

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The objective of the short study, conducted between October and December 2015, was to document the wildlife of the Brahmaputra floodplain and the influence of the river on the distribution and ecology of species, through review of existing information on species and selected site visits.

The sources of secondary information were mainly research reports, published research papers and news clips and forest management plans. Site visits were made to 24 sites on the Brahmaputra from Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh) to Dhubri (Assam). This included 10 Protected Areas, 2 Reserve Forests, 2 Proposed Reserve Forests, five confluences of tributaries with the Brahmaputra, three wetlands (non P.A.), a rubber plantation and an old airfield scrub forest. The field visits were carried out to gain an understanding of the wildlife habitat and interact with people having in-depth local knowledge of the wildlife and conservation issues in their areas. A total of 50 persons were interviewed on different subjects of wildlife and conservation interest. The interviews were recorded on video and subsequently transcribed. The report contains vignettes about the wildlife of the Brahmaputra in the first person by people who live and/or work on or near the river either as administrators, foresters, scientists, conservationists and those who earn their livelihoods on the river. A few sections are based on existing or inferred information.

Map

1:

Wilderness

Areas

NATIONAL PARK								
1	Assam	Dibru-Saikhowa NP & Biosphere Reserve; IBA Dibru-Saikhowa Complex (Dibru-Saikhowa NP, Poba RF, Kobo Chaporí PRF, Amarpur Chaporí, Maguri & Motapung Beel, Adjacent riverine tracts of Brahmaputra & Lohit rivers	1999	Tinsukia, Dibrugarh	340 IBA 800	Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Slow Loris, Pigtailed Macaque, Hog Deer, Gangetic River Dolphin. Feral Horses; Monitor Lizards, Assam Roof, Cobra, Indian Rock <i>Python</i>	502	Swamp Francolin, White-winged Duck, Baer's Pochard, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, White-bellied Heron, Spot-billed Pelican, Pallas' Fish Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture, Bengal Florican, Sarus Crane, Spotted Greenshank, Indian Skimmer, Pale-capped Pigeon, Marsh Babbler, Jerdon's Babbler, Black-breasted Parrotbill, Yellow Weaver
2	Assam	Kaziranga NP, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Reserve and World Heritage Site, IBA	1974	Golaghat, Nagaon, Sonitpur	860 IBA 849	Rhino (pop. 2401), Tiger (pop.125), Elephant (1675), Wild Buffalo (1963), Swamp Deer (1129), gaur, Sambar, Tiger, Slow Loris, Capped Langur, Rhesus macaque, Hoolock Gibbon, Sloth Bear, Otters, Gangetic Dolphin, Barking Deer, Malayan Giant Squirrel	490	Swamp Francolin, Baer's Pochard, bar-headed Goose, Marbled Teal, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, White-bellied Heron, Dalmatian Pelican, Spot-billed Pelican, Lesser Kestrel, Pallas' Fish Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture, Bengal Florican, Spotted Greenshank, Indian Skimmer, Pale-capped Pigeon,

								Marsh Babbler, Jerdon's Babbler, Slender-billed Babbler, Black-breasted Parrotbill, White-throated Bushchat, Yellow Weaver, Waterbirds
3	Assam	Orang NP & Tiger Reserve, IBA	1999	Darrang, Sonitpur	78.80	Rhino (pop. 100), Tiger, Hog Deer, Wild Pig, Elephant, Gangetic Dolphin, Chinese Pangolin, Small Indian Civet, Jungle Cat, Smooth Indian Otter, Rufous-tailed Hare. Extinct: Swamp Deer, Hispid Hare; Indian Tent Turtle, Brown Roof Turtle, Malayan Box Turtle, Eastern Hill Terrapin, Spotted Black Terrapin, Indian Softshelled Turtle. New species of frog, <i>Kalophrynus orangensis</i> in 2002.;	225	Swamp Francolin, Baer's Pochard, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Spot-billed Pelican, Pallas' Fish Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture, Bengal Florican, Bristled Grassbird, Yellow Weaver
WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES								
4	Arunachal Pradesh	D'Ering (Previously Lali WLS), IBA	1976	East Siang	190	Elephant, Tiger, Wild Pig, Hog Deer, Barking Deer	150+	One of the most important grassland habitats of Bengal Florican. Swamp Francolin, White-winged Duck, Lesser Adjutant, Spot-billed Pelican, Lesser Kestrel, Pallas' Fish Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Indian Skimmer, Jerdon's Babbler, Black-

								breasted Parrotbill
5	Assam	Panidihing Bird Sanctuary, IBA (Panidihing Bird Sanctuary, Phokolai and Dorou Beels)	1999	Sibsagar	33.93 IBA 40	Elephants, Common Otter, Hog Deer, Gangetic Dolphin, occasional Rhino, Tiger; Brown Roof Turtle, Indian Tent Turtle, Gangetic Softshell	160+	Swamp Francolin, Baer's Pochard, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Pallas' Fish Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture, Black-breasted Parrotbill
6	Assam	Laokhowa, IBA Laokhowa-Burhachapori	1998	Nagaon	70.13, IBA 114.17	Elephant, Wild Buffalo, Tiger, Hog Deer, wild Pig, Porcupine, Large Indian Civet, Common Otter, Clawless Otter, Golden Jackal Extinct: Rhino	200+	Swamp Francolin, Baer's Pochard, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Pallas' Fish Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture, Bengal Florican, Spotted Greenshank, Marsh Babbler
7	Assam	Burachapori, IBA Laokhowa-Burhachapori	1995	Sonitpur	44.06	"	"	"
8	Assam	Amchang	2004	Kamrup	78.64 IBA 74	Hoolock Gibbon, Slow Loris, Capped Langur, Rhesus Macaque, Assamese Macaque, Elephant, Leopard, Leopard Cat, Jungle Cat, Sambar, Barking Deer.	200	Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Spot-Billed Pelican, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture
9	Assam	Pabitora	1998	Morigaon	38.83	Rhino (pop.93), Fishing Cat, Golden Jackal, Common Otter, Wild Pig, Feral Water Buffalo;	190	Swamp Francolin, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, White-bellied Heron, Spot-billed Pelican, Lesser

						Brahminy Terrapin, Spotted Pond terrapin		Kestrel, Pallas' Fish Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture, Bengal Florican, Spotted Greenshank, Yellow-vented Warbler, Marsh Babbler, Yellow Weaver, Waterbirds (20,000)
10	Assam	Deepar Beel, IBA & RAMSAR Site	2009	Kamrup	4.14 IBA 9	Elephant	150	Baer's Pochard, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Spot-Billed Pelican, Pallas' Fish Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture, Spoon-billed Sandpiper
11	Assam	Chakrashila WLS, Chakrashila Complex IBA (Dhir, Diplai & Dakra wetlands)	1994	Dhubri, Kokrajhar	45.50 IBA 53	Golden Langur, Chinese Pangolin, Tiger, Gaur; Kraits, Cobras, <i>Python</i> and Monitor Lizard	213	Baer's Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Pallas' Fish Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture, Waterbirds (20,000)
PROPOSED WLS								
12	Assam	Bordoibam-Bilmukh Proposed Bird Sanctuary, IBA	1996	Dhemaji, Lakhimpur	11.25	Fishing Cat, Hog Deer, Smooth Indian Otter; Indian Bull Frog, Asian Common Toad, Tree Frog species.	165+	Swamp Francolin, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Spot-billed Pelican, Lesser Kestrel, Pallas' Fish Eagle. White-rumped Vulture and Greater Spotted Eagle
SELECT RESERVED FORESTS								

13	Assam	Poba (part of Dibru-Saikhowa Complex IBA)	1924	Dhemaji	102.21			
14	Assam	Dihingmukh		Dibrugarh	58.79			
15	Assam	Pabho, (Formerly Milroy Buffalo Sanctuary), IBA		Lakhimpur	49	Gangetic Dolphin, , Tiger Extinct: Wild Buffalo	130	Swamp Francolin, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Spot-billed Pelican, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture, Black-breasted Parrotbill
SELECT PROPOSED RESERVED FOREST								
16	Assam	Kobo (part of Dibru-Saikhowa Complex IBA)		Dhemaji				
OTHER IBAS								
17	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang Reserve Forest IBA	-	Lower Dibang Valley	202	Tiger, Elephant, Wild Buffalo, Hog Deer	150+	
18	Arunachal Pradesh	The Chapories of Lohit Reserve IBA	-	Lohit	200	Tiger, Elephant, Wild Buffalo, Hog Deer, Gangetic Dolphin	140+	Swamp Francolin, White-winged Duck, Goosander, Lesser Adjutant, Great Cormorant, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture, Bengal Florican
19	Assam	Bordoloni-Sampora IBA	-	Lakhimpur, Dhemaji	30	Hog deer, Fishing cat, Rhesus macaque	Full Checklist	Swamp Francolin, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, White-bellied

							not available.	heron, Spot-billed Pelican, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture and Black-breasted Parrotbill
20	Assam	Kuarbari Dalani IBA	-	Lakhimpur	0.15	-	Significant numbers of Adjutants	Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Spot-billed Pelican, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture
21	Assam	Dum Duma, Dangori and Kumsong Reserve Forests IBA (On River Noadehing)	-	Tinsukia	60	Leopard, Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur, Pig-tailed Macaque, Slow Loris, Malayan Giant Squirrel, Barking Deer, Wild Buffalo	100+	White-winged Duck, Lesser Adjutant, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture and Masked Finfoot
22	Assam	Jamjing and Sengajan IBA	-	Dhemaji	95	Elephant, Wild Buffalo, Tiger, Fishing Cat, Otters Extinct: Wild Buffalo	200+	Swamp Francolin, White-winged Duck, Lesser Adjutant, White-bellied Heron, Spot-billed Pelican, Pallas' Fish Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture
23	Assam	Majuli IBA	-	Jorhat	880	Wild Buffalo, Barking Deer, Hog Deer, Elephant, Gangetic Dolphin; Turtles and Amphibians	250+	Swamp Francolin, Baer's Pochard, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Spot-billed Pelican, Pallas' Fish Eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Greater Spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture, Bengal Florican, Marsh Babbler, Jerdon's Babbler, Black-breasted Parrotbill, Waterbirds

								(20,000)
24	Assam	Jhanjimukh-Kokilamukh IBA	-	Jorhat, Sibsagar	25	Gangetic Dolphin; Turtles	-	Swamp Francolin, Baer's Pochard, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Spot-Billed Pelican, White-rumped Vulture, Greater-spotted Eagle, Slender-billed Vulture
25	Assam	Sibsagar Tanks (Man-made) IBA	-	Sibsagar	1.5	Smooth Indian Otter; Softshell Turtles	60	Baer's Pochard, Greylag Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture
26	Assam	Jengdia Beel and Satgaon IBA	-	Kamrup	5	Leopard, Jungle Cat and Golden Jackal	Migratory waterfowl and nesting colonies of Greater and Lesser adjutants	Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Spot-billed Pelican, Pallas's Fish Eagle
27	Assam	Tamaranga-Dalani-Bhairab Complex IBA	-	Bongaigaon	46	Golden Langur, Rhesus Macaque, Wild Pig, Leopard, Chinese Pangolin, Barking Deer, Gaur; Indian Rock Python, Monitor Lizard	150+,	Baer's Pochard, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Pallas's Fish eagle, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture, Waterbirds (20,000)
28	Assam	Urpod Beel IBA	-	Goalpara	10	Elephant, Leopard Cat	-	Lesser Adjutant, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture,

									Waterbirds (20,000)
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Sources: 1. Annals of Assam Forests, 2014. Retired Forest Officers' Association, Assam 2. www.birdlife.org/datazone/site/3. Choudhury, A. 2010. The Vanishing Herds of Wild Water Buffalo. 4. Asom Forests at a Glance. 2005. Director Forest Communication, Assam Forest Department 5. Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Assam website: Assamforest.in extension: <https://sites.google.com/site/wildlifedataassam/>