

**FIELD REPORT**

**SOUTHERN INDIA**

**JANUARY 3–23, 2024**



White-bellied Woodpecker showed especially well in Nagarahole NP this year © Max Breckenridge

**LEADER: MAX BRECKENRIDGE**  
**LIST COMPILED BY: MAX BRECKENRIDGE**

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.**  
**2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003**  
**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746**  
**WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

Our tight-knit group of keen birders converged on the southern Indian tech-hub of Bangalore in preparation for an exciting and varied journey through the infamous Western Ghats and beyond. Leaving the rapidly expanding outskirts of Bangalore, we first made our way west towards the princely city of Mysore. Here we enjoyed our first taste of birding in rural India in the small town of Kokkare Bellur, where Spot-billed Pelicans were nesting in trees situated throughout the village. The next morning, at Ranganathittu, we took a small boat out onto a calm stretch of the Cauvery River, where hundreds of waterbirds of various species were also nesting. We had close looks at strange Great Thick-knees, Painted Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Asian Openbill, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, hundreds of Streak-throated Swallows, and a colony of Indian Flying-foxes.

From Mysore, it was a short drive (by Indian standards) to our base for the next four nights at Kabini, situated adjacent to the excellent Nagarahole National Park. It proved to be another fantastic stay at Kabini, with jeep safaris each day in Nagarahole and a very pleasant boat trip on the Kabini Reservoir. Highlights were many and varied but included Sloth Bear, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Malabar Trogon, Brown Fish-Owl, numerous Asian Elephants, several encounters with Dhole, Smooth-coated Otters, Blue-faced Malkoha, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, excellent looks at three species of vultures, Indian Spotted Eagle, White-bellied Woodpecker, Indian Nuthatch, and Mottled Wood-Owl at our accommodation.



*One of several Dhole (Indian Wild Dog) we encountered during our time in Nagarahole NP © Max Breckenridge*

Moving south, we enjoyed a full day birding the drier, scrubby habitats around Masinagudi below the rain shadow of the Nilgiri Hills. White-bellied Minivet was encountered twice, Malabar Lark and Jerdon's Bushlark were seen well, lovely Bay-backed Shrikes were common, hundreds of Asian Woolly-necked Storks and several Steppe Eagles were at a local dumping

ground, vocal Indian Pitta was seen closely, and a shy pair of White-naped Woodpeckers were a good find.

The cooler climes of Ooty beckoned, and we happily obliged, with some wonderful birding here based out of the excellent Savoy Hotel for two nights. The scarce and highly localized Nilgiri Sholakili was practically our first bird during our full day around town. The gorgeous Black-and-orange Flycatcher, Nilgiri Laughingthrush, and Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon all proved remarkably confiding this year. We also did well with the warblers—locating Greenish, Tickell’s, Tytler’s, Large-billed, and even Western Crowned Warbler—all wintering here from northern parts of India and Central Asia.



*Nilgiri Laughingthrush were seen very well on a beautiful morning in Ooty © Max Breckenridge*

Descending the Nilgiris, we continued south, but not before enjoying a showy family of the comical Rufous Babbler, a lovely male Indian Blue Robin, and a stunning Black Eagle soaring practically at eye level! The picturesque tea-fields of Valparai were eventually unveiled before us, as was a large troupe of the beautiful and range-restricted Lion-tailed Macaque feeding beside the road. Soon we were settling into the lovely Stanmore Bungalow, where Malabar Whistling-Thrush welcomed us, and the scarce Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl was heard that night. After a slower start the next day, we had an excellent afternoon session in some remnant forest near our accommodation, where a couple of busy, mixed flocks revealed an array of desired species!

The sometimes dreary hill town of Munnar beckoned; however, this year we enjoyed wonderful sunshine throughout our visit and a particularly memorable visit to the spectacular Eravikulam National Park. Under clear skies and looking over the stunning scenery of the grassy ranges, we struck gold with a White-bellied Sholakili beside the track, then a boisterous party of Palani Laughingthrushes appeared, a Pallid Harrier soared high above, and a remarkably friendly Nilgiri Pipit popped up onto a perch almost within touching distance!



Winding down the hills from Munnar, the forest understory becomes dominated by cardamom plantations, so it was only right that we visit a local spice village before settling into the lovely resort at Kumily on the edge of Periyar National Park. We spent a pleasant day wandering through some wonderful forest, home to some excellent bird species, Asian Elephants, and even Tiger—there are few places in India where you can enjoy this type of forest on foot. Highlights of our time certainly included a pair of impressive Great Hornbills, roosting Sri Lanka Frogmouth, calling Malabar Imperial-Pigeon, beautiful Orange-headed Thrush, Forest Wagtail, Malabar Barbet (finally!), Lesser Yellownape, Loten's Sunbird, Oriental Scops-Owl, and even a small party of the elusive Wayanad Laughingthrush!

Making our way even further downhill from Kumily, we soon found ourselves on the banks of the Periyar River in the humid backwaters of Thattekad. We had a birdy afternoon and morning in the local area, enjoying many of the species we had become familiar with over the past fortnight, plus several new ones, even at this late stage of the trip. On our final night we enjoyed the fantastic sights and calls of Great Eared and Jerdon's nightjars.



*An endangered species of mountain goat, Nilgiri Tahr, graze amongst the native grasslands of Eravikulam NP near Munnar*  
© Max Breckenridge

After the long hiatus of COVID, it was an absolute pleasure to return to this wonderful, endemic-rich part of the Indian Subcontinent. It was also a pleasure to travel with a great group of eager and understanding participants. A final thanks goes out to our local guide Syam, driver Aroy, and the excellent Kannan, who made sure everything went as smoothly as it did.

eBird trip report: <https://ebird.org/australia/tripreport/193129>

## **ITINERARY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Locations</b>
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Bangalore, Kokkare Bellur PM: Mysore – Lingambudhi Lake
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Ranganathittu Sanctuary PM: Kabini & Nagarahole National Park – jeep safari
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Kabini & Nagarahole National Park – jeep safari PM: Kabini & Nagarahole National Park – boat safari
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM/PM: Kabini & Nagarahole National Park – jeep safari
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM/PM: Kabini & Nagarahole National Park – jeep safari
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Kabini & Nagarahole National Park – jeep safari PM: Masinagudi, Bokkapuram
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Mavanalla, Bokkapuram PM: Masinagudi, Moyar
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Mavanalla, Kalhatty PM: Ooty – Cairn Hill Reserve
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Ooty – Gori Shola, Botanical Gardens PM: Ooty – Atthikkal
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Kotagiri PM: Valparai – Stanmore Estate
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Valparai – Pututhottam Estate PM: Valparai – Kurangumudi
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Anaimalia Tiger Reserve, Periya Kulam PM: Munnar
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Eravikulam National Park PM: Munnar – Pothamedu
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM: Munnar PM: Kumily & Periyar National Park
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AM/PM: Periyar National Park
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	AM: Kumily PM: Thattekad
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	AM: Thattekad – Urulunthanni PM: Kochi – departures

## **KEY**

- <sup>H</sup> – Heard only
- <sup>L</sup> – Leader only
- <sup>I</sup> – Introduced species
- <sup>E</sup> – Species is endemic to India
- <sup>e</sup> – Species is endemic to the Indian Subcontinent (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal)
- NP – National Park
- ssp – subspecies

## **BIRDS**

### **Species total: 275**

Heard only: 6

Leader only: 2

### **DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL (*Anatidae*)**

1. Lesser Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*) – Tens at a small wetland in Nagarahole NP and Thattekad.
2. Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) – Six distant individuals near Kabini and good views of at least 30 birds on a reservoir while driving to Masinagudi.
3. Cotton Pygmy-Goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) – Four birds at a small wetland in Nagarahole NP.
4. Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) – Over 200 birds at Lingambudhi Lake near Mysore.
5. Indian Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) – Tens/singles at most large wetlands.
6. Green-winged [Eurasian] Teal (*Anas c. crecca*) – At least 15 individuals at Periya Kulam while driving to Munnar.

### **PHEASANTS, GROUSE & ALLIES (*Phasianidae*)**

7. Indian Peafowl <sup>e</sup> (*Pavo cristatus*) – Tens most days in drier, open habitats – especially Nagarahole NP and Masinagudi.
8. Red Spurfowl <sup>HE</sup> (*Galloperdix spadicea*) – Heard on occasion in Nagarahole NP and Valparai. Brief views of a pair running off the track for the leader only at Thattekad.
9. Grey Junglefowl <sup>E</sup> (*Gallus sonneratii*) – Singles seen well every day at Nagarahole NP and regularly heard in the highlands.
10. Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) – Singles observed occasionally in Nagarahole NP.
11. Painted Bush-Quail <sup>HE</sup> (*Perdica erythrorhyncha*) – Frustratingly only heard several small coveys calling from the cover of tea plantations and grassland at Ooty and Munnar.

### **GREBES (*Podicipedidae*)**

12. Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) – Singles on a few wetlands.

### **PIGEONS & DOVES (*Columbidae*)**

13. Rock [Feral] Pigeon <sup>I</sup> (*Columba livia*) – Singles/tens most days in urban areas.

14. Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon <sup>E</sup> (*Columba elphinstonii*) – Great scope views of a single at Cairn Hill in Ooty. A single seen briefly at Thattekad was a bit of a surprise.
15. Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) – Single observed occasionally at Nagarahole NP and Masinagudi.
16. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Singles/tens seen most days of the trip.
17. Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) – Singles observed briefly around Masinagudi.
18. Asian Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) – Good views of a pair at Masinagudi and singles heard/seen briefly at Periyar NP and Thattekad.
19. Gray-fronted Green-Pigeon <sup>E</sup> (*Treron affinis*) – Great views of singles at Valparai and Thattekad. Small numbers observed in flight at Periyar NP.
20. Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon (*Treron phoenicopterus*) – Good views of this beautiful dove on several occasions in Nagarahole NP.
21. Green Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula aenea*) – Singles/tens at Nagarhole NP and Thattekad.
22. Malabar Imperial-Pigeon <sup>E</sup> (*Ducula cuprea*) – After a couple of flight views, we were fortunate to have excellent looks at a calling individual in Periyar NP.



*The recently split Malabar Imperial-Pigeon responded beautifully in Periyar NP © Max Breckenridge*

### **CUCKOOS (*Cuculidae*)**

23. Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) – Singles heard/seen most days of the trip.
24. Blue-faced Malkoha <sup>e</sup> (*Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*) – A single and a pair of this shy species observed on two different occasions in Nagarahole NP.
25. Asian [Common] Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*) – Singles seen/heard on several occasions during the trip, generally at lowland forest sites.

26. Banded Bay Cuckoo <sup>H</sup> (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) – A single heard on our last morning at Thattekad.
27. Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo <sup>e</sup> (*Surniculus dicruroides*) – Great looks at a single of these interesting drongo mimics following a mixed flock in forest near Valparai.
28. Common Hawk-Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*) – Commonly heard and seen occasionally in Nagarahole and Periyar NP's, as well as Thattekad.

#### **FROGMOUTHS (*Podargidae*)**

29. Sri Lanka Frogmouth <sup>e</sup> (*Batrachostomus monileger*) – Wonderful close views of a roosting pair in Periyar NP. Remarkable little nightbirds that mimic dead leaves in the canopy of the rainforest understory.

#### **NIGHTJARS & ALLIES (*Caprimulgidae*)**

30. Great Eared Nightjar (*Lyncornis macrotis*) – Good views of at least one calling bird near Thattekad, several others heard uttering their distinctive whistles.
31. Jungle Nightjar <sup>e</sup> (*Caprimulgus indicus*) – Great scope views of a pair roosting in a tree near Kalhatty on the drive to Ooty.
32. Jerdon's Nightjar <sup>He</sup> (*Caprimulgus atripennis*) – Several birds heard calling around Thattekad.
33. Indian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus asiaticus*) – Brief views of a flushed bird at Mavanalla.

#### **SWIFTS (*Apodidae*)**

34. Brown-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus giganteus*) – A high-flying flock observed at Periyar NP.
35. Indian Swiftlet <sup>e</sup> (*Aerodramus unicolor*) – Tens/hundreds observed overhead on multiple occasions at Nagarahole NP and at Valparai.
36. Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*) – Singles observed in flight at Nagarahole NP.
37. Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) – Singles/tens observed on several occasions during the trip.
38. Asian Palm-Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*) – Singles/tens observed on several occasions during the trip.

#### **TREESWIFTS (*Hemiprocnidae*)**

39. Crested Treeswift (*Hemiprocne coronata*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP and Masinagudi.

#### **RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS (*Rallidae*)**

40. Eurasian Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Singles observed in Bangalore and Periya Kulam.
41. Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) – Singles near Mysore and at Periya Kulam.
42. Gray-headed Swampphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*) – Singles near Mysore and Thattekad.
43. White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) – Singles observed on a few occasions, typically skulking on the edge of wetlands, drains, and ponds.

#### **THICK-KNEES (*Burhinidae*)**

44. Great Thick-knee (*Esacus recurvirostris*) – Great looks at a pair on rocks at Ranganthittu.

#### **STILTS & AVOCETS (*Recurvirostridae*)**

45. Eurasian Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) – Two birds at Periya Kulam.



### **PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (*Charadriidae*)**

46. Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) – Singles observed each day along the lake edge at Nagarhole NP and at Periya Kulam.
47. Yellow-wattled Lapwing <sup>e</sup> (*Vanellus malabaricus*) – Several birds observed at our accommodation near Masinagudi, and at Mavanalla. An attractive plover, typically found in less urban environments than Red-wattled Lapwing.
48. Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) – Singles/tens observed most days of the trip.

### **JACANAS (*Jacanidae*)**

49. Pheasant-tailed Jacana <sup>L</sup> (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) – Briefly seen in flight at a wetland in Nagarahole NP by the leader.
50. Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) – Singles at a wetland in Nagarahole NP and near Thattekad.

### **SANDPIPERS & ALLIES (*Scolopacidae*)**

51. Pin-tailed Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*) – Great scope and flushed views of a couple individuals near Ooty and Kumily.
52. Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) – Multiple individuals observed along the lake shore at Nagarahole NP on two occasions.
53. Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Singles at Nagarahole NP and Periya Kulam.
54. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) – A single respectively at Nagarahole NP and Periya Kulam.
55. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) – The dominant wader – singles/tens observed each day at Nagarahole NP.
56. Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – Singles seen each day along the lake shore at Nagarhole NP.
57. Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) – A couple of singles observed at Nagarahole NP.
58. Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) – A small flock observed during the boat safari at Nagarahole NP.



*One of many Asian Openbill seen at Ranganathittu near Mysore – the diet of this species consists almost entirely of aquatic snails. The unique bill shape allows it to discard snail shells easily © Max Breckenridge*

#### **PRATINCOLES & COURSERS (*Glareolidae*)**

59. Small Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*) – A flock of up to 30 birds were seen well on the boat safari at Nagarahole NP.

#### **GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS (*Laridae*)**

60. Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) – Singles over waterways around Thattekad.
61. River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*) – Great views of singles/tens at Ranganathittu, Nagarahole NP and Thattekad.

#### **STORKS (*Ciconiidae*)**

62. Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*) – Close views of up to 150 breeding individuals at Ranganathittu. Singles observed occasionally elsewhere during the trip.
63. Asian Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) – Singles observed each day at Nagarahole NP, and up to 200 individuals observed flocking near Masinagudi.
64. Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) – Singles/tens observed on several occasions during the trip, with great looks at Ranganathittu and Nagarahole NP.

#### **ANHINGAS (*Anhingidae*)**

65. Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) – Singles/tens observed at most wetland sites throughout the trip.

### **CORMORANTS & SHAGS (*Phalacrocoracidae*)**

- 66. Little Cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*) – Singles/tens observed at most waterways throughout the trip.
- 67. Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – Tens observed around Mysore and Nagarahole NP.
- 68. Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) – Tens seen well around Mysore.

### **PELICANS (*Pelecanidae*)**

- 69. Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) – Up to 50 birds breeding at Kokkare Bellur and close to 100 at Ranganathittu, allowing for great views.

### **HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS (*Ardeidae*)**

- 70. Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – Tens at Ranganathittu and singles at Periya Kulam.
- 71. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) – Singles/tens on multiple occasions.
- 72. Indian Pond-Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) – Singles/tens observed on every day of the trip.
- 73. Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) – Singles/tens observed on most days of the trip.
- 74. Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – Singles on multiple occasions.
- 75. Medium Egret (*Ardea intermedia*) – Singles/tens on multiple occasions.
- 76. Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) – Singles each day around Mysore and at Nagarahole NP.
- 77. Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) – Singles on multiple occasions.

### **IBIS & SPOONBILLS (*Threskiornithidae*)**

- 78. Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) – Singles/tens on multiple occasions.
- 79. Red-naped Ibis <sup>e</sup> (*Pseudibis papillosa*) – Singles/tens observed around Mysore and at Nagarahole NP.
- 80. Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) – Good looks at up to 20 breeding individuals at Ranganathittu.

### **OSPREY (*Pandionidae*)**

- 81. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Singles observed most days at Nagarhole NP along the lake shore.

### **HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES (*Accipitridae*)**

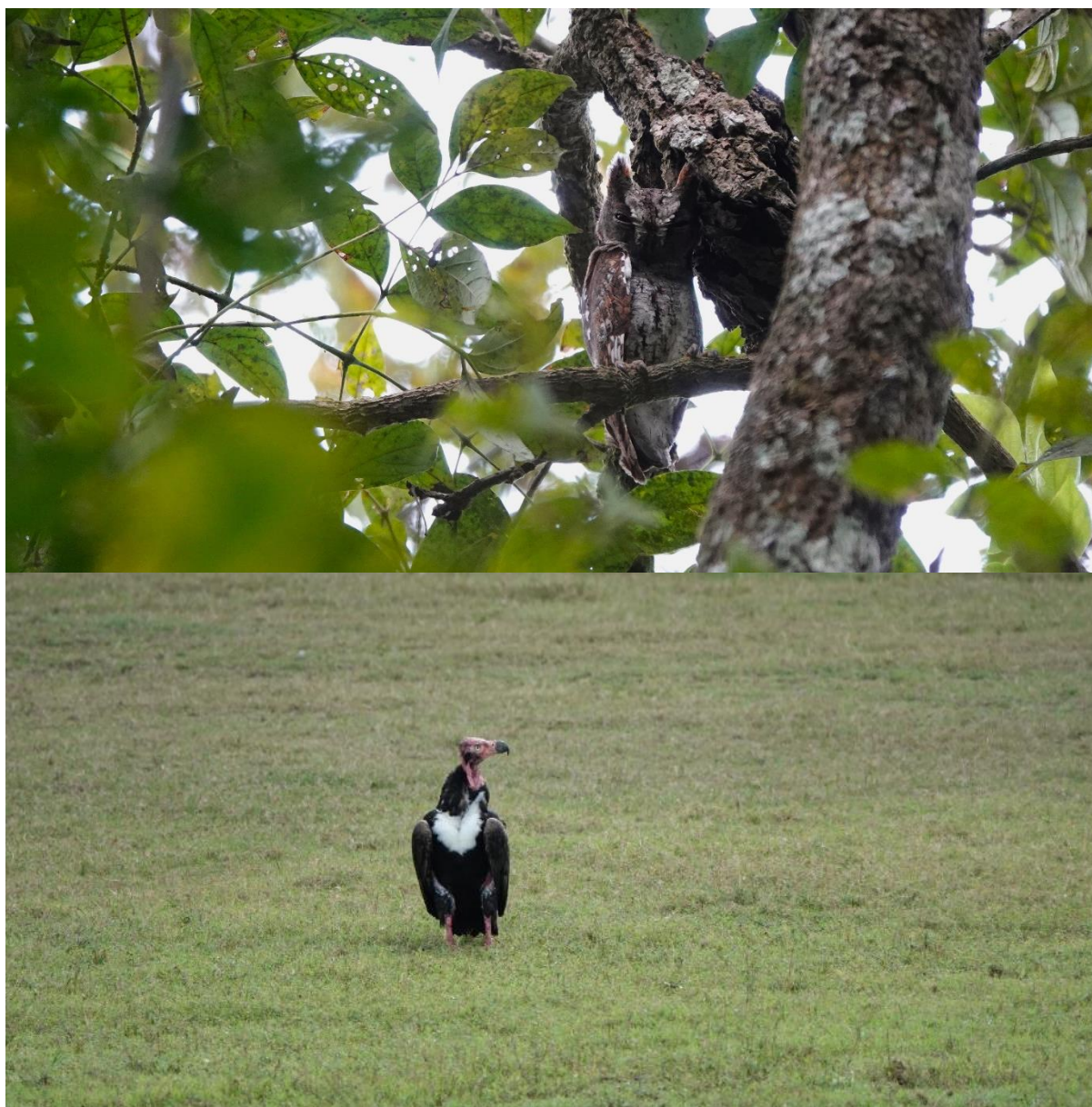
- 82. Oriental Honey-buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) – Just a couple of singles observed at Nagarahole NP and Mavanalla.
- 83. Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*) – Three individuals seen in flight at Thattekad.
- 84. Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*) – Excellent views of several individuals attending a carcass along the lakeshore at Nagarahole NP – a couple others observed in flight here and at Masinagudi. Considered a critically endangered species.
- 85. White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) – Singles observed most days in flight at Nagarahole NP and Masinagudi, with great views of a pair on the ground at the former. Considered a critically endangered species.

86. Indian [Long-billed] Vulture <sup>e</sup> (*Gyps indicus*) – At least two of these scarce vultures observed with others at Nagarahole. Also critically endangered.
87. Crested Serpent-Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions, often perched quietly below the canopy.
88. Short-toed Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) – Good views of a single in flight one afternoon in Nagarahole NP.
89. Changeable Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*) – Singles observed most days at Nagarahole NP and Masinagudi.
90. Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*) – Fantastic views from the bus (near Kotagiri) of an adult hunting characteristically low to the ground/trees. One seen briefly at Pothamedu.
91. Indian Spotted Eagle (*Clanga hastata*) – Two individuals seen poorly in flight at Ranganathittu, but excellent close views of a perched bird later that day in Nagarahole NP.
92. Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*) – A single bird observed by the lakeshore in Nagarahole NP.
93. Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) – Single birds observed well in flight at Kabini and Valparai.
94. Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*) – A single bird observed close to the vultures at Nagarahole NP.
95. Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) – Several individuals observed around a dumping area at Masinagudi.
96. White-eyed Buzzard (*Butastur teesa*) – A couple of individuals observed at Nagarahole NP.
97. Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) – A single bird seen well at a roadside wetland near Kabini.
98. Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) – A high-soaring female seen well at Eravikulam NP.
99. Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) – Several individuals seen well around Ooty and a single at Thattekad.
100. Shikra (*Accipiter b. badius*) – Just a couple of singles at Nagarahole NP and Eravikulam NP.
101. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) – Tens/hundreds observed around Bangalore, Mysore and Masinagudi. Abundant in the large cities of central to northern India.
102. Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions, often far from coastal waters.
103. Gray-headed Fish-Eagle (*Haliaeetus ichthyaetus*) – At least three birds seen well on the lake at Nagarahole NP.
104. Common [Eurasian] Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) – A single observed in flight at the botanical gardens in Ooty.

#### **BARN-OWLS (*Tytonidae*)**

105. Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) – A pair with three begging juveniles were heard and seen most nights at our accommodation near Kabini.





*Oriental Scops-Owl from Periyar NP (above) and an impressive Red-headed Vulture, seen with Indian and White-rumped Vultures at Nagarahole NP (below) © Max Breckenridge*

### **OWLS (*Strigidae*)**

106. Indian Scops-Owl <sup>e</sup> (*Otus bakkamoena*) – A single bird seen peering out from its roost hollow on our first morning in Nagarahole NP.
107. Oriental Scops-Owl (*Otus sunia*) – Great looks at a roosting pair in Periyar NP, expertly spotted by our local guide.
108. Brown Fish-Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) – Great looks at a single bird in Nagarahole NP one morning.
109. Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl <sup>H</sup> (*Bubo nipalensis*) – Heard (surprisingly) on several occasions – at our accommodation in Valparai and Kumily. Each time calling shortly in the early morning and quickly moving on despite trying to spotlight the bird.

110. Jungle Owlet <sup>°</sup> (*Glaucidium radiatum*) – Singles observed at Valparai and Periyar NP, heard on several other occasions. The common forest owl species of southern India.
111. Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*) – Great looks at two roosting birds in Bokkapuram.
112. Mottled Wood-Owl <sup>E</sup> (*Strix ocellata*) – One of a calling pair seen well one night at our accommodation near Kabini.
113. Brown Wood-Owl <sup>H</sup> (*Strix leptogrammica*) – Heard one morning at our accommodation in Kumily.
114. Brown Boobook (*Ninox scutulata*) – A single roosting bird observed near the entrance to Periyar NP. Several heard around Thattekad.

### **TROGONS (*Trogonidae*)**

115. Malabar Trogon <sup>°</sup> (*Harpactes fasciatus*) – Good views of a pair during one jeep safari in Nagarahole NP.

### **HOOPOES (*Upupidae*)**

116. Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions, especially around Masinagudi.

### **HORNBILLS (*Bucerotidae*)**

117. Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) – Fabulous views of a pair perched in the open and feeding in trees beside the lake at Periyar NP.
118. Indian Gray Hornbill <sup>°</sup> (*Ocyrceros birostris*) – Singles around Mysore and Kabini.
119. Malabar Gray Hornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Ocyrceros griseus*) – Singles around Periyar NP and Thattekad.
120. Malabar Pied-Hornbill <sup>°</sup> (*Anthracoceros coronatus*) – Great views of a pair one afternoon in Nagarahole NP.

### **KINGFISHERS (*Alcedinidae*)**

121. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) – Singles observed/heard on multiple occasions.
122. Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*) – A single seen well at our accommodation near Thattekad.
123. White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) – Singles observed on most days of the trip. A common, but striking bird.
124. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) – Touching-distance views of a pair at Ranganathittu. Singles also at Nagarahole NP and Periyar NP.

### **BEE-EATERS (*Meropidae*)**

125. Blue-bearded Bee-eater (*Nyctyornis athertoni*) – Uncommon and unobtrusive, we were fortunate to have good looks at a single one afternoon in Nagarahole NP.
126. Asian Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions.
127. Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*) – Singles observed on several occasions, mainly at Nagarahole NP, Periya Kulam, and Thattekad.
128. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*) – Common in the highlands around Valparai and Munnar.

### ROLLERS (*Coraciidae*)

129. Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions, often from the bus.

### ASIAN BARBETS (*Megalaimidae*)

130. Malabar Barbet <sup>E</sup> (*Psilopogon malabaricus*) – Singles of this small, but attractive barbet observed (and frequently heard) at Valparai, Periyar and Thattekad.
131. Coppersmith Barbet (*Psilopogon haemacephala*) – Singles seen/heard on most days of the trip north of Valparai.
132. White-cheeked Barbet <sup>E</sup> (*Psilopogon viridis*) – Singles seen/heard most days of the trip.



*A nesting pair of Pied Kingfisher from Ranganathittu near Mysore © Max Breckenridge*

### WOODPECKERS (*Picidae*)

133. Heart-spotted Woodpecker (*Hemicircus canente*) – Frustrating views for most on a couple of occasions at Nagarahole NP and Thattekad.
134. Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker <sup>e</sup> (*Yungipicus nanus*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions.
135. Yellow-crowned Woodpecker (*Leiopicus mahrattensis*) – Great looks at a pair at Mavanalla.
136. Malabar Flameback (*Chrysocolaptes socialis*) – Singles observed on several occasions, with our best views at our lunch stop near Kalhatty, on the way to Ooty.
137. White-naped Woodpecker <sup>e</sup> (*Chrysocolaptes festivus*) – Nice looks at a pair of these scarce woodpeckers near Bokkapuram.
138. Common Flameback (*Dinopium javanense*) – Singles observed at Valparai and Periyar NP.
139. Black-rumped Flameback <sup>e</sup> (*Dinopium benghalense*) – Singles/pairs observed on multiple occasions. The most regularly encountered woodpecker in the region.
140. Lesser Yellownape (*Picus chlorolophus*) – A singles seen well near Kumily, and flight views of another at Thattekad.

141. Streak-throated Woodpecker (*Picus xanthopygaeus*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP and Valparai.
142. White-bellied Woodpecker (*Dryocopus javensis*) – We had numerous excellent sightings of this big, bold woodpecker during our time in Nagarahole NP. Rarely so confiding elsewhere.

#### **FALCONS & CARACARAS (*Falconidae*)**

143. Eurasian [Common] Kestrel <sup>L</sup> (*Falco tinnunculus*) – Single seen briefly near Valparai.
144. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – A single observed one afternoon in Nagarahole NP.

#### **OLD WORLD PARROTS (*Psittaculidae*)**

145. Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) – Singles/tens around Bangalore, Mysore, Kabini and Valparai.
146. Plum-headed Parakeet <sup>e</sup> (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) – Singles/tens seen each day at Nagarahole NP, Valparai, Periyar NP, and Thattekad.
147. Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) – A pair seen in flight in Bangalore.
148. Malabar Parakeet <sup>E</sup> (*Psittacula columboides*) – Singles/tens observed on several occasions, with excellent views near Ooty and Kumily.
149. Vernal Hanging-Parrot (*Loriculus vernalis*) – Seen/heard on most days of the trip, good views of perched individuals on a few occasions.

#### **PITTAS (*Pittidae*)**

150. Indian Pitta <sup>e</sup> (*Pitta brachyura*) – Heard on multiple occasions, with good views at Bokkapuram.

#### **CUCKOO-SHRIKES (*Campephagidae*)**

151. White-bellied Minivet <sup>E</sup> (*Pericrocotus erythropygius*) – We came across two separate parties of these scarce minivets around Masinagudi, but both times they only showed briefly or out of view for some of the group.
152. Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*) – Singles/families observed on multiple occasions, mostly in Nagarahole NP.
153. Orange Minivet <sup>e</sup> (*Pericrocotus flammeus*) – Singles/families observed on multiple occasions.
154. Large Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina macei*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP and Periyar NP.
155. Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike <sup>e</sup> (*Lalage melanoptera*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP and Masinagudi.

#### **OLD WORLD ORIOLES (*Oriolidae*)**

156. Indian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*) – Singles of this beautiful species seen on multiple occasions.
157. Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*) – Singles observed around Thattekad.

#### **WOODSWALLOWS, BELLMAGPIES & ALLIES (*Artamidae*)**

158. Ashy Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP and Valparai.

#### **VANGAS, HELMET-SHRIKES & ALLIES (*Vangidae*)**

159. Malabar Woodshrike <sup>E</sup> (*Tephrodornis sylvicola*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions.



160. Common Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP and Masinagudi.
161. Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike (*Hemipus picatus*) – Pairs observed at Valparai, Ooty and Thattekad.

#### **IORAS (*Aegithinidae*)**

162. Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions.

#### **FANTAILS (*Rhipiduridae*)**

163. Spot-breasted [White-spotted] Fantail <sup>E</sup> (*Rhipidura albogularis*) – Singles seen well at Ranganathittu.
164. White-browed Fantail (*Rhipidura aureola*) – Singles observed around Masinagudi.

#### **DRONGOS (*Dicruridae*)**

165. Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions in open country.
166. Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions in forest.
167. White-bellied Drongo <sup>e</sup> (*Dicrurus caerulescens*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP and Valparai.
168. Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP, Valparai and Thattekad.
169. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP, Valparai, Periyar NP and Thattekad.



*Greater Racket-tailed Drongo is a common but no less spectacular feature of the forests in Southern India*  
© Max Breckenridge

### **MONARCH FLYCATCHERS (*Monarchidae*)**

- 170. Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) – Singles observed with mixed flocks at Bokkapuram and Thattekad.
- 171. Indian Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) – Singles of this striking sylph observed on multiple occasions.

### **SHRIKES (*Laniidae*)**

- 172. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions.
- 173. Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) – Good views of several individuals around Masinagudi and a single at Periya Kulam.
- 174. Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions.

### **CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES (*Corvidae*)**

- 175. Rufous Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) – Singles observed occasionally at Nagarahole NP, Periyar NP and Thattekad.
- 176. White-bellied Treepie <sup>E</sup> (*Dendrocitta leucogastra*) – A striking south Indian endemic, singles seen well on both days at Periyar NP and Thattekad.
- 177. House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) – Tens observed on most days of the trip – especially in urbanised environments.
- 178. Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) – Singles/tens observed on every day of the trip.

### **FAIRY FLYCATCHERS (*Stenostiridae*)**

- 179. Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) – Singles observed at Bokkapuram and Ooty.

### **TITS, CHICKADEES & TITMICE (*Paridae*)**

- 180. Cinereous [Gray] Tit (*Parus cinereus*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions.
- 181. Indian Yellow Tit <sup>E</sup> (*Machlolophus aplonotus*) – Singles seen well around Valparai, and a single at Periyar NP.

### **LARKS (*Alaudidae*)**

- 182. Jerdon's Bushlark <sup>e</sup> (*Mirafra affinis*) – Great looks at several individuals around Masinagudi.
- 183. Malabar Lark <sup>E</sup> (*Galerida malabarica*) – Great looks at several individuals around Masinagudi.

### **CISTICOLAS & ALLIES (*Cisticolidae*)**

- 184. Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) – Singles heard/observed on multiple occasions.
- 185. Gray-breasted Prinia (*Prinia hodgsonii*) – Singles seen briefly in Nagarahole NP and well at Valparai.
- 186. Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions.
- 187. Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*) – Singles seen well in alpine grassland at Eravikulam NP.

### **REED WARBLERS & ALLIES (*Acrocephalidae*)**

- 188. Booted Warbler (*Iduna caligata*) – Singles seen in scrubby habitat around Masinagudi and Periya Kulam.

189. Sykes's Warbler (*Iduna rama*) – Single seen well in the lodge grounds at Kabini.
190. Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) – Singles seen/heard on multiple occasions.
191. Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*) – A couple of individuals observed amongst the tea fields near our accommodation at Valparai.

#### **MARTINS & SWALLOWS (*Hirundinidae*)**

192. Dusky Crag-Martin (*Ptyonoprogne concolor*) – Singles observed around Ooty and Valparai.
193. Hill Swallow <sup>e</sup> (*Hirundo domicola*) – Singles observed around Munnar, with good views at Eravikulam NP.
194. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – Tens observed around Mysore, Kabini and Ooty.
195. Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) – Singles observed at several locations.
196. Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) – Tens observed on multiple occasions – the common swallow in this part of India.
197. Streak-throated Swallow <sup>e</sup> (*Petrochelidon fluvicola*) – Fantastic looks at over 100 birds nesting under a rocky overhang at Ranganathittu.

#### **BULBULS (*Pycnonotidae*)**

198. Yellow-browed Bulbul <sup>e</sup> (*Acritillas indica*) – Singles observed near Ooty, Valparai, Kumily and Thattekad.
199. Square-tailed Bulbul <sup>e</sup> (*Hypsipetes g. ganeesa*) – Singles seen well around Munnar and briefly at Ooty.
200. Flame-throated Bulbul <sup>E</sup> (*Rubigula gularis*) – Good views of this attractive bulbul near Valparai, Periyar NP and Thattekad.
201. White-browed Bulbul <sup>E</sup> (*Pycnonotus luteolus*) – Singles observed in scrubby habitat at Kabini, Masinagudi and Valparai.
202. Yellow-throated Bulbul <sup>E</sup> (*Pycnonotus xantholaemus*) – We did well to jag close looks at a pair of these scarce bulbuls in rocky forest along the drive downhill from Valparai.
203. Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) – Observed on most days of the trip.
204. Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) – Observed on every day of the trip.



*Red-whiskered Bulbul was seen every day of the trip © Max Breckenridge*

#### **LEAF WARBLERS (*Phylloscopidae*)**

205. Tytler's Leaf Warbler <sup>e</sup> (*Phylloscopus tytleri*) – Great looks at two calling individuals near Ooty and a single at Eravikulam NP near Munnar.
206. Tickell's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*) – Good looks at several individuals around Ooty, Munnar, and Masinagudi.
207. Green Warbler (*Phylloscopus nitidus*) – Singles seen/heard on multiple occasions, but particularly around Periyar NP and Thattekad.
208. Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) – Singles seen/heard on multiple occasions.
209. Large-billed Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*) – Singles observed at Ooty and Thattekad.
210. Western Crowned Warbler (*Phylloscopus occipitalis*) – Two separate individuals observed around Ooty.

#### **SYLVIID WARBLERS, PARROTBILLS & ALLIES (*Sylviidae*)**

211. Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) – Singles observed in scrubby habitat at Masinagudi.



212. Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Chrysomma sinense*) – A couple of small parties seen well around Masinagudi.



*Rufous Babbler (above) and Indian Scimitar-Babbler (below) both showed well this year © Max Breckenridge*

#### **WHITE-EYES, YUHINAS & ALLIES (*Zosteropidae*)**

213. Indian White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) – Singles/tens observed each day between Masinagudi and Munnar.

#### **SCIMITAR-BABBLERS & ALLIES (*Timaliidae*)**

214. Tawny-bellied Babbler ° (*Dumetia hypertythra*) – Several birds seen closely in scrubby habitat near our accommodation at Kabini.
215. Dark-fronted Babbler ° (*Rhopocichla atriceps*) – Good views of a small party at Pothamedu near Munnar, and at Periyar NP.

216. Indian Scimitar-Babbler <sup>E</sup> (*Pomatorhinus horsfieldi*) – Singles of this lovely species regularly heard in forest areas, with particularly good views at Kalhatty near Ooty.

#### **GROUND BABBLERS & ALLIES (*Pellorneidae*)**

217. Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*) – Fantastic looks at a confiding pair at our accommodation in Valparai.

#### **LAUGHINGTHRUSH & ALLIES (*Leiothrichidae*)**

218. Brown-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe poioicephala*) – A dumpy bird with a beautiful song. Singles seen well at Bokkapuram and Munnar.
219. Nilgiri Laughingthrush <sup>E</sup> (*Montecincla cachinnans*) – Fantastic views of up to 10 birds at Gori Shola in Ooty. Also heard at a few other sites around Ooty.
220. Palani Laughingthrush <sup>E</sup> (*Montecincla fairbanki*) – Good looks at several individuals at Eravikulam NP and Pothamedu near Munnar.
221. Rufous Babbler <sup>E</sup> (*Turdoides subrufa*) – Great views of a trio near Kotagiri on the drive from Ooty. Also seen briefly around Valparai and Periyar NP.
222. Jungle Babbler <sup>e</sup> (*Turdoides striata*) – Large family parties observed on multiple occasions.
223. Yellow-billed Babbler <sup>e</sup> (*Turdoides affinis*) – Tens observed around Masinagudi.
224. Wayanad Laughingthrush <sup>E</sup> (*Ianthocincla delesserti*) – A tough skulker at times, we eventually had good views of a small party amongst the bamboo in Periyar NP one afternoon.

#### **NUTHATCHES (*Sittidae*)**

225. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*) – Good views of multiple pairs around Ooty, Valparai and Periyar NP.
226. Indian Nuthatch <sup>E</sup> (*Sitta castanea*) – Singles/pairs observed on several occasions in Nagarahole NP and at Masinagudi.

#### **STARLINGS (*Sturnidae*)**

227. Southern Hill Myna <sup>e</sup> (*Gracula indica*) – Singles/tens on multiple occasions, especially south of Ooty.
228. Rosy Starling (*Pastor roseus*) – A few individuals mixed in with a large flock of Jungle Myna near Ooty.
229. Brahminy Starling (*Sturnia pagodarum*) – Singles/tens each day around Nagarahole NP and Masinagudi.
230. Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnia malabarica*) – Singles at Kabini.
231. Malabar Starling <sup>E</sup> (*Sturnia erythropygia*) – Singles at Nagarahole NP and Periyar NP.
232. Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) – Singles/tens on most days of the trip, especially around urbanized environments.
233. Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip.

#### **THRUSHES & ALLIES (*Turdidae*)**

234. Orange-headed Thrush (*Geokickla citrina*) – Singles seen well at Periyar NP and Thattekad.
235. Indian Blackbird <sup>e</sup> (*Turdus simillimus*) – Close looks at multiple individuals at Ooty and Munnar.

## OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS (*Muscicapidae*)

236. Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions.
237. Brown-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa muttui*) – Good views of several singles at Valparai, Periyar and Thattekad.
238. Indian Robin <sup>°</sup> (*Copsychus fulicatus*) – Singles observed in scrubby habitat around Masinagudi.
239. Oriental Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) – Singles/tens observed most days of the trip.
240. White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) – Just a single observed in Nagarahole NP.
241. Nilgiri Sholakili <sup>E</sup> (*Sholicola major*) – Excellent looks at this very range-restricted endemic singing in shola forest near Ooty.
242. White-bellied Sholakili <sup>E</sup> (*Sholicola albiventris*) – Close view of a confiding individual at Eravikulam NP.
243. Nilgiri Flycatcher <sup>E</sup> (*Eumyias albicaudatus*) – Nice looks at several individuals around Ooty and Munnar.
244. Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassinus*) – A single seen distantly at Nagarahole NP and another at Valparai.
245. White-bellied Blue-Flycatcher <sup>E</sup> (*Cyornis pallipes*) – Great looks at a beautiful male near Valparai, and a female seen briefly at Thattekad.
246. Blue-throated Flycatcher (*Cyornis rubeculoides*) – A couple of calling females observed at Thattekad.
247. Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher <sup>°</sup> (*Cyornis tickelliae*) – Close views of several birds at Ranganathittu, and a couple around Masinagudi.
248. Indian Blue Robin (*Larvivora brunnea*) – Good views of a calling male near Kotagiri, and a female at the Ooty Botanical Gardens.
249. Malabar Whistling-Thrush <sup>E</sup> (*Myophonus horsfieldii*) – Great views of several birds at our accommodation in Valparai. Also seen around Munnar and Periyar NP.
250. Black-and-orange Flycatcher <sup>E</sup> (*Ficedula nigrorufa*) – One of the best-looking flycatchers, good numbers around Ooty of this sometimes-elusive endemic.
251. Rusty-tailed Flycatcher (*Ficedula ruficauda*) – Singles observed at Valparai and Thattekad.
252. Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) – A single calling female observed at Lingambudhi Lake near Mysore.
253. Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) – Single female observed near Masinagudi.

254. Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*) – Seen on multiple occasions at a variety of elevations until we left Munnar.



*A gorgeous Nilgiri Flycatcher in the Ooty Botanical Gardens © Max Breckenridge*

#### **FLOWERPECKERS (*Dicaeidae*)**

255. Thick-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum agile*) – Good views of individuals at Bokkapuram and Thattekad.
256. Pale-billed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions, all north of Ooty.
257. Nilgiri Flowerpecker <sup>E</sup> (*Dicaeum concolor*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions south from Ooty.

#### **SUNBIRDS & SPIDERHUNTERS (*Nectariniidae*)**

258. Purple-rumped Sunbird <sup>e</sup> (*Leptocoma zeylonica*) – Observed on multiple occasions, particularly around Nagarahole NP and Masinagudi.
259. Crimson-backed Sunbird <sup>E</sup> (*Leptocoma minima*) – Excellent views of a few pairs at Pothamedu and Thattekad.
260. Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*) – Observed on multiple occasions, particularly around Masinagudi.
261. Loten's Sunbird <sup>e</sup> (*Cinnyris lotenius*) – Good views of several individuals around Kumily and Thattekad.
262. Little Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera longirostris*) – Singles at Valparai and Kumily.

#### **FAIRY-BLUEBIRDS (*Irenidae*)**

263. Asian Fairy-bluebird (*Irena puella*) – Great looks at several individuals at Valparai, Periyar NP and Thattekad.

#### **LEAFBIRDS (*Chloropseidae*)**

264. Golden-fronted Leafbird (*Chloropsis aurifrons*) – Singles observed on a couple of occasions.



### **WAXBILLS & ALLIES (*Estrildidae*)**

265. Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*) – A small flock observed at Mavanalla.

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS (*Passeridae*)**

266. House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – Singles/tens observed on multiple occasions.  
267. Yellow-throated Sparrow ° (*Gymnornis xanthocollis*) – A few singles observed most days in Nagarahole NP and at Masinagudi.

### **WAGTAILS & PIPITS (*Motacillidae*)**

268. Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*) – Brief views of several shy individuals at Valparai and Periyar NP.  
269. Gray Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) – Singles on all but a few days of the trip.  
270. Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) – Fairly common along the lake shore at Nagarahole NP  
271. White-browed Wagtail ° (*Motacilla madaraspatensis*) – Singles seen on multiple occasions.  
272. Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus rufulus*) – Singles along the lake shore at Nagarahole NP and around Masinagudi.  
273. Nilgiri Pipit <sup>E</sup> (*Anthus nilghiriensis*) – Unbelievably close views of a confiding bird ignoring the crowds at Eravikulam NP.

### **FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES (*Fringillidae*)**

274. Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrurus*) – Seen frequently around Munnar, and a single male in Nagarahole NP



*The often tricky Nilgiri Pipit proved surprisingly confiding this year © Max Breckenridge*



## **MAMMALS**

### **RABBITS & HARES (*Leporidae*)**

1. Indian [Black-naped] Hare <sup>Le</sup> (*Lepus nigricollis*) – Single seen briefly by the leader at Bokkapuram.

### **MICE, RATS & GERBILS (*Muridae*)**

2. Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) – A couple of individuals in Bangalore and Valparai.

### **SQUIRRELS (*Sciuridae*)**

3. Indian Giant Squirrel <sup>E</sup> (*Ratufa i. indica*) – Singles seen each day at Nagarahole NP, Masinagudi and Ooty.
  - a. ['Malabar Giant Squirrel' <sup>E</sup> (*Ratufa i. maxima*)] – Singles seen/heard each day from Valparai to Thattekad. Distinguished from the nominate race by an entirely black tail.
4. Indian [Three-striped] Palm Squirrel <sup>e</sup> (*Funambulus palmarum*) – Singles observed mostly around Bangalore and Mysore.
5. Dusky [Nilgiri Striped] Palm Squirrel <sup>E</sup> (*Funambulus sublineatus*) – Singles of this vulnerable and localized squirrel observed at Eravikulam NP and Periyar NP.
6. Jungle Palm Squirrel <sup>E</sup> (*Funambulus tristriatus*) – Singles observed on both days around Masinagudi and Valparai.

### **CIVETS (*Viverridae*)**

7. Asian Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) – A single seen poorly while spotlighting near Thattekad. Two kittens later seen near our accommodation.

### **MONGOUSES (*Herpestidae*)**

8. Indian Gray Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*) – Singles observed at Nagarahole NP, Masinagudi, and Ooty.
9. Ruddy Mongoose <sup>e</sup> (*Herpestes smithii*) – A single observed at Nagarahole NP.
10. Stripe-necked Mongoose <sup>e</sup> (*Herpestes vitiensis*) – Several individuals seen well at Nagarahole NP.

### **DOGS (*Canidae*)**

11. Dhole [Indian Wild Dog] (*Cuon alpinus*) – We had a couple of wonderful encounters with this species during our time in Nagarahole NP.

### **BEARS (*Ursidae*)**

12. Sloth Bear <sup>e</sup> (*Ursus ursinus*) – Brief but clear views of an individual moving off the road one afternoon in Nagarahole NP.

### **WEASELS (*Mustelidae*)**

13. Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) – Family groups regularly seen along the lakeshore in Nagarahole NP.

### **FRUIT BATS (*Pteropodidae*)**

14. Indian Flying-fox (*Pteropus giganteus*) – Tens/hundreds at Ranganathittu, Kabini and Kumily.
15. Lesser Short-nosed Fruit-Bat (*Cynopterus brachyotis*) – Two seen briefly exiting a tree hollow at Periyar NP.

### **HORSESHOE BATS (*Rhinolophidae*)**

16. Lesser Woolly Horseshoe-Bat <sup>°</sup> (*Rhinolophus beddomei*) – Fantastic looks at a single roosting low down in a hollow tree at Periyar NP.

### **OLD WORLD MONKEYS (*Cercopithecidae*)**

17. Southern Plains Gray Langur <sup>E</sup> (*Semnopithecus dussumieri*) – Singles/tens seen around Masinagudi.
18. Black-footed Gray Langur <sup>E</sup> (*Semnopithecus hypoleucos*) – Tens observed in the forest each day at Nagarahole NP.
19. Nilgiri Langur <sup>E</sup> (*Trachypithecus johni*) – Singles/tens of this attractive monkey observed around Ooty, Valparai and Periyar NP.
20. Bonnet Macaque <sup>E</sup> (*Macaca radiata*) – Singles/tens observed on all but a few days of the trip.
21. Lion-tailed Macaque <sup>E</sup> (*Macaca silenus*) – We enjoyed awesome looks at three separate parties of this endangered primate during our time at Valparai.

### **PIGS (*Suidae*)**

22. Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) – Singles/tens observed each day at Nagarahole NP, Masinagudi and Periyar NP.

### **DEER (*Cervidae*)**

23. Common Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) – Surprisingly observed several individuals of this shy species during our time at Nagarahole NP, and a single near Ooty.
24. Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) – Singles observed most days at Nagarahole NP and Periyar NP.
25. Spotted Deer <sup>°</sup> (*Axis axis*) – Hundreds each day at Nagarahole NP and tens around Masinagudi.

### **BUFFALO, SHEEP & GOATS (*Bovidae*)**

26. Blackbuck [Indian Antelope] <sup>°</sup> (*Antilope cervicapra*) – Four individuals observed at Bokkapuram.
27. Nilgiri Tahr <sup>E</sup> (*Hemitragus hylocrius*) – Great close looks at more than 30 individuals at Eravikulam NP where they are used to people.
28. Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) – Singles of this huge native bovine observed at Nagarahole NP, Ooty and Valparai.

### **ELEPHANTS (*Elephantidae*)**

29. Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) – Great looks at multiple individuals of all ages each day in Nagarahole NP. Also a couple of individuals around Masinagudi.

## **REPTILES**

### **CROCODILES (*Crocodylidae*)**

Mugger Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*) – Singles seen well at Ranganathittu and a couple on the lake at Nagarahole NP.

### **MONITORS (*Varanidae*)**

Bengal [Indian] Monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*) – A couple of individuals observed at Bokkapuram.



*Lion-tailed Macaque from Valparai © Max Breckenridge*