

Arunachal Pradesh, India

(Eaglenest, Dirang and Nameri)

5-15 April 2007



Graham Talbot, Ramana Athreya, Mike Turnbull, Chris Campion, Bjorn Anderson and Joakim Hammar with the endemic-rich eastern Himalayas in the background

Björn Anderson

General

This is a report from a highly successful trip to the eastern Himalayas together with Hong Kong birding companions Joakim (Jocko) Hammar, Chris Campion, Graham Talbot and Mike Turnbull. CC, GT and MT sneaked away from non-birding duties a few days earlier than Jocko and myself and thereby also squeezed in Kaziranga.

Two years ago Eaglenest would have required a full presentation, but with the published discovery of the Bugun Liocichla in 2006 the place is on everyone's lips. In fact more than 250 Indian and foreign birders made the pilgrimage to Eaglenest in early 2007! If the Bugun people ever doubted that their forest would be of international interest, they are by now proven quite wrong.

I and Jocko spent six nights at Eaglenest before moving to Dirang for two nights and finishing off with one morning at Nameri in the Assam lowlands. We were fortunate to enjoy the company and guiding of Ramana Athreya the entire time. Ramana is the birder who first found and described the Bugun Liocichla and made Eaglenest known to the birding community.

Highlights

This is one of those places on earth where you in a short period of time can see so many good birds that it is difficult to pick out a top five, even a top ten!

- The absolutely unconcerned male Ward's Trogon that gave itself up after 18 hours of searching
- The pair of Myzornis that circled us after the 6 km head-down walk to the pass
- The Hume's Wedge-billed Babbler that turned and showed off like in a CAD program
- The sudden close appearance of this immense Rufous-necked Hornbill
- The preening Beautiful Nuthatch in a dead tree-top
- The kiwi-like Long-billed Wren-Babbler in the late afternoon, almost when we were about to give up after having been surprised by a nearby trumpeting elephant
- The absolutely awesome male Blyth's Tragopan that silently came in to the tape
- The male Himalayan Monal that slowly made its way up the slope when almost everyone had given up
- The successful twitch and rediscovery of the female Crimson-browed Finch, one of my Chinese jinx birds
- The stunning male Blue-capped Rock-Thrushes that sang away in that tucked away sunlit valley
- The tantalizing Blue-fronted Robin that played hide and seek with us for three hours and providing Jocko with one of his most exiting moments ever
- And last but not least important, the pair of Bugun Liocichlas that finally gave up all resistance after 17 hours!



Jocko, alias Moustached Laughingthrush, and Ramana, having seen yet another mega-bird

Itinerary

5/4

I left Beijing in the evening April 4th and arrived at Delhi around 02.00. Fortunately Jocko had arrived virtually simultaneously from Sweden, so we quickly established contact and got into a taxi to a small hotel about half an hours drive away. After a rather short night sleep we returned to the domestic airport in order to catch the Air Sahara two hours flight to Guwahati in northeast India. We arrived at Guwahati on time around midday and were directly picked up by the pre-arranged car. From then on it was a looong drive to Eaglenest. Due to some unclear problems we had to drive around the entire Eaglenest area and approach it from the north, i.e. starting the birding at Lama Camp. This was also where the rest of the team was waiting for us. We arrived at Lama Camp sometime during the middle of the night and directly settled in the tents that were provided.

6/4

We were up before dawn at 5.15 and eagerly looking forward to the birding. We met up with Chris, Graham and Mike who happily informed us that they had already been birding around Lama Camp and seen *Liocichla*, Trogon, Honeyguide and a few other key birds. Great, we were a few steps behind already from start! Lama Camp is the key area for the *Liocichla* and we decided to spend all our efforts on this bird, before moving on to any other targets. As it turned out we spent the entire day without any sniff of The Bird, although we saw a few other goodies. The others came back and reported seeing *Myzornis* at the pass. The weather was very good most of the day, but in the afternoon the clouds rolled in and visibility was much reduced.

7/4

This was the second day birding around Lama Camp and we set off at 4.45 from the camp. The *Liocichla* still proved hard to get and it took us until 10.00 until we finally scored on a showy pair. What a bird and amazing that it had remained undiscovered until this recently! Finally we could then set off for our search for more of the area's mega-birds. We packed up and left Lama Camp by walking uphill, birding en route. After an hour Ramana caught up with us and we drove further up towards the pass. The habitat around the pass was completely different, with dense bamboo with large clusters of flowering *Rhododendron* trees. We quickly scored on most of the target birds, but yesterday's *Myzornis* were nowhere to be found. We decided to look for them along the road on to the south side of the pass, only to discover that we came five minutes too late to a site where another group had just seen one. By then it was very foggy and difficult to see any birds at all. We succeeded very well though with a brilliant Bar-winged Wren-Babbler.

In the afternoon we drove slowly down to Bompou, our home for the next few days. At Bompou we met up with the rest of the team who happily announced that they had seen Beautiful Nuthatch already.

8/4

We started to bird around Bompou Camp between 4.45 and 6.15. I briefly walked up through the bamboo along a recently cut trail right above the camp in the hope of finding Blyth's Tragopan. After a quick snack back by the camp, we drove to lower altitudes and quickly added a fantastic Hume's Wedge-billed Babbler and shortly afterwards a majestic Rufous-necked Hornbill landed in a tree right above us. Two of the "main targets" under the belt and not too much later we eventually added a third in the form of a beautiful Beautiful Nuthatch, sitting out on bare twigs so we all got excellent scope views. Life was good and we continued even lower, passing Sessni Camp and finally ended up at altitudes of 650 masl. The light rain, that was on and off for most of the day, was a bit frustrating, but otherwise it was indeed a marvelous day. We closed the day with mega-views of a kiwi-like Long-billed Wren-Babbler that fed virtually next to our feet.

In the evening we were back at Bompou camp and before dinner we celebrated by having a hot foot-bath in the tent while downing a Whisky.



Ramana always made sure that we had very good Indian vegetarian food brought out in the field

9/4

The early morning was again spent around Bompou Camp and this time we at least managed to hear a calling male Blyth's Tragopan, although it was way up the ridge and thus practically out of bounds. A quick brecky and then we drove uphill in search of new birds. The Ward's Trogons were not co-operative and we spent most of the day looking for it. The event of the day was when Jocko and I climbed a gully in search of Trogons and I randomly played Blyth's Tragopan. Suddenly a rather distant Tragopan responded and we decided to climb a bit further and played the call again. Nothing happened, but when I walked a further ten meters and stood waiting for something to happen, I suddenly focused my eyes on a patch of bright red among the leaves. When I raised my bins I found myself eyeball-to-eyeball with a stunning male Blyth's Tragopan. We were looking at each other for a short while and then he ducked into cover and I managed to get Jocko over, but alas it was too late and the Tragopan was already gone. Apparently it had come in silently to investigate us.

We also spent much of the day at altitudes up to 2400 masl in search of Trogons and Blue-fronted Robin.

10/4

This day we started off above Bompu, with the Blue-fronted Robin as the first target. In spite of the light rain it was singing constantly and we eventually managed to see it after three hours of hard work way down a slope. Inspired by the adrenalin-kick we continued the search for Ward's Trogon, but alas the only one that responded to the "tape" did not show itself. The quest carried on for several hours at altitudes around 2200 masl. In the early afternoon we decided to try a completely new area near the land-slide. We knew it would not be possible to drive all the way due to the recent rain. It was therefore a head-down march for a few km until we reached the site. After trying at a couple of places we suddenly got a response from close by, and it did not take us long until we had located a stunning male Ward's Trogon about ten meters away. The bird performed exceedingly well from all angles in excellent light. Perseverance pays off, although it had taken us 18 hours to nail one down. The bird actually continued to perform even as we left it a mere 10 meters away! By now we felt invincible, so it was a quick decision to continue the march all the way towards the pass in the very late afternoon in order to track down the Myzornis. The weather periodically cleared up a little and a long way towards the pass I was around the corner, when I heard Jocko's gurgling shout. He then came running after me with the news that he had just seen a pair of Myzornis, but they had quickly disappeared downhill. I squeaked, pished and played the recording and to our relief they came shooting back in and circled us in the most unbelievable way. Three out of three target birds in a day! The very long walk back to the car felt like walking on clouds and we deliberately wasted valuable iPod power by listening to "It's a kind of magic" by Queen. Combined with the auspicious scenery it was plainly a very good ending of a fantastic day.

11/4

This was our last day at Eaglenest and we partly split up in order to pursue our personal remaining target birds. I opted for the Kalij Pheasant that virtually everyone else had seen on the road below Bompu, as well as the local form of Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler. The pheasant was dutifully walking the road-side when we came around the corner and in an area of bamboo I found a large flock of babblers that conveniently contained a small group of Scimiar-Babblers. After that the rain set in and I birded on and off all the way down to Sessni until 10.00, when it was time to retrace the steps and go back to Bompu and pack up. There was an obvious concern regarding the land-slide near the pass, so Ramana wanted us to get going and leave Bompu at 11.30. We negotiated the land-slide in separate parties; one being the driver with the car and the other was us walking on foot.



Near the pass at Eaglenest, there is a rather dangerous land-slide that almost collapses at every rain. There was however a team of intrepid workers that cleared the road for us.



We spent some time birding around the pass without seeing anything in particular except for a lark, that later turned out to be a Greater Short-toed, new for Eaglenest. After this it was a long, long drive on winding and dark roads to Dirang, where we arrived late in the evening.

12/4

We left the hotel in Dirang long before dawn and drove on a winding but good road towards Se La Pass (4200 masl). We stopped at a couple of places and saw White-collared Blackbird and a gorgeous male Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin. At higher altitude there was plenty of relatively fresh snow on the ground and still on the road. It was therefore a bit of a challenging drive until we eventually reached the pass. Not having seen the other car ahead of us during the entire journey, Jocko and I were somewhat surprised to not find them at the pass and it took almost half an hour until they eventually showed up. The target Himalayan Monal was not seen anywhere on the entirely snow-covered hill-sides and after some photo-sessions around the pass we descended the mountain on the Dirang side. The weather was absolutely brilliant and the views were just superlative.



We spent the entire morning birding along this road without seeing any signs of Monals and around midday the clouds swept in and reduced the possibilities to scan the hill-sides. By mid afternoon some of us wanted to drive to lower altitudes, although I and Ramana did not quite want to give up. We drove just a short stretch uphill and suddenly there was a gap in the clouds and miraculously I almost immediately saw a glorious male Himalayan Monal slowly walk up the slope! Ramana and I could then admire him at length while waiting for the others to come back (thanks to Jocko's walkie-talkies). Unfortunately they had already gone too far, so by the time they arrived, the Monal had just vanished in the scrub. Jocko made a heroic climb and followed its footsteps in the snow, but at 4000 masl, the fitness of the Monal was unfortunately far superior to Jocko's.

While they were chasing the Monal, me and Chris drove down the mountain and surprisingly found three Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinches, a species that may not normally occur on this part of the Himalayas.

Unfortunately they were also gone when the rest of the team arrived. Instead Jocko discovered a female Crimson-browed Finch nearby that had flown off. The rest of us were already further down the road and I could again see this jinx bird slip through my net. It's however never too late to give up, so we immediately twitched it and much to our relief, I soon found three of them feeding quietly in some scrub for everyone to admire.

13/4

After a second night at the hotel in Dirang we made a full morning trip to a nearby valley called Mandala Road. The main targets were Blue-capped Rock-Thrush and Rufous-chinned Laughler. The weather was beautiful and we started the birding at 1600 masl and eventually by 10.00 we had reached about 2300 masl. We rather quickly located a singing Laughler and obtained relatively good views of this skulker. Not too long afterwards we were treated to fabulous views of a few Rock-Thrushes that sang away from the tree-tops. The birding in general was very good in this secondary forest and we added a few more birds to the growing trip list. By late morning it was time to set off on the long journey to Nameri in the Assam lowlands. We had hoped to be able to be birding at a bamboo area along the road in order to find Pale-headed Woodpecker, but as it turned out there was a roadwork between Tenga and Nameri that held us up for too long. It was well after dark when we arrived at the nice lodge at Nameri.

14/4

This was our last day of birding and the morning was spent at Nameri. At the crack of dawn we walked along a dirt-road from the lodge to the river. This area was until very recently covered with forest, but had now been cleared. By the river bank we have an absolutely amazing view of the mountains. The entire Eaglenest area could be clearly seen and thanks to good visibility it was possible to see mountain tops towering 7000 masl at the Chinese border.

Soon the boat-man from the opposite side of the river paddled across and picked us up in his rather unbalanced canoe. Fortunately we came out dry on the other side and could start the birding. The first birds we found was a family party of Indian Thick-knees in the grass on the river bank. Our targets though were inside the forest and we were soon walking a trail along the river, also seeing a Great Thick-knee. During the morning until 9.30 we managed to have excellent views of the targeted Pale-chinned Flycatcher and best of all, a cracking White-winged Duck scoped at length at one of the pools inside the forest. Unusually enough it was sitting there for as long as we wanted, but after a while our focus was on the next bird. A White-cheeked Partridge was calling at very close range, but in spite of a lengthy try we could not lure it into view. By 9.30 we had to return to the boat-man to ferry us back across the river. At the lodge we packed up and by 10.15 we left Nameri for the long drive back to Guwahati, which we arrived 15.30. The journey was broken by a few stops, one to look at some distant vultures that fortunately turned out to be Slender-billed. The other was a stop due to a lynch mob trying to get to an apparent thief that was barely rescued by a policeman whipping the mob with a long bamboo-stick. We arrived at Guwahati just in time for our flight to Delhi, although Ramana's flight was actually off in minutes, so he just about managed to squeeze in.

In Delhi we split up before our flights to respective home destinations. Jocko and I went for a dinner with his old-time friends. The great party ended up with big celebrations so that we barely managed to find our ways to the flights in the early hours of the next day.

Weather

In all honesty the weather could have been much better. It started off very well with a couple of brilliant mornings, although during the afternoons the clouds swept in. During the Eaglenest part of the trip it was often cloudy and drizzling or even raining, but I assume this is the normal thing in this part of the world. Sometimes it cleared up and revealed some auspicious views. At high altitudes at Se La Pass the snow coverage was complete as can be seen by these snow shovelers.



Logistics

Chris took the lead in setting up this fantastic trip by contacting Ramana Athreya. Ramana then arranged for all the ground logistics including joining us in the field during the trip. Everything from transportation, camping and food to birding ran very smooth and it is highly recommended to use his services. Besides that, he is also the definite expert on Eaglenest birding. For full information on Eaglenest pls see www.kolkatabirds.com/hillbirdsfind/eaglesnest.htm, as this website contains all necessary information for planning a trip.

Site descriptions

Eaglenest

Eaglenest is nowadays a well known birding destination that is presented in full on above mentioned website. There is absolutely excellent birding in mostly unbroken forest from 600- 3900 masl along a drivable jeep trail. The forests between Bompu and the landslide must rank as one of the most beautiful forests I have ever seen in Asia, with lichens, epiphytes and moss covering huge mature trees and flowering Rhododendrons. Camping is a must and there are several spots that allow this and fortunately the local Bugun people can help setting everything up.



Jocko pointing at Eaglenest pass (view from Nameri)



Lama Camp, where Dalai Lama stayed when he fled from Tibet. What he did not know at the time was that this would become the key base for birders from all over the world looking for the Bugun Liocichla.

Dirang with Se La Pass and Mandala Road

For a full description, pls see: www.kolkatabirds.com/hillbirdsofind/enestdirangtawang.htm. Dirang is a small town north of Eaglenest on the way to Tawang near the Chinese border. The town has at least one good hotel and seems to be a sort of center for hiking tourists. Around Dirang we birded essentially two areas. One day we drove to Se La Pass at 4200 masl for the high altitude birding and one morning we birded along Mandala Road.



Mike is investigating Se La Pass above Dirang



The winding road up to Se La Pass.

Nameri

Nameri is a national park in the foothills of the Himalayas, essentially sitting on the Assam lowlands. The park is quite large and we barely scratched the surface during our only morning. One of the key birds is White-winged Duck that is sometimes seen in the forest pools. The park has a nice lodge with good food.



Nowadays forest is found only on the other side of the river at Nameri, but a crossing is easily arranged through this veteran boat-man.



Nameri must be one of the few places in the world where one can stand at 130 masl and see mountains peaking above 7000 meters. This snow-clad peak is at the border between India and China.

Birds

This list of birds is essentially my own observations and others in the team may have seen slightly different numbers as well as a few more species, especially Chris, Graham and Mike on their extended trip to Kaziranga. The subspecies are in most cases assigned based on literature rather than by morphological characters noted in the field.

Little Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax niger*

One between Guwahati and Tenga and three at Nameri.

Intermediate Egret, *Egretta intermedia intermedia*

Two between Guwahati and Tenga and one between Nameri and Guwahati.

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

One at Nameri.

Indian Pond-Heron, *Ardeola grayii*

Three between Nameri and Guwahati.

Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*

Common in the BRA valley

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus chloriceps*

One at Nameri.

Asian Openbill, *Anastomus oscitans*

30 between Guwahati and Tenga and another 30 between Nameri and Guwahati.

Lesser Adjutant, *Leptoptilos javanicus*

Three between Guwahati and Tenga and ten between Nameri and Guwahati.

Black-headed Ibis, *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

One between Guwahati and Tenga.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Four near Nameri.

Ruddy Shelduck, *Tadorna ferruginea*

One at Nameri.

White-winged Duck, *Cairina scutulata*

One seen and scoped at length in the regular pool inside the forest at Nameri was somewhat of a surprise find even though we knew they are rarely encountered.



White-winged Duck, a rare sight and much appreciated

Oriental Honey-buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus* ssp

One bird seen at Tenga was thought to be this species, but could not be confirmed.

Black Kite, *Milvus migrans* ssp

Three between Guwahati and Tenga and five between Nameri and Guwahati.

Pallas' Fish-Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

One perched distant bird was scoped at Nameri.

Slender-billed Vulture, *Gyps tenuirostris*

Three were seen together halfway between Nameri and Guwahati.

Himalayan Griffon, *Gyps himalayensis*

One vulture, most likely of this species, was seen at 2300 masl between Tenga and Nameri.

Crested Serpent-Eagle, *Spilornis cheela cheela*

Two sightings at Mandala Road.

Pied Harrier, *Circus melanoleucos*

One male between Guwahati and Tenga.

Crested Goshawk, *Accipiter trivirgatus indicus*

Two sightings at Mandala Road.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter nisus melaschistos*

One male and one female below Se La Pass.

Black Eagle, *Ictinaetus malayensis perniger*

One at 2400 masl at Tenga.

Booted Eagle, *Aquila pennatus*

Two together between Nameri and Guwahati.

Rufous-bellied Eagle, *Aquila kienerii kienerii*

One at the start of Mandala Road.

Eurasian Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus interstinctus*

One at Se La Pass and one at Mandala Road.

Oriental Hobby, *Falco severus*

One at the regular stake-out at Nameri Lodge.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus* ssp

One probable below Se La Pass.

Common Hill Partridge, *Arborophila torqueola torqueola*

A total of at least ten heard and four seen between Lama Camp and Bompu Camp at Tenga. Also one heard below Se La Pass.

Chestnut-breasted Partridge, *Arborophila mandellii*

One or two heard just below Bompu Camp, one heard at 1740 masl below Bompu Camp and 2-4 heard above Bompu Camp. The call is similar to Hill Partridge, but more drawn out and with a clear tremble in the whistle, easily recognized at reasonable distance.

Rufous-throated Partridge, *Arborophila rufogularis intermedia*

One heard at 2400 masl at Tenga. The call is a drawn out double call, much longer than the double note call of Hill Partridge.

White-cheeked Partridge, *Arborophila atrogularis*

Two heard near the White-winged Duck pool at Nameri.

Blood Pheasant, *Ithaginis cruentus tibetanus/kuseri*

Two heard below Se La Pass.

Blyth's Tragopan, *Tragopan blythii* ssp

One was heard calling two long sequences at 04.45 just above Bompu Camp. Another apparently responded to opportunistic playback around 11.00 from a ridge at 2350 masl above Bompu Camp. It called two long widely separated sequences. After the second response we walked closer on the ridge. After 20+ minutes waiting I walked another 10 meters and suddenly saw a large red area in the vegetation. When checking through my bins, I found myself staring at a stunning male Tragopan. The bird apparently saw me and ducked and disappeared before Jocko could advance.

Temminck's Tragopan, *Tragopan temminckii*

One was heard in the late afternoon near Eaglenest pass, on the southern side.

Himalayan Monal, *Lophophorus impejanus*

After having looked for Monals the entire day below Se La Pass, we were about to give up and descend to lower elevations. The weather was misty and the visibility did not really allow scanning the hill-sides. Myself and Ramana however decided to give it a final chance and the two of us went back up a few hundred meters. The clouds gave themselves up for an instant and we scanned the hill-sides at 3655 masl, when I almost instantly found a stunning male Monal walking uphill. We could follow it for 5-10 minutes before it finally disappeared into the scrub. One minute later the called for rest of our crew screeched to a halt, but in spite of a heroic effort by Jocko following the footsteps of the Monal in the snow, it never materialized again.

Red Junglefowl, *Gallus gallus murghi*

One heard at 650 masl at Tenga.

Kalij Pheasant, *Lophura leucomelanos lathami*

One male was eventually seen the last morning by the roadside halfway between Bompu Camp and Sessni.

Grey Peacock-Pheasant, *Polyplectron bicalcaratum bakeri*

5-6 calling males were heard from Bompu Camp down to Sessni. As usual they escaped without being seen.

White-breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*

One between Guwahati and Tenga.

Indian Thick-knee, *Burhinus indicus*

One pair with a young was seen in the grassy area on a sand-bar at Nameri.

Great Thick-knee, *Burhinus recurvirostris*

One seen on a stony river islet at Nameri.

Small Pratincole, *Glareola lactea*

About 200 at Nameri.

River Lapwing, *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Ten at Nameri.

Little Ringed Plover, *Charadrius dubius jerdoni*

One at Nameri.

Eurasian Woodcock, *Scolopax rusticola*

One flushed from the road near Sessni.

Snipe sp, *Gallinago* sp

One unidentified snipe was seen in flight between Guwahati and Tenga.

Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia nebularia*

Two at Nameri.

River Tern, *Sterna aurantia*

2-4 at Nameri.

Oriental Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia orientalis agricola*

One below Se La Pass and common at Nameri.

Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

One between Guwahati and Tenga.

Red Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis*

Three between Guwahati and Tenga.

Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis suratensis*

Common at Nameri.

Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica indica*

One below Sessni and one at Nameri.

Yellow-footed Pigeon, *Treron phoenicoptera phoenicoptera*

One between Guwahati and Tenga.

Pin-tailed Pigeon, *Treron apicauda apicauda*

One at Nameri.

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula badia insignis*

Ten around Bompu Camp and a few above Bompu Camp.

Rose-ringed Parakeet, *Psittacula krameri borealis*

Common in Delhi and a few between Guwahati and Tenga.

Red-breasted Parakeet, *Psittacula alexandri fasciata*
50-80 at Nameri.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus sparverioides sparverioides*
Frequently heard at Eaglenest, mostly between Bompou Camp to Lama Camp. Also one between Tenga and Dirang.

Common Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus (bakeri?)*
One heard at Mandala Road and one heard at Nameri.

Oriental Cuckoo, *Cuculus saturatus*
Minimum of six heard between Lama Camp and Bompou Camp at Eaglenest and also one heard at Mandala Road.

Plaintive Cuckoo, *Cacomantis merulinus querulus*
One at Nameri.

Asian Koel, *Eudynamys scolopacea malayana*
One heard in Delhi and one heard at Nameri.

Greater Coucal, *Centropus sinensis sinensis*
About five at Nameri.

Lesser Coucal, *Centropus bengalensis bengalensis*
About five at Nameri.

Oriental Scops-Owl, *Otus sunia modestus*
One heard at the lodge at Nameri.

Brown Wood-Owl, *Strix leptogrammica newarensis*
One heard at Lamap Camp at Eaglenest.

Collared Owlet, *Glaucidium brodiei brodiei*
Two heard at Lama Camp at Eaglenest and one heard between Tenga and Nameri.

Asian Barred Owlet, *Glaucidium cuculoides austerum/rufescens*
Three heard at Nameri.

Brown Hawk-Owl, *Ninox scutulata lugubris*
One heard at the lodge at Nameri.

Grey Nightjar, *Caprimulgus indicus hazarae*
One heard both nights at Lama Camp at Eaglenest.

Himalayan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus brevirostris brevirostris*
100+ below Bompou Camp and 50+ at 650 masl at Eaglenest. Two probables below Se La Pass and five at Nameri.

Asian Palm-Swift, *Cypsiurus balasiensis balasiensis*
Common between Nameri and Guwahati.

Ward's Trogon, *Harpactes wardi*
One responded briefly to playback at the bamboo forest at 2300 masl above Bompou Camp, but it took a total of 18 hours dedicated search to find a most stunningly beautiful male near the landslide at Tenga. Certainly one of the top 5 birds of the trip and this male provided close up views for as long as we wanted. We even left it still perching at a distance of 10 meters. Although there is no risk for misidentification, the painting by Anderton in *Birds of South Asia* is completely wrong on a number of key points. The bright pink eyebrows (a la Black Grouse) is not a forehead patch, the lilac tone on the breast and back is rather a strange blend one can get when mixing multiple aquarelle colours in a glass of water.

White-throated Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis ssp*
Five between Guwahati and Tenga and five at Nameri.

Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis leucomelanura*
One between Guwahati and Tenga and five at Nameri.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, *Merops leschenaulti leschenaulti*
One at Nameri.

Indian Roller, *Coracias benghalensis affinis*
At least five at Nameri.

Dollarbird, *Eurystomus orientalis abundus*
At least ten at Nameri.

Oriental Pied-Hornbill, *Anthracoceros albirostris albirostris*
One between Guwahati and Tenga.

Great Hornbill, *Buceros bicornis*
One at Nameri.

Rufous-necked Hornbill, *Aceros nipalensis*

A total of six between Bompou Camp and Sessni at Eaglenest. The first bird took us by surprise when it at close range suddenly flew into a tree just next to us. The views of this unreal male made it bird of the trip for one of us.



The unmistakable silhouette of a Rufous-necked Hornbill

Wreathed Hornbill, *Aceros undulatus*

One at Nameri.

Great Barbet, *Megalaima virens magnifica*

This species was a continuous background sound around Lama Camp at Eaglenest. Also about five below Bompou Camp and about five at Mandala Road.

Lineated Barbet, *Megalaima lineate hodgsoni*

One between Guwahati and Tenga and five at Nameri.

Golden-throated Barbet, *Megalaima franklinii franklinii*

Two heard above Sessni.

Blue-throated Barbet, *Megalaima asiatica asiatica*

One between Guwahati and Tenga, one heard at 650 masl at Eaglenest and three at Nameri.

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, *Indicator xanthonotus xanthonotus*

One bird that flew past us and called just below Lama Camp at Eaglenest was probably this species. No colours were seen due to poor light, but shape of bill and body as well as call matched well.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos macei macei*

One at Nameri.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos hyperythrus hyperythrus*

One at Mandala Road.

Rufous Woodpecker, *Celeus brachyurus phaiiceps*

One heard at Nameri.

Greater Yellownape, *Picus flavinucha flavinucha*

One at Nameri.

Bay Woodpecker, *Blythipicus pyrrhotis pyrrhotis*

About five (mostly heard) at Eaglenest between Lama Camp and Sessni. Also one between Tenga and Nameri.

Long-tailed Broadbill, *Psarismomus dalhousiae dalhousiae*

One heard between Bompou Camp and Sessni at Eaglenest.

Greater Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella brachydactyla dukhunensis*

One photographed at Eaglenest pass was new for the area.

Grey-throated Sand Martin, *Riparia chinensis chinensis*

20+ at Nameri.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica ssp*

One near Nameri.

Nepal Martin, *Delichon nipalensis nipalensis*

One beyond Se La Pass and one below Se La Pass.

Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea melanope*

One between Tenga and Nameri.

Richard's Pipit, *Anthus richardi ssp*

One at Nameri.

Olive-backed Pipit, *Anthus hodgsoni ssp*

Four widespread birds between Sessni and Lama Camp at Eaglenest.

Rosy Pipit, *Anthus roseatus*

A few below Se La Pass.

Large Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina macei nipalensis*

One at Nameri.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina melaschistos melaschistos*
One at Mandala Road.

Short-billed Minivet, *Pericrocotus brevirostris brevirostris*
Four at Lama Camp at Eaglenest.

Scarlet Minivet, *Pericrocotus flammeus speciosus*
Five at Mandala Road.

Grey-chinned Minivet, *Pericrocotus solaris solaris*
5-10 below Sessni at Eaglenest.

Striated Bulbul, *Pycnonotus striatus striatus*
Five between Bompou Camp and Sessni and two above Sessni at Eaglenest.

Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus emeria*
Ten at Nameri.

Red-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer bengalensis*
Common between Guwahati and Tenga, 20 at Mandala Road and common at Nameri.

White-throated Bulbul, *Alophoixus flaveolus flaveolus*
Three at 700 masl at Eaglenest.

Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus psaroides*
Two at Lama Camp, five between Bompou Camp and Sessni, and 10+ at Dirang.

Orange-bellied Leafbird, *Chloropsis hardwickii hardwickii*
Two at 650 masl at Eaglenest and one between Bompou Camp and Sessni.

Common Iora, *Aegithina tiphia tiphia*
Two at Nameri.

Rufous-breasted Accentor, *Prunella strophhiata strophhiata*
At least five below Se La Pass and one at Mandala Road.

Blue-capped Rock-Thrush, *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
Three males and one female between 1640-1800 masl at Mandala Road. This apparently sometimes tricky bird to find provided absolutely stunning views as it sang away from the freshly leafed trees.



Blue-capped Rock-Thrush

Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush, *Monticola rufiventris*
Four near Eaglenest pass and one between Tenga and Dirang.

Blue Whistling-Thrush, *Myophonus caeruleus temminckii*
One heard at Lamap Camp, one near Sessni, 10+ near Dirang and one between Tenga and Nameri.

Plain-backed Thrush, *Zoothera mollissima mollissima*
One at high altitude scrub-less habitat below Se La Pass was probably this species, although Long-tailed could not be excluded based on the sighting.

Scaly Thrush, *Zoothera dauma dauma*
One flushed from the road near Sessni and another one seen well on the road above Bompou Camp at Eaglenest.

White-collared Blackbird, *Turdus albocinctus*
Five below Se La Pass provided very good looks as they sang from the tree-tops.

Grey-winged Blackbird, *Turdus boulboul*
One pair at Mandala Road.

Rusty-bellied Shortwing, *Brachypteryx hyperythra*
One heard singing below Lama Camp. The bird started to sing by itself, but intensified the song when a prerecorded song was played. Unfortunately the bird was in an extremely steep inaccessible gully and could not be approached.

Lesser Shortwing, *Brachypteryx leucophrys nipalensis*
At least five heard between Bompou Camp and Sessni at Eaglenest.

White-browed Shortwing, *Brachypteryx montana cruralis*
 One heard and seen briefly between Bompu Camp and Sessni at Eaglenest.

Black-throated Prinia, *Prinia atrogularis*
 One at Lamap Camp and one at Mandala Road. Probably overlooked.

Chestnut-headed Tesia, *Tesia castaneocoronata castaneocoronata*
 Very common at high altitudes at Eaglenest.

Slaty-bellied Tesia, *Tesia olivea*
 Common between above Bompu Camp and down to Sessni at Eaglenest.

Grey-bellied Tesia, *Tesia cyaniventer*
 One heard at Lama Camp and one at 2350 masl above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler, *Cettia fortipes fortipes*
 Common around Lamap Camp, a few around Bompu Camp and two at Mandala Road.

Chestnut-crowned Bush-Warbler, *Cettia major major*
 One between Bompu Camp and Sessni.

Aberrant Bush-Warbler, *Cettia flavolivacea flavolivacea*
 Two below Lama Camp at Eaglenest. Song in principle the same as the Chinese ssp, but with a different ending (descending instead of ascending).

Hume's Bush-Warbler, *Cettia brunnescens*
 At least ten around Eaglenest pass and one near Bompu Camp. The song of this taxon is completely different from Yellowish-bellied B-W in China.

Grey-sided Bush-Warbler, *Cettia brunnifrons brunnifrons*
 One probable below Lama Camp and one above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Russet Bush-Warbler, *Bradypterus seebohmii idoneus*
 A few heard around Lama Camp and one heard and seen at Mandala Road.

Blyth's Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
 One at Nameri was most likely this species.

Thick-billed Warbler, *Acrocephalus aedon aedon*
 One at Nameri.

Mountain Tailorbird, *Orthotomus cuculatus coronatus*
 At least four between Sessni and to above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Common Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sutorius ssp*
 At least five at Nameri.

Tickell's Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus affinis*
 Two at Nameri.

Buff-barred Warbler, *Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher*
 One at Lama Camp and 10-20 at Eaglenest pass.

Ashy-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus maculipennis virens*
 Two at Lama Camp, two at Eaglenest pass and five above Bompu Camp.

Pale-rumped Warbler, *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
 5-10 around Lama Camp.

Yellow-browed Warbler, *Phylloscopus inornatus*
 One heard between Dirang and Tenga and three at Nameri.

Greenish Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochiloides (trochiloides?)*
 One at Nameri.

Blyth's Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus reguloides reguloides*
 Common at most areas at Eaglenest, Dirang and Mandala Road.

Yellow-vented Warbler, *Phylloscopus cantator cantator*
 Two at 650 masl at Eaglenest.

Grey-hooded Warbler, *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos jerdoni*
 Two at 650 masl at Eaglenest and two at Mandala Road.

Green-crowned Warbler, *Seicercus burkii*
 Two above Sessni and two at 650 masl at Eaglenest.

Whistler's Warbler, *Seicercus whistleri whistleri*
 Five around Lama Camp and three below Eaglenest pass.

White-spectacled Warbler, *Seicercus affinis (affinis?)*
 One at 650 masl and two at 2300 masl at Eaglenest.

Grey-cheeked Warbler, *Seicercus poliogenys*
 Three around Lama Camp and at least ten below Sessni at Eaglenest.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler, *Seicercus castaniceps castaniceps*
 Ten around Lama Camp and ten above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Black-faced Warbler, *Abrosopus schisticeps flavimentalis*
 Ten around Lama Camp and a few above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Broad-billed Warbler, *Tickellia hodgsoni hodgsoni*
 Two heard at Lamap Camp and at least ten (mostly heard) above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Siberian Flycatcher, *Muscicapa sibirica cacabata*
 One at Lama Camp at Eaglenest and one at Mandala Road.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hodgsonii*
 Three at Mandala Road.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula strophhiata strophhiata*
 Three at Lama Camp, two at Eaglenest pass, two at 2500 masl at Eaglenest and one at Mandala Road.

Red-throated Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicilla*
 Five at Nameri.

White-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula monileger monileger*
 One heard at Bompu Camp and one heard well below Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Little Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula westermanni australorientis*
 One at 1740 masl at Eaglenest and one pair at Mandala Road.

Ultramarine Flycatcher, *Ficedula superciliaris aestigma*
 One male at 650 masl at Eaglenest and three males at Mandala Road. All males showed a thin whitish (sometimes slightly tinged bluish) eyebrow.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher, *Ficedula tricolor minuta*
 One male below Lama Camp and one male below Eaglenest pass.

Verditer Flycatcher, *Eumyias thalassina thalassina*
 Three around Lama Camp, one near Bompu Camp and ten at Mandala Road.

Large Niltava, *Niltava grandis grandis*
 One heard at Lama Camp, one heard at Bompu Camp and five above Bompu Camp.

Pale-chinned Blue-Flycatcher, *Cyornis poliogenys cachariensis*
 One showed well low inside the forest at Nameri.

Pale Blue-Flycatcher, *Cyornis unicolor unicolor*
 One male at 650 masl at Eaglenest.

Pygmy Blue-Flycatcher, *Muscicapella hodgsoni hodgsoni*
 One male below Lama Camp.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea*
 Common at most altitudes at Eaglenest and ten at Mandala Road.

Orange-flanked Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger rufilatus*
 Four female-types around Lama Camp.

Golden Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger chrysaeus chrysaeus*
 One female below Eaglenest pass, one female at Bompu Camp and one female at 2500 masl at Eaglenest.

Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger hyperythrus*
 One male below Lama Camp and one male below Se La Pass. Very smart bird indeed. Spread the tail in the same manner as Orange-flanked Bush-Robin and Red-flanked Bluetail.

Oriental Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus saularis erimelas*
 One between Guwahati and Tenga.

Blue-fronted Redstart, *Phoenicurus frontalis*
 One below Bompu Camp, two at Bompu Camp, one at 2500 masl at Eaglenest, 10+ below Se La Pass and two at Mandala Road.

White-capped Water-Redstart, *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
 Three below Se La Pass and one at Mandala Road.

Plumbeous Water-Redstart, *Rhyacornis fuliginosus fuliginosus*
 Two near Dirang.

White-tailed Robin, *Cinclidium leucurum leucurum*
 One heard between Bompu Camp and Sessni.

Blue-fronted Robin, *Cinclidium frontale frontale*
 One heard and briefly seen at 2220 masl, one heard at 1980 masl and one heard at 2120 masl above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest. The first bird was worked on for three hours (initially in the rain) until eventually seen. All three birds sang actively and seemed to be newly arrived to the breeding grounds (as they were one of few birds singing in the rainy conditions). Several groups earlier seemed to have not connected with this difficult to see species.

Slaty-backed Forktail, *Enicurus schistaceus*
 One below Sessni at Eaglenest.

Common Stonechat, *Saxicola torquatus indica*
 One male with extensive rufous underparts between Dirang and Tenga and one between Nameri and Guwahati.

Grey Bushchat, *Saxicola ferrea*
 One at Lama Camp and five at Mandala Road.

Yellow-bellied Fantail, *Rhipidura hypoxantha*
 20+ around Lama Camp, two near Sessni and 10+ around Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

White-throated Fantail, *Rhipidura albicollis orissae*

Ten around Lama Camp and ten above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

White-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax albogularis albogularis*

Five at 2350 masl above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest and five near Dirang.

White-crested Laughingthrush, *Garrulax leucolophus leucolophus*

Two flocks heard 650-700 masl at Eaglenest.

Striated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax striatus cranbrooki*

15-20 around Lama Camp and a few around Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, *Garrulax rufogularis rufogularis*

One heard and the same or another briefly seen below Lama Camp at Eaglenest and one sang and showed nicely at Mandala Road.

Grey-sided Laughingthrush, *Garrulax caerulatus caerulatus*

7-8 below Lama Camp and two below Eaglenest pass.

Bhutan Streaked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax imbricatus*

2+5 below Lama Camp at Eaglenest.

Scaly Laughingthrush, *Garrulax subunicolor subunicolor*

Two at 2350 masl at Eaglenest.

Blue-winged Laughingthrush, *Garrulax squamatus*

Two below Lama Camp and one above Sessni at Eaglenest.

Black-faced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax affinis bethelae*

One heard near Lama Camp, five at Eaglenest pass and at least five below Se La Pass.



Black-faced Laughingthrush

Red-headed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax erythrocephalus nigrimentum*

Five around Lama Camp, 20 between Eaglenest pass and Bompu Camp and a few between Bompu Camp and Sessni.

Red-faced Liocichla, *Liocichla phoenicea phoenicea*

One heard and another seen at Sessni at Eaglenest.

Bugun Liocichla, *Liocichla bugunorum*

One pair was eventually seen very well along the road near Lama Camp, although it took us a good 17 hours of searching. This species was described by Ramana less than a year ago and there are so far no more than maximum five pairs known. The song is similar to Emei Shan Liocichla in general structure, but the morphology is strikingly different.

Puff-throated Babbler, *Pellorneum ruficeps mandellii*

Two heard at Nameri.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ruficollis godwini*

Two below Lama Camp, three above Lama Camp, one at Bompu Camp, one above Bompu Camp and two at Mandala Road.

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

2-3 were seen well in a large mixed species flock between Bompu Camp and Sessni at Eaglenest. Clear morphological differences from the taxon in Yunnan and seemingly also a different vocal repertoire.

Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris superciliaris*

Two seen and 2-4 heard below Lama Camp and one seen extremely well above Bompu Camp.

Long-billed Wren-Babbler, *Rimator malacoptilus malacoptilus*

One seen very well above Sessni when it was responding and showing off in the very late afternoon, sometimes at a range of less than one meter (thx James!). Voted bird of the trip by one in the group. Both behavior and appearance looked like a miniaturized kiwi. Extremely large feet that were pinkish (as opposed to most illustrations). In fact, it probably has larger feet than a Ward's Trogon! Crippling to say the least!

Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler, *Napothera epilepidota guttaticollis*

One responded by calling back once above Sessni at Eaglenest.

Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler, *Pnoepyga albiventer albiventer*

1-2 heard below Lama Camp and two heard below Eaglenest pass (south side).

Pygmy Wren-Babbler, *Pnoepyga pusilla pusilla*

Three heard below Lama Camp and 10+ heard between Sessni and up to well above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler, *Spelaornis caudatus*

10 heard and one seen very well around Lama Camp and one heard above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.



Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler

Spotted Wren-Babbler, *Spelaornis formosus*

One heard just above Bompu Camp, two heard at 1740 masl and one seen at length at point blank distance just below Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Hume's (Sikkim) Wedge-billed Babbler, *Sphenocichla humei*

One heard and seen exceedingly well between Bompu Camp and Sessni at Eaglenest. Having seen and heard Robert's (Cachar) Wedger less than three months previously in Yunnan, it was interesting to note the strikingly different song and morphology.

Rufous-capped Babbler, *Stachyris ruficeps ruficeps*

A common component in mixed species flocks between Sessni and the pass at Eaglenest.

Golden Babbler, *Stachyris chrysaea chrysaea*

One below Lama Camp, five between Bompu Camp and Sessni and five above Bompu Camp.

Grey-throated Babbler, *Stachyris nigriceps nigriceps*

One heard between Bompu Camp and Sessni.

Silver-eared Mesia, *Leiothrix argentauris argentauris*

One heard below Sessni and one below Bompu Camp at Eaglenest

Cutia, *Cutia nipalensis nipalensis*

Two between Bompu Camp and Sessni at Eaglenest.

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

One heard at 2350 masl above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

White-browed Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius flaviscapis validirostris*

Two heard below Lama Camp and three between Bompu Camp and Sessni.

Green Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius xanthochlorus xanthochlorus*

One seen below Eaglenest pass (south side) and one heard at 2350 masl at Eaglenest.

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

One near Eaglenest pass, one between Bompu Camp and Sessni and one above Bompu Camp.

Rusty-fronted Barwing, *Actinodura egertoni egertoni*

2+3+6 below Lama Camp and 10+ between Bompu Camp and Sessni.

Streak-throated Barwing, *Actinodura waldeni daflaensis*

Six between Lama Camp and Eaglenest pass and three well above Bompou Camp. The taxon in this part of Himalaya is strikingly different from Streak-throated south of Brahmaputra and in western Myanmar (Mt Victoria) and possibly at least their main songs are different. It is possible that the daflaensis form should be regarded as conspecific with Hoary-throated nipalensis rather than waldeni. More research is needed, e.g. in the area around Eaglenest and also at Mishmi Hills.



Streak-throated Barwing

Blue-winged Minla, *Minla cyanouroptera cyanouroptera*

Ten below Sessni at Eaglenest.

Chestnut-tailed Minla, *Minla strigula strigula*

Many sightings between Bompou Camp and Eaglenest pass and two below Se La Pass.

Red-tailed Minla, *Minla ignotincta ignotincta*

Four near Lama Camp, two at Eaglenest pass and ten between Bompou Camp and Sessni at Eaglenest.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta, *Alcippe chrysotis chrysotis*

One at Eaglenest pass and five at 2350 masl above Bompou Camp at Eaglenest.

Yellow-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe cinerea*

Ten below Lama Camp and frequently encountered in fast-moving flocks between Sessni and well above Bompou Camp at Eaglenest.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta, *Alcippe castaneiceps castaneiceps*

This was also a frequently seen flock species seen all the way between Sessni and Eaglenest pass.

Ludlow's Fulvetta, *Alcippe ludlowi*

At least 20 at Eaglenest pass, two at 2600 masl above Bompou Camp and five below Se La Pass.

Nepal Fulvetta, *Alcippe nipalensis nipalensis*

Three at 650 masl at Eaglenest.

Rufous-backed Sibia, *Heterophasia annectens annectens*

Three below Sessni and one below Bompou Camp at Eaglenest.

Beautiful Sibia, *Heterophasia pulchella*

Commonly seen and heard, mostly at higher altitudes, at Eaglenest and also ten at Mandala Road.

Long-tailed Sibia, *Heterophasia picaoides picaoides*

Three below Sessni at Eaglenest.

White-naped Yuhina, *Yuhina bakeri*

A few large flocks between Bompou Camp and Sessni.

Whiskered Yuhina, *Yuhina flavicollis flavicollis*

Two below Lama Camp and at least 20 at Eaglenest pass.

Stripe-throated Yuhina, *Yuhina gularis gularis*

Common at high altitudes at Eaglenest, especially at the pass.



Stripe-throated Yuhina

Rufous-vented Yuhina, *Yuhina occipitalis occipitalis*

Two below Lama Camp and 50+ at Eaglenest pass.

Fire-tailed Myzornis, *Myzornis pyrrhura*

A pair of this exclusive species was eventually nailed down at 2650 masl on the south side of Eaglenest pass after a head-down 6 km speedy walk in the late afternoon. Fortunately the strategy “just five more minutes before we give up” paid off when Jocko found a pair while I was just around the corner. By the time I was positioned, the birds were gone, but fortunately they responded to playback and politely came in and circled us and provided some magic moments. The 6 km walk back in the early evening light was with easy steps!

Brown Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis unicolor*

About 20 at Eaglenest pass posed at very close range right out in the open.



Brown Parrotbill

Fulvous Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis fulvifrons fulvifrons*

Two probables feeding in bamboo below Se La Pass did not receive enough attention due to other focus.

Black-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis nipalensis crocotius*

Two in a mixed species bamboo flock just above Bompou Camp at Eaglenest. Yet another strikingly different taxon in this complex of forms.

Rufous-headed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis ruficeps ruficeps*

Ten at Bompou Camp and ten between Bompou Camp and Sessni at Eaglenest.

Black-throated Tit, *Aegithalos concinnus iridalei*

Four below Lama Camp at Eaglenest.

Black-browed Tit, *Aegithalos iouschistos iouschistos*

Two at Eaglenest pass.



Black-browed Tit

Rufous-vented Tit, *Periparus rubidiventris beavani*
Two below Se La Pass.

Grey-crested Tit, *Lophophanes dichrous dichrous*
One below Se La Pass.

Green-backed Tit, *Parus monticolus yunnanensis*
15 between Lama Camp and Eaglenest pass and five at Mandala Road.

Yellow-cheeked Tit, *Parus spilonotus spilonotus*
Two below Lama Camp and four above Bompu Camp at Eaglenest.

Yellow-browed Tit, *Sylviparus modestus modestus*
Four below Lama Camp, two at Eaglenest pass and 20 above Bompu Camp.

Sultan Tit, *Melanochlora sultanea sultanea*
One at 650 masl at Eaglenest and one at Sessni.

White-tailed Nuthatch, *Sitta himalayensis*
One below Lama Camp, one below Eaglenest pass, two above Bompu Camp and two at Mandala Road.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, *Sitta frontalis frontalis*
One at Nameri.

Beautiful Nuthatch, *Sitta Formosa*
One above Sessni was a much wanted bird for me. Fortunately the bird sat up in a bare tree top and preened for ages, giving prolonged scope views. Wow!!

Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, *Certhia nipalensis*
One on the south side below Eaglenest pass.

Brown-throated Treecreeper, *Certhia discolor discolor*
One heard below Lama Camp, one above Bompu Camp and one probable heard below Se La Pass. The song of these birds is slightly different from other taxa in southeast Asia.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, *Chalcoparia singalensis assamensis*
One at Nameri.

Gould's Sunbird, *Aethopyga gouldiae gouldiae*
Two near Lama Camp and one at 2600 masl below Eaglenest pass.

Green-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga nipalensis koelzi*
Commonly encountered from Lama and Bompu Camps and up to the pass.



Green-tailed Sunbird

- Black-throated Sunbird, *Aethopyga saturata saturata*
Two near Sessni at Eaglenest.
- Fire-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga ignicauda ignicauda*
Three at Eaglenest pass.
- Streaked Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera magna magna*
Three near Sessni at Eaglenest.
- Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum ignipectus ignipectus*
One pair at Bompou Camp at Eaglenest.
- Oriental White-eye, *Zosterops palpebrosus palpebrosus*
15+ at Mandala Road.
- Maroon Oriole, *Oriolus traillii traillii*
10-15 at most altitudes at Eaglenest.
- Asian Fairy-bluebird, *Irena puella puella*
One at 650 masl at Eaglenest.
- Grey-backed Shrike, *Lanius tephronotus tephronotus*
One below Se La Pass and two at Nameri.
- Large Woodshrike, *Tephrodornis gularis pelvicus*
10+ at 650 masl at Eaglenest.
- Black Drongo, *Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus*
Common between Guwahati and Tenga.
- Ashy Drongo, *Dicrurus leucophaeus hopwoodi*
15+ at Most altitudes at Eaglenest, five below Se La Pass and 15+ at Mandala Road.
- Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus remifer tectirostris*
Three below Sessni at Eaglenest.
- Ashy Woodswallow, *Artamus fuscus*
Three between Guwahati and Tenga and two between Nameri and Guwahati.
- Eurasian Jay, *Garrulus glandarius interstinctus*
One at Mandala Road.
- Gold-billed Magpie, *Urocissa flavirostris flavirostris*
Two at 2350 masl above Bompou Camp at Eaglenest.
- Green Magpie, *Cissa chinensis chinensis*
One above Bompou Camp at Eaglenest.
- Rufous Treepie, *Dendrocitta vagabunda vagabunda*
Two between Guwahati and Tenga and two at Nameri.
- Grey Treepie, *Dendrocitta formosae himalayensis*
One at Mandala Road.
- Eurasian Nutcracker, *Nucifraga caryocatactes macella*
Two at Eaglenest pass.
- House Crow, *Corvus splendens splendens*
Common in Delhi and in the Assam lowlands.
- Large-billed Crow, *Corvus macrorhynchos ssp*
Three at Lama Camp, 20 below Se La Pass, 10+ between Dirang and Tenga and common at Nameri.
- Common Hill Myna, *Gracula religiosa intermedia*
Four at Nameri.
- Jungle Myna, *Acridotheres fuscus fuscus*
One between Guwahati and Tenga.
- Bank Myna, *Acridotheres ginginianus*
One between Guwahati and Tenga.
- Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis tristis*
Common in the Assam lowlands and two at Tenga.
- Asian Pied Starling, *Gracupica contra contra*
Common in the Assam lowlands.
- Chestnut-tailed Starling, *Sturnia malabarica*
Ten between Guwahati and Tenga and two at Nameri.
- House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus indicus*
Common between Guwahati and Tenga.
- Russet Sparrow, *Passer rutilans cinnamomeus*
20 below Se La Pass and one at Nameri.
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus obscuratus*
Ten at Tenga.
- White-rumped Munia, *Lonchura striata acuticauda*
Three at Mandala Road.

Plain Mountain-Finch, *Leucosticte nemoricola nemoricola*
One at Se La Pass.

Crimson-browed Finch, *Pinicola subhimachalus*

Three female-type birds feeding in dense scrub below Se La Pass (near the White House). As there was some difference in the intensity of the colouration, it was presumed that one of the birds could have been an immature male.



Crimson-browed Finches

Common Rosefinch, *Carpodacus erythrurus roseatus*
Two heard near Dirang.

Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, *Carpodacus pulcherrimus pulcherrimus*

Two males and a female at the White House below Se La Pass was apparently the first record on this side of Se La Pass. They were presumably forced down due to the snowy conditions at the pass.

Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch, *Carpodacus thura thura*
10+ below Se La Pass.

Red-fronted Rosefinch, *Carpodacus puniceus puniceus*

Four females feeding at close range by the roadside just below Se La Pass.



Red-fronted Rosefinches

Brown Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula nipalensis nipalensis*
3+3 at 2300 masl at Eaglenest.

Spot-winged Grosbeak, *Mycerobas melanozanthos*

One male and two females seen well while feeding in a tree at Mandala Road.

White-winged Grosbeak, *Mycerobas carnipes carnipes*

One pair below Se La Pass.

Crested Bunting, *Melophus lathami*

One at Mandala Road and one between Dirang and Tenga.

Little Bunting, *Emberiza pusilla*

One at Bompu Camp, five at 2300 masl above Bompu Camp, one below Se La Pass and one at Mandala Road.

Mammals

Indian Elephant

Heard between Bompu and Sessni.

Yellow-throated Martin

One near Lama Camp.