

Further Notes on Birds Recorded in Nepal
1976 - 1984

by Jack H. Cox

1. Sarus Crane (Grus antigone)

A pair in fallow fields outside small village of Shivapur, 3-4 Km W of Chapiya village, Rupendehi district; grid sq. # G6. 23 Oct. 1976. The Nepali family I was living with at the time saw the pair honking (as did I) and claimed they "sometimes" visited the area. alt. ~120-150m.

2. Yellow-throated Sparrow (Petronia xanthocollis)

A pair ^{♂+♀} noted clearly in red-flowering bushes in back of Butwal Guest House (UMN's) < 1 Km E of Butwal, Rupendehi. Constant chirping; ♂ seen at close range in dry, scrubby ravine 17 April 1978. Alt ~380m. NEW GRID SQ: G6 for Nepal.

3. Thick-billed Green Pigeon (Treron curvirostra)

¹⁰ A pair (♂+♀) in fruiting tree in tropical evergreen riverain forest W of Tamaspur ~2-3 Km Nawalparasi district 26 April 1978. New grid square H6; alt ~~or~~ ~150m.

4. Gray-fronted Green Pigeon (Treron pompadora)

A confiding ♂♀ pair in same area as above (#3) sighting. Not a new grid sq. for Nepal, but 1st breeding season record for H6.; 26 April '78; ~150m.

5. Dollarbird (Eurystomus orientalis)

Solitary birds behind Butwal Guest House on 24/Apr/78 and again on 23 July '78; alt ~350-380m. Grid sq. G6 is new for Nepal.

6. Black-chinned Babbler (Stachyris pyrrhops)

At least one in ravine bushes behind Butwal Guest House, sq. Gb - 23 April 1978 constitutes a breeding season record for the species in Gb; ~350m alt.

7. Blue-headed Rock Thrush (Monticola cinchlorhynchus)

At same location as in #6 above on 17 April '78. alt. ~330m. <1km E Butwal town. New grid sq. for Nepal: Gb. Only the ♂ seen.

8. Spotted Babbler (Pellorneum ruficeps)

A small party in thick forest ~2-3km W of Tamaspur, Nawal Parasi 25 April '78. Not new grid sq. but breeding season record; alt. ~150m. Hb.

9. Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher (Cyornis rubeculoides)

Both ♂+♀ in thick riverine forested banks of stream 2-3km W Tamaspur, Nawalparasi; 25 April 1978. New grid square for Nepal: Hb. ~150m alt.

10. Large Woodshrike (Tephrodornis gularis)

♀ in same general location as #9 above on 26 April 1978. Not new sq., but 1st(?) breeding season record for Hb. ~150m alt.

11. Crested Swift (Hemiprocne longipennis)

2 birds circling over sal/evergreen forest, same general location as #9 above. 27 April 1978. New square for Nepal: Hb. ~180m alt.

12. Black-naped Flycatcher (Monarcha azurea)

♀ in sal (mixed with evergreen tree) forest ~4km W of Tamaspur on 27 April 1978. New sq. Hb for Nepal; alt. ~150m

13. Orange-bellied Leafbird (Chloropsis hardwickii)

A pair in tops of trees mixed sal forest, steep forested slopes N of Butwal ~ 4 Km; alt. ~ 380m.

✓ Confiding at times; not new sq. (H6), but 1st (?) breeding season record for that sq. 06 May 1978.

14. Brown Hill Prinia (Prinia criniger)

just H6
Single bird N of Butwal along Pokhara-Bhairahawa highway near Kerabhari village in steep cliffs of grass ~ 450m alt (!); New grid square for Nepal: appears to be H6, but very near I6. (location is ~ 8-10 Km from Butwal on the highway). 07 May 1978.

15. Juniper Finch (Proprythula subhimachala)

♂ singing from juniper bush tops ~ 3600-3800^Fm in longpoghyun river valley (across from army post) (south of Jomosom) sq. H4. 24 May 1978. Only time I've seen this species in Nepal.

16. White-throated Redstart - (Phoenicurus schisticeps)

♂ calling at dusk from small juniper trees, v. near #15 site ~ 3600m. 23 May 1978.

17. Rufous-breasted Accentor (Prunella himalayana)

Two May reports for sq. H4: ① in upper Longpoghyun river valley S Jomosom at ~ 3600m 27 May '78. ② to W of Thorang La ~ 4300m on close to 1st stone huts as one descends W from the pass.

! 18. Great Slaty Woodpeckers (Mulleripicus pulverulentus)

already
Sept.
then sq 50. to
A flock of 4 or 5 in a patch of mature sal forest N of Dumre along the Marsyandi R. about 2-3 hours

walk. Alt. ~1700-1900 ft. (~500m). Grid square JS. New square for Nepal. New max. elevation for Nepal. 10 June 1978.

19. Alpine Swift (Apus melba)

✓ A fairly large flock seemingly subdivided into 2 or 3 flocks of 15-20 birds each. Some birds breaking rank to zip into nearby cliff slits/cracks (nesting sites?); along very steep cliffs ~2Km N of Butwal grid sq G6; date 21 June 1978. New sq. for Nepal; New breeding record?; alt ~300-330m.

! 20. Hodgson's Redstart (Phoenicurus hodgsoni)

✓ *incl. 5072* diagnostic look at ♂ with what was almost certainly a ♀ at ~14,000' on 31 May 1978, apparently the only breeding season report for Nepal; also, an exceptionally high alt: ~4,300m. Above Muktinath, below the Thorang La. Grid sq. H4.

21. Hume's Short-toed Lark (Calandrella acutirostris)

Dark Shrike a June record for grid sq. H4; E of Thorang La towards Manang ~16,000' 01 June '78. (~4850m).

22. Snowy-browed Flycatcher (Ficedula hyperythra)

✓ both a ♂ & ♀ S of Thangja (Thongje) Upper Marsyandi R. valley ~2300m. alt.; grid sq. JS - not a new sq. for Nepal, but in breeding season, as noted on 05 June 1978.

23. Striated Laughing Thrush (Garrulax striatus)

✓ near Darapani village, upper Marsyandi R. valley ~2150m alt; sq. JS not new, but report is during breeding season: 06 June 1978.

24. Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker (Dicaeum melanoxanthum)
 ♂ near Darapani village at 6,000-6,500' (~1950m)
 on 06 June '78. In flowering trailside bushes; grid
 sq JS. (This report sent to you previously?).

✓
 MJP
 yes

25. Green-backed Tit (Parus monticolus)
 new breeding season record for sq. JS; seen on
 07 June 1978 along Marsyandi R. ~1550 m near village
 of Chamche, middle ♂.

26. Spotted Munia (Honchura punctulata)
 Flock of ~15 behind Butwal Guest House, 27 June
 1978. Grid sq. G6 breeding season report; ~300m. alt.

27. Rufous-bellied Bulbul (Hypsipetes mccllellandii)
 A breeding season record for sq. JS, just
 N of Jagat village, upper Marsyandi, 07 June 1978
 alt. ~1500m.

28. Brown Woodpecker (Ceulus brachyurus)
 ♀ in pine grove at highway side (PKA-KTM) at
 ~1000-1100m alt. Bel Bhanjyang (Bel Pass) E of Pokhara.
 square appears to be JS ∴ new report for breeding
 season as seen on 19 July '78. (or too late for breeding?).

~~29. White-throated Munia~~
 ! 29. Rufous-bellied Babbler (Demetia hypopythra)
 single bird watched in tall grass in abandoned
 fields N of Butwal Guest House 01 August 1978;
 first report of this species in Nepal during breeding
 season as well as new grid square (G6); ~300m. alt.

✓
 MJP
 H. H. H.
 9/10/78

30. Shikra (Accipiter badius)

✓ excellent views of perching bird + in flight around Srinagar Hill W of Tansen; grid sq. G6 03 August '78. New grid sq. for Nepal; alt. ~ 1000m.

31. Black Vulture (Torgos calvus)

single bird passing over Butwal Guest House area 07 Aug '78 --- oooops - not new record.... ~ 300m.

32. Brown Hawk Owl (Ninox scutulata)

single S of Tamaspur [Hb] in heavy forest near a stream at dusk 08 Aug '78. (This report forwarded to you earlier?); alt. ~ 250m.

33. Spiny Babbler (Turdoides nipalensis)

Flock of ≥ 4 in scrub + bushes N of Grangy village, Rasuwa ~ 6,000' (1800m), grid sq. L5 on 17 August 1978. Trisuli R. valley.

34. Brown Bullfinch (Pyrhula nipalensis)

Flock of ≥ 5 S of Bajandanda village, Rasuwa district, grid sq. L5. First August report (?) for Nepal: 17 August 1978. ~ 1800m. Trisuli R. valley.

35. Blue-fronted Redstart (Phoenicurus frontalis)

A $\sigma^7 + \text{f}$ pair near Kyangjin Gompa, ~ 12,600', Langtang River valley; 22 August '78; not new sq. or breed season rec.

36. Brahminy Kite (Haliastur indus)

single bird perched on electricity pole overlooking flooded fields; at Thuttipal, 4 Km N of Bhairhawa on 03 September 1978; grid square G6; alt ~ 100m. new sq. for Nepal. (Breeding season record?)

37. Chestnut-eared Shrike Babble (Pteruthius melanotis)
① A pair S of Bajandanda (Trisuli R. valley) on 18 Aug. 1978 in open moist forest at river's edge. ~1800m. alt; grid square L5 - new for Nepal;
② Another pair seen in riverside alders, upper Tamur R. N of Mithlung village, Taplejung district 31 October 1978; alt ~1350m. grid R7; only two occasions I've seen this species in Nepal.

38. Chestnut Bittern (Ixobrychus cinnamomeus)
single bird in rice fields adjacent to Agricultural Farm (Govt.), Bhairhawa; grid sq: G6 ~100m elev. 24 July '78. Possibly noted in Inskipp book as grid sq. G7 (which may be erroneous location given by me??).

39. Stripe-throated Yuhina - (Yuhina gularis)
small flock in mossy trees ~8,800' (~2700m) below Jobari, Ilam; grid sq: R7, new for Nepal; 21 Sept. 1978

40. Nepal Parrotbill (Paradoxornis nipalensis)
a large flock (~20-25) moving quickly through bamboo forest above Yamphodim village ~9,000' (~2750m). Taplejung district; grid sq: R7 new for Nepal 22 Sept. 1978.

41. Little Forktail (Enicurus scouleri)
single bird in upper Mai Khola above Jamuna village, ~6500' (~1980m.); grid sq R7 new for Nepal; 24 Sept. 1978.

42. Red-billed leiothrix (leiothrix lutea)
single (?) bird in ravine of bamboo and dense scrub flicking through leaves around bamboo clump bases; ~6800' (~2075m) near Mai Majuwa village, Ilam; grid sq. R7 not new for Nepal, but record falls within breeding season: 25 Sept. 1978.

43. Short-billed Minivet (Pericrocotus brevirostris)

✓ ♀ in ravine tree tops at corn field edge outside Mai Majuwa, Ilam; 25 Sept. 1978. Confirmed on the spot by my accomplice, RLF, Sr.; grid sq: R7 new for Nepal; ~6800' (2075m).

44. Striated Bulbul (Pycnonotus striatus)

✓ single bird well-concealed in leafy tree tops ~ 8,000' (2440m) NW of Bandooki Bhanjyang, far eastern Mahabharats on 27 Sept. 1978; grid sq. R7 new for Nepal (NW Ilam district).

45. Pied Ground Thrush (Zoothua wardii)

✓ ♀ in alder ravine above + E of Pulpa, Phidim district either R7 or R8 grid sq.; 28 Sept. 1978 ~ 7000' (2135m). (This record given previously to Inskipp??). [RLF, Sr. says that in all his Nepal jaunts, he's seen this sp. only 2X]

46. Sparrow Hawk (Accipiter nisus)

✓ solitary ♀ over Ward #6 Budhabare village, Panchatar district 04 October, 1978; grid sq. R8 new for Nepal; alt: ~4250' (1300m).

47. Red-legged Falcon (Falco amurensis) (F. vespertinus?)

✓ A ♀ at close range near dusk along open, grassy hill crest N of Dhankuta 10 Oct. 1978, just W of Jorpani village Swift, playful flight, at times swooping less than 10 feet by our sides!! Towards twilight, seen to swoop + attempt to attack a small bat with its talons. Excellent views! Next day (mid-morning) ♀ seen again this time in company with what appeared to be an immature ♂: much dark splotching on breast & abdomen, red thighs, dark back. Alt. on 10/10/78 ~ 7000' (2135m) on 11/10/78 ~ 7500' (2285m); grid sq Q7 not new for Nepal, but what an unusual display/behaviour and remarkable observation: ♀ trying to attack the bat in the light of the ^{orange} pink himalaya to the N with a wide panorama an unforgettable scene. (This record sent previously?).

48. Wren (Troglodytes troglodytes)

seen amongst stream boulders N of Pua Majuwa in the far eastern Mahabharats (Ilam or Phidim district?); location is ~~the~~ in sq. R7 - new grid sq. for Nepal; 10 Nov. 1978. Note low altitude: ~7000' (2135m).

49. Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus)

lone ♀ (on migration?) at ~13,000' (3960m) along Jaljale Lekh, grid sq. Q7 (not new one); 18 Oct. 1978

50. Snow Partridge (Lerwa lerwa)

A flock of ~10 roosting ~5m away under a rock overhang in very steep rhodo/bamboo cliff country N slope of Jaljale Lekh just inside grid sq. Q6 (not new sq.); alt. ~12,000' (3660m). Above and E of Phumbaran village; 21/10/78.

51. Grey Crested Tit (Parus dichrous)

single bird in a mixed hunting party in rhodo-bamboo forest <1 km N of peak "12,020" on Milke Danda alt: ~11,500' (~3500m); 24 Oct. '78; grid sq. Q7 new for Nepal.

52. Plain-colored Laughing Thrush (Garrulax subunicolor)

just N of Taplejung bazaar ~6,000' (~1830m) on 29 Oct. 1978; grid sq. R7 not new, but a late Oct. record at rather low elev.

53. Lesser Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler (Phoegeya pusilla)

single bellow Hellok village at ~5750' (~1750m) just inside grid sq R6 - new for Nepal. Note habitat of steep cutover slopes of shrubs with somewhat thin understorey. Amongst exposed roots + detritus; fairly dry aspect. 31 Oct. 1978. Light phase. Slurred song/call heard.

54. Slaty-headed Parakeet (Psittacula himalayana)
♀+♂ Plock of 4 in cutover ravine of mixed subtropical forest (alders, shrubs, bamboo + Kalinjar) outskirts of Hellok village, Taplejung district - just inside grid square R6 - new sq. for this sp. in Nepal. 02 Nov '78; ~6,000' (~1830m).
55. Grey Treepie (Dendrocitta formosae)
~4 playing chase with #54 flock; same site, date; grid sq. R6 new for Nepal.
56. Ashy Wood Pigeon (Columba pulchricollis)
single spied in mixed birch, maple, hemlock + rhododendron forest above + SE of Hellok village ~ 8,500' (2590m) virtually on border of grid sq's R6 + R7, but probably located in latter (∴ not new grid for Nepal); 03 Nov. 1978.
57. White-browed Bush Robin (Erithacus indicus)
several at edge of rhodo/maple forest above + SE of Hellok village ~10,000' (3050m); both ♂♂ + ♀♀ present; new grid sq. for Nepal R7; 03 Nov. 1978. Trail to Yamphodim.
58. long-tailed Mt. Thrush (Zoothera dixonii)
single in thick bamboo understory of maple/hemlock forest above + SE of Hellok ~9,500' (2895m) 03 Nov. 1978. Grid sq. R7 not new, but Nov. record is.
- ! 59. Red-billed Blue Magpie (Cissa erythrorhyncha)
in tall alders + thick undergrowth at ~7,000' (2135m) N of Khebang village, Taplejung district, 05 Nov. 1978. Grid sq. R7; site appears to be the most Eastern record of the species. Also, note the high alt, especially in early winter.

60. Nepal Tree Creeper (Certhia nipalensis)

two sightings on 04 Nov '78 descending the pass NW of Yamphodim, Taplejung district. 1st sighting at ~11,000' (3350m), then later in maple/rhodo/comifer forest ~10,000' (3050m). 1st early Nov. records (?) for Nepal as well as new grid sq: R7.

61. Black-breasted Sunbird (Aethopyga saturata)

single S of Yamphodim village, Taplejung district on 05 Nov. '78 (grid sq. R7 not new) notable for the high altitude 6500-7,000' (1980-2135m) late in year...

62. Three-toed Golden-backed Woodpecker (Dinopium shorii)

X 2 ♀♀ and 1 ♂ at unusually high alt. of 4,000-4,500' (1220-1370m) in subtropical, dense forest above + S of Phidim, Panchatar district on 10 Nov. 1978. Grid sq: R7 is new for Nepal.... on 2nd thought, due to possible confusion with Chrysocolaptes lucidus, probably best to not accept this record.

63. Maroon-breasted Accentor (Prunella immaculata)

at least 1 (possibly only 1?) in dense thickets at edge of cultivation, near crest of Mahabharats, Phidim district. S of Phidim + Namdu village, N slope along Namdu Khola ~7500' (2285m); 11 Nov. '78; grid sq R7 new for Nepal.

64. Crested Goshawk (Accipiter trivirgatus)

single over streambed in subtropical forests near Sukhani, Jhapa district; ~1,000' (300m) alt. (area is N of Sunischara). Grid sq. R8 not new for Nepal, but 1st Nov. record (?) for the sp? 16 Nov. 1978.

65. Montagu's Harrier (Circus pygargus)
♀ N of Sunischara reported in Guide (reference #118) by grid sq: R8 not filled in with a circle on the grid map! 17 Nov. '78; ~500' (150m).
WATER SUTTY
66. Collared Pygmy Owllet (Glaucidium brodiei)
single flying around a glade crest of the Mahabharats between Slam + Dhankuta towns, near village of Rajarani ~6500' (1980m). Grid sq: R8 on 05 Oct. 1978. Distinctive call heard repeatedly.
67. Long-tailed Broadbill (Psarisomus dalhousiae)
a flock of 7 across the river (Trisuli/Buri Gandaki ~1Km E of Marsyandi confluence) from Mugling (elev. ~270m or ~900') grid square Kb on 02 May 1981 (breeding season record; new sq. for Nepal). The location is a patch of sal mixed with other subtropical + tropical tree species, but well-cleared of undergrowth, "preserved" owing to presence of a sacred temple complex. Surrounding hills mostly denuded of trees. Only time I've seen the spec. in Nepal.
68. Great Parrotbill (Conostoma aemodium)
single in thick understorey (bamboo et al.) at ~10,000' in steep, forested banks of tributary NW of Tukuche (Tukuche Khola?), Mustang District; grid sq. H4 is new for Nepal. On 16 May 1984 ∴ a breeding season record. Elev. right at ~10,000' (3280m).
69. Black-throated Jay (Garrulus lanceolatus)
noted by Fleming, Sr. as rare as far west as Kathmandu. A pair was noted outside Yarsa village (E of Kiratichap on trail towards Everest) in open pine forest at ~5300-6000' (~1800m) on 03 April, 1981. Grid

square N6 is new for Nepal; record is also a breeding season record - the pair were fairly confiding but no indication of nesting; may represent an eastward extension of the species' range.

70. Merlin (Falco columbarius)

this record previously sent to you? Have since lost the notes for this trek, but can be 'reconstructed' here. Single bird moving down the Dudh Kosi, S of Lukla on/about 10 April 1981. Alt: ~7,000' - 8,000'. Near Surkya village outskirts.

71. Wallcreeper (Tichodroma muraria)

single at ~14,000' near crest of southern Jaljale Lekh, East Nepal; grid square Q7 new for Nepal. Location is labelled N Milke Danda on topo map, but locals referred to area as Jaljale Lekh (which map shows to N+NW). 18 Oct. 1978. In high cliff country with a small ridgecrest lake < 1 Km away.

72. Bay (Rufous-eared) Woodpecker (Blythipicus pyrrhotis)

~~single~~ this report previously sent to you, but grid square should show a solid circle as it was during the species' breeding season. Seen above Chitre (near Ghorapani) on 19 May 1984. Alt: ~7800-8000', unusually high(?) for the species. Grid square: H5.

73. Speckled Wood-Pigeon (Columba hodgsonii)

A flock of ≥ 8 in pine-spruce-(fir?) forest; resting, and then moving along down Kali Gandaki R. valley 15 May 1984. New grid sq. H4 for Nepal as well as breeding season report. Between Lete and Kaiku villages ~7300' (2225m.) Excellent long views, but birds fairly shy, avoiding open branches.

74. Black-throated Sunbird (Aethopyga saturata)

A breeding season record for grid sq. JS;
below Jagat along Marsyandi R. valley. 02 May 1984
at about 6100' (1860m); in hot, open riverside habitat.

Although not within the period 1976-1984, I also
include herein one later record for W. Nepal:

75. Red Munia (Amandava amandava)

a small mixed flock (♀/♂) (~6 birds)
in cutover sal scrub adjacent to a dusty bullock
cart road just NE of Nepalgunj airport on 03 May
1985. DS is a new grid square for this species
in Nepal. Alt: ~120-150m (?)

