

Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

December 11 – 21, 2005

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Some pictures, mostly non-birding on <http://hem.bredband.net/b399210/>

A business trip to company headquarters in Udaipur gave some time for birding as well. This report shall be viewed in the respect that most time was spent in the office and therefore the birding time per day was down to average ½ hour.

I had the Sunday off for sightseeing and then some birds were encountered.

Everything was arranged beforehand but I had the Lonely Planet's Rajasthan Guide with me and it was (as usual) a good guide.

The bird book used was the "Pocket Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent" by R Grimmet, C and T Inskipp.

Dec 11th: After BA flights via London and Mumbai I reached Udaipur with Jet Airways around 7pm. Already dark but in the headlights from the car on the way to the Trident Hilton Hotel a Sandy-colored Desert Fox was seen just outside of town.

Dec 12th to 17th: Weekdays spent with work. Usually I did roughly ½h walk in the garden of the Trident Hotel and encountered some species everyday but also new once almost every time. Apart from that the work site also had a pond that produced species throughout the week.

Dec 17th: Saturday afternoon was free and we had help from two colleges to do some shopping and sightseeing in the city of Udaipur.

Dec 18th: Sunday all free for sightseeing. My Hosts brought me to both the temple area of Ranakpur and the big fort of Kumbalgarh. This was a whole day excursion that also produced some birds, especially raptors at Kumbalgarh.

Dec 19th to 21th: Work again and flight back to Mumbai and stay over at the Orchid Hotel between the domestic and international airports. BA flight back to Europe at 1pm.

Bird species seen

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*

2 seen while calling at the Hotel 18th.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Common at hotel.

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*

One flying by the car to work 14th.

Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyeros birostris*

One flying by the car to work 15th.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
1 each morning 12th to 14th in hotel garden.

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*
Several on trip to Ranakpur 18th.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Seen almost daily at work pond and on the shores of Fateh Sagar. Also a few on the trip on the 18th.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*
Seen almost daily at work.

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*
1 in hotel garden 17th.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
1 in hotel garden 13th.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*
Abundant many of the days.

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*
Abundant

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Seen a few days at work.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*
Common Lake Fateh Sagar.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
1 savage channel to work 18th.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*
1 seavage channel to work 14th.

Great Thick-knee *Burhinus recurvirostris*
1 flying by hotel garden on the 18th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Abundant

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
Abundant

River Tern *Sterna aurantia*
Common all lakes around Udaipur.

Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*

A few in lakes around the city during the days.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

1 seen in countryside on the 18th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus*

Abundant in Mumbai and Udaipur.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

1 passing close by at the top of the Kumbalgarh 18th.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

1 calling strongly and hunting at the top of the Kumbalgarh 18th.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Common in lake seen from the Trident hotel.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

1 seen flying in Fateh Sagar 17th.

Grey heron *Ardea cinerea*

Common in lake seen from the Trident hotel.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

1 flushed in lake seen from Trident hotel 18th.

Indian Pond-Heron *Ardeola grayii*

Very common at ponds, especially at work.

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*

Some seen in lake seen from Trident hotel 18th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Common in water areas as well as agricultural.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*

Common in water areas as well as agricultural.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

1 seen flying over lake from the Trident breakfast table 15th.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

1 seen on wires on 18th trip.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

A few at Ranakpur and common inside the Kumbalgarh fort 18th.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Common in Udaipur city.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Common in Udaipur city.

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*
1 seen Trident hotel garden 18th.

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*
1 seen Trident hotel garden 17th.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Common

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
1 seen Trident hotel garden 17th.

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*
1 seen Trident hotel garden 17th.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
1 seen Trident hotel garden 18th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
1 calling in last daylight en route back to Udaipur 18th.

Brahminy Starling *Sturnus pagodarum*
1 together with Common Mynas at work 15th.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
Widespread in the city.

Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*
1 together with Common Mynas at work 12th.

Black-lored Tit *Parus xanthogenys*
1 seen on garden area in central Udaipur 17th.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*
Common over lake seen from Trident Hotel.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*
Common in both gardens and along wires. Have given name to a communication protocol at work.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca blythi*
Common in hotel garden.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*
2-3 seen in Hotel garden 17th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Widespread in Udaipur.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
Common at Hotel garden and at work garden.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
1 entranceroad 1 Pushkar

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
1 in hotel garden 12th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
Seen approx. half mornings in hotel garden.

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla madaraspatensis*
Seen almost everyday around work pond.

Mammals

Common Langur *Presbytis entellus*
Both in downtown Udaipur and on the trip on the 18th.

Five-striped Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennantii*
Abundant in parks.

India Smooth-Coated Otter *Lutrogale perspicillata*
One seen briefly from the car on the day trip on the 18th.