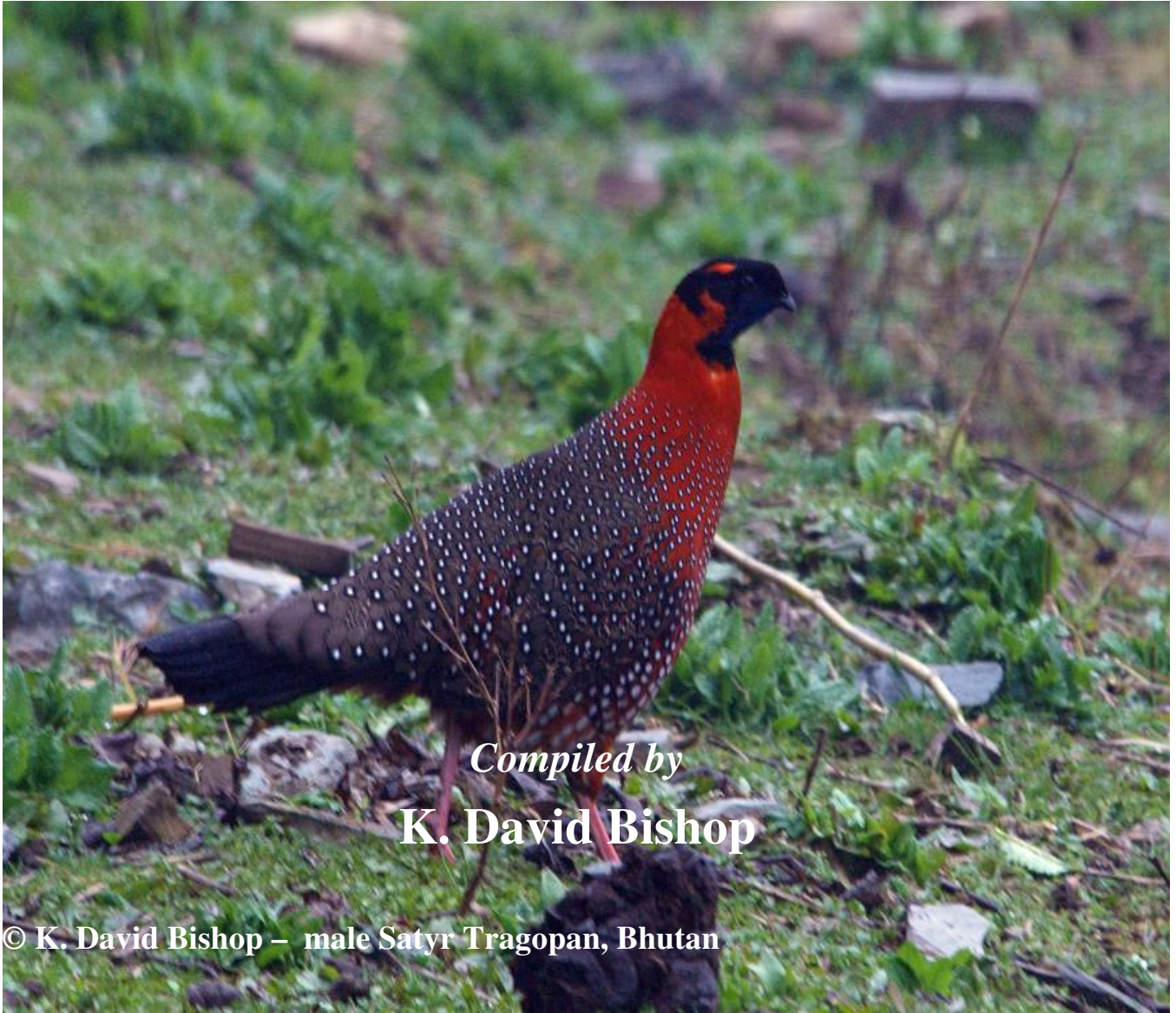


The Birds and Other Wildlife Recorded on the 2008 VENT Bhutan Tour



Compiled by
K. David Bishop

© K. David Bishop – male Satyr Tragopan, Bhutan

Leader: K. David Bishop

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BHUTAN

April 14 – May 9, 2008

"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 the twenty-first VENT bird 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 quickly. So what is it that makes this particular VENT 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, in consequence, they charge a princely sum for being among the privileged few to visit their country. Similarly, we at VENT 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 valued clients. How often have you heard on tour after tour that one wishes one had been 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 is literally everything we had hoped it would be and more. And it just gets better and better. Our ground agent, Gangri Tours and Travel, treats us like royalty and is 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, contributes immensely to the fun, happiness, comfort, and enjoyment everyone derives from this special tour.

On our Bhutan tour we typically record 415 to 455 species of birds and 15 to 25 species of mammals, although it has to be said that our mammal list seems to be getting better and bigger each year, perhaps a reflection of Dion's and my personal interest in the mammalian critters of Asia and, in particular, the Himalayas—and, perhaps, the enthusiasm of our clients and our driver for night-drives and spotlighting! While clearly everyone wants to see such megacharismatic 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 VENT's Bhutan tours. Some years we have done very nicely with the enigmatic and globally critically endangered White-bellied Heron, while in other years no one has seen it. Sometimes we struggle with Satyr Tragopans while in other years, such as this year, they behave like a dream and males show off to us (even charge at us!) in all their regal finery.

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 Spectacled Finch—another first for Bhutan—a female casually bouncing along the roadside foraging on seeds within the enchanting fir forests of Cheli La. 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 mountainsides ablaze with as many as 8 to 10 species of flowering rhododendrons—most of them in giant, tree-like growth-forms—merely hint at the floristic joys of the “kingdom of the thunder dragon.”

This then is Bhutan, a place as wondrous and enchanting as you can imagine and with more real birds than you could ever hope for!

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. 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 make me want to return there 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 following is a summary of our daily activities, including 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 male Satyr Tragopan that stalked all around us in response to my tape, and then a short while later came charging at us out of the fog! And that gorgeous orange apparition on the roadside cliff one night near our Yongkola Camp was one of the world's largest flying squirrels (if not THE largest), and was followed shortly by a Solitary Snipe seemingly lost in the mist.

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 theme on VENT's Asia tours, it was an exceptionally good trip for mammals with a total of 25 species seen including many golden langurs, some at very close range; goral; and an amazing nighttime view of the Himalayan masked civet. All in all, this tour proved a wonderful exposition of the rich biodiversity, landscapes, and culture of this fascinating kingdom. I cannot wait to return!

Thank you

David Bishop



Diary

- 16 April** An excellent morning's birding at Sultanphur Jheel with a rich assortment of waterbirds including Red-naped Ibis, Black-necked Storks and beautiful pair of Sarus Cranes. 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.
- 17 April** As always an excellent morning's birding on the east bank of the Yamuna River, near Okhla including good looks at the increasingly local White-tailed Stonechat. NIGHT: Delhi. WEATHER: Warm to hot, cloudy, humid.
- 18 April** We departed very early on the Druk Air flight via Kathmandu to Paro and the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon. The postponement of our flight by one day was serendipitous indeed; our early morning flight was graced with searing blue skies and stupendous views of the Himalayas - the world's highest mountain range, including the best views I have enjoyed of Mt Everest, before an equally spectacular descent into the Paro Valley. After settling into our hotel and a delicious lunch (the food at Dechen Hotel is arguably the best in Bhutan) we explored the Paro valley enjoying great views of Ibisbill and our first Gold-billed Magpies. The afternoon also included fine views of the charismatic Takstang Monastery and further north the idyllic ruin of Drygyel Dzong. NIGHT: Dechen Hotel, Paro. Weather: Sunny but cool; generally clear with scattered cloud.
- 19 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 3-5 Kalij Pheasants many of which were confiding, permitting all of us a detailed study. By morning's end we had garnered as many as 26 Kalij in addition to endelible views of rainbow-hued male Himalayan Monal and a group of Blood Pheasants. But it was one lone, relatively drab-looking finch-like bird that drew the morning's greatest plaudits. A female Spectaled Finch feeding on the roadside permitted excellent views and the opportunity to document this first for Bhutan! Over the years VENT has added numerous new or near new records to the Bhutan list but as more and more birders comb the country the opportunity for such discoveries declines exponentially. Thus it was a feeling of considerable excitement that pervaded us all. Despite the aroma of breakfast luring as ever onward we screeched to a halt as we rounded a bend in the road to find ourselves gazing in awe at a scene that defies mere words. From horizon to horizon deep satin-blue skies revealed range after range of jagged peaks including the sacred, ice-bound Mt. Jomolhari and her neighbours in all their glory. It was

undoubtedly a moving and dare I say it spiritual moment which I personally will long cherish. And so to breakfast; our ground-crew awaited us with the first of what were to be many wonderful breakfasts in the field before we birded 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 punctuated by Spotted and cheeky White-throated laughingthrushes eventually brought us to the capital Thimpu. NIGHT: Raven Hotel, Thimpu. Weather: Clear with scattered clouds, cool and sunny - ideal birding conditions.

20 April A moderately early start saw us driving up the attractive Cheri Valley for breakfast below vertiginous Cheri Monastery. Three gamboling Goral on the crags; a drumming Rufous-bellied Woodpecker and a Yellow-rumped Honeyguide 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: Raven Hotel, Thimpu. Weather: Clear with scattered clouds; warm and sunny.

21 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. This was an exceptional year and the intensity and immensity of the floral display that we estimated included 6-8 species of flowering rhododendrons provided a constant distraction from things feathered. 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 and a very brief flurry of rain. We then descended to the Puna Tsang Chu and on to the lovely Po Chu Valley. A fruitless search for the globally endangered White-bellied Heron was naturally disappointing, however the beauty and tranquility of the location together with a male Crested Kingfisher fishing and several rather territorial Ibisbill was more than satisfactory compensation. And of course we drank in our first views of the impressive Punakha Dzong. NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri Hotel. Weather: High overcast with patches of blue sky and occasional sunny interludes; notably warmer and brighter in the open farmland of lower elevations.

22 April Departed 05.15 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, however, the great, ginger-coloured Tawny

Fish-Owl that flew in and permitted superb 'scope views was a wonderful surprise (and relief after the loss of our usual stake-out). 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; a female Crimson-breasted Woodpecker; Spotted Wren-Babbler; Slaty-bellied Tesia; Paris Peacock 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. Quite, quite spellbinding. NIGHT: Zangtho Pelri Hotel. Weather: Overnight light rain presented cool, slightly damp overcast conditions becoming sunnier in the late morning.

23 April

After another unsuccessful excursion to search for the White-bellied Heron (we subsequently learnt from Bhutan researchers studying this species that it has not been seen along the Po Chu this year) we returned to our usual schedule. 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 Ward's Trogon. Added to which an astonishing array of birds including flock after flock of Himalayan specialties. As the advertising says "another glorious day in a fairytale land." NIGHT: Camp Pelela. Weather: Cool, still and pleasant; brief rain squall at lunch; fog patches on Pele La during the late afternoon.

24 April

An enchanting, morning walk in magnificent tall montane forest before breakfast and all to the sounds of the Himalayas in spring. This was one of those absolutely unforgettable mornings with flocks of birds seemingly everywhere and 3-4 male Satyr Tragopans gracing us with amazing point-blank views! The view of a male tragopan feeding together with a male monal was quite mind-blowing! 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: Extensive fog patches, cool but pleasant becoming sunny and warm.

25 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. Much of the first part of the day was spent dodging fog and rain, catching birds as and when we could. Then our final drive to our attractive campsite 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. NIGHT: Camping near Shemgang. Weather: Dense fog and rain until late morning thereafter warm and sunny with lots of cloudy patches.

26 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 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. During the afternoon we ascended to higher, cooler elevations and despite a fairly quiet afternoon still caught up with several new species including the elusive Blue-winged Laughingthrush. NIGHT: Camping in the orchard, ca. 1100m, above the village of Tingtibi. Weather: Generally warm and high overcast.

27 April Departing camp at dawn we birded our way up to 2000m. A mixed morning and sadly no Beautiful Nuthatch but with a plenty of other birds to satisfy everyone including outstanding studies of Rufous-necked Hornbill; displaying Crested Goshawk; 40+ nesting Fork-tailed Swifts; great looks at a Lesser Yellownap; more Blue-winged Laughingthrushes; excellent 'scope views of the spectacular Red-faced Liocichla and back at camp fabulous views of a very responsive Chestnut-winged Cuckoo. After broiling during the midday siesta in camp we descended once again to the giant bamboo forest. Against a backdrop of thunderous skies and patchy rains we enjoyed marvellous views of a flock of low-flying White-throated Needletails and then to our astonishment a Pale-headed Bamboo Woodpecker flew low across the road. Responding miraculously to my tape we ended up watching three birds (a family group?) flying around us and drumming like fury on very resonant bamboo. The rain and thander returned and just when we thought we wouldn't see anything else a flock of four very dapper White-hooded Babblers (also bamboo specialists) popped up right next to the bus. What a day! NIGHT: Camping Orange Orchard. Weather Warm and clear becoming hot during the midday followed by thunderous showers in the afternoon.

28 April Returning to Trongsa we birded the 'Mithun Farm Track' largely in the hopes of finding Beautiful Nuthatch and although that was to no avail we did find a very attractive and birdy locale full of interesting and confiding birds including Lesser Shortwing, and the charming White-browed Piculet. Reluctantly taking our leave of Shemgang we gradually wound our way up and down the hill back to a hot

shower and regular bed. NIGHT: Trongsa. Weather: Warm, sunny, scattered cloud.

29 April Yet another wonderful day in 'Fairytaleland'. We drove up to the pass for breakfast on Yutong La before spending the entire morning walking back downhill enjoying exceptional looks at Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler and Scaly-breasted and Bar-winged wren-babblers along the way. 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: Clear and sunny with large patches of cloud.

30 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. This was indeed one of the great days of the entire tour not least for the two male Satyr Tragopans that just stood alongside the 'road' as we descended to Sengor; the brilliantly coloured Golden Bush-Robin and less than obliging male Fire-tailed Sunbird. NIGHT: Camp Sengor. Weather: Semi blue-sky day, at times warm to hot; high UV but from Thrumsingla cloudy with patches of fog producing very good birding conditions.

1 May Early in the morning we drove back up Thrumsingla and were immediately rewarded by yet another male Satyr Tragopan that just stood 'stupidly' on the roadside permitting everyone to drink in all his beauty. By the time we came across yet another pair of these gorgeous creatures no one believed that we could have missed this species on our previous tour! The weather moved in but a quick stop to look for the Golden Bush-Robin produced a nesting pair and then a very territorial pair of Great Parrotbills in addition to fabulous 'scope views of Crimson-browed Finches and a very confiding White-browed Shortwing. What a morning and all before breakfast! From Sengor we drove down the famous Limithang Road stopping at the Namling Death Drop for lunch and a siesta and to wait out the fog. The fog won and so we gradually wound our way down to our attractive and comfortably warm 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: Yongkola Camp. Weather: Rain, fog, patchy cloud, fog, rain, clear.

2 May We woke to pouring rain and so took an early breakfast before heading up the road to make our first albeit unsuccessful try for Ward's Trogon. Much of the day was then spent birding our way back to camp with lunch and a siesta during the midday. NIGHT: Bonkosomey Camp, Yonkola. Weather: Largely rainy and overcast.

3 May Oh just another bird-filled day along, arguably, one of the best birding roads in the whole of Asia. Despite a delayed start because of pouring rain 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 truly is one of the great birding roads of the world. Ascending above the Namling Death Drop and the cloud and rain we soon ran into some good birding including, finally our first Little Forktails - nesting alongside a spectacular waterfall; very confiding Broad-billed Warblers and less than confiding Chestnut-crowned Tesias.

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, Yongkola, Limithang Road. Weather: Torrential rain, cloud, patches of blue sky.

4 May Finally we woke to a morning of blue sky and sunshine. Once again we ascended above camp and finally found our Ward's Trogon, a group of two females and a truly glorious male that put on a great show permitting fabulous 'scope views. Winding our way down from our Yongkola 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.

5 May 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 mixed flock after mixed flock and 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. NIGHT: Rontong Campsite. Weather: High overcast, partially clear, warm at lower elevations.

6 May

A fascinating day of spectacular landscapes as we commenced our final descent of the Himalayas. Departing camp shortly after dawn at 06.00 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 where after a bit of a struggle some of us enjoyed excellent views of the handsome Indian Blue Robin. 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 Pemyatsel 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 picking up a pair of Brown Bullfinches, Brown Shrike, Ferruginous Flycatcher and Aberrant Bush-Warbler for good measure. The forests along this little visited road are surely a keeper for future trips. And finally to our attractive campsite at Morong. NIGHT: Morong Campsite. Weather: Partly cloudy with lots of sunny blue skies with some rain later in the day.

7 May

A great 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 a rather frustrating pair of Beautiful Nuthatches, Wreathed Hornbills, a distant Pied Falconet and several Dark-rumped Swifts. NIGHT: Somdrup Jonkhar. Weather: Warm but with high overcast.

8 May

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**: One immature along the Po Chu.
2. Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel; Okhla, Yamuna R; Assam.
3. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel. Currently classified as Near Threatened.

NOTE: The 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 America's, *Anhinga anhinga* is widely regarded as specifically distinct from Old World form(s).

4. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel, Okhla, Yamuna R; Assam.
5. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel, Okhla, Yamuna R; Assam.
6. Great Egret *Egretta alba* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel, Okhla, Yamuna R; Assam.

NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Casmerodius* or *Ardea*.

7. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* **I**: Assam.
8. Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel, Okhla; Assam.

NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Egretta*.

9. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel, Okhla, Yamuna R; Assam - all 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*.

10. Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* **I**: Sultanphur Jheel, Okhla, Yamuna R; Assam. **B**: One on the mid-slopes of Kori La.
11. Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* **I**: Ten at Sultanphur Jheel. Globally threatened.
12. Asian Openbill Stork *Anastomus oscitans* **I**: Approximately 10 between Somdrup Jonkhar and Gauhati.
13. Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* **I**: Three at Sultanphur Jheel. Globally threatened.
14. Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* **I**: Six at Sultanphur Jheel.
15. Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* **I**: Two at Sultanphur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna R.
16. Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* **I**: Thirty at Sultanphur Jheel.
17. Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* **I**: Circa at Okhla, Yamuna R.
18. Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* **I**: Several between Somdrup Jonkhar and Gauhati, Assam.
19. Comb Duck *Sarkidornis Sarkidiornis melanotus* **I**: Thirty at Sultanphur Jheel.
20. Gadwall *Anas strepera* **I**: Okhla, Yamuna R.
21. Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* **I**: Just one drake at Okhla, Yamuna R; **B**: Three along the Po Chu.
22. Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* **I**: Common at Sultanphur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna R.

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.

23. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* **I**: Several at Sultanphur Jheel and at Okhla, Yamuna R.
24. Garganey *Anas querquedula* **I**: Several at Sultanphur Jheel and at Okhla, Yamuna R.
25. Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* **I**: One drake at Sultanphur Jheel.
26. Common Pochard *Aythya farina* **I**: One drake at Okhla, Yamuna R.
27. Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* **B**: One drake on the Puna Tsang Chu.
28. Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* **I**: One at Sultanphur Jheel.
29. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* **I**: Widespread in the Delhi area and near Gauhati.
30. Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis* **B**: A good year for this gigantic species: 24 April - a total of 33+ soaring over the east slope of Pele La including eye-level views; 29 April - two low over the Gaytse Valley, Bumthang region.
31. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela* **B**: Ones and twos recorded on eight days.
32. Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* **I**: At least three adult females hunting over reed-beds and scrub along the Yumuna R. It is interesting to note that we rarely encounter males in the Delhi region.
33. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* **B**: One displaying near Tingtibi.
34. Shikra *Accipiter badius* **I**: One seen at Sultanpur Jheel and good looks at two females at Okhla, Yamuna R.
35. Besra *Accipiter virgatus* **B**: One dashed into a tree full of small birds along the Tashitang Track, Jigme Dorji Nat. Pk.; one on the Shemgang Rd.; one on the middle Limithang Rd. and one near Moshi.
36. Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* **B**: One circled as we lunched near the Gayzamchu and then a female perched for lovely views on the slopes of Thrumsingla. The following day we saw at least two around our Sengor camp.
- Also known as Northern Sparrowhawk.
37. Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* **B**: One distantly on Yutong La and two between Jakar and Ura.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) argue that *burmanicus* is specifically distinct from Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

38. Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* **B**: One between Jakar and Ura.
39. Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* **B**: Fairly common this year with one on the lower slopes of Pele La; presumed pairs daily over the Shemgang Rd. especially near our camp and one that nearly came through the window of our bus and a total of six as we drove from Shemgang to Trongsa. A most evocative and distinctive eagle as it hunts within the inter-canopy spaces. Very rarely seen perched.
40. Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* **B**: One soaring high over Shonkar Louri.
41. Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* **I**: One mobbed by crows as it circled low over Sultanpur Jheel.
42. Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis* **B**: Notably widespread and fairly common with as many as three seen on one day between Morong and Somdrup Jonkhar.
43. Pied Falconet *Microhierax melanoleucos* **B**: One seen distantly near Somdrop Jonkhar; a rarity in the kingdom and VENT's second record in Bhutan.
44. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* **I**: **B**: Widespread and moderately common in open, non forested country.

Also known as Eurasian Kestrel.
45. Oriental Hobby *Falco severus* **B**: At least two individuals hunting dragonflies at dusk near Somdrup Jonkhar.
46. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* **I**: One at Okhla, Yamuna R.
47. Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* **I**: Several heard and one handsome male seen near Okhla, Yamuna R.; also heard Assam.
48. Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* **I**: Several seen at Sultanpur Jheel and at Okhla, Yamuna R.
49. Common Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* **B**: Widespread and heard on many days. Also known as Hill Partridge.

50. Rufous-throated Hill Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* **B**: Heard on several days between Tingtibi and Morong.
51. Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii* **B**: Heard commonly along the lower section of the Shemgang and Limithang roads. Globally threatened.
52. Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* **B**: A quiet year for this species with just a group of four seen nicely as we ascended Cheli La on our first morning in Bhutan.
53. Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra* **B**: Quite simply the best year ever for this species! One heard on Cheli La, a very rare locality record for this species; 3-4 males and two females on Pele La - two of the males responded dramatically to KDB's tape and came charging in out of the fog! Two males along the roadside above Sengor one afternoon and again the next morning plus at least five heard around our Sengor camp; and one female just below Namling on the Limithang Road.
54. Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* **B**: A total of four including several gorgeous males seen superbly within and at the edge of magnificent Silver Fir forest on the slopes of Cheli La; fabulous looks at five adult males within mixed Rhododendron, Silver Fir, Birch forest on Pele La; and another heard above Jakar. This too is 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.
55. Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelana* **B**: Notably common this year with 26 counted on Cheli La and a further three between Ha and the confluence; seven on the Tashitang Track; one male on the Shemgang Rd.; one female below Namling and a male and female above our Yongkola - Bonkosomey camp the following day.
56. Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* **I**: Several at Sultanpur Jheel and along the east bank of the Yamuna River; also heard in Assam near the Bhutan border.
57. Sarus Crane *Grus*
A pair of these glorious birds at Sultanpur Jheel.
58. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* **I**: Several at Sultanpur Jheel; Okhla, Yamuna R. and Assam.
59. Black-tailed Crake *Amaurornis bicolor* **B**: Three seen superbly at Rotong and heard near Paro. 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.

60. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
Also known as Common Gallinule.
61. Common Coot *Fulica atra* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Okhla, Yamuna R.
Also known as Eurasian Coot.
62. Grey-headed Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Okhla, Yamuna River.

NOTE: The Purple Swamphen complex is now split into five species.

63. Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus* **I**: Several *en route* to Gauhati, Assam.
64. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* **I**: Distant looks at a group of ten near Okla, Yamuna R.
65. Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* **B**: Fabulous views of two along the Paro Chu; seven along the Po Chu; five along the Mo Chu; heard along the Puna Tsang Chu and one along the Jakar Chu. Bhutan is indeed a stronghold for this very special species.
66. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* **I**: Common; Sultanpur Jheel; Okhla, Yamuna R.
67. Indian Thick-knee *Burhinus indicus* **I**: One at Sultanpur Jheel.

NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) split this taxon from Eurasian Thick-knee.

68. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* **I**: Yamuna R; Assam.
69. River Lapwing *Vanellus duvauceli* **B**: One along the Paro Chu; several along the Puna Tsang Chu, Po Chu and Mo Chu.
70. Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* **B**: One 'roding' at dusk and dawn over our camp on Pele La and one roding over our Sengor camp.
71. Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria* **B**: One of the most interesting and surprising finds of the tour; a single rather bedazzled bird was watched closely and at length one evening as we were spotlighting along the Limithang Road.
72. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* **I**: Four in partial breeding plumage at Sultanpur Jheel.
73. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* **I**: Two, Sultanpur Jheel.

74. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* **I:** Two, Sultanpur Jheel. **B:** One along the Paro Chu and one along the Paro Chu.
75. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* **I:** One, Sultanpur Jheel.
76. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* **B:** One along the Paro and two along the Po Chu.
77. Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* **I:** Circa. 300 at Sultanpur Jheel.
78. Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* **I:** Four in breeding plumage, Sultanpur Jheel.
79. Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus* **I:** Several along the Yamuna River.
80. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* **I:** Ten in breeding plumage over the Yamuna River.
81. 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.
82. Ashy Wood-Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis* **B:** Two seen in flight on Yutong La. A very rarely encountered species in Bhutan.
83. Speckled Wood-Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* **B:** Three around our Sengor campsite; one seen by Don on Kori La.
84. Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* **B:** Widespread, common and observed almost daily, often foraging on the road.
85. Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* **I:** Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna R.
86. Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* **B:** Moderately common locally in open country. Widespread and along the lower slopes of Dochu La; Puna Tsang Chu valley; Po Chu 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.
87. Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* **I:** Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna River.
88. Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decoacto* **I:** Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna River.

89. Barred Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia unchall* **B**: Notably common and vocal this year; several daily along the Shemgang Rd., heard on the Limithang Rd. and six seen below Morong.
90. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* **B**: One below Trongsa.

Also known as Green-winged Ground-Dove.
91. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera* **I**: Fairly common Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna R.
92. Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda* **B**: Just one within degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi and two below Morong.
93. Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostris* **B**: One in flight below Deothang.
94. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura* **B**: A flock of six between Trongsa and Shemgang; heard several time along the Shemgang Rd. and two below Rontong.
95. Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* **B**: One near Tingtibi and a total of six below Morong.
96. Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* **I**: One in flight over the Yamuna River.
97. Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* **I**: Fairly common, Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna River, Assam.
98. Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* **I**: One male seen nicely near the Bhutan border.
99. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* **B**: Fabulous views of an especially responsive individual at our campsite on the Shemgang Rd.
100. Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* **B**: Widespread and common. Seen or heard on many days.

NOTE: Sometimes placed in *Cuculus*.

101. Common Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius* **I**: Superb, close views of one at Sultanpur Jheel; heard in Assam.

NOTE: Sometimes placed in *Cuculus*.

102. Whistling Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* **B**: Widespread but sparse, nevertheless this year we heard more than the usual occasional individual and enjoyed superb views of a single bird sitting out sunning itself along the the Limithang Road.

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*.

103. Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* **B**: Heard daily from the Shemgang Rd. eastwards and at least one seen in flight along the Limithang Rd. **I**: Heard in Assam.

104. Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* **B**: Widespread; heard most days and several seen. Also known as Eurasian Cuckoo.

105. Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* **B**: Widespread and common; heard most days and seen on Dochu La.

106. Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* **B**: Heard commonly along the Limithang Rd. east to near Morong.

107. Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* **B**: Great 'scope views of one bird along the Shemgang Rd.; one heard on the middle Limithang Rd. and one heard at our Morong campsite.

108. Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus* **B**: What a simply stunning bird! A male was observed constantly flying to and fro feeding an adult female seemingly in some sort of courtship display near our Yongkola camp on the middle Limithang Rd.

109. Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* **B**: One male heard and seen near Somdrup Jonkhar.

110. Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* **B**: Several seen and heard on a few days.

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.

111. Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna River; one male seen in Assam.

112. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel, Okhla, Yamuna River.
113. Lesser Coucal *Centropus ateralbus* **B**: One seen and heard just above Tashigang. **I**: One seen in Assam.
114. Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* **B**: Heard most days from Tingtibi east to Morong.
115. Collared Scops-Owl *Otus lettia* **B**: Seen briefly at our campsite on the Shemgang Rd. where also heard regularly.

NOTE: Until recently this taxon was treated as part of a widespread species *Otus bakkamoena* found throughout the Oriental region. However the book 'Owls of the World' - Koenig, Weick and Becking (2000) provides evidence that this taxon actually comprises four species: Indian Scops Owl *O. bakkamoena* throughout the Indian subcontinent below 2,200m although absent from the north-west and north-east; Collared Scops Owl *O. lettia* replaces the above species immediately to the north and extends throughout much of China; Sunda Scops Owl *O. lempiji* Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali; and Japanese Scops Owl *O. semitorques*.

116. Tawny Fish-Owl *Ketupa flavipes* **B**: Fantastic views of a single male of this very rarely seen species, along the Mo Chu, Jigme Dorji Nat. Pk.
117. Himalayan Wood Owl *Strix nivicola* **B**: Heard one evening near our Sengor camp.

NOTE: Split from Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (see Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

118. Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodei* **B**: Heard almost daily from Shemgang eastwards.
119. Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* **B**: Rather quiet this year with occasional birds heard along the Shemgang and Limithang roads.
120. Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* **I**: Two seen nicely along the Yamuna River at Okhla.
121. Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* **B**: 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.

122. Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* **B**: Very few seen this year with just six on the Limithang Rd. one rainy day and then small numbers between Tashigang and Somdrup Jonkhar.
123. White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* **B**: This wonderfully evocative bird was first seen as black thunder clouds threatened; twos and threes in a loose aggregation of maybe 40 birds performed their spectacular aerial acrobatics over the Mangde Chu near Tingtibi; a second group of *ca.* 20 performed similar aerial antics as we descended from Shemgang *en route* back to Trongsa; three were displaying over potential nests sites high on Yutong La.
124. Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* **I**: Common in Assam.
125. Dark-rumped Swift *Apus acuticauda* **B**: One of the many advantages of the VENT itinerary is that it takes us east to the south-east border of Bhutan and thus permits us to once again encounter this very rarely seen and localised species: a flock of ten below Deothang put on a great show.
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**: Yamuna R. **B**: Two on Pele La and six possibly nesting at a colony of House Martins on the Shemgang Road.
128. Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardii* **B**: **Perhaps the ultimate Bhutan bird experience.** What a truly wondrous experience; one pair seen on the mid-slopes of Pele La; a pair plus one female of very territorial and confiding birds put on 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. In addition to at least one other pair heard along the Limithang Road.
129. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* **B**: Scattered ones and twos along the Po Chu, Puna Tsang Chu and Mo Chu.
Also known as Eurasian or River Kingfisher.
130. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* **B**: 1-2 along the Puna Tsang Chu and Po Chu; one below Kori La and 1-2 daily between Tashigang and Somdrup Jonkhar. **I**: Yamuna R; Assam.
131. Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris* **B**: Notably common this year with good numbers seen along the Po Chu, Mo Chu and Puna Tsang Chu; including one individual hovering, diving and taking a fish in front of the Punakha Dzong.

132. Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctiornis athertoni* **B:** A fabulous encounter with a pair between Trongsa and Shemgang and another gorgeous male showing off his beard near Yongkola along the Limithang Rd.
133. Little Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* **I:** Several at Sultanpur Jheel and along the Yamuna R.
Also known as Green Bee-eater
134. Hoopoe *Upupa epops* **B:** One or two in the Jakar Valley and one along the middle Limithang Rd.
135. Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* **I:** Great views of a small group at Okhla along the Yamuna River.
136. Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* **B:** A total of seven above Tingtibi provided a wonderful spectacle and three on our rainy but very birdy afternoon in the giant bamboo near Tingtibi.
137. 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: 26 April: four males above our camp on the Shemgang Rd.; 27 April: three males along the Shemgang Rd; 28 April: one male between Shemgang and Trongsa; 1 May: two below our Yongkola camp on the Limithang Rd; 2 May: one pair *en route* on the middle Limithang Rd.; 3 May: spectacular close views of a male on the middle Limithang Rd.; 5 May: one pair on the east slope of Kori La; and 7 May: one male below Morong. **Globally threatened.**
138. Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus* **B:** Fabulous looks at three birds along the Buntar Road.
139. Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* **B:** Widespread and common, recorded almost daily.
140. Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii* **B:** Widespread and recorded in low numbers.
141. Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica* **B:** Several between Trongsa and Shemgang; several heard and seen daily between Shemgang and Tingtibi; several heard and seen on the eastern descent.
142. Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis* **B:** One heard near Somdrup Jonkhar. **I:** Heard near the border crossing.
143. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* **I:** Two at Sultanpur Jheel; Assam.

144. Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus* **B**: One male seen by some as he attended a Rock Bee hive along the Thimpu Chu; a second male was subsequently seen nicely by all below Trongsa. This is a little known and rarely observed species. **Globally threatened.**
145. Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* **B**: Two individuals seen nicely on the Shemgang Road.
146. White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea* **B**: One seen with a mixed flock below Trongsa and a second on the Shemgang Road.
147. Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus* **B**: Great looks at a male just below Deothang.
148. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Picoides macei* **B**: Good looks at a pair near Tingtibi.
149. Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Picoides hyperythrus* **B**: One male seen very close-by drumming below Cheri Gompa; heard on Dochu La; two on the slopes of Pele La; two on the upper slopes of Pele La; two on Kori La and below Rontong.
150. Darjeeling Woodpecker *Picoides darjellensis* **B**: One pair seen well on Pele La; one female near Yongkola and a male on Korila.
151. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Picoides cathpharius* **B**: Great looks at a female on the Tshitang Track; a pair on the slopes of Pele La and superb close views of a male on Kori La.
152. Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus* **B**: Great looks at one male on the Shemgang Road.
153. Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha* **B**: Heard along the Tashitang Trail; Pele La; and the middle Limithang Rd.
154. Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* **B**: Excellent views of a male feeding on the ground in a field at the start of the Tashitang Track; heard and seen frequently along the Shemgang Rd.; Korila and below Morong.
155. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* **B**: Fine looks at one of these magnificent woodpeckers in flight near Somdrup Jonkhar.

156. Pale-headed Bamboo Woodpecker *Gecinulus grantia* **B**: Fabulous views of three birds in giant bamboo including at least one drumming. A very rarely recorded species in Bhutan or for that matter anywhere.
157. Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* **B**: Notably common this year with several birds seen and/or heard on at least 10 days. One bird on the Limithang Rd. put on a good show but the pair at our Rontong camp were simply incredible.
158. Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium bengalenses* **I**: Great looks at a pair at Sultanpur Jheel.



PASSERINES

159. Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* **B**: Heard daily below Morong.
160. Indian Bushlark *Mirafra erythroptera* **I**: Several seen very nicely at Sultanpur Jheel.
161. Greater Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
162. Ashy-crowned Finch-lark *Eremopterix griseus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
163. Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* **B**: Several seen and heard at our Sengor camp and below Rontong.
164. Grey-throated Sand-Martin *Riparia chinensis* **I**: Good looks at many birds at Sultanpur Jheel and along the Yamuna R.
- NOTE: Split from Plain Martin (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
165. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* **I**: Several along the Yamuna R; also Assam. **B**: One at Tingtibi; 20-30 nesting under the eaves of the shops of Mongar village.
166. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* **B**: Four in the Paro Valley; six below Korila
167. Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna River.
168. Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* **B**: Several with Nepal House Martins on Pele La and many nesting with Nepal House Martins on the Shemgang Road.
169. Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalensis* **B**: A widespread and locally common breeding species with nesting colonies on the Shemgang and Limithang roads.
170. Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* **B**: Widespread and moderately common along creeks and rivers and associated open habitats such as farmland: Paro Valley; Cheli La; Puna Tsang and Po chus; Thrumsingla. Mostly we observed the distinctive subspecies *alboides*, however, as we moved east we encountered some individuals of the subspecies *dukhunensis*.
- Also known as White Wagtail
171. Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* **I**: Two along the Yamuna R.

172. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* **B**: Scattered ones and twos.

173. Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* **I**: Yamuna R.; Assam

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*.

174. Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* **I**: Two at Sultanpur Jheel.

175. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* **B**: Widespread and common; seen in moderate numbers (range 2-10) on many days, including several individuals uttering their full song.

176. Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* **B**: One along the Paro Chu and six below Rontong.

177. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschista* **B**: Widespread and locally moderately common.

178. Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* **B**: Widespread and moderately common.

179. Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* **B**: Widespread and fairly common, seen and/or heard on eight days.

180. 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*.

181. Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* **B**: Notably uncommon this year; our first birds were a pair near Bonkosomey Camp along the Limithang Rd. and along the Pemygatsel Rd.

182. Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* **I**: One pair at Sultanpur Jheel.

183. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus* **B**: Common along the Shemgang Rd. and on the eastern descent.

184. Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus* **B**: A strikingly handsome bulbul. Several on the slopes of Pele La and daily along the Shemgang Rd.; several daily from the middle Limithang Road eastwards.

185. Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris* **B**: One in degraded Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi and one 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).

186. Himalayan White-cheeked Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys* **B**: Common between Korila and Rontong.

187. Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* **B**: Ubiquitous in all but the most densely forested areas up to c. 2300m. **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Yamuna R.; Assam.

188. White-throated Bulbul *Alphoixus flaveolus* **B**: Many seen within Subtropical Forest above Tingtibi and along the Buntar Road.

189. Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* **B**: Seen in secondary woodland on two days along the Shemgang Rd. and above Somdrup Jonkar.

NOTE: For the change of genus see Inskipp *et al* (1996).

190. Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes mcclellandi* **B**: Common along the Tashitang Trail and Shemgang Rd. and one on the Limithang Rd.

191. Himalayan Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* **B**: Common and widespread; seen almost daily.

NOTE: For details of the revised taxonomy of this interesting but complex group see Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

192. Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella* **B**: Fine views of glowing males as well as females near Somdrup Jonkhar.

193. Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* **B**: One along the Buntar Road.

194. Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* **B**: A fine pair showed off beautifully along the Tashitang Trail; two along the Shemgang Rd and one female below our Yongkola camp.

195. Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* **B**: 2-3 daily from the Paro Chu east to the Wangdi Chu and one between Shemgang and Trongsa.
196. Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophciata* **B**: Notably uncommon this year. Invariably encountered within scrubby areas adjoining farmland: one on Pele La; the Limithang Rd.; and below Rontong.
197. 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 most days.
198. Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* **B**: Yet another very handsome species that we saw on several occasions including the very striking male.
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. White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus* **B**: Moderately common in the Blue Pine forests of the west east to Trongsa, thereafter sparse and uncommon.
201. Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus bouboul* **B**: Fairly common this year: one in the Cheri Valley; one on Dochu La; two on Pele La; one male singing below Trongsa; one on Yutong La; and a total of ten on Kori La.
202. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* **B**: One seen nicely below Shemgang. Also heard along the Tashitang Track and below Rontong to Deothang.
203. White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* **B**: Great looks at a male and several heard on the Limithang Rd.; also heard on Yutong La and Thrumsing La.
204. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* **I**: Sultanpur Jhee; Okhla, Yamuna R.
205. Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger* **B**: Seen well along the Po Chu and below Trongsa; heard commonly on our eastern descent.
206. Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis* **B**: Superb views of a singing male in full breeding plumage within roadside scrub below our Morong Camp.
207. Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens* **B**: Two heard near Deothang.
208. Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis* **I**: Okhla, Yamuna R.

209. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* **I**: Several in superb fresh breeding plumage along the Yamuna R.
210. Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Okhla, Yamuna R.
211. Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
212. Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata* **B**: Very tough to see well this year despite that this charismatic species is widespread and heard frequently we only saw one or two reasonably well along the Limithang Road.
213. Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea* **B**: One seen very nicely along the Trashitang Track and heard commonly from the middle Limithang Rd. eastwards.
214. Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* **B**: Widespread and heard frequently; one seen near Chendibji Chorten and along the Limithang Rd.
215. Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler *Cettia fortipes* **B**: Heard or seen on several days, invariably in open, scrubby country with one very obliging individual just below our Morong Camp.
216. Hume's Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnescens* **B**: Four one seen superbly on the upper slopes of Yutong La.
- NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) separate Himalayn populations from those in China which have a quite different song, hence the amended common name.
217. Grey-sided Bush-Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons* **B**: Widespread and fairly common. Superb views of a few individuals and pairs as they responded dramatically to our tape.
218. Himalayan Aberrant Bush-Warbler *Cettia Cettia flavolivacea* **B**: One in a mixed species flock along the Pemygatsel Rd.
219. Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* **I**: One, Sultanpur Jheel.
220. Black-browed Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* **B**: Good looks at one in tall grass/reeds at Okhla along the Yamuna River. An unusual record.
221. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* **B**: One or two at Sultanpur Jheel and along the Yamuna River.
222. Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* **I**: Okhla, Yamuna R.

NOTE: Split from Common Chiffchaff (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005)

223. Tickell's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus affinis* **B**: Uncommon this year with scattered one and twos on eight days.
224. Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* **B**: Several seen and heard, usually in mixed species flocks.
Also known as Orange-barred Warbler
225. 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
226. Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus* **B**: Fairly common this year with small numbers in mixed flocks on Cheli La; Dochu La; Pele La; common on the Limithang Road and one on Kori La.

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*.

Also known as Pale-rumped Warbler.

227. Hume's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* **B**: One on the slopes of Cheli La; Cheri Valley; below Trongsa and Yutong La. This and a couple of other very similar and very confusing species provide quite an identification challenge.
228. Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* **B**: One on Pele La and Kori La.
229. Large-billed Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris* **B**: Widespread and fairly common.
230. 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.

231. Yellow-vented Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus cantator* **B**: Great looks at four on two days along the Shemgang to Tingtibi Rd. especially below 900m. This is a distinctive and little known *Phylloscopus* species.

Also known as Yellow-faced Leaf Warbler or Yellow-throated Leaf Warbler

232. Whistler's Spectacled Warbler *Seicercus whistleri* **B**: Most of the Golden Spectacled Warblers we encountered belonged to this taxon.

233. Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii* **B**: Birds we saw below Trongsa down to Tingtibi 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. A recent paper by Per Alstrom provides strong evidence that this taxon is actually a complex of four or five 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.

234. Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos* **B**: Widespread and fairly common throughout much of the tour except at the highest elevations.

235. White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* **B**: Very uncommon with singles seen on two days along the Limithang Road.

236. Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys* **B**: Two along the Mithun Farm track below Shemgang and two on the middle Limithang.

237. Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* **B**: Widespread in low numbers, often with mixed species flocks; notably common on Pele La east to just below Trongsa daily along the Limithang Road and between Rontong and Morong.

238. Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* **B**: One of the most attractive and charming of all Old World Warblers. Several on Pele La; two on the Shemgang Road and notably common along the Limithang Road below Namling with several seen on daily east to Somdrup Jonkhar.

239. Broad-billed Warbler *Abroscopus hodgsonii* **B**: Superb views of one very responsive bird on the Limithang Road. Globally threatened.

240. Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* **I**: Four along the Yamuna R.

241. Sykes's Warbler *Hippolais rama* **I**: Yamuna R.

NOTE: Breeds sympatrically with Booted Warbler in Central Asia (Svensson 2001) and the genetic distance between the two taxa is relatively large (Helbig & Seibold 1999).

242. Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* **I**: One, Sultanpur Jheel.
243. Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* **I**: Four, Sultanpur Jheel.
244. Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* **B**: Notably more common and widespread this year with ones and twos recorded on many days and at least one pair observed nesting.
Also known as Siberian Sooty Flycatcher.
245. Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* **B**: Great looks at three birds along the Pemygatsel Road.
246. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophhiata* **B**: Four on Dochu La and common from Yutong La east to Mongar.
247. Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* **B**: One or two seen briefly at Sultanpur Jheel.
248. Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* **B**: One male seen well by Ingrid and Sara.
249. White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula monnileger* **B**: Heard only along the Shemgang Road and Limithang Road; regarded as one of the most difficult birds to see.
250. Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* **B**: Just one male on the Limithang Rd.
251. Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris* **B**: A truly lovely bird that graced us with fine views on several occasions, often with mixed species flocks.
252. Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* **B**: Single males seen well on Cheli La and along the Limithang Road.
253. Verditer Flycatcher *Muscicapa thalassina* **B**: Widespread and often very common bird, seen almost daily. A truly spectacular bird.
254. Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* **B**: Heard regularly from Trongsa east to Somdrup Jonkhar; one male seen briefly on Kori La.
255. 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 where a total of three were encountered. Several heard and seen along the Limithang Rd. east to near Deothang.

256. Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* **B**: A real stunner, several males gave us great views: several seen and heard daily on the Limithang Road and Kori La.
257. Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* **B**: One male singing his heart out on the Trashigang Track.
258. Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* **B**: Gorgeous males seen beautifully between Trongsa and Shemgang and along the Shemgang Road.
259. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicacapa ceylonensis* **B**: Widespread and moderately common; seen daily except at higher elevations.
260. Indian Blue Robin *Luscinia brunnea* **B**: Eventually good looks for some at a male and a female above Khaling.
261. Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-Robin *Tarsiger rufilatus* **B**: A gorgeous male on Cheli La was the only one seen this year.

NOTE: Split by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) from north Asian *T. cyanurus*.

262. Golden Bush-Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* **B**: Sensational views of a gorgeous male in dense bamboo below Thrumsing La.
263. Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* **B**: Moderately common at low and medium elevations in lightly wooded farmland and around settlements. **I**: Assam.
264. White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* **B**: One heard near Somdrup Jonkhar.
265. Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna R.
266. Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* **I**: Four, Sultanpur Jheel.
267. Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* **B**: One female between Ha and the confluence.
268. Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* **B**: Notably uncommon this year: one pair on Cheli La; two males in the Cheri Valley; two on Pele La; and two on Yutong La.

269. 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.
270. Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* **B**: Widespread and common; seen almost daily with as many as 8 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.
271. White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum* **B**: Heard at many sites but only one male seen along the Shemgang Road but seen very nicely.
272. Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* **B**: One pair foraging on the sides of a spectacular waterfall on the Limithang Road and another seen briefly at the top of the falls on the 'Namling Death Drop'.
273. Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* **B**: Notably uncommon this year: just two along the Mo Chu on the Trashitang Trail and one below Deothang
274. Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus* **B**: One flushed from the edge of the road below Trongsa.
275. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura* **I**: Yamuna R.
- 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).
276. White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura* **I**: One pair seen very nicely in the 'scope in tall riverside grasslands along the Yamuna River. An increasingly uncommon and localised species.
277. Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Okhla, Yamuna R.
278. Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* **B**: Widespread and common; observed on a total of 12 days in open scrubby country, especially farmland.
279. Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha* **B**: Notably uncommon this year with the first birds only recorded on the west slope of Yutong La where a flock of 12 plus several

other individuals presented an unusual sight; also several seen between Jakar and Sengor and below Rontong.

280. White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* **B**: Several on Pele La, the Shemgang Road and eastwards from the Limithang Road to Somdrup Jonkhar.

281. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* **B**: Great looks at a male between Trongsa and Shemgang; an unusual location for this species.

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.

282. Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* **I**: Four, Okhla, Yamuna R.

283. 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*.

284. White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus* **B**: Widespread and locally common usually with mixed species flocks in the understorey of both mixed Evergreen and Cool Mixed Broad-leaved Forest at high elevations.

NOTE: Previously placed in *Alcippe*.

285. Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta* **B**: Four below Trongsa; six on the Shemgang Road.

Also known as Black-lored Yuhina.

286. Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* **B**: Widespread and common, especially at high elevations.

287. Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis* **B:** Widespread and common, especially at high elevations.
288. White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri* **B:** Fairly common this year: two below Shemgang; four on the Limithang Road and several seen between Rontong and Somdrup Jonkhar.
289. 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.
290. Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* **B:** A rather localised and this year rather rare species; ten along the Shemgang Road and several below our Morong Camp.
291. 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 Trashitang Trail; several daily on the Shemgang Road and four on Kori La.
292. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps* **B:** One or two along the Trashigang Track and in degraded sub-tropical forest above Tingtibi.
293. Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris* **B:** Yet another major tour highlight with a very responsive pair providing incredible views within their bamboo habitat on Yutong La and another near Khaling.
Also known as Sicklebilled Scimitar-babbler
294. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys* **B:** Moderately common and several seen superbly well, in scrub just above Wangdi; below Trongsa; along the Shemgang Road and heard below Yongkola and on Kori La.
295. White-browed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* **B:** Sensational views of a two very responsive birds within partially degraded Subtropical woodland, c. 650m elevation, near Tingtibi.
296. Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* **B:** Great views of a very confiding pair on Pele La; Kori La and below our Morong Camp.
297. Bar-winged Wren-Babbler *Spelaornis troglodytoides* **B:** We all had fabulous views of a single songster on Yutong La - the first time we have found it at this site!
Interestingly the birds in Bhutan look decidedly more like those illustrated for SE Arunachal Pradesh than the eastern Himalayas.

298. Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis caudatus* **B**: Brief views of this fabulous little songster along the Limithang Rd. and then after a struggle great views for most of one near Narphung. Globally threatened.

299. Spotted Wren-Babbler *Elachura formosus* **B**: One reacted immediately and flew in like a bullet along the Trashitang Track and again along the Shemgang Rd.; heard at several other locations.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Spelaeornis*.

300. Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer* **B**: Superb views of this charming sprite on Pele La.

301. Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* **B**: Widespread and rather uncommon as well as being very difficult to see again this year.

302. Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* **B**: Several along the Shemgang Road, and then commonly most days along the Limithang Road east to below Rontong.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Stachyris*.

303. Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps* **B**: Commonly heard and/or seen on at least seven days.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Stachyris*.

304. Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronus gularis* **B**: Heard near Somdrup Jonkhar.

NOTE: Formerly treated as conspecific with the Bornean population, however, clear morphological, biogeographic and vocal differences strongly suggest these two taxa should be treated as separate species.

305. White-hooded Babbler *Gampsorhynchus rufulus* **B**: Fine looks at a group of five in giant bamboo near Tingtibi.

NOTE: Formerly treated as conspecific with *G. torquatus* Collared Babbler of Thailand and SE Asia.

306. 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 it daily at this fabulous site including as many as 10 on one day!

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.

307. Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Pseudominla castaneiceps* **B**: Widespread and locally common; often in mixed species flocks in cool mixed Broad-leaved Forest.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.

308. Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei* **I**: Several seen in scrub surrounding the Okhla marshes along the east bank of the Yumna River.

309. Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.

310. Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.

311. Himalayan Cutia *Cutia nipalensis* **B**: Superb views a male and three females on Pele La; heard commonly on the Limithang Road; one male below Rontong.

NOTE: Formerly treated as conspecific with *C. legalleni* Vietnamese Cutia.

312. 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; a total of four very confiding birds just below our Yongkola Camp included one that permitted 'scope views!

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.

313. Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Dryonastes ruficollis* **B**: Fabulous views of four very responsive birds below Trongsa.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.

314. White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* **B**: One of the most attractive and effervescent of Asia's laughingthrushes. Common, seen daily over four days (range 3-50) along the road between Trongsa and Tingtibi; several from Yongkola to Kori La.

NOTE: Sumatran populations are now treated as a separate species *G. bicolor* Black-and-white-Laughingthrush

315. Greater-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* **B**: Two within secondary woodland and partially degraded Subtropical Forest near Tingtibi. Sorting out this species from Lessers is a no mean feat.

316. 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.

317. Striated Laughingthrush *Grammatoptila striata* **B:** Common and recorded widely in suitable forested habitat on most days.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.

318. Bhutan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron imbricatum* **B:** Common daily along the Shemgang Road and also on our eastern descent.

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*.

319. Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla rufogularis* **B:** One along the Trashigang Track.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.

320. Spotted Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla ocellatus* **B:** Amazing views of a pair right alongside our bus between Ha and the confluence; several heard and seen on Pele La; heard on Yutong La and Thrumsing La.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.

321. Scaly Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron subunicolor* **B:** A total of three seen on two days along the Limithang Road.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.

322. Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron squamatum* **B:** A total of four seen well on the Shemgang Road.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.

323. Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affinis* **B:** Widespread and fairly common this year at upper elevations.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.

324. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum* **B**: Widespread in low numbers.

NOTE: Formerly conspecific with *T. chrysopterum* Assam Laughingthrush, *T. melanostigma* Silver-eared Laughingthrush, and *T. peninsulae* Malayan Laughingthrush. Formerly placed in *Garrulax*.

325. Crimson-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea* **B**: One on the Shemgang Road and then fabulous views of a very responsive individual below Morong.

NOTE: Formerly treated as conspecific with *L. ripponi* of Thailand, Burma and S China.

326. Chestnut-tailed Minla *Chrysominla strigula* **B**: Common and widespread. Also known as Bar-throated Siva/Minla.

NOTE: Formerly placed in Minla.

327. Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* **B**: Widespread and common, often with mixed species.

328. Blue-winged Minla *Siva cyanouroptera* **B**: Moderately common this year being seen with mixed species flocks on a total of nine days. Also known as Blue-winged Siva.

NOTE: Formerly placed in Minla.

329. Silver-eared Mesia *Mesia argenteauris* **B**: One below Shemgang; six along the Shemgang Rd.; abundant below our Morong Camp.

NOTE: Formerly placed in *Leiothrix*.

330. Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* **B**: One on the Shemgang Rd.; several seen and/or heard along the Limithang Road east to near Deothang.

331. Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides* **B**: Fairly common below our Morong Camp.

332. 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*

333. Hoary Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis* **B**: Exceptional views of one on Pele La and one on the Limitnag Road.
334. Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni* **B**: Fabulous views of several wonderful flocks.
335. Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhoura* **B**: One seen all too briefly above the Gayzamchu.
336. 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.
337. White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* **B**: Two on two days with mixed species flocks on the Shemgang Road.
338. Great Parrotbill *Conostoma aemodium* **B**: One on Pele La; at one pair seen very well and another found nesting in bamboo on the upper slopes of Thrumsing La.
339. Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor* **B**: Fabulous views of four in the Jakar Valley.
340. Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris* **B**: Superb views of a group of 4-6 with a mixed flock in a large stand of the huge giant bamboo near Tingtibi. This is a very rarely seen species especially in Bhutan.
341. Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* **B**: Fine views of a male with a mixed species flock on Pele la and another on Kori La.
342. Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris* **B**: Small number seen regularly at high elevations.
343. Coal Tit *Parus ater* **B**: Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests.
344. Grey-crested Tit *Parus dichrous* **B**: Widespread and moderately common in all high elevation forests.
Also known as Brown-crested Tit.
345. Great Tit *Parus major* **I**: One seen well just across the border into Assam.

346. Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* **B**: Common to locally abundant and ubiquitous in suitable forested habitat. Seen daily at all localities visited. One of the most frequently seen but nevertheless most attractive Himalayan species.
347. Black-spotted Yellow Tit *Parus spilonotus* **B**: This is a very snazzy looking bird. One along the Shemgang Road.; and two most days along the Limithang Road and on our eastern descent.
348. Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* **B**: Widespread and moderately common, especially in mixed species flocks.
349. Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* **B**: What a stunner! Exceptional views of two pairs along the Shemgang Road.
350. Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* **B**: A delightful species and a great favourite with everyone when we finally caught up with it. Four on the Shemgang Rd. and then several daily from above Yongkola camp east to near Deothang.
Also known as Red-headed Tit.
351. Rufous-fronted Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos* **B**: Several good sightings this year
Also known as Black-browed Tit.
352. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta citrinocristata* **B**: One male along the Trashigang Track; pairs seen on two days on Pele La; two on the Limithang Rd.
- NOTE: Treated as a separate species from that in the lowlands of India (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).
353. White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* **B**: Widespread and fairly common; usually in mixed species flocks.
354. Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta formosa* **B**: A pair seen carrying food between Morong and Deothang.
355. Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis* **B**: Groups of three and two seen on two days on Pele La.
356. Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* **B**: Two on Thrumsing La.
Also known as Common Treecreeper

357. Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor* **B**: Excellent views of a pair collecting nest material on Kori La.
358. Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica* **I**: Several in scrub at Sultanpur Jheel and along the Yamuna R.
359. Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* **B**: Several wonderful, close views of this exquisite creature.
360. Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* **B**: Widespread and common to abundant and often ubiquitous. Seen virtually daily except in the Paro Valley, Cheli La and below c. 1200 m elevation.
361. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* **B**: Common and widespread especially at elevations generally lower than the previous two species.
362. Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* **B**: Great looks at several gorgeous and very confiding males on the Trongsa to Shemgang Road and below our Morong Camp.
363. Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda* **B**: One male above the Jakar Valley and a male and female feeding among a spectacular collection of flowering rhododendrons above the Gayzamchu.
364. Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* **B**: Two in Tingtibi; and in the forests above Somdrup Jonkhar.
365. Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum melanoxanthum* **B**: Outstanding views of this rarely encountered gem with a mixed species flock on the upper slopes (ca. 3000m) of Dochu La and two just Sengor on the Limithang Road.
366. Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundoo* **I**: One near Sultanpur Jheel.
- NOTE: Split by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) from Golden Oriole.
367. Maroon Oriole *Oriolus trailli* **B**: Moderately common this year with some great views of both males and females.
368. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* **B**: Notably widespread and common; often with mixed species flocks.
Also known as Buff-bellied Flowerpecker.

369. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa* **B**: Widespread, locally common, seen on several days but not at high elevations.
370. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* **B**: Something of a surprise; one with a mixed species flock on the Pemygatsel Road and another carrying food below our Morong Camp.
371. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Okhla, Yamuna R. **B**: Moderately common and widespread.
372. Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* **B**: Widespread, common and seen almost daily especially in areas of open country.
373. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Yamuna R; also Assam.
- NOTE: Asian populations once united with African Black Drongo under *D. adsimilis* are now widely treated as a separate species *macrocercus*.
374. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* **B**: Widespread and common to very common; recorded almost daily.
375. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* **B**: Moderately common along the lower section of the Shemgang Road and above Somdrup Jonkhar.
376. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* **B**: Just one seen along the Shemgang Road and one along the middle Limithang Road.
377. Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* **B**: One over Tingtibi. **I**: Assam.
378. Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* **B**: One on Dochu La and two on the west slope of Pele La.
379. 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
380. Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* **B**: Superb views of one between Pele La and Trongsa and then two along the Shemgang Rd.
381. Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Okhla, Yamuna R. and Assam.

382. Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* **B**: Widespread and locally moderately common. Also known as Himalayan Treepie.

383. Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica* **B**: Common in the upland valleys of the Bumthang Region.

384. Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* **B**: Widespread and common in higher elevation 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*.

385. Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* **B**: Moderately common in small groups: Paro Valley, Cheli La, Cheri Valley, Bumthang region, and Thrumsing La.

386. House Crow *Corvus splendens* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Yamuna R. and Assam.

387. 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.

388. Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus culminatus* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Yamuna R.

389. Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus levaillantii* **I**: Assam.

390. Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus* **B**: Several just below Deothang Also known as Grey-headed Starling.

391. Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel; Yamuna R. and Assam.

NOTE: Previously placed in *Sturnus*.

392. 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
393. Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus* **I:** Moderately common especially as a commensal of man, sometimes in horribly yucky areas.
394. White-vented Myna *Acridotheres javanaicus* **I:** Assam.
395. Jungle Myna *Acridotheres grandis* **I:** Assam.
396. Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* **I:** Sultanpur Jheel and Okhla, Yamuna R.
397. Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* **I:** Yamuna R.
398. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* **I:** Two in Assam.
399. Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* **B:** Common in suitable scrub and open country especially around farm buildings. Often together with Eurasian Tree Sparrows. Also known as Cinnamon Sparrow.
400. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* **B:** Ubiquitous in suitable open country especially around farm buildings. **I:** Assam.
401. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Common and ubiquitous, especially as a commensal of man. **B:** Mongar, Somdrup Jonkhar. **I:** Delhi; Yamuna R. Assam.
402. Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xantholeuca* **I:** Sultanpur Jheel.
403. Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar* **I:** Several in breeding plumage along the Yamuna River.
404. Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* **B:** At least six pairs building nests just below Deothang. **I:** Assam.
405. Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus bengalensis* **I:** Yamuna R.
406. Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* **I:** A total of ca 150 in various plumage states, scrub, grassy areas and farmland adjacent to marshes on the east bank of the Yumna R.
407. Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura puntulata* **I:** Yamuna R. **B:** Six in the Po Chu Valley.

408. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* **B**: A flock of six below our Morong Camp.
409. Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola* **B**: An exceptional year for this species, hundreds possibly thousands were seen at remarkably low elevations: 18 April - 8 Paro Valley; 21 April - 200 Dochu La; 23 April - 50 Pele La; 24 April - 200 near Chendibji; 28 April - 50 below Shemgang; 29 April - 150 Shemgang Rd.; 30 April - 20 between Ura and Gayzamchu; 1 May - 400+ below Sengor, Limithang Rd.; 6 May - 30+ over our Rontong Camp.
410. Crimson-browed Finch *Propyrrhula subhimachala* **B**: Fabulous views of a handsome male and two females as they fed quietly among a seeding sapling on the upper Limtihang Road.
411. Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis* **B**: One male on Pele La and one on Thrumsing La.
412. Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrurus* **I**: Yamuna R. **B**: Twenty on Pele La; ten below Trongsa; four on Yutong La; 200-300 on Kori La and daily to Somdrup Jonkhar.
413. Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii* **B**: Six females on Dochu La.
414. White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura* **B**: A total of six including some lovely males high on Cheli La; four on Pele La and one male above Sengor.
415. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* **B**: A flock of five in flight below Shemgang.
416. Tibetan Siskin *Serinus thibetanus* **B**: Flocks of several hundred, totalling ca. 1,000, feeding noisily in a tall forest of Silver Fir and five below Shemgang.
417. Spectacled Finch *Callacanthus burtoni* **B**: One female feeding along the road up Cheli La was a stunning surprise and the first record for Bhutan!
418. Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala* **B**: Five on Yutong La.
419. Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis* **B**: Fabulous 'scope views of a pair on the Pemygatsel Road.
420. Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis* **B**: What a gorgeous bird! Unfortunately this year just three males were seen on Cheli La and two females on the upper Limithang Road.

421. White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* **B**: Great looks at four on Cheli La; two on Pele La and two on Yutong La.
422. Spot-winged Grosbeak *Coccothraustes melanozanthos* **B**: Six on two days on the Shemgang Road.
423. Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi* **B**: Absolutely stunning views of two males and a female below Shemgang and one male on the middle Limithang Rd.
424. Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami* **B**: Scattered groups of 2-10 on four days.

MAMMALS

1. Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis* **B**: Widespread and common especially at lower elevations.
2. Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatto* **I**: Delhi.
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 - 50) seen on four days with several troops feeding on or at the side of the road including taking dirt from exposed cliffs.
6. Himalayan Masked Palm Civet *Paguma larvata* **B**: One seen at night near our Yongkola Camp.
7. Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* **I**: Okhla, Yamuna R.
8. Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula* **B**: One along the Shemgang Road. This is a spectacular beast and one we have seen several times on our Bhutan tours.
9. Tibetan Polecat *Mustela putorius* **B**: One seen by Don near Thimpu. Lucky duck!
10. Parti-coloured Flying-Squirrel *Hylopetes alboniger* **B**: One seen on our night drive along the Limithang Road.

11. 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.
12. Giant Pied Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* **B**: One along the Shemgang Road and two below our Morong Camp.
13. Hoary-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus* **B**: Several seen along the Shemgang Road.
14. Orange-bellied Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah* **B**: One along Limithang Road.
15. Five-striped Squirrel *Funambulus pennanti* **I**: Delhi.
16. Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops maccllellandi* **B**: Common and widespread especially along the Limithang Road east to Deothang.
17. Common Barking Deer (Muntjac) *Muntiacus muntjak* **B**: One on the Trashitang trail; heard several times on the Shemgang Road and below Rontong.
18. Sambar *Cervus unicolor* **B**: An adult female on the upper slopes of Pele La.
19. Goral *Nemorhaedus goral* **B**: A group of three seen superbly at Cheri Goempa.
20. Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* **I**: Common at Sultanpur Jheel.
21. Royle's Pika *Ochotona roylei* **B**: Widespread at high elevations.
22. Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis* **I**: Sultanpur Jheel.
23. [Tiger *Felis bengalensis* **B**: Fresh scat found on Pele La, collected and analysed!]

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 *Priniceps memnon*
5. Red Helen *Priniceps helenus*
6. Paris Peacock *Priniceps paris*
7. Chocolate Albatross *Appias lycinda*
8. Yellow Orangetip *Ixias pyrene*
9. Great Orangetip *Hebomoia glaucippe*
10. Hill Jezebel *Delias belladona*
11. Grey Pansy *Precis atlites*
12. Tawny Rajah *Charaxwes 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 - April - May 2008 (courtesy Sally Roberts)

Ageratum conyzoides
Aeschynanthus hookeri
Anemone rupicola
Arisaema (many species, incl. - probably - *costatum*, *erubescens*, *flavum*, *griffithi*,
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, walliciana)
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