

ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO NEPAL
Chitwan, Koshi & Phulchowki

16 February – 01 March 2013



Leaders: Richard Coomber & Hem Sagar Baral

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A Personal Diary

Saturday, 16 February

The 2013 Ornitholidays party to Nepal met up at Heathrow's Terminal 4 for the Jet Airways flight to Delhi and onwards to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. An online check-in had not been possible, but when the desks opened ahead of schedule most of us were at the head of the queue. Our Boeing 777 was loaded and ready for take-off 11 minutes ahead of time, which meant a prompt departure at 20:50 and with praise for the passengers from the captain during the flight.

Sunday, 17 February

The sun was well above the horizon by the time we were woken for breakfast and soon after things were cleared away we were arriving at Delhi on what turned out to be a grey and dismal morning. Following the signs for *International Transfers* we hoped that our passage through the airport's new terminal would be a smooth one. We still had to go through security and as luck would have it we followed a very large party from China. However there was still time to stroll along to the departure gate birding whenever the possibility arose. The list included White-breasted Waterhen, Brown Rock Chat, Jungle Babbler, Red-vented Bulbul and Purple Sunbird – quite respectable.

The Kathmandu flight also left on time, but although we were soon above the clouds we failed to see any distant snowy peaks as we neared our destination. On landing we were soon clear of the formalities and reunited with our luggage, we passed through customs to meet the ground agent and to be taken to our hotel through the bustling city, where rooms were allocated and where we were introduced to Dr. Hem Baral, our guide for the coming tour. He outlined plans for tomorrow over a welcome cup of coffee or tea and before we retired to our rooms to unpack, freshen-up, relax and recover from the journey before dinner. Perhaps any sleep might have been disturbed by several loud thunder claps and the torrential rain that came with them.

Dinner was taken at the hotel and we were all pleased with our choices from the varied menu, before heading for bed.

Monday 18 February

Fine and sunny. Lying snow above 2,200 metres

Instead of cockerels it was the local House Crows (or dogs) that greeted dawn this morning and after a buffet breakfast at the hotel we boarded three 4x4s and headed through the suburbs of Kathmandu towards the forested hill of Phulchoki. Several birds were seen including Eastern Cattle Egret, Barn Swallow and Tree Sparrow as we drove along streets where stall holders were just setting-up, but we knew not why the police were lined up at some important intersections.



Black-faced Warbler

The hill is well-known in birding circles for its rich avifauna, but today we suffered a double whammy, for not only was today a public holiday, but above about 2,200 metres last night's rain had fallen as snow! Birding began as soon as we stopped near the local botanic gardens, where Hem purchased our entry permits; a party of eight Red-billed Blue Magpies flew over, a Great Barbet searched for food in a

nearby dead tree and two Blue Whistling Thrushes scoured for invertebrates on the woodland floor beneath a stand of deciduous trees. Further on we stopped to admire a circling Indian Black Eagle. Perched on a dead tree on the skyline Hem confidently identified a thrush as being Dark-breasted Thrush. Onwards and upwards climbed the road as we began walking, knowing that the 4x4s would be just a few minutes behind us. There was soon a party of White-throated Laughingthrushes in the road to be admired and a bit further up a number of species responded to Hem's imitation of a Collared Owlet call. White-tailed Nuthatches recalled our species, and then there were the

striking Black-lored Tit and the energetic Buff-barred Leaf Warbler that gave a number of good views throughout the day. Green-tailed and Fire-tailed Sunbirds soon appeared as well as a party of Eurasian Jays, followed by a rather furtive Grey Treepie or two and an equally retiring White-browed Shrike-babbler. When the 4x4s took us



White-capped Redstart

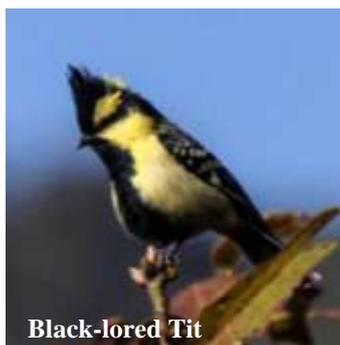
higher up the numerous hairpin bends, we started to encounter beautiful red-flowered Rhododendrons, where our first Rufous Sibilas were feeding amongst the flower clusters. Some of the rhodos were as tall as 'proper' trees! There were more sunbirds about as well as a smart male Fire-breasted Flowerpecker. Across the visible pollution that hung over Kathmandu and its environs we could see the towering white peaks of the Himalayas, some standing at over 7,000 metres marked the border with Tibet and another of over 8,000 metres was



Himalayan Bulbul

wholly in Tibet.

We didn't have to go much higher before running into lying snow, now compacted and made slippery by all the other vehicles that had gone before us. Finding a suitable place to turn the 4x4s, we began walking back down the track birding before the 4x4s caught up with us and took us down to a lower elevation, where in a leafy pullout we had our picnic. Most of the birds seen had been noted earlier.



Black-lored Tit

Continuing on we were almost back to the botanic gardens, when Hem became aware of a large and very active roving bird flock that kept us happy for the rest of the afternoon as it criss-crossed the area which was bisected by a small ravine on the edge of a small settlement. Grey-throated Babbler, Nepal Fulvetta and a trio of tits – Black-lored, Black-throated and Green-backed as well as a number of warblers – Green-crowned, Ash-throated, and Lemon-rumped made up the bulk of the species. A Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler was seen by some earlier on and most of the rest of us towards the end of our walk, which also produced White-capped and Blue-fronted Redstarts. After crossing the ravine by bridge we followed the track uphill re-connecting with the roving bird

party, now joined by Rufous-winged Fulvetta and Whiskered Yuhina. Both Rufous-bellied and Small Niltavas were also recorded. Hem was playing Asian Barred Owlet to try and bring birds in to mob him, perhaps not quite as effective as it might have been when the real thing started replying, but we were unable to track it down.

It had been a great first day. Kathmandu was bustling as we returned to our hotel to relax and freshen up before dinner and the tour's first checklist.



Rufous-bellied Niltava

Tuesday, 19 February

Fine and sunny. Cool in Kathmandu, becoming much warmer at lower elevations – up to 27°C

Kathmandu was eerily quiet as we left for Chitwan by coach after breakfast for an influential political party had called a general strike to protest against the government. Tourist buses and hotels were not affected thankfully, but there were very few other vehicles on the roads, just a few bicycle rickshaws. Many people had still chosen to walk to work although public transport and the haulage industry were severely disrupted. It was great for us as the only time we had to slow up was to pass through picket lines!

Once clear of the city the road wound downhill through long valleys and beside graded rivers and passing through colourful villages, small towns and hillsides terraced for cultivation. There were great views of the distant mountains during the early stages of the journey, from Annapurna (8,091 metres) eastwards. Our first stop was to search a litter-strewn stream from a bridge on the edge of a small village, Naubise, where almost immediately Colin



Ibisbill

and Ann found a Spotted Forktail, that at one point chased a female Plumbeous Water Redstart. Downstream we had prolonged views of a Little Forktail as well as seeing a Small Niltava, although not as well as the one yesterday, and a Common Tailorbird. Further on we passed a pair of Egyptian Vultures in a bare tree. Like the other vultures of the Indian sub-continent, this species is in serious decline as a result of the widespread use of the veterinary drug Diclofenac to treat cattle. It might help cattle, but it is lethal to vultures causing kidney failure. Another bridge stop produced a Brown Dipper and another Little Forktail. From an overlook by a restaurant we were delighted when Hem found an Ibisbill feeding along the edge of the graded river, one of the species topping many a 'must see' list. Nearby were a Common Sandpiper and a smart male White Wagtail

of the striking *alboides* race down for the winter from the Himalayas.

We really were doing well and it continued with another stop for elevenses with further sightings of Red-billed Blue Magpies and yet *two* more forktail species. A pair of Black-backed flew along a shallow stream below our vantage point and then a Slaty-backed flew by before we enjoyed prolonged views through the scope of one of the Black-backed Forktails. Further on we made another riverside stop where there were good views of a male Plumbeous Water Redstart, a White-capped Redstart and a female Hodgson's Redstart, but the star bird was a Wallcreeper, not on the cliffs above the river as one might expect, but working its way around the boulders strewn along the river edge! Genuine wild Rock Doves also occurred in this rugged country. Anything after that would have been an anticlimax, so we continued towards Chitwan eating our picnics as we travelled.



Wallcreeper

On reaching the lowlands at the end of the valleys we arrived at our lodge shortly after 14:30. The rooms were quickly allocated and as we waited for our 15:30 Elephant ride a number of colourful butterflies were seen in the gardens included Great Eggfly (what an awful name for such a beautiful creature!) and Indian Red Admiral, whilst our first reptile was appropriately a Garden Lizard.

Boarding the seating on the backs of the Elephants was a bit of an experience, but once we were aboard and set off in a convoy of four pachyderms we settled into the rhythmic motion, which to be honest was not the easiest when it came to trying to use binoculars or

cameras. A Crested Serpent Eagle, with a crest, was amongst the first species seen and during the ride which lasted two hours a number of birds were seen collectively, including Red Junglefowl, Indian Peafowl, Jungle Owlet and Common Hawk Cuckoo. Mammals were the main focus on this ride with sightings of Spotted Deer, Hog-deer and Indian Muntjac, although undoubtedly the highlight was Indian Rhinoceros with two singles being seen at close range. One of our Elephants was accompanied by her ten-month old youngster, so we were amused when the baby endeavoured to see off one of the much larger rhinos! Our ride was through woodland, so getting views of some of the mammals without trees or a branch crossing in front of them was a bit of a challenge at times. On the way back to the lodge we found Green Bee-eaters, Chestnut-tailed Starlings and Scaly-breasted Munias.



Elephant ride

The light was beginning to fade as we enjoyed a refreshing cuppa on the lawn afterwards and watched Indian Pond Herons dropping in to roost nearby and saw a tree with both Spotted and Red Collared Doves perched. Two Black-hooded Orioles and at least one Large Cuckoo-shrike were flying around before we retired to our rooms to freshen up and change ahead of watching an entertaining dance troupe perform for our entertainment before dinner. It was

good to see that a significant proportion of the Ornitholidays party joined in when invited to do so by the professionals, but I don't think that any of us will make it to the next series of *Strictly Come Dancing!*

The checklist followed dinner and the Land of Nod came soon after that!

Wednesday, 20 February

Misty start, clearing soon after 09:00. Fine and sunny. 28°C

Before breakfast this morning a Tickell's Thrush was found in the lodge garden and over the meal we learned that Brian had heard Brown Hawk Owl during the night, which made a change from the dogs of Kathmandu. After yesterday's travelling day it was good to go for a walk this morning. We began overlooking the wetland close to the lodge, although the Common Moorhens, Bronze-winged Jacanas and Indian Pond Herons were just shapes in the mist and gloom at that stage, while the trilling calls of Brown Crakes haunted the background. We fared better in the woodland that lined the bank, seeing Greenish and Hume's Leaf Warblers and a pair of Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches. One tree provided three species of woodpeckers with sustenance – Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Grey-capped Pygmy-Woodpecker and a smart Lesser Goldenback.

As we headed out through the trees to lookout over the grasslands a flock of about six Red Junglefowl broke cover to fly away ahead of us, but a pair of Common Hoopoes showed well, posing for Howard's camera. White-throated Kingfisher was seen, but the sought-after Stork-billed, although heard, was only glimpsed as it disappeared. There were several species of raptors in the area including a female Hen Harrier, Crested Serpent Eagle, Oriental Honey Buzzard, a distant Changeable Hawk-Eagle and an immature White-rumped Vulture. Later when we walked back we saw a soaring Shikra and at one point two Black Storks passed over. Hem pointed out recent Rhino footprints in the sandy track - it was heading back the way we had come – so where was it? We never knew. Otherwise the only mammal of the morning was Hog-deer.



Oriental Honey Buzzard



Lesser Adjutant

Along the edge of the grasslands we scanned finding several Long-tailed Shrikes perched up on the taller grasses and we were also able to distinguish between Siberian Stonechat and White-tailed Stonechat, even if the latter were sometimes further away than we would have liked. There's probably a collective name for prinias, but in our case today they went down as Ashy, Grey-breasted, Plain and Yellow-bellied. Hem

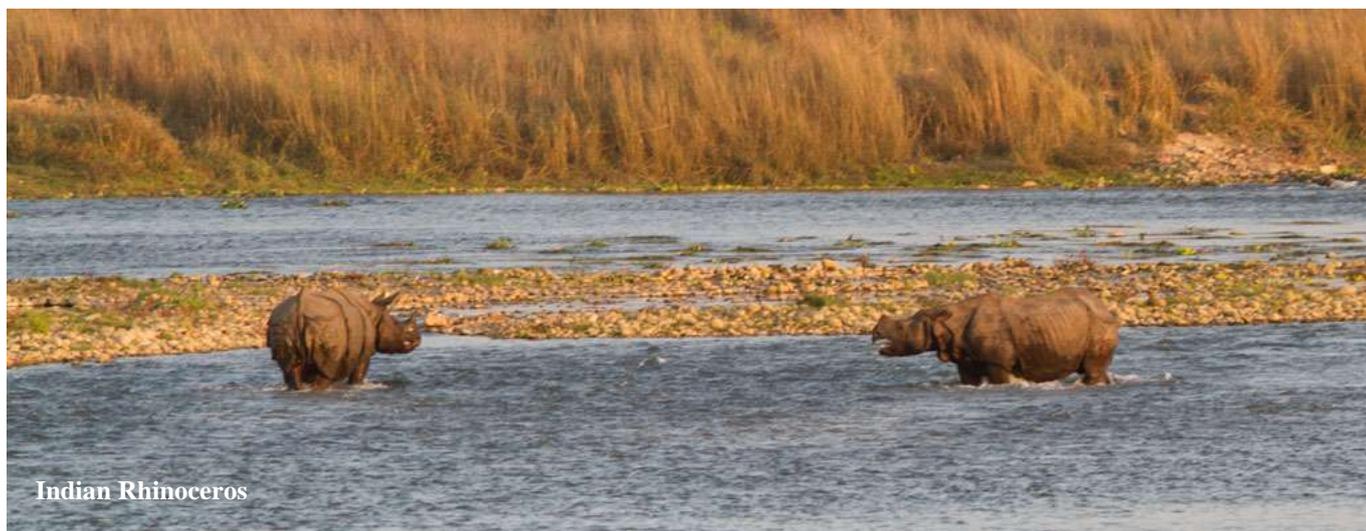


Long-tailed Shrike

tried hard to lure Spotted and Grey-sided Bush Warblers into view, without success, although two or three people glimpsed the former well enough to 'tick' it. A splash of colour came in the form of a striking Verditer Flycatcher and later as we returned to the lodge a Taiga Flycatcher, the eastern version of Red-breasted Flycatcher was seen briefly.

By the time we returned for lunch the temperature had risen steadily, so the chilled Everest beers went down a treat. During the siesta period that followed some took a nap, whilst others returned to the lookout over the wetland in the hope of a crake, but they only added Purple Heron to the list. Nearby there were good views of Lesser Yellownappe and a tantalising *Phylloscopus* was worked out as Blyth's Leaf Warbler. In the garden Common Hill-Mynas fed from a fruiting tree and later three Black-crowned Night-herons dropped in to roost in dark recesses of a large tree beyond the lodge's buildings. A number of butterflies were noted including Great Eggfly, Peacock, Common Fivering, Indian Red Admiral and Indian Cabbage White.

At 15:30 we reconvened to take a short minibus ride to the Rapti River. As we walked to the boats that would take us downstream we saw Large Cuckoo-Shrike and White-tailed Stonechat before adding Spotted Owlet and Grey-backed Shrike to the list. A new reptile was a Gharial, the endangered narrow-snouted crocodile of this part of the world. Unfortunately we didn't see it much better from the boats, although nearby was a Marsh Mugger, the commoner Indian species. Time flowed by for the next 45 minutes as we sedately passed Goosanders, Ruddy Shelduck and a few Red-crested Pochard that had a female Eurasian Wigeon amongst them. The Great Cormorants were mostly in breeding plumage displaying the hoary head of the *sinensis* race. There were Red-wattled Lapwings on the bank and where the stone and gravel banks were to be found several pairs of the less common River Lapwing were seen, including one on a nest. Such areas also held pairs of Little Ringed Plover. Several Greenshank and Green Sandpipers were also seen at regular intervals. Amongst the stones and grasses close to the water's-edge were Rosy Pipits and Citrine, White-browed and White Wagtails, the latter coming in several distinctive races with *alba*, *alboides* and *leucopsis* being noted. Several White-throated Kingfishers were seen, but only one or two Pied Kingfishers were found, perhaps in places the river was flowing too quickly. The best raptor was a ringtail Montagu's Harrier that flew across the river ahead of us.



Our cruise came to an end when we reached a small settlement on the banks, where Grey-throated Martins had their nest holes. Just as we reached the minibus the cry of "Rhino" came from those on the riverbank, so we rushed back to see two Indian Rhinos standing in the river. One had been chasing the other which showed two serious wounds on its flank, where it had been bitten by the aggressor. After they had faced one another in mid-stream the injured animal turned to the shore and headed up towards the grasslands, where it was again chased by the other Rhino which had chosen to pursue the matter further. Not all the party looked at the small group of ducks that flew by as we watched the action; they were Ferruginous Ducks and another female Eurasian Wigeon. Before we left there was a sunset to record and wonderful photo opportunities provided by a confiding Long-tailed Shrike.

We returned to the lodge where dinner at 20:00 was followed by the checklist.

Thursday, 21 February

Another misty start becoming fine and sunny. 28°C

Again Brian had heard the owl and had risen early in his endeavours to see the bird, but was unsuccessful. In the mist we left the lodge after breakfast in two 4x4s to visit the core area of Chitwan National Park. As we crossed the bridge leading to the entrance we had great views of the fish-eating crocodile, the Gharial, in the water below us.

The drive was a long one as we had been warned, through a mixture of forested sections and more open grassland areas, which unfortunately had been burnt relatively recently, although not all the vegetation had been destroyed suggesting that the fire had passed through quickly. The birding went in fits and starts. Luckily we were able to stop and get out to see the birds, which restored the circulation. It was a great area for woodpeckers and goldenbacks in particular for although we only saw one Lesser, we had great views of several Greater and Himalayan. Other woodpeckers were Fulvous-breasted, Grey-capped Pygmy and a brief view of Rufous later in the day. The smaller passerines were at a premium, but when we stopped to try and see Grey-crowned Prinia, which proved elusive for most of the party, a White-tailed Rubythroat was found nearby. We failed to make contact with any mixed bird parties, although we did see parties of Large Cuckoo-Shrikes, Large Woodshrikes, Jungle Babblers and late in the day a party of Slender-billed Babbler, one of the area's sought-after species. The minivets were a colourful distraction with Scarlet seen several times, but Small Minivet only once.



Himalayan Goldenback

It was quite a good area for raptors. Indian Spotted Eagle, White-eyed Buzzard, Eurasian Sparrowhawk and the two Griffons – Himalayan and Eurasian, being additions to the list, with Oriental Honey Buzzard, Crested Serpent Eagle and Changeable Hawk-Eagle also noted.

During the day we had good views of Red Junglefowl and great ones of Indian Peafowl with one male displaying ahead of us on the way back in the late afternoon. A frustration at lunchtime was a flyby Great Hornbill that stopped just long enough for some to see it before it disappeared again into the forest. Parakeets particularly distracting, being both colourful and noisy. There were good views of both Plum-headed and Red-breasted, but even though these were attractive species, after a while and with multiple sightings, even these lost some of their attraction!



Hog Deer

Chitwan is a great place for mammals. Spotted Deer, the main prey of Tiger, were seen frequently, usually in small numbers, but the nearest we got to the predator were yesterday's footprints. The Sloth Bear and Fishing Cat's prints we discovered were much fresher than that. Fortunately we had great views of Indian Rhinoceros, five animals in all, with the first being one coming out of a lagoon as we were about to take a short walk along the road. It stood on the bank looking across at us for some time before lumbering away into the forest behind and was quickly lost from view. Later in the day we were delighted to find a solitary bull Gaur, the large *Bovidae* of the Indian sub-continent.



Indian Rhinoceros

Only yards away from the magnificent animal was a female Rhino and a small calf. The day's last Rhinos were two grazing in the open as we were heading back towards the entrance. They made great photo subjects with their hairy ears being rim-lit by the setting sun. Other animals recorded were Wild Boar, Hog-deer, Rhesus Macaque and Nepal Grey Langur.

Our turn around point on the drive came when we reached the banks of the Rapti River, where we had great views of several Gharial hauled out on the sandbank below us – such strange looking crocs. These were females and



including one or two in the water there were seven altogether. Further away along the river were Great Cormorant, egrets, Red-naped Ibis and a number of Ruddy Shelduck. Of course there were other species seen during the day including Jungle and Spotted Owlets, Common Kingfisher, Brown Crake, Slender-billed Babbler and well as others such as Lineated Barbet being only heard.

It was a great day, but by the end I think we were all glad to get two feet back on the ground and to enjoy a well-deserved shower before dinner and the checklist.

Friday 22 February

Another misty start, soon clearing. Fine and sunny. 28°C

After breakfast today two options were on offer and as a result six of the party went on Elephant rides and four others joined Hem and me birding through the woods overlooking the grasslands. Either way a good time was had by all. Highlights from Elephant-back included Long-legged Buzzard, Red Junglefowl, Streak-throated, Fulvous and Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers, as well as having time afterwards to relax and explore the garden area before lunch at 12:30. Those wanderings produced nests of Fulvous and Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers, near the elephant platform and Black-hooded Oriole nest-building in the garden.



The walkers began with hearing Grey-sided Bush Warbler in and around a bamboo clump, but the movements were insufficient to elevate the species from a 'heard' to a 'seen'. On reaching the more extensive area of wood we soon found Verditer and Taiga Flycatchers, Olive-backed Pipit, Common Woodshrike and a female Grey Bushchat. Along the edge of the wood and into the grassland Chestnut-capped Babbler was found, a skulking species, but eventually reasonable views were had by all of what proved to be a very smart bird. The same could be said about Yellow-eyed Babbler amongst the same bushes, but in that case, to the disappointment of some, the yellow-eye was not seen as clearly as hoped. In the same area was an Aberrant Bush Warbler, a species that looked rather more like a *Phylloscopus* warbler than a *Cettia*, and it wasn't until it crossed into waterside vegetation that we had anything like a worthwhile view. And what of the other small dark warbler that appeared briefly in a small window for Anne and myself? One could only speculate for it was never seen again.

Thanks to the scope reasonable views were had of the Long-legged Buzzard, as well as Lesser Adjutants flying over. Perhaps the best raptors were had during the post lunch siesta period, when some of the party watched a Grey-headed Fishing Eagle soaring over the lodge with a Booted Eagle and a Long-legged Buzzard. Brian found a Dark-throated Thrush in a shady part of the garden and several Blyth's Leaf Warblers and at least three Olive-backed Pipits were found near the construction site of the swimming pool. Before we set off on a long walk across the grasslands we were shown three roosting Short-nosed Fruit-bats in the shady canopy of a tree behind the accommodation blocks. Also during the siesta period Mary found a Velvet-fronted Nuthatch near the car park.



Pied Bushchat

Our walk took us dry shod across to the grasslands, where we followed a meandering trail. Rosy Pipits and Pied Bushchats were seen in the initial stages, but perhaps it was the Tiger footprints and spoor that was of more interest. A Spotted Bush Warbler did what it does best – remained hidden. Further on an Osprey flew over and at least two Savanna Nightjars were flushed, unfortunately their camouflage was so good that the best views of one resting on the ground proved so difficult to achieve that it gave up waiting and flew off once more. A Jungle Cat was flushed as some elephants and tourists passed nearby, few of the party saw anything and those that did only saw a fast shape moving through the tawny grass.

Further on, as we made our way towards the bund overlooking the Rapti River as a grass fire attracted a number of Black Drongos to its flames as they hunted insects trying to escape the heat. When we reached the bund Rufous-rumped Grassbird and Striated Babbler were seen, in response to playback, amongst the rank vegetation below us. To our delight two Indian Rhinoceroses crossed over to our side of the river from the core area of Chitwan. The views would have been even better for those drifting down the river as we had done two days ago. Two

other Rhinos came over, but it was the original two that gave us the best views as they foraged in the bushes and other vegetation between us and the river. Further on we encountered Spotted and Hog Deer, but little else was seen after that as the light faded.

From our first stop on the bund three of the ladies in the party chose to return to the lodge rather than complete the longer circuit. They made steady progress, only really stopping to try and identify a lark or a pipit on the way back. Mary's photograph suggests a Paddyfield Pipit.

We were all back in plenty of time for a shower and beer before dinner and the checklist.

Saturday 23 February

Fine and sunny, hazy. 30°C

Today was the long eastward transfer by coach to Koshi, passing through a seemingly endless series of villages and towns interrupted by cultivated fields and the occasional area too rugged to become agricultural. One such place produced a large flock of Alpine Swifts and by a broad graded river we found a Hodgson's Redstart.

Our lunch stop was in an area of quiet woodland off the beaten track and no sooner had we settled down when a bird party came through and included Common Woodshrike, Common Iora, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Golden-fronted Leafbird.

Perhaps the day's most 'serious' birding came when we stopped to walk out onto Koshi Barrage, towards the end of the drive. We soon found two or three Ganges River Dolphins swimming around just below the sluice gates, whilst upstream of the barrage Great Crested Grebes swam and dived with a variety of wildfowl species including



Peacock Pansy

Eurasian Wigeon and Gadwall. On a mud bank almost at the limit of telescope viewing was a Black-necked Stork, the only one of the tour as it happens, as well as a number of large gulls, almost certainly Pallas's.

We arrived at the tented lodge at Koshi with just enough daylight remaining to see a perched Stork-billed Kingfisher in a tree on the edge of the marsh near the dining room and Brown-capped Pygmy and Fulvous-breasted Woodpeckers both working on the same bamboo pole nearby. As dusk settled some lucky party members saw the local Jungle Cat in front of our tents.

There was no shortage of conversations as we gathered later in the bar for a drink before dinner and to bring the checklist up-to-date.

Sunday 24 February

Mainly overcast, sultry, with some sunny periods before becoming very windy with blown sand and spots of rain during the latter part of the afternoon. 24°C



Spotted Owlet

local guides, Badri, who knew just where to look for some of the local specialities, so before long we were enjoying stunning views of a Brown Fish Owl and soon after we were shown a pair of roosting Brown Hawk Owls, but they were rather less conspicuous. When Jungle Owllet was added to the day-list we were on a four owl day by mid-morning. The slopes of the bund were lightly wooded and there a number of wintering warblers were found including our first Thick-billed Warbler. Common Iora was present



Jungle Owllet

Birding before breakfast outside the dining room gave us excellent views of the Spotted Owlets and their chick in the nest box in the adjacent large tree. The Stork-billed Kingfisher was seen again and Blue-throated Barbet showed well on top of the woodpecker's bamboo pole. After the meal we saw a Scaly Thrush behind one of the ablution blocks before we took the path around one of the fish ponds, seeing Little Cormorants, Common Moorhens and Bronze-winged Jacanas, and began walking along the road on top of the bund that helps to protect the villages, fields and fish ponds from the annual monsoon inundation.

This morning Hem was joined by one of the local guides, Badri, who knew just where to look for some of the local specialities, so before long we were enjoying stunning views of a Brown Fish Owl and soon after we were shown a pair of roosting Brown Hawk Owls, but they were rather less conspicuous. When Jungle Owllet was added to the day-list we were on a four owl day by mid-morning. The slopes of the bund were lightly wooded and there a number of wintering warblers were found including our first Thick-billed Warbler. Common Iora was present along with Dusky and



Scaly Thrush

Greenish Warblers, Pin-striped Tit-babbler, Verditer and Grey-headed Canary Flycatchers. Also seen were Red-necked Falcon and nest, Osprey, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Short-toed Eagle, Little Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Streak-throated Woodpecker and Siberian Rubythroat. An extremely good bird to see was Ashy Minivet and to be shown it by Badri was particularly pleasing for just over twelve months ago he found it here for the first time – then it was a new species for Nepal!

Unfortunately one of the day's other best birds got away. I think it was Brian and/or Anne who saw a dark bird in thick cover that dashed away as the rest of us were trying to see it. Based on the brief description Hem suggested that it might have been a White-tailed Robin, a secretive winter visitor. We passed the location to one of the other guides who relocated it and confirmed the i.d. during the afternoon, but unfortunately none of our party saw enough of the bird to count it, alas!

Before lunch there was time for some of the party to visit the hide overlooking one of the fish ponds beyond the far tent. As the flaps were opened a Yellow Bittern flew up from the bank into cover of adjacent reeds and wasn't seen again!

After lunch and a short siesta we walked the bund in a southerly direction with the jeeps following. The warmth of the afternoon, before the wind rose, was ideal for soaring raptors as a kettle of soaring vultures, 15 White-rumped and two Himalayan Griffons, testified. Also up there were no less than five Indian Spotted Eagles, a Greater Spotted, a Short-toed and two Booted Eagles. Three Black Storks qualified as honorary raptors. As we passed below a line of pylons a Short-toed Eagle landed on top of one and a line of Ashy Woodswallows were perched on the wires and occasionally making forays after some insect or other. Two Crested Buntings were a welcome addition to the list and when a party of Citrine Wagtails flew by I noticed that one was of the smart black-backed race *calcarata*.



Brown Fish Owl



Jungle Babbler

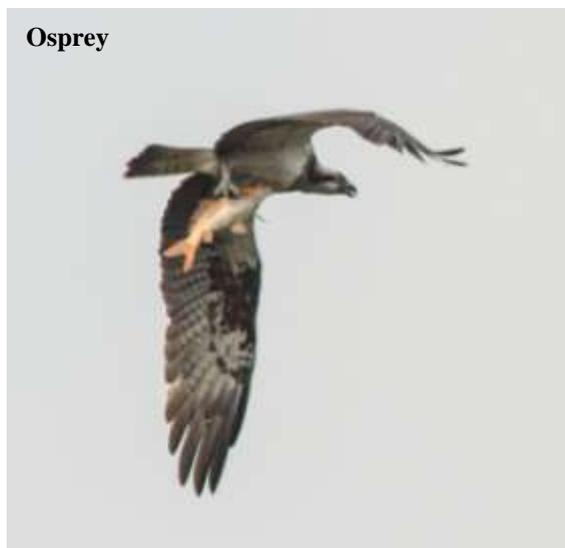
The wetlands, in the form of pools and marshes, on the village side of the bund turned up new species on a regular basis with one of the first being a flock of some 50 Lesser Whistling-ducks feeding or just loafing around on one of the larger ponds. Further on we discovered several Purple Swamphens and a Black-headed Ibis along a water course before finding a small party of Ferruginous Ducks, a female Northern Pintail and a few Common Teal on a smaller pond further away. We had a Eurasian Marsh Harrier fly

by and looking across westwards to the gravel banks and bars of the river our first Small Pratincoles were seen, along with three distant Black-bellied Terns resting on a muddy spit – thank goodness for the scopes.

Over the years Badri has found several additions to the Nepalese bird list. We'd seen one of those this morning and as the wind rose carrying dust and spots of rain in the air he was to show us another. Several years have passed since he discovered the nation's first Great or White-vented Mynas, but in spite of the rising wind and failing visibility he was able to locate two feeding high in a flowering *Kapok* tree, which could be seen through the scope taking a buffeting in the wind until they flew and passed overhead.

Looking ahead along the track a pair of Swamp Francolins was seen crossing; only to disappear amongst the bushes and other vegetation that lined the bund. We certainly need better views of that species. With the increasing wind and decreasing visibility as dust was blown from the broad sandy banks of the river, birding was becoming more difficult on the exposed bund, so after a brief look at the pools on the sheltered side seeing Pied Kingfisher and Green Sandpiper, we headed back to the jeeps and thus to the lodge. Also seen during the day were Lesser Adjutant, Red-naped Ibis, Grey and Purple Herons, Himalayan Swiftlet, Black-winged Cuckooshrike and Brahminy Starling.

On our return there was plenty of time to relax before reassembling in the bar, where the onion bhajis went down a treat along with a refreshing glass of Everest! As usual the checklist followed dinner before we retired to our tents. The skies were clear and with the moon more or less full the local Common Hawk Cuckoos seemed to be calling all night.



Osprey

Monday 25 February

Hot and sunny. 30°C

After breakfast we drove north through a delightful collection of roadside farms and villages in two 4x4s towards the Koshi Bird Observatory. The colour and vibrancy were wonderful as villagers were beginning to start their day. Eventually we reached a point overlooking the river, where a brief stop to scan its banks revealed a lone Bar-headed Goose amongst a party of Ruddy Shelduck – a good bird for the trip. Further on we reached another, but this time dry, river where trucks were being loaded with rocks and gravel for building purposes. One of the first birds there was a perched Crested Goshawk in one of the large trees on the bank.



Striped Tiger

The river was lined by prime forest and there we spent most of the morning walking trails beneath its shady canopy. Fortunately the understorey wasn't very thick in most places so when an Oriental Pied Hornbill was seen we were able to follow, although for most of us the views were not the greatest. Apparently hornbills tend to be hunted by the locals, so are rather wary. Another canopy dweller was Blue-bearded Bee-eater, which provided the challenge of seeing a green bird amongst green leaves. A mixed bird party included Common Iora, Greenish, Blyth's Leaf, Yellow-vented and Whistler's Warblers with Hume's Leaf and Green-crowned Warblers being only heard. Again White-rumped Sharma was only heard. Also seen were Lesser Yellownappe, Black-headed Cuckooshrike, Scarlet Minivet, Ashy, White-bellied and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Black-crested Bulbul as well as Taiga and Pale-chinned Flycatchers and Black-naped Monarch.

Hem took us to the bird observatory that he and his colleagues had founded. There we had our picnic in the shade and some of the ladies even had the luxury of being able to rest during the following siesta period on a proper bed! It was hot, but mad dogs and birders do go out in the midday sun, but there wasn't an awful lot around – a Eurasian Wryneck was a good find, but Brown Shrike and Siberian Stonechat were less unexpected.

Between the observatory buildings and the distant river, a broad undulating stretch of closely-cropped floodplain was our destination for the afternoon. Quite unlike any habitat we had explored thus far, it would probably have made a good golf course, but today it proved to be a great place for larks and pipits as well as a number of other species. We began with Ashy-crowned Sparrowlarks, Sand Larks and Oriental Skylarks. Later in the afternoon we encountered several flocks of Hume's Short-toed Larks and it appeared that the local Common Kestrel and perhaps a passing Red-necked Falcon had their eyes on them as well, but with a different end in mind.



Indian Courser

On reaching the river a number of wildfowl could be seen, but it was a perched Peregrine and a Black Stock on the opposite bank that caught our attention initially. The light was better when we moved further downstream from where we scoped the ducks to discover several Indian Spot-billed Ducks on the bank and several Tufted Duck and a lone drake Pochard amongst the others. A good number of Small Pratincoles were flying around and when the Peregrine started to chase the duck, several pratincoles passed directly overhead giving us the best views so far. We were delighted to see three Indian Coursers, really smart birds, with the best views being through the scopes although thankfully they were not disturbed by the area's hunting falcons. Nearby we found pipits, Blyth's Paddyfield and Tawny and as we came to leave the area to head back to the lodge a party of Green Bee-eaters looked as if they might have been

settling to roost on some huge bamboos.

The journey back to the lodge was relatively uneventful, although a Hen Harrier was seen during the drive. Once back at base the remainder of the evening followed the usual pattern.

Tuesday, 26 February

Fine and sunny with temperature rising to 33.5°C by lunchtime.

We passed one of the fish ponds as we walked along to the bund from the dining room, Badri left the footpath in an attempt to see if the local Black Bittern was there. It was and moments later we had good views as it flew off to another part of the complex of pools and wetlands.



Indian Thick-knee

This morning we explored the bund to the south, seeing a number of species missed previously. Crested Buntings

showed well as did a number of wintering Black-headed Buntings and three Common Rosefinches. Nearby we had excellent views of a pair of Swamp Francolins on a grassy slope dotted with bushes, where a Lesser Coucal chose to hide after showing well. A pair of Indian Thick-knees, recently split from the Eurasian species, did the same although they chose to run between the bushes. When a Kestrel flew up Hem called, "Lesser" and he was right as we watched it circling over the fields, although it would have been a better view had we not been looking into the light. Warblers during the morning session included Thick-billed, Dusky and Tickell's Leaf Warbler.



Black Bittern

In the trees along the bund we had good views of Yellow-footed Green Pigeons and a Great Racket-tailed Drongo, the latter tending to move ahead of us all the time. In the same area Asian Elephant was heard, but the cover so thick that we were unable to see anything, even as big as an elephant, unlike several Wild Water Buffalo that were grazing out in the open grassy areas. A Common Buzzard was of the local form, often split nowadays by some authorities as Himalayan Buzzard.



Asiatic Jackal



Wild Water Buffalo

We returned for lunch and during an extended siesta we were taken to see a Siberian Rubythroat amongst the bamboos near the entrance. Afterwards Pat and Margaret went to see the Brown Hawk Owls at their roost along the bund to the north of the lodge. Meanwhile the rest of us had time to do some packing in anticipation of the flight back to Kathmandu tomorrow morning.

The main afternoon session began with a visit to the hide overlooking one of the fishponds, where Colin glimpsed the immature Yellow Bittern flying into the aquatic vegetation growing in the shelter of a semi-submerged fallen tree. Badri went to investigate and flushed it back towards the hide, giving us all a good flight view before it disappeared into cover once more. There was still a chance of Cinnamon Bittern, so we followed along the bank to the next marshy area, but instead a Black Bittern gave excellent views as it flew over. Retracing our steps a Shikra appeared to be causing concern amongst the Common Moorhens and Bronze-winged Jacanas near the hide. On

checking with the binocs one particularly robust reed metamorphosed itself into the Yellow Bittern standing 'frozen' right out in the open – what good views!



Swamp Francolin

Our walk during the afternoon, with the attendant jeeps, was once again south along the bund. There were still new birds to be seen and these included excellent views of Little Bunting, a wintering species here and one that was not as secretive as one might have expected. Nearby was a Bluethroat, but that was rather furtive, unlike a smart male Black Redstart perched up on a post and unlike the race occurring in Europe this one had a deep rufous belly and vent. An unexpected species was a Laughing Dove, quite a rare bird in this part of Nepal. Out on the river Hem spotted a Pallas's (or



White-eyed Buzzard

Great Black-headed) Gull, but it was flying away upstream by the time most of the party were onto it. We found another pair of Swamp Francolins and this time there was a Grey Francolin nearby.

The wetlands on the village side of the bund attracted more Black-headed and Red-naped Ibis than a couple of days ago, but Purple Swamphens were less conspicuous although not far away the Ferruginous Ducks remained on their small pool. Also seen during the day were Himalayan Griffon, Oriental Honey-buzzard, Eurasian Marsh Harrier, Black-winged Kite, River Tern, Streak-throated Woodpecker, Lesser Goldenback and Asian Palm Swift.



Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker

Once again our return to the lodge followed the usual pattern of relaxing, dinner and the checklist.

Wednesday 27 February

Fine and sunny with light mist first thing. 26°C



Monkey Temple, Kathmandu

The drive to Biratnagar Airport was by Land Rover and Jeep, which turned out to be a fascinating experience, especially for those in the jeep as they were probably in a better position to appreciate the colour, the smells and in some cases the dust as the route took us along graded roads before joining the well-maintained tarmac road. Part of the experience was seeing people going to work, particularly many ladies wearing colourful saris on bicycles.

We reached the airport in good time, so that Hem got seats in pairs along the right hand side of the aircraft, so that once we were airborne the panorama of the snow-capped Himalayas could be appreciated in all their glory. Mount Everest was a new mountain tick!

The flight was on time and Kathmandu's domestic air terminal had a somewhat rural feel as the baggage hall was open plan, open to the elements! It wasn't too long before we reached the hotel and we had lunch before embarking on a city tour that included the 1,500 year old Swayambhunath, also known as the Monkey Temple. It is one of the oldest religious sites in Nepal and although essentially Buddhist, it is sacred to both Buddhists and Hindus alike. We then left the crowds of tourists and were taken to Patan Durbar Square in the old part of Kathmandu, where we found as many locals enjoying the later afternoon sunshine as tourists. Our

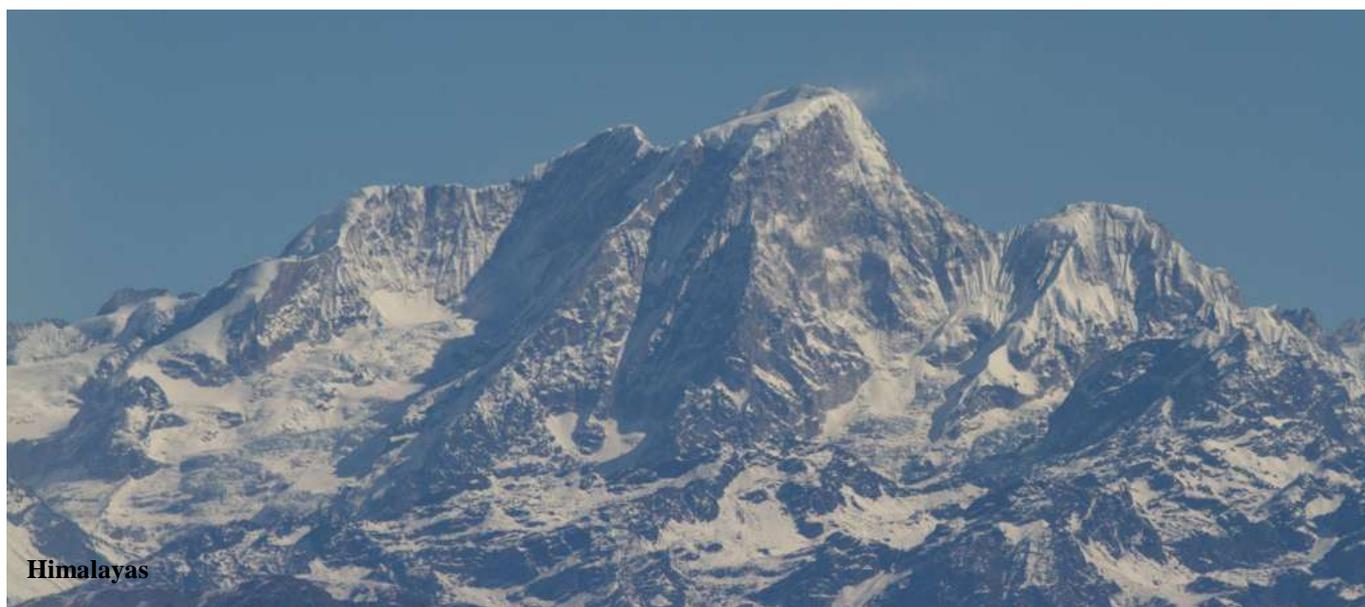
guide explained the origins and history of parts of the area, although considerably he allowed free time for us to explore and admire the carved woodwork below the older building's roofs and visit some of the shops selling traditional pictures and crafts before we returned to the hotel. Dinner was not the quickest, but then the checklist that preceded the meal was not the longest either. Once the meal had finished we headed for bed, 'cos we were tired little boys and girls.

Thursday 28 February

Fine and sunny. Cold and clear on Phulchoki after overnight frost. 26°C

We left the hotel for a return visit to the forested mountain of Phulchoki, passing through the relatively quiet streets of Kathmandu as it stirred into life. The numbers of Barn Swallows around the older buildings seemed to have increased since our last visit with Red-rumped Swallows and Tree Sparrows also being noted. As we waited for the permits to be issued two Grey Wagtails were chasing one another nearby.

The aim this morning was to start at the top and work our way down, although the views of the snowy Himalayas were so spectacular that we couldn't fail to stop and admire the panorama. The higher we went the clearer the peaks became and the further we could see. By the time we entered the army post at the top and climbed up to the summit, with its holy area and prayer flags, we could see for miles. In fact all the way from Annapurna in the west to Mount Everest in the east – according to Hem a span of 400 kilometres and including four or five of the highest ten mountains in the world! In fact we could actually see further east of Everest by quite a long way. The nearest mountain was some 70 kilometres from Kathmandu, whose urban sprawl was partly obscured by early morning mists and the perpetual band of pollution that hangs over the city. On top of Phulchoki at just over 2,700 metres the clear mountain air was sweet, although with a bit less oxygen than we're used to!



Himalayas

So it was birding again with Streaked Laughingthrush being elusive until we found the species in the same area as Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush just below the summit – even then it wasn't seen quite as well as the larger species. We began walking down the winding road, passing hard packed snow in places, but thankfully sufficient had melted over the last 10 days or so to allow safe passage. The birding was not the easiest for we failed to connect with any large roving feeding flocks, so the species total was lower than anticipated, although a number of new species were recorded thankfully.



Powdery Green Sapphire

There were a number of butterflies as well as the day warmed up and where we passed along sunny sections of the track. One of the first was a very obliging Queen of Spain Fritillary, a European species that turns up in the British Isles as a vagrant from time to time. The Indian Tortoiseshell appeared as a duskier version of our Small Tortoiseshell and of the others noted the most striking was what appears to be Powdery Green Sapphire, one of the multitude of Blue species. This attractive species was seen during the picnic stop and when at rest the underside

was yellow with some orange patterning, but when it spread its wings to bask in the sunshine the upper surface was black with an iridescent turquoise patch on the forewing – a real stunner.

The red rhododendrons were still in good flower, beginning to go past their best in places. In the shady areas that see little or no sunshine at this time of the year grew the very fragrant shrub *Daphne bholua* filling the still air with its sweet scent.



Ashy-throated Warbler

The weather probably played a part in the bird activity today, which was mild and, for us anyway, Spring-like, whereas previously lying snow at the higher elevations might have forced some birds to lower levels. During the course of the morning and the afternoon we encountered a number of warblers including Buff-barred Leaf, Lemon-rumped, Ashy-throated, Grey-hooded, Chestnut-capped and our first (and last) Black-faced Warblers of the trip. There were fewer Rufous Sibilas than previously, but we were pleased to see Bar-throated Siva (formerly known as Chestnut-tailed Minla), Rufous-winged and White-browed Fulvettas, Striped-throated Yuhinas and Yellow-browed Tit. A worthy collection of raptors included our first Bonelli's and Mountain Hawk Eagles and a close fly-by by a large female Peregrine. As we neared the lower slopes during mid-afternoon the leading 4x4 were lucky to see three Kalij Pheasants, two males and a female, before they slipped away into the undergrowth beside the

track. Also recorded were Oriental Turtle Doves, Yellow-bellied Fantail, White-tailed Nuthatch, Blue Whistling Thrush and Dark-throated Thrush, although only Brian and Pat were lucky enough to have the day's only sighting of a Darjeeling Woodpecker.

Later we went back through the city, perhaps before the thick of the rush hour, arriving in plenty of time to freshen-up, pack and relax before the last dinner and checklist, where we said goodbye to Hem and thanked him for another excellent Ornitholidays' tour to Nepal.

Friday 01 March

It was an early start this morning with a continental breakfast at the hotel before leaving for the airport, where, as Richard quipped, it must be a training school for friskers – so many security checks, not that it was a problem, just a little tedious! Our Jet Airways flight was one of the day's first departures and left on time for Delhi, where, although we were only in transit, we passed through more security checks! Once back in London we met up at the baggage carousel and said our farewells as the luggage arrived and we began the last legs of our journeys home.

Acknowledgements

Firstly I should like to thank Hem, the local guides and drivers, and the ground agents for putting together such an excellent tour – everything went like clock-work and Hem's knowledge of his local birds was second to none. Thank you guys. Finally a big thank you to the party for coming and helping to make the tour such fun and such a happy one. Your company was great and your help in various ways was very much appreciated. Many thanks are also due to Howard and Mary for allowing me to use their photos in this report.

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May 2013

ITINERARY & WEATHER

- 16 February Evening departure from London Heathrow to Delhi.
- 17 February Morning arrival in Delhi, onward connection to Kathmandu.
Heavy rain and thunder during night. 24°C
- 18 February Day excursion to Phulchoki.
Fine and sunny. Snow above 2,300 m. Up to 20°C
- 19 February Morning transfer to Chitwan, birding and picnic lunch en route. p.m. Elephant ride.
Hot and sunny. Up to 27°C
- 20 February Morning birding walk from lodge, p.m. boat trip downstream on R. Rapti.
Foggy start, clearing hot and sunny. 28°C
- 21 February All day excursion by jeep into core area of Chitwan N.P.
Misty, hot and sunny. 28°C
- 22 February Optional elephant ride or morning bird walk, siesta after lunch and afternoon walk across
grasslands to R. Rapti.
Fine and sunny. 30°C
- 23 February Road transfer to Koshi via Koshi Barrage.
Hot and sunny. 30°C
- 24 February Birding in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve morning and afternoon. Meals at lodge.
Overcast, becoming brighter later. Very windy p.m. with dusty and spots of rain limiting visibility.
24°C
- 25 February Morning birding in Dharan Forest IBA, lunch at Koshi Bird Observatory, birding during afternoon
on adjacent grassland and open areas.
Hot and sunny. 30°C
- 26 February Birding in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve morning and afternoon. Meals at lodge.
Fine and sunny. 33.5°C
- 27 February Early morning transfer to Biratnagar Airport for morning flight to Delhi. Lunch at hotel. p.m. city
tour visiting Monkey Temple and Patan Durbar Square.
Fine and sunny. 26°C
- 28 February Day excursion to Phulchoki, reaching summit.
Fine, sunny and clear. 26°C
- 01 March Return to London, changing flights at Delhi.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale (max. seen on 1 day)
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	P = Phulchoki and Kathmandu C = Chitwan N.P. and environs K = Koshi Tappu and environs > = recorded on transfer to.....	1 = 1 – 4 2 = 5 – 9 3 = 10 – 99 4 = 100 - 999

Species	No of Days Recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	Scientific name
Grey Francolin	1	K	1	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
Swamp Francolin	2	K	1	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>
Red Junglefowl	4 1h	C	3	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
Kalij Pheasant	1	P	1	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>
Indian Peafowl	3 2h	C	3	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Lesser Whistling-Duck	2 1h	K	3	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
Bar-headed Goose	1	K	1	<i>Anser indicus</i>
Ruddy Shelduck	7	C K	4	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Gadwall	3	K	4	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	3	C K	3	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Mallard	1	K	3	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Indian Spot-billed Duck	1	K	2	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
Northern Shoveler	2	C K	1	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Northern Pintail	2	K	4	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Common Teal	2	K	3	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Red-crested Pochard	3	C K	3	<i>Netta rufina</i>
Common Pochard	1	K	1	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Ferruginous Duck	3	C K	2	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Tufted Duck	1	K	3	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Goosander	2	C	3	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
Little Grebe	3	K	1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	2	K	3	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Asian Openbill	7	P C K	3	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
Black Stork	7	C K	2	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	4	P C	1	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Black-necked Stork	1	K	1	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>
Lesser Adjutant	7	C K	2	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
Black-headed Ibis	2	K	3	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
Red-naped (Black) Ibis	6	C K	3	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
Yellow Bittern	2	K	1	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>
Black Bittern	1	K	1	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	C	1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Indian Pond Heron	9	C K	3	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
Grey Heron	3	K	1	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	3	C K	1	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret ¹	8	P C K	3	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
Great Egret	8	C K	2	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Intermediate Egret	7	C K	1	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>
Little Egret	9	C K	3	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Oriental Darter	6	C K	1	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Little Cormorant	5	K	3	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
Great Cormorant	9	C K	4	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Collared Falconet	1	K	1	<i>Microhierax caerulescens</i>
Lesser Kestrel	1	K	1	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Common Kestrel	3	>C K	1	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Red-necked Falcon	2	K	1	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
Peregrine Falcon	2	P K	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Black-winged Kite	3	C K	2	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Black Kite	7	P C K	3	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Osprey	4	C K	1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Grey-headed Fishing Eagle	1	C	1	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>
Black Eagle	1	P	1	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
Oriental Honey Buzzard	5	C K	1	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Egyptian Vulture	1	>C	1	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>

White-rumped Vulture	2		C	K	3	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>
Himalayan (Griffon) Vulture	5		C	K	3	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
(Eurasian) Griffon Vulture	1		C		1	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Short-toed Eagle	1			K	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Crested Serpent Eagle	6		C	K	1	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	2			K	1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Hen Harrier	3		C	K	1	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	1		C		1	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Crested Goshawk	1			K	1	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
Shikra	5		C	K	1	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	2		C	K	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
White-eyed Buzzard	3		C	K	1	<i>Butastur teesa</i>
Himalayan Buzzard ²	2			K	1	<i>Buteo (buteo) burmanicus</i>
Long-legged Buzzard	1		C		1	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
Indian Spotted Eagle ³	3		C	K	1	<i>Aquila hastata</i>
Greater Spotted Eagle	1			K	1	<i>Aquila clanga</i>
Steppe Eagle	4	P	>C	>K	1	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	1	P			1	<i>Aquila fasciatus</i>
Booted Eagle	4		C	K	1	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>
Changeable Hawk Eagle	1		C		1	<i>Nisaetus (cirrhatus) limnaeetus</i>
Mountain Hawk Eagle	1	P			1	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>
White-breasted Waterhen	4		C	K	1	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
Brown Crake	3		C		1	<i>Amaurornis akool</i>
Purple Swampphen	3			K	2	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Common Moorhen	7		C	K	3	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Indian Thick-knee ⁴	1			K	1	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>
Bronze-winged Jacana	6		C	K	3	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>
Ibisbill	1		>C		1	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>
River Lapwing	1		C		2	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>
Red-wattled Lapwing	4		C	K	3	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
Little Ringed Plover	3		C	K	2	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Common Greenshank	3		C	K	2	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Green Sandpiper	4		C	K	2	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Sandpiper	6		C	K	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Indian Courser	1			K	1	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>
Small Pratincole	2			K	4	<i>Glareola lactea</i>
Pallas's Gull	1			K	1	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>
River Tern	1			K	1	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>
Black-bellied Tern	1			K	1	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>
Common Pigeon (Rock Dove)	1		>C		3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Feral Pigeon	10	P	C	K	4	<i>Columba 'feral' livia</i>
Oriental Turtle Dove	1	P			2	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	8		C	K	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Red Collared Dove	6		C	K	3	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
Spotted Dove	9		C	K	4	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
Laughing Dove	1			K	1	<i>Stigmatopelia senegalensis</i>
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	1			K	3	<i>Treron Phoenicopterus</i>
Emerald Dove	1		C		1	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Alexandrine Parakeet	5		C	K	3	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
Rose-ringed Parakeet	7	P	C	K	3	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Plum-headed Parakeet	6	1h	C	K	2	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
Red-breasted Parakeet	2		C		1	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
Common Hawk Cuckoo	3	5h	C	K	1	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>
Asian Koel	-	1h	C		1	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>
Greater Coucal	7		C	K	2	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
Lesser Coucal	3		C	K	1	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>
Asian Barred Owlet	-	1h	P		1	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>
Jungle Owlet	4	1h	C	K	1	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
Spotted Owlet	8		C	K	1	<i>Athene brama</i>
Brown Fish Owl	1			K	1	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
Brown Wood Owl	1			K	1	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>
Brown Hawk Owl	2			K	1	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
Large-tailed Nightjar	1		C		1	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>
Savanna Nightjar	1	1h	C		1	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>
Himalayan Swiftlet	2			K	3	<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>

Asian Palm Swift	2			K	1	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	
Alpine Swift	1			>K	3	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	
House Swift ⁶	1			>K	3	<i>Apus (affinis) nipalensis</i>	
Common Hoopoe	6		C	K	3	<i>Upupa epops</i>	
Indian Roller	8		C	K	3	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	
Stork-billed Kingfisher ⁷	5		C	K	1	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	
White-throated Kingfisher	9		C	K	3	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	
Common Kingfisher	4		C	K	1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	
Pied Kingfisher	5		C	K	2	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	1			K	1	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>	
Green Bee-eater	7		C	K	3	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	
Oriental Pied Hornbill	1			K	1	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	
Great Hornbill	1		C		1	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	
Great Barbet	1	1h	P		1	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	
Lineated Barbet	1	2h		C	1	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	
Golden-throated Barbet	-	1h	P		1	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>	
Blue-throated Barbet	5			K	2	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	
Coppersmith Barbet	2		C		1	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	
Eurasian Wryneck	2		C	K	1	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	
Rufous Woodpecker	1		C		1	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>	
Bay Woodpecker	-	1h	P		1	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	2			K	1	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>	
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	3	1h		C	1	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	7		C	K	1	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	
Darjeeling Woodpecker	1		P		1	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>	
Lesser Yellownape	3		C	K	1	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	
Streak-throated Woodpecker	3	1h		C	K	1	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>
Grey-headed Woodpecker	1		C		1	<i>Picus canus</i>	
Himalayan Goldenback ⁸	1		C		1	<i>Dinopium shorii</i>	
Lesser Goldenback ^{8,9}	4	1h		C	K	1	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
Greater Goldenback ⁸	1		C		1	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	
Large Woodshrike ¹⁰	1		C		3	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>	
Common Woodshrike	3		C	>K	3	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	
Ashy Woodswallow	3		C	K	3	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	
Large Cuckooshrike	8		C	K	1	<i>Coracina macei</i>	
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	2			K	1	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	1			K	1	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	
Common Iora	3			K	1	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	
Ashy Minivet	1			K	1	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>	
Small Minivet	2		C	K	1	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	
Long-tailed Minivet	2		P		2	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	
Scarlet Minivet	2	1h		C	K	3	<i>Pericrocotus (flammeus) speciosus</i>
Brown Shrike	6		C	K	2	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	
Long-tailed Shrike	8		C	K	2	<i>Lanius schach</i>	
Grey-backed Shrike	5		C	K	1	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	1			K	1	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	1			K	1	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	
Spangled Drongo	3		C	K	1	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	
Black Drongo	10		C	K	3	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	
Ashy Drongo	2			K	1	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	
White-bellied Drongo	3		C	K	1	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	
Bronzed Drongo	3		C	K	1	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	
Black-naped Oriole	1			K	1	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	
Black-hooded Oriole	8		C	K	1	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	
Maroon Oriole	1	1h	P		K	1	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>
Yellow-bellied Fantail ¹¹	2		P		1	<i>Chelidorhynch hypoxantha</i>	
White-throated Fantail	4		P		K	1	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
White-browed Fantail	3			K	1	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	
Black-naped Monarch	1			K	1	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	
Eurasian Jay	1	1h	P		1	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	
Red-billed Blue Magpie	2		P	>C	2	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	
Rufous Treepie	7		C	K	3	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	
Grey Treepie	1		P		1	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	
Large-billed Crow	2		P		1	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	
Indian Jungle Crow ¹²	9		C	K	3	<i>Corvus (macrorhynchos) culminatus</i>	

House Crow	11	P	C	K	4	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Great Tit	7		C	K	2	<i>Parus major</i>
Green-backed Tit	2	P			2	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
Black-lored Tit	3	P	>C		3	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>
Yellow-browed Tit	1	P			1	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>
Black-throated Tit	1	P			3	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
Plain Martin ¹³	7		C	K	3	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Barn Swallow	7	P	C	K	3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	5	P	>C	K	2	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
Bengal Bushlark	3			K	1	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>
Hume's Short-toed Lark	1			K	3	<i>Calandrella acutirostris</i>
Sand Lark	1			K	2	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>
Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	1			K	1	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>
Oriental Skylark	3		C	K	1	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
Himalayan Bulbul	2	P	>C		2	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>
Black-crested Bulbul	1			K	1	<i>Pycnonotus (melanicterus) flaviventris</i>
Red-whiskered Bulbul	5		C	K	2	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	11	P	C	K	3	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Black Bulbul	1	P			3	<i>Ixos leucocephalus</i>
Grey-breasted Prinia	3		C		1	<i>Prinia hodgsoni</i>
Yellow-bellied Prinia	2		C		1	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
Ashy Prinia	2		C		1	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
Plain Prinia	3		C		1	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
Grey-crowned Prinia	1		C		1	<i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	2		C		1	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Common Tailorbird	7	1h	C		2	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
Rufous-rumped Grassbird	1		C		1	<i>Graminicola bengalensis</i>
Aberrant Bush Warbler	1		C		1	<i>Cettia flavolivacea</i>
Grey-sided Bush Warbler	-	2h	C		1	<i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>
Spotted Bush Warbler	1	1h	C		1	<i>Bradypterus thoracicus</i>
Thick-billed Warbler ¹⁵	2			K	1	<i>Phragamaticola aedon</i>
Blyth's Reed Warbler	1			K	1	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
Common (Siberian) Chiffchaff	2		C		1	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>
Dusky Warbler	2			K	1	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
Smoky Warbler	1			K	1	<i>Phylloscopus fulgiventris</i>
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	3		C	K	1	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>
Buff-barred Leaf Warbler	2	P			3	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>
Lemon-rumped Warbler	2	P			3	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>
Ashy-throated Warbler	2	P			2	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>
Hume's Leaf Warbler ¹⁶	3	1h	C	K	1	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
Greenish Warbler	5		C	K	2	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	3		C	K	1	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>
Yellow-vented Warbler	1			K	1	<i>Phylloscopus cantator</i>
Grey-hooded Warbler ¹⁷	3	P	>C		1	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i>
Black-faced Warbler	1	P			1	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>
Green-crowned Warbler ¹⁸	1	1h	P	K	1	<i>Seicercus burkii</i>
Whistler's Warbler ¹⁹	1	1h	P	K	1	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	1	1h	P		1	<i>Seicercus castaneiceps</i>
Pin-striped Tit Babbler	1			K	1	<i>Macronus gularis</i>
Chestnut-capped Babbler	2	P	C		2	<i>Timalia pileata</i>
Black-chinned Babbler ²⁰	1	1h	P		1	<i>Stachyridopsis pyrrhops</i>
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler	1	1h	P	>C	1	<i>Pomatorhinus erythrogegens</i>
Slender-billed Babbler	1		C		3	<i>Turdoides longirostris</i>
Striated Babbler	2		C		2	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>
Jungle Babbler	8		C	K	3	<i>Turdoides striata</i>
White-throated Laughingthrush	1	1h	P		3	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>
White-crested Laughingthrush	-	1h	P		1	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>
Striated Laughingthrush	-	1h	P		1	<i>Garrulax striatus</i>
Streaked Laughingthrush	1	P			1	<i>Garrulax lineatus</i>
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	1	P			3	<i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i>
Red-billed Leiothrix	1	P			1	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>
Blue-winged Siva ²¹	1	P			1	<i>Siva cyanouroptera</i>
Bar-throated Siva ²¹	1	P			3	<i>Siva strigula</i>
White-browed Shrike-babbler	1	P			1	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>
Rufous-winged Fulvetta ²²	2	P			2	<i>Pseudominla castaneiceps</i>

White-browed Fulvetta ²³	1	P			2	<i>Pseudominla vinipectus</i>
Nepal Fulvetta	1	P			2	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>
Rufous Sibia ²⁴	2	P			3	<i>Malacias capistrata</i>
Whiskered Yuhina	1	P			1	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>
Stripe-throated Yuhina	1	P			1	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>
Yellow-eyed Babbler	1		C		1	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
Oriental White-eye	7	P	C	K	3	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Brown Dipper	1		>C		1	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	3		C		1	<i>Sitta (castanea) cinnamoventris</i>
White-tailed Nuthatch	2	P			1	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	3		C	K	1	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
Wallcreeper	1		>C		1	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>
Common Hill Myna	4		C	K	1	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
Great Myna ²⁵	1			K	1	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i>
Jungle Myna	10	P	C	K	4	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
Bank Myna	2			K	1	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>
Common Myna	10	P	C	K	3	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Asian Pied Starling ²⁶	5			K	3	<i>Gracupica contra</i>
Chestnut-tailed Starling	7		C	K	3	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>
Brahminy Starling	1			K	1	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>
Blue Whistling Thrush	2	P			1	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
Scaly Thrush	2			K	1	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>
Tickell's Thrush	1		C		1	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>
Black-throated Thrush ²⁷	3	P	C	K	1	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>
Bluethroat	1			K	1	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Siberian Rubythroat	2			K	1	<i>Luscinia calliope</i>
White-tailed Rubythroat	1		C		1	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>
Oriental Magpie Robin	10	P	C	K	2	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
White-rumped Shama	-	2h	C	K	1	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
Plumbeous Water Redstart	2		>C	K	1	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosa</i>
White-capped Redstart	2	P	>C		1	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>
Black Redstart	1			K	1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Hodgson's Redstart	3		C	>K	1	<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>
Blue-fronted Redstart	1	P			1	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
Little Forktail	1		>C		1	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>
Black-backed Forktail	2		C		1	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>
Slaty-backed Forktail	1		>C		1	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>
Spotted Forktail	1		>C		1	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>
Common Stonechat	6		C	K	2	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
White-tailed Stonechat	2		C		2	<i>Saxicola leucura</i>
Pied Bushchat	5		C	>K	2	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Grey Bushchat	1		C		1	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>
Taiga Flycatcher ²⁹	6		C	K	1	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
Verditer Flycatcher	3		C	K	1	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>
Pale-blue Flycatcher	1	P			1	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>
Pale-chinned Flycatcher	2		C	K	1	<i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	2			K	2	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
Rufous-bellied Niltava	1	P			1	<i>Niltava sundara</i>
Small Niltava	2	P	>C		1	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>
Golden-fronted Leafbird	1			>K	1	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
Orange-bellied Leafbird	1	P			1	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	2	P			1	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>
Purple Sunbird ³⁰	1			K	1	<i>Cinnyris asiatica</i>
Green-tailed Sunbird	2	P			3	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>
Black-throated Sunbird	1	P			1	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>
Fire-tailed Sunbird	1	P			2	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>
House Sparrow	9	P	C	K	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	3	P			3	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	1		C		1	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>
Red Avadavat	1		C		3	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	4		C	K	3	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
Citrine Wagtail	2		C	K	3	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Grey Wagtail	2	P	>C		1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	6		C	K	3	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
White-browed Wagtail	6		C	K	2	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>

Paddyfield Pipit	5		C	K	1	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
Tawny Pipit	1			K	1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Blyth's Pipit	1			K	1	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>
Olive-backed Pipit	6		C	K	3	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
Rosy Pipit	2	1h	C	K	3	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>
Common Rosefinch	1			K	1	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
Crested Bunting	2			K	2	<i>Melophus lathamii</i>
Little Bunting	1			K	3	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>
Black-headed Bunting	1			K	3	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>

TAXONOMIC NOTES

- Eastern Cattle Egret – a split has resulted in birds Indian and eastwards becoming Eastern *Bubulcus coromandus* and those to west of Pakistan being Western *B. ibis*
- Himalayan Buzzard – a recent split from Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
- Indian Spotted Eagle – now split from Lesser Spotted Eagle
- Indian Thick-knee – now split from Eurasian Thick-knee, which has a less pronounced pale wing panel.
- House Swift – generally treated as conspecific with Little Swift
- Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* – formerly *Halcyon capensis*
- Goldenback species - formerly Flameback
- Lesser Goldenback - formerly Black-rumped Flameback
- Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus* – formerly *T. gularis*
- Yellow-bellied Fantail - *Chelidorhynch hypoxantha* – formerly *Rhipidura hypoxantha*
- Indian Jungle Crow - *Corvus (macrorhynchus) culminatus* – this, the lowland form of Large-billed Crow, is treated as a separate species by some authors
- Plain Martin now called Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis*
- Thick-billed Warbler - *Phragmaticola aedon* – formerly *Acrocephalus aedon*
- Hume's Leaf Warbler – formerly treated as a race of Yellow-browed Warbler
- Grey-hooded Warbler - *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* - formerly *Seicercus xanthoschistos*
- Green-crowned Warbler - formerly regarded as a subspecies of Golden-spectacled Warbler.
- Whistler's Warbler - formerly regarded as a subspecies of Golden-spectacled Warbler.
- Black-chinned Babbler - *Stachyridopsis pyrrhops* - formerly *Stachyris pyrrhops*
- Siva species - formerly Minla
- Rufous-winged Fulvetta - *Pseudominla castaneiceps* – formerly *Alcippe castaneiceps*
- Rufous Sibia - *Malacias capistrata* – formerly *Heterophasia capistrata*
- Great Myna – formerly called White-vented Myna and treated as a race of *Acridotheres javanicus*
- Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* - formerly *Sturnus contra*
- Black-throated Thrush (*Turdus atrogularis*) – formerly conspecific with Red-throated Thrush as Dark-throated Thrush (*Turdus ruficollis*)
- Taiga Flycatcher - formerly Red-throated Flycatcher
- Purple Sunbird - *Cinnyris asiatica* – formerly *Nectarinia asiatica*

MAMMALS

s = signs – footprints, scats etc.

Rhesus Macaque	10		P	C	K	3	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>
Nepal Grey Langur	3			C	K	2	<i>Semnopithecus schistaceus</i>
Tiger	-	2s		C		S	<i>Panthera tigris</i>
Fishing Cat	1	1s		C	K	S	<i>Felis viverrina</i>
Jungle Cat	3				K	1	<i>Felis chaus</i>
Common (Grey) Mongoose	3			C	K	2	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>
Asiatic Jackal	2	2h		C	K	1	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Sloth Bear	-	1s		C		S	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>
Asian Elephant	-	1h			K	H	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
Indian Rhinoceros	4			C		2	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>
Spotted Deer (Chital)	4			C		3	<i>Axis axis</i>
Hog Deer	5			C	K	2	<i>Axis porcinus</i>
Indian Muntjac	1			C		1	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>
(Wild) Water Buffalo	2				K	3	<i>Bubalis bubalis</i>
Gaur	1			C		1	<i>Bos gaurus</i>
Wild Boar	1			C		1	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
Malayan Giant Squirrel	1				K	1	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>
Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	2		P			1	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>
Indian Flying-fox	3		P			3	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>
Short-nosed Fruit-bat	1			C		1	<i>Cynopterus sphinx</i>
Gangetic River Dolphin	1				K	1	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>

BUTTERFLIES

Species	First noted	Locations		Scientific Name
Admiral, Indian Red	19/02/2013		C	<i>Vanessa indica</i>
Baron, Common	22/02/2013		C	<i>Euthalia aconthea</i>
Beak, Common	28/02/2013	P		<i>Libythea lepita</i>
Blue, Pale Grass	20/02/2013		C	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i>
Blue, Transparent Six-line	20/02/2013		C	<i>Nacaduba kurava</i>
Brimstone, Lesser	28/02/2013	P		<i>Gonepteryx mahaguru</i>
Bushbrown, Dark-brand	20/02/2013		C K	<i>Mycalesis mineus</i>
Clouded Yellow, Dark	28/02/2013	P		<i>Colias fieldii</i>
Crow, Common	19/02/2013		C	<i>Euploea core</i>
Eggfly, Great	19/02/2013		C	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>
Emigrant, Common	24/02/2013		K	<i>Catopsilia Pomona</i>
Fourring, Common	20/02/2013		C K	<i>Ypthima huebneri</i>
Fritillary, Queen of Spain	28/02/2013	P		<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Grass Yellow, Common	24/02/2013		K	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
Grey Count	19/02/2013		>C	<i>Tanaecia lepidea</i>
Nigger	25/02/2013		K	<i>Orsotrioena medus</i>
Onyx, Common	19/02/2013		>C	<i>Horaga onyx</i>
Pansy, Chocolate	25/02/2013		K	<i>Junonia iphita</i>
Pansy, Grey	25/02/2013		K	<i>Junonia atlites</i>
Pansy, Lemon	19/02/2013		C	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>
Pansy, Peacock	20/02/2013		C	<i>Junonia almanac</i>
Sailer, Common	19/02/2013		C	<i>Neptis hylas</i>
Sapphire, Powdery Green	28/02/2013	P		<i>Heliophorus tamu</i>
Tiger, Chocolate	25/02/2013		K	<i>Parantica melaneus</i>
Tiger, Glassy	25/02/2013		K	<i>Parantica aglea</i>
Tiger, Plain	24/02/2013		K	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Tiger, Striped	20/02/2013		C K	<i>Danaus genutia</i>
Tortoiseshell, Indian	19/02/2013	P	C	<i>Aglais cashmiriensis</i>
White, Indian Cabbage	19/02/2013		C	<i>Pieris canidia</i>

(Note: some changes to i.d. made in Nepal are as a result of re-checking with other books on my return and being able to look at photos on a 'proper' computer screen. First recorded dates are usually date identifiable sighting was made, not necessarily when 'first seen'.)

REPTILES

Marsh Mugger	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>
Oriental Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>

DRAGONFLIES

Oriental Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis servilia</i>
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These lists represent those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.



Front cover: Elephant ride

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