

David Steele

Description of birds identified as
White-rumped Snowfinch, Yala Peak,
Langtang, 24 Oct. '90. STEELE (1990)

A flock of c 35 birds, feeding on a steep grassy slope amongst boulders, not far below the summit of Yala Peak.

The birds were strikingly pale. The upperparts were fairly uniform pale buff-brown, very lightly streaked. Paler edges to tertiaries and a broad pale (and well marked) band formed by fringes to greater coverts. A small darker mark noted on the alula / greater primary coverts. The primaries were long and pale fringed. Head very pale, with a small darkish area at lores - otherwise unmarked and chit / throat certainly white. Underparts very pale buffish-white, perhaps with very faint mottling / streaking on breast. The bill, on some birds at least, was noted as being pale and with a yellowish / orangy tint recalling winter plumage Snow Bunting.

In flight from above (viewed against the hillside) they looked almost uniform pale brown. No extensive white showed in wings. Rump looked slightly pale, but not obviously white. On some views tail showed white sides (described as "blazes")

Flight call noted as a rather shrill "chirrip".

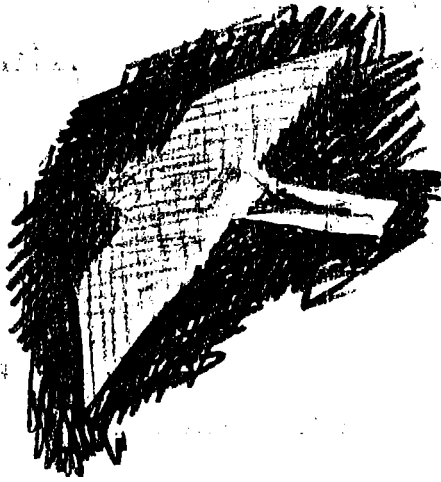
wary and flighty.

note very pale general
appearance, with prominent
whiteish band across
the covs.



Dave Steele '91.

Rough sketch of birds identified as
White-rumped Snowfinch; Yala Peak, Langtang,
24.10.90. Drawn from field-notes.



These birds seem most closely to resemble
White-rumped Snowfinch, as illustrated
both in Fleming and in Ali et al. White
tail sides seems to rule out plain Mountain
Finch, which in any case we saw and
they looked quite different to these birds.

Could Brandt's Mountain Finch be a possibility?
We would be grateful for your opinion on
these birds!

David Steele
21.7.91