











## Chitwan Safari in Style

**Destination:** Nepal    **Duration:** 11 Days    **Dates:** 28<sup>th</sup> March – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

-  Spotting an adult female Tiger scent marking and then crossing the road in Chitwan
-  Having an incredible 38 Rhino sightings of at least 34 individuals in one day!
-  Over 120 different species of birds throughout the tour including Bengal Florican
-  Seeing reptiles including a 4m plus King Cobra & critically endangered Gharial
-  Enjoying the morning mist in the sal forests and grasslands on Elephant back
-  Whilst studying fresh Tiger tracks and a scrap we spooked a nearby Sloth Bear
-  Watching the rough courtship of two mating Rhinos from the banks of the Naryani
-  Spotting a large number of Mugger Crocodiles including a 4m giant on the Rapti
-  Exploring the fascinating Buddhist and Hindu sites of old Kathmandu city
-  Finding evidence of at least 7 different tigers throughout of exploration of Chitwan

### Tour Leader / Guides

Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)  
 Kaju (Kathmandu Driver)  
 Sanjay & Dipendra (Chitwan (Sapana) naturalist guides)  
 Prakash & Rahul (Chitwan jeep driver)  
 Kumal (Sapana mahout)  
 Nissar (Temple Tiger naturalist guide)  
 Ram Lotan (Temple Tiger mahout)  
 Vikesh (Temple Tiger Jeep Driver)  
 Janu (Kathmandu Cultural Guide)

### Participants

Mr. Kevin Hill  
 Mrs. Hannah Hill

### Overview

**Day 1:** Kathmandu

**Days 2-6:** Sapana

**Days 7-9:** Temple Tiger

**Day 10:** Kathmandu

**Day 11:** Home





# Day by Day Breakdown

## Overview

Walking through the long grass of Nepal's Terai region in search of the elusive tiger or majestic one-horned rhino is one of the most thrilling and adventurous things any wildlife enthusiast can do. This 11 day tour took ourselves deep into the Terai (the subtropical belt of forest and alluvial grasslands from Uttarakhand in North West India through to Burma in the East), which is home to the last remaining Asian one-horned rhinos (a population predominantly split between Chitwan National Park (~600) in Nepal and Kaziranga National Park in India (~2,000)) as well as a large meta-population of tigers, sloth bears, Asiatic elephants, leopards and many other species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. This park is of global importance because many of the species that have big populations here are endangered and incredibly rare elsewhere such as tigers, one-horned rhinos, Asiatic elephant, hog deer, Bengal florican and the critically endangered gharial. Here the gharial is represented in good numbers. With Chitwan holding the second largest population in the world and around 20% of the global total (only 50!)

Whilst exploring the Terai (principally in search of the very difficult to see tiger) we would explore a section of Nepal's largest and most popular national park; Chitwan. We would enter these parks with the expert guidance of experienced naturalists from the local area and would experience the parks on foot, by jeep, on elephant back and by traditional dug-out canoe. This varied way of visiting the park increased the chances of seeing a huge range of wildlife and some of the fantastic mammal and bird sightings we had in a short amount of time testimony to that.

In addition to visiting the parks in search of the wildlife we were also treated to a couple of the local Tharu people's dances. Including the always comical Peacock Dance. Nepal has a long and good history of conservation in and around the Terai and it is through community projects like the cultural dance performances and the great work that Sapana Lodge conduct with local communities such as women's handicraft trade that is enabling the local people to earn directly or indirectly from having plentiful wildlife nearby. Our cultural immersion will be complimented by a village tour and an opportunity to see how the local people live in harmony with the forest. This is one of the few instances where you experience the local culture first hand. There is no show put on, this is not rehearsed and it really gives you an insight into their way of life. As a result the level of poaching, illegal fishing, habitat encroachment, overgrazing, fire wood collection and deforestation is lower here than anywhere else in South Asia.

There are still some aspects of Nepal's 'eco'-tourism and the way the park is used which are not quite there in terms of acceptability to a Western standard; but the fact that the park boast increasing rhino, tiger, hog deer, leopard, sloth bear and stable gharial numbers means that they are doing many things right and this needs to be focused on. In time all the other aspects of the park will fall into place, and hopefully other Tiger parks around the Indian Subcontinent will begin to learn from the success that Chitwan is having by making all the local people feel involved in the conservation and responsible for the wildlife.



## Day 1 Kathmandu

### *Arrival & Sightseeing*

On arrival at Kathmandu International Airport you met your tour leader, Martin Royle and with the help of the local driver, Kaju, you were transferred into the heart-beat of Kathmandu, the buzzing district of Thamel. The weather was very hazy, not unusual for this time of year, but there were views of some of the Himalayas from the plane as they circled the airport before being allowed to land. Some of the 7,000m peaks peaking out above the carpet of clouds.

After getting out of the airport and driving through the rush hour traffic, it was getting near sunset after the slightly delayed flight and so when we got to the hotel we just checked in, freshened up and then headed to the nearby Kathmandu Guesthouse, a Kathmandu institution for dinner.

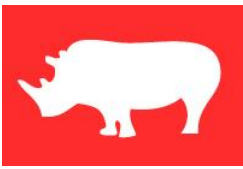
All this and a good night sleep in time for tomorrow's journey to Chitwan National Park was the ideal way of welcoming you to the wonderful and diverse country of Nepal.

## Day 2 Chitwan National Park

### *Travel & Relaxation*

This morning we left for the airport where we caught our flight to the town of Bharatpur, nearby Chitwan National Park, it had been raining last night and still this morning and there were some delays at the airport, but we arrived at the lodge a little after midday. We checked in and had lunch overlooking the Rapti River and the flood plains that are dotted with buffalo and some domesticated elephants and a myriad of birdlife. On the drive in from the airport we travelled through typical modern day terai habitat, the alluvial grasslands transected by Tharu villages, industrial Indian border towns, rice paddies and community buffer zone forests and eco lodges. One of the most important





sights along the way (from a conservation stand point anyway) is the community zone forests which have helped to make the Nepalese Terai a real success with conservation. The wildlife (including Tigers, Rhinos and Elephants) can all move freely between the 9 protected areas in the Terai and this landscape will form a crucial part of Panthera's long term project for a Tiger Corridor linking North West Indian Tiger populations with ones through Nepal, North East India, Bhutan and Burma (The ambitious Terai Landscape Arc Project).

After lunch we had a short walk into a nearby Tharu village and along the way saw many birds including the common species around here such as common mynah, intermediate egret, lesser racket-tailed drongo, barn swallow, plain martins, spotted doves, house & eastern jungle crows, Asian pied starling, white-breasted kingfishers and around the lodge we spotted a pair of Indian grey mongooses playing around, a pair of rufous treepeeps nesting and a pair of oriental pied hornbills in a nearby fig tree. At the village we were told about the method of making the huts, bamboo and wood and then mud and elephant dung to line the walls and then traditionally elephant grass thatch for the roof (although nowadays this is mostly corrugated metal), we were also told about the Tharu culture of tattooing the woman's hands and forearms after they are married as we had some ginger tea with them. It was a brief introduction into the Tharu way of life, seeing the modern and traditional ways of life mixing in the village and then walking through the rice paddies, wheat fields, mustard plantations and fields of bananas, potatoes and other crops before coming back to the lodge.

In the evening we went into Suaraha village for a cultural dance performance by the local Tharu people. We were shown the stick dances, these dances include the traditional weapon of the Tharu people (sticks) and they would beat them together and against other people's sticks rhythmically in a frenzied dance that makes you wonder how they don't break fingers every time they do it. This dance was originally designed to teach fighting techniques and to train warriors, we were also shown dances for weddings, comedy (including a man in drag trying to impress a clowning male admirer), harvest songs, a dance for the festival of light in March, a fire dance and of course the peacock dance, which is always interesting to watch. From here we left and went back to the lodge for dinner and our first night outside Chitwan, tomorrow would be an early start as we would head into the park in search of the rhinos, tigers and other wildlife of the forest and grasslands.

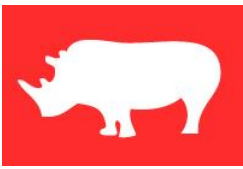


### **Day 3 Chitwan National Park**

### ***Wildlife Watching***

This morning we rose early and after some tea and coffee headed out to enter the park a little after sunrise with Sanjay, we crossed the Rapti River into the park and met our jeep driver Prakash and proceeded on our full day jeep safari. The bird life was prolific early this morning with many species around the village, on the river and in the forest. Prominent species being oriental pied hornbills, ruddy shelducks, woolly-necked storks, Indian peafowl, Alexandrine parakeets, Asian pied starling, chestnut-tailed starlings, jungle & common mynahs, black drongos, collared & spotted doves and jungle babblers. Our first highlight of the day was a brief view on the road of a critically endangered Bengal florican and then several peacocks in full display on the road, doing their best to impress the rather unreceptive females. A little further on we had some views of a beautiful golden flameback woodpecker nearby the remains of a termite mound that had been excavated by a sloth bear. In the sal forest we came across a small herd of gaur, made up of females and young of various ages, there were no huge males present, by the females and subadult males are large enough and certainly look like they are rightly the largest species of wild cattle in the world. We also had sightings of several groups of chital, a couple of lone red muntjac (all of which ran away and didn't allow for prolonged looks) and a young male sambar deer. We did have good and long views of a wild boar foraging in a muddy stream just next to the road and also our first Indian one-horned rhino. The rhino was in a forest clearing and quite distant, knowing that we would be likely to see more rhinos and closer we left and went to a lake where we found a small troop of rhesus macaques moving through the canopy carrying their young babies in their arms. Also at the lake we spotted a mugger crocodile swimming along and pair of grey-headed fish eagles. One adult perched very close to the road and allowing for good pictures and then a juvenile on the other side of the lake. We then headed to have breakfast in a nearby raised platform overlooking a cross roads. Whilst we had breakfast we watched and mother and fawn hog deer grazing, a lone wild boar (who made good sport out of scaring and chasing off the hog deer), a crested serpent eagle perched in a tree nearby and also a lone lesser adjutant stork on the same grassy patch as the hog deer and wild boar.

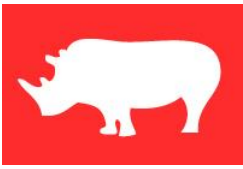
We waited a while there but no more wildlife came out and so we carried on and through a large stand of sal forest before we entered the grasslands again. The grass had recently been burnt here and we were able to see many



rhinos in this relatively small area. We watched one rhino feeding just around 10m off the road and watching us every now and again as he fed heartily on the fresh grass shoots, fresh from the burning off of the old growth. In this small area we managed to spot over 10 different rhinos feeding, some distant and it was only their large grey backs that were visible and some very close and allowing us great views and photo opportunities. As well as the rhinos here we also had some nice Indian rollers perched over the road, their brilliant lilac and purple plumage brightening the overcast morning. At one of the checkpoints we were told of a wild elephant nearby the old Tiger Tops lodge grounds, so we raced over and arrived at the Naryani River just in time to see the large bull elephant (sporting an impressive pair of tusks) cross the river and hastily disappear into the still very long elephant grass on the other side. Wild elephants are quite a rare sight in Chitwan, there are only around 60 that use the park. They also use the neighbouring Indian wildlife sanctuary and are so have a huge area to cover and with so few elephants they are seldom seen so we were lucky to have clear (albeit brief) views of the large male. We carried on past the remains of the Tiger Tops Lodge (as of September 2012 all accommodation inside of the national park was banned and so the 7 lodges had to close up and the properties are left largely intact and like a ghost town now); we arrived at a view point over the river and from here we scanned for tigers, but only found yet another rhino coming out of the grass onto the sand bank and then down to the river to drink. Around here there were large numbers of chital in the forest as well as wild boar. We drove to Devi Tal, a lake, and had breakfast here. In the hour or so we were there we counted another 10 different rhinos, including two mother and calf pairs and one of which was very young (probably around 1 month old), wallowing, drinking and feeding. The rhinos entertained us along with a troop of terai grey langurs and the various birds including bronze-winged jacanas, great egrets, Indian pond herons, little bee-eaters and many others. After watching the rhinos rolling around and making sure that every part of them was covered in mud and seeing the young rhinos closely following their mothers every step we left and carried on our journey. On our way back to the river crossing we spotted a kalij pheasant and some more flocks of red jungle fowl and a large male wild boar very close to the road. On the other side of the river we had unbelievable views of a mother and her 4 year old rhino calf feeding just next to the road, she was staring at us and trying to figure us out. Despite being so close it is likely that she cannot see us clearly and was listening with her huge leaf shaped ears and raising her head to smell us. She decided we were not worth charging (but you could see she thought long and hard about it) and her and her calf walked off, the calf never stopped feeding and I don't think even gave us a second glance. Also with this pair was a second pair, this female had a younger calf and didn't stay around very long after a second jeep arrived and they crossed the road behind both vehicles, the mother running to stand in between the youngster and the jeep. The protective instinct of a mother rhino is something never to be tested.

Carrying on around we were back in the area of grass that had been burnt recently and as well as some very large herds of chital we found a 4m plus king cobra on the side of the road, however the sun was out and despite being overcast the air temperature was very hot and the cobra had more than enough energy to slither off away very quickly. So whilst getting a sighting of the world's largest venomous snake we didn't have great views before it disappeared into the long grass. This is a rare sight in Chitwan and with the bull elephant and Bengal florican we were having an incredible day so far. But then we hit the jackpot, around 50m ahead of us on the road both Sanjay and Martin grabbed their binoculars to check out a shape and size that didn't seem right for a hog deer or chital. With the binoculars the stripes and orange coat were obvious and the call of Tiger reigned out in the jeep. We watched as the female tiger sniffed the scent on the ground, flehmened to take in the pheromones and then walk casually across the road and into the long grass on the other side of the road. It was around 5 minutes altogether and despite us beckoning the jeep a few minutes behind us to hurry up, we were the only people to see the tiger before we vanished into the long grass. Her lower half was caked in mud, she had clearly been resting in an old rhino wallow and cooling off during the heat of the day and on leaving the grass had come across the scent marking of another tiger. The flehmen response is common in a lot of animals, various animals possess a olfactory organ in the roof of their mouth called the Jacobson's organ. Whenever they come across an interesting scent they suck the air into their mouth and inadvertently pull a grimace like expression on their face. In tigers it is easy to confuse with an aggressive snarl or growl, but it is just purely smelling. Buzzing from this latest sighting in the growing list of wonderful sightings on our first trip into the park we didn't reach this heights again for the rest of the safari.

Our next stop was the crocodile and turtle breeding centre in the middle of park. This breeding centre is doing a great job and has resulted in a large number of gharial being released (>1,000), albeit with limited success. But a 1% increase in population from each reintroduction is better than no increase so it is a worthwhile venture by the park as the population of wild gharials in Chitwan is increasing slowly; and it also allows people to get up close to the various age categories of gharial, they recently lost their large breeding male (who was over 5m long and a hell of a specimen – he died of old age). As well as breeding gharials they also have reintroduced mugger crocodiles as well as some of the 10 species of freshwater turtles which should be found here. The mugger crocodiles (like most crocodile species worldwide) do very well when they are breed and reintroduced and their numbers are very strong again, however for some unknown reason when the gharials are released (even when they are released at the size and age of sexual maturity with very few if any natural predators) they do not survive very long. With only 5.5% recruitment to the population and 7.7% survival after the first 2 years of reintroduction their numbers are still dwindling. There are only around 250 breeding individuals in the world and with a total population around 1,800, they are critically endangered and need all the help they can get. So after visiting here we began the drive back to the entrance, having to leave the park before 06:00pm. On the way back we had some more good rhino encounters including a female feeding on the road and so far the closest we had come to the rhino. She had various scars and



fresh cuts on her flanks and rump, inflicted by a male during the very brutal mating ritual of the species that involved chasing, ramming and biting in a lengthy battle that presumably has evolved to select for only the fittest males (who can endure the long chase and the strongest females, who can survive the physical contest). We also had some more wild boar sightings as well seeing many aquatic birds on another lake, including common moorhen, Eurasian coot, darters, fulvous whistling ducks and bronze-winged jacanas and our last sighting of note was a pair of endangered lesser adjutant storks on their nests and also a pair of male chestnut-rumped starlings having a very vicious fight in the middle of the road. It is unusual to see small song bird fight like this, but it was a spectacle. We then left the park and headed back to the lodge for dinner and a good night sleep, tomorrow we would enter the park again and this time spend the whole day on foot exploring and hoping for more wildlife.

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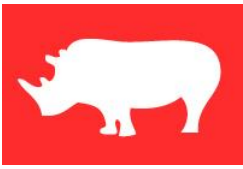
## Day 4 Chitwan National Park

## Wildlife Watching

This morning we rose just at dawn and had tea and coffee at the lodge before being driven to the park gate again, we were once again first there and first in as crossed the Rapti River, keeping an eye on a pair of mugger crocodiles just at the surface nearby and the plentiful birdlife around here once again. Once in the park we had a safety briefing from Sanjay and Raju who would take us deep into the park on foot for a full day jungle walk. Along the banks of the river and shortly into the riverine forest that skirts the Rapti River we found fresh rhino tracks (from this morning heading down to the village), as well as elephant, gaur, many deer and tiger prints. As with everywhere in Chitwan the birdlife is wonderful and the riverine forest this morning didn't disappoint with good views of a shikra perched in a tree, looking intently at a pair of red jungle fowl on the opposite side of the path. The shikra didn't go for them, I think our presence was a good omen for the jungle fowl this time. Sanjay showed us various plants that are used by the local people such as kaffir lime which is used for cooking, *artemisia* which is used as a leach and mosquito repellent and had a distinct bleach like smell. We were also shown the bark on a couple of buttress roots of a huge silk-cotton tree. The bark had been stripped off in small pieces, this is evidence of deer (most likely chital) feeding. Walking on we stopped at several view points over the Rapti River, looking over we spotted a pair of hog deer emerging from the grass to drink at the river and further down the river bank a couple of male chital doing the same. We then left the riverine forest and proceeded to enter the grassland, walking on a raised dam (doubling as a road and pathway) gave us an elevated view into the grass which is a great way of spotting rhinos and possibly wild elephants. Quickly we did spot a small Indian mongoose scurrying into the long grass, its small length and reddish colouration distinguishing it from the larger Indian grey mongoose. Along with various birds including the plentiful spotted doves, black drongos, red-whiskered and red-vented bulbuls, Indian jungle crows and common peafowl we spotted our first rhino within 20 minutes of being in the grassland. Sanjay and Kevin had walked past it before Martin spotted him just 12m into the grass. We could clearly see him from our raised vantage point, but the dense grass was block the rhinos view of us, however his ears were locked in our direction and he lifted his nose to sniff the air. Knowing that we are there we were a little vulnerable, we were standing right in the middle of the pathway that he was on and which would take him over the road and down to the grass on the other side. So we moved around 30m further on the road and stood to watch in silence. Hoping to get great views of the rhino in the open as he walked up the slope to cross the road and then back down again. However after around 10 minutes the rhino had convinced itself we had left (we were now downwind from the rhino) and he changed direction and started to walk directly towards us. As he had not noticed us yet we waited for him to get around 10m away before beating the sticks on the ground to alert him of our presence. We didn't want him to get onto the road and then notice us as he would be spooked and vulnerable and in that situation is likely to charge us out of panic. So whilst he still had the option of heading back into the safety of the grass we alerted him to our position. Like we planned he turned on a sixpence and ran off into the grass and we were free to continue onwards.

Along this road there was lots of bear activity, tracks, hole dug in the road as they looked for ants and termites and plenty of faeces showing that there is indeed a very high density of sloth bears in Chitwan, possibly the highest in the world. Further along we spotted another rhino a little further into the grassland before finding very fresh dung from a mother and baby rhino on the road. We had missed these two by a matter of minutes, we didn't hang around here too long in case they were still close by and hidden by the grass. A mother with a calf is a very dangerous animal and we didn't want to push our luck. We then arrived at a shallow lake with some nice waterfowl around, purple heron, bronze-winged jacanas, great egrets, white-throated kingfishers and red-wattled lapwings all around as well as tiger tracks, these were a young tiger and different from the adult female's tracks we had seen earlier. This young tiger had moved along the lake pathway exactly as we had, jumping over some channels to keep her feet dry, just as we did. We then arrived at a tower overlooking the lake and had breakfast. A small breeding herd of chital were feeding in the shorter burned grass to one side as a rhino grazed in the long grass to the other. After breakfast we walked towards a relatively large enclosure which had around 300 water buffalo in it, the plan is to release the water buffalo back into Chitwan. They had been hunted and bred out of the park years ago and with this translocation from a large population in nearby Koshi Tappu National Park we hoped that Chitwan would have a large free-ranging population of this endangered species alongside the rhinos, elephants and guar as the mega-herbivores of the park. Along the way to a water buffalo observation tower we found another set of tiger tracks, these were of a large female tiger and possibly the same tiger as the first one we saw, however we were some distance away and the chances of the same female having a territory this big in Chitwan (where the density is so high and territories smaller) is small. We also found another rhino, a large male with a big horn (30cm plus long)





feeding just 20m away from us and offering good views. There was a steep and narrow gully between the rhino and the road we were on, so we were very safe even at this close distance and we stood and watched him feed and try and pinpoint where we were with his ears and nose. When he was finally satisfied that we were not a threat he ate a little more and moved off away feeding as he went. In the watch tower overlooking the water buffalo we did manage to find a small number feeding in the long grass. They have been in here for a couple of months so far and are likely to be here for a year as they get used to their new environment before a small herd will be released and with success more will follow.

We then left the grasslands and entered the sal forest and walked further along, the heat was beginning to raise now and the wildlife was few and far between in the sal forest. We did see some huge parasitic vines that had nearly completely killed off their original host tree and were moving from one to another in search of another host to take over. We then found tracks of a large male tiger and a scat full of chital hair, further on we found a fresh scat and scrape made by a tiger. To scent mark they rake their rear paws back and forth in the substrate and create two furrows and a mound behind them in which they either urinate or defecate (or both), this scrape was from this morning and was made by a small female. We also could smell the stench of a carcass, presumably this tiger had made a kill here in the last 24 hours and was probably still around. As we were looking at the scrape, Raju quickly turned and beckoned out attention, he had spotted a sloth bear get up from the long grass around 5m away from us and run into the grass. No one else saw the bear and he disappeared quickly. We waited silently in the area for 15 minutes but the bear didn't come back out to cross the road, so we carried on. Before we had lunch nearby an army patrolling station we spotted a male Indian garden lizard, his head very bright head as he was in full breeding colours and also a small troop of terai grey langurs in the sal trees just off the road. We had lunch on another raised platform and watched as the army brought their three anti-poaching elephants back coupled with 4 babies of various ages including 2 around 3 months old and they were full of energy and running around. From here we started to slowly walk back, moving from grassland to riverine forest in the hope of coming across a tiger or sloth bear as they come out of their cool sleeping places for a drink at the Rapti River. We had heard from another guide of a tiger he had seen this morning and so focused around this area and staked out a couple of locations. We waited in one place until a army foot patrol and then the small herd of anti-poaching elephants came and entered the same area of forest that the tiger was thought to be in. So we left, it is very unlikely that with that much activity the tiger would come out into the open, if it was even still around. Looking out onto the Rapti River again for any animals coming down for a drink we just spotted a lesser adjutant stork and some ruddy shelducks. There are few ruddy shelducks around at the moment as many of them have migrated back to Siberia for the summer, they would be due back in large numbers in October and November to avoid Siberia's harsh winter. Walking on we found a huge silk-cotton tree that had been scaled by a sloth bear in pursuit of honey inside a bees nest high in the branches. The claw marks leading directly upwards, the same tree had suffered from a troop of monkeys feeding on it, the still unripe fruits being half eaten littered the floor and the silk-cotton coming out of the fruit husks before it is ready. The last bit of excitement before we left the park was when Sanjay went to check on a small waterhole in the long grass, he was gone a couple of minutes when we heard the very loud sound of a rhino snorting and then running through water and crashing through the grass. We waiting anxiously for Sanjay to return, after a minute or two he came out of the grass with a rye smile. He had walked up to the waterhole silently and parted the grass to see if anything was there, not realising he had got very close to the waterhole and when he parted the grass and stuck his head through the gap he came face to face (around 1m away) from a resting rhino. The rhino rolled back onto its front and ran off as fast as it could into the forest.

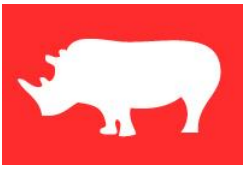
On leaving the park one of the crocodiles who was in the water when we set off was now on the sand bank opposite and sunbathing. We then arrived back in the village, grabbed a cold drink after full 10.5 hours hiking in oppressive heat and humidity. This evening we rested, had dinner and get a good early night.



## Day 5 Chitwan National Park

## Wildlife Watching

This morning was a little more relaxed as we left for one of the 4 elephant safari starting points, the air was cooler and a mist clung to the ground as we arrived. Kevin and Hannah climbed aboard the elephant and were taken into the riverine forest and patched of grassland in search of wildlife. Getting close views of the wildlife is always very easy on the back of an elephant as they are seen as a natural part of the habitat here and it proved with close up sightings of sambar deer, barking deer and chital as well as a nice views of birds in the forest, grassland and along the riverbanks. Birds this morning included cattle egrets, intermediate egrets, common mynahs, black drongos, red-vented bulbuls, sand martins and even a black kite. On our return from the peaceful elephant back safari into the park we had breakfast and then at 11am went down with some of the lodge's elephants and mahouts to the nearby



river to help in the elephant's daily bath time. Elephants love water, it is not an understatement to say that they cannot get enough of a long bath and being scrubbed and scratched in the right places by people is just about as close to elephant heaven as it is possible to get. It is also great fun for us, to get this close and personal with these wonderful animals and see the bond shared between mahout and elephant that will last a lifetime.

Coming back to the lodge for lunch we then departed as the heat of midday dissipated to have a canoe trip along the border of the park. The skies looked ominous this afternoon with dark clouds and thunder rumbling out in the distance, however we were looking that the rain held off until much later this evening. The canoe is a traditional wooden dug out canoe made in one piece from silk cotton tree. Cruising down the Buddi Rapti River (Old Rapti) we spotted many species of birds including common greenshanks, red-wattled lapwings, river lapwings, great egrets, Indian pond herons, white-throated kingfishers and chestnut-headed bee-eaters. The water levels are very low at this time of year and in some places we were scraping the bottom of the canoe on the river bed. Almost along the entire way we had mugger crocodiles lining up next to the bank, not quite out of the water and basking on the shore (although we did see one fully on the bank) but half in and half out as the temperatures were very hot and so the dual cooling action of the river was enough to maintain a nice internal body temperature. Most of the crocodiles here are around 1.5-2.5m long however there was one giant crocodile that must have been around 4m long and he was resting with his head and front part of his body out of the water. All of a sudden the sides of the canoe seemed very low in the water! As well as the more common mugger crocodile we spotted one of the critically endangered gharials. This individual was around 1.7m long and basking fully on the pebbles of the river bank. To see one of these individuals is great, they are so low in numbers, with only around 50 adults present around Chitwan. This one was not old to be breeding individual but it was still fantastic to see. Other than many more birds around the river including a pair of large stork-billed kingfishers and many hovering pied kingfishers, we saw a couple of rhesus macaques coming down to the river bank to drink, before we reached the elephant breeding centre and the end of the canoe trip. We then walked into the sal forest around 20,000 lake, an area of buffer zone than is very good for birding. We had a couple of hours birding around here before the rain threatened and we headed back to the lodge for the evening. Some of the birding highlights this afternoon included a grey-headed fish eagle being mobbed by a Indian jungle crow, some great Indian rollers and stork-billed kingfishers and we watched for a while a flock of Alexandrine parakeets making nests in various tree holes. We also had some great views of wild boar, usually very skittish but walking slowly through the forest we managed to get quite close and watch as a large male came down to the lake's edge and drank and another sounder moved through the forest foraging, rooting into the ground with their powerful snouts. They then spotted, heard or smelt us and bolted, barking as they went. On the way back to the lodge we saw a lot of chital along the border of the forest and the start of the village and agricultural lands, there was also a large troop of rhesus macaques descending from the trees to a ranger station to feed on any leftovers from the tourists all day.

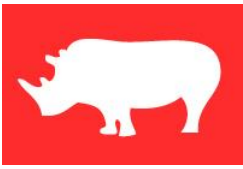
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## Day 6 Chitwan National Park

## Wildlife Watching

This morning we left the lodge in the morning and went on a jeep safari with Dipendar as our guide and Vikram as our driver. We would head to another area, the Kumroj Buffer Zone Community Forest, this area is largely dominated by riverine forest and close to the Rapti River in search for wildlife. On entering the park we saw many species of birds including Indian peafowl, red-vented bulbuls, Indian jungle crows, plain & sand martins and as we were early we spotted a male red jungle fowl and a male peafowl up a tree. They roost overnight in the trees and these two had not started their days yet and were still up there. As we drove towards the Rapti River and the riverine forest we entered some grassland, the grass here had been burned in a control fire to promote new growth and the fresh green shoots had attracted large numbers of chital and hog deer that we saw around the area, as well as a young male wild boar on his own. We also had a fly by from a pair of black-shouldered kites and then good views of one that landed in a bare tree close to the road. We then stopped at a view point overlooking the Rapti River, from here we could see lots of the migratory ruddy shelducks as well a solitary woolly-necked stork and a couple of great egrets. It was still too cool in the air for the mugger crocodiles and gharial to be basking, we would hope for these species later in the morning. It was just very peaceful this morning, stopping and looking out over the river and scanning the grass on the river banks and hoping for a tiger or rhino to emerge and walk down for a drink. We then had breakfast near a dried up monsoonal lake where a herd of chital were feeding and having common mynahs pick off ticks and other parasites from their bodies. The views out over the grasslands towards the densely forested Chuirra hills was exceptional this morning, the storm yesterday had removed a lot of the dust and haze from the air and the views were as good as they have been since we arrived in Chitwan. As we drove towards a dyke on the Rapti River we saw an Indian roller investigating nesting sites in a dead tree which a large number of jungle mynahs noisily claimed as their own; and also a male and female Asian paradise flycatcher. The male being white with a black head and a long streamer like tail and the female being chestnut brown with a black head and a much smaller tail. They are among the most striking and beautiful birds here and we had good yet fleeting views as they flew over the road and briefly perched in a nearby tree.

At the dyke, constructed to divert and alleviate some of the problems with monsoonal floods we had views of three different gharial basking on the pebbles, the largest being a mature female around 3m long. We also spotted a mugger crocodile (around 2m long) basking amongst them. However it was interesting that as we walked down the dyke towards the river on the opposite side of the river from the crocodiles that the mugger slunk off into the water



(only coming out again once we had walked back up to the jeep) whilst the gharials were not bothered and didn't move a muscle to our presence. The river here was teeming with goonch and other fish and it is testament to a lot of hard work by the Nepali authorities and local people that the water quality here is so good and the crocodiles have a large food base. On leaving the river we started to slowly head back, along the way we spotted a lone red muntjac, a pair of foraging lesser adjutant storks in a large flood plain, two female sambar escaping the heat of the sun under the thick bush of the riverine forest and then a small herd of chital feeding together with a large troop of rhesus macaques. We watched the macaques for a few minutes, climbing and jumping through the trees, the younger ones looking at us very inquisitively whilst the older ones paid us little attention. The final sighting of note today was a muntjac carcass up a tree which had been killed by a leopard around 2 weeks ago.

We then returned to the lodge for a few hours in the middle of the day, we had changed the activities today at Hannah and Kevin's request to include a longer village and cultural guided walk instead of going back into the forest for a half day guided jungle hike. So at 15:30pm once it was cooler they were taken out to see what the local people get up to around here when not employed through eco-tourism. The walk was pleasant as they made their way through the local villages, passed mud hut in the traditional Tharu style and through the patchwork of rice paddies, wheat fields, mustard and potato patches. They were also shown some of the local hashish (marijuana) which has been grown here for generations and is used by the local people all the time. They were prepared some of the Tharu's special sticky rice and tried some super spice fish curry. The Tharu people's cuisine is often very spicy and it was a little too much for the western pallet. Then the rain came in, another storm, the clouds had been getting darker and more menacing for a while and then the thunder claps grew in magnitude until the heavens opened and the rain poured down. Taking shelter with the locals in a house they watched the rain lash down and the lightning fork across the sky and light up the surrounding areas with brilliant flashes. The storm lasted around 40 minutes before passing, at this point they made it back to the lodge and changed ready for dinner, when another storm broke forth and carried on (on and off) until quite late into the night.



## Day 7 Chitwan National Park

### *Travelling & Wildlife Watching*

This morning in the cool air after another storm we were picked up after breakfast and transferred back towards Narayngarh and the airport at Bharatpur and then further westwards to a new area of the park and one that is seldom visited, there are a couple of lodges around here and so there is a much higher chance of spotting rarer wildlife as there are much less people here. We arrived at our next lodge, Temple Tiger Lodge around lunch time and promptly ate a local Nepali dal-bhat-takeri dish before having our first excursion into this side of the park on elephant back later this afternoon. At 15:30 we departed on elephant back into the riverine forests in search of wildlife, whether it was the stormy weather recently or an unknown reason it was pretty quiet this afternoon. We had some interesting bird sightings including a male peafowl displaying to 2 females and an Oriental pied hornbill being mobbed and chased by three Indian jungle crows, but mammal life was in pretty short supply. We did spot a golden jackal early on and then a barking deer ran quickly across a meadow and back into the dense forest, but right towards the end of the trip we spotted a large one-horned rhino feeding in the meadow. It sensed us, its satellite dish like ears pointed right as us before it swung away and headed into the forest, we followed and after a few minutes of walking through the riverine forest the rhino came back out into the meadow and continued to feed. Presumably satisfied that we were not there to disturb or hurt it as it carried on munching on the vegetation as we watched peacefully for a while. In the distance a pair of sambar deer had come out to the edge of the forest, but these were the last sightings of the safari as we headed back and into the village fields and floodplain, across a river (where the elephant stopped once again to have a refreshing drink and spray cooling water on her legs and belly) and finally back to the lodge just as the rain was starting to fall. The clouds had come in hard and it was looking like the start of the monsoon early with storms every evening at the same time.

We had dinner at the lodge after a short slideshow of the wildlife and history of Chitwan and the lodge itself, tomorrow we would head back into the park and explore this part of the park in more depth.

## Day 8 Chitwan National Park

### *Wildlife Watching*

This morning we left the lodge and headed down to the Naryani River and from there crossed into the park, the walk up the sand bank to the waiting jeep we saw the sand moving with over hundred tiny toadlets, between 0.4 – 1.3cm the small toads were scurrying over the sand to get away from our feet as we intruded on their morning. Once inside we boarded our jeep and headed into the forest, grassland mosaic in search of wildlife. At the jeep station





there were fresh tiger tracks from that morning, a large male had walked passed the jeeps and into the long grass and away from the roads, so no chance we could follow him unfortunately. Driving through the riverine forest we spotted another set of tiger tracks from last night, these were from a female but they didn't lead to anywhere we could stake out. We also saw small groups of chital, various birds including lesser racket-tailed drongos, red jungle fowl, red-vented bulbul, Indian jungle crows and a male and female scarlet minivet (only the males being scarlet coloured); as well as having good views of a small troop of terai grey langurs feeding on the seed pods of a sasol tree. As we arrived at the look out over the Naryani River we would be stopping for breakfast and a couple of hours, three members of the army came running out to tell us that they had just seen a tiger (like just then) crossing the river, we ran to the bank but the tiger had already disappeared into the grass. So we sat and watched hoping it would come back out and into the open. We waited and the tiger never did reappear but we were rewarded with a rhino coming out and having a drink and then carrying on across the river. There were also many birds around here including some white-throated kingfishers who were very territorial and chased every bird who flew into their stretch of river. That was until the much smaller (but clearly more aggressive) blue-eared kingfisher started to defend its territory just adjacent to the larger kingfishers'. Also fluttering around were some chestnut-bellied nuthatches, a lined barbet, Indian jungle crows, Alexandrine parakeets and an osprey flew overhead carrying a fish in its talons. On the river we spotted some ruddy shelducks, red-wattled lapwings, great and little egrets, a red-naped ibis and some Indian peafowl coming down to drink as well as another rhino in the distance having a bathe as the temperatures continued to rise.

We were then alerted to the river by the sound of the army calling 'gaida' or 'rhino' to me and you and then the sounds of two rhinos either fighting or mating. Unfortunately for female one-horned rhinos it can be very difficult to tell the difference. These two were most likely the throngs of courtship as the female was pretty relaxed as after some jostling the movements were mostly coordinated and with the male at the back, regularly smelling her anogenital region and resting his head and neck on her rump. He followed her around as closely as possible and we watched as they moved through the grass, back out onto the beach again, then into the grass, then over the road, away into the grass and finally into the distance. As we watched the mating pair moving along Kevin spotted a mother and calf feeding nearby (also in the grass) and a fifth rhino a little further away feeding in the dense grass too. We left here and saw the langurs licking the walls of the derelict buildings (from the old Tiger Tops lodge) in an attempt to get salts and other minerals from the concrete and clay used to make the buildings here.

On our way to our next look out (at the old Temple Tiger lodge) we had good but brief views of a crested serpent eagle and a rhino in the rhino nearby to the road, with a jungle crow taking a ride on his back.

At the old lodge grounds we had a wonderful local Nepali lunch prepared for us and then observed some of the wildlife from a great deck overlooking a lake and the surrounding forests. We spotted another five different rhinos whilst here, including one just relaxing in the water and who stayed there the entire time we were there. We also found some hog deer, chital and wild boar coming down to drink and in the case of the wild boar to root around in the soft mud on the edge of the lake for food. The lake is also a very good and famous stopping point for migratory birds, whether travelling from India north to central Asia in the summer or from Siberia south in the winter the lake is usually host to some migratory species and this time we spotted a flock of common pochard with a couple of northern pintails and also a large flock of black-crowned night herons to go with the more resident species such as white-throated kingfishers, red-wattled lapwings, Indian pond herons and common coots. After our lunch we also walked the short distance to a nearby army station and their elephant stables, here they have three elephants currently, a large adult female and her two offspring. A nine year old female and a 3.5 month old male who was sired by Durhenga who is a known bull elephant around Chitwan as he has killed several people over the years. He is a wild bull and coincidentally the wild bull elephant we saw the other day. Martin showed the picture to the manager of Temple Tiger and he confirmed the ID. The little elephant was living up to his father's reputation as he played with his mahout, pushing him and trying to bite him. They played well, pushing and rolling a log, sparring with weight against each other and in general teasing. Without the rest of the herd and a lot of young elephants to learn these skills from it is important that the mahouts play with the young elephants and their training doesn't begin until at least 3 years old and then it is nothing more than following the mother around as she goes about her business. From here we went for a walk around the sal forest and in particular to see if we could find a sloth bear, they make dens to hide out of the midday sun in the soft sand and mud of a large and deep gorge made by a monsoonal river that cuts through the sal forest here. We couldn't find a bear but we did spot a huge great hornbill and Nissar showed us the insides of a termite mound.

On leaving the old Temple Tiger lodge area we started to drive back to the river and where our boat would be waiting to take us back across. We had great views of a rhino close to the road, it got out of the waterhole and into the grass to sniff us and all of Nissar's best rhino calls (including submissive and mating calls) couldn't convince the rhino to come back out. We then saw really fresh tiger tracks, they were made by an animal that had been here since we had last been on the road, but the crispness of the tracks in the very soft sand indicated that they were made just now. We looked hard into the grass in the direction of the tiger's movement but couldn't see anything. The grass was quite long around there and with the tracks being so fresh it is likely that the tiger moved off the road after hearing our vehicle and was watching us from a secretive place in the grass and we would never spot her. As the temperatures soared towards 40°C today we left the jeep on the pebble beach and got back onto the boat and slowly punted over the river, spotting a large 4m plus gharial basking on an island sand bar and then back to the village and onto the lodge.



This evening the local Tharu people came in from the nearby village and conducted a tribal dance performance, very similar but still wonderful to what we had experienced in Sauraha. It didn't look like there would be a storm or any rain tonight, however there were some distant lightning strikes, but no thunder as we went to bed.



## Day 9 Chitwan National Park

### *Cultural Tour*

This morning Hannah and Kevin joined Nissar on elephant back to explore deeper into the park and see what animals they could find. The clouds looked ominous and there was a cooler feel to the morning, however the rain held off all day and it turned out to be another glorious and hot day in Chitwan. However the weather may have been cooperating this morning the wildlife was not. The mahout took them deep into the park, heading through bamboo groves, grasslands, riverine and sal forests trail blazing as they went deeper into primary forest and off the usual circuits the elephants make. There were some of the more common bird species around such as Indian pond herons, barn swallows, black drongos, common and jungle mynahs, Alexandrine parakeets, red-wattled lapwings, spotted doves and Indian peafowl. However the mammal life was remarkably sparse this morning with just one lone red muntjac making an appearance briefly. They did explore the core area of a known tiger and with fresh evidence of the tiger around it was possibly the fact that the tiger was around and active this morning that was the reason for so few deer and wild boar being around the area too. So they returned to the lodge for a rest and lunch and then this afternoon as the heat from a very hot midday period had subsided a little we headed out into a riverine forest in a jeep for our last trip into the park.

Driving into the jungle we had a brilliant white male Asian paradise flycatcher fly like a streamer across the road and despite it once again being reasonably quiet we spotted several red muntjac including adult males, adult females, subadult males and even a young fawn and its mother. This habitat is particularly good for leopards and we kept scanning the low hanging flay branches for a basking leopard as we drove parallel with the Naryani River in the riverine forest. We had great views a juvenile crested serpent eagle that took off from a tree next to the road, fly over the road in front of us and then perched in another tree within easy observable distance. A little later we saw a much smaller cousin of the eagle, a breeding pair of shikra giving very good close views close to the road. This small sparrowhawk is one of the most adept flyers in the forest as they speedily navigate the tangle of branches, leaves and vines in hot pursuit of small birds which is their main prey. We then found a mother and 3-4 year old calf in a waterhole next to the road, they were very skittish and didn't stay too long before bolting into the long grass and away. There were no clouds in the sky today and it was possibly the hottest it had been so far on this trip as we came to a large viewing tower overlooking a well vegetated lake and a meadow beyond. We stayed here for an hour or so and observed some spotted doves coming down for a drink, a small family group of hog deer feeding on the far side of the meadow and we could make out a young fawn suckling from its mother; a little later we watched as a rhino who came out and started to graze in the meadow. We then headed back and didn't see anything else new, just a couple of rhinos, a barking deer, a pair of lesser adjutant storks and a couple of male scarlet minivets in a territorial display. Once we arrived back at the lodge we started to pack our stuff together for our departure tomorrow and then had our last dinner at Chitwan National Park.

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## Day 10 Kathmandu

### *Travelling*

This morning we left the lodge at 8am and were driven back to the main highway and eastwards to Naryangarh and the airport at Bharatpur. Our flight was at 11am and we left pretty much on the dot, we had some nice views of the hills around central Nepal, but it was not clear enough for views of the Himalayas.

We then arrived in Kathmandu and the temperature was a much more comfortable 26°C and we checked into the hotel and had a walk around the Thamel area, grabbed some food and did some souvenir shopping before dinner in another nearby restaurant. Martin spoke to Raju and rearranged the sightseeing tour (that was scheduled for today) for tomorrow afternoon as Kevin and Hannah's flight was not until the night and they would have pretty much a full day tomorrow.

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## Day 11 Kathmandu

### *Departure*

Today we all had a more relaxed morning and a lie in, we had arranged a late check out and as Martin's flight was at 5pm he would be leaving for the airport at 2pm and we had arranged for the sightseeing tour to take place at



2pm as well as Kevin and Hannah would leave from the sightseeing direct to the airport to catch their evening flight.

The sightseeing would take in 2 of Nepal's most important and sacred sites, first would be the largest Stupa in the world, Boudnath Stupa. The stupa is a great place to understand the importance of repeated mantras and prayer to Buddha, every circumbulation of the stupa reinforces your faith in Buddha as does every time the prayer wheels you spin as does every time the wind flutters through the colourful prayer flags with the '*om mani padme hom*' mantra printed on them over and over again, as does every time that same mantra is spoken and when combined with the rubbing of prayer beads the reinforcement is even more heightened. Also the location where all of these things is done is important and with this being the largest and most significant stupa in the world it is the reason for people to have come from all over Nepal, Asia and the world to pray here. After walking around the auspicious Buddhist site and observing the mix of local Buddhists, pilgrims who have come overland from Tibet and elsewhere and tourists, we visited the shared Hindu and Buddhist temple of Swayambunath (otherwise known as the Monkey Temple), this is partly due to the dedication to the Hindu monkey god Hanuman but also a reference to the large number of Rhesus Macaques which haunt the stair way to the top of the hill and the main shrines and temples. From the top of the hill you have a stunning view down over the city and with the dozens of Black Kites circling and dive-bombing each other it is quite a sight to behold. From here they were taken straight to the airport for their return flight home.



# Species List

Chitwan Safari in Style March / April 2017

## Mammals (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name	March				April						
			28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>			~261	47	~149	87	3	~116	2		
2	Hog deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>			16	4		11		18	4		
3	Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>			12	*							
4	Water buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>				4							
5	Golden jackal	<i>Canis auerus</i>				1							
6	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>			1		2	3					
7	Asiatic elephant	<i>Elaphus maximus</i>			1	*							
8	Jungle cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>				*		1					
9	Northern palm squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>			2								
10	Small Indian mongoose	<i>Herpestes auropunctatus</i>				1							
11	Indian grey mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>		1									
12	Rhesus macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>		4	7		19	22	7	22		~10	2
13	Sloth bear	<i>Melurus urinus</i>			*	1†			*				
14	Red muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>			4			1			6		
15	Short-tailed bandicoot rat	<i>Nesokia indica</i>						1					
16	Himalayan white-bellied rat	<i>Niviventer niviventer</i>			1	*		2					
17	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>						*					
18	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>			1		*		*	*			
19	Least pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus tenuis</i>		1				3					
20	Indian one-horned rhino	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>			38	3				17	3		
21	Woolly horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus luctus</i>						2					
22	Greater Asiatic yellow house bat	<i>Scotophilus heathii</i>		2	2			2					
23	Terai grey langur	<i>Semnopithecus hector</i>			14	7				20			
24	Eurasian wild pig	<i>Sus scofra</i>			14	2	8	1		6			

**Birds** (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
2	Crested goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
3	Jungle mynah	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
4	Common mynah	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
5	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
6	Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
7	Eurasian kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
8	Blue-eared kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>
9	Brown crane	<i>Amaurornis akool</i>
10	White-breasted waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
11	Northern pintail	<i>Anas acutus</i>
12	Asian openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
13	Oriental darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
14	Oriental pied hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
15	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
16	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
17	Intermediate egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
18	Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
19	Indian pond heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
20	Ashy woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
21	Common pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
22	Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
23	Great hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
24	Indian thick-knee	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>
25	Lesser coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>
26	Greater coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
27	Pied kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
28	Common emerald dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
29	Greater yellownape	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>
30	White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
31	Woolly-necked stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
32	Purple sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
33	Spotted eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>
34	Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>

March				April						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			2		2			2		
		1								
		~65	~20	3	77		~20			
	12	9	~20	26	~58	9	7	~35	~150	
		2			2			1		
		1								
		2								
				2		1				
			1							
		1	2			1	2	1		
							2			
		4	1	1			4	2		
		5								
	2	5								
		3	2	6	7	3	2			
		1							1	
	2	2	2		1	2	1	2	2	
		1	1							
	3	4		5		~26	1	6	2	
				1				3		
							~15			
				4	2	~55	~35	~20		
							1			
					2					
		1			1					
		4		1	4					
		3		6		5	3	2		
		2				3	1	2		
				2						
				1						
		6		3	1					
								1		
					1					
~100	100's	4	~20		~33	9	~10	4	100's	~50

35	Oriental magpie robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
36	Indian roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
37	Large cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>
38	Large-billed crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
39	House crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
40	Indian cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
41	Pale-chinned flycatcher	<i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>
42	Rufous treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
43	Darjeeling woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>
44	Fulvous whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
45	White-bellied drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
46	Black drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
47	Lesser racket-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>
48	Golden flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
49	Himalayan flameback	<i>Dinopium shorii</i>
50	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
51	Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
52	Asian koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
53	Oriental dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
54	Red-tailed flycatcher	<i>Ficedula ruficauda</i>
55	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
56	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
57	Red junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
58	Lesser necklaced laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>
59	Asian pied starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>
60	White-throated kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
61	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
62	Bengal florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>
63	Grey-headed fish eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>
64	Eurasian wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
65	Long-tailed shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
66	Lesser adjutant stork	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
67	Kalij pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>
68	Sultan tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>
69	Chestnut-headed bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
70	Green bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
71	Bronze-winged jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>
72	Little cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
73	Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>

		2	1	1		6	1	1	13	1	
		1	4		4	1	2	1		1	
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		2	2	2	2	3			2		
			1								
			~60	6							
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		8	35	10	5	23	4	2	4	3	
		~10	2				2	3			
			1								
			1		2	1	2	1			
					1	3	2	2	2		
						2					
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					1		1				
								1			
			~30								
			~40								
			6	7	1	3		2	5		
								7			
		~30	4	3	3	3				~20	
		1	11	3	6	3	9	6	2	1	
~25	6	~10	~75		12				3	~10	
		1									
		2			1						
		1									
		2				4					
		3	2	2	2	1	2	2			
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		2									
					3	3	5	6			
				1	16				2		
		7	4								
					5	1					
					1						



74	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
75	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
76	White-browed wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
77	Changeable hawk-eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
78	Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
79	Indian golden oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>
80	Black-hooded oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
81	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
82	Cinereous tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>
83	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
84	Indian peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
85	Stork-billed kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
86	Scarlet minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>
87	Green-billed malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>
88	Indian cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
89	Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
90	Blyth's lead warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>
91	Gray-headed woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
92	Grey-headed woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
93	Grey-headed swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>
94	Plain prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
95	Red-naped ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
96	Blue-headed barbet	<i>Psilopogon duvaucelii</i>
97	Lineated barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>
98	Alexandrine parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
99	Slaty-headed parakeet	<i>Psittacula himalayana</i>
100	Rose-ringed parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
101	Dusky-crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>
102	Red-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus caffer</i>
103	Black-crested bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>
104	Red-whiskered bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
105	Grey-throated martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i>
106	Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
107	Pied bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
108	Asian stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>
109	Indian robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i>
110	Chestnut-bellied nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>
111	Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
112	Crested serpent eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>

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		1		3		1		2	
		1		1	1				
							~35		
		2							
	2			1	2				
					2		1		
					1				
	~15		~43	27	~25	3	3	16	~30
		35	5		16		5	3	
				4					
		4					2	3	
		1							
	1	1							
		3							
					1				
		1							
				1		2	2		
		2	2			6	3		
			8		2				
							1	2	
		*	*	*	*	*		*	
							2		
		6	~10	44		~40	~25	12	
							1	3	
		17		3					
	2								
		16	32		31	6	~10	23	
							2		
		43				3	7	11	
	~50	~130	~350	~15	~40	~100	~100	~150	
	9			~35	17	26	~30	~50	7
		1							
		1							
			1						
							2		
	~25	59	~59	39	13	6	18	16	~30
		2					1	1	

113	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
114	Oriental turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
115	Chestnut-tailed starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>
116	Ruddy shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
117	Asian paradise flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
118	Chestnut-capped babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>
119	Common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
120	Common babbler	<i>Turdoides caudata</i>
121	Jungle babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>
122	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
123	River lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>
124	Red-wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>

	2	6		8	8	3	2	2	~10	
		2								
		11	1	6		1	3			
		16	7		74		6			
		2			3			1		
		2	3							
				4						
					1					
		27	3	16	10					
					1					
		1		1						
		4	5	2		1	2	4		

## Reptiles (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Indian garden lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
2	Mugger crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
3	Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>
4	Brook's house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus brookii</i>
5	Common house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
6	King cobra	<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>
7	Bengal monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>

March				April						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			1							
		2	2	14	1		3	1		
				1	3		1			
		1	1				3	2		
	6	1	2			1	2		1	
		1								
		1								

## Amphibians (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Asian common toad	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>
2	Indian cricket frog	<i>Fejervarya limnocharis</i>
3	Chitwan frog	<i>Hylarana chitwanensis</i>
4	Long-legged cricket frog	<i>Zakerana syhadrensis</i>

March				April						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				2						
	2									
							3			
							~100			

**Freshwater Fish** (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Goonch	<i>Bagarius bagarius</i>
2		<i>Barilius bendelisis</i>

March				April						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		2		~10	~100		1			
			~100		16		1,000			