

Ladakh - A Snow Leopard Quest

Naturetrek Tour REport

21 February - 6 March 2013

Report compiled by Nick Acheson



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Tour Leaders:	Nick Acheson	Naturetrek Naturalist
	Dorje Chitta	Local Naturalist
	Morup	Local Naturalist & Cultural Guide
	Thinlay	Cultural Guide
	Sonam	Cook and expert Snow Leopard spotter

Participants:	Else Harinck
	Jan Elfrink
	John Lowry
	Mike Robinson
	Russell Scott
	Tim Stowe
	Debra Troy

Day 1

Thursday 21st February

Outboard flights to Ladakh

Day 2

Friday 22nd February

An adventure began today – a tour of rare excitement, challenge and beauty – and it began in the bright, business-like bustle of the new airport in Delhi. Your adventure, in fact, had begun the day before, in Europe, and even before this in your homes, with the packing of optics, the making of notes and the purchase of the thickest sleeping bags pennies can buy. For my part, I was in India already, arriving from Kolkata and Assam, and was at the airport early today to meet you.

Check-in, departures, a plane and our first views of snow-deep mountains... A cold wait on the airstrip at Leh, a friendly welcome from Morup – the first of innumerable friendly greetings we'd experience in Ladakh – and the chance to rest at the welcoming Mahey Retreat. For the rest of the day – at my express instruction to take it easy – we did little except doze, potter, drink tea and eat. A few wandered into town and common birds were seen in the bare fields at the town's edge: Brown and Robin Accentors and pallid Great Tits. Over the distant mountains, across the valley from our hotel, a Golden Eagle and a Lammergeier soared, a Sparrowhawk circled closer, and, short of breath as we were, we were thrilled and daunted to have reached this cold place on the rooftop of the world.

Day 3

Saturday 23rd February

A day of birds and monks, and monks and birds! It began for us on the banks of the Indus between Choglamsar and Shey. A Green Sandpiper bobbed in a roadside stream and in the river's shallows an Ibisbill probed its long beak. In the tangles of Sea Buckthorn along the river were hundreds of White-winged Redstarts and nearby, along the road from Shey Palace to Thiksey, a posse of Horned Larks scurried through the dust.

At the remote monastery of Hemis a cloud of Red-billed Choughs came to food laid out for them by the monks. Suddenly they swirled away, like a cloud of burnt paper rising from a bonfire, as a male Goshawk slammed through the sky from behind us. As we headed for Leh a large flock of Mongolian Finches blew like dust beside the road and the cold, impassive river flowed through its vast landscape.

Day 4

Sunday 24th February

We should have gone to Matho monastery today, to watch monastic oracles being invested. We should have had an easy day, another day of acclimatisation to the lung-wringing altitude. We should have. We didn't... Instead we slogged into a wild valley, crossed a frozen mountain stream, and trudged up a steep, snow-thick slope. And here we watched Snow Leopards!

The hitch in our monk-watching plan had come the previous evening when a young Dutch traveller returned to Mahey Retreat from Rumbak (Hemis National Park) with news of a male Snow Leopard on a Blue Sheep kill right by a path. Not only did the young Dutchman bring news; he also brought point-blank photos of the animal, the sort of photos which give tour leaders sleepless nights and make them agonise over decisions. Should I have deprived you of a day of acclimatisation for the chance of possibly seeing this Snow Leopard? In the end it wasn't a hard decision. I'd already twigged that you were a very keen group, determined to see the Snow Leopard come what may. So, the dancing oracular monks would have to do without us.

But as today dawned a new problem arose: snow! It had fallen quite heavily in the night and continued to fall thickly as we waited for our vehicles to arrive. An hour late – thanks to Leh's treacherous roads – they did arrive and we left for Hemis National Park. Outside Leh there was little snow on the roads and soon enough we were at Zingchen, bracing ourselves for the walk ahead and for a week under canvas in the ice. A Golden Eagle circled over the trailhead and we took this to be a good sign. Rather than continue up the Rumbak Valley to our camp – the direction taken by the horses carrying our packs – we diverted up the Tarbung Valley where the male Snow Leopard had been on his kill the day before. There were Lammergeiers in the sky above the site, and our first Himalayan Griffons, but all that remained of the Blue Sheep were stringy remains. On we pressed, up a steep, lung-emptying, snow-slippery slope and here – we could scarcely believe it! – a small group of people was watching a pair of Snow Leopards dozing on a rock-face several hundred metres away. Snow Leopards!! So quickly, so clearly, so thrillingly! We burst into uncontrollable smiles. For more than two hours we watched these incomparable cats resting on the rocks until the slimmer, whiter young female decided it was time to move. She nuzzled and nudged the older, yellowish male who took little notice. Eventually he too rose from sleep and, as we left to set up camp at the base of the Husing Valley, still an hour's walk away, the two cats sloped away across the steep scree. Words fail...

Day 5

Monday 25th February

In the night an Eagle Owl hooted above our camp and in the still cold light of dawn a single Himalayan Snowcock was heard on the scree high above us. We spent most of today around our camp, at the conjunction of the Rumbak and Husing Valleys.

Blue Sheep joined us early, trotting through the willow-scrub in the valley by camp and staying close by all day. More Blue Sheep were in the bottom of the Rumbak Valley, one with a Yellow-billed Chough perched rakishly on its rump. At the lower end of camp Chukar and Hill Pigeons picked through the straw and fallen grain where the horses and mules were tethered and at the top of the camp, in the mouth of the Husing Valley, a single Plain Mountain-Finch looked lost in a roving flock of Fire-fronted Serins.

Mountain-hardy Chitta, whose legs are used to this altitude, went back to the Tarbung Valley to see whether yesterday's courting pair of Snow Leopards could be found. But they had vanished into the vastness of the mountains.

Day 6

Tuesday 26th February

A new mammal came to camp in the grey light of dawn: a Woolly Hare in the poplar plantation beside our tents. With tea, coffee and hot breakfast inside us we passed the Woolly Hare and laboriously walked up the Husing Valley. We left the other Leopard-watchers at a vantage point overlooking the base of both the Rumbak and Husing Valleys and went, ourselves, further up the Husing Valley. Good decision! After half an hour, Chitta – whose eyes saw further and clearer than the rest of ours put together – turned back and saw a female Snow Leopard slipping up the slope behind us with her eight-month-old cub. They crossed the ridge above us and disappeared towards the watchers we had left behind. Most of us on the tour were well travelled, some absurdly so. Most of us have avidly watched wildlife for decades and have seen many breathtaking sights. Yet we agreed – all of us – that we had rarely, perhaps never, seen anything so thrilling, so captivating, as the sequence which unfolded at the bottom of the Husing Valley over the rest of today...

We rushed back to the vantage point, in time to see our female bring her cub to a V-shaped cleft in the hilltop, several hundred metres above us. Here they dozed the middle of the day away, poking their heads out from time to time, to keep us on our toes. Lunch came to us, as helpfully and unobtrusively as everything done by our superb support team, in the form of a delicious picnic brought by the boys from camp. Though there was little Snow Leopard activity through the middle of the day, the message from Chitta was clear: we should stay where we were as in the afternoon our female would cross the valley to hunt the small family of Blue Sheep we could see on the far rocks.

A round head appeared from a V-shaped cleft, a long, elegantly-bowing tail slipped over a ridge of rocks and a ghostly grey cat crossed a vast landscape of snow and rock. Watched by eager naturalists, she's undetected by the Blue Sheep on the cliffs ahead of her. She gained a rock just twenty metres above them; one of the sheep perceives a threat and a twenty-minute stand-off ensued. Though we're freezing cold and well above 3,500m of altitude none of us dares twitch a muscle, none of us dares breathe. Do we wish death on the sheep? Do we wish them safety? Do we wish our cub – still in the cleft above us – a meal of Blue Sheep meat? In the end the Snow Leopards had no meal, at least not in our view. The top sheep caught sight – or scent – of our female and scampered down the rocky slope, taking the rest of its family with it. The female moved to a nearby rock and – did we imagine it? – visibly sulked before trailing her great tail across the mighty landscape in the other direction calling to her cub.

The cub slipped away from its hiding place and, after six-and-a-half hours in the company of Snow Leopards, we too slipped away, leaving their mountain and its dramas to them alone. There were Royle's Pikas here too, pinging over the rocks in the stream beneath us, and there were Magpies chattering and Choughs surfing the blue Himalayan skies; but today all our senses were bound to the Snow Leopards.

Day 7

Wednesday 27th February

It was cold last night, brutally cold. Our female and her cub's footprints in the snow told that they had left the Husing Valley so, mindful of the need not to pursue them, we headed higher into that valley today. Snow fell and Snowcocks sang their weird plaintive song and overhead a sooty young Lammergeier looped lazy circles. At the moment when the snow fell heaviest, when we seemed alone with the wildness of the mountain and its changing moods, smiling Phunchok appeared with a great thermos of steaming tea and packs of biscuits.

Over lunch at camp the snow fell heavier still and Chitta advised we should remain in camp to avoid the fickle dangers of the mountain. News came in the evening that the first pair of Snow Leopards we had seen had again been disputing themselves today at the top of the Tarbung Valley. So we resolved to head there again in the morning, after another night in tents, grateful we'd invested in the thickest of mountain-hardy sleeping bags.

Day 8

Thursday 28th February

February ended with a Snow Leopard! This morning we again plodded up the snow-covered ridge of the Tarbung Valley, putting up a Red Fox which shot like a streak of tawny over the cold grey landscape. Reaching the watch point we were met by our cook Sonam, one of the most respected Snow Leopard watchers in the park. He had found a dozing cat on the cliff face behind us, at the foot of the buttress above the site of the original kill, all those cold days ago. Our lazy Snow Leopard dreamed the day away, curled in the sun against the cliff face, moving a few metres from time to time. Lammergeiers sliced through the skies overhead and Shey, our fluffy Snow Leopard cub mascot, dozed too, on the barrels of our 'scopes. Though less dramatic, today's Snow Leopard watching also lasted more than six hours and, on our return to camp, we very distantly saw the same young male wake up and pick his way across his boulder-strewn slope into the gathering night.

Day 9

Friday 1st March

March began with the hooting of an Eagle Owl and with a long, wildly beautiful walk up to the village of Rumbak. On the crazed cliffs of the Rumbak Valley perched a centennial Golden Eagle nest and in the fine new snow across a deeply frozen river were the fresh tracks of a Snow Leopard. From the top of the gorge, in sharp, high-altitude sunshine, we could see to the Stok Pass, bright with prayer flags, and up into the mountains over which the Markha trek passes. The sun dazzled us from a snow field, pitted with the tiny footprints of Pikas.

At Rumbak village we were welcomed into a home, with a furry, friendly guard dog trying hard to look ferocious outside, and were served a traditional Ladakhi meal. Outside Dzo shovelled the snow with their muzzles, searching for grazing, and here and there a Brandt's Mountain-Finch or a Streaked Rosefinch hopped after hidden seeds.

In the afternoon, on reaching our camp at the base of the Husing Valley, some opted to return to camp, while others again took the trail up the valley, intent on spending the last hours of our expedition searching for Snow Leopards. Persistence paid off, for as the day was ending a male was found sniffing through the mouth of the Rumbak Valley. Best of all, he was just above camp so even those who had retired for a warming cup of tea could tear past a Woolly Hare in a dry stream bed and watch the magnificent cat as he pottered around the valley and appeared, just breaking the skyline, on the top of the ridge above us, perhaps as little as two-hundred metres away! As dark fell we left him to wander his wild hillsides alone and withdrew for the last time to our tents.

Day 10

Saturday 2nd March

Though we could barely believe it, this morning it was time to leave the Rumbak Valley – and its Snow Leopards – to return to the busy-seeming streets of Leh. We walked down past now-familiar valleys and streams, bidding good-bye to this magnificently wild corner of the world and to the sharp-hooved and soft-padded animals we had seen haunting it.

Having driven back to Leh, courtesy of our helpful drivers Nurboo and Stopdan, we resolved to spend the afternoon searching for Solitary Snipe in the Indus Valley towards Choglamsar. We searched diligently and found several Green Sandpipers, a flock of Black-throated Thrushes and hundreds more White-winged Redstarts, but of Solitary Snipe we saw nothing.

Later we visited the riverside behind the Dalai Lama's summer palace. Common Mergansers flew along the river and in the stony shallows were personata White Wagtails and two Water Pipits. Despite much appropriate habitat, here too we failed to find the Solitary Snipe.

Day 11

Sunday 3rd March

With a day to spare (had we followed the original plan we would still have been in the Rumbak Valley this morning) we chose to go in search of Urial, the long-legged Red Sheep which inhabit the dry plains of Ladakh. With this in mind we drove to Nimmu at the confluence of the Zaskar and Indus Rivers. Finding Urial here proved all too easy - a group of eight of these handsome animals grazed the dusty desert landscape, drifting gradually away into a valley as we watched. In the far distance on a great plain beyond Nimmu were more Urial, seen as distant specks against the vastness of the landscape. With our first goal easily accomplished we pressed on to Ulley. This was a fine decision as the landscape along the road is dramatically beautiful. A bright stream, half clothed in ice, was home to a pair of Brown Dippers and all around were impressive mountainsides and picturesque farms with placid herds of Dzo grazing in valley bottoms.

On arrival at Ulley we stopped for tea at the home of a local man named Phunchok. He then guided us up the slope behind the house, to the highest point of our tour, above 4,000m in altitude. Once there he swiftly found a group of Asiatic Ibex grazing on a distant hillside. As we watched these powerful animals through our scopes he regaled us with tales of the Wolves he had seen in the same spot just the previous afternoon. All of our naturalist instincts came into play and for a couple of hours we scanned every rock, every bluff and every bush in the hope of finding the Wolves, but to no avail. A Himalayan Griffon circled above us (perhaps he knew something we didn't) and on a dusty slope were four splendid Himalayan Snowcock. We left Ulley delighted with the two new ungulates we had seen during the day and with the two Red Foxes which bolted past our vehicles.

Day 12

Monday 4th March

As in a dream we boarded our plane to Delhi and watched as the landscape beneath us changed from towering snow-covered mountains, to pine-forested foothill valleys and, eventually, the fertile green plain of the Ganga. Beside the road in Delhi, as I spoke by mobile phone to our office in town, attempting to arrange a birding trip for the following day, we saw a Black-shouldered Kite, a Shikra, Black Drongos, Green Bee-eaters and both Bank and Common Mynas. It seemed we were in another world from the bleak beauty of Ladakh. Your uber-stylish hotel, in the fast-evolving cyber-suburb of Gurgaon, was indeed another world.

Day 13

Tuesday 5th March

Unable to contain your adventurous selves, four of you visited the zoo this morning and to our list of wildlife seen you added Indian Grey Mongoose, Common Kingfisher and several others.

This afternoon we all visited Sultanpur Jheel, a short distance outside Delhi in the state of Haryana. It is amazing – and heartening – to see that a small reserve, surrounded by large-scale agriculture, can hold such numbers and such diversity of birds. Here were ducks in their hundreds: Garganey, Shoveler, Gadwall, Pintail, Teal, and with them smaller numbers of Ferruginous Duck, Spotbill, Ruddy Shelduck, Wigeon and Comb Duck. In the shallows and on muddy islands were waders: Common and Spotted Redshanks, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Red-wattled and White-tailed Lapwings, and Black-winged Stilts. A Common Hawk Cuckoo called in to sing above our heads and both Small and Long-tailed Minivets wove brightly through the trees around us.

All the while the toffee-coloured females and young of the elegant Nilgai waded through the shallows and the Acacia scrub rang with the noisy bickering of Five-striped Palm-Squirrels. If we couldn't be in the wild wastes of Ladakh it was a pleasure to spend your last Indian day in the company of North India's beautiful wildlife. For it was indeed your last day, and this evening you went your several ways, Ladakh's peerless Snow Leopards still padding through the snowscapes of our minds. Long, long may they pace there, and in the rugged vastness of their Himalayas.

Day 14

Wednesday 6th March

In bound flights from Ladakh

Summary:

On this tour, perhaps more than any other it has been my privilege to lead, we were supported by a remarkable team of dedicated, ever-smiling, hard-working and charming people. Our three local guides were Chitta – naturalist and quiet knower of the ways of the mountains – Morup and Thinlay. Our superb cook – also a clown and the sharpest pair of wildlife-spotting eyes in the whole valley – was Sonam. The friendly, devoted, always accommodating young men who ran the camp were Gyatso, Gyaltsen, Phunchok, Angchuk, Rukesh Soman, Tashi and Karma (never once seen without a smile on his face). And our drivers were Nurboo and Stopdan (in Ladakh) and Jaswant Singh Maan and Raam (in Delhi). Without them our tour would have been possible, but with them it was not only possible: it was a joy. We thank them for sharing with us their wild landscapes and the incomparable creatures which inhabit them. We are humbled, and deeply grateful.

Sincere thanks to you all too: for smiling when smiles were needed; for gritting your teeth when gritted teeth were needed; for each contributing knowledge, insight, tall tales, hugs and laughter; and for standing by my side, tears in our eyes, in the wildest of the wild Himalayas, in the company of the Snow Leopard. I shall not forget...

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March										
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	
1	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>										✓	
2	Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
4	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓								✓	✓	
5	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		✓									
6	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Himalayan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>				✓		✓	h	✓			✓
8	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>		✓									
10	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓								✓	✓
11	Hill Pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
12	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>			h					h			
13	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>		✓								✓	
14	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>										✓	
15	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>										✓	
16	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>											✓
17	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			h	h			✓				
18	Robin Accentor	<i>Prunella rubeculoides</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
19	Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓
20	Blue Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>										✓	
21	Black-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>										✓	
22	White-browed Tit-Warbler	<i>Leptopoecile sophiae</i>			✓				✓	✓			
23	White-winged Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythrogaster</i>		✓	✓							✓	✓
24	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓								✓	
27	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Yellow-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
29	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓								✓	✓
30	Plain Mountain-Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>		✓		✓							
31	Brandt's Mountain-Finch	<i>Leucosticte brandti</i>									✓		
32	Mongolian Finch	<i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i>		✓									
33	Streaked Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rubicilloides</i>									✓		
34	Fire-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>		✓		✓	✓						

Mammals

1	Asiatic Ibex	<i>Capra ibex</i>											✓
2	Ladakh Urial	<i>Ovis vignei</i>											✓
3	Blue Sheep	<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>							✓				✓
5	Snow Leopard	<i>Panthera uncia</i>			✓		✓		✓	✓			
6	Woolly Hare	<i>Lepus oiostolus</i>					✓	✓					
7	Royle's Pika	<i>Ochotona roylei</i>					✓	✓					

Recorded in Delhi (h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	March	
			4	5
1	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>		h
2	Blue Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>		h
3	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>		✓
4	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>		✓
5	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		✓
6	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		✓
7	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		✓
8	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>		✓
9	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		✓
10	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		✓
11	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		✓
12	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		✓
13	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		✓
14	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>		✓
15	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>		✓
16	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓
17	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>		✓
18	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		✓
19	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓
20	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓
21	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>		✓
22	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>		h
23	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓
24	House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>		✓
25	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓
26	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓
27	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>		✓
28	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>		✓
29	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		✓
30	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓
31	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓
32	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		✓
33	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓
34	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓
35	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		✓
36	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		✓
37	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		✓
38	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓
39	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓
40	White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>		✓
41	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	✓	
42	Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	✓	✓
43	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓
44	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	✓	✓
45	Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila hastata</i>		✓
46	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>		✓
47	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓
48	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>		✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March	
			4	5
49	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>		✓
50	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>		✓
51	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>		✓
52	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓
53	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓
54	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓
55	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus (ibis) coromandus</i>		✓
56	Indian Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓
57	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>		✓
58	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		✓
59	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓
60	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>		✓
61	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>		✓
62	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>		✓
63	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓
64	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>		✓
65	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>		✓
66	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>		✓
67	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>		✓
68	Black Drongo	<i>Dicurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓
69	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		✓
70	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>		✓
71	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochuros</i>		✓
72	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>		✓
73	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	✓	✓
74	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓
75	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		✓
76	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓
77	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓
78	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>		✓
79	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓
80	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>		✓
81	Hume's Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>		✓
82	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>		✓
83	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓

Mammals

1	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>		✓
2	Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>		✓
3	Indian Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>		✓
4	Five-striped Palm-Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>		✓