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Naturalist Journeys India Tour 2013 Species List

Northern India: Okhla Bird Sanctuary near Delhi, The Chambal Lodge Area, Keoladeo National Park at Bharatpur, and Ranthambhore National Park. Extension to Southern India at Goa.

Feb. 15-March 1, 2013

Avigit Sarkhel, guide, with local guides Sunil at Chambal Lodge, Harish Sharma at Bharatpur and Loven Pereira at Backwoods Camp in Goa. Peg Abbott was the host from Naturalist Journeys, with eight participants: *Patrick, Gingy, Bud, Jerry, Judy, Nancy, Judie, and Angela, joined by Sue (inspecting the area for her UK safari company).*

Birds

- Gray Francolin** (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) – Heard in Okhla, then seen on a number of days along Chambal River, Bharatpur and Ranthambhore.
- Red Spurfowl** (*Galloperdix spadicea*) – Seen by Avi and Jerry on our first day in Goa, then seen on the return hike from the water pools where we searched for kingfishers.
- Painted Spurfowl** (*Galloperdix lunulata*) – Seen twice on safaris in Ranthambhore, both at close range in late-afternoon light as we were heading back.
- Grey Junglefowl** (*Gallus sonneratii*) – Heard on our first two days in Goa at the Backwoods Camp, then seen by Gingy and a few others as we went to see the frogmouths on their roost perch.
- Indian Peafowl** (*Pavo cristatus*) – Seen daily, sometimes in good number. We watched males display, and dance play on the iridescent sheen of their feathers in such a variety of settings. What a bird to have as a common bird!
- Lesser Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna javanica*) – First seen on the Chambal River, then in very good numbers at Bharatpur, another few at the Spice Farm in Goa and at a reservoir on Elephanta Island.
- Greylag Goose** (*Anser anser*) – Seen only at Okhla, in good number, on our first outing.
- Bar-headed Goose** (*Anser indicus*) – Seen at Okhla, Chambal River, Bharatpur – stunning geese seen on the water and in flight.
- Ruddy Shelduck** (*Tadorna ferruginea*) – Pairs seen in good number, starting with a few at Okhla, they were numerous on the Chambal River, and scattered with other ducks at Bharatpur and Ranthambhore.
- Knob-billed Duck** (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) – Small numbers on the Chambal River, and again at Bharatpur and Ranthambhore.
- Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*) – A very common species at all wetland locations visited on the main tour (not Goa).
- Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*) – Smaller numbers but always present in waterfowl congregations at Okhla, Bharatpur and a few in Ranthambhore.
- Indian Spot-billed Duck** (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) – We first encountered these lovely ducks at Okhla, in lovely light, and then saw them on four other days, in wetlands of the Chambal River and at Bharatpur.
- Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) – Numerous in brilliant plumage at all wetland areas.
- Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*) – Numerous at all wetland areas, also in breeding plumage.
- Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*) – We saw a half dozen or so at Okhla, a few at Bharatpur. Lovely looks at this handsome duck, often in the company of Common Teal.
- Common Teal** (*Anas crecca*) – Numerous in all wetland locations.

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) – A few seen at Okhla and at Bharatpur.

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) – Peg spotted the lone individual of this species that we'd see, but it was in good range and with the scope all got good views as it fed in a quiet secluded cove, across from the Painted Stork which first drew our attentions that direction as we took a break from the rickshaws in Bharatpur.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) – Also called Dabchick, these active small grebes were found in good number at each wetland location, sometimes five or six in one view. A few individuals were coming into breeding plumage.

Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) – Our first view was a lone bird on a sandbar on the Chambal River, so striking. We found them plentiful, at the end of their nesting cycle with big chicks at Bharatpur. In ponds at Ranthambhore, their vibrant colors were reflected as we watched wading Sambars, Wild Boar and other mammals. An amazingly beautiful bird.

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) – Two individuals seen on two days in Ranthambhore.

Wooly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) – We saw these massive storks at the Yamuna & Chambal Rivers, archaic-looking alongside Mugger Crocodiles and Gharials. We saw them again at Ranthambhore in several of the wetland sites.

Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) – An elegant stork, we found several individuals, one flying very close overhead, at Bharatpur, and another sighting on one of the safaris at Ranthambhore.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) – First encountered as a group of a dozen-plus across the expansive pond at Okhla, then seen in small number from the temples on the Yamuna River at Bateshwar, and at Bharatpur, in the large water area near the Sarus Cranes.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Seen at Bharatpur in fair number, feeding in the wetlands, and again one day at Goa, at the Spice Farm.

Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) – Seen at Okhla and at Bharatpur, easy to spot with their white bodies and bold black heads.

Red-naped (Black) Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*) – Striking birds with their rust-colored heads, we found them on the Chambal River in fair number and at quite close range. Also seen at Bharatpur.

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) – A small group was sighted on a sandbar on the Chambal River, then another in a wetland pool of good size at Bharatpur.

Black Bittern (*Dupetor flavicollis*) – Often very hard to find, we hit the jackpot one day at Bharatpur with over a half-dozen sighted! We were able to get good photographs, and to see them well in their dark, branch-filled realm.

Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*) – At least three individuals seen in a quiet pool area of Bharatpur, fantastic!

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) – Individuals seen on several days at Bharatpur and Ranthambhore.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – Seen best at Bharatpur where they were roosting in lower branches of trees across from one of the viewing areas. Also seen near Chambal Lodge and Ranthambhore.

Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) – Numerous but fascinating to watch as they startled one taking flight – exposing white in the wings not seen when they are folded. We saw the first one at the temples on the Yamuna River, then saw them at every wetland area subsequently.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) – Common throughout.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) – A beautiful heron, first seen at Okhla, seen in good number at Bharatpur where habitat is ideal, and at Ranthambhore.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Very common, seen frequently (daily).

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) – Numerous throughout the wetland areas.

Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) – Less common and widespread than Great, but still seen in good number, often in smaller water channels.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) – Other than Okhla, we saw this species in all wetland areas, though less common than the two larger egrets.

Western Reef Egret (*Egretta gularis*) – Seen by those who went into Old Goa for some shopping and to see the Basilica, they found this elegant wader along the coast.

Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) – An immature was swimming in the vicinity of the area we looked successfully for Yellow Bitterns.

Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) – Seen in flight at Chambal River, and several seen feeding in the same area of Bharatpur, also seen there in flight.

Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) – Seen well in all wetland areas in good number on the main tour.

Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*) – Very common in all wetland areas.

Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) – With some searching, we found a few at Bharatpur.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – Also seen widely, but in fewer numbers than the Little. We watched one individual wrestle with a large fish while in Ranthambhore.

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) – Seen on several days of the Ranthambhore area.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – One individual seen as we were leaving Ranthambhore at dusk, its fast determined flight distinctive. Another was seen high in the sky at Backwoods.

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) – Seen in agricultural areas around Agra, the Chambal River, and Ranthambhore.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) – Numerous over urban areas and towns, smaller villages.

Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) – Goa area and at Elephanta Island.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – A lone bird seen over the Chambal River.

Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*) – A single bird studied in flight, over the distant hills of the Goa area.

Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) – Seen in the Chambal River Area, at Ranthambhore, and two days in the Goa area, where we got the best looks at them.

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) – Seen on the grounds of Chambal Safari Lodge and while on the river.

Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*) – Seen on several days while in Ranthambhore.

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) – A single bird seen at Ranthambhore.

Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) – A single bird seen well while in Ranthambhore.

Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) – Bharatpur, Ranthambhore – including an individual we passed daily going in and out of the park – and while in Goa.

Eurasian Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) – Seen at Okhla, and then at Bharatpur over the extensive wetlands.

Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) – Seen flying in presence of other raptors on a morning walk, Goa.

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) – The most common raptor we encountered, seen both perched and in flight on eight of the tour days.

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) – Chambal River while on the river.

Indian Spotted Eagle (*Aquila hastata*) – Avi got very excited to show us this impressive eagle in Okhla. It flew above us as we ended the walk there. We got another sighting later in the week at Bharatpur.

Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) – We saw several different individuals of this species, including scope views of perched birds, at Bharatpur.

Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*) – Seen on our first morning rickshaw ride at Bharatpur.

Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) – Bharatpur was also the location of this large raptor, seen soaring as we birded a roadbed that separated two large ponds of the Keoladeo National Park.

Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) – Seen well by observers in one of the two boats on the Chambal River, the others were distracted by a Blue Rock Thrush so only saw this raptor briefly at a distance – such choices!

Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) – Seen in raptor-rich Bharatpur, and then on two days while in Goa.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) – What a find, thanks to Harish scouting ahead for us. This secretive species was a life bird for Avi as well. We watched it at close range, and even got some photos!

White-breasted Water Hen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) – This was a very common bird, often coming close to us at either a water or road edge. We saw adult and immature birds, and had good chances to photograph this species with its bold white breast.

Brown Crake (*Amaurornis akool*) – We watched a single bird at length while on the Chambal River, it stayed out along the river bank, feeding and coming ever closer to a large Mugger Crocodile that ignored it. We had time to signal the second boat, and all got a good view.

Purple Swampfen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) – Our first views were at Okhla in lovely light as the morning mist cleared. They were abundant in Bharatpur where we watched them feed, using those impossible long claws to hold down vegetation, probing among it. They were vocal, courting and fun to watch.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Numerous at all wetland locations on the main tour.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) – Seen at Okhla, Chambal and Bharatpur. At the latter, we saw huge numbers feeding together in large rafts, just in front of a large male Sambar that was basking in the sun on a small island.

Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) – Harish led us to a section of Bharatpur where a pair was known to be frequenting the area. We were lucky to find them close to the road, intent on feeding. Stunning cranes! Five more seen from the train near Bharatpur while returning to New Delhi.

Indian Thick-knee (*Burhinus (oediconemus) indicus*) – A pair seen on the Chambal River, higher up the bank from where we watched the more numerous Great Thick-knees.

Great Thick-knee (*Esacus recurvirostris*) – Seen in good number, resting and nesting on sand islands and the river banks of the Chambal River. We found them again in Ranthambhore, at the lovely lake where Sambar grazed in the water, with egrets fishing from their backs.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) – First spotted from the raised platform at Okhla, we found a few others at Bharatpur, lovely bird!

Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) – More numerous than the Pheasant-tailed, this jacana was seen at all wetland areas, including the Spice Farm in Goa.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) – Seen in all wetland areas, in good number, on the main tour.

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) – Seen on our first day at Bharatpur, a lone individual.

River Lapwing (*Vanellus duvaucelii*) – An elegant plover seen at the Chambal area on both days.

Yellow-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus malarbaricus*) – Chambal River and in the large field next to Chambal Safari Lodge.

Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) – First encountered at Okhla, we would find them at nearly every location. Vocal and bold, we enjoyed their antics but on seeing them in Ranthambhore, we said we would never want to be locked up in close territory with their screaming...

White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*) – One individual seen at Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) – Seen on both days in the Chambal area, including across the Yamuna River at the temples, then seen at a much closer range in good light at the pond where so many Sambar were in the water at Ranthambhore.

Greater Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*) – Peg urged Harish to show us this beautiful species seen on the previous trip, in the same sad and polluted location, but what a chance to see seven of this unique species, males and females together – the bright birds being the females.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) – Yamuna River by the temples, and at Bharatpur.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) – One individual seen and studied in the scope at Okhla, and another seen at Ranthambhore.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) – Seen at the lake in Ranthambhore.

Common Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*) – One of the more common and widespread shorebirds we saw, seen at all locations of the main tour.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – Seen across the Yamuna River at the temples at Bateshwar.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – Seen in good number, mostly an individual or two at a time, in wetland areas at Okhla and Bharatpur.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) – Seen at Bateshwar, Bharatpur and Ranthambhore.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) – Yamuna River, Bharatpur and Ranthambhore, typically a lone individual on a given day.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Widespread and seen on many days of the journey.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) – Chambal River cruise, on one of the sandbar islands.

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) – Chambal River cruise, good comparison with the Little Stints.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) – Chambal River cruise.

Small Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*) – Seen in good number roosting on small islands in the Chambal River, many of which they shared with Gharials and Mugger Crocodiles.

Heuglin's Gull (*Larus heuglini*) – Dark-mantled large gulls seen at Mumbai en route to Elephanta Island.

Pallas's Gull (*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*) – Chambal River near the sandbar we launched from.

Brown-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*) – Okhla, Yamuna and Chambal Rivers, and crossing to Elephanta Island at Mumbai.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) – Okhla, Yamuna River and numerous at Elephanta Island and Mumbai.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Seen by the group that went in to explore Goa, and then again at Mumbai in with numerous Black-headed Gulls.

River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*) – Chambal River cruise and again at Bharatpur and Ranthambhore.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) – Three or four in flight near Elephanta Island off the Mumbai harbor.

Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna acuticauda*) – A few individuals spotted while on the Chambal River.

Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*) – We first saw this endangered species down river from the temples our afternoon at Bateshwar, and then the next day we got very close looks from the boat ride, of them flying, and roosting on sandbars in the river.

Painted Sandgrouse (*Pterocles indicus*) - First seen on an afternoon outing in dry hills of the town of Ranthambhore, seen the next day as we looked for other species as well, and in flight over the area the ladies were working to build a bund near Khem Villas.

Common Pigeon / Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) – Seen almost daily, everywhere there was habitation. Indian people love to feed these birds, and at times they were seen in enormous numbers, children playing among them.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula badia*) – Goa area, seen perched in the scope and flying.

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) – Seen every day of the tour ahead of reaching Ranthambhore.

Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Seen daily at Goa.

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) – Seen in good number at all locations of the main tour.

Grey-fronted Green Pigeon (*Treron (pompodora) affinis*) – Seen all days while in Goa.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (*Treron phoenicopterus*) – First seen at two of the wooded parks we visited in Delhi, then at Bharatpur and Ranthambhore.

Vernal Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus vernalis*) – Tiny and rapid-flying small birds, we saw them in the scope on our first morning walk at Goa, then had several other sightings of them in fast flight.

Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) – Seen in Delhi, and also at the park in Mumbai.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) – Seen frequently, often investigating nest holes, at all locations on the main part of the tour.

Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) – Seen very well at Ranthambhore, with its habit of feeding close to mankind, we watched them at very close range at the check-in station, with the tenth century Fort towering above us all. Also seen on two days from Goa.

Malabar Parakeet (*Psittacula columboides*) – Seen on two of our days in Goa, first spotted in the morning in the open area, perched for great views.

Common Hawk Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*) – This was a marvelous species to observe, first in flight, then perched in the scope by quick-maneuvering Loven. In flight it looks very much like an accipiter, when moving between perches it moves more like the cuckoo it is. Small birds go quiet when it passes over. Great to see this interesting species – our last afternoon walking the road that ran along a ridgeline in Goa.

Asian Koel (*Eudynamis scolopaceus*) – We first heard this bird at close range at Okhla, some of the group saw it at Chambal and then we all saw both the male and highly-patterned female at Goa on the first morning walk out to a clearing absolutely filled with birds.

Blue-faced Malkoha (*Rhopodytes viridiostris*) – A pair seen by the river bridge at Goa.

Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) – Seen well on many days of our tour, quite a striking large bird with rust colored wings.

Indian Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*) – Our guide at Chambal Safari Lodge had this species staked out for us after lunch one day, great views. Then Angela had one shown to her by her rickshaw driver when she was taken back to the hotel, her own private owl!

Jungle Owlet (*Glaucidium radiatum*) – One individual seen in the lovely ridge top woods we walked through one afternoon at Goa.

Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*) – We saw a good number of these on the grounds of Chambal Safari Lodge, then daily at Bharatpur. They won many points in the cute department, and were enjoyed by our photographers.

Dusky Eagle Owl (*Bubo coromandus*) – Great viewing of first a juvenile, and then the adult, with some work and searching one morning at Bharatpur in the fog. We then had another individual we got good looks at there with ease while on the causeways between ponds. One also seen at Ranthambhore.

Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) – Seen on one of our safaris when it seemed we just might not find Tigers, it was a real highlight that day.

Brown Hawk Owl (*Ninox scutulata*) – Seen on the grounds of Chambal Safari Lodge.

Srilanka Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*) – Two of these wide-mouthed cuties were perched together on a day roost at Backwoods Camp of Goa. We enjoyed Loven's tales of documenting this species for the lodge, and first finding them nesting.

Jungle Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*) – Loven called this one and it replied, came by on a fly-over, near an open field on our last evening in Goa.

Jerdon's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus atripennis*) – heard at a distance, a distinctive call, at the same location after Loven played the call.

Savanna Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*) – We had very good looks at two individuals at the same location, they flew close enough to get a spotlight on them, highlighting prominent white edging on the tail. The second bird perched fairly close.

Indian Swiftlet (*Collocalia unicolor*) – Goa area and Elephanta island in good numbers.

Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*) – Seen in Goa and at Elephanta Island.

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) – Seen mainly in the Yamuna River area and at Goa.

Brown-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus giganteus*) – Seen as we watched the Black Eagle circle on high, with luck we'd get a few through the scope. Seen much better above the pools where we waited for kingfishers on the river walk in Goa.

Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) – We first encountered this fantastic bird fanning its crown as it hunted for bugs in a rural setting where many children came out to watch us as we watched birds on the way to Chambal River. We then saw it each day at Bharatpur, a favorite for many.

Malabar Trogon (*Harpactes fasciatus*) – What a stunning bird! We watched a male and female investigate a nest hole very close to the Backwoods Camp lodge building almost on arrival. We followed the male into the woods as he left. We then saw them on a couple of other walks, and by the pools on the river where we waited to spy kingfishers.

Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) – First seen on the way back from the temples at Bateswar, this bird was bedraggled from the rain. We saw it much better in the sun in the Chambal River and Bharatpur areas.

White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) – By far our most commonly sighted kingfisher, seen at all locations. Most memorable was that first look in Okhla when it streamed by, showing off its turquoise colors. And the individual with a very large fish it struggled with for quite some time – we had to leave before we knew if it got it down!

Common Kingfisher (*Alecedo atthis*) – Smaller and brighter overall than the White-throated, we saw this kingfisher numerous times, most closely at the Spice Gardens in Goa. Jerry and Judy even spotted one from the train to Delhi from Ranthambhore.

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) – Seen very well on the Chambal River, and in the small pond of Khem Villas and while on safari at various ponds at Ranthambhore.

Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) – First seen at Okhla as we started exploring there, and then at Bharatpur and Goa.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*) – Seen in the schoolyard our last afternoon of birding at Goa.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*) – Seen on the morning walk in Goa, in flight over some large trees next to the road.

Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) – Okhla and Chambal Lodge areas.

Malabar Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros griseus*) – Seen all three days at Goa.

Malabar Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) – Seen all three days at Goa.

Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) – Seen quickly, alerted by the sound of it lifting into the air – a sound like a small airplane taking flight! From the river trail in Goa.

Brown-headed Barbet (*Megalaima zeylanica*) – First seen by Humayun's Tomb in Delhi, we had it at Chambal Lodge, Bharatpur, and then heard it our final day in Goa.

White-cheeked Barbet (*Megalaima viridis*) – Heard only, our final day at Goa.

Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*) – First heard, we then got a good look at this bird at the train station waiting to board for our return to Delhi. We had excellent looks at it in the schoolyard at Goa our final afternoon of birding.

Malabar Barbet (*Megalaima malabarica*) – Seen all three days in Goa, we finally got great color in the scope view on our last afternoon walk on the ridgeline of the Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary near Backwoods Camp.

Heart-spotted Woodpecker (*Hemicircus canente*) – Seen on several of our days at Goa, including right in Backwoods Camp itself. We had a very cooperative bird for our first sighting, from the bridge where we waited for mist to clear.

Rufous Woodpecker (*Ceolus brachyurus*) – A pair seen really working over some epiphytes on a tree that first morning walk from Backwoods Camp.

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos nanus*) – Peg first found this on a mid-day prowling from Backwoods Camp, and then the whole group got good looks in two locations on our final afternoon walk at Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary.

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*) – Seen just at dusk in Bharatpur as it came in to roost quietly on a dead tree near the Keoladeo NP park exit.

Lesser Goldenback (Black-rumped Flameback) (*Dinoplum benghalense*) – The most common woodpecker we saw, it was always cause for exclaiming sighs, what a beauty! We first encountered it walking around the grounds of Chambal Safari Lodge, then saw it at each following location.

White-bellied Woodpecker (*Dyrocopus javensis*) – This striking, large black woodpecker put on a good show for us our first morning in Backwoods Camp of Goa.

Greater Goldenback (Greater Flameback) (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*) – A pair held court near the lodge of Backwoods Camp. They stayed around and were sighted the next day as well, highly vocal.

White-naped Woodpecker (*Chrysocolaptes festivus*) – Heard only at Goa, in the clearing where we encountered so many birds, it was difficult to decide what species to work on first!

Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*) – We saw this bird with quite some patience, missing it a first night at dusk, several returned to wait a second evening. We learned to watch for Oriental Magpie Robin, then Orange-headed Thrush, and just as it seemed impossible, Jerry called out, “bird in the road”. We would love to see its rich colors, but were happy to see this elusive bird at all. Near Backwoods Camp.

Large Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis virgatus*) – Seen on our middle day in Goa.

Malabar Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis (virgatus) sylvicola*) – Seen on our final day in Goa.

Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*) – Seen first at Ranthambhore, we then saw them on two days in Goa.

Ashy Woodswallow (*Artamus fuscus*) – A cozy pair on the wires was fun to scope at the schoolyard our final afternoon in Goa.

Black-headed Cuckooshrike (*Coracina melanoptera*) – Seen the middle day in Goa.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike (*Hemipus picatus*) – We encountered this little black and white dynamo on our first walk down the road from Backwoods Camp, and then Peg watched a pair of them repeatedly mob a Spangled Drongo they did not want in their territory.

Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*) – First seen in thickets along the waterways of Ranthambhore our first day, we found it on three days in Goa for better looks.

Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*) – A flock seen first as we were leaving Ranthambhore one afternoon, and then again our final day in Goa.

Orange Minivet (formerly included with Scarlet Minivet) (*Pericrocotus flammeus*) – Seen on our first morning walk from Backwoods Camp and then on each day of our stay there. A recent split from Scarlet Minivet, they were equally stunning.

Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus (flammeus) speciosus*) – These beautiful birds, males in red and females in yellow, brightened our day as we waited for the rain to quit at lunchtime, our first day at Chambal Safari Lodge.

Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) – Bharatpur, Ranthambhore and twice at Goa, this lovely bird was a cooperative one, posing for good views each time we saw it.

Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) – First seen in the dry hills we walked to bird en route to the boat ride at Chambal River. We then saw it on two days while on safari and walking in the Ranthambhore area.

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) – First seen at Okhla near Delhi, then at Chambal on the river, and one of the days at Bharatpur.

Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) – Seen at a distance up the hill on our Chambal River boat ride, and then on one of the safaris at Ranthambhore.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) – This bird was high on Nancy’s wanted list, and she got to see them in good number, all three days that we stayed at Backwoods Camp near Goa.

Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) – Seen in fewer number than the other drongos, a couple of individuals on two different days in Goa.

Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) – A constant companion seen almost daily on the main tour.

Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) – Seen on three days at Goa.

White-bellied Drongo (*Dirurus caerulescens*) – This bird entered the stage for us at Ranthambhore, and there was seen quite often in good number.

Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*) – Seen at the morning birdwalk on our second day at Backwoods Camp of Goa.

Indian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus (oriolus) kundoo*) – This bright beauty was seen all three days at Goa, and we appreciated its robust song.

Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*) – Seen on two days at Goa, including a pair quite near the lodge.

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*) – Seen on our second two days at Goa, first from the bridge where we waited for fog to clear one morning.

White-spotted Fantail (*Rhipidura (albicollis) albogularis*) – Seen on the walk near the Hindu temple near Backwoods Camp.

Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) – Seen on the river walk from Backwoods, where we waited in such a pretty setting with hopes of spotting kingfishers. A male and female were also sighted by the lodge.

Asian Paradise Flycatcher (*Tersiphone paradisi*) – We saw the female at the Spice Farm in Goa, and then the male at the pools we waited by on the river walk from Goa.

Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) – One of the most regular species we encountered, they were particularly bold in Ranthambhore, where when the vehicles stopped, they came in droves, begging and even landing on our heads to perch and study the rest of the crew!

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) – Seen almost daily, particularly abundant near villages.

Indian Jungle Crow (*Corvus (macrorhynchos) culminatus*) – Seen daily, in urban and rural settings.

Great Tit (*Parus major*) – Seen on second day at Ranthambhore, described as a chickadee look alike.

Indian Yellow Tit (*Parus (xanthogenys) aponotus*) – Seen on last two days at Goa, in mixed flocks near Backwoods Camp.

Plain Martin (*Riparia paludicola*) – Best views on the Yamuna River, flying below us at the temples, mixed with other swallows.

Sand Martin/Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) – Seen both days at the Yamuna and Chambal Rivers.

Dusky Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne concolor*) – Flying around the top of Ranthambhore in abundance, they were too far away for close inspection, mere pin drops in the sky. Birding by association, we got the scope on a few at a rest stop.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – Seen at the Yamuna and Chambal Rivers, on three days in Goa, and in Mumbai.

Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) – Seen from the rooftop restaurant of our Delhi B and B, then at the Yamuna and Chambal Rivers, and at Bharatpur.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*) – Seen well from the temples along the Yamuna River. Then again on the first day at Goa.

Streak-throated Swallow (*Hirundo fluvicola*) – A lone individual perched on a phone wire with several Barn Swallows, good scope views of this species on the second morning in Goa.

Indian Bushlark (*Mirafra erythroptera*) – Seen on our first morning walk in the dry hills before reaching Chambal River.

Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark (*Eremopterix griseus*) – Seen and heard singing in small shrubs on the walk we made to try for Indian Coursers, on which we spied our second group of Painted Sandgrouse.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) – One day at Chambal River and another day at Ranthambhore.

Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*) – Harish pointed out the call as we focused on some other species, heard above us singing at Bharatpur.

White-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) – Delhi, Chambal Safari Lodge, and Bharatpur, quite tame around plantings and hedgerows.

Grey-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus priocephalus*) – Finally seen well on our third day in Goa, after hearing them from two other locations the first days. They were feeding in fruits and quite easy to see once we found the magic tree.

Flame-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus (melanicterus) gularis*) – This stunning bird was spotted on our first morning walk at Goa, and then we found them readily around the lodge and on our field trips. A pair taking a bath during one of our lunches was memorable.

Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) – This beautiful bird was seen in Okhla, all three days in Goa, and at Elephanta Island.

Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) – Probably the most consistently-seen songbird of the tour, a daily companion.

White-browed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus luteolus*) – A pair seen on one day in Goa, on the second morning birdwalk.

Yellow-browed Bulbul (*Acritillas indica*) – Seen on several occasions on two days in Goa, its subtle colors nice to see at close range.

Grey-breasted Prinia (*Prinia hodgsonii*) – First seen on one of our safaris in Ranthambhore, and then found on two days in Goa.

Graceful Prinia (*Prinia gracilis*) – Seen in tall reeds along the shoreline on a hill above us, while on the Chambal River, singing.

Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*) – We were able to study this lovely bird well from the birding platform at Okhla. They were active in the reeds just below us, allowing for close inspection.

Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*) – This was the most widespread and often encountered of the prinias, one we all got to recognize with repeated viewing.

Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*) – Along with Ashy, this prinia was seen on about half the days of the tour, in a variety of habitats.

Rufous-fronted Prinia (*Prinia buchanani*) – This bird was the sought-after prize for our time walking in the dry hills ahead of our boat ride on the Chambal River. We got excellent views, in the scope.

Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) – Seen on nine days of the tour, several of us learned the call, and all stopped to look as it was a jaunty, bold bird always fun to encounter. Its back color and antics reminded one of a winter-plumaged Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*) – Seen only one day, our second day at Bharatpur.

Moustached Warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*) – Seen the third day at Keoladeo.

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) – Seen at Okhla, though listed as a vagrant, Avi commented during our tour that we'd seen some really good birds, and this was one of them.

Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) – Seen at Bharatpur several times, one while we enjoyed a picnic lunch on a road bridge that crossed a waterway. Then seen on all three days at Goa.

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) – Seen on three days early in the journey at Keoladeo, reminiscent of kinglets with its wing and tail flicking and small size.

Hume's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus humei*) – Seen on first two days in Bharatpur.

Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) – Seen fairly often, often in pairs, active and seen in a variety of settings.

Western Crowned Warbler (*Phylloscopus occipitalis*) – River walk at Goa, and by the main lodge at Backwoods.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) – We got our first looks just out of the bus at Okhla, near the spot we spied Green Bee-eaters which really drew off our attention. We also saw them at Bharatpur and Chambal River.

Puff-throated Babbler (*Pelorneum ruficeps*) – Good looks at a pair very close to the lodge at Backwoods, also heard other Goa locations. They rustled in the leaves like towhees.

Dark-fronted Babbler (*Rhopocichla atriceps*) – River walk at Goa, with their black head and white-outlined eye the immediate impression was reminiscent of Black-capped Vireo.

Common Babbler (*Turdoides caudata*) – Seen in the dry hills as we approached the river launch for our boat trip on the Chambal. Also seen at Ranthambhore.

Large Grey Babbler (*Turdoides malcolmi*) – Okhla, Chambal River, Bharatpur, and Ranthambhore.

Striated Babbler (*Turdoides earlei*) – A flock of these busy, social babblers were encountered on our first walk at Okhla, in the dense reeds. Also seen at Chambal Safari Lodge.

Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striata*) – By far the most common babbler we saw, almost daily they entertained us. Peg thought they'd make a great mascot and name for a band.

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe poioicephala*) – Very active around Backwoods Lodge, we saw them all three days at Goa.

Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Chrysomma sinense*) – Seen in the dry hills near Chambal River, and again around the shrubby fields as we approached the hunting lodge at Bharatpur.

Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) – Chambal River, and second day at Ranthambhore.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*) – Seen only by Peg, on a mid-day photo prowl at the Backwoods Lodge. We tried to find the flock the next day, but they remained elusive.

Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) – Delhi, Chambal River, Agra, Bharatpur, and Ranthambhore.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) – Common indeed, seen at all locations on the main tour.

Asian Pied Starling (*Sturnus contra*) – A very pretty starling, active and seen in groups at all locations up to and including Bharatpur.

Blyth's Starling (*Sturnus (malabarica) blythii*) – Seen well our first walk from Backwoods Camp and then on each day in Goa.

Brahminy Starling (*Sturnus pagodarum*) – Lovely bird seen well from Chambal River and at Bharatpur.

Malabar Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus horsfieldii*) – First heard, then seen as we came out from the river walk in Goa.

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Orange-headed Thrush (*Zoothera citrina*) – Seen on both evenings we waited to see the Indian Pitta. They would come out just at dusk, from a hedgerow adjacent to the road near Backwoods Camp.

Tickell's Thrush (*Turdus unicolor*) – A few got one quick look at a road crossing, alerted by the call, on a foggy morning as we went in to look for the owls at Bharatpur.

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) – Seen on four days, mainly females at first, and in time a couple of winter-plumaged males.

Siberian Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*) – The same individual was seen on two days, photographable in dim light right at a busy corner of Keoladeo where people met their rickshaw drivers – wow!

Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) – This was a common species, bright with song, seen on most of our field days.

White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) – It was surprising that we did not see more of this handsome, long-tailed species, but we did get good looks the second day in Goa.

Indian Robin (*Saxicoloides fulicatus*) – First encountered at Okhla, we saw this bird on numerous days, often in pairs.

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) – Seen in Chambal in the woods around the lodge, and in Bharatpur.

Common Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) – Seen from the elevated platform at Okhla our first day.

Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*) – This little cutie was seen on six days of our journey.

Variable Wheatear (*Oenanthe picata*) – Seen very well in the dry hills ahead of our boat launch on the Chambal River.

Brown Rock-Chat (*Cercomela fusca*) – Yamuna and Chambal Rivers, both days.

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) – Great views along the shoreline of the Chambal River, a surprise find for us this day.

Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*) – Bharatpur and then again our first day in Goa.

Brown-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa muttui*) - Seen at the pools on the river on a walk from Backwoods Camp.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) – Seen on several days of our journey, in three locations of Chambal Lodge, Bharatpur and Ranthambhore.

Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) – Seen on the grounds at Chambal Safari Lodge.

Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassinus*) – Jerry first spotted this sky-blue beauty on a walk on the grounds at Chambal Safari Lodge. We saw another very well in Ranthambhore.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*) – Seen by part of the group on one of our safaris in Ranthambhore.

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) – This very tame bird put on a good show for us the foggy morning we went owl searching at Bharatpur, ahead of exploring by rickshaws.

Asian Fairy Bluebird (*Irena puella*) - A pair was seen on our third day in Goa on the river walk. A striking bird!

Jerdon's Leafbird (formerly included with Blue-winged Leafbird) (*Chloropsis jerdoni*) – Seen the first morning at Goa, a pair feeding in the flowering tree that was a magnet for so many species.

Golden-fronted Leafbird (*Chloropsis aurifrons*) – Seen on several occasions, with some of the best views at the bridge we waited at for the mist to clear one morning in Goa. This species was also seen right at Backwoods Camp around the lodge.

Thick-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum agile*) – Seen on two of our days in Goa, including the first morning walk to the open area with so many birds.

Nilgiri Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum concolor*) – We saw this endemic often, watched it feeding, seen on all three of our days at Goa.

Purple-rumped Sunbird (*Leptocoma zeylonica*) – What a beauty, we saw this sunbird our middle day at Goa, male and female.

Crimson-backed Sunbird (*Leptocoma minima*) – Common around Backwoods Camp. When they came down to water we could see the full view of dazzling color on the back, quite a striking sunbird!

Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) – Widespread and common, we first saw this bird at Okhla, then at Chambal, Ranthambhore and Goa, most days.

Loten's Sunbird (*Cinnyris lotenia*) – Loven knew a spot in the schoolyard where this species came in at day's end, we got good looks at its very heavy decurved bill – quite a bird!

Little Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera longirosta*) – We saw this interesting species at a distance the first morning in the clearing, and it showed up as we watched other mixed flocks, including the last afternoon in the schoolyard.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – Daily in the first (main) part of the tour and in Mumbai.

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia (*Gymnoris xanthocollis*) – Seen at our last day at Chambal Lodge, and then on many days at all the remaining locations.

Black-breasted Weaver (*Ploceus benghalensis*) – Seen while birding along the road on the way to Chambal River.

Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*) – Seen in the dry hills as we approached the Chambal River.

Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*) – Seen on two of our days in Bharatpur.

White-rumped Munia (*Lonchura striata*) – Seen on two days of our days in Goa, tree-tops in flocks.

Black-headed Munia (*Lonchura malacca*) – Seen as a small flock, the first morning walk in Goa at Backwoods, when we had so many species it was tough to know what to watch first!

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) – First seen around Delhi, at Chambal River, and then on our final day in Goa.

Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) – Seen at Delhi and at Chambal River.

Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*) – A quick flyby identified by Loven, twice, as the flock was passing over the schoolyard our final day birding at Goa.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) – Widespread and variable in its plumage, we saw this species in Delhi, Ranthambhore and Goa.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) – First seen at the Ghandi Monument in Delhi, we then saw it at all other locations of the main tour.

White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*) – First seen on the Yamuna and Chambal Rivers, we continued to see this species in Bharatpur, Ranthambhore, and Goa.

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) – Seen on day at Chambal River.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) – Seen near the van as we parked to watch “our” Tiger, the female celebrity of the film, the Lady of the Lakes.

Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathami*) – Seen in the dry hills area as we left the boat tour on the Chambal River. Great looks.

White-capped Bunting (*Emberiza stewarti*) – Seen in the dry hills leading to the Chambal River, and seen again with Harish in Bharatpur.

Mammals

Short-nosed Fruit Bat – Seen flying around the cabins, near the roost tree for the Indian Fruit Bats, and seen again in Ranthambhore.

Indian Fruit Bat (Flying Fox) (*Pteropus giganteus*) – Great views as there was a major roost tree outside our cabins at Chambal Safari Lodge, fun!

Pipistrelle, sp. – Laxmi Villas, these small, swift bats were seen from the rooftop each day at sunset.

Five-striped Squirrel (*Funambulus pennantii*) – Very common, we saw this species at all locations of the main tour.

Three-striped Palm Squirrel (*Funambulus palmarum*) – Seen on a walk by the Hindu temple near Backwoods Camp in Goa.

Indian (Malabar) Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa indicus*) – This handsome, active squirrel put on a daily show for us around Backwoods Camp, where several pairs were in residence. They made a loud noise to alert us, and were highly acrobatic going from tree to tree, feeding on fruits and flowers in primate fashion.

Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) – Seen at all locations of the main tour, including in urban Delhi and on Elephanta Island.

Bonnett Macaque (*Macaca radiata*) – Seen at Backwoods Camp in Goa.

Black-faced (Gray or Hanuman) Langur – Common at Ranthambhore.

Southern Plains (Gray or Hanuman) Langur – [Backwoods Camp, Goa](#).

Indian Hare (*Lepus nigricolis*) – Ranthambhore and Goa.

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) – [Seen well at Ranthambore](#).

Ruddy Mongoose (*Herpestes smithii*) – [Ranthambhore, seen on each day, nice looks](#).

Grey Mongoose – [Seen on several days at Bharatpur](#).

Asian (Common) Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*) – [Seen on a night walk with the local guide at Chambal Safari Lodge](#).

Asiatic (Golden) Jackal (*Canis aureus*) – [Seen at two locations, Bharatpur and Ranthambhore](#).

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) – [We first spotted a tiger at a distance, difficult to see until it stood and moved off into the woods. That afternoon, we found Machli, beloved matriarch of Ranthambhore, lying in the road, and were able to watch her walk slowly to a resting spot by a small pond – magical to see this “Queen of Ranthambhore” in her advanced \(17 years!\) age.](#)

Nilgai (Blue Bull) (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) – [First seen at Okhla, we saw this large hoofed mammal of the Antelope clan at all major locations of the main tour](#).

Sambar Deer (*Cervus unicolor*) – [Regal like our elk, the most memorable sighting was a large bull resting on an island in Keoladeo NP at Bharatpur. Many feeding in the water at Ranthambhore was lovely as well.](#)

Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*) – [Seen commonly, including some very young newborns, and many regal-racked males.](#)

Reptiles and Amphibians

Marsh (Mugger) Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*) – [Best seen \(some giants!\) at close range on our boat trip on the Chambal, also seen at other wetlands.](#)

Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) – [A thrill to see these in good number, and from tiny to grand in size on the Chambal River.](#)

Indian Flapshell Turtle (*Lissemys punctata*) - [Bharatpur](#)

Indian Tent Turtle (*Pangshura tentoria*) – [Chambal River](#)

House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) – [A companion throughout, often sharing our accommodations, gentle insect-eaters, they were fun to observe.](#)

Bengal Monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*) – [This large lizard was seen by Peg and Patrick on their afternoon return visit to Bharatpur, sunning itself on a sandbank.](#)

Flying Lizard (*Draco volans*) – [A very impressive, swift moving lizard that seems to fly between tree trunks, we saw this species in our time at Goa.](#)

Bronze-backed Tree Snake (*Dendrelaphis tristis*)

Checkered Keelback (*Xenochrophis piscator*) – [We saw this snake sunning itself on rocks at the entrance to Ranthambore NP.](#)