

Big Cats & Breathtaking Birds of India

Main Tour: February 24 – March 13, 2025

Pallas's Cat Extension: March 13 – 19, 2025

Species List | with Naturalist Journeys



Guides Avijit Sarkhel and Tina Greenawalt with 7 participants: Robert, Christa, John, Daryl, Laurie, Melina, and Nancy

Our Naturalist Journeys group spent 18 days traveling through three different areas of India on our main tour. The first area we visited, in central India, was Tadoba Tiger Reserve. This area is mainly dry deciduous forest dominated by teak trees and a bamboo understory. Most of our birding and mammal viewing was done from safari vehicles. Notable birds we saw in Tadoba included Indian Gray Hornbill, four species of Kingfishers (Pied, Stork-billed, Common, and White-throated), Indian Golden Oriole, Orange-headed Thrush, and Indian Paradise-Flycatcher. We saw great mammals here including Bengal Tiger, Spotted Deer, both Indian Gray and Ruddy Mongoose, and Sambar. Our next stop was in the state of Gujarat, in western India, where we visited both Blackbuck National Park and Gir National Park. Blackbuck was dominated by grassland and we had great raptor viewing here including Short-toed Snake-Eagle, Steppe Eagle, and all three Harrier species found here including Montagu's, Pallid, and Western Marsh Harrier. Mammal highlights included hundreds of Blackbuck, a Striped Hyena with four pups, and several Jungle Cats. In Gir, we had great views of four owl species including Spotted Owlet, Mottled Wood Owl, Brown Fish Owl, and Indian Scops-Owl. We also saw several Asiatic Lion, which only occur in this area. We also saw hundreds of Indian Flying Fox both at their day roost and flying from their roost at night. Our last stop on the main tour took us to the Himalaya in Ladakh. As temperatures were colder here with lingering snow still on the ground, we had fewer species. Some of the highlights in this area were Ibisbill, Bearded Vulture, Mongolian Finch, and White-browed Tit-Warbler. We had great luck with mammals and spotted eight Snow Leopards, several Himalayan Wolf, three Red Fox, Ibex, Urial, and Blue Sheep.

On the Pallas's Cat extension, we added a few new bird species in eastern Ladakh including Tibetan Sandgrouse, Tibetan Partridge, Ground Tit, and a lone Black-necked Crane that may have been the first arrival of the season. We again had great luck with mammals and saw a very rare Eurasian Lynx, Himalayan Wolf, Tibetan Gazelle, Tibetan Wild Ass, Tibetan Sand Fox, and two Pallas's Cats.

217 species of birds were recorded on the main tour. 17 species were recorded on the extension.

The eBird links below details the 225 species 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.

[Big Cats & Breathtaking Birds of India | Main Tour | eBird Trip Report](#)

[Big Cats & Breathtaking Birds of India | Pallas's Cat Extension | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the tour.

Main Tour

Mammals: (26)

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus*
Southern Plains Gray Langur *Semnopithecus dussumieri*
Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*
Ruddy Mongoose *Urva smithii*
Indian Gray Mongoose *Urva edwardsii*
Striped Hyena *Hyaena hyaena*
Snow Leopard *Panthera uncia*
Indian Leopard *Panthera pardus fusca*
Asiatic Lion *Panthera leo persica*
Bengal Tiger *Panthera tigris tigris*
Jungle Cat *Felis chaus*
Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus*
Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*
Himalayan Wolf *Canis lupis chanco*
Red fox *Vulpes vulpes*
Eurasian Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*
Siberian Ibex *Capra sibirica*
Sambar *Rusa unicolor*
Chital *Axis axis*
Blackbuck *Antelope cervicapra*
Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus*
Urial *Ovus vignei*
Gaur *Bos gaurus*
Blue Sheep *Pseudois nayaur*
Indian Palm Squirrel *Funambulus palmarum*
Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*

Reptiles and Amphibians: (6)

Mugger Crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*
Indian Softshell Turtle *Nilssonina gangetica*
Indian Flapshell Turtle *Lissemys punctata*
House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
Rock Agama *Agama agama*
Indian Rock Python *Python molurus*

Pallas's Cat Extension

Mammals (14)

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus*

Eurasian Lynx *Lynx lynx*

Pallas's Cat *Otocolobus manul*

Himalayan Wolf *Canis lupis chanco*

Tibetan Sand Fox *Vulpes ferrilata*

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Tibetan Gazelle *Procapra picticaudata*

Siberian Ibex *Capra sibirica*

Blue Sheep *Pseudois nayaur*

Argali *Ovis ammon*

Urial *Ovis vignei*

Kiang *Equus kiang*

Plateau Pika *Ochotona curzoniae*

Nubra Pika *Ochotona nubrica*