

12th October 2019:

The participants were picked up from Siliguri-Bagdogra area in the morning and we drove out of town area by 8 AM. It took four hours for us to reach to Gangtok via Rangpo-Ranipool. We checked in at Hotel Sonamzang by noon. After having quick lunch, we explore upper ridges in Gangtok Hill. Kalij Pheasant, Gray-sided Laughingthrush, Scaly Laughingthrush, Striated Bulbul, Fire-tailed Sunbird, Red-billed Leiothrix were sighted along with some other commoners.

ebird Checklist:

1. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60575832>
2. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60575914>

13th October 2019:

In the morning we explored near the zoological garden and temple area. Siva-Minla allies followed by Tits and laughingthrushes were sighted there too. After having breakfast at Tashi View Point, we drove via Pangthang-Dikchu. At Pangthang, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Golden-throated Barbet and Black Bulbuls were sighted. After reaching at Rangrang, we stopped for a while and drove till Chungthang. We had lunch at Chungthang. Chungthang-Lachung drive yielded sighting of Asian House Martin, Redstarts etc. We stayed at Lachung at Hotel Silverline. After a short evening walk, we had early dinner at 8 PM.

ebird Checklist:

1. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60575834>
2. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60575610>
3. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60575596>
4. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60575585>

14th October 2019:

In the morning we explored Singba Rhododendron Sanctuary and Yumthang Valley complex. Miscellaneous Tits Coal Tit, Rufous-vented Tit, Gray-crested Tit, Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Himalayan Bluetail etc were sighted. On our way back, Red-billed Chough was sighted in large flock. It is important to mention, sighting of Blue-tailed Bee-eater on its passage migration at such high altitude. The place where the bird was recorded is 7 KM uphill drive from Lachung. After coming back to Lachung we had lunch and sooner left the town. We came back to Chungthang and drove to Lachen. Himalayan Swiftlet were seen in flock, where we stopped for a while due to road block. Later Striated Laughingthrush and Rufous Sibia were seen. The last bird we saw was a Small Niltava female, which kept us busy for sometime before sundown. We checked in at Lachen Hotel Tso Lhamo and slept early by 8:30 PM.

ebird Checklist:

1. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60610057>
2. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60610027>

3. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60609999>
4. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60609971>

15th October 2019:

Morning birding was done on Lachen-Thangu road and we reached at Thangu check post by 8:45 AM. Conifers were full of Tits and Magpies. Yellow-billed Chough and Snow Pigeons were sighted near human settlements. By 11:45 AM we reached at Plateau. Guldenstadt's Redstart, White-rumped and Rufous-necked Snowfinches were seen commonly. On our way back herd of Tibetan Gazelle was sighted. Near Gaigang, we saw Great Rosefinch, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Yellow-billed Chough etc. Two Ruddy Shelducks were seen there also. High altitude birding on day one was tiring thus we retired early for that day. By 4 PM, we checked in at hotel.

ebird Checklist:

1. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60638652>
2. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60638538>
3. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60638560>

16th October 2019:

We had two days of back to back plateau exploration. In addition to the last day species, we had good sighting of Marmot, Black-lipped Pika, Woolly Hare, and Blue Sheep etc. Hume's Groundpecker was seen also. Blyth's Pipit was a strange record from the plateau. Both Black-headed and Plain Mountain finches were sighted in huge flocks. A Northern Raven was seen near army campus along with Yellow-billed Chough. We almost saw all the previous day bird species. Like the previous day, we wrapped up birding early and retired to bed by 8 PM.

ebird Checklist:

1. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60665147>
2. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60665218>

17th October 2019:

We had a long drive from Lachen to Gangtok today. In the morning, we decided to do birding in and around Lachen. The bird species sighted were Spotted Nutcracker, Speckled Wood Pigeon, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie etc. Other commoners were there too. After having breakfast at 8:30 AM, we drove out of town. On our way, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Rufous-capped Babbler, White-tailed Nuthatch, Yellow-browed Tit etc were sighted in Bamboo thickets. We reached at Rangrang little late, by 3 PM, when we had lunch. On our way, we stopped in few places at Pangthang and reached Gangtok in the evening. We had fantastic evening with local brews and snacks at MG Marg.

ebird Checklist:

1. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60681640>
2. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60682339>
3. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60684575>
4. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60684554>

18th October 2019:

Like the first day afternoon session, we planned to spent the morning session in Temple-Zoological Garden area. It was really a fantastic session, where participants got nice images. By 8 AM we returned back to our hotel, had breakfast and checked out by 9 AM. Gangtok to Singtam drive almost had no sighting. After deviating to Singtam-Pendam road, we stopped for the last spell of birding. The participants enjoyed some local delicacy in our place and departed to Siliguri by 2:30 PM.

ebird Checklist:

1. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60711291>