

John Sparks

SPARKS, J. (1999)

BIRDS SEEN ON THE TREK
through
UPPER DOLPO -NEPAL
September 10th - October 8th 1999

All these birds were seen by JHS.

Chukar

Covey on fields at Saldang.

Quail sp?

One flushed from Barley field. Saldang.

Common Teal

Three on River Bheri near Dunai

Garganey

One on River at Shey.

Hoopoe

Widespread and common, especially around the villages.

House swift

Noted over Kathmandu.

Rock pigeon (dove)

Several on cliffs below Terakot.

Hill pigeon

Flocks (feral?) around the Gompas at Shey and Namjung.

Snow pigeon

Flock (feral) around the village at Ringmo and roosting in one of the Stupas.

Oriental turtle dove

Several at Saldang and one seen at Dunai.

Demoiselle crane

Passage of flocks flying south (from Tibet to India), each of up to ca. 130 at around 10,000ft (ca 2000 ft above ground level) down the river between Terakot and Dunai between 4-6 Oct.

Common Sandpiper

3-4 on the river at Dunai .

Temminck's stint

One on muddy pasture by the river at Dho Tarap 30 Sept.

Black kite

Common in Kathmandu, Nepalgang and Pokhara. One seen in Tokyu.

Buzzard - common?

One seen in the Tarap Canyon. Several buzzard sp. observed high up on various occasions but identification was impossible.

Lammergeier

Widespread and fairly common, often scavenging around the villages (e.g. Shey, Saldang, Ringmo). Observed on virtually every day.

Himalayan vulture

Observed regularly. Not so evident around human settlements.

Accipiter sp?

One fairly large bird (?Goshawk) seen at dawn at Ringmo, and a similar bird at Shey.



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Dear Tim (if I may),

I have just returned from Upper Dotts and, as promised, I am enclosing a list of the birds that I observed. It was an utterly fascinating trip - although a bit frustrating from a bird-watching point of view. As it involved about 5/6 hrs walking a day - one had ~~to~~ relatively little time to sit & watch. I was also a bit surprised how relatively bird-less much of it was. I suspected that a lot of the 'summer' breeding population had gone south or had retreated to lower altitudes.

I was amazed at how common hoopoes
and black vedstärki were - also
lammergeiers very very frequent and lurked
in the skies around villages like Saldung.

The pipits gave me more than a bit of
grief ~ I am fairly confident that the
predominant ones up high were rasy - but
there seemed to be another ~~just~~ more lightly
marked and 'buffer' species which I
never ~~seen~~ identified - although the low
altitude ones I saw at Pskhara were
water pipits.

Anyway - I hope that the enclosed
is of some use although there are probably
no surprises.

With best wishes

John