VELAVADAR SANCTUARY, Gujarat, BHARATPUR, Rajasthan and PANNA, Madhya Pradesh 28th January - 9 February 2012

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An extension to a tour of Western Rajasthan/Gujarat 13th-27th January 2012 (see separate report)



The trip was arranged by *Jo Thomas* of *Wild About Travel* (see Contacts on last page) and her Indian ground agent *Indiantryst*. We had previously travelled with *Wild About Travel* and were confident it would be a good trip; we were not disappointed! The main part of the tour was in Western Rajasthan and Gujarat for 15 days / 6 people, focussed on finding the special birds and mammals in the different habitats of that region; it is reported elsewhere (see link at end of this report). Our 13-day extension was to visit Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary (Gujarat), Bharatpur (Rajasthan) plus Panna and the Ken river area (Madhya Pradesh); the following report cover the extension only.

It was slower paced than the earlier part of the trip, with no particular target species. We saw 213 bird sp. and 18 mammal sp. which added 35 birds and 5 mammals to the earlier list. We used various modes of transport: small cars, one flight and a couple of train journeys. Food and accommodation were good and everything had been well-planned. Mornings remained cold, including Madhya Pradesh, and we still needed those warm clothes. Temperatures did rise by late morning but it never became hot. It was a surprise to have heavy rain for several hours one night at Panna, accompanied by loud thunder. The rain continued on and off through the morning so the jeep safari was cancelled; we were told the rain had covered much of northern India.

ITINERARY

28 Jan	Morning drive (5½hrs) from Gir to Velavadar National Park with several short stops on route. Early afternoon lodge grounds before jeep in Park. Overnight: Blackbuck Lodge	Gir - Velavadar
29 Jan	Morning around lodge. Afternoon jeep into Velavadar NP. Overnight: Blackbuck Lodge	Velavadar
30 Jan	Morning jeep into Velavadar NP. Afternoon drive (4hrs) to Ahmedabad for flight to Delhi. Overnight: Hotel Lohmod, Delhi	Velavadar - Ahmedabad - Delhi
31 Jan	06.00 drive to Bharatpur (4hrs). Rest of day hotel garden. Overnight: Hotel Sunbird	Delhi - Bharatpur
1 Feb	Morning and afternoon in Keoladeo Park. Overnight: Hotel Sunbird	Bharatpur
2 Feb	Morning and afternoon in Keoladeo Park. Overnight: Hotel Sunbird	Bharatpur
3 Feb	Morning and afternoon in Keoladeo Park. Overnight: Hotel Sunbird	Bharatpur
4 Feb	Drive (1hr) to Agra station for 08.00 train to Jhansi (2½hrs), then car to Panna (4hrs). Evening around lodge. Overnight: Panna Tiger Resort	Agra - Jhansi - Panna
5 Feb	Morning jeep into Panna National Park. Afternoon drive (20mins) to walk by Pandar Falls. Overnight: Panna Tiger Resort	Panna
6 Feb	Day around lodge, Ken river and surrounding farmland. Overnight: Panna Tiger Resort	Panna
7 Feb	Morning jeep into Panna National Park. Late morning boat along Ken river. Afternoon walking in extensive lodge grounds, surrounding farmland and scrub. Night watch from machan (tree platform) near lodge. Overnight: Ken River Lodge	Panna
8 Feb	Morning around lodge grounds and surrounding scrub. Afternoon boat along Ken river. Overnight: Ken River Lodge	Panna
9 Feb	Morning jeep into Panna NP. Midday drive (4hrs) to Jhansi for train to Delhi (4½hrs). Overnight: Hotel Lohmod	Panna - Jhansi - Delhi
10 Feb	Flight back to London	

PLACE / SITE NAMES MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT

Blackbuck Sanctuary Velavadar National Park is also known as Blackbuck Sanctuary. **Velavadar** Refers to the National Park/Sanctuary (not Blackbuck Lodge).

Keoladeo Keoladeo National Park is more commonly known as Bharatpur (Bird Sanctuary).

Bharatpur In this report, refers to the Park and not the town.

Panna In this report, refers to the general area around the NP, the village of Madla and surrounding farmlands,

riverside, scrub and dry woodland.

Madla The small village by Panna National Park (Madla entry gate) in Madhya Pradesh.

Pandar (Pandav) Falls A 20-minute drive from Madla, this is a picturesque area within the boundary of Panna NP but some

distance from the safari areas. Nice for a short walk and general birding. Waterfall (a trickle at this time

of year) with man-made cave dwellings cut into the rocks (rich in Indian mythology; the Panday brothers

were reputed to have lived here during part of their exile).

Big river running northward from Jabalpur to Panna and on to the Yamuna at Fatehpur (near Agra). Flows past Ken River Lodge and Panna Tiger Resort into Panna NP. Many rocky and sandy islands.

Gir National Park / surrounding area, southern Gujarat. We travelled from here to Velavadar on 28 January.

SITES VISITED

Ken river

Gir

VELAVADAR BLACKBUCK NATIONAL PARK

In south-east Gujarat, this area of semi-arid flat grassland, acacia scrub, tidal mud and saline flats (inundated from the Gulf of Khambat at high tides during the monsoon) covers about 34km² and is sanctuary for a number of rare or threatened species, not just Blackbuck, We saw two Wolves and four Jungle Cats but failed to find Striped Hyena. Birding was good and, although the wellknown harrier roost is not as impressive as it used to be, a few hundred birds can still be present. Our highest count was 80 but we



left the area too early (the Park closes before dark - but it is possible to stop on the roadside and watch the harriers coming in). The Park is divided into two by a highway, one side being dry grassland with some trees and a couple of small, artificial waterholes, the other having a large wetland, stretches of grassland, trees and the saline and tidal mud flats. There are only a few roads/tracks in the Park.

We stayed at Blackbuck Lodge, which is a few minutes drive from Velavadar park entrance. Beautiful accommodation with attractive, spacious, well-appointed detached chalets set around a reed-fringed lake (Purple heron, White-breasted Kingfisher - and an Indian Eagle Owl perched above it each evening!) The food was excellent with

plenty of variety. The grounds have been re-seeded with natural local grasses and many species use the area (Pallid and Montagu's harriers, Black-winged Kite, Siberian Stonechat, White-browed Bushchat, Long-tailed Shrike, Small Indian Mongoose, with Blackbuck and Nilgai always visible around the periphery). The Lodge uses its own jeeps and their drivers know the Park well and have a reasonable knowledge of the species and where to find them. At dusk many raptors were passing over the Lodge heading for the grasslands.

Species at Blackbuck Lodge and Velavadar Park included: BIRDS: Grey Francolin; Peacock; Ruddy Shelduck; Gadwall; Spot-billed Duck; Shoveler; Pintail; Teal; Little Grebe; Painted Stork; Black-headed and Red-naped Ibis; Spoonbill; Blackcrowned Night Heron; Indian Pond, Grey, Purple and Western Reef Herons; Cattle, Little, Intermediate and Great Egrets; Black-winged Kite: Marsh, Pallid and Montagu's Harriers: Shikra: Short-toed, Tawny and Greater Spotted Eagles; Common Kestrel; Coot; Demoiselle Crane; Barred Button-quail; Black-winged Stilt; Red-wattled Lapwing; Little Ringed Plover; Black-tailed Godwit; Redshank; Greenshank; Green, Marsh and Common Sandpipers; Temminck's Stint; Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns; Collared and Laughing Doves; Rose-ringed Parakeet; Greater Coucal; Spotted Owlet; Short-eared and Indian Eagle Owls; Indian Nightjar; White-throated Kingfisher; Green Bee-eater; Hoopoe; Bay-backed and Long-tailed Shrikes; Black Drongo; House and Jungle Crows; Rufous-tailed and Greater Short-toed Larks; White-eared and Red-vented Bulbuls; Grey-throated Martin; Barn Swallow; Zitting Cisticola; Blyth's Reed Warbler; Lesser Whitethroat; Common Babbler; Indian Robin; White-browed Bush Chat; Siberian Stonechat; Tawny Pipit. MAMMALS: Blackbuck; Nilgai; Wild Boar; Wolf; Jungle Cat; Small Indian Mongoose. SIGNS Fresh prints and droppings of Striped Hyena.

BHARATPUR/ KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK

Water, water everywhere! No, it's not yet back to its former glory, but what a HUGE improvement since our previous visit ten months earlier!! Then it was so very dry. We had seen the big pipes and the men working to supposedly bring water from the Chambal river to Bharatpur town, and for some to be piped into the Park. Knowing India as well as we do we couldn't bring ourselves to really believe this would happen, but it has. 2011 produced a reasonable monsoon and this, combined with the piped

water, has transformed the place. Birds everywhere; masses of ducks, waders, herons, storks, ibises, coots and accompanying raptors, with plenty of mammals and reptiles too. One worrying thought, though: what effect will this extraction have on the Chambal river? We spent three days here, being picked up at our hotel by rickshaw and dropped at different parts of the Park each time. The rickshaw would then pick us up at a pre-arranged time and place. This worked well, getting us deep into the Park and being able to walk, often completely alone, for hours and not having to leave the best areas until late in the day. We stayed at Hotel Sunbird, just a few hundred metres from the Park entrance. We had one of the best rooms and it was very good, clean, spacious and comfortable and we relaxed in the garden during the middle of the day. The food was excellent and the hotel staff very attentive, efficient and helpful. The owners, Ranno and Laxman, were more than happy to help with any travel arrangements.



Species at Bharatpur included: BIRDS Grey Francolin; Peafowl; Lesser Whistling Duck; Greylag and Bar-headed Geese, Knob-billed Duck; Ruddy Shelduck; Cotton Pygmy Goose; Gadwall; Wigeon; Spot-billed Duck; Shoveler; Pintail; Teal; Red-crested and Common Pochard; Ferruginous Duck; Little Grebe; Painted, Woolly-necked and Black-necked Storks; Black-headed and Glossy Ibises; Spoonbill; Pond, Grey and Purple Herons; Cattle, Little, Intermediate and Great Egrets; Little, Indian and Great Cormorants; Oriental Darter; Black-winged Kite; Egyptian and Red-headed Vultures; Crested Serpent, Greater Spotted and Eastern Imperial Eagles; Marsh Harrier; Shikra; Northern Goshawk; White-eyed Buzzard; Kestrel; White-breasted Waterhen; Purple Swamphen; Moorhen; Coot; Sarus Crane; Black-winged Stilt; Red-wattled, Whitetailed and Grey-headed Lapwings; Common Snipe; Spotted Redshank; Greenshank; Wood, Green and Marsh Sandpipers; Ruff; Collared and Laughing Doves; Yellow-footed Green Pigeon; Rose-ringed Parakeet; Spotted Owlet; Indian Scops and Brown Hawk Owls; Little Swift; White-throated and Common Kingfishers; Wryneck; Lesser Goldenback Woodpecker; Common Woodshrike; Small Minivet; Isabelline, Bay-backed and Long-tailed Shrikes; Indian Golden Oriole; Black Drongo; White-browed Fantail; Rufous Treepie; House and Jungle Crows; White-eared and Red-vented Bulbuls; Grey-throated

Martin; Barn and Red-rumped Swallows; Chiffchaff; Greenish, Hume's Leaf, Sykes's, Eastern Orphean, Clamorous and Blyth's Reed Warblers; Ashy, Plain (and Jungle?) Prinias; Jungle Babbler; Bank, Common and Pied Mynas; Brahminy and Rosy Starlings; Bluethroat; Indian Robin; Black Redstart; Siberian Stonechat; Pied Bush Chat; Red-breasted Flycatcher; Purple Sunbird; Yellow-throated Sparrow; Indian Silverbill; Yellow, Citrine and White Wagtails. *MAMMALS* Rhesus Macaque; Sambar and Chital deer; Nilgai; Wild Boar; Golden Jackal; Large Grey Mongoose; 5-striped Palm Squirrel. *REPTILES* Indian Rock Python; Indian Softshell Turtle. *BUTTERFLIES* Most obvious were the large numbers of Peacock Pansy.

PANNA

We stayed in two lodges close to Panna National Park (near the village of Madla), both on the banks of the Ken river. First was the small, comfortable and homely Panna Tiger Resort and then the larger Ken River Lodge.

Panna Tiger Resort is owned by the same people as Hotel Sunbird at Bharatpur. The manager, known as Master-ji, looked after us



well. The food was very good, varied and plenty of it, served outdoors overlooking the beautiful Ken river with cormorants and egrets flighting in to roost against an impressive sunset. The room was spacious, comfortable and clean. Jeep trips into Panna National Park and other local sites can be arranged (they have their own jeep). We also visited nearby Pandar Falls with Master-ji; it's within the Park boundary but separate from the main safari area and you can walk through open woodland to the falls (just a trickle in February) and down some very steep steps to the man-made caves which have an interesting history.

Ken River Lodge is a very different place, much more expensive with a variety of secluded detached chalets and larger bungalows amongst woodland. A large rustic dining room and

lounge area overlook the river. Resident naturalist-guides are helpful, knowledgeable and very professional. We spent time with Trigun vir Singh and Shukra Kumal who were both excellent on all wildlife. Boat trips along the river, walks through the extensive grounds (woodland and scrub) and surrounding farmland, night watches from a tree platform, as well as jeep trips into Panna National Park are all part of the "activities" available.

<u>Species around the two Lodges, farmland and Madla village included:</u> BIRDS Grey Francolin; Lesser Whistling Duck; Ruddy Shelduck; Spot-billed Duck; Little and Great Crested Grebes; Asian Openbill, Lesser Adjutant, Woolly-necked and Black Storks; Black-headed and Red-naped Ibises; Pond, Grey and Purple Herons; Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets; Little, Indian and Great Cormorants; Oriental Darter; Crested Honey Buzzard; Black-winged Kite; Egyptian and Red-headed

Vultures; Crested Serpent and Greater Spotted Eagles; Brown Crake; White-breasted Waterhen; Greater Stone-curlew; River and Red-wattled Lapwings; Little Ringed Plover; Greenshank; Small Pratincole; Brown-headed Gull; Common Pigeon; Collared, Red Collared, Spotted and Laughing Doves; Yellow-footed Green Pigeon; Rose-ringed and Plum-headed Parakeets; Greater Coucal; Common Hawk-cuckoo; Indian Scops-owl (heard only); Indian Eagle Owl; Savanna Nightjar; Little Swift; Crested Treeswift; Indian Roller; Stork-billed, White-throated, Common and Pied Kingfishers; Green Bee-eater; Indian Grey Hornbill; Coppersmith Barbet; Wryneck; Yellow-crowned and Lesser



Goldenback Woodpeckers; Common Woodshrike; Common Iora; Large Cuckooshrike; Long-tailed Shrike; Black Drongo; White-browed Fantail; Rufous Treepie; House and Jungle Crows; Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher; Cinereous Tit; Indian Bush Lark; Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark; Red-vented Bulbul; Barn, Red-rumped, Streak-throated and Wire-tailed Swallows; House Martin; Chiffchaff, Sulphur-bellied, Hume's Leaf, Greenish and Blyth's Reed Warblers; Ashy, Jungle and Plain Prinias; Common Tailorbird; Jungle and Yellow-eyed Babblers; Oriental White-eye; Bank, Common and Pied Mynas; Brahminy Starling; Oriental Magpie Robin; Indian Robin; Black Redstart; Pied Bush and Brown Rock Chats; Blue Rock Thrush; Verditer and Ultramarine Flycatchers; Purple Sunbird; House and Yellow-throated Sparrows; White-browed Wagtail; Tree Pipit; Black-headed Bunting. *MAMMALS* Wild Boar; Golden Jackal; Indian Porcupine, 5-striped Palm Squirrel. *REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS* Sand Boa; House Gecko; Indian Tent Turtle; Indian Green Frog. *BUTTERFLIES* Plain and Striped Tigers; Common Rose; Lemon Pansy; Rounded Pierott; Indian Grizzled Skipper; Dark Grass Blue.

Species in Panna National Park included: BIRDS Painted and Grey Francolins; Painted Spurfowl; Peafowl; Woollynecked Stork; Grey Heron; Great Egret; Black-winged Kite; Grey-headed Fish Eagle; Indian, Griffon and Red-headed Vultures; Crested Serpent Eagle; Shikra; Eurasian Sparrowhawk; White-eyed Buzzard; Common Kestrel; Peregrine

(Shaheen); Barred Buttonquail; River and Red-wattled Lapwings; Greenshank; Green Sandpiper; Painted Sandgrouse; Common Pigeon; Spotted and Laughing Doves; Yellow-footed Green Pigeon; Alexandrine, Rose-ringed and Plum-headed Parakeets; Greater Coucal; Brown Fish Owl; Crested Treeswift; Indian Roller; White-throated Kingfisher; Green Bee-eater; Hoopoe; Indian Grey Hornbill; Yellow-crowned, Lesser Goldenback and White-naped Woodpeckers; Small Minivet; Large Cuckooshrike; Bay-backed and Long-tailed Shrikes; Black, Ashy and White-bellied Drongos; White-browed Fantail;





Rufous Treepie; Jungle Crow; Indian Bush and Rufoustailed Larks; Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark; Red-vented Bulbul; Grey-throated, Dusky Crag and House Martins; Barn and Red-rumped Swallows; Zitting Cisticola; Jungle and Plain Prinias; Common Tailorbird; Common, Jungle, Large Grey and Yellow-eyed Babblers; Common Myna; Oriental Magpie Robin; Indian Robin; Siberian Stonechat; Brown Rock Chat; Orangeheaded and Blue Rock Thrushes; Grey and White Wagtails; Tree Pipit. *MAMMALS* Golden Jackal; Common Langur Monkey; Sambar and Chital Deer; Nilgai; Indian Gazelle; Wild Boar; Ruddy Mongoose; Indian Hare; (Leopard very close, heard but not seen). *REPTILES* Mugger Crocodile. *SIGNS* Sloth bear tracks and diggings; Baya Weaver nests.

BIRDS

PAINTED FRANCOLIN Francolinus pictus

5+ in Panna Park on 7th

GREY FRANCOLIN Francolinus pondicerianus

Common, seen on most days, all areas.

PAINTED SPURFOWL Galloperdix lunulata

1 ♂ in Panna NP on 7th

INDIAN PEAFOWL Pavo cristatus

2 near Velavadar; common at Bharatpur; only a few seen in Panna area. Often seen on routes between sites.

LESSER WHISTLING DUCK Dendrocygna javanIca

Flocks of 20-50 around Bharatpur and along Ken River at Panna.

GREYLAG GOOSE Anser anser

Common around Bharatpur

BAR-HEADED GOOSE Anser indicus

Common at Bharatpur

KNOB-BILLED DUCK Sarkidiornis melanotos

Small groups (2-6) frequent around Bharatpur.

RUDDY SHELDUCK Tadorna ferruginea

8-10 at Velavadar; small groups (3-5) frequent Bharatpur; 2 over Ken river on 7th and 3 on river 8th

COTTON PYGMY GOOSE Nettapus coromandelianus

2 at Bharatpur on 3rd.

GADWALL Anas strepera

Small numbers at Velavadar. 50+ at Bharatpur on 2nd only.

EURASIAN WIGEON Anas penelope

Pair at Bharatpur on 2nd and 10+ on 3rd

INDIAN SPOT-BILLED DUCK Anas poecilorhyncha

Small numbers in wet areas between sites. Small numbers at Velavadar wetland. Common around Bharatpur. 3-4 along Ken River by lodges each day.

NORTHERN SHOVELER Anas clypaeta

Common in most wet areas including pools/lakes on routes between sites. 50+ at Velavadar and thousands at Bharatpur but

NORTHERN PINTAIL Anas acuta

100+ at Velavadar wetland; many thousands at Bharatpur

GARGANEY Anas auerauedula

Seen at two roadside wet areas along Delhi-Bharatpur route (only males noted, seen from car)

EURASIAN TEAL Anas crecca

Common in most wet areas including pools/lakes on routes between sites. Thousands at Bharatpur, numerous at Velavadar but none in Panna area

RED-CRESTED POCHARD Netta rufina

20+ at Bharatpur on 3rd

COMMON POCHARD Aythya ferina

4 at Bharatpur on 3rd

FERRUGINOUS DUCK Aythya nyroca

10 at Bharatpur on 3rd

LITTLE GREBE Tachybaptus ruficollis

10 + at Velavadar. Abundant at Bharatpur with highest day count c.80 on 2nd. 1 on river by Ken River Lodge on 7th+8th

GREAT CRESTED GREBE Podiceps cristatus

1 on Ken river by Panna Tiger Resort on two days

${\bf PAINTED~STORK}~~Mycteria~leucocephala$

20 + around Velavadar. Good breeding colony at Bharatpur with many fledged/near-fledged young

ASIAN OPENBILL STORK Anastomas oscitans

2 on island in Ken river by Panna Tiger Resort on 6th, 1 by Ken River Lodge on 8th and 9th.

BLACK STORK Ciconia nigra

1 on island in Ken river on 9th

WOOLLY-NECKED STORK Ciconia episcopus

1 at Bharatpur on 2nd, 3 on 4th. 2 by Ken river in Panna NP on 5th + 9th. 1 on river by Ken River Lodge each day

BLACK-NECKED STORK Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus

Single at Bharatpur on 2nd and two pairs on 3rd

LESSER ADJUTANT Leptoptilos javanicus

1 on island in Ken river on 8th and 9th

BLACK-HEADED IBIS Threskiornis melanocephalus

15+ at Velavadar. Frequent sightings around Bharatpur, up to 5 together. 3 on island in Ken river on 9th

RED-NAPED IBIS Pseudibis papillosa

Frequent sightings of 2-4 in Velavadar area. 2 over Panna Tiger Resort on 5th and 5 in village fields on 6th. 2 on island in Ken river on 9th

GLOSSY IBIS Plegadis falcinellus

3 at Bharatpur on 3rd

EURASIAN SPOONBILL Platalea leucorodia

Common at Bharatpur, with many recently-fledged young. 30+ at Velavadar wetland.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON Nycticorax nycticorax

5-6 roosting at Velavadar

INDIAN POND HERON Ardeola grayii

Common throughout

EASTERN CATTLE EGRET Bubulcus coromandus

Often seen on routes between sites. Small numbers around Velavadar. Common at Bharatpur. None seen in Panna area.

GREY HERON Ardea cinerea

8+ at Velavadar. Common around Bharatpur with several amongst the Painted Stork nests. Singles along Ken river by lodges and in Panna NP each day

PURPLE HERON Ardea purpurea

1 at Blackbuck Lodge pool on 28th January and 1-2 at Velavadar wetland each visit. Up to 4 at Bharatpur. 1 on island by Ken River Lodge on two days

GREAT EGRET Ardea alba

15+ at Velavadar. Common around Bharatpur and Panna area and at wet areas on routes between sites.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET Ardea intermedia

2 at Velavadar. Common at Bharatpur. Singles occasionally seen in Panna area.

LITTLE EGRET Egretta garzetta

Common at most wet area, often up to 8 together (20 in one small roadside pool on 28th) but only singles around Panna.

WESTERN REEF HERON Egretta gularis

2 at Velavadar wetland on 29th and 3 there on 30th

LITTLE CORMORANT Microcarbo niger

Common in most suitable areas but none at Velavadar.

INDIAN CORMORANT Phalacrocorax fuscicollis

A few noted at Bharatpur most days (possibly overlooked). 1 on Ken river by Panna Tiger Resort on 5th

GREAT CORMORANT Phalacrocorax carbo

Common at Bharatpur. Large numbers at dusk flying along Ken river - min.400

ORIENTAL DARTER Anhinga melanogaster

Singles/2s frequent around Bharatpur with a few nesting amongst Painted Storks. 1 on Ken river on 7th, min.3 on 8th+9th

CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD Pernis ptilorhynchus

Singles over Ken River Lodge on 7th and 8th

BLACK-WINGED KITE Elanus caeruleus

Common. A total of 17 seen along route from Gir to Velavadar on 28th. Frequent sightings each day at Velavadar, Bharatpur and Panna.

BLACK KITE Milvus migrans

Only seen around larger towns

GREY-HEADED FISH EAGLE Icthyophaga ichthyaetus

1 on nest with well-grown chick in Panna NP

EGYPTIAN VULTURE Neophron percnopterus

1 sub-adult at Bharatpur on 2nd. 1 adult between Jhansi and Panna on 4th. 2 adults by Ken River Lodge on 6th and 1 over Ken River on 7th

INDIAN VULTURE Gyps indicus

Min.45 roosting in rocky gorge at Panna NP (with a few Eurasian Griffons and 1 Red-headed Vulture) including at least two nests with downy chicks - a very encouraging sight

GRIFFON VULTURE Gyps fulvus

At least 2 with Indian G.indicus in rocky gorge at Panna NP

RED-HEADED VULTURE Sarcogyps calvus

1 at Bharatpur on 2nd. 1 over Panna Tiger Resort on 5th, 1 in Panna NP gorge on 7th and 1 over Ken River Lodge 8th

SHORT-TOED SNAKE EAGLE Circaetus gallicus

Singles at Velavadar on two days. Two singles on route Velavadar-Ahmedabad on 30th.

CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE Spilornis cheela

1 at Bharatpur on 2nd. 1 on small rocky island in Ken river by Panna Tiger Resort caught and ate a large snake. 1 in Panna NP on 5th and 5 soaring together, calling loudly, on 9th

WESTERN MARSH HARRIER Circus aeruginosus

Common at Velavadar. At least 2 females and 1 male around Bharatpur

PALLID HARRIER Circus macrourus

Very common around Velavadar, we noted more adult males of this sp. than of *C.pygargus*. Our highest count of harriers coming to roost, which included both this sp. and *C.pygargus*, was 80 and no doubt more arrived after we left the site.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER Circus pygargus

See Pallid, above. We noted fewer adult male C.pygargus at Velavadar than C.macrourus.

SHIKRA Accipiter badius

Common throughout

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK Accipiter nisus

1 in Panna NP on 9th

NORTHERN GOSHAWK Accipiter gentilis

1 perched, feeding on a Teal, at Bharatpur on 3rd

WHITE-EYED BUZZARD Butaster teesa

1 at Bharatpur on 1st. 1 juv. on Jhansi-Panna route. Singles in Panna NP on 5th+7th; adult and sub/adult on 9th

GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE Aquila clanga

Min.4 around Velavadar wetland. Min.4 at Bharatpur on 1st and 3 on 2nd+3rd. 1 at Panna on 5th

TAWNY EAGLE Aquila rapax

1 at Velavadar on 29th

EASTERN IMPERIAL EAGLE Aquila heliaca

1 adult at Bharatpur on 3rd

COMMON KESTREL Falco tinnunculus

Common at Velavadar. 1-2 at Bharatpur each day. Singles in Panna NP on two days

PEREGRINE FALCON Falco peregrinus

1 in rocky gorge at Panna NP on two days ("Shaheen" F.p.peregrinator)

BROWN CRAKE Amaurornis akool

1 seen on island in Ken river on 8th (heard only on 7th)

WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN Amaurornis phoenicurus

Common at Bharatpur. Single by Ken River Lodge on 7th

PURPLE SWAMPHEN Porphyrio porphyrio

15+ at roadside wetland on route Delhi-Bharatpur. Common at Bharatpur

COMMON MOORHEN Gallinula chloropus

Very common and numerous at Bharatpur

EURASIAN COOT Fulica atra

1 at Velavadar. Abundant at Bharatpur (thousands)

SARUS CRANE Grus antigone

2 adults at Bharatpur on 2nd

DEMOISELLE CRANE Grus virgo

Up to 30 at Velavadar wetland on each visit and occasional small flocks (7-15) over Blackbuck Lodge.

BARRED BUTTON-QUAIL Turnix susciator

3 in grounds of Blackbuck Lodge Velavadar on 28th and 1 there on 30th. 2 in Panna NP on 9th

GREAT STONE-CURLEW Esacus recurvirostris

4 on rocky island in Ken river on 7th

BLACK-WINGED STILT Himantopus himantopus

Frequent sightings along Delhi-Bharatpur route. A few around Velavadar wetland. Very common at Bharatpur.

RIVER LAPWING Vanellus duvaucelii

Common in small groups (2-4) along Ken river by lodges and in Park

RED-WATTLED LAPWING Vanellus indicus

Common throughout.

GREY-HEADED PLOVER Vanellus cinereus

1 at Bharatpur on 3rd

WHITE-TAILED LAPWING Vanellus leucurus

2 at Bharatpur on 2nd

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius

6 around Velavadar wetland. 1 on Ken river on 7th

COMMON SNIPE Gallinago gallinago

1 at Bharatpur on 2nd and 2 on 3rd

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Limosa limosa

10-15 at Velavadar wetland on each visit.

COMMON REDSHANK Tringa totanus

1 at Velavadar on 29th. 1 at Bharatpur on 2nd

MARSH SANDPIPER Tringa stagnatalis

2 at Velavadar on 29th. 1 at Bharatpur on 2nd

COMMON GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia

Singles at Velavadar wetland each visit. Fairly common at Bharatpur. 1 in Panna NP and 1 by Ken River Lodge on 7th

GREEN SANDPIPER Tringa ochropus

Several around Velavadar wetland. Very common around Bharatpur (c.100 on 2nd). 1 at roadside pool on Jhansi-Panna route. 1 in Panna NP on 5th

WOOD SANDPIPER Tringa glareola

Very common around Bharatpur (30 feeding together in one area and "hundreds" elsewhere).

COMMON SANDPIPER Actitis hypoleucos

2 at Velavadar wetland on 30th.

TEMMINCK'S STINT Calidris temminckii

c.30 around Velavadar wetland on each visit

RUFF Philomachus pugnax

Very common at Bharatpur - "hundreds"

SMALL PRATINCOLE Glareola lactea

6+ over Ken river on 8th

BROWN-HEADED GULL Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus

1 adult over Ken river on 7th

GULL-BILLED TERN Gelochelidon nilotica

1 at Velavadar wetland on each visit

RIVER TERN Sterna aurantia

3 by river on Gir-Velavadar route on 28th

WHISKERED TERN Clidonia hybrida

5-6 around Velavadar wetland each visit. 3 on Velavadar-Ahmedabad route

PAINTED SANDGROUSE Pterocles indicus

Pair in Panna NP on 7th and single male there on 9th

COMMON PIGEON (ROCK DOVE) Columba livia

Common throughout. Flocks of 20+ around rocky gorges in Panna NP

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE Streptopelia decaocto

Common everywhere

RED TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia tranquebarica

3 (1 male, 2 females) in grounds of Ken River Lodge on 6th and 1 male on 8th

SPOTTED DOVE Spilopelia chinensis

Common in Panna area

LAUGHING DOVE Spilopelia senegalensis

Common throughout

YELLOW-FOOTED GREEN PIGEON Treron phoenicopterus

Common around Bharatpur, usually 2-15 but one flock of 50+ on 1st. Fairly common around Panna in flocks of 2-18

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET Psittacula eupatria

4 on route from Delhi to Bharatpur on 31st Jan. 3 in Panna NP on 9th

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET Psittacula krameri

Common throughout (less numerous than Plum-headed P.cyanocephalus around Panna)

PLUM-HEADED PARAKEET Psittacula cyanocephala

Common at Panna in larger numbers than Rose-ringed P.krameri. Many feeding in fields on ripening wheat.

GREATER COUCAL Centropus sinensis

Common throughout

COMMON HAWK-CUCKOO Hierococcyx varius

1 in grounds of Ken River Lodge

INDIAN SCOPS OWL Otus bakkamoena

2 in tree hole at Bharatpur. Heard at Ken River Lodge but not seen

INDIAN EAGLE-OWL Bubo bengalensis

1 at Blackbuck Lodge each evening. 1 roosting on island in Ken river

BROWN FISH OWL Ketupa zeylonensis

2 singles in Panna NP on 9th

SPOTTED OWLET Athene brama

4 roosting in roof at Blackbuck Lodge, 2 in Park buildings at Velavadar. Up to 3 in a tree hole at Bharatpur on each visit

BROWN HAWK OWL Ninox scutulata

1 at Bharatpur

SHORT-EARED OWL Asio flammeus

2 singles at Velavadar

INDIAN NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus asiaticus

1 at Blackbuck Lodge

SAVANNA NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus affinis

4 over sandy islands in Ken river by Panna Tiger Resort on 4th

CRESTED TREESWIFT Hemiprocne coronata

Up to 12 seen around Panna each day

LITTLE SWIFT Apus affinis

One small flock seen on Gir to Velavadar route. 10 over Bharatpur on 2nd. 15+ over Panna on 6th

INDIAN ROLLER Coracias benghalensis

Common throughout

STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER Pelargopsis capensis

At least 3 along Ken river by lodges.

WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER Halcyon smyrnensis

Common throughout.

COMMON KINGFISHER Alcedo atthis

1 at Bharatpur. Singles along Ken river on three days

PIED KINGFISHER Ceryle rudis

Min.4 along Ken river by lodges

GREEN BEE-EATER Merops orientalis

Common around Velavadar and Panna area

EURASIAN HOOPOE Upupa epops

1 on route Gir-Velavadar. 2 at Velavadar. 1 on route Delhi-Bharatpur. 1 in Panna NP and singles in Ken River Lodge grounds on two days

INDIAN GREY HORNBILL Ocyceros birostris

Occasional sightings of singles/2s in Panna area

COPPERSMITH BARBET Megalaima haemacephala

1 near Ken River Lodge on 5th, another heard in Ken River Lodge grounds but not seen

EURASIAN WRYNECK Jynx torquilla

1 at Bharatpur on 1st. Singles in Ken River Lodge grounds on 7th and 8th

YELLOW-CROWNED WOODPECKER Dendrocopos mahrattensis

1 in Ken River Lodge grounds on 8th and 2 in Panna NP on 9th

LESSER GOLDENBACK Dinopium benghalense

Common at Bharatpur and Panna, with frequent sightings of 1-2 each day

WHITE-NAPED WOODPECKER Chrysocolaptes festivus

2 in Panna NP on 7th

COMMON WOODSHRIKE Tephrodornis pondicerianus

1 at Bharatpur and 1 in Ken River Lodge grounds

COMMON IORA Aegithina tiphia

1 in a flock of White-eyes Zosterops palpibrosus in Ken River Lodge grounds on 8th

LARGE CUCKOOSHRIKE Coracina macei

1 in Panna NP on 5th and 1 by Panna Tiger Resort on 6th

SMALL MINIVET Pericrocotus cinnamomeus

Pair at Bharatpur on 1st. 2 in Panna NP on 9th

ISABELLINE SHRIKE Lanius isabellinus

Singles at Bharatpur on 1st and 2nd

BAY-BACKED SHRIKE Lanius vittatus

Fairly common, seen most days.

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE Lanius schach

Common throughout

INDIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE Oriolus kundoo

1 male at Bharatpur on 1st, 1 female on 3rd

BLACK DRONGO Dicrurus macrocercus

Common everywhere. Large number around flooded grassland at Bharatpur, foraging in groups of 4-8

ASHY DRONGO Dicrurus leucophaeus

4-5 in Panna NP on 7th and 9th

WHITE-BELLIED DRONGO Dicrurus caerulescens

5 in Panna NP on 5th

WHITE-BROWED FANTAIL Rhipidura aureola

Common in most wooded areas, although none around Velavadar.

RUFOUS TREEPIE Dendrocitta vagabunda

Common in wooded areas although none around Velavadar.

HOUSE CROW Corvus splendens

Common throughout (less numerous than Jungle C.culminatus in forested areas)

INDIAN JUNGLE CROW Corvus culminatus

Common throughout (more numerous than House Crow C.splendens in forested areas)

GREY-HEADED CANARY FLYCATCHER Culicicana cevlonensis

2 singles in Ken River Lodge grounds on 8th

CINEREOUS (GREY) TIT Parus cinereus

Common in Panna area

INDIAN BUSH LARK Mirafra erythroptera

Common in Panna area

RUFOUS-TAILED LARK Ammomanes phoenicura

Small flocks of 4-8 common around Velavadar. Small flocks of 2-7 in dry areas around Panna NP

GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK Calandrella brachydactyla

Huge flocks along route from Gir, around Velavadar and route to Ahmedabad.

ASHY-CROWNED SPARROW-LARK Eremopterix griseus

Common around Panna, including flock of c.35 near Ken River Lodge

WHITE-EARED BULBUL Pycnonotus leucotis

Common at Velavadar, less so at Bharatpur and none in Panna area

RED-VENTED BULBUL Pycnonotus cafer

Common throughout

GREY-THROATED MARTIN Riparia chinensis

Occasional sightings along route Gir-Velavadar. Small numbers at Velavadar wetland on 29th and 30th. 10+ around Bharatpur on 2nd. Small flocks frequent around gorges in Panna NP

BARN SWALLOW Hirundo rustica

Common around Velavadar. Small numbers (2s/4s) at Bharatpur and only 3 at Panna on 8th.

WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW Hirundo smithii

Occasional sightings of 1-2 along Gir-Velavadar route. 7 over Ken River on 7th and 5 there on 9th

DUSKY CRAG MARTIN Ptyonoprogne concolor

Large colony in gorge at Panna NP

COMMON HOUSE MARTIN Delichon urbicum

12+ over gorge in Panna NP on 5th and 5 near Ken River Lodge on 6th

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW Cecropis daurica

Occasional sightings of 2-3 along Gir-Velavadar route. 6 at Bharatpur on 2nd only. 6+ in gorge at Panna NP on 5th+7th with occasional 2s-3s elsewhere around Panna

STREAK-THROATED SWALLOW Petrochelidon fluvicola

15 over Ken River on 8th

CHIFFCHAFF Phylloscopus collybita

Occasional sightings around Bharatpur. 2 probables at Panna Tiger Resort.

SULPHUR-BELLIED WARBLER Phylloscopus griseolus

1 roosting in grounds of Ken River Lodge on 7th

HUME'S LEAF WARBLER Phylloscopus humei

Common at Bharatpur and Panna

GREENISH WARBLER Phylloscopus trochiloides

Common around Bharatpur. Very common around Panna, frequently seen and constantly heard

CLAMOROUS REED WARBLER Acrocephalus stentoreus

At least 1 at Bharatpur on 1st and 3-4 on 3rd

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER Acrocephalus dumetorum

1 at Blackbuck Lodge on 28th. At least 1 at Bharatpur on 3rd. Min.2 in grounds of Ken River Lodge on 8th

SYKES'S WARBLER Iduna rama

2-3 in Bharatpur on 1st, 3 on 2nd

ZITTING CISTICOLA Cisticola juncidis

1 at Blackbuck Lodge on 28th. 1 in Panna NP on 9th

JUNGLE PRINIA Prinia sylvatica

Usually not separated from Plain P.inornata but at least 2 in Panna NP

ASHY PRINIA Prinia socialis

1-2 at Bharatpur on 3rd. 2 in grounds of Ken River Lodge on 8th

PLAIN PRINIA Prinia inornata

Common at Bharatpur, less so around Panna.

COMMON TAILORBIRD Orthotomus sutorius

Common in Panna areas

COMMON BABBLER Turdoides caudata

Frequent sightings of small flocks around Velavadar. Two small flocks around Bharatpur. 5 in Panna NP on 7th

LARGE GREY BABBLER Turdoides malcolmi

Several sightings along route Jhansi to Panna on 4th. Flocks frequent around Panna NP on 6th and 9th

JUNGLE BABBLER Turdoides striata

Common throughout

LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca

2 at Blackbuck Lodge.

EASTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER Sylvia crassirostris

Frequently seen and heard around Bharatpur

YELLOW-EYED BABBLER Chrysomma sinense

Small parties in Panna NP on 7th and 9th. 2 in Ken River Lodge grounds on 8th

ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE Zosterops palpebrosus

Roving flocks of 10-20 around Panna each day

BANK MYNA Acridotheres ginginianus

Frequent sightings around villages and towns

COMMON MYNA Acridotheres tristis

Common and very numerous everywhere

PIED MYNA Gracupica contra

Common at Bharatpur. Occasional sightings of 2-6 in Panna areas

BRAHMINY STARLING Sturnia pagodarum

Widespread, usually 2s-4s but flocks up to 30 around Panna

ROSY STARLING Pastor roseus

Frequent sightings of small and large flocks along Gir-Velavadar route. Several flocks along Delhi-Bharatpur route on 31st. Very large flocks (hundreds) around Bharatpur on 2nd only.

ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH Zoothera citrina

Singles in Panna NP on 7th and 9th

BLUETHROAT Luscinia svecica

Common at Bharatpur, often 2-3 together. Highest day count was 35 on 3rd

ORIENTAL MAGPIE ROBIN Copsychus saularis

Common throughout

INDIAN ROBIN Saxicoloides fulicatus

Occasional sightings along Gir-Velavadar route. 2 at Blackbuck Lodge. Common at Bharatpur and Panna

BLACK REDSTART Phoenicurus ochruros

Common at Bharatpur and Panna areas

WHITE-BROWED (STOLICZKA'S) BUSHCHAT Saxicola macrorhynchus

1 female by chalet at Blackbuck Lodge on 28th and 29th and 1 male in Velavadar Park on 30th. We had not expected this species here.

SIBERIAN STONECHAT Saxicola maurus

Fairly common around Velavadar. Occasional sightings of 1s-2s at Bharatpur. 5 in Panna NP on 7th, pair on 8th and 9th

PIED BUSHCHAT Saxicola caprata

1 on Delhi-Bharatpur route on 31st. Occasional sightings around Bharatpur. 2 at Panna on 6th, 1 on 7th

DESERT WHEATEAR Oenanthe deserti

1 on route Velavadar to Ahmedabad on 30th

BROWN ROCK CHAT Ceromela fusca

1 on route from Delhi-Bharatpur on 31st. 1 by Panna NP entrance on 3rd and 2 in Madla villa (Panna) on 5th

BLUE ROCK THRUSH Monticola soltarius

1 at Panna Tiger Resort on 5th, 1 by Ken River on 6th and singles in Panna NP on 7th and 9th.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER Ficedula parva

Common around Bharatpur

ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER Ficedula superciliaris

1 female in grounds of Ken River Lodge on 5th, pair on 8th

VERDITER FLYCATCHER Eumyias thalassinus

Pair near Panna Tiger Resort on 5th

PURPLE SUNBIRD Cinnyris asiaticus

Occasional sightings along Gir-Velavadar route. 1 at Sunbird Hotel, Bharatpur on 1st. Common in Panna area

HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus

Common around most villages and towns but none noted around Bharatpur.

YELLOW-THROATED SPARROW Gymnoris xanthocollis

Occasional sightings along Gir-Velavadar route. Common around Bharatpur and Panna areas

[BAYA WEAVER Ploceus philippinus]

[Many nests in Panna NP but no birds seen]

INDIAN SILVERBILL Euodice malabarica

Common at Bharatpur

WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava

Large mixed flocks of Yellow M.flava and Citrine M.citreola around Bharatpur each day

${\bf CITRINE~WAGTAIL}\quad \textit{Motacilla citreola}$

Large mixed flocks of Citrine M.citreola and Yellow M.flava around Bharatpur each day

GREY WAGTAIL Motacilla cinerea

Just 1 seen, in Panna NP

WHITE WAGTAIL Motacilla alba

1 on route to Bharatpur on 31st. Small numbers around Bharatpur. 1 in Panna NP

WHITE-BROWED WAGTAIL Motacilla maderaspatensis

Common along Ken river

TAWNY PIPIT Anthus campestris

1 by chalet at Blackbuck Lodge

TREE PIPIT Anthus trivialis

Common around Panna

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING Emberiza melanocephala

1 male near Ken River Lodge on 6th

MAMMALS

RHESUS MACAQUE *Macaca mulatta* Common at Bharatpur. Small groups around Madla village, Panna. Occasional roadside sightings on routes between sites.

COMMON LANGUR (HANUMAN) MONKEY Semnopithecus entellus Common at Panna NP

SAMBAR DEER Cervus unicolor Common at Bharatpur and Panna NP

SPOTTED DEER (CHITAL) Axis axis Common at Bharatpur and Panna NP

NILGAI (BLUE BULL) Boselaphus tragocamelus Common at Velavadar, Bharatpur and Panna NP

BLACKBUCK Antilope cervicapra Large herds at Velavadar

INDIAN GAZELLE (CHINKARA) Gazella bennettii Small numbers around Panna NP grasslands

WILD BOAR Sus scrofa A few around Velavadar. Common at Bharatpur and Panna NP

GOLDEN JACKAL Canis aureus Common at Bharatpur (at least 8 on one day) and around Panna NP

WOLF Canis lupus pallipes 2 singles at Velavadar

JUNGLE CAT Felis chaus 4 singles around Velavadar

(LARGE) GREY MONGOOSE Herpestes edwardsii 3 (2+1) at Bharatpur

RUDDY MONGOOSE Herpestes smithii 1 in Panna NP

SMALL INDIAN MONGOOSE Herpestes javanicus 2 at Blackbuck Lodge, Velavadar

INDIAN PORCUPINE Hystrix indica 1 seen at night from tree platform by Ken River Lodge

INDIAN HARE Lepus nigricollis 1 seen at night from tree platform by Ken River Lodge

5-STRIPED PALM SQUIRREL Funambulus pennantii Common everywhere

BROWN RAT Rattus norvegicus Only noticed on rail tracks in stations

[**Leopard** Panthera pardus 1 heard in Panna NP, very close, but not seen]

[Sloth Bear Ursus ursinus Many fresh signs (footprints, diggings, scratch-marks on trees), but animal not seen]

[Striped Hyena Hyaena hyaena fresh signs around den at Velavadar]

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

SAND BOA Eryx conicus 1 at Ken River Lodge

INDIAN ROCK PYTHON Python molurus 1 juvenile at Bharatpur

HOUSE GECKO? Hemidactylus flaviviridis 1 in room at Panna Tiger Resort

MUGGER CROCODILE Crocodylus paluster 2 on banks of Ken river in Panna NP

INDIAN TENT TURTLE Pangshura tentoria Frequently seen basking on rocks along Ken river by the lodges

INDIAN SOFTSHELL TURTLE Aspideretes gangeticus Very common around Bharatpur

INDIAN GREEN FROG Euphlyctis hexadactylus Common in pools at Panna Tiger Resort and Madla

BUTTERFLIES Tentative identification only

PLAIN TIGER Danaus chrysippus
STRIPED TIGER Danaus genutia
COMMON ROSE Pachliopta aristolochiae
LEMON PANSY Precis lemonias
PEACOCK PANSY Junonia almana
ROUNDED PIERROT Tarcucus extricatus
DARK GRASS BLUE Zizeeria karsandra

INDIAN GRIZZLED SKIPPER Spialia galba

For main tour report go to http://www.travellingbirder.com/tripreports/reports/120317150947_birding_trip_report.pdf

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