

Ladakh, India

05-22/3/13

John Oates, with Royle Safaris.

Itinerary

4/3 Dep BHX 2030 hrs.

5/3 Arr Dehli 1005 hrs. Night at Shanti Home, New Delhi.

6/3 Early flight to Leh, Ladakh (3400m). Short walks near hotel. Night at Mahey Retreat.

7/3 Leh Palace. Indus River. Leh Market. Night at Mahey Retreat.

8/3 Choglamsar Valley & Shey Marshes. Short walk near hotel. Night at Mahey Retreat.

9/3 Drive to Zingchen (4100m). Trek into Hemis NP. PM around camp in Husing Valley. Night in camp.

10/3 Hemis NP - Tarbung Valley & start of Rumbak. Night in camp.

11/3 Hemis NP - Tarbung Valley. Night in camp.

12/3 Hemis NP - Tarbung Valley am & Husing Valley pm Night in camp.

13/3 Hemis NP - start of Rumbak Valley. Night in camp.

14/3 Hemis NP - start of Rumbak Valley. Night in camp.

15/3 Hemis NP - start of Rumbak Valley. Night in camp.

16/3 Hemis NP - start of Rumbak Valley. Night in Camp

17/3 Hemis NP - Rumbak Valley & village. Kharlung Valley. Night in Camp,

18/3 Trek to Zingchen & drive to Leh, with a few stops on the way. Short walk at Leh. Night at Mahey Retreat.

19/3 Fly to Dehli. PM at hotel. Night at Shanti Home.

20/3 Sightseeing in Dehli - Jama Masjid (Friday Mosque), Red Fort, Humayan's Tomb. Lunch at The Lodi, The Garden Restaurant. Night at Shanti Home.

21/3 Guided birding at Sultanpur Wetlands & surrounding farmland with Sanjay Sharma. Basai Wetlands on way back to Delhi. Night at Shanti Home.

22/3 Depart Dehli DEL T3 13.15 hrs. Arr BHX 1700 hrs.

LEH & HEMIS NATIONAL PARK

Bird list

Eurasian Teal 2 fem Indus River 7/3. 15 Choglamsar Valley 8/3.

Mallard 10 Shey Marshes 8/3.

Goosander 4 (1 male) Indus River 7/3. 1 Choglamsar Valley 8/3.

Grey Heron 1 Indus River 7/3.

Lammergeier At Hemis 4 (1 ad, 3 juv) 9/3, 2 (ad & juv) 10/3, 2 (ad & juv) 11/3, 2 on 12/3, ad & juv 15/3, ad 16/3, ad & imm 17/3 & 2 imm (1 Rumchung) on 18/3

Himalayan Griffon Vulture At Hemis singles on on 9/3, 13/3 & 15/3.

Golden Eagle	At Hemis 2 on 9/3, ad on 10/3, 2 on 11/3, 3 on 12/3, 1 on 14/3, ad & imm on 15/3 & 1 on 18/3.
Northern Goshawk	Single adults at Mahey Retreat, Leh on 6/3, Indus River on 7/3 & Rumbak Junction on 17/3.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1 Indus River 7/3.
Common Kestrel	Female start of Rumbak 10/3 & Kharlung Valley on 17/3.
Himalayan Snowcock	At Hemis first heard on 10/3, then daily. Sightings were 2 on 11/3, 6 on 12/3, 2+ on 13/3, 1 on 14/3, 2 on 15/3, 11+ on 17/3.
Chukar	At Hemis c30 on 9/3, 20 on 10/3, 1+ on 12/3, 5+ on 13/3, 10 on 15/3, c40 on 17/3 & 10+ Rumbak on 18/3.
Ibisbill	1 Indus River 7/3.
Black-winged Stilt	1 Shey Marshes 8/3.
Green Sandpiper	2 Indus River 7/3. On 8/3 2 Choglamsar Valley & 2 Shey Marshes.
Common Redshank	2 Choglamsar Valley 8/3.
Common Greenshank	1 Choglamsar Valley 8/3.
Common Snipe	1 Choglamsar Valley 8/3.
Solitary Snipe	Excellent views of one at Shey Marshes on 8/3.
Rock Dove	Common around Leh, where most looked pure (a couple of Feral Pigeons noted).
Hill Pigeon	At Hemis 2 on 9/3, 6 on 11/3, 10 on 12/3, 10 on 13/3, 2 on 14/3, 20 on 15/3, 10+ on 16/3, 5 on 17/3 & 10 on 18/3. Often around camp.
Masked Wagtail	5 Indus River 7/3. On 8/3 c5 Choglamsar Valley & c5 Shey Marshes.
White Wagtail	1 Shey Marshes 8/3.
Water Pipit	c5 Shey Marshes 8/3.
Carrion Crow	1 Leh Palace 7/3. 5+ Shey Marshes 8/3.
Eurasian Magpie	Common in Leh & Hemis.
Red-billed Chough	10 Leh 6/3. 5 Leh Palace 7/3. At Hemis 2 on 10/3, 2+ on 11/3, 2 on 12/3, c5 at Rumbak village on 17/3.

Alpine Chough	50 Leh 6/3. At Hemis 50 on 10/3, 40 on 11/3, 20+ on 12/3, 5 on 13/3, 20+ on 14/3, 10+ on 15/3, 10+ on 16/3, 10 on 17/3 & 10 on 18/3.
Black-throated Thrush	10 Indus River 7/3. 10+ Choglamsar Valley 8/3.
White-winged Redstart	50 Indus River 7/3. On 8/3 100+ Choglamsar Valley & 20 Shey Marshes. c5 from car Indus River 9/3 & 17/3. Also known as Guldenstadt's Redstart.
Common Starling	4 Choglamsar Valley 8/3.
Cinereous Tit	Common in Leh & Hemis, where up to c5 seen regularly. Previously lumped with Great Tit.
White-browed Tit-warbler	2 Husing camp 12/3.
Robin Accentor	3 Leh 6/3. 2 Choglamsar Valley 8/3. 3 Leh 8/3. 2 Leh 9/3. At Hemis 2 on 10/3, 2 on 11/3, 2 on 12/3, heard only on 14/3 & 16/3, c20 Rumbak village on 17/3. 3 Leh 19/3.
Brown Accentor	At Leh 2 on 6/3 & 1 on 7/3. 1 Shey Palace 8/3. 2 Ley 9/3. At Hemis 4 on 10/3, 2 on 11/3, 2 on 12/3, 2 on 13/3, 2 on 16/3.
Himalayan Great Rosefinch	Male Indus River 7/3. 1+ fem Rumbak village 17/3.
Streaked Rosefinch	Female Rumbak Village 17/3.
Brandt's Mountain Finch	40+ Tarbung Valley 11/3. 50 Husing Valley 12/3.
Red-fronted Serin	c40 Leh 6/3. c8 Rumbak Junction 17/3.
House Sparrow	Noted in Leh & Choglamsar Valley.
Tibetan Snowfinch	At Hemis 2 at the start of Rumbak on 10/3, 20 in Tarbung Valley on 20/3 & 15 in Rumbak Valley on 14/3.

Mammal list

Mountain Weasel	1 Choglamsar Valley 8/3. 1 Rumbak 16/3.
Stone Martin	1 after dark in Husing camp 14/3.
Woolly Hare	1 chased by a Snow Leopard Hemis 9/3. In Husing camp, confiding singles on 12/3 & 15/3.
Royle's Pika	3 Rumbak 10/3.

Large-eared Pika	2 Tarbung Valley 12/3. Probably also in Rumbak Valley.
Kashmir Wood Mouse	1 Husing camp 14/3.
SNOW LEOPARD	At Hemis, fem with cub (from 2012) viewed from camp 9/3 - the female stalked & chased a Woolly Hare. Fem with cub & attendant male Tarbung Valley 11/3. 3 (female with cub & male) start of Rumbak 13/3. 4 (fem with cub, 2 males) 14/3 & 15/3. Fem with cub Rumbak Valley 16/3 & Kharlung Valley 17/3.
Blue Sheep	At Hemis c30 on 9/3, 30 (1 ad male) on 10/3, 10+ on 11/3, 15+ on 12/3, 5 on 16/3, c6 Rumbak junction & 20 Kharlung Valley on 17/3 & 2 on 18/3.
Ladakh Urial	3 (1 male) Hemis, on the drive to Leh, near entrance gate on 18/3.

Others

Ladakh Ground Skink	2+ on scree at Rumbak Valley 16/3.
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DELHI, SULTANPUR & BASAI

Bird List

Black Francolin	3 (2 males) & several heard singing Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Grey Francolin	On 21/3 2+ Sultanpur farmland & 2 Basai Wetlands.
Indian Peafowl	On 21/3 heard at Sultanpur farmland, 2 males Sultanpur Wetlands & a male from the car in Delhi. Probably feral.
Bar-headed Goose	350 Basai Wetlands 21/3.
Comb Duck	6 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Ruddy Shelduck	20 Basai Wetlands 21/3.
Gadwall	100 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3. Also at Basai.
Eurasian Wigeon	20+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Indian Spot-billed Duck	On 21/3 15+ Sultanpur Wetlands & 30 Basai Wetlands.
Northern Shoveler	100 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3. Also at Basai.
Northern Pintail	5 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.

Garganey	On 21/3 10+ Sultanpur Wetlands & 20 Basai Wetlands.
Common Teal	On 21/3 50+ Sultanpur Wetlands & 20+ Basai Wetlands.
Little Grebe	5+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Painted Stork	5+ ad 7 2+ young on nests Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Asian Openbill	4 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Woolly-necked Stork	2+ Sultanpur wetlands 21/3.
Black-necked Stork	Nesting at Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3, where 2 ad & 2 chicks.
Black-headed Ibis	On 21/3 Sultanpur Wetlands Basai Wetlands
Glossy Ibis	On 21/3 Sultanpur Wetlands Basai Wetlands
Red-naped Ibis	1 New Delhi 5/3. 2+ Sultanpur 21/3.
Eurasian Spoonbill	10+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Black-crowned Night Heron	c6 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Indian Pond Heron	3 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Grey Heron	5 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Purple Heron	On 21/3 10 Sultanpur Wetlands & 10 Basai Wetlands.
Cattle Egret	Noted in Delhi, flying over the hotel or by the roadside. 10 Sultanpur 21/3.
Great Egret	1 New Delhi 15/3. On 21/3 2 Sultanpur Wetlands & 5 Basai Wetlands.
Intermediate Egret	10 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Little Egret	2+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Common Kestrel	c3 Sultanpur 21/3.
Red-necked Falcon	Ad Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Peregrine	1 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Black-winged Kite	2 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.

Black Kite	Very common in Delhi and abundant on 20/3 with hundreds seen. Smaller numbers at Sultanpur.
Black-eared Kite	1 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Oriental Honey Buzzard	1 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	On 21/3 3+ Sultanpur Wetlands & 2+ Basai Wetlands.
Shikra	In Delhi 2 5/3 & 2 on 20/3. 3 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Long-legged Buzzard	1 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Greater Spotted Eagle	Ad Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Booted Eagle	3+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Grey-headed Swamphen	On 21/3 10 Sultanpur Wetlands & 100 Basai Wetlands.
Common Moorhen	100+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Eurasian Coot	50 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Sarus Crane	2 ad & a juv Basai Wetlands 21/3.
Indian Thick-knee	2 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Black-winged Stilt	3 from car Delhi 19/3. On 21/3 20 Sultanpur Wetlands & 20+ Basai Wetlands.
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	c5 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Red-wattled Lapwing	10+ Sultanpur 21/3. Also seen while driving near Delhi.
White-tailed Lapwing	On 21/3 2 Sultanpur Wetlands & 1 Basai Wetlands.
Little Ringed Plover	20+ Sultanpur 21/3.
Kentish Plover	2 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Ruff	On 21/3 1 Sultanpur Wetlands and 30 Basai Wetlands.
Common Snipe	On 21/3 2 Sultanpur Wetland & c5 over Basia Wetlands.
Black-tailed Godwit	20 Basai Wetlands 21/3.
Spotted Redshank	20 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.

Common Redshank	3+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Marsh Sandpiper	2 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Common Greenshank	2+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Green Sandpiper	1 New Delhi 5/3. c5 Sultanpur 21/3.
Wood Sandpiper	On 21/3 10+ sultanpur Wetlands & 20+ Basai Wetlands.
Temminck's Stint	2 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Indian Courser	2 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	5 (2 males) Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Rock Dove	Many New Delhi 5/3. Many looked good, though plenty of feral pigeons were seen.
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	Up to 10 at Shanti Home, Delhi 5/3. 2+ Humayun's Tomb, Delhi 20/3. 2 Sultanpur Wetland 21/3.
Eurasian Collared Dove	A few noted in Delhi & Sultanpur. More common than Laughing Dove.
Laughing Dove	A few noted in Delhi & Sultanpur.
Rose-ringed Parakeet	Common in Delhi and at Sultanpur.
Alexandrine Parakeet	On 21/3 1 Sultanpur farmland & c2 Sultanpur Wetlands.
Common Hawk Cuckoo	Heard at Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Asian Koel	Male The Lodi, Delhi 20/3.
Greater Coucal	2 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Short-eared Owl	1 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Spotted Owlet	On 21/3 3 Sultanpur farmland & 2 Sultanpur Wetlands.
Little Swift	10 Jama Masjid, Delhi 20/3.
Common Hoopoe	3 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Indian Roller	1+ Sultanpur farmland 21/3.

White-throated Kingfisher	On 21/3 singles at Sultanpur farmland & Sultanpur Wetlands.
Green Bee-eater	On 21/3 20+ Sultanpur & 2+ Basai Wetlands.
Indian Grey Hornbill	In Delhi 2 flew by Shanti Home on 5/3 & 2 from car on 20/3.
Brown-headed Barbet	Heard several times in Delhi, but the only one seen was at Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Coppersmith Barbet	Heard in Delhi on 20/3 & Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	1 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3
Black-rumped Flameback	1+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Common Woodshrike	2 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Brown Shrike	1 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Bay-backed Shrike	4 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Long-tailed Shrike	3+ Sultanpur 21/3.
Black Drongo	1 Delhi 20/3. Common at Sultanpur & Basai Wetlands.
Rufous Treepie	3 Sultanpur 21/3.
Indian Jungle Crow	2+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Indian House Crow	Comon.
Plain Martin	10 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Sand Martin	15 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Indian Bush Lark	5+ Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Greater Short-toed Lark	40 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	30+ Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Crested Lark	2 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Red-vented Bulbul	Common in Delhi & at Sultanpur.
Ashy Prinia	2+ Sultanpur 21/3.
Plain Prinia	5+ Sultanpur 21/3.

Zitting Cisticola	3+ Sultanpur 21/3.
Common Tailorbird	1 Jama Masjid, Delhi 20/3. 2+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Indian Reed Warbler	1 heard singing Basai Wetlands 21/3. Formerly known as Clamorous Reed Warbler.
Brooks's Leaf Warbler	1+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Hume's Lark Warbler	10+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Lesser Whitethroat	5+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3. Apparently race <i>minula</i> , Desert Lesser Whitethroat.
Common Babbler	10 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Large Grey Babbler	20+ Sultanpur 21/3.
Jungle Babbler	A few around Delhi and Sultanpur.
Oriental White-eye	1 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Bank Myna	7 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Common Myna	Common.
Asian Pied Starling	On 21/3 5+ Sultanpur farmland & 30 Basai Wetlands.
Common Starling	10 Red Fort 20/3.
Black-throated Thrush	1 Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Black Redstart	c5 (most male) Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3. Race <i>rufiventris</i> .
Red-spotted Bluethroat	c3 (1 male) Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Oriental Magpie Robin	2+ Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Indian Robin	3+ Sultanpur 21/3.
Siberian Stonechat	Male Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Pied Bushchat	On 21/3 10+ Sultanpur farmland & a male Basai farmland.
Variable Wheatear	Male Sultanpur farmland 21/3. Race <i>picata</i> .

Red-breasted Flycatcher	10 (2+ male) Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3. Some of the fem/imm could have been Taiga Flycatcher.
Taiga Flycatcher	Male Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Purple Sunbird	1+ male New Delhi 5/3.
House Sparrow	Several around Delhi. c40 Sultanpur wetlands 21/3, may have included some of a migratory form.
Sind Sparrow	2 (1 male) Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Indian Silverbill	10 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
Citrine Wagtail	3 (1 male) Sultanpur Wetlands 21/3.
Paddyfield Pipit	5+ Sultanpur 21/3.
Long-billed Pipit	1 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.

Mammals

Indian Grey Mongoose	1 Red Fort, Delhi 20/3.
Five-striped Palm Squirrel	Common in Delhi & Sultanpur.
Nilgai	On 21/3 20+ (1+ male) Sultanpur farmland, 5+ (1+ male) Sultanpur Wetlands & 2 from the road on route to Delhi.
Rhesus Macaque	4 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.

Others

Common Sand Boa	1 Sultanpur farmland 21/3.
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