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20 March 1994

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Dear Carol and Tim,

in response to your request for records of unusual bird species found in Nepal I have compiled the following list of records, which I hope will be of some use. All records are from 1993. I also include brief notes on two species.

Yours sincerely,
Martin Flack

On 17 March 1993 I left Chitre and walked towards Ghorepani on the Jomosom trek, Annapurna Conservation Area, west-central Nepal. Just above Chitre I located an adult male Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* very low in a rhododendron beside the trail. It soon moved to the ground and hopped out of sight. It was not seen again.

The upperparts were dark blue, the underparts white. A blackish band ran from the base of the bill along the sides of the head, neck and breast. The bill and iris were dark, the legs pale flesh.

On 1 May 1993 I was at Meghauli, Chitwan National Park and located an adult male White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis* near the ferry crossing of the Rapti River. The bird was perched in tall grass about 1m above the ground. It began to sing, slowly spreading its tail as it did so, revealing the white base. I was puzzled by the obvious white submoustachial stripe that the bird showed.

When I returned to England I consulted Ali and Ripley's Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan and discovered that the race "tschebaiewi" shows white submoustachial stripes.

Notes on birds recorded in Nepal, 1993.

(1993) Flack, M.

- BLACK BAZA** *Aviceda leuphotes*
 Garuwa: 1 on 18 April.
 Garuwa + Sukhani: 2 between the villages on 19 April.
- IMPERIAL EAGLE** *Aquila heliaca*
 Kosi Barrage: An adult and a juvenile north of the Barrage on 16 February.
 2 juveniles north of the Barrage on 17 February.
- RED-NECKED FALCON** *Falco chicquera*
 Kosi Barrage: 1 over the marsh just east of the river and north of the Barrage on 22 April.
 2 in the same area as above on 24 April; including a bird caught in a local's net (apparently stretched across the marsh to catch ducks?).
- SWAMP FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus gularis*
 Kosi Barrage + Kosi Tappu: At least 2 males from the embankment near Kosi Tappu on 25 April.
- SATYR TRAGOPAN** *Tragopan satyra*
 Syabru: A male along the ridge towards Chandan Bari on 15 May.
- CHEER PHEASANT** *Catreus wallichi*
 Ghasa: 2 males on hillsides south-west of the village on 3 March.
- IBISBILL** *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*
 Tukche: 2 on the Thak Khola just south of the village on 13 March.
- LESSER SAND PLOVER** *Charadrius mongolus*
 Kosi Barrage: 3 south of the Barrage on 18 February.
- PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva*
 Kosi Barrage + Kosi Tappu: 157 from the embankment near Kosi Tappu on 23 April.
- NORTHERN LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*
 Kosi Barrage: 1 on 16 February, 12 on 17 February.
- SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*
 Kosi Barrage: 2 south of the Barrage on 18 February.
- BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*
 Kosi Barrage: 9 on 22 April, 4 on 23 April, 1 on 24 April.
- COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*
 Kosi Barrage: 2 on 22 April, 3 on 23 April, 2 on 24 April.
- WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybridus*
 Kosi Barrage: 25 on 22 April, 8 on 24 April.
- BANDED BAY CUCKOO** *Cacomantis sonneratii*
 Chitwan: 1 near Tiger Tops on 30 April.
- GREAT HORNBILL** *Buceros bicornis*
 Garuwa + Sukhani: 2 between the villages on 18 April.
 Chitwan: 2 near Tiger Tops on 30 April.
- WHITE-BROWED PICULET** *Sasia ochracea*
 Ilam: 1 in a mixed flock near Jusbiria on 16 April.
- BAY WOODPECKER** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
 Phulchowki: A pair above the quarry on 13 February.
- LONG-TAILED BROADBILL** *Psarismomus dalhousiae*
 Phewa Tal: 6 in the forest west of Fishtail Lodge on 20-21 March.
 Chitwan: 2 near Tiger Tops on 1 May.
- GOULD'S SHORTWING** *Brachypteryx stellata*
 Gapte: 2 between here and Phedi on 17 May.
- WHITE-TAILED RUBYTHROAT** *Luscinia pectoralis*
 Chitwan: A singing male of the race 'tschebaiewi' in grassland by the Rapti River, close to the ferry crossing near Meghauri on 1 May.
- SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN** *Luscinia cyane*
 Chitre: A male between here and Ghorepani on 17 March.
- GOLDEN BUSH-ROBIN** *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
 Phulchowki: 2 males and 3 females on the upper slopes on 11 February.
- RUFIOUS-BREASTED BUSH-ROBIN** *Tarsiger hyperythrus*
 Phulchowki: A male on the upper slopes on 11 February.
- SCALY THRUSH** *Zoothera dauma*
 Syabru: A pair nesting in the forest above Syabru on 14 May.

- LONG-BILLED THRUSH** *Zoothera monticola*
Phulchowki: 1 in the ravine above the quarry on 13 February.
Phewa Tal: 1 in a ravine west of Fishtail Lodge on 21 March.
- CHESTNUT THRUSH** *Turdus rubrocanus*
Ghorepani: A female in a flock of 40 White-collared Blackbirds (*T. albocinctus*) on 18 March.
- SLATY-BACKED FORKTAIL** *Enicurus schistaceus*
Sundarijal: 1 along the river on 20 May.
- SPOTTED BUSH WARBLER** *Bradypterus thoracicus*
Kosi Barrage: 1 along the eastern edge of the river, north of the Barrage on 16 February.
- LARGE GRASS WARBLER** *Graminicola bengalensis*
Chitwan: 2 in grassland by the Rapti River, Meghauri on 29 April, 1 on 30 April, 3 on 1 May.
- GREY-CHEEKED WARBLER** *Seicercus poliogenys*
Phulchowki: 1 in a large mixed flock at the start of the ravine above the quarry on 10 February.
- SMOKY WARBLER** *Phylloscopus fulgiventis*
Kosi Barrage → Kosi Tappu: 3 along the embankment on 25 April.
Chitwan: 1 in grassland by the Rapti River, Meghauri on 2 May.
Laurebina Pass: 4 below the pass towards Gapte on 17 May.
- TICKELL'S BLUE FLYCATCHER** *Cyornis tickelliae*
Phewa Tal: A male in trees beside the lake, west of Fishtail Lodge on 21 March.
- FERRUGINOUS FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa ferruginea*
Ilam: 1 between Jusbiria and Jamuna on 14 April.
- ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa latirostris*
Ilam: 2 between here and Chisapani on 17 April.
Lodia: 2, including a singing male, on 18 April.
Garua: 1 on 18 April.
- LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula westermanni*
Phulchowki: A male near the halfway houses on 23 May.
- SLATY-BACKED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hodgsonii*
Phulchowki: A pair near the halfway houses on 10 February.
- RUFIOUS-THROATED WREN-BABBLER** *Spelaeornis caudatus*
Hanga Tham: 2, including a singing male, on 15 April.
- GOLDEN-BREASTED FULVETTA** *Alcippe chrysotis*
Hanga Tham: 1 in a mixed flock on 15 April.
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum melanoxanthum*
Phulchowki: A male and 2 females along the ravine above the quarry on 13 February.
- STREAKED WEAVER** *Ploceus manyar*
Kosi Barrage: A female-type along the eastern edge of the river, north of the Barrage on 16 February.
A female-type in a flock of Chestnut Munias (*Lonchura malacca*) in the marsh by the Pink Tower, north of the Barrage on 23 April.
- VINACEOUS ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus vinaceus*
Chandan Bari: A male on 16 May.
- CRIMSON-BROWED FINCH** *Propyrrhula subhimachala*
Chandan Bari: A male on 16 May.
- BROWN BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula nipalensis*
Phulchowki: 3 near the halfway houses on 25 March.
Hanga Tham: 3 on 15 April.
Syabru: 3 in the forest above Syabru on 14 May.
- BLACK-FACED BUNTING** *Emberiza spodocephala*
Kosi Barrage: 2 males and 5 female-types near the huts on the eastern edge of the river, north of the Barrage on 16 February.
A male and 3 female-types there on 17 February.
- PINE BUNTING** *Emberiza leucocephalos*
Jomosom: 2 males and 2 female-types in fields on 11 March.