Dear Ishana,

While writing up my birds notes from this year’s trek in east Nepal I came across another record for Black-chinned Yuhina. Not sure if you can use it at this stage for the Additional Sightings! column in the upcoming issue of Danphe, but for what it’s worth (with a few comments) here goes:

Additional record (inserted in red text) for:

Black-chinned Yuhina Y. nigrimenta. Five or 6 birds (not with other species) moving through tops of sal trees, occasionally descending to sub-canopy, mixed sal forest ENE of Waleng village, Arun River, ca. 540-550m, 4 May 2009. At least 3 probably 4 or more in subcanopy tree tops, Pikhuwa Khola, ca. 780m, 6 May 2009. Up to 5 birds seen on 3 occasions (same flock?), not with other species, S of Bala village, Sankhuwa Khola, 5 June 2009, ca. 920-1060m. At least 5 (without other species) in Besku Khola middle canopy tree tops, ca. 840m, 6 June 2009 (possibly same flock as previous day?). All sites in Makalu-Barun NP Buffer Zone.

With observations made in 2002, I consider this species as locally fairly common in late spring at low elevations (500-1000m) in the low Sankhuwa river valley, preferring fairly dense to dense sal forest mixed with other broadleaves, mostly evergreen.

Black-chinned Yuhina keeps to the canopy and occasionally descends to the sub-canopy but rarely forages in the middle storey. I have not seen this species associate with other bird species.

Jack Cox 19 September 2009

Best wishes,

Jack
Notes on Birds Recorded in the Arun, Pikhuma, Apsuwa and Sankhuwa Kholas, east Nepal

30 April - 10 June 2009

Jack H. Cox, Jr.

2919 Colony Road
Charlotte, NC USA 28211

<jackcoxjr@yahoo.com>

DVD with GPS pts. & selection of photos on pg. 80.
GPS Coordinates  30 April '09

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<td>Hotel Makalu</td>
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<td>GIDDE</td>
<td>27° 20.086'N 87° 11.556'E</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>Gidde gum</td>
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<tr>
<td>CL 1</td>
<td>27° 20.105'N 87° 11.422'E</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>W of Gidde</td>
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Weather:

Hazy & hot with a few drops of rain walking N out of town in late afternoon. Halted for shower at 4 PM along track. Blowback from hills to NE. Dim w/ wind thru evening c Gidde & campsite w/ some sprinkles.

Route: Started trek at Hotel Makalu in Tumlingtar at 3:30 PM. Walked along main track N of small town, diversin to riveside fields & scrub once away from built up area.

At Gidde gum; pipal tree descending steeply W to edge of scrub & open fields to camp for the night. Senced for birds in scrub at dusk to twilight.

Additional records:

* #1) Seen edge of Tumlingtar, c 415m, 1+2 farther on;
* #3) 6+ farther along track to N from Tumlingtar, c 420m;
* #10) Seen several more (4) c CL 1, c dusk, c

Effort:

- 15h30 - 16h00: Tumlingtar to N rainstop
- 16h40 - 17h00: Tumlingtar - Gidde
- 18h15 - 19h00: Gidde - CL 1 & vicinity

\[ \approx 2h55 \text{ min} \]
30 April 2009

Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha (Arun River) (411m)
cpl, Giddhe, Sankhuwasabha (Arun River) (345m)

1. Common Myna - (H) 1 outskirts Tumlingtar, c. 415m.
2. Jungle Crow - pair outskirts of
3. Barn Swallow - 4 on wires c. houses
4. Oriental Magpie Robin - ø at house do do do
cp
5. Coppersmith Barbet - 1 seen calling in tree N of Tumlingtar, 420m
6. Scarlet Minivet - ø across track, N of Tumlingtar, c. 420m
7. Asian Koel - 1 (H) calling from trees c. Mathilbo, c 470-490m
8. Blue-throated Flycatcher - 1 (H), Anwedge, ø
cp
9. Spotted Ovlet - 1 seen in mixed sal
cp
cp
10. Jungle Babbler - ø in scrub
11. Red-vented Bulbul - 1 in Giddhe -> cp1 late afternoon, c
12. Slaty-headed Parakeet - 4 over cp1 at dusk, c
13. Spotted Dove - 1 seen in scrub below cp1, c
14. Great Tit - 1 ø
cp
15. Himalayan Bulbul - pair ø
16. Brown Hawk Owl - 1 (H) c. evening Cpsite, dusk-twilight, c. 350m

Σ = 16 species

Habitat: see page 4 bottom.
GPS Coordinates  1 May '09  Day 2

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<td>L1</td>
<td>27°21.798'N 87°10.850'N</td>
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<td>trailside c-shinde</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP2</td>
<td>27°23.066'N 87°09.299'N</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>N end, Chewabesi</td>
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</table>

Weather:

Misty & humid at dawn & early AM. Poor light, but later improving as sun rose to burn off mist. Hazy & overcast into afternoon. 94°F at lunchstop at 13h30. Darkening up from build-ups there in late afternoon. Continued hot, not so humid, hazy.

Route: Camp below Giddhe gau; to 'shelves' towards Amun, up to Giddhe & back in early AM bird excursions; N along trail then tractor & motorcycle track to temple complex at Manakamana. Track as far as Satighat bridge, recently dug & riddled, trail thru forest/scrub & along Amun at times to & through Chewabesi to fallen khets near large boulder to camp at N end of village.

Additional records:

#9) up to a pair at Amun cp, c. 350m;
#26) another f in same general area as #205, c. 345m;
#21) c. 365m.

Effort: 05h30 - 08h00  c. Amun cp & up to Giddhe
08h35 - 14h00  walking E bank Amun
15h30 - 17h10  L1 -> Chewabesi
17h30 - 18h50  Chewabesi -> CP2

<= 9 h 55 min
1 May 2009

**Bird Observations**

1. **Indian Cuckoo** - 1 (H) c. dawn, c. Att Cpsite, c. 350m [3 note]
2. **Dark-winged Cuckoo-shrike** - 1 (H) c. att Cpsite, c. 345m
3. **Scarlet Minivet** - 2 in courtship display, v. active flying around, tail spread in flight & perched; also seen nearby; c. Att Cpsite, c. 345-360m
4. **Jungle Babbler** - 25 in scrub, early att, c. Cpsite, c. 340m
5. **Blue-throated Barbet** - 1 seen early, c. 345m
6. **Chestnut-tailed Starling** - 2 juveniles, c. 400m
7. **Common Tailorbird** - 1 (H) c. Cpsite scrub, early att, c. 345m
8. **Himalayan Bulbul** - 1 seen early att
9. **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon** - 1 flying out of treetop
10. **Black Drongo** - 1 seen well perched & flying
11. **Great Barbet** - 1 seen in treetop, c. 355m
12. **Slaty-headed Parakeet** - pair seen in treetop, c. 350m
13. **Eurasian Golden Oriole** - 1 in leafless treetop
14. **Red Collared Dove** - 0 seen perched, c. 345m
15. **Ashy Drongo** - 1 in treetop, not seen well, c. Att Cpsite, c. 350m
16. **Greater-Coucal** - 1 (H) from steep riverside scrub, c. 335m
17. **Brahminy Starling** - 0 seen well in Cpsite area scrub, c. 350m
18. **Grey-breasted Prinia** - 1 seen, calling, c. Att Cpsite, c. 345m
19. **Oriental Magpie Robin** - 0 in bamboo clump
20. **Spotted Dove** - pair on fallow Khets, shelf below
21. **Common Myna** - 1 in banyan, c. 350m
22. **Asian Koel** - 1 (H) from scrub below, c. 300m

Total: 22 species

**Habitat**

Field with new/short corn along track Not Tumblingar. Scrub mixed sal forest to W Himal. steep bank of Arun, some places non-sal tree dominated tangle, best very cut-over. Open, grazed grass old Khets c. Cpsite. Dry scrub, few sal, mainly deciduous tree just putting out buds (leaves)
Additional records:

1. Pair N of Arun Cpsi, c. 365 m;
2. 1 (H) c. house. D " "
3. 1 (H) along track past Satinghat, along Arun, c. 340 m;
4. 1 (H) c. lunch stop, c. Jaburile, c. 320 m;
5. 1 (H) across Arun from dry sal, across from lunch stop, c. 340 m;
6. 1 seen c. Betini Khola/Arun, probably came (H) earlier in day, c. 330 m
7. 1 seen " " c. 325 m
8. 1 on Arun boulders NW of Betini, c. 310 m;
9. 1 (H) NW of Betini, c. 330 m;
10. 2+ seen " "
11. 1+ between Betini & Chewabesi, c. 330 m;
12. 1 m boulders approaching V, c. 310 m;

Breeding records:

Red Collared Dove — nest placed in bamboo stem (in clump) c. 7 m above ground, in notch of multiple nodes, inconspicuous due to cover of many small “limbs”. 3 observed on nest, incubating eggs.

near Arun Cpsi in fields & scrub patch, c. 350 m. (W of Giddle)

Mammals:

Rhesus Monkey — small (8-10?) troop in scrub above Arun Cpsi
W of Giddle, Arun R. c. 360-380 m.

Additional records:

19. shot Chewabesi, c. 330 m; 49 species
20. 1+ " "
21. pair " "

[#19-31 listed twice]
23. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker – c. 345-350m
24. Blyth’s Leaf Warbler – I seen scrub " c. 340m
25. Grey-backed Shrike – I seen in scrub "
26. Red-vented Bulbul – 2 or 3 " " c. 340-350m
27. House Crow – 1 c. Arun Campsite, c. 340-350m"
29. Eurasian Cuckoo – 1 (H) c. Arun Campsite, c. 350m.
30. Black-crested Bulbul – 1 c. "
31. Blue-throated Barbet – 1 (H) c. Manakamana Temples, c. 300m.
32. White-browed Wagtail – 1 on river boulders below † " c. 290m.
33. Drongo Cuckoo – 1 (H) up from jet w/ Satighat bridge, c. 330m.
34. Great Barbet – 1 (H) up from track post " " c. 350m.
35. Mystery (OW) – large owl in Arun side forest, glimpsed on flushing, 330m.
36. Mystery (Raptor) – largeish hawk/blizzard-like bird in forest, Arun track.
37. Crested Serpent Eagle – 1 (H) c. Royabesi, possibly #36; c. 330-350m.
38. Woolly-necked Stork – 1 in flooded rice, c. lunchstop, Jholunga, c. 310m.
39. Indian Cuckoo – 1 (H) calling in mixed sel., " " c. 325m.
40. Red Junglefowl – 1+1 (H), sel forest, edge of Jholunga, "
41. Collared Falconet – 1 picking apart prey "
42. Spangled Drongo – 1 in fit over Arun c. lunchstop, " opp. bank Arun.
43. Omitted River Lapwing – pair approaching lunchstop " c. 300m.
44. White Wagtail – 1 on Arun boulders, NW of Betini, c. 310m.
45. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater – 1 " " c. 330-340m.
47. Spotted Oislet – pair seen at dusk-tright c. CP2, Chewabesi, c. 330m.
48. White-throated Kingfisher – 1 (H) at dusk, Arun edge, " c. 315m.
50. White-rumped Munia – Omitted – Srobant like roofs, SE of Chewabesi, c. 320m.

Habitat: Scrub sel, mostly mixed w/ non-sal buds/leaves, very cut-over approach Chewabesi (most large trees removed) overcutting of others, clearly unsustainable; burning frequently noticed in understorey but not of trees; semi-shrub killed by fire.

Riverine boulders & sand flats/banks along Arun.
GPS Coordinates  2 May '09

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<td>KAFKIPUL</td>
<td>27°23.638'N 87°08.556'E 337 Kattikeghat Pal</td>
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<tr>
<td>KUNDULE</td>
<td>27°24.208'N 87°07.673'E 348 Bina Rais estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>JC11</td>
<td>25°23.776'N 87°08.326'E 378 Botose-Kundulejat</td>
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<tr>
<td>HBES1CP</td>
<td>27°25.400'N 87°07.674'E 437 Heluwabesi area CP</td>
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Weather: Early AM rain (preceded by showers 4.5AM). Misty around camp until 08h00, low build-ups on nearby dandis. Temp. at 06h00-06h30: 75°F. Hazy & very humid. Midday. Backwash from upper Arun led to long, quite heavy showers at Kundule. Ovencast quite cool but afternoon clearing towards dusk. Mostly clear at twillight.

Route: Along relatively seldom used trail N of Chewalbesi; skirting steep E flank cliffs by walking along Arun. Through chain S of Kundule to indistinct jet, recalled amazingly by Rayan, as trail split: up to Botose, down level to Kundule. Indistinct trail along Arun cliffs through forest & along Arun littoral then steeply up from littoral over difficult slope (no trail) to level trail to S Heluwabesi.

Habitat: Good mixed sal forest w/tangles on very steep slopes N Chewalbesi -> chain where peripheral sal (≤5 trees) recently cut & being sawn. Through denser mixed sal w/ several introd. rivulets to Kundule - well-forrested/intact W slope as before. Mostly mixed broadleaf non-sal N of Kundule on very steep slopes, mostly intact, then through steep forest w/more sal approaching Heluwabesi.

Effort: 06h20 - 07h00 c. At campsite
08h30 - 13h00 walking on trail N
15h30 - 18h45 Kundule - e/w CP

ζ = 8h25 min.
2 May 2009

CP2 N of Chewabesi gau; Sankhuwasabha (Arun R) (328m) — Camp near Heluwabesi, Sankhuwasabha (Arun R) (437m).

1. Indian Cuckoo — 1 (H) early AM, pre-dawn c. Am Cape; e 340m.
2. Red-vented Bulbul — pair in thin scrub c. Am Cape; e 330m.
3. Spotted Dove — 1+1 (pr?) c. 335m.
4. Black Kite — 1 over Am Cape; c. 340-350m.
5. Himalayan Swiftlet — small (4+6) flock over Arun/Ebank; 340-350m.
6. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike — 1 (H) c. Am Cape; e 340m.
7. Eurasian Golden Oriole — 1 for juv. in flt; c.
8. Common Tailorbird — 1 H then seen c. Am Cape; e 330m.
9. Common Myna — 1 seen c. houses c. 335m.
10. Brahminy Starling — pair c. fields of Dobantar; c. 345m.
11. Barn Swallow — nesting at Dobantar; c. 340m (see pg. 9).
12. Ashy Drongo — pair at forest edge NW of Dobantar; c. 360m.
13. Mystery Flowerpecker — 1 flying past c.
14. White-throated Kingfisher — 1 (Ht); Ebank; I seen (Wbank); Arun R; c. 330m.
15. Blue Whistling Thrush — pair along Arun, NW of Dobantar; c. 360m.
16. Jungle Owlet — 1 seen well forest; c. 360m.
17. Himalayan Bulbul — 1 seen.
18. Chestnut-bellied Nuttall — family group in stunted sc-forest WNW of Dobantar; c. 360m; feeding flying young (see pg. 9).
19. Grey Treepie — 1 seen at Kattikeghat Pul; up slope.
20. Blue-throated Barbet — 1 (H) approaching Kundule; c. 400-410m.
21. River-Lapwing — 1 seen approaching c. 320m (Arun).
22. Scarlet Minivet — c. 340 (pr) past chaur/cut salt c. 380m.
23. Great Barbet — 1 seen (Wbackagap); c. 340-350m.
24. Blue-throated Flycatcher — 1 (H) in good sol; c. 380m.
25. Woolly-necked Stork — 1 in sim & closely in Khets Kundule; c. 370m.
26. White-browed Wagtail — pr on Arun littoral boulders; past c. 340m.
27. Ashy Bulbul — 1 in mixed mostly evergreen forest; c. 360m.
28. Spangled Drongo — 1 flying across Arun, S of Heluwabesi; c. 350m.
29. White-crested Laughingthrush — flock (4) at dusk-twilight in forest edge of Khets lower Heluwabesi; c. 450m.
30. Spotted Jungle Babblers — several seen c. chaur along Arun.

afternoon; c. 330-340m.
2 May '09

Additional records:

#3) 6 in tree c Dobantar, Arun R, c 340m;
#9) 1 at Dobantar, c 340m;
#18) 1 (ht) forest edge NW of Dobantar, c 350m;
#17) 1 (ht) at Kattikeghat Pul, nesting (see below), c 350m.
#15) 1 bird feeding at nest site; c Kattikeghat bridge, c 340 m.
#19) 1 (ht) past Batase-Kundule trail jet, c 375m;
#22) 0?4 pair past Kundule, c 375m.
#17 cont) duo/pr. c 365m.
#14) pair 5 at Helumbersi Cpside, c 350m
#15 cont) pair/prise in chase A c 360m;
#23) 1 seen in trees A c 370m;
#25) 24 at dusk c Helumbersi, looking for roosting site?
#1) 1 (ht) at dusk twilight c G near Helumbersi, c 440-450 m.

5. Himalayan Bulbul - 2 birds at a nest (apparently complete)
built in fork of limb, mid storey sapling at wooden chautara, Kattikeghat Pul. Flushed it did not return; 3-4 m above steps/slope; inaccessible.

4. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 bird making trips with food from Arun littoral to nest site in boulders & cliff face, E bank Arun, c 340m near Kattikeghat bridge. Nest site inaccessible w/out ropes. Not visited.

Breeding records:

2. Barn Swallow - 1 nest under eaves of store at Dobantargau:
1 bird seen making sortays repeatedly returning to nest. According to store owner, young in nest; c 340m, Arun R.

3. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - 23 birds (±18) in fairly confiding family group in sal tree limbs, steep (stunted?) mostly sal-forest NW of Dobantar, c 360m. ±2 made 2-3 m sally, caught mayfly-like pale brownish insect in one quick swoop, returning to limb & other birds. Seen carrying insect around limb, then lost views of group.
2 May 2009 (cont.)

CP2 N of Chewakesi gau; Sankhuwasabha (Arun R.) (328m) —
Camp near Heluwapesi, Sankhuwasabha (Arun R.) (437m).

31. Black Bulbul - 1 or 2 seen in afternoon; locality not recalled.
   [omitted]
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<th>GPS Coordinates</th>
<th>3 May '09</th>
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<td>CHAUR3.5</td>
<td>27°25'953N 87°07'699'E 403</td>
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<td>PUL1 3.5</td>
<td>27°26'163'N 87°07'853'E 391</td>
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<td>L2</td>
<td>27°26'991'N 87°08'145'E 449</td>
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<td>KEKSWUA</td>
<td>27°27'990'N 87°08'627'E 453</td>
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Weather: Misty & humid in early AM @ Heluwakesi CP, clearing with sun breaking through c. 7AM (w/ corresponding pulse of bird activity); light overcast until c. 3AM when darkening with thunder from nearby dandals; rain N of Heluwakesi, but walked thru most of it. Clearing c. mid-day, clear at 4 PM until dusk-midnight. Weather changes sudden & difficult to predict!

Route: From Heluwakesi outskirts camp down & level along forest edge to an old field (good for birds), through scrub & fields to bridge over Arun. Scending steeply through scrub forest patch to chautara, less steeply through fields/houses of Bumlingtar. Steeply down and over bridge over Sankhuwa to "hotel" on-flats near confluence. Up steeply to Chautara in forest, taking right/level fork over good wide trail, steeply down through forest.

Habitat: Past landscape to camp in Ellison Kekswua Khet.

Mixed sal forest, mostly chopped over (few tall trees) & depleted understorey @ Heluwakesi. Fields with short corn e. Bumlingtar. Scrub forest e. Arun/Sankhuwa confluence. Above N bank of flats through good sal & mixed sal (in ravines) forest with some cutting of tall trees (to build health post?), then Follow Khet to Kekswua.

Effect: 05h20 - 0620 c. AM eipsite 07h00 - 09h15 AM bird excursion 09h30 – 13h00 AM march to Bumlingtar 15h50 – 18h30 Bumlingtar → Kekswua ≤ 9h25 min.
3 May 2009

Camp near Heluwakesi, Sankhuwasabha (Arunk) (437m) -
Kekenua Khets campsite; Sankhuwasabha (Arunk) (453m).

1. Indian Pitta - 1 (H) calling close range from fairly dense
   forest & AtCp, 2 note, loud, ineffective, falling, c. 440-450m
   G et al. '00: "local summer visitor, common Chitwan, rare elsewhere, -1360
   2. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) back at AtCp, c. 450-460m
   3. Ashy Bulbul - pair early AtC, ravine S of AtCp, c. 450m
   4. Woolly-necked Stork - 1 over Arun, from f, c. 420-460m
   5. Orange-bellied Leafbird - ?H, then seen, back of AtCp, c. 450m
   6. ? Jungle Owlet - 1 seen in back of AtCp, c. 450m
   7. White-crested laughingthrush - 25, several seen in ravines of AtCp
   8. Himalayan Flameback - ? pair seen well at fairly close range,
   fairly dense sal/mixed sal forest, keeping mostly to sal. Some large
   sal in area cut out but still good dense. G et al. '00: "Common at
   Chitwan, freq. at Sakilpantha, uncommon elsewhere; mature broadleaf forest;
   G et al. '98: "sensitive to deforestation." c. 440-460m (birds along)
   9. Scarlet Minivet - 1 (H?) in ravine forest S of AtCp site, c. 440m
   10. Rufous Woodpecker - in dense ravine forest + sal slope &
   11. Bronzed Drongo - 1 in dense moist ravine forest, c. 445m
   12. White-throated Kingfisher - 1 seen over Khets & AtCp, c. 440m
   13. Spangled Drongo - 1 adult + 1 juv. ravine forest S of AtCp
   14. Orange-headed Thrush - 20 (H) calling robustly to a peaked on a c
   limb. No chasing, but evidently in courtship in dense sal edge of AtCp
   15. Yellow-vented Warbler - 2 adults + 1 recently fledged juvenile
   in dense moist broadleafed ravine forest (non-sal) S of AtCp site, c. 440m
   Adults paler (wompplumage), calling aggressively near juv. imme. juv. flight
   not as agile, active as adults. G et al. '00: "uncommon, v. local in the E"
   16. Great Barbet - 1 (H) calling c AtCpsite, c. 440-450m
   17. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H), c. 450-465m
   18. Grey Treepie - 1 seen above AtCpsite, c. 460-470m
   19. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher - 1 in ravine forest S of AtCp,
   20. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 seen eating praying mantis &
   21. Besra - ? c. 450m (H) c. 445m
   22. Oriental Turtle Dove - 5 at mixed sal forest edge & Khets, c. 445m
   c. 445m.
Additional records:

#4) 4 in kifts NW Heluwakesi, c.400-420m.
#5) 0 for, in chase.
#7) flock H NW of Heluwakesi, c.390m.
#16) 1 (H) at bridge over Arun, c.390m; 3-4 more calling on slopes 400-500m.
#20) 1 (H) " c.400m; I seen approaching Baiming Se. c.430m.
#17) 1 (H) upriver from c.450-500m.
#20 cont) 1 (H) c. Sankhuwa Kh. pul, c.440m.
#3) 1 (H) past Arun/Sankhuwa confluence, c.440m.
#16 cont) 1+1 (H) approaching Keksuwa Ospak, c.440-460m.

Albino plumage? White-crested laughingthrush

The bird in flock observed in ravine-forest S of camp near Heluwakesi (at c.445m) had all (2) underpants white, tail also with white in it, especially at/towards tip. Underpants appeared splotchy with white & not seen well. Rather quick views somewhat obstructed by vegetation and in dim light, but this bird overall white.
3 May 2009 (cont.)

Camp near Heluwakesi, Sankhuriasaka (Arun R.) (437m) — Keksuwa Khets campsite, Sankhuriasaka (Arun R.) (453m).

23. Black-backed Forktail: 1 glimpsed in stream N of Atari campsite c. 420m.
24. Common Myna: 1 in forest khets N of Heluwakesi c. 400-420m.
25. Ashy Drongo: 1 at forest edge... c. 410m.
26. Golden-fronted Leafbird: 1 bathing in rain, c. 410m.
   (G. et al. '00: ... below 365m; uncommon up to 915m).
27. Red-vented Bulbul: 1 at NW of Heluwakesi, c. 400m.
28. Oriental Magpie Robin: 1 seen calling, lower Bumingtor, c. 425m.
29. Spotted Dove: 1 at lower Bumingtor, c. 425m.
30. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater: 1 seen... c. 425m.
31. Himalayan Bulbul: pair/duo foraging on, lower Bumingtor, c. 430m.
32. Common Tailorbird: 1 (H) in fields, houses, scrub... c. 430m.
33. Asian Barred Owlet: 1 (H) approaching Keksuwa Khets camp, c. 440m.
34. Common Tailorbird: 1 (H) in scrub above Atari campsite, c. 450m. Throat & lead seen well.

£=
GPS Coordinates  4 May '09  Day 5

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<td>525</td>
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<td>CL 2</td>
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Weather:  69°F at 06h00; hazy with increasing cloudiness in AM, partly cloudy mid-day & early afternoon; upslope build-ups in late afternoon threatened area with rain, but by 5 PM backing off and mostly clear by dusk-midnight. A temperature at lunchstop at c. 14h00: 92°F. Not particularly humid, calm.

Route: From Kekswa Khats camp site along distinct trail with short ups & downs along & through forest edge of Arun River, pausing at Kebungma Oral for lunch & afternoon respite from heat. This lunchstop past suspended bridge over Baguwa Kh (crossed) with really landslips. On over fairly good trail to evening campsite.

Habitat: Good dense mixed sal forest along most of the day's route, some areas with good understory, particularly in ravines where mostly non-sal broad-leaves. Frequent burning of understory shrubs & ground cover but trees not killed. Cutting for timber in some places but selective for a few tall sal trees. Landslips/slides in Chandwa/Baguwa Kholas.

Effort:
05h30 – 08h00 early AM bird excursions
09h00 – 09h30 departure from AM Cp.
09h45 – 12h45 AM-mid-day march
15h00 – 18h45 afternoon → eve Cp

≈ 9h45 min
Keksuwa Khets camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (453m) — Fallow Khets camp below SE-Simle gau, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (663m) c. 450m.

1. Blue Whistling Thrush = 2 (H), 1 of which then seen, c. Atm. site.
2. White-crested Laughingthrush = 3 or 4 c. Atm. site, c. 465-475m.
3. Ashy Bulbul = pair/duo c. Atm. site, c. 460m.
4. Himalayan Bulbul = 1 c. Atm. site, c. 460m.
5. Scarlet Minivet = 1 seen in flt c. scoured Khandepa Kh., c. 470m.
6. Crested Kingfisher = 1 on littoral boulders, Arun, c. Atm. site, c. 420m.
7. Omitted, Common Tailorbird = 1 (H) c. Atm. site, c. 460m.
8. Crimson Sunbird = 2 past Chanduwa Kh. confluence, c. 480m.
9. Ashy Drongo = 1 at nest.
10. Spangled Drongo = 1 (H) c. Kharka below SE of Waleng, c. 500m.
12. Grey Treepie = pair/duo S of Baguwa Kh. crossing/bridge, c. 530m.
13. Puff-throated Babbler = 1 in thicket past, c. 520m.
15. Large Cuckoo-shrike = 1 in forest edge tree ENE of Waleng, c. 530m.
17. White-throated Kingfisher = 1 seen past, c. 530m.
18. Black Bulbul = pair/duo in flt, forested edge of Arun A, c. 540m.
19. Black-chinned Yuhina = 2 sitting through tops of Sal trees, occasionally into sub-canopy. Active but pausing to go carefully over twigs, hanging upside down at times. Giving resttled off 'sip, sip, sip... ' 
'seep, sleep' calls. Forest rather dense w. good understorey, but ground cover burned in places. ENE of Waleng along Arun, c. 540-550m.
20. Orange-bellied Leafbird = 1 (H) NE of Tombe, Arun (S/bank) c. 550m.
21. Blue-throated Barbet = 1 (H)
22. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher = 1 seen c. 575m.
23. Great Barbet = 1 (H) late afternoon, opp. bank Arun. c. 530.
24. Bronzed Drongo = prob. family group of S rather confusing birds, (3 juveniles) in treetops near confluence, c. dusk to twilight, approach eve CP, c. 660m.

(G. et al. '00: "Rare resident, 500-1500m. Moist broadleaved forest")
Additional records:

#1) another pair, up Khandepa Kh., c. 470-480m; 2 c, Chanduwa Kh.
#4) 2 c, Chanduwa Kh., c. 480m;
#1 (cont.) I seen in Baguwa Kh., c. 515-520m
#8) 2 in flowers, " " c. 530m;
#10) 2 seen past ... " " c. 520m; 1 farther on, seen, c. 525m.
#3) 2 in thickets ...
#5) 2 pr. ENE Welung, along Arun footedge, c. 530m.
#10 (cont.) pr/duo ...
#2) flock (H) past Kelungma Oral, c. 580m;
#16) 1 (H) in dense understorey; 1 seen NE of Tombe, c. 540m.
#11) (H) past Kelungma Oral, c. 580m;
#21) 1 (H) NE of Tombe (Bank) Arun, c. 575m;
#2) 1 (H) seen ...
#12) 1 (+?) (H) " " c. 590m; 3 farther on, c. 600m.
#18) 1 (+?) (H) " " c. 600m;
#10 (cont.) I seen approach, eve. Clspite, c. 590-600m;

Breeding records:

6. Ashy Drongo — bird flying into tree, then sitting on nest; squatted when first on nest, w/ tail raised a bit (on eggs?); nest on limb c. 15m above ground in chilalaea tree, forest edge S of Welung, Arun—Sankhuwasabha, c. 495m. Observed c. 5 min on nest, then walked away.
4 May 2009

Keksuwa Khets camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (453m)
Fallow Khets camp below SE of Simlegau, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (606m)

\[ \text{Date of Entry:} \]

\[ \text{Day:} \]

\[ \text{Keksuwa Khets camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (453m):} \]

\[ \text{Fallow Khets camp below SE of Simlegau, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (606m):} \]
GPS Coordinates 5 May '09

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<td>CP 3</td>
<td>27° 31.036'N 87° 10.798'E</td>
<td>753</td>
<td>Lower-Pikhuwa Kh. camp</td>
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Weather: High thin clouds & dawn; warm, humid
& calm early AM but hot by 10AM w/ cumulus buildings in surrounding landas. Sunny through mid-day but mostly clouded over by 3PM, partly sunny remainder of afternoon.

Route: From fellow Khets camp at base of Handa below Simle gau & Arun banks over distinct but seldom used trail through forest, keeping fairly level to Pikhuwa Khola. Lunch at abandoned chauki/aid post with house/store on opposite banks. Down side trail to Pikhuwa littoral c. 200-300m from confluence of Arun. Walked up along flow to flat area campsite.

Habitat: Well-forested rivine associations. Sal dominant on drier aspects & almost absent from ravine dense mixed broadleaf associations. Lower Pikhuwa Khola rather scoured out with landslips & heavily filled side streams, very steep with recent slides/boulders. Dense forest with lianas & thickets fairly light epiphyte load. Not much water except for flows in Arun and Pikhuwa (very steeply walled).

Effort: 05h20 - 09h00 Ambird excursion, cp.
09h20 - 12h45 AM march to Pikhuwa/Arun
15h00 - 19h00

\[ \tau = 11 \text{ h 05 min.} \]
5 May 2009

Fallow Khets camp below SE of Simle gau, San Khwarasabha, Arun R (606 m), lower Pikhunra Khola bed camp, San Khwarasabha, Arun R (753 m).

1. Crimson Sunbird - 2 in treetop c AM CP, c 610 m
2. Black-crested Tit - 21
3. Black Bulbul - pair passing through
4. Himalayan Swiftlet - 2 over head c 630-650 m
5. White-throated Laughingthrush - Flock (23) c 620 m
6. Grey-headed Yellownape sp. - 1 (4) c AM CP, c 615-625 m
7. Ashy Bulbul - 1 (4) c AM Cpsite, c 615 m (probably 2)
8. Great Barbet - 1 seen in ravine c 0.5 km from AM Cpsite, c 600 m
9. Orange-bellied Leafbird - 2 seen
10. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 (4) late seen
11. Himalayan Bulbul - 1 in treetop, c 0.5 km from AM CP, c 610 m
12. Indian Pitta - 1 (4) early AM, c 600 m
(G et al, '00: 'local summer visitor; common at Chitwan; rare elsewhere')
13. Scarlet Minivet - 3, including 1 W orangey flanks + 1 W/orangey wash, 700-800 m SE of AM Cpsite, below SW of Sime c 615 m
14. Lesser Yellownape - 1 bird seen, but not well. Belly indeterminate but red on head (ser?). 700-800 m SE of AM Cpsite, c 610-620 m
15. Bronzed Drongo - 2A (same group as 4 May?)
16. Common Tailorbird - 1 (4) c 500 m SE of AM Cpsite, c 600 m
17. Black-chinned Babbler - 1 (4) in dense undergrowth
18. Grey Treepie - pr/duo c AM Cpsite; single on road from AM Cpsite
19. Common Kestrel - (juv?) not seen well, c AM Cpsite, c 630-640 m
20. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 seen well, AM Cpsite, c 630-650 m
21. Common Kestrel - 1 N pair mobbing packed #20 NE of AM CP, c 630 m
22. Spangled Drongo - pr/duo below trail past AM CP, c 580-600 m
23. Yellow-vented Warbler - 1 (4 juv?) rather inactive, spaler yellow areas vs. plate in G et al '00. Another bird (ad?) calling & unseen nearby in dense mixed broadleaf (nasal) NE of Sime gau approaching Arun
24. Pikhunra confluence, c 590-600 m (G et al '00: 'uncommon & every local in the E'). Probably a recently-fledged bird. (see pg. 21)
25. House Cetti - 1 at Pikhunra/Arun confluence w/ nesting material, c 580 m
26. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 on steep shelf up Pikhunra Khola bed c 200 m from old wooden bridge c Arun confluence c 578 m
Additional records:

1. m. 0.5 km from Copsis, early AM. c. 610 m.
2. 3 u.
3. pr. (same as earlier) u.
4. past AM CP. c. 600 m. 1 c. Arun/Pikhuwa confluence, c. 590 m.
5. > 2 at Arun/Pikhuwa confluence, c. 590-600 m.

10. Plumbeous Water Redstart—♂♀ turgidly juveniles. 300 m up Pikhuwa Khola past Arun confluence. Appearance of juvenile plumage & sedentary mostly, suggests recently fledged. c. 575 m.

9. House Crow— 1 bird w/ long thin twig in its beak, flying into fig (bhar) tree top, then flew away & returned without material. At old chaunki, Arun/Pikhuwa confluence, mid-day, c. 580 m. Carrying nesting material. No sign of nest in bhar tree top.

Breeding records:

7. Blue-throated Barbet— single bird seen catching a dragonfly, flying up to nesting hole c. 4-5 m above ground in standing deadwood stem; several woodpecker holes in stem. Bird seen flying out & away without food after c. 1-2 min. Feeding male on nest or nestlings?? SW of Copsis below SE of Simele gau in upper Arun river, c. 600 m.

8. Orange-bellied Leafbird—♂♀ seen carrying small insects to top of tall sal tree, 700-800 m from CP below SE of Simele gau. Could not discern if nest or flying young present (probably former on basis of ability to view most of the crown). c. 615 m.
5 May 2009

Fallow Khats camp below SE of Simla, Sankhuwasabha, Arun River (660m) — Lower Pikhuwa Khola bed camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun River (753m).

26. Plumbeous Water Redstart - 0 - pr c. 300m up Pikhuwa Khola.
27. Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (T) up Pikhuwa Khola calling in late afternoon from peripheral dense broadleaf forest, c. 700-720m (G. et al. '00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1630m (250-2050m)).
28. Shady-backed Forktail - 1 c evening camp in Pikhuwa Khola bed, c. 750m (G. et al. '00: "generally uncommon, but fairly common locally."
29. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (T) c dusk c. 750-800m evening camp, lower Pikhuwa Khola.
30. Collared Scops Owl - 1 (T) c. 770-800m, dusk.
31. Asian Barred Owlet - 1 (T) " " " "
32. Jungle Owlet - 1 (T) at twilight from different site vs. #31, giving exclusively "kao, kao" calls c. eve C site, c. 750-800m.
33. Committed - Grey Wagtail - 9 seen c. 650m, lower Pikhuwa Litter.

£££
GPS Coordinates  6 May '09

Code  Coordinate  Alt.  Site Info.

CP3  27°31.036'N 87°10.796'E  753  Lower Pihuwar Kh bed
CP3  27°31.27H'N  87°10.091'E  975  Pihuwar Kh bed
CP4  27°31.5881N  87°09.420'E  1238  Upper Pihuwar Kh bed

Weather: Pre-dawn light rain that lasted only a few minutes; thin overcast in AM giving way to clear skies by late AM & into afternoon; showers in late afternoon, but clearing by 5 PM; calm & clear at dusk-twilights.

Route: From At1 opposite in boulders, excursion for birds up very steep boulder-strewn ravine to large boulder top lookout & back to cp; walked all day along littoral boulders, at times faint evidence of others walking the 'path'. Late afternoon up bend of Pihuwar to NW/N, quickly into steep narrow gorge w/thin algae cover to boulders; very slippery with rain; really needed ropes but past bottleneck to more level gorge-like flat.

Habitat: where with difficulty evening CP made.

Dense broadleaved forest up from At1 Cp on both sides of Pihuwar. Most side ravines scoured w/ many boulders, one with large landslip. Forest mostly non-sal broadleaves, dense w/many tanglest little disturbed by human activity. Gorge with slick boulders -> eve Upside not visited by people. Dense middle & understory veg.

Effort: 05h30 - 08h15
08h30 - 12h30
12h45 - 16h00
16h35 - 18h30

\[ \leq 11h \text{ } 55 \text{ min.} \]
6 May 2009

Lower Pikhuna Khola bed camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun (753m)
—— Upper Pikhuna Khola bed camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun (1238m)

1. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, 07:00-07:30m.
2. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 (H) then seen 07:36m.
3. Orange-bellied Leafbird - 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, 07:46m.
4. Great Barbet - 1 seen (silent) in deadwood top 07:41m.
5. Yellow-vented Warbler - 1 seen (no other birds in vicinity)
(dull, washed out plumage, probably heard c. Cpsite in early AM)
   same general area, c. 08:00m. (G et al '00: "uncommon & very
local in the E, mainly a winter visitor").
6. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 in tree top c. AM Cpsite, 08:20m.
7. White-crested Laughingthrush - flock (H) " 08:50m.
8. Scarlet Minivet - 2 in forest tree, upsde Khola 08:46m.
9. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - family group 09:30m.
10. Black-backed Forktail - 1 bird not seen well (4x binoculars), no
   sign of grey on back, main Pikhuna littal, past AM Cpsite 08:35m.
11. Mystery Raptor - 1 overhead, fairly large, not seen well 09:41m.
12. Asian Barred Owlet - 1 (H) upstream from AM Cpsite, c. 09:00m.
13. Slaty-backed Forktail - pair/duo flushed 09:40m.
   by Rajeev & Bhati to be Black-tailed (G et al '00: "generally uncommon
but fairly common locally"); probably different birds than No. 10.
14. Plumbeous Water Redstart - 1 at littal, c. lunch stop, 09:00m.
15. Black-crested Tit - 60-70 in mixed-feeding party 11:00-11:17m, dense
   forest edge of middle Pikhuna Khola bed, c. 09:40m.
16. Mystery Small Brown Bird - 2 11:17m, "small sized; only glimpsed.
17. Yellow-vented Warbler - pair/duo in bright/adult plumage 11:15m.
18. White-capped Water Redstart - 1 in middle Pikhuna littal, 09:40m.
19. Grey Treepie - 1 (H) approaching middle Pikhuna Lصند, 09:40m.
20. Golden-throated Barbet - 1 seen 09:40m.
   (G et al '00: "1500-2400m") - new minimum elevation for Nepal.
Additional records:

#2) pair/due approaching lunchstop, middle Pikhuwa riverbed, c. 900 m.
#14) Q in middle Pikhuwa littoral, c. 940 m; date 1150m; alt 1200 m.
#13) 1 (H) c. 960 m.
#16) 1 (H).
#7) flock seen in H, middle Pikhuwa c. 980-1000 m.
#11) 1 (H) . . . . . . . . . . . c. 1200 m
#19) I seen . . . . . . . . . . c. 1020 m.
#12 cont.) 1 in watered side Khola, c. 1100 m; 1 in gorge, c. 1200 m.
#23) A for S moving through tree tops w/ a #30, dense mixed broad-leaved forest middle-upper Pikhuwa edge, c. 1080 m.
#26) I seen.
#18) I flushed along streamfly, c. 1150-1200 m.
#9) pair/duo seen . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . c. 1050 m.

#21) I bird seen well, including reddish legs by Birendra Rai approaching evening (psite). c. 1150-1200 m; Rajan (new) Rai led J.K. to a perched bird in middle-storey dense steep broad-leaved forest c. evening (psite). c. 1230 m; glimpsed on flushing, but Rajan saw all characters from rear when spotlighted at night.

Breeding record: 

11. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher-a family group of 4 birds passing through middle-storey vegetation near Pikhuwa Khola. All birds flying without difficulty. One bird observed feeding an insect to another bird (presumably a juvenile). Near camp in Pikhuwa Khola riverbed, c. 790-800 m.

12. Maroon Oriole - 2 seen carrying large larvae in dense mixed broad-leaved forest middle-upper Pikhuwa Kh. Probably same bird as noted earlier (pg. 26). Unusually low in late spring & perhaps the lowest recorded breeding altitude for the species: c. 1080 m.
6 May 2009

Lower Pikhuwa Khola bed camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R (753 m)
--- Upper Pikhuwa Khola bed camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R (1238 m)

(21) Rufous-throated Partridge - ≥1 bird clearly heard, c. 950-1000 m
(6 et al. 00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)).

22. Collared Owlet - 1 (H) in middle Pikhuwa forest, c. 1200-1400 m.

23. Black-chinned Yuhina - ≥4 seen passing through treetops of dense non-sal broadleaf forest edge, middle-upper Pikhuwa, c. 1025 m; (6 et al. 00: "rare resident 500-1500 m. Moist broadleaved forest")

24. Black-winged Cuckooshrike - 1 (H) middle-upper Pikhuwa, c. 1050 m

25. Maroon Oriole - 2 seen & heard " (see pg. 25 hm) " c. 1100 m.
Unusually low elevation. (6 et al. 00: "summers mainly 1500-2400 m."

26. Spotted White-throated Needletail? - 4 birds seen over lunchstop middle-upper Pikhuwa; all white below, with white on face, bit rather squared off. Probably not Alpine Swift. c. 1100 m (seen from 975 m).

27. Pygmy Wren Babbler - 1 (H) clearly in dense broadleaf forest floor, middle-upper Pikhuwa, c. 1050 m; unusually low for late spring?
(6 et al. 00: "summers chiefly 1500-2590 m, winter 915-1770 m (≥75")

28. Grey-headed Woodpecker - 1 (H) at 1050-1100 m, upper Pikhuwa; also
(H) earlier in day ascending Pikhuwa at c. 850 m

29. Bronzed Drongo - ≥3 in dense forest edge, Pikhuwa Kh., c. 1050-1100 m

30. Grey-headed Warbler - 1 "#235 middle-upper " c. 1080 m

31. Verditer Flycatcher - ≥1 in standing deadwood top " c. 1100 m

32. Black-winged Cuckooshrike - 1 (sex?) in treetop, seen, A " c. 1180 m

33. Little Forktail - pair/duo in upper Pikhuwa gorge, c. 1200-1250 m

= 31 species (#15 = #17 listed twice), and unsure #10 may be same species as #13.

Mammal sighting:

Langur - 5 or 6 in steep slope trees c. evening, 820, c. 12:30-1300 m. Mostly adults. Not very wary.
GPS Coordinates: 7 May '09  

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<td>PT2</td>
<td>27°31.716'N 87°08.940'E</td>
<td>1666 coppiced trees, slope</td>
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<td>PT3</td>
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<td>CP5</td>
<td>27°31.813'N 87°08.827'E</td>
<td>1733 coppiced ghot, above trees</td>
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Weather: Clear at dawn (60°F at 06h00), mostly sunny early AM with thin high patches of cloud; gradually clouding over with a shower in late afternoon; threatening to rain again until dusk when starting to calm & clear off. Huge storm in distance C. Khandbari.

Route: With difficulty again over large boulders & along walled littoral up Pikhua Khola narrow ravine, diverting upslope in search of ghot/Khora informed by ghotkola in middle Pikhua. Through E-facing slope of coppiced fodder trees to lone ghot, then up higher to several more, camping at highest ghot. Tent infected with chicken lice from adjacent leaf pile. Almost no sleep.

Habitat: Steeply walled ravine with large boulders. No evidence of human disturbance or Art Castle. Densely forested with mixed broad leaves, but few tall trees (due to steepness & shallow soil), dense middle storey of bushes (Tabebuia sp. common), lianas, but not much moss, few epiphyte lichen, small trees, some bamboo (kingle) in understorey. Sal on higher green slopes, but nowhere dominant. Ravines with many large boulders. Only a trickle of water in main Pikhua (flowing under boulders?)

Effort: 04h45 - 08h10  
08h30 - 13h00  
14h40 - 16h20  
17h05 - 18h30  

Total time 11h 10min
upper Pikhuna Kh. bed camp, Sankhuwasabha (1236m) —
ghost camp above coppiced trees, Pikhuna Kh. Sankhuwasabha (1733m) —

1. Mystery loud forest bird - 2 (H) from dense middle storey c. Aticp, loud, sharp call, tapering off to 'wii, wii, wii, wii, wii' soft end.
   Recorded. Red-headed Trogan? c. 1250m, early Ati 0445.
2. Rufous-throated Partridge - I glimpsed c. tent early Ati on (see flushing; c. 1240m, Aticp site, G et al. '00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)", driven downslope by Rajan Rai it clearly.
3. Mystery Forktail - 1 (H) long tail glimpsed below Aticp, c. 1220-1235m.
4. Large-billed Leaf Warbler - 1 (H) clearly song call c. Aticp, c. 1225m - unusually low (G et al. '00: "summer visitor, 2440-3600m")
5. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 seen below Aticp site, c. 1225m; pair seen.
6. Maroon Oriole - 1 (H) early Ati c. Aticp site, c. 1250m; unusually low.
7. Nepal House Martin - several w/ #8s c. 1300m, early Ati.
8. Forktailed Swift - c. 75s "nest building?" see pg. 22.
9. Little Forktail - 1 seen passing stream by Aticp, c. 1235-1245m.
10. Hoary-throated Barwing - 1 (H); seen & heard late in early Ati, c. 1300m, new minimum elevation for Nepal? (G et al. '00: "mainly 1930-3000m (1500-3500m)", seen clearly while singing in dense broadleaf forest, moist w/dense fardges but v. little moss! ("mossey broadleaf forest")
11. Asian House Martin - > 8 birds building nests, below Aticp, c. 1220m.
13. Bay Woodpecker - 1 (S?); seen in flt, (H) before that above Aticp site, c. 1275m, unusually low (G et al. '00: "local & uncommon, mainly 1525-2500m")
15. Yellow-rumped Warbler - pr/duo moving through trees, pr Aticp, c. 1300m.
16. Slaty-backed Forktail - along stream c. Aticp site, c. 1240m.
17. Black Bulbul - pair chased/followed by #17, c. Aticp site, c. 1280m.
18. Ashy Bulbul - 1 chasing/following pr of #17, c. 1380m.
19. Golden-throated Barbet - 1 seen perched above "...C.1320m..."
20. Orange-bellied Leafbird - 2 pr pair seen well (same tree as #19).
Additional records:

- #10 (cont.) - same minimum alt. recorded in India: 1300m (G. et al. '98)
- #19 same bird. (H) calling later at Ak, c. 1350m;
- #21 pair/duo past ANCP Site, c. 1340m;
- #27) 1 seen above, " south", c. 1350m, perched on understorey branch. Head pattern/age seen, dark.

- #2 cont. another (H) c. lunch stop, c. 1520m. call & alarm call, off white, breast is blackish, crescenton flanks.

17. Little Forktail - 2 ad. & 2 juv. evidently recently fledged, upstream from lunch stop, upper Pikhwa Kh, c. 1600m. Ungainly, short wing.


15. Plumbous Water Redstart - 1 pair along Pikhwa Khola littoral (lunch stop, c. 1520m). Observed carrying food (several small insects). Standing guard?

Breeding records:

- #13 Asian House Martin - 8 birds observed making sortays to and from nests attached to sheer rock cliffs (4 nests). Most birds postings stipples of mud on outside or rim of nests, with others flying into nest cup hole. Seen well in Flight while perched on nests. Tailed nearly squared off. Not Northern House Martin, c. 1265m (E. et al. 00: "below 4575m; has bred at 3500m + 4000m") G. et al. 98: "down exceptionally to 1300m") appears to be new minimum altitude & breeding record for Indian Subcontinent!

14. Fork-tailed Swift - 2 birds (probably 3 or 4) flying into several of nesting crevices in steep/canyon cliff face, c. 50m away from colony of nesting Asian House Martins; below ANCP site, c. 1265m. (check G. et al. 98).
7 May 2009
Day 8

Upper Pikhuwa Khola streambed camp, Sankhuwasabha (1238m) – ghat camp above coppiced trees, Pikhuwa Kh, Sankhuwasabha (1733m)

21. Plumbeous Water Redstart - (3) pair - AT Cpsite, c. 1230m. (pre-dawn)
22. Collared Owlet - (omitted) 1 (H) c. 1250-1300m.
23. Mountain Scops Owl - (omitted) 1 (H) c.
24. Great Barbett - 1 (H) up above past ... c. 1280m.
25. Blue-throated Barbett - 1 (H) c. 1350m.
26. (omitted) White-crowned Laughingthrush - flock (H) early AM, c. Cpsite, c. 1300m.
27. (omitted) Leaf Warbler - ? Bird seen in understorey c. 50m above water. See pg. 29. Also seen making sortays for insects. Bill long & thin. No wingbars. (Ga et al. 00)" rare, status uncertain; probably only passage migrant; recorded 2135-3050m in April 8. Site similar #4 not in vicinility. (Ga et al. 98).

28. Oriental Cuckoo - (H) upslope, upper Pikhuwa, c. 1400-1500m.
29. Black-haired Tit - 21 with #30, c. Lunch stop, c. 1500m, streamside.
30. Whiskered Yuhina - pr/duo w/ #29
31. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike - 1 (H) midday c. lunch stop, c. 1520m
32. White-throated/Silver-backed Needletail - pr/duo over T. c. 1570m.
33. Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo - (H) calling from several 'spots' (peaches) see in dense moist mixed broadleaved forest (mainly Hibiscus-alderes), N of upper Pikhuwa Khola, c. 1660-1680m (close to GPS 972); somehow crossed P. resistance without being seen; calling from middle storey? (Ga et al. 00) "vagrant.
34. Rufous Sibia - 1 (H) c. 1680-1725, upper P. Kh; seen later nearby.
35. Brown-throated Treecreeper - seen fairly well; unbarred tail (not as broad as plate); brownish and gave rattle trill w/ronalik; c. 1720m, upper P. Kh.
36. Eurasian Cuckoo - (3) approaches eve camp, c. 1700-1800m, in distance.
37. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) at dusk above T, c. 1800m.
38. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. 1780-1820, also seen in flt.
39. Mystery Owl - 1 (H) rather distant, 9pm; quick runs of ho-o boo hoos c. 1750-1800m.

Additions:
- Day 8. #20 - 1 (H) c. 1700-1720m, late afternoon, upper P. Kh; #28 - 1 (H) c. 1720-1740m; #13 - 1 (H) c. 1650-1700m; #23 - same bird (2), bit above eve Cpsite at dusk-twilight, c. 1750m; #23 - 1 (H) at evening cp, twilight - 19h, c. 1780m.
GPS Coordinates

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<td>2158</td>
<td>Pikhuwa Danda cot trail</td>
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Weather: Clear at dawn & into early AM; cumulus build-ups on surrounding ridges by late AM & into mid-day but not threatening. Mostly clear into afternoon. Partly cloudy through to evening. 63°F at 05h30.

Route: Could not find any trail from AM CP area upstream along valley bottom. More steep gorge upstream. Followed small trail along crest uphill from c. CP into dense forest w/ malingo. Kept to straight uphill track until too steep & "i found old faint trail to S/SW fairly level until reaching trail w/ ghost frame. ghost & late afternoon camp at jet m Pikhuwa Danda.

Habitat: A monoculture of planted fodder trees c AM

Cpsite: Dense sub-tropical & lower temperate moist broadleaf forest on all slopes surrounding CP area; negligibly disturbed by human activities; > 1800m substantial rhododendron component on W face & closed canopy. Not very mossy but stems covered w/ vegetation; middle storey, patchy ground cover of grass tussocks, fern, malingo, more chopped over towards crest from 2100m on.

Effort: 05h20 - 08h20 AM excursion c CP site
         08h45 - 15h10 AM/afternoon march
         15h30 - 18h35 lake afternoon march

12h30 min
8 May 2009

ghat camp above coppiced trees, Pikhuma Kh., Sankhuwasabha (1733m) — Pikhuma Danda crest trail camp, Sankhuwasabha (2158m).

1. Lesser Cuckoo

2. Hodgson’s Hawk Cuckoo

3. Large Hawk Cuckoo

4. Indian Cuckoo

5. Eurasian Cuckoo

6. Oriental Cuckoo

7. Ashy Drongo — pr/duo forest edge below AM Cape, c. 1720m.

8. Rufous Sibia — I seen c. 1720m.

9. Verditer Flycatcher — c. 1735m.

10. White-Crested Laughingthrush - flock (H) c. 1735m.

11. Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H) c. AM Cape, c. 1700-1730m.

12. Great Barbet — seen in tree top c. AM Cape, c. 1753m.

13. Maroon Oriole — c. 1735m.

14. Blue Whistling Thrush — pr/duo in ravine c. AM Cape, c. 1700m.

15. Black-throated Sunbird — c. 1710m.

16. Grey-winged Blackbird — 1 or 2 c. 1700-1720.

17. Whiskered Yuhina — c. AM Cape, c. 1725m.

18. Mystery Flowerpecker — I silhouetted, giving soft tick call, c. 1720.

19. Pygmy Wren Babbler — 1 (H) pr/ravine below AM Cape, c. 1680-1700m.


21. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon — 1 in flight over AM Cape, c. 1745.

22. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike — 1 (H) below " c. 1650m.

23. Striated Laughingthrush — pr/duo " c. 1680m.

24. Orange-bellied Leafbird — pr/duo " c. 1700m.

25. Grey-chinned Minivet — c. 1780m.

(G et al, '00: "scarcely resident, W-C areas eastwards")

26. Golden-winged Barbet — 1 (H) below AM Cape, c. 1680m.

27. Nepal House Martin — small flock above " c. 1750-1760m.

28. Grey-hooded Warbler — 2 c. AM Cape on departure, c. 1740m.

29. Black-lored Tit — 3 passing thru below " c. 1710m.

30. Grey-bellied Tit — 1 (H) on departure from AM Cape, c. 1720m.
Additional records:

#5) 1 (H) c. 2400m (highway) on E slope; Pikuwa Danda;
#13) 1 (H) c. 2100m E slope; Pikuwa Danda;
#6) 1 (H) c. 2300-2400m u u;

#40) several others (H) during day c. 1900-2150m, E slope; Danda;
#41) c. 2200 m crest; Pikuwa Danda; 1 post glut stick c. 2180m;

#35) same bird as earlier in afternoon? perched at thicket top in small clearing c. 2210m, E slope; Pikuwa Danda. Gave good views, including side when opened wings as if displaying at male. Same site as #42

#38) several post glut sticks; Pikuwa Danda, c. 2180m.

#12) 1 m? at 5 u u;

#17) 1 seen past u u + 2 (H) 2180m (seen) c. 2220-2240m (H);
#17) duo/pr in same bush top as #35 & #42, approach exceptite, c. 2215m

Breeding records:

18. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon - f flushed from nest of long twigs, rather basic shallow cup, not stitched together, in leafy multi-node fork of coppiced fodder tree, adjacent to 441 cspite, c. 1735. f returned briefly to nest; o also visited briefly. Photographed, clearly showing nest structure & 2 white eggs; c. 2.8m above ground

19. Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler - nest with 3 nestlings recessed in an embankment, cascading with drooped long-hair grass, fairly well-hidden; photographed but not measured. In forest-floor dense intact mixed broad-leaved forest (upper sub-tropical/tropical montane); fairly mossy non-Rhodo open understorey (closed canopy) with matted sod and grass from both parents feeding young, mainly large spiders. c. 2120m. Both birds initially given quick chatty alarm when scented present.
8 May 2009

ghat camp above coppiced trees, Pikhua Kh, Sankhuwasabha (1733 m) — Pikhua Danda crest trail camp, Sankhuwasabha (2158 m).

31. Short-billed Minivet — ♂ seen well up past At Cpsite, c. 1980m; thin line wings. (G et al '00: "scarce resident, W Careas E Ward")

32. Streak-breasted Scimitar Babblers — pr. nesting in dense forest, Eslope, c. 2120m.

33. Brown/Great Parrotbill — (H) glimpsed poorly in malingo, a.c. 2270m.

34. Red-tailed Minla — ≥ 2 in mixed party, dense forest, Eslope, c. 2260m.

35. Puffy Blue Flycatcher — ♀ seen well, alarming at me in middle storey, dense mixed forest c. 2260m; per G et al '98, ♀ leans forward when alarming w/ wings drooped (tail unseen), constant ticking-like churr call/alarm; moving thru actively but stopping to look at me & alarm. (G et al '00; "Scarce & local resident, 2100-3500 m breeding season") W/#34?

36. Rufous-bellied Niltava — ♀ at dense malingo edge, Eslope, c. 2275m

37. Lomtik Hill Partridge — 1 (H) c. 2000m, Eslope, Pikhua Danda.

38. Black-Throated Tit — 3♂4♀ c. 1960m, "" " c. 2235m

39. Collared Owlet — 1 (H) c. 2300m.

40. Grey-bellied Tesia — 1 (♀) c. 2200m; late afternoon.

41. Hoary Barwing — 21 ♀♂♀♂♂, c. 2220m.

42. Little Pied Flycatcher — ♀ at same site, bushy #35, c. 2210m.

(G et al '00: "Uncommon resident, 1200-3000m") 52nd sighting site!

43. Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) approaching Pikhua Danda crest, 5:30-6:30am. Calling from chopped over forest/ shrubbery's c. 2150m; (G et al '00: "Vagrant"). Also called at periphery dusk — twilight from tree? bushy vegetation c. Tent at C, glimpsed dropping down from middle storey, branch & flying off top branch c. 30 m away.

Mostly silhouette, shape & greyish upp. Consistent W this cuckoo.

(See pg. 36). Amazingly adept at keeping out of sight, and when on the move through middle storey vegetation, no sign of its presence. Very shy & unobtrusive.

44. Omitted/Crested Serpent Eagle — 1 (H) ascending W slope, c. 2000-2200m.

45. Omitted/White-tailed Robin — 1 (H) n. c. 2100m
GPS Coordinates

Code  Coordinate  Alt.  Site Info

CP6  27°31.20'N 87°08.783'E  2158  Pikhuvra Danda crest trail

PT7  27°31.387'N 87°08.535'E  2377  Waypt. along ↑

PTB  27°31.776'N 87°08.160'E  2658  Pikhuvra Danda trail jct.

PT9  27°32.652'N 87°08.425'E  3103  Deorali (pole steep peak?)

CP7  27°32.764'N 87°08.495'E  3030  Deorali Kharka

Weather:  Clear early AM; a few cumulus clouds around danda's higher up e 09h10, otherwise clear panorama NW & S;
57° at 09h30; clouding over along danda trail at mid-day; 4
regular bouts of sun; bit of rain at 2PM, continuing as drizzle past 3
PM; halting for heavy drizzle at 4PM; clearing, then closing back in
late afternoon; clearing again dusk; Twilight:

Route:

Followed established trail along Pikhuvra Danda crest
from AT1 CP, soon into dense forest, unburned along trail sides
like below from AT1 CP; crossing pass (Deorali) with detour to
adjacent spur top with flag poles, then down past mani wall
to ghuts & clearing (Deorali Kharka) to camp for the night.

Habitat:  Cut-over mixed broadleaved forest along danda
crest e AT1 CP, with considerable recent burning each side of trail
up to 2300 m where forest dense, more humid & moister. Gradually
moister with dense understory of nandalo & bushes, rocky flor
2600-2700 m, lower elevation oak-Thedo (Quercus lamellosa
+ Q. sp) giving to more diverse mix of non-oak/thedo broadleaved, moister
& canopy more naturally open. Dense understory of nandalo & bushy thujas

Effort:

05h30 - 08h15 e AT1 CP, 1st soon excursion over
09h00 - 11h30  AM/afternoon march-hang
16h20 - 18h00  evening-hang-eve CP-site

\[ \text{\textbf{\textit{\textbf{\textbf{\textbf{\textit{E}}}}} = 11 h 25 \text{ min.}}\]
9 May 2009

Pikhuwa Danda crest trail CP, Sankhuwasabha (2158m) — Deorali Kharka, Pikhuwa Danda, Sankhuwasabha (3030m).

1. Hodgson’s Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) calling at regular intervals throughout the night, c. CP site, c. 2150—2160m; ‘song identical’ (see to that heard for previous records. ‘Long call’ (suffixed to song) noted not heard, if uttered, should have because bird at close range.

2. Streaked Laughing Thrush — 1 seen c. CP site, c. 2160—2165m.

3. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker — 1 (H) calling, later seen same area.

4. Blue-winged Minla — duo/pr. on trail NE/dn from c. 2150m.

5. Whiskered Yuhina — 

6. Fork-tailed Swift — 2 in mixed flocks over Kharka below AC CP, c. 2120m.


8. Grey-bellied Tesia — 1 seen well, several others (H), c. 2140m.

9. Pygmy Whiskered Wren — 1 (H) off trail below AC CP, c. 2140—2150m.

10. Large Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) c. 2000—2050m.

11. Oriental Cuckoo — 1 (H) c. 2100m.


13. Chestnut-crowned Laughing Thrush — 2 c. 2140—2150m.

14. Grey-hooded Warbler — 1 below c. AC CP, c. 2150m.

15. Himalayan Gull — gliding past/above AC CP, c. 2800m.

16. Common Long-legged Buzzard — 1 overhead up from past AC CP.

17. Sooty White-tailed Blue Robin — 1 (H) trail below AC CP, at excursion c. 2200m.

18. Sooty Striated Laughing Thrush — 1 (2?) c. 2145m.

19. Green-tailed Sunbird — 1 in forest, Pikhuwa Danda crest, c. 2380m.

20. Black-headed Shrike Babbler — 8 w/#21 c. 2385m.


22. Striated Bulbul — moist, dense forest c. 2395m.

23. White-browed Shrike Babbler — family group of 5+ unagineyly (see in moist, dense forest Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2390—2385m).

24. Chestnut-crowned Warbler — 1 seen well, c. 2380m.

Joy-Art 36 Lines, 8 mm
Additional records:

1. Bird seen (grey upper, paler lower and) side view as it quickly flew across widely open trail at low-medium level, then perched hidden nearby, called several times; then apparently flew off.
   Song clearly heard, but as c. 1/3 of known down a bit; no long call.

2. Revised maximum altitude of ≥ 2200 m (possibly as high as 2250 m) Trail along crest in dense tall rhododendron forest, scant understory.

3. 1 m. trees atop, Pithiuwa Danda crest, c. 2300 m; 2 Father on, c. 2380 m.

4. 9 pr. W. Look at birds, c. 2335 m.

5. 1 on forest-floor, c. 2335 m.

6. duo/pr in dense forest, c. 2360 m.

7. c. 2550-2600 m.

8. Pithiuwa Danda, approach, Dec 31, c. 2600 m.

9. 1 (H) c. 2500-2600 m.

10. 1 (H) above, c. 2800 m.

11. Also (H)...

Breeding records:

12. White-browed Shrike-Babbler—family group of 6♀, 1♂, recently fledged &. Juvenile flights short, infrequent; sluggish. Fully plumaged, but ungainly, slow movements. Looked "dumb".

13. Parents keeping nearby but quiet as bird moved through canopy & upper-middle story. Moist dense mixed broadleaved forest, Pithiuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2350-2395 m.
9 May 2009

Pikhuwa Danda crest trail CP, Sankhuwasabha (2158m) — Deorali Kharka, Pikhuwa Danda, Sankhuwasabha (3030m).

24. Stripe-throated Yuhina—1 or 2, Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2380m.
25. Chestnut-headed Tesia—1 seen well " " " c. 2500m.
26. Black-throated Tit—dusky pr down low in fairly dense veg, Pikhuwa Danda trail, c. 2380m, probably flushed from lowest on steep slope; kept nearby & together, agitated at my presence. Possible nest site not accessible.
27. Broad-billed Warbler—1 seen well incl. calling at close range (trill). Squeezed out rattling chur; middle stroke, dense mixed forest along Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2550m. (G et al 00: "rare & local in the E! 2350m [Aug] 2300m [Sept], 2195m [Nov]") probably a 2nd bird; new max alt for NP?
28. Blyth’s Leaf Warbler—1 in understorey/mid-storey, 1st Jetali, c. 2560m.
29. Whistler’s Warbler—1 (H) " " " Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2550m.
30. Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler—1 (H) " glimpsed clamking up ninglelo stalk, Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2680m, giving a "ho, hoa... hoa, hoa" call. (G et al 00: "scarce resident.") short pause
31. Rufous-winged Fulvetta—2 or 3 w/ #32, Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2560m.
32. Black-throated Parrotbill—4 foraging in tree/ningalo. " " c. 2580m.
33. Green Shrike Babbler—1 seen well in tree canopies. " " c. 2560m.
34. Darjeeling Woodpecker—♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂ SpringApplication...
GPS Coordinates 10 May '09 No. Day 11

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Weather: 44°F at 05h15. Mostly clear with some high cirrus at dawn & into early AM, mostly clouded over by 10h45. Bouts of drizzle at mid-day & increasingly into afternoon light to moderate rain from 2 pm onwards, heavy at times with thunder & lightning. Continuing into evening with lightning flashes in the distance at night.

Route: Followed established, fairly wide trail down through forest from Deorali Kharka, passing Dab Kharka & several other small ones to small Kharka near stream above Gomthala village. Several side-trails in some sections made it difficult to follow main trail.

Habitat: Mixed rhododendron-broadleaf (including some deciduous tree spp) e. Deorali Kharka, rather bushy w/ small trees, becoming more dense descending on NE slope, tall trees w/ much moss 2900m ~ 2700m; fairly dense middle storey mostly open (previously grazed) understory with fern & some bamboo (Chingale). Many tall dense mixed broadleaves (few deciduous spp) e. Kharka Chisite, 2400m. Very mossy with fens, nettles, some Chingale, bushes & lianas. Wetland ravines. Diverse tree spp.

Effort: 05h45 – 09h30 All bird excursions e. CP.
10h15 – 13h40 stopped by rain

= 7h 10 min.
10 May 2009

Deorali Kharka, Pikhuwa Danda, Sankhuwasabha (3030m) - Kharka above Gonthala, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2402m).

1. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (<i>Chrysococcyx capistratus</i>) c. Am Camp, c. 3000-3200m.
2. Chestnut-tailed Minla - ≥1, c. Am Camp, c. 3025m (W/ #3)
3. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - 1, "", with #2.
5. Stripe-throated Yuhina - duo/pr <i>c. Am Camp</i>, c. 3060m.
6. Green-tailed Sunbird - 2, calling side by side, "".
7. White-browed Fulvetta - duo/pr in trailside trees, c. Am CP, c. 3055m.
8. Rufous-vented Yuhina - "" towards Deorali, c. 3065m.
10. White-throated Needle-tail - 1 over Deorali (<i>slightly</i> into both the Sankhuwa & Apsuwa watersheds), c. 3060-3100m.
11. Black Eagle - 1, cruising over & Deorali area, c. 3080-3100m.
12. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (<i>Hieraaetus leucogaster</i>) Pikhuwa Danda area, 2900-2950m.
13. Darjeeling Woodpecker - 0, seen Sankhuwa side, Deorali area, c. 3050m.
14. Chestnut-headed Tesia - 1, "", "", c. 3040m.
15. Tickell's Leaf Warbler - 1, Apsuwa side, below Deorali, c. 3040m.
16. Red-headed Bullfinch - 9 in "", <i>c. Am CP</i>, c. 3020m.
17. Verditer Flycatcher - 0 in tree top <i>c. Am CP</i>, c. 3030m.
18. Olive-backed Pipit - 1, in tree singing, "".
19. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - 0 <i>c. Am CP</i>, periphery, c. 3025m.
20. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1, NE/below Deorali Kharka, c. 2920m.
21. Black-throated Parrotbill - ≥2 in <i>minglo</i>/mixed broadleaf, "" c. 2860m.
22. Long-tailed Minivet - 6 or pr <i>c. Dab Kharka</i>, c. 2840m.
23. Rufous-bellied Niltava - >2 below "", c. 2750m.
24. Striated Bulbul - 1, below Dab Kharka, c. 2740m.
25. Yellow-bellied Fantail - 1 (<i>W/#26</i>) "", c. 2680.
26. White-tailed Nuthatch - 1 (<i>W/#25</i>) "", "".
27. Rufous Sibia - ≥1 below Dab Kharka, c. 2680m, c. 2640m.
28. Hoary-throated Barwing - duo/pr in mossy trees below Dab Kharka.
29. Scaly Thrush - long ground c. #28 side, c. 2835m.
30. Large-billed Crow - 1, c. small Khola, c. 2500-2520 (<i>PT</i>1).
31. Green-backed Tit - 1, "", c. 2515m...
Additional records:

#4) 1. (4) Sankhuwassie, Deorali area, c. 3050 m; below Dab Kharka, 2660 m

#5) I seen " " " "

#6) due/pr descending NE from Deorali Kharka, c. 2900-2940 m;

#7) 1 below Dab Kharka, c. 2765 m;

#8) 1 " " " c. 2750 m;

#9) 1 " seen calling below) c. 2710 m;

#10) 2 w/ a yulina, below Dab Kharka, c. 2660 m;

#11) c. 2650 m;

#12) 1 (4) " " c. 2520 m;

#13) " " c. 2500-2560 m;

Mammal record:

Barking Deer: I heard barking from peripheral forest
Deorali Kharka, early AM, c. 3050 m.
Deorali Kharka, Pikhuna Danda, Sankhuwasabha (3030m) — Kharka above Gonthala village, Apsuwa Kh, Sankhuwasabha (2402m).

32. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) below/NE of Dab Kharka, c. 2500-2600m

33. Pygmy Wren Babbler - 1 (H) c. eve C site, c. 2400-2420m.
GPS Coordinates 11 May '09

Code  Coordinate  Alt.  Site Info (m)
CP 8  27°33.61'N 87°08.886'E  2402  Kharka above Gonthala
CP 9  27°33.995'N 87°09.153'E  2237  lower house, Gonthala.

Weather: Scattered thin clouds at dawn, mostly sunny; early AM; mostly clouded over by 9 AM; drizzle at 9h30; thin layers of forecasted over snow at dandar; 50°F at 05h30; bouts of drizzle & rain late AM & early afternoon; clearing at 15h00; drizzle again at 16h30; light rain & PM-dusk.

Route: Back tracked 300-500m in early AM for birding, as far as larger Kharka with cows, no people. Walked along main trail through Gonthala (name not on 1:50,000 Bata sheet but village accurately depicted) to lowest house. Afternoon excursion to forest periphery & level along trail to mani at spur with view of Dabotak & downstream to Taljale lekh area.

Habitat: Dense moist broadleaved forest e. AM opposite Kharka (name informed but not recorded). Dense bushes & tangles along nearby stream; through mossy scrub to fields with corn at Gonthala. Fairly dense forest (mossy with good middle & understory) at periphery of lower Gonthala.

Effort: 05h30 - 09h00
09h15 - 11h45
15h35 - 17h00
7h25min.
11 May 2009

Kharka above Gonthala village, Apsuwa Kh., Sankhuwasba (2402m)
—lowest house, Gonthala, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasba (237m).

1. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (t) c. Kharka CP, c. 2420m.
2. Large Hawk Cuckoo — c. 2440m.
3. Oriental Cuckoo — c. 2465m.
4. Lesser Cuckoo — c. 2450-2460m.
5. Large-billed Leaf Warbler - 1 (t) c. Kharka CP, c. 2410-2430m.
6. Whiskered Yuhina - duo/pr, 1 carry nest material, c. — c. 2415-2420m.
7. Sapphire Flycatcher - an adult c. pair at edge of Aori Csite Kharka, c. 2420m. Both seen very well. Active, zigzaggy flt. In middle storey. Soon moved on. (G et al '10: "rare... mainly in E, 2135-2800 in April & May. Evergreen broadleaved forest. Site with some deciduous trees say!"
8. large-billed Cuckoo - 1 seen c. Kharka CP, c. 2460-2480m.
9. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - 3 or 4 in dense forest trail above Aori CP, c. 2450m.
10. Whistler's Warbler - 1 (t) c. stream c. Aori CP, c. 2420m.
11. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1 collecting insects, — c. 2450-2460m.
12. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - 1 above Aori CP, above Gonthala, c. 2480m.
13. Rufous Sibia - 1 (t) above Aori Kharka CP, c. 2480-2500m.
14. Rufous-capped Babbler - 1 seen c. 2420m (near stream).
15. Green-tailed Sunbird - 1 seen + t, c. 2480m.
16. Chestnut-headed Tesia - 1 (t) — c. 2485m.
17. Hill Partridge - 1 (t) above, backtracking Aori CP, c. 2500-2550m.
18. Stripe-throated Yuhina - duo/pr, in trees, c. 2460m.
19. Pygmy Blue Flycatcher - 9-8 pr, in streamside dense vegetation, back of Aori CP, very near #7 site; 2 seen well, hovered several times at edge of bushy vegetation mid–lower level, c. 2480m. (G et al '10: "scarce & local resident, 2100-3500m in breeding season."); quite active.
20. Western Crowned Warbler - single? bird seen well—all main juv. characters; gave att. wing-flapping several times; above Aori CP, c. 2440m.
21. Striated Bulbul - pair c. Aori Kharka Csite, c. 2420m.
22. Nepal House Martin - 3 over — c. 2430-2440m.
23. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (t) ravine above school, Gonthala, c. 2350m.
24. Brownish-Flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (t) in bushy ravine at/within

Gonthala, c. 2280-2300m.
Additional records:

#1) 1 seen: H below AM Kharka, c. 2380m; 1 (H) lower Gorthala
#1) 1 (H) ravine beyond school, Gorthala, c. 2350m;
#2) 1 (H) at Gorthala lower house, c. 2100-2200m;
#8) 1 at fields, A " " c. 2235-2250m;
#25) c24 + carrying/gathering food A " " c. 2235m;
#22) small flock over lower Gorthala, c. 2235-2250 (possibly same as earlier day above)
#17) 1 (H) at periphery, lowest house, Gorthala, c. 2240m;
#26) pair/duo in acacia/berries A " " c. 2240m;
#27) 1 at old Khel, lower Gorthala, c. 2230m;
#2A) 1 (H) " " " " ;
#21) 1 seen in alder, A " " c. 2220m;

Note: Niche overlap of Pygmy Blue + Sapphire Flycatchers. Former foraging lower than usual. Appear to be sharing same habitat?

Breeding records:

21. Whiskered Yuhina - duo/pr. passing through tree tops, c. Kharka CP above Gorthala, c. 2415m. One bird with thin strands of material in its beak: carrying nesting material. Apsuwa Khola

22. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1 bird actively collecting small winged insects from tree crowns, c. AM Camp above Gorthala, Apsuwa Khola, c. 2450-2460m

23. Grey Bushchat - c24 on fence top carrying a cicada. Lowest house, Gorthala village, Apsuwa Kh. c. 2230-2235m; 1 seen later nearby with Katydid in beak. Nest in field bank later found. 4 nestlings hatching. Pledged status. Photo'd. No measurements. G & J scalped, then returned to nest after inspection. Observed feeding in rain AM next day.
11 May 2009

Kharka above Gonthala village, Apsuwa Kh, Sankhuwasabha (2402m) — lowest house, Gonthala, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2237m) (see page 45)

25. Grey Bushchat - 07c. lower houses of Gonthala, c. 2330m
26. Verditer Flycatcher - 07 at last/lowest house, Gonthala, c. 2230m
27. Green-backed Tit - 1 in coppiced shrub A  " "  " 2240m
28. Long-tailed Shrike - 1 c. lowest house, Gonthala, c. 2230-2235m
29. Grey-breasted Prinia - 7 1 (H) c. " " " 7 (G et al. '00: "frequent to 1200m; locally to 1750m"). Call of #25 7
30. Streaked Laughingthrush - 1 eating a Fellen ainselberry; thicket at edge of lower Gonthala, c. 2235m 2230m
31. Long-tailed Minivet - 07 & pair in forest edge tree, lower Gonthala 2235m
32. Rufous-bellied Niltava - 07 ... " " " c. 2240m
33. Mrs Gould's Sunbird - 07 seen well " " " " (G et al. '00: "widespread & uncommon."). Initially ID was given as vs. Green-tailed by softer "sip sip" call vs. louder & more piercing of Green-tailed.
34. Striated Laughingthrush - duo/pr in forest trees, periphery of lower Gonthala - mani walls at spur towards Deblak, c. 2240m
35. Great Bower - 1 (H) across Apsuwa, late afternoon, c. 2200m
36. [omitted] Olive-backed Pipit - 1 flushed into tree limbs, periphery of Art campsite, above Gonthala, c. 2415m.
Drizzle & rain until mid-day; cloudy w/ occasional sprinkles in late afternoon. Few foggy clouds rolling in. 30 species from Apsara river bottom late AM. Overcast, except late noon. 296 species. Possibly some species! New maximum elevation for Nepal! (2320 m Bhutan).

21. Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo- 1 (H) at dusk forest edge Gonthala, c. 2260-2280 m.

List (cont.) 24. Green-tailed Sunbird- 1 pr trail NE of Gonthala, c. 2060 m.
25. Western Crowned Warbler- 1 sp seen well "w/ wing flicking behavior.
26. Bronzed Drongo- 1 at dusk along trail NE of Gonthala, c. 2080 m.
27. White-tailed Nuttall- 1 " " " " " " 2100 m.
28. White-tailed Bush Robin- 1 (H) " " " " " " 2130 m.
29. Bay Woodpecker- 1 (H) above Gonthala, c. 2220-2240 m.
30. Lesser Cuckoo- 1 (H) at dusk c. Gonthala, c. 2200-2300 m.

Route: 32. [omitted] Pygmy Wren-Babbler- 1 (H) off trail NE of Gonthala, c. 2200 m.

Stayed at lowest house Gonthala; morning excursion to old khuts & forest edge; late afternoon excursion to mani/chaur & down forested trail towards Dobotak to ravine, c. 2080 m. Returned to house at dusk.

Habitat: planted fields of potato, corn & wheat in c. Gonthala; dense, mossy mixed temperate broadleaved forest at periphery & towards Dobotak.

Additional records: #7) 2nd bird & lowest house Gonthala. (H) on trail c. 2240 m.
#2/3) feeding 4 nestlings in bank c. mani wall below Gonthala, c. 2250 m.
#1) 1 (H) along trail NE of Gonthala, afternoon c. 2160 m. 
#12) 1 (H) " " " " " " 2150-2170 m.
#19) seen w/ other (pg. 48) giving gurgling-like call; other bird w/ typical calling.
#9) duo saw 10/9/84 trail NE of Gonthala, c. 2080 m.

Effort: 11h30-12h15
12h00-15h20
15h30-18h00

Breeding record: ≤ 5h 35 min.

24. Grey Bushchat - 2 sp feeding insects to 4 nestlings in nest in bank near mani walls below, c. spur chaur, Gonthala, c. 2250 m. (see pg. 48)
25. Hill Prinia - nesting pair at chaur A c. 2250 m
12 May 2009

lowest house & vicinity, Gonthala, Apsuwa Kh, Sankhuwasabha (2237m)

1. Large Hawk Cuckoo - I seen 1 juvenile calling/singing from alder canopy below lowest house Gonthala in steady rain, early AM, c. 2230m
2. Grey Bushchat - same nesting pair as previous day, feeding nestlings in AM rain, lowest house, Gonthala, c. 2230-2235m (see pg 41)
3. Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (H) calling below Gonthala from forest in rainy late AM, c. 2100-2150m. Heard clearly in early AM when no rain (G et al '06: "1450-1830m (250-2050m), rare resident")
   revised (G et al '08: "-2500m") on subcontinent. New maximum altitude in Nepal (1)
4. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) above Gonthala, c. 2200-2250m, early AM
5. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) across Apsuwa, early AM, c. 2100-2150m
6. Great Bowerbird - several (H) ▲ " 2000-2200m.
7. Brownish-Flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) edge of Khotschaub, lowest house 2235m
8. Verditer Flycatcher - 2, lowest house, Gonthala, c. 2220m
9. Green-backed Tit-1 in Khotschaub ▲ " 2235-2240m
10. Nepal House Martin - small flock over Gonthala, c. 2235-2260m
11. Large-billed Crow - 1 over lower Gonthala, c. 2250m
12. Grey-bellied Thrush - 1 (H) below lowest house Gonthala, c. 2150-2200m
13. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) outer periphery ▲ " 2225-2235m
14. Hill Pipia - unusual pair, 1 bird flushed from nest with 3 small nearly deanless nestlings & 1 white egg. In vertical old terrace embankment past mani wall at grazed chaur/spur NE of Gonthala. Birds did not return to nest but 1 stood nearby in shrub for several minutes. Not measured or photographed. (1m?) in recessed embankment of short grass & fern. Nest material mostly grass ?!
   (G et al '10: "frequent in far E Nepal. W-ward range extn for sp. in Nepal")
15. Long-tailed Minivet - 3/4 c. chaur & below NE of Gonthala, c. 2150-2180m
16. Whiskered Yuhina - 1 in trailside veg. ▲ " 2150m
17. Grey-hooded Warbler - 1 carrying insect, Himal
18. Ashy Drongo - 1 in tree top, trailside, below NE ▲ " 2170m
19. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) across from ▲ " 2160m
20. Yellow-browed Tit - duo/pr, trailside ▲ " 2160m
21. White-browed Shrike-babbler - 1 seen calling ▲ "...
22. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) across ravine ▲ "...
23. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike - 1 (H) above trail NE Gonthala, c. 2180m
Weather: Light rain boats 3-5 AM; clearing by 05h30, but considerable snowfall at high elevations in the Apsuwa down into W slope fir; high thin overcast much of AM, bright but overcast entire afternoon with short spell of light rain c.2PM; overcast with big cumulus buildings over surrounding dandals; occasional light showers in the afternoon/late afternoon.

Route: On main trail rounding spur with mani wall, dropping to dense forest, ravine t up to flagged mani/chaunita then down/up past second ravine; fairly level on to Dobotak.

Habitat: Dense moist broadleaved forest. Quite mossy with substantial ringo component. Understory fairly clean (except for ferny fells including nettles) on either side of trail for 20-30m, but otherwise very little disturbance; very few landslips in steep densely forested terrain. Good for birds throughout afternoon although no sun & occasional light showers.

Old & new slash & burn patches approaching S-SWA Dobotak, oldest not used again even for grazing. Considerably large considering only 3-4 households at Dobotak. Otherwise Apsuwa valley in this area very densely & continuously forested.

Effort:
05h30 - 08h30
12h25 - 17h00
18h00 - 18h20
8h05 min
Lowest house, Gonothala, Apsuwa Kh, Sankhuwasabha (2237m) — Dabotak thanti, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2169m).

1. Whiskered Yuhina - 5 in forest edge, lowest house, Gonothala, quiet agitated (family group?) at times in chase, early AM, c. 2235-2240m
2. Verditer Flycatcher - 8 c. fields, lower Gonothala, c. 2240-2250m
3. Grey Bushchat - 9 feeding nestlings, same site as 12 May, c. 2230m
4. Long-tailed Shrike - 1 c. lowest house, Gonothala, c. 2235-2240m
5. Oriental Turtle Dove - 1 in alders " " " c. 2230-2235m
6. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (T) calling below " " " c. 2150-2200m
7. Indian Blue Robin - 1 seen " " " c. 2240m
8. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (T) " " "
9. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (T) forest below Gonothala, c. 2100-2150m
10. Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (T) calling " " " c. 2100m

(see pg. 48 #3 for notes on altitudinal range)
11. Hill Partridge - 1 (T) calling from forest below Gonothala, c. 2100m
12. Green-backed Tit - >1 in alders/Khts " " " c. 2225m
13. Forktailed Swift - >1 over Gonothala, lower houses, c. 2250m
14. Nepal House Martin - several " " " c. 2240-2300m
15. Mountain Hawk Eagle - 1 ad. seen well over Gonothala, c. 2260-2300m
16. White-tailed Robin - 1 clearly (T) in forest edge, upper Gonothala, c. 2280m
17. Orange-bellied Leafbird - 1 (T) early AM, c. lowest house " " " c. 2220m
18. Bay Woodpecker - 1 (T), locomotive part of call (laugh heard earlier in AM) below N of Gonothala, c. 2160-2180m (et al '00): local & uncommon"
19. White-browed Shrike Babblers - ? seen, calling, trail N of Gonothala, c. 2220m
20. Chestnut-crowned Warbler - 1 seen in mid canopy " " "
21. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (T) off forested trail N of Gonothala, c. " "
22. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (T) " " " c. 2250-2300m
23. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - ? seen " " " c. 2220m.
24. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (T) up/off forested trail " " " c. 2300m.
25. Great Barbet - 1+1 (T) " " " c. 2300-2400m
26. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike - 1 (T) " " " c. 2250m.
27. Grey-hooded Warbler - pair carrying food (forest)" " c. 2180m.
28. Maroon Oriole - 1 heard, then glimpsed, forested trail NNE of Gonothala, c. 2180m. Not seen; diagnostically last call recognized.
Additional records:

#3) 07 below NE of Gonthala, c.2250m, & approaching Dabotak.
#6) I (4) off-trail " " c.2150m.  
#3c) I seen " " c.2180m; 21 c. Dabotak c.2150m.  
#35) I in scrub approaching Dabotak, c.2120m.  
#2) I " " " "  
#1) duo/pr. 42 " " c.2135m;  
#3 cont) recently fledged young approaching Dabotak, c.2130m.  
" + a " at edge of Dabotak, c.2150m; 0 seen nearby.  
#8) 1 (4) edge of Dabotak, c.2145m.  
#44) 1 seen " " c.2150m.  

Breeding records:

26. Grey-hooded Warbler - pair carrying winged insects, but mostly larva (to a nest?) in middle-lower storey of trail-side dense forest, NE of Gonthala, Apsuwa Kh., afternoon. Same pair seen on same site previous day. 1 bird w/larvae, c.2180m.  

27. Grey Bushchat - 6 & 0 with 1 newly fledged juvenile.  
inside of outskirts of Dabotak, c.2150m. Juvenile, sedentary, barely fledged & "drum" looking. Parents nearby, but not agitated.
13 May 2009

Lowesthouse, Gonthala, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2237m) — Dabotak thani, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2163m).

29. Grey-bellied Tezla - 1 (H) along forested trail NE of Gonthala, c. 2190 m.
30. Rufous Sibia - 1 seen
31. Whistler's Warbler - 1 seen (non-Little Forktail) c. 2210 m.
32. Mystery Forktail - du/p/glimpsed, stream c. 2100 m.
33. Ashy Drongo - 1 in alders, c. stream trail NE of
34. White-crested Laughingthrush - ≥ 7 c. 2100-2130 m.
35. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 in alders ... c. 2080 m.
36. White-tailed Nutstart - 1 (H) in forest c. 2080-2100 m.
37. Red-billed Leiothrix - du/p/g c. 2070-2080 m.
38. Long-billed Thrush - du/p/g flushed from forest floor, along trail to Dabotak; largish size, greyish olive uppers, short tail, low flight on slope.
39. Somitted Striated Laughingthrush - ≥ 1 at ravine Khola, c. 2070-2080 m.
40. Mystery Sunbird - 9 in mistletoe approaching Dabotak, c. 2125 m.
41. Striated Prinia - 1 (H) grassy slope c. 2120 m.
42. Blyth's Leaf Warbler - 1/2/4 Is, scrub c. 2135 m.
43. Darjeeling Woodpecker - 9 on standing deadwood c. 2130 m.
44. Somitted Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - ≥ 1 at bridge over stream in dense forested ravine, towards Dabotak, c. 2100 m.
45. Pygmy Wren-Babbler - 1 (H) approaching Dabotak, c. 2140 m.
46. Striated Bullfinch - 1 c. Dabotak, c. 2150 m.
47. Scarlet Finch - 9 in bushes, edge of Dabotak, c. 2150 m.
48. Ashy Wood Pigeon - 9 some seen in flat passing by Dabotak
49. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler - ≥ 1 by #44, c. Dabotak, c. 2150 m.
50. Yellow-breasted Green Finch - 7 flying past Dabotak, c. 2150 m.

Ξ =
GPS Coordinates  14 May '09

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Weather: Some thin cloud in early AM, but mostly clear.  
50°F at 06h00; mostly sunny AM, with occasional shade due to passing clouds; mostly clouded over by 1 PM, high non-threatening; fairly breezy, overcast into afternoon, clearing somewhat at 15h00.

Route: Dobatak-thanti down to village of 3 houses, fairly level along main trail through dense forest with slight grazing either side of trail. Crossing several watered ravines. One log bridges (rustic) & past flagged cairns, passing 3 small kalchas en route (1 of which ate lunch=L4) to larger kharka. Stream for eve Csite.

Habitat: Dense mixed broadleaved forest c Dobatak & along entire route to Saisimma. Slash-burn fields just S of Dobatak; new one for corn on slopes with charred alders; intact cut stems left behind for mushroom cultivation & khodo (millet planting late). Old fields with weeded scrub from previous (2-3 yr) swidden. Then burned & planted again (3.5 yr?). Fairly extensive but not affecting biodiversity except for probable increase in scrub/cultivation for generalist species of birds. Crops all for local use (sell to Saisimma & trekkers?). Dense forest w/substantial element of 'patate' & 'asare', considerable maples further on, places where Quercus lamellosa almost dominant on E/S aspects. N. Moss.

Effort:  
05h45 - 07h45  
08h20 - 13h45  
14h00 - 18h25  
\[ \xi = 10h 50m \]
14 May 2009

Dabotak thanti, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2169m) — chaur S of Saisimma, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2288m).

1. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (4) c. thanti, early AM, c. 2180m.
2. Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H), locomotive-like part of call/wind-up, c. thanti, early AM, c. 2150-2160m. (G et al '00: "local & uncommon")
3. Striated Bulbul - 1 seen in alders c. thanti, c. 2175m.
4. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) c. houses of Dabotak, c. 2150m.
5. Verditer Flycatcher - 2 c. fields edge of Dabotak, c. 2150m. (p. 55)
6. Rosy Pipit - 1 in breeding plumage " " " unusual.
7. In late spring, below forest belt, probably due to previous day's snowfall.
8. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - 12 in alders/scrub c. below Dabotak, c. 2135m.
9. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (? early AM above thanti, c. 2200-2250m.
10. Whiskered Yuhina - 3+2 edge of Dabotak, c. 2150m.
11. Grey Bushchat - 1 recently fledged bird (9?) edge Dabotak, fields 2160m.
12. Hill Minia - 1 in breeding plumage, edge of fields, Dabotak, c. 2155m.
13. Ashy Drongo - 1 between thanti & Dabotak houses, c. 2160m.
14. Yellow-browed Greenfinch - 2+1 in fallow fields, c. Dabotak, c. 2150m.
15. Whistler's Warbler - 1 H then seen, scrub " " c. 2160m.
16. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike - 1 (H) c. edge " " c. 2170m.
17. Common Rosefinch - 2+1 pair past Dabotak towards Saisimma, c. 2150m.
18. White-tailed Robin - 1 (H) down from trail " " c. 2140m.
19. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - f. in AM, trail past Dabotak to Saisimma, c. 2160m.
20. Aegithalos Cetti - 1 (H) along " " c. 2155m.
21. Rufous-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) along " " c. 2170m.
22. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 (H) " past ravine " c. 2180m.
23. Brown Bullfinch - 1 seen in up tree " " " c. 2185m.
24. Great Barbet - 2 or 3 (H) along forested trail " c. 2100-2230m.
Additional records:

#10) Seen in scrub/old fields, edge of Dabotak, c. 2150m.

#21) Calling opposite side, valley floor past "c. 2100 - 2200m.

#1) dense forest past Dabotak - Saisimma, c. 2200m.

#15) 1 (4) " " " " " c. 2150m; 1 more at 2130m.

#23) pr duo seen " " " " c. 2200m.

#9) 3a in mistletoe " " " c. 2220m; 1 (4) further on, c.

#22) 1 (4) " " c. 2320m; 1 (4) past L.T. chaar, c. 2410m.

#30) pr " " " c. 2330m; 2 at PT 13 Khanka.

#15 cont) 1 (4) past PT 13 Khanka, c. 2415m.

#28) Seen in trees chaar past P, c. 2415m LA.

#9 cont) 3 chasing off #46, " c. 2410m.";

#86) pr past LA chaar; c. 2415m.

#38) 1 " " c. 2410m; 1 Jr. #52/53 c. Saisimma Kh, c. 2250m.

#3) In forest past " " c. 2420m.

#18) " " " c. 2415m.

#42) pr/duo " " c. 2420m.

#49) Jr. eye P, c. Saisimma Kh, c. 2295m.

#27) Small flock (4) + (bird seen) " c. 2290m.

#34) 1 (4) evening flight towards Saisimma gau, c. 2320m.

Breeding records:

28. Ashy Drongo - bird on completed nest (with eggs?), up c. 3 m in alder in tall scrub edge of Dabotak, c. 2150. Nest placed in small branch fork c. 2 - 2.5m out from main stem.

29. Small Niltava - 9 flushed from nest in bank along forested trail, returned for good views at close range. Underparts not seen well, but bright lower back/rump/tail counts. Silent. 3 pale uniform brown eggs in cup nest of moss on rim & sides (inner cup not inspected). Receded in rarely vertical trailside bank with short herb vegetation. Photographed c. 2180m, trail from Dabotak to Saisimma. # with greyish brown head & blotch of brighter brown on face (? c. lores?). Lat. seen mostly pale brown below. Measurements: rim + bottom of bank = 55cm; front = back = rim = 7cm; width of rim = 5cm; E = silent; not lined; thizome.
14 May 2009

Dabotak-thanti, Apsuwa Khola, Saikhuwasabha (2169 m)
- chaur S of Saisimma, Apsuwa Khola, Saikhuwasabha (2288 m).

1. Seen walking/running on limb. 2nd bird seen well w/lost, farther on c. 2200m.

(29) Rusty-fronted Barwing - 1 seen well in middle story of dense forest.

Dabotak-Saisimma, heard calling back forth with another in vicinity, 2180m
(G.et.al.'00: "rare & local resident, W-Careas E-wards")

30. Green-tailed Sunbird - 1 (ft) forested trail Dabotak-Saisimma, c. 2160m

31. Small Niltava - flushed from nest seen on return, c. 2180m.

32. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 1 in upper alders, c. 2200m.

33. Large-billed Warbler - 1 (ft) forested trail Dabotak-Saisimma, c. 2300m

34. Hill Partridge - 1 (ft) " (close range)" c. 2340m

35. Ashy-throated Lemon-rumped Warbler - not seen well " c. 2330m.

36. Spot-winged Grosbeak - 4 in trees edge of Kharka (PT13) main trail Dabotak-Saisimma, c. 2385m; (G.et.al.'00: "uncommon resident")

37. Grey-chinned Minivet - 3 pr. edge of PT13 Kharka, main trail from Dabotak-Saisimma, c. 2385m; (G.et.al.'00: "scarce resident W-Careas E-wards")

38. Blue-winged Minla - 1 seen well, back of PT13 Kharka, c. 2395m

39. Short-billed Minivet - 3 pr. Pt. 13 Kharka, c. 2400m; seen fairly well from monotonous, loud "coo" "coo" "coo" in woods (G.et.al.'00: "scarce resident E-wards")

40. Barred Cuckoo Dove - 1 (ft) above " c. 2450-2500 m dense forest.

41. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (ft) past PT13 Kharka, c. 2450m.

42. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - 1 seen " c. 2410m.

43. Ferruginous Flycatcher - pr/duo at chaur, c. 2405m ("scarce summer visitor")

44. Darjeeling Woodpecker - 1 seen " c. 2410m (lunch stop = LA).

45. White-browed Shrike Babblers - 3 pr. " c. 2405m.

46. Western Crowned Warbler - 1 seen well w/alt. wing flicking, chased off by #5s; c. LA (shy) (G.et.al.'00: "uncommon spring passage migrant - rare winter breeder") (white tip to tail)

47. Hoary-throated Barwing - pr/duo seen well past chaur/LA, c. 2415m.

48. Asian Barred Owlet - 1 (ft) calling across valley approach, Saisimma K., c. 2100m.

(49) Short-billed Minivet - 3 pr. seen well, approach, Saisimma K., c. 2400m.
(G.et.al.'00: "scarce resident W-Careas E-wards") #39 possibly long-tailed.

50. Mystery Woodpecker - 1 large (not #44) silhouette (deads, tree trunk) c. 2350m.

51. Ashy Wood Pigeon - pr/duo in dense forest approach, Saisimma K., c. 2300m.

52. Yellow-bellied Fantail - 2 " c. Saisimma K., c. 2250m.

53. White-tailed Nuthatch - pr/duo " c. 2260m

54. Kalij Pheasant - 1 (ft) from east towards Saisimma gaya, c. 2330m.

55. Mystery Owl - 1 (ft) at twilight " well spaced "hoop" " hooper " c. 2300-2350m.
GPS Coordinates  15 May '09  No Day 16

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Weather: 49°F at 05h15; totally clear early AM; but cumulus building on nearby dandas by 06h30; continued clear AM and 10 AM when danda build-ups pinching clouds; quite breezy; mostly overcast at mid-day with sprinkles. Intermittent showers in the afternoon; some clearing c 3 PM but soon socked in again with rain at 15h30; mostly overcast late afternoon, bouts of light rain, calm/overcast dusk-twilight.

Habitat:
Dense mixed deciduous-evergreen forest (Temperate zone spp. with maple fairly common). Good understorey, somewhat grazed, especially side of main trail. Quite moody W fairly heavy epiphyte load; eu liana. Rhododendron prominent in tree shrubbery, but many other broadleaves with hingalo, thicket, fairly dense ground cover—this & AM CP 7K. Wheat fields & Saisimma with mostly dried plant remaining. Pothuis growing; being planted; many fallow fields c lanes. Saisimma; bamboo felled placed to keep out banking deer.

Route: Backtracked on early AM birdwalk past stream c 14 km; then from CP across Kharka & scut to Saisimma, later up steeply to Saisimma Gompa where due to late afternoon poor weather, lunched & camped.

Effort:
05h45-08h20
08h40-12h15
12h45-14h30
15h15-15h30
16h45-18h05

\[ \Delta = 9\text{h}30\text{min} \]
15 May 2009

Chaur S of Saisimma, Apsuwa Kh, Sankhuwasabha (2288m).
Saisimma Gompa, Apsuwa Kh, Sankhuwasabha (2424m).

1. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. AMCP, c. 2300m; Kharka periphery.
2. Rufous Sibia - 1 (H) c. " (2 later seen)
3. Red-pheasant - 1 (H) " " "
4. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) " c. 2350m; above "
5. Large-billed Warbler - 1 (H) " c. 2295m "
6. Whiskered Yuhina - 2, seen, c. Acorn Kharka edge, c. 2310m.
7. Ashy Drongo - 1 in AMCP Kharka edge tree top, c. 2305m.
8. Green-tailed Sunbird - o'see and heard " " c. 2300m.
9. Black-eared Shrike-Babbler - I initially heard them seen in tall tree tops edge of AMCP, c. 2305m; I seen calling vigorously loud.
10. Striated Laughingthrush - I seen c. stream c. AMCP, c. 2300-2305m.
11. Yellow-bellied Fantail - pr/duo in maple top 
12. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - sp in tree top " "
13. Striated Bulbul - I seen in forest, backtracking from CP, c. 2335m.
14. Western Crowned Warbler - I seen well (flying, flicking) c. 2330m.
15. Chestnut-headed Tesia - I seen + heard " " c. 2320m.
16. Grey-bellied Tesia - I heard then seen " " " (v. close to same site as #15! siding up & down a sapling stem, good views)
17. Hoary-throated Barwing - 1 seen in maple " c. 2340m.
18. Ms. Gould's Sunbird - 0 'seen from below, call different than Green-tailed dense forest past stream backtracking, c. 2330m; (G. et al. 00: widespread & uncommon).
19. Short-billed Minivet - sp seen well in forest, backtracking from CP, c. 2330m.
20. Torrent Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 flushed at Khola c. AMCP, c. 2300m.
21. White-throated Needletail - 4 racing back & forth over forested stream, c. 2330m.
22. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) in forest backtracking from AMCP, c. 2300m.
23. Crested Goshawk - 1 (H) seen well from below in AMCP; gular stripe, streaking & banding unde; white rump, much larger vs. Baza; c. 2400m (G. et al. 00: "uncommon resident mainly N areas Eward below 1370m (2100m); new max elevation for sp in Nepal. *
24. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) forest/scrub AMCP -> Saisimma, c. 2290m.
25. Mountain Bulbul - 1 (H) singing loudly " " " c. 2310m.
26. Large-billed Crow - I seen c. lower houses, Saisimma, c. 2330m.
Additional records:

#8) 2 past ANC site, Saisimma c. 2300m; c. Saisimma Gompa, 2410m
#4) 1 (H) tree c. lower houses c. Saisimma Gompa, 2420m
#24) 1 (H) edge c. Saisimma Gompa, 2420m
#26) 1 (H) fields edge, Saisimma Gompa, c. 2420m
#28) c. prayer flag post c. 2425m
#14) 1 in forest edge tree, wing flicking behavior, Saisimma Gompa

Breeding record:

Verditer Flycatcher - c. seen diving down to nest with nestlings several times, feeding small winged insects.
Nestlings confirmed by Birenda Rai, but JC did not inspect the nest. Measurements etc. not taken. Late afternoon, between bouts of shower edge Saisimma Gompa, c. 2420m
(See pg. 63 for Grey Bushchat nest same vicinity).

Mammal sighting:

Barking Deer (Indian Muntjac) - c. appeared silently from steep scrubby slope just below Saisimma Gompa, approaching duck, to browse on short new grasses at edge of bamboo fence/potato field, & soon joined c. to feed briefly. Both aware of JC observing them with binoculars. Not very nearby but soon retreated downslope. c. re-appeared c. 10 min later to browse for a few minutes at dusk to twilight. c. 2410m.
15 May 2009

- Chaurs of Saisimma, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhwasabha (2288m) – Saisimma Gompa, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhwasabha (2424m).

27. Mystery Pipit- 1 flushed, marshy grasses, Saisimma, c 2325m
28. Grey Bushchat - 6+ c lower houses
29. Grey Wagtail - 6 in breeding plumage
30. Brownish-Planked Bush Warbler - 1 (HT) bushes c 2300m
31. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 seen c lower houses, Saisimma, c 2350m
32. Chestnut-crowned Warbler - 2+ past/up forest edge, c 2390m
33. Verditer Flycatcher - 6+ feeding, nestlings, Saisimma Gompa c 2425m
34. White-throated Flycatcher - 1 on prayer flag posts c 2425m
(G.add’ed 00”. Sometimes to 2440m), very high elevation for spring.
35. Ultramarine Flycatcher - 6+ on bushes c Saisimma Gompa, c 2425m
36. Blue-Fronted Redstart - 6+ (unusually low elev.)
37. Yellow-billed Blue Magpie - 1 at forest edge, Saisimma Gompa
GPS Coordinates 16 May '09

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Weather: Boots of rain during the night, tapering off before first light. High overcast at dawn; 50°F at 05h15-05h20; gradually clouding over late AM; dim poor light by 09h00 with dark cloud building on Bikhelkha Danda; light rain beginning at 10h00; frequent bouts of heavier rain until mid-day; rain off & on in early afternoon until 3PM; dense overcast. Some fog & sprinkled remainder of afternoon dusk/twilight.

Habitat: Dense moist upper temperate mixed broadleaf forest; maple-oak associations dominant, but good diverse mix of deciduous & to lesser extent some evergreens; very mossy if moderate-heavy epiphyte load. Some grazing in poorly cleared Kharka NW of Saisimma Gompa (most trees felled for pony wheels building construction?); higher up very dense understorey frequent malingo clumps, not grazed, dense ground cover away from malingo & tangles/thickets on steep slopes.

Route: Followed regularly used trail NW from Saisimma Gompa through Kharka. Then steeply up along same to relatively large danda Kharka W7 ghosts (noone present); trail easily followed except at times in dense malingo. Some sections very steep & slippery.

Effort: 05h30 - 06h45
07h00 - 15h00
16h15 - 18h00

≥ 11h 00 min
Saisimma Gompa, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2424 m) — Danda spurkarkha & ghot chl, Bekhekarkha, Danda, Apsuwa Kh. (2912 m). *(see pg. 63, add'l sighting)

1. Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo - 1 (H) calling from forest c. Saisimma Gompa
   *1st light-dawn, somewhat distant & unable to hear 'long call' (Ufer 71)
   Minimum alt. estimated at 2400 m, which is new/revised altitudinal
   maximum for the species on Indian sub-continent. (Ali & Ripley '71: be-
   tween 600 and 1800 m). (G et al. '00: vagrant); (G et al. '98: -230 min black)
   Note: see pp. 36 & 47. *later (H) NW Saisimma Gompa, c. 2465-2480 m, reported
2. Large-billed Crow - pair c. gompa, At1 cl, g. c. 2420-2450 m
3. streaked Laughing-thrush - 1 seen early AM, fence c. gompa, c. 2430 m
4. Asian barred Owlet - 1 (H) below gompa, early AM, c. 2375 m
5. Kalij Pheasant - 1 (H) from forest just above gompa, c. 2465 m
6. Grey Bushchat - univary c. on flagpole near — c. 2430 m
7. Musky Pigeon - 1 c. Saisimma Gompa, not seen well (Ross?) c. 2420 m
8. Rufous Sibia - 1 moving past — c. 2440 m
9. Green-tailed Sunbird - c/4 pair c. Saisimma Gompa c. 2435 m
10. Chestnut-crowned Laughing-thrush - 1 in tussle #/11, #11 c. 2430 m
11. Blue-fronted Redstart - 1 in tussle #/10, just above gompa c. 2430 m
12. Whiskered Yuhina - 4+ just above Saisimma Gompa, c. 2435 m
13. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) —
14. Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H) above Saisimma Gompa, c. 2440 m
   (G et al. '00: local & uncommon)
15. Green-backed Tit - 1 c. gompa & AM Cosite c. 2425-2430 m
16. Greij Bushchat - nestlings in back, below inspected, c. 2415 m
17. Ultramarine Flycatcher - c. above Saisimma Gompa, c. 2440 m
18. Sooty Flycatcher - in tree c. wof — c. 2465 m
19. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) shair NW of — c. 2480 m
20. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 seen, alarming
21. Tickell's Thrush - a juv. (1st winter?) seen at edge of forested shair
   NW of Saisimma Gompa c. 2480 m, flushed ground into tree; gular stripe/neckings
22. Rufous-capped Babblers - pr/duo carrying food, NW of Saisimma Gompa, c. 2490 m
23. Whiskered Yuhina - 4+ c. shair & past a bit — c. 2480-2490 m
24. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) in dense forest — c. 2530-2550 m
25. Western Crowned Warbler - 2+ seen in trees/4ths. — c. 2525 m
   (alternate wing flapping behavior observed)
   (G et al. '00: uncommon spring passage migrant, possibly breeds).
Additional records: further revised new maximum elevation for Indian Subcontinent

#1 Single bird glimpsed in f't in tall trees, came NW of Saisimma Gompa, c. 2455-2500m; hid in leafy canopy of tall tree & called at regular intervals. Rai & I threw limb pieces into canopy. Bird shifted unseen to adjacent canopy (12-15 above ground), resumed calling; recorded on micro-cassette but difficult to hear playback. Song clearly heard; evidently not giving 'long call' suffix.

#2a) 1 (H) NW of Saisimma Gompa, c. 2600m; 1 (H) c. 2650m; PR 2275m.

#3a) 1 (H) further towards B.K. Danda east c. PR 15, c. 2740m.

#2b) 1 (H) c. PT 15 Khanka; c. 2750m; 1 (H) c. 2820m, above PT 16 Khanka.

#3b) 1 (H) above " " c. 2760m.

#1b) Lin fit across trail, dense malinga buds, leaves, about PT 15, c. 2760m.

#2b) duo/pr above PT 15 Khanka c. 2750m.

#3b) pair/carrying feed, above PT 15 Khanka c. 2780m.

33. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - pair feeding ≥3 nestlings in cup-like nest woven of grassy material & embedded in a large clump of moss in tree stem 1.45m above ground; rim c. 3 x 5 cm; parents left after Birenda Rai found nest, but returned within 2 min of JC & Birenda's departure 10m away.

Breeding records:

31. Grey Buschat - 4 nest with 5 nestlings in a vertical field embankment c. 10m below CE, Saisimma Gompa, c. 2415m.

Thinly vegetated wall: short grasses, moss, short herbs, but nest entrance well-covered by short cascade of small herbs/grasses; nest recessed into wall by c. 0.7cm, c. 7cm deep x 6cm wide. Rim of nest to embankment base = 7cm. Nestlings & site photographed: nestlings with down but several weeks (?) away from fluffing.

32. Rufous-capped Babbler - a pair carrying small insects to nest near or at ground level, NW of Saisimma Gompa, c. 2485m in dense mixed broadleaved forest (mainly Quercus lamellosa); site too steep to reach without ropes. Both birds observed making repeated forays for insects.
16 May 2009

Saisimma Gompa, Apsura Khola Sankhuwasabha (2424m) — Danda spur Kharka & hgt CP, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsura Kh. (2312m)

26. Rusouts-winged Fulvetta - pair feeding nestlings NW of Saisimma Gompa c. 2520m
27. Mystery Pigeon/Cuckoo.Dove-1 (H) in distance, dense forest c. 2550m
28. Whistler's Warbler-1 (H) calling " " " " c. 2550m
29. Lesser Cuckoo-1 (H) " " " " c. 2550m
30. Hill Partridge-1 (H) calling nearby " " " " c. 2620m
31. Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler-1 (H) clearly at close range but unseen, dense malingo towards Bikhekharka Danda east, c. 2630m. Thin, very high pitched song is distinct; v. shy! (G et al. '00; "scarce & local").
32. Long-tailed Minivet-0 seen well, towards Bikhekharka Danda c. 2750m
33. Red-Billed Leiothrix-1 in dense malingo, above P115, c. 2760m
34. Somewhat Mystery Laughing thrush.flock at c. 2740m; unseen; unusual call.
35. Ashy-throated Warbler-1 in P116 Khorka c. 2820m
36. Brown Parrotbill-1 seen well at length in light rain, pausing on malingo stalk, side of trail just below P116 Khorka. Pale blue iris! Back of beak with white cotton tuft of small whitish insects, or less probably nesting material? bambulk? (but very whitish) dropped to ground to collect more material or insects hops actively with short flights, pitched c. 1.5m above ground c. 2820m; see Gre etal '98. Very little known on breeding behaviour! Nest remains undescribed?
37. Rusouts-fronted Tit-2 (1ad + 2jv) c. L/Csite Khorka c. 2905m
38. Greenish Warbler-1 with #37s, periphery of D " " " " c. 2905m
39. Dark-breasted Rosefinch-2 (499, 498) upper D " " c. 2910m
40. White-browed Rosefinch-1 (1) edge of D " " " " c. 2910m
41. Darjeeling Pied Woodpecker-1 in standing deadwood " " " " c. 2910m
42. Tomtit: Grey-crested Tit-1 w/ #37, 38, 28 party " " c. 2905m
43. Himalayan Swiftlet- small flock above L/Csite Khorka c. 3000m
44. Spotted Nutcracker unman pair/duo c. " " c. 2900-2920m
45. Yellow-browed Tit-1 w/ #s 23, 38, 42, 45 NW of " c. 2920m
46. Large Hawk Cuckoo-1 (H) c. L/Csite, c. 2900-2950m
47. Asian/Neat House Martin- flock above out from L/Csite c. 3000m, poor light & quite far away; unable clearly see underparts.
48. Rusouts-gorgeted Flycatcher-0 NW L/Csite, late afternoon, c. 2915m
Additional records (cont.):

30. 2 or 3 more heard (H) above c. Pt 16 Kharka, c. 2750-2850 m.
31. (H) c. Pt 16 Kharka, c. 2820 m.
32. (cont.) I seem to have just below L/Cl SITE Kharka, c. 2300 m.
33. On edge of L/Cl SITE Kharka, c. 2905 m.
34. (cont.) A large number of c. 38/42/45/15 in mixed hunting party, NW of L/Cl SITE, c. 2915 m.
35. (cont.) c. 2850 m.
36. (H) 2 c. 2910 m.
37. (H) 2 c. 2905 m.
38. 1 NW of L/Cl SITE, late afternoon, c. 2915 m.
39. (cont.) I seem to c. 2910 m.
40. (H) at twilight, above c. 2950-3000 m.

Breeding records (cont.):

34. Long-tailed Minivet—seen with small insects in its beak, giving typical call of this species. Trying to feed? No if heard or seen; approaching Bikhekharka Danda crest, c. 2830 m.
Saisimma Gompa, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhruwasabha (2424 m) — Danda spur Kharka @hot cp. Bikhekartha Dande, Apsuwa Khola (2912 m).

49. Satyr Tragopan— ∙ seen well on upperparts, walking quietly through grazed understory of dense forest just NW of L/CP site (only 30-40 m from upper hot), last afternoon, c. 7910 m. (Get al,’00. "scarce resident"); no call of this or other bird heard.

50. Chaffinch— 3 or 2♀ with #39 at L/CP site edge in late afternoon. White wing bars, could not seem mantle very well indim/dull light; appeared to lack streaking & polish eyebrow of Plain Mountain Finch which should not be this low. Rather late in year for Chaffinch & no #77 present (?). (Get al,’00. "uncommon winter visitor 2000-2750 m (1555-3050 m): seen at c. 2920 m. [Addendum: mantle/upper back streaking.]

51. Tawny Owl— 1+1 (1♀) calling at twilight either side of Danda CP. Double note, ± same pitch, carrying well; c. 2900-2950 m.
GPS Coordinates  17 May '09  Date  Day 18

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<td>27°35.725'N 87°06.320'E  3238'</td>
<td>steep, dense mixed forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 18</td>
<td>27°35.703'N 87°06.326'E  3434'</td>
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<td>L 7</td>
<td>27°35.721'N 87°06.272'E  3473'</td>
<td>dense rhodo shrubbery</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 19</td>
<td>27°35.799'N 87°05.955'E  3600'</td>
<td>dense rhodo shrubbery</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 20</td>
<td>27°35.829'N 87°05.902'E  3801'</td>
<td>jet: landa crest trail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP 13</td>
<td>27°35.959'N 87°05.868'E  3869'</td>
<td>danda crest flat bottom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weather: Layers of thick overcast at dawn & into early AM; gradual clearing late AM but sun not reaching middle or higher slopes; into fog by 4PM and throughout remainder of afternoon & into evening but no rain, 49°F at 05h30.

Habitat: Dense mixed broadleaved forest, quite mossy with dense encrustations on many limbs, fairly light epiphyte & liana 'loads' with much hingale in understorey around Alt Cl. Maples prominent & starting to put out leaves. Higher up > 3000m rhododendron dominant but good mix of broad leaves, many without leaves as tallest trees. Dense hingale giving way to dense malingo > 3,400-3,500m with rhododendron shrubbery. Almost no disturbance by people except for occasional patches of cut malingo. Fresh gamebird hunting trap at jet of.

Effort: 05h15 - 06h45  AM birding & cp site
07h05 - 14h00  March in dense forest
15h00 - 18h20  afternoon march

\[ \text{Total Effort} = 11h 45 \text{ min.} \]

Route: see page 70.
17 May 2009

Danda spur Kharka & ghot CP, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsuwa Kh (2912m) — Danda CP at boulders c. Lamini Oraol, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsuwa (3869m)

1. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. AM CP, Kharka side forest, c. 2900m. (G et al.'00: "scarce resident")
2. Satyr-Tragopan - 1 (H) c. AM CP, Kharka side forest, c. 2900m. (G et al.'00: "scarce resident")
3. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) "early AM, c. 2915m.
4. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) early AM, Kharka side forest, c. 2880m.
5. Black Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. late AM, Kharka side forest, c. 2900-2920m.
6. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - 2-3, c. AM CP, c. 2910m. (G et al.'00: "scarce and local.")
7. Plain Mountain Finch - 3 or 4 seen with #6s, possibly associated with them, as probable same birds seen with them previously. Up well & distinctly finely streaked in breeding plumage. At exceptionally low alt for late spring, possibly due to increased recent weather. c. 2910m (G et al.'00: "summers chiefly 4200-5200m"). (probably add to list?)
8. Yellow-browed Tit - pair nesting, forested edge of AM CP, c. 2920m.
9. Whistler's Warbler - 1 H seen well "
10. White-tailed Nuthatch - 1 in N slope forest "
11. Whiskered Yuhina - 3 in trees "
12. Long-tailed Minivet - pair nest building " c. 2925m.
13. Large-billed Leaf Warbler - 1 (H) at edge of " c. 2915m.
14. Large-billed Crow - 1 c. Kharka CP side on departure, c. 2900-2920m.
15. Spotted Nutcracker - 1 (H) above " early AM, c. 2950-3000m.
16. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - 1 (H) c. AM CP, c. 2910m.
17. Chestnut-tailed Minla - 1 in dense malingro + trees up from c. 2960m.
18. Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler - 1 (H) off to side of trail above AM CP, c. 2940m in dense malingro. Call is 4-5 "hoo, hoo, hoo": notes given rapidly (12 sec) possibly ending w/ a wheezy note. (G et al.'00: "scarce resident W-C areas Ewards")
19. White-browed Fulvetta - 1 in malingro + trees, up Danda spur, c. 3000m.
20. Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler - 1 (H) in A " c. 3080m.

*(G et al.'00: "scarce and local."). Is very high pitched, distinctive notes of song heard clearly at close range in dense malingro. Followed immediately by a quick louder, different series "whir, whee, whir, whee, whir, whee", unlike call "chirt" of G et al. '98. Heard several times, each time immediately following song. *deduced to be call of same bird.

* See pg. 69 for add 1 record.
* Note that song notes ascend as sung; no mention of this in G et al. '98.
Additional records:

#2 2nd bird (H) calling (to 1st?) opposite site, early AM, c. 2900 m;
#9 1 (H) up from site, c. 2950 m; 1 (H) farther on/up, c. 3000 m;
#17 1 seen up on a spire, c. 2990 m;
#19 1 " " " c. 3050 m; 1 high up at 3250 m;
#1 1 (H) " c. 3170 m; 1 seen, c. 3445 ft heard.
#9 cont. 1 seen well " c. 3190 m;
#20 1 (H) song; strange call, c. 3250 m;
#10 1 (H) c. lunch stop, c. 3480 m;
#19 cont. 1 site opposite site, c. 3870 m;
#27 1 is " " " " " " 

? Satur Tragopan - Birendra Rai report that while fetching water in early AM he flushed a T with 6 chicks, not far (< 50 m) down from CP. & flew up into trees for good views; c. 2850 m.

Breeding records:

35. Yellow-browed Tit - pair observed repeatedly carrying lepidoptera larvae to nest in tall mossy maple tree c. 12 m above ground. Nest in hole in old (dead?) limb encrust with thick green moss. Unable to inspect without ropes, so left alone in order not to disturb. c. 2920 m.

36. Long-tailed Minivet - 2 & observed building a nest in a tall, smelly-leaved broad leaf tree, c. (max) 13 m above ground. Initial stage of construction, with bottom of cup taking shape from strands of material (tufts? grass?) & bits of lichen (latter from nearby trees stem). Nest placed c. 2.5 m out on horizontal limb, not in fork. Small branch node possibly hidden by cup bottom; & & maintained contact at cup & nearly w/ continual uttering of soft, short chirp notes. Site is in dense mixed deciduous broad leaf forest near site Kharka c. 2925 m.

G. et al '98 "215 m" height of nest above ground
• red/yellow line in 2's very hard to see on 56, unable to see on 57.
17 May 2009

Danda spur Kharka & ghot CP, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsuwa Kh. (2912m) —  
Danda CP at boulders & Lamini Orsal, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsuwa Kh. (3869m)

21. Fulvous Parrotbill - small flock of 3 moving thru dense forest, dense  
ingaloo understorey, danda spur, c. 3090-3100m. G et al '00: "uncommon  
& local... W-C areas Edwards". (but malingo present as well)

22. Great Parrotbill - 1 (ft) in dense malingo; 2 note call, possibly  
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler? Former in malingo mostly, latter  
not usually at this alt (c. 3150m) (1500-2500m G et al '00) up danda

23. Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler - 1 seen & heard, danda spur, c. 3180 m

24. White-browed Bush Robin - 1 seen, dense bamboo

25. Streaked Yukina - small party in canopy, c. 3200m

26. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1 seen, dense forest below lunchstop, c. 3250m

27. Greenish Warbler - 1 seen well, danda crest trail, c. 3800m.

28. Himalayan Monal - 1 (ft) late afternoon above Chs, c. 3800-3850m

29. Grey-winged/White-collared Blackbird - 1 (ft) singing at dusk-

2. Bire' did not recall location of Lamini Orsal. Thought it considerably further than evening Chs, so halted there. Rajen fiddled  
with watch towards Lamini Orsal but couldn't see it in the fog.

Route: along fairly distinct but seldom used trail

Keeping mostly to danda spur crest, requiring cutting in several areas, so rhokos could pass through dense  
malingo. Reached junction with main Bikhekharka

Danda crest in late afternoon. Trail in good shape, wide, but no evidence of recent use except by hunters  
who placed gamebird trap at jet with side trail down  
towards Salsimma. No kharkas on this thin trail

...Steep, slippery in places, but easy to follow....
### GPS Coordinates

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<th>Alt. (m)</th>
<th>Site Info</th>
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<td>27°35.939¹N 87°08.868¹E</td>
<td>3869</td>
<td>Danda crest cp, path below Lamini Oraad</td>
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<td>PT21</td>
<td>27°35.030¹N 87°08.844¹E</td>
<td>3920</td>
<td>Lamini Oraad</td>
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<td>PT22</td>
<td>27°35.252¹N 87°08.400¹E</td>
<td>3901</td>
<td>Ghot &amp; small Kharka</td>
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<td>27°35.408¹N 87°08.146¹E</td>
<td>4021</td>
<td>Along Danda crest Trail</td>
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<td>PT24</td>
<td>27°36.372¹N 87°04.929¹E</td>
<td>4088</td>
<td>Oraad &amp; Chauntra</td>
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<td>27°36.757¹N 87°04.722¹E</td>
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<td>Along main trail Danda</td>
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<td>CP14</td>
<td>27°36.858¹N 87°04.308¹E</td>
<td>4413</td>
<td>Lamini Danda crest trail</td>
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</table>

**Weather:** Clear all around at dawn & into early AM; few wisps of cirrus & hial, tufts of cumulus appearing over danda high pts & hial by 08h30; 41°F at 08h30, but oneside of my tent was frosty; into fog by 11h00; bright with fog almost clearing at times into late afternoon; clearing partially dusk to twilight.

**Habitat:** Dense shrubbery of rhododendron, birch (still leafless) and juniper (on drier aspects). Terrain rugged, craggy; some cutting & burning along sides of trail, otherwise E & W slopes virtually undisturbed. Mainly leafless thickets mixed with shrubbery, most of which continuous blankets of squamate rhododendron (red flowers, fairly large) grading to small yellow-flower dwarf Rhododendron Hughes up & c. 1,000 ft.

**Route:** Along either side of crest on wide, distinct trail, going around crags to keep level. In the afternoon fog, sections still mostly in snow difficult to follow. Flat area above Lamini Oraad with beautiful panorama of Chaldaung himal / upper Apsuwa.

**Effort:**
- 05h30 - 07h00
- 07h30 - 13h10

\[\text{\ddot{z} = 12h 10min.}\]
18 May 2009

Danda CRt boulders < Lamini Oraal, Bikhekhara Danda, Apsuwa Khola>
Lamini Danda (=Bikhekhara Danda) crest trail CR, Apsuwa Kh. (4430 m).

1. Fire-tailed Sunbird - 3 ♂♂♂♂♂♂, AM CR, c 3850-3870 m. (see pg
2. Golden Bush Robin - ♂♂♂♂♂♂♂ pair in chase, c 3850-3860 m. (♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂cio
3. Buff-banded Warbler - 1(♀♂), AM CR, c 3820 m.
4. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 seen past Lamini Oraal, c 3860 m.
5. Mystery Rosefinch - ♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂cio
6. White-winged Grosbeak - 2♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂vio
7. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1(♀♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂cio
8. Plain-backed Thrush - 1 seen well - indistinct wingbar, more scaly
   Underparts VS Long-tailed; shortish tail in flight, in rhodo shrubs 
   short juniper & dense tall rhodo crest trail, c 4040 m; silent.
9. Winter Wren - 1 seen singing on hill slope outcrop (: Sankhara watershed) along main danda trail, weaving on w side briefly, c 4230 m.
10. White-capped Water Redstart - 1 on Apsuwa side of trail, c 4265 m.


≥ 11 species
Additional records:

1) 2087 c Lamini Gred, c 3920m; d7 pair further on c 3960m.

Breeding record:

Courtship behavior.

36. Golden Bush Robin- c7 & f in chase on and near ground, along Sikhekherka Danda crest trail, just below At 1C, c 3850-3860m.
Early At 7h00; c7 keeping to within 1-1.5m of f7 when both birds paused on ground; c7 opened wings c 1/2 way and repeatedly gave a raspy "pssst" call. Active & not very wary.
18 May 2009

Danda Chatboulders c Lamini Orad, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsuwa Khola.
Lamini Danda (=Bikhekharka Danda) crest trail cP, Apsuwa Khola (4413m).
GPS Coordinates: 19 May '09

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<td>Lamini Danda crest</td>
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<td>27°36.843'N 87°04.023'E 4343</td>
<td>small pokhari</td>
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<td>PT 28</td>
<td>27°37.178'N 87°03.871'E 4341</td>
<td>ghost walls</td>
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<td>PT 29</td>
<td>27°37.609'N 87°03.741'E 4381</td>
<td>ghost walls &amp; chair</td>
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<td>PT 30</td>
<td>27°37.611'N 87°03.431'E 4351</td>
<td>ghost wall close Tin Pokhari</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP 15</td>
<td>27°37.715'N 87°03.246'E 4284</td>
<td>ghost N of Tin Pokhari</td>
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</table>

Weather: Windy during the night but totally clear at daybreak & remaining cloudless—even around the Himal, lekhs & danda tops past 10 AM; locally clear well into afternoon (3-4 PM) with only occasional puffs of cloud blocking the sun. Lekhs, dandes with cumulus build-ups but not threatening; lower valleys with cloud banks. Fairly breezy in afternoon; into fog at 5 PM on into night. 41°F at 05h45.

Habitat: Entirely in alpine scrub, mostly dwarf rhododendron patches, dried short grass tufts & boulders, with fair amount of thin encrustation of moss. Mostly unburnt along route but some clearing & burned patches around ghosts. Not much water except for aspect where snow rapidly melting. Overall very dry condition of vegetation. On steeper aspects, dwarf rhodo very squamate with cushion plants fairly common (ESlopes).

Effect: 06h00 - 12h30
13h00 - 14h30
16h00 - 17h00
18h00 - 18h15

$\xi = 9h \ 15\ min.$

Additional record: #2 1(f) c.ewe CP74 calling at dusk. L 4480m.
19 May 2009

Lamini Danda (=Bikhekha Danda) crest trail CP Apsuwa Khola (4413m) Ghat CP N of Tin Pokhari, Apsuwa Kh, Sankhuwasbha (4284m)

1. Winter Wren- heard then seen, c. Alt CP, c. 4410m
2. Himalayan Monal- flushed NW of it, c. 4400m
3. Rosy Pipit- in breeding plumage, c. small pokhari (Pt27), 4340m
4. Plain-backed Thrush- duo/pair on boulders in open country past small pokhari, w/in few m. of each other, seen well, but; c. 4340m
5. Alpine Accentor- 1 past ghat wall (Pt29), c. 4320m
6. Rufous-breasted Accentor- 3 some approach ever CP, c. 4280m

7. Greater Short-toed Lark- 2-3 in dried grass tusks amongst boulders, open slope below ever CP, c. 4260m in late afternoon. Seen poorly & briefly. Could not determine extent of upperpart streaking. Probably this sp vs. Hume's Short-toed on basis of habitat & date. Cell heard when flushed but couldn't distinguish it.

8. Solitary Snipe- duo/pair over & around evening CP site, (H) 19h10-19h30, keeping fairly high (30-40m?) in fog, calling & drumming actively/incessantly at twilight - night. (G et al. 99: "uncommon and local winter visitor CA4300-4310m & passage migrant, probably also resident, mainly 2135-4000m (-915m)") Cheek Danphe article; possibly new alt. max.
GPS Coordinates 20 May '09

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<td>PT 31</td>
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<td>outer ghelt.</td>
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<td>trail above Kal Pohchari</td>
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<td>PT 33</td>
<td>27°38.169'N 87°03.092'E 4114'</td>
<td>Dante (?) nest-predated</td>
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<td>L8</td>
<td>27°38.422'N 87°02.979'E 4165'</td>
<td>Tin Pohchari at ghelt in hollow</td>
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<td>PT 34</td>
<td>27°38.455'N 87°03.030'E 4195'</td>
<td>ghelt walls</td>
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<td>PT 35</td>
<td>27°38.420'N 87°03.167'E 4235'</td>
<td>start of juniper burn</td>
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<td>PT 36</td>
<td>27°38.544'N 87°03.628'E 4248'</td>
<td>ghelt on crest, burned in 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 37</td>
<td>27°38.599'N 87°03.717'E 4236'</td>
<td>end of juniper burn</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP 16</td>
<td>27°38.815'N 87°04.209'E 4162'</td>
<td>unknown pohchari pithies, labelled &quot;Kal Pohchari&quot; on topo map</td>
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Weather: Mostly clear at daybreak & into early AM: some tufts of cloud & nearby dandu tops/leks. 39°F at 05h45, but heavy frost & CP site. In & out of fog later in AM; occasional fog, mostly overcast in afternoon; fog clearing in again dusk~twilight.

Habitat: Mostly very dense, contiguous cover of rhododendron shrubbery (see spec) with thickets & juniper on dry slopes. Unburnt in ravine &.5m tall & level topped, can almost walk across; too dark below so no ground cover; but thickets of juniper swathed, burned & killed, probably within past 1-2 years. Moss patches & small, heathaceous plants growing under burnt stems/limbs (photod). Said by Bitendra Rai to have been set by hunters, rumored locally to be 2 Tall Chinese with pistols that people were afraid.

[cont] (see pg. 80)

Effort: 06h00-12h45
13h25-18h05

= 11h25 min
20 May 2009

Gnot CP N of Tin Pokhari, Apsuwa Kh, Sunkhuwasabha (4284m) - pristine pokhari, Kholakharka Khola, Apsuwa Khola (4162m).

+2 more in chase, later, same area.

1. Rufous-breasted Accentor - 3 or 4 c. AT1 CP site, c. 4300-4310m.
2. White-capped Water Redstart - duo/pr. " " c. 4305m.
3. White-browed Rosefinch - 6 c. AT1 CP site, c. 4295m.
4. Tickell's leaf Warbler - 1 in red bushy rhodo, past Kal Pokhari, c. 4150m.
5. Grandala - ≤ 5 (≤ 20-23ff) above trail, c. 4300-4220m.
6. Buff-barred Warbler - 1 past Kal Pokhari, c. 4230m.
7. Fire-tailed Sunbird - 10 chasing 16+18, splendid views, c. 4280m.
8. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - 6 at cleaning edge " c. 4240m.

(9) Rufous-breasted Bush Robin - Locally frequent resident w. Caneas Edwards's, et al., '00. 1 bird in dense thicket, past Kal Pokhari, c. 4280-430m.

(10) White-winged Grosbeak - 1 prior to #9, top of rhodos/juniper, c. 4240m.

(11) Himalayan Monal - a nest w. eggs & feather nest destroed by predator. Eggs pulled out except for 2 last nest in, egg pierced. Creaky well developed embryo inside; photo'd, in rhodo/juniper shrub clearing. 21 eggs pt. taken, raided by crow/reptor or mammal? See pg. 79 c. 4140m.

12. Plain-backed Thrush - no wingbars, well seen, well approaching lunchstop.

13. L. Temm's Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1 c. AT1 CP N of Tin Pokhari, c. 4285m.


(15) L. Temm's] Large-billed Crow - duo/pair c. lunchstop, c. 4180-4200m

(see pg. 80)

Additional records:

#3 1 tail past Kal Pokhari, c. 4200m.
#1 1 duo/pr. approach " " c. 4220m.
#7 2333 past .. A .. c. 4300m; 10+ in juniper burn pristine pokhari.
#9 3 together " u " u; 1114 in burn, juniper.
#11 1 (4) approaching lunchstop, c. 4150-4100m.
#13 1 (4) " c. 4135m, 1 (4) c. 4190m. Feather on.
#4 1 c. 4165m towards A " u.
#1 1 at.
#10 1 (4) edge juniper burn for Kal Pokhari, c. 4180m.
Additional records:

Traverse before eve CP/lake: a dense-tall (>2m) connected shrubbery; juniper plants, some emergent straight stems. Easily punched thru when walking across flattened (by wind) crowns.

Route: From ghat CP N of “Tin Pokhari” NW 5 down to similar sized pokhari labelled also as “Tin Pokhari” on topo map, but said to be “Kal Pokhari” by Birendra Rai. No GPS pt recordable at pokhari edge but enough satellites on trail just above (PT32) followed trail keeping fairly level, but rugged, faint at times, through mixed scrub and down into tributary valley (w/another “Tin Pokhari” up in headwaters?) for lunchstop at overhanging c. stonegots. Steeply up to level trail across wide juniper burn; soon after lost Traverse steeply down + up bank of dense juniper shrubs + Rhodo to edge of pristine (v. seldom visited?) pokhari to CP (labelled “Kal Pokhari” on topo).

Breeding records:

39. Himalayan Monal - a predated nest located on steep S-facing slope approaching lunchstop (GPS pt 18); shallow cup of short grasses under a rocky slab in open space (not really a clearing), in dense-thickets of dwarf rhodo dendryum (rhodo ‘shoulder-high’ nearby); photographed. Also some juniper present. Clutch = 3-5 eggs; four of which pulled outside including 1 pierced by sharp object (bird beak?) & stunning a well-developed embryo; 2 remaining eggs at back of overhanging slab & 1 of which white, contrasting w/brown vermilion of other 5 eggs. From pierced egg, estimated predation very recent; 1 in past day or 2 (albumin still fairly thin) feathers of apparently seized c. nest site. Predator possibly large raptor such as Golden Eagle.
21 May 2009

Additional records:

3) 1 (H) above camp, c. 4465m.

Mammal record:
Musk Deer - Rajan encountered 1 c. dawn near edge of Pokhara Notiyari 1. Pulled jacket overhead, tried to approach (to catch?), walked away slowly, occasionally turning to watch Rajan. Approached to within 10m.

Habitat (cont.):
This story seems dubious, considering dangers of crossing the China-Nepal border and moving around in Annapurna. Conspicuous as mainland Chinese. Probably local hunters. Raw from villages lower down. Soil is sandy with a few ledges/edges which in this general area of rhodo-juniper almost encountered except some gouging of ravines (saline). Pioneering vegetation in form of mats of small herbs plants under burned plants Juniper in ravines + cliff poises large/old. Burn swept through area of 50-100+ years old juniper scrub photographed extensively. Need to be regularly monitored. Hee stEEP end of burn GPS plot looks to be no juniper unburned for large areas; hard to imagine regrowth anytime soon; probably only a few people involved so should be easy to identify. And ways to change behaviour.
GPS Coordinates: 22 May '09

Code: CP17 L9
Coordinate: 27°39.389'N 87°04.163'E

Alt: 4436
Site Info: stone-grotto walls

Weather: Rained throughout much of the night, mostly light rain & drizzle; then rained & drizzled all day into evening; stayed in tents most of the day. Overcast, cold & rainy; no sign of the sun.

Habitat: Alpine zone vegetation, C. Cloite. Mainly scattered clumps of dwarf rhododendron (some juniper as well?), amongst grass tufts mostly ungrazed, with boulders.

Route: none, stayed inside tents most of the day.
(See note on pg. 84)

Effect: none. The only bird recorded was from inside the tent.
Saune Danda spur ghot walls CP, Apsuwa Khola (4436m)

1. Solitary Snipe - 1 (H) in pre-dawn hour (c.4h30) for a few minutes c AM CP site; gone by dawn; c 4450m.

G & et al '00: "uncommon local winter visitor / passage migrant also probably resident; mainly 2135-4000m (-915m): possibly new alt. max. for Nepal! (this is highest CP on trek); G & et al '98: "summers 2400-4600m" in India.

(H) again briefly c 19h00, c CP site, c 4450m; in fog and respite to rain & drizzle.

£ = 1 species

Bhatri quite ill with AMS; ate lunch but then could only recline, very bad headache, swollen head. Discussion at dusk on what to do with him. JC suggested taking him down to camp near Apsuwa banks. Topo & occasional views suggested it's doable w/out much difficulty to 4000, perhaps 3800m. Rajai thought it better to get him to Gaissima (too far); our position remote & Bhatri too ill to consider cutting Saune Danda, trying for Sui Re Danda/Khola & over to Sankhuwa. Now a matter of how to put this trek in reverse.
GPS Coordinates  23 May '09

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<td>27°39.388' N 87°04.163' E</td>
<td>4486</td>
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</table>

Weather: High broken overcast at 05.30, but by 06.00 large clouds arose from lower valleys, enveloping the CP in fog & drizzle. Continued throughout the day, damp, cold, the most miserable weather encountered on the trek.

Habitat: (see pg. 83)

Route: none. Stayed inside tents almost all the day due to inclement weather.

Effort: 05h30 - 0600 birding c CPsite.
\[ \approx 0h \text{ 30 min.} \]
limited to brief early AM search c CPsite.
23 May 2009

Saune Danda spurghot Walls CP, Apsures Khola (4436m)

1. Mystery Rosefinch - 1 (f) seen poorly c AM CP, early AM
2. Golden Bush Robin - 6 on boulders, "
3. Winter Wren - 1 (f) c AM CP in fog, early AM, c 4445m
4. Himalayan Monal - 1 (f) calling from above CP, c 4480m
5. Solitary Snipe - 1 (f), calling briefly at dusk-twilight c
   Ol site c 4450-4480m. G et al ' 00: "uncommon local winter
   visitor/passage migrant/probably also resident mainly 2185-4000m
   (915m)". possibly new alt. max. for Nepal (area is highest CP
   on trek; G et al ' 06: "summers 2400-4600m" in India.

Ε = 5 species

Bhati somewhat better during the day. Most of severe
headache gone. Ate light but well rested entire day,
Because of improvement & poor weather decided to stay
at CP for the day.
GPS Coordinates: 24 May '09

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<tr>
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<td>27°39.389'N 87°04.168'E 4436</td>
<td>Saun Danda spur</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 41</td>
<td>27°39.497'N 87°03.991'E 4556</td>
<td>bhanigyag + cairn</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 42</td>
<td>27°39.202'N 87°04.392'E 4384</td>
<td>steep drop section fr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 43</td>
<td>27°38.949'N 87°03.927'E 4335</td>
<td>ghat + very Level chair (edge)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 44</td>
<td>27°38.377'N 87°03.287'E 4284</td>
<td>start of juniper Ethan</td>
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<td>L10</td>
<td>27°38.253'N 87°03.026'E 4100</td>
<td>Kolchha Orauli (unloc?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP 18</td>
<td>27°37.741'N 87°03.232'E 4281</td>
<td>same site as CP15.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 34</td>
<td>27°38.455'N 87°03.080'E 4195</td>
<td>ghat N of Tin Pokhari (re-visited on return)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Weather: Some high thin cloud around dandas to S off to E, but himal & leks totally clear in early AM; leks + himal clear until 0800h, and lek/danda sides open further into AM; into dense fog by mid-day; occasional breaks into afternoon mist & drizzle starting at 14h00; but clearing at 15h30-16h00; overcast but no fog into late afternoon + evening; 34°F early AM (c 06h00?), but frost on ground.

Habitat: Alpine zone vegetation of dwarf rhododendron (R. lepidopetrum? - yellow), small flowers, dwarf red species & larger red sp. (white?); only yellow in bloom; scattered patches in grass (grazed unless steep aspects) & shandals, bit of scree; below 4200m the rhodo much denser, taller & > 2 spp. (barbatum, hodgsonii?) - photos Drier slopes had robust patches of juniper, but some burned! c. ghosts + others maybe from fire creep below? Tin Pokhari N slope in Khokharka Khota a stunning continuous blanket of mixed rhodo shrubs, some juniper, almost no grass & unburnt.

Effect: 05h45 - 14h45
15h15 - 18h05

\( \epsilon = 11h, 50 \text{ min} \)
24 May 2009

Saune Danda spur ghot walls CP, Apsuwa Khola (4436m) – Ghot CP N of Tin Pokhari, Apsuwa Kh, Sankhuwasabha (4284m).

(see pg. 89)

1. Solitary Shrike - 1 (H) glimpsed near CP site early AM just before dawn. In good weather called longer than on previous days, and at close range drumming heard. Flying 4430-4480m for 20-30 min. G et al. '00: "uncommon local winter visitor/passage migrant, probably also resident, mainly 2185-4000m (915m)". Possibly new alt. max. for Nepal? Area is highest CP on trek. G et al. '08: "summers 2400-4600m" in India.

2. Alpine Accentor - 1 in dwarf rhodo boulders c. Am CP site, c. 4460m.

3. Golden Bush Robin - called "bouldertop" c. 4470m.

4. Rosefinch - 2 in dwarf rhodo c. 4450m.

5. White-browed Rosefinch - 1 boulder c. 4455m.

6. Himalayan Monal - 1 (H) seen by Bire Rai (6) c. 4470m.

7. Winter Wren - 1 seen singing, pass on Saune Danda c. 4565m.

8. Buff-barred Warbler - 1 (H) bkt tracking from Am CP c. 4480m.

9. Black-faced Laughingthrush - 1 (H) in rhodo shrubs c. 4380m.

10. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1 (H) in rhodo c. 4360m, giving typical call (song?) but lacking wheezy notes at end.

11. Smoky Warbler - 1 seen well on Lepidotropenum, alarming wa "tschik" or "tschuk" c. 4300m. G et al. '00: "uncommon resident, summers 3300-3900m".

12. Blue-capped Redstart - 2 in dwarf rhodo c. 4480m.

13. White-capped Water Redstart - 1 in boulders, bkt跟踪 c. 4280m.

14. Fire-tailed Sunbird - 5 in rhodo shrubs c. 4150m.

15. Grey-winged Grosbeak - 1 (H) c. 4110m towards Kāl Pokhari area CP.

16. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - 2 seen well c. 4175m.

17. Spot-winged Grosbeak - 2 pair in dense rhodo shrubs c. 4175m.

18. White-browed Fulvetta - not heard towards Kāl Pokhari, c. 4200m.

19. Rosy Pipit? - 1 (H) seen far away, let us know c. 4230m.

20. Girlanda - 2 (H?) c evening CP site, c. 4435m.

=}
Additional records:

#8) 86th pair above AICP, c. 4485m;
#2) pair/duo AICP -> pass, c. 4510m; 4 previous that at 4480m
#7) 7 w/tail cocked high foulder, bk-tracking from AICP, c. 4380m
#7 cont) 1 (1) singing in dwarf rhodod c. 4300m
#6) 1 (1) towards Kal Pokhari, c. 4300m;
#3) 1 (1) 3rd pair/duo c. 4320m;
#11) probable 2nd bird foulder in 4160m;
#18) 1 (1) towards Kal Pokhari, c. 4150m; pr/duo above lunchstop;
#14) 0 seen past lunchstop, c. 4125m; 1 (1) further on, c. 4140m;
#8 cont) 1 seen further on/pr past lunchstop, c. 4140m;
#14 cont) 1 (1) further towards Kal Pokhari, c. 4150m;
#6 cont) 1 (1) pr/duo lunchstop, c. 4150;
#14 cont) 1 seen further on c. 4175m, c. 4190m;
#8 cont) 1 seen c. 4175m, c. 4190m;
#16) 9 seen well in dense rhodod shrubs c. 4190m;
#10) 1 (1) not seen;
#16 cont) 2 & 1 in/34200m;
#14) 3 & in rhodod shrubs c. 4180m;
#8 cont) 1 (1) 1 seen (photographed);
#6 cont) feathers of an apparent female; cooking fire of hunters in overhang down from approaching Kal Pokhari; etc CP; 4210m.
#11) 1 (1) 1 seen well in dwarf rhodod.
#6) 1 (1) below Tin Pokhari; shot CP, c. 4250m at dusk-twilight;
#1) 1 bird (1) in dense fog & mist c. shot CP near Tin Pokhari; starting past dusk (18h30); close by tents at times; tried to observe from outside tent but nothing seen; joined by 2nd bird approach twilight; flew in circles around lake 4 CPs; the each bird (1) drumming when at close range. Went until past dusk, calling on the wing & drumming stopping about 21h30; rain commenced shortly after that time, c. 4300-4350m.
Route: Early AM excursion (0645-08140) to bhanjyang NW of camp; over boulders with occasional traces of an indistinct trail; just below carved bhanjyang is steep tricky section & pass is thin & steep; considerable patch of N-W face snow, but easily traversed (or so appears to be);

Re-traced trail from AM CP to ghot N of Tin Pokhari CP from jet of trail with descending traverse to pristine pokhari ("Kal Pokhari") on topo map; followable & fairly level to W from jet, then descended past ravine to trail previously walked from Tin Pokhari.

Paused at oraat below (true?) Kal Pokhari to take photos & inspect hunter activities/artifacts. Vitamin blister packs found suggesting that these hunters more prepared than end-of-line communities. Host trail at oraat in dense steep juniper & rhodo clumps, but after 30 min picked it up nearby. Arrived almost twilight at C/Site.

Overall trail in this area faint & narrow; difficult at times to walk in low shrubs constantly rubbing against ankles. LOTS of short steep ups & downs; made by goatherd; used by them, hunters & yasagumba collectors.
GPS Coordinates 25 May '09

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<th>Alt (m)</th>
<th>Site Info</th>
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<tr>
<td>CP18</td>
<td>27°37.714'N 87°03.232'E 4281</td>
<td>same site as CP15</td>
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</table>

Weather: During night mostly clear. Few clouds up high. Drizzle at dawn & drizzle/rain beginning at 06h30; in tents almost entire day; by late afternoon, snow accumulating at 4500-4600 m alt in fog with cloud line at c. 4600 m, sometimes lower; rain & at times fine snow at CP15 changing over to heavier rain. Rain into evening & night.

Habitat: Alpine zone vegetation. In patches on slopes c tin & Kal potholes, bit of burning & cutting c ghosts. Mostly dwarf Rhododendron (several spp) other short shrubs (barberry?) some squame juniper, boulder 'feld' patches, boulders quite mossy. Tufts of grass also present.

Route: None; stayed inside tents.

Effort: 05h30 - 06h30 briefly outside before rain

L = 1 hr 00 min
25 May 2009

Ghot CP N of Tin Pokhari, Apsuwa Kh., Sankhuwasabha (4284m)

1. Solitary Snipe - 1 calling c. first light to dawn, likely same pair or single recorded previous evening; c. tents at times; c. 4320-4350m; G et al '00: "uncommon local winter visitor/passage migrant, probably also resident, mainly 2135-4000m (-915m)." Above this may but not as high as previous day's camp; not (H) at dusk-twilight.

2. Large-billed Crow - 1 (H) in fog & rain late afternoon, c. CP site, c. 4300m.

3. Rufous-breasted Accentor - 1 (H) c. dusk c. CP site, c. 4285m.

\[ \leq 3 \text{ species} \]
Weather: Rained during entire night; fairly heavy at times. Radio said this rain is remnant of cyclone (Afs?) (Bay of Bengal?), should clear within next 1-2 days. Rain & some gusts of wind in AM; continued rain & drizzle into afternoon, evening & night. Cold, damp, miserable weather. At noon time during the day was sky free of drizzle or rain.

Considerable snow accumulating at higher alt’s. Previous day’s snowline of 4500-4600m now down to 4400m with considerable depth of snow higher up.

Habitat: (see pg. 91) Small stream at Kolchhe hunt, stop of few days before most a raging torrent of white water, clearly audible roar, amazing how much water rushing through.

at times wind strong enough to blow rain sideways, harder rain in late afternoon & evening.

Freezing/frozen rain on plant tops & tent flysheet, early AM.

Effort: none.

Route: none.
26 May 2009

ghat CP N of Tin Pokhari, Kholakharka Kh, Apsuwa Khola (4281m)

1. Large-billed Cuckoo - 1 c. tents at CP site c. 4280m at dusk - only bird seen or heard during the day. X-nil
2. Rusty-mantled Accentor - ≥ 1 (♀) CP site, c. 4285m
3. White-capped Water Redstart - 1 c. temp pond, CP site, c. 4280m
4. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - ♀ c. tents, late afternoon, c. 4280m

≥ 4 species
**GPS Coordinates 27 May '09**

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<td>ghost CP N of Tim Pokhari.</td>
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<td>PT 46</td>
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<td>L 11</td>
<td>27°36.81'N 87°04.00' E 4343</td>
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<td>2 ghosts small pokhari.</td>
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<td>PT 47</td>
<td>27°36.66'N 87°03.77' E 4197</td>
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<td>Jamini dand.</td>
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<td>PT 48</td>
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<td>jet Jogahel Danda crest.</td>
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<td>Joghel Danda crest.</td>
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<td>CP 19</td>
<td>27°36.18'N 87°03.08' E 4033</td>
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<td>Jogahel Danda crest camp.</td>
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</table>

**Weather:** Rain during early night. Clear at first light-dawn. No significant accumulation at CP site; free of snow down to 4300m; rising moisture from drying of area created many thin clouds in early AM; less sunny in afternoon, with fog from c 1600 - dusk/twilight.

**Habitat:** See pg 91 for CP site; rhododendron & patches of juniper along danda crest, with protruding boulders, many of which have mossy tops w/ small clumps of dwarf rhodo (sp?) growing on top; also free-common patches of dried ungrazed grass away from ghosts; some ghosts have ungrazed as well in vicinity suggesting disused last yr; patches of short white-terraced wilderness as well; area c small pokhari negligibly disturbed. Lake area is cauemed at shoreline & surrounding danda tops.

**Effort:**

- 07h30 - 08h10 early AM excursion
- 08h45 - 12h15 AM March
- 12h45 - 18h00

\[ E = 10h 45min \]
27 May 2009

1. Solitary Snipe – δ1 calling & drumming c 700m of Tin Pokhari CP site. 1st light dawn, c tents at times. c 4320-4340m. G. et al. 2003: "Uncommon local winter visitor/passage migrant, probably also resident mainly 2135-4000m (-915m)." H/seen at higher alt’s earlier on trek.

2. Rufous-breasted Accentor – several c AM CP site tents. c 4285m.

3. Himalayan Monal – 1(?) across valley from CP site. c 4300m.


5. Plain-backed Thrush – 1 silhouette H/above c 4345m.

6. Dark-breasted Rosefinch – δ c tents in rain, afternoon. c 4280m.

7. White-winged Grosbeak – 1(?) (CP site). c 4320m.

8. Blue-fronted Redstart – δ on boulders, Jophel crest trail. c 4370m.

9. Plain-backed Thrush – 1 seen well, including uniform scaly und (vs. not in long-tailed) in boulder & juniper. c 4365m; becoming familiar w/song.

10. Buff-barded Warbling – 1(?) in rhodo scrub, Jophel Danda. c 4300m.

11. Grey-sided Bush Warbler – 1(?) in rhodo scrub. c 4320m.

12. Fire-tailed Sunbird – δ in rhodo shrubs. c 4280m.

13. Famished Himalayan Monal – 1 seen as silhouette & heard calling for long time, AM CP → lunchstop. c 4250-4300m.

Σ = 11 species (δs 9 the same; δs 3 + 13 the same.)
Additional records:

1 4/4 Jophal Danda

#7 0? pack on Jophal Danda crest trail, c. 4350m; ≤ 4170m.

#11 4/4 including end wheezy notes; c. 4350m;

#12 0? on Jophal Danda, c. 4200m;

Route: From AICP to small pokhri, then steep ascent over trail (previously traversed?) to Lamini Danda crest, did not follow crest for > 100m before descending steeply through grass & boulders off-trail; farther down steeper & rockier; changed route to gain spur crest (≠ Jophal Danda) through tricky boulder slabs, rocks & rhodo scrub; intersected distinct trail at crest, followed crest line/trail to makeshift CP site.

Missed Lamini Danda trail just with Jophal Danda crest; should not have descended on steep N/W slope.

Mammal record -

Musk Deer - several ≥ 2 on Jophal/Lamini Danda spur in late afternoon (3-4PM?), keeping to inaccessible (by us) boulders in overcast & occasional dripping into fog; kept distance of ≤ 100m, retreating, heads peering over boulder faces; not very wary, although general area visited by hunters (this year?)

Site here: very boney, steep, big boulders.
27 May 2009

ghot CP N of Tin Pokhari, Khola Kharka Khola, Apsurna Khola (4261m) —
Sophal Danda crest CP, Sankhuwa-Apsurna watershed (4033m)

[Signature]
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<td>Stick shot frame &amp; Kharka</td>
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<td>3730</td>
<td>Shot frame &amp; burn</td>
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<td>Jophel Danda top</td>
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<td>Chautara &amp; Dimagchaur</td>
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<td>Shot frame &amp; Chaut</td>
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<td>27°34.245'N 87°02.421'E</td>
<td>3315</td>
<td>Sandapo Kharka</td>
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### Weather:
Clear during the night; calm, heavy frost at 1st light/dawn; but cumulus forming on danda tops at 06h00 partly cloudy into late morning; overcast by mid-day; rain by early afternoon, with big hail shower at 12h00; boos of rain in late afternoon; 39°F at 06h00, with very heavy frost & tents.

### Habitat:
Alpine Zone vegetation c. ATL CP: mainly rhododendron shrubs/shrubbery (several spp.) with juniper & rose in drier aspects; other broadleaf shrubs as well, some trails/ burning but not extensive; shrubbery with considerable load of moss, extensive burn/melt area of Khanguruk Kh. watershed; c. lunchstop (L.12) Kharka. More burning further on: 3700-3800, extensive patches of Rhodo trees & bamboo (melting) scorched, but bamboo starting to spread at burned bases in some places.

### Route:
(See page 102.)

### Effort:
06h00 - 13h00 At excursion & march
14h00 - 19h00 afternoon march

\[ \text{Total} = 12 \text{h} 00 \text{ min} \]
28 May 2009

Jophal Danda crest CP, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa Kh. watershed (4033m)
Samdaplo Kharka (topo map), Jophal Danda, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa (3315m)

1. Black-faced Laughingthrush - 7 1 (H) c. At CP site, c. 4040m.
2. Fire-tailed Sunbird - 1 1 ? c. Samdaplo Kharka
3. Buff-barred Warbler - 1 (H), then later seen
4. Winter Wren - 1 seen singing on boulders, below Samdaplo Kharka, c. 4000m.
5. Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler - good views of single; larger size vs. Grey-sided; lores not pale, whitish eyebrow absent or very indistinct in front of eye, giving a 'chip' type call, not a sharp loud 'pseek' as in both sp.; G. et al. '00: "rare, resident, breeds C Himalayas 3550-3680m"
G. et al. '98: "summers 3300-4000m" in India, 3300-3900m in Bhutan
Alt. at sighting c. 3980m
6. Black-faced Laughingthrush - pr./duo seen well below Samdaplo Kharka
7. White-collared/Grey-winged Blackbird - 1 (H) c. 3820m on Jophal Danda; either sp. would be > alt. max. per G. et al. '00.
8. Stripe-throated Yuhina - > 2 c. PT50 Kharka, c. 3865m, 3840
9. White-browed Bush Robin - o' seen briefly (shy) "J", c. 3860m
10. Rufous-fronted Tit - 4 in mixed hunting party "H", c. 3820m, below PT50 Kharka on crest of Jophal Danda. G. et al. '00: "2590-3700m all year; possibly a new alt. max. for Nepal.
11. White-browed Fulvetta - 3 or 4 with "H", c. 3820m, Jophal Danda
12. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. 3800m on Jophal Danda, below PT50
13. Rufous-vented Yuhina - 1 with "H", c. 3700m

in same block as Stripe-throated. Ali & Ripley '87: "seems to keep more to the canopy than Stripe-throated Yuhina, with which it sometimes associates.
14. Chestnut-headed Tresa - 1 seen at 3770m, Jophal Danda crest trail
15. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - 1 (sex?) c. L12 lunchstop A...c. 3775m
16. Rufous-vent Tit - 1 c. lunchstop A...
17. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) below "C..." c. 3500m
18. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1 seen well, edge of Kharka (L12) c. 3710m; intro note & alarm different than "J"; size smaller.
19. Mystery Owl - 1 (H) before rain started again c. 4840, dark sky, c. 3600m; gave double "hoot" like call once (2) from dense forest; possibly local open aspect caused by burning.

JOY-ART 35 Lines, 8 min
Additional records:

#2 another 1+1 ?7+6/7 pair c Sandaplo Kharka CP site, c 4040m.
#2 cont) 0° further down below...      ... ... ... ... c 4020m
#2 cont) 0°/pair c 3980m; 0° c 3960m, below ?
#2 cont) 0° c 3960m, c PT50, c Kharka on Jophel Danda crest.
#2 cont) 0° c 3850m ... below ?
#2 cont) 3.787 +1 f 3750-3800m, Jophel Danda crest trail.
#2 cont) 2.887 at 3785m, ...
#6) 1 (f) along Jophel Danda crest trail, c 3750m.
#9) f past/down from 1117, along ? c 3710m.
#47) 1 + Jophel Danda top (c PT52), c 3620m.
#9 cont) 0° seen well at edge of small Kharka, c 3540m.
#16) 1 (race beaveri) c 3400m, crest trail, Jophel Danda.
#21) 1 (f) c 3350m...    ...

Breeding records:

40. Fire-tailed Sunbird - 2 at/one/nest in barberry & juniper, at edge of ghot fram Kharka (PT50) crest of Jophel Danda. Nest an orb with entrance hole which has a knitted overhang (3 cm hole; e 1 cm wide overhang); placed on an upper branch in juniper shub (photographed); nest bottom to ground 65 cm; length of nest 15 cm; width 8 cm; 2 eggs inside, pale brown, heavily splotched with dark brown (or possibly grey-brown), a single feather (quite large) also woven into nest; Rajan Rai found the nest - alerted to its presence by & in shub; after flushing & nest inspected (c. 15 min) & returned to sit on eggs, c 3360m.
28 May 2009

Jophal Danda crest CP, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa Kh watershed (4033m) — Samdapel Kharka (topo map); Jophal Danda, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa? (3815m).

20. White-browed Rose-finch — good looks at a g on ground at edge of small Kharka after rain; c. 3500m. Not very wary.
21. Whistler's Warbler — 1 (ft) c. 3450m along Jophal Danda crest.
22. (omitted) Indian Cuckoo — 1 (ft) approach Samdapel Kharka, c. 3250m.

Route: From makeshift cairn along/on Jophal Danda crest trail, keeping to crest entire day, winding around steep sections of rock, forested jagged areas; trail easily discernable but little used, even this year; some litter occasionally encountered but none new; several small Kharkas at lower elevations, not all of them marked with GPS points; one section at c. 3700m very steep, required holding malingo & feet support for dhokas (time) to pass.

Habitat (cont): tall shrubbery & trees in forest along this days route very mossy, wet; frequent burns along trail & patches (some extensive) in E & S facing slopes; W & N slopes negligibly affected by fire; see next day for description of habitat & evening campsites.
GPS Coordinates 29 May '09

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<th>Code</th>
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<td>Samdapo Kharka</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT55</td>
<td>27°34.102'N 87°02.584'E</td>
<td>3162</td>
<td>Jophal banda crest</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT56</td>
<td>27°33.921'N 87°02.856'E</td>
<td>2981</td>
<td>Golden-breasted Fulvetta site in dense bamboo</td>
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<td>2863</td>
<td>small Kharka, gd cp site not gd cp</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT58</td>
<td>27°33.356'N 87°03.111'E</td>
<td>2792</td>
<td>small Kharka, saplings</td>
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<tr>
<td>L13</td>
<td>27°33.308'N 87°03.050'E</td>
<td>2754</td>
<td>Dobato Kharka</td>
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<td>PT59</td>
<td>27°33.174'N 87°02.901'E</td>
<td>2532</td>
<td>Waypt, India Blue Robin nest</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP21</td>
<td>27°32.957'N 87°02.770'E</td>
<td>2421</td>
<td>Magja Kharka, Santhwara</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Weather: Clear in early AM; cool & moist from previous day's rain. But clouding over with thin layers threatening to rain by 10 AM; overcast through to mid-day, but improving c. 1 PM; some breaks with blue & bright overcast into afternoon; threatening rain again at 3 PM; weather improving, partly sunny at 4 PM, 43°F at 5:30-6:00.

Habitat: Mostly tall rhododendron shrubbery with forest trees with birch & other broad-leaves up from Samdapo Kharka. Malinjo (Anunodina sp.) prominent, and below Kharka tall dense & dominant at c. 3200m. Little off trail damage/understory clearance from grazing; further down (3200-3000m) Malinjo dominant in understory more mix of broad-leaves; dense temperate associations Dobato Kharka -> Magja Kharka; extensive & severe burning of scrub + some forest patches on S-facing slope up from Magja Kharka. (Said to be done every year, but creep this year worse than in years)

Effect: 04h55 (1) — 05h15 early AM cp site
          06h00 — 06h20 coffee at cp site
          06h20 — 08h00 AM birdwalk up from cp site
          08h15 — 13h20 AM walk to L13
          14h20 — 17h45 afternoon walk to Magja

\[ \text{Total Time: } 10 \text{h} 50 \text{min} \]
29 May 2009

Samaplo Kharka (topomap). Jophal Danda, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa (3315m)
Maajha Kharka, base of Jophal Danda, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa divide (2421m)

1. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - I seen + H, edge of AT CP, Samaplo Kharka
2. Olive-backed Pipit - 1 in trees c. AT CP, Samaplo Kharka c. 3315m.
3. Black-faced Laughingthrush - I seen + H c. 3310m
4. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - I (sec?) in forest up from AT c. 3830m
5. Striped-throated Yuhina - pair/due (H) c. 3333m.
6. Chestnut-tailed Minla - 1 seen alarming in upper canopy c. 3340m.
7. Red-tailed Minla - 1 with #6(6) in upper canopy.
8. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker - I seen well: much smaller vs Dagingi, red extensive on face, black pattern, underpart streaking, no breast band, crest not seen well but no uniform red; c. 3350m in forest above Samaplo Kharka: foraging. G et al '00: "1500-2750m," G et al '98: "recorded at 1500-2750m (600-3900m)" India? Nepal? Bhutan?
9. Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler - 1 (H) clearly in dense mixed forest with bamboo understory; monotonous 'pop...pop...pop...pop...pop' call at close range; c. 3350m above Samaplo Kharka.
10. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) "(not seen well)" c. 3350-3400m.
11. Mystery Swift/Martin - several above c. 3400m.
12. Whistling Warbler - >1 (H) above c. 3360m.
13. Yellow-bellied Fantail - 1 in forest "c. 3350m.
15. White-throated Needletail - 1 over Samaplo Kharka c. 3330m.

* Samaplo Kharka, c. 3260m in dense bamboo. G et al '00; G et al '98 - Inaccurately/incompletely describe the call/song. '98: "Typical song is a series of four very thin high pitched notes (see-saw-see-saw-see-saw), etc. Variations of this song are given. Call is a typical chirp-chirp (P. Morris)" G et al '00: "Song is a thin high pitched see-saw-see-saw-see-saw, etc. Ali & Ripley '87: "A series of three or four long drawn-out whistles, each lasting about 1/2 seconds, uttered slowly in ascending scale, followed by several quick-repeated up-down 'cheer' notes resembling call of Upland Pipit. G et al '00: "Scarce and local." Ali & Ripley '87: "A great skulker, very difficult to observe."
Additional records:

#6) 1 in dense mahingo, c.17/8 site, Jophal Danda crest trail, c. 319 m
#12) I seen well, c. 3200 m, Jophal Danda, duo/pair at 3030 m.
#17) 1 at 3085 m, Jophal Danda crest trail.
#12 cont) 1 at 3050 m & 
#12 cont) 1 (H) c. 3020 m 
#12 cont) 1 (H) c. 2975 Jophal Danda, crest trail.
#13)-visible spotable, Jophal Danda crest trail, c. 2975 m.
#12 cont) 2 +1 (H) 
#12 cont) 1 +1 +1 (H) 
#12 cont) 1 +1 (H) e. small Kharka (PT5b) c. 2790 m.
#2) 1 (H) pt/due? c. Kharka below PT5b, c. 2780 m.
#10) 1 (H) off/down from Dobato Kharka, c. 2700 m.
#23) 1 (H) from forest off from/cam from Dobato Kharka, c. 2800 m.
#34) 1 (H) below Dobato Kharka, c. 2700 m; 1 (H) farther off, c. 2680 m.
#32) 1 (H) u 
#31) I seen near, c. 2670 m; 1st seen at c. 2450 m above Maajha Kharka.

Breeding record:

42. White-browed Fulvetta - a nesting pair below Samdapo.
Kharka dong Jophal Danda crest trail, c. 3190 m; nest recessed in embankment cascade & grass; rhodo seedlings vegetation height above ground very difficult to determine. Nest diameter = 5 cm, width at rim = 3 cm; made almost entirely of moss, 
Y-shaped/brown rhizome lining; site & nest with eggs photo'd.

43. Indian Blue Robin - a nest with eggs & defensive/curious.
at c. 2600 m, trailside, Jophal Danda crest below Dobato Kharka.
& alarming but mostly silent, keeper behind rocks or trees; but never >20 m from nest; while inspected, tried to enter to know Sp.
nest recessed c. 5 cm under large boulder in strip of scrub forest c. 20 cm
above ground level (but in embankment); nest oval-shaped outside of well-woven leaves, inner rim & lining of cup fine rootlets or rhizomes. Obscuring vegetation dried or dead (not burned); photo'd.; 4. turquoise
eggs; nest rim 7 x 5 cm; small herb plants also at nest entr...
29 May 2009

Sampalpo Kharka (topomap), Sophal Danda, Sankhuwa-Aptsura (3315m)
Maajha Kharka, base of Sophal Danda, Sankhuwa-Aptsura divide (2421m)

17. White-browed Fulvetta - nesting pair at c. 3192m, along danda trail.
18. Brown Parrotbill - pair/duo going past in dense understorey of
malingo, shy, not allowing complete views; 1 bird paused in rhodo
shrub, seen OK w/ out binos; gave a subdued whirry call several
times (alarm?) (cf. "faint churr churr" of Ali & Ripley '81), same
site as # 17; nest, Sophal Danda trail, below Sampalpo Kharka 3255m.
19. Mountain Hawk Eagle - excellent views over forest, 3220-3260m,
Sophal Danda crest trail; G. et al. '00: "locally frequent, mainly
1500-2833m"; G. et al. '98: "120-2400m in Himalayas + NE hills, in
Bhutan common 800-3100m; possibly a new maximum altitude
for the Indian Subcontinent. Und pattern, tail seen well but
belly banding seen well (not streaked as in Changeable)
20. Eurasian Nuthcracker - 1 H then seen, c. 3185, moving & chasing
another individual of this sp; Sophal Danda crest trail.
21. Rufous-vented Tit - 2/ along c. 3120 m
22. Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush - c. 3120 m
23. Rufous-bellied Niltava - c. 3020 m on crest trail
24. Snowy-browed Flycatcher - c. 2980-2990; Sophal Danda
(probably another c. seen higher up, c. 2975m & H).
25. Golden-breasted Fulvetta - 2 (probably 3) moving through/forgaging
new in dense forest; dense malingo understorey, c. 2980m (; PT56), Sophal
for money) Danda crest trail; with # 26? G. et al. '00: "very local resident in
W-C areas; yellow is brilliant, brighter than black. Beautiful birds!
26. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1 w/ # 25, keeping atypically low well
27. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) in dense forest/bamboo, c. 2975-3000m...
28. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - 2 with # 13, Sophal Danda, c. 2975m
29. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. 3000m, Sophal, "crest trail.
30. Black-eared Shrike Babbler - 1 (H) calling incessantly, tree tops; trail
along Sophal Danda crest; G. et al. '00: "summers 1800-2440m", outside
re "giving a repeated four note call, ascending on last note.
31. Green-tailed Sunbird - 1 (H) Sophal Danda crest trail, c. 2850m
32. Rufous Sibia - 1 seen at Kharka below PT58 Kharka c. 2780m
Additional records:

2600m—
#34 cont) nest + fledglings at 2530m, Sopahal Danda crest trail.
#35) I seen (not diagonally), then H. " " c. 2610m.
#36) 1 (H) above Maajha Khanka, c. 2440m, off crest trail.
#37 cont) 1 (H) side of " " c. 2420m in hedgecorn.
#2 cont) I'm cut wheat " " c. 2410m;

Route: Stayed along good trail, keeping mostly to crest entire day, but apparently off to Sankhuwa side in late afternoon. Very steep descent in several sections. At lower altitudes (2420-2600m) trails is deeply carved by use (mainly for grazing & cutting of Malungo (hunting as well?). Quite good trail except for slippery, slenny, steep sections near Maajha Khanka

Breeding records (cont):

4 Grey Bushchat — 4 with 2 juveniles/recently fledged young.
- 1 fledgling larger, more agile, able to fly short distances; other fledgling sedentary, smaller, less active - & keeping close by, or in vicinity. Edge of wheat field off to side of Maajha Khanka, c. 2410-2420m. Juveniles on rock slab - & swooping around less developed fledgling, pecking at times < 0.5 nearby.
29 May 2009

Samdapro Kharka (topo map), Jophal Danda, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa (3315m)
- Maajha Kharka, base of Jophal Danda, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa divide (2421m)

33. Brownish-flanked Warbler - 1 (H) at lunchstop 113 Kharka, c. 2750m
34. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) c. 2755m
35. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) above, c. 2800-2900m
36. Soothing Flycatcher - 1 seen hawking insects, Jophal Danda crest, 2605m
37. (omitted) Blyth's Leaf Warbler - pair/duo at Deotho Kharka edge, 2765m
38. Hong-tailed Minivet - several (♂♂ & ♀♀) flying by over #34 rest site, c. 2615m; Ided by call; Jophal Danda easterly trail
(39) Mountain Bulbul - 4 or 5 in dense chopped over forest along trail above Maajha Kharka, c. 2450; seen well; tipped off by call
*1 bird observed as high as 2460m, possibly new max alt. for Nepal
G. et al. '00: "mainly 1830–2135m (915–2285m)" (but not Subcontinent)
40. White-tailed Robin - 1 (H) off crest trail above Maajha Kharka c. 2430m
41. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon - 1 flying into tree c. 2430m (not wary)
42. Grey bellied Tesia - 1 (H) forested edge, Maajha Kharka c. 2435m
43. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) at Maajha Kharka c. 2400-2450m
44. Whiskered Yuhina - 24 eating al. cell berries, Khut c. Maajha Kharka
45. Short-billed Minivet -♂ deep red, glossy black, up from ?41 c. 2415m
46. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch - 1 in wheat field c. Maajha Kharka, c. 2410m
47. Maroon Oriole - 1 (H) ? 3 trees just above... 47 c. 2435m
48. Striated Bulbul - 1 seen in trees 48
49. Green-backed Tit - 1 seen in alders, side of 49 c. 2420m
50. Grey Bushchat -♂ edge of Maajha Kharka, c. 2425m; Zijun's
51. Dark-breasted Rosefinch -♂ seen well 51
52. Rufous-fronted Barwing - brief views of 1 bird; has some white in tail? outer tips white? edge of Maajha Kharka, c. 2425m
53. Greenish Warbler - 1 seen well, edge of 53 c. 2430m
54. (omitted) Large-billed/Horse Couch - 1(H) c. 2500m above Maajha Kharka
55. Grey-tailed Nightjar - 1(H) c. 2680m from tent at bird at c. 2500m?
56. Striated Laughingthrush-pair/duo approaching lunchstop c. 2900m
### GPS Coordinates

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Coordinate</th>
<th>Alt (m)</th>
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<td>Maajha Kharka, Sankhuwa</td>
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<td>Waypt for trail &amp; alt.</td>
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**Weather:** Clear & warm in early AM; in & out of sun; partly cloudy, hot & breezy late AM; early afternoon: dark clouds then rain ascended from lower Sankhuwa in PM. Afternoon: bouts of showers with little break from 4 PM onwards.

**Habitat:** Fairly good mixed upper sub-tropical/lower temperate forest, patches of scrubs & below. Maajha Kharka with open ningalo & other plants in understory; fields & open scrubs & below Sikidim village; some burning of scrubs; ningalo still prominent but not dense; Hibiscus present as shrubby bushy tree; patchy chopped over mostly evergreen forest in Sankhuwa bottom with some taro 'seedlings'; some good patches of forest on steeper aspects, particularly N face Chitre, Danda. S face opposite bank much more cleared & widespread burning.

**Effort:**

- 05h50 - 08h15  
  Walk up in forest
- 08h45 - 14h30  
  AM + afternoon march

\[ \text{Time} = 8h10 \text{ min} \]
Maajha Kharka, base of Tophal Danda; Sankhuwa-Apsuwa divide (2421m) — bridge over Sankhuwa Khola below Sikidim village (1502m)

1. Greenish Warbler - 1 seen at Khut edge c Maajha Kharka, 2410m
2. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - 1”
3. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - 1 with no wingbars; unusually low alt Khut c Maajha Kharka 2410m
4. Brownish-Planked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) hedgerow at Khut c Maajha Kharka 2050m
5. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) above Atti CPSite, Maajha Kharka c 2050m
6. Grey Bush Chat - 1” Khut off Maajha Kharka, c 2020m
7. Blyth’s Leaf Warbler - 1 in bushes c Maajha Kharka 2050m
8. Whiskered Yuhina - 1 in ainsitu bush, Khut near Maajha Kharka 2015m
9. Green-backed Tit - 1 c edge of Maajha Kharka, c 2425m
10. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch - 1 (H) c 2200-2300m
11. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) across valley from A c 2400-2500m
12. Red-billed Leiothrix - 3-4 below A c 2390m in alders
13. Green-tailed Sunbird - 1” up from Maajha Kharka c 2465m
14. White-tailed Robin - 1 (H) c 2550m
15. Rufous Sibia - 1 (H) forest off A c 2485m
16. Kalij Pheasant - 1 (H?) c 2470-2500m
17. Olive-backed Pipit - 1 seen, edge of Maajha Kharka, c 2425m
18. Ashy Drongo - 1 below Atti CPSite, c 2420m
19. Red-billed Leiothrix - 3-4 below A c 2390m in alders
20. Mountain Bulbul - 1” in alders (A) below A/post A c 2380m
21. Grey Bushchat - 1 carrying food, c site of 29/5, probably same bird
22. Rufous Sibia - 1 seen below Maajha Kharka c 2375m; mixed alder
23. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) calling, edge of A c 2370m
24. Black-chinned Babbler - 1 calling, moving thru underbrush” c 2380m
25. Ashy Drongo - 1 seen in alder forest ravine c 2195m
26. Streaked Laughingthrush - 1 edge of fields alder scrub c 2140m
27. Grey-backed Shrike - 1 in fields of corn bordering A c 2120m
28. Grey Treepie - 1 c protected forest patch c 2150m
29. Small Niltava - 1 scolding at edge of A c 2070m; boldly dipped/raised tail while bobbing/stretching head forward; nest/young probably nearby.
Additional records:

1) duo/pair up from Magjha Khanka, c. 2425 m; ≥1 c. 2280 m

2) duo/pair " " " c. 2510 m.

12) 1 (H) in tree-top

13) lo.2 in forest edge bushi above Magjha Khanka, c. 2510 m

14) 1 at 22-30 m (H), not seen below " "

20) 1 seen in open alders, past pt 61, c. 2250 m; 1 red alder forest melting

22) 1 ≤ protected forest patch, c. 2100 m; ≤ 1500 m, Sankhuwa Kh edge

18) 1 in tree, steep slope below Sikidim, c. 1750-1800 m;

29) 1 (H) alarming, c. 1750 m in forest") "

33) 1 (H) ≤ 1620 m, approaching Sankhuwa Kh bridge;

Breeding records:

45. Grey Bushchat - 07 carrying food, probably same individual
   as previous day; c. 2400 m, cutover alders & other spp. with cutover
   wheat field nearby. Vicinity of Magjha Khanka (opposite prev day).
30 May 2009

Maajha Kharka, base of Juphal Danda, Sankhuwa Khola drainage (2421 m) — bridge over Sankhuwa Khola below Sikidim village (1502 m).

30. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler - 1 (1) c 1900 m below forest patch.
31. Verditer Flycatcher - 7+ at c 1860 m, open bushy scrub "Mingale," 10.
32. Blue-capped Rock Thrush - 7+ in open country below Sikidim c 1750-1800 m.
33. Striated Prinia - 1 in steep grassy scrub, ---- c 1800 m.
34. (omitted) Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 seen c above Sikidim, c 2200 m.
35. Large Hawk-Cuckoo - 1+ (1) across Sankhuwa valley, Chite Danda 1750 m.
36. Great Barbet - 1 (1) " " " " c 1750-1800 m.
37. Black-throated Sunbird - 2 in hot open country, Sikidim-Sankhuwa, 1600 m.
38. Blue Whistling Thrush - 4 birds c lunch stop/c, c 1430 m, Sankhuwa Kh bridge

ζ =

Route: From Maajha Kharka along good trail but soon turning secondary as main trail to Sikidim either missed or inadvertently took side trail. Needed food (potatoes only in this area), so difficult day until house with ample supplies met; from tree level, past other houses to edge of protected forest patch, fenced off with barbed wire; adjacent fields (corn & potatoes) & thin scrub, swidden patches, continued on increasingly indistinct & steep trail winding in & out of small, steep ravines. Reached 1717 m (Pt 66) but blindingly by cliffs & had to go up very steeply on goat tracks to go over cliff top; very hot (> 90°F), no water; continued on past several tricky spots to intersect main up-down trail W of Sikidim (Pt 67, 1812 m); from there trail obscured in places by burning off of scrub & old field vegetation to plant corn; very steep but distinct trail through steeply walled section to bridge over Sankhuwa Kh (1502 m). Difficult day without adequate food & water.
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<td>1502</td>
<td>bridge over Sankhuma, beak of Sikidim village</td>
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<td>PT69</td>
<td>27°32.158'N 87°02.441'E</td>
<td>1634</td>
<td>cardamom drying ghat, Sankhuma spur</td>
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<td>CP22</td>
<td>27°32.143'N 87°02.335'E</td>
<td>1728</td>
<td>cardamom butt, Chitauwa</td>
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Weather: Heavy overcaste at 1st light/dawn; air very wet, bouts of rain during night, by 9AM some drizzle, with bouts of it & light rain to 2PM; more drizzle & light rain into late afternoon, tendency of clearing at dusk-twilight.

Habitat: Mostly evergreen broadleaf, with a dense understory of shrubs, lianas, vine-like ferns & grass; once upon a steeply walled canyon of Sankhuma, spur vegetation has been largely cleared in recent past to plant cardamom. Plants look diseased: yellow & brown leaves, scorched appearance, spindly & interspersed with tall fern, grass, heeb & Hibiscus saplings, in general setting of humid evergreen forest with alders (some tall, spindly, old) dominant.

Additional records:
1) O7 at 1500-1600m, alarming, good views of undetected birds early AM.
2) Heard in late afternoon, c. 1500m, Chitauwa, Sankhuma Khola, later heard from across valley at 1600-1650m.
3) O7 at 1625m, N face spur, Chitauwa Danda; possibly same as earlier encountered.
4) 2023 in lower branches of alders & cardamom understory, unobtrusive, silent.
5) Slipping away when seen; possibly same birds seen downslope; appears to be sleeker than other Yuhina spp.; keeps to middle & lower stories usually at times high in alders.

Effort:
- 05h40 - 08h45
- 11h30 - 13h20
- 13h30 - 18h55

\[ \text{\rotatebox{90}{Total}} = 10 \text{h 20 min} \]
bridge over Sankhuwa Khola below Sikidim village (1502m) — cardomum bhatti, N spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1728m).

1. Hodgson’s Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (4) c. AM epige at 1st light calling briefly before moving on (G. et al. ’00: “veeryard”); unable to determine if ‘long call’ given after song due to noise from nearby rushing water.

2. Large Hawk Cuckoo — 4 (4) c/above AM epige, early AM, c. 1600-1700m.

3. Blue Whistling Thrush — 1 (4) “(below)” c. 1490-1500m.

4. Plumbeous Water Redstart — c. 1510-1520m, Sankhuwa Khola, littlered.

5. Small Niltava — c. 1550m, calling, ascending Chitre Danda forest bridge.

6. Slaty-bellied Tesia — 1 (4) c. spur of Hibiscus/alders & cardomum c. 1550m N spur, Chitre Danda; calling from side to side in dense understory of bushes & cardomum; distinctive reedy w/jumbled notes at end. (At thought not/seen, calls of seen birds later on Chitre Danda make ID positive; G. et al. ’00: “rare & very local” [Am 1000-1700m in Aug & Sept; upper Mai Kh. 2200m in April] plus addl recent year records?? For Nepal).

7. Black-breasted Sunbird — 1 (4) ascending N Face spur, Chitre Danda, 1550m.

8. Rufous-throated Partridge — 1 (4) clearly at close range in patch of mixed alder-Hibiscus forest w/dense understory c. 1550m; G. et al. ’00: “rare” resident, mainly 1490-1830m (280-2050m). Bird calling in mid-afternoon.

9. White-naped Yuhina — pair dusk at 1620m in mixed Hibiscus/alders c. cardomum understory, just below drier ght (PT 169 = 1634m); somewhat ungainly flight, possibly w/#10. G. et al. ’00: “very rare; local resident in far east (of Nepal)? 1530m; 2200m; possible W ward range extension for Nepal.

10. Grey-banded Warbler — 1 (4) #9s N Face spur, Chitre Danda, c. 1620m.


12. Himalayan Swiftlet? — 1 flying in rain c. drier ght & above, c. 1640-1660m.

13. Rufous Sibia — 1 (4) across valley from N Face spur, Chitre Danda, c. 1600m.

14. Asian Emerald Cuckoo — c. zip past at head height, c. drier ght, c. 1625m, Chitre Danda N Face spur; eyeballed, good views of head (turned to me a bit?) upp emerald, size, slimmness of flt. pattern, in Hibiscus/alders/c. cardomum; G. et al. ’00: “rare summer visitor, recorded April-Sept. 250m, 1280-1800m, broadleafed evergreen forest”.

15. Maroon Oriole — 1 (4) across valley, c. 1650-1680m, Chitre Danda spur.
31 May, '09

Additional records:

46) 1 (H) c. dusk (5 PM) c CP 22 Bhatti, calling from ravine forest nearby at c. 1650 m.
47) (cont) continued calling incessantly into dusk/twilight from across valley on S-facing slope 1650-1700 m.
48) 1 (H) at dusk-twilight c. Bhatti CP, c. 1750 m.
49) 1 (H) c. Bhatti/CP at dusk, c. 1710-1715 m.

Habitat (cont): Some of the tallest trees high up have been ring-barked for fuelwood to dry cardamom; standing deadwood at periphery of planted spur includes old alders. Cardamom harvest last year's dried fuelwood supply appears unsustainable, but some trees apparently felled to open up forest to plant more cardamom. Bananae also planted in spur; W face forest on ascent to Bhatti almost pure alder (mostly tall, spindly old trees) with understorey of cardamom that is greener, fuller, tall ferns & other herbs including Eupatorium.

Breeding record:

46. Asian Brown Flycatcher - excited & confiding adult with recently fledged young bird (only 12) in juvenile plumage barely able to fly and repeatedly attended by G (♂). Rather high up in alder tops c. 1620 m, N face spur, Chite Danda, Sankhuwa Bhada. G et al.'00: "1000-1550 m...summer visitor & passage migrant", therefore, possibly new maximum altitude for Nepal. G et al.'98: "locally to 2230 m" in India.
bridge over Sankhuwa Khola below Sikidim village, Sankhuwa Kh. (150m)
— Cardamom bhatti, N-face spur Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1728m).

16. White-crested Laughingthrush— Flock (4) across ravine, c. 1650m,
    Chitre Danda N face spur.
17. Mystery Yellowharp— 1 (4) from dense ravine forest (mostly alders),
    approaching evening; can't separate Lesser vs. Greater, c. 1650m,
    Chitre Danda N face spur; giving a "Kleeer", fairly large size.
18. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon— pair/duo flying into tree tops, across
    ravine from PT 69; c. 1625m, Chitre Danda N face spur.
19. Black Bunting— 1 seen, bushy veg. c. ghot/PT 69, c. 1620m.
20. Bronzed/Ashy Drongo— 1 in distance, c. 1650m, A "sneering dusk."
21. Golden-throated Barbet— 1 (4) c. 1700-1750, off to side of CP 22 bhatti,
    N face spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola.
22. Slaty Pygmy Wren Babbler— 1 (4) calling 1720-1750m at dusk c. CP 22
    bhatti, N face spur, Chitre Danda; typical "tzeet...tzeet..." call.
23. Asian Barred Owlet— 1 (4) at dusk-twilight c. bhatti/cp, c. 1740m.
24. Grey-bellied Tesia— 1 (4) " " " c. 1750-1780m.
25. Indian Cuckoo— 1 (4) " " " c. 1750-1800m

ε=

Route: Followed steep crested trail up Chitre Danda N face spur
    from Sankhuwa Khola bridge; overgrown in open (non-shady)
    sites with tall fern & grass; hard to see when trail winds. Appears
    to be used only for cardomom tending, keeps closely to crest.

* Note overlap in Grey-bellied and Slaty-bellied Telseas along
    trail this day and next.
GPS Coordinates  1 June '09  Day 33

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<td>PT 70</td>
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<td>outcrop off trail, Chitranda</td>
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<td>27°31.947'N 87°02.717'E 1713</td>
<td>N face, Chitranda</td>
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Weather: Clean at dawn and into early AM; a few cumulus tufts over nearby dandels; sunny past mid-day and into late afternoon; only a very slight breeze; felt like room temperature walking through forest shade much of the afternoon; ideal weather!

Habitat: Alder-Hibiscus forest, cutover for cardamom drying fuelwood & perhaps to clear for cardamom planting; ravine mostly vegetated w/dense tangles, nettles, tall fern, grass, other herbaceous plants; lianas—both ground + tree-climbing in ± open forest, trees with mossy branches/stems, light epiphyte load; soon thru pure, old alder forest, ±a nearly vacant middle story, but dense tangles in lower/ground story. Gradng to mixed (evergreen?) broadleaf forest with denser middle story, thinner ground/lime+ sides & trail cleared for grazing/keep trail open, small patches to plant bananas & ght construction & fodder.

Route: along indistinct trail traversing down & ± level ravine; no sign of use this season (yr?) onto fairly distinct but rugged (rocks/yups + down) trail keeping mostly level through forest ± cutback on either side ±10m (at times only 3-10); steep & arduous with ankles constantly in vegetation in chopped out areas.

Effort:
- 05h40 - 08h20   c AM/CP, beyond back
- 08h55 - 14h20   AM/mid-day march
- 15h05 - 18h50   afternoon march

\[ t = 11h 40 \text{ min}. \]

Mammal sightings: see pg. 125.
1 June 2009

Cardamom bhatti, N face spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1728m) – ghost CP in forest, N face of Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1713m) 

1. Large Hawk Cuckoo – 1 (H) c. bhatti/CP, c. 1700-1750m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

2. Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo – 1 (H) across Sankhuwa from 1700-1750m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

3. Lesser Cuckoo – 1 (H) c. bhatti/CP, c. 1730m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

4. Black-lored Tit – 1 c. above bhatti/CP, c. 1740-1760m (H) only. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

5. Black Bullfinch – pair above " " c. 1745m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

6. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker – 2/3 pair " " c. 1745m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

7. Grey-throated Babbler – 2 (H) in ferns, cardamom, herb. veg above CP/bhatti; high-pitched distinctive call; c. 1745m, but later seen at c. 1800m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

8. Rufous Sibia – several c/above bhatti/CP, c. 1740-1760m (H) only. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

9. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike – 1 (H) " " c. 1750-1780m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

10. Maroon Oriole – 1 (H) above bhatti/CP, c. 1800-1850m; at 1670m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

11. White-browed Shrike Babbler – 2 (H) " " c. 1700-1720m; at 1700m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

12. Green-backed Tit – 1 pair w/young juvenile, below bhatti/ATCP, c. 1840m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

13. Grey-hooded Warbler – 1 in alder fleeing bhatti/CP, c. 1635m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

14. Black-throated Sunbird – 1 at c. 1645m, c. 1680m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

15. Oriental Cuckoo – 1 (H) across Sankhuwa valley, c. protected forest patch. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

16. Long-tailed Minivet – 1 seen & H, c. 1640m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

17. Ashy Drongo – 1 seen & H above drying hut, c. 1650m, N face Chitre Danda. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

18. Golden-throated Barbet – 1 (H) calling across forested ravine at c. 1625m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

19. Mountain Bullfinch – 1 seen at c. 1630m in mixed alder... G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

20. Great Barbet – 1 (H) calling off to side of bhatti/CP, c. 1700m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

21. Grey-bellied Tesia – 1 (H) post bhatti, up from ravine in dense veg. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

22. Slaty-bellied Tesia – 1 (H) " " c. 1680m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

23. Lesser Yellow-nape – 1 seen & H, ravine E from bhatti/ATCP, c. 1670m. G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

24. Bronzed Drongo – 1 seen in alder... G.et.al.'00: "rare & very local... Arun 1000-1700m in Aug/Sept; Mai/V. 2200m in April.

25. Rusty-fronted Barwing – duo/pair at c. 1650m, dense ravine W of bhatti/ATCP; elegant movements through Hibiscus & other evergreen shrubs/trees W; dense moist understory; plumage more brilliant than plate in G.et.al.'00; confiding & unobtrusive; G.et.al.'00: "rare & local resident, W-Cassius\x20;Eward, 1785-2400m." possibly need minimum altitude for Nepal."
Additional records: #35 c. ghot CP, evening, c. 1725m.
#35 pr/duo c. ghot CP, N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1725m.
#13 1 (4) past + den from AN CP/bhati, c. 1680–1700m.
#22 I seem well, dense understorey vegetation in ravine W of bhati/AN CP; orangey bill, dark grey underparts. At before that; once encountered as it papped out in open spot gave chatter/ alarm; c. 1680m; possibly another in ravine vicinity. (4) calling, and definitely 1 (4) on spur farther W than 1 (4) from before bird viewed. So 1+1+1 birds in this ravine=c. 1700m.
#14 & seen in moist ravine W of bhati/AN CP, c. 1680m.
#17 I seen in ravine W of cardamom bhati, N Face spur. Chitre Danda, c. 1670m.
#16 I seen n. (possibly same bird as heard only in early AM),
#24 1 (4) across from tall alder patch. c. 1700m, N Face spur. Chitre Danda.
#35 1 (4) &
#24 (cont) 1 (4) past alder patch in dense undergrowth, c. 1750m.
#35, 1 seen past Pt 70, dense forest, Chitre Danda N slope, c. 1745m; (4) at
#35 (cont) 1 (4) c. 1720m; c. 1740m.
#26 1 (4) past Pt 70 & #2 above, " (overlapping sp) c. 1750m.
#16 1 (4) c. 1750m; (can be waded into view) heard only
#20 I seen " c. 1730m, only 200m away from above individual.
#14 (4) down low in bushes, dense forest. Chitre Danda N slope, c. 1730m.
#17 I up in trees ... & c.

Breeding records: #38 cont) 1 c. ghot CP, c. 1720m, N slope Chitre Danda.

47. Cutia – carrying food; feeding flying young? Both 367 appear fully fledged & agile; see page 120 for details; & et al ’98: “nest unknown” in Myanmar; feeding young in June.

48. Long-tailed broadbill – old (?) nest suspended from the end of an alder branch, alder forest patch, N Face spur. Chitre Danda, c. 1675m.
1 bird in adult plumage in vicinity but not near nest (c. 11-12m above ground)

49. Little Pied Flycatcher – 6 feeding recently fledged young (full juvenile plumage) in cleared patch, dense forest, Chitre Danda N Face, c. 1735m; 8 returned several times with small insects. Quickly feeding juvenile; at times juvenile followed/ chassed c; can fly fairly well, not as fast or agile as c; observed for c. 10min at c. 13h30...
1 June 2009

Cardamom bhatti; N face spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1728m)

- ghot CP in forest, N-face of Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1713m)

26. Small Niltava - 1 (H) app. side of ravine, c. 1660m, Chitre Danda 1660m

27. Cutia - 2 do searching stems of tall spindly alders W of bhatti/ATI sp.; N-face spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola; confiding, mostly climbing tree stems vs. ascending; exploring nodes; agility; flicking off bits of green moss, almost gliding in fit from 1 tree stem to another; a male later appeared in vicinity, also in alder stems, but keeping higher; regularly giving soft contact notes; alarming at pair/duo of Rufous Sibia in vicinity, but not wary of my presence (undetected?); alarm is high squeaky rattle; G. et al. 00: "scarce & very local resident, W-Career Nimkus, favours 2100-2300m, (1095-2750m), c. 1675m

Later one of the ATI seen carrying food, beakful of small winged insects.

28. Long-tailed Broadbill I observed at close range, mid-story, tall spindly alder patch, N-face spur, Chitre Danda; same site as #27; c. 1675m; G. et al. 00: "scarce & local resident, 275-1340m", possibly new max alt in Nepal (see pg. 119),

29. Chestnut-crowned Warbler - 1 down low in bushes in alder patch (same site as #12); G. et al. 00: "summers 1800-2750m", new minimum alt in summer;

30. Mystery Forktail - pair/duo at stream/kailijet, N-face Chitre Danda, c. 1710m

31. Little Pied Flycatcher - 2 in dense forest, c. 1735m

32. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 1 c. 1750m, Chitre Danda N slope clearing
dense forest

33. Rufous-bellied Niltava - 2 pair

34. Pygmy Wren Babbler - 1 (H) dense undergrowth, c. 1710m

35. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker - 2 in dense forest, Chitre Danda N slope, c. 1740m

36. Somitted Mystery Raptor - 1 over ravine trees c. bhatti, med size, c. 1800m

37. White-naped Yuhina - 4 birds in slow moving, quiet flock behind/up from ghot CP, c. 1715m, N-slope Chitre Danda; in bushes + tree of forest; not shy, carefully searching mossy limbs, walking, hopping at times; down into bush tops, but mostly in trees; not reactive; G. et al. 00: "very rare & local in far east; 1525m, 2200m

38. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 over CP 23 ghot, Chitre Danda N slope, c. 1740m

39. Himalayan Swiftlet - small flock w/ #40 sp

40. Alpine Swift - sexual

41. Little Pied Flycatcher - x 1 bringing food to dense veg, ghot CP, c. 1715m

42. Striated Bulbul - 1 at dusk, twilight c. eve ghot CP, put foil out, c. 1720m

43. Greater Yellow-nape omitted - 1 (H) along trail in Al ravine, c. 1740-1750m

44. Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H) c. evening CP, c. 1725m; G. et al. 00: "local & uncommon"
**GPS Coordinates**  
**1 June '09**  
**No Date**  
**Day 34**

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**Weather:** Clear & calm early AM; 58°F at 05h00, sunny & clear/calm through late AM; a gentle breeze at times;Jun & out of passing cumulonimbus at mid-day; mostly clouded over by 14h00; drizzles & drizzle bouts starting at 15h15; off & on light rain late afternoon, partial clearing dusk -> twilight.

**Habitat:** Dense, humid, mostly evergreen subtropical forest, not very mossy, but many tangles, lianas & dense ground cover (tall & impenetrable) where forest canopy opened; some small clearings along the trail, and a few plantings of banana; 5-10m swath along trail to create herbaceous vegetation for grazing, collection of fodder; ferns prominent in understorey as wi hingalo (thin) & malingo (thinner) forest negligibly disturbed except on evening ghost CP.

**Route:** Followed trail entire day, discernable but tricky in places; overall level until a bit of climb at end of day/approaching ghost CP; frequent ups & downs, quite tiring to walk, but only short distance covered.

**Effort:**

- **05h40 - 09h50** c AMCP, AM excursion, AMCP + AM excursion
- **10h20 - 13h20** AM march → lunchstop
- **13h25 - 15h45** afternoon march
- **16h00 - 16h30** c evening CP
- **17h10 - 17h35** c evening CP
- **18h25 - 18h45** c evening CP

\[ t = 10h35 \min \]
2 June 2009

ghot CP in Forest, N face of Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1713m)

ghot CP w/platform, forest edge, N slope Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola
(1865m)

1. Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo - 2 birds (1) calling before 1st light (c. 04.15 - 05.00) in vicinity of ghot CP, 1 bird either side of ghot 100-200m apart, 1720m + 1750m; G et al. 00: "vagrant."

2. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. ghot CP, c. 1740-1750m

3. Asian Barred Owlet - 1 (H) " 1st light, c. 1740-1750m

4. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 1 seen c. ghot CP, early AM c. 1715m

5. White-crested Laughingthrush - flock (H) below 1111 c. 1600m

6. Rufous Sibia - 2 seen 1-2(H) c. ghot CP, early AM, c. 1730m

7. Maroon Oriole - 1 (H) later seen flying II c. 1740m

8. Golden-throated Barbet - 1 seen H in tree c. ghot CP, c. 1725m

9. Streit Pulsatilla - pr/duo in same tree top " " as prev., c. 1720m

10. White-browed Shrike Flycatcher - seen, calling at c. 1725m, also calling c. 1730m

11. Ashy Drongo - 3 in trees above ghot CP, early AM, c. 1730m (down too)

12. Rusty-fronted Barwing - duo/pra moving silently and stealthily through bushes c. ghot CP, c. 1725m; G et al. 00: "rare & local resident, W-Carissa Edwards."

13. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo - 1 ad + 1 juv. above ghot CP, c. 1735-1740m

14. Greater Yellow-nape - 1 (Sex?) back of Kharka ghot CP, c. 1725. (seen well, too)

15. Streit Laughingthrush - duo/pr c. AM ghot CP, c. 1740m - later seen well moving up 130m; picker quickly bested

16. Slaty-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) in ravine full underneath ghot CP, c. 1720m

G et al. 00: "rare & very local, Apr/May. 1-200m Aug/Sept. Mai 2200m in April"

17. Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike - 1 H then seen c. AM CP in Altizzes, c. 1765m

18. Mystery Warbler - 1 H seen from distance II c. 1760m

19. White-tailed Nutthroat - 1 seen H above AM ghot CP, c. 1730m

20. Long-tailed Minivet - 1 seen from distance; double note (H); c. 1735m

21. Rufous-bellied Niltava - 1 pair calling near CP site, c. 1735m; c. 1735m (Haralson)

22. Grey-throated Babblers - 2 w/4s 4, 23, 24, 26 25(2)

23. Nepal Fulvetta - 1 w/4s 4, 22, 24, 26 25(2)

24. Grey-hooded Warbler - 1 w/4s 4, 22, 23, 26, 25(2)

25. White-naped Yuhina - 3, possibly not w/4s 4, 22-24; in middle story of ghot CP site, c. 1735m. Appeared to be w/4s 26, although often at slightly higher level; (this sp. often descends); slow moving, thorough glean

G et al. 00: "very rare & local in the far east; 1515m, 2230m."
2 June '09

Additional records:

- Possibly from group of 3 seen earlier in vicinity.
- Family group: 4 or 5 c. Pt 700 outcrop, seen well (sexes?) c. 1.750 m.
- 24 c. outcrop E of ghost CP, c. 1740 m.; further on, 21, c. 1.780 m.
- 1 (different to earlier) in ravine N, c. 1.730 m.
- 2 ad + 1 juv A " " juv being fed, see below.
- 1 seen c. forested ghost CP, c. 1.740 m. (1st post-lunch stop).
- 1 seen E of ghost CP, c. 1.740 m.; 1 seen further on, c. 1.780 m.; ravine, c. 1.820 m.
- 1 (H), c. 1.600-1.650 m. dense forest, early afternoon.
- 1 in tall trees, tangled ravine W of tall thuminium, Chitre Danda N slope, c. 1.770 m.
- 1 (cont) 1 (H) in next ravine to E (lunch stop) c. 1.770 m., nearly seen byinform.
- 1 (cont) 1 (H) " " overlapping! c. 1.785 m., just above #16.
- 1 past lunch stop ravine c. 1.800 m., Chitre Danda N slope.
- 4 c. evening ghost, CP 24, late afternoon, c. 1.865 m.
- 1 (H) above " " " c. 1.875 m.
- 1 c. 1.880 m.
- 1 seen c. evening CP " " c. 1.875 m.

Breeding records:

50. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 2 adults. + 1 apparent juvenile (paler, a bit more sedentary); ad. fed juv. perching on branch, which soon thereafter flew off with strong flight; dense humid mostly evergreen forest, N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1.745 m.

51. Pygmy Blue Flycatcher - agitated 0's & displaying; 0 carrying food; probable family group; see pg. 124 for details.

52. Large Niltava - & alarming at trail side, close range in dense mixed humid broadleaf forest, N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1.810 m.; then seen at same site as & carrying insect (larvae) which it either dropped or ate after 10 min of observation.
2 June 2009

ghost CP in forest, N slope of Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1713 m)
— ghost CP/4 platform, forest edge, N slope Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1860 m)

26. Whiskered Yuhina – 2, apparently M#2S, E of ghost CP, c. 1735 m.

27. Little Pied Flycatcher – 0 seen, H c. 1740 m.

28. Black-throated Sunbird – pair, duo, lured out of dense foliage of hunting party, also H before that, c. 1730 m, good views afforded.

29. Mystery Fork-tail – 1 (H) c. densely forested ravine stream, c. 1735 m.

30. Chestnut-crowned Warbler – 1 in dense forest, near 4, c. 1740 m.

31. Broad-tailed Warbler – 1 in bushes, dense "E/post ghost CP, head pattern discerned: no black band on side of neck; bad eyeliner; underparts grey; yellow belly & abdomen; very active; difficult to follow (as chestnut-crowned), could not discern wingband or tail pattern; quite low for Nepal in summer?"

32. Collared Owlet – 1 (H) Chitre Danda, N slope, 1600-1700 m, late AM call.

33. Black Eagle – 1 seen clearly, c. 1780-1800, over forest canopy.

34. Black-throated Sunbird – 1 (H) in tall tree top, c. 1725 m.

35. Great Barbet – 1 (H) in distance further E of Atighat CP, c. 1650-1750 m.

36. Kalij Pheasant – 1 (H) E of ghost CP, approaching CP 24, c. 1700 m.

37. Black-throated Sunbird – 2, alarm in ravine of dense foliage, c. 1770 m.

38. Pygmy Blue Flycatcher – 2/4, alarming, agitated, trailside edge of ravine, dense foliage, c. 1775 m, carring round object (berry? spider?); couldn’t locate nest; no fledglings seen; fledged it aside, decay behavior? cocked tail high straight up, drooped wings & squawked at same time; followed suit, behaving even more aggressively; Bidreja saw carrying small insect, tried to find nest or young in vicinity but could not locate.

G, et al.’00: “Scarce; local resident, 2100-3500 m in breeding season.” Possible new minimum altitude in summer; G, et al.’98: “Uncommon, above 2135 m in breeding season” (in India); G, et al.’98: “only 1 nest known, taken in July site searched early next morning by Bidreja Rai, who said family group present, alarming, moving uphill with several young in bill-like plumage.

G, et al.’98: “juvenile is undescribed”; observations made at mid-day
Additional records:

- (Contd) a 2nd (H) bird c. evening Chsite N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1855m
  nearly lured out for a view; other bird nearby/kept a bit.
- (2) 1 (H) calling at dusk c. evening Chsite, N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1880m.

* Splendid day of birding—one of the most rewarding and enjoyable ever in Nepal. Almost ideal weather much of the day; very good diversity of birds with a high incidence of uncommon species, reflective of both diversity and unusual intact character of the dense humid sub-tropical mostly evergreen forest.

Mammal records 2 June 2009:

Barking Deer (Indian Muntjac) — 2 (H) at end of AM birdwalk, backtracking to waterfall passed previous day: 1 on either side of ravine.

* Mystery Squirrel: small ears striking: black with whitish tuft, dull grey-brown above (upp), fulvous-brown below (und), whitish upper lining to flanks: tail?: most unusual; not in Boka Indian Animals (Pratej).

Mammal records from 1 June 2009:

Barking Deer (Indian Muntjac): 1 calling from forest across ravine just E of cardamom bhatti/Chsite, c. 1725-1735m.

Common Langur—fairly large troop of adults, juveniles (including infants) in dense forest in afternoon, N slope, Chitre Danda, c. 1750m.

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel—1 in dense forest edge, trailside in afternoon, N slope, Chitre Danda, c. 1720m.
ghot CP in forest, N slope of Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1713 m).
- ghot CP w/platform, forest edge, N slope, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1865 m).

Western Crowned Warkur - 1 bird in tree-tops, dense forest edge, N slope Chitre Danda past lunch stop ravine; uniform pale greyish-white below, \\
inconspicuous wingbars, bill hard to see; giving diagnostic wing-flapping behavior (G et al. '98), c. 1800 m; "chit-wee" song clearly heard; G et al. '00. Uncommon spring passage migrant & rare winter visitor; possibly breeds, 75-2900 m. G et al. '98; "breeds in coniferous & mixed coniferous-deciduous forest; distributed in Pakistan & India (1800-3200 m in summer.

Grey-chinned Minivet - large flock, c. 18-20, so so mix of adult & young; many birds w/orangey band across breast (juv. 037?); in dense forest/Thicket past lunch stop ravine; G et al. '00. "scarce resident." W-C areas

 Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (f) upslope 1800-1850 m, N slope Chitre Danda; G et al. '00. "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830 m (250-2050 m)."

Somitted Long-billed/Dark-sided Thrush - 1 flushed from damp ravine on Att (birdwalk); probably? Former sp, large size, dark back, silent; c. 1745 m.

Large Niltava - alarmed, then viewed with insect (larvae) in beak for 10 min, which it either dropped or ate; dense forest near still wooded ravine, N slope Chitre Danda, near ragged main trail, c. 1810 m; G et al. '00. "local & uncommon resident 1525-2850 m." gave lifting 2-3 note call repeatedly.

Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 seen away from water, c. 1800 m, dense forest - N slope Chitre Danda.

Golden-spectacled Warbler - pair/duo seen & heard, c. 1840 m edge of dense forest, N slope Chitre Danda approaching CP 24.

Bay Woodpecker - 1 (f) including locomotive refrain to laughing-like call back of evening CP; ghot & small Khoka, c. 1875 m, N slope Chitre Danda; G et al. '00. "local & uncommon resident, mainly 1525-2500 m."

Hill Partridge - 1 (f) above/in back of evening CP, site, c. 1880-1920 m.

Greater Yellow-nape - good views of f., c. 1820 m; flying a 200 m.

\[ \sum = \]
GPS Coordinates: 3 June '09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Coordinate</th>
<th>Alt (m)</th>
<th>Site Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CP24</td>
<td>27°31.817'N 87°03.329'E</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>NSlope, Chithar Danda platform, hot, frostedge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT72</td>
<td>27°31.930'N 87°03.577'E</td>
<td>1902</td>
<td>High pt W of Betini</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT73</td>
<td>27°31.934'N 87°03.608'E</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Danda trail junction</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT74</td>
<td>27°31.971'N 87°03.824'E</td>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Wedgehouse, Betini</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT75</td>
<td>27°31.928'N 87°04.071'E</td>
<td>1753</td>
<td>Betini school, Sankhuwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT76</td>
<td>27°31.827'N 87°04.175'E</td>
<td>1715</td>
<td>Chaupare, main trail junction, Betini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP25</td>
<td>27°31.773'N 87°04.495'E</td>
<td>1609</td>
<td>Empty house, E of Betini</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weather: Bouts of heavy rain during the night (at times) with lightning and thunder. Cool & mostly clear at dawn, sky washed clean. Clouding over late. Alt with mostly overcast & rain threatening to move in from nearby dandas to N by early afternoon. Clouds surprisingly receding. 13h30 & light overcast, remainder of afternoon with some drips & drizzle approaching dusk.

Habitat: see page 121 for description of dense humid subtropical evergreen forest at edge of Alt CP & to W. Towards Betini forest increasingly chopped over with tall dense shrubs, alders a prominent tree species but open & mostly younger than in dense forest to W. Cultivation (corn, potatoes) C Betini & beyond to house CP E of Betini. Ravine vegetation with fairly tall alders & thickets. Some recent fire damage to scrub C Betini.

Effort: 06h30 - 11h45 Alt excursion W of CP.
12h30 - 15h00 afternoon walk to Betini
17h00 - 18h50 Betini to & c eve. CP house

δ = 9h 35 min.
3 June 2009

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo- 1 (H) briefly at 03h45 after being
startled, c. ghat CP edge, c. 1880m, Chitre Danda N slope.
G. et al '00: "vagrant"; numerous records this trek. Check
to see if new max. alt. for Nepal, India - 1800m; Bhutan 1400-1520m

Indian Cuckoo- 1 (H) c/above AM CP, c. 1880m, Chitre Danda N slope

Rufous-throated Partridge- 1 (H)
Grey-bellied Tesia- 1 (H)
Golden-spectacled Warbler- 1 (H)
Oriental Cuckoo- I seem well pressing then Hc. AM CP, c. 1860m
Rufous Sibia- 1 (H) cравне c AM CP, c. 1850m
Blue-winged Laughingthrush - H/ cp/due c. 1820m
Large Niltava- c. pair in dense forest, c prev. day's site, c 1820m
Ashy Drongo- 1 in moist ravine W of CP, c. 1870m, Chitre Danda N slope
Whiskered Yuhina- 1 W/#12, c 1810m
White-naped Yuhina- 1 W/#11, c 1810m
Large Niltava- c. pair in same area as previous day, c 1800m, W of AM CP,
Chitre Danda N slope; G. et al '00: "local & uncommon resident. see pg 129"
Slaty-bellied Tesia- 1 (H) W of AM CP, early AM, c 1795m, N. slope, Chitre
Danda; G. et al '00: "rare & very local; Arun Valley 1000-1700m in Aug & Sept;
upper Mai Valley 2200m in April"
Mystery Minivet- several high up in trees, possibly with #13-15
mixed hunting party, call as in Grey-chinned, but unsure. Seen
very poorly in dense forest, c. 1820m W of AM CP, a N slope, Chitre Danda.
3 June '09

Additional records:

129

3. 1 (f) c. 1900-1950m W of AM CP, early AM excursion.
4. 3 or 4 (w/ #221123), N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1775m.
5. 1 (f) across ravine W of AM CP, late AM, c. 1920-1850m.
6. 2 adults +2 juv's, feeding, flying, c. 1820m, N slope Chitre Danda.
7. 1 (f) seen, later on AM excursion 1H, c. 1825m, " " "; " " ".
8. 1 (f) seen, E of AM CP, c. 1885m, " " "; " " "; " " ".
9. 1 (f) seen, then overhead, forest, E of AM CP, c. 1885m.
10. 1 (f) scrub & elders, W of Betini, c. 1850m.
11. 1 (f) another 1st bird, c. 1850m, this one, c. 1875m, ravine W of Betini.
12. 1 (f) pr/duo in forest patch, W of Betini, c. 1800m, pr/duo c. ever CP house.
13. 1 seen, clump at Betini, c. 1755m.
14. 1 (f) approaching ever CP house E of Betini, c. 1655m.
15. 1 (f) pr/duo approach.
16. 1 (f) pr/duo at ever CP house.
17. 1 seen, " " "; " " "; " " ".
18. 1 (f) seen, c. 1630m.
19. 1 (f) "; " "; " "; " "; " "; " "; " "; " ".

Breeding record:

53. Large Niltava—c. seen carrying food, initially a leech or leech-like morsel, later a larva; same area as previous day's record, dense subtropical humid evergreen forest; N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1800m.
54. Also noted in same area; c. seen holding food on its way from AM walk.

55. Black-throated Tit—A family group(?), with 3-4 birds in adult plumage + 2-3 with head pattern duller & more lobangic (less active) than other birds.
56. One bird seen pounding a larva onto branch with its beak, then feeding 1 of it to duller plumaged bird: feeding, flying young, c. 1775m, N slope Chitre Danda, same area as #51: Long-billed Wren Babble.
A single bird was observed 3 June 2009 08h32-08h42 at ca. 1770m along a disused trail on the north slope of Chitre Danda, ca. 1 km SW of Sikidim village, Bala Village Development Committee, Sankhuwasabha District, Nepal. Weather was clear and calm. Temperature in the shade about 23-25°C.

Habitat at the site is a relatively open ravine of dense tangled thickets (shrubs with cascading lianas and dead branches), ningalo, scattered malingo, and tall herbaceous ground cover of nettles, fern and a bit of Eupatorium, set in dense subtropical mixed broadleaf forest. Tree component not very tall, fairly mossy on trunks and limbs, but few epiphytes. Hibiscus sp. prevalent nearby. Steep slopes with dense middle and lower storey vegetation. The shrubs and thickets are a result either of tree cutting years ago (>5?) or colonizing vegetation on an old landslip.

A round brown bird resembling a Pnoepyga wren-babbler appeared suddenly in a small dark gap in the center of a thicket, ca. 0.5m from the periphery, where it was observed unobstructed through binoculars from a distance of ca. 2.5 m, for ca. 1 min before flushing to a hidden perch 4-5 m away. Bird initially curious about my presence but after a few seconds gave a rattling, churry alarm call several times. 1-2 min later a whistled, rather loud 'peeuh' call was heard 4 times at intervals of a few seconds. The trailing 'ulf is much softer, shorter and lower (heard only at close range?). A second call per Grimmett et al. (1998) was not heard. About 3 min later the bird returned silently and unobtrusively to the same perch.

When observed in dim light, the dorsal plumage characters were clearly evident. The most immediate and striking feature was a long dark grey, slightly decurved bill (approximately the length of the head), giving a top-heavy appearance to the bird. Brown upperparts were finely streaked with pale brown from the top of the head into the mantle. Upper tail, rump and wings were uniform brown, with no sign of spotting, streaking or barring. When the bird turned further to the side a short stubby (under?) tail was seen to be rufescent brown, the brightest brown on the bird. A dark moustachial stripe (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett et al., 1998) was unrecorded; this part of the plumage was unnoticed before the bird flew off.

When viewed for a second time through binoculars (and by field assistant Birendra Rai), the bird included a more dorsal aspect clearly showing most of its underparts. The throat appeared whitish; the center of the belly very pale (tinged yellowish?) and streaked heavily with wide long shafts of medium brown (or appearing as thin pale yellowish streaks against a brown background). Within 1 min the bird puffed out its belly feathers, then preened itself for 2-3 min. The pale streaking on the belly appeared distinctly broader when the bird was preening. The vent was not seen well, owing mostly to the dim light, but appeared to be darkish. Legs were not seen. Dorsal plumage was the same as when initially noted. The bird did not respond to my imitations of its 'peeuh' call, and after ca. 4 min of close-range observations disappeared through thickets away from us along the trail.

only the 2nd record for Nepal! (See Cox & Sherpa, 1997).
Species list (cont.)  3 June '09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>Red-vented Bulbul - pr/duo approaching Betini, c. 1755m</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike - 1 (H) Ec Betini, c. 1700m</td>
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<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>Black Bulbul - 2 1 c. 1735m Betini to Cl house, NE Chitre Danda</td>
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<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>Verditer Flycatcher - in tree ravine</td>
<td></td>
<td>c. 1720m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush - 9 in retore  (in PT 76) c. 1725m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon - 9 Betini to Cl house, NE Chitre Danda, c. 1620m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>Crested Bunting - 1 (H) calling from bush tops c. 15 &quot; &quot;           c. 1615m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>Himalayan Swiftlet - 2 (bat?) - 2 1 over eve of house   &quot; &quot; c. 1605m</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>Drongo Cuckoo - 1 (H) at dusk above    &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; c. 1620m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.</td>
<td>Asian Barred Owlet - (14)                &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; c. 1630m</td>
<td>&quot; wowowowi...call heard briefly; probably not jungle at this alt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.</td>
<td>Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler - 1 (H) c. dusk c. 1620m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NB: *4 Bay Woodpecker later seen in same tree as 3/4/juv Greater Yellow-nape
*5/6) Near tree base where 4 Bay seen; habitat partitioning ??!

Breeding records (cont.):

55. Greater Yellow-nape - a family group of 2-3 birds, adult (♂) seen at dusk. Juvenile seen well in vicinity seen well; leathery but flying-OK juvenile.

56. Grey-hooded Warbler - family group of 2-3 ad. + 2 juv; adult seen feeding an insect to a juv; c. 1620m; N slope Chitre Danda, dense forest.

57. Short-billed Minivet - 2 seen with annoyingly flying juvenile mostly from fringes (and fresh dulle); c. 1665; N slope Chitre Danda.

58. Chest-bellied Rock Thrush - carrying a dark larva (or 2nd?); in tree 
patch Betini -> Cl house, NE Chitre Danda; c. 1725m late afternoon.

a Juvenile (♂) possibly seen further on a bit.
3 June 2009

---

ghot CP w/platform; forest edge N slope Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola — empty house E of Betini, NE Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1609m),

---

feeding flying young; see pg. 129

22. Black-throated Tit - 6 w/ #1s (?) 1775m, N slope Chitre Danda

23. Chestnut-crowned Warbler - 1/4/5 23/71 11 c 1770m

24. White-browed Shrike Babblers - 1 (4), nearly seen, c 1820m

25. Grey-sided Laughingthrush - 24 flushed in dense forest, in tight flock on ground, pecking or scratching in leaf litter; gave a very excited aerial or partridge-like call on flushing lay in understorey; c 1800m, N slope of Chitre Danda; G et al. 00 "local, uncommon in the center & east"

26. Greater Yellow-nape - 1c ground seen (sew) 44 c 1810m, N slope Chitre Danda & seen with other adults (6); 4 then fed juveniles which arrived wings outstretched

27. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo - 2-1 in dense forest c 1820m, N slope Chitre Danda

28. Brown-throated Treecreeper - 1 in... A

29. Blue-winged Minla - 1t (pr?) w/ other birds, c 1820m, N slope Chitre Danda

30. Grey-chinned Minivet - 4 by 29, 4, 13 (?) c 1850m

31. Short-billed Minivet - 2 seen well, same vicinity as #30; up high in dense forest tree; G et al. 00 "scarce resident, W-C areas F-woods, w/ sexual dimorphism"

32. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1t (pr/dau) in dense forest c 1855m, N slope Chitre Danda; Ibird "large larvae in beak, carrying it" - or scared away by preene?

33. Pygmy Wren Babbler - (4t) c/above AAM CP c 1800m, N slope Chitre Danda

34. FROM THE STRIATED LAUGHINGTHrush - I seen on NW hilltop, c 1850m

35. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1t then seen, just FoFAN CP, early afternoon 1000m

36. Rufous-bellied Niltava - 2 in tree FoFAN CP c 1880m

37. Golden-speckled Warbler - 1H barely seen

38. Grey Bushchat - 2 in alder scrub W of Betini, c 1825m, Chitre Danda NSlope

39. SPLIT Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - 1 (4t) over AAM CP c 1875m

40. White-tailed Robin - 4t ravine W of Betini, c 1850m, G et al. 00 "generally uncommon"

41. Grey Treecreeper - 1 (4t) 1825m in dense scrub

42. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (4t) opp. bank scrub forest, c Betini, 1800-1700m

43. Striated Prinia - I seen H, scrub & grass W of Betini, c 1800m

44. Himalayan Bulbul - I seen approaching Betini, c 1765m

(see pg. 131)
Weather: Overcast with mist in the early AM, with some filtered sun; light showers developing in middle & upper Kohwa. 08h00: blue over Anna; overcast into afternoon, but high & bright; shower with heat lightning & evening CP starting @ 18h30, ending @ 21h00. 58°F at 06h00

Habitat: Fragmented mixed broadleaf forest, Hibiscus & alder dominant in ravines, wetter aspects, some sal/mixed sal on S & drier slopes; patches cleared for swidden, mostly old, some maintained by grazing; widespread burning SE of Dankila scrub forest understorey burned in places; some saplings killed along ground cover, but not shrubs or trees. Opposite bank of Sankhwa with severely scoured ravines, said by local informant to be caused by extreme monsoon event. Forest patch NW edge of Dankila appears same as 7 yrs ago. Not protected; said to be too steep to cultivate (although some trees seem suitable for timber, and no coppicing or cutting for fuelwood (C)).

Effort: 05h30 - 07h10
07h20 - 10h40
11h00 - 13h30
14h00 - 16h00
ζ = 11h 30 min.
empty house E of Betini, NE Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1609m) —
old terraces spur CP N of Chithkhuwa Khola, Sankhuwa Khola (954m).

1. Rufous-throated Partridge — 1 (4) early AM above house CP, c. 1700m.
2. Oriental Dove — 1c house CP early AM, c. 1610m, E of Betini, NE Chitre Danda.
5. Indian Cuckoo — 1 (4) c. 1700m behind AM house/CP.
6. Striated Prinia — I seen calling below.
7. Black Bulbul — 1 in trees, c. AM house/CP, c. 1620m.
8. Asian Barred Owlet — 1 (4) below.
9. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike — 1 (4) above AM, c. 1620m.
10. Drongo Cuckoo — 1 (4) above AM house CP, c. 1625m.
11. Large Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (4).

G. et al. '00: "1830-3000m": possible new minimum alt for sp. in Nepal. *

12. Bay Woodpecker — 1 (4) on Chitre Danda side at c. 1700m, another calling.
14. Himalayan Bulbul — I seen past AM/CP/house, c. 1650m, E Chitre Danda.
17. Blue-capped Rock Thrush — c 2 in coppiced alder, c. 1490m, E Chitre Danda.
18. Black-lored Tit — 1 in hibiscus tops, in ravine, c. 1520m.
19. Grey-hooded Warbler — 1 in same tree (4)?
20. Scarlet Minivet — not seen well, c. redd-edged tail, c. 1460m.
21. White-crested laughing thrush — flack approaching Danka, c. 1510m.
22. Somitted Rusty-cheeked一圈bird — 1 (4) c. Aquu/CP, c. 1535m.
23. Ashy Bulbul — 2 in well-wooded ravine, approaching Danka, c. 1440m.
27. Great Barbet — 1 (4) below washed ravine.
28. Small Niltava — 4 on trail, carrying food, past AM.
29. Hodgson’s Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (4) close to trail.

G. et al. '00: "Vagrant", refer to numerous other records this trek.
Additional records:

#6) 1 seen H in alders/grass, E of Att CP, c. 1490m, E Chitre Danda.

#15) 1 seen in scrub (aloe, hibiscus, clathara) approaching Dankila, c. 1580m.

#14) pr/duo at c. 1480m in scrub.

#7) ≥ in scrub approaching Dankila, c. 1475m; 2 more towards c. 1450m.

#13 cont) 1 (h) approaching Dankila, c. 1580m; 1 in ravine N of Dankila, 1490m.

#10) ≥1 approaching ... A ... c. 1460m; 2 juveniles.

#3) ≥7 seen singing in tree G ... c. 1440m; 1 seen f. N of c. 1480m.

#14 cont) 3 approaching Dankila, c. 1475m; 1 further on towards Dankila.

#11) 02 singing in tree top ... c. 1480m.

#18) ≥1 in well-wooded ravine N approaching Dankila, c. 1440m, E Chitre Danda.

#16) pr/duo ... c. 1470m.

#17) ≥1 ... A ... c. 1450m.

#19 cont) ≥1 past ravine, approaching/Not Dankila, c. 1420m.

#7 cont) pr/duo ... c. 1420m.

#20 cont) ≥1 seen in bog ... C. 1160m.

#23) pr/duo ... c. 1450m.

#3) 1(h) past Dankila, c. 1320m.

###2) 1(h) ... c. 1200-1250m.

Breeding records:

- Young mostly sedentary (6). 2 more birds in bush.
- 1 seen ±1340m.
- 1 seen ±1390m.
- 1 seen ±1340m.
- Young fledged at ±1340m.
- Young fledged at ±1390m.
- Young fledged at ±1340m.
- Young fledged at ±1390m.
- Young fledged at ±1340m.

59. Ashy Bulbul - family group of ≥3 birds; all appeared fully fledged adults, but 1 slower & seen being fed by another bird (alarming); in well-wooded ravine approaching Dankila, c. 1440m, E Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola.

60. Small N. Hwaw - curious, somewhat agitated & at 1460m along trail N of Dankila village, E Chitre Danda; or with insect in its beak, c. 30m further on, scolding, then disappeared into bushes, quiet.

61. Himalayan Bulbul - Adult & newly fledged young (shy) at edge of old cultivation & forest patch, SE of Dankila, c. 1310m.
4 June 2009

empty house E of Betini, NE Chitare Danda, Sanghuma Khola (1600m)

old terraces spur CP N of Chirkuwa Khola, Sanghuma Khola (954m).


31. Common Tailorbird - 9 (H) outskirts Dankila, c. 1350m.

32. Golden-fronted/orange-bellied leafbird - 1 glimpsed, past SE of Dankila, c. 1350m.

33. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) SE of Dankila, c. 1400-1450m in forest patch.

34. Scarlet Minivet – (see #20) pro. seen 5 c. 1310m ..., 5 red coppers.

35. Spiny Babbler - 2 (1 seen well), edge old cutters, old cult. K c. 1325m.

36. Speckled Piculet - breeding, family SE of Dankila, c. 1310m; see pg. 135.

37. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 further on ..., c. 1290m.

38. Nepal House Martin - 10-12 over Sanghuma gorge, c. 1280-1320m.

39. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) SE of Dankila, c. 1200-1250m (see pg. below).

40. White-bellied Yuhina - 1 wks 18.19.26, c. 1310m.

41. Himalayan Swiftlet - 1 c. lunchstop SE of Dankila, c. 1275m.

42. Blue-throated Flycatcher - 1 (H) past A/PB2 c. Khets, c. 1170m. (#62?)

43. Common Myna - 1 c. main trail, jet towards eve CP, c. 1140m.

44. Alpine Swift - 23 over Sanghuma & big ravine S of Pt. 84, c. 1080-1100m. autumn

45. Orange-bellied leafbird - 2 c. eve CP in old terraces & scrub forest, c. 960m.

Route: over main trail to Dankila, but misinformation from local people & Rajan's incorrect memory of 2002 route led us up & down several times (see pg. 81-82) of spur grooves, not finding a lower level trail followed in 2002. Camped at end of walkable spur (CP26).

Additional records:

157. cont) 1 SE of Dankila, c. 1250m; 1 further on at 1270m.

12. 1 SE of Dankila, c. 1430m.

13. 3 c. chaotara/APB2 c. 1180m.

14. Stinging N., c. 1320m; 6 (young) c. PB3, c. 1150m. c. 1170m.

15. 2 or 3 Y, 19.40 c. 1300m.

16. 12. 1 (H) across Sanghuma c. 1150m.

17. 1 (H) across Sanghuma c. 1150m.

18. 2 or 3 Y, 19.40 c. 1300m.

19. 2 or 3 towards eve CP.

20. past PB 3c.

21. 1 (H) across Sanghuma c. 1150m.

22. 2 or 3. (H) SE of Dankila c. 1000-1100m; LPB3, c. 1150m.

23. F, red on stump, c. 115, c. 1280m.

24. 1 (H) above L.15 lunchstop, c. 1340m.

25. 1 (H) across valley from Pt. 82 c. 1150m; 1 seen clearly c. eve CP3, c. 965m.

26. 1 c. old Khets past APB2 c. 1100m; pr./duo post APB3, c. 1150m.
Weather: Rain off & on during the night. Very humid & overcast at 1st light/dawn; improving at 07h40 & clearing at 08h00; clouding back over lake at 41, but clearing again at 10h20; partly cloudy at mid-day & mostly sunny into afternoon; a long shower & euc CP at 16h00; drizzling & clearing at dusk/ twilight. 65°F at 05h30.

Habitat: Mixed broadleaf forest & scrub forest in Chirkuwa Khola vicinity; steep slopes with grass colonizing old & recent burns; dense & more varied mix of broadleaf spp in ravine.

Denerv aspects with lianas common (white-flowering one fairly common & photographed). On slopes, clande's & E-facing forested slopesosal a common sp & pine in some places; recent cutting of tall sal patch along trail, said to be for aid post construction in Baha trees tallest/densest in area & growing in small flat; alluvial flat at Besku-Sankhuwa confluence extensively cultivated.

Effort: 05h15 - 05h40
06h00 - 18h50

∑ = 13h15 (including observations during shower at Besku Khola in late afternoon).
5 June 2009

old terraces spur CP N of Chirkuwa Khola, Sankhuwa Khola (954m)—Besku Khola but CP, up from Sankhuwa Kh. confluence (808m).

1. Orange-bellied Leafbird—2 seen in AM CP, calling c. 950m AM.
2. Bronzed Drongo—5 in leafless treetop (w/#3) u u.
3. Ashy Drongo—Males joining #7s (w/#3) u u.
4. Maroon Oriole—9 seen calling + 2(t) same vicinity u.
5. White-crested Laughingthrush—flock (4) c. AM CP, c. 900-950m.
6. Common Hawk Cuckoo—2 (4) c. AM CP, c. 900-1,000m.
7. Bay Woodpecker—1 (4) calling across Sankhuwa from AM CP, c. 950m.
8. Eurasian Crag Martin—several w/#9s over AM CP, c. 970-1,000m.
9. Himalayan Swiftlet—u u u.
10. Great Barbet—1 (4) c. AM CP, c. 975m.
11. Kalij Pheasant—1 (4) below AM CP, early AM, c. 920-950m.

13. Grey Treepie—1 seen past/S of AM CP, c. 925m.
14. Ashy Bulbul—1 u u c. 950m.
15. Blue Whistling Thrush—1 seen 0 c. 945m.
16. Newtiter Flycatcher—1 (6?) seen in flight, c. 880-900m past/S of AM.
17. Black Bulbul—1 in Chirkuwa Kh. ravine forest, c. 910m.
18. Lesser Yellownape—2 pair picking up/down limbs & eating Hibiscus berries, same tree as #13,10 S; Chirkuwa Kh. ravine, c. 900-910m.
19. Rufous-throated Partridge—1 (4) Chirkuwa Kh. ravine, c. 890m; G. et al.100: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)."

20. Plume-bus Water Redstart—1 at falls crossing Chirkuwa Kh., c. 990m.
21. Scarlet Minivet—2 pair just S of Chirkuwa Kh. crossing, c. 1015m.
22. Black-chinned Yuhina—pair/duo at 1000m + another pr/duo 100m away at 1010m (same flock), S of Chirkuwa Kh.; G. et al 00: "rare resident 800-1500m.
23. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher—1 w/2nd pr. of #22s, c. 1010m S of Khola.
25. Black-billed Thrush—3 with #23,2b,27 approach Besku Kh., c. 960m.
Additional records:

#13) 4 or 5 in fruiting Hibiscus tree, past S of Am. 08, c. 960m.
#10) I saw a, u u u u u u u u u u u.
#5) pr/duo u u u u u u u u u u.
#15) upstream from Fells crossing, Chirikhuwa Kh. c. 1005m.
#22) another flock (3) 4 birds further on past 4 u c. 1060m.
#23) 1 or 2 approaching Besku Khola, c. 960m.
#21) pair... u u u u u u.
#15 cont) 3 or 4, 1 of which carrying food, c. Besku Kh. hut CP, c. 810m.
#29) juv in stream c. Besku Kh. hut CP c. 800m.
#2) 4 in family group in trees. u u c. 820m at dusk.
#10 cont) I saw a, u u u u u u. u u u u u u u u u u.
#17) 1 c. Sankhuwa/Besku confluence at dusk c. 800m.
#5 cont) 4 or 5 in dense forest, dusk-twilight, c. Besku Kh. hut CP c. 815m.

Route: From seldom visited CP at old terraces, fairly straight line across ravine to steep khets of small Khanka with storage hut (phot’d) where visited (stayed?) in 2002. Tried to keep fairly level from there to S, but soon lost amongst newly planted rice khets; misdirected by locals could not find lower-level trail of 2002, after steep ascent to 1055m (PT 67), descended to small (see pg. 140)

Breeding records:

63. Black-crested Tit- family group approaching Besku Khola, c.960m. An adult seen feeding a recently fledged (not quite as brightly plumaged) juvenile; >3 birds; apparently foraging w/ #23, 26, 27.

64. Blue Whistling Thrush - 3 or 4 c. Besku Khola hut CP c. 825m, 1 of which carrying a bundle of insects (all winged?) in its beak & in chase w/ 21 of the other birds.

Mammals: Indian Muntjac (Barking deer) - 1 in ravine calling... at closerange in early AM, c. 950m, c. AM CP...
5 June 2009

old terraces spur CP. N of Chirikhua Khola, Sankhuwa Khola (954m) Besku Khola hut CP, up from Sankhuwa Kh confluence (808m).

27. Grey-hooded Warbler - 2 flew 23, 25, 26 approach Besku Khola c. 960m.
28. Black-backed Forktail - ?? glimpsed on descent to Besuku; later seen briefly with binocs in bushes after flushed again; in dim light possible that look grey as in Slate-backed; if Black-backed possibly new record for Nepal & 1st for MB82. Gave single note on flushing; c. 805m; call more suggestive of Slate-backed; not sure.

29. Himalayan Flameback - (family) group in tall sal & other tall trees c. Besku Kh CP area then across Sankhuwa in tall trees, Nape dark out spotting; red suffusion on mantle noted on 1 bird; at least 3 probably 4 birds (≥ 4+≥ 40) also heard calling, more like Himalayan than Greater.

* New minimum alt. for Indian Subcontinent! Previously “to 700m,” G. et al. ’98, in India, ≥ well above the 275m may for Nepal (G. et al. ’00). Observed at 790-810m in Besku Kh & opp. bank of Sankhuwa.

31. Long-tailed Broadbill - pair/duo up past 750m c. 815-820m.

G. et al. ’00: “scarce & local resident”

32. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - 10 pairs in standing deadwood, c. 815m.

* went into old node hole high up tree, stayed there for c. 5 min; possibly nesting, although then moving on ≥ 0; not returning.

33. Jungle Owlet - pair/duo (4) up in forest above Besku Kh. hut CP, c. 850m; both type calls (wooi... & kek-kek...) heard.
34. Golden-throated Barbet - 1 (4) c. Besku hut CP, c dusk-till-light 815m

* New minimum elevation for Nepal? G. et al. ’00: “1500-2400” seen below that early in trek, as low as 980m on 6 May ’09 (pg. 24); G. et al. ’98: down to 400m E of Nepal in Indian Himalayas ≤ 70m in Bhutan.

Route (Cont): Kharka with guide (Prem Kumar Ray, Kenduwa, who we met in Khets in 2000 & 2002!) showed us disused, largely overgrown trail across ‘danda’s top where we ourselves couldn’t to Besku Kh’s new distinct trail; took steep descending trail at pigel bhot jet. to cultivated flats & several scattered huts a/c Beskhu-Sankhuwa confluence.
GPS Coordinates: 6 June '09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Coordinate</th>
<th>Alt. (m)</th>
<th>Site Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CP 27</td>
<td>27° 29.48'N 87° 05.00'E</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>Besku Kh. hut. CP. Sankhuwa Pub. grazing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 90</td>
<td>27° 29.335'N 87° 05.103'E</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>trail w/yr@. C. bridge over Narayap. ground over foot trush.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT 91</td>
<td>27° 29.099'N 87° 04.937'E</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>Narayap= Narayap. loose ground over foot trush.</td>
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<td>PT 92</td>
<td>27° 28.453'N 87° 04.899'E</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>bridge @ Sisuwarka. Sisuwarka along foot trush. Sisuwarka.</td>
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<td>L 16</td>
<td>27° 28.156'N 87° 05.594'E</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>old grazed kls. Sisuwarka foot trush. Sisuwarka. waterfall. in. backs. in. at Kheri.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP 28</td>
<td>27° 27.735'N 87° 06.257'E</td>
<td>569</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Rain in borts during previous night.)

Weather: Clear & sunny AM; 70° at 5:00-5:30; quickly warmed up, by 8:00 quite hot; mostly cloudy by mid-day. with overcaste @ 13:00 and intermittent showers 14:30-15:30 overcaste into late afternoon; somewhat clearing dusk-brillight.

Habitat: dense forest on slopes surrounding Besku Khola bottom. Sal/mixed sal m. S-facing slope above dense watered ravine forest of broad leaves, woody lianas, tangles, dense but low ground evn (due to mostly closed canopy). Prominent patch of pandane in. N-facing forest slope, with scattered pandane in ravines & CP. N-face with mixed broad leaves, mostly non-sal, many lianas. Near Sankhuwa flats, old kls/grazing ground with scrub/scrib forest, some tall trees. Corn cultivated & Sisuwarka; W bank of Sankhuwa below Sisuwarka Kh. confluence, good patch of tall trees (some deciduous), other patches w/ cutting of tall trees at Sankhuwa edge; few tall trees left. (see pg. 145 for CP 28 area habitat description)

**Effort:**

- 05h30 - 08h10
- 08h35 - 12h10
- 12h50 - 14h30
- 15h30 - 18h45

\[ \sum = 11 \text{h} 10 \text{ min.} \]
6 June 2009

Besku Khola hut CP, up from Sankhuwa Kh confluence (808m) - tiered Khuts & waterfall CP W of Kangduwa, Sankhuwa Khok (569m). (both calls)

1. Jungle Owlet - pr/duo (H) calling pied-a-voisin Besku Kh, CP 820m
2. White-crested Laughing Thrush - flock (H) A "c 880m.
3. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 c, lower hut c 700m, e Besku-Sankhuwa confl.
4. Red-headed Trogon - 0737 observed in dense wet ravine (trickle of H2O), behind Besku Kh, hut CP; 07 less wary, flushed to overhead looping horizon, entangled liana, called back forth W/E; G et al. '00 & '98 not good rendition; main call is 'tyap' - like but ends on very scratchy, almost screechy note; c 820-840m; G et al. '00: "local & uncommon, mainly 250-1000m".
5. Black-chinned Yuhina - 25 in active flock (homogeneous), moving through tree tops, edge of upper ravine, c 840m, above Besku Kh, hut CP; G et al. '00: "rare resident 500-1500m"; mainly in mixed sal tree tops.
6. White-throated Bulbul - 1 (H) from dense ravine tree tops, calling loudly & for long time; distinctive clackish call; G et al. '00: "locally frequent in the far east, rare W to Chitwan; mainly below 450m." c 850m.
7. Blue-throated Flycatcher - 0745 then seen, ravine forest, c 825m.
8. Common Tailorbird - I seen c Besku Kh, hut CP, c 815m.
9. Missed! Ashy Bulbul - 1 seen (siled) in ravine behind A, c 850m.
10. Scarlet Minivet - flock of several 0744 in tree tops c 850m, c 860m, c 800m.
11. Plumbeous Water Redstart - 1 suw (same as S Jume?) at waterfall behind hut.
12. Black-backed/Slaty-backed Forktail - 1 flushed from Besku Kh, flew out over Sankhuwa Kh to opp bank rivulet, c 790-810m.
13. Himalayan Bulbul - nesting pair at Besku-Sankhuwa confluence, c 810m.
14. Grey Treepie - I seen back agaise, 10h39, 5 of A "c 820m.
15. Common Kestrel - 0749 pair perched on shrubs, tree nest cliff face, Narai, c 830m.
16. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 (H) trees S of Narai, c 840m.
17. Crimson Sunbird - 0734 at bridge just S of Sisuwatar, Sisuwatar Kh, c 680m.
18. Red-vented Bulbul - 15 of Sisuwatar, c 615m, Sankhuwa Kh.
19. Oriental White-eye - 23 SE of Sisuwatar along Sankhuwa Kh, c 670m.
20. Mystery Large Woodpecker - 1 (H) loud call, opp bank tall trees, c 665m.
21. Ashy Nagoa - pr/duo c, Lunchstop, 2Km SE of Sisuwatar, c 650m, c 675m.
22. Common Kestrel - 1 flying up high over Sankhuwa, distant view of flight atypical.
23. Great Tit - 3 family group approaching lunchstop; 2 ad, 1 juvenile that was flying quite well along Sankhuwa Khola, c 670m.
Additional records:

#13) 1 up ravine! behind Att house, c. 825m; 1 (H) e.
#14) waterfall ravine behind 2.
#19) 1 S of Besku-Sankhuwa confluence, c. 815m; 1 (H) back of lunchstop, c. 670m.
#10) pair/duo at Nari (= Nangyan) grazing ground S of Besku Kh, c. 770m.
#13 cont.) ≥ 1 S of Nari; ≥ 1 in trees at Sisuwatar, c. 70m.
#18) 1 (H) e. bridge over Sisuwara Kh, S of Sisuwatar, c. 680m; 1 (H) 2 km, c. 675m.
#13 cont.) I seen part S of Sisuwatar, c. 675m.
#18) 1 (duo SE of Sisuwatar c. 1.5 km, c. 650m.
#16) 1 < lunchstop, c. 2 km SE of Sisuwatar, c. 650m;
#18 cont.) I seen singing " " c. 650m.
#7) 1 (H) in back of lunchstop along Sankhuwa, calling from ravine veg, c. 650m.
#20) 1 (H) across Sankhuwa NW of Kangduwa, c. 610m.
#2) Pluck (H) c. 20 m up in waterfall area forest at dusk, c. S95-605m.

*Red-headed Trogon - when calling, flicks tail up, holds it then spreads/fan
   it, showing the white "tail" clearly (behavioural note).

Breeding records:

65. Himalayan Bulbul - nest up 255 m in a coppiced tree edge of
    cultivation, confluence of Besku & Sankhuwa Khales. Placed in group
    of leafy branches small branches at crown of tree. Nest is almost entire
    thin brittle things (stems) of a weedy plant. Not tightly woven but
    overall compact; 3 small nestlings w/ a bit of down; both parents
    feeding; most for food winged insects hawked in nest vicinity; nest
    measurements not taken; c. 810m; both birds returned to nest inspection.
6 June 2009

Besku Khola hut CP, up from Sankhuwa Khola confluent (808m) -
- Herd Khets & waterfall CP W of Kangduwa, Sankhuwa Khola (569m).

24. Great Barbet - 1 (1) scolding from dense ravine in back of lunchstop c.666m.
25. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 1 seen: juvenile (diagnostic tail pattern, brownish
   back), W of Kangduwa; silent; c. 590m.
26. Asian/Nepal House Martin - 12-15 over lunchstop: black or face of 1 bird,
   but too exhausted to note other details/other birds; c. 665-695m.
27. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 1 in forest/Kangduwa to ever CP, c. 530m.
28. Rufous-throated Partridge [omitted] - 1 (1) from forest N slope above hut
   CP in early Att, c. 840-850m. Getel ‘00: “rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m
   (250-2850m)” seems to be fairly common in this habitat type on trek.

Route: Along well-defined trail from Besku-Sankhuwa con-
- fluent Khets, past/above bridge (not on topo map) over Sankhuwa.
- across wide flat Narai (= Narongba) grazing ground & seasonal hut.
- Down over main trail to Sisuwantar, over old bridge over Sisuwara
- Khola & main wide (but delepidated) wide stone/gravel trail (no
- vehicles noted). Stayed on S bank trail, not taking bansanglo
- over Sankhuwa, stopping at tiered (old alluval fan?) Khuts for
- CP & idyllic waterfall & minimally chopped over forest understory
- cut in places to increase grazing area.
GPS Coordinates: 6 June/09  No. Day 39

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<td>CP 28</td>
<td>27° 27.735' N 87° 06.257' E 569</td>
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<td>hilled Khoto waterfall</td>
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<td>PT 93</td>
<td>27° 26.922' N 87° 08.157' E 461</td>
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<td>ravine W of Kengduwa</td>
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<td>L 2</td>
<td>27° 26.991' N 87° 08.145' E 449</td>
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<td>jet Sankhuwa trail (Fleck)</td>
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<td>PT 94</td>
<td>27° 26.265' N 87° 07.794' E 416</td>
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<td>Anart Hotel lunchstop</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP 29</td>
<td>27° 25.977' N 87° 07.511' E 389</td>
<td></td>
<td>chaunala S end Buntingtor</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>large hut &amp; tents S of S</td>
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Weather: Low overcast & threatening to rain at 1st light of dawn; gradually clearing after a few sprinkles; partly sunny into late AM; sunny afternoon, clouding over by 5PM; overcast at dusk-twilight. Hot & very little breeze most of the day.
91°F at mid-day (lunchstop break); 73°F at 05h30

Habitat: Good ravine forest behind AM CP; much of the ground cover grazed out & some saplings, thickets cut to open up understory for more grazing, but trees not cut or coppiced. Growth of ferns & nettles in understory.

Mixed broadleaf mostly non-sal in the ravine & Ochote flat, higher up on spun fairly tall/tall sal dominates. Some lianas & epiphytes but not mossy.

Forest across Sankhuwa on S bank/S faces denser & more extensive; include deciduous tall trees & denser under.

Effort:

<table>
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<th>Duration</th>
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<td>15h55</td>
<td>16h10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17h05</td>
<td>18h45</td>
</tr>
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</table>

... Z = 8h 20min...
7 June 2009

Hiered Khets & waterfall CP W of Kangduwa, Sankhuwa Kh. (569m)
— Field house & fallow Khets S of Bumlingtar, Arun R. (389m).

+2 others later on

1. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 (HT) c. Aru CP, c. 570m in wetted ravine.
2. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - ≥1
3. Scarlet Minivet - ≥1 (HT)
4. Greater Yellow-nape - 1 (sex?) in ravine, c. Aru CP, c. 580m-590m.
5. Ashy Drongo - nesting pair, forest c. Aru CP, c. 605m.
6. Blue-throated Barbet - I seen, driven off from its nest, c. 585-590m.
7. Shikra - off pair in forest & #5 nest c. Aru CP, ravine W of Kangduwa, c. 650m.
8. Great Barbet - 1 (HT) up in forest above, c. 615m.
9. Ashy Bulbul - 1 (HT) c. 590m.
10. Black Bulbul - ≥1 seen c. 590m.

11. Himalayan/Greater Flameback - pr/duo c. above & c. 600m; not seen well on back or head; call difficult to discern; fairly large

12. Rufous Woodpecker - I seen well SE of Kangduwa; G. et al. '00: "uncommon 

& widespread resident, below 305m (~915m)."

13. Crimson Sunbird - 1 (HT) E/S of Kangduwa, c. 560m.
14. White-crested Laughingthrush - several w/1 seen, SE of Kangduwa, c. 560m.
15. Grey Treepie - I seen across Sankhuwa (op. bank) & c. 565m.

16. Golden-throated Barbet - 1 seen calling, c. 2 Km E of Kangduwa, c. 530

*See pg. 140; new minimum elevation for Nepal? G. et al. '00: "(500-2400m) seen

several times lower than that on trek including 980m on 6 May; 815m on 5 June; 

& G. et al. '98: "down to 400m F of Nepal in Southern Himalayas, 570m in Bhutan."

17. Common Tailorbird - 1 (HT) S of Bumlingtar, towards ever CP, c. 420m.
18. Mediterranean Myna - 1 seen in corn fields, Soukaun Bumlingtar, c. 430m.
19. Blue-throated Flycatcher - ≥7 seen, alarming, S of Bumlingtar, c. 410m.
20. Woolly-necked Stork - 1 flying into tree top to roost at dusk, twilight, c. 400m

Σ = 20 species
Additional records:

9) pt/duo E/S of Kangduwa, c. 565 m; 2-3 further on, SE of Kangduwa, 560 m.
8) 1-2 (4) " " c. 570-580 m; I seen 1.5 km " " 538 m.
8) 1 in forest c. 1.5 km E of Kangduwa, c. 530 m.
8) 1 (4) " c. 2 km " c. 560 m.
8) c2 at pipal/khar trees chaung, dharamsala Send of Bumlingtar, c. 420 m, eating pipal fruit & not very wary.
3) 2.087 seen in chase further on, Sankhuwa S bank, c. 540 m.
3 cont) 1 1 2 (4) S of Bumlingtar, c. 425-430 m.
8 cont) 1 seen ... 5 " approaching eve CP, c. 410 m.

Breeding record:

66. Ashy Drongo- nesting pair in tall broadleaf tree; nest on a limb c. 14-15 m up tallest tree in area; 1 bird on nest, other perched on same limb 3-4 m away making sallies (for insects); nest sitting bird left nest later to make sallies for 5 min, then returned to sit. Probably on eggs; sallies made from same perch in adjacent tree; both birds later chased off blue-throated bunting passing near nest; nest pale yellow brown/gray, grasses? pale thin twigs?; c. ravine AR of W of Kangduwa village later c. 3 Shikra driven off by both birds from nest area.
7 June 2009

Hiered Khets & Waterfall CP W of Kangduwa, Sankhuwa Kh. (563m) — field house & fellow Khets S of Bumlingtar, Arun R. (383m).

Habitat (cont.): Storey with trails along Sankhuwa banks (except for one sheer cliff at a meander that probably needs a high looping traverse).

Trail on S bank walked previously in 2002, ± same as far as Dungma, which was a chair-ten. Now several houses where wood cutters HQd from there E towards Bumlingtar most of the very tall broadleaf trees have been cut out with last few being cut. Area still forested, but thin & fairly vacant undisturbed either side of main trail. Frequent cists, cooking sites, obviously well-travelled.

Approaching uphill climb to Bumlingtar Flats, a level wide trail being dug by an old man (photed) who was working on it & said he had done so unpaid for 7 years. Causing further disturbance to vegetation by cutting, landslips, boulder removal.

At Bumlingtar JC complained bitterly about the tall tree cutting, lamenting how 7 years ago it was a beautiful cool walk along Dungma—Sankhuwa trail & such tall broadleaves uncommonly rarely encountered at this elevation in the region. VDC residents said the ‘Samiti’ had authorized it, but most people not happy—pushed through by 2 members from certain group which later said to be Maoists. JC further lamented loss of tourism potential, hot walk difficulty to bring in rural aid if locals had such little regard for biodiversity/environment. One Maoist stood stone-faced silent in back while JC challenged Maoists to show regard for environment, which sustains communities. Said Kupandol on record not supporting such destruction & wanted to meet 2 Maoists. Only silence followed. Aduke not present, so JC told gathering of locals he would write a letter to samite & VDC, c/oid Maoists. Kupandol left disgusted.
**GPS Coordinates**

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<td>27°24.240'N 87°07.339'E</td>
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<td>313</td>
<td>_W_Bridge _Kohwa, Arunaw</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Weather:** Some light rain 3-4 AM; overcast & damp/muggy at 1st light/dawn; and into early AM; clearing & 10 AM, then sunny, very muggy & sultry into mid-day; 91°F at 13h 20; (78°F at 06h 00); becoming partly cloudy at 13h 30 & into late afternoon; mid 90s c. Kattike, oppressive; drizzle at 17h 00-18h 15-19h 00.

**Habitat:** old Khets used for grazing c. 4M of house; seldom used trail along & above Arun R through good mixed sal forest (non-sal dominant in ravines); several patches of dense forest with tall trees but the tallest (sal) recently cut out; dense moist broadleaf forest along lower Arkuwa W; corn fields farther away from Khola, fairly tall rice cultivation in Khews, Kattike, Maniwa, area (Kattike: tall corn); sal forest N of Arkuwa, bridge with largely cleared understorey (by cutting & burning) for grazing & degraded by firewood collection; understorey along ride.

**Effort:**

- 07h 45 - 12h 50
- 13h 20 - 15h 00
- 15h 15 - 16h 00
- 16h 40 - 17h 15
- 17h 30 - 18h 15

\[ \text{Total:} \; 8h 50 \text{ min.} \]
8 June 2009

Field house in fallow Khets S of Bumlingter, Arun R. (382m) — hangman tree at W bank, Arun R./Maruwa Bensi gau. (313m).

1. Indian Pitta — 1(4) calling 1st light dawn past 07h45 birding start. c AM CP/house S of Bumlingter, c 430m. G. et al. '00 "local summer visitor, common at Chitwan; rare elsewhere beyond 245m (-1360m)" later seen 430m. 
2. White-throated Kingfisher — 1(4) c AM CP/house S of Bumlingter, c 450m.
3. Spotted Dove — pair/duo c AM CP/house, c 365m.
5. Great Tit — pair/duo + 1 or 2 more w/#65 c waterfall + ravine past AM CP.
6. Black-lored Tit — 4 w/#55 11 400m.
7. Scarlet Minivet — 1(1) c AM CP/house S of Bumlingter, c 400m.
8. Greater Yellow-nape — 1 approach PT95 seen in 1st, silent 2 410m.
9. Blue-throated Flycatcher — c seen past PT95 in sel forest, c 420m.
10. Red Jungle-Fowl — 1(1) in rather dense sel forest N of PT95, c 430m.
11. Spangled Drongo — 2 ad + 1 juv. at S bridge over Irkhuwa, c 360m.
12. Grey-headed Woodpecker — 1(4) in rice/nine forest 4 420m.
13. Bronzed Drongo — 4 (family group) in moist broadleaf forest 4 390m.
14. Orange-bellied Leafbird — c in tree just past bridge over Irkhuwa, c 355m.
15. Blue Whistling Thrush — 1 along Irkhuwa Kh. c bridge, c 365m.
16. Red-billed Buhlung — 3 in Khets, trees along Irkhuwa, c 390m.
17. Striated Prinia — 1(4) in Khets/scrub 2 385m.
18. Crimson Sunbird — 1(4) along Irkhuwa, open country, c 400m.
20. Green-billed Malkoha — 1 seen in leafy ravine along/above Arun R, c 380m.
21. Banded Bay Cuckoo — 1(4) calling loudly from mixed moist broadleaf forest. (2) near edge (not very dense), 1st 2 notes same pitch "pier...pier," then 3rd note a "pew" that was drawn out or possibly slipped/joined by 4th note (pew), which dropped from first two notes. W bank Arun opp. N side of Kudule, c 390-400m. G. et al. '98 "dense broadleaf forest in Nepal" and "lightly wooded areas" in India (?).

22. Grey-bellied Prinia — 1(4) in Khets c Majuwakhesi, c 400-410m.
23. Oriental Magpie Robin — 1(4) then seen, approach lunch stop S of Majuwakeshi, c 430m.
24. Ashy Bulbul — 1 c lunch stop, c 425m, ravine S of..." 4 430m.
25. Large Cuckoo-shrike — c in tree/stop, c lunch stop, L7. 4 "c 430m.

Possibly Common Iora?? But quality different & much louder/carrying. Dark-winged Cuckoo-shrike similar structure, but not as loud & last note not shrill (a-2 notes).
additional records:

#7) 1 or 2 (4) past Atul CS S of Bhumlingtar, c 370m;
#8) 7 c. sirwan above Trkhuma (pt 98), c 410m; 1 farther on c 390m, c 420m;
#9) 1 in open country along Arun R, Majuwabesi area c 390m, 1 open forest, W bank of.
#10) I seen along Arun ... 
#11) 1 in open forest, W bank Arun c 97, c 420m;
#12) 0/2 seen in W bank Arun mixed open forest/c bushes, c 410m; c, Katikke...
#13) pr/druo 
#14) pr/druo wp #28, 33, 34, 35 c 405m Sw of Katikke, W bank Arun R;
#15) #28 ... c 24
#16) ... 24, 26, 33, 34 ...
#17) 2 I at bridge over Chirikhuma Kh W of Katikkeghat c 340m; 1 in W bank Arun c 32c
#18) I in tree c Katikkeghat, c 340m; I Katikkeghat - Maruwabesi, c 320m
#19) 1 (H) passing through ... 
#20) 1 (H) banks of Arun Se, c 325m;
#21) 1 (H) Katikkeghat, c 325m;
#22) I seen ... 
#23) 1 (H) farther on 150m, c 325m;
#24) 2 Katikkeghat - Maruwabesi, c 320m;
#25) 141 ...
#26) I approach Maruwabesi Chick, c 320m;
#27) I seen ... 

Breeding records: see page 152.

67. Spangled Drongo - 2 adults with a flying juvenile (that appears fully-fledged) being fed by 1 ad; just seen perched on limb of broadleaf tree, beak agape. At bridge over Trkhuma Khola c Arun R, confluence: riverine fairly dense mostly non-sal forest at midday, c 360-370m.

68. Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike - 0? 1? 2 1 juvenile, which was being fed insects by 1 ad; in mixed foraging flock w/ fs 8, 24, 28, 33 (c 322). Arun R, W bank Sw of Katikke, c 405m, fairly dense mixed broadleaf forest w/ good patch of tall trees (mosty non-sal).

69. Ashy Drongo - 2 adults; 1 freshly fledged young approaching Katikkeghat, Arun R. Young 'dumb' looking with nubby, barely indented tail c 365m.
8 June 2009

field house in fallow Khets S of Bumlingar, Arun R. (389m) —
Banyan tree Cc, W bank Arun R at Maruwabesi gau; (313m).

26. Common Tailedbird - seen c. lunchstop, c. 425m in wetter ravine
in L-17, c. 440m in open forest, c. 2 in open forest, c. 440m
27. Scarlet Minivet - 2 (f) past S of L-17, c. 440m in open forest
28. Oriental White-eye - 2 seen W bank; mixed open forest / hedges, c. 440m
29. Puff-throated Babblers - 2 in ground litter, c. 440m
30. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker - in small tree / post, Kattike, c. 440m
31. Asian Barred Owlet - pair / duo in mixed broadleaf (mainly sal) moving thru

in afternoon, keeping in contact w/ a soft squeaking notes, given briefly, repeatedly.

This call not mentioned in G et al '98 or Aly & Ripley '87, c. 440m, SSW of Kattike.
32. Grey Treepie - 6/7, 28, 32, 34, c. 440m, W bank Arun R, c. 440m

33. Blyth's Leaf Warbler - seen well, yellow on underparts, most noticeable

heavily-throated; breast/breast; not discernible on vent; 2 1/2 distinct yellow
wingbars (almost as 2 full bars); pipping; flocking behavior; size/shape vs. Western
Crowned hard to distinguish; call not noted; in mixed species flock w/ #s 28, 33, 34, 35

* possible new minimum altitude for Nepal: c. 395m, G et al '98: "summers 2800-
3800m" (in Nepal); G et al '98: "breeds 2000-3700m in Himalaya in India"; noted as low
as 305m in Bhutan (season not given), Confusible with Western Crowned which
noted at ± this elevation & habitat earlier in trek, W bank Arun R, SSW of Kattike
34. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike - family group of 0 1 juv (being led by #8) 1 f
35. White-bellied Yuhina - 6/7, 28, 32, 33, 34, fairly dense forest SW of Kattike
36. Woolly-necked Stork - in rice Khets & busy trail, Baluwarani to Kattikegmat at c. 340m
37. Chestnut-tailed Starling - pr in rice Khets & busy trail, Baluwarani to Kattikegmat at c. 340m
38. Indian Cuckoo - (4) c. 350-400m Kattikegmat -> Maruwabesi, W bank Arun
39. White-browed Waterail - pr / duo lilkelt, c. 320m
40. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater - 24 approaching Maruwabesi CP Sf, c. 315-320m
41. I omitted! Ashy Drongo - breeding group, approaches Kattikegmat, c. 365m
42. River Lapwing - 1 on Arun boulder approaching Maruwabesi CP Sf, c. 310m

<=

Additional records (Cont): #39 1 on Arun boulder approach Maruwabesi CP Sf, c. 310m

JOY-ART 36 Lines, 8 mm
### GPS Coordinates 9 June '09

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<td>Satighat Pal, Arun</td>
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(See page 156)

### Weather:
Misty at dawn after considerable amount of rain during the night. Mist burning off 6h30 - 7h00. 73°F at 6h30.
Sunny into late AM, hot & partly cloudy at mid-day, mostly sunny into late afternoon & evening. Oppressively hot in afternoon in open country.

### Habitat:
Tall corn & AM CF, good scrub forest with dense tangled trees frequently chopped over for fuelwood & at edge to make more Khats; local man gaining that forest in vicinity getting thinner in recent yrs/past. Watered range of mixed broadleaf, many lianas, a few epiphytes, but thin borders of forest (spine-free tall); higher up good scar forest in general vicinity up river, recent destruction of forest to bulldozer road through to Arun from Bhujpurisde Sand Flats along Arun, some wide open grassy areas but closely cropped by grazing livestock.

### Effort:
- 05h30 - 08h40
- 09h10 - 13h30
- 14h30 - 19h10

\[ \hat{T} = 12h10 \text{ min} \]
banyan tree cp, W bank Arun R. Maruwabesi gau: c. 313m — scrub forest edge/sandflats E of Archale gau: Arun R. c. 286m.

1. Indian Pitta — 1 (4) calling 1st light/dawn in back of Aru cp, c. 325m. G. et al. '00: "local summer visitor, common at Chitwan, rare elsewhere, below 245m." 2. Black-crested Bulbul - pr/duo c. Maruwabesi/banyan tree, early Aru, c. 320m 3. Grey-breasted Prinia - 1 (4)  " " " " " " c. 325m 4. Himalayan Bulbul - ≥1 seen " " " " " " c. 325m 5. Spotted Dove - 1 in treetop " " " " " " 6. Grey Treepie - 1 seen in sal trees behind Maruwabesi, c. 340m. 7. Oriental White-eye - ≥3 c. tents, Aru cp/take at 0'd, c. 320m. 8. Ashy Bulbul - 1 in forest, Maruwabesi to Khela kali c. Arun R. bank, c. 345m. 9. Scarlet Minivet - 2²⁷ + 10 overlooking Gh, " " c. 365m. 10. White-breasted Scimitar Babbler - pair/duo in thickets " " c. 345m. 11. Common Iora - ≥4 in forest edge tree s of Maruwabesi A " " c. 350m. 12. Ashy Drongo - 4 in ... " " A A A A c. 355m. 13. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 seen in treetop " A " A " A A A A c. 355m 14. Golden-fronted Leafbird - 7? " " " " A A A A A A c. 360m. 15. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler - 1 seen A " " A " A A A c. 355m. 16. Black Bulbul - 1 in treetop ... " " " " " " " " " c. 360m. 17. Slaty-backed Forktail - 1 seen (silent) in watered ravine A " " c. 340m. G. et al. '00: "resident, generally uncommon but fairly common locally; 900–1475m (450m). *check to see if new minimum elevation for Nepal (L)." 18. Common Tailorbird - 1 seen, H, sw/back of Maruwabesi, c. 340m. 19. Shikra - 9 c. kets/forest edge at Maruwabesi/Arum R. c. 335m. 20. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater - 1 c. tents/AMCP A " " c. 320m 21. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 in tree (phot'd) Maruwabesi kets, c. 345m. 22. Oriental Magpie Robin - ≥2 c. tents/banyan tree " " c. 320m. 23. Crimson Sunbird - 1 c. AMCP, ≥2 seen s of cp A " " c. 320m. 24. Changeable Hawk Eagle - 1 seen, not well except for undertail band, which finer/narrower vs. Mountain; c. 325m along Arun W bank in wooded country head protruding as in Hawk Eagle; G. et al. '00: "scarce... below 360m (75–150m), vs. Mountain Hawk Eagle: "mainly 1000-2355m, scarce below 250m in winter." 25. River Lapwing - 1 in open grass off Arun SE of Maruwabesi, c. 310m. 26. White-throated Kingfisher - pair/duo along...
Additional records:

#8) In farthest NW back of Maruwa Kesi, < 355m; pair in watered ravine.
#2) pair/duo ... 3 pr/duo in watered ravine
#4) SE of Maruwa Kesi, < 315m.
#5) pair/duo ...
#23) 1 (H) at base of forest, < 310m; 1 (H) in cliff forest Arun opp. Riales Kesi.
#13) 1 (H) < 335m; 1 (H) at dusk, < Arun/Khakuwa < 290m.
#25) 1 at Arun littoral, SE of Maruwa Kesi, < 305m; pr/duo S of Khakuwa Kh. cont.
#18) 1 (H) SE of Maruwa Kesi, end-flat, < 315m; 1 (H) 2, < 305m.
#7) > 1 with 30, 31 in cliff forest Arun W bank opp. Riales Kesi, < 340m.
#12) > 3, 2 of which seen, forest edge at grass patch opp. SW of N, < 305-310m.
#26) 1 seen ... < 345m.
#28) cont) 1 (H) ...
#8) cont) 1 (H) N of Sattighat, < 300m; 1 < Khakuwa Kh. confluence.
#19) N bank of Arun steep forest below 1 prl, < 315m (same bird as earlier).
#36) 1 seen farther N of Khakuwa Kh. confluence, < 300m; 1 (H) further on towards Khakuwa Khola.
#26 cont) 1 seen ... < 310m.
#9) 1 (H) ... < 335m.
#31) > 1 (H) approaching Khakuwa Khola confluence with Arun, < 315m.
#29) 1 seen < Khakuwa Khola confluence ... < 315m.
#25 cont) 1 ...

Breeding record:

70. Greater Coucal — Single bird calling at close range behind clump at edge of scrub forest patch & sand flats, Arun Kh. E of Arvahagau, < 290m at dusk. Later flew to a perch for good views; after 2-3 minutes flew away but observed to have brought food (small frog?) to perch; held it & flew away without possibly a nestling but down would have been seen; not very.
9 June 2009  

banyan tree CP, W bank Arun R. at Maruwabesi gau, (313m) — scrub forest/sand flats E of Archalegau; Arun R. (286m).

27. Coppersmith Barbet - 1 (H) SE of Maruwabesi, c. 375 m. up in forest.
28. [omitted] Blue-throated Flycatcher - 1 (H) back of "Ar bird walk," c. 350 m.
29. Linneated Barbet - 1 (H) end flat/forest edge SE of Maruwabesi, c. 330 m.
30. White-bellied Yuhina - 24 in family group, with 2 paler head & slower, but flying, hovering (is feeding itself), cliff forest Arun R opp. Riyalegau, c. 345 m.
31. Striped Tit Babbler - 1 at 2.14 #30a? #7
32. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 1 W/7, 30, 31
33. White-headed laughing thrush - flock (H) at grazed grass/forest edge opp.
34. Mystery Flameback (Himalayan) - 1 (H) W bank Arun sal forest, c. 330 m.
35. [omitted] Spangled Drongo - 1 seen in forest before L18, c. 335 m. c. 300 m.
36. Blue-throated Flycatcher - 1 in dense sal woodland E of Khakum Dolban.
37. Large Cuckoo-shrike - 1 (Sex?) " " forest " " c. 320 m.
38. White-rumped Shama - c. 300 m. seen singing in dense forest patch N of Khakum Dolban.
39. Large-billed Crow - 1 on Satighat bridge, late afternoon, c. 305 m.
40. Red-wattled Lapwing - pair/duo along Arun R bank flats c. 290 m.
41. Large Pied Wagtail - pair/duo " " A eve CPSpecies
42. Greater Coucal - 1 (H) from close range, behind eve CPSpecies, c. 290 m; 7 note call from scrub forest patch, then seen well perched. In flight, including undulating, carrying food (small frog); see pg. 155. c. 285 m.
43. Common Kingfisher - 1 at confluence of Khakum Khola/Arum at dusk.
44. Spotted Owlet - 1 (H) calling at dusk-twilight scrub forest c. eve CPSpecies, c. 300 m.
45. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) " " up Khakum Khola, c. 300-350 m.
46. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) " " c. 335-360 m.
47. Woolly-necked Stork - 4 circling over bridge across Arun to Tumlungta.

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Additional GPS Coordinates:

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<th>Alt. m</th>
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<td>Weightly recently bulldozed road!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 106</td>
<td>27° 19.984'N 87° 11.082'E</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>Chautara on danda above Khokha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 107</td>
<td>27° 19.667'N 87° 11.425'E</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>W bank Arun sand flats continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP 31</td>
<td>27° 19.124'N 87° 10.810'E</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>W bank Arun scrub edge E of Archalegau</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GPS Coordinates 10 June'09 Day 42

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Coordinate</th>
<th>Alt. (m)</th>
<th>Site Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CP 31</td>
<td>27° 19.124'N 87° 10.810'E</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>W bank Arun R. scrub forest edge E of Ardalegan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 108</td>
<td>27° 18.670'N 87° 11.250'E</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>W bank Arun at bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 109</td>
<td>27° 18.810'N 87° 11.430'E</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>E bank Arun houses, W side of Tumlingtar airstrip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUMLINGTAR</td>
<td>27° 18.974'N 87° 11.821'E</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>Hotel Makalu, trek start &amp; end point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weather: Thin mist quickly burning off at dawn, very hot & muggy once sun up from the Ee, 7AM; continued sunny, very hot to trek endpoint at Hotel Makalu, Tumlingtar, 09h10.

Habitat: Scrub forest, mostly riverine broadleaf with a few sal trees; dense tangled thickets, Vincia aspera, Eupatorium, interspersed further inland & higher up with khets (fallen & planted [mostly corn]). Banks of Arun Sandy with few stones. Degraded sal forest on E bank of Arun up to airstrip.

Route: From CP along thin but frequently travelled trail to bridge over Arun. Steeply up from crossing point to Tumlingtar airstrip, cutting across middle to airport & end of trek point = starting point of trek at Hotel Makalu. Returned to Kathmandu by RA Twin Otter flight in late afternoon.

Effort: 04h30 - 06h15 06h30 - 09h10

Σ = 4h 05 min
Day 42

10 June 2009

Scrub forest/sand Flats E of Archelegaun, Arun R. (286m) —
Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha District (411m).

1. Indian Pitta - 1 (H) in back of AM CP in scrub forest, calling regularly from 04h45 - 05h50; moved perches but could not see it; c 290-295m; G. tet. 00; "local summer visitor, common at Chitwan, rare elsewhere, below 245m (-1360m)."

2. Jungle Owlet - 1 (H) & 3 AM during night Both calls; It again early AM but only "woo wo wo" like call; above/behind AM CP, c 320-340m.

3. Scarlet Minivet - 07 in tree top " " c 310m.

4. Oriental White-eye - 2 passing through trees c AM CP, c 300m.

5. Oriental Magpie Robin - 07 in trees behind " " c 300m.

6. Woolly-necked Stork - 4 circling c AM CP, c 320-340m (probably same birds as 9 June)." Common Tailorbird - 1 (H) c 300m; later seen post; see pg 159.

8. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c 320m.

9. Drongo Cuckoo - 1 (H) S of AM CPsite, c 230-350m early AM.

10. Small Pratincole - 2 9 in sandy flats, stony rubble, edge Arunbraid & AM CPsite; seen on ground & in air.

11. Himalayan Bulbul - 1 in bushes c AM CP, c 290m.

12. Red-vented Bulbul - 1 " " " " " "

13. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c/behind/up from AM CP, c 340m.

14. Black Francolin - 1 (H) up from AM CP, c 220-340m.

15. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 (H) " " c 340m.

16. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler - 1 (H) behind AM CP, c 310m.

17. Greater Coucal - 1 (H) behind AM CP, c 310m.

18. Crimson Sunbird - 1 (H) " " c 300-310m (later seen; see pg.

19. River Lapwing - 1 seen in flats c AM CP, c 295-290m.

20. Ashy Drongo - 1 above/behind AM CP, c 310m.

21. Spotted Dove - 1 flying past " " c 300m-290m.

22. Grey Treepie - 1 seen ... " " ...

23. ? Common Pigeon - 1 (H) c AM CP in scrub/trees c 295m.

24. White-throated Kingfisher - 1 seen past/SE of AM CP, c 295m.

25. Striped Tit Babbler - pair/duo in trees in ravine 5 " "

26. Blue-throated Flycatcher - 07 seen calling past/SE AM CP c 300m.

27. Common Myna - pair/duo at bridge over Arun (W bank) Tumlingtar.

28. Emitted Great Tit - 1 in bushes c AM CP " " c 290m.
Additional records:

#7) 1 seen past SE of AM CP, c. 290m, along Arun R.
#4) 2-3 " " " " " " " 
#8) 6" pair seen 4 " " " " " " 
#21) 1 towards bridge over Arun, W bank / Tumlingtar, c. 300m.
#4 cont.) 3 at bridge over Arun " " " 30S " c. 30S m.
#20) 1 in open sal, E bank, Arun, edge of Tumlingtar airstrip, c. 340m.
#7 cont.) 1 seen edge, khet/fields, " " " " " c. 360m
#13) 1 (G) c. Tumlingtar, E bank, Arun, c. 350-400m.
#21 cont.) 1 on electric lines 4 " " 410m
#27) 1 in open khet W side of Tumlingtar airstrip, c. 410m.

Breeding record:

71. Chestnut-tailed Starling (adult plumage) five birds in noisy group, some birds pursuing others (or possibly some single bird in pursuit). After several minutes mating was observed briefly on the ground between two birds. Side of main track in Tumlingtar near Hakalu Hotel, c. 410m & pipal tree.
10 June 2009

scrub-forest/sand-flats E of Archalegaun, Arun R. (286m) —
Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha District (411m).

29. Blue Whistling Thrush — 1 (4) E bank Arun R, c bridge, c 320m.
30. Coppersmith Barbet — 1 (4) c. Tumlingtar airstrip, c 400 m.
31. Red-Collared Dove — ? on electric lines " A " c " ? "
32. Paddyfield Pipit — 1 on Tumlingtar airstrip, c 400 m.
33. Chestnut-tailed Starling — pair/duo over " c 415 m. c "
34. House Crow — several on way up to airstrip; 1 at Hotel Makalu 410m

E = 34 species.