

R. JACKSON/D. HILLARD
13030 COMSTOCK AVE.
SONOMA, CA 95476

NESTING INFORMATION
1982-1985
LANGU VALLEY, WEST NEPAL

D. Hillard (1989) part

DATE (mo, day, yr)	SPECIES	NOTES
02/10/84	Himalayan Griffon <u>Gyps himalayensis</u>	Two landed on a small rock outcrop halfway up the steep, bare slope of West Tillisha. The male picked up something (dirt or bits of grass?) in his bill, passed it to the female, and shortly thereafter they mated.
06/?/82	Eurasian Kestrel <u>Falco tinnunculus</u>	Nest above Dhukyel
09/03/82	Eurasian Kestrel	One adult and young(?) seen hovering on the hillside above our terrace, the apparent young diving often and unsuccessfully.
Mid-May 1984	Snow Cock <u>Tetraogallus him.</u> <u>T. tibetanus</u>	Rod flushed female (species not noted) off nest with 2 eggs. She then abandoned nest (about 15,000 feet in alpine grassland). Gary Ahlborn has notes on both species nesting in that area.
05/06/83	Chukor <u>Alectoris graeca</u>	Courtship? one doing circles around the other, dragging a wing while passing in front
07/03/83	Chukor	Rod's note: "Below me, on a lichen crusted boulder, the chukor calls angrily more than 5 minutes after I flushed her and five fledglings, screeching from the sheltered shrub by the trail."
08/11/82	Snow partridges <u>Lerwa lerwa</u>	A covey of adults with chicks at Chynath (about 15,000 ft.). We surprised them at 20 feet. They didn't fly, or even run, but made their way carefully among the rocks, slowly increasing the distance between us and them, calling loud and often.
06/?/82	Yellow billed chough <u>Pyrhocorax graculus</u>	Rod's diary entry for June 21: "They nest in crevices in the cliff and feed among the sage." <u>P. pyrrhocorax</u> also nests along the Langu
04/23/83	Crow <u>Corvus macrorhynchos</u>	Nesting (2 young?) at top of pine
06/05/85	Crow	Young fledged. Camp staff "stole" one from its perch on a pine branch, raising a cacophony of caw-cawing crows; the little one in the man's hand and the big ones flying over his head, trying to save their baby. A Eurasian Cuckoo joined in the clamor, cuckooing incessantly, long after the crisis was over and the men had set the chick free.

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- 06/?/82 Tickell's leaf warbler Building nest on Choyap Terrace
Phylloscopus affinis
- 07/01/? Tickell's leaf warbler Nest (enclosed oval in caragana bush) with 4 eggs.
- 07/17/82 Tickell's Leaf Warbler One of the nests was raided, the eggs eaten and the feather lining scattered through a hole made in the side, as well as out the entrance. The feathers used for lining had been taken from a kill site nearby, where a large bird, possibly pheasant or snow cock had been eaten.
- 07/30/82 Tickells' leaf Warblers Fledged
- 7/10/82 Crowned leaf warbler Feeding young in nest (unlocated), chasing off
P. reguloides Tickell's
- 07/16/82 Crowned leaf warbler Fledged
- 07/?/? Blue headed redstart Fledged
Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus
- 05/06/83 White capped river Two flew across the Langu to a side
chat Chaimarrornis stream. One threw back its head, pushed out its chest
leucocephalus and spread its tail. The other, inches away, watched.
They remained motionless for a minute or two, then
flew a couple of feet up, touched briefly and flew off
across the stream.
- 06/?/82 Blue rock thrush Female with young on Choyap terrace
monticola solitarius
- 04/?/82 Whistling thrush Courting, calling, flying back and forth across the
Myiophonus caeruleus Langu
- 07/17/82 Whistling thrush Rod's note: "Fledged whistling thrushes abound, their
sharp rasps and soft whistles carried afar, echoing
off rock cliffs."
- 09/03/82 Grey wagtail Family of three, the young snapping up insects. No notes
Motacilla caspica on radio, but I think 1 adult & 2 young.
- 05/04/83 Pied Wagtail Nesting at Eding (see 7/4/82)
M. Alba
- 07/04/82 Pied wagtail Adults carrying insects to chicks (4).
- 07/10/82 Pied wagtail Above chicks were still in nest, but were scattered by
co-worker when he got too close. Nest a depression in
sand at base of caragana bush surrounded by dried
grass and lined with down. Located in center of gravel
bar approx. 20m x 140m. Dimensions of nest: inside
3"x3", out 6"x6", 1.5" deep.

- 07/15/82 Pied wagtail and White Capped river chat thrushes around nests (presumably) Adults of both species seen "mobbing" whistling
- 04/?/84 Spot wing black tit Parus melanolophus Co-worker "accidentally" shot bird (unsexed) with slingshot. Said he regretted doing so because it had a mate
- 04/23/83 White throated tit Aegithalos niveogularis Nesting in juniper sapling (see 6/5/83)
- 06/05/83 White throated tit Feeding young in nest. Nest a compact ball, can't see young. One adult seen passing food to the other at the nest, then flying off

Notes from Diary: I've been watching two nests: crows and white throated tits. Both pairs began the building a month ago [see entry above for 04/23]; the crows near the top of a tall pine, and the tits in the lower branches of a young juniper about 100 feet from the crow's tree. Both trees are on the sloping river bluff. Now they are feeding young ones. It looks like the crows have two, for I saw their big bills pointed skyward as the parents stood on the edge of the nest poking in bits of garbage from our kitchen. I can't see the young tits as the nest is a round ball with a small hole for entrance/exit. But the adults also come near our kitchen to feed on the bushes, and I'm amazed at how close they come to me -- a couple of feet doesn't worry them at all.

- 09/02/82 E. Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis Female ^(?) feeding 3 young
- 7/10/82 Rock bunting Emberiza cia Feeding fledged young
- 07/17/82 Rock bunting Fledged

This seems to be a peak for fledgling rock buntings and crowned leaf warblers. Many family groups of 3-4 young in populus/pine and the shrubs at the inside terrace edges.

Additional Notes

Add to main list:

Snow partridge (Lerwa lerwa), Block 10, about 15,500 feet (seen above Dolphu Village in Alpine grasland/rock fields). We made only one visit to the location, so cannot really comment on abundance

Tibetan partridge (Perdix hodgsoniae), Block 10, 10,000 feet, in brush (seen by Rod June 1982)

List covers the period 1982 through 1985. Block 9 was the trail into our study area, and my "abundance" ratings are not consistent with what would be expected. Also, we spent only one summer (June-September) in the study area.

Key: Maximum elevation 10 = 10,000 feet; 12 = 12,000 feet, etc.

S.A. = Study Area

Village = Dolphu

Within the Study Area:

A = Alpine grassland

SS = Subalpine Shrub

B = Brush

J = Juniper Wood

S = Streamside (containing brush and poplar/fruit trees)

B/P = Birch/Pine

D. Hillard (1989) (part)

	<u>Block/Elevation</u>	<u>Habitat</u>	<u>Abundance, Comments</u>
Cormorant (large) (<u>Phalacrocorax carbo</u>)	9/	On Mugu Karnali	Occasional
Goose (bar-headed) (<u>Anser indicus</u>)	10/	Flying over S.A.	Rare. One sighting in March '84
Duck, Merganser (<u>Mergus merganser</u>)	10/10	On Langu River	Occasional
Hawk (Sparrow) (<u>Accipiter nisus</u>)	10/>12	S.A./Village	Common
Goshawk (<u>Accipiter gentilis</u>)	10/>12	S.A.	Rare. One sighting in Jan. '85
Buzzard (upland) (<u>Buteo hemilasius</u>)	9/	Flying over Ghurchi Lekh	One sighting
Eagle (golden) (<u>Aquila chrysaetos</u>)	10/>12	S.A.	Occasional
Vulture, Griffon (Himalayan) (<u>Gyps himalayensis</u>)	10/>12	Village/S.A.	Common
Vulture, (bearded) "Lammergeier" (<u>Gypaetus barbatus</u>)	10/>12	Village/S.A.	Common
Harrier (hen) (<u>Circus cyaneus</u>)	10/>12	S.A.	Occasional-Common (seemed to be at least one regular pair)

Myna (Brahminy) (<u>Sturnus pagodarum</u>)	10/10	S/B S.A.	Rare. One pair seen May '83
Magpie (<u>Cissa</u>) sp. unconfirmed 9/			
Nutcracker (<u>Nucifraga caryocatactes</u>)	10/12	B S.A.	Rare- <u>Occasional</u>
Chough (red billed) (<u>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</u>)	10/>10	B/SS/A Village/S.A.	Common (but less common than graculus), nesting
Chough (yellow billed) (<u>P. graculus</u>)	10/>10	B/SS/A Village/S.A.	Common, nesting, seen feeding on insects on back of blue sheep
Crow (jungle) (<u>Corvus macrorhynchos</u>)	10/>10	Village/S.A.	Common
Minivet (long tailed) (<u>Pericrocotus ethologus</u>)	10/10	B/S S.A.	Occasional
Bulbul (white cheeked) (<u>Pycnonotus leucogenys</u>)	10/10	B/S S.A.	Occasional
Bulbul (red vented) (<u>P. cafer</u>)	9/		
Bulbul (grey) (<u>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</u>)	9-10/10	S.A.	Occasional
Laughing Thrush (streaked) (<u>Garrulax lineatus</u>)	10/10	B/S S.A.	Occasional
Laughing Thrush (variegated) (<u>G. variegatum</u>)	9-10/10	B/J Village/S.A.	Occasional- <u>Common</u>
Flycatcher (little pied) (<u>Muscicapa westermanni</u>)	10/10	B/S S.A.	Common
Flycatcher (Yellow-bellied fantail) (<u>Rhipidura hypoxantha</u>)	9/9	S S.A.	One sighting, Apr. '82
Warbler (Tickell's leaf) (<u>Phylloscopus affinis</u>)	10/10	B S.A.	Common, nesting

Thrush (whistling) (<u>Myiophonus caeruleus</u>)	10/10	S S.A.	Common (not abundant, but at least several pairs in winter)
Thrush (grey headed) (<u>Turdus rubrocanus</u>)	10/12	B Village	Common
Thrush (red throated) (<u>T.ruficollis</u>)	10/12	B Village	Common
Thrush (black throated) (<u>T. ruficollis</u>)	10/10	B/S S.A.	Occasional
Thrush (mistle) (<u>T.viscivorus</u>)	10/10	B/S S.A.	Occasional
Dipper (brown) (<u>Cinclus pallasii</u>)	10/10	S S.A.	Common
Wren (winter) (<u>Troglodytes troglodytes</u>)	9-10/10	J/B/S Village/S.A.	Common
Accentor (alpine) (<u>Prunella collaris</u>)	10/12	B/SS Village	Common
Accentor (brown) (<u>P. fulvescens</u>)	10/12	B/SS Village/S.A.	Occasional- <u>Common</u>
Tit (green backed) (<u>Parus monticolus</u>)	10/10	B/S S.A.	Common
Tit (coal) (<u>P. ater</u>)	10/12	B/S Village/S.A.	Common
Tit (spot winged black) (<u>P. melanolophus</u>)	10/10	B/S S.A.	Common
Tit (white throated) (<u>Aegithalos niveogularis</u>)	10/10	B/S S.A.	Common, nesting
Nuthatch (white cheeked) (<u>Sitta leucopsis</u>)	10/12	B/J S.A/	Common
Tree Creeper (Himalayan) (<u>Certhia himalayana</u>)	10/10	J/S S.A.	<u>Occasional-Common</u>
Wall Creeper (<u>Tichodroma muraria</u>)	10/12	S/SS S.A.	<u>Occasional-Common</u>
Wagtail (grey) (<u>Motacilla caspica</u>)	10/10	S S.A.	Common, but less so than Alba, nesting