

The Birds of Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Nepal

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Abstract

Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve lies in the southwest corner of Nepal. It has been listed as an important bird area and a number of bird studies have been conducted here. The reserve is an important refuge especially for many grassland birds, several of which are globally threatened. The high, total of 15 globally threatened and 13 near-threatened bird species occur in Sukla Phanta. Some of the bird species reach their world limit of distribution at Sukla Phanta. Of all the habitats found in Sukla Phanta, grassland is the most important. Conservation and management of grasslands that are sympathetic to bird populations are urgent at Sukla Phanta.

Key words: *Sarcogyps calvus*, globally threatened birds, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Nepal

Introduction

Sukla Phanta (28°53'N & 80°11'E) lies in the extreme southwest of the *terai* in Kanchanpur District. It is one of Nepal's smaller protected areas covering 305 km² and ranges in altitude from 150 m to 600 m (WWF Nepal, 2000). The international border between Nepal and India demarcates the southern and western boundaries of the reserve. The Luggabugga Florican Reserve in India lies adjacent to the southern boundary of Sukla Phanta. The Syali and Radha rivers form the eastern and western boundary respectively for the part of the reserve that extends north of the east-west highway (Figure 1).

The reserve was a famous hunting area for many years and was declared as a Royal Hunting Reserve in 1969 with an area of about 155 km². The reserve was gazetted as the Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in 1976. Later the reserve was extended eastwards by

an area of about 150 km² to create more habitat and a corridor from the *terai* into the Churia hills for the seasonal migration of wildlife. Sukla Phanta is important both nationally and internationally for its extensive grasslands or phantas that constitute almost half the reserve's vegetation and a much greater area than grasslands in the rest of lowland Nepal. The main grassland, Sukla Phanta proper, is the largest protected patch of continuous grassland in Nepal. It is approximately 16 km² in area. The main grass species include *Imperata cylindrica* and *Heteropogon contortus*. In the eastern half of the main phanta the grassland is damp with large areas of marshes and pools. There are other smaller phantas in the reserve which are also important for birds. These are Singhpur Phanta, Karaiya Phanta, Dudhiya Phanta, and some smaller phantas near Jhilmila and



Figure 1. Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Nepal.

Radhapur (Baral, 1998b).

Sal is the dominant forest type in the reserve with Khair *Acacia catechu* and Sisso *Dalbergia sissoo* alongside rivers. There are seven small lakes, Rani Tal, Salghaudi Tal, Kalikitch Tal, Bhatpuri, Kumari, Shikari and Tara Tal, with associated marshes where dense grasses of *Phragmites karka* and *Saccharum spontaneum* predominate. These wetlands add significantly to the biodiversity of the reserve. Shikari Tal is basically a vast area of associated marshes with scattered open pools and is the least explored of all. Sukla Phanta has a hot, dry monsoon climate.

Results and discussion

Avifauna

A total of 423 bird species has been recorded from the reserve- a high number for such a small area (Appendix for full list). For comparison, Chitwan National Park, which also lies in the lowlands, covers three times the area of Sukla Phanta and has a species total of 541 species (Baral and Inskipp, 2005; Giri and Choudhary, 2008).

Sukla Phanta is the limit for world distribution for several grassland bird species. It is the western limit of the following species: Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis*, Jerdon's Bushchat

Saxicola jerdoni, Rufous-rumped Grassbird *Graminicola bengalensis* and Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*. The reserve is also the north-western limit of the nominate race of Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense sinense*, the western limit for the *griseigularis* race of Jerdon's Babbler *Chrysomma altirostre* and the eastern limit of the nominate race of Finn's Weaver *Ploceus megarhynchus megarhynchus* (Baral, 2000). Sukla Phanta is the most important regular wintering site of Hodgson's Bushchat *Saxicola insignis*.

A number of species typical of western Nepal occurs on the reserve including White-naped Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes festivus*, Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos moluccensis*, Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*, Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*, Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica* and Tawny-bellied Babbler *Dumetia hyperythra*.

Two species new for Nepal, Finn's Weaver *Ploceus megarhynchus*, formerly considered an Indian endemic and Singing Bushlark *Mirafra cantillans* were found on the main grassland at Sukla Phanta during fieldwork carried out in 1996 showing how poorly its avifauna was known until that time (Baral, 1998b). Parts of the reserve are still poorly known ornithologically. The extension area on the eastern half of the reserve is still largely unsurveyed. The marshy eastern half of the main phanta (4.5 km²) remains inaccessible for most of the year and has rarely been visited by ornithologists (Baral, 1998b).

A total of 33 bird species that occur in Nepal has been identified as globally threatened with extinction by BirdLife International (BirdLife International, 2009). Fifteen of these (48% of the total) have been

recorded in Sukla Phanta (Table 1). Over half of the reserve's globally threatened birds frequent grasslands emphasising its importance for this habitat type. All of these species are at risk internationally because of loss, fragmentation and degradation of grasslands.

The reserve supports the highest population of Bengal Floricans *Houbaropsis bengalensis* in Nepal. The main phanta is by far the most important for the species. Surveys for Bengal Florican were carried out in 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp, 1983), 1990 (Weaver, 1991), 2000 (Baral *et al.*, 2003) and 2007 (Poudyal *et al.*, 2008a, b). The number of males remained stable at 12-14 birds in the 1982, 1990 and 2000 survey, but only 8-9 males were located in 2007, indicating a decline of 38% compared to the 1982 survey.

The species requires areas of short grass, preferably *Imperata cylindrica* for feeding and as display sites used by males to attract females. Long grass is also needed as escape cover and probably also for nesting (Inskipp and Inskipp, 1983).

Grasslands close to human settlement were found to be overgrazed and disturbed and little used by Bengal Floricans (Baral *et al.*, 2003).

There is only one known report of the closely related Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indica* at Sukla Phanta, on 5 March 1999 (GC, 1999). The species is probably only a very rare visitor or vagrant to the reserve.

Looking at their present distribution and habitat requirements it can be assumed that the Swamp Francolin was once distributed throughout the southern belt of Nepal where suitable habitat existed. Now the vast majority of birds occur at just two sites- Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. It is a locally fairly common

breeding resident at Sukla Phanta. Baral (2000) observed there could be well over 100 Swamp Francolins in the reserve. A later survey estimated a maximum of 46 pairs (Singh, 2004). The species density was estimated at 2 birds per sq. km in 14 sq. km of suitable habitat by Baral (1998c). The population trend of the species at Sukla Phanta is not known. In Nepal the Swamp Francolin is found in tall moist grasslands close to water and with open patches. It prefers grasslands with an average height of 2-3 m. At Sukla Phanta it occurs on the moister eastern grasslands: along a small rivulet from Singhpur to the western marshes of the main phanta and at Jhilmila near the marshes and wetlands created by the meanderings of the Bamni Nala River (Baral, 1998c). Singh (2004) found the main threats in the Jhilmila and Kalikich Lake areas were habitat alteration due to heavy human and livestock pressures, as well as hunting and poisoning of wetlands for fishing in Jhilmila. In the main phanta and Singpur areas predators, drying out of swampy areas during the species' breeding season and the succession of vegetation were the most significant threats (Singh, 2004).

Three passerines that are internationally at risk have good populations on the grasslands of Sukla Phanta: Hodgson's Bushchat, Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striatus* and Finn's Weaver.

Sukla Phanta holds the largest known wintering population of Hodgson's Bushchat. The total wintering population in Nepal is estimated as 100, more than half of which are restricted to the Sukla Phanta grasslands. The former stronghold and the best known wintering site for the species in Nepal, Koshi Barrage, has suffered habitat loss and alteration and there are very few

recent records from this site. The earliest wintering record was 9 November when a single male was observed, and the latest was a male on 6 May 1998 in Sukla Phanta. A survey on 11 December 1997 resulted in the location of 26 individuals in the reserve's grasslands. Fewer females than males were recorded during the surveys. The wintering habitats of Hodgson's Bushchat in the terai are the relatively open and large grasslands. It prefers burnt grasslands with sufficient tall unburnt stems as perches (Baral, 1998d; 1999).

Bristled Grassbird was not recorded on the reserve until May 1996 when up to three birds were found, but had presumably been overlooked previously. In May 1997, 18 birds were heard calling and seen (Baral, 1997c). The species has been recorded in the reserve by a number of other observers since (e.g. Giri and Choudhary, 2001; Inskipp and Inskipp, 2001). The main phanta is the only known site on the reserve for the species. Bristled Grassbird is found in both dry short grasslands as well as grasslands on dry and moist soils. It prefers relatively open short grasslands with tall unburnt reeds or singles of shrubs and medium-sized trees (Baral, 1997c). It is not known whether Bristled Grassbird is just a summer visitor to the reserve or is present all year. Trends in its population at Sukla Phanta are unknown, in common with those of the other threatened and near-threatened passerines that occur in the reserve.

Finn's Weaver is also a fairly common resident in the reserve. Two flocks totalling 11 birds were first seen in May 1996 (Baral, 1998b). The species is found in tall moist grasslands close to marshy/wet areas. At Sukla Phanta the habitat was dominated by vast grasslands of *Saccharum* with associated Narkat *Phragmites karka*. The

grassland was dotted with medium-sized trees and termitaria as tall as 3 m (Baral, 1998b). A maximum of 53 birds was observed on 24 March 1998 near the main phanta and Jhilmila grasslands (Giri, 1998). The species has subsequently been recorded on the reserve by other observers (e.g. Giri and Choudhary, 2001). Abandoned weaver nests on the edge of the *Phragmites* marsh at the eastern end of the main phanta were suspected to belong to this species (Hikmat Bisht *pers. comm.*, 1998; Som GC *pers. comm.*, 1999; C. and T. Inskipp *pers. obs.*, 2001). In 2008, a small breeding colony was located at the edge of Shikari Tal (Baral *et al.*, 2008). The small resident population at Sukla Phanta seems to be augmented in summer (Baral, 2000).

Jerdon's Babbler was first recorded at Sukla Phanta on 4 May 1998 when two birds were seen in the wet grasslands by Rani Tal (Giri, 1998). The only other record on the reserve is of at least two birds on 25 April 2001 in wet grasslands behind the dam (Giri and Choudhary, 2001; Inskipp and Inskipp, 2001). The species may well be a rare resident here. It is generally very difficult to see, typically skulking amongst grasses out of sight, although males emerge to sing from the tops of grass stems in the breeding season in early mornings and at dusk.

Populations of White-rumped and Slender-billed Vultures *Gyps tenuirostris* have rapidly declined in much of Nepal and the rest of the Indian subcontinent. These both species have been listed as critically endangered (BirdLife International, 2009). In 1996 they were common breeding residents in the reserve (Baral, 1996a). On 23 April 2001, a flock of 58 White-rumped Vultures and 13 Slender-billed Vultures was found near Andiya village, just outside the

reserve. This was a significantly higher total of these species in one flock than had been recorded by other observers in Nepal during the previous year (Inskipp and Inskipp, 2001). Nesting surveys of both species were carried out on the reserve from 2002-2004. While totals of 15 and 14 White-rumped Vulture nests were found in 2002 and 2003 respectively, not a single vulture nest was recorded on the reserve in 2004. The maximum numbers of vultures recorded in flocks in 2004 were 15 White-rumped and eight Slender-billed Vultures (Giri and GC, 2005). The drug diclofenac which has been identified as the cause of drastic vulture declines in the Indian subcontinent (Oaks *et al.*, 2004; Shultz *et al.*, 2004) is widely used on cattle close to the reserve (Giri and GC, 2005).

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* is a fairly common resident and breeds on the reserve. A 2004 population status and distribution survey of the species in the western lowlands located 21 Lesser Adjutants in the reserve; the largest group (eight birds) was found at Baba Lake. Sukla Phanta may be the westernmost locality where these birds breed. At least two nest trees have been located in the south western side of the reserve. Major threats to the stork on the reserve were found to be the drying out of wetlands in summer and poisoning of the Bahunia river system in the reserve to capture fish (Sharma 2005a,b; 2006).

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* and Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* are uncommon winter visitors and passage migrants. Schaaf *et al.* (1980) listed Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* as resident, but there are no later records from Sukla Phanta. Sarus Crane is rare on the reserve where it is possibly only a visitor,

but it is resident and fairly common in cultivation close east of Sukla Phanta. It is recorded frequently from Kali Kitch Tal which lies on the eastern edge of the park.

A total of 13 of Nepal's 24 globally near-threatened birds has been recorded at Sukla Phanta (Table 2). Seven of these are wetland species and two are fairly common residents on the reserve: Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* and Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*. The Grey-headed Fish Eagle and Darter breed (H. S. Baral pers. obs). Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda* was formerly a resident seen occasionally (Inskipp, 1989) but is now a rare visitor to Chauhdar river area. On 25 April 2001, 13 Darters were seen in tree tops close to Chaudhar river near Jhilmila. A pair of Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* was recorded in Rani Tal in January 1995 (Baral, 1995a, b); single birds were noted till March 1998 (Baral, 1997b; 1998a) and since then there are no known records of this bird from Sukla Phanta. Recent grassland studies have shown that Rufous-rumped Grassbird *Graminicola bengalensis* is a common, breeding resident on the reserve and is far more common than previously thought. It is skulking and shy, rarely coming in view of an observer except in the breeding season in April and May (Baral, 2000; 2001).

Other birds

Grassland birds

In addition to their value for several globally threatened and near-threatened species, the reserve's grasslands and especially the main grassland, Sukla Phanta proper, are important for some other grassland specialities. These include Striped Buttonquail *Turnix sylvatica* which is fairly common on the main phanta. Bright-capped

Cisticola Cisticola exilis is a common breeding resident in the main phanta. Jerdon's Bushchat *Saxicola jerdoni* was considered a vagrant but in May 1997 two fledged immatures were seen being fed by two adults at Sukla Phanta. Since the bushchat was first seen on the reserve in May 1996 there have been several records of up to ten birds in the tall marshy grasslands of the reserve in winter and the breeding season. A female type young Jerdon's Bushchat was trapped near Rani Tal in 2002, indicating the species had bred nearby (H. S. Baral, pers. obs.). It is now thought to be a rare and local breeding resident in Nepal. Jerdon's Bushchat is rare elsewhere in the Indian subcontinent and threatened by habitat loss. Blue-breasted Quail *Coturnix chinensis*, Yellow-legged Buttonquail *Turnix tanki* and Grass Owl *Tyto capensis* are three other grassland specialities that have been recorded very rarely at Sukla Phanta and are nationally threatened (Baral and Inskipp, 2004). Grass Owl has not been recorded since the late 1970s (Schaaf *et al.*, 1980).

Wetland birds

The rivers, ponds and especially the lakes of Sukla Phanta add significantly to be reserve's biodiversity. Rani Tal is the largest and potentially the most interesting of the lakes.

As well as the globally threatened and near-threatened birds given above several nationally threatened species occur on these wetlands. Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*, Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* and Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* are residents recorded frequently at Rani Tal and Salghaudi Tal (Baral and Inskipp, 2004). Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* is a frequent winter visitor to wetlands and

*Globally threatened birds***Table 1.** Globally threatened birds recorded in Sukla Phanta, Nepal

Species name	Globally threatened status	Status in Sukla Phanta	Habitat
1. Swamp Francolin <i>Francolinus gularis</i>	VU	br 2	Grassland
2. Sarus Crane <i>Grus antigone</i>	VU	s, r?, 4	Cultivation in well-watered country
3. Bengal Florican <i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	EN	bs2	Grassland
4. Lesser Florican <i>Sypheotides indica</i>	EN	m,5	Grassland
5. Pallas's Fish Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	VU	br?, w, 5	Lakes and large rivers
6. Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	E	w, r?, 3	Around habitation, open country
7. White-rumped Vulture <i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	CR	br, 3	Around habitation, open country
8. Slender-billed Vulture <i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	CR	br, 3	Around habitation
9. Red-headed Vulture <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	CR	w, 3	Around habitation, open country
10. Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i>	VU	w, 4	Large rivers and lakes, wooded areas near water
11. Indian Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila hastata</i>	VU	r3	Open country, grassland
12. Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	VU	w m 4	Open country
13. Lesser Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	VU	br 2	Marshes, pools, grassland
14. Hodgson's Bushchat <i>Saxicola insignis</i>	VU	w2	Grassland
15. Bristled Grassbird <i>Chaetornis striatus</i>	VU	s, r? 2	Grassland
16. Jerdon's Babbler <i>Chrysomma alirostre</i>	VU	r5	Wet grassland
17. Finn's Weaver <i>Ploceus megarhynchus</i>	VU	br2	Grassland
18. Yellow-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza aureola</i>	VU	w3	Grassland

CR= Critically threatened, EN= Endangered, VU= Vulnerable, br= breeding resident, s= summer visitor, w= winter visitor, m= passage migrant, 1= common, 2= fairly common, 3= frequent, 4= uncommon, 5= rare

Globally near-threatened birds**Table 2.** Globally near-threatened birds recorded in Sukla Phanta, Nepal

Species name	Status in Sukla Phanta	Habitat
1. Falcated Duck <i>Anas falcata</i>	w, 4	Lakes
2. Ferruginous Pochard <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	w, 3	Lakes and large rivers
3. Great Hornbill <i>Buceros bicornis</i>	m?, 5	Dense forest
4. Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquatus</i>	m, 4	Rivers
5. Black-bellied Tern <i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	r?5	Marshes, lakes and rivers
6. Lesser Fish Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	r? 5	Forested streams and lakes
7. Grey-headed Fish Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	br2	Slow-running waters and lakes in wooded country
8. Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macronous</i>	w, 4	Open grassland
9. Darter <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	br2	Lakes, pools and slow moving rivers
10. Painted Stork <i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	s, r?, 4	Marshes and lakes
11. Black-necked Stork <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	w, r?, 4	Lakers, marshes and large rivers
12. Black-headed Ibis <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	w?, 4	Marshes, lakes, open fields and Rivers
13. Rufous-rumped Grassbird <i>Graminicola bengalensis</i>	br1	Grassland

Br= breeding resident, r= resident, s= summer visitor, w= winter visitor, m= passage migrant, 1= common, 2= fairly common, 3= frequent, 4= uncommon, 5= rare

grasslands. Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* was listed as resident by Schaaf *et al.* (1980) and up to 20 were seen at Rani Tal in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp, 1982), and 25 birds in January 2009 (Hathan Chaudhary *verbally*, 2009).

Shikari Tal is little visited by ornithologists. In May 1996 a large breeding colony of four species was discovered here: Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (3,000+ nests), Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* (150+ nests), Great Egret *Egretta alba* and Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* (33+ nests). Other birds seen included a Darter

and two immature Painted Storks (Baral, 1996b).

Forest birds

Sukla Phanta's sal and riverine forests are of less interest ornithologically than the reserve's grasslands and wetlands. The forests generally have a poorly developed understorey and their bird diversity is reduced as a result. A few nationally threatened birds do however depend on forests: Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis* which has been proved breeding, Dusky Eagle Owl *Bubo coromandus*,

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hiaeratus kienerii* and Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* (Baral and Inskipp, 2004). The forests are also important for Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*, the largest living species of woodpecker in the old world and White-naped Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes festivus*.

Other wildlife

A total of 30 species of mammals has been recorded on the reserve. Globally threatened mammals include the Tiger *Panthera tigris*, Swamp Deer *Cervus duvauceli duvauceli*, Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*, the recently introduced Greater One-horned Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* and Hispid Hare *Caprolagus hispidus* which are all resident (IUCN, 2009) The congregation of this subspecies of Swamp Deer on the reserve's phantas is the largest in the world (Schaaf, 1978). The reserve had been well known for its good population of Tigers and at one time supported the highest density in Nepal, although the population has been much reduced by poaching in recent years. Sukla Phanta's population of Hispid Hare may be of international significance (Bell, 1986). Large reptiles include the Indian Rock Python *Python molurus* and Marsh Mugger *Crocodylus palustris* (Bhatt and Shrestha, 1977) both globally threatened (IUCN, 2009). The total of 27 fish species has been recorded in rivers, lakes and ponds of the reserve (Bhatt and Shrestha, 1977). Not much is known about the herpetofauna of the reserve.

Threats

Grasslands

Grassland encroachment by tree and shrub saplings were identified as major threats to the long-term existence of the main phantas

by Baral *et al.* (2003), Inskipp and Inskipp (1983) and Poudyal *et al.* (2008a). There is a tendency to encourage people to plant trees in heavily-grazed grasslands as a step towards reforestation. Such activities reduce the grassland area considerably. As they grow, the trees out compete any grasses growing under them, especially those that need plenty of sunlight. Tree seeds are dispersed all over the grasslands and generally germinate near already existing trees. In the long run a small patch of trees that is created in grassland may eventually take over all the grassland area. Additionally, trees encourage the growth of shade-loving grasses and inhibit growth of sun-loving species. This process of succession usually converts grassland into woodland over time (Baral, 2001).

With the exception of the main phanta many grasslands on the reserve are overgrazed, notably those lying close to human settlements e.g. grasslands close to Jhilmila (Baral, 1997d). During the first author's stay in Sukla Phanta in 1996-1997 he noted more than 50 buffaloes daily in Dudhiya Phanta and the number hiked to more than 100 in May 1997. In May 1996 some 15 to 20 livestock were seen grazing daily in Singhpur Phanta (Baral, 1997d). Tamang and Baral (2000) describe Haraiya Phanta and Karaiya Phanta as overgrazed and were of the opinion that if this trend continues it is likely that the few Bengal Floricans present on these grasslands would disappear soon. The continuing degradation of the reserve's grasslands can be partly attributed to lack of patrolling and lack of initiatives by the army guards and park administrators. Grazing pressure from domestic livestock has been the major factor causing the decline of many grassland animals that are now threatened (Baral,

1997d). Although such overgrazed grasslands provide habitat for many common bird species, many threatened species are absent (Baral, 2001).

There is a high density on the phantas of Jackal *Canis aureus* and Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*, both of which are predators of eggs and chicks (Baral *et al.*, 2003).

Wetlands

The three lakes are all choked with aquatic vegetation. This appears to be of native vegetation at Rani Tal, but the whole of Shikari Tal was covered in the invasive introduced *Eichhornia crassipes* (Baral, 1996b). Most of Salghaudi Tal is now covered with *Phragmites karka* reeds and a very small area of open water is left. In April 2001 less than 10% of the water at Rani Tal remained open in contrast to 1982 when a considerable water area was free of surface vegetation. In early May 1982 six wildfowl species including Comb Duck and Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*, as well as 12 wader species including Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* and the rare passage migrant Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* were seen here. By comparison, habitats for ducks and waders were much reduced in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp, 2001). The lake had been regularly managed by clearing aquatic vegetation, but this has been neglected in recent years (Hari Krishna Shrestha verbally, 2001).

Forests

Sukla Phanta's forests are highly susceptible to fires that are lit deliberately and sometimes accidentally. Fire encourages the growth of new shoots of grasses and also kills some trees which villagers tend to collect for using firewood. While fires

benefit ungulates by encouraging a fresh growth of grasses, they have much reduced shrub and tree regeneration and resulted in open forests with little or no understorey and a much reduced bird community. It is notable that no laughing thrushes have been recorded at Sukla Phanta and only three other forest babblers. This group depends on a good forest shrub layer.

Lack of awareness

Many army guards, park rangers and game scouts were unaware of Nepal's protected species and of threatened species that occur on the reserve (Baral, 1997d). Tamang and Baral (2000) reported that most game scouts, elephant caretakers and local people did not have any knowledge about Bengal Floricans. Few game scouts and elephant caretakers had a chance to gain some knowledge about this bird or to see it in the wild. An army guard post was established in Sukla Phanta proper so the guards could be in a better position to protect the reserves' wildlife from poachers. The location of the guard post is in a sensitive area for many globally threatened species, some of which are vulnerable to disturbance.

Conservation measures

Wetland management

Appropriate and regular management, especially regular clearing of surface aquatic vegetation could restore the lakes. Some work was carried out at Rani Tal in 1998 and was supported by the reserve authority and assisted by help from the Silent Safari Camp and Bird Conservation Nepal. This included making an earthen embankment over 600 m long and 3 m high to trap a larger quantity of monsoon rain and so significantly raise the water level of the lake (Bisht, 1998).

Grassland management

Inskipp and Inskipp (1983) reported that villagers cut grasses in the main phanta annually in winter. The phanta is then divided into four sections where are burned separately to ensure that some grassland is always available for grazing.

The use of controlled fires seems essential to maintain the grassland ecosystem (Baral, 2001). Controlled cutting and prescribed burning should be carried out before March every year as later fires can be harmful to young birds (Inskipp and Inskipp, 1983). Bengal Florican researchers in India found that unless burning, clearing or grazing of grassland takes place, the grassland grows too tall and dense for the species and is apparently vacated by territorial males (Narayan and Rosalind, 1990). Controlled cutting and burning can benefit other bird species. Swamp Francolin, doves and pigeons benefit temporarily from cutting as they have been frequently noted feeding in the clearings close to tall grasslands (Baral, 2001). Large areas of burnt open grasslands are ideal for species hunting insects in the air and small animals on the ground. Drongos, stonechats, swallows, owls, bee-eaters, rollers, White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*, Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*, Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*, Ashy Swallow-shrike *Artamus fuscus* and Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* have all been observed to feed in these areas (Baral, 2001).

Poudyal *et al.* (2008a, b) report that the Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve Authority undertook restoration work on the main phanta in 2007, uprooting and removing bushes and trees to prevent succession to scrub/forest. Two territorial male Bengal Floricans were observed by Poudyal *et al.*

(2008b) on these newly managed grassland patches where bushes and trees had been removed. Maintaining this practice in the future will be necessary in order to main the grassland habitat for this species.

In order to conserve Bengal Floricans, maintaining interspersed small patches of taller grasses on the shorter grassland dominated by *Imperata cylindrica* is crucial and should be made the objective of grassland management activities such as burning and cutting. Preventing succession from *Imperata* grassland to tall grassland is vital (Poudyal *et al.*, 2008b).

Whatever the management regimes may be, cutting, burning or grazing, all directly affect the height of grasses (Baral, 2001) and the thickness. These are important parameters that influence bird communities. Some bird species that have adapted to living in grasslands have become highly specialized. Examples include Pale-footed Bush-warbler *Cettia pallidipes* and Grey-crowned Prinia *Prinia cinereocapilla* both of which prefer *Themeda* grasslands. Others include Hodgson's Bushchat and Bengal Florican which require large expanses of open phantas. Jerdon's Bushchat and Striated Grassbird need tall *Phragmites karka* and *Saccharum arundinacea* grass species. Bristled Grassbird prefers *Sachharum spontaneum* grasslands that grow along the river courses (Baral, 2001). All species mentioned above and a number of nationally threatened species that also depend on lowland grasslands require further research and investigation that is useful for their long-term conservation.

Knowledge about Sukla Phanta's threatened species and internationally and nationally important habitats needs to disseminate in a relevant and sensitive way to inspire army and reserve staff and local

people to take a pride in the reserve and safeguard its future.

Aided by UNDP technical advice and financial assistance the Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (2006-2012) aims to establish a landscape-level management model to safeguard the area's biological wealth and its vital ecological functions. The project is promoting landscape level conservation across the two protected areas, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and Bardiya National Park, their buffer zones and adjoining landscapes in 52 VDCs of Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. Achievements so far include establishing 530 hectares of plantations in 45 forest corridors and critical buffer-zone areas close to the two protected areas. Eco-clubs in 62 schools have been set up by the project (UNDP, 2009).

The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) has been conducting several activities on various thematic programmes in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve to conserve its biodiversity. These programmes include a natural resource conservation programme carried out through community mobilisation and support, an alternative energy promotion programme aimed at reducing dependency on fuel wood consumption, a conservation education and extension programme to increase awareness amongst the public, a sustainable community development programme to strengthen community participation, a biodiversity research and monitoring programme on prey and predator species, and community health service support to improve health of local communities (NTNC, 2008). The biodiversity research and monitoring programme is mainly focused on large mammals although the field office aims to

include some nationally threatened bird species in future (Chiranjivi Pokharel *verbally* 2008; Hemant Yadav *verbally* 2009).

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H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

Appendix. A checklist of birds recorded at Sukila Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Nepal

Order/Family/English Name	Scientific Name	Status	References
GALLIFORMES			
Phasianidae			
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	r, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003, Tika Giri verbally 2009
Swamp Francolin	<i>Francolinus gularis</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	w, m, 5	Bhatt and Shrestha 1977, Inskipp 1989
Blue-breasted Quail	<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	r?, 5	Baral 1996a
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>	r, 3	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
ANSERIFORMES			
Dendrocygnidae			
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Anatidae			
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	m, 3	Inskipp 1989
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	r, s, 2	Inskipp 1989
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989
Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	w, 4	Baral 1995a
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	w, 2	Baral 1997a
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	w, 4	Inskipp 1989
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	w, 3	GC 1999
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	w, m, 3	Inskipp 1989
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	w, 1	Baral 1997a
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	w, 3	Baral and Mills 1992
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	w, 3	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
TURNICIFORMES			
Turnicidae			
Small Buttonquail	<i>Tumix sylvatica</i>	r?	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Yellow-legged Buttonquail	<i>Tumix tanki</i>	r?	Baral Pers Obs.
Barred Buttonquail	<i>Tumix suscitator</i>	r, 4	Inskipp 1989

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

PICIFORMES

Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997a
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	r, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	r, 3	Dev Raj Joshi <i>verbally</i> 2009, Hathan Chaudhary 2009
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Lesser Yellownappe	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	r, 2	Dev Raj Joshi <i>verbally</i> 2009
Greater Yellownappe	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>	r?, 4	Dev Raj Joshi <i>verbally</i> 2009
Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Himalayan Flameback	<i>Dinopium shorii</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	v? w? 5	Inskipp 1989
Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Megalaimidae			
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Lineated Barbet	<i>Megalaima lineata</i>	br, 4	Giri 1998
Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	r?, 4	Baral 1998a
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989

BUCEROTIFORMES

Bucerotidae

Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracosceros albirostris</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	m?, 5	Baral 1997a

UPUPIFORMES

Upupidae

Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	w, m, 2	Inskipp 1989
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CORACIIFORMES

Coraciidae

Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	bs	Inskipp 1989

Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	r?, 5	Inskipp and Inskipp 1991

Dacelonidae

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Cerylidae			
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Meropidae			
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>	r, 4	Baral 1991, Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	br, s, 2	Inskipp 1989
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	bs, 2	Inskipp 1989
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	bs, 3	Baral 1991, Baral 1996a
CUCULIFORMES			
Cuculidae			
Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	bs, 4	Inskipp 1989
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>	bs, 4	Dev Raj Joshi verbally 2009
Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	bs, 1	Inskipp 1989
Eurasian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	bs, 2	Inskipp 1989
Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	r?, 5	GC 1999
Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Sumiculus lugubris</i>	bs, 3	Baral 1996a
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	bs, 2	Inskipp 1989
Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>	br, 4	GC 1999
Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Centropodidae			
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	bs, r, 2	Inskipp 1989
PSITTACIFORMES			
Psittacidae			
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Slaty-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula himalayana</i>	w, 4	Chaudhary 1997
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	r, 4	Inskipp 1989
APODIFORMES			
Apodidae			
Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997a
White-rumped Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Silver-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus cochinchinensis</i>	s?, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	r?, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Hemiprocnidae			
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>		Inskipp 1989

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

STRIGIFORMES

Tytonidae

Grass Owl *Tyto capensis* r?, 5 Inskipp 1989

Strigidae

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* r, 2 Inskipp 1989

Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena* r, 2 Inskipp 1989

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* r, 4 Baral 1997b, Subedi and Shrestha 2003

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis* br, 4 Giri 1997

Dusky Eagle Owl *Bubo coromandus* br, 3 Giri and Choudhary 1997

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* br, 2 Inskipp 1989

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* r, 5 Inskipp 1989

Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum* br, 1 Inskipp 1989

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* br, 2 Inskipp 1989

Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata* br, 2 Inskipp 1989

Caprimulgidae

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* r, 2 Inskipp 1989

Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus* r?, 4 Inskipp 1989

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* s?, 2 Inskipp 1989

COLUMBIFORMES

Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* br, 2 Inskipp 1989

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* w, 2 Inskipp 1989

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* br, 1 Inskipp 1989

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* br, 2 Inskipp 1989

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* br, 1 Inskipp 1989

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* br, 1 Inskipp 1989

Orange-breasted Green *Treron bicincta* r, 3 Inskipp 1989

Pigeon

Pompadour Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora* r, 3 Chaudhary 1997

Yellow-footed Green *Treron phoenicoptera* r, 2 Inskipp 1989

Pigeon

GRUIFORMES

Otididae

Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* bs, 2 Inskipp 1989

Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indica* s, 5 GC 1999

Gruidae

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* s, r?, 4 Inskipp 1989

Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo* m, 5 Inskipp 1989

Rallidae

Brown Crane *Amauromis akool* br, 5 Subedi and Shrestha 2003, Hathan Chaudhary 2009

White-breasted Waterhen *Amauromis phoenicurus* br, 1 Inskipp 1989

Ruddy-breasted Crane *Porzana fusca* br, 2 Inskipp 1989

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>		Dev Raj Joshi verbally 2009
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
CICONIIFORMES			
Scolopacidae			
Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	w, 3	Subedi and Shrestha 2003, Hathan Chaudhary 2009
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	m, 4	Bhatt and Shrestha 1977
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	m, 4	Inskipp 1989
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	w, 3	Baral 1998a
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	m, 4	Inskipp 1989
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	w, 4	Hathan Chaudhary 2009
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	w, 2	Baral 1997b
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	w, 5	Inskipp 1989
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	m, 4	Inskipp 1989
Rostratulidae			
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Jacaniidae			
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	r, s, 3	Inskipp 1989
Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Burhinidae			
Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Great Thick-knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	r, 5	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Charadriidae			
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	m, 5	Inskipp 1989
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	r?, w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	w, 4	Hathan Chaudhary 2009
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	m, 5	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	w, m, 3	Baral 1997a
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malarbaricus</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Glareolidae			
Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	w, r?, 5	Giri and Choudhary 1997
Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	s, 5	Choudhary 1996
Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Laridae			
Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	w, 3	Hathan Chaudhary 2009
Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>	w, 4	Tika Giri verbally 2009

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	r, 5	Inskipp 1989
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	s, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	r?, 5	Inskipp 1989
Accipitridae			
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	r, 1	Inskipp 1989
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	r, w?, 2	Inskipp 1989
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	w, r, 2	Inskipp 1989
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	w, 5	Inskipp 1989
Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	br?, w, 5	Inskipp 1989
Lesser Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	r?, 5	Inskipp 1989
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	w, r?, 3	Inskipp 1989
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	w, 2	Baral 1997a
Eurasian Griffon	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	w, m, 4	Inskipp 1989
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	w, 4	Baral and Mills 1992
Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997b
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	w, 4	Baral 1997b
Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	w, 4	Inskipp 1989
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	w, 5	Chaudhary 1997
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	r?, 3	Chaudhary 1997
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	w, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	r, 2	Inskipp 1989
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997b
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	w, 3	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila hastata</i>	r, 3	Baral 1997b
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	w, 4	Baral 1995a
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	r, 5	Inskipp 1989
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997b
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>	w, 4	Giri 1998
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>	w, 4	Baral 2009
Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	r, 2	Inskipp 1989
Mountain Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	w, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Falconidae			
Collared Falconet	<i>Microhierax caerulescens</i>	w?, 5	GC 1999
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	w, m, 4	Baral Pers Obs.
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997ab

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chiquera</i>	r?, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	s, 4	Giri and Choudhary 1997
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	w, 4	Baral 1996a
Podicipedidae			
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	r, w?, 3	Inskipp 1989
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	w, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Anhingidae			
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Phalacrocoracidae			
Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Ardeidae			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Little Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	r, 2	Inskipp 1989
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Threskiornithidae			
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	w?, 4	Dev Raj Joshi verbally 2009, Hathan Chaudhary 2009
Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	m, 5	Baral 1995a
Ciconiidae			
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	s, r?, 4	Inskipp 1989
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997b
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	r, 2	Inskipp 1989
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	m, 5	GC 1999
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	w, r?, 4	Inskipp 1989
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
PASSERIFORMES			
Pittidae			
Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	bs, r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Irenidae			
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Laniidae			
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	w, 3	GC 1999

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	m, 4	Giri 1998
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Corvidae			
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	r?, 4	Baral 1997a
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	r, 3	GC 1999
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	bs, 3	Inskipp 1989
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	s, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Rosy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>	s, 4	Tika Giri verbally 2009, Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>	w, 3	Baral and Mills 1992, Chaudhary 1997
White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	br, 4	Inskipp 1989
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	r, 2	GC 1999
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Crow-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus annectans</i>	s, 4	Baral 1997b, Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	w, 4	Giri 1998
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Drongo			
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	bs, 3	Inskipp 1989
Asian Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	bs, 3	Inskipp 1989
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>	r?, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003, Dev Raj Joshi verbally 2009
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	br, 2	Baral 1997a
Muscicapidae			
Blue-capped Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>	m, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003, Tika Giri verbally 2009
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	w, 3	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	bs, 2	Inskipp 1989

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	w, 3	Baral 1995a
Tickell's Thrush	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Dark-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus ruficollis</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>	m, 4	Baral Pers Obs.
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	m, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Rusty-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ruficauda</i>	w, 4	Inskipp 1989
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophiatea</i>	w, 4	Baral and Mills 1992, Chaudhary 1997
Red-throated Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	w, 2	Baral 1991
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	w, 5	Baral and Mills 1992
Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	w, 5	Inskipp 1989
Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>	w, 5	Giri 1998
Slaty-blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	w, 3	Baral 1991
Pale-chinned Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>	br, 4	Baral 1996a
Blue-throated Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>	w?, 4	Baral 1997a
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia calliope</i>	w, 4	Inskipp 1989
White-tailed Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997a
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	w, m, 3	Baral and Mills 1992
White-capped Water Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	w, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>	r, 3	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Hodgson's Bushchat	<i>Saxicola insignis</i>	w, 2	Baral and Mills 1992
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989
White-tailed Stonechat	<i>Saxicola leucura</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Jerdon's Bushchat	<i>Saxicola jerdoni</i>	br, 3	Choudhary 1996
Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Variable Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>	m, 5	Giri 1998
Sturnidae			
Spot-winged Starling	<i>Saroglossa spiloptera</i>	w, 3	Giri 1998
Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	w, m, 2	Inskipp 1989
Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	br, 4	Dev Raj Joshi verbally 2009

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

Sittidae			
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	r?, 5	Baral and Mills 1992
Paridae			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Hirundinidae			
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	m, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Pale Martin	<i>Riparia diluta</i>	s, r?, 3	Giri and Choudhary 1997
Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	r, w, 1	Inskipp 1989
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	r, 2	Inskipp 1989
Streak-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo fluvicola</i>	s, r?, 3	Choudhary 1996, Giri and Choudhary 1997
Northern House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	w?, 5	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>	w, 5	Giri 1998
Nepal House Martin	<i>Delichon nipalensis</i>	w, 4	Inskipp 1989
Pycnonotidae			
Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>	r, 3	Bhatt and Shrestha 1977
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	w, 4	Dev Raj Joshi verbally 2009
Cisticolidae			
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Bright-capped Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	br, 3	Baral 1997b
Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Zosteropidae			
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Sylviidae			
Grey-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>	w, 5	Baral Pers Obs.
Pale-footed Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia pallidipes</i>	r?, 5	Inskipp 1989, Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia major</i>	w, 5	Baral 2007
Aberrant Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia flavolivacea</i>	w, 1	Baral and Mills 1992, Chaudhary 1997
Grey-sided Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>	w, 2	Baral 1995a, Chaudhary 1997
Spotted Bush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus thoracicus</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Lanceolated Warbler	<i>Locustella lanceolata</i>	m, 4	Inskipp 1989
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	m, 5	Inskipp and Inskipp 2001
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	w, m, 4	Baral 1997b
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997b
Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>	w, 4	Chaudhary 1997
Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	m, 5	Baral et al. 2002
Booted Warbler	<i>Hippolais caligata</i>	w, 3	Baral 1997ab
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	w, m, 2	Inskipp 1989
Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	w, m, 3	Inskipp 1989
Smoky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuligiventer</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	w, m, 3	Inskipp 1989
Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>	m, 4	Baral Pers Obs.
Lemon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	w?, m, 5	Tika Giri verbally 2009
Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989
Large-billed Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>	m, 5	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Western Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>	m, 5	Inskipp and Inskipp 2001, Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Golden-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus burkii</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Whistler's Warbler	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>	w, 2	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Bristled Grassbird	<i>Chaetornis striatus</i>	s, r?, 2	Baral 1997c
Rufous-rumped Grassbird	<i>Graminicola bengalensis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	r, 5	GC 1999
Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	r, 3	Baral 1996a
Striped Tit Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Chestnut-capped Babbler	<i>Timalia pileata</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Jerdon's Babbler	<i>Chrysomma altirostre</i>	r, 5	Giri 1998, Inskipp and Inskipp 2001
Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	r?, 5	Bhatt and Shrestha 1977
Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
White-bellied Yuhina	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>	w?, 5	Baral and Mills 1992, Chaudhary 1997
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	m, 5	Baral Pers Obs.
Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	m, 4	Inskipp 1989
Alaudidae			
Singing Lark	<i>Mirafraga cantillans</i>	s, r?, 4	Baral 1998b
Rufous-winged Lark	<i>Mirafraga assamica</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	w?, r? 5	Giri 1998
Sand Lark	<i>Calandrella raytal</i>	br, 1	GC 1999
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	r, 4	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989

H.S. Baral and C. Inskipp/ Our Nature (2009) 7: 56-81

Nectariniidae			
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	r, 2	Inskipp 1989
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	r, 3	Inskipp 1989
Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	w, 4	Bhatt and Shrestha 1977
Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	r, 4	Inskipp 1989
Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera magna</i>	r?, 5	Subedi and Shrestha 2003
Passeridae			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	br, 3	Inskipp 1989
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	r, 4	
Chestnut-shouldered	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	br, 1	Inskipp 1989
Petronia			
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	w, 1	Inskipp 1989
White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	w, m, 2	Inskipp 1989
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	w, m, 3	Inskipp 1989
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	br, 1	Baral 1997a
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	w, 4	Baral 1997a
Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>	w, 4	Baral 1995a
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	w, 3	Baral and Mills 1992
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	w, m, 4	Baral 1997a
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	w?, 5	Baral 1997b
Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	w, 2	Baral 1997b
Black-breasted Weaver	<i>Ploceus benghalensis</i>	r, 1	Inskipp 1989
Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>	r?, 4	Inskipp 1989
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	r, 1	Inskipp 1989
Finn's Weaver	<i>Ploceus megarhynchus</i>	br, 2	Baral 1998b
Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	br, 2	Inskipp 1989
Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	r, 4	Baral 1997b
Fringillidae			
Yellow-breasted	<i>Carduelis spinoides</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989
Greenfinch			
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Crested Bunting	<i>Melophus lathamii</i>	w, 2	Inskipp 1989
Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>	w, 3	Chaudhary 1997
Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	w, 3	Inskipp 1989

R= resident, b= breeding confirmed, w= winter, m= migrant, s= summer, 1= common, 2= fairly common, 3= occasional, 4= uncommon, 5= rare