

Report of a Birding Trip to

Arunachal Pradesh, India

Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Sela Pass, Tawang and Mandala Ridge.

from 4th May to 13th May 2024

Participants:

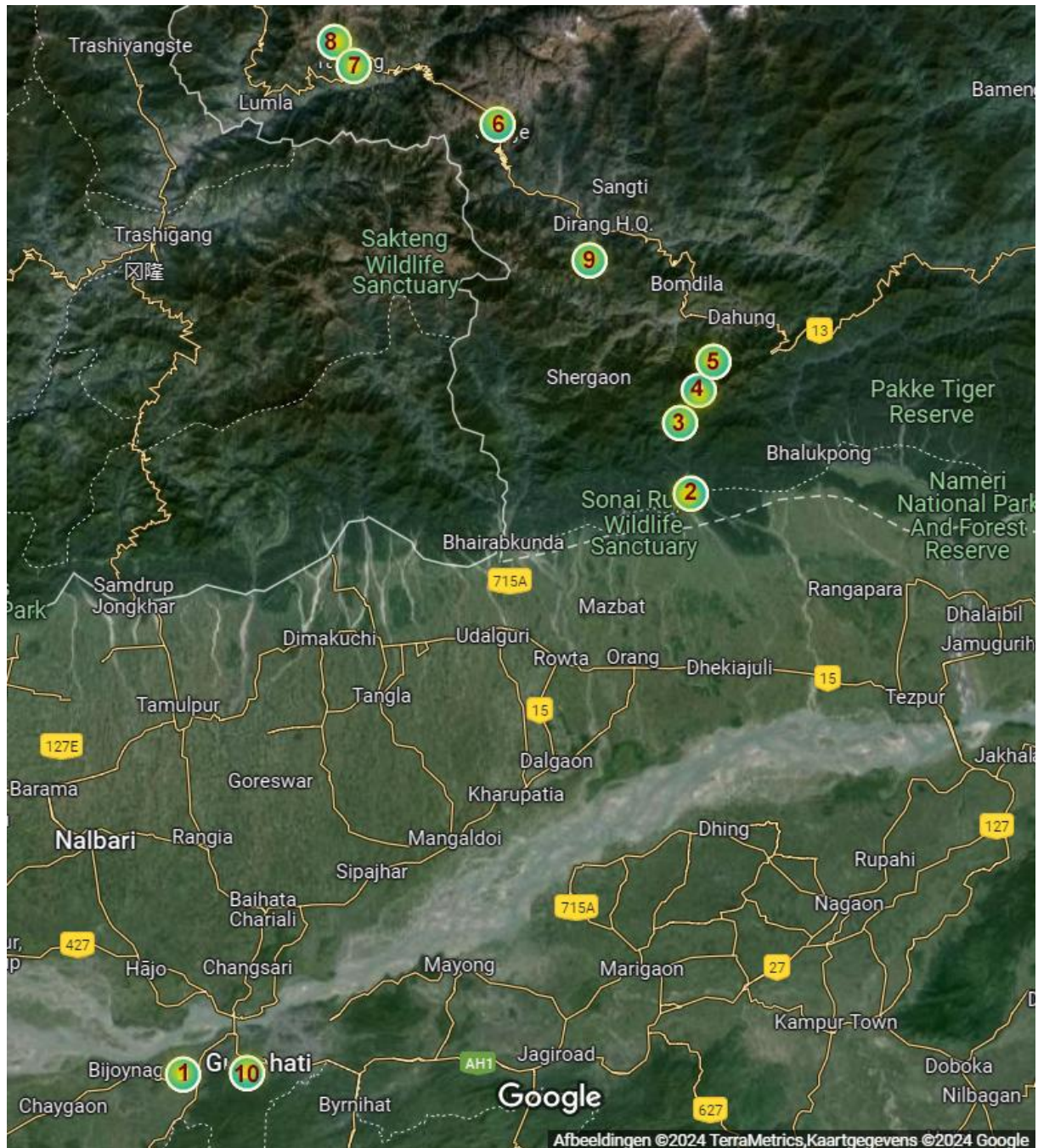
Arjan Brenkman, Jan van der Laan, Shashank Dalvi (guide) and Sheeva (driver)



Gould's Shortwing - *Heteroxenicus stellatus*, 12 May 2024, Sela Pass, Arunachal Pradesh, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Maps



Map of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh with the places we visited.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01. Guwahati | 06. Sela Pass |
| 02. Sessni | 07. Tawang |
| 03. Bompou Camp | 08. Satyr Tragopan Forest |
| 04. Sunderview & Eaglenest Pass | 09. Mandala Ridge |
| 05. Lama Camp | 10. Guwahati Rubbish Dump |



Introduction

For our yearly birding trip we decided in 2024 to go to Eaglenest in northeastern India, one of the richest areas in Asia regarding bird diversity. Arjan had visited the lowland sites of northeast India in 2009, but did not visit the Eaglenest. We contacted Birdtour Asia and they were willing to help us with all logistics for the proposed itinerary. As we wanted to see Gould's Shortwing on the breeding grounds (it usually arrives back at Sela Pass around 6 May) and because in the months March and April several tour groups roam the area as well, it would be better to do the tour in May. And it would not diminish our chances for seeing Blue-naped Pitta, because the pitta is an altitudinal migrant in this area and the month of May is good in finding vocally active birds. New was the idea to do some birding around Tawang, close to the Bhutan and Chinese borders to see if we could find Satyr Tragopan. As a guide we were lucky to use the services of Shashank Dalvi, a well-known guide and researcher in India. Shashank had finished a Birdtour Asia tour just before the start of our trip, so we could rely on the most recent information of the whereabouts of all the specialties. Moreover, he had arranged permission by the authorities to go up from Sessni to Bompou on a road that is normally off limits. That saved us a fair drive and at least half a day of birding.

A month before the trip, we learned that our planned flight from Amsterdam to New Delhi was cancelled and we had to go a day earlier. We decided to use this extra day in Delhi on 3 May. For this day we have created a separate report.

Itinerary

4 May We took the internal flight of 7:20 from Delhi to Guwahati with Air India Express IX783. We arrived on time at Guwahati 9:45. We quickly collected our bags and went to the exit. There we met Shashank, our guide for the coming 10 days and Sheeva, our driver. We quickly decided to skip the rubbish dump and went straight to **Sessni** in Arunachal Pradesh. We drove several hours through Assam. First birds were Bronze-winged Jacanas, Spotted Doves and Cattle Egrets. Near Sessni we drove to a spot where Blyth's Kingfisher sometimes turns up and we waited a few hours, in vain unfortunately, but we had success in seeing several flocks of Spot-winged Starling, a pair of Brown dippers and Slaty-backed Forktail. On arrival in **Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary** we encountered a herd of six Asian Elephants, but they left the road in peace. North of Sessni we started to look for one of our target birds, the Hodgsons Frogmouth. After an hour search and hearing several birds, we finally managed to see one bird at close range. We had dinner in **Sessni Camp** and finally went to sleep in our tent.

5 May We woke up at 4:00 and went immediately into the field. A Leopard Cat was walking along the road while it was still dark. First we went birding in the bamboo zone for birds specialized in bamboo at this height. We quickly found Large Blue Flycatcher, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Pale-billed and Grey-headed Parrotbill, Pale-headed Woodpecker, White-hooded Babbler, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch. At 7:45 it was time to have breakfast at **Khellong Camp**, but before we could take a piece of food, we heard the call of a Blue-naped Pitta beside the road. We positioned ourselves and luckily, we quickly found a male perched 1.5 meters above the ground! Another bird, most probably a female, responded the call of the male at the other side of the road. Other birds here were Rufous-fronted Babbler, Yellow-vented Warbler, Olive-backed Pipit, the newly split Grey-lored Broadbill, Grey-backed Shrike and calling Grey Peacock-Pheasants. Next we decided to go back to the Blyth's Kingfisher spot, but it did not show up, though a Ruddy Kingfisher was heard. The remains of the day we spent birding between **Khellong** and **Bompou Camp**, with best birds a Beautiful Nuthatch (heard-only), Kalij Pheasant (at least 10 along the road), Grey-bellied Tesia, Golden-throated and Great Barbet and Yellow-throated Fulvetta. We finally checked-in at **Bompou Camp**, where we had tent number 6 for the coming four nights. After dinner we went to sleep at around 20:00 hours.



- 6 May** We rose at 4:15 to be as quickly as possible before the large crowds would appear along the trails. Already in the dark we heard Lesser and Indian Cuckoo calling. We started at the spot of the Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler, just **below Bompou Camp** and we immediately found it, showing well at close range in the spotlight of Shashank. Also here was a Chestnut-breasted Partridge calling and a Lesser Shortwing. Then we turned back and started birding the rest of the day **north or above of Bompou Camp** along the road. First birds were Rusty-fronted Barwing, Maroon Oriole, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Ward's Trogon, Purple Cochoa, Sapphire Flycatcher, Whistler's Warbler, Broad-billed Warbler, Black-eared Shrike-babbler, Streak-throated Barwing, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Red-billed Leiothrix, Whiskered and Stripe-throated Yuhina, Himalayan Shortwing (seen!) and Yellow-cheeked Tit. At **Sunderview** we focused on finding the Blyth's Tragopan in an area with fallen trees cladded with moss. We tried to tape the bird in, but although we heard it coming closer, we could not get any views. A Ward's Trogon was inspecting us along with Streak-throated Barwing and a flock of White-throated Laughingthrushes. When walking back to the car, we learned that Sheeva had seen a male Blyth's Tragopan running across the road! We waited above a steep ravine for a while and suddenly a male Blyth's Tragopan showed itself twice on the bottom of the ravine. Our first live Tragopan! At the same side we saw a Crimson-naped Woodpecker. The remains of the afternoon we birded along the road and ended the day birding **below Bompou Camp** with the best bird being a beautiful Black-throated Parrotbill and finally we tried again to see Chestnut-breasted Partridge. Best bird during this last hour birding was a cooperative Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler. The partridges, however, did not come into view. After dinner at **Bompou Camp** we went to sleep early again.
- 7 May** This day turned out to become the worst day as it rained all morning. In the morning we only saw or heard a Chestnut-breasted Partridge (crossing the road just below **Bompou Camp**), Large Niltava, Brown-flanked Bush Warbler, White-gorgeted Flycatcher, Kalij Pheasant and some Rufous-necked Hornbills. In the afternoon it became drier, so we decided to concentrate us on finding the Beautiful Nuthatch along the road between **Bompou Camp** and **Khellong**. During the wait we saw Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler, White-naped Yuhina, Mountain Bulbul and a very cooperative Large Hawk-Cuckoo. Suddenly Sheeva found the Beautiful Nuthatch and for c two hours we could see one bird a few times, but I could not get satisfactory views, but Arjan saw it at least twice in his binoculars. The last hour we tried in vain to get Orange-breasted Partridge into view just below **Bompou Camp**. An Eurasian Hobby was falsely accused of being an Oriental Hobby, but the photographs proved it was an Eurasian. Again dinner at Bompou camp and early night.
- 8 May** In the early morning we started birding just above **Bompou Camp**. A Blue-winged Laughingthrush was only heard and a calling Blue-naped Pitta stayed hidden as well. We climbed towards **Eaglenest Pass** with several stops underway. First stop produced a good sighting of Black-headed Shrike babbler, a Sikkim Treecreeper, White-spectacled and Grey-cheeked Warbler and a passing needle-tailed swift turned to be a White-throated! Another stop at a rocky gully produced a close sighting of Bar-winged Wren-Babbler. When we finally reached Eaglenest Pass we saw our first Spotted Laughingthrushes. We waited for an hour or two for Temminck's Tragopan, but it did not turn up. The wait produced a White-tailed Nuthatch. We headed north again and at a turn we (well, Shashank and Arjan) saw a Yellow-rumped Honeyguide flying away from a bees nest. A kilometre lower at a vista point we waited in vain for Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker. Around the vista point we saw Green-tailed and our first Mrs Gould's Sunbirds, but suddenly we saw the Yellow-rumped Honeyguide perched in a dead tree! The rest of the afternoon was spent in the **Singchung Bugun Community Reserve**, near Lama Camp. After an hour search we found a pair of Bugun Liocichla's. The birds were good at hiding, but we managed to have complete views. When leaving the reserve we saw also three Purple Cochoa's. Finally we drove to **Tenga Village** with a Grey Nightjar before the car and where we had dinner and sleep in a nameless hotel where they had rooms with a lock on the outside!



- 9 May** In the morning we birded again in the **Singchung Bugun Community Reserve**. The Liocichla's were only heard and we focused on birds like Bhutan Laughingthrush, White-breasted Parrotbill, Black-faced Warbler, Whiskered Yuhina, Red-faced Liocichla (heard-only), Long-billed Wren-babbler (Arjan did catch a glimpse of this skulker), a good sighting of the Spotted Elathura, another pair of Purple Cocoa's, while Shashank heard a Blyth's Tragopan. Next we drove a few kilometres north for a stake-out of Black-throated Prinia, which we quickly found. Moreover, two pairs of Himalayan Cutia's gave a nice show. We had a lunch stop somewhere between **Lama Camp** and **Dirang** along the **NH 229** and from the restaurant we saw Grey-sided and Bhutan Laughingthrushes, Grey Bush Chat, Russet Sparrow, Dark-sided Flycatcher and Tickell's Leaf Warbler. Next on the program was a stake out for Black-tailed Crake along the **NH 13** east of **Dirang** and we quickly found one bird. Another interesting bird was a Tickell's Thrush, a false WP tick for us, as there is one record on Heligoland (Germany) in 1932. The last hours of daylight we spent at **Sangti** along a riverbed to look for Long-billed Plover. We found one bird after some searching and scanning between the boulders. We saw also several Brown Dippers, Citrine Wagtail, Siberian Stonechat, Plumbeous Water Redstart and the very beautiful *alboides* subspecies of White Wagtail (aka Hodgson's Wagtail). Night in **Dirang** in hotel **Samdup Kahn** (as far as I could remember), where we had a good dinner and a good night sleep.
- 10 May** We started to drive to the **Sela Pass** at 3:45 to be in the rhododendron zone before competing tour groups would arrive. On arrival at the stake-out of the Fire-tailed Myzornis we almost immediately found it, together with a male Dark-rumped Rosefinch. We continued our way upwards along several hairpin bends and these proved to be very rich of birds. Rosy Pipits, Fire-tailed Sunbirds, White-browed Rosefinches, Golden Bush Chats, Rufous-breasted Bush Robin, Golden-naped Finch, Himalayan Monal and Plain-backed Mountain Finch. We arrived at 6:45 at the snow covered **Sela Pass**. There we had breakfast in some building where the glass was scattered all over the floor. Snow Partridges kept us company as was a nest building pair of Tibetan Blackbirds. We birded a few hours along a track behind the pass. Thin air made my heart beat rise to unwanted levels, so I decided to take a short rest on a boulder, while Arjan and Shashank continued birding. They were lucky to find a pair of Blood Pheasants, the only ones of the holiday. While I sat on the boulder, I was nearly decapitated by two Himalayan Monals flying from the top of the nearby mountain into lower elevations! Back at the pass we quickly found Snow Pigeons, a passing Bearded Vulture and the very bluer-than-blue Grandalas! Birded rest of the morning around Sela pass. At noon we birded the bog area **west of the Sela Pass** for Gould's Shortwing and other typical high elevation species. Highlights here were a beautiful White-browed Tit-Warbler, several White-collared Blackbirds and probably the best bird, a group of four Red-fronted Rosefinches. Also of interest here were several migrating Greenish Warblers. At 13:00 hours we decided to drive in the direction of Tawang on the other side of the watershed. Slowly bird life changed again with most obvious the Brown-throated Fulvettas and Rufous Sibia. When we reached **Tawang** we checked-in at the **Tawang Kes-kar Homestay**. There we had dinner and enjoyed the electric blankets and an excellent shower.
- 11 May** We rose very early to reach the right elevation before sunrise **west of Tawang**, close to the border of Bhutan and China. To our great surprise two female Satyr Tragopans flew over the car and we decided to stop at this beautiful pine forest site to have breakfast. During breakfast we saw Speckled Wood Pigeon, Dark-breasted Rosefinch, Grey-sided Bush Warbler, White-collared Blackbirds and Blanford's Rosefinch. A male Satyr Tragopan started calling, but we could not get him into view. We continued birding along the road and at around 8 hours, we played the call of Satyr Tragopan and a male was calling back. Suddenly Arjan found the male, sitting frozen in a gully c 30 meters from the road and after several versions of its whereabouts, I could get him into view! Other good birds here were Himalayan Blue Robin, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, White-winged Grosbeak, Grey-crested Tit and Rufous-breasted Bush Robin. Sheeva saw another female Satyr Tragopan crossing the road, but we were too late. We enjoyed close view of a group of Southern Nutcrackers and continued driving



upwards resulting in a Solitary Snipe along the road, followed by Rufous-vented Tit and Himalayan Buzzard. We repeatedly played the high-pitched song of Gould's Shortwing, but no luck. Best bird during this search was a singing Himalayan Thrush which gave good views. Because Sheeva started having nosebleeds, we decided to descend again and to bird the remains of the day along the road. A female Himalayan Monal crossed the road, unfortunately not the arunachalensis white-tailed subspecies of Sclater's Monal, which is sometimes seen here. Other good birds along the road were Brown-throated Fulvetta, Bar-throated Minla, Stripe-throated Yuhina, Slaty-blue Flycatcher, Crimson-browed Finch, Red-headed Bullfinch, Dark-breasted Rosefinch, Himalayan Bush Warbler and a heard-only of another Satyr Tragopan. Just before we were back again in Tawang, we had good views of Rufous-vented Yuhina, Spotted Laughingthrush and Rufous-fronted Bush Tit. Again we had dinner in the **Tawang Kes-kar Homestay** in **Tawang** and went to bed early as usual.

12 May It was still dark when we left the hotel in **Tawang** and drove towards **Sela Pass** again. The west side of the pass was in full sunlight, but the other side was hidden in a thick mist. Two Blyth's Swift passed us as did a group of eight Snow Pigeons. We walked to rocky path behind the lake for a final try for the Gould's Shortwing. Now we had success and after hearing his high-pitched song, Arjan quickly found a bird perched on a big boulder. Without doubt one of the best birds of the holiday! Also here were big cat pawns in the snow, which only could be of a Snow Leopard. Unfortunately the fog became too thick, so we decided to go back and search for Blood Pheasants along the road. We slowly descended with several stops underway. We had again good views of another Fire-tailed Myzornis. Next, we drove back to **Dirang** and started birding along the road between **Dirang** and **Mandala**. First we started behind below **Mandala Camp** in secondary habitat where we had Buff-throated Warbler (the only place in India where it occurs), Red Crossbill, Lemon-rumped Warbler, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler and after patient waiting and scanning a Brown Bush Warbler. Finally, we birded the forest along the **Mandala Ridge** till sunset, where best birds were Beautiful Sibia, Brown Parrotbill, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush and several Bhutan Laughingthrushes. We made several stops and tried for Temminck's Tragopan, but no luck (three species of tragopan in one holiday would be too much to ask for). Dinner and night in **Dirang** in the same Hotel **Samdup Kahn** (or at least I thought it was).

13 May We rose very early again for our last day of birding. Again we tried the first hours of daylight trying to see Temminck's Tragopan along the **Mandala Ridge**, but again it did not show up. A Hill Partridge was heard, but it showed itself shortly to Arjan only. After breakfast we drove south for our long drive to **Guwahati**. The drive to the lowlands of Assam was full of curves and hairpins and only a few birds were seen, like Common Rosefinch, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater and Russet Bush Warbler. Around 14:00 hours we reached the **city dump** of **Guwahati** where Greater Adjutant was impossible to miss. Finally we went to the **Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary**, a wetland near **Guwahati** to add some easy birds to the holiday list like Lesser Whistling Duck (Lesser, not Fulvous!), Great, Medium and Little Egrets, Purple Heron, Striated Grassbird, Whiskered Tern and Grey-headed Swamphen. Then it was time to say goodbye to Shashank and Sheeva. We checked in for the Air Asia I5788 flight to **New Delhi** at 18:50 hours. The plane departed on time and we arrived in **New Delhi** at around 22:00 hours. There we bought a ticket for the business lounge (c € 30 each) where we had a free meal and drinks and a comfortable seat, though we could not have a sleep unfortunately.

14 May Our flight KL 872 from **New Delhi–Amsterdam** departed on time at 03:55 hours. Flight was nice and quiet. We arrived on time at around before 10:00 am, quickly collected our suitcases without delay and finally we both took our respective trains to **Culemborg** and **Alkmaar**. I arrived at 11:00 hours in **Alkmaar Station** and was home 10 minutes later.



Species Accounts

Order and nomenclature follows www.worldbirdnames.org, version 14.2. Compared to the field guide we were often confused by the naming of several parrotbills or fulvettas.

Recommended Literature

As a field guide we used the *Birds of Bhutan and the Eastern Himalayas* by Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp, Tim Inskipp and Sherub (2019, ISBN 9781472941886) which proved to be very useful.

Trip Reports and Site Information

Several trip reports can be found at www.cloudbirders.com. We were lucky Shashank had already guided a tour for Birdtour Asia a few days before our tour, so we were able to use this information to our greatest advantage. At Tawang we did some pioneering, resulting in the sighting of Satyr Tragopans.

Acknowledgements

We would like to Shashank (our guide) and Sheeva (our driver), Lobsang and his wife for logistics and meals in the field, James Eaton for advice on the itinerary, Sander Lagerveld for locations, Jelle Scharringa for several good quality sounds and last but not least again our dear [Wags](#) for taking care of the Homefront!

[Arjan Brenkman](#), Culemborg June-November 2024,

[Jan van der Laan](#), Alkmaar June-November 2024.



Himalayan mountains (suggestions welcome), seen from the plane between New Delhi to Guwahati; 4 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Birding in the bamboo zone (where we saw Large Blue Flycatcher), Eaglenest; 5 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Bamboo zone at Khellong with on the right photo the place where we saw Blue-naped Pitta; Eaglenest; 5 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Breakfast at Khellong Camp, Eaglenest, just after seeing the Blue-naped Pitta; 5 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Bompou Camp, Eaglenest, 6 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Cloud forest where we saw Beautiful Nuthatch, below Bompou camp, Eaglenest, 6 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Below Bompou camp, Eaglenest, 6 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Shashank and Arjan waiting for Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler to appear; 6 May 2024, Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS; © Jan van der Laan.



Let: Eaglenest Pass, with 2780 m asl the highest point along the Eaglenest road; 8 May 2024, Eaglenest WLS; © Jan van der Laan; right: Shashank looking for a Long-billed Wren-Babbler or Spotted Elathura; 8 May 2024, Eaglenest WLS; © Arjan Brenkman.



Entrance of the Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp, 8 May 2024, where the Bugun Liocichla lives; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: view from the road between Dirang and Sela Pass; right: Sela Pass; 10 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Shashank and Arjan photographing Snow Partridges at Sela Pass; 10 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan. Right: Jan at Sela Pass, taking a break, just after an unexpected attack by two male Himalayan Monals; 10 May; © Arkan Brenkman.



West of Sela Pass in search of Solitary Snipe and Gould's Shortwing; 10 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Location of Red-fronted Rosefinch, White-browed Tit-warbler and Greenish Warblers; Sela Pass, 10 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Breakfast at the first location for Satyr Tragopan and Blanford's Rosefinch; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Place where we saw the male Satyr Tragopan, just left from the blue garbage; 12 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Panoramic view of pine trees west of Tawang; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



In this kind of habitat we looked in vain for Gould's Shortwing; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Sela Lake, west of the Sela Pass. Grandalas were seen on the slope on the right; 12 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Sela Pass in the mist; 12 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Mandala Camp; Buff-throated Warbler was found in the secondary habitat in the foreground; 12 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



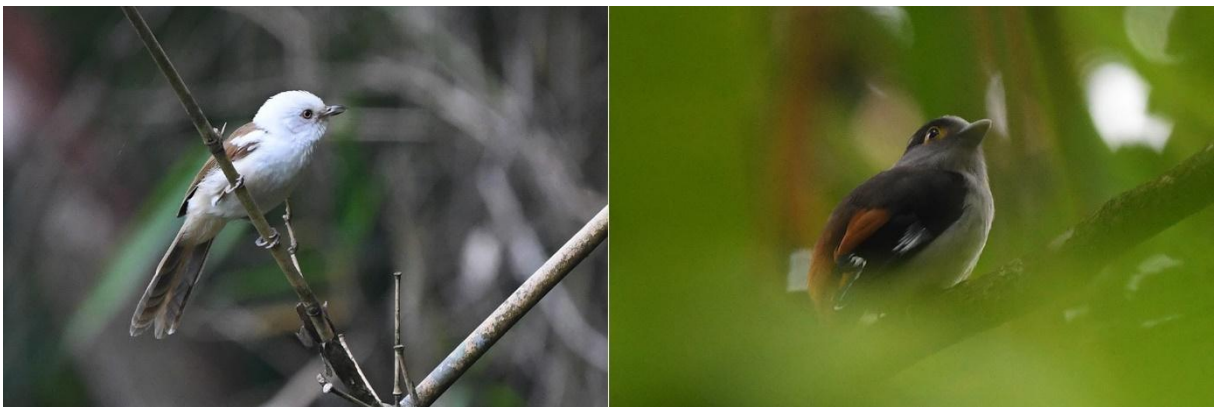
The faithful car that brought us from Guwahati to Tawang and back; 12 May 2024, Mandala Ridge; here was also one of the locations where we tried to find Temminck's Tragopan; © Jan van der Laan.



Hodgson's Frogmouth; 4 May 2024, Sessni Camp, Eaglenest; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Large Blue Flycatcher; right: Pale-billed Parrotbill; both on 5 May 2024 between Khellong and Sessni, Eaglenest; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: White-hooded Babbler; right: Grey-lored Broadbill; both on 5 May 2024 between Khellong and Sessni, Eaglenest; © Jan van der Laan.



Rufous-necked Hornbills, male (left) and female (right); both on 5 May 2024, between Khellong and Sessni, Eaglenest; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Yellow-throated Fulvetta; right: male Kalij Pheasant through the window pane of the car; both on 5 May 2024, between Khellong and Sessni, Eaglenest; © Arjan Brenkman (left), © Jan van der Laan (right).



Left: Rusty-fronted Barwing; right: Red-billed Leiothrix; both on 6 May 2024, Sunderview, Eaglenest; © Jan van der Laan.



Ward's Trogon, hidden in the lichens; 6 May 2024, near Sunderview, Eaglenest; © Jan van der Laan (left) & © Arjan Brenkman (right).



Left: Red-tailed Minla; right: Black-faced Warbler; 6 May 2024, between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest; © Jan van der Laan.



Hoary-throated or Streak-throated Barwing? On some photos, the throat looks off-white and contrasts with the greyer underparts, but the bird is very wet. Suggestions are welcome; 6 May 2024, below Bompou Camp, Eaglenest; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Large Hawk-cuckoo; right: Eurasian Hobby (not an Oriental hobby, note the white flank feathers); both on 7 May 2024 below Bompou Camp, Eaglenest; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Grey-cheeked Warbler; 8 May 2024, just above Bompou Camp; right: White-throated Needletail; 8 May 2024, between Bompou Camp and Eaglenest Pass; © Arjan Brenkman.



Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, seen from far away; 8 May 2024, c 2.5 km north of Eaglenest Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Right: Himalayan Cuckoo; 8 May, c 2.5 km north of Eaglenest Pass; right: Lesser Cuckoo; 8 May 2024, Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Green-backed Tit; right: Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler; both on 8 May 2024 in the Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp; © Jan van der Laan.



White-breasted Parrotbill; 9 May 2024, Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp; © Jan van der Laan.



Spotted Elachura; 9 May 2024, Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp; © Arjan Brenkman.



Left: Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon; right: Purple Cochoa (male and female); 9 May 2024, Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp; © Jan van der Laan.



Himalayan Cutia, with on left photo alloprening birds; 9 May 2024, Lama Camp; © Jan van der Laan.



Bhutan Laughingthrush; 9 May 2024, seen from a restaurant during lunch between Bomdila and Dirang; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Tickell's Thrush; right: Black-tailed Crake; both on 9 May 2024, along the NH229 between Bomdila and Dirang; © Arjan Brenkman (left) and © Jan van der Laan (right).



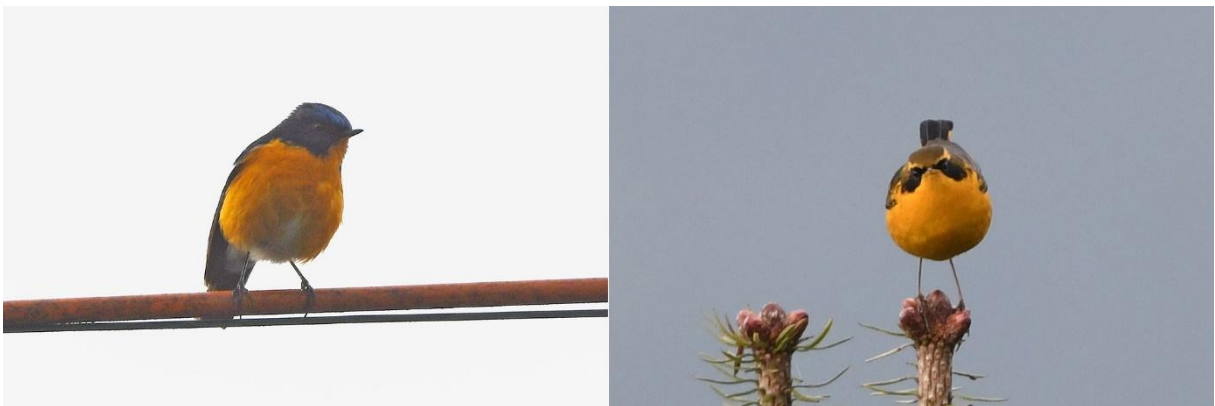
Long-billed Plover; 9 May 2024 in the Sangti River north of Dirang; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Hodgson's Wagtail; right: Long-tailed Shrike; 9 May 2024, Sangti River north of Dirang; © Jan van der Laan.



The beautiful Fire-tailed Myzornis; 10 May 2024, 11 km before (i.e. south) the Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Rufous-breasted Bush Robin; right: Golden Bush Robin; 10 May 2024, before Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Fire-tailed Sunbird; right: Golden naped Finch; 10 May 2024, before Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Himalayan Monal; right: Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch; 10 May 2024, in the misty zone before Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Snow Partridges; 10 may 2024, Sela Pass at 4160 m asl; © Jan van der Laan.



A pair of Tibetan Blackbirds; 10 may 2024, Sela Pass at 4160 m asl; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Wood Sandpiper on migration; right: Snow Pigeon; both on 10 May 2024 at the Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Alpine Thrush in typical rocky habitat; right: Blood Pheasant; both on 10 May 2024 at the Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan (left) and © Arjan Brenkman (right).



White-browed Tit-warbler (one of the most beautiful passerines of Asia); 10 May 2024, Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Greenish Warbler on migration; right: Red-fronted Rosefinch; 10 May 2024, Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Grandalas, with left the male and right the female; 10 May 2024, Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Grey-backed Shrike; right: Ruddy Shelduck; 10 May 2024, west side of the Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male White-capped Redstart; right: Nepal House Martin (note dark throat); 10 May 2024 west side of the Sela Pass on our way to Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



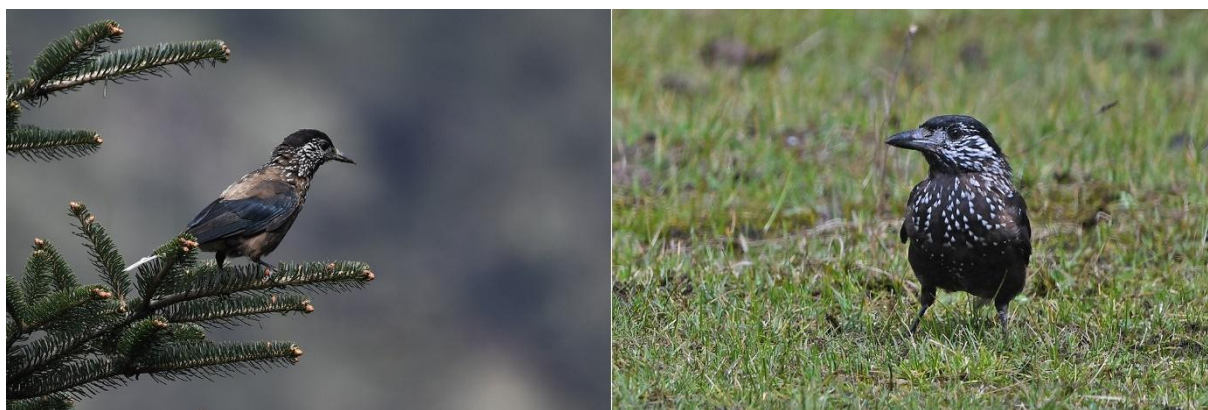
Left: female Blanford's Rosefinch; right: Grey-sided Bush Warbler; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: female White-collared Blackbird; right: Grey-crested Tit; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



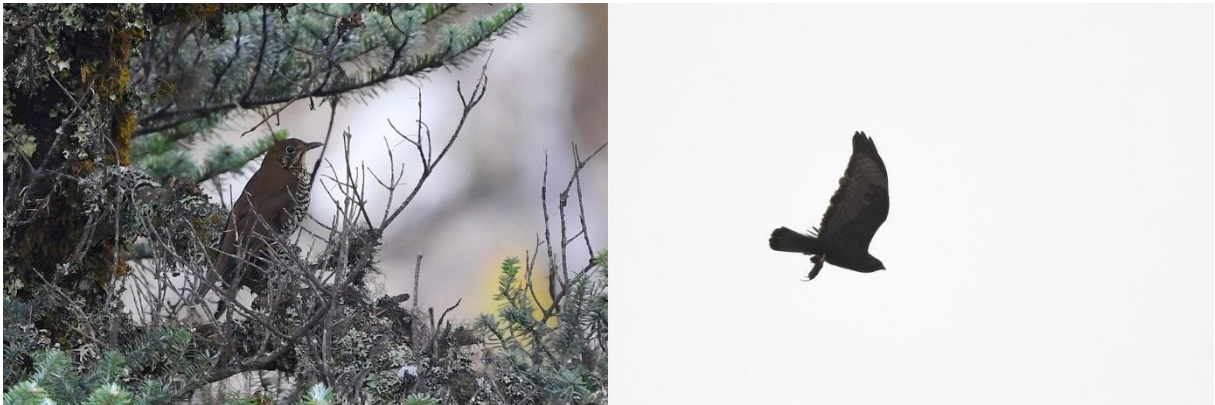
Male Satyr Tragopan sitting in a bush completely frozen for c 15 minutes; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Arjan Brenkman. If you are confused, the bird is looking to the right!



The newly split Southern Nutcracker; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male Blue-fronted Redstart; right: Solitary Snipe; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan (left) & © Arjan Brenkman (right).



Left: Himalayan Thrush in pine tree habitat; right: Himalayan Buzzard (with some vole); 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher; right: Rufous-vented Tit (Coal Tit as a white wingbar); 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



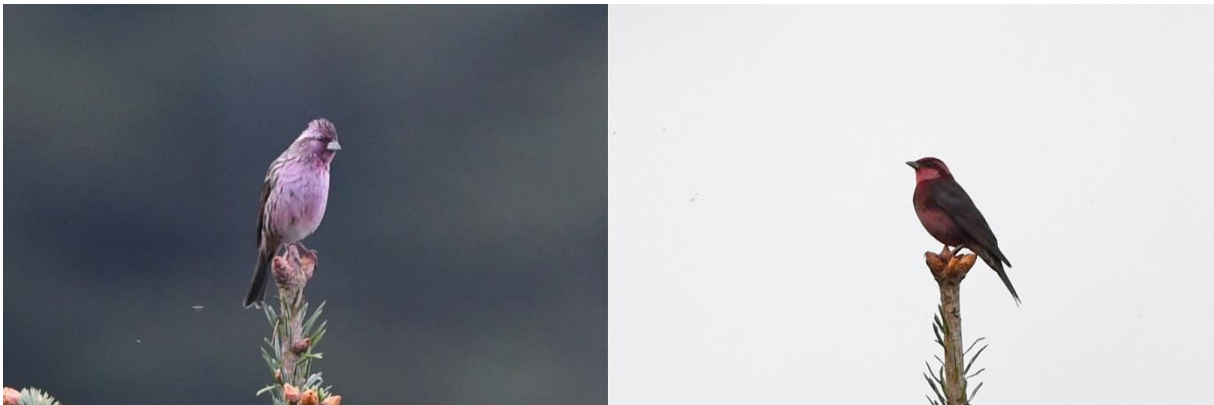
Left: Buff-barred Warbler; right: Brown-throated or Ludlow's Fulvetta; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Bar-throated Minla; right: Stripe-throated Yuhina; ; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: female Crimson-browed Finch; right: also a female White-winged Grosbeak; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch; right: male Dark-breasted Rosefinch; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



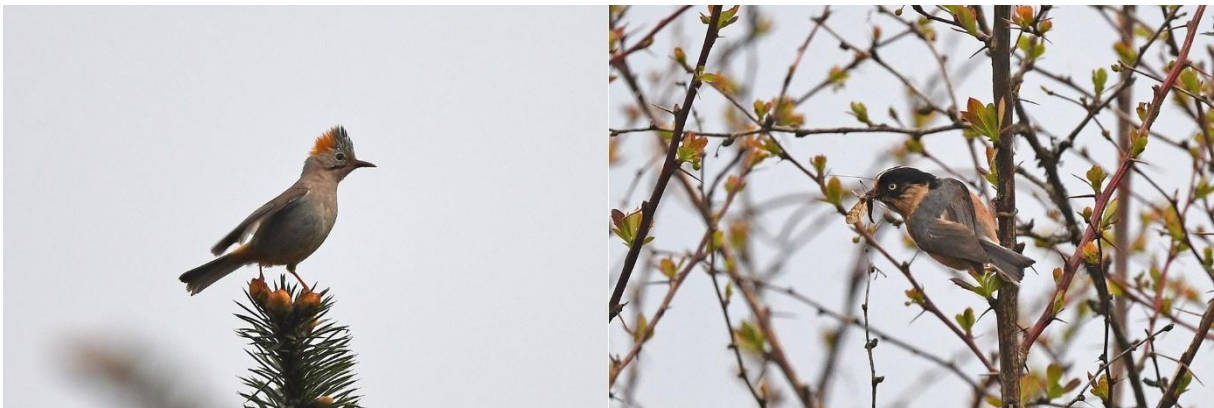
Left: a group Red-headed Bullfinches; right: Rufous-breasted Accentor; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male Short-billed Minivet; right: female Short-billed Minivet; both on 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Arjan Brenkman (left) and Jan van der Laan (right).



Left: Black-faced Laughingthrush; right: Spotted Laughingthrush; 11 May 2011, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan (left) and © Arjan Brenkman (right).



Left: Rufous-vented Yuhina; right: Rufous-fronted Bush Tit; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



Finally we nailed him! Gould's Shortwing sitting on a favourite boulder; 12 May 2024, Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Rosy Pipit taking a bath; 12 May 2024, Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



Fire-tailed Myzornis on our way down to Dirang; 12 May 2024, c 7 km south of the Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



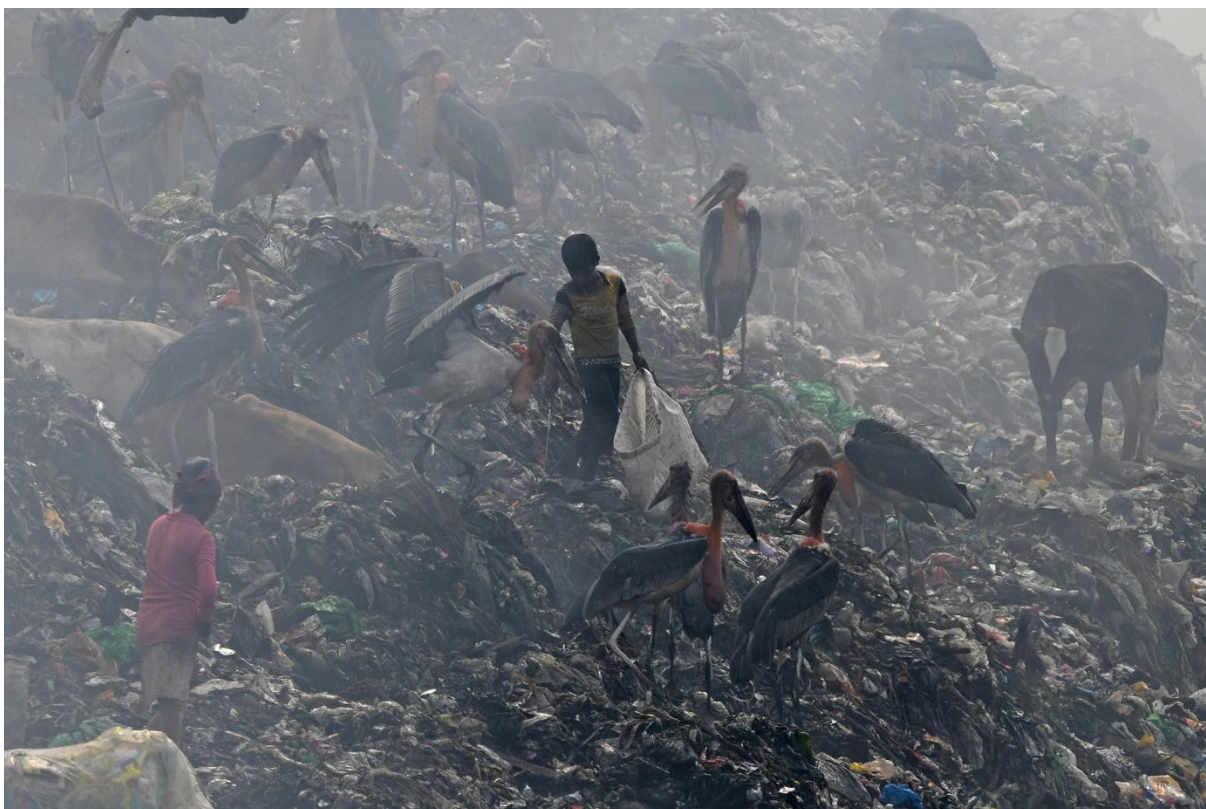
Buff-throated Warbler, in India this is a very local breeding bird; 12 May 2024, Mandala Camp; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Brown Parrotbill; right: Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler; both on 12 May 2024, along the Mandala Ridge; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush; 12 May 2024; right: Green-tailed Sunbird; 13 May 2024; along the Mandala Ridge; © Jan van der Laan.



Greater Adjutants; 13 May 2024, Guwahati City Dump, Guwahati; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Medium Egret; right: Lesser Whistling Duck; 13 May 2024, Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.

**001. Lesser Whistling Duck** - *Dendrocygna javanica*

13-05 c 10 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.

002. Ruddy Shelduck - *Phasianus colchicus formosanus*

10-05 1 Sela Pass.

11-05 1 west of Tawang.

003. Hill Partridge - *Arborophila torqueola*

Heard daily at Eaglenest WLS. A calling bird was seen by Arjan on our last morning at the Mandala Ridge.

004. Chestnut-breasted Partridge - *Arborophila mandellii*

06-05 2 (heard only) Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

07-05 3 (one seen crossing the road, two heard only) Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

09-05 1 (heard only) Bugun Liocichla Reserve, Eaglenest WLS.

005. Rufous-throated Partridge - *Arborophila rufogularis*

05-05 c 5 (three groups heard only) below Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.

006. Snow Partridge - *Lerwa lerwa*

10-05 3 behind the ruined tea house, Sela Pass.

5 along the Gould's Shortwing trail, Sela Pass.

007. Blood Pheasant - *Ithaginis cruentus*

10-05 2 (pair) along the Gould's Shortwing trail, Sela Pass (not seen by Jan).

008. SATYR TRAGOPAN - *Tragopan satyra*

On 11 May we had no less than six encounters near Tawang during the day: two females in flight around 3500 m with a calling male nearby; a superb male seen well a few bends higher up; a female here as well seen by our driver only and one bird calling in late afternoon at around 3200 m.

009. Blyth's Tragopan - *Tragopan blythii molesworthi*

06-05 2 (males) Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.

09-05 1 (heard only by Shashank) Bugun Liocichla Reserve, Eaglenest WLS.

On 6 May one bird was a heard-only and the other bird, a beautiful male, was first seen by our driver Sheeva crossing the road, but finally we got it into view on the bottom of a ravine along the road.

010. Himalayan Monal - *Lophophorus impejanus*

10-05 1 male c 2 km before Sela Pass.

4 (2 males seen, almost touching Jan's head, 2 heard only) Sela Pass.

12-05 1 (female crossing the road) forest area west of Tawang.

011. Kalij Pheasant - *Lophura leucomelanos lathami*

05-05 12 during our drive between Sessni and Bompou Camps, Eaglenest WLS.

06-05 6 between Sessni and Bompou Camps, Eaglenest WLS.

07-05 1 above Bompou Camps, Eaglenest WLS

12-05 1 (female) between Tawang and Sela Pass.

012. Grey Peacock-Pheasant - *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*

Between 5 and 7 May 2-3 heard daily along the road between Sessni and Bompou Camps, Eaglenest WLS.

013. **Grey Nightjar** - *Caprimulgus jotaka hazarae*

05-05 1 Sessni Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
 09-05 1 Singchung, near Lama Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

014. **Large-tailed Nightjar** - *Caprimulgus macrurus*

05-05 c 10 (one seen) around Sessni Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

015. **Hodgson's Frogmouth** - *Batrachostomus hodgsoni hodgsoni*

04-05 6 ([one seen](#), others heard-only) above Sessni Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

016. **White-throated Needletail** - *Hirundapus caudacutus nudipes*

07-05 1 [above Khellong camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.

The photographs taken by Arjan revealed a very clear contrasting white throat patch.

017. **Blyth's Swift** - *Apus leuconyx*

12-05 2 [at the big lake at Sela Pass](#).

018. **Greater Coucal** - *Centropus sinensis intermedius*

05-05 2-3 (heard-only) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.

019. **Green-billed Malkoha** - *Phaenicophaeus tristis tristis*

04-05 1 between Khellong and Sessni Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

020. **Asian Koel** - *Eudynamys scolopaceus malayanus*

Somewhere, sometime we heard one, but cannot remember where. Must have been in Assam.

021. **Banded Bay Cuckoo** - *Cacomantis sonneratii sonneratii*

05-05 1 (heard-only) [Khellong](#), Eaglenest WLS.

022. **Plaintive Cuckoo** - *Cacomantis merulinus querulous*

05-05 1 between Khellong and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

09-05 1 ([seen on a wire](#)) along the IB road east of Dirang.

023. **Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo** - *Surniculus lugubris*

05-05 1 (heard-only) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.

09-05 1 (heard-only) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.

024. **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** - *Hierococcyx sparveroides*

Common but heard-only in Eaglenest WLS. On 7 May we could observe [a bird drying](#) after the heavy rains.

025. **Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo** - *Hierococcyx nisicolor*

05-05 1 (heard-only) between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

13-05 1 (heard-only) [between Dirang and the border of Aranuchal and Assam](#).

026. **Indian Cuckoo** - *Cuculus micropterus micropterus*

Heard daily at Eaglenest WLS between 4 and 8 May, even calling ('*cross-word puzzle!*') throughout the night.



027. **Lesser Cuckoo** - *Cuculus poliocephalus*

From Bompou Camp and higher up, seen and heard daily (and nightly). A summer visitor that had only just arrived. At Bompou Camp displaying throughout the night, together with Indian Cuckoo. [One bird seen](#) in the Singchung Bugun Community Reserve on 8 May was clearly looking for passerine nests to lay her egg.

028. **Himalayan Cuckoo** - *Cuculus saturatus*

05-05	2-3	between Khellong and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
06-05	3	between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
08-05	4	(two seen, other heard-only) Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
09-05	2	Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
12-05	2	Mandala Ridge.

029. **Common Cuckoo** - *Cuculus canorus bakeri*

08-05	c 5	between Eaglenest Pass and the Singchung Bugun Community Reserve.
09-05	2-3	Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
12-05	1	Sela Pass.
13-05	1	Mandala Ridge.

030. **Snow Pigeon** - *Columba leuconota gradaria*

10-05	7	(in three groups, one bird photographed) Sela Pass.
12-05	8	(in one group) Sela Pass.

031. **Speckled Wood Pigeon** - *Columba hodgsonii*

11-05	8	(including a flock of four birds) west of Tawang.
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032. **Oriental Turtle Dove** - *Streptopelia orientalis agricola*

Between 10 and 12 May seen daily (max 5 birds a day) between Sela Pass and Tawang.

033. **Spotted Dove** - *Spilopelia chinensis suratensis*

04-05	c 10	between Guwahati and the border between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
12-05	1	Mandala Ridge.
13-05	c 5	between the border between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and Guwahati.

034. **Barred Cuckoo-Dove** - *Macropygia unchall tusalia*

Heard daily in the Eaglenest WLS between 4 May and 8 May 2024. One was seen feeding in the middle of the track at Bompou camp on 7 May 2024.

035. **Common Emerald Dove** – *Chalcophaps indica indica*

Heard daily and seen twice in the Eaglenest WLS between 4 and 8 May 2024.

036. **Pin-tailed Green Pigeon** - *Treron apicauda*

05-05	2	between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
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037. **Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon** - *Treron sphenurus sphenurus*

08-04	1	(heard-only) just above Bompou Camp , Eaglenest WLS.
09-05	3	(one photographed) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.



038. **Green Imperial Pigeon** - *Ducula aenea sylvatica*
13-05 1 (seen) at the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border.
039. **Mountain Imperial Pigeon** - *Ducula badia insignis*
06-05 1 (heard-only) Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
040. **Grey-headed Swampphen** - *Porphyrio poliocephalus poliocephalus*
13-05 2 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
041. **Black-tailed Crane** - *Zapornia bicolor*
09-05 1 [along the NH229](#) between Bomdila and Dirang.
042. **White-breasted Waterhen** - *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*
On 4 May and 13 May 2024 we observed several birds from the car in the Assamese lowlands.
043. **Little Grebe** - *Tachybaptus ruficollis albescens*
13-05 c 5 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
044. **Red-wattled Lapwing** - *Vanellus indicus atronuchalis*
09-05 3 [in the river bed near Sangti](#), northeast of Diwang.
045. **Long-billed Plover** - *Charadrius placidus*
09-05 1 [in the river bed near Sangti](#), northeast of Diwang.
046. **Bronze-winged Jacana** - *Metopidius indicus*
04-05 4 [along the road](#) between Guwahati and the border with Arunachal Pradesh.
047. **Solitary Snipe** - *Gallinago solitaria*
11-02 1 along the road west of Tawang.
048. **Common Sandpiper** - *Actitis hypoleucos*
09-05 5 [in a river bed near Sangti](#), northeast of Diwang.
049. **Wood Sandpiper** - *Tringa glareola*
10-05 1 (resting migrating bird) [Sela Pass](#).
050. **Whiskered Tern** - *Chlidonias hybrida hybrida*
13-05 c 10 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
051. **Asian Openbill** - *Anastomus oscitans*
On 4 May and 13 May 2024 we observed c 5 birds from the car in the Assamese lowlands.
052. **Greater Adjutant** - *Leptoptilos dubius*
13-05 c 100 [rubbish dump](#) of Guwahati.
The world population has been estimated by [Birdlife International](#) to be 1360-1510 individuals.



053. **Little Cormorant** - *Microcarbo niger*
Regularly noted as a roadside bird in Assam on 4 May and 13 May 2024.
054. **Black-headed Ibis** - *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
13-05 1 On our way back to Guwahati in the Assam lowlands.
055. **Glossy Ibis** - *Plegadis falcinellus*
13-05 1 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
056. **Indian Pond Heron** - *Ardeola grayii*
13-05 1 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
057. **Eastern Cattle Egret** - *Bubulcus coromandus*
Regularly noted as a roadside bird in Assam on 4 May and 13 May 2024.
058. **Purple Heron** - *Ardea purpurea manilensis*
13-05 1 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
059. **Medium Egret** - *Ardea intermedia*
13-05 1 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
060. **Little Egret** - *Egretta garzetta garzetta*
13-05 c 5 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
061. **Bearded Vulture** - *Gypaetus barbatus barbatus*
10-05 1 (adult) Sela Pass.
062. **Crested Honey Buzzard** - *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
09-05 1 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
11-05 1 west of Tawang.
063. **Himalayan Vulture** - *Gyps himalayensis*
04-05 7 (seen from the plane by Arjan) during the landing in Guwahati Airport.
064. **Crested Serpent Eagle** - *Spilornis cheela cheela*
05-05 1 at the bamboo zone, Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
065. **Black Eagle** - *Ictinaetus malayensis perniger*
06-05 1 between Bompu Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
066. **Besra** - *Accipiter virgatus*
12-05 1 Mandala Ridge.
067. **Black Kite** - *Milvus migrans*
13-05 c 10 rubbish dump of Guwahati.



068. **Himalayan Buzzard** - *Buteo reffectus*
11-05 1 west of Tawang at c 4000 m above sea level.
069. **Collared Owlet** - *Taenioptynx brodiei brodiei*
05-05 1 (heard-only) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
070. **Red-headed Trogon** - *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
04-05 1 [Sessni Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
071. **Ward's Trogon** - *Harpactes wardi*
06-05 1 (male) [north \(or above\) Bompou Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
1 (male) [Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
072. **Eurasian Hoopoe** - *Upupa epops*
09-05 1 along the river bed near Sangti, northeast of Diwang.
073. **Rufous-necked Hornbill** - *Aceros nipalensis*
05-05 4 (at least two pairs, [one pair photographed](#)) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05 3 between Bompou Camp and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
08-05 1 just below Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
074. **Indochinese Roller** - *Coracias affinis*
13-05 1 along the road in Assam.
075. **Ruddy Kingfisher** - *Halcyon coromanda*
05-05 1 (heard-only) north of Sessni, Eaglenest WLS.
076. **White-throated Kingfisher** - *Halcyon smyrnensis perpulchra*
Regularly noted as a roadside bird in Assam on 4 May and 13 May 2024.
077. **Common Kingfisher** - *Alcedo atthis bengalensis*
09-05 1 Sangti.
13-05 1 along the road in Assam.
078. **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** - *Merops leschenaulti leschenaultia*
05-05 1 Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
13-05 2 [near the border](#) of Assam-Aranuchal Pradesh and Bhutan.
079. **Great Barbet** - *Psilopogon virens magnificus*
Heard daily in the Eaglenest WLS between 5 and 8 May 2024. [At least two were seen on 5 May 2024.](#)
080. **Golden-throated Barbet** - *Psilopogon franklinii franklinii*
Heard daily in the Eaglenest WLS from 5 till 8 May 2024. Several were seen, [for example on 5 May 2024.](#)
081. **Blue-throated Barbet** - *Psilopogon asiaticus asiaticus*
05-05 c 10 (two seen) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.



082. **Yellow-rumped Honeyguide** - *Indicator xanthonotus xanthonotus*
On 8 May 2024 on bird took off just while we arrived at a Giant Bee's nest c 2.5 km from the Eaglenest pass.
To our great surprise and joy we found a female (the same bird?) about [700m further down](#) which stayed around for over 15 min perched on a dead tree!
083. **Crimson-naped Woodpecker** - *Dryobates cathpharius cathpharius*
06-05 1 [Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
08-05 1 (heard-only) Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
084. **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** - *Dendrocopos hyperythrus hyperythrus*
09-05 1 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
085. **Darjeeling Woodpecker** - *Dendrocopos darjellensis darjellensis*
08-05 1 (heard-only) Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
11=-5 1 (flew over our heads) west of Tawang.
086. **Grey-headed Woodpecker** - *Picus canus hessei*
05-05 1 in the bamboo zone, Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
087. **Black-rumped Flameback** - *Dinopium benghalense benghalense*
13-05 1 (Arjan only) along the road in Assam.
088. **Pale-headed Woodpecker** - *Gecinulus grantia grantia*
05-05 2 (seen and heard drumming) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
089. **Bay Woodpecker** - *Blythipicus pyrrhotis pyrrhotis*
05-05 1-2 (heard-only) between Khellong and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05 2 (heard-only) between Khellong and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
090. **Rufous Woodpecker** - *Micropternus brachyurus phaiiceps*
05-05 1 between Sessni and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
091. **Eurasian Hobby** - *Falco subbuteo*
07-05 1 perched in a tree top [below Bompou Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
First mistaken for an Oriental Hobby, but the photographs revealed that it was an Eurasian Hobby. Alas!
092. **Rose-ringed Parakeet** - *Psittacula krameri borealis*
13-05 3 near the border of Assam-Aranuchal Pradesh and Bhutan.
093. **Long-tailed Broadbill** - *Psarisomus dalhousia dalhousia*
05-05 1 between Sessni and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05 1 between Khellong and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
094. **Grey-lored Broadbill** - *Serilophus rubropygius*
05-05 3 (one seen, two heard) [Khellong](#), Eaglenest WLS.



095. **BLUE-NAPED PITTA** - *Hydrornis nipalensis nipalensis*
 05-05 2 (male seen, female heard only) [Khellong](#), Eaglenest WLS.
 08-05 1 (heard only) [Bompu Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
096. **Ashy Woodswallow** - *Artamus fuscus*
 13-05 1 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
097. **Grey-chinned Minivet** - *Pericrocotus solaris solaris*
 05-05 1 between Sessni and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
098. **Short-billed Minivet** - *Pericrocotus brevirostris brevirostris*
 11-05 4 ([photographed](#)) west of Tawang.
099. **Indian Cuckooshrike** - *Coracina macei nipalensis*
 05-05 1 north of Sessni. Previously included in Large Cuckooshrike *C. macei*.
100. **Black-winged Cuckooshrike** - *Lalage melaschistos melaschistos*
 08-05 2-3 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp. Also on 09-05.
101. **Green Shrike-babbler** - *Pteruthius xanthochlorus xanthochlorus*
 08-05 1 (well seen) Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
 1 (seen) between Sunderview and Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
 1 (heard-only) Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
102. **Black-eared Shrike-babbler** - *Pteruthius melanotis melanotis*
 06-05 1 [between Bompu Camp and Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
103. **Black-headed Shrike-babbler** - *Pteruthius rufiventer rufiventer*
 06-05 2 (heard-only) between Khellong and Bompu Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
 08-05 1 ([well seen](#)) just above Bompu Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
104. **White-browed Shrike-babbler** - *Pteruthius aeralatus validirostris*
 09-05 1 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
105. **White-bellied Erpornis** - *Erpornis zantholeuca zantholeuca*
 05-05 2 near Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
 07-05 3 between Sessni and Bompu Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
106. **Maroon Oriole** - *Oriolus traillii traillii*
 Fairly common between Khellong and Bompu Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
107. **Bronzed Drongo** - *Dicrurus aeneus aeneus*
 05-05 c 5 between Sessni and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS; also on 07-05,
108. **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** - *Dicrurus remifer tectirostris*
 05-05 1 near Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.



109. **Crow-billed Drongo** - *Dicrurus annectens*
05-05 1 in the bamboo zone, Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
110. **Hair-crested Drongo** - *Dicrurus hottentottus*
05-05 1 between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
111. **Ashy Drongo** - *Dicrurus leucophaeus hopwoodi*
05-05 2-3 between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05 2-3 between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
112. **Black Drongo** - *Dicrurus macrocercus albirictus*
13-05 3 along the road in Assam.
113. **White-throated Fantail** - *Rhipidura albicollis stanleyi*
08-05 3-4 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp; also on 09-05.
09-05 2 at a roadside stop between Bomdila and Dirang.
114. **Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher** - *Terpsiphone affinis saturator*
05-05 1 (white male!) between Sessni and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
115. **Brown Shrike** - *Lanius cristatus cristatus*
13-05 1 along the road on our way from the Assam Border to Guwahati.
116. **Long-tailed Shrike** - *Lanius schach tricolor*
09-05 1 ([photographed](#)) Sangti.
117. **Grey-backed Shrike** - *Lanius tephronotus tephronotus*
05-05 1 [Sessni, Eaglenest WLS.](#)
10-05 1 ([photographed](#)) west of Sela Pass.
12-05 1 [along the Mandala Ridge.](#)
118. **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie** - *Urocissa flavirostris flavirostris*
08-05 2 Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
10-05 2 Sela Pass.
11-05 3-4 west of Tawang.
12-05 2 along the Mandala Ridge.
119. **Common Green Magpie** - *Cissa chinensis chinensis*
05-05 3 (heard-only) in the bamboo zone, Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
120. **Grey Treepie** - *Dendrocitta formosae himalayana*
09-05 1 (seen from the car) between Lama Camp and Dirang.
121. **Southern Nutcracker** - *Nucifraga hemispila macella*
10-05 2 Sela Pass.



- | | | |
|-------|------|---|
| 11-05 | c 10 | (including a group of five) west of Tawang. |
| 13-05 | 2 | along the Mandala Ridge. |
122. **Red-billed Chough** - *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax himalayanus*
 05-05 2 Sela Pass.
123. **House Crow** - *Corvus splendens splendens*
 Only seen in Assam along the road on 4 May and 13 May 2024, c 10 birds on each day.
124. **Large-billed Crow** - *Corvus macrorhynchos tibetosinensis*
 10-05 2-3 Sela Pass.
 12-05 2-3 Sela Pass.
 c 10 at the start of the Mandala Ridge; also on 13-05.
125. **Eastern Jungle Crow** - *Corvus levaillantii*
 Only seen in Assam along the road on 4 May and 13 May 2024, 3-4 birds on each day.
126. **Yellow-bellied Fantail** - *Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus*
 05-05 2 Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
 06-05 2 between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
 07-05 1 between Khellong and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
 11-05 2 west of Tawang.
 12-05 1 Mandala Ridge.
127. **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher** - *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea*
 05-05 3 Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
 09-05 1 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
128. **Sultan Tit** - *Melanochlora sultanea sultanea*
 06-05 2 between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
129. **Rufous-vented Tit** - *Periparus rubidiventris beavani*
 11-05 2 [west of Tawang](#).
130. **Coal Tit** - *Periparus ater aemodius*
 11-05 3 west of Tawang.
131. **Grey-crested Tit** - *Lophophanes dichrous dichrous*
 11-05 2 [west of Tawang](#).
 12-05 1 along Mandala Ridge.
132. **Green-backed Tit** - *Parus monticolus yunnanensis*
 09-05 2 ([photographed](#)) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
133. **Yellow-cheeked Tit** - *Machlolophus spilonotus spilonotus*
 06-05 1 [Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.



134. **White-throated Bulbul** - *Alophoixus flaveolus flaveolus*
05-05 3 Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
135. **Striated Bulbul** - *Alcurus striatus striatus*
Common around Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS between 5 and 8 May 2024 and around Lama Camp on 8 and 9 May 2024.
136. **Mountain Bulbul** - *Ixos mcclellandii mcclellandii*
07-05 1 [between Sessni and Bompou Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
137. **Black Bulbul** - *Hypsipetes leucocephalus psaroides*
05-05 c 10 between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05 c 10 between Khellong and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
138. **Red-whiskered Bulbul** - *Pycnonotus jocosus pyrrhotis*
13-05 1 [at the Chestnut-headed Bee-eater site](#), Assam.
139. **Red-vented Bulbul** - *Pycnonotus cafer bengalensis*
05-05 c 5 between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05 c 3 between Khellong and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
140. **Grey-throated Martin** - *Riparia chinensis chinensis*
13-05 c 10 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
141. **Barn Swallow** - *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*
Several birds seen from the car while driving from Guwahati on 4 May 2024 and back to Guwahati on 13 May 2024 in the Assam lowlands.
142. **Nepal House Martin** - *Delichon nipalense nipalense*
10-02 c 20 ([in one flock](#)) between Sela Pass and Tawang.
143. **Asian House Martin** - *Delichon dasypus cashmeriense*
10-05 2 (between the Nepal House Martins) between Sela Pass and Tawang.
11-05 c 5 at 3500m above sea level, west of Tawang.
144. **Scaly-breasted Cupwing** - *Pnoepyga albiventer albiventer*
09-05 1 (seen well) Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
145. **Pygmy Cupwing** - *Pnoepyga pusilla pusilla*
05-05 2 (heard-only) between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
12-05 1 (heard-only) between Tawang and Sela Pass.
146. **Yellow-bellied Warbler** - *Abroscopus superciliaris flaviventris*
05-05 c 5 (heard-only) in the bamboo zone, Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.



147. **Rufous-faced Warbler** - *Abroscopus albogularis albogularis*
 05-05 2 ([one seen](#), other heard) in the bamboo zone, Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
148. **Black-faced Warbler** - *Abroscopus schisticeps flavimentalis*
 06-05 2 ([in a feeding flock](#)) between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
 09-05 2 ([in a feeding flock](#)) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
149. **Mountain Tailorbird** - *Phyllergates cucullatus coronatus*
 06-05 2 between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
150. **Broad-billed Warbler** - *Tickellia hodgsoni hodgsoni*
 06-05 c 5 (two seen) between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
151. **Brown-flanked Bush Warbler** - *Horornis fortipes fortipes*
 A commonly heard song around Bompou Camp and on both days at the Bugun Liocichla Reserve.
152. **Hume's Bush Warbler** - *Horornis brunnescens*
 11-05 1 (seen and heard) west of Tawang.
 12-05 1 (seen well) along Mandala Ridge.
 The song is very different from Yellow-bellied Bush Warblers we observed in Taiwan in May 2024.
153. **Grey-bellied Tesia** - *Tesia cyaniventer*
 06-05 1 (heard-only) around Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
 07-05 1 (heard-only, another) around Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
154. **Slaty-bellied Tesia** - *Tesia olivea olivea*
 05-05 5 (one seen dancing on a twig) [below Khellong](#), Eaglenest WLS.
155. **Grey-sided Bush Warbler** - *Cettia brunnifrons*
 11-05 3 (two seen, one heard-only) at c 3500 m above sea level, west of Tawang.
156. **Chestnut-headed Tesia** - *Cettia castaneocoronata castaneocoronata*
 06-05 2 (seen well) between [Bompou Camp and Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
 12-05 1 (heard only) Mandala Ridge.
157. **Black-throated Bushtit** - *Aegithalos concinnus*
 09-05 2-3 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
158. **Rufous-fronted Bushtit** - *Aegithalos iouschistos*
 11-05 3-4 [west of Tawang](#).
 12-05 2 Mandala Ridge.
159. **White-browed Tit-warbler** - *Leptopoecile sophiae obscurus*
 10-05 1 ([well seen and photographed](#)) Sela Pass.
 One of the most striking birds in the area.



160. **Buff-barred Warbler** - *Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher*

10-05	c 5	along the road to Sela Pass.
11-05	c 20	between 3000 and 3500 m above sea level, west of Tawang.
12-05	c 5	Sela Pass (same stretch as on 10-05).

161. **Ashy-throated Warbler** - *Phylloscopus maculipennis maculipennis*

08-05	c 8	(seen and heard singing) Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
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162. **Lemon-rumped Warbler** - *Phylloscopus chloronotus chloronotus*

11-05	2	west of Tawang.
12-05	1	along the Mandala Ridge .

163. **Tickell's Leaf Warbler** - *Phylloscopus affinis affinis*

09-05	4	(all migrating birds, apparently) at a road stop between Bomdila and Dirang.
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164. **Buff-throated Warbler** - *Phylloscopus subaffinis*

About five seen and heard singing at the start of [Mandala Ridge on 12 May 2024](#). The remarkable habitat is an open clearing with low fern bushes. This is the only known location in the Indian subcontinent where this species breeds.

165. **White-spectacled Warbler** - *Phylloscopus intermedius zosterops*

08-05	1	(in bamboo dominated forest) above Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
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Both song and plumage are quite different from the 'yellow-spectacled' birds we have observed in Vietnam.

166. **Grey-cheeked Warbler** - *Phylloscopus poliogenys*

08-05	3	(one seen, two heard-only) just above Bompou Camp , Eaglenest WLS.
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The song is quite different from the birds e.g. Arjan had observed before in Vietnam.

167. **Whistler's Warbler** - *Phylloscopus whistleri nemoralis*

06-05	2	(at least) between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
13-05	1	along the Mandala Ridge .

168. **Greenish Warbler** - *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Very common in the higher parts of the Sela pass on 10 May and Tawang on 11 May 2024.

169. **Large-billed Leaf Warbler** - *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Seen well e.g. at the Blyth's Kingfisher site on 4 May 2024 for the first time. Once you have learned the call, these phyllo's are common all the way up to Sela pass. Also seen at Tawang on 11 May 2024.

170. **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** - *Phylloscopus castaniceps castaniceps*

06-05	2	(well seen) Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
08-05	1	just above Bompou Camp , Eaglenest WLS.

171. **Yellow-vented Warbler** - *Phylloscopus cantator cantator*

05-05	c 5	(two seen, others heard-only) Khellong , Eaglenest WLS.
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172. **Blyth's Leaf Warbler** - *Phylloscopus reguloides assamensis*
 06-05 2-3 [between Bompou Camp and Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
 09-05 2 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
173. **Grey-hooded Warbler** - *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos jerdoni*
 08-05 1 (seen singing) just outside Singchung village, Lama Camp.
 12-05 1 (singing) Mandala Ridge.
174. **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** - *Helopsaltes certhiola*
 12-05 1 (flushed, identified by tail pattern) Mandala Camp at 2898 m asl.
175. **Brown Bush Warbler** - *Locustella luteoventris*
 12-05 1 (seen, singing well hidden) [Mandala Camp](#).
176. **Russet Bush Warbler** - *Locustella mandelli mandelli*
 13-05 2 (singing roadside birds) during our drive from Mandala Ridge to Guwahati.
177. **Striated Grassbird** - *Megalurus palustris toklao*
 13-05 1 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
178. **Black-throated Prinia** - *Prinia atrogularis*
 09-05 1 (well seen) Lama Camp.
 13-05 1 (hopping on the tarmac) Mandala Ridge.
179. **Common Tailorbird** - *Orthotomus sutorius patia*
 05-05 1 (heard only) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
180. **Fire-tailed Myzornis** - *Myzornis pyrrhura*
 10-05 1 ([seen well and photographed](#)) 11 km south of Sela Pass.
 12-05 2 ([seen well and photographed](#)) 6.9 km south of Sela Pass.
181. **Golden-breasted Fulvetta** - *Lioparus chrysotis chrysotis*
 06-05 2 between [Bompou Camp and Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
 2-3 (heard-only) Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
182. **Brown-throated Fulvetta** - *Fulvetta ludlowi*
 10-05 3 in a garden of a roadside restaurant just after Sela Pass en route to Tawang.
 11-05 3 ([one photographed](#)) below 3000m above sea level west of Tawang.
 12-05 2 Mandala Ridge.
183. **Brown Parrotbill** - *Paradoxornis unicolor*
 11-05 1 (heard-only) at 3500m above sea level west of Tawang.
 12-05 2 ([photographed](#)) Mandala Ridge, south of Mandala.
184. **Grey-headed Parrotbill** - *Paradoxornis gularis*
 05-05 2 in the [bamboo zone](#) near Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.



185. **White-breasted Parrotbill** - *Paradoxornis ruficeps*
09-05 1 ([one photographed](#)) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
186. **Black-throated Parrotbill** - *Suthora nipalensis poliotis*
06-05 2 between [Bompu Camp and Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
187. **Pale-billed Parrotbill** - *Suthora atosuperciliaris oatesi*
05-05 4 ([photographed](#)) in the bamboo zone near Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
188. **Striated Yuhina** - *Staphida castaniceps rufigenis*
05-05 4 (two seen, two heard-only) between Sessni and Bompu Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
189. **Whiskered Yuhina** - *Yuhina flavicollis flavicollis*
06-05 c 5 [Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
09-05 c 5 [Singchung Bugun Community Reserve](#), Lama Camp.
11-05 1-2 west of Tawang.
190. **White-naped Yuhina** - *Yuhina bakeri*
07-05 2 [between Khellong and Chindit Top](#), Eaglenest WLS.
191. **Stripe-throated Yuhina** - *Yuhina gularis gularis*
A common Yuhina from mid-elevation to the treeline, seen at all sites visited, e.g. [Tawang](#) on 11 May 2024.
192. **Rufous-vented Yuhina** - *Yuhina occipitalis occipitalis*
08-05 2 Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
11-05 2-3 [at c 3500 m above sea level](#), west of Tawang.
12-05 1 Mandala Ridge.
193. **Indian White-eye** - *Zosterops palpebrosus*
05-05 2 in the bamboo zone, Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
194. **Pin-striped Tit-Babbler** - *Mixornis gularis rubicapilla*
05-05 2 (heard-only) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
195. **Golden Babbler** - *Cyanoderma chrysaeum chrysaeum*
04-05 1 in Elephant Nettle scrub, Sessni, Eaglenest WLS.
196. **Rufous-capped Babbler** - *Cyanoderma ruficeps ruficeps*
06-05 3 in a bird flock, Sunderview, , Eaglenest WLS.
197. **Rufous-fronted Babbler** - *Cyanoderma rufifrons ambiguum*
05-05 1 (singing) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS. Formerly known as Buff-chested Babbler.
198. **Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler** - *Spelaeornis caudatus*
06-05 2 (one seen well, other heard-only) [just above Bompu Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
Also there on 7-05 and 8-05.



199. **Bar-winged Wren-Babbler** - *Spelaeornis troglodytoides sherriffi*
08-05 1 (seen well) in [a rocky gully](#) near Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
200. **Black-crowned Scimitar Babbler** - *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*
07-05 1 [just below Chindit Top](#), Eaglenest WLS.
201. **Red-billed Scimitar Babbler** - *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps stenorhynchus*
05-05 2 [in the bamboo zone](#), Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
202. **Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler** - *Pomatorhinus superciliaris superciliaris*
06-05 2 (pair) [above Bompou Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
12-05 1 ([singing and well seen](#)) Mandala Ridge.
203. **Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** - *Pomatorhinus ruficollis godwini*
08-05 4 ([one photographed](#)) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
204. **White-browed Scimitar Babbler** - *Pomatorhinus schisticeps schisticeps*
05-05 1 (seen by Jan only) in the bamboo zone, Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
205. **Grey-throated Babbler** - *Stachyris nigriceps nigriceps*
Singles heard daily in the forest below Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
206. **Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler** - *Sphenocichla humei*
06-05 1 ([seen well](#)) just outside Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
207. **White-hooded Babbler** - *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*
05-05 5 ([at least, including 2 juveniles](#)) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
208. **Yellow-throated Fulvetta** - *Schoeniparus cinereus*
05-05 4 [between Sessni and Bompou Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
209. **Rufous-winged Fulvetta** - *Schoeniparus castaneiceps castaneiceps*
06-05 3 between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05 2 around Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
210. **Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler** - *Napothera epilepidota guttaticollis*
05-05 1 (song different compared to Vietnam or Sumatra) Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
211. **Long-billed Wren-Babbler** - *Napothera malacoptila*
09-05 1 (glimpses by Arjan only) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
212. **Nepal Fulvetta** - *Alcippe nipalensis nipalensis*
05-05 2 Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
213. **Striated Laughingthrush** - *Grammatoptila striata brahmaputra*
05-05 c 5 between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
214. **Himalayan Cutia** - *Cutia nipalensis nipalensis*
09-05 1 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
4 [Lama Camp](#).



215. Blue-winged Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron squamatum*

05-05	1	(heard only) between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05	2	(heard only) Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WL.

216. Bhutan Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron imbricatum*

08-05	3-4	Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
09-05	c 5	Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
	2-3	at a road stop between Bomdila and Dirang.
12-05	1	along Mandala Ridge .
13-05	1	along Mandala Ridge .

217. Black-faced Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron affine bethelae*

10-05	c 10	before Sela Pass.
11-05	c 10	(one photographed) west of Tawang.

218. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum nigrimentum*

05-05	1	near Sessni, Eaglenest WLS.
06-05	c 5	along the road between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
08-05	2-3	along the road between Bompou Camp and Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
10-05	1	Sela Pass.
11-05	1	west of Tawang.
12-05	1	Mandala Ridge.

219. Long-tailed Sibia - *Heterophasia picaoides picaoides*

05-05	c 10	between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS. Also on 07-05.
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220. Rufous Sibia - *Heterophasia capistrata*

10-05	1	at a roadside stop just after the Sela Pass on our way to Tawang.
	4	along the NH229 between Sela Pass and Tawang.
11-05	1	west of Tawang.

221. Beautiful Sibia - *Heterophasia pulchella nigroaurita*

Common in the Eaglenest WLS and in the Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp, with flocks of up to 10 individuals. Also common along the Mandala Ridge.

222. Hoary-throated Barwing - *Actinodura nipalensis*

06-05	2	(bathing in a puddle) between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
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We are not 100% sure about this observation and diagnostic characters as mentioned in field guides seem contradictory.

223. Streak-throated Barwing - *Actinodura waldeni daflaensis*

06-05	4	(in one flock) between Bompou Camp and Sunder View, Eaglenest WLS.
	2	Sunderview , Eaglenest WLS.
08-05	2	Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.

224. Blue-winged Minla - *Actinodura cyanouroptera cyanouroptera*

Small numbers seen daily in the Eaglenest WLS between Bompou Camp and Sessni. Also a few birds at Eaglenest Pass.



225. **Bar-throated Minla** - *Actinodura strigula strigula*
Between 6 and 8 May common in the Eaglenest WLS with flocks of up to five birds. Also c 5 birds seen west of Tawang and a few along the Mandala Ridge.
226. **Rusty-fronted Barwing** - *Actinodura egertoni egertoni*
06-05 2 [between Bompou Camp and Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
08-05 4 [Bompou Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
09-05 2 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
227. **Red-billed Leiothrix** - *Leiothrix lutea calipyga*
06-05 2 [just before Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
08-05 2 Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
 1 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
228. **Silver-eared Mesia** - *Leiothrix argentea argentea*
05-05 1 between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
08-05 c 5 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
229. **Red-tailed Minla** - *Minla ignotincta ignotincta*
First seen just [above Bompou](#) on 6 May, then fairly common and often together with the other two Minla's at Eaglenest WLS till 8 May. One at Tawang on 11 May.
230. **BUGUN LIOCICHLA** - *Liocichla bugunorum*
08-05 2 (pair well seen) [Singchung Bugun Community Reserve](#), Lama Camp.
09-05 2 (heard only) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
231. **Red-faced Liocichla** - *Liocichla phoenicea phoenicea*
05-05 1 (heard only by Arjan and Shashank) Sessni, Eaglenest WLS.
09-05 1 (heard only and briefly a glimpse by Arjan) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
232. **White-crested Laughingthrush** - *Garrulax leucolophus leucolophus*
05-05 c 15 (c four groups heard and one seen crossing the trail), Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
233. **Spotted Laughingthrush** - *Ianthocincla ocellata ocellata*
08-05 2 [Eaglenest Pass](#), Eaglenest WLS.
11-05 5 at [two](#) different [locations](#) west of Tawang.
13-05 1 [along the Mandala Ridge](#).
234. **White-throated Laughingthrush** - *Pterorhinus albogularis albogularis*
06-05 4 (in one group) [between Sunderview and Eaglenest Pass](#), Eaglenest WLS.
235. **Grey-sided Laughingthrush** - *Pterorhinus caeruleus caeruleus*
06-05 1 [between Bompou and Sunderview](#), Eaglenest WLS.
09-05 2 at a [roadside stop](#) along the NH13 between Bomdila and Dirang.
236. **Asian Fairy-bluebird** - *Irena puella sikkimensis*
05-05 1 Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.

**237. Spotted Elachura** - *Elachura formosa*

05-05	3	(heard only) between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
08-05	1	(heard only) above Bompou Camp , Eaglenest WLS.
09-05	1	(seen well) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve , Lama Camp.
12-05	2	(heard only) between Tawang and Sela Pass.

238. Eurasian Wren - *Troglodytes troglodytes nipalensis*

10-05	3-4	Sela Pass. Also on 12-05.
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239. Beautiful Nuthatch - *Sitta formosa*

05-05	1	(heard only) between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05	1	(finally seen) between Sessni and Bompou Camp , Eaglenest WLS.

240. White-tailed Nuthatch - *Sitta himalayensis*

08-05	1	(seen well) Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
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241. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - *Sitta cinnamoventris cinnamoventris*

05-05	1	just above Khellong , Eaglenest WLS.
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242. Sikkim Treecreeper - *Certhia discolor*

08-05	2	(one seen) between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
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243. Spot-winged Starling - *Saroglossa spiloptera*

04-05	c 50	at the Blyth's Kingfisher spot between Sessni and Bompou, Eaglenest WLS.
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These birds were probably looking for a roosting place.

244. Great Myna - *Acridotheres grandis*

04-05	c 10	(Arjan and Shashank only) along the road between Guwahati and the border with Aranuchal Pradesh.
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245. Jungle Myna - *Acridotheres fuscus fuscus*

04-05	c 5	along the road between Guwahati and the border with Aranuchal Pradesh.
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246. Common Myna - *Acridotheres tristis tristis*

04-05	c 5	along the road between Guwahati and the border with Aranuchal Pradesh.
09-05	2	Dirang.
13-05	c 10	along the road between the border with Aranuchal Pradesh and Guwahati.

247. Indian Pied Myna - *Gracupica contra*

04-05	c 5	along the road between Guwahati and the border with Aranuchal Pradesh.
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248. Chestnut-tailed Starling - *Sturnia malabarica malabarica*

05-05	c 20	(in one flock) between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
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249. Grandala - *Grandala coelicolor*

10-05	c 10	along the road next to the big lake , Sela Pass.
12-05	1	(male) Sela Pass.

250. Purple Cochoa - *Cochoa purpurea*

06-05	1	(male) above Bompou Camp , Eaglenest WLS.
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| 08-05 | 1 | (heard only) just above Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS. |
| | 3 | (two males, one female) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp. |
| 09-05 | 2 | (pair well seen) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp. |
| | 1 | (heard only) Lama Camp, Eaglenest WLS. |
251. **Alpine Thrush** - *Zoothera mollissima*
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| 10-05 | 2 | (one seen well , other heard only) trail to the forest edge, Sela Pass. |
|-------|---|--|
252. **Himalayan Thrush** - *Zoothera salimalii*
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| 10-05 | 1 | (heard only by Arjan and Shashank) trail to the forest edge, Sela Pass. |
| 11-05 | 1 | (seen well and photographed) at 3800 m asl, west of Tawang. |
253. **Grey-winged Blackbird** - *Turdus boulboul*
- | | | |
|-------|-----|--|
| 08-05 | 2-3 | Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp. Also on 09-05. |
|-------|-----|--|
254. **Tickell's Thrush** - *Turdus unicolor*
- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 09-05 | 1 | (male) along the NH229 between Bomdila and Dirang. |
|-------|---|--|
255. **Tibetan Blackbird** - *Turdus maximus*
- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 10-05 | 4 | (two pairs with a female with nesting material) Sela Pass. |
|-------|---|---|
256. **White-collared Blackbird** - *Turdus albocinctus*
- Common at the Sela Pass on 10 and 12 May 2024. Also common at Tawang on 11 May 2024. On 13 May 2024 we found a pair along the Mandala Ridge.
257. **Oriental Magpie-Robin** - *Copsychus saularis saularis*
- | | | |
|-------|-----|---|
| 04-05 | 2-3 | along the road between Guwahati and the border Assam-Aranuchal Pradesh. |
| 13-05 | 2 | along the road between the border Assam-Aranuchal Pradesh and Guwahati. |
258. **Dark-sided Flycatcher** - *Muscicapa sibirica cacabata*
- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 09-05 | 2 | Eaglenest Pass , Eaglenest WLS. |
| 13-05 | 2 | (pair nest building) Mandala Ridge. |
259. **Rufous-bellied Niltava** - *Niltava sundara sundara*
- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 06-05 | 1 | (male) Sunderview , Eaglenest WLS. |
| 08-05 | 1 | (female) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp |
| 10-05 | 1 | (male) along road NH13 , between Dirang and Sela Pass. |
260. **Small Niltava** - *Niltava macgrigoriae signata*
- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 06-05 | 1 | (female) above Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS. |
| | 1 | (male) Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS. |
| 13-05 | 1 | (heard only) Mandala Ridge. |
261. **Large Niltava** - *Niltava grandis grandis*
- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 07-05 | 1 | along Eaglenest Road below Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS. |
| 09-05 | 2 | Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp. |



262. **Verditer Flycatcher** - *Eumyias thalassinus thalassinus*

06-05	2	(pair, nest building) Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS.
09-05	2	Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
11-05	1	west of Tawang.

263. **White-gorgeted Flycatcher** - *Anthipes monileger monileger*

06-05	2	(heard only) between Bompou Camp and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
07-05	1	(first heard and later seen briefly) below Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

264. **Pale Blue Flycatcher** - *Cyornis unicolor unicolor*

05-05	2	near Khellong , Eaglenest WLS.
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265. **Large Blue Flycatcher** - *Cyornis magnirostris*

05-05	1	(male) bamboo zone between Sessni Camp and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
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266. **White-tailed Robin** - *Myiomela leucura leucura*

Heard daily (and some seen) between 5 May and 9 May 2024 in the Eaglenest WLS.

267. **Slaty-backed Forktail** - *Enicurus schistaceus*

04-05	1	at the Blyth's Kingfisher spot, between Sessni and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
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268. **Blue-fronted Robin** - *Cinclidium frontale frontale*

08-05	c 8	(heard only) between Bompou Camp and Sunderview, Eaglenest WLS
	1	(seen by Arjan only) near Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.

269. **Blue Whistling Thrush** - *Myophonus caeruleus temminckii*

The first was seen along the Blyth's Kingfisher spot on 4 May 2024. Small numbers daily in the Eaglenest WLS between 5 and 8 May 2024. A common roadside bird between Tawang and Sela Pass on 12 May with up to 10 birds along this stretch, also at Sela pass on 10 and 12 May 2024. All birds belonged to the yellow-billed race *temminckii*.

270. **Himalayan Shortwing** - *Brachypteryx cruralis*

06-05	c 5	(one immature male seen) between Bompou Camp and Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
13-05	1	(heard only) Mandala Ridge .

271. **Lesser Shortwing** - *Brachypteryx leucophrys nipalensis*

06-05	2-3	(heard only) above Bompou Camp.
09-05	1	(heard only) Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.

272. **Indian Blue Robin** - *Larvivora brunnea brunnea*

13-05	2	(males, heard-only in the early morning) Mandala Ridge.
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273. **Slaty-blue Flycatcher** - *Ficedula tricolor minuta*

11-05	3	west of Tawang.
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274. **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** - *Ficedula hyperythra hyperythra*
 08-05 1 (male) Sunder View, Eaglenest WLS.
275. **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** - *Ficedula strophinata strophinata*
 11-05 5 (at least) west of Tawang at 3500 above sea level.
276. **Sapphire Flycatcher** - *Ficedula sapphira sapphira*
 06-05 3 ([with one immature male](#)) above Bompou Camp.
 09-05 1 Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
277. **White-browed Bush Robin** - *Tarsiger indicus*
 10-05 1 (heard-only) trail near the Sela Pass.
 11-05 2 (heard-only) west of Tawang.
 12-05 1 (heard-only) lower slopes of the Sela Pass.
278. **Golden Bush Robin** - *Tarsiger chrysaeus chrysaeus*
 10-05 3 (pair and a female) before (east of) Sela Pass.
 11-05 3 [west of Tawang](#).
 12-05 1 (female) near the Gould's Shortwing place, Sela Pass.
279. **Rufous-breasted Bush Robin** - *Tarsiger hyperythrus*
 10-05 3 (males) before (east of) Sela Pass.
 11-05 2 (males) [west of Tawang](#).
280. **Himalayan Bluetail** - *Tarsiger rufilatus rufilatus*
 11-05 2 (females) [at 3500 m west of Tawang](#).
281. **Gould's Shortwing** - *Heteroxenicus stellatus*
 12-05 1 ([male, well seen while singing](#)) Sela Pass.
 Our trip was timed around the arrival of this much wanted species on Sela Pass (normally around 6 May).
 No bird was found on 10 May 2024, nor did we see any at the higher reaches west of Tawang. Finally we
 did find this male that had just arrived on 12 May 2024, much to our relief! This was the first sighting of the
 year on the breeding grounds.
282. **Blue-fronted Redstart** - *Phoenicurus frontalis*
 10-05 c 10 Sela Pass.
 11-05 c 5 ([one male photographed](#)) west of Tawang.
 12-05 c 8 Sela Pass.
283. **Plumbeous Water Redstart** - *Phoenicurus fuliginosa fuliginosa*
 05-05 1 (female) between Khellong and Sessni, Eaglenest WLS.
 09-05 3-4 in the river bed near Sangti.
284. **White-capped Redstart** - *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*
 10-05 c 5 Sela Pass.
 11-05 2-3 west of Tawang.
 12-05 c 5 Sela Pass.



285. **Blue-capped Rock Thrush** - *Monticola cinclorhyncha*
 09-05 3 (all males) along the road near Lama Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
 13-05 3-4 Mandala Ridge.
286. **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** - *Monticola rufiventris*
 08-05 1 (male) Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
 11-05 1 (male) Tawang.
 12-05 3-4 (males, [one photographed](#)) Mandala Ridge.
287. **Grey Bush Chat** - *Saxicola ferreus ferreus*
 A common open area roadside bird in Arunachal Pradesh, e.g. near Tawang and along Mandala Ridge.
288. **Siberian Stonechat** - *Saxicola maurus indicus*
 09-05 1 (female) Sangti.
289. **White-throated Dipper** - *Cinclus cinclus przewalskii*
 10-05 1 just west of Sela Pass. A rare bird in India outside the Ladakh province.
290. **Brown Dipper** - *Cinclus pallasii dorjei*
 04-05 2 [between Khellong and Sessni Camp](#), Eaglenest WLS.
 09-05 4 one pair in the river bed near Sangti and one pair closer to Dirang.
 10-05 2 Sela Pass.
291. **Orange-bellied Leafbird** - *Chloropsis hardwickii hardwickii*
 05-05 2 (pair) between Khellong and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
292. **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** - *Dicaeum cruentatum cruentatum*
 05-05 2 (pair) between Sessni Camp and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
293. **Mrs. Gould's Sunbird** - *Aethopyga gouldiae gouldiae*
 08-05 3 (all males) between Sunderview and Eaglenest Pass, Eaglenest WLS.
294. **Green-tailed Sunbird** - *Aethopyga nipalensis koelzi*
 Very common around Bompou Camp between 5 and 8 May 2024; also along the stretch to Eaglenest pass on 8 May 2024. Common at Lama Camp on 8 and 9 May 2024 and several at Tawang on 11 May 2024.
295. **Black-throated Sunbird** - *Aethopyga saturata assamensis*
 05-05 2 (pair) between Sessni and Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
296. **Fire-tailed Sunbird** - *Aethopyga ignicauda ignicauda*
 Common at Sela Pass on 10 and 12 May and west of Tawang on 11 May. We found a nest along the trail behind the Sela Pass on 10 May.
297. **Streaked Spiderhunter** - *Arachnothera magna magna*
 04-05 1 between Sessni Camp and Khellong, Eaglenest WLS.
 05-05 2 (feeding on wild banana flowers) between Sessni and Bompou, Eaglenest WLS.
 06-05 1 Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS.
 13-05 1 between Dirang and the Arunachal-Assam border.



298. **Russet Sparrow** - *Passer rutilans intensior*
 09-05 8 at a [roadside stop](#) between Lama Camp and Dirang.
 12-05 c 10 village at the start of the Mandala Ridge south of Dirang; also there on 13-05.
299. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** - *Passer montanus malaccensis*
 Several roadside birds plus a few in Dirang.
300. **House Sparrow** - *Passer domesticus indicus*
 Only several birds noted at Guwahati on 4 May and 13 May 2024.
301. **Alpine Accentor** - *Prunella collaris nipalensis*
 10-05 3 Sela Pass.
302. **Rufous-breasted Accentor** - *Prunella strophiaata strophiaata*
 10-05 c 5 Sela Pass.
 11-05 3-4 west of Tawang.
 12-05 c 5 Sela Pass.
303. **Citrine Wagtail** - *Motacilla citreola*
 09-05 4 (including one black-backed male of subspecies *calcarata*) around Sangti.
304. **Hodgson's White Wagtail** - *Motacilla alba alboides*
 09-05 c 5 around Sangti.
 12-05 c 5 Mandala Ridge south of Dirang; also on 13-05.
305. **Paddyfield Pipit** - *Anthus rufulus rufulus*
 09-05 1 Sangti.
 13-05 1 Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Guwahati.
306. **Olive-backed Pipit** - *Anthus hodgsoni*
 Migrants at Khellong and Bompou camp belonged to the migratory subspecies *yunnanensis* with unstreaked backs. The nominate *hodgsoni* was commonly singing in breeding habitat at Tawang at around 3500m.
307. **Rosy Pipit** - *Anthus roseatus*
 Common at Sela Pass, both on 10 and 12 May, with c 30 birds each day.
308. **White-winged Grosbeak** - *Mycerobas carnipes*
 10-05 2 Sela Pass.
 11-05 c 10 west of Tawang.
309. **Red-headed Bullfinch** - *Pyrrhula erythrocephala*
 11-05 4 (two pairs) [west of Tawang](#).
310. **Blanford's Rosefinch** - *Agraphospiza rubescens*
 11 May 2 (female, one well seen) [west of Tawang](#).
311. **Golden-naped Finch** - *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta*
 10-05 1 (male) east of Sela Pass.



312. **Dark-breasted Rosefinch** - *Procarduelis nipalensis nipalensis*
 10-05 2 (pair) Sela Pass.
 1 behind a roadside restaurant between Sela Pass and Tawang.
 11-05 3 [west of Tawang](#).
313. **Plain Mountain Finch** - *Leucosticte nemoricola*
 10-05 c 15 Sela Pass.
 11-05 c 25 west of Tawang.
 12-05 c 5 Sela Pass.
314. **Common Rosefinch** - *Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus*
 11-05 1 (heard-only) [west of Tawang](#).
 12-05 1 (male seen) Mandala Ridge.
 13-05 2 (pair) [between Dirang and the border of Aranuchal and Assam](#).
315. **Scarlet Finch** - *Carpodacus sipahi*
 09-05 4 very unsatisfactory views, at least 3 heard only and 1 scarlet-coloured bird flying by in the Singchung Bugun Community Reserve, Lama Camp.
316. **Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch** - *Carpodacus pulcherrimus pulcherrimus*
 11-05 4 (two males, two females) [west of Tawang](#).
317. **Dark-rumped Rosefinch** - *Carpodacus edwardsii rubicundus*
 10-05 2 (single males) before Sela Pass.
318. **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch** - *Carpodacus thura thura*
 10-05 c 10 at both sides of the Sela Pass.
 11-05 2 (females) [west of Tawang](#).
 12-05 2-3 Sela Pass.
319. **Red-fronted Rosefinch** - *Carpodacus puniceus puniceus*
 10-05 4 (one male seen quite well) [west of Sela Pass](#).
320. **Crimson-browed Finch** - *Carpodacus subhimachalus*
 11-05 1 (female) [west of Tawang](#).
321. **Yellow-breasted Greenfinch** - *Chloris spinoides spinoides*
 11-05 2 at 3500 m west of Tawang.
322. **Red Crossbill** - *Loxia curvirostra himalayensis*
 12-05 c 20 (in one flock) in the few pine trees left just below Mandala Camp.



Mammals

01. **Assamese Macaque** - *Macaca assamensis*

We noted about 5 Macaques close to Khellong. Apparently these are Assamese Macaques (See trip report by [Bundgaard & Sweinhart](#)).

02. **Arunachal Macaque** - *Macaca munzala*

A troop of about 30 along the road from Sela Pass to Tawang on 10 May 2024. According to Shashank Dalvi, these monkeys certainly are Arunachal Macaques because of their distribution.

03. **Indian Elephant** - *Elephas maximus*

A herd of 5 females and a baby on the road at Doimara on 4 May 2024 at the start of our trip was impressive.

04. **Mainland Leopard Cat** - *Prionailurus bengalensis*

One at 4 am on the first morning on 5 May 2024 along the roadside when we drove to Khellong.

05. **Snow Leopard** - *Panthera uncia*

Fresh huge footprints along the Shortwing trail at Sela Pass on 12 May 2024.

06. **Northern Red Muntjac** - *Muntiacus vaginalis*

Twice a roadside encounter close to Bompou camp on 5 May 2024.

07. **Large-eared Pika** - *Ochotona macrotis*

We noted Pika's at Tawang at 3500m in rocks between forest and at Sela Pass at 4200m on 10 May and 12 May 2024. The Pika's at Sela pass could represent a new species to science (See trip report Bundgaard & Sweinhart).

08. **Himalayan Marmot** - *Marmota himalayana*

One 11 May 2024 we saw 2, maybe 3 individuals along the road at 4200m west of Tawang.

09. **Black Giant Squirrel** - *Ratufa bicolor*

One near Sessni while waiting for Beautiful Nuthatch on 7 May 2024.

10. **Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel** - *Dremomys lokriah*

Noted around Bompou camp.

11. **Himalayan Striped Squirrel** - *Tamiops macclellandi*

One above Bompou camp and one photographed at the Bugun Liocichla reserve.



Left: Asian Elephant – *Elephas maximus* (the only elephants we encountered); 4 May 2024, Sessni Camp, Eaglenest WLS; right: Northern Red Muntjac - *Muntiacus vaginialis*; 5 May 2024, before Bompou Camp, Eaglenest WLS. © Jan van der Laan.



The endemic Arunachal Macaque - *Macaca munzala*; 10 May 2024, between Sela Pass and Tawang; © Jan van der Laan.



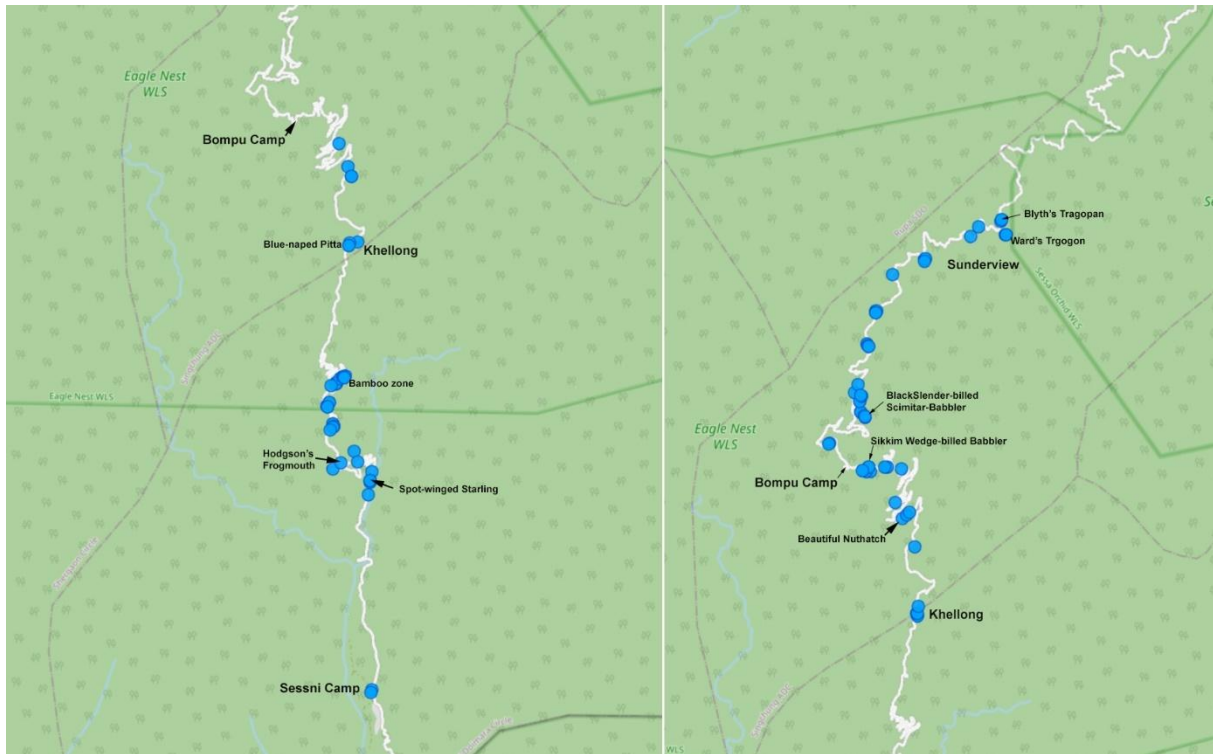
Left: Himalayan Marmot - *Marmota himalayana*; 11 May 2024, west of Tawang; right: Large-eared Pika – *Ochotona macrotis*; 12 May 2024, Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.



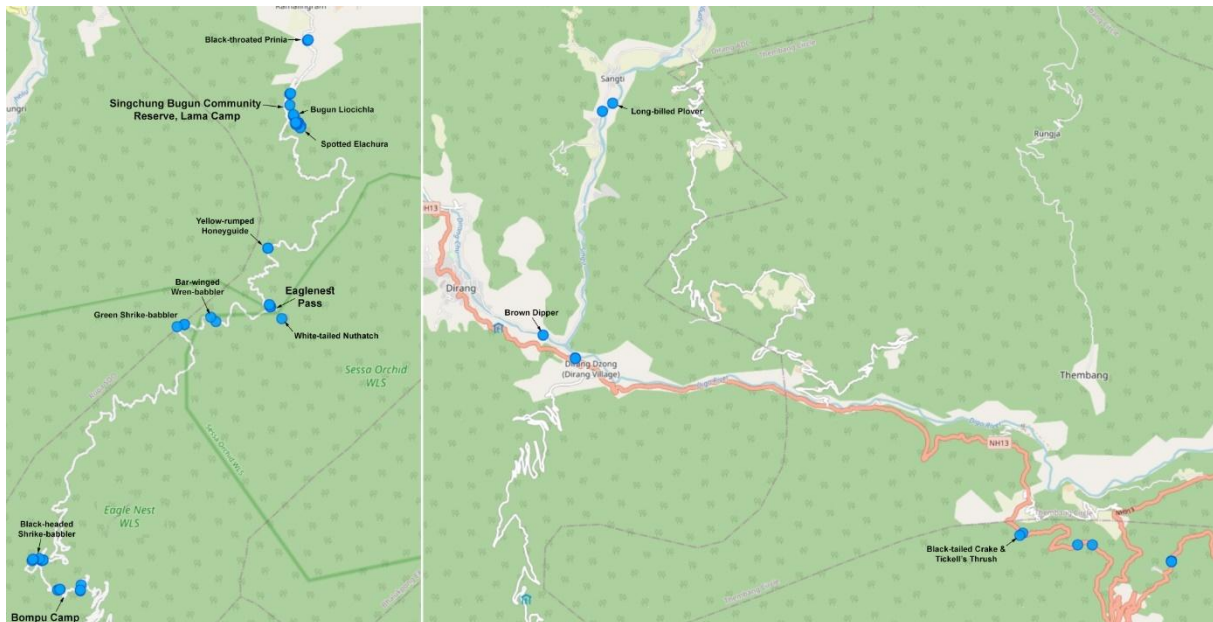
Tracks of Snow Leopard – *Panthera uncia*; 12 May 2024, Sela Pass; © Jan van der Laan.

Appendix: Maps of observations

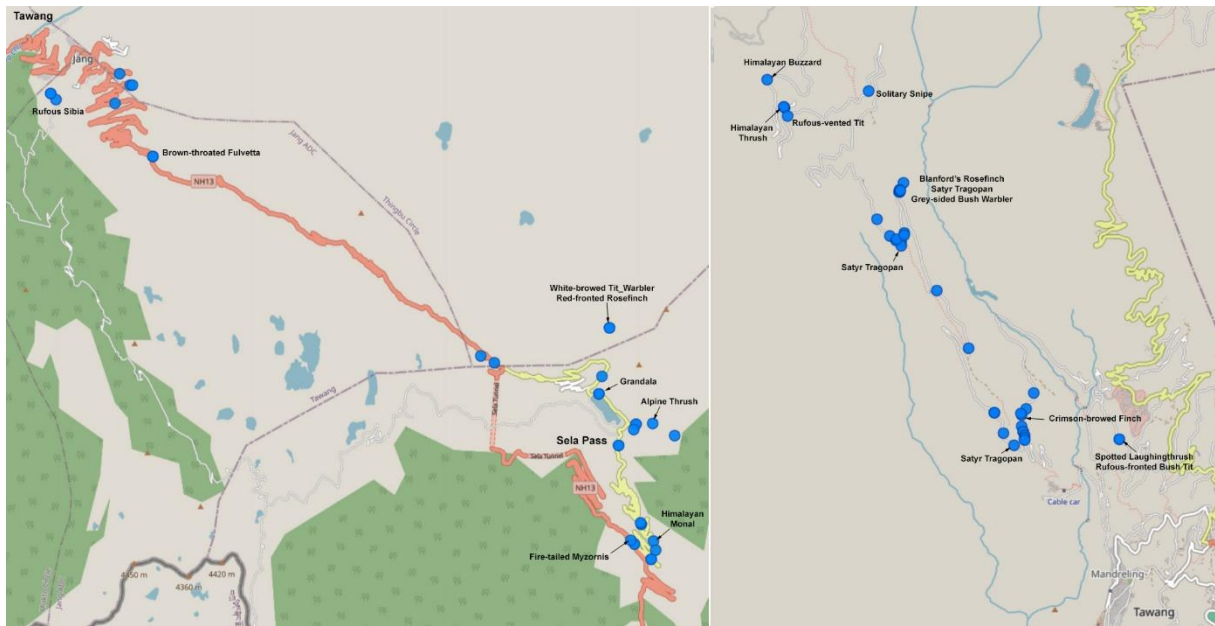
For storing bird records I prefer to use the Dutch based site [observation.org](https://www.observation.org) above Ebird. With the observation app you can enter observations directly in the field without needing an internet connection. A nice functionality is the creation of maps, like the maps depicted here.



Left: observations on [4 and 5 May 2024](#); right: observations on [6 and 7 May 2024](#). Click on the links for the originals with more details.



Left: observations on 8 and 9 May 2024, southern half; right: observations on 8 and 9 May 2024, northern half. Click on [this link](#) for the original observations with more details.



Left: observations on [10 May 2024](#); right: observations on [11 May 2024](#). Click on the links for more details.



Left: observations on [12 May 2024](#); right: observations on [13 May 2024](#). Click on the links for more details.



The non-poisonous Hodgson's Trinket Snake - *Elaphe hodgsoni*; 9 May 2024, Lama Camp; © Jan van der Laan.