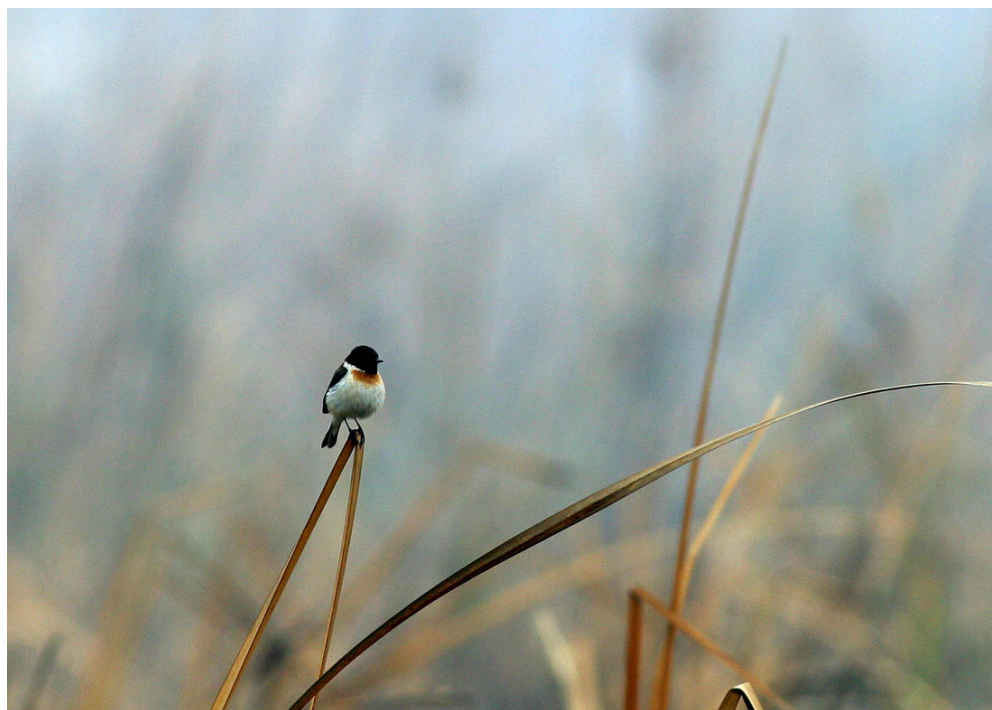


Central India & Delhi 22.1-8.2 – 2008

Bandhavgarh - Chambal - Bharatpur - Okhla

Måns Grundsten, Stockholm, Sweden



White-tailed Stonechat, Okhla, February 2008. Copyright: Måns Grundsten

Introduction

This trip was a combined nature/bird/culture trip together with my girlfriend Anneli. Since I had been three weeks in northern India in 2003, most of the key-species were already on my list. This meant that the few birding hours I had were relatively relaxed with just a few target-species to see. Also giving more time to focus on photography. We travelled in an independent manner most of the time and had somewhat of a mid-range budget. The main goal for the trip was Bandhavgarh and hopefully seeing a wild tiger. We also looked forward to the boat safari on Chambal River. Off course we knew that both Bandhavgarh and Chambal Safari Lodge would be rather expensive, but otherwise (Delhi not included) India is still a cheap country to visit with European standards. We flew from Stockholm via Istanbul to Delhi with Turkish Airlines. All our longer transportations were with train, and we hadn't arranged anything from home. It's easy to get help from different hotels and tourist offices to book the train tickets (most agencies charge 50-100 r/ticket, but that's worth it). We booked every ticket at least one-two days in advance. This itinerary is well described in many reports and my aim is just to add some info that might be useful if you're travelling independently.

Literature

Lonely Planet Guide - India (2002)

A Birdwatchers' Guide to India (1998), Krys Kazmierczak & Raj Singh, Prion Ltd.

Birds of Northern India, Grimmett & Inskipp (2003)

Several trip-reports from internet, via www.travellingbirder.com.

Itinerary at a glance

22.1: Arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport. A few hours at Raj Ghat in the afternoon, there was a small pond in the middle of the park with quite a few birds.

23.1: Delhi. Train to Varanasi in the afternoon.

24-26.1: Varanasi. Visit to the University area one day, and two half days spent on the river.

Train to Katni in the evening.

27.1: Arrival at Katni. Bus to Umaria (including two transports some of the distance with auto-rickshaw). Bus to

Tala. Arrival at Bandhavgarh late afternoon. Check in at Royal Tiger Resort.

28.1: Bandhavgarh. Jeep Safari x2.

29.1: Bandhavgarh. Jeep Safari x2.

30.1: Bandhavgarh. Around Tala all day, I walked along the park fence east of the main gate and also along the small creek that's crossed just before the main gate, the birding was fairly good. We hired a jeep to Umaria for the evening train to Agra.

31.1: Arrival at Agra 10 am. Autorickshaw to the Agra Fort Bus station. Local bus towards Bah. Went off at Jarar and walked to Chambal Safari Lodge. Arrival in the afternoon.

1.2: Drive to the Sarus Crane area north of Jarar until noon. Afternoon river safari on Chambal river.

2.2: Camel safari across Chambal to an ancient abandoned huge ill-preserved fort. Afternoon taxi to Agra for a quick visit to Taj Mahal before further journey to Bharatpur and the Falcon Guest House.

3.2: Sleep in. Keoladeo Ghana NP from 10 am until sunset.

4.2: Keoladeo Ghana NP from sunrise to 1 pm.

5.2: Train to Nizamuddin, Delhi in the morning.

6.2: Delhi.

7.2: Okhla from sunrise to 1 pm.

8.2: 5 am flight back to Sweden via Istanbul with Turkish Airlines.

Accommodation

Varanasi:

Sunhiya Guest House, around 400 r/double. Located in the south. A fairly ok place. There are numerous alternatives, one cheaper than the other.

Bandhavgarh:

Royal Tiger Resort (2000-2600 r/double (depending on standard of the tents)), located just next to the main entrance gate at Tala this place was fantastic, with nice gardens and good birding on the grounds. I would guess there are three main alternatives at Tala if you want good birding on the grounds and still be close to the main gate. These are White Tiger Forest Lodge, Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge and Royal Tiger Resort. There are of course quite a few other resorts that probably also has good birding on the grounds but these are further from the main gate. Besides these resorts there are a number of alternatives of cheaper hotels around Tala. Most guide-books suggest you to book in advance. Our experience is that unless you're travelling on national holidays, that's not the case. As we jumped off the buss from Umaria at Tala, we were soon surrounded by people representing different resorts or hotels. We took a chance and followed a guy representing Royal Tiger Resort. Doctor Rahul as he was called, later became our driver and guide for the rest of our staying at Bandhavgarh. He was a very friendly person, spoke very good English and was able to help us with all of our problems.

NOTE: There are no ATMs at Tala!, and non of the resorts or hotels accept VISA-card payment. So be prepared with a LOT of cash when you're going here.

Chambal Safari Lodge:

Since this lodge offers the boat safari and many other birding opportunities in this area, there really aren't any alternatives. The lodge is extremely well-managed and there are basically only birders staying at this place. We actually booked two nights via e-mail, about two months before the trip, it's probably advisable, rather than just showing up. If one or two groups are staying at the lodge, the rooms will become occupied rather quickly.

The lodge is 500 m south of the road between Agra and Bah, it close to a village called Jarar. We took the local bus from Agra Fort bus station and the journey took around 2h. When we got of the bus, we asked some locals about directions, and a kind man walked with us to the lodge. It's quite an expensive place, and two nights and three activities meant us spending almost half of our total travelling budget (26500 r)...

Bharatpur:

I was very happy to return to Bharatpur and the lovely Falcon Guest House. The lady who runs the place still cooks some of the best dishes I've tried in India. We had a great time here.

Delhi:

When we arrived at Delhi from Sweden we had one night booked in advance (which is advisable), this hotel was located at Pahar Ganj conveniently close to the train station. When we got back from Bharatpur to Delhi we hadn't any hotel booked. First we tried at few places by just turning up, but all of those were fully booked, then we just went to a private travel booking office close to Connaught Place and paid an overprice for a reasonable room at Karol Bagh at a hotel called Hotel Sapphire. The staff at this place, however, were lazy, very greedy and unfriendly (like most of Delhi). This was my second visit to Delhi and I must say it's not my favourite place on

earth, since more or less everyone looks at you as a walking wallet (even though you aren't), it's pretty sad and tiresome. Avoid Delhi as much as you can (especially if you're on a nature itinerary). And if you have to go here, try to book your hotel in advance to avoid hassle. As an example, when I was going to Okhla I caught my driver trying to cheat me, he said I had to pay an entrance ticket at the bird sanctuary for him as well, and I did (I had already paid like 400 or 500 r for myself). I was a bit suspicious since I knew locals always pay less at these kind of sites. So when I asked to see the paper ticket and didn't get to, I realised he was trying to cheat me. I finally got my money back (money which he'd put in his own pocket), but I was completely furious with him. The point is that you'll constantly have to be on needles to avoid anyone from cheating you.

Sites visited

Bandhavgarh

Within the park, you're not allowed to walk around, for obvious reasons, so almost all birding is from a gypsy. This makes everything quite tough, most guides seem to pay less attention to birds compared to mammals. Still some good birds can be found. We had two amazing tiger sightings. The first one was from the gypsy, it was the dominant 13-year-old male at the park, which we had been following for at least an hour, as we could hear his breathtaking growls from the mountain slope. The second day we were fortunate enough to see a calm and sleepy tigress from the back of an elephant.

Best birds seen: Painted Spurfowl 1m, Sulphur-bellied Warbler 1, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Orange-headed Thrush, and Blue-capped Rock-Thrush. Around Tala there were some nice birding offered, I had a lot of vultures daily soaring above the resort, White-naped Woodpecker and Tawny-bellied Babblers on the grounds were also nice. Close to the main gate I found a few Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches of the local race.

Among other animals seen we had a fantastic sighting of a roadside Jungle Cat, also many Spotted Deers, Wild Boars, a few Sambar Deers and a single Indian Hare (the guide was thrilled when I found the hare, he had been a guide in Bandhavgarh for 13 years and this was his second sighting of Indian Hare, I thought just a hare...) Each safari costs 2850 r/2 persons (including entrance fee, vehicle with driver and guide).



Tigress at rest, Bandhavgarh, January 2008. Copyright: Måns Grundsten

Chambal River

We were lucky to get Dalveer as our birding guide for the first day. We drove north from Jarar into really nice paddyfields further north presenting great roadside birding. We made many short stops along the road at different small ponds and got excellent views of many Sarus Cranes and a huge Black-necked Stork. These areas which Dalveer seems to know well (staked-out Greater Painted-snipe etc) held impressive amounts of nice birds and my advise is to allow at least a full day birding here with a packed lunch, rather than half a day as we did,

since we then had to drive back to the lodge just as we got to the most interesting areas. We did the boat safari during the afternoon which probably is equally nice as doing it morning time. On the second day we went on a camel safari to an ancient abandoned fort which was a very exciting destination (in my eyes, almost as fascinating as the Taj Mahal, since there are absolutely no tourists here and the fort isn't mentioned in any guidebooks).

Bharatpur

At least as dry as when I was here in 2003, but the birding was far worse than what I hoped for, most of the large grassplains (e.g. Sapan Mari and Mansarovar) were now overgrown with tall grass and bushes. Only the plains northeast of the temple were still open grassland, and here there were quite a few larks, pipits, shrikes and Indian Coursers and so on. The first day in the park we hired the guide Jatin Singh for a full day (he was knowledgeable and friendly and showed us a few specialities like Rock Python, Grey Nightjar and Indian Scops Owl).

Okhla

I hired a car with a driver from 6 am to 1 pm. Okhla Bird Sanctuary is located on the eastern shore of Yamuna and holds tremendous amounts of wetland birds. I walked on the embankment and also to the temple and the areas with lots of reed. Directions should be from Delhi drive to Okhla and then to Kalindi Kunj (which many people seems to know about) from here you need to cross Yamuna River and then immediately you'll have the bird sanctuary on your left side. Going north along the river you'll have tons of birds on your left hand side. You should then proceed to the temple (mentioned in Kazmierczak and Singh). Around the temple there are some fields on the northern side (where I had many wagtails and also a putative Buff-bellied Pipit), and nice reedbeds to the west and south facing the river. I actually walked out in reedbeds and found some good birds. It's possible that also other places around Okhla is good, but the place to go nowadays seems to be the temple and the bird sanctuary, that means that the information provided in Kazmierczak and Singh is a bit out-of-date.

Missed potential lifers:

Where is all Indian Cormorants? Also missed Sirkeer Malkoha, Red-necked Falcon, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Streaked Weaver, Rufous-fronted Prinia. Then off course other goodies (but of whom I had seen most previously).

List of bird-species observed in India 22.1-8.2, 2008

Total: 263 species

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*

1m Okhla 7.2.

Jungle Bush-quail *Perdica asiatica*

2 Chambal 2.2.

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*

2 Chambal 2.2.

Buttonquail sp. *Tunix* sp.

1 Royal Tiger Resort 27.1.

Painted Spurfowl *Galloperdix lunulata*

1m Bandhavgarh 28.1.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

100 Chambal River 1.2.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

1 Chambal 31.1, 2 Bharatpur 3.2, 1 Okhla 7.2.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

400 Chambal River 1.2, 50 Bharatpur 3-4.2, 100 Okhla 7.2.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

e.g. 300 Okhla 7.2.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

e.g. 300 Okhla 7.2.

Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

e.g. 5000 Okhla 7.2.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

2 Chambal River 1.2, 4 Okhla 7.2.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

e.g. 8000 Okhla 7.2.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

e.g. 10000 Okhla 7.2.

Red-crested Pochard *Rhodonessa rufina*

1f Varanasi 26.1, 20 Chambal 1.2, 5 Okhla 7.2.

Common Pochard *Aythya farina*

500 Okhla 7.2.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

500 Okhla 5.2.

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nanus*

1 Bandhavgarh 30.1.

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendroscopos mahrattensis*

1 Bandhavgarh 30.1.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*

2 Varanasi 24.1.

White-naped Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes festivus*

3 Bandhavgarh 27.1, 5 Bandhavgarh 30.1.

Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*

Seen at Tala, Bandhavgarh, Chambal, Bharatpur.

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*

2 Varanasi 24.1.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*

Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris*



Malabar Pied Hornbill, Bandhavgarh, January 2008. Copyright: Måns Grundsten.

Malabar Pied Hornbill *Anthraceroceros coronatus*

3 Bandhavgarh 29.1.

Common Hoopoe *Upopa epops*

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

Common Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius*

1 nicely perched on a wire at Varanasi (University) 24.1.
Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*
1 Varanasi 24.1.
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*
10 Bandhavgarh 28-30.1.
Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*
Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*
Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
5 Varanasi 24.1.
Little Swift *Apus affinis*
Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*
4 Bandhavgarh 28-30.1.
Indian Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*
2 Bharatpur 3.2, 2 Bharatpur (The Temple) 4.2.
Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*
1 Bandhavgarh 28.1.
Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum*
1 Bandhavgarh 28.1, 2 Bandhavgarh 29.1.
Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*
Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata*
1 Chambal 31.1.
Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus*
1 Bharatpur 3.2.
Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (domest.)
Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
2 Bandhavgarh 28.1.
Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
Red-collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
1-2 Royal Tiger Resort 30.1.
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*
Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*
25 N Chambal 1.2, 2 e.r. 5.2.
Common Crane *Grus grus*
1 Bharatpur 3.2.
Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool*
1 Chambal 1.2.
White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Purple Swampphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*
500 Okhla 7.2.
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Common Coot *Fulica atra*
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*
2 Chambal 1.2.
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*
1m N Chambal 1.2.
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
2 Okhla 7.2.
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
1 N Chambal 1.2, 10 Bharatpur 3-4.2.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*
 10 N Chambal 1.2.
Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris*
 5 Chambal 1.2.
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus*
River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*
Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*
 5 N Chambal 1.2, 4 Bharatpur 4.2, 1 Okhla 7.2.
Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus*
 15 Bharatpur 4.2.
Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albigollis*
 15 Chambal 1.2.
Caspian/Steppe Gull *Larus cachinnans/barabensis*
 15 Okhla 7.2.



Pallid Harrier, Bharatpur, February 2008. Copyright: Måns Grundsten.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*
 5 Okhla 7.2.
Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*
 e.g. 5000 Okhla 7.2.
River Tern *Sterna aurantia*
 6 Chambal 1.2.
Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*
 4 Chambal 1.2.
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*
White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*
 c.5 Bandhavgarh 28-30.1, 4 Bharatpur 3.2.

Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*
c.15-20 Bandhavgarh 28-30.1.

Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*
1 Bandhavgarh 30.1.

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*
1 N Chambal 1.2.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
1ad Bandhavgarh 29.1, 1subad Bharatpur 4.2.

Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*
1m Bharatpur 4.2.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
1 Varanasi 24.1, 4 N Chambal 1.2.

White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*
1 Chambal 2.2.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*
1-2 Chambal 1-2.2.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*
5 N Chambal 1.2, 2 Bharatpur 3-4.2, 1 Okhla 7.2.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*
1 subad N Chambal 1.2.

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
2 Chambal River 1.2.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*
1 N Chambal 1.2.

Changeable Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
3 Bandhavgarh 28-30.1.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
1 Chambal 2.2, 1 Okhla 7.2.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
1 N Chambal 1.2.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*
100 Okhla 7.2.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
1 N Chambal 1.2, 3 Bharatpur 3.2.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
4 N Chambal 1.2, 10 Bharatpur 3-4.2.

Black Ibis *Pseudoibis papillosa*
1 Bandhavgarh 30.1, 10 N Chambal 1.2.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
5 Bharatpur 3.2, 5 Okhla 7.2.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*
50 N Chambal 1.2, 2 Okhla 7.2.

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*
8 N Chambal 1.2.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*
 10 e.r. Katni 27.1, 3 N Chambal 1.2, 1 Okhla 7.2.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
 1f N Chambal 1.2, 1 Chambal River 1.2, 2 Bharatpur 3.2.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*
 1 Bandhavgarh 29.1.

Isabelline Shrike *Larus isabellinus isabellinus*
 1 N Chambal 1.2, 1 Chambal 2.2, 2 Bharatpur 4.2, 1 Okhla 7.2.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
 1 2y Tala 28-30.1, 1 ad Bandhavgarh 29.1.

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach caniceps*

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis lathora*
 1 ad Chambal 1.2, 2 ad Bharatpur 4.2.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
 2m Bandhavgarh 28.1.

Large Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina macei*

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*



Long-billed Pipit, North of Chambal, February 2008. Copyright: Måns Grundsten.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
 1 Bharatpur 3.2.

White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens*
 3 Bandhavgarh 28.1.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
 1 Bandhavgarh 29.1.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
 4 Bandhavgarh 29.1.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia multicolor*

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
 5 Bandhavgarh 28.1, 2 Bharatpur 3.2.

Blue-capped Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclohynchus*

1f Bandhavgarh 29.1.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

2m Chambal River 1.2.

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*

1 (ssp. *cyanota*) Bandhavgarh 28.1, 2 (ssp. *citrina*) Bharatpur 3.2.

Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

At least 2 Bandhavgarh 28-30.1.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

At least 5 Bandhavgarh 29-30.1, 1 Chambal 31.1. Maybe 20 un-identified Red-throated/Red-breasted at B.

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*

5-10 Bandhavgarh 29-30.1.

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

2 Bandhavgarh 30.1, 1 Chambal 31.1-2.2, 1 Bharatpur 3.2.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*

Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata*

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura*

3m2f Okhla 7.2.

Pied Stonechat *Saxicola caprata*

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*

2f Bandhavgarh 28-29.1, 1f N Chambal 1.2.

Brown Rock-chat *Cercomela fusca*

Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*

1f Chambal River 1.2. This bird was staked-out by Dalveer.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

1m1f Chambal River 1-2.2.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

1 Chambal River 1-2.2, 1 Bharatpur 4.2.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*

2 Tala 30.1.

Brahminy Starling *Sturnus pagodarum*

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Asian Pied Starling *Sturnus contra*

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea castanea*

10 Tala 30.1.

Great Tit *Parus major*

10 Tala 30.1.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*

Dusky Crag Martin *Hirundo concolor*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

15 Tala 30.1, 1 N Chambal 1.2.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

5 Royal Tiger Resort 30.1.

Streak-throated Swallow *Hirundo fluviicola*

5 Royal Tiger Resort 28.1.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*

Seen at Okhla.

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*

Seen at Okhla.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

2 Bandhavgarh 29.1.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca blythi*

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumentorum*

15 Bandhavgarh 28-30.1, 4 Bharatpur 4.2.

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

1 Bharatpur (The Temple) 4.2.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*

3 Okhla 7.2.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus*

1 Bandhavgarh 28.1.

Brooks's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus subviridis*

1 Bharatpur 3.2, 3 Bharatpur 4.2.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Tawny-bellied Babbler *Dumetia hyperythra*

4 Royal Tiger Resort 30.1.

Common Babbler *Turdoides caudatus*



Jungle Cat, Bandhavgarh, January 2008. Copyright: Måns Grundsten.

Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei*

40 Okhla 7.2.

Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi*

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*

Indian Bushlark *Mirafra erythroptera*

2 Chambal 31.1, 1 N Chambal 1.2.

Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark *Eremopterix grisea*

25 N Chambal 1.2.

Rufous-tailed Lark *Ammomanes phoenicurus*

2 Bharatpur 4.2.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

11 Bharatpur 4.2.

Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal*
2 Chambal River 1-2.2.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*
5 Bharatpur 4.2, 2 Okhla 7.2.

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*

Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*
2 Chambal 31.1.

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis*

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
(ssp. *personata*, *leucopsis*)

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis*

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola citreola*
1 Varanasi 25.1, 30 N Chambal 1.2, Bharatpur, Okhla.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
(ssp. *beema*, *melanogrisea*)

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*
1 Bharatpur 3.2.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis jerdoni*
3 N Chambal 1.2.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
1 Bandhavgarh 30.1, 2 Bharatpur 3.2.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens japonicus*
One pipit on newly ploughed fields just N of the temple at Okhla 7.2. The bird was in a group of Yellow Wagtails, and I saw it for maybe one minute before it took off, it was strikingly streaked on the whiteish belly with a very prominent blackish malar patch and malar stripe, and a relative weakly marked supercilium. The back was rather uniform, with a slightly green/brown tone on the mantle and just a few darker streaks. The legs seemed light-coloured rather than dark and the bird was almost constantly flicking its tail. I guess both Water Pipit and Rosy Pipit seems more likely to occur here, but the features on this bird fit neither well. This pipit could to my knowledge very well be a Buff-bellied.

Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis*
100 Chambal 2.2.

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*
10 Chambal 2.2.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*
15 Okhla 7.2.

Indian Silverbill *Lonchura malabarica*

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*
5 Royal Tiger Resort 30.1.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
10 Bandhavgarh 29.1.

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami*
10 Jarar 1.2.

White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti*
5 Chambal River 1.2.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*
1m Bharatpur 3.2.

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