
In Search of Snow Leopards - Ladakh 2018

wildwings.co.uk



Hunting Snow Leopard © Mark Andrews

SPECIES LIST

For a full daily account, see trip report.



Main Tour Leh-Hemis NP-Leh 26th February to 11th March

Extension One Leh/Ulley/Nimmoo/Leh 11th to 15th March

Extension Two Tso Kar 15th to 19th March

MAMMALS

Stolizcka's Mountain Vole *Alticola stoliczkanus* - At least six individuals observed and photographed at close range at Tso Kar during the second extension on 16/03/18.

Ladakh Pika *Ochotona ladacenis* - Two solitary individuals observed at close range at Tso Kar during the second extension on 16/03/18.

Large-eared Pika *Ochotona macrotis* - One on the 28/02, two on the 08/03, two on the 10/03 Hemis NP. one Nimmoo 13/03 and one 16/03.

Royle's Pika *Ochotona roylei* - One on the 03/03 Urutse Valley.

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus* - Singles, occasionally two, observed most days in Hemis, singles observed at Ulley and Tso Kar.

Eurasian Lynx *Lynx lynx isabellinus* - Tracks were found on 05/03 and then a pair were observed hunting Woolly Hare from the Rumbak watchpoint, Hemis NP on 10/03.

Snow Leopard *Panthera uncia* - One at a kill, a young, very beautiful individual watched for over six hours at Saspotsey on 27/02. A willow-the-wisp glimpse, followed by a prolonged observation of a male stalking Blue Sheep on 28/03 in Hemis NP. One very briefly on a ridge top from the watchpoint Hemis NP on 02/03. Two on the 03/03, one a big male observed for several hours. One observed, possibly the same individual hunting and stalking Blue Sheep for around eight hours on the 04/03. One found early morning gave on-off views at distance for most of the day before eventually coming close to camp late afternoon 07/03 and finally an absolutely mind-blowing encounter on 09/03 when a stunning cat was found from camp at 06.40, observed at close range all day stalking Blue Sheep first, and then a Yak a mere fifty metres in front of us. It was still viewable at dusk.

Tibetan Wolf *Canis lupus filchneri* - Two observed on the ridge from camp on the 01/03, Two observed from the watchpoint 08/03 and two observed at close range between Ulley and Nimmoo on 13/03.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* - Surprisingly only one, at Tso Kar on 16/03.

Mountain Weasel *Mustela altaica* - One in camp on 04/03 and probably the same individual at the watchpoint a few days later on 07/03.

Kiang (Tibetan Wild Ass) *Equus kiang* - At Tso Kar only, 29 on 15/03, 33 on 16/03 and 17 on 17/03.

Asiatic (Siberian) Ibex *Capra sibirica* - At least seven on the 11/03 and six on the 12/03 at Ulley and seventy nine near Nimmoo on the 13/03.

Tibetan Argali *Ovis aries hodgsoni* - Five big male on 15/03 and then a minimum of forty five on 16/03 Tso Kar. In addition, a further exploratory group found on the other side of the main pass numbering around twenty individuals.

Ladakh Urial (Red Sheep) *Ovis vignei* - A group of five and then another group of thirteen on the edge of Hemis NP on 10/03 and a group of twenty and then seven between Leh and Ulley on 11/03.

Blue Sheep (Bharal) *Pseudois nayaur* - Observed daily in Hemis NP between 28/02 and 10/03 sometimes a hundred strong. A group of fifteen on 16/03 followed by another nine on 17/03 at Tso Kar.

BIRDS

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* - A group of twenty over Rumbak on 01/03 and three at Tso Kar on 16/03.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* - Two over Leh on 13/03, common at Tso Kar with a hundred plus 15-17/03.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* - Small numbers at Shey marshes 14/03.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* - Small numbers at Shey marshes 14/03.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* - Four near Tso Kar 17/03.

Green-winged Teal (Eurasian) *Anas crecca crecca/nimia* - At least thirty near Tso Kar 17/03.

Common Merganser (Goosander) *Mergus merganser orientalis* - One Leh on 27/02, fifteen and then twenty five travelling between Leh -Tso Kar -Leh.

Chukar *Alectoris chukar* - Common, observed daily throughout.

Himalayan Snowcock *Tetraogallus himalayensis* - Heard daily from camp, observed most days in Hemis and at Ulley.

Tibetan Partridge *Perdix hodgsoniae* - Six in Rumbak village observed on 04/03 and again 06/03.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* - Seven individuals observed along the Indus.

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* - One to four observed most days in Hemis NP, at Ulley and at Tso Kar

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis* - One on the 04/03, two on the 05/03 and two on the 06/03 Hemis NP, two on 15/03 Tso Kar.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* - Observed daily throughout the tour.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* - One on the way to Saspotsey 27/02, one Hemis NP 13/03.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis schvedowi* - One displaying near Nimmoo 13/03.

Black-eared Kite *Milvus (migrans) lineatus* - One along the Indus, Leh on 13/03.

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius* - One on the 06/03, one on the 09/03 Hemis NP, 4 on the 15/03, one on 16/03 and four on 17/03 Tso Kar.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus chloropus* - Common around Shey Marshes 14/03.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* - Common around Shey Marshes 14/03 and surprisingly Tso Kar 15-17/03.

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* - Iconic, two on the Indus near Leh on 14/03.

Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria* - Great views of an individual on the Indus near Leh on 14/03.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* - One on the Indus 28/02.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* - One on the Indus 28/02 and four on the Indus 14/03.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* - Six on the Indus 14/03.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* - Four on the Indus 14/03.

Tibetan Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes tibetanus* - One hundred plus observed at very close range at Tso Kar on 16/03.

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* - Observed throughout.

Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris turkestanica* - Observed daily in good numbers at all main sites.

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota leuconota* - Six on 04/03, two on 06/03 and two on 10/03 in Hemis NP.

Eurasian Eagle- Owl *Bubo bubo hemachalanus* - One in camp just before dawn 02/03, again 05/03, heard 06/03, observed at roost Rumbak 08/03 and heard 12/03.

Little Owl *Athene noctua ludlowi* - Two at Tso Kar 16/03.

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* - One Hemis NP 28/02, one Tso Kar 15/03 and two Tso Kar 16/03.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug milvipes* - One on 15/03 and another 16/03 Tso Kar.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus calidus* - One Hemis NP 02/03.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica bactriana* - Common throughout.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* - Common throughout.

Alpine (Yellow-billed) Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus* - Common throughout with some flocks numbering in the hundreds.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* - One Saspotsey 27/02 and small numbers at Tso Kar 15-17/03.

Horned Lark (Tibetan) *Eremophila alpestris longirostris* - Two Hemis NP 28/02, fifty plus Nimmo area 11/03 and five hundred plus Tso Kar 15-17/03.

Eurasian Skylark (Asian) *Alauda arvensis dulcivox* - Three near Shey Marshes 14/03.

Ground Tit (Hume's Groundpecker) *Pseudopodoces humilis* - Six on 16/03 and ten plus 17/03 Tso Kar.

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus* - Small numbers throughout in suitable habitat.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus (collybita) tristis* - One Indus Valley 27/02 and one Indus Valley 12/03.

White-browed Tit-Warbler (Stolicka's) *Leptopoecile sophiae sophiae* - A pair at Saspotsey 27/02 and heard Hemis NP 13/03.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria nepalensis* - Three on 28/02, singles on 01 and 02/03, two on 06/03, one on 09/03, four on the 10/03 Hemis NP.

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes neglectus* - Singles on four dates in Hemis NP and one Leh 14/03.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* - One on 15/03 and another 17/03 Indus valley on way to Tso Kar.

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* - Two on the Indus heading into Hemis NP 28/02, three on 11/03 near Ulley, two on 12/03 Ulley, one Nimmoo 13/03 and one Indus 17/03.

White-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* - Male between Nimmoo and Saspotsey 11/03.

White-winged Redstart (Guldenstadt's) *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus* - Very common in the Indus Valley with fifty plus on 28/02, at least two Rumbak village, Hemis NP, Ten between Leh and Ulley 11/03, four Ulley 12/03, six Nimmoo 13/03, thirty plus Shey/Thikse area 14/03, eight Leh to Tso Kar.

Black Redstart (Eastern) *Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris* - One Tso Kar 15/03.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis* - One Indus Valley, Leh 28/02, two between Nimmoo and Ulley 11/03 and two Leh to Tso Kar 15/03.

Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides rubeculoides* - Observed daily in small numbers with twenty plus Rumbak village 04/03, thirty plus Ulley village 12/03 high counts.

Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens fulvescens* - Around twenty birds in the Indus Valley 27/02, one Hemis 28/02, one Hemis 08/03, ten plus Nimmoo to Ulley, thirty Ulley Village 12/03, two Leh 14/03, two Tso Kar 15/03.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* - Singles in Hemis NP, Ulley and Tso Kar.

White Wagtail (ocularis) *Motacilla alba ocularis* - One, Leh 28/02.

White Wagtail (Masked) *Motacilla alba personata* - Small numbers throughout in suitable habitat.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* - One, Shey Marshes 14/03.

Black-headed (Brandt's) Mountain-Finch *Leucosticte brandti haematopygia* - Some very big flocks between Nimmoo and Saspotsey 27/02, two Rumbak Village 02/03, and flocks numbering in hundreds at Tso Kar 15-17/03.

Mongolian Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus* - Two hundred between Nimmoo and Ulley 11/03, and hundred plus Ulley to Nimmoo 13/03.

Common Rosefinch *Erythrura erythrura* - One between Nimmoo and Ulley 11/03.

Streaked Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides* - Two Rumbak village, Hemis NP 04 and 06/03, two between Nimmoo and Ulley 11/03 and again 13/03.

Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilla severtzovi* - Two 15/03 and four 16/03 Tso Kar

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris rufostrigata/ montanella* - Around two hundred birds on the 28/02 whilst entering Hemis NP, observed most days in smaller numbers in Hemis NP. A hundred plus at Ulley 12/03 and then again in mixed species flocks between Ulley and Nimmoo 13/03.

Fire-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus* - Observed most days in Hemis NP, flocks numbering around thirty plus at Rumbak village often came down to the watchpoint area. Recorded in similar numbers Leh-Ulley-Leh.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* - Male between Nimmoo and Ulley 11/03.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* - Recorded in suitable habitat, Leh, Nimmoo etc.

Tibetan Snowfinch *Montifringilla henrici* - Observed between Leh and Saspotsey 27/02, two in Hemis 01/03, a hundred plus at Tso Kar 15-17/03.

Blandford's Snowfinch *Montifringilla blandfordi* - At least sixty birds Tso Kar
15-17/03.

Mark Andrews - Tour Leader

Forthcoming WildWings departures (main tour dates):

25th February – 10th March 2019

www.wildwings.co.uk