

Arunachal Pradesh

Mammal Watching

A Greentours Tour Report

22nd November – 7th December 2025

Led by Ian Green

The mammalian possibilities in the far Northeastern corner of Arunachal Pradesh are mind-boggling. Namdapha alone has eight species of cat! But seeing said mammals in the largely trackless let alone roadless forests is hard work. We put in the effort for sure with long nights out and about. The cats were perhaps disappointing with only a few Leopard Cats and for Fiona the briefest of glimpses of a Clouded Leopard. There were a number of good sightings such as Bengal Loris, the *subhemalachana* race of Siberian Weasel, Mainland Serow, 'Mishmi' Takin, Masked Palm Civet and the rare in India Small-toothed Palm Civet. We had much quality time with Western Hoolock Gibbons. Indogangetic Dolphins were enjoyed. Perhaps though we'll remember it as the 'flying squirrel' trip with a number of species recorded. We believe we have rediscovered the Namdapha Flying Squirrel, one of the IUCN's 25 most-wanted mammal rediscoveries, and quite possibly the first records of a newly described genus of flying squirrel from India. But knowledge is scanty about these subjects and we're still trying to be sure. Comments welcome!

Day 1 November 22nd Arrival

We arrived into Delhi on schedule at half eleven in the evening. Ankit met us and took us to the nearby Shanti Palace Hotel where we settled in for a rather short night!

Day 2 November 23rd 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 nine-thirty am, and set off for the long drive to Namdapha. Ankit dealt with the paperwork at the state borders while we relaxed and drank masala chai. We reached the gates of the park at four and drove on through increasingly forested landscapes. Dusk comes very early here – around four-thirty, and it was almost dark by the time we arrived.

After unloading our bags into our basic but quite adequate rooms we went straight out for a night walk. Hardly had we left the compound when a scurrying thing was spotted – this the very small Part-coloured Flying Squirrel which we saw unleash its super gliding skills for a couple of metres or so. Nice, though, these small flying squirrels are not easy to spot. Moments later and there was a cat on the road, initial excitement soon dissipated as we realised it was a domestic moggy. Things soon got going again with a Red Giant Flying Squirrel of the subspecies *candidula* seen. Over the next hour

we went to see at least half a dozen of these spectacular large flying squirrels, even watching one glide elegantly through the forest, lit by the lamp as it went. We also heard but didn't see a red Muntjac.

Day 3 November 24th Namdapha – Deban



Morning started with a walk with Rahul, our local guide. First mammals of the morning were predictably squirrels though this time not of the flying kind! First were a few Orange-bellied Squirrels then a Pallas's Squirrel, with, you guessed it, a much more brightly



orange-red belly than the Orange-bellied Squirrels! Next was a white blob in the thermal which we couldn't work out but meantime a Red Muntjac walked out next to it and gave us good views. Fiona found us our first Western Hoolock Gibbons, initially the handsome male only was in view but eventually the female was spotted complete with a little baby. Birds were numerous and included Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes, Scarlet Minivets and some superb Sultan Tits. As we were turning round to come back for breakfast there was suddenly a cacophony in the forest with a great crashing and mashing going on – a troupe of Assamese Macaques making their way indelicately through the trees!

After breakfast we went on a slow walk along the main track Miao-wards. Once again the little squirrels were prominent, especially the Pallas's Squirrels. But this time we found the littlest, the Himalayan Striped Squirrel. This little 'chipmunk' shouted loudly from the trunk of a big tree, looking just like a little knobble on the trunk. Now we could hear the fabulous forest soundtrack of gibbons and cicadas. The gibbons were calling more or less continuously and soon we found some, right by the track. We spent twenty minutes with these. A female with a baby fed on the little leaflets that must have been delicious for otherwise why bother with such tiny leaves! Soon the male appeared and literally just hung about! Another male appeared briefly too. The gibbons spoke to us occasionally but otherwise just got on with the business of feeding and hanging. We encountered the Assamese Macaques again, then later a troupe of Pig-tailed Macaques, whose forest etiquette was only marginally better than the Assamese. Birds this morning included Green Magpies, Slaty-blue Flycatcher, Red-tailed Minlas, White-browed Shrike-Babblers, Whiskered Yuhinas, Streaked Spiderhunter, Black Bulbuls and Slaty-backed Forktails. Butterflies became more abundant as the morning wore on and sun grew in strength. Highlights were Malay Lacewing, many Punchinellos, Common Yeoman, Tawny Rajah, and Chocolate Pansies who were gathering on the fruit hung up for the forthcoming Namdapha butterfly festival.

After lunch and a brief relax it was out again, this time Burmese-border-wards. We started at 4pm not long before dark and walked with stops until just after dark, and then did a four hour night walk. This was through wonderful habitat but for a long time we didn't find anything. After almost two



hours our first animal appeared, but it was a good one - a Parti-coloured Flying Squirrel (see



comments in systematic list). This one allowed us to get some decent views as it crouched rather than ran... The very next animal found by Fiona was a superb Masked Himalayan Civet which

posed happily from its resting point. Then it was the return journey which was a parade of Red Giant Flying Squirrels. One after the other. Each animal we found from then on turned out to be this species...

Day 4 November 25th to Hornbill

Early morning we went down to the river to watch out for Eurasian Otter. Perhaps not surprisingly we didn't see them but there was plenty of otter scat on the rocks. White-capped Water Redstarts and Plumbeous Water Redstarts were noted and two Black Storks.

After breakfast the baggage elephant was loaded up and we set off on the ten kilometre walk to Hornbill Camp up in the fabulous forests of Namdapha. It was very warm and quite humid. Butterflies and birds were plentiful and gave us much to see en route, highlights being Fluffy Tit and Forest Glory among the butterflies, Long-tailed Broadbill, Rufous Backed Sibia, Streaked Spiderhunter and White-hooded Babblers amongst the birds. Hoolock Gibbons were still calling exuberantly as we started the walk but soon quietened down and we did come across a couple of troupes of Assamese Macaques. Twice we encountered the impressive Malay Giant Squirrels. There was however some very iterating mammal sign spotted as we walked. A herd of Guar had clearly followed the track for some kilometres and we wondered whether we might catch them up. There was of course our baggage elephant's great spoor too. And there were Dhole footprints in one or two places too. Civet dung was noted on the track, a nawab butterfly clearly wanted it all for himself.

We arrived at the camp not long before dusk and settled in. Hornbill campo is set amid beautiful forest just above a stream. After a much appreciated dinner we went out on a night walk. The westward forest was very quite and in almost two hours all we saw were a couple of Red Giant Flying Squirrels and an unidentified owl. However the other side of the camp proved more interesting. First was a peripatetic Long-tailed Forest Mouse. Hard to get onto that one! Then Fiona



found the animal of the night, a gorgeous little Flying Squirrel. This pretty little beast was rather different from the particoloureds (see comments in systematic list) in being only grey/brown, black and white (no tawny-brown or rufous colouration) and by being smaller with a proportionately shorter bushier tail clearly black on the upperside and white on the underside.

Day 5 **November 26th**
Namdapha: Hornbill Camp and Bulbulia

The day started with a rather quiet walk on the westwards track. A couple of Western Hoolock Gibbons gave us a nice show of the arial prowess. Otherwise there were no visible mammals. Hornbills on the other hand.. We saw quite a number of Rufous-necked Hornbills. Grey-bellied Tesias were in the undergrowth and large party of laughingthrushes included many Greater-Necklaced and White-crested.

After breakfast we took a rest, had a bath in the river or potted about looking for wildlife. The butterflies were fantastic just about everywhere including the campsite. There were some nice odonata by the stream including *Orthetrum triangulare* and the 'jewel' *Aristocypha hilaryae*. Walking along the track to the east I started to find some interesting footprints. First a whole party of Dhole had passed this way. The I noticed the neat little pugmarks of a Leopard Cat. A big surprise was the very clear pugmark of a Sun Bear crossing the road. And then even more – the pugmarks of a large cat which walked for some distance along the track. Needless to say there was some anticipation as we headed this way after lunch....

Common Winmill and Asian Fairy Bluebird flew over as we headed towards Bulbulia. We could hear but not see Macaques. Bulbuli was fascinating. Here a sulphur spring opens out onto some



boggy ground clearly enjoyed by mammals (Guar and Sambar judging by the foot prints) and birds (Barred Cuckoo Dove mainly judging by the feathers). The local ranger showed us how to light the sulphur bubbling up from a muddy hole. We waited until dark – bats, Barred Owlet and Rufous-bellied Niltava - and then walked back. As usual in Namdapha finding ground dwelling animals proved difficult, but we had some luck with arboreal species. First up predictably was the *candidula* subspecies of Red Giant Flying Squirrel. Next was a Bengal Slow Loris. Surprisingly high in a tree it gave us the runaround for a while. The next species was very special. If we are correct (see comments in systematic list) then we had rediscovered the Namdapha Flying Squirrel. Prior to our visit only the type specimen and one photograph exists to document this species. The ear-tufts (and depressed rostrum) that help to differentiate this genus from *Petaurista* are clearly visible in the photograph.

We arrived back at 7pm very hungry so were able to enjoy the beautifully cooked chicken fully.



Later we went out again in the same direction for around ninety minutes and considering we saw nothing at all on the way out went on the have a sterling time.



Turning we were walking back when Fiona suddenly stood stock still and breathed 'something large, bright orange eyes ...' that was it unfortunately as the animal melted into the undergrowth. However as we were looking at the spot it disappeared we found footprints. These were super fresh and we surmise must have been the animal that just walked across – the pugmarks, later checked were definitely Clouded Leopard! A few moments later and there was a superb and very rare (in India) Small-toothed Palm Civet posing nicely on a cross branch. We made it back to camp to find two *candidula* race Red Giant Squirrels looking down on us and as we turned another flying squirrel. This proved to be our fourth species of the night, and we had great views of it – a White-bellied Giant Flying Squirrel!

Day 6 November 27th Namdapha – Ranjijeel Track

This morning we walked the eastwards trail. Only mammal to report were some Western Hoolock Gibbons. Though we did enjoy the pugmarks of Clouded Leopard from the evening before... Best birds were Wreathed Hornbills and Greater Flameback.

The morning was again spent relaxing, bathing in the stream or wandering about. Fiona's best bird for the day was the Pied Falconet which came and landed on a tree visible from the campsite.

The afternoon was spent walking up to Bulbulia and then on up onto the ridge towards Ranjijeel. The latter was into beautiful habitat with incredible tall trees laden with ferns and other epiphytes. Black-faced Warbler, Nepal Fulvetta and White-crested Laughingthrush were amongst the birds seen. We relaxed awhile as darkness fell and then started the walk back. Full of high hopes... but



alas, the ridge was blank. In two hours we saw not a single mammal! This was a great surprise as the habitat seemed so perfect. Luckily the lower part, through our regular bit, proved more productive. First up was a superb Bengal Slow Loris which we saw very well, much better than yesterday's animal. Next were those tiny flying squirrels which this evening were hyperactive. There were two of them. One flew towards for some distance showing its perfectly square



flying membrane. Next up was the same Small-toothed Palm Civet which after some effort showed well. The last action of the evening was when Fiona spotted an animal crossing the track. A Binturong? Or a Badger? We'll never know....

Day 7 November 28th Namdapha – Ranjijeel Track

An early morning walk along the westwards track was quiet. The gibbons were calling loudly and various hornbills were flying over – we had good views of Wreathed Hornbill. The only other mammals we saw were Malay Giant Squirrel and Orange-bellied Squirrel. Best bird went to Pygmy Wren-Babbler – more wren than wren! And Bay Woodpecker.

The morning was as usual spent relaxing around the camp. I found a way past the elephant destruction into the river and waded half a kilometre downstream. Footprints of a small cat and in particular Short-clawed Otter were noted. I found feathers of Emerald Dove and saw Slaty-backed Forktail, Asian Fairy Bluebird and Black-faced Warbler. There were lots of wonderful butterflies and the glittering *Aristocypha hilaryae* as well as *Neurobasis chinensis*.



The main event today was a lengthy walk up towards Ranjit Jeel between 3pm and 9.30pm. It proved less than productive for mammals. We saw only mice and a couple of the small flying squirrels. And the rare Small-toothed Palm Civet in the same place as yesterday. In daylight

we also spotted Assamese Macaque and Hoary-bellied Squirrel. The mice though were rather good. A fine Indomalayan Pencil-tailed Mouse and a couple of Long-tailed Tree Mice. We heard several Red Muntjac. Birds were good with a flock of Silver-eared Mesias, three Red-headed Trogons, Streaked Spiderhunters, Hill Mynas, White-tailed Robin and a fabulous flocks of Austin's Brown Hornbills. Returning a medium-sized cat had deposited very fresh droppings on the track...



Day 8 November 29th Namdapha – the journey back

This morning started with a walk up the road to bring the trap cameras back. One wasn't working, but one of the other two revealed a that a Leopard Cat had crossed the track and on the same camera twice a Ferret Badger had also made a rapid crossing – unable to tell what species from the images though. We also encountered a troupe of Stump-tailed Macaques moving stealthily through the forest.

Sultan Tits and Scarlet Minivets serenaded us a breakfast. Then it was the eleven kilometre walk down. Mammal wise there was little to record. Hoolock Gibbons caroused loudly for a while. And otherwise it was just squirrels- Red-bellied and Malay Giant. There were some fine birds though. We saw Streaked Wren Babbler, Wreathed and Rufous-necked Hornbills.

Some species butterflies were noted on the way down – notably the Koh-i-Nor and the Jungle Glory.



Due to the presence of Forest Rangers we were confined to barracks tonight. So we took a look at the riverbank and noted two distant Golden Jackals heading out of the forest towards the village.

Day 9 November 30th Namdapha to the Mishmi Hills



We started the morning in the dark walking up the entrance road slowly. Before light came we spotted only a single Red Muntjac. Thereafter was a succession of squirrels including Pallas's, Himalayan Red-bellied and Hoary-bellied Squirrel. The thermal imager spotted some macaques in the ridgetop trees but they were too far away to make out which species they were. The thermal also came up trumps with a distant group of three Guar in the Namdapha Valley opposite. Last mammal of the morning was a noisy Malay Giant Squirrel in the grounds.

After breakfast we started the journey to the Mishmi Hills which was to take the rest the daylight hours. There was endless fascination with the daily life of Assam and latterly Arunachal Pradesh as we journeyed and then landscapes were always green and lush. Eventually as darkness fell we arrived at Frogmouth Camp. A pre-dinner nightwalk proved only that some animals get away! Though we did see a Mithun, the semi-wild hybrid between Guar and Cattle, to some a symbol of Arunachal Pradesh.

Day 10 December 1st Roing Grasslands

This morning we headed down through the little town of Roing in the dark and spent the time from dawn onwards at the Roing Grasslands. Soon after we got out of the car we saw a Golden Jackal. Birds included the globally endangered Black-breasted Parrotbill and a nice Wryneck. What was impressive though was the amount of sign of animals. Trails through the grass told of cattle, but also of Wild Elephants and Wild Boar. We found a dead Wild Boar. There were jackal tracks everywhere and we found some small cat prints presumably Leopard Cat. And inspiring a return visit at night was a lot of Hispid Hare tracks and dung. This hare has distinctive round dung.

We return to Roing town for a late breakfast and later in the afternoon return to the grasslands to see what animals were about. First we checked the bridges over the river but could spot nothing except... Tiger! Well, I really thought it was one, but it turned out to be a cow and its calf. Unfortunately the sand thieves were active with their lorries and JCBs down in the grassland but we managed to get to a quieter bit of it. Even given the disturbance we were mystified as to why we couldn't find those hares nor indeed any other animals! We did have a Golden Jackal walk across a road as we left.

Day 11 December 2nd Mishmi Hill – Mayudia Pass

This morning started at two am! We drove up towards the pass with the intention of giving ourselves a decent amount of time looking for animals in the dark. At Tiwarigon we started spotlighting and soon found our first animal. This was the cute little 'Particoloured' Flying Squirrel.



We went on to find two more, the driver finding one of them before something else was spotted. This a superb Leopard Cat right by the car, unfortunately too close to the car for those on the other side to see before it slunk off into the undergrowth. Mithun were along the roadsides. We reached the old forest station not far below the pass and took a walk, still in the dark, from there. A Himalayan Wood Owl called. We didn't actually see any animals along this section, just eyeshine that

disappeared, and a Mainland Serow that alarmed loudly and snorted fiercely in the vegetation above us.

As dawn broke, and a beautiful dawn it was, we realised what a beautiful montane environment we were in. The trees were stunning, each clothed in epiphytes. The load of moss on the old oaks was really impressive. We hoped to spot Red Panda resting on these but an all day long search proved fruitless. And the Takin didn't wander into the open areas either. So the only mammals we saw during the day were Hoary-bellied and Himalayan Red-bellied Squirrels. And some Assamese Macaques. The bird however were fabulous. Fiona was lucky enough to spot a female Blyth's Tragopan in a gully. There were so many, but a few highlights were Fire-tailed Myzornis, Yellow-billed Himalayan Blue Magpie, Black-throated Parrotbill, Hoary-throated Barwing, Green-tailed Sunbird, Dark-backed Rosefinches, Crimson-browed Finches, Eye-browed Thrush and Collared Owlet

Butterflies were few but did include the Punchinello and the flora was interesting too with Tripterosperrmums, Acers and Hypericums.



Day 12 December 3rd Mishmi Hill – Mayudia Pass

This morning we drive up at two am again. It was not long after we left the hotel that a Large Indian Civet crossed our path, swiftly out of sight. We headed for the near the top of the pass and spent the pre-dawn period there, without success. Himalayan Wood Owls called.

As dawn arrived we headed down to the Sclater's Monal site – this is also a spot where Asiatic Black Bear is often spotted, neither were on view this morning. We had to content ourselves with a surprise Chestnut Thrush and White-collared Blackbirds, We scanned the far slopes and eventually conjured



up a single 'Mishmi' Takin, though it was far from easy to see even through the telescope and disappeared after a minute or so.

Then it was to breakfast – much enjoyed. It is amazing how tasty everything is when you come in from 3°C into a nice warm kitchen!

We spent the rest of the morning trying to look again for Takin, but the brilliant morning sun meant all the slopes we wanted to look at were hardly visible, and for Red Panda. No success though we searched many an



oak tree festooned with half a tonne of moss and associated epiphytes! Amongst the birds this morning were Blue-fronted Redstart, Oriental Honey Buzzard and Striated Laughingthrush.

We went down in time for lunch and relaxed for the afternoon

Day 13 December 4th Mishmi Hill – Mayudia Pass

We decided on a new tactic this morning. An even earlier start! Yes, a midnight-thirty start. This was to give us a decent amount of time before light on the mountain. And this worked much better and we had a productive morning.



We elected to stay mostly in the car spotlighting out the sides and watching the headlamps illumination. The latter paid off again with a Leopard Cat walking across the road. Sideways we spotted several of those delightful little flying squirrels. These are really cute. Usually they are rather fast moving and don't seem to like



the lamps but this morning we found one that allowed us to sit and photograph it at leisure as it snacked on some berries. There was also a roadside Himalayan Owl.

Once over the top of the pass we parked up and walked downhill. The temperature was close to freezing but we were well-wrapped up and full of enthusiasm. The first eyeshine scuttled quickly away, a mustelid we surmised.... Next was a another of those diminutive squirrels. Soon after a giant flying squirrel called. Could it be the Mishmi? We wouldn't know. Next an unidentified nightjar shone brightly. Then below the road a superb Serow close-up and in full view for a minute or so. Things got even better when further down the road Fiona spotted eyeshine and we had mustelids! But this time they didn't disappear and in fact we watched them fascinated for at least ten minutes as



dawn broke around us. Two Siberian Weasels of the subspecies *subhemachalana*. This distinctive subspecies will no doubt be separated in due course as it looks little like a typical Siberian Weasel. It has a more or less uniform orange-brown body with only a pale throat and a black muzzle, and long tail (half or more body length) that has the final quarter black.

I thought I had found a Red Goral with a light showing in the thermal and a goral shaped thing on the ridge above but once we'd got the 'scope we found out it wasn't true!

A flock of a dozen Wreathed Hornbills below us was a surprise.

We took breakfast at the café closest to the pass. Outside were Dark-breasted Rosefinch and Black-faced Laughingthrush. We searched for Red Panda down the other side of the pass for an hour and a half after breakfast but to no avail. Best bird here was an Ultramarine Flycatcher. Then we drove down to the screes and cliffs a few kilometres down. Still no Red Goral. But we had great views of Great Barbets and above the ridge two Himalayan Griffons and a Slender-billed Vulture flew over.

We stopped for lunch at Tiwarigaon and then arrived at Frogmouth camp with a chance to relax before an early dinner. Butterflies around the camp early afternoon included Malay Lacewing, Black Helen, Plum Judy, Large Blue Crow, Great Eggfly and several others...

Day 14 December 5th Mishmi Hill – Mayudia Pass & then to Maguli Beel

We tried again for the midnight-thirty drive up to the pass. Initially we some success with a Leopard Cat on the verge with possibly another one there too. Otherwise mammals were limited to the smaller flying squirrels again. In fact we saw no other mammals even over the pass except for a mystery animal up amongst the deodar moss balls. What was it?



Owls on the other hand were excellent. We started with a nice Mountain Scops which posed well for us. Then a large Brown Wood Owl sat atop an electricity pole by the road. And on the pass itself a Himalayan Owl in the same tree as the mystery mini-animal.

We spent only a little time on the pass this morning before breakfast and heading down for the journey to Maguri Beel. However in that time we saw some rather good birds – a nice male Dark-rumped Rosefinch, Black-eared Shrike-Babbler, Yellow-browed Tit, White-browed Fulvettas, Scaly Laughingthrush and Chestnut Thrushes.

Down at Frogmouth Camp we had time of a cup of tea before heading west. We stopped for a really delicious local thali for lunch en route and arrived early afternoon at Maguri where settled into a rooms – very nice little spot by the river. Around 3pm we headed out for a boat trip. We weren't expecting to see any animals really so it was all about the wetlands rich birdlife which was prolific. Highlights included Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, flocks of Glossy Ibis and Lesser Whistling Ducks, A Lesser Adjutant, and a Jack Snipe, As we returned two Spotted Owlets appeared.

After dark we went on a short night walk. The only mammal was Flying Foxes which were feeding in a fig. Nice. And we saw our 5th owl of the day with great views of Brown Hawk Owl! 5 owls in one day. We must have been out all night...

Day 15 December 6th Dibru-Saikhowa Dolphin cruise

After breakfast we drove through the quiet country lanes spotting a small group of Wild Water Buffalo in the grasslands. We reach the banks of the Lohit River and boarded our Dolphin Cruise. This was aboard a lovely little two-deck boat a little like a miniature Turkish Gullet. There were plants in pots all around it. We cruised steadily downriver for a good while. We scanned the grasslands bordering the river but only came up with cattle. A Common Merganser flew by. We watched the main little boats filling up with sand until they nearly sank then chugging back to the 'civilized' side of the river. As we reached the confluence of the Siang and Lohit Rivers, two of the nine rivers that combine to form the Brahmaputra, the boats captain pointed and there they were – Ganges River Dolphins! We spent the next hour watching them leap out of the water occasionally. They were quite active for a while but activity levels decreased steadily until we saw nothing for more than half an hour – they did surface again as we were leaving. With the sun behind us we could see the mixed grey/pink colouration of the animals breaching the surface. We thought these were mainly youngish animals – we didn't see any very pink ones.



Then it was back to shore and to Dibrugarh Airport where wandered what awaited us as Indigo Airline had run into difficulty the day before. Though our flight was indeed cancelled they had put us on another one only twenty minutes later. We were lucky, most other flights were cancelled.

We arrived into the hubbub of Delhi and reach the hotel at 7pm where Vinod met us for dinner.

Day 16 December 7th Departure

A 06.30 departure on Air India from Delhi Airport all went very smoothly, Delhi's new airport is an oasis of calm!

Systematic List Number 1 Mammals

Western Hoolock Gibbon	<i>Hylobates hoolock</i>	seen daily in Namdapha and low down in the Mishmi Hills
Assamese Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>	seen in all areas
Stump-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca speciosa</i>	just the one troop near Hornbill Camp
Northern Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca leonina</i>	just one troupe at Deban
Bengal Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus bengalensis</i>	two seen east of Hornbill Camp
Mainland Clouded Leopard	<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	one glimpsed by Fiona east of Hornbill Camp was confirmed by the fresh pugmarks where it excited the track
Mainland Leopard Cat	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	at least 3 seen in the middle sections of the Mishmi Hills, with a further record on the trap cameras. Also one on the trap cameras in Namdapha
Large Indian Civet	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>	1 scuttled across the road not far above Frogmouth Camp
Masked Palm Civet	<i>Paguma larvata</i>	1 near Deban
Small-toothed Palm Civet	<i>Arctogalidia trivirgata</i>	1 seen three nights running east of Hornbill Camp. A very rarely recorded species in India
Ferret Badger sp	<i>Melogale</i> sp	we didn't see this species but amusingly one ran across the track just after we passed a trap camera as evidenced by the pics on said camera! And then ran back again...
Siberian Weasel	<i>Mustela sibirica</i>	2 of the distinctive subspecies <i>subhemachalana</i> on the Mayudia Pass watched at close range for ten minutes
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	2 seen in Roing Grasslands. 2 on the Dibang River in Namdapha
Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	4 in Maguri Beel

Flying Squirrels. The nomenclature of this group has been changing rapidly and the understanding of which are species and also to which species a particular taxon should be placed is rather fluid at the moment. So probably more questions than answers in the following treatment –

Red Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>	subspecies <i>candidula</i> . Widespread and common at Namdapha
White-bellied Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista albiventer</i>	1 close by our camp fire at Hornbill Camp!
Flying Squirrel spp	<i>Priapomys</i> sp	see comment below
Parti-coloured Flying Squirrel	<i>Hylopetes alboniger</i>	see comment below

The small flying squirrels were both a delight and a trauma as regards identification on this trip. We saw two quite different animals. The 'colourful' animals we saw regularly on the trips up and down to Mayudia Pass (also possibly down near the river in Namdapha) and a very grey, black and white

species with large ears in Namdapha. They can't both be Parti-coloured. Chinese researchers have recently named a new genus *Priapomys*. I am sure that we saw these. They were in existence previously as *leopardii* subspecies of Parti-coloured and in the Indian Field Guides but it turns out there's actually no records at all from India and its inclusion in some Indian field guides was based on a false premise....

Hairy-footed Flying Squirrel	<i>Belomys pearsoni</i>	1 below the Mayudia Pass, Mishmi Hills
Namdapha Flying Squirrel	<i>Biswamoyopterus biswasi</i>	1 east of Hornbill Camp, Namdapha - see below

The genus *Biswamoyopterus* was described from a single specimen obtained in Namdapha in 1981 and has subsequently not been seen except perhaps one photographic record. There have been numerous articles in newspapers and online claiming to have refound it but the variety of squirrels posing in those photos as the putative *Biswamoyopterus* defies belief. Among the very large flying squirrels of the region the genus *Biswamoyopterus* differs from *Petaurista* in a number of skeletal characteristics which of course we can't see in living specimens. Except one – the characteristically depressed rostrum which in a living animal shows as a more even slope from ears to nose, as opposed to the very pug-nosed appearance of *Petaurista* squirrels. Thus *Petaurista* show a sudden curvature downwards not far in front of the eye. The other easily noticeable feature distinguishing *Biswamoyopterus* from *Petaurista* is the presence of ear-tufts and these are clearly visible in the photograph especially the anterior ones which are clearly white. Another *Biswamoyopterus* was discovered in Laos in 2015 and since Chinese researchers have discovered two more specimens not far across the border. What the specimens are is open to question. They seem to represent 4 different species (in only 4 specimens) but I guess they may all be the same.

Orange-bellied

Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>	widespread and common
Pallas's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>	frequent
Hoary-bellied Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>	frequent Mishmi Hills
Himalayan Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops maclellandii</i>	a few seen in Namdapha
Long-tailed Tree Mouse	<i>Vandeleuria oleracea</i>	noted one two nights in Namdapha
Indomalayan		
Pencil-tailed Mouse	<i>Chiropodomys gliroides</i>	one between Bulbulia and Ranjijeel, Namdapha
Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	3 from Deban, Namdapha
Mithrun	<i>Bos frontalis</i>	seen frequently on the Mishmi Hills, a semi-wild hybrid between Guar and cattle
Wild Buffalo	<i>Bubalis arnee</i>	6 seen near Maguli Beel
Maned Serow	<i>Capricornis sumatraensis</i>	1 seen well on the north side of the Mayudia Pass, another one heard south side
Takin	<i>Budorcas taxicolor</i>	Nominate subspecies. 1 seen north of the Mayudia Pass
Northern Red Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i>	seen twice at Namdapha, heard hear and there throughout
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	a dead one at Roing grasslands
Gangetic Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	3-4 at Dibru-Saikhowa

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

The taxonomy and nomenclature is taken from Grimmet, Inskipp & Inskipp (1998). Birding was not the primary purpose of this trip – we spent much of our time out at night not in the day time and for much of the time were concentrated on looking for mammals. Nevertheless the birding is excellent in this part of India and we still saw a range of good species.

Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>	heard several times in Namdapha
Blyth's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan blythii</i>	a female seen by Fiona on the Mayudia Pass, also heard there on more than one occasion
Grey Peacock Pheasant	<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	Heard at Namdapha
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Maguli Bheel
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Maguli Bheel
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Maguli Bheel
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Maguli Bheel
Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	Maguli Bheel
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Maguli Bheel
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Maguli Bheel
Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Maguli Bheel
Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Maguli Bheel
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	On the river at Dibru-Saikhowa
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	1 at Roing Grasslands
Greater Yellownap	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>	Namdapha
Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Namdapha
Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	Namdapha and Mishmi Hills
Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	Namdapha and Mishmi Hills
Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	Namdapha
Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Common at Namdapha
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Namdapha
Rufous-necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	Namdapha – quite frequent around Hornbill camp
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	Namdapha – quite frequent around Hornbill camp. Also a surprise group on the Mayudia Pass
Austen's Brown Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus austeni</i>	Namdapha – quite frequent around Hornbill camp
Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	Namdapha
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Subspecies <i>affinis</i> . Noted on journeys near Miao
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	open country
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halycon smyrnensis</i>	Just 1 along the Noa Dehing by Deban
Himalayan Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	Scattered
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Namdapha
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>	Scattered
Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>	Scattered
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	Mayudia Pass
Himalayan Owl	<i>Strix niviculum</i>	seen well Mayudia Pass
Mountain Scops Owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	Namdapha
Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	Mayudia Pass
Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	Namdapha
Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Maguli Bheel
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	Maguli Bheel
Brown Hawk Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Mayudia Pass
Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	Noted near habitation
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	1 Namdapha
Pale-capped Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba punicea</i>	open country
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	3 at Kaziranga
Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	feathers Namdapha, 1 seen Mayudia Pass
Barred Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>	Scattered
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Miao
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>	Namdapha and Mishmi Hills
Mountain Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	Maguli Bheel
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	

Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Maguli Bheel
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Maguli Bheel
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	1 Maguli Bheel
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Maguli Bheel
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Maguli Bheel
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Maguli Bheel
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Maguli Bheel
Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Maguli Bheel
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Maguli Bheel
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Maguli Bheel
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Maguli Bheel
River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	Dibang River, Deban
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Maguli Bheel
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Maguli Bheel
Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	1 Mayudia Pass
Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	1 Mayudia Pass
Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayana</i>	2 Mayudia Pass
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	scattered
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Roing Grasslands
Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	Roing Grasslands and Mishmi Hills
Pied Falconet	<i>Microhierax melanoleucos</i>	1 seen by Fiona at Hornbill Camp, Namdapha
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinunculus</i>	Scattered
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Maguli Bheel
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Deban
Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	scattered
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	scattered
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Scattered
Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Maguli Bheel
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Maguli Bheel
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	scattered
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Maguli Bheel
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	Maguli Bheel
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Scattered
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Maguli Bheel
Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>	Namdapha
Asian Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	Namdapha and Mishmi Hills
Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	Widespread. 8/16
Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	Namdapha
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	open country
Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	open country
Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	common Mayudia Pass
Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>	Namdapha
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Maguli Bheel
Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	Deban, Namdapha
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	open country
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	open country
Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	Namdapha
Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	Namdapha
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	Widespread and very common
Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>	Widespread and common
White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Widespread and common
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	open country
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Widespread
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	Common at Namdapha
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	Namdapha, Mishmi Hills
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	Namdapha
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	Dibang River, Namdapha
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Mayudia Pass
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	widespread
Eye-browed Thrush	<i>Turdus obscurus</i>	a female on the Mayudia Pass

Chestnut Thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>	several Mayudia Pass
White-collared Blackbird	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>	2 Mayudia Pass
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypererythra</i>	Mayudia Pass
Slaty-blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	Namdapha
Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>	male Mayudia Pass
Large Niltava	<i>Niltava grandis</i>	Namdapha
Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>	A male Bulbulia, Namdapha
Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	scattered
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Widespread
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Maguli Bheel
Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>	Dibang River, Namdapha
Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	Mayudia Pass
White-capped Water Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Common along rivers
Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	Common along rivers
White-tailed Robin	<i>Myiomela leucura</i>	Namdapha and Mayudia Pass
Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	Locally quite common at Namdapha
White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	Namdapha
Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	Namdapha
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	open country
Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	1 at Deban, Namdapha
Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	Maguli Bheel
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	open country
Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	open country
White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres cinereus</i>	1 at Maguli Bheel
Golden-crested Myna	<i>Ampeliceps coronatus</i>	Roing Grasslands
Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	scattered
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>	Namdapha
Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	Mayudia Pass
Yellow-cheeked Tit	<i>Parus spilonotus</i>	Mayudia Pass
Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	Mayudia Pass
Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	Common at Namdapha
Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	scattered throughout
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Maguli Bheel
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Roing
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Widespread and common
White-throated Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus flaveolus</i>	common at Namdapha
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	common at Namdapha
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	Roing
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Mayudia Pass
Grey-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>	frequent at Namdapha
Mountain Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus cuculatus</i>	Namdapha
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	Namdapha
Ashy-throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	frequent on the Mayudia Pass
Lemon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	Mayudia Pass
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Scattered at Namdapha. 3/16
Grey-cheeked Warbler	<i>Seicercus poliogenys</i>	Namdapha
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>	Namdapha and Mayudia Pass
Black-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>	Namdapha
Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>	Namdapha
White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	frequent at Namdapha
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>	Locally common at Namdapha
Rufous-vented Laughingthrush	<i>Dryonastes gularis</i>	one group in Namdapha
Blue-winged Laughingthrush	<i>Trochopteron squamatum</i>	Namdapha and Mayudia Pass
Scaly Laughingthrush	<i>Trochopteron subunicolor</i>	Mayudia Pass
Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Trochopteron affine</i>	Mayudia Pass
Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Grammatoptila striata</i>	Mayudia Pass
Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	Namdapha
Large Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus hypoleucos</i>	heard only Namdapha
Red-billed Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps</i>	Namdapha
Streaked Wren-Babbler	<i>Napothera brevicaudata</i>	scattered in Namdpaha

Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler	<i>Napothera epilepidota</i>	1 in Namdapha
Pygmy Wren Babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	1 in Namdapha
Golden Babbler	<i>Stachyris chrysaea</i>	Mayudia Pass
Striped Tit Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis.</i>	Mayudia Pass
Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	Roing
Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argentaurus</i>	Namdapha and Mayudia Pass
White-browed Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>	scattered in Namdapha
Black-eared Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius melanotis</i>	Mayudia Pass
White-hooded Babbler	<i>Gampsorynchus rufulus</i>	several groups in bamboo Namdapha
Rusty-fronted Barwing	<i>Actinodura egertoni</i>	Namdapha & Mayudia Pass
Chestnut-tailed Minla	<i>Minla strigula</i>	Mayudia Pass twice
Red-tailed Minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>	Namdapha
White-browed Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe vinipectus</i>	6 Mayudia Pass
Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	Namdapha & Mayudia Pass
Rufous-backed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia annectans</i>	Namdapha
Beautiful Sibia	<i>Heterophasia pulchella</i>	Mayudia Pass
Long-tailed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	Namdapha & Mayudia Pass
Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>	Mayudia Pass
Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>	Maguli Bheel
Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	quite common throughout
White-bellied Yuhina	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>	Mayudia Pass
Black-breasted Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis flavirostris</i>	Roing
Black-throated Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis nipalensis</i>	Namdapha & Mayudia Pass
Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>	Roing
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	Maguli Bheel
Van Hasselt's Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliana</i>	Namdapha
Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	Namdapha & Mayudia Pass
Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothora magna</i>	common at Namdapha
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Mayudia Pass
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Local – mostly rural habitation
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Widespread
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Maguli Bheel
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Maguli Bheel
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Maguli Bheel
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	1 at Maguli Bheel
Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	Maguli Bheel
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Mayudia Pass
Dark-breasted Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus nipalensis</i>	Mayudia Pass
Dark-rumped Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus edwardsii</i>	Mayudia Pass
Crimson-browed Finch	<i>Propyrrhula subhimachala</i>	Mayudia Pass