






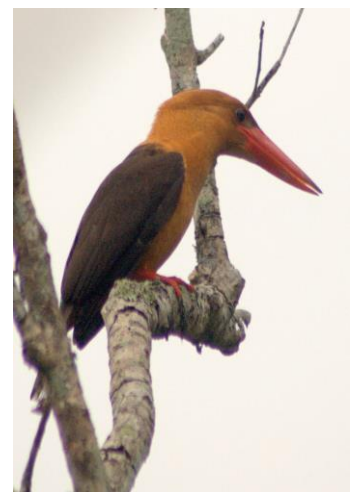
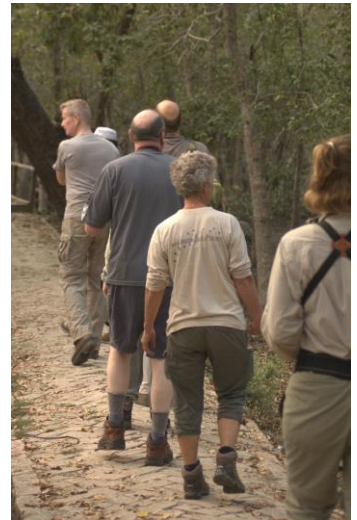


## Siberian Tiger Winter Tour

**Destination:** Bangladesh **Duration:** 8 Days **Dates:** 26<sup>th</sup> Mar – 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr 2015

-  Finding fresh tiger tracks on the bank from within 2 hours of our passing through
-  Spotting all three of the cetaceans that are found in the Sundarbans
-  Seeing over 100 species of birds including Mangrove Pitta and Plantive Cuckoo
-  Having a great views of Gangetic River Dolphins feeding around the boat
-  Finding tiger tracks very close to habitation; highlighting the man-eating issues here
-  Seeing 6 species of kingfisher including great views of brown-winged kingfishers
-  Watching a very opportunistic Asiatic Short-clawed Otter stealing fish from a net
-  Walking through the mangroves & grasslands of the Sundarbans looking for tigers
-  Enjoying brilliantly prepared locally caught fish, shrimp and mud crabs
-  Cruising the larger and smaller channels of the Sundarbans on our chartered boat



### Tour Leader / Guides

Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)  
 Abdul Azim (Cultural & Logistical Guide)  
 Topu (Dhaka Botannical Gardens Birding Guide)  
 Delwar (Boat Captain)  
 Shahid (Chef)  
 Edamul (Local Sundarbans Naturalist Guide)  
 Guas (Country Boat Man)  
 Mizan (First Mate)  
 Shagin (Chef's assistant)  
 Delwar (Sundarbans armed guard)  
 Dilip, Yusuf, Kamol & Raheem (Drivers for our various transfers)

### Participants

Ms. Elisabeth Battagel  
 Mrs. Theresa Salmon-Dillworth  
 Mr. Roger Dillworth  
 Mrs. Marie King  
 Mr. Thomas King  
 Mr. Patrick Stolz

### Overview

<b>Day 1:</b>	Dhaka
<b>Day 2:</b>	Mongla
<b>Days 3-6:</b>	Sundarbans
<b>Day 7:</b>	Dhaka
<b>Day 8:</b>	Home



# Day by Day Breakdown

## Overview

Tigers are most commonly associated with the tropical and subtropical forests and elephant grasslands of the Indian Subcontinent and South East Asia; however they used to range far and wide over the Asian continent. From Iran to Korea and Indonesia to Kazakhstan including most of Far Eastern and Central Russia; unfortunately over 93% of their historical range has been lost since the start of the 1900's (incredibly a reduction of 40% since 1990!!). Most of the comprehensive decimation of the tiger's range has occurred in China where the tiger has a paradoxical role in the culture; both a revered and celebrated species; an animal integral to the creationist myths of Chinese religion and also one of the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac. However this reverence is countered by a merciless hunger for tiger products; every part of the tiger is utilised by the Chinese in their traditional medicinal practises. From penis (for fertility) to whiskers (for asthma) and every part of the body in between the demand for tiger products is so lucrative that they have been hunted to the verge of extinction in China and now the demand has been met by poachers in other countries.

Perhaps the country that tigers are today so commonly associated with is India; however it is not India that boasts the largest continuous population of tigers or a population that is likely to remain stable and free from poaching well into the next 100 years. Nor is India the country where tigers still play a prominent and often lethal role in so many people's lives and where the tigers are so poorly understood. These titles can all be attributed to Bangladesh; where around 300-350 mature tigers inhabit the vast and largely impenetrable Sundarbans forest.

This is the largest mangrove forest in the world, and whilst the Sundarbans has seen a huge reduction in size from the 1700's (from 16,902km<sup>2</sup> to around 10,000km<sup>2</sup>) most of this deforestation occurred in the northern region of the Sundarbans where there was more freshwater and rich alluvial grasslands and so most of the forest is still intact. The deforested areas have now been converted into some of the most fertile agricultural lands in the world, but this conversion also saw the extinction of Javan rhinos, Indian one-horned rhinos, Barasingha (or swamp deer), guar (or Indian bison) and Asiatic elephants from the Sundarbans and subsequently the whole country (although some elephants that cross over the Chittagong Hill Tracts from neighbouring Burma). As this clearing and settling of people was happening some species were more adaptable and managed to move deeper into the mangroves away from people and have since thrived. These species include the chital (or spotted deer), wild boar, rhesus macaque, jungle cat, fishing cat, red muntjac and of course tigers.

Due to the inaccessibility, daily flooding and salty soil the Sundarbans is very unlikely to be further developed and as the wood from the sundari tree is not very useful for timber the fate of the whole forest looks promising. As a result of the forest being intact the populations of animals here are very likely to have a good future and that is fantastic news for tiger conservation. The Sundarbans is one of only 4 populations of tigers that contain over 250 mature individuals in a continuous population and if nothing drastic is done to reduce the amount of poaching, deforestation and habitat encroachment throughout the tigers range these 4 populations may be the only places where tigers exist in the future. But despite the large population of tigers here they are very elusive and not often encountered. Throughout this tour we would explore some of the only places in the Sundarbans that are accessible and head into the known territories of several tigers, including one tiger that has a history of man-eating. But as well as the tigers the Sundarbans is home to a wealth of life; mangrove forests are usually relatively poor in terms of mammal diversity; and the Sundarbans doesn't have many different species of mammals but the numbers are very high. With tens of thousands of chital (>80,000), wild boar (~25,000) and macaques (~61,000). Alongside the terrestrial mammals are several aquatic species including three species of cetacean and the Asiatic short-clawed otter which we hoped to see. But it is the birdlife that is so prevalent in the Sundarbans, we would hope to see many species as we explored the waterways on our small country boat and hiked the forests. But what is so important when entering the Bangladeshi Sundarbans is the constant knowledge that by being here you are actively contributing to the establishment of real and sustainable eco-tourism in Bangladesh. The tigers here come into such conflict with the people that the need for eco-tourism is crucial to help the local people earn extra income, which can in turn help to improve animal husbandry techniques to reduce the livestock predations from tigers as well as changing the view of tigers as a menace and something that has to be eradicated to a source of revenue and an animal to be revered.





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## Day 1 **Dhaka**

## *Arrival & Birding*

This morning both Martin and Azim went to meet Elisabeth, Roger and Theresa as they arrived in the early morning and we then went back to the hotel to leave our bags and freshen up. We met Topu our birding guide and heading to the Botanical Gardens, as today is the Independence Day in Bangladesh the park was a little busier than usual but it is also a very good birding destination which has recorded over 150 different species. Shortly after arriving we started to see many species including spotted doves, black kites, purple sunbirds, Asian pied starlings, common mynahs and chestnut-winged starlings. Walking through the botanical gardens Topu showed us the roosting site of a brown hawk owl, the owl obliged us with a great sighting in a branch directly above the pathway. Topu was a very knowledgeable guide and was very keen to show us as much of the gardens and all of the best birding locations in the short amount of time we had available. We had great sightings of a mixed foraging flock including jungle babblers, jungle mynahs, Asian pied starlings, red-vented bulbuls, greater goldenbacks, black drongos and also hoary-bellied squirrels. These species often forage together as the squirrels move around so quickly on their search for seeds that they stir up many insects which the collection of birds following them around Hoover up. Close to the wet lands in the gardens (which were rather dry as it was the end of the dry season) Martin spotted a plaintive cuckoo, Topu had not seen this species here before and we had good views before the cuckoo took off and disappeared. As well as the more common greater flameback we also spotted a pair of lesser flamebacks flying through the forest. Martin was keeping his eyes open for mongooses who can be seen here occasionally but the only mammals thus far were the many hoary-bellied squirrels. Other bird sightings we had as we began our way back to the entrance gate included a braminhy kite, black-headed orioles, one of which was on a nest. In the build-up the rainy season many of the birds were beginning to build nests and we saw several species collecting material to build their nests including a spotted dove who had used toilet paper to line her nest. As well as the birds we were told about some of the local trees and their medicinal purposes including the ashok tree which is used to cure various ailments in traditional Bangladeshi medicine. On leaving the park we headed down the main pathway and lining the path was a species of eucalypt and in some of these introduced trees was a large colony of Indian flying foxes and nearby a pair of jungle owlets occupied a tree and allowed us to get good close up views. Before we had to leave for the hotel and Martin & Azim to the airport to collect Patrick the last sighting was of a male Indian garden lizard. This is the most common lizard in the country and during the mating season the males develop very bright and bold colours including a red head and yellow-orange body and tail. Once back at the hotel we said goodbye to Topu and were shown to our rooms, Martin and Azim went back to the airport to collect Patrick and met everyone back at the hotel before heading to a nearby restaurant for lunch. After lunch we all headed back to the hotel and the rest of the afternoon was free for everyone to rest and recover from long flights to Bangladesh. Later on in the evening Martin and Azim went to the airport to collect the final two guests Tom and Marie, we had dinner at the hotel and got a relatively early night before a city tour in the morning.

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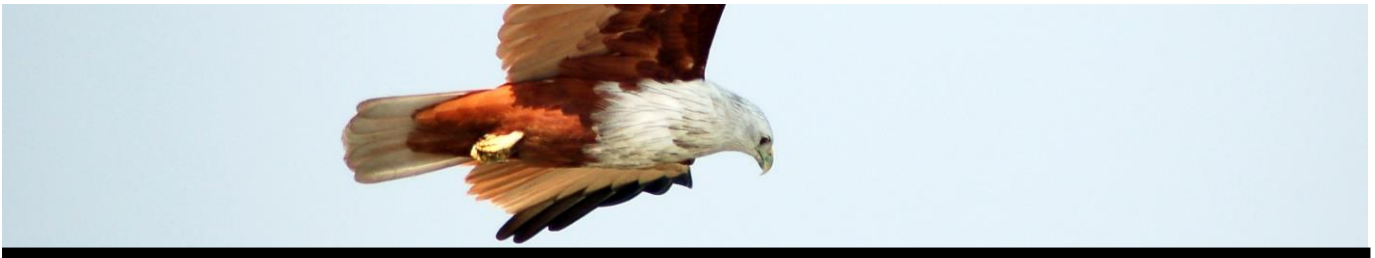
## Day 2 **Dhaka / Mongla**

## *Sightseeing & Transit*

This morning the group was split into two parties, Tom and Marie had been to Dhaka previously (in a rather ill-fated trip) and had been on the city tour and so decided to stay at the hotel and rest fully. The rest of the guests went out with Azim and headed to Old Dhaka. With it being a Friday the traffic was relatively quiet and the group were able to travel to various sites in the city; during the half day city tour they visited Lalbagh Fort, this large Mughal fort and grounds were constructed in 1678 by the son (Subahdar) of the last of the great Mughal emperors Aurangzeb. Built using the same pink sandstone as another site in Dhaka, the Pink Palace, the fort cut an impressive figure standing in the green and well-tended gardens. As we all walked around the grounds as the usual collection of Subcontinental urban birds flew and fluttered around (black kites and house crows dominated the skies, with pigeons and common mynahs around the gardens); around the grounds two species of mongooses scurried around, the Indian grey mongoose and little grey mongoose and in the trees in the gardens five-lined palm squirrels could be seen climbing around. As well as Dhakeshwari Temple, this is a Hindu temple complex and the name is reference to the Goddess of Dhaka. Since the Pakistani army occupied the city in 1971 and destroyed the old Hindu holy site of Ramna Kali Mandir, Dhakeshwari has become the most important site in Dhaka for Hindus. Built in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century it is said that the city of Dhaka itself was named after the temples and the site has huge cultural significance to the people of Dhaka regardless of religion. Also visited where Curzon Hall and Dhaka University, these are both grand buildings that were constructed during the British Raj era. Curzon Hall was originally built to be the town hall and named after Lord Curzon who was the Indian Viceroy, since the establishment of the Dhaka University the hall has become the base of the science faculty. The hall has been the site of the various important events during the partitioning of India into East and West Pakistan and then into Bangladesh and Pakistan. One of the most dynamic and vibrant places in the whole of Dhaka is the Sadarghat, this is the largest port in the city and is on the busy Buriganga River. The Sadarghat River Boat Terminal is one of the largest river ports in the world with around 300 passenger vessels on the river at any one time, around 500 people are ferried around the river every hour on average and on some days over 150,000 are transported across daily. The other site that was visited is the bustling Shakhari bazar, located near the intersection of two of the largest roads in the Dhaka and close to the river this is one of the largest mohallas (traditional neighbourhoods) in Dhaka. Exploring the network of connected roads and courtyards and seeing the wealth of life, merchandise and crafts being displayed here is a great introduction to life in Dhaka and indeed



Bangladesh as a whole. After the city tour the group had some lunch and local restaurant before coming back to the hotel to meet Martin, Tom and Marie. After organising our bags, checking out of the rooms, freshening up and introducing everyone to everyone else we left for the domestic airport. The short flight was on time and we arrived without any problems in the southern town of Jessore. Jessore is one of the largest towns in the south of Bangladesh and a good entry town to the Sundarbans, from here we loaded up our vehicles with our luggage and headed to the port town of Khulna, Khulna is a huge port and the largest in the Bangaldeshi Sundarbans, we arrived in the dark and had dinner in a small restaurant before continuing on in the darkness to Mongla and our basic but functional accommodation for the night. Mongla is a smaller port than Khulna but it is still a very important port in the commerce of Bangladesh, it is also the mooring site of our boat. As a result of Bangladesh's poor tourism infrastructure and Mongla not being high on the list of any travellers there are not many options of where to stay and the government run Parjatan Hotel is by far the best. But with an early start tomorrow the sparseness of the rooms didn't really matter as we all got some rest before boarding the boat and heading into the Sundarbans tomorrow morning.



## Day 3 Sundarbans (Katka)

## Wildlife Watching

We left the hotel in Mongla at 7am and walked the short journey down to the harbour where our boat and crew were waiting for us. We headed off shortly after boarding and everyone being given their cabins, as we set off we introduced the crew including the skipper - Delwar, first mate - Mizan, chef - Shahid, chefs assistant - Shagin, local naturalist guide - Emadul and our country boat driver - Gaus and we had to stop off at the Dhamgari forest station to confirm all of our paperwork and permits etc before continuing onto the Sundarbans. As we waited for Edamul, Azim and Delwar to complete the paperwork we spent some time spotting a small family group of Gangetic river dolphins foraging in the main channel of the river. The river dolphins are amongst the most primitive cetaceans in the world and they have very poor vision, but bulbous melons that are used very skilfully to find fish in the very murky and muddy waters of the rivers that they inhabit. They are small dolphins averaging around 2.2-2.6m long with the females being slightly larger than the males and live in small family groups around 5-6 strong, these are usually made up of a breeding male and his harem and the offspring of various ages until they reach sexual maturity in males and move away. The social structure is very similar to a pride of lions, however this species is very poorly studied. The waterways of the Sundarbans were surveyed in 2010 and the results showed a huge number of river dolphins (belonging to four species, the Gangetic river dolphin, Irrawaddy dolphin, finless porpoise and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin). Three of these species are amongst the most endangered mammals in the world and so the governments of India and Bangladesh collaborated and produced the largest dolphin sanctuary in the world. We would travel through huge areas of this sanctuary over the next few days and it was very interesting to see so many dolphins foraging in a part of the Sundarbans that is so heavily occupied by people. Whilst the dolphins sometimes get caught and trapped in nets and fishing tackle as well as killed and injured in the occasion boat collision, they are not targeted here by the local people and so they have lived in harmony with the local people. The only problem with the river dolphins in the Sundarbans rarely come to the surface and porpoise, so most of the sightings we had were brief as the animal quickly broke the surface, as they take a breath when chasing fish in the darkness below the surface. On leaving the Dhamgari Forest Station we had our breakfast and began the 8-9 hour cruise that would take us deep into the Sundarbans and to the Bay of Bengal. We had to make one more required stop along the way, this time to pick up our obligatory armed forestry warden. So we stopped quickly at Jongla Forest Station around 1 hour away from Dhamgari Forest Station and collected Delwar our armed guard and carried on. Travelling down the main routes including the large Pasur River we went past many riverside villages, including some recent development such as grain silos (for imported grain from India) and river ports. But the further we travelled down the river the smaller the settlements became, we saw less and less fishing boats and eventually on both sides of the river was nothing but thick mangrove forests. The main industries here are fish, shrimp and to a lesser extent mud crabs. As mangroves are very good nursery grounds for many species of marine species a lot of the people around here collect the baby shrimp and fish fry, these they sell on to fish and shrimp farms that are located in the northern Sundarbans and we would see these farms on the drive back from Mongla to Dhaka at the end of the tour. The whole of Sundarbans is made up of various protected areas and these have different restrictions on what can be collected and utilised by the local people, so some areas were busier with fishing boats than others. The deeper we got into the Sundarbans the more birdlife we started to see including many barn swallows, they are now preparing to head north to Central Asia where they will breed, along with the swallows we spotted a small flock of golden-fronted leafbirds flittering around the tree tops. We then left the Pasur River and headed south-east on the Sela River and then further south and



east to the Betmar Gang. As we got onto smaller channels we found a pair of Pallas's fish-eagles flying together, as it is the approach of the wet season many species are breeding and it could have been early signs of courtship. Other raptors we saw on the cruise included a crested serpent eagle and a grey-headed fish eagle and more common species we would see more of included the beautiful brahmyni kite as well as the largest raptor in the Sundarbans the white-bellied sea eagle. Probably the best sighting of the day (maybe not in terms of what was seen, but for the species it represented) was a finless porpoise that Elisabeth spotted. She called to Martin that she had seen a very dark flat object that came up to the surface and disappeared, scanning the water it came to the surface again and Martin positively identified the animal as a finless porpoise. Moving against the current and surfacing to breathe this is as good as it gets when observing an animal that has no dorsal fin and spends only around 1% of his entire life at the surface. The finless porpoise only came to the surface twice that we could see and so it was impossible to know whether it was one or two individuals. This is by far the rarest of the cetaceans found in the Sundarbans, and it wasn't until they surveyed the areas in 2010 that the scientists realised that this species is more numerous in the Sundarbans and is also found further into the Sundarbans than was previously thought. Before we arrived at Katka we spotted a group of rhesus macaques coming down to the river bank to drink and also pluck the fresh green grasses and the grass seed growing here, with the macaques was the largest bird in Bangladesh, the lesser adjutant stork and going deeper we started to see many egrets (great, intermediate and little egrets) as well as swallows and also in the water jellyfish. Many species of jellyfish need mangroves and brackish water in order to complete their lifecycle. We then arrived around the Katka Game Sanctuary we started to see many chital, the number of chital here is very high. Despite the number of people based here permanently in the ranger station there are still tigers that had made their territory here. But the deer seem to gather comfort or some form of protection from the presence of people as they live here in huge densities. It may also be that the forest cover is sparser which gives the deer the advantage of spotting tigers a long way off and being able to raise the alarm or run off well before being in danger of the tiger. As well as the chital that lined the shore of the river and wandered back and forth among the forest edge there were rhesus macaques, wild boar, many egrets, pied avocets and lesser adjutant storks also taking advantage of the receding tide and picking off any tasty morsels washed up. The sun was getting low in the sky but we had made pretty good time so we decided to disembark and head into the forest along the walk way before the sun set. Quickly after setting off we came across a young wild boar feeding on a dead rhesus macaque. The macaque was very fresh and had probably died within the last 24 hours, there were a couple of house crows around the carcass as well as the young male boar broke into the carcass and ripped off chunks. Another boar showed up and challenged the young male, however the male quickly saw the intruder off and we watched the opportunistic wild boar feeding on the macaque for a while longer before continuing on. Wild boar feed on all of the available food in the forest and are the main scavengers here, however it is not very often you get to see this behaviour. We walked on and entered a large clearing, this was made when a cyclone came a few years ago and destroyed a huge section of the forest here, during the monsoon a seasonal river flows here and the movement of the water had made several of the trees unstable in the soil and so the high winds took a higher toll on the trees around here, leaving a large open sandy area. Here we had several groups of chital moving around in the forest edge, just out of sight from us and occasionally we would spook one and the high pitched alarm call would be sounded and some of the other chital would instinctively alarm call in response. As well as the alarm calls we heard the eerily loud and haunting male chital mating bugle resound around the clearing. The chital do not have a distinct breeding season as the habitat is so productive they do not need to synchronise their antler growth for a rut and their breeding so that their young are all born in the best season. Instead you can find males with antlers of all different growths as well as fawns around at any time of year. Along with the chital in the clearing we heard white-throated kingfishers, saw a white-bellied sea eagle soaring off towards its nightly roost in the forest and had great views of a pair of great tits and a fulvous-breasted woodpecker. This woodpecker allowed us to get very close as it foraged for grubs and insects underneath the bark of a dead tree. The sun was getting very low in the sky now so we left the clearing and headed towards the Bay of Bengal, close by to the row of ranger houses and maintenance buildings we found jungle cat tracks and then the long-tailed and Indian nightjars started their activity period. So many of the nocturnal birds flying around our heads, hiding from our head torches and then landing on the ground thinking they are completely invisible, their strange and almost metallic call the sound of the night as we walked along the dark beach back towards the jetty and our boat. The only notable sighting being a large tokay gecko (the largest species of gecko in the world) that Patrick spotted with its eyeshine on the side of a tree. Back at the jetty the fiddler crabs were out in force at low tide and we boarded the ship to have our evening meal. After dinner we had some spotlighting where we saw a rufous-horseshoe bat fluttering around the lights of the boat searching for insects and many gold-spot mullet surfacing in their attempts to feed on insects falling on the surface of the water.

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## Day 4      **Sundarbans (Katka)**

## *Wildlife Watching*

This morning we started at 5:30am and after some tea and coffee we headed out on the country boat ride to explore some of the smaller channels in the Sundarbans. The channels were beautiful and serene, we spotted a female chital on the muddy shore and we got quite close before we realised we were there and bolted off into the forest after which she issued a rather belated alarm call. Along most of the muddy banks were Asiatic short-clawed otter and water monitor tracks, there seems to have been lots of activity in the last few days, but none of the otter tracks



were from since the last low tide and so they had likely moved off. But we still hoped to find one along here, as the tide was pretty low the shores were teeming with mudskippers, fiddler crabs and mud crabs all picking their way through the organic materials and detritus that is washed up by the high tide and left on the shore after the water retreats again; this being one of the basis of this productive ecosystem. Further along we came to a bush where a small flock of scarlet minivets were feeding and fluttering around, as with most passerine birds the males are the showier with bright scarlet breasts, but instead of being dull brown like a lot of female passerines the female scarlet minivets are bright yellow on their breasts. When they fly quickly above you and from tree to tree the scarlet and yellow flashes are a joy to watch. Other birds we had great views of included an Oriental white-eye and a greater coucal. There was lots of bird song this morning with seemingly every species of bird trying to outdo the last one in order to be heard over the cacophony. But intermixed with the birdsong came chital alarm calls, they were weak and sporadic, most likely the result of a jackal or small cat or maybe just a deer spooking another one. But the strength and consistency of the call didn't sound like a tiger had been the main cause so we moved on further down the narrow channel. Another alarm call we heard today as the piercing call of the hoary-bellied squirrel, it took us a long time to pinpoint the squirrel in the tangle of vines and bushes it calls home. But eventually we did find it and unfortunately instead of a cobra or jungle cat being the reason for the alarm call, we found out it was us the squirrel was objecting to. Azim showed us the flowers of the chowla tree, this is a very important tree as it is the main source of nectar for the giant honeybees that produce the wonderful honey here. In around 1 week the honey collection will start and hundreds of men would arrive in the Sundarbans on boats with the sole purpose to try and collect honey to sell. This is the most dangerous honey collecting in the world as around one in three of the honey collectors is attacked by a tiger and many die. We would be just leaving the Sundarbans and heading back to Dhaka when the honey collectors boats all issue forth from the harbours of Mongla and Khulna, this is conscious planning to avoid this as we do not want to share the Sundarbans with several hundred loud men all doing their best to scare away the tigers from where they are working. Other great bird sightings we had included a collared kingfisher, red jungle fowl (both male and females in the forest) and greater racket-tailed drongo. We also had another sighting of a female chital on the river bank and once again as soon as she saw us she bolted and alarm called along the way. After turning around and heading back towards the larger channel and our larger boat we found a small troop of rhesus macaques crossing the river by walking over a arching branch. Watching the adult male, some of adult females (including one carrying a baby) as well as many youngsters we left and carried on. As we carried on towards our boat we saw the red-legged fiddler crabs which start to emerge from their holes at low tide to forage along the beaches for detritus that has been left by the retreating tide. Black drongos fluttered across the river catching insects as the sun began to rise above the trees. There had been a lack of kingfishers so far along the river banks since we arrived in the Sundarbans however that was to change starting with a good (albeit quick) view of a blue-eared kingfisher flying quickly across the river. As well as the wildlife today we were shown many of the saline loving plants that inhabit the muddy banks of the mangroves including sea holly, mangrove apple (which is a major fruit food of the macaques and chital), saline hibiscus (which the giant honeybees collect most of their nectar from during the flowering season) which had just begun to flower and kandelia. We then arrived back at the boat and had breakfast before walking through a different habitat in the Sundarbans. On the other side of the river to where we had explored the narrow creeks and channels we entered the forest and walked along a maiden. This is a Hindi word for a meadow, they are usually formed after a village has been cleared and grassland takes over from the old forest. These patches of grassland are very good for wildlife and we climbed a watch tower overlooking forest and grasslands. Whilst in the watch tower the breeze was very pleasant and we saw many chestnut-headed and blue-tailed bee-eaters flying back and forth from their perch to catch the plentiful insect life. We also saw a soaring white-bellied sea eagle as well as various brahmyni kites using the day's new thermals to rise slowly and steadily into the air. As we climbed down the tower and started to walk through the grassland we had great close views of pin-tailed tit-babblers in their courtship behaviour. A little way along the trail we found a pair of nesting lesser adjutant storks, one was soaring on a rising thermal directly above us whilst the other perched on the large nest on the top of a large sundari tree. The view of the large, long-legged bird silhouetted on the top of a tree didn't look right, the adjutant stork being built to move around on the ground and in shallow water is not a bird that looks in place on a nest high in a tree. As we watched the adjutants a large herd of chital ran across the path, unfortunately no alarm calls were heard and so it was very unlikely that they were spooked by a tiger. We then came across our first actual evidence of tigers in the Sundarbans, we found a 1.5 month old scat next to the path. The shape of the scat had been broken but the dense mat of hair from the chital that had made up the last prey was there for all to see. Tigers eat most of the carcass of a medium size animal like a chital, everything except the stomach, intestines, hooves and antlers will get eaten by the tiger and usually the only recognisable parts of the scat are the bone fragments and hair. Because we had spent a long time walking to get to this point and stopping many times to see the various wildlife along the way the sun was well on the way to getting to its highest point. We decided to turn around as to carry on would mean walking for 2-3 hours during the hottest part of the day and when temperatures capable of reaching 45°C we decided that this was not the a great idea and by turning around and heading back to the boat would mean that we could make it to our next destination with plenty of time. On the way back we had nice views of a white-bellied sea eagle soaring above us. Back at the tower we saw a large male wild boar and a 1.5m Bengal monitor crossing the sandy path and heading into the forest. Back at the shore and about to board the boat the shoreline was alive with life including cone snails, mudskippers, mud crabs and fiddler crabs all busily foraging. Back on board we departed to our next location and



as we left a female rhesus macaque busy on shore collecting food. We were planning on heading to a channel very close to the entrance of the Bay of Bengal but with the incoming tide it was too choppy and dangerous for us to make it in the small boat being towed by the larger boat. So we turned back and headed upstream to another channel, along the way we had an escort of brahminy kites including one fishing parallel with our boat, we watched the kite catching small fishes and eating them on the wing. This afternoon's channel was very quiet and we only had a greater racket-tailed drongo sighting and its unusual call to entertain us. Later on this evening we headed out along the larger rivers towards Kachakali Game Reserve and along the way Patrick spotlighted and spotted a couple of saltwater crocodiles (ranging in size from around 1.5-2m long). We had dinner on arrival and spent the night anchored at Kachakali.



## Day 5 **Kachakali Game Reserve**

## *Wildlife Watching*

This morning was another beautiful day and we had a very peaceful morning cruise in the country boat. We saw several kingfishers today including excellent views of a brown-winged kingfisher flying along the river bank. The birding was very good today including a hunting black drongo, greater yellow-napes and a mangrove pitta running along the forest floor parallel to the boat. This small ground dwelling bird is one of the hardest species of birds to see in the Sundarbans. After around 30 minutes cruising we stopped and went ashore, we would have a short walk back to the main channel. This walk went through a small area of dense forest and then a large expanse of grassland. The grassy meadows contained large herds of chital, the abundance of chital in the meadows is great to see. Many were feeding, some were running to and fro as we started them by walking through the longer grass. We had great views of a male with three black drongos perched on his back, the drongos are very good removers of parasites and the chital form these symbiotic relationships with them. As well as the chital another very abundant species in the meadows were blue-tailed bee-eaters, they are nesting at the moment and their small holes in the sandy ground are where they crawl into and lay their eggs. Walking along and getting too close to some of the holes would result in a blue eruption as the inhabitants flew away and into the sky. Watching these adept aerial hunters as they catch huge numbers of insects in looping arcs before landing on the same perch they took off from is fantastic. Further around in the meadows we came to a disused hut and old ranger station, nearby here we saw an Indian trinket snake slithering off and away into the grass and eventually into a bush and out of sight. As we proceeded to the current ranger station we started to find wild boar, including a young male who was very confident around us and didn't run away from us, allowing for some excellent close up photography. The larger wild boars were found underneath the stilted buildings feeding on the refuse. The muslim culture in Bangladesh has ensured that for so long the wild boar have not been hunted and they are very comfortable around people. Watching the young male wild boar from such close quarters we could see its hard and manoeuvrable cartilage disc shaped snout rooting around in the soil to find tubers and other food. We then had breakfast back on the boat and cruised back north towards the research centre and wildlife reserve of Harbaria where we would overnight. On the way towards Horintana (where we would visit tomorrow) we travelled through Tamabundis dolphin sanctuary. Many of the rivers and channels throughout the Sundarbans were designated as dolphin sanctuaries to protect the various species of cetaceans that utilise the water ways, the sanctuaries govern and restrict activities such as the use of certain types of fishing gear, the speed of boats and the times of day and year when the rivers and channels cannot be used. In only a few years the number of cetaceans have boomed and many species that were not thought to be common or found throughout the Sundarbans are now seen more often. At 16:30 we went on a country boat cruise, here we saw many ashy-headed green pigeons who were flying over the river and also perched on various trees feeding on various berries. There were many Asiatic short-clawed otter tracks all over both sides of the river. Many were fresh from this morning and the amount of tracks around the muddy banks showed that the resident otters here had been incredibly active. Some were so fresh that they were made within the last one hour and it was highly likely that the otters were still active somewhere. The amount of tracks also showed a strange behavioural trait of this species of otter, the Asiatic short-clawed otter spends a large amount of time on the ground and inside the grasslands and forests that fringe the rivers. We then carried on down the channel in complete silence the hope of seeing one of these adorable and busy otters increasing as the tracks were getting fresher and fresher. And ahead of us at around 30m away a pair of Asiatic short-clawed otters moving quickly along the bank. They didn't hang around and headed across a very small creek and into the tall grass on the shore. We could hear movement inside the grass and waited quietly for them to come out of the grass and reveal themselves. We waited for 15 minutes but the sound of them running around in the vegetation died down and we moved on. Further along we had nice views of rhesus macaques and chital foraging together, this symbiotic relationship is famous throughout the Indian Subcontinent, it is more well known between langurs and chital however macaques and chital also have this same relationship. The deer have incredibly acute senses and can detect a predator a long way off and so the macaques get an early warning system and the only time when the deer are vulnerable is when their heads are down and they are feeding and during this time the macaques help by being able to spot predators from their arboreal platforms.



There is a second benefit for both species as the deer gain food that is picked off the trees and falls from the trees as the macaques forage and the macaques pick parasites from the deer for extra protein. Watching this symbiotic relationship is always fascinating. However the density of the forest made seeing many of the intricate behaviours hard to watch. Other sightings on the cruise included a short view of a lesser bandicoot rat as it scurried through the undergrowth of palm fronds on the river bank and also great views of a hunting brown-winged kingfisher. The brown-winged kingfisher was making its repetitive territorial call in response to our camera shutters clicking. Flying from one perch to another in front of us as we cruised down the stream the kingfisher was clearly unhappy at our presence, but exactly why a kingfisher would find a large boat a potential territorial rival is very unusual. On our way back to the boat we heard brief chital alarm calls and then as the sunset the boat was surrounded by nightjars as they take to the air and take over from the swallows as the aerial insect feeders once the sun goes down. We overnighted here before having our last full day in the Sundarbans tomorrow.

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## Day 6 Harbaria

## Wildlife Watching

The first signs of the early monsoon were in evidence last night as thunder and lightning reigned throughout the Sundarbans, where we were there was not a great deal of rain but this is the first of what will be daily / nightly storms and downpours during the two month monsoon season. At 05:45 we had a country boat cruise before travelling north our overnight stop of Tamabundis to Harbaria. The weather was quite overcast this morning and the cooler morning made for great birding. We had great views of ruddy-breasted crakes, crimson sunbirds, scarlet-backed flowerpeckers, greenish warblers, rufous treepies, black drongos and ashy-headed green pigeons. Fresh tiger tracks were spotted on the muddy riverbank, the tiger had been through here only this morning and very likely within a couple of hours. Our overnight location was less than 100m from where the tiger had walked through the forest, crossed the river and headed deeper into the forest. The tracks showed quite clearly that the tiger had rushed up the bank and into the forest, the tracks showing where the tiger had slipped before getting a good grip on the wet and slippery mud. This was our first fresh tiger evidence and it was amazing that it happened as we began to get closer to human habitation and almost on the edges of the Sundarbans. This find highlighted the increasing human / tiger conflict in the Sundarbans, as more and more people utilise the forest and the increasing tiger population spreads to all areas of the Sundarbans; people and tigers are naturally coming into more and more conflict with each other. This close proximity leads to a lack of natural prey for the tiger as the local people poach deer and also overgraze their own livestock and so reduce the available food for wild animals. This means that any tiger living around the villages will eventually take a livestock animal or a dog or maybe a human. That then means that the tiger will be pursued and eventually killed if the local people can get hold of it or a carcass for them to poison. This is where better education of the local people is needed, including better animal husbandry and how to avoid confrontation with tigers. There are various initiatives being employed throughout Asia to stop people from coming into conflict with tigers and in the Sundarbans the most effective technique is the training of tiger-dogs to be used as an early warning system and keep the villagers and livestock safe and the force the tigers to live more like wild tigers and go back into the forest and away from people. We then had great views of a breeding pair of brown-winged kingfishers calling back and forth across the river. They travelled along the river together calling and chasing each other, this is the breeding season and nearly all of the birds are very much in the throws of courtship. Another species of bird we saw in full courtship behaviour were black-hooded orioles. We then returned to the boat for breakfast and to travel to Harbaria. Harbaria was a hive of activity compared to other places we had visited in the Sundarbans, we were very close to the larger ports and the rivers were getting steadily busier and busier, construction workers were refurbishing the watch tower and also creating a raised boardwalk. However despite all of this activity we found fresh adult female tiger tracks crossing the path and walking parallel to the trail. This track was made this morning and the tiger was likely to be within 1km of our location. With the amount of human activity and noise being created at the moment the tiger would most likely find a sheltered location and hide, sleeping through the day until the activity dies down. The only way tigers can live around so many people is by being incredibly elusive. Also around here were many fiddler crabs in the mud and a herd of chital that left the trail and headed into the forest. The deer started to stamp their feet in response to us approaching them, the foot stamping is not just a very visual signal of unhappiness at our presence, but all deer have an interdigital gland, this gland (in between the hooves), this gland releases a pheromone that alerts the other deer in the area to the presence of danger and so without a loud alarm call and even with eyes closed the herd is aware of the danger and can move off as one. We then watched a mudskipper moving in the stream, a combination of swimming and then launching itself into the air, we watched bemused as to which was the most effective way and it seemed that the mudskipper had not decided itself. As we left Harbaria we saw some hibiscus flowering and some huge mango trees but these were not in season yet. After boarding the boat we left for Jongla Forest Station, this station is opposite the village of Chandpai, this village was featured in a documentary that Martin had shown a couple of nights ago. This village is one of the many around in the periphery of the Sundarbans that is being affected by man-eating tigers and is having the tiger-dog action plan implemented. As we anchored up just off the main river and had lunch and rested during the middle of day we had some great sightings of Gangetic river dolphins and Irrawaddy dolphins all around the boat. We had some great views of them porpoising, fishing and travelling around the boat and in particular the eddies and slack water formed when the current from the main river is funnelled off to the channel we are on. This slack water is where any debris and organic matter that the river is carrying is deposited and therefore this is where





most of the fish are found in the river system. Most of the dolphin activity was the Gangetic river dolphins however 3 or 4 of the porpoising dolphins were Irrawaddy dolphins, their curved dorsal fins and blunt rounded head clearly diagnostic of the Irrawaddy and not Gangetic river dolphin. The dolphins provided a good amount of photography and frustration as their brief surfacing is unpredictable and very difficult to capture; although both Marie and Theresa managed to get some good pictures of the elusive animals. As the Gangetic river dolphins spent lots of time feeding and playing behind the boat the Irrawaddy dolphins seemed to just be passing through as they were not sighted after their initial identification. Also fishing behind the boat was a white-bellied sea eagle that Tom managed to get on film swooping down and plucking out a fish. At 16:30 we had another country boat safari with more great views of the beautiful brown-winged kingfisher and an Oriental magpie robin feeding on the exposed shore at low tide. This opportunistic bird making the most of the intertidal mudflats to forage. We also had sightings of rhesus macaques foraging on the floor and then travelling through the trees, jumping from tree and tree. There are few places in the Indian Subcontinent where rhesus macaques can live completely wild and not commensal with humans but the Sundarbans is one of those places. The birding was very good this afternoon with nice views of feeding ashy-headed green pigeons, a female purple sunbird feeding on nectar and an Intermediate egret feeding along the river bank. At dusk the sun set was spectacular with many dragonflies around and we watched as many ashy-headed green pigeons flew from all directions to a large sundari tree where they would roost tonight. Before getting back to the boat we had the best views of a black-capped kingfisher so far on the tour, once back on the boat we moved to Laudrop where we would have dinner and overnight. Tonight is the last night in the Sundarbans and the chef prepared a great feast with many different dishes including (once again) the locally caught fish.



## Day 7 **Laudrop / Dhaka**

## *Wildlife Watching & Transit*

This morning at 6am we awoke to many women wading and swimming in the river around the boat with triangular nets, they were trying to catch young shrimp which are then sold in the markets to shrimp farms (the price being 1 shrimp = 1 taka) that are located on the marshy lands that used to be buffer the Sundarbans that are now cultivated into rice paddies and shrimp and fish farms. Whilst manoeuvring the large boat the sound of the engine turning on spooked a brown fish owl from the trees nearby and it flew off and away down the river. We then had a country boat cruise down the river, the nearby village of Laudrop is a Hindu village and fishing is the main industry and many people of all ages were wading with nets, travelling in boats setting and collecting nets as we travelled down the river. Some large dead trees were the roosting site of a flock of Asian openbill storks and we had great views of these birds as well as a crested serpent eagle that took off from the trees and flew parallel to the river before disappearing. Near the river bank and giving us excellent close up views was a brown-capped pygmy woodpecker. But the highlight of the morning was to come when we arrived at a large upright net strung out along the river bank, during the high tide the water rising over 1.5m and the entire shoreline comes underwater and this net is set up to catch the crabs, shrimp and fish that arrive with the high tide. However just as the couple who were coming to collect the net and any catch arrived a large male Asiatic short-clawed otter came out of the forest and proceeded to go into the net and scour the fringes of the net collecting any food. Clearly this otter does this regularly as it knew exactly what to do and when to do it and was not put off by the people coming to collect the net or ourselves who watched closely. We asked the couple whether they like competing with the otter for their catch every day and they said that the otter is entitled to its food and they have to share. It is this incredible attitude that the local people have here that means that the dolphins and otters (that compete for food) and the tigers (that kill livestock and sometimes people) have managed to survive with so many people now infringing on their habitat. We then returned to the larger boat and had breakfast, we then went to visit the village of Laudrop before beginning the journey back to Dhaka. On the way to Laudrop we had more Gangetic river dolphin sightings and then at the village we went ashore and walked the streets, making many friends and interacting with the local people. The friendliness and interest that everyone showed in us is always nice when making these cultural visits. The way that the people have adapted to this habitat, with very little completely fresh water, the ever present threat of tigers around and the increasing levels of industry, pollution and deforestation as the ports get busier and bigger, is incredible to behold. Their small houses and farmsteads allowing them to live nearly completely self-sufficiently and despite the lack of money, technology and modernity being alien to us their lives are arguably happier and less stressful than our western lifestyles. As with any conservation initiatives anywhere in the world it is only by understanding the local people and their individual and collective needs can any wilderness or species being adequately and effectively be protected going into the future. After trying some of the locally grown saltator fruit we walked past the various animals that are kept in the village such as goats, cats, dogs, cattle, water buffalo, ducks, chickens and geese. At the dock we saw a community project that involves many of the local people in furniture manufacture, this is a great source of extra income to the local population. After here we left on the boat for Mongla, passing by several monuments and shrines to Bonbibi the local forest deity, the local people send offerings and pray for protection to Bonbibi before



heading into the forest. This local deity has been adopted by both Hinduism and Islam around the Sundarbans and it is believed that Bonbibi protects everyone from tiger attack. After arriving back at Mongla and saying our goodbyes to the crew we left and got into the vehicle to take us back to Jessore. This time we could see what we were driving through such as paddy fields, fish and shrimp farms. We briefly stopped at Khulna for a toilet break and on arrival at Jessore there was some light rain beginning to fall. Our flight was delayed due to an electrical storm in Dhaka and so we had a wait around 1 hour after we were meant to fly. The plane eventually landed and there were further delays when the storm hampered our boarding and take off. When we did get into the air the storm made for some rough flying. It was very comforting that Patrick was a pilot and Elisabeth an experienced member of air crew, so when the turbulence got as bad as many of us had ever experienced the relaxed face of Elisabeth and laughing face of Patrick kind of put everyone at ease. After we landed in Dhaka we realised that the storm was still ongoing and the standing water was getting deeper. This is definitely the onset of the monsoon, around 2 months early but with global climate change affecting all forms of weather around the world it is not too surprising that the monsoon was coming early and coming on strong. The traffic (a combination of the heavy rainfall and normal Dhaka traffic) was very bad meant that we were quite late in getting back to the hotel. Sometimes it feels like the entire 190 million population of Bangladesh is heading in the same direction as you when you get stuck in the traffic. Once we arrived at the hotel we decided that because some of our group having early flights the following morning and after a very long day today we all went our separate ways, said our goodbyes, checked in online and hit the hay.

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## **Day 8      Home**

## ***Departure***

This morning everyone left with Azim and the driver to the airport in time to catch their individual flights. Some journey's home were longer than others due to some delays in and out of Dhaka meaning that connections were also missed, but eventually everyone made it home.

# Species List

Sundarbans Tiger Cruise / March 2015

## Mammals (\* = heard or signs only / CT = Camera Trap images)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Asiatic short-clawed otter	<i>Aonyx cinerea</i>
2	Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>
3	Lesser bandicoot rat	<i>Bandicota bengalensis</i>
4	Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythus</i>
5	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
6	Jungle cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>
7	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>
8	Indian grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>
9	Small Asian mongoose	<i>Herpestes palustris</i>
10	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>
11	Hodgson's bat	<i>Myotis formosus</i>
12	Finless porpoise	<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>
13	Irrawaddy dolphin	<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>
14	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>
15	Least pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus tenuis</i>
16	Gangetic River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>
17	Indian flying fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>
18	Rufous-horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus rouxii</i>
19	Greater Asiatic yellow house bat	<i>Scotophilus heathii</i>
20	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scofra</i>

March						April	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
			*	3		1	
		~160	~140	~95	5		
				1			
3			1				
	1						
		*					
	2						
	2						
	1						
		39	43	12	21		
		4			1		
		2		1			
					2		
			*		*		
	1	1					
		7	3		5	4	
~100							
	2						
		3	6	14	*		

## Birds (\* = heard or signs only / CT = Camera Trap images)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>

March						April	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					1		

2	Jungle mynah	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
3	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
4	Blythe's reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
5	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
6	Common iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
7	Indian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>
8	Crimson sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
9	Eurasian Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
10	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>
11	Aisian openbill stork	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
12	Paddyfield pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
13	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
14	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
15	Spotted owl	<i>Athene brama</i>
16	Brown fish owl	<i>Bubo zeylonensis</i>
17	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
18	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>
19	Large-tailed nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>
20	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
21	Common emerald dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
22	Golden-fronted leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
23	Greater flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>
24	Greater yellownape	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>
25	Purple sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
26	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
27	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
28	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
29	Eastern jungle crow	<i>Corvus leuallantii</i>
30	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
31	Indian cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
32	Grey-headed canary flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
33	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
34	Rufous treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
35	Fulvous-breasted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>
36	Brown-capped pygmy woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>
37	Scarlet-backed flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
38	Bronzed drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>

14				7	2	11	
~100	~75			5		37	~10
1							
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		2			5	3	
~40							
		1			3		
		2				2	
		1					
						21	
1		2					
		4		1	2		
12				4		9	
2							
						1	
~100						~45	
1							
		9		2	2		
			1		1		
				1			
		1			2	1	
3							
				1		1	
1					4		
100's	100's					~50	~25
				3			
4			1	2	8	2	
~25	~10	4	3		9	21	
100's	100's	~25				~100	~50
1				1			
1							
			7	9		5	
2			1		1		
		1					
						1	
					1		
				1			

39	Ashy drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
40	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
41	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
42	Black-rumped flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
43	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
44	Asian koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
45	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
46	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>
47	Ruddy kingfisher	<i>Halcyon coromanda</i>
48	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>
49	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
50	White-Breasted Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
51	Pallas's fish eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>
52	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
53	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
54	Brown shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
55	Long-tailed shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
56	Yellow-crowned woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>
57	Purple-rumped sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>
58	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
59	Pin-tailed tit-babbler	<i>Macronus gularis</i>
60	Coppersmith barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
62	Chestnut-headed bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
62	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
63	Little bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
64	Intermediate egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>
65	Little cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
66	Rufous woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
67	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
68	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
69	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
70	Brown hawk owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
71	Changeable hawk eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
72	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
73	Black-hooded oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
74	Green-backed tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
75	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>

1							
10	4		2	5	7	16	
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				5			
1			1				
			4	1	*		
18						8	
				1			
				2	4		
		1	*		2	1	
		4	1	1	1		
		3					
1		11	19	5	3		
		~97	3	22	6		
3							
1					2	1	
1							
						4	
		4	4	1			
			6				
*				1			
			21				
		6	28	~85			
						1	
		8	4	1	4	5	
			2		2		
~105	~100						
					1		
	1						
1							
				1			
			1				
8					3		
2		2		4	4	3	
~15	~100	~10					

76	Brown-winged kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis amauroptera</i>
77	Small minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
78	Scarlet minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>
79	Chestnut-shouldered petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>
80	Dusky warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
81	Yellow-browed warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
82	Greenish warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
83	Mangrove pitta	<i>Pitta megarhyncha</i>
84	Ruddy-breasted crake	<i>Porzana fusca</i>
85	Yellow-bellied prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
86	Alexandrine parrakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
87	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
88	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
89	Red Whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocusus</i>
90	Pied avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
91	Velvet-fronted nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
92	Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
93	Crested Serpent eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
94	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
95	Chestnut-headed starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>
96	Large woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>
97	Collared kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
98	Orange-headed green pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>
99	Ashy-headed green pigeon	<i>Treron phayrei</i>
100	Eurasian wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
101	Jungle babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>
102	Red-Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
103	Oriental white-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>

				2	8		
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			15	2	1		
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				3		3	
			4		1		
				2	2	2	
				1			
					2		
			3				
				8			
2							
27			2	1	3	4	
					19		
					3		
			2				
2			3	6		4	
		1	*		*		
				1	2		
22							
		2	1				
			3	10	1	2	
			4				
			5	8	24		
				1			
11							
			2	1			
			2				

## Reptiles (\* = heard or signs only / CT = Camera Trap images)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Indian Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
2	Indian trinket snake	<i>Coelognathus helena</i>
3	Esturine Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>

March						April	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
1							
				1			
			4		2		

4	Tokay gecko	<i>Gekko gekko</i>
5	Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
6	Bengal monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>
7	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>

		1	*	*	*		
	1	*	*	*			
			1				
			2	1	*		

**Amphibians** (\* = heard or signs only / CT = Camera Trap images)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Indian toad	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>

March						April	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
				1			

**Fishes** (\* = heard or signs only / CT = Camera Trap images)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Blue-spotted mudskipper	<i>Boleophthalmus boddarti</i>
2	Coromandel flyingfish	<i>Hirundichthys coromandelensis</i>
3	Gold-spotted mullet	<i>Liza parsia</i>
4	Long-whiskered catfish	<i>Mystus gulio</i>
5	Barred mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus argentilineatus</i>
6	Blue-cheeked silver grunt	<i>Pomadasys argenteus</i>
7	Freshwater garfish	<i>Xenentodon cancila</i>

March						April	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
		~80	100's	~15	6	~50	
		1					
		~50					
		1		1		2	
		~20	~50		3		
				~10			
			2	3		1	