



india = the trail of the tiger

4-12th march 2023

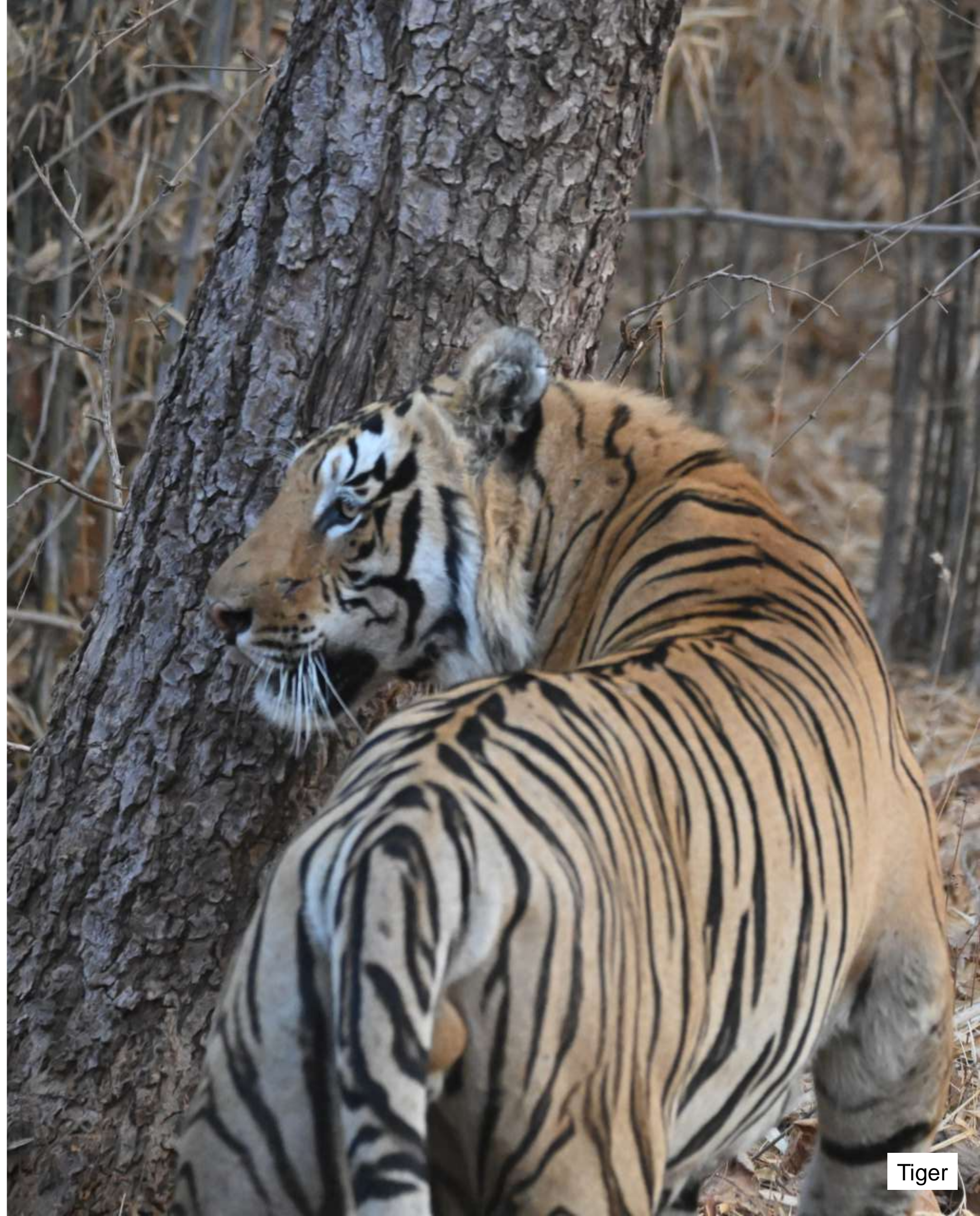
introduction

On our very successful trip to India in November we failed to see any tigers during 7 safari drives in Kanha, with our Visa's still being valid until April we organized a week trip focused on Tigers. We split the trip in two parks – Tadoba – Ansari and Pench both fairly close to Nagpur.

We booked the trip with [Asian Adventures](#), all we had to do was get on the plane to Nagpur and they would have us covered from there and they would drop us back at Nagpur to fly back to Dehli. Everything went smoothly and both lodges we stayed at were good, transfers were good.

Svasara Jungle Lodge (Tadoba) Was excellent, small, very friendly, good wildlife on site, pool, great food and I would stay there again. Tuli Tiger Corridor (Pench) was very nice a little grander then Svasara but bigger, caters for families more, bar, pool, spa etc. much more lively, food was good, there was nothing wrong with the lodge but I would stay somewhere smaller with a little more wild areas if I revisited the area. Temperature was hot 36°C during the day, the drives first thing in the morning were a little cool, it was cool overnight so moth activity was very low.

All Safaris were private jeeps and at Svasara we had a naturalist from the lodge accompany us, at Tuli Tiger we did not – we enjoyed the trip and had lots of good sightings.



Tiger

शुक्रवार 4^{थे} मार्च 2023

We arrived in Dehli in the early hours and transferred to Terminal 1 for our internal flight to Nagpur a few hours later. Our transfer to Tadobar went quickly and we settled in to our accommodation at Svasara Jungle Lodge after a late lunch. I had a walk round the camp exploring for wildlife, orange headed thrush and lots of sunbirds along with plenty of fast moving butterflies.

We had a night drive so headed off for that, it was a little disappointing as they have stopped spotlighting in the park and you can only use the vehicle headlights. So it was mostly Savannah nightjars and Indian hares on the tracks, it was a full moon so we could see a bit further than just the car lights but we did not see much else. We were near the end of the safari and heard some rustling and a shape in the bushes so stopped, we thought it was a wild boar but as it moved into the clearings in the bushes, we could see it was a sloth bear illuminated by the moonlight. We headed back for a late meal and I set up the moth trap for the night.



Savannah Nightjar



Ashy Prinia



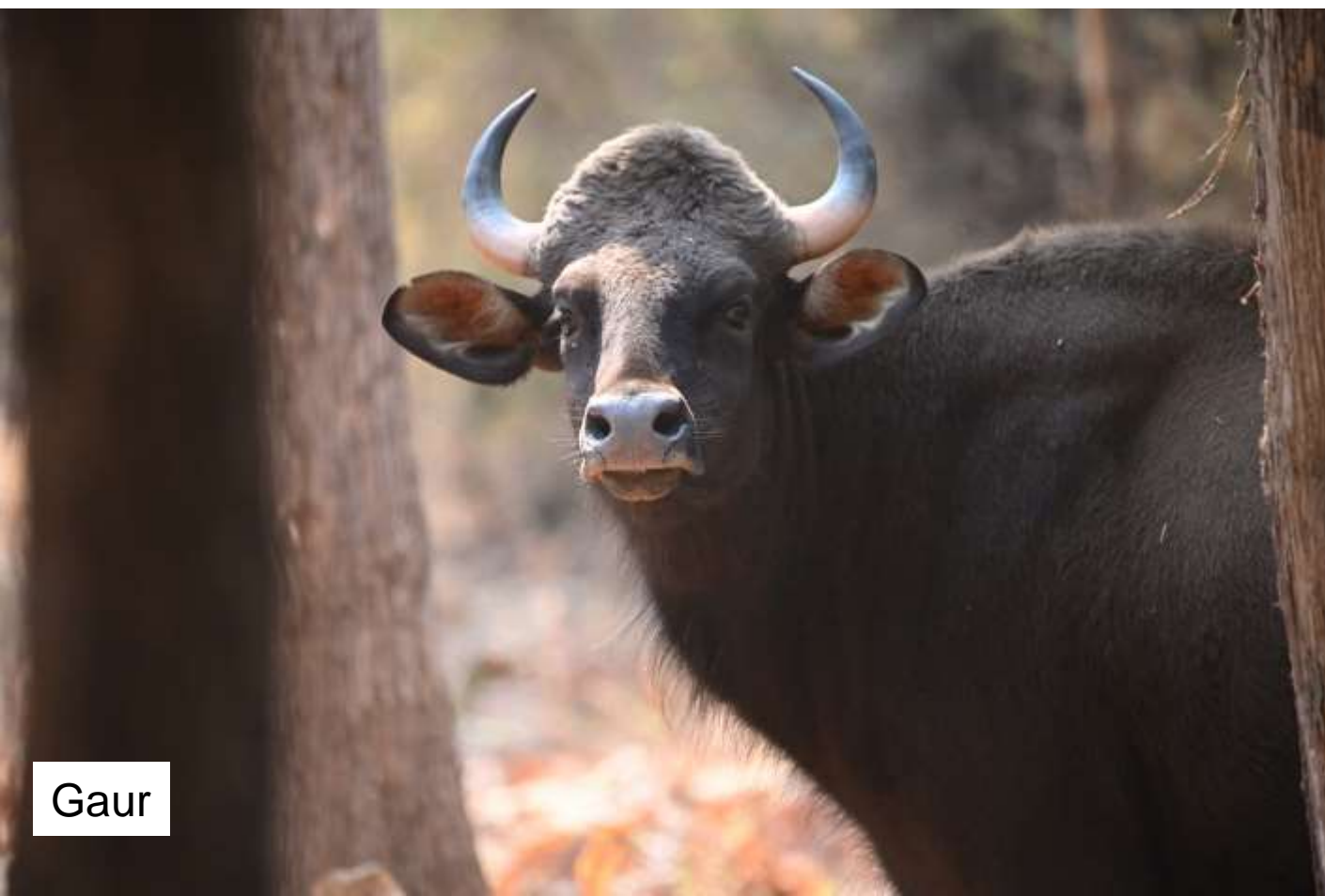
Spotted deer

इन्द्राय ३^{थे} मार्च २०२३

Only a few months in the trap (it is the low season for moths) and it was time for the first safari drive. We headed into the reserve and found a few birds along with loads of spotted deer and Langurs, then ahead a tiger was crossing the road just in front of us. The driver then made a mistake he drove past the tiger (as I was asking to stop) he had mis Identified the individual thinking it was one that would walk down the road so he was getting in position for that, but it was one of the shy males who does not like the roads and headed in the woods. We headed on to a fire break and a short while later the tiger crossed the fire break, and we did not see him after. So, a nice sighting but a little frustrating. We had some food and then headed to a patch of blood on the road that we had seen earlier in the bushes was a kill and a sleeping tiger both obscured somewhat, but still nice to see before we headed back to the lodge.



Tiger



Gaur

We rested after the safari and again after lunch before the afternoon safari as we were both exhausted.

The afternoon safari produced the first Gaur's of the trip, we headed to a stream and parked up, a tigress had young cubs in the area and hopefully in the heat they would come for a drink. And wow 10 mins later a cub came for a drink followed a short time later by its sibling, they drank then played for a while before wandering off. We continued our safari stopping for a four horned antelope which eventually crossed the road in front of us and a brief view of a ruddy mongoose. We headed back to the Lodge at dusk spotting an Indian Pipistrelle and Jackal on the way.



Four Horned Antelope

Monday 6th March 2023

The morning safari had the first wild boar of the trip and a very brief view of a tiger along with the usual deer and some nice Nilgai, but not much else.

I had a walk round the lodge before and after lunch, there WAS plenty of bird and butterfly activity black redstart, Tickell's blue flycatcher and some common wood shrikes. Butterflies were everywhere blue tiger was particularly nice along with common wanderer.

The afternoon safari we concentrated on an area with a tigress and two cubs, we had some brief views but they were largely hidden in the vegetation, other sightings were some nice gaur amongst the usual deer.



Tickell's Blue Flycatcher



Northern Langur

Tuesday 7th March 2023

The morning safari was in a new area, there was a wetland with lots of waterfowl, wild boar and Nilgai came to drink and grey headed fish eagles were fishing, but the highlight was a grey mongoose.

I wandered round the lodge before lunch the only new bird was a red breasted flycatcher but there were lots of butterflies.

The afternoon safari went to yet another area we did not manage to see any tigers and the wildlife was very similar to previous drives, we added a few bird species at a small wetland and saw some nice gaur calves.

I ran the moth trap and while checking it a sounder of wild boar gave me a bit of a fright, but they left the trap alone.



Changeable hawk-eagle



Wild Boar



Purple Rumped Sunbird



Sloth Bear

બાદનેશ્વર ૪th માર્ચ ૨૦૨૩

Today it was “Holi” a public holiday so the reserves were closed, I spent the morning in the lodge looking for wildlife, a Coppersmith barbet was the only new addition to the bird list and I managed to photograph a few butterflies. After Lunch we were transferred to Pench NP, staying at the Tiger Tuli corridor lodge. After settling in we went to the bar for a drink and watched at least five species of bats flying over the pool, three fruit bat species along with the much smaller Indian pipistrelle and probably yellow bats (helpfully identified by the resident naturalist team). During dinner I could hear some frogs calling and found that the small ponds by the entrance contained a large numbers of common skater frogs.



Baronet



Ghost Tree

Thursday 9th March 2023

Just a couple of moths in the moth trap before the first safari and we were only a few minutes into the journey before we came across two spotted deer flashing across the road, a wild dog had given up the chase and moved off before I managed to get any decent photos and it was still pretty dark not making things any easier. The morning was then quickly dominated by two separate leopard sightings, we had a few nice bird sightings mottled wood owls, racket tailed drongo, crested tree swifts.

While waiting in the queue for the afternoon safari we bumped into Lokesh our guide from November's trip, he was guiding here, what a coincidence.

The afternoon was less eventful a few jackals, yellow fronted green pigeons and streaked throated woodpecker the highlights.

We transferred vehicle and headed out for our night safari in a different area of the reserve. There were plenty of fireflies and a pond had jumping fish when light was shined on them.

The guide did occasionally get a torch out, but his heart was not really in it we did some Indian nightjars, Indian hares and a Thicknee before we headed back to the lodge.



Leopard



Common Skipper Frog



Yellow Bush Dart



Leopard

Friday 10th March 2023

Our morning safari once again started with wild dogs and again in the dark, we had a brief sighting of a tiger and a nice Leopard sighting before heading to our breakfast stop where a committee of white rumped and Indian vultures were feasting on a carcass. We had some terrapins in one of the water bodies and a brief view of a tree shrew.

I was not feeling too good so skipped lunch and had a lie down for a few hours before the afternoon safari. The safari was good we had a very good view of a tiger crossing the road, a sleeping leopard and after staking out a waterhole a tigress with a cub, a top drive.

After the drive I filmed the bats (only 3 species tonight) flying over the pool while I enjoyed a cool drink before dinner.



Vultures



Green Bee-eater



Tiger

शुक्रवार ११th मार्च २०२३

Our last safari and we made frequent stops to photograph birds including some common species like Indian peafowl, Grey junglefowl, hoopoe, green bee eater and common mammals like spotted deer, sambar and the very photogenic langurs. We headed to the airport and flew back to Delhi, after an issue with our hotel we ended up at the holiday inn for the night before flying home Sunday morning a Black kite was the only addition to the list as we headed to the airport.



Plain Tiger



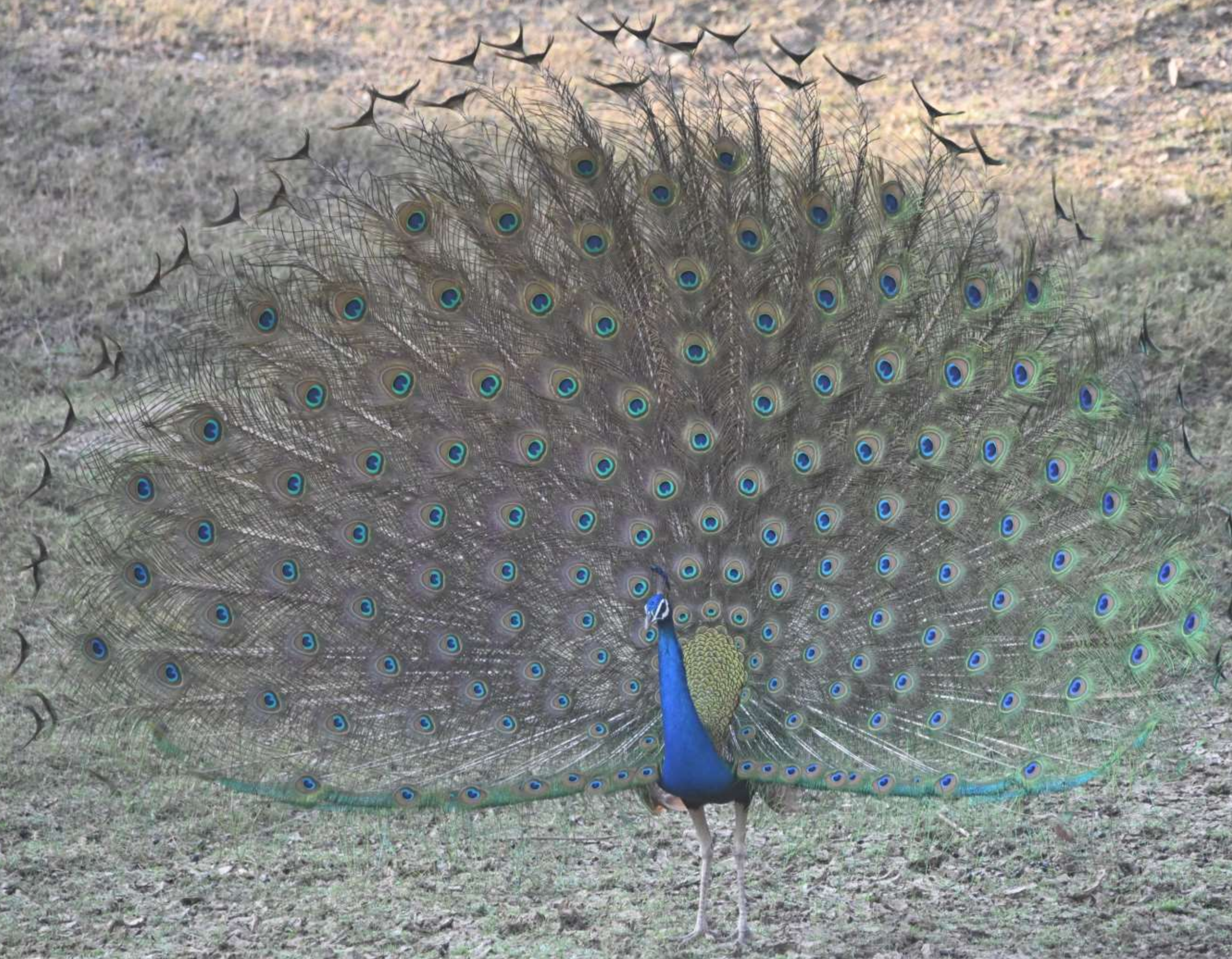
Indian Grey Mongoose



Plum Headed Parakeet



Nilgai



Indian peafowl

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ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମଣଲକ୍ଷ୍ମଣ = ୨୩



Spotted Deer	Sambar	Four Horned Antelope
Indian Gaur	Indian hare	Jackal
Dhole	Tiger	Wild Boar
Sloth Bear	Nilgai	Ruddy Mongoose
Indian grey mongoose	Three Striped Palm Squirrel	Indian tree Shrew
Rhesus Macaque	Northern langur	Indian pipistrelle
Short Nosed Fruit Bat	Probably Greater Asiatic yellow bat	Leopard
Fulvous Fruit Bat	Indian Flying Fox	





Grey Junglefowl	Indian Peafowl	Red Spurfowl
Lesser Whistling Duck	Ruddy Duck	Comb Duck
Spot Billed Duck	Bar Headed Goose	Black headed Ibis
Red Naped Ibis	Asian Openbill	Woolly Neck Stork
Common Iora	Bay Backed Shrike	Long Tailed Shrike
Rufous Treepie	House Crow	Jungle Crow
Black Kite	Feral Pigeon	Black Hooded Oriole
White Throated Fantail	White Browed Fantail	Black Drongo
White Bellied Drongo	Greater raked Tailed Drongo	Black Naped Monarch
Red throated Flycatcher	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	Oriental Magpie Robin
Indian Robin	Black Rumped Flameback	Hoopoe
Indian Roller	Common Kingfisher	White Throated Flycatcher
Pied Kingfisher	Green Bee-eater	Common Hawk Cuckoo
Greater Coucal	Alexandrine Parakeet	Rose Ringe Parakeet
Plum headed parakeet	Crested Treeswift	Spotted Owlet
Jungle Owlet	Mottled Wood Owl	Savanna Nightjar
Indian Nightjar	Laughing Dove	Spotted Dove
Eurasian Collared Dove	Yellow Fronted Green Pigeon	White Breasted Waterhen
Marsh Sandpiper	Common Sandpiper	Pheasant tailed jacana
Bronze winged Jacana	Thicknee	Black Winged Stilt

Little Ringed Plover	Red Wattled Lapwing	Oriental Honey Buzzard
Black Shouldered Kite	Crested Serpent Eagle	White Eyed buzzard
Short Toed Snake Eagle	Little grebe	Oriental Darter
Indian Cormorant	Little Egret	Grey heron
Great Egret	Cattle Egret	Indian Pond Heron
Striated Heron	Siberian Stonechat	Brahminy Starling
Common Myna	Barn Swallow	Red vented Bulbul
Ashy Prinia	Oriental White Eye	Common Tailorbird
Greenish Warbler	Yellow eyed babbler	Jungle babbler
Purple Sunbird	Purple Rumped Sunbird	House Sparrow
Chestnut Shouldered Petronia	Indian Silverbill	White Browed Wagtail
Paddyfield Pipit	Olive Backed pipit	Orange Headed Thrush
Indian Blackbird	Black redstart	Spotted Redshank
Coppersmith Barbet	White Rumped Vulture	Yellow wagtail
Temmincks Stint	Asian palm Swift	Shikra
White Rumped Munia	Common woodshrike	



ਨਦਰਪੜ = ੭

Common Skater Frog	Marsh Mugger	Keeled Checkerback Snake
Indian Flap-shell Turtle	Garden Lizard	Forest Spotted gecko
Common Indian Tree frog sp		



ਗਠਦਰਪੜ = ੫

Antlion	Yellow Bush Dart	Asiatic bloodtail
Mantis sp		



बुटरलीडइ = 18



Wandering Albatross	Large Emigrant	Blue Tiger
Common Crow	Common Grass Yellow	Common Rose
Common Lime	Oriental Great Eggfly	Plain Tiger
Tawny Coaster	Baronet	Oriental Common Grass Yellow
Black-spotted Grass Jewel	Indian Spotless Grass Yellow	Asian Zebra Blue
Nalanda Chestnut-streaked Sailer	Himalayan Common Palmfly	Oriental Gram Blue

लठेइ = 7

Scopula emissaria	Artaxa guttata	Parotis marginata
Sufetula sp	Idaea amplipennis	Maruca Pod Borer
Lamprosema tampiusalis		



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