

# Biodiverse Bhutan

## Species List | April 11 – 25, 2024

### with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Peg Abbott with guides Norbu Norbu, Pema Dawa, and Avijit Sarkel, and ten participants: Kathy and John, Gail and John, Joan and John, Andrew, Geri, Lila, and Lois**

Summary: A remarkable Naturalist Journey's adventure to a country that still retains 70% of its native forests; our entire route felt like we were in a national park. Much of our birding was done walking the roads as they are quiet and allow good viewing at the edge effect of such lush vegetation. This year we trimmed the length of our journey to ease the pace and we remained mostly in the mountain areas of the Himalayas, offering lowland birding in the more accessible Manas National Park of India ahead of the trip. We still encountered over 250 species, 56 that were new from the previous year. At this pace we got really good views, and for several key species, a repeated chance to observe them on multiple days. Highlights were many including Rufous-naped Hornbills seen flying and perched, Crested Kingfisher poised on a rock while hunting at close range, and seeing one of the world's most endangered species, the White-bellied Heron. We got fine views of Bhutan's signature pheasants, including the most sought-after, Satyr Tragopan. Snow Pigeons flew at the snow line of high passes between row after row of prayer flags. Seeing Large Hawk Cuckoo and Crescent Serpent Eagle on dead snags, perched for a long time was a treat. Watching Ibisbill feed in a stony river within hours of arrival was notable as was finding Asian Barred Owl perched in the open on two days. Blue-bearded Bee-eater perched just below the road was a sight to behold, as were the colorful Darjeeling Woodpecker feeding in mossy high-elevation trees. We honed our skills at sorting through numerous minivets, babblers, drongos, laughingthrushes, leafbirds, tits, and leaf-warblers. We tried our patience for glimpses of cupwings and tesias. Finding four species of parrotbill was a highlight, one in the realm of Red Panda, a mammal which we saw not once, but twice! The Beautiful Nuthatch put on a good show along the Yongkhola Road, we found three species of tree creeper, and marveled at 4 species of sunbird. A surprise was Richard's Pipit in the Ura Valley, likely a migrant going through. A grand finale was a finch feast atop Pelela, with Red-headed Bullfinch, Crimson-browed Finch and several rosefinches. We saw fifteen species of mammals including 4 primates and had a stunning bloom of rhododendrons to add beauty at each turn of this incredible journey. Three of our group accompanied guide Avijit Sarkhel on the 4-night Manas National Park pre-journey extension and had an equally fantastic time, adding over 100 bird species and significant large mammals.

**BIRDS:** The eBird link below details the 252 species, in 63 families, of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

Total group list for Bhutan is 254: Species not on the eBird report as the author did not see: Golden Bush Warbler and Gray-winged Blackbird.

The Manas National Park extension added 111 bird species and 9 additional mammals – scroll down report for full list.  
\*\* notes species also recorded on the Manas National Park in India as well as in Bhutan.

**Annotated List under Family (total # in family) with Species Common Name Scientific Name (# of species in family)**

**DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae — (6)**

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* — (3) This colorful duck was seen in good number (over a dozen) resting on river stones of the Punatshangchhu in an area where the river bends and current is strong. We found them tucked in on a windy late afternoon and were able to admire their lovely plumage. Andrew also spied two in a small pond when scanning the open fields from the Black-necked Crane visitor center at Phobjikha.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* — (1) Two males were present with ducks that we observed as we returned to Punakha on the day we followed the Punatshangchhu River in search of White-bellied Heron.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* — (1) About fifteen were present in the group of ducks we surveyed late afternoon of April 13 returning to Punakha.

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope* — (1) We saw about a dozen of this species, with males in bright plumage. These lovely ducks swam in line, fanning out into the current and mixing with other duck species seen on April 13.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca* — (1) Two individuals, one swimming and one resting on river stones in the company of Northern Shoveler, Gadwall and Eurasian Wigeon.

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser* — (1) A handsome drake was memorable in striking black and white plumage, resting atop a rock in the river. Two females were seen with the large group of ducks observed and described above.

**PHEASANTS, PARTRIDGES, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae — (5)**

**Hill Partridge** *Arborophila torqueola* — (HO-8) Heard only for the full trip, often at distance, but very common and resonant for a long distance. Our first were heard calling as we walked the loop trail at the Royal Botanic Garden off Dochula Pass.

**Chestnut-breasted Partridge** *Arborophila mandellii* — (HO-1) Heard downslope, repeatedly calling in the lush forest above Trogon Villa at Yongkhola.

**Blood Pheasant** *Ithaginis cruentus* — (3) We had great looks at this species, male and female and both days when going up higher passes early in the morning. We saw them in pairs, and observed the two subspecies: *cruentus* on Chelela Pass and *tibetanus* in the eastern part. Those in the eastern part of the country had a richer color on the breast than those on Chelela. A striking bird much at home near the snowline, we were thrilled to see them.

**Satyr Tragopan** *Tragopan satyra* — (6) One of the most desired species to see in Bhutan for the rich orange color in the male, we had good success this year early on, seeing a male at close range right after our views of Red Panda! Their evocative calls were part of all of our high elevation walks, and we saw a number of females down on the road, at times mixed in with a pair of Blood Pheasant.

**Himalayan Monal** *Lophophorus impejanus* — (3) We had excellent looks at this stunning species, particularly at the monastery above the Chumey Valley where they were within a few yards at one point. We watched two males sparring on the Old Pelela Road at dawn, memorable!

\*\* **Kalij Pheasant** *Lophura leucomelanos* — (7) We saw two pair on our first day afield on the side of the road, with good views thanks to our early departure hour. This species proved to be the most common of the pheasants, and at Chelela we had at least 16 individuals as we drove up the pass early morning.

**PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (6)**

\*\* **Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* — (9) Common in towns and some agricultural areas throughout the journey.

**Snow Pigeon** *Columba leuconota* — (2) Watching these lovely birds swirl up from their frenzied feeding among hundreds of prayer flags atop Pelela Pass was like watching a flight of fancy. John had spied them in the distance as we traveled out from

Punakaha and we confirmed that coming back when we all saw them up close. We also saw them at the monastery above Chumey Valley.

**\*\* Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*** — (11) One of the most common species encountered, we enjoyed their lovely plumage and mournful calls. They appeared in groups and as lone birds.

**\*\* Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*** — (3) We encountered them when we got to middle and lower elevations, with great looks right at Trogon Villa.

**\*\* Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall*** — (1) Just one sighting, when a lot was going on in lush forest above Trogon Villa at Yongkohla.

**\*\* Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*** — (1) Just a quick peek at two birds, under and agricultural shed on the lower Lingmethang Road. Beautiful, colorful species.

### **CUCKOOS: Cuculidae — (7)**

**\*\* Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*** — (1) One bird, seen quickly as we drove to lower elevation (about 1400 ft.) in search of the White-bellied Heron nesting area.

**Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus*** — (1) This bird was calling across the river at Punakha when we boarded the bus and with luck it answered our call, flying across to perch in some of the tall pines below the patio for a bird's eye view.

**Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*** — (1) Seen twice in one day, the best view along the Menchugang River Trail where we looked for roosting Tawny Fish Owl.

**Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides*** — (5) Common and vocal, we heard them on several days in broadleaf forest. One posed for us at length, giving us time to study its long wings and overall pattern. They do look like small accipiters, especially in flight.

**Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor*** — (2) Not common, we were pleased to see them and to study the difference in plumage from other Cuckoos. Seen walking above Trogon Villa at Yongkhola and also above Tronsa where we admired the troop of Golden Langurs.

**\*\* Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*** — (7) Heard and seen often, at varied elevation.

**\*\* Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*** — (5) Alerted by their classic two note clock tune, we hear this species on three days, and then got good looks on two, one just after we stopped to watch a dart competition. It was perched between prayer flags on rocks above a small meadow and we got to watch it hunt for insects.

### **FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae**

**Hodgson's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus hodgsoni*** — (HO-1) We knew that we had probably less than 50% chance of seeing this bird when we ventured out from Trogon Villa on a night excursion. We got very close, hearing it at close range and even tracking some movement, but in its lush forest realm it was impossible to see. We did have a grand time and heard several owls while out exploring.

### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae — (1)**

**Gray Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka*** — (HO-3) We heard this species during the night at our Sengor Camp, then heard in the early morning hours from our hotels at Tronsa and Paro.

### **SWIFTS: Apodidae — (2)**

**Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*** — (3) This small aerial dynamo was first seen on the lower Lingmethang Road with a flock of Blyth's swift, the size difference quite clear. We then encountered them on two days, at higher elevations.

**Blyth's Swift *Apus leuconyx*** — (6) Our first encounter was at the bend of a road where they were going in and out of a roost or nest area, a steep rock cut on the top side of the road. We had excellent looks at them at eye level as they came in to land and duck out of sight. We then saw them fairly often, often on travel days as we wound up and down in elevation.

### **RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (1)**

**Black-tailed Crake *Zapornia bicolor*** — (1) We made two tries at a small wetland outside of Paro to see this elusive species. The second try was on our way to the airport when Avi spotted a lone individual coming just into view at the edge of shrubs and reeds. A great final new bird within a half hour of our departure!

### **IBISBILL: Ibisbill — (1)**

**Ibisbill** *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* — (1) This elegant species was our welcome to Bhutan, one of the first species seen in the Pachu River below the Paro Dzong. We watched it poke and probe among the rocks, sometimes putting its entire long beak into the mud. Their striking pattern is amazing cryptic. Bhutan and other Himalayan countries lie at the southern end of its more extensive range in China to the north; we were really please to find this species so readily.

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (1)**

**\*\* River Lapwing** *Vanellus duvaucelii* — (2) First seen in the rounded river rocks of the Pachu River below Paro Dzong at a distance across the river, we had closer views from our vantage point for scanning the Punakha River for ducks and other species. It was windy and we spied close to a dozen total on small shrub and rock areas taking refuge, roosting. A few were seen feeding and interaction between them let us hear vocalizations and see the intricate black and white patterns.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (2)**

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* — (2) Seen along the Punakha River, bobbing as our Spotted Sandpiper does it was easy to identify by the same white shoulder marking.

**\*\* Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* — (2) Seen along the Punakha River, a lone individual was quite close to the area we scanned from and we got scope views of its long wings and pattern.

### **PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae — (1)**

**\*\* Small Pratincole** *Glareola lactea* — (1) While scanning the far side of the Punakha River, Avi noticed this long winged species making short flights on the riverbank, in the scope we could make them out at a long distance.

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae — (1)**

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (1) Seen swimming along the Punakha River.

### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (1)**

**White-bellied Heron** *Ardea insignis* — (1) Seeing two individuals, two of the world's very few breeding pairs was a highlight of the trip this year. Seeing it required some driving to the area they are known to inhabit, an area ideal for viewing as they are a long way below the viewpoint, enough to cause no disturbance but good scope views. Three members of the team that monitors this pair and others, stopped by our breakfast site set up so we could have a good amount of time to scan. They explained that the bird we had seen picking up sticks and flying up into a well-hidden nest was the male, and older and experienced bird that had lost its mate perhaps due to an electric line collision, a real tragedy. The bird feeding with incredible patience from a rocky perch in the rushing current was a young female that had found the male displaying in this territory and stayed around. While they were not successful last year hopes were high that they would be this year. We will follow the story and were very impressed with the information and research center we visited after the sighting.

### **OSPREY: Pandionidae — (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* — (1) This familiar species was seen flying above the river as we made a stop driving our first day from Paro to Thimphu.

### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (9)**

**\*\* Oriental Honey-buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* — (2) Seen flying overhead at roadside stops on a couple of occasions.

**\*\* Himalayan Griffon** *Gyps himalayensis* — (7) We saw this species fairly often as many of our travel days we crossed high passes transecting their preferred terrain. Two were perched very close to the road one day descending Pelela, allowing us to see them in full detail. We admired their massive size and wing proportions in flight as well. Walking Old Pelela Road towards the end of our trip, we were impressed seeing over a dozen in view, all circling high.

**\*\* Crested Serpent-Eagle** *Spilornis cheela* — (3) Twice we got to see and study this fine raptor at close view, finding them perched on dead snags near the road. We also saw them in flight from our roadside stops.

**Mountain Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus nipalensis* — (4) We saw this species from our roadside walks and rest stops, often circling when

soaring, giving us ample time to study them.

**\*\* Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*** — (2) We all got good looks at this species outside of Tronsa in the Mangde Chhu River Forest. Avi spied another as we passed back through that area, from the bus.

**Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*** — (1) Seen soaring with a group of Himalayan Buzzards, dwarfed in size but still with a notable long tail and decent sized head. We identified this accipiter at a long distance with its proportions and comparative size.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*** — (2) Seen on two days in a row, going up to Sengor Camp and descending to Trogon Villa from it.

**\*\* Black Kite *Milvus migrans*** — (1) Norbu and Avi were surprised to see this species at such a high elevation, it flew over us on Chelela Pass at some height and we all snapped photos to assure ourselves of the first jizz of its id. It had all the classic markings, yellow bill and wing and tail shape, proportions – indeed at Black Kite at 12,000 ft.

**Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo refectus*** — (4) Seen in flight, with best views in the Phobjikha Valley

### **OWLS: Strigidae — (5)**

**Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus*** — (1) Heard at dusk above Trogon Villa, the night we went out to look for Hodgson's Frogmouth.

**\*\* Oriental Scops-Owl *Otus sunia*** — (1) Calling almost continuously from dense forest the night we went out to look for Hodgson's Frogmouth above Trogon Villa.

**\*\* Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*** — (4) We had two great views of this species on three days and heard them on another. Active in the daytime, we encountered one quite close to the road and had good viewing from the van. Driving back along our route keen-eyed Joan spotted another and we backed up to once again get nice photo opportunities and views.

**Collared Owlet *Taenioptynx brodiei*** — (2) Heard on two days, calling frequently as we birded the road above Trogon Villa at Yongkhola.

**Himalayan Owl *Strix nivicolum*** — (2) We went out a night, walking the quiet road from our camp at Sengor, having heard this species from the tall conifers lining the road. We could trace two calling, and we had one fly past us twice across the road, but never got a perched spotlight view. It was still magical to be out and in their presence. We tried again while at the luxury tented camp also rimmed by conifer trees in Phobjikha Valley but only heard them calling too far to come in. At dawn they were close and calling as we readied for the day.

### **TROGONS: Trogonidae — (2)**

**Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*** — (1) We had good looks, with some effort, of this species in a wooded ravine below the road at lower elevation. For a few the male flew in quite close, perching briefly and flashing them with its most brilliant red plumage. The male and female were seen close together but never alighted long on any one branch, making it sporting to get a scope view but Pema and Norbu were valiant at trying for us and successful. A Black Giant Squirrel resting on a wide branch and seen in this same area was also a treat.

**Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardi*** — (1) We stopped at several locations to test for presence of this species and were finally successful. We saw a female perched on a misty day with scope views counting ourselves lucky as this is not always an easy species to find and we'd missed it the year before.

### **HOOPOES: Upupidae — (1)**

**\*\* Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*** — (2) One individual was seen across from the Punakha Dzong on the very first day, a fine bird to start the trip with. We saw another quite well in an agricultural field in the Chumey Valley and on that same day on an optional walk Peg and Gail spied two on a small farm, feeding around the cattle.

### **HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae — (1)**

**Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis*** — (2) A top trip bird for several in the group, this colorful and large hornbill was seen on two days, both times perching long enough to get scope views. They were most impressive in flight, massive and showing off their rich color patterns. Vocal, it was not hard to find them alerted by calls.

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (3)**

**\*\* Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*** — (1) We got quick fly by views in a small quiet water spot by our near river bank, from the

spot we scanned for ducks along the Punakha River.

**\*\* White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* — (5)** This was the most frequently encountered kingfisher and was seen both along the river and back a ways from the water, one time on a small barn in the Chumey Valley.

**Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris* — (3)** This species with its intricate black and white color pattern was distinctive and we enjoyed each encounter. By far the best was from a bridge on the lower Lingmethang Road. From the height of the bridge we could look down on it fishing, at close range – most impressive!

### **BEE-EATERS: Meropidae — (1)**

**\*\* Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni* — (1)** We were especially pleased to find this species as we returned to Trogon Villa on the lower Lingmethang Road, perched just below the road where it remained for quite some time for us to enjoy its rich colors and front and back views. We had given up on finding it that day while out walking, so spotting it from the bus and having it not disappear felt like a gift that day.

### **ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae — (3)**

**Great Barbet *Ptilinopus virens* — (9)** This large barbet put on a good show from atop trees on several of our walks, but was also a nearly constant background call as we explored, one of the most persistent calling birds of our trip.

**Golden-throated Barbet *Ptilinopus franklinii* — (2)** We saw this species both days that we explored above Trogon Villa, and got good scope views.

**\*\* Blue-throated Barbet *Ptilinopus asiaticus* — (2)** Seen on both days that we dipped down in elevation, the first day en route to the White-bellied Heron site and the second on the lower Lingmethang Road from Trogon Villa. Characteristic of the barbets, it was vocal and not hard to find.

### **HONEYGUIDES: Indicatoridae — (1)**

**Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus* — (1)** A roadside stop by a waterfall at Nubding where a huge Giant Asian Honeybee hive cluster hung above the road, we simply had to wait for this species to fly in. We had a couple of individuals make repeated trips to the site, and one sat patiently on a limb below for excellent scope views. It was neat to learn about this odd species in its own family that collects beeswax for its own nesting.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (7)**

**\*\* Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus canicapillus* — (1)** This small woodpecker feeds slowly so once located we all with some work got good views, just off the road in a grazing area, working some small shrubs.

**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* — (3)** Also a colorful species, we had good views towards the end of our walk at the botanical garden below Dochula Pass where they were setting up for the Rhododendron Festival the following day. We had good views again of three on the Old Pelela Road and our hikers to Tiger's Nest found another.

**Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis* — (4)** A stunning and colorful woodpecker, we enjoyed views on multiple occasions this year, often of a pair feeding. The first sighting was at the Royal Botanical Gardens below Dochula Pass.

**Crimson-naped Woodpecker *Dryobates cathpharius* — (1)** Seen on a lunchtime road stop at the forest edge, our group was scattered by this time but some got quick views or at least heard it.

**Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* — (1)** We had a couple of chances on the same day, in the incredibly lush broadleaf forest above Trogon Villa. It worked the maze of vines and mosses on massive tree limbs and called loudly between long flights between feeding areas.

**Gray-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* — (2)** Seen on two days, once from the bus as we climbed up to Tronsa, Kathy was quick to spot it when it flew to a much better place to see it. We also saw it in the Yongkhola forests.

**Greater Yellownape *Chrysophlegma flavinucha* — (2)** Good views in an open areas of forest on our walk on the lower Lingmethang Road, and then on the same road just above Trogon Villa in denser forest.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (1)**

**\*\* Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* — (6)** Fairly common and highly vocal, we often saw them on our travel days. One as seen right from our hotel patio at Punakha.

### **CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae — (5)**

**Gray-chinned Minivet** *Pericrocotus solaris* — (2) Seen with mixed flocks in mountain forests.

**Short-billed Minivet** *Pericrocotus brevirostris* — (2) Intermediate in altitude between the Long-tailed and Scarlet Minivet, we got good views of this species on two days.

**Long-tailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus* — (5) We found this species common in mid to high elevation broad-leaf forest and got some stunning views. The males intense red color always grabbed our attention!

**\*\* Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus* — (4) Found lower in elevation than the other minivet, we got very good looks including on our walk outside of Tronsa where we watched one sallying out for insects just after seeing the Golden Langurs.

**Black-winged Cuckooshrike** *Lalage melaschistos* — (3) We had our best views outside of Trogon Villa above and below the lodge on our walks.

### **VIREOS AND SHRIKE-BABLERS: Vireonidae — (5)**

**Black-headed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius rufiventer* — (1) Seen just one day, at lower elevation, on the Lower Lingmethang Road.

**White-browed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius aeralatus* — (5) Often found in mixed flocks in montane forests.

**Green Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus* — (1) Seen only at higher elevation, on the Old Pelela Road, a single bird in a mixed flock using both sides of the road we walked.

**Black-eared Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius melanotis* — (1) Just one sighting, on a banner day for birding in the Yongkhola area above Trogon Villa.

**White-bellied Erpornis** *Erpornis zantholeuca* — (3) This small and non-descript species was found singly in mixed flocks, the first time when we were engrossed with watching Red-headed Trogon which stole the show. We had the best views as we walked back to Trogon Villa birding one late afternoon, in with a busy group of yuhinas.

### **OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae — (1)**

**Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii* — (4) Musical tones alerted us to this handsome species. Often seen in pairs, with views in flight and perched. The first encountered came into a prominent dead tree while we were having lunch. We then saw them on several of our walks in a variety of habitat but mainly broadleaf forest.

### **VANGAS AND ALLIES: Vangidae — (1)**

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus* — (2) Seen in mixed flocks but were quick to spot in all the action as they dash out for insects and the striking black and white pattern with a strong white bar on the wing draws attention.

### **FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae — (1)**

**\*\* White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis* — (2) Seen at higher elevations, both times in the lush forest while we were searching for the Red Pandas. Easy to spot as they fed and flit between trees in mixed flocks.

### **DRONGOS: Dicruridae — (4)**

**\*\* Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus* — (1) Seen in open farmland country as we dropped in elevation to search for the White-bellied Heron.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus* — (11) Very common, seen most days. Its variety of calls and ability to mimic always drew our attentions.

**Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus remifer* — (2) Seen on our walks in lush broadleaf forest above Trogon Villa. Its long tail feathers give it away in flight and we saw several cross the road high above us. We also managed to get some perched views.

**\*\* Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus* — (1) Seen on our walk just out of Tronsa where we had the Golden Langur troop in view, we heard its distinct vocalization and got a quick view.

### **SHRIKES: Laniidae — (1)**

**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach* — (1) Seen only on the lower Lingmethang Road, a couple of individuals.

**\*\* Gray-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus* — (10) Very common, often vocal, and seen in good number.

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae — (8)**

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* — (4) Noisy and bold, seen mainly in conifer areas.

**Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie** *Urocissa flavirostris* — (9) Widespread and showy, we always took time to look at them. Our first encounter was one at very close range in a small ravine near the 108 Chortons Memorial on Dochula Pass.

**Gray Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae* — (3) Loud and conspicuous, often found in groups.

**Black-rumped Magpie** *Pica bottanensis* — (4) A local but fairly common species in Bhutan, we found them mainly in and around the Chumey Valley and Ura Valley.

**Eurasian Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* — (5) Seen at higher elevations, with their calls almost identical to Clark's Nutcracker in North America, we were easily alerted to them. On the Old Pelela Road they were harvesting Rhododendron buds and flying off as if to cache them. We also saw them feeding on cones in areas of Blue Pine.

**Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* — (8) Very common and seen around the yak herds on the high passes as well as in towns and villages.

**\*\* House Crow** *Corvus splendens* — (4) Seen mainly around Paro and Thimphu.

**\*\* Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos* — (15) An "everyday" bird, seen often. They were comfortable around settlements and often seen from our hotels, but also present in wild areas where they would perch in plain view. Often seen flying overhead.

### **FAIRY FLYCATCHERS: Stenostiridae — (2)**

**Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail** *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus* — (3) A delightful member of mixed flocks, we watched them fan tails, thought to startle insects, as they fed in mossy branches.

**Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis* — (6) A quiet member of several mixed flocks, they foraged much as our pewees do, coming and going from favorite perches to sally out for insects.

### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae — (7)**

**Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus* — (3) An inconspicuous member of mixed flocks.

**\*\* Sultan Tit** *Melanochlora sultanea* — (1) We all were thrilled to spot this showy species, just once in lush forests of the Yongkhola area.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater* — (3) Seen in mixed flocks on higher elevation walks.

**Rufous-vented Tit** *Periparus rubidiventris* — (2) Seen in mixed flocks on several of the passes.

**Gray-crested Tit** *Lophophanes dichrous* — (3) Seen in mixed flock, as with the two other tits above, most often encountered at higher elevation in conifer forest. Two were observed carrying nest material on Old Pelela Road.

**Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus* — (11) Widespread and common, a lovely songbird we enjoyed seeing often.

**Yellow-cheeked Tit** *Machlolophus spilonotus* — (4) With a bright yellow striped and tufted head, this bird was a show-stopper in the mixed flocks we encountered.

### **LARKS: Alaudidae — (2)**

**Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* — (1) Originally, we suspected Oriental Skylark when happening upon this bird, a lone individual in a dirt clearing at the start of one of our walks. We knew it was out of habitat so later inspected the photos to realize it was this species.

**Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula* — (2) Seen by Andrew near the Black-necked Crane Visitor Center in Phobjikha Valley, then seen by all as we stopped in a wide open area going out of that valley where a yak herder kept us company as we waited for one to launch airborne in its display flight, near Lawala Pass.

### **CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae — (3)**

**\*\* Common Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius* — (2) Seen on both of our lower elevation days, alerted by calls we got good views.

**Himalayan Prinia** *Prinia crinigera* — (1) Seen in shrubbery at the coffee and snacks stop with a viewpoint going down from Trogon Villa along the lower Lingmethang Road. Calling and easy to follow just below us.

**\*\* Rufescent Prinia** *Prinia rufescens* — (1) Also seen along the lower Lingmethang Road, at lower elevation, a pair.



### **CUPWINGS: Pnoepygidae — (2)**

**Scaly-breasted Cupwing** *Pnoepyga albiventer* — (1) Only a few got a glimpse as this bird was so elusive, in lush vegetation as we started birding our way down from the Sengor Camp.

**Pygmy Cupwing** *Pnoepyga pusilla* — (2) Also elusive, this species called and called and we made a huge effort to find it on two occasions. On the first some of the group got to see the fulvous race, looking like a small mouse tucked in by a mossy stump. The second was just feet away, Geri stayed with Pema trying to find it for naught, but still loved being close and hearing it in its realm.

### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (2)**

**Asian House-Martin** *Delichon dasypus* — (2) Avi saw this species above us as we watched Himalayan Monal at the monastery high above the Chumey Valley. Their very white underside is the give-away. We also saw them our final morning when looking for the crane outside of Paro.

**Nepal House-Martin** *Delichon nipalense* — (6) Common, seen overhead in good number at a variety of locations. Most impressive was a nesting colony not far from Nobding.

### **BULBULS: Pycnonotidae — (6)**

**Striated Bulbul** *Alcurus striatus* — (2) Seen in the lush Yongkhola forests.

**Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos flava* — (1) Seen well on the lower Lingmethang Road, just after our lunch picnic and at a couple of other stops that day.

**Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mcclllandii* — (2) Despite its name, we saw it at relatively low elevations on our route, getting good looks after lunch on the Lingmethang Road, and also catching a look as we went to search for the White-bellied Heron.

**\*\* Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* — (9) Loud and vocal, some of our best views were on the Pachu River below Paro on our first and final days. Common and widespread.

**\*\* Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer* — (7) Common at mid and lower elevations, often around our lodges.

**Himalayan Bulbul** *Pycnonotus leucogenys* — (1) Avi spied one quite close the road as we returned from trying for the Tawny Fishing Owl, below Trogon Villa.

### **LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae — (12)**

**Ashy-throated Warbler** *Phylloscopus maculipennis* — (4) We first had a good look at this species at the Royal Botanical Gardens, then encountered them on several days, into the high elevations.

**Buff-barred Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher* — (5) Common at the higher elevation forest sites.

**Lemon-rumped Warbler** *Phylloscopus chloronotus* — (3) A lovely pale-marked leaf warbler, inconspicuous in mixed flocks.

**Tickell's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus affinis* — (6) Our first good views were at the first top in Paro, leaving the airport as we searched the river for Ibisbill and Brown Dipper. Seen at several other locations.

**Gray-cheeked Warbler** *Phylloscopus poliogenys* — (2) Seen above Trogon Villa in the lush Yongkhola forests.

**Green-crowned Warbler** *Phylloscopus burkii* — (1) Seen at a breakfast stop as we left Punakha.

**Whistler's Warbler** *Phylloscopus whistleri* — (4) A bright yellow leaf warbler easy to spot on our roadside wanderings in mixed flocks at varied elevation.

**Large-billed Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus magnirostris* — (1) Seen on a misty day in a steep ravine below the road as we worked our way down from the Sengor Camp.

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Phylloscopus castaniceps* — (4) Seen in forest habitats in varied location.

**Yellow-vented Warbler** *Phylloscopus cantator* — (2) We saw this species on our journey down from Trogon Villa to lower elevations, and then close to the lodge on our first stop heading back up in elevation.

**Blyth's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides* — (12) By far the most common and widespread of the leaf warblers. Seen mostly as individuals or pairs, we noted 7 as we walked the Old Pelela Road.

**Gray-hooded Warbler** *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* — (6) We heard and saw this species quite often, John noted Merlin was quick to pull it up when it missed many species in Bhutan, it honed in on this one.

### **BUSH WARBLERS AND ALLIES: Scotocercidae — (9)**

**Gray-bellied Tesia** *Tesia cyaniventer* — (HO-2) We heard this species at close range on two days crossing Pelela Pass.

**Slaty-bellied Tesia** *Tesia olivea* — (HO-2) What a tease! We waited a long time for this one to emerge from the lush forest of Yongkhola, tying on two different days in a small ravine above Trogon Villa, but had to be content with heard only, at close range.

**Gray-sided Bush Warbler** *Cettia brunnifrons* — (1) Seen along the roadside on one of our stops leaving Chumey Valley, up and over Phrumshingla Pass. One individual.

**Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Cettia castaneocoronata* — (2) This tesia gave us great looks, actually hopping out of a secluded ravine to sing from the branch of a willow to our good fortune at the Royal Botanical Garden. We also heard it later in Yongkhola.

**Black-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus schisticeps* — (2) A colorful warbler that stood out from the rest with its black 'zorro' mask. Seen in mixed flocks on two days.

**Mountain Tailorbird** *Phyllergates cucullatus* — (2) Seen in the Yongkhola forest above Trogon Villa with very good looks ascending that road at a waterfall stop.

**Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler** *Horornis fortipes* — (3) Seen along the roadside, often vocal, with best views at the Royal Botanical Garden early on in our journey.

**Hume's Bush Warbler** *Horornis brunnescens* — (1) Seen in the Red Panda area, as we were searching and waiting for that magic mammal. It was tricky to see, but calling often as it was moving in lush understory growth.

**Aberrant Bush Warbler** *Horornis flavolivaceus* — (1) Just one sighting, but it came out in small shrubs right by the road for a clear view, on Old Pelela Road.

#### LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae — (2)

**Black-throated Tit** *Aegithalos concinnus* — (2) Seen in mixed flocks at mid-elevation in broad-leafed forests.

**Black-browed Tit** *Aegithalos iouschistos* — (4) Seen at higher elevation on the passes we crossed in mixed flocks.

#### PARROTBILLS: Paradoxornithidae — (6)

**Fire-tailed Myzornis** *Myzornis pyrrhoura* — (2) Incredible looks after some work on Dochula Pass, we found them along the road and then went up an embankment for better views at eye-level, John was quick and got some great photos. We then saw them twice on the day we went up to Sengor.

**White-browed Fulvetta** *Fulvetta vinipectus* — (5) Widespread and vocal.

**Great Parrotbill** *Conostoma aemodium* — (1) Great views behind the restaurant atop Dochula Pass, very vocal.

**Brown Parrotbill** *Cholornis unicolor* — (1) Great views going down into Phobjikha Valley.

**White-breasted Parrotbill** *Psittiparus ruficeps* — (1) Seen in a bamboo patch in the Yongkhola Forest.

**Black-throated Parrotbill** *Suthora nipalensis* — (1) We found two of this species in a bamboo thicket in the area we saw the Red Panda and really enjoyed watching them feed. Avi's photos revealed one of the two were banded and we're curious who might have done this work.

#### WHITE-EYES AND YUHINAS: Zosteropidae — (7)

**Striated Yuhina** *Staphida castaniceps* — (2) Seen in good number at lower elevations.

**Black-chinned Yuhina** *nigrimenta* — (2) Seen below Trogon Villa in mixed flocks.

**Whiskered Yuhina** *flavicollis* — (7) Common and widespread, good sized flocks.

**White-naped Yuhina** *bakeri* — (2) Seen in Yongkhola in areas above Trogon Villa.

**Stripe-throated Yuhina** *gularis* — (3) Seen fairly high this trip, Sengor and Pelela Pass.

**Rufous-vented Yuhina** *Yuhina occipitalis* — (4) Seen in good number, four locations on one day, in higher forested areas.

**\*\* Indian White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus* — (3) Bright and common along river courses, open areas, lower elevations.

#### BABLERS AND SCIMITAR-BABLERS: Timaliidae — (8)

**Golden Babbler** *Cyanoderma chrysaeum* — (2) A beautiful species, encountered in mixed flocks in the Yongkhola area.

**Rufous-capped Babbler** *Cyanoderma ruficeps* — (4) Distinctive, seen in several mixed flocks in forested areas.

**Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler** *Spelaornis caudatus* — (HO-2) We tried diligently to see this skulker, but did hear it twice birding the Yongkhola area.

**Bar-winged Wren Babbler** *Spelaornis troglodytoides* — (1) Seen high, near Sengor.

**Black-crowned (Coral-billed) Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* — (1) Seen in lush forests above Trogon Villa.  
**Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus supercilialis* — (HO-1) Heard on the Yongkhola lush forests.  
**Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* — (5) Widespread and vocal.  
**Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler** *Erythrogeynys erythrogeynys* — (HO-1) Lower Lingmethang Road.

#### **GROUND BABBLERS: Pellorneidae — (4)**

**Yellow-throated Fulvetta** *Schoeniparus cinereus* — (3) Common as flocks around Yongkhola.  
**Rufous-winged Fulvetta** *Schoeniparus castaneiceps* — (3) Seen well at the Royal Botanical Garden and on Dochula Pass, also in the Yongkhola area.  
**Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps* — (HO-1) Heard at low elevation on the day we searched for White-bellied Heron.  
**Long-billed Wren-Babbler** *Napothera malacoptila* — (HO-2) Heard on the day we descended in elevation to search for White-bellied Heron and later at Yongkhola.

#### **LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: Leiothrichidae — (19)**

**Nepal Fulvetta** *Alcippe nipalensis* — (1) Seen in groups at two locations on the lower Lingmethang Road.  
**Striated Laughingthrush** *Grammatoptila striata* — (6) One of the more common of the laughingthrushes encountered, often in large groups.  
**Himalayan Cutia** *Cutia nipalensis* — (3) A stunning bird we were pleased to see at multiple locations.  
**Blue-winged Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron squamatum* — (3) A good find at the higher elevation forest.  
**Bhutan Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron imbricatum* — (1) Seen at the lower elevation, coming out of Tronsa.  
**Black-faced Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron affine* — (4)  
**Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum* — (2)  
**Rufous Sibia** *Heterophasia capistrata* — (11) Common, vocal and widespread.  
**Hoary-throated Barwing** *Actinodura nipalensis* — (2) Seen three times on the 17<sup>th</sup>, in broadleaf habitat of the Yongkhola area, and then seen again on Pelela Pass.  
**Blue-winged Minla** *Actinodura cyanouroptera* — (5) A very pretty member of mixed flocks, often moving quickly, it took some work to get views of their subtle colors.  
**Chestnut-tailed Minla** *Actinodoura strigula* — (4) We had very good looks at this species going down into the Phobjikha Valley among other sightings.  
**Rusty-fronted Barwing** *Actinodoura egertoni* — (2) Seen twice in mid-elevation forests.  
**Red-tailed Minla** *Minla ignotincta* — (6) A striking bird, we were pleased to find them often with mixed flocks.  
**White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus* — (1) Our only views were on the lower Lingmethang where they impressed us with looks and loud calls.  
**Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush** *Ianthocincla rufogularis* — (1) Lower Lingmethang Road.  
**Spotted Laughingthrush** *Ianthocincla ocellata* — (3) This species was hiding for us much of the trip, we'd get glimpses, but then on Chelela pass our final day one fed right below us for really good views.  
**\*\* Rufous-necked Laughingthrush** *Pterorhinus ruficollis* — (1) Lower Lingmethang Road.  
**White-throated Laughingthrush** *Pterorhinus albobularis* — (10) By far the most common and widespread of the laughingthrushes, often in large groups.  
**Gray-sided Laughingthrush** *Pterorhinus caerulatus* — (1) Stopping on the way back for another try for Ward's Trogon we found this species and got scope views.

#### **KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)**

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulis* — (2) Seen in high conifer forest in a mixed flock at the Tharpaling Monastery and then near the pass we crossed the following day.

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae — (3)**

**Beautiful Nuthatch** *Sitta formosa* — (1) Wonderful views of this sought-after species (cover of the field guide) on the road above

Trogon Village in lush vegetation.

**White-tailed Nuthatch** *Sitta himalayensis* — (9) Common and widespread.

**Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch** *Sitta cinnamoventris* — (1) Seen on the first stop lower than Trogon Village as we started down the Lingmethang Road.

### **TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae — (3)**

**Hodgson's Treecreeper** *Certhia hodgsoni* — (2) Seen at two of the passes we crossed in higher elevation forests.

**Rusty-flanked Treecreeper** *Certhia nipalensis* — (2) Seen in a lush groves of huge trees decorated with blooming rhododendron found by Andrew along Old Pelela Road. Also seen by our hikers to Tiger's Nest.

**Sikkim Treecreeper** *Certhia discolor* — (2) First seen by one of the chortons at mid-elevation which we had lunch by, spotted by Andrew and all got great looks. We saw it again in a mixed flock in the Yongkhola area.

### **DIPPERS: Cinclidae — (1)**

**Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasii* — (2) It was a joy to see this species right out of the airport at Paro, in the rocky river by the Paro Dzong. We had it in the same stretch of river as we departed, on our final day going to the airport.

### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae — (2)**

**\*\* Chestnut-tailed Starling** *Sturnia malabarica* — (1) Seen at the stop we made to view ducks going down river from Punakha.

**\*\* Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* — (4) Scattered sightings around towns and villages.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae — (1)**

**White-collared Blackbird** *Turdus albocinctus* — (7) One of the more common species seen, but our only member of the thrush family.

**Gray-winged Blackbird** *Turdus boulboul*— (1) Seen only by our hikers to Tiger's Nest the final full day.

### **OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae — (26)**

**Dark-sided Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sibirica* — (2) This bird perches in snags where it sallies out for food, making it easier to spot as Avi did along the roadside going to Sengor for our first view. We then saw several on Pelela Pass.

**\*\* Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis* — (4) Our morning alarm clock with its musical notes starting pre-dawn at several locations.

**Large Niltava** *Niltava grandis* — (HO-1) Calling above us as we searched for Slaty-backed Tesia, we kept our focus on the tesia but then missed this lovely songster.

**Small Niltava** *Niltava macgrigoriae* — (1) We had really good views of this colorful species, a male and female below us on the road above Trogon Villa.

**Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara* — (5) Widespread, we had repeated opportunity to view this bird at varied elevation.

**\*\* Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus* — (8) Widespread. A bright spot whenever encountered, sometimes multiple individuals in a day. It was easy to recognize, reminiscent of our North American species the Mountain Bluebird in tone.

**Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor* — (1) Just one sighting at a ravine in which we stopped to try for Red-headed Trogon, good views.

**Blue-throated Flycatcher** *Cyornis rubeculoides* — (1) Seen at low elevation, one individual as we ventured down to search for the White-bellied Heron.

**Lesser Shortwing** *Brachypteryx leucophris* — (3) Seen and heard in the Yongkhola area.

**Blue Whistling-Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus* — (15) Another everyday bird, musical and common, another one we could call on to wake us up in the morning.

**Little Forktail** *Enicurus scouleri* — (2) We found this species twice in the same location, feeding on ledges of a scenic waterfall. They were distant but great to view in the scope and we watched them for some time.

**Spotted Forktail** *Enicurus maculatus* — (2) We found this species twice, in the same location, by a waterfall. We got very good views from the bus.

**Himalayan Bluetail** *Tarsiger rufilatus* — (3) Our first sighting took some time as it was calling atop the trees, higher than we were

looking. We then saw them a few times more in forests as we climbed up various passes.

**Golden Bush-Robin** *Tarsiger chrysaeus* — (1) Seen by some of our group on the way to Sengor Camp.

**Pygmy Flycatcher** *Ficedula hodgsoni* — (1) Wonderful views on the lower Lingmethang road in low shrubs, roadside.

**Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophliata* — (4) Fairly widespread and conspicuous.

**Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni* — (3) Seen in mixed flocks, in the Yongkhola area and then at the stop we made coming out of Tronsa.

**Ultramarine Flycatcher** *Ficedula superciliaris* — (6) A delightful and active member of several mixed flocks.

**Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis* — (4) Seen in a variety of locations, often a pair.

**Plumbeous Redstart** *Phoenicurus fuliginosus* — (7) Very faithful along rivers and streams.

**White-capped Redstart** *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* — (12) A handsome species we found often and in good number along rivers and streams.

**Hodgson's Redstart** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* — (2) Seen in more open, shrubby habitat and along a dry ravine below us as we left Paro on route to Thimphu.

**Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris* — (8) Widespread and common, tolerant of our viewing from the road.

**Blue-capped Rock-Thrush** *Monticola cinclorhyncha* — (8) We got really excellent views of this species which was not shy and often appeared along the road, not moving when we'd stop to view.

**\*\* Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus* — (1) Seen in the fields across from where we stopped to look for ducks below Punakha.

**\*\* Gray Bushchat** *Saxicola ferreus* — (4) Encountered several times and very cooperative when doing so, often perching at close range.

#### **FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae — (1)**

**Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum ignipectus* — (3) We got really great views of this species, often high above us with mixed flocks in the Yongkhola area. Best views were at the start of the lower Lingmethang Road from Trogon Villa where they were more at eye-level and in a small flock, our other sightings were high in trees hard to see details other than the tiny size and bill shape.

#### **SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae — (4)**

**Black-throated Sunbird** *Aethopyga saturata* — (3) A beautiful species, seen at lower elevation the day we pursued seeing the White-bellied Heron and then seen on two days in the Yongkhola area.

**Mrs. Gould's Sunbird** *Aethopyga gouldiae* — (7) A trip highlight that brought joy with each sighting, fairly common!

**\*\* Green-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga nipalensis* — (6) Perhaps the most common sunbird encountered, sometimes seen in small groups actively feeding.

**\*\* Streaked Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera magna* — (2) Two views, one at close range and perched long enough for photos. Seen on either side of Trogon Villa.

#### **LEAFBIRDS: Chloropseidae — (2)**

**\*\* Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons* — (1) We had a good look at one feeding in fruits on our day at lower elevation when we searched for White-bellied Heron.

**Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii* — (2) We had good looks at two mid-elevation sites, the Lingmethang Road and the walk we took just outside of Trongsa.

#### **ACCENTORS: Prunellidae — (2)**

**Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris* — (2) Joan pulled off a heroic sighting high up in the rocks above the monastery in Chumey Valley. We then got close looks driving out if Old Pelela Road, perched on a rock at eye level.

**Rufous-breasted Accentor** *Prunella strophliata* — (2) Best seen at various sites in the Chumey Valley.

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (2)**

**Russet Sparrow** *Passer cinnamomeus* — (9) Common and widespread, seen often around our lodges.

**\*\* Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* — (2) More local than Russet Sparrow, seen mainly at Trogon Villa.

### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae — (5)**

**Gray Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* — (4) Seen along roadsides and rivers at mid to lower elevations.

**White-browed Wagtail** *Motacilla maderaspatensis* — (2) Seen on the river below Punakha.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* — (6) Widespread on rivers and adjacent areas at varied elevation.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi* — (1) We had a good roadside study of this bird in the agricultural Ura Valley as it was an “add” for our list and not expected, a migrant going through and a nice find.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* — (7) This highly patterned pipit was quite common, often singing from tree-tops as well as feeding on the ground.

### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae — (10)**

**White-winged Grosbeak** *Mycerobas carnipes* — (3) Good looks, first at Tharpeling Monastery above Chume Valley, then on several of the high passes. Vocal and obliging with perching up for views.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus* — (1) Seen on Pelela Pass.

**Scarlet Finch** *Carpodacus sipahi* — (1) A female was seen on the lower Lingmethang Road, perching well for good views.

**Dark-rumped Rosefinch** *Carpodacus edwardsii* — (1) A male and female were seen well, feeding below us from the monastery above Chume Valley.

**Crimson-browed Finch** *Carpodacus subhimachalus* — (1) Great looks on the Old Pelela Road in a mixed flock feeding below us in a ravine lush with rhododendron bloom.

**Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch** *Carpodacus thura* — (2) Seen on both Pelela and Chelela passes.

**Red-headed Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula erythrocephala* — (1) Seen well in abundant rhododendrons along the Old Pelela Road, male and female feeding together.

**Gold-naped Finch** *Pyrrhoptes epauletta* — (1) Seen above Sengor in a mixed flock.

**Yellow-breasted Greenfinch** *Chloris spinoides* — (2) We found this species near an open area with cattle early on as we crossed a pass, another day on Lower Lingmethang Road close to Trogon Villa and finally at our hotel in the pines above Paro, all in flocks.

**Tibetan Serin** *Spinus tibetanus* — (1) We heard and then found a flock of this species on the road above Tronsa, great views.

### **OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae — (1)**

**Crested Bunting** *Emberiza lathami* — (1) Great views in farmland areas on the lower Lingmethang Road.

### **MAMMALS: — (15 species observed)**

**\*\* Assam Macaque** *Macaca assamensis* — (4) We encountered this species first around a work camp for the hydroelectric projects heading down river to search for the White-bellied Heron. Also encountered troops above and below Trogon Villa.

**Gee's Golden Lutung (Langur)** *Trachypithecus geei* — (1) We were delighted to find and observe this species above Trongsa, and our guides say they are spreading in geographic range. Andrew spotted them and urged us to come back to a fruiting tree where they were out in the open and we had a lot of fun watching young ones and group interaction behaviors.

**\*\* Capped Lutung (Langur)** *Trachypithecus pileatus* — (3) Seen in small troops, mainly between Sengor and Trogon Villa, good views each time.

**Himalayan Gray Langur** *Semnopithecus schistaceus* — (4) We saw the Nepal form of this pretty primate on several outings, wearing a white ruff around the face.

**Himalayan Yellow-throated Marten** *Charronia flavigula* — (1) One individual of this predatory species native to the Himalayas crossed the road giving us quick views as we traversed the road through the Yongkhola area forests.

**Large-eared Pika** *Ochotona macrotis* — (1) We saw several of this species on Chelela Pass our final day.

**Moupin Pika** *Ochotyona tibetana* — (4) The more widespread of the pikas seen, we had fun watching them harvest flowers and grasses and dash off into their protected lairs in rocks and tree stumps.

**\*\* Himalayan Striped Squirrel** *Tamiops maclellandii* — (4) This chipmunk look-a-like was seen fairly often, particularly in the Yongkhola broadleaf forests.

**Irrawaddy (Hoary-bellied) Squirrel** *Callosciurus pygerythrus* — (1) This tiny, dark squirrel was seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>, at lower elevation as we searched for the White-bellied Heron.

**Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel** *Dremomys lokriah* — (2) This colorful squirrel was seen several times on our outings in the conifer forests around the Chumey Valley.

**\*\* Black Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa bicolor* — (1) Great views in a forested ravine where we searched for Red-headed Trogon. It was lounging on a limb in the sun and stayed there quite some time for good scope views.

**Tree Rat, sp.** — (1) Seen by a few of our group but not well enough for an ID, between Sengor and Yongkhola.

**\*\* Northern Red Muntjac (Barking Deer)** *Muntiacus vaginalis* — (1) Lila spotted this species for all to see on the return drive down Chelela pass, grazing in an open meadow by the road.

**Red Panda** *Ailurus fulgens* — (2) A highlight of the trip for many and amazingly, in the same relative area we found them twice, both times by our driver, Tenzin. The first time it was one individual, which was posed up on a mossy log long enough for several to get scope views. On the return trip we found two on the other side of the pass (within about a half mile) and they were feeding on rhododendron buds, going up and down mossy logs and tree trunks. We watched one groom and got repeated good views. It was very emotional for all of us to see this endangered mammal, not expected on the trip, so well.

**Bat, sp.** We observed bats near Trogon Villa but were not able to ID them.

#### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (0)**

Staying mainly at mid to higher elevations in early spring, we did not observe any herps this year.

#### **COMMON BUTTERFLIES: — (14)**

**Glassy Bluebottle** *Idaides cloanthus*

**Common Mormon** *Menelaides polytes*

**Indian Cabbage White** *Pieris canidia*

**Large Cabbage White** *Pieris brassicae*

**Krishna Peacock Swallowtail** *Papilio krishna*

**Red Helen** *Menelaides helenus*

**Common Blue Apollo** *Parnassius hardwickii*

**Chocolate Albatross** *Appias lyncida*

**Straight-banded Treebrown** *Lethe verma*

**Asian (Indian Red) Admiral** *Vanessa indica*

**Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui*

**Yellow Orangetip** *Ixias pyrene*

**Great Orangetip** *Hebomoia glaucippe*

**Azure Sapphire** *Heliophorus androcles*

**Purple Sapphire** *Heliophorus epicles*

**Common Leopard** *Phalanta phalantha*

**Indian Tortoiseshell** *Aglais caschmirensis*

**Blue Pansy** *Junonia orithya*

**Peacock Pansy** *Junonia almana*

**Orange Oakleaf** *Kallima inachus*

**Queen of Spain Fritillary** *Issoria lathonia*

**Dark-clouded Yellow** *Colias fieldii*

**Circe** *Hestina nama*

**Common Sailor** *Neptis hylas*

**Common Sargeant Skipper, sp.**

**Little Blue, sp.**

### **Additional Species from the Manas National Park, India Extension (111 Species)**

1. Lesser Whistling Duck
2. Indian Peafowl
3. Red Junglefowl
4. Black Francolin (HO)
5. Eurasian Collared Dove
6. Laughing Dove
7. Thick-billed Green Pigeon
8. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon
9. Pin-tailed Green Pigeon
10. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon
11. Green Imperial Pigeon
12. Mountain Imperial Pigeon
13. Bengal Florican
14. Greater Coucal
15. Green-billed Malkoha
16. Banded Bay Cuckoo
17. Plaintive Cuckoo
18. Indian Cuckoo (HO)
19. Large-tailed Nightjar
20. Savanna Nightjar
21. Asian Palm Swift
22. Crested Treeswift
23. White-breasted Waterhen
24. Red-wattled Lapwing
25. Common Greenshank
26. Asian Openbill
27. Black Stork
28. Lesser Adjutant
29. Greater Adjutant
30. Little Cormorant
31. Spot-billed Pelican
32. Little Egret
33. Indian Pond-Heron
34. Eastern Cattle Egret
35. Great Egret
36. Medium Egret
37. Purple Heron
38. Glossy Ibis
39. Black-winged Kite
40. Black Baza
41. Changeable Hawk-Eagle
42. Rufous-bellied Eagle
43. Hen Harrier
44. Pied Harrier
45. Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl
46. Spotted Owlet
47. Brown Boobook (HO)
48. Great Hornbill



49. Oriental Pied-Hornbill
50. Stork-billed Kingfisher
51. Pied Kingfisher
52. Asian Green Bee-eater
53. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater
54. Indochinese Roller
55. Dollarbird
56. Blue-eared Barbet
57. Lineated Barbet
58. Speckled Piculet
59. Greater Flameback (HO)
60. Rufous Woodpecker
61. Black-rumped Flameback
62. Collared Falconet
63. Alexandrine Parakeet
64. Red-breasted Parakeet
65. Blossom-headed Parakeet
66. Long-tailed Broadbill
67. Gray-lored Broadbill
68. Rosy Minivet
69. Large Cuckooshrike
70. Black-hooded Oriole
71. Ashy Woodswallow
72. Large Woodswallow
73. Common Iora
74. Bronzed Drongo
75. Black-naped Monarch
76. Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher
77. Rufous Treepie
78. Cinereous Tit
79. Bengal Bushlark
80. Ashy Prinia
81. Plain Prinia
82. Zitting Cisticola
83. Golden-headed Cisticola
84. Thick-billed Warbler
85. Striated Grassbird
86. White-throated Bulbul
87. Black-crested Bulbul
88. Red-whiskered Bulbul
89. Yellow-eyed Babbler
90. Pin-striped Tit Babbler
91. Indian Grassbird
92. Abbott's Babbler
93. Slender-billed Babbler
94. Jungle Babbler
95. Striated Babbler
96. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch
97. Common Hill Myna
98. Indian Spotted Starling

- 99. Jungle Myna
- 100. Great Myna
- 101. Spot-winged Starling
- 102. Asian Brown Flycatcher
- 103. White-rumped Shama
- 104. Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher
- 105. Taiga Flycatcher
- 106. Plain Flowerpecker
- 107. Ruby-cheeked Sunbird
- 108. Purple Sunbird
- 109. Crimson Sunbird
- 110. Asian Fairy-bluebird
- 111. Scaly-breasted Munia

**Additional Mammals seen on the Manas National Park Extension (9 species)**

- 1. Rhesus Macaque
- 2. Wild Boar
- 3. Indochinese Hog Deer
- 4. Barasingha (Swamp Deer)
- 5. Sambar
- 6. Gaur
- 7. Wild Water Buffalo
- 8. Indian Rhinoceros
- 9. Asian Elephant