

India - Tiger Marathon

With Ranthambore Extension

Naturetrek Tour Report

22 March - 2 April 2018



Royal Bengal Tiger at Munna



Royal Bengal Tiger at Ranthambore



Wild Dogs



Royal Bengal Tiger at Ranthambore

Report and images compiled by Dhanya Venkatesh



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Summary

The 'Tiger Marathon' tour itinerary took us through all four Tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh, and gave us the opportunity to experience the diverse habitats and wildlife within a single state. Brilliant sightings, amazing food and the company of people with similar interests enhanced the whole experience.

We had thrilling sightings, starting with a Tiger on the first drive, and then a Tiger on almost every other drive. Some sightings were close while others were at a distance. During the main tour we saw ten Tigers, with a further seven on the extension to Ranthambore. We also saw four Leopards, two Jungle Cats, two Asian Palm Civets and over 190 species of birds.

Day 1

Thursday 22nd March

Group members departed from the UK by flight to India.

Day 2

Friday 23rd March

The group landed at Nagpur airport at 4.40pm and after collecting luggage and changing money, we started our journey to Pench. We were lucky that there wasn't much traffic on the roads. We birded as we drove, spotting our first Red-vented Bulbuls, Common Mynas, Rosy Starlings and many more common birds.

The drive took us about two and a half hours. We went through the overpasses that are still under construction to minimise the highway's impact on wildlife movement across the Pench – Kanha landscape.

On arrival at Pench, we checked in to the comfortable Tuli Tiger Corridor. We dropped off bags in our rooms and met for dinner.

Day 3

Saturday 24th March

We had an early start and left at 5.30am. In Pench we had allocated routes, but luckily both our vehicles had the same route this morning. Although we were well into March, there was still a chill in the air. As we drove along a small track we saw some Spotted Deer dash out of the bushes. We wait and soon saw a lone Wild Dog trying to hunt. He kept coming in and out of the bushes looking for the right moment to try and bring down a deer. When he disappeared into the undergrowth we moved on. One jeep we saw numbers of Spotted Deer, the odd Sambar Deer and troops of Langurs. Some of the birds spotted included Crested Serpent Eagle, Jungle Babbler, drongos, all three species of parakeet, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon and Indian Peafowl, among many others. The other jeep saw two Leopards and got some great pictures as it crossed the road.

We went to Alikatta for breakfast. As we finished we heard from other jeeps that a Tiger had been seen near the river. We went in the direction of the Tiger sighting and after much effort we managed to spot the Tigress who was resting in the shade at the side of the rocks amid some golden grass. There was a second Tiger near it, but it

was nearly impossible to pick out the second one. As the mahouts went towards the Tigers, one of them was disturbed and walked into the grass just as we were leaving, giving us all views.

We were back at the lodge by 11am and met for lunch at 1.30pm, giving us a much-needed break after our long flight and an early morning safari. After lunch we went back to the park. We got into the park at 3pm and went straight to check the Tiger spot from this morning, finding many deer and Langurs where we had seen the Tigers. We waited for some time but as we didn't hear any alarm calls, we carried on. We got news that a Leopard had been seen in Piyorthadi area, so off we went to check if it was still around. We found the Leopard resting on top of a rock and we stayed there till it was time to return to the gate. On our way back we literally missed a Tiger by its whiskers, but it was seen by the jeep ahead of us. Our other jeep missed the Leopard but saw some Nilgai and Jackals on their way out.

We got back to the lodge at 6pm and met at 7pm for the checklist, followed by dinner. Plans for the next day were discussed in detail since we were leaving to Kanha after the morning safari.

Day 4

Sunday 25th March

Today we had one last drive in Pench. We found pugmarks on our route but as we didn't hear any alarm calls, we continued to check other areas. At centre point we heard from other jeeps that a Tigress was sat at the Junewani waterhole. We shot off in that direction and found the majestic Tigress sat amid the trees at the edge of the waterhole. We spent some time watching her before she decided to get up and stalk something that she could see, but we were unaware of what it was! Soon she gave up and decided to rest again in the grass, where she magically seemed to disappear. What camouflage! We waited for a little longer but she came out of the grass and walked away from us into the trees, further away from the water.

We headed back to Alikatta centre point for breakfast. After breakfast we checked the area by the Canter, where we saw a lovely pack of Wild Dogs drinking water and playing in the water before disappearing into the forest. What a lovely way to end our Pench safari. Our other jeep saw the Tigress in the morning as they were on that route, and then they headed in a different direction and saw a Jungle Cat!

We got back to the lodge at 11.30am and quickly packed before lunch at 12.30pm. After lunch we left on our five-hour journey to Kanha. We stopped en route at a couple of places for much-needed toilet stops and to stretch our legs. The roads were smooth and we passed through beautiful villages and small towns. Some villages were still celebrating the ram navmi festival. We arrived at Tuli Tiger Resort, Kanha at 5.30pm.

We met for drinks at 7pm and discussed plans for the next couple of days, before dinner at 7.30pm.

Day 5

Monday 26th March

On our first drive in Kanha National Park, the massively impressive Sal trees created a sense of awe and the scenery seemed more pleasant than Pench. The tall termite mounds caught our eyes. Our first stop was to look at Yellow-wattled Lapwings, and a family of Jackals playing amongst themselves. We then drove on and checked various possible areas for Tigers.

After breakfast we explored other areas. We saw many birds including three species of parakeet, Barbets, Malkoha and many more. We also saw Swamp Deer, however as there were no further calls, we slowly headed back towards the gate. As we reached the main road, one of the guards informed us of a Tiger sitting by the side of the road. We drove to the area and found a Tiger known as Munna. There was utter chaos as Munna was resting under some bamboo and all the jeeps were jostling for position. Munna woke up and walked through the fire line, giving everyone a great view of this legendary Tiger. We got out of the park by 11am and reached the lodge in fifteen minutes.

We met again at 1.30pm for lunch. In the afternoon, one jeep containing David, Sinead and Mary were in the Sarhi Zone, while the other jeep with Henry, Ann, Charlie, Martin and Dhanya were in the Kisli Zone. The jeep in Sarhi Zone looked at a few birds and the beautiful Barasingha, while the jeep in Kisli searched for Munna again. He was found relaxing in a small pool of water in the grass, well hidden from the jeeps. We waited for him to move and after about an hour's wait, Munna got up, walked a few steps and lay down in the grass. As we waited for him to get up again, we heard another Tiger calling from the road leading to Sarhi Zone. Our driver Rajan spotted the Tiger resting on the bund wall of the lake. Amazing! Two Tigers! Our jeep in the Sarhi Zone also saw the Tiger sitting on the water bund.

We were back at the lodge by 6pm and freshened up before meeting for the log at 7pm. Dinner and discussion about the next morning followed the log.

Day 6

Tuesday 27th March

This morning we were back in Kanha Zone and both jeeps checked various areas. One jeep reached the meadow, heard many alarm calls and saw a Jungle cat; well that explained the alarm calls. We then reached Bison Road and jeeps were lined up waiting for a Tigress to cross. The driver, Dhanya and David saw, or rather briefly glimpsed, two cubs walking through the forest in the distance. The Tigress disappeared into the tall grass but, with all revving and moving of jeeps, she remained hidden. We waited there for a long time, however with no sign of either the cubs or the Tigress coming out, we headed to breakfast. The other jeep met us en route to centre point and we updated them with the sighting. Later they checked the place and saw the cub trying to cross the road to where the Tigress was, but it got spooked due to one of the jeeps pulling up too close and went back into the forest. Such a shame! People don't respect the animals.

We got back to the lodge at 11.10am. David, Sinead and Dhanya met at 11.30am for a short bird walk around the grounds and saw Spangled Drongo, Golden Oriole, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Common Tailorbird and Black-naped Monarch, but the highlight was a male Crimson Sunbird in full plumage.

We met for lunch at 1.30pm and went out at 2.30pm for our afternoon safari. This afternoon both jeeps were in Sarhi Zone. As the jeep with Dhanya, Mary, Charlie and Ann drove towards Digdola, they saw fresh Tiger tracks and scanned the area for the cat. After about 20 minutes we heard Spotted Deer alarm calls and realised that the Tiger was quite close. Within minutes we saw the Tiger come out in its full glory and settle next to a fallen log. We waited a little longer and saw the Tiger take a small fawn and go uphill. Well, with a kill he wasn't going to go anywhere near the road, so we drove on and saw a lovely herd of Barasingha in water, had good views of Ruddy Mongoose, and saw a couple of Barking Deer. The other jeep didn't see any cats, but did see some birds and a mongoose.

Once back at the lodge we freshened up and met again at 7pm for the checklist, followed by dinner. Today dinner was by the pool which was beautifully decorated with candles, creating a lovely ambience. We decided the plan for tomorrow before calling it a night.

Day 7

Wednesday 28th March

This morning was our last drive in Kanha and both the jeeps were in Kisli Zone. We headed straight to where some of us had seen the Tiger last evening. We saw fresh pugmarks leading towards the next nullah, so we drove on to look for further signs. We stopped by the fire line as that's a good spot to see anything. We saw Scimitar Babblers in the open before being distracted by loud Tiger growls and realised that there was a pair, perhaps mating! The drama unfolded as we heard further growls, and then Elephants arrived with the mahouts. They disappear into the forest and we waited, hearing growls at regular intervals. Ann saw the Tigers as they come out briefly in the fire line, as did Dhanya and the driver in the other jeep. We waited for another half hour, hoping that after the elephants moved the pair would come out, but they decided to stay hidden.

We headed to Kisli gate for breakfast and get some good views of Coppersmith Barbet near the toilets. After breakfast we explored the Indri area and had great views of Lesser Goldenback and Shikra. We heard from another jeep that some Wild Dogs had been seen at a waterhole so off we went to look for them, but they had disappeared. After checking the Tiger spot again, we headed out of the park.

After the drive we came back to the lodge, packed and had lunch at noon. We then left for Bandhavgarh at 1pm. It was five-hour drive and we stopped a few times en route for a leg stretch and toilet breaks. We stopped at a lake to do some birding and saw Bronze-winged Jacana, Cotton Pygmy Goose and Grey-headed Swamphen. We reached Bandhavgarh at 6.30pm. After a quick check-in and freshening up, we met at 7.15pm for the checklist followed by dinner. We also discussed plans for the next couple of days.

Day 8

Thursday 29th March

Today we started 15 minutes later than normal and both vehicles were in the Magadhi Zone. We drove off in different directions as there was no route system. Dhanya's vehicle found a few fresh pugmarks and heard some alarm calls, however nothing was seen. We headed towards the Dhavadhol area to check the waterbody, but when we got there we learned that we had missed a Tigress literally by the whisker. We waited around as there were alarm calls, but soon the calls died down so we headed for breakfast. While eating breakfast we spotted Griffon Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Egyptian Vulture and had some close views of Chestnut-shouldered Petronias. Later we explored a different part of the forest. Meanwhile the other jeep with Martin, Henry, Charlie and Ann waited at the lake and saw the Tigress come to drink and have a paddle before heading into the grass.

At midday we had some rest before meeting up for lunch at 1.30pm. We then left at 2.15pm for the afternoon drive and both jeeps went back to the Magadhi Zone. We headed straight to the area where the Tigress had been seen this morning. On reaching there we saw that one of the other jeeps had already seen the Tigress, who was resting inside the bamboo. After some struggle we all saw her. Wow! Camouflage at its best! Minutes later she walked out of the bamboo and came out in full glory, walked towards the lake and settled in the grass close by. We waited for the rest of the session but she stayed put in the grass.

We got back to the lodge at 6.20pm, met at 7.15pm for the checklist and had a lovely dinner afterwards.

Day 9

Friday 30th March

This morning we departed at 5.15am as we were in a closer zone. We went into the Tala Zone and since we had a route to follow, we continued without many stops to the river creek. We then proceeded to centre point for breakfast. After breakfast we went back to the creek before going to the ancient 'Sesha Shaiyya' statue of the sleeping Hindu god Vishnu. We then returned to the lodge.

Lunch was at 1.30pm and we departed for our afternoon drive at 2.15pm. The afternoon safari was back in the Tala Zone. We went straight to the creek and waited. We saw some Peacocks come to drink, but no Tigers! Oh well, we have one more morning left for us to try our luck.

We got back to the lodge at 6.10pm, met at 7.30pm and had a lovely dinner. We discussed plans for the morning before heading for a good night's rest.

Day 10

Saturday 31st March

Today was our last morning in Bandavgarh and we were back in the Magdhi Zone. David and Mary stayed back as they seemed to have a dodgy tummy, so it was Sinead and Dhanya in one jeep and the others in the second jeep. Sinead and Dhanya saw a pair of Asian Palm Civets on their way to the park, but they disappeared into a tree hollow before the second jeep arrived. Once inside the park we checked the lake and a couple of other spots for Tigers without success, so we returned to the lodge.

We had an hour to freshen up and pack, and met again at 12.30pm for lunch. After lunch we left on the six-hour journey to Khajuraho. En route we made several short stops for swallows, vultures and toilets. We also saw a Nilgai, and many Peacocks and Langurs. On reaching Khajuraho, we checked into the comfortable Radisson Hotel and went for dinner immediately after a brief discussion about plans for tomorrow.

Day 11

Sunday 1st April

It was another early start. We left at 5.30am and reached Panna gate in 30 minutes. No sooner had we entered the park than we heard Sambar and Langur alarm calls from the territory of a radio-collared female with two sub adult cubs. We stopped briefly and the driver and guide realised that the cub was coming out on the parallel road, so we shot off. It was amazing rally driving to reach the spot. Once we reached the place we spotted a lovely Tiger cub, about 18 months old, and she very elegantly crossed the road ahead of us and walked into the tall grass after posing for some pictures. We also saw the second cub in the distance, but this cub wasn't as bold as the other one and she stayed in the forest.

After great Tiger sightings, we decided to see the more scenic part of the forest. We reached the gorge, from where we could see Griffon Vultures soaring below eye level. The jeep with David, Sinead, Ann and Charlie saw a Chinkara (Indian Gazelle). Since we were at an amazing spot with no other vehicles around to spoil the quiet, we had our picnic breakfast there. After breakfast we drove to the Ken River for a boat ride, during which we

saw Pied Kingfishers hovering, Marsh Muggers and a few River Lapwings. After the boat ride we drove back to the gate.

Back at the Radisson Hotel we had a rest and then met back for lunch. We saw a Common Mongoose in the hotel grounds as we ate. We left at 3pm for our last safari of the main tour. In the afternoon we checked the riverside first and from there we took different routes to maximise sightings. The jeep with Dhanya, David, Sinead and Charlie scanning every rock in case it moved. As we crossed the rockiest area we got a call from our other jeep telling us that a Leopard had been spotted. We set off on our last rally drive and reached in time to see a lovely Leopard sitting quite close to the road, posing before he walked through the woods to the adjacent waterbody, where he drank. Bush telegraph informed us of a Tiger on the move, so off we went. Wow, there she was, as beautiful as ever, drinking from the waterbody, resting by the side of it and posing. What a brilliant end to our last drive and we ended the main tour on a high!

We got back to the hotel, freshened up and met for dinner. Tomorrow's plans were discussed at length as it was going to be a long day.

Day 12

Monday 2nd April

We had a relaxed morning and a proper sit down breakfast at 8am. Mary was unwell so stayed whilst the rest of the group met cultural guide, Anurag, who took us around the famed monuments. We visited the eastern and western group of temples in Khajuraho, and got back by 11.30am. David and Sinead were happy to finally see the lovely Spotted Owlets, which had been eluding them.

We met back for lunch at 1pm and then headed to the airport. We boarded our flight which arrived in Delhi at 6pm. We went straight to our hotel which was close to the airport for our night's stay. We met at 7.45pm for dinner and discussed plans for tomorrow. We also said goodbyes to Sinead, David, Charlie and Martin who were finishing the main tour with a flight back to the UK tomorrow.

Day 13

Tuesday 3rd April

At 6am Dhanya and the three group members on the Ranthambore Extension were picked up from the hotel and transferred to the railway station, for their train at 7.20am. The rest of the group were picked up at 10am and went to the airport, from where they flew back to the UK, where their Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

For those on the train, it was an interesting experience. We saw some village sights through the train window. One of the stations we passed through was being damaged by rioters: it was good we were inside the train! Our train was delayed and reached Sawai Madhopur, the station for Ranthambore, at 2.20pm. We checked in to the Pug Mark Hotel and went straight to lunch. The rest of the day was at leisure.

We met at 7pm for dinner and finalised the plans for tomorrow.

Day 14

Wednesday 4th April

This morning we started at 5.45am and were in Zone 1. The landscape of Ranthambore is ever so stunning. We saw some Sloth Bear footprints as we drove along the rocky area. The roads were quite bumpy compared to the central Indian jungle roads. We drove around, checking the various waterholes for the presence of a cat, but none were seen. We drove to the lake at the end of the forest and saw the fresh tracks of a female Tiger cub, so we spent most of the time waiting for her to appear. However, as luck would have it, the Tiger stayed hidden. With little time left to get to the gate, we drove back and saw a Ruddy Mongoose on the way out.

We saw a lot of people heading along the road to the fort in small trucks, vans and on foot. The temple on top of the hill is considered wish-fulfilling and auspicious. We therefore made a small detour and got back to the lodge in time for a lovely sit down breakfast. We relaxed during the midday heat and met back at 2pm for lunch.

We left on our afternoon drive at 2.45pm. This time we were in Zone 6 and to get there we drove through the old city of Sawai Madhopur. It was an experience in itself to see the traffic, which seemed to be all over the place; not to mention cows, pigs, people and street vendors...wow! We reached the gate of Zone 6 and as soon as we entered, we saw a Tigress and one of her cubs near the entrance stone gate. We continued and saw a lot of Nilgai, enjoyed watching Sambar Deer wallowing in a muddy pool, and saw a lot of Chikara. After a round of the park, we returned to where the Tigers were. Lo and behold, the Tiger was on top of the gate wall. We jostled back and forth till we were out of the way of all the other jeeps and waited for them to appear again. The cub kept peeking from the roof. Wow; an exhilarating experience! We saw the Tigress and male cub atop the gate wall before leaving the park.

Back at the lodge at 7pm, we met later for dinner.

Day 15

Thursday 5th April

This morning we were in Zone 2 and drove along at a reasonably fast pace to check all the waterholes for any possibility of a Tiger. As we crossed, one of the tankers was refilling a waterhole. The driver told us about a Tiger drinking from a nearby waterhole. We immediately drove in that direction to check it out. We found the Tiger peacefully drinking from the waterhole, giving us an amazing photographic opportunity. The lack of many jeeps made it a very peaceful sighting. We watched him as he drank and then moved through the forest; crossed from behind our Jeep. Wow - what an amazing sighting! We then continued.

Soon we realised that another Tiger was drinking from yet another waterhole. We backed the jeep close enough so as to get good views. We saw the Tiger reasonably well, drinking water. It was a male and apparently the brother of the earlier Tiger we had seen. A few minutes later the Tiger crossed the road ahead of us, but we missed it as there were many jeeps in front of us. There was utter chaos compared to the earlier sighting, so we decided to drive on and leave the cat at ease.

The rest of the drive was spent taking a few scenic photographs of the lovely cliffs that gives the park a wonderful backdrop. We also took some images of the fort wall which looked magnificent. We left the park half an hour early to check some of the waterholes near the gate.

For the later drive we were in Zone 5. We drove along the bumpy roads checking out the various waterholes. As we drove past the Khachida forest camp we saw many jeeps lined up and instantly knew that there was a Tiger! We drove further and realised that there was not just one Tiger but infact two: mother and son. The Tigress was sat, tucked away in the grass in the water while the cub, who was about 15 months old, wandered around a little and then settled in the grass away from the water. We kept seeing the swishing of his tail every so often and later they both moved into the water briefly before the Tigress walked towards the grass on the rock face. Both the Tigers lay down and we waited, hoping to see them wake up again, however it seemed like they had other plans. With just enough time to drive back to the gate without rushing, we left and returned to the lodge.

We met at 7pm for dinner and discussed plans for our travel tomorrow.

Day 16

Friday 6th April

This morning was our last drive in Ranthambore and we were in Zone 1 again. We checked the area bordering Zone 6, however we didn't hear or see any cats. We checked various waterholes and saw fresh Tiger tracks leading to the lake. We followed the tracks and found a fresh Nilgai kill close to the road. There was blood all around the dead animal but hardly anything was eaten off it, suggesting that a Leopard possibly made the kill and got flushed by the jeeps or the presence of the Tiger nearby. We drove on towards the lake and found fresh Tiger tracks again. Some Langur alarm calls from further uphill suggested a predator was there. We spent the rest of the drive waiting for the cat to appear near the lake. While waiting we saw Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Marsh and Wood Sandpipers, Painted Stork and Black-winged Stilt. We slowly drove back towards the gate and saw a Ruddy Mongoose feeding on a Nilgai carcass. We watched him eat and then head towards water. As the mongoose moved forward, we saw a second one accompany it. We drove on further and the guard at the anti-poaching camp inform us about a nearby Tiger sighting. We headed out as told and saw a female Tiger resting in the shade of trees. We also heard some Sambar Deer and Langur alarm calls further on, but since we were short of time we had to drive on towards the exit.

We got back to the lodge at 9.45am and had breakfast. We then packed our bags and departed at 11.30am for our train to Delhi. With some time in hand, we stood at the railway station appreciating the beautifully painted walls with the lovely depiction of the landscape, flora and fauna of Ranthambore.

We got to Delhi at 6.45pm. It had been raining so there were hardly any people around, which made our exit fast.. Because of traffic we reached the Novotel Hotel by 9pm. After a quick check in, we had some Indian wine followed by a variety of English food and an assortment of desserts. After dinner we said our thanks and goodbyes to Dhanya and retired to our rooms.

Day 17

Saturday 7th April

We met at 9am for breakfast. At 10am we were transferred to the International airport from where we took our flight back to UK, where the tour ended.

Species Lists

Mammals (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	March/April															
			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓							✓	✓	✓
2	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>		✓			?											
3	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus kelaarita or kutas</i>			✓		✓		✓									
4	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>		✓	✓						✓	✓			✓	✓		
5	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
6	'Northern Plains' Grey Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>		✓														
7	Common Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>											✓					
8	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>			✓		✓						✓			✓		✓
9	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓					
10	Dhole (Asiatic Wild Dog)	<i>Cuon alpinus dukhunensis</i>		✓	✓													
11	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>						✓										
12	Indian Tree Shrew	<i>Anathana ellioti</i>							✓									
13	Indian (Black-naped) Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>																✓
14	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
15	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
17	Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	<i>Cervus duvauceli branderi</i>				✓	✓	✓										
18	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
19	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>					✓		H	✓	✓							
20	Blackbuck	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>				✓												
21	Chinkara (Indian Gazelle)	<i>Gazella bennetti</i>										✓				✓	✓	
22	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>		✓								✓				✓	✓	✓
23	Indian Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>				✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓							
24	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓

Birds

1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓							✓
2	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>		✓	✓													

	Common Name	Scientific Name	March/April														
			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						✓				✓				✓	✓
4	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			✓	
5	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>										✓					
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>										✓			✓		✓
7	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓												
8	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓
9	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>				✓	✓										
10	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓									✓	✓	✓
11	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
12	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
13	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>							✓								✓
14	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		✓				✓				✓					
15	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					✓										
16	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>					✓		✓								
17	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓						
18	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓										
19	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>				✓	✓										
20	Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>						✓									
21	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>															✓
22	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>		✓	✓							✓					
23	Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓				✓	✓
24	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓								✓	
25	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓		✓								✓				
26	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>					✓					✓					
27	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>							✓			✓					
28	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>			✓	✓											
29	Indian (Long-billed) Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>				✓	✓		?	✓	✓	✓					
30	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓					
31	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>				✓			✓		✓						
32	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>										✓					
33	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
34	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							

	Common Name	Scientific Name	March/April														
			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
35	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						
36	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>							✓								
37	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>										✓					
38	Changeable (Crested) Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>				✓	✓		✓		✓						
39	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>					✓										
40	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>									?						
41	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>													✓	✓	✓
42	Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>				✓				✓	✓					✓	
43	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>							?		✓						
44	Painted Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
45	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
46	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
47	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>			?											✓	
48	Grey-headed (Purple) Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>						✓									
49	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓				✓								✓	
50	Eurasian (Common) Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>								✓							
51	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>						✓									
52	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>			✓			✓									
53	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓							✓		✓
54	Eurasian Stone-curlew (Thick-knee)	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>		✓													
55	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>		✓								✓					
56	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>		✓		✓		✓									
57	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
58	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		✓													
59	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>															✓
60	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>															✓
61	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>															✓
62	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>															✓
63	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓							✓						✓
64	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓	✓	✓								
65	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓	✓	✓											

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			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
67	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>															✓
68	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>		✓													
69	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>											✓				
70	Rock Dove (Common Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓		✓			✓				✓	✓				
71	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>				✓	✓						✓				
72	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>											✓				
73	Red Turtle (Collared) Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>						?									✓
74	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
75	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓					
76	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓						
77	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>		✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
78	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓			✓
79	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>		✓		✓		✓				✓	✓				✓
80	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>			H	H	✓	H	✓		✓						
81	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>					✓		H								
82	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>					✓					✓					
83	Southern Coucal	<i>Centropus {sinensis } parroti</i>		✓		✓	?	✓			✓	✓	✓				
84	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>		✓								✓					✓
85	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>				✓					✓						
86	Mottled Wood Owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>							H								
87	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓						
88	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>											✓				✓
89	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>		✓													
90	Savannah Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>									✓		✓				
91	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>				?						✓					
92	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>					✓					✓					✓
93	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓		✓				✓
94	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>		✓							✓						
95	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
96	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		✓	✓						✓		✓				✓
97	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>					✓				✓						
98	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓

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			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
99	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
100	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓	✓						✓					✓
101	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyroceros birostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
102	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>				H	H	✓	H	H							
103	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H			✓	✓				
104	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos moluccensis nanus</i>			✓		✓										
105	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>		?													
106	Lesser Goldenback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
107	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>			✓	✓					✓						
108	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>			✓												
109	Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>										✓					
110	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>											✓				
111	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓														
112	Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>										✓	✓				✓
113	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓							✓					
114	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>									✓						
115	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>						✓	✓			✓					✓
116	Streak-throated Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fluvicola</i>			✓							✓					
117	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓			✓									
118	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>		✓	✓							✓			✓	✓	✓
119	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>										✓					
120	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓						
121	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
122	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				✓	✓	✓									
123	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>		✓													
124	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓								
125	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>				✓			✓			✓					
126	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>				✓											
127	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>				✓		✓									
128	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
129	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>						✓									
130	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>		?		✓	✓										

	Common Name	Scientific Name	March/April															
			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	
131	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>			✓		H										H	
132	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>								✓								
133	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>		✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
134	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓						✓						
135	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>					✓											
136	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>										✓						
137	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>				✓	✓											
138	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>				✓	✓	✓										
139	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>				H	✓										✓	
140	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			✓													
141	Taiga (Red-throated) Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>				✓												
142	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>											✓					
143	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓									
144	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>					H											
145	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
146	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>				✓	✓					✓						
147	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓						
148	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				✓			✓		✓						✓	✓
149	Siberian (Common) Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓							
150	Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>			?							✓						
151	Indian Chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>			✓								✓					
152	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>			✓								H					
153	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓									
154	Indian (Asian) Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>		✓		✓	?											
155	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>				H		H	✓	✓								
156	Indian Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>				H		✓										
157	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>										✓						
158	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>				✓												
159	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>														✓	✓	✓
160	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>						✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓
161	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
162	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>				H	H	H										

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			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	
163	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	H	✓					✓	✓				✓	
164	Indian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>					✓											
165	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>					✓											
166	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						✓	
167	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparrajai</i>					✓											
168	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>					✓											
169	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>						✓										
170	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>				✓	✓				✓							
171	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>					✓											
172	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
173	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>					✓											
174	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>				✓												
175	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>										✓					✓	
176	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓										
177	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>		✓														
178	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
179	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>				✓	✓											
180	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>					✓					✓					✓	
181	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>					?											
182	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
183	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓
184	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓					✓			✓						✓	✓
185	Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus {macrorhynchos}culminatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
186	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>												✓				✓
187	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
188	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>			✓		✓	✓				✓						
189	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
190	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓						
191	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	✓															
192	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
193	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
194	Crested Bunting	<i>Melophus lathami</i>										?				✓	✓	✓

	Common Name	Scientific Name	March/April													
			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Other sightings:

1	Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>					✓										
2	Marsh Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>										✓			✓	✓	✓
3	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>										✓					
4	House Gecko species	<i>Hemidactylus or Gehyra sp</i>		✓								✓					

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Royal Bengal Tiger at Bandavgarh