

## 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019

After the completion of Mishmi Hills Birding tour in Arunachal; I had two days in hand to explore far east section of upper Assam. On 12<sup>th</sup> April after dropping participants at Dibrugarh airport, I came back to Naharkatia and stayed in a home stay run by locals – Hotel Changhar. On 13<sup>th</sup> we started at 5 AM in the morning and drove to Digboi. The oil field specialty – Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush was sighted nicely, without much effort. The call of the bird was also nicely recorded. We also tried for Collared Treepie from this area, but couldn't find any. Later by 9 AM we drove to Soraipong. It was little late to do birding in the area as the sun was high up. Bird activity almost slowed down due to heat. A water monitor lizard was sighted, swimming in a water body. As the day passed by Ashy Bulbuls, Black-crested and White-throated Bulbuls were heard. A pair of Plaintive Cuckoo was sighted as well. All on a sudden few bigger in size Hirundadae – Brown-backed Needletail was sighted. It was nice sighting from the area. We had lunch just next to the beat office, at a local's house. After lunch, we came to know that a leopard has been trapped, which would be relocated deeper inside forest. There was not much activity during the noon time as well. Red-headed Trogon was sighted. From a promising sighting area, we tried for Streaked Wren Babbler. Within a minute, response came and we waited for few more minutes, the bird appeared in open. We managed to get nice shots of the elusive Wren Babbler. Little ahead, a flock of White-hooded Babbler was seen as well. The flock consisted of Juvenile as well. For the first time, I saw beautiful rufous colored juvenile of this babbler species. We tried for Large Scimitar Babbler as well, however, except the call of the elusive skulker; we couldn't get much of the species. It never came in open, though we tried for it hard. We drove further ahead and reached to the same location where we tried for Pigeons in the morning. Pale-capped Pigeon was a very beautiful bird we sighted; almost within the same trail Pied Falconate was sighted as well. In the morning, I recorded Ruddy Kingfisher from this area. As the light was dimming faster, we decided to go ahead for night specialties. After a little trial, Oriental Bay Owl was nicely photographed and seen; however, Spot-bellied Eagle Owl was not sighted that day. By 8 PM we started driving back and we reached to our home stay at 9:30 PM. After having a quick dinner, I rested for the day, as the next day we would start at 5 AM.

## 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019

In the early morning, Jaypore RF was almost silent. It rained a lot on previous day. Little inside the forest, Ferruginous Flycatcher, Maroon Oriole, Blue-winged Leafbird was sighted. Capped Langur was seen in smaller group. From a distance, Sapphire Flycatcher was also heard. We managed to get female of the species only. Little later the highlight species of this forest – Rufous-throated Fulvetta was heard from a distance. After more than one hour of try, we finally managed to see two them closer. However, they never came in open. By 10 AM, we were almost done with birding. However, we decided to drive further till Arunachal border and little ahead of Khonsa. The trail seemed less productive, except the sighting of Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher. As decided to get down on the border bridge to photograph the landscape of the area, nasal honk of hornbill has drawn my attention. It was a brilliant new lifer for

me – Brown Hornbill. The icing on the cake and last wish fulfilled. We directly drove to our home stay, which took little more than one hour. After having a fresh bath, we departed for Dibrugarh Rly Station. I booked a hotel near the railway station for my overnight stay. Next day, I had to catch my train for my onward journey to Guwahati (for Manas TR).

***Calls Recorded:***

1. Rufous-throated Fulvetta - [XC473909](#)
2. Ruddy Kingfisher - [XC473908](#) [XC473907](#)
3. Large Scimitar Babbler – [XC473906](#)
4. Ferruginous Flycatcher – [XC473905](#)
5. Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush - [XC473902](#) [XC473903](#) [XC473904](#)

