

KHAPTAD NATIONAL PARK

An account of current knowledge and conservation value
Inskipp and Inskipp (1988)



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and
conservation value

A report to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife
Conservation in Nepal

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Our fieldwork was carried out with the park warden Barna Bahadur Thapa. Special thanks go to him for his invaluable assistance, advice and hospitality and for providing us with the help of his park staff. The survey would not have been possible without him, nor without the full support and hard work of our guide Saila Lama and cook Bahadur Singh. We much appreciated the good humour and companionship of all of them during our Khaptad visit. We are also grateful to Dawa Norbu Sherpa, Director, Rover Treks and Expeditions for organising our trip to far west Nepal.

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Carol and Tim Inskipp

Available information on Khaptad National Park is summarised and recommendations are made for future surveys of flora and fauna.

The park was gazetted in 1985 and covers 225 sq km. It is an isolated massif with the highest point at 3300m and is situated south of the main Himalayan range in Seti Zone, far west Nepal. A brief description of climate and data for rainfall and temperatures are given.

The top of Khaptad is a plateau of grasslands interspersed with oak and coniferous forests, rhododendron and berberis scrub and boggy areas. The slopes, which extend down to about 1200m, are steep-sided and thickly vegetated with broadleaved forests and bamboo stands. The only permanent settlements within the park are isolated pockets of private land on the lower slopes. Their relocation outside the park is planned. The grasslands on Khaptad top are intensively grazed by domestic stock in the summer months. Khaptad is held in high regard by local people as a religious area and is the home of the Khaptad Swami, who is considered a spiritual saint in Nepal. A major annual festival, the Mella, is held on Khaptad top and several thousand local people from surrounding districts attend. Permitted utilisation of the park's resources such as the collection of daphne and bamboo are described.

An account is given of the park's management problems. Overgrazing by domestic stock is a major problem and remedial action taken by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation includes surveys of livestock and the carrying capacity of the grasslands. Damaging fires are deliberately lit in the Chir Pine

forests on the lower slopes each year. Conservation education for the villagers of the park's surrounding districts is urgently needed as ignorance about the reasons for the park's establishment is widespread. It is particularly important to justify the park's relevance to them as a provider of vital resources and as part of their heritage.

An ecological bird survey carried out by the park's warden Barna Bahadur Thapa and Tim and Carol Inskipp in April and May 1988 is described. Other sources of information on Khaptad are summarised.

Khaptad's conservation value is described on the basis of information gathered so far. The park is the only protected area representative of Nepal's western mid-mountain region. It is of national importance for nature conservation, mainly because of the wide variety and high quality of its forests which comprise subtropical, lower and upper temperate and subalpine types. Khaptad is especially valuable for its lower temperate and subtropical forests.

Many species of colourful flowers bloom on Khaptad's meadows, but the nature conservation value of the grasslands is reduced by overgrazing. The lake may well be useful as a staging point for small numbers of migrating birds. The high altitude bog ecosystem on Khaptad top is of special interest in Nepal. The many pools are rich in invertebrates and must be the breeding grounds of the park's abundant dragonflies.

A total of 218 bird species including 175 which probably breed are currently recorded and many more are likely to be found. There are 50 breeding species for which Nepal may hold significant world populations. The subalpine and upper temperate zones support the largest numbers of these (35 and 31

respectively and 45% of all subalpine breeding birds). Six of Nepal's seven threatened bird species occur in the upper temperate zone. Three of these are dependent on Khaptad's dense bamboo stands. In addition to their breeding birds, Khaptad's lower temperate and subtropical forests are valuable for wintering species, including both altitudinal migrants which breed higher up and visitors from outside Nepal. As many as 78% of bird species so far recorded and 86% of breeding birds are dependent on forests and shrubs. Khaptad is also rich in other groups of fauna and flora including medicinal herbs.

The main habitat types and their breeding birds are described for each climatic zone. Recommendations for future surveys of flora and fauna are made. Surveys of all groups would be useful as all are under-recorded. Studies which would be especially worthwhile are bird surveys in March and early April, especially of the forests on lower slopes, more botanical surveys of the meadows and a study of the invertebrates of the bog ecosystem on Khaptad top. A bird species list annotated with status, altitude, habitat and breeding information and preliminary checklists of mammals, butterflies and plants are given. Access to the park from Kathmandu is described. Park regulations and the trekker's code are given.

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KHAPTAD NATIONAL PARK

Khaptad national park was gazetted in 1985 and covers 225 sq km.

LOCATION

Khaptad is located south of the main Himalayan range in far western Nepal at an air distance of 446 km from Kathmandu. It lies between 29° 17' - 29° 27' N and 81° - 81° 13' E at the junction of the four districts Doti, Bajura, Bajhang and Acham in Seti Zone.

CLIMATE (Source Kattel 1981)

There is a station established by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology at lower Tribeni (3050m) to measure precipitation. Monthly mean rainfall figures for the years 1978-81 are given in Table 1. The average annual rainfall for Khaptad during this period was about 1550mm compared to around 1300mm for Kathmandu. Snow covers Khaptad top in winter and made access to Tribeni impossible January and February. There is a rough record at the Hermitage (3130m) which indicates about 1m of snowfall every year.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Khaptad is an isolated massif with the highest point at 3300m. The top is a rolling plateau of extensive grasslands interspersed with oak and coniferous forests, scrub (shrubberies) of rhododendron and berberis and boggy areas. Khaptad slopes, which extend down to 1200m are steep-sided and

thickly vegetated with broadleaved forests and bamboo stands. A small shallow lake, Khaptad Daha, lies on the top at about 3050m.

PEOPLE'S USE OF THE PARK

There are no permanent settlements within the park apart from some isolated pockets of private land on the lower slopes.

The grasslands on Khaptad top, known locally as patans, are intensively grazed by domestic stock during the summer months. The people move into the park with their animals from the surrounding districts in late April/May and remain until August/September. During this period families live in wooden dwellings scattered throughout the meadows. Kattel (1981) counted 29 grasslands with cattle sheds.

Local people are allowed to utilise the park's natural resources by carrying out the following activities on payment of a small fee.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Time of year</u>
Collection of Daphne	10 days	May
Bamboo	10 days	September
Grass	10 days	October
Firewood	10 days	April
(Wood from felled trees)		
Grazing	3-5 months	May - September

Khaptad is nationally famous for its wide diversity of medicinal

MAP 1

GEOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE PARK

KEY TO MAP 1

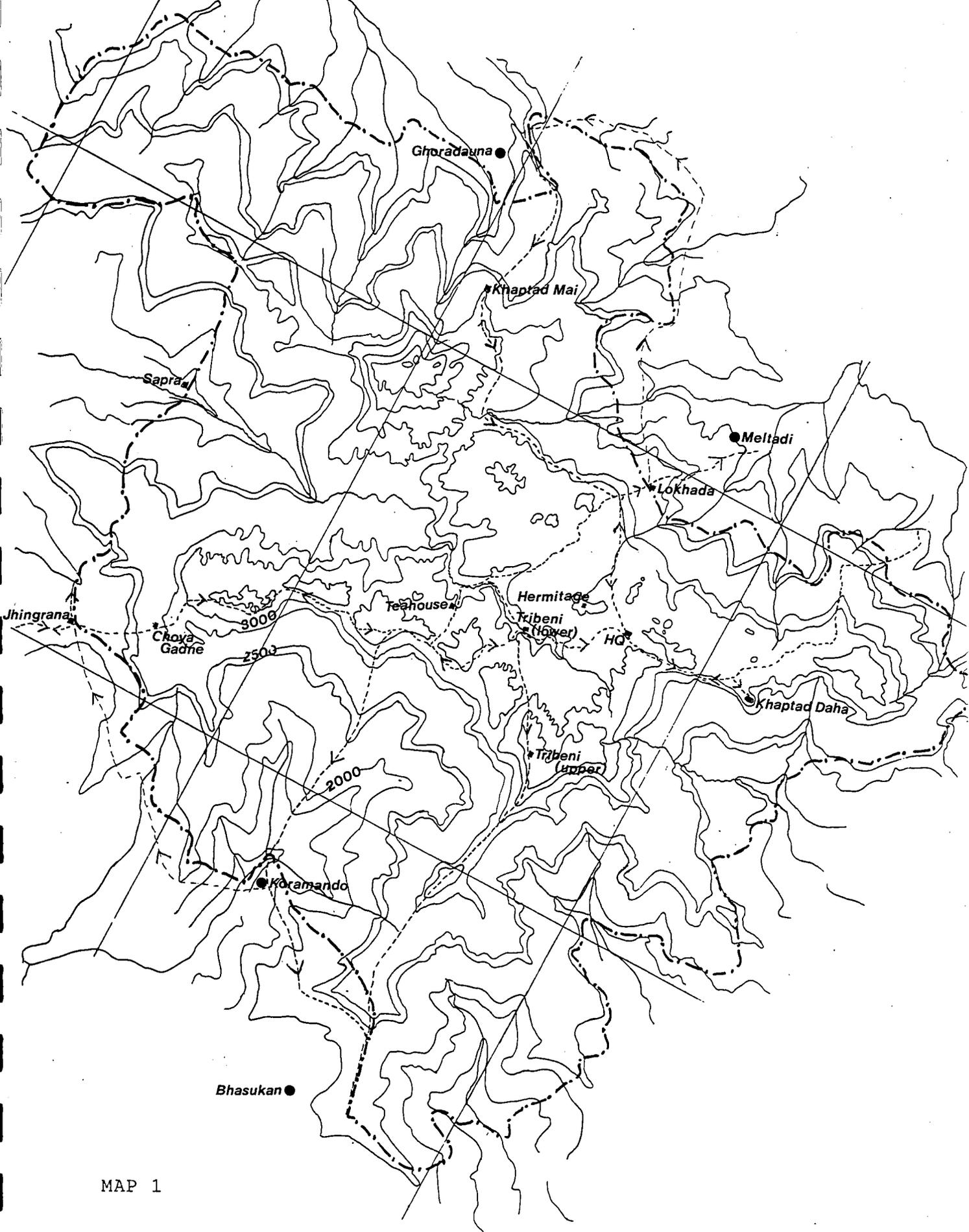
Park boundary

Routes taken in spring 1988 survey

Other paths

Park headquarters HQ

Park guard posts : Jhingrana, Lokhada, Sapra



MAP 1

TABLE 1

Records of rainfall in the Khaptad area (monthly totals in mm)

Month	March	April	May	June	July
Year					
1978	-	48.1	152.9	655.8	910.9
1979	4.0	134.5	118.2	300.7	784.6
1980	-	10.5	71.0	546.3	975.5
1981	36.5	46.0	215.3	387.0	857.9

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Rainy days
1978	770.8	596.8	0	32.0	10.0	132
1979	407.0	10.0	14.0	20.0	0	87
1980	636.9	579.6	48.0	0	0	123
1981	744.7	536.7	38.0	0	0	123

Source: Kattel (1981)

but this has closed quite recently.

Khaptad forests are exploited far less than many other forests of Nepal. This is partly because the park lies in the country's least populated zone and considerable forest areas still remain outside the park. Another major factor is that forests in the surrounding districts are more easily accessible than those on Khaptad's exceptionally steep slopes.

Khaptad is held in high regard by local people as a religious area and is the home of the Khaptad Swami, more usually known as the Baba, who is regarded as a spiritual saint. The Baba, who is reputedly well over 100 years old and has lived in Khaptad for 40 years, has strong influence over the local people. Many Nepalis travel long distances to consult him for advice. He is very knowledgeable on a wide range of subjects, especially religion and medicinal herbs, and speaks several languages fluently, including English. The park was created partly as a result of his representations to the King.

A meditation zone of 5 sq km has been set aside in the core area of the park and includes the temples at lower Tribeni. The stream which runs past this site is reputed to be the source of the River Ganges. Grazing, firewood-cutting and a number of other activities considered inappropriate by the Baba, such as drinking alcohol and smoking, are prohibited in this area. Other religious places include Khaptad Daha, of religious importance in the history of the Hindu God Shiva; a shrine at higher Tribeni (3300m), the highest point of the park; the Ashram or Hermitage of the Baba; and the temples at Khaptad Mai.

At the end of May an annual festival called the Mella is held near Tribeni temples. It is the social event of the year in the area and several thousand people walk for two to four days to sing and dance throughout the night before returning home at dawn the following morning. The women are resplendent in brightly coloured traditional dress, typical of their villages. The festival originally marked the celebration of Nepalis gathering on Khaptad top for the summer grazing, but now far larger numbers of people participate and there is even a thriving fair. Another smaller festival is held at Khaptad Dana at the end of the grazing season.

Tourists have yet to visit Khaptad and very few foreigners have been there.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS (Source: DNPWC 1988 and Jefferies 1988)

Overgrazing by domestic stock

The grasslands are currently overgrazed. In marshy areas this has caused the development of gullies up to 1-2m deep and wide and the loss of vegetational cover in some places resulting in bare soil patches which may give way to dust holes. Local people fill in pools to prevent their cattle from drowning. In order to ensure the future of these bog areas surveys to determine livestock numbers and the carrying capacity of the grasslands were carried out by park staff in 1988. The building of checkdams and plantations are planned to counteract erosion.

Private land

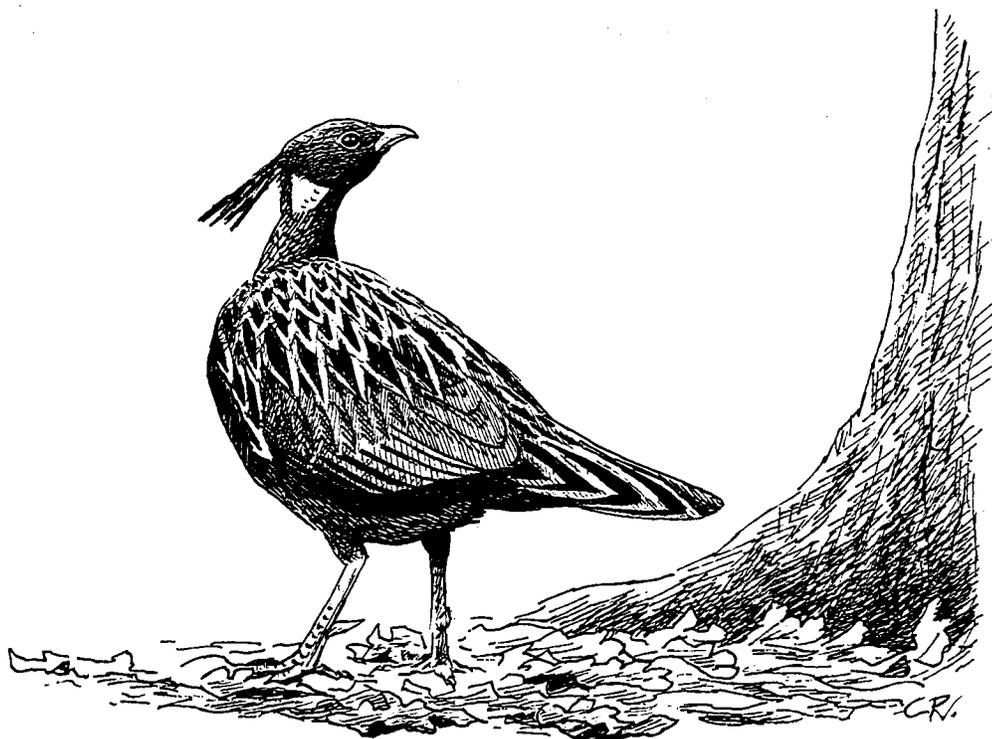
The pockets of private land within the park present some problems. Eventually their owners will be compensated and resettled outside the park. A full report with alternative suggestions has been prepared by the previous warden.

Conservation education

Conservation education for the villagers in the park's surrounding districts is urgently needed as there is widespread ignorance amongst the local people about the reasons for the park's establishment. It is particularly important to justify the park's relevance to them as a provider of vital resources and as part of their heritage. Important initial steps have already been taken by the park's wardens, but much remains to be done. This problem is particularly acute for Khaptad National Park as the people in Seti Zone are amongst the least educated in Nepal. The highly successful Seti Project, run by the United Nations Development Programme is helping to remedy this by funding the building of schools throughout Seti Zone.

Burning

Damaging fires are deliberately lit in the Chir pine forests on the lower slopes each year.



KOKLASS PHEASANT Pucrasia macrolopha

The Koklass Pheasant is common in the broadleaved and coniferous forests of the upper slopes and top of Khaptad. In the early mornings of spring its distinctive crowing call can be heard.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Dr Robert Fleming Senior was the first ornithologist to visit Khaptad between 25 and 27 October 1959, but his visit was hampered by heavy rain. His account of the trip and details of seven bird species he recorded are given in Fleming and Traylor (1961) and Fleming and Traylor (1964).

In 1981 Bijaya Kattel from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation carried out a cursory ecological survey of Khaptad (Kattel 1981). Descriptions of the area, access and communications, fauna, flora, geology, climate and future management problems were described. Recommendations were made for the management of the future park. Preliminary species lists for plants, birds and mammals were given.

Arend van Riessen of the Netherlands Development Organisation in Nepal, visited Khaptad in May and June 1983-1984 and in May 1986 (van Riessen 1986). He recorded 98 bird species in the park and so made the first major contribution to the ornithological knowledge of Khaptad. This formed an important basis for our 1988 survey.

The previous and present park wardens, Gopal Upadhyaya and Barna B. Thapa also kept some wildlife records. Bruce and Margaret Jefferies visited Khaptad in February 1988, on behalf of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, mainly to investigate park management (Jefferies 1988). A survey of grasslands in all Nepal's protected areas, including Khaptad was carried out in 1988 (Anon 1988).

The spring 1988 survey

A survey of Khaptad birds and forests was made by Barna B. Thapa, Tim Inskipp and myself between 20 April and 28 May 1988.

The bird communities of all habitats (the eight forest types, grasslands and wetlands) were investigated. Bird species, numbers of individuals, altitude, habitat type and breeding information were recorded. Records were also kept of mammals, butterflies and plants. A total of 208 bird species were recorded including 109 new species for the park. Six of these were new records for western Nepal. Routes taken are shown on Map 1. We were privileged to be able to attend the Mella, the major festival held at Khaptad.

BIRD SPECIES LIST

KEY

F Recorded by Dr Robert Fleming Sr October 25-27 1959 (Fleming and Traylor 1961, Fleming and Traylor 1964)

R Recorded by Arend van Riessen 1983, 1984 and 1986 (van Riessen 1986)

T Recorded by Barna Bahadur Thapa February - April 1988 (Thapa in litt.)

IT Recorded by Tim and Carol Inskipp and Barna Bahadur Thapa 20 April - 28 May 1988.

Definition of forest types 1-8 - see Conservation Value Section.

Habitats in brackets are those used by species outside the breeding season.

Habitats without brackets are those used by breeding or possibly breeding species.

Status in Nepal is given for species threatened in Nepal or those which may have significant populations in the country.

Categories of threat are those defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Collar and Stuart 1985).

E Endangered: taxa in danger of extinction in Nepal and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating.

V Vulnerable: taxa believed to move into Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating.

R Rare: taxa with small Nepalese populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk.

I Indeterminate: taxa known to be Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare in Nepal, but where there is not enough information to say which of the three categories is appropriate.

+ Species for which Nepal may hold significant world breeding populations.

* Species for which Nepal may be especially important.

Nomenclature follows Inskipp and Inskipp (1985).

Crested Honey Buzzard Pernis ptilorhyncus

Fairly common visitor and passage migrant

Habitat: ? presumably forests

IT 1-2 on 4 dates between 26 April and 11 May flying over the top 3050m; 2 on 21 May over Choya Gadne 2700m.

Black Kite Milvus migrans

Resident? Fairly common

Habitat: ? presumably a variety of habitats

R on top 1986

IT 2 on 26 April over the top 3050m; 4-6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m with maximum 12 on 6th catching ants in flight with 5 Common Kestrels; 5 on 15 Koramando 1500m; 1 on 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Fairly common.

Habitat: Scavenges in grasslands

R on top 1983

IT 1-2 on 5 dates between 26 April and 26 May on top at unusually high altitude of 3050m; 1-3 between 4-6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m; 1 on 18 May Jhingrana 2200m; 1 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m; 1 on 15 May Koramando 1500m.

Lammergeier Gypaetus barbatus

Common resident

Habitat: Scavenges in grasslands

R on top 1983; 1986.

IT 1-4 on 13 dates between 21 April and 25 May on top 3050m, 4-6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m with maximum 8 on 4th including a pair displaying; 1-2 on 11, 12 and 15 May Koramando 1500-1600m; 1-5 on 4 dates between 18 and 27 May above Jhingrana; 2-3 on 20 and 21 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Oriental White-backed Vulture Gyps bengalensis

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Fairly common.

Habitat: Probably scavenges in grasslands.

R on top 1983

IT 1-2 on 3 dates between 22 April and 3 May over top at unusually high altitude of 3050m; 10 on 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m; 5 on 15 May Koramando 1500m; 1-3 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Himalayan Griffon Vulture Gyps himalayensis

Common resident

Habitat: Probably scavenges in grasslands.

R on top 1983.

IT 16 dates between 23 April and 26 May on top 3050m, with maximum 10 on 24 April; 4-20 between 4-6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m; 2 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m; 2-5 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m; 3 on 21 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Eurasian Griffon Vulture Gyps fulvus

Resident ?, Summer visitor ?, passage migrant. Common.

Probably scavenges in grasslands.

IT 1-3 on 10 dates between 22 April and 26 May on top at unusually high altitude of 3050m; 3 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m; 2-10 between 4-6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m; 2 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m; 4 on 19 May Jhingrana 2200m; 3-5 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Presumably scavenges in grasslands

R on top May 1983

IT 1-2 on 3 dates between 24 April and 24 May on top 3050m; 1-3 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m; 1 on 15 and 16 May Koramando 1550m; 1-4 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2100m.

Crested Serpent Eagle Spilornis cheela

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,7

IT 1-2 between 4-6 above Ghoradauna 2100m; 1-3 on 12 and 15 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Eurasian Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus

Rare passage migrant

Habitat: Overflying birds

IT 1 on 23rd and 2 on 26 April over top 3050m.

Hen Harrier Circus cyaneus

Winter visitor? Passage migrant?

T winter 1988

Northern Goshawk Accipiter gentilis

Resident? Rare

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a

R on top May 1986

Northern Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus

Summer visitor? Uncommon

Habitat: Forest types 1a,3

R on top 1984

IT 1 on 3 dates between 9 and 25 May on top 3050m; 2 on 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Shikra Accipiter badius

Rare resident

Habitat: Forest types (4),7

IT 1 on 6 May above Ghoradauna at the unusually high altitude of 2250m; 1 on 12 May Koramando 1500m.

Common Buzzard Buteo buteo

Resident? Winter visitor? Passage migrant? Fairly common.

Habitat: (Grasslands)

IT 1-4 on 8 dates between 20 April and 1 May on top 3050m; 1 on 20 May Jhingrana - Choya Gadne 2200m- 2700m.

Upland Buzzard Buteo hemilasius

Resident? Winter visitor ? Passage Migrant ? Fairly common.

Habitat: (Grasslands)

IT 5 on 20 April Jhingrana - top, 2200- 3050m; 10 dates between 21 April and 24 May on top 3050m, with maximum 6 on 24th including a pair, one bird displaying; 1 on 18 May near Choya Gadne 2700m.

Black Eagle Ictinaetus malayensis

Resident, seen occasionally.

Habitat: Forest types 2,3,4,5

IT 3 dates between 22 April and 26 May on top 3050m; 1 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m; 2 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m; 3-4 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m with singles displaying on both dates.

Steppe Eagle Aquila rapax nipalensis

Winter visitor? Passage migrant? Seen occasionally

Habitat: ? presumably a variety of habitats

IT 2 on 26 April and 1 May on top 3050m; 2 on 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m; 1 on 12 May Koramando 1550m.

Booted Eagle Hieraaetus pennatus

Rare passage migrant

Habitat: Grasslands

IT 1 pale phase on 29 April on top 3050m.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle Spizaetus nipalensis

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 3,4,5,7

F Collected in October 1959 at 2560m

IT 2 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m; 1 on 17 May Koramando 1500m carrying nesting material; 1 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m; 1 on 26 May over top 3050m.

Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

Resident, Winter visitor? Passage migrant? Fairly common

Habitat: Grasslands, forests

R on top 1983

IT 1 on 11 dates between 21 April and 24 May on top 3050m; 4-6 May above Ghoradauna 2200m with maximum of 5 on 6th catching flying ants with 12 Black Kites; 1-2 on 11 and 15 May Koramando 1500-1600m; 1 on 18 May Jhingrana 2200m; 1 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Eurasian Hobby Falco subbuteo

Resident, Winter visitor? Passage migrant? Seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,4; grasslands

R on top 1986

IT 1-2 on 7 dates between 23 April and 26 May on top 3050m, 1-2 on 4 and 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

Peregrine Falco peregrinus

Uncommon resident

Habitat: ? presumably uses a variety of habitats

IT 1 on 23 April on top 3050m, 1 on 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

Common Hill Partridge Arborophila torqueola

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types (1),2,3,4,5,6

IT Recorded almost daily, 1-8 on 17 dates between 21 April and 27 May near top 2800m, 4-5 on 3 and 4 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1-4 on 19 and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1 on 21 and 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 3 on 26 May on top 3050m.

Satyr Tragopan Tragopan satyra

Status in Nepal: V +

Uncommon resident

Habitat: Forest types 2, damp bamboo gully in 1a

F a covey recorded on 26 October 1959

IT 1-2 heard on 3 dates between 24 and 26 April including one at 1400hr on 26th near top c2900m, 1 female flushed on 28 April on top 3050m.

Koklass Pheasant Pucrasia macrolopha

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,(5)

or near top 2800-3050m. 1 heard on 4 May high above Meltadi, 1 on 5 and 6 May heard distantly above Ghoradauna, 1 on 21 and 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 1 on 28 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Himalayan Monal Lophophorus impejanus

Status in Nepal +

Habitat: Steep rocky grass slopes, forest clearings.

Resident, seen occasionally.

R on slopes May and June 1983, 1984, 1986.

IT 1 on 20 April Jhingrana - top at unusually low altitude 2500-2600m flying over a steep rocky slope, 2-4 on 5 dates between 22 and 29 April near top 2900-3050m, 1 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1 on 20 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700.

Kalij Pheasant Lophura leucomelana

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,7

IT 1 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 15 and 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Common Coot Fulica atra

Summer visitor? Passage migrant? Uncommon.

Habitat: (Lake)

IT 1 on 24 and 26 May on Khaptad Daha 3050m.

T July 1988 on Khaptad Daha.

Solitary Snipe Gallinago solitaria

Resident? Winter visitor? Passage migrant? Uncommon.

Habitat: Streams running through meadows, also the lake on top.

IT 1-2 on 4 dates between 25 and 29 April flushed from streams on top 3050m, 1 on 1 May feeding by Khaptad Daha 3050m.

T Summer 1988.

First records for western Nepal and the first Nepalese summer records, previously only recorded as a winter visitor.

Eurasian Woodcock Scolopax rusticola

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a, 3

Mainly recorded roding (displaying) at dawn or dusk

R on top May 1983, 1984, 1986

IT 2-3 on 6 dates between 27 April and 11 May on top 3050m, 2 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1-3 on 4 dates between 20 and 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus

Passage migrant

Habitat: (Lake on top and presumably also streams).

IT 1 on 29 April and 1 May by Khaptad Daha 3050m.

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos

Passage migrant

Habitat: (presumably lake and streams)

IT 1 heard at 2045hr on 30 April flying over top 3050m.

Rock Pigeon Columba livia

Status uncertain

T 1988

Snow Pigeon Columba leuconota

Winter visitor

T 1988

Speckled Wood pigeon Columba hodgsonii

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3,4,5,6

R 1 on northern slopes June 1983, pair by Khaptad Daha May 1986

IT 1-9 on 7 dates between 21 April and 24 May 2900-3050m, 2-5 on 3 and 4 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2-3 on 6 and 7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 4 dates between 18 and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m with maximum 10 on 18th, 2-4 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Oriental Turtle Dove Streptopelia orientalis

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5,6,7; often feeds on grasslands

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT Recorded almost daily. 2-8 on 16 dates between 21 April and 26 May near top 2800-3050m, 10 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 5-10 between 4 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 12,13 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 2-5 on 18,19 and 27 May Jhingrana 2200m, 2 on 21 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Spotted Dove Streptopelia chinensis

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 4,7

IT 2-5 between 4 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m including 1 on nest on 5th, 1 on 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Emerald Dove Chalcophaps indica

Resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 1 on 12,15 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon Treron sphenura

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,6,7

R on slopes 1983, 1984

IT 2-4 on 3 and 4 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2-4 on 3 dates between 5 and 7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, up to 10 on 5 dates between 12 and 17 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 1-5 on 5 dates between 18 and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo Hierococcyx sparverioides

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3,4,5,(7)

Mainly heard

R on slopes below 2800m 1983, 1984, 1986

IT 1-3 heard on 14 dates between 20 April and 10 May on slopes below 2900m, 2 heard on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 1 on 4 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2-5 on 4 dates between 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 1-5 on 3 dates between 18 and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1-2 on 24 and 26 May on top 3050m.

Indian Cuckoo Cuculus micropterus

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,7

IT 1 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2-10 on 5 dates near Koramando 1500-1700m, 1 on 19 and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Common Cuckoo Cuculus canorus

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3,4,5,7

Mainly heard

R on slopes below 2600m 1983,1984,1986

IT 1-3 on 14 dates between 20 April and 27 May on slopes between approximately 2200-3050m, 1 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 2 on 3 dates between 5 and 7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2 on 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 2 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1 on 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Oriental Cuckoo Cuculus saturatus

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3,4,5

Mainly heard

IT 1-4 on 17 dates between 20 April and 27 May on slopes below 2900m, 1 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 2 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1-2 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 1 on 26 May on top 3050m.

Lesser Cuckoo Cuculus poliocephalus

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 1a,2,3,5,7

IT 1 on 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 1-2 on 3 dates between 21 and 23 May above Choya Gadne 2700m, 1-2 on 3 dates between 24 and 26 May on and near top 2900-3050m, 1 on 28 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Drongo Cuckoo Surniculus lugubris

Summer visitor

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 2 on 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Collared Scops Owl Otus lempiji

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 1 heard on 12 and 13 May Koramando 1600m.

Mountain Scops Owl Otus spilocephalus

Status in Nepal R

Resident, recorded occasionally.

Habitat: Forest types 3,4,5,7

Heard only

IT 1 on 2 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 1 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 12 and 13 May Koramando 1600m, 1 on 19 and 27 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1 on 21 and 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Collared Owlet Glaucidium brodiei

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types (1),2,3,4,5,7

Heard only

IT 1-3 on 9 dates between 22 April and 11 May on slopes below 2900m, 1 on 4 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 1 on 24 April on top 3050m, 1 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna, 1 on 12 May Koramando, 1 on 18-20 May Jhingrana 2200m.

First records for west Nepal.

Asian Barred Owlet Glaucidium cuculoides

Uncommon resident

Habitat: Forest types 7

IT 1 heard on 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Brown Wood Owl Strix leptogrammica

Status in Nepal V

Habitat: Forest type 3
IT 1 heard on 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Tawny Owl Strix aluco

Uncommon resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a

IT 1-2 heard on 17 dates between 21 April and 27 May on top 3050m.

Jungle Nightjar Caprimulgus indicus

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,7

IT 1 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1-3 on 3 dates between 11 and 15 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 1-5 on 5 dates between 17 and 27 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Himalayan Swiftlet Collocalia brevirostris

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Feeding over forest types 5,7 ; also overflying birds.

R on top 1983

IT 2-3 on 23,25 and 26 April over top 3050m, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 10 on 5 May above Ghomdauna 2100m, 30 on 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 10-20 on 5 dates between 18 and 27 May over Jhingrana 2200m.

White-throated Needletail Hirundapus caudacutus

Summer visitor? Passage migrant? Seen occasionally

Habitat: Overflying birds

R on top 40 in June 1983;1984,1986

IT 2-12 on 14 dates between 22 April and 26 May over top 3050m, 7-8 on 2 and 4 May over northern slopes, 8-12 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1-2 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Pacific Swift Apus pacificus

Status uncertain, seen occasionally

Habitat: Overflying birds

R on top 1983

IT 2-20 on 7 dates between 21 April and 8 May over top 3050m, 10 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 20 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 3-5 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Alpine Swift Apus melba

Summer visitor?, Passage migrant? Uncommon.

Habitat: Overflying birds

IT 2 on 24 April and 1 on 26 May over top 3050m.

Common Kingfisher Alcedo atthis

Rare summer visitor

Habitat: (Streams)

IT 1 on 24 April on top at unusually high altitude 3050m.

Crested Kingfisher Ceryle lugubris

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Streams

T 1 Koramando 1600m 1988

IT 1 on 12,15 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Hoopoe Upupa epops

Passage migrant

R on slopes 1983,1986; on top 1984.

Great Barbet Megalaima virens

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,6,7

R on slopes 1984,1986

IT 9 dates between 20 April and 10 May on slopes, 3-15 on 3 and 4 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 5-10 on 5-7 May Ghoradauna 2100m, 10 on 4 dates between 12 and 17 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 5-10 on 18-20 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Blue-throated Barbet Megalaima asiatica

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 7

IT 1-5 on 6 dates between 11 and 17 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Speckled Piculet Picumnus innominatus

Resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 1-2 on 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Rufous Woodpecker Celeus brachyurus

Resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 1-2 on 15 and 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Greater Yellow-naped Woodpecker Picus flavinucha

Resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 1 on 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Grey-headed Woodpecker Picus canus

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,6

IT 4 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 3-4 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker Picus squamatus

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5

R on top 1983,1984; 1986 on slopes; young birds in June.

IT 2 on 20 April above Jhingrana, 1-3 on 22 and 23 April and 1 May on top 3050m, 1 on 5 and 7 May Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 8 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1-2 on 18,20 and 27 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1 on 21 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Himalayan Pied Woodpecker Dendrocopos himalayensis

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5

R Fairly common above 2500m on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 1-5 on 11 dates between 22 April and 24 May on or near top 2900-3050m including one at nest hole in burnt out oak stump on 30 April at 2900m and 2 adults feeding 2 flying young by Khaptad Daha 3050m, 2 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 5 on 7 and 8 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1-2 on 20 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Rufous-bellied Pied Woodpecker Dendrocopos hyperythrus

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 2,3,4,5

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 2-3 on 4 dates between 23-27 April near top 2900m including pair mating on 23rd, 2-8 on 3 and 4 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 4 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 8 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 2 on 10 May including 1 carrying food below Tribeni 2900m, 1-5 on 4 dates between 18 and 27 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1-2 on 21-23 May Choya Gadne.

Brown-headed Woodpecker Dendrocopos auriceps

Status in Nepal +
Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 2,4,5

IT 1 on 24 April near top 2900m, 2 on 2 May Jhingrana - Lokhada
2700-3050m, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 1 on 11 May below
Tribeni carrying food.

Hume's Short-toed Lark Calandrella acutirostris

Rare passage migrant

Habitat: (Grasslands)

IT 1 on 8 May on top 3050m.

Oriental Skylark Alauda gulgula

Summer visitor? Uncommon

Habitat: Grasslands

F collected on 25 October 1959 from grasslands 3050m

R common and singing on top 1983, 1984, 1986

IT 16 dates between 22 April and 27 May with maximum 12 on 27 April
on top 3050m.

Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica

Rare passage migrant

Habitat: Overflying bird

IT 1 on 25 May over top 3050m.

Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo daurica

Uncommon passage migrant

Habitat: Overflying birds

IT 2 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 1 on 17 May Koramando 1500m.

Nepal House-Martin Delichon nipalensis

Status in Nepal +

Passage migrant, seen occasionally.

R on slopes 1984

Habitat: Overflying birds

IT 2-10 on 5-6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 3 on 11 May below
Tribeni, 30 on 16 May Koramando 1500m, 100 at dusk on 18 and 19 May
and 1 on 27 May Jhingrana 2900m.

Olive-backed Pipit Anthus hodgsoni

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3

R on top 1983,1984; on slopes and top 1986

IT 19 dates between 20 April and 27 May on and near top 2800-3050m
with maximum 25 on 24 April and singles carrying food on 24 and 26
May, 5 on 8 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1 on 20 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis

Rare passage migrant

IT 1 on 21 April over top 3050m.

Rosy Pipit Anthus roseatus

Fairly common passage migrant

Habitat: (Grasslands)

IT 13 dates between 21 April and 9 May with maximum 100 on 23 April
and decreasing later - 25 on 24 April, 15 on 25 April and 1 on 8 and 9
May on top 3050m.

Upland Pipit Anthus sylvanus

Resident

Habitat: Cultivation

R on slopes 1986

IT 2 on 2 May above Lokhada 2700m, 1 on 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

Citrine Wagtail Motacilla citreola

Rare passage migrant

Habitat: (Grasslands)

IT 1 ssp. calcarata on 8 May on top 3050m.

Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Streams

R on slopes and top 1983,1984; on top 1986.

IT 20 dates between 20 April and 27 May by streams on top 3050m, with maximum 15 on 24 April.

White Wagtail Motacilla alba

Passage migrant

R on top 1986

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike Hemipus picatus

Resident

Habitat: Forest type⁷

IT 1 on 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike Coracina melaschistos

Summer visitor, seen occasionally

Habitat: Open forest of types 4,5,6

IT 1-3 on 2-4 May west of Meltadi 2200m, 2 on 11 May below Tribeni, 1-2 on 19 and 20 May Jhingrana 2100-2200m.

These records are^{at} the highest altitudes for the species in Nepal.

Scarlet Minivet Pericrocotus flammeus

Resident

Habitat: Forest types 7,8

IT 3-5 on 13 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Long-tailed Minivet Pericrocotus ethologus

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5,6

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 14 dates between 20 April and 24 May on and near top 2800-3050m with maximum 8 on 23 April, 5 on 2 and 3 May west of Meltadi

2200-2300m, 8-10 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 4 dates between 20 April and 27 May Jhingrana with maximum 8 on 18 May, 1-3 on 21-23 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

White-cheeked Bulbul Pycnonotus leucogenys

Resident

Habitat: Secondary scrub

R on slopes 1983

IT 2 on 3 and 4 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 5-10 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

Red-vented Bulbul Pycnonotus cafer

Resident

Habitat: Secondary scrub

IT 2 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200m

Asny Bulbul Hypsipetes flavaus
Resident
Habitat: Forest type 7
IT 2 on 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Black Bulbul Hypsipetes madagascariensis
Common resident
Habitat: Forest types 2,4,5,7
IT 5 on 30 April Lokhada 2700m, 10 on 3 May west of Meltadi, 5 on 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 15-20 on 5 dates between 12 and 17 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 3 on 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Orange-bellied Leafbird Chloropsis hardwickii
Resident
Habitat: Forest type 7
IT 5 on 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Brown Dipper Cinclus pallasii
Uncommon resident
Habitat: Streams
IT 1 on top 24 April 3050m, 1 flying young on 11 May and 1 adult on 13 May Koramando 1600m, 1 on 19 May below Jhingrana 2000m.

Rufous-breasted Accentor Prunella strophiatea
Status in Nepal +
Winter visitor ? Passage migrant ? Fairly common
Habitat: (Scrub)
IT 8 dates between 22 April and 9 May on top 3050m with maximum 10 on 24 April.

Altai Accentor Prunella himalayana
Winter visitor
Habitat: (Grasslands)
T winter 1988 on top.

Bluethroat Luscinia svecica
Passage migrant
Habitat: (Scrub)
IT 1 male on 1 May on top 3050m.

White-tailed Rubythroat Luscinia pectoralis
Passage migrant
R on slopes May 1983.

Indian Blue Robin Luscinia brunnea
Status in Nepal +
Common summer visitor
Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5,6,7 forest edges and scrub on top
R very common on slopes and top May and June 1983,1984,1986.
IT 12 dates between 29 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 10 on 24 May, 1-4 on 2-4 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 4-5 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 16 May Koramando 1500m, 1-2 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 4-12 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m. Very few females seen, first on 8 May.

Orange-flanked Bush-Robin Tarsiger cyanurus
Fairly common resident
Habitat: Forest types 1,1a
R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986.
IT 10 dates between 24 April and 27 May on or near top 2900-3050m including 1 female collecting nest material on 24 April.

White-browed Bush-Robin Tarsiger indicus

Status unknown, rare.

Habitat: Forest type 2

IT 1 female on 22 April near top 2900m.

First record for western Nepal.

Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochruros

Passage migrant

Habitat: Forest type (1)

IT 1 on 21 April on top 3050m.

Blue-fronted Redstart Phoenicurus frontalis

Status in Nepal +

Uncommon resident, common winter visitor/passage migrant

Habitat: Scrub on top

R on top 1986

IT 15 dates between 20 April and 25 May on top 3050m, with maximum 12 on 24 April.

Plumbeous Redstart Rhyacornis fuliginosus

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Streams

R on slopes and top 1983, 1984

IT 10 dates between 20 April and 27 May on top 3050m, with maximum 5 on 24 April and 1 flying young on 20 April, 1 on 13 May Koramando 1600m and 1-3 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

White-bellied Redstart Hodgsonius phoenicuroides

Status in Nepal +

Summer visitor

Habitat: Forest edges 1, 1a (4)

R on top 1983 and 1984 singing.

IT 1 on 7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

Common Stonechat Saxicola torquata

Passage migrant

Habitat: (Scrub on top)

IT 1 immature male on 9 May on top 3050m

Grey Bushchat Saxicola ferrea

Common resident

Habitat: Scrub and edges of forest types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

R singing on top in June 1983; on top 1984, 1986

IT 17 dates between 20 April and 27 May on top 3050m with maximum 15 on 24 April, 2-6 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1-2 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1 on 20 and 21 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Desert Wheatear Oenanthe deserti

Passage migrant

Habitat: (Grasslands)

IT 1 male on 1 May on top near park headquarters 3050m.

White-capped Redstart Chaimarrornis leucocephalus

Resident? Summer visitor? Passage migrant. Fairly common

Habitat: Streams on slopes and top 1983, 1984, 1986

IT 10 dates between 20 April and 27 May on top 3050m, with maximum 15 on 24 April.

Blue-capped Rock-Thrush Monticola cinclorhyncha

Status in Nepal +

Summer visitor

Habitat: Forest type 8

IT 3 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2000m.

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,5

R on slopes 1986

IT 10 dates between 22 April and 27 May on or near top 2000-3050m with maximum 6 on 23 April, 2 on 20 April and 11 May southern slopes, 1-4 on 22 and 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Blue Whistling Thrush Myiophoneus caeruleus

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Streams running through forest types 1,2,4,5,7; lake

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 2 on southern slopes 20 April, 1 on 22 April by Khaptad Daha 3050m, 1 on 2 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 2 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 6 dates between 11 and 18 May at Koramando, with maximum 8 on 12th.

Scaly Thrush Zoothera dauma

Summer visitor, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 2,4

R on slopes 1984,1986, on top 1986

IT 2 on 25 April northern slopes near top, 1 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1 on 10 May below Tribeni, 7 on 20 May Jhingrana - Choya Gadne c.2500m, 2 on 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Pied Ground Thrush Zoothera wardii

Status in Nepal *

Uncommon summer visitor

Habitat: Open or degraded forest, in forest type 4

R on slopes 1983

IT 1 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200m.

Tickell's Thrush Turdus unicolor

Status in Nepal +

Summer visitor, seen occasionally

Habitat: Open or degraded forest, in Forest type 4.

IT 2 on 3 May west of Meltadi, 1-3 on 4-6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

White-collared Blackbird Turdus albocinctus

Status in Nepal +

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3

R on top 1983, on slopes and top 1986

IT 19 dates between 21 April and 27 May on top 3050m, with maximum 30 on 26 April, 5 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 10-20 on southern slopes 20 April and 20 May, 10 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Grey-winged Blackbird Turdus boulboul

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 2,4,5,6,7

R on slopes 1984,1986

IT 1 on 26 and 29 April and 8 May near top 2000m, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 1 on 7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 3-4 on 15 and 16 May Koramando 1500m, 1-10 on 18,19 and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Dark-throated Thrush Turdus ~~flaviceps~~

Fairly common winter visitor

Habitat: (Forest types 1,2)

R on top 1986

IT 5 on 20 April southern slopes, 7 dates between 22 and 30 April on or near top 2800-3050m.

Mistle Thrush Turdus viscivorus

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,5; feeds on grasslands.

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT Daily on top, 20 dates between 20 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 15 on 24-26 April, 1 with nest material on 26 April, 1 feeding young on 30 April, 2 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1-3 on 18,19 and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Slaty-backed Forktail Enicurus schistaceus

Uncommon resident

Habitat: Streams

IT 1 on 12 May Koramando 1550m.

Spotted Forktail Enicurus maculatus

Uncommon resident

Habitat: Streams

R on slopes 1983,1984

IT 1-2 on 12,13 and 15 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 1 on 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Chestnut-headed Tesia Tesia castaneocoronata

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Summer visitor? Fairly common

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3,5,6

R on slopes May 1983,1984; 1986

IT 5 dates between 29 April and 5 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 6 on 24 May, 1-2 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 4 dates 20-23 May Choya Gadne 2700m, with maximum 5 on 22 and 23 May, 5 on 27 May southern slopes.

Grey-bellied Tesia Tesia cyaniventer

Resident? Summer visitor? Uncommon

Habitat: Damp gully in forest type 6

IT 1 on 18 May and 3-4 on 19 May below Jhingrana 2100m.

First breeding season records for west Nepal.

Aberrant Bush Warbler Cettia flavolivacea

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Summer visitor? Fairly common.

Habitat: Scrub, also shrubs at forest edges and in clearings

IT 3 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1-2 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 1 on 23 May Choya Gadne - top, 1 on 25 and 26 May on top 3050m.

First breeding season records for west Nepal.

Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler Cettia acanthizoides

Status in Nepal I

Resident? Summer visitor? Common.

Habitat: Bamboo stands in forest type 3.

IT 4 dates between 21 and 27 May, with maximum 7 on 22nd. At least 11 singing males. ~~Choya Gadne~~

First records for west Nepal.

Status in Nepal +
Resident? Summer visitor? Fairly common.
Habitat: Scrub, shrubs at forest edges and in clearings. Fairly common.

R on slopes June 1983, on slopes and top 1986.

IT 11 dates between 24 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 5 on 24 April, 5 dates between 20 April and 27 May on southern slopes, 1 on 20 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Striated Prinia Prinia criniger

Resident.

Habitat: Cultivation

IT 1 on 2 May Lokhada 2700m at edge of park.

Blyth's Reed Warbler Acrocephalus dumetorum

Passage migrant.

Habitat: (Scrub at forest edges and in clearings).

IT 1-3 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1-2 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Golden-spectacled Warbler Seicercus burkii

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5,6

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 1-5 on southern slopes on four dates between 26 April and 27 May, 3 on 2 May northern slopes, 1 on 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 4-12 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 2-3 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Grey-hooded Warbler Seicercus xanthoschistos

Status in Nepal +

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,6,7

R on slopes 1983,1984,1986

IT 20 on 20 April southern slopes, 2-3 on 2-3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2-10 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m including 1 with nest material on 5th, 3-10 on 4 dates between 12-16 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 2-5 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Black-faced Warbler Abroscopus schisticeps

Status in Nepal +

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 5,6

IT 1-2 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Blyth's Crowned Warbler Phylloscopus reguloides

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,(7)

R on slopes and top 1983,1984; on top 1986

IT 16 dates between 21 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 20 on 24 May, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 3-5 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m including 1 flushed from nest on 6th, 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1 on 12 May Koramando 1600m, 12-20 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, including 1 with nesting material on 23rd.

Slender-billed Warbler Phylloscopus tytleri

Summer visitor? Passage migrant? Recorded occasionally.

Habitat: Scrub, shrubs at forest edges

IT 1 on 20 April above Jhingrana 2500m, 7 dates between 22 and 29 April on top 3050m, mainly in bushes by Khaptad Daha, with maximum 5 on 28th. Only one previous Nepalese record.

Green Warbler Phylloscopus olivaceus

Rare passage migrant
Habitat: Scrub at edge of forest clearing)
IT 1 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.
First record for west Nepal.

Greenish Warbler Phylloscopus trochiloides

Uncommon passage migrant.
Habitat: Forest types (1),(3),(4),(7)
IT 1 on 20 April southern slopes, 1 on 22 April and 26 May on top 3050m, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2 on 15 and 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Large-billed Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus magnirostris

Status in Nepal +
Summer visitor? Passage migrant? Seen occasionally
Habitat: Forest types (5),(7)
IT 1-5 on 12,16 and 17 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 2 on 18 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Orange-barred Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus pulcher

Status in Nepal +
Fairly common passage migrant.
R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986.
IT 7 dates between 21 April and 1 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 25 on 21 April and decreasing later: eg 10 on 23rd, 5 on 24 April and 1 on 1 May; 2 on 20 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Grey-faced Warbler Phylloscopus maculipennis

Resident? Summer visitor? Seen occasionally
Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3
R on top 1984, 1986
IT 5 on 20 April southern slopes, 10 dates between 21 April and 26 May on or near top 2800-3050m, maximum 5 on 22 April, 1-3 on 21-23 May including a pair nesting on 23rd Choya Gadne 2700m.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus proregulus

Passage migrant, seen occasionally
Habitat: Forest types (1),(2),(3),(4),(7)
R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986
IT 2 on 27 and 30 April and 26 May on and near top 2800-3050m, 3 on 3 west of Meltadi 2250m, 5 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1 on 11 May below Tribeni 2900m, 1 on 15 May Koramando 1500m, 1-3 on 20 and 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Yellow-browed Warbler Phylloscopus inornatus

Resident? Summer visitor? Passage migrant Fairly common.
Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,(2),(3),(4),(5),(6),(7)
IT 20 on 20 April and 5 on 27 May southern slopes, 20 dates between 20 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m with maximum 20 on 21,23 and 26 April and first heard singing on 24 April, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 10-20 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 3 on 16 May Koramando 1500m, 1-5 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Smoky Warbler Phylloscopus fuligiventer

Status in Nepal *
Uncommon passage migrant
Habitat: (scrub, dock Rumex spp.)
IT 3 individuals - 1 on 22 April, 1 on 9-11 May and 1 on 23 May on top 3050m.
Only one previous record for west Nepal.

Passage migrant
R on top 1983.

Goldcrest Regulus regulus

Uncommon resident

Habitat: Forest type 1a

IT 4 dates between 20 April and 25 May on top 3050m, with maximum 3 on 24 April.

Small Niltava Niltava macgrigoriae

Fairly common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 1-3 on 12, 16 and 17 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Rufous-bellied Niltava Niltava sundara

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Summer visitor? Uncommon.

Habitat: Forest types 4, 5, 6

IT 1 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Verditer Flycatcher Muscicapa thalassina

Common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 1, 1a, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

R on slopes and top 1983, 1984, 1986

IT 5 dates between 24 April and 26 May on or near top including 1 on 24 and 30 April at unusually high altitude 3200m, remaining birds at 3050m, 10 dates between 22 April and 23 May near top 2800-2900m with maximum 4 on 30 April, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2-5 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1-2 on 7 and 8 May Khaptad Mai including a pair nest building in burnt out tree stump, 1 on 11 May below Tribeni, 2-8 on 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 4-5 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana including an adult feeding 1 young 2200m, 6 on southern slopes Jhingrana - Choya Gadne 2200-2700m, 2 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Asian Sooty Flycatcher Muscicapa sibirica

Common summer visitor

Habitat: Edges and clearings of forest types 1, 1a, 2, 3, (4)

R on slopes and top 1983, 1984; on top 1986

IT 13 dates between 24 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m with maximum 10 on 28 April and 27 May, 1 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250, 5 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1 on 11 May below Tribeni, 4 on 20 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Rufous-tailed Flycatcher Muscicapa ruficauda

Status in Nepal +

Summer visitor? Passage migrant? Rare

IT 1 on 20 April Jhingrana 2200m.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher Ficedula tricolor

Common resident

Habitat: Scrub and undergrowth in forest types 1, 1a, 2, 3; scrub on top

R on slopes and top 1983, 1984, 1986

IT Almost daily on or near top 2800-3050m on 17 dates between 20 April and 27 May with maximum 5 on 24 April, 2-5 on 20, 21 and 23 May near Choya Gadne 2700-2800m.

Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula supercilii*

Status in Nepal +

Common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 2,3,4,5,6

R on slopes 1983,1984,1986

IT 1-2 on 20 April and 27 May southern slopes, 1-2 on 22 and 29 April and 8 May near top 2800m, 6 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 4-10 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2-3 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 8 on 20 May Jhingrana - Choya Gadne 2200-2700m, 5 on 21 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiate*

Resident? Summer visitor? Common

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 1-5 on 20 April and 27 May on southern slopes, almost daily on or near top 2800-3050m - 19 dates between 20 April and 27 May, with maximum 20 on 26 April and 1 with nest material on 2 May, 3 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 2 on 11 May below Tribeni, 5 on 20 May Jhingrana - Choya Gadne, 8-10 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 8 on 23 May Choya Gadne - top 2700-3050m.

Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Resident? Summer visitor? Common

Habitat: Forest types 2,4,5,6,7,8

IT 2 on 20 April southern slopes, 1 on 30 April and 2 May Lokhada - top 2700-3050m, 3 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 3 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 11 May below Tribeni, 4 dates between 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m with maximum 10 on 16th, 1-5 on 18-20 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Summer visitor? Common.

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 8-12 on 20 April and 27 May southern slopes, 14 dates between 22 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 15 on 28 April, 12 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 20-23 May at Choya Gadne 2700-2800m, with maximum 15 on 22nd, 10 on 23 May Choya Gadne - top 2700-3050m.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

Resident, seen occasionally.

Habitat: Forest type 5

IT 1-2 on 5 dates between 20 April and 28 May at Jhingrana 2200m including a pair collecting nest material on 20 April.

Greater Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer*

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Summer visitor ? Uncommon.

Habitat: Forest type 1

R on slopes 1983, on top 1986.

IT 2-3 on 24 and 26 May on top 3050m.

Lesser Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*

Resident? Summer visitor? Uncommon

Habitat: Forest type 5

IT 2 heard on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Black-chinned Babbler Macropygia tenuirostris
Status in Nepal +
Resident, seen occasionally
Habitat: Forest type 7
IT 1 on 12 and 15 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Great Parrotbill Conostoma aemodium

Status in Nepal V *

Uncommon resident

Habitat: Bamboo stands in forest type 3; forest type 1

F Collected on 27 October 1959 at 2925m

R on southern slopes 1983 and 1984

IT 2 on 20 April and 1 on 27 May above Choya Gadne 2900m, 1 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m.

The most westerly records for the species.

Black-throated Parrotbill Paradoxornis nipalensis

Status in Nepal R

Common resident

Habitat: Bamboo stands in forest type 3

R on southern slopes 1983

IT 20-22 May at or above Choya Gadne 2700-2900m, with maximum 40 on 20 May and 3 groups totalling 20+ on 22 May.

White-throated Laughing-thrush Garrulax albogularis

Status in Nepal +

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

R on slopes and top 1983 and 1986, on slopes 1984.

IT 10 on 20 April southern slopes, 10-20 on or near top 22 and 26 April 2800-3050m, 10 on May Lokhada - top 2700-3050m, 15 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 2-10 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2

groups heard on 11 May below Tribeni, 1 on 16 May Koramando 1500m, 6 dates between 20 April and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m, with maximum 20 on 19 May, 5 on 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

White-crested Laughing-thrush Garrulax leucolophus

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 4 dates between 12 and 17 May at Koramando 1500-1600m, with maximum 15 on 12th.

Striated Laughing-thrush Garrulax striatus

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common? resident.

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,6,7

R on northern slopes May 1983

IT check? 1-4 on 4 dates between 22 and 30 April on or near top 2800-3050m, 3-5 on 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 1-4 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Variegated Laughing-thrush Garrulax variegatus

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3 and scrub on top

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 14 dates between 22 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 20 on 24 April, 2 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Spotted Laughing-thrush Garrulax ocellatus

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5

R on slopes May and June 1983 and 1984; on slopes and top 1986

IT 1-3 on 20 April and 27 May on southern slopes, 13 dates between 22 April and 26 May on or near top 2800-3050m, 1-5 on 6 and 7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1-2 on 17, 19, 20 and 28 May Jhingrana 2100-2200m, 4-5 on 21-23 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Streaked Laughing-thrush Garrulax lineatus

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Scrub and cultivation

R on slopes 1983 and 1984

IT 1-2 on 20 April and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m, 2 on 30 April Lokhada 2700m, 5 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

Chestnut-crowned Laughing-thrush Garrulax erythrocephalus

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 2,3,4,5,6

R on slopes 1983 and 1984; on slopes and top 1986

IT 2-5 on 20 April and 11 and 27 May southern slopes, 2-4 on 20 April and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1-3 on 22-24 April near top 2800-2900m, 2-3 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 3 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 20-23 May Choya Gadne 2700m, with maximum 10 on 22nd.

Green Shrike-Babbler Pteruthius xanthochloris

Status in Nepal +

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 1,3,4

F 1 subspecies occidentalis collected on 27 October 1959 at Khaptad 2560m

IT 1 on 1 May near top 2900m, 1 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 2 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 20 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Hoary Barwing Actinodura nipalensis

Status in Nepal *

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3

R on slopes 2700m May 1986

IT 9 dates between 22 April and 2 May on northern slopes near top 2800-2900m, with maximum 10, 1 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1-2 on 10 and 27 May southern slopes, 2-3 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 2 on 24 May on top 3050m.

Blue-winged Minla Minla cyanouroptera

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 4,5

IT 1-5 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Chestnut-tailed Minla Minla strigula

Common resident

R on slopes and top 1983,1984 and 1986

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,(4) and scrub on top

IT 17 dates between 21 April and 26 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 15 on 22 April, 1 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 2 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 6-10 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 4 on 23 May Choya Gadne - top 2700-3050m.

Status in Nepal +

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3 and scrub on top

R on slopes 1983 and 1984; on slopes and top 1986

IT 1-3 on 20 April and 27 May southern slopes, 11 dates between 22 April and 24 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 10, 1 on 2 May with nest material between Lokhada and top 2800m, 3-6 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 6 on 23 May including a pair nest building Choya Gadne - top 2700-3050m.

Black-capped Sibia Heterophasia capistrata

Status in Nepal +

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 2,3,4,5,6

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 15+ on 20 April, 8 on 10 May and 2 on 27 May southern slopes, 12 dates between 20 April and 24 May near top 2800-2900m, with maximum 25 on 25 April, 20 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2-10 on 5-7 May Ghoradauna 2100m, 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 5-15 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 5-12 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 3 on 23 May Choya Gadne - top 2700-3050m.

Whiskered Yuhina Yuhina flavicollis

Status in Nepal +

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 2,4,5,6

IT 5 on 20 April southern slopes, 5 on 30 April above Lokhada 2800m, 15 on 2 May west of Meltadi and above Lokhada 2250-2800m, 3-10 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 8 on 18 and 19 May including a pair building a hanging nest of moss on 19th, Jhingrana 2100-2200m.

Stripe-throated Yuhina Yuhina gularis

Status in Nepal +

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,5,6 and scrub on top.

R ~~top~~ slopes 1983,1984,1986

IT 20 on 20 April and 30 on 27 May southern slopes, 18 dates between 20 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 80 on 22 April, 5 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, heard on 11 May below Tribeni, 15 on 18 May Jhingrana 2200m, 6-15 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 12 on 23 May Choya Gadne - top 2700-3050m.

Black-chinned Yuhina Yuhina nigrimenta

Status in Nepal E

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 8 on 12 May and 7-10 on 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Black-throated Tit Aegithalos concinnus

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 2,3,4,5,6,7

IT 2-5 on 20 April and 11 and 27 May southern slopes, 1-8 on 22 and 30 April and 8 May near top 2800m, including adult feeding flying young, 8-12 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 4 on 12 May Koramando 1600m, 5-10 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 12 on 20 May Jhingrana - Choya Gadne 2200-2700m.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3,4,5

IT 3 on 20 April southern slopes, 5 dates between 22 April and 8 May on or near top 2800-3050m, 2 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 3 on 18 May, including pair feeding flying young and 1 on 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1 on 20 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Grey-crested Tit *Parus dichrous*

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 1-6 on 20 April and 10,11 and 27 May southern slopes, 13 dates between 22 April and 26 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 5, 2 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1-2 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 5 on 23 May between Choya Gadne and top 2700-3050m.

Rufous-vented Black Tit *Parus rubidiventris*

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Winter visitor? Seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,(2) and scrub on top

R on slopes and top 1984

IT 5 on 20 April southern slopes, 14 dates between 21 April and 25 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 10 on 22 and 23 April.

Spot-winged Black Tit *Parus melanolophus*

Status in Nepal +

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3 and scrub on top

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 2 on 20 April, 10 on 11 May including 1 with nest material and 12 on 27 May southern slopes, daily (on 19 dates) between 20 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 25 and singles with nest material on 21,27 and 30 April, 2 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, with maximum 10, 15 on 23 May between Choya Gadne and top 2700-3050m.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 2,4,5,7

R on slopes and top 1983, on slopes 1984

IT 5 on 20 April and 1 on 1 May southern slopes, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 5 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2200m including pair feeding young in nest, 2 on 8 May 2900m near top, 2 on 16 May Koramando 1500m, 4 dates between 18 and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m, with maximum 10 on 19th.

Black-lored Tit *Parus xanthogenys*

Common resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 5 dates between 12 and 17 May at Koramando 1500-1600m, with maximum 10 on 17th and 1 feeding young in tree stump on 16th and 17th.

White-tailed Nuthatch Sitta himalayensis

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,3,4,5,6

R on top 1983, on slopes and top 1986

IT 1-5 on 20 April and 11 May southern slopes, 1-2 on 8 dates between 22 April and 26 May on or near top 2800-3050m, including 1 on 8 May feeding young, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 4-5 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, including 1 flying young on 19th, 6 on 20 May Jhingrana - Choya Gadne 2200-2700m, 20-23 May near Choya Gadne 2700-2800m, with maximum 6 including a pair feeding young in nest on 21st.

Bar-tailed Treecreeper Certhia himalayana

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 2,4,6

IT 2 on 30 April near top 2800m, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2 on 7 May near Khaptad Mai 2900m, 3 on 8 May on top including 1 feeding young, 2 on 11 May southern slopes including 1 carrying food.

Rusty-flanked Treecreeper Certhia nipalensis

Status in Nepal *

Resident, seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3

R on slopes and top 1983

IT 7 dates between 26 April and 11 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 8 on 26 April and a pair, 1 feeding the other on 27 April, 2 on 7 May below Khaptad Mai 2400-2900m, 2-5 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700-2800m, including a flying young on 20 and 21 May and 2 on 22 May feeding young in natural nest hole in birch stump about 6m from the ground.

Common Treecreeper Certhia familiaris

Uncommon resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,3

R on slopes and top May 1984 and 1986

IT 5 on 21 May above Choya Gadne 2800m including at least one young (Rusty-flanked treecreeper seen at same place), 2-3 on 26 and 27 May on top 3050m.

Fire-capped Tit Cephalopyrus flammiceps

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 1,2,4, also forest edges

R on top 2-3 on two dates between 17 and 20 June 1983, a female feeding one young on 25 May 1984

IT 1 on 26 and 27 April near top 2900m, 2 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, female feeding 1 flying young on 24 May on top 3100m.

Only known breeding locality for species in Nepal.

Mrs Gould's Sunbird Aethopyga gouldiae

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types (4),(5)

IT 1 on 3 May near Meltadi 2250m, 1-2 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 20 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5,6

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 5-12 on 20 April and 10, 11 and 27 May southern slopes including female at nest on 20 April, almost daily (17 dates) between 20 April and 25 May on or near top 2800-3050m including female with nest material on 24 May, 5 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2 on 5 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 10 on 7 May below Khaptad Mai 2400-2900m, 5-10 on 18 and 19 May Jhingrana 2200m, 12 on 20 May Jhingrana - Choya Gadne 2200-2700m, 10-12 on 21-23 May near Choya Gadne 2700-2800m.

Black-throated Sunbird Aethopyga saturata

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 2 on 12,16 and 17 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Fire-tailed Sunbird Aethopyga ignicauda

Status in Nepal +

Summer visitor? Fairly common

Habitat: Scrub and forest edges and clearings

R common on top May and June 1983,1984 and 1986.

IT 5 on 1st and 1 on 27th May on top 3050m, 1 on 10 May below Tribeni 2900m.

Buff-bellied Flowerpecker Dicaeum ignipectus

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 4,5

R on slopes 1984

IT 10 on 3 May near Meltadi 2200-2300m, 3-5 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 5 dates between 18 and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Oriental White-eye Zosterops palpebrosa

Summer visitor?

Habitat: Forest type 4

IT 3 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 2-3 on 6 and 7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

Maroon Oriole Oriolus traillii

Resident? Summer visitor? Fairly common

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,6,7

IT 4 dates between 20 April and 20 May Jhingrana 2200m, 1 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 2 on 16 May Koramando 1500m.

Long-tailed Shrike Lanius schach

Summer visitor, seen occasionally

Habitat: Open forest of type 4, scrub and cultivation

IT 2-5 on 3 and 4 May west of Meltadi including subspecies erythronotus Rufous-backed and tricolor Black-headed, 2 tricolor on 7 May above Ghoradauna, 1 tricolor on 19 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Ashy Drongo Dicrurus leucophaeus

Common summer visitor

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5,6,7

R on slopes 1986

IT 1-5 on 20 April and 10 and 11 May southern slopes, 4 dates between 21 and 29 April on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 3 on 29th, 10 on 3 and 4 May near Meltadi, 1-5 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna, 1-5 on 12,13 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 4 dates between 18 and 27 May at Jhingrana, with maximum 10 at dusk on 18th.

Summer visitor

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 1 on 12 and 13 May Koramando 1600m.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo Dicrurus remifer

Summer visitor

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 2-3 on 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m.

Eurasian Jay Garrulus glandarius

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 2,3,4,5,7

R on slopes and top 1983, on slopes 1986

IT 2 on 20 April southern slopes, 2 on 24-26 April near top

2800-2900m, 2 on 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1-2 on 12,13 and 16

May Koramando 1500-1600m, 1-4 on 20,22 and 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Lanceolated Jay Garrulus lanceolatus

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 4,5,7

IT Up to 5 on 3 and 4 May west of Meltadi, 1-5 on 5-7 May above

Ghoradauna, 1 on 16 May Koramando 1500m, 1 on 18 May Jhingrana 2200m.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie Urocissa flavirostris

Status in Nepal +

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5

R on slopes and top 1983,1984,1986

IT 4 dates between 20 April and 28 May Jhingrana 2200m, with maximum

8 on 20 April, 16 dates between 21 April and 27 May on or near top

2800-3050m, with maximum 15 on 26 April, 1-5 on 5-7 May above

Ghoradauna 2100m, 5 on 20 May Jhingrana - Choya Gadne 2700-3050m, 2-5

on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 5 on 23 May Choya Gadne - top
2700-3050m.

Red-billed Blue Magpie Urocissa erythrorhyncha

Resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 3 on 13 May Koramando 1500m.

Green Magpie Cissa chinensis

Resident

Habitat: Forest type 7

IT 1 on 12 May Koramando 1600m.

Grey Treepie Dendrocitta formosae

Resident? Summer visitor? Fairly common

Habitat: Open forest and forest edges of types 4,5,7; scrub

IT 3 on 2 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 4-8 on 5-7 May above

Ghoradauna 2100m, 4 dates between 12 and 16 May Koramando 1500-1600m,
with maximum 8.

Eurasian Nutcracker Nucifraga caryocatactes

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,7

R on slopes 1983, on slopes and top 1984, on top 1986

IT 14 dates between 22 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, 1

on 5 and 6 May flying over forests above Ghoradauna 2100m, 1 on 7 May

Khaptad Mai 2900m, 2-8 on 11 and 13 May in Chir pine, 2-5 on 15 and

16 May Koramando 1500m, 1-2 on 20 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Jungle Crow Corvus macrorhynchos

Common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2,3,4,5,6,7 scrub, especially common on grasslands on top

R on slopes and top 1983,1984 and 1986

IT Almost daily (21 dates) between 20 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 70 and nest at top of *Abies spectabilis* tree on 24 April, 10 on 3-4 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 20-30 on 5-6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 10 on 7 May between Ghoradauna and Khaptad Mai 2100-2900m, 5 on 12,13 and 15 May Koramando 1500-1600m, 5-12 on 18,19 and 28 May Jhingrana, 3-5 on 20-22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Common Mynah Acridotheres tristis

Resident? Summer visitor?

Habitat: Open forest of types 4 and 7, scrub and cultivation.

IT 4 May Meltadi - Ghoradauna, 10 on 5 and 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m, 2 on 12 May Koramando 1600m.

Jungle Mynah Acridotheres fuscus

Resident? Summer visitor?

Habitat: Open forest of types 4 and 5, scrub and cultivation.

IT 30 on 20 April and 3 on 18 May Jhingrana 2200m, 7 on 4 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 5 on 6 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

Cinnamon Sparrow Passer rutilans

Resident

Habitat: Open forest of types 4 and 5, scrub and cultivation.

IT 2-5 on 20 April and 18 May Jhingrana 2200m, 2 May and 30 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2200-2300m, 5-15 on 5, 6 and 7 May above Ghoradauna 2100m.

Red-fronted Serin Serinus pusillus

Winter visitor? Passage migrant?

R on top 1986

IT 10 on 1 May flying north over top 3050m.

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch Carduelis spinoides

Summer visitor? Passage migrant?

R on top 1983, on slopes and top 1984

IT 1 on 29 April flying over top 3050m, groups of 3 and 5 on 27 May flying over top and 1 over southern slopes 27 May, 7 on 28 May flying over Jhingrana 2200m.

Common Crossbill Loxia curvirostra

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1,1a,2. Prefers hemlocks.

IT 5 dates between 26 April and 25 May on top and on northern slopes 2900-3050m, with maximum 7 on 24 May, 1 on 7 and 8 May Khaptad Mai 2900m.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch Carpodacus nipalensis

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Winter visitor? Passage migrant? Uncommon

Habitat: Shrubs in clearings and edges of forest types 1a,(3).

R May 1984

IT 1 on 10 May Tribeni 3050m, 2 on 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Common Rosefinch Carpodacus erythrinus

Winter visitor? Passage migrant? Fairly common

Habitat: (Edges and clearings of forest types 1, 1a, 2, 4 and scrub)

IT 20 on 20 April mainly at Jhingrana 2200m, 6 dates between 23 April and 10 May on or near top 2800-3050m, with maximum 20 on 23 April, 1 on 3 May west of Meltadi 2250m, 1-5 on 5-7 May above Ghoradauna 2100

Beautiful Rosefinch Carpodacus pulcherrimus

Winter visitor? Passage migrant?

Habitat: (Scrub)

R May 1984

IT 6 dates between 23 and 29 April on top 3050m, with maximum 4 on 26th.

Pink-browed Rosefinch Carpodacus rhodochrous

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Winter visitor? Passage migrant? Fairly common

Habitat: Scrub and undergrowth in forest types 1 and 1a, scrub on top

R on slopes and top 1983 and 1984

IT 14 dates between 21 April and 27 May on top 3050m, with maximum 1 on 23rd and 24th.

Spot-winged Rosefinch Carpodacus rhodopeplus

Status in Nepal *

Resident? Winter visitor? Passage migrant? Seen occasionally

Habitat: Forest types 1, (2), (3)

R on top 3050m May 1986

IT 1-4 on 5 dates between 22 April and 26 May on or near top 2800-3050m, 1-3 on 20, 22 and 23 May Choya Gadne 2700m, 2 on 27 May southern slopes approx. 2700m.

Red-headed Bullfinch Pyrrhula erythrocephala

Status in Nepal +

Resident? Uncommon

Habitat: Forest types 1, 1a, (5)

R 5 on top May 1983

IT 1 on 20 April southern slopes, 1-2 on 25 April and 10 and 27 May on top 3050m.

Collared Grosbeak Mycerobas affinis

Status in Nepal +

Fairly common resident

Habitat: Forest types 1, 1a, 2, 3

R on slopes and top 1983, 1984, 1986

IT 17 dates between 21 April and 27 May on or near top 2800-3050m, 2 on 7 May Khaptad Mai 2900m, 1-2 on 21 and 22 May Choya Gadne 2700m.

Rock Bunting Emberiza cia

Winter visitor? Passage migrant?

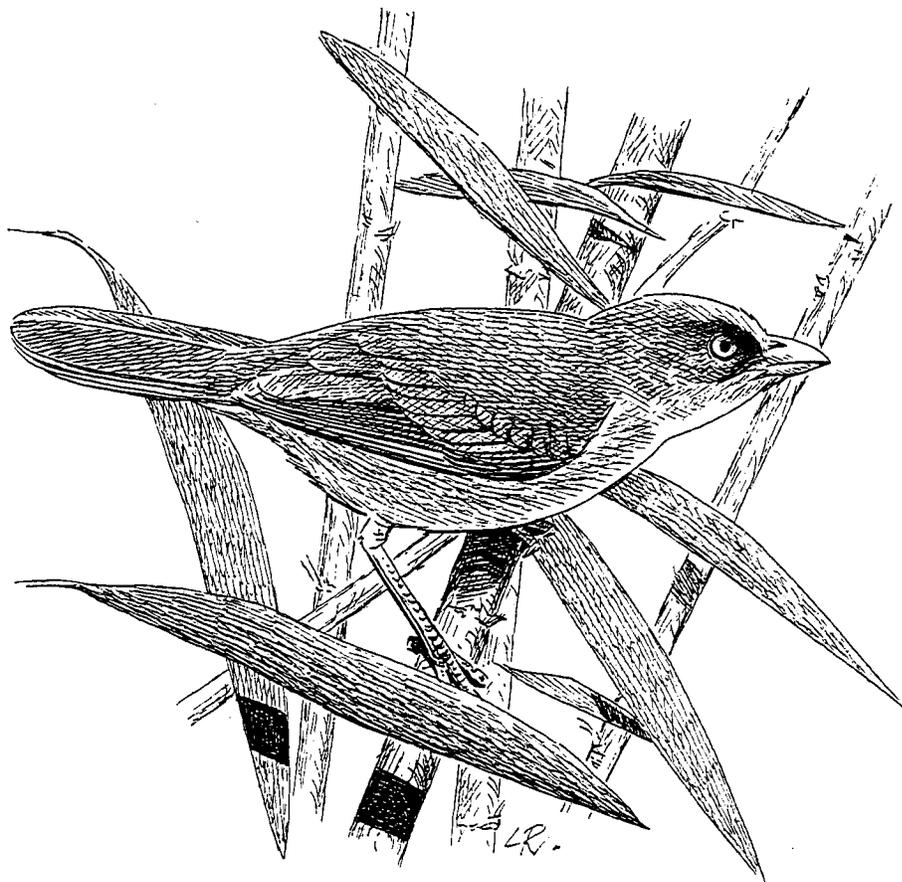
Habitat: Grassy slopes, usually near weedy patches close to cattle sheds.

F 1 ssp stracheyi collected on 25 October 3050m.

ADDITIONAL BIRD SPECIES RECORDED BY KATTEL (1981).

Great Crested Grebe Podiceps cristatus
Black-necked Grebe Podiceps nigricollis
Bar-headed Goose Anser indicus
Ruddy Shelduck Tadorna ferruginea
Mallard Anas platyrhynchos
Common Pochard Aythya ferina
Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos
Bonelli's Eagle Hieraetus fasciatus
Chukar Partridge Alectoris chukar
Cheer Pheasant Catreus wallichii
Common Redshank Tringa totanus
Hill Pigeon Columba rupestris
Laughing Dove Streptopelia senegalensis
Pied Crested Cuckoo Clamator jacobinus
Orange-rumped Honeyguide Indicator xanthonotus
Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker Dendrocopos macei
Greater Short-toed Lark Calandrella brachydactyla
Crag Martin Ptyonoprogne rupestris
Blyth's Pipit Anthus godlewskii
Northern Wren Troglodytes troglodytes
Black-throated Accentor Prunella atrogularis
Gould's Shortwing Brachypteryx stellata
Golden Bush-Robin Tarsiger chrysaeus
Blue-capped Redstart Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus
Blue Rock-Thrush Monticola solitarius
Plain-backed Mountain Thrush Zoothera mollissima
Eurasian Blackbird Turdus merula
Chestnut Thrush Turdus rubrocanus
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler Cettia major
White-throated Fantail Rhipidura albicollis
Coal Tit Parus ater
Great Tit Parus major
White-cheeked Nuthatch Sitta leucopsis
Wallcreeper Tichodroma muraria
Grey-backed Shrike Lanius tephronotus
Red-billed Chough Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax
Common Raven Corvus corax
Eurasian Tree Sparrow Passer montanus
Brambling Fringilla montifringilla
Plain Mountain-Finch Leucosticte nemoricola
White-winged Grosbeak Mycerobas carnipes
Little Bunting Emberiza pusilla

Confirmation of the above species is desirable as some of them are unlikely eg Hill Pigeon Columba rupestris which is a trans-Himalayan species in Nepal.



GREAT PARROTBILL Conostoma aemodium

This is a bird for which Nepal may be especially important. It is now a threatened species in the country because of the decline of its favoured bamboo habitat. Khaptad is the western limit of the species range.

PRELIMINARY MAMMAL SPECIES LIST

- House Shrew Suncus murinus
- * Rhesus Macaque Macaca mulatta
- * Grey Langur Presbytis entellus
- * Golden Jackal Canis aureus
- * Red Fox Vulpes vulpes
- * Asiatic Black Bear Selenarctos thibetanus
- * Yellow-throated Marten Martes flavigula
- Masked Palm Civet Paguma larvata
- Indian Grey Mongoose Herpestes edwardsi
- Leopard Cat Felis bengalensis
- Jungle Cat Felis chaus
- * Leopard Panthera pardus
- * Wild Boar Sus scrofa
- Himalayan Musk Deer Moschus chrysogaster
- * Indian Muntjak Muntiacus muntjak

Source: Kattel (1981)

Nomenclature follows Honacki 1982

Spring 1988 survey

Species marked * were recorded during the spring 1988 survey. Only signs of the Asiatic Black Bear were found (tree scratchings and diggings on 11 May below Tribeni, northern slopes) and of the Wild Boar (diggings frequently seen). Grey Langur, Golden Jackal, Red Fox, Yellow-throated Marten, and Indian Muntjak were quite common.

Kattel (1981) also lists Grey Wolf Canis lupus and Royle's Pika Ochotona roylei. As the Grey Wolf is normally found north of the Himalayan range and Royle's Pika above 3400m, both species require confirmation.

PRELIMINARY BUTTERFLY SPECIES LIST

The following butterflies were identified during the spring 1988 survey. Please note that only a small proportion of butterfly species observed were identified. Nomenclature follows Smith (1981).

Common Blue Apollo Parnassius hardwickei
Common Yellow Swallowtail Papilio machaon
Golden Birdwing Troidas aecus
Large White Pieris brassicae
Indian White Pieris canidia
Bath White Pontia daplidice
Common Gull Cepora nerissa
Dark Clouded Yellow Colias fieldii
Eastern or Western Blue Sapphire Heliophorus oda/H. bakeri
Large Silverstripe Childrena childreni
Queen of Spain Fritillary Issoria issaea
Painted Lady Vanessa cardui
Indian Tortoiseshell Aglais cashmirensis
Large Tortoiseshell Nymphalis xanthomelas
Orange and Silver Mountain Hopper Carterocephalus avanti

DRAGONFLIES

During the spring 1988 survey dragonflies first became obvious on 25 April. On 28 April hundreds of them which had presumably just hatched, flew west in a continuous stream for about five minutes near the former medicinal farm at about 3050m. Dragonflies were common in May and probably bred in the many small pools in the boggy areas on Khaptad meadows.

PRELIMINARY PLANT SPECIES LISTS

The following list comprises species identified in April and May 1988 by Tim Inskipp. Nomenclature follows Polunin and Stainton (1984).

Ranunculaceae

Caltha palustris var. himalensis

Actaea spicata var. acuminata

Oxygraphis polypetala

Anemone obtusiloba

A. rivularis

Clematis montana

Schisandraceae

Schisandra grandiflora

Berberidaceae

Berberis aristata

Papaveraceae

Meconopsis paniculata

Corydalis cashmeriana

C. govaniiana

Cruciferae

Cardamine violacea

Barbarea intermedia

Violaceae

Viola biflora

V. canescens

Theaceae

Eurya acuminata

Actinidiaceae

Actinidia callosa

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis acetosella

O. corniculata

Rutaceae

Boenninghausenia albiflora

Skimmia anquetilia

Aquifoliaceae

Ilex dipyrena

Celastraceae

Euonymus fimbriatus

E. tingens

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus purpureus

Hippocastanaceae

Aesculus indica

Aceraceae

Acer caesium

A. acuminatum

Leguminosae
Albizia julibrissin
Campylotropis speciosa
Piptanthus nepalensis
Lotus corniculatus

Rosaceae
Rubus ellipticus
Rosa brunonii
R. sericea
R. macrophylla
Prunus napaulensis
Cotoneaster microphyllus
Pyracantha crenulata
Pyrus pashia
Sorbus cuspidata
S. lanata
S. ursina
Fragaria nubicola
Geum elatum
G. roylei
Potentilla nepalensis
P. atrosanguinea
Sibbaldia cuneata
Bergenia ciliata

Hydrangeaceae
Hydrangea anomala
Ribes griffithii
R. takare

Crassulaceae
Rosularia rosulata

Araliaceae
Hedera nepalensis
Acanthopanax cissifolius?

Caprifoliaceae
Leycesteria formosa
Lonicera purpurascens
L. webbiana
L. myrtillus
L. quinquelocularis

Sambucaceae
Viburnum erubescens
V. cotinifolium

Rubiaceae
Randia tetrasperma

Valerianaceae
Valeriana jatamansii

Compositae
Ageratum conyzoides
Erigeron bellidioides
Gnaphalium affine
Anaphalis busua
Doronicum roylei

Lobelia pyramidalis

Ericaceae

Rhododendron campanulatum

R. barbatum

R. arboreum

Lyonia ovalifolia

Primulaceae

Androsace geraniifolia

A. lanuginosa

Primula denticulata

P. edgeworthii

Oleaceae

Jasminum humile

Asclepiadaceae

Vincetoxicum hirundinaria

Gentianaceae

Gentiana capitata

Boraginaceae

Hackelia uncinata

Solanaceae

Datura stramonium

Scrophulariaceae

Mazus surculosus

Verbenaceae

Lantana camara

Labiataeae

Ajuga lupulina

Scutellaria scandens

Thymus linearis

Polygonaceae

Bistorta milletii

Persicaria capitata

Rumex nepalensis

Lauraceae

Lindera pulcherrima

Thymelaeaceae

Daphne bholua var. glacialis

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia wallichii

Urticaceae

Debregeasia salicifolia

Girardinia diversifolia

Ulmus wallichiana

Cannabaceae

Cannabis sativa

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia var. kamaonia

Engelhardia spicata

Myricaceae

Myrica esculenta

Betulaceae

Alnus nepalensis

Betula utilis

Fagaceae

Quercus lanata

Q. leucotrichophora

Q. semecarpifolia

Q. floribunda

Pinaceae

Picea smithiana

Tsuga dumosa

Abies spectabilis

A. pindrow

Pinus roxburghii

Taxaceae

Taxus baccata ssp. wallichiana

Orchidaceae

Calanthe tricarinata

Cephalanthera longifolia

Dactylorhiza hatagirea

Zingiberaceae

Roscoea alpina

Amaryllidaceae

Allium prattii

Liliaceae

Asparagus filicinus

Fritillaria cirrhosa

Ophiopogon intermedius

Polygonatum verticillatum

Smilacina purpurea

Trillidium govanianum

Araceae

Arisaema propinquum

Gramineae

Thamnocalamus spathiflora

ADDITIONAL PLANT SPECIES RECORDED BY KATTEL (1981)

Cruciferae

Thlaspi andersonii

Aceraceae

Acer pectinatum

Rosaceae

Prunus cornuta

Prinsepia utilis

Cotoneaster bacillaris

Compositae

Anaphalis contorta

Taraxacum officinale

Ericaceae

Rhododendron anthopogon

R. lepidotum

Labiataeae

Elsholtzia strobilifera

Salicaceae

Populus ciliata

Cupressaceae

Juniperus indica

Orchidaceae

Ponerorchis chusua

Eriocaulaceae

Eriocaulon nepalensis

Iridaceae

Iris decora

Liliaceae

Paris polyphylla

Gramineae

Agrostis pilosula

Arundinaria falcata

Capillipedium assimile

Danthonia schneideri

Festuca ovina

Heteropogon contortus

Please note that only a small proportion of plant species have been recorded so far.

This account of Khaptad's conservation value is based on the incomplete information so far gathered on the park.

Khaptad lies in an important position as it is the only protected area representative of Nepal's western mid-mountain region. There is just one other protected area in Nepal's mid-mountain region, the Shivapuri Watershed and Wildlife Reserve on the northern side of the Kathmandu Valley.

Khaptad is of national importance for nature conservation, mainly because of the wide variety and high quality of its forests. However, according to the Baba, the forests were much denser and with a large number of older trees about 30 years ago when a great fire burned in Khaptad for 18 months. The forests comprise subtropical, lower and upper temperate and subalpine types. About 78% of bird species so far recorded and 86% of breeding or probably breeding birds depend on forests and shrubs. (Please note that throughout the rest of the report the term 'breeding species includes those known to breed and those assumed to probably breed.)

A total of 218 bird species including 175 which breed are currently recorded from Khaptad and many more are likely to be found. Nepal supports 124 species which may have significant world populations whose breeding distributions are restricted to an area encompassing the Himalaya, north-east India, northern south-east Asia and south-west China (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986). The high proportion of 40% of these breed in Khaptad. Nepal may be especially important for five Khaptad breeding bird species because they either have particularly restricted ranges within the general area considered or have been described as uncommon or rare in the Indian subcontinent.

These are Pied Ground Thrush Zoothera wardii, Great Parrotbill Conostoma aemodium, Hoary Barwing Actinodura nipalensis, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper Certhia nipalensis and Spot-winged Rosefinch Carpodacus rhodopeplus (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986). Only seven Khaptad breeding species are considered at risk in Nepal - 5% of the total at risk in the country: Satyr Tragopan Tragopan satyra, Mountain Scops Owl Otus spilocephalus, Brown Wood Owl Strix leptogrammica, Yellow-bellied Bush-Warbler Cettia acanthizoides, Great Parrotbill Conostoma aemodium, Black-throated Parrotbill Paradoxornis nipalensis and the endangered Black-chinned Yuhina Yuhina nigrimenta. Khaptad is the only protected area in Nepal where the last species is known to occur (Inskipp in press).

Khaptad is also rich in other faunal groups although they have been little studied so far. A wealth of plant species including many medicinal herbs grow in the park.

The high altitude bog system on Khaptad top is of special interest in Nepal.

The conservation value of each climatic zone is now described. The classification of forest types follows Dobremez and Joshi (1984).

SUBALPINE ZONE

Altitude 2900-3300m

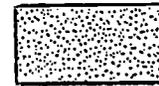
The rolling plateau of Khaptad top lies in the subalpine zone and comprises an interesting variety of habitat types which form a mixture of forests, grasslands and wetlands.

KEY TO MAP 2

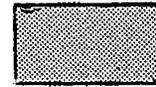
Subalpine zone; forest types 1,1a,
rhododendron/berberis shrubberies, grasslands and
boggy areas.
2900-3300m.



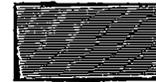
Upper temperate zone; forest type 2
2400-2900m.



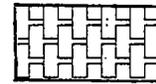
Upper temperate zone; forest type 3
2450-2900m.



Lower temperate zone; forest type 4 and some
cultivation on lower slopes
1800-2500m.



Lower temperate zone; forest type 5 and some chir
pine forest type 8 and cultivation on lower slopes
1800-2400m.



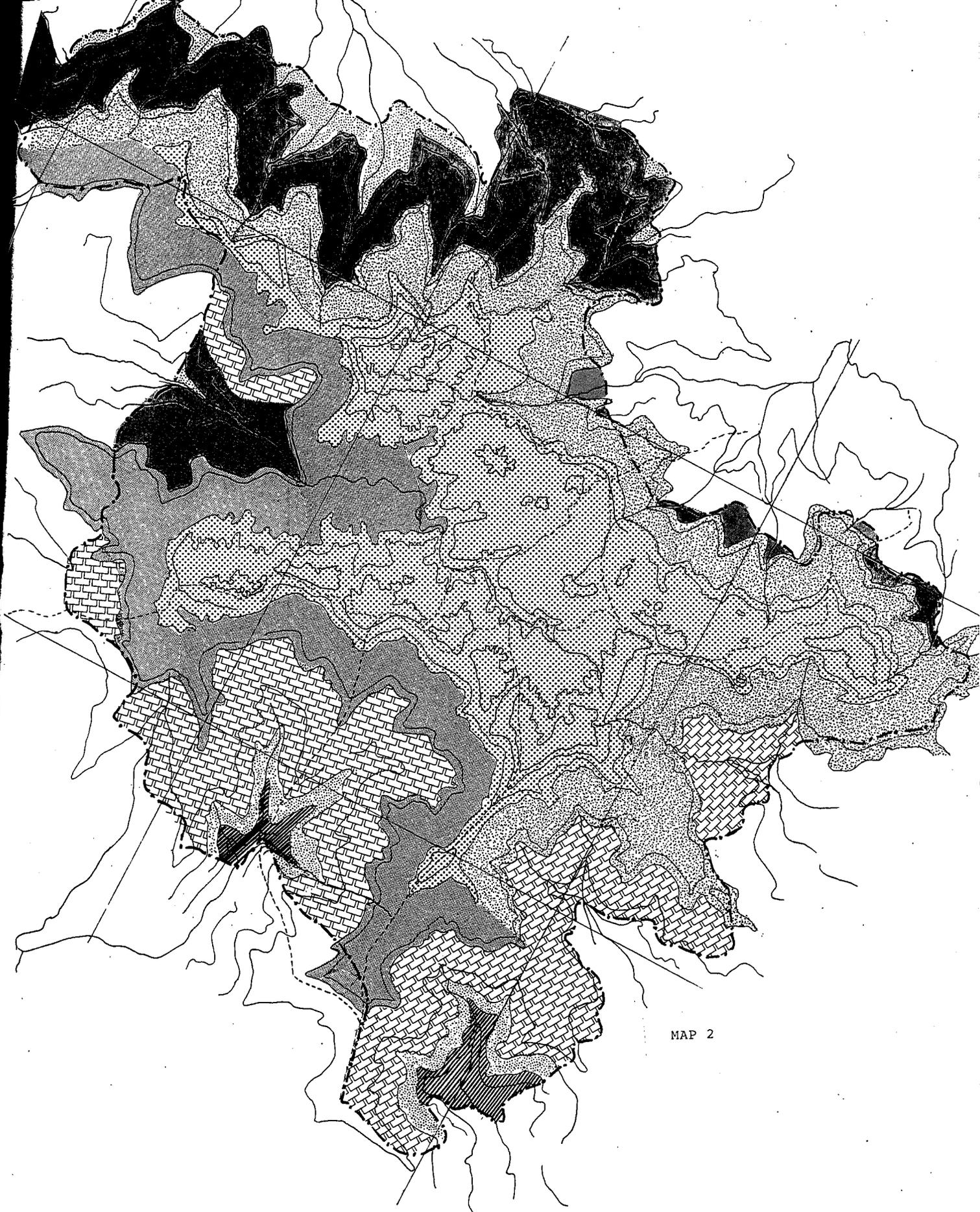
Lower temperate zone; forest type 6 and some
cultivation on lower slopes
1500-2500m



Subtropical zone; broadleaved forest type 7, chir
pine forest type 8 and some cultivation on lower
slopes
1250-1600m.



Altitudinal zones and forest types follow Dobremez
and Joshi (1984) and are described on pp. 48-54.



MAP 2

TABLE 2

Breeding species recorded

Zone	1	2	3
Subalpine	78	35	2
Upper temperate	80	31	6
Lower temperate	87	25	2
Subtropical	58	4	2

1 Number of breeding species

2 Number of breeding species with significant world populations in Nepal

3 Number of breeding species at risk in Nepal

Forests

Much of Khaptad top is covered in thick forests and shrubberies. Three forest types were identified in the 1988 survey.

Forest type 1 - broadleaved and coniferous

Fir Abies spectabilis - hemlock Tsuga dumosa - oak Quercus semecarpifolia - rhododendron Rhododendron barbatum 2900-3300m.

Forest type 1a

Fir Abies spectabilis - rhododendron Rhododendron barbatum

This type is not recognised by Dobremez and Joshi (1984), but was distinguished during the survey because the bird community was significantly different from forest type 1.

Shrubberies of rhododendron Rhododendron barbatum and berberis Berberis spp. (also referred to later in the report as scrub on top).

Local people maintain that the extent of forests and grasslands has remained the same in Khaptad for at least 100 years, although evidence of ringbarking of large trees noted in 1988 indicates that this may not be entirely correct. As the soil is shallow and lies on impermeable rock some of the grasslands are very wet and it is likely that they are unable to support forests.

Grasslands

The grasslands are extensive and all are grazed by domestic stock in spring and summer. During the summer months there are many colourful primulas Primula, buttercups and anemones Ranunculaceae, gentians Gentianaceae and other flowers. Small mammals are abundant. However, the conservation value of the meadows is reduced by overgrazing.

Wetlands

There are many boggy areas and pools amongst the grasslands, the largest being the lake Khaptad Daha which covers about 1.5 ha and lies at 3050m. During the 1988 survey the small pools were noted to be rich in invertebrates including dragonfly larvae.

Birds

Breeding birds so far recorded total 78, of which as many as 35 (45%) may constitute significant world populations. No other zone contained in the park has such a high proportion of significant breeding species. Notable species are the two pheasants *Satyr Tragopan and the Himalayan Monal Lophophorus impejanus, the country's national bird, and also the *Great Parrotbill, Hoary Barwing, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper and Spot-winged Rosefinch which are species for which Nepal may be especially important. Only two of Khaptad's subalpine breeding species are threatened in Nepal and are marked * above.

Nearly all of the breeding species are dependent on forests or shrubs. A significantly smaller number (46) of these have been found in the all-coniferous forest (type 1a) than have been found in the mixed broadleaved/coniferous forest (type 1) (59). Only one species, the Goldcrest Regulus regulus was restricted to the coniferous forest.

Only 15 breeding species have been recorded in the shrubberies on top, but as many as 11 of these may have significant world populations in Nepal. The Slender-billed Warbler Phylloscopus tytleri has also been found and Khaptad is only the second locality for the species in Nepal. Birds were

recorded on eight dates between 20 and 29 April and so may have been passage migrants. However as they were located by their song, it is possible that they were still present later, but had stopped singing.

A total of six breeding species associated with wetlands have been found. Most were present at low densities, probably reflecting a lack of available food. The Solitary Snipe Gallinago solitaria was recorded along streams in April and May 1988 and was still present in July (Thapa in litt.), forming the first breeding season record for Nepal. All the other wetland breeding species are common elsewhere in Nepal. The lake is probably a useful staging post for small numbers of passage migrant birds, although very few were seen during the 1988 survey as the spring migration period was virtually over. The broadleaved forests around the lake are particularly rich in birdlife.

The grasslands are poor for birds, only supporting two breeding species, the Oriental Skylark Alauda gulgula and Himalayan Monal. A considerably larger number of bird species (24) which either breed, winter or visit the park have been observed to regularly utilise the grasslands for feeding. These include the Upland Buzzard Buteo hemilasius and Common Buzzard Buteo buteo which hunt the abundant small mammals there. Both buzzards may breed in Khaptad, but neither species has been confirmed breeding elsewhere in Nepal.

It is interesting that several vulture species were regularly recorded at unusually high altitudes flying over Khaptad top in spring 1988. The Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus is usually found up to 2000m, the Oriental White-backed Vulture Gyps bengalensis up to 1800m, the Eurasian Griffon Vulture Gyps fulvus up to 1570m and the Red-headed Vulture Sarcogyps calvus up to 2000m (Inskipp and Inskipp 1985). The birds may ascend to overfly the isolated massif of Khaptad to reach feeding areas to the north which lie at the much lower altitudes where the birds normally feed. Alternatively the vultures may be choosing to fly over Khaptad top because there are good opportunities for scavenging on corpses of domestic stock in the summer months. The Egyptian Vulture was observed scavenging around the park headquarters in spring 1988.

UPPER TEMPERATE ZONE

Altitude 2400-2900m

The upper temperate zone is almost entirely covered in dense forest with a well developed understorey. There are a few grassy clearings and steep rock and grass-covered slopes.

Forests

Forest type 2 (northern and eastern slopes)

Mixed hygrophitic forest of oak Quercus semecarpifolia - Q. floribunda - hemlock Tsuga dumosa - fir Abies pindrow - maple Acer spp. 2400-2900m.

Forest type 3 (southern and western slopes)

Mesophytic montane forest of oak Quercus semecarpifolia - rhododendron Rhododendron arboreum 2450-2900m.

2700-2900m around Choya Gadne on the southern slopes. In late May 1988 some stands had reached about 5-6m in height. Some bamboo stands also occur on the northern slopes in forest type 2.

Birds

A total of 80 breeding species have been recorded, of which 31 (39%) may constitute significant world populations, including the Satyr Tragopan, Himalayan Monal, Great Parrotbill, Hoary Barwing, and Rusty-flanked Treecreeper. It is notable that the Himalayan Monal breeds at Khaptad as the species normal breeding range is 3300-4570m (Inskipp and Inskipp 1985). However it was found in late April and May 1988 as low as 2500m and up to 3100m in Khaptad. Six of the seven Khaptad breeding species at risk in Nepal occur in the upper temperate zone. Approximately the same number of breeding species was located in both upper temperate forest types (see Table 2). The Fire-capped Tit Cephalopyrus flammiceps, previously of uncertain status in Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1985), was proved to breed in Khaptad in 1984 and 1985. The distribution of Fire-capped Tit and Common Crossbill Loxia curvirostra are closely linked to the maple Acer and hemlock Tsuga dumosa respectively which explains why both species were only found in forest type 3 during the 1988 survey. Three bird species which are at risk in Nepal, the Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler and the Great and Black-throated Parrotbills are dependent on the dense bamboo stands, mainly located around Choya Gadne. Khaptad forms the western limit of the world range of the Great Parrotbill and is the only known locality in Nepal where the other species are common. Birds occurring on streams in the upper temperate zone are unstudied.

LOWER TEMPERATE ZONE

Altitude 1500-2500m

Like the previous zone, the lower temperate is almost entirely clothed in forest with a dense understorey, apart from a few clearings and steep rock and grass-covered slopes. Khaptad is of special importance among Nepal's protected areas because of the variety of its lower temperate forest types and their good condition. It is also the only protected area in the country with extensive stands of the oaks Quercus leucotrichophora and Q. floribunda and with large areas of Q. lanata of high quality.

Forests

Forest type 4 Mixed oaks Quercus leucotrichophora, Q. lanata and Q. floribunda and laurels Lindera pulcherrima and Persea odoratissima with many shrubs (eg Viburnum, Rosa, Zanthoxylum, Euonymus, Staphylea, Schizandra) (1800-2500m).

Forest type 5

Collinean oak Quercus lanata and Q. leucotrichophora with Lyonia ovalia and Rhododendron arboreum (1850-2400m).

Forest type 6

Mixed hygrophytic broadleaved forest with oaks Quercus lanata and Q. leucotrichophora, horse-chestnut Aesculus indica and maple Acer stachyophyllum, mostly in wet gullies 1500-2500m.

Forest type 8

Chir pine Pinus roxburghii. Some stands are pure and others are mixed with broadleaved forest. This forest extends into the subtropical zone. In sharp contrast to the broadleaved forests that of Chir pine is open with little or no understorey or sign of regeneration, because of frequent fires.

Birds

The breeding bird communities of the broadleaved forests are particularly rich and a total of 87 species have been recorded so far. There are 25 species (29% of the total for the zone) which may significant world breeding populations and one of these, the Pied Ground Thrush may be especially important. Only one breeding species, the Mountain Scops Owl is considered at risk in Nepal. The Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike Coracina melaschistos is of note as it occurs at higher altitudes in Khaptad than found elsewhere in Nepal. Birds were recorded at 2100m at Jhingrana and 2100-2200m west of Meltadi in spring 1988, compared to a previous maximum altitude of 2000m in summer (Inskipp and Inskipp 1985).

Lower temperate forests have been virtually unstudied in winter, but are unlikely to be of great value for winter visitors, both altitudinal migrants from the upper temperate and subalpine zones of Khaptad and the Himalayan range to the north as well as birds from outside Nepal.

The bird community of the Chir pine forests is very poor. Only three species were located during the 1988 survey, although others doubtless occur. One species of particular interest is the Eurasian Nutcracker Nucifraga caryocatactes, which has previously only been regularly found in the breeding season in the upper temperate and subalpine zones (Inskipp and Inskipp 1985). The birds may possibly descend to the Chir pine only to feed, returning to their normal altitudes each year. Birds occurring on streams in the lower temperate zone are unstudied.

SUBTROPICAL ZONE

Altitude zone 1250-1600m

The subtropical zone covers only a small proportion of the park; the land lying between 1250-1450m is probably almost entirely cultivated.

Forests

The forests comprise broadleaved species (forest type 7), Chir pine Pinus roxburghii (forest type 8) and a mixture of the two.

Although of small extent the broadleaved forests are of high national importance as they may well be the only protected forests of this type in good condition in Nepal (Inskipp in press). The proposed Barun valley protected area in far eastern Nepal also contains subtropical broadleaved forests, but these are of a different type to those occurring in Khaptad. Subtropical forests are particularly threatened in Nepal and in the centre and east of the country most have been replaced by cultivation. The steep-sided valley near Koramando is especially valuable as it is the largest broadleaved subtropical forest of high quality in Khaptad. There are probably also other small patches elsewhere in the park.

Birds

The subtropical forests are particularly under-recorded and the only available records are those from the 1988 survey. During May 1988 the forests were relatively quiet as the breeding season was well advanced at these low altitudes. Only 58 species were located, but it is certain that many more must occur. Two threatened species were found, the Mountain Scops Owl and the endangered Black-chinned Yuhina. A significant

number of bird species are likely to be restricted to this zone in Khaptad. A total of 13 species are known to fall into this category as they are only recorded in subtropical and tropical zones elsewhere in Nepal.

The Chir pine forests in the subtropical zone were very species-poor, only two species were recorded during the 1988 survey although others must occur. One of these was the Eurasian Nutcracker which was found down to 1500m, the lowest altitude it has been recorded in Nepal. Breeding species recorded along streams total six, none of which has significant populations or at risk in Nepal.



FIRE-CAPPED TIT Cephalopyrus flammiceps

This tiny bird prefers forests containing maples. It is a species for which Nepal may hold significant world populations.

In 1984 and 1986 the Fire-capped Tit was proved to breed in Khaptad.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE SURVEY WORK

Survey work of all plant and animal groups would be useful as all are under-recorded. Bird surveys in March and April to locate wintering species of the subtropical and lower temperate forests and additional breeding species, especially of the former zone, would be especially worthwhile. The peak spring bird migration occurs during this period. Looking for migrants at the lake and on the grasslands on top is recommended. It is also a good season to look for the Cheer Pheasant Catreus wallichii, a Red Data Book species which is considered of indeterminate status in Nepal and one for which the country may hold significant world populations (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986). This pheasant may well occur on Khaptad's lower slopes.

Further botanical surveys, especially of the meadows and an investigation of the invertebrate life of the boggy areas, lake and pools would be rewarding.

Khaptad's forests are highly suitable for research because of their wide range of types extending from the subtropical to subalpine zones and their good condition.

ADVICE ON VISITING KHAPTAD

There are two or three flights a week from Kathmandu via Nepalganj to Bajhang (Chainpur) and Dipayal. From Bajhang it is a two day walk via Meltadi to the park headquarters and from Dipayal it is a three day walk via Silgarhi Doti and Jhingrana. Dipayal can also be reached from Kathmandu by a dry weather road via Nepalganj and Dhangadi, but in 1988 the journey often took several days.

Visitors should be self-sufficient in food and kerosene when entering the park as there are no commercial lodges. Basic food supplies can be bought in Silgarhi-Doti (two days walk from the park headquarters), but other food should be brought from Kathmandu. Camping equipment is also needed. Porters are usually available, but may be difficult to find, depending on the season, and rates are twice those charged in central and east Nepal. The employment of the services of a trekking agent is strongly advised. Very few people speak English in this part of Nepal. The most pleasant weather occurs in spring between March and May and autumn in October and November.

PARK REGULATIONS

Flora and fauna of the park are fully protected and must not be disturbed.

Visitors should be self-sufficient in every way, before entering the park, especially in fuel supplies.

Rubbish should be buried or disposed of in a place provided.

An entry fee should be paid at the park entrance.

No-one should walk to and from the park after sunset and before sunrise.

No-one should spend the night or drink alcohol, eat meat, smoke or violate the peace of the Meditation Area in any way.

Take nothing from the park but photographs and leave nothing but footsteps.

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