

Additional record of Black-chinned Yuhina

Saturday, 19 September, 2009 11:20 AM

From: "Jack Cox" <jackcoxjr@yahoo.com>
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Cc: "Hem Sagar Baral" <hem.baral@gmail.com>, "Carol Inskipp" <inskipp@btinternet.com>

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, Pikhua Kholā, ca. 780m, 6 May 2009. Up to 5 birds seen on 3 occasions (same flock?), not with other species, S of Bala village, Sankhuwa Kholā, 5 June 2009, ca. 920-1060m. At least 5 (without other species) in Besku Kholā 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, Pikhawa, Apsuwa and
Sankhuwa Kholas, east Nepal

30 April - 10 June 2009

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DVD with GPS pts. &
selection of photos on pg. 80.

①

GPS Coordinates 30 April '09

No
Date Day 1

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site info
TUMLINGTAR	27° 18.974' N 87° 11.821' E	411	Hotel Makalu trek start at
GIDDE	27° 20.086' N 87° 11.556' E	408	Giddhe gau:
CP 1	27° 20.105' N 87° 11.422' E	345	W of Giddhe.

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 to evening c. Giddhe & campsite w/ some sprinkles.

Route: Started trek at Hotel Makalu in Tumlingtar at 3:30 PM. Walked along main track N of small town, diverting to riverside fields & scrub once away from built up area. At Giddhe gau: pipal tree descending steeply W to edge of scrub & open fields to camp for the night. Searched for birds in scrub at dusk to twilight.

Additional records:

- #1) 1 seen edge of Tumlingtar, c. 415m; 1+2 farther on;
 #3) ≥ 6 farther along track to N from Tumlingtar, c. 420m.
 #10) 1 seen + several more (H) c. CP 1, c. dusk, c.

Effort: 15h30 - 16h00: Tumlingtar to N rain stop
 16h40 - 18h00: Tumlingtar - Giddhe
 18h15 - 19h00: Giddhe → CP 1 & vicinity.

Σ = 2h55min

30 April 2009

No. _____
Date Day 1

Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha (Arun River) (411m) —
CP1, 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 - ♂ at house " do " "
5. Copper Smith Barbet - 1 seen calling in tree N of Tumlingtar, c. 420m.
6. Scarlet Minivet - ♂ across track, N of Tumlingtar, c. 420m.
7. Asian Koel - 1 (H) calling from trees c. Mathillo Tar, c. 470-490m
8. Blue-throated Flycatcher - 1 (H), Arun edge, " "
9. Spotted Owlet - 1 seen in mixed sal " " " "
10. Jungle Babbler - ≥ 1 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 " " " "
15. Himalayan Bulbul - pair " " " "
16. Brown Hawk Owl - 1 (H) c. evening Cpsite, dusk-twilight, c. 350m.

↳ = 16 species

Habitat: see page 4 bottom.

(3)

GPS Coordinates

1 May '09

No.
Date

Day 2

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP1	27°20.105'N 87°11.422'E	345	W of Giddhe
MNKAMANA	27°20.384'N 87°11.319'E	296	temple complex
L1	27°21.798'N 87°10.850'E	308	trailside c. Jbdunge
CP2	27°23.066'N 87°09.299'E	328	N end, Chewabesi

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 lunch stop at 13h30. Darkening up river with some wind from build-ups there in late afternoon. Continued hot, not so humid, hazy.

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

Additional records:

- #9) up to a pair at AM Cpsite, c. 350m;
 #20) another 1 in same general area as #20s, c. 345m;
 #21) " " " " #21s " ;

Effort:

05h30 — 08h00 c. AM Cpsite + up to Giddhe
 09h35 — 14h00 walking E bank Arun
 15h30 — 17h10 L1 → Chewabesi
 17h30 — 18h50 Chewabesi → CP2

≤ 9h55 min

1 May 2009

No Date Day 2

CP1 W of Giddhe gau, Sankhuwasabha (Arun River) ^{345m}
CP2 N of Chewabesigau, Sankhuwasabha (Arun R.) (328m)

- 1. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. dawn, c. AM Cpsite, c. 350m
- ? 2. Dark-winged Cuckoo-shrike - 1 (H) early AM " " [3 note cell]
- 3. Scarlet Minivet - ♂ in courtship display; v. active flying around, tail spread in flt & perched; ♀ seen nearby; c. AM Cpsite, c. 345-360m
- 4. Jungle Babbler - ≥ 5 in scrub, early AM, c. cpsite, c. 340m
- 5. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 seen early " " c. 345m
- 6. Chestnut-tailed Starling - 2 juvs? ♀ 1 ♂ " "
- 7. Common Tailorbird - 1 (H) c. cpsite scrub, early AM, c. 345m
- 8. Himalayan Bulbul - 1 seen early AM " "
- 9. Yellow-footed Green Pigeon - 1 flying out of treetop, " "
- 10. Black Drongo - 1 seen well, perched & flying, " "
- 11. Great Barbet - 1 seen in tree-top, " " c. 355m
- 12. Slaty-headed Parakeet - pair seen in treetop, " c. 350m
- 13. Eurasian Golden Oriole - ♀ in leafless treetop, " "
- 14. Red Collared Dove - ♂ seen perched " " c. 345m
- ? 15. Ashy Drongo - 1 in treetop, not seen well, c. AM Cpsite, c. 350m
- 16. Greater Coucal - 1 (H) from steep riverside scrub, ↑ c. 335m
- 17. Brahminy Starling - ♂ seen well in Cpsite area scrub, c. 350m.
(G. et al. '00: "frequent in the W, uncommon in the C and E")
- 18. Grey-breasted Prinia - 1 ^{+1 (pair) + 1 more} seen calling, scrub c. AM Cpsite, c. 345m
- 19. Oriental Magpie Robin - ♂ in bamboo clump, " "
- 20. Spotted Dove - pair on fallow khets, shelf below " " "
- 21. Common Myna - 1 in bans. top, scrub c. AM Cpsite, c. 350m
- 22. Asian Koel - 1 (H) from scrub below " " c. 300m

← = 22 species

30 April '09

Habitat: Fields with new/short corn along track Not
Tumlingtar. Scrub mixed sal forest to W along steep
bank of Arun, some places non-sal trees dominant (tangles)
but very cut-over. Open, grazed grass old khets c. Cpsite
Dry scrub of sal, mainly deciduous trees just putting
out buds/leaves

(5)

1 May '09

No
Date

Day 2

Additional records:

- #26) pair N of AM Cpsite, c. 365m;
- #7) 1 (H) c. house ↗ " ";
- #31) 1 (H) along track past Sātighat, along Arun, c. 340m;
- #30) 1 (H) c. lunchstop, c. Jholunge, c. 320m;
- #40) 1 (H) across Arun from dry sal, across from lunchstop, c. ³²⁰⁻340m;
- #37) 1 seen c. Betini Khola/Arun, probably came (H) earlier in day c. 330m;
- #42) 1 seen " " c. 325m;
- #32) 1 on Arun boulders NW of Betini, c. 310m;
- #7) 1 (H) NW of Betini, c. 330m;
- #8) 2+1 seen " ";
- #20) 1+1⁺ between Betini & Chewabesi, c. 330m;
- #43) 1 on boulders approaching ↗, c. 310m;

Breeding records:

1. 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". ♀ observed on nest, incubating eggs? near AM cpsite in fields w/ scrub patch, c. 350m. (W of Giddhe.)

Mammals:

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

Additional records:

- #19) ♂ at Chewabesi, c. 330m;
- #26) 1+1 " ";
- #10) pair " ";

↔ 49 species

[#s 4 & 31 listed twice!]

1 May 2009 (cont.)

No
Date Day 2

CP1 W of Giddhe gau; Sankhuwasabha (Arun R.) (345m) —

CP2 N of Chewabesi gau; Sankhuwasabha (Arun R.) (328m).

23. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker - ♂^c Aru Cpsite, c. 345-350m.
 24. Blyth's Leaf Warbler - 1 seen scrub " c. 340m.
 25. Grey-backed Shrike - 1 seen in scrub " "
 26. Red-vented Bulbul - 2 or 3 " " c. 340-350m.
 27. House Crow - 1 c. Aru Cpsite, c. 340-350m "
 28. Grey-hooded Woodpecker - duo/pair glimpsed, then H, c. Aru Cpsite.
 29. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. Aru 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 jct. w/ Satighat bridge, c. 330m.
 34. Great Barbet - 1 (H) up from track past " " c. 350m.
 35. (Mystery Owl) - large owl in Aru side forest, glimpsed on flushing, 330m.
 36. (Mystery Raptor) - largish hawk/buzzard-like bird in forest, ^{eagle} c. 320m along Aru track.
 37. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 (H) c. Riyalebesi, possibly = #36; ^(same bird seen later) c. 330-360m.
 38. Woolly-necked Stork - 1 in flooded rice, c. lunchstop, Jhalunge, c. 310m.
 39. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) calling in mixed sal, " " c. 325m.
 40. Red Jungle fowl - 1+1 (H), sal forest, edge of Jhalunge, "
 41. Collared Falconet - 1 picking apart prey, " "
 42. Spangled Drongo - 1 in flt over Aru, c. lunchstop, ↑ "
 43. [omitted] River Lapwing - pair ^{opposite bank Aru} approaching lunchstop " c. 300m.
 44. White Wagtail - 1 on Aru boulders, NW of Betini, c. 310m.
 45. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater - 1 " " c. 330-340m.
 46. [omitted] Plum-headed Parakeet - ♂^c Riyalebesi Khets, c. 330m.
 47. Spotted Owllet - pair seen ^{at dusk} at dusk-trilight c. CP2, Chewabesi, c. 330m.
 48. White-throated Kingfisher - 1 (H) at dusk, Aru edge ↑ c. 315m.
 49. Red-rumped Swallow - ≥ 8 c. Khets & houses, Chewabesi, c. 325-340m.
 50. White-rumped Munia [omitted] - Sorb on thatch roofs, SE of Chewabesi, c. 320m.

Habitat: Scrub sal, mostly mixed w/ non-sal broadleaves, very cut-over approaching Chewabesi (most large trees removed) overcutting of others, clearly unsustainable; burning frequently noticed in understorey, but not of trees; some shrubs killed by fire.
 Riverine boulders + sand flats/banks along Aru.

⑦

GPS Coordinates

2 May '09

No.
Date

Day 3

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP2	27°23.066'N 87°09.299'E	328	N end of Chewabesi
KATKIPUL	27°23.638'N 87°08.556'E	337	Kattikeghat Pul
KUNDULE	27°24.208'N 87°07.673'E	368	Bina Rais estate
JCT1 25	27°23.776'N 87°08.326'E	378	Batase-Kundule jct.
HBESICP	27°25.400'N 87°07.674'E	437	Heluwabesi area CP

Weather: Early AM rain (preceded by showers 4-5 AM).

Misty around camp until 08h00, low build-ups on nearby dandas. Temp. at 06h00-06h30: 75°F. Hazy & very humid at midday. Backwash from upper Arun led to long, quite heavy shower at Kundule. Overcast, quite cool late afternoon.

Clearing towards dusk. Mostly clear at twilight.

Route: Along relatively seldom-used trail N of Chewabesi skirting steep E bank cliffs by walking along Arun. Through chaur S of Kundule to indistinct jct, recalled amazingly by Rajan, as trail split: up to Batase, dn/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 Chewabesi → chaur where peripheral sal (≥5 trees) recently cut & being sawn. Through denser mixed sal with several watered rivulets to Kundule - well-forested/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 ^{+ cut over} approaching Heluwabesi.

Effort:

06h20 - 07h00 c. AM campsite
08h30 - 13h00 walking on trail N
15h30 - 18h45 Kundule - eve CP

Σ = 8h25 min.

2 May 2009

No
Date Day 3

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 csite c. 340m.
2. Red-vented Bulbul - pair in thin scrub c. AM Cpsite, c. 330m.
3. Spotted Dove - 1+1 (pr?) " " " c. 335m.
4. Black Kite - 1 over AM Cpsite, c. 340-350m.
5. Himalayan Swiftlet - small (4-6) flock over Arun/E bank, 340-350m.
6. Black-winged Cuckooshrike - 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, c. 340m.
7. Eurasian Golden Oriole - 1 ♀ or juv. in flt, c. ↑ " "
8. Common Tailorbird - 1 H then seen c. AM Cpsite, c. 330m.
9. Common Myna - 1 seen c. houses c. ↑ " 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 ↑ " " "
14. White-throated Kingfisher - 1 (H) E bank, + 1 seen (W bank), Arun R. 330m.
15. Blue Whistling Thrush - pair along Arun, NW of Dobantar c. " "
16. Jungle Owlet - 1 seen well forest " " " c. 360m.
17. Himalayan Bulbul - 1 seen " " " "
18. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - family group in stunted sal forest
WNW of Dobantar, c. 360m; feeding flying young (see pg. 9).
19. Grey Treepie - 1 seen at Kattikeghat Pul
20. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 (H) approaching Kundule, c. 400-410m; ^{up slope,}
21. River Lapwing - 1 seen approaching " " c. 320m (Arun littoral)
22. Scarlet Minivet - ♂ & ♀ (pr) past chaur w/ cut sal ↑, c. 380m.
23. Great Barbet - 1 seen (w/ beak agape) " " c. 340-350m.
24. Blue-throated flycatcher - 1 (H) in good sal ↑ " c. 380m.
25. Woolly-necked Stork - 1 in simal + close by in khets, Kundule, c. 370m.
26. White-browed Wagtail - pr/duo 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 cp, c. 350m.
29. White-crested Laughing Thrush - flock (H) at dusk - twilight in
forest edge of khets, lower Heluwabesi; c. cpsite, c. 450m.
30. [omitted] Jungle Babbler - several seen c. chain along Arun in
afternoon, c. 330-340m.

9

2 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 3

Additional records:

- #3) 6 in tree c. Dobantar, Arun R., c. 340m;
- #9) 1 at Dobantar, c. 340m;
- #8) 1 (H) forest edge NW of Dobantar, c. 350m;
- #17) 1+1 (pr?) at Kattikeghat Pul, nesting (see below), c. 350m.
- #15) 1 bird feeding at nest site, c. Kattikeghat bridge, c. 340m.
- #19) 1 (H) ^{then seen} past Batase-Kundule trail jct, c. 375m;
- #22) ♂♀ pair past Kundule, c. 375m.
- #17 cont) duo/pr " " c. 365m.
- #14) pair S of Heluwabesi Cpsite, c. 350m.
- #15 cont) pair/duo in chase ↗ c. 360m;
- #23) 1 seen up in trees. ↗ c. 370m;
- #25) ≥ 4 at dusk c. Heluwabesi, looking for roosting site?
- #1) 1 (H) at dusk-twilight c. Cp near Heluwabesi, c. 440-450m.

5. Himalayan Bulbul - 2 birds at a nest (apparently complete) built in fork of limb, mid storey sapling at wooden chaustana, Kattikeghat Pul. Flushed & did not return; 3-4 m above steep 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 ^{porch} eaves of store at Dobantar gam. 1 bird seen making sorties repeatedly returning to nest. According to store owner, young in nest; c. 340m, Arun R.

3. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - ≥ 3 birds (≥ 1 ♂) in fairly confiding family group in sal tree limbs, steep (stunted?) mostly sal forest NW of Dobantar, c. 360m. ♂ made 2-3m sally, caught may fly-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.)

No
Date Day 3

CP 2 N of Chewabesi gavi, Sankhuwasabha (Arun R.) (328m) —
Camp near Heluwabesi, Sankhuwasabha (Arun R.) (437m).

31. Black Bulbul - 1 or 2 seen in afternoon; locality not recalled.
[omitted]

← =

(11)

GPS Coordinates

3 May '09

No.
Date Day 4

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
HBESICP	27°25.400'N 87°07.674'E	437	Heluwabesi area CP.
CHAUR3.5	27°25.953'N 87°07.699'E	403	old field NW of Heluwabesi
PUL13.5	27°26.163'N 87°07.853'E	391	bridge over Arun, S of Bumlingtar
L2	27°26.991'N 87°08.145'E	449	Amar Hotel, Bumlingtar
KEKSUWA	27°27.990'N 87°08.627'E	453	Keksuwa Khet CP, Arun R

Weather: Misty & humid in early AM c. Heluwabesi CP, clearing with sun breaking through c. 7 AM (w/ corresponding pulse of bird activity); light overcast until c. 9 AM when darkening with thunder from nearby dandas; rain N of Heluwabesi, 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 Heluwabesi outskirts camp down & level along forest edge to an old field (good for birds), through scrub & fields to bridge over Arun. Ascending 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 landslip to camp in fallow Keksuwa Khet.

↳ Mixed sal forest, mostly chopped over (few tall trees) w/ depleted understorey c. Heluwabesi. Fields with short corn e. Bumlingtar. Scrub forest c. Arun/Sankhuwa confluence. Above N bank flats through good sal & mixed sal (in ravines) forest with some cutting of tall trees (to build health post?), then fallow khets at Keksuwa.

Effort:

05h20-0620	c. AM c. site
07h00-09h15	AM bird excursion
09h30-13h00	AM march to Bumlingtar
15h50-18h30	Bumlingtar → Keksuwa

Σ = 9h 25min.

3 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 4

Camp near Heluwabesi, Sankhuwasabha (ArunR) (437m) —
Keksuwa Khets campsite, Sankhuwasabha (ArunR) (453m).

1. Indian Pitta - 1 (H) calling close range from fairly dense forest c. AMCp, 2 note, loud, inflective, falling. c. 440-450m
G. et al. '00: "local summer visitor, common Chitwan, rare elsewhere, -136"
2. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) back of AMCp, c. 450-460m
3. Ashy Bulbul - pair, early AM c. ravine S of AMCp, c. 450m
4. Woolly-necked Stork - 1 out over Arun, from \nearrow c. 420-460m
5. Orange-bellied leafbird - σ^7 H, then seen back of AMCp, c. 450m
6. ? Jungle Owlet - 1 seen in back of AMCp, c. 450m
7. White-crested laughingthrush - ≥ 5 , several seen in ^(see pg. 13) ravine S of AMCp \nearrow c. 445m
8. Himalayan Flameback - σ^7 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 Suklaphantha, uncommon elsewhere; mature broadleaf forest; G. et al. '98: "sensitive to deforestation" c. 440-460m. (birds alone)
9. Scarlet Minivet - $\geq 1 \sigma^7 + \geq 1 \sigma^7$ in ravine forest S of AMCp site, c. 440m
10. Rufous Woodpecker - in dense ^{confiding σ^7 pair} ravine forest + sal slope \nearrow " " c. 445m
11. Bronzed Drongo - 1 in dense moist ravine forest, " " c. 445m
12. White-throated Kingfisher - 1 seen over khets c. AMCp, c. 440m
13. Spangled Drongo - ≥ 1 adult + 1 juv., ravine forest S of \nearrow " "
14. Orange-headed Thrush - 2 σ^7 singing robustly to a ϕ perched on a ^{c.} limb. No chasing, but evidently in courtship. In dense sal/edge S of AMCp ^{340m}.
15. Yellow-vented Warbler - ≥ 2 adults + ≥ 1 recently fledged juvenile in dense moist broadleaved ravine forest (non-sal) S of AMCp site, c. 440m. Adults paler (worn plumage?), calling aggressively near juv. + me; 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. AMCp site, c. 440-450m
17. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) " c. 450-465m.
18. Grey Treepie - 1 seen above AMCp site, c. 460-470m
19. Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher - 1 in ravine forest S of AMCp, ^{c.} 445m
20. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 seen eating praying mantis \nearrow " c. 450m
21. Besta - ϕ ? c. ravine forest S of AMCp site, c. 450m.
22. Oriental Turtle Dove - ≥ 5 at mixed sal forest edge \nearrow Khets, c. AMCp site c. 445m.

(13)

3 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 4

Additional records:

- #4) 4 in khets NW Heluwabesi, c. 400-420m.
- #9) ♂♀ pr. in chase ↗ " " " ;
- #7) flock H NW of Heluwabesi, c. 390m.
- #16) 1 (H) at bridge over Anen, c. 390m; 3-4 more ^(H) calling on slopes 400-500m.
- #20) 1 (H) " " c. 400m; 1 seen approaching Bumlinton, c. 430m.
- #17) 1 (H) upriver from ↗ " c. 450-500m;
- #20 cont.) 1 (H) c. Sankhuwa Kh. pul, c. 440m;
- #3) 1 (H) past Anen/Sankhuwa confluence, c. 440m;
- #16 cont.) 1+1 (H) approaching Keksuwa Cpsite, c. 440-460m;

Albino plumage? white-crested laughingthrush

One bird in flock observed in ravine forest S of camp near Heluwabesi (at c. 445m) had all (?) underparts white, tail also with white in it, especially at/towards tip. Upperparts 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.)

No
Date Day 4

Camp near Heluwabesi, Sankhuwasabha (ArunR.) (437m) —
Keksuwa Khets campsite, Sankhuwasabha (ArunR.) (453m).

← gave single 'seep' call; blackish back.

- 23. Black-backed Forktail? — 1 glimpsed in stream N of AM Cpsite c. 420m
- 24. Common Myna — 1 in fallow Khets N of Heluwabesi, 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 NW of Heluwabesi, c. 400m
- 28. Oriental Magpie Robin — ♂ seen calling, lower Bumlingtar, c. 425m
- 29. Spotted Dove — 1 at lower Bumlingtar, c. 425m.
- 30. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater — 1 seen " " ;
- 31. Himalayan Bulbul — pr/duo farther on, lower Bumlingtar, c. 430m.
- 32. Common Tailorbird — 1 (H) in fields, houses, scrub " "
- 33. Asian Barred Owlet — 1 (H) approaching Keksuwa Khets cp, c. 440m
- 34. [omitted] Lesser Yellownape — ♀ seen well in sal above AM Cpsite, c. 450m. Throat & head seen well.

← =

(15)

GPS Coordinates

4 May '09

No
Date

Day 5

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
KEKSUWA	27° 27.990' N 87° 08.627' E	453	Keksuwa Khets
PUR 2.45	27° 29.013' N 87° 09.642' E	530	Baguwa Kh. bridge
KEBNGMA	27° 29.141' N 87° 10.141' E	525	Kebungma Orail lunch
CP 2	27° 29.906' N 87° 11.478' E	606	below/SE of Simle gau

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

Route: From Keksuwa Khets camp site along distinct trail with short ups & downs along & through forest edge of Arun River. Pausing at Kebungma Orail for lunch & afternoon respite from heat. This lunchstop past suspended bridge over Baguwa Kh (crossed) with nearby landslips. On over fairly good trail to evening Cp site.

Habitat:

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

Effort:

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

Σ = 9h45min.

4 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 5

Keksuwa Khets camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (453m) —
Fallow Khets camp below/SE Simle gau, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (603m).
c. 450m

1. Blue Whistling Thrush - 2 (H), 1 of which then seen, c. AMCpsite,
2. White-crested Laughingthrush - 3 or 4 c. AMCp, c. 465-475m
3. Ashy Bulbul - pair/duo c. AMCp, c. 460m.
4. Himalayan Bulbul - ≥ 1 c. AMCpsite, c. 460m.
5. Scarlet Minivet - ♀ seen in flt c. scoured Khandeppa Kh. c. 470m
6. Crested Kingfisher - 1 on littoral boulders, Arun, c. AMCp, c. 420m
7. [omitted] Common Tailorbird - 1 (H) c. AMCpsite, c. 460m
8. Crimson Sunbird - ♂ 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.
11. White-rumped Munia - ≥ 6 " " " "
12. Grey Treepie - pair/duo S of Baguwa Kh. crossing/bridge, c. 530m
13. Puff-throated Babbler - 1 in thicket past. ↑ " " c. 520m.
14. Common Tailorbird - pr/duo " " " "
15. Large Cuckooshrike - ♂ in forest edge tree ENE Waleng, c. 530m.
16. Blue-throated Flycatcher - 1 (H) c. Kebungma Oral lunchstop, c. 525m
17. White-throated Kingfisher - 1 seen past ↑ " " c. 530m.
18. Black Bulbul - pair/duo in flt, forested edge of Arun ↑ " c. 540m
19. Black-chinned Yuhina - 5 or 6 moving through tops of sal trees, occasionally into sub-canopy. Active, but pausing to go carefully over twigs, hanging upside down at times. Giving rattled off 'sip, sip, sip...' & 'seep, seep' 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 (E/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 - probable family group of 5 rather confident birds, (3 juvs?) in tree tops & cavorting, c. dusk-twilight, approach eye CL, c. 600m.

↓ (G. et al. '00: "Rare resident, 500-1500m. Moist broad leaved forest.")

(17)

4 May '09

No
Date Day 5

Additional records:

- #1) another pair, up Khandeppa Kh., c. 470-480m; ≥ 1 c. Chanduwa Kh. c. 490m.
- #4) ≥ 1 c. Chanduwa Kh., c. 480m;
- #1 cont.) 1 seen in Baguwa Kh., c. 515-520m.
- #8) ♂ in flowers c. " " c. 530m;
- #10) 1 seen past ... " " c. 520m; 1 farther on, seen, c. 525m.
- #3) ≥ 1 in thickets ... " " ;
- #5) ♂ ♀ pr. FNE Waleng, along Arun forest edge, c. 530m.
- #10 cont.) pr/duo " " " " ; 1 seen NE of Tombe, c. 580m.
- #2) flock (H) past Kebungma Orāi, c. 580m;
- #16) 1 (H) in dense understory ↑ " " ;
- #21) 1+1 (H) NE of Tombe (E/Bank) Arun, c. 575m;
- #2) 1+1 seen " " " ;
- #12) 1 (+?) (H) " " c. 590m; 3 farther on, c. 600m.
- #18) 1+1 (H) " " " c. 600m;
- #10 cont.) 1 seen approach. eve C/site, 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 chilauwe tree, forest edge S of Watenge, Arun. Sankhuwasabha, c. 495m. Observed c. 5min on nest, then walked away

4 May 2009

No
Date Day 5

Keksuwa Khets camp, Sankhuwasaba, Arun R. (453m) —
Fallow Khets camp below/SE of Simle gau, Sankhuwasaba, Arun R. (606m).

← =

(19)

GPS Coordinates

5 May '09

No.
Date

Day 6

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m.)	Site Info
CP 2	27° 29.906' N 87° 11.478' E	606	Camp below/SE of Simle
CONFL 1	27° 30.824' N 87° 11.559' E	569	Pikhuwa/Arun confl.
CP 3	27° 31.036' N 87° 10.796' E	753	Lower Pikhuwa Kh. camp

Weather: High thin clouds c dawn; warm, humid

& calm early AM but hot by 10 AM w/ cumulus buildups in surrounding dandas. Sunny through mid-day but mostly clouded over by 3 PM; partly sunny remainder of afternoon.

Route: From fallow khets camp at base of blanda, 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 w/ Arun. Walked up along flow to flat area camp site.

Habitat: Well-forested riverine 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; ^{to} cp.

09h20 - 12h45 AM march to Pikhuwa/Arun

15h00 - 19h00

Σ = 11h 05 min.

5 May 2009

No
Date Day 6

Fallow Khets camp below/SE of Simle gau, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (606m)
lower Pikhua Khola bed camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (753m).

1. Crimson Sunbird - ♂ in treetop c. AM Cp, c. 610m
2. Black-lored Tit - ≥ 1 " " "
3. Black Bulbul - pair passing through " "
4. Himalayan Swiftlet - ≥ 2 overhead " c. 630-650m
5. White-crested Laughingthrush - flock (≥ 3) " c. 620m
6. Grey-headed/Yellownape sp. - 1 (H) c. AM Cp, c. 615-625m
7. Ashy Bulbul - 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, c. 615m (probably 2)
8. Great Barbet - 1 seen c. ravine c. 0.5km from AM Cpsite, c. 600m
9. Orange-bellied Leafbird - ♂ seen " " "
10. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 (H) + later seen " "
11. Himalayan Bulbul - 1 in treetop, c. 0.5km from AM Cp, c. 610m
12. Indian Pitta - 1 (H) early AM " " c. 600m
(G. et al. '00: 'local summer visitor; common at Chitwan; rare elsewhere')
13. Scarlet Minivet - ≥ 3, including 1 ♀ w/ orangey flanks + 1 ♂ w/ over-
all orangey wash, 700-800m SE of AM Cpsite, below/SW of Simle c. 615m
14. Lesser Yellownape - 1 bird seen, but not well. Belly indeterminate
but red on head (sex?). 700-800m SE of AM Cpsite, c. 610-620m
15. Bronzed Drongo - ≥ 4 (same group as 4 May?) ↗ " "
16. Common Tailorbird - 1 (H) c. 500m SE of AM Cpsite, c. 600m
17. Black-chinned Babbler - ≥ 1 (H) in dense undergrowth ↗ " ↗
18. Grey Treepie - pr/duo c. AM Cpsite; single on rtn from AM bird walk
19. Common Kestrel ? - (juv?) not seen well; c. AM Cpsite, c. 630-640m
20. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 seen well, c. ↗ " c. 630-650m
21. Common Kestrel - ♂/♀ pair mobbing perched #20 NE of AM Cp, c. 630m
22. Spangled Drongo - pr/duo below trail past AM Cp, c. 580-600m
23. Yellow-vented Warbler - 1 (juv?) rather inactive & paler yellow areas
vs. plate in G. et al. '00. Another bird (ad?) calling & unseen nearby. In
dense mixed broad leaf (no sal) NE of Simle gau approaching Arun/
Pikhua confluence, c. 590-600m. (G. et al. '00: " uncommon & very
local in the F"). Probably a recently fledged bird. (see pg. 21)
24. House Crow - 1 at Pikhua/Arun confl. w/ nesting material, c. 580m
25. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 on steep shelf up Pikhua Khola bed
c. 200m from old wooden bridge c. Arun confluence, c. 575m

(21)

5 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 6

Additional records:

- #1) ♂ c. 0.5 km from Cpsite, early AM, c. 610m;
#2) 3 " " " " " "
#3) pr (same as earlier?) " " "
#18) 1 past AM cl, c. 600m; 1 c. Arun/Pikhuwa confluence, c. 590m.
#4) > 2 at Arun/Pikhuwa confluence, c. 590-600m.

10. Plumbeous Water Redstart - ♂ ♀ + ² (gainly) juveniles c. 300m up
Pikhuwa Khola past Arun confluence. Appearance of juvenile
plumage + sedentary mostly, suggests recently fledged. c. 575m

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 chauki, Arun/Pikhuwa confluence mid-day, c. 580m.
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. 4-5m above ground in standing
deadwood stem; several woodpecker holes in stem. Bird seen
flying out & away without food after c. 1-2 min. Feeding mate on
nest or nestlings ?? SW of Cpsite below/SE of Simle gau in
upper Arun River, c. 600m.

8. Orange-bellied leafbird - ♂ ♀ seen carrying small insects
to top of tall sal tree, 700-800^{SW}m from cl below/SE of Simle gau.
Could not discern if nest or flying young present (probably former
on basis of ability to view most of tree crown). c. 615m.

5 May 2009

Fallow Khets camp below/SF of Simle, Sankhuwasabha, ArunR. (60m)
— lower Pikhua Khola bed camp, Sankhuwasabha, ArunR. (753m).

- 26. Plumbeous Water Redstart - ^{2 juv.† (see pg. 21)} ♂ ♀ pr. c. 300m up Pikhua Kh. c. 575m.
- (27) Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (H) up Pikhua Khola calling in late afternoon from peripheral dense broadleaf forest, c. 700-720m (G. et al. '00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)).
- (28) Slaty-backed Forktail - 1 c. evening camp in Pikhua Kh bed, c. 750m (G. et al. '00: "generally uncommon, but fairly common locally).
- 29. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. dusk c. 750-800m c. evening camp, lower Pikhua Khola.
- 30. Collared Scops Owl - 1 (H) c. ↑ " , c. 770-800m. twilight
- 31. Asian Banded Owl - 1 (H) " " "
- 32. Jungle Owl - 1 (H) at twilight from different site vs. #31, giving exclusively "kao..kao" calls; c. eve c/site, c. 750-800m.
- 33. [omitted] - Grey Wagtail - ♀ seen c. 650m, lower Pikhua littoral.

←

(23)

GPS Coordinates

6 May '09

No. _____
Date _____ Day 7

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP3	27° 31.036' N 87° 10.796' E	753	Lower Pikhura Kh. cp.
L3	27° 31.276' N 87° 10.091' E	975	Pikhura Kh. bed
CP4	27° 31.588' N 87° 09.420' E	1238	Upper Pikhura Kh. bed cp.

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 - twilight.

Route: From AM cpsite 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 Pikhura to NW/N, quickly into steep narrow gorge w/ thin algae cover to boulders; very slippery with rain; nearly needed ropes but past bottleneck to more level gorge-like flat.

Habitat: where with difficulty evening CP made.

Dense broadleaved forest up from AM CP on both sides of Pikhura. Most side ravines scoured w/ many boulders, one with large landslide. Forest mostly non-sal broadleaves, dense w/ many tangles & little disturbed by human activity. Gorge with slick boulders → even CP site not visited by people? Dense middle & understory veg.

Effort:

05h30 - 08h15

08h30 - 12h30

12h45 - 16h00

16h35 - 18h30

≤ 11h 55 min.

6 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 7

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

1. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, c. 770-780m.
2. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 (H) then seen " c. 760m.
3. Orange-bellied Leafbird - 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, c. 765m.
4. Great Barbet - 1 seen (silent) in deadwood top ↑ " c. 770m
5. Yellow-vented Warbler - 1 seen (w/ no other birds in vicinity?)
= #17, dull, washed out plumage, probably heard c. Cpsite in early A.M. same general area, c. 820m. (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, c. 820m.
7. White-crested Laughing Thrush - flock (H) " " c. 800-850m
8. Scarlet Minivet - ♂ in forest tree, upside Khola " c. 820m
9. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - family group, (see pg. 25) c. 790-800m
10. Black-backed Forktail - 1 bird not seen well (w/out binoculars), no sign of grey on back, main Pikhuvu littoral, past AM Cpsite, c. 825m.
11. Mystery Raptor - low head, fairly large, not seen well ↑ " c. 860m
12. Asian Barred Owlet - 1 (H) upstream from AM Cpsite, c. 900-950m.
13. Slaty-backed Forktail - pair/duo flushed ↑ " c. 900m; said by Rajan & Bhatti to be Black-backed (G. et al '00: "generally uncommon but fairly common locally"); probably different birds than No. 10.
14. Plumbeous Water Redstart - ♀ at littoral, c. lunch stop, c. 900m
15. Black-lored Tit - 6 or 7 in mixed hunting party w/ #16 & #17, dense forest edge of middle Pikhuvu Kh river bed, c. 940m.
16. Mystery Small Brown Bird - 2 w/ #s 15 & 17 " " small size, only glimpsed
17. Yellow-vented Warbler - pair/duo in bright/adult plumage w/ #s
= #51, 15 & 16, pausing in upper canopy branches; quite noisy & active, c. 940m
(G. et al '00: "uncommon & very local in the E, mainly a winter visitor")
Appears to locally fairly common in Arun at low elevations, the only *Phylloscopus* warbler in these forests thus far on the trek
18. White-capped Water Redstart - 1 in middle Pikhuvu littoral, c. 940m
19. Grey Tree Pie - 1 (H) approaching middle Pikhuvu lunch stop, c. 960m
20. Golden-throated Barbet - 1 seen " " c. 980m
(G. et al '00: "1500-2400m") - new minimum elevation for Nepal?

6 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 7Additional records:

- #2) pair/duo approaching lunch stop, middle Pikhua riverbed, c. 900m. 850-
- #14) ♀ in middle Pikhua littoral, c. 940m; ♂ at c. 1150m; ♂ at 1200m.
- #3) 1 (H) c. 960m " " ; c.
- #6) 1 (H) " " ; c.
- #7) flock seen $\frac{1}{2}$ H, middle Pikhua c. 980-1000m;
- #8) 1 (H) " " c. 1200m;
- #19) 1 seen " " c. 1020m;
- #2 cont.) 1 in watered side khola, c. 1100m; 1 in gorge, c. 1200m.
- #23) 4 or 5 moving through tree tops w/ a #30, dense mixed broad-leaved forest middle-upper Pikhua edge, c. 1080m.
- #20) 1 seen " " ;
- #13) 1 flushed along " streamflow, c. 1150-1200m.
- #9) pair/duo seen " " c. 1050m;

#21) 1 bird seen well, including reddish legs by Birendra Rai approaching evening Cpsite, c. 1150-1200m; Rajan (new) Rai led JK to a perched bird in middle storey, dense steep broadleaved forest c. evening Cpsite, c. 1230m; glimpsed on flushing, but Rajan saw all character from rear when spotlighted at night.

Breeding record: ∴ ≥ 3 individuals on this day.

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

12. Maroon Oriole - ♂ seen ^{later in tree top} carrying large larvae in dense mixed broadleaved forest middle-upper Pikhua Kh. Probably same bird as noted earlier (pg. 26). Unusually low in late spring & perhaps the lowest recorded breeding altitude for the species: c. 1080m.

6 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 7

Lower Pikhua Khola bed camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (753m)
— Upper Pikhua Khola bed camp, Sankhuwasabha, Arun R. (1238m)

(21) Rufous-throated Partridge - ≥ 1 bird clearly heard, c. 950-1,000m. ^{middle Pikhua dense forest.}
(G. et al. '00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)).

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

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

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

(25) Maroon Oriole - σ^7 seen & heard " (see pg. 25 btm) " c. 1100m. Unusually low elevation. (G. et al. '00: "summers mainly 1500-2400m).

? 26. [omitted] White-throated Needletail? - 4 birds seen over lunch stop middle upper Pikhua; all white below?, with white on face, tail rather squared off. Probably not Alpine Swift. c. 1100m (seen from 975m).

(27) Pygmy Wren Babbler - 1 (H) clearly in dense broadleaved forest floor; middle-upper Pikhua, c. 1050m; unusually low for late spring? (G. et al. '00: "summers chiefly 1500-2590m; winters 915-1770m (-275").

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

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

30. Grey-hooded Warbler - 1 w/ #23s, middle-upper " c. 1080m.

31. Verditer Flycatcher - σ^7 in standing deadwood top " c. 1100m.

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

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

\Leftarrow = 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 CP site, c. 1280-1300m. Mostly adults. Not very wary.

(27)

GPS Coordinates: 7 May '09 No. Day 8
Date

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP4	27°31.588'N 87°09.420'E	1238	upper Pikhua Kh. cp. bed
PT2	27°31.716'N 87°08.940'E	1666	coppiced trees, S slope
PT3	27°31.739'N 87°08.919'E	1700	ghat, W slope Pikhua
CP5	27°31.813'N 87°08.827'E	1733	ghat CP above coppiced trees

Weather: Clear at dawn; 66°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 ghat/Kharka informed by ghothala in middle Pikhua. Through E facing slope of coppiced fodder trees to lone ghat, then up higher to several more, camping at highest ghat. Tent infested with chicken lice from adjacent leaf pile. Almost no sleep.

Habitat: Steeply walled ravine with large boulders. No evidence of human disturbance c. All CP site. Densely forested with mixed broadleaves, but few tall trees (due to steepness & shallow soil?), dense middle storey of bushes (*Hibiscus* sp. common), lianas, but not much moss, fair epiphyte load on older trees; some bamboo (*hingab*) in understorey. Sal on higher open 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

Σ = 11h.10min.

7 May 2009

No Date Day 8

upper Pikhuvra Kh. bed camp, Sankhuwasabha (1238m) —
ghat camp above coppiced trees, Pikhuvra Kh., Sankhuwasabha (1733m).

1. Mystery loud forest bird - 2 (H) from dense middle storey c. AMCP, loud, sharp call, tapering off to 'wovi, wovi, wovi' softer end. Recorded. Red-headed Trogon? c. 1250m, early AM 04h45-
- ② Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 glimpsed c. tent early AM on (see flushing; c. 1240m, AM CP site; (G. et al '00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)). Driven downslope by Rajan Rai ^(new) who saw it clearly.
3. Mystery Forktail - 1 w/ long tail glimpsed below AMCP, c. 1220-1225m.
- ④ Large-billed Leaf Warbler - 1 (H) ^{later seen well!} clearly (song & call) c. AMCP, c. 1225m - unusually low (G. et al. '00: "summer visitor, 2440-3600m").
5. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 seen below AM CP site, c. 1225m; ^{pair seen later same area.}
- ⑥ Maroon Oriole - 1 (H) early AM c. CP site, c. 1250m; unusually low.
7. Nepal House Martin - several w/ #8s " c. 1300m, early AM.
8. Forktailed Swift - " " #7s " (nest building? see pg. 25)
9. Little Forktail - 1 seen passing stream by AMCP, c. 1225-1245m.
- ⑩ Hoary-throated Barwing - = #1; seen + heard later in early AM; (see c. 1300m, new minimum elevation for Nepal? (G. et al '00: "mainly 1980-3000m (1500-3500m)". Seen clearly while singing; dense broadleaved forest, moist w/ dense tangles, but v. little moss! ("mossy broadleaved forest?"))
- ⑪ Asian House Martin - ≥ 8 birds building nests, below AMCP, c. 1220m
12. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - pr/duo c. AMCP site
- ⑬ Bay Woodpecker - 1 (sex?) seen in flt, (H) before that above AMCP site, c. 1275m, unusually low (G. et al. '00: "local + uncommon, mainly 1525-2500m ^{c. 75m}")
14. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. AMCP site, c. 1200m
- ⑮ Yellow-vented Warbler - pr/duo moving through tree tops, c. AMCP, c. 1300m-1280m (G. et al. '00: "uncommon & very local in the E, mainly a winter visitor").
- ⑯ Slaty-backed Forktail - 1 along stream c. AMCP site, c. 1240m. (G. et al. '00: "generally uncommon, but fairly common locally").
17. Black Bulbul - pair chased/ followed by #18, c. AMCP site, c. 1280m
18. Ashy Bulbul - 1 chasing/ following pr of #17, " " " "
- ⑰ Golden-throated Barbet - 1 seen perched above " " c. 1300m. (G. et al. '00: "1500-2400m").
20. Orange-bellied Leafbird - ♂ & ♀ pair seen well " " (same tree as #19)

7 May '09

No
Date Day 8Additional records:

- (#2) cont. 1 (H) at twilight across from evercp in dense forest, c. 1220-1250m.
- (#2) Rajan (new) Rai saw one clearly upstream on his morning outing. cont. Noted head pattern while on ground, red legs as flushed; probably same bird that descended to JC's tent early AM; \nearrow c. 1270m.
- (#10) (cont.) - same minimum alt. recorded in India: 1300m (G. et al. '98).
- #22) same bird?, (H) calling later in AM, c. 1350m;
- #12) pair/duo past ANC site, c. 1340m;
- #27) 1 seen ~~there~~ above " c. 1350m, perched on understory branch, twitching body back & forth, hopping along branch. Head pattern/wing seen well.
- #21) σ^7 pr. c. lunchstop, c. ;
- (#2) cont. another (H) c. lunchstop, c. 1520, call & alarm call; ^{eye} off white patch

\rightarrow dirty white breast w/ blackish crescent on flanks

17. Little Forktail - 2 ad. + 2 juv, evidently recently fledged, upstream from lunchstop, upper Pikhawa Kh., c. 1600m; \nearrow ungainly shortwink flt.

16. Plumbeous Water Redstart - σ^7 pr past lunchstop, c. 1550m; σ^7 seen carrying food. Along upper Pikhawa Khola littoral.

15. Plumbeous Water Redstart - σ^7 pr pair along Pikhawa Khola littoral c. lunchstop, c. 1520m; σ^7 observed carrying food (several small insects); σ^7 standing guard?

Breeding records:

(13) Asian House Martin - c. 8 birds observed making sortays to and from nests attached to sheer rock cliffs (≥ 4 nests). Most birds pasting stipules 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 (G. et al. '00: "below 4575m; has bred at 3500m \pm 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 & out of nesting crevices in steep/sheer cliff face c. 50m away from colony of nesting Asian House Martins; below ANC site, c. 1265m. (check G. et al. '98).

7 May 2009

No Date Day 8

upper Pikhua Khola streambed camp, Sankhuwasabha (1238m) —
ghot camp above coppiced trees, Pikhua Kh, Sankhuwasabha (1733m)

- 21. Plumbeous Water Redstart — ♂♀ pair c. AM Cpsite, c. 1230m. ^{pkc} ^{down}
- 22. Collared Owlet — [omitted] 1 (H) c. " " c. 1250-1300m. } ←
- 23. Mountain Scops Owl — [omitted] 1 (H) " " c. " " } ←
- 24. Great Barbet — 1 (H) up above/past ... " c. 1280m.
- 25. Blue-throated Barbet — 1 (H) " " c. 1350m.
- 26. [omitted] White-crested Laughing Thrush — flock early AM, c. Cpsite, c. 1300m.
- 27. ? Tytler's Leaf Warbler — ? 1 bird seen in understorey c. 50m above water. See pg. 29. Also seen making sortays for insects. Bill long & thin. No wingbars. (G. et al. '00: " rare, status uncertain; probably only passage migrant; recorded 2135-3050m in April"). Silent. Similar #4 not H in vicinity; (G et al '98: "
- 28. Oriental Cuckoo — 1 (H) upslope, upper Pikhua, c. 1400-1500m.
- 29. Black-lored Tit — ≥ 1 w/ #30s, c. lunch stop, c. 1500m, streamside.
- 30. Whiskered Yuhina — pr/duo w/ #29 " " " "
- 31. Black-winged Cuckooshrike — 1 (H) midday c. lunch stop, c. 1520m
- 32. White-throated/Silver-backed Needletail — pr/duo over ♂ " c. 1570m.
- 33. Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) calling from several 'spots' (perches) (see in dense moist mixed broad leaved forest (mainly Hibiscus-alder), N & S ^{btm} ^{his} slopes ^{upper} Pikhua Khola, c. 1660-1680m (close to GPS PT2); somehow crossed ravine w/out. being seen; calling from middle storey? (G et al. '00: " vagrant",
- 34. Rufous Sibia — 1 (H) c. 1680-1725, upper Pikhua Kh; seen later nearby.
- 35. Brown-throated Treecreeper — 1 seen fairly well; unbarred tail (not as big as brown as plate?) Brownish und; gave rattled trill w/intonate; c. 1720m, upper Pikhua.
- 36. Eurasian Cuckoo — 1 (H) approach eve camp, c. 1700-1800 in distance, ↑ "
- 37. Large Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) at dusk above ♂, 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 "hoo-hoo-hoo" c. 1750-1800m.

- Σ =
- #20) 1 (H) c. 1700-1720m, late afternoon, upper Pikhua Kh;
 - #28) 1 (H) c. 1720-1740m " " " "
 - #13) 1 (H) c. 1650-1700m " " " "
 - #33) same bird (?), bit above eve Cpsite at dusk-twilight, c. 1750m
 - #23) 1 (H) c. evening cp, twilight-19h30, c. 1780m.
- } Additional Records:

(31)

GPS Coordinates

8 May '09

No. Day 9
Date

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP5	27° 31.813' N 87° 08.827' E	1733	ghot cp above coppiced trees
PT4	27° 31.986' N 87° 08.722' E	2038	waypt. in dense forest ^{steep} slope
PT5	27° 32.010' N 87° 08.531' E	2250	waypt below Δ to level traverse
PT6	27° 31.821' N 87° 08.526' E	2233	chair w/ ghot frame sticks
CP6	27° 31.201' N 87° 08.783' E	2158	Pikhuwa Danda crest trail

↑ (11 sats; 7m accuracy)

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 gorges up river. Followed small trail along crest uphill from c. CP into dense forest w/ malingo. Kept to straight uphill track until too steep & " ; found old faint trail to s/SW, fairly level until reaching trail w/ ghot frame, ghot, & late afternoon camp at jctn Pikhuwa Danda

Habitat:

A monoculture of planted ^{coppiced} fodder trees c AM Cpsite. Dense subtropical & 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 v. mossy, but stems covered, ± vacant middle storey, patchy ground cover of grass tussocks, fern, malingo/ more chopped over towards crest from 2100m on. ningalo.

Effort:

05h20 - 08h20 AM excursion c Cpsite

08h45 - 15h10 AM/afternoon march

15h30 - 18h35 late afternoon march

12h30 min.

8 May 2009

No
Date Day 9

ghot camp above coppiced trees, Pikhua Kh., Sankhuwasabha (1733m)
 — Pikhua 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
- ≥ 1 of each of these (H) c.
 AM Cpsite, c. 1700-1800 m.
 pre-dawn from inside the
 tent. #2: "vagrant" (G.etal.'00)
7. Ashy Drongo — pr/duo forest edge below AM Cpsite, c. 1720m.
 8. Rufous Sibia — 1 seen c. ^(several more, later) " near " " c. 1735m
 9. Verditer Flycatcher — ♂ seen " c. " c. 1730m.
 10. White-crested Laughing Thrush — flock (H) c. " c. 1735m.
 - ⑪ Bay Woodpecker — 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, c. 1700-1730m.
 (G.etal.'00: "local and uncommon resident")
 12. Great Barbet — 1 seen in tree top c. AM Cpsite, c. 1755m.
 13. Maroon Oriole — ♂ " " c. 1735m.
 14. Blue Whistling Thrush — pair/duo in ravine c. AM Cpsite, c. 1700m.
 15. Black-throated Sunbird — ♂ in forest edge trees, ↑ " c. 1710m.
 16. Grey-winged Blackbird — 1 or 2 " " c. 1700-1720.
 17. Whiskered Yuhina — ≥ 1 c. AM Cpsite, c. 1725m.
 18. Mystery Flowerpecker — 1 silhouetted, giving soft tick call, c. 1720m.
 19. Pygmy Wren Babbler — 1 (H) ravine below AM Cpsite, c. 1680-1700m.
 20. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker — ♂² ♀ pr. c. " " c. 1685-1705m
 21. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon — 1 in flt over ^(see IP 33) " c. 1745m.
 22. Black-winged Cuckooshrike — 1 (H) below " " c. 1650m.
 23. Striated Laughing Thrush — pair/duo " " c. 1680m.
 24. Orange-bellied Leafbird — ♂ ♀ pair " " c. 1700m.
 25. Grey-chinned Minivet — ≥ 2 ♀♀ + ≥ 1 ♂ " " c. 1780m.
 (G.etal.'00: "scarce resident, W-C areas eastward")
 26. Golden-throated Barbet — 1 (H) below AM Cpsite, c. 1680m.
 27. Nepal House Martin — small flock above " " c. 1750-1760m.
 28. Grey-hooded Warbler — ≥ 1 c. AM Cpsite on departure, c. 1740m.
 29. Black-lored Tit — ≥ 3 passing thru below " " c. 1710m.
 30. Grey-bellied Tesia — 1 (H) on departure from AM Cpsite, c. 1720m.

8 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 9Additional records:

- #5) 1 (H) c. 2400m (high up) on E slope; Pikhawa Danda;
 #3) 1 (H) c. 2100m E slope Pikhawa Danda;
 #6) 1 (H) c. 2300-2400m " " ; Pikhawa
 #40) several others (H) during day c. 1900-2150m, E slope, Danda
 #8) ≥4 w/ #41, c. 2200 c. crest, Pikhawa Danda; 1 past ghot sticks, c. 2180m.
 #35) ♂ (same bird as earlier in afternoon?), perched at thicket top in
 small clearing c. 2210m, E slope Pikhawa Danda. Gave good views,
 including side when opened wings as if displaying at me. Same site as #42.
 #39) several past ghot sticks, Pikhawa Danda, c. 2180m.
 #28) ≥1 w/? at ↑ " " " ;
 #12) 1 seen past ↑ " + 2 (H) 2180m (seen) ± 2220-2240m (H);
 #17) duo/pr. in same bush top as #s 35 & 42, approach eye c. site, c. 2215m

Breeding records:

18. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon - ♀ flushed from nest of long twigs, rather basic shallow cup, not stitched together, in leafy multi-node fork of coppiced fodder tree, adjacent to A1 Cpsite, c. 1735. ♀ returned briefly to nest; ♂ 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 thin grass, fairly well-hidden; photographed but not measured. In forest floor of dense intact mixed broadleaved forest (upper sub-tropical/lower temperate); fairly mossy non-Rhodo, open understorey (closed canopy) w/ malingo ^{scattered} and grass/fern. Both parents feeding young, mainly large spiders. c. 2120m.
 Both birds initially given quick chattering alarm when SC et al. present.

8 May 2009

No
Date Day 9

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

- (31) Short-billed Minivet - ♂ seen well up past AT1 Cpsite, c. 1980m; 1 thin line on wings. (G. et al. '00: "scarce resident, W-Careas E-ward")
32. Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler - pr. nesting in dense forest, E slope, c. 2120m
- (33) Brown/Great Parrotbill - (H)/glimpsed poorly in malingo ↑ " c. 2270m.
34. Red-tailed Minla - ≥ 2 in mixed party, dense forest E slope, c. 2260m.
- (35) Pygmy 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. (see pg. 33) (G. et al. '00: "scarce & local resident, 2100-3500 in breeding season") w/ #34s?
36. Rufous-bellied Niltava - ♂ at dense malingo edge, E slope, c. 2275m
37. [omitted] Hill Partridge - 1 (H) c. 2000m, E slope, Pikhuiwa Danda.
38. Black-throated Tit - 3 or 4 c. ghot sticks (PTB) " " c. 2235m
39. Collared Owlet - 1 (H) c. 2300m, " " "
40. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) c. 2200m, late afternoon " " ;
41. Hoary Barwing - ≥ 1 w/ #8s, c. 2220m " " ;
- (42) Little Pied Flycatcher - ♂ at same site/bush as #35. c. 2210m
 (G. et al. '00: "uncommon resident, 1200-3000m") ↳ 2nd sighting site!
- (43) Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) approaching Pikhuiwa Danda crest, 5:30-6PM. Calling from chopped over forest/shrubberies c. 2150m; (G. et al. '00: "vagrant"). Also called at periphery dusk → twilight from tree? bushy vegetation c. tent at CP; glimpsed dropping down from middle storey branch & flying off to perch c. 30m away. Mostly silhouette, shape & grayish upp consistent w/ this cuckoo sp. (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) " " c. 2100m

← =

35

GPS Coordinates

9 May '09

No. Date Day 10

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP6	27°31.201'N 87°08.783'E	2158	Pikhuwa Danda crest trail
PT7	27°31.387'N 87°08.535'E	2377	waypt. along ↑ "
PT8	27°31.776'N 87°08.160'E	2658	Pikhuwa Danda trail jct.
PT9	27°32.652'N 87°08.425'E	3103	Deorali (pole atop peak pass)
CP7	27°32.761'N 87°08.495'E	3030	Deorali Kharka

Weather: Clear early AM; a few cumulus clouds around dandas higher up c. 09h00, otherwise clear panorama E-W & S; 57° at 05h30; clouding over along danda trail at mid-day w/ 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 Pikhuwa Danda crest from AM CP, soon into dense forest, unburned along trail sides like below from AM CP; crossing pass (Deorali) with detour to adjacent spur top with flag poles, then down past mani wall to ghats & clearing (Deorali Kharka) to camp for the night.

Habitat:

Cut-over mixed broadleaved forest along danda crest c. AM CP, with considerable recent burning each side of trail up to c. 2300 m. where forest dense, more humid & mossier. Gradually mossier with dense understorey of ningalo & bushes, rocky floor c. 2600-2700 m. Lower elevation oak-rhodo. (*Quercus lamellosa* + *Q. sp.*) giving to more diverse mix of non-oak/rhodo broadleaves, mossier & canopy more naturally open. Dense understorey of ningalo & bushy tangles

Effort:

05h30 - 08h15 c. AM CP, & 500m excursion
 09h00 - 16h00 AM/afternoon march-overhang
 16h20 - 18h00 overhang-even CP site

Σ = 11h 25min.

9 May 2009

No
Date Day 10

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) not heard, & if uttered, should have because bird at close range. (Ali & Ripley '71: "between c. 600m & 1800m") (G. et al. '00: "vagrant") (G. et al. '98: "—2320m in Bhutan). ∴ * new max. elevation for Nepal only. * see page 37. revised to $\geq 2200m$ later AM, up along trail.
2. Streaked Laughing Thrush — 1 seen c. AM 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 \uparrow c. 2150m.
5. Whiskered Yuhina — " " " " " "
6. Fork-tailed Swift — ≥ 2 in mixed flock, over Kharka below AM CP, 2120m
7. Nepal House Martin — 1520^w/#bs " " " "
8. Grey-bellied Tesia — 1 seen well, several others (H)., \uparrow " c. 2140m.
9. Pygmy Wren Babbler — 1 (H) off trail below AM CP, c. 2140-2150m.
10. Large Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) " " c. 2000-2050m.
11. Oriental Cuckoo — 1 (H) " " c. 2100m.
12. Great Barbet — several ($\geq 2-3$) (H) " " c. 1800-2000m.
13. Chestnut-crowned Laughing Thrush — ≥ 2 " c. 2140-2150m.
14. Grey-hooded Warbler — ≥ 1 below/c. AM CP, c. 2150m.
15. Himalayan Griffon — 1 gliding past/above AM CP to N, c. 2800m.
16. Common/Long-legged Buzzard — low head up from/past AM CP.
17. [omitted] White-tailed Blue Robin — 1 (H) trail below AM CP, AM excursion 2120m.
18. [omitted] Striated Laughing Thrush — ≥ 1 (2?) " " c. 2145m.
19. Green-tailed Sunbird — σ^7 in forest, Pikhuwa Danda crest, c. 2380m.
- (20) Black-headed Shrike Babbler — σ^7 w/#21 " " c. 2385m.
21. Red-tailed Minla — duo/pr. " " "
22. Striated Bulbul — " " moist, dense forest \uparrow " c. 2395m.
23. White-browed Shrike Babbler — family group of σ^7 , ♀ & ungainly ♀ (see in moist dense forest, Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2390-2395m. (G. et al. '00: "summers mainly 1800-2200m) \uparrow recently fledged young)
24. Chestnut-crowned Warbler — ≥ 1 seen well, " c. 2390m.

(37)

9 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 10

Additional records:

- (1) 1 bird seen (grey upper, paler below), 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. AM Cl. lower down a bit, no 'long call'.
*.: revised maximum altitude of $\geq 2200\text{m}$ (possibly as high as 2250m) Trail along crest in dense tall rhodo forest, scant understory.
- #5) ≥ 1 in treetops, Pikhawa Danda crest, c. 2300m ; ≥ 3 farther on, c. 2380m .
 - #19) $\sigma^7\text{pr.}$ w/ other birds, " " c. 2395m ;
 - #13) ≥ 1 on forest floor, " " c. 2385m ;
 - #21) duo/pr in dense forest " " c. 2620m ;
 - #22) " " " " c. $2550-2600\text{m}$;
 - #11) 1 (H), Pikhawa Danda, approach Deorali, c. 2600m ;
 - #10) 1 (H) " " " c. $2500-2600\text{m}$;
 - ? #36) ? another, glimpsed \uparrow " " c. 2800m ;
 - #29) 1 (H) $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " ";
 - #38) 1 also (H) . . . \uparrow " c. 2700m ;

Breeding record:

20. White-browed Shrike Babbler - family group of $\sigma^7\text{, } \text{f, } \frac{1}{2}$ recently fledged f . Juvenile flights short, infrequent, sluggish. Fully plumaged, but ungainly, slow movements. Looked 'dumb'. Parents keeping nearby but quiet as birds moved through canopy & upper-middle storey. Moist dense mixed broadleaved forest; Pikhawa Danda crest trail, c. $2390-2395\text{m}$.

9 May 2009

No Date Day 10

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. 2395m
- 25. Chestnut-headed Tesia - 1 seen well " " " c. 2500m
- 26. ^{omitted?} Black-throated Tit - duo/pr. down low in fairly dense veg., Pikhuwa Danda trail, c. 2380m, probably flushed from low nest on steep slope; kept nearby & together, agitated at my presence. Possible nest site not accessible.
- (27) Broad-billed Warbler - 1 seen well ^{including bill at close range} active calling w/ alarm: a squeezed out rattling ^{trill} chir; middle storey, ^{E & lower, into bush} dense mixed forest ^{w/ much ningalo} along Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2550m. (G. et al. '00: "rare & local in the E, 2350m [June], 2300m [Sept.], 2195m [Nov.]); probably a 2nd bird; new max alt. for NP?
- 28. Blyth's leaf Warbler - ≥ 1 in understory/mid-storey, ^{past} site #27 abt, c. 2560m
- 29. Whistler's Warbler - 1 (H)... " Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2550m
- (30) Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler - 1 (H) & glimpsed clambering up ningalo stalk, Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2680m, giving a "hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo" 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 trees ningalo ↑ " " c. 2580m.
- 33. Green Shrike Babbler - ≥ 1 seen well in tree canopies ↑ " c. 2600m
- 34. Darjeeling Woodpecker - ♂♀ pr. in mossy tree " " " c. 2780-2800m
- 35. [omitted] Black Eagle - good views of 1 over canopy " " c. 2550m.
- 36. [omitted] Kalij Pheasant - 1 (H) ascending Pikhuwa Danda from AMCP, c. 2300m.
- 37. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) off Pikhuwa Danda crest trail, c. 2800m.
- 38. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) " " c. 2900m.
- 39. Mystery Owl - 1 (H) calling from dense ^{mossy} mixed broadleaved forest c. eve CP, c. 3000m. Called 19h00 - c. 19h30, call carries well and is a double note: "hoo hoot", same pitch. Eurasian Eagle Owl? Brown Wood Owl?

← =

(39)

GPS Coordinates

10 May '09

No
Date

Day 11

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP 7	27°32.764'N 87°08.495'E	3030	Deorali Kharka
PT 10	27°33.112'N 87°08.672'E	2797	Dab Kharka
PT 11	27°33.418'N 87°08.960'E	2509	Kharka (name unknown)
CP 8	27°33.612'N 87°08.886'E	2402	Kharka above Gonthala

Weather: 44°F at 05h15. Mostly clear with some high cirrus at dawn & into early AM; mostly clouded over by 10h15. 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 Gonthala village. Several side trails in some sections made it difficult to follow main trail.

Habitat: Mixed rhododendron-broadleaf (including some deciduous tree spp.) c. Deorali Kharka, rather bushy w/ tall trees, becoming more dense descending on NE slope, tall trees w/ much moss 2900m → 2700m; fairly dense middle storey, mostly open (previously grazed) understorey with fern & some bamboo (ningalo). Many tall dense mixed broadleaves (few deciduous spp.) c. Kharka CP site, c. 2400m. Very mossy with ferns, nettles, some ningalo, bushes & lianas. Watered ravines. Diverse tree spp.

Effort: 05h45 - 09h30 AM bird excursion to CP.
10h15 - 13h40 stopped by rain

≈ 7h 10 min.

10 May 2009

No
Date Day 11

Deorali Kharka, Pikhua Danda, Sankhuwasabha (3030m) —
 Kharka above Gonhala, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2402m).

1. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, c. 3000-3200m.
2. Chestnut-tailed Minla - ≥ 1 c. " " , c. 3025m (w/#3)
3. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - 1 " " , with #2.
4. Whistler's Warbler - 1 (H) $\frac{1}{2}$ glimpsed " " "
5. Stripe-throated Yuhina - duo/pr c. AM Cpsite, c. 3060m.
6. Green-tailed Sunbird - 2 σ^7 calling side by side \uparrow " "
7. White-browed Fulvetta - duo/pr. in trailside trees, c. AM CP, c. 3055m
8. Rufous-vented Yuhina - " " towards Deorali, c. 3065m
9. Chestnut-crowned Laughing Thrush - ≥ 1 c. AM CP, c. 3025m.
10. White-throated Needletail - 1 over Deorali ($\frac{1}{2}$ slightly into both the Sankhuwa & Apsuwa watersheds; c. 3060-3100m.
11. Black Eagle - 1 cruising over \uparrow , Deorali area, c. 3080-3100m.
12. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H), Pikhua Danda crest, 2900-2950m
13. Darjeeling Woodpecker - σ^7 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 - f in ^{fall} shrub " " , c. AM CP, c. 3020m.
17. Verditer Flycatcher - σ^7 in tree top c. AM CP, c. 3030m.
- ? 18. Olive-backed Pipit? - 1 in tree singing, " "
19. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - σ^7 c. AM CP periphery, c. 3025m.
20. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1 NE/below Deorali Kharka, c. 2920m.
21. Black-throated Parrotbill - ≥ 2 in nungalo/mixed broadleaf \uparrow c. 2860m.
22. Long-tailed Minivet - σ^7 f pr c. Dab Kharka, c. 2840m.
23. Rufous-bellied Niltava - σ^7 below " " c. 2750m.
24. Striated Bulbul - 1 below Dab Kharka, c. 2740m.
25. Yellow-bellied Fantail - 1 w/#26 " " c. 2680
26. White-tailed Nuthatch - 1 w/#25 " " "
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 site, c. 2835m.
30. Large-billed Crow - 1 c. small Kharka, c. 2500-2520 (PT II)
31. Green-backed Tit - 1 " " c. 2515m.

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No.
Date Day 11

Additional records:

- #4) 1 (H) Sankhuwa side, Deorali area, c. 3050m; 1 below Dab Kharka, 2660m^c
#5) 1 seen " " " " ;
#3) duo/pr descending NE from Deorali Kharka, c. 2900-2940m;
#13) ♂ below Dab Kharka, c. 2765m;
#20) 1 " " c. 2750m;
#14) 1⁺ seen calling below ↗, c. 2710m;
#3 cont.) ≥ 2 w/ a yuhina, below Dab Kharka, c. 2660m;
#23) ♂ seen below Dab Kharka, c. 2650m;
#6) 1 (H) ... ↗ " " c. 2520m;
#12) 1 (H) ... " " c. 2500-2560m;

Mammal record:

Barking Deer - 1 heard 'barking' from peripheral forest,
Deorali Kharka, early AM, c. 3050m.

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No
Date Day 11

Deorali Kharka, Pikhwa 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.

← =

(43)

GPS Coordinates

11 May '09

No. Date Day 12

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP 8	27° 33.612' N 87° 08.886' E	2402	kharka above Gonthala
CP 9	27° 33.995' N 87° 09.153' E	2237	lower house, Gonthala gac

Weather: Scattered thin clouds at dawn, mostly sunny early AM; mostly clouded over by 9 AM; drizzle at 9h15; thin layers of overcast over surr. dandas; 50°F at 05h30; bouts of drizzle & rain late AM & early afternoon; clearing at 15h00; drizzle again at 16h30, light rain 5 PM - dusk

Route: Backtracked 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 Bala sheet but village accurately depicted) to lowest house. Afternoon excursion to forest periphery & ± level along trail to mani at spur with view of Dabotak & downriver to Jaljale lekha area.

Habitat:

Dense moist broadleaved forest c. AM Cpsite at 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 & understorey) at periphery of lower Gonthala.

Effort:

05h30 - 09h00

09h15 - 11h45

15h35 - 17h00

↳ 7h25min.

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No. Date Day 12

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

1. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) c AM 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 (H) c AM Kharka CP, c. 2410-2430m.
6. Whiskered Yuhina - duo/pr, 1 carry nest material, c. ↑ c. 2415-2420m.
- ⑦ Sapphire Flycatcher - an adult ♂/♀ pair at edge of AM Cpsite Kharka, c. 2420m. Both seen very well. Active, zigzaggy flt. In middle storey. Soon moved on. (G. et al. '00: "rare., mainly in E, 2135-2800 in April & May. Ever-green broadleaved forest.) Site with some deciduous tree spp!
8. Large-billed Crow - 1 seen c. AM Kharka CP, c. 2460-2480m.
9. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - 3 or 4 in dense forest trail above AM CP, c. 2450m.
10. Whistler's Warbler - 1 (H) & seen c. stream c. AM CP, c. 2420m
11. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1 collecting insects, " " c. 2450-2460m
12. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - ♀ above AM CP, above Gonthala, c. 2480m
13. Rufous Sibia - 1 (H) above AM Kharka CP, c. 2480-2500m
14. Rufous-capped Babbler - 1 seen " " c. 2420m (near stream)
15. Green-tailed Sunbird - 1 ♂ seen + H " " c. 2480m.
16. Chestnut-headed Tesia - 1 (H) " " c. 2485m
17. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) above/backtracking AM CP, c. 2500-2550m. (both calls)
18. Stripe-throated Yuhina - duo/pr. in trees ↑ " " c. 2460m
- ⑲ Pygmy Blue Flycatcher - ♀ ♂ pr. in streamside dense vegetation, back of AM CP, very near #7 site; ♂ seen well, hovered several times at edge of bushy vegetation mid-lower level, c. 2430m. (G. et al. '00: "scarce & local resident, 2100-3500m in breeding season"). Quite active. bill also seen well
20. Western Crowned Warbler - single? bird seen well - all main plumage characters; gave alt. wing flicking several times; above AM CP, c. 2440m. (G. et al. '00: "uncommon spring passage migrant - 2900m; possibly breeds").
21. Striated Bullbul - pair c. AM Kharka Cpsite, c. 2420m
22. Nepal House Martin - ≥ 3 over ↑ " " c. 2430-2440m.
23. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) ravine above school, Gonthala, c. 2350m
24. Brownish Flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) in bushy ravine at/within Gonthala, c. 2280-2300m.

11 May '09

No
Date Day 12Additional records:

- #15) 1 ♂ seen & H below AM Kharka, c. 2380m; 1 (H) lower Gonthala c. 2230m
 #1) 1 (H) ravine above school, Gonthala, c. 2350m;
 #2) 1 (H) c. Gonthala lower house, c. 2100-2200m;
 #8) 1 c. fields + ♂ " " c. 2235-2250m;
 #25) ♂ & ♀ carrying/collecting food ↑ " c. 2235m;
 #22) small flock over lower Gonthala, c. 2235-2250 (possibly same as earlier ^{in the} day)
 #17) 1 (H) c. periphery lowest ^{above} house, Gonthala, c. 2280m;
 #6) pair/duo in ainselu berries ↑ " " c. 2240m;
 #27) 1 at old Khets, lower Gonthala, c. 2230m;
 #24) 1 (H) c. ↑ " " " ;
 #21) 1 seen in alders; ↑ " " 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 Gonthala, 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 Cpsite above Gonthala, Apsuwa Khola, c. 2450-2460m
23. Grey Bushchat - ♂ on fence top carrying a cicada, lowest house, Gonthala village, Apsuwa Kh., c. 2230-2235m; ♀ seen later nearby with katydid in beak. Nest in field bank later found. 4 nestlings nearing fledged status. Photod. No measurements. ♀ & ♂ scolded, then returned to nest after inspection. observed feeding in rain AM next day.

11 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 12

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

(see page 45)

25. Grey Bushchat - ♂ c. lower houses of Gonthala, c. 2330m

26. Verditer Flycatcher - ♂ at last/lowest house, Gonthala, c. 2230m

27. Green-backed Tit - 1 in coppiced shrub ♂ " " c. 2240m

28. Long-tailed Shrike - 1 c. lowest house, Gonthala, c. 2230-2235m

?29. Grey-breasted Prinia - ? 1 (H) c. " " " ?

(G. et al. '00: "frequent to 1200m; locally to 1750m"). Call of #25?

30. Streaked Laughingthrush - 1 eating a fallen ainseluberry; thicket at edge of lower Gonthala, c. 2235m. c. 2230m

31. Long-tailed Minivet - ♂ & pair in forest edge tree, lower Gonthala.

32. Rufous-bellied Niltava - ♂ . . . " " " c. 2240m

33. Mrs Gould's Sunbird - ♂ seen well " " "

(G. et al. '00: "widespread & uncommon..."). Initially ID was given above 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 - main walls at spur towards Dabtak, c. 2240m

35. Great Barbet - 1 (H) across Apsuwa late afternoon, c. 2200m.

36. [omitted] Olive-backed Pipit - 1 flushed into tree limbs, periphery of A11 Campsite, above Gonthala, c. 2415m.

← =

(47)

GPS Coordinates

12 May '09

No. Date Day 13

Code

Coordinate

Alt.

Site Info

CP9

27°33.995'N 87°09.153'E

2237 (m)

lower house, Gonthala

Weather: Drizzle & rain until mid-day; cloudy w/ occasional sprinkles in late afternoon. Free foggy clouds rising up after

← = 30 species from Apsuwa river bottom late AM. Overcast, except late afternoon. (♂s 26 + 18 possibly same species!) * new maximum elevation for Nepal! ("2320 in Bhutan") (G. et al. '98: "2320 in Bhutan")

→ (31) Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) at dusk forest edge Gonthala, c. 2260-2280m.

list (cont) 24. Green-tailed Sunbird - ♂/♀ trail NE/below Gonthala, c. 2080m

25. Western Crowned Warbler - 1 or 2 seen ^{hovering} well " (with wing "flicking" behavior).

? 26. Bronzed Drongo - ? 1 at dusk along trail NE/below Gonthala, c. 2080m

27. White-tailed Nuthatch - 1 " " " c. 2100m

28. White-tailed Bush Robin - 1 (H) (G. et al. '00: "generally uncommon, locally (♂s) c. 2130m.

(29) Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H) ^{above} trail NE/below Gonthala at dusk, c. 2200-2220m (G. et al. '00: "local & uncommon")

30. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) at dusk c. Gonthala, c. 2200-2300m

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

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

Habitat: Planted fields of potatoe, corn & wheat in/c Gonthala; dense mossy mixed temperate broadleaved forest at periphery & towards Dabotak.

Additional records: #7) a 2nd bird c. lowest house, Gonthala (H) only c. dusk (see below). 2240m.

#2) ♂ feeding 4 nestlings in bank c. mani wall below Gonthala, c. 2250m

#1) 1 (H) along trail below/NE of Gonthala, afternoon, c. 2160m ←

#2) 1 (H) " " " c. 2150-2170m.

#10) 1 seen w/ other (pg 48) giving gurgling-like call; other bird w/ typical calling;

#9) duo/pr w/ #16/2A/ trail NE/below Gonthala, c. 2080m;

Effort: 11h30-12h15

13h00-15h20

15h30-18h00

Breeding record: ≤ 5h35 min.

24. Grey Bushchat - ♀ & ♂ feeding insects to 4 nestlings in nest in bank

near mani walls below, c. spur chaur, Gonthala, c. 2250m.

25. Hill Prinia - nesting pair at chaur " c. 2250m (see pg. 48)

JOZ-ART 36 Lines, 6 mm

12 May 2009

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

→ seen well later in day c. mani, c. 2250m

1. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 seen, a juvenile calling/singing from alder canopy below lowest house Gonthala in steady rain, early AM, c. 2230m.

2. Grey Bushchat - same nesting pr as previous day, feeding nestlings in AM rain, lowest house, Gonthala, c. 2230-2235m. (see pg. 47)

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. '00: "1450-1830m (250-2050m)", rare resident") - revised (G. et al. '98: " " (-2500m) on subcontinent. *New maximum

altitude in Nepal (!).

4. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) above Gonthala, c. 2200-2250m, early AM. (singles of mournful note whistle several x, no lower) (1 bird white)

5. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) across Apsuwa, early AM, c. 2100-2150m

6. Great Barbet - several (H) ↑ " " c. 2000-2200m.

7. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) edge of khet/scrub, lowest house 2235m.

8. Verditer Flycatcher - ♂ c. lowest house, Gonthala, c. 2220m.

9. Green-backed Tit - 1 in khet shrub ↑ " " c. 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 Tesia - 1 (H) below lowest house Gonthala, c. 2150-2200m.

13. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) outer periphery ↑ " " c. 2225-2235m.

14. Hill Prinia - unwary pair, 1 bird flushed from nest with 3 small nearly downless nestlings & 1 white egg. In vertical old terrace embankment past mani walls at grazed chain/spur NE of Gonthala. Birds did not return to nest, but 1 star nearby in shrub for several minutes. Not measured or photographed above ground in recessed embankment of short grass & fern. Nest material mostly grass ?? (G. et al. '00: "frequent in far E Nepal"). W-ward range extn for sp. in Nepal.

15. Long-tailed Minivet - 3 ♀ c. chain & below, NE of Gonthala, c. 2150-2180m

16. Whiskered Yuhina - ≥ 1 in trailside veg, " " c. 2150m

17. Grey-hooded Warbler - 1 carrying insect, ↑ larvae " "

18. Ashy Drongo - 1 in tree top, trailside, below NE ↑ " c. 2170m.

19. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) across from ↑ " " "

20. Yellow-browed Tit - duo/pr, trailside " " c. 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. 2180

(49)

GPS Coordinates

13 May '09

No
Date

Day 14

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP9	27° 33.995' N 87° 09.153' E	2237	lower house, Gonthala
PT12	27° 34.144' N 87° 09.196' E	2250	chaur c. mani, NE of ↑
DOBATAK	27° 35.060' N 87° 09.849' E	2169	thanti above Dobatak

Weather: Light rain bouts 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. 2 PM. overcast with big cumulus buildups over surrounding dandas. occasional light ^{brief} showers in the afternoon/late afternoon.

Route: On main trail rounding spur with mani wall, dropping to dense forest, ravine + up to flagged mani/chautara then down/up past second ravine; fairly level on to Dabotak

Habitat: Dense moist broadleaved forest. Quite mossy with substantial ningalo component. Understorey fairly clear (except for ferns, herbs 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-SW of Dabotak. Oldest not used again, even for grazing. Considerably large considering only 3-4 households at Dabotak. Otherwise, Apsuwa valley in this area very densely & continuously forested.

Effort:

05h30- 08h30

12h25- 17h00

18h00- 18h20

8h05 min

13 May 2009

No
Date Day 14

Lowest house, Gonthala, Apsuwa Kh, Sankhuwasabha (2237m) —
Dabotak thanti, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2169m).

1. Whiskered Yuhina - 5 in forest edge, lowest house, Gonthala; quite agitated (family group?), at times in chase?, early AM, c. 2235-2240m
2. Verditer Flycatcher - ♂ c. fields, lower Gonthala, c. 2240-2250m
3. Grey Bushchat - ♂ & ♀ feeding nestlings, same site as 12 May, c. 2230m
4. Long-tailed Shrike - 1 c. lowest house, Gonthala, c. 2235-2240m
5. Oriental Turtle Dove - 1 in alders ↑ " " c. 2230-2235m
6. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) calling below ↑ " c. 2150-2200m
7. Indian Blue Robin - 1 seen + H edge forest, c. lowest house, c. 2240m
8. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) " " "
9. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) forest below Gonthala, c. 2100-2150m
- ⑩ Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (H) calling ↑ c. 2100m.
(see pg. 48 #3 for notes on altitudinal range)
11. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) calling from forest below Gonthala, c. 2100m
12. Green-backed Tit - ≥ 1 in alders/khets " " c. 2225m
13. Forktailed Swift - ≥ 1 over Gonthala, lower houses, c. 2250m
14. Nepal House Martin - several ↑ " , c. 2240-2300m
15. Mountain Hawk Eagle - 1 ad. seen well over Gonthala, c. 2260-2300m
16. White-tailed Robin - 1 clearly (H) in forest edge, upper Gonthala, c. 2280m
17. Orange-bellied Leafbird - 1 (H) early AM, c. lowest house " c. 2220m
- ⑬ Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H), locomotive part of call (laugh heard earlier in AM), below/NE of Gonthala, c. 2160-2180m. (G. et al '00: "local & uncommon").
19. White-browed Shrike Babbler - ♂ seen calling, ^{forest} trail NE of Gonthala, c. 2220m
20. Chestnut-crowned Warbler - 1 seen in mid canopy ↑ " " "
21. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) off forested trail NE of Gonthala, c. " "
22. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) ... ↑ " " " c. 2250-2300m
23. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - ♂ seen " " " c. 2220m
24. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) up/off forested trail ↑ " c. 2300m
25. Great Barbet - 1 + 1 (H) ... " " " c. 2300-2400m
26. Black-winged Cuckooshrike - 1 (H) " " " c. 2250m
27. Gray-hooded Warbler - pair carrying food (to forest?) ↑ " c. 2180m
28. Maroon Oriole - 1 heard, then glimpsed, forested trail NE of Gonthala, c. 2180m. Not seen diagnostically but call recognized.

13 May '09

No. Date Day 14

Additional records:

- #3) ♂ below/NE of Gonthala, c. 2250m; ♀ approaching Dabotak, c. 2130m
- #6) 1 (H) off trail " " c. 2150m
- #30) 1 seen " " c. 2180m; ≥ 1 c. Dabotak, c. 2150m
- #35) 1 in scrub approaching Dabotak, c. 2120m.
- #2) 1 ♂ " " " "
- #1) duo/pr. w/ #42 " " c. 2135m
- #3 cont) recently fledged young, approaching Dabotak, c. 2130m.
- " + a ♀ at edge of Dabotak, c. 2150m; ♂ seen nearby w/ v. yg. juv.
- #8) 1 (H) 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 ± same site previous day, 1 bird w/ larvae, c. 2180m.

27. Grey Bushchat - ♀ & ♂ with ≥ 1 newly fledged juvenile in scrub - at outskirts of Dabotak, c. 2150m. Juvenile sedentary, barely fledged & 'dumb' looking. Parents nearby but not agitated.

13 May 2009

No
Date Day 14

lowest house, Gonthala, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2237m) —
Dabotak thanti, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2165m).

29. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) along forested trail NE of Gonthala, c. 2190m
 30. Rufous Sibia - 1 seen " " " "
 31. Whistler's Warbler - 1 seen " " " " c. 2210m
 32. Mystery Fork-tail - duo/pr glimpsed ^(non-Little Forktail) stream " " c. 2100m
 33. Ashy Drongo - 1 in alders c. stream, trail NE of " "
 34. White-crested Laughingthrush - ≥ 7 " " " c. 2100-2130m
 35. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 in alders ... " " c. 2080m
 36. White-tailed Nuthatch - 1 (H) in forest " " c. 2080-2100m
 37. Red-billed Leiothrix - duo/pr " " " c. 2070-2080m
 (38) Long-billed Thrush - duo/pr flushed from ^{dense} forest floor, along ^{near} trail to Dabotak; largish size, ^{dark} greyish-olive upperparts, short tail, low flight dn slope (G. et al. '00: "free in winter 915-2500m; summers 2285-3850m") New low alt. for NP? c. 2060m
 39. [omitted] Striated Laughingthrush - ≥ 1 at ravine Khola, c. 2070-2080m
 40. Mystery Sunbird - ♀ in mistletoe approaching Dabotak, c. 2125m
 41. Striated Prinia - 1 (H) grassy slope " " c. 2120m
 42. Blyth's Leaf Warbler - 1 w/ #1s, scrub " " c. 2135m
 43. Darjeeling Woodpecker - ♀ on standing deadwood " c. 2130m
 44. [omitted] Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - ≥ 1 at bridge over stream in dense forested ravine, towards Dabotak, c. 2100m
 45. Pygmy Wren Babbler - 1 (H) approaching Dabotak, c. 2140m
 46. Striated Bulbul - 1 c. Dabotak, c. 2150m
 (47) Scarlet Finch - ♂ in bushes, edge of Dabotak, c. 2150m (G. et al. '00: "uncommon & local resident, W-Careas E-wards")
 48. Ashy Wood Pigeon - confiding 3 - some seen in flt passing by Dabotak. Rather large, greyish upp, longish grey tail. c. 2150-2160m moving together on same branches
 49. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler - ≥ 1 w/ #44, c. Dabotak, c. 2150m
 50. Yellow-breasted Green Finch - 7 flying past Dabotak, c. 2150m

E=

(53)

GPS Coordinates

14 May '09

No

Date

Day 15

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
DOBATAK	27°35.060'N 87°09.849'E	2169	thanti above Dobatak
PT 13	27°35.485'N 87°08.775'E	2385	small Kharka & ghot.
LA	27°35.620'N 87°08.550'E	2399	chaur S of Saisimma Kh.
CP 10	27°35.736'N 87°08.025'E	2288	chaur/Kharka ↑ u.

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. Over log bridges (rustic) & past flagged cairns, passing 3 small Kharkas en route (1 of which ate lunch = LA) to larger Kharkuc. stream for eve Cpsite.

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 alder; intact cut stems left below for mushroom cultivation & Khodo (millet planting later). Old fields with weeds + scrub from previous (2-5 yr) swidden, then burned + planted again (>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 elements of 'patale' & 'asāre', considerable maples farther on w/ places where *Quercus lamellosa* almost dominant on E/S aspects. V. Mossy!

Effort:

05h45 - 07h45

08h20 - 13h45

14h00 - 18h25

⚡ = 10h 50min.

14 May 2009

No
Date Day 15

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

1. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) 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 - ♂ c. fields edge of Dabotak, c. 2150m. (see p. 55)
6. Rosy Pipit - 1 in breeding plumage " " " ; unusually low in late spring, below forest belt probably due to previous days' snowfall
7. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - 1⁺² in alders/scrub c./below Dabotak, c. 2135m
8. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) early AM above thanti, c. 2200-2250m
9. Whiskered Yuhina - 3+2 edge of Dabotak, c. 2150m
10. Grey Bushchat - 1 recently fledged bird (♀?) edge Dabotak fields, c. 2160m
- ⑪ Hill Prinia - 1 in breeding plumage, edge of fields, Dabotak, c. 2155m (G. et al '00: "frequent in far E Nepal") W-ward extn of range in Nepal?
12. Ashy Drongo - 1 between thanti & Dabotak houses, c. 2160m
13. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch - ≥1 in fallow fields, c. Dabotak, c. 2150m
14. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) above trail from forest " " c. 2250m
15. Whistler's Warbler - 1 (H), then seen, scrub " " c. 2160m
16. Black-winged Cuckooshrike - 1 (H) c. edge " " c. 2170m
17. [omitted] Dark-breasted Rosefinch - ♀ c. thanti, early AM, c. 2175m
18. Green-backed Tit - ≥1 between thanti & Dabotak houses, c. 2160m
19. Common Rosefinch - ♂♀ pair past Dabotak towards Saisimma, c. 2150m
20. White-tailed Robin - 1 (H) down from trail ↑ " " c. 2140m (G. et al '00: "generally uncommon; locally fairly common")
21. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - ♀ in flt, trail past Dabotak to Saisimma, c. 2160m
22. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) along " " " c. 2155m
23. Rufous Sibia - 1 seen farther " " (c. ^{undered 1st} ravine) " c. 2170m
24. Brown Bullfinch - 1 seen hi up tree " " " c. 2185m
25. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 (H) . . . " past ravine " c. 2200-2300m
26. Large-billed Crow - 1 (H) over dense forest " " c. 2200m
27. White-throated Laughingthrush - (small?) flock (H) " c. 2160m
28. 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.
- #8) 1 (H) calling opposite side valley forest past " c. 2100-2200m.
- #1) 1 (H) " dense forest past Dabotak → Saisimma, c. 2200m
- #15) 1 (H) " " " " " c. 2150m; 1 more at 2:30m
- #23/ pr/duo seen " " " " c. 2200m;
- #9) 3 or 4 in mistletoe " " " c. 2220m; 1 (H) further on, c. 2420m
- #22) 1 (H) " " " " c. 2320m; 1 (H) past L4 chair c. 2410m
- #30) ♂♀ pr " " " " c. 2330m; ♂ at PT 13 Kharka c. 2400m
- #5) ♂ seen singing " " c. PT 13 Kharka^{edge}, c. 2405m;
- #15 cont.) 1 (H) past PT 13 Kharka, c. 2415m;
- #28) 1 seen in trees, chair past D, c. 2415m L4;
- #9 cont.) 3 chasing off #4b, " c. 2410m "
- #36) ♂♀ pr past L4 chair, c. 2415m;
- #38) 1 " " " c. 2410m; 1 w/ #52/53 c. Saisimma Kh., c. 2250m
- #3) 1 in forest past " " c. 2425m;
- #18) 1 " " " c. 2415m;
- #42) pr/duo " " c. 2420m;
- #49) " c. eve CP, c. Saisimma Kh., c. 2295m;
- #27) small flock (H) + 1 bird seen ↑ " c. 2290m;
- #34) 1 (H) c. evening CP towards Saisimma gaw, c. 2320m;

Breeding records:

28. Ashy Drongo - bird on completed nest (with eggs?), up c. 9m 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 - ♀ 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 coverts. Silent. 3 pale uniform brown eggs in cup nest of moss on rim & sides (inner cup not inspected). Recessed in nearly vertical trailside bank with short herb-vegetation. Photographed. c. 2180m trail from Dabotak to Saisimma. ♀ with greyish brown.

head & mt of brighter brown on face (& c. lores?). Later seen mostly pale brown below. Measurements: rim → bottom of bank = 55cm; front → back rim = 7cm; width of rim = 5cm. ♀ silent; nest lined w/ blackish rhizomes.

14 May 2009

No. Date Day 15

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

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

(29) Rusty-fronted Barwing - 1 seen well in middle storey of dense forest,
Dabotak-Saisimma, heard calling back & forth w/ another in vicinity, 2180m
(G. et al. '00: "rare & local resident, W-C areas E-wards")

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

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

32. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 1 in utis/alders " " c. 2200m.

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

34. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) " (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 (PT 13), main
trail Dabotak-Saisimma, c. 2385m; (G. et al. '00: "uncommon resident").

(37) Grey-chinned Minivet - ♂♀ pair edge of PT 13 Kharka, main trail from
Dabotak-Saisimma, c. 2385m; (G. et al. '00: "scarce resident W-C areas E-wards")

38. Blue-winged Minla - 1 seen well, back of PT 13 Kharka, c. 2395m.

? 39. Short-billed Minivet - ♂♀ pr. c. PT 13 Kharka, c. 2400m; ♂ seen fairly well, ♀ not seen well.

? (40) Barred Cuckoo Dove - 1 (H) above " c. 2450-2500m dense forest,
monotonous, loud 'coo...coo...coo' in bouts same pitch. (G. et al. '00: "scarce resident W-C areas E-wards")

41. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) past PT 13 Kharka, c. 2450m.

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

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

44. Darjeeling Woodpecker - ♀ seen " c. 2410m (lunch stop = L4).

45. White-browed Shrike Babbler - ♂♀ pair " c. 2405m " "

(46) Western Crowned Warbler - 1 seen well w/ alt. wing flicking, chased off by
#9s; c. L4 chaur, c. 2410m; (G. et al. '00: "uncommon spring passage migrant, rare winter visitor")

47. Hoary-throated Barwing - pr/duo seen well, past chaur/L4, c. 2415m (possibly breeds "white tip to tail!")

48. Asian Barred Owl - 1 (H) calling across valley approach. Saisimma, c. 2100-2200m.

(49) Short-billed Minivet - ♂♀ pr. seen well dense forest approach. Saisimma Kh., c. 2400m.
(G. et al. '00: "scarce resident, W-C areas E-ward"). [#39 possibly long-tailed]

50. Mystery Woodpecker - 1 large (not #44) silhouette off tall deadwood c. 2350m (possibly Bay)

51. Ashy Wood Pigeon - pr/duo in dense forest approach. Saisimma Kh., c. 2250-2300m.

52. Yellow-bellied Fantail - ≥ 1 " " c. Saisimma Kh. c. 2250m

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

54. Kalij Pheasant - 1 (H) from eve CP towards Saisimma gau; c. 2330m.

55. Mystery Owl - 1 (H) at twilight " ; well-spaced "hoot-hoot-hoot" c. 2300-2350m

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GPS Coordinates

15 May '09

No. Date Day 16

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP10	27°35.736'N 87°08.025'E	2288	chaur/Kharka S of Saisimma.
PT14	27°36.037'N 87°08.034'E	2322	outer houses, Saisimma
LS CP11	27°35.937'N 87°07.870'E	2424	Saisimma Gompa.

Weather: 49°F at 05h15; totally clear early AM; but cumulus building on nearby dandas by 06h30; continued clear till 10 AM when danda build-ups pinching clouds; quite breezy; mostly overcast at mid-day with sprinkles. Intermittant showers in the afternoon; some clearing c. 3 PM but soon soaked 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 sides of main trail. Quite mossy w/ fairly heavy epiphyte load; few lianas. Rhododendron prominent as tree & shrub sp, but many other broadleaves with hinga, thickets, fairly dense ground cover ^{w/ ferns/nettles} - all this c. AM CP site; wheat fields c. Saisimma with mostly dried plants remaining. Potatoes growing & being planted; many fallow fields c. lower Saisimma; bamboo fences placed to keep out Barking Deer.

Route: Backtracked on early AM birdwalk past stream c. CP to large standing deadwood, c. 1 km, then from CP across Kharka & scrub 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

Σ = 9h30 min

15 May 2009

No. Date Day 16

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. Kalij Pheasant - 1 (H) " " " "
- 4. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) " c. 2350m. above "
- 5. Large-billed Warbler - 1 (H) " c. 2295m "
- 6. Whiskered Yuhina - ≥1, seen, c. AMCP Kharka edge, c. 2310m.
- 7. Ashy Drongo - 1 in AMCP Kharka edge treetop, c. 2305m.
- 8. Green-tailed Sunbird - ♂ seen + heard " " c. 2300m. open
- 9. Black-eared Shrike Babbler - 1 initially heard then seen in tall tree tops edge of AMCP, c. 2305m; ♂ seen calling vigorously, loud.
- 10. Striated Laughing Thrush - 1 seen c. stream c. AMCP, c. 2300-2305m.
- 11. Yellow-bellied Fantail - pr/duo in maple top " "
- 12. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - ♀ in tree top " " "
- 13. Striated Bulbul - 1 seen in forest, backtracking from CP, c. 2335m.
- 14. Western Crowned Warbler - 1 seen well (alt. wing flicking) c. 2330m.
- *15. Chestnut-headed Tesia - 1 seen + heard " " " c. 2320m.
- *16. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 heard then seen ↑! " " " " (v. close to same site as #15! sidling up & down a sapling stem, good views).
- 17. Hoary-throated Barwing - 1 seen in maple " , c. 2340m.
- 18. Ms. Gould's Sunbird - ♂ seen from below, call different than Green-tailed, dense forest past stream backtrack, c. 2330m; (G. et al. '00: " widespread & uncommon...")
- 19. Short-billed Minivet - ♀ seen well in forest, backtracking from CP, c. 2330m. (G. et al. '00: " scarce resident from W-C areas E-wards").
- 20. [omitted] Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 flushed at Khola c. AMCP, c. 2300m.
- 21. White-throated Needletail - 4 racing back & forth over forested stream, ^{at times sipping H₂O} c. 2300-
- 22. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) in forest backtracking from AMCP, c. 2300m.
- 23. Crested Goshawk - 1 (♂) seen well from below over AMCP; gular stripe; streaking & banding und; white rump; much larger vs. Besra: c. 2400m (G. et al. '00: " uncommon resident, mainly WC areas E-ward 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 - 1 seen c. lower houses, Saisimma, c. 2330m.

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15 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 16

Additional records:

- #8) σ^7 past AMCP site \rightarrow Saisimma, c. 2300m; σ^7 c. Saisimma Gompa, 2430m^c
#9) 1 (H) tree c. lower houses \uparrow " " ;
#24) 1 (H) edge " " " ; 1 (H) c. Saisimma Gompa, 2420m^c
#27) pair/duo past/above \uparrow " c. 2380m;
#30) 1 (H) fields edge, Saisimma Gompa, c. 2420m;
#28) σ^7 on prayer flagposts " " c. 2425m;
#14) 1 in forest edge tree w/ wing-flicking behavior, Saisimma Gompa^m c. 2430

Breeding record:

30. Verditer Flycatcher - σ^7 seen diving down to nest with nestlings several times, feeding small winged insects. Nestlings confirmed by Birendra 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).
inspected next AM.

Mammal sighting:

Barking Deer (Indian Muntjac) - σ^7 appeared silently from steep scrubby slope just below Saisimma Gompa, approaching dusk, to browse on short new grasses at edge of bamboo fence/potatoe field. ♀ soon joined σ^7 to feed briefly. Both aware of JC observing them with binoculars. Not very wary but soon retreated downslope. σ^7 re-appeared c. 10 min later to browse for a few minutes at dusk \rightarrow twilight. c. 2410m

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No. _____
Date Day 16

Chaur Sof Saisimma, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2288m) —
Saisimma Gompa, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2424m).

- 27. Mystery Pipit - 1 flushed, marshy grasses, Saisimma, c 2325m
- 28. Grey Bushchat - ♂ c lower houses " "
- 29. Grey Wagtail - ♂ in breeding plumage ↗ " "
- 30. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) bushes ↗ c 2300m
- 31. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 seen c lower houses, Saisimma, c 2350m
- 32. Chestnut-crowned Warbler - ≥ 1 past/up " " forest edge, c 2390m
- 33. Verditer Flycatcher - ♂ feeding nestlings, Saisimma Gompa, c 2428m
- (34) White-throated Flycatcher - 1 on prayer flag posts " " c 2425m
(G. et al '00: "... sometimes to 2440m"). Very high elevation for spring.
- 35. Ultramarine Flycatcher - ♂ on bushes c. Saisimma Gompa, c 2425m
- 36. Blue-fronted Redstart - ♂ " " " (unusually low elev.).
- 37. Yellow-billed Blue Magpie - 1 at forest edge, Saisimma Gompa ^{c 2430m}

↳ =

(61)

GPS Coordinates

16 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 17

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
L5 CP14	27° 35.937' N 87° 07.870' E	2424	Saisimma Gompa
PT 15	27° 35.895' N 87° 07.357' E	2744	ghot and Kharka
PT 16	27° 35.795' N 87° 07.208' E	2824	chaur & dense malingo
L6 CP12	27° 35.667' N 87° 06.998' E	2912	danda Kharka & ghots.

Weather: Bouts of rain during the night, tapering off before first light. High overcast at dawn; 52°F at 05h15-05h20; gradually clouding over late AM; dim poor light by 09h00 with dark clouds building on Bikhe Kharka Danda; light rain beginning at 10h00; frequent bouts of heavier rain until mid-day; rain off & on in early afternoon until 3 PM; dense overcast, some fog & sprinkles remainder of afternoon → dusk/twilight.

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

Route:

Followed regularly used trail W then NW from Saisimma Gompa through Kharka, then steeply up along spur to relatively large danda Kharka w/ ghots (no one present); trail easily followed except at times in dense malingo. Some sections v. steep & slippery.

Effort:

05h30 - 06h45
07h00 - 15h00
15h15 - 18h00

Σ = 11h 00 min

16 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 17

Saisimma Gompa, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2424m) -
Danda spur kharka & ghot CP, Bi Khe kharka Danda, Apsuwa Kh. (2912m).

(*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' (if given)
Minimum alt. estimated at 2400m, which is new/revised altitudinal maximum for the species on Indian Sub-continent. (Ali & Ripley '71: "between 600m & 1800m"); (G. et al '00: "vagrant"); (G. et al '98: "- 2320m in Bhutan" see pp. 36 & 47.) * later (H) NW Saisimma Gompa, c 2485-2450m w/ GPS call recorded. spot pfl
- 2. Large-billed Crow - pair c. gomba / AM CP, c 2420-2450m
- 3. Streaked Laughingthrush - 1 seen early AM, fence c. gomba, c 2430m
- 4. Asian Barred Owlet - 1 (H) below gomba, early AM, c 2375m
- 5. Kalij Pheasant - 1 (H) from forest just above gomba " c 2465m.
- 6. Grey Bushchat - unwary ♂ on flagpole near " " c 2430m
- 7. Mystery Pipit - 1 c Saisimma Gompa, not seen well (Rosy?), c 2420m
- 8. Rufous Sibia - 1 moving past ↑ " c 2440m.
- 9. Green-tailed Sunbird - ♂/♀ pair, c Saisimma Gompa, c 2435m
- 10. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush - 1 in tussle w/ #11, ↑ " c 2430m
- 11. Blue-fronted Redstart - 1 in tussle w/ #10, just above gomba, c 2430m
- 12. Whiskered Yuhina - ≥ 4 just above Saisimma Gompa, c 2435m
- 13. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) " " "
- ⑭ Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H) above Saisimma Gompa, c 2440m.
(G. et al '00: "local and uncommon").
- 15. Green-backed Tit - 1 c gomba & AM Cpsite, c 2425-2430m
- 16. Grey Bushchat - nestings in back below ↑ inspected; c 2415m.
- 17. Ultramarine Flycatcher - ♂ c/above Saisimma Gompa, c 2440m.
- 18. Sooty Flycatcher - 1 in treetop w/ of " " c 2465m.
- 19. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) chaur NW of " " c 2480m
- 20. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 seen alarming ^{from/in bush} " " "
- 21. Tickell's Thrush - a juv. / 1st winter ♂? seen at edge of forested chaur NW of Saisimma Gompa c. 2400m; flushed ground into tree; gular stripe/markings. ^{f. small size!}
- 22. Rufous-capped Babbler - pr/duo carrying food, NW of Saisimma Gompa, 2490m
- 23. Whiskered Yuhina - 4+2 c. chaur & past a bit, " " c 2480-2490m
- 24. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) in dense forest " " c 2530-2550m
- ⑮ Western Crowned Warbler - ≥ 1 seen in trees / tops. " ↑ c 2525m
Alternate wing flicking behavior observed.
(G. et al '00: "uncommon spring passage migrant, possibly breeds").

16 May '09

No
Date Day 17Additional records:

* further revised new maximum elevation for Indian Subcontinent

- (#1) single bird glimpsed in flt in tall trees, chaur NW of Saissimma Gompa, c. 2495-2500m; hid in leafy canopy of tall tree & called at regular intervals. Rajan & 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 on playback. Song clearly heard; evidently not giving 'long call' suffix.
- #28) 1 (H) NW of Saissimma Gompa, c. 2660m; 1 (H) c. 2650m; PT 15 c. 2775m
- (#31) 1 (H) farther towards B.K. Danda crest, c. PT 15, c. 2740m
- #29) 1 (H) c. PT 15 Kharka, c. 2750m; 1 (H) c. 2820m, above PT 16 Kharka.
- #30) 1 (H) above " " c. 2760m;
- #16) 1 in flt across trail, dense malingo's broadleaves, above PT 15, c. 2760m
- #26) duo/pr above PT 15 Kharka, c. 2775m;
- #32) pair, ♂ carrying food, above PT 15 Kharka, c. 2780m;

33. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - pair feeding ≥ 3 nestlings in cup-like nest woven of ^(actually malingo's leaves) grassy material & embedded in a large clump of moss in tree stem 1.45m above ground; rim c. 3x5cm; parents left after Birendra Rai found nest, but returned w/in 2 min of JC & Birendra's departure 10m away.

Breeding records:

✓ 31. Grey Bushchat - A nest with 5 nestlings in a vertical field embankment c. 10m below CP/Saissimma 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. 7cm, c. 7cm deep x 6cm wide. Rim of nest to embankment base = 74cm. Nestlings & site photographed; nestlings with down but several weeks (?) away from fledging?

32. Rufous-capped Babbler - a pair carrying small insects to nest near or at ground level, NW of Saissimma 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

No
Date Day 17

Saisimma Gompa, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2424m) —
 Danda spur Kharka & ghot CP, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsuwa Kh. (2912m)

26. Rufous-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 " " " "
29. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) ... " " " "
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 crest; c. 2630m. Thin, very
^{squeezed out} high pitched song is distinct; v. shy! (G et al '00: "scarce & local").
32. Long-tailed Minivet - ♂ seen well, towards Bikhekharka Danda c. 2750m
33. Red-billed leothrix - ≥ 1 in dense malingo, above PT15, c. 2760m
34. [omitted] Mystery laughing thrush - flock at c. 2740m; unseen; unusual call.
35. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1 c. PT16 Kharka, c. 2825m
- (36) Brown Parrotbill - 1 seen well & at length in light rain, pausing on
 malingo stalk, side of trail just below PT16 Kharka. Pale blue iris! Back
 of beak with white cottony tuft of small whitish insects, or less probably
 nesting material? bambod culm? (but very whitish). dropped to ground
 to collect more material or insects, hops actively, with short flights.
 perched c. 1-1.5m above ground, c. 2820m; see G et al '98. Very little
 known on breeding behaviour! Nest remains undescribed?
37. Rufous-fronted Tit - ≥ 3 (1 ad + 2 juv.) c. L/CP site Kharka, c. 2905m
38. Greenish Warbler - ≥ 4 with #37s, periphery of ♂ " "
39. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - ≥ 8 (4 ♀♀, 4 ♂♂) upper ♂ " " c. 2910m
40. White-browed Rosefinch - ≥ 1 ♀, edge of " " "
41. Darjeeling Pied Woodpecker - ♀ in standing deadwood " "
42. [omitted] Grey-crested Tit - ≥ 1 w/ #37/38/28 party " c. 2905m
43. Himalayan Swiftlet - small flock above L/CP site Kharka, c. 3000-3100m
44. Spotted Nutcracker - unwary 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/CP site, c. 2900-2950m
47. Asian/Nepal House Martin - flock above & out from L/CP site, c. 2950-3000m
 poor light & quite far away; unable clearly see under parts.
48. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - ♂ NW L/CP site, late afternoon, c. 2915m

(65)

16 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 17

Additional records (cont.):

- #30) 2 or 3 more heard (H) ^{below} above/c. PT16 Kharka, c. 2750-2850m.
- #8) 1 (H) c. PT16 Kharka, c. 2820m;
- #28 cont.) 1 seen + H ↑ " c. 2850m; ≥ 1 w/ #37/38, c. L/cpsite, c. 2905m.
- #40) probable ♂ on log just below L/cpsite Kharka, c. 2900m.
- #11) ♂ at edge of L/cpsite Kharka, c. 2905m;
- #9) ♂ with #s 38/42/45/15 ^{#23} in mixed hunting party, NW of L/cpsite, c. 2915m.
- #38) ≥ 2 " " 9/ " " " " " " " "
- #42) ≥ 1 " " " " " " " " " "
- #23) ≥ 1 " " " " " " " " " "
- #2) 1 NW of L/cpsite, late afternoon, c. 2915m;
- #28 cont.) 1 seen well, NW of L/cpsite " c. 2910m;
- #29) 1 (H) at twilight, above " c. 2950-3000m.

Breeding records (cont.):

34. Long-tailed Minivet - ♂ seen with small insects in its beak, giving typical call of this species. Trying to feed ♀? No ♀ heard or seen; approaching Bikkharkha Danda crest, c. 2830m.

16 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 17

Saisimma Gompa, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha (2424m) —
Danda spur Kharka & ghot CP, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsuwa Khola (2912m).

(49) Satyr Tragopan - ♀ seen well on upper parts, walking quietly through grazed understorey of dense forest just NW of L/CP site (only 30-40m from upper ghot), late afternoon, c. 2910m. (G et al. '00: "scarce resident"); no call of this or other bird heard.

(50) ? Chaffinch - 3 or ♀♀ with #39s at L/CP site edge in late (see afternoon. White wing bars, could not see mantle very well in dim/dull ^{end note} light; appeared to lack streaking & palish eyebrow of Plain Mountain Finch which should not be this low. Rather late in year for Chaffinch & no ♂♂ present (?); (G et al. '00: "uncommon winter visitor 2000-2750m (1555-3050m). seen at c. 2920m. [ADDENDUM: mantle/up back streaking seen next 4+1: Plain Mountain Finch!]*)

Sl. Tawny Owl - 1+1 (H) calling at twilight either side of danda CP. Double note, ± same pitch, carrying well; c. 2900-2950m.

← =

(67)

GPS Coordinates

17 May '09

No. Date Day 18

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
L6 CP12	27° 35.667' N 87° 06.998' E	2912	^{spur} danda Kharka & ghats
PT17	27° 35.725' N 87° 06.522' E	3238	steep, dense mixed forest
PT18	27° 35.703' N 87° 06.326' E	3434	" " "
L7	27° 35.712' N 87° 06.272' E	3473	W of Saisamma, denser rhodo shrubbenies
PT19	27° 35.799' N 87° 05.955' E	3600	dense rhodo shrubbenies
PT20	27° 35.829' N 87° 05.902' E	3801	jct. danda crest trail ^{Bikhekharka Danda}
CP13	27° 35.959' N 87° 05.868' E	3869	danda crest CP at boulder below Lemini Oraal.

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 4 PM 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 ningsak in understory around AM CP. 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 ningsak giving way to dense malingo > 3,400-3,500m with rhododendron shrubbenies. Almost no disturbance by people except for occasional patches of cut malingo. Fresh gamebird hunting trap at jct. of

Effort:

05h15 - 06h45

AM birding c. CP site

07h05 - 14h00

march in dense forest

15h00 - 18h20

afternoon march.

← 11h 45 min.

Route:

see page 70.

17 May 2009

No. Date Day 18

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

see pg. 69

- 1. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. AM CP, Karka side forest, c. 2900-2950m.
- ② Satyr Tragopan - 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, dawn, c. 2900-2910 m. (G. et al '00: "scarce resident") (see pg. 69)
- 3. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) " " early AM, c. 2915m.
- 4. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) early AM, Kharka side forest, c. 2880m
- 5. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) later seen c. Cpsite " c. 2900-2920m.
- 6. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - ≥ ♀♀ + 3 ♂♂, c. AM Cpsite, c. 2910m. (same flock as previous day?)
- ⑦ Plain Mountain Finch - 3 or 4 seen with #6s, possibly associating with them, as probable same birds seen with them previous day/afternoon; mantle seen well + distinctly finely streaked ∴ in breeding plumage. At exceptionally low alt. for late spring, possibly due to inclement recent weather; c. 2910m. (G. et al '00: "summers chiefly 4200-5200m"). (probable add for 16 May list.)
- ⑧ Yellow-browed Tit - pair nesting, forested edge of AM Cpsite, 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 " " " c. 2915m.
- 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 Cpsite on departure, c. 2900-2920m.
- 15. Spotted Nuthacker - 1 (H) above " early AM, c. 2950-3000m.
- 16. Chestnut-crowned Laughing Thrush - ≥ 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite, c. 2910m.
- 17. Chestnut-tailed Minla - ≥ 1 in dense malingo & trees up from c. 2960m.
- ⑱ Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler - 1 (H) off to side of trail above AM Cpsite, c. 2940m in dense malingo. Call is 4-5 "hoo..hoo..hoo.." notes given rapidly (1-2 sec), possibly ending w/ a wheezy note. (G. et al. '00: "scarce resident W-C areas Edwards").
- 19. White-browed Fulvetta - 1 in malingo + trees, up danda spur, c. 3000m.
- ⑳ Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler - 1 (H) in " " c. 3050m (G. et al. '00: "scarce and local.."). 4-5 very high pitched, distinctive notes of song heard clearly at close range in dense malingo. Followed immediately by a quick louder, different series "whir..whee, whir, whee, whir, whee", unlike call "chrrt" of G. et al '98. Heard several times, each time immediately following song ∴ deduced to be call of same bird.

BY-ART® 36 Lines, 6 mm
→ given as a long warble-like, repetitive; see pg. 69 for add'l record
* note that song notes ascend as sung; no mention of this in G. et al. '98

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17 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 18

Additional records:

- #2 2nd bird (H) calling (to 1st?) opp. side Cpsite, early AM c. 2900m;
#9 1 (H) up from AM Cpsite, c. 2950m; 1 (H) farther on/up, c. 3000m;
#17 1 seen up danda spur, c. 2990m;
#19 1 " " " c. 3050m; 1 higher up at 3250m;
#1 1 (H) " " c. 3170m; 1 seen " c. 3445 & heard.
#9 cont.) 1 seen well " c. 3190m;
#20 1 (H) song & strange call, c. 3250m;
#10 1 (H) c. lunch stop, c. 3480m;
#19 cont.) 1 c. eve Cpsite, c. 3870m;
#27 1 c. ... " " ;

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

Breeding records:

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

36. Long-tailed Minivet - ♂ & ♀ observed building a nest in a tall,
small-leaved broadleaf tree, c. (max) 13m above ground. Initial stage
of construction, with bottom of cup taking shape from strands of mat-
erial (twigs? grass?) & bits of lichen (latter from nearby tree stem)
Nest placed c. 2.5m out on horizontal limb, not in fork (small branch
node possibly hidden by cup bottom; ♀ & ♂ maintained contact at cup
& nearby w/ continual uttering of soft, short 'chup' notes. Site is in
dense mixed deciduous broadleaf forest near Cpsite Kharka, c. 2925m.

JOY-ART® 36 Lines, 6 mm

G. et al '98: "≥ 15m" height of nest above ground

• red/yellow line in 2°s very hard to see on ♂, unable to see on ♀.

17 May 2009

No. Date Day 18

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

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

22 Great Parrotbill? 1 (H) in dense ningalo; 2 note call, possibly streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler? Former in malingo mostly, latter not usually at this alt. (c 3150m) (1500-2590m G. et al. '00) ^{up danda spur}

23. Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler - 1 seen ^(brown morph) & heard, danda spur, c 3180m

24 White-browed Bush Robin - ♀ seen, dense bamboo " "

25. Striated Yuhina - small party in canopy " " c. 3200m

26. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1 seen, dense forest below lunchstop, c. 3350-3400m

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

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

29. Grey-winged/white-collared Blackbird - 1 (H) singing at dusk → twilight c Cpsite. Unsure which song/species! c. 2900-2920m.

←=

"Bire" did not recall location of Lamini Oraal. Thought it considerably farther than evening Cpsite, so halted there. Rajan fetched water towards Lamini Oraal 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 dhokas 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 jct with side trail down towards Saistimma. No Kharkas on this thin trail. Sleep & slippery in places, but easy to follow.

(71)

GPS Coordinates

18 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 19

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP 13	27° 35.959' N 87° 05.868' E	3869	danda crest CP at about ders below Lamini Oraal
PT 21	27° 35.030' N 87° 05.844' E	3920	Lamini Oraal
PT 22	27° 35.252' N 87° 05.400' E	3901	ghot & small Kharka
PT 23	27° 35.408' N 87° 05.146' E	4021	along danda crest trail
PT 24	27° 36.367' N 87° 04.929' E	4088	oraal & chautara
PT 25	27° 36.523' N 87° 04.799' E	4114	stone ghot walls.
PT 26	27° 36.757' N 87° 04.722' E	4239	along main trail ^{at top} danda
CP 14	27° 36.858' N 87° 04.308' E	4413	Lamini Danda crest trail

Weather: Clear all around at dawn & into early AM; few wisps of cirrus e. himal; tufts of cumulus appearing over danda high pts & himal by 08h30; 41°F at 05h30, but one side of my tent w/ frost; into fog by 11h00; bright with fog almost clearing at times into late afternoon; clearing partially dusk → twilight

Habitat: Dense shrubberies 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 shrubberies, most of which continuous blankets of souamate rhododendron (red flowers, fairly large) grading to small yellow-flower dwarf rhododendron higher up. & c. eve CP site

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 Oraal with beautiful panorama of Chamlang himal / upper Apsuwa.

Effort:

05h30 - 07h00

07h30 - 18h10

Σ = 12h 10min.

18 May 2009

No.
Date Day 19

(3869m)

Danda Flat boulders c. Lamini Oraal, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsuwa Khola
Lamini Danda (= Bikhekharka Danda) crest trail CP, Apsuwa Kh. (4413m).

1. Fire-tailed Sunbird - 3 ♂♂ c. AM CP, c. 3850-3870m.
 2. Golden Bush Robin - ♀♂ pair in chase ♂ c. 3850-3860m. (see pg. 73)
 3. Buff-barred Warbler - 1 (H) c. AM CP, c. 3860m.
 4. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 seen past Lamini Oraal, c. 3880m.
 5. Mystery Rosefinch - ♂ not seen well, past ↑ c. 3920m.
 6. White-winged Grosbeak - 2 ♂♂ seen well " " c. 3930-3950m.
 7. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1 (H) in trailside shrubs c. PT23, c. 4020m.
 8. Plain-backed Thrush - 1 seen well - indistinct wingbar, more scaly underparts vs. Long-tailed; shortish tail in flt, in rhodo shrubs & short juniper & dense tall rhodo, crest trail, c. 4040m; silent.
 9. Winter Wren - 1 seen singing on W slope outcrop (∴ Sankhuwa watershed) along main danda trail, weaving on W side briefly; c. 4230m.
 10. White-capped Water Redstart - 1 on Apsuwa side of trail, c. 4265m.
- [11] Himalayan Monal - 1 (H) at sunset, c. ewe CP, c. 4450-4500m.

↳ = 11 species

(73)

18 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 19

Additional records:

#1) 2 ♂♂⁷ c Lamini Oraal, c 3920m; ♂⁷♀ pair farther on c 3960m.

Breeding record:

Courtship behavior.

38. Golden Bush Robin - ♂⁷♀ in chase on and near ground, along Bikhekharka Danda crest trail, just below AM CP, c 3850-3860m. Early AM c 7h00; ♂⁷ Keeping to within 1-1.5m of ♀ when both birds paused on ground; ♂⁷ opened wings c 1/2 way and repeatedly gave a raspy "pssstt" call. Active & not very wary.

18 May 2009

No
Date Day 19

Danda CP at boulders c Lamini Oraal, Bikhekharka Danda, Apsuwa Khola (3869m)
~~Lamini Danda (= Bikhekharka Danda) crest trail CP, Apsuwa Khola (4413m).~~

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP 14	27°36.858'N 87°04.308'E	4413	Lamini Danda crest
PT 27	27°36.843'N 87°04.023'E	4343	small pokhari
PT 28	27°37.170'N 87°03.871'E	4341	ghot walls
PT 29	27°37.509'N 87°03.774'E	4381	ghot walls & chaur
PT 30	27°37.611'N 87°03.431'E	4351	ghot wall above Tin Pokhari
CP 15	27°37.715'N 87°03.246'E	4284	ghot N of Tin Pokhari

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 ghots. Not much water except for aspects where snow rapidly melting. Overall, very dry condition of vegetation. On steeper aspects, dwarf rhodo very squamate with cushion plants fairly common. (E slopes).

Effort:

06h00 - 12h30

13h00 - 14h30

16h00 - 17h00

18h00 - 18h15

Σ = 9h 15 min.

Additional record: #2) 1.(H) c. ewe CP site, calling at dusk.

c. 4480 m.

19 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 20

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

- 1. Winter Wren - 1 heard then seen, c. AM CP, c. 4410m.
- 2. Himalayan Monal - ♀ flushed NW of " c. 4400m.
- 3. Rosy Pipit - 1 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, silent; c. 4340m.
- 5. Alpine Accentor - 1 past ghot wall (PT29), c. 4320m.
- 6. Rufous-breasted Accentor - 3 some approach eye CP site, c. 4280m.
- ? 7. Greater Short-toed hawk? - ≥ 3 in dried grass tufts amongst boulders, open slope below eye 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. Call heard when flushed but couldn't distinguish it!

(B) 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. '00: "uncommon and local winter visitor c. 4300-4310m & passage migrant, probably also resident, mainly 2135-4000m (-915m)". Check Danphe article; possibly new alt. max for NP.

← =

40. Solitary Snipe - 2 ♂♂ (?) in display flight, calling & drumming (not in unison) over/c. eye CP site, c. 4300-4310m.

Breeding records:

39. Rufous-breasted Accentor - courtship displays: 1 bird frequently cocking tail hopping ahead of 2 other birds (no tail cocking) on ground - quickly over open areas, more slowly in dwarf rhodo where quick convoluted chasing occurred. lead bird (♀?) keeping 2-3m ahead of others except in dwarf rhodo where much closer; approaching CP N of Tin Pokhari, Apsuwa Khola, late afternoon in sunny weather; c. 4280m.

(77)

GPS Coordinates

20 May '09

No. Date Day 21

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP 15	27° 37.715' N 87° 03.246' E	4284	ghot N of Tin Pokhari
PT 31	27° 37.669' N 87° 03.342' E	4303	outer ghot c "
PT 32	27° 37.817' N 87° 03.120' E	4191	trail above Kal Pokhari
PT 33	27° 38.169' N 87° 03.092' E	4114	Dante(?) nest - predated
L 8	27° 38.422' N 87° 02.979' E	4165	E Tin Pokhari at ghot in hollow
PT 34	27° 38.455' N 87° 03.030' E	4195	ghot walls
PT 35	27° 38.422' N 87° 03.167' E	4235	start of juniper burn
PT 36	27° 38.544' N 87° 03.628' E	4248	ghot on crest, burned jun
PT 37	27° 38.599' N 87° 03.717' E	4236	end of juniper burn
CP 16	27° 38.815' N 87° 04.228' E	4162	unknown pokhari pristine labelled "Kal Pokhari" on topo map.

Weather: Mostly clear at daybreak & into early AM; some tufts of cloud c. nearby danda tops / lekhs. 39°F at 05h45; but heavy frost c. CP site. In & out of fog later in AM; occasional fog, mostly overcast in afternoon; fog closing in again dusk → twilight.

Habitat: Mostly a very dense, contiguous cover of rhododendron shrublands (sev. spp.) with thickets & juniper on dry slopes. Unburnt in ravine: ≥ 1.5m tall & level topped, can almost walk across; too dark below so no ground cover; but ^{nearly all} ~~much~~ of ^{vast} juniper swath burned & killed, probably within past 1-2 years. Moss patches & small herbaceous plants growing under burnt stems / limbs (photo). Said by Bibendra Rai to have been set by hunters, rumored locally to be 2 Tall Chinese with pistols that people were afraid of.

[cont.] (see pg. 80)

Effort:

06h00 - 12h45

13h25 - 18h05

Σ = 11h 25 min

20 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 21

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

- 1. Rufous-breasted Accentor - 3 or 4 c. AM CP site, c. 4300-4310m. ^{+2 more in chase, later, same area}
- 2. White-capped Water Redstart - duo/pr. " " c. 4305m.
- 3. White-browed Rosefinch - ♂? c. AM CP site, c. 4295m.
- 4. Tickell's leaf Warbler - 1 in red bushy rhodo, past Kal Pokhari, 4180m.
- 5. Grandala - ≥ 5 (≥ 2♂♂, 3♀♀) above trail ... ↗ " c. 4200-4220m
- 6. Buff-barred Warbler - ≥ 1 past Kal Pokhari, c. 4230m
- 7. Fire-tailed Sunbird - 1♂ chasing 1♂ + 1♀; splendid views, c. 4250m
- 8. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - ♂? at clearing edge " c. 4240m
- 9. Rufous-breasted Bush Robin - "Locally frequent resident w/ Careax
Edwards' G. et al. '00. 1 bird in dense thickets, past Kal Pokhari, c. 4280-4300m
(rhodo & juniper)
- 10. White-winged Grosbeak - ♀ prior to #9, top of rhodos/juniper, c. 4240m
- 11. Himalayan Monal? - a nest w/ eggs & feathers nest destroyed by
predator; 4 eggs pulled out except for 2 farthest in; 1 egg pierced (beak?)
w/ well developed embryo inside; photo'd; in rhodo/juniper shrub clearing 4.15m
GPS pt. taken; raided by crow/reptor, or mammal? see pg. 79 c. 4140m.
- 12. Plain-backed Thrush - no wingbars; und seen well, approaching lunchstop.
- 13. [omitted] Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1 c. AM CP, N of Tin Pokhari, c. 4285m.
- 14. Golden Bush Robin - ♂ past lunch stop in side valley, c.
- 15. [omitted] Large-billed Crow - duo/pair c. lunchstop, c. 4180-4200m
(see pg. 80)

Additional records:

- #3) ♀ trail past Kal Pokhari, c. 4200m;
- #1) duo/pr approach " " c. 4220m;
- #7) 2♂♂ past ... ↗ c. 4300m; 1♂ in juniper burn approaching pristine pokhari
- #6) 3 together " " " c. 1H+1 in burnt juniper
- #11) 1 (H) approaching lunchstop, c. 4050-4100m;
- #13) 1 (H) " " c. 4135m; 1 (H) c. 4190m further on.
- #4) 1 c. 4165m towards ↗ ";
- #1) 1 at
- #10) 1 (H) edge juniper burn E of Kal Pokhari, c. 4180m;

20 May '09

No
Date

Day 21

Additional records:

→ ravine before eve CP/lake: a dense tall ($>2m$) connected swath of juniper plants, some emergent straight stems. Easily punch thru when walking across flattened (by wind) crowns.

Route: From ghot CP N of "Tin Pokhari" NW $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 (PT 32) followed trail keeping fairly level, but rugged, faint at times, through mixed scrub & down into tributary valley (w/ another "Tin Pokhari" up in headwaters?) for lunch stop at overhang c. stone ghots. Steeply up to level trail across wide juniper burn; soon after lost. Traversed steeply down & up ^(bush whack!) ravine 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. LB); shallow cup of short grasses under a rocky slab in open space (not really a clearing), in dense thickets of dwarf rhodo dendron (rhodo shrubbed nearby); photographed. Also some ^{squamate} juniper present. Clutch = 6 eggs, four of which pulled outside including 1 pierced by sharp object (bird beak?) & showing a well-developed embryo; 2 remaining eggs at back of overhanging slab, & 1 of which white, contrasting w/ brown vermillion of other 5 eggs. From pierced egg, estimated predation very recent: 1/2 in past day or 2. (albumen still fairly thin) feathers of apparently seized ♀ c. nest site. Predator possibly large raptor such as Golden Eagle?

21 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 22

(G et al. '98: "Summers 2400-4600m" in India)

← = 12 species

Additional records:

#3) 1 (H) above eye CP site, c. 4465m.

Mammal record:

Musk Deer - Rajan encountered 1 c. dawn near F edge of ^{unknown} pokhari. Not wary! Pulled jacket over head, tried to approach (to catch?), walked away slowly, occasionally turning to watch Rajan. Approached to w/ in 10m!

← =

Habitat (cont.):

This story seems dubious considering dangers of crossing the China-Nepal border and moving around in Arun/MBNP. Conspicuous as mainland Chinese. Probably local hunters, Rais from village(s) lower down... Soil is sanding with a few landslips which in this general area of rhodo-juniper almost encountered except some gouging of ravines (natural)... pioneering vegetation in forms of moss + small herb. plants under burnt plants. Juniper in ravines + cliff pocks large/old. Burn swept through area of 50-100+ years old juniper scrub. Photographed extensively. Needs to be regularly monitored. Has start/end at burn GPS pt. Looks to be no juniper unburned for large areas; hard to imagine regrowth any time soon; probably only a few people (hunters) involved, so should be easy to identify, find ways to change behaviour.

(83)

GPS Coordinates: 22 May '09

No
Date Day 23

<u>Code</u>	<u>Coordinate</u>	<u>Alt</u> (m)	<u>Site Info</u>
CP17 L9	27°39.389'N 87°04.163'E	4436	stone ghot walls late lunch & eve CP.

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

Habitat: Alpine zone vegetation @ CP site. 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)

Effort: none. The only bird recorded was from inside the tent.

22 May 2009

No. Date Day 23

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.

Σ = 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. Rajan thought it better to get him to Saissima (too far); our position remote & Bhatri too ill to consider cutting Saune Danda, trying for Suire Danda / Khola & over to Sankhuwa. Now a matter of how to put this trek in reverse.

(85)

GPS Coordinates

23 May '09

No.
Date

Day 24

<u>Code</u>	<u>Coordinate</u>	<u>Alt.</u> (m)	<u>Site Info</u>
L9 CP17	27°39.389'N 87°04.163'E	4436	

Weather: High broken overcast at Sh 30, but by 06h00 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 @ CP site.

≈ 0h 30 min

limited to brief early AM search @ CP site,

(86)

23 May 2009

No. _____
Date Day 24

Saune Danda spur ghot walls CP, Apsuwa Khola (4436m)

- c. 4440m
1. Mystery Rosefinch - 1 (H) $\frac{1}{2}$ seen poorly, c AM CP, early AM.
 2. Golden Bush Robin - σ^7 on boulders, " " "
 3. Winter Wren - 1 (H) c AM CP in fog, early AM, c 4445m.
 4. Himalayan Monal - 1 (H) calling from above CP, c 4480m
 5. Solitary Snipe - 1 (H), calling briefly at dusk-twilight c
CP site c 4450-4480m. G et al. '00: "uncommon local winter
visitor/passage migrant/probably also resident, mainly 2135-4000m,
(-915m)" \therefore possibly new alt. max. for Nepal! (area is highest CP
on trek; G et al. '98: "summers 2400-4600m" in India.

← = 5 species

Bhatni 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.

(87)

GPS Coordinates: 24 May '09

No
Date Day 25

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
L9 CP 17	27° 39.389' N 87° 04.163' E	4436	Saure Danda spur stone ghot walls
PT 41	27° 39.497' N 87° 03.991' E	4556	bhanjyang & cairn
PT 42	27° 39.202' N 87° 04.392' E	4384	steep drop section of tr.
PT 43	27° 38.949' N 87° 03.927' E	4335	ghot w/ very level chair
PT 44	27° 38.377' N 87° 03.287' E	4284	start of juniper burn (E edge)
L 10	27° 38.253' N 87° 03.026' E	4100	Kolchho Oraal lund stn
CP 18	27° 37.714' N 87° 03.232' E	4281	same site as CP 15.
PT 34 (re-visited on return)	27° 38.455' N 87° 03.030' E	4195	ghot N of Tin Pokhari

Weather: Some high thin cloud around dandas to S & off to E, but himal & lekhs totally clear in early AM; lekhs + himal clear until 08h00s, and lekhs/danda sides open farther 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. lepidopterum?* - yellow, small flowers, dwarf red species & larger red sp. (*nivale?*); only yellow in bloom; scattered patches in grass (grazed on less steep aspects) & boulders, bit of scree; below 4200m the rhodo much denser, taller & > 2 spp. (*barbatum?* *hodgsonii?*) - photo'd. Drier slopes had robust patches of juniper, but some burned! c. ghots & others maybe from fire creep below? Tin Pokhari N slope in Khodakharka Khola a stunning continuous blanket of mixed rhodo shrubs, some juniper, almost no grass & unburnt.

Effort:

05h45 - 14h45

15h15 - 18h05

↳ = 11h 50 min

24 May 2009

No
Date Day 25

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

(see pg. 89)

- ① Solitary Snipe - 1 (H) ♂ glimpsed near & over the 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 2135-4000m (-915m)": possibly new alt. max for Nepal! Area is highest CP on trek. G. et al. '98: "summers 2400-4600m" in India.
2. Alpine Accentor - 1 in dwarf rhodo + boulders, c. AM CP site, c. 4460m.
3. Golden Bush Robin - ♂ calling, boulder top " " " c. 4470m
- X4 Beautiful Rosefinch - ♂ in dwarf rhodo " " " c. 4450m
5. White-browed Rosefinch - ♀ on boulder " " " c. 4455m
6. Himalayan Monal - 1 (H) ^{by 2c} then ^{flushed} seen by Dire. Rai (♂) ^(early AM) c. tents, c. 4435m.
7. Winter Wren - 1 seen singing, pass on Saune Danda, c. 4565m.
8. Buff-barred Warbler - 1 (H) bktracking from AM CP c. 4400m
- ? 9. Black-faced Laughingthrush - 1 (H) in rhodo shrubs ^{R. Lepidoptera + 1-2 others.} c. 4380m.
10. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1 (H) in dwarf rhodo, c. 4360m, giving typical call (song?) but lacking wheezy notes at end.
- ⑪ Smoky Warbler - 1 seen well on R. lepidoptera, alarming w/a "tschik" or "tschuk", c. 4300m. G. et al. '00: "uncommon resident; summers 3900-5000m".
12. Blue-capped Redstart - ♂ in dwarf rhodo farther on, c. 4280m
13. White-capped Water Redstart - 1 in boulders, bktracking ♂ c. 4260m.
14. Fire-tailed Sunbird - ♂ in rhodo shrubs, c. lunch stop, c. 4100m.
15. White-winged Grosbeak - 1 (H) c. 4110m towards Kāl Pokhari area CP.
16. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - ♀ seen well, ↑ " " c. 4175m.
- ? ⑰ Spot-winged Grosbeak - ♂ & ♀ pair in dense rhodo shrubs ↑ " "
 - * G. et al. '00: "uncommon resident, summers up to 3355m".
 - G. et al. '98: "-3355" in India, "-3660" in Bhutan. Habitat different & much higher at c. 4175m than recorded maxima. Probably mis-spoken on tape. Meant to say 'White-winged'. Omit.
18. White-browed Fulvetta - 1 not wary towards Kāl Pokhari, c. 4200m.
- ? 19. Rosy Pipit? - 1 (H) seen far away, late afternoon " " c. 4230m
20. Grandata - ≥ 1 (♂?) c. evening CP site, c. 4435m.

Σ =

(89)

24 May '09

No
Date

Day 25

Additional records:

- #5) ♀♂ pair above AMCP, c. 4485m;
 #2) pair/duo AMCP → pass, c. 4510m; 4 previous that at 4480m
 #7) 1 w/ tail cocked high, boulder, bk tracking from AMCP, c. 4380m
 #7 cont.) 1 (H) singing in dwarf rhodo ↑ " " c. 4300m
 #6) 1 (H) towards Kāl Pokhari, c. 4300m;
 #3) 1 (H) " " ^{3rd = pr/duo} " c. 4320m;
 #11) probable 2nd bird farther on c. 4180m;
 #8) 1 (H) towards Kāl Pokhari, c. 4150m; pr/duo above lunchstop ^{c. 4125m}.
 #14) ♂ seen part lunchstop, c. 4125m; 1H ♂ farther on, c. 4140m.
 #8 cont.) 1 seen farther on top part lunchstop, c. 4140m;
 #14 cont.) 1H ♂ farther on towards Kāl Pokhari, c. 4150m;
 #8 cont.) 1H (pr/duo) " " " " ; farther in 4150
 #14 cont.) ♀ seen farther on " " " " ;
 #14 ") ♀ & ♂ " " " " c. 4175m; ♂ at 4190m
 #8 cont.) 1 seen " " " " " "
 #6) ♀ seen well in dense rhodo shrubs ↑ " c. 4190m;
 #10) 1 (H) not seen, " " " "
 #16 cont.) 2 ♂♂ + 1 ♀ " " c. 4200m;
 #14) 3 ♂♂ + 1 ♀ in rhodo shrubs, " " c. 4180m;
 #8 cont.) 1 (H) + 1 seen " " " "
 #6) cont.) feathers of an ^(photographed) ♀ c. cooking fire of hunters
 in overhang down from/approaching Kāl Pokhari/ere CP; 4210m
 #11) 1 seen well in dwarf rhodo " " " "
 #6) 1 (H) below Tin Pokhari ghot CP, c. 4250m at dusk-twilight
 #1) 1 bird (H) in dense fog & mist c. ghot CP N of Tin Pokhari, starting
 past dusk (18h15); 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 & CP site, each bird (H)
 drumming when at close range. Went until past dark,
 calling on the wing & drumming, stopping about 21h30; rain
 commenced shortly after that time. c. 4300-4350m.

24 May 2009

No
Date Day 25

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

Route: Early AM excursion (0645-08140) to bhanjyang
 NW(?) of camp; over boulders with occasional traces of an
 indistinct trail; just below cairned bhanjyang is steep
 ticky section + pass is thin + steep; considerable patch of
 NW face snow, but easily traversed (or so appears to be);

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

Paused at oraal 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. Lost trail at
 oraal in dense steep juniper & rhodo clumps, but after 30
 min picked it up nearby. Arrived ^{dusk} almost twilight at CP 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 goats, used by
 them, hunters + yansagumba collectors.

(91)

GPS Coordinates

25 May '09

No. Date Day 26

Code

Coordinate

Alt

Site Info

CP18

27°37.714'N 87°03.282'E

(m)

ghat CP N of Tin Pokhari

same site as CP15.

Weather: during night mostly clear, few clouds up high. Overcast at dawn & drizzle/rain beginning at 06h30; in tents almost entire day; by late afternoon, snow accumulating at 4500-4600m; not in fog with cloud line at c. 4600m, sometimes lower; rain + at times fine snow at CP site, changing over to heavier rain. Rain into evening & night.

Habitat: Alpine zone vegetation. In ^{dense} patches on slopes c. Tin & Kāl pokhari, bit of burning & cutting c. ghats. Mostly dwarf rhododendron (several spp.) other short shrubs (barberry?) some squamate juniper, boulder 'field' patches; boulders quite mossy. Tufts of grass also present.

Route: none; stayed inside tents

Effort:

05h30 - 06h30 briefly outside before rain

← = 1 hr 00 min.

25 May 2009

No
Date Day 26

Ghot CPN 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 max, 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.

← = 3 species

(93)

GPS Coordinates 26 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 27

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP 18	27°37'14"N 87°03'23"E	4281	ghat CP N of Tin Pekhan same site as CP 15

Weather: - Rained during entire night, fairly heavy at times. Radio said this rain is remnant of cyclone (Atsa? Cup 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 now 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 Kolcho lunch stop of few days before now 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

No
Date Day 27

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

(H)

- 1. Large-billed Crow - 1 c. tents at CP site c. 4280m at dusk - only bird seen or heard during the day. X-no.
- 2. Rufous-breasted Accentor - ≥ 1 (H) c. CP site c. 4285m.
- 3. White-capped Water Redstart - 1 c. temp pond c. CP site c. 4280m.
- 4. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - σ^7 c. tents, late afternoon c. "

$\leftarrow = 4$ species

(95)

GPS Coordinates

27 May '09

No. Date Day 28

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP 18	27° 37.714' N 87° 03.232' E	4281	ghat CP N of Tin Pokhari.
PT 45	27° 37.509' N 87° 03.750' E	4388	same site as CP 15
PT 46	27° 37.168' N 87° 03.865' E	4341	danda crest trail
L 11	27° 36.815' N 87° 04.001' E	4343	cliff top crest trail
PT 47	27° 36.669' N 87° 03.771' E	4197	2 ghats c small pokhari
PT 48	27° 36.464' N 87° 03.706' E	4297	descending W slope ^{Lamini Danda}
PT 49	27° 36.397' N 87° 03.528' E	4182	jct Jophal Danda crest trail
CP 19	27° 36.188' N 87° 03.086' E	4033	Jopha Danda crest camp

Weather: Rain during early night. Clear at first light-dawn. No significant accumulation c 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 16h00 - dusk/twilight.

Habitat: See pg. 91 for CP site; ^{scrub} rhododendron & patches of ^{squawmate} dwarf 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 ghats; some ghats have ungrazed as well in pliphery suggesting disused last yr; patches of short white-flowered wildflowers as well; area c small pokhari negligibly disturbed. Lake area is ^{not} ~~is~~ ^{but is on} ~~surrounding~~ danda tops.

Effort:

05h30 - 08h10 early AM excursion
 08h45 - 12h15 AM march
 12h45 - 18h00

≤ = 10h45min

27 May 2009

No
Date Day 28

ghat CP N of Tin Pokhari, Kholakharka Kh., Apsuwa Khola (4281m)
 Jophal Danda crest CP, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa watershed (4033m)

- ① Solitary Snipe - ≥ 1 calling & drumming c. Tin Pokhari & CP site
 1st light-dawn; c. tents at times; c. 4320-4340m; G. et al '00:
 "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 (H) across valley from CP site, c. 4300m.
4. Golden Bush Robin - σ^7 in dense shrubs c. AM " c. 4280m.
5. Plain-backed Thrush - 1 silhouette + H above " " c. 4345m
6. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - σ^7 c. tents in rain, afternoon, c. 4280m.
7. White-winged Grosbeak - 1 (H) " (c. PTAS) " c. 4320m.
8. Blue-fronted Redstart - σ^7 on boulders, Jophal crest trail, c. 4370m.
9. Plain-backed Thrush - 1 seen well, including uniform scaly und (vs
 not in long-tailed) in boulders & juniper c. 4365m; becoming familiar w/ song.
10. Buff-banded Warbler - 1 (H) in rhodo scrub, Jophal Danda, c. 4300m.
11. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1 (H) in rhodo shrubs " " c. 4320
12. Fire-tailed Sunbird - σ^7 in rhodo shrubs, " " c. 4280m.
13. [omitted] Himalayan Monal - 1 seen as silhouette & heard calling for
 long time, AM CP \rightarrow lunch stop; c. 4250-4300m.

$\Leftarrow =$ 11 species (#s 5 & 9 the same; #s 3 & 13 the same!)

(97)

27 May '09

No.
Date Day 28

Additional records:

- #7) ♂♀ pair on Jophal Danda crest trail, c 4350m; $\leq 4170m$.
#11) 1 (H) including end wheezy ^{nasal} notes, \uparrow c. 4350m;
#12) ♂ on Jophal Danda, c 4200m; 1 (H) Jophal Danda

Route: From AN CP to small pokhari, 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 ~~to~~ crest line/trail to makeshift CP site;

Missed Lamini Danda trail, jct with Jophal Danda crest; should not have descended on steep W/N 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 dipping into fog; kept distance of c. 100m, retreating, heads peering over boulder faces; not very wary, although general area visited by hunters (this year?)
Site here: very rocky, steep, big boulders.

27 May 2009

No
Date Day 28

ghat CP N of Tin Pokhari, Kholakharka Khola, Apsuwa Khola (4281m) —
Japhal Banda crest CP, Sankhuwa-Apsuwa watershed (4033m)

(99)

GPS Coordinates

28 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 29

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP 19	27° 36.188' N 87° 03.086' E	4033	Jophal Danda crest CP
PT 50	27° 35.928' N 87° 02.848' E	3869	stick ghot frames Kharka + shrubberies
PT 51	27° 35.617' N 87° 02.937' E	3771	Jophal Danda crest trail
L 12	27° 35.392' N 87° 02.849' E	3730	ghot frame & burn
PT 52	27° 35.000' N 87° 02.501' E	3641	Jophal Danda top
PT 53	27° 34.977' N 87° 02.508' E	3631	chautara & dunga chaur
PT 54	27° 34.821' N 87° 02.515' E	3486	ghot frame & chaur
CP 20	27° 34.245' N 87° 02.421' E	3315	Samdaplo Kharka (topo map).

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 12PM; bouts of rain in late afternoon; 39°F at 06h00, with very heavy frost on tents.

Habitat: Alpine zone vegetation as AT1 CP; mainly rhododendron shrubs/shrubberies (several spp.) with juniper & rose in drier aspects; other broadleaf shrubs as well; some trailside burning but not extensive; shrub^{denser}beries with considerable load of moss; extensive burn^{of rhodo-juniper shrubberies} on E face slope of Khonguwa Kh watershed, c. lunchstop (L12) Kharka. More burning further on 3700-3500, extensive patches of rhodo trees + bamboo (malingo) scorched, but bamboo starting to sprout at charred bases in some places.

Route:

(See page 102.)

Effort:

06h00 - 13h00 AT excursion & march
14h00 - 19h00 afternoon march

≡ 12 h 00 min

28 May 2009

No. Date Day 29

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

- 1. ? Black-faced laughingthrush - ? 1 (H) c. AM CP site, ^{early Alt.} c. 4040m.
- 2. Fire-tailed Sunbird - 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 c. 3960m.
- 7. White-collared / Grey-winged Blackbird - 1 (H) c. 3880m on Jophal Danda; either sp. would be > alt. max per G. et al. '00.
- 8. Stripe-throated Yuhina - > 2 c. PT 50 Kharka, c. 3865m. 3840
- 9. White-browed Bush Robin - ♂ seen briefly (shy) " ", c. 3860m.
- 10. Rufous-fronted Tit - ≥ 4 in mixed hunting party w/ # 11, c. 3820m, below PT 50 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 # 10s, c. 3820m, Jophal Danda
- 12. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. 3800m on Jophal Danda, below PT 50
- 13. Rufous-vented Yuhina - ≥ 1 with # 8s (2 or 3) " , c. 3700m. in same flock 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 Tesia - 1 seen at 3770m, Jophal Danda crest trail
- 15. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - 1 (sex?) c. L12 lunchstop ↑ ... c. 3775m
- 16. Rufous-vented Tit - 1 c. lunchstop " " "
- 17. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) below " " " c. 3500m.
- 18. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1 seen well, edge of Kharka (L12) c. 3710m; intro note & alarm different than # 5 (L); size smaller.
- 19. Mystery Owl - 1 (H) before rain started again c. 4 PM, v. dark sky, c. 3600m; gave double "hoot"-like call once (?) from dense forest, possibly local open aspect caused by burning.

Additional records:

- #2) another 1+1 ♂♂, + ♂/♀ pair c Sandaplo Kharka CP site, c 4040m.
- #2 cont.) ♂ further down, below " " c 4020m
- #2 cont.) ♂/♀ pair c 3980m; ♂ c 3960m, below ↑
- #2 cont.) " c 3960m, c PT 50, c Kharka on Jophal Danda crest.
- #2 cont.) ♂ c 3950m ... below ↑ " "
- #2 cont.) 3 ♂♂ + 1 ♀ 3750-3800m, Jophal Danda crest trail.
- #2 cont.) 2 ♂♂ at 3785m, ... ↑ " ; 1+1 ♂♂ at 3770m
- #8) 1 (H) along Jophal Danda crest trail, c 3750m.
- #9) ♀ past/down from L12, along ↑ " c 3710m.
- #11) 1 c Jopah Danda top (c PT 52), c 3620m.
- #9 cont.) ♂ seen well at edge of small kharka, c 3540m.
- #16) 1 (race beavani) c 3400m, crest trail, Jophal Danda
- #21) 1 (H) c 3350m ... ↑ " " "

41. White-browed Fulvetta - a duo/pair active in lower storey/near ground. ≥ 1 bird feeding young in nest or near ground, steep slope Jophal Danda, c 3820m; bird carrying a berry, then a small insect. site too steep to examine.

↳ Breeding records:

40. Fire-tailed Sunbird - ♀ at/on/c nest in barberry & juniper, at edge of ghot frame Kharka (PT 50) crest of Jophal Danda. Nest an orb with entrance hole which has a knitted overhang (3x3cm hole; c 1cm wide overhang); placed on an upper branch in juniper shrub (photographed); nest bottom to ground = 65cm; length of nest = 15cm width = 8cm; 2 eggs inside, pale brown, heavily splotted 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 shrub; after flushing & nest inspected (c 15min) ♀ returned to sit on eggs. c 3360m.

28 May 2009

No
Date Day 29

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

20. White-browed Rosefinch - good looks at a ♀ on ground at edge of small Kharka after rain; c. 3500m. Not very wary.
21. Whistler's Warbler - 1 (H) c. 3450m along Jophal Danda crest.
22. [omitted] Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) approach Samdapo Kharka, c. 3250m^(calling from)

Σ =

Route: from makeshift CP site 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's feet support for dhokas (Σme) to pass.

Habitat (cont.): tall shrubberies & trees in forest along this day's route very mossy, wet; frequent burns along trail & patches (some extensive) on E & S-facing slopes; W & N slopes negligibly affected by fire; see next day for description of habitat & evening campsite.

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info (topo map name)
CP 20	27°34.245'N 87°02.421'E	3315	Samdaplo Kharka
PT 55	27°34.102'N 87°02.584'E	3162	Jophal Danda crest
PT 56	27°33.921'N 87°02.856'E	2981	Golden-breasted Fulvetta site in dense rhodo-bamboo
PT 57	27°33.576'N 87°03.080'E	2863	small Kharka, gd CPSite
PT 58	27°33.356'N 87°03.111'E	2792	small Kharka, not gd CP, saplings
L13	27°33.303'N 87°03.050'E	2754	Dobato Kharka
PT 59	27°33.174'N 87°02.901'E	2592	waypt; Indian Blue Robin nest
CP 21	27°32.957'N 87°02.770'E	2421	Maajha Kharka, Sankhuwa

Weather: Clear in early AM; cool & moist from previous days 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 5h30-06h00.

Habitat: Mostly tall rhododendron shrubberies + forest trees with birch & other broadleaves up from Samdaplo Kharka. Malingo (*Arundinaria* sp.) prominent, and below Kharka tall dense & dominant at c. 3200m. little off trail damage/understorey clearance from grazing; further down (3200-3000m) malingo dominant in understorey more mix of broadleaves; dense upper temperate associations Dobato Kharka → Maajha Kharka; extensive & severe burning of scrub + some forest patches on S-facing slope up from Maajha Kharka. (said to be done every year, but creep this year worse than in many, many years)

Effort:
 04h55 (!) — 05h15 early AM c CPSite
 06h00 — 06h20 coffee at CPSite
 06h20 — 08h00 AM birdwalks ^{up from} CPSite
 08h15 — 13h20 AM walk to L13
 14h20 — 17h45 afternoon walk + Maajha

Σ = 10h50min

29 May 2009

No
Date Day 30

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

- +1 (1 of which giving intra nasal notes)
1. Grey-sided Bush Warbler - 1 seen + H, edge of AM CP, Samdaplo Kharka
 2. Olive-backed Pipit - 1 in trees c. AM CP, Samdaplo Kharka, c. 3315m
 3. Black-faced Laughing Thrush - 1 seen + H c. " " c. 3310m
 4. Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher - 1 (sex?) in forest up from ↑ c. 3330m
 5. Striped-throated Yuhina - pair/duo (H) " (with #7) " c. 3335m
 6. Chestnut-tailed Minla - ≥ 1 seen alarming " " c. 3340m
 7. Red-tailed Minla - ≥ 1 with #6(s) in upper canopy " "
 - ⑧ Crimson-breasted Woodpecker - ♂ seen well: much smaller vs Darjeeling, red extensive on nape back pattern, underpart streaking, no(?) breast band, ^{breast not seen well} vent not seen well but no uniform red; c. 3350m in forest above Samdaplo Kharka; foraging. G. et al '00: "1500-2750m"; G. et al '98: "recorded at 1500-2750m (600-3900m)" India? Nepal? Bhutan? "nest site details unknown" (!); * new alt. max for Nepal?
 9. Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler - ≥ 1 (H) clearly in dense mixed forest with bamboo ^{prominent} understorey; monotonous 'poop... poop... poop... poop' call at close range; c. 3350m above Samdaplo Kharka.
 10. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) ... " " c. 3350-3400m
 11. Mystery Swift/Martin - several above (not seen well) " " c. 3400m
 12. Whistler's Warbler - ≥ 1 (H) above " " c. 3360m
 13. Yellow-bellied Fantail - 1 in forest " " c. 3350m
 14. Eurasian Crag Martin - 15-20 above (vertically) " " c. 3310-3350m
 15. White-throated Needletail - 1 over Samdaplo Kharka c. 3330m
 - ⑩ Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler - 1 (H) clearly at close range below * Samdaplo Kharka, c. 3260m in dense ^{tingal} bamboo; G. et al '00 & G. et al '98 inaccurately/incompletely describe the call/song '98: "typical song is an amazing 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 ^(italized) chrrt chrrt chrrt (P. Morris)" G. et al '00: "Song is a thin high-pitched ^(italized) see-saw see-saw see-saw, etc." Ali & Ripley '87: "a series of three or four long drawn-out whistles, each lasting about two seconds, uttered slowly in ascending scale, followed by several quick-repeated up & down ^(italized) 'chee chee' notes resembling call of Upland Pipit. G. et al '00: "scarce & local". Ali & Ripley '87: "a great skulker, very difficult to observe".

29 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 30Additional records:

- #6) 1 in dense malingo, c. #17/18 site, Jophal Danda crest trail, c. 3190m
 #12) 1 seen well, c. 3200m, Jophal Danda " ; duo/pair at 3080m
 #17) 1 at 3085m, Jophal Danda crest trail; Jophal
 #12 cont.) 1 at 3050m " " " ; duo/pair at c. 3000m, Danda
 #4) 1 (H) c. 3020m " " " ;
 #12 cont.) 1 (H) c. 2975 Jophal Danda, crest trail.
 #13) ≥ 1 w/ #28s, Jophal Danda crest trail, c. 2975m;
 #12 cont.) 2+1 (H) " " c. 2920m;
 #12 cont.) 1+1+1 (H) " " c. 2850-2860m.
 #12 cont.) 1+1 (H) c. small Kharka (PT58) c. 2790m;
 #2) 1H (pr/duo?) c. Kharka below PT58, c. 2780m;
 #16) 1 (H) off/down from Dobato Kharka, c. 2700m;
 #27) 1 (H) from forest off from/up from Dobato Kharka, c. 2800m.
 #34) 1 (H) below Dobato Kharka, c. 2700m; 1 (H) farther on/down, c. 2680m
 #32) 1 (H) " " " ; 1 c. Maajha Kharka, c. 2435m.
 #31) 1 seen " " " c. 2670m; 1 ♂ seen at c. 2450m above Maajha Kharka

Breeding record

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

43. Indian Blue Robin - a nest with eggs & defensive/curious ♀ at c. 2600m, trailside, Jophal Danda crest below Dobato Kharka. ♀ alarming but mostly silent, keeping behind rocks or trees, but never >20m from nest while inspected + waiting for her to appear to know sp. nest recessed c. 5cm under large boulder in strip of scrub forest, c. 20cm above ground level (but on sloped embankment); nest oval-shaped, outside of well-knitted leaves, inner (rim + lining of cup) fine rootlets or rhizomes. ^{brown} obscuring vegetation, dried or dead (not burned); photo'd; 7:1 tournaise eggs; nest rim 7x5 cm; small herb. plants also at nest entr.

29 May 2009

No Date Day 30

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

17. White-browed Fulvetta - nesting pair at c 3192m, ^{below Samdaplo Kharka,} along danda-trail.

(18) Brown Parrotbill - pair/duo going past in dense understory of malingo, shy, not affording complete views; 1 bird paused in rhodo shrub, seen OK w/out binos; gave a subdued whurry call several times (alarm?) (vs. "faint churr churr" of Ali & Ripley '87); same site as # 17/nest, Jophal Danda trail, below Samdaplo Kharka 3255m.

(19) Mountain Hawk Eagle - excellent views over forest, 3220-3260m, Jophal Danda crest trail; G. et al. '00: "locally frequent, mainly 1500-2835m" 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 ^{3rd dorsal views} seen well ^{bird} belly banding seen well (not streaked as in Changeable)

20. Eurasian Nuthacker - 1H then seen, c. 3185, mewing & chasing another individual of this sp.; Jophal Danda crest trail.

21. Rufous-vented Tit - ≥ 1 along ^{below} " " " Samdaplo Kharka

22. Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush - ♂ " " c 3120m

23. Rufous-bellied Niltava - ♂ at c 3020m " " "

24. Snowy-browed Flycatcher - ♂ at 2980-2990m, Jophal Danda ^{crest trail} (probably another ♂ ^{same?} seen higher up, c 2975m & H.).

(25) Golden-breasted Fulvetta - ≥ 2 (probably 3) moving through/foraging ^{new} in dense forest w/ dense malingo understory, c 2980m (= PT 56), Jophal ^{for} Danda crest trail; with #26? G. et al. '00: "very local resident in W-C areas; yellow is brilliant, brighter than plate Beautiful birds!"

?26. Ashy-throated Warbler - 1 w/ #25s, keeping a typically low; ^{not seen} well

27. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) in dense forest/bamboo, c 2975-3000m...

28. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - ≥ 2 with #13, Jophal Danda, c 2975m

29. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) c 3000m, Jophal " crest trail

?30. Black-eared Shrike Babbler - 1 (H) calling incessantly, tree tops, trail along Jophal Danda crest; G. et al. '00: "summers 1800-2440m"; ^{no higher} outside NP. giving a repeated four note call, ascending on last note.

31. Green-tailed Sunbird - 1 (H), Jophal Danda crest trail, c 2850m

32. Rufous Sibia - 1 seen at Kharka below PT 58 Kharka c 2780m

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No
Date

Day 30

Additional records:

2600m-

- #34 cont.) nest + ♀ at 2590m, Jophal Danda crest trail.
 #29) 1 seen (not diagnostically), then H, " " c. 2610m.
 #33) 1 (H) above Maajha Kharka, c. 2440m, off crest trail.
 #33 cont.) 1 (H) side of " " c. 2420m in hedge row.
 #2 cont.) 1 in 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) trail is deeply carved by use (mainly for grazing & cutting of malingo (hunting as well?). Quite good trail except for slippery, slimy steep sections near Maajha Kharka.

Breeding records (cont.):

44. Grey Bushchat - ♀ 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 Kharka, c. 2410-2420m. Juveniles on rock slab; ♀ swooping around less developed fledgling, perching at times < 0.5 nearby.

29 May 2009

No
Date Day 30

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

33. Brownish-flanked ^{Bush} Warbler - 1 (H) ^(Dobato Kharka) lunchstop L13 Khatka, c. 2750m
34. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) " " " c. 2755m
35. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) above " " c. 2800-2900m
36. Sooty Flycatcher - 1 seen hawking insects, Jophal Danda crest c. 2605m
37. [omitted] Blyth's Leaf Warbler - pair/duo at Dobato Kharka edge, c. 2765m
38. long-tailed Minivet - several (♂♂ + ♀♀) flying by over #34 nest site, c. 2615m; IDed by call; Jophal Danda crest 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. " (not wary) "
42. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) forested edge, Maajha Kharka c. 2435m
43. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. Maajha Kharka, c. 2400-2450m;
 later flushed from a treetop at 2460m, seen but not diagnostically.
44. Whiskered Yuhina - ≥ 4 eating ai: selu berries, Khat c. Maajha Kharka ^{c. 2400m}
- ? 45. Short-billed Minivet - ♂ deep red, glossy black, up from ↑ " c. 2415m
46. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch - 1 in wheat field c. Maajha Kharka, c. 2410m
- ? 47. Maroon Oriole - 1 (H) ? trees just above ... ↑ " c. 2435m
48. Striated Bulbul - 1 seen in trees " " " "
49. Green-backed Tit - 1 seen in alders, side of " " c. 2420m
50. Grey Bushchat - ♂ edge of Maajha Kharka, c. 2425m; ^{also ♀ +} 2 juvs.
51. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - ♂ seen well ↑ " " ;
- ? 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 ↑ " c. 2430m
54. [omitted] Large-billed/House Crow - 1 (H) c. 2500m above Maajha Kharka
55. Grey-tailed Nightjar - 1 (H) c. 20h30 from tent at bird at c. 2500m?
56. Striated Laughingthrush - pair/duo approaching lunchstop, c. 2900m.

Σ =

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP21	27° 32.957' N 87° 02.770' E	2421	Maajha Kharka, Sankhuwa
PT61	27° 32.742' N 87° 02.693' E	2282	trail jct. on danda crest
PT62	27° 32.668' N 87° 02.570' E	2206	waypt for trail & alt.
PT63	27° 32.551' N 87° 02.701' E	2113	" "
PT64	27° 32.418' N 87° 02.798' E	1974	Sikidim village outskirts
PT65	27° 32.272' N 87° 02.731' E	1882	house at edge protected forest
PT66	27° 33.311' N 87° 02.581' E	1717	ghat & taro, steep side trail
PT67	27° 32.222' N 87° 02.764' E	1812	jct. with main trail
PT68	27° 32.160' N 87° 02.803' E	1731	main Sikidim-Sankhuwa trail below
L14 CP21	27° 32.207' N 87° 02.570' E	1502	Sankhuwa bridge Sikidim

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 ^{mid} late afternoon; bouts of showers with little break from 4 PM onwards.

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

Effort: 05h50 - 08h15 c AM CP & up in forest
08h45 - 14h30 AM + afternoon march

Σ = 8h10min.

30 May 2009

No
Date Day 31

Maajha Kharka, base of Jophal Danda; Sankhuwa-Apsuwa divide (2421m)
— bridge over Sankhuwa Khola below Sikidim village (1502m)

1. Greenish Warbler - 1 seen at khet edge c. Maajha Kharka 2410m
2. Rufous-winged Fulvetta - ≥ 1 " " "
- ? 3. Dark-breasted Rosefinch - ♀ with no upp/und streaking apparent;
2 whitish, prominent wingbars; unusually low alt; khet c. Maajha Kharka ^{c. 2410m}
4. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler - 1 (H) hedgerow at khets, c. ^{c. 2015m}
5. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) above ATN CP site, Maajha Kharka, c. 2050m.
6. Grey Bush Chat - ♂ c. khets off Maajha Kharka, c. 2020m.
7. Blyth's Leaf Warbler - 1 in bushes c. ^{c.}
8. Whiskered Yuhina - ≥ 1 in ainselu bush, khet near Maajha Kharka ^{2015m}
9. Green-backed Tit - 1 c. edge of Maajha Kharka, c. 2425m.
10. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch - ≥ 1 (H) c. " " "
11. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) across valley from ^{c.} " c. 2200-2300m.
12. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) " " " c. 2400-2500m.
13. Green-tailed Sunbird - 1 ♂ up from Maajha Kharka, c. 2465m.
14. White-tailed Robin - 1 (H) " " " c. 2525m.
15. Rufous Sibia - 1 (H) forest off " " " 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 ATN CP site, " " c. 2420m.
19. Red-billed leiothrix - 3-4 below ^{in alder} ^{saplings} " " c. 2390m.
20. Mountain Bulbul - ≥ 1 in alders (!) below ^{c.} ^{past} ^{c.} 2380m.
21. Grey Bushchat - ♂ carrying food, c. site of 29/S, probably same bird " "
22. Rufous Sibia - 1 seen below Maajha Kharka, c. 2375m; mixed ^{alder} ^{scrub}
23. Indian Blue Robin - 1 (H) calling, edge of ^{c.} 2370m. "
- ? 24. Black-chinned Babbler - ? 1 calling/moving thru ^(not seen) ^(underbrush) " ^{c.} 2280m.
25. Ashy Drongo - 1 seen in alder forest ravine c. 2195m. ^{c.}
26. Streaked Laughing Thrush - 1 edge of fields, alder scrub " c. 2140m.
27. Grey-backed Shrike - 1 in fields of corn bordering ^{c.} " c. 2120m.
28. Grey Treepie - 1 c. protected forest patch, c. 2115m.
29. Small Niltava - ♀ scolding at edge of ^{c.} " c. 2070m; ♀ boldly
dipped/raised tail while bobbing/stretching head forward; nest/young
probably nearby.

(111)

30 May '09

No. _____
Date Day 31

Additional records:

- #1) duo/pair up from Maajha Khaarka, c 2425m; ≥ 1 c 2280m farther on.
#4) 1 (H) ... a u " " ;
#2) duo/pair " " " c 2510m.
#12) 1 (H) in treetop ^{seen but, not diagnostically} " c 2520m.
#8) 1 or 2 in forest edge bushes above Maajha Khaarka c 2510m.
#10) 1 at 2280m (H), not seen below " "
#20) 1 seen in open alder, past PT bl, c 2250m; 1 in alder forest ravine c 2195m.
#22) 1 c protected forest patch, c 2100m; 1 c 1500m, Sankhuwa Kh edge.
#18) 1 in tree, steep slope below Sikiding, c 1750-1800m;
#29) 1 (H) alarming, c 1750m in forest " ;
#33) 1 (H) c 1620m, approaching Sankhuwa Kh bridge;

Breeding records:

45. Grey Bushchat - ♂ carrying food, probably same individual as previous day; c 2400m, cutover alder & other spp. with cutover wheat field nearby. Vicinity of Maajha Khaarka (opp. side prev. day).

30 May 2009

No
Date Day 31

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

30. Rusty-checked Scimitar Babbler - 1 (H) c. 1900m below forest patch.
 31. Verditer Flycatcher - ♂ at c. 1860m open bushy scrub w/ningalo, " ♂.
 32. Blue-capped Rock Thrush - ♂ in ^{steep} open country below Siki dim, c. 1750-1800m.
 33. Striated Prinia - 1 in steep grassy scrub, " " c. 1800m.
 34. [omitted] Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 seen c./above Siki dim, c. 2200m.
 35. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) across Sankhuwa valley, Chitre Danda, ¹⁷⁰⁰⁻1750m.
 36. Great Barbet - 1 (H) " " " c. 1750-1800m.
 37. Black-throated Sunbird - ♂ in hot open country, ^{W of} Siki dim → Sankhuwa, ^{c.}1600m.
 38. Blue Whistling Thrush - 4 birds c. lunchstop/CP, c. 1490m, Sankhuwa Kh. bridge

↳ =

Route: From Maajha Kharka along good trail but soon turning secondary as main trail to Siki dim either missed or inadvertently took side trail. Needed food (potatoes only in this area), so difficult day until house with ample supply met; from there 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 1717m (PT 66) but blindsided by cliffs & had to go up very steeply on goat traces 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 Siki dim (PT 67, 1812m); 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 (1502m). Difficult day without adequate food & water.

113

GPS Coordinates

31 May '09

No
Date

Day 32

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
L14 CP 21	27°32.207'N 87°02.570'E	1502	bridge over Sankhuwa below/w of Si Kidim village
PT 69	27°32.158'N 87°02.441'E	1634	cardamom drying ghot.
CP 22	27°32.143'N 87°02.335'E	1728	cardamom bhatti; ^{N spur} Chitre Danda

Weather: Heavy overcast at 1st light/dawn; air very wet, bouts of rain during the night; by 9 AM some drizzle with bouts of it & light rain to 2 PM; more drizzle/light rain into late afternoon overcast, tendency of clearing at dusk-twilight.

Habitat: Mostly evergreen broadleaf with a dense understory of shrubs, lianas, ruingalo, ferns & grass; once up from steeply walled canyon of Sankhuwa, 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, herbs & Hibiscus saplings in general setting of humid evergreen forest with alders (some tall, spindly, old) dominant.
(Cmt. m pg. 115)

Additional records:

- #5) ♂ at 1590-1600m, alarming, good views of underparts; possibly same bird as early AM
- ? #1) heard in late afternoon, c. 1600m, Chitre Danda N face spur, Sankhuwa Khola & later heard from across valley at 1600-1650m.
- #7) ♂ at c. 1625m, N face spur, Chitre Danda; possibly same as earlier encountered
- #9) 2 or 3 in lower branches of alders w/ cardamom understory; unobtrusive, silent, slipping away when seen; possibly same birds seen downslope; appears to be shyer than other *Yuhina* spp.; keeps to middle & lower stores usually, at times high in alders:
1680m
1700m

Effort:

05h40 - 08h45

11h30 - 13h20

13h30 - 18h55

Σ = 10h 20 min

31 May 2009

No
Date Day 32

bridge over Sankhuwa Khola below Sikidim village (1502m) —
cardomum bhatti, N spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola, (1728m).

- c. 1500-1530m.
- ① Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. AM Cpsite at 1st light, calling briefly before moving on. (G. et al. '00: "vagrant"); unable to determine if 'long call' given after song due to noise from nearby rushing water.
 2. Large Hawk Cuckoo - 4 (H) c. / above AM Cpsite, early AM, c. 1600-1700m
 3. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 (H) " (below) " " c. 1490-1500m.
 - 4 Plumbeous Water Redstart - ♂ at 1510-1520m, Sankhuwa Kh. littoral
 - 5 Small Niltava - ♂ at c. 1550m, calling, ascending Chitre Danda from ^{Sankhuwa} bridge
 - ⑥ Slaty-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) off spur of Hibiscus, alder & cardomom c. 1550m N spur Chitre Danda; calling from ^{ground} off to side in dense understory of bushes & cardomom; distinctive warble w/ jumbled notes at end. (Although not/ever seen, calls of seen birds later on Chitre Danda make ID it positively; G. et al. '00: "rare & very local" [Anun 1000-1700m in Aug. & Sept, upper Mai Kh. 2200m in April" (plus add'l recent year records?? ^{Very few records for Nepal})]
 - 7 Black-breasted Sunbird - 1 (H) ascending N face spur, Chitre Danda, 1590m.
 - ⑧ Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (H) clearly at close range in patch of mixed alder-Hibiscus forest w/ dense understory, c. 1550m; G. et al. '00: "rare" resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m). Bird calling in mid-afternoon.
 - ⑨ White-naped Yuhina - pair/duo at 1620m in mixed Hibiscus/alder w/ a ^(see pg 113) cardomom understory, just below drying ghot (PT 69 = 1634m); somewhat ungainly flight, possibly w/ #10. G. et al. '00: "very rare & local resident in far east (of Nepal) 1525m; 2200m; *possible Nward range extension for Nepal
 10. Grey-hooded Warbler - ≥ 1 (with?) #9s N face spur, Chitre Danda, c. 1620m
 11. Asian Brown Flycatcher - excited adult with fledgling, barely able to fly, in alder tops c. 1620m, N face spur, Chitre Danda. G. et al. '00: "... summer visitor, 1000-1550m, ∴ possible new alt. max in Nepal (1). G. et al. '98: "locally to 2230m" (India).
 - ? 12 Himalayan Swiftlet? - 1 flying in rain c. drying ghot & above, c. 1640-1660m
 13. Rufous Sibia - 1 (H) across valley from N face spur, Chitre Danda; c. 1600m
 - 14 Asian Emerald Cuckoo - ♂ zipped past at head height, c. ^{cardomom} drying ghot, c. 1625m. Chitre Danda N face spur; eyeballed good views of head (turned to me a bit?) upp emerald, size, slimness & flt. pattern; in Hibiscus/alder/cardomom; G. et al. '00: "rare summer visitor, recorded April-Sept. 250m, & 1280-1800m, broadleaved evergreen forest"
 15. Maroon Oriole - 1 (H) across valley, c. 1650-1680m, Chitre Danda spur.

31 May. '09

No. _____
Date Day 32

Additional records:

- #8) 1 (H) c dusk (6 PM) c CP 22 bhatti, calling from ravine forest nearby at c. 1650m.
- #1 (cont) continued calling - incessantly - into dusk/twilight from across valley on S facing slope 1650-1700m.
- #2) 1 (H) at dusk-twilight c bhatti CP, c 1750m.
- #6) 1 (H) c bhatti/CP at dusk, c 1710-1715m.

Habitat (cont): Some of the tallest trees higher up have been ringbarbed for fuelwood to dry cardomom; standing deadwood at periphery of planted spur includes old alders. Cardomom harvested last year & dried; fuelwood supply appears unsustainable, but some trees apparently felled to open up forest to plant more cardomom. bananae also planted on spur; W face forest on ascent to bhatti almost pure alder (mostly tall, spindly old trees) with understory of cardomom that is greener, fuller, tall ferns & other herbs including Eupatoriums.

Breeding record:

46. Asian Brown Flycatcher - excited & confiding adult with recently fledged young bird (only 1?) in juvenile plumage, barely able to fly and repeatedly attended by ♀ (c²). Rather high up in alder tops, c. 1620m, N face spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola. G et al '00: "1000-1550m... summer visitor" (& passage migrant)" therefore, possibly new maximum altitude for Nepal. G et al '98: "locally to 2230m" in India.

31 May 2009

No
Date Day 32

bridge over Sankhuwa Khola, below Sikidim village, Sankhuwa Kh (1502m)
 — Cardamom bhatti, N face spur Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh, (1728m).

16. White-crested laughingthrush - flock (H) across ravine, c 1650m, Chitre Danda N face spur.
17. Mystery Yellowhaze - 1 (H) from dense ravine forest (mostly alders), approaching evening; can't separate Lesser vs. Greater, c 1650m, Chitre Danda N face spur; giving a "kleer"; 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 Bulbul - 1 seen, bushy veg. c. ghot/PT 69, c. 1620m.
20. Bronzed/Ashy Drongo - 1 in distance, c 1650m, " nearing dusk.
21. Golden-throated Barbet - 1 (H) c 1700-1750, off to side of CP 22 bhatti, N face spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola.
22. ~~Slaty~~ Pygmy Wren Babbler - 1 (H) calling 1720-1750m at dusk c. CP 22 bhatti, N face spur, Chitre Danda; typical "tzeet... tzoot" descending call.
23. Asian Barred Owlet - 1 (H) at dusk-twilight c. bhatti/CP, c 1740m.
24. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) " " " c 1750-1780m.
25. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) " " " c 1750-1800m.

← =

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

* Note overlap in Grey-bellied and Slaty-bellied Tesias along trail this day and next.

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GPS Coordinates

1 June '09

No.
Date

Day 33

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP 22	27° 32.143' N 87° 02.335' E	1728	N-face Chitre Danda spur cardomom bhatty & garden
PT 70	27° 31.981' N 87° 02.584' E	1751	outcrop off trail, ^{N face of} Chitre Danda
CP 23	27° 31.947' N 87° 02.717' E	1713	ghat CP in forest, ^{N face} Chitre Danda

Weather: Clear at dawn and into early AM; a few cumulus tufts over nearby dandas; 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 cardomom drying fuel-wood & perhaps to clear for cardomom planting; ravine mostly vegetated w/dense tangles; nettles, tall fern, ^{+ malingo & nipa palm} 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, w/ a nearly vacant middle story, but dense tangles in lower/ground story. Grading to mixed (evergreen?) broadleaf forest with denser middle story, thinner ground/lower; sides of trail cleared for grazing/keep trail open, small patches to plant bananas & ghat construction & fodder.

Route: along indistinct trail traversing down & ± level ravine w/ no sign of use this season (yr?) onto fairly distinct but rugged (rocks w/ up + down) trail keeping mostly level through forest + cut back on either side ± 10m (at times only 3-5m); steep & arduous with ankles constantly in vegetation in chopped over areas.

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

⇐ 11h 40 min.

Mammal sightings: see pg. 125.

1 June 2009

No. _____
Date Day 33

cardomom bhatti, N face spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1728m)
 — ghot CP in forest, N face of Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1713m)

(below G. et al. '00 min of 1830m in Summit)

- ① Large Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. bhatti/CP; c. 1700-1750 m.
- ② Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) across Sankhuwa from 1700-1750 m.
 G. et al. '00: "vagrant"; same bird as previous day?
3. Lesser Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. bhatti/CP, c. 1730 m.
4. Black-lored Tit - 1 c. " " ; seen, early AM
5. Black Bulbul - ^{duo} pair above " " c. 1745 m.
6. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - ♂/♀ pair " "
7. Grey-throated Babbler - ≥ 1 (H) in ferns, cardomom, herb. veg above CP/bhatti; high-pitched distinctive call; c. 1745 m
8. Rufous Sibia - several c./above bhatti/CP, c. 1740-1760 m (H) ^{but later seen} only.
9. Black-winged Cuckooshrike - 1 (H) ↑ c. 1750-1780 m
10. Maroon Oriole - 1 (H) above bhatti/CP, c. 1800-1850 m; ^{later seen} at 1670 m
11. White-browed Shrike Babbler - 1 (H) ↑ " c. 1700-1720 m; ^{♀ later seen at 1635 m or later seen}
12. Green-backed Tit - 1⁺ ad. w/ young juvenile, below bhatti/AMCP, c. 1640 m.
13. Grey-hooded Warbler - 1⁺ in alder c. cardomom drying hut, c. 1635-1650
14. Black-throated Sunbird - ♂ at c. 1645 m, c. " "
15. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 (H) across Sankhuwa valley, c. protected forest patch c. 1800 m
16. Long-tailed Minivet - ♂ seen & H, c. hut at 1640 m.
17. Ashy Drongo - 1 seen well above drying hut, c. 1650 m, N face Chitre Danda
18. Golden-throated Barbet - 1 (H) ^{later seen} calling across forested ravine ↑ " c. 1625 m.
19. Mountain Bulbul - 1 seen at c. 1630 m in mixed alder . . . ↑ " ^{↑ seen later at 1710 m}
20. Great Barbet - 1 (H) calling off to side of bhatti/CP, c. 1700 m
21. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) past bhatti, up from ravine in dense veg, 1750 m
- ②② Shy-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) " down " " 1650 m.
 G. et al. '00: "rare & very local. Arun 1000-1700 m in Aug./Sept; Mai. V. 2200 m in April.
23. Lesser Yellowthroat - 1 seen + H, ravine E + dn from bhatti/AMCP, c. 1670 m.
24. Bronzed Drongo - 1 seen well in alder ↑ " c. 1675 m
- ②⑤ Rusty-fronted Parwing - duo/pair at c. 1650 m, dense ravine W of bhatti/AM CP; elegant movements through Hibiscus + other evergreen shrubs/trees w/ dense moist understory; plumage more brilliant than plate in G. et al. '00; confident & unobtrusive; G. et al. '00: "rare & local resident, W-C areas, Eward, * 1785-2400 m. * possibly new minimum altitude for Nepal.

#1 1 (H) c evening ghot CP, No 170 Date 1800m.

Additional records: #35) o⁷ c ghot CP, evening, c 1725m.

#5) pr/duo c ghot CP, N slope Chitre Danda, c 1725m

#13) 1 (H) past + dir from AM CP/bhatti, c 1680-1700m

#22) I seen well, dense understory vegetation in ravine W of bhatti/AM CP; orangey bill, dark grey underparts, H before that; once encountered as it popped out in open spot gave chattery alarm; c 1680m; possibly another in ravine vicinity (H) calling, and definitely 1 (H) on spur farther W than 1 (H) from before bird viewed, so 1+1+1 birds in this ravine c 1650-1700m.

#14) ♀ seen in moist ravine W of bhatti/AM CP, c 1680m.

#17) I seen in ravine W of cardomon bhatti, N face spur, Chitre Danda, 1670m.

#9) I seen " (possibly same bird as " heard only in early AM) "

#21) 1 (H) across from tall alder patch c 1700m, N face spur, Chitre Danda.

#15) 1 (H) " " " " " "

#21 cont.) 1 (H) past alder patch in dense undergrowth, c 1750m.

#8) I seen past PT 70, dense forest, Chitre Danda N slope, c 1745m. 1 (H) at

#21 cont.) 1 (H) " " " " " c 1720m; c 1740m.

#22) 1 (H) past PT 70 & #21 above, " " (overlapping spp) c 1750m.

#10) 1 (H) " " " " c 1750m; ♀ seen c ghot CP, c 1715m.

#23) I seen " " " c 1730m, only 200m away from above, individual (can be turned into view) heard only

#14) 1 down low in bushes, dense forest, Chitre Danda N slope, c 1730m

#17) 1 up in trees... ↑ " " " c.

Breeding records: #8 cont.) 1 c ghot CP, c 1720m, N slope, Chitre Danda.

47. Catia - carrying food; feeding flying young? Both o⁷ appear fully-fledged & agile; see page 120 for details; G. 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 aboveground)

49. Little Pied Flycatcher - o⁷ feeding recently fledged young (full juv. plumage) in cleared patch, dense forest, Chitre Danda N face, c 1735m; o⁷ returned several times with small insects; quickly feeding juvenile; at times juvenile followed/chased o⁷; can fly fairly well, not as fast or agile as o⁷. observed for c. 10 min at c. 13h30.

1 June 2009

No
Date Day 33

cardomom bhatti, N face spur, Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1728m)
— ghot CP in forest, N face of Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1713m).

- N face spur c.
26. Small Niltava - 1 (H) opp. side of ravine, c 1660m, Chitre Danda 1660m
- (27) Cutia - 2 ♂♂ searching ^{mossy} stems of tall spindly alders W of bhatti/AM CP, N face ~~spur~~ Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh.; confiding, mostly clambering down stems vs. ascending; ^{carefully} exploring nodes; agilely flicking off bits of green moss, almost gliding in flt from 1 tree stem to another; a ♀ later appeared in vicinity, also on alder stems, but keeping higher; regularly giving soft contact note; alarming at pr/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-Carear E-wards, favours 2100-2300m (1095-2745m)"; c. 1675m
- * later one of the ♂♂ seen carrying food, beakful of small winged insects.
- (28) Hong-tailed Broadbill - 1 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 #s 27-28); G. et al. '00: "summers 1800-2750m"; new minimum altitude in summer? c. 1670m
30. Mystery Forktail - pr/duo at stream/trail jct, N face Chitre Danda, c. 1710m
- (31) Little Pied Flycatcher - ♂ in dense forest, " " c. 1735m repeatedly feeding flying young (see pg. 110);
32. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 1 c. 1750m, Chitre Danda N slope ^{dense forest} clearing
33. Rufous-bellied Niltava - ♀♂ pair " " " " "
34. Pygmy Wren Babbler - 1 (H) dense undergrowth " " " c. 1710m
35. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker - ♀ in dense forest, Chitre Danda N slope, c. 1740m.
36. [omitted] 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 + trees of open forest; not shy, carefully searching mossy limbs, walking, hopping at times; down into bush tops, but mostly in trees; not v. active; 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/ #40s " " " c. 1765-1785m.
40. Alpine Swift - several " w/ #395 " " " "
- X41. ^{♀ Little Pied Flycatcher} Asian Brown Flycatcher - 1 bringing food to dense veg c. ghot CP, c. 1715m
42. Striated Bulbul - 1 at dusk-twilight c. eve ghot CP, puffed out, c. 1720m
43. Greater Yellow-nape [omitted] - 1 (H) along trail in AM ravine, c. 1740-1750m
- (44) Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H) c. evening CP, c. 1725m; G. et al. '00: "local & uncommon"

(121)

GPS Coordinates

1 June '09

No.
Date

Day 34

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP23	27°31.947'N 87°02.717'E	1713	ghot CP in forest, N face of Chitre Danda
PT70	27°31.981'N 87°02.584'E	1751	trailside outcrop, " "
PT71	27°31.880'N 87°02.824'E	1748	" waypt E of CP23 "
CP24	27°31.817'N 87°03.329'E	1865	platform ghot CP, forest edge "

Weather: Clear & calm early AM; 58°F at 05h00; sunny & clear/calm through late AM, a gentle breeze at times; in & out of passing cumulus at mid-day; mostly clouded over by 14h00; drips & 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 bananas; 5-10m swath along trail (to create herbaceous vegetation for grazing), collection of fodder; ferns prominent in understorey as is *tingalo* (thin) & *malingo* (thinner). Forest negligibly disturbed except c. evening ghot CP;

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

Effort:

05h40 - 09h50	c AM CP + AM excursion.
10h20 - 13h20	AM march → lunch stop
13h35 - 15h45	afternoon march
16h00 - 16h30	c evening CP
17h10 - 17h55	c evening CP
18h25 - 18h45	c evening CP.

Σ = 10h55min.

2 June 2009

No. Date Day 34

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 (H) calling before 1st light just (c. 0415 - 0500) 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 (later, 3) seen c. ghot CP, early AM c. 1715m
- 5. White-crested laughing thrush - flock (H) below " " c. 1600m.
- 6. Rufous Sibia - 2 seen + 1-2 (H) c. ghot CP, early AM, c. 1730m
- 7. Maroon Oriole - 1 (H) c. later seen " " c. 1740m
- 8. Golden-throated Barbet - 1 seen + H in tree c. ghot CP, c. 1725m
- 9. Striated Bulbul - pr/duo in same tree top ^{preening} " " as prev. eve 1, c. 1720m
- 10. White-browed Shrike Babbler - ♂ seen ^{♀ seen at c. 1725m, also calling,} calling at c. 1733m above ghot CP
- 11. Ashy Drongo - 3 in trees above ghot CP, early AM, c. 1730m (down to)
- (12) Rusty-fronted Barwing - duo/pr. moving silently & stealthily thru bushes c. ghot CP, c. 1725m; G. et al. '00: "rare & local resident, W-careas E-wards"
- (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; forgot to record sex)
- 15. Striated laughing thrush - duo/pr. c. AM ghot CP, c. 1740m
- (16) Slaty-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) in ravine tall undergrowth, c. ghot CP, c. 1720m. (later seen with ♀ moving to 1730m. Pitter quickly back to them when observed)
- G. et al. '00: "rare & very local, Arun V. 1000-1700m Aug/Sept; Mai V. 2200m in April"
- 17. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike - 1 H then seen c. AM CP, in Albizzia, c. 1765m.
- 18. Mystery Warbler - 1 H & seen from distance " " c. 1760m
- 19. White-tailed Nuthatch - 1 seen + H above AM ghot CP, c. 1730m
- ? 20. Long-tailed Minivet - ♂ ♀ seen from distance; double note (?); c. 1735m.
- 21. Rufous-bellied Niltava - ♂ ♀ alarming pair E of CP site, c. 1735m (alarming at #12)
- 22. Grey-throated Babbler - ≥ 2 w/#s 4, 23, 24, 26, 25(?) " or something v. close to them when observed)
- 23. Nepal Fulveta - ≥ 1 w/#s 4, 22, 24, 26, 25(?) " "
- 24. Grey-hooded Warbler - ≥ 1 w/#s 4, 22, 23, 26, 25(?) " "
- (25) White-naped Yuhina - 3, possibly not w/#s 4, 22-24 - middle story, in tree tops, forest E of ghot CP site c. 1735m. Appeared to be w/# 2bs, although latter at slightly higher level; (this sp. often descends); slow moving, thorough gleaning; G. et al. '00: "very rare & local in the far east; 1525m; 2200m)

2 June '09

No. _____
Date Day 34

Additional records:

- possibly from group of 3 seen earlier ⁱⁿ vicinity
- #4) duo/pr w/ #s, alarming at #126, E of Apr CP site, c. 1765m
- #7) family group?: 4 or 5 c. PT 70 outcrop, seen well ^{21♂+2♀} (sexes?) c. 1750m
- #26) ≥4 c. outcrop E of ghot CP, c. 1740m; father on ≥1, c. 1780m;
- #28) 1 (different vs earlier) in ravine ↑ " c. 1730m
- #4) ≥3 " " 2 ad + 1 juv ↑ " " ; juv. being fed, see below:
- #27) ♀ seen c. forested ghot CP, c. 1740m. (H) past lunchstop
- #6) 1 seen E of ghot CP, c. 1740m; 1 seen father on, c. 1750m; ravine, c. 1820m.
- #16) 1 (H) " " c. 1740m; 1 (H) " " c. 1780
- #2) 1 (H) " " c. 1600-1650m, dense forest, early afternoon
- #15) 1 in tall trees, tangled ravine w/ tall, thin malings, Chitre Danda N slope, c. 1770m
- #16 cont.) 1 (H) in next ravine to E (lunchstop) c. 1770m, nearly seen w/ infirm
- #28 cont.) 1 (H) ↑ " overlapping! c. 1785m, just above #16!
- #24) 1 past lunchstop ravine, c. 1800m, Chitre Danda N slope
- #9) 4 c. evening ghot, CP 24, late afternoon. " " c. 1865m.
- #28 cont.) 1 (H) above " " " " c. 1875m.
- #11) 4 c. evening ghot ↑ " " " " c. 1880m.
- #15 cont.) 1 seen c. evening CP ↑ " " " " c. 1875m.

Breeding records:

S0. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 2 adults w/ 1 apparent juvenile (paler a bit, more sedentary); 1 ad. fed juv. perched on branch, which seen thereafter flew off with strong flight; dense humid mostly evergreen forest, N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1745m.

S1. Pygmy Blue Flycatcher - agitated ♂'s & displaying; ♂ carrying food; probable family group; see pg. 124 for details →

S2. Large Niltava - ♀ alarming at trailside, close range in dense mixed humid broadleaf forest, N slope Chitre Danda c. 1810m; ♂ then seen at same site as ♀, carrying insect (larvae) which it either dropped or ate after 10 min of observation. ^{fairly mossy}

2 June 2009

No
Date Day 34

ghot CP in forest, N slope of Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1713m)
 — ghot CP w/ platform, forest edge, N slope Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1865m)

(but keeping higher)

Chitre Danda N slope

26. Whiskered Yuhina — ≥ 2 , apparently w/ #25s, E of ghot CP, c. 1735m27. Little Pied Flycatcher — σ^7 seen + H c. 1740m, " " \uparrow

G. et al. '00: "uncommon resident"; high trills of a song(?) H; not wary.)

28. [omitted] Grey-bellied Tesia — pair/duo lured out of dense foliage, site of hunting party; also H before that; c. 1730m; good views afforded. bill — dull yellow — is strikingly different vs. Slaty-bellied even in dim light.

29. Mystery Forktail — 1 (H) c. densely forested ravine stream, c. 1735m.

30. Chestnut-crowned Warbler — 1 in dense forest, near \uparrow " , c. 1740m.

? 31. Broad-billed Warbler — 1 in bushes, dense " E/past ghot CP; head pattern: discerned; no black band on side of nape; had eyeline; underparts grey w/ yellow belly & abdomen; very active, difficult to follow (as Chestnut-crowned); could not discern wingbars or tail pattern; quite low for Nepal in summer? G. et al. '00: "rare & local in E, 2350m (June), 2300m (Sept.), 2195m (Nov.), but G. et al. '98: "summers 1100-2700m in India in broadleaf evergreen forest. Its nesting & habits poorly known.

32. Collared Owllet — 1 (H) Chitre Danda N slope, 1600-1700m, late AM. ^{unmistakable call}33. Black Eagle — 1 seen clearly. \uparrow " " c. 1780-1800m, ^{cruising slowly over forest canopy.}

34. Black-throated Sunbird — 1 (H) in tall tree top " c. 1775m.

35. Great Bunting — 1 (H) in distance farther E of AM ghot CP, c. 1650-1750m.

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

37. Black-throated Sunbird = σ^7 alarming in ravine of dense tangles, ^{w/ malingo} Chitre Danda N slope, c. 1770m.

38. Pygmy Blue Flycatcher — σ^7 & f alarming, agitated, trails side edge of ravine w/ dense tangles & malingo, c. 1775m; σ^7 carrying round object (berry? spider?); couldn't locate nest; no fledglings seen; f then flicked it aside, decoy behavior? σ^7 cocked tail high \pm straight up, drooped wings & squatted at same time; f followed suit, behaving even more aggressively; Birendra saw σ^7 carrying small insect, tried to find nest or young in vicinity but could not locate.

G. et al. '00: "scarce & local resident, 2100-3500m in breeding season"; possibly new minimum altitude in summer; G. et al. '98: "uncommon, above 2135m in breeding season" (in India); G. et al. '98: "only 1 nest known, taken in July"

site searched early next morning by Birendra Rai, who said family group present, σ^7 & f alarming, moving uphill with several young in f -like plumage.

2 June '09

No. Day 34
DateAdditional records:

- #1B cont) a 2nd (H) bird c. evening C/site, N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1855m nearly lured out for a view; other bird ^(white?) nearby/up a bit.
- #2) 1 (H) calling at dusk c. evening C/site, 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, back tracking to waterfall passed previous day; 1 on either side of ravine

* Mystery Squirrel: small, ears striking: black with whitish tufts, dull grey-brown above (upp), fulvous-brown below (und), whitish upper lining to flanks - tail?; most unusual; not in Book of Indian Animals (Prater).
(but no stripes).

Mammal records from 1 June 2009:

Barking Deer (Indian Muntjac): 1 calling from forest across ravine just E of cardomom bhatti/C/site, 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.

2 June 2009

No
Date Day 34

ghot CP in forest, N slope of Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1713m)
 — ghot CP w/platform, forest edge, N slope Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1865m).

- (39) Western Crowned Warbler - 1 bird in tree tops, dense forest edge, N slope Chitre Danda past lunch stop ravine; uniform pale greyish white below, ^{1 1/2} wingbars, bill hard to see; giving diagnostic wing-flipping behavior (G. et al. '98) c. 1800m; "chit-weei" song clearly heard; G. et al. '00: "uncommon spring passage migrant & rare winter visitor; possibly breeds, 75-2900m. G. et al. '98: "breeds in coniferous & mixed coniferous-deciduous forest"; distributed in Pakistan & India "1800-3200m" in summer.
- (40) Grey-chinned Minivet - large flock, c. 18-20, 50/50 mix of ♀♀ & ♂♂, ^{adult} several-many birds w/orange band across breast (juv. ♂♂[?]); in dense forest/thicket past lunch stop ravine; G. et al. '00: "scarce resident ^{areas} W-C ^{Ewards}"
- (41) Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (H) upslope 1800-1850m, N slope Chitre Danda, G. et al. '00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)"
42. ~~omitted~~ Long-billed/Dark-sided Thrush - 1 flushed from damp ravine on ATM birdwalk; probably? former sp, large size, dark back, silent; c. 1745m
- (43) Large Niltava - ♀ alarming, then o'viewed with insect (larvae) in beak for 10 min, which it either dropped or ate; dense forest near still-watered ravine, N slope Chitre Danda, near rugged main trail, c. 1810m; G. et al. '00: "local & uncommon resident 1525-2850m"; gave liltng 2-3 note call repeatedly.
44. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 seen away from water, c. 1800m, dense forest N slope Chitre Danda.
45. Golden-spectacled Warbler - pair/duo seen & heard, c. 1840m edge of dense forest, N slope Chitre Danda approaching CP 24.
- (46) Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H) including locomotive refrain to laughing-like call, back of evening CP, ghot & small Kharca, c. 1875m, N slope Chitre Danda. G. et al. '00: "local & uncommon resident, mainly 1525-2500m" ^(-75m)
47. Hill Partridge - 1 (H) above/in back of evening CP site, c. 1880-1920m.
48. Greater Yellownappe - good views of ♂ c. ↑ " " c. 1865m; ^{giving a} "tikker" call

← =

(127)

GPS Coordinates:

3 June '09

No

Date

Day 35

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP24	27° 31.817' N 87° 03.329' E	1865	N slope, Chitte Danda platform, ghost forest edge
PT72	27° 31.930' N 87° 03.577' E	1902	hi way pt W of Betini
PT73	27° 31.934' N 87° 03.608' E	1905	danda trail jct ↑ u
PT74	27° 31.971' N 87° 03.824' E	1820	W edge houses, Betini
PT75	27° 31.928' N 87° 04.071' E	1753	Betini school, Sankhuwa
PT76	27° 31.827' N 87° 04.175' E	1715	chaudara, main trail ^{to} Danksila
CP25	27° 31.773' N 87° 04.495' E	1609	empty house E of Betini

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 AM with mostly overcast w/ rain threatening to move in from nearby dandas to N by early afternoon. Clouds surprisingly receding c 13h30 & bright 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 AM 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	AM excursion W of CP.
12h30 - 15h00	afternoon walk to Betini
17h00 - 18h50	Betini to & c eve CP house

Σ = 9h 35 min.

3 June 2009

No
Date Day 35

ghot CP with platform, forest edge, N slope Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1865m)
 — empty house E of Betini, NE Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1609m).

- ① Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo - 1 (H) briefly at 03h45 aft being startled, c. ghot 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 (G. et al. '98) 1400-2320m
2. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c./above AM CP, c. 1880m, Chitre Danda N slope
- ③ Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (H) " " " "
4. Grey-bellied Tesia - 1 (H) " c. 1855m " " "
5. Golden-spectacled Warbler - 1 (H) " c. 1860m " " "
6. Oriental Cuckoo - 1 seen well preening, then Hc. AM CP, c. 1865m " "
7. Rufous Sibia - 1 (H) c. ravine c. AM CP, c. 1850m " "
- ⑧ Blue-winged Laughing Thrush - 1 w/ pr/duo c. 1820m G. et al '00: "scarce & local" "
- ⑨ Large Niltava - ♂♀ pair in dense forest, c. prev. day's site, c. 1820m
10. Ashy Drongo - ≥ 1 in moist ravine W of CP, c. 1870m, Chitre Danda N slope
11. Whiskered Yuhina - ≥ 2 w/#12 " c. 1810m " "
- ⑫ White-naped Yuhina - ≥ 1 w/#11s, " " " " "
- G. et al '00: "very rare & local resident in far E (Nepal), 1525m, 2200m.
13. Grey-hooded Warbler - ≥ 1 w/#s 14, 15 " " " "
14. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - ≥ 1 w/#s 13 & 15, W of AM CP, c. 1810m, N slope. Chitre Danda
- ⑮ Bay Woodpecker - a ♀ seen well, moving w/#s 13, 14; feeding w/ in 1m of base of trees, dense forest, W of AM CP, c. 1810m; observed at close range; locomotive call heard; gave a soft throaty 'wheet' or 'whit', as double & single notes (contact note?); no mention of this call in literature; G. et al '00: "uncommon".
16. Blue-winged Minla - 1 in tree tops, c. 1820m, W of AM CP, Chitre Danda N slope
17. White-tailed Nuthatch - 1 seen well " " " "
- ⑯ Large Niltava - ♂ & ♀ 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." ♂ seen carrying food
- ⑰ 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."
20. Mystery Minivet - several high up in trees, possibly with #s 13-15 mixed hunting party, call as in Grey-chinned, but unsure. Seen very poorly in dense forest, c. 1820m W of AM CP, c. N slope, Chitre Danda.

3 June '09

No. _____
Date Day 35Additional records:

- #3) 1(H) c. 1900-1950m W of AM CP, early AM excursion;
 #11) 3 or 4 (w/#22s?), N slope Chitre Danda, c. 1775m
 #12) 1(H) across ravine W of AM CP, late AM, c. 1820-1850m.
 #13) 2 adults + ≥2 juvs, feeding flying, c. 1820m, N slope Chitre Danda.
 #24) ♀ seen later on AM excursion (H) at c. 1825m, " " ;
 #14) 1 " " " " " " ;
 #13 cont.) ≥1 seen E of AM CP, c. 1885m, " " " ;
 #14 cont.) 1 seen ... ^ " " " " ;
 #11 cont.) 1(H) overhead, ^{thin} forest E of AM CP, c. 1895m;
 #6) 1(H) scrub & alders W of Betini, c. 1850m;
 #11) 1(H) above 1st bird at 1850m, this one c. 1875m, ravine W of Betini.
 #10) 1(H) (pr/duo) in forest patch W of Betini, c. 1800m; pr/duo c. eve CP house, c. 1625m.
 #45) 1 seen, ^{tree + shrub} clump at Betini, c. 1755m;
 #48) ♀ approaching eve CP house E of Betini, c. 1655m.
 #47) pr/duo approach. " " " " ; pr/duo at eve CP house c. 1605m.
 #44) ≥: ... ^ " " " " ;
 #41) 1 approaching ... ^ " " " c. 1630m.
 #32) 1(H) above eve CP house, c. 1650, NE Chitre Danda; G et al '00: "1830-3000m"
 ↖ ∴ possibly a new minimum alt. for Nepal. Not seen.

Breeding record

53. Large Nittava - ♂ 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.
 ♀ also noted in same area; ♂ later seen holding food on rtn from AM walk
 ♀ not seen; ♂ not moving w/ food.

54. Black-throated Tit - a family group(?) with 3-4 birds in adult plumage + 2-3 with head pattern duller & more lethargic (less active) than other birds.
 "One bird seen pounding a larva onto branch with its beak, then feeding 1/2 of it to duller plumaged bird ∴ feeding flying young, at c. 1775m N slope Chitre Danda; same area as #21 - Long-billed Wren Babbler

3 June 2009

No. _____
Date Day 35

ghot CP w/ platform, forest edge, N slope Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Kh. (1865m)
— empty house E of Betini, NE Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1609m)

(21) Long-billed Wren Babbler — single viewed $\frac{1}{2}$ H W of AM CP, c. 1770m.

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 *Proeopyga* 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 'peeuff' call was heard 4 times at intervals of a few seconds. The trailing 'uff' 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 'peeuff' 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

No.
Date

Day 35

45. Red-vented Bulbul - pr/duo approaching Betini, c. 1755m.
 46. Black-winged Cuckooshrike - 1 (H) E of Betini, c. 1700m.
 47. Black Bulbul - ≥ 1 c. 1735m Betini to CP house, NE Chitre Danda
 48. Verditer Flycatcher - σ^7 in tree-d ravine \uparrow " " c. 1720m
 49. Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush - ♀ in ravine ^{carrying food} " (c. PT 76) c. 1725m.
 50. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon - ♀ Betini \rightarrow CP house, NE Chitre Danda, c. 1690m
 51. ? Crested Bunting - 1 (H) calling from bush tops c. \uparrow " " c. 1615m.
 ? 52? Himalayan Swiftlet - ? (bat?) - ≥ 1 over eave CP house \uparrow " " c. 1605m.
 53. Drongo Cuckoo - 1 (H) at dusk above... \uparrow " " " c. 1620m.
 ? 54. Asian Barred Owl - 1 (H) " " " " c. 1630m.
 " wowowoi. - " call heard briefly; probably not Jungle at this alt.
 55. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler - 1 (H) c. dusk c. 1620m

$\Leftarrow =$

- NB: ♀ Bay Woodpecker later seen in same tree as $\sigma^7/\text{♀}/\text{juv}$. Greater Yellowape,
 $\sigma^7(?)$ near tree base where ♀ Bay seen; habitat partitioning??!
 ? Grey-chinned Minivet (G. et al. '00: " 250-2750m) w/ Shortbilled in same ^{site/} area,
 G. et al. '00: " 1000-2745m); habitat partitioning??

Breeding records (cont.):

55. Greater Yellowape - a family group of ≥ 3 birds, adult (σ^7) seen at base of tree, ♀ in vicinity seen well, then lethargic but flying OK juvenile σ^7 being fed in middle storey by ♀ . Quivered wings when ♀ close before giving food (insect?); c. 1810m, N slope of Chitre Danda dense forest. throat pattern of juv σ^7 seen well; pale with stippling.
 56. Grey-hooded Warbler - family group of ≥ 2 ad. + ≥ 2 juv.; adult seen feeding an insect to a juv.; c. 1820m, N slope Chitre Danda, dense forest.
 57. Short-billed Minivet - σ^7 seen with an arr gainly flying juvenile in arr mostly ♀ like plumage (but much duller); c. 1885, N slope Chitre Danda
 58. Chest-bellied Rock Thrush - ♀ carrying a dark larva (or leech?), ravine patch Betini \rightarrow CP house, NE Chitre Danda, c. 1725m late afternoon. a juvenile (?) possibly seen farther on a bit.

3 June 2009

No. Date Day 35

- (1865m)
 ghot CP w/platform, forest edge N slope Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola
 — empty house E of Betini, NE Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1609m).
22. Black-throated Tit — ≥ 6 w/#lls(?)^{feeding flying young; see pg. 129}, c 1775m, N slope Chitre Danda.
23. Chestnut-crowned Warbler — 1 w/#s 22 & 11 c 1770m " " " "
24. White-browed Shrike Babbler — 1 (H) ^{later seen} ~~nearly seen~~, c 1820m " " " "
- (25) Grey-sided Laughingthrush — ≥ 4 flushed in dense forest, in tight flock on ground, pecking or scratching in leaf litter; gave a very excited quail- or partridge-like call on flushing low in understory; c 1800m, N slope of Chitre Danda; G. et al. '00: " local ^{sup. seen well} uncommon in the center & east "
26. Greater Yellowthroat — 1 c. ground ^{♀ seen later} seen (sex?) + 1, c 1810m, N slope Chitre Danda
 ♀ seen with other adult (♂?); ♀ then fed juvenile ♂, which quivered wings, lethargic
27. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo — ≥ 1 in dense forest c 1820m, N slope Chitre Danda.
- (28) Brown-throated Treecreeper — 1 in " " " " ;
 seen fairly well above; dull pale brown und; G. et al. '00: " Summers mainly 2000-
 * 2750, occasionally to 3050m; possible new minimum alt for Nepal (!)
29. Blue-winged Minia — 1 + 1 (pr?) w/other birds, c 1820m, N slope, Chitre Danda
- (30) Grey-chinned Minivet — ♀ w/#s 29, 24, 14, 13(?) " " c 1850m
 G. et al. '00: " scarce resident, W-C areas E wards. w/ several other of this sp.
- (31) Short-billed Minivet — ♂ ^{c 1855m} seen well, same vicinity as #30; up high in dense forest tree; G. et al. '00: " scarce resident, W-C areas E wards"; w/ a juv. (see pg 131)
32. Large Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) (pr/dup) in dense forest ^{seen well}, c 1855m, N slope Chitre Danda; 1 bird w/ large larvae in beak, carrying it? — or scared away by presence?
33. Pygmy Wren Babbler — 1 (H) c/above AM CP, c 1890m, N slope Chitre Danda
34. [omitted] Striated Laughingthrush — 1 seen on rth AM walk, c 1850m " " " "
35. Crested Serpent Eagle — 1 (H) then seen, just E of AM CP, early afternoon, 1900m
36. Rufous-bellied Niltava — ♂ in tree E of AM CP, " " " c 1880m
37. Golden-spectacled Warbler — 1 H, barely seen, " " " "
38. Grey Bushchat — ♂ in alder ^{mixed} scrub W of Betini, c 1895m, Chitre Danda N slope
39. [omitted] Fire-breasted Flowerpecker — 1 (H) over AM CP, c 1875m " " " "
- (40) White-tailed Robin — 1 (H) ravine W of Betini, c 1850m. G. et al. '00: " generally uncommon locally f. common "
41. Grey Treepie — 1 (H) c 1825m in dense scrub.
42. Eurasian Cuckoo — 1 (H) opp. bank scrub forest, c Betini, c 1600-1700m
43. Striated Pina — 1 seen + H, scrub + grass W of Betini, c 1800m
44. Himalayan Bullbul — 1 seen approaching Betini, c 1765m.

(see pg. 131)

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP 25	27° 31.773' N 87° 04.495' E	1609	empty house E of Betini
PT 77	27° 31.881' N 87° 04.490' E	1522	outcrop, alainchi ravine
PT 78	27° 31.430' N 87° 04.007' E	1337	towards Dankila?
PT 79	27° 31.152' N 87° 05.197' E	1338	Dankila village school?
PT 80	27° 30.940' N 87° 05.414' E	1279	chautara w/ good view.
L 15	27° 30.652' N 87° 05.224' E	1277	same as 2002; Kharka? ^{old Khets?}
PT 81	27° 30.501' N 87° 05.146' E	1281	lower houses of Bala
PT 82	27° 30.454' N 87° 05.287' E	1191	trailside chautara
PT 83	27° 30.515' N 87° 04.995' E	1164	wypt. large boulder jct ^{main} trail.
PT 84	27° 30.123' N 87° 05.066' E	1080	chautara on steep slope
CP 26	27° 30.079' N 87° 05.178' E	954	spur CP, old terraces, ^{N of Chirkhum} a Khida

Weather: Overcast with mist in the early AM, with some filtered sun; light showers developing in middle & upper Koluira by 08h00; blue over Anun; overcast into afternoon, but high & bright; shower with heat lightning c. evening CP starting c. 18h30, ending c. 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 understory burned in places; some saplings killed along w/ ground cover, but not shrubs + trees. Opposite bank of Santhuwa 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 (?)).

Effort:

05h30 — 07h10

07h20 — 10h40

11h00 — 13h30

14h00 — 18h00

Σ = 11h 30 min.

4 June 2009

No
Date Day 36

empty house E of Betini, NE Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola (1609m) —
old terraces spur CP N of Chirkhuwa Khola, Sankhuwa Khola (954m).

- ① Rufous-throated Partridge — 1 (H) early AM above house CP, c. 17:00m.
G. et al. '00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)"
2. ^{Oriental} Turtle Dove — 1c house CP early AM, c. 1610m, E of Betini, NE Chitre Danda
3. Verditer Flycatcher — ♂ c. ↑ " " " "
4. Himalayan Bulbul — 1 " " " "
5. Indian Cuckoo — 1 (H) c. 1700m behind AM house/CP, ↑ " "
6. Striated Prinia — 1 seen calling below " " " c. 1595m
7. Black Bulbul — 1 in trees c. AM house/CP, c. 1620m.
8. Asian Barred Owlet — 1 (H) below ↑ " c. 1500-1550m "
9. Black-winged Cuckooshrike — 1 (H) above ↑ " c. 1620m.
10. Drongo Cuckoo — 1 (H) above AM house CP, c. 1625m ↑ "
11. Large Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) " " " " "
- G. et al. '00: "1830-3000m": possible new minimum alt for sp. in Nepal *
- ⑫ Bay Woodpecker — 1 (H) on Chitre Danda side at c. 1700m; another calling
(H) from opp. bank of Sankhuwa Kh. c. 1550m; G. et al. '00: "local & uncommon"
13. Golden-throated Barbet — 1 (H) c. 1600-1650m, just E of AM CP/house, c.
14. Himalayan Bulbul — 1 seen past AM CP/house c. 1650m, E Chitre Danda 1650m
15. Grey Treepie — pair/duo (H) " " " c. 1640m.
16. Mountain Bulbul — 1 seen " " " c. 1650m
17. Blue-capped Rock Thrush — ♂ in coppiced alder, c. 1490m, ^SE Chitre Danda
18. Black-lored Tit — ≥ 1 in hibiscus tops, in ravine c. 1520m " "
19. Grey-hooded Warbler — ≥ 1 in same tree (W?) #18 ↑ " "
- ? 20. Scarlet Minivet? — not seen well; ♂ w/ ♀ + red-edged tail, c. 1460m ↑
21. White-crested laughing thrush — flock approaching Dankila, c. 1510m.
22. [omitted] Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler — 1 (H) c. PT 77, past AM CP, c. 1535m
23. Ashy Bulbul — ≥ 3 in well-wooded ravine approach, Dankila, c. 1440m
24. Spangled Drongo — 1^H (pr/duo) " " " "
25. Greater Yellow nape — ♂ ♀ pr. ↓ " " " "
26. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher — 1 (H) ↓ " " " "
27. Great Barbet — 1 (H) below watered ravine ↓ " " " c. 1400m
28. Small Niltava — ♀, then ♂ up trail carrying food, past ↓ " " c. 1450m
- ⑲ Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) close to trail. ↑ (nearly seen) " " c. 1420m
- G. et al. '00: "vagrant"; refer to numerous other records this trek.

Additional records:

1 (H) c 1165 c PTB3, c 1160m.

#6) 1 seen & H in alder/grass, E of AM CP, c 1490m, E Chitre Danda

#15) 1 seen in scrub (alder, hibiscus, chitaurne) approaching Dankila, c 1580m

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

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

#15 cont.) 1 (H) approaching Dankila, c 1580m; 1 in ravine N of Dankila, c 1440m

#19) ≥ 1 approaching " " c 1460m; 2 juveniles feeding on their own

#3) o?? seen singing in tree " c 1440m; 1 (sex?) farther on, c 1480m

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

#17) o? singing in tree top " " c 1450m;

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

#16) pr/duo " " " " " "

#7) ≥ 1 " " " " " " " "

#14 cont.) 1 " " " " " " " "

#19 cont.) ≥ 1 past ravine, approaching N of Dankila, c 1420m " "

#7 cont.) pr/duo " " " " " " "

#16 cont.) " " " " " " "

#23) pair/duo " " " " " " " " 1 seen in bank c PTB3, c 1160m

#26) " " " " " " " " ≥ 1 w/ #s 18, 13, 20 SE of Dankila, c 1310m

#31) 1 (H) past Dankila, c 1320m;

#1) 1 (H) " " c 1200-1250m; very small insects several times

Breeding records: 62 Speckled Piculet - o? Feeding fully fledged young mostly sedentary (?); 2 more birds in farther bush; (but hung upside down once), past/SE of Dankila, c 1310m.

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

60. Small Niltava - curious, somewhat agitated ♀ at 1460m along trail N of Dankila village, E Chitre Danda; o? with insect(s) in its beak c 30m farther on, scolding, then disappeared into bushes, quiet.

61. Himalayan Bulbul - 1 adult w/ newly fledged young (nubby tail) at edge of old cultivation & forest patch, SE of Dankila, c 1310m.

4 June 2009

No
Date

empty house E of Betini, NE Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khda (1609m) —
old terraces spur CP N of Chirkhuwa Khola, Sankhuwa Khola (954m).

30. Crested Serpent Eagle — 1 (H) approach N of Dankila, E Chitre Danda. c. 1400m
31. Common Tailorbird — 1 (H) outskirts Dankila, c. 1350m " "
32. Golden-fronted/Orange-bellied leafbird — 1 glimpsed: past/SE of Dankila, c. 1250m.
33. Eurasian Cuckoo — 1 (H) SE of Dankila, c. 1400-1450m in forest patch.
34. Scarlet Minivet — (see #20) pr ♂ seen c. 1310m ... #16 old cutovers
35. Spiny Babbler — ≥ 2 (seen well!), edge old cutovers, 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 Sankhuwa gorge, c. 1280-1320m.
39. Common Hawk Cuckoo — 1 (H) SE of Dankila, c. 1200-1250m. (see ^{add'l's} below)
40. ^{omitted} White-bellied Yuhina — 1 w/ #s 18, 19, 26 " c. 1310m.
41. Himalayan Swiftlet — 1 c. lunchstop SE of Dankila, c. 1275m.
- ? 42. Blue-throated Flycatcher — 1 (H) past \uparrow + PT 82 c. Khets; c. 1170m. (#6??)
43. Common Myna — 1 c. main trail jct towards eye CP, c. 1140m
44. Alpine Swift — ≥ 3 over Sankhuwa $\&$ big ravine S of PT 84, c. 1080-1100m. late afternoon
45. Orange-bellied leaf Bird — ≈ 7 c. eye CP in old terraces $\&$ scrub forest, c. 960m.

Σ =

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 pts. 81-84) on spur goretos, not finding a lower level trail followed in 2002. Camped at end of walkable spur. (CP 26).

Additional records:

- #15 cont.) 1 past/SE of Dankila, c. 1250m; 1 ^{eating an insect} farther on at 1270m;
- #4) 1 SE of Dankila, c. 1430m;
- #7) " " " ; 3 c. chautara/PT 82 c. 1180m;
- #3) ♂ singing \uparrow " c. 1320m; ♂ (young?) c. PT 83, c. 1150m. c. 1170m
- #18) 2 or 3 w/ #s 19, 40 \uparrow " c. 1310m; #36) 2 or 3 towards eye CP.
- #19) " " 18 " " " ; #12) 1 (H) ^{past PT 83} across Sankhuwa, c. 1150m across big ravine
- #27) 2 or 3 (H) SE of Dankila, c. 1000-1100m; ^{pr/duo seen} c. PT 83, c. 1150m #21) flock (H) S of PT 83, c. 1150m.
- #34) ♀? w/ red on rump, ^{+ edging of tail also red.} c. LIS, c. 1280m; #37) pr/duo c. PT 84 c. 1060m
- #8) 1 (H) above LIS lunchstop; c. 1340m; #30) 1 c. 1160m toward eye CP seen w/ a snake in its talons.
- #39) 1 (H) across valley from PT 82, c. 1150m; 1 seen clearly, c. eye CP site, c. 965m.
- #26 cont.) 1 c. old Khets past PT 82, c. 1100m; pr/duo past PT 83, c. 1150m.

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GPS Coordinates

5 June '09

No. Date Day 37

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP26	27°30.079'N 87°05.178'E	954	spur CP in old terraces N of Chirkhuwa Khola
PT85	27°30.000'N 87°05.162'E	914	khets & storage hut
PT86	27°29.992'N 87°05.041'E	990	falls crossing, Chirkhuwa Kh.
PT87	27°29.995'N 87°05.000'E	1055	waypt after steep ascent.
PT88	27°29.775'N 87°05.132'E	935	Kharka waypt.
PT89	27°29.505'N 87°05.044'E	921	jet trail on crest ^{steep} descent
CP27	27°29.487'N 87°05.000'E	808	Besku Kh. hut CP.

Weather: Rain off & on during the night. Very humid & overcast at 1st light/dawn; improving at 07h40 & clearing at 08h00; clouding back over late AM, but clearing again at 10h20; partly cloudy at mid-day & mostly sunny into afternoon; a long shower & eve CP at 16h00; dripping & clearing at dusk & twilight. 65°F at 05h30.

Habitat: Mixed broadleaf forest & scrub forest in Chirkhuwa Khola vicinity; steep slopes with grass colonizing old & recent burns; denser & more varied mix of broadleaf spp. in ravine. Denser aspects with lianas common (white-flowering one fairly common & photographed). On spurs, 'danda's & E-facing forested slopes, sal a common sp & pine in some places; recent cutting of tall sal patch along trail, said to be for aid post construction in Bala trees tallest/densest in area & growing in small flat; alluvial flat at Besku-Sankhuwa confluence extensively cultivated.

Effort:

05h15 - 05h40-

06h00 - 18h50

Σ = 13h15 (including observations during shower at Besku Khola in late afternoon).

5 June 2009

No
Date Day 37

old terraces spur CP N of Chirkhuwa Khola, Sankhuwa Khola (954m)
— Besku Khola hut CP, up from Sankhuwa Kh. confluence (808m).

1. Orange-bellied leafbird - ♂ seen c. AM CP, calling, c. 950m ^{early AM}
2. Bronzed Drongo - 5 in leafless tree top ↑ " (w/#3) " "
3. Ashy Drongo - Later joining #2s " " " " "
4. Maroon Oriole - ♀ seen calling + 2 (H) same vicinity " " "
5. White-crested laughingthrush - flock (H) c. AM CP, c. 900-950m
6. Common Hawk Cuckoo - 2 (H) c. AM CP, c. 900-1,000m.
- ⑦ Bay Woodpecker - 1 (H) calling across Sankhuwa from AM CP, c. 950m
8. Eurasian Crag Martin - several w/#9s over AM CP, c. 970-1000m
9. Himalayan Swiftlet - " " #8s " " " "
10. Great Barbet - 1 (H) c. AM CP, c. 975m.
11. Kalij Pheasant - 1 (H) below AM CP, early AM, c. 920-950m
- ⑫ Brown-fronted Woodpecker - ♀ seen from a distance but well: head pattern, pale scarlet lower belly/vent, underparts streaked? in deadwood S of AM CP, c. 955m. G. et al. '00: "1065-2440m": possible new minimum elevation for Nepal (!).
13. Grey Treepie - 1 seen past/S of AM CP, c. 925m.
14. Ashy Bulbul - 1 " " " " c. 950m.
15. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 seen ↑ " " c. 945m.
16. Verditer Flycatcher - 1 (sex?) ^{seen later seen} seen in flight, c. 880-900m past/S of AM CP.
17. Black Bulbul - 1 in Chirkhuwa Kh. ravine forest, c. 910m.
18. Lesser Yellowthroat - ♂♀ pair picking up/down limbs & eating Hibiscus berries, same tree as #s 13, 10, S; Chirkhuwa Kh. ravine, c. 900-910m.
- ⑬ Rufous-throated Partridge - 1 (H) Chirkhuwa Kh. ravine, c. 890m; G. et al. '00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)"
20. Plumbeous Water Redstart - ♀ at falls crossing Chirkhuwa Kh. c. 990m.
21. Scarlet Minivet - ♂♀ pair just S of Chirkhuwa Kh. crossing, c. 1015m.
- ⑭ Black-chinned Yuhina - pair/duo at 1000m + another pr./duo 100m away at 1010m (same flock?), S of Chirkhuwa Kh.; G. et al. '00: "rare resident 500-1500m"
23. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 1 w/ 2nd pr. of #22s, c. 1010m, S of ^{Chirkhuwa} Khola.
24. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 (H) S of Chirkhuwa Khola, c. 1100-1150m.
25. Black-bellied T-H - ≥3 with #s 23, 26, 27 approach Besku Kh., c. 960m
26. White-bellied Yuhina - ≥1 w/ #s 23, 25, 27 " " " "

5 June '09

No. _____
Date Day 37Additional records:

- in Chirkhuwa Khola ravine forest
- #13) 4 or 5 in fruiting Hibiscus tree past/S of AM CP, c. 900m.
- #10) 1 seen " " " " " " ;
- #5) pr/duo " " " " " " ;
- #15) 1 upstream from falls crossing, Chirkhuwa Kh. c. 1005m.
- #22) another flock (?), 4 birds farther on past " c. 1060m;
- #23) 1 or 2 approaching Besku Khola, c. 960m;
- #21) pair... " " " " " " ;
- #15 cont.) 3 or 4, 1 of which carrying food, c. Besku Kh. hut CP, c. 810m.
- #20) juv. in stream c. Besku Kh. hut CP, c. 800m.
- #2) ≥ 4 in family group in trees " c. 820m at dusk.
- #10 cont.) 1 seen down from... ↑ c. 800m in rain.
- #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 Kharka with storage hut (photo'd) where visited (stayed?) in 2002. Tried to keep fairly level from there to S, but soon lost amongst newly plowed rice khets; misdirected by locals, could not find lower ± level trail of 2002; after steep ascent to 1055m (PT87), descended to small (see pg. 140)

Breeding records:

63. Black-lored 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/ #s 23, 26, 27.

64. Blue Whistling Thrush - 3 or 4 c. Besku Khola hut CP, c. 805m, 1 of which carrying a bundle of insects (all winged?) in its beak & in chase w/ ≥ 1 of the other birds.

Mammals: Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) - 1 in ravine calling at close range in early AM, c. 950m, c. AM CP.

5 June 2009

No.
Date Day 37

old terraces spur CP. N of Chirkhuwa Khola, Sankhuwa Khola (954m) —
Besku Khola hut CP, up from Sankhuwa Kh. confluence (808m).

juv.

27. Grey-hooded Warbler — $\geq 1^w$ / #s 23, 25, 26 approach. Besku Khola, c. 960m.

(28) Black-backed Forktail — ?? 1 glimpsed on descent to Besku Kh.; later seen briefly w/out binox in bushes after flushed again; in dim light possible that back grey as in Slaty-backed; if Black-backed, possibly N-most record for Nepal & 1st for MBBZ. Gave single note on flushing; c. 805m; call more suggestive of Slaty-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 w/out spotting; red suffusion on mantle noted on 1 bird; at least 3 probably 4 birds ($\geq 1^f + \geq 1^m$), also heard calling, more like Himalayan than Greater * New maximum alt. for Indian Subcontinent!; previously "to 700m", G. et al. '98, in India, & well above the 275m max for Nepal (G. et al. '00). Observed at 790-810m in Besku Kh. & opp. bank of Sankhuwa.

30. Himalayan Bulbul — pr/duo c. Besku Kh. hut CP, c. 800m. (lower hut)

(31) Long-tailed Broadbill — pair/duo up past ^ " c. 815-820m. G. et al. '00: "scarce & local resident"

32. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch — f^m pair in standing deadwood, c. 815m. f^m went into old node hole high up tree, stayed there for c. 5 min. \therefore possibly nesting, although then moving on w/ m^m & not returning.

(33) Jungle Owlet — pair/duo (H) up in forest above Besku Kh. hut CP, c. 850m; both type calls (wooi... & kek-kek!) heard

(34) Golden-throated Barbet — 1 (H) c. Besku hut CP, c. dusk-trail 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, 570m in Bhutan.

←

Route (cont.): Kharka with ^{local} guide (Prem Kumar Rai, Kenduwa, who we met in Khets in 2000 & 2002!); showed us disused, largely overgrown trail across 'danda's to pt where we ourselves could cont. to Besku Kh. over distinct trail; took steep descending trail at pipal bhot jet. to cultivated flats + several scattered huts at/c. Besku-Sankhuwa confluence

(141)

GPS Coordinates: 6 June '09

No. Date Day 38

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP 27	27° 29.487' N 87° 05.000' E	808	Besku Kh. hut CP.
PT 90	27° 29.335' N 87° 05.109' E	812	trail wypt ^{Sankhuwa} c. bridge
PT 91	27° 29.099' N 87° 04.937' E	767	Narai (= Narongba) ^{grazing} ground
PT 92	27° 28.453' N 87° 04.899' E	693	bridge at Sisawat ^{over} Sisuwat
L 16	27° 28.156' N 87° 05.594' E	646	old grazed Khets ^{along} Sankhuwa
CP 28	27° 27.735' N 87° 06.257' E	569	high old Khets ^{waterfall} in back, W of Kengdum

(Rain in bouts during previous night)

Weather: Clear & sunny AM; 70° at 5h00-5h30; quickly warmed up, by 8h00 quite hot; mostly cloudy by mid-day with overcast at 13h00 and intermittent showers 14h30-15h30 overcast into late afternoon; somewhat clearing dusk-twilight.

Habitat: dense forest on slopes surrounding Besku Khola bottom. Sal/mixed sal on S-facing slope above dense watered ravine forest of broadleaves, woody lianas, tangles, dense but low ground cover (due to mostly closed canopy). Prominent patch of pandanus in N-facing forest slope, with scattered pandanus in ravines c. CP. N-face with mixed broadleaves, mostly non-sal, many lianas. Near Sankhuwa flats, old Khets/grazing ground with scrub/scrub forest, some tall trees. Corn cultivated c. Sisuwat; W bank of Sankhuwa below Sisuwat 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

Σ = 11h 10 min.

6 June 2009

No. _____
Date Day 38

Besku Khola hut CP, up from Sankhuwa Kh. confluence (808m) —
Tiered Khets & waterfall CP W of Kangduwa, Sankhuwa Khoh (569m).

(both calls)

1. Jungle Owlet - pr/duo (H) calling pre-dawn c Besku Kh. CP, 820m
2. White-crested Laughing Thrush - flock (H) ↑ " " c. 850-880m
3. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 c. lower hut c. 790m, c. Besku-Sankhuwa confl.
- ④ Red-headed Trogon - ♂ & ♀ observed in dense wet ravine (trickle of H₂O), behind Besku Kh. hut CP; ♂ less wary, flushed to overhead looping horizontal liana; called back + forth w/ ♀; G. et al. '00: '98 not good rendition main call is 'tyaup'-like but ends on very scratchy, almost screechy note; c. 820-840m; G. et al. '00: "local & uncommon, mainly 250-1000m" (1930m)
- ⑤ Black-chinned Yuhina - ≥ 5 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 top, calling loudly & for long time; distinctive clackish call; G. et al. '00: "locally frequent in the far east, rare W to Chitwan; mainly below 455m." c. 850m
7. Blue-throated Flycatcher - ♂ H then seen, ravine forest, c. 825m
8. Common Tailorbird - 1 seen c. Besku Kh. hut CP, c. 815m.
9. [omitted] Ashy Bulbul - 1 seen (silent) in ravine behind ↑, c. 850m.
10. Scarlet Minivet - flock of several ♂♂ & ♀♀ in tree tops c. ↑ c. 860m c. 800m
11. Plumbeous Water Redstart - 1 juv. (same as 5 June?) 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 (see pg. 143)
14. Grey Treepie - 1 seen beak agape, 10h30, S of ↑ " " c. 820m
15. Common Kestrel - ♂ ♀ pair perched on shrubs, bee nest cliff face, Narai, c. 830m.
16. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 (H) trees S/above Narai, c. 840m.
17. Crimson Sunbird - ♂ at bridge just S of Sisuwatar, Sisuwara Kh., c. 680m
18. Red-vented Bulbul - 1 S of Sisuwatar, c. 675m, Sankhuwa Kh.
19. Oriental White-eye - ≥ 3 SE of Sisuwatar, along Sankhuwa Kh., c. 670m
20. Mystery Large Woodpecker - 1 (H) loud call, opp. bank tall trees ↑ c. 665m
21. Ashy Drongo - pr/duo c. lunchstop, 2 Km SE of Sisuwatar, c. 650m 675m
- ? 22. Common Kestrel - 1 flying up high over Sankhuwa, distant view, flight atypical
23. Great Tit - ≥ 3 family group approaching lunchstop; 2 ad + 1 juvenile that was flying quite well; along Sankhuwa Khola, c. 670m

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6 June '09

No.
Date Day 38

Additional records:

- #3) 1 up ravine behind AM hut cp, c. 835m; 1 (H) c. waterfall ravine behind cp. ^{c. 580m eye}
- #9) 1 S of Besku-Sankhuwa confluence, c. 815m; 1 (H) back of lunchstop, c. 670m
- #13) pair/duo at Narai (=Narongba) grazing ground S of Besku Kh, c. 770m
- #13 cont.) ≥ 1 S of Narai " " " " ; 1 in trees at Sisuwatar, c. 700m
- #8) 1 (H) c. bridge over Sisuwat Kh S of Sisuwatar, c. 680m; 1 further on c. 675m
- #13 cont.) 1 seen past/S of Sisuwatar, c. 675m
- #18) pr/duo SE of Sisuwatar 1-1.5 km, c. 650m;
- #16) 1 c. lunchstop c. 2 km SE of Sisuwatar, c. 650m;
- #8 cont.) 1 seen singing " " c. 645m;
- #7) 1 (H) in back of lunchstop along Sankhuwa, calling from ravine veg., c. 650m
- #24) 1 (H) across Sankhuwa NW of Kangduwa, c. 610m.
- #2) flock (H) c. 20m up in waterfall area forest at dusk, c. 595-605m.

* Red-headed Trogon - when [♂] calling, flicks tail up, holds it, then spreads/fan it, showing the white in tail clearly. (behavioural note).

Breeding records:

65. Himalayan Bulbul - nest up 2.55m in a coppiced tree, edge of cultivation, confluence of Besku & Sankhuwa Kholas. Placed in ^{fork in} group of leafy nodes/small branches at crown of tree. Nest is almost entirely thin brittle 'twigs' (stems) of a weedy plant. Not tightly woven, but overall compact; 3 small nestlings w/ a bit of down; both parents feeding; most food winged insects hawked in nest vicinity; nest measurements not taken; c. 810m; both birds returned to nest ^{post} inspection.

6 June 2009

No. Date Day 38

Besku Khola hut CP, up from Sankhuwa Khola confluence (808m). —
Tiered Khets & waterfall CP W of Kangduwa, Sankhuwa Khola (569m).

24. Great Barbet - 1 (H) scolding from dense ravine in back of lunchstop, c. 660m

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 m-face of 1 bird, but too exhausted to note other details/other birds; c. 665-695m.

27. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - 1 in forest ^{W of} Kangduwa to eve CP, c. 580m

(28) Rufous-throated Partridge [omitted] - 1 (H) from forest N slope above hut CP in early AM, c. 840-850m; G et al. '00: "rare resident, mainly 1450-1830m (250-2050m)"; seems to be fairly common in this habitat type on trek.

←=

Route: Along well-defined trail from Besku-Sankhuwa confluence Khets, past/above bridge (not on topo map) over Sankhuwa across wide flat Narai (= Narongba) grazing ground & seasonal hut. Down over main trail to Sisuwatar, over old bridge over Sisuwara Khola & main wide (but delapidated) wide stone/gravel trail (no vehicles noted). Stayed on S bank trail, not taking bans sanglo over Sankhuwa, stopping at tiered (old alluvial fan?) Khets for CP & idyllic waterfall & minimally chopped over forest (understorey cut in places to increase grazing area).

(145)

GPS Coordinates: 6 June '09 No Date Day 39

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP 28	27° 27.735' N 87° 06.257' E	569	tiered Khets waterfall ravine W of Kangduwa
PT 93	27° 26.992' N 87° 08.157' E	461	jct Sankhuwa trail + Bumlingtar + flostr.
L 2	27° 26.991' N 87° 08.145' E	449	Amar Hotel lunchstop
PT 94	27° 26.265' N 87° 07.794' E	416	chantara S end Bumlingtar
CP 29	27° 25.977' N 87° 07.511' E	389	large hut + Khets Sof ↑

Weather: low overcast & threatening to rain at 1st light/dawn; gradually clearing after a few sprinkles; partly sunny into late AM; sunny afternoon, clouding over by 5 PM; 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 & CP site flat, higher up on spurs fairly tall / tall sal dominates. Some lianas & epiphytes but not mossy

Forest across Sankhuwa on S bank / S faces denser & more extensive; includes deciduous tall trees & denser under

Effort:
05h30 - 07h40
08h00 - 11h15
11h30 - 12h30
15h55 - 16h10
17h05 - 18h45

Σ = 8h20min.

7 June 2009

No
Date Day 39

tiered 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 (H) c. AM CP, c. 570m in watered ravine.
2. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - ≥ 1 " " "
3. Scarlet Minivet - ≥ 1 (H) " " "
4. Greater Yellowthroat - 1 (sex?) [♂] in ravine trees, c. AM CP, c. 580m-590m.
5. Ashy Drongo - nesting pair, forest c. AM CP, c. 605m.
6. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 seen, driven off from #5 nest, c. 585-590m.
7. Shikra - ♂♀ pair in forest & #5 nest c. AM CP ravine W of Kangduwa, c. 600m.
8. Great Barbet - 1 (H) ^{see pg. 147} up in forest above ♂ " " c. 615m.
9. Ashy Bulbul - 1 (H) " " " c. 590m.
10. Black Bulbul - ≥ 1 seen " " " "
- ? 11. Himalayan/Greater Flameback - pr/duo c./above ♂ c. 600m; not seen well on back or head; call difficult to discern; fairly large size
- ⑫ Rufous Woodpecker - ♀ seen well SE of Kangduwa; G. et al. '00: "uncommon & quite widespread resident, below 305m (-1525m)"
13. Crimson Sunbird - 1 (H) E/S of Kangduwa, c. 560m.
14. White-crested Laughingthrush - several w/ 1 seen, SE of Kangduwa, c. 560m.
15. Grey Treepie - 1 seen across Sankhuwa (opp. bank) " " c. 565m.
- ⑬ Golden-throated Barbet - 1 seen calling, c. 2 km E of Kangduwa, c. 530m.
* see pg. 140; new minimum elevation for Nepal? G. et al. '00: "1500-2400m"; seen several times lower than that on trek including 980m on 6 May & 815m on 5 June; G. et al. '98: "down to 400m E of Nepal in Indian Himalayas, 570m in Bhutan"
17. Common Tailorbird - 1 (H) S of Bumlingtar towards eve CP, c. 420m.
- 18 [omitted] Common Myna - 1 seen in corn fields, Southern Bumlingtar, c. 430m.
19. Blue-throated Flycatcher - ♂? seen alarming, S of Bumlingtar, c. 410m.
20. Woolly-necked Stork - 1 flying into tree top to roost at dusk-twilight, c. eve CP S of Bumlingtar, c. 400m.

Σ = 20 species

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7 June '09

No. Date Day 39

Additional records:

- #9) pr/duo E/S of Kangduwa, c. 565m; 2-3 further on, SE of Kangduwa, 560m^e
#8) 1-2 (H) " " c. 570-580m; 1 seen 1.5 km " " 530m^e
#15) 1 in forest s 1.5 km E of Kangduwa, c. 530m;
#6) 1 (H) " c. 2 km " " c. 560m;
#4) ♂ at pipal/bhar trees chautara/dharmasala S end of Bumlingtar
c. 420m, eating pipal fruits & not very wary!
#3) 2 ♂♂ seen in chase further on, Sankhuwa S bank, c. 540m.
#3 cont.) 1 or 2 (H) S of Bumlingtar, c. 425-430m.
#8 cont.) 1 seen ... ↑ " approaching eye CP, c. 410m

Breeding record:

66. Ashy Drongo - nesting pair in tall broadleaf tree; nest on a limb
(non-sat) c. 505m
c. 14-15m up tallest tree in area; 1 bird on nest, other perched on same
limb 3-4m away making sallies (for insects?); nest-sitting bird left
nest later to make sallies for c. 5min, then returned to sit. ∴ probably
on eggs; sallies made from same perch in adjacent tree; both birds
later chased off Blue-throated Barbet passing near nest; nest pale/yellow
brown (grasses? pale thin twigs?); c. ravine AM CP, W of Kangduwa village
later ♂ & ♀ Shikra driven off by both birds from nest area.

7 June 2009

No
Date Day 39

tiered Khets & waterfall CP W of Kangduwa, Sankhuwa Kh. (569m)
 — field house & fallow Khets S of Bumlingtar, Arun R. (389m).

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 chaur then. Now several houses
 where wood cutters HQ'd & 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 understory either side of main trail. Frequent CP sites,
 cooking sites, obviously well-travelled.

Approaching uphill climb to Bumlingtar flats, a level wide
 trail being dug by an old man (photod), who was working on it &
 said he had done so unpaid for 7 years. Causing further dis-
 turbance 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 uncommon/
 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 support-
 ing such destruction & wanted to meet 2 Maoists. Only silence followed.
 Adukshu not present, so JC told gathering of locals he would write
 a letter to samite & VDC, cc'd Maoists. Kupandol left disgusted.

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GPS Coordinates

8 June '09

No. Date Day 40

Code	Coordinate	Alt (m)	Site Info
CP 29	27° 25.977' N 87° 07.511' E	389	field house S of Bumlinga on main trail jct/chaudara, W bank Arun.
PT 95	27° 25.043' N 87° 07.445' E	427	forested stream above Irkhuwa
PT 96	27° 24.577' N 87° 07.490' E	406	watered shady ravine W bank of Arun NW of Kundule
L 17	27° 24.240' N 87° 07.359' E	427	seldom used trail way point W bank Arun, opp. Kundule
PT 97	27° 24.215' N 87° 07.370' E	450	SE of Kattike
PT 98	27° 23.706' N 87° 07.739' E	396	W bank trail, Arun R.
PT 99	27° 23.568' N 87° 08.320' E	338	houses & trail between Baluwani & Kattike jct, Arun R.
PT 100	27° 22.674' N 87° 09.668' E	310	W bank Arun c. Maruwabesi
CP 30	27° 22.607' N 87° 09.956' E	313	W bank Arun at Maruwabesi

Weather: Some light rain 3-4 AM; overcast & damp/muggy at 1st light/dawn; and into early AM; clearing c. 10 AM, then sunny, very muggy & sultry into mid-day; 91°F at 13h 20; (76°F at 06h 00); becoming partly cloudy at 13h 30 & into late afternoon, mid 90s s. Kattike, oppressive; drizzle at 17h 00-17h 30; & 18h 15-19h 00

Habitat: old khets used for grazing c. AM CP 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 'finger' along lower Irkhuwa w/ corn fields farther away from Khola; fairly tall rice cultivation in Majuwabesi, Kattike, Maruwabesi areas (latter w/ tall corn); sal forest N of Irkhuwa bridge with largely cleared understorey (by cutting & burning) for grazing, & degraded by firewood collection; understorey along route generally thin/degraded somewhat

Effort:
 07h 45 - 12h 50
 13h 20 - 15h 00
 15h 15 - 16h 00
 16h 40 - 17h 15
 17h 30 - 18h 15

Σ = 8h 50 min.

8 June 2009

No. _____
Date Day 40

field house in fallow khets S of Bumlingtar, Arun R. (382m) —
banyan tree at W bank Arun R. / Maruwabesi gau: (313m).

- ① Indian Pitta - 1 (H) calling 1st light-dawn, past 07h45 birding start time; ^{behind} c. AM CP/house S of Bumlingtar, c. 430m; G. et al. '00: "local summer visitor, common at Chitwan, rare elsewhere below 245m (-1360m)".
2. White-throated Kingfisher - 1 (H) c. AM CP/house S of Bumlingtar, ^{later seen 440m.} c. 350m.
3. Spotted Dove - pair/duo c. AM CP/house, c. 365m.
4. Himalayan Bulbul - pair/duo c. ↑ " " , $\frac{1}{2}$ past a bit.
5. Great Tit - pair/duo + 1 or 2 more w/#bs c. waterfall + ravine ^S past AM CP.
6. Black-lored Tit - ≥ 4 w/#5s " " " c. 400m.
7. [omitted] Scarlet Minivet - 1 (H) c. AM CP/house S of Bumlingtar, c. 400m.
- 8? Greater Yellow-nape - ? 1 approach PT 95 seen in flt, silent ↑ " c. 410m.
9. Blue-throated Flycatcher - ♂ seen past PT 95 in sal forest, c. 420m.
10. Red Junglefowl - 1 (H) in rather dense sal forest N of PT 95, c. 430m.
11. Spangled Drongo - 2 ad + 1 juv. ^{being fed} at/c. bridge over Irkhuwa, c. 360m.
- 12? Grey-headed Woodpecker - ? 1 (H) in riverine forest ↑ " " c. 420m.
13. Bronzed Drongo - ≥ 4 (family group) in moist broadleaf forest ↑ " c. 390m.
14. Orange-bellied Leafbird - ♂ in tree, just past bridge over Irkhuwa, ^S c. 395m.
15. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 along Irkhuwa Kh. c. bridge, c. 365m.
16. Red-vented Bulbul - ≥ 3 in khets, trees along Irkhuwa, c. 390m.
17. Striated Pinya - 1 (H) in khets/scrub ... " " c. Arun, c. 385m.
18. G. et al. '00: "summers chiefly 1220 - 2300m (-3000m)", ∴ unusually low record.
18. Crimson Sunbird - 1 (H) along Irkhuwa, open country, c. 400m.
19. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 (H) c. siraan (PT 96) above Irkhuwa Khola, c. 415m.
20. Green-billed Malkoha - 1 seen in leafy ravine along/above Arun R., c. 380m.
- ②1? Banded Bay Cuckoo - 1 (H) calling loudly from mixed moist broadleaf forest edge (not very dense): first 2 notes same pitch "pii pii", then 3rd note a "pew" that was drawn out or possibly slurred/joined w/4th note 'pew', which dropped from first two notes; W bank Arun opp. NW of Kundule, c. 390-400m; G. et al. 98: "dense broadleaf forest in Nepal"; "lightly wooded areas" in India (?).
22. Grey-bellied Pinya - 1 (H) in khets c. Majuwabesi, c. 400-410m.
23. Oriental Magpie Robin - 1 H then seen approach lunchstop S of Majuwabesi, c. 430m.
24. Ashy Bulbul - ≥ 1 c. lunchstop, c. 425m, ravine S of ... ↑ "
25. Large Cuckooshrike - ♂ in tree top, c. lunchstop 47. ↑ " c. 430m.

→ possibly Common Iora?? But quality different & much louding/carrying; Dark-winged Cuckooshrike similar structure, but not as loud + last note not slurred (or 2 notes)

Additional records:

- #7) 1 or 2 (4) past AN CP S of Bumlingar, c. 370m;
- #16) ≥ 1 c. siraan above Irkhuwa (PT 96), c. 410m; 1 farther on at c. 390m c. 20m
- #4) 1 in open country along Arun R, Majuwabesi area c. 390m; 1 in open forest, W bank of Arun opposite Kundule
- #18) 1 seen along Arun ... " c " " e " ;
- #5) 1 in open forest W bank Arun c. PT 97, c. 420m;
- #27) ♂ seen in W bank Arun mixed open forest / c. houses, c. 410m; c. Kattike
- #16 cont) pair/duo " " " " ;
- #24) pr/duo w/ #s 28, 33, 34, 35 ^{#8} c. 405m SW of Kattike, W bank Arun R;
- #28) ≥ 3 .. " 24 " " " " " " ;
- #8) ♂ .. " 24, 28, 33, 34 " " " " ;
- #2) 1 at bridge over Chirkhuwa Kh, W of Kattikeghat c. 340m; 1 in W bank Arun tree c. 320m ^{Kattikeghat - Maruwabesi}
- #3) 1 in tree / khets c. Kattikeghat, c. 340m; 1 Kattikeghat → Maruwabesi, c. 320m
- #23) 1 (H) passing through " " " ;
- #15) 1 (H) banks of Arun Sof " " c. 325m;
- #16 cont) 1 seen S of Kattikeghat, c. 325m;
- #19) 1 seen .. " " " ; 1 (H) farther on 150m, c. 325m;
- #37) 2+2 Kattikeghat → Maruwabesi, c. 320m;
- #4) 1+1 .. " " " ;
- #3 cont) 1 approach Maruwabesi c. 320m;
- #41) 1 .. " " " " ;

Breeding records:

see page 152 →

67. Spangled Drongo - 2 adults with a flying juvenile (that appears fully fledged) being fed by 1 ad; juv seen perched on limb of broadleaf tree, beak agape. At bridge over Irkhuwa Khola c. Arun R. confluence; riverine fairly dense mostly non-sal forest at midday; c. 360-370m.

68. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike - ♂, ♀ w/ ≥ 1 juvenile, which was being fed insects by the ♀; in mixed foraging flock w/ #s 8, 24, 28, 33 (± 32?). Arun R. W bank SW of Kattike, c. 405m; fairly dense mixed broadleaf forest w/ good patch of tall trees (mostly non-sal).

69. Ashy Drongo - 2 adults + 1 freshly fledged young approaching Kattikeghat, Arun R. Young 'dumb' looking with rubby, barely indented tail c. 365m

8 June 2009

No. Date Day 40

field house in fallow khets S of Bumlingar, Arun R. (389m) —
banyan tree CP, W bank Arun R at Maruwabesi gau: (313m).

- 26. Common Tailorbird - 1 seen c. lunchstop, c. 425m in watered ravine
- 27. Scarlet Minivet - ≥2 (H) past/S of L17, c. 440m in open forest ^{W bank Arun}
- 28. Oriental White-eye - ≥2 seen W bank mixed open forest/houses, ^{G. Kattike} c. 410m.
- 29. Puff-throated Babbler - ≥2 in ground litter " 5 " " c. 400m.
- 30. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker - ♂ⁱⁿ in simal ^{corn} tree S/past Kattike, c. 400m
- 31. Asian Banded Owllet - pair/duo ^{seen well} in mixed broadleaf (mainly sal) moving thru in afternoon, keeping in contact w/a soft squeeling notes, given briefly, repeatedly. This call not mentioned in G. et al. '98 or Ali & Ripley '87; c. 405m, SW of Kattike.
- 32. Grey Treepie - ≥1 w/ #s 24, 28, 33, 34; c. 400m, W bank Arun R, " "
- 33. Blyth's Leaf Warbler - 1 seen well, ^{wash of} yellow on underparts, most noticeable on lower throat/upper breast/breast; not discernable on vent? 1 1/2 distinct yellowy wingbars (almost as 2 full bars); ^{alt.} no wing-flicking behavior; size/shape vs. Western Crown hard to distinguish; call not noted; in mixed species flock w/ #s 8, 24, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35.
- * possible new minimum altitude for Nepal: c. 395m, G. et al. '00: "summers 1980-3800m" (in Nepal); G. et al. '98: "breeds 2000-3700m in Himalayas (in India); noted as low as 305m in Bhutan (season not given). Confusable with Western Crowned, which noted at ± this elevation & habitat earlier in trek, W bank Arun R, SW of Kattike
- 34. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike - ^{w/ #s 24, 28, 33, 35} family group of ♂♀ + ≥1 juv (being fed by ♀) 1 ♂
- 35. White-bellied Yuhina - ≥1 w/ #s 8, 24, 28, 32, 33, 34, fairly dense forest SW of Kattike
- 36. Woolly-necked Stork - 1 in rice khets & busy trail, Baluwani to Kattikeghat ^{c.} 340m
- 37. Chestnut-tailed Starling - pr/duo in tree/khets, c. Kattikeghat, c. 345m
- 38. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. 350-400m Kattikeghat → Maruwabesi, W bank Arun
- 39. White-browed Wagtail - pr/duo littoral ↑ " " " c. 320m
- 40. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater - ≥4 approaching Maruwabesi CP site, c. 315-320m
- 41 [omitted] Ashy Drongo - breeding group, approach Kattikeghat, c. 365m
- 42. River Lapwing - 1 on Arun boulder approaching Maruwabesi CP site, c. 310m

Σ =

Additional records (cont): #39) 1 on Arun boulder approach Maruwabesi CP site, 310m.

Code	Coordinate	Alt. (m)	Site Info
CP 30	27° 22.607'N 87° 09.956'E	313	W bank Arun R. at Maruwabesi
PT 101	27° 22.542'N 87° 09.911'E	342	SW from AMCP, at base of sal forest & corn khets
PT 102	27° 22.608'N 87° 09.629'E	341	end of AM bird walk, watered ravine NW Maruwabesi
PT 101	27° 22.542'N 87° 09.911'E	342	
CP 30	27° 22.607'N 87° 09.956'E	313	
⊙ L 18	27° 21.428'N 87° 11.131'E	320	W bank Arun overhang opp. Sat Riyalebesi
PT 103	27° 21.843'N 87° 10.664'E	338	trail way pt, ^{above} W bank Arun
PT 104	27° 20.873'N 87° 11.462'E	301	Satighat Pal, Arun R.

(See page 156 →)

Weather: Misty at dawn after considerable amount of rain during the night. Mist burning off 6h30-7h00; 73°F at 05h30. 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 c. AMCP, good scrub forest with dense tangle, frequently chopped over for fuelwood & at edge to make more khets; local man opined that forest in vicinity getting thinner in recent yrs/past. Watered ravine w/ mixed broadleaf, many lianas, a few epiphytes, but thin border of forest (some trees tall); higher up good sal forest in general vicinity upriver; recent destruction of forest to bulldoze road through to Arun from Bhojpur side. Sand flats along Arun, some wide large grassy areas but closely cropped by grazing livestock.

Effort:

05h30 - 08h40

09h10 - 13h30

14h30 - 19h10

Σ = 12h10 min

9 June 2009

Day 41

banyan tree CP, W. bank Arun R., Maruwabesigau: (313m) —
scrub forest edge/sandflats E of Archale gau: Arun R. (286m).

- ① Indian Pitta - 1 (H) calling 1st light/dawn in back of AM CP, c. 325m
G. et al '00: "local summer visitor, common at Chitwan, rare elsewhere, below (-1360m) 245m!"
2. Black-crested Bulbul - pr/duo c. Maruwabesi/banyan tree, early AM, c. 320m
3. Grey-breasted Prinia - 1 (H) " " " " "
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 - c. 3 c. tents, AM CP site at ↓ " , c. 320m
8. Ashy Bulbul - 1 in forest Majuwabesi to Khola NW c. Arun R. bank, c. 345m
9. Scarlet Minivet - 2 ♀♀ + 1 ♂^{SW} over forest ↓ " " " c. 365m
10. White-breasted Scimitar Babbler - pair/duo in thickets ↓ " c. 345m.
11. Common Iora - ≥4 in forest edge trees SW Maruwabesi ↓ " c. 350m
12. Ashy Drongo - ≥4 in ... " " " "
13. Blue-throated Barbet - 1 seen in treetop " " ↓ " c. 355m.
14. Golden-fronted Leafbird - ♂? " " " " c. 360m
15. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler - 1 seen ↓ " " c. 355m.
16. Black Bulbul - 1 in treetop ... " " c. 360m.
- ①7 Slaty-backed Forktail - 1 seen (silent) in watered ravine ↓ " c. 340m.
G. et al '00: "resident, generally uncommon but fairly common locally; 900-1675m (-450m)" *check to see if new minimum elevation for Nepal (!).
18. Common Tailorbird - 1 seen + H, SW/back of Maruwabesi, c. 340m
19. Shikra - ♀ c. Khets/forest edge at Maruwabesi Arun R. c. 335m.
20. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater - 1 c. tents/AMCP ↓ " c. 320m
21. Crested Serpent Eagle - 1 in tree (photod) Maruwabesi Khets, c. 345m
22. Oriental Magpie Robin - ♂? c. tents/banyan tree " " c. 320m
23. Crimson Sunbird - 1 (H) c. AM CP, ♂? seen S of CP ↓ " " c. 320m
- ②4 Changeable Hawk Eagle - 1 seen, not well except for under tail barring, 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 (75-1050m)" vs. Mountain Hawk Eagle: "mainly 1500-2835m, 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 ↓ " " "

9 June '09 Day 41

Additional records:

- #8) 1 farther to NW back of Maruwabesi, $\approx 355m$; pair in watered ravine ^{end AM bird walk, 350m}
 #2) pair/duo " " " " ; pr/duo in watered ravine
 #4) 1 SE of Maruwabesi, $\approx 315m$;
 #5) pair/duo \nearrow " " ;
 #23) 1 (H) \subseteq base of forest $\nearrow \subseteq 310m$; 1 (H) in cliff forest Arun opp. Riyalebesi $\approx 330m$.
 #13) 1 (H) " " $\subseteq 335m$; 1 (H) at dusk \subseteq Arun/Khakuwa ^{confluence} $\approx 290m$
 #25) 1 at Arun littoral, SE of Maruwabesi, $\approx 305m$; pr/duo S of Khakuwa Kh. confl.
 #18) 1 (H) SE of Maruwabesi, end flats, $\approx 315m$; 1 (H) \searrow , $\approx 305m$.
 #7) ≥ 1 w/ #s 30, 31 in cliff forest Arun W bank opp. Riyalebesi, $\approx 340m$.
 #12) ≥ 3 , 2 of which seen, forest edge at ^{grazed} grass patch opp./SW of \nearrow , $\approx 305-310m$.
 #26) 1 seen ... \nearrow " " " " " $\approx 345m$.
 #23 cont.) 1 (H) ... \nearrow " " " " " " "
 #8 cont.) 2 seen 1 (H) N of Sātighat, $\approx 300m$; 1 \subseteq Khakuwa Kh. ^{confluence} $\approx 320m$.
 #19) ♀ W bank of Arun steep forest below \nearrow pl, $\approx 315m$ (same bird as earlier?)
 #36) 1 ♂ seen farther on N of Khakuwa Kh. confluence, $\approx 300m$; 1 (H) ^{farther on towards} Khakuwa Khola.
 #26 cont.) 1 seen " " " " " $\approx 310m$;
 #9) 1 (H) ... \nearrow " " " " " $\approx 335m$.
 #31) ≥ 1 (H) approaching Khakuwa Khola confluence w/ Arun, $\approx 315m$.
 #29) 1 seen \subseteq Khakuwa Khola confluence " " $\approx 315m$.
 #25 cont.) 1 " " " " " $\subseteq 285m$ at dusk.

Breeding record:

70. Greater Coucal — single bird calling at close range behind CP site at edge of scrub forest patch & sand flats, Arun R. E of Archalegau, $\approx 290m$ 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 with it, possibly a nestling but down would have been seen; not wary (!).

9 June 2009

Day 41

banyan tree CP, W bank Arun R. at Maruwabesi gau: (313m) —
scrub forest/sand flats E of Archale gau, Arun R. (286m).

27. Coppersmith Barbet - 1 (H) SE of Maruwabesi, \leq 375 m. up in forest
 28. [omitted] Blue-throated Flycatcher - 1 (H) back of \uparrow " AM bird walk, \leq 350m.
 29. Linnated Barbet - 1 (H) ^{see pg. 29} end flats/forest edge SE of Maruwabesi, \leq 330m.
 30. White-bellied Yuhina - \geq 4 in family ^{w/ #s 7, 31} group, with \geq 1 paler \leq head & slower,
but flying, hovering (& feeding itself?); cliff forest Arun R. opp. Riyalebesi, \leq 345m.
 31. Striped Tit Babbler - 1 or 2 w/ #30s? \uparrow w/ #7 " " "
 32. ^{omitted} Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher - \geq 1 w/ #s 7, 30, 31 " " "
 33. White-headed laughingthrush - flock (H) at grazed grass/forest edge opp/
SW of Riyalebesi (good CP site, but has house & old klets in center btm) \leq 315m.
 34. Mystery Flameback (Himalayan?) - 1 (H) W bank Arun sal forest, \leq 330m.
 35. [omitted] Spangled Drongo - 1 seen in forest before LIB, \leq 335m. \leq 300m
 36. Blue-throated Flycatcher - 1 in dense ^(H) sal understorey E of Khakuwa Dobhan ^{see pg. 155}
 37. Large Cuckooshrike - 1 (sex?) " " forest " " \leq 320m.
 38. White-rumped Shama - σ seen singing in dense forest patch N of Khakuwa Dobhan \leq 335m
 39. Large-billed Crow - 1 \leq Satighat bridge, late afternoon, \leq 305m.
 40. Red-wattled Lapwing - pair/duo along Arun W bank flats, \leq 290m.
 41. Large Pied Wagtail - pair/duo " " \uparrow \leq eve CP site "
 42. Greater Coucal - 1 (H) from close range, behind eve CP site, \leq 290m; 7
note call from scrub forest patch, then seen well perched & in flight,
including undewing; carrying food (small frog); see pg. 155. \leq 285m
 43. Common Kingfisher - 1 \leq confluence of Khakuwa Kh. & Arun at dusk
 44. Spotted Owlet - 1 (H) calling at dusk-twilight, scrub forest \leq eve CP, \leq 300m
 45. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) " " " up Khakuwa Khola, \leq 300-350m
 46. Eurasian Cuckoo - 1 (H) " " " " \leq 330-360m
 47. Woolly-necked Stork - 4 circling over bridge across Arun to Tunlingtar

← =

Additional GPS Coordinates:

		Alt. (m)	Site Info
PT 105	27° 20.629' N 87° 11.253' E	310	trail Wagtail; recently bulldozed road!
PT 106	27° 19.984' N 87° 11.082' E	322	chaotara ondanda above Khakuwa Khola
PT 107	27° 19.687' N 87° 11.425' E	292	W bank Arun sand flats ^{confluence}
CP 31	27° 19.124' N 87° 10.810' E	286	W bank Arun scrub edge E of Archale gau:

(157)

GPS Coordinates

10 June '09

Day 42

<u>Code</u>	<u>Coordinate</u>	<u>Alt.</u> (m)	<u>Site Info</u>
CP 31	27° 19.124' N 87° 10.810' E	286	W bank Arun R. scrub forest edge E of Archalegan.
PT 108	27° 18.670' N 87° 11.230' E	305	W bank Arun at bridge
PT 109	27° 18.810' N 87° 11.439' E	390	E bank Arun houses, W side of Tumlingtar airstrip.
TUMLINGTAR	27° 18.974' N 87° 11.821' E	411	Hotel Makalu, trek start & end point.

Weather: Thin mist quickly burning off at dawn; very hot & muggy once sun up from the E. 7 AM; continued sunny, very hot to trek endpoint at Hotel Makalu, Tumlingtar, 05h10.

Habitat: Scrub forest, mostly riverine broadleaf with a few sal trees; dense tangles of thickets, Viburnum, Eupatorium interspersed further inland & higher up with khets (fallow & planted [mostly corn]). Banks of Arun sandy with few stones. Degraded sal forest on E bank of Arun up to airstrip.

Route: From AM 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:

04h50 - 06h15

06h30 - 09h10

Σ = 4h 05 min

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scrub forest/sand flats E of Archalegaun, Arun R. (286m) —
Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha District (411m).

- ① Indian Pitta - 1 (H) in back of AM CP in scrub forest, calling regularly from 0445-0515; moved perches but could not see it; c. 290-295m; G. et al. OO: "local summer visitor, common at Chitwan, rare elsewhere, below 245m (-1360m).
2. Jungle Owlet - 1 (H) c. 3 AM during night - both calls; H again early AM but only 'wuwowoi' like call; above/behind AM CP, c. 320-340m.
3. Scarlet Minivet - ♂ in tree top " " c. 310m.
4. Oriental White-eye - ≥2 passing through trees c. AM CP, c. 300m.
5. Oriental Magpie Robin - ♂+♀ in trees behind... " " "
6. Woolly-necked Stork - 4 circling c. AM CP, c. 320-340m (probably same birds as 9 June)
7. Common Tailorbird - 1 (H) c. ... " c. 300m (later seen past CP; see pg. 159).
8. Indian Cuckoo - 1 (H) c. ... " c. 320m
9. Drongo Cuckoo - 1 (H) S of AM CP site, c. 330-350m early AM.
10. Small Pratincole - ≥9 in sandy flats, stoney rubble, edge Arun braid c. AM CP site; 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. 320-340m.
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 Iora - 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 tangles in ravine " "
26. Blue-throated Flycatcher - ♂ seen calling past/SE AM CP, c. 300m.
27. Common Myna - pair/duo at bridge over Arun (W bank), Tumlingtar
28. [omitted] Great Tit - ≥1 in bushes c. AM CP " " c. 290m.

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Day 42

Additional records:

- #7) 1 seen past SE of ATM CP, c 290m, along Arun R.
 #4) 2-3 " " " " " "
 #18) ♂♀ pair seen " " " "
 #21) 1 towards bridge over Arun, W bank / Tumlingtar c 300m.
 #4 cont.) 3 at bridge over Arun " " c 305m.
 #20) 1 in open sct, E bank Arun, edge of Tumlingtar airstrip, c 340m.
 #7 cont.) 1 seen edge khets/houses " " " c 360m.
 #13) 1 (H) c Tumlingtar^{airstrip}, E bank Arun, c 350-400m.
 #21 cont.) 1 on electric lines " c 410m.
 #27) 1 in open khets W side of Tumlingtar airstrip, c 410m.

Breeding record:

71. Chestnut-tailed Starling - (in adult plumage) five birds in noisy group, some birds pursuing others (or possibly same single bird in pursuit). After several minutes mating was observed briefly on the ground between two birds. Side of main track in Tumlingtar near Makalu Hotel, c 410m ± pipal tree.

10 June 2009

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scrub forest/sand flats E of Archalegann, Arun R. (286m) —
Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha District (411m).

29. Blue Whistling Thrush - 1 (H) E bank Arun R, c bridge, c 320m.

30. Copper Smith Barbet - 1 (H) c Tumlingtar airstrip, c 400m.

31. Red Collared Dove - ♂ on electric lines "A" c "

32. Paddyfield Pipit - 1 on Tumlingtar airstrip, c 400m.

33. Chestnut-tailed Starling - pair/duo over ♂ "c 415m. c

) 34. House Crow - several on way up to airstrip; 1 at Hotel Makalu 410m c

Σ = 34 species.