

**BHUTAN**  
**APRIL 8–27, 2018**



Ward's Trogon (Peggy Wang)

**LEADER: DION HOBCROFT**  
**With Ansar Khan & Dasho Khandu**  
**LIST COMPILED BY: DION HOBCROFT**

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**BY DION HOBSCROFT**



A Beautiful Nuthatch probes moss in the forests of Shemgang, Bhutan. (Photo: Ansar Khan)

It is fair to say that if they ironed out all the hills in Bhutan, it would be bigger than Texas. It is precisely this mountainous terrain that draws the birder to Bhutan—a remote Buddhist kingdom only comparatively recently opened up to Westerners. The highly diverse bird fauna of the Eastern Himalayas, with a Tibetan influence and a good sprinkling of Palaearctic migrants, ensures any visit will be a lot of fun, exciting, and quite an adventure. This is an account of this year’s adventure.

Superb views of the Himalayan peaks started our tour auspiciously—Everest, Makalu, Kanchenjunga, and Jomolhari all on view out of the plane window at 30,000 feet. We arrived into Paro Airport, perhaps the world’s most beautiful airport, and after a lost binoculars “kafuffle” managed to enter Bhutan and start birding. Happily, the binoculars were located. Literally the first bird focused on was an Ibisbill, followed by Brown Dipper, White Wagtail, and Oriental Turtle-Dove until the group reached our new hotel, and, a bit weary from our early start, had a break. The afternoon was spent exploring along the Paro Valley where we had great views of Black-tailed Crake, Eurasian Hobby, and Speckled Wood-Pigeon amongst more typical species such as Russet Sparrow, Green-backed Tit, and White-collared Blackbird, as we explored the ancient fortification of Drukgyel Dzong.



A male Blood Pheasant poses on a stump in a characteristic pose at Cheli La. (Ansar Khan)

Barreling up a mountain pass in the pre-dawn towards Cheli La, as the light improved, Jomolhari was there puncturing the sky, lit by the early rays of the sun. A wonderful way to wake up and, if you were indeed drowsy, nothing like stunning Blood Pheasants perched on a stump displaying their finery to wake you up. We quickly scoped up the first of three male Himalayan Monals (another of the world’s

great birds), and the day rarely lost tempo as we clocked up quite a roll call of Himalayan birds. A singing Long-tailed Thrush, a small flock of Snow Pigeons, great views of White-winged and Collared grosbeaks, Plain Mountain Finch and a male Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch, both Alpine and Altai accentors, beautiful Blue-fronted Redstarts, Rosy Pipits and Himalayan Bluetails, Hodgson's Treecreepers, and several species of tits. Superb Spotted Laughingthrush and the more common Black-faced Laughingthrush—always welcome! Notable was a juvenile Northern Goshawk perched and a silvery male Hen Harrier that spooked up the Snow Pigeons.

Enjoying both breakfast and lunch in the field attended to by our wonderful camp crew, we eventually wandered downhill, stopping for a responsive Green Shrike-Babbler and our first Gould's Sunbird, and drove through to Thimphu. We thoroughly caned the wastewater ponds near the capital city, finding a further four Ibisbills, a small flock of Ruddy Shelducks, a fine Eurasian Hoopoe amongst a smattering of other migrants like *leucopsis* White Wagtails, a possible Dusky Warbler, and a major rarity in the form of a Water Pipit—perhaps a first for Bhutan.



This Himalayan Goral at Cheri allowed a close approach. (Ansar Khan)

We started the day at a well-known site for Yellow-rumped Honeyguide—cliffs with Rock Bee hives hanging from protected ledges. There was no sign of the honeyguide in the rainy conditions, but fortune favored us when Ansar spotted a Wallcreeper tucked in the rocks. It gradually became more animated, flashing its crimson wings as we scoped it so well. The rest of the morning was superb with fantastic views of both Darjeeling and Rufous-bellied woodpeckers, a bonus Eurasian Woodcock, and, when we returned, a great look at a Yellow-rumped Honeyguide that even chased another of its kind away in a spirited defense of its territory. The pass, Dochu La, was shrouded in heavy fog; persistence revealed a

few species like Green-tailed Sunbird, both Stripe-throated and Rufous-vented yuhinas, our first Yellow-browed Tits, and a Golden-spectacled Warbler. As we dropped lower, we hit a mixed flock with White-tailed Nuthatch and Chestnut-crowned Warbler, and lower down had some luck with a Tickell's Thrush that was attracted to a fruiting bush. As we entered the Punakha Valley, we found a large flock of Ruddy Shelducks that held a few other species, the best of which was a Common Shelduck.



A male Small Niltava photographed at Tashitang. (Ansar Khan)

Our day in Tashitang produced a good roll call of expected species, although populations seemed quite low this year. Still we enjoyed some quite special brassy birds like Great and Golden-throated barbets, perched Mountain Hawk and Crested Serpent Eagles, nesting Scarlet Minivets, tons of Grey Treepies, fantastic looks at the brilliant Small Niltava, glowing Black-throated Sunbird, and the localized Yellow-

vented Warbler. After a solid morning of birding we enjoyed our tour of the Punakha Dzong, regaled by an Asian Koel and a stunning Crested Kingfisher. Khandu did a great job explaining much about the wheel of life, the life of Buddha, and there was much to take in from the superb paintings, tapestries, giant statues, and interesting “people-watching.”



Our first male Satyr Tragopan at Pele La was much appreciated by all. (Ansar Khan)

Although the White-bellied Heron seems to have now died out at its traditional site on the Po Chu, we gave it a thorough search—just in case! It is a fascinating migration conduit in early April, and we found a sprinkling of lost migrants including a Little Stint, two Lesser Sand-Plovers, and a pair of Red-crested Pochards. We had a twitch on our minds, thanks to a tip-off from Paul Lehman—a lingering Black-necked Crane in the Phobjikha Valley. A thorough search of the marsh came up empty, although the warden at crane centre said it was present in the morning. We waited until the late afternoon, and in it flew—yes! We had long scope views of this most unexpected bonus bird—a difficult bird to see in its remote Tibetan stronghold. While waiting we had a dramatic sighting of a male Hen Harrier and a pair of Eurasian Hobbies hunting Oriental Skylarks and Rosy Pipits in tandem. We made it to camp at Pele La. Overcast conditions kept it relatively balmy.

Tea, coffee, biscuit, and we were out trawling and had virtually instant success with both male and female Satyr Tragopan. The male was incredibly obliging, pirouetting this way and that, and it proved to be the first of three males seen in the morning—one of the world’s most extraordinary birds. The rhododendron forest glades were intense, and hordes of birds were attracted to the pollen feast.

Finches were in good form—small puddles of rainwater attracted bathing Dark-rumped, Dark-breasted, and Common Rosefinches, and we found a trio of Red-headed Bullfinches. A pair of Fire-tailed Sunbirds—the male gave sensational views—and other good sightings included a Besra, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, a kettle of immature Himalayan Vultures (some perched), three more Himalayan Monals, and the lovely Hoary-throated Barwing. After lunch a thunderstorm rolled in, and apart from a chance encounter with a dapper pair of Little Forktails, we drove through to Trongsa.



A real high country specialist, Solitary Snipe is rarely encountered. This bird was in the Bumthang Valleys. (Ansar Khan)

The fields around Trongsa started this day quite well with very cooperative Bhutan Laughingthrush, Brown-flanked Bush-Warbler, and a sneaky Russet Bush-Warbler. The rest of the morning at Yutong La was quite slow for birds, although a good view of a Leopard Cat considerably enlivened proceedings, as did a hail storm. Our next good discovery was a glowing male Tibetan Citrine Wagtail followed by a spot of shopping. A Black-tailed Crake popped up—a good clawback for Lindsey, followed by an Ibisbill, and in the late afternoon a bamboo remnant delivered the much-wanted Brown Parrotbill that performed well. We enjoyed the authentic hospitality of the Leki Guest House and enjoyed a weaving demonstration.

The Blue Pine dominated Bumthang valleys are quiet typically for birds, but after a bit of faffing around, eventually a Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch male perched up well for all to see at close range. Then we had some extraordinary luck finding a fantastic Solitary Snipe sitting out in the open near a small stream. This is a rarely seen bird. Winding up and over the pass at Thrumsinghla we spotted a few raptors, a

Goldcrest, several Blood Pheasants, and a pair of Fire-tailed Sunbirds. The main event kicked off in some bamboo patches where, in a dazzling spell of Himalayan birding, we had good looks at both Great and Fulvous parrotbills, Scaly-breasted Cupwing, the extraordinary Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, a female Hill Partridge (that in a rare error of judgment allowed itself to be seen), the wonderful singing Hume's Bush-Warbler, a female White-browed Bush-Robin, and an extraordinarily well-behaved pair of Fire-tailed Myzornis that fed repeatedly and unconcernedly in rhododendron flowers. To top this off we had a male and two female Satyr Tragopans feeding unconcernedly lower down. This, plus the use of kitchen and bathroom facilities provided by a family at Sengor helping for a more comfortable camping night, rounded out what had been a terrific day.



Wow! The Fire-tailed Myzornis we found at Sengor showed superbly. Note the rhododendron pollen on its chin! (Ansar Khan)

In the pre-dawn we were serenaded by Himalayan Tawny Owls and a series of most unusual vocalizations that sounded bang on for Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl. This was always going to be a huge day, and with great weather—cool and overcast—the birds kept us jumping all day. In fact, we recorded 112 species with no waterbirds. Scarlet Finch was first cab off the rank, followed by superb Golden-breasted Fulvetta. Broad-billed Warbler gave superb views (the first I had seen in several trips), a rare East Himalayan endemic that mimics the Mountain Tailorbird—a case of “interspecific social dominance mimicry.” Other megas included fantastic Himalayan Cutia, Rufous-necked Hornbills, Scaly Laughingthrush, White-naped Yuhina, and Yellow-throated Fulvetta. With the clouds closing in, we



decided to twitch a reported Tawny Fish-Owl. It took quite some finding, and success was sweet. In the lower valley we even jagged some surprises like a pair of Himalayan Bulbuls, a troop of Capped Langurs, and no shortage of new birds for the trip list like Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo and Orange-bellied Leafbird.



It took a bit of finding, but we finally tracked down this Tawny Fish-Owl near Lingmethang. (Peggy Wang)

A tip-off of Ward's Trogon had us arriving just a bit too late, only to hear it calling steep upslope. While waiting though, up popped a superb family of Black-throated Parrotbills and a very well-behaved Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler. A pair of Yellow-throated Martens, carnivorous mammals, was squeaked up for good looks, and then we lucked on a pair of the scarce Sapphire Flycatcher. A male Gold-naped Finch fed next to the bus, while inspecting a rock overhang produced a loafing Goral complete with Rock Bees and Yellow-rumped Honeyguide. Ansar spotted a Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin,

a rare bird, but it disappeared on us too quickly. As the day progressed, we enjoyed plenty of other glamour birds like Green Magpie, White-breasted Parrotbill, Long-tailed Broadbill, and an amazing Long-billed Wren-Babbler, like a mini kiwi.



One of a multitude of extraordinarily attractive Himalayan forest passerines, the Black-throated Parrotbill, like most others in the family, is a bamboo specialist. This one was photographed near Namling. (Ansar Khan)

We had a final crack for Ward's Trogon and heard it singing tantalizingly upslope. Ansar made the breakthrough, and there was the male perched out. It did not hang about for long, but everyone picked it out—yes! Gloom descended with thick fog, and we wound our way back over Thrumsingh La. Working a bamboo patch produced White-browed Shortwing, a glowing male Golden Bush-Robin, and a Great Parrotbill that we watched as it peeled and chomped on a bamboo shoot. Then we were out of time and had to motor to Trongsa, driven by capable Dasho Nadu—a legend in the driving stakes—as he tackled some difficult stretches of road with great care.

It was the end of our true high country birding as we now commenced the gradual descent to the plains of Assam. As we enjoyed the first of several troops of the highly localized Golden Langur, a dizzying wave of bird activity came past us like a fallout, as the smaller insectivores waited for the cold weather up top to dissipate. This included nine species of leaf-warblers and other well-appreciated birds like a

close Bay Woodpecker and our first Slaty-backed Forktail. After this flurry of activity we had to contend with some slow-going on the roads, as a developing hydro-project had ground out the previously quite good road with over-burdened trucks. Falling behind schedule, I made an attempt to find Beautiful Nuthatch in the late afternoon in Shemgang. Not overly confident, it was a mighty relief when one of the first birds I spotted was one of no less than three Beautiful Nuthatches that fed below eye level for long periods of time, allowing superb photo opportunities. Winding down the range to camp, stopping for Kalij Pheasant, we spent the first of two nights at Tingtibi where the dogs certainly guided the leader into the afterlife!



So many memorable sightings on this tour: including a male Great Hornbill (on the right) feeding his girlfriend at Tingtibi. (Ansar Khan)

A morning at Gomphu had us stopping for a superb view of a Chestnut-winged Cuckoo and then parking the bus right next to a pair of Pale-headed Woodpeckers. As we improved our views of these timid birds, Dasho Nadu pointed out a large bird flying downstream. My god—a White-bellied Heron, close approaching the status of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker—luckily landed on a bank of riverine shingle and allowed a scope view for all to see. It wandered out of view and was never relocated, yet it was proof that perhaps we were the luckiest group of birders in Bhutan ever. Fully chuffed with this success, we spotted a good cross-section of lowland forest birds like Rufous-bellied Eagle, Blue-throated Barbet, Blue-throated Flycatcher, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, White-throated and Ashy bulbuls, Plain Flowerpecker, White-vented Myna, Streaked Spiderhunter, and White-rumped Munia. Post-siesta

where a Great Hornbill came over camp, we worked along the road above Tingtibi where we had great looks at Blue-bearded Bee-eater, White-browed Scimitar-Babbler, and Gray-headed Woodpecker but struggled with some recalcitrant Rufous-chinned Laughingthrushes. We caught up with a well-behaved Bay Woodpecker and had a major surprise with a perched Wreathed Hornbill next to the bus.



Rare and increasingly difficult: Ward's Trogon. (Peggy Wang)

Breaking camp, we revisited Gomphu, stopping for an incredible pair of Great Hornbills where we watched the male feed the female. Further stops were made for Oriental Honey-buzzard, Black Eagle, Green-billed Malkoha, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Asian Emerald Dove, Crimson Sunbird, and Yellow-bellied Warbler to mention some, before we traveled further south to Tama La, enjoying a feeding flock of White-throated Needletails en route. Our afternoon proved relatively quiet, although a male Black-headed Shrike-Babbler turned up briefly, and Silver-eared Mesias were a big hit. At night some of us walked along the road and spotted a small herd of four doe Sambar feeding in a forest edge field. Ansar found a small, harmless snake near his tent, which I photographed and identified at home as an Iridescent Snake *Blythia reticulata*. It apparently feeds on earthworms and is scarce and poorly known.

After a very pleasant canine-free evening, we explored the great forests over the pass the next morning. It was bird-rich, with a Pygmy Blue Flycatcher getting us off to a solid start. A Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler dashed across, Yellow-throated Fulvettas seemed a bit unusual here, and some annoying Blue-winged Laughingthrushes disappeared almost immediately, but the great prize was a fine male Ward's Trogon. We drove on down to Geylephu where we had a welcome shower and siesta. Re-energized, we visited the nearby water treatment ponds and ricefields, close to the border with India. As this was a new biome, trip birds came thick and fast. Notable were a pair of Yellow-wattled Lapwings, a Temminck's Stint, a Spotted Redshank in breeding plumage, several Wood Sandpipers, a male Cinnamon Bittern, a fine pair of the scarce Silver-backed Needletail, a Greater Flameback, Little Grebe, a pair of Lesser Adjutants, and Green Bee-eater amongst a bunch of other species.



The scarce and elusive Collared Treepie was a major bonus near Geylephu after having seen six trillion Grey Treepies! (Peggy Wang)

Our final day in Bhutan had arrived, and it delivered some great surprises. A morning stroll along a side road rewarded us with great views of a Slender-billed Oriole, Mountain Imperial-Pigeon, Wedge-tailed Pigeon, and Golden-fronted Leafbird, while what was probably an Eye-browed Wren-Babbler sang

hidden in thick cover. A random roadside stop produced some great birds. While playing for Pale Blue Flycatcher, a trio of the rare Collared Treepie materialized and gave fantastic looks. The flycatcher came in as well, and eyes skyward produced a pair of display flying Crested Goshawks, the male especially low with his white undertail coverts fluffed out and wings flickering. Another raptor drifted through and turned out to be the rare Jerdon's Baza, a female and a species rarely reported in the country. A Grey Peacock-Pheasant could be heard chattering downslope, and some White-naped Yuhinas posed for good photos. We said farewell to our fantastic camp crew who looked after us so superbly for the duration of the tour, led by fearless Jigme. Our last birding session coincided with a powerful thunderstorm, bolts of lightning, and near darkness conditions. Despite the gloom we persisted and, being reluctant to leave the safety of the bus, cruised about here and there. We had a few last minute sightings including several Indian Peafowl, a lovely perched Pin-tailed Pigeon, Lineated Barbet, Green Imperial-Pigeon, two Chestnut-winged Cuckoos, and a bonus Red-naped Ibis. We had recorded 372 species in Bhutan.



A last day bonus: the rare Jerdon's Baza near Geylephu. (Peggy Wang)

Our travel day to Guwahati proceeded seamlessly. A stop at a wetland finished our birding with some list additions like Oriental Darter, Asian Openbill, Cotton Pygmy-Goose, Bronze-winged Jacana, and a low-flying Osprey. By evening we were back in Delhi, and folks started flying out after that, mostly much

later. It had been a very lucky and lovely group in a remote bird-filled Himalayan kingdom. I would especially like to thank Ansar, my invaluable co-leader, and Dasho Khandu, our invaluable cultural leader. I have worked with both for several years and am lucky to be so ably assisted by them. They bring so much to our tour. Till next time...

Karenchela

Dasho Hapa Boom (AKA Dion Hobcroft)

### **BIRDS:**

**Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* B**

**Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* B**

**Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* B**

**Gadwall *Anas strepera* A**

**Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* B**

**Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* B**

**Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* B**

**Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* B**

**Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* B**

**Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* B**

**Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* B Heard only**

**Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii* B Heard only**

**Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* B**

**Grey Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* B Heard only**

**Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* B Heard only**

**Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* B**

**Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra* B**

**Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* B**

**Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelana* B**

**Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* B**

**Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* A**

**Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* B**

**Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* B**

**Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* B**

**Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* B**

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* B**

**White-bellied Heron *Ardea insignis* B**

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* B**

**Great Egret *Ardea alba* A**

**Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* A**

**Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis coromandus* B**

**Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* B**

**Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* B**

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* B**



**Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* B**

**Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* B**

**Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis* B**

**Crested Serpent-eagle *Spilornis cheela* B**

**Mountain Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis* B**

**Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* B**

**Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* B**

**Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* B**

**Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* B**

**Shikra *Accipiter badius* B**

**Besra *Accipiter virgatus* B**

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* B**

**Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* B**

**Black Kite *Milvus migrans* A**

**Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* B**

  

**White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* B**

**Black-tailed Crake *Amaurornis bicolor* B**

**Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* A**

  

**Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* B**

  

**Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* B**

**Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus* A**

**River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii* B**

**Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* B**

**Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus* B**

**Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus* B**

**Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* B**

**Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* B**

**Little Stint *Calidris minuta* B**

**Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* B**

**Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria* B**

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* B**

**Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* B**

**Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* B**

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* B**

**Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* B**

**Rock Dove *Columba livia* B**

**Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*: B**

**Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii*: B**

**Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*: B**

**Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* B**

**Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: B**

**Barred Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia unchall*: B**

**Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* B**

**Pin-tailed Pigeon *Treron apicauda*: B**

**Wedge-tailed Pigeon *Treron sphenura*: B**

**Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea* B**

**Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*: B**

**Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* B Heard only**

**Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* B Heard only**

**Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis***

**Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus*: B**

**Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*: B Heard only**

**Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus*: B**

**Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* B Heard only**

**Grey-bellied Cuckoo *Cacomantis passerinus* B**

**Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*: B**

**Large Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveriodes*: B**

**Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* B Heard only**

**Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* B Heard only**

**Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*: B Heard only**

**Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*: B**

**Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: B**

**Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus*: B Heard only**

**Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*: B Heard only**

**Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl *Bubo nipalensis* B Heard only**

**Tawny Fish-Owl *Ketupa flavipes* B**

**Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*: B Heard only**

**Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*: B**

**Brown Boobook *Ninox scutulata* B Heard only**

**Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus*: B Heard only**

**White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*: B**

**Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* B**

**Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*: B**

**Blyth's Swift *Apus pacificus*: B**

**House Swift *Apus affinis*: B**

**Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: B**

**Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*: B**

**Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardi* B**

**Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* B:**

**Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* B**

**Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*: B**

**Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis*: B**

**Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus* A**

**Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: B**

**White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* B**

**Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris*: B**

**Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*: B**

**Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* B**

**Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti* B**

**Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* B**

**Great Barbet *Psilopogon virens*: B**

**Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineata*: B**

**Golden-throated Barbet *Psilopogon franklinii*: B**

**Blue-throated Barbet *Psilopogon asiatica*: B**

**Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus*: B**

**White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*: B**

**Grey-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*: B**

**Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei*: B**

**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*: B**

**Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos cathpharius*: B**

**Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis*: B**

**Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus* B**

**Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*: B**

**Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: B**

**Pale-headed Woodpecker *Gecinulus grantia* B**

**Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus* B**

**Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*: B**

**Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* B**

**Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* B**

**Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*: B**

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*: B**

**Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*: B**

**Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*: B**

**Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*: B**

**Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*: B**

**Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*: B**

**Large Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina macei* B**

**Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Lalage melaschistos*: B**

**Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* B**

**Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* B**

**Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* B**

**Black-headed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer* B**

**White-browed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis* B**

**Green Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus* B**

**Black-eared Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis* B**

**White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* B**

**Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris* B**

**Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* B**

**Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus* B**

**Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* B**

**Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* B**

**Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* B**

**Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* B**

**Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* B**

**White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* B**

**Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* B**

**Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris* B**

**Common Green-Magpie *Cissa chinensis* B**

**Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* B**

**Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* B**

**Collared Treepie *Dendrocitta frontalis* B**

**Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* B**

Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* B  
Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* B  
House Crow *Corvus splendens* B  
Large-billed Crow *Corvus (macrorhynchos) japonensis* B  
[Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus (macrorhynchos) leuallantii*: B]

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* B

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* B  
Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* B  
Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* B  
Asian House-Martin *Delichon dasypus* B  
Nepal House-Martin *Delichon nipalensis*: B

Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail *Chelidorhynch hypoxantha* B  
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* B

Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* B  
Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* B  
Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* B  
Coal Tit *Periparus ater* B  
Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubidiventris* B  
Grey-crested Tit *Lophophanes dichrous* B  
Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus* B  
Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* B



**Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* B**

**Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* B**

**Rufous-fronted Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos* B**

**Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta cinnamoventris* B**

**White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* B**

**Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta formosa* B**

**Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* B**

**Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni* B**

**Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis* B**

**Sikkim Treecreeper *Certhia discolor* B**

**Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* B**

**Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus* B**

**Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris* B**

**Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* B**

**Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* B**

**White-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus flaveolus* B**

**Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* B**

**Ashy Bulbul *Hypsipetes flavala* B**

**Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclllandii* B**

**Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* B**

**Scaly-breasted Cupwing *Pnoepyga albiventer* B**

**Pygmy Cupwing *Pnoepyga pusilla*: B Heard only**

**Gray-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* B Heard only**

**Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea*: B Heard only**

**Grey-sided Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons* B**

**Chestnut-headed Tesia *Cettia castaneocoronata* B Heard only**

**Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris* B**

**Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* B**

**Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus* B**

**Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Horornis fortipes* B**

**Hume's Bush-Warbler *Horornis brunnescens* B**

**Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis* B**

**Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* B**

**Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* B**

**Pale-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus* B**

**Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* B Heard only**

**Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides***

**Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris* B Heard only**

**Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* B**

**Yellow-vented Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus cantator* B**

**Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* B**

**Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii* B**

**Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri* B**

**Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys* B**

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* B**

**Russet Bush-Warbler *Locustella mandellii* B**

**Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* B**

**Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger*: B**

**Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhoura* B**

**Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Lioparus chrysotis* B**

**White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus* B**

**Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium* B**

**Brown Parrotbill *Cholornis unicolor* B**

**Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus ruficeps* B**

**Fulvous Parrotbill *Suthora fulvifrons* B**

**Black-throated Parrotbill *Suthora nipalensis* B**

**Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* B**

**White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri* B**

**Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* B**

**Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* B**

**Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis* B**

**Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta* B**

**Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* B**

**Golden Babbler *Cyanoderma chrysaeum* B**

**Rufous-capped Babbler *Cyanoderma ruficeps* B**

**Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis caudatus* B**

**Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* B**

**Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus superciliaris*: B**

**Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* B Heard only**

**White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* B**

**Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler *Megapomatorhinus erythrogegens* B**

**Yellow-throated Fulvetta *Schoeniparus cinereus* B**

**Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Schoeniparus castaneiceps* B**

**Long-billed Wren-Babbler *Napothera malacoptila* B**

**Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis* B**

**Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striatus* B**

**Himalayan Cutia *Cutia nipalensis* B**

**White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* B**

**Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* B**

**Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla rufogularis* B**

**Spotted Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ocellatus* B**

**Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla pectoralis* B**

**White-throated Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla albogularis* B**

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ruficollis* B  
Bhutan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron imbricatus* B  
Scaly Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron subunicolor* B  
Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron squamatus* B  
Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affinis* B  
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalus* B  
Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata* B  
Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris* B  
Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* B  
Red-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea* B  
Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis* B  
Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni* B  
Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* B  
Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula* B

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* B  
Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* B  
Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* B  
Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* B  
Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* B  
Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* B  
Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* B  
Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina* B  
Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophris* B Heard only  
White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* B

**Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* B**

**Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* B**

**Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* B**

**White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum* B Heard only**

**Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus* B**

**Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin *Tarsiger hyperythrus* B**

**White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* B**

**Golden Bush-Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* B**

**Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsoni* B**

**Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* B**

**Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* B**

**Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris* B**

**Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata* B**

**Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* B**

**Plumbeous Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus* B**

**White-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* B**

**Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* B**

**Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* B**

**Blue-capped Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus* B**

**Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura* B**

**Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* B**

  

**Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixonii* B**

**Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor* B**

**White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus* B**

**Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul* B**

**Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis* B Heard only**

**Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* B**

**Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus* B**

**Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* B**

**Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus* B**

**White-vented Myna *Acridotheres grandis* B**

**Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* B**

**Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* B**

**Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum* B**

**Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* B**

**Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda* B**

**Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* B**

**Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* B**

**Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* B**

**Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* B**

**Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* B**

**Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* B**

**Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana* B**

**Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophciata* B**

**Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* B**

**Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* B**

**[Himalayan] White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alboides* B**

**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba leucopsis* B**

**Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus***

**Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* B**

**Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* B**

**Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* B**

**Spotted Elachura *Elachura formosus* B**

**Crested Bunting *Melophus lathamii* B**

**Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* B**

**Collared Grosbeak *Coccothraustes affinis*: B**

**White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*: B**

**Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* B**

**Scarlet Finch *Carpodacus sipahi* B**

**Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus pulcherrimus* B**

**Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii* B**

**Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura* B**

**Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis* B**

**Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala* B**

**Gold-naped Finch *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta* B**



**Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Procarduelis nipalensis* B**

**Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola* B**

**Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* B**

**Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* B**

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* B**

**White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*: B**

**Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: B**



This Yellow-throated Marten came back up on the roadside following some concerted squeaking, allowing Ansar to get this excellent photo near Lingmethang. (Ansar Khan)

**MAMMALS:**

**Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis* B**

**Nepal Grey Langur *Presbytis entellus* B**

**Capped Langur *Presbytis pileatus* B**

**Golden Langur *Presbytis geei* B**

**Leopard Cat *Felis bengalensis* B**

**Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula* B**

**Royle's Pika *Ochotona roylei* B**

**Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* B**

**Hoary-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus* B**

**Orange-bellied Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah* B**

**Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops macclellandi*: B**

**Himalayan Goral *Nemorhaedus goral* B**

**Sambar *Cervus unicolor* B**

**Common Barking Deer (Muntjac) *Muntiacus muntjak* B**

**REPTILES:**

**Garden Calotes *Calotes versicolor* B**

**Iridescent Snake *Blythia reticulata* B**



The beautiful Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail. (Ansar Khan)