

Report of a one-day Birding Trip to

Chandu & Sultanpur, India

3rd May 2024

Participants:

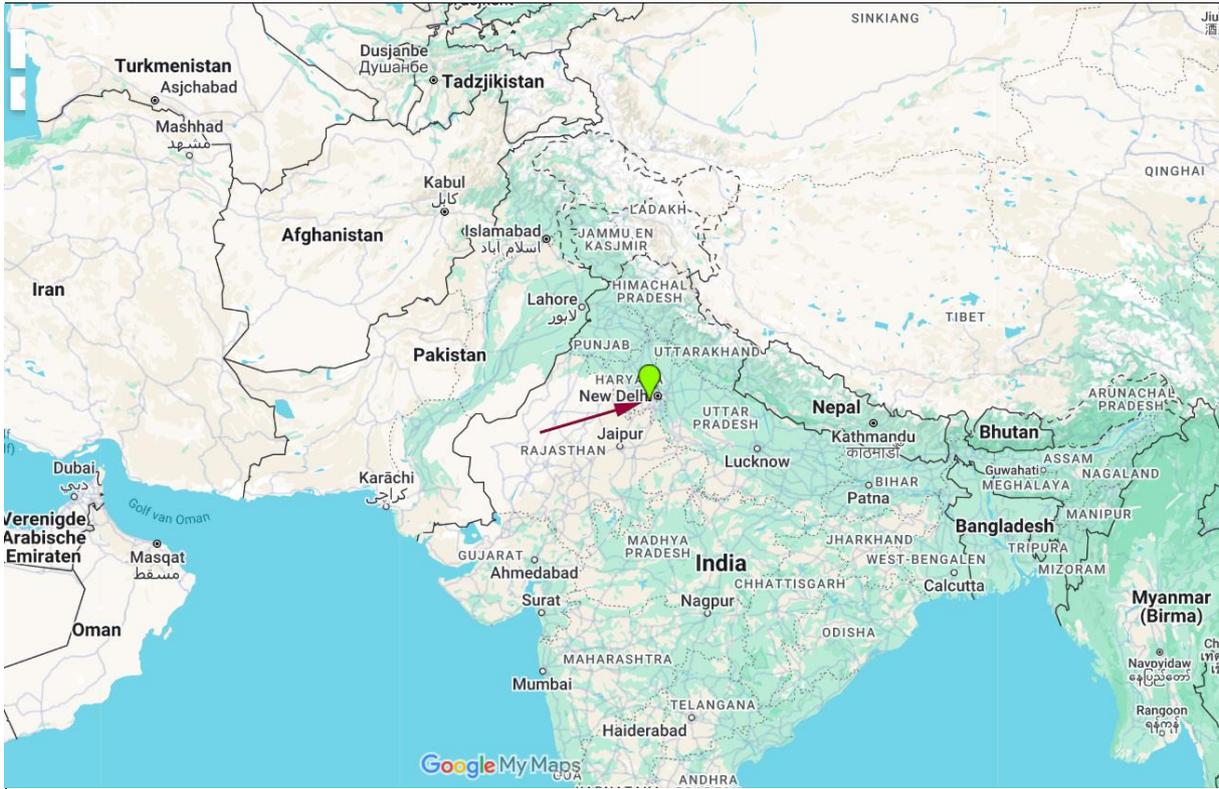
Arjan Brenkman, Jan van der Laan, CB Singh (guide)



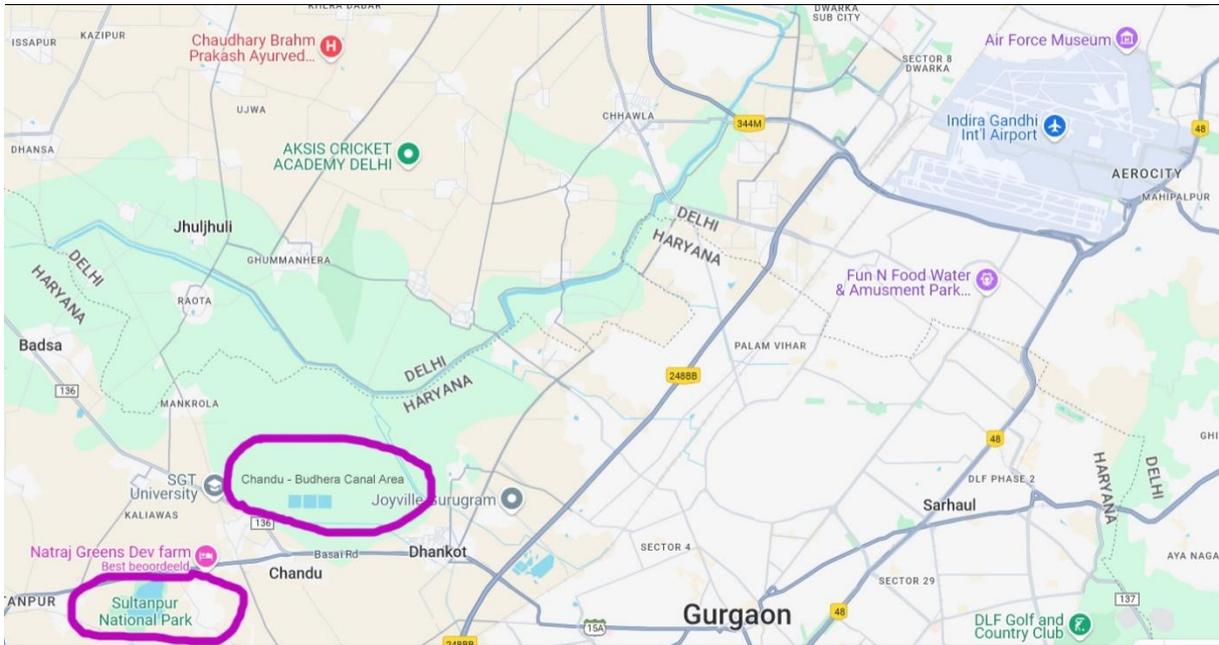
Sind Sparrow, Chandu, India; 3 May 2024; © Jan van der Laan.



Map



Northern half of India, showing location of Chandu and Sultanpur



Map with places we visited (purple marking).



Introduction

When we were booking our flights to Delhi and Guwahati, we had chosen 3 May 2024 for departure to Delhi with a connecting flight to Guwahati. A few weeks before departure we were informed that our flight to Delhi was cancelled, but we could take a flight one day earlier, meaning that we had a day in Delhi. We thought to hire a guide for the day and go birding in the vicinity of Delhi, Sultanpur and Chandu, with our main objective being the local Sind Sparrow. As a guide we chose CB Singh, an excellent guide. His contact details are cbsing at cbti.co.in.

Itinerary

- 2 May** We took the KLM 871 flight of 14:10 from **Amsterdam** to **New Delhi**. Flight departed in time and nothing worth to mention happened during the flight.
- 3 May** We arrived in **New Delhi** in time at 2:00 hours. We took an hotel shuttle to the Novotel Hotel, our base camp for two nights. We slept a few hours and at 6:00 we were picked up by CB Singh to go birding. First we went to **Chandu**, southwest of Delhi. Our first target was already at a road side stop, a Brown Rock Chat. The Chandu area consists of dry and wet fields plus fish ponds and a canal with streaming water. Interesting birds here were White-throated Kingfisher, Indian Pied Myna, Pied Bush Chat, Asian Green Bee-eater, Indian River Tern, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Striated Babbler, Grey Heron, Red-wattled Lapwing, Oriental Pratincole, Grey-headed Swamphen, Red-naped Ibis, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Wire-tailed Swallow, Indian Golden Oriole, Black Bittern, Indian Pond Heron, two subspecies of Citrine Wagtail, Pied Kingfisher, Crested Lark, Temminck's Stint, Wood Sandpiper, Grey Francolin and our two main targets, Sind Sparrow and Red Avadavat. We birded there till around 10:00 hours and continued to **Sultanpur**. There we birded till 13:00 hours. Best birds here were Sarus Crane, Knob-billed Duck, Greater Painted Snipe, Painted Stork, Large Grey and Jungle Babbler, Indian Grey Hornbill, Shikra and Common Hawk-Cuckoo. We could have done more birding in the afternoon, but we were too tired. We returned at the hotel in **Delhi** at 14:00 where we had to deliver our binoculars (not the cameras) at the reception, because our hotel room had a view on the runway. After some discussion with several employees in different hierarchies we had no other option to give it in custody, causing quite some stress for Arjan. Anyhow, we had a good dinner in the restaurant and went to sleep early.
- 4 May** We woke up at 4:00 hours to be sure we had plenty of time to get our gear back, but that was returned without any hassle, although I forget my beloved Northface coat in the hotel. We were at 5:00 hours at the **New Delhi Airport**, where our plane for Guwahati departed in time at 7:20 hours. Our trip to **Aranuchal Pradesh** will be in [another report](#).

Species Accounts

Order and nomenclature follows www.worldbirdnames.org, version 14.2. Species important to us are in capitals.

Recommended Literature

For this part of India we used the Birds of Northern India by Richard Grimmett & Tim Inskipp (2017).

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank CB Singh, an excellent guide and knowledgeable birder.

[Jan van der Laan](#) and Arjan Brenkman, Alkmaar & Culemborg, November 2024.



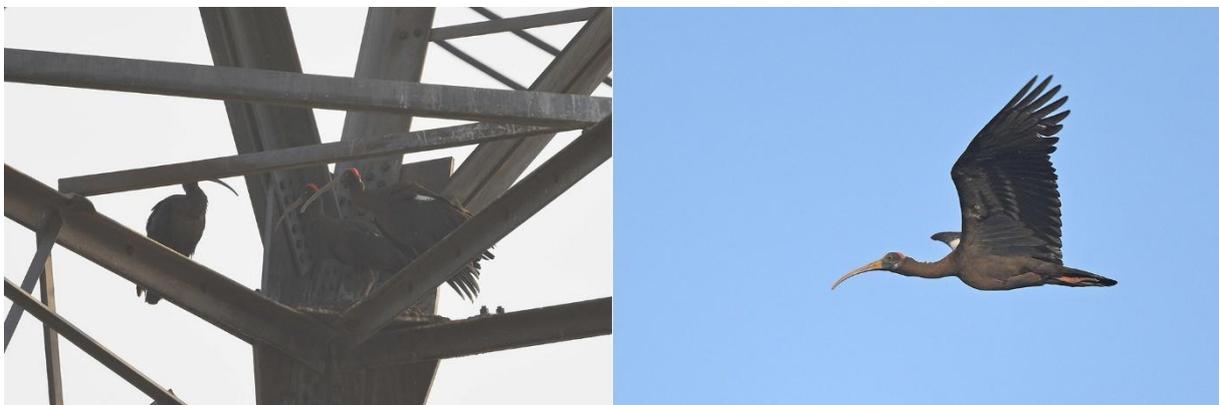
Left: Asian Green Bee-eater; right: Pied Bush Stonechat; both on 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



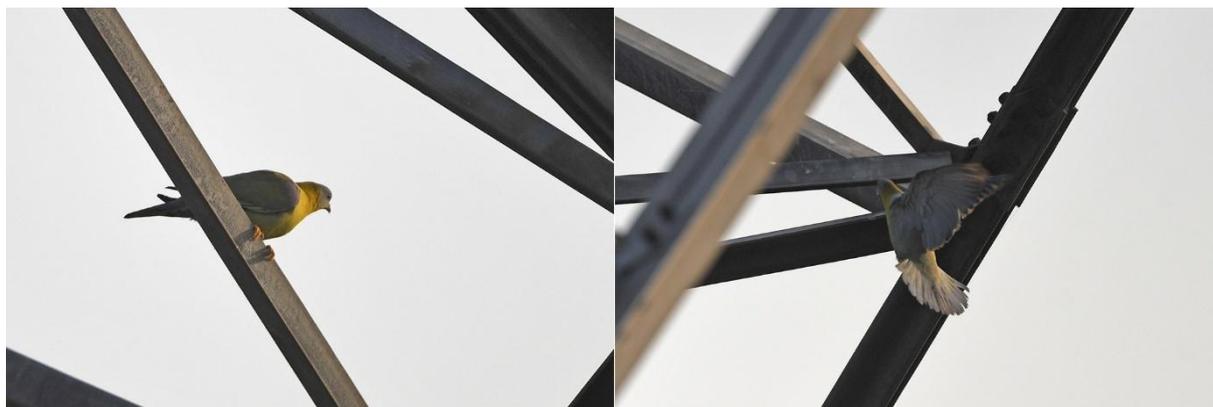
Striated Babbler, 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



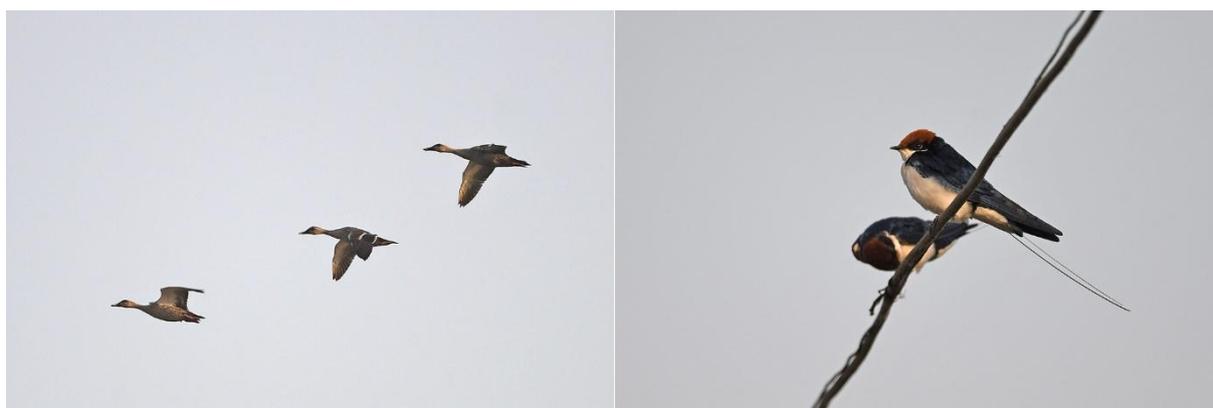
Left: White-breasted Kingfisher; right: Indian Pied Myna; both on 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Red-naped Ibises, 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Indian Spot-billed Ducks; right: Wire-tailed Swallows; 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Baya Weaver; right: Grey Francolin chick; 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Grey-headed Swampheens; right: Greater Coucal; 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Citrine Wagtail of the ssp werae or citreola; right: Citrine Wagtail of the ssp calcarata; 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Indian Pond Heron; right: Black Bittern; 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: male Sind Sparrow; right: female Sind Sparrow, our main quarry; 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Long-tailed Shrike; right: Pied Kingfisher; 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Red Avadavat; right: Indian Silverbill with two Red Avadavats; 3 May 2024, Chandu, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Common Hawk-Cuckoo, 3 May 2024, Sultanpur, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Knob-billed Ducks and Indian Spot-billed Ducks; right: the Greater Painted-Snipe that got unnoticed on the photo left (check the blob between the centre and rightmost Knob-billed Duck); 3 May 2024, Sultanpur, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Large Grey Babbler; right: Sarus Crane; 3 May 2024, Sultanpur, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Glossy Ibis; right: Temminck's Sandpiper; 3 May 2024, Sultanpur, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Shikra; right: Jungle Babbler; 3 May 2024, Sultanpur, India; © Jan van der Laan.



Left: Nilgai, the largest antelope species in Asia; right: dragonfly species; © Jan van der Laan.



01. **Lesser Whistling Duck** - *Dendrocygna javanica*
03-05 c 10 Sultanpur.

02. **Knob-billed Duck** - *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
03-05 c 50 (flocks flying over) Chandu.
 c 100 at Sultanpur.

03. **Northern Shoveler** - *Spatula clypeata*
03-05 1 Chandu.

04. **Indian Spot-billed Duck** - *Anas poecilorhyncha*
03-05 c 200 (flocks flying over, plus a few in the ponds) Chandu.
 c 300 Sultanpur.

05. **Eurasian Teal** - *Anas crecca*
03-05 1 (male together with the Northern Shoveler) Chandu.

06. **Indian Peafowl** - *Pavo cristatus*
03-05 c 5 Sultanpur.

07. **Grey Francolin** - *Ortygornis pondicerianus*
03-05 c 5 (mother with at least four chicks) Chandu.

08. **Black Francolin** - *Francolinus francolinus*
03-05 2 (heard-only) Chandu.

09. **Greater Coucal** - *Centropus sinensis*
03-05 c 5 (one seen, others heard-only) Chandu.

10. **Asian Koel** - *Eudynamis scolopaceus*
03-05 3-4 (one seen, others heard-only) Chandu
 3 (heard-only) at Sultanpur.

11. **Common Hawk-Cuckoo** - *Hierococcyx varius*
03-05 3 (one seen well, two heard-only) Sultanpur.

12. **Eurasian Collared Dove** - *Streptopelia decaocto*
03-05 c 10 Chandu.

13. **Red Collared Dove** - *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
03-05 2 (pair) Sultanpur.

14. **Spotted Dove** - *Spilopelia chinensis*
03-05 1 Chandu.

15. **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon** - *Treron phoenicopterus*
03-05 2 (in the electricity poles) Chandu.



16. **Common Moorhen** - *Gallinula chloropus*
 03-05 c 30 Chandu
 2 Sultanpur.
17. **Eurasian Coot** - *Fulica atra*
 03-05 4 Chandu.
18. **Grey-headed Swamphen** - *Porphyrio poliocephalus*
 03-05 c 100 Chandu
 c 10 Sultanpur.
19. **White-breasted Waterhen** - *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
 03-05 4 Chandu.
 1 Sultanpur.
20. **Sarus Crane** - *Antigone antigone*
 03-05 1 (at least; heard-only) Chandu.
 2 (pair) Sultanpur.
21. **Little Grebe** - *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
 03-05 c 15 (scattered around the numerous pools) Sultanpur.
22. **Black-winged Stilt** - *Himantopus himantopus*
 03-05 c 5 Chandu and
 c 10 (several on nest breeding) at Sultanpur.
23. **Red-wattled Lapwing** - *Vanellus indicus*
 03-05 c 20 (some pairs with young) Chandu.
 c 25 Sultanpur.
24. **Greater Painted-snipe** - *Rostratula benghalensis*
 03-05 1 (female) Sultanpur. Discovered on photo's, but not noticed it at that time!
25. **Black-tailed Godwit** - *Limosa limosa*
 03-05 15 (in one flock) Sultanpur.
26. **Common Sandpiper** - *Actitis hypoleucos*
 03-05 3 Chandu.
27. **Green Sandpiper** - *Tringa ochropus*
 03-05 1 Chandu.
28. **Wood Sandpiper** - *Tringa glareola*
 03-05 c 5 Chandu.
 c 10 Sultanpur.
29. **Spotted Redshank** - *Tringa erythropus*
 03-05 2 (breeding plumage) Sultanpur.



30. **Common Greenshank** - *Tringa nebularia*
 03-05 2 Chandu.
 1 Sultanpur.
31. **Temminck's Stint** - *Calidris temminckii*
 03-05 5 Chandu.
 c 10 Sultanpur.
32. **Oriental Pratincole** - *Glareola maldivarum*
 03-05 1 (calling and flying-by) Chandu.
33. **River Tern** - *Sterna aurantia*
 03-05 2 Chandu.
34. **Painted Stork** - *Mycteria leucocephala*
 03-05 4 Sultanpur.
35. **Oriental Darter** - *Anhinga melanogaster*
 03-05 1 (flying past) Chandu.
36. **Little Cormorant** - *Microcarbo niger*
 03-05 3 Chandu.
 c 10 Sultanpur.
37. **Great Cormorant** - *Phalacrocorax carbo*
 03-05 2 Sultanpur.
38. **Black-headed Ibis** - *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
 03-05 1 Chandu and
 1 Sultanpur.
39. **RED-NAPED IBIS** - *Pseudibis papillosa*
 03-05 3 (in the electricity poles) Chandu.
 3 Sultanpur.
 04-05 2 Indira Ghandi International Airport, New Delhi.
40. **Glossy Ibis** - *Plegadis falcinellus*
 03-05 c 10 Sultanpur.
41. **Eurasian Spoonbill** - *Platalea leucorodia*
 03-05 6 Sultanpur.
42. **Black Bittern** - *Botaurus flavicollis*
 03-05 1 Chandu.
43. **Yellow Bittern** - *Botaurus sinensis*
 03-05 1 Chandu.



44. **Black-crowned Night Heron** - *Nycticorax nycticorax*
03-05 3 Sultanpur.
45. **Little Egret** - *Egretta garzetta*
03-05 2-3 Chandu.
46. **Indian Pond Heron** - *Ardeola grayii*
03-05 c 10 (all in breeding plumage) Chandu.
47. **Great Egret** - *Ardea alba*
03-05 1 Chandu.
48. **Medium Egret** - *Ardea intermedia*
03-05 2-3 Chandu.
 2 Sultanpur.
49. **Eastern Cattle Egret** - *Ardea coromanda*
03-05 c 50 Chandu.
 c 20 Sultanpur.
50. **Grey Heron** - *Ardea cinerea*
03-05 c 5 Chandu.
 c 5 Sultanpur.
51. **Purple Heron** - *Ardea purpurea*
03-05 2 Chandu.
 1 Sultanpur.
52. **Osprey** - *Pandion haliaetus*
03-05 1 Chandu.
53. **Black-winged Kite** - *Elanus caeruleus*
03-05 1 Chandu.
54. **Shikra** - *Tachyspiza badia*
03-05 2 (male seen briefly, female bathing and seen well) Sultanpur.
55. **Black Kite** - *Milvus migrans*
03-05 c 10 New Delhi.
56. **INDIAN GREY HORNBILL** - *Ocyroceros birostris*
03-05 4 (two pairs) Sultanpur.
57. **White-throated Kingfisher** - *Halcyon smyrnensis*
03-05 c 5 Chandu.
 c 5 Sultanpur.

58. **Pied Kingfisher** - *Ceryle rudis*

03-05 2 (pair) Chandu.

59. **Asian Green Bee-eater** - *Merops orientalis*03-05 c 3 Chandu.
 2 Sultanpur.60. **Brown-headed Barbet** - *Psilopogon zeylanicus*

03-05 2 (one seen, another heard-only) Sultanpur.

61. **Rose-ringed Parakeet** - *Psittacula krameri*

03-05 c 10 New Delhi.

62. **Indian Golden Oriole** - *Oriolus kundoo*

03-05 1 (male, heard singing) Chandru.

63. **Black Drongo** - *Dicrurus macrocercus*03-05 c 5 Chandu.
 c 5 Sultanpur.64. **Indian Paradise Flycatcher** - *Terpsiphone paradisi*

03-05 1 (male) Sultanpur.

65. **Long-tailed Shrike** - *Lanius schach*

03-05 3 Chandu.

66. **Rufous Treepie** - *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

03-05 1 Sultanpur.

67. **House Crow** - *Corvus splendens*

03-05 c 20 Sultanpur.

68. **Crested Lark** - *Galerida cristata*

03-05 2-3 in the fields at Chandu.

69. **Red-vented Bulbul** - *Pycnonotus cafer*

03-05 3 along the canal at Chandu.

70. **Grey-throated Martin** - *Riparia chinensis*03-05 c 30 Chandu.
 c 10 Sultanpur.71. **Wire-tailed Swallow** - *Hirundo smithii filifera*03-05 c 15 Chandu.
 c 5 Sultanpur.72. **Zitting Cisticola** - *Cisticola juncidis*

03-05 1 singing from the high grass, Chandu.



73. **Delicate Prinia** - *Prinia lepida*
03-05 2-3 Chandu.
74. **Yellow-bellied Prinia** - *Prinia flaviventris*
03-05 c 15 (mostly heard, a few seen) Chandu.
75. **Ashy Prinia** - *Prinia socialis*
03-05 3-4 Chandu.
76. **Plain Prinia** - *Prinia inornata*
03-05 1 Chandu.
77. **Common Tailorbird** - *Orthotomus sutorius*
03-05 3 Sultanpur.
78. **Yellow-eyed Babbler** - *Chrysomma sinense*
03-05 2 Chandu.
79. **Indian White-eye** - *Zosterops palpebrosus*
03-05 2 Sultanpur.
80. **LARGE GREY BABBLER** - *Argya malcolmi*
03-05 c 10 (two groups both of c 5 birds) Sultanpur.
81. **Jungle Babbler** - *Argya striata*
03-05 c 15 Sultanpur.
82. **Striated Babbler** - *Argya earlei*
03-05 4 Chandu.
83. **Bank Myna** - *Acridotheres ginginianus*
One in a suburb near Delhi airport, seen from the car by Arjan only.
84. **Common Myna** - *Acridotheres tristis*
03-05 4 Sultanpur.
85. **Indian Pied Myna** - *Gracupica contra*
03-05 4 (group of three and one single) Chandu.
86. **Oriental Magpie-Robin** - *Copsychus saularis*
03-05 3-4 (heard-only) Sultanpur.
87. **Bluethroat** - *Luscinia svecica*
03-05 3 (all females or first-years) Chandu.
88. **Pied Bush Chat** - *Saxicola caprata*
03-05 2 (pair) Chandu.



89. **BROWN ROCK CHAT** - *Oenanthe fusca*
03-05 1 just before Chandu.
90. **Purple Sunbird** - *Cinnyris asiaticus*
03-05 5 Sultanpur.
91. **SIND SPARROW** - *Passer pyrrhonotus*
03-05 c 8 (3-4 pairs) along the irrigation canal, Chandu.
This sparrow was our main quarry of this short trip.
92. **House Sparrow** - *Passer domesticus*
Common in Delhi.
93. **Streaked Weaver** - *Ploceus manyar*
03-05 c 5 Chandu.
94. **Baya Weaver** - *Ploceus philippinus*
03-05 1 (male with nest) Chandu.
95. **Indian Silverbill** - *Euodice malabarica*
03-05 2-3 (mixed with the Red Avadavats) Chandu.
96. **Red Avadavat** - *Amandava amandava*
03-05 c 20 (in two separate flocks) Chandu.
97. **Citrine Wagtail** - *Motacilla citreola*
03-05 5 (four black-backed *calcarata*, one *citreola*) Chandu.
98. **White Wagtail** - *Motacilla alba*
03-05 1 (female or first-year) Chandu.
99. **Paddyfield Pipit** - *Anthus rufulus*.
03-05 3 in the dry fields at Chandu.