

31/10/92

## Kathmandu to Dharan

Finally, after several delays, nearly 10 days in KTM (& yesterday's false start because of daypack strap breakage), woke up at 4 AM to catch the 5 AM bus from Sundara (Bhimsensthan) to Biratnagar. lucky to get a taxi in the empty, cold early morning for Rs 50/- for the five minute ride to the bus stop. "Kosi Pashupathi Express" Good company & location away from Central Bus Station much easier to deal w/ buying ticket in advance & loading/departure. To be recommended for travel to Biratnagar area. Only Rs 165. Did not have to add extra rups when en route I decided to forego the Kosi Barrage area and go straight to Dharan: getting off at Itahari (charged the fare all the way to BRT?). Was ~7 PM when transferred to a real ramshackle crate for the noisy & extra clothing.

MEMORY

Wick H. Cox  
Kathmandu Lodge  
Kapal Tole  
3-30 Kathmandu

19 Colony Road  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
USA 28211

# East Nepal Birdquest

## Forest Habitat Assessment

### November-December 1992

## Part II

25 minute ride up to Dharam. Incredible rattling of windows, frames, etc + very dusty.

Went across the square to Sansu Hotel & Restaurant for a Rp. 50/- single room w/ fan and after a bowl of thukpa went to bed. Not that worn out for a 15 hr bus ride, probably attributable mostly to the "folding" seats of the express. A 40 km section of 6" highway is being reconstructed & is dust & stone at present, thus making for slow going. Otherwise the journey could be cut 1-1.5 hrs. The last 30-45 min stretch to Itahari is on a very smooth paved road

1/11/92

Went down the street to the Police Station to report & ask for help in finding potatoes. It was agreed

MEMORY

MEMORY

left Kholabhan (referred to by next village as "Kholaghan") on the Muwa Khola at 0830 hrs after searching for birds in the steep cliffs ca the village lots of herb growth, good thickets & otherwise fields and alder-cardamom plantation. Good activity at 0630hrs, well before sun hits these lower slopes. Beautiful views of Blue-winged laughing Thrush. Obviously best birding is ca sunrise, & this low do not long after 1st H

By noon Prangbung was reached on mostly gentle uphill slopes but one deep ravine to traverse at Kodak. Bought chanel, dahl, matti tel, noodles, sugar & proceeded from the school side (+chaunki side) stores at hilltop steep downhill 15 mins for lunch stop, quite late (1230 hrs) & sore from the past couple days of ubo-undo walking & very hungry. Only a plate of roasted soy beans before leaving Kholabhan

the types needed for the longest highland portions of the tick were not to be found in Narayan so the inspector-sahib placed a STD digital call to Dhankuta & asked that police there try to locate porters. By 11 AM in a Basantapur bound bus I got down at Dhankuta, climbed up through the main street to Police Hq. Officers were ready & quite inquisitive, but said it was their duty to help (to which I awkwardly explained that, no, it wasn't their duty but because of basic concern, etc).

Again the digital phone is used, because at Hille, there would be a better chance, and at Basantapur even better. Proceeded on the next bus out all the way to Basantapur because the local police commander said porters should be in 'abundance' at the road head there. Shortly after

MEMORY

MEMORY

The people at the lunch stop (Danda gau:) say that the offices at Prangbung are 26,000' ∴ Danda gau: ~ 5600'. Rimi below, which we have to descend to & follow up to Warchung Baijyung looks to be as low as 4,500'. FkTin (YekTin) 25,000'.

After a filling dahl bhut (w/ tuna fish) walked quickly from 1500 to 1730, reaching the outskirts of FkTin (YekTin). Had to descend ~ 1000 ft (steeply) to main river (< 5,000' post), then climbed ~ 500 ft steeply to Machhebung (school & sub. P.O.), and most unpleasantly surprised to see that once again a steep descent & ascent lay ahead. School area didn't look too appealing for an overnight, so quickly hit the trail down thru chopped overforest (2-3 canopy, but no tall trees) and up through open bushes and patches of bamboo & fodder trees to the first house seen through the binoculars from the other danda. Made it in 40 min including a five minute rest at danda to view & hear an Asian Barred Owl.

Hille, the road degrades but lacks tight/sharp switchbacks. Arrived Basantapur ~ 6:30 PM and after a look at the lodges, decided to stay at the Yak Hotel & Lodge. Tibetan, ran, dark, but friendly family. Owners away for an all-night wake for a man killed by a falling stone the day before while constructing the highway past Basantapur. Didn't get much sleep because students over-nighting in the next room noisy & young guys a bit challenging when asked a second time to be quiet. Later another group (of men) came in to beds & also noisy, but too tired & sleepy to complain. 2/11/52

felt a bout of Giardia coming on the next morning; tell-tale rotter eg. bumps, but didn't become advanced as the day went by looking for carriers. (The night before two smallish & thin Nepalis who worked for the 'top-of-the-line' (to this

MEMORY

MEMORY

Birds seen from Kholabhari (Kholaghari) (= Phedi), Muwa Khola to Yektin

Site for #1-4 is a cliff at village side thickly vegetated w/ herb, thickets (brins) nettle & a bit of bamboo. No forested nearby, only ravines w/ alders & cardamom understory. black & white lines on crown

also outside Prangbung ←  
also approaching Kedok gauri ←

also at Yaha Khola ~ 5,500' ←

~ 6,000', possibly a little lower

also 1 at Kholab below Prangbung. ←

w/ gray tits also a small flock on way up to Machhebung ~ 5,400' ←

river crossed between Prangbung and Machhebung villages/dandas ←

1. Green-backed Tit - a pr at Kholabhari (6,500' - also outside Prangbung ~ 6,000')
2. Yellow-naped Yuhina - small party at #1 site
3. Blue-winged Laughing Thrush ≥ pr (possibly 3-4)
4. Black-throated Babbler - ≥ 2 Kholabhari
5. Gray-headed Warbler - in scrub at streamside
6. White-capped River Chat - in streambed
7. Brown Nipper - 1 Kholabhari "do"
8. ♀ Golden Bush Robin - same thicket as #1-4
9. Grey Bullbulb - sm flock near Kholabhari
10. ♂ Plumbeous Redstart - "do" (♀ on tape wrong)
11. ♀ Crested Bunting (w/ another sex?)
12. Gray Wagtail - streamside towards Kedok
13. Black-headed Shrike - ♂ "do"
14. Orange-barred Leaf Warbler - in ravine "do"
15. Hodgson's Tree Pipit - outside Kedok
16. Whistling Thrush - "do"
17. White-eyes ≥ 1 outside Prangbung ~ 6,000'
18. Black Redstart - ♂ "do"
19. Yellow-rumped Leaf Warbler - "do"
20. Yellow-checked Tit ≥ 1 "do"
21. ♂ Hodgson's Redstart - Yaha Khola ~ 5,000'
22. ♀ Hodgson's Bush Chat - "do"

in the morning

Clinton 46%, Bush 37%, Perot 17%. Heard on the radio 4/11 by a passerby who said it was 50% by June later in the day while sitting to afternoon news in Newslite hard to hear, but the pos seemed to stick up: Clinton 46%, Bush 37%, Perot 17%.

village at least), but I just didn't like their expressions, so kept putting them off; ~~but~~ as the bloomed me ca town which already told them I'd get back to 'em... The Banalepin cig factory was attended by a couple of managers, foreign-experienced guys, who I agreed to take but just as we were leaving Yak, the mgr erupted in accusations that the "bought" of the two had just made off with 150 mps, a jacket & perhaps other items from a recent Kanchenjunga trek w/ German man. Great commotion ensued w/ young Lapka joining in, and the accused didn't do too well a job of denying it w/ lumps in the throat, although from time to time looked us to a slight wry but not. Fairly confused at this point because the Saudi said a letter had been sold from the Saudis, but when pressed could not produce it. But since honesty is doubt felt it best to try the tall kid in the uphill route of houses & shops. That

MEMORY

MEMORY

on way up to Machhebung; ~ 5300' (?) ←

- 23. ♂ Brown-fronted Pied Woodpecker
- 24. Gray TF ~ 5,400' on way up to M'bung
- 25. Tailorbird - "do"
- 26. Brown Hill Prinia - a pair "do"
- 27. Black Drongos - 3 in bamboo/trees "do"
- 28. ♂ Blue-head Rockthrush - "do"
- 29. Asian Barred Outlet - below Yeklin ~ 5,200'

call heard at dusk; seen ←

Started the day with a short bird walk ca. the house location, going 1st to a ravine, but several sm birds quite active in trees in open fields. Then walked on along the ravine edge to main trail where watched for activity across the rim in good scrub forest (N slope). Almost nothing seen except for long, excellent views of large Pied Kingfisher ~ 1/2 km away... On the trail by 8:15 I walked thru open fields & aldy/card. ravines, some shrub/weed areas most of the morning. Stopped for a pleasant lunch (good veggie; open a tin of mutton curry) at Tusare, up the danda from

+

3 Nov  
 Starts  
 14000

Tim & his friend from the trail  
 above town where I met fraction  
 of the sunset on the himal although  
 only whotse group (?) visible from  
 the danda. Had a good talk while  
 helping a nearly unconscious drunk  
 into his house & sleeping gear.  
 We then sussed out a shop owner  
 & very accomodating owner took  
 over the maps describing intended  
 route of the trek. The Sherpa (as  
 if he were but he was) knows the  
 Topke Gole area very well, so that  
 along w/ his interest & budding  
 enthusiasm closed the deal: 1  
 kg tea/day + good food + good  
 balcony. I went to another  
 hotel for a quieter (very good)  
 sleep & the guardia simply left  
 gave away. I hired a room for  
 50/- (w/ 4 beds, so was  
 enough for the 3 of us. Woke up  
 shortly after dawn & caught a  
 m bus to Dharan. Made good time  
 & had another look at patches of

MEMORY

MEMORY

Yektin. (~6000'?) After lunch more  
 of the same, but <sup>mostly</sup> lacking ravines with  
 with v. tall thick bamboo clumps.  
 Arr at Warebung (bhangyang) at 1600  
 for good view of Kandelungga and a  
 fair view (poor) (angle) of  
 Makalu. Pass is ~ 7,500'. Descended  
 thru scrub forest, mostly alder, but  
 on N slope with fair tall tree canopy  
 and some thick patches of bamboo.  
 Further descended thru scrub forest to  
 a small elongate spur where several  
 houses & fields from hikyung village  
 (Limbu). Nobody knows alt, but feels  
 like ~ 5,500, maybe as high as 6,000,  
 maybe as low as 5,000' (!). Steep  
 slopes to E of Warebung Pass are well  
 forested, little chopping if appears,  
 rising to ~ 8,000 or a bit higher.  
 Alder are the main tree in this  
 area. Most said to naturally generate  
 particularly in landslide areas. Wood  
 is used as timber for house construction  
 and also good for firewood but poor

30-50 miles

remaining forest on the way, & on top the danda-towards Dind from Shankta, a pleasant view of Nakalu, at one pt. framed very nicely by blooming Chanki (Bauhinia) for being so far away, very imposing mt. Can't imagine how it would be to see it from the plain above Sherson!

Samu Hotel + Lodge

Quite a change from the chilliness of Basantapur at night (40s) to Dharan. Arr'd at 1 PM & began shopping for loose ends (dholkas, veggies, rice, sunglasses repair, attempt to cash make money). Carriers very quickly organized the goods, & began the task of repacking way too much saman into dholkas ~ 70 lbs altogether. Much too heavy carrying. At night the Rai fellow who had come several x in the past couple of days to the hotel, saying that I had previously bought taken 10 million rupees in German TCs in Pokhara (!?!). Knew this

MEMORY

MEMORY

-60-

at least in early winter, for birds.

Birds seen from lower Yektin to Hikyang village, Panchtar 25/11/32

again in Yektin (~6,200')

A Saktim area sighting to ♂ Blue-headed Rock Thrush but check at blue at bend of wing!

another above Tusare ~ 7,000' good view in alders bordering landslip ravine

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Gray Tit                  | } at ravine & trees in open khets. outside lower Yektin ~ 5,500' |
| 2. Green-backed Tit          |  |
| 3. White-checked Tit         |  |
| 4. Robin Dayal               |  |
| 5. ♂ Beautiful Niltava       | } 3 on same tree trunk ~ 5,000'                                  |
| 6. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch |  |
| 7. Large Pied Kingfisher     | - 1 at main river side   |
| 8. Ashy Drongo               | - 1 in treetop same site as 1-6                                  |
| 9. Black-headed Shrike       | outside lower Yektin   |
| 10. Red-vented Bulbul        | ~ 5,800'   |
| 11. Tailorbird               | 2-2 "do"   |
| 12. Crag Martins             | - above Yektin ~ 6,500'  |
| 13. Tree Sparrows            | - small flock at Yektin house                                    |
| 14. Common Myna              | - "do" ~ 6,200'  |
| 15. Wall Creeper             | - in flight 6,500-7,000' above Yektin                            |
| 16. Red-billed Blue Magpie   | - above Yektin ~ 7,000'  |
| 17. White-checked Bulbul     | - 3-4 at landslip alder forest Tusare ~ 7,000'                   |
| 18. Spotted Dove             | - "do"   |
| 19. Yellow-eyed Warbler      | - alder ravine ~ 7,000'  |

Forest Guard Info:  
Oll 4/11/92

28-30-8-

3/11/92

Bhim Chami Forest  
Morang Jilla

Khorama Ahaal - camping spot  
w/ dirty water  
1/2 way thru.

Prahi Jaluwa - thick  
jungle to E of go via

Ghacchiya Khola =  
Sisoo reserve forest

found ~~at~~ along w edge  
there begins good sal forest  
to this name

Saptari District

Kalanpur -> 03/11/92 -  
village

frankho Khola - bamboo  
jungle - "ningalo" & "Kartmas"  
types of bamboo in the  
cl. lives very thick.

Nearby is a forest guard house  
if the villagers saw harm  
or also may MEMBY know as  
Rampur

had to be some sort of trick, so  
was a bit apprehensive, but one  
look & I could see he was not  
the threatening sort. long talk  
followed once immediately clear  
that I was not the person he thought  
was staying there. Storey did not bid  
up at times (biderhi become prank a  
Kashmiri; 10 crone reduced to 10 lakh  
(amt. lost) Heard him out & took his address  
to check on the tale when back in KTH;  
if confirmed will contact him & try to find  
a way to help him. Hotel people <sup>emphatically</sup> said they  
believed he was bullshitting. What you see in  
his face is not what is in his guts?  
back to packing after <sup>more</sup> mamas & sleep  
at 10 PM

4/11/92

Dharan - Bhimchauri Bazar

Took a bus local bus due to the  
road maintenance camp at the bridge  
and then ~~by~~ <sup>an</sup> river led to ~ 20 min  
before entering forest path. Got rid  
in ~ 2 hrs to Panimara village.

MEMORY

-61-

- pale eye-ring.

- 20. Yellow-rumped leaf warbler - same site as #19
- 21. Gray-headed Warbler - "do"
- 22. White-eye (or 2) - "do"
- 23. ♀ Blue-fronted Redstart - "do"
- 24. Jungle Crow - above Tusare ~ 7,200'
- 25. Red-capped Tit - just below pass 7,400'
- 26. Black-capped Sibia - "do"

26/11/92

Took an early morn walk above Likyang  
and a bit E up into more ravine-like aspect.  
Wet, sticky footing. Not underway until  
0630, by which time most activity had  
ceased. Only 1 sp (Red-headed Tit) noted.  
looks to be good for birds 0600-0645  
even tho N slope & sun not yet in it.  
"A burst of activity shortly after/at 1st lt."  
left at 0835 for Thapa on a bad  
stomach, but no diarrhea. Could not find  
a house or store w/ Kero until 1430 when  
I decided to keep walking until late  
afternoon. Descended steeply on footpaths,  
but no road along the river edge it  
appeared; people said footpaths were



Also good for forest is the tri-border region of Bara/Parasi Makwanpur

Woman at Dhara who still preferred firewood to cook w/ because it was their habit. Didn't think food tasted as good cooked w/ Kero. Admitted that it would be cheaper to cook w/ Kero.

out the other side to Panbari, where walked on a good dhalhat. took 1/2 hrs to go S into patchy hardwoods but saw no birds (from 11:30-1300 PM) Temp ~ 80-85. Quiet except for cow trains which have taken out alot of grass in the understory. But wet patches remain. Stream diverted as an aqueduct, but still w/ good flow on to Daigi village thru Khet in the warm afternoon & then turned S/SW to go into forest for the evening. Arrived at campsite at dark (5:30-6PM). Found a clearing ~ 15-20 m off the main belghadi path (= rd) where a large tree had recently been felled. There appears to be very active harvesting of trees for the timber trade. Most of the forest is borderlike 1" or 2" (25% canopy coverage) and almost nowhere varies to > 40%. Good understory of bushes & saplings, but no grassy areas.

Forest Guards came by during

MEMORY

MEMORY

- 9. ♂ Beautiful Niltava
- 10. Red-tailed Minla
- 11. Yellow-eyed Warbler
- 12. Yellow-cheeked Tit
- 13. ♂ Eurasian Kestrel
- 14. White-headed Laughing Thrush - small flock in alder + bamboo
- 15. Himalayan Tree Pie - 3 together
- 16. Hodgson's Bushchat
- 17. White-checked Bulbul
- 18. Grey Wagtail - pr. below Tharpu ~ 3,500'
- 19. Large Grey Shrike - a pair w/ of Tharpu do?
- 20. Yellow-breasted Bunting - flock W of Tharpu
- 21. Whistling Thrush - 1 W of Tharpu
- 22. Hodgson's Tree Pipit - SW of Tharpu
- 23. Black-naped Woodpecker -
- 24. Red-billed Blue Flaggie - pr in ravine edge ~ 3000'
- 25. Verditer Flycatcher - ♂ in alder ravine ~ 3000'

27/11/72

Due to the extended late afternoon walk had stomach and location (roadside), sleep in until about 0650, but departed on the main "sadak" by 0740. Followed this rd for awhile, then descended steeply on shortcuts.

refer to extensive notes on tape ← no hovering behaviour obs'd

sites # 14-17 at center of Tharpu village: elevation ~ 3,000? - 3,500?

~ 3,500 ft. in alders and bamboo strips. 10 clearly seen 30-50 birds. see notes on tape

Birds Noted Dhavan - Bhimchaun

1. Linnated Parakeet - at bridge below chain
2. Gold-fronted Leafbird - appr Panmara
3. Jungle Babblers - "do"
4. Grey-headed Flycatcher - "do"
5. Collared Bush Chat - Pan Mara
6. Indian Ring Dove - Panmara
7. Common Myna - "do"
8. Black Drongo - outskirts at
9. Speckled Turtle Dove - "do Panbari
10. Striated Swallow - Panbari
11. Rose-ringed Parakeet - "do"
12. White-breasted K. fisher - "
13. Brown Shrike - edge of "do"
14. Indian Roller - approaching Drige
15. Ashy Wood Swallows - entering Bhimchaun
16. Large Grey Cuckoo Shrike Forest
17. Speckled Mt. Thrush - Bhimchaun Ban
18. Shama - single "do"
19. Large Racquet-tailed Drongo - a pair <sup>part morning</sup> at twilight
20. Black-headed Bulbuls - a pair 2X
21. Maroon Oriole - ♂
22. Large Woodshrike - ♀♀ 4-5
23. Hair-crested Drongo - Bhimchaun
24. Ashy Drongo - "

#5 an immature

Add Plain Prinia; one (at least) in weedy hedges lining the path approaching Pan Mara

#20 continues in same site but on morning 5/11

MEMORY

MEMORY

Not feeling too well on this day. Porters wandered at one pt. Had to sternly warn them. hunched at Kabei R. bazaar & at 1400 departed across the suspension bridge and shortly thereafter steeply uphill on the wide mud path (one day to be a sadak). After an hr, much less steep and followed till dark thru khets, weed/scrub patches & dry, steep, soil forest. Couple of rams w/ water + ~~the~~ tree spp. Many people on this main trail. One group carrying batteries acid, etc for the telephone system being installed at Eaglejung. One guy carrying 80 kilos, said to get Rs. 50/- per day, but when questioned again by Sharpeji, said he got Rs 6/- per kg from Suke - TEL. (also 2 days, i.e. v. good pay (if true)). Using initiative, porters found good accommodation further on at Sesamba (alt unknown) (perhaps ~3,000') & sent word with people at 1st house on outskirts, to walk to the 3rd house in the village. Arrived just at day after admiring a group of Hair-crested Drongo & watching unusual pecking behavior & boldness of ♂ Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush

- 25. Black-naped Woodpecker - Bhimchauri
- 26. Small Minivet - ♀
- 27. Red Hornbill - apr.
- 28. Slate-blue Flycatcher - "do"
- 29. Gray Tit - "

The night (9-10/92). Talked about the illegal felling for timber but none forthcoming w/ info. A bit pretentious on who we've seen passing by. Will try to get to a good patch of forest between Khadam & Guoching Khales. All the mixed THs ca. here said to be ~ same as camp site, but the Churia Hills of Saptari said to contain lowland bamboo forest. None apparently in Morang. (See opp. p. 8 for description of area)

5/11/92

Bhimchauri Forest - Khani Pokhari

After a couple attempts at making a cup of coffee, away by 6 AM to search sub-forest. fair number of species seen, but not many birds (Hs). Off the main path some good patches.

MEMORY

MEMORY

Birds Observed from Dorumba (Bhaluchowk) to Sesambu, ~~Janak~~ Taplejung distr. 27/11/92

also at Ambung; ←

also also at Ambung; § below ←

sev. small flocks; at Ambung; below ←

at Kaheli approaching Sesambu; sev. flocks <sup>at 1000'</sup> ↓

also below Ambung ←

see tape for obs notes. Hovering ←

behaviours. Obsid - not much of this, tho.

also ascending at river ~ 3,000' (7) ←

§ approaching Sesambu ~ 3,000'

another group further dn; ←

see notes on tape; 2nd flock lower dn ←

1. Gray Tit
2. Yellow-cheeked Tit
3. Black-headed Shrike
4. Red-vented Bulbul
5. White-checked Bulbul
6. ♀ Dark-gray Bush Chat
7. Jungle Crow
8. Red-billed Blue Magpie
9. Tailorbird
10. Green-backed Tit
11. Plain-head Warblers (3-4) - outside Ambung
12. Bengal Green Pigeons (26) "do"
13. Grey-headed Flycatcher - "do"
14. Yellow-bellied Fantail Flycatcher "do"
15. Ioras - at Ambung ~ 3,000'
16. Common Myna - "do"
17. White-eyes - in bamboo at Ambung
18. Wall Creeper - below Ambung 2800'
19. Gray-breasted Pinia - two flocks in weds
20. ♂ Spotted Munias - 2 ♂♂ below Ambung
21. Aberrant Bush Warbler - one below Ambung 2200-2500'

in ravines & village veg borders  
Dorumba - Ambung  
4,000-3,000'

Birds seen in the afternoon from Bhimchauri - Gachhiya:

- 1. Brown Shrike
- 2. Intermediate Egret (Little)
- 3. Cattle Egret
- 4. House Crow - 10+ at bridge
- 5. Jungle Crow - 10+
- 6. Dark Kites: 4 Jonsambas
- 7. White-backed Vultures.

of non-sal THs, but lots of recent cutting. Understorey not grazed that much, but few thickets, none of which really dense. Some trees w/ lianas and a few drying (brownish yellow) ferns on some of the tree stems, but this forest is being wrecked. Borderline "1" or "2". Met a party of tree-cutters: 4 made shire led by a hill party who hung a camp too much until I chased them away. Time to go collect their "firewood" isn't it? Left at 11 AM and walked out of the forest and onto the E-W highway. Caught a 3:30 PM local bus after a claustrophobic entrance to Gachhiya village bus stand. Obviously no westerners have passed this place lately. Lots of blank stares from the crowd that followed my every step. Almost showing people out of the way to get onto the bus, but with the unflappable aplomb of the Sherpa, got all the bulky saman thru the door or

MEMORY

MEMORY

alt. 2,200' ←

- 22. Yellow-eyed Warbler - above Kabeli 2,500'
- 23. Beautiful Niltava ♂ - above Kabeli 2,500'
- 24. Robin Dayal - 3 ca Kabeli village
- 25. White-capped River Chat - Kabeli River
- 26. Black-backed Forktail - side Khula Kabeli
- 27. ♀ Slatey-blue Flycatcher "do"
- 28. Blue-throated Barbet - 3,000-3,500'
- 29. ♂ Little Pied Flycatcher - (opp for site)
- 30. Gray-headed Warbler - 2 1/2 of the birds 40'
- 31. Hair-crested Drongos - 24 approach Sesambu
- 32. ♂ Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush "do"
- 33. Brown Hill Plover - 1 in thickets - "do"

forgot to record on tape; in ravine side ←  
 near Nangyilang ~3,000', just past ←  
 confluence of Kabeli & Tamur Rivers;  
 see tape for notes; in dry, steep sal forest  
 (open hill)  
 sites #31-32 in dry weedy sal forest

28/11/92

Took a day off, as it turned out to descend to the Tamur Khola. No trail this side of Khula-side cliffs, so had to ascend to mul batto & return along same route to Sesambu village. Started at 06:05 hrs; good activity but quiet by 06:50. Spent a couple of unproductive hours in steep sal forest (05:40-11:40 hrs) couldn't reach Tamur; cliffs lost 500 ft. back to spur trail for afternoon strip; only brief, so as to return to base before dark

See LR Map for his addresses: →

Claimed 25 minute ride to Khani Pokhari. ±5 kms entering the 'station' is good sal on both sides of the Fw. Arrived ~ 4 PM really too late to move into adjacent forest. So made our way to ban bhikag post where a room was given to us. Hong talked w/ Yubaraj Chouhan, a forest guard, who seemed eminently familiar with forests in Florang, and particularly, the Dhajoda Jungle near Sukhani in Ilam. as his house is not far there. Need 10-12 days to have a good survey. He would like to show us ca. & seems to know area well. Chepti Kh. v. gd he says.

5/11/92

Awoke at 5:30 AM & after a much better cup of coffee was into the forest by 6 AM. Need to walk 500-800m before good, lightly (not recent!) cut open sal forest reached, but still fairly good forest & plenty of weeds/thickets. Oca. Fw camp. After 2 km: very good forest.

MEMORY

MEMORY

Birds seen in Sesambu village area, S to Tamur Khola & retraced 28/11/92

in open trees, mostly sal (~3,000'?) good, early morn views. Alarm call heard. See type for detailed description.

Possible Peafowl in steep mixed sal forest. Only flash of white/grey

several, regularly, further down ←

good views further down blue/purple ←

another sunbird w/ red bib, long blackish decurved bill - ♀ Scarlet-breasted? Mystery bird

on baldie in Tamur R. ←

1. Kashmir Red-breasted Flycatcher - at 620
2. White-checked Bulbul - several sm parties
3. Gray Tit - sm flock ± 6 ~ 3,000-3,500'
4. Yellow-naped Yuhina - 15+ ) in ravine
5. Yellow-eyed Warbler - 1 or 2 ) to E of
6. Chestnut-crowned Leaf Warbler Sesambu
7. Black-throated Babbler (w/ H2O)
8. Yellow-cheeked Tit } along main trail
9. Gray-headed Flycatcher
10. Bengal Green Pigmy <sup>~20</sup> descending; alt?
11. Scarlet-breasted Sunbird - in pipal tree 2500'
12. ♂ dark Grey Bush Chat - 2,200-2,500'
13. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch 1+1 descending
14. ♂ Purple Sunbird - single in pipal tree
15. Spotted Babbler - mixed, dry forest
16. Yellow-eyed Warbler "do" ± 1 juv.
17. Large Cormorant - family group (4-5)
18. Brown Dipper - Tamur Khola
19. Pied Wood-shrike - 2 parties ± 12 birds.
20. Scarlet Minivet - ♂♂ & ♀♀
21. ♀ Red-winged Shrike Babbler

reached, not recent cutting, sandy non-perennial streambeds w/ frequent deer & jungle cat tracks. Also evidence of elephant: knocking down trees (perhaps one side foot print?). Seasonal ravines must quickly erode in the monsoon as many trees from this past monsoon fall; hardly any cut for timber or firewood open but excellent sal forest; no perennial water to be found "Khane Pokhan forest"

Khane Pokhan: between Chisang & Dams Kholes

Birds Recorded on 6/11/52 Morning 0600-1230 hrs:

1. Gray Tit
2. ~~Large~~ Scarlet Tiniwet - 50+
3. Dark Gray Cuckoo-Shrike
4. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker
5. Black-headed Oriole
6. Slaty-blue Flycatcher - 9-10 (2-3)
7. Three-banded Golden-billed Woodpecker several (3-5) on 3 diff occasions

MEMORY

MEMORY

22. Large Yellow-naped Woodpecker - ♀ ascending
23. ♂ Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - "do"
24. ~~Dot~~ Indian Roller - pr. on
25. Hair-crowned Drongo - 6 + 1 at dusk
26. Whistling Thrush - in ravine

29 November 1952

also earlier at Tamur edge Small stream confluence ←

Awoke w/ v. tired legs from the previous day's walking. Didn't get away until almost 0800 and saw few birds, particularly at the Khole/ravine w/ 1/2 hr from Sesambu, where the steep ascent to Taplejung begins. One of the least interesting days of the trek, but enjoyed the return tour of Taplejung town. Has expanded at both ends, but the central stretch has changed little in 13 yrs. New (large) police post. (After all this is a district HQ) where had a pleasant visit re my arrival & asking that my Trekking Permit be stamped. None of the <sup>senior</sup> officers seemed to care where it might be headed. Tried to explain our route without mentioning traversing any restricted ground, but Chendu piped in with a Taple Gola when asked where we were going. Unintentional to

by sound ←

- 8. Hair-crested Drongos - 5+3+2
- 9. Hodgson's Tree Pipit -
- 10. Golden-fronted Leafbirds - 2+2+2+2
- 11. Rufous-breasted Blue Flycatcher - ♂
- 12. Crowned leaf Warbler - several?
- 13. Black-naped Flycatcher - ♂
- 14. White-eyes 4-5
- 15. Tailorbirds - a pair
- 16. Shama - 3 ♂♂
- 17. Large-Racquet-tailed Drongo
- 18. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch - 1-2
- 19. Little Bronzed Drongo - several
- 20. Small Racquet-tailed Drongo
- 21. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - 1 or 2
- 22. Black-headed Bullbulb - pr
- 23. Thrush - at least ~~3~~ 3
- 24. Verditer Flycatcher
- 25. Large Woodshrike - mostly ♀♀
- 26. White-bellied Drongo
- 27. Pied Woodshrike
- 28. Black-headed Oriole

Took a 2:00 PM bus w/ hr to Durgapur stalls + village. After

MEMORY

MEMORY

be sure I got little ten. One young officer who handled the permit was particularly attentive but had few questions of substance. The other officer took a keen interest in the birds of Nepal & talking of places where they had been posted in the past.

little forest on the way up, but some good ravines (alders, bamboo, bamboo shrubs) and some planted conifers (spruce/pine?), but only odd trees. Above much steep cliff face with dried grass & weeds.

Stayed at a nameless Sherpa/Bhote hotel where I was given a small room for Rs 20/- and the porters slept in the main room for Rs 10/- each. In the afternoon, rushed to the P.O. before closing to send a reg. letter home, and then bought new leather shoes (Chinese) same type as Chandu's other pair. Looks to be good workmanship & material. Hard boot sole w/ grips & grommets/sewing well done (= US \$10). Also purchased a thin quilt for \$6.50 to keep the porters warm at high alt. As all food stuffs said to come via Debrin, decided to wait until next day for stocking up. Had a hearty thukpa

getting the conductor to settle for Rs 50 including saman. Sat on top the whole way. Impressive re-afforestation schemes, villages are now towns especially Damak with its tall telecom tower & sprawling pukka ghars. Hardly recognized the place.

3:45  
Reached Durgapur at 4 PM, bought lots of good veggies (cauli, dhaning, moolah, eggplant, green beans & tomatoes). Then proceeded N to Prajhapate village.

Birds seen Durgapur-Prajhapate:

1. House Sparrows - 50+
2. Pied Mynas - 20+
3. Common Myna - 80+
4. Jungle Myna - 1 in a sapling
5. Ashy-crowned Finch larks - 45
6. Pied Wagtail - 3
7. Pond Heron - 3-5
8. Large Parakeets - 30+
9. White-breasted Kingfisher

MEMORY

MEMORY

w/ dried ox meat in the evening, capping off a good day of eating: momo upon arrival in TAP, also bhiki/samosa/roti rings.

Birds observed from Sesamba village to Taplejung (alt ~ 1830m = 5900') 29/11/92

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Common Myna                             | } outskirts of Sesamba           |
| 2. Whistling Thrush                        |                                  |
| 3. White-capped River Chat                 | } ravine 4 km on ~ 3,000'        |
| 4. Yellow-eyed Warbler                     |                                  |
| 5. Yellow-naped Yuhina                     | ~ 3,100' (?)                     |
| 6. Tora                                    |                                  |
| 7. White-eyes                              |                                  |
| 8. Tailorbird                              |                                  |
| 9. Chestnut-crowned Warbler                | ravine 4 km on ~ 3,000'          |
| 10. ♀ Chestnut-throated Shrike Babbler - 3 | in mixed party                   |
| 11. Gray-headed Flycatcher                 |                                  |
| 12. Nepal House Martin - flock > 20,       | steep grassy max. + open rd alt? |
| 13. Eurasian House Martin ≥ 1 w/ #12       | ~ 3,600-3,800'                   |
| 14. Cong Martin - "above #12 + 13          | (feeding together) 26            |
| 15. Spotted Dove - ~ 4,000-4,500           | outside Dokhu                    |
| 16. Jungle Crow                            | "do"                             |
| 17. Great Himalayan Barbet - Dokhu         | ~ 4,500'                         |

also outside Dokhu ~ 5,000'  
also outside Dokhu ~ 5,000';

also outside Dokhu ~ 5,000'

See tape for Nystax Flycatcher: brownish y  
~~white~~ white upper breast patch  
♀ Red-breasted Flycatcher??



between Durgapur

- 10. Red-headed Merlin -  $\frac{1}{2}$  Prājyapate
- 11. Large Egret - outside Prājyapate
- 12. Lesser Adjutant Storks - 3 or 4 "do"

Arrived at dusk, with Jambha, picking up the rear, telling me how she could walk better today than saying in response to my subtle doubts of how it would be in the hills, he exclaimed that he could walk - then immediately proceeded to fall down on a slippery ravine bottom. "Do that in the hills & yr dead", I couldn't help but tell him. Forest shack full, but had excellent accom w/ family nearby. Evening meals they cooked at their own behest. Mine featured dahi & ghui (sāg, nādahl).

Next morning searched for birds along the adjacent Biring Khola. Wide sandy & rubble habitat. One stretch w/ tall grass along bank 0620-0840 MEMORY hrs.

MEMORY

unidentified Buteo Hawk above Dokhu described on tape; not Upland

mystery bird in alder tops; possible Tibetan Siskin see tape for description.

- 18. Gray Tit - outside Dokhu ~ 5,000'
- 19. Red-billed Blue Magpie - pr at Dokhu
- 20. Eurasian Kestrel - 2 ♂♂ + 1 ♀ above Dokhu
- 21. White-checked Bulbul } together above/w of
- 22. Red-vented Bulbul } Dokhu ~ 5,300' (?)
- 23. Himalayan Griffons - 3 "do" ~ 6,000'
- 24. Gray-headed Warbler - outside TPL ~ 5,500'

30 November 1992

left TPL at 0540 after settling the hotel bill; pricey; definitely jacked the rates a bit on us. Had my beard trimmed & a shave by a rather rough barber (madshi) who tried to get away w/ using oil water (gave him a extra tip for his shaving cream = Rs. 6/-). Portus, meanwhile had thought of something else to buy; new trousers, but I declined to do so, else it would be their own expenditure.

Walked leisurely downhill to Dithay stopping ~ 1/2 hr above at ~ 3,000' (part. less) for a late but delicious lunch: dahl bhāt w/ curd, sāg, simi, a few potatoes, lammichay & tiny tomato chutney, as well as boiled eggs. Saam already had our expenses calculated.

birds seen at Biring Khola - Prajhapok

Stint? small S. pipe →

omitted:  
need to add Bush lark →  
4-5 parties at Spotted  
Munia site (in pening dhan grass)

6-8 nesting in holes in  
sand banks, seen carrying  
nesting material (grass or rice  
straw) ←

1. Green Shank - 8-10-12
2. Temminck's Stint - 10-12
3. Scur-winged Lapwing: 4
4. Intermediate Egret: 3
5. Collared Bush Chat: a pr.
6. Spotted Munias: 5 (1 ad or juv.)
7. Zitting Cisticola: several pair
8. White-breasted Kingfisher
9. Little Skylark
10. Green Bee-eater
11. (Plain) Sand Martin
12. Pied Wagtail - (1. a. leucopsis)

MEMORY

MEMORY

Stayed out much longer than planned getting re-acquainted w/ some of the waders. After a heaping portion of reaged-up noodles, left at ~ 10:30 for Sukhami. Warm (80s) emonite & little shade esp at the start along the river near sand & rubble cliffs. A few patches of grass w/ inpening rice along the river & pleasant walks through.

when it came time to go; hardly exceeded US\$1 (Rs 53/-). Arrived Dobhan at 1500 hrs, stayed in a large store/house situated almost by itself, and proceeded to buy foodstuffs (rice, dal, cooking oil, noodles) and supplies (kero, candles, plastic jerrycan) until dark. Had a beer (Rs 60/-) at night fall.

Birds observed from Tapling to Dobhan (alt ~ 2150') 30 November 1992

1. Yellow-eyed Warbler ~ 5,600'
2. Gray-headed Warbler ~ 5,500'
3. Dark Kite ~ 5,400'
4. Jungle Crow ~ 5,400'
5. ♀ Sparrow Hawk flying at ~ 6,000'
6. ♂ Fire-breasted Flowerpecker ~ 3,000' <sup>near Dobhan</sup>
7. Gray Tit: omitted; w/ #s 1 & 2 in same party
8. Large Gray Cuckoo-shrike; pr ~ 2,800'
9. Eurasian Kestrels - 2 ♂♂ - no hovering

see tape for description ←

Very few birds; good weather, but not trying that hard as time, particularly legs.

bamboo borders from time to time. No villages perse that scattered houses & converted riverine habitat the whole way to Sukhani. The sal forest to the W is very degraded <10% coverage except in ravines, but hardly ever >25%. Still, a pleasant alternative to the walk up from Sunischara (would imagine) & the villages interesting & friendly. No begging from the kids!

Birds seen Prayate-Sukani 1000-1430

1. Brown Shrike
2. Dark Kite
3. Indian Roller 2+2
4. Jungle Babbler 6-8 in a salt <sup>thicket</sup>
5. Jungle Crow
6. Grey-headed Flycatcher
7. Red-breasted Flycatcher 2
8. Ashy Wood Swallow
9. Jungle Nuthatch 1+3
10. Red-thighed Falconet
11. Robin Dayal

may have to change  
earlier 'Slaty-blues'!

MEMORY

MEMORY

once into the Newa, frequent ravines of alder & good thicket are encountered, but must walk a couple of hours before any have running water. Nonetheless, very damp & steep. Good for creepers as well. In the afternoon, into a mosaic of fields, shrubby borders, ravine forest & patch forest on steepest faces. Settlements spread out & one feels, at last to be in the hinterlands of real Nepal. Few signs of modern amenities & although no great swaths of forest, attractive, well-vegetated country which is not being further degraded at anything but a nominal/delight rate it would appear.

Stopped at ~1700 hrs at a Limbu house, neatly painted & stocked w/animals, plenty of homemade beehives. Large family, one young son (20s?) suffering from a long illness - ~~was~~ ~1 yr but took infection. No cysts evident - all in terror bad gut. Examined and gave him the 8 day course of chloramphenicol. In cramped quarters, my sleep disturbed in the early morning hrs by chickens dropping excrement on the foot of my sleeping bag & mat!

Drizzle from 1800-2000 hrs  
Clear at 0500 hrs, but starting to  
cloud over again at 0600

great view as it popped into view for a few moments. Not v active in mid-day heat. In weedy thickets & planted banana clumps. Bill very black. Border by very steeply sloped forest on rising bluffs & near a stream just also w/ many planted bananas

- 2. Common Flycatcher - many ca. houses
- 3. Fulvous-breasted Red Wood pecker - outside Sukam
- 4. Little Spiderhunter - at Kumitar village 1/2 hr to
- 5. Red-whiskered Bulbul - Sukam
- 6. Red-vented Bulbul "do" - 3-4

At just past three went up into a nullah complex w/ chopped over sal above Sukham. Same one wandered in 1977? Although only 15-20 minutes walk from Sukam "basti" (~12 stalls & houses), forest still in fair shape, although many felled trees on the upper slopes & mixed sal have been binned & one small clearing w/ a big tree fall encountered. Many fallen trees rotting in the rain. Cattle & people's tracks prominent except in the very narrow or higher up branches. Quite a maze w/ the nullahs least disturbed.

MEMORY

MEMORY

see tape for habitat description

at confluence of stream w/ Mewa legs whitish; upper back reflects maroon in good (right) light. Not shy. alt ~ 4,300'

nearby Tungwa village 4,700-5,000'

also past Tungwa 2X; below Nalau

#1-#7 early morn birdwatch outskirts of village in scrub/open fields/bamboo and a bit of ravine trees/shrubbery or further on

Small party further on; +1

not shiny; grayish below, but slimmer than black; constant side-side head movements; perched ~20 minutes in same spot. (possible confusion w/ little bronzed) also at bridge below Nalau

1/12/92

w/ warblers in sm party

- 22. White-bellied Yuhina - ~4,000' at Khola Khane ~4000'
- 23. ♂ Beautiful Niltava - Khola Khane
- 24. Nepal Sunbird - 2 ♂♂ beyond Khola Khane
- 25. White-necked Storks - 2 in a small Lingtep
- 26. ♂ Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher - 4,500-5,000'
- 27. Nepal House Martin - 30-50 @ ~5,000'
- 28. ♂ Hodgson's Redstart - Kholaside ~4,500'
- 29. White-headed Laughing Thrushes - ~4,500'
- 30. Gray Wagtails - pr. aX next stream ~4,500'

02 December 1992

From ~~Tungwa~~ Tungwa (~5,000') to Thembra (~6,000-6,500'), Taplejung District 02/12/92

- 1. Yellow-bellied Fantail Flycatcher } outskirts of Tungwa ~5,000'
- 2. Yellow-breasted Bunting - sm flock }
- 3. Himalayan Tree Pie - pr near #1/2 site
- 4. ♂ Verditer Flycatcher "do"
- 5. Plumbeous Redstart ♂+♀ Khola near site above
- 6. Black Drongo - 2 ad + 1 juv. in bamboo Tungwa
- 7. Ashy Drongo - top of bamboos; same site as #6
- 8. White-checked Bulbul - sev. sm parties ca. Tungwa
- 9. Whistling Thrushes - 2 on dep from "do"
- 10. Gray Wagtail - also seen on early AM watch

ICDP for Ulan?

birds seen N of Sukhani along the first branching stream to right of the main Sukhani-Gomusa track

1. Black-backed Fork-tail
2. Large-long-billed Thrush
3. Ashy Drongo
4. Large Racket-tailed Drongo 2+2
5. Hair-crested Drongo
6. Black-naped Green Woodpecker

8/11/92

Out a bit late the next morning. Nearly 7AM before on the forest road. Headed up to the 2nd stream intersecting from the west (left) of the main trail. Good nullahs, but signs (gradually/steadily diminishing) of human use. Past an upper fork marked by 2 tall trees, one of which has a good sitting spot on a promontory. Area that thickets + totally intact although past (several months ago? last yr?) hacking of bamboo + karriana obvious. Surprisingly intact after 15 yrs of no visiting. Forest ca Sukhani

streambed changes: used to be much more sandy (stream to E) very easy walking in the cool shade (but wide) streams. Now, because of increased erosion, many more boulders + sand wedges/bars. W nullah system much the same.

MEMORY

MEMORY

also further on past lungwā Khola ←

11. Brown Hill Pinnia - 1 in trailside herb. thicket

also further on just past lungwā Khola confl. ←

12. Jungle Crow - flock of ~47 -

3/4 pr past lungwā Khola; ♂ at Nalbu ←

13. ♂ Beautiful Niltava -

again a bit further on; again past lungwā Khola ←

14. ♀ Dark Grey Bushchat -

also after crossing bridge below Nalbu ←

15. Gray-headed Warbler

16. Yellow-naped Yuhinas - ≥ 7

17. Gray Bulbuls - ≥ 14 in tight flock

18. ♀ Fire-breasted Flowerpecker

19. Yellow-eyed Warbler

20. Chestnut-crowned Leaf Warbler

21. Black-capped Shrike

22. Red-billed Blue Magpies - party ≥ 6

23. Slatey-backed Fork-tail

24. ♂ Small Niltava - same area as #23 site

25. Grey Tit - "do"

26. Large Pied Kingfisher - side stream (lungwā)

27. ♂ Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush - below Nalbu

28. Hodgson's Tree Pipit - 4-5 outskirts Nalbu

29. ♂ Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher - 20' below Nalbu

30. ♂ Hodgson's Redstart - 200-300' after crossing bridge below Nalbu

(Sagriti name of site/houxs)

site is confluence of Lungwā Khola; ←

also there: Yellow-bellied Fantail, ♂ Plumbeous Redstart ←

also dn. from Nalbu (♂) ←

eating a bumblebee ←

2 ♂ Plumbeous Redstart at bridge below Nalbu + 1 ♀

03 December '92

Spent half a day with the porters, going back + forth on what their performance

much more degraded, especially the small sal-covered hill tops. Evidence of burning & felling even of saplings where fairly (relatively) level land, but not extensive.

The late afternoon walk up to Goruwa delightful. Except for roadside clearing in places of understorey (short level stretches) the forest looks totally intact, but some (natural? aggravated) landslides along main Khola. Lots of thickets non-sal tree spp, but few intersecting streams. Approaching Goruwa we wide one to the F which will try to visit tomorrow morning. Some of the tree fall N of Sukthani is natural but some bases burnt; no fresh fallen trees noted. Signs of cattle (Cows & goats) up to the upper fork. Men's tracks, some old, in every small streamlet. Upper streams dry soon, but in a good 200-300 m stretch towards the upper reaches

MEMORY

MEMORY

should be like when it comes to route & advising me of where best to go, as well as trying to sort out the possible matti tel going away the previous day. After nearly sending both away with only their pay it was amicably agreed upon that we would continue. But attitude must improve & now the trail resembles more of a team effort.

Walked w/ Thanku villagers in the afternoon to their place. From Thamba through good ravines of scrub mixed forest, particularly at the flimsy wooden bridge over the Nenda. W/ another hour of light it was decided to go for Papung which we reach almost at night fall. Good mixed forest in the ravines leading up to Papung. Overnighted at the school teachers house, & rained a little 7-8 PM.

Birds Seen from Thamba (6,000-6,500') to Thanku Papung (7,500-8,000') 3/12/32

- 1. Collared Bush Chat } at the house
- 2. Tree Sparrows - sm flock } in Thamba

got ~~the~~ White-throated Bulbuls  
 Birds Seen NW (2 streamlet jcts) from  
 Sukani along streams + nullahs

1. Red-breasted Flycatcher
2. Black-backed Fork-tail (1+1+1)
3. Yellow-eyed Warbler 2-3+1
4. Grey-headed Flycatcher
5. Hair-crested Drongos (5)
6. Yellow-breasted Babbler (3+; 2+)
7. White-eyes (3X, several ea time)
8. Black-headed Yellow Bulbuls (2+)
9. Crowned Leaf Warbler
10. Pied Hornbill (2-3)
11. <sup>grey</sup> Cuckoo Shrike (♀)
12. Abbott's Babbler (3-4 at least)
13. Sapphire-headed Flycatcher (♀?)
14. Black-headed Oriole
15. Crested Swift
16. Shama (1+1)
17. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (23)
18. Rufous-breasted Blue Flycatcher ♂
19. Large Necked by Thrushes (4+)
20. Small Yellow-rumped Woodpecker. or 2

Mystery Flycatcher:

mossy →  
 bill line!

MEMORY

MEMORY

Taplejung-Phidim grid:

Pungpung waterfall  
 passed on the way out of Thamba  
 subsp: indica

omitted: Brown Dipper at the bridge  
 over the Nawa past Sabha gani

3. ♀ Plumbeous Redstart - outside Thamba
4. White-capped River Chat - bridge at Sabha
5. Yellow-bellied Fantail - ~700' above river, S Thanka
6. Aberrant Bush Warbler - outskirts Thanka ~7200'
7. ♂ Collared Bush Chat - "do"
8. Nepal House Martins - ~20 "do"
9. Yellow-checked Bulbul - pr "do"
10. Whistling Thrush - 2 in stream "do"
11. Hodgson's Tree Pipit - 1 in khets "do"
12. ♂ Dark Grey Bush Chat - outskirts Thanka
13. Yellow-eyed Warbler - past Thanka ~7,500
14. Black-capped Siberia - sm flock "do"

04 December 1992

Went for an 'early' morning birdwalk  
 from ~0700 until 0810, just over the hill  
 traversed, coming into Paping prev. eve. Actually  
 good ravine forest - mixed broadleaf, some  
 Rhod & quite mossy. Mostly in & out of cloud  
 but did see of few birds, including a pr  
 of Kalij.

At 0920 in thick smog departed  
 for the ← hri walk to last village going

1. Large Racquet-tailed Drongo
2. Crested Serpent Eagle
3. Little Bronzed Drongo (1+2)
4. Gold-fronted Leafbirds (2+2)
5. White-throated Bulbul
6. Emerald Dove (3)
7. Pied Wagtail (at Sukhani) 3
8. Red-checked Bulbul (23)
9. Peafowl (2)

Oh!  
Wasting!

Returned & proceeded at 1430 to Goruwa. Porters did a good pace, and I came along steadily, ever on the watch for birds but not many seen in this late afternoon:

Birds seen Sukhani-Goruwa on the main trail afternoon of 8/11/92

1. Pied Wagtail - 3 on river at Sukhani
2. Red-checked Bulbul "do"
3. Red-vented Bulbul "do"
4. Little Bronzed Drongo

MEMORY

MEMORY

up the Newa, Dongen (not Dongcep as our map has it). Last 15 min in rain & sleet, almost heavy at times & arrived at our Tibetan home for a day head wet, but not that cold. Dried it quickly & put on the parka cap in hopes of missing any sort of cold. Decided to take the rest of the day here, being my birthday & went bidding for a bird. Then after lunch took a nap for an hour before taking in a few birds in late afternoon back at the ravine site. At the start in scrub, herbs & Gleichenia fern treated to a pair of Slender-billed Scimitar Babblers. Good views of one & totally unexpected / forgotten to be on the look out for. Certainly one of very best birds of the area. A little away from described habitat, but diagnostic ~~notes~~ and awe-inspiring views. In the evening enjoyed a big wooden jug of tumpa fermented wheat which was a sort of warmer that really suits chilly surroundings. Cuts grass to live up the dahl bhata, butchery



Birds seen outside Gonawa heading SF back to Sukhiani 09 Nov '92

First Bird seen

is ~~Small Munia~~  
(copied over on tape)

a small party of Sharp-tailed Munias

1. Brook's Flycatcher II (1+1)
2. Red-breasted Flycatcher
3. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch
4. Blue-throated Barbet ≥ pr
5. Yellow-eyed Warbler
6. Black-backed Fork-tail II (H1)
7. Little Bronze Drongo II (1+1)
8. Black-headed Oriole
9. Golden-fronted Leafbird - pr
10. Yellow-breasted Babbler - 5m party;
11. Scarlet Minivet - pr 2x 3-4;
12. Gray-headed Flycatcher 1+1+2
13. Small Russet-tailed Drongo II (H1)
14. Yellow-eyed Warbler III (1+1)
15. Slate-bellied Ground Warbler
16. Pied Wood-shrike
17. Yellow-rumped Leaf Warbler
18. Black-naped Flycatcher
19. White-eyes 2-3;
20. White-bellied Yuhina 1+1
21. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch
22. White-throated Fork-tail Flycatcher

MEMORY

MEMORY

with the stove nozzle meat we didn't finish dinner at almost 9 PM. Shortly thereafter to bed. The housewives had a couple of their kids sleep next to me to keep me company as they said

Birds observed from Papung (~7,800') to Dongen (~8,100') 04 December 1992

1. ♂+♀ Kalij - near gompot, Papung (~8,000')
2. Whistling Thrasher - several in forest "do"
3. Nutcracker - 2(3?) past Papung (~8,100')
4. Jungle Cross - pr " do "
5. Striated Laughing Thrush - sm flock outside Dongen ~8,000'
6. Mystery Sunbird - (in cherry type tree in rain)
7. Hodgson's Tree Pipit 4-5 from Dongen ~8,000'
8. Slender-tailed Scimitar Babbler - good view of one of a pr in thicket, scrub & Gleichenia
9. Black-capped Sibia 2-3 out Dongen ~8,000'

05 December '92

Woke late (0700) but out for a bird walk by 0730 back to par afternoon's general area. Took an upper trail to cross the

also several ca Dongen in afternoon ←

Dull yellowish-green above; yellow/green stripes on flanks; head grayish; throat grayish then an orange, grading quickly into yellow shape in center of breast/upper abdomen patch of red on the rump

- 23. Small Yellow-naped Woodpecker (x 3)
- 24. Three-toed Golden-backed W. Pecker (x 3) (x 4)
- 25. Crown-bellied-ed Leaf Warbler
- 26. Jungle Crow - Goruwa
- 27. Pied Wagtail - Goruwa
- 28. Crested Serpent Eagle - outside Dharali

Birds seen on Goruwa - Soktim  
late afternoon walk 1430-1730 hrs.

See 3 entries above.  
4. Red-vented Bulbul  
5. Indian Roller

10/11/92  
Birds seen from Soktim -  
Golkhara Bhanjyang

- 1. Crowned-leaf Warbler " Soktim-Chisapani
- 2. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch "
- 3. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (H1) "
- 4. Gray-headed Flycatcher 1 (H1) "
- 5. Grey Tit "
- 6. Blue Niltava (Small) ♂ "
- 7. Mystery Sunbird "
- 8. Scarlet Minivets: 2 pr Chisapani

MEMORY

#4 also bridge - Golkarka (app)

includes 1 each  
at bridge  
act of plumage  
Red-tailed long-decreased bill;  $\downarrow$   
similar greenish above; grayish (dirty)  
below; elongated tail; tail  
grayish-green. No rump color  
visible; or visible. c.u. (Crimson-breasted)

Khola + back again. Oct 1st 1045, so  
decided to eat & further stock up on  
supplies. Sun out for much of the day,  
which of course warmed things up con-  
siderably. Good views of the lek tops  
across valley & between the upper  
Nawa and Paping Kholas, considerable  
amt of snow > 12,000'. But weather clearing  
& no precip encountered during the day.  
At 1420 finally got away, topped up  
w/ more potatoes & several good items for  
young trader: Indian milk powder (12kg), sugar,  
Riso @ 25/- a beer bottle, maida (rice flour),  
and a few hot, dried chillies. After going  
uphill for one ravine, turned corner to N  
face at Nawa/Paping confluence, and  
descended fairly steeply at times to the  
bank of the river, where a simple ghat  
provided fine shelter. Not nearly as cold  
as Dongen. Alt x 7250' (?) - red wind  
& walk in thru mossy mixed forest, rhodod,  
maple, (a few sub-tropical spp? - thickly  
bunched small leaved, broad leaf spp.)  
Paused for birds see X but saw almost

- 9. Common Myna - Chisapani <sup>on way to Galkhaka</sup>
- 10. Red-vented Bulbul - beyond Chisapani
- 11. Grey-breasted Prinia - "do"
- 12. Streaked Spiderhunter - "do"
- 13. Jungle Babbler - 4-5 in bamboo "do"
- 14. White-throated Fantail - (near bridge in
- 15. Common Leaf Warbler (mixed sal)
- 16. ~~Grey-brown Warbler~~ <sup>Red-bellied Warbler</sup> (~300m above
- 17. ~~Yellow-vented Warbler~~
- 18. Beautiful Niltaval
- 19. Large Pied Wagtail at bridge
- 20. Pied Wagtail "do"
- 21. White-capped River Chat "do"
- 22. Gray ~~headed~~ Warbler - 1,000 ft up
- 23. Tailor bird - with 14-18 birds
- 24. Whistling Thrush - towards Galkhaka
- 25. Brown-checked Bulbul - near "do" (3)

also in bushes (sm party outside Galkhaka) ←

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush ←

Blue-headed Rock Thrush ←

lt gray/blue throat ←

upper breast; solid orange rufous below; little black marks on either side of the neck; bright blue at bend of wing; under tail coverts brownish; longish bill sat for a long time on branch above

11/11/92

Walked 1 1/2 hrs uphill in the hot morning sun to Ilam town. Very much larger than 13 yrs ago, but not as modern or well-stocked as I thought it might be. Changed money at.

MEMORY

MEMORY

nothing under cloudy but not threatening skies. Understorey good, but grazed in many places by yaks - not very adversely impacting the forest it appears but may be ~~not~~ better in undergrowth dens for if ungrazed. Spent last 45 min before dark at <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ beautiful cliff & dense forest views, but, again, almost no birds.

Birds seen around Dongen & into the Myper Newa to bankside ghat (~7,250')

2X ←

- 1. Green-backed Tit - ravine S of Dongen ~8,000'
- 2. Striated-laughing Thrush - sm party, Dongen
- 3. White-browed Tit Babbler 2 Dongen ravine
- 4. Nuthacker - <sup>above</sup> Dongen ~8,200'
- 5. Common Buzzard (?) - "do"
- 6. Fire-tailed Myzornis - "do"
- 7. White-tailed Niltatch - "do"
- 8. Black-capped Sibia - sm flock "do"
- 9. Yellow-rumped Yuhina - 26 "do"
- 10. White-checked Bulbul - 28 "do"
- 11. Yellow-bellied Fantail "do"
- 12. Jungle Crow - several on village

Also again later in afternoon above past Dongen at confluence 8,200' ← see tape for detailed description ←

Cardamom drying:

- 3 man of cardamom requires 15-20 man of good firewood.
- needs 36 hrs for the drying process
- all drying done INDIVIDUALLY.
- for 1 man of cardamom Rp. 4,000 received. This is said to increase much during the past few years.

Satbhote - below & past Ranayang; only v. thin forest said to remain.

MEMORY

Nepal Rastriya Bank, where only the 'govt. rate' of Rp. 42.60 / USD is paid (So, changed only \$100).

Also stocked up on charcoal at Rp. 12/- per kilo and a few vegetables! Reported at the police station in the center of town (HA said to be above) & had some disappointing momos at one of the local 'bucket shops'. On the way out of town stopped at the soccer ground & found a store that was just closing to buy a Pepsi, not really cold, but thirst-quenching at only Rp. 9/- each (USD 0.20). Meanwhile thousands were streaming into the far end of town to watch the soccer final between Kathmandu police & army teams (Police won 2-1). The Sherpa porter wanted to watch thinking there would be no transport out of town until after the match. Turns out he was right. On the

MEMORY

also earlier today: 1 ♂ ←

w/ Green Backed Tit ←

at nightfall ←

- 13. ♂ Blue-fronted Redstart - outskirts Dunge
- 14. Gray-backed Shrike - " do "
- 15. Gray-faced Leaf Warbler - part Dunge
- 16. Yellow-rumped Leaf Warbler ~ 8,200'
- 17. ♂ Plumbeous Redstart ~ 7,250'
- 18. Whistling Thrush - " do "

06 December '92

Arose late again and watched for birds at the river & back ~10 min walk at the sm promontory, all in fairly dense mixed broadleaf forest. Yaks graze in the understorey along the trail, but back 50-100m little affected... weather completely clear but few birds noted, possibly because of the N slope aspect. Snow on all slopes at ≥10 thousand, but should melt enough over the next 2-3 days if the weather holds. Est'd alt of ghot ~7,250. left at 1045 & walked down to bridge (~45 min straight walking), then very steeply up thru more open forest with much bamboo. Reaches a large overhanging boulder, where a few staves have been

way back to Golakharika Bj (by foot) 40 min. mostly talked and the only bird noted was a Jungle Crow.

Birds noted Golakharika Bhanjyang -  
Tilam town - Golakharika Bhanjyang

1. Shaped-tailed Munia
  2. Red-breasted Flycatcher
  3. Pied Bush Chat
  4. Common Flycatcher (several sm groups)
  5. Gray-headed Flycatcher
  6. Red-vented Bullbird
  7. House Crow - Tilam town
  8. ~~Common Flycatcher~~ Jungle Crow
- on the way back to Golakharika

not Brown-eared as on tape.

Quite a night's sleep at the house, when last night had slept well in my own room w/ table & chair to do a lot of writing. Owner came in a mid-nite totally sozzed, punched up the wife & had the children crying before.

MEMORY

MEMORY

piled for walls on two sides. Warm & very comfortable; just past a long, cascading stream up bank, and main Topke trails turns N-by. Stopped at another ghot an easy hour's walk further ahead (if steep). Had boiled potatoes and left at 1445 but came to a good ghot 1 hr on where it was decided to stay the night. Alt: ~8,500', perhaps a little higher, but < 9,000'. Productive site because in more of a clearing, also one adjacent which shrubs & trees w/ red berries attract lots of birds.

Birds seen from lower ghot (~7,250') to upper ghot across bridge (~8,500'), Mewa Khola a bit before large bend in course. 06 Dec. '92

Sites #1-#9 ca. ghot camp

~7,250' on early morn bird walk. another party of 4; same site ←

also at lunch site: 8,000' - 8,500' ←  
and another at ghot camp: 8,500' - 9,000'

1. Plain-colored laughing Thrush - split party of 4 + others
2. Nuthacker -
3. Black-capped Sibia
4. Fire-tailed Myzornis (♀?)
5. Nepal Tree Creeper -
6. Whistling Thrush -
7. Yellow-bellied Fantail Flycatcher - a pr

wandering off yelling 'Nepalma' (inintelligible) repeated. Next morning saw where he had taken a stone and tried to destroy the village water tap. Nearly succeeded as when we walked past it at 7 AM, the spout was badly bent downwards & water spewing out. Nobody using it. Nendi saw the guy. (Sleeping off, or hopefully too embarrassed to show himself.)

Caught the second bus coming from Ilam at 8:15, even tho' it was more loaded than the first. People <sup>almost totally</sup> packed on top as well. But the conductor promised me a seat inside, which found in the very back. Portus sat up top with the saman, which took a real beating, but only lost a bit of soyabean cooking oil. As described on tape, the Ilam - Phikal section of the road is a real mess, landslides at nearly every bend. Paying the

MEMORY

MEMORY

also

broad wings, pointed; v. dk grey/black ←  
 from below; tail forked & flared when used as a rudder in flight; cobalt blue lower back, (possibly upper as well) extending into rump. Somewhat fluttering flight, making circles above the rocky bed of Mewa Khola; 3 seen (again? same party?) later in the day of course of cascading stream; beautiful complement to the countryside. ~8,000' again together

#12 / #13 seen later at the ghot stayed in for the evening; alt ~8,500 (~9,000?)

#14 seen again as a small party at ghot site;

#14 INCORRECTLY described on tape as Striated laughing Thrush, except for solitary bird noted morn camp ~7,250'

orangey bill! ←

- 8. Striated laughing Thrush - ≥ 1 - ghot camp
- 9. Blue Rock Thrush - party of 3 - ghot camp
- 10. Green-backed Tit - beyond ghot ~7,500
- 11. Chestnut-throated Shrike Babbler - "do"
- 12. Red-headed Babbler - ~6 in bushes ~8,500-8,500'
- 13. Chestnut-headed Tit Babbler ≥ 2-3 "do"
- 14. Hoary Parwing - sm party 8,000-8,500'
- 15. Kalij Pheasant - 3 (all ♂♂?) ~8,000'
- 16. White-browed Tit Babbler - sm party 8,200'
- 17. Red-headed laughing Thrush - <sup>split party</sup> ghot camp 8,500-9,000'
- 18. Crested Brown Tit - solitary at ghot camp

07 December '92

0640-1000

Birds seen on morning 'birdwalk' around ghot camp 8,500-9,000'; Mewa Khola, 7/12/92

- 1. Darjeeling Pied Woodpecker - ♂ ♀ pair
- 2. White-tailed Nuthatch - a pair (harvesting) & 5 ♂♂ in red-bees? nest
- 3. Hoary Parwing - ≥ 3 in sm party
- 4. Yellow-browed Tit - 5 or 6 in a party
- 5. White-throated laughing Thrushes ≥ 12-14
- 6. Yellow-billed Blue Magpie - 3 in sm party
- 7. Greenish Warbler (??) see tape

price now for constructing a road in the hills without embankments. May be in even worse shape than when last travelled in 1975. Mostly dusty, but mud on one N slope. Early on thought the bus may slip off the road & turn over while crossing a recent landslide. The shored-out path for vehicles at an angle & no guard rails of course to prevent the bus from going down the cliff.

Arrived Harkatte at ~11:30 and rounded up a replacement dhoka for the Rp 12/- Dharan special which on one side was already in shreds. This one cost Rp 25/- but still not as large & strong as we need. Hunched on channa peas, chinsa, nimki and cold samosa (good tho) and was directed by the friendly bearded shopkeeper to the trail leading to good Hans Pokhari Danda Forest.

MEMORY

MEMORY

I again take in day or 9,500! ←

- 8. Yellow-rumped Leaf Warbler
- 9. Red-headed Laughing Thrush
- 10. Whistling Thrush

leaving at ~1000 hrs walked fairly level before crossing the river on a sturdy wooden bridge. Walking through snow begins. Across bank, bamboo dominate in understory, but soon into more W & N slope farnes w/ rhodos. Dominant tree is *Alnus spectabilis* (fir), burned on some S slopes, but recovering w/ sips & thick ningalo bamboo.

Rama Bdr first on the trail this morn after thoroughly ruining a breakfast side dish of thutepa, consuming valuable kero & time to cook the slop. Predictable by me. Still to chappattis, peanut butter & boiled eggs.

Criss-crossed the river 2 other times on good bridges, the 2nd in 4" snow & small drifts between boulders. Much walking thru 3-5" snow, mostly in fir w/ rhodo w/ storey. Fairly steep the whole day. Although frequently able to see stream ledge, no birds

N O 2 012.21 07211001

Probable Nepali names for  
*Eugenia tetragona* and  
*Ostodes paniculata*:

- 1) कटुस (Kattus)
- 2) कयामुना (Kayamuna)

These the two main tree species N slope Hans Pokhari Danda. Also occur on S slope?

Two nepali names above may include other species which together could be found on both N & S slopes of HPD. Confusion exists.

MEMORY

Birds noted from Harkatte. -  
~~1~~ Targain along N/NE slope of Hans Pokhari Danda

1. Green-backed Tit
2. Black-capped Sibia
3. Grey-headed Warbler (above)
4. Rufous-bellied Bulbul (Targain) (small party of 3-4) 13/11/52

Birds observed ~~1~~ S/SE of Targain in dense wet forest, almost everywhere with understorey cleared for cardamom planting (alt. 4500-5700')

1. Red-tailed Tinker lower dn
2. Green-backed Tit "
3. Bre-breasted Flowerpecker ♀ "
4. Purple Sunbird - ♀ "
5. Great Himalayan Barbet on crest
6. Grey Bulbul (3-4 pairs 8-12 ea)
7. ♂ Small Crimson-breasted Woodpecker
8. Black-capped Sibia
9. ♂ Mrs. Gould's Sunbird

MEMORY

#3 ♂ near crest;

encountered (since 9,000') along stream bed. Sleep most of the day. Finally travelling out about 1430 for a slight incline thru snow until a fairly well intact 'open' ghat reached at 1530. large clearing. 4-6" snow.

Additional 7/12/52  
1. Birds seen between ghat camp (~8,500') to ghat camp (~11,000') below Topke Gola

11. Black-faced laughing Thrush - small party at ~9,000'
12. Alpine Accentor - 1 (bd) at ~10,000'
13. Winter Wren - 2x 10,500 & 11,000.
14. ♀ Black-headed Redstart - at ghat ~11,000'

08 December '52

Was up at 0645 because of relatively much avian activity. Spent 1/2 hr in thongs, no gloves for several good birds but had to get to my coffee as fingers & feet starting to freeze (at least I felt like it). Afterwards spent more time ca. the ghat clearing where activity continued until ~1030. Then after

Probable. Not the grey-brown of ~~←~~ Hodgson's Redstart, but light not good. Also, hard slices of palish wingbars.



# 9 in Woodfordia mistletoe in a tree top not far from the crest; alt: 5700-5800'. red very extensive on back & pure bright yellow below.

possibly a ♀ nearby.

S slope forest N of this bend good to river's edge but only a chunk. (Targau)

MEMORY

- 10. Chestnut-bellied Nighthawk - a pr.
- 11. Slaty-backed Forktail (~5000')
- 12. Blue-winged Minla "
- 13. Rufous-bellied Bulbul (2-3) "
- 14. Bar-throated Minla (2-3) "
- 15. Nepal Sunbird ♂ (prob ♀, too) "

14/11/92

Next morning took the main trail (mule track) ~~past~~ <sup>to the crest of</sup> Komiyang & thence up a good path to the crest of the danda & proceeded SF along it. At noon dropped down through planted forest to E outskirts of Komiyang, just about where the long lower bend of Sidi Khola is. Descended to ~3,000' & walked back towards Targau, managing to break my African cross walking stick while clearing weeds trying to ascend to main trail. (Hit a rock <sup>to the side</sup> with the end of it). Eventually came out at the main track again & followed it all the way back to our house. Very little activity in

MEMORY

tanking up on tea (w/ orange-passionfruit mix added - good) on hill to the clearing where no birds at all seen from 1100-1210 hrs. . . A few more plain chappatis & orange-passionfruit drink (hot, of course) left at 1250 for Topke Gola. Crossed a couple of small, but good wooden plank bridges (~4" span on each) & up thru Abies forest w/ stunted rhododendron and some birch at the edge of clearings. Lots of snow on the trail, but melting quickly in exposed areas. Some N firs stretched still almost in drifts of 6" or more, so our shoes were soaked by the time Topke reached (1545). Conifers becoming stunted as we approached Topke and once there juniper appears. Also a few cedar trees at the edge of one clearing today. . . little evidence of burning in the fir forest, but some big trees sawn for roofing shingles, house posts etc. Many others fallen on banks of the Newa, which reduced to a rushing stream & no streambirds noted.

Evidence of birching along the ridge top, to clear undergrowth. *Cardaminum* planted all the way up to the ridge on N slope except in very steep areas & some ravines. Best stretch of lightly planted/implanted trail is the main mule track SE above Targau; particularly ~1/2 hr walk where two landslides (caused by fallen trees) are encountered one shortly after the other. Village(s?) drinking water cistern located in one ravine.

again in afternoon

Both Targau & Romiyang are very scattered settlements, more or less grading into each other. No real village centers to either one.

MEMORY

the afternoon, although weather good. Danda top trail splits & can work on S slope in some stretches. At other places, too steep. looked to be a good trail w/ thick forest down the S spur to the village of Jobari, but didn't notice it until came to a promontory 1/2 hr later.

14/11/92

Birds Observed above Targau: -  
Romiyang on Hans Pokari Banda

1. Himalayan tree Pie - at Targau: house site
2. Red-tailed Minla - on main track
3. Blue-winged Minla - towards Romiyang
4. Gray-headed Warbler
5. Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher - 1+pr + 1 ♂
6. Red-capped Tit - ~6 or so
7. White-bellied Yuhina
8. Gray Bulbuls ~6, + ~6-8+
9. ♂ Nepal Sunbird 1+
10. Green-backed Tit pr + 1-2+
11. Black-naped Woodpecker
12. Long-tailed Minivet - ♂

MEMORY

Birds noted between ghat below Topke Gola (~11,000') & Topke Gola (12,600') 08 Dec '92

1. Allied Grosbeak - 3 ♂♂; ≥ 2 ♀♀ - 11,000' ghat
2. White-winged Grosbeak - 8; 4 ♂♂ "do"
3. White-throated Redstart ♂/♀ pr "do"
4. White-collared Blackbird ± leafless birch "do"
5. Crested Brown Tit - 2-3 with #bs - "do"
6. Rufous-breasted Black Tit - 1+2+1+3 on sev occasions "do"
7. Winter Wren - 1 or 2 at ghat ~11,000'
8. Hodgson's Mt. Finch - 5 or 6 birds "do"
9. ♂ Sparrow Hawk - trying to snatch a #8 "do"
10. Jungle Crow - single just past ghat ~11,100'
11. Snow Pigeon - a pr ~11,200' flushed from a clearing
12. Black-faced Laughing Thrush - (2-3?) small party ~12,000'
13. Alpine Accentor - 1 at Topke Gola - 12,600'

09 Dec 1992

After a fairly warm sleep in Chandra's leaning hut of a house, up and on the trail N at 0715 towards the lake at ~13,000'. For the most part avoided the snow covered trail and veered up to E into dwarf rhodo & juniper (and

not fulvous wash to white cheek, most intense nearest bill

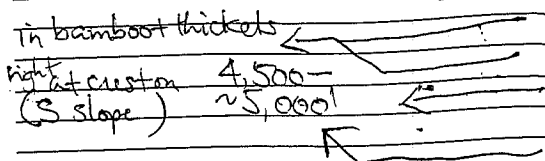
also at ~11,200', 2 in Hudsons understory  
I seen later in day at clearing ~11,800'

nearly predated on later in morning by ♂ Sparrow Hawk. See tape for description notes of fieldman's

Very good close views of #9 while perched nearby after failed attempt at proncing on #8. Also in flight as it slowly waved around clearing edge fins.

#8 again at Topke Gola; at least 30 in several small flocks, possibly quite a few more. 12,600'

~4,500-5,000'



- 13. Great Himalayan Barbet 1+1
- 14. Gray-faced Leaf Warbler 2x
- 15. Five-breasted Flowerpecker 8+8
- 16. Black-capped Sibia - 3 sm flocks
- 17. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch
- 18. Yellow-eyed Warbler 1+1
- 19. Black-throated Babblers - a pr.
- 20. Red-winged Shrike Babblers
- 21. Crested Serpent Eagle
- 22. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker - ♀
- 23. Scarlet Minivet - ♀ + probable ♂
- 24. Yellow-naped Yuhina - ♂ ≥ 1
- 25. White-browed Tit Babbler

+ ~4 ♀ sunbirds in mistletoe too hard to call 15/11/92

Continuing on 15th in the last start out on the trail at 7:15 AM. ...

MEMORY

MEMORY

at times like a boulder field) to scout for birds. Good views of 8 Ruddy Shelducks (and to lesser extent) of a Little Grebe at the nearby frozen sea lake. Didn't return until almost 11:00 hrs, where after a hurried macaroni meal (Italian style), we left for the pass to Thudam (shortly after noon). Fairly steep uphill, but trail good, and highlight on this day was sitting sighting of 3 heds of bharel more or less at the same time - one of 4 (at least 1 ♂) high above 15-16,000', a pair licking salt in a huge rock crevice (excellent views of ♂ + ♀ coloration/pattern), and a bit further on, ≥ 22' on glassy ridge above, leisurely eating grass in the waning afternoon. Passed underneath fairly close, but bharel took little notice; appear fairly tame. Continued uphill to our halting spot for the day: an overhang at 14,000-15,000', where settled in for a better cold night, semi-exposed to the light wind.

Cardamom planted near the top of the ridge gets too much sun? May dry out, says former prada yard. Not wet like below. Will plant lightly. Could be 'lip senid' but make good sense. On eve of 14/11 sat at tea fire and talked over the possibilities of an integrated forest conservation & community dev prog. Seemed receptive to the idea that some upper understory could be set aside for regeneration. This would mean extirpating plants on 1 or 2 spurs/valleys but could be ~~the~~ supported by community if compensated.

Considering the great increase in planted area in the past 3-4 yrs, when will the picewood come from to cover the cardamom once all plants in full prodn? May have to cut trees essential for shading the cardamom? <sup>MEMORY</sup>

and even a bit of implanted forest occurs. Due to a relative profusion of good birds, didn't return to 'one house' until 1105. For this still packing up saman; left shortly thereafter, giving the former prada yard 64 trips (20/mtr + 4 for vegies). Walked up to main trail & took it W to Harkatte ~ 1/2 most section running at forest edge, & thru good forested ravine & open good thick scrub when forest canopy trees heavily cut, a few unfringed ravines had settlements.

Birds noted on a morning birdwalk along main trail above Targau towards Romiyang, 0715-1105 hrs

1. Rusty-checked Scimitar Babbler <sup>(pr)</sup> 2
2. Black-chinned Babbler <sup>In bamboo thicket</sup>
3. Red-billed leiothrix <sup>grass at play ground</sup> 1
4. Nepal Babbler 8-10 main track
5. Fire-tailed Sunbird ♂ "do"
6. Gray-headed leaf-warbler "do"

MEMORY 1+1+

red patch on breast.

§ again at ~13,500 towards pass: a pr.

(another 3?) ♂ seen higher up  
another higher up in juniper  
calling from juniper tops

head reddish-br; see tape for details

see tape for description

~15,000' (or a little higher)  
Flicks as it squats; not V. Sh.

Birds seen from Topke Gola<sup>1</sup> to overhang (14,500' - 15,000') 09 December '92

1. White-throated Redstart - ♂ & ♀ ~13,000'
2. Sikkim Black Tits - 2-3 above Topke "do"
3. Winter Wren - 2 on way to lake - "do"
4. Ruddy Shelduck - 8 on frozen lake "do"
5. Little Grebe - single w/ #4s - "do"
6. Jungle Crow - 1 "do"
7. White-browed Rose Finch - (pr) ♀ "do"
8. Alpine Accentors - ~13,500' a pr, <sup>towards pass</sup>
9. Snow Pigeon - flocks of 5 & ~15 at Topke
10. White-breasted Dipper - at saddle before pass.

10 December '92

Didn't stir until ~0700 hrs due to cold feet not warm during night & putting on ice-based boots led to T° shock after short morning birdwatch from the overhang. On the road after a hearty 'brunch' and the pass (~16,000') shortly had a biscuit, etc 'lunch'

2+2+2

- 7. Red-tailed Flinla - main track
- 8. Gray Bulbul 3-4; "do"
- 9. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch "do"
- 10. Redwing Shrike Babbler
- 11. Greenbacked Tit pr + pr(?)
- 12. Great Himalayan Barbet
- 13. Orange-borgetted Flycatcher ♂; ♀
- 14. Chestnut-headed Shrike Babbler - ♂
- 15. Yellow-bellied Fantail Flycatcher
- 16. Black-capped Sibia 3-4;
- 17. Nepal Sunbird ♂
- 18. Scarlet Finch ♂ & ♀ pr
- 19. Pygmy Blue Flycatcher ♂
- 20. Red-capped Tit 2-3;
- 21. Chestnut-headed Leaf Warbler
- 22. Goshawks - pr
- 23. Five-breasted Flowerpecker ♀ + ♂
- 24. Gray-headed Flycatcher
- 25. Whistling Thrush
- 26. Blue-winged Flinla

moving through fairly quickly; ←  
 on branches, no housing noted, but  
 could have been doing this to outside  
 of canopy leaves as view from below is  
 otherwise obscured. Beautiful golden  
 orange below!

Birds seen in the afternoon from  
 Targam to Harkette:

- 1. Rufous-bellied Bulbul - 22

MEMORY

MEMORY

rock mound (chorten) & prayer flags &  
 took a lot of photos. 18° in the after-  
 noon 'shade' & fairly warm in the Sun  
 esp. when the wind light / not blowing.  
 Lake frozen over - no activity. Arrived  
 at 1330 hours, began our descent thru  
 heavy snow (N slope), + 2' in places,  
 and nobody having walked the trail  
 recently. Snow quite dry, though  
 so feet not nearly as soaked as the  
 previous day... Reached an "overhang"  
 at 4 PM & made camp for the night  
 Alt: ~ 14,000 - 14,500.

10/12/92

Birds seen from overhang at 15,000'  
 (S slope) to overhang 14,500' (N slope)

♂ flying in for a  
 quick look (inquisitive?) ←

≥ 3 ♂♂; 2 ♀♀

- 1. Golden-stad's Redstart - at cave
- 2. Red-breasted Rose Finch - ~ 15,500'
- 3. Snow Pigeon - above overhang ~ 14,500'
- 4. White-breasted Dipper - 15,000' - 14,500'
- 5. Winter Wren - single at dusk ~ 14,000'

Note that alot of activity on HPD during mid-day, restricted to birds in mistletoe (Woodbirds) at the top of tall trees. Foremost among the species observed were sunbirds: Nepal, fire-tailed & Mrs. Gould's. That had ♀♀ w/ the males definitely I'ded. Very hard to differentiate ♀ sunbirds after almost 4 weeks of no birding in NP. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (esp. ♂♂) also frequent in this feeding niche.

Nepal sunbird ♂ w/ variable amt. of red on back - sometimes ext'g almost to back of nape. On others, only a wide patch on mid-back. All ♂♂ very noticeably streaked w/ red on breasts.

Mrs. Gould's a richer lemon-yellow, totally w/out red streaks on the breast.

MEMORY

2. Nepal Sunbird - ♂ + ♂ (97)
3. Black-capped Sibia - 3-4
4. Green-backed Tit - 2 or 3
5. Yellow-naped Yuhina - 1 + 1
6. Himalayan Griffon Vulture (6-8 ad w/ young) over Harkatte.

Rather than explore the part of HPD on the other side (E) of the highway, opted for a bus that was going all the way to Lashupatinagar. Left at ~ 2 PM, and arrived right at 11.645. Had a look at the so-called Guest House, but after a higher price for the room (Rs 60 IC = Rs 4.00 NC) rather than the Rs. 15/- quoted by the boys who look up in to the quarters, decided to look for alt accom. Stayed at Sherpa Hotel, small but fairly cozy dwelling just down the main track of the town. Watched a bit of TV from Delhi & KTM & to bed by 9 PM.

Super-glued the African gori latti and re-reinforced in w/ a stone or stop + rubber MEMORY bands ca middle for overnight 'curing'.

After a warm sleep, and a short, mostly unproductive morning birdwalk not far from the overhang, traversed boulders, snow, dwarf shrubs et al to the stream bed. Wide, but still lots of snow, so had to ~~step~~ <sup>step</sup> from boulder to boulder + sometimes in snow. Crossed back & forth over the streambed several times. Frozen except for occasional pools, where White-breasted Dippers encountered. Managed better to keep feet dry, and last couple of hours towards Thudam ravine/streambed narrow & forested in rhododendrum, dwarf at first w/ bamboo, then taller w/ birch lower down. Trail trickier at times. Little snow melt, 4-6" & small snow hidden beneath. Reaching the bend to Thudam, a fair good clear view of the Everest group, ~~though~~ <sup>though</sup> uncertain if Everest itself visible (Lhasa town tho).

People a bit reticent & had to ask several for a place to stay. Finally stayed above a bit in a large, dark house of planks (as are all buildings here). Police house

After buying Yam Bhr a pair of Nepali 'cassimilled' 'Boss' walking shoes (only Rs 300/- = USD 6.00 - and they look good), left at 9 AM towards Hanibadyang. A bit of frost on the pass above town. Lots of N slope planting of 'dhupi' conifers on E sides of path.

16/11/92

Birds seen from Pashupatinagar to Nani Banjyang 0900-1145 hrs.

1. Goldcrest - a pr in planted 'dhupi' N slope outside Pashupatinagar.
2. ~~Blue~~ Black-capped Tit - 12-15 "do"
3. Green-backed Tit (a pr.)
4. Nepal Sunbird ♂
5. Bar-throated Minla 4-5 ♀/♂
6. Red-billed Leiothrix ≥ 5-6 <sup>outside</sup> Hanibadyang
7. Great Himalayan Babbler = "do"
8. Common Budytes "do"
9. Common Nuthatch at Nani Banjyang
10. Jungle Crow "do"

see tape for description

for details of habitats passed thru

MEMORY

MEMORY

~14,000

#3 further down; a pair where water mostly unfrozen, but some icing over; then again (a single) ~13,500, where steep ravine w/ ice in streambed; note in open stream higher occurrence of #6 (!)

heard them while still in sleeping bag shortly after dawn; Chendu says he saw them and heard call, which he knows well, because many in Tibet when he has travelled again ~13,800'; again 13,500'; #2 right at the oral on a boulder for a moment. Fairly inquisitive? Recall prev sighting above Muktinath. Similar 'behavior'.

#9: feather collected; photo taken

(w/ rainfall gauge), but the lone policeman said to have gone to Khedrai to stay. On the occasion of successfully cutting the Thagla La (4826m), we eat a chicken (Rs 200/-) which was cooked to perfection (as tho a bangle) with chicken cubes & garlic in the pressure cooker.

Birds seen from Oral (~14,500') below Thagla La to Thudam (12,300') 11/12/92

1. Tibetan Snow Cock (#) above 15,000' - at oral - 16,000'
2. Golden-streaked Partridge 14,500' at the oral
3. Snow Pigeon - flock of 9 at oral ~14,500'
3. White-breasted Dipper - 14,000' in stream pool in boulder, snow
4. Winter Wren - ~14,000' after snow
5. Alpine Accentor - pr. at ~14,000' Khedrai
6. Brown Dipper - 13,000-13,500' <sup>only banks of the stream</sup> Thudam
7. Sikkim Black Tit } outside of Thudam
8. Black-faced Laughing Thrush } ~12,300'
9. Snow Partridge - remains ~12,800' on trail

12 December '92

Next morning had an early morning birdwalk, but few birds seen in morning

Continued in the afternoon at 1445 hrs to past Chitre (~1 hr above) and to the single house of Dhukpa where many people staying. Had to hike in at dusk towards a spot which was said to be an hour uphill. Took nearly two as YB came very slow, no doubt low on energy from only the plate of momos & a bowl of Thupka at one of Tibetan restaurants in Namibhanyang.

Checked w/ both NP + Indian police posts which allowed me to take transport up the "cobblestone" - Uce road towards Jaubari - Sawlakhu. However, the 2 hand Rovers that ply the steep & serpentine road wanted way too much: TC 200 = NP 325/- for the 2 hr. ride to Jaubari. (I'd seen it sounded crazy & thereupon decided to hit the trail even though getting late. At least can see how Chendu (40 kgs) & YB (35 kgs) can hike it when the going demands it.

MEMORY

MEMORY

scrub w/ of village. After photos, went ~~down~~ through rhododendron/bamboo/birch forest, much cutting & burning, but most in past. Much house building wood goes to Tibet; people ca Thudam also hit a lot (Chendu says). After ~ 2 hrs, trail suddenly ascends steeply to cross a cliff face, but becomes very steep & actually begins a 3-4 hour stretch of very steep, winding, up/down walking on narrow trail thru cliff ctry. A bit dangerous in parts w/ snow/ice/mud from snow melt. Just into this type ctry, lunched on Italian style macaroni (delicious) & treated to a party of Fulwars Suthras passing through. In afternoon, stopped on a small cliff jutting out from the trail for photos and a D, & startled by a party of police w/ Tibetan guides/translators. The bearded Nepali head officer immediately asked to see my Trek Permit & whether or not it was for this base. After a tense few moments + polite



Heard Tawny Wood Owl calling  
while outside at 8:40-9 PM.  
18, 20, 19, 20, 21, 32, 21, 18 sec  
intervals when timed. Appeared  
to be on the Indian Side of the  
border, so not included in list.

ghats known as →  
"hamidura"

altitude ~ 8,000-8,300'

MEMORY

Stumbled on the ghats at inside one  
structure actually a ramshackle stone  
house, and settled in for the night.  
Potatoes quickly found water. At 9 PM  
in a light breeze my watch thermometer  
had 16°F (obviously affected  
by the windchill factor), but inside it  
was 31°F when went to bed & awoke  
at about the same (1/2 in a ~~month~~<sup>1/2</sup>)  
1, 31.5° 1/2

Next morning on the rd right at  
0900 hrs after a short bird watch  
near the ghats. With stops for <sup>chapati</sup>  
~~nodules & muretti~~ at Megma  
(2855m) & later at Tumlina for  
nodules & muretti (very nice did,  
spoke excellent English) continued  
on to Singu by 3 PM (1 hr from  
Tumlina (where Singu NP begins)  
& arrived at dusk (5:10 PM) at  
Ghanbas (Ghanba's) where  
arranged comfortable stay at  
the roadside village inn (Rs 16/-  
per person overnight charge).

MEMORY

explanation of why we were here & why  
late & pointing out the length of the  
trip and the police check enroute,  
esp. TPL, he let me go. In the late  
afternoon came to a fork which led  
across a steep valley to a ghat where  
from the binoc we could see people.  
Within a few moments up the ghat came  
a strong, slightly mentally impaired  
Tibetan (alone) who did not seem to  
understand much Nepali & had a strange  
look about him. Continued on to the  
ghat over treacherous (icy) trail - hardly a  
footpath & thru dense bamboo. Stayed  
the night w/ the Tibetan Nepali (spoke  
good Nepali) & his young daughter & son  
who did not seem to understand any of  
all (!). Pleasant talk by his, <sup>casual</sup>  
& a good meal w/ remaining 1/2 of the  
Thudam Rooster (pressure-cooked chicken).  
To bed late (2200 hrs) and a bit  
hyped for waking up early to get the  
alpine flow of Makalu, which  
earlier in the afternoon, suddenly appeared  
in its majestic rounding a cliff dry bend



until 0815, after chapattis & tea. Made on way up the steep danda ~ 1 1/2 hrs, then 1 hr down towards Haneie. Then to clearing on the danda (Dapar - name refers to both danda & the camping spot) surrounded by malings bamboo. Alt probably 8500-9000 perhaps closer to later if that one for Gharbas is correct. 15/11/92

Birds noted Gharbas-Dapar

1. Blue-fronted Redstart - outside G'bas
2. Little Bunting } same site as
3. Maroon Oriole o<sup>7</sup> } above - scrub forest
4. Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher (at danda)
5. Stripe-throated Yuhina (crest)
6. Black-faced laughing Thrush ~ 250'
7. White-browed Tit Babbler
8. Red-headed Bullfinch - o<sup>7</sup> then ♀
9. Rufous-vented Yuhina ≥ 6
10. Gray Bullbills - Dapar campsite
11. Brown Parrotbills - 7-8 with at least 1 white-browed Tit babbler

MEMORY

#1-3 at ~ 2850m

[site N slope off to campsite]

#5 also in late afternoon at Dapar

w/ #9 & yellow-naped in same bush eating berries

#8 - alt o<sup>7</sup> 9,400 ; ♀ 9,300'

#9 - near Dapar clearing 8,500-9,000

#10 - also at Dapar - 4-5

#11 - not v. shy. Slight streaking on lower throat & upper breast. Black

wider eyebrow <sup>MEMORY</sup> more prominent than Fleming plate

didn't start until almost 0600 hrs when the peak bled in soft red (Wonder if Kandeinge doesn't cut off some of the first light as began very bright by the time peak insulnt) Shortly thereafter, lots of avian activity. Several spp calling & good views of white-spotted Lithinches & a pair of Great Parrotbills. At 0730 made it due to the shot to warm my hands and have some coffee then across the steep thin slopes on prev. day's trail, slowly until the small promontory 20-30 minutes reached. Stayed til almost 1000 & then back to shot for chapattis. At ~ 1130 finally on the trail, back away to lot small kinkshap danda & steeply down 500-700' to meet the main trail on thru good rhods forest & thick bamboo. Down towards 9,000', mixed forest not, particularly in shady ravines, & w/ the shape than ca Thudan. Some cutting & old fire damage. Across pine stretch of malings at one pt, passing isolated plots back into thick forest & steeply out to Tibet side & then due to the 2 houses & fields called 'Kimboche'. Had to walk

- 12. Yellow-naped Yuhina - Dhapar
  - 13. Black-capped Sibia - "do"
  - 14. Orange-flanked Bush Robin - "do"
  - 15. Yellow-browed Tit (4-5) "do"
  - 16. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - "do"
- a ♂?? Seen well from below to be rich cinnamon-brown, more like ♂ than ♀ of ones seen in lowlands earlier during the trek. Should not be this high (flaming up to 6,000') - NOT the pale fulvous below of white-tailed sp. Gray above - extent of eye line not able to be discerned.

#1 also at small pokham at HT

19/11/92

Birds on Dapar Danda (HT)

#1 w/ ≥2-3 white-browed Tit Babbler at same site as previous day. ≥8 in party  
2-3 @ ~ 8700' ←

- 1. Brown Parrotbill { at Dhapar
- 2. Little Bunting { campsite
- 3. Chestnut-capped Sibia
- 4. Red-headed L' Thrush { ~ 8,000'
- 5. Black-faced L' Thrush {
- 6. Yellow-rumped L' Warbler - ≥ 1.

above HT <sup>MEMORY</sup> ~ 7200-7500'

MEMORY

the last 1/2 hr in dark w/ track. No longer any snow but v. steep in places w/ loose rocks. Had a pleasant stay w/ an old Tibetan couple; but too exhausted to enjoy it. Warmer here at ~ 7,200-7,500' but the night excursion to try & wash my feet, face & hands failed. Had to turn back at the same. Just too cold & tired to bother.

#5 also towards Kimboche - sm flock - ~ 10,000'

Birds observed from ghat at 11,000' to Kimboche (~ 7,300') hamlet 13 December '92

Name of the danda w/ the ghat at 11,000' is "Khejungla"

- 1. Mystery Falcon - see opp. p. 98.
- 2. Great Parrotbill - a pr w/ #3 ~ 11,000'
- 3. White-spotted laughing Thrush - ~ 11,000' at ghat
- 4. Snow Pigeon - sm flock ~ 10,000', below <sup>going down</sup>
- 5. Black-faced laughing Thrush - sm party <sup>near ghat</sup>
- 6. Winter Wren - <sup>v. bold</sup> trailside bamboo, near ghat; ~ 11,000'
- 7. Sikkim Black Tit - 2 sm hunting party
- 8. White-browed Tit Babbler trailside bamboo 11,000'
- 9. Jungle Crow - a pr over head ~ 12,000' (ghost)
- 10. ♂ White-throated Redstart - in a tree amidst bamboo at ghat
- 11. Goshawk - a pr going up river (prev. sp) ~ 13,000'
- 12. ♂ White-browed Bush Robin - in bamboo near ghat ~ 14,000'

Name of "Thudam Khola": "Chhujung Khola"

also a sm party descending fr ghat; ≥ 1 further on ~ 9,500' & another party 9-9,500' towards Kimboche.

19/11/92

Hodgson's Tree Pipit - at HT

- 7. ~~Little P~~
- 8. Chestnut-headed Ground Warbler on N slope up from HT ~ 6,200
- 9. ♂ Common Hill Partridge ~ 6,100
- 10. Yellow-naped Yuhina ~ 5,800
- 11. Black-capped Sibia ~ 5,500
- 12. Mt Hawk Eagle ~ 5,500
- 13. Striated Laughing Thrush "do"

Birds on Dapar Danda 20/11/92

- 1. Brown Parrotbill - (H) camp site
- 2. Black Eagle - ~ 7,500-800'
- 3. Blue-fronted Redstarts - pr. at camp site
- 4. Green-backed Tit - ~ 8,800'
- 5. ♀ Orange-flanked Bush Robin "do"
- 6. Yellow-browed Tit ~ 7 "do"
- 7. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (?)
- 8. ♂ Fire-tailed Myzomis -
- 9. Stripe-throated Yuhina - small party "do"
- 10. Bar-throated Mynas - (45) ~ 7,500'
- 11. ♀ Blue-fronted Redstart "do"
- 12. ♂ Kalij Pheasant ~ 7,200'
- 13. ♂ Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush N slope MEMORY ~ 6800'

Pale pipit at HT - see tape

excellent views chased a small raptor - see tape - unidentified

see tape for descript. ←

on tall nat. Hunt Steppa Eagle

#4-9 obs at ~ 8,700' m main Dapar- HT trail.

white spot on/in vent ←

same as #3! ←

MEMORY

splitting off occasionally into smaller flocks; one of ~40 contained ±30 ♂♂ & ±10 ♀♀. Must change. Near Khola Blue Rock Thrush sighting to the SW - another small flock: 8 ♀♀ / 7 ♂♂.

#16: not a good look; 1 ded by body size/shape & color (uniform brown) of back; a bit low for this sp? out of size/shape seen nearby this minute before calling.

Another pr. of Great Parrotbills? (Only heard the call. Chhiddi recognizes the call as well (almost adamant about it). Further on towards Kimboche ~ 9,500'.

#13: further on towards Kimboche 9-9,500'. small flock seen again; few minutes later small flock of #5s.

♀ Monal (Impeyan Pheasant) ~ 9,500' spots on flanks / lower abdomen; tail short w/ lower back barred dk brown, possibly on tail as well; only seen from a moment. No view of head.

101 - ~ 25-30 birds, W slope

- 13. Fulvous Suthoras - ~ 10,500' cpl hrs walk on
- 14. Grandala - flock of >200; ~ 10,000' (or 9,500')
- 15. Nuthatches - single at ~ 10,000' open cstry
- 16. ♀ Blood Pheasant - ~ 9,500' - see notes Sep.
- 17. Nepal Parrotbill - 4 at 9,500' in ravine <sup>damp</sup>
- 18. yellow-bellied fantail flycatcher } mixed hunting party ~ 9,300'
- 19. Yellow-naped Yuhina
- 20. Green-backed Tit
- 21. ♀ Dargeeling Pied Woodpecker - w/ #18-20 party
- 22. Tawny Wood Owl (H+seen?) ~ 8,000-8,500'

14 December 92

Awoke rather refreshed & finished off a cup of Italian-style macaroni (delicious) from the night before. Police from visited our house, still after the semi-latto who allegedly shared another man's yak to its death & started a big fight w/ people injured (we met this guy near the 11,000' ghat trail)

Departed ~ 0830 hrs (w/mt Chhendur walking stick - taken by the police or his sardar) & descended steeply to cross the Anu on a good bridge (alt: ~ 6,500'). By noon arrived Chhamtang (~ 8,000') for a lunch stop.

Good dahl/ghat w/ oatmeal soup & potatoes; no

another party of 6-10 ←  
 at 6,350'; & again at 6,500'  
 6,200'  
 same as #8!  
 same as #4 ←

6,200'  
 and again at 6,500' ←

#16 again on way back up to  
 Dagar in late afternoon

Small owl-like bird ~ 300'  
 below Dagar camp. See tape  
 for details

MEMORY

- 14. Striped L' Thrush - N slope "
- 15. Mt. Hawk Eagle ~ 6,500' "
- 16. Black-capped Sibia ~ 6,500'
- 17. Fire-tailed Myzornis ~ 6,500'
- 18. Green-backed Tit (sp?) "do"
- 19. Yellow-rumped L' Warbler "do"
- 20. Yellow-naped Yuhina (ab 300')
- 21. Chestnut-throated Shrike Babbler
- 21. Gray Bulbuls (N slope)
- 22. ♂ Dargeeling Pied Woodpecker
- 23. Spotted Dove - in fields at HT

Walking back uphill from HT in late  
 afternoon was fairly disappointing for  
 birds. Very little activity, particularly  
 on the N slope. Prob. had a couple of  
 bush warblers at traiside, but only  
 alarm given & never saw a movement

Arrived 1740 (~ 1 1/2 hrs) just as  
 getting dark & last of the red horizon  
 to W fading.

21/11/92

Decided to send Chendu dn to HT  
 to fetch the torch case & bulbs, which  
 I'd left in the house the other eve,

MEMORY

Veggies obtainable. Talked w/ middle-aged  
 man who had just returned from the  
 BMMT hospital at Khasibari after 6 months  
 of TB treatment. Viewed choughs & raptors  
 while cooking/eating, and didn't see the  
 3rd (Gurung?) policeman anymore.  
 Walked steadily - wrong at 1st, too  
 much dn hill, then fairly level to the sm  
 village & checkpoint at Lingam. Officers  
 not around, so cont. on to Chhepuwa for  
 an overnight stay w/ the "doctor sahib".  
 Food available, but the only chamel was  
 "wina", which true to reputation, stinks  
 both while being cooked & eaten.

Birds observed between Kimbochhe (~7,500'  
 8,000' and Chhepuwa (~7,500') 14/12/92

- 1. White-tailed Nuthatch - ≥ 4 ~ 7,500' below Kimbochhe
- 2. ~~3~~ Black-capped Sibia } in ravine w/ stream
- 3. Fire-tailed Sunbird ♂? } ~ 7,000' below
- 4. ♂ Nepal Sunbird } Kimbochhe
- 5. ♀ Eurasian Kestrel - above Chhamtang ~ 8,000'
- 6. Hammergeier - above Chhamtang ~ 8,000'

also a pr above Lingam ←

and which the owner conveniently forgot to give me when I passed thru yesterday late afternoon to give him Rs. 5/- for the peas + ishkush (?).

Went off on the N slope spur goretto, do ~~to~~ ~ 500 ft (~250m) crest trail into spaced but huge, branching oaks w/ lots of moss + fern, the latter particularly dried yellow-brown. Lots of bamboo cuttings + trail branches which don't go far until nearly grown over w/ herb veg / regenerating malings. Some looks like china-country, but few tree birds noted.

Left campsite shortly after noon + walked up the crest to the border + on to small settlement of Kanpekatte (on the road to Sandekphu). Then walked for ~ 2 1/2 easy hours over mostly level trail - open scrub at times, thicker + patches of thick bamboo, particularly the first 1/2 hr from the settlement. Good, mossy forest ca. the pass called Lalibas (one white washed house). Decided to descend

MEMORY

MEMORY

- 103 - above Chhamtang

- 7. Yellow-billed Cuckoo - ~9,000'; flock of ca 120
- 8. ♂ Blue-fronted Redstart - outside Chhamtang
- 9. ♂ Hen Harrier - over khets at Lingam ~8,000'
- 10. Whistling Thrush - outside Chhepuwa 7,700'
- 11. Green-backed Tit } "do" ~7,500'
- 12. Gray-headed Leaf Warbler }

~8,500' ←

15 December 1992

Departed Chhepuwa ~ 0800 after protest finished off prior night's usina, and me sticking to a cup of milk coffee w/ the doctor-sahib. Hungry soon after but the last of the muesli held me over until stopping for lunch at a trailside terrace, stream nearby, where got a Spotted Forktail sitting to write up a backlog of kind + tree obs.

Most far Upper Arun N face forest looks good, but large village of Chhamtang + Chhepuwa eat up most S + E slope (see map back). Lots of abandoned, weedy swampland with good vanilla thickets, + dry thicket <sup>less</sup> bamboo <sup>more</sup> in exposed aspects. These are scattered + chopped over, but in some places the scattered nature due to steepness



Said to have been done as voluntary 'gauibis' work. Took about a month. People were afraid of being attacked by bees. Didn't dry. Slippery with mud & lots of leeches. Can't help but to empathize, but the trees won't be used and will stay there to rot. (Good for the forest). Will be interesting to see how quickly it generates a thick understory.

MEMORY

to the Khola & climb to a house & fields below but road follows the river a bit more ~~to~~ it reaches the Khola. Most of the way on the switchbacks have been opened up recently (Asoj). Trees + shrubs w/in 10-15m either side removed. Looks bad, the proverbial scar upon the land, but this N slope forest is in excellent condition, particularly upper slopes; & extends fairly to the ridge (obvious on EN map). Very steep, few open patches, no goats seen, altho locals said there were some. Looks very inviting to the Fern headquarters of the Main. Had a very pleasant stay at one of the 2 houses that comprise Simle. The people were very hospitable & generous. Made sure the tin of hot chilis was always by my hand. For the first ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup> on the trek, had some bakshi couple glasses of tekephul (from a sweet forest tree fruit) which was not that strong & also stocked up on good

MEMORY

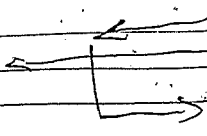
A cliffs. There good clumps of grass. Chhepuwa Khola flows very inviting, in fact. In afternoon walked erratically (as usual) through open abandoned fields & ones w/ Khola recently harvested. Couple of ravines above ~~the~~ Hathiya encountered. A large patch of mixed temperate forest (~7500'), mostly leafless but fairly dense. Porter went ahead & found a good house in the center of the village. Only residents a rather old (50ish?) couple, ~~who~~ The man was ~~in~~ under the quilt by the time I reached there, singing to himself & later even crying a bit - obviously nearly stewed out of his mind on the local drink. A little entertainment for a change.

Birds seen from Chhepuwa (~7,500') to Hathiya (~6,500') 15 December 1992

1. Snow Pigeon - flock of ~100 above Chhepuwa
2. Nutcracker - pr. mobbing <sup>being</sup> marked "do"
3. Blue-fronted Redstart - outside Chhepuwa <sup>in scrub</sup>
4. ♀ Sparrow Hawk - in spruce (pine?) "do"

(Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler is a tape from the west dog)

Mystery Buteo: see tape also above Chhepuwa at ~7,800'; 2 at ~7,000-7,500'; & another at another on ~7,000'; another





21/11/92: an owl calling at 0440-0500 (until 1st H): "hoot hoot hoot" spacing equal & staccato. fairly mellow. & calling every 20-30 secs

and yet again ← NW of Khamyekatta in mixed understorey in which making a major component alt: ~ 9,200 (?) = 6 birds

#10-11 site: trailside ~ 9,200'

MEMORY

food stuffs like 4-5 whole small lemons which had been fermenting in a large jar for a yr they said. Also, carrots - don't see them much in the hills, and as a present when leaving: a couple of Khovrati-like vegetables. Also enjoyed the salted tea and dahi, the latter with a piece of the lemon chutney, truly delicious.

Birds noted from Dapar (camp) to Simlet, Tai Khala 21/11/92

1. ~~1st~~ White-browed Tit Babbler (at camp site in early morning at 5000')
2. Brown Parrotbill (H) <sup>early morning at 5000'</sup>
3. Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher (off on spur (N slope))
4. Grey Bulbul
5. Stripe-throated Yuhina (directly acx from camp site; see audio notes)
6. Nutcracker
7. Orange-banded Leaf Warbler
8. Many Barwing - ib (just above #3-7 site)
9. White-tailed Nuthatch
10. Black-faced L' Thrush
11. ♀ Orange-planked Bush Robin

MEMORY

§ seen even better nearing Hattiga; see tape for good description ←

Questionable; head not seen; might be a #3 w/ L' Thrushes ← another (??) further on ~ 7,500' ←

w/ #13s below: Hongong ←

another Mystery Buteo ~ 9,000' nearing & below Hongong gavi (trail, Katis) ←

and yet another nearing Hattiga; see tape for description

5. ♀ White-browed Rose Finch (?) - chortles above Chhapur ~ 7,800'
6. Wallcreeper - "do"
7. Brown Hill Prinia - "do"
8. ♂ Golden Bush Robin (?) - "do"
9. Red-headed Babbler - sm party ~ 7,500'
10. Kestrels - a pr of 3? ~ 8,000'
11. ♂ Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - ~ 7,000-7,500'
12. ♂ Hen Harrier - about 7,500'
13. Sikkim Black Tit - in mixed
14. Red-headed Tit - hunting party
15. Yellow-numped Leaf Warbler } 7,000-7,500'
16. Green-backed Tit } nearing Hongong
17. ~~Red~~ Black-capped Sibia - "do"
18. ♂ Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush - "do"
19. Spotted Forktail - 7,000-7,200' <sup>luna site</sup> <sub>kanine</sub>
20. ♀ Plumbeous Redstart } stream below
21. White-capped River Chat } Hongong gavi
22. Orange-banded Leaf Warbler - thickets near "do"
23. Red-headed Laughing Thrush - bamboo/thickets
24. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - see tape for habit <sup>discip: ~ 7,000'</sup>
25. Whistling Thrush: nearing/clear Hattiga ~ 7,000'
26. Black-throated Babbler - ~ 6,300' "do"

#12-13 site ~ 9,000' ; #13 with a small party (8-10) of White-bellied Tit Babbler & Stripe-throated Yuhina (or at least in the same bush/bicket) \*

#14-16 site: a few tall oaks + scrub w/ fairly dense understory see audio notes for description of bird #16. Yellow upper flank patch, just as in Fleming plate. alt

#17-18 site: close to the thanyang 9300-9500' in tall, spreading mossy oak trees. (Fairly big for oak??). Acorns collected. Name of this danda is Dobato.

MEMORY

- 12. Rufous-fronted Tit (small flock, 4+)
- 13. Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler
- 14. Rufous-winged Yuhina (6-10)
- 15. Green-backed Tit - a pr.
- 16. Rufous-bellied Shrike Babbler - a pr.
- 17. Yellow-billed Blue Magpie - 2-3
- 18. ♀ Nagceling Pied Woodpecker

Ended the long day at 1745 at Simle (Mala). Alt: ~ 7,000' (?)

Simle - to Upper-Outer 22/11/92  
Nai Majhuwa

Didn't get away until 9:00 hrs. Gave the couple good money (Rs 110/-) for all the foodstuffs including a hefty Rs 10/- per cup for the raksi & sleeping money.

Habitat ca. settlement is scrub grading into coppiced tree, weedy understory. Soon cross Nai Khola khets on either side, but steep banks in thickets & planted "blue" bamboo. Then up thru S/SW scrub and khets, but good forest patches.

MEMORY

Feeling slightly ill at day break, so stayed in bed until almost 7:00 hrs. After the usual eyepener of Nescafe Gold & Coffee mate we woke up the ~~four~~ Store Keeper at the village dakhau to replenish supplies. Out of almost everything. Stocked up on matches (!), biscuits, noodles, even penlight batteries, but forgot the dahl. From the house we stayed at, took a bit of chamaly which amaji was busy husking pres wife & morning. Even a few ishuk. The couple were very modest & refused to take money for the raksi and, esp., lodging. Finally persuaded them to accept a few extra Rp 20 notes because all this small money is heavy.

Left shortly after 9 AM, passing through the village, most houses closely built together. At end of town up on a bit of a ledge was the prominent police post which, surprisingly we passed under w/out <sup>any</sup> attention given. Then walked into gorge(ous) country as we descended into evergreen forest. Rather thin, very large trees probably long ago removed.

featuring lots of alders & some mossy trees in the ravines as the path winds in & out of the small valleys. Finally came out at ~7,500' at house where lunch cooked & a few amenities (dabee, tai ko saag, & matthi tel) purchased (all for RS 5/-) (I gave them after refused to take price - except for the kerosene).

After a tasty dall bhaj, promptly proceeded to get lost by taking a trail too high. (People from below shouting that it headed to the jungle). Dropped steadily to ghats & then on the N slope, good broadleaved forest but very steep with backs slippery & surprised at how easy the carriers negotiated this path down to the river forest perhaps at 7,500 - 6,000. Some cutting for timber, but overall forest on this N slope in good shape - all way down to riverbed. Then climbed gently at first to a house in bamboo clumps, where momentarily lost the porters. Thought they may

MEMORY

MEMORY

but also steep: doubtful if ever that thick w/ tall trees. Cold + very damp. In winter, only 1-2 hrs morning sun... On this day I managed to fall down. Never had a chance to break the fall as it was on a virtually invisible film of wet lichen & moss atop large boulders at riverside. Lucky it wasn't on the edge as I would've had a one-way ticket to Kosi Thappu. Further on thru damp evergreen forest 6000-5000 or so & a few good birds even though midday when passing through. Bird of the day: Gray-checked Warbler. Excellent if brief views, including the bit of basal white in the tail & when in one short instance it was flying away from me... Porters waited 2 hrs (for me) outside the gorge forest (they said) when I caught up w/ them at 1315. Nicely criticized them for not taking initiative to stop at a convenient spot ca noon & cook lunch. Decided to somewhat penalize them by ordering a hasty lunch of only rice + mushroom soup (which of course affected me as well) & then, as it turned out,

or perhaps only 7,500' ←

#3: large flock ≥ 6 ♀♀s & ~4 ♂♂ scattered in bush tops & not shy

just outside Simle (6,500') }  
 ~7,000' }  
 ~7,500 towards Mai Majuwa }

at ~9,000 above danda, & power-dived 2-3,000' (very impressive as was its wide oval mouth (danda). N Eurasian race; good views; new square in Nepal grid.

MEMORY

have gone off on rd to Sandakphu but distracted quickly & caught up w/ them at next house & goats. Then into a ~~wide~~ band & ravine & steeply up to danda top house at ~8,000' where we perched as no more houses until Ghoral Bhanyang - only a few goats en route & no water. People said it takes ~1 1/2 hrs, but 2 1/2-3 looks more like it. Stopped at 1630 hrs.

Birds seen from Simle - Upper - Outer Majuwa (~8000') 22/11/92

1. Plain-colored laughing Thrush
2. Blue-fronted Redstart - a pr
3. Long-tailed Minivets - ~37 ♀♀s
4. Green-backed Tits - 2 pr
5. Yellow-rumped Leaf Warbler ~7,500'
6. Peregrine Falcon - ~6,500-9,000'

Stopped at 1630 hrs at a house ~7,000-7,500'. As now other houses or goats w/ H<sub>2</sub>O until the pass, decided

MEMORY

I held up the walking, by finishing prior day's bird write-up! (A bit to the carriers' consternation & should add). After lunch we walked at a good pace thru scrub, abandoned fields, cut klets, and the odd landslip. Reached Shaksila at 1715, where porters had ahead made arrangements for the stay & night's meal.

Birds observed from Hatiga (~6,500') to Shaksila Gola (~5,000') 16 December '92

1. Common Myna: at Hatiga (~6,500')
2. Jungle Crow: " do "
3. Tree Sparrow - 20-30 ca Hatiga " do "
4. White-capped River Chat - " do " (outskirts)
5. Whistling Thrush - S of Hatiga ~5,800'
6. ♂ Dark Grey Bush Chat (?) " do "
7. White-checked Bulbul - " do "
8. Eurasian House Martin - 30-40 ~6,250'
9. Black-capped Sibia - singly ravine ~6,000'
10. Slate-bellied Tesia - 1 at ~5,500' <sup>below Hatiga gorge</sup>
11. Yellow-naped Yuhina - 3 in thickets ~5,600'
12. Yellowbellied Fantail - 1 in ravine ~5,500'

flock of 7 more outside Hatiga ←

again 2x ~5,000'; again ~5,000' again ~5,000' 2x ←  
 also ~5,800'; again ~5,500'; again ~5,000' ←  
 not seen well - from underneath ←  
 also singly earlier outskirts Hatiga ←  
 again ~5,000' in afternoon;

again further on; see tape description ←  
 of both sightings;  
 another ~1 km from Arun/Barun confluence ←

to call it a day (a bit early), esp. because of the afternoon's steep descent & ascent.

23/11/92

Up at 0610 and on the road after coffee only at 0720. Took about 2 hrs to reach the Ghoral Bhanigang (~10,000'), where only a ghoti sholli & old lady in residence. Raksi, tangerines & black tea available. Left at 1010 and descended through dense rhodo (mixed) forest to ghots at 1PM for lunch. Met on the way dn by Chendu who was on his way back up in haste to search for the tail jacket in which he had also put his wallet. I thought the female group w/ the paper bark roads met on the way had surely found this & had not let me know. As it turned out it must've dropped off the top of his dhoko just below the pass when the porters had rested above the

MEMORY

MEMORY

- 13. ♂ Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush - ~5,500'
- 14. Chestnut-crowned Warbler - in a large
- 15. Grey-checked Warbler - hunting party
- 16. Yellow-rumped leaf Warbler (orange-rumped)
- 17. Chestnut-headed Tit Babbler (?) ~5,500'
- 18. Red-headed laughing Thrush
- 19. Plain-leaf Warbler - x2 in weeds 5,400' (?)
- 20. Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler lunch stop
- 21. ♂ Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher <sup>Strawberry</sup> ~5,000'
- 22. Fulvous-breasted Pied W'pecker - ~5,000'
- 23. Banded Oriole (?) ~5,000' out in open
- 24. ♂ Plumbeous Redstart ~1/2 km below <sup>Am/Bom</sup> ~~Am/Bom~~
- 25. ♀ Small Niltava - ~1 km "do" ~5,000'
- 26. (?) White-vented Needletail (?) ~5,000'
- 27. Black-capped Shrike - at dusk near Shaksila

17 December 1992

Took a 1 hr morning birdwalk (0910-0920) to thickets & cliff front above the stream at the outskirts of the village. No sun, very few birds seen altho habitat good, at least <sup>at</sup> the border of the stream. Finally away at 0950 after copying Trekking Permit particulars

Red-tailed Thrush?

see tape for description/remarks ←

see tape for description/remarks seen & loud song heard ←

see tape for description/remarks ←

above river course; see tape for description ←

trail for a few moments. Luckily he made it there before anyone else passed else there would've been a big loss. Waited out rain at the Hille ghat, and descended further to 'Pledi' a.k.a 'Kholabari' at dusk

23/11/32

Birds seen from Ocker-Upper, May Majuhara to Kholabari, Panchatar

1. Jungle Crow - ~ 8,500
2. Blue-fronted Redstart - sev. pr pass
3. ♀ Golden Bush Robin (in coppiced oak scrub)
4. ♀ Orange-flanked Bush Robin (oak scrub)
5. Grey Bulbuls - f. large thicket ~ 8,500
6. White-tailed Nuthatch (3,000)
7. ♂ Sparrow Hawk - 9,000' - 10,000' pass
8. White-capped River Chat (dense mixed thicket)
9. Little Fork-tail (2-3,000' Khola side)
10. Brown Dipper at Hille ~ 7,500'
11. ♀ Plumbeous Redstart "do"
12. Grey Wagtail - above Hille ~ 7,800'

also 2337 N slope after pass ~ 9,500' ←

said at Pledi to be the "Riva" Khola. ←

MEMORY

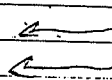
MEMORY

onto a sheet of paper for the chauki policeman. Nice conversation, then walked steadily to a well-built ghat, arriving at 1330, where the porties had heeded the previous days instructions and found a good birding spot to cook lunch towards the lunch hour, not well into the afternoon. Still not away until 1430. Entire afternoon good for birds, passing through fairly dense scrub by ravines (altho almost no bamboo), open forest, weedy hill-sides, and plenty of scrub up tall, thick *Deulacene* cover. Arrived Simma (Simma jar) at 1700 hrs, & much to my consternation the porties had continued on apparently as there were no arrows or wood left with tea shop or dokhan people. "Ghadi", the next village appeared every bit of the hour away, which the villagers estimated. No choice but to walk it. After passing the jet of trail to Makulu-Tashiguan, got better directions from a man at a ghat and continued on at nightfall. At last light met by Chendu w/ torch, and a very faddish walk (slow pace) ensued, as well as a long explanation of why they should've stopped at Simma. He was ready w/ several flimsy excuses, but all were

shot her calmly & he knew they had done wrong more than else. Arrived Hedingna at 10:00 hrs, so tired & shortly thereafter went to bed having only a few sips of tea. Nonetheless, it had been a surprisingly good day for birds, esp. considering the habitat - mostly scrubby & weedy.

Birds observed between Syakshila Feda (~5,000') and Hedingna (4,500-5,000). 17 December '92

again ~ 6,500 past Yakunwa  
again below Yakunwa ~ 5,250'



another party ~ 1 km S Syakshila



possibly a pair →  
w/ Yellow-eyed Warbler as well & a #2

1. Whistling Thrush - Kholat Syakshila ~ 5,000'
2. Yellow-bellied Fantail - "do"
3. Yellow-eyed Warbler - "do"
4. Yellow-naped Yuhina - "do" 1/2 km from
5. Blue-winged Laughing Thrushes - a pr (or more) ~ 5,000'
6. ♂ Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher -
7. Black-capped Sibia -
8. Hodgson's Tree Pipit -
9. ~~♂~~ Small Niltava ♂ -
10. Grey-crowned Pygmy Woodpecker - (♂?) ~ 4,750'
11. Brown-eared Bulbul - ~ 4,500'
12. White-bellied Yuhina
13. ♂ Plumbeous Redstart - bridge ~ 2 km S Syakshila
14. Black-chinned Babbler - ≥ 4 in thickets "do"  
but up ~ 5,000'

(?) may have been #15 but a bit of red glimpsed (I think) w/ Yellow-naped Yuhinas.

see tape for descrip/remarks

≥ 12 in flock ~ 6,500 <sup>hearing</sup> Simma; probably separate

also w/ 8-10 Yellow-naped Yuhinas; a Grey-headed L.W. same bush w/ 6 "do"

several more, noisier, calling outskirts Simma

- 15. White-headed Laughing Thrush - ~ 5,100'
- 16. Red-headed Laughing Thrush - "do"
- 17. Chestnut-throated Shrike Babbler - mixed hunting party ~ 5,200'
- 18. Spotted Piculet - } 5 km S Syakshila
- 19. Yellow-rumped Leaf Warbler - }
- 20. Gray-headed Warbler - }
- 21. Slaty-headed Parakeet - ~ 5,200'; ♀♀?
- 22. White-checked Bulbul - mixed hunting party
- 23. Green-backed Tit - ~ 6,000'
- 24. White-checked Tit - past Yakuwa
- 25. Nepal Sunbird ♂ ~ 6,200'
- 26. Himalayan Tree Pie - ~ 6,300'
- 27. Nepal House Martins (?) - ~ 6,500 before Simma
- 28. Wall creeper - ~ 6,500 "do"
- 29. Green Magpies - ≥ 2 ~ 6,500 "do"
- 30. Collared Bush Chat - ♀ ~ 6,500 "do"
- 31. Black-capped Shrike - outskirts Simma ~ 6,500

18 December '92

Had the porters up shortly after 0530, but didn't get underway until ~ 0800. Couldn't eat the leftover dal/bhat, excuse being that it was too warm inside during the night, but did salvage the two boiled eggs for a hearty breakfast



of instant mie, mixed liberally w/rai ko saag.  
Very slow going. Clearly we did it prev day  
& was in an irritable mood all morning.  
Finally came around after lunch at the  
Arun bridge. At ~1500 hrs, proceeded E  
along steep gorges towards Indus Khola,  
taking a lower road at first, which dead-  
ended at a tunnel opening (assoc. w/Arun  
hydroelectric proj?). Back up to the main  
trail, which passed thru luxuriant, steep  
evergreen forest, but further on, being  
chopped over to plant cardamom. One  
patch (~1/2 acre) in a ravine 3-4 yrs old  
but others very recent and quite a bit of  
clearing in the lower Indus. Unlike Hans  
Pokhan Danda, people cut out overhanging  
tree canopy (I??). Quite ugly & disappointing.  
Passed one landslide & a huge tree (largest seen  
on the trip, only to next come to a sharp ledge  
which has been totally hacked (trees & all)  
w/in just the past few days. Crossed a strictly  
dangerous suspension bridge (diciest ever!)  
to reach a cave on the other side of the Indus  
at ~3,000' where we overnighted.

Birds observed from Hedangna (~4,500')  
to Indua Khola overhang (~3,000') 18/12/92

1. House Crow - 2-3 } around Hedangna house
2. Common Myna <sup>±4</sup> } ~4,500'
3. Tree Sparrow <sup>sev</sup> }
4. Yellow-checked Tit - outskirts Hedangna ~4,800'
5. Red-billed Blue Magpie - "do"
6. ♂/♀ pr. fire-breasted Flowerpecker - "do" ~4,900'
7. Nepal House Martins - ≈ 80 over Hedangna ~5,000'
8. Himalayan Tree Pic - ≈ 2 past Hedangna center ~4,700'
9. White-checked Bulbul - "do"
10. Yellow-naped Yuhina - "do"
10. Rusty-checked Scimitar Babbler - "do" ~4,600'
12. Black-chinned Babbler - ≥ 1 (prob. sev) "do"
13. Dusky Leaf Warbler - below Hedangna ~4,250'
14. ♂ Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher - Hedangna ~4,000'
15. large Cormorant - 2 on Arun boulders ~3,000'
16. large Pied Kingfisher - side Khola past bridge "do"
17. ♂ Plumberus Redstart - confluence "do"
18. White-capped River Chat - "do"
19. Yellow-bellied Fantail Flycatcher - ~3,100'
20. Black-chinned Yuhina - 8-10 towards Indua Khola ~3,250'; N slope
- (N) 21. Little-browned Drongo - single "do" ~3,400'

another flock below Hedangna ~4,000' ←

again near Indu Khola (overhang) camp ~3,100' ←

again near Indua Khola camp ~3,100' ←

again near Indua Khola confluence ~3,300' ←

seen again later in afternoon; same party? ←

- 22. Whistling Thrush - Jodua Khola ~ 3,200'
- 23. ♀ large Woodshrike - near Hedangna ~ 4,000'  
should be ~ #11 listing for the day [omitted].

19 December '92

Hari S. "Kazi" Nepali reports a flock of 5 Chestnut-headed Yuhinas in the Upper Arun Khola, below Paha Khola near Balante (between Nebbhare and Balante) at ~ 1525m on 19 December 1990 (E or W bank?) (two years previously to the day). He has recorded this sighting on computer spread sheet, but is unusable data.

Had a morning birdwalk up the ridge forming S slope of Lower Jodua. Few birds seen & cold/v. damp. Sun should have peeked over the opp ridge ~ 8:30 but clouded over a bit & hardly any rays made it thru. Back to the overhang at 1145 to ride up a dahl/bhat & decided should walk in the afternoon towards Num. Away at 1430 & proceeded slowly because of the good habitat & fair amt of avian activity. Best bird of the trek encountered along the Arun right at the future site of the Arun 3 dam: A flock of ~ 6 Chestnut-headed Yuhinas. Quite a shock while looking over yet another flock of Black-chinned (the two flocks apparently not together). Then, shortly thereafter, two most unusual birds sighted in a leafless tree which were probably Himalayan Honeyguides (Need to confirm with Inskippe, first time).

Arun 3: ~ 750m US #  
starts in 1994; rd will likely follow the  
valley route being surveyed now (using  
GPS)

Met dam project engineer ~ 1530 at what  
was found to be ~~the~~ a heli pad opp the small  
stream (w/ the dilapidated bridge). Good talk  
invited for a 'get-together' w/ crew & American  
woman doing her PhD research. Excellent stay  
at the guesthouse-like complex. A real bed  
to stay in, which my back & hips really appre-  
ciated although only ~ 6 1/2 hrs because of the  
late night around the bonfire (55 gal drum  
'heater' they called it) & a bit of goat meat,  
& a bit of bhat. Also, lots of Khado Koraks  
consumed, almost drunk on it. Surprisingly  
able to rise early (0630), rans the park  
and be on the trail by 0730.

(~ 3,000')  
Birds observed ca overhang at Indua Khol  
and Arun trail to Phaksinda (2,900') 19/12/9

#5

again later in morning at same site; bold ←  
fairly  
(another mixed flock of these 2 spp. later on ridge  
10-12 Bl-chinned w/ at least 3-4 Yellow-naped;  
#5 seen again alone near ridge crest; sticks  
to middle upper parts of trees (Bl-chinned  
that is).

1. Large Pied Kingfisher - at overhang ~ 3,000'
  2. ♂ Plumbeous Redstart - "do"
  3. Little Forktail - "do"
  4. Grey-headed Warbler - ~ 3,200'
  5. Black-chinned Yuhina - } ~ 3,300 on E
  6. Yellow-naped Yuhina } ridge crest to Indua
- together in same part

AMMA-117-  
3300-

#24: 2 more (ad? juv?) circling over the  
Phyaksinda camp at dusk

#12 at least 3 birds; #11 quite a few

good views in leafless tree; ←

#15/16 mixed flock; mostly ♂♂; ≥ 1 2nd yr  
Scarlet ♂; ← quite shy! ←

→ again towards Phyaksinda; ≥ 2-3.

pr. of fork-tails, at least 2 of which this sp. ←  
above Indus/Arun confluence N slope; ←

see tape for habitat description & comments on  
the field characters/behaviour of this sp.

Group of black-chinned also present but did not  
appear to be associating w/ the Chestnut-headed

size/

#23: general shape, conical bill, hunched over;  
habitat right; thick forest w/ exposed sheer cliffs  
above; however, no yellow or pale forehead seen,  
below uniform gray & more brown than green above;  
note poor backside light & seen from below, no view  
of rump. Faint call; a leafless tree

7. Chestnut-headed Tit Babbler - ~3,350' along

8. Small Raquet-tailed Drongo - ridge crest;

9. Chestnut-throated Shrike Babbler - N slope

10. ♂ Small Niltava - along crest ~3,300

11. White-headed Laughing Thrush - mixed flock

12. Striated Laughing Thrush - ~3,300' N slope

13. Black-throated Babbler - in #7-9 party; ≥ 2

14. Little Bronzed Drongo - 3 ~3,300

15. Long-tailed Tiniivet - along & below crest

16. Scarlet Tiniivet - N & S slopes; ~3,300!

17. Brown-eared Bulbul - 3-4 below crest ~3,200'

18. Whistling Thrush - ~3,200' S slope

19. Brown Dipper - at meadow ~3,000'

20. Slate-backed Fork-tail - "do" 3,500'

21. Chestnut-headed Yuhina - 6-8 @ 3,400'

22. Yellow-bellied Fantail - same site as #21

23. Himalayan Honeyguide (?) - a pr 3,300-3,400'

24. Large Cormorant - 2,900' at Arun; juvenile

-118-

20 December '92

Up by 0630, but spent almost an hour  
over coffee talking to Anne & Ramesh be-  
fore starting up the hill to Num. Very few  
birds seen altho habitat in good condition  
& weather fine. Took my time, in one spot  
trying to wait out a few birds, but nothing  
unusual spotted. Not disappointed because  
still amazed at the (prob.) Honeyguide & (definite)  
Chestnut-headed Yuhina day before. Reached  
Num houses along mul batto at ~ 11.00 hrs, &  
just missed departure of one of the Scottish  
road surveyors (Peter ?) to KTR via Tum-  
lingtar on ~~the~~ a govt. Puma. Then learned  
from his colleagues that he was a keen birder  
(as Ramesh indicated, at X using survey equip.  
to spot birds!) & will try to touch base w/him in  
KTR. Spent quite a while talking w/the other  
surveyors, then an enjoyable goph saph w/  
an English scuba diver (oil rig worker in  
Dubai) who had come across Teshu Lapcha &  
was headed up towards the Barun altho  
would prob. be turned back as his permit

(this)

did not specify the area. His 41st day, w/  
a team of 4 (Sheep, cook, two carriers) &  
himself carrying a large backpack (25-30kg?)  
Obviously thoroughly enjoys Nepal. With  
more trekkers were of this mold.

At 1230 finally pushed the porter to  
cook lunch and by 3 PM we were on the rd.  
In the meantime, enjoyable sitting ca<sup>1/2</sup> the  
store owners & families. One made me a cup  
of good milk coffee on his mechanical blower  
of a charcoal fire, & a plate of badmaas  
which he steadfastly refused to take money  
for. The woman her smart, precocious  
& yr old also good to shoot the breeze while  
lunch prepared. Walked at a good pace to  
reach the ghat-like houses of Mure (aka a  
Banidunga) by dark. Pleasant stay, altho  
the woman in the small dakhon certainly  
tried (& fairly well succeeded) to jack the price  
on the small bits of staples we purchased.  
A bit of a little hot, & quite cold - a bit of  
frost the next morning, but a good sleep  
& fun w/ a little 6 yr old, who Ahendu  
repeatedly "threatened" to cut off his ears

or take out an eye w/ our Khukuri & Swiss Army Knife. Not scared at all. When prodded to take him to America by his ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~de~~ <sup>de</sup> ~~hair~~, he thought it over, & on two occasions, said yea, he'll go. (ཡེའོ་རྒྱུ་)

Mure a.k.a. Ranidhunga

Birds observed between Phyaksinda (2900'±; 2600'±) & Mure (~7,000-7,500') (via Num) 20 December 1952

pair of Martens (pale yellow throat/breast) above Phyaksinda ~3,500'

1. Brown-eared Bulbul - 3 ~3,000' <sup>above</sup> Phyaksinda

2. Chestnut-headed Ground Warbler - ~3,700'

3. ♂ Nepal Sunbird - ~3,400-3,500'

4. ♂ Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher - 3,500'

5. Yellow-eyed Warbler - 3 together 3,800(?)

6. Great Himalayan Barbet - single ~4,000'

7. Himalayan Tree Pie - pr ~4,000' <sup>towards</sup> Num

8. Black-chinned Yuhina - 2-10 @ ~4,000-4,200' <sup>(perhaps more)</sup>

9. Yellow-checked Tt - ≥2 w/ other sm birds ~4,200'

10. White-headed laughing Thrush - 4,000-4,500'

11. ♀ Red-breasted Flycatcher - ~4,500' (single)

12. White-checked Bulbul - 3 ~5,000'

13. Eurasian Kestrel - ♂ past Num ~6,000-6,500'

Large (≥12) flock near Mure ~6,500-7,000' ←  
homogenous flock. ←

see tape for nape color description; seen ←  
again (large flock) towards Mure ~6,500-7,000' ←

pr past Num (6,000-6,500'?) ←



Will have to check alt's of places passed on this day. May be off (too high) by 500-1,000. Maps indicate quite different path heights.

-121-

21 December '92

Away from Neure about 0800 hrs, thru mostly scrub forest - lots of "bushes", and more evidence of burning to clear forest along the crest for grazing/khets. Trail winds thru good mixed forest - little tree cutting - along N & W slopes, but heavily grazed/understorey, ground cover cut for fodder. Many trails. Still, good for a few hawk-type birds, before coming out to more scrub/shrub above Hururu. From there, only one more fair-size patch, but had a small pond & few trees cut. Had lunch at a house where porters taken by a couple we met at Neure Plain dahl bhat, but at least sag & ishkush & remaining chutney to help it go down. Afternoon through more scrub forest, bushes/weeds, reaching Chhichhila ~1600 hrs. A truly cozy room w/ 3 beds for us & a woman owner who seemed more of a local O.I.C. than just a shop owner. No signboards; one of the kids had luck w/ a slingshot & nailed a ♀ Blue-fronted Redstart, which was stapled (!) over the shop sill (!). As the woman joked: "You watch & record 'em (birds); we kill 'em". Cold but productive bird search at outskirts at dusk.

Birds observed between Mure (~7,000-7,500')

Chhichhila (~6,500-7,000') 21 Dec. '92

- 1. Black-capped Sibia - ~7,500, above Mure
- 2. Green-backed Tit - all in same
- 3. Bar-throated Siva - mixed
- 4. Yellow-rumped leaf Warbler - hunting party,
- 5. Yellow-naped Yuhina -
- 6. Gray-headed Warbler -
- 7. Black-throated Babbler - w/ #3s a bit higher (p)
- 8. Aberrant Bush Warbler - <sup>great views; fr</sup> near #7 side; <sup>off to side</sup>
- 9. ♂ Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher - ~7,800'
- 10. White-throated Laughing Thrush - mixed flock; → 20 #10s
- 11. Striated Laughing Thrush - pr #11s; ~7,800'
- 12. Long-tailed Mt Thrush - ~8,000' (single) trail
- 13. Black-throated Thrush - mixed ♀/♂ flock, mostly ♂♂; 8-9 in all ~7,000-7,500' <sup>below</sup> Hururu.
- 14. Yellow-browed Tit - mixed hunting party ~7,000'
- 15. Orange-banded L. Warbler
- 16. White-tailed Nuthatch
- 17. Plain leaf Warbler (?)
- 18. Jungle Crow - pr. at Hururu lunch stop, ~6,500' (?)
- 19. ♂ Collared Bush Chat - subsp. indica ~6,500'
- 20. White-checked Bullbul - ~2 "do"
- 21. ♂ Golden Bush Robin - ~6,500' (brief, but good views - beautiful!)

वि निमा नैका रेशम  
गोवि ल हाग

हमाक विउरे  
ए र एका थ र्क रेवेक  
यय वरु र सिम

विमा लबुष लमा  
गोवि ल गुनडाकी

हमाक गुनडाकी

ए र गुना पोवरी ९

गम युक्क लका

उमे १० वा

चुटे र्क

#1s: also small party Hururu tea shop ~7,500'

#4: <sup>- again,</sup> in afternoon w/ #5 1 (large party) approaching Chhichhila

#20: Sm party "do" ~6,500-7,000' shrubs

#13: again, outside Chhichhila at dusk in scrub party of 10; ± 7 ♂♂

♂ another further on; alt ~ same  
dn in valley 4,500-5,000' alt (site of  
bird I)  
w/ a few yellow-naped Yuhinas.

in a mixed hunting party w/ #s 5, 3, 6

#22 ♀ further on ~ 6,500-7,000'

See tape for details; good views &  
saw pale buff (=whitish) tipped testicles!

- ← 22. ♂ Blue-fronted Redstart ~ 6,500-7,000'
- ← 23. Koel Cuckoo - calling below trail @ 6,500'
- ← 24. Black-chinned Babbler - ~ 6,500-7,000'
- 25. Himalayan Tree Pie - "do"
- 26. Yellow-checked Tit - "do"
- ← 27. Blue-winged Minlas - (mixed party)
- 28. Gray-faced Leaf Warbler - 6,500-7,000'
- 29. Grey Wagtail - 3 outside Chhichhila ~ 7,000'
- 30. Yellow-billed Blue Magpie - "do"
- ← 31. Spot-winged Rose Finch - 2-3 ♀♀ in dense bushes ~ 6,500' between Huraru & Chhichhila
- 32. ♂ Hen Harrier - outskirts of Chhichhila

22 December '92

(0700-0740)

After a productive early AM birdwalk (even tho overcast), on the way through a stretch of much-talked ea good forest by 0830. Sun only occasionally breaking through. Very good forest w/ thick mid- & understory. Flossy & epiphytes; but almost everywhere grazed. Steady 1 hr walk would take me through it, but took nearly 3 hrs as v. good for birds. Emerged into forest scrub (still good) & with large trail

Man barged into our room in the evening. Momentarily startled as he had us move off the bed, where he pulled out his valuable bag from under the bedding & walked away w/out comment.

Spent the next morning waiting/ checking if the solar batteries for the phone had recharged. Finally gave up at 1315 hrs.

Khandbari a very large town strung out along danda road. Quite clean & well-stocked; 24 hr. electricity.

also sm. party ~7,500' ←  
& further on; & again ~7,500' ←

sm flock - ~7,600'; again 7,800'; again at ←  
Pangma ~4,500'

Side patches of Gleichenia ferns, where turned up (finally!) the Rufous-chinned laughing Thrush. In fog (cloud) over the crest and descended through open, heavily populated S slopes of Bhotebas & Pangma to Manne Bhanjang. Much warmer & drier. Reached Khandbari ~1630 hrs, walking steadily since lunch. Stayed above a Tibetan rakshi shop near the hosp. Delicious evening meal w/ one of the best cold beers ever (Star-home since I am) at the Barur Rest. Good service & western music. Relaxing

Birds seen from Chhichhila (~7,000') to Khandbari (~3600') 22 December 1992

1. Bar-throated Minla - } outskirts Chhichhila
2. Grey-headed Warbler - } ~7,000' in shrubs &
3. Yellow-naped Yuhina - } trees/scrub
4. Green-backed Tit - }
5. Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler - pr "do"
6. Little Bunting - edge of Chhichhila ~7,000'
7. Himalayan Tree Pie - several 7,000-7,500'
8. Eurasian Jay - single ~7,500'

in open tree tops, calling. Great views ←  
(perhaps a 3rd calling from nearby?)  
Both birds seen, fairly confident & seemed  
to be calling to another(?)

#13: single later on ~7,600-7,700'; and another  
single further on ~7,500'  
(or pr)

glimpse; but pattern & colors of ←  
wing, but of back & flanks seen; possibly of  
a sm party (3-4) of #16s which only ~30m  
away & coming from #19 site. The altitude  
is ~ the highest reported for the sp!  
at Pangma m. ←

#20 another ♂; Pangma ~4,500 but prezvalskii!

- 9. Black-capped Sibia - sm party ~7,500'
- 10. Black-throated Thrush - "do"
- 11. Striated Bulbul - pr. "do"
- 12. Golden-throated Barbet - "do"
- 13. Striated laughing Thrush - 1 or 2 "do"
- 14. White-tailed Nuthatch - 7,600-7,800'
- 15. White-throated laughing Thrush - together
- 16. Grey-sided laughing Thrush - 5 @ ~7,800'
- 17. Great Himalayan Barbet - 7,000'
- 18. Nepal House Martin - near Ghokuni ~7,000'
- 19. Rufous-chinned laughing Thrush - ~6,500'
- 20. ♂ Collared Bush Chat - ~8,000' (maybe lower)
- 21. ♂ Hen Harrier - should be #1 <sup>outskirts of</sup> <sub>of Chhikla</sub>
- 22. Crag Martin - sm flock 5,000-5,500 Bhotebar
- 23. Grey-headed Flycatcher - ~5,000'
- 24. Jungle Crow - ±50 near Pangma ~4,500-5,000'
- 25. ♂ Fulvous-fronted Pied Woodpecker ~4,500'
- 26. Common Myna - sev. flocks below Pangma ~4,000'
- 27. Tree Sparrows - houses Khandbari ~3,600'

23 December 1992

late start from Khandbari to Tum-  
lingtar. Walked fairly steadily but  
sev. gd birds (2 1/2 hrs) dn through

|       |        |
|-------|--------|
|       | 9,830  |
| 8,820 | 3113   |
|       | 66.7   |
|       | 52     |
|       | 1334   |
|       | 33350  |
|       | 34684  |
| 5,200 | 5,200  |
| 3,468 | 5,200  |
| 8,668 | 10,400 |
| - 100 | 170    |
| 8,568 | 10,230 |
| + 32  | 620    |
| 8,600 | 9,610  |
| 200   | 200    |
| 8,800 | 9,810  |

the long, spread out fan of village houses fields, then dropping a 1600 hrs to the airstrip (1700 according to RNAE pilot). Pleasant overnight at Tumlingtar Hotel w/ a Bahen family. Used up the last of the food to cook up an instant mie creation w/ fresh cauliflower purchased earlier at Khandbari & the Amul cheese chunk. Talked our way into two seats for the next morning's flight to KTR - real sharp of RNAE chief - but v. helpful. Even got a break by changing a \$100 bill for 2x50s w/ an Australian fellow who was part of a large 'Mt. Colgar' trekking party, just arrived by plane at 1600 hrs from KTR. Dining it up in style. Dinner table under a tent. On a 28 day trek towards Nakalu. Good luck this time of year.

Settled up w/ porties at night & they seemed delighted w/ the big tips given, I could easily sense they finally believed all along what I'd been telling them would result if they did good work, which really, they had certainly done

-128-

Birds observed from Khandbari (~3,600')  
to Tumlingtar (1,700') 23 December '92

one in a pen on top of a pig's back ←

pure flock? ~15, perhaps more <sup>distinct</sup> further away ←  
see tape for description ←

210-12; all ♂♂? ←

1. House Crow - at Khandbari ~3,500'
2. Tailorbird (H?) "do"
3. Red-billed Blue Magpie - ~3,000' below Kbari
4. Plain-leaf Warbler - "do"
5. White-necked Stork - 6, ~3,000' "do"
6. Eurasian Griffon - 3; ~3,000-3,500'
7. Red-vented Bulbul - 3,100-3,200'
8. Striated Swallows - 3,000'-3,500'
9. Mystery Buteo (*japonicus*?) - ~3,000'
10. Edible-Nest Swiftlet - 29 ~2,200-2,500'
11. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater - 5 outskirts TML ~2,100'
12. Common Nuthatch - many ca TML 2,200-2,000'
13. Indian Roller - outskirts TML ~2,100'
14. Bengal Green Pigeon - "do"
15. Blossom-headed Parakeet - "do"
16. ♂ Collared Bush Chat (*indicus*) "do"
17. Brown Shrike - airstrip at dusk 1,700'