

# Northeast India

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

April - May 2015

Jeppe Bundgaard and Ben Schweinhart



Photo © Ben Schweinhart

# 1 Introduction

Northeast India is among the most exciting wildlife-watching destinations in the world - Assam has perhaps the highest concentration of large mammals outside of Africa, and Arunachal Pradesh a stunning diversity of birds. This goal of this trip was to observe as many of the mammals and birds of the region as possible, while exploring beautiful natural environments from the high Himalayas to the grasslands at their base, and lush cloud forests in between. This was long one of Ben's most wanted trips, and he took it to celebrate the completion of his PhD thesis.

We arranged the logistics independently, and did not use guides except at Manas and Kaziranga. This led to some minor logistical difficulties, but we hope that future travelers will be able to avoid them with the help of this report. Nevertheless, it was a very successful trip and we saw most of our targets, including all possible birds endemic to the eastern Himalayas (with the exception of the newly split Himalayan Forest Thrush, which was heard only).

We stayed at Kaziranga NP, Manas NP, Eaglenest WLS (Lamacamp and Bongpu), and Dirang, in that order. The trip was timed so that we would spend the last few days of April in Kaziranga, before its usual May 1 closing, and to see Gould's Shortwing after its arrival to its breeding grounds at Sela Pass (after May 15).

This trip report begins with an overview of the logistics, followed by a description of each site visited, and ends with an annotated list of the species observed. Some of Ben's and Jeppe's photos are included. Larger versions of Ben's photos are on his website, [www.tremarctos.com](http://www.tremarctos.com). If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ben at [ben@tremarctos.com](mailto:ben@tremarctos.com)

As of the time of the writing of this report, the Rainforest Trust is raising money to protect the habitat around Lamacamp at Eaglenest. Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary begins a few kilometers above Lamacamp, so the only known location for the critically endangered Bugun Liocichla (only four pairs known) has no official protection. Please consider donating: [link](#)

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Alternative Sites</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Logistics</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1	Transport . . . . .	9
4.2	Approximate Travel Times . . . . .	11
4.3	Guides . . . . .	12
4.4	Itinerary . . . . .	13
4.5	Costs . . . . .	14
<b>5</b>	<b>Sounds</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Kaziranga</b>	<b>17</b>
8.1	Notable Mammals . . . . .	18
8.2	Missed Mammals . . . . .	19
8.3	Notable Birds . . . . .	19
8.4	Missed Birds . . . . .	20
8.5	Also notable . . . . .	20
<b>9</b>	<b>Manas</b>	<b>22</b>
9.1	Notable Mammals . . . . .	23
9.2	Missed Mammals . . . . .	24
9.3	Notable Birds . . . . .	24
9.4	Missed Birds . . . . .	26
<b>10</b>	<b>Sessa</b>	<b>27</b>
10.1	Notable Birds . . . . .	28
10.2	Notable Mammals . . . . .	28
10.3	Also Notable . . . . .	28
<b>11</b>	<b>Eaglenest Road</b>	<b>29</b>

11.1	Maps . . . . .	34
11.2	Notable Birds . . . . .	38
11.3	Birds Missed . . . . .	44
11.4	Mammals seen . . . . .	45
11.5	Notable mammals missed . . . . .	45
11.6	Also Notable . . . . .	46
<b>12</b>	<b>Dirang</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Sangti Valley</b>	<b>47</b>
13.1	Map . . . . .	47
13.2	Notable birds . . . . .	49
13.3	Mammals . . . . .	49
<b>14</b>	<b>Mandala Road</b>	<b>49</b>
14.1	Map . . . . .	50
14.2	Notable Birds . . . . .	52
14.3	Missed Birds . . . . .	53
<b>15</b>	<b>Sela Pass</b>	<b>54</b>
15.1	Map . . . . .	55
15.2	Notable Birds . . . . .	57
15.3	Missed Birds . . . . .	58
15.4	Mammals . . . . .	59
<b>16</b>	<b>Summary of GPS Coordinates</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Mammal Trip List</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Bird Trip List</b>	<b>63</b>





Indian Rhinos at Kaziranga (BS)

## 2 Alternative Sites

Nameri is a site most birders following this itinerary visit, but we skipped it due to time constraints and because one of us (Jeppe) had already seen White-winged Duck in Cambodia and Sumatra. In addition to the Duck, White-cheeked Partridge and Pied Falconet are possible there. The Partridge is difficult because you cannot get to the right spot early in the morning. To see the Duck, it is essential to be the first across the river in the morning. Nameri is located forty-five minutes north of Tezpur, on the way into Arunachal Pradesh.

With more time, one might want to visit sites further east, including Dibru-Saikhowa (for rare grassland birds, especially Marsh Babbler, Jerdon's Babbler, Black-breasted Parrotbill, and Swamp Prinia. Note that Slender-billed Babbler does not occur here), Gibbon WLS (for wild Hoolock Gibbons), and the Mishmi Hills (for Mishmi Wren-babbler, Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler, Sclater's Monal, Rusty-bellied Shortwing, and perhaps a chance at Mishmi Takin). Blyth's Tragopan is supposedly easier at Mishmi than at Eaglenest, so one might be able to save some time by only trying hard for it at that site. Namdapha is another interesting site, for Snowy-throated Babbler and White-bellied Heron in particular. While it does contain higher elevation habitat, it is apparently quite difficult to access. [kolkatabirds.com](http://kolkatabirds.com) is a good place to read about these sites.



Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler at Mandala (JB)

### 3 Timing

As birds at different elevations breed at different times, there is no one “right” timeframe for a trip to NE India, and one should decide based on his or her target species.

A limiting factor is the onset of the monsoon. Kaziranga usually closes on May 1, but sometimes earlier or later depending on the timing of the first heavy rain of the season. The Eastern Range was only open during one afternoon and one morning of our three days there, due to rain. Manas is open later, but the grasslands containing Black-breasted Parrotbill and other specialties are often inaccessible by the end of May. Rains begin at Eaglenest sometime in early June, and the amount of rain steadily increases from March onward, though the amount of fog is purported to decrease.

The grassland birds at Kaziranga and Manas are generally easy anytime from the start of the breeding season (March?) until the onset of rains. Bengal Florican was displaying in early May, and apparently does so from early April until early June. Pygmy Hog only possible after the grasslands are burned at Manas, usually in January or February (ask Rustom for details). If one is interested in wintering species - particularly White-tailed Rubythroat at



Bengal Florican Displaying at Manas (BS)

Kaziranga, Hodgson's Bushchat at Manas, and Ibisbill at Nameri, earlier is better. They had departed by the time of our trip.

Most tour groups visit Eaglenest during April, and we found that early-to-mid May was past the ideal time for several species. Blyth's Tragopan was silent during our time there, and the Cochoas were only occasionally vocal and did not appear particularly responsive to playback. Neither we nor any tour groups that overlapped with us found adult male Ward's Trogons, and we speculate that they were on the nest at this time. Birds at higher elevations were noticeably more responsive to playback in May than those lower down. However, we saw almost all of our target species, and birding at Eaglenest may be less pleasant in April due to the presence of many tour groups.

The main reason to go to NE India in May rather than April is the presence of birds at the highest elevations. In particular, Gould's Shortwing does not arrive on its breeding grounds at Sela Pass until (usually) mid May (and does not become abundant until the first week of June). It is very easy to see there, where it hops around in the open, in contrast to its skulky behavior during migration. However, tour groups have recently had good luck seeing it in migration at Mayodia Pass in the Mishmi Hills in April. Other birds may be easier to see at Sela Pass after mid-May, including White-browed and Rufous-breasted Bush-robins.

## 4 Logistics

We arranged Kaziranga through Wildgrass Lodge ([wildgrasskaziranga@gmail.com](mailto:wildgrasskaziranga@gmail.com)), and Manas through Rustom Bastumatory (contacted via facebook, cell: 78



Monocle Cobra at Kaziranga (JB)

96 946621, email: rustommmes80@gmail.com. The logistics went smoothly for this part of the trip.

Logistics at Eaglenest were organized by Indi Glow (phuarung@gmail.com), who is the head of the Bugun community and runs Lamacamp. He has done great work for conservation, and has played a large role in the establishment and protection of Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary. However, he was sometimes hard to get in touch with, and we believe it would be easier for an independent birder to arrange logistics at Eaglenest and Dirang through Suraj Kumar. Suraj is based in Tenga, and is probably easier to get and stay in touch with. His business card lists several contact numbers - 9436823168, 9402943584, 9402235636, and 8729906999 (try all of them, as cell service is very unpredictable). Another possibility is Guarav Kataria (katgaurav@gmail.com) of Eaglenest Birding, who is the head of the organization running Bongpu<sup>1</sup> camp and is an enthusiastic bird photographer.

To enter Arunachal Pradesh, a Restricted Area Permit is required. We obtained ours through Indi Glow, and we are sure Suraj Kumar or Guarav Kataria could do the same. They seem pretty easy to get, and in a recent change, you only need to travel in a group of at least two people to apply for one (though it is probably possible to get one as an individual).

We found it very useful to have a cell phone, and Airtel probably has the best coverage. Surprisingly, we were able to check email even at Bompu camp -

---

<sup>1</sup>Bongpu is almost universally referred to as Bompu. Bongpu is the original tribal name of the area, and Bompu is a corruption of that. However, to avoid confusion, we will call it Bompu for the rest of the report.





Fire-tailed Myzornis at Sela (BS)

the local staff know where the best spots are to get signal. Unfortunately, it can be difficult for a foreigner to acquire a SIM card in India. The best approach might be to purchase one at the airport, where the staff are familiar with the procedure. Make sure to get roaming for coverage in NE India. See here for more details: [link](#).

## 4.1 Transport

We arranged taxis from Guwahati Airport to Kaziranga, and from Kaziranga to Manas through Wildgrass Lodge. Rustom coordinated transportation inside Manas, and from Manas to Tezpur.

We met our driver for Eaglenest in Tezpur, and stayed with him until we left Eaglenest. We were unhappy with him for several reasons. Foremost among these was that he severely underestimated the amount of fuel for our time at Eaglenest, despite having driven there for tour groups before and knowing how long we were staying. Even though we repeatedly asked him if we had sufficient fuel, we ran out twice and had to wait for more to be sent from Tenga. As a result, we were only able to spend one morning at Sessni (it is inadvisable to walk below Bompou without a car nearby, due to the presence of elephants). Luckily, that was enough time to see Rufous-necked Hornbill



Asian Elephant at Kaziranga (BS)

and Beautiful Nuthatch but we very much wanted to go back for photos. So definitely bring extra fuel at the beginning, and make sure the driver knows how much you want to drive. Secondly, the driver did not seem particularly aware of animals crossing the road, and did not know how to stop slowly when one did. The worst moment was when he scared a melanistic Asian Golden Cat that was resting in the center of the road, after he braked very fast when we told him to stop (we have no idea how he did not see the animal first!). When we asked him about what he had seen in his years of driving the road at Eaglenest, he claimed to have never seen a Cat (we saw three in our limited time there) and to have run over a Bear. Thirdly, he became unhappy with us because we had him drive longer hours than expected. Finally, the vehicle often smelled vaguely of marijuana when we returned to the vehicle after long hours in the forest searching for Tragopans. Perhaps this is why he was so unaware.

As a result of these problems, we switched drivers when we returned to Tenga, and negotiated to pay more for longer hours. The new one was much better! He was joined by his friend Umesh who spoke English, and they never complained about long hours. They stopped even when small rodents crossed the road! Unfortunately, he was unfamiliar with Eaglenest, otherwise we would recommend that people hire him for the entire trip. Umesh can be contacted at 097 45 508698 or 094 36 276084.

So, the lessons to be learned are (1) let the driver know beforehand the hours



Snow Partridge at Sela (JB)

you expect of him, and negotiate to pay him more for that service, (2) bring extra fuel, and (3) tell Suraj Kumar (or whoever arranges your logistics) that it is imperative that a driver know how to stop slowly for mammals and birds crossing the road. We hope that future travelers won't have to deal with the same problems!

## 4.2 Approximate Travel Times

Guwahati to Kaziranga: 3 hours

Guwahati to Manas: 5 hours

Guwahati to Dirang: 8.5 hours

Mothanguri to Maozigendri:

Mothanguri to Golden Langur Site: 2 hours

Tezpur to Kaziranga: 45 minutes

Tezpur to Manas: 7-8 hours

Tezpur to Tenga: 4-5 hours

Tezpur to Nameri: 45 minutes

Tenga to Lamacamp: 1 hour



Black-breasted Parrotbill at Manas (BS)

Dirang to Sela Pass: 2.5-3 hours

Dirang to Mandala Road: 45 Minutes

Dirang to Sangti Valley: 20 minutes

### 4.3 Guides

We used guides in Kaziranga (Tarun) and Manas (Rustom). We found it useful to have guides in the large national parks, as they could communicate well with the drivers and knew some of the good places to stop. They could also advise on safety when in the presence of large herbivores. This is also a strong argument in favor of having a guide at Eaglenest, though we did enjoy birding on our own.

We met several other guides in the field in Arunachal. In general, we advise that all information from local guides be taken with a grain (or more) of salt. Many of them do not know how to identify birds and mammals by sight or sound, and claim questionable sightings of rare or out-of-range birds and mammals.

If one wants to hire a guide for Northeast India, we recommend Shashank





Capped Langur at Manas (BS)

Dalvi without reservation. He is an outstanding birder, and was always very helpful with information. He can be contacted at [shashank.da@gmail.com](mailto:shashank.da@gmail.com).

#### 4.4 Itinerary

April 27: Arrive Guwahati, afternoon at Kaziranga

April 28-30: Full days at Kaziranga

May 1: Transit to Manas (eight hour drive), afternoon in park

May 2-3: Full days at Manas

May 4: morning Manas, afternoon to Tezpur

May 5: transit to Eaglenest

May 6 -10: Lamacamp

May 10-17: Bompu

May 17: Transit to Lamacamp

May 18: Lamacamp in morning, transfer to Dirang in afternoon

May 19 - 23: Dirang Area

May 23: morning Mandala, transit to Tenga

May 24: morning Sessa, transfer to Guwahati via dolphins at Tezpur



Grandala at Sela (BS)

## 4.5 Costs

### **Wildgrass** (email them for up-to-date prices)

- Car from Guwahati Airport to Wildgrass: Rs 4100
- Lodging (does not include food): Rs 2600 per person per night (for a single room)
- Car from Guwahati to Manas: Rs 5000
- Cost for half day in the park: 1900-2500 Rs (depending on the range)
- Guide fee: Rs 1500 per day

### **Manas**

- Guide fee: Rs 1500 per day
- Jeep: Rs 5000 per day
- Entry fee: Rs 500 per person
- Lodging and board: Rs 2500 per person per night
- Golden Langur fee: Rs 1000 per person



Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie at Eaglenest (BS)

### **Eaglenest**

- Note that we had a discount because we knew a good friend of Indi Glow. Expect the prices to be higher.
- Car: Rs 2000/day (but you should pay more than this so the driver will be ok with long hours)
- Eaglenest board and lodge: Rs. 2500 per person per night
- Eaglenest Community fee: Rs 250 per person per day
- Restricted Area Permit: Rs. 4000 per person
- Lodging and Board for Driver at Eaglenest: Rs 1000 per day

### **Dirang**

- Car: Rs 4000/day (for longer hours)
- Hotel Pemaling: Rs 1500 per person per night

## **5 Sounds**

We downloaded sounds from xeno-canto.org, AVoCet, and the Macaulay Library. Ben memorized all vocalizations of the possible species. We found this

to be very useful, not only for detecting skulkers, but also for a few other species that are inconspicuous except by voice (Asian Emerald Cuckoo and Yellow-rumped Honeyguide in particular).

## 6 Acknowledgements

We would especially like to thank Umesh Srivinasan, without whose help this trip would not have been possible. Shashank Dalvi also provided excellent and detailed information. We would also like to thank James Eaton, Lieven de Temmerman, and Bernard Van Elegen.

## 7 References

- [http://www.kolkatabirds.com/sites.htm#North-eastern India](http://www.kolkatabirds.com/sites.htm#North-eastern%20India) : an excellent source of information
- <http://www.mammalwatching.com/Oriental/orientindia.html> : a good source of information about mammal-watching
- [http://www.netfugl.dk/trip\\_reports/asia/India\\_AssamMeghalaya\\_January2011\\_UGS.pdf](http://www.netfugl.dk/trip_reports/asia/India_AssamMeghalaya_January2011_UGS.pdf) : good information about Manas
- [www.cloudbirders.com](http://www.cloudbirders.com) - many trip reports from organized tours
- Richard Grimmet, Carol Inskipp, and Tim Inskipp, *Birds of India*, Princeton Field Guides, 2012 - the best field guide to the birds of the region
- Vivek Menon, *Mammals of India*, Princeton Field Guides, 2009 - not very good, but perhaps the new version published by Hachette India is better.





The Eastern Range of Kaziranga (BS)

## 8 Kaziranga

Kaziranga NP is divided into Western, Central, and Eastern ranges. The former two are dominated by grassland with various wetlands in between, while the track in the Eastern range is just inside the forest adjacent to a broad floodplain with short, marshy vegetation. Large mammals are found in impressive numbers in all three ranges. The herbivores are guaranteed, but Tiger requires more effort. We only heard that large cat, despite trying hard for it. The hours when one is allowed inside the park are quite limited, which we found annoying. In particular, the park opens long after dawn in April.

Two full days is sufficient to see all of the large herbivores at Kaziranga, and explore all three ranges. More time is needed only if one wants to try hard for Tiger, though it is much easier at sites further west in India. Those interested only in birds may want to skip Kaziranga entirely, and see the grassland birds at either Manas or Dibru-Saikhowa, and Blue-naped Pitta at Eaglenest (though we only heard it there).

We were told that Slender-billed Babbler, Jerdon's Babbler, and Marsh Bab-



Asian Elephant (BS)



Indian Rhino (BS)



Pale-capped Pigeon (JB)



Wild Water Buffalo (BS)

bler were possible at Kaziranga, but we did not detect any of them despite much trying. The latter two may only be at Debeswari, which is closed to tourists (and also contains populations of Bengal Florican and Black-breasted Parrotbill).

Tea plantations near Kaziranga contain several interesting birds, including Blue-naped Pitta, Violet Cuckoo, and Rufous-necked Laughingthrush. Tarun knew a site for the Pitta that was apparently different than the usual one, and we found the bird to be very responsive.

We stayed at Wildgrass Lodge, which we found to be convenient and nice. The proprietor was very helpful with logistical questions about the rest of our trip. They did not have internet.

## 8.1 Notable Mammals

1. Indian Rhino - Omnipresent.
2. Tiger - heard only in the Eastern Range. Difficult to see in the tall grasslands of Kaziranga, but possible due to the large population. Tarun thought there were equally easy in all three ranges, though his statements on the matter were inconsistent.
3. Hoolock Gibbon - a lone male in Panbari was a rehabilitated individual. We only learned this after leaving Kaziranga, otherwise we would have spent a morning at Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary (about a three hour drive away).
4. Asian Elephant - seen everyday



Blue-naped Pitta (JB)



Hog Deer (BS)

5. Wild Water Buffalo - seen everyday
6. Swamp Deer - most common in the Eastern Range.
7. Smooth-coated Otter - a group seen in the Western Range

## 8.2 Missed Mammals

1. Hog Badger - possible just before dark. It would perhaps be easy if night drives were allowed.
2. Fishing Cat - probably impossible due to the ban on night drives

## 8.3 Notable Birds

1. Swamp Francolin - common
2. Greater Adjutant - several at Deepor Beel in the Western Range.
3. Spot-billed Pelican - common
4. Slender-billed Vulture - feeding on a rhino carcass in the western range
5. Pallas' Fish-Eagle - seen every day
6. Watercock - an adult male in the central range
7. Pale-capped Pigeon - A surprise. One at the Eastern Range on April 30. We speculate that it breeds here during the summer, when the park is closed.



Violet Cuckoo (BS)



Pale-chinned Flycatcher (JB)

8. Violet Cuckoo - one in the tea garden, and another heard flying over the main road
9. Blue-naped Pitta - One in a small forest patch outside the park. Tarun knows a better place for this than the usual tea garden site.
10. Rufous-necked Laughingthrush - A few seen in the tea garden
11. Pale-chinned Flycatcher - seen at Panbari, also heard in forested habitats in the Central and Eastern Ranges.
12. Finn's Weaver - A couple in the central range.

#### **8.4 Missed Birds**

1. Bengal Florican - perhaps only at Debeswari
2. Slender-billed Babbler - sometimes seen in the Central and Western range.
3. Black-breasted Parrotbill - only at Debeswari
4. Jerdon's Babbler - perhaps only at Debeswari
5. Marsh Babbler - perhaps only at Debeswari

#### **8.5 Also notable**

1. Monocle Cobra - one in the western range. Identified by the local guide as a King Cobra...



2. Assam Roof Turtle - a few in the western range



Finn's Weaver (JB)



Yellow-footed Pigeon(BS)



Brown Fish-Owl (BS)

## 9 Manas



The View from Mothanguri (BS)

Manas is a large national park on the Bhutanese border, composed of about half grassland and half forest. It is much better than Kaziranga for the grassland birds, and we saw all of the specialties except Marsh Babbler and Finn's Weaver. The forested habitats also afford opportunities to see mammals and birds not easily found at Kaziranga.

We decided to add Manas to our itinerary late in the planning process, but it was definitely worthwhile. It took about eight hours to drive there from Kaziranga, and a little less to drive back to Tezpur. If we had not already purchased our airline tickets, it would have made more sense to go to Manas first, as Kaziranga is closer to Eaglenest.

We organized our time in Manas through a local guide, Rustom Bastumatory. We contacted him through facebook, but he can also be reached by phone (78 96 946621) and email (rustommmes80@gmail.com). We spent two nights at Mothanguri and two at Maozigendri. Mothanguri is located deep inside the park, just across the river from Bhutan. It is a very scenic location, and affords easy access to two grasslands called Kuribil and Sorfuli which are home to many species of range-restricted birds. The forest in the area



Bengal Florican, Displaying (BS)



Rufous-necked Laughingthrush (JB)



Golden Langur (BS)



Spot-bellied Eagle-owl (BS)

is beautiful and contains a wealth of mammals. Though night drives are technically not allowed, the rules can be stretched when leaving early in the morning and returning late in the afternoon.

Maozigendri is located on the eastern border of the park. It is close to the Koklabari Seed Farm, an important site for Bengal Florican, as well as a third grassland, Makhibahan. It appears that Rustom is at least partially in charge of this lodge.

We also visited a farm a couple hours outside the park to view the endangered Golden Langur. It is also possible to see Ganges River Dolphins near that site, but the boat was unavailable.

## 9.1 Notable Mammals

1. Capped Langur - common around Mothanguri
2. Golden Langur - a family group seen near a farm a couple hours from Manas
3. Indian Leopard - three seen near Mothanguri, a single on the first night and a pair the following evening. Both sightings were at dusk.
4. Asian Elephant - seen a few times
5. Indian Rhino - a single seen at Sorfuli grassland. This mammal was



Gaur (BS)



Indian Leopard (JB)

recently reintroduced to Manas.

6. Gaur - seen daily
7. Wild Water Buffalo - seen once at a water hole near Makhibahan grassland. Reputedly the purest population of this species.

## 9.2 Missed Mammals

1. Pygmy Hog - only possible soon after the grasslands are burned (perhaps in February? ask Rustom for details).
2. Hispid Hare - we were told we had a 90% chance to see this rare, endangered lagomorph near Maozigendri but were right to be skeptical as they turned out to be Indian Hares.
3. Tiger - only 18 in the park, but increasing
4. Dhole - sightings are quite common, but we didn't run into any

## 9.3 Notable Birds

1. Swamp Francolin - heard only in Makhibahan grassland. Not as common as at Kaziranga.
2. Malayan Night-heron - heard only, both in tall forest near Mothanguri, and second-growth near Maozigendri. Frustratingly not seen after much effort.





Slender-billed Babbler (BS)



Jerdon's Babbler (JB)

3. Jerdon's Baza - one seen perched near Mothanguri, one on the way back from Makhibahan grassland
4. Bengal Florican - several seen flying at Sorfuli grassland, and two seen displaying at Koklabari Seed Farm near Maozigendri. Observing the spectacular display of this rare bird was one of the highlights of the trip.
5. Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl - a pair seen on the way back from Kuribil grassland, and a single on the way to Makhibahan grassland. An impressive bird.
6. Bristled Grassbird - one seen at Sorfuli grassland
7. Indian (Rufous-rumped) Grassbird - one seen at Makhibahan grassland.
8. Rufous-necked Laughingthrush - common
9. Jerdon's Babbler - a few seen and several more heard at Makhibahan grassland
10. Black-breasted Parrotbill - a pair seen at Kuribil grassland, and several observed at Makhibahan grassland
11. Slender-billed Babbler - small flocks seen at Sorfuli grassland and Makhibahan grassland. It took a lot of searching to find this one - perhaps it moves around a lot.
12. Pale-chinned Blue-flycatcher - common in forest





Bristled Grassbird (BS)



Black Giant Squirrel (BS)

#### 9.4 Missed Birds

1. Greater Adjutant - possible at Koklabari Seed Farm, but we did not see any. Perhaps we would have tried harder if we hadn't seen it at Kaziranga.
2. Marsh Babbler - Rustom has seen them in all three grasslands, but we did not see or hear any.
3. Finn's Weaver

## 10 Sessa



Blyth's Kingfisher (JB)



Green Cochoa (JB)

On the way from Tezpur to Eaglenest, the main road passes through Sessa Orchid Sanctuary. The habitats are similar to those below Bompu, and many of the same birds can be found there. However, a few species are easier to see at Sessa, though the traffic can be quite annoying.

Blyth's Kingfisher is the key bird to see at Sessa. It is also present at Eaglenest at a bridge below Khellong, but that area is currently off-limits due to the presence of guerillas. We saw this rare bird in an area where the road parallels a small stream (GPS coordinates: N27.10091 E092.53567). It took about twenty minutes of waiting at this site before a Kingfisher flew quickly down the stream and perched briefly. Later, it flew across the road and into some vegetation where it called out-of-sight (perhaps near a nest). Yellow-vented Warbler was also quite common at this spot.

Shashank Dalvi recommended another place to look for the Kingfisher: a bridge soon after the border between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. It is located near the 8 kilometer mark, and the Kingfisher can be seen along the stream to the left of the road. It did not show in our forty minute wait there, but we did see Assam Macaque.

There is a stakeout for Little Forktail at a small waterfall to the left of the road near (coordinates: N27.13112 E092.54426). We did not see this bird elsewhere.

Pale-headed Woodpecker is perhaps easier to see at Sessa than Eaglenest, as there is much more bamboo. We found one in the first large bamboo patch when reaches when returning to Tezpur.

After only hearing Green Cochoa at Eaglenest, we made an effort to see one at Sessa on our last day. After we passed a (signed) pass called Nichifu, we continued by car for a couple kilometers then walked downhill. After an hour or so, we heard one and called it in for excellent views. A great save, and a fitting end to the trip!

## 10.1 Notable Birds

1. Blyth's Kingfisher: see discussion above
2. Green Cochoa: see discussion above
3. Pale-headed Woodpecker: see discussion above

## 10.2 Notable Mammals

1. Assam Macaque - seen just above Shashank Davli's spot for Blyth's Kingfisher. Note that the recently described Arunachal Macaque is doubtfully distinct from this species.
2. Large Indian Civet - one seen along the road before dawn

## 10.3 Also Notable

1. Green Rat-snake (*Ptyas nigromarginatus*) - this beautiful snake was seen at the same site we saw Blyth's Kingfisher



Ward's Trogon (BS)



Blyth's Tragopan (BS)

## 11 Eaglenest Road

Eaglenest Road has a well-deserved reputation as one of the best birding sites in Asia. Our target list for this site had more than 40 species, and we saw pretty much all of them. The best way to familiarize oneself with the birding here is by consulting the maps included in this trip report, and the species list following this description. First, I will explain the general layout and provide information about a few of the more difficult species.

At Eaglenest, it is important to always be aware of the danger of encountering Elephants. This is especially true below Bompu, where it is inadvisable to walk the road without a vehicle remaining in eyesight. However, there were signs of elephants everywhere, even at the pass (the highest elevation elephants have been recorded) and near Lamacamp. It may be safest to go with a guide who is familiar with the risks, but we very much enjoyed birding on our own.

Eaglenest Road traverses two sides of a ridge, and there is accommodation in tented camps called Lamacamp and Bompu on either side of the ridge. The road begins at the town of Tenga in a relatively dry valley between two ridges. It ascends through non-native pine forest before reaching two small settlements of Ramaling (you can stay here, but most birders do not), followed by Lamacamp. A few kilometers above that is the signed entrance to Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary itself. The next landmark is Eaglenest Pass, followed by anti-poaching towers at Sunderview and Chaku, and Bompu



Bugun Liocichla (JB)



Scarlet Finch (BS)

camp below them. The old, non-operation camp of Sessni is below Bompu, followed by the clearing at New Khellong and the end of the accessible part of the road at Khellong. The road originally went all the way to Tezpur, the presence of guerillas effectively ends the road at Khellong (and there is a fallen bridge lower down).

Lamacamp is one of two tented camps to stay along Eaglenest road. You sleep in tents, but on beds with mattresses (not just camping pads). Food is provided, and like most places in India it is hard to convince the cook to make the food spicy. It makes sense to spend three or maybe four nights here, including one on the way back from Bompu.

The Bugun Liocichla occurs only in a few gullies below Lamacamp, and the easiest place to see it is in the first gully directly adjacent to camp. You can even hear it from the tents. This gully has much better visibility than those further down the road, where we wasted time searching for individuals that we heard. There are only four known territories in the world, so please refrain from using tape. Other notable species in the stretch below Lamacamp include Purple Cochoa (heard one morning), Chestnut-breasted Partridge, White-breasted Parrotbill (common), and Gold-naped Finch. The area with the Liocichla ends at a track that branches off to the right, heading to the Alubari settlement. The track is a good place to look for Purple Cochoa and Cutia, though we had neither species there.

The area around Ramaling is good for Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, which is more common there than elsewhere at Eaglenest. There is one record of Hodgson's Frogmouth from this area, but our search for it was unsuccessful. Black-tailed Crake also used to occur in very small marshy spots here, even though they do not appear to provide enough habitat for a Crake.





Lamacamp (JB)



Beautiful Sibia (BS)

The Tragopanda Trail leaves from the right side of the road about a kilometer above Lamacamp. It is good for Ward's Trogon, Temminck's Tragopan, and Purple Cochoa. Red Panda is also possible, though very elusive. The forest in this area is particularly beautiful.

The stretch of road between the Tragopanda Trail and the signed entrance to Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary was the only place we had Black-headed Shrike-babbler on this trip. We also had Yellow-rumped Honeyguide at the entrance sign.

The gullies on the Lamacamp side below Eaglenest Pass are reputed to contain Bar-winged Wren-babbler, but we had no sign of them in our time there. They may be taped out, and only vocal very early in the morning. Their habitat is rocky gullies with moss. In any case, they are easy to see at Mandala Road.

The road peaks at Eaglenest Pass, at about 2800 meters. We called in a Himalayan Wood Owl at the pass itself just before dawn, and heard a Temminck's Tragopan fly down from its night roost only a few minutes later. The trails going off the left are good for the Tragopan, and another approach is to drive slowly along the road immediately after the pass. Red Panda is also present.

The first few gullies on this side (the Bompu side) of the pass contained Long-billed Thrush (between N27.12508 E092.44860 and N27.12376 E092.44068). We saw the rare Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker and Yellow-rumped Honeyguide



Himalayan Wedge-billed Babbler (BS)



Long-billed Wren-babbler (BS)

a bit below this (still above Sunderview). Below Sunderview, Blyth's Tragopan replaces Temminck's. See below for a detailed account of our search for this species.

Bompu is located at around 1940 meters elevation. The accommodation is similar to that at Lamacamp, though it is only maintained in the dry season (the tents are removed in the wet season to prevent them from being destroyed by elephants). You can spend a long time here, though six nights should be sufficient to cover the area between the pass and Khellong. The pass is closer to Lamacamp, but the drive between Bompu and the pass affords better chances to see Tragopans and nocturnal mammals. This side of the ridge is often very foggy in the afternoon, sometimes making it impossible to see any birds at all. Ramana Athreya told us that he considers afternoon birding at Bompu to be a bonus, one that is never to be expected.

We found the first four kilometers above Bompu to be quite productive. We observed Cutia, Chestnut-breasted Partridge, Long-billed Thrush (almost 4km away), and Purple Cochoa (at almost exactly 4km from Bompu) along this stretch. It is also particularly good for Asian Golden Cat, and we saw a melanistic individual about three kilometers above the camp. It is apparently seen somewhat regularly at this point along the road (around three bends above Bompu). There is a large bamboo patch maybe one and a half kilometers above Bompu for Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler in particular. Green Cochoa can be found anywhere from one kilometer above Bompu (where we heard one) down, though we did not see this bird until the last day of our trip at Sessa.

The stretch between Bompu and Sessni is excellent for a number of spectacular birds: Wedge-billed Babbler, Long-billed Wren-babbler, and Beautiful



Rufous-throated Wren-babbler (BS)



Rufous-capped Babbler (JB)

Nuthatch, in particular. The first bird is found anywhere with running water, and we saw a pair along a trail just below Bompu. The second prefers gullies with bamboo plants (one of these gullies also held a Blue-naped Pitta). Beautiful Nuthatch can be anywhere, and provides the best views when located without playback (it responds by flying to the canopy). It sometimes joins mixed flocks with *Cutia* and Sultan Tit, but often forages alone. There was a nest in the first large tree on the right before Sessni, but we did not see any Nuthatches there and it is possible the young had fledged by the time we arrived.

Rufous-necked Hornbill can be seen along the road from a few kilometers above Sessni, and it is perhaps best seen from the abandoned camp itself. There is certainly much good birding to be had between Sessni and New Khellong, but our time there was very limited due to a lack of fuel for our vehicle.

There is a large bamboo patch between New Khellong and Khellong that contains many specialties: Rufous-vented Laughingthrush (at N 27.020010, E 092.41431, Pale-billed (Lesser Rufous-headed) Parrotbill, Large Blue Flycatcher, Collared Treepie, and Pale-headed Woodpecker. Hodgson's Frogmouth is there, but we did not search for it due to the combination of a lack of fuel and the presence of elephants. We also had Collared Treepie at Khellong itself, early in the morning. The road continues below Khellong, but is unmaintained and off-limits due to the presence of guerillas.

Blyth's Tragopan was our top target at Eaglenest, and also the most frustrating one. We tried several strategies to see this elusive bird. At first, we drove slowly up and down the road near Bompu at dawn at dusk, but this did not produce any sightings. That is not to say that it doesn't work, as

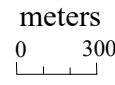
Ramana Athreya and his group of moth researchers saw two males crossing the road in the same morning on the day we left. Our next strategy was to walk slowly along several trails: (1) the track going up behind Bompu where a male usually calls in the morning and (2) the trail to Piri-La starting from Chaku. We spent many uneventful hours on these trails, with few sightings of any birds or mammals. Finally, on the suggestion of Peter Lobo we visited a site where he apparently showed a male bird to his customers by taping it in and having it display to them (not the wattle display, though) (N27.10495 E092.42206). Lobo told us that he had seen the bird the previous afternoon, and that he never missed it there. He advised us to walk up the ridge (to the right of the road, when heading up), down to the other side, and play the tape. Then, wait twenty minutes and the bird will eventually come in. We tried this for about three hours, before deciding to take a break.

During our break, we checked out a short trail at (N27.10779 E092.43243) where James Eaton had seen a male Tragopan with a tour group the previous month. This was the second time we visited that trail, having seen not much on our first attempt. However, after only a ten minute walk we heard the sound of rustling leaves, and soon were looking at not just one but three Blyth's Tragopans on a slope to our left! There was one female-plumaged bird and two immature males, one of which had acquired the adult's stunning orange head and neck, but not all the yellow on the wattle or color on the back (we're not complaining, though!). We were relieved. The birds were on the same trail when we returned the next day. We tried to induce the immature males into displaying with the tape, but they just looked at us quizzically. The trail is hard to miss: it is a wide track just below Sunderview that is on the left side when heading downslope toward Bompu.

## 11.1 Maps

# Eaglenest Pass

2780 Meters



Temminck's Tragopan  
Himalayan Wood Owl  
Spotted Laughingthrush  
Brown Parrotbill?  
Red Panda?

Bar-winged Wren-babbler

Black-headed Shrike-babbler

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide

## Tragopanda Trail

Temminck's Tragopan  
Purple Cochoa  
Ward's Trogon  
Red Panda?

Ward's Trogon

2360 Meters

# Lamacamp

Bugun Licoichla

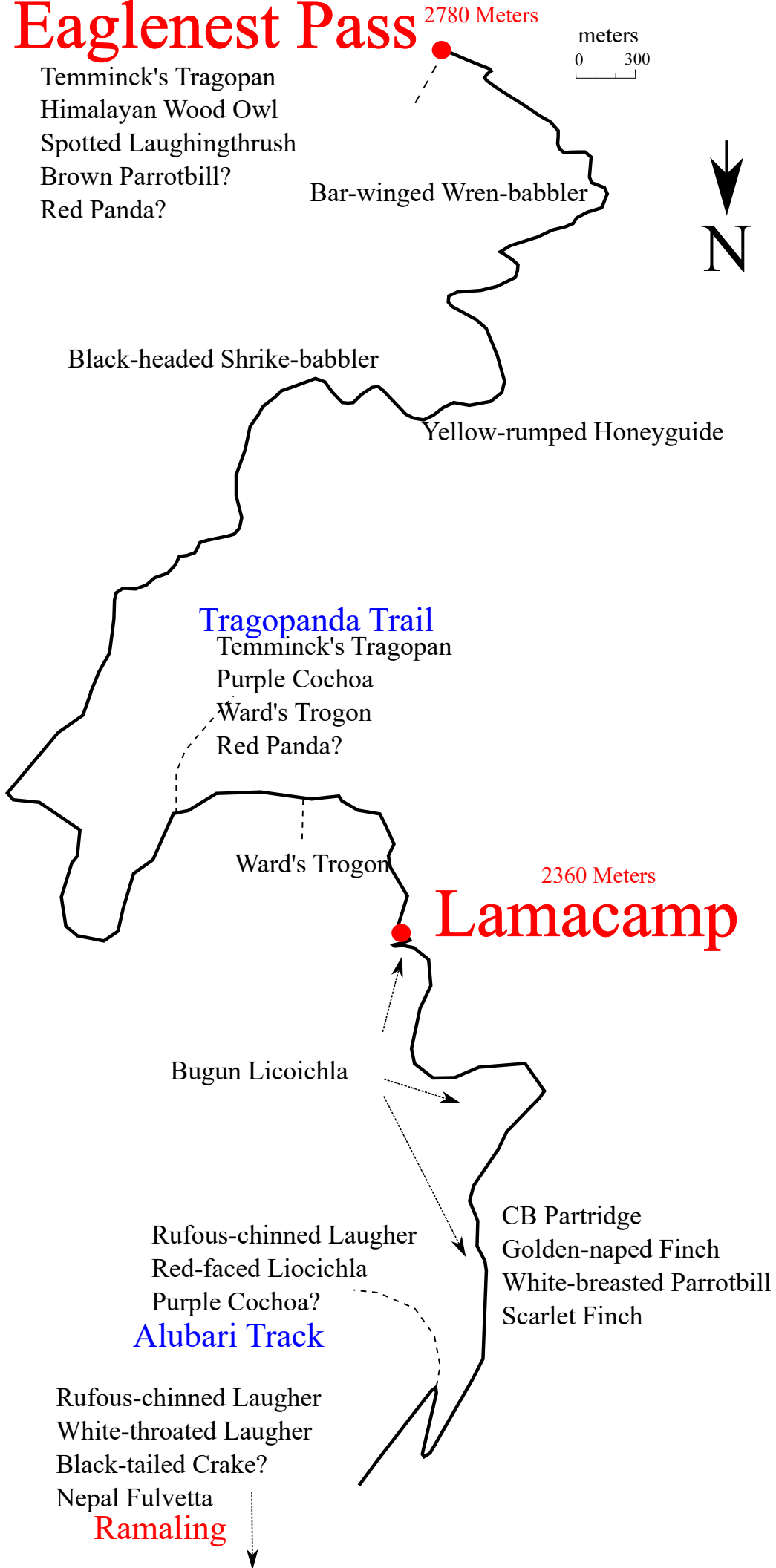
Rufous-chinned Laughher  
Red-faced Liocichla  
Purple Cochoa?

## Alubari Track

CB Partridge  
Golden-naped Finch  
White-breasted Parrotbill  
Scarlet Finch

Rufous-chinned Laughher  
White-throated Laughher  
Black-tailed Crake?  
Nepal Fulvetta

## Ramaling





meters  
0 300



# Eaglenest Pass

2780 Meters

Long-billed Thrush

Temminck's Tragopan  
Brown Parrotbill?

Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker  
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide

Piri La Trail

# Sunderview

2500 Meters

Blyth's Tragopan Trail

# Chakoo

2420 Meters

Good Forest

Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker  
Blyth's Tragopan  
Ward's Trogon

Purple Cochoa  
Long-billed Thrush

Blyth's Tragopan

Asian Golden Cat

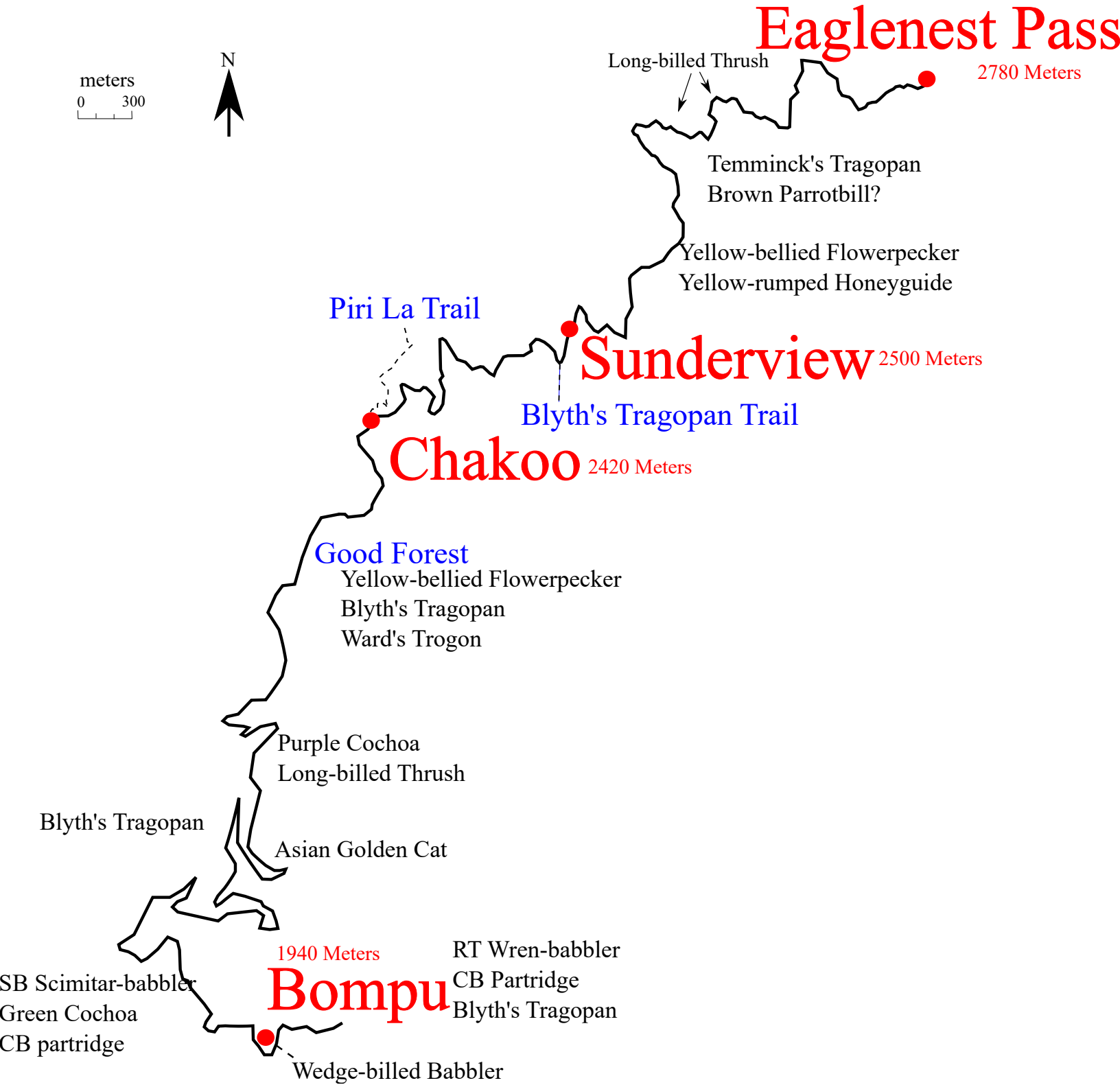
1940 Meters

# Bompu

RT Wren-babbler  
CB Partridge  
Blyth's Tragopan

SB Scimitar-babbler  
Green Cochoa  
CB partridge

Wedge-billed Babbler







Beautiful Nuthatch (JB)



Purple Cochoa (JB)

## 11.2 Notable Birds

1. Hill Partridge: Commonly heard at higher elevations on both slopes. We saw them from the road once, and flushed several while searching for Blyth's Tragopan.
2. Chestnut-breasted Partridge: Seen and heard below Lamacamp, and around Bompu. Perhaps best seen along the road above Bompu, where they can be called in with playback. Also heard at Sessa.
3. Rufous-throated Partridge: Seen and heard below Bompu.
4. Blyth's Tragopan: see discussion above.
5. Temminck's Tragopan: The easier Tragopan species at Eaglenest, but we only heard it. Good places to search include the train at Eaglenest Pass (where we heard one fly down from its night-roost at dawn) and the Tragopanda trail. It can also be seen on the road above Sunderview early in the morning, or perhaps crossing the road later in the day. Also present at Mandala (but more difficult?).
6. Gray Peacock-pheasant: Heard below Bompu. It may be possible to see this on a trail behind Sessni camp.
7. Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo: common by voice, especially on the Bompu side.
8. Asian Emerald-cuckoo: Found on both sides, at a wide range of elevations. Best detected by flight call.
9. Spot-bellied Eagle-owl: We did not observe this species, but we did not search for it. It occurs around Sessni.



Collared Treepie (JB)



Large Blue Flycatcher (JB)

10. Himalayan Owl - one called in for great views at Eaglenest Pass, another heard from Lamacamp
11. Hodgson's Frogmouth: We did not have luck with this species, but it can be found at night in the bamboo patch above Khellong. It also occurs up to Sessni. Formerly, it was seen below Khellong but that area is unsafe due to the presence of guerillas. In any case, be very careful about Elephants when searching for it at night.
12. Ward's Trogon - fairly common above Bompu and Lamacamp. Good locations include the Tragopanda trail, and the good forest below Chaku. We only saw immature males and female-type birds. The adults are much easier to see earlier in the season.
13. Rufous-necked Hornbill - common around Sessni. Perhaps best seen from the old campsite.
14. Yellow-rumped Honeyguide - two flyby views, one at the entrance sign to Eaglenest WLS a few kilometers above Eaglenest, the other above Sunderview. It can be present anywhere (two were recently mistnetted near Bompu camp). In our experience, it is best detected by its distinctive, if inconspicuous, flight call. Hard to see perched without a stake-out.
15. Darjeeling Woodpecker - common in good forest at higher elevations. Also easy at Mandala.
16. Pale-headed Woodpecker - not seen here by us, but present in the bamboo patch above Khellong. Follows mixed flocks. Perhaps easier in Sessa, where we saw one.



Lesser Cuckoo (BS)



Himalayan Owl (BS)

17. Blue-naped Pitta - heard above Sessni
18. Black-headed Shrike-babbler - a few heard, and one seen, between Lamacamp and the pass
19. Collared Treepie - one seen at Khellong early in the morning, and another in the bamboo patch above it
20. Beautiful Nuthatch - best seen by walking the road above Sessni. A pair seen a few kilometers above Sessni, and another heard at the same time. It is better to see them without playback, as they sing from the canopy when responding. There was also a nest in the big tree on the right just before Sessni (when descending), but we did not see any birds there.
21. Sikkim Treecreeper - fairly common above Bompu and Lamacamp.
22. Broad-billed Warbler - common, hard to miss if you know the voice
23. Large-billed Leaf-warbler - common at higher elevations
24. Yellow-vented Warbler - seen above Khellong. Also, common at Sessa near the Blyth's Kingfisher site.
25. Black-throated (Hill) Prinia - in the grassy area near the beginning of the road to Alubari
26. White-breasted (Greater Rufous-headed) Parrotbill - flocks seen below Lamacamp, in Bompu, and just below Sessni





Immature Male Ward's Trogon (JB)



Ferruginous Flycatcher (JB)

27. Pale-billed Parrotbill - a pair seen in the bamboo patch above Khellong.
28. White-naped Yuhina - common between Bompou and Sessni
29. Rufous-throated Wren-babbler - common around Bompou. The ones calling just above the camp are tempting, but we found it much easier to actually see a kilometer or so below it.
30. Coral-billed Scimitar-babbler - Seen several times above and below Bompou.
31. Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler - Present in bamboo above and just below Bompou. We saw them there, but found a pair at Mandala to be much more responsive.
32. Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler - common
33. Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler (Blackish-breasted Babbler) - Found near water anywhere between Bompou and Sessni. We saw them off the road, just below Bompou, at the first obvious trail heading downslope. It goes to a small creek where water is sometimes collected for the camp.
34. Long-billed Wren-babbler - seen very close to Bompou, and heard several times from just above Bompou to Sessni. Favors gullies with wild banana plants.
35. Ludlow's Fulvetta - surprisingly only a couple seen near Eaglenest Pass.
36. Nepal Fulvetta - present below Sessni
37. Himalayan Cutia - found in mixed flocks at middle elevations on both sides. We saw them a few kilometers above Sessni, as well as a couple times above Bompou.



Silk Moth in the genus *Leopa* (BS)



Streak-throated Barwing (JB)

38. Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush - common around Ramaling; also present near Khellong and at the Alubari track.
39. Spotted Laughingthrush - Eaglenest Pass
40. Rufous-vented Laughingthrush - a pair seen at the lower end of the bamboo patch above Khellong. Much effort was required to see them after they were detected by voice. They are easier earlier in the season.
41. Grey-sided Laughingthrush - common
42. Bhutan Laughingthrush - common in scrubby habitat at high elevations
43. Scaly Laughingthrush - near the pass
44. Blue-winged Laughingthrush - found at a wide-range of middle elevations. Perhaps easier to see without playback, as it gets very skulky in response.
45. Black-faced Laughingthrush - Eaglenest Pass
46. Beautiful Sibia - almost annoyingly common
47. Bugun Liocichla - seen at the gully adjacent to Lamacamp, and heard at a couple others between there and Alubari. Easiest to see at the closest gully, which provides the best view of the undergrowth. This is a very endangered bird, with only four known territories. As such, please refrain from using playback.
48. Red-faced Liocichla - Seen on the Alubari track, and also around Sessni
49. Streak-throated Barwing - seen a couple times around Bompu.



Blyth's Tragopan (JB)



Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler (BS)

50. Hoary-throated Barwing - All of our observations in the field and photographs seem to be of Streak-throated. However, both species do occur here. Apparently, the easiest way to tell them apart is the streaking on the back (rather than the throat). Streak-throated Barwing has a plain back, whereas Hoary-throated is streaked.
51. Ferruginous Flycatcher - a single bird seen in the good forest below Chaku. Also present around Bompou.
52. Large Blue-flycatcher - several in the bamboo patch above Khellong.
53. Pale-blue Flycatcher - common from halfway between Bompou and Sessni down to Khellong.
54. Pygmy Blue-flycatcher - one seen above Lamacamp
55. Blue-fronted Robin - common above Lamacamp and Bompou, but frustratingly difficult to see if you're looking specifically for it. Perhaps the best approach is to look for other birds at the right elevation - you'll see one with enough time. We eventually saw a few.
56. Sapphire Flycatcher - fairly common on both slopes, but stays in the canopy
57. Long-billed Thrush - one seen and heard in the gullies above Sunderview, another heard four kilometers above Bompou
58. Purple Cochoa - one seen four kilometers above Bompou, others heard below Lamacamp and on the Tragopanda Trail. The locals recommended the stretch above Bompou as the best place for this species.
59. Green Cochoa - heard only once, about a half kilometer above Bompou



Sapphire Flycatcher (BS)



White-throated Laughingthrush (JB)

(where the camp staff get the water). It is present from a kilometer above Bompu to below Sessni. Also found at Sessa (where we prevented a dip on our last day).

60. Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker - one seen near Sunderview. Present from Eaglenest Pass to the good forest below Chaku. Also at Mandala Road.
61. Spotted Elachura - several heard from Bompu to Sessni.
62. Gold-naped Finch - a few seen around Lamacamp.
63. Scarlet Finch - fairly common at a wide range of elevations.

### 11.3 Birds Missed

1. All species only present earlier in the season, including Fire-tailed Myzornis, Fire-tailed Sunbird, and the Bush-robins, which we found at Sela Pass.
2. Brown Parrotbill - often seen at the pass, but neither we nor any other group had them this year. Maybe they departed after a bamboo die-off?
3. Hume's Bush-Warbler - see previous species
4. Gray-headed and Red-headed Bullfinch - strangely absent.
5. Vivid Niltava - No one knows where to find this bird at Eaglenest
6. Pale-headed Woodpecker - sometimes seen in the bamboo patch between New Khellong and Khellong



Black-throated Parrotbill (BS)



Brown Bullfinch (JB)

7. Eyebrowed Wren-babbler - present near Sessni, but we did not try for it

#### 11.4 Mammals seen

1. Asian Golden Cat - a melanistic individual was seen in the road a few kilometers above Bompu, just at dawn. Local researchers told us it was regularly seen at the third bend above Bompu.
2. Leopard Cat - two seen early in the morning on the road between Chaku and Sunderview
3. Yellow-throated Marten - a couple sightings
4. Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel - common
5. Hoary-bellied Squirrel - around Khellong

#### 11.5 Notable mammals missed

1. Spotted Linsang - very difficult, but not easy anywhere in the world. There have been a couple sightings around Sessni.
2. Masked Palm Civet (Himalayan) - their scat was everywhere. It's a bit surprising we didn't see one, given how much time we spent driving the road at night.
3. Clouded Leopard - present on both slopes, but perhaps impossible to see. Has been camera trapped inside Lamacamp.



4. Marbled Cat - very difficult to see here.
5. Asian Black Bear - possible on the road.
6. Dhole - sightings are fairly common, from Khellong to Eaglenest Pass
7. Asian Elephant - sign was everywhere. Be careful!
8. Chinese Serow - possible on the road.
9. Bhutan Giant Flying Squirrel - present on both sides. It's much better to search for it around Lamacampu, as nightwalks are dangerous around Bompou due to the presence of elephants. Unfortunately, we thought they were only at Bompou until we got there and talked to local researchers.

## 11.6 Also Notable

1. Mountain Pit-Viper - one on the trail behind Bompou
2. False Cobra - one on the Alubari track

## 12 Dirang

We used Dirang as a base to explore Mandala Road and Sela Pass. Most tour groups stay at Hotel Pemaling, which is expensive but can make packed lunch and breakfast very early in the morning (it is important to book this hotel in advance). However, there is a hotel at the center of town which is much less expensive. It may not be necessary to pack food, as there were two places to get noodles (called “maggi”) at Sela Pass and one place at Mandala. The noodle places at Sela are unlikely to close in the near future, but it is unclear what will happen to the one at Mandala when road construction finishes.

Mandala is about an hour's drive from Dirang, and Sela Pass is about a three hour drive. We left very early in the morning to get to Sela. The habitat at Mandala is not great, and we suspect that many of the coniferous zone birds there are found in the good forest below the “Shortwing Trail” at Sela (see the site description below). However, Mandala is the best site for Bar-winged Wren-babbler (though it may be possible at Eaglenest). Sangti

Valley is much closer to Dirang, and it is a good place to go if Sela becomes too foggy for birding (as often happens in the afternoon).

Another option for accommodation is in Jang, where there is a forest department inspection bungalow. The bungalow usually has room for a couple people. Jang is not close to Sela, but is much closer than Dirang. It also affords access to Jang-Phudung road, which has Gould's Shortwing, Blood Pheasant, and perhaps Satyr Tragopan. I believe the other end of this road begins at Mandala. Unfortunately, it was under construction during our time there.

## 13 Sangti Valley

This largely agricultural valley near Dirang provides an opportunity to see a few species that are difficult to see elsewhere on this trip. Foremost among this is Black-tailed Crake, which we saw only here despite trying at other locations (Manas and Ramaling). The Crakes were easily seen in a large area of rice paddies shown on the map. It is the first such area one encounters after passing through the village of Sangti, and is also across the street from a school. The paddies are down a steep slope from the road. Refer to the map.

Long-billed Plover breeds along the river. We saw a pair by crossing the bridge in the main part of town, and walking left along the river.

Crested Bunting is another species we only saw here. Birding tour groups often see them in the agricultural fields earlier in the season, but we only saw one in a more scrubby area on the way back to Dirang. Perhaps they move to scrubby habitat in the breeding season.

### 13.1 Map

Satellite Map by Google Maps

N



Black-tailed Crake



Long-billed Plover



Bridge



To Dirang



## 13.2 Notable birds

1. Black-tailed Crake - see map
2. Long-billed Plover - a pair seen at the bridge on the map
3. Crested Bunting - one in a scrubby area before Sangti
4. Tickell's Thrush - one on the road at dusk

## 13.3 Mammals

1. Capped Langur - we saw a troop of these monkeys in the short forest before Sangti. They are notably duller in coloration than those at Manas. The same subspecies also occurs at Eaglenest.

## 14 Mandala Road

Mandala Road begins near Dirang, and ascends through a wide range of elevations. The lower stretch contains similar species to those found at Eaglenest, but the highest bit is just high enough to reach the coniferous zone. Unfortunately, this habitat is quite damaged. There is nicer habitat after Mandala, on the road forking to the right, but it was under construction and impossible to drive along. We walked along it for a bit, but wished we had more time there to explore the forest and try for Satyr Tragopan (which is possible there).



Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler (BS)



Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker (JB)



We concentrated on the coniferous zone, looking for Bar-winged Wren-babbler, Rufous-fronted Bushtit, Hodgson's Treecreeper, and Rusty-flanked Treecreeper in particular. The first species is present at Eaglenest, but apparently taped out. It is possible at any of the gullies from Mandala to five kilometers below it, and we observed it at two locations. The first was across the road from a small shrine below Mandala. The shrine was on the right side of the road heading down. The other location where we had the Wren-babbler was a very productive trail below the coniferous zone at (GPS coordinates:N27.28802 E092.25751). There, we also had Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler, Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, and our only Slaty-blue Flycatchers of the trip. The trail was on the left hand side of the road when heading down from Mandala, and went behind a large culvert. It passed through a small recently logged area until entering forest near a small stream.

Red Panda is also possible in the coniferous zone. On the suggestion of a Roon Bhuyan, an Indian birder who had photographed one the previous November, we had our very helpful new driver ask a yak herder about them. He was familiar with the animal, and said that they were only present in the wintertime. He also pointed to both Temminck's and Satyr Tragopans in our field guide when we asked which were present in the area.

It could be productive to explore lower elevations at Mandala. The bamboo patches looked particularly promising, but we did not find anything unusual there besides a Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler. One of our more surprising sightings on this trip was a Grey Peacock-pheasant on the side of the road on our way up (we thought it was too high, but it was the bird).

## 14.1 Map





To Dirang

**Trail with**  
Bar-winged Wren-babbler  
Slender-billed Scim-babbler  
Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker

**Bar-winged WB**  
Try any gully or  
running water  
to 5KM below Mandala

**Coniferous Forest**  
Rufous-fronted Tit  
2x Treecreepers  
Spotted Laughingthrush

**Road with Good Forest**  
Under Construction  
Satyr Tragopan??  
Great Parrotbill?  
Red Panda?

Maggi Restaurant

**Mandala**



Spotted Laughingthrush (BS)



Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler (BS)

## 14.2 Notable Birds

1. Gray Peacock-pheasant - one by the side of the road very early in the morning
2. Darjeeling Woodpecker - common at higher elevations
3. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker - a couple sightings in the coniferous zone
4. Eurasian Nutcracker - much more common here than at Eaglenest
5. Gray-crested Tit - coniferous zone
6. Rufous-fronted (Black-browed) Tit - mixed flocks in the coniferous zone
7. Hodgson's Treecreeper - coniferous zone. Same habitat as the next species.
8. Rusty-flanked Treecreeper - coniferous zone.
9. Scaly-breasted Cupwing - commonly heard at higher elevations
10. Gray-sided Bush-warbler - common and conspicuous at higher elevations
11. Brown Bush-warbler - a few in pastures below the coniferous zone
12. Bar-winged Wren-babbler - present in gullies below Mandala
13. Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler - present at the trail at, and also in the bamboo lower down
14. Ludlow's Fulvetta - in mixed flocks at higher elevations
15. Spotted Laughingthrush - great views here!





Bar-throated Minla (BS)



Golden Bush-robin (JB)

16. White-bellied Redstart - one female-plumaged bird near the top was our only sighting this trip
17. Golden Bush-robin - a couple near the top
18. Slaty-blue Flycatcher - a pair near the beginning of the trail
19. Scaly Thrush - one on the road early in the morning
20. White-collared Blackbird - common at higher elevations.
21. Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker - a pair at the trail
22. Gold-naped Finch - a couple sightings in the coniferous zone
23. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch - one flyby
24. Red Crossbill - a large flock in a Himalayan Hemlock

### 14.3 Missed Birds

1. Temminck's Tragopan - apparently possible on a trail behind a small shrine
2. Satyr Tragopan - maybe on the road that forks right at Mandala
3. Ward's Trogon - possible lower down
4. Brown Parrotbill - possible in bamboo lower down
5. Great Parrotbill - used to be present in bamboo on the road that forks right at Mandala, but the bamboo has been destroyed by construction



Scenery on the Shortwing Trail (JB)

## 15 Sela Pass

Sela Pass (elevation 4170 meters) provides access to high elevation habitats above the treeline, and to several of the most sought after birds in the Himalayas. At this altitude, many birds are only present seasonally, so the information in this report may not be useful earlier in the spring. In particular, Gould's Shortwing does not usually arrive until mid-May, and is much more difficult to see at its lower elevational wintering grounds, where it skulks in the undergrowth. On the breeding grounds, it hops around in the open in boulder fields, and is incredibly confiding.

On the way up to Sela Pass, one passes by several army bases. We were told there was a bamboo patch between Baisakhi and Senge that sometimes contains Fulvous, Great, and Brown Parrotbills, but we did not find any in the bamboo we checked. Further up, past all of the army bases, there are a series of sharp switchbacks before the pass itself. Fire-tailed Sunbird was common in the mixture of rhododendron shrub and coniferous forest here, and this is also the area we found Fire-tailed Myzornis (GPS coordinates: N27.48784 E092.10847, see the species list for details). On the way up, you

can stop at the switchbacks on the right and look over to meadows on the far slopes which sometimes contain Himalayan Monal. This is where we saw our first Monals, and where most tour groups find them. White-browed Bush-robin is also present in the short coniferous forest there.

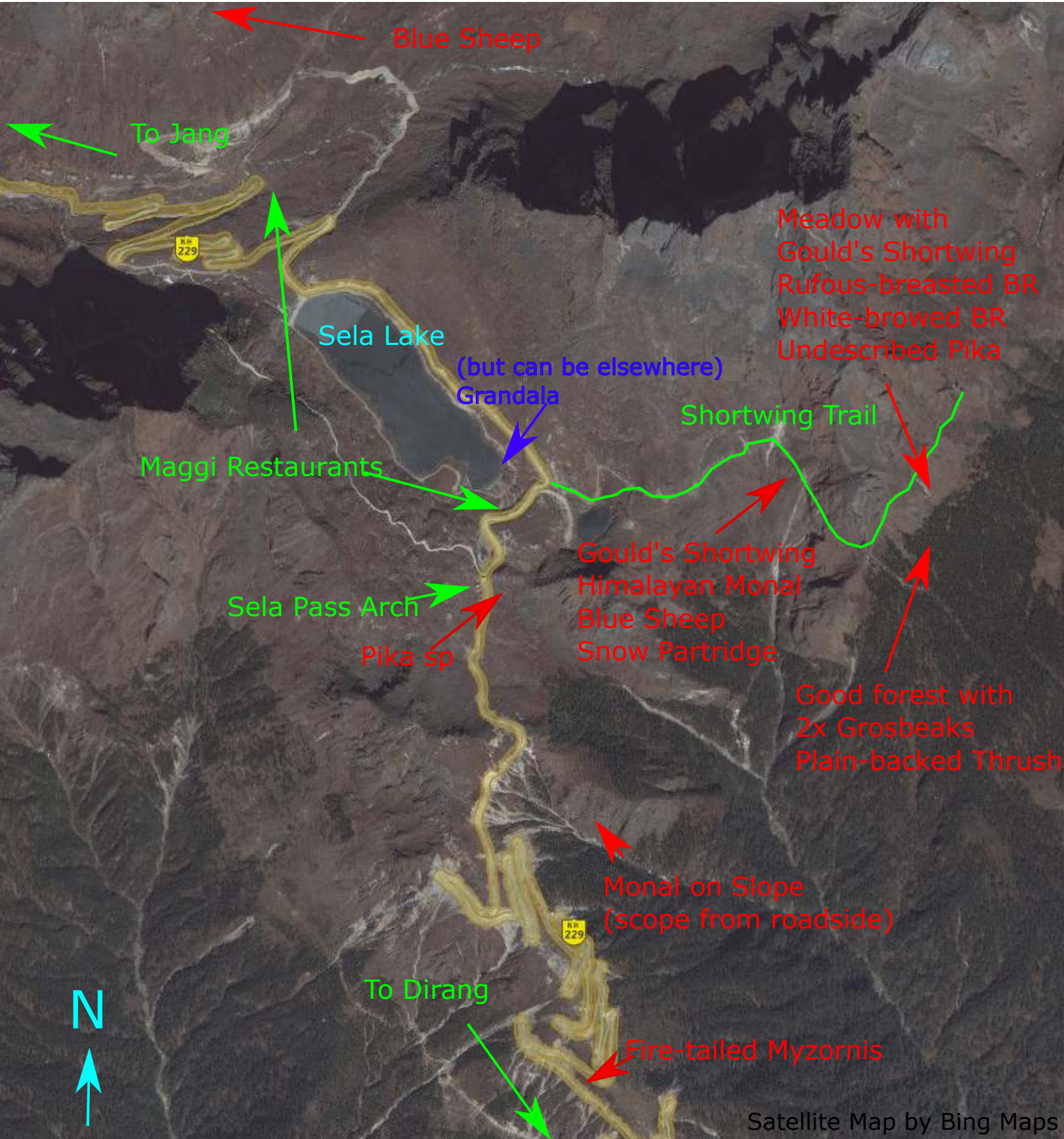
After the switchbacks, there is an arch marking the highest point of Sela Pass. The road splits after the arch, and most of the interesting habitat is on the right (larger) fork, though the dwarf rhododendrons on the leftward track may provide habitat for Rufous-breasted Bush-robin later in the summer. There is a large lake immediately after Sela Pass, and the area around it was good for Snow Pigeon (only early in the morning), Plain Mountain Finch, Tibetan Blackbird, and Grandala.

After taking the right fork, there is soon a small pond on one's right (the large lake is on the left). Immediately after this pond, there is a track heading to the right, through a small fenced army area, and then along the side of a ridge. This trail - which we call the Shortwing Trail - had some of the best birding on the trip. The namesake Gould's Shortwing was found in two spots along this trail, the first being a boulder field soon after a sharp rightward turn in the trail. We also saw Snow Partridge, Himalayan Monal (easily flushed - walk slowly), and Blue Sheep in this area. Soon after the first Shortwing spot, the trail curves sharply to the left. There is a meadow on the right that had a pair of Rufous-breasted Bush-robins, another Gould's Shortwing, and many Fire-tailed Sunbirds. You can walk down the slope here to get to some tall coniferous forest, where we heard Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks and Plain-backed Thrush (Himalayan Forest Thrush). There were several White-browed Bush-robin territories in the rhododendron scrub at the edge. We wish we had more time to explore the interior of the forest, as it was quite beautiful.

We did not spend much time exploring the habitats on the other side of Sela Pass, except to check a spot for Solitary Snipe (which was not present). The details of the Snipe location are in the species list below. Other birders have found Blood Pheasant here, and Rufous-breasted Bush-robin earlier in the season.

## 15.1 Map





Blue Sheep

To Jang

NH  
229

Sela Lake

(but can be elsewhere)  
Grandala

Meadow with  
Gould's Shortwing  
Rufous-breasted BR  
White-browed BR  
Undescribed Pika

Shortwing Trail

Maggi Restaurants

Gould's Shortwing  
Himalayan Monal  
Blue Sheep  
Snow Partridge

Sela Pass Arch

Pika sp

Good forest with  
2x Grosbeaks  
Plain-backed Thrush

Monal on Slope  
(scope from roadside)

To Dirang

NH  
229

Fire-tailed Myzornis

N

Satellite Map by Bing Maps



Gould's Shortwing (BS)



Undescribed Pika (BS)

## 15.2 Notable Birds

1. Himalayan Monal - Our best sightings were on the Shortwing trail, where we saw several individuals on or near the trail. They may only venture this high later in the season. Our first sighting, which is where most tour groups see them was from one of the many bends in the road on the way up, in a distant meadow.
2. Snow Partridge - common along the Shortwing trail
3. Snow Pigeon - we only saw this bird near the archway at the pass, and only early in the morning
4. Fire-tailed Myzornis - a rhododendron specialist. A pair in the first very large rhododendron patch before Sela pass (N27.48784 E092.10847). Here are specific directions that we wrote down for another birder at the time "Going up toward the pass, there is a rhododendron patch on your right at the 7km stone. This has a pair of Myzornis. It is easier to approach from above: drive around the next bend to a metal guard rail with flags. Walk down to the rhododendron from here. They move around a lot."
5. Gould's Shortwing - wow! See the description of the Shortwing trail above.
6. Grandala - a flock at the lake. It took a surprisingly long time to find them, but they can't be missed when present.
7. Rufous-breasted Bush-robin - A pair at the meadow on the Shortwing trail. Shashank Dalvi told us that they eventually move up to the dwarf rhododendron, but there was still a lot of snow under the thicker



Rufous-breasted Bush-robin (BS)



White-browed Bush-robin (BS)

patches (the best area for dwarf rhododendron was on the road forking left after the arch).

8. White-browed Bush-robin : common in rhododendron patches at the edge of coniferous forest
9. Plain-backed Thrush (Himalayan Forest Thrush) : heard only at the edge of coniferous forest. If we had known about the split, we would have made more effort to see this taxon. Alpine Thrush is also possible above the treeline.
10. Tibetan Blackbird - a pair next to the lake
11. Fire-tailed Sunbird - common, but beautiful
12. White-browed Rosefinch - common, especially by voice
13. White-winged Grosbeak - in coniferous forest, especially the large patch below the Shortwing trail
14. Collared Grosbeak - in coniferous forest, especially the large patch below the Shortwing trail

### 15.3 Missed Birds

1. Blood Pheasant - not sure how missed this! Often seen in meadows adjacent to coniferous forest on both sides of the pass, sometimes next to the road.
2. Solitary Snipe - we checked a small marshy area that sometime has them, but no luck. It is located on the opposite (Jang) side of the pass,





Black-faced Laughingthrush (BS)



Snow Partridge (BS)

after an army base, where the road curves left.

3. Nepal House Martin - all of the martins we saw were the Asian House Martin, except the intensely blue ones that turned into Grandalas.
4. Rufous Sibia - apparently replaces Beautiful Sibia at lower elevations on the other side of the pass. We didn't know this until we left.
5. Blanford's Mountain-Finch - sometimes mixed in with the Plain Mountain-Finches
6. Dark-breasted and Red-Fronted Rosefinches - not sure where people see these. Perhaps further down in the coniferous forest.

## 15.4 Mammals

1. Blue Sheep - several sightings near the top
2. Pika sp nov - we saw several Pikas around Sela Pass, and got photos of one at the meadow on the Shortwing trail. We emailed it to an expert, who said that is an undescribed species which he is in the process of describing.



Fire-tailed Sunbird (BS)



Snow Pigeon (BS)

## 16 Summary of GPS Coordinates

- Blyth's Kingfisher at Sessa: N27.10091 E092.53567
- Little Forktail at Sessa: N27.13112 E092.54426
- Long-billed Thrush at Eaglenest: between N27.12508 E092.44860 and N27.12376 E092.44068
- Blyth's Tragopan trail at Eaglenest where we saw it, as did James Eaton: N27.10779 E092.43243
- Peter Lobo's spot for Blyth's Tragopan at Eaglenest: N27.10495 E092.42206
- Rufous-vented Laughingthrush at Eaglenest: N27.020010 E092.41431
- Trail at Mandala with Bar-winged Wren-babbler, Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, and Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler: : N27.28802 E092.25751
- Fire-tailed Myzornis at Sela: N27.48784 E092.10847

The following coordinates were taken from Google Maps. I'm 95% sure I identified each location correctly, but if it does not match the description the coordinates are wrong (let me know!)

- Lamacamp: N27.1570684 E92.458384
- Sunderview: N27.114547 E92.436897 - anti-poaching tower
- Chakoo: N27.101936, E92.412160 - anti-poaching tower
- Bompu: N27.066254 E92.406267
- Sessni: N27.047354 E92.418301 -disused camp





White-capped Water-redstart (BS)



White-winged Grosbeak (JB)

- Khellong: N27.013673 E92.414240 - large building in a clearing
- Sangti: N27.404510, E92.277129 - small town. Black-tailed Crake is after this in rice paddies on the right down a slope.
- Mandala: N27.274012, E92.257216 - a small settlement, currently housing many people working on building the road
- Sela Pass: N27.503410, E92.104442
- Gould's Shortwing Territory 1: N27.507346, E92.115220 - A boulder field on the shortwing trail after a small gully.
- Gould's Shortwing Territory 2: N27.504249, E92.117961 - A meadow downslope from the Shortwing trail. The Shortwing is an area with boulders. An undescribed Pika, and Rufous-breasted and White-browed Bush Robins are also present.

## 17 Mammal Trip List

1. Indian Flying Fox - *Pteropus giganteus* - many seen at a colony near Maozegendri, Manas
2. Assamese Macaque - *Macaca assamensis* - Sessa and Eaglenest (note that this is doubtfully distinct from the recently described Arunachal Macaque)
3. Rhesus Macaque - *Macaca mulatta* - Kaziranga
4. Golden Langur - *Trachypithecus geei* - near Manas



Striated Bulbul (BS)



Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher (BS)

5. Capped Langur - *Trachypithecus pileatus* - Manas, and some very different looking ones at Sangti
6. Western Hoolock Gibbon - *Hoolock hoolock* - a (probably) rehabilitated individual at Panbari
7. Yellow Throated Marten - *Martes flavigula* - a few sightings at Eaglenest
8. Smooth-coated Otter - *Lutrogale perspicillata* - Kaziranga
9. Large Indian Civet - *Viverra zibetha* - one seen on the road in Sessa
10. Masked Palm Civet - *Paguma larvata* - lots of sign at Eaglenest
11. Bengal Tiger - *Panthera tigris tigris* - heard only at Kaziranga
12. Indian Leopard - *Paguma larvata* - three at Manas
13. Asian Golden Cat - *Catopuma temminckii* - one at Eaglenest
14. Leopard Cat - *Prionailurus bengalensis* - a couple at Eaglenest
15. Gangetic River Dolphin - *Platanista gangetica* - brief views of a couple near Tezpur
16. Indian Elephant - *Elephas maximus indicus* - widespread. Be careful!
17. Indian Rhino - *Rhinoceros unicornis* - Kaziranga and Manas
18. Indian Boar - *Sus scrofa cristatus* - Kaziranga

19. Indian Hog Deer - *Hyelaphus porcinus* - Kaziranga
20. Sambar - *Rusa unicolor* - common at Manas, one at Kaziranga
21. Swamp Deer - *Rucervus duvaucelii* - Kaziranga
22. Common Muntjac - *Muntiacus muntjak* - Manas
23. Gaur - *Bos gaurus* - Manas
24. Wild Water Buffalo - *Bubalus arnee* - Manas and Kaziranga
25. Himalayan Blue Sheep - *Pseudois nayaur* - Sela Pass
26. Hoary-bellied Squirrel - *Callosciurus pygerythrus* - common at low elevations
27. Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel - *Dremomys lokriah* - Eaglenest
28. Black Giant Squirrel - *Ratufa bicolor* - Manas
29. Himalayan Striped Squirrel - *Tamiops mccllelandi* - widespread
30. Indian Hare - *Lepus nigricollis* - outside Manas
31. Pika - *Ochotona* sp nov - Sela

## 18 Bird Trip List

1. Lesser Whistling-Duck - *Dendrocygna javanica* - a pair and a flock in the Eastern Range of Kaziranga NP.
2. Bar-headed Goose - *Anser indicus* - a lingering wintering flock in the Western Range of Kaziranga.
3. Ruddy Shelduck - *Tadorna ferruginea* - a lingering wintering flock in the Western Range of Kaziranga.
4. Indian Spot-billed Duck - *Anas poecilorhyncha* - common in Kaziranga.
5. Hill Partridge - *Arborophila torqueola* - common at higher elevations in Eaglenest

6. Chestnut-breasted Partridge - *Arborophila mandellii* - around Bompu and below Lamacamp at Eaglenest. Also heard at Sessa.
7. Rufous-throated Partridge - *Arborophila rufogularis* - seen and heard below Bompu.
8. Indian Peafowl - *Pavo cristatus* - present in the grasslands at Manas.
9. Gray Peacock-Pheasant - *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* - several heard at Eaglenest, and an unexpected one seen at Mandala.
10. Black Francolin - *Francolinus francolinus* - seen at Koklabari Seed Farm near Manas while waiting for the Bengal Florican to display. Also heard at Makhibahan grassland.
11. Swamp Francolin - *Francolinus gularis* - common at Kaziranga, also heard at Manas.
12. Blue-breasted Quail - *Coturnix chinensis* - heard only at Koklabari Seed Farm and Sorfuli and Makhibahan grasslands at Manas. A Quail seen running across the road near dark was probably this, but there are records of other quail at Manas (Manipur Bush Quail...).
13. Red Junglefowl - *Gallus gallus* - common at low elevations
14. Himalayan Monal - *Lophophorus impejanus* - several seen and heard at Sela Pass.
15. Snow Partridge - *Lerwa lerwa* - common along the trail at Sela
16. Blyth's Tragopan - *Tragopan blythii* - three seen after much effort. See the Eaglenest site description for more details.
17. Temminck's Tragopan - *Tragopan temminckii* - heard only at Eaglenest, where it occurs higher than Blyth's Tragopan and is the more common Tragopan.
18. Kalij Pheasant - *Lophura leucomelanos* - seen at Kaziranga and Eaglenest
19. Asian Openbill - *Anastomus oscitans* - common in open habitats at low elevations
20. Woolly-necked Stork - *Ciconia episcopus* - several seen at Kaziranga

21. Black-necked Stork - *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* - several seen at Kaziranga
22. Lesser Adjutant - *Leptoptilos javanicus* - common in open areas at low elevations
23. Greater Adjutant - *Leptoptilos dubius* - several seen in the Western Range of Kaziranga
24. Little Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax niger* - common at Kaziranga
25. Oriental Darter - *Anhinga melanogaster* - common at Kaziranga
26. Spot-billed Pelican - *Pelecanus philippensis* - common at Kaziranga
27. Cinnamon Bittern - *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* - one seen near the entrance of the Central Range at Kaziranga
28. Gray Heron - *Ardea cinerea*
29. Purple Heron - *Ardea purpurea*
30. Great Egret - *Ardea alba*
31. Intermediate Egret - *Mesophoyx intermedia*
32. Little Egret - *Egretta garzetta*
33. Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis*
34. Indian Pond-Heron - *Ardeola grayii*
35. Chinese Pond-Heron - *Ardeola bacchus* - one seen in the Central Range at Kaziranga
36. Black-crowned Night-Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax*
37. Malayan Night-Heron - *Gorsachius melanolophus* - heard only at Manas
38. Black-headed Ibis - *Threskiornis melanocephalus* - a few in the Western Range at Kaziranga
39. Osprey - *Pandion haliaetus* - one seen along the Brahmaputra near Tezpur
40. Black-shouldered Kite - *Elanus caeruleus*
41. Oriental Honey-buzzard - *Pernis ptilorhynchus*



42. Jerdon's Baza - *Aviceda jerdoni* - seen twice at Manas
43. Slender-billed Vulture - *Gyps tenuirostris* - several seen feeding on a Rhino Carcass in the Western Range of Kaziranga
44. Himalayan Griffon - *Gyps himalayensis* - seen in the Central and Western Ranges of Kaziranga
45. Crested Serpent-Eagle - *Spilornis cheela*
46. Changeable Hawk-Eagle - *Nisaetus limnaeetus*
47. Black Eagle - *Ictinaetus malaiensis* - Eaglenest
48. Pied Harrier - *Circus melanoleucos* - breeds at Kaziranga
49. Shikra - *Accipiter badius*
50. Himalayan Buzzard - *Buteo refectus* - both light and dark morphs at Sela
51. Black Kite - *Milvus migrans*
52. Pallas's Fish-Eagle - *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
53. Gray-headed Fish-Eagle - *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
54. Bengal Florican - *Houbaropsis bengalensis* - several seen at Sorfuli and Makhibahan grasslands at Kaziranga.
55. White-breasted Waterhen - *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
56. Black-tailed Crake - *Amaurornis bicolor* - two seen in the Saangti Valley. Apparently present in small, wet areas throughout Arunachal, though we did not detect any elsewhere.
57. Watercock - *Gallicrex cinerea* - one male seen from the tower in the Central Range of Kaziranga.
58. River Lapwing - *Vanellus duvaucelii* - Kaziranga Central Range
59. Red-wattled Lapwing - *Vanellus indicus*
60. Long-billed Plover - *Charadrius placidus* - a pair at Sangti Valley
61. Pheasant-tailed Jacana - *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* - several in the Eastern Range of Kaziranga, including males in breeding plumage

62. Bronze-winged Jacana - *Metopidius indicus*
63. Common Sandpiper - *Actitis hypoleucos*
64. Common Greenshank - *Tringa nebularia*
65. Small Pratincole - *Glareola lactea* - seen from Mothanguri.
66. River Tern - *Sterna aurantia*
67. Snow Pigeon - *Columba leuconota* - Sela
68. Pale-capped Pigeon - *Columba punicea* - one seen the Eastern Range of Kaziranga
69. Oriental Turtle-Dove - *Streptopelia orientalis*
70. Red Collared-Dove - *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
71. Spotted Dove - *Streptopelia chinensis*
72. Barred Cuckoo-Dove - *Macropygia unchall* - Manas and Eaglenest
73. Emerald Dove - *Chalcophaps indica*
74. Ashy-headed Green-Pigeon - *Treron phayrei* - Manas
75. Yellow-footed Pigeon - *Treron phoenicopterus* - Kaziranga
76. Pin-tailed Pigeon - *Treron apicauda* - Manas and lower elevations at Eaglenest
77. Wedge-tailed Pigeon - *Treron sphenurus* - Eaglenest and Mandala
78. Green Imperial-Pigeon - *Ducula aenea*
79. Mountain Imperial-Pigeon - *Ducula badia*
80. Large Hawk-Cuckoo - *Hierococcyx sparveroides* - common by voice at Eaglenest
81. Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo - *Hierococcyx nisicolor* - common by voice at Eaglenest and Dirang.
82. Indian Cuckoo - *Cuculus micropterus*
83. Common Cuckoo - *Cuculus canorus*
84. Himalayan Cuckoo - *Cuculus saturatus* - common by voice at Eaglenest

85. Lesser Cuckoo - *Cuculus poliocephalus* - common by voice at Eaglenest
86. Plaintive Cuckoo - *Cacomantis merulinus* - Manas
87. Asian Emerald Cuckoo - *Chrysococcyx maculatus* - widespread at Eaglenest. Best detected by flight call.
88. Violet Cuckoo - *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* - one seen at a Tea Garden near Kaziranga, another heard flying over the road there
89. Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo - *Surniculus lugubris*
90. Asian Koel - *Eudynamys scolopaceus*
91. Green-billed Malkoha - *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
92. Greater Coucal - *Centropus sinensis*
93. Mountain Scops-Owl - *Otus spilocephalus* - heard at Eaglenest
94. Collared Scops-Owl - *Otus lettia* - heard only at Manas
95. Oriental Scops-Owl - *Otus sunia* - heard only near Mothanguri at Manas
96. Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl - *Bubo nipalensis* - a couple seen at Manas
97. Brown Fish-Owl - *Ketupa zeylonensis* - seen at Manas, and on a day roost at Kaziranga (along the road just before the tower in the Western Range)
98. Collared Owlet - *Glaucidium brodiei*
99. Asian Barred Owlet - *Glaucidium cuculoides*
100. Spotted Owlet - *Athene brama*
101. Brown Wood-Owl - *Strix leptogrammica* - heard at Bompu
102. Himalayan Owl - *Strix nivicolium* - seen at Eaglenest Pass, and heard at Lamacamp
103. Brown Boobook - *Ninox scutulata* - common at Kaziranga and Manas
104. Gray Nightjar - *Caprimulgus jotaka* - common at Eaglenest
105. Large-tailed Nightjar - *Caprimulgus macrurus*

106. Savanna Nightjar - *Caprimulgus affinis* - heard only from Mothanguri. Feeding over the river.
107. Blyth's Swift - *Apus leuconyx* - a couple seen at Eaglenest above Bompou, and a large flock in the Saangti Valley
108. Asian Palm-Swift - *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
109. Crested Treeswift - *Hemiprocne coronata* - Manas
110. Red-headed Trogon - *Harpactes erythrocephalus* - below Bompou
111. Ward's Trogon - *Harpactes wardi* - above Bompou and Lamacamp
112. Great Hornbill - *Buceros bicornis* - Manas and Kaziranga
113. Oriental Pied-Hornbill - *Anthracoceros albirostris* - Manas and Kaziranga
114. Rufous-necked Hornbill - *Aceros nipalensis* - around Sessni
115. Wreathed Hornbill - *Rhyticeros undulatus* - a pair seen distantly at Panbari
116. Blyth's Kingfisher - *Alcedo hercules* - Sessa. See the site description for details.
117. Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher - *Ceyx erithaca* - in the forest near Mothanguri at Manas.
118. Stork-billed Kingfisher - *Pelargopsis capensis*
119. Ruddy Kingfisher - *Halcyon coromanda* - in the forest near Mothanguri near Manas.
120. White-throated Kingfisher - *Halcyon smyrnensis*
121. Crested Kingfisher - *Megaceryle lugubris* - a pair at the river just after Tenga, and one in the Sangti Valley
122. Pied Kingfisher - *Ceryle rudis* - common at Kaziranga
123. Blue-bearded Bee-eater - *Nyctyornis athertoni* - Kaziranga
124. Green Bee-eater - *Merops orientalis*
125. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater - *Merops leschenaulti*

126. Indian Roller - *Coracias benghalensis*
127. Dollarbird - *Eurystomus orientalis* - two seen at Maozigendri at Manas
128. Coppersmith Barbet - *Psilopogon haemacephalus*
129. Blue-eared Barbet - *Psilopogon duvaucelii*
130. Great Barbet - *Psilopogon virens*
131. Lineated Barbet - *Psilopogon lineatus*
132. Golden-throated Barbet - *Psilopogon franklinii* - below Bompu
133. Blue-throated Barbet - *Psilopogon asiaticus*
134. Yellow-rumped Honeyguide - *Indicator xanthonotus* - flybys above Sunderview and Lamacamp. See the site description for details. Best detected by voice.
135. Gray-capped Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos canicapillus* - Kaziranga and Manas
136. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos macei* - Manas
137. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* - fairly common at higher elevations at Eaglenest and Mandala.
138. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos cathpharius* - around Lamacamp
139. Darjeeling Woodpecker - *Dendrocopos darjellensis* - common at Mandala, a few sightings around Sunderview
140. Lesser Yellownape - *Picus chlorolophus*
141. Streak-throated Woodpecker - *Picus xanthopygaeus* - common at forest edge in Kaziranga
142. Gray-headed Woodpecker - *Picus canus* - replaces the above in forest interior
143. Pale-headed Woodpecker - *Gecinulus grantia* - one seen at Sessa. Also present in the bamboo patch above Khellong.
144. Rufous Woodpecker - *Micropternus brachyurus*



145. Greater Flameback - *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus* - Manas
146. Bay Woodpecker - *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* - common by voice at Eaglenest
147. Eurasian Hobby - *Falco subbuteo* - a couple flybys at Kaziranga
148. Alexandrine Parakeet - *Psittacula eupatria* - common at Kaziranga
149. Rose-ringed Parakeet - *Psittacula krameri* - common at Kaziranga
150. Blossom-headed Parakeet - *Psittacula roseata* - common at Kaziranga
151. Red-breasted Parakeet - *Psittacula alexandri* - common at Kaziranga
152. Long-tailed Broadbill - *Psarisomus dalhousiae* - between Sessni and Bompu
153. Blue-naped Pitta - *Hydrornis nipalensis* - seen at a small forest patch near Kaziranga, and heard above Sessni
154. Hooded Pitta - *Pitta sordida* - common by voice in forest at Kaziranga and Manas. Also heard near Khellong at Eaglenest. Perhaps not present earlier in the season.
155. Common Woodshrike - *Tephrodornis pondicerianus* - Kaziranga and Manas
156. Ashy Woodswallow - *Artamus fuscus* - Manas
157. Common Iora - *Aegithina tiphia*
158. Small Minivet - *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* - Manas
159. Gray-chinned Minivet - *Pericrocotus solaris* - Eaglenest
160. Short-billed Minivet - *Pericrocotus brevirostris* - Eaglenest
161. Long-tailed Minivet - *Pericrocotus ethologus* - Eaglenest
162. Scarlet Minivet - *Pericrocotus speciosus* - common at lower elevations
163. Rosy Minivet - *Pericrocotus roseus* - Manas
164. Large Cuckooshrike - *Coracina macei* - Kaziranga and Manas
165. Black-winged Cuckooshrike - *Lalage melaschistos* - Eaglenest and a tea garden near Eaglenest

166. Brown Shrike - *Lanius cristatus* - late migrants. Seen at Kaziranga and Manas.
167. Long-tailed Shrike - *Lanius schach* - Manas and Kaziranga
168. Gray-backed Shrike - *Lanius tephronotus* - one seen on the Tawang side of Sela Pass
169. Black-headed Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius rufiventer* - seen and heard above Lamacamp.
170. Blyth's Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius aeralatus*
171. Green Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius xanthochlorus* - one above Lamacamp
172. Black-eared Shrike-Babbler - *Pteruthius melanotis*
173. Black-hooded Oriole - *Oriolus xanthornus* - common at low elevations
174. Maroon Oriole - *Oriolus traillii* - common at mid elevations
175. Black Drongo - *Dicrurus macrocercus*
176. Ashy Drongo - *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
177. Bronzed Drongo - *Dicrurus aeneus*
178. Hair-crested Drongo - *Dicrurus hottentottus*
179. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo - *Dicrurus paradiseus*
180. White-throated Fantail - *Rhipidura albicollis*
181. Black-naped Monarch - *Hypothymis azurea*
182. Indian Paradise-Flycatcher - *Terpsiphone paradisi* - Manas
183. Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie - *Urocissa flavirostris* - above Lamacamp, and Mandala
184. Common Green-Magpie - *Cissa chinensis* - above Sessni
185. Rufous Treepie - *Dendrocitta vagabunda* - widespread
186. Gray Treepie - *Dendrocitta formosae* - heard only at Kaziranga
187. Collared Treepie - *Dendrocitta frontalis* - one at Khellong, and another just above it

188. Eurasian Nutcracker - *Nucifraga caryocatactes* - Mandala, and at high elevations at Eaglenest
189. Red-billed Chough - *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* - Sela Pass
190. House Crow - *Corvus splendens*
191. Large-billed Crow - *Corvus macrorhynchos*
192. Bengal Bushlark - *Mirafra assamica* - Manas and Kaziranga
193. Gray-throated Martin - *Riparia chinensis*
194. Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica* - two subspecies seen
195. Striated Swallow - *Cecropis striolata*
196. Asian House-Martin - *Delichon dasypus*
197. Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail - *Chelidorhynch hypoxantha*
198. Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher - *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
199. Yellow-browed Tit - *Sylviparus modestus*
200. Coal Tit - *Periparus ater* - Mandala and Sela
201. Rufous-vented Tit - *Periparus rubidiventris* - Sela
202. Gray-crested Tit - *Lophophanes dichrous* - Mandala
203. Green-backed Tit - *Parus monticolus* - Eaglenest and Mandala
204. Cinereous Tit - *Parus cinereus*
205. Yellow-cheeked Tit - *Machlolophus spilonotus*
206. Black-throated Tit - *Aegithalos concinnus* - Eaglenest
207. Black-browed Tit - *Aegithalos iouschistos* - a few at Mandala
208. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - *Sitta cinnamoventris* - one near Khellong
209. White-tailed Nuthatch - *Sitta himalayensis* - the common nuthatch at higher elevations
210. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch - *Sitta frontalis*
211. Beautiful Nuthatch - *Sitta formosa* - a few between Sessni and Bomp

212. Hodgson's Treecreeper - *Certhia hodgsoni* - one at Mandala
213. Rusty-flanked Treecreeper - *Certhia nipalensis* - one at Mandala
214. Sikkim Treecreeper - *Certhia discolor* - common at Eaglenest
215. Eurasian Wren - *Troglodytes troglodytes*
216. Brown Dipper - *Cinclus pallasii* - one seen en route from Dirang to Sela
217. Striated Bulbul - *Pycnonotus striatus*
218. Black-crested Bulbul - *Pycnonotus flaviventris*
219. Red-vented Bulbul - *Pycnonotus cafer*
220. Red-whiskered Bulbul - *Pycnonotus jocosus*
221. White-throated Bulbul - *Alophoixus flaveolus* - present at Khellong, Manas, and Panbari
222. Black Bulbul - *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
223. Scaly-breasted Cupwing - *Pnoepyga albiventer* - common by voice at Mandala and at higher elevations at Eaglenest
224. Pygmy Cupwing - *Pnoepyga pusilla*
225. Gray-bellied Tesia - *Tesia cyaniventer* - mid elevation Tesia
226. Slaty-bellied Tesia - *Tesia olivea* - low elevation Tesia
227. Gray-sided Bush-Warbler - *Cettia brunnifrons* - common at Mandala and Sela
228. Chestnut-headed Tesia - *Cettia castaneocoronata* - high elevation Tesia
229. Yellow-bellied Warbler - *Abroscopus superciliaris*
230. Rufous-faced Warbler - *Abroscopus albogularis* - Khellong
231. Black-faced Warbler - *Abroscopus schisticeps*
232. Mountain Tailorbird - *Phyllergates cucullatus*
233. Broad-billed Warbler - *Tickellia hodgsoni* - common at Eaglenest
234. Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler - *Horornis fortipes* - common at Eaglenest

235. Dusky Warbler - *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
236. Tickell's Leaf Warbler - *Phylloscopus affinis* - one on the Alubari track at Eaglenest
237. Buff-barred Warbler - *Phylloscopus pulcher* - common at Mandala and Sela
238. Ashy-throated Warbler - *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
239. Greenish Warbler - *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
240. Large-billed Leaf Warbler - *Phylloscopus magnirostris* - common at higher elevations at Eaglenest and Mandala (though replaced even higher by Greenish)
241. Blyth's Leaf Warbler - *Phylloscopus reguloides*
242. Yellow-vented Warbler - *Phylloscopus cantator* - one near Khellong, and a few in Sessa
243. Gray-hooded Warbler - *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* - seen a couple times at Eaglenest, and also in the Sangti Valley
244. Whistler's Warbler - *Seicercus whistleri* - the common high elevation *Seicercus*
245. White-spectacled Warbler - *Seicercus affinis* - common around Bompu
246. Gray-cheeked Warbler - *Seicercus poliogenys* - common at Eaglenest
247. Chestnut-crowned Warbler - *Seicercus castaniceps*
248. Thick-billed Warbler - *Iduna aedon* - common migrant in grasslands at Manas and Kaziranga
249. Striated Grassbird - *Megalurus palustris*
250. Brown Bush-Warbler - *Locustella luteoventris* - a few seen at Mandala
251. Russet Bush-Warbler - widespread in open habitats in Arunachal, but heard only
252. Bristled Grassbird - *Chaetornis striata* - one seen at grassland 2 at Manas
253. Zitting Cisticola - *Cisticola juncidis*



254. Golden-headed Cisticola - *Cisticola exilis*
255. Common Tailorbird - *Orthotomus sutorius*
256. Black-throated Prinia - *Prinia atrogularis* - a few near Lamacamp
257. Gray-breasted Prinia - *Prinia hodgsonii* - common at Manas and Kaziranga
258. Yellow-bellied Prinia - *Prinia flaviventris* - one at Manas
259. Ashy Prinia - *Prinia socialis* - common at Manas and Kaziranga
260. Plain Prinia - *Prinia inornata* - common at Manas and Kaziranga
261. Fire-tailed Myzornis - *Myzornis pyrrhoura* - a pair in rhododendron below Sela pass. See site description for details.
262. Golden-breasted Fulvetta - *Lioparus chrysotis* - common near Bompou (the most commonly captured bird by researchers mistnetting nearby)
263. Yellow-eyed Babbler - *Chrysomma sinense* - seen a couple times at Manas
264. Jerdon's Babbler - *Chrysomma altirostre* - common at Makhibahan grassland in Manas
265. White-hooded Babbler - *Gampsorhynchus rufulus* - in the bamboo patch above Khellong
266. White-breasted Parrotbill - *Psittiparus ruficeps* - common at Eaglenest
267. Black-breasted Parrotbill - *Paradoxornis flavirostris* - seen at Kuribil and Makhibahan grasslands at Manas
268. Pale-billed Parrotbill - *Chleuasicus atrosuperciliaris* - a pair near Khellong
269. Black-throated Parrotbill - *Suthora nipalensis* - several seen above Bompou in bamboo
270. Striated Yuhina - *Yuhina castaniceps* - common at lower elevations
271. White-naped Yuhina - *Yuhina bakeri* - common below Bompou, and also at Sessa
272. Whiskered Yuhina - *Yuhina flavicollis* - common at the right elevations

273. Stripe-throated Yuhina - *Yuhina gularis* - common at higher elevations
274. Rufous-vented Yuhina - *Yuhina occipitalis* - common at higher elevations
275. Black-chinned Yuhina - *Yuhina nigrimenta* - a few sightings at Sessa and near Khellong
276. Oriental White-eye - *Zosterops palpebrosus*
277. Chestnut-capped Babbler - *Timalia pileata* - common in grassland
278. Pin-striped Tit-Babbler - *Mixornis gularis*
279. Golden Babbler - *Cyanoderma chrysaeum*
280. Rufous-capped Babbler - *Cyanoderma ruficeps* - common at Eaglenest
281. Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler - *Spelaeornis caudatus* - fairly common by voice around Bompu
282. Bar-winged Wren-Babbler - *Spelaeornis troglodytoides* - a couple seen at Mandala. Also present at Eaglenest, but apparently taped out. The habitat is gullies with mossy rocks.
283. Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler - *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* - a few flocks seen around Bompu
284. Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler - *Pomatorhinus superciliaris* - seen above Bompu, and also at Mandala Road
285. Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler - *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* - the most common Scimitar-Babbler in Arunachal
286. White-browed Scimitar-Babbler - *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
287. Gray-throated Babbler - *Stachyris nigriceps*
288. Himalayan Wedge-billed Babbler (Blackish-breasted Babbler) - *Stachyris humei* - seen close to Bompu. Present anywhere with water between Bompu and Sessni.
289. Yellow-throated Fulvetta - *Schoeniparus cinereus* - common at lower elevations at Eaglenest
290. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - *Schoeniparus castaneiceps*

291. Puff-throated Babbler - *Pellorneum ruficeps*
292. Long-billed Wren-Babbler - *Napothera malacoptila* - one seen next to Bompou, several more heard. The preferred habitat is gullies with wild banana plants.
293. Abbott's Babbler - *Turdinus abbotti*
294. Indian Grassbird - *Graminicola bengalensis* - one seen at Makhibahan grassland in Manas. Not singing.
295. Ludlow's Fulvetta - *Alcippe ludlowi* - a few seen near Eaglenest Pass and at Mandala
296. Nepal Fulvetta - *Alcippe nipalensis* - common at lower elevations at Eaglenest and Sessa
297. Striated Laughingthrush - *Grammatoptila striata* - common at Eaglenest. The canopy Laughingthrush.
298. Himalayan Cutia - *Cutia nipalensis* - seen several times around Bompou. Also heard near Lamacamp.
299. Striated Babbler - *Turdoides earlei*
300. Slender-billed Babbler - *Turdoides longirostris* - seen in Sorfuli and Makhibahan grassland in Manas. Also possible at Kaziranga.
301. Jungle Babbler - *Turdoides striata* - one flock at Manas.
302. White-crested Laughingthrush - *Garrulax leucolophus* - heard frequently at lower elevations at Eaglenest.
303. Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla rufogularis* - common around Ramaling. Also seen/heard along the Alubari Track and near Khellong. A Laughingthrush of degraded habitats.
304. Spotted Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla ocellata* - common at Eaglenest Pass and Mandala. A stunner.
305. White-throated Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla albogularis* - seen at a few scattered places in Eaglenest (Chaku, Tragopanda Trail, Ramaling).

306. Rufous-necked Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla ruficollis* - Manas and tea gardens near Kaziranga
307. Rufous-vented Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla gularis* - a pair in bamboo above Khellong.
308. Gray-sided Laughingthrush - *Ianthocincla caerulata* - Eaglenest
309. Bhutan Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron imbricatum* - common in open habitats in Arunachal
310. Scaly Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron subunicolor* - near Eaglenest Pass
311. Blue-winged Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron squamatum* - Eaglenest and Sessa
312. Black-faced Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron affine* - common at high elevations. The highest laughingthrush.
313. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*
314. Beautiful Sibia - *Heterophasia pulchella* - almost annoyingly common.
315. Long-tailed Sibia - *Heterophasia picaoides* - around Sessni
316. Silver-eared Mesia - *Leiothrix argenteauris* - Eaglenest
317. Red-billed Leiothrix - *Leiothrix lutea* - Eaglenest
318. Red-tailed Minla - *Minla ignotincta* - common at Eaglenest and Mandala
319. Rufous-backed Sibia - *Minla annectens* - a few below Sessni
320. Bugun Liocichla - *Liocichla bugunorum* - see Eaglenest site description for details
321. Red-faced Liocichla - *Liocichla phoenicea* - below Bompu and Lamacamp
322. Streak-throated Barwing - *Actinodura nipalensis* - around Bompu, Lamacamp, and Eaglenest Pass
323. Rusty-fronted Barwing - *Actinodura egertoni* - very common in Arunachal;
324. Blue-winged Minla - *Actinodura cyanouroptera* - common at Eaglenest

325. Chestnut-tailed Minla - *Actinodura strigula* - common at Eaglenest and Mandala
326. Asian Fairy-bluebird - *Irena puella* - Manas
327. Dark-sided Flycatcher - *Muscicapa sibirica* - common at higher elevations
328. Asian Brown Flycatcher - *Muscicapa latirostris* - one at Manas. Photographed.
329. Ferruginous Flycatcher - *Muscicapa ferruginea* - one below Chaku. This species is widespread above and below Bompu but inconspicuous
330. Oriental Magpie-Robin - *Copsychus saularis*
331. White-rumped Shama - *Copsychus malabaricus*
332. White-gorgeted Flycatcher - *Anthipes monileger* - Eaglenest
333. Pale-chinned Blue-Flycatcher - *Cyornis poliogenys* - present in forest in Manas and Kaziranga
334. Large Blue-Flycatcher - *Cyornis magnirostris* - a few in the bamboo patch above Khellong
335. Pale Blue-flycatcher - *Cyornis unicolor* - common by voice below Bompu. Also heard in bamboo at a tea garden near Kaziranga.
336. Large Niltava - *Niltava grandis* - Eaglenest
337. Small Niltava - *Niltava macgrigoriae* - Eaglenest
338. Rufous-bellied Niltava - *Niltava sundara* - Eaglenest
339. Verditer Flycatcher - *Eumyias thalassinus* - very common in Arunachal
340. Gould's Shortwing - *Brachypteryx stellata* - Sela Pass. See the account there for details.
341. Lesser Shortwing - *Brachypteryx leucophrys* - common at Eaglenest
342. White-browed Shortwing - *Brachypteryx montana* - replaces the previous at higher elevations.
343. Indian Blue Robin - *Larvivora brunnea* - a couple on the Alubari track at Eaglenest, and several more heard en route to Sela



344. White-bellied Redstart - *Luscinia phaenicuroides* - one at Mandala
345. Blue Whistling-Thrush - *Myophonus caeruleus* - surprisingly only at Sessa
346. Little Forktail - *Enicurus scouleri* - stakeout at Sessa
347. Black-backed Forktail - *Enicurus immaculatus* - one on the lodge grounds at Wildgrass
348. Slaty-backed Forktail - *Enicurus schistaceus* - Sessa
349. White-tailed Robin - *Cinclidium leucurum*
350. Blue-fronted Robin - *Cinclidium frontale* - common at high enough elevations at Eaglenest, but very skulky
351. Grandala - *Grandala coelicolor* - several near the lake on our last day at Sela
352. Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin - *Tarsiger hyperythrus* - two in the meadow at Sela
353. White-browed Bush-Robin - *Tarsiger indicus* - common by voice below Sela Pass
354. Golden Bush-Robin - *Tarsiger chrysaeus* - Mandala and Sela
355. Slaty-blue Flycatcher - *Ficedula tricolor* - Mandala
356. Snowy-browed Flycatcher - *Ficedula hyperythra* - common at Eaglenest
357. Pygmy Blue-Flycatcher - *Ficedula hodgsoni* - one seen in a mixed flock above Lamacamp
358. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - *Ficedula strophciata* - common at higher elevations
359. Sapphire Flycatcher - *Ficedula sapphira* - present on both sides at Eaglenest
360. Little Pied Flycatcher - *Ficedula westermanni* - Eaglenest
361. Ultramarine Flycatcher - *Ficedula superciliaris* - widespread at Eaglenest. A little difficult to tell from Sapphire by voice.
362. Taiga Flycatcher - *Ficedula albicilla* - a few at Manas and Kaziranga

363. Blue-fronted Redstart - *Phoenicurus frontalis* - common at Sela
364. Plumbeous Redstart - *Phoenicurus fuliginosus* - common at high elevation rivers in Arunachal
365. White-capped Redstart - *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* - common at Sela
366. Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush - *Monticola rufiventris* - Eaglenest and Mandala
367. Blue-capped Rock-Thrush - *Monticola cinclorhynchus* - common at lower elevations in Arunachal
368. Siberian Stonechat - *Saxicola maurus* - one at Manas
369. Gray Bushchat - *Saxicola ferreus* - scattered sightings in Arunachal
370. Orange-headed Thrush - *Geokichla citrina* - one seen walking on a road at Manas early in the morning
371. Long-billed Thrush - *Zoothera monticola* - Eaglenest. See site account for details.
372. Scaly Thrush - *Zoothera dauma* - surprisingly only one, on Mandala Road early in the morning. Also present at Eaglenest, but not observed there.
373. Plain-backed Thrush - *Zoothera mollissima* - heard only at Sela
374. White-collared Blackbird - *Turdus albocinctus* - common at higher elevations in Arunachal
375. Gray-winged Blackbird - *Turdus boulboul* - a few sightings at Mandala and Eaglenest, always at lower elevations than the previous.
376. Tibetan Blackbird - *Turdus maximus* - a couple sightings at Sela
377. Purple Cochoa - *Cochoa purpurea* - see Eaglenest account. Also possible at Mandala, though we did not detect any there.
378. Green Cochoa - *Cochoa viridis* - see Sessa and Eaglenest accounts.
379. Common Hill Myna - *Gracula religiosa*
380. Asian Pied Starling - *Gracupica contra*
381. Chestnut-tailed Starling - *Sturnia malabarica*

382. Common Myna - *Acridotheres tristis*
383. Bank Myna - *Acridotheres ginginianus* - at a river in the Central Range of Kaziranga
384. Jungle Myna - *Acridotheres fuscus*
385. Great Myna - *Acridotheres grandis*
386. Golden-fronted Leafbird - *Chloropsis aurifrons*
387. Orange-bellied Leafbird - *Chloropsis hardwickii*
388. Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker - *Dicaeum melanoxanthum* - Eaglenest and Mandala. See the site accounts for details.
389. Plain Flowerpecker - *Dicaeum minullum* - common at Manas. Also heard once near Khellong.
390. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - *Dicaeum ignipectus*
391. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker - *Dicaeum cruentatum*
392. Fire-tailed Sunbird - *Aethopyga ignicauda* - common at Sela
393. Black-throated Sunbird - *Aethopyga saturata* - common below Bompu
394. Gould's Sunbird - *Aethopyga gouldiae* - common at Eaglenest
395. Green-tailed Sunbird - *Aethopyga nipalensis* - common at Eaglenest
396. Crimson Sunbird - *Aethopyga siparaja* - Manas
397. Streaked Spiderhunter - *Arachnothera magna* - Eaglenest and Sessa
398. Alpine Accentor - *Prunella collaris* - Sela Pass
399. Rufous-breasted Accentor - *Prunella strophhiata* - Sela Pass, and the Alubari Track at Eaglenest
400. Forest Wagtail - *Dendronanthus indicus* - a couple late migrants at Manas
401. Western Yellow Wagtail - *Motacilla flava* - Kaziranga
402. Citrine Wagtail - *Motacilla citreola* - Kaziranga
403. Gray Wagtail - *Motacilla cinerea* - one late migrant at Manas

404. White Wagtail - *Motacilla alba* - common around Dirang
405. Paddyfield Pipit - *Anthus rufulus* - Manas and Kaziranga
406. Rosy Pipit - *Anthus roseatus* - Sela Pass
407. Olive-backed Pipit - *Anthus hodgsoni*
408. Blyth's Pipit - *Anthus godlewskii* - migrants seen on a couple days at Eaglenest
409. Spotted Elachura - *Elachura formosa* - Sessa, Bompu and below at Eaglenest
410. Crested Bunting - *Melophus lathami* - one sighting at the Sangti Valley
411. Plain Mountain-Finch - *Leucosticte nemoricola* - Sela Pass
412. Gold-naped Finch - *Pyrrhoptes epauletta* - near Lamacamp, and Mandala Road
413. Brown Bullfinch - *Pyrrhula nipalensis* - scattered sightings at Eaglenest and Mandala
414. Common Rosefinch - *Carpodacus erythrinus*
415. Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch - *Carpodacus thura* - common at Sela
416. Scarlet Finch - *Haematospiza sipahi* - common at Eaglenest
417. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch - *Chloris spinoides* - a flyover at Mandala
418. Red Crossbill - *Loxia curvirostra* - one large flock in a hemlock at Mandala
419. Spot-winged Grosbeak - *Mycerobas melanozanthos* - Eaglenest
420. White-winged Grosbeak - *Mycerobas carnipes* - in coniferous forest at Sela
421. Collared Grosbeak - *Mycerobas affinis* - in coniferous forest at Sela
422. House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*
423. Russet Sparrow - *Passer rutilans* - Mandala and Sangti Valley
424. Eurasian Tree Sparrow - *Passer montanus*

- 425. Baya Weaver - *Ploceus philippinus*
- 426. Bengal Weaver - *Ploceus benghalensis*
- 427. Finn's Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* - see Kaziranga account for details.
- 428. Scaly-breasted Munia - *Lonchura punctulata*