

GREAT INDIAN ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS (Rhinoceros unicornis)

This is the largest of the three species of Asiatic rhinoceri. Approximately 1200 are left in the Indian Sub-continent, and this constitutes the world population of the species. There are about 350 in the National Park and surrounding area. Folds in the thick skin of this rhino give the impression of armour plating. The horn is formed of closely matted mass of fibres issuing from the skin. The horn grows throughout life and if lost is reproduced.

Habitat: destruction and heavy poaching of this animal for its horn, believed by the Chinese to be of great medicinal value, have been largely responsible for the decline in population during recent decades. Gestation period is about sixteen months with the young weighing around 130 pounds at birth.

GAUR (Bos gaurus):

This is the largest of the world's wild oxen. A bull may stand over six feet tall at the shoulder and weigh nearly a ton. The Gaur is essentially an animal of densely forested hills. Found in small herds, this animal is very shy and wary, completely avoiding man and his works. There are a few left in the hilly areas of the Park.

SPOTTED DEER* or CHITAL (Axis axis):

Perhaps the most graceful and most beautiful of all deer, easily identifiable by the white spots on its brown coat. The stags have long antlers with three tines. This is the only large mammal in the Park which is found in large herds. They prefer open forest and the margins between the forest and grassland. They are prolific breeders and thus the most common deer in the Park. The peak of the mating season is in the late spring. Young are born after 8 months.

HOG DEER (Axis porcinus):

Related to the spotted deer, but smaller and far less graceful. The name is derived from its squat appearance and habit of running with the head down instead of bounding like other deer. Sometimes found in groups, preferring the grassland margins of the rivers. They are wary animals with acute sense of sight, smell and hearing. The gestation period is eight months.

SAMBAR (Cervus unicolor):

This is the largest of the deer in the sub-continent and a large stag may scale 600 to 700 pounds. It has a shaggy brown coat and the stags possess thick antlers with three tines - the full number of points being reached in the fourth year. Forested hillsides are their preferred habitat and a diet of grass, leaves and wild fruits. Powers of sight are moderate, but scent and hearing acute. Rarely found associating in large numbers. Stags leave the hinds after the mating season in the fall to lead a solitary life.

BARKING DEER (Muntiacus muntjak):

This reddish coloured deer, seen singly or in pairs, is the smallest of the four kinds of deer found in the Park, prefers densely forested hills but is sometimes found in the lowlands. The antlers are small, consisting of a short brow-tine and an unbranched beam. In doots of bristly hair replace the horns. The name is derived from its alarm call, which sounds rather like a hoarse dog's bark.

SLOTH BEAR (Melursus ursinus):

This shaggy black bear with an elongated muzzle and short hind legs is rather uncouth in appearance. Despite its name this bear can be very agile on its feet, one may weigh 300 lbs on most of more. Like the Himalayan Black Bear, the Sloth Bear has a white 'V' on its chest. Fruit, honey and insects, especially termites, are the most important food. This bear is quite common in the Park, which is its ideal habitat. The young are born after seven months and stay with the mother until one to three years old.

WILD BOAR (Sus scrofa):

With its sparse black coat and bristled mane a large boar may stand three feet at the shoulder and weigh 300 to 400 pounds. The males have razor sharp tusks. The wild boar is omnivorous and its diet includes roots, tubers, insects, snakes and carion. They feed normally in the early morning or late evening. Four to

six young are born at one time and the mother shelters them in a heap-up mass of grass or branches, which she builds before the litter.

ROYAL BENGAL TIGER (Panthera tigris tigris):

Now on the 'Endangered List', there are perhaps 2,500 survivors of this sub-species of the tiger in the Indian subcontinent. Nocturnal and elusive, the essentially solitary tiger covers great distances and is a difficult animal to see in the wild. About 30 breeding adults remain in the Park.

The various types of deer, as well as wild boar, form the bulk of the tiger's natural prey.

LEOPARD (Panthera pardus):

Although less common than in former times, because of its greater adaptability, the leopard has been able to hold its own better than the tiger. The leopard will kill and eat anything it can overpower with safety-cattle, deer, monkeys, smaller beasts of prey, larger rodents, birds and reptiles. Being more tolerant of the sun they frequently hunt by day, particularly if they have not secured food the previous night. They are not restricted to heavy forest or cover like tigers.

WILD DOG (Cuon alpinus):

An animal of Central, Southern and South-eastern Asia, the Dhole (its Indian name) is quite different from the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*). The Dhole has rich red colour, with a darkish muzzle and a darker back-half to its bushy tail. A big male weighs up to 45 lbs and stands over 20 inches at the shoulder.

In Chitwan the wild dogs inhabit forests and perhaps cover a large area, but their numbers in the park are very low, and they are usually seen in pairs. They hunt in small packs by day and are ambushed as large game are fair game. Unlike true canids, which have ten teeth, wild dogs have twelve to fourteen and do not bark like domestic dogs. Their gestation period is about sixty to seventy days, and four to six blind and helpless young are born in a litter.

ASIATIC ELEPHANT (Elephas maximus):

Fifty years ago wild elephants were common in Chitwan. Now the chances of seeing a wild elephant in the valley are extremely slim. A small herd was recently reported near Amuvu, inside the park, but the total population in Nepal is thought to be only between thirty and fifty, scattered in tiny groups along the country's southern border.

In spite of its Latin name, the Indian elephant is not the biggest: the African bush elephant is larger, the maximum known weight being over 6 tons, compared with the Asian elephant's 5 tons. Adult Asiatic males average 9 feet at the shoulder, and females 8 feet.

GANGETIC DOLPHIN (Platanista gangetica):

This fresh water dolphin, up to eight feet in length, is present in the Narayani River on the west side of the Park. It surfaces to breathe every minute or so. Life in turbid waters has resulted in the extreme reduction of the eyes. The jaws of the animal are well adapted for browsing on bottom living crustaceans. The colour ranges from dark lead to sooty black, the older individuals having a few lighter patches on the sides. Normally one young is born after a gestation period of eight to nine months.

SMALL MAMMALS:-

These include the Langur Monkey (*Presbytis entellus*), the Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), the Jackal (*Canis aureus*), the Indian Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*), the Large Indian Civet (*Viverra zibetha*), Small Indian Civet (*Viverrilla indica*), Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hemaphysotus*), Spotted Linsang (*Prionodon pardicolor*), Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), the Leopard Cat (*Felis bengalensis*), the Fishing Cat (*Felis viverrina*), the Yellow-throated Marten (*Martes flavigula*), Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutra pers.-sillata*) the Common Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsi*), Crab-eating Mongoose (*Herpestes urva*), Small Indian Mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*), Rufous-tailed Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), Hissid Hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*), Indian Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Giant Flying Squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista*), Great Eastern Horseshoe Bat

(*Rhinolophus luctus*), Fulvous Fruit Bat (*Rousettus leschenaulti*), Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*), Ratel (*Mellivora capensis*), and Grey Musk Shrew (*Suncus murinus*).

The Indian Python characteristically is found in or near the small lakes formed on old river courses. Poisonous snakes include the Common Cobra, the King Cobra, the Common Krait and the Green Pit Viper. There are also a wide variety of non-poisonous snakes.

BIRD LIST ROYAL CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus)
Little Grebe (Podiceps ruficollis)
Large Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)
Little Cormorant (Phalacrocorax niger)
Darter (Anhinga nufa)
Gray Heron (Ardea cinerea)
Purple Heron (Ardea purpurea)
Little Green Heron (Butorides striatus)
Pond Heron (Ardeola grayii)
Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax)
Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis)
Large Egret (Egretta alba)
Intermediate Egret (Egretta intermedia)
Little Egret (Egretta garzetta)
Chestnut Bittern (Ixobrychus cinnamomeus)
Yellow Bittern (Ixobrychus sinensis)
Painted Stork (Ibis leucophaea)
Open-Billed Stork (Anastomus oscitans)
White-necked Stork (Ciconia ciconia)
White Stork (Ciconia alba)
Black Stork (Ciconia nigra)
Black-necked Stork (Xenorhynchus asiaticus)
Lesser Adjutant Stork (Leptoptilus javanicus)
Sarus Crane (Grus antigone)
Common Crane (Grus grus)
Demoiselle Crane (Anthropoides virgo)
Black Ibis (Pseudis papillosa)
Graylag Goose (Anser anser)
Bar-headed Goose (Anser indicus)
Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus)
Lesser Whistling Teal (Dendrocygna javanica)
Ruddy Shelduck (Ruddy shelduck)
Pintail (Anas acuta)
Common Teal (Anas crecca)
Garganey (Anas querquedula)
Sporbill (Anas poecilorhyncha)
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)
Gadwall (Anas strepera)
Falcated Teal (Anas falcata)
Urean Wigeon (Anas penelope)
Red-crested Pochard (Netta rufina)
Shoveler (Anas clypeata)
Common Pochard (Aythya ferina)
Tufted Pochard (Aythya fuligula)
Cotton Tail (Nettion cormandelianus)
Caldaneye (Bucephala clangula)
Merganser (Mergus merganser)
Black-crested Baza (Aviceda leucophaea)
Black-shouldered Kite (Elaanus caeruleus)
Brahmyn Kite (Haliastur indica)
Honey Kite (Spizopis palustris)
Dark Kite (Milvus migrans)
Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis)
Crested Goshawk (Accipiter trivirgatus)
Sparrow Hawk (Accipiter nisus)
Besa Sparrow Hawk (Accipiter virgatus)
Shikra (Accipiter badius)
Long-legged Buteo (Buteo rufinus)

Eurasian Buteo (Buteo buteo)
White-eyed Hawk (Butastur teesa)
Crested Serpent Eagle (Spilornis cheela)
Mountain Hawk Eagle (Spizaeus nipalensis)
Changeable Hawk Eagle (Spizaeus himanetus)
Rufous-bellied Hawk Eagle (Leptochelidon kienleii)
Booted Eagle (Hierastur pennatus)
Tawny Eagle (Aquila rapax)
Steppe Eagle (Aquila nipalensis)
Greater Spotted Eagle (Aquila clanga)
Lesser Spotted Eagle (Aquila pomarina)
White-tailed Sea Eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla)
Black Eagle (Haliaeetus melanoleucus)
Pallas's Fishing Eagle (Haliaeetus leucorhynchus)
Gray-headed Fishing Eagle (Ichthyophaga ichthyophaga)
Himalayan Grey-headed Fishing Eagle (Ichthyophaga nana)
Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)
Cinereous Vulture (Aegypius monachus)
Eurasian Griffon (Gyps fulvus)
Black Vulture (Torgos calvus)
White-backed Vulture (Gyps bengalensis)
Indian Griffon (Gyps indicus)
Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus)
Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus)
Pale Harrier (Circus macrourus)
Bied Harrier (Circus melanoleucus)
Marsh Harrier (Circus aeruginosus)
Red-thighed Falconet (Microhans caeruleus)
Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus japonensis)
Shahin Falcon (Falco peregrinus peregrinator)
Eurasian Hobby (Falco subbuteo)
Oriental Hobby (Falco severus)
Red-headed Merlin (Falco chircapera)
Red-legged Falcon (Falco vespertinus)
Lesser Kestrel (Falco naumanni)
Eurasian Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus)
Black Partridge (Francolinus francolinus)
Common Quail (Coturnix coturnix)
Button Quail (Turnix sorsitor)
Common Bustard-Quail (Lophura leucolana)
Kalij Pheasant (Pavo cristatus)
Common Peafowl (Anas crecca)
Red-Jungle Fowl (Gallus gallus)
Baldpate's Crane (Porzana pusilla)
Ruddy Crane (Anas fuscus)
Brown Crane (Anas platyrhynchos)
White-breasted Waterhen (Gallinula chloropus)
Indian Gallinule (Gallinula chloropus)
Purple Gallinule (Porphyrio porphyrio)
Coot (Fulica atra)
Bengal Florican (Eupodotis bengalensis)
Pheasant-tailed Jacana (Hydrophasianus chirurgus)
Bronze-winged Jacana (Metopis fusca)
Yellow-wattled Lapwing (Vanellus malabaricus)
Red-wattled Lapwing (Vanellus indicus)
Eurasian Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)
Spur-winged Lapwing (Vanellus spinosus)
Eastern Golden Plover (Pluvialis dominica)
Little Ring Plover (Charadrius dubius)
Kenish Plover (Charadrius mongolus)
Lesser Sand Plover (Whimbrel)
Greenish-brown (Numenius arguta)
Common Redshank (Tringa nebularia)
Spotted Redshank (Tringa totanus)
Marsh Sandpiper (Tringa erythropus)
(Tringa stagnatilis)

Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola)
Green Sandpiper (Tringa ochropus)
Common Sandpiper (Tringa hypoleucos)
Temminck's Stint (Calidris temminckii)
Pintail Snipe (Capella stenura)
Fantail Snipe (Capella gallinago)
Painted Snipe (Rostrella bengalensis)
Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus)
Eurasian Thick Knee (Burhinus oedicnemus)
Great Thick Knee (Scolopax major)
Small Pratincole (Glareola lacerta)
Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)
Great Black-headed Gull (Larus ichthyophaga)
Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus)
Brown-headed Gull (Larus brunneicapillus)
Caspian Tern (Hydroprogne caspia)
Indian River Tern (Sterna aurantia)
Common Tern (Sterna himantopus)
Black-bellied Tern (Sterna acuticauda)
Little Tern (Sterna albifrons)
Pintail Green Pigeon (Treron apicauda)
Orange-bellied Green Pigeon (Treron bichenota)
Gray-fronted Green Pigeon (Treron pompadour)
Bengal Green Pigeon (Treron phaeoptera)
Imperial Pigeon (Ducula badiata)
Rock Pigeon (Columba livia)
Rufous Turtle Dove (Streptopelia orientalis)
Red Turtle Dove (Streptopelia tranquebarica)
Indian Ring Dove (Streptopelia decaocto)
Spotted Dove (Streptopelia chinensis)
Emerald Dove (Chalcophaps indica)
Rose-ringed Parakeet (Pittacula krameri)
Large Parakeet (Pittacula alexandri)
Rose-breasted Parakeet (Pittacula cyanocephala)
Slaty-headed Parakeet (Pittacula himalayana)
Indian Lorikeet (Loriculus velutinus)
Pied Crested Cuckoo (Clamator jacobinus)
Red-throated Cuckoo (Clamator coromandus)
Common Hawk-Cuckoo (Cuculus varius)
Eurasian Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus)
Indian Cuckoo (Cuculus micropterus)
Banded Bay Cuckoo (Cacomantis sonneratii)
Plaintive Cuckoo (Cacomantis merulinus)
Dungo Cuckoo (Surniculus lugubris)
Emerald Cuckoo (Chalcites nactus)
Large Green-billed Malkoha (Phaps phaps)
Koel Cuckoo (Eudynamis scolopacea)
Sinker Cuckoo (Taccocca leschenaulti)
Small Coucal (Centropus toluolus)
Large Coucal (Centropus sinensis)
Grass Owl (Tyto capensis)
Scops Owl (Otus scops)
Collared Scops Owl (Otus bakkamoena)
Forest Eagle Owl (Bubo nipalensis)
Tawny Fish Owl (Bubo flavipes)
Brown Fish Owl (Bubo zeylonensis)
Barned Owl (Glaucidium cuculoides)
Jungle Owlet (Glaucidium naumanni)
Spotted Owlet (Athene brama)
Brown Hawk Owl (Ninox scutulata)
Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus)
Long-tailed Nightjar (Caprimulgus macrurus)
Jungle Nightjar (Caprimulgus indicus)
Little Nightjar (Caprimulgus asiaticus)
Franklin's Nightjar (Caprimulgus affinis)
Red-headed Trogon (Harpactes erythrocephalus)