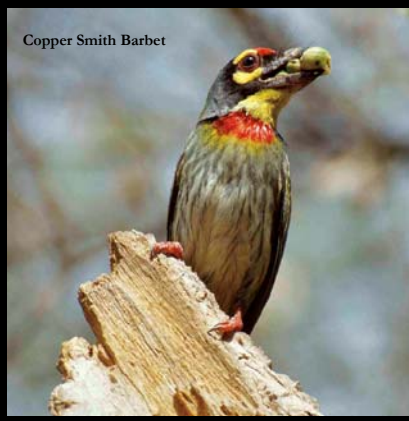


Copper Smith Barbet



SIEMER & HAND TRAVEL
JOURNEYS of DISCOVERYSM

BIRDING IN INDIA

NOVEMBER 20 – DECEMBER 2, 2009

Post-trip extension to Kaziranga

Highlights of this trip...

Join us on a birding adventure in the multi-faceted landscape of India, and observe a rich diversity of birds, see amazing wildlife, stay in wonderful hotels and lodges, and experience the warm hospitality and rich culture of India.

India is home to 14% of the world's birds, roughly 1,200 species. On this trip, target birds include the **Indian Courser**, **Little-ringed and Kentish Plover**, **Black Ibis**, **Crow Pheasant**, **Copper Smith Barbet**, **Racket-tailed Drongo**, **Oriental Turtle Dove**, **Malabar-pied Hornbills**, **Black Bittern**, **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**, and **Zitting Cisticola (Streaked-fantail Warbler)**, to name a few.

This trip is designed for maximum birding opportunities. Our excursions are usually early in the day for the best birding. Of course, we target **endemic and rare species**.

We also spend time in one of the world's best **tiger reserves**, with an excellent opportunity to see these majestic predators, and visit the famed **Taj Mahal**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Program Price: \$4,495

Optional extension to Kaziranga, one of the truly great birding and wildlife sanctuaries of southern Asia: **\$1,595** (+ internal flights)

Detailed itinerary inside,
also available online at www.siemerhand.com

For further information, please contact
program manager Carla White at Siemer & Hand Travel
at 800-451-4321, ext. 309,
or via email at carlaw@siemerhand.com

Indian Courser



Yellow-footed Green Pigeon



Black-necked Stork



Sarus Cranes



Birding in India - Trip Itinerary

For online version, visit www.siemerhand.com

November 20: USA – DELHI, INDIA Depart today to Delhi, India.

November 21: DELHI Upon arrival in Delhi, proceed to our hotel. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner. TWO NIGHTS, RADISSON HOTEL (B,L,D)

November 22: SULTANPUR JHEEL Travel to Sultanpur Jheel, a birdwatcher's paradise consisting of a small area of wetland, acacia woodland, and an open dry area that attracts an impressive list of over 250 species of bird. It is one of the best places near Delhi to spot the Indian Courser. (B,L,D)

November 23: BHARATPUR – KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK After breakfast, we drive to Bharatpur and check into our heritage hotel within a 200-year old garden. Following lunch, we stroll through and visit Keoladeo National Park, originally a vast wetland developed for duck shooting. The diverse ecosystem is considered to be one of the world's richest heronries. Boasting a list of over 400 species of birds, this is one of the few places in the world where you can see approximately 150 bird species in one morning. FOUR NIGHTS, THE BAGH RESORT (B,L,D)

November 24 & 25: KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK

Continue to explore Keoladeo National Park. with the possibility of more than 200 species ranging from Sarus Crane to Small Minivet, from Ruddy-breasted Crake to White-tailed Eagle. Among the numbers of waterbirds, Black-necked and Painted Storks, Intermediate Egret, Cotton Pygmy-Goose, and Darter vie for our attention as we search for less usual species such as Ferruginous and Red-crested Pochards or Greater Painted-snipe. In the trailside trees we look for Marshall's Iora, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Common Wood-Shrike, Asian Paradise-Flycatcher, White-bellied Drongo, Coppersmith Barbet, and Ashy Prinia. Beneath the bushes the slightest movement could herald a Bluethroat or, with luck, an Orange-headed Thrush or Siberian Rubythroat. In the sky above there might be Greater Spotted Eagle, Red-headed Vulture, or Crested Serpent-Eagle. Dusk may bring us Collared Scops Owl, Dusky Horned Owl, or a nightjar or two. (2B,2L,2D)



November 26: BHARATPUR – AGRA – BHARATPUR After breakfast, travel by motorcoach to Agra with a stop at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fatehpur Sikri (The City of Victory) to visit the complex of monuments and temples. Continue to Agra, the former capital of India and home to India's most famous monument—the **Taj Mahal**. Constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, the Taj Mahal is described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love. Constructed over a period



of twenty-two years and built entirely of white marble, the mausoleum remains one of the most graceful structures in the world. Return to Bharatpur for the night. (B,L,D)

November 27: BHARATPUR – DELHI– KANHA TIGER RESERVE This morning, we drive to Delhi and board a flight to Raipur. Continue by motorcoach to Kanha National Park, one of the most famous tiger reserves in the world and home to India's most important conservation effort, *Project Tiger*. After check-in, there is time to bird on the hotel grounds or relax. THE BAAGH RESORT AT KANHA (B,L,D)



November 28– 30: KANHA TIGER RESERVE

Spend the next three days in spectacular Kanha National Park. The setting of Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book*, the park supports a wide-range of wildlife and birds such as the Bluebearded Bee-eater, Crested Bunting, Darter, Woolly-necked Stork, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Crested Serpent-Eagle, Sirkeer Malkoha, Indian and Savanna Nightjars, Crested Treeswift, Indian Scimitar, Tawny-bellied Babbler, Tickell's Blue and Asian Paradise-Flycatcher. THE BAAGH RESORT AT KANHA (3B,3L,3D)

December 1: KANHA NATIONAL PARK – DELHI Leave the wilds and fly from Raipur to Delhi. Upon arrival, transfer to day rooms at our hotel. This evening, gather for a farewell dinner before going to the airport for a late evening flight to the USA. RADISSON HOTEL (B,L,D)

December 2: ARRIVE IN THE U.S.A.

Optional Trip Extension to Kaziranga

December 1: RAIPUR – KAZIRANGA Fly from Raipur to Kolkata (Calcutta) for dinner and overnight. PEERLESS INN HOTEL (B,L,D)

December 2-5: KAZIRANGA Fly from Kolkata to Jorhat and transfer to Kaziranga, regarded as the 'Birding Paradise' of northeast India.. The most prominent birds here include the Swamp Partridge, White-cheeked Partridge, Blue-breasted Quail, Red Junglefowl, Black Kite, Brahminy Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, Fulvous Whistling-duck, Himalayan Griffon, Grey-Headed Fish Eagle, Greater White-fronted Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Grey Peacock-pheasant, Pallas's Fish-eagle, Rose-breasted Parakeet, Oriental Honey Buzzard, and White-tailed Eagle to name a few. Among the most prominent migratory birds are Graylag Geese, Bar-headed Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Gadwall, Falcated Duck, and Red-crested Pochard. The park also supports a number of uncommon and threatened species such as the Great One-Horned Rhinoceros, Asian Elephant, Royal Bengal Tiger, and Fishing Cat. WILD GRASS LODGE (4B,4L,4D)

December 6: KAZIRANGA – DELHI This morning drive from Kaziranga to Guwahati for a mid-afternoon flight to Delhi, where day rooms have been reserved at the hotel. Tonight, after dinner, transfer to the airport for flight to the U.S. RADISSON HOTEL (B,L,D)

December 7: ARRIVE IN THE U.S.A.

For more information, please contact
program manager Carla White at Siemer & Hand Travel
at 800-451-4321, ext. 309,
or via email at carlaw@siemerhand.com



Birding Leader Vishnu Singh

Birding leader and naturalist Vishnu Singh has helped us develop this extraordinary itinerary to include all of the best and most famous birding areas of India.

Mr. Singh is a member of the Oriental Bird Club and lives with his family at Bharatpur, near Keoladeo National Park. Over the years, Vishnu has led many groups in his native India. His personal bird list of India, Nepal and Bhutan numbers 950.

Vishnu Singh is a graduate of the University of Rajasthan, and holds a post-graduate degree in English. He has studied the monuments and history of the Indian sub-Continent in detail, and has a deep knowledge of the local traditions, customs and religions.

What to Expect

This is an adventure for the bird-lover willing to travel with us for the best birding in India. Our excursions usually start early in the day for the best birding. We will target endemic and rare species. The hotels and lodges are selected with comfort in mind and for their superior locations in the heart of or near the best birding habitats.

Even though we will be birding during the best time to visit India, the weather could get cold in the morning and in the evenings after sunset as we observe migratory birds such as wintering waterfowl.

While the focus of the trip is to explore and observe the rich diversity of birds present in India, we will also take in the remarkable wildlife and notable sights including spending time in one of the world's best tiger reserves, where you'll have the best opportunity to see these majestic predators.

LAND PROGRAM RATE (per person based on double occupancy):.....\$ 4,495
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (subject to availability):.....\$ 1,095

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**KAZIRANGA EXTENSION** (per person based on double occupancy):.....\$ 1,595  
**FLIGHTS WITHIN INDIA (subject to change)**:.....\$ 820  
**EXTENSION SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (subject to availability):.....\$ 295

**PROGRAM COST INCLUDES:** 10 nights (15 nights with extension program) accommodations at comfortable and well-located hotels and birding lodges; all meals; flights within India on the main program; all sightseeing and birding excursions as outlined in the itinerary, including park entrance fees and still-camera fees; all transportation; transfers with luggage handling for those traveling on program dates; pre-trip service and pre-departure information.

**PROGRAM RATE EXCLUDES:** International airfare; flights to and from Kaziranga on the optional extension; airport fees and departure taxes; transfers on non-program dates; meals and beverages other than those specified as included; charges for items of a personal nature including laundry, beverages and excess baggage charges; baggage and trip cancellation insurance; independent travel arrangements; passport and visa fees.

**TOUR SIZE:** The program cost is based on a minimum of 14 participants. For a group size of 9-13 participants, a small group surcharge not to exceed \$450 may be imposed. The extension to Kaziranga is based on a minimum of 6 participants. Additional surcharges may be assessed, depending on currency fluctuations, fuel surcharges, and other factors.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$275 per person, will be made if we are notified in writing on or before September 18, 2009. No refunds are granted after that date.

**DEPOSIT AND PAYMENTS:** Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt if accompanied by a completed reservation form and a deposit of \$500 per person. Deposits can be made by check or be paid by credit card. Final payment, payable by check only, is due by September 18, 2009.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel insurance is strongly recommended. To protect for the following three conditions, insurance must be purchased within fifteen days of your initial tour deposit: 1) a pre-existing condition pertaining to you, a travel companion, or an immediate family member; 2) unforeseeable events or their consequences including cancellations by an airline, cruise line or third-party tour operator as a result of financial insolvency; and 3) terrorist act(s) which occur in your departure city or in a city which is a scheduled destination for your trip and within 30 days of the scheduled departure date.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Siemer & Hand Travel, Inc. for loss of property, injury, illness or death will be provided to passengers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request.

**HEALTH:** All participants must be in good health. This program is active and involves walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs. All locations may not be handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require special medical attention or other accommodation must be reported at the time of your reservation.

**SIEMER & HAND TRAVEL, INC.:** Seller of fine travel programs since 1959. CST 1004239-10 Website: www.siemerhand.com

# RESERVATION FORM

**Mail or fax to: Siemer & Hand Travel, 50 Osgood Place, Suite 230, San Francisco, CA 94133**

Fax: 415-788-4133 — Phone: 800-451-4321, ext. 309 — E-mail: carlaw@siemerhand.com

Enclosed is my deposit for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on  
**Birding in India, with Vishnu Singh**

Please make check payable to *Siemer & Hand Travel*, or charge my deposit to:

\_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Diners Club \_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_ Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Signature as it appears on credit card

\_\_\_\_\_

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

*(as it appears on passport)*

Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

*(as it appears on passport)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to participate in the optional post-trip extension to Kaziranga

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We request trip cancellation insurance covering the full trip cost. By purchasing the coverage now, I am also protected for the three conditions stated under Travel Insurance in the General Information section. Multiply the full program cost (including any non-refundable air) for each traveler by .075 for a total premium of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SINGLE TRAVELERS (*SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY*)

\_\_\_\_\_ I desire single accommodations and will pay the single supplement of \$1,095

\_\_\_\_\_ I desire single accommodations for the post-trip extension, and will pay the single supplement of \$295

\_\_\_\_\_ I will share accommodations with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to share with a: \_\_\_\_\_ smoker \_\_\_\_\_ non-smoker (shares cannot be guaranteed)

I/we have read the General Information and understand and agree to the terms and conditions stated herein:

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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