of Great Barbets showed themselves better than we'd seen up until now and a pair of Blue Whistling Thrushes surprised us by joining them high in the tree-tops. Down by the water were the usual Common Mergansers and White Wagtails. A pair of Plumbeous Water Redstarts were a pretty sight on a log and with them a pair of Slaty-backed Forktails. Down on the main part of the river were Great Cormorants and a single White-capped Water Redstart.

Breakfast featured some great pancakes amongst other things and a gift of a locally woven shoulder bag from the lady who ran the Arunchal travel service. Then bags were packed and we got on the road. It was good to see the fine countryside we'd driven through on our way into the reserve in daylight, especially the views of the river. The Noa Dehing really does have a huge river bed that at this season is only 10% occupied by water – the rest by boulders football-sized stones. Clearly the water flow is impressive during the wet season! We didn't have the time to stop and see what was out on all this gravel other than briefly – a Pallas's Gull and a Crested Serpent Eagle in a tree – but we did make a lengthy stop by a smaller tributary river. We walked first upstream. Grey and White Wagtails mixed it with White-capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts and a pair of Slaty-backed Forktails. A Green Sandpiper made a real meal out of our presence, getting itself flushed at regular intervals and flying to the wrong spot at every turn! Biswas spotted a Changeable Hawk-Eagle on a tree at the top of the riverside cliff and we found a Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher in the greenery by the edge. Butterflies were being attracted to the wet areas. Glassy Tigers were common and we saw one Chestnut Tiger. Common Beaks (a kind of Nettle-tree Butterfly) were not uncommon and there were two species of sailor present. Blues were numerous with caeruleans the dominant group. Downstream of the bridge we saw several pierids mud-puddling with Yellow Orange-tips and Common Albatrosses prevalent. Also here were Grey Treepie and Black-backed Forktail. On the track were yet more Glassy Tigers, a Dark Blue Tiger, several Magpie Crows and a Chocolate Pansy.

We moved on to Miao stopping for photos and some snacks and then it was on towards the Arunachal Pradesh – Assam border. Brief formalities later we were on a stretch of forest by the river in Assam for our picnic. This proved a superb spot for birds as a big party of them moved around us – Scarlet Minivets, Common Ioras, Blue-winged Leafbirds, Streaked Spiderhunters, Large Wood Shrikes and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongos along with Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Grey-cheeked Warbler. We stopped further along in the forest but the usual butterflies were not in evidence today – it having been very dry and a little more disturbed than usual – however we did see Orange Gull and Red Lacewing. A Green-billed Malkoha was an excellent find amongst a reasonable bird flock.

Then it was time to hit the road for Tinsukia just over two hours distant. We passed through an increasingly peopled landscape – quite a contrast for us having been in Namdapha! There were rice paddies (not in operation at this season), brick kilns, villagers with weaving looms out in their gardens, a host of fascinatingly varied faces, tea plantations, Digboi's oil fields and then the urban mayhem of Tinsukia through which we drove to our hotel, a rather pleasant place and good quality

too, on the northern outskirts of town. Then for some weaker kingfisher beers and a slap-up meal in the restaurant.

Day 10 February 11th Dibru-Saikhowa

We were out at seven for our trip up the road to Dibru-Saikhowa starting with a Dusky Warbler in the carpark. A brief stop at the forest office yielded permission and a female Hodgson's Redstart. Our boat was one of the local 'bulk carriers' which ferry rice and wheat and this case some unidentified pulse used in the making of flour for local chapattis! Plastic Chairs were provided for us to sit in on the extensive deck area and we set off with rifle-clad ranger, boatman and assistant and a couple of knowledgeable birdy locals! Soon we were seeing Little and Great Cormorants, Darters and Ruddy Shelducks. Pied Kingfishers hovered in the clear morning light and the first of several Black Storks flew over. A boat passed and through several expressive hand signals (for the boat was very noisy!) we ascertained that the Gangetic River Dolphins were a short distance upstream and sure enough we were soon amongst them. They are very small for cetaceans the adults being only five feet or so long and they only breathe once every few minutes and that very quickly so views are at a premium. This group comprised two adults and a youngster, the latter providing the best views as it cleared the water at least once.

We pulled up by Raidang Camp and walked for a while in what was mostly degraded grasslands and forest. It was sad to see the destruction wrought by cattle here especially when we were to later see more pristine habitat. It did have the advantage of making the birdlife a little more visible though! Prinias were everywhere in the grasslands and though most disappeared without trace we were able to see Yellow-bellied and Plain and just before leaving a single Jungle Prinia. Stonechats were everywhere and this was a theme for the day. A Tawny Pipit wandered off through the grass in front of us as a Sand Lark sang overhead. Two beautiful Black-shouldered Kites sailed off over the more wooded area and a White-backed Vulture was joined by a Eurasian Griffon Vulture. Grey-backed and Long-tailed Shrikes sat atop bushes in which we saw Common Ioras and two very strongly yellow-suffused Tickell's Leaf Warblers. Dusky Warblers and a lovely Chestnut-capped Babbler were also noted. And this in no way covers all the small brown jobs that headed for cover at the very insinuation of our optical equipment! Butterflies were becoming more obvious as the day soon warmed up. Common Sailors were.... common and so too were Common Four-rings. Common Pierrot, Peacock Pansy and a single Indian Fritillary were amongst the more colourful butterflies.

Now we moved on a kilometre upstream. We weren't able to get closer than 1500m to our hoped for 'pristine' Brahmaputra grassland. En route we saw several India Rollers and on the water a large flock of Spot-billed Ducks and Common Teal. Nearing the grassland we saw a Black Bittern and a Crested Honey Buzzard – a nice combination! A flock of Yellow Wagtails escorted us into the five metre tall grasses. Here was frustration as plenty of birds were heard calling but there was little to be seen as it was not midday and hot. However we did manage a Striated Babbler, a Brown-flanked Bush-Warbler, several White-rumped Munias and overhead some displaying Crested Serpent Eagles. Several fine dragonflies inhabited a pool in the grassland and we saw no less than ten Blue Admirals. Perhaps best of all was the Tiger tracks we found as we retraced our steps along a particularly narrow bit of path – or was it the Elephant tracks overlying our own – the animal must have gone on down to the river to drink and returned without us seeing it!

We got back in the boats and travelled back to Guijan stopping again as the dolphins were spotted. This time we all got reasonable views and also of the Bar-headed Geese across the river.

We spent the latter part of the afternoon at Maguli Bheel reached by a four kilometre track of exceptional bumpiness through tea plantations and tea-pickers houses. It was a most interesting little journey as the human life around us certainly took our attention away from the bumps. The track culminated in a little village that was incredibly well-kept. We looked over a small lagoon and channel – the birdlife was exceptional. We check out the ducks – Red-crested Pochard and Ferruginous Ducks were amongst the most interesting of these. Then it was the turn of the waders. Little Ringed Plover and Wood Sandpiper were all part of the ordinary but the Nordmann's Greenshank certainly wasn't and neither were the two Long-toed Stints. Then it was the turn of the snipe – there were plenty of Common Snipe – but there was also a dark winged snipe with a pale wing panel and no white trailing edge which flew briefly in a straight line before dropping and uttering a brief little squeak as it did so – surely a Swinhoe's Snipe? Passerines were not going to be missed out. There were exceptional numbers of wagtails with Yellow and White abundant and a few Citrine too. We spotted a Rosy Pipit then Bluethroats then Black-faced Buntings – a really exceptional place!

Day 11 February 12th Maguli Bheel and journey to Kaziranga

We started with a very early trip out to Maguli Bheel. The locals were barely stirring as we drove past the tea-workers houses and out to the marshes and lagoon. The birds were much as yesterday and so we could again get a good look at the Nordmann's Greenshank and some other choice waders – there were Wood Sandpipers, the couple of genuine Greenshank, Temminck's Stints and snipe, these again virtually all Common though we again saw the (probably) Swinhoe's Snipe. Citrine and Yellow Wagtails were common, the latter including birds of the *zaisanensis* race amongst the more common *plexa*. Rosy Pipits and Bluethroats were more numerous than the day before and so too were Black-faced Buntings. Harriers came in over the misty tall grass and caused us a deal of confusion. One bird appeared to be a young Pied Harrier but we found both this and another harrier difficult to be sure about – not so the Peregrine that came past. Striated Grassbirds sat upon reed tops and a Black-headed Oriole was noted in wetland-sided bushes. Some arrowhead was in flower and the flora by the waterside was strangely familiar with docks and Celery-leaved Buttercups alongside oraches. Pintail and Spot-billed Duck looked immaculate once the sun had risen high enough to clear the mists and amongst the varied ducklife we found a pair of Falcated Duck though we were somewhat puzzled by the male which appeared to have all the right markings but who was decidedly not as silvery on the back as the books show and also whose white facial markings were definitely a butterscotch cream colour and more extensive than the books suggests.

After a much later than normal breakfast it was time to get on the road and head for Kaziranga. It is quite a long journey – we covered the road part of it in five and a bit hours. Stops for tea and then lunch and a couple of wildlife stops took up the best part of another two hours. The latter were rather productive. A group of vultures sat in a roadside field afforded us a fine opportunity to get thoroughly confused by large brown lumps. We had just about sorted out their identities when they flew up and started circling around thus giving us superb flight views and clearing up any identity problems – half a dozen or so impressively large Himalayan Griffons headed the cast with a similar

number of Long-billed Vultures and a couple of relatively diminutive White-backed Vultures completing the scene. Next up was a Lesser Adjutant circling with more vultures and moments later we found a group of nine Greater Adjutants sitting in a field next to a cricket game – they seemed as un-moved by proceedings as the boys did about them! At lunch the large bird theme continued with more flying adjutants and vultures along with several Spot-billed Pelicans. A group of water buffalo provided some photographic opportunity whilst we ate.

Then it was on to Kaziranga, arriving an hour or so before dusk. We settled in and had a quick walk down to the ‘soil conservation’ building. Groups of brilliant Red-breasted Parakeets flew in to roost in a large eucalyptus behind the hotel. Grey-headed Flycatchers and Red-vented Bulbuls were in the trees and by a small lake we saw both White-throated and Stork-billed Kingfishers. A fine surprise was a Cinnamon Bittern. Then it was time to sample the beer and curry at the forest lodge.

Day 12 February 13th Kaziranga – Central and Western Ranges

We were off before dawn driving down to the mounting elephant place at Mihimukh. As we mounted it was just getting light enough to see. The main mahout sent the large group from Maharastra on a posse of elephants and then joined us. He is very good at finding Bengal Florican but on this occasion failed. This of course meant that we had to settle for our first five close up Indian One-horned Rhinoceroses instead! All were approached to within ten metres or so and seemed (were!) incredibly close. The light was not initially good for photography, though when we got to a mother and calf it had improved sufficiently and there was soon plenty of shutters clicking. When the mahouts urged their elephants round to the other side of these we had a fabulous view back into the mists and rising sun – let’s hope that those photos are good. Hog Deer were plentiful and we had some close encounters with them – they often stared back at the elephants as if very confused. There were plenty of small brown jobs but birdwatching from elephant back is not easy and it was only really possible to concentrate on the larger species such as Lesser Adjutant. We finished an hour later and met up with Poonan and our breakfast and jeep. We decided to drive a little to the first watch-tower inside the reserve where we opened the packed breakfast, though there was so much to see here it was difficult to concentrate on the food. Hog Deer were numerous and we could see another five rhinos. Here we saw our first Water Buffalo and Wild Boar. Birds were everywhere. Out on a bheel (lagoon) were Spot-billed Pelicans, Open-bill and Lesser Adjutant Storks, Mallard, Wigeon and various egrets and herons. In the trees were flocks of mynahs, treepees and several doves and pigeons. Perhaps the best of the latter was a wonderful bright Yellow-footed Green Pigeon which landed very close to us but the large Green Imperial Pigeons were a close second. There were also Oriental Turtle Doves and Spotted Doves. As we drove on down the track we had a close encounter with a very fine Streak-throated Woodpecker and Lineated Barbets and amongst the raptors a Changeable Hawk-Eagles and our first Grey-headed Fish Eagle. We passed some extensive elephant grassland with glimpses of Hog Deer and a group of Striated Babblers and overhead Open-bill, Black and Adjutant Storks. We alighted by large bheel with a large flock of Little Cormorants and Darters making a promontory in front of us look black – tipped with the white of some Spot-billed Pelicans and Grey Herons. Out on the water were Gadwall, Ferruginous Ducks and Pintail and we watched an Osprey hunting and Indian River Terns patrolling back and forth. As we watched one of the latter we spotted a group of otters careering through the water under them. These variously travelled at speed or fed in a tight group. When doing this they would all come up together with teeth a-crunching! They had sleek coats and rather flat-ended snouts

indicating that they were Indian Smooth-coated Otters. Eventually they came ashore and we watched entranced as the large female ran across the flats in inimitable otter fashion and then spray-marked a spot before returning to the other four and all together bounding off into the distance like some animated mat. The other four were smaller and it looked as though they must have been a family of four oldish cubs.

We moved onwards encountering masses of bombax (Silk Cotton) trees as we went through a forested area. At this season they are leafless but covered in wonderful displays of large fleshy bright red flowers. We saw the occasional deep ruby version and their were bright citrus orange ones too. These proved very attractive to many birds particularly mynahs and starlings. The former included Jungle and White-vented (these much less common) and the latter Chestnut-tailed and Spot-winged. We pulled up by another narrow body of water where a Wild Boar was feeding on the opposite side and where two more Indian Smooth-coated Otters were quite literally frolicking just thirty metres out from us. This was a male and female and they were certainly full of themselves as they coursed first through the water and then bounded all over a little spit of land before giving themselves what looked like a most enjoyable dustbath. Meantime there was plenty of action above our heads as the large *Ficus religiosa* or Banyan tree had some visitors. A single Oriental Pied Hornbill was virtually ignored in favour of the two magnificent Great Indian Hornbills which allowed close enough approach for photography. This section of the forest proved prolific for tigers – the butterflies that is – with numerous Common or Striped Tigers along with crows and grey pansies.

Now we moved on to the ‘end-of-the-morning’ watch tower where we kept an eye on the dead rhino in the water a few hundred metres way. This had been there for five days now and had been visited by Tigers every day but nothing appeared whilst we were there! A rhino did though – a battered old male that we were to get better acquainted with later in the day. Meanwhile our first wild Elephant had appeared and was busy enjoying himself in the bheel to our west. Sadly the sun was behind him as he was quite impressive and close-to. He only had the one tusk. Off to one side were two cow Water Buffalo with a young calf. Water Buffalo calves are a very odd shade of light brown-yellow. A huge Black-necked Stork was following the Elephant’s every move and there were flocks of Greylag Geese, various ducks and waders the latter including Greenshank, Grey-headed Lapwing and Northern Lapwing. The highlight of this particular spot came when a Pallas’s Fish Eagle flew over and lazily banked before seeming to flop into the water. It all looked rather accidental until we realised it had caught a very large fish – it was almost as long as the bird! It was far too heavy to fly off with – in fact getting out of the water and mud at all seemed to be rather more of a problem – but the eagle persevered and literally dragged itself through the wet morass before it could haul its catch out onto a drier patch, where it spent the next half an hour enjoying the fruits of its labour. I should guess that the fish could weigh somewhere in the region of five or six pounds. Eventually another Pallas’s Fish Eagle flew in and took over from the rather full-looking eagle. Then it was time to return to the lodge and enjoy some lunch ourselves. Fish of course!

The afternoon took us to the western range. Much of the afternoon was taken up with rhinos one way or another. In total we saw 47 in the afternoon to add to the mornings 18 making a fantastic 65 rhinos in one day! We spent quite some time photographing one rhino which stood in a wetland with a bombax tree for background. A Water Buffalo wallowed in water here often submerging so completely that only the tips of its long horns were visible. We ended up overlooking at large bheel at Donga Viewpoint. An exceptional spot, this is where we saw most of those rhinos along with

fifty or so Water Buffalo, a couple of hundred Hog Deer, fifty or more Barasingha or Swamp Deer and a load of distant birds including Bar-headed Geese in substantial flocks. A fitting end to a fantastic day ... not quite ... Poonan and Arijit had arranged for some Assamese dancers to entertain us and large crowd from Maharashtra for an hour – they were wonderful. And still not quite over as a nightwalk produced fine views of Large India Civet.

Day 13 February 14th Kaziranga – Panbari Forest and Central Range

We split up this morning and whilst most of us headed for Panbari's green environs, Brian took to the Central Range again. He had the usual encounters with all and sundry – rhinos, water buffalo, Hog Deer, Swamp Deer and Wild Boar and assorted large birds. Several of the mammals were more photogenic than normal –the same old bull rhino that had given us some fine opportunities the evening before this time was hiding behind a bush near a little viewpoint and Brian got some pretty close shots! A long wait whilst some Elephants manouevred themselves into a track-crossing position was rather ruined when some jeeps turned up at just the wrong moment.

The rest of us went to Panbari Forest with Poonan. Here we picked up a local warden and wandered into the forest. The path took us through a forest that had been heavily damaged by domestic elephants and so after a brief sighting of a female Kaleej Pheasant we decided to move to another part of the forest. We walked up the side of a tea plantation to get in, noting some perfect Leopard tracks by a stream. Once inside the forest we were glad of the local knowledge of the ranger as there were many narrow tracks wandering through a forest that had quite thick undergrowth. It was this undergrowth that provided much of the bird excitement of the morning. The combination of thick undergrowth and bamboo-lined streams is home to a very high diversity of often skulking and elusive species in this part of the world. We started with a lovely little Grey-bellied Tesia and were to see and hear them and quite possibly other tesias frequently during the morning. A party of birds a little higher in the canopy included many Scarlet Minivets which were accompanied by a striking White-browed Scimitar-Babbler. Only Roger saw this and he went one better minutes later when he was the only one to get a good look at a fabulous Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler. This was briefly in company with a Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike. Mean while I was getting good views of Grey-throated Babbler, a Buff-breasted Babbler and Striped Tit-Babblers! *Seicercus* warblers were a feature with most groups of birds accompanied by one or both of Golden-spectacled or Grey-cheeked Warblers. Crested Serpent Eagle and Changeable Hawk-Eagle cruised overhead and we saw some rhesus macaques and both Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel and Three-striped Palm Squirrel. Butterflies were becoming more and more abundant as the day warmed up – it proved to be a very good spot for them. The Purple Sapphire and the Punchinello were frequent sights and we saw all three Evening Browns. A Great Windmill was a magnificent sight as it sailed over a bamboo-filled nullah. Glassy Tigers and the beautiful Red Lacewing patrolled flowery edges. Chocolate Albatross and Redbase Jezebels were amongst the more striking members of the white family. The best 'blue' was a fine male Common Imperial that posed just by several large and striking red 'bugs'. Eventually it was time to leave and go to lunch at the hotel though not before the bottlebush tree by the entrance had offered up beautifully lit views of Oriental White-eyes and a male Crimson Sunbird.

After lunch Roger and I went for an explore up the hill behind Kohora. A little dell reachable by a rather difficult route both in terms of the path and finding the path took us there. However we'd not

left the flats by the hotel before we found one of the rarest birds of the trip – a superb male Black-breasted Thrush. It got if anything better up the slope as Roger sat in the undergrowth whilst I walked forwards, moving birds towards him. Only two appeared but they were Red Junglefowl and a fabulous Scaly Thrush. Does a *zoothera* always trump a *turdus*? Just down the little stream we found footprints of what must surely have been Fishing Cat as well as Crab-eating Mongoose. And then a delightful little bird party – Speckled Piculet, Dark-necked Tailorbird and a Black-naped Monarch joined the by now familiar Striped Tit-Babbler. Above us were half a dozen or more Great Indian Hornbills flying hither and thither with their tremendously noisy swan-like flight and a group of sixty or more Yellow-footed Green Pigeons fed with them in a large fig. The butterflies were exceptional though we had little time to look – there were Black-vein Sergeants and Common Sailors, Yellowjack Sailors and various skippers, a baron and some jezebels.

The afternoon was spent in Central Range, Kaziranga. The light was beautiful and the many bombax trees covered in red flowers looked superb. Burning was now well underway in the grasslands and so great plumes of smoke rose all around and in places flames leapt twenty feet above the already tall elephant grass – it made for a spectacular sight against the backdrop of the Mikir Hills. With such burning things have to move out of the way and whilst Indian Rollers ambushed escaping insect life there was no such dismissal awaiting a herd of seventeen Elephants which appeared out of the forest ahead of the flames. These made for a great photo session as the family made its way across an open area backed by forest. A Hog Deer also provided fine photographic opportunity though this afternoon the rhinos were rather less helpful though we still managed to see fourteen or so of them, plenty of Water Buffalo and a few Wild Boar. There were plenty of eagles and vultures about – the latter including both Eurasian Griffon and Long-billed and the former Crested Serpent, Changeable Hawk, Grey-headed Fish and Pallas's Fish Eagles. There was even a superb male Pied Harrier.

In the evening we went out for a nightwalk. Alas no civets but we did have exceptionally close-up views of a Large-tailed Nightjar.

Day 14 February 15th Kaziranga – East and West Ranges

We started at six for the East Range this an hours drive from Kohora. Once there we picked up our ranger and proceeded immediately to the huge bheel inside. We could see a couple of rhinos and many water buffalo in the surrounding short grass flats and good numbers of both Hog and Swamp Deer. Bar-headed Geese were abundant and there were numerous ducks and waders. Two carcasses caught our attention – the first being out of sight but we knew it was there from the group of Long-billed, White-backed and Eurasian Griffon Vultures overseeing its demise. These were briefly chased to one side by a dog! The second was that of a Hog Deer which the warden examined and pronounced the cause of death to be Tiger. We had already seen the huge gouges in a nearby tree where said cat had cleaned his claws! A large male Water Buffalo appeared behind us and proved too good a photographic opportunity to miss as he nervously crossed the road in front of us.

Birdlife generally was prolific. Large Cuckoo-shrikes joined the ever-present starling and parakeet flocks in the bombax trees. Redshank and Rufous-winged Bushlark were rather prosaic additions to the list. Raptors soon started to appear and it proved a good morning for them. Grey-headed and Pallas's Fish Eagles sat in trees whilst Ospreys hunted over the bheel, Steppe and Crested Serpent

Eagles flew overhead and a mystery falcon flew past. We stopped for breakfast opposite a rhino who had thought to cross the thirty metre wide water channel towards us, but he knew there was something up opposite! Could it have been the cheerful banter or the boiled eggs we wondered? In any case he phuffed about for a while and then decided that going back into the grass was the best thing. Down in the channel we found Black-browed Reed Warbler and Clamorous Reed Warbler. Onwards past Oriental Pied Hornbills, a female Sapphire Flycatcher, owlets and briefly seen Blue-bearded Bee-eaters and we found ourselves at the ranger station that marks the end of normal tourist access at present. In the tree above us we saw a fine male Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker and then Great Tit, Rufous Woodpecker and our first Ruby-cheeked Sunbird of the trip. Poonan had convinced the rangers to allow us to continue. We soon came across a tusker walking parallel to us and a jaunty looking rhino which had just emerged from a muddy bath trotted off in the opposite direction. We continued past a large pelican colony to a wide dry sandy riverbed – a braided arm of the Brahmaputra apparently. Two elephants crossed downstream and several Hog Deer appeared from the elephant-grass cloaked margins. The tracks of a male Tiger showed where he had climbed up the bank. Then it was time to return to Kohora and some lunch!

Two of us skipped lunch completely and went back to yesterday's exceptionally productive area which for birds at least proved rather less amazing, though a lunchtime list of Dollarbird, Great Indian Hornbill, Striped Tit-Babbler and Black-naped Monarch doesn't sound too bad. The butterflies were as usual very good and included several sergeants/sailors of both yellow and white types, an impressive Red Helen and the beautiful Knight, a butterfly with highly ornate tawny-orange and white wings sharply hooked and elongated at the tips. Roger spent the latter part of the afternoon there too seeing amongst other things Kaleej Pheasant, Red Junglefowl and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush.

The rest of us went for a quiet afternoon up at West Range where we had to content ourselves with some thirty five or so Rhinos, a couple of domestic Elephants, plenty of Hog Deer and not a few Swamp Deer plus the odd Wild Boar. Birdlife included Blue-bearded Bee-eater (again!), lots of Bar-headed Geese and in the new to the list department Pheasant-tailed Jacana.

The nightwalk took me up into the hills behind Kohora for seventy-five minutes or so where the Muntjac narrowly outnumbered the Hodgson's Porcupines three to two. The latter were found feeding on rubber tree fruit and were approachable to within a metre or so – rather too close really as I had to back off when one started to shuffle backwards towards me though I think there was no threat intended. Photos were taken – we'll see!

Day 15 February 16th Kaziranga – Central Range

Several of us drove down to Mirumukh's Gate for a dawn elephant ride. It was still dark as we neared the gate and my torch picked up eyeshine to one side of the road. The eyes were very far apart! We alighted and walked back up the road to find that it was a Rhino! Nearby a single weak eyeshine was spotted and as the animal turned to face it a second eye – this time a Water Buffalo. We mounted our elephants and sped off in search of Floricans. The light strengthened and revealed large herds of Swamp Deer and Hog Deer all about us – and a small group of Water Buffalo. We scoured the grasslands with small brown birds (mostly Stonechats) being flushed by the elephant's feet. We passed by another Rhino and a Lesser Adjutant and as we neared the end of the ride saw a

Blyth's Pipit and Oriental Skylark both at close range. But no Floricans. As we alighted it was time for Brian's ride – the light now strong enough to hope for some good photos of the rhinos and swamp deer. We moved up the road a bit and took up station where we could see out over the grasslands – we were hoping that one of the elephants might flush a Florican! Red Collared Doves, Oriental Turtle Doves, Yellow-footed Green Pigeons, Striated Grassbirds, both Lesser and Greater Coucals and a fine immature Spotted Eagle kept us entertained as looked. There were innumerable small brown jobs flitting in the grasslands and we could see pairs of Grey-headed Lapwings. Then a male Bengal Florican appeared suddenly. And twenty seconds later it had disappeared into the grass again never to reappear. We watched as the elephants went past the spot – keeping an eye on it by using Swamp Deer as markers – but the bird had clearly gone to ground. Some time later though, and much closer to us, several of the Elephants, including Brian's, put up a female which gave us excellent flight views.

Once we were all re-united we headed off to the first watchtower for breakfast. Then followed a leisurely morning covering just part of the central range. Already butterflies were out and most noticeable today were Blue Glassy Tigers and the usual abundant Common Tigers. Brilliant orange Indian Fritillaries were quite common along the grassland edges as it neared midday. We drove past several Rhinos – we had already had close to 150 sightings so we were getting rather blasé about them! Hog Deer came and went and so too a few Wild Boar. We stopped on a bridge in the forest and found a group of Asian Short-clawed Otters fishing in the farther reaches of the stream there. There were six of them and they were milling in the water finding some form of crustacean as they were all munching away. They soon spotted us and bounded off 'en masse' into the forest – a quite magical sight! Birdlife was plentiful – Baya Weavers and Long-tailed Shrikes in the grasslands, the usual starlings and mynahs in the bombax trees, Crested Serpent Eagles and Changeable Hawk Eagles sat in trees along with both Grey-headed and Pallas's Fish Eagles – it really is a very good place for raptors. One rather fine species glimpsed this morning was Slaty-backed Flycatcher.

At lunchtime Roger and I went to look at the stream up in the hills behind Kohora. En route we had a good look at a Small Indian Mongoose. Birds were few – only an Ashy Wood-swallow and perhaps a dozen or so Crimson Sunbirds on one tree were of note. This proved an excellent spot for butterflies. Down by the stream were small groups mud-puddling or just individuals sat upon the many sunlit rocks. The latter was the favourite haunt of sailors and their relatives. The Common Sailor was most abundant but we also saw several Yellowjack Sailors and a pair of Studded Sergeants. There was also the pretty orange black and white Colour Sergeant. On some mud were a little group that comprised a Common Albatross, a Plain Puffin, one of the grass yellows and both Red Helen and Glassy Bluebottle – both these swallowtails totally immaculate. The best mud puddling group was a little further on. Here there were a few skippers and blues too though the main groups was several Glassy Bluebottles, a Great Orange-tip, a Yellow Orange-tip, albatrosses and grass yellows.

In the afternoon we returned to the Central Range. The usual rhinos were in a view at the first open area but it was here that we encountered the first of the afternoon's fine wildlife experiences. A large group of Water Buffalo were moving from one area of grassland to another crossing the track thirty metres in front of us. We photographed them as they went – animals of all ages including several 'yellow' youngsters.

Later we found the Short-clawed Otters again hunting in the exactly the same spot as the morning. This time 'scope views confirmed the identity – they had no readily visible claws! Though in truth the behaviour and general structure of these otters was enough to identify them. We stopped just for a moment by the narrow channel where hornbills were usually seen in the fig trees but this time our attention was drawn by some Tiger prints that overlaid our own from around midday. A tigress had passed this way sometime in the past three and a half hours. They were heading on down the track so did we. The tracks were in evidence for quite some way but then nothing for a while when all of a sudden those of a male tiger crossed the track. These moved down to some water – we scanned hopefully upstream but nothing – except our first Great Thick-knee of the trip. Further along the track we found the tracks of the male and female together. It was difficult to tell how new these were except that they overlaid the morning's jeep tracks. Later we were to find that one of the two jeeps travelling along fifteen minutes behind us had good views of a Tiger back near where we'd first seen the tracks! Close but no tiger!

Mind you the next animal happening had us almost as excited. As we watched a large group of vultures in a tree and by the rhino corpse another rhino appeared close to us and walked towards us. Though apparently intent more on the grass than us it was nonetheless close and coming closer and Poonan was clearly nervous of having it any closer, so to much disapproval from Brian and ambivalence from the rest of us – we moved round the corner. No matter though for the rhino kept on coming and made as if to cross the track a mere thirty metres behind us. At this point he turned towards us and raised his head at which point we could hold Poonan back no longer. We moved a mile down the road to the watchtower and scanned for anything that was going. There were plenty of the usual here – Rhinos, Hog Deer, Wild Boar, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Bar-headed Geese etc. We watched the watchtower cat which appeared to be at least half jungle cat as it stalked a Rosy Pipit. The cat couldn't see the Rosy Pipit but it knew where it was whereas the rosy Pipit just didn't know the cat was there. This was made clear when the pipit suddenly change direction, came over the ditch edge and into the waiting cats jaws and talons. A big surprise here was a lovely male Falcated Duck right below the watchtower. The cat didn't get that one! Sadly it was now time to leave and as dusk descended we drove back to the lodge.

I went out for a rather long nightwalk. Almost immediately I had close-up views (3 metres) of a Large Indian Civet which was busy looking for something on the trackside – it completely ignored me until I switched the second torch on to try and get a photograph at which point it dived into the coffee plantation. There then followed a very long gap before the next mammal turned up – a brief encounter with a Crab-eating Mongoose – a large mongoose with course shaggy fur. Soon after cat-like eyeshine brought hope of a wild cat species for the trip but no – it was a domestic one out hunting!

Day 16 February 17th Kaziranga to Guahati and Delhi

All we really had to do today was travel – all the way back to Delhi. Nevertheless there were a few chances to see some wildlife en route. Before leaving we noted Grey-bellied Tesia and in the garden male Scarlet-backed Sunbird and a pair of Little Spiderhunters. Once on our way we had Kaziranga to the north of us for some considerable time (which explains the Hog Deer off the side of the road) before we entered more open country with extensive paddyfields. A group of Lesser Adjutants were nesting in a bombax tree that soared over the road. We stopped to take photos of them and found

that the tree was full of birds including a co-operative little Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker. Many butterflies were flying around the white flowers of the next door tree – these were male and female Red-spot Jezebels, a beautiful butterfly with bright reds and yellows on the hindwings and with white and smoky blue-black on the forewings.

We made a stop in the town of Nogoan. Here, just off the main road, was a pleasant little spot where a family made us some tea and biscuits to go with our packed breakfast as we sat and admired, if that's the right word, one of the world's most endangered storks. A small colony of Greater Adjutants were nesting in the top of yet another bombax tree this like many of the others smothered in flowers – it made quite a sight – the five foot tall rather ugly storks and their not any less ugly youngsters standing tall against a deep blue sky amidst masses of bright red flowers! Common Palmfly, Lime Swallowtail, grass yellows and Punchinellos provided butterfly interest whilst birds included Great Tits and Black-naped Monarchs. Roger found a colony of Indian Flying Foxes roosting in the trees, some of these beautifully lit in the morning sun.

Then it was on to Guwahati with only one more stop – a brief look at the butterflies along the roadside as one approaches town through a small area of wooded hills. Butterflies were numerous though many were species already familiar too us. There were several skippers, a couple of fly-past Charaxes and a little colony of elegant Grey Counts. Then it was on to the airport and thence to Delhi where we had a fine meal in the Centaur's Restaurant before returning to Delhi Airport and our middle of the night KLM flight to Amsterdam.

Day 17 February 18th To UK

We arrived into Amsterdam spot on time and then said our farewells as we caught shuttle flights back to various parts of the UK.

Systematic List Number 1 Mammals

The taxonomy and nomenclature is taken from Prater (1971). We spent 16 days in the field including the journey to Namdapha and the last day to Delhi. We have given an indication of the abundance of each species by stating the number of days out of 16 the species was noted, thus 3/16 indicates that the species was seen on 3 days during the trip. The following is a summary of the itinerary.

3 rd Feb	Delhi to Dibrugarh flight arriving 10.30. Drive to Deban at Namdapha
4 th Feb	Namdapha. Deban - track along south side of Noa Dehing River.
5 th Feb	Namdapha. Walk from Deban to Haldibari
6 th Feb	Namdapha. Walk from Haldibari to Hornbill
7 th Feb	Namdapha. Around Hornbill and walk to Bulbulia
8 th Feb	Namdapha. Above Bulbulia and back to Hornbill
9 th Feb	Namdapha. Hornbill to Deban
10 th Feb	Namdapha to Tinsukia spending much of the morning along river between Deban and Miao
11 th Feb	Dibru-Saikhowa on boat and foot. Evening at Maguli Bheel
12 th Feb	Maguli Bheel and to Kaziranga
13 th Feb	Kaziranga. Central and Western Range
14 th Feb	Kaziranga. Panbari and Central Range
15 th Feb	Kaziranga. East and West Range
16 th Feb	Kaziranga. Central Range
17 th Feb	Kaziranga. Drive to Guwahati then flight to Delhi

Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Hylobates hoolock</i>	Heard in numbers daily at Namdapha and seen most days there in low numbers. 4 (seen)/16
Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	Rather scarce at Kaziranga
Assamese Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>	Several groups seen at Namdapha. 3/16
Stump-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca speciosa</i>	A party in bamboo above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Capped Langur	<i>Presbytis pileatus</i>	A few groups at Namdapha. 3/16
Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>	Singles after dark by Hornbill and above Deban, both Namdapha. 2/16
Large Indian Civet	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>	1 seen in coffee plantations at Kohora, Kaziranga on two night time excursions. 2/16
Crab-eating Mongoose	<i>Herpestes urva</i>	1 seen at night behind Kohora, Kaziranga. Tracks noted in many spots there
Small Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes auropunctatus</i>	Seen above Kohora, Kaziranga
Smooth Indian Otter	<i>Lutra perspicillata</i>	7 at Kaziranga
Clawless Otter	<i>Aonyx cinerea</i>	6 at Kaziranga
Malay Tree Shrew	<i>Tupaia glis</i>	1 in Namdapha
Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	60+ at Kaziranga
Hodgson's Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista magnificus</i>	Really rather common at Namdapha. Nocturnal. Max nightly count was 2. 4/16
Malayan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>	Several seen in Namdapha and also 1 in Kaziranga. 4/16
Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>	Widespread in Arunachal Pradesh where seen almost daily. 4/16
Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>	Widespread. 7/16
Himalayan Striped Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus macclellandi</i>	Rather scarce (or at least not easily observed) at Namdapha where max daily count was 2. 2/16
Three Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	Kaziranga

Hodgson's Porcupine	<i>Hystrix hodgsoni</i>	Quills of presumably this species found in the Namdapha. 2 seen very well (less than 1m!) above Kohora, Kaziranga – at night
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Frequent at Kaziranga where maximum daily count was about 45. Several of the males were in 'must' and were extremely 'difficult' with a tendency to go on the rampage – this made for many entertaining encounters with a bit of 'edge' to them though the rangers were always about shadowing such bulls just in case! Also heard at Namdpaha though these may have been domestic ones? Many working elephants seen in all areas. 5/16
Gt Indian One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	Amazingly abundant at Kaziranga where maximum daily count was 65 separate animals. On another day we saw more than 40 too! Many close encounters especially when we went for elephant rides – approach to within five metres or so was possible then. 4/16
Wild Buffalo	<i>Bubalis bubalis</i>	What horns! The wild ones are quite distinctive with huge sweeping horns. Quite common within Kaziranga where we saw between 30 and 100 each day. As with the elephants and rhinos care had to be taken with the bulls! 4/16
Barasingha	<i>Cervus duvauceli</i>	Large herds at Kaziranga but very local there. Herds of up to 50 seen but usually only one or two herds a day. 4/16
Sambar Hog Deer	<i>Cervus unicolor</i> <i>Axis porcinus</i>	Heard in Namdapha Abundant at Kaziranga where about 200 seen most days. 4/16
Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	Scattered throughout. 2 (seen)/16 Heard more often though
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Quite frequent at Kaziranga where up to 20 seen daily. 4/16
Gangetic Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	3+ at Dibru-Saikhowa.

Signs Only...

Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Many tracks seen – most at Kaziranga but also some at Dibru-Saikhowa.
Leopard Cat	<i>Felis bengalensis</i>	Prints at Namdapha
Fishing Cat	<i>Felis viverrina</i>	Prints at Namdapha and Kaziranga
Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	Prints at Namdapha

Systematic List Number 1a Mammals

From the 2002 recce trip

Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Hylobates hoolock</i>	Heard in numbers daily at Namdapha. 3 seen on the first morning by Deban, then 5 near there the next day. 4+ seen near Hornbill. 3(seen)/13 or 5(heard)/13
Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	A large troupe seemed in residence near the start of the trail to Haldibari from Deban as seen in both directions. Common at Kaziranga. Also noted in the centre of New Delhi! 5/13
Assamese Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>	20+ seen near Hornbill in a fruiting tree
Common Langur	<i>Presbytis priam</i>	?Either this species or the next along the roadside at Kaziranga?
Capped Langur	<i>Presbytis pileatus</i>	Max daily count of 6 at Namdapha. 3/13
Tiger*	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Tracks of two individuals and very deep scratches 6 feet up a tree seen.
Leopard Cat	<i>Felis bengalensis</i>	2 seen at quite close range after dusk near Gibbon's Land, Namdapha
Fishing Cat*	<i>Felis viverrina</i>	Pugmarks of what must surely have been this species seen in the mud by the river near Gibbon's Land, Namdapha
Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	1 seen in Central Range, Kaziranga. Note that some of the domestic moggies at the guard posts seem more than 50% Jungle Cat here!
Large Indian Civet	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>	1 seen in coffee plantations at Kohora, Kaziranga on two night time excursions – viewed down to 3 metres! (I). 2/13
Small Indian Civet	<i>Viverricula indica</i>	Noted on two night time excursions at Kohora, Kaziranga (I). 2/13
Binturong	<i>Arctitis binturong</i>	1 seen well just five minutes from Hornbill Camp, Namdpaha at about 23.00 (I). 8 metres up a tree this animal was typically lethargic in movement and stayed put for the whole time I was there. This was a 'tawny' or 'straw' phase animal – not the normal black!
Crab-eating Mongoose Kaziranga	<i>Herpestes urva</i>	1 seen briefly at night behind Kohora, (I). Tracks noted in many spots there and at Namdapha
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	Bharatpur
Smooth Indian Otter	<i>Lutra perspicillata</i>	Very common at Kaziranga. We were not certain that all seen there were this species though certainly some were. We saw groups of 6-10 and several singles too. Two daily counts of 15 and 20+ indicate their abundance! 4/13
Yellow-throated Martin	<i>Martes flavigula</i>	3 seen well near Bulbulia, Namdapha (FC)
Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	3 seen en route to Kaziranga and another seen there whilst driving back to Kohora from Western Range. 2/13
Indian Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus coromandra</i>	Widespread. 7/13
Hodgson's Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista magnificus</i>	Really rather common at Namdapha. Nocturnal. Max nightly count was 4 around Deban but also seen around Hornbill too. 4/13

Malayan Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>	2 seen along the track by the Noa Dehing, Deban and 2 seen near Hornbill, both Namdapha. 2/13
Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>	Widespread in Arunachal Pradesh where seen daily. 6/13
Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>	8+ seen on one day at Namdapha -one the walk from Deban to Hornbill, but not seen there on other days. Quite common at Kaziranga. 4/13
Himalayan Striped Squirrel (observed) at	<i>Callosciurus maccllellandi</i>	Rather scarce (or at least not easily Namdapha where max daily count was 2. 3/13
Three Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	1 seen along the Noa Dehing track, Namdapha
Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>	Common in Delhi, Okhla and Bharatpur
Indian Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>	Quills of presumably this species found in the Central Range, Kaziranga
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Frequent at Kaziranga where maximum daily count was about 45. Several of the males were in must and were extremely 'difficult' with a tendency to go on the rampage – this made for many entertaining encounters with a bit of 'edge' to them though the rangers were always about shadowing such bulls just in case! Also heard at Namdpaha though these may have been domestic ones? Many working elephants seen in all areas. 4/13
Gt Indian One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	Amazingly abundant at Kaziranga where maximum daily count was 59 separate animals. On another day we saw more than 50 too! Many close encounters especially when we went for elephant rides – approach to within five metres or so was possible then. 4/13
Wild Buffalo	<i>Bubalis bubalis</i>	What horns! The wild ones are quite distinctive with huge sweeping horns. Quite common within Kaziranga where we saw between 30 and 100 each day. As with the elephants and rhinos care had to be taken with the bulls! 4/13
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	Bharatpur
Barasingha	<i>Cervus duvauceli</i>	Large herds at Kaziranga but very local there. Herds of 10 – 100 seen but usually only one or two herds a day. 4/13
Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	Singles seen twice at Namdapha and 2 seen in the central range, Kaziranga. 3/13
Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>	Bharatpur
Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>	Abundant at Kaziranga where about 200 seen most days. 4/13
Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	Scattered. 2 seen near Hornbill and 2 near Bulbulia, Namdapha. 1 seen near Kohora, Kaziranga and 3 there on another day. 4/13
Wild Boar seen	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Heard more often though Quite frequent at Kaziranga where up to 25 daily – very close approach possible on the elephants. 4/13
Gangetic Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	1 watched for about an hour a couple of kilometres or so upstream of Guijan, Dibru-Saikhowa. Its initial appearance was by leaping

almost clear of the water in front of a little boat
coming towards us!

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

The taxonomy and nomenclature is taken from Grimmet, Inskipp & Inskipp (1998). We spent 16 days in the field including the journey to Namdapha and the last day to Delhi. We have given an indication of the abundance of each species by stating the number of days out of 16 the species was noted, thus 3/16 indicates that the species was seen on 3 days during the trip. The following is a summary of the itinerary.

3 rd Feb	Delhi to Dibrugarh flight arriving 10.30. Drive to Deban at Namdapha
4 th Feb	Namdapha. Deban - track along south side of Noa Dehing River.
5 th Feb	Namdapha. Walk from Deban to Haldibari
6 th Feb	Namdapha. Walk from Haldibari to Hornbill
7 th Feb	Namdapha. Around Hornbill and walk to Bulbulia
8 th Feb	Namdapha. Above Bulbulia and back to Hornbill
9 th Feb	Namdapha. Hornbill to Deban
10 th Feb	Namdapha to Tinsukia spending much of the morning along river between Deban and Miao
11 th Feb	Dibru-Saikhowa on boat and foot. Evening at Maguli Bheel
12 th Feb	Maguli Bheel and to Kaziranga
13 th Feb	Kaziranga. Central and Western Range
14 th Feb	Kaziranga. Panbari and Central Range
15 th Feb	Kaziranga. East and West Range
16 th Feb	Kaziranga. Central Range
17 th Feb	Kaziranga. Drive to Guwahati then flight to Delhi

Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>	Quite common at Kaziranga with max daily count of 10+ seen and often heard. 4(seen)/16
Rufous-throated or White-cheeked Partridge	<i>Arborophila rufogularis/atrogularis</i>	3+ flushed above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Widespread and common at Kaziranga. 4/16
Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>	A female between Haldibari and Hornbill. Up to 5 daily in Kaziranga area. 4/16
Grey Peacock Pheasant	<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	Heard on numerous occasions in Namdapha but not seen. 6(heard)/16
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	30+ at Maguli Bheel and quite common at Kaziranga. 3/16
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Noted at Kaziranga. 2/16
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	50 at Maguli Bheel and good numbers daily at Kaziranga. 5/16
Falcatced Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	A male and female at Maguli Bheel and a male in the Central Range at Kaziranga. 2/16
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Common at Maguli Bheel and Kaziranga. 6/16
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Common at Kaziranga. 4/16
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Scattered at Kaziranga. 4/16
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Common at all wetlands visited. 4/16
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Common at all wetlands visited. 6/16
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Common at all wetlands visited. 6/16
Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Common at all wetlands visited. 4/16
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	2 at Maguli Bheel
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>	15+ at Maguli Bheel
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	8 at Kaziranga
Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Up to 100 a day at Kaziranga. 5/16

Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Scattered at Kaziranga. 2/16
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Common along the Noa Dehing. 4/16
Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>	1 above Kohora, Kaziranga
White-browed Piculet	<i>Sasia ochracea</i>	1 above Kohora, Kaziranga
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus canicapillus</i>	1 between Hornbill and Deban, Namdapha
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus macei</i>	1 between Kaziranga and Guwahati
Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	1 Namdapha and 1 above Kohora, Kaziranga. 2/16
Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	Scattered in Namdapha. 5/16
Greater Yellownape	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>	Scattered in Namdapha. 4/16
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	1 in Namdapha
Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	2 records in Kaziranga. 2/16
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	2 at Kaziranga. 1/16
Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Scattered in Kaziranga. 2/16
Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	Singles noted thrice in Namdapha. 3/16
Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	Scattered throughout. Seen 3/16 heard more
Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	A few seen almost daily at Kaziranga. 3/16
Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Common at Namdapha. 6/16
Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Megalaima australis</i>	Just 1 in Namdapha
Coppersmith	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	A few in Kaziranga. 3/16
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	A few singles at Namdapha. Max daily count of 10 at Kaziranga. 6/16
Rufous-necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	3 above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	Max daily count at Namdapha 22. 3/16
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthraceros albirostris</i>	2 seen at haldibari, Namdapha and 1-3 seen daily at Kaziranga. 5/16
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Singles twice at Kaziranga. 2/16
Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	Seen almost daily at Namdapha where max daily count was 8. 4/16
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Subspecies <i>affinis</i> . Widespread away from thick forest. 8/16
Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	2 above Kohora, Kaziranga
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Scattered everywhere. 7/16
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Singles at Dibru-Saikhowa and a few daily at Kaziranga. 5/16
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halycon smyrnensis</i>	Also known as White-breasted or Smyrna Kingfisher. Widespread outside Namdapha. 8/16
Himalayan Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	Just 1 along the Noa Dehing by Deban
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Scattered. 6/16
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>	1 above Haldibari, Namdapha. A total of 4 seen in Kaziranga. 2/16
Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	1 at Kaziranga
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaultii</i>	Several in Kaziranga. 1/16
Large Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>	1 at Okhla
Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristisi</i>	2 in forest near Margherita, 1 at Dibru- Saikhowa and 1 in Kaziranga. 3/16
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Scattered throughout Kaziranga. 4/16
Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	Scattered. 4/16
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Common around Kaziranga. 4/16
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Noted at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa. 5/16
Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	Amazingly common at Kaziranga and at Dibru- Saikhowa. 6/16
Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>	Scattered. 4/16
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	Scattered throughout – not Namdapha. 6/16

Mountain Scops Owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	Heard calling at Bulbulia and at Hornbill, Namdapha
Dusky Eagle Owl	<i>Bufo coromandia</i>	Heard at Kaziranga
Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Noted throughout. Max daily count 5+. 5/16
Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	2 at Deban, Namdapha
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	2 at Kaziranga
Brown Hawk Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	1 at Deban, Namdapha and heard at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga
Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	2 seen at Kaziranga. 2/16
Great Eared Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus macrotis</i>	1 seen at Haldibari, Namdapha
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Noted near habitation. 8/16
Pale-capped Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba punicea</i>	1 in the West Range at Kaziranga
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	A total of 9 seen in Kaziranga. 2/16
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Scattered throughout. 12/16
Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	3 at Kaziranga
Barred Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>	A female at Deban, Namdapha
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Scattered. 5/16
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	Scattered at Kaziranga. 4/16
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>	Common at Kaziranga where max daily count of 100+. 5/16
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	Widespread in Kaziranga. 4/16
Mountain Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	Reasonably common at Namdapha. 5/16
Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	A male and a female seen near the entrance to central range, Kaziranga a great distance!
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Common in wetlands. 7/16
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Scattered. 5/16
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	1 at Panbari
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Quite common at Maguli Bheel. 2/16
Swinhoe's Snipe	<i>Gallinago megala</i>	?almost certainly 1 present both days at Maguli Bheel. 2/16
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	1 at Kaziranga
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Uncommon at Kaziranga. 2/16
Nordmann's Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>	1 both days at Maguli Bheel. 2/16
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Widespread in low numbers. 5/16
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Scattered. 5/16
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Scattered. 4/16
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Scattered - rivers. 3/16
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	2 at Maguli Bheel. 1/16
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Scattered, Kaziranga. 3/16
Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Quite common Dibru-Saikhowa and at Kaziranga. 7/16
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	A juvenile on the central range Kaziranga
Great Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus recurvirostris</i>	1 Kaziranga
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	10+ Dibru-Saikhowa. 1/16
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Maguli Bheel. 2/16
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Scattered. 4/16
Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	Common at Kaziranga. 4/16
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Scattered throughout. 6/16
Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	1 along the river near Miao
River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	Several daily at Kaziranga. 5/16
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	4 at Kaziranga. 2/16
Jerdon's Baza	<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>	1 above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Scattered – 4 seen Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga area. 3/16
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	6+ in the Tinsukia area. 1/16
Black Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	3+ Guwahati

Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	An immature over the Greater Adjutant colony
Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	2 daily at Kaziranga. 4/16
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	4+ a day at Kaziranga. 4/16
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	Scattered at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa. 4/16
Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	The commonest vulture. 5/16
Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayana</i>	6+ between Tinsukia and Kaziranga and several groups in the Kaziranga area. 3/16
Eurasian Griffon	<i>Gyps fulvous</i>	Noted at Dibru-Saikhowa and a few most days at Kaziranga. 5/16
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Widespread. 7/16
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1 at Kaziranga
Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	A fine male at Kaziranga
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A male at Dibru-Saikhowa
Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Singles thrice at Namdapha. 3/16
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	A few noted at and en route to Kaziranga. 2/16
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	An immature at Kaziranga
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	An adult at Kaziranga
Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>	1 over Haldibari, Namdapha
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	Common at Kaziranga. Also noted between Deban and Maio. 5/16
Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	1 near Deban
Pied Falconet	<i>Microhierax melanoleucos</i>	A total of 6 seen at various places in Namdapha. 3/16
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinunculus</i>	Scattered. 3/16
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1 over Maguli Bheel
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Scattered. 4/16
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Common at all wetlands. 6/16
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Scattered throughout. 8/16
Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Widespread and common. 11/16
Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	1 on the river at Deban and also noted in Kaziranga. 2/16
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Widespread. 7/16
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Scattered. 6/16
Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Widespread. 8/16
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Widespread and often common. 7/16
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Widespread and common. 9/16
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Locally common. 5/16
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Scattered throughout. 4/16
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1 at Kaziranga
Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	1 at Dibru-Saikhowa
Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	1 at Dibru-Saikhowa
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus phillipensis</i>	Quite frequent at Kaziranga and a few at Maguli Bheel. 6/16
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Common in Dibru-Saikhowa and at Kaziranga. 7/16
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Up to 15 daily at Kaziranga. 3/16
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Scattered throughout, max daily count 6. 5/16
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Up to 10 daily at Kaziranga. 4/16
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	20-30 daily at Kaziranga and also en route to and from Kaziranga. 6/16
Greater Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	c.10 between Tinsukia and Kaziranga. 2 singles at Kaziranga and a colony of 10+ near Nagaon. 4/16
Blue-naped Pitta	<i>Pitta nipalensis</i>	Heard above Kohora, Kaziranga
Silver-breasted Broadbill	<i>Serilophus lunatus</i>	4 between Haldibari and Deban, Namdapha

Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>	2 small flocks in Namdapha. 2/16
Asian Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	Just 2 seen in Namdapha
Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	Widespread. 8/16
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	A few at Namdapha and at Kaziranga. 4/16
Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	Common in Namdapha. 7/16
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	A few at Kaziranga. 2/16
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Widespread. 9/16. The beautiful black-headed 'tricolor' race was noted at Dibru-Saikhowa
Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	Widespread and common. 10/16
Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>	Scattered at Namdapha max daily count 2. 4/16
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Noted near Digboi and common at Kaziranga. 7/16
Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	A total of 3 seen at Namdapha, heard often. 2/16
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Common at Kaziranga and Dibru-Saikhowa. 9/16
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Widespread and locally common. 9/16
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	1 above Kohora, Kaziranga
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	Scattered in Kaziranga. 4/16
Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus trailii</i>	Max daily count 2 at Namdapha. 4/16
Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	A total of 3 at Kaziranga. 2/16
Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	Scattered throughout. 6/16
Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	A female seen in Namdapha
Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	Scattered at both Namdapha and Kaziranga. 3/16
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	Widespread and very common. 10/16
Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>	Common at Namdapha. 7/16
White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Common in wooded areas. 8/16
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Widespread outside Namdapha. 9/16
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Widespread. 8/16
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	Common at Namdapha and behind Kohora, Kaziranga. 8/16
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	Common at Namdapha. 7/16
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	Widespread where there's flowering Silk Cotton trees. 5/16
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Local in wooded areas. 4/16
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	Uncommon in Kaziranga. 3/16
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Scattered at Dibru-Saikhowa & Kaziranga. 4/16
Large Wood-shrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>	Locally common at Namdapha. 3/16
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Scattered throughout – mostly singles. 6/16
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	Local this year. 4/16
Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	1 above Kohora, Kaziranga
Dark-sided Thrush	<i>Zoothera marginata</i>	1 seen well at Hornbill, Namdapha
Black-breasted Thrush	<i>Turdus dissimilis</i>	An adult male in Kohora, Kaziranga
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophiatea</i>	1 at Deban, Namdapha
Red-throated Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	Few at Kaziranga. 3/16
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypererythra</i>	Total of 3 at Namdapha. 3/16
Slaty-blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	Males at Deban, Namdapha and at Kaziranga. 2/16
Sapphire Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula sapphira</i>	3 seen inside Namdapha and 1 in Kaziranga. All females or immatures. 3/16
Large Niltava	<i>Niltava grandis</i>	Male near Haldibari and a female between there and Hornbill, Namdapha. 2/16
Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	Males on 5 consecutive days at Kaziranga. 5/16
Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>	A male between Hornbill and Haldibari, Namdapha

Pale-chinned Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>	A female at Dibru-Saikhowa
Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	A male at Deban, Namdapha
Pygmy Blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapilla hodgsoni</i>	A male at Deban and 2 females between Hornbill and Haldibari, Namdapha. 2/16
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Widespread. 9/16
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Scattered at Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga. 4/16
Orange-flanked Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	3 females inside Namdapha. 2/16
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Common outside Namdapha. 7/16
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	Singles seen on three days at Kaziranga. 3/16
Hodgson's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>	A female at Dibru-Saikhowa
White-capped Water Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Common along rivers. 3/16
Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	Less common along rivers! 2/16
White-tailed Robin	<i>Myiomela leucura</i>	1 above Bulbulia
Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>	1 at a roadside waterfall c.2km down from Deban Guesthouse
Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>	Quite common at Namdapha and 1 at Kohora, Kaziranga. 6/16
Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	Locally quite common at Namdapha. 4/16
White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	1 between Haldibari and Hornbill, Namdapha
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Widespread outside the forest. 10/16
Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	1 at Deban, Kaziranga
Spot-winged Starling	<i>Saroglossa spiloptera</i>	Common at Kaziranga with thousands on some days. 4/16
Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	Common at Kaziranga. Also noted between Deban and Miao and at Dibru-Saikhowa. 7/16
Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	Widespread except at Namdapha. 9/16
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Widespread except at Namdapha. 9/16
Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	Widespread except at Namdapha. 8/16
White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres cinereus</i>	Scattered Dibru-Saikhowa and Kaziranga. 6/16
Golden-crested Myna	<i>Ampeliceps coronatus</i>	6 between Bulbulia and Hornbill, Namdapha (RS)
Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	Widespread and locally common, especially at Namdapha. 6/16
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	1 near Margherita and 2 Kaziranga. 2/16
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>	Quite common at Namdapha. 6/16
Beautiful Nuthatch	<i>Sitta formosa</i>	2 superb birds above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	A few seen round Kaziranga. 3/16
Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	Common at Namdapha. 6/16
Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	Dibru-Saikhowa and Maguli Bheel. 2/16
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread but not common. 9/16
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	?A 'red-rumped' type swallow seen at Kaziranga was probably this species
Nepal House Martin	<i>Delichon nipalensis</i>	A couple of small flocks over Namdapha. 2/16
Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	Scarce at both Namdapha and Kaziranga. 4/16
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Common at Kaziranga. 3/16
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Widespread and common. 12/16
White-throated Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus flaveolus</i>	Widespread and common especially at Namdapha. 10/16
Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flava</i>	Common at Namdapha. 6/16
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	Widespread. 7/16
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Heard at Dibru-Saikhowa
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	Noted at Dibru-Saikhowa. 1/16
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	Dibru-Saikhowa. 2/16
Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	1 at Dibru-Saikhowa
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	1 at Namdapha. Common elsewhere. 7/16

Slaty-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia olivea</i>	Common at Namdapha though actually seen only four times – heard frequently. 4/16
Grey-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>	3 seen at Kohora above Kaziranga. 2/16
Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia fortipes</i>	1 at Dibru-Saikhowa
Black-browed Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>	1 seen well in the central range, Kaziranga
Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	1 at Kaziranga
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Scattered. 4/16
Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>	2 at Panbari
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Several in Kaziranga area. 2/16
Dusky Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	Quite common at Dibru-Saikhowa and Maguli Bheel and also seen at Kaziranga. 3/16
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	2 at Dibru-Saikhowa and 1 at Kaziranga. 2/16
Ashy-throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	A small flock between Haldibari and Hornbill, Namdapha
Lemon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	Several seen at Namdapha. 2/16
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Scattered at Namdapha. 3/16
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	Probably one of the commonest leaf warblers at Namdapha – the bright leaf warbler with strong head markings. 3/16
Golden-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus burkii</i>	1 between Deban & Haldibari, Kaziranga and several at Panbari, Kaziranga. 2/16
Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i>	10+ above Bulbulia, Namdapha. 1/16
White-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus affinis</i>	In the Hornbill area, Namdapha. 1/16
Grey-cheeked Warbler	<i>Seicercus poliogenys</i>	Quite common in Namdapha and noted at Panbari and Kohora, both Kaziranga. 5/16
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>	Quite common in Namdapha. 4/16
Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	Locally frequent at Namdapha. 4/16
Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>	A few daily at Dibru-Saikhowa and also seen at Kaziranga. 3/16
White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	A total of 4 at Namdapha. 2/16
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>	Several flocks noted at Namdapha and one at Kohora, Kaziranga. 4/16
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>	Locally common at Namdapha. 4/16
Rufous-vented Laughingthrush	<i>Garulax gularis</i>	10+ seen above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Buff-breasted Babbler	<i>Pellorneum tickelli</i>	1 seen Panbari, Kaziranga
White-browed Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomotorhinus schisticeps</i>	1 seen Panbari, Kaziranga
Red-billed Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomotorhinus ochraceiceps</i>	5 above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomotorhinus ferruginosus</i>	1 Panbari, Namdapha (RS)
Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler	<i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i>	1 near Hornbill, Namdapha
Pygmy Wren Babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	1 of the buff form seen near Haldibari, Namdapha. Heard more frequently
Spotted Wren Babbler	<i>Spelacornis formosus</i>	2 near Haldibari, Namdapha
Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	1 near Bulbulia and 1 at Panbari. 2/16
Snowy-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris oglei</i>	6+. Fabulous! Above Bulbulia in the bamboo, Namdapha. Also known as Austen's Spotted Babbler
Striped Tit Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis.</i>	Scattered. 6/16
Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>	3 at Dibru-Saikhowa
Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	1 at Dibru-Saikhowa and 6+ in Kaziranga. 2/16
Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argentaurus</i>	Quite common at Namdapha. 6/16
White-browed Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>	Several around Deban and a male above Bulbulia, Namdapha. 2/16
Black-eared Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius melanotis</i>	A male between Haldibari and Hornbill, Namdapha
Cutia	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i>	4 seen above Bulbulia, Namdapha!
White-hooded Babbler	<i>Gampsorynchus rufulus</i>	3 in the Hornbill area, Namdapha. 2/16

Rusty-fronted Barwing	<i>Actinodura egertoni</i>	3+ in the Hornbill area, Namdapha
Blue-winged Minla	<i>Minla cyauraptera</i>	Locally common, Namdapha. 3/16
Red-tailed Minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>	Quite common Namdapha. 4/16
Rufous-throated Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe rufogularis</i>	6+ in undergrowth near Haldibari
Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	Locally common at Namdapha especially at Hornbill. 4/16
Rufous-backed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia annectans</i>	1 near Deban and 2 above Bulbulia, Namdapha. 2/16
Beautiful Sibia	<i>Heterophasia pulchella</i>	Scattered at Namdapha. 2/16
Long-tailed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	Widespread and common at Namdapha. 7/16
Striated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina castaniceps</i>	Only noted near Deban, Namdapha
Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	Quite common at Namdapha. 4/16
White-bellied Yuhina	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>	Quite common at Namdapha. 5/16
Black-chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	Common at Namdapha. 5/16
Grey-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis gularis</i>	10+ above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris</i>	2 above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis ruficeps</i>	At least 1 above Bulbulia, Namdapha
Rufous-winged Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>	3+ Kaziranga. 2/16
Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>	Several at Dibru-Saikhowa
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	2 at Kaziranga
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>	Males twice at Kaziranga. 2/16
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes sinalensis</i>	Males twice at Kaziranga. 2/16
Black-throated Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	Scattered at Namdapha. 4/16
Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	Dibru-Saikhowa and locally quite common at Kaziranga. 6/16
Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	1 at Panbari and 2 above Kohora, Kaziranga. 2/16
Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothora magna</i>	Quite common at Namdapha. 6/16
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common near habitation. 5/16
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Local – mostly rural habitation.. 3/16
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Widespread. 12/16. Several races involved
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Quite common at Dibru-Saikhowa and at Kaziranga – several races involved including ‘zaissanensis’ and ‘plexa’ at Maguli Bheel
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Locally common at Kaziranga. 6/16
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Only noted on Noa Dehing River. 1/16
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	1 at Maguli Bheel
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	1 at Maguli Bheel and 1 at Kaziranga. 2/16
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Scattered. 4/16
Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	Dibru-Saikhowa and a few most days at Kaziranga. 4/16
Blyth’s Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>	1 at Kaziranga
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus phillippinus</i>	Locally common at Kaziranga though most weavers not identified specifically. 3/16
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	5+ at Dibru-Saikhowa
Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	Male and female at Kaziranga
Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	At least 6 in total at Maguli Bheel. 2/16

Systematic List Number 3 Butterflies

Much of the nomenclature and taxonomy for this list was taken from Wynter-Blyth's 'Butterflies of the Indian Region' which was published in 1957 and thus most of it is out of date! Many bushbrowns, grass yellows, glassy tigers, crows and assorted *Lycaenids* remained unidentified!

Papilionidae

Common Mime	<i>Papilio clytea</i>	Noted in the woods above Kohora, Kaziranga
Red Helen	<i>Papilio helenus</i>	Noted in the woods above Kohora, Kaziranga
Great Windmill	<i>Polydorus dasarada</i>	1 in the woods above Kohora, Kaziranga
Golden/Common Birdwing	<i>Troides aecus/helena</i>	1 above Bulbulia, Namdapha

Danaidae

Glassy Tiger	<i>Parantica aglaia</i>	Widespread
Chestnut Tiger	<i>Parantica sita</i>	Scattered throughout
Blue Glassy Tiger	<i>Danaus limniace</i>	Noted in the woods above Kohora, Kaziranga
Dark Blue Tiger	<i>Danaus septemtrionis</i>	1 near Miao
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Kaziranga
Common Tiger	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Scattered throughout except Namdapha
Common Indian Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>	Kaziranga
Striped Blue Crow	<i>Euploea mulciber</i>	2+ in the woods above Kohora, Kaziranga
Magpie Crow	<i>Euploea diocletiana</i>	Noted between Deban and Miao and in the woods above Kohora, Kaziranga

Nymphalidae

Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>	Widespread
Dark Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis phedima</i>	Widespread
Great Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis zitenius</i>	Noted above Kohora, Kaziranga
Nigger	<i>Orsotrioena medus</i>	Scattered throughout
Common Fourring	<i>Ypthima hubneri</i>	Namdapha
Bushbrowns	<i>Mycalesis species</i>	Widespread – something for next time!
The Knight	<i>Lebedea martha</i>	1 above Kohora, Kaziranga
Wizard	<i>Rhinopalpa polynice</i>	Noted twice in Namdapha
Baron	<i>Euthalia aconthea</i>	1 in Namdapha
Powdered Baron	<i>Euthalia kesava</i>	?probably this species above Kohora, Kaziranga
Indian Fritillary	<i>Argyreus hyperbius</i>	1 between Deban and Miao
Small Leopard	<i>Phalanta alcippe</i>	Between Deban and Miao and also above Kohora, Kaziranga
Colour Sergeant	<i>Pantoporia nefte</i>	Probably this species above Kohora, Kaziranga
Blackvein Sergeant	<i>Parathyma ranga</i>	Several above Kohora, Kaziranga
Blue Admiral	<i>Vanessa canace</i>	10+ en route to Dibru-Saikhowa
Indian Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa indica</i>	2 in Namdapha
Common Jester	<i>Symbrenthia hippoclus</i>	Noted above Kohora, Kaziranga
Blue-tail Jester	<i>Symbrenthia niphanda</i>	Several at Namdapha
Common Sailor	<i>Neptis hylas</i>	Common except at Namdapha
Broadstick Sailor	<i>Neptis narayana</i>	Between Deban and Miao
Dingy Sailor	<i>Neptis vikasi</i>	1 above Kohora, Kaziranga
Yellowjack Sailor	<i>Neptis viraja</i>	Several above Kohora, Kaziranga
Perak Lascar	<i>Neptis paraka</i>	?Dibru-Saikhowa
Angled Castor	<i>Ariadne ariadne</i>	Scattered
Circe	<i>Hestina nama</i>	Namdapha
Large Yeoman	<i>Cirrochroa aoris</i>	Scattered

Red Lacewing
Great Eggfly
Chocolate Soldier
Peacock Pansy
Grey Pansy
Lemon Pansy

Cethosia biblis
Hypolimnas bolina
Precis iphita
Precis almana
Precis atlites
Precis lemonias

Between Deban and Miao and above Kohora, Kaziranga
Scattered
Between Deban and Miao
Common in the Kaziranga area
Common above Kohora, Kaziranga
Locally quite common at Kohora, Kaziranga

Pieridae

Tailed Sulphur
Great Orange-tip
Common Grass Yellow
Small Grass Yellow
One-spot Grass Yellow
Yellow Orange-tip
Lemon Emigrant
Redbase Jezebel
Common Wanderer
Pysche
Plain Puffin
Common Albatross
Chocolate Albatross
Orange Albatross
Green-veined White
Indian Cabbage White

Dercas verhuelli
Hebemoia glaucippe
Eurema hecabe
Eurema brigitta
Eurema andersoni
Ixias pyrene
Catopsilia pomona
Delias aglaia
Valeria valeria
Leptosia nina
Appias indra
Appias albina
Appias lycinda
Appias nero
Pieris napi
Pieris canidia

1 at Namdapha
1 at Namdapha
Widespread
Above Kohora. Kaziranga
Namdapha
Widespread
Scattered
Seen around Kaziranga and en route to Guwahati
Above Kohora, Kaziranga
A few in woods above Kohora, Kaziranga
Scattered throughout
Between Deban and Miao
Above Kohora, Kaziranga
1 between Deban and Miao
Scattered
Common

Lycaenidae

Angled Sunbeam
Yamfly spp
Blue Imperial
Common Imperial
Common Pierrot
Banded Blue Pierrot
Angled Pierrot
White Caerulean
Common Caerulean
Purple Sapphire
The Quaker
Monkey Puzzle

Curetis acuta
Loxura spp
Ticherra acte
Cheritra freja
Castalius rosimon
Castalius ethion
Caleta caleta
Jamides cleodus
Jamides celeno
Heliophorus epicles
Neopithecops zalmora
Rathinda amor

1 at Namdapha
Above Kohora, Kaziranga
2 in Namdapha
A male above Kohora, Kaziranga
1 at Dibru-Saikhowa
Noted above Kohora, Kaziranga
Namdapha
1 in Namdapha
Scattered in Namdapha
Widespread and common
Common above Kohora, Kaziranga
Noted in Namdapha

Riodinidae

Punchinello
Punch spp

Zemeros flegyas
Dodonia spp

Noted above Kohora, Kaziranga
Namdapha

Libytheidae

Common Beak

Libythea lepita

1 at the river between Deban and Miao

Hesperidae

Water Snow Flat
Chestnut Bob

Tagiades litigiosa
Iambrix salsala

Above Kohora, Kaziranga
Above Kohora, Kaziranga