Northern Part of the Indian Subcontinent

Turin et al. (1987)
INTRODUCTION

This report deals with observations made on a journey to India and Nepal during the first half of 1987. We were three observers - two of us came to the Subcontinent on January 7th., after 6 1/2 months birding in South-East Asia. The third joined in on 4th. of February. From that time we travelled together except for a few days on the Everest-trek.

India is a huge country so you have to restrict yourself on where you want to go. We concentrated on the northern part, which in wintertime holds great numbers of palaeoarctic migrants appealing to the European visitor. Also this part of the country has many easily accessible, topclass birding-areas, covering a wide range of habitats, from deserts to lush jungles. As spring arrives Himalaya is the place to be. Go trekking! Nepal holds the most popular trekking-routes but you might also consider the Indian Himalaya.

Each year large numbers of birders visit places like Bharatpur and Chitwan N.P., which boasts well-established check-lists. Several treks are well visited by ornithologists, e.g. Langtang and Jomosom-trek, but it is by far more interesting and often also more rewarding to visit little-known areas. Very little birding has been done in West-Nepal, Chilka Lake deserves regular countings, etc etc. Try doing something extra and visit areas like these, in this way you can for example help seeking out valuable sites for future conservation - before it is too late!

In Denmark you can contact "Dansk Ornitologisk Forenings Arbejdsgruppe for International Fuglebeskyttelse", DAFIF, if you want further information on little-known places to visit. Just write to DAFIF c/o DOF, etc.

In our site-lists numbers are maximum for one day. We hope you can use this report in some way.

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Litterature:


2.
The stony riverbed near Hetaura is a traditional wintering area for Ibisbill, but even though we spent two days in the area we did not find any. The breeding season for this species begins in ult. March. Therefore it is most probable that the birds had left for the breeding areas when we arrived on the 8th. of March. Hetaura is easily reached with regular busses from Kathmandu. Several hotels at reasonable prices can be found. It is worth spending some time in the forests around the village, Ibisbill is not the only bird to be seen at Hetaura.

Cormorant 15
Little green heron 1
Pond heron 4
Cattle egret 1220
Little egret 167
Openbill stork 1
Whitenecked stork 1
Black ibis 16
Ruddy shelduck 50
Wigeon 16

Goosander 2
Black kite 20
Sparrowhawk 1
Longlegged buzzard 1
Whiteeyed buzzard 1
Osprey 1
Griffon vulture 1
Indian whitebacked vulture 4
Kestrel 1
Small indian pratincole 3
Stone curlew 2
Redwattled lapwing 6
River lapwing 8
Little ringed plover 10
Greenshank 7
Green sandpiper 3
Common sandpiper 14
Temmincks stint 5
Rufous turtledove 4
Spotted dove 2
Alexandrine parakeet 8
Roseringed parakeet 60
Blossomheaded parakeet 25
Common hawcuckoo 4
Alpine swift 2
House swift 300
Common kingfisher 2
Storkbilled kingfisher 1
Whitebreasted kingfisher 3
Indian roller 4
Wryneck 1
Lesser goldenbacked woodpecker 2
Fulvousbreasted woodpecker 1
Bush lark 2
sand lark 10
Plain sand martin 30
Redrumped swallow 8
Rufousbacked shrike 1
Brown shrike 2
Black drongo 7
Spanglet drongo 5
Ashy swallow-shrike 15
Greyheaded myna 7
Common myna 130
Jungle myna 20
Indian treepie 1
Jungle crow++
Whitecheeked bulbul 8
Redvented bulbul 3
Redbreasted flycatcher 2
Verditer flycatcher 2
Tailorbird 1
Blyth's reed warbler 1
Booted warbler 4
Chiffchaff 3
Dusky leaf warbler 1
Rubythroat 3
Himalayan rubythroat 4
Bluethroat 1
Magpie robin 4
Hodgson's redstart 1
Plumbeous redstart 1
Stonechat 4
Pied bush chat 3
River chat 1
Golden mountain thrush 1
Vinaceousbreasted pipit 3
Paddyfield pipit 4
White wagtail ++
Yellow wagtail 1
Grey wagtail 1
Large pied wagtail 8
House sparrow ++
Tree sparrow 15
Crested bunting 1
Kosi Barrage is undoubtedly the most important area for migrating herons, ducks, waders etc. in Nepal. Areas of marshes border the river and hold lots of birds. Largest numbers of ducks are usually seen in mid-February, while waders pass through between February and mid-May. In the marshes many warblers and buntings are seen. Kosi Barrage is easy reached by daily busses from Kathmandu to Karavitta and the journey is about 12 hours. We stayed at Narayan who runs the only restaurant in the village.
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Hetausa Basketed Warbler
Kosi Barrage 10-13/3/87 Slender-billed Gull (1)
and Black-headed Bunting (1)

Barun Valley 23/3 - 14/4/87
Crimson Roserfinch (2)

Langtang Valley 18/4 - 2/5/87
Satyr Tragopan ♀ on nest + 4 eggs
Honeyguide presumably 3 birds

Tuin et al. (1987) part
Caspian tern 5
Indian river tern 100
Blackbellied tern 10
Little tern 5
Indian ring dove 5
Spotted dove 4
Roseringet parakeet 1
Lesser coucal 1
Spotted owlet 1
Lesser pied kingfisher 2
Common kingfisher 4
Storkbilled kingfisher 2
Whitebreasted kingfisher 1
Green bee-eater 3
Indian roller 6
Hoopoe 2
Coppersmith 1
Wryneck 3
Bush lark 10
Ashycrowned finch-lark 5
Sand lark 4
Plain sand martin 4
Swallow 200
Redrumped swallow 8
Rufousbacked shrike 2
Brown shrike 3
Black drongo 8
Pied myna ++
Common myna ++
Bank myna 10
Indian treepie 1
House crow 7
Large cuckoo-shrike 1
Redwhiskered bulbul 1
Redvented bulbul 4
Striated babbler 12
Redbreasted flycatcher 1
Verditer flycatcher 2
Whitethroated fantail 1
Paradise flycatcher 1
Fantail warbler 3
Plain wren-warbler 1
Yellowbellied wren-warbler 2
Tailorbird 1
Striated marsh warbler 2
Thickbilled warbler 2
Blyths reed warbler 1
Paddyfield warbler 2
Tickells warbler 5
Smoky warbler 2
Dusky warbler 10
Yellowbrowed warbler 1
Dull green warbler 1
Rubythroat 1
bluethroat 12
Magpie robin 1
Black redstrat 1
Stonechat 15
Pied bush chat 2
River chat 1
Paddyfield pipit 4
Vinaceousbreasted pipit 12
Yellow wagtail 15
Yellowheaded wagtail 5
White wagtail 10
Large pied wagtail 2
Purple sunbird 4
House sparrow 30
Spotted munia 1
Avadavat 8
Yellow breasted bunting 50
Blackfaced bunting 2
Little bunting 8
Blackheaded bunting 1
KATHMANDU VALLEY

The Kathmandu Valley still contains some good forest, but because of the collecting of firewood it is decreasing rapidly. The birdrichest area is Godaveri Botanical Gardens and the Mountain Pulchowki. You can get to the place with taxi or busses. The bus leaves from the busstand near the temple-lake by Ratnapark, (first bus: 5.00 a.m.) and you have to change in Lagankhel. Because of the bad connections it can take more than 1 1/2 hour to get to Godaveri.

One morning we got a taxi to the top of the mountain, and it costed 500 Rps. for 5 persons.

It's quite a struggle to walk all the way to the top of Pulchowki (about 15 km. and more than 1200 meters rise!), but you can see how the vegetations and avifauna is changing with the heights, so it's worth the work. For example Goldheaded Blackfinch where seen where a gulley goes to the right at the beginning and cirka 2 hairpin-curves after a little house on a view-point (c. 4 km. up) we found Cutia.

The Botanical Gardens are open parklike areas, and contains some birds, specially thrushes and flycatchers.

Another area is the Gokarna Safari Park, which is situated about 5 km. NE of the town, and easily reached by bike. In the park there is some tame animals as elephant, blackbuck and peafowl, but early in the morning there are no people and a lot of birds in the subtropical forest. Also look around the river and the surrounding fields.

A last place which we visited was Thoka Hospital near Sheopuri. The trail climbs up several kilometers through open scrubland, an ideal habitat for the only Nepalic endemic, Spiny Babbler, but it is a skulker and we didn't find it.

We biked to the bottom of the mountain (ca. 10 km. NNE), and walked up.

We didn't go to Nagarjung or Sheopuri, but both of the places are said to be good (Inskipp).
Cattle Egret 20
Black Kite 1
Shikra 3
Hodgsons Hawkeagle 1
Booted Eagle 1 dark
Steppeeage 1
Black Eagle 1
Indian Whitebacked Vulture 1
Crested Serpenteagle 1
Peregrine Falcon 1
Kestrel 1

Kaleej Pheasant 1<sup>o</sup>
Woodcock 1
Bartailed Cuckoo-dove 4
Rufous Turtledove 2
Blossomheaded Parakeet 1
Indian Cuckoo 3
Oriental Cuckoo 1
Barred Owlet 1
Houseswift 20
Great Hill Barbet 7
Goldenthroated Barbet 5
Bluethroated Barbet 1
Speckled Piculet 1
Blacknaped Green Woodpecker 1
Greater Yellownaped Woodpecker 1
Small Yellownaped Woodpecker 1
Rufousbellied Woodpecker 3
Darjeeling Pied Woodpecker 1
Crimsonbreasted Pied Woodpecker 3
Redrumped Swallow 5
Maroon Oriole 6
Black Drongo 3
Bronzed Drongo 6
Lesser Rackettailed Drongo 1
Common Myna c. 30
Redcrowned Jay 9
Redbilled Blue Magpie 1
Himalayan Treepie 3
Housecrow c. 20
Junglecrow 5
Shortbilled Minivet c. 12
Longtailed Minivet 10
Orangebellied Leafbird 8
Whitecheeked Bulbul 35
Redvented Bulbul 15
Striated Green Bulbul 2
Rufousbellied Bulbul 3
Black Bulbul 14
Scalybreasted Wrenbabbler 1
Lesser Scalybreasted Wrenbabbler 1
Whitethroated Laughingthrush 60
Striated Laughingthrush 8
Whitescuffed Laughingthrush 15
Rufouschinned Laughingthrush 1
Whitespotted Laughingthrush 1?
Redheaded Laughingthrush 20
Redbilled Leiothrix 1
Nepal Cutia 2
Redwinged Shrikebabbler 7
Hoary Barwing 2
Redtailed Minla 1
Barthroated Siva 6
Bluewinged Siva 4
Yellownaped Yuhina 30
Stripethroated Yuhina 5
Rufousvented Yuhina 3
Whitebellic Yuhina 1
Chestnutheaded Titbabbler 12
Whitebrowed Titbabbler c. 20
Nepal Babbler 30
Blackcapped Sibia c. 35
Sooty Flycatcher 1
Redbreasted Flycatcher 4
Orangeorsetted Flycatcher 5
Rustyorsetted Blue Flycatcher 16
Little Pied Flycatcher 19
Whitebrowed Blue Flycatcher 16
Small Niltava 10
Rufousbellied Niltava 16
Verditer Flycatcher 6
Greyheaded Flycatcher 6
Yellowbellied Fantail Flycatcher 2
Dull Slatybellied Groundwarbler 1
Chestnutheaded Groundwarbler 1
Aberrant Bushwarbler 1
Rufouscapped Bushwarbler 1
Tailorbird 2
Chiff Chaff 1
Orangebarred Leafwarbler 30
Yellowbrowed Leafwarbler 4
Pallas' Leafwarbler 8
Greyfaced Leafwarbler 9
Large Crowned Leafwarbler 5
Blyth's Leafwarbler 12
Blackbrowed Flycatcherwarbler 10
Greyheaded Flycatcherwarbler 2
Blackfaced Flycatcherwarbler 4
Goldcrest 20
Orange-flanked Bushrobin 3
Hodgson’s Redstart 1♂
Whitethroated Redstart 1♂ ♀
Whitetailed Bluetrotern 1♂
Spotted Forktail 3
Dark-grey Bushchat 1
Riverchat 2
Chestnutbellied Rockthrush 1♀
Blue Whistling Thrush 1
Greywinged Blackbird 2
Blackthroated Thrush 2
Maroonbacked Accentor 1
Greenbacked Tit 4
Yellowcheeked Tit 4
Yellowbrowed Tit 1
Redheaded Tit 18
Chestnutbellied Nuthatch 3
Whitetailed Nuthatch 2
Treecreeper 2
Indian Treepipit 8
Grey Wagtail 2
Firebreasted Flowerpecker 10
Mrs. Gould’s Sunbird 1♂
Nepal Yellowbacked Sunbird 8
Firetailed Sunbird 15
White-eye 3♂
Whitewinged Grosbeak 15
Gold-headed Blackfinch 1♂
Brown Bullfinch 4
Little Bunting 4

Rufous Turtledove 2
Chestnutheaded Bee-eater 1♂
Great Hill Barbet 4
Bluethroated Barbet 2
Swallow 15
Redrumped Swallow 6
Black Drongo 10
Ashy Drongo 5
Common Myna 3♂
Jungle Myna 10
Blackthroated Jay 3
Pied Flycatchershrake 6
Shortbilled Minivet 4
Common Iora 1
Whitecheeked Bulbul 15
Redvented Bulbul 10
Black Bulbul♂
Whitebellied Yuhina 5
Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher 1
Verditer Flycatcher 4
Greyheaded Flycatcher 5
Orangebarred Leafwarbler 5
Pallas’ Leafwarbler 4
Blyth’s Leafwarbler 1
Greyheaded Flycatcher-warbler 14

Stonechat 1
Golden Mountain Thrush 2
Yellowcheeked Tit 6
Chestnutbellied Nuthatch 4
Whitetailed Nuthatch 3
Indian Treepipit 12
White Wagtail 4
Firebreasted Flowerpecker 4
White-eye 15
Spottedwinged Grosbeak 7

GOKARNA 17/3-87

Black Kite 1
Crested Goshawk 1 imm.
Booted Eagle 1 dark
Steppe Eagle 1
Himalayan Griffon 1
Crested Serpenteagle 1
Greyheaded Lapwing 5
Woodcock 1
Ashy Woodpigeon 15

THOKA HOSPITAL 5/6 87

Shikra 1♂
Hobby 1
Black Francolin 6
Indian Plaintive Cuckoo 3
Large Cuckooshrike 4
23.3.-14.4.87 we went trekking in Arun/Barun Valleys in eastern Nepal. We flew from Kathmandu to Tumlingtar (203 Rp. student discount). From Tumlingtar airfield the path leads through very cultivated land with rice- and cornfields to Khandbari. Khandbari is a bazaar town and the last place food can be bought! We continued to Bhotebas, a village surrounded by hillsides covered with scrub and cultivation. From Bhotebas we went to Sakurate, and the day after we stopped for the night in Num. This part of the trip leads through scrub and small areas covered with subtropical forest. From Num the path descends steeply to Arun River, that has rich subtropical forest on its banks, and climbs to Sheduwa. Small patches of subtropical forest remain around the village. From Sheduwa we continued to Tashigaon through little cultivated land, and beyond Tashigaon no cultivation exists. From Tashigaon we climbed through moist temperate forest with mosses, ferns and orchids, and later getting closer to Konghma, through forest with undergrowth of bamboo. Konghma lies among rhododendron forest, but when we arrived everything was covered with snow. Walking from Konghma to Mumbuk you have to cross three passes to get into the Barun Valley. When we did that on the 1st of April, there was huge amounts of snow, and the crossing had been impossible without a local guide. In Barun Valley we spent 6 days and walked as far as Merak. This valley is clothed in rhododendron forest as far as Yangri. From there conifers and juniper gradually take over up to app. 4100 m. From there the vegetation is dominated by alpine flora and scrubs. On the way back we used the same route until Tashigaon, from where we walked on the west-side of the river towards Tumlingtar. Tashigaon to Navagaon is a short walk through light forest. The day after we continued to Wahlong, walking through patches of excellent forest. Good forest at this altitude (app. 1800 m) is very rarely found because of widespread deforestation. From Wahlong to Akshua the landscape changes with more cultivation, but still some original vegetation can be found. From Akshua via Bumling to Tumlingtar everything turns into cultivation.

As there are no lodges in this area you will need camping equipment, and nearly all food have to be bought in Khandbari. Therefore it is necessary to hire porter, and even if you do not enter the Barun Valley it is a good idea to hire a guide. Porter costs Rs 50 a day and a guide Rs 70. When we entered Barun Valley it was still early spring, and very few birds had arrived, therefore it would be better to do the trek later. May would be a good time in upper Arun and Barun.

The following abbreviations are used:

Tu Tumlingtar Kb Khandbari Bb Bhotebas
Sa Sakurate Nu Num Se Sheduwa
Ta Tashigaon Km Konghma Mu Mumbuk
Ya Yangri Ne Nehe Me Merak
Na Navagaon Wa Wahlong Ak Akshua
Bu Bumling

Numbers are maximum in a day. 52.
Comorant 1 Tu-Kb
Little egret 2 Bu-Tu
Whitenecked stork 6 Kb-Bb
Goosander 3 Tu-Kb
Black kite 20 Sa
Goshawk 2 Kb-Bb
Shikra 1 Nu-Se
Besar sparrowhawk 2 Ta
Upland buzzard 1 Nu
Buzzard 2 Ne
Changeable hawk-eagle 2 Tu-Kb
Steppe eagle 2 Sa
Black eagle 1 Kb-Bb
King vulture 4 Tu-Kb
Griffon vulture 2 Tu-Kb
Himalayan griffon 2 Tu-Kb
Indian whitebacked vulture 10 Tu-Kb
Lammergeier 1 Ya-Me
Hen herrier 3 Sa
Kestrel 2 Wa-Ak
Snow partridge 10 Km-Mu
Blood pheasant 4 Ya-Mu
Monal pheasant 2 Mu
Kaleej pheasant 2 Ta
Redwattled lapwing 2 Tu
Common sandpiper 1 Tu
Yellowlegged green pigeon 4 Bu-Tu
Snow pigeon 19 Ne
Rufous turtle dove 1 Kb-Bb
Red turtle dove 1 Kb-Bb
Spotted dove 6 Bu-Tu
Blossomheaded parakeet 4 Tu
Large hawk-cuckoo 1 Se-Ta
Cuckoo 4 Wa-Ak
Barred owlet 1 Se
Himalayan pied kingfisher 1 Bu-Tu
Common kingfisher 1 Bu-Tu
Whitebreasted kingfisher 1 Bu-Tu
Indian roller 4 Bu-Tu
Great hill barbet 2 Ak-Bu
Bluethroated barbet 4 Ak-Bu
Himalayan swiftlet 30 Kb-Bb
Alpine swift 4 Bu
House swift 8 Kb
Darjeeling pied woodpecker 3 Ta-Km
Redeared bay woodpecker 3 Sa
Eastern skylark 2 Nu
Swallow 60 Kb-Bb
Redrumped swallow 15 Ak-Bu
Nepal house martin 50 Se-Ta
Greybacked shrike 1 Ak-Bu
Rufousbacked shrike 4 Sa-Nu
Maroon oriole 2 Sa-Nu
Black drongo 7 Nu-Se
Ashy drongo 1 Na-Wa
Spanglet dronbo 10 Bu-Tu
Spottedwinget stare 1 Bu-Tu
Greyheaded myna 3 Tu
Common myna 30 Kb-Bb
House crow 6 Tu
Jungle crow 8 Sa-Nu
Green magpie 3 Bb-Sa
Yellowbilled blue magpie 2 Ta
Redbilled blue magpie 2 Bu-Tu
Indian treepie 2 Bu-Tu
Himalayan treepie 5 Nu-Se
Nutcraker 2 Ta-Km
Redbilled chough 90 Ya-Me
Large cucoo-shrike 2 Tu-Kb
Smaller grey cuckooshrike 1 Nu-Se
Shortbilled minivet 6 Ta
Longtailed minivet 2 Ta
Scarlet minivet 2 Ak-Bu
Goldenfronted leafbird 4 Bu-Tu
Orangebellied leafbird 3 Ak-Bu
Whitecheeked bulbul 15 Kb-Bb
Redvented bulbul 20 Kb-Bb
Striated green bulbul 2 Ta
Black bulbul 15 Ak-Bu
Spotted babbler 2 Tu
Rustycheeked scimitar babbler 8 Tu
Scalybreasted wren-babbler 1 Sa
Lesser scalybreasted wren-babbler 2 Sa-Nu
Redheaded babbler 14 Ta
Redbilled babbler 3 Ak-Bu
Whitethroated laughing thrush 20 Wa-Ak
Striated laughing thrush 10 Ta
Whitecrested laughing thrush 12 Ak-Bu
Bluewinged laughing thrush 1 Ta
Plainculoured laughing thrush 20 Ta
Blackfaced laughing thrush 30 Ya
Redheaded laughing thrush 5 Ta
Redwinged shrike-babbler 2 Sa
Chestnutheaded shrike-babbler 3 Na-Wa
Hoary barwing 2 Ta
Redtailed 4 Ta
Barthroated siva 17 Bb-Sa
Bluewinged siva 1 Ta-Na
Yellownaped yuhina 20 Km-Ta
Stripedthroated yuhina 5 Na-Wa
Rufousvented yuhina 1 Km Mu
Blackchinned yuhina 3 Wa-Ak
Chestnutheaded tit-babbler 10 Ta
Whitebrowed tit-babbler 2 Km
Blackcapped sibia 30 Ta
Redbreasted flycatcher 2 Sa-Ta
Orangegetted flycatcher 6 Ta
Rufousbreasted flycatcher 1 Sa-Nu
Little pied flycatcher 1 Bb-Sa
Whitebrowed blue flycatcher 1 Bb-Sa
Slaty blue flycatcher 1 Nu-Se
Rufousbellied niltava 2 Ta-Na
Verditer flycatcher 4 Ta
Greyheaded flycatcher 2 Ta
Dull slatybullied ground-warbler 1 Sa
Chestnutheaded bround-warbler 5 Ta
Abrrant bush warbler 1 Sa-Nu
Brown hill warbler 2 Se-Ta
Tailorbird 2 Se-Ta
Orangebarred leaf warbler 8 Ta
Yellowbrowed leaf warbler 4 Ta
Pallas leaf warbler 8 Ta
Grey faced leaf warbler 1o Ta
Largebilled leaf warbler 1 Tu
Blyths leaf warbler 2 Se-Ta
Blackbrowed flycatcher warbler 4 Ta
Greylegged flycatcher warbler 6 Na-Wa
Chestnutheaded flycatcher warbler 6 Ta
Blackfaced flycatcher warbler 4 Ta
Lesser shortwing 1 Bb-Sa
Rubythroat 3 Tu
Whitebrowed bush robin 4 Km-Mu
Rufousbellied bush robin 2 Mu
Magpie robin 2 Bu-Tu
Black redstart 1 Bu-Tu
Hodgsons redstart 3 Kb-Bb
Bluefronted redstart 6 Ya-Me
Plumbeous redstart 1 Ak-Bu
Hodgsons grandala 1Mu-Km
Little forktail 2 Se-Ta
Stonechat 5 Kb-Bb
Dark grey bush chat 2 Sa-Nu
Riverchat 4 Ak-Bu
Blue rock thrush 1 Ak-Bu
Blue whistling thrush 2 Se-Ta
Orangeheaded ground thrush 2 Ak-Bu
Plainbacked mountain thrush 4 Mu
Longtailed mountain thrush 1 Mu
Large brown thrush 1 Mu
Tickells thrush 1 Kb-Bb
Whitecollared blackbird 2 Km
Greywinged blackbird 5 Sa-Nu
Blackthroated thrush 1 Km-Mu
Wren 6 Km-Mu
Brown dipper 3 Ya
Alpine accentor 1 Ta
Rufousbreasted accentor 2 Sa-Nu
Marronbacked accentor 4 Mu
Grey tit 1 Tu
Greenbacked tit 8 Ta
Coal tit 2 Mu
Rufousbreasted crested tit 6 Ta
Brown crested tit 3 Mu
Yellowcheeked tit 4 Se-Ta
Yellowbrowed tit 2 Ta
Redheaded tit 4 Km-Ta
Whitetailed nuthatch 4 Ta-Na
Tree creeper 2 Se-Ta
Nepal tree creeper 4 Mu
Indian tree pipit 15 Kb-Bb
Vinaceousbreasted pipit 100 Me-Ne
Upland pipit 2 Bb-Sa
Grey wagtail 2 Ak-Bu
Large pied wagtail 2 Bu-Tu
Plaincoloured flowerpecker 2' Ak-Bu
Firebreasted flowerpecker 3 Se-Ta
Nepal yellowbacked sunbird 15 Ta
Blackbreasted sunbird 2 Bb-Sa
Firetailed sunbird 7 Mu
House sparrow 30 Bu-Tu
Tree sparrow 12 Tu
Whitebreasted munia 12 Ak-Bu
Allied grosbeak 4 Ne-Mu
Whitewinged grosbeak 12 Me-Ne
Himalayan greenfinch 48 Ta
Hodgsons mountain finch 1 Km
Common rosefinch 30 Bb
Blanford's rosefinch 2 Mu-Km
Spottedwinget rosefinch 1 Ya-Me
Whitebrowed rosefinch 3 Ya-Me
Scarlet finch 3 Ta
Brown bullfinch 4 Ta
Redheaded bullfinch 12 Ta
Little bunting 70Na-Wa
Crested bunting 2 Nu-Se
LANGTANG-TREK

On this fairly easy and very popular trek it is possible to see a good selection of mountainbirds along with a lot of rare stuff. We were a bit too early, as spring had not arrived at high altitudes - end of May should be the best time for many species. Originally we had planned on doing the Gosainkund-trek too, but a period of bad weather made us change our plans towards Chitwan N.P.

The trek starts with 5 hours crammed bus-ride from Kathmandu to Trisuli where the "bus" to Dhunche leaves 1 p.m., the bus-trip up to Dhunche is one of the worst in Nepal - our bus had a breakdown, so we had to stay overnight at Kaligestan, and the next day we walked the last 20 km. through scrub and fields to Dhunche. The road continues through Barkhu and further on to Syabrubensi.

Between Barkhu and Syabru you pass through quite good habitat. It is well worth spending two full days in Syabru birding its surroundings. One hour uphill from Syabru towards Sing Gompa, just where the trail goes into the forest, is where we found the Tragopans - and their nest!!! From Syabru the trail takes you along the southbank of the Langtang river, through excellent forest. Look for Honeyguides on the big beecombs hanging on vertical cliffs above the river.

Crossing to the north bank at Langtang River Lodge the forest becomes drier, but in many places it has a good undergrowth of bamboo. At Ghora Tabela (where you get by far the best food on the trek), the forest turns into pastures mixed with rhododendron trees. From Langtan Village onwards it is low scrub and scree. Ibisbill breeds on the riverflats at Kyangjin.

Lodges are found at close intervals all the way to Kyangjin, so you only need to bring cooking-gear and food with you, if you think of crossing the Ganja La or the Laurabina Pass (Gosainkund-trek).

Tri = Trisuli
Kal = Kaligestan
Dhu = Dhunche
Sya = Syabru
LRL = Langtang River Lodge

Lam = Lama Lodge
Gho = Ghora Tabela
LtV = Langtang Village
Kya = Kyangjin

56.
Black kite 1 Sya
Sparrowhawk 1 Dhu-Sya
Buzzard 1 Dhu-Sya
Hodgsons hawk eagle 2 Dhu-Sya
Bonellis hawk eagle 1 Kal-Dhu
Golden eagle 1 Gho-Lam
Himalayan griffon 5-6 Gho-LRL
Egyptian vulture 1 Kal-Dhu
Lammergeier 4 Gho-LtV
Hen herrier 1 Kal-Dhu
Crested serpent eagle 2 Tri-Dhu
Kestrel 2 Kal-Dhu
Satyr tragopan 2 Sya
Monal pheasant 1 Sya
Kaleej pheasant 5 Sya
Ibisbill 16-20 Kya
Wood sandpiper 1 Gho-Lam
Fantail snipe 1 LtV
Wedgetailed green pigeon 2 Sya-LRL
Snow pigeon 500 LtV
Blue rock pigeon 8 Kya

Speckled wood pigeon 3 Dhu-Sya
Rufous turtle dove 6 Lam-Sya
Spotted dove 3 Dhu-Sya
Large hawk-cuckoo 5 Sya
Indian cuckoo 2 Sya-Dhu
Cuckoo + Sya
Oriental Cuckoo + Sya
Collared pigmy owlet 1 Sya
Himalayan swiftlet 10 Sya
Alpine swift 4 Kal-Dhu
Large whiterumped swift 3 Sya
House swift 200 Sya
Whitebreasted kingfisher 3 Tri Kal
Chestnutheaded bee-eater 4 Tri Kal
Great hill barbet 3 Sya
Goldenthroated barbet 2 Sya-LRL
Honeyguide 2 Lam-Sya
Rufousbellied woodpecker 2 Gho
Darjeeling pied woodpecker 2 Lam-Sya
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Royal Chitwan N.P. is situated in the lowlands of Nepal - the Terai - covering 932 km of forest and grassland. Famous for its rhinos, tigers as well as other big mammals, this park provides excellent birding opportunities. We visited the Meghauli-Tiger Tops-area, and coming from the mountains we found a surprising wealth of birds. Many a traveller go to the Sauraha-end of the park further east because of its bigger choice of lodges, rhino-guides etc. but the forest shouldn't be as productive as in the Meghauli-end.

To get to Meghauli-end you go by one of the frequent busses from Kathmandu to Naryangath - about 4-6 hours journey. From Naryangath you get a bus the last 25 km. (2 hours!) to Meghauli/Telhauli - leaves several times during the afternoon. In Telhauli Village Chietl Lodge offers basic accommodation and tasteful meals. Forget all about Tiger Tops: It's 160 US-$ a night!!

By far the best forest is around Tiger Tops itself - here Pittas will sing your head off even during the heat of the day if you come in early May. This part of the year seems ideal as many goodies were quite easy to locate.

The extensive grasslands are worth exploring as quite a few birds can only be found here, and you stand a great chance/risk of meeting some of the parks 350 rhinos.

The ferry across Rapti River starts 6. a.m. but you might be able to wake up the boatman at 5 a.m. in order to get to Tiger Tops area really early in the morning. (It would be great to get hold of a bicycle to zap into Tiger Tops). Wading across here is quite difficult business! From the river it's an hours fast walk to Tiger Tops. At the checkpost you will have to pay 65 Rs. entry-fee.

Only water and soft-drinks are available at Tiger Tops, so bring all you food in with you - the guy at Chietl Lodge will prepare fried rice to take with you. The checkpost closes at 6 p.m. they sort of dislike it, if you come back late - people have been locked up for the night, because the Sloth Bears along the track have the habit of tearing nice people into pieces at dusk.
Darter 2
Purple Heron 1
Pondheron 5
Cattle Egret 25
Large Egret 1
Smaller Egret 1
Little Egret 1
Chestnut Bittern 3
Openbill Stork 1
Whitenecked Stork 1
Lesser Adjutant 1
Black Ibis 3
Lesser Whistling Teal 20
Blackwinged Kite 1

Crested Honey Buzzard 4
Shikra 1
Sparrowhawk 1
Whiteeyed Buzzardeagle 1
Steppeeagle 1
King Vulture 2
Griffon Vulture 2
Indian Whitebacked Vulture 12
Crested Serpenteagle 2
Osprey 4
Black Partridge 2-3 call.
Kaleej Pheasant 7
Red Junglefowl 8
Common Peafowl 4
Little Bustard-cuail 1
Ruddy Crane 1
Whitebreasted Waterhen 4
Moorhen 8
Painted Snipe 16
Redwattled Lapwing 10
River Lapwing 1
Little Ringed Plover 3
Spotted Redshank 1
Greenshank 3
Green Sandpiper 2
Wood Sandpiper 5
Common Sandpiper 1
Fantail Snipe 1
Temminck's Stint 1
Great Blackheaded Gull 1
Pompadour Green Pigeon 3
Orangebreasted Green Pigeon 10
Yellowlegged Green Pigeon 1
Indian Ring Dove 5
Red Turtle Dove 1
Spotted Dove 6
Emerald Dove 4
Alexandrine Parakeet 3
Roseringed Parakeet 40
Blossomheaded Parakeet 15
Redwinged Crested Cuckoo 3
Common Hawk-cuckoo 1
Indian Cuckoo 1
Indian Plaintive Cuckoo 1
Drongo Cuckoo 1
Large Greenbilled Malkoha 1
Coucal 1
Lesser Coucal 8
Longtailed Nightjar 1
Cochinchina Spinetailed Swift 8
Crested Treeswift 3
Himalayan Pied Kingfisher 1
Common Kingfisher 3
Storkbilled Kingfisher 2
Whitebreasted Kingfisher 2
Chestnutheaded Bee-eater 5
Bluetailed Bee-eater 3
Green Bee-eater 4
Bluebearded Bee-eater 2
Indian Roller 2
Broadbilled Roller 8
Indian Pied Hornbill 1
Great Pied Hornbill 2
Lineated Barbet 1
Bluethroated Barbet 4
Coppersmith 2
Rufous Piculet 4
Rufous Woodpecker 1
Blacknaped Green Woodpecker 2
Small Yellownaped Woodpecker 3
Himalayan Goldenbacked Threetoed Woodpecker 2
Fulvousbreasted Pied Woodpecker 8
Greycrowned Pygmy Woodpecker 6
Larger Goldenbacked Woodpecker 4
Indian Pitta 4
Hooded Pitta 4
Bush Lark 4
Ashycrowned Finchlark 1
Sand Lark 2
Plain Sand Martin 30
Swallow 10
Golden Oriole 2
Blackheaded Oriole 15
Black Drongo 6
Bronzed Drongo 6
Spangled Drongo 3
Ashy Swallow-Shrike 4
Greyheaded Myna 14
Pied Myna 2
Common Myna xx
Bank Myna 20
Jungle Myna 30
Hill Myna 2
Indian Treepie 3
Housecrow xx
Junglecrow xx
Pied Flycatchershrike 1
Common Woodshrike 1
Large Cuckoo-shrike 1
Lesser Grey Cuckoo-shrike 3
Scarlet Minivet 6
Common Iora 6
Goldfronted Leafbird 2
Blackheaded Yellow Bulbul 2
Redwhiskered Bulbul 10
Whitecheeked Bulbul 1
Redvented Bulbul 12
Black Bulbul 4
Spotted Babbler 10
Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler 2
Redbilled Babbler 3
Blackthroated Babbler 1
Yellowbreasted Babbler 4
Redcapped Babbler 5
Yelloweyed Babbler 6
Striated Babbler 3
Slenderbilled Babbler 2
Junglebabbler 6
Necklaced Laughing Thrush 5
Blackgorgetted Laughing Thrush 6
Rufousnecked Laughing Thrush 4
Whitebellied Yuhina 4
Nepal Babbler 2
Brook's Flycatcher 8
Bluethroated Flycatcher 2
Whitethroated Fantail Flycatcher 12
Paradise Flycatcher 20
Blacknaped Flycatcher 4
Palefooted Bushwarbler 2
Streaked Fantail Warbler 10
Franklin's Wrenwarbler 2
Hodgson's Wrenwarbler 3
Yellowbellied Wrenwarbler 7
Large Grasswarbler 2-3
Tailorbird 12
Blyth's Reedwarbler 2
Dull Green Leafwarbler 1
Yellowbellied Flycatcher-
The Everest Region (Solu-Khumbu) is not very rich on birds, but because of the very spectacular landscape it is absolutely worth a visit, and you WILL find some nice birds in the highest situated places.

It is an easy area to trek in, with lots of cheap accommodation and food, so you don't need to carry much, and the trails are good and not to strenuous. There a a hell-lot of people in the tourist-season, but it's okay in ultimo Maj/primo June, where it's best for birding, and we had really fine weather, with very clear mornings and excellent views.

We would recommend a walk from Jiri to Lukla or opposite, instead of flying both times, (very expensive: 45 US $ for one way with student-discount), because the trail leads you through some nice forests. Especially the rhododendron forest is beautifull when blooming, but here are also patches with deciduous forest and birds. Above 3 km.s height it's mostly conifers, but you will also find rhododendron and birch, and the area around Thyangboche Monastery is very spectacular.

We flew to Lukla, and walked to Namcke Bazaar, where we stayed over a day to acclimizie. From here we took the left trail to Gokyo, where we splitted up. One went over the Chugima La to Gorak Shep and Everest Base Camp (this part is used in the description), while the 2 others climbed down, and we met again in Thyangboche. On our way back we walked to Jiri, from where the busses (and the road) goes to Kathmandu. There are several other possibilities, so buy a trekking-book. I woun't recommend one of the viewpoints in preference to the other, because they are both fantastic and breath-taking (in two ways!), but if you go to Gokyo, climb Gokyo Ri after the fourth lake. It's much better than the first peak.

1) Lukla-Phakding
2) Phakding-Namche Bazaar
3) Namche Bazaar
4) Namche Bazaar-Dhole
5) Dhole-Macherma
6) Macherma-Gokyo
7-8) Gokyo
9)Gokyo-Chugima La
10) Chugima La-Lobuche
11) Lobuche-Gorak Shep
12) Gorak Shep - Thyangboche
13) Thyangboche - Namche Bazaar
14) Namche Bazaar
15) Namche Bazaar - Ghat
16) Ghat - Kharke
17) Kharte - Ringmo
18) Ringmo - Sete
19) Sete - Sangabanda
20) Sangabanda-Jiri

Ly-Pa
Pha-NB
NB
NB-Dho
Dho-Ma
Ma-G
Go
Go-La
La-Lo
Lo-GS
GS-Thy
Thy-NB
NB
NB-Gha
Gha-Kha
Kha-Ri
Ri-Se
Se-Sa
Sa-Ji
Ruddy Shelduck 2 Go
Pintail 1 Go
Wigeon 2 Go
Tufted Duck 1 Go
Sparrowhawk 1 NB-Gha
Upland Buzzard 1 Pha
Booted Hawkeagle 1 Lu-Pha
Golden Eagle 1 ad Lu-Pha
Himalayan Griffon 4 NB-Dho
Lammergeier NB-Dho
Kestrel 2 Go
Snow Partridge 5 Go
Tibetan Snowcock 8 Lo-GS
Black Partridge 3 Kha-Ri
Blood Pheasant 8 Dho
Monal Pheasant 2 Dho
Snow Pigeon 2 Dho
Speckled Wood Pigeon 4 Gha-Kha
Rufous Turtledove 4 Lu-Pha
Large Hawkcuckoo 2NB-Gha
Indian Cuckoo 1 Gha-Kha
The Cuckoo 3 Gha-Kha
Oriental Cuckoo 1 Gha-gha
Small Cuckoo 1 Se-Sa
Spotted Scopsowl 1 call. Kha
Himalayan Swiftlet 35 Gha-Kha
Large Whiterumped Swift 50 Kha-Ri
Honeyguide 3 Pha
Horned Lark 3 GS
Eastern Skylark 5 NB
Swallow c. 15 Ri-Se
Redrumped Swallow c. 10 Se-Se
Asian House martin 6 Lu-Pha
Greybacked Shrike 5 Gha-Kha
Common Myna 3 Kha-Ri
Yellow-billed Blue Magpie 2 Kha-Ri
Nutcracker 1&-1 juv. Gha-Kha
Alpine Chough 30 Gs-Thy
Redbilled Chough 25 NB
Junglecrow 8 Lu-Pha
Raven 4 GS
Redbilled Babbler 1 Gha-Kha
Fulvousfronted Parrotbill 25 Gha-Kha
Streaked Laughingthrush 5 Pha-NB
Plaincoloured Laughingthrush 2 Gha-Kha
Blackfaced Laughingthrush 3 Dho
Redheaded Laughingthrush 1 Gha-Kha
Barthroated Siva 2 Gha-Kha
Yellownaped Yuhina 5 Ri-Se
Stripethroated Yuhina 2 Kha-Ri
Whitebrowed Titbabbler 3 Dho-La
Blackcapped Sibia 2 Lu-Pha
Sooty Flycatcher 2 Lu-Pha
Orangeorperated Flycatcher 1 Pha-NB
Slaty Blue Flycatcher 3 Gha-Dho
Greyheaded Flycatcher 1 Gha-Kha
Yellowbellied Fantail
Flycatcher 6 Ri-Se
Chestnutheaded Groundwarbler 1 Gha-Kha
Chiff-chaff 4 Pha-NB
Tickell's Leafwarbler 5 NB-Dho
Orangebarred Leafwarbler 8 Thy
Pallas' Leafwarbler 7 Dho-Ma
Greyfaced Leafwarbler 1 GS-Thy
Dull Green Leafwarbler 10 Thy
Large Crowned Leafwarbler 1 Gha-Kha
Blyth's Leafwarbler 15 Pha-NB
Blackbrowed Flycatcherwarbler 5 Pha-NE

Himalayan Rubythroat 7 Ma-Go
Blue Chat 1&-1 Pha-NB
Orangeflanked Bush Robin 5 Dho
Golden Bush Robin 3 Dho
Black Redstart 4 GS
Bluefronted Redstart 15 Go
Güldenstädt's Redstart 1& GS
Plumbeous Redstart 2 Pha-NB
Hodgson's Grandala c. 80 Ma
Little Forktail 1 Pha-NB
Dark-grey Bushchat 3 Pha-NB
Riverchat 3 Go-La
Blueheaded Rockthrush 1&-1 Se-Sa
Blue Whistlingthrush 10 Pha-NB
Longtailed Mountain Thrush 3 Thy
Greyheaded Thrush 1&-1 Gha-Kha
Wren 8 Ma-Go
Brown Dipper 6 Pha-NB
Alpine Accentor 15 La-Lo
Robin Accentor 10 Go
Rufousbreasted Accentor 15 Ma-Go
Greenbacked Tit 7 Pha-NB
Rufousbellied Crested Tit 7 Dho
Brown Crested Tit 3 NB-Dho
Redheaded Tit 10 Kha-Ri
Rufousfronted Tit 4 Lu-Pha
Wallcreper 3 GS
Nepal Treecreeper 1 NB-Dho
Indian Treepipit 10 NB
Vinaceousbreasted Pipit 25 Ma-Go
Grey Wagtail 3 Go-La
White Wagtail 1 Dho-Ma
Yellowbellied Flowerpecker 1& Kha-Ri
Nepal Yellowbacked Sunbird 2 Lu-Pha
- Allied Grosbeak 1NB
Whitewinged Grosbeak 6Thy
Hodgson's Mountainfinch 50 Go
Brandt's Mountainfinch 2 30 Go
Nepal Rosefinch 1 Thy
Pinkbrowed Rosefinch 3 CS-Thy
Whitebrowed Rosefinch 6 Thy
Beautiful Rosefinch 9 NS
Great Rosefinch 2♂ Le-Lo
Eastern Great Rosefinch 2♂ GS
Redbreasted Rosefinch 1♂ Le-Lo
Redheaded Bullfinch 6 Ri-Se

EXTRA

27/1 Barpeta- Gauhati: Lesser Adjutant 22, Adjutant 3, Changeable Hawkeagle 1 light.
28/1 Gauhati: 1 Adjutant flying over.
17/2 Jodhpur- Jaisalmer: Great Indian Bustard 3, Imperial Sandgrouse 8
24/2 Delhi - Kashipur: Montagus Harrier 1 ad♂
27/2 Corbett - Nainital: Alpine Swift 25, Himalayan Pied Kingfisher 2
14/3 Kathmandu: Goshawk
22/3 Kathmandu: Booted Hawkeagle 1 light, steppeeagle 2,
Peregrine Falcon 1 imm.
MAMMALS

Rhesus Macaque (Macaca mulatta) : Jd, B
Assamese Macaque (Macaca assamensis) : H
Common Langur (Presbytis entellus) : Cl, Sa, R, L
Tiger (Panthera tigris) : R
Jungle Cat (Felis chaus) : Sa, S, A
Common Mongoose (Herpestes edwardsi) : Sa, B, R
Small Indian Mongoose (Herpestes auropunctatus) : B
Jackal (Canis aureus) : Sa, B, R
Indian Fox (Vulpes bengalensis) : Js
Dhole (Cuon alpinus) : E
Yellowbreasted Marten (Martes flavigula) : E, N
Himalayan Weasel (Mustela sibirica) : P
Pale Weasel (Mustela altaica) : A
Flying Fox (Pteropus giganteus) : over Kathmandu
Particoloured Flying Squirrel (Hylopetes alboniger) : A
Orangebellied Himalayan Squirrel (Dremomys lokriah) : A
Fivestriped Palm Squirrel (Funambulus pennanti) : All towns
Threestriped Palm Squirrel (Funambulus palmarum) : Cw
Common House Rat (Rattus rattus) : Js
Indian Porcupine (Hystrix indica) : Sa
Indian Hare (Lepus nigrigollis) : Sa
Mousehare (Ochotona roulei) : A, L, E
Indian Elephant (Elephas maximus) : Jd
Great Indian Onehorned Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis) : Jd, Cw
Gaur (Bos gaurus) : Jd
Himalayan Thar (Hemitragus jemlahicus) : L, E
Goral (Nemorhaedus goral) : N
Chinkara (Gazella gazella) : Js, from trains in Rajasthan
Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra) : B, from trains in Rajasthan
Nilgai (Boselaphus tragocamelus) : Sa, B
Sambar (Cervus unicolor) : Jd, Sa, R, Cw
Chital (Axis axis) : Jd, Sa, B, R, Cw, Co
Barking Deer (Muntiacus muntjak) : Jd, Co, A, Cw
Musk Deer (Moschus moschiferus) : E
Indian Wild Boar (Sus scrofa) : Jd, Sa, Cw