

Tomorrow: Trek - crucial species

Falcated Teal - Phewa Tal (Pokhara). We saw 2-3 ♀ in with other ducks. Mark + Tim saw more, don't know how many, maybe 12+. Live boat + paddle out there.

Pied Mallard - Bequng Tal (Cuv. Pokhara). We didn't see any, but we didn't go to this place. By bus, or bike? (maybe a bit too far).

Tibetan Snowcock - Thovang ha (above Muktinath). We saw 4 high up, but snow would force them down lower. Up valley beyond the monastery to tea houses. From there path rises steeply up to pass (Mark Wotton + Brett Bond saw them. Snow close to huts at head of valley)

Himalayan Snowcock - see above. We saw 2

<u>Blood Pheasant</u>	} all at <u>Ghasa</u> , although we only saw Kalij, Koklas + Chir. (They're the important ones!) Mark + Tim saw the other 3. See map. Kalij also opposite lakeside at Pokhara in small ravines
<u>Satyv Tragopan</u>	
<u>Impeyan Pheasant</u>	
<u>Kalij Pheasant</u>	
<u>Koklas Pheasant</u>	
<u>Chir Pheasant</u>	

Solitary Snipe - Muktinath. We saw 2 along stream running down from monastery.

Himalayan Pied Kingfisher - Birethanti. We saw one here flying up + down river. Watch from bridge. Also saw 2 at Pokhara just flying over.

Hume's Short-toed Lark - Kagbeni area. Didn't see this, but Simon had a map from James Wolstencroft of a site close to Kagbeni, on the plateau south of the path up to M'nath.

Pacific Swift - Tatopani. We saw flocks around high
cliffs opposite Tatopani.

Nepal House Martin - anywhere on trek. We didn't see any.

Lsv. Rocket-tailed Drongo - low side of Phewa Tal.

Green Magpie - low side of Phewa Tal.

Brown-eared Bulbul - low side of Phewa Tal.

Nepal Parrotbill - Ghorapani, along Ghandrung Ridge. see map.

Great Parrotbill } as above. we didn't see either.

Brown Parrotbill }

White-spotted Laughing Thrush - Ghorapani, along Ghandrung Ridge.

Chestnut-throated Shrike Babbler - only ones we saw were in small
forest above Sikhet + above Uleri.

Hoary Bunting - between Uleri + Ghorapani we saw one.

Stoliczka's Tit-Warbler - anywhere beyond Takuche.

White-browed Bush Robin } Ghorapani, Ghasa. we didn't see any but
Golden Bush Robin } better chance in mid-winter.

Eversmann's Redstart - Jomsom area, possible.

Gilchrist's Redstart - Jomsom, Kaptani, Muktinath. Search the
fields!

White-throated Redstart - as above.

Stary-backed Forktail - along river north of Birethanti. we saw 1

Long-billed Thrush - forest between Uleri + Ghorapani we
saw one.

Chestnut Thrush - Ghorapani, with the Whit-rt. S'bird flocks.

Smile Black Tit - west bank of Kali Bardski between Ghasa
and Katopani.

Spot-winged Black Tit - Katopani. We didn't see any. In forest to the
west of village. see map.

Five-capped Tit - between Leke + Ghasa off main track. we saw 2.
see map.

Mrs Gould's Sunbird - Ghasa, in forest.

Allied Grosbeak - Ghorapani. Pur Hill + Ghandrung Ridge.

White-winged Grosbeak - Muktinath, in monastery grounds.

Red-browed Finch - Ghorapani. We didn't see any.

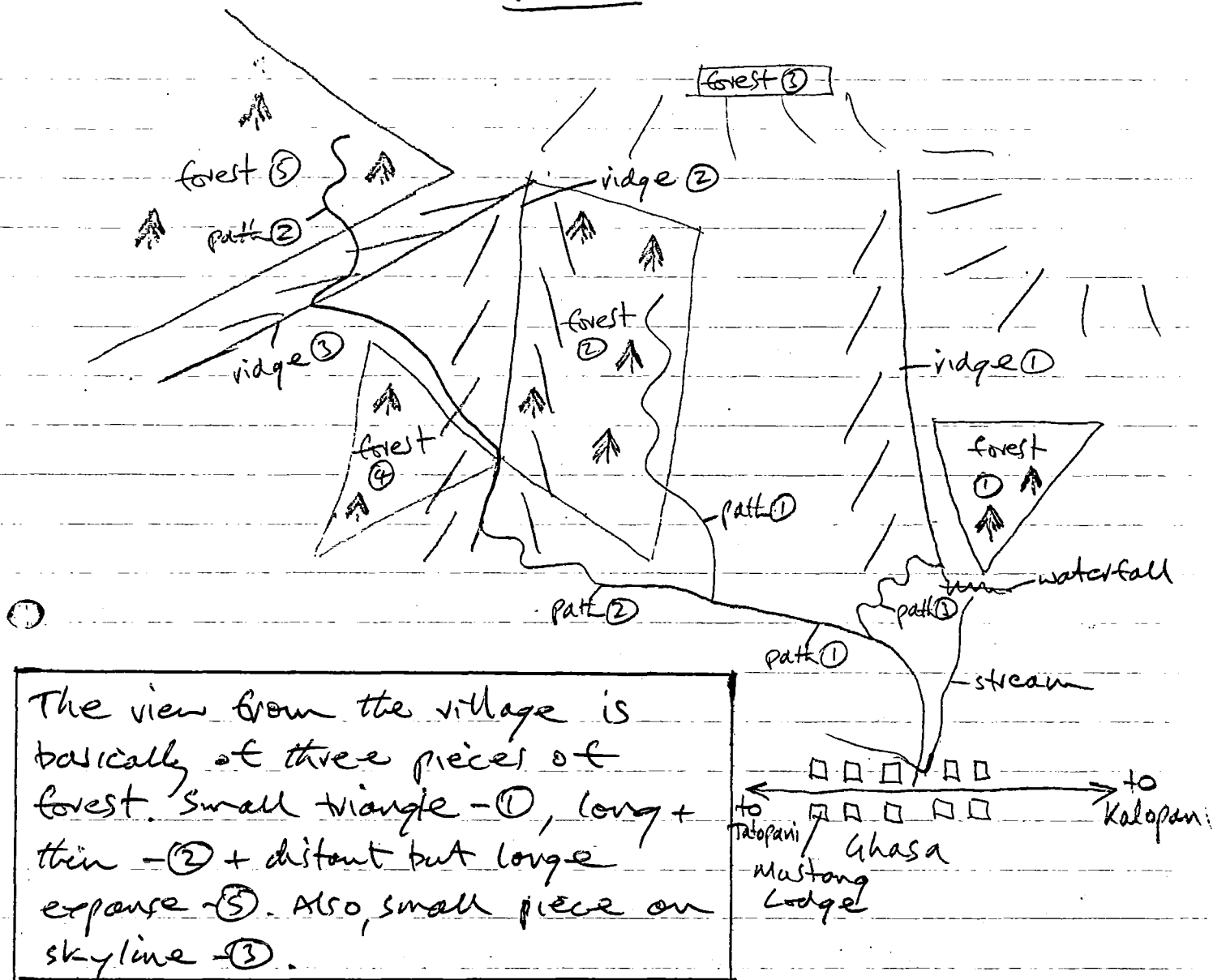
②

- Modgson's Mountain Finch - Muktinath area, didn't see any
Spot-winged Rosefinch - Ghorapani, along Ghorung Ridge
Eastern Great Rosefinch - Jomsom, Kagbeni, Muktinath fields
Scuiper Finch - Ghorapani, we saw 2
Scarlet Finch - possible at Tikhedunge. We didn't see any
Brown Bullfinch - Ghorapani, we didn't see any
Pine Bunting - Pokhara, since saw a flock. Jomsom saw
1 ♀, but flocks mid-winter.
Yellow-breasted Bunting - Pokhara, in fields. Didn't see
any.
Black-faced Bunting - Pokhara, we saw 2-3 ♀ - on migration

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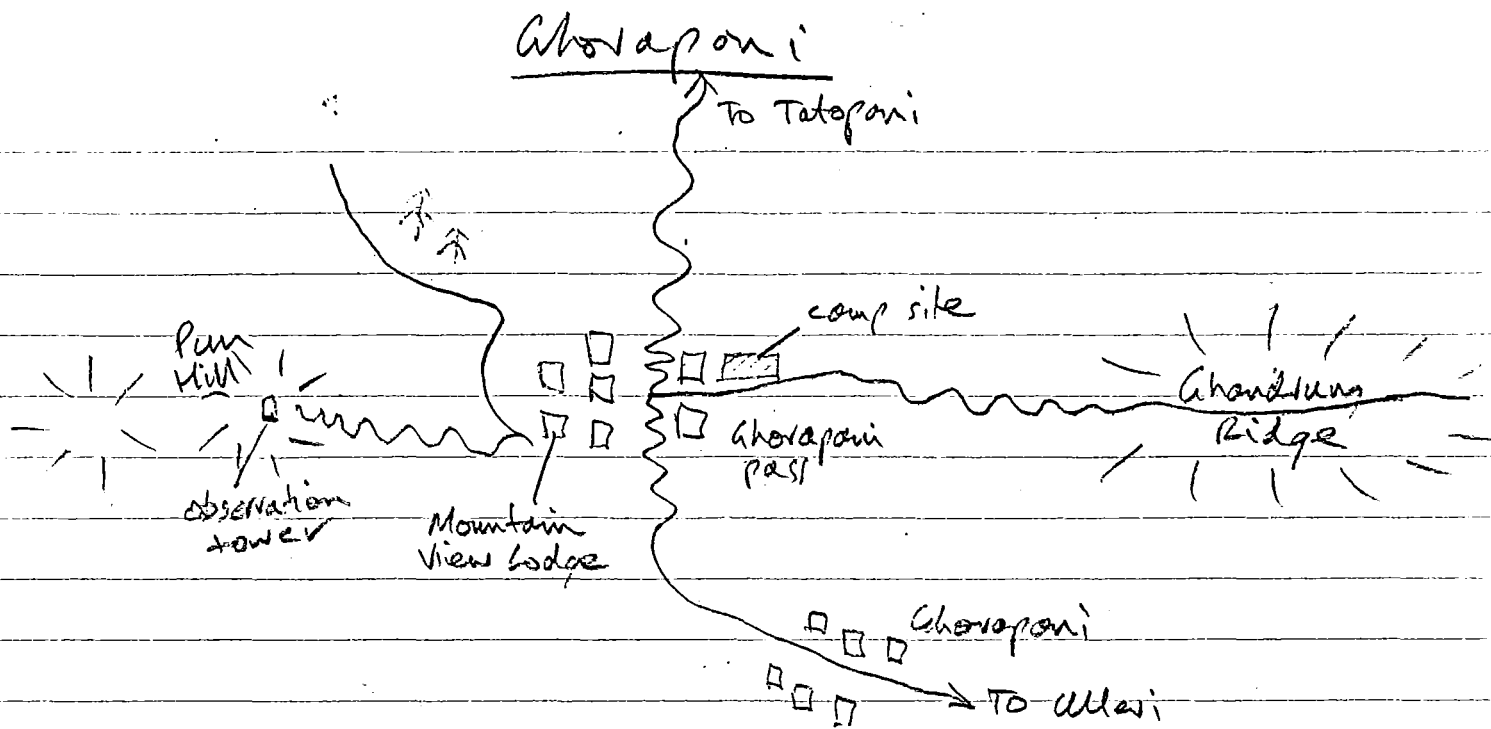
This covers everything of any importance. Some things may have been seen by others at different sites and/or in greater numbers, but these species are generally in the Jomsom / Muktinath area + weather plays an important part. Stuff such as Snowfinches, Blk-th Accentor + Eversmann's Redstart are vagrants, although seen they are the result of adverse weather conditions. Others, such as Great +
① Brown Parrotbill, you just have to have a little luck.

Ghasa



The view from the village is basically of three pieces of forest. Small triangle - ①, long + thin - ② + distant but large expanse - ⑤. Also, small piece on skyline - ③.

- PATH ① - begins in village opposite water-top 50 metres
 ○ From Mustang lodge. leads between buildings, follows stream to below waterfall, climbs to small ridge (Mason stacked Accentor), then continues into forest ② (Koklas + Impeyan Pheasants)
PATH ② - branches around beginning of small ridge mentioned above, then edges around forest ② (Cheer + Kalij Pheasants) to ridge ②, then continues across open ground above forest ④ + into distant forest ⑤ (Koklas)
PATH ③ - branches from path ① at base of same small ridge + climbs abruptly to ridge ① + into forest ① (Cheer)



Pun Hill - path leads from back of Mt. View lodge + N ascends steeply

Another path branches to right about 30 metres along path to Pun Hill + continues over ridge + along side of valley, overlooking dead trees (woodpecker) + undergrowth.

Ahoapung Ridge - path is signposted between buildings, then across camp site. Keep to right-hand side. Another signpost, then ascends to Ahoapung Ridge. A couple of hours along path, it descends out of forest to a make shift lodge.

Area below Ahoaponi village, towards Ullasi, is also good up to edge of forest.

Bharatpur - interesting species

Lesser Whistling Teal - the only flocks I saw were always in the same place: on the east side, marked 2 on the map. In the corner where two bunds (raised path) meet, there was a small area of water. The ducks were usually hidden in the vegetation surrounding the water, but often sticking their heads out.

Eagles - anywhere really + much in evidence. Nowhere else did I see such a concentration of raptors.

○ Pallas's Fish-eating Eagle - follow the paths round Ramtand. Excellent for birds generally. On the west side look into the middle for dead tree, the nest is there. Birds usually song out in the evening.

Siberian Crane - there were 46 in total on my 2nd visit in early January. The last 2 years they've arrived late December. (See map). Easy to see + spread out in the boggy areas.

Painted Snipe - best time at dusk. I found best area to be along path to Python Point. Go through dry area, then just as damp area begins, which is obvious, small pools by side of track. The nest I saw here was 6.

○ Collared Scops Owl - see map.

Ruck Horned Owl - I found best area along main fornic road from entrance to temple + beyond. Just listen out for call 'choo, choo, cho, chu chu chu' a bit like a steam engine beginning, then 'oom' down. Pretty common throughout the reserve. Also saw them at the back of Ramtand + Python Point area.

Blyth's Reed Warbler - frequent bushes along bunds. Ramtand best area.

Siberian Rubythroat - I saw one at Kadam Kunj. Skulking about damp area on G side.

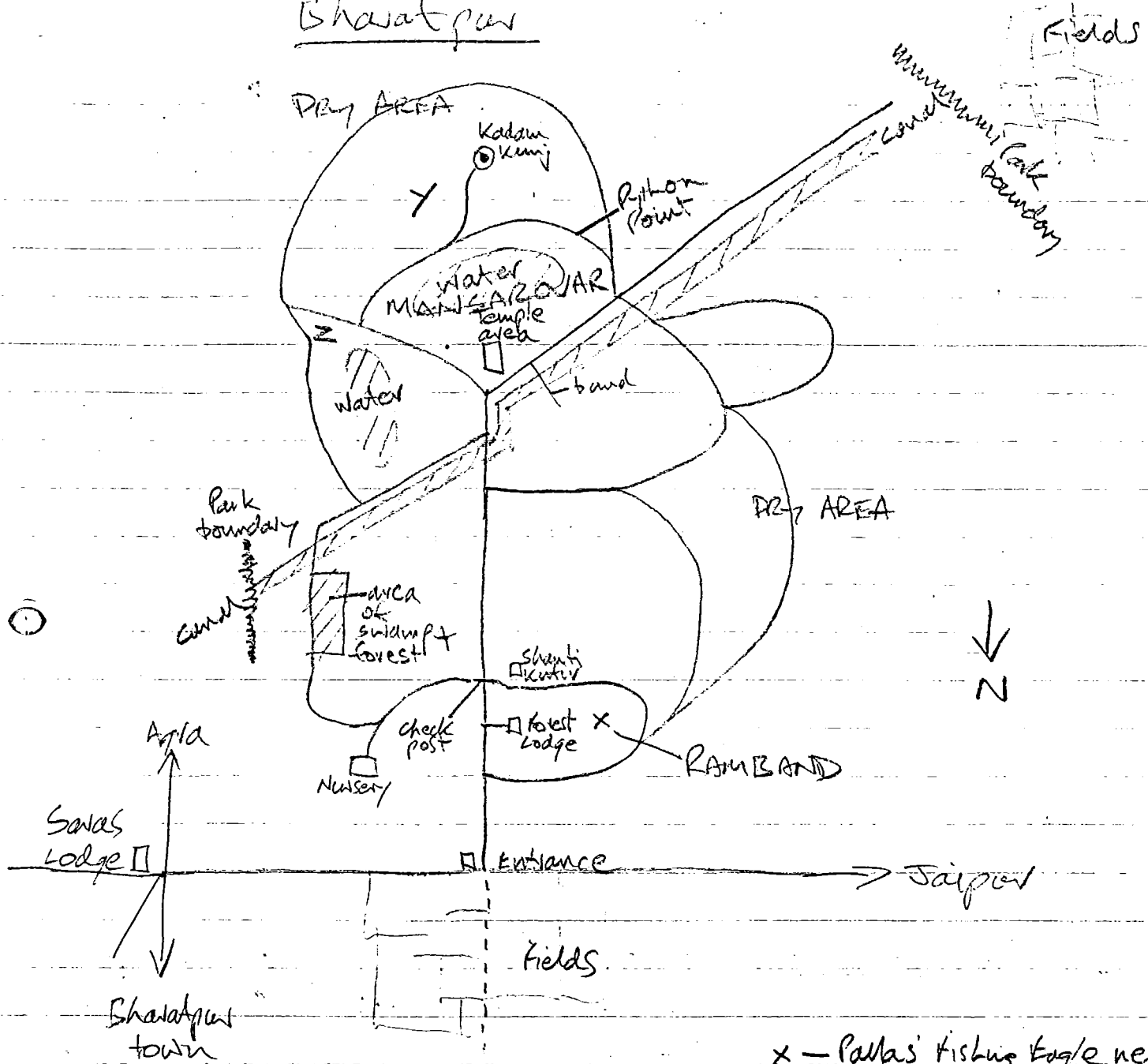
Eastern Pied Wheatear - fields opposite entrance + outside opposite end of reserve. (fields good for larks, pipits etc)

Spotted Creeper - possible anywhere. Best to suss out where there's been a recent sighting + zap along there. I didn't see any, but a few places they were seen whilst I was there! are: behind Forest Lodge, on the terrac road between checkpoint + temple, around temple, along bunds on the left before you reach the temple running parallel to the canal + opposite the temple area (cross the canal on small bridge), by the boat area + Kalam Kunj. (As you can see, just about everywhere!!)

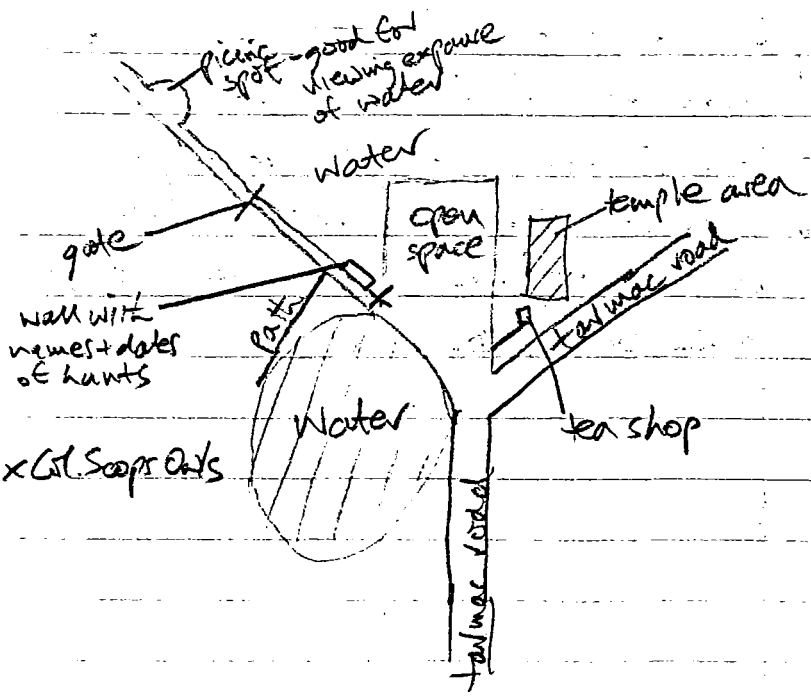
White-capped Bunting - in the dry areas. Hack about through the vegetation.

I found the best areas in general for birds were around Rowland, the swamp/forest on the east side, Mansarovar + Kalam Kunj. All these areas are worth repeated visits, which is not difficult on a bike. More than in town.

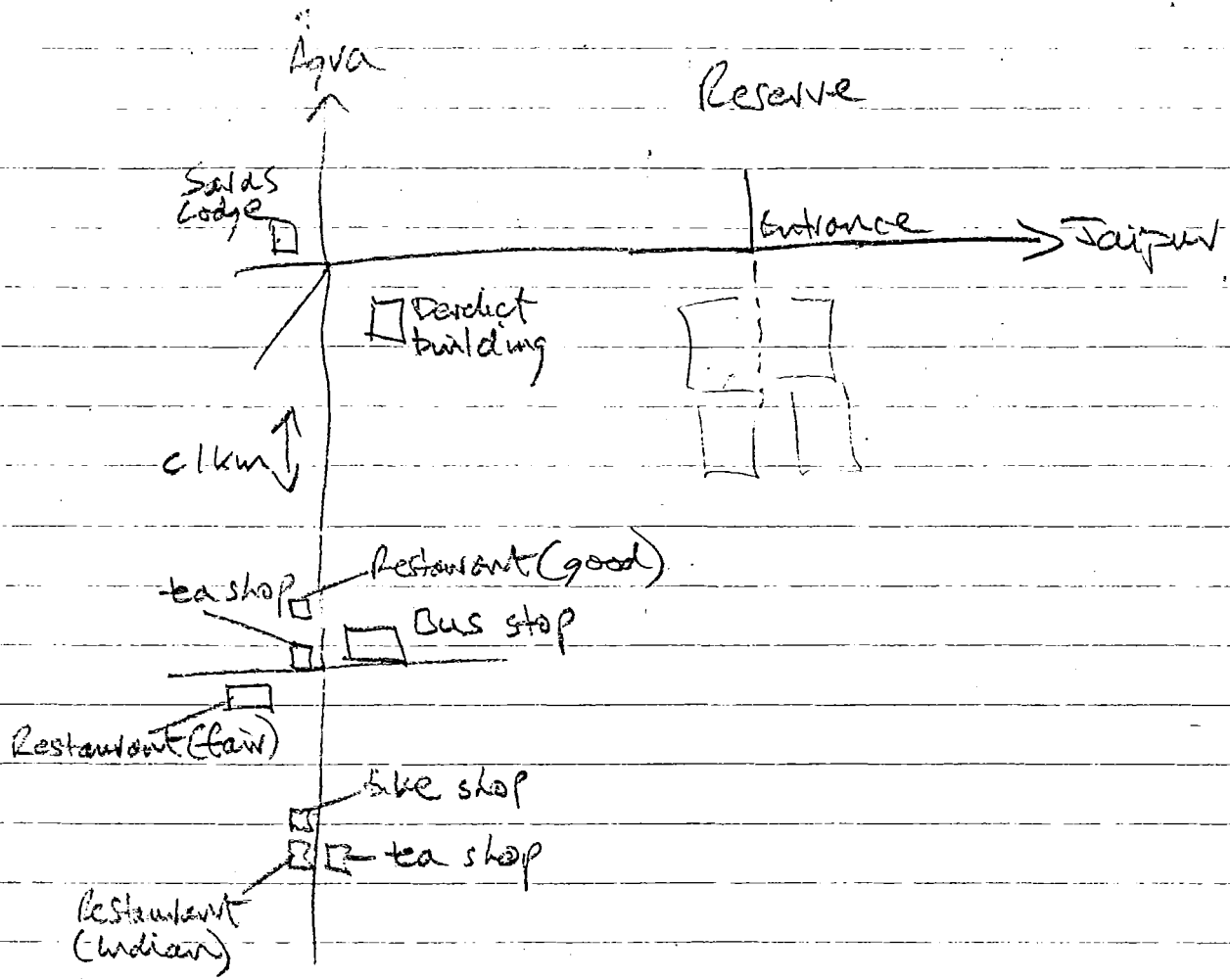
Bharatpur



- x - Pallas' Fishing Eagle nest
- Y - Sitiation Clones
- Road between checkpost + temple for Pusky Horned Owl
- Temple area for Collared Scops Owl (see inset) - between open area + wall with names + dates. There is an overhanging tree, right on the corner, owl roost here go right underneath + look up.
- z - LSV Whistling Teal



Bharatpur town

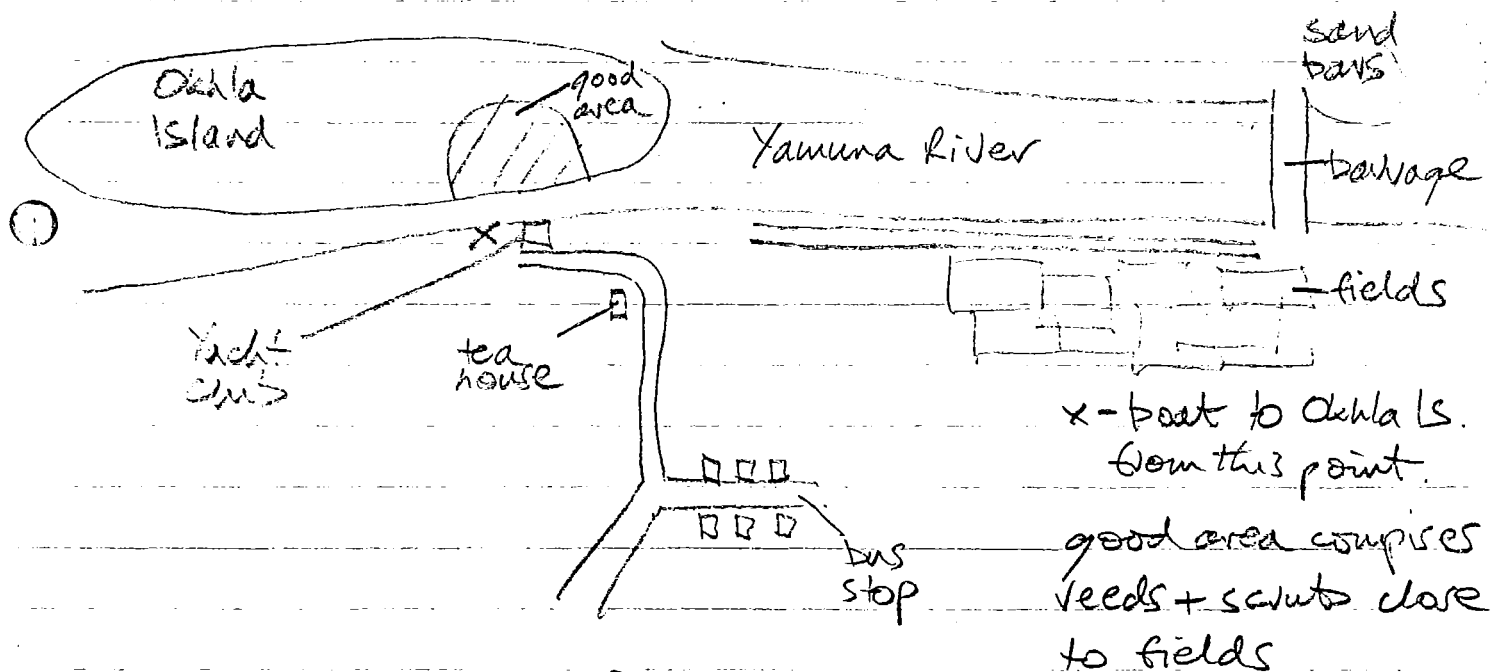


Directions from Delhi - by bus from ISRT, stand 20 paying near bus stand (Rs 20). 4 1/2 hour journey. Stay at Saras lodge, about 1/2 mile away. Hire bike in town (Rs 5 per day). The dormitory at Saras is good. Get shower + you can take your gear away. Don't eat there! Eat in town. 3 good places. I recommend the best with. I usually had breakfast at Saras. There's nowhere to get food inside the reserve, so stock up in town for lunch.

sit on left side, cos the sun is from the right.

Delhi sites

Best to suss out more information. I only went to Okhla Island. There's a couple of other good places such as Turkhalekbad, Buddha Jayanti Park, the Zoo. To reach Okhla Island its best to catch a scooter-taxi (the yellow + black three wheel jobs) you can catch the bus back to town.



Straited Babbler } Okhla Island .N.B. cost of boat negotiable
 White-tailed Stonechat }

○ Small Pratincole } on sand bars after crossing barage (A road
 Sand Lark } runs parallel to river as far as barage, view of
 river + muddy fields on the other side)