

KDB July 2009

# The Birds and Other Wildlife recorded on the 2009 VENT Bhutan Tour

April 6 – May 3, 2009



Hodgson's Flying Squirrel *Petaurista magnificus* © K. David Bishop

*Compiled by*

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## BHUTAN 2009

"The Paro Dzong (monastery), guarded by icy crags, sits warming under the late afternoon sun. It seems to welcome our approach to our beautifully located hotel. An Ibisbill, so subtle as to be taken for a glacial stone, dips quietly in the snowmelt. This is indeed the Kingdom of Bhutan and the land of the peaceful Dragon." As Steve Hilty remarked on first setting foot in the kingdom, "This is fairytale land."

K. David Bishop

This was VENT's 21<sup>st</sup> tour to Bhutan since 1994 when we first began operating in this magical kingdom. We regularly offer two tours a year and they always fill very early. So what is it that makes this particular tour so attractive? Quite simply, Bhutan is in a class of its own. Yes, it's an expensive tour, largely because the Bhutanese have decided (in my opinion quite rightly) that they would rather not compromise their culture and spectacular natural environment to hundreds of thousands of tourists, and, consequently, they charge a princely sum for being among the privileged few to visit their country. Similarly we feel that we have a very special product to offer, and while we could make it shorter and thus less expensive, we feel that that would diminish the experience. By taking more time in Bhutan we can literally take the opportunity to "smell the roses," or rather the daphnia, and imbibe the various serendipitous cultural opportunities that offer themselves, as well as really enjoy the birds, mammals, butterflies, and flowering plants that are so profuse in spring in the eastern Himalayas. Many of these species and experiences require time, and we don't want to short-change our participants. How often have you heard on tour after tour that one wishes one was here 40 or more years ago? In the case of Bhutan, we are there 40 years ago, but with all the joys and comforts that a good infrastructure brings.

Bhutan was literally everything we had hoped it would be and more. And it just gets better and better. Our ground agent, Gangri Tours and Travel, treated us like royalty and was absolutely professional, sometimes to the point of this leader's amazement. Our ground crew from Wangdi, our truly world-class bus driver, to the newest dining room recruit contributed in a major way to the fun, happiness, comfort, and enjoyment everyone derived from this special tour.

On our tour we typically record well in excess of 400 species of birds and 15-25 species of mammals. It has to be said that our mammal list seems to be getting better and bigger each year, perhaps a reflection of my personal interest in the mammalian critters of Asia, and, in particular, the Himalayas, and perhaps because of the enthusiasm of our clients and our driver

for night-drives and spotlighting! The brand new field guide to the butterflies of the Indian subcontinent will undoubtedly result in butterflies on this and other tours in and around India. While clearly everyone wants to see such mega-charismatic species as Satyr Tragopan, Ward's Trogon, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Himalayan Monal, Ibisbill, Beautiful Nuthatch, and a host of other specialties, there is always a tremendous sense of excitement at experiencing the unknown on our Bhutan tours. Some years we have done very nicely with the enigmatic and globally critically endangered White-bellied Heron, while on other years no one has seen it at all. Sometimes we struggle with Satyr Tragopans while in other years they behave like a dream and males show off to us. Beautiful Nuthatch is yet another blue-ribbon bird, but has become very difficult at one site, possibly because of excessive use of tape play-back. Because we know Bhutan so well, we not only know the birds very well, but know Bhutan well enough to take our participants to less utilized sites.

Migration adds enormously to the excitement of Bhutan tours; for example, sometimes you can go for several days without seeing a species you would typically expect to find fairly easily, and then you bump into a migrating flock of 200 or so. And then there is the real thrill of something completely off the wall such as this year's very responsive, singing male Purple Cochoa—arguably one of Asia's most difficult to find species!

Flowering plants are a constant distraction and the more you get into them the more you see. A spray of orchids gracing lichen-dappled rock and mountain sides ablaze with as many as 8-10 species of flowering rhododendrons—most of them in giant tree-like growth-forms—merely hints at the floristic joys of the "kingdom of the thunder dragon."

I consider myself very privileged to have traveled so often and so extensively throughout the Kingdom of Bhutan (1994 to the present). To have the opportunity to regularly explore such an incredible and special destination, and in company with my wonderful Bhutanese friends, is something I treasure and look forward to every year. Our Bhutan tour is memorable indeed. The vastness and beauty of Bhutan's forests—a window onto what Asia and the Himalayas once were like—combined with the opportunity to make very real discoveries, never fails to rejuvenate my soul, and makes me want to return time after time.

This was a very special tour, one of the very best I have ever had the pleasure of leading to Bhutan. In large part this success was due to a wonderful group of participants and our wonderful... no, change that, fantastic ground crew. I would like to thank you all for making the entire tour such a great experience.

The summary of our daily activities includes some of the trip's highlights together with a list of what we heard and saw. Nevertheless it only conveys part of the story, and can never really express the wonderful sights and sounds of Bhutan, its land, its forests, its wildlife, and its people. I doubt any of us will ever forget the White-bellied Heron that we watched for 30 minutes or more as he gulped down a gigantic fish; the pair of aptly named Beautiful Nuthatches

that we enjoyed on two consecutive days; that gorgeous orange apparition on a tree at eye level alongside our bus one night near our Yongkola Camp—one of, if not THE world's largest flying



squirrel; and the fine views of a flock of very infrequently encountered Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbills and lovely White-hooded Babblers. Of course the birding is always great in Bhutan, and any time you find a Ward's Trogon as well as we did is very special. But, as seems to be a recurring theme on VENT's Asia tours, it was a very good trip for mammals with a total of 20 species seen, including many golden langurs (some at very close range), looks at the goat-like antelope goral, and spectacular views of the gigantic Hodgson's flying-squirrel.

Our Bhutan tour is a wonderful exposition of the rich biodiversity, landscapes, and culture of this fascinating kingdom. I cannot wait to return!

Thank you

*David Bishop*



## Diary



- 8 April** An excellent morning's birding at Sultanphur Jheel with a rich assortment of waterbirds including Red-naped Ibis, Black-necked Storks. An afternoon exploring some of the cultural antiquities of Delhi put the seal to fine day in the capital. NIGHT: Delhi. Weather: Warm to hot, cloudy, humid.
- 9 April** We departed very early on the Druk Air flight (an unearthly 05.00!) to Paro and the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon. Despite or perhaps because of our early arrival into Bhutan airspace we found the airstrip completely fogged in and thus spent an hour and one half hours leisurely circling overhead and gaining the most extraordinary view of the sacred mountain Jhomalhari as well as several other lesser lights. After landing from the south end of the valley we graciously wended our way through the laid-back immigration and customs procedures for a little bit of quite useful shopping before alighting our very comfortable Toyota bus. Learning that 'Orni' was indeed with us and our arrival propitious as this was the penultimate day of the world famous Paro Tsechu. After quickly settling into our hotel we hustled across the valley to join tens of thousands of Bhutanese all dressed in their very finest traditional dress and absolutely esconced in what was truly one THE most amazing cultural experiences I have ever enjoyed. Surely one of the most extraordinary starts to any Bhutan 'birding' tour! Returning to our lodgings we enjoyed a delicious lunch (the food at Dechen Hotel is arguably the best in Bhutan) before setting out to explore the Paro Valley. Barely had we descended to our bus than our guide Tashi brilliantly brought our attention to a handsome male Eurasian Hobby perched nearby. Wandering up the increasingly less than salubrious Paro Chuu unsuccessfully for Ibisbill we encountered our first Plumbeous Redstarts. The afternoon concluded with fine views of the charismatic Takstang Monastery and further north the idyllic ruin of Drygyel Dzong and our first Gold-billed Magpies - so nice to see them so common. NIGHT: Dechen Hotel, Paro. Weather: Sunny but cool; generally clear with scattered cloud.
- 10 April** As always we made an early departure for Cheli La and the spectacular birding drive up to the pass at *circa* 13,000 feet. Winding our way up through Blue Pine Forests and higher up Silver Fir, Spruce and magnificent old Hemlocks we soon began to encounter coveys of Kalij Pheasants and higher up Blood Pheasants many of which were confiding, permitting all of us a detailed study. But an overnight fall of snow had put paid to seeing our hoped for Monal or b'fast at the pass. Fortunately our crew had used their common sense and set-up at the snow line and so we sat down to the first of many breakfasts in the field in what to many looked like a Christmas wonderland. With the sun up and the snow largely melted from the road we gradually made our way down into the rarely visited (by foreigners) Ha Valley. A sublime drive through a landscape of vast primeval forests and a patchwork quilt of lush farmland was punctuated by an exceptional convocation of seven male Red-flanked Bluetails that literally glowed in their forest clearing.

Flock after flocks of birds both big and small constantly drew our attention as we eventually made our way to the capital Thimpu. NIGHT: Riverside Hotel, Thimpu. Weather: Heavy overnight snow; overcast to start then clearing with scattered clouds, cool and sunny.

**11 April** A moderately early start saw us driving up the attractive Cheri Valley for breakfast below the vertiginous Cheri Monastery. Yet another Kalij on the outskirts of town and fine views of a total of three Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers and our first of many Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers were among the morning's highlights. We returned in time for lunch but not before stopping to gaze upon the imposing Taschidodzong - Bhutan's equivalent of Parliament or the Senate. The afternoon was spent wandering the streets of the capital and some really fun shopping. NIGHT: Riverside Hotel, Thimpu. Weather: Clear with scattered clouds; warm and sunny.

**12 April** And so our journey began in earnest with our first venture along the lateral road, at last we were to get to grips with Bhutan's famous mixed broad-leaved and evergreen forests. As we breasted Dochu La the sense of amazement was notably audible as the incredible beauty of the rhododendrons and magnolias not to mention magnificent, statuesque forests stretched away, seemingly for ever. But it was those mighty ramparts of the Himalays that really drew our breath. This was an exceptional year and the prolonged views we enjoyed throughout much of the morning's birding on Dochu La left us under no misapprehension where we were! We birded down the east slope from the pass to breakfast (ca. 2700m) before continuing further down slope to warm mixed broad-leaved forest and a lovely luncheon site. We then descended to the Puna Tsang Chuu and on to the lovely Po Chuu Valley. A very full day of birding concluded with the almost unimaginable an immense Pallas's Fish-Eagle hunting back and forth right in front of our very eyes; a pair of Ibisbills with adorable chicks; a pair of fishing Crested Kingfishers and is if that wasn't enough a prolonged study of the world's most critically endangered heron; the near mythical White-bellied Heron. This was VENT's fifth encounter with this species in Bhutan and the moment looses nothing of its sense of exhaltation. Add to this the beauty and tranquility of the location and our first views of the impressive Punakha Dzong and what more could you ask for. Quite simply unbelievable! NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri Hotel. Weather: Clear blue skies with a liittle high overcast; notably warmer and brighter in the open farmland of lower elevations.

**13 April** Departed 05.00 for the Mo Chu valley and the lovely Tashitang Track within the Jigme Dorji National Park. Three Grey Nightjars put on a spectacular display at our hotel before we departed but the hoped for Tawny Fish-Owls were absent. Light overnight rain and a high overcast provided ideal birding conditions at the outset. Typically our drive was punctuated with regular stops along the way for

birds and other features of interest the highlight arguably being the fine views of the Bay Woodpecker that actually stayed put for a while. We eventually made it to one of my favourite breakfast sites. Set amongst gorgeous forests resplendent with spring colours, a waterfall erupting above us provides a perfect amphitheatre for so many classic Himalayan birds. We then birded through some lovely forests for the rest of morning garnering a fine coterie of birds, plants and butterflies including such gems as as persistently singing male Small Niltava; Ferruginous Flycatcher; Paris Peacock butterfly and a wonderfully showy cluster of orchids. After lunch we returned to the winter capital where we were escorted by Tashi on a fascinating and mind-opening exploration of the inner sanctum of Punakha Dzong. NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri Hotel. Weather: Overnight light rain presented cool, slightly damp overcast conditions becoming sunnier in the late morning.

- 14 April** Passing under the ramparts of imposing Wangdi Dzong we gradually made our way through the dry scrub of a narrow gorge before slowly climbing and birding our way through increasingly lovely mixed broad-leaved forests on the west slope of Pele La. Patches of cultivation and prayer-flag bedecked farmhouses completed unending panoplies of wonderful memories including our first White-browed Shrike-Babblers. Added to which an astonishing array of birds including flock after flock of Himalayan specialties. As the advertising goes just "another glorious day in a fairytale land." NIGHT: Camp Pelela. Weather: Cool, still and pleasant; brief rain squall on Pele La during the late afternoon.
- 15 April** An enchanting, morning walk in magnificent tall montane forest before breakfast and all to the sounds of the Himalayas in spring. Despite the seeming complete absence of Satyr Tragopans we caught up with a fine pair of Himalayan Monal - those iridescent colours no wonder it is called The Rainbow Bird in Nepal. A flock of immense Himalayan Griffons coming off their overnight roost and drifting by at eye-level spiced by the prescence of the legenadary Lammergeier plus migrating Northern Harrier and Sparrowhawk and all to the back-drop of snow covered mountains left us all quite dazed. After breakfast we broke camp and gradually made our way to Trongsa via the King's chorten at Chendibji. As always seems be the case in Bhutan, birds were everywhere not to mention myriads of photographic opportunities so actually getting to our destination in reasonable time was always going to be a lottery. And just to add spice to our journey Trongsa Dzong, located at the head of three valleys and key to the security of the kingdom, shone in the afternoon sun - it was just 200 metres away and we had only another hour of our journey to go! NIGHT: Trongsa. Weather: Cool but pleasant becoming sunny and warm.
- 16 April** Yet another wonder-filled day replete with magical landscapes, great birds, mammals and plants. From Trongsa we journeyed southwards towards the village of Shemgang and on to our attractive campsite near Tingtibi all the while constantly

beguiled by a fascinating mosaic of bird-rich forests, terraced fields and erotically daubed Bhutanese farmhouses. With so much to see we were hard pressed to make it into camp by dark. What a truly delightful site. The undoubted highlight of the day was a very confiding male Rufous-necked Hornbill at our lunch stop and our first of numerous Golden Langurs. NIGHT: Camp 700 m a.s.l. Weather: Overcast and damp to start becoming clear, warm and sunny.

**17 April** With an altitudinal range of circa. 500 - 2000m the Shemgang Road nicely compliments its more illustrious cousin, the Limithang Road. Furthermore, the Shemgang Road sees very little traffic, leaving one in peace and serenity to enjoy the beauty of its quite remarkable forests. Our first morning was spent in somewhat degraded but very birdy Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi followed by a couple of hours in a very attractive giant bamboo forest which much to everyone's delight produced the hoped for Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbills and a group of very attractive White-hooded Babblers. But let's not forget those amazing Great Hornbills! During the afternoon we ascended to higher, cooler elevations and despite a fairly quiet afternoon still caught up with several new species. NIGHT: Camping at ca. 700 m above the village of Tingtibi. Weather: Generally warm and high overcast.

**18 April** Departing camp at dawn we birded our way up to 2000m. Who will ever forget the views we all enjoyed of the incomparable Beautiful Nuthatch. What a bird! Needless to say there were lots of other birds but they all seemed to pale by comparison. NIGHT: Camp 700m a.s.l. Weather Warm and clear with a light overcast.

**19 April** Returning to Trongsa we again encountered the Beautiful Nuthatch this time possibly two pairs! Reluctantly taking our leave of Shemgang we gradually wound our way up and down hill back to a hot shower and a regular bed. NIGHT: Trongsa. Weather: Warm, sunny, scattered cloud.

**20 April** A rather frustrating day today as dense fogged enveloped much of the upper slopes of Yutong La. And this factor plus the seemingly complete die-off of the important bambbo made birding a little trying and disappointing. Nevertheless we persisted and were rewarded with our first views of the splendid Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler in addition to a good collection of seed-eating birds including a handsome male Dark-rumped Rosefinch, Red Crossbill and smart-looking Red-headed Bullfinches. We then worked our way back up through magnificent Hemlock and Silver Fir forests before descending into the Bumthang valleys.

The second half of the day brought quite a change of pace with a delightful ramble through the Bumthang valleys; a stop at the weaving centre for a rare opportunity to shop and on to the Jakar Valley and some time to catch up on notes and revel in the intricacies of Aum Leki's extraordinary weavings. NIGHT: Aum Leki's Guest

House, Jakar Valley. Weather: Initially dense cold fog eventually clearing; then fairly clear and sunny.

- 21 April** The journey to our camp at Sengor is surely one of the engineering marvels of the world. And this year despite that at times the weather was less than perfect we were still treated to vistas that constantly left us stopping to stare in awe. And, as we surmised, Bhutan's forests really do extend as far as the eye can see. Stopping at the village of Ura to visit the attractive Monastery located in the heart of the village we found a rather late male Beautiful Rosefinch and then on the higher crags a large flock of dapper Snow Pigeons that whirled around us before settling and permitting superb 'scope views. But the best was yet to come; climbing towards the Gayzam Chuu for lunch we stopped for 'some birds' and quickly found ourselves in the midst of 20+ male Fire-tailed Sunbirds rapidly moving upslope. Surely a sight none of us will ever forget. NIGHT: Camp Sengor. Weather: Semi blue-sky day, at times warm to hot; high UV but from Thrumsing La cloudy with patches of fog.
- 22 April** We woke to the sound of Satyr Tragopans calling all around us but disappointingly could only come up with a female this year. Nevertheless she is rather lovely in her own right and were treated to fine, prolonged views before she completed her business and wandered off. We all finally enjoyed fine views of a couple of remarkably confiding Chestnut-headed Tesias but it was one of those mornings's that promised much but didn't really deliver. Fortunately the afternoon session was a charm and we kept hitting flock after mixed flock not least of which were our only Brown Bullfinches of the entire tour and superb 'scope views of two male and a female Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker - a rarity in Bhutan. NIGHT: Camp Sengor. Weather: Mostly clear and sunny becoming more overcast in the afternoon.
- 23 April** Driving up above camp we pushed on to Thrumsing La (Pass) and despite the cloud closing in we were treated to the wonderful sound of Long-tailed Thrushes singing all around us and then 'scope views of one songster. Undoubtedly though the star of the morning was a stunningly lovely male Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin which foraged right around us and even sang for a second or two. It was wonderful to enjoy such close and prolonged views of this very elusive species. After a rather delayed breakfast back at Camp Sengor we drove down the famous Limithang Road stopping below the Namling Death Drop for lunch. We then spent the afternoon birding our way down to our Yongkola camp at 6,200 feet. The pass at Thrumsingla (12,400 feet) is the start of the now famous Limithang Road. Birding down the east slope of Thrumsingla we made the spectacular but rather vertiginous descent, as ever amidst seemingly unending and untouched primeval forests and the panoply of flowering rhododendrons on this descent is surely one of the world's great floral displays. The forests were as beautiful as it is possible to imagine and graced with some marvellous birds. NIGHT: Bonkosomey Camp, Yongkola. Weather: Rain, fog, patchy cloud, fog, rain, clear.

**24 April** Waking to one of the most song-filled dawns I have experienced in years we walked up from camp and quickly found ourselves amongst the birds; a group of noisy and confiding Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbills put on a great show whilst Yellow-throated Fulvettas and Cutias added a touch of class to a bird-filled pre-breakfast walk. Breakfast over we retraced our steps above camp and kept birding until lunch with a pair of Long-tailed Broadbills gave us all exceptional views. The afternoon below camp continued in much the same vane though with fine views of Rufous-necked Hornbills and gruff Blue-bearded Bee-eaters stealing the show. Our traditional night-drive produced several amazing views of the gigantic Hodgson's Flying-Squirrel as can be seen by the image on the front cover of this report. We also had our best view yet of the diminutive Partic-coloured Flying-Squirrel before returning to camp.

Just another bird-filled day along, arguably, one of the best birding roads in the whole of Asia.

**25 April** Once again we ascended above camp and finally found our Ward's Trogon, a truly glorious male and his mate that put on a great show permitting fabulous 'scope views at what has become VENT's traditional site. 'Scoping a nesting colony of house martins produced conclusive view of Nepal House-Martins but none of the hoped-for Asian House-Martins. Such is life.

What a lovely morning. We all revelled in the serene beauty of these ancient forests and the beautiful light effects on ridge after pastel ridge rendering it all quite unreal. Indeed this was a time to draw breath and enjoy the beauty of this oh so wonderfully remote part of the world. Surely the Limithang Road is one of the great birding roads of the world. Stretching away, seemingly endlessly, towards the horizon, this road sports some magnificent forests with many tall trees of impressive girths on huge buttresses, jutting out over our path. Orchids abound, and the understory of the forest is often relatively clear, although the higher strata are often strung with enormous woody vines and lianas. And then there are the patches of bamboo so full of secrets and promise. NIGHT: Bonkosomey Camp, Yonkola. Weather: Sunny with blue skies and patchy cloud.

**26 April** Winding our way down from our Yonkola camp we dropped into the lovely Shonkhar Chu Valley before climbing up to the village of Mongar and our hotel where everyone enjoyed the hot showers and a regular room plus the opportunity to explore a Bhutanese village. NIGHT: Mongar Hotel. Weather: Sunny, patchy cloud, warm.

**27 April** Departing early we birded our way up Kori La finding a pair of nesting Dark-sided Flycatchers in a roadside bank in addition to a fine pair of Brown-throated Treecreepers before breakfast. We then birded our way down Kori La

encountering several mixed flocks and female Ward's Trogon and a superb opportunity to review many old friends and gain better views of others. As the day warmed we climbed aboard our comfortable bus and wound our way up and down 'hill' to our very attractive campsite at Rontong. A late afternoon walk near camp quickly produced several great views of Black-tailed Crakes. NIGHT: Rontong Campsite. Weather: High overcast, partially clear, warm at lower elevations.

**28 April** A fascinating day of spectacular landscapes as we commenced our final descent of the Himalayas. Departing camp shortly after dawn at 05.00 we gradually climbed through a largely lightly wooded agricultural landscape, passing the attractive Sherubtsee College before climbing to the highest point of the day at 8,500 feet. Driving with intermittent birding stops and a visit to the Khaling Weaving Community we gradually wound our way down towards Moshi and Narphung but with, for the first time, a rather productive side trip along the Pemygatsel Road. Who will ever forget the precipitous views of the forests disappearing far beneath us at our lunch stop? Yet another delightful lunch and we birded our way back to the main road we found a very confiding male Black-headed Shrike-Babbler and best of all and arguably bird of the trip a Purple Cochoa. Initially heard by David who could barely believe what he was hearing we eventually taped it in for repeated views of the male. A lifer for your leader and one of the most enigmatic and rarely seen of all Asian birds. And finally to our attractive campsite at Morong. NIGHT: Morong Campsite. Weather: Partly cloudy with lots of sunny blue skies.

**29 April** A good day of birding through some lovely forests as we worked our way from Morong down to Deothang and on to Somdrup Jonkhar enlivened by some great birds including exceptional views of Crimson-faced Liocichlas. Sadly the road widening below Deothang is so horrendous that much of what was good roadside birding habitat has been destroyed. Nevertheless we still managed to dig out a few goodies including fine views of Asian Fairy Bluebirds. NIGHT: Somdrup Jonkhar. Weather: Sunny, warm becoming hot and humid at lower elevations.

**30 April** Crossing the border back into India we birded our way to Gauhati the capital of Assam with stops along the way for some for some additional birds. The final leg of our epic journey saw us flying with the very fine Jet Airways back to Delhi for a final, farewell dinner. NIGHT: Radisson Airport Hotel, Delhi.



## Annotated List of Birds

### NON-PASSERINES

1. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* **B**: Several along the Puna Tsang, Po and Mo chus.
2. Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel and Assam.
3. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel. Classified as Near Threatened. NOTE: Old World populations of Darter represent one of a handful of species whose taxonomic status has flipped back-and-forth at the vagary of taxonomic opinion. Some authorities treat the three Old World forms of the Darter which inhabit Africa, Asia and Australia as a single species *Anhinga melanogaster*. Other authorities treat the taxa of each region as separate species. Clearly the three taxa represent a superspecies, whether or not these taxa have yet evolved into fully-fledged species is open to conjecture. The taxon found in the Americas, *Anhinga anhinga* is widely regarded as specifically distinct from Old World form(s).
4. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam.
5. White-bellied Heron *Ardea insignis* **B**: This, the world's most endangered and rarest heron provided a sensational conclusion to a yet another wonderful day of birding and nature in Bhutan. A single adult feeding on a *circa* 33cm fish (Cyprinidae) along the Chir Pine-lined Po Chuu. Truly sensational! This is the fourth time we have recorded this highly sought after species; long may the Po Chuu provide sustenance to this extraordinary creature. Classified as Critically Endangered.
6. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam.
7. Great Egret *Egretta alba* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam. NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Casmerodius* or *Ardea*.
8. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam.
9. Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam. NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Egretta*.

10. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam - many in fine breeding plumage. NOTE: Consistent differences between *B. ibis* and *B. coromandus* in breeding plumage, proportions and vocalisations indicate they are better treated as two species. Rasmussen & Anderton. 2005 'Birds of South Asia The Ripley Guide' indicates that birds in North America are referable to Western or Common Cattle Egret *B. ibis*.
11. Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam including several in breeding plumage.
12. Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* **I**: Twenty, almost entirely immatures, at Sultanpur Jheel. Classified as globally Near Threatened.
13. Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* **I**: Two at Sultanpur Jheel.
14. Asian Openbill Stork *Anastomus oscitans* **I**: Approximately 30 *en route* through Assam to Gauhati.
15. Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* **I**: Two at Sultanpur Jheel. Classified as globally Near Threatened.
16. Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilus javanicus* **I**: Two singles seen well *en route* through Assam to Gauhati. Classified as globally Vulnerable.
17. Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* **I**: One at Sultanpur Jheel and a flock of 41 in rice-fields *en route* to Gauhati was unusual. Classified as globally Near Threatened.
18. Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* **I**: Two at Sultanpur Jheel.
19. Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* **I**: Six at Sultanpur Jheel.
20. Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* **I**: Several fine views both in flight and on the ground of *circa*. 70 *en route* through Assam to Gauhati.
21. Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* **I**: Six at Sultanpur Jheel.
22. Comb Duck *Sarkidornis melanocephala* **I**: Sixty at Sultanpur Jheel.
23. Gadwall *Anas strepera* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel. **B**: Small numbers along the Puna Tsang Chuu.

24. Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* **I:** Sultanpur Jheel. **B:** Eight and then 14 the following day, along the Po Chuu.
25. Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* **I:** Common at Sultanpur Jheel.  
NOTE: This distinctive taxon has recently been given full species status by some authorities (see for example Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). It can be separated from Chinese Spot-billed Duck by the less uniform sooty black upperparts; green as opposed to a blue speculum and the presence of a pink-red bill spot. This is the resident population that breeds throughout the Indian subcontinent and SE Asia. The second part of the equation is referred to as Chinese Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha* and this taxon breeds in north and eastern Asia and is a very rarely recorded passage migrant in the Indian subcontinent.
26. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* **I:** Common at Sultanpur Jheel.
27. Northern Pintail *Ardea acuta* **B:** Four rather elegant-looking drakes along the Mo Chuu.
28. Garganey *Anas querquedula* **I:** Several in fine breeding plumage, Sultanpur Jheel.
29. Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* **B:** One female in flight along the Ha Chuu.
30. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* **B:** One seen nicely thanks to some fine spotting by Judith along the Tashitang Trail.
31. Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* **B:** One seen nicely in flight over the Mangde Chuu and two singles seen, almost certainly migrants, below Morong.
32. Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus* **I:** One adult perched on powerlines right alongside the windows of our bus *en route* through Assam to Gauhati.
33. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* **I:** Widespread in the Delhi area and near Gauhati.
34. Pallas's Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* **B:** Fabulous views of an adult fishing along the Po Chuu and then two below Punakha the following day. A magnificent species, classified as globally Vulnerable.
35. Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* **B:** Sensational views of a single adult over Pele La as it flew straight at us (together with several Himalayan Griffons) and all against a canvas of majestic, snow-covered mountains.

36. Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis* **B**: 14 April - a total of 6 soaring over the west slope of Pele La and then on 15 April a flock of 15+ soaring at eye-level together with several other raptors on Pele La.
37. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela* **B**: Some notably impressive sightings with close and prolonged views on Pele La; along the Shemgang Road and below Morong.
38. Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* **B**: A single female seen a close-quarters soaring with the vultures on Pele La. This is the first of this species we have seen in Bhutan for several years and seemingly a rather late migrant.
39. Shikra *Accipiter badius* **I**: One seen at Sultanpur Jheel. **B**: Singles along the Shemgang Road; as we descended from Rontong to Moshi and below Morong.
40. Besra *Accipiter virgatus* **B**: Superb views of one that perched right in front of the bus as we ascended through Blue Pine forest to Mongar.
41. Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* **B**: One circled with the vultures over Pele La; one as we descended from Trongsa to Shemgang and then a female soaring over our camp at Sengor.
42. Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* **B**: One male on Cheli La and a second bird over the middle Limithang Road.
43. Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* **B**: One high over the Mangde Chu valley and a second over the Shinkhar Chu valley. NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) argue that *burmanicus* is specifically distinct from Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.
44. Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* **B**: One or two with the vultures on Pele La and then another near our Sengor Camp and possibly the same birds seen the following day.
45. Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* **B**: A most evocative and distinctive eagle as it hunts within the inter-canopy spaces, it is very rarely seen perched (we saw one perch just briefly this trip!). Singles in the Ha Valley; over Dochu La; *en route* from Trongsa to Shemgang and a courting pair along the Shemgang Road;
46. Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* **B**: One soaring at eye-level as we drove towards the Gayzam Chuu.
47. Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* **I**: Superb views of an adult as it circled low over our heads at Sultanpur Jheel.

48. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kinerii* **B**: Distant views near Tingtibi and then much better views below our Yongkola camp.
49. Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* **B**: One seen well at dusk going to roost near our Rontong camp.
50. Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis* **B**: Fairly widespread with individuals seen on at least six days including some very close views in flight of this powerful raptor.
51. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* **B**: Widespread and moderately common in open, non-forested country. A total of at least six counted as we ascended to Trongsa from the Mangde Chuu Valley on 12 April. Also known as Eurasian Kestrel.
52. Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* **B**: Thanks to some excellent work by Tashi we got the tour off to a great start with excellent views of this handsome species right next to our lodge in the Paro Valley.
53. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* **B**: One on the slopes of Pele La.
54. Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* **I**: One seen by Alan and heard by us all; Assam.
55. Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* **I**: Several seen at Sultanpur Jheel.
56. Common Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* **B**: Widespread and heard on many days. Also known as Hill Partridge.
57. Rufous-throated Hill Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* **B**: Heard on several days between Tingtibi and Morong.
58. Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii* **B**: Heard commonly along the lower section of the Shemgang and Limithang roads. Classified as globally Vulnerable.
59. Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* **B**: A total of eight seen very nicely as we ascended Cheli La on our first morning in Bhutan.
60. Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra* **B**: Fabulous close and prolonged views of a female just a few metres from us along the Limithang Road; heard commonly near our Sengor camp. Classified as globally Near Threatened.

61. Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* **B**: A pair one day and then a total of four the next morning including several gorgeous males seen superbly within and at the edge of magnificent mixed Rhododendron, Silver Fir, Birch forest on Pele La and another pair on the upper Limithang Road. Undoubtedly one of the world's most iridescent and spectacular birds. Amazing to think we completely missed this species on our first couple of tours to the kingdom. Also known as Impeyan Pheasant.
62. Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelana* **B**: Moderately common this year with 12 counted on Cheli La and between Ha and the confluence; seven on the Tashitang Track; a pair on the roadside on the outskirts of Thimpu; one on the Tashitang Trail; one male below Trongsa on the Shemgang Rd.; three on the Shemgang Road; and finally one male on the lower slopes of Yutong La.
63. Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* **I**: Several at Sultanpur Jheel; also heard in Assam near the Bhutan border.
64. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* **I**: Several at Sultanpur Jheel.
65. Black-tailed Crake *Amaurornis bicolor* **B**: A total of six seen superbly at Rotong. This species was only known from one specimen prior to VENT's tours to Bhutan; it now appears that this species is locally common throughout the kingdom.
66. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* **I**: Assam. Also known as Common Gallinule.
67. Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel. Also known as Eurasian Coot.
68. Grey-headed Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel. NOTE: The Purple Swamphen complex is now split into five species.
69. Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus* **I**: Three near Gauhati airport, Assam.
70. Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* **B**: Fabulous views of a pair with four chicks along the Po Chu; and one found by our driver Wangdi along the Jakar Chu. Despite that Bhutan is indeed a stronghold for this very special species finding it when it has very young chicks can prove challenging!
71. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* **I**: Common; Sultanpur Jheel.
72. Indian Thick-knee *Burhinus indicus* **I**: Three at Sultanpur Jheel. NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) split this taxon from Eurasian Thick-knee.

73. Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus* **I**: At least three very distantly at Sultanpur Jheel.
74. Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus* **I**: Fabulous close looks at two at Sultanpur Jheel.
75. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel; Assam.
76. River Lapwing *Vanellus duvauceli* **B**: One along the Paro Chu; the Ha Chu; several along the Puna Tsang Chu, Po Chuu and Mo Chuu.
77. Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* **B**: One 'roding' at dusk and dawn over our camp on Pele La and one roding over our Sengor camp.
78. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* **I**: Assam.
79. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* **I**: Two, Sultanpur Jheel. **B**: One along the Mo Chuu.
80. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
81. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* **I**: Three, Sultanpur Jheel.
82. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* **B**: One along the Paro and two along the Po Chuu.
83. Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* **I**: Circa. 100 at Sultanpur Jheel.
84. Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* **B**: One immature along the Puna Tsang Chuu.
85. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* **I**: One in smart breeding plumage near Gauhati airport, Assam.
86. Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* **I**: **B**: Widespread and common. It is now almost impossible to determine which individuals are feral birds and which are wild bred birds.
87. Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota* **B**: A small flock seen briefly over the Cheri Valley and then thanks to Al wonderful views of a flock of 61 as it swirled and perched on near vertical ledges between the Ha Valley and Gayzam Chuu.

88. Ashy Wood-Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis* **B**: Two seen in flight on Yutong La. A very rarely encountered species in Bhutan.
89. Speckled Wood-Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* **B**: A flock of approximately 40 shortly after dawn on the slopes above Trongsa and a flock of 30 on Kori La.
90. Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* **B**: Widespread, common and observed almost daily, often foraging on the road.
91. Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* **B**: Moderately common locally in open country. Widespread and along the lower slopes of Dochu La; Puna Tsang Chuu valley; Po Chuu valley; Punakha; Tashigang trail; above Wangdi; one on the Limithang Rd. at Yongkola; several between Kori La and Trashigang and on our eastern descent. **I**: Assam.
92. Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
93. Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decocto* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
94. Barred Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia unchall* **B**: Notably common and vocal this year; several daily along the Shemgang Rd., heard on the Limithang Rd. and one seen below Namling and two on the Pemygatsel Rd.
95. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* **B**: Two on the Shemgang Rd. Also known as Green-winged Ground-Dove.
96. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera* **I**: Fairly common at Sultanpur Jheel; Assam.
97. Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda* **B**: At least six seen very nicely within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi.
98. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura* **B**: Superb 'scope views of several just above Wangdi and five on the Limithang Road.
99. Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* **B**: Several small groups seen well in flight including a total of six below Morong.
100. Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* **I**: Several at Sultanpur Jheel.
101. Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* **I**: Fairly common, Sultanpur Jheel.

102. Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* **I**: One male and female seen nicely near the Bhutan border in Assam.
103. Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala* **I**: A pair seen beautifully at Sultanpur Jheel.
104. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* **B**: Heard at our lunch site on the Shemgang Road.
105. Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* **B**: Widespread and common. Seen or heard on many days including exceptional 'scope views of a singing bird right next to our camp at Morong. NOTE: Sometimes placed in *Cuculus*.
106. Whistling Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* **B**: Widespread but rather sparse, we enjoyed superb views of a single bird as it responded quickly to our tape in woodland below Morong. NOTE: What was previously treated as Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *H. fugax* has now been split into at least three species and the population resident in the Himalayas becomes Whistling Hawk-Cuckoo (King 2004, Rasmussen & Anderton 2005). Sometimes placed in *Cuculus*.
107. Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* **B**: Heard daily from the Shemgang Rd. eastwards and at least one seen in flight along the Limithang Rd.
108. Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* **B**: Widespread; heard most days and several seen. Also known as Eurasian Cuckoo.
109. Himalayan (Oriental) Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* **B**: Widespread and common; heard most days and seen well on Dochu La. NOTE: 'Oriental' Cuckoo *C. saturatus* has recently been split three ways: the taxon we saw Himalayan Cuckoo *C. saturatus* (previously referred to as Oriental Cuckoo); Horsfield's Cuckoo *C. optatus* and Sunda Cuckoo *C. lepidus*.
110. Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* **B**: Heard commonly along the Limithang Rd. east to near Morong and one seen rather briefly along the Limithang Road.
111. Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* **B**: One heard near Somdrup Jonkhar.
112. Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus* **B**: One male on the Shemgang Rd. and a second male below Morong thanks to some great spotting by Judith.
113. Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* **B**: Widespread and moderately common; heard fairly regularly and two seen nicely near Tingtibi. NOTE:

- Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that 'Drongo Cuckoo' clearly involves multiple species. The birds we saw and heard in the Himalayas is just one of several species derived from this split.
114. Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Assam. **B**: Heard along the Tashitang Trail and below Morong.
115. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Assam. **B**: One on the Shemgang Rd. was something of surprise.
116. Lesser Coucal *Centropus ateralbus* **I**: One seen in Assam.
117. Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* **B**: Heard on several days from the Limithang Rd. east to Morong.
118. Himalayan Wood Owl *Strix nivicola* **B**: Heard both mornings at our Sengor camp. NOTE: Split from Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (see Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
119. Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodei* **B**: Fabulous close 'scope views of one very fierce individual on the slopes above our camp near Tingtibi. Thanks to Alan for some superb spotting.
120. Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* **B**: Several birds heard but despite our best efforts none seen.
121. Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* **I**: One seen well at Sultanpur Jheel.
122. Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* **B**: One on Cheli La; three as we ascended Dochu La; super views of at least three birds hawking every morning outside our hotel near Punakha; heard at ca. 2000m on the Limithang Rd. and at our Ronong Camp. NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) point out that Himalayan (*jotaka*) South Indian (*indicus*) and Sri Lankan (*kelaarti*) populations exhibit clear, consistent morphological and vocal differences such that they should be treated as separate species.
123. Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* **B**: Fairly common this year with good numbers seen over Dochu La; Tashitang Trail; Pele La; the Shemgang Rd. and >500 over the Limithang Rd. on 25 April.
124. White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* **B**: This wonderfully evocative bird was first seen as a group of 12 over the Limithang Rd; then six the following day and then a spectacular flock of 50+ as they performed their spectacular aerial acrobatics over the Shonkhar Chuu valley.

125. Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* **I:** Common in Assam. **B:** Four below Deothang.
126. Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* **B:** Widespread and locally common. Seen almost daily with nesting birds observed at several sites.
127. Little Swift *Apus affinis* **I:** A flock of *circa* 100 at the bridge over the Rongia River.
128. Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardii* **B: Perhaps the ultimate Bhutan bird experience.** What a truly wondrous experience; we found a pair at what is becoming VENT's 'usual' site along the Limithang Rd. and again the birds responded quickly and confidently - perhaps this pair has not been overly plagued by tape-playback. It was a truly charming experience; a never to be forgotten show as they flirted, called and just sat for *ca.* 10 minutes, providing a life-time of visual memories including truly amazing 'scope views. And just to round things off we enjoyed a rather dapper female on Kori La.
129. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* **B:** One along the Po Chuu and one near Somdrup Jonkhar. Also known as Eurasian or River Kingfisher.
130. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* **I:** Sultanpur Jheel; Assam. **B:** 1-2 along the Puna Tsang Chuu; one near Tingtibi; and three as we drove up to the village of Mongar.
131. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* **I:** One heard then seen nicely in flight as we drove from Bhutan to Gauhati, Assam.
132. Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris* **B:** This striking and charismatic species was first seen along the Ha Chuu; we then had fine views of a pair fishing in the Po Chuu and finally one along the Jakar Chuu.
133. Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctiornis athertoni* **B:** One on the Shemgang Road and then fabulous encounters with a couple of pairs near Yongkola along the Limithang Rd. and then several individuals along the lower Limithang Rd. in drier woodland on the slopes of the Shonkhar Chuu valley.
134. Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* **I:** Several at Sultanpur Jheel. Also known as Little Green Bee-eater.
135. Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippensis* **I:** A total of four seen well, just beyond the Bhutan border into Assam.

136. Hoopoe *Upupa epops* **I**: One at Ghandi's memorial. **B**: Widespread in ones and twos.
137. Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* **I**: Great views of a pair in the woodland at Sultanpur Jheel.
138. Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* **B**: Truly one of the world's most magnificent birds. Thanks to some quick spotting by Alan we all enjoyed some great views of a pair bathing in the rain-soaked leaves of a large tree above the Magde Chu; a third individual was seen in flight further down-river. Classified as globally Near Threatened.
139. Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis* **B**: Without doubt, for many a major highlight of a great tour. Sensational views of several birds daily along the road from Shemgang to Tingtibi: 16 April: one glorious male perched above our lunch stop put on an amazing and prolonged show; 17 April: two males near Tingtibi; 19 April: a total of four along the Shemgang Rd.; 24 - 26 April: several daily along the Limithang Rd. including some evocative close studies; 27 April: three on the lower Limithang Rd.; 28 April: three on Kori La and on 29 April: a total of six below Morong. Classified as globally Vulnerable.
140. Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* **B**: Widespread and common, recorded almost daily.
141. Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii* **B**: Moderately widespread and recorded in low numbers.
142. Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica* **B**: Moderately widespread and recorded in low numbers.
143. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* **I**: Two at Sultanpur Jheel.
144. Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus* **B**: One male and a second bird seen very nicely at a Rock Bee hive below Trongsa. This is a little known and rarely observed species. One also below our Yongkola Camp. Classified as globally Near Threatened.
145. Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* **B**: Heard on Pele La.
146. White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea* **B**: Two seen with a mixed flock below the village of Dangdung.

147. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus* **B:** Great looks at a pair just above Tingtibi and one female below Morong.
148. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Picooides macei* **B:** Good looks at a pair near Tingtibi.
149. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Picooides hyperythrus* **B:** A notably handsome species; we saw three in the Cheri Valley where this species appears to be fairly common - certainly the number of trees encircled by rings of drill holes would indicate this to be the case; a female on Yutong La and then fine views of another female, thanks to Mary, on Kori La.
150. Darjeeling Woodpecker *Picooides darjellensis* **B:** Fine views of a male on Dochu La and a female near Sengor.
151. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Picooides cathpharius* **B:** Great looks at a male on the Shemgang Rd. - thanks to some great spotting by Judith; and a male on Kori La put on a great show.
152. Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachurus* **B:** One male along the Tashitang Trail; heard on Pele La and a female seen on the Shemgang Rd.
153. Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha* **B:** A total of three seen nicely along along the Tashitang Trail and heard near Yongkola on the Limithang Rd.
154. Grey-headed (Grey-faced) Woodpecker *Picus canus* **B:** Excellent views of a male on Pele La contrasted with the frustrating views of the female the day before; heard along the Shemgang Rd. and below Morong.
155. Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* **B:** Notably common this year with several birds seen and/or heard on at least 10 days. One female on the Tashitang Trail and on the Shemgang gave everyone exceptional views of what is often a difficult species to see well.

## PASSERINES

156. Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* **B:** Undoubtedly a trip highlight; one of a pair put on a wonderful show as he called and perched above us and at eye-level permitting leisurely study of all his attributes; above our Yongkola Camp on the Limithang Rd.

157. Greater Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
158. Ashy-crowned Finch-lark *Eremopterix griseus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
159. Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel. **B**: Several seen and heard at our Sengor camp.
160. Pale Sand Martin *Riparia diluta* **B**: One observed at close quarters over fields at Rontong. There are very few records of this species in Bhutan.
161. Grey-throated Sand-Martin *Riparia chinensis* **I**: Good looks at many birds at Sultanpur Jheel. NOTE: Split from Plain Martin (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
162. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* **B**: Several around the village of Mongar.
163. Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
164. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* **I**: Just one at Sultanpur Jheel.
- [Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* **B**: Likely several with Nepal House Martins (see below).]
165. Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalensis* **B**: A widespread and locally common breeding species; a traditional nesting site along the Shemgang Road of both species of house martins appeared to have been abandoned this year although we saw a flock of *circa* 200, likely containing both species, in flight nearby. Flocks of *circa* 100 unidentified species were also seen on the slopes of Pele La; further down the Shemgang Rd. and on the Limithang Rd. At least 30 pairs of Nepal House Martins were 'scoped attending their nests on the Limithang Rd. near Namling.
166. Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel. NOTE: The recent revision of the taxonomy of the Richard's Pipit (including Paddyfield Pipit) complex has resulted in the large northern migratory form *richardi* being accepted as a distinct species *Anthus richardi*. Consequently the name *Anthus novaeseelandiae* is now restricted to the species occurring in New Zealand and Australia. The relatively small(ish) form found in the cultivated lowlands of south and south-east Asia is now treated as Paddyfield Pipit *A. rufulus*.
167. Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.

168. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* **B**: Widespread and fairly common; seen in moderate numbers (range 2-10) on many days, including several individuals uttering their full song.
169. Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* **B**: Notably common this year; the large numbers seen, many in breeding plumage, suggest that we encountered a passage movement of this species presumably *en route* to its breeding grounds at higher elevations: 9 April: One along the Paro Chu; 10 April: 12 on Cheli La; 12 April: As many as 40 on Dochu La; 14 April: a total of 50 on the top of Pele La and 20 the following day.
170. Himalayan Wagtail *Motacilla (alba) alboides* **B**: Widespread and moderately common along creeks and rivers and associated open habitats such as farmland: Paro Valley; Cheli La; Puna Tsang and Po chuus; Thrumsingla.
171. Amur Wagtail *Motacilla (alba) leucopsis* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel. **B**: One or two along the Paro Chu and several along the Po Chuu.
172. Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* **B**: One superb individual in full breeding plumage within wet paddyfields along the Po Chu near Punakha Dzong.
173. Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* **I**: At least 50 at Gandhi's memorial.
174. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* **B**: Scattered low numbers including one or two in very smart breeding plumage.
175. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschista* **B**: Rather quiet this year with only a handful seen along the Tshitang Trail and on the Shemgang Rd.
176. Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* **I**: Fine looks at a pair and two females in the woodlands surrounding Sultanpur Jheel.
177. Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* **B**: Widespread and moderately common.
178. Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* **B**: Widespread and fairly common, seen and/or heard on four days.
179. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* **B**: Widespread and generally common at lower elevations, seen and/or heard on five days. NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) show that southern India populations should be treated as a separate species. Consequently northern populations adopt the specific name *speciosus*.

180. Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* **B**: Several pairs seen very nicely, often with mixed species flocks in mid-elevations forests.
181. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus* **B**: Common along the Shemgang Rd.
182. Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus* **B**: A strikingly handsome bulbul. A total of ten along the Shemgang Rd. and notably more than 50 moving up slope on the Limithang Rd. below our Yongkola camp; ten the following day on the lower Limithang Rd; six on Kori La; 10+ from Rontong to Morong and common below Morong.
183. Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris* **B**: Four in degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi and two in the Somdrup Jonkhar area. NOTE: The Black-crested Bulbul group is better treated as a superspecies consisting probably of five allopatric species: *P. melanicteris* - Sri Lanka; *P. gularis* Western Ghats, South India; *P. flaviventris* - Himalayas and Central India eastwards to Vietnam; *P. dispar* - Sumatra; and *P. montis* - Borneo. (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
184. Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* **B**: Three near Somdrup Jonkhar.
185. Himalayan White-cheeked Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys* **B**: Common between Korila and Rontong. Also known as White-cheeked Bulbul.
186. Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* **B**: Ubiquitous in all but the most densely forested areas up to circa 2,300m. **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Assam.
187. White-throated Bulbul *Alphoixus flaveolus* **B**: Many seen within Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi and near Somdrup Jonkhar.
188. Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* **B**: Seen in secondary woodland on several days along the Shemgang Rd. NOTE: For the change of genus see Inskipp *et al* (1996)
189. Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes mccllellandi* **B**: The bulbul with the 'bad hair day' along the Tashitang Trail; a total of six along the Shemgang Rd. and then several daily along the lower half of the Limithang Rd.
190. Himalayan Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* **B**: Common and widespread; seen almost daily except along the Limithang Rd. NOTE: For details of the revised taxonomy of this interesting but complex group see Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

191. Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* **B**: Excellent views of a yellow-crested female (the male has an orange-yellow crest) on Cheli La and a male near Sengor.
192. Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* **B**: A fine pair showed off beautifully along the Tashitang Trail; several fine views on three days along the Shemgang Rd and a pair below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd.
193. Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* **B**: Several below Morong during our eastern descent. **I**: Several just across the Bhutan border into Assam.
194. Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* **B**: Three along the Paro Chuu; a total of seven in the Ha Valley; two along the Mo Chuu and one between Shemgang and Trongsa.
195. Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophinata* **B**: Notably uncommon this year. Invariably encountered within scrubby areas adjoining farmland: two on Cheli la; one male in the Cheri Valley; and singles on two days on Pele La.
196. Blue-capped Rock-Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus* **B**: The male is not only a beautiful looking creature but a great songster. Widespread and common with several individuals and pairs recorded on many days.
197. Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* **B**: Yet another very handsome species that we saw on several occasions including the very striking male.
198. Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius* **B**: One male on Kori La.
199. Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* **B**: Common and ubiquitous; recorded daily 150 - 3200m; at times pairs were recorded along every 100 - 200m of road; many nest in the concrete road culverts.
200. Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixonii* **B**: A fabulous reward for our effort so early one cold morning; we heard several and 'scoped one as sang its lovely refrain from the shadows of an immensely tall Hemlock just below Thrumsing La (= pass). A rarely encountered species and even less frequently seen singing!
201. White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus* **B**: Moderately common in the Blue Pine forests of the west east to the Limithang Rd.
202. Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul* **B**: Notably uncommon this year with the exception of Kori La where we found as many 20 individuals and then just a single male the next day below Rotong and a single female below Morong.

203. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* **B**: Many heard on several days but frustratingly only glimpsed on the Limithang Rd.
204. White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* **B**: Heard just once this year above Sengor.
205. Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger* **B**: Scattered pairs on grassy scrubby slopes of less well watered areas.
206. Black-throated Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis* **B**: Superb views of a pair in full breeding plumage within roadside scrub between Rontong and Morong.
207. Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens* **B**: A pair seen and heard nicely along the Limithang Road below Yongkola.
208. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* **I**: Heard only; Assam
209. Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
210. Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
211. Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata* **B**: Very tough to see well this year despite that this charismatic species was widespread and heard frequently we eventually saw a couple of individuals superbly well along the Limithang Road just below Sengor.
212. Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea* **B**: Heard at four locations and then seen rather well on the Limithang Rd.
213. Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* **B**: Widespread and heard frequently and one glimpsed along the Limithang Rd.
214. Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Cettia fortipes* **B**: Heard or seen on several days, invariably in open, scrubby country with one very obliging individual on the Limithang Rd.
215. Hume's Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnescens* **B**: One seen well on the upper slopes of Yutong La and heard on the Limithang Rd. NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) separate Himalayn populations from those in China which have a quite different song, hence the amended common name.

216. Grey-sided Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons* **B**: Widespread and but rather uncommon this year. Nevertheless we all enjoyed superb views of several individuals and pairs as they responded dramatically to our tape.
217. Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon* **I**: One in scrub just beyond the Assam immigration post.
218. Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus* **B**: Good looks at individuals below our Yongkola and Morong camps.
219. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* **B**: One or two at Sultanpur Jheel and along the Yamuna River.
220. Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* **I**: At least two in scrub just beyond the Assam immigration post.
221. Tickell's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus affinis* **B**: Uncommon this year with scattered singles on five days and three between Ura and Thrumsing La as they made their way to their breeding grounds at higher elevations.
222. Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* **B**: Moderately common at higher elevations from Yutong La eastwards; usually in mixed species flocks. Also known as Orange-barred Warbler
223. Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* **B**: Widespread and generally common, most frequently encountered in mixed species flocks. Also known as Grey-faced Warbler, Grey-faced Leaf-Warbler, Grey-throated Willow Warbler
224. Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus* **B**: Fairly common this year with small numbers in mixed flocks on Cheli La; Shemgang Rd; several on the Limithang Road including a total of six below Namling on 24 April. Also known as Pale-rumped Warbler. NOTE: Several small and very similar *Phylloscopus* warblers were until recently considered to be a sub-species of Pallas's Warbler *P. proregulus*. Fieldwork in the mountains of central China by Per Alstrom and Urban Olsson has established that the forms *chloronotus* and *kansuensis* which were formerly considered to be subspecies of *P. proregulus* are in fact distinct species; Lemon-rumped Warbler *P. chloronotus* and Gansu Leaf Warbler *P. kansuensis*. This work continues and other taxa revealed some of which may winter or occur on passage in Bhutan Hume's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* **B**: One in the Cheri Valley; Dochu La; a total of four between Ura and Thrumsing La and two near Sengor on the Limithang Rd. This and a couple of other very similar and very confusing species provide quite an identification challenge.

225. Large-billed Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris* **B:** Notably uncommon this year and singles were seen or heard on just five occasions mainly from Thrumsing La eastwards.
226. Blyth's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* **B:** Widespread and common, locally very common. Also known as Blyth's Crowned Leaf Warbler, Blyth's Crowned Willow Warbler.
227. Yellow-vented Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus cantator* **B:** Great looks at one on the Tashitang Trail; one in the Mangde Chuu Valley; four between Ura and Thrumsing La and two along the Limithang Rd. This is a distinctive and little known *Phylloscopus* species. Also known as Yellow-faced Leaf Warbler or Yellow-throated Leaf Warbler.
228. Whistler's Spectacled Warbler *Seicercus whistleri* **B:** Most of the Golden Spectacled Warblers we encountered belonged to this taxon.
229. Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii* **B:** Birds we saw below Trongsa down to Tingtibi and from Sengor almost certainly belonged to this taxon. NOTE: The Golden-spectacled Warbler has until very recently been treated as a single species, *Seicercus burkii*, widely distributed in the mountains of southern Asia. Recent papers by Per Alstrom and others provides strong evidence that this taxon is actually a complex of six species. At least two species occur and probably breed in Bhutan: Golden-spectacled Warbler *S. burkii* and Whistler's Warbler *S. whistleri*. See Ibis (1999) 141, pp 545-568 and Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).
230. Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos* **B:** Widespread and fairly common throughout much of the tour except at the highest elevations.
231. White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* **B:** Very uncommon with just one or two seen on two days along the Limithang Road.
232. Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys* **B:** Common on the Limithang Rd. above our Yonkola camp.
233. Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* **B:** Widespread and locally common, with mixed species flocks; notably common on Dochu La; the Shemgang Rd. and from the Limithang Rd. eastwards.
234. Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* **B:** As many as six seen superbly in sub-tropical forest above Tingtibi and then four below our Yonkola camp on the

- Limithang Rd. This charming little character is one of the more elusive and localised warblers in Bhutan.
235. Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* **B:** One of the most attractive and charming of all Old World Warblers we encountered it fairly commonly this year, often in mixed flocks at mid-elevations.
236. Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* **B:** Singles on the Shemgang Rd; a total of ten near our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd; ten above Mongar on Kori La including a nesting pair and several daily thereafter. Also known as Siberian Sooty Flycatcher.
237. Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* **B:** Great looks at one along the Tashitang Trail.
238. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophinata* **B:** Typically common in higher elevation forest with as many as 20 seen on three days on the Limithang Rd.
239. Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* **B:** Single males in breeding plumage on the Shemgang Rd. were something of surprise
240. White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula monnileger* **B:** Heard only along the Shemgang Rd; correctly regarded as one of the most difficult birds to see.
241. Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* **B:** A pair on the Shemgang Rd. and then small numbers daily from the Limithang Rd. eastwards.
242. Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris* **B:** A truly lovely bird that graced us with fine views on several occasions, often with mixed species flocks.
243. Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* **B:** Just one male seen nicely on Pele La.
244. Verditer Flycatcher *Muscicapa thalassina* **B:** Widespread and often very common bird, seen almost daily. A truly spectacular bird.
245. Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* **B:** One male on the Shemgang Rd. and one below Morong.
246. Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* **B:** Several superb views of glowing males and females singing on territory including one incredible 'scope study of a male along the Trashitang Trail. Several heard and seen along the Shemgang and then on Limithang Rd. east to near Deothang.

247. Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* **B**: A real stunner, several males gave us great views: several seen and heard daily on Dochu La and the Limithang Road.
248. Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* **B**: One male singing his heart and then copulating with his bride on the Shemgang Rd.
249. Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* **B**: Gorgeous males seen beautifully between Trongsa and Shemgang and along the Shemgang Road.
250. Pygmy Blue-Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsonii* **B**: A great year for this uncommon and easily missed species; at least three pairs seen beautifully along the Limithang Rd. near our Yongkola camp.
251. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicacapa ceylonensis* **B**: Widespread and moderately common; seen daily except at higher elevations.
252. Indian Blue Robin *Luscinia brunnea* **B**: Great looks at a singing male on Kori La and then below Rontong.
253. Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-Robin *Tarsiger rufilatus* **B**: A flock of seven males put on a spectacular show as they fed hungrily in a small wooded clearing on Cheli La were almost certainly responding to the overnight fall of snow. Also known as Red-flanked Bluetail; Orange-flanked Bush-Robin. NOTE: Split by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) from north Asian *T. cyanurus*.
254. White-browed Bush-Robin *Tarsiger indicus* **B**: Heard but unresponsive on Thrumsing La.
255. Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin *Tarsiger hyperythrus* **B**: One of the many highlights of the tour; a gorgeous male sat and sang and foraged on the upper slopes of Thrumsing La.
256. Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* **B**: Moderately common at low and medium elevations in lightly wooded farmland and around settlements. **I**: Assam.
257. White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* **B**: One seen near Somdrup Jonkhar.
258. Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
259. Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* **I**: Four, Sultanpur Jheel.

260. Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* **B**: One female between Ha and the confluence.
261. Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* **B**: Notably common this year: ten on Cheli La; ten in the Cheri Valley; two on Dochu La; two on Pele La; and one on Thrumsing La.
262. White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* **B**: Widespread and moderately common; seen on many of the creeks, streams and rivers that we encountered; c. 700 - 3500m; a thoroughly delightful, charming, dapper bird. Also known as River Chat, River Redstart, White-capped Chat, White-capped River Chat.
263. Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* **B**: Widespread and common; seen almost daily with as many as six on one day; usually seen in pairs with many males singing; found along virtually every stretch of creek, stream and river we encountered in addition to cliff-side waterfalls and springs; from near the Paro Valley east to Somdrup Jonkhar. Also known as Plumbeous Redstart.
264. White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum* **B**: Heard at many sites but only one male seen below Rontong but seen very nicely.
265. Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* **B**: One pair foraging on the slopes of Pele - thanks to some fine spotting by Maureen; singles on two days along the Shemgang Rd; the Limithang Rd and below Morong.
266. Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* **B**: Notably uncommon this year: just three along the Mo Chuu on the Trashitang Trail and two on two days on the Shemgang Rd.
267. Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus* **B**: One flushed from the edge of the road below Trongsa and one seen by Wayne below or Morong camp.
268. Purple Cochoa *Cochoa purpurea* **B**: Arguably THE highlight of the entire tour and a lifer for your leader! A female was seen briefly but clearly below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd. and then a male was heard singing along the Pemygatsel Rd. where it responded confidently to tape play-back. What a fine, fine bird!
269. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel. NOTE: Some authorities treat the population wintering in the Indian sub-continent as a full species separate from Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*. See, however, Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

270. Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* **I**: Shemgang Rd. **B**: Three males in farmland at the start of the Trashitang Trail are an unusual record.
271. Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* **B**: Widespread and common; observed on a total of nine days in open scrubby country, especially farmland.
272. Brown Rock-Chat *Cercomela fusca* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
273. Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha* **B**: Notably uncommon this year with just a handful of birds seen albeit very confidently.
274. White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* **B**: One on the Shemgang Road and then daily eastwards from the Limithang Road to Somdrup Jonkhar.
275. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* **B**: Great looks at a pair in fairly dry, scrubby woodland near the village of Dungdung and two below Morong.
- Family Timaliidae (Babblers) - Colloquially known as 'Real Birds' this is the most heterogenous group of Asian birds reflecting a surprising and generally very attractive diversity of form and function. Systematics of Asian birds has lagged behind that of other continents for an overly long time. Happily that situation is being rapidly redressed and the recent publication of Rasmussen & Anderton (2005 - Birds of South Asia) and even more recently volume 12 of the Handbook of the Birds of the World (HBW) summarises the exciting new findings and presents them in a clear and concise manner. I have indicated these changes below which include several worthy splits and numerous re-assignments at the generic level.**
- The sequence of species and generic assignment follows volume 12 of HBW.**
276. Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Lioparus chrysotis* **B**: Superb views of this gorgeous bird; a group of four along the Limithang Road. NOTE: Previously placed in *Alcippe*.
277. White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus* **B**: Widespread and locally common usually with mixed species flocks in the understory of both mixed Evergreen and Cool Mixed Broad-leaved Forest at high elevations. NOTE: Previously placed in *Alcippe*.
278. Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta* **B**: Notably common this year with totals of 3-20 encountered daily along the Shemgang Rd. and small numbers along the Limithang Rd. Also known as Black-lored Yuhina.

279. Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* **B:** Widespread and common, especially at high elevations.
280. Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis* **B:** Widespread and common to very common, especially at high elevations.
281. White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri* **B:** Fairly common this year: totals of 5-10 daily along the Middle Limithang Rd. especially near our Yongkola Camp and a flock of ten below Morong.
282. Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* **B:** Wonderfully widespread and common; recorded almost daily; observed in mixed species flocks and mono-specific flocks in mixed Broad-leaved Forest.
283. Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* **B:** A rather localised species; 10-20 daily along the Shemgang Road and several below our Morong Camp.
284. Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis* **B:** Usually very skulking and locally quite numerous, this year, however, we were treated to several very good views of this interesting looking Fulvetta: ca. 10 along the Shemgang Road and one in the Shonkhar Chuu Valley.
285. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps* **B:** One between Trongsa and Shemgang.
286. Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris* **B:** Initially this species gave us quite struggle this year with only one rather reluctant individual showing in the dead bamboo on the upper slopes of Yutong La. Happily we subsequently found two pairs just below Sengor on the Limithang Rd. which provided superb views. Also known as Sicklebilled Scimitar-babbler.
287. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys* **B:** Moderately common and several seen superbly well; the first in scrub just above Wangdi thanks to some great spotting by Wayne and then below Yongkola on the Limithang Rd.
288. White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* **B:** OK views of a two rather unresponsive birds within partially degraded Subtropical woodland, c. 650 m elevation, near Tingtibi.

289. Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* **B**: Great views of a very confiding pair and a single bird on Dochu La and a pair below Rontong; several others heard.
290. Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* **B**: One seen by Alan along the Limithang Rd.
291. Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis caudatus* **B**: Brief views of this fabulous little songster along the Limithang Rd. Classified as globally Near Threatened.
292. Spotted Wren-Babbler *Elachura formosus* **B**: Several were heard but despite glimpses on the Shemgang Rd. we finally got to grips with this sprite below Morong. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Spelaeornis*.
293. Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* **B**: Widespread and heard commonly but very difficult to see again this year.
294. Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* **B**: Superb views of two on two ways along the Limithang Road. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Stachyris*.
295. Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps* **B**: Commonly heard and/or seen on at least nine days. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Stachyris*.
296. Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronus gularis* **B**: Heard near Somdrup Jonkhar. NOTE: Formerly treated as conspecific with the Bornean population, however, clear morphological, bigeographic and vocal differences strongly suggest these two taxa should be treated as separate species.
297. White-hooded Babbler *Gampsorhynchus rufulus* **B**: Fine looks at two groups of five in giant bamboo near Tingtibi. NOTE: Formerly treated as conspecific with *G. torquatus* Collared Babbler of Thailand and SE Asia.
298. Yellow-throated Fulvetta *Pseudominla cinerea* **B**: In many ways this species epitomises the quality of the birding in Bhutan. A little known and rarely if ever seen species throughout most of its range it is locally common in Bhutan especially along the Limithang Road. We saw several on three days at this fabulous site including as many as 12 on one day! NOTE: Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.
299. Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Pseudominla castaneiceps* **B**: Notably uncommon this year with low numbers in cool mixed Broad-leaved Forest on the Limithang Rd. and three below Rontong. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.
300. Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.

301. Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
302. Himalayan Cutia *Cutia nipalensis* **B**: Seasonal views a group of four and then two the following day on the Limitang Rd. just above our Yonkola camp. We then found another two below Rontong and finally a pair attending a nest between Morong and Deothang. NOTE: Formerly treated as conspecific with *C. legalleni* Vietnamese Cutia.
303. Grey-sided Laughingthrush *Dryonastes caerulatus* **B**: An exceptional year for this normally very elusive species; two very responsive birds were seen in bamboo on the Middle Limithang Road with another very confident pair the following day, brilliantly spotted by Mike, just below our Yonkola Camp that again permitted 'scope views! NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.
304. Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Dryonastes ruficollis* **B**: Fabulous views of a total of 12 very responsive birds between Trongsa and Shemgang and then two near Tingtibi. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.
305. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* **B**: One of the most attractive and effervescent of Asia's laughingthrushes. Common, seen daily over four days (range 3-20) along the road between Trongsa and Tingtibi; heard commonly on the Limithang Rd. and one below Kori La. NOTE: Sumatran populations are now treated as a separate species *G. bicolor* Black-and-white-Laughingthrush
306. Greater-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* **B**: Heard within secondary woodland and partially degraded Subtropical Forest near Tingtibi. Sorting out this species from Lessers is no mean feat.
307. Lesser Necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* **B**: Excellent views of a flock of seven near Tingtibi.
308. White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis* **B**: Widespread and common, locally very common; occasionally in flocks of >50 with daily totals exceeding 200. Recorded on many days.
309. Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striata* **B**: Common and recorded widely in suitable forested habitat on most days. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.
310. Bhutan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron imbricatum* **B**: Widespread in low numbers; usually in scrubby edges of forest and farmland. NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) present good evidence for splitting this taxon from Streaked

- Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron (Garrulax) lineatus*. The Bhutan Laughingthrush ranges throughout Bhutan eastwards to W Aranchal Pradesh. Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.
311. Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla rufogularis* **B**: One seen very nicely on three days along the Shemgang Rd. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.
312. Spotted Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ocellatus* **B**: Amazing views of one of these spectacular birds on Yutong La. Just hearing this species is sheer joy. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.
313. Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron squamatum* **B**: Two seen very well below Sengor on the Limithang Rd. and then amazingly four below Morong put on a great show. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.
314. Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affinis* **B**: Widespread and fairly common this year at upper elevations. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.
315. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum* **B**: Two seen nicely in the Ha Valley and another two seen well on the Limithang Rd. and four below Rontong. NOTE: Formerly conspecific with *T. chrysopterum* Assam Laughingthrush, *T. melanostigma* Silver-eared Laughingthrush, and *T. peninsulae* Malayan Laughingthrush. Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.
316. Crimson-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea* **B**: Fabulous views of several responsive individuals below Morong. NOTE: Formerly treated as conspecific with *L. ripponi* of Thailand, Burma and S China.
317. Chestnut-tailed Minla *Chrysominla strigula* **B**: This striking 'babbler' was seen on many days and is common and widespread in suitable habitat. Also known as Bar-throated Siva/Minla. NOTE: Formerly placed in Minla.
318. Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* **B**: Rather quiet this year with the first birds seen on Yutong La but thereafter several seen daily along the Limithang Rd.
319. Blue-winged Minla *Siva cyanouroptera* **B**: Moderately common this year being seen with mixed species flocks on a total of eight days including a total of 40 near Yongkola on one day. Also known as Blue-winged Siva. NOTE: Formerly placed in Minla.
320. Silver-eared Mesia *Mesia argentauris* **B**: One or two along the Shemgang Rd. and abundant below our Morong Camp. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Leiothrix*.

321. Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* **B**: A good year for this often elusive species: two on the Limithang Rd; four on Kori La; four below Rontong and two below Morong.
322. Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides* **B**: Fairly common below our Morong Camp.
323. Rufous Sibia *Malacias capistratus* **B**: Common to occasionally abundant and ubiquitous; seen almost daily. Also known as Black-capped Sibia. NOTE: Formerly placed in *Heterophasia*.
324. Hoary Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis* **B**: Exceptional views of two on Pele La; six on Yuting La; one on the Limithang Road and a total of 15 below Rontong.
325. Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni* **B**: Fabulous views of several wonderful flocks on the Limithang Rd. and during our eastern descent.
326. Black-headed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer* **B**: Fabulous views of a very responsive male on the Pemygatsel Rd.
327. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis* **B**: Widespread and fairly common with birds heard most days and some fine views of individuals, often with mixed species flocks.
328. Black-eared Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis* **B**: A good trip for this handsome species with pairs and singles seen on Pele La; the Shemgang Rd; Limithang Rd.; Kori La and below Rontong.
329. White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* **B**: Two on the Tashitang Trail; four on the Shemgang Rd. and four on the Limithang R.
330. Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor* **B**: Fabulous views of four in the Jakar Valley.
331. Fulvous Parrotbill *Paradoxornis fulvifrons* **B**: Exceptional views of a pair of these wonderful little birds in bamboo on the upper slopes of Thrumsing La.
332. Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis ruficeps* **B**: Fine views of this handsome species on the Limithang Rd; a group of six on our first morning near our Yongkola camp foraging noisily with a wonderful mixed flock and a pair later in the day below camp.

333. Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris* **B**: Superb views of a group of two feeding young together with a group of White-hooded Babblers in a large stand of the huge giant bamboo near Tingtibi. This is a very rarely seen species especially in Bhutan.
334. Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris* **B**: Widespread and seen regularly in small numbers invariably with mixed tit flocks at high elevations although notably common on Chelila.
335. Coal Tit *Parus ater* **B**: Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests.
336. Grey-crested Tit *Parus dichrous* **B**: Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests. Also known as Brown-crested Tit.
337. Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* **B**: This attractive Himalayan species was common to locally abundant and ubiquitous in suitable forested habitat. Seen daily at all localities visited. One of the most frequently seen species.
338. Black-spotted Yellow Tit *Parus spilonotus* **B**: This very snazzy looking bird was unusually common this year with superb views of four along the Shemgang Rd. and 2-4 daily from the Limithang Rd. eastwards with a total of ten between Rontong and Morong.
339. Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* **B**: Widespread and moderately common, especially in mixed species flocks.
340. Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* **B**: What a stunner! Exceptional views of several pairs along the Shemgang Road; one on the Limitnag Rd. and heard below Rontong.
341. Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* **B**: A delightful species and a great favourite with everyone. This year widespread and seen frequently.
342. Rufous-fronted Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos* **B**: Several good sightings this year. Also known as Black-browed Tit.
343. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta citrinocristata* **B**: A total of four near Tingtibi and then a pair attending a nest in lightly wooded farmland edge on the lower Limithang Rd. NOTE: Forms a superspecies with Eurasian Nuthatch *S. europaea*, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *S. nagaensis*, Kashmir Nuthatch *S. cashmirensis*, Indian Nuthatch *S. castanea*, and Neglected Nuthatch *S. neglecta* and often treated as conspecific with the last of these two taxa under the name

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *S. castanea*. However, *S. cinnamoventris* overlaps in range with *S. nagaensis* but separates altitudinally. *S. cinnamoventris* differs markedly morphologically and vocally from *S. castanea*. (see Rasmussen & Anderton 2005; HBW).

344. White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* **B**: Widespread and fairly common; usually in mixed species flocks.
345. Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta formosa* **B**: Sensational views of a single adult feeding with a mixed flock on the Shemgang Road - thanks to some really fine spotting by Maureen AND one, possibly two pairs seen even better and for much longer the following day! What a bird.
346. Hodgson's (Eurasian) Treecreeper *Certhia (familliaris) hodgsoni* **B**: Singles seen well in hemlock fir on the upper slopes of Thrumsing La. NOTE: Formally treated as conspecific with *C. familiaris* Eurasian Treecreeper clear genetic and vocal differences indicate that populations in the Himalayas (including Bhutan) and the mountains of S China should be treated as a separate species: Hodgson's Treecreeper *C. hodgsoni* Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis* **B**: A group of three seen superbly on Pele La.
347. Sikkim (Brown-throated) Treecreeper *Certhia discolor* **B**: Amazing views of an adult fighting with a moth on the Limithang Rd. below our Yongkola camp and others heard and singles seen between Rontong and Deothang. NOTE: Clear genetic and vocal differences indicate that what was until recently regarded as one species is now regarded as comprising two distinct species: Sikkim Treecreeper *C. discolor* through the central and eastern Himalayas (including Bhutan) east to SW China and Manipur Treecreeper *C. manipurensis* which is distributed from NE India to parts of Burma, Thailand and Vietnam
348. Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* **B**: Fine views of two males at our lunch site in the Ha Valley and then another incredible 'scope view of a male on Pele La.
349. Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
350. Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* **B**: Several wonderful, close view of this exquisite creature; notably common along the Limithang Rd.
351. Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* **B**: Widespread and common to abundant and often in mixed flocks.

352. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* **B**: Common and widespread especially at elevations generally lower than the previous two species.
353. Eastern Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* **B**: Great looks at several gorgeous and very confiding males on the Trongsa to Shemgang Road.
354. Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda* **B**: Undoubtedly one of THE birds of the entire trip; we were treated to the spectacle of at least 20+ males and a handful of females as they rapidly moved upslope between Ura and Gayzam Chuu. Several glowing males were also seen on Yutong La and on the Limithang Rd. Surely one of the world's most sumptuous sunbirds.
355. Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* **B**: Two in degraded subtropical woodland near Tingtibi on two days; and four in the forests below Morong.
356. Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum melanoxanthum* **B**: Outstanding views of this rarely encountered gem including prolonged 'scope views of two males and a female with a mixed flock on the Limithang Road.
357. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* **B**: Notably widespread and common; often with mixed flocks. Also known as Buff-bellied Flowerpecker.
358. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa* **B**: Widespread, locally common, especially along the Shemgang Rd; seen on several days but not at high elevations.
359. Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundoo* **I**: One near Sultanpur Jheel. NOTE: Split by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) from Eurasian Golden Oriole.
360. Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris* **B**: One near our hotel in the Punakha Valley.
361. Maroon Oriole *Oriolus trailli* **B**: Moderately common this year with some great views of both males and females.
362. Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella* **B**: Fine views of four in subtropical forests near Somdrup Jonkhar.
363. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* **I**: One at Sultanpur Jheel. **B**: One in the Shonkhar Chuu Valley.
364. Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus* **I**: Fabulous views of this most handsome of species at Sultanpur Jheel.

365. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel. **B**: Moderately common and widespread.
366. Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* **B**: Widespread, common and seen almost daily especially in areas of open country.
367. Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis* **I**: A pair attending a nest with young at Sultanpur Jheel.
368. Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis* **B**: A total of six in woodland on the Shemgang Rd.
369. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel. NOTE: Asian populations once united with African Black Drongo under *D. adsimilis* are now widely treated as a separate species *macrocercus*.
370. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* **B**: Widespread and common to very common; recorded almost daily.
371. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* **B**: Moderately common along the lower section of the Shemgang Road and above Somdrup Jonkhar with just one or two along the Limithang Rd.
372. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* **B**: One and then two the following day along the Shemgang Road; one along the middle Limithang Road and one above Deothang.
373. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus* **B**: A flock of 20+, presumably migrants foraging actively in the forest canopy along the Tashitang Trail; two on two days along the lower Limithang Rd.
374. Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* **I**: Several in Assam. **B**: Two above Deothang.
375. Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* **B**: Three on Dochu La and two on the Shemgang Rd.
376. Gold-billed Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris* **B**: One of the many great birds of Bhutan and the Himalayas. Widespread and common, especially at the forest edge and around relatively undisturbed farm-houses from Chelila east to near Deothang. Also known as Yellow-billed Magpie or Gold-billed Blue Magpie.

377. Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* **B**: One of the few disappointments of our tour, the one bird we finally tracked down slipped away before most participants could set their eyes on this most lovely of birds.
378. Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam.
379. Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* **B**: Widespread and locally moderately common. Also known as Himalayan Treepie.
380. Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica* **B**: Common in the upland valleys of the Bumthang Region.
381. Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* **B**: Widespread and common at higher elevations within evergreen forests from Cheli La and the Cheri Valley east to the Limithang Road. NOTE: This taxon is split from populations to the west viz. Larger Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga multipunctata*.
382. Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* **B**: Moderately common in groups 2 to 50 and one occasion 300 in the Jakar Valley.
383. House Crow *Corvus splendens* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam. **B**: One in Thimpu; one and on our return two in Shemgang (possibly the first records for this town); one in Tingtibi.
384. Large-billed Crow *Corvus japonensis* **B**: Common to very common and widespread, recorded daily. NOTE: The entire 'Large-billed Crow' complex has been revised (see Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). The very large-billed birds that inhabit the Himalayas from Afghanistan eastwards to Arunachal Pradesh are the birds we observed in Bhutan and they appropriately retain the name Large-billed Crow but are given the specific name *japonensis*. Populations in the lowlands of NE India are now referred to as Eastern Jungle Crow *C. levaillantii* and populations in peninsula India, south from the base of the Himalayas are referred to as Indian Jungle Crow *C. culminatus*. Based on my own observations of Indian sub-continent and populations elsewhere in SE Asia I completely concur with these authors revision of this fascinating group.
385. Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminatus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
386. Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus levaillantii* **I**: Assam.
387. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* **I**: Two seen rather well in flight near the Bhutan border in Assam.

388. White-vented Myna *Acridotheres javanaicus* **I**: Assam. **B**: Four in Shemgang is a new record for this location.
389. Jungle Myna *Acridotheres grandis* **I**: Assam.
390. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Common and ubiquitous in open country including the midst of urban madness! **B**: Common from the Wangdi Valley east to Trongsa and Shemgang. **I**: Delhi, Yamuna R. and Assam
391. Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Assam. NOTE: Previously placed in *Sturnus*.
392. Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Yamuna R.
393. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Common and ubiquitous, especially as a commensal of man. **B**: Mongar, Somdrup Jonkhar. **I**: Delhi; Assam.
394. Russet (Cinnamon) Sparrow *Passer rutilans* **B**: Common in suitable scrub and open country especially around farm buildings. Often together with Eurasian Tree Sparrows.
395. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* **B**: Ubiquitous in suitable open country especially around farm buildings. **I**: Assam.
396. Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* **I**: Six near the Bhutan border in Assam.
397. Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola* **B**: A flock of 15 on Yutong La.
398. Crimson-browed Finch *Propyrrhula subhimachala* **B**: Fabulous views of a female as she fed quietly on Pele La.
399. Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* **B**: Two females and a male on the Shemgang Rd; 20+ on Kori La where we often encounter large numbers of this species; and four below Rontong.
400. Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus pulcherrimus* **B**: Fine views of a lovely but rather late male on the edge of Ura village.
401. Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii* **B**: One female in the Cheri Valley; one male and two females on the upper slopes of Thrumsing La.
402. White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura* **B**: A total of six females on Cheli La and one female above Sengor.

403. Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* **B**: One male and a couple of females on the upper slopes of Thrumsing La.
404. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* **B**: An exceptional year for this often uncommon species; 10-20 on three days feeding on seeds in the canopy of a forest tree near Tingtibi; > 100 below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd; 40 below Rontong and 30 below Morong.
405. Tibetan Serin *Serinus thibetanus* **B**: A flock of 50+ on the Shemgang Rd.
406. Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis* **B**: Fabulous 'scope views of three on the Limithang Road.
407. Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala* **B**: Fine views of this handsome species on Cheli La and the Limithang Rd.
408. Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis* **B**: What a gorgeous bird! We were treated to fine views of a male on Cheli La; heard on Dochu La and four males on the upper Limithang Road.
409. Spot-winged Grosbeak *Coccothraustes melanozanthos* **B**: Finally a flock of six below Morong.
410. White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* **B**: Great looks at six on Cheli La and six between Ura and Thrumsing La.
411. Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi* **B**: Absolutely stunning views of single males and females on the Limithang Road.
412. Crested Bunting *Melophus lathamii* **B**: Scattered groups of 2-10 on four days in dry scrubby habitat.
413. Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.

## MAMMALS

1. Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis* **B**: Widespread and common especially at lower elevations.
2. Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatto* **I**: Assam.

3. Common (Hanuman) Langur *Presbytis entellus* **B**: Notably larger and more heavily furred than populations in the warmer climatic plains of India.
4. Capped Langur *Presbytis pileatus* **B**: Wonderful looks at a troop of these handsome primates along the Limithang Road.
5. Golden Langur *Presbytis geei* **B**: Notably common from just below Shemgang and down to near Tingtibi. Large numbers (20 - 100) seen on four days with several troops feeding on or at the side of the road including taking dirt from exposed cliffs.
6. Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula* **B**: Two seen by Al along the Shemgang Road and then another that we all saw on Kori La. This is a spectacular beast and one we have seen several times on our Bhutan tours.
7. Northern Otter *Lutra lutra* **B**: One spotted by Alan on the Puna Tsang Chuu just below Wangdi.
8. Parti-coloured Flying-Squirrel *Hylopetes alboniger* **B**: One seen on our night drive along the Limithang Road.
9. Hodgson's Flying Squirrel *Petaurista magnificus* **B**: Spectacular views of several perching for extended views including one at arm's length on the Limithang Road. A truly gorgeous creature (see the front cover of this report).
10. Giant Pied Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* **B**: One along the Limithang Rd.
11. Hoary-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus* **B**: Widespread and fairly common.
12. Orange-bellied Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah* **B**: One on the Shemgang Rd., several on the Limithang Rd. and one below Rontong.
13. Five-striped Squirrel *Funambulus pennanti* **I**: Delhi.
14. Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops macclellandi* **B**: Common and widespread especially along the Limithang Road east to Deothang.
15. Common Barking Deer (Muntjac) *Muntiacus muntjak* **B**: Several heard and seen on the Shemgang Road; the Limithang Road and below Rontong.
16. Goral *Nemorhaedus goral* **B**: One above the waterfall on the Trashitang Trail and three seen superbly on Pele La.
17. Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* **I**: Common at Sultanpur Jheel.

18. Royle's Pika *Ochotona roylei* **B**: Widespread at high elevations.

19. Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.

## REPTILES

1. *Calotes* sp **B**: A very attractive lizard basking on Shemgang Road

## BUTTERFLIES

1. Glassy Bluebottle *Graphium cloanthus*
2. Common Windmill *Atrophaneura polyeuctes*
3. Common Birdwing *Troides helena*
4. Great Mormon *Princeps memnon*
5. Red Helen *Princeps helenus*
6. Paris Peacock *Princeps paris*
7. Chocolate Albatross *Appias lycida*
8. Yellow Orangetip *Ixias pyrene*
9. Great Orangetip *Hebomoia glaucippe*
10. Hill Jezebel *Delias belladona*
11. Grey Pansy *Precis atlites*
12. Tawny Rajah *Charaxes polyxena*
13. Orange Oakleaf *Kallima inachus*
14. Common Map *Cyrestis thyodamas*
15. Glassy Tiger *Parantica aglea*
16. Common Tiger *Danaus genutia*
17. Magpie Crow *Euploea radmanthus*

And all this in addition to a wonderful variety of skinks, frogs, dragonflies, damselflies and unidentified butterflies. Not to mention of course a profusion of delightful flowering plants and shrubs.

**A selection of flowering plants identified during the course of the VENT Bhutan tour**

*Ageratum conyzoides*

*Aeschynanthus hookeri*

*Anemone rupicola*

*Arisaema* (many species, incl. - probably - *costatum*, *erubescens*, *flavum*, *griffithii*,  
*intermedium*, *jacquemontii*, *nepenthoides*, *propinquum*, *tortuosum*)

*Bamboo* (several species, incl. male)

*Berberis*: (*aristata*, *koehniiana*)

*Begonia* (*picata*?)

*Bergenia ciliata*

*Buddleja crispa*

*Caesalpinia decapetala*

*Calestemon citrinus*

*Chrysanthemum purethroides*

*Clintonia udensis*

*Colocasia fallax*

*Cotinus coggygria*

*Crassocephalum crepidioides*

*Daphne*: *bholua*, *mucronata*

*Datura*

*Desmodium elegans*

*Deutzia bhutanensis*

*Erigeron bellidioides*

*Euphorbia milii*

*Ficus* (*hispida*?)

*Fragaria nubicola*

*Geranium nakaoanum*

*Gnaphalium affine*

*Impatiens glandulifera*

*Iris*: (*goniocarpa*, *hookerana*)

*Jasminum multiflorum*

*Larch griffithiana*

*Magnolia cambellii*

*Melastoma* (prob. *normale*)

*Michelia doltsopa*

*Mimosa*: (*pudica*, *rubicaulis*)

*Mussaenda roxburghii*

*Myosotis*: (*alpestris*, *silvatica*)

*Orchids*: (many, incl. *coelogyne corymbosa*, *dendrobium denneanum*, *d. transparens*, *pleione praecox darjeeling*)

*Parochetus communis*  
*Pieris formosa*  
*Pinus: (roxburghii, wallichiana)*  
*Piptanthus nepalensis*  
*Platystemma violoides*  
*Potentillaanserina*  
*Primula (many, incl. calderana, capitata, dickenana, edgeworthii, glabra, glomerata, hackelia, ramzaneu)*  
*Quercus baloot*  
*Quercus semecarpifolia*  
*Rhaphidophora decursiva*  
*Ranunculus adoxifolius*  
*Rhododendron (about 25 - 30 species) incl. - probably - anthopogon, campanulatum, cinnabarium, falconeri, grande, hodgsonii, lanatum, lindleyi, setosun, triflorum)*  
*Rhus javanica*  
*Rosa: (laevigata, serica)*  
*Streptopus simplex (hekorima candida))*  
*Thermopsis inflata*  
*Tsuga dumosa*  
*Viburnumcotinifolium*  
*Viola wallichiana*