

Lowland Nepal

Naturetrek Tour Report

14 - 30 January 2017



Great Slaty Woodpeckers



Jungle Cat



Gangetic River Dolphin



Great One-horned Rhinoceros

Report and images by Suchit Basnet



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Tour participants: Suchit Basnet (leader) with four Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 14th January

The group members were in flight to Kathmandu.

Day 2

Sunday 15th January

Suchit met the group members at the airport. It was 4.50pm when we drove from the airport towards Hotel Shangri-la. The weather was pleasant with the temperature of about 17°C. A few snow-capped mountains were still visible amongst the clouds and under the blue sky. The drive to the Hotel Shangri-la took us about 30 minutes. After we checked in, everyone went to their rooms. We had our evening meal at 7pm and retired for the night.

Day 3

Monday 16th January

We started early after breakfast at 7am, heading towards Phulchowki hill. The sky was blue and, as we drove up the hill, the Himalaya was visible. We stopped at an open space on the hill to admire the view of the snow-capped mountains, the green hills and the Kathmandu valley below. As we drove up the hill we could see patches of grass by the roadside covered with frost. The road, a few hundred feet from the top, was icy so we had to leave the vehicle and walk up a bit. Then we slowly walked down, with the vehicle following us behind. It was a bit chilly and the birds were only active in the sunlit areas. We stopped at midday for a picnic lunch.

After lunch we drove to the lower slope and had an hour's busy birding with a variety of birds. We slowly drove back to the hotel by 3pm.

Day 4

Tuesday 17th January

This morning we flew to Biratnagar. When we arrived we were met by our driver and a jeep from Koshi Camp. We reached Koshi Camp at around 12.30 pm. We went straight to lunch and after lunch we went for a walk around the Koshi camp and found Black and Cinnamon Bitterns in the camp ponds, and from the hide had views of two different Jungle Cats. We met at 7pm to do the list and dinner followed.

Day 5

Wednesday 18th January

We had a wake-up call at 6.30am, followed by breakfast at 7am. After breakfast we drove to the northern side of the Koshi River. After an hour's drive we reached the bank of the Koshi River where our boat was waiting for us. We stopped to see some Short-toed and Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Larks on the way. Once on the boat we floated down for about 15 minutes before we stopped on an island to check for Indian Courser, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Bay-backed Shrike and Oriental Skylark, of which we had excellent views. After spending about an hour or so we got on the boat and floated on down the Koshi River and found a flock of about 40 Small Pratincoles and five Black-bellied Terns.

We returned to camp for lunch at 1pm. After lunch we drove to the barrage and saw a Gangetic River Dolphin, Grey-headed Lapwings and Pheasant-tailed Jacana just to name a few. We got back to the camp and had a short 20 minutes at the hide, from where we saw another Jungle Cat!

We ended the day logging the checklist at 7pm followed by dinner at 7.30.

Day 6

Thursday 19th January

We set off, after a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits, at 6.45am with a packed breakfast. The morning air felt fresh and was about 16°C. We headed towards the south and, just after we crossed the Park Headquarters, we stopped and left the vehicle to walk. On the closest spur, we had excellent views of five Swamp Francolins, spotted by Badri Chaudhary. After we all saw and took photos of the Francolins, our attention was drawn towards a Siberian Rubythroat calling from the nearby bush. Suchit spotted a male on a bush and all got to see it, when suddenly a second bird called from the bush on the right. Suchit spotted a White-tailed Rubythroat, a rare sight at Koshi. After a good 20 minutes all of us managed to have excellent views of both male Siberian and White-tailed Rubythroat. We then went to the end of the spur, overlooking the Koshi River, to have our breakfast where we were rewarded with some Wild Water Buffalos, a Pallas's Gull and Bluethroat, just to name a few. We birded till about 11am and returned to camp.

At the camp, Carol found a Collared Falconet perched on a tree. After lunch we went to the northern end of the Koshi Reserve and had a great two-hour walk. We returned back to camp to sit in the hide and we had a view of a Jungle Cat.

Day 7

Friday 20th January

Today we had breakfast at 7am and left at 7.45 am, as it was a misty morning. We drove to the central side of the reserve to find the Red-necked Falcon. We found a pair and their nest. We spent the morning birding on the central part. We then drove to the southern end of the reserve hoping to find the two wild elephants that had been sighted the evening of the previous day. Unfortunately we did not find them but it was an enjoyable morning. We got back to the camp early to relax and look for birds inside the camp area and photograph them.

After lunch Carol, Tim and Esme wanted to visit the nearby native village, while Stephen stayed back to rest. We took an hour's tour in the village and saw an Amur Falcon which flew over us on the way back. At 4pm all of us drove to the southern end of the reserve to try to find the wild elephants but instead we saw a group of three adult female and two young Nilgai (Blue Bull).

Day 8

Saturday 21st January

Today we moved to Chitwan. We started from Koshi Camp after breakfast at 7.30am, with a packed lunch. On the way we stopped for a toilet break, lunch and to watch a flock of Himalayan Griffons flying. It took us 8 ½ hours and we reached Chitwan (Tigerland Safari Resort) at 4pm. We had an hour or so to enjoy the daylight and saw a few birds from the edge of the garden, overlooking the national park.

Day 9

Sunday 22nd January

The morning was very misty with visibility only about 30 feet. We had breakfast at 7am and drove to the birding place at 8.15am. The mist started to lift at about 10am. Then we walked and explored the area. We found Greater and Himalayan Flameback (both also called Goldenback), Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Plum-headed Parakeets and Grey-breasted Prinias, just to name a few.

We got back to lunch and after lunch, at 3.30pm, there were two elephants for us to go for an elephant safari. All enjoyed the ride with close views of Rhinos and deer.

Day 10

Monday 23rd January

Again we started off after breakfast at 7.30am, due to the misty morning. We took a packed lunch and set off in an open vehicle for a full day out in the national park. The mist started to clear by 9.30 and after that it was a fine sunny day. We came across a mother and a baby Rhino followed by a male which grunted at us as it crossed the road and headed towards the female and calf. We went till the Reu River near Tiger Tops but we could not cross to the other side.

We had lunch on the small island on the Reu and heard Great Hornbill call.

On the way back we stopped for a few birds and saw a Sloth Bear cross the road. Some of us managed to get a few pictures but we all had excellent views of it crossing the road. One the way back to the lodge there were a few Spotted Deer and Red Junglefowl alarm calls but we did not see anything with stripes or spots. We rounded up the day with a grazing male Rhino.

Day 11

Tuesday 24th January

We had breakfast and waited for the sun to show. It showed at 9.15am and we set off on a vehicle towards the boat starting point. By the time we reached there, the mist slowly lifted up and we had the warm sun and the blue sky. We floated down the peaceful and slow-flowing Rapti River. As we floated down we saw Rose-ringed Parakeets on the trees on the bank, flying about and enjoying the sun. Rosy Pipits, Citrine Wagtails, a Brown Crake, Striated (also called Little) Heron and Pied Kingfisher showed well on the banks, as we slowly drifted towards the basking Gharials and the Marsh Mugger Crocodiles. We floated down for about 45 minutes before getting picked up by the van which drove us back to the resort.

After lunch we took a jeep safari trying to find something interesting but, apart from birds, Spotted Deer and Wild Boar, we had to be satisfied with a male Rhino feeding on water-weed towards the end of our safari.

Day 12

Wednesday 25th January

Today we took a long drive to Bardia (10 hours 45 minutes). As it was a long drive we wanted to reach Bardia in daylight. We made four stops, one for the driver to have his brunch, two toilet stops and a 30-minute lunch stop. We reached Bardia at 6pm. We had a tasty Nepali dinner and some Nepalese Rum (Khukuri) which helped us to sleep well.

Day 13

Thursday 26th January

Today we had breakfast at 6.30am and went for a jeep safari. The air was chilly and we put on warm clothes and jackets, hats and gloves! The day started off with a light mist which was gone by 8am. The sun was warm in the midday. It was a wonderful morning for woodpeckers but, sadly, we missed seeing the Great Slaty Woodpecker. We had stunning views of a flock of about nine Red Avadavats on the grasses.

After lunch, back at the lodge, we went to a viewing place where it was supposed to be excellent for Tigers. We took stools to sit on and we spent the evening watching mammals and birds come to the water. We saw six Rhinos and three Wild Boar come to the water but, sadly, the striped cat did not show.

Day 14

Friday 27th January

Today it rained from 4am and kept drizzling. We were all prepared with rain gear and set off towards the park. We got to a hide called the Tiger watchtower. We stayed there looking over the grassland and a water hole below. We heard alarm calls from the viewing point about 100 yards away. We decided to walk there and spent about an hour there. It kept raining. It was very light rain but kept on. We got back to the tower and had lunch.

After lunch it got windy and cold but it stopped raining so we went for a drive. We had two groups of five and four Great Slaty Woodpeckers, three Great Hornbills, two Crab-eating Mongoose and a group of five Sambar deer. It was a very fruitful afternoon for birds.

Day 15

Saturday 28th January

Today it was a clear blue sky after the rains. We set off on the jeep after breakfast at 7am. The air felt fresh and the sun was pleasant. We drove around but did not see many species of birds nor mammals. It was a quiet morning.

After lunch we decided to go to the famous viewing place and spend the last evening waiting for anything interesting. It was very quiet here today and we saw two Marsh Muggers, a family of three Pied Kingfishers, a Darter, some Ruddy Shelducks and Mallards, to name a few. As we were leaving we heard extensive alarm calls from Spotted Deer. We waited on the track for some time but as it was getting late, we had to leave the park.

Day 16

Sunday 29th January

Today Carol, Steve and Suchit had to leave for Kathmandu after breakfast at 6.15 am. The flight got delayed for about an hour due to the mist but on the flight back we had excellent views of the Annapurna and other snow-capped peaks till we entered Kathmandu. We got to Kathmandu by 12.30 pm. for our last night in Nepal.

Esme and Tim left with Badri Chaudhary for a four-night extension at Suklaphanta Wildlife Camp.

Day 17

Monday 30th January

The other group members arrived back in the UK today as another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; h = heard only; m = male; f = female)

	Common name	Scientific name	January													
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>											1			
2	Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>					7	h								
3	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>									h	5		2	3	1m
4	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>							h	6	10	4		5	h	h
5	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>									30	20				
6	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				20	6	7		22	2	60		8	10	8
7	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				6								14	5	
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				15		10						6	15	12
9	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>				4		2						2		
10	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			8		4	✓								
11	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				5f				4m		2m			12	
12	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					2									
13	Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>		1												
14	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>												2		h
15	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>									2					
16	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>			1		2	2		1	3	3				
17	Lesser Yellownappe	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>									1	1				
18	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>								1m				3	2	
19	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>									6	3		1		
20	Himalayan Flameback (Goldenb.)	<i>Dinopium shorii</i>								1pr.	1pr.				1	1f
21	Black-rumped Flameback (Lesser Gbk)	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>			1	1	6	6						2	3	2
22	Greater Flameback (Goldenback)	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacrastatus</i>								2m1f		5				
23	Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>		3												
24	Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>													9	
25	Great Barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>		1												
26	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>											h	h	1	h
27	Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>							1	h	h	4	1	h	h	h
28	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>			2		12	7								h
29	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>									2	2			6	5

	Common name	Scientific name	January														
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
30	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>										h			h	3	
31	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					2	3								1	1
32	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>			1	3				5	1	1	1	2			
33	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>								1	2	1	1		1	1	1
34	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>			h		1				1	1			2	1	1
35	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>			12	10	6	4	12	6	10	4	5	6	5	5	
36	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>				1			1	2		2		2	3	3	
37	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>					1					2			h		
38	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>			5	2	5	8			✓		7				
39	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>				h	h	h	h	h	1	h					
40	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>						1m									
41	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>				h	6	9	2	✓	2	2					1
42	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>						1j				1					
43	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>										12	20		1	2	
44	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓				15	20			30	50	✓	7	✓	✓
45	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>						20			12	100	12				6
46	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>										10	6				
47	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>				20											
48	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartia melba</i>				200											
49	House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	✓														2
50	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>											1				
51	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena (lettia)</i>										2					
52	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>					2	1		2		1					1
53	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>			2	1	1	2	h								
54	Brown Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>				h	2	h				2					
55	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>								1							
56	Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>										5	20				
57	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		2			25							6			
58	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓		10	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Red Turtle (Collared) Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>										20	6				
60	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			5	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	50	15				✓	✓
61	Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>									1	1			1		

	Common name	Scientific name	January													
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
62	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>										7				
63	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>					16	8								
64	Brown Crake	<i>Amauornis akool</i>							h	h		1			1	
65	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>			3	3	2	4	2	1	1	2	1	1		
66	Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Porzana fusca</i>			1											
67	Grey-headed Swampphen (split fr P.)	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>			1											
68	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			30	15	20	12			✓	30		10	5	4
69	Eurasian (Common) Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>								2		10				
70	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>							1							
71	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								h						1
72	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				1	h					1		1	1	2
73	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>								1				1	1	
74	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				4										
75	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				2	1					1		1	1	1
76	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				1										
77	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>				8				1						
78	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>				2										
79	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>			10	15	3	6		2	15	3				
80	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				7				2	2	3				
81	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				4										
82	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malarbaricus</i>				2										
83	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>									2	1		2	2	2
84	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>				26										
85	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>					h	1	10	5		7		4	5	7
86	Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>				4										
87	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>				74				25						
88	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>					1									
89	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				15										
90	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>				3j2ad										
91	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				3	2	2				2			1	
92	Black Baza	<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>													2	
93	Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>							2			3		1		1

	Common name	Scientific name	January													
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
94	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				2	2		1							
95	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	10	15								5			
96	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>									1					
97	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>				1	4	1					1			
98	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>				7	2	17	14							
99	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>						1								
100	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>						3	1		2	4	1		1	4
101	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>						1f								
102	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			1	2			1		1	1	1		1	
103	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>														1
104	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>			1	1	1	2								
105	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>											1			
106	Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga hastata</i>											1			
107	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>						1								
108	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>				1	2									
109	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>			1											
110	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								1					1	
111	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>									2	1		2	2	2
112	Collared Falconet	<i>Microhierax caerulescens</i>						1								
113	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>			7	5										
114	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				4	1									
115	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>						2								
116	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>						1								
117	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>										1				
118	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				1	h									
119	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				2										
120	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>									3	2		1		1
121	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>			5	20	30	25				2		2		1
122	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				700	50	3		2		1				
123	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			4	30	6	5		4	✓	5				
124	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				7	4	3								
125	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			1	2	3	2		1						

	Common name	Scientific name	January													
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
126	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			2	10	5	7		1		5				1
127	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>			3	44				1		2				
128	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	50	✓	✓	30	40		✓	10	✓	4	✓			
129	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>			20	70	25	15	✓	10	5	7		3	✓	5
130	Striated (Little) Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>					3	1				1				
131	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>			1			1								
132	Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>			2			1								
133	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>			2		19		4	17	2	2	1			
134	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>			22	20	22	13			2	4				
135	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				3		7							1	
136	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>									1		2		3	1
137	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>			3	6	5	2			1	3				
138	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>			4	2	1		3							
139	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>				3										
140	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>			1	1	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	3	3	1
141	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>			1		1	1	1	1		1			1	1
142	Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>		h									4			
143	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>			1	1	4	7	2	5	✓	7	3	4	6	4
144	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	2k	200	✓	✓	200	✓	2k	✓	✓	✓	1k	✓	✓	✓
145	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>		20												
146	Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>			50	20	40	✓	200	✓	✓	✓	200	✓	✓	✓
147	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>								2	3	1				
148	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>			2	1	h	2		3	2	3		3	2	2
149	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>		1												
150	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>								2	h	2				
151	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>			2		1	1								
152	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>												7		
153	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>		2												
154	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>									4			9	2	
155	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>											4			
156	Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus</i>		2												
157	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>					1	2						1		

	Common name	Scientific name	January													
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
158	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>			1		1									
159	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>		3	15	✓	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	20	✓	✓	2	✓
160	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>			1		3	2								
161	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>												2	6	
162	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>					4									
163	Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>					8				5			15	12	15
164	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>					2				1			2	2	4
165	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>									12			15		
166	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>									16		3			
167	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>												4		
168	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>											1m			
169	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>		2										1	2	2
170	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>				1										
171	Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>				1	1									
172	White-collared Blackbird	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>		1												
173	Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>														2
174	Red-throated (Dark-th) Thrush	<i>Turdus ruficollis</i>					8									
175	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophiatea</i>		1												
176	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>			8	10	15	10	2	3	1	2				
177	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>			1		5	2		1						
178	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>		2	1	2	10	7	2		✓			1		1
179	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>			1f		1m									
180	White-tailed Rubythroat	<i>Calliope pectoralis</i>					1m			h					1	
181	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>					1			1		1				
182	Himalayan Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus (cyanurus)</i>		2f												
183	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>				2		1	1		1			2		
184	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>									1f			1f		1f
185	Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>									1					
186	Siberian (Common) Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus (split)</i>				2	3	2	3	✓	4	2		3	✓	3
187	White-tailed Stonechat	<i>Saxicola leucurus</i>								2m1f	3	4				
188	Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>							2	4	5	5			2	2
189	Grey Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>													1f	1m

	Common name	Scientific name	January													
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
190	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>			3		20	15		30	50					
191	Pied Myna (Asian Pied Starling)	<i>Gracupica contra</i>			100	✓	6	3	500			20			5	
192	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	40	200	✓	100	200	300	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	✓
193	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres gingianus</i>				8										
194	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>		10							20					
195	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>									3			2		
196	White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>		4												
197	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>									1					
198	Cinereous Tit (split from Great Tit)	<i>Parus cinereus</i>					2	2		5	4	2		4	3	
199	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>		2												
200	Black-throated Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>		15												
201	Grey-throated (Plain) Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis (paludicola)</i>				200	✓	8		30	30	15	✓		3	
202	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>														4
203	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		50		✓	✓				1	2				
204	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>				6								5		20
205	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>												1		
206	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>									200	✓	✓	50	✓	✓
207	Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>							4	12		2	50			
208	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	40	100	✓	200	100	✓	✓
209	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>		100												
210	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>								2				2		
211	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>								4				2	10	
212	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>				h	2		2	2				1		
213	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>					4									
214	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Iduna aedon</i>					1									
215	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				1	1									
216	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>			1	1	2	1								
217	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>					6	3								
218	Buff-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>		20												
219	Ashy-throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>		2												
220	Lemon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>		1												
221	Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>						1								

	Common name	Scientific name	January														
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
222	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>			2		12	5				2	h	h			
223	Western Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>					1										
224	Whistler's Warbler	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>					1										
225	Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i>		4													
226	Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>		1													
227	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>		7													
228	Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>		h													
229	Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>								3					2		
230	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>													6		
231	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>					8										
232	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>			7	6	✓	30	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
233	White-browed Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe vinipectus</i>		6													
234	Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>		h													
235	Rufous Sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>		100													
236	Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>		4													
237	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>		10													
238	Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>		5													
239	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>		1			10	5		✓	12						
240	White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>		2													
241	Bengal Bush (Rufous-winged) Lark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>								1							
242	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>				7											
243	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>				150											
244	Sand Lark	<i>Alaudala raytal</i>				12		2									
245	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>				6											
246	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>											1				
247	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>			5	3	2	4									
248	Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>		3													
249	Fire-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>		5													
250	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	400	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
251	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		10													
252	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			2	15			1	✓		7			✓	✓	
253	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>			1			1			4	3	4		5	2	3

	Common name	Scientific name	January													
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
254	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>				1						2		1	1	1
255	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				2				✓						
256	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>					2									
257	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>				3				2	1					1
258	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>				3										
259	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>			h	7	10	2						50	20	6
260	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>								2		2				
261	Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>												9		
262	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>			8	4	3			9	11				8	7
263	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>					2f									
264	Brown Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>		h												

Mammals

1	Indian Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus coromandra</i>												6		7
2	Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat	<i>Cynopterus sphinx</i>												17		18
3	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>					1		200	4	3		200	30	20	40
4	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>							1		10			20	30	50
5	Asiatic Golden Jackal	<i>Canis lupus</i>					2	2								
6	Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>									1					
7	Small Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes auropunctatus</i>									1					
8	Indian Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>				3	1					1				
9	Crab-eating Mongoose	<i>Herpestes urva</i>													2	
10	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>			2	2	1									
11	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>													h	h
12	Gangetic River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>				1			4							
13	Great One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>								5	6	3		6		
14	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>								10	1	9		3		
15	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>								30	50	30		100	200	✓
16	Swamp Deer	<i>Cervus duvauceli</i>														h
17	Hog Deer	<i>Cervus porcinus</i>						3	1	20		1			2	4
18	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>									3	h			5	h
19	Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>						5								

	Common name	Scientific name	January													
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
20	Wild Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>					6	25								
21	Orange-bellied Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>		2												
22	Indian Hare (Black-naped)	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>				1										

Reptiles

1	Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>										8	4			
2	Mugger or Marsh Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>								3	10	20	3	3		3
3	Turtle sp.					1										
4	House Gekko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>				1						h	h			

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Suklaphanta Extension kindly compiled by Mrs Esme Huxstep

Extension Day 1

Sunday 29th January

We said goodbye to Suchit, Carol and Steve, as they headed back to Kathmandu. We had breakfast, followed by a three hour walk, mainly in thick mist from the lodge, around the area including the river. We did see birds through the mist, including some Red-breasted Pochard.

After an early lunch, we set off on our four hour drive to Suklaphanta. We had a stop at a lake area, popular with locals, with a temple and street stalls. Birds here included more Red-breasted Pochard, so we were able to get a better view of them.

After arriving at Suklaphanta, we settled into our tents, and watched a White-browed Fantail in the grounds. After a good dinner, we retired for the night, listening to various birdsong, including Great Slaty Woodpecker!

Extension Day 2

Monday 30th January

We had a wake-up call at 6.30, breakfast at 7.00, and set off at 7.30 for a full day jeep safari. As we were the only two clients here, we had a full jeep with staff from the camp - so more spotters! The mist was quite thick this morning, and lasted for several hours. Driving through open grassland, Badri suddenly spotted a tiger, running fast away from us! We only saw it for a few seconds, and due to the mist we could not see any colour or stripes, but it was exciting and memorable. It was a good day for mammals, especially numerous Swamp Deer, and also many Spotted Deer. We spent some time up a watch tower, overlooking open grassland, but it was not very productive, apart from assorted vultures and raptors circling in the thermals.

After a good packed lunch up the tower, we drove to an area where Hodgson's Bushchats are often seen, and were lucky enough to see them quite close to the jeep. We drove back via two lakes where we stopped for a while. Other new birds today included Yellow-legged Buttonquail, Black Francolin, Bright-capped Cisticola, Black-breasted Weavers, and a beautiful Rufous-rumped Grassbird.

Extension Day 3

Tuesday 31st January

Another full day jeep drive (as it is some distance through the buffer zone, half day drives would not be so productive). We only had Badri with us today (as more clients were due to arrive today). Luckily, it was only light mist this morning, and the sun came out and cleared it by 10.30. We soon saw fairly fresh tiger and leopard prints on the track, and got quite excited (but we did not spot their owners at all today).

Our lunch stop was in a grassy area near one of the ponds in the reserve. Walking around the lake, we were lucky to spot a Black Bittern, and also both young and adult Black-capped Night Herons. A highlight today was a Brown Fish Owl, in a tree near the bridge where we often paused. It posed very obligingly for photographs. The river here also proved good for Stork-billed Kingfisher, and we saw several large Catfish in the water, as well as a Marsh Muggler. Two vultures we saw today were Cinereous Vulture, and one that got Badri excited was a Red-headed Vulture - we watched this bird for some time, and also saw it clearly in flight.

Extension Day 4

Wednesday 1st February

It was a noisy night - villagers celebrating the festival of the goddess of wisdom. A full day jeep drive, this time combined with the new clients in a second jeep. It was thick mist today, which lasted a long time. We soon stopped for two Black Storks, silhouetted at the top of a dead tree in the mist. We saw the Brown Fish Owl, in the same tree, and on the other side of the bridge was a Grey-headed Fish Eagle. The sun did come through after several hours, and it then warm up! We were allowed into the army post in the middle of the grassland area, where we saw Several Crested Buntings, and various weavers. We returned here later for our packed lunch. We walked to see Hodgson's Bushchat again, and looked around the pond area, where we spotted an Indian Rock Python (unfortunately it was dead).

In the afternoon we stopped for a while at a spot overlooking the river, and saw an Emerald Dove, and a Striated Heron. As we prepared to leave the reserve, we stopped to photograph a group of Spotted Deer, we did not turn tail and run, as normal. Then they started an alarm call - we could not see anything other than us in the vicinity; it was fascinating to watch, with tails flicking and feet stamping.

Extension Day 5

Thursday 2nd February

Before we left, Anis took us on an early morning walk around the paddy fields. The sun was out early today, clearing away the light mist. It was an interesting walk, and we saw several birds, including Indian Grey Hornbill, and lots of Scarlet Minivets. We watched a local farmer collecting turmeric rhizomes from his field.

After packing our bags, we reluctantly said goodbye to Suklaphanta, and drove to the airport at Dhangadhi for our flight back to Kathmandu (with good views of the snowcapped mountains once more). Suchit met us off the plane; it was good to see him again. We spent the night at Hotel Shangri-La, and flew back to Heathrow the next morning, with many fond memories and many photographs of an excellent holiday - thank you, Naturetrek!

Extension Day 6

Friday 3rd February

Arrive back to Heathrow

Species List for Extension

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

	Common Name	January/February				
		29	30	31	1	2
1	Black Francolin			x	x	x
2	Swamp Francolin		x	x	h	
3	Red Junglefowl		x	x	x	
4	Indian Peafowl		x	x	x	x
5	Lesser Whistling Duck	x				
6	Ruddy Shelduck	x			x	
7	Cotton Pygmy-goose	x				
8	Garganey				x	
9	Red Crested Pochard	x				
10	Ferruginous Pochard				x	
11	Common Merganser	x				
12	Yellow-legged Buttonquail-	x				
13	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	x	x	x		
14	Streak-throated Woodpecker		x			
15	Himalayan Goldenback		x	h		
16	Lesser Goldenback		x	x	x	
17	Great Slaty Woodpecker	h	x			
18	Brown-headed Barbet	h				
19	Indian Grey Hornbill					x
20	Oriental Pied Hornbill				x	
21	Common Hoopoe			x		
22	Common Kingfisher	x	x		x	
23	Stork-billed Kingfisher		x	x	x	
24	White-throated Kingfisher	x	x	x	x	
25	Pied Kingfisher	x			x	
26	Common Hawk Cuckoo				x	
27	Sirkeer Malkoha				x	
28	Greater Coucal		x	x	x	
29	Lesser Coucal				x	
30	Alexandrine Parakeet	h	x	x	x	x
31	Rose-ringed Parakeet	x	x	x	x	
32	Plum-headed Parakeet	x				
33	Himalayan Swiftlet				x	
34	Alpine Swift				x	
35	Brown Fish Owl			x	x	
36	Jungle Owlet		x	x	x	x
37	Common Pigeon				x	
38	Spotted Dove	x		x		x
39	Emerald Dove				x	
40	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon			x		
41	White-breasted Waterhen	x			x	
42	Purple Swamphen	x	x		x	
43	Common Moorhen	x	x	x	x	
44	Common Coot	x	x	x		
45	Common Snipe	x				

	Common Name	January/February				
		29	30	31	1	2
46	Common Redshank	✓				
47	Common Greenshank	✓			✓	
48	Common Sandpiper				✓	
49	Bronze-winged Jacana	✓	✓		✓	
50	Little Ringed Plover	✓				
51	River Lapwing	✓			✓	
52	Red Wattled Lapwing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Oriental Honey Buzzard			✓		
54	Black-winged Kite			✓		
55	Grey-headed Fish Eagle				✓	
56	Slender-billed Vulture		✓	✓	✓	
57	Himalayan Griffon		✓	✓	✓	
58	Cinereous Vulture			✓	✓	
59	Red-headed Vulture			✓		
60	Short-toed Snake Eagle				✓	
61	Crested Serpent Eagle		✓	✓	✓	
62	Shikra					✓
63	Changeable Hawk Eagle		✓	✓	✓	
64	Common Kestrel				✓	
65	Peregrine Falcon			✓		
66	Oriental Darter		✓	✓	✓	
67	Little Cormorant	✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Great Cormorant	✓				
69	Little Egret	✓		✓	✓	
70	Grey Heron	✓		✓		
71	Purple Heron	✓		✓		
72	Great Egret			✓		
73	Intermediate Egret		✓	✓	✓	
74	Indian Pond Heron	✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	Little Heron				✓	
76	Black-crowned Night Heron			✓		
77	Black Bittern			✓		
78	Red-naped Ibis	✓				✓
79	Black Stork				✓	
80	Black-necked Stork			✓	✓	
81	Lesser Adjutant			✓	✓	
82	Long-tailed Shrike		✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Grey-backed Shrike	✓				
84	Rufous Treepie	✓	✓	✓	✓	
85	House Crow		✓			
86	Jungle Crow	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Ashy Woodswallow	✓				
88	Black-headed Oriole		✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Large Cuckooshrike				✓	
90	Scarlet Minivet					✓
91	White-throated Fantail	✓				
92	Black Drongo	✓			✓	
93	White-bellied Drongo			✓		✓

	Common Name	January/February				
		29	30	31	1	2
94	Spangled Drongo		✓	✓	✓	
95	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo		✓	✓	✓	
96	Grey-winged Blackbird			✓		
97	Dark-throated Thrush	✓	✓	✓	✓	
98	Verditer Flycatcher	✓		✓		
99	Bluethroat			✓	✓	
100	Red-throated Flycatcher					✓
101	Common Stonechat	✓	✓	✓	✓	
102	White-tailed Stonechat	✓	✓	✓	✓	
103	Pied Bushchat	✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Grey Bushchat	✓	✓	✓	✓	
105	Hodgson's Bushchat		✓		✓	
106	Common Starling		✓			
107	Asian Pied Starling	✓		✓	✓	
108	Common Myna	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Bank Myna		✓			
110	jungle Myna	✓	✓			
111	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch		✓		✓	
112	Great Tit					✓
113	Plain Martin	✓			✓	
114	Barn Swallow	✓			✓	
115	Red-rumped Swallow	✓				
116	Red-whiskered Bulbul	✓				
117	Himalayan Bulbul			✓		
118	Red-vented Bulbul	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Zitting Cisticola	✓	✓			
120	Bright-capped Cisticola		✓	✓	✓	
121	Plain Prinia			✓	✓	
122	Common Tailorbird					h
123	Common Chiffchaff				✓	
124	Greenish Warbler				✓	✓
125	Rufous-rumped Grassbird		✓			
126	Striated Babbler		✓	✓	✓	
127	Jungle Babbler	✓	✓	✓	✓	
128	Lesser Whitethroat	✓			✓	
129	Oriental Skylark		✓	✓	✓	
130	House Sparrow	✓				✓
131	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	✓				
132	White-browed wagtail	✓			✓	
133	Citrine Wagtail	✓			✓	
134	Richard's Pipit		✓			
135	Paddyfield Pipit	✓		✓	✓	
136	Olive-backed Pipit		✓			
137	Black-breasted Weaver		✓	✓	✓	
138	Streaked Weaver				✓	
139	Red Avadavat		✓	✓		
140	Scaly-breasted Munia		✓	✓		
141	Crested Bunting				✓	

	Common Name	January/February				
		29	30	31	1	2
142	Finn's Weaver				✓	

Other Taxa

1	Rhesus Macaque	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Common Langur	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Asiatic Golden Jackal				✓	
4	Small Indian Mongoose		✓	✓		
5	Indian Grey Mongoose		✓	✓		
6	Royal Bengal Tiger		✓			
7	Wild Boar		✓	✓	✓	
8	Barking Deer			✓		
9	Spotted Deer		✓	✓	✓	
10	Swamp Deer		✓	✓	✓	
11	Hog Deer		✓	✓	✓	
12	Marsh Mugger		✓	✓	✓	
13	Indian Rock Python				✓	