

## 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Picked up participants from multiple locations across Kolkata and drove out of city around 9:30 AM in the morning. Kolkata-Canning-Gadkhali drive took little more than 3 hours. After getting on our boat Sundarban Safari 1, we spent nearly five hours on cruise and checked in later in the evening at Sundarban Residency Hotel. Sighting of Ashy Woodswallow in an open perch from Sudhanyakhali Watch Tower and a single sighting of Mangrove Pitta made our day in the afternoon. Though we tried for Pitta multiple times, but it hardly appeared in open. Pitta was perched almost at the top of a tree hiding behind leaves; just a part of its body was visible. At night recorded fantastic calls of Oriental Scops Owl.

Check the recorded calls of Oriental Scops Owl:

- <https://www.xeno-canto.org/493779>
- <https://www.xeno-canto.org/493754>

Ebird Check list for 9<sup>th</sup> Aug '19: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59823492>

## 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Started very early in the morning at 5:30 AM from hotel, so that we enter at the earliest at 6 AM in the forest. Hide and seek with Mangrove Whistler at multiple locations, a small albino saltwater Crocodile, Mudskippers, Crabs of various types kept the participants busy. Though we were yet to see another three glorious birds – Mangrove Whistler, Ruddy Kingfisher and Buffy Fish Owl. After lunch a White-bellied Sea Eagle and a gigantic Salt Water Croc showed up nicely.

Check the recorded call of Mangrove Whistler:

- <https://www.xeno-canto.org/493998>

Ebird Check list for 10<sup>th</sup> Aug '19: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59824174>

## 11<sup>th</sup> August 2019

As we did the previous day, we again started at the same time. Morning session yielded good sighting of Changeable Hawk Eagle (Dark morph) and some brilliant sighting of Mangrove Whistler for nearly ten minutes. Recorded calls are shared below. Otherwise, Collared Kingfisher, Spotted Deer etc obliged us. From Sajnekhali Watch Tower area a Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker posed nicely. Later that day some Waders – Curlew, Whimbrel, along with other miscellaneous waders were sighted. It is important to mention Irrawaddy Dolphin sighting just before lunch hours that day. Though we sighted another pod on the next day.

Check the recorded calls of Mangrove Whistler:

- <https://www.xeno-canto.org/493966>
- <https://www.xeno-canto.org/493711>

Ebird Check list for 11<sup>th</sup> Aug '19: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59825492>

## 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019

It was the last day of this short birding tour and we were yet to see two more glorious target birds from the tour, Ruddy Kingfisher and Buffy Fish Owl. The first bird showed up just after entering the jungle. As heavy rain started pouring, we had a prolonged sighting in rain. Buffy Fish Owl for this birding tour was just like a ghost of the forest. It showed up just for flicker of second and later vanished inside the forest and our chances dimmed out. However, a pod of Irrawaddy Dolphins kept us busy for long time. A deer stag crossing a canal by swimming was a rare sighting as well; considering 'when does an ungulate swim'. The tour ended at Kolkata and participants were dropped at multiple locations.

Check the recorded calls of Ruddy Kingfisher:

- <https://www.xeno-canto.org/493883>
- <https://www.xeno-canto.org/493897>

Ebird Check list for 12<sup>th</sup> Aug '19: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59825771>

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