BIRD WATCHING IN NEPAL

7th December 1980 - 19th February 1981

Adrian del-Nevo  Peter Ewins
"The mountains will retain their beauty without the animals, but when the last brown bear has disappeared from the alpine meadows and the last snow leopard from the crag, a spark of life will have gone too, turning the peaks into stones of silence."

George Schaller.

Why Nepal?

Nepal is a country of great altitudinal contrasts, from the southern plains to the Northern Himalaya. Within this physical environment is a rich and varied flora and fauna. In addition to which are people whose culture is as colourful, intriguing and exciting as their surroundings. Nepal is host to over 800 species of birds, and so, for this alone it was an exciting place to go.

This report is intended to help other birders visiting Nepal, and we have given some advice on day to day necessities etc. We hope that this may prove useful whilst in Nepal and would certainly like to hear from you after your visit.

Two and a half months, from early December 1980 until mid February 1981 were spent in the country. We experienced most of the habitat types although we never seemed to have enough time in each area; in Nepal time seems to go so quickly. Whilst the period of our visit was very productive, we recommend going slightly later, so that more breeding birds can be seen and the weather is slightly warmer, especially at altitude. Thus an ideal time would be from early January until mid April. We've been told that Sept.-Oct. is good also.

Weather.

December and January can be very cold at night and may not warm up until mid morning. Kathmandu valley was invariably enveloped in mist, and warm clothes are a must during this period. Mid-afternoon temperatures are pleasant, but still keep that jumper handy. With increased altitude, temperatures are very much lower at night and heavy fronts are regular, with snow above 13,000 ft., however mountain air is crystal clear at this time of year and it soon warms up and ensures fantastic views across the Himalaya. However, beware of increase ultra violet and reduced oxygen at altitude. It is not recommended to exceed 1,000 ft. Take day long rests when trekking. Villages are quite good for birds, and the chia (tea), is always on the brew. From late January onwards the temperatures are increasing and Kathmandu's valley fog is less common; there may be the odd shower. This is a profitable time to visit the Tarai, and in particular Chitwan. Night temperatures are still 'chilly', but rise rapidly at midday, hence sun hat recommended. By mid February the Tarai is starting to get very warm and filthy biting insects are on the increase.

What to take.

There are many books to advise you on what to take but, basically travel light. A tent is not really needed (except perhaps at Kosi Barrage - but you could hire one quite cheaply), there lodges/hotels everywhere, which are cheap, and perfectly adequate. A good down sleeping bag is a must, and ideally a down jacket (winter). If you use Kathmandu as a base you can leave surplus gear at the Lodges etc. It should be quite safe. Apart from Kosi Barrage and Bharatpur (India) there is no need for a telescope. A small shoulder bag is useful, but, don't bring one, you can buy them cheaply in Kathmandu. Indeed, you can get virtually anything you want in Kathmandu, shirts, water bottles, books etc, so don't bother taking r and of gear when it can all be bought cheaply and on the spot. You can buy trekking equipment; boots, sleeping bags, down jackets etc.
Essentially; watch your health as there's very little hygiene in Nepal. Organise vaccinations well in advance; these should include; T.A.B. 1 and 2, Polio, Tetanus, Gamma Globulin and take sufficient Malaria tablets, but, check all of these with the doctor. (treatment in Nepal can be expensive). Make sure your vaccination certificate is counter-signed by the Area Health Authority, otherwise its not valid. Avoid all un-boiled water, no matter how high up you are in the mountains. Take a comprehensive first aid kit, and look after the smallest of scratches, or you may start to seep. If you go trekking you will be asked to treat wounds, swellings, eye injury's and a host of other ailments. It seems that many or all westerners are looked upon as being doctors, so we hope you have a strong stomach? Whilst trekking your own cutlery may be useful and hope-fully clean?

Remember, hygiene in Nepal is 'basic' so be careful. Keep your toilet roll handy.

Trekking
You can only trek on recognised routes (and you need a trekking permit) but, you can travel anywhere within the Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys and not need a permit. The Nepalese government is trying to dissuade 'hippy' type people, consequently permits are going up in price. For similar if not practical reasons try to avoid long hair and denim (yes, of course we're serious).

Most trekking guides, do not cater for the naturalist (let alone the twitcher) i.e; a four hour stage, would take us seven or eight hours (minimum) with serious birding, so allow plenty of time for your treks.

Carrying a rucksack (no matter how light) whilst walking, birding, taking photographs etc can be a pain. So its probably worth hiring a porter, the few rupees would be well worth it, especially at altitude.

We strongly recommend the Trishuli-Langtang/Kyanjing trek, it crosses through several vegetation types and certainly provided us with plenty of birds. Tibetan Snow Cock above Kyanjing-but, take it easy the airs thin up there.

Getting Around
When you first arrive in Kathmandu, don't go rushing off birding; most westerners hire bicycles, these are a good way of seeing Kathmandu and the surrounding area. The bikes are cheap and usually reliable, try to hire one for the week; its even cheaper and you won't have to return it by a certain time each day. If you use a taxi make sure it has a meter and that its working. The driver will always 'have a friend' (sometimes more than one) in the taxis with him-but don't worry.

Essentially, we strongly recommend a birding trip to Nepal(its much easier when you go outside the valley. Many people will indicate wanting to use your binoculars/camera (especially in remote areas), this can be tricky, play it carefully. If you hire a porter ro to a reputable agency eg: Sherpa Co-operative, or you may have problems.

Finally, and very importantly we wish to express our thanks to the many people who helped us (in one way or another) before, during and after the trip, especially; B. Fleming, L. Fleming, N. Red, B. Byamond, A. Jacquemin, A. Wyman, B. Buck, K. Waterman, Jamba R. Sherpa, Chutuk, B.P., Tachen, Yatsai, V. Ghreashna, Kathmandu lodge, Oxionian Travel, Infectious Diseases Staff, Slade hospital Oxford, and M. Stewart (who typed this-and spent many hours listening to it all) and many many others.

Hope to see you in Nepal. Good birding,

Namaste

Adrian del-Nevo Peter Ewins

mis's continued

Explore the Kathmandu valley and become familiar with its birds first of all. This will make life easier when you go outside the valley. Many people will indicate wanting to use your binoculars/camera (especially in remote areas), this can be tricky, play it carefully.

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Hope to see you in Nepal. Good birding,
Some awkward species.

The species diversity and abundance may be slightly overwhelming at first, (great fun?), and it involves a lot of hard work to keep on top of it. The brief notes given below simply outline those that we found a little tricky, and should, perhaps, be identified with care or not at all. It also includes unusual birds or those that are rare. For Nepal.

Accipitridae:

Always a difficult group, and can only advise practice.

(understatement eh?) The ridges around Pokhara are particularly good for vultures and Eagles, especially after 10a.m., when the air has warmed up a bit. The following may help to separate the following may help to separate Shikra (A. tigrina) and Beera (A. virgatus) but beware of eastern and western species of Beera.

Shikra

Iris: orange
Upper breast: barred
Abdomen: un-barred
Mantle stripe: not prominent
Mantle: brownish/grey
Feet/legs: yellow
Size: slight build
Throat: greyish
Head: grey
Pp.: uniform as mantle

Beera

Iris: orange
Upper breast: off white
Abdomen: un-barred
Mantle stripe: very prominent
Mantle: brownish
Feet/legs: yellow
Size: solid and compact
Throat: buffish
Head: milk chocolate
Pp.: dark edges

Charadriidae

Lesser sand Plover (C. mongolus). Not previously recorded in Nepal, but, 21 seen at Sauraha, 2 near Kathmandu (records to H. Fleming and Jr., Born. Nat. Hist.).


Ibisbill (L. struthersii). What a bird! Quite easy to see, especially on major rivers.

Laridae


Grey-Headed Gull (L. ichthyaetus) a huge gull, but of similar size to G.B.G. (L. marinus). Several seen in a variety of plumages, at Sauraha. No real problems.

Common Gull (C. canus) 1 Sauraha, 1st for Nepal (if accepted) record to; Born. Nat. Hist.

Stercorariidae

Barred Ovlett (G. cuculoides) and Jungle Ovlett (G. radiatum) can be difficult to separate, but rufous primaries are diagnostic on Jungle Ovlett. Spotted Ovlett (G. brama) white spots obvious and diagnostic.

Dilornuridae

Black Drongo (D. adsimilis), Ashy Drongo (D. leucophaeus); o.k. once you've got your eye in; Ashy is very Ashy (dark grey) on underparts.

Corvidae

Beware of yellow-billed blue magpie (C. flaviorostris) with wider white area on nape than illustrated in 'Birds of Nepal'.

Jungle Crow (C. macrorhynchos): hill race may be confused with larger Haven (C. corax).

Campephagidae

Woodshrikes are flycatcher-like birds and should be easily separated once your eye is in.

Female large Wood Shrike (T. rubra) and Lesser Wood Shrike (T. poniceramias) distinguished by distinct size difference.

Dark Cuckoo Shrike (C. melanopterus): given bad views, its remarkably easy to make thin into three other species, but, note head shape, bill length and depth, wing length, contrast between breast and mantle, long square tail, spots in tail (just visible), general size.

Pycoptera

Bulbuls: noisy, gregarious, but can be difficult to see clearly.

Timaliidae

Babblers, laughing Thrushes and allies; A large and interesting group more often heard than seen. Generally gregarious, working systematically through an area, often playing 'follow my leader'. When you eventually do get good views (patience is a virtue), there shouldn't be any real problems, but, beware of confusion with Green Shrike Babbler (Xanthomantis), and Shrikes and tits with which it is often associated. For similar reasons also beware of Chestnut Headed Tit Babber (A. castaneiceps).

Black-capped Sibia (H. capistrata) very noisy and gregarious, worth waiting to see what turns up after them, often followed by Babblers, Tuhina's, Tits etc.

Sylviidae

Fring's Warblers: can be tricky, especially in winter; care needed.

Phylloscopus Warblers: We made our own key, combining S.E. Asia guide. Willamson's Warbler guide and our own field notes. We suggest that you compile your own key before you go and in doing so this will be more than adequate "homework" on the phylloscopus group.

Turdidae

Grandala (G. coelebs); definitely an awkward customer. A large flock (150+) seen tumbling and turning in unison, then alighting trees. Starling like flap, glide. Deep gloss of rufous, pale brown, with white edgings to coverts; noticeable in flight as a pale bar.

Accentores

Altai accentor (P. himalayana) common above 12,000 ft. especially along Langtang. Note obvious traces.

Paridae

Be careful not to confuse the fast moving Rufous-fronted Tit; (A. louschiistos) and White throated Tit (A. niveogularis) with the Tit Babblers; (A. castaneiceps and A. vinipeus), Yellow Browed Tit; (P. modestum) a warbler like, but the crest is very prominent.
Motacillidae

Always a tricky group and the following may be of help:

A.n. Richardi: Richard's; variable, but often a harsh and loud beeze or pitt pitt, pitt.
A. spinolletta: Water: tiizupp, twit twit tiizupp.
A. Hodgsoni: Olive-backed: Twi twi, often given when alighting trees.
A. rousetum: Rose-breasted: pui pui.
A. cervinus: Hed-throated: variable, but often high pitched zeeep zeeep.

Nectariniidae

Unfortunately Sunbirds are not shown in winter/early spring plumage (Birds of Nepal), and so some Mrs. Gould's (A. gouldiae) and Nepal Sunbird (A. nipalensis) may be confused, indeed the looks of these species when seen in strong sunlight and in winter plumage might also be confused.

Fringillidae

The rose Finches are particularly tricky, (though obvious are o.k.) Can't really offer much advice other than - stick to it.

Emberizidae

Rustic Bunting; seen at Sauraha; (1st. for Nepal - if accepted - record to Jr. Som. Nat. Hist.).

Suggested Areas/Sites:

As its relatively easy to get around, try to experience as many different habitat types as possible eg: a high trek, midland forest (as defined by R. Fleming, Birds of Nepal), southern forest/dry areas, Kosi barrage and of course Kathmandu valley itself (very productive).

Map 1. Shows most of the sites mentioned in the systematic list, and maps 2, 3, and 4 indicate three excellent areas. We didn't have the time (or the money) to go to Tiger Tops in western Chitwan, but if you've got the money then we've been told that its quite good and has some localized species. Alternatively, Sauraha (map 3) is a similar area and we strongly recommend it, not only for birds, but also mammals.

We only had time for one trek; Trishuli-Langtang/Kyanjing, and we thoroughly recommend it. The following places are on that route and are mentioned in the systematic list, but are too small to include on map 1.

Langtang Trek:
Trishuli Bazar, Betrawati, Manigaon (3925 ft), Thare (6525 ft), Bhumche (6500 ft), Syabru, Lama Hotel (Sharr-Tabela 10,000 ft), Langtang (11,328 ft), Kyanjing (12,700 ft).

Kathmandu Valley:

Virtually anywhere in the valley is good, but the following sites are very profitable:
Gokarna = mature forest, 6 km N.W. of Kath - good.
Godawari = botanical gardens and hill slope to S, (radio mast) Pulchowki = 12 km S.E. of Kath - excellent.
Nagarjun = woodland and cliffs (owls) - 5 km N.W. of Kath - good.
Swayambhu = (monkey temple) - 1 km W. of Kath - good.
Pashupatinath = (important religious centre) - good woodland.
Chobar Gorge and Bagmati river = 5 km S of Kath - worthwhile.

Kosi Barrage:
Excellent for ducks, waders, and eagles etc, see map 2.

Sauraha:
Chitwan National Park - via Hitsuda or Mugling (1 or 2 days bus journey S.W. of Kath') - see map 3 and notes.

Pokhara:
Eight hour bus ride or twenty minute flight (expensive) from Kath' - see map 4 and notes.

Tegna Tal:
Lake and woodland - 15 km east of Pokhara (off Kath' road) very good area, see map 4 and notes.
Map 3. Sauraha- by bus via Hitada then bus or hitch to Tadi Bazar; or via Mugling on new Chinese road (quicker). Recommend spending the night at Tadi, then walk the 6 km (Sand lark, Ashy-crowned Finch lark en route) to Sauraha. Stay at Wendy’s Lodge (excellent) Entry to the National Park is expensive and a ’rip off’ but go in anyway for at least one day. You will have to be accompanied because of dangerous animals - this is no joke. Actually you can see virtually everything there is to see, outside the park; eg; Nuino, (they are relatively common but very dangerous - practice your tree climbing) mongoose, Tiger, Leopard, several species of deer etc etc. Good for Storks at Budhi Baiti, and Muggar Crocodiles at Dedorah creek. Ask for your tree climbing) mongoose, Tiger, Leopard, several species of deer etc etc. Good for Storks at Budhi Baiti, and Muggar Crocodiles. Ask for the Barrage itself. Possibly a boat could be hired/Chartered from which to explore the surrounding habitats. Although rapidly disappearing, the forest around Begnas Tal proved very productive, as were small areas of woodland N.W. of Pokhara.

The most exciting find was large numbers of Larks, Buntings, and Pipits, feeding in the stubble fields at the N.W. end of Phewa Tal-these may also be reached by hiring a boat at Lakeside. Buses to Begnas Tal are from Pokhara bus station, and there is a lodge at Begnas Tal probably worth considering.

Map 2. Kosi Barrage- There is no hotel or tea house to stay in, camping is strongly recommended, and it is advisable to take all your food with you. A telescope is really essential.

The huge concentration of Dabbling ducks fly out of the area in the evenings, returning by sunrise to their loafing areas for the day. It was only possible to get near those that were close to the barrage itself. Possibly a boat could be hired chartered to investigate these migrant numbers more thoroughly.

Systematic List: to investigate these migrant numbers more thoroughly.

Little Grebe (Podiceps ruficollis): c.15 Begnas Tal; 10+ Kosi.
Black-necked Grebe (Podiceps nigricollis): 15 Begnas Tal.
Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo): small no’s. along Trishuli and Rapti rivers; c.500 Kosi.
Pigmy Cormorant (Phalacrocorax pygmeus): c.30 Kosi.
Grey Heron Ardea cinerea): 3 Sauralia; 4 Kosi.
Purple Heron (Ardea purpurea): 1 Sauralia; 30+ Kosi.
Little Green Heron Butorids striatus): 1 Phewa Tal; 4+ Sauralia.
Fond Heron (Ardea grayii): very common, usually roosting apart from main Egret roosts.
Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis): common up to c.5000 ft.
Great White Egret (Egretta alba): 1-2 Kathmandu throughout; small no’s in Tarai - max. 30+ Kosi.
Little Egret (Egretta garzetta): fairly common near water up to c.5000 ft.
Intermediate Egret (Egretta intermedia): 4+ Phewa Tal; 1 Begnas Tal; fairly common in Tairi - max. 50+ Kosi.

Darter (Nycticorax nycticorax): 1 Kathmandu 10/2.

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Little Grebe (Podiceps ruficollis): c.15 Begnas Tal; 10+ Kosi.

Systematic order and nomenclature follows Walters (1980):

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Map 4. Pokhara area- 'Lakeside' is an array of student/tourist lodges and restaurants, and a good base from which to explore the surrounding habitats. Although rapidly disappearing, the forest around Begnas Tal proved very productive, as were small areas of woodland N.W. of Pokhara.

The most exciting find was large numbers of Larks, Buntings, and Pipits, feeding in the stubble fields at the N.W. end of Phewa Tal-these may also be reached by hiring a boat at Lakeside. Buses to Begnas Tal are from Pokhara bus station, and there is a lodge at Begnas Tal probably worth considering.

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Right Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax): 1 Kathmandu 10/2.

Open-billed Stork (Anastomus oscitans): quite common in Tarai.
White-necked Stork (Ciconia episcopus): 2 Pokhara; 4 nr. Mugling 5/2, regular small no’s. in Tarai.
Black Stork (Ciconia nigra): 4 Sauralia; 4 Kosi.
Black-necked Stork (Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus): 2 Sauralia.
Lesser Adjutant Stork (Leptoptilos javanicus): small no’s in Tarai - max. 50+ Kosi.

White Ibis (Pseudibis papillosa): quite common at Sauralia (max. 26 tog.).
Spoonbill (Platalea leucordi): 21 Kosi.

Lesser whistling Teal (Dendrocygna javanica): 7000+ Kosi 17/2, but only c.6000 next day.
Bar-headed goose (Anser indicus): 1 Sauralia; 7 Kosi.
Ruddy Shelduck (Tadorna ferruginea): 1 Kathmandu 9/1; 50+ pres. Sauralia; 100 Kosi.
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos): up to 60 Phewa Tal.
Spot-billed Duck (Anas poecilorhyncha): 2 Kosi.
Teal (Anas crecca): 1 Kathmandu; 15+ Begnas Tal; c.60 Phewa Tal; very common Kosi.
Falcated Teal (Anas falcata): 32+ Kosi (22 of these, probably more than 10, present).
Gadwall (Anas strepera): 700 Kosi.
Wigeon (Anas Penelope): 500+ Kosi.
Pintail (Anas acuta): 29 Sauralia; numerous at Kosi.
Cargano (Anas querquedula): 200+ Kosi.
Shoveler (Anas clypeata): c.150 Kosi.
Dabbling duck (Anas) up: 1 a flock estimated at 50,000 at Kosi, possibly mainly pintail.

Red-crested Pochard (Netta rufina): c.40 Kosi.

Pochard (Aythya ferina): 3 Kathmandu (Hafl Pahhari) throughout; 4 Phewa Tal; 9 Kosi.

White-eyed Pochard (Aythya nyroca): 1 Phewa Tal; c.120 Kosi.

Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula): 3 Phewa Tal 17/1.

Goosander (Mergus merganser): small no's. between Kath.-Pokhara; max. 64 Sauraha; 1 Kosi.

Osprey (Pandion haliaetus): up to 5 Sauraha; 1-2 Kosi.


Bezoar Buzzard (Buteo rufinus): 2 Kathmandu (Bagmati); 1-2 Pokhara.

Harrier Buzzard (Buteo buteo): small no's. Kathmandu, Pokhara, and central Nepal.

Buzzard (Butastur teesa): 2+ Sauraha.

Falcated Buzzard (Falco falcatus): a few at Pokhara.

Turkey Buzzard (Buteo audax): 3+ Phewa Tal; 5 Begnas Tal; 6+ Kosi.

Booted Eagle (Hieraaetus pennatus): 1 Kosi.

Mountain Hawk Eagle (Spizaetus nipalensis): 2 Langtang Valley; 1+ Pulchowki.

Pallas's Fishing Eagle (Haliaeetus leucoryphus): 2(1 ad. + 1 imm.) Kosi 18/2.

White-tailed Eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla): 2(1 ad. + 1 imm. ad.) Kosi 17/2.

Imperial Eagle (Aquila heliaca); 1 ad. nr. Dhunche 5/1.

Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos): 1 ad. nr. Syabru 4/1.

Mountain Hawk Eagle (Spizaetus nipalensis): 1-2 Nagarkot, 1 Kaski.

Steppe Eagle (Aquila nipalensis): 2 displaying nr. Syabru 2/1.

Red-Shouldered Kite (Elanus caeruleus): small no's. in Tarai - max. 4 Sauraha, c.10 Kosi.

Black Kite (Milvus migrans): Very common, but absent from upper Langtang valley.

Pallas's Fishing Eagle (Haliaeetus leucoryphus): 2(1ad. + 1 sub-ad.) Kosi 17/2-18/2.

Imperial Eagle (Aquila heliaca): 1 ad. nr. Syabru 4/1.

Grey-headed Fishing Eagle (Icthyophaga icthyaetus): 2 Kosi 17/2-18/2.

Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus): common around Pokhara and in the Tarai.

Himalayan Grey-headed Fishing Eagle (Icthyophaga nana): 1 Sauraha.


Barred Buttonquail (Turnix pumilus): 6 Kosi.


Red-legged Buzzard (Butastur teesa): 2+ Sauraha; 2 Sauraha; 1 Kosi.

Crested Serpent Eagle (Spilornis cheela): seen regularly, usually singles; below 5,000; max. 4 Sauraha.

Barred Buzzard (Butastur teesa): 2+ Sauraha; 2 Sauraha; 1 Kosi.

Indian Peafowl (Pavo cristatus): d'Kaski; 8 Kosi.

Purple Gallinule (Porphyrio porphyrio): 22 Kosi.

Golden Pheasant (Chrysolophus pictus): 1 Kosi.


Common Buzzard (Butastur teesa): 2+ Sauraha; 2 Sauraha; 1 Kosi.

Grey-headed Buzzard (Butastur teesa): 2+ Sauraha; 2 Sauraha; 1 Kosi.

Steppe Buzzard (Buteo buteo): small no's. Kathmandu, Pokhara, and central Tarai.

Long-legged Buzzard (Buteo rufofuscus): 2 Kathmandu (Bagmati); 1-2 Pokhara.

Black eagle (Ictinaetus malayensis): 4 Godavari 14/2 (some display interactions)

Lesser Spotted Eagle (Aquila pomarina): 1 Kathmandu 26/12; 1 Sauraha 27/1; 2 Kosi 18/2.


Steppe Eagle (Aquila nipalensis): regular below 5,000 ft. c.10 around Kathmandu.

Imperial Eagle (Aquila heliaca): 1 ad. nr. Dhunche 5/1.


Peregrine Eagle (Haliaeetus leucoryphus): 1-2 Nagarkot, 1 Kaski.

Steppe Eagle (Aquila nipalensis): 2 displaying nr. Syabru 2/1.


Bonelli's Eagle (Hieraaetus fasciatus): 1-2 Nagarkot, 1 Kaski.

Mountain Hawk Eagle (Spizaetus nipalensis): 2 Langtang valley; 1+ Pulchowki.

Red-shouldered Kite (Elanus caeruleus): 1 nr. Pokhara 20/1; 1 Ketaudhal/2.

Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus): widespread up to 13,000 ft., max. c.20 Kosi, a lot of variation in plumages, from nearly white heads, to all slaty blue heads.

Red-headed Merlin (Falco columbarius): 1 Kosi; Biratnagar.

Laggar Falcon (Falco jugger): 1 nr. Langtang 2/1; Pashupati (Kathmandu) 7/2.

Peregrine (Falco peregrinus): 2 Kathmandu 31/2.

Large Falcon sp. 1 very pale bird, nearly all white head and underparts, eating a Black Drongo in Kathmandu.

Black Francolin (Francolinus francolinus): 6 Kosi.

Impyean Pheasant (Lophophorus impejanus): 4 Kosi.


Kalin Pheasant (Lophura leucelasma): 4(10*3 2*) Syabru; 10(2 prs. +6♂♂), Nagarkot.

Indian Peafowl (Pavo cristatus): common only at Sauraha.

Barred Buttonquail (Turnix pumilus): c.10 Kosi.

Brown crake (Amaurornis akool): 5 Sauraha.

White breasted Waterhen (Amaurornis phoenicurus): 8 Sauraha.

Purple Gallinule (Porphyrio porphyrio): 22 Kosi.

Mooren's Gallinule (Gallinula chloropus): c.10 Sauraha, 5 Kosi.

Coot (Fulica atra): c.15 Begnas Tal.

Bronze winged Jacana (Metopidius indicus): 43+ Kosi.

Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus): 12 Phewa Tal 14/1; 1 Sauraha 4/2; 23 Kosi 18/2.


Red Wattled Lapwing (Vanellus indicus): widespread on territory, possibly breeding; Kosi and Pokhara.

Spur-winged Plover (Vanellus spinosus): small no's. Kathmandu and Pokhara, along most major rivers, max. c.40 Sauraha; 20+ Kosi.

Kantish Plover (Charadrius alexandrinus): 7 on Bagmati; Kathmandu 9/1.

Lesser Sand Plover (Charadrius mongolus): 2+ Sauraha; 2 on Bagmati; Kathmandu 10/2.

Whimbrel (Numenius phalopus): 1 with Curlews; Kosi.

Curlew (Numenius arquata): 4 nr. Ketaudhal; c.300 Kosi.
Spotted Redshank (Tringa erythropus): 2 Sauraha.
Redshank (Tringa totanus): 1 Kathmandu; 3+ Sauraha.
Marsh Sandpiper (Tringa stagnatilis): 2 Kosi 17/2.
Greenshank (Tringa nebularia): commonest at Sauraha; 100+.
Nordmann's Greenshank (Tringa gustatt): 1 possible Sauraha; 27/1, 1st. for Nepal.
Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola): 1 Trishuli dam 26/12; 3 Kosi.
Common Sandpiper (Tringa hypoleucos): widespread-max. 20+ Sauraha; (1 there with bright yellow legs).
Snipe (Gallinago gallinago): 1+ Sauraha, c.30 Kathmandu (very tricky!).
Woodcock (Scolopax rusticola): 1 Begnas Tal 18/1; 1 Sauraha 29/1; 1 Gokarna 11/2.
Little Stint (Calidris minuta): 1 Kathmandu 19/1.
Temmink's Stint (Calidris temminkii): 150+ Kathmandu; 150+ Sauraha, smaller no's., elsewhere.
Buff (Philemon squamatus): 250+ Kosi.
Tidestil (Ibidorhyncha struthersii): Dalalghat; 4 feeding at edge of river, 9 along river; c.70 km west of Kath. on Pokhara road, 22/1 and 5/2.
Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus): 5+ Kosi.
Little Pratincole (Glareola altilis): 12+ Sauraha; 30+ Kosi.
Common Gull (Larus canus): 1 adult in winter plumage; Phewa Tal 21/1.
Great Black-headed gull (Larus ichthyaetus): up to 5 Sauraha (ranging from sp. wds. to 1st. winter.), 1 ad., nr. Narayanghat 5/2; ads. + 1 imm. Kosi.
Gull-billed Gull (Larus ridibundus): 1 imm. Phewa Tal 21/1; 55+ Kosi.
Gull-billed Tern (Sterna nilotica): 16+ (w.p.) Kosi.
Caspian Tern (Hydroprogne alchemilla): 9 Kosi.
Indian River Tern (Sterna aurantia): 3+ Sauraha; c.25 Kosi; 4+ Biratnagar.
Black-billed Tern (Sterna acuticauda): 5 Sauraha; 50+ Kosi, all all sum. plush.
Indian Skimmer (Rhynchops albicollis): 7 Kosi.
Blue Rock Dove (Columba leuconota): c.50 Sauraha; 1,000+ U.P. Langtang valley.
Cautious Turtle Dove (Streptopelia orientalis): quite common below 9,000 ft., especially on roads in early morn.
Collared Dove (Streptopelia decaocto): fairly common in the Tarai.
Red Turtle Dove (Streptopelia tranquebarica): 1+ Sauraha.
Spotted Dove (Streptopelia chinensis): small flocks, largely in lowlands and midlands.
Emerald Dove (Chalcophaps indica): 6+ Sauraha.

Bengal Green Pigeon (Treron phoenicopterus): c.20 Sauraha.
Large Parakeet (Psittacula eupatria): quite common at Sauraha only.
Rose-ringed Parakeet (Psittacula krameri): 5 around Kathmandu; many thousands around Sauraha.
Plum-headed Parakeet (Psittacula cyanocephala): quite common Sauraha; 40+ Gokarna; Swayambhunath.

Rose-breasted Parakeet (Psittacula alexandri): 50+ Sauraha (always in mature forest).
Common Hawk Cuckoo (Cuculus saturus): 1 Begnas Tal; c.6 Sauraha; 2 Kosi.
Green-billed Malkoha (Rhodopis striata): 5+ Begnas Tal; 3 Sauraha.
Large coucal (Centropus sinensis): 3+ Sauraha.
Lesser Coucal (Centropus bengalensis): 4+ Sauraha; c.10 Kosi.
Great Horned Owl (Bubo bubo): 1+ north face of Nagarkot, throughout, 1 calling Gokarna.

Brown Fish Owl (Ketupa seylenensis): 1 pr. Sauraha.
Collared Pygmy Owl (Glaucidium dodgesi): 1 calling Syabru; 2 calling Pulchowka, 12/2.
Collared Scops Owl (Otus bakkamoena): 2 Patan - resident.
Barred Owlet (Glaucidium radiatum): 4+ Phewa Tal (in trees opposite 'Baba's', restaurant-excellent food!); Godawari 12/2.

Jungle Owlet (Glaucidium cuculoides): 3+ Sauraha.
The two above can be tricky with variable characteristics - see 'Awkward sp.'

Spotted owl (Athene brama): 3 Sauraha; 3+ Kosi.
Large White-rumped Swift (Apus pacificus): 2 Trishuli; c.15 Sauraha; c.30, Tadi Bazaar.
House Swift (Apus affinis): 5 Trishuli; 5+ Sauraha; c.15 Kosi; no's. up by Feb; Kathmandu.

Palm Swift (Cypsiurus parvus): c.20 Biratnagar.
Crested Swift (Hemiprocne longipennis): 30+ Sauraha.
Large Pied Kingfisher (Ceryle rudis): 1 upstream from Phewa Tal 19/1; 1 Bhalaghat 16/1.
Lesser Pied Kingfisher (Ceryle vaudoilsi): widespread in small no's. (Max. 10+ Kosi), 7 nesting Sauraha.
Himalayan Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis): widespread in small no's.
Blue eared Kingfisher (Alcedo meninting): 2+ Sauraha.
Stork-billed Kingfisher (Pelargopsis capensis): c.15 Sauraha.
White breasted kingfisher (Halcyon smyrnensis): Common below 5,000 ft., max. 15+ Kosi.

Little Green Bee-eater ('epeo orientalis'): 10+ Trishuli 7/1; common in Tarai-max. 100+ Kosi.

Indian Roller (Coracias benghalensis): widespread, particularly common around Pokhara, Displaying at Sauraha.

Hoopoe (Upupa epops): 1 Kathmandu; 6+ Sauraha; 4 Kosi.
Fled Hornbill (Acraeocerous malabaricus): up to 20 Sauraha.
Giant hornbill (Buceros bicornis): 2 Sauralia 30/1.
Great Himalayan Bunting (Reglalma virens): quite common in midland forest - max. 20+ Pokhara and Gokarna.
Lineated Barbet (Megalaima lineata): 2 Sauraha
Golden Throated Barbet (Megalaima franklinii): 2 Betwepati (nr Trishuli)
Blue-throated Barbet (Megalaima asiatica): similar distribution to 'virens';
max. c 35 Gokarna.

Wryneck (Jynx torquilla): 1 Phewa Tal; 2 Sauraha; 3 Kosi.
Spotted Piculet (Picumnus inominateus): 1 Nagarjung; 3 Gokarna; 1 Godaveri;
2 Swayambhu.
Small Scaly-bellied Woodpecker (Picus xenanthopygus): 28+ 1 Sauraha.
Black-naped Woodpecker (Picus canus): 3+ 3 Gokarna.
Lesser Yellow-naped Woodpecker (Picus chlorolophus): 3 Pokhara; 2 Sauraha.
Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker (Dinopium benghalense): 2+ pre Sauraha.
Darjeeling Fled Woodpecker (Dendrocopus darjellensis): 1pr nr Dhanche; 1 very
approachable pr nr Syabru.
Crimson-breasted Fled Woodpecker (Dendrocopus cathpharius): 1nr Dhanche.
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker/Sapsucker (Dendrocopus hyperythrus): 1 nr Upper Langtang
valley; 1+ Pulchowki.
Brown-fronted Fled Woodpecker (Dendrocopus auriceps): 1nr Dhanche; 1+ Pulchowki.
Fulvous-breasted Fled Woodpecker (Dendrocopus macel): 5+ Langtang valley;
widespread in the lowlands.
Grey-crowned Flyway Woodpecker (Dendrocopus canicapillus): 2nr Pokhara; common
at Sauraha.
Large Golden-backed Woodpecker (Chrysococletes lucidus): 1+ Begnas Tal.
Rufous-winged Bush Lark (Mirafra asamica): regular in the Tarai; max 40+ Kosi
Ashy-crowned Finch Lark (Emperoptrix grises): 20+ nr Sauraha; 200+ Kosi
Short-toed Lark (Calandrella cinerea): c 50 Phewa Tal 21/1
Sand Lark (Calandrella raytai): fairly common in dry/sandy areas of Tarai
c 20 Kosi.
Little Skylark (Alauda gulgula): widespread small parties- max 12+ Kath;
c 20 Sauraha.
Plain Sand Martin (Riparia paludicola): common widespread below 6500 ft-
starting breeding 27/12
Crag Martin (Pyonoprogne rupestris): quite common Trishuli- Betwepati;
30+ Phewa Tal.
Swallow (Hirundo rustica): very common, not seen above 5,000 ft.
Red-rumped Swallow (Hirundo daurica): main areas; Kath'(common); 200+ Trishuli
Dam; 50+ Phewa Tal.
Indian Cliff Swallow (Petrochelidon fluvicola): 1 Phewa Tal, 15-17/1
House Martin (Delichon urbica): 250+ Trishuli area; small nos. Langtang valley
Nepal House Martin (Delichon nipalensis): 1nr Syabru; 7 Trishuli

Yellow Wagtail (Motacilla flava): 1 Trishuli; fairly common in Tarai, max.
60+ Kosi (beemand'feldegg'positively ident'
Citrine Wagtail (Motacilla citreola): quite common in Tarai - max.40+ Kosi
Yellow/Citrine Wagtails: 2,000+ going to roost in Elephant grass, Sauraha.
Grey Wagtail (Motacilla cinerea): widespread in suitable habitat, max 6+ nr
Trishuli Dam.
White Wagtail (Motacilla alba): common near water everywhere. 8,000+ going to
roost, Sauraha.
Large Pied Wagtail (Motacilla maderaspattensis): widespread, max 12+ Trishuli
Dam; 2 displaying Biratnagar 19/2
Richards Pipit (Anthus novaeseelandiae): c 30 Phewa Tal; 4+ Begnas Tal;
4+ Tadi Bazar.
'Paddyfield Pipits' were widespread below 5,000+ max c40 pre Kosi, many displaying.
Tree Pipit (Anthus trivialis): 1 Sauraha; 14 Kosi
Olive-backed Pipit (Anthus hodgsoni): both races found to be common,
invariably near trees.
Red-throated Pipit (Anthus cervinus): 35+ Phewa Tal.
Rose-breasted Pipit (Anthus roseatus): Quite common near water, max c 50 Phewa Tal,
c 100 Kosi (some starting summer plum)
Water Pipit (Anthus spinolletta): 4 Phewa Tal 21/1 (1 with trace of summer plum)
Upland Pipit (Anthus alpintus): c 10 Kaski- Pokhara 20/1. Some song-fighting
Large Cuckoo Shrike (Coracina novaehollandiae): small nos below 5,000-
max.5+ Sauraha.
Dark Cuckoo Shrike (Coracina melanoschistos): 1 Sauraha.
Rosy Minnivet (Pericrocotus roseus): c 6 Sauraha.
Small Minnivet (Pericrocotus cinamomeus): 12+ Sauraha.
Yellow-throated Minnivet (Pericrocotus solarius): 1pr Pulchowki 12/2
Long-tailed Minnivet (Pericrocotus ethologus): frequent in the midlands-
max.30+ Begnas Tal.
Short-tailed Minnivet (Pericrocotus breviostris): 1-2 nr. Kaski 19/1
Scarlet Minnivet (Pericrocotus flammeus): frequent in the midlands-
c 20
Pokhara and Begnas Tal.
Pied Wood Shrike (Hemipus pictatus): 5+ Sauraha; 3 Gokarna.
Lesser Wood-Shrike (Tephrodornis ponderianus): c 20 Sauraha.
Black-headed Yellow Bulbul (Pyconotus melaniciperuus) 2 Begnas Tal (feeding with
Brown-eared Bulbul)
Red-whiskered Bulbul (Pyconotus jocosus): quite common in Rapit Dun
White-cheeked Bulbul (Pyconotus leucogenys) relative small nos. in midlands.
Red-vented Bulbul (Pyconotus cafer): common,regarious, noisy.
Rufous-bellied Bulbul (Hypsipetes molleandii): 2 nr. Syabru; c 20 Godaveri
Brown-eared Bulbul (Hypsipetes flavula): 10+ Begnas Tal.
Black Bulbul (Hypsipetes madagascariensis): quite common-max c.100 Gokarna; 100+ Pulchowki.

Common Iora (Aegithina tiphia): only seen regularly at Sauraha; 1 nr. Trishuli, 2 Kathmandu.

Golden-fronted leafbird ( Chloropsis aurifrons): c.6 Sauraha 3/2

Orange-bellied leafbird ( Chloropsis hardwickii): c.10 Pulchowki, 4+ Godaveri

Brown Shrike (Lanius cristatus): small nos. most places visited, max. 7 Kosi

Rufous-backed/Black-headed Grey-backed Brown Maroon-backed Accentor (Prunella immaculata): c.25

Siberian Rubythroat (Luscinia svecica): 2

Himalayan Rubythroat (Luscinia pectoralis): quite common Langtang valley; 1 nr Langtang.

Blue-throated Redstart (Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus): nr Langtang 1/1.

Black Redstart (Phoenicurus ochruros): relatively small nos. Trishuli-Dhunche.

White-throated Redstart (Phoenicurus schisticeps): quite common Langtang valley.

Guldenstadt's Redstart (Phoenicurus erythrogaster): Kyanjing 2/1

Plumbeous Redstart (Rhyacornis fuliginosus): common nr. water but not in Tarai.

White-throated Thrush (Monticola solitarius): 4+ Langtang valley; 1 nr. Pokhara.

Whistling Thrush (Myiophonus caeruleus): birds of passage, not seen above 13,000 ft.

White's Thrush (Zoothera dauma): quite common Langtang valley and Pulchowki.

Black-backed Forktail (Enicurus ruficapillus): quite common in upland forests.

Dark Grey Bush Chat ( Saxicola caprata): quite common, widespread, nest-building at Sauraha 1/2

Dark Grey Bush Chat ( Saxicola caprata): 5+ Trishuli-Dhunche.

White-capped River Chat (Chimarrocins leucopus): relatively common aside water, seen up to 12,000 ft.

Blue Rock Thrush (Monticola solitarius): 2 nr. Trishuli-Dhunche.

Whistling Thrush ( Myiophonus caeruleus): along streams and forested areas.

White-throated Thrush ( Zoothera dauma): 1 nr Langtang.


White-collared Blackbird ( Turdus albicollis): 1 pr. Sauraha, nr Dharan 24/1, c.100 nr. top of Pulchowki.

Black/Red throated Thrush ( Turdus ruficollis): 60+ (mainly RT) upper Langtang valley; rest were RT. 84 Sauraha, 3 Pulchowki, 78+ Gokarna.

Grey-winged Blackbird ( Turdus boulboul): 8 Gokarna; 6+ Pulchowki.

Spotted Babblers ( Follonornis niveiceps): 8+ Sauraha.

Rufous-necked Scimitar Shrike (Pomatorhinus ruficollis): 2 Sauraha.

Black-chinned Babbler ( Stachyris pyrrhopus): 1 Nagarjun; 5+ Godaveri.

Black-throated Babblers ( Stachyris nigricollis): c. 8 Godaveri.

Yellow-throated Babblers ( Macronous gularis): 2 Sauraha.

Red-breasted Babblers (Timalia pileata): c. 10 Sauraha.

Striped Babblers (Turdoides striatus): 4 Sauraha.

White-throated Laughing thrush (Garrulax albogularis): flocks up to 120, upp Langtang valley.


White-throated Babblers ( Turdus albicollis): c.10 Godaveri, mostly only heard

Necklaces ( Pachycephala leucophaea): c.10 Godaveri, moniliger; 6+ Begnas Tal.

Gottered (Pachycephala leucophaea): at least 1 Begnas Tal.

Striated ( Luscinia striata): 17+ S of Sauraha, c. 20 Godaveri.

Vargated (Luscinia variegata): c. 30 nr. Langtang, 3+ Sauraha.

Rufous-chinned ( Luscinia jerdoni): 5 Godaveri.

Spotted ( Luscinia ocellata): c. 6 nr. Sauraha.

Grey-sided ( Luscinia svecica): c. 10+ Pulchowki.

Streaked ( Luscinia albonotata): c. 10+ Pulchowki.

Black-faced ( Luscinia brevirostris): quite common in upper Langtang valley, and Pulchowki.

Red-billed Leiothrix (Leiothrix lutea): 30+ Godaveri/Pulchowki (some singing)

Chestnut-throated Shrike Babblers ( Pteruthius flaviscapillus): 4+ Langtang valley; 1 nr. Dharan 16/2.

Greeen Shrike Babblers ( Pteruthius xanthochlorus): 7+ S of Sauraha.

Chestnut-throated Shrike Babblers ( Pteruthius melanotis): Godaveri 14/2

Hoary Babbler ( Actinodura nipalensis): c. 10 nr. Dhunche 7/1.

Blue-winged Minla ( Minla cyanura): 3+ Pulchowki.

Bar-throated Minla ( Minla striagula): small groups in most suitable upland forests.

Chestnut-bellied Fulvetta ( Alcippe castaneiceps): c. 8 Godaveri.

White-browed Fulvetta ( Alcippe cineracea): 50+ upper Langtang valley, very common Pulchowki.


Black-capped Sibia ( Herophila capistrata): abundant in most upland forests.

Yellow-naped Yuhina ( Yuhina flavicollis): quite common Langtang valley and Pulchowki.

Striped throted Yuhina ( Yuhina gularis): common Sauraha-Langtang valley nr. Draran; 3+ Pulchowki.

Rufous-vented Yuhina ( Yuhina orientalis): common Langtang valley and Pulchowki.
White-bellied Yuhina (Yuhina zanthocephala): 1 Pokhara; quite common in Kathmandu valley.

Rufous-capped Cettia (Cettia brunnifrons): 6+ Kaski-Pokhara 20/1.
Large Cettia (Cettia major): 1 Sauraha 2/2, in base of reed bed.

Aberrant Cettia (Cettia flavolivacea): 1 Phewa Tal 15/1.

Pale-footed Cettia (Cettia pallidipes): 1 Phewa Tal, 1 Biratnagar; 40+ Kosi.

Elyt's Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus dumetorum): 2+ Phewa Tal.

Paddyfield Warbler (Acrocephalus palustris): c.10 Kosi; 1 Biratnagar.

Tailor bird (Orthotomus sutorius) very common, nesting well begun in Feb.; Tarai.

Striated Harsh Warbler (Megulurus palustris): c.10 Kosi (mostly paired).

Chiffchaff (Phylloscopus collybita): small no's. Trishuli and Kaski; commoner in Tarai.

Tickell's Leaf Warbler (Phylloscopus affinis): quite common lower Langtang valley and near Pokhara; 6+ Sauraha; 40+ Kosi.

Orange-barred Warbler (Phylloscopus pulcher) 1 nr. Dunche; 1 Pokhara; 1 Sauraha, 1 nr. Dharam.-amazingly common Godaveri/Pulchowki.


Ashy-throated warbler (Phylloscopus maculipennis): common upper Langtang valley; c.15 Pulchowki.

Yellow-browed warbler (Phylloscopus inornatus himal): quite common lower Langtang valley and midlands; smaller no's. in Tarai.

Large-billed leaf warbler (Phylloscopus magnirostris): 1 probable Begnas Tal.


Smoky warbler (Phylloscopus fuliginosus): 1 Kosi (feeding on small rocks)

Dusky Warbler (Phylloscopus fuscatus): 2 Phewa Tal; 2 Phewa Tal; 1+ Begnas Tal; 1 Kosi.

Elyth's crowned Leaf Warbler (Phylloscopus reguloides): quite common below 5,000 ft.-max.10+; Pakanapatti.

Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler (Seicercus burkii): quite common below 5,000 ft.; max. c. 50 Godavari.

Black-faced Flycatcher Warbler (Seicercus schisticeps): c. 50 Syabru-Langtang; 25+ Godaveri-Pulchowki.

Chestnut-headed Flycatcher Warbler (Seicercus castaniceps): 1 Begnas Tal; 5 Godavari; 1 Godavari.

Grey-headed Flycatcher Warbler (Seicercus zanthochinctus): common below 7,000 ft. max. c.10 Godavari.

Fantail Warbler (Cisticola juncidis): 1 Phewa Tal; 8+ Sauraha; 20+ Kosi.

Yellow-bellied Prinia (Prinia flavigaster): c.25 Kosi.

Ashy Prim'a (Prinia socialis): quite common at Sauraha.

Rufescens Prim'a (Prinia rufescens): 3 nr. Sauraha.

Brown Hill Prim'a (Prinia cinerea): 3 Syabru.

Jungle Prim'a (Prinia sylvatica): 8+ Sauraha.

Grey-capped Prim'a (Prinia cinereoccipilla): c.6 nr. Trishuli.

Graceful Prim'a (Prinia gracilis): 3+ Kosi.

Plain Prim'a (Prinia inornata): 1 Sauraha; c.15 Kosi.

Slaty-bellied Ground Warbler (Tesia cyaniventris): 0.10 Begnas Tal 18/1; only 1 seen.

Chestnut-headed Ground Warbler (Tesia cantans) common.

Goldcrest (Regulus regulus): 5+ nr. Syabru.

White-throated Fantail Flycatcher (Rhipidura albicollis): 2 nr. Trishuli; 2 Begnas Tal, 1 Biratnagar, 1 Sauraha.

White-browed Fantail Flycatcher (Rhipidura aureola): 1 nr. Tadi Bazaar 25/1.

Yellow-bellied Fantail Flycatcher (Rhipidura hystax): common below 6,000 ft. A great wee bird.

Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher (Muscicapa spathurota): small no's. Kath. Valley; Pokhara area and Langtang valley.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (Muscicapa parva): common-widespread.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher (Muscicapa lencometana): 2 nr. Trishuli; 1 nr. Pokhara.

White-browed Blue Flycatcher (Muscicapa superillaria): nr. Betrewwati, 7/1.

Brook's Flycatcher (Muscicapa poliogena): a few at Sauraha.

Small Niltava (Muscicapa macgregoriae): Phewa Tal and Nagarjun.

Beautiful Niltava (Muscicapa sundara): 1 in deep gorge; Pokhara 16/1.

Verditer Flycatcher (Muscicapa thalassina): 3+ Sauraha.

Grey-headed Flycatcher (Culicicapa ceylonensis): quite common below 5,000 ft.; smaller no's. in Tarai.

Red-headed Tit (Aegithalos concinns): common Langtang valley and Pulchowki; 4 Nagarjun; 2 Gokarna.

Rufous-fronted Tit (Aegithalos icterhus): fairly common Langtang valley.

Buffy-breasted Black Tit (Parus rufiventris): a few above Langtang.

Coal Tit (Parus ater) frequent in upper Langtang valley.

Greeted Brown Tit (Parus dichrous): 0.5 nr. Langtang; 1 nr. Dhunche.

Grey Tit (Parus major): common-widespread.

Green-backed Tit (Parus monticolus): quite common Langtang valley; 2 Pulchowki.

Yellow-chevroned Tit (Parus xanthogenenys): quite common Langtang valley; Pokhara, and Kath. valleys.

Yellow Browsed Warbling-Warbler (Sylviparus modestus): small no's. Langtang valley.
Wallcreeper (Tichodroma muraria): total of 6 Langtang trek; 1 nr. Nagling; 1 near Melkhu.

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (Sitta castanescens): widespread, max. c. 20; Gokarna.

White-tailed Nuthatch (Sitta himalayensis): quite common Langtang valley; c. 20 Pulchowki.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (Sitta frontalis): small no.'s, throughout, max.; c. 15 Gokarna.

(Northern) Tree Creeper (Certhia familiaris): 4+ upper Langtang valley 3/1.

Nepal Tree Creeper (Certhia nipalens): total of 20 Langtang valley.

Sikkin Tree Creeper (Certhia discolor): 1 Godaveri 14/2.

Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker (Dicaeum melanoxanthum): Pashupati, Kath. 7/2.

Tickell’s Flowerpecker (Dicaeum erythrorhynchos): 2 nr. Sauraha.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (Dicaeum ignipectus): fairly common Langtang valley; and Kath. vall. max. 20+, Gokarna.

Oriental White-eye: (Zosterops palpebrosa): v. common, widespread; grearious, up to 8,000ft.

Purple Sunbird (Nectarinia asiatica): widespread.

Nepal Sunbird (Aethopyga nipalensis): small no.'s. Langtang valley and Godaveri; Pulchowki.

Scarlet-breasted Sunbird (Aethopyga siparaja): common Langtang valley; 1 Pokhara.


Crested Bunting (Melophus lathami): small groups around Pokhara and Trishuli; very common on the road between Naubise-Palung 16/2.

Pine Bunting (Emberiza leucocephala): At least 2! Phewa Tal.

White-capped Bunting (Emberiza Sturtii): 2—Kosi.

Grey-headed Bunting (Emberiza fucata): 44 Phewa Tal.

Little Bunting (Emberiza pusilla): 3+ nr. Kaski; c. 15 Sauraha; c. 10 Naubise-Palung.

Rustic Bunting (Emberiza rustica): A fine at Sauraha 31/1, with little Bunting.

Yellow-breasted Bunting (Emberiza aureola): 150+ Phewa Tal; 40+ Tadi Barar; lots’ roosting at Sauraha.

Chaffinch (Fringilla coelebs): 5 upper Langtang Valley 3/1.

Tibetan Siskin (Serinus thibetanus): 30+ Godaveri 12/2, 1 poss. upp. Langtang.

Himalayan Goldfinch (Carduelis spinoides): regular flocks in midlands; c. 400 Phewa Tal, c. 50 Trishuli.

European Goldfinch (Carduelis carduelis): 2 Syabru 31/12.


Common Rosefinch (Carpodacus erythrurus): c. 50 Sauraha.

Beautiful Rosefinch (Carpodacus pulcherreus): common in upper Langtang valley.


Spot-winged Rosefinch (Carpodacus rhodopeplus): 11+ Syabru-Langtang forest.

Brown Bullfinch (Pyrrhula nipalensis): c. 20 Pulchowki.

Red-headed Bullfinch (Pyrrhula erythrocephala): 3 Syabru-Langtang forest.

Spotted Grosbeak (Coccothraustes melanopterus): up to c. 50 Pulchowki.

Gold-crowned Black Finch (Pyrrhuloptes epauletta): 16 Pulchowki 12/2

Sharp-tailed Munia (Lonchura striata): 6 Phewa Tal.

Spotted Munia (Lonchura punctulata): 80+ in Sauraha area; 30+ w. of Kathmandu 18/12

Black-headed Munia (Lonchura malaccana): 6 nr Trishuli 8/1.

House Sparrow (Passer domesticus): v. common near dwellings; absent from upper Langtang valley.

House/Spanish Sparrow (Passer domesticus/hispaniolensis): c. 20 birds at Kosi showing intermediate features, Ad as Spanish, but with grey crown stipe, as Spanish.

Cinnamon Sparrow (Passer rutilans): 1 a Kaski 20/1.

Tree Sparrow (Passer montanus): Not seen in Tarai, or above Syabru (c. 7,500 ft).

Tibetan Snow Finch (Montifringilla adamsi): c. 30 Langtang (nr) on steep cliff face 1/1

Black-throated Weaver (Ploceus benghalensis): c. 30 Sauraha 2/2 (roosting in reeds with many other unidentified weavers)

Baya Weaver (Ploceus philippinus): c. 40 Swayambhu; 60+ Gokarna; 60+ Sauraha.

Grey-headed Myna (Sturnus malabaricus): fairly common at Sauraha, in flowering Simal trees.

Black-headed Oriole (Oriolus xanthornus): quite common at Sauraha.

Ficedula Myna (Sturnus contra): common in Tarai.

Common Myna (Acridotheres tristis): common especially nr. habitation.
Bank Myna (Acridotheres gingenianus): reasonably common in Tarai.

Jungle Myna (Acridotheres fuscus): widespread near villages.

Maroon Oriole (Oriolus truillii): 2 (+3 singing) Pulchowki.

Black Drongo (Dicrurus macrocercus): common and widespread

Ashy Drongo (Dicrurus leucophaeus): widespread—small numbers

White-bellied Drongo (Dicrurus caeruleus): small numbers

Little Bronzed Drongo (Dicrurus aeneus): 6+ Begnas Tal.

Hair-crested Drongo (Dicrurus hottentottus): 4+ Pokhara; 2 Begnas Tal; common Saulara.

Greater Racquet-tailed Drongo (Dicrurus paradiseus): 1 Saulara.

Ashy Wood Swallow (Artamus fuscus): 30+ Saulara.

Oriole (Oriolus cardiatus): 2 (+3 singing) Pulchowki.

Yellow-billed Blue Tit (Cyanistes flavirostris): up to 5 at Syabru.

Red-billed Blue Magpie (Urocissa erythrorhyncha): 1 Godaveri.

Indian Tree Pie (Dendrocitta vagabunda): widespread; especially at lower altitudes.

Himalayan Tree Pie (Dendrocitta formosae): fairly widespread, generally at higher altitude than previous species.

Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax): c. 300 upper Langtang valley.

House Crow (Corvus splendens): very common, especially near habitations.

Jungle Crow (Corvus macrorhynchos): common, hill race common, upper Langtang valley and around Rakhi.

Flew!!
Epilogue.

Away from you,
I escaped to the land of solitude,
Crossing hundreds of miles, walking up and down,
Fatigued, exhausted, but relieved and ecstatic,
Somewhere in the great barrier of the Himalayas
Beyond the inhabitable world,
I opened the door to heaven.

And there abounds
Shining silver and black diamond,
With much delicate living gold
And multicoloured gems sparkle all around,
Every inch of this heaven is carpeted green and soft,
Ambrosia from the lake of turquoise enhances all with eternity.

All these treasures belong to
The gliding golden eagle,
The snow king of the cats,
The restless mouse hare,
And innocent wild sheep
Their abode and wealth are secure and protected.

I travelled to this mystic world
With the children of the mountains.
Sufficed my inner being to behold—enchantment
I saw God and talked with the angels.
So much love they have for this land;
They are reincarnated here over and over.

I heard the call of the wilderness in the avalanches,
The shrill song of the dipper in the cascades,
The moaning of the wild sheep and yelp of the cough
All these sounds of different vibrante
Symphonize here the hymns divine,
Which rolls along the buttress of the mountains.

Very soon the devil called me back
The angels disappeared
The children of the mountains returned,
The rolling paradise broke
Dark clouds closed the eternal roof of the world
I came back to you, to share the life of grief, anger and dissatisfaction.