

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.

Eurasian sparrowhawk

A single bird identified over the airfield at Pokhara

Golden eagle

Good views of birds at Shey and on the cliffs along the Tarap river well below Saldang. Other big eagles seen at various times high over ridges (e.g. Terakot and Dunai). A possible **Bonelli's eagle** was seen over the camping ground at Dunai on 6th.

Booted Eagle

Pale phase birds seen at Jupal and Tarakot.

Common kestrel

Seen regularly.

Little egret

Nepalganj and Kathmandu

Cattle egret

Nepalganj.

Indian pond heron

Nepalganj.

Black-crowned night heron.

Nepalganj

Asian openbill

One seen on marshes on the approach to Pokhara airport.

Brown shrike

One in Summit Hotel garden, Kathmandu, and in bushes just below Dunai

Grey backed shrike

Cocks at Ringmo and below Saldang.

Rufous treepie

Nepaganj.

Indian house crow

Kathmandu - common.

Large-billed or jungle crow

Widespread.

Common raven

Seen regularly. Scavenged the camp site in Shey.

Red-billed chough

Common. First seen at Shey and then throughout the trek.

Yellow-billed chough

Common - often together with the above species.

Spotted nutcracker

One at Ringmo. I am surprised that they were not more in evidence.

Yellow-bellied fantail.

A pair seen with tits in Himalayan birch forest on the muddy descent on 16th Sept.

Black drongo

Kathmandu - in hotel garden.

White-throated dipper.

Only one, possibly two seen despite all the rivers we walked alongside of. At Tokyo Gaon.

Blue Whistling thrush

Widespread along the rivers and canyons on the lower reaches of the trek - i.e. below 10,000ft.

Blue rock thrush

Observed near the Namgung monastery

Orange flanked bush robin

Juv/immature seen in Himalayan cedar forest in the Tarap Gorge en route to Khari Gaon.

Oriental magpie robin

Summit Hotel garden, Kathmandu

Blue-capped redstart

A nice male by camp site - Ringmo.

Black redstart

Extremely common almost everywhere.

White-capped water redstart

Frequent on rivers below about 10,000 ft. Occasionally higher up (e.g. Saldang).

Plumbeous water redstart

Frequent on the rivers at lower altitude

Common stonechat

Frequent. Noted at Juphal, Dunai, Shey and Tokyu Gaon.

Grey bushchat

Only one seen - near Dunai (I think)

(Note- **no wheatears!** or other 'starts)

Common mynah

In Khatmandu, Nepalganj and Pokhara.

Tree-creeper (Eurasian?)

One in a mixed party of tits and warblers in the Tarap Gorge below Kamattarka.

Wallcreeper

Close views of a female near yjr monastery on a pinnacle on the tgrek to Namdo Gompa (16th Oct.)

Rufous-naped tit

Most of the tits seen conformed to this species.

Eurasian crag martins

Frequent - and the sky was busy with them at Tarakot (possibly cool misty weather was forcing them down)

Barn swallow

- the only other Hirundine seen, and only an odd observation at that.

Himalayan Bulbul

Kathmandu and elsewhere. **Oriental white-eye**

A flock seen in gardens adjoining the Summit Hotel

Common tailorbird.

Summit Hotel garden.

Tickell's leaf warbler

By far the most abundant warbler seen on the trip. Frequent/common in scrub alongside the edges of rivers and gorges generally above the tree line.

Greenish Warbler

Phoksunda Kola and in Tarap Gorge. (Smallish green warbler - supercilium, black legs and single wing bar - could possibly be Hume's Warbler)

Mountain chiff-chaff?

A possible bird which looked like ordinary chiff-chaff below Saldang in bushes with Tickell's warblers.

Blyth's leaf warbler

Several in an otherwise mixed party of tits in the Tarap Gorge below Khari Gaon.

Hume's short-toed larks

Flocks of 50-100 presumably of these seen beyond the Saldang La, and birds positively identified at Saldang.

Horned lark,

Several at the summit of the Jeng La (16,000ft).

House sparrow

Kathmandu.

Spanish sparrow

Kathmandu

Tree sparrow.

The predominant species in the villages.

Russet sparrow

A few observed chiefly around dwellings on the villages below Saldang. Also at Dho Tarap.

Tibetan snow finch.

Half a dozen birds at the camp site at Saldang.

Plain mountain finch

Saldang and Dho Tarap. Several seen.

Rock sparrow

Several birds on a rocky outcrop on the Tarap Gorge on the way to Khari Gaon.

White wagtail

Common - pale and black backed birds.

Citrine wagtail

One immature bird by puddles in the village of Dunai

Grey wagtail

Seen at lower levels. Not abundant.

Rosy pipit

I think the most common and widespread pipit - usually near human habitations. First seen at Shey and subsequently at Saldang etc. All in non-breeding plumage. There seemed to be another less heavily marked species but I failed to identify it

Water pipit

Pokhara airport - 2 on grass sward.

Robin accentor

Locally common - frequenting (nesting?) in brush wood on rooves. Noted on the Gompas at Shey and Namduna, and around the houses at Tokyo Gaon.

Brown accentor

Locally common as above.

Alpine Accentor

Seen in the Tarap Gorge with rock sparrows.

Indian silverbill

Garden of the Summit Hotel Kathmandu.

Scaley breasted munia

Several seen at Nepalganj.

Fire-fronted serin

Pairs seen at Saldang and near Dunai.

Yellow-breasted greenfinch

Dunai and Ringmo

European goldfinch.

Several at Saldang without the black pattern on the head.

Twite

Fairly common at Saldang.

Common Rosefinch

Fairly widespread. Seen regularly. Gorgeous cock in full nuptial plumage at Dho Tarap.

Beautiful rosefinch

Grossly mis-named. The odd bird seen.

Great rosefinch

Seen at Ringmo but particularly in evidence around Saldang. Mostly immatures and hens but a superb male seen here accompanying a female.

White-winged grosbeak

Pairs seen at Ringmo.

Rock bunting

Several observed throughout the trip.

89 species including the odd query!