



Photo by Travelling Slacker



INDIA - Birding the Foothills of the Himalayas

Led by Professor Morgan Tingley
May 7 - 19, 2018

With more than 1,300 recorded avian species, India is a birder's dream. Delve into the country's beautiful and majestic northern landscapes while discovering its vast avifauna during this 13 day adventure. Together with your expert local guide, you'll explore myriad habitats, visit sanctuaries and reserves with spectacular avian species diversity, enjoy panoramic views of the Himalayas, and experience the enchantment of this intriguing country.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore wetlands, mountain forests, lowland jungles, and grasslands for the chance to observe a variety of different birds and habitats.
- Visit the Okhla Bird Sanctuary in Delhi, where more than 300 avian species have been recorded.
- Bird amidst the Kumaon hills, in the foothills of the awe-inspiring Himalayas.

ITINERARY

MAY 7 - DEPART THE U.S.

Depart the United States for your overnight flight to India.

MAY 8 - DELHI

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be greeted and taken to your hotel. Please note that this is an arrival day and no activities or meals are included. *Overnight at Radisson Blu Plaza.*

MAY 9 - PANGOT

After breakfast, drive about eight hours to Pangot, a journey that takes you on one of the world's more spectacular mountain roads as you climb up into the Kumaon hills on your way to this delightful lake city. Upon arrival, check in and enjoy some free time to roam around the lodge in search of its 250 plus species. Birds you may spot here include Red-billed Blue Magpie, Kalij Pheasant, Cheer Pheasant, Blue-capped Redstart, Rusty-tailed Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, and a variety of bulbuls among others. *Overnight at Jungle Lore Birding Lodge or similar. (BLD)*

MAY 10 - PANGOT

After breakfast, set out on a full day birding tour of Pangot, Baggar, Timla Pani, Cheena Peak, and Nainital. Highlight species here include Slaty-headed and Red-breasted Parakeet, Gray Bushchat, Lammergeier, Blue-winged Minla, Spotted & Slaty-backed Forktail, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Besra, and Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush. Also, the Streaked Laughingthrush is a common garden bird here. Return to the lodge this evening. *Overnight at Jungle Lore Birding Lodge or similar. (BLD)*

MAY 11 - MUKTESHWAR

Early this morning drive to Mukteshwar, stopping en route to bird at Sattal, an interconnected group of freshwater lakes in a deliberately undeveloped area. Look for Rufous-chinned and White-crested Laughingthrush, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Red-billed Leiothrix, Himalayan Bluetail, Siberian Rubythroat, Immaculate Cupwing, Rock Bunting, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Greater Flameback, Greater Yellownape, and Speckled Piculet. Next, proceed to Mukteshwar and witness the glorious sunset behind the mountains as you approach 7,500 feet in elevation. Check in at the resort upon arrival. Set atop a mountain ridge, Mukteshwar exudes a

charm unrivalled by any other place in the Kumaon hills. This tranquil hamlet provides one of the widest, most panoramic views of the Himalayan Range, filling the entire horizon from east to west. *Overnight at Mountain Trail Resort. (BLD)*

MAY 12 - MUKTESHWAR

Enjoy a full day of birding in the Mukteshwar forests. Here you'll have the chance to see Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon, Crested Serpent Eagle, Common Buzzard, Steppe Eagle, Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Slaty-headed Parakeet, Asian Barred Owlet, Himalayan Swiftlet, White-rumped Needletail, Gray-headed Woodpecker, White-throated Fantail, Gray Treepie, Long-tailed Minivet, Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush, Gray-winged Blackbird, Little Pied Flycatcher, Golden Bush-Robin, Blue-capped Redstart, Black-backed Forktail, Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler, Black-throated Tit, Siberian Stonechat, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Indian Spotted Creeper, Plain Martin, and Himalayan Bulbul. *Overnight at Mountain Trail Resort. (BLD)*

MAY 13 - MUKTESHWAR

Spend another day birding in the Mukteshwar forest. *Overnight at Mountain Trail Resort. (BLD)*

MAY 14 - CORBETT

After breakfast, drive about five hours to Corbett, with birding in Mongoli Valley en route. Corbett Tiger Reserve has spectacular avifauna diversity. Great Hornbill, Pallas's Fish-Eagle, Gray-headed and Lesser Fish-Eagle, and Blossom-headed Parakeet are some of the rare birds that can be found in Corbett. Additional birds include Collared Falconet, Jungle Owlet, Scaly-bellied Woodpecker, Red-breasted Parakeet, Himalayan Swiftlet, Stork-billed and Crested Kingfisher, and White-tailed and Siberian Rubythroat. On arrival, check in at resort. *Overnight at The Solluna Resort. (BLD)*

MAY 15 - CORBETT

After breakfast, set out for the lower jungle track along the Ramganga River, which is very rewarding for water birds such as River Lapwings, waders, mergansers, and other waterfowl. While relaxing at the lodge, or visiting the grasslands, it's possible to see Large-tailed Nightjar, Jungle Owlet, Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl, Black Francolin, Purple Sunbird, Crimson Sunbird, Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, Golden-fronted and Orange-bellied Leafbird, Black-shouldered Kite, Crested Hawk-Eagle, and Chestnut-tailed Starling. *Overnight at The Solluna Resort. (BLD)*

MAY 16 - CORBETT

Morning tiger safari followed by birding the areas of Dhikala, like Sambhar Road and Khinanauli. Here you may see Great Slaty Woodpecker, Great Hornbill, Puff-throated Babbler, White-rumped Shama, and Pallas's Fish Eagle. Late this afternoon drive back to the lodge. *Overnight at The Solluna Resort. (BLD)*

MAY 17 - DELHI

After breakfast, drive about seven hours to Delhi. Relax at the hotel this evening. *Overnight at The Claridges. (BLD)*

MAY 18 - FAREWELL!

This morning, enjoy birding at Okhla Bird Sanctuary. Afternoon city tour and shopping opportunities. Return to the hotel. You will have a day room at The Claridges for a chance to freshen up and change. After dinner, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. *Overnight at The Claridges. (BLD)*

MAY 19 - ARRIVAL

Arrive home today.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$5,495

Included:

- Activities
- Accommodations
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- Full-time local guide
- In-country transportation
- Tips/gratuities for guide and driver, maids, porters, meals, and local guides

Not included:

- Visa fees
- Travel/trip cancellation insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Alcoholic beverages
- International airfare from Hartford estimated at \$1,525

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$1,150 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is required as soon as possible to hold your space. This deposit is refundable until February 01, 2018 (excluding \$100 cancellation fee) at which time nonrefundable final payment is due. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

ABOUT YOUR LEADER



Morgan Tingley is an Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. He received his B.A. in Environmental Science and Public Policy from Harvard University, an M.Sc. in Zoology from Oxford

University, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from the University of California, Berkeley. He completed post-docs with the Institute for Bird Populations and Princeton University, during which he was awarded a David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship. Since 2002, his published research has centered at the intersection of bird distributions and community dynamics with global change ecology. His work is primarily focused on bird communities along temperate elevational gradients, including the Appalachians, the Sierra Nevada of California, and the Himalaya, and how these communities are impacted by anthropogenic change. In 2012, he was awarded the Young Professional Award by the Cooper Ornithological Society, and in 2014 he was awarded a "Wings Across America" conservation award from the USDA Forest Service. A lifelong birder, Tingley has seen over 25% of the world's bird species.



This program includes carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/uconnbirding or contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or email schmidt@holbrooktravel.com

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