



The Status of Nepal's Birds: The National Red List Series



Volume 3





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Keywords: Nepal, biodiversity, threatened species, conservation, birds, Red List.

Front Cover

Otus bakkamoena

A pair of Collared Scops Owls; owls are highly threatened especially by persecution

Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

Back Cover

Aceros nipalensis

A pair of Rufous-necked Hornbills; species Hodgson first described for science and sadly now extinct in Nepal.

Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

The designation of geographical entities in this book, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of participating organizations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of any participating organizations.

Notes on front and back cover design:

The watercolours reproduced on the covers and within this book are taken from the notebooks of Brian Houghton Hodgson (1800-1894). For 23 years, Hodgson was posted to Nepal as an official of the British East India Company—at a time when Nepal was virtually terra incognita to Europeans. Hodgson was an energetic polymath who, in addition to carrying out his political and diplomatic duties, published widely on the ethnography, linguistics, architecture, religion and natural history of Nepal and the Himalayas. He published more than 140 scientific papers on zoological subjects, ranging from descriptions of new species to checklists of the fauna. A projected massive volume surveying the birds and mammals of the central Himalaya was unfortunately never completed due to lack of funds, but the present paintings are taken from sketchbooks which Hodgson presented to the Zoological Society of London toward the end of his life. These voluminous collections comprise approximately 1500 pages of drawings, studies and miscellaneous notes. The species depictions were done in watercolours very largely by one Nepalese artist, Raj Man Singh trained by Hodgson to paint birds and mammals in a natural, lifelike manner surprisingly modern in comparison with European and American artists of the day.

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL), founded in 1826, is a world-renowned centre of excellence for conservation science and applied conservation (registered charity in England and Wales number 2087282). Our mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. This is realized by carrying out field conservation and research in over 80 countries across the globe and through education and awareness at our zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, inspiring people to take conservation action.



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Foreword

Nepal is situated at the heart of the great Himalayan range and at a unique juncture of two of the world's important biogeographic regions. Altitudinal variation over a short span ranges from 60 m above sea-level to 8,848 m, *Sagarmatha*, the highest point on Earth. Traversing north to south or east to west, one experiences great contrasts in vegetation and wildlife associated. This unique biogeographical setting has bestowed Nepal with rich biodiversity. Nepal is also diverse in its ethnicity, culture and religion, giving it one of the richest social settings in the world.

Nepal is exceptionally rich in terms of avian diversity. So far 878 species of birds have been reported from the country which equals 8% of avifauna recorded in the world. *Danphe*, the national bird of Nepal, is one of the most colourful birds in the world. *Kande Bhyakur* or Spiny Babbler is endemic to our country. Nepal is a very rare country where as many as nine species of vultures are recorded, a high total that no other country of this size can boast. Bar-headed Goose has been recorded flying atop the *Sagarmatha*; the world's largest living woodpecker Great Slaty Woodpecker haunts mature terai forests of west-central Nepal; the world's tallest flying bird *Sarus* dwells in farmlands of central lowland Nepal, whereas the world's largest passerine, Raven guards the mountain villages. Nepal is indeed not a small country when avian diversity is considered.

Much of the biodiversity in the country has been conserved through the establishment and commendable management of the protected area system. Protected areas cover nearly one quarter of the country's land mass and represents diverse ecosystems at various elevations. Unfortunately not all is good with birds. One fifth of Nepal's birds are nationally threatened and several are even extirpated in Nepal. In particular, ecosystems and biodiversity outside the protected areas suffer the greatest threat, primarily due to habitat loss, hunting and disturbance, poisoning, climate change, agrochemicals, and invasive species. All vulture species and birds of prey are in decline, so are many large wading birds of the country. The Nepal government remains committed to reversing this trend and conserve the rich natural heritage that it has been graced with. The Ministry and its various departments especially the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation has been working relentlessly with various conservation partners in a unified way. We must gear up support from all quarters to protect our vanishing avifauna.

This phenomenal and biblical document on birds of Nepal will be an invaluable source of reference to researchers, ornithologists, natural resource managers, conservationists, campaigners, policy makers and planners alike. This document provides important information on taxonomy, distribution, populations, ecology and finally a fair assessment of bird's status applying IUCN regional criteria for threat categories. The information contained here will form the baseline for further development and research in the field of avian conservation in Nepal and in this region. I hope much more bird research and conservation work will be initiated in the future.

I would like to thank the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Zoological Society of London, Himalayan Nature and all other conservation partners and the very large number of individuals who have been involved with coordination, supports and sharing their long-standing knowledge to complete the work. Finally I thank Zoological Society of London for generously supporting this work through the much required resources.

Uday Chandra Thakur
Secretary
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
Government of Nepal

Foreword

My first visit to Nepal was in 1978, having travelled overland with friends from the UK. I will forever remember the remarkable diversity of bird life that greeted us in the Sal forests of the Terai – the feeding parties, seemingly in a hurry, packed full of woodpeckers, drongos, flycatchers, and warblers. Bird after bird was new for me and I was in heaven. Three years later, on a second trip, a stunning male Satyr Tragopan, eventually revealing itself from a bamboo clump on the steep Himalayan slopes above Ghasa, remains one of my most memorable birding experiences.

Then, and now, Nepal's bird life is renowned and enjoyed for its splendour and extraordinary diversity. To date, 878 species of bird have been recorded in the country - putting Nepal in the premier league of bird-rich countries. This bird diversity is however under threat, and as the world over, many species are in decline.

This study has been undertaken to assess for the first time the national conservation status of Nepal's birds, and in particular to identify those species that are threatened with extinction in the country. Such an assessment is vital in order to guide conservation activities in the country. The study has been led by three renowned bird experts, Carol and Tim Inskipp, and Hem Sagar Baral. The study runs to well over 3000 pages, with over 2000 references. It would not have been possible however without the extraordinary contribution from Nepali birders who have contributed an immense amount of original material. During the assessment process two national workshops, each hosted by the National Trust for Nature Conservation, were held, in October 2012 and October 2015. These were each attended by over 60 bird experts, almost all Nepalis and comprised field workers, bird guides, field ornithologists and researchers, NGO staff and government officers who provided invaluable records and comments on the species' assessments. The findings of this review are both revealing and cause for great concern. Nearly 20% of Nepal's birds (167 species) are threatened with extinction in the country (Satyr Tragopan is one of them) including 37 species which are threatened on a global scale. A further 62 species are near-threatened nationally. Nine species are now extirpated in Nepal and have not been recorded since the 19th century. Lowland grassland specialist birds are the most threatened group of birds with 55% of the birds threatened, followed by wetland birds (25%) and tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest birds (24%). Of particular note, is the importance of Nepal for the following globally threatened species, which have globally important populations in the country: Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii*; Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis*; Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*; Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*; White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*; Grey-crowned Prinia *Prinia cinereocapilla*, and Slender-billed Babbler *Turdoides longirostris*.

Nepal is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and alongside other nations, has committed by 2020 to prevent species extinction, and to improve the conservation status of threatened species, particularly those that are most in decline. This review therefore provides an excellent basis for putting in place the necessary strategies and action plans, so that this commitment might be met and continued beyond 2020. It further provides a baseline against which progress can be measured, and Nepal's birds can be monitored over the longer term. The Status of Nepal's Birds has been an immense project and is testimony to the dedication and commitment of its main authors. It was only possible due to the contribution of many committed scientists and conservationists, and the close collaboration between: the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation; the National Trust for Nature Conservation; the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Zoological Society of London. It is vital that all involved, and others, now rally together to deliver on the conservation actions that are needed. So that Nepal can continue to be proud of its extraordinary and diverse bird life, including the spectacular Satyr Tragopan!



Richard Grimmett, Head of Conservation, BirdLife International

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Caprimulgiformes



Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
Photo by Manshanta Ghimire

Caprimulgus asiaticus Latham, 1790 EN

Subspecies: *Caprimulgus asiaticus asiaticus*

Common Name

Indian Nightjar (English),

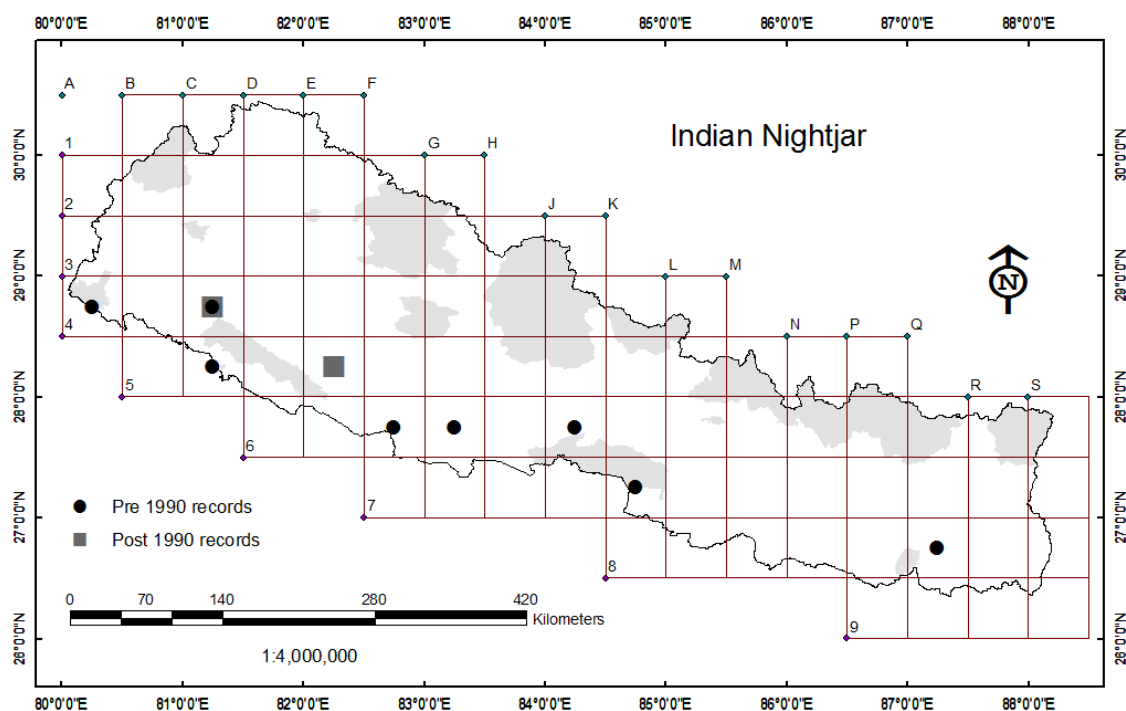
Chukchuke Chaitechara (Nepali)

Order: Caprimulgiformes

Family: Caprimulgidae



Distribution



Indian Nightjar is a very rare resident or visitor to the terai. The first Nepal record was at Simra airport, Bara District in March 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964). There is only one known record since 1990.

The species was described as scarce by Fleming Sr. *et al.* (1976) and by Inskipp and Inskipp (1991). Schaaf *et al.* (1980) considered it resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in 1979. There are a few records from Bardia National Park: recorded without details by Bolton (1976), one flushed in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982) and also recorded there in February 1990 by Egger *et al.* (1990). In Kapilvastu District it was reported in 1978 at Gorsinge and also Tilaurakot (Cox 1982). In the eastern terai It was recorded near Chatra, Sunsari District in 1975 (Gregory Smith 1975, Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976), at Dharan in April 1979 (Redman and Murphy 1979), and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in May 1982 by Inskipp and Inskipp (1982). There are no later records from any of these localities.

There are a few spring reports from Chitwan National Park: Gurung(1983), Warwick(1986), Bose *et al.* (1989) and one was photographed near Tamor Tal in March 2013 (Umang Jung Thapa). The only other known post-1990 record is of two in Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area, Dang District in March 2009 (Thakuri 2009a,b).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List

for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Indian Nightjar, but observations indicate that numbers must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 20; maximum population: 100

Habitat and Ecology

Indian Nightjar frequents dry, fallow cultivation and dry scrub and can be seen on dusty tracks near cultivation at night (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on moths, beetles, bugs and other dusk-flying insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). According to Ali and Ripley (1987) the species is mainly resident, but a seasonal visitor to some parts. In Nepal its status and movements are uncertain. It has mainly been recorded in the breeding season when the birds are calling and much more easily located.

Threats

Threats to Indian Nightjar are unknown. It is possibly at risk from pesticides, by direct poisoning and also indirectly by food shortage.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Indian Nightjar. There is only one post-1990 record from a protected area, in Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Indian Nightjar has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ae?, C2a(i) and D1. It is a very rare visitor or resident to the terai; there are only two known records of the species since 1990. Recently it has not been found at several localities where it has been recorded previously e.g. Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and Bardia National Park. There is only one post-1990 record from within the protected areas' system, in Chitwan National Park. Threats to the species are unknown but it is possibly at risk from pesticides, either by direct poisoning or indirectly through lack of food.

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Caprimulgus affinis Horsfield, 1821 NT

Subspecies: *Caprimulgus affinis monticolus*

Common Name

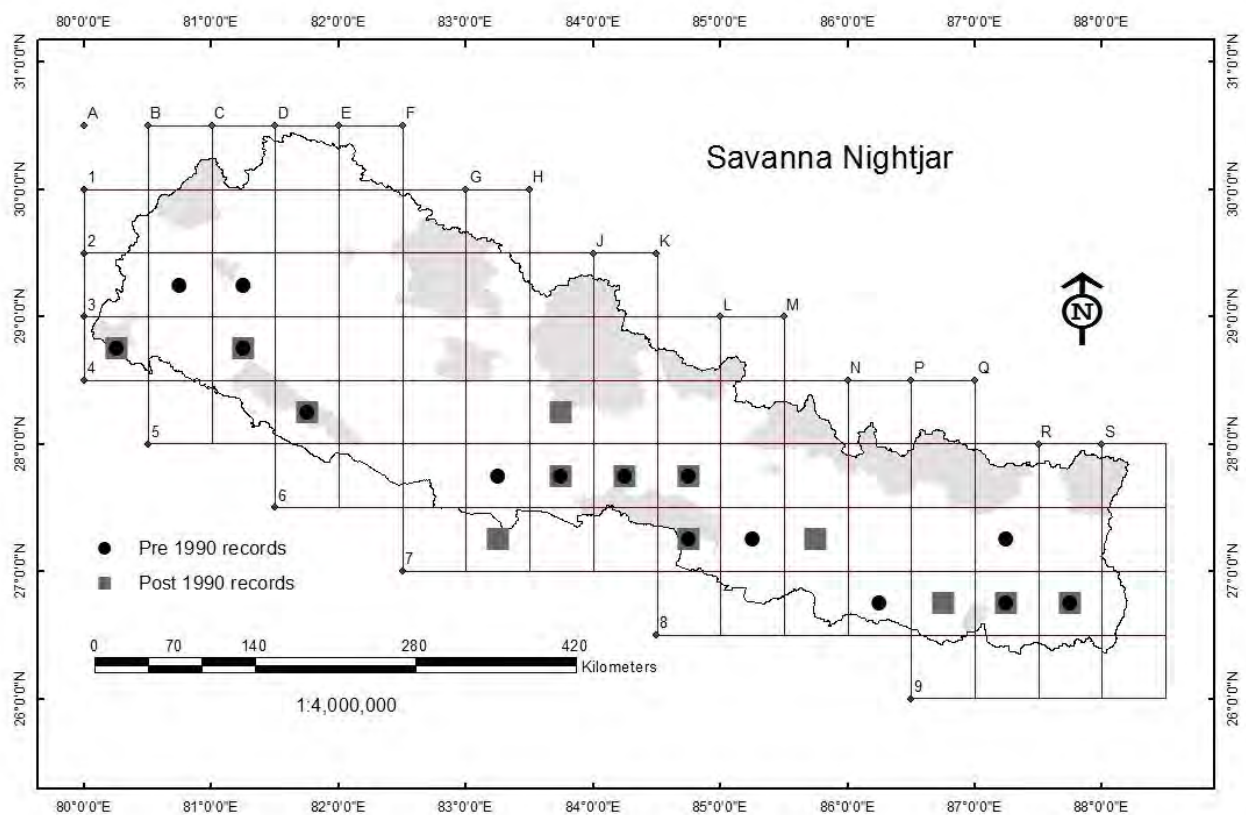
Savanna Nightjar (English),
Chuiya Chaitechara (Nepali)

Order: Caprimulgiformes

Family: Caprimulgidae



Distribution



Savanna Nightjar is a locally fairly common resident in some protected areas. It is apparently rare outside the protected areas' system, but may well be overlooked. It has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in the far east (Baral 2005).

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident.

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it as occasionally recorded in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, common in Bardia National Park, fairly common in Chitwan National Park, but only single records from elsewhere. Its movements were considered unclear. Only two winter records were known, although the lack of winter records may be attributed to the species' silence during the non-breeding season (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species was found in small numbers in the central bhabar and dun in 1948/49 (Biswas 1961).

The species' distribution has not changed significantly since 1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: fairly common, possibly only a summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009), but it has been recorded in winter, e.g. in January 2009 (Baral 2009a) and February 2011 (Chaudhary 2011); an uncommon resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park in February 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); described as a fairly common summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but it has been recorded in winter, e.g. January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001) and February 2009 (Baral 2009b); recorded in Parsa Wildlife Reserve in March (Todd 2001), and a frequent summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005).

The species has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Meghauri in May 1994 (Drijvers 1995), March 1999 (Ghimire 1999) and March 2001 (Wright and Lawson 2001); Sauraha, January-March in 2013-15 (Tika Giri, Fuleshwor Chaudhary, Ram Giri Chaudhar); Hattisar (Tika Giri); Kumroj Community Forest in 2014 summer (Bishnu Mahato); Pipariya Ghat in March 2014 (TB Gurung, BES), and west of the park, Nawalparasi District (H6) in February 2010 (Baral 2010).

There are few known records outside the protected areas' system, although it may be under-recorded because of its crepuscular and nocturnal habits.

In the west known records from: Geruwa, Bardia District in March 2015 (Ram Bahadur Shahi); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002) and close to Shangri-La Village Resort, Pokhara, Kaski District (H5) in March 1997 (Giri and Choudhary 1997).

In central Nepal one was seen at Uppardhanghadi, Chitwan District in March 2015 (BES).

In the east known records are from: Bandipur, Siraha district (M7) in April 2013 (Anish Timilsina, Dheeraj Chaudhary); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in November 2001 (Koshi Camp 2001) and in grassy river islands near Koshi Bird Observatory in 2012 (Hem Sagar Baral); regularly sighted from 2013-2015 at Kosi Bird Observatory, Sunsari District (KBS), and recorded by the Garuwa River, Ilam District in March 1998 (Hathan Chaudhary).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m (915 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

A total of 17 birds was recorded during a survey of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and adjoining areas in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013). A total of 10 pairs was recorded in 2001 in the Meghauri area, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in March 2001 (Wright and Lawson 2001) and 8-10 near Kosi Bird Observatory, 2013-15 (Koshi Bird Society). No other surveys of the species have been carried out.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Savanna Nightjar inhabits open forest and scrubby hillsides (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); also along rivers and neighbouring fields (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It inhabits short grassland primarily dominated by *Imperata cylindrica* and *Saccharum spontaneum* in Koshi, Chitwan and Sukla Phanta (H. S. Baral pers. obs.). The species has typical nightjar behaviour (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species spends the day on the ground amongst boulders in shade along river courses. At dusk it often sits on a rock before starting to hunt; then it patrols a limited area briefly before moving on. Usually it flies low over boulder-strewn banks near water, but also over fields (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983), Koshi Tappu Wildlife

Reserve and in river islands near Kosi Bird Observatory (H. S. Baral 2012). In the latter place up to four recently fledged young were located in April 2012 (H. S. Baral).

Threats

Savanna Nightjar is possibly at risk from pesticides, by direct poisoning and also indirectly by food shortage. Since the species prefers short, open grassland, loss of habitat could be an additional threat to the species.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Savanna Nightjar. Since 1990 it has been recorded from all lowland protected areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Savanna Nightjar has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a locally fairly common resident in some protected areas, but is apparently rare outside the protected areas' system, although it may be overlooked. It has been recorded from the far west to the far east and from all lowland protected areas post-1990. There are few records outside the protected areas' system both pre- and post-1990. Threats to the species are unknown. Outside protected areas it is threatened by habitat loss as it prefers to hunt over short grassland. It is also possibly at risk from pesticides, by direct poisoning and also indirectly by food shortage. Its population has probably declined.

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***Caprimulgus indicus* (Latham), 1790 LC**

Subspecies: *Caprimulgus indicus hazarae*

Common Name

Grey Nightjar (English),

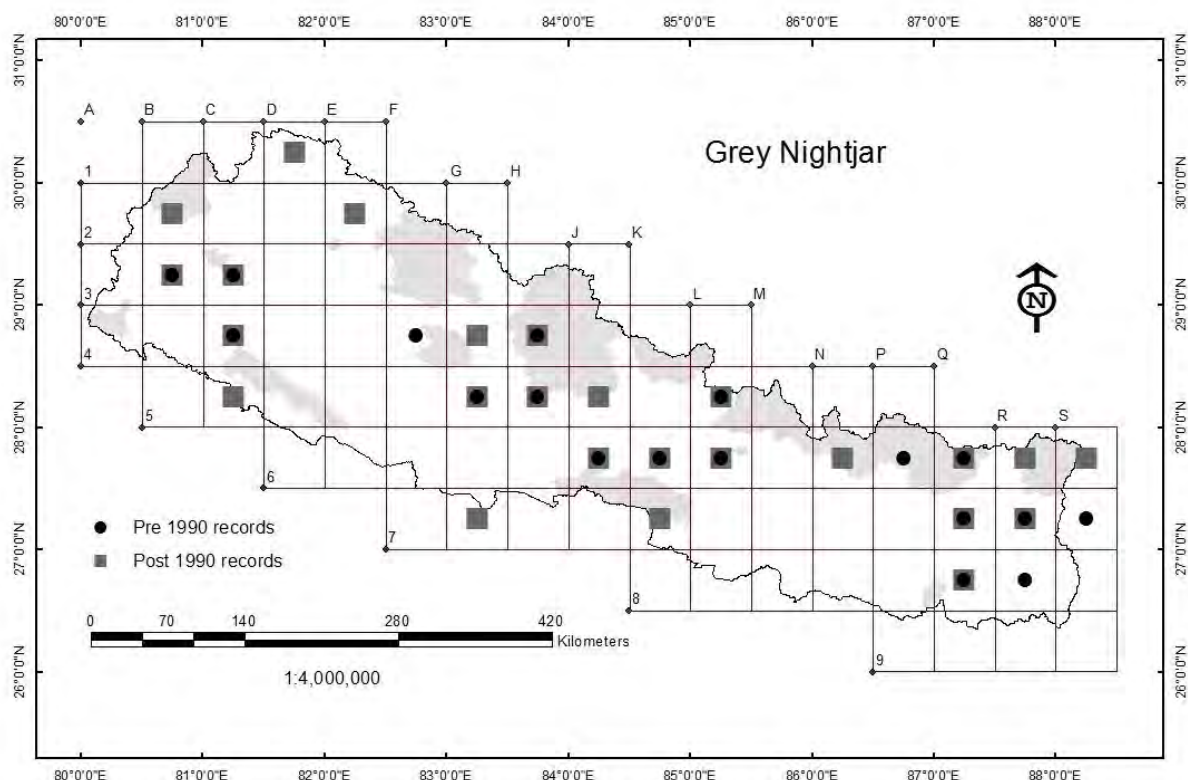
Phusro Chaitechara (Nepali)

Order: Caprimulgiformes

Family: Caprimulgidae



Distribution



Grey Nightjar is a fairly common and quite widespread resident and partial migrant. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (White and White 1997) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) found it a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a fairly common resident and partial altitudinal migrant and mapped its distribution quite widely from the far west to the far east.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has increased, especially in the west, probably because of better recording.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: recorded in the Chameliya watershed (B2) in March-April 2012, Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a fairly common summer visitor to Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a rare

summer visitor to Rara National Park (Giri 2005); fairly common, possibly resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Thakuri 2013a); a fairly common summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a summer visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001); an uncommon resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007), also recorded on Nagarjun, e.g. Fouarge (1992); fairly common, possibly resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009); a fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a) and fairly common in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6, S6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The species has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996).

The species is quite widely distributed outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from: lower Karnali Basin along Bardia-Katarniaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); near Simikot (D1), Humla District in June 2002 (Grimm and Fischer 2003); several localities in Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); between Bagara and Bhainsi Kharka, Myagdi Khola (G4) and the vicinity of Pinde Odar (G4) Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupendehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002), and in the Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District in March 2009 (Baral 2009).

In central Nepal records include from: the Kathmandu Valley, e.g. on lower slopes of Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in late April 1998, (Hem Sagar Baral in Mallalieu 2008) and in February 1999 (Ghimire 1999), at Pharping in May 1998 (Jim Sanderson in Mallalieu 2008) and also recently on Champa Devi (Friends of Bird).

In the east records include from: Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); Sankhuwa Khola (Q7), Bhojpur District and Pikhua (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); between Tumlingtar and Bhotebesi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); Patnali forest, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in January 2010 (Baral 2010), and at Dobhan and Lali Kharka (R7), Taplejung District (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2895 m (-3500 m) (summer); 915 m (winter); lower limit: 610 m (summer); 180 m (winter)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Grey Nightjar. Its population may have increased as a result of deforestation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Grey Nightjar inhabits forest clearings and scrub-covered slopes (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); also over cultivated fields (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It has typical nightjar behaviour, crepuscular and nocturnal. By day it perches on the ground or lengthways on a branch and is difficult to detect because of its cryptically patterned plumage. All its food is caught on the wing. Typically it flies erratically to and fro among vegetation, occasionally wheeling, gliding and hovering to pick insects from foliage. It is most easily detected by its calls and songs (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on moths, bugs, beetles and other winged insects captured in the air (Ali and

Ripley 1987).

Threats

Threats to Grey Nightjar are unknown. It may have benefited from deforestation which has created more habitat suitable for the species.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Grey Nightjar. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Bardia, Rara, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Grey Nightjar has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common and quite widespread resident and partial migrant recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 its distribution has spread significantly, probably partly because of better coverage, especially in the west, and possibly also because of deforestation which may have led to an increase in its preferred habitats. The species has been recorded from many protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system. Threats to the species are unknown.

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***Caprimulgus macrurus* Horsfield, 1821 NT**

Subspecies: *Caprimulgus macrurus albonotatus*

Common Name

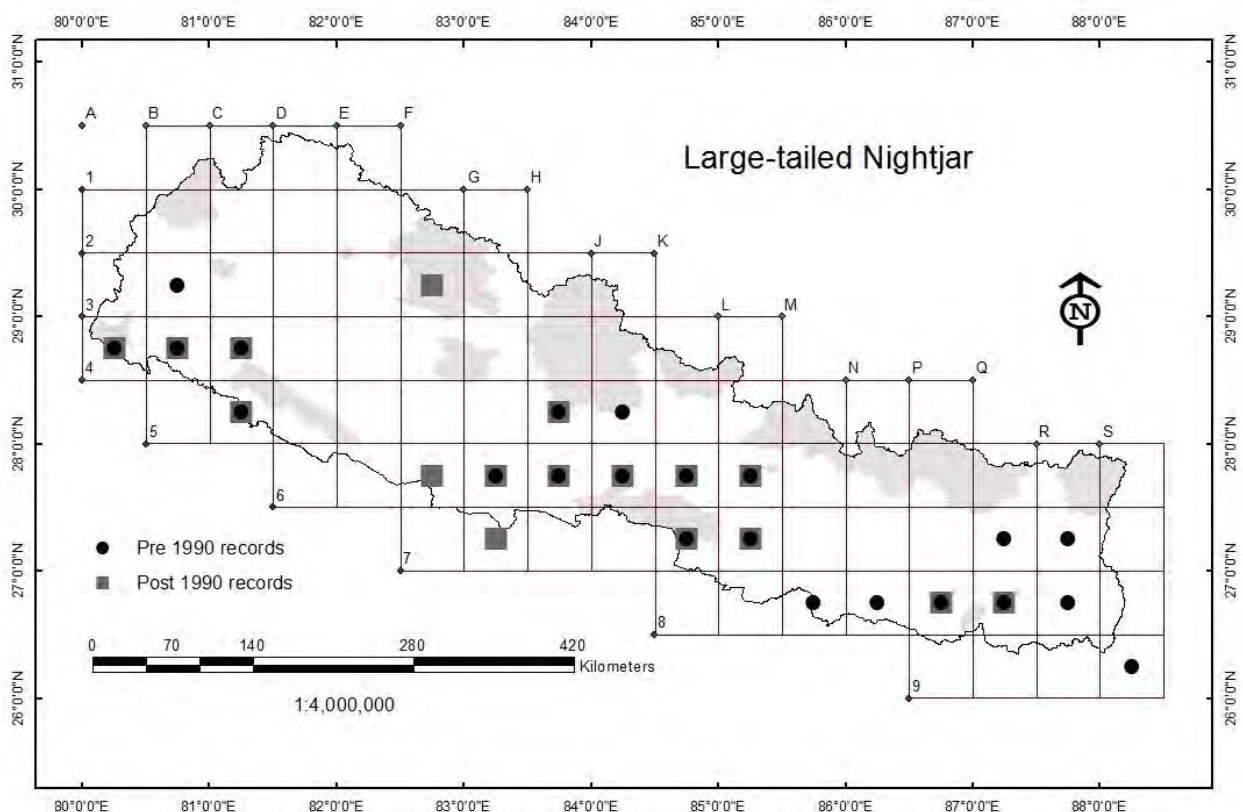
Large-tailed Nightjar (English),
Lampuchhre Chaitechara (Nepali)

Order: Caprimulgiformes

Family: Caprimulgidae



Distribution



Large-tailed Nightjar is locally distributed, fairly common resident in lowland protected areas, but is generally local and uncommon outside the protected areas' system in central and eastern Nepal. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Raja Rana Community Forest, Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a common resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was fairly common and mapped it quite widely in the far west and from west-central Nepal eastwards.

Since 1990 the distribution of Large-tailed Nightjar has significantly reduced in central and eastern Nepal, see text below and map.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001), and a fairly common

resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001), and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). The species has been included for Kanchenjunga Conservation Area without details by Thapa and Karki (2005). Priemé and Øksnebjerg (1995) reported observing one in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3) at the unusually high altitude of 3100 m in mixed oak/pine forest above Toijam Ranger post in April 1992 and concluded this individual had probably 'overshot' its spring migration route. SNP and BCN (2007) list it as an uncommon winter visitor to Shivapuri, but no post-1990 records could be located from the park.

It has been recorded widely in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: at Megghauli in March 1999 (Ghimire 1999) and September 2015 (Ashik Gurung); Janakauli and Beeshazari Tal, Barandabhar Important Bird Area in February 2008 (Baral 1996, Giri 2008); in Raptiehta Community Forest, Chitwan District (K6) in August 2014 (Chandra S. Chaudhary); Sauraha, Chitwan District, e.g. in March 2013 (Fuleshwor Chaudhary) and in February and April 2014 and February 2015 (Tika Giri); from Amaltari Community forest, Nawalparasi District in May and September 2015 (DB Chaudhary, Shambhu Mahato Sagar Giri); in Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi in April 2015 (DB Chaudhary, Kewal Chaudhary, Yam Bahadur Nepali); one in Gundre Dhakaha Community Forest, Nawalparasi District in September 2015 (BES team, Shambhu Mahato, Shambhu Mahat, Nagendra Mahato and DB Chaudhary), and in Pandabnagar, Madi in May 2015 (Raju Tamang). It has also been recorded from Bardia National Park buffer zone in Khata forest corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007); ,

The species has been less frequently and less widely recorded outside the protected areas' system since 1990, especially in central and eastern Nepal, even though it may be under-recorded because of its crepuscular and nocturnal habits.

Records from the west include: a fairly common resident Ghodaghodi Tal (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); one pair from Banganga forest (F6), Kapilvastu District in November, 2011 (Dinesh Giri, Seejan Gyawali, Karan Shah); between Lumbini and Taulihawa (G6), Kapilvastu District in February 2011 (Acharya 2011); from Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002). two north of Lumbini in Rudrapur Community Forest, Rupandehi District in winter 2012 (Dinesh Giri); one annually in spring in Raniban, Pokhara valley, Kaski District and one in Pokhara airport in February 2014 (Hari KC).

Records from central Nepal include from: Laukhani, Nawalparasi district (DB Chaudhary and Alina Chaudhary) between Kat Mandir, Bara District and Forest Camp N of E-W Highway (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003). The species is listed as a frequent summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley by Fleming and Fleming (1970), but only one post-1990 record could be located: from Bosan Danda above Taudaha (photographed) in March 2009 (Bird Conservation Nepal Saturday walk).

Records from the east include from: Bandipur, Siraha district (Dheeraj R Chaudhary); Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District, e.g. in December 1998 (Choudhary 1998); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002), September 2010 (Baral 2010) and April 2013 (Dheeraj R Chaudhary); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); Patnali, Sunsari District in August 2015 (KBS), and Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005). One bird in Patnali forest, Sunsari district in August 2015 (KBS).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (- 3100 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Large-tailed Nightjar. As its distribution outside protected areas has significantly reduced it is likely that its population has declined.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Large-tailed Nightjar chiefly inhabits the tropical and subtropical zone in forest clearings and at forest edges (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Its behaviour is typical of nightjars and is crepuscular and nocturnal. It flies erratically to and fro over and among vegetation, occasionally wheeling, gliding and hovering to pick insects from foliage. It often squats on forest paths and roads at night (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species sleeps amongst leaves on the forest floor during the day (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds on moths, beetles and other night-flying insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and also north of Lumbini, Rudrapur Community Forest, Rupandehi District, where a female with a single egg in July, 2015 (Karan Bdr. Shah, Seejan Gyawali). Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered its movements are uncertain.

Threats

Large-tailed Nightjar is threatened by habitat loss.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Large-tailed Nightjar. Post-1990 it has been recorded in most lowland protected areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Large-tailed Nightjar has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is locally distributed, fairly common and resident in lowland protected areas, but is generally local and uncommon outside the protected areas' system in central and eastern Nepal. Since 1990 the species' distribution has significantly reduced in central and eastern Nepal. The species is now mainly recorded from lower elevations within its altitudinal range, for example it no longer apparently regularly visits the Kathmandu Valley in summer. It is threatened by complete loss of forest cover and is possibly also at risk from pesticides, by direct poisoning and also indirectly by food shortage. It is threatened possibly also by hunting and unintentional road kills along the forest roads and highways. As a result its population is probably declining.

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Apodiformes



Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*
Photo by Utsab Jung Thapa

Zoonavena sylvatica (Tickell, 1846) NT

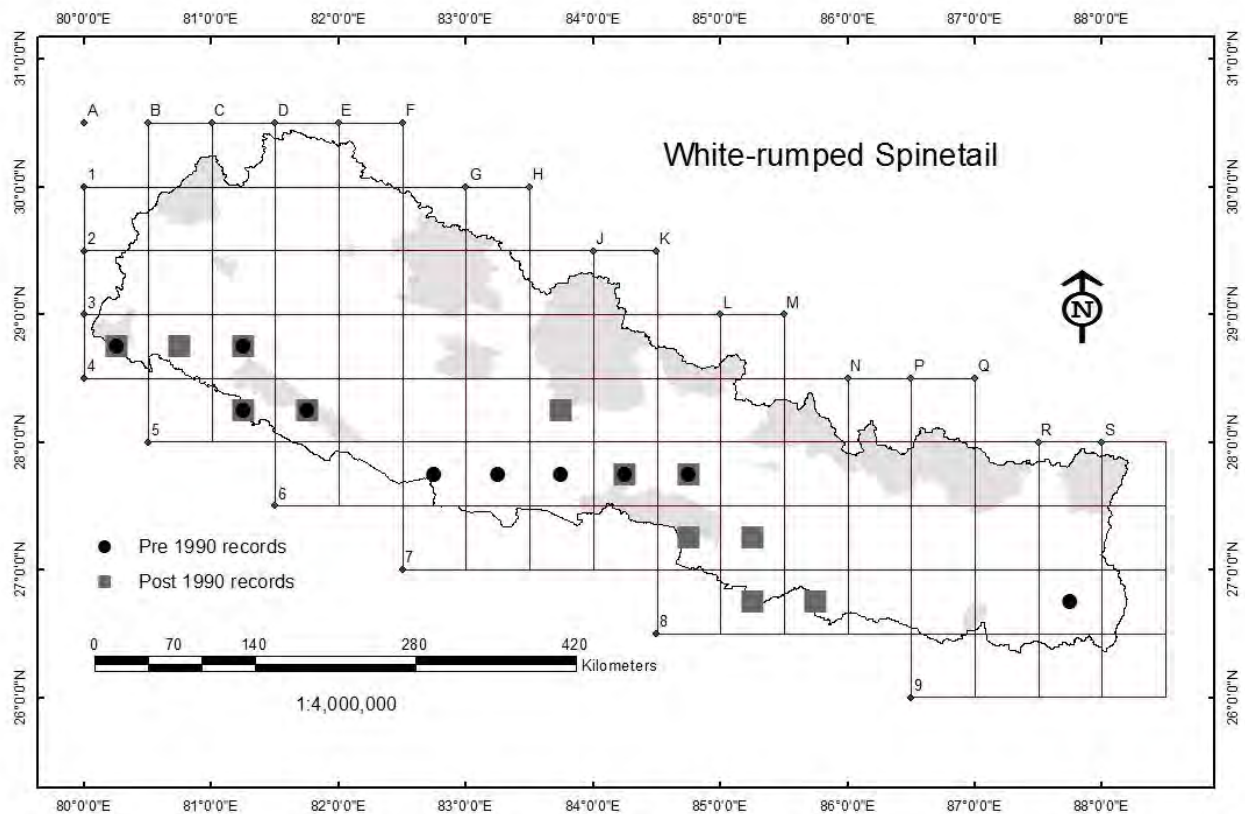
Common Name

White-rumped Spinetail (English),
Sano Ban Gaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes
Family: Apodidae



Distribution



White-rumped Spinetail is a local resident, regularly recorded in lowland protected areas from the far west to central Nepal, but with few records outside the protected areas' system. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the west to Sarlahi District (Baral *et al.* 2012, Tika Giri) in east-central Nepal.

The first Nepal record of the species was from Mahendra Rajmarg, Nawalparasi District (J6) in March 1972 (Fleming *et al.* 1976).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was scarce; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as local and uncommon, possibly resident.

The species' distribution has not changed significantly since 1990, but this may be because of increased coverage and better identification skills, see text below and map.

The post-1990 distribution of the species in protected areas is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); Inskipp (2001) listed it as frequent, possibly resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5), but it is regularly recorded (BNCC, RDB Workshop, October 2015). Baral and Upadhyay (2006) listed it as a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6), but it is regularly recorded (BES, RDB Workshop, October 2015). It is resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001) and was regularly seen there, 2012-15 (Kapil Pokharel). It has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: regularly seen in Madi valley (Hem Subedi, Manshanta Ghimire, Manoj Ghimire, Tek Bahadur Gurung, Ramesh Chaudhary) and at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (e.g. Baral 1996, Inskipp and Inskipp 2001, Naylor *et al.* 2002, Pradhan 2005) and also recorded at Sauraha, Chitwan District in April 1992 (Baral 1992) and Kumrose Community Forest in 2014 (Surendra Mahato).

However, there are very few records outside the protected areas' system since 1990, see map and text below.

In the west records include from Ghodaghodi Tal (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); around Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992) and regularly seen in Pokhara valley (TMPL, Hathan Chaudhary, RDB Workshop, October 2015).

In central Nepal records include from near Jugedi, Chitwan District in winter 2004 (Suchit Basnet); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in December 2001 (Naylor *et al.* 2002), and over the East-West Highway (L8), Bara District in January 1992 (Hem Sagar Baral).

In the east it has been recorded from over the Kamala River (M8), Sarlahi District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012) and over Sagarnath forest, Sarlahi District in March 2013 (Tika Giri).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, India, Nepal (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (- 1380 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for White-rumped Spinetail.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

White-rumped Spinetail inhabits lowland broadleaved forest (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). It hawks over forest, sometimes descending to dash between trees with astonishing manoeuvrability (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is highly gregarious, rarely being seen alone and usually in small groups (Chantler and Driessens 2000). The species feeds on flying insects, mainly beetles (Coleoptera) and bugs (Hemiptera) (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

White-rumped Spinetail is threatened by loss and degradation of its lowland broadleaved habitat and food shortage outside of the protected areas' system.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for White-rumped Spinetail. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near Threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-rumped Spinetail has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local resident, regularly recorded in lowland protected areas from the far west to central Nepal, but with few records outside the protected areas' system. The species' distribution has not changed significantly since 1990, perhaps due to increased coverage and better identification skills. It is threatened by loss and degradation of its lowland broadleaved habitat and food shortage outside of the protected areas' system. As a result its population is probably declining.

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Apus apus (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Apus apus pekinensis*

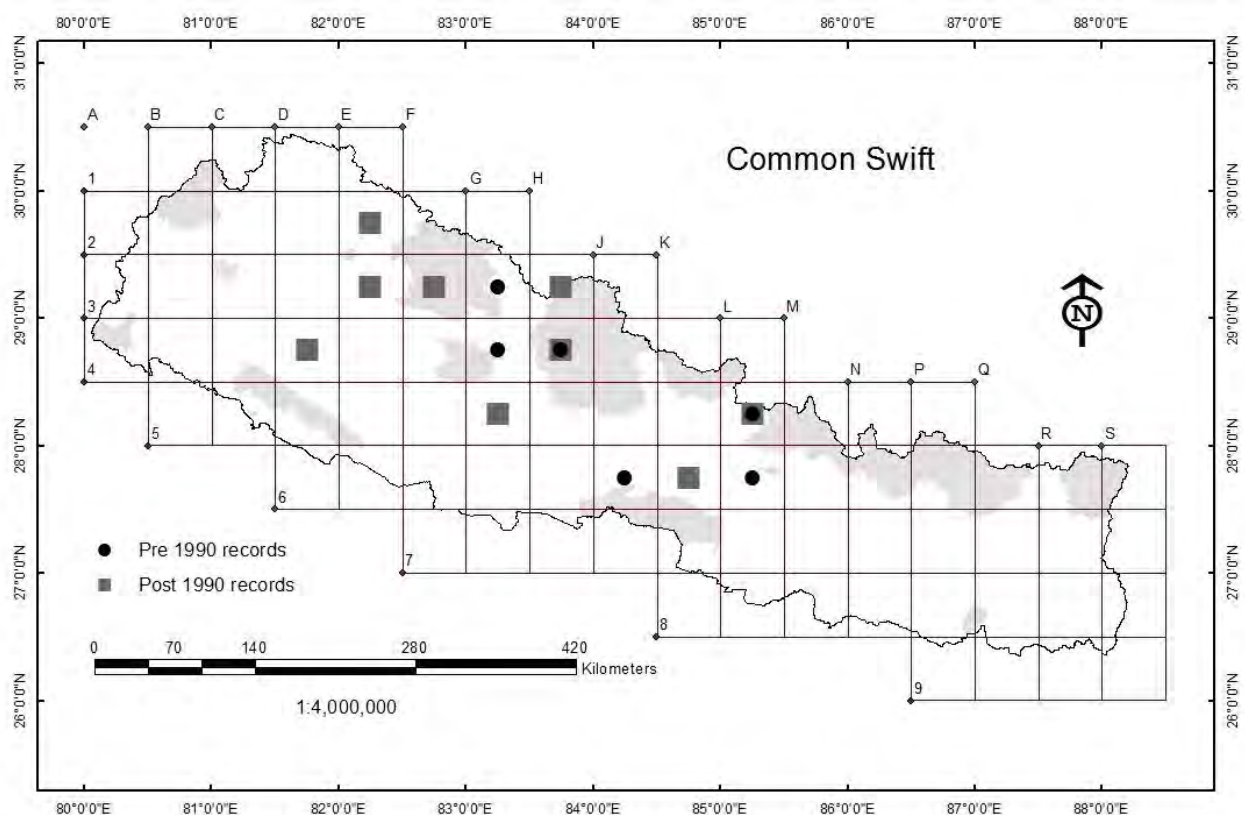
Common Name

Common Swift (English),
Khairo Gaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes
Family: Apodidae



Distribution



Common Swift is a local summer visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Rara National Park (Giri 2005) in the west to Langtang National Park (Chaudhary 1998, GC 2002) in central Nepal.

The first Nepal record of the species was from Dolpo (F4) in in June 1970 (Martens and Eck 1995).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it was scarce. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a local summer visitor; common in summer north of Annapurna (H4) and fairly common north of Dhaulagiri (G4). There were also single records from Syabru, Langtang National Park, Kathmandu and Kakani, Kathmandu Valley and at Chitwan.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has been extended probably because of better coverage.

Martens and Eck (1995) considered that the species' breeding range is small and seems to be quite isolated in the Himalayas and confined to the dry inner valleys and the northern slopes of the Dhaulagiri and Annapurna massifs during summer; however, it may also breed in Langtang National Park as there are a few breeding

season records.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: recorded in April 1995 in Rara National Park (White and White 1995 in Giri 2005) and fairly common around Shey (F3) in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 2005). The species was described as a fairly common summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H3, H4) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), but there are few post-1990 records, e.g. recorded between Jomosom and Lomanthang in April 2004 (Lalchan 2004), in upper Mustang by Shah (2001), and a dead individual at Samjung in August 2002 Suwal (2003). It is a rare summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5) e.g. two near Lama Hotel, Langtang National Park in April 1998 (Chaudhary 1998) and four there in May 2002 (GC 2002).

There are few records outside the protected areas' system.

In the west known records are: two at Rawtkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); recorded in Jumla District (E3) in April 1995 (White and White 1995), and at Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009).

In central Nepal two were seen north of Mugling (K6) in April 1998 (Petersson 1998).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, St Helena (to UK), St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4200 m; lower limit: 2300 m (- 2000 m)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Common Swift.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Swift chiefly inhabits dry mountainous areas (Grimmett *et al.* 2000), but can occur fleetingly over any habitat (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The first Nepal record was of four birds hawking insects in a mountain gorge (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was mainly seen from mid-March to July and also in September. Its breeding behaviour is little known. The species' habits are similar to those of Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*. It is gregarious, usually keeping in scattered flocks and may undertake long flights to avoid bad weather conditions (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Common Swift regularly occurs with other swift species and also hirundines. It is particularly active in lower airspace in late evening (Chantler and Driessens 2000). It

feeds on flying insects, chiefly beetles (Coleoptera), bugs (Hemiptera), flies (Diptera) and bees and wasps (Hymenoptera) (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Threats to Common Swift have not been identified.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Common Swift. Since 1990 it has been recorded marginally in Rara, Shey-Phoksundo and Langtang National Parks; also in Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Swift has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a local summer visitor to the north-west and possibly also to Langtang National Park in central Nepal. It has been recorded in four protected areas and there are few records outside the protected areas' system. Since 1990 the species' distribution has been extended probably because of better coverage. Threats to the species have not been identified and its population is possibly stable.

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***Apus nipalensis/affinis* (Hodgson, 1837) LC**

Common Name

House/Little Swift (English),
Phirphire Gaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes
Family: Apodidae



General Information

The two forms, *affinis* and *nipalensis*, are treated as separate species by Birdlife International (2014), the authority followed here for taxonomy. However, there is confusion over both the identification and distribution of these forms in Nepal and the Indian subcontinent and, therefore, both are treated together here.

The only evidence for the occurrence of *A. affinis* in Nepal is the presence of 14 specimens in the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (2008), all collected from Nuwakot, Nuwakot District, in March 1967, but without details of the collector. Three of these are described as embryos, five more as nestlings preserved in alcohol, and the remaining six are described as preserved in alcohol without any further information. There are also several specimens of *A. nipalensis* in the same collection, collected from Hetauda in May-June 1947, also without details of the collector, but these match with those collected by B. Biswas (Biswas 1961).

Brooke (1971) gave the distribution of *A. affinis* as extending 'into the foothills of the Himalayas as far as Hetera [Hetauda] in Nepal, beyond which it is replaced by *nipalensis* there and in the Assam hills.' He provided no reference for this information but in his introduction he stated that 'I have seen material from the places named except where an authority is cited.' Presumably he examined the material in FMNH and considered that Biswas's specimens were *affinis* not *nipalensis*. There are no specimens of *affinis/nipalensis* from Nepal west of Nuwakot so it is not possible to verify Brooke's statement that all birds west of there are *affinis*.

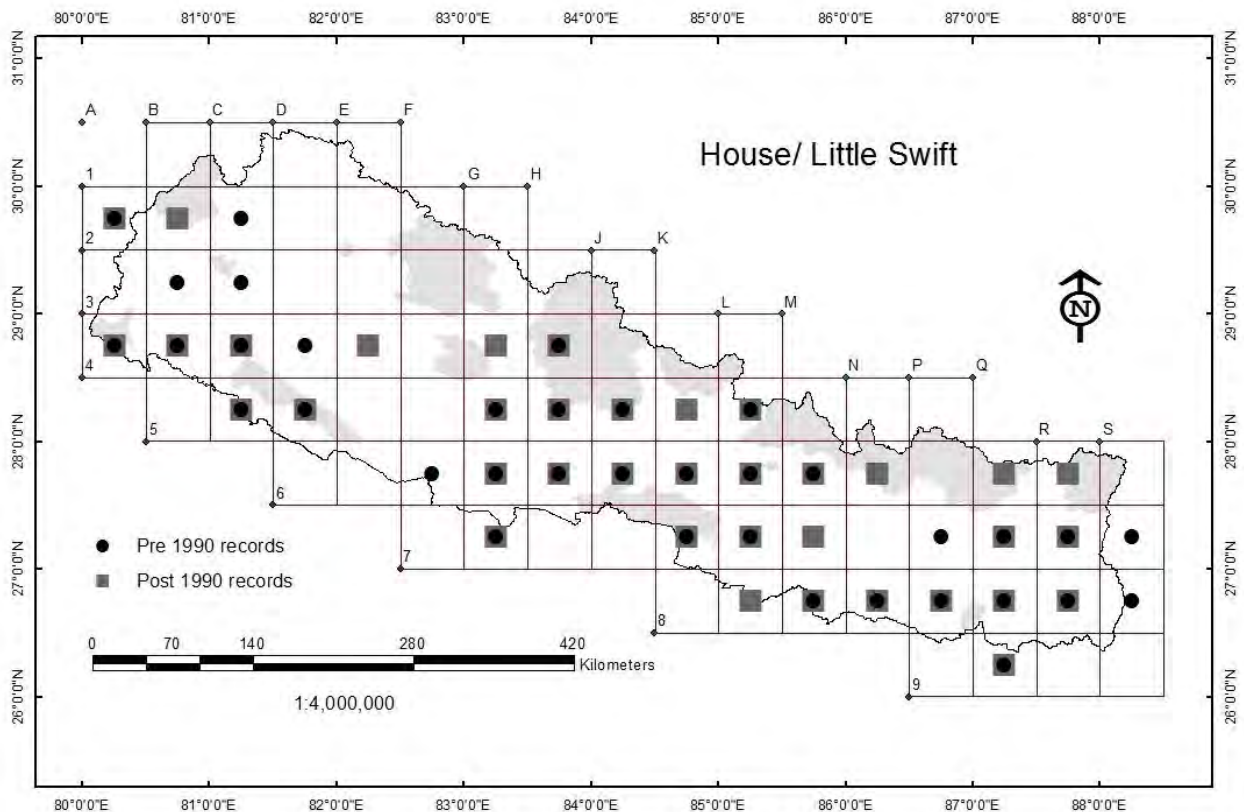
del Hoyo and Collar (2014) continue to treat *nipalensis* as a separate species based 'mainly on constantly longer, more forked tail and narrower rumpband, combined with potential sympatry in the Himalayas'. Their distribution maps show *nipalensis* as occurring throughout Nepal, with *affinis* disjunctly well south of the Himalayas. However, the basis for these statements is not given (no details of sample sizes or localities) and, although the longest tailed *nipalensis* are outside the range of *affinis*, there is considerable overlap. It is likely that no specimens from the western Himalayas (Himachal Pradesh east to Nuwakot) have been sampled, thus leaving open the possibility that tail length and other measurements are clinal. The width of the rumpband is not a useful feature – based on measurements in Abdulali (1966) *affinis* in north-west India have a narrower band than *nipalensis* from Kathmandu. No information on measurements of the depth of the tail-fork in *A. n. nipalensis* has been traced but a drawing of the tail (locality of specimen not stated) in Chantler and Driessens (2000) shows a very slight fork compared with other eastern races, and this may be matched by some individuals of *A. affinis singalensis* from Sri Lanka, which 'Can show slight tail-fork' (Chantler and Driessens 2000). A review of photographs on the Oriental Bird Images website indicates that geographical variation in the extent of the tail-fork is complex and requires further investigation. Some individuals that should be *affinis*, e.g. from Gujarat and Kolkata show a slight tail-fork – and one migrant from Lakshadweep shows a very distinct fork. Conversely, individuals that should be *nipalensis*, e.g. from Sikkim, Hong Kong and Malaysia show no fork, whereas one nesting individual from Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) shows a much deeper fork than *A. n. nipalensis* as illustrated by Chantler and Driessens (2000).

A further complication arises from Hodgson's (1836) original description of *nipalensis*: 'Sooty black, glossed with green: chin, throat, and top of the neck in front, confluent white: a white bar across the rump: talons and bill, black: iris brown: nude part of toes, dusky-grey. Size small; 5½ by 12½ inches; and barely one oz. in

weight: sexes alike: structure typical: tail, short and even.' Note the lack of forked tail. Brooke (1971) seems to have been the first author to describe *nipalensis* with a forked tail but he may have only examined specimens from the eastern part of its range, i.e. extralimital to the Indian subcontinent.

It will be necessary to re-examine the type specimen(s) of *nipalensis* in the Natural History Museum, where four specimens were listed by Salvin & Hartert (1892) but it is not included in Warren's (1966) type catalogue, so presumably the specimens have been overlooked as possible types, or have been dismissed as not types.

Distribution



House/Little Swift is a common and widespread resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006) in the far east.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836) and the only known record of Little Swift were specimens collected in 1967 from Nuwakot (Field Museum of Chicago 2008).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was a common resident and migrant; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) also found it was a common resident and mapped its distribution throughout Nepal.

There has been no significant change in the species' distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, see text below and map.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); recorded in the Mahakali valley (A2) and Chameliya valley (B2) in December 2011 (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park in February 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Thakuri 2013); a rare resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Baral 1993, Baral and Pradhan 1992); a common resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); a frequent summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar

Conservation Area in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009); a common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a); recorded from Sekhathum (R6), Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in May 1999 (White and White 1999), and a frequent winter visitor from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). It has also been recorded in Langtang National Park buffer zone in Dhunche e.g. in May 2002 (Baral 2002) and May 2006 (Baral 2006); Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Sauraha, Chitwan District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012) and at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Pradhan 2005), and in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in the upper Arun valley (Q6) in 1995 (Cox 1995).

It has also been widely recorded outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

In the west records include: from Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); the Ghodaghodi lake area (B4), Kailali District where it is a fairly common resident, some birds may also winter (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); near Khalanga Bazaar (E4), Jajarkot in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District in December 2010 (Baral 2011a); Bhairahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994a); between Simalchaur and ghat south of Ridhabhot (G5), Gulmi District, between Argali and Sidure (G6), Gulmi District and between Sidure and Rupakot, Bari Gad (G6), Gulmi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); between Palung, Dhola Khola and Archegaun, Dhola Khola (G4) Myagdi District in May 1999 and between Archegaun – Dimlatti, Myagdi Khola (G4), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994a) and listed by Suwal *et al.* (2002); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District e.g. common in January 1992 (Halliday 1992) also recorded in February 1997 (Baral 1997), February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998) and March 2004 (Chaudhary 2004a) etc; Rampur valley (H6), Palpa District (Gautam 2003); Laukhani (H6), Nawalparasi District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012), and Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a mainly common summer visitor, some birds over-wintered between 2004 and 2006 in the Kathmandu Valley. A colony on Saibu ridge in the Valley was partially resident, though wintering birds may feed outside the Valley (van Riessen 2007). However twice in ten years all birds left the Valley after bad weather (Arend van Riessen).

Records from other localities include from: Mugling, Chitwan District (Hem Sagar Baral per obs.), Malekhu (K6), Dhading District (Baral 1992a); Dhading (K6), Dhading District in April 2011 (Baral 2011b); Kutumsang (L6) and Patibhanjyang (L6), Sindhupalchok District in May 1992 (Baral 1992b); between Kutumsang (L6), Sindhupalchok District and Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2001); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2009, 2013); near Sermathang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004b), and Panauti (M7), Kavre District in November 1994 (Baral 1994b). Birds were recorded around the following towns and settlements along the East West highway: Nilgadh, Bara District; Chandranighapur, Rautahat District, and the Bagmati River, Sarlahi District (L7, L8) in central Nepal.

In the east records include from around the following towns and settlements along the East West highway: Dhalkebar, Dhanusha District; Lahan, Siraha District, and Kanchanpur, Saptari District (M8, N8, P8); Kosi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District in September 1992 (Baral 1993); near Tumlingtar and between Bhotebas and Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in April 1991 (Halberg 1991); Sankhuwa Khola (Q7), Bhojpur District in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); Tumlingtar (Q7) and Khandbari (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in December 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); Kosi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in April 1997 (Baral 1997) and February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012) and in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Patnali, (Q8) Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in January 2010 (Baral 2010a); Dharan (Q8), Sunsari District (Subba 1995); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Baral 1994, Subba 1994); near Mamangkhe (R7), Taplejung District in November 2000 (Goble 2000); lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006), and common in Ilam, Ilam District (R8) (Baral 2010b, Robson *et al.* 2008)

Globally Little Swift has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta,

Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Portugal, Rwanda, São Tomé e Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Globally House Swift has also been recorded from: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2200 m (summer); 1350 m (winter); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for House Swift. As its distribution has not changed significantly post-1990 compared to pre-1990 and no threats have been identified its population is possibly stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

House Swift inhabits cities, towns and larger villages (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It breeds and roosts communally. The species usually associates in large scattered flocks and keeps within a wide vicinity of its nesting area when breeding (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). In Nepal House Swift seems to depend entirely on human habitations for nesting and apparently only nests in larger settlements, not in single scattered houses or small villages (Martens and Eck 1995). Breeding has been proved at Silgadi-Doti, Doti District (Barber 1989); Dhanghadi, Kailali District (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982); Surkhet (Pritchard 1980); Kapilvastu District (Cox 1982); east of Pokhara (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981); below Mugling, Chitwan District (Hem Sagar Baral pers. obs.), Syabru, Langtang National Park and north of Pati Bhanjyang, Helambu (Heath 1986); Naubise (L6), Dhading District in May 1994 (Halberg 1994); in the Kathmandu Valley (Proud 1949, Ripley 1950); Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Madge *et al.* 1974); and Ilam (R8), Ilam District (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982, Robson *et al.* 2008). House Swift is extremely gregarious and often joins groups of other *Apus* swifts. It is less frequently seen feeding at lower level than other swifts (Chantler and Driessens 2000). The species feeds on midges (Diptera), tiny flying bugs and beetles (Hemiptera, Coleoptera), winged ants (Hymenoptera), air-borne spiders (Arachnida), all captured in mid-air (Ali and Ripley 1987). A study made of a colony at Saibu ridge in the Kathmandu Valley and found that during most winters part of the colony manages to stay in the Valley, but every day makes long sorties to lower altitude areas for feeding. The numbers of birds migrating or staying behind depends on general weather patterns as well as on shock events such as cold rainy days. Migration takes place between mid-November and end December. Probably swifts stay behind in winter feeding areas one by one, joining other swifts there in their winter roosts. The winter feeding area must be at least 20 km away (van Riessen 2007).

Threats

Threats to House Swift and Little Swift have not been identified.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for House Swift. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi

Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

House Swift has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and widespread resident, recorded since 1990 from the far west to the far east. It has been recorded from most protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system. There has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. No threats to the species have been identified and the population is possibly stable.

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***Apus pacificus* (Latham, 1802) LC**

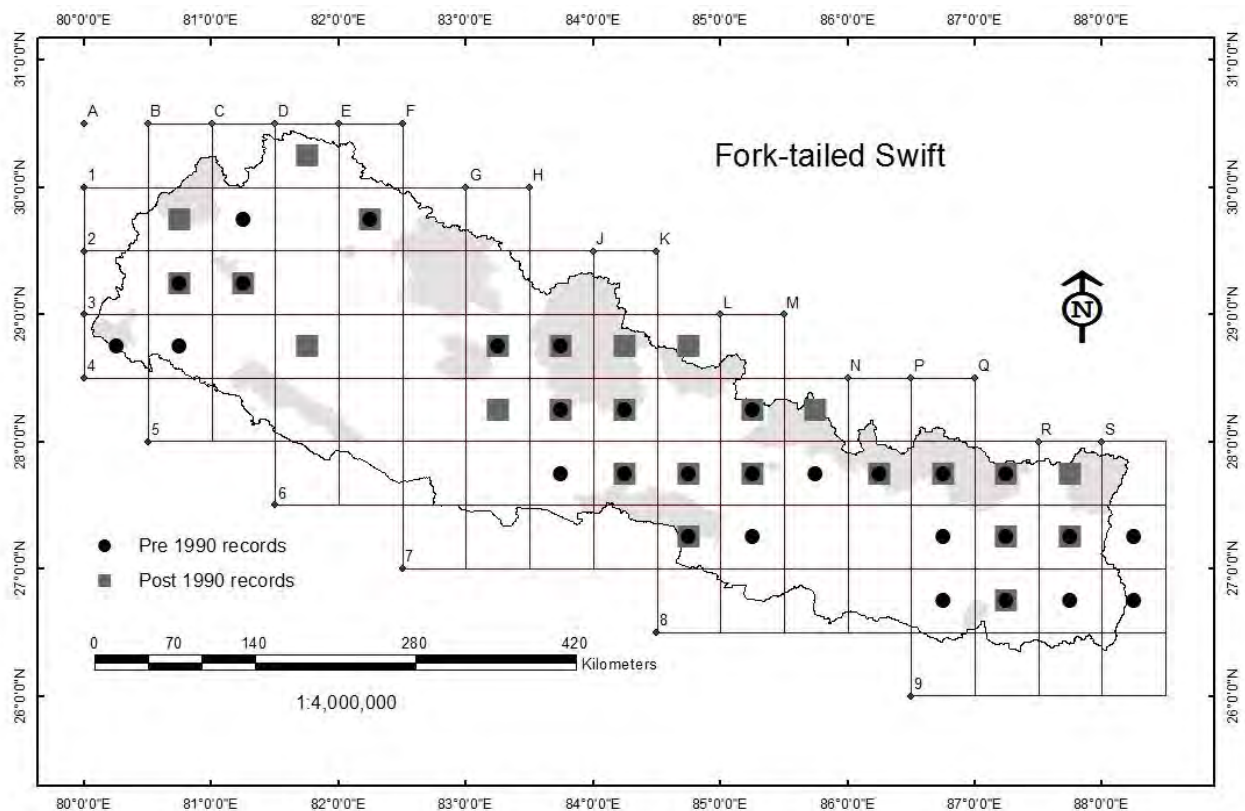
Common Name

Fork-tailed Swift (English),
Puchharkaape Gaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes
Family: Apodidae



Distribution



Fork-tailed Swift is chiefly a summer visitor; there are very few winter records, all below 915 m. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to Sidim, Panchthar District (Robson et al. 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was near Sagarmatha Base Camp in April 1953 (Biswas 1974).

Fleming et al. (1976) reported it was a fairly common resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) also noted it was fairly common, possibly resident and mapped it quite widely throughout Nepal.

Since 1990 the species has been less widely recorded in the east compared to pre-1990, see text below and map.

The species post-1990 status in protected areas is: recorded in the Mahakali River valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area in March/April 2012 (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); frequent in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); rare in Rara National Park (Giri 2005); a fairly common summer visitor to Annapurna

Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4) (Thakuri 2013); a rare winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and recorded in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) in April 2003, probably as passage migrant (Cox 2003). SNP and BCN (2007) reported it is a frequent winter visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but no other records could be located. It is not included in Kathmandu Valley records between 2004 and 2006 by Mallalieu (2008). The Fleming and Fleming (1970) checklist of the Valley describes it as 'unusual in winter'. It is a fairly common summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009); a fairly common summer visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (Basnet 2004); fairly common, possibly resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999); a rare winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005), and fairly common in April and May in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). It has also been recorded from Langtang National Park buffer zone at Dhunche e.g. in May 2002 (Baral 2002) and April 2006 (Baral 2006); Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone at Lukla in June 1993 (Baral 1996), and in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

The species has been quite widely recorded outside the protected areas' system since 1990, see text below and map.

In the west records include from: Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Soli Khola valley (D1), Humla District in June 2002 (Grimm and Fischer 2003); between Kotuwa and Gai banne in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Rawtkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); between the ghot past Bikos and the ghot above Patle (G5), Gulmi District and between Lachang and Palung, Dhola Khola (G4), Myagdi District in May 1999; between Archegaun and Dimlatti (G4), Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District and between Bagara and Baihanse Kharka, Myagdi Khola (G4), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in January 1992 (Halliday 1992) and March 1999 (Baral 1999), and between Pasgam, Libiyani and Rupatal (J5), Lamjung District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include from: between Kutumsang and Pati Bhanjyang (L6), Sindhupalchok District in May 1992 (Baral 1992); between Pati Bhanjyang (L6), Sindhupalchok District and Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District in May 1996 (Cocker 1996); between Kutumsang (L6), Sindhupalchok District and Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District in May 1999 (Chaudhary 1999), and uncommon at Chitlang (L6), Chandrigiri Range, Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992).

In the east records include from: Dolakha District (Poulsen 1993); Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); Tinjure (Q7), Terhathum District (Rai 2003); between Chauki (Q7) Terhathum District and Gopha Pokhari (R7), Taplejung District in April 1994 (Halberg 1994); between Basantapur and Chauki (Q7), Terhathum District; between Gopha Pokhari and Dobhan, between Dobhan and Mitlung, and between Mamangkhe and Kande Bhanjyang (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008), and Sidim (R7), Panchthar District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded in Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Guam (to USA), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3800 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have carried out for Fork-tailed Swift. The large number of 25 was recorded between Kotuwa and Gai Banne in March 1997 (Giri 1997). As its distribution has significantly declined since 1990, its population is possibly declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Fork-tailed Swift favours hawking over open ridges or hill tops (Grimmett et al. 1998); usually found some distances from human habitation, frequently high in mountain gorges (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is often seen with Alpine Swift *Tachymarpis melba* and Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalense* (Fleming et al. 1976). Its breeding range in Nepal is not known for certain as only one breeding colony has been found, although it is regularly recorded between 2200 m and 3800 m in the breeding season. Breeding has been proved near Syabru, Langtang National Park (Halberg 1987, Heath 1986, Petersen 1983, Robson 1982). Fork-tailed Swift is gregarious typically forages at higher elevation than its congeners (Chantler and Driessens 2000). The species feeds on midges (Diptera), tiny flying bugs and beetles (Hemiptera, Coleoptera), winged ants (Hymenoptera), air-borne spiders (Araneida), all captured in mid-air (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

No threats to Fork-tailed Swift have been identified.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Fork-tailed Swift. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Rara, Chitwan, Langtang, Sagarmatha and Makalu Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Fork-tailed Swift has been assessed as Least Concern. It is chiefly a summer visitor; there are very few winter records. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east, although it is less widespread in the east compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded from a number of protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system. Threats to Fork-tailed Swift have not been identified. Its population is possible declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Collocalia brevirostris* (Horsfield, 1840) LC**

Subspecies *Collocalia brevirostris brevirostris*

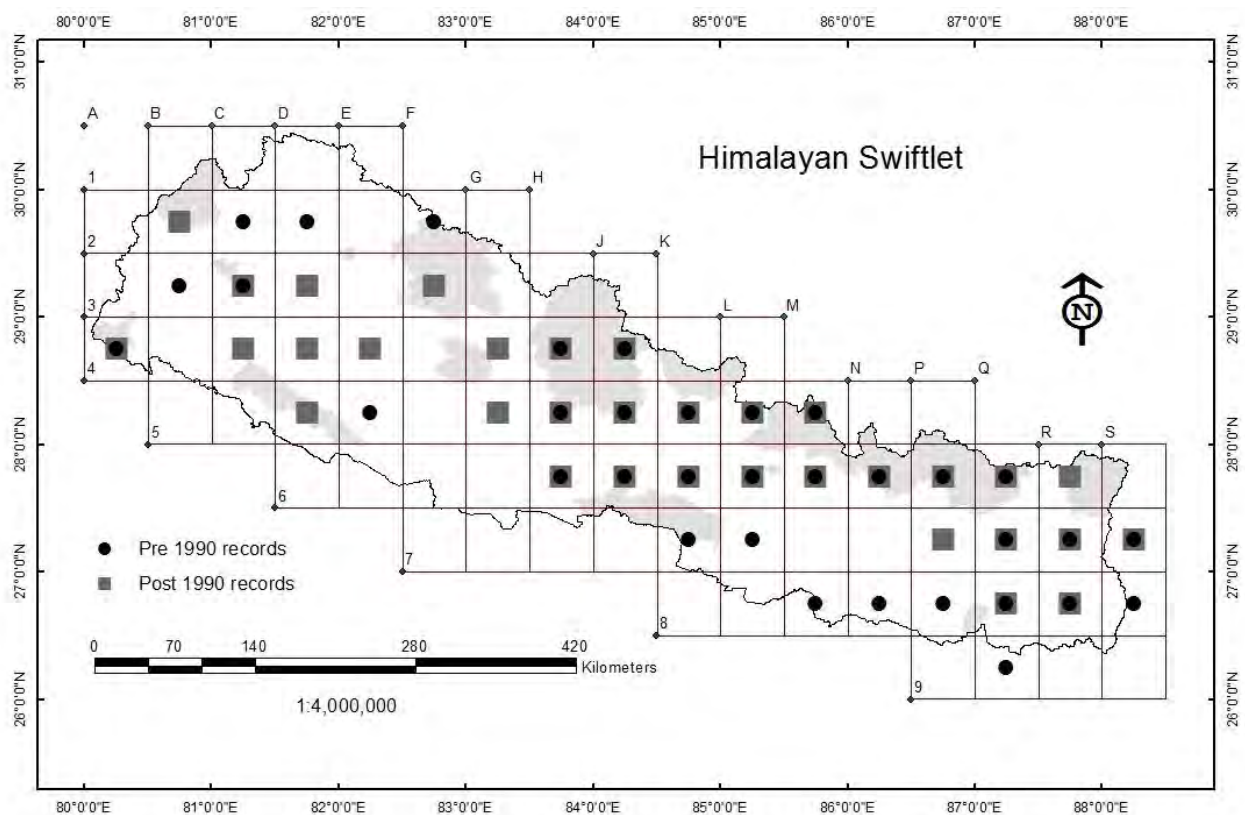
Common Name

Himalayan Swiftlet (English),
Chinchika Gaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes
Family: Apodidae



Distribution



Himalayan Swiftlet is a fairly common and widespread resident recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Hange Tham, Ilam District (Baral 2010b) in the far east.

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was a fairly common resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) also found it a fairly common resident and mapped it widely in central and east Nepal, but less widely in the west.

The first Nepal record of the species was from the Kathmandu Valley in August 1877 (Scully 1879).

Since 1990 the species has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant change in distribution pre- and post-1990.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a frequent winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); recorded in the Chameliya River valley (B2) in December 2011 and March/April 2012 in Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); an uncommon passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C4) (Inskipp 2001); recorded

in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012) and in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1995); a fairly common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Thakuri 2013), and an uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006). SNP and BCN (2007) reported it is a frequent winter visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but Mallalieu (2008) found it an uncommon and irregular non-breeding visitor to the Kathmandu Valley. It is a common resident in Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009, Cox 1996); a summer visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (Basnet 2004); a fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a); a frequent winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005), and fairly common in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). It was also recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Tharu Cultural Resort (H6), Nawalparasi District in December 2011 (Baral 2011) and common at Sauraha in January 2012 (Dymond 2012); Langtang National Park buffer zone at Dhunche in April 1996 (Baral 1996); Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone at Lukla in June 1993 (Baral 1994) and Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6, Q7) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

In the west records include: from Badimalika region (C3) in February or March 1998 (Karki *et al.* 2003); between Daurogaon and Beuli (D3), Kalikot District and from Rawtkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); between Kauli Bazaar and Jiri Daha (E4), Jajarkot District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); between Pt.3593 Camp, Malika Dhuri, Gulmi District and north face camp, Malika Dhuri (G5), Myagdi District in May 1999; between Archegaun and Dimlatti, Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District (G4) and between Pinde Odar and Oraal north of Dobang, Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District (G4) in June 1999 (Cox 1999b), and Pokhara (H5), Kaski District e.g. in November 1992 (Baral 1993), December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997) and February 2008 (Giri 2008).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported the species was an uncommon and irregular non-breeding visitor between 2004 and 2006. Other localities in central Nepal include: Upardangadhi hills, Chitwan District where it was common in January 2012 (Dymond 2012), and recorded near Sermathang (M6) and Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004).

In the east records include: from Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); between Bung (P6) and Sanam (P7), Solukhumbu District in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011); Tumlingtar (Q7) and Khandbari (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in December 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); Pikhua (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); between Tumlingtar and Gothe Bazaar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in December 2001 (Chaudhary 2001) and February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005); Madhuban (Q8), Sunsari District in January 2010 (Baral 2010a); Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in January 2010 (Baral 2010a); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997) and February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a); Dobhan (R7), Taplejung District in May 1994 (Halberg 1994); Mai Majuwa (R7), Ilam District and Sidim (R7), Panchthar District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008); between Mamangkhe and Kande Bhanjyang (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998b), and Dobate and Hange Tham (S7), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010b).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4575 m (summer); 2745 m (winter); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Himalayan Swiftlet. The large number of 1000 was recorded in Bardia National Park over the Karnali Lodge Tented Camp in January 1992 (Baral 1992). As the species' distribution has not significantly changed apart from more records from the west, which are probably due to better coverage and no threats are known, its population may be stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Himalayan Swiftlet hunts frequently in open country, including agricultural fields, often close to the ground above meadows, fields or rivers (Martens and Eck 1995); also deep mountain valleys (Fleming *et al.* 1976). When almost dark, they suddenly disappear from feeding areas and presumably go to their nesting-roosting sites in high rock caves. In winter they are often with martins and swallows (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Himalayan Swiftlet is gregarious, usually seen in small groups and frequently with other swifts and hirundines (Chantler and Driessens 2000). It feeds on dipterous and hymenopterous insects captured in the air (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is subject to altitudinal movements (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Threats to Himalayan Swiftlet have not been identified.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out for Himalayan Swiftlet. Since 1990 it has been recorded from all protected areas except Rara National Park and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Himalayan Swiftlet has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a fairly common and widespread resident recorded from the far west to the far east since 1990. It has been recorded from almost all protected areas post-1990. It has been more widely recorded in the west since 1990 probably because of better recording; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution pre- and post-1990. Threats to the species have not been identified and its population may be stable.

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Cypsiurus balasiensis (J E Gray, 1829) LC

Subspecies: *Cypsiurus balasiensis balasiensis*

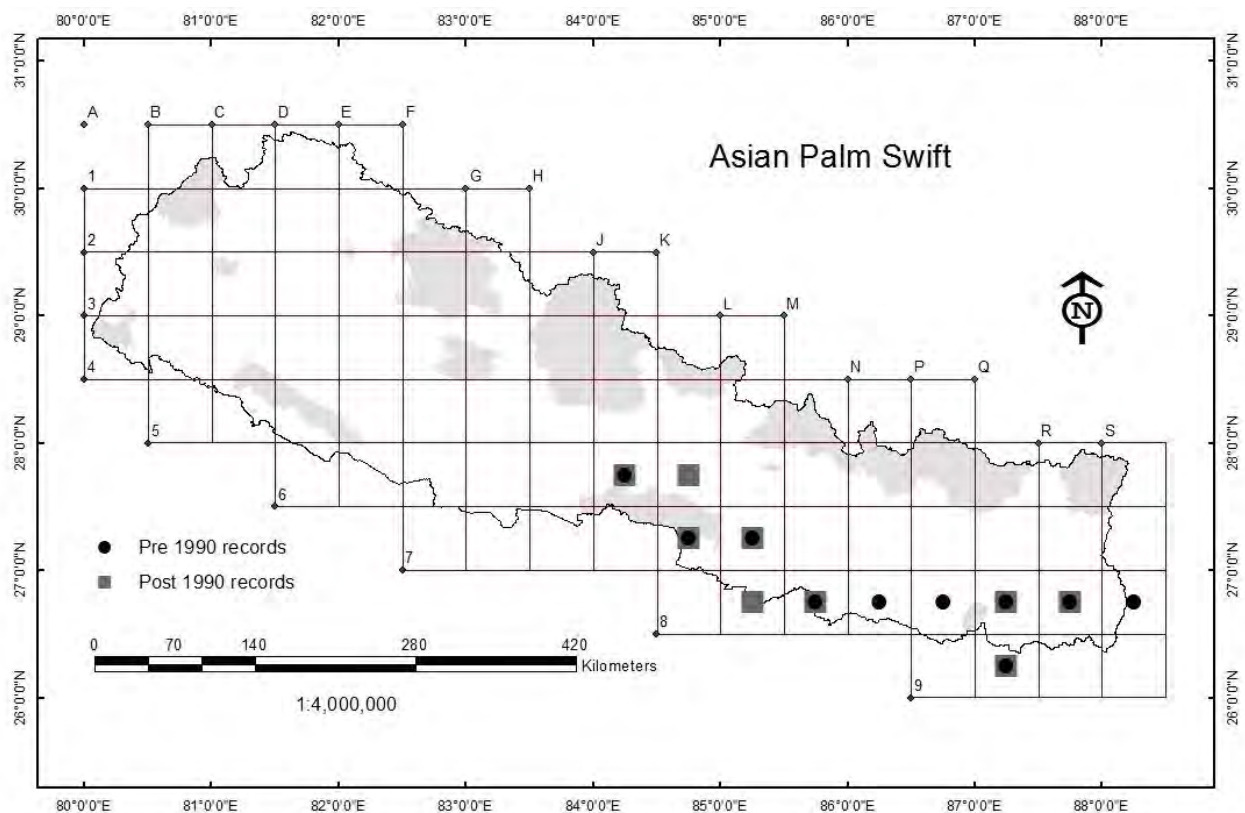
Common Name

Asian Palm Swift (English),
Thakal Gaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes
Family: Apodidae



Distribution



Asian Palm Swift is an uncommon resident in the terai, more frequent in the far east. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) east to Ilam and Jhapa Districts in the far east (e.g. Robson *et al.* 2008).

The first dated Nepal record was from Simra (K7), Parsa District in October 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident along the Indian border. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was an uncommon resident in the terai, mainly found close to the Indian border and occurring from Chitwan National Park eastwards.

The species' distribution has not changed significantly since 1990, see map and text below.

The post-1990 status of the species' in protected areas is a rare summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and a frequent resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005).

The species is also recorded outside the protected areas' system especially in the far east, see text and map.

In central Nepal records include from: about 50 km (L7) east of Bharatpur, Chitwan District in January 2001 (Hofland 2001) and between the camp west of Lal Bakaiya Nadi and Kopuwa Gau school (L8), Rautahat District in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: over the Kamala River (M8), Sarlahi District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012), Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999), November 2001 (Koshi Camp 2001) and October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); between Rajabas and Titrigaachhi, Koshi River (Q8), Sunsari District in February 2007 (Baral 2007); Madhuban (Q8), Sunsari District and from Patnali (Q8), Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District in January 2010 (Baral 2010a); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010b); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Subba 1995); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Garuwa and Khudunabari (R8), Jhapa District and Chisapani (R8), Ilam District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008), and Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Harrap 1996, Jha and Subba 2012, Subba 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 120 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Asian Palm Swift. The large number of 70 was seen near Kosi Bird Observatory, Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012). The population is possibly declining as a result of habitat loss.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Asian Palm Swift inhabits open country and cultivation with scattered palms (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species usually hawks insects around palms and roosts clinging to a palmyra leaf. It twists and turns in the air with great agility (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Asian Palm Swift is particularly active foraging in the evening and readily joins mixed flocks with other swifts and hirundines (Chantler and Driessens 2000). It feeds on winged ants and other hymenopterous insects, tiny bugs and beetles (Hemiptera, Coleoptera) taken in the air (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Asian Palm Swift is threatened by the loss of palm trees.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Asian Palm Swift. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Asian Palm Swift has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is an uncommon resident occurring from central Nepal eastwards and is most frequent in the far east. It is only recorded from two protected areas and also outside the protected areas' system, chiefly in the east. The species' distribution has not changed significantly since 1990. It is threatened by the loss of palm trees with which it is closely associated. As a result, its population may be declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Hemiprocne coronata (Tickell, 1833) LC

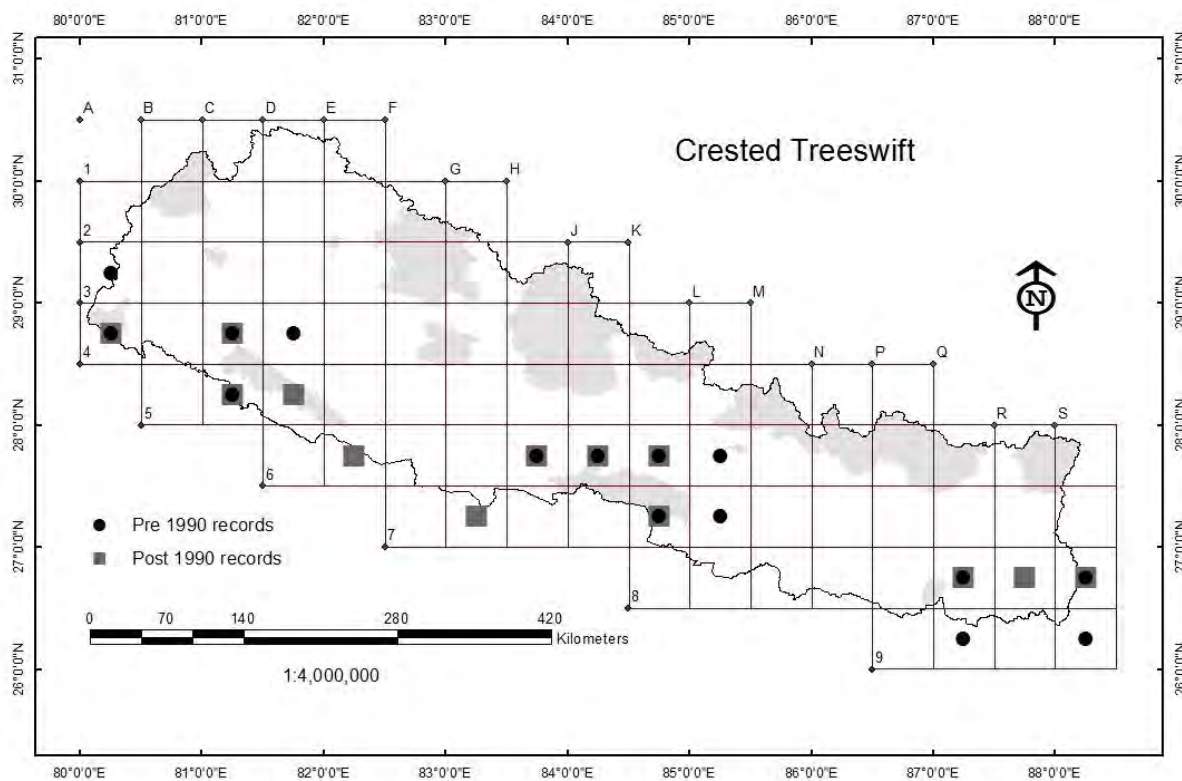
Common Name

Crested Treeswift (English),
Jure Gaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes
Family: Apodidae



Distribution



Crested Treeswift is a frequent resident, generally uncommon in the west. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Ilam District (Cox 1992) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was at Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in May 1947 (Biswas 1961).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was a fairly common resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was a locally common resident, uncommon in the west, and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly, see map and text below.

The post-1990 distribution of the species in protected areas is: uncommon in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009, Baral 1997, Chaudhary 1998); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Baral *et al.* 2012); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Cox 2003, Todd 2001), and an uncommon resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). It has also been recorded from

Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000); Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996); Nawalparasi District (H6) in February 2010 (Baral 2010) and December 2011 (Baral 2011a); Namuna Community Forest (H6), Nawalparasi District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012) and in Janakauli Community Forest, Chitwan District in March 2010 (Giri 2010).

Since 1990 Crested Treeswift has been recorded less widely outside the protected areas' system, see map and text below.

In the west records include from Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b) and Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994), also listed by Suwal *et al.* (2002)

In the east records include from Patnali forest, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in March 2001 (Baral 2001) and May 2011 (Baral 2011b); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001) and November 1993 (Choudhary 1994); lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Garuwa and Saktim (R8), Jhapa District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008), and Ilam District (S8) in November 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (-1280 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Crested Treeswift. The large number of 102 was recorded over Karnali Tented Camp, Bardia National Park in December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997). Its population is probably declining as a result of habitat loss.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Crested Treeswift inhabits broadleaved forest in the lowlands and lower hills (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). It is almost always found over or near forests. When resting, it sits motionless on a bare branch high in a tree with crest held erect. It hawks insects with a slow and graceful flight for a swift (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is able to glide for long distances. When foraging it does not wander far (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Crested Treeswift is not particularly gregarious and is mainly found in small groups of 6-12 and does not associate any more than loosely with other species. It is particularly active late evening (Chantler and Driessens 2000). It feeds on flying insects e.g. bugs (Hemiptera) and beetles (Coleoptera), all caught in the air. Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983).

Threats

Crested Treeswift is threatened by loss of broadleaved forest in the lowlands and lower hills.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Crested Treeswift. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Chitwan, Bardia and Banke National Parks, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife

Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Crested Treeswift has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a frequent resident, generally uncommon in the west, recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly. It has been recorded from all low altitude protected areas and less widely outside the protected areas' system. Its population is probably declining as a result of habitat loss, but not to a degree that warrants a threat category for the species.

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Hirundapus caudacutus (Latham, 1802) LC

Subspecies: *Hirundapus caudacutus nudipes*

Common Name

White-throated Needletail (English),

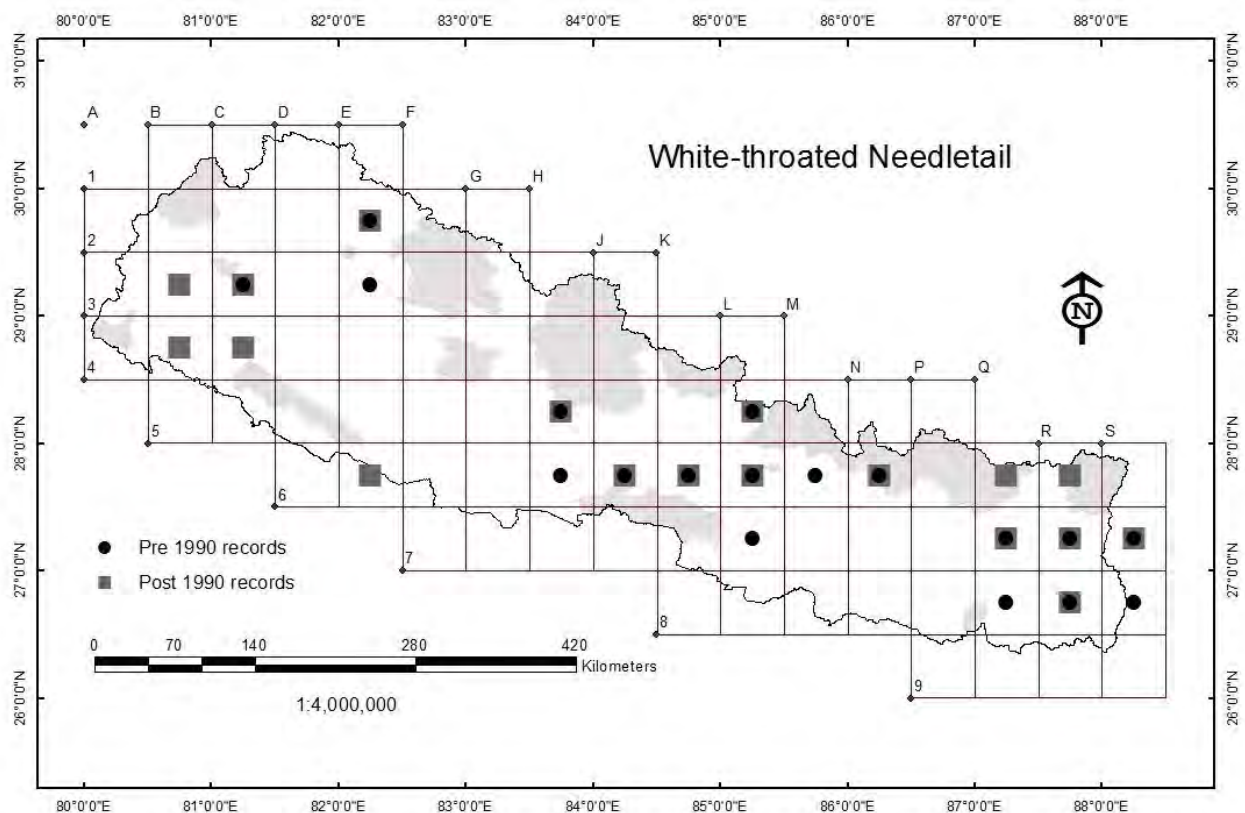
Setokanthe Guanthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes

Family: Apodidae



Distribution



White-Throated Needletail is a frequent summer visitor to Chitwan and Langtang National Parks and uncommon elsewhere, with most records between March and June. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006, Halliday 1993) in the far west to Hange Tham, Ilam District (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was an occasionally recorded resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found its status and movements were uncertain, partly because it is possibly under-recorded as it often feeds at high altitude and also because some reports received probably refer to Silver-backed Needletail *H. cochinchinensis* as the two species had previously often been regarded as conspecific, e.g. by Ali and Ripley (1983) and Fleming *et al.* (1976).

Since 1990 there have been a few more records in the west, probably as a result of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution between pre-1990 and post-1990, see text below and map.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a frequent summer visitor and passage migrant to Khaptad

National Park (Chaudhary 2006, Halliday 1993); a rare passage migrant in Bardia National Park (C4) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Rara National Park (Giri 2005); uncommon, possibly a passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), and a frequent summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006). SNP and BCN (2007) describe it as an uncommon winter visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri National Park (SNP and BCN 2007), but the only record that could be located was in May 1992 (Baral 1992). It is a frequent summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) in June 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009), and one record from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area between Gyabla and Amjilessa (R6) in May 1994 (Halberg 1994 in Inskipp *et al.* 2008). It was also recorded several times in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6) in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

The species has also been quite widely recorded outside the protected areas' system, see text below and map.

In the west records include from: Ghodaghodi lake area (B2) (CSUWN and BCN 2012); between Tinkadhure and Khalkhale (B3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010) and Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b).

In central Nepal records include from: Narayangarh (K6), Chitwan District in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004) and between Kutumsang (L6), Sindhupalchok District and Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District in April 2001 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2001).

In the east records include from: the upper Arun valley (Q6) in May or June 1995 (Cox 1999); between Bhotebas (Q7) and Mudhe (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); Sabhaya Khola valley (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District and between Sangrati and Num and Num (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in April 1991 (Halberg 1991); Tinjure forest (Q7), Terhathum District (Rai 2003); Mai Pokhari forest, upper Mai valley, (R7), Ilam District (Basnet 2005); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998), and below Hange Tham (S7), Ilam District and above Pranbung (S7), Panchthar District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Fiji, Finland, Guam (to USA), India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, North Korea, Norway, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Seychelles, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org>

Elevation

Upper limit: 3200 m; lower limit: 250 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for House Swift. As its distribution has not changed significantly post-1990 compared to pre-1990 and no threats have been identified its population is possibly stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

White-throated Needletail may be seen over ridges, cliffs, forest, upland grasslands and river valleys (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It skims low over mountain ridges and forest, and dashes around crags with amazing adroitness. Wings can produce a vibrant swish as the birds fly past. Birds may cover huge distances in a day's foraging (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). On migration and in winter it can form large flocks although on migration it can just likely be seen singly. It may be seen in mixed species flocks and is often seen migrating with Fork-tailed Swift (Chantler and Driessens 2000). White-throated Needletail feeds on flying insects, chiefly Coleoptera, Hemiptera and Hymenoptera (Ali and Ripley 1987). Movements of the species are still poorly understood.

Threats

Threats to White-throated Needletail have not been identified.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for White-throated Needletail. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Bardia, Rara, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Langtang National Parks and Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-throated Needletail has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a frequent summer visitor to Chitwan and Langtang National Parks and uncommon elsewhere, with most records between March and June. Since 1990 it has been recorded in a number of protected areas and is quite widely recorded outside the protected areas' system. There have been a few more records in the west, probably as a result of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution between pre-1990 and post-1990. Threats to the species have not been identified and its population is possibly stable.

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***Hirundapus cochinchinensis* (Oustalet, 1876) LC**

Subspecies *Hirundapus cochinchinensis rupchandi*

Common Name

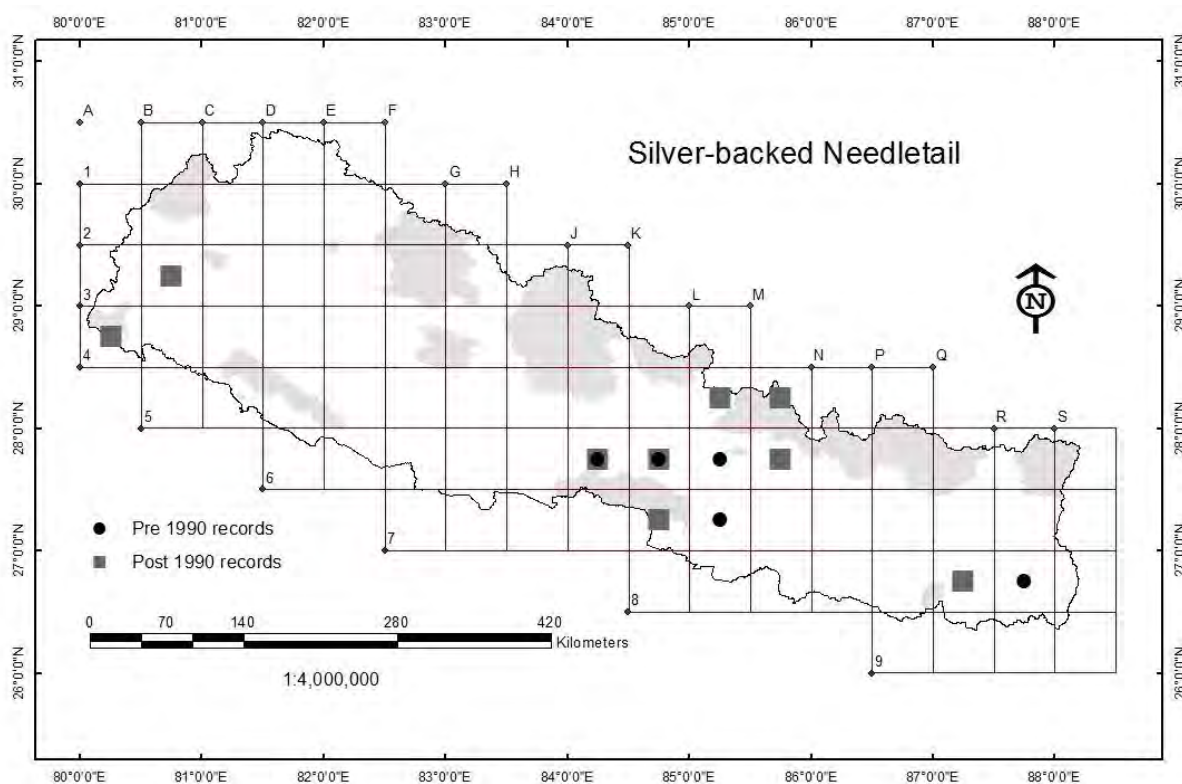
Silver-backed Needletail (English),
Chandihade Gaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes

Family: Apodidae



Distribution



Silver-backed Needletail is uncommon in Chitwan National Park and rare elsewhere; it is possibly a summer visitor. Since 1990 there are records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) to Koshi, Sunsari District (Baral 2010, 2011) in the far east.

The apparently endemic subspecies *rupchandi* was described from Nepal (Biswas 1951) where flocks of about a dozen birds were recorded (and specimens taken) at Hetauda, Makwanpur District in June and July 1947 (Biswas 1961).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported two later records near Hetauda in April 1959 (Fleming and Traylor 1961) and April 1985 (Hines 1987). Although it was described as rare and possibly resident in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983), several reports had been received with a maximum of 16 in April 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982). The only other pre-1990 records located were four flying over Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in May 1980 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1980) and from north of Sunischare, Jhapa District in late March 1985 (Andrews 1986).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded significantly more widely and more frequently than pre-1990. However, this may be because of better coverage and an improvement in identification. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered that the species had probably been overlooked because of confusion with White-throated Needletail *H. caudacutus*.

The species post-1990 status in protected areas is uncommon, possibly a summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Subedi and Shrestha 2003 in Baral and Inskipp 2009). The species is reported to be common in Chitwan in May 1994 (Drijvers 1995, Lama 1994) but described as an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) by Baral and Upadhyay (2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001) and recorded in Langtang National Park – two near Langtang village (M5) and two near Singh Gompa (L5) in May 2002 (Wallace and Wallace 2002). It has been recorded from Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996, Ghimire 2009).

There are also few records outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from Sandegalli Khola valley, Dadeldhura District (B3) and over Chulla, Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010).

In central Nepal records include: one from Narayangarh (J6), Chitwan District in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004) and four over Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004).

In the east records include: five at Koshi Camp (Q8), Madhuban, Sunsari District in September 2010 (Baral 2010); two near Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8) in May 2011 (Baral 2011); four over Ram Dhuni, Sunsari District (Q8) in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), and recorded in Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in April 1996 (Mauro 1996) and May 2007 (Basnet 2009, Basnet and Sapkota 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1450 m (- 2440 m); lower limit: 250 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Silver-backed Needletail. However, records indicate the population must be small. Changes in population since 1990 are uncertain. The large number of 20-25 was seen over the Rapti River, Chitwan National Park in March 2001 (Logtmeijer (2001) and 23 was seen over Sandegalli Khola valley, Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Silver-backed Needletail has mainly been recorded over broadleaved forest in the tropical and subtropical zones (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). Its habits are very similar to those of White-throated Needletail *H. caudacutus*. It usually occurs singly or in loose parties, skimming low over forest with amazing adroitness (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Silver-backed Needletail is highly active, only staying at one site for any length of time if drinking or feeding. Where a sudden abundance of food occurs (such as hatching of insects) it will congregate in a highly active feeding group, making repeated high-speed passes through the insects (Chantler and Driessens 2000). The species feeds on flying insects, chiefly Coleoptera, Hemiptera and Hymenoptera (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Silver-backed Needletail is possibly threatened by loss of broadleaved forest, especially in the tropical and subtropical zones.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Silver-backed Needletail. The species has been recorded from Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve and marginally from Langtang National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Silver-backed Needletail has been assessed as Least Concern. It is possibly a summer visitor, uncommon in Chitwan National Park and rare elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east. Post 1990 the species has been recorded significantly more widely and more frequently than pre-1990. However, this may be because of better coverage and an improvement in identification skill. There are records from three protected areas but few records outside the protected areas' system. The species is possibly threatened by the loss of broadleaved forest.

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http://www.surfbirds.com/trip_report.php?id=355

Tachymarpitis melba Linnaeus, 1758 LC

Subspecies: *Tachymarpitis melba nubifuga*

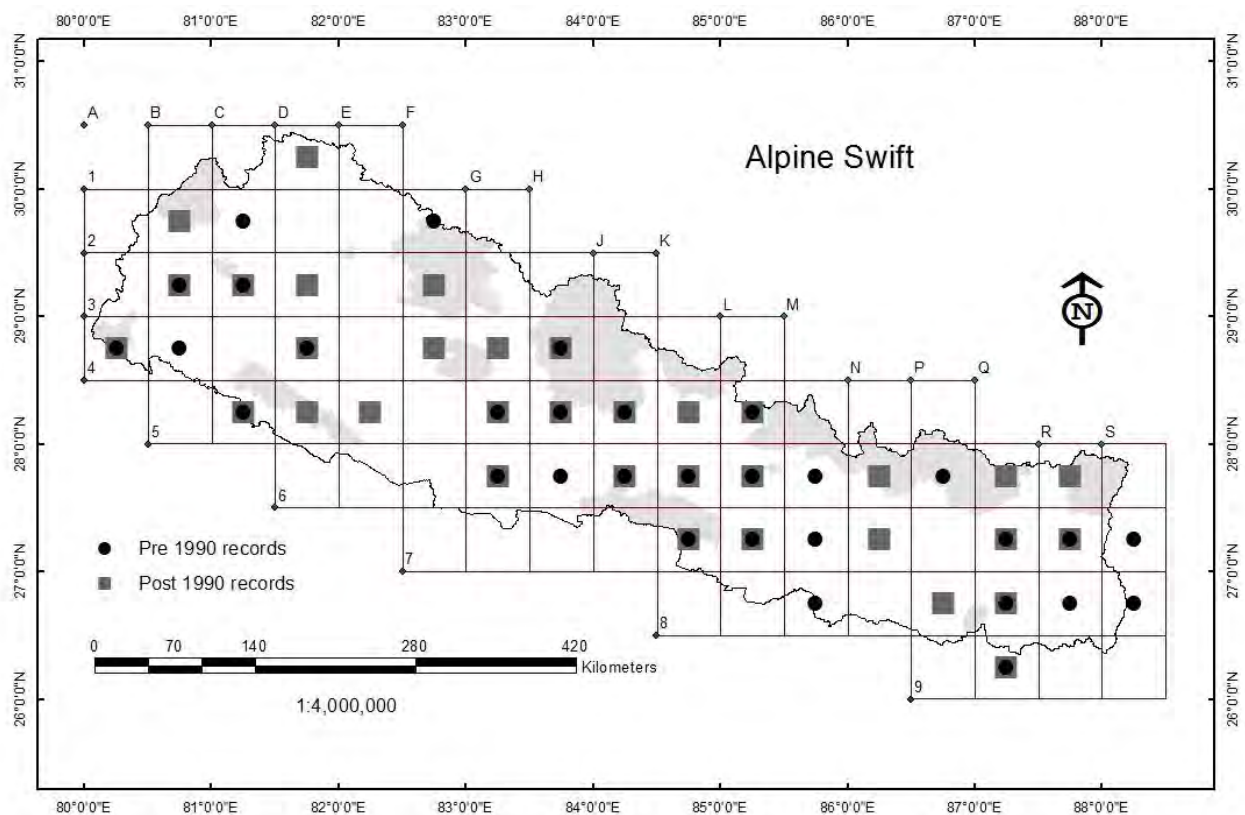
Common Name

Alpine Swift (English),
Batasi Gaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Apodiformes
Family: Apodidae



Distribution



Alpine Swift is fairly common and widespread, probably resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Karki and Thapa 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was from Ramdhuni, Morang District in January 1938 (Bailey 1938).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was an occasionally recorded resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as fairly common, probably resident and mapped it widely throughout Nepal.

Since 1990 it has been recorded from more localities in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution pre- and post-1990, see map and text below.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a frequent winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); recorded in the Chameliya valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area in December 2011 (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); an uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant to Khaptad National

Park (Chaudhary 2006); an uncommon passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park in February 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); recorded in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1995); fairly common in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4) G4) (Subedi 2003); uncommon, possibly a passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Thakuri 2013); an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and recorded in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and April 2003 (Cox 2003). SNP and BCN (2007) listed it as a frequent winter visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but no post-1990 records could be located for the national park. It is frequent, possibly resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009); fairly common, possibly resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a); a frequent winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005), and included in Karki and Thapa (2005) without details for Kanchenjunga Conservation Area. It has also been recorded in Langtang National Park buffer zone at Dhunche in April 1992 (Baral 1992a); Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005), and in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6) in June 2009 (Cox 2009).

The species is also quite widely distributed outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from: Geta, Dhanghadi (B2), Kailali District in March 1992 (Baral 1992b); Amargadhi and Chulla (B3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Ghodaghodi lake area (B2), Kailali District in January 2010 (Baral 2010a); between Simikot and Chyakpalung (D1), Humla District in May/June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013); between Daurogaon and Beuli (D3), Kalikot District and Rawtkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); between Sidure and Rupakot, Bari Gad (G6), Gulmi District (Cox 1999b); below Sarangkot (H5), Kaski District in November 1992 (Baral 1993a), and between Baglungpani and Ghanpokhara (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include from Malekhu (K6), Dhading District in January 1991 (Baral 1993b); Dhebuwa Lekh Forest (K6), Dhading District (Chaudhary 2007), and Pharping, Kathmandu Valley in 2005 (Hathan Chaudhary in Mallalieu 2008). Hetauda, Makawanpur District, south of Churia Mai, Bara District, (Hem Sagar Baral pers. obs.).

In the east records include from: Katahare Community Forest (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubhadel 2007); Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District in January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994); between Tumlingtar and Khandbari (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in April 1991 (Halberg 1991); between Bhotebas to Khandbari (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in December 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in February 1999 (Chaudhary 1999) and October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010b); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Three Community Forest, Dhankuta (Q8) in September 2003 (Baral 2003); near Dobhan (R7), Taplejung District in May 1994 (Halberg 1994); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District in April 1992 and 1994 (White and White 1994), between Dobhan and Mitlung (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guadeloupe (to France), Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2200 m (- 3700 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Alpine. The over number of 120 was recorded flying over Koshi Camp, Sunsari District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012)

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Alpine Swift inhabits low altitude river gorges (Fleming *et al.* 1976), also hills and mountains with cliffs, although it may occur briefly over any habitat (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Usually seen in small flocks, twisting and turning together high in the air; sometimes will shoot down low over a ridge and is a fast flier (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It may undertake long flights to avoid bad weather. The species roosts and breeds in clefts in rock faces (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Alpine Swift usually forages at greater height than most swift species, but will feed at low level in inclement weather. It may be found in mixed species flocks (Chantler and Driessens 2000). It feeds largely on flies, ants, beetles and bugs, all taken on the wing (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species' movements in Nepal are poorly understood. Breeding is confirmed/suspected south of Churia Mai Hills in cliffs, Bara District.

Threats

Threats to Alpine Swift have not been identified.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out for Alpine Swift. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Bardia, Banke, Shey-Phoksundo, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchengjunga Conservation Areas; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Alpine Swift has been assessed as Least Concern. It is fairly common and widespread, probably resident and since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east. Post-1990 it has been recorded in most protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system. It has been recorded from more localities in the west since 1990, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution pre- and post-1990. Threats to the species have not been identified. As a result, its population is probably stable.

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Trogoniformes



Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
Photo by Tek Bahadur Gurung Mighi

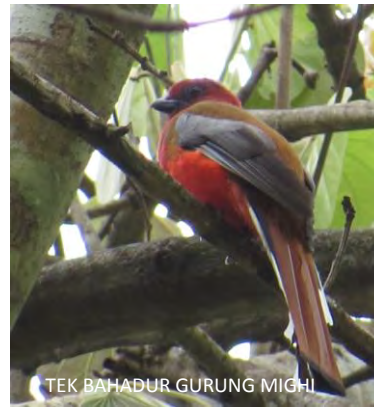
***Harpactes erythrocephalus* (Gould, 1834) EN**

Subspecies: *Harpactes erythrocephalus hodgsonii*

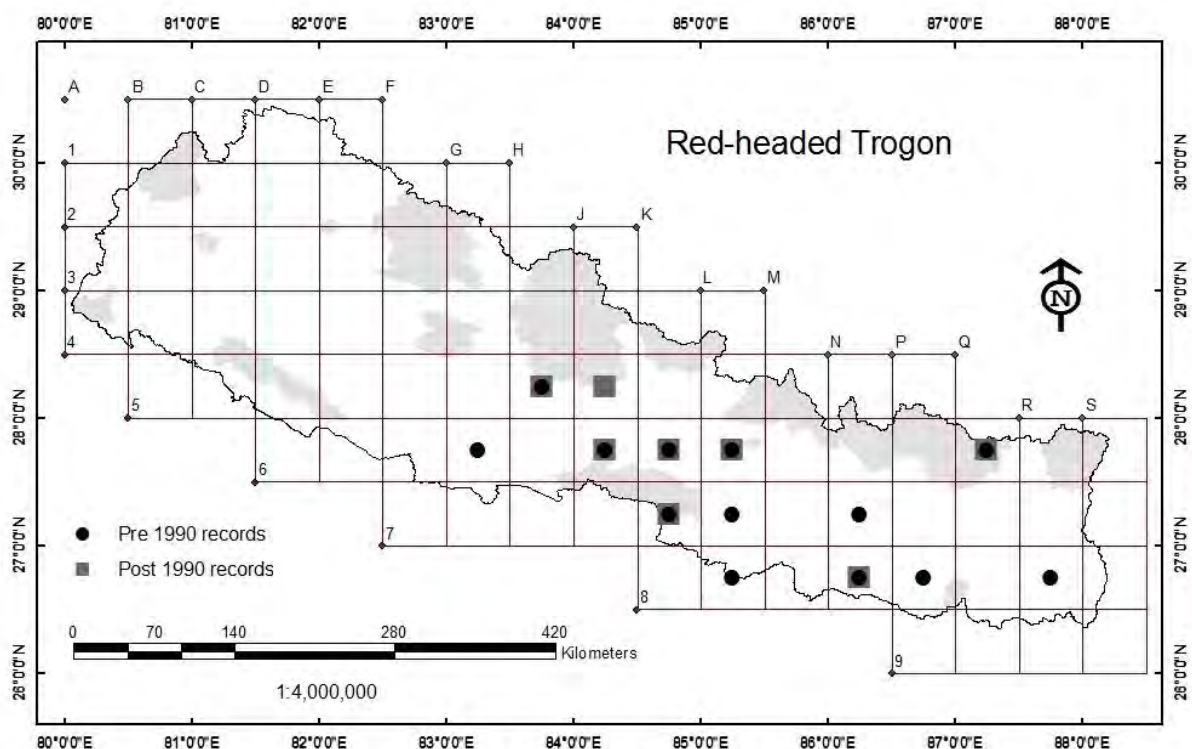
Common Name

Red-headed Trogon (English),
Raktashir (Nepali)

Order: Trogoniformes
Family: Trogonidae



Distribution



Red-headed Trogon is a very uncommon resident which has been recently recorded from the Pokhara valley in west-central Nepal east to Makalu Barun National Park. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Gould 1838) without details of date or locality.

It was described as not uncommon in the central dun in 1947 (Biswas 1961); eight were seen there in December 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971). Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it as 'occasional' in Nepal.

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered it 'a local and very uncommon resident that has declined' and listed records from six localities since 1970. These include Chitwan National Park where it has been most regularly recorded, e.g. near Tiger Tops and in the Churia Hills, where it was described as uncommon (Gurung 1983). Other pre-1990 records from the park include Inskipp and Inskipp (1980), Kall and Wallander (1988) and Wittenberg (1989).

Other localities where the species was recorded pre-1990 include south of Annapurna, in what is now the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA), from an unknown locality (Thiollay 1980) and by the Bhurungdi Khola, near Birethane (ACA) in February 1987 (Nicolle 1987); also in the Arun valley (Lancaster 1983) and from Num,

Arun Valley in September 1986 (Nepali 1986).

In the far east it was recorded at Fatehpur, Sunsari District in 1975 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976), north of Sunischare, Jhapa District at Garuwa in January 1985 (Calladine 1985), Chisapani, Ilam District in January 1989 (Halliday 1989), and also in the lower Mai valley at Soyang Ilam District in December 1988 (van Riessen 1989).

In Chitwan National Park five to seven birds have been regularly seen in the easternmost part of the park (Suchit Basnet *in litt.* 2010); also four in the park in April 1992 (Baral 1992), three in April 2004 (Chaudhary 2004), two in April 2007 (Baral 2007), six to eight in April 2009 (O'Connell-Davidson 2009) and three in February 2010 (Chaudhary 2010). In addition, there have been regular sightings of one to five birds west of Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge in the Churia hill ravines since 2003 (Suchit Basnet); one east of the lodge near Tiger machan in April 2010 (Sunaina Raut), two west of Temple Tiger lodge near Triveni in January 2010 (Krishna Pariyar), two at Thori (Dipak Nagar) in March 2010 (Krishna Pariyar). and one in Dudhawara forest, near bridge number 2 in February 2012 (Bishnu Mahato and Sagar Giri).

One was seen at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge, Kaski District in September 2009 and a pair near Phewa Tal, Pokhara valley in February 2011 (Marcus Cotton *in litt.* to H. S. Baral, July 2012). Two males and three females were sighted in Rani Ban, Pokhara valley, Kaski District (Hari K. C. and Som GC).

Three were seen in the north side of the Rapti valley, Parsa Wildlife Reserve in January 1996 (Poorneshwor Subedi) and two near Nirmal post in December 2011 (Kapil Pokharel). One was sighted in the north-east of the reserve's buffer zone in June 2010 (Kapil Pokharel).

Singles were recorded at Phulchoki, Kathmandu Valley in March 2004 (Hathan Choudhary verbally 2004), April 2007 (Baral 2007) and also at the unusually high altitude of 2135 m in April 1999 (Giri and Choudhary 1999). The only previous record from Phulchoki was in 1955 when a pair bred at Godaveri (Proud 1955). One was recently seen in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area (Seejan Gyawali).

A pair was reported from the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2135 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Red-headed Trogon. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of the extent of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 40; maximum population: 100

Habitat and Ecology

Red-headed Trogon inhabits dense, broadleaved evergreen and bamboo in tropical and subtropical forests (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Despite its bright coloration, the species is inconspicuous in the gloomy forest light and perches motionless for long periods, so it may be overlooked (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects and larvae, grasshoppers, beetles and stick insects; also leaves and berries (Ali and Ripley 1987). A nest with four eggs were found in a dead tree cavity in Chitwan National Park (Kalu Ram Tamang).

Threats

Red-headed Trogon is seriously threatened by forest loss and degradation. The forest types which it inhabits now cover very limited and highly fragmented areas in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Red-headed Trogon. The species is regularly recorded in Chitwan National Park, where it is resident, and has also been recorded recently in Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, C2a(i)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Red-headed Trogon has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and C2a(i). It is a very uncommon resident which has been recently recorded from the Pokhara valley in west-central Nepal east to the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone. It is seriously threatened by forest loss and degradation; the forest types which it inhabits now cover very limited and fragmented areas in Nepal. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of the extent of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small. It is regularly recorded in Chitwan National Park and also recently recorded in another protected area.

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Coraciiformes



Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris*
Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

Alcedo hercules Laubmann, 1917 CR

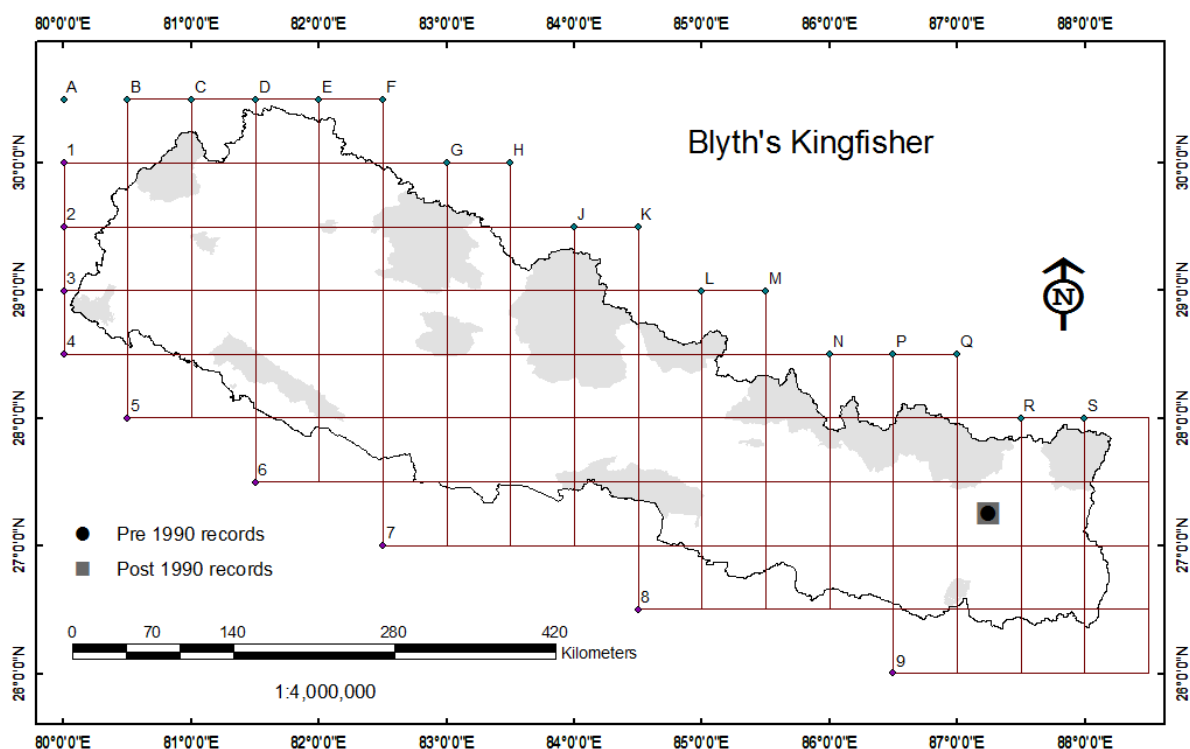
Common Name

Blyth's Kingfisher (English),
Majhaua Matikore (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Alcedinidae



Distribution



The current status of Blyth's Kingfisher is uncertain. There are three two records and all were from the same site, by the Sabhaya Khola, south of Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha District at 250 m where singles were seen: in April 1982 (Nordin and Wallander 1982), May 1998 (Giri *et al.* 1998) and in April 2005 (Laxman Poudyal).

It is rare throughout its range in the rest of the subcontinent (Bhutan and India) (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Globally the species has been recorded Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 800 m; lower limit: 250 m

Population

No survey has been carried out for Blyth's Kingfisher. The three observations of only single individuals of the species indicate that its population must be extremely small. The species may not have been looked for since the last record, in 2005.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 0; maximum population: <50

Habitat and Ecology

Blyth's Kingfisher frequents shaded streams in dense broadleaved tropical and subtropical evergreen forests (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It favours deep ravines and hilly country and rivulets in dense evergreen jungle (Fry *et al.* 1992). The species feeds on fish and aquatic insects (Fry *et al.* 1992). Blyth's Kingfisher is not migratory (Fry *et al.* 1992).

Threats

Blyth's Kingfisher's broadleaved tropical and subtropical evergreen forest habitats are highly threatened by loss and depletion. These forest types now cover very limited and disjunct areas in Nepal (Inskipp 1989). The species is also at risk from human disturbance and possibly food shortage caused by over-fishing.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Blyth's Kingfisher. The only site where the species has been recorded lies outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2c, D1) upgraded from Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blyth's Kingfisher has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2c and D1. All known records are from the same site in Sankhuwasabha District in the far east; the last was in 2005. The limited observations of the species indicate its population is extremely small. The species' forest habitat is highly threatened by loss and depletion and remaining areas are now fragmented and of very limited extent. Blyth's Kingfisher is also at risk from human disturbance and possibly food shortage caused by over-fishing. The site where the species has been recorded lies outside the protected areas' system.

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Halcyon coromanda (Latham, 1790) CR

Subspecies: *Halcyon coromanda coromanda*

Common Name

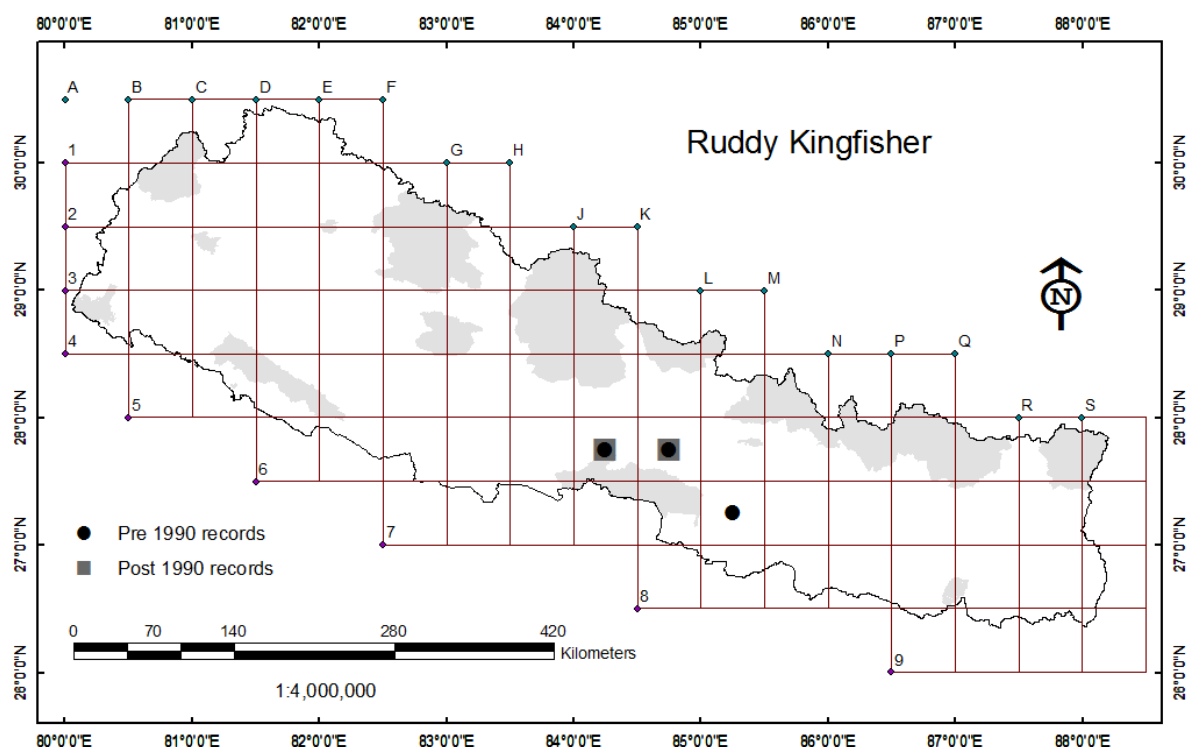
Ruddy Kingfisher (English),
Katusbadan Matikore (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Alcedinidae



Distribution



Ruddy Kingfisher is very rare and very local; probably resident.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844) in the lower hills (Hodgson 1829). It was next recorded near Hetauda, Makwanpur District in June 1947 when it was found to be rare (Biswas 1961), and also in November 1977 (Lindvall and Dhital 1978), but there are no later records from the area.

The only other locality for the species is Chitwan National Park where most records have been from the Churia Hills. Birds sighted pre-1990 include those in 1977 (Hoare 1977) (the first known record from the area), 1988 Anon. (1988) and April and May 1989 (Baral 1990) and two in May 1990 (Suchit Basnet *verbally* 2010). Post-1990 the species has continued to be reported from the area, although it is very rare: singles in April 1992 (Baral 1992), February 1996 (Choudhary 1996), August 1998 (Chaudhary 2004), May 2003 (Cox 2003), August and October 2003 (Chaudhary 2004); by the Dhakre Khola, Churia hills in March 2005 (Kalu Ram Tamang); March 2006 (Chaudhary 2010); seven by the Mule Khola in April 2006 and four nesting there in May 2007 (Subedi 2010), and three in April 2009 (GC 2010). Singles were seen by the Panesa Khola in April 2009 (Subedi 2010) and in April 2010 (G.C. 2010), two by the Hardaha Khola in April 2012 (Som GC) and one by the Panesa Khola in May 2012 (Bird Education Society). Singles were seen at Island Jungle Resort in June 1998 (D. B.

Chaudhary) and at Kasara in September 2012 (Bishnu Chaudhary). One was photographed in May 2012 between Dumaria and Jarneli (Bishnu Mahato pers. comm. June 2012) and four birds with one chick by Mulkhola in May 2015 (Manshanta Ghimire and BES). One was seen at Sauraha south-west of the Rapti River in the park buffer zone September 2012 (Fuleshwor Chaudhary)

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 500 m; lower limit: 200 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Ruddy Kingfisher. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of the small extent of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 20

Habitat and Ecology

Ruddy Kingfisher occurs by streams and pools in dense, shady broadleaved tropical evergreen forest (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is secretive and shy, although it can be detected by its call (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), and is more often heard than seen (Fry *et al.* 1992). It eats crayfish, frogs, tadpoles, beetles, grasshoppers and other large insects and larvae, small land snails and lizards (Fry *et al.* 1992).

Threats

Ruddy Kingfisher is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its habitat, which is now very reduced, degraded and fragmented in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Ruddy Kingfisher. The species is now only recorded from Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2c, C2a(i)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Ruddy Kingfisher has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2c, C2a(i) and D1. It is very rare and very local, and now only known from Chitwan National Park and buffer zone, where most records are from the Churia hills. The species is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its dense, broadleaved evergreen habitat which is now very reduced and fragmented in Nepal. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of

the small extent of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be very small.

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Alcedo meninting Horsfield, 1821 EN

Subspecies: *Alcedo meninting coltarti*

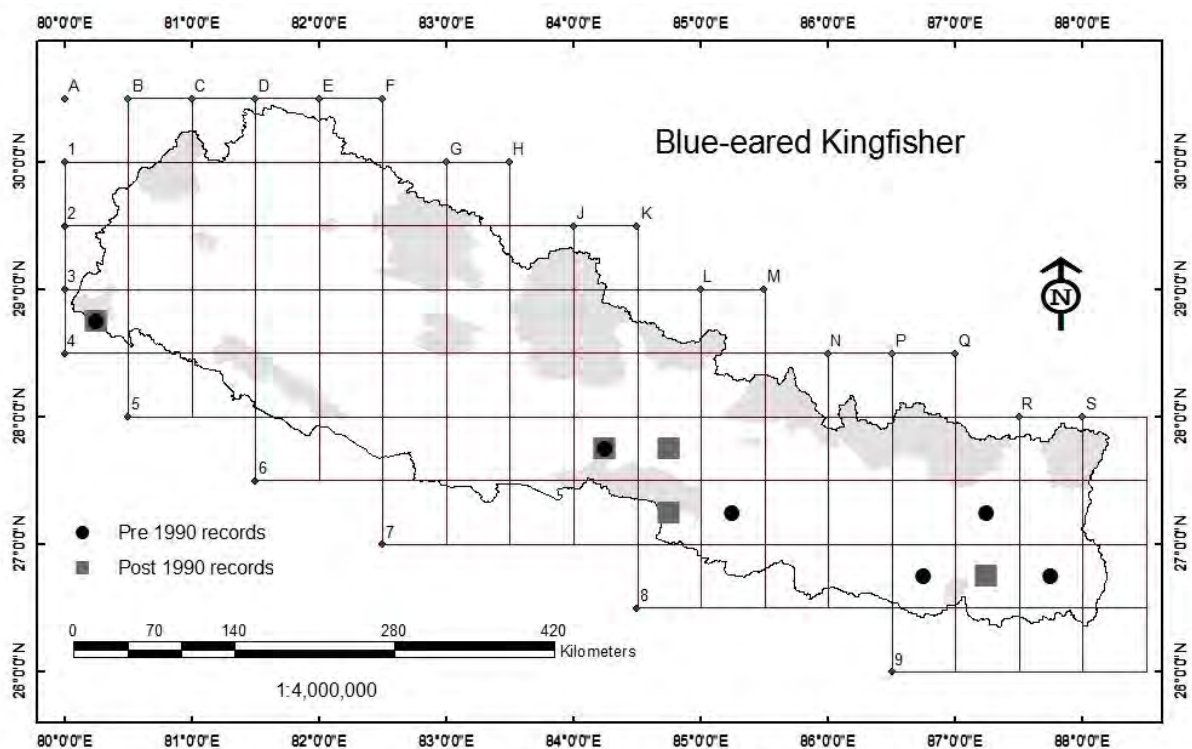
Common Name

Blue-eared Kingfisher (English),
Niltauke Matikore (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Alcedinidae



Distribution



Blue-eared Kingfisher is a rare and very local resident.

The first Nepal record of the species was in June 1947; several specimens were collected at Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1961), but there are no later records from the area.

There are confirmed pre-1990 reports from three other sites where the species no longer occurs: one was collected 27 km north-west of Bhadrapur, Jhapa District in February 1965 (Fleming and Traylor 1968); two in Koshi District in April 1975 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976), and one in the lower Arun watershed (Nepali 1986). The apparent disappearance of the species from four sites where it was previously recorded indicates a contraction in distributional range.

The species has mainly been recorded from Chitwan National Park. Gurung (1983) reported it was very uncommon in the park, but it was probably overlooked as mist-netting in 1996/97 revealed that it was fairly common locally in the park (H. S. Baral). However, subsequently the species has disappeared from some streams (Tyabji 2002). Four were seen in the park in March 2001 (Wright and Lawson 2001), one to two birds were regularly recorded in the Tiger Tops area between November 1999 and March 2006 (Chaudhary 2004, Chaudhary 2010) and near Gaida Tented Camp, e.g. in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001). In addition, one

or two were recorded in the park in April 2003 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2003), four at Madi in July 2009 (Anil Gurung), singles in December 2009 (Giri 2009), February 2010 (P. Willoughby in Internet Bird Collection, and March 2010 (Giri 2010), and two by the Rani Khola near Lami Tal in 2011 (Suchit Basnet). It is regularly recorded near Bees Hazari Tal, Chitwan National Park buffer zone, e.g. in February 2002 (Ofner and Basnet 2002), September 2012 (Tika Giri) and March 2015 (Carol Inskipp).

Known recent records from other localities are: one at Singhpur, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in April 2012 (Ram Shahi); from Parsa Wildlife Reserve in April 2003 (Cox 2003) and one there at Deuki Daha in 2010 (Kapil Pokharel), and from Ramdhuni, Sunsari District, 1998-2010 (Shankar Tiwari) and also seen there in 2008 by Som GC.

Globally the species has also been recorded Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 350 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Blue-eared Kingfisher. The apparent disappearance from four sites where it was previously recorded and its disappearance from some sites in Chitwan National Park (where it still occurs) indicate a population decline. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 50; maximum population: 100

Habitat and Ecology

Blue-eared Kingfisher frequents streams in dense, shady, evergreen, tropical broadleaved forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It eats fish, crustaceans and aquatic insects (Fry *et al.* 1992). The species is shy and favours dense, shady places in the forest (Biswas 1961), so it can be overlooked. It is a sedentary resident (Fry *et al.* 1992). Blue-eared Kingfisher bred near Temple Tiger, Chitwan National Park in May 2012 when three young were seen (Kalu Ram Tamang).

Threats

Blue-eared Kingfisher is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat, human disturbance and water pollution which may lead to food shortage.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Blue-eared Kingfisher. Most recent records are from Chitwan National Park; there are also a few known records from the park buffer zone and Parsa and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ace, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List category: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blue-eared Kingfisher has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ace, C2a(i) and D1. The population and distributional range have reduced since at least 1990. The species is now mainly recorded from Chitwan National Park and buffer zone, with a few other known records chiefly from protected areas. It is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat, disturbance and water pollution which may lead to food shortage. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

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Buceros bicornis Linnaeus, 1758 EN

Subspecies: *Buceros bicornis homrai*

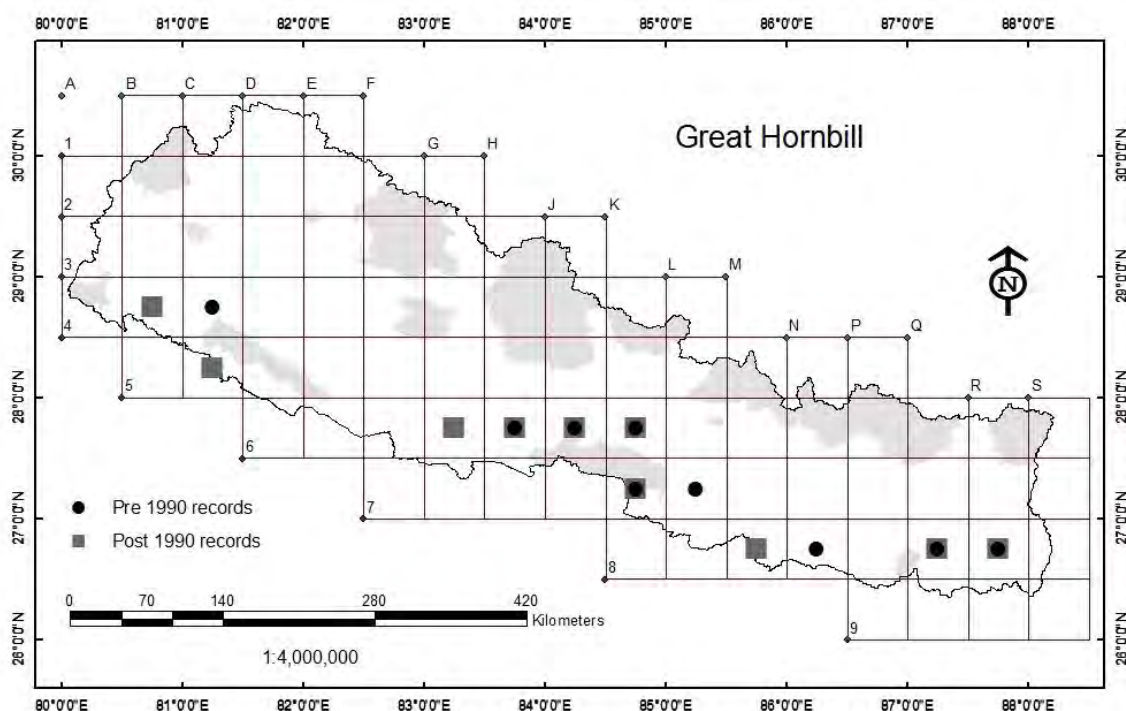
Common Name

Great Hornbill (English),
Raj Dhanesh (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Bucerotidae



Distribution



Great Hornbill is a rare and local resident.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1833) when it was found at Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Hodgson 1829). The species was next recorded at Hetauda in May 1947 when a specimen was collected; the species was considered rare in the central dun (Biswas 1961).

In 1964 and 1965 the species was recorded 19 times in five localities from Sunishchare, Jhapa District west to Chitwan (Fleming 1968). The summary of country records in Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) indicated a decline. It was considered a local resident mainly reported from Chitwan National Park where it was seen occasionally, e.g. Gurung (1983), Scharringa (1987), Cox *et al.* (1989) and proved breeding (Gurung 1983). There were a few reports from elsewhere: Bardia National Park (Suwal and Shrestha 1988, Wangdi 1988); Nawalparasi District, Chitwan District, e.g. Cox (1978), Lambert (1979), Fairbank (1980); Dharan, Sunsari District (Kratter 1987) and north of Sunishchare, Jhapa District, e.g. Cox (1978), Andrews (1986), Guinan and Dodman (1989).

Since 1990 Great Hornbill has been mainly recorded in Chitwan National Park and regularly seen throughout the park, including in the east (Suchit Basnet verbally 2010), see Population section. Singles were seen at three sites in Parsa Wildlife Reserve in April and May 2003 (Cox 2003). It was also recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Barandabhar Important Bird Area in 2000 (Adhikari *et al.* 2000) and in Kumrose Community Forest in March 2012 (Sagar Giri).

In Bardia National Park four were seen in March 2006 and the maximum of five in February 2009 (Shahi 2010). Other park records are two by Tiger Machan in February 2012 (Ram Shahi and Shanta Choudhary), and two in the Babai valley in August 2012.

There are several recent records outside protected areas: two in Ghodaghodi lake area, Kailali District in March 2009 (Chaudhary *et al.* 2009; five in Kapilvastu District forests in 2009 (Giri 2009); near Chitwan in Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District (Chaudhary 2007), also two in Nawalparasi District in December 2009 (Baral 2009); one in Sarlahi District in November 2011 (Tika Giri); two in April 1993 between Garuwa and Sukhani, Jhapa/Ilam Districts (Flack 1993), and two in Ram Dhuni Sal, Sunsari District in March 1994 (Lama 1994). It was also recorded in autumn 2003 and spring 2004 in Raja Rani Community Forest, Morang District, where the nesting tree was cut by local people during the nesting period in 2000, to obtain the female's beak for sale in the market, but the species was not seen in a 2005 bird survey of the forest (Basnet 2002, Basnet 2005; Basnet *et al.* 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 500 m; lower limit: 100 m

Population

As many as 62 birds were noted at Devi Tal, Chitwan National Park in December 2010 (Hathan Chaudhary), the maximum known to be recorded in Nepal. A total of 53 birds flew to roost in the western sector of the park in March 2009 (Bidari 2010). A December 2010 survey carried out throughout the park recorded 25 birds (Thakuri and Chaudhary 2010). A flock of 12 was seen in Sukhebar in the park in May 2012 (Ashik Gurung in litt. to H. S. Baral, May 2012).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 80; maximum population: 150

Habitat and Ecology

Great Hornbill inhabits evergreen and moist broadleaved forest with large fruiting trees (Ali and Ripley 1987). It feeds largely on wild figs *Ficus* spp., nutmegs *Myristica* and drupes of various species; also lizards, snakes, rats and nestling birds. The species is a resident, but may move seasonally depending on fruit supplies (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Great Hornbill is seriously threatened by deforestation, especially loss of mature fruiting trees as food sources and nest sites for hornbills; it is also at risk from hunting (illegal in protected areas) for its casque and oil and as food.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Great Hornbill. The species now chiefly occurs in Chitwan National Park; there are also recent records from Bardia National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve (as well as outside the protected areas' system).

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2cd, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Great Hornbill has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2cd and D1. It is a rare and local resident. It is chiefly recorded from Chitwan National Park, with post-1990 records from two other protected areas. The species is seriously threatened by deforestation and especially the loss of large, mature fruiting trees which it needs for feeding; it is also at risk from hunting for food and for medicinal purposes. Hunting is illegal outside the protected areas system.

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Anthracoceros albirostris Shaw & Nodder, 1807 NT

Subspecies: *Anthracoceros albirostris albirostris*

Common Name

Oriental Pied Hornbill, (English),

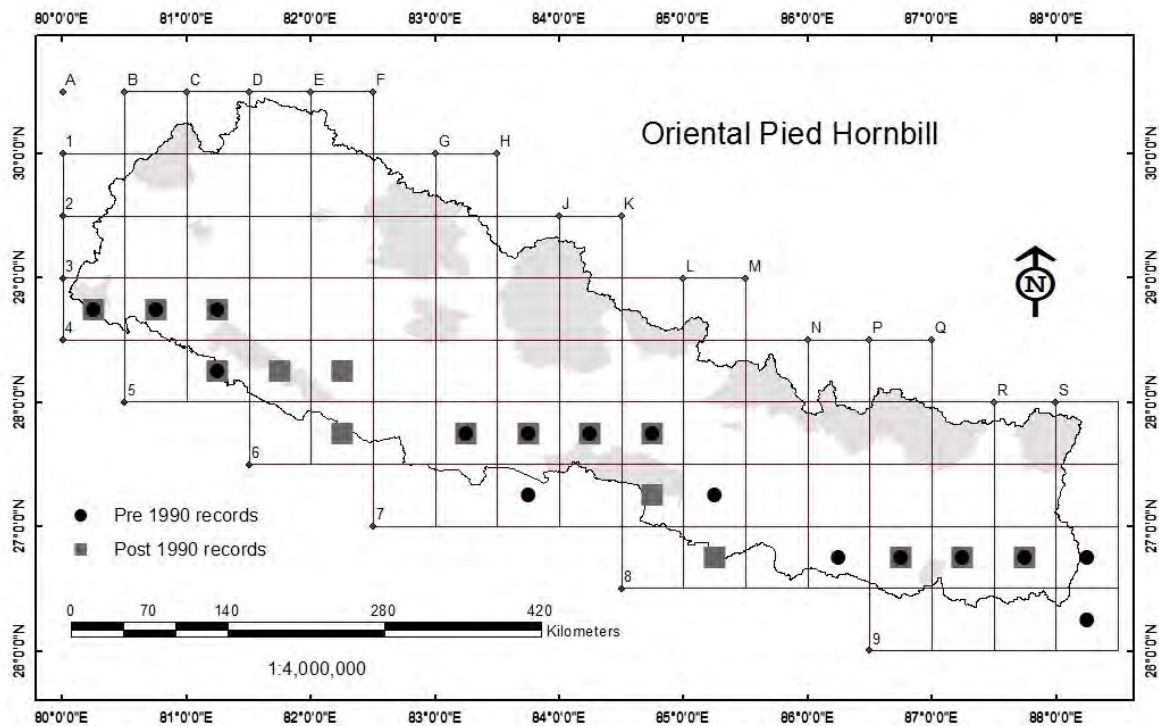
Kaalo Dhanesh (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Bucerotidae



Distribution



Oriental Pied Hornbill is a local and fairly common resident of the lowlands, mainly recorded from protected areas. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai Valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species a local resident moving seasonally according to supply of fruiting trees and small animals and mapped its distribution at the lowlands from the far west to the far east.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded from a few additional localities compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage (see map and text below).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 follows. It is listed as a common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009), but has been frequently seen recently (Suchit Basnet); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006);

a fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a frequent resident in Koshi area (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it is seen frequently (Sagar Giri). It has been recorded at Bees Hazari Lake area and Janakauli Community Forest, e.g. in February 2008 (Giri 2008); Barandabhar Forest (Ghimire 2009), regularly seen at Sauraha, Chitwan District all year (Bishnu Mahato, Tika Giri); regularly seen in Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge Compound, Nawalparasi District, 2013-15; recorded in Gundre Khola Community Forest, Nawalparasi District (H6) in November 2007 (Baral 2007). It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata Corridor (C5) (Chaudhari 2007, Chaudhari *et al.* 2009) and at Betahani Community Forest (C5) in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013).

Oriental Pied Hornbill has been recorded less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990.

In the west records include: a pair at Geta, Kailali District in January 2014 (Dheeraj Chaudhary); a frequent resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012), recorded at Tikapur (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in January 1992 (Halliday 1992); Dang- Deukhuri foothill forest and West Rapti Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009), and 4-5 at Banganga, Kapilvastu District 2011-15 (Dinesh Giri and Karan Shah).

In the central region records include from: Tandri (J6) in June 1994 (Baral 1996) and Bharatpur (J6), Chitwan District in February 2005 (Baral 2005b).

In the east records include: a pair at Chandranigahapur, Rautahat District in November 2013 (Tika Giri); Bhagalpur (P8), Udaypur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); two regularly seen at Koshi Camp, Sunsari District in March, 2010-15 (Suchit Basnet and Anish Timsina); Ram Dhuni Forest (Q8) in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), Patnali Forest (Q8) in January 2010 (Baral 2010) and Dharan Forest (Q8), Sunsari District (e.g. Basnet and Sapkota 2008); regular at Dharan Camp, Sunsari District all year (Karan Shah); a frequent resident in Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Sukhani (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992); lower Mai Valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Oriental Pied Hornbill. Post 1990 figures follow.

Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve: 8-10 birds regularly seen (Dheeraj R Chaudhary)

Chitwan National Park: minimum of 200 birds has been estimated (DB Chaudhary); a flock of 40 in February or March 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009).

Sauraha, Chitwan National Park buffer zone: more than 50 seen (Bishnu Lama)

Dharan Camp, Sunsari District: a flock of 120 was recorded in December 2014 (Anish Timsina);

Patnali Dharan Forest, maximum of 12 birds in 2015 Feb (Dheeraj Chaudhary)

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Oriental Pied Hornbill is a noisy bird of terai and lower foothills forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976) and inhabits broadleaved forests of the lowlands and foothills (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) that are open, moist deciduous or evergreen and also groves of large mangos, figs and other fruiting trees around habitations (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is arboreal; however, it regularly feeds on the ground on the fallen fruits, termites and insects (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) and keeps in noisy parties of 4 or 5 up to 8 to 10 in fruit

bearing trees along with Indian Grey Hornbill and other frugivorous birds (Ali and Ripley 1987). The breeding of the species has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and also in Chitrasen Community Forest, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in January 2013 (BES, Tirtha Lama). The species feeds on chiefly fruits: wild figs, drupes and berries, insects such as termites and sometimes feeds on fish and nestling birds, however, it also feeds on lizards, snakes and other small animals (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Oriental Pied Hornbill is threatened by habitat loss, deforestation, particularly the loss of fruit trees, as well as poaching and hunting. Due to a popular superstitious belief, oil from hornbill casque can be used to restore hair loss

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Oriental Pied Hornbill. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, and Chitwan National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Oriental Pied Hornbill has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local and fairly common resident of the lowlands, mainly recorded from protected areas. Since 1990 the species has been recorded from a few additional localities compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. It has been recorded from several protected areas and less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system. Oriental Pied Hornbill is threatened by habitat loss, deforestation, particularly fruit trees, as well as poaching and hunting. As a result its population outside protected areas has probably declined.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskip/2007_007.pdf

Alcedo atthis (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Alcedo atthis bengalensis*

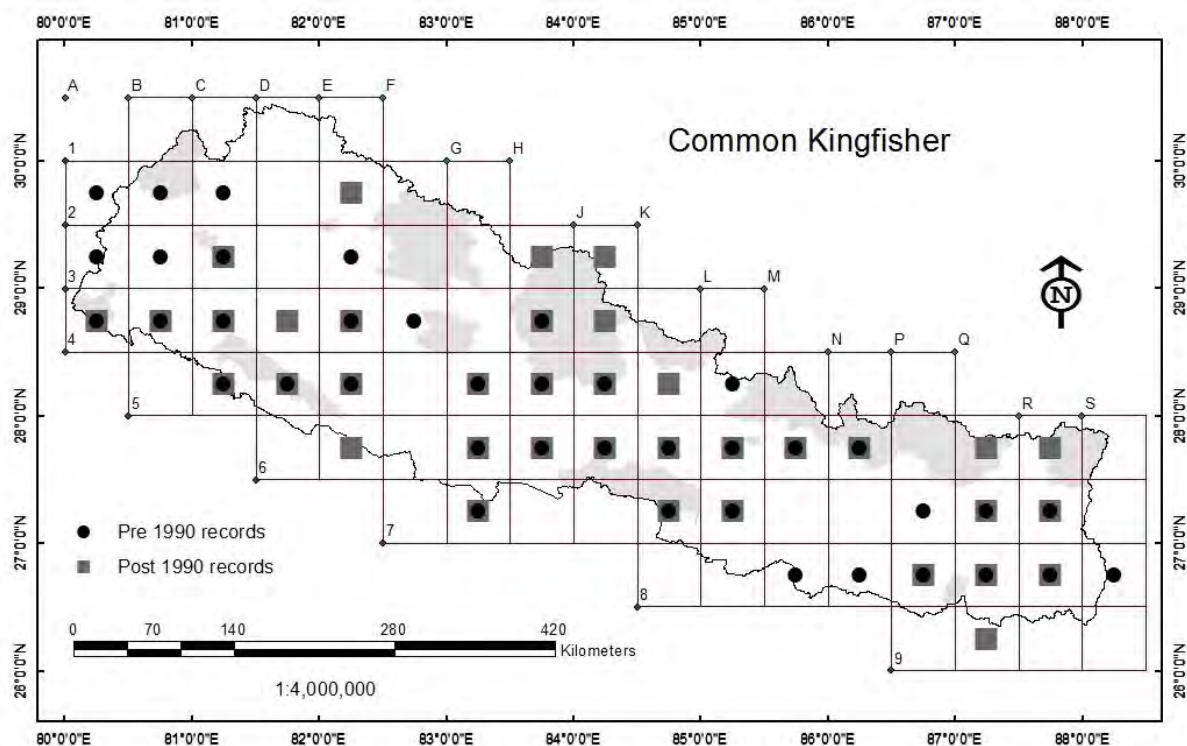
Common Name

Common Kingfisher (English),
Sano Matikore (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Alcedinidae



Distribution



Common Kingfisher is a common and widespread resident of lowlands. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844). Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a fairly common resident up to 1000m; occasionally seen up to 1800m; rare at higher altitude and mapped its distribution fairly well from the far west to the far east.

There has been a small decrease in distribution post-1990, compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a rare summer visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012). Barber (1990) considered the species was an uncertain resident in Rara National Park (E2); however, Giri (2005) reported it was a rare summer visitor in the area; a frequent resident in Annapurna

Conservation Area (H3, H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), recorded in Upper Mustang (J3) (Chhetri 2007) and scarce in Modi River watershed area (H5) (Suwal 2000) in Annapurna Conservation Area; a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a fairly common resident in Shivapuri (L6) in Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); a resident in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a fairly common resident in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a); a common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Brown 1995).

The species has been recorded in Barandabhar Forest and wetland (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Janakauli Community Forest and Bees Hazari Lake Area in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Sauraha in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012), Chitwan District and Gundre Khola in November 2007 (Baral 2007), Tharu Cultural Jungle Resort in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), Nawalparasi District (H6), buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata Corridor (C5) (Chaudhari 2007), Bardia District.

Common Kingfisher has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990.

In the west records include: a common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded in the Badimalika region (C3) of Achham, Bajura and Kalikot Districts (Karki *et al.* 2003); from Chisapani (C4) (Giri 1997), Rawkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5) in March 1992 (Priemé 1992), Kusum (D5) in October 1995 (Baral 1996), Banke District; recorded in Dang- Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); between Kalimati, Kauli, Lagana, Karki Jiula, Jajarkot (E4) in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); a resident in Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); between Ridhabhot and Bikos (G5), Gulmi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); a resident at Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); Lumbini IBA (G7) in January 2003 (Giri 2003) and Gaidahawa Lake (G6) in February 2011 (Baral 2011b), Rupandehi District; Kamal Pokhari (H5) (Inskipp 2004), Pokhara (H5) in December 2010 (Adcock and Naylor 2011) and between Begnas Lake (J5) in March 1999 (Chartier and Chartier 1999), Kaski District; between Pasgam, Libiyani (J5), Lamjung District and Rupatal (J5), Kaski District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000), Simaltal (H6), Tanahun District in November 1992 (Baral 1993a), and Budhigandaki River (K5), Gorkha District in February 2008 (Giri 2008)

In central Nepal records include: from Bharatpur (J6), Chitwan District in February 2005 (Baral 2005b); Naubise (K6) in February 2002 (Arlow 2002), Belkhu (K6) in December 2011 (Carter and James 2011), Dhading (K6) in April 2011 (Baral 2011c), Dhading District; rare in autumn and winter in Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008), recorded along the Bagmati River corridor (L6) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009); Hetauda (L7), Makawanpur District in January 2001 (Hofland 2001), Makawanpur District (L7) section of Bagmati and Bakaiya River Valley (Basnet and Thakuri 2013), and at Dhulikhel (M6), Kavre District in November 1994 (Baral 1994b).

In the east records include: from Bhagalpur Forest (P8), Udaypur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); between Tumlingtar, Chewabensi, Bungling and Khandbari (Q7) in November and December 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995), and between Gothebazar and Phedi (Q7) in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011), Sankhuwasabha District; Sankhuwa Khola (Q7), Bhojpur District in November 1994 (Baral 1995); Ramdhuni Forest (Q8) in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994), Patnali forest (Q8) in May 2011 (Baral 2011c) and Dharan Forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), a fairly common migrant to Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007), Itahari (R8) (Pandey 2003) Sunsari District; a common resident in Betana Pond (Q8) (Niroula *et al.* 2010), Biratnagar (Q9) in March 1994 (Baral 1994a), Morang District; between Gupha Pokhari, Dobhan and Mitlung (R7), Taplegunj District in April 2003 (Inskipp *et al.* 2003), and the lower Mai Valley (R8), (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guam (to USA), Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao (China), Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife

International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1800 m (- 5200 m - 5350 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Common Kingfisher. Post 1990, as many as 60 birds were recorded on 14 February 1991 at Chitwan National Park (Baral 1993b).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Kingfisher frequents the edges of streams and rivers (Fleming *et al.* 1976) and is also found by lakes, streams, rivers, ditches, ponds in open country and avoids shady forest (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is tame and confiding. Typically it uses a post, reed or bank at the water's edge as a vantage point, perching 1-2m above the surface and plunges headlong into the water to catch prey. It may submerge completely and sometimes hovers before diving; flies swiftly and directly low over the water or trees, often calling (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeding was confirmed at Chitwan (Gurung 1983). It feeds on small fish, tadpoles and insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Common Kingfisher has been threatened by habitat loss and degradation, and shortage of fish.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Common Kingfisher. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Banke, Rara, Chitwan, Shivapuri-Nagarjun and Makalu-Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Kingfisher has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a common and widespread resident recorded from the far west to the far east. It is widespread within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat in and outside the protected areas' system. There has been a small decrease in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. The species may be threatened by habitat loss and degradation, and shortage of fish. Its population is probably decreasing but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category.

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Ceryle rudis (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Ceryle rudis leucomelanura*

Common Name

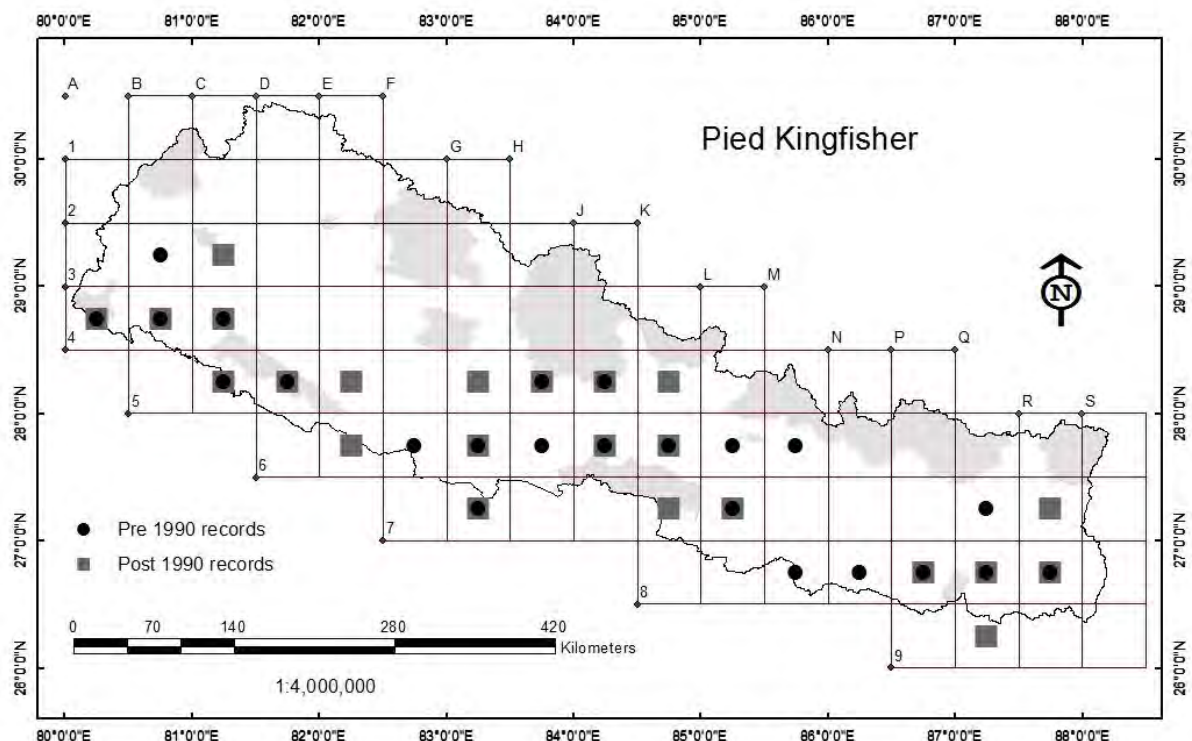
Pied Kingfisher (English),
Chhibire Matikore (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Alcedinidae



Distribution



Pied Kingfisher is a common and widespread resident of the lowlands. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Kanchenjunga Region (Brown 1995) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species was a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species was a common resident in the terai and lower hills up to 915m and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a fairly common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6,

K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded from Barandabhar Forest and wetland (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Bees Hazari Lake area and Janakauli Community Forest in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Sauraha in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012), Chitwan District and Gundre Khola in November 2007 (Baral 2007), Tharu Cultural Jungle Resort (H6) in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), Nawalparasi District, buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata Corridor (C5) (Chaudhari 2007), Bardia District;

Pied Kingfisher has also been recorded widely from outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990.

In the west records include a common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012) and recorded in Tikapur Park (C5) in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013a), Kailali District; Chisapani (C4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997), Bardia District; Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); recorded in Dang-Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Gaidahawa Lake (G6) in February 2011 (Baral 2011b), Lumbini IBA (G7) in December 2011 (Baral 2011a) and Bhairahawa (G6) in April 1993 (Baral 1994), Rupandehi District; a resident in Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); Pokhara (H5) in December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), Begnas Lake (J5) in March 1999 (Chartier and Chartier 1999), Kaski District; Simaltal (J6), Tanahun District in November 1992 (Baral 1993), and Budhigandaki (K5), Gorkha District in February 2008 (Giri 2008).

In central Nepal records include: from Gajuri (K6), Dhading District in March 1994 (Zerning and Braasch 1995); Hetauda (L7), Makawanpur District in January 2001 (Hofland 2001), and between Lal Bakaiya River and Kopuwa Gau (L7), Rautahat District and between Belwa and Kat Mandir (L7), Bara District in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include: from Bhagalpur Forest (P8), Udaypur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); Ramdhuni Forest (Q8) in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), Patnali Forest (Q8) in November 2007 (Baral 2007), Dharan Forest in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), Itahari (R8) (Pandey 2003) and a fairly common resident in Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007), Sunsari District; an uncommon resident in Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012), and recorded in the Kanchenjunga region (R7) during autumn 1994 (Brown 1995).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Macao (China), Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Qatar, Rwanda, São Tomé e Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Pied Kingfisher. Post 1990, at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, 38 birds were recorded on 28 December 2001 (Baral 2001), 36 in 21 November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), and 29 on 23 April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013b).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Pied Kingfisher frequents slow-moving streams, rivers, ponds and lakes in open country (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and flooded ditches (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species has a characteristic type of hunting by hovering over water with bill pointing down and facing the wind with fast-beating wings, then plunging vertically downwards when it sees a fish, momentarily vanishing under the surface and reappearing again (Ali and Ripley 1987 and Fleming *et al.* 1998). The species feeds mainly on fishes, supplemented with tadpoles and aquatic insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan (Gurung 1983). In addition to places mentioned above, its breeding has been confirmed in Dano River, Lumbini, Rupandehi District (Hem Sagar Baral.).

Threats

Pied Kingfisher has been threatened by habitat loss and degradation, and shortage of fish.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Pied Kingfisher. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, Chitwan and Langtang National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pied Kingfisher has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a common and widespread resident recorded from the far west to the far east. It is widespread within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat within and outside the protected areas' system. The species has been recorded more widely post-1990 compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. Pied Kingfisher is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, and shortage of fish. Its population is probably decreasing, but not to the extent that warrants a threatened category.

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Coracias benghalensis (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Coracias benghalensis benghalensis*, *affinis*

Common Name

Indian Roller (English),

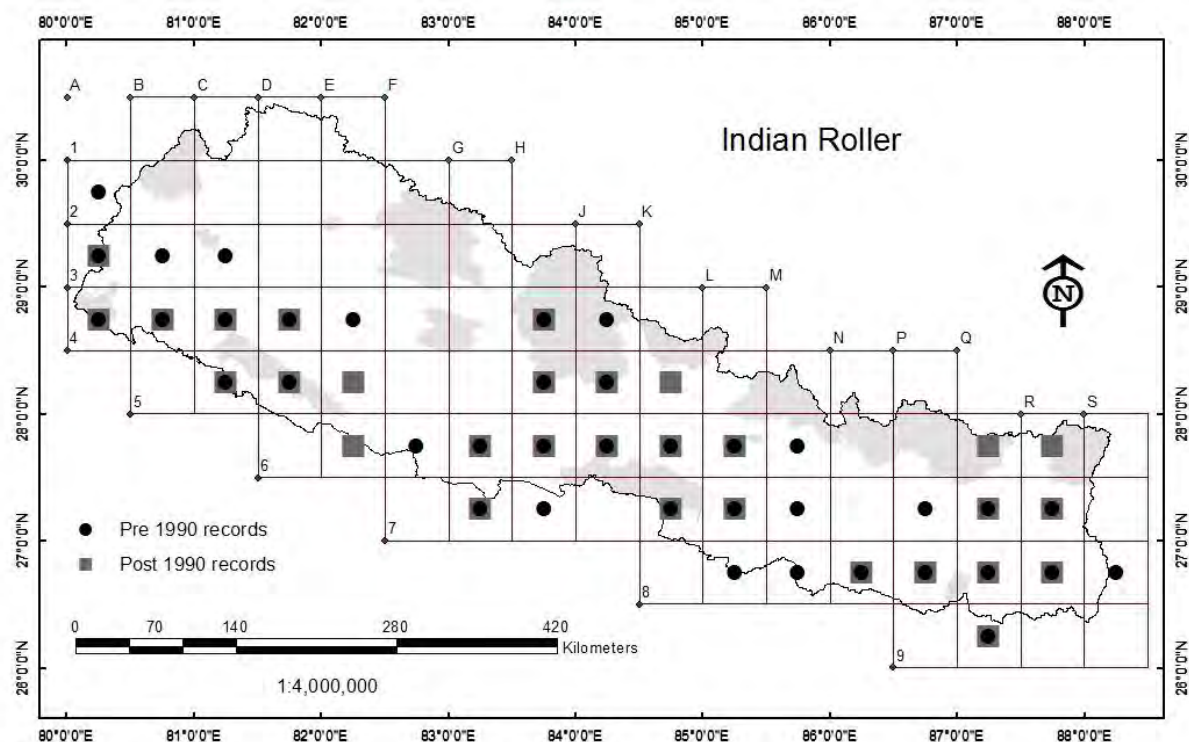
Theuwa (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Coraciidae



Distribution



Indian Roller is a common and widespread breeding resident in Nepal. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Amargadhi, Dadeldhura District (Baral *et al.* 2010) in the far west to the Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species was a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species was a common resident to terai and rare at higher altitude and mapped its distribution widely from the far west to the far east.

The species was recorded in an unusually high altitude at 3655m in August 1950 in Manangbhot, Manang District [J4] (Lowndes 1955).

There has been a small decrease in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post 1990 is: a common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a rare and uncertain resident in Annapurna

Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a common resident in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999); a common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a), recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Bees Hazari Lake and Janakauli Forest in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Chitwan District and Tharu Cultural Village Resort, Nawalparasi District (H6) in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in Khata Corridor (C5) (Chaudhari 2007), Bardia District.

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from: Amargadhi (A3), Dadeldhura District in June 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); a common breeding resident in Mohana River Corridor (B4) (Chaudhary 2012a), common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012) and in Tikapur Park (C5) in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013a), Kailali District; Chisapani gorge (C4) in March 1992 (Baral 1992); Rawkot and Kotuwa Village (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); recorded in Dang-Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Salli Bazar (E5), Salyan District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013b); less common and possibly resident in Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Bhairahawa (G6) in April 1993 (Baral 1994a), Lumbini (G7) in February 2011 (Acharya 2011) and Gaidahawa Lake area (G6) in February 2011 (Baral 2011b), Rupandehi District; a resident in Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); and Pokhara Valley (H5), Kaski District in February 1993 (Fourage 1993); Rampur Valley (H6), Palpa District (Gautam 2003); recorded in Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in November 2010 (Adcock and Naylor 2011), and Budhi Gandaki, near Arughat (K5), Gorkha District in November 1992 (Prodon 1992).

In central Nepal records include from: Chaubiskote (J6) in November 2007 (Baral 2007a) and Bharatpur (J6) in January 2001 (Hofland 2001), Chitwan District; very rare in Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008); vagrant in Chitlang Forest (L7) (Manandhar *et al.* 1992) and recorded in Hetauda (L7) in April 2001, (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), Makwanpur District; along Makwanpur (L7) and Bara (L7) Districts sections of Bagmati and Bakaiya River valleys (Basnet and Thakuri 2013), Judibela Community Forest and Aadarsha Community and National Forest (L7), Rautahat District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013c); Dudhaura Khola (L7), Bara District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013c), and Katahare and Durga community forests (N8), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhaubhadel 2007).

In the east records include from: Bhagalpur (P8), Udaypur District (Choudhary 1994); Sankhuwa Khola (Q7), Bhojpur District in November 1994 (Baral 1995); between Tumlingtar, Chewabesi and Bungling (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995); Itahari (R8) (Pandey 2003), Dharan forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Ram Dhuni Forest (Q8) in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007) and Patnali Forest (Q8) in October 2010 (Baral 2010a), Sunsari District; an occasionally recorded resident in Rajarani Community Forest (Q8) (Basnet *et al.* 2005) and an uncommon resident in Biratnagar (Q9) (Jha and Subba 2012), Morang District; between Gorja Gaun and Dobhan (R7), Taplejung District in October 1996 (Buckton 1996); between Prajapate and Sukhani (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992), and the lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1050 m (- 3655 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Indian Roller. Post 1990, 53 in 30 December 2000 at Chitwan National Park (Chaudhary 2001) and 42 in 25 March 1998 at Bardia National Park (Chaudhary 1998).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Indian roller frequents cultivation, gardens, groves and open broadleaved forest (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species keeps singly or in pairs spending most of the day on a prominent perch on telephone wires, fence posts, earth clods in ploughed field and bare trees for a clear view of the surroundings and movement of creeping prey (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on large insects: beetles, locusts, crickets; however, it also takes moths, winged ants and termites in the air, and also eats frogs, lizards, small snakes and field mice, scorpions and even young birds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Indian Roller has probably benefitted by the conversion of forests into cultivated lands. However, it may have suffered from pesticide use which has resulted in loss of invertebrate prey.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Indian Roller. Post 1990, the species has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, Chitwan and Makalu-Barun National Parks; Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Indian Roller is assessed as Least Concern. The species is a widespread breeding resident in Nepal. Post-1990 it has been recorded in many protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. Since 1990 there has been a small decrease in distribution. Indian Roller has probably benefitted by the conversion of forests into cultivated lands. However, it may have suffered from pesticide use which has resulted in loss of invertebrate prey. Its population may therefore be decreasing, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category.

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Eurystomus orientalis (Linnaeus, 1766) LC

Subspecies: *Eurystomus orientalis cyanicollis*

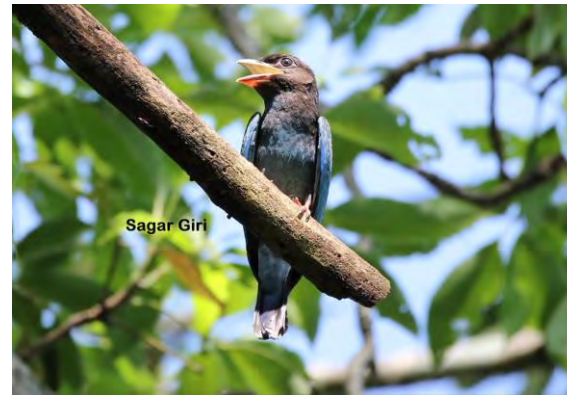
Common Name

Asian Dollarbird (English),

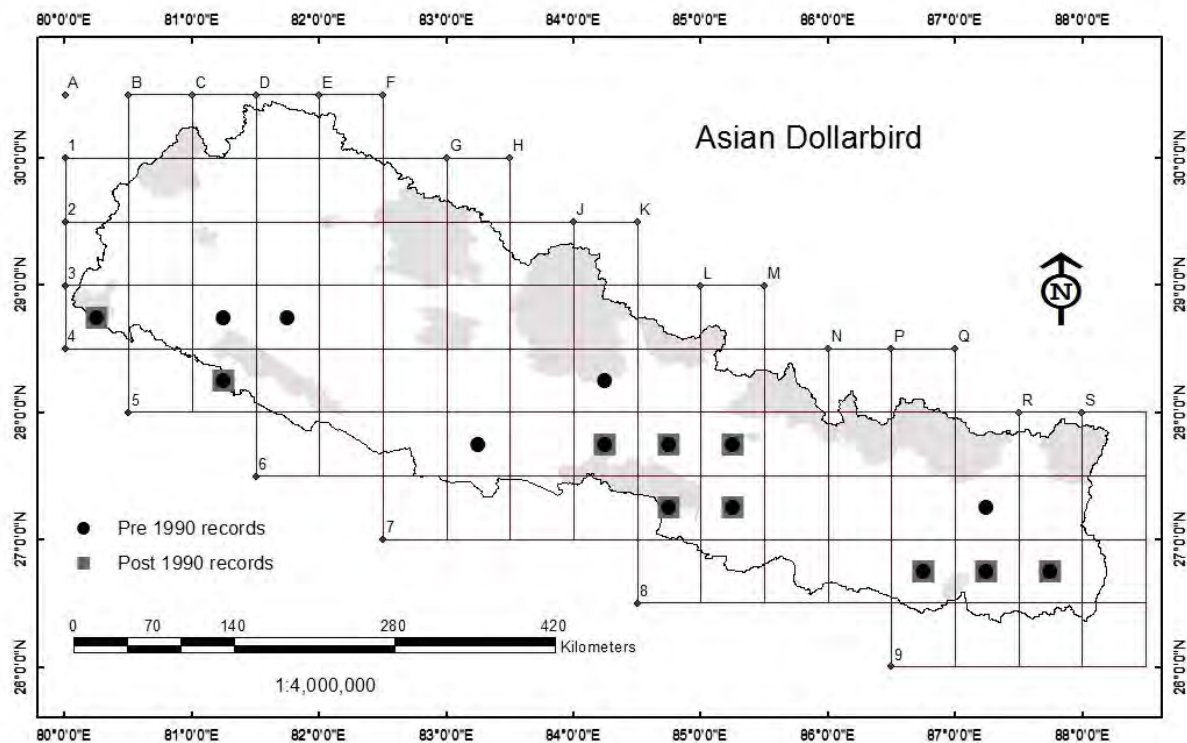
Lalchuchche Theuwa (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Coraciidae



Distribution



Asian Dollarbird is a local summer visitor, fairly common in the Chitwan-Parsa area and uncommon in other localities. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common summer visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species a local summer visitor mainly found up to 365 m and mapped its distribution mainly in central Nepal and the far east.

Since 1990 it has been recorded less widely in the west compared to pre-1990; otherwise its distribution has not changed significantly.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a breeding resident and summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a rare summer visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded at Nagarjun Forest (L6) of Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park in September 2005 (Giri and Choudhary 2006); a fairly common summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a fairly common summer visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001), and a frequent

summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and wetland, buffer zone of Chitwan National Park (Ghimire 2009).

Asian Dollarbird has been recorded less widely outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990, compared to within protected areas.

In central Nepal records include: very rare in the Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008) and recorded in March 1999 at Godavari Botanical Garden (L6), Lalitpur District (Chartier and Chartier 1999), and between Belwa and Kat Mandir (L7), Bara District in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Patnali Forest (Q8) in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and Dharan Forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Sunsari District; a fairly common resident in Rajarani Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005), and recorded from lower Mai valley (R8)(Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macao (China), Malaysia, Micronesia, Federated States of, Myanmar, New Zealand, North Korea, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (- 1300); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Asian Dollarbird. Post 1990, as many as 23 birds were recorded on 5 April 2008 in the Koshi Area (Chaudhary 2008).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Asian Dollarbird inhabits forests and clearings with scattered trees (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species mainly keeps singly or in pairs, occasionally in small loose parties in heavy forests or their immediate environment (clearings etc.). Typically it perches on the topmost branch of tall dead trees for long periods (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is active in the morning and evening and feeds chiefly in late afternoons and evenings, continuing until dark (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). From late August to late September, several of these birds are seen perched on the electric wires along the Amlekhganj-Aadhabhar road, east-west highway (Hem Sagar Baral). Breeding was confirmed in Chitwan (Gurung 1983). The species feeds chiefly on insects: crickets, beetles, flying termites etc, however, it also takes lizards and other small animals (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Asian Dollarbird is threatened by habitat loss and degradation outside protected areas, and possibly also by shortage of food.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Asian Dollarbird. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Chitwan and Shivapuri- Nagarjun National Parks, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Asian Dollarbird has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a local summer visitor, fairly common in the Chitwan-Parsa area and uncommon in other localities. Since 1990 it has been recorded less widely in the west compared to pre-1990; otherwise its distribution has not changed significantly. It is recorded less widely outside protected areas than within the protected areas' system. The species is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, and possibly by shortage of food. Its population is probably decreasing, but not an extent that warrants a threatened category.

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Halcyon pileata (Boddaert, 1783) LC

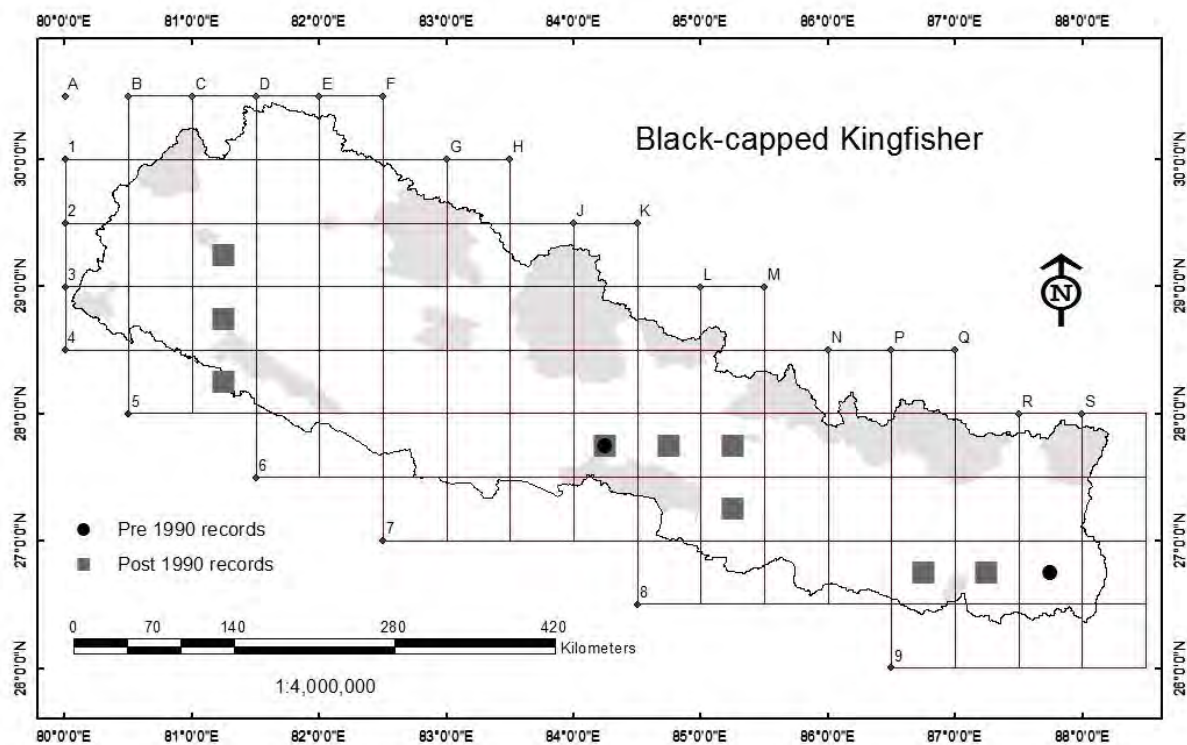
Common Name

Black-capped Kingfisher (English),
Kalotauke Matikore (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Alcedinidae



Distribution



Black-capped Kingfisher is an uncommon and irregular visitor mainly to the lowlands. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (Giri and Choudhary 1996) in the far west to Ram Dhuni Forest (Q8), Sunsari District in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Fleming 1975, Gurung 1983).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a scarce summer visitor, noted only along banks of Reu-Rapti Rivers, Chitwan. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a vagrant.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded from several additional localities compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: recorded at Gandigadh (C3), Khaptad National Park in March 1995 (Giri and Choudhary 1996); a rare passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); vagrant to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and a rare passage migrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded in Chitwan National Park

buffer zone at Bees Hazari Lake in December 1992 (Brew 1992).

Black-capped Kingfisher has been recorded from only a few localities outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990. Records since 1990 follow.

In the central region records include: from the Kathmandu Valley (L6) in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), Godavari, Lalitpur District in 2015 (Om Yadav); Chandi Khola (L7), Rautahat District in October 2001 (Giri and Choudhary 2001) and Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in October 2014 (Kanchan Parjuli Saroj).

In the east records include: from Ram Dhuni Forest (Q8), Sunsari District in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 300 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Black-capped Kingfisher. Post 1990 three birds were recorded at Gandigadh, Khaptad National Park in March 1995 (Giri and Choudhary 1996).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Black-capped Kingfisher has been recorded along river courses (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It perches in the open at forest edges or on telephone wires (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Typically, it has a number of alternative fixed hunting posts in a feeding territory, occupying them day after day (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species dives obliquely from a perch for fish, but rarely plunges into water (Grimmett *et al.* 1987, Ali and Ripley 1998).

Threats

The species is threatened by habitat loss and degradation.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Black-capped Kingfisher. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Threat status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-capped Kingfisher has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is an uncommon and irregular visitor, mainly to the lowlands. It has been recorded more frequently and more widely post-1990 compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. It is threatened by habitat loss and degradation. There are no regular records of the species, therefore its population status is unknown.

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Halcyon smyrnensis (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Halcyon smyrnensis fusca*

Common Name

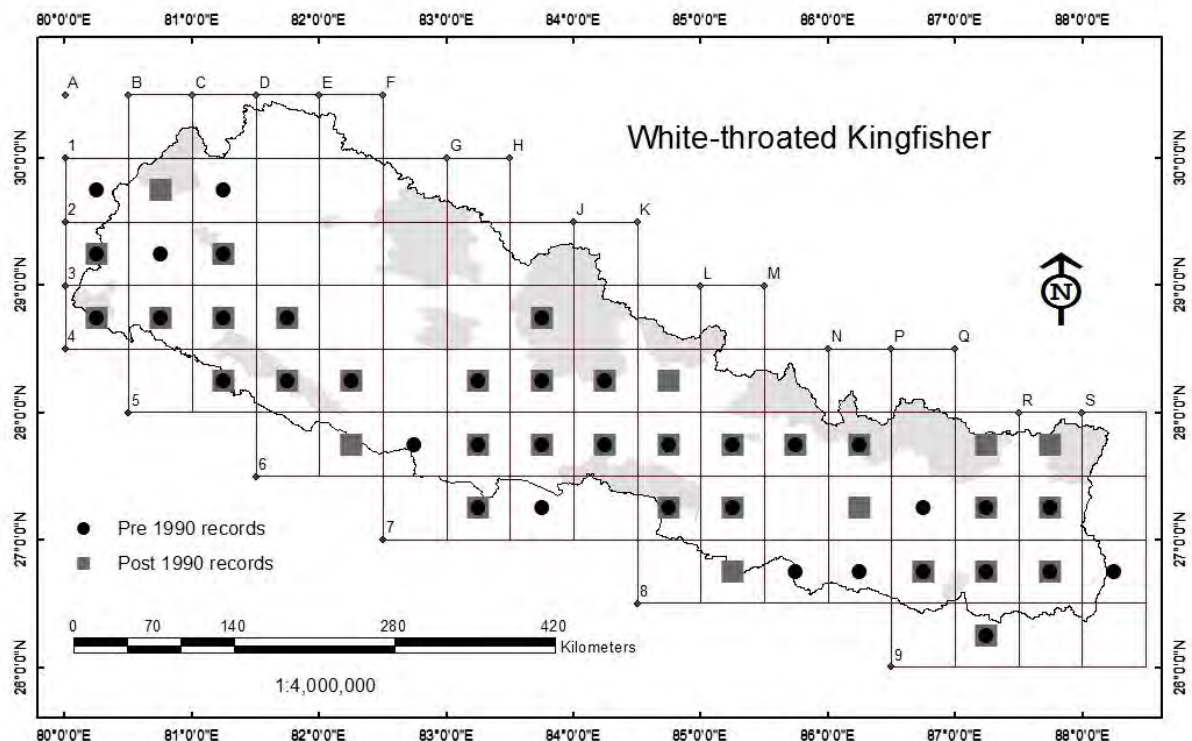
White-throated Kingfisher (English),
Setokanthe Matikore (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Alcedinidae



Distribution



White-throated Kingfisher is a common and widespread resident below 1000m, rare above 1800m.. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Amargadhi, Dadeldhura District (Baral *et al.* 2010) in the far west to the Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a common resident throughout Nepal up to 1000m and mapped its distribution widely from the far west to the far east.

The species was recorded as high as 3,840 m at Lo Manthang, Annapurna Conservation Area in April 2009 (Giri and Choudhary 2009).

There is no significant difference in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); recorded in Chameliya Valley (B2) in Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in

Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); probably a scarce resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), irregularly recorded in Upper Mustang (Acharya 2002, Suwal 2003) and scarce in the Modi River watershed area (H5) (Suwal 2000) in Annapurna Conservation Area; a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a fairly common resident in Shivapuri (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and recorded at Nagarjun (L6) in January 1994 (Baral 1994a) in Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park; resident in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a common resident in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a); a common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Bees Hazari Lake and Janakauli community forest in February 2008 (Giri 2008a), Gundre Khola in November 2007 (Baral 2007a), Tharu Cultural Resort in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), Nawalparasi District (H6), buffer zone of Chitwan National Park; between Heluwabesi, Kesuwakhet and Simle Gaun, buffer zones of Makalu-Barun National Park in May 2009 (Cox 2009), and in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata Corridor (C4) (Chaudhari 2007),

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include: from Amargadhi (A3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); a common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012), a common resident in Mohana River Corridor (B4) (Chaudhary 2012) and recorded at Tikapur Park (C5) in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013a) Kailali District; Badimalika region (C3) of Achham, Bajura and Kalikot Districts (Karki *et al.* 2003); Chisapani (C4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997), Bardia District; Rawkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); recorded in Dang- Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Salli Bazar (E5), Salyan District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013b); between Shivaratri Khola (G5), Darbang (G5) and Tatopani (H5), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011); a resident in Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); a resident in Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); Lumbini (G7) in February 2011 (Acharya 2011), Gaidahawa Lake (G6) in February 2011 (Baral 2011b), Rupandehi District; Banpale Danda (H5) (Karki *et al.* 1997), Kamal Pokhari (H5) (Inskipp 2004), Pokhara (H5) in March 2009 (Baral 2009), Begnas Tal (J5) in March 1999 (Chartier and Chartier 1999), Kaski District; between Chandi Bhanjyang and Kavri Dharmasala (G6) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b), Rampur Valley (H6) (Gautam 2003), Palpa District; Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000); Simaltal (J6), Tanahun District in November 1992 (Baral 1993a), and Budhigandki Valley near Arughat (K5), Gorkha District in November 1992 (Prodon 1992).

In central Nepal records include: from Bharatpur (J6) in February 2002 (Arlow 2002), Chaubiskote (J6) in November 2007 (Baral 2007), Chitwan District; Dhading (K6), Dhading District in April 2011 (Baral 2011c); Trisuli (L6), Nuwakot District in April 1997 (Cooper and Cooper 1997); a common resident in Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008), along Bagmati River corridor (L6) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009); recorded along Kathmandu (L6), Lalitpur (L6) and Makwanpur (L7) District sections of Bagmati and Bakaiya river valleys (Basnet and Thakuri 2013); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in January 2001 (Hofland 2001); between Belwa and Kat Mandir (L7), Bara District in April 2003 (Cox 2003); between Gaur (L8), Rautahat District and Sedhawa (L8), Siraha District in April 2003 (Cox 2003); Panauti (M6), Kavre District in November 1994 (Baral 1994); between Sermathang and Melamchi Bazar (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2007 (Byskov 2007), and the Tamakoshi River (N7), Ramechhap District (Phuyal 2012).

In the east records include: from Trijuga (P8), Udaypur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); Tumlingtar (Q7) in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011) and between Chewabesi, Bungling, Bhotebas and Khandbari (Q7) between November- December 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995), Sankhuwasabha District; Patnali Forest (Q8) in March 2001 (Baral 2001), Dharan forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Ram Dhuni Forest (Q8) in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999), Itahari (R8) (Pandey 2003) and a fairly common migrant to Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007), Sunsari District; a fairly common resident in Rajarani Community Forest (Q8) (Basnet *et al.* 2005), a common resident in Biratnagar (Q9) (Jha and Subba 2012) and a common resident in Betana Pond (Q8) (Niroula *et al.* 2011), Morang District; between Mitlung and Dobhan (R7), Taplegunj District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); between Biring Khola and Prajapate (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998), and the lower Mai Valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China (mainland), Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Macao (China), Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1000 m (- 3050 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for White-throated Kingfisher. Post 1990, as many as 104 birds were recorded at Chitwan National Park on 30 December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

White-throated Kingfisher frequents wetlands, such as streams, rivers and pools and nearby grain fields (Fleming *et al.* 1976), as well as a variety of habitats far from water, such as cultivation, forest edges and gardens (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), flooded borrow-pits and roadside ditches, and village tanks (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species perches motionlessly in trees or on electric wires for long periods (Fleming *et al.* 1976), surveying the surrounding area for prey, often well away from water (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been confirmed at Chitwan (Gurung 1983), the Kathmandu Valley (Proud 1949), Koshi Tappu and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Bardia National Park, and Pokhara (Hem Sagar Baral pers. obs.). The species' food consists largely of insects (grasshoppers, crickets, mantises, other beetles including ants, winged termites, locusts, dragonflies), crabs, scorpions and centipedes, frogs and lizards, mice and birds, and fish (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

White-throated Kingfisher is threatened by habitat degradation and shortage of prey.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for White-throated Kingfisher. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, Chitwan, Shivapuri-Nagarjun and Makalu-Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-throated Kingfisher has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a common and widespread resident recorded from the far west to the far east. It has been recorded from most protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. There has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. White-throated Kingfisher is threatened by habitat degradation and shortage of prey. Its population is probably decreasing, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category.

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Megaceryle lugubris Temminck, 1834 LC

Subspecies: *Megaceryle lugubris continentalis*

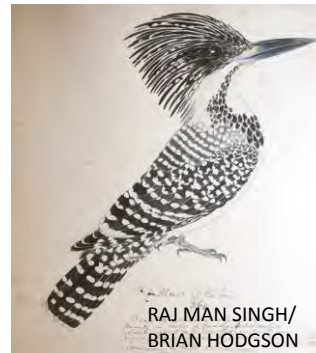
Common Name

Crested Kingfisher (English),

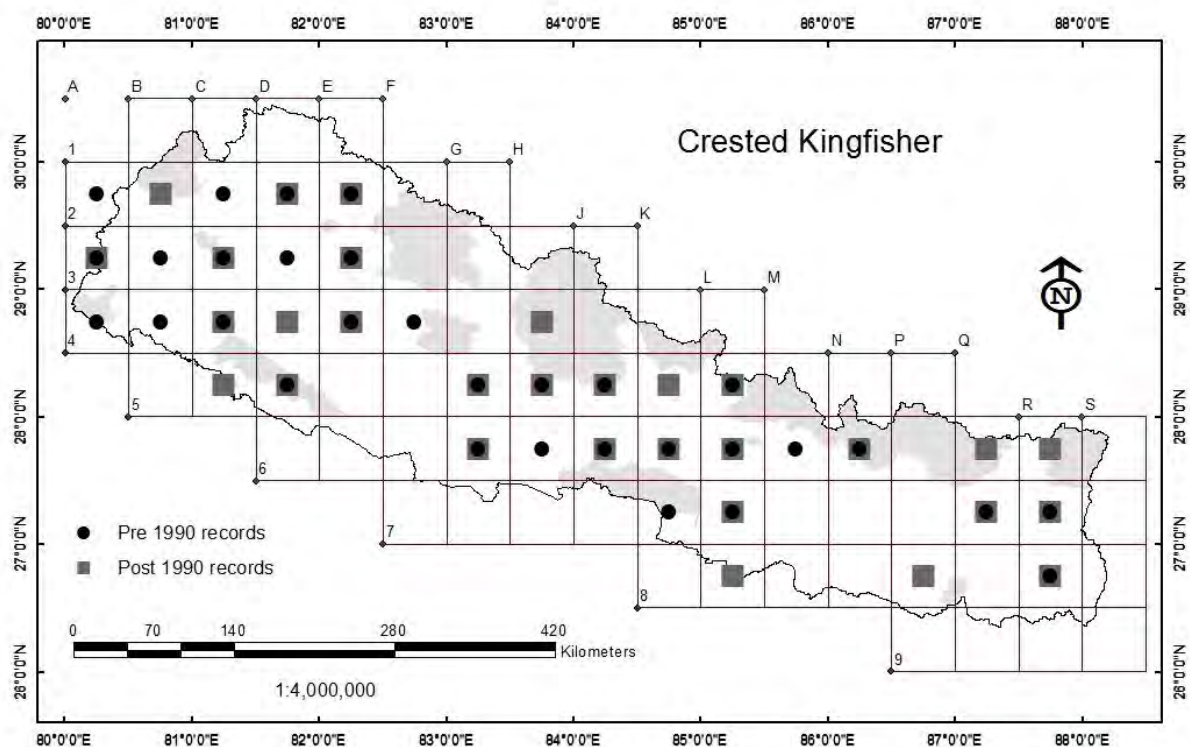
Thulo Chhibire Matikore (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Alcedinidae



Distribution



Crested Kingfisher is a fairly common and widespread resident. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Chulla, Dadeldhura District (Baralet *al.* 2010) in the far west to the Mai valley (Robsonet *al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a frequent resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a sedentary and frequent resident between 250m and 1800m. The species has been reported at the unusually high altitude of about 3000 m at the Dhorpatan valley in 1981 (Morioka 1985).

There is no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: recorded in Chameliya Valley (B2) in Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a frequent resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); an uncommon passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001), now with a decreasing number of records (Hem Sagar Baral.); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); frequent and possibly a summer visitor to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); a frequent resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); however, there are no recent reports from here; recorded from Manaslu

Conservation Area (K5) (Thakuri 2013); recorded at Syabru (L5) in Langtang National Park in March 2013 (Aley 2013); a breeding resident in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a frequent resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a); recorded at Tapethok (R6) in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in March 2012 (Katuwal *et al.* 2013). The species has been recorded between Keksuwa Khet and Simle Gaun in May 2009, buffer zone of Makalu-Barun National Park (Cox 2009).

Crested Kingfisher has been recorded less widely outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990.

In the west records include from: Chulla (A3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Badimalika region (C3) of Achham, Bajura and Kalikot Districts (Karki *et al.* 2003); Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); between Takula, Chhirna (D2), Kalikot District and Narakot (E3), Jumla District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Rawtkot (D4) and between Gaibanne, Madela (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); between Lagana, Karki Jiula and Kalimati (E4), Jajarkot District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); a resident in Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); between Ridhabot and Bikos (G5) and Sidure and Rupakot (G6), Gulmi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); Thumsikot (J5), in January 1992 (Halliday 1992), Pokhara (H5) in February 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009), Kaski District; ; Bhulbhule (J5), Lamjung District in October 1997 (Chaudhary 1998), and Budhigandaki Valley, near Arughat (K5), Gorkha District in November 1992 (Prodon 1992) .

In central Nepal records include from: Malekhu (K6), Dhading District in January 1991 (Baral 1993); a vagrant in Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008) and recorded along Bagmati River corridor (L6) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009); Adheri (L7), Makawanpur District section of Bagmati and Bakaiya River valley (Basnet and Thakuri 2013); between Gaur (L8), Rautahat District and Sedhawa (L8), Siraha District in April 2003 (Cox 2003), and Shivalaya (N6), Ramechhap District in November 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009).

In the east records include from: between Chewabesi, Tumlingtar, Khandbari (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November and December 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995); Sankhuwa Khola (Q7), Bhojpur District in November 1994 (Baral 1995); between lower Yektin and Likyang (R7), Panchthar District in November 1992 (Cox 1992), between Dobhan and Mitlung (R7), Taplejung District in October 1996 (Buckton 1996); Soktim (R8), and Memen (R7), Mai valley (R8) Robson *et al.* 2008; Ilam (R8), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1800 m (- 3000 m); lower limit: 250 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Crested Kingfisher. Post 1990, six birds were recorded between Chhirna, Kalikot District and Narakot, Jumla District on 23 March 1997 (Giri 1997).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Crested Kingfisher is found in rocky, fast-flowing streams in well-wooded areas, rarely by lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is very wary and difficult to approach (Ali and Ripley 1987). It spends most of the day perched on branches close to and overhanging water or on rocks at the river's edge or in the middle of a river, where the current is swift (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Unlike Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*, the species does not hover but dives from a perch to catch fish (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on fish up to 15 or 18 cm long (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The species is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, and shortage of fish.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Crested Kingfisher. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Banke, Rara, Chitwan, Langtang and Makalu-Barun National Parks and Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Crested Kingfisher has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a fairly common and widespread resident recorded from the highlands recorded from the far west to the far east. It is still widespread within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat inside and outside the protected areas' system. However, there has been a small decrease in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. The species is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, and shortage of fish species. Its population is probably declining, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened species category.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskipp/2009_006.pdf

Merops leschenaulti Vieillot, 1817 LC
 Subspecies: *Merops leschenaulti leschenaulti*

Common Name

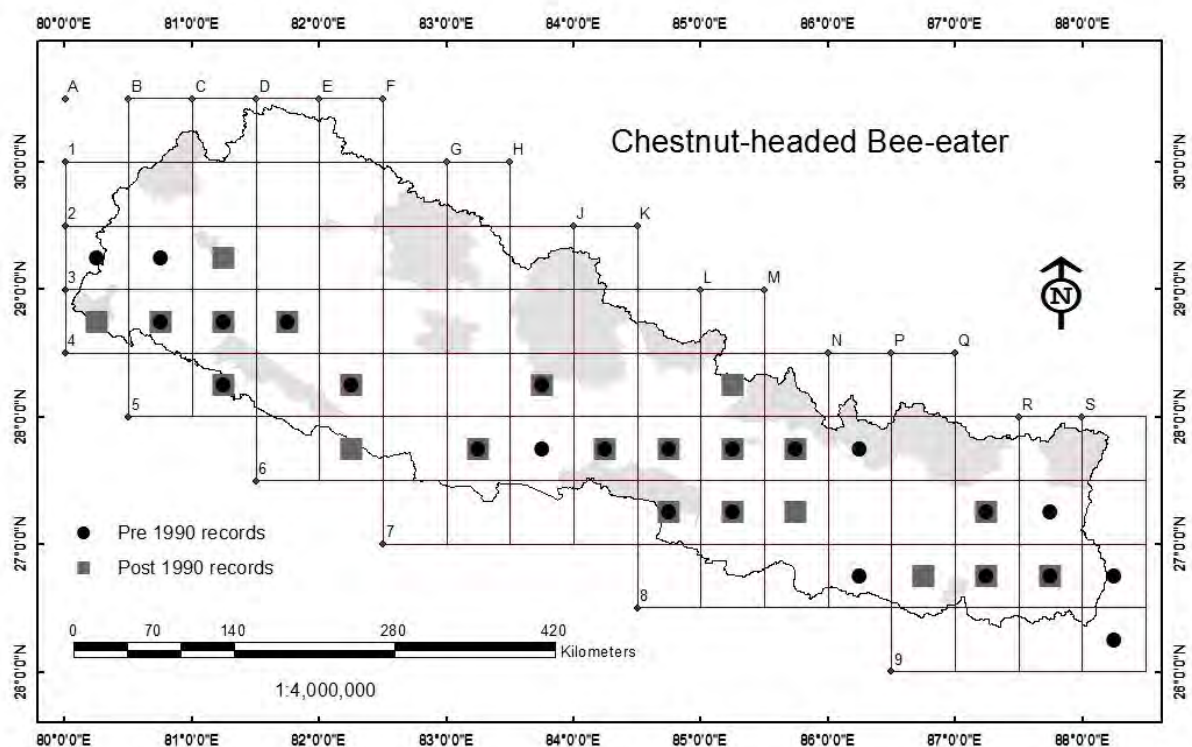
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (English),
 Katustauke Muralichara (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
 Family: Meropidae



SAGAR GIRI

Distribution



Chestnut-headed Bee-eater is a common summer visitor below 680m. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common resident and passage migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a fairly common up to 680m, mainly a summer visitor although some birds are resident and mapped its distribution mainly in central Nepal and the east. Since 1990 there have been no winter records of this species, making it almost entirely a summer visitor to Nepal.

There has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a frequent breeding summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common summer visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a rare passage migrant in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a common summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a common summer visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); recorded from Syabru (L5) in May 2003 (Chaudhary 2003) of

Langtang National Park; an occasionally recorded summer visitor in Shivapuri (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and recorded from Nagarjun (L6) in March 1997 (Giri 1997) in Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park; a fairly common breeding summer visitor in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded at Beeshazari Lake and Janakauli Community Forest in March 2010 (Giri 2010), Barandabhar Forest and wetland (Ghimire 2009), Sauraha in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012), the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park; between Helwabesi and Keksuwa Khet in May 2009 (Cox 2009), buffer zone of Makalu-Barun National Park. Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata Corridor (C5) (Chaudhari 2007), Bardia District and from Dhunche (L5) in Langtang National Park buffer zone in May 1996 (Cocker 1996).

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990.

In the west records include: a frequent summer visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded from Chisapani (C4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997), Kotuwa village, Dailekh District (D4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997); recorded in Dang- Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); between Kavri Dharmasala (G6), Argali (G6), Palpa District and Sindure (G6), Gulmi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999); a summer visitor in Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Pokhara (H5) in March 1999 (Chartier and Chartier 1999), and at Sarangkot (H5) in April 2007 (Oldfield 2007), Kaski District.

In central Nepal records include: from Narayanghat (J6) in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2001), Mugling (K6) in March 1994 (Zerning and Braasch 1994), Chitwan District; Dhebuwa Lekh Forest (K6), Dhading District in September 2006 (Chaudhary 2007). The species has uncertain status and possibly breeds in Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008) and recorded from Gokarna (L6), Kathmandu Valley in March 1993 (Puckrin 1993); Trishuli Bazaar (L6), Nuwakot District in April 2001 (Fischer and Fischer 2001), Hetauda (L7), Makawanpur District in March 1994 (Weiss and Wettstein 1994); Adarsha Community Forest and National Forest (L7), Rautahat District (Baral *et al.* 2013); Makawanpur (L7) and Bara (L7) District sections of Bagmati and Bakaiya River valleys (Basnet and Thakuri 2013); Dhulikhel (M6), Kavrepalanchok District in June 2002 (Halberg 2002), and Tamakoshi River (M7), Ramechhap District (Phuyal 2012).

In the east records include: from between Khandbari and Tumingtar (Q7) in December 1992 (Cox 1992), between Bumlingtar and Maruwabensi (Q7) in June 2009 (Cox 2009), Sankhuwasabha District ; Ram Dhuni Forest (Q8) in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), Patnali Forest (Q8) in April 2011 (Birdfinders 2011) and Dharan Forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Sunsari District; Sukhani (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in April 2011 (Baral 2011a), and the lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 680 m (2135 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Chestnut-headed Bee-eater. Post 1990, as many as 80 birds were recorded on 3 May 2011 (Baral 2011b), 70 on 11 March 2011 (Giri 2010) and 60 on 19 March 2010 (Baral 2010) at Chitwan National Park.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater inhabits open broadleaved forests often near water (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It

occurs in scrub as well as edges of dense forest and is the only bee-eater that penetrates far up to Himalayan river valleys (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species usually perches on bare branches near the top of forest trees or on telephone wires launching out into the air from time to time to hawk insects, circling back to the base (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan (Gurung 1983) and at Mugling, Chitwan District (Zerning and Braasch 1994). The main food of the species is winged insects and occasionally butterflies (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater may be affected by shortage of food but may have benefitted by the conversion of dense forest into scrub or open forest.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Chestnut-headed Bee-eater. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Chitwan, Langtang and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks; Annapurna Conservation Area, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a common summer visitor recorded from the far west to the far east. It is quite widespread within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat inside and outside the protected areas' system. There has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater may have been affected by shortage of food but may have benefitted by conversion of dense forest into scrub and open forest. Its distribution has not changed significantly since 1990 and its population is probably stable.

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Merops orientalis Latham, 1802 LC

Subspecies: *Merops orientalis orientalis*

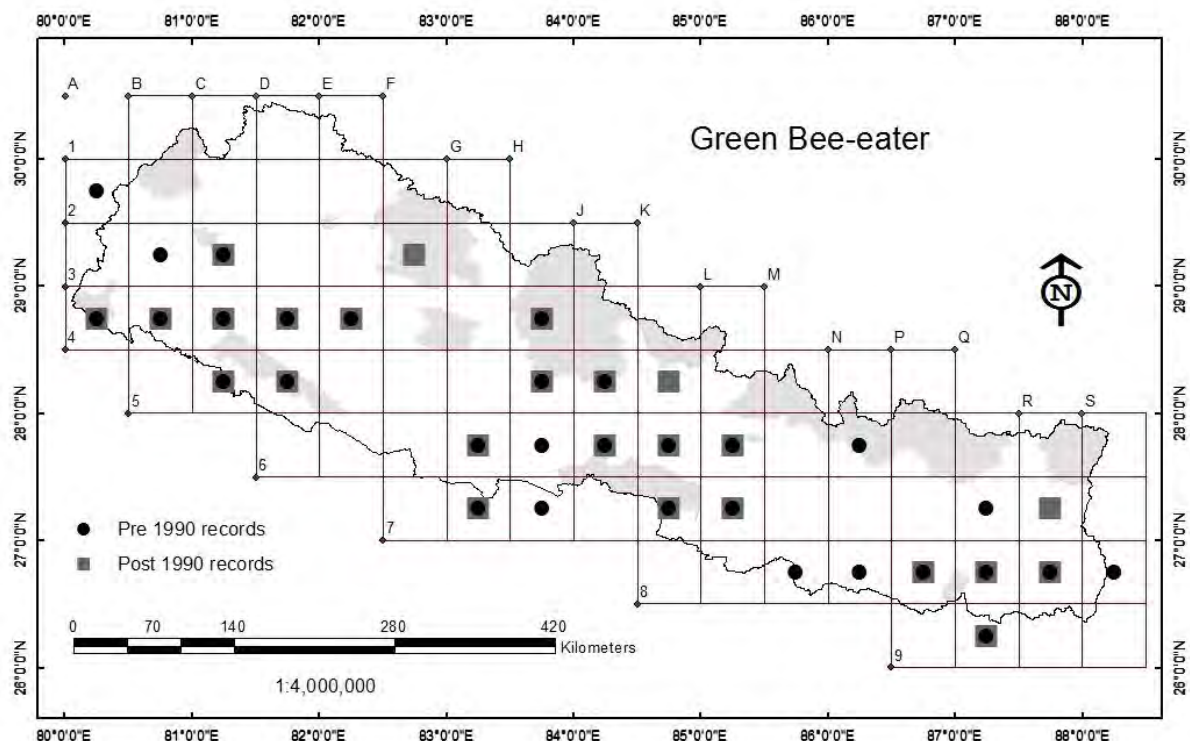
Common Name

Green Bee-eater (English),
Muralichara (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Meropidae



Distribution



Green Bee-eater is mainly a fairly common resident and summer visitor in lowland Nepal below 680m. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species a common resident and a summer visitor throughout the lowlands, fairly common in the lower hills up to 620m and uncommon up to 1280m and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east.

The species was recorded at the elevation of 2,900 m at Toijam Ranger Post, Shey Phoksundo National Park in April 1992, which is the highest known elevation record of the species in Nepal (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1995)

The species has been recorded from a smaller number of localities post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common breeding resident and summer visitor in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent summer visitor and probable breeding bird in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Khadka 1996); a common resident and summer visitor

to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); recorded at Toijam Ranger Post (F3), Shey Phoksundo National Park in April 1992 (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1995); a rare passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8)(Baral 2005).

The species has been recorded from Barandabhar Forest and wetland (Adhikari *et al.* 2000), Bees Hazari Lake and Janakauli community forest in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Sauraha in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012), Chitwan District and Gundre Khola, (H6) Nawalparasi District in November 2007 (Baral 2007), buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata Corridor (C5) (Chaudhari 2007), Bardia District.

Green Bee-eater has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990.

In the west records include: a common breeding resident in Mohana River Corridor (B4) (Chaudhary 2012), an occasional summer visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012), and Tikapur Park (C5) in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013a) Kailai District; Chisapani (C4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997), Rawkot (D4), and between Gaibanne and Madela (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992), between Rimna and Khalanga (E4), Jajarkot District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013b); a summer visitor in Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); between Chandi Bhanjyang, Kavri Dharmasala to Argali (G6), Palpa District in May 1999 (Cox 1999); a resident in Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); Lumbini (G7) and Bhairahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in November 2007 (Baral 2007), and Budhigandaki Valley near Arughat (K5), Gorkha District in November 1992 (Prodon 1992).

In central Nepal records include: from Narayanghat (J6), Chitwan District in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004); Dhebuwa Lekh Forest (K6), Dhading District in September 2006 (Chaudhary 2007); Hetauda (L7), Makawanpur District in January 2001 (Hofland 2001); Judibela Community Forest and Adarsha Community Forest and National Forest (L7), Rautahat District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013c); between Mewa Gau (L7), Rautahat District, Belwa and Kat Mandir (L7), Bara District in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include: from Triyuga River (P8) and Bhagalpur (P8), Udaypur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); Ram Dhuni Forest (Q8) in September 1999 (Choudhary 1999), Patnali forest (Q8) in May 2011 (Baral 2011) and Dharan forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Itahari (R8) (Pandey 2003) and a scarce migrant to Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007), Sunsari District; a common winter visitor in Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012); between Biring Khola and Prajapate (R7), Taplegunj District (Cox 1992); lower Mai Valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006), and Ilam (R8), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Greece, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Laos, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 620 m (- 2900 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Green bee-eater. Post 1990, 350 birds were recorded between 16 and 17 March 1992 at Nepalgunj, Banke District (Priemé 1992), 225 on 11 March 1997 between Bardia and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Giri 1997), and more than 150 on 12 November 1992 at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Murphy and Waller 1992).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Green Bee-eater inhabits open country with scattered trees and cultivation (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and in mango groves of the lowlands (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species usually perches along telephone wires, on fence-posts and dead branches; frequently on bare ground and sometimes on the back of cattle (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is a late riser and frequently seen in the mornings, clumped in little groups along the perch, all facing the same way, head tucked under the wings and fast asleep till well after sunrise (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved at Chitwan (Gurung 1983). Its food consists of mainly Hymenoptera (ants, bees and wasps); also moths, butterflies, small beetles, termites, dragonflies and other winged insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Green Bee-eater may have been affected due to prolonged cold weather during recent winters in the lowlands leading to a shortage of prey. Increasing use of agro-chemicals, which may also lead to food shortage, is another threat. However, the species has probably benefitted by deforestation.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Green Bee-eater. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Banke, and Chitwan National Parks; Annapurna Conservation Area, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and a vagrant to Shey Phoksundo National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Green Bee-eater has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a fairly common resident recorded from the far west to the far east Nepal. It is still widespread within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat within and outside the protected areas' system. However, there has been a decrease in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Green Bee-eater may have been affected due to prolonged cold weather during recent winters in the lowlands leading to shortage of prey and also be the increasing use of agrochemicals, which may have led to food shortage. However, it has probably benefitted by deforestation. Its population is probably decreasing though not to an extent that warrants a threat category.

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Merops philippinus Linnaeus, 1767 LC

Subspecies: *Merops philippinus philippinus*

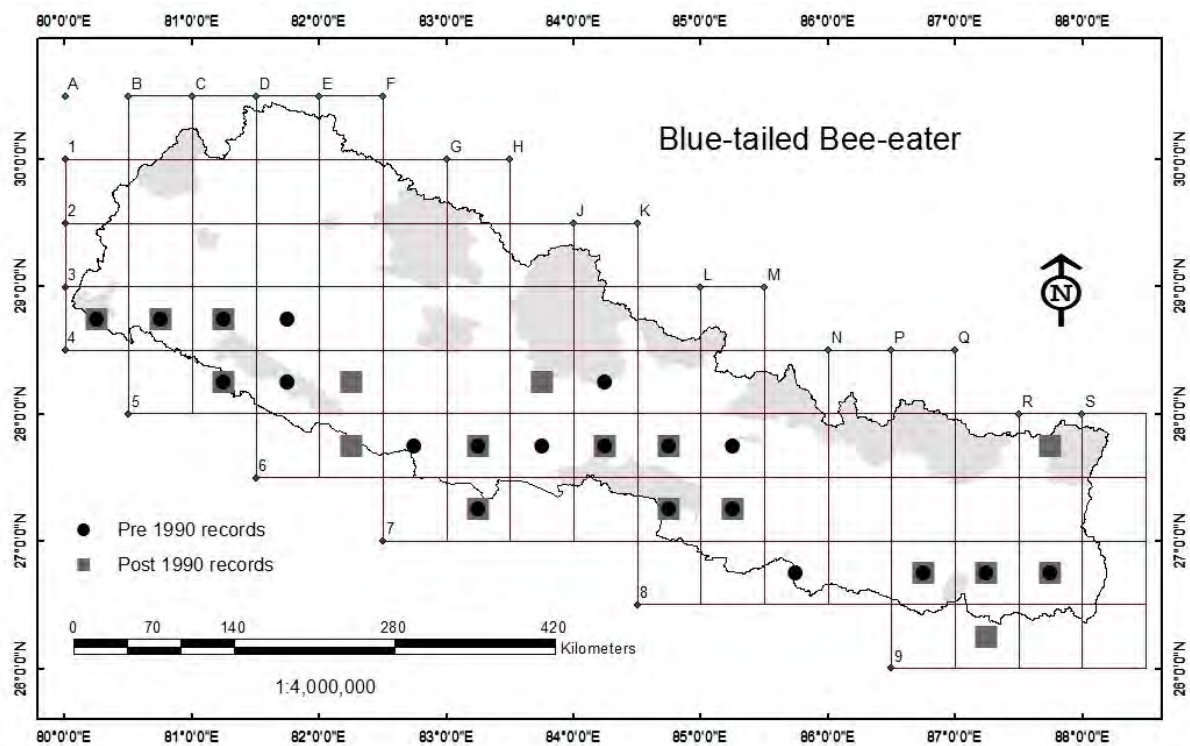
Common Name

Blue-tailed Bee-eater (English),
Nilpuchhre Muralichara (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Meropidae



Distribution



Blue-tailed Bee-eater is a locally fairly common summer visitor to the lowlands. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Ilam District (Baral 2010) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional resident and migrant and most common to west lowlands. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a locally, fairly common summer visitor to the lowlands and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east lowlands. A flock of 500 to 1000 migrants was seen in northwest Kapilvastu in March 1978 (Cox 1978, 1982).

There has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common breeding resident and summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent summer visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a common summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a common summer visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a common

summer visitor and breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005), and recorded in between Sekathum to Amjilassa (R6) of Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Halberg 1994). It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata Corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007);

Blue-tailed Bee-eater has also been recorded fairly widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include: a common resident in Mohana River Corridor (B4) (Chaudhary 2012), a fairly common summer visitor in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012) and Tikapur Park (C5) in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013a), Kailali District; recorded in Dang- Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); a summer visitor to Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); a summer visitor to Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008), recorded in Gaidahawa Lake (G6), and Bhairahawa (G6) in April 1993 (Baral 1994), and Lumbini IBA (G7) in April 1993 (Lama 1993), Rupandehi District.

In central Nepal records include: from Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in May 2000 (Giri 2000), and Adarsha Community and National Forest (L7), Rautahat District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013b).

In the east records include: from Itahari (R8) (Pandey 2003), Patnali forest(Q8) in May 2011 (Baral 2011) and an occasional migrant to Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007), Sunsari District; recorded at Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012), and Ilam (R8), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010a).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 300 m (- 1525 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Blue-tailed Bee-eater. Since 1990, as many as 434 birds were recorded on 3 May 2011 at Chitwan National Park (Baral 2011), 200 on 7 April 2007 at Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2007), and 126 on 24 April 1993 at Lumbini, Rupandehi District (Lama 1993).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Blue-tailed bee-eater favours areas near water (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), generally over streams and open places of the lowlands and lower hills (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species perches on the tips of tall trees and bamboos at the edge of forest (Ali and Ripley 1987) and clearings (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on winged insects, mainly dragonflies, wasps and bees (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Blue-tailed Bee-eater is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, especially in the breeding season.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Blue-tailed Bee-eater. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and as a vagrant to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blue-tailed Bee-eater has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a fairly common summer visitor recorded from the far west to the far east. It is widespread within and outside the protected areas' system. There has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Blue-tailed Bee-eater is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, especially in the breeding season. The species' population is possibly stable or declining a little.

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Nyctyornis athertoni (Jardine & Selby, 1828) LC

Subspecies: *Nyctyornis athertoni athertoni*

Common Name

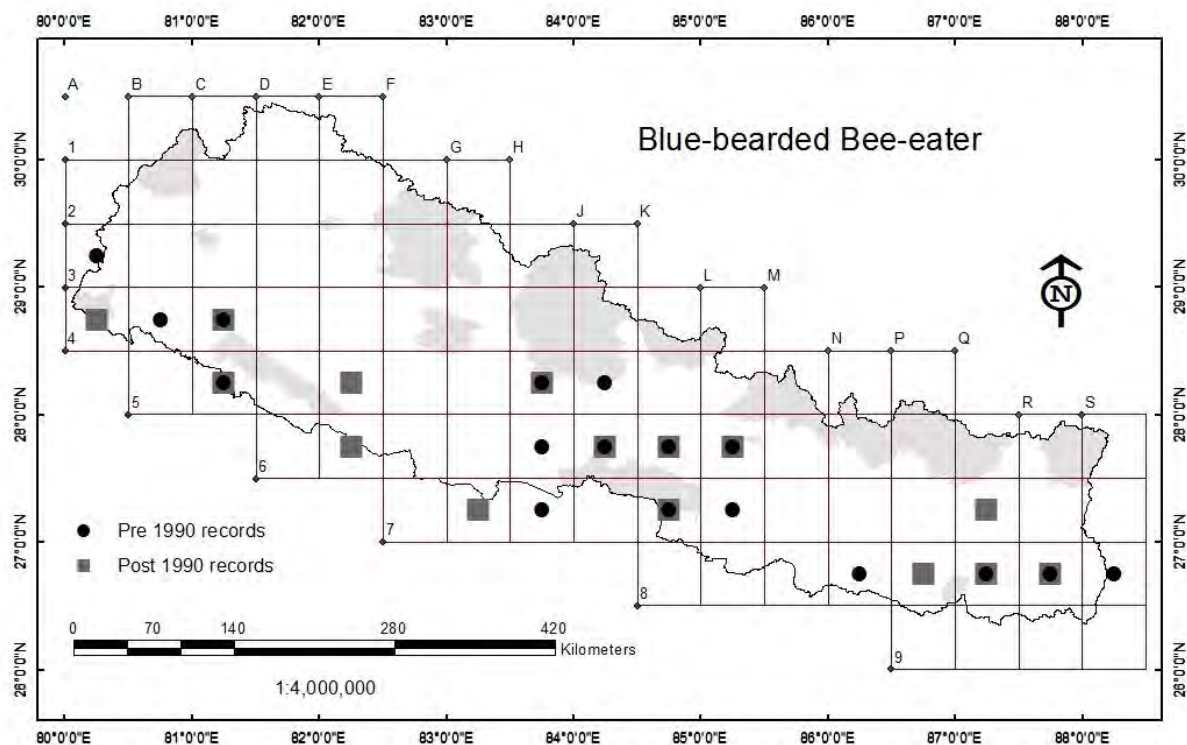
Blue-bearded Bee-eater (English),
Madhumachhi Bhachheka (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Meropidae



Distribution



Blue-bearded Bee-eater is an uncommon resident of the lowlands. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The species was first described from Nepal by Hodgson (Hodgson 1836).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional resident and migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as an uncommon resident up to 365 m and mapped its distribution in the far west, far east and in central Nepal.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded from a few additional localities compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage (see map and text below).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: an uncommon resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); recorded at Modi River Valley (H5) in Annapurna Conservation Area in March 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002); a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park

(J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a rare summer visitor to Shivapuri (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and recorded at Nagarjun (L6) in March 1997 (Giri 1997) in Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park ; frequent and probably a resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded from Barandabhar Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Bees Hajari Lake and Janakauli community forest in February 2008 (Giri 2008), at Sauraha in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012) buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

Blue-bearded Bee-eater has been recorded from few localities outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990.

In the west records include from: Dang-Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti IBA (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); between Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District to Bardia National Park (B4) in January 2003 (Giri 2003); from Pokhara (H5) in March 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2007), and Kandane Danda (H5), (Sajan Ranabhat 2014), Kaski District .

In central Nepal records include: from Phulchoki (L6), Lalitpur District in June 1996 (Baral 1996).

In the east records include from: near Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 2004 (Mallalieu 2005); Patnali forest (Q8) in October 2010 (Baral 2010) and Dharan forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Sunsari District, and the lower Mai Valley, (R8) (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (- 2440 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Blue-bearded bee-eater.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Blue-bearded Bee-eater frequents forest margins and open forests (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); thin forests bordering field. Usually keeps solitary or in pairs (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species is sluggish (Ali and Ripley 1987) compared to other bee-eaters. It is shy and rarely returns to the same place when disturbed (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), spends much time perched inactively and inconspicuously (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) and sails back to its base after each capture, battering its victim against the perch before swallowing it (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species feeds on insects, chiefly, bees, wasps, dragonflies and beetles (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The species is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, and possibly shortage of prey.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Blue-bearded bee-eater. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, Chitwan and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks; Annapurna Conservation Area, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blue-bearded Bee-eater has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is an uncommon resident, mainly in the lowlands and recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 the species has been recorded from a few additional localities compared to pre-1990, from both protected areas and outside the protected areas' system, probably because of better coverage. The species is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, and possibly shortage of prey. Therefore, its population is probably decreasing, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskipp/2007_007.pdf

***Ocyrocus birostris* (Scopoli, 1786) LC**

Subspecies: *Ocyrocus birostris pergriseus*

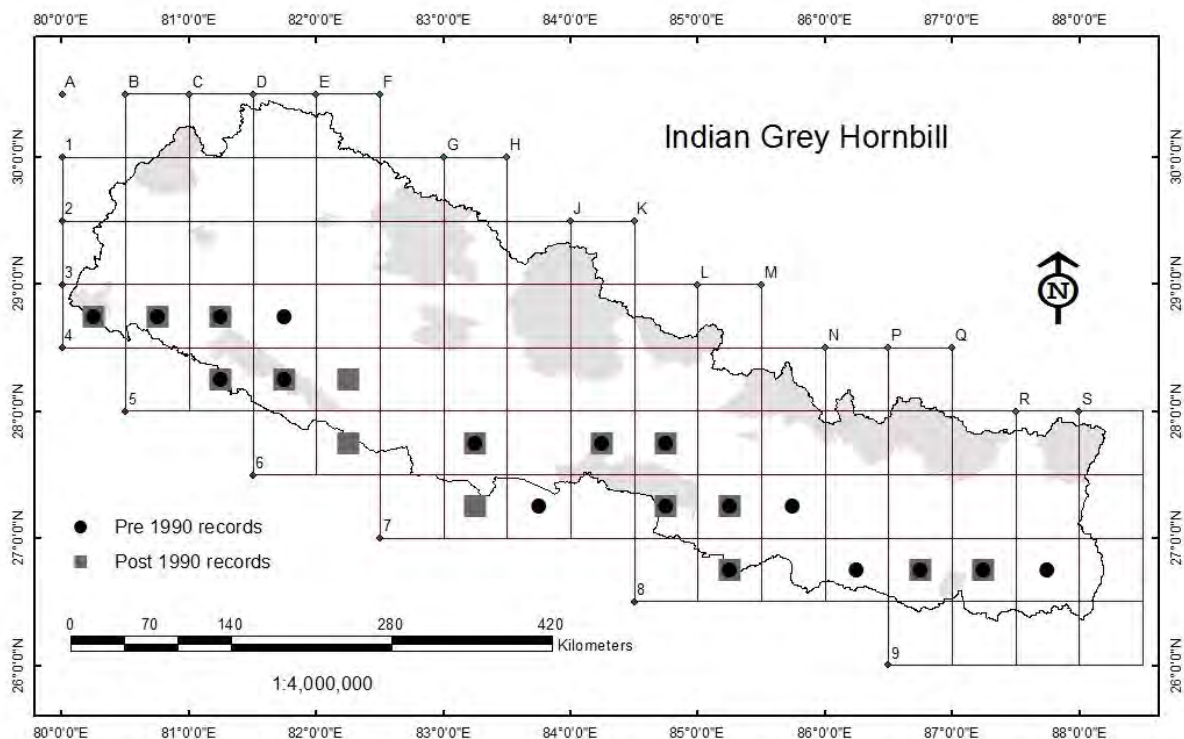
Common Name

Indian Grey Hornbill (English),
Sano Dhanesh (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Bucerotidae



Distribution



Indian Grey Hornbill is a resident in the lowlands, now mainly recorded from protected areas; fairly common common in the west, frequent in central Nepal and rare in the east. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species an occasional local resident mainly occurring in the terai and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east.

Indian Grey Hornbill has been recorded fairly widely in the west and central areas since 1990, but is now rare in the east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5)

(Inskipp 2001, Ram Bahadur Shahi); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a few recorded in Blackbuck Conservation Area in the rainy season, 2014 (Seraj Baral); described as an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park (J6,K6) by Baral and Upadhyay (2006), but regularly seen there up to at least 2015 (BES); a resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001) and regularly sighted there up to 2015 (Kapil Pokharel), and described as a rare resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) by Baral (2005), but is regularly recorded there (Hathan Chaudhary). It has been recorded in Khata corridor (C5), Bardia District, Bardia National Park buffer zone (Chaudhari 2007) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone e.g. four in Baghmara Community Forest, Chitwan District in August and September 2015 (Bishnu Mahato, Surendra Mahato); Tharu Village Resort area, Nawalparasi District (Ramdin Mahato), Sauraha, Chitwan District in April 2014 (Fuleshwar Chaudhary), and Ichanigu village in April 2013 (Raju Tamang).

In the west records include: three from Mahenranagar, Kanchanpur District in November 2014 (Suchit Basnet); a common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4) (Dhiraj R Chaudhary), Tikapur (C5) in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013), Kailali District, one in Gularia, Bardia District rainy season, 2014 (Seraj Baral); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992), July 2015 (Seraj Baral) and seen throughout the year (Seejan Gywali); Dang- Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009); Tilaurakot (G6) in January 2002 (Cox 2002), October 2013 (Om Yadav) and in May 2014 (Manshanta Ghimire, Tek Bahadur Gurung); Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District, e.g. in August 2007 (Baral 2007), August 2012 (Seraj Baral), and April 2015 ((DB Chaudhary, Bhagirat Chaudhary, Shambhu Mahato, Gyan Bahadur Rai, Alina Chaudhary, Seejan Gyawali); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. in winter 2008 (Dinesh Giri), January 2011 (Acharya 2011) and May 2014 (DB Chaudhary, Bhagirat Chaudhary, Shambhu Mahato, Gyan Bahadur Rai, Alina Chaudhary, Tek Bahadur Gurung, Man Shant Ghimire), and two in outskirts of Rudrapur, Rupandehi District in February 2014 (Gopi Sundar).

In central Nepal records include: from Bardghat area, near Daunne hills, Nawalparasi District April 2010 (Manoj Ghimire); one from Triveni area of Rapti river in Nawalparasi district in November 2012 (Dinesh Giri); Bara District (L7) sections of Bagmati and Bakaiya river valleys (Basnet and Thakuri 2013); between Belwa and Kat Mandir (L7), Bara District in April 2003 (Cox 2003); regularly sighted at Hadikhola, Makwanpur District (Rajendra Gurung), recorded at Bagmati River, Rautahat District in May 2015 (Manoj Ghimire, Hemu Katuwal), and Godar, Dhanusha District in October 2012 (Manoj Ghimire)..

In the east records include: singles at Hariwan Sukhepokhari, Sarlahi District (L8) in October 2013 (Bed Bahadur Khadka); Prakashpur (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2015 (Tek Bahadur Gurung and Raju Gurung), and from Itahari, Sunsari District in September 2015 (Anish Timsina).

Globally, the species has been recorded from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m (- 760 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Indian Grey Hornbill. Post 1990 10 birds were recorded between Bardia and Lumbini in December 2007 (Baral 2008); nine in Bardia National Park in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001); up to 12 in Tilaurakot, Kapilvastu District in May 2014 (Manshanta Ghimire, Tek Bahadur Gurung); 30 in Lumbini, Rupandehi District in winter 2008 (Dinesh Giri), and 16 in March 2015 (Badri Chaudhary).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Indian Grey Hornbill inhabits open broadleaved forests, groves, gardens and cultivation wherever fig trees occur (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and favours large, old trees such as mango, tamarind, banyan and peepal

(Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is largely arboreal, but occasionally descends to the ground to pick up fallen fruit (Ali and Ripley 1987), or large insects or to dust-bathe (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species mainly keeps in pairs or small parties of 5 or 6 for feeding on fruiting trees, often with other frugivorous birds (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Generally, it moves short distances from tree to tree (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is subject to local movements depending on fruiting seasons (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It feeds on chiefly fruits, especially wild figs, berries and flower petals; also insects and lizards, mice and other small animals (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Indian Grey Hornbill is threatened by deforestation, especially a shortage of wild fruit trees and grapes.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Indian Grey Hornbill. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Indian Grey Hornbill has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a resident, now mainly recorded from protected areas; fairly common to common in the west, frequent in central Nepal. Since 1990 it has been recorded less widely and frequently in the east where it is now rare. Indian Grey Hornbill may be threatened by deforestation especially shortage of wild fruit trees. The species' population is probably decreasing in the east, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Pelargopsis capensis* Linnaeus, 1766 LC**

Subspecies: *Pelargopsis capensis capensis*

Common Name

Stork-billed Kingfisher (English),

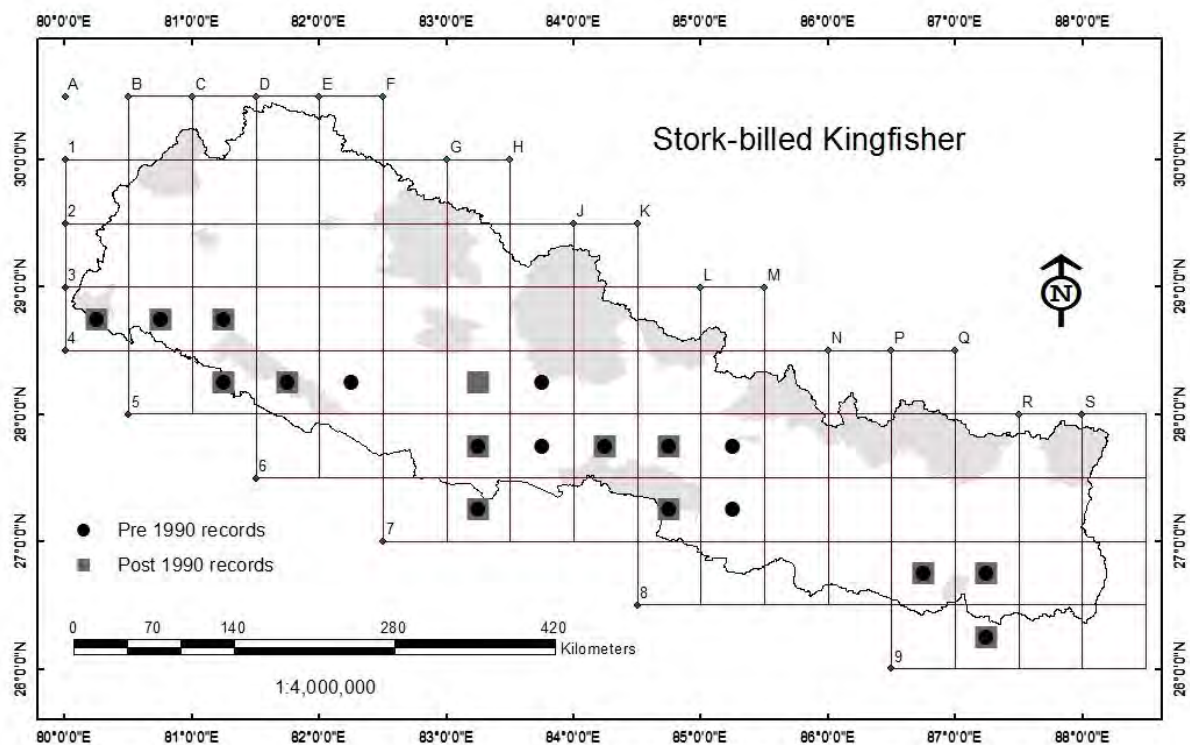
Thulo Matikore (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Alcedinidae



Distribution



Stork-billed Kingfisher is a fairly common and widespread resident of the lowlands, now mostly confined to protected areas. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species was an occasional resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species was a local resident occasionally found up to 760m and mapped its distribution in the lowlands from the far east to the far west. The species was seen at the unusually high altitude of 1830 m at Godavari, Lalitpur District in February 1978 (Roberts 1978).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded from a smaller number of localities compared to pre-1990, outside protected areas.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a fairly common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6)

(Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded widely in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: from Barandabhar Forest and wetland (Adhikari *et al.* 2008, Ghimire 2009); Bees Hazari Lake and Janakauli community forest in February 2008 (Giri 2008); Sauraha, Chitwan District in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012); Bagmara and Kumroj Community Forests, Chitwan District (Bishnu Mahato); Tharu Cultural Jungle Resort (H6), Nawalparasi District in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), and Meghauri in 2015 (Ashik Gurung). It has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone near Tiger Tops in 2015 (Ashik Gurung); Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997), and Khata Corridor, Bardia District (C5) (Chaudhari 2007).

Stork-billed Kingfisher has been recorded less frequently and less widely outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990.

In the west records include: a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4), Kailai District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); regularly recorded in Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Dinesh Giri, Baral 2011a), Gaidahawa, Rupandehi District (Dinesh Giri) and Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District, (Hem Sagar Baral, Dinesh Giri); Phusre Khola, Pokhara, Kaski District in June 2010 (Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar), and recorded at Phewa Lake, Kaski District in 2010 March (Hari KC).

In central Nepal records include from: Panchakanya Community Forest, Chitwan District in 2014 (Rishi Baral) and Kankali Community forest, Chitwan District in September 2015 (BES).

In the east records include from: Patnali Forest, Sunsari District (Q8) in November 2007 (Baral 2007), Ram Dhuni Forest (Q8) in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), Sunsari District, and an uncommon summer visitor in Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Brunei, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 760 m (- 1830 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Stork-billed Kingfisher. Post 1990, at Chitwan National Park, 22 birds were recorded on 3 September 1992 (Baral 1993), 15 on 7 May 2011 at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2011b).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Stork-billed Kingfisher inhabits deeply shaded lakes, slow-moving rivers and streams (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), lagoons, reed-fringed ponds and more open forest streams (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species is rather sluggish and heard more than seen (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It sits hidden and motionless for long periods up in a leafy branch of a tree overhanging a forest stream (Ali and Ripley 1987), occasionally diving down to catch prey (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on fish, lizards, mice, frogs and young birds and also crabs, water beetles and other manageable animals (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Koshi Camp, 2011-2015 (Suchit Basnet) and in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983).

Threats

Stork-billed Kingfisher is suffering from habitat loss and degradation, hunting and persecution as well as shortage of prey, chiefly outside the protected areas' system.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Stork-billed Kingfisher. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Stork-billed Kingfisher has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common and widespread resident of the lowlands, now mostly recorded in protected areas. There has been a small reduction in distribution outside of protected areas post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Stork-billed Kingfisher is suffering from habitat loss and degradation, hunting and persecution, and shortage of prey, mainly outside the protected areas' system. Its population is probably decreasing, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Upupa epops* Linnaeus, 1758 LC**

Subspecies: *Upupa epops epops*, *ceylonensis*, *saturata*

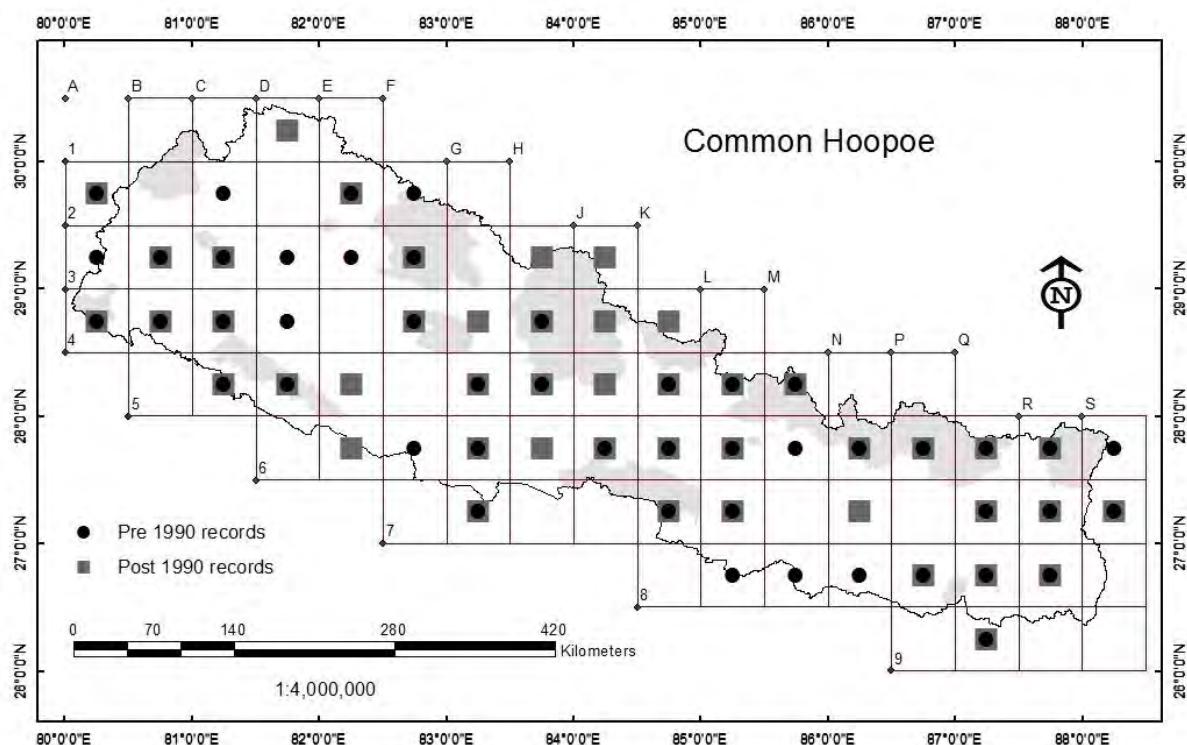
Common Name

Common Hoopoe (English),
Phapre Chara (Nepali)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Upupidae



Distribution



Common Hoopoe is a fairly common widespread visitor and possibly resident. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it a common resident and passage migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as fairly common and reported *U. e. ceylonensis* was a resident up to about 1500 m, *U. e. epops* was a passage migrant to the valley, and *U. e. saturata* was a summer visitor between 1700 m and 4400 m and descended to the lowlands in winter. The species' distribution was mapped widely from the far west to the far east (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

The distribution of the species has increased a little since 1990, probably because of better coverage.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); uncommon in Api Nampa Conservation

Area, where recorded in Mahakali valley (A2) in March/April 2012 (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a fairly common passage migrant in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a common resident and passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a frequent summer visitor and passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); recorded in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1995); recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013); a common resident, summer visitor, and passage migrant in Annapurna Conservation Area (H3, H4, H5, J3, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a fairly common resident to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4, K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013); a fairly common resident to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a rare summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a frequent passage migrant to Shivapuri (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and recorded in Nagarjun (L6) in February 1994 (Baral 1994) in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park; a passage migrant to Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); a fairly common visitor in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999); a common summer visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008, Katuwal *et al.* 2013). The species has also been recorded from Chitwan National Park buffer zone: from Janakauli Community Forest (K6), Sauraha in February 2008 (Giri 2008); Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar Important Bird Area (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Baral 1996).

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from: Mahendranagar, Kanchanpur District (A4) in May 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001); Amargadhi, Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); a fairly common winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Tal area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012), Dhangadhi (B4) in May 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) Kailali District; Badimalika region (C3), of Achham, Bajura and Kalikot Districts (Karki *et al.* 2003); Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); Humla District (D1) during May- June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013); April-August 2014 and July-August 2015 (Kusi *et al.* 2015), Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009); North of Baseri (G4), Myagdi District in October 1999 (Baral 2000); a resident to Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); a winter visitor to Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2007, Baral 2008); Bhairahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994), January 2003 (Giri 2003), February 2011 (Acharya 2011); Pokhara area (H5), Kaski District, e.g. Banpale Danda (Karki *et al.* 1997), Phewa Lake in December 2009 (Thewis *et al.* 2009), and from Rampur valley (H6), Palpa District (Gautam 2003).

In central Nepal records include from: Mugling (K6), Chitwan District in February 1999 (Dannenberg 1999). Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a passage migrant and winter visitor to Kathmandu Valley (L6); similarly, the species was common around Chobhar (L6) (Fuller 2000) and recorded along Bagmati River corridor (L6) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009). Records from other localities include: a common passage migrant to Chitlang forest (L6), Chandragiri range, Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); Bagmati and Bakaiya river valleys of Lalitpur (L6), Kathmandu (L6), Makwanpur (L7) and Bara (L7) districts (Basnet and Thakuri 2013); recorded in Bakaiya Community Forest, Nijgarh (L7), Bara District and Adarsha Community Forest and National Forest, Chandi Khola, (L7), Rautahat District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013), and in Katare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubadel 2007).

In the east records include from: Bhagalpur forest (P8), Udayapur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); Chewabensi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Baral 1995); Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995); Tinjure forest (Q7), Tehrathum District (Rai 2003); Ramdhuni Community Forest (Q8), Sunsari District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); Patnali, Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in November 2007 (Baral 2007), October 2010 (Baral 2010); and by Basnet and Sapkota (2008); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); three community forests of (Q8), Dhankuta District in September 2003 (Baral 2003); common resident in Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Baral 1994, Jha and Subba 2012), and in the lower Mai valley (R8), Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Andorra; Angola (Angola); Armenia (Armenia); Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belgium; Benin; Bhutan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brunei Darussalam (vagrant); Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Cameroon; Cape Verde (vagrant); Central African Republic; Chad; China; Congo; Congo, The Democratic Republic of the;

Côte d'Ivoire; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Estonia; Ethiopia; Faroe Islands (vagrant); Finland (vagrant); France; Gabon; Gambia; Georgia; Germany; Ghana; Gibraltar; Greece; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Hong Kong; Hungary; Iceland (vagrant); India; Indonesia (vagrant); Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Ireland (vagrant); Israel; Italy; Japan (vagrant); Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Korea, Democratic People's Republic of; Korea, Republic of; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Latvia; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libya; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives (vagrant); Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Namibia; Netherlands; Niger; Nigeria; Northern Mariana Islands (vagrant); Norway (vagrant); Oman; Pakistan; Palestinian Territory, Occupied; Philippines (vagrant); Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia (Serbia); Seychelles (vagrant); Sierra Leone; Slovakia; Slovenia; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (vagrant); Swaziland; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Taiwan, Province of China; Tajikistan; Tanzania, United Republic of; Thailand; Togo; Tunisia; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom (vagrant); United States (Georgia - Native) (vagrant); Uzbekistan; Viet Nam; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1500 m (4400 m summer; 5900 m passage); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Common Hoopoe. The large number of 20 was recorded at Koshi Camp and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Sunsari District on 7 March 2002 (Baral 2002). A total of 16 was recorded on 12 February 2002 in Chitwan National Park, Chitwan District (Chaudhary 2002). The population may be stable or may have increased.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Hoopoe frequents open country, lightly wooded areas, cultivation and villages (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), as well as in grassy alpine slopes (Fleming *et al.* 1976) and deciduous biotope (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is usually seen singly or in pairs and in loose flocks when migrating. It perches and roosts in trees and searches for food on the ground running and walking about actively, probing and pecking (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species nests in holes in walls and these sites have an offensive smell (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Its territorial fight is seen during breeding season (late April to early June) (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is entirely insectivorous and feeds on largely underground grubs and pupae of beetles, crickets, earwigs, locusts and grasshoppers and ants and termites (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

As it is insectivorous, it may be threatened by pesticides used in agriculture and around human settlements.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Common Hoopoe. Since 1990 it has been recorded in all national parks, conservation areas and wildlife reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Hoopoe has been assessed as Least Concern. Post-1990 the species is a fairly common widespread visitor and possibly resident. Its distribution has increased a little since 1990. The species has been recorded from all national parks, conservation areas and wildlife reserves and also widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat post-1990. Since it is insectivorous, it may be threatened by pesticides used in agriculture and around human settlements. Its distribution has increased a little since 1990, probably because of better coverage. Considering the low level of threat to the species its population is probably stable.

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Piciformes



Himalayan Flameback *Dinopium shorii*
Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

Gecinulus grantia (Horsfield, 1840) CR

Subspecies: *Gecinulus grantia grantia*

Common Name

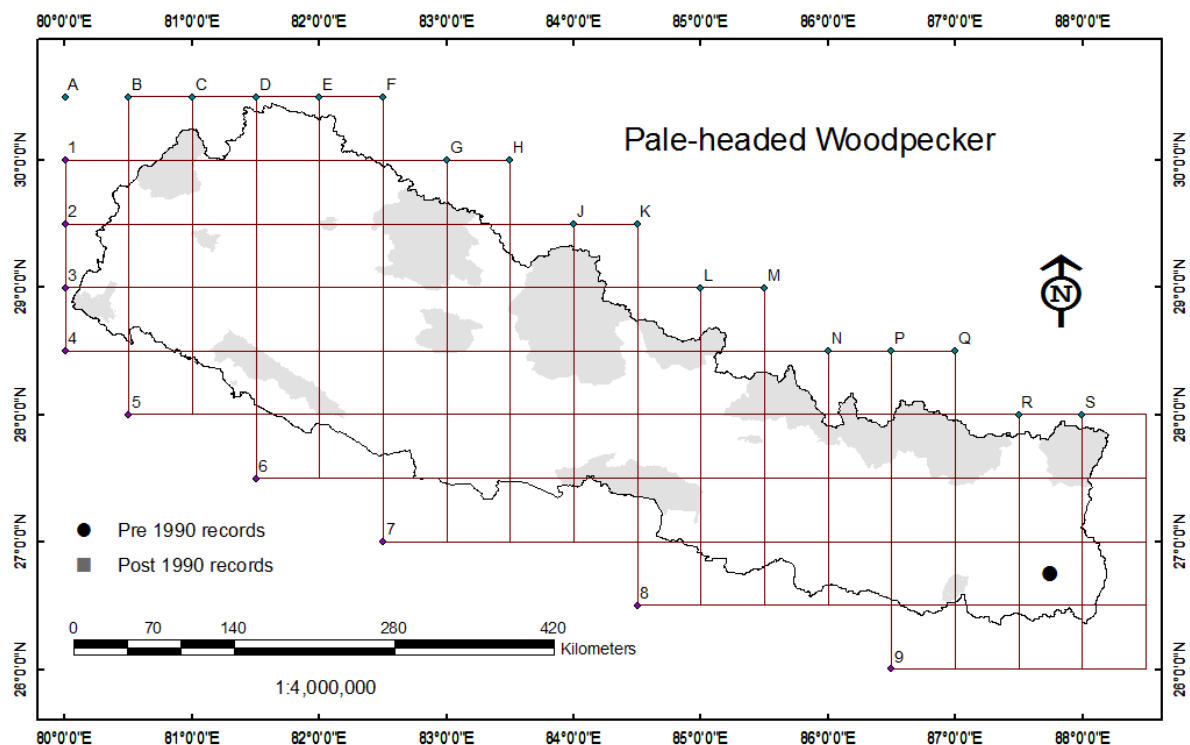
Pale-headed Woodpecker (English),

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Pale-headed Woodpecker is probably a former resident. No records of the species are known since 1981. The only known Nepal records are from between Garuwa and Sunischare, Jhapa District in the far east. Single birds were seen on 1 and 3 February 1974 (Madge *et al.* 1974) and up to three in the same area in April 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species'

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for the species. If it still occurs the population is likely to be extremely small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 0; maximum population: <20

Habitat and Ecology

Pale-headed Woodpecker has been recorded in tall bamboo in the tropical zone in Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). In the rest of the subcontinent the species frequents bamboo and mixed secondary forest in moist-deciduous biotope and is very partial to bamboo jungle up to 1000 m (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is a shy and quiet woodpecker and feeds on insects, chiefly ants and beetle grubs (Winkler *et al.* 1995).

Threats

No suitable habitat now remains in the area where Pale-headed Woodpecker was originally recorded and this habitat is now very much reduced in Nepal in the species' altitudinal range.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Pale-headed Woodpecker. The only site where the species has been recorded lies outside the protected area system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pale-headed Woodpecker has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. If the species still occurs in Nepal, its population must be extremely small. There are only two known records of the species, both from the same locality in the far eastern lowlands, outside the protected areas' system. The last record was in 1981 and suitable habitat for the species is now very much reduced and highly threatened.

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Megalaima australis (Horsfield, 1821) CR

Subspecies: *Megalaima australis cyanotis*

Common Name

Blue-eared Barbet (English),

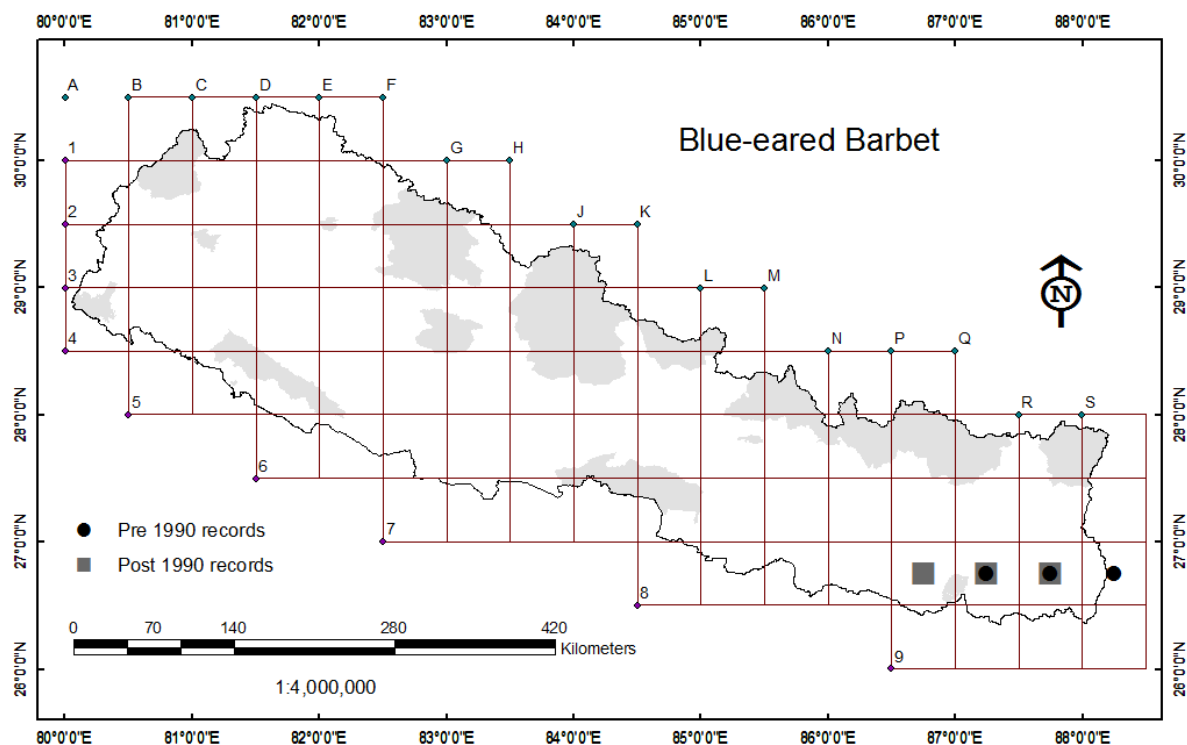
Basant (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Ramphastidae



Distribution



Blue-eared Barbet is a very rare and very local resident in the far eastern lowlands. There are no known records of the species since February 2007. The first Nepal record was in February 1965, north of Bhadrapur, Jhapa District (Fleming and Traylor 1968).

The species was reported from Koshi in April 1975 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976) and one was heard on the Koshi River bank in February 2007 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2007), but no suitable habitat now exists at this site. Four were heard at Sukhani, Jhapa District in March 1981 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981) and the species was recorded in Ilam District (no further details are available) (de Witt 1982), but there are no other known records for these localities.

The species was first found in Dharan forests, Sunsari District in April 1986 when one or two were heard (Mayer 1986) and the maximum of 15+ was heard there in April 1992 (Bräunlich and Oehlschlaeger 1992). However, only one to two birds were recorded there between 1994 and 2000 (Tiwari and Chaudhary 1997, Tika Giri and Hathan Choudhary verbally 2004), and one in November 2012 (Bhagawan Dahal *in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, 12 July 2013), despite repeated recent visits to Patnali in the Dharan forests (Koshi Bird Observatory information).

One was recorded from Sukhani forest, Jhapa District in 2005 (Som G.C. and Badri Chaudhary) and the species was also found in Gaide Community Forest, Ilam District in January 2006 (Basnet 2007; Basnet and Sapkota 2006, 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m; lower limit: 120 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Blue-eared Barbet, but if it still occurs, numbers must be extremely small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 20

Habitat and Ecology

Blue-eared Barbet inhabits dense, broadleaved evergreen tropical forests and is a resident (Grimmett et al. 1998). It eats mainly fruits and occasionally insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Blue-eared Barbet is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat. This forest type is now very much reduced and degraded (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Blue-eared Barbet. It has never been recorded in any protected areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blue-eared Barbet has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. It is a very rare and very local resident in the eastern lowlands. The maximum population is estimated to be 20 birds. The species has not been recorded since 2007 when it was found at Koshi, Sunsari District. Records indicate that if the species still occurs, then numbers must be extremely small. It has never been recorded in any protected area. Blue-eared Barbet is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its tropical broadleaved, evergreen forest habitat; this forest type is now very much reduced and degraded.

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***Sasia ochracea* (Hodgson, 1837) CR**

Subspecies: *Sasia ochracea ochracea*

Common Name

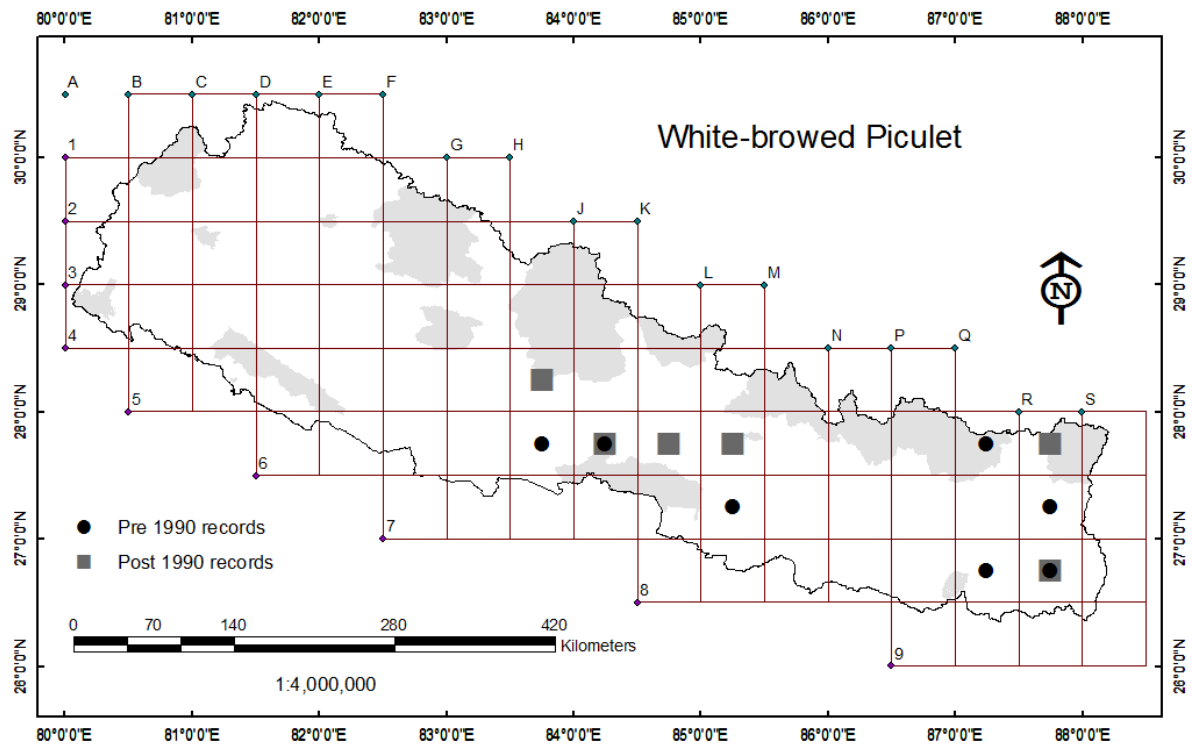
White-browed Piculet (English),
Sasia (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



White-browed Piculet is a very rare resident. The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836, Warren 1966) from the lower hills (date and further locality details are unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as uncommon.

The species was recorded at Hetauda, Makwanpur District in May and June 1947 (Biswas 1961); Dharan, Sunsari District in the 1950s (Fleming and Traylor 1964); in the upper Arun valley in 1973 (Anon. 1983, Krabbe 1983); Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District in 1979 (Lambert 1979, Redman and Murphy 1979), but has not been reported from these localities subsequently. Between 1981 and 1988 it was most frequently recorded in the upper Mai valley, Ilam District (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981, Mills *et al.* 1982, Ross 1983, Heath 1986, Kall and Wallander 1988), but there are no later records from the valley and a 2008 bird survey there failed to find it (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Pre-1990 it was also recorded 6 km south-east of Ilam, Ilam District in March 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964); and in Ilam District (van Riessen 1989). There are a few records from Chitwan National Park pre-1990, e.g.

Fleming and Traylor (1968) and also Gurung (1983), who considered the species a rare resident and possibly breeding in the park.

However, the large majority of post-1990 records are from Chitwan National Park or the Mahabharat Hills in Chitwan District, probably because the Churia and Mahabharat Hills have been better recorded in recent years. In the park there are records from near Tiger Tops in February 1996 (H. S. Baral pers. obs.), December 2003 (Stratford 2004), March 2011 (Suchit Basnet) and February 2012 (Vimal Thapa). In the Churia Hills in the park it was recorded in June 2005 (GC 2010); two by the Mule Khola in February 2006 (Subedi 2010); singles in May 2007, April 2008, March 2010 (Churia Hill Survey Team organized by the Nature Guides Association); April 2010 (G.C. 2010) and one or two at Daunne in 2010 (Dinesh Giri and Tek Bahadur Gurung). Within the Tiger Tops tented camp area it was recorded in March 2007 (Subedi 2010) and one there in February 2012 (Hem Baral and D. B. Chaudhary). One was also seen by the Andheri Khola, Temple Tiger in March 2010 (Teka Bahadur Gurung). Two were also recorded in the park (locality unknown) in November 2006 (Chaudhary 2010).

In the Mahabharat Hills in Chitwan District (which lie outside the protected area's system) the species was sighted in Chisapanitar forest in February 2004, and one near Sinti Cave, Shaktikhor in February 2006 (GC 2010). It was seen in the park buffer zone in the Madi valley in June 2012 (Sunaina Raut) and on Someswor Hill in May 2012 (Anil Gurung and Ram Giri).

Single birds have been recorded at a few other localities post-1990: one near Thulokhobang, a new record for Annapurna Conservation Area in May 2011 (Giri and Chaudhary 2011, Thakuri and Poudyal 2011); at Bhagmara village along the Tribhuvan highway to Daman, Makwanpur District (Subedi 2010); at Sekhatum, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in April 1994 (Halberg 1994), and below Ilam, Ilam District in December 1993 (Lama 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2135 m; lower limit: 250 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for White-browed Piculet. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

White-browed Piculet frequents dense low vegetation in broadleaved forest and secondary growth; it shows a preference for bamboo and is often found near water (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It can be overlooked as it is small and unobtrusive; sometimes it hops among leaf litter on the forest floor (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species chiefly eat ants and their eggs and pupae (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident (Ali and Ripley 1987, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

White-browed Piculet is threatened by the loss and degradation of its habitat of broadleaves and bamboo, which is especially at risk.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for White-browed Piculet. It has been recently recorded in Chitwan National Park and the Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-browed Piculet has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a very rare resident. It has declined since at least the 1980s and is no longer been recorded at several localities where it was found previously, including the upper Mai valley where it had been frequently recorded in the past. White-browed Piculet is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of its habitat of dense, low vegetation (preferably bamboo) in broadleaved forest. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that its numbers must be small. There are post-1990 records from three protected areas.

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***Indicator xanthonotus* Blyth, 1842 EN**

Subspecies: *Indicator xanthonotus xanthonotus*

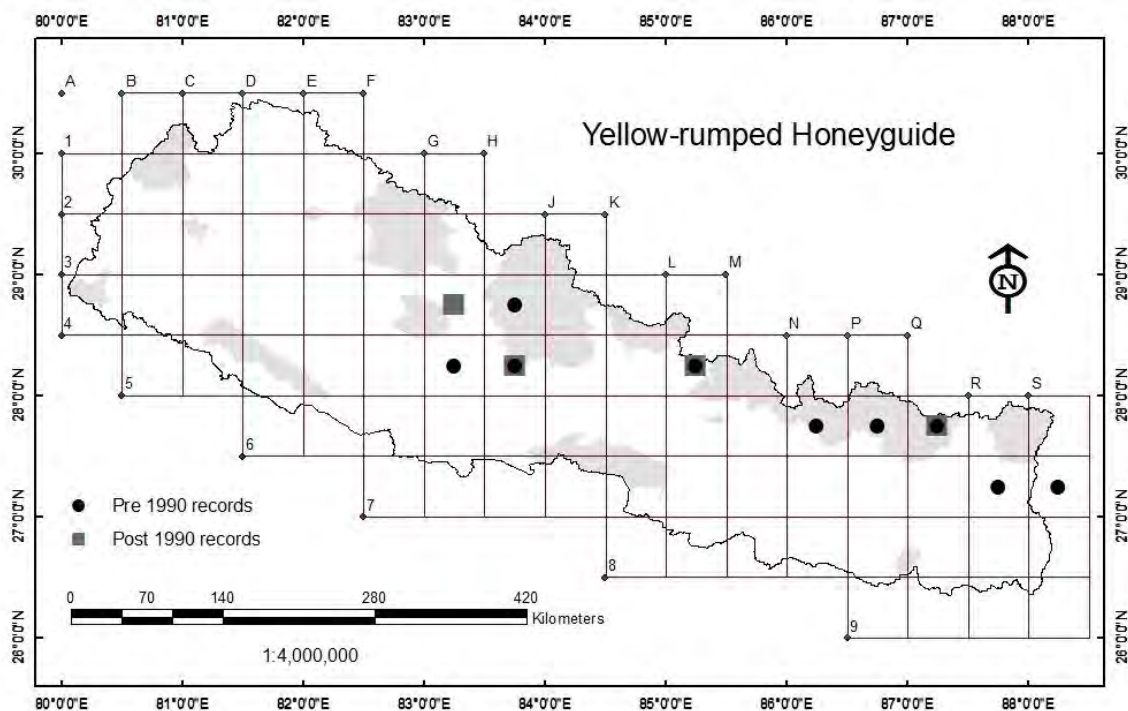
Common Name

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide (English),
Chakasuchak (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes
Family: Indicatoridae



Distribution



Yellow-rumped Honeyguide is a local and very uncommon resident. The first Nepal record was three birds seen (including two collected) 5-8 km above Bigu, Dolakha District, near the Tibetan border in November 1960 (Fleming 1968, Fleming and Traylor 1964). One was also collected nearby on Ting Sang La, Dolakha District in May 1962 (Diesselhorst 1968). There are no known later records from the area. The species has been recorded from Reshunga Potential Important Bird Area, Gulmi District (Lalchan and Battachan 1990) in the west to Hange Tham, Mai Valley Important Bird Area, Ilam District (Halliday 1989) in the far east.

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the honeyguide was scarce in Nepal; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was locally distributed and probably an uncommon resident.

In the west it was recorded at Reshunga (now a Potential Important Bird Area), Gulmi District in 1988/89 (Lalchan and Battachan 1990) and one was seen at Pinde Odar, Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b).

In west-central Nepal the species was regularly reported from the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) in the 1980s when it was an uncommon altitudinal migrant. The vicinity of Ghasa and also cliffs half to one hour's walk north on the trail towards Lete were the best known in ACA for the species at that time (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003). All the following records in the ACA, except for one (from Sinuwa in Modi Khola valley, Inskipp

and Inskipp 1986) were associated with bees' nests. At Ghasa up to three and possibly four were seen on the east side of the river, also singles on the west side and about 30 minute walk north along the main trail towards Lete, e.g. Farrow (1982), Nilsson (1982), Heath (1986), Bräunlich (1987) and Gawn (1987). There were a few reports from the Modi Khola valley north of Khuldi (Inskipp 1988) and also single records from: 4.5 km north of Dana (Field Museum Chicago 2003), half an hour's walk below Ghorepani (Woodcock 1979), Pipar (Lelliott 1981), between Ghorepani and Hille (Mayer 1986), near Tirkedhunge (Cooper and Cooper 1989), and north of Birethante (Cooper and Cooper 1989). The only later record located for ACA is of two birds seen in Santel, Seti Khola valley in May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006, Vimal Thapa), even though the area is relatively well recorded.

In central Nepal, the honeyguide has been regularly recorded from at least two sites in the upper Langtang Gorge east to Chondong in Langtang National Park since the early 1980s. However, in March and April 2012 the species was difficult to find in the gorge: two of three known sites had been abandoned (Hathan Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp (May 2012).

Pre-1990 records from upper Langtang gorge include: one bird seen between Syabru and Lama Hotel in May 1982 (Grimmett 1982), three in the gorge in May 1982 (Robson 1982), one at Lama Hotel in May 1985 (Harrap 1985) and one at Bamboo Lodge in May 1989 (Jepson 1989). Post-1990 records include one seen near Lama Hotel in May 1992 (Baral 1992), two at two sites in May 1993 (Redman 1993), and one at Landslide Hotel in May 1996 (Basnet 2000). In 1997 a systematic search was made for active bees' nests in the upper Langtang gorge on behalf of a BBC film crew and three sites were located: one near Landslide Hotel, the second between Landslide Hotel and Bamboo Lodge and the third opposite Rimche village. A resident male and sometimes a female were seen at each site in late March and early April 1997. In later years sometimes honeyguides have not been seen at Landslide Hotel as the honey has been harvested (Hathan Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2012). A systematic search for active bees' nests and honeyguides has not been carried out since 1997, although the birds have been regularly seen, e.g. one at Lama Hotel in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), one at Rimche in April 2005 (GC 2010); at Landslide Hotel two were found in May 2005, one in May 2006, two in May 2008 and one in June 2009 (GC 2010); near Bamboo Lodge two were seen in May 2007 (Chaudhary 2007a), one in March 2010 (Wheatley 2010), and one in March/April 2012 but no honeyguides could be found at any of the three sites in two visits in May 2012, despite searching hard (Hathan Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp 2012).

Singles were recorded at a different site in Langtang National Park, one near Syabru in April 1980 (Halberg and Petersen 1983), and in May 2000 (Chaudhary 2000), and two near Budha Guest House, Syabrubesi in May 2002 (Baral 2002).

Other known localities in central Nepal (both outside the protected areas' system) are Gre, Dhading District where two birds in October 1980 (Madge and Appleby 1980) and Ghadi Deorali between Kathmandu and Bhainse, Makwanpur District in February 1991 (White and White 1991).

In the east three were seen at Phakding, Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone in May 1987 (Turin *et al.* 1987); the species was recorded at Khamlalung, Tamur valley in mid April 1989 (Guinan and Dodman 1989), and at Hange Tham, Ilam District in December 1988 (Halliday 1989). No later records are known from these localities, although a few may not have been visited subsequently. In the east, it was considered fairly common by the Kasuwa Khola, upper Arun valley in what is now Makalu Barun National Park in 1973 (Cronin 1979a,b; Cronin and Sherman 1976) (see Population section). In May 1998 a single bird was seen an hour's walk north-east of Tashigaon by the Kasuwa Khola in May 1998, although the bees' nests had been harvested the day before (this may well have been in the Kasuwa Khola watershed) (Chaudhary 1998, Hale 1998). The honeyguide was considered less common in and around the Kasuwa Khola than previously (Hale 1998). The honeyguide was also recorded in the park near Shunin Oral in April 1981 (Krabbe 1981). Singles were seen at two sites of bees' nests above Manghang Kharka in the park in November 2005 (Inskipp *et al.* 2005). The honeyguide is listed for the national park in Cox (1999a).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3300 m; lower limit: 1800 m (- 610 m)

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, but observations and a consideration of the threats it faces indicate that numbers must be small. In 1973 a male under study was found to mate with 17 different females which visited him on his bees' nests territory in the Arun valley watershed. The study also revealed that a male holding a territory at bees' nests 1 km away seemed to have his own contingent of females (Cronin 1979a,b; Cronin and Sherman 1976). Honeyguides have been regularly seen at one, two or three sites in the upper Langtang gorge, Langtang National Park since the early 1980s up till 2012. During a study made on the species in 1997, seven birds were seen at two sites in the gorge (Basnet 2013). However, in March/April 2012 two of the three sites had been abandoned and no honeyguides could be found in two visits in May 2012, despite considerable effort at three sites (Hathan Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp May 2012), indicating a possible decline. There are recent records from Makalu Barun National Park, but data are insufficient to determine whether any population changes have taken place in the park. See Distribution section. Hale (1998) considered the honeyguide was less common in and around the Kasuwa Khola than reported 25 years previously.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <250

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide is closely associated with nests of the Giant Rock Bee *Apis dorsata*. It feeds on wax from the bee combs, and also feeds on bees and other insects. The male defends nests of the Giant Rock Bee and mates with females which visit the nests to feed. The honeyguide frequents the vicinity of the bees' nests which are attached to vertical cliffs, and adjacent broadleaved and coniferous forest, mainly in the temperate zone (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The nest is unknown. A female taken in May 1962 on Ting Sang La, Dolakha District had laid eggs (Diesselhorst 1968), copulation was observed between 22 April and 19 May. Females are attracted into the male Honeyguide's territory by the wax and not by the resident male (Cronin and Sherman 1976). The species is resident subject to altitudinal movements. Typically, it is slow-moving or perches upright and motionless for long periods and so is easily overlooked (Grimmett *et al.* (1998).

Threats

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide is seriously threatened by the human collection of bee's wax. The removal of bees' nests, which have regularly been frequented by honeyguides, has often been observed in upper Langtang valley in Langtang National Park, in 2010 for example. Bee's nests had also been removed from a site in Makalu Barun National Park, north-east of Tashigaon in May 1998 ((Hathan Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2012). For example, in April 2008, a local resident in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area reported seeing a bird resembling the honeyguide at three nests of Giant Rock Bee *Apis dorsata* an hour's walk from Yamphudin. However, on investigation it was found that the nests had been removed a month previously and there was no sign of the bird (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The honeyguide is also threatened by forest loss and degradation.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-rumped Honeyguide. It has recently been recorded in Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks. Previously it was found in Annapurna Conservation Area but there are no known records from ACA since 1989.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2cd, C2a(i), D1 upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2cd, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a local and very uncommon altitudinal migrant. The honeyguide was local and uncommon in the Annapurna Conservation Area in the 1980s, but there has been only one report from this relatively well-watched area since 1989. There are no recent records from five localities outside the protected areas' system where the species was reported in the late 1980s, although a few of these sites may not have been visited subsequently. The species is still regularly recorded from the upper Langtang gorge in Langtang National Park, although in 2012 it was difficult to find, indicating a possible decline. There are recent records from Makalu Barun National Park; it was reported to be less common by the Kasuwa Khola than 25 years before; however, there are insufficient data to determine whether the population has changed elsewhere in the park. Yellow-rumped Honeyguide is seriously threatened by the human collection of bee's wax and also threatened by forest loss and degradation in protected as well as unprotected areas.

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Mulleripicus pulverulentus (Temminck, 1826)

EN

Subspecies: *Mulleripicus pulverulentus mohun*

Common Name

Great Slaty Woodpecker (English),

Raj Lahaanche (Nepali)

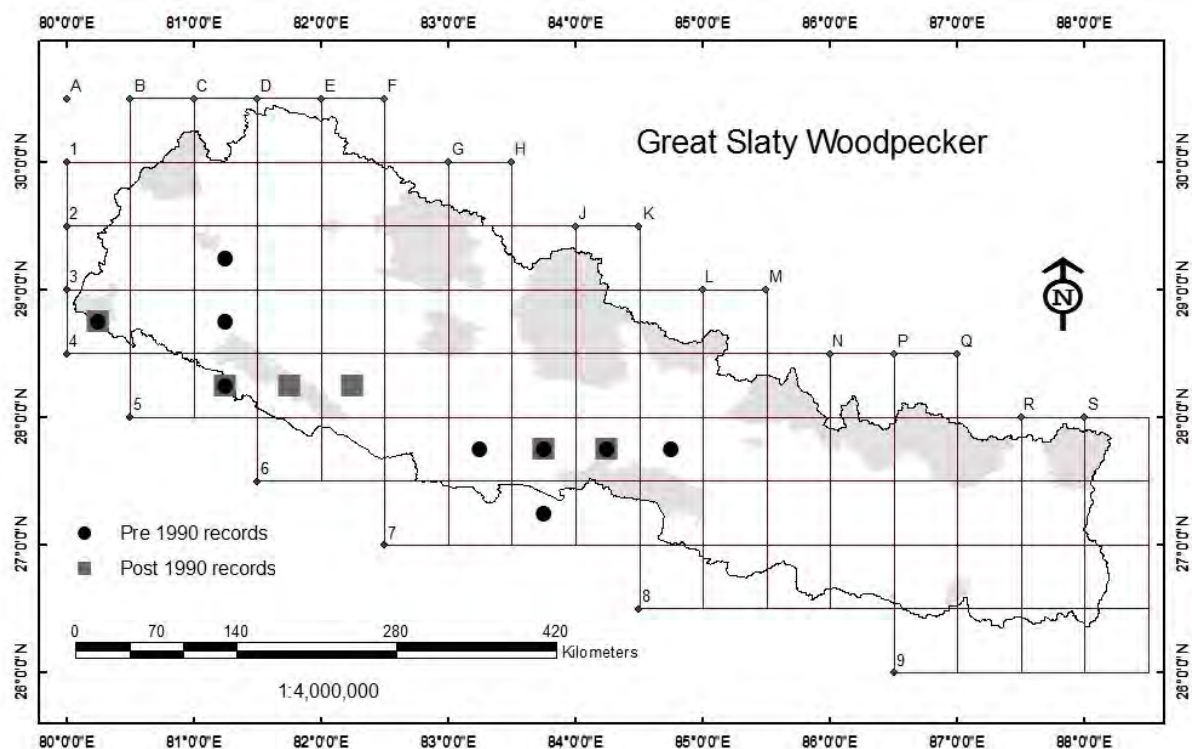
Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae

ASHISH SHRESHTA



Distribution



Great Slaty Woodpecker is a rare and local resident. The first Nepal record was in February 1952 at Butwal, Rupandehi District (Rand and Fleming 1957).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered it a local resident, occasionally seen in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982, Schaaf *et al.* 1980), Bardia National Park (Cox 1985, Dinerstein 1979) and Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District (e.g. Lambert 1979, Turton and Speight 1982, Heath 1986), rare in Chitwan National Park (e.g. Gurung 1983), and with very few records elsewhere.

Since 1990 the species has been chiefly recorded from within the protected areas' system. It has been regularly seen in Bardia National Park, e.g. eight in April 2012 (Shankar Tiwari), seven in July 2012 (Som GC and 15 Tel Pani - Amreni in September 2012 (Ram Shahi). Seven were found in the park buffer zone near Thakurdwara in August 2012 (Ram Shahi). It is also regularly recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (BCN and DNPWC 2011).

It is rare in Chitwan National Park (e.g. Chartier and Chartier 1999, Harrap 1999); an adult and chicks were seen there in March in 1998 and 2001 (Chaudhary 2004); singles were recorded between March and

September, 1998-2004 (Chaudhary 2004); recorded from Thori, Panesha Khola, in January 2010 (Khrishna Pariyar); three in March 2010 (Chaudhary 2010); three by the Bardaha Khola in April 2010 (Bird Education Society); four by the Hattimara Khola in March 2012 (Hathan Chaudhary); five near Tiger Tops (Harka) in April 2012; seven at Balmiki Ashram in May 2012 (Anil Gurung) and five (by the Andheri Khola, Temple Tiger two adults, three juveniles) in September 2012 (Tek Bahadur Gurung, Padam Chhetri, Dharma Giri, Kalu Ram Tamang).

The species was also recorded in Banke National Park in February 2012 (Baral 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012).

Singles were recorded from Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area, Dang District, in June 2009 (Thakuri 2009a,b; 2010); in Tikapur Forest Park, Kailali District (unprotected) in September 2009 (Hem Sagar Baral), and five near Dhanghadi, Kailali District in April 2012 (Read 2012) – the birds were still present in October 2012 (Mark Read *in litt.* to H. S. Baral, November 2012). An unusually large flock of 23 were seen at Beldandi, Kanchanpur District in April 2003 (Hem Subedi).

A population survey carried out by the Nepalese Ornithological Union in 2011 recorded the species in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Bardia National Park and Banke National Park (a new locality), and also outside the protected areas' system at Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District (see population section) (Baral 2011). Although forest surveys in Kailali and Kapilvastu Districts failed to locate the species, the habitat remains very suitable for it (Baral 2011).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 350 m; lower limit: 175 m

Population

Lammertink *et al.* (2009) based a population estimate on the extent of forest types with which the species seems to be associated. He estimated that by 2005 there had been a nearly 3-fold reduction in these forest types, and as a consequence the original Nepal population of around 78,708 birds, had dropped to 6,051 by 2005. However, he also stated that the current population could be much lower than the 2005 figure (Lammertink *et al.* 2009). In *The state of Nepal birds 2010* overview, Inskipp *et al.* (2011) gave a crude estimate of a much lower population of 250 birds. A population survey carried out by the Nepalese Ornithologists Union in 2011 estimated a total of 190 birds comprising estimates of: 50 individuals in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 60 in Bardia National Park, 50 in Chitwan National Park, 10 in Banke National Park, 10 in Nawalparasi District, and 10 in Kailali District (Baral 2011). Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District was a known locality for the species in the past (see Distribution section), but current pressures on the forests there indicated that the population may be very small now, perhaps only a remnant of a much bigger population present in the past. Based on the study, three subpopulations of Great Slaty Woodpeckers were identified: Sukla Phanta, Bardia (including Kailali/Banke) and Chitwan (including Tamaspur forests in Nawalparasi).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 190; maximum population: 250

Habitat and Ecology

Great Slaty Woodpecker is a resident, inhabiting climax sal and broadleaved forests of the lowlands and is dependent on the presence of mature trees (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects, chiefly larvae and pupae of wood-boring beetles (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Great Slaty Woodpecker is threatened by the loss and degradation of lowland forests, notably the loss of mature trees. Deterioration of these forests has occurred at a much greater rate and in area compared to forests in other physiographic zones (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Great Slaty Woodpecker. A 2011 population survey concluded that the large proportion of the species' population occurs within the protected areas' system: in Bardia, Chitwan and Banke National Parks and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2011).

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Great Slaty Woodpecker has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2c and D1. The species is now a rare and local resident, mainly confined to within the protected areas' system. It is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of climax lowland sal and mixed broadleaved forests, especially the loss of mature trees. Deterioration of these forests has occurred at a much greater rate and in area compared to forests in other physiographic zones. A 2011 population survey concluded that the large proportion of the species' population occurs in protected areas.

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Blythipicus pyrrhotis (Hodgson, 1837) NT

Subspecies: *Blythipicus pyrrhotis pyrrhotis*

Common Name

Bay Woodpecker (English),

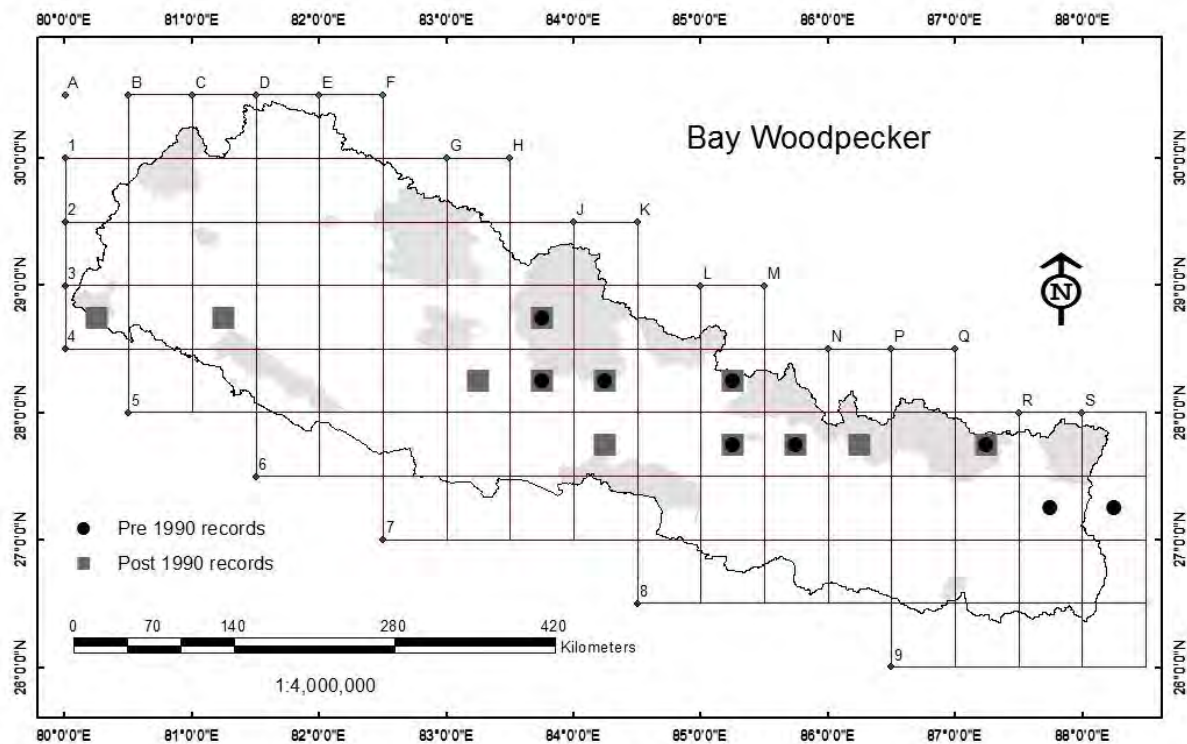
Taame Lahaanche (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Bay Woodpecker is a local and uncommon resident from west-central areas eastwards and is rare further west. Post-1990 records show it to be recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in the far east (Cox 2009).

Bay Woodpecker was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837, Warren 1966).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a local and uncommon resident. Areas where it was found included north-west of Pokhara, hills surrounding the Kathmandu valley, Langtang and the upper Mai valley, with single sightings from other areas (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Martens and Eck (1995) also recorded the species in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area: one at Amji Kharka and one at Yamphudin in April 1988, but there are no later records from the Conservation Area.

One seen at the unusually low altitude of 200 m at Sukla Phanta in May 1982 is the westernmost record of the species (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982).

Since 1990 there has been no significant change in distribution, compared to pre-1990, see map and text

below.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: vagrant in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and a rare resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001). It is listed as a rare resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) by Inskipp and Inskipp (2003), but other records indicate it is an uncommon resident there, e.g. Naylor and Giri 2004, O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2003, Scharringa 2000, Thakuri and Poudyal 2011, Wartmann and Schonjahn 1992). It is a vagrant to Chitwan National Park (J6) (Choudhary 1995/1996). SNP and BCN (2007) list the species as an uncommon resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but no post-1990 records from Shivapuri could be located and only one record from Nagarjun – two birds in February 1991 (White and White 1991). It is a rare resident in Langtang National Park (Karki and Thapa 2001, O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009, Cox 1996), and an uncommon resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Chaudhary 1998; Inskipp *et al.* 2005; Cox 1999, 2009). Singles were recorded in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone on three dates in May 2009 and daily from 1-5 June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Since 1990 there have been significantly fewer records from outside the protected areas' system compared to within protected areas, see map and text below. Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system follow:

In the west records include one from Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District in June 2011 (Thakuri 2011, 2013).

In central Nepal records include mainly single birds recorded from Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley: e.g. in September 2000 (Fuller 2000); April 2005 (Mallalieu 2008), April 2006 (Baral 2006) and in January and February 2010 (Baral 2010). Records from other localities include: near Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004) and near Sermathang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in January 2012 (Dymond 2012).

In the east records include one between Bhotebesi and Mudhe (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998).

Globally it is also recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2500 m; lower limit: 1525 m (- 75 m)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Bay Woodpecker. It is probably declining because of loss and degradation of its forest habitat.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Bay Woodpecker inhabits subtropical and lower temperate mature, evergreen broadleaved forest with thick undergrowth and adjoining dense secondary forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Martens and Eck (1995) reported that 'During the breeding months it is partial to dense broadleaved forests of the subtropical belt: mainly *Castanopsis*, *Acer* and *Quercus*. There it lives very secretively on the lower parts of trunks and even close to the ground. There is good reason to suspect that *pyrrhotis* is confined to an extraordinarily narrow vertical area band of about 600 m during the breeding season and hence in addition to its secretive habitats, the only scarce observations of the species might be explained'. Grimmett *et al.* (2000) also reported that the species is possibly overlooked. It is found singly or in pairs, sometimes with mixed species flocks, including

laughingthrushes (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Shy and elusive it may be difficult to see except when it occasionally moves up a tall tree (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Most foraging takes place within a few metres of the ground - on moss-covered trunks, dead stumps, fallen logs, and on the ground among roots. It sometimes feeds higher up, keeping close to, or on the trunk (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is heard much more often than seen (Grimmett *et al.* 1998, Martens and Eck 1995) and is noisy when disturbed (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It mainly eats white ants and beetle larvae (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been confirmed in the Markhu valley (Biswas 1961).

Threats

Bay Woodpecker is threatened by loss and degradation of its localized forest habitat, especially in the subtropical and lower temperate zones.

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Bay Woodpecker. Post-1990 it has been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park, Annapurna and Gaurishankar Conservation Areas and marginally in Bardia, Chitwan, Langtang and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Bay Woodpecker has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local and uncommon resident recorded from west-central areas eastwards and rare further west. Since 1990 there has been no significant change in distribution, compared to pre-1990. It has been regularly recorded in only three protected areas and marginally in several others. Post-1990 there have been significantly fewer records from outside the protected areas' system compared to within protected areas. The species is threatened by loss and degradation of its localised forest habitat, especially in the subtropical and lower temperate zones and as a result is probably declining.

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Celeus brachyurus (Vieillot, 1818) LC

Subspecies: *Celeus brachyurus phaiiceps*

Common Name

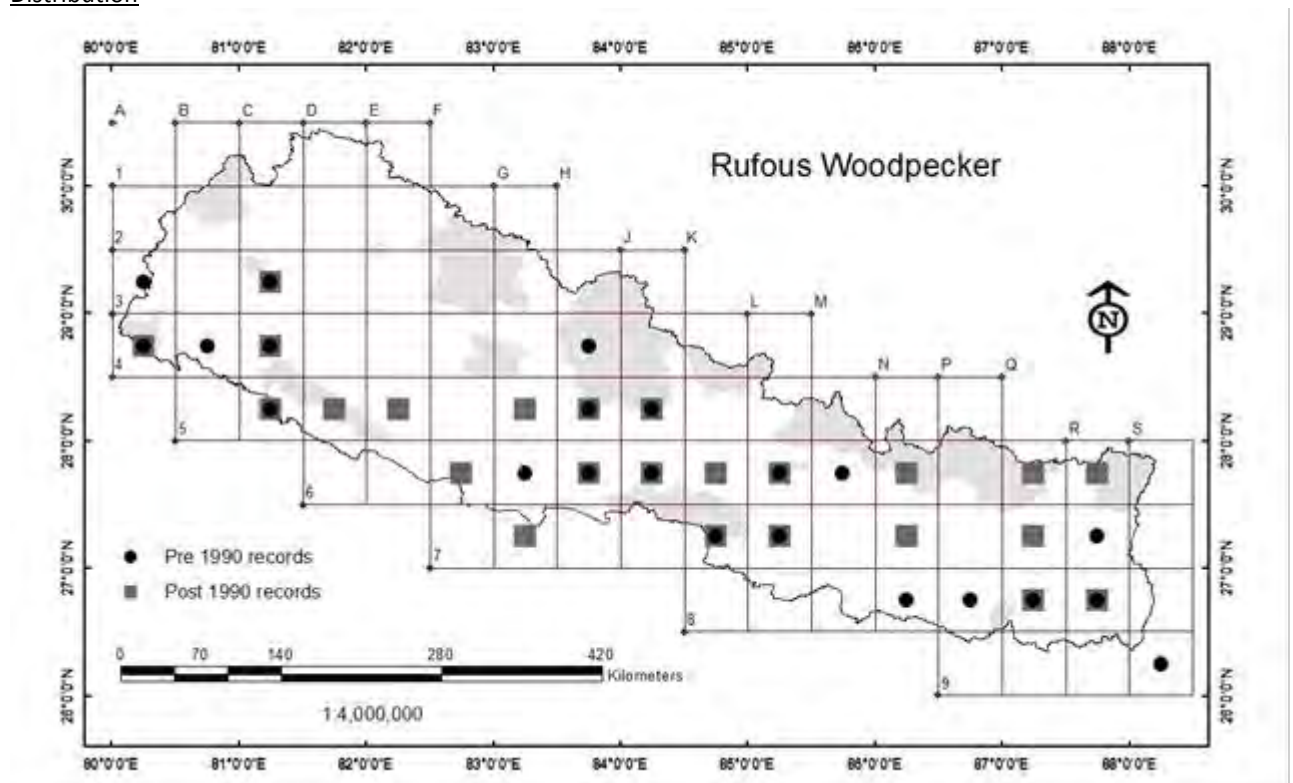
Rufous Woodpecker (English), Sano
Taame Lahanche (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Rufous Woodpecker is a resident, locally frequent, especially in some protected areas, and uncommon elsewhere. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the lower Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) noted it was a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a resident recorded up to 1525 m, but mainly found below 305 m. It was occasionally seen in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and in Bardia National Park, uncommon in Chitwan National Park and in the eastern terai, and there were single records from most other localities.

Since 1990 there have been several more localities recorded in the west probably as a result of better coverage; otherwise the species' distribution has not changed significantly post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The species' distribution in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); resident in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); recorded in Banke National Park (Acharya 2011); a rare resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001); a rare resident in Shivapuri

Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007, Hem Sagar Baral); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009); an uncommon resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Choudhary 1998, Cox 1999) and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005), and recorded at Tapethok at the unusual high altitude of 2300 m in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Giri and Choudhary 2010). The species has been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: west of the park (H6) in Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010) and at Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996); also in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q7) in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded rather less widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat.

In the west records include from: along the Bardia-Katarniaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); upper Chirai Khola valley (F6), Kapilvastu District (Cox 2008); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009), and Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Acharya 2011).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was rare, presumably resident in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006. However, Arend van Riessen found it infrequently on foothills around the Valley and at Gokarna, also a rare visitor to Saibu Hill. Records from other localities include: Nalang (K6), Dhading District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012), and near Kat Mandir, Bara District (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Katahare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubhadel 2007); Pikhua (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); between west of Kangduwa and south of Bumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in June 2009 (Cox 2009); Dharan forest (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. Chaudhary (1997), Inskipp and Inskipp (2001), Basnet and Sapkota (2008) and Baral (2011), and in the lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m (-2300 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Rufous Woodpecker. Its population is probably stable

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Rufous Woodpecker inhabits broadleaved forest and secondary growth (Grimmett *et al.* 1998); sal, acacia and pine groves and forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It chiefly inhabits lowland forests in the tropical zone, and also occurs up to 1525 m in the subtropical zone. Rufous Woodpecker is a shy species. It forages in trees at all heights and is often seen digging into tree-ant nests (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Ants and their pupae are its main food source; also occasionally it takes fruit and flower nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and at Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1961).

Threats

Rufous Woodpecker is threatened by complete loss of forests and secondary growth. However, as it is adapted to a wide range of forest types including acacias and pines and is adapted to secondary growth it is resilient to some degree of forest degradation.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rufous Woodpecker. Post-1990 the species has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Khaptad, Chitwan, and Makalu Barun National Parks; Gaurishankar Conservation Area; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and marginally in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rufous Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, locally frequent, especially in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 there have been several more localities recorded in the west probably as a result of better coverage; otherwise the species' distribution has not changed significantly post-1990 compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas and rather less widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat, since 1990. Rufous Woodpecker is threatened by complete loss of forests and secondary growth. However, as it is adapted to a wide range of forest types and is adapted to secondary growth it is resilient to some degree of forest degradation. Its population is probably stable.

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Chrysocolaptes festivus (Boddaert, 1873) LC

Subspecies *Chrysocolaptes festivus festivus*

Common Name

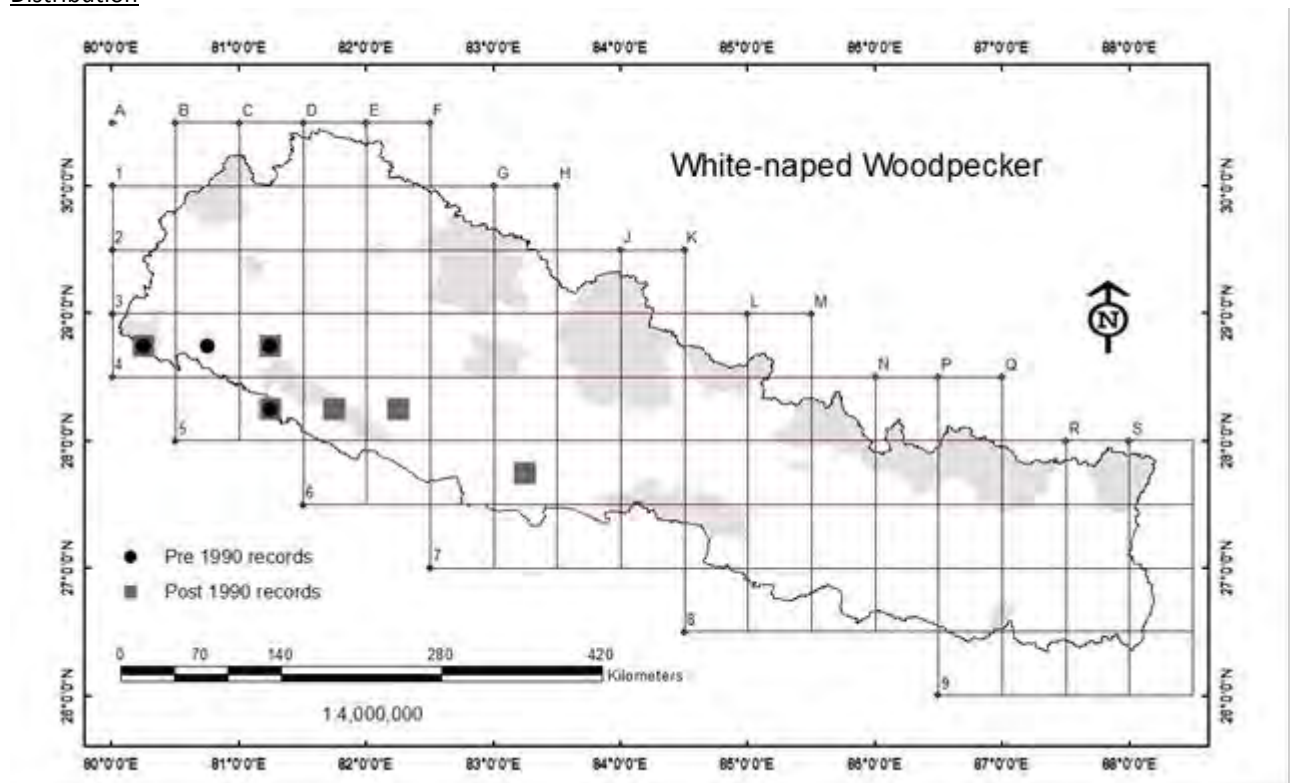
White-naped Woodpecker (English),
Setogardane Lahaanche (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



White-naped Woodpecker is a locally common or fairly common resident in the west, with post-1990 records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Rupandehi District in west-central Nepal (Tek Bahadur Gurung and Dinesh Giri verbally to Hem Sagar Baral, 2013).

White-naped Woodpecker was first recorded at Dhanghadi, Kailali District in 18 March 1965 (Fleming and Traylor 1968).

Fleming *et al* (1976) reported it was a scarce resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as an uncommon resident found in the western tarai east to the eastern bank of the Karnali River, also recorded from Bilauri, Kanchanpur District, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and Bardia National Park.

Since 1990 the known distribution of the species has spread significantly eastwards to Rupandehi District; however, this may be a result of better coverage.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001) and recorded in Banke National Park in March 2011 (Acharya 2011).

Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system include from: Tikapur Park, Kailali District (C5) in September 2009 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District in spring 2009 (Thakuri 2009a,b) and Rupandehi District (Tek Bahadur Gurung and Dinesh Giri 2013).

Globally the species has also been recorded from India, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 245 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for White-naped Woodpecker. Its population may be stable or possibly increasing.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

White-naped woodpecker inhabits tropical light broadleaved forests, scattered trees (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 2000) and trees along the borders of cultivation in the western tarai (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species is shy and will readily hide from those observing it. It is found singly or in loose pairs and associates with other woodpeckers, racket-tailed drongos *Dicrurus* spp. and small birds (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It works on boles of trees and onto high branches (Fleming *et al.* 1976), as well as lower tree trunks and occasionally on the ground on burnt grass and bare patches (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Complete removal of forests and trees in cultivation would threaten White-naped Woodpecker. The species has probably benefited from forest thinning and can adapt to trees in cultivation. However, intensification of agriculture is increasing and is resulting in the loss of trees from field edges and corners (Inskipp and Baral 2011). It chiefly feeds on ants and grubs of wood-boring beetles (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for White-naped Woodpecker. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia and Banke National Parks and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-naped Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally common or fairly common resident in the western terai. Since 1990 the known species' distribution has spread significantly eastwards to Rupandehi District; however, this may be the result of better coverage. It has been recorded in three protected areas and also a few localities outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. It has adapted to trees in cultivation, but the increasing intensification of farming in the lowlands is resulting in loss of these trees. Complete removal of forests would threaten the species although it

has probably benefited from forest thinning. As a result, its population may be stable or possibly increasing.

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***Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (Scopoli, 1786) LC**

Subspecies: *Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacristatus*,
sultaneus

Common Name

Greater Flameback (English)

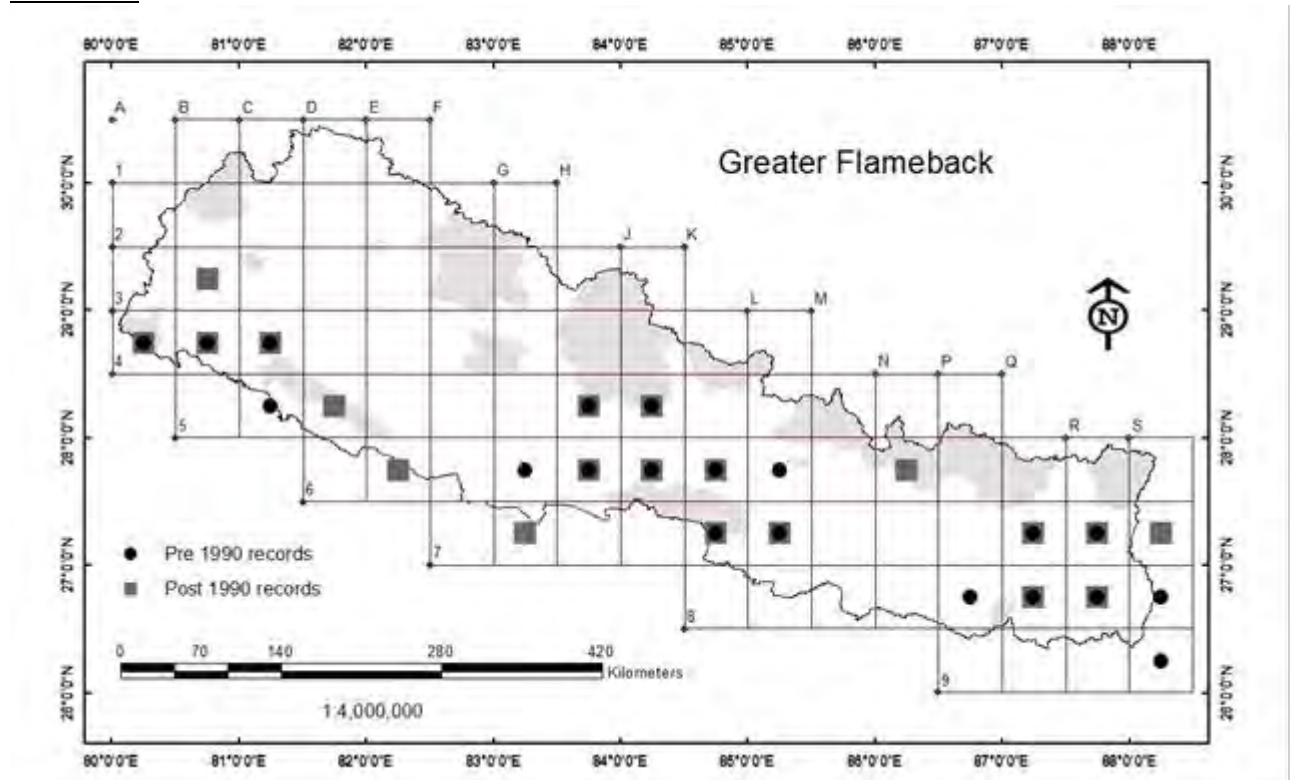
Gardan Thople Lahaanche (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Greater Flameback is a locally fairly common resident in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. It is quite widespread, with post-1990 records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far west (Baral and Inskipp 2009) to the Mai valley (Baral 2010a, Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a common resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it as resident, occasionally recorded up to 915m, but fairly common at Chitwan and scarce at higher altitudes. There are only two known records from the Kathmandu Valley: in 1977 (Leece and Reece 1977) and in 1980 (Petersen 1983).

Since 1990 there have been a few new localities in the west, probably as a result of better coverage; otherwise the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Baral *et al.* 2012). It was described as a rare resident in Annapurna Conservation Area by Inskipp and Inskipp (2003), but no post-1990 records could be located. It is a fairly common resident in (J6, K6) Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001), and recorded in

Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009). The species has been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District in February 2010 (Baral 2010b), in Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Baral 1996) and in Janakauli Community Forest in October 2012 (e.g. Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

The species is also recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: Chulla (B3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); a frequent resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1992, CSUWN and BCN 2012); Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Baral 2011); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), November 2007 (Baral 2007) and February 2010 (Baral 2010a); by the Madi Khola (J5), Kaski District (Halliday 1992), and between Pasgam, Libiyani and Rupatal (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include from community forest near Bakaiya, Nijgarh (L7), Bara District (Baral *et al.* 2013), and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include from: between Tumlingtar and Chewabesi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District and between Pikhua and the Apsuwa Khola (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), May 2008 (Giri 2008), Basnet and Sapkota (2008) and Subba (1995); Ramdhuni forest (Q8), Sunsari District (Miller 2011); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang Forest (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Itahari (Q8), Morang District (Pandey 2003); lower Mai valley, Mai Valley Important Bird Area (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Garuwa (R8), Jhapa District, Chisapani (R8), Ilam District and between Memen and Phidim (R7), Panchthar District, Mai valley in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008), and at Dobate, Mabu (S7), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010a).

Globally it is also recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (-1700 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Greater Flameback. It can adapt to groves, which may mitigate the loss of its broadleaved forest habitat to some degree, though the population may be declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Greater Flameback inhabits tropical and occasionally subtropical broadleaved forests and groves (Grimmett *et al.* 1998, Grimmett *et al.* 2000, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it is most common in *sal* forests. It was observed in a tea plantation and in scattered trees in cultivation in the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008). The species is shy, often found singly or in loose pairs (Fleming *et al.* 1976), sometimes associating with other woodpeckers, drongos and small insectivorous species. It chiefly visits large trees though it forages at all levels, especially on dead wood, sometimes on the ground (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It also works on boles of trees and on high branches (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It mainly feeds on insects and grubs, also nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983), in forests by Phewa Lake (Hari KC and Hem Sagar Baral), Simra, Parsa District (Biswas 1961) and Chatra, Sunsari District (Ripley 1950).

Threats

Greater Flameback is threatened by clearance of its tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest habitat, but has adapted to cultivated groves and also utilizes scattered trees in cultivation which provides the species with some resilience.

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Greater Flameback. It has been recorded in Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks; Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves, and Gaurishankar Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Greater Flameback has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally fairly common resident in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. The species is quite widespread occurring from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in several protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Greater Flameback is threatened by clearance of its tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest habitat, but has adapted to cultivated groves and also utilizes scattered trees in cultivation which provides the species with some resilience. The population may be declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category.

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***Dendrocopos auriceps* (Vigors, 1831) LC**

Subspecies: *Dendrocopos auriceps auriceps*, *incognitus*

Common Name

Brown-fronted Woodpecker (English)

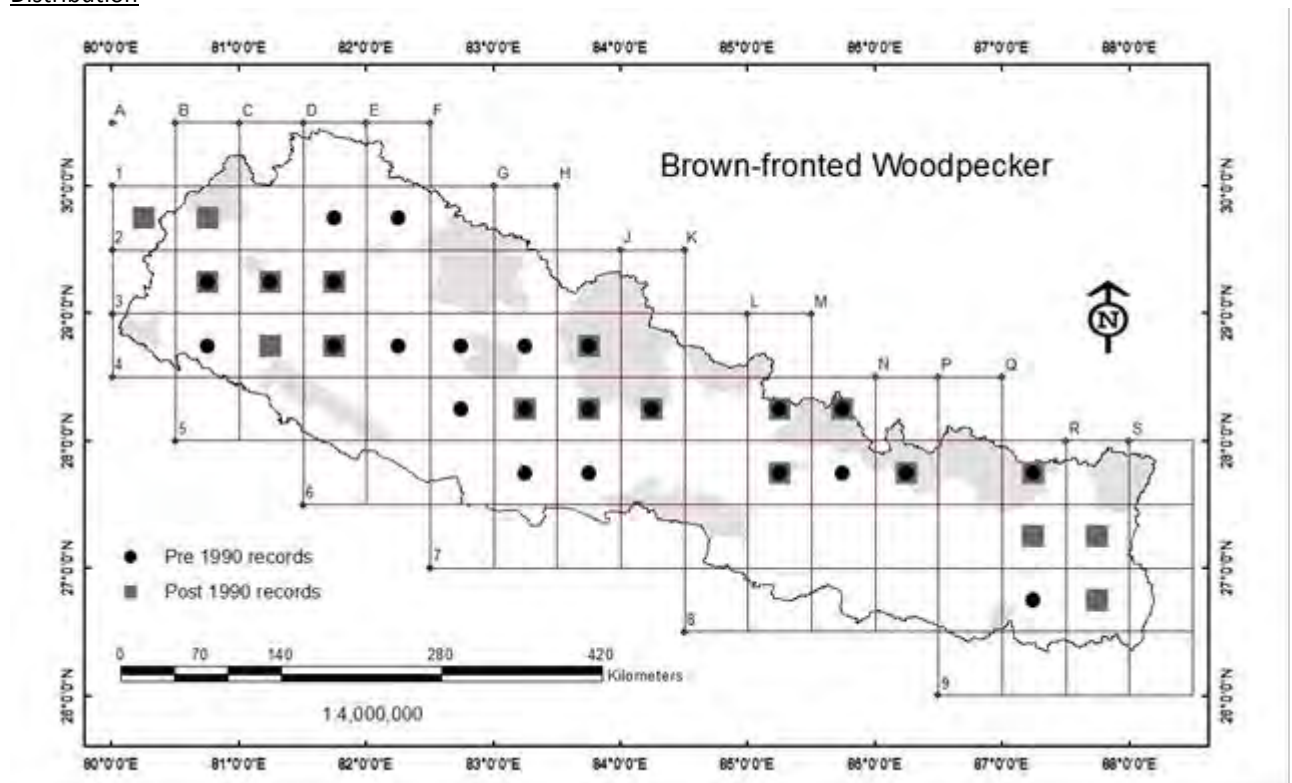
Khairotauke Kasthakut (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Brown-fronted Woodpecker is a widespread resident, fairly common in some protected areas, but less common and less widely recorded outside the protected areas' system. There are post-1990 records from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to Ilam District (Chaudhary 1998) in the far east.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) recorded it as a fairly common resident, noting that it was regularly seen above 1830m in the Kathmandu Valley. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) also recorded it as fairly common.

Since 1990 there has been a small reduction in distribution.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (A2, B2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012), a rare resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 1996); a fairly common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003). SNP and BCN (2007) reported it as a frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but very few post-1990 records could be found from the national park. Karki and Thapa (2001) listed it as a rare resident in Langtang National Park, but other records indicate it is a frequent resident there.

It is recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009), and is a fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999). It has also been recorded in the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q7) in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system.

Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system in the west include from: Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Badimalika region (C3) (Karki *et al.* 2003); Kalikot and Dailekh Districts (D3, D4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997), and from Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District in November 2010 and March 2011 (Thakuri 2011, 2013).

Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system in central Nepal include: from the Kathmandu Valley where it has declined since the 1970s when it was regularly recorded (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It was an uncommon resident between 2004 and 2006, most easily seen at Haattiban and with two records from Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in February and March 2005 (Mallalieu 2008). Other Phulchoki records include in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and November 2000 (Basnet 2000).

Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system in the east include from: Bhandar (N6), Ramechhap District in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012); between Kholabari, Muwa Khola and Yektin (R7), Panchthar District in November 1992 (Cox 1992), and Ilam (R8), Ilam District in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998).

Globally it is also recorded from Afghanistan, India, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2440 m (-2895 m); lower limit: 1065 m (- 500 m)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Brown-fronted Woodpecker. Since 1990 its distribution has reduced a little, its population has declined in the Kathmandu Valley, and its population may have declined elsewhere, probably because of habitat loss and degradation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Brown-fronted Woodpecker chiefly inhabits subtropical and lower temperate coniferous and dry broadleaved forests (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). It may be seen in pairs or scattered parties, moving restlessly from one tree to another in an undulating flight. The species is partial to Ban Oak *Quercus leu-trichophora* (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds on insects, pine seeds and fruit. It forages mainly in trees, sometimes on bushes in the forest understory and, very rarely, on the ground. Breeding has been proved in Khaptad National Park (Inskipp 1988) and in the Markhu Valley (Biswas 1961).

Threats

Complete removal of its remaining dry broadleaved forest habitat, or excessive degradation by removal of mature trees, branches and foliage, would threaten the Brown-fronted Woodpecker.

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Brown-fronted Woodpecker. It has been recorded in

Khaptad, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks, as well as Api Nampa, Annapurna and Gaurishankar Conservation Areas, and marginally in Bardia and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) no change from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Brown-fronted Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a widespread resident, fairly common in some protected areas, but less common and less widely recorded outside the protected areas' system. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas and but less widely outside the protected areas' system. The species is threatened by complete removal of its remaining habitat, as well as further degradation by thinning. Since 1990 its distribution has reduced a little. Its population has decreased in the Kathmandu Valley, and may have declined elsewhere, probably because of habitat loss and degradation, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Dendrocopos canicapillus (Blyth, 1845) LC

Subspecies: *Dendrocopos canicapillus mitchelli*,
semicoronatus

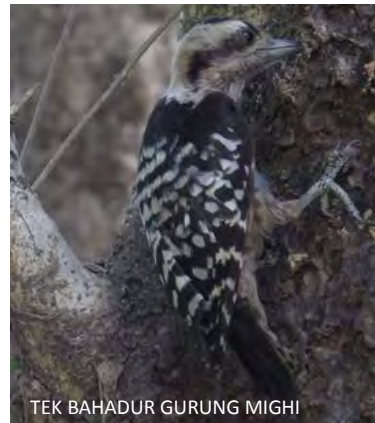
Common Name

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (English)

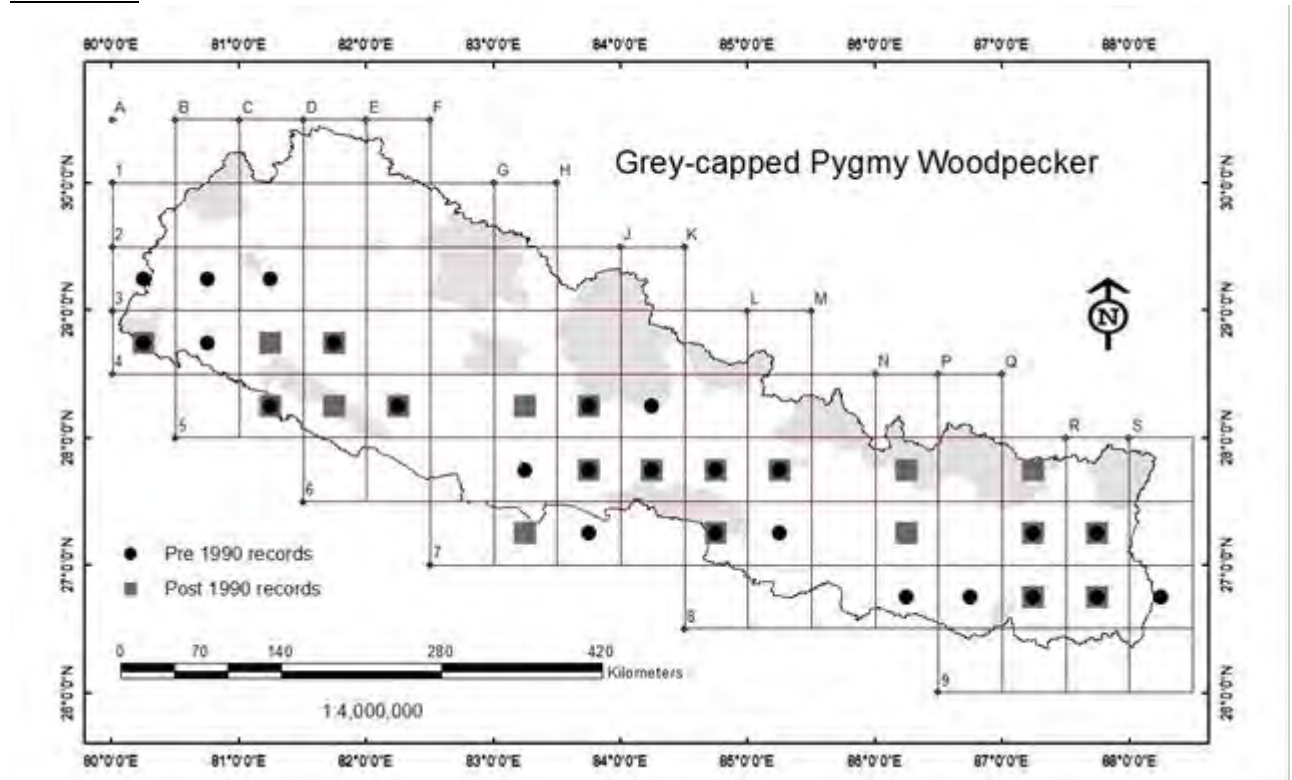
Phusrotauke Lahanche (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker is a widespread resident, fairly common or common from central areas eastwards and uncommon farther west. Post-1990 records show a distribution from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far west (Baral and Inskipp 2009) to the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Both Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it as a fairly common resident. The latter noted it was mainly recorded from Butwal, Rupandehi District eastwards, rarely seen further west.

The species' distribution has not changed significantly since 1990, compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: uncommon resident Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001); fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999) and, uncommon possibly resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Namuna Community Forest (K6), Dhading District (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012);

between the Narayani River and Tharu Lodge in November 2007 (Baral 2007); west of the park in Nawalparasi District (H6) in February 2010 (Baral 2010a), and in Janakauli Community Forest (K6), Chitwan District in February 2008 (Giri 2008), and in Barandabhar e.g. Adhikari *et al.* (2000) Baral (1996) and Giri (2008).

Since 1990 the species has also been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: Kotuwa (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); near the Telar River (G7), Rupandehi District (Miller 2011a), and in the Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004) and December 2008 (Naylor and Turner 2008).

In central Nepal records include from: Dudhaura Khola forest (L7), Bara District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013), and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include from: Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); Katahare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubhadel 2007); between Mudhe and Seduwa (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a); lower Arun valley (Q7) in January 1992 (White and White 1992); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), January 2010 (Baral 2010b) and 2007/8 (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in December 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b) and December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001); Belhara (Q8), Dhankuta District in September 2003 (Baral 2003); Ramdhuni forest (Q8), Sunsari District (Miller 2011b); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); between Gupha Pokhari, Sankhuwasabha District and Dobhan, Taplejung District (R7) in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); lower Mai valley, Mai Valley Important Bird Area (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Ilam, Ilam District (R8) in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998), and Garuwa (R8), Jhapa District, Mai valley in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally it is also recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. Its population is probably stable

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker inhabits open and closed broadleaved forest, secondary forest and scattered trees in cultivation in the tropical and subtropical zones (Grimmett *et al.* 1998, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It also frequents mango groves, bamboo, sal and mixed forest (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species is very small and is usually found fairly high in a tree. It is often seen in pairs. The species eats insects and fruit and moves actively along with mixed hunting parties of small birds. Bamboos are a favourite area of operation (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds by probing, prying, tapping and hammering vigorously, often in the tree canopy, where it is easily overlooked; its small size enables it to forage on the outermost twigs. It creeps actively along branches and woody stems, often perching crosswise and also hangs upside-down from leaf clusters (Grimmett *et al.*

1998). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983, Heathcote and Heathcote 1988).

Threats

Complete removal of its forest habitat and trees in cultivation would threaten Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. As it is adapted to secondary forest, mango groves and scattered trees in cultivation it has probably benefitted from forest degradation and has some resilience to the replacement of forest by agriculture provided some trees remain. However, intensification of farming especially in the lowlands is resulting in the loss of trees in cultivation (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. It has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, Chitwan and Makalu Barun National Parks and Parsa, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Grey-capped Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a widespread resident, fairly common or common from central areas eastwards and uncommon farther west. The species' distribution has not changed significantly since 1990, compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Complete removal of its forest habitat and trees in cultivation would threaten the species. As it is adapted to secondary forest, mango groves and scattered trees in cultivation it has probably benefitted from forest degradation and has some resilience to the replacement of forest by agriculture provided some trees remain. Its population is probably stable.

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Dendrocopos cathpharius (Blyth, 1843) LC
Subspecies: *Dendrocopos cathpharius cathpharius*

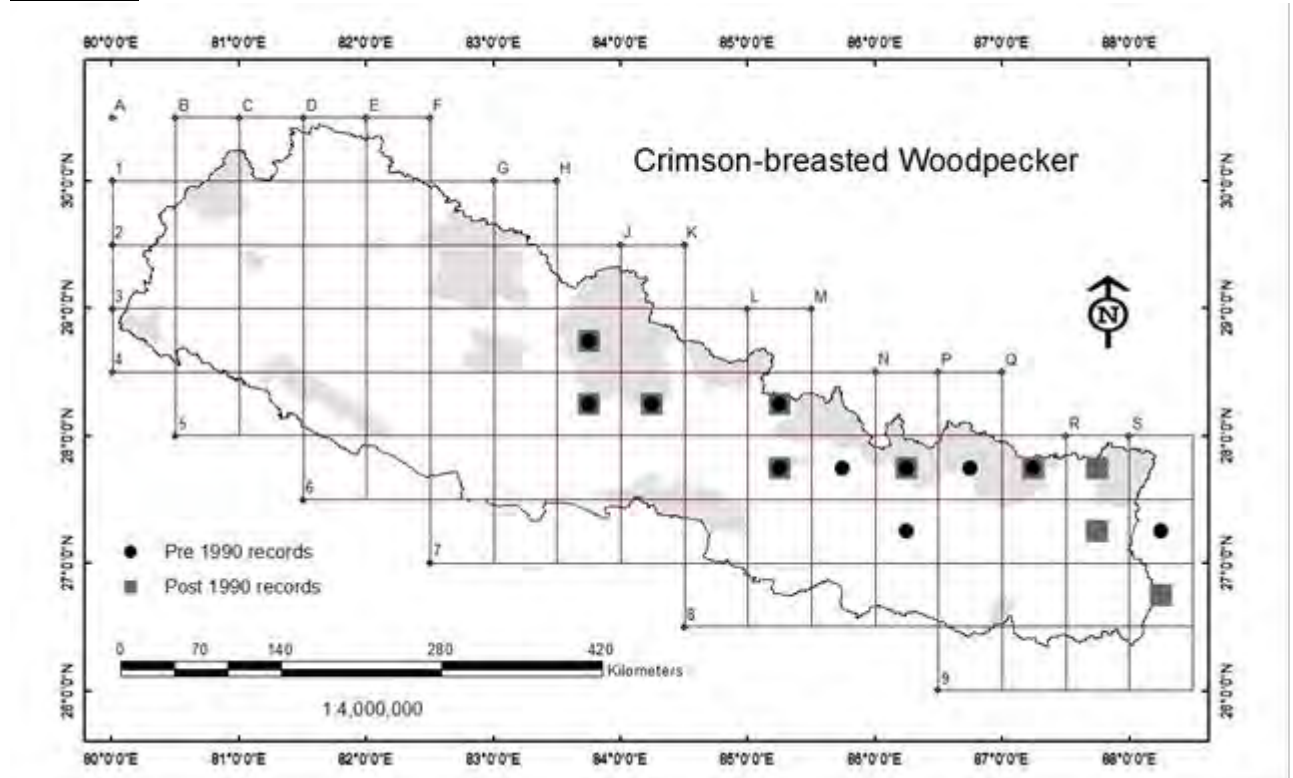
Common Name

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker (English)
Ratochaati Kasthukat (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes
Family: Picidae



Distribution



Crimson-breasted Woodpecker is a resident, locally frequent in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 the westernmost record of the species was one bird collected at Dobang, upper Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District (G4) in the Kali Gandaki catchment in May 1995 (Martens and Eck 1995). The species has been recorded from here east to Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District (Cox 1992) in the far east.

The first Nepal record was by Blyth (1843) from a B. H. Hodgson specimen in the 19th century.

Both Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was an occasionally recorded resident; the latter mapped its distribution from west-central Nepal eastwards.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a frequent resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003). SNP and BCN (2007) list it as a frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. It is a frequent resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009); a frequent resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999) and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Paudel 2008). The species has also been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Since 1990 the species has been less widely recorded outside the protected areas' system. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west two were recorded in Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in February 1993 (Fouarge 1993).

In central Nepal the species was described as an uncommon resident in the Kathmandu Valley Inskipp and Inskipp (1991), but it has declined there subsequently (see Population section). Almost all known records from the Valley are from Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area. One was also seen at Gokarna in the Valley in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004).

In the east records include from between Gupha Pokhari and Gurga Gaon (R7), Sankhuwasabha District in October 1996 (Buckton 1996) and between above Targaun and Romiyang, Hans Pokhari Danda (S8), Ilam District in November 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2750 m (-3050 m); lower limit: 1500 m (-915 m)

Population

No surveys have been carried out specifically for Crimson-breasted Woodpecker. Its population is probably declining as a result of loss and degradation of its forest habitat. It has declined in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, where it was formerly reported as uncommon by Inskipp and Inskipp (1991), for example. Subsequent known records from there are: one in March 1995 (Baral 1995), two in March 1997 (Harrap and Basnet 1997), one in February 1998 (Choudhary 1998), two in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004), singles in December 2003 (Nelson and Ellis 2003), December 2005 (A. Kelly and D. O'Mahoney in Mallalieu 2008) and April 2008 (Baral 2008), two in April 2009 (Ryan Chantler 2009) and in January 2010 (Baral 2010), and three in December 2011 (Vicente 2011).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker inhabits heavy moist broadleaved and undergrowth-rich mixed broadleaved forest (Martens and Eck 1995); also moist deciduous forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) in the subtropical and temperate zones. It keeps singly or in pairs, working fairly low on trees and in bushes. The species is much on the move from one feeding site to the next. It eats insects and nectar (Fleming *et al.* 1976).

Threats

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker is threatened by habitat loss and degradation. Its dense, moist broadleaved forest habitat in the subtropical and lower temperate zones is especially at risk (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, locally frequent in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere with post-1990 records from west-central Nepal eastwards. Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded from several protected areas and less widely outside the protected areas' system. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat, especially in the subtropical and lower temperate

zones. As a result, its population is probably declining, though not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, locally frequent in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere with post-1990 records from west-central Nepal eastwards. Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded from several protected areas and less widely outside the protected areas' system. Crimson-breasted Woodpecker is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat, especially in the subtropical and lower temperate zones. As a result, its population is probably declining, though not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Dendrocopos darjellensis (Blyth, 1845) LC
Subspecies: *Dendrocopos darjellensis darjellensis*

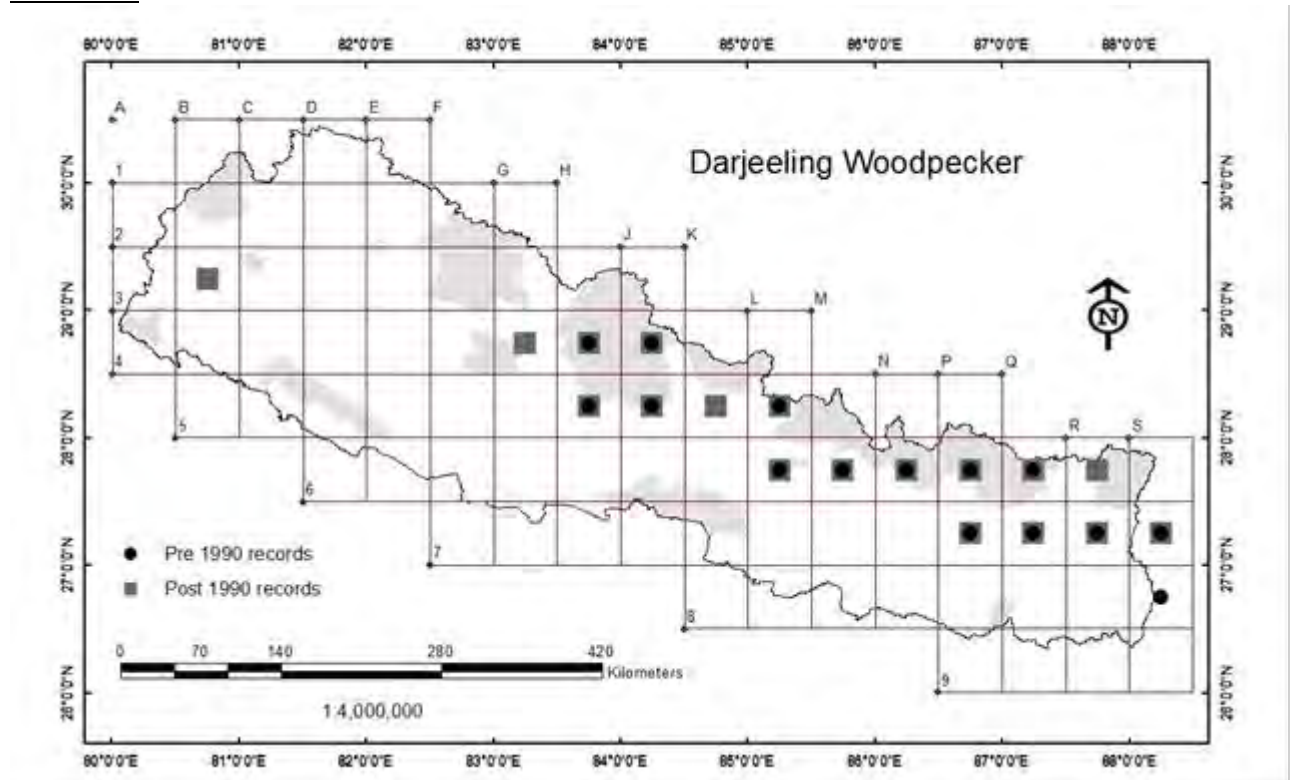
Common Name

Darjeeling Woodpecker (English)
Darjeeling Lahanche (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes
Family: Picidae



Distribution



Darjeeling Woodpecker is a resident, fairly common and widespread from west-central areas eastwards and uncommon in the west. The westernmost record of the species is Khalkhale and Doli, Dadeldhura District (Baral *et al.* 2010). Since 1990 the species has been recorded east from here to Dobate, Mabu VDC, Ilam District (Baral 2010) in the far east.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Darjeeling Woodpecker was recorded as fairly common by both Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991). The latter mapped its distribution widely from the upper Kali Gandaki Valley, west-central Nepal, (then considered the western limit of the species' range), eastwards.

Since 1990 the species' range has been extended west from the Kali Gandaki valley to Dadeldhura District (Baral *et al.* 2010) in the far west and also in mid-western Nepal in Jajarkot (Baral *et al.* 2013) and Myagdi District (Cox 1999b, Martens and Eck 1995). This apparent range extension is probably the result of better coverage in the west. The species' distribution east of the Kali Gandaki has not changed significantly since 1990 compared to pre-1990 (see map and text below).

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a frequent resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, H4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Thakuri 2013); a frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007, Mallalieu 2008); a fairly common resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009); an uncommon resident in Sagarmatha National Park (Basnet 2004), and a fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Bland 1994, Cox 1999a), and in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The species has also been recorded in the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6) in May 2009 (Cox 2009) and in Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone in November 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009).

The species has also been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system, especially from west-central Nepal and eastwards within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west localities include: from Dadeldhura District (B3), where three birds were seen between Sahu Kharka and Kaphali Danda, five between Tinka Dhura and Khalkhale and two between Khalkhale and Doli in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); from Dobang, upper Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District in May 1995 (Martens and Eck 1995); between Jiri Daha and Lagana, Nayakwada VDC (G4), Jajarkot District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); between the north face of Malika Dhuri and Lumsun, Myagdi District (G4) and between Deorali Thanti and Lachang, Dhola Khola, Myagdi District (G4) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b), and on Telbrung Danda (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a fairly common resident, mainly observed in winter, spring and summer in Phulchoki Mountain Conservation Area between 2004 and 2006. Records from other localities include: near Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District and near Tarkegyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004), and near Kutumsang (L6) and Tarkegyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in January 2012 (Dymond 2012).

In the east records include from: Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); near Bhandar (N6), Ramechhap District in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012); below Bupsa (P6), Solukhumbu District in November 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009); between Bung and Najingdima (P6), Solukhumbu District, Panggom (P6), Solukhumbu District and between Gurase (P7), Sankhuwasabha District and Sanam (P7), Solukhumbu District in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011); Taksindu and Jorsalle (P6), Solukhumbu District (Katuwal *et al.* 2013); between Basantapur and Chauki (Q7), Terhathum District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Tinjure forest (Q7), Terhathum District (Rai 2003); Dapar Danda (R7), Ilam District in November 1992 (Cox 1992); between ghot, Taplejung District (R6) and Kimbochhe (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in December 1992 (Cox 1992), and Dobate, Mabu, VDC (S7), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3500 m (-3750 m); lower limit: 1830 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Darjeeling Woodpecker. Its population is probably stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Darjeeling Woodpecker mainly inhabits oak/rhododendron and hemlock forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976); also mixed broadleaved/coniferous forests (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) in the temperate and subalpine zones. It is fairly bold and has a strong flight. Frequently it is recorded in pairs or with mixed species flocks of small birds (Grimmett *et al.* 1998); often including Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *D. hyperythrus* (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds on beetle larvae and other insects (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species forages in trees at varying heights. It is often seen high on

moss-covered trunks and in canopy branches, but it is also seen feeding on dead trees and mossy logs on the forest floor (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeding has been confirmed in the upper Mai valley (Stevens 1925, Dodman and Guinan 1989) and in Makalu Barun National Park (Halberg 1991).

Threats

Deforestation and forest thinning threaten Darjeeling Woodpecker especially in the lower temperate zone. However, as its altitudinal range extends up to the subalpine zone, it is significantly less threatened than species inhabiting forests at lower altitudes.

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Darjeeling Woodpecker. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang, Sagarmatha and Makalu Barun National Parks, as well as Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Darjeeling Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, fairly common and widespread from west-central areas eastwards and uncommon in the west. Since 1990 the species' range has been extended west from the Kali Gandaki valley to Dadeldhura District in the far west and also in mid-western Nepal. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system, especially from west-central Nepal and eastwards, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Deforestation and forest thinning threaten Darjeeling Woodpecker especially in the lower temperate zone. However, as its altitudinal range extends up to the subalpine zone, it is significantly less threatened than species inhabiting forests at lower altitudes. Its population is probably stable.

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Unpublished.

Dendrocopos himalayensis (Jardine & Selby, 1831) LC

Subspecies: *Dendrocopos himalayensis himalayensis*

Common Name

Himalayan Woodpecker (English)

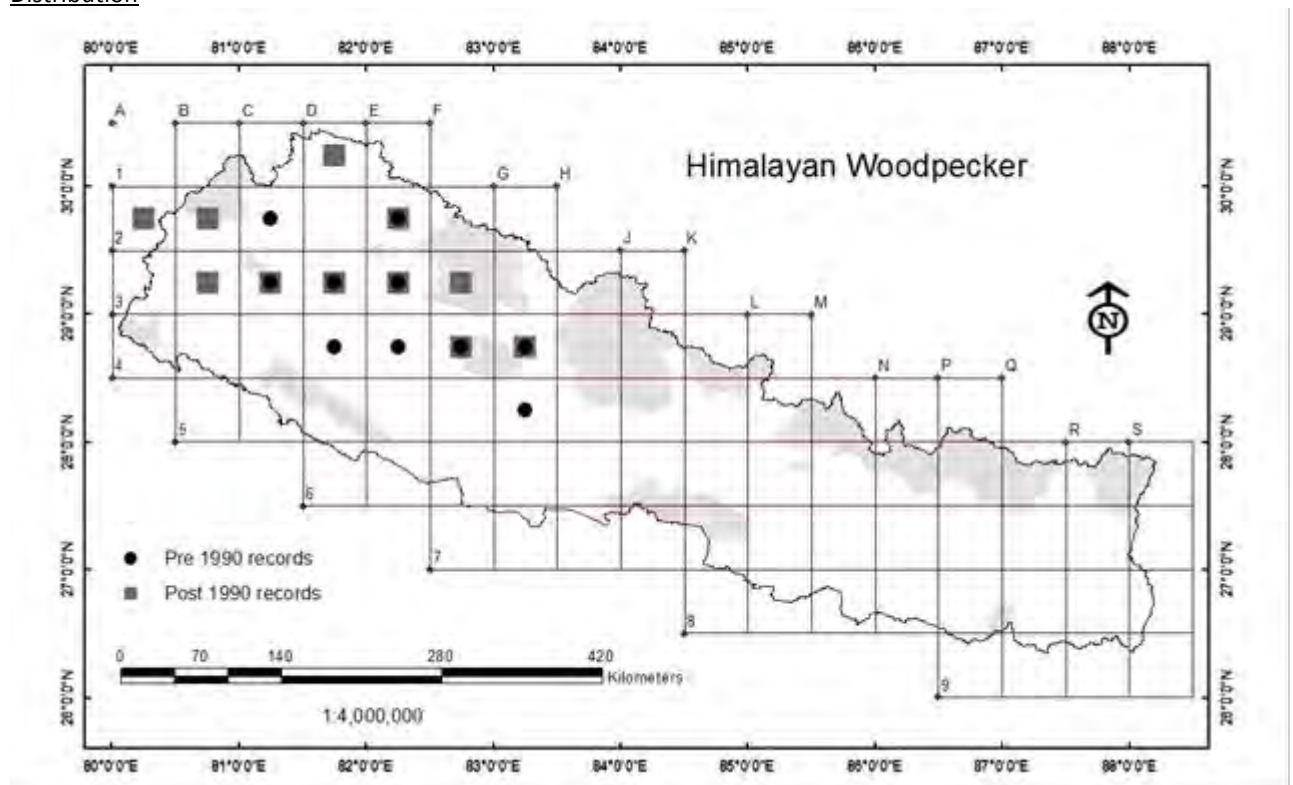
Himalayan Kasthakut (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Himalayan Woodpecker is a fairly common resident in the west, with post-1990 records from Api Nampa Conservation Area in the far west (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) to the western Dhaulagiri massif (Martens and Eck 1995).

The species was first recorded in Nepal in southern Doti District in December 1952 (Fleming and Traylor 1964).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as fairly common around Rara Lake and east to Dhaulagiri. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a fairly common resident recorded east to the Dhorpatan valley (Corbett 1974, Lelliott 1981). Martens and Eck (1995) collected three specimens from near Tarakot, Dolpo District in 1970 and 1973 and found it common in the area.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990 (see map and text below).

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: fairly common in the Chameliya valley in Api Nampa Conservation Area (B2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006) and a frequent resident in Rara National Park (Giri 2005). The only known records in Shey

Phoksundo National Park is three seen near Toijam checkpost (F3) in April 1992 (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1992, 1995) and one near Renchi (F3) in September 2015 (Naresh Kusi and Geraldine Werhahn). Subedi (2003) reported it was a fairly common resident in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4).

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded from outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range.

It was recorded almost daily between 24 and 30 May 2010 in Dadeldhura District (B3) with at least three birds most days and the maximum of six on 27 May (Baral *et al.* 2010). It was also recorded in: Badimalika region (C3) in Achham, Bajura and Kalikot Districts in February 1998 (Karki *et al.* 2003); between Simikot and Chyakpalung (D1) Humla District in May or June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013) and in the Soli Khola valley (D1), Humla District in 2002 (Grimm and Fischer 2003). Two were seen between Beuli and Kalikot (D3), Kalikot District in March 1997 (Giri 1997). Small numbers between Jumla and north of Khali-Lagna, between Bharagaon and Pina, between Gorusingha and Sinja and between Sinja and north of Padmara (E3), Jumla District in April 2009 (O'Connell Davidson 2009).

Globally it is also recorded from Afghanistan, India, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3050 m; lower limit: 1830 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Himalayan Woodpecker. Its population may be stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Himalayan Woodpecker inhabits subtropical and lower and upper temperate fir, pine, oak/rhododendron and mixed forest; favouring coniferous forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). However, it was found to be most common in forests with a broadleaved component in Rara National Park (Regmi 2000). Above Tarakot, Dolpo District it was common in spruce *Picea smithiana* forest with a few admixed birch *Betula utilis* (Martens and Eck 1995). The species is usually spotted in pairs, hunting on trunks and on larger tree branches, though it also sometimes descends to fallen logs on the forest floor (Grimmett *et al.* 1998, Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds on insects, including beetle larvae – hunting for these by boring holes along branches like the Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*. It also opens pine cones by wedging them in clefts in bark, or between trunks and branches, hammering the cone to extract the seeds (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species has a heavy dipping flight (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Breeding has been proved in Khaptad National Park in April and May (Inskipp and Inskipp 1988).

Threats

Himalayan Woodpecker is threatened by loss and thinning (selective removal of mature trees, and tree branches and foliage) of its forest habitats.

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Himalayan Woodpecker. It has been recorded in Khaptad, Rara and Shey Phoksundo National Parks, Api Nampa Conservation Area and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Himalayan Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common resident where it occurs in the western areas of Nepal. Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in several protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. It is threatened by loss and thinning (selective removal of mature trees, and tree branches and foliage) of its forest habitats. The population may be stable.

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Dendrocopos hyperythrus (Vigors, 1831) LC

Subspecies: *Dendrocopos hyperythrus hyperythrus*

Common Name

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker (English)

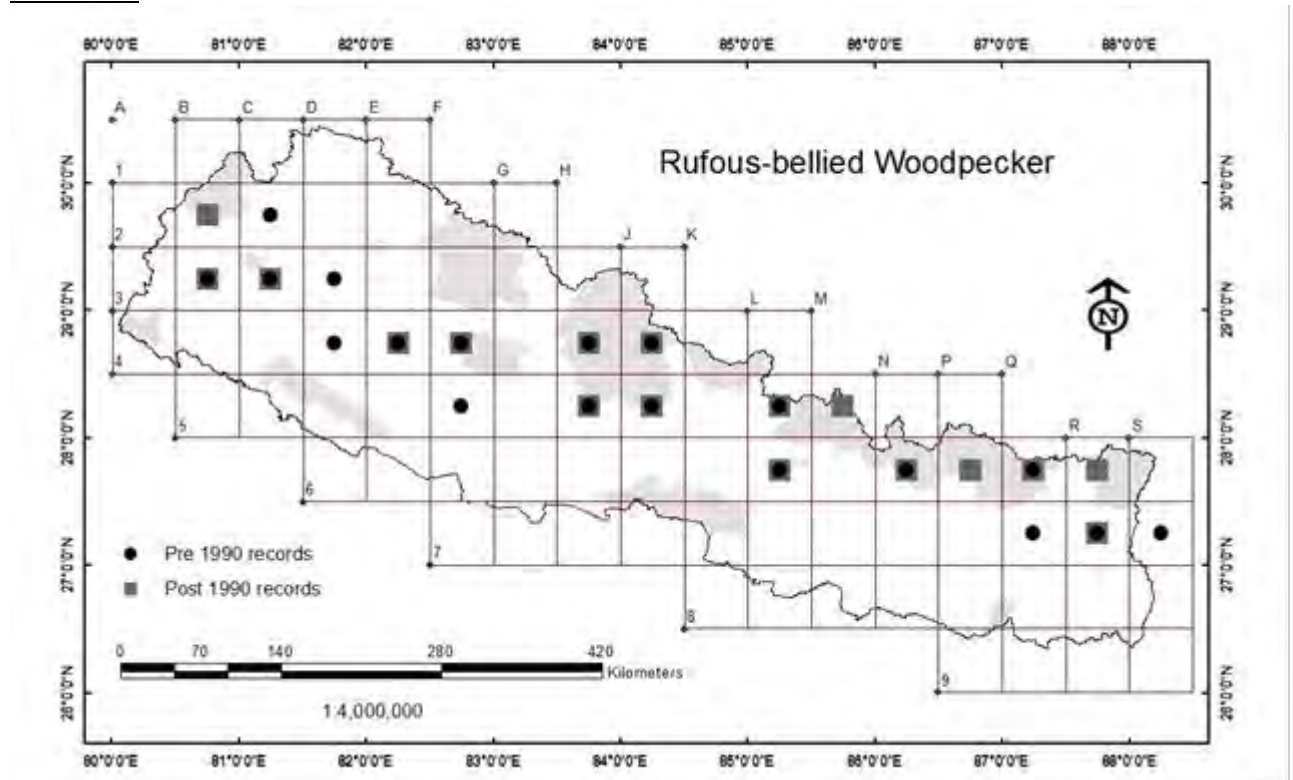
Kailochaati Kasthakut (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Rufous-bellied Woodpecker is a locally fairly common resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the Chameliya valley, Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to Mai Majuwa, Ilam District (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) noted it was a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it locally fairly common and mapped its distribution widely from the far west to the far east.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990, see map and text below.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: fairly common in the Chameliya valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati (2012)); a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013); fairly common in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a fairly common resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007) and in Langtang National Park (L5, M5)

(Karki and Thapa 2001), and recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area in July 2011 (Baral and Chaudhary 2011). The only known record from Makalu Barun National Park is two birds at Mangan Kharka in November 2005 (Baral 2005, Giri and Choudhary 2006). The species is frequent in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

The species has been less widely recorded outside the protected areas' system since 1990, see map and text below.

In the west records include from: several localities in Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); between Jiri Daha and Lagana, Nayakwada VDC, Jajarkot District (E4) in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013), and on Telbrung Danda (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000)

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a fairly common resident in the Kathmandu Valley, mainly in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area between 2004 and 2006. Records from other localities include near Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004)

In the east localities include between Paiya and Phakding (P6), Solukhumbu District in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011) and Mai Majuwa (R7), Ilam District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Laos, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3400 m (-3500) m; lower limit: 1830 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Rufous-bellied Woodpecker. Its population is probably stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker inhabits oak/rhododendron forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976); also in birch/rhododendron forest in the Mai Valley Important Bird Area (Robson *et al.* 2008); mainly in the temperate and subalpine zones. Martens and Eck (1995) considered it may occupy a narrow altitudinal range of 3200 m to 3400 m in the breeding season and this may limit its distribution. However, it was proved breeding at 2900 m in Khaptad National Park in May 1988 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1988) and below this altitude in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area (Hem Sagar Baral pers. obs.). The species often accompanies mixed feeding flocks of insectivorous birds. It usually forages in the upper forest storey on trunks and branches of large trees. Often it feeds by probing and pecking at loose bark and in crevices; it also frequently bores holes into oak bark and drinks sap (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Ali and Ripley (1987) give its food as ants, beetle grubs and other insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker is threatened by deforestation, but as it chiefly inhabits upper temperate and subalpine forests, it is much less at risk than forest species at lower altitudes.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rufous-bellied Woodpecker. Since 1990 it has

been recorded in Khaptad, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally fairly common resident with post-1990 records from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded from a number of protected areas although less widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Its population may be declining as a result of habitat loss, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Dendrocopos macei* (Veillot, 1818) LC**

Subspecies: *Dendrocopos macei macei*

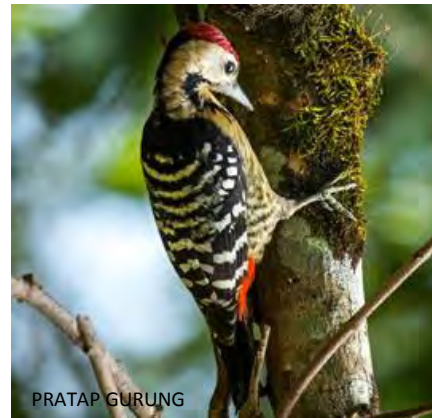
Common Name

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker (English)

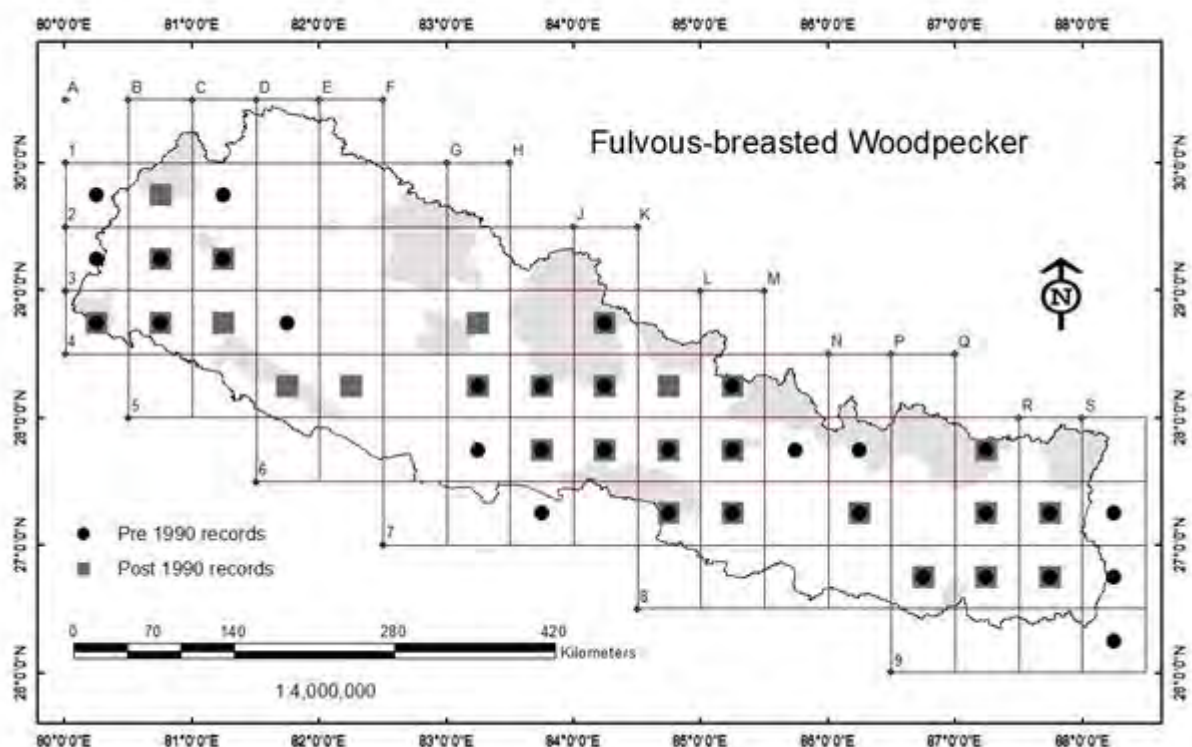
Kasthakut(Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker is a widespread resident: common from west-central areas eastwards and frequent further west. Post-1990 records show it to be recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the lower Mai valley (R8), Mai Valley Important Bird Area (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) noted it was a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a common resident from the Modi Khola, west-central Nepal eastwards and occasionally recorded further west.

Since 1990 there has been no significant change in distribution compared to pre-1990 (see map and text below).

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); an uncommon resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Baral *et al.* 2012) and in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); an uncommon resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (Thakuri 2013a); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001); a fairly

common resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); a rare resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a), and a fairly common resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). The species has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Janakauli Community Forest (K6), Chitwan District (e.g. Giri 2008); Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Giri 2008) and west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010).

The species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat (see map and text below). Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); Badimalika region (C3), Bajura District in February 1998 (Karki *et al.* 2003); Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); between Buachidi and Gwalichaur (G5), Baglung District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); between Dimlatti and Bagara, Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District (G4) and between Shivrati Khola and Darbang, middle Myagdi Khola (G5), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in November 1992 (Baral 1993) and February 2008 (Giri 2008), and Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a fairly common resident in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006. Records from other localities include from: Malekhu (K6), Dhading District (Baral 1992); a common resident in Chitlang forests, Chandrigiri Range (L6) in 1991/92 (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); Rautahat/Bara Districts (L7) in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013), and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include from: Katahale and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhouhadel 2007); above Mudhe (Q6), Sankhuswasabha District in December 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a); near Chewabesi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 2009 (Cox 2009); near Bumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in June 2009 (Cox 2009); between Chichila and Khandbari (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in December 1992 (Cox 1992); Koshi Barrage (P8), e.g. in January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in December 1998 and April 1999 (Chaudhary 1999) and January 2011 (Baral 2011a); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b) and in 2007/8 (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in January 2010 (Baral 2010b) and May 2011 (Baral 2011b); Belhara (Q8) and Three Community Forest (Q8) Dhankuta District in September 2003 (Baral 2003); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet 2002, Basnet *et al.* 2005); near Jamuna and Sidim, (R7), Ilam District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008); lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Khane Pokhari forest (R8), Morang District and between Prajapate and Sukhani (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally it is also recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1830 m (-2745 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker. Its population is probably stable as its distribution has not changed significantly and it can adapt to degraded forests and to scattered trees in gardens and rural areas.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker inhabits broadleaved and broadleaved/coniferous forests and open wooded country in the tropical and subtropical zone (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); also forest edges (Grimmett *et al.* 2000) and gardens with trees (Mallalieu 2008). The species is restless and much on the move, usually spotted singly or in loose pairs and often with other birds such as tits or nuthatches (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It forages chiefly on tree trunks and larger high branches, also trees in cultivation (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), eating fruit, seeds and insects (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and Nilbarahi, Kathmandu Valley in June 2006 (Mallalieu 2008).

Threats

Complete removal of its tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest habitat would threaten Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker. However, as it is adapted to open wooded country and trees in gardens and rural areas it has probably benefited from forest degradation to some degree and has some resilience to the replacement of forest by agriculture and urban areas provided some trees remain. However, intensification of farming, especially in the lowlands is resulting in the loss of trees in cultivation (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker. It has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Khaptad, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and Api Nampa, Annapurna and Manaslu Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) no change from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a widespread resident, common from west-central areas eastwards and frequent further west. Since 1990 there has been no significant change in distribution compared to pre-1990. The species has been recorded in a number of protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Complete removal of its tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest habitat would threaten Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker. However, as it is adapted to open wooded country and trees in gardens and rural areas it has probably benefited from forest degradation and has some resilience to the replacement of forest by agriculture and urban areas provided some trees remain.

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Dendrocopos mahrattensis (Latham, 1832) LC

Subspecies: *Dendrocopos mahrattensis mahrattensis*

Common Name

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker (English)

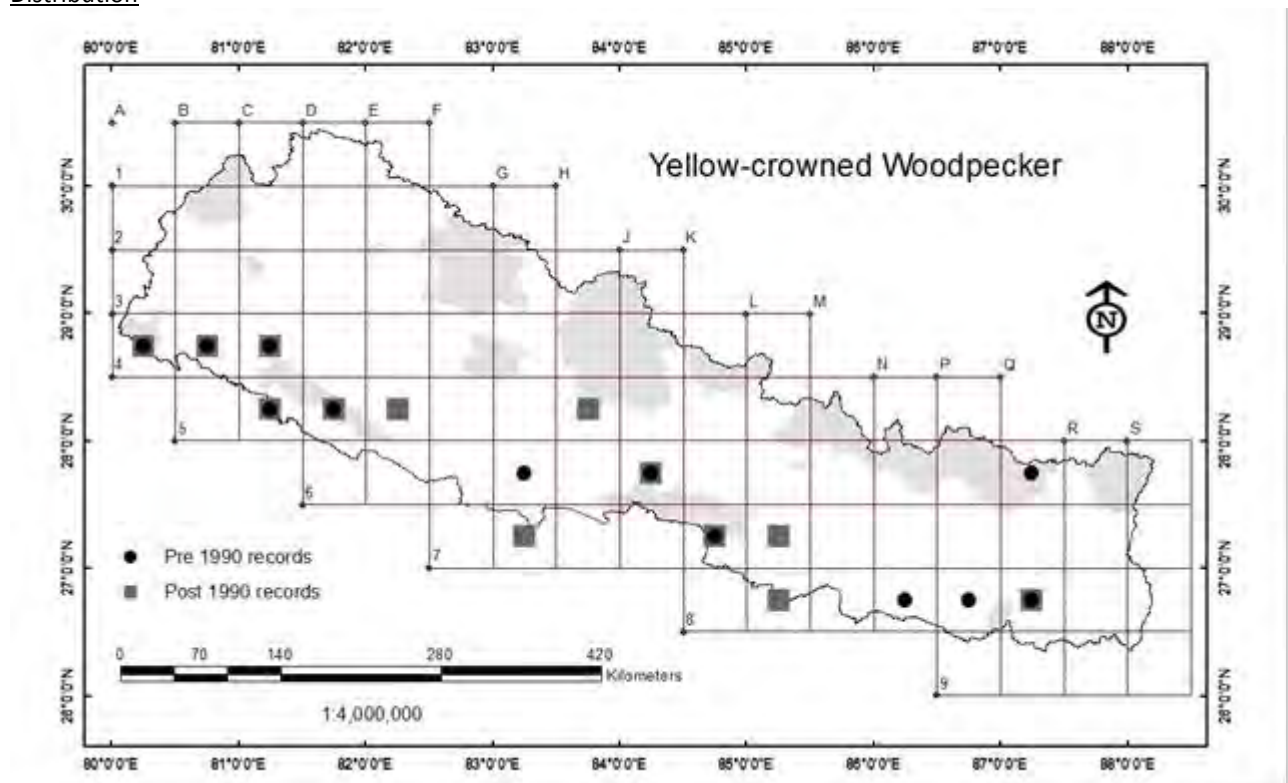
Pahelotauke Kasthakut (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Yellow-crowned Woodpecker is a resident in the Terai, fairly uncommon in the west and very uncommon further east. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Dharan Forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008).

The first Nepal record of the species was a B. H. Hodgson specimen collected in the 19th century (Hargitt 1890).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was an uncommon resident, mainly occurring up to 275 m, although up to 1500 m in the eastern foothills.

Since 1990 there has been a small increase in distribution compared to pre-1990, see map and text below. However, this may be the result of better coverage.

The species' status in the protected areas' system is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Acharya 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012); a rare resident in Chitwan National Park (J6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001, Cox 2003). It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone at Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and in the Khata Forest corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007).

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker has also been recorded outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range, see map and text below. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: Mahendranagar (A4), Kanchanpur District in May 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001); a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Dang Deukhuri foothill forests Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Golaha-Marathi Khola wetlands (G7), Kapilvastu District (Cox 2008); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006) and January 2011 (Acharya 2011), and Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in April 1997 (Turner and Trainer 1997).

In central Nepal records include from: Dudhaura Khola forest (L7), Bara District (Baral *et al.* 2013); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013) and between Kopuwa Gau school and Mewa Gau school (L8), Rautahat District in April 2003 (Cox 2003)

In the east records include from Koshi (Q8), Sunsari District in December 2007 (Giri 2007) and Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in January 2008 (Basnet and Sapkota 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m (-1700 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Yellow-crowned Woodpecker. Its population may be stable or possibly increasing

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker inhabits open woodland and open country with scattered trees (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); in dry country of the terai, in tall trees along edges of rivers, in mango groves and sometimes in tall silk cotton and fig trees (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It searches the lower parts of trees like a piculet before spiralling upwards (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species eats mainly insects and larvae; also pulpy fruits such as *Ficus* and nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987). It often keeps with mixed bands of insectivorous species. It often feeds by excavating bark and dead wood (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983).

Threats

Complete clearance of woodland, groves and trees in open country would threaten Yellow-crowned Woodpecker. The species has probably benefited from forest thinning and has adapted to groves or trees in cultivation. However, intensification of agriculture is increasing and is resulting in the loss of trees from field edges and corners (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-crowned Woodpecker. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Bardia and Banke National Parks, and Parsa and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, and

marginally from Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-crowned Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident in the terai, fairly uncommon in the west and very uncommon further east. Since 1990 there has been a small increase in distribution compared to pre-1990; however, this may be the result of better coverage. The species has been recorded from several protected areas and also outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. It has adapted to trees in cultivation, but the increasing intensification of farming in the lowlands is resulting in loss of these trees. Complete removal of forests would threaten the species although it has probably benefited from forest thinning. As a result, its population may be stable or possibly increasing.

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***Dendrocopos nanus* (Vigors, 1832) LC**

Subspecies: *Dendrocopos nanus nanus*

Common Name

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (English)

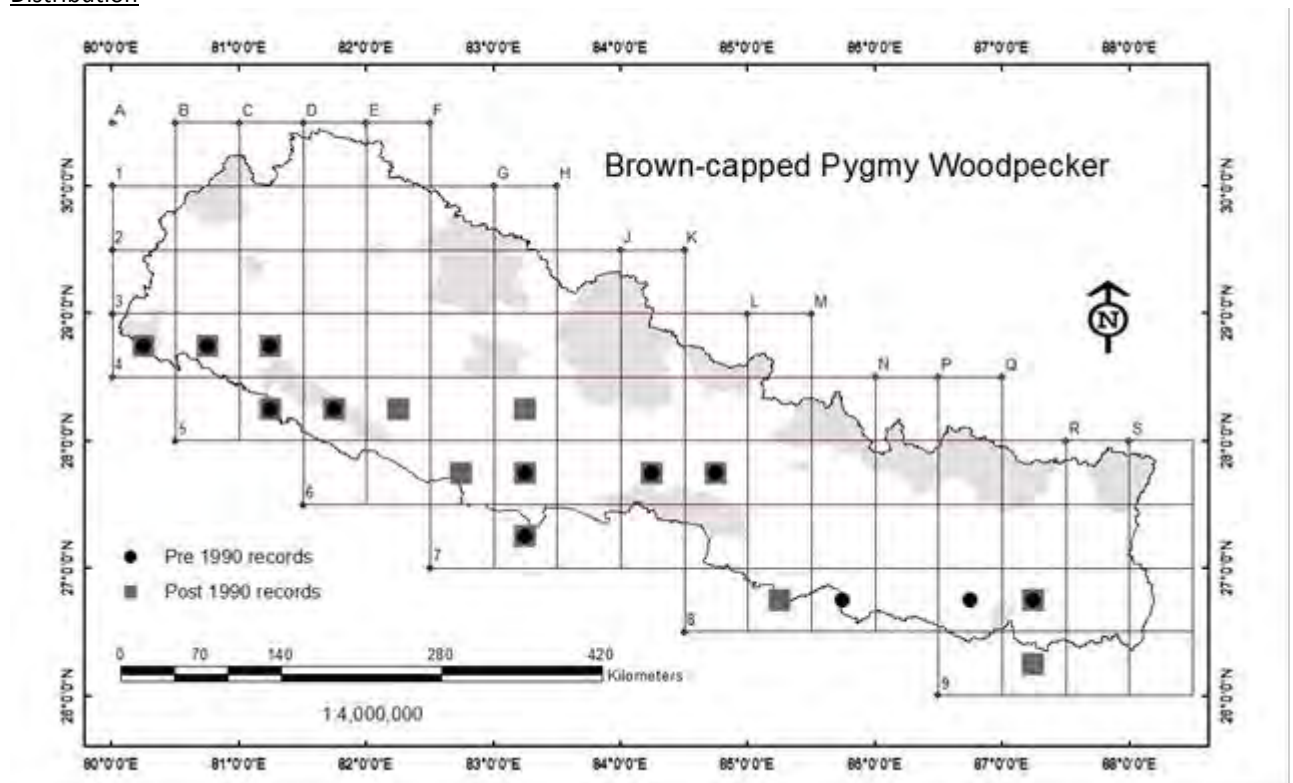
Punte Kasthakut (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker is a quite widespread resident, locally fairly common in the west and rare from central areas eastwards. Post-1990 records show its distribution from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far west (Baral and Inskipp 2009), to Biratnagar, Morang District (Subba 1994) in the far east.

The species was first recorded in Nepal from Chisapani and Tikapur, Kailali District in January 1949 (Ripley 1950).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) recorded it as resident, most frequent in the west and rare from Chitwan eastwards.

Since 1990 there have been records from a few more localities in the west than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution (see map and text below).

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Acharya 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012); a rare resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and rare in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005), although in recent years the species has become a frequent resident (Hem Sagar Baral). The species has been recorded in Bardia National Park

buffer zone at Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and in the Khata forest corridor (C5) (Chaudari 2007).

Since 1990 Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker has also been quite widely recorded outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat, especially in the west (see map and text below). Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: Mahendranagar (A4), Kanchanpur District in May 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001); Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1992, CSUWN and BCN 2012); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); upper Chirai valley (F6), Kapilvastu District (Cox 2008); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District in December 2011 (Baral 2011); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006) and in February 2011 (Acharya 2011).

In central Nepal records include from between west of Lal Bakaiya Nadi and Kopuwa gau school, Bara and Rautahat Districts (L8) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in May 2008 (Giri 2008) and March 2010 (Baral 2010); Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in May 2008 (Giri 2008) and Miller (2011); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); Dharan (Q8), Sunsari District (Subba 1995) and Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Subba 1994).

Globally it is also recorded from India, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. Its population is probably stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker occurs in light tropical forests and trees near cultivation in the terai (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991; Grimmett *et al.* 2000). Usually it is found with other species feeding on the topmost twigs of a tree, where it acts like a tit - circling around, underneath and above branches (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It often feeds in the canopy where it is easily overlooked. Its small size enables it to forage on the outermost twigs (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Cox (1982) noted it in Tilaurakot woods (G6), Kapilvastu District, in the same area as Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *D. canicapillus*. Its recent increase in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve along the eastern dyke may be associated with the dying of Sissoo trees (Hem Sagar Baral). It feeds chiefly on insects and grubs (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Complete clearance of light tropical forest, and trees near cultivation would threaten Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, although it has probably benefited from forest thinning. Urbanization and intensification of farming in the lowlands is resulting in the loss of trees in cultivated areas (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. It has been recorded in Bardia and Banke National Parks, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and marginally in Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a quite widespread resident, locally fairly common in the west and rare from central areas eastwards. Since 1990 there have been records from a few more localities in the west than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution. It has been recorded in several protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat post-1990. Complete clearance of light tropical forest, and trees near cultivation would threaten Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, although it has probably benefited from forest thinning and its ability to adapt to trees at cultivation edges provide it with some resilience. Its population is probably stable.

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Dinopium benghalense (Linnaeus, 1858) LC

Subspecies: *Dinopium benghalense benghalense*

Common Name

Black-rumped Flameback (English)

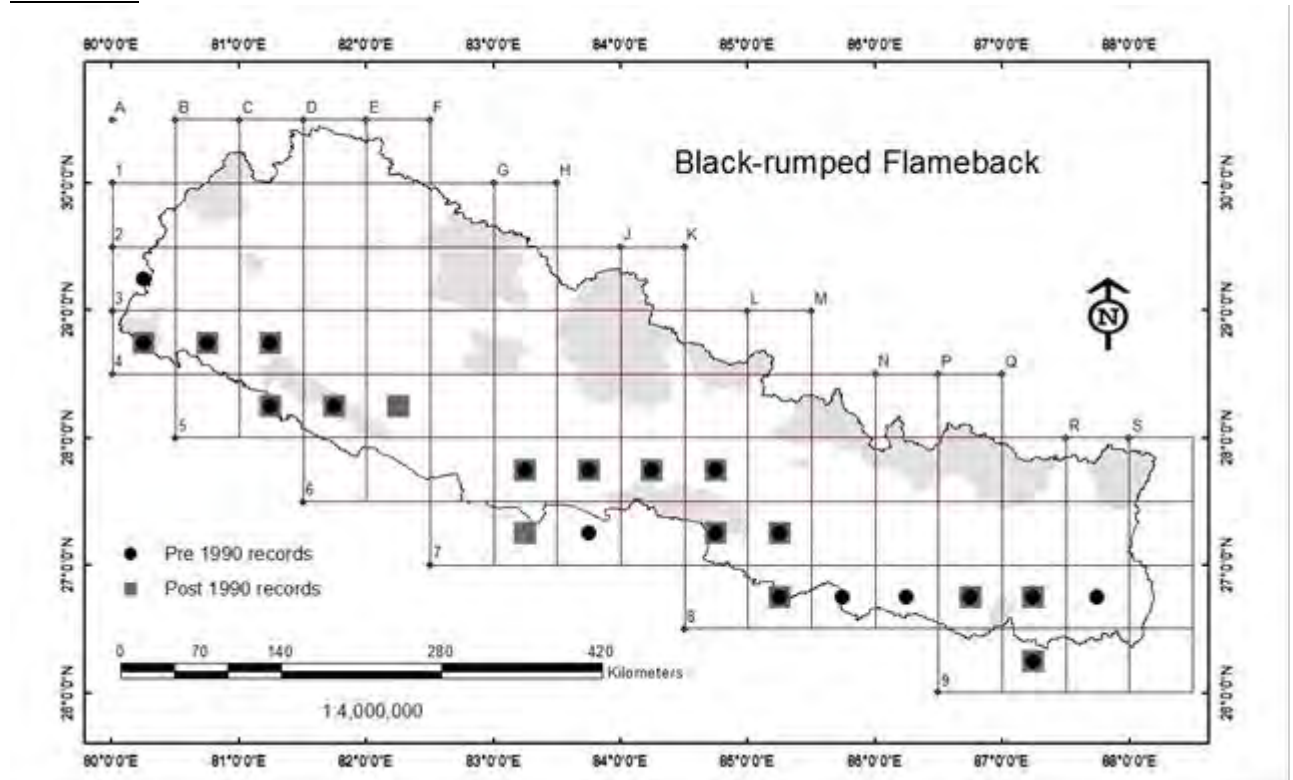
Kalo Dhade Lahaanche (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Black-rumped Flameback is a common and quite widespread resident with post-1990 records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Biratnagar, Morang District (Subba 1994, Jha and Subba 2012) in the far east.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837). Fleming *et al* (1976) noted it as a fairly common resident and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) as a resident occasionally recorded throughout the tarai and dun.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has reduced a little compared to its distribution pre-1990 (see map and text below).

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001), and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). The species has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Janakauli Community Forest (K6) e.g. in February 2008 (Giri 2008); Barandabhar, e.g. Adhikari *et*

al. (2000) and Baral (1996), and Namuna Community Forest (H6), Nawalparasi District, e.g. in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

Since 1990 the species has also been quite widely recorded outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat (see map and text below). Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1992a, CSUWN and BCN 2012); Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Tikapur (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Gaidahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Baral 2011); Tilaurakot (G6), Kapilvastu District in January 2002 (Cox 2002), and Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994) and February 2011 (Acharya 2011).

In central Nepal records include from: Malekhu (K6), Dhading District (Baral 1992b); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in May 2000 (Giri 2000); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); Judibela Community Forest (L7), Rautahat District and Adarsha Sadabaha Community Forest (L7), Bara District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); between school W of Belwa and Kat mandir (L7) and between Lal Bakaiya Nadi, Bara District and Kopuwa Gau school (L8), Rautahat District in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Koshi Barrage (P8), e.g. in March 2001 (Baral 2001) and November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in March 1999 (Chaudhary 1999), February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002) and September 2010 (Baral 2010a); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District (Baral 2010b); Patnali, Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in March 2001 (Baral 2001) and October 2010 (Baral 2010c); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003), and Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012, Subba 1994).

Globally it is also recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Black-rumped Flameback. Its population is possibly stable or may be declining to some degree.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Black-rumped Flameback inhabits tropical *sal* and light forests, groves, trees in open country and cultivated areas (Grimmett *et al.* 2000, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is fairly bold, often working among trees at the edge of villages. It is often found in small parties, often with other species and is noisy. It eats insects but also takes berries (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Breeding has been confirmed at Koshi Camp, Madhuban, Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013)

Threats

As the species is adapted to light forest and can live in groves near villages and trees at cultivation edges, it may have benefited to some degree from forest thinning. However, complete removal of forest, groves and

trees at cultivation edges threaten the species. Urbanisation and intensification of farming in the lowlands is resulting in the loss of trees in cultivated areas (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Black-rumped Flameback. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Park, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-rumped Flameback has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and quite widespread resident occurring from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 the species' distribution has reduced a little compared to its distribution pre-1990. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. As the species is adapted to light forest and can live in groves near villages and trees at cultivation edges it may have benefited from forest thinning. However, complete removal of forest, groves and trees at cultivation edges threaten the species. This is happening increasingly with intensification of farming, especially in the lowlands. Its population is possibly stable or may be declining to some extent.

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Dinopium shorii (Vigors, 1832) LC

Subspecies: *Dinopium shorii shorii*

Common Name

Himalayan Flameback (English)

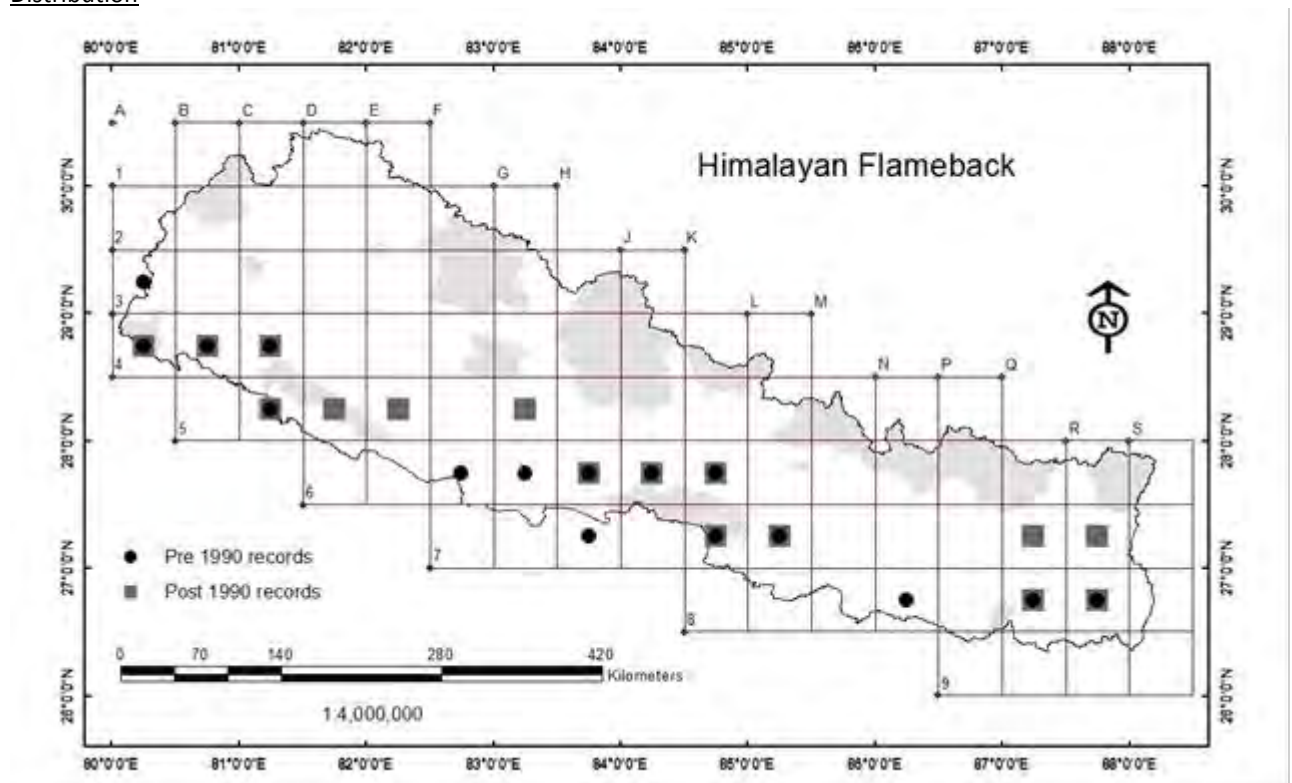
Tinaaule Lahanche (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Himalayan Flameback is a resident, fairly common in a few protected areas and frequent or uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the lower Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was a locally common resident and mapped its distribution widely from the far west to the far east.

Since 1990 the known distribution of the species has increased in the west and east and the altitudinal range has extended up to 650 m, see map and text below. However, these changes are probably a reflection of better coverage as the extent of the species' habitat has decreased post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Acharya 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in (J6, K6) Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and recorded in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Cox 2003, Todd 2001). The species has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone at Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and January 1992 (Halliday 1992). It has also been recorded from Chitwan National Park buffer zone in

Janakauli Community Forest e.g. Giri (2008), Inskipp and Inskipp (2012), Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar, e.g. Baral (1996) and Giri (2010); Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000); west of Chitwan National Park (H6), Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010), and Namuna Community Forest (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); also in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q7) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Since 1990 the species has also been recorded quite widely in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range outside the protected areas' system, especially in the east. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west localities include: a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); along Bardia-Katarniaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b), and Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009);

In central Nepal localities include from: Judibela Community Forest (L7), Rautahat District; Adarsha Community Forest and national forest (L7), Chandi Khola, Rautahat District, Adarsha Sadabahar Community Forest (L7), Bara District (Baral *et al.* 2013), and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include from: between Tumlingtar and Chewabesi (Q7) and between Pikhua and the Apsuwa Khola (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. Chaudhary (1997), Inskipp and Inskipp (2001), Baral (2011) and Basnet and Sapkota (2008); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet 2002, Basnet *et al.* 2005); between Dobhan and Mitlung (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Khani Pokhari forest (R8), Morang District and between Garuwa and Sukhani (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992); Garuwa (R8), Jhapa District and Saktim (R8), Jhapa District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008), and the lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m (-650 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Himalayan Flameback. Its population is probably decreasing because of habitat loss.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Himalayan Flameback inhabits tall mature broadleaved trees (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) describe it as occurring in the terai. However, since 1990 a number of records have been received from higher altitudes up to at least 650 m. It associates with other woodpeckers and small birds (Fleming *et al.* 1976); often with itinerant, mixed species feeding flocks (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Its food is similar to that of other *Dinopium* woodpeckers: insects and larvae, predominantly ants; also fruits and berries (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983, Heath 1986) and at Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1961).

Threats

Himalayan Flameback is threatened by deforestation, especially the loss of tall mature broadleaved trees.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Himalayan Flameback. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Himalayan Flameback has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, fairly common in a few protected areas and frequent or uncommon elsewhere, and recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 the known distribution of the species has increased in the west and east and the altitudinal range has extended up to at least 650 m. However, these changes are probably a reflection of better coverage as the extent of the species' habitat has decreased post-1990 compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded from several protected areas and also quite widely in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range outside the protected areas' system, especially in the east. Himalayan Flameback is threatened by deforestation, especially the loss of tall mature broadleaved trees. Its population is probably decreasing because of habitat loss.

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Jynx torquilla Linnaeus 1758 LC

Common Name

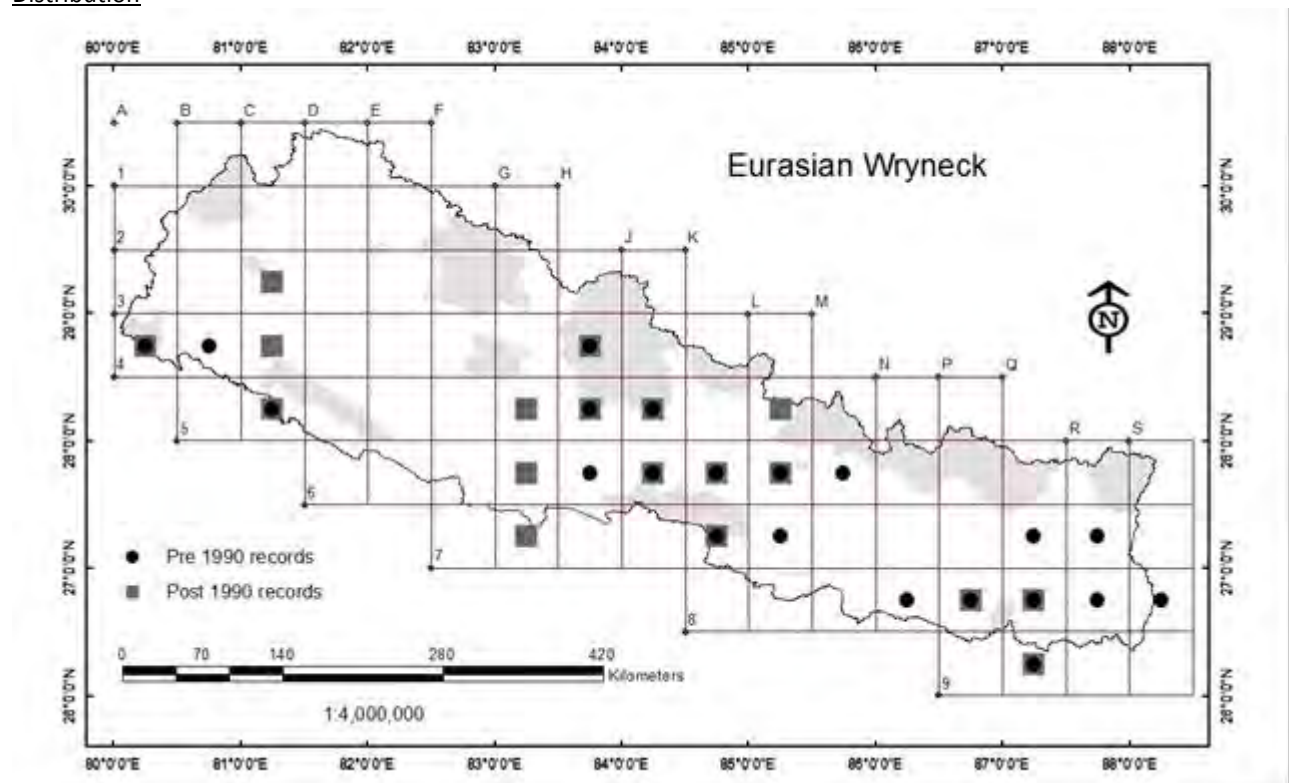
Eurasian Wryneck (English),
Khar Lahanche (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Eurasian Wryneck is a frequent passage migrant and winter visitor. It is fairly widespread with post-1990 records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west, to Biratnagar, Morang District (Baral 1994) in the far east.

Eurasian Wryneck was first definitely recorded in Nepal by R. L. Fleming Sr who collected a specimen at Malakheti, Kailali District at 290 m, in December 1952 (Rand and Fleming 1957). Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasional visitor, passing through the Kathmandu Valley on migration. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) recorded it as an occasional winter visitor and passage migrant up to 915 m.

Since 1990 there has been an increase in records from the west, probably because of better recording, and a decrease in records from central and eastern Nepal.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a frequent winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a rare passage migrant in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); a frequent passage migrant in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a frequent winter visitor in (J6, K6) Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and recorded in November in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001). SNP and BCN (2007) reported it is a

frequent winter visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but other records, e.g. Mallalieu (2008) indicate that it is a rare passage migrant and winter visitor. It is a passage migrant in Langtang National Park (Karki and Thapa 2001), and a frequent winter migrant in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005a). The species has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone at Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded less widely outside the protected areas' system compared to inside see map and text below. Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District in December 2010 (Baral 2011); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1993) and January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006), and Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

In central Nepal Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a rare passage migrant and winter visitor to the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006: singles were recorded in Bagmati River Nature Park in November 2004, January 2005 and November 2005.

In the east records include from: Koshi Barrage, e.g. in March 2001 (Baral 2001), November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004) and February 2005 (Baral 2005b); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010a) and October 2011 (Baral 2011b); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in October 2000 (Chaudhary 2000), February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005) and March 2010 (Baral 2010b), and Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District in March 1994 (Baral 1994).

Globally it is also recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 (-3445 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Eurasian Wryneck. Its population may be stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Eurasian Wryneck is found in scrub, secondary growth and edges of cultivation and marshlands (Grimmett *et al.* 2000; Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It winters in open scrub country and edges of cultivation (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is rather sluggish and unobtrusive (Grimmett *et al.* 1998); often found singly or in loose pairs in low branches of trees, or down among grasses and shrubbery (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds mainly on

the ground, hopping along with the tail slightly raised, picking up ants. It can cling to tree trunks, although it seldom uses its tail as a brace, unlike typical woodpeckers (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species chiefly eats ants, their eggs and larvae (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Complete clearance of secondary growth forest and scrub would threaten Eurasian Wryneck. However, it may have benefited from forest degradation and the spread of secondary growth and scrub which provides additional suitable habitat for this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Eurasian Wryneck. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Khaptad, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Langtang National Parks; Annapurna Conservation Area, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Eurasian Wryneck has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a frequent passage migrant and winter visitor with post-1990 records from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 there has been an increase in records from the west, probably because of better recording, and a decrease in records from central and eastern Nepal. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas although less widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. It would be threatened by complete removal of secondary growth and scrub, though its preference for secondary growth and edge habitats mean that it may have benefited from forest degradation and the resulting expansion of scrub. Eurasian Wryneck is quiet and unobtrusive, especially outside the breeding season, and can easily be overlooked. Its population may be stable.

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Megalaima asiatica (Latham, 1790) LC

Subspecies: *Megalaima asiatica asiatica*

Common name

Blue-throated Barbet (English),

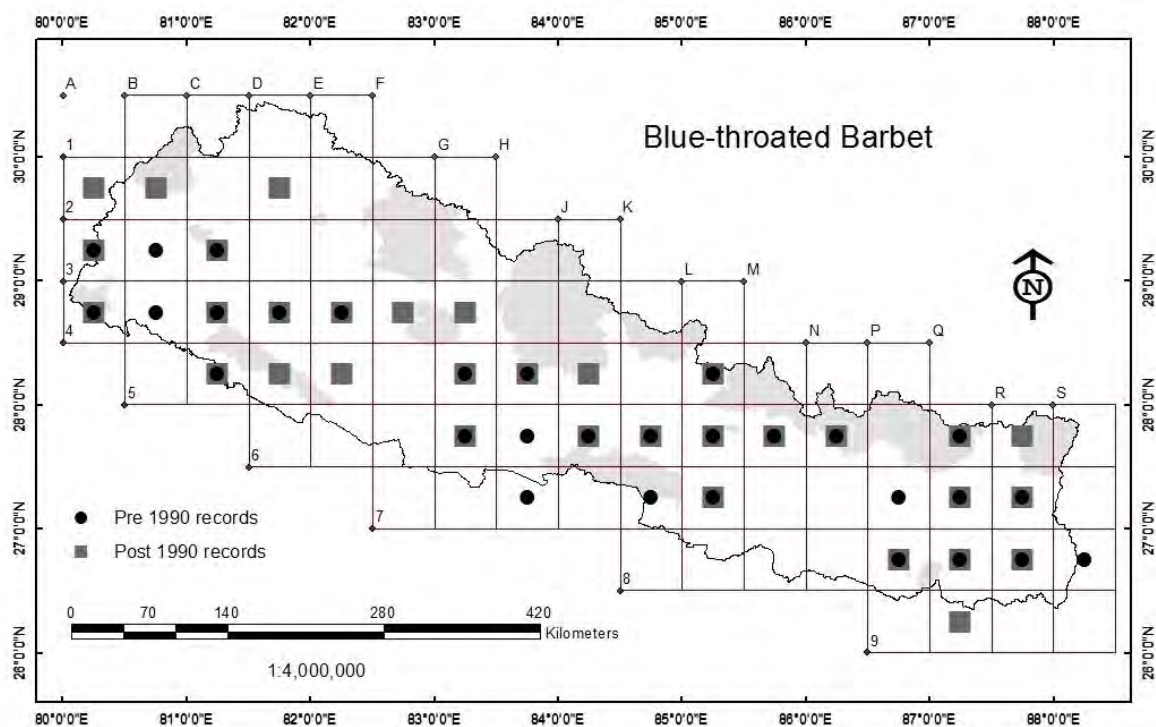
Kuthurke (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Ramphastidae



Distribution



Blue-throated Barbet is a widespread resident, common below 1500 m and fairly common up to 2100 m. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley, Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) also reported it as a common resident up to about 1500 m and occasionally seen at higher elevations, and mapped it widely from the far west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: uncommon and possibly resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (B2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a frequent resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); an uncommon resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012a); a fairly common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and a summer visitor in Modi River watershed area of Annapurna Conservation Area (Suwal 2000); a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a frequent resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a fairly common

resident in Shivapuri (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and recorded in Nagarjun Forest (L6) in October 1993 (Baral 1994a) of Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park; a breeding resident in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a fairly common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Area (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005); recorded in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a) and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The species has been recorded at Bees Hazari Lake area (Baral 1996), and Barandabhar forest (Adhikari *et al.* 2000), Barandabhar in Chitwan National Park buffer zone; also between Heluwabesi and Kasuwa in May 2009 and Pikhua Khola in May and June 2009 in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Cox 2009).

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include: from Dasarath Chand Municipality (A2), Baitadi District, in June 2010, and Chulla (A3) and Amargadhi (A3), Dadeldhura District in May and June 2010, respectively (Baral *et al.* 2010); between Daurogaon and Beuli (D2), Kalikot District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); between Gaibanne and Madela (D4) and Kotuwa village (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); between Kalimati (E5), Kauli, Sakala and Nayakwada (E4), Jajarkot District and between Rimna and Chisapani (F4), Rukum District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013a); between Lachang and Palung, Dhola Khola (G4) in May 1999 and between Archegaun and Dimlatti (G4) in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); north of Banseri (G4) Myagdi District in October 1999 (Baral 2000); between Tatopani, Beni, and Maldhunga (G5), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); resident in Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); recorded in Reshunga Forest, IBA (G5) Gulmi District (Thakuri 2013); between Sidure (G6), Gulmi District, Chandi Bhanjyang, Kavri Dharmasala and Argali (G6), Palpa District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); Pokhara (H5) Kaski District in November 2011 (Baral 2011a); Banpale Danda (H5) Kaski District (Karki *et al.* 1997); Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000), and between Pasgam (J5), Lamjung District, Libiyani and Rupa Tal (J5), Kaski District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include: from Dhebuwa Lekh Forest (K6) (Chaudhary 2007) and Dhading (K6), Dhading District in April 2011 (Baral 2011b). It is a common resident in the Kathmandu Valley (L6), e.g. Mallalieu (2008). Other records from the Valley include from: Bajrabarahi (L6), Lalitpur District in September 1993 (Baral 1994a); Sipadol (L6), Bhaktapur District in September 1994 (Baral 1994b); Godavari, Phulchoki Forest (L6) in December 2004 and Chobhar (L6), Kathmandu District in January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005). The species has been recorded along the Bagmati River corridor (L7) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009); between Patibhanjyang and Chisapani (L6) in May 1996 (Cocker 1996), and Melamchipul and Dubachaur (M6) Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004); the Bagmati and Bakaiya river valleys of Lalitpur (L7), Kathmandu (L6), Makwanpur (L7) and Bara (L7) Districts (Basnet and Thakuri 2013); a common resident in Chitlang forest (L7), Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); Adarsha Community Forest and National Forest, Chandi Khola (L7), Rautahat District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013b); Kamala and Bagmati rivers in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012b); Nagarkot (M6), Bhaktapur District in February 2013 (Musgrove 2013), and Tundikhel, Dhulikhel (M6), Kavrepalanchok District in November 1994 (Baral 1994b).

In the east records include: from different localities of Sankhuwasabha District: Khandbari (Q6) in November 1994 (Baral 1995), Bumlingtar (Q7), Maruwabesi (Q7) and Archalegaun (Q7) in June 2009 (Cox 2009); a fairly common resident in Tinjure Forest (Q7) Tehrathum District (Rai 2003); different localities of Sunsari District: Dharan forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Jabdi (Q8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012), a frequent migrant to Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007) and Itahari (R8) (Pandey 2003). It is a common resident in Rajarani forest (Q8) (Basnet *et al.* 2005); a common resident in Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012); three community forests, Dhankuta District (Q8) in September 2003 (Baral 2003a); between Mitlung and KCA entrance (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Dobate, Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010), lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Chisapani, between Memen, Sidin and Phidim, Mai valley (R8) (Robson *et al.* 2008), and between Geruwa and Sunkhani (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally, the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2100 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Blue-throated Barbet. Post 1990, at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve 20 birds were recorded on 18 on 13 February 2009 (Baral 2009a).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Blue-throated Barbet frequents evergreen and deciduous trees, especially figs, groves near habitation and gardens (Ali and Ripley 1987, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991 Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species can be found basking in the winter sun, high in the leafless trees (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It usually occurs singly or in small feeding parties in tall trees and sometimes in large numbers of up to 30 or more in large fruiting trees (Ali and Ripley 1987). It mainly feeds on fruits, occasionally mantises and other large insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding of the species was confirmed at Surkhet (Pritchard 1980), Kathmandu Valley (Proud 1949), Chitwan (Gurung 1983) and around Koshi Camp (Chaudhary 2013).

Threats

Blue-throated Barbet has adapted to thin, degraded forests, as well as human habitations with isolated trees and so may have benefited from forest thinning and forest degradation, but is threatened by the complete clearance of trees due to the spread of urban areas and agricultural intensification.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Blue-throated Barbet. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Banke, Chitwan, Langtang, Shivapuri-Nagarjun and Makalu-Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blue-throated Barbet has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a common resident recorded from the far west to the far east. There has been a small increase in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, possibly because of better recording. Since 1990 it has been recorded widely inside and outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Blue-throated Barbet has probably benefited from forest thinning and forest degradation as it inhabits fragmented forests and farmland with scattered trees, but is threatened by the complete clearance of trees due to the spread of urbanisation and intensive agriculture. Its population is either stable or probably increasing slightly.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskipp/2007_007.pdf

Megalaima franklinii (Blyth, 1842) LC

Subspecies: *Megalaima franklinii franklinii*



Common name

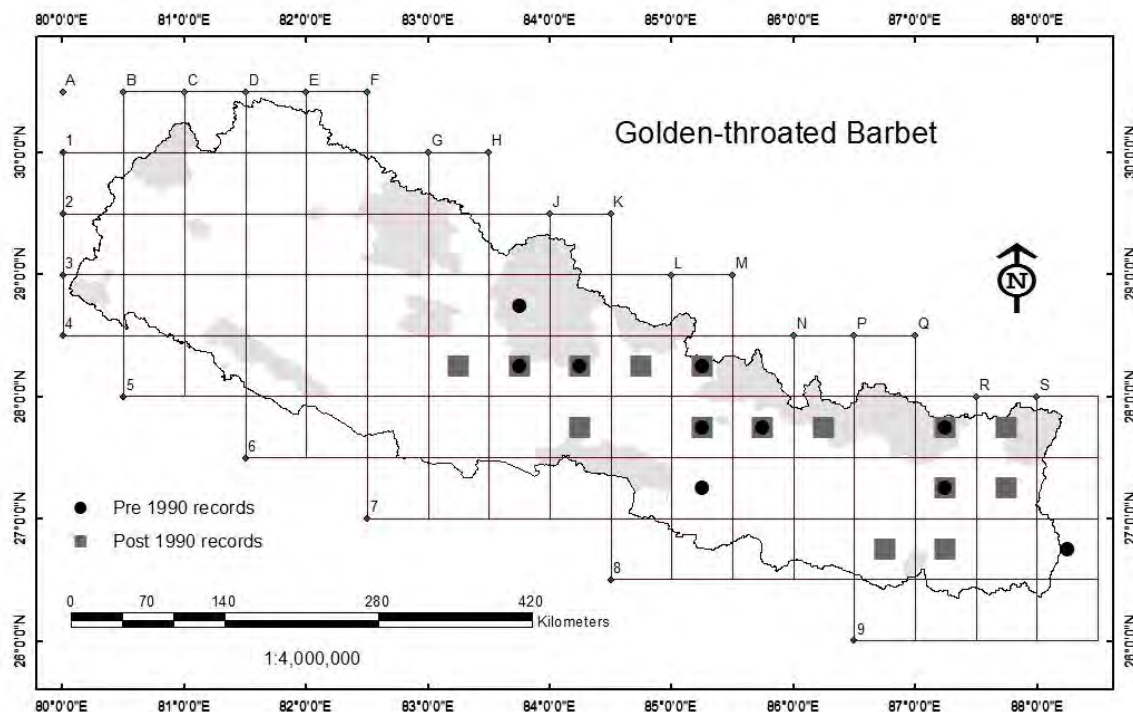
Golden-throated Barbet (English),

Kuklung (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Ramphastidae

Distribution



Golden-throated Barbet is a fairly common local resident from west-central Nepal to the far east. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Reshunga Important Bird Area, Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011) in the west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was a Brian Hodgson specimen in the 19th century (Blyth 1843).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered the species a local resident, seen occasionally between 1500 m and 2400 m and mapped the species' distribution mainly in the central region. The upper Kali Gandaki Valley (H4) was considered as the westernmost limit of the species range (Beaman 1973), which is now slightly extended further west to Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011).

There has been a significant increase in distribution post-1990, compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a frequent resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and a resident in Modi River watershed area (H5) in Annapurna Conservation Area (Suwal 2000); recorded from Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Thakuri 2013); a fairly

common resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a frequent resident on Shivapuri (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and Nagarjun (L6) in February 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009) in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park; a breeding resident in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a local and frequent resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999); and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The species has been recorded from different locations of Makalu-Barun National Park buffer zone: Pikhua Khola, Pikhua Danda, Chitre Danda, Chirkhwa Khola and Sankhwa Khola in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded fairly widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include: recorded in Reshunga forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011); around Chandrakot (H5), Kaski District in April 2003 (O'Connell- Davidson *et al.* 2003); Baglungpani (J5), Lamjung District in December 1991 (Halliday 1992); between Pasgam (J5), Lamjung District, Libiyani and Rupa Tal (J5), Kaski District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000), and Gorkha (K5), Gorkha District in November 2003 (Nelson and Ellis 2003).

In central Nepal records include: a fairly common, but local resident or summer visitor in the Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008) and recorded in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area (L6), e.g. in April 2006 (Baral 2006) and along the Bagmati River corridor (L6) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009); between Kutumsang and Patibhanjyang (L6), in May 1992 (Baral 1992) and Chisapani (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004).

In the east records include: between Mude and Bhotabas (Q7) in December 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995) and between Kangduwa and Bumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in June 2009 (Cox 2009), and between Mamangkhe and Kande Bhanjyang (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Globally, the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2400 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Golden-throated Barbet. Post 1990, more than 10 birds were recorded between Mude and Bhotabas, Sankhuwasabha District on 4 December 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995) and 10 were recorded in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area forest on 30 April 2006 (Baral 2006).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Golden-throated Barbet inhabits moist, broadleaved forests (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is entirely arboreal and mainly keeps singly or in small feeding groups in fruit laden trees (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is very noisy in hot weather, often calling in chorus (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on mainly fruits and occasionally insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved in the Kathmandu Valley in the 19th century (Hodgson 1829).

Threats

Golden-throated Barbet is threatened by habitat loss and forest degradation, especially the loss of fig trees on which it feeds.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Golden-throated Barbet. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Langtang, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Makalu-Barun National Parks, and Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Golden-throated Barbet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common, local resident from west-central Nepal to far east. There has been a significant increase in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, probably because of better recording. Since 1990 it has been recorded from a number of protected areas fairly widely outside the protected areas' system. Golden-throated Barbet is threatened by habitat loss and forest degradation, especially the loss of fig trees on which it feeds. As a result, the species' population is possibly stable or declining.

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Megalaima haemacephala (Müller, 1776) LC

Subspecies: *Megalaima haemacephala indica*



Common name

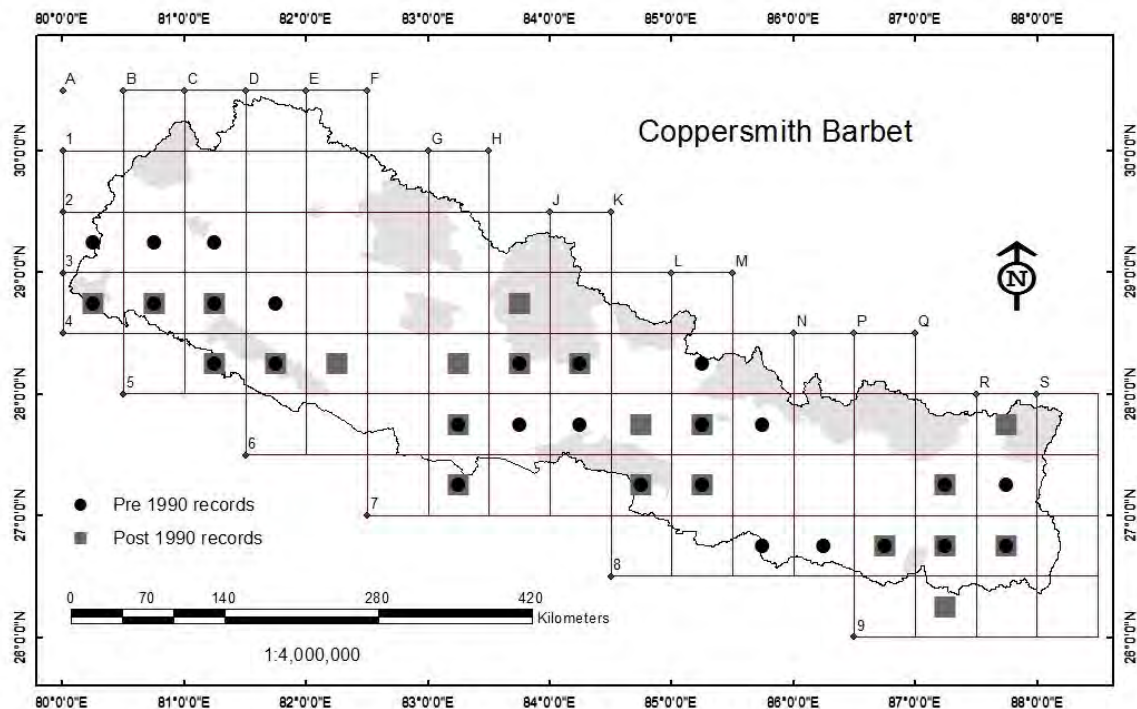
Coppersmith Barbet (English),

Milchara (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Ramphastidae

Distribution



Coppersmith Barbet is a common and widespread resident in lowlands and fairly common in the midhills. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley, Ilam District (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first definite Nepal record of the species was in 19th century from the specimen obtained in the Kathmandu Valley (Scully 1879).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered the species a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) mapped the species' distribution from far west to the far east mainly in the lowlands.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post 1990 is: a fairly common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012). The species was considered a breeding resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Baral *et al.* 2001) and was recorded in Tukche (H4) in November 1994 (Fletcher 1994) and Kobhang (H4) in October 1999 (Baral 2000) in Annapurna Conservation Area. It is a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); recorded in

Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001); recorded in Tokha area, Shivapuri (L6) in May 1993 (Redman 1993) and Nagarjun (L6) in July 1994 (Baral 1994a) in Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park; a fairly common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005), and a summer visitor to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Brown 1995). In the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park the species has been recorded from Janakauli Community Forest and Bees Hazari Lake in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Barandabhar forest (Ghimire 2009) and Tharu Lodge in Nawalparasi District in November 2007 (Baral 2007).

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include: recorded in Dhangadhi (B4) in May 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (CSUWN and BCN 2012) and Tikapur Park (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013a); around Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Prieme 1992); Dang- Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti Important Bird Area (IBA) (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009); Reshunga forest IBA (G5) (Thakuri 2011); between Simalchaur and ghot south of Ridhabhot (G5) Gulmi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999); Bhairahawa (G6) in April 1993 (Baral 1994b); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009); a resident in Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Salyan (H5), Parbat District in October 1999 (Baral 2000); Sarangkot (H5) in April 2007 (Oldfield 2007), Lakeside Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in March 2011 (Birdfinders 2011); between Kavri Dharmasala and Argali (H6), Palpa District in May 1999 (Cox 1999), and at Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include from: Bharatpur (J6) in December 1995 (Rasmussen and Strange 1995) and Kurintar (J6), Chitwan District in February 2002 (Malling Olsen 2004); Malekhu (K6), Dhading District in December 1998 (Smith 1998); Dhading District in April 2011 (Baral 2011); Dudhaura Khola forest area (K7), Bara District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013b); uncommon, probably mainly a summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008); recorded at Taudaha (L6) in November 1994 (Baral 1994); Gokarna (L6) in April 1996 (Taylor *et al.* 1996); Phulchoki (L6), Lalitpur District in February 2007 (Baral 2007); along the Bagmati River corridor (L6) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004), and Chandranigahapur (L7), Rautahat District in January 2001 (Hofland 2001).

In the east records include from: Chewabesi (Q7) in November 1994 (Baral 1995) and between Maruwabesi, Archalegaun and Tumlingtar (Q7) in June 2009 (Cox 2009), Sankhuwasabha District; recorded in Dharan Forest (Q8) in March 1994 (Weiss and Wettstein 1994), Patnali Forest (Q8) in May 2011 (Baral 2011), Itahari (R8) (Rai 2003) and a scarce migrant in Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007), Sunsari District; Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District in June 1993 (Baral 1994b), and Khudunabari (R8), Jhapa District, Mai valley in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally, the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1830 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Coppersmith Barbet. Post 1990, 20 birds were recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve on 26 December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997).

Total population size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Coppersmith Barbet occurs in groves, open wooded areas near villages, cultivation with some trees, and in wooded urban gardens (Ali and Ripley 1987, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is entirely arboreal and mainly occurs singly or in small parties (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Birds often sun themselves in the morning on the bare top branches of tall trees (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species can cling to and climb up tree trunks like a woodpecker (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds chiefly on banyan, peepal and other wild figs; also on various drupes and berries, and occasionally moths and flying termites (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was confirmed at Pokhara (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981); in the Kathmandu Valley (Fleming *et al.* 1979, Tyler 1988) and around Koshi Camp (Chaudhary 2013).

Threats

Since the species occurs in groves, gardens and trees near habitations, it has benefited from forest thinning and forest degradation.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Coppersmith Barbet. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke Chitwan and Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Coppersmith Barbet has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a widespread resident recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 it has been recorded widely inside and outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. There has been a significant increase in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, probably partly because of better recording. However, since the species can adapt to fragmented habitats and readily occurs in groves, gardens and trees near habitations, it has probably benefited from forest thinning and forest degradation. As a result, the species' population has probably increased.

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Megalaima lineata (Vieillot, 1816) LC

Subspecies: *Megalaima lineata hodgsoni*, *rana*

Common Name

Lineated Barbet (English),

Chhirke Kuthurke (Nepali)

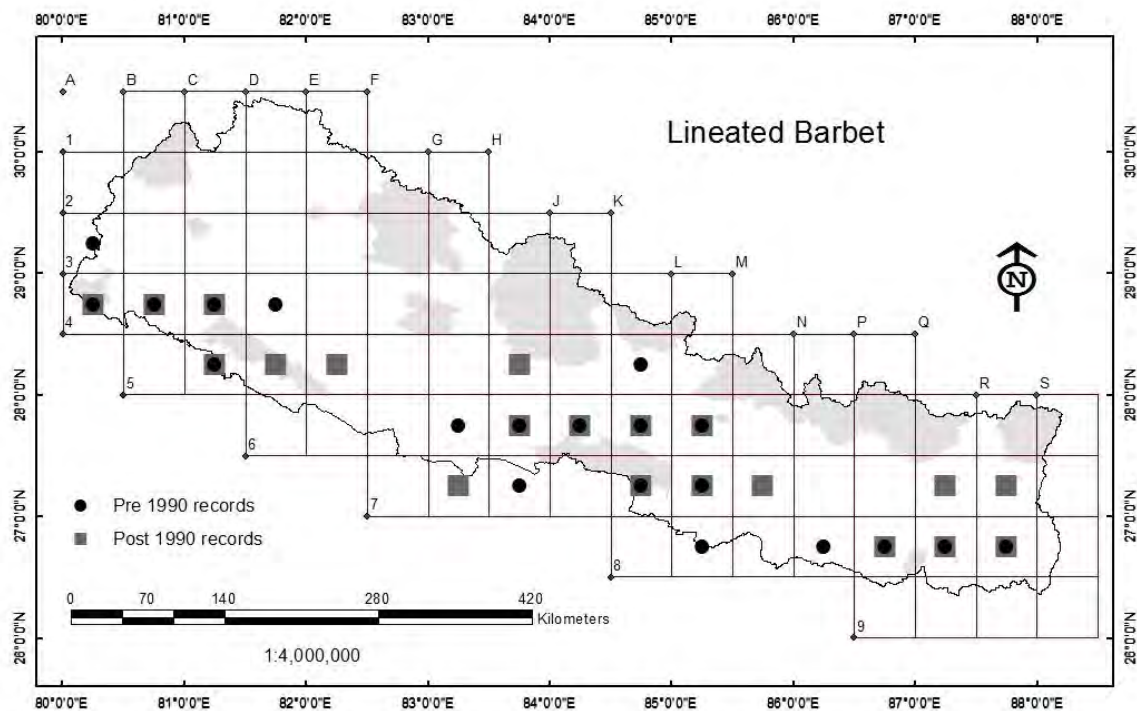
Order: Piciformes

Family: Ramphastidae



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Distribution



Lineated Barbet is a widespread common resident from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley, Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered the species a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) mapped the species' distribution widely in the central region and lowlands. According to Rand and Fleming (1957), two races of the species occur out of which, *M. l. hodgsoni* occurs below 365 m and *M. l. rana* occurs up to 915 m and replaces *hodgsoni* at higher altitudes in west-central areas.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: an uncommon breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a rare breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone, the species has been recorded in Janakauli Community Forest and Bees Hazari Lake area in

February 2008 (Giri 2008), Barandabhar forest area (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Chitwan District and Gundre Khola, Nawalparasi District in November 2007 (Baral 2007).

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include: a common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012), recorded in Tikapur Park, Kailali District in July 2013 (C5) (Baral *et al.* 2013a); Dang-Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti IBA (E5) (Thakuri 2009); around Lumbini Buddha Garden (G7), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Acharya 2011); Peace Pagoda, Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in April 2007 (Oldfield 2007), and between Kavri Dharmasala and Argali (H6), Palpa District in May 1999 (Cox 1999).

In central Nepal records include: from Bharatpur (J6), Chitwan District in February 2005 (Baral 2005b); Trisuli Bazaar (L6), Nuwakot District in April 1996 (Taylor *et al.* 1996) and May 2002 (Wallace and Wallace 2002); Bagmati and Bakaiya river valleys of Makwanpur (L7) and Bara (L7) Districts (Basnet and Thakuri 2013); Judibela and Aadarsha Community Forests (L7), Rautahat District and Bakaiya Community Forest, Nijgarh (L7), Bara District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013b); between Belwa school and Kat Mandir (L7), Bara District in April 2003 (Cox 2003); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004) and in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013b), and Katara and Durga Community Forests (M7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubhadel 2007).

In the east records include: from between Maruwabesi and Archalegaun (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in June 2009 (Cox 2009); Ram Dhuni Forest (Q8) in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994) and April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), Patnali Forest (Q8) in May 2011 (Baral 2011) and Dharan Forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Sunsari District; a common resident in Rajarani forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Belhara (Q8), Dhankuta District in September 2003 (Baral 2003); between Gupha Pokhari, Dobhan, Mamankhe and Kande Bhanjyang (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008), and the Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally, the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Lineated Barbet. Post 1990 20 birds were recorded between Jarneli, Kasara, Lamital, Gaiinda Tented Camp, Sukebhar and Tamar Tal, Chitwan National Park on 18 April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and 20 around Chitwan National Park on 26 January 2010 (Giri 2010).

Total population size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Lineated Barbet occurs in sal forests of the lowlands and lower foothills (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) frequenting light secondary forests as well as well-wooded gardens, roadside avenues with fig and other fruiting trees (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species mainly keeps singly or in loose feeding parties in fig and other fruiting trees in company with other frugivorous birds. It is extremely noisy in the hot weather (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species feeds mainly on fruits followed by flower nectar, insects and sometimes small animals such as lizards and tree-frogs (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was confirmed in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and the Trisuli Valley (L6) (Madge and Madge 1982).

Threats

Lineated Barbet would be threatened by the loss of all trees, for instance resulting from the spread of intensive agriculture and total urbanisation. However, overall, it has probably benefited from forest thinning.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Lineated Barbet. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Lineated Barbet has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a widespread resident recorded from the far west to the far east. It is common in Chitwan National Park and fairly common in lowlands of other areas. There has been a small increase in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, possibly because of better recording. Since 1990 it has been recorded widely inside and outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Lineated Barbet would be threatened by the loss of all trees, for instance resulting from the spread of intensive agriculture and total urbanisation. However, overall, it has probably benefited from forest thinning. As a result, its population is probably stable.

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Megalaima virens (Boddaert, 1783) LC

Subspecies: *Megalaima virens marshallorum*, *magnifica*

Common Name

Great Barbet (English),

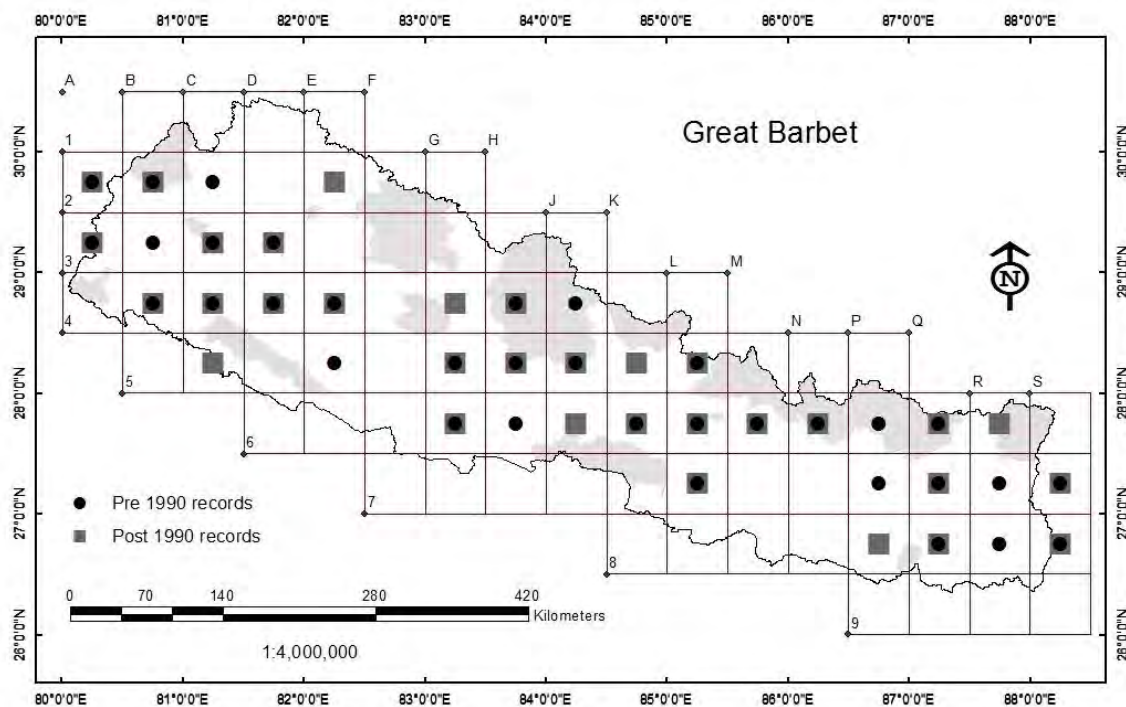
Nyauli (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Ramphastidae



Distribution



Great Barbet is a widespread and common resident between 900 and 2200 m from west to east Nepal. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to the Mai valley, Ilam District (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) also described the species as a common resident subject to altitudinal movements and mapped it widely from the far west to the far east.

There has been small increase in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, possibly because of better recording.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post 1990 is: recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (B2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a common resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a scarce resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); rare, possibly a summer visitor in Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); a common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003)

and frequent in the Modi River watershed area (H5) in Annapurna Conservation Area (Suwal 2000); recorded in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) in March 2009 (Baral 2009) and April 2011 (Baral 2011a); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Thakuri 2013); a common resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a fairly common resident on Shivapuri (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and recorded on Nagarjun (L6) in October 1994 (Baral 1994a) in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park; a breeding resident in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a common resident in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The species has been recorded from different localities in Makalu- Barun National Park buffer zone: Heluwabesi, Pikhuwa Khola, Apsuwa Khola, Jophal Danda and Sankhuwa Khola in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from: Dasarath Chand Municipality (A2), Baitadi District in June 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Amargadhi (A3), Kaphali Danda (A3), Khalanga (A3) and Chulla (A3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Badimalika region (C3) of Achham, Bajura and Kalikot Districts (Karki *et al.* 2003); between Daurogaon, and Beuli (D3), Kalikot District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Rawtkot (D4), and between Gaibanne and Madela (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); between Jiri Daha and Lagana (E4), Jajarkot District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); between Lusum (G4), Deurali Thanti (G4), Dhola Khola (G4), upper Myagdi Khola (G4), middle Myagdi Khola (G5), Beni (H5) and Maldhunga (H5), Myagdi District in May and June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Reshunga forest Important Bird Area (G5) (Thakuri 2011) between Simalchaur, Ridhabhot, Bikos, Patle (G5) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b) Gulmi District; Salyan (H5), Parbat District in October 1999 (Baral 2000); a resident in Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009). The species was a relatively common forest bird around Pokhara and Sarangkot (H5) (Oldfield 2007) and recorded in Raniban (H5) in November 2009 (Chaudhary 2009), Kaski District; between Chandhi Bhanjyang, Kavri Dharmasala and Argali (G6) Palpa District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); between Pasgam (J5), Lamjung District, Libiyani and Rupa Tal (J5), Kaski District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000); Baglungpani (J5) (Halliday 1992), and between Bhulbhule, Bahundanda and Jagat (J5) in October 1997 (Chaudhary 1998a), Lamjung District.

In central Nepal records include from: Dhebuwa Lekh Forest (K6) (Chaudhary 2007) and Dhading (K6) in April 2011 Dhading District (Baral 2011a); a common resident in Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008) and recorded from Gokarna (L6), Kathmandu District in January 1992 (Baral 1992), Bajrabarahi (L6), Lalitpur District in September 1993 (Baral 1994b), Phulchoki (L6), Lalitpur District in February 2010 (Baral 2010b) and along the Bagmati River corridor (L6) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009); a common resident in Chitlang Forest (L6), Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992), recorded in the Bagmati and Bakaiya river valleys (L7) in Makwanpur District (Basnet and Thakuri 2013); between Melamchipul and Dubachaur (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004) and from Nagarkot (M6), Bhaktapur District in February 2013 (Musgrove 2013).

In the east records include from: between Najing dingma and Panggom (P6), Solukhumbu District in December 2011 (Carter and James 2011); Chewabesi (Q6) and Kangduwa and Besku Khola (Q7) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009), between Aala and Bhotebas (Q7) in December 1994 (Baral 1995), Sankhuwasabha District; a fairly common bird in Tinjure Forest (Q7), Tehrathum District (Rai 2003) and between Basantapur and Chauki (Q7), Tehrathum District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Belhara (Q8), Dhankuta District in September 2003 (Baral 2003); between Geruwa, Jamuna, Mabu and Pranbung of Mai valley (R8) (Robson *et al.* 2008); between Phyaksinda and Mude (S7) in December 1992 and Hans Pokhari Danda (S8) in November 1992 (Cox 1992), Hange Tham, Jamuna VDC (S7) in September 2010 (Baral 2010a), Ilam District.

Globally, the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2200 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Great Barbet. Post 1990, 32 birds were recorded in Chameliya valley in Api Nampa Conservation Area between 26 March and 6 April 2012 (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012). A total of 30 birds was recorded on Phulchoki on 1 February 2010 (Baral 2010b).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Great Barbet inhabits mainly well-wooded moist subtropical (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) and temperate forests (Ali and Ripley 1987, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) but is also found in small woodlands, as well as near human habitations in the hills. The species usually keeps singly or in small feeding parties of five or six in tall trees, but congregates in flocks in fruit-laden trees (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It descends into lower bushes with fruit (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is rather silent in winter but is noisy in hot weather (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is rather sluggish and has a labored, undulating flight with head stretched forward. It is fairly shy except during the breeding season (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species feeds on chiefly fruits - drupes and berries and sometimes insects, such as beetles, cicadas, flying termites, hornets and even flower petals as of rhododendron (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved in the hills of the Kathmandu Valley in the 19th century (Hume and Oates 1890).

Threats

Great Barbet population is threatened by deforestation and especially the loss of fruiting trees and associated insects.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Great Barbet. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Rara, Chitwan, Langtang, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Makalu-Barun National Parks; Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, and Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Great Barbet has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a widespread and common resident recorded from the far west to the far east. There has been a small increase in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, possibly because of better recording. Since 1990 it has been recorded widely inside and outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Great Barbet population is probably decreasing because of deforestation and especially because of the loss of fruiting trees and associated insects, but not on a scale that warrants a threatened status for the species.

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Megalaima zeylanica (Gmelin, 1788) LC

Subspecies: *Megalaima zeylanica caniceps*



Common name

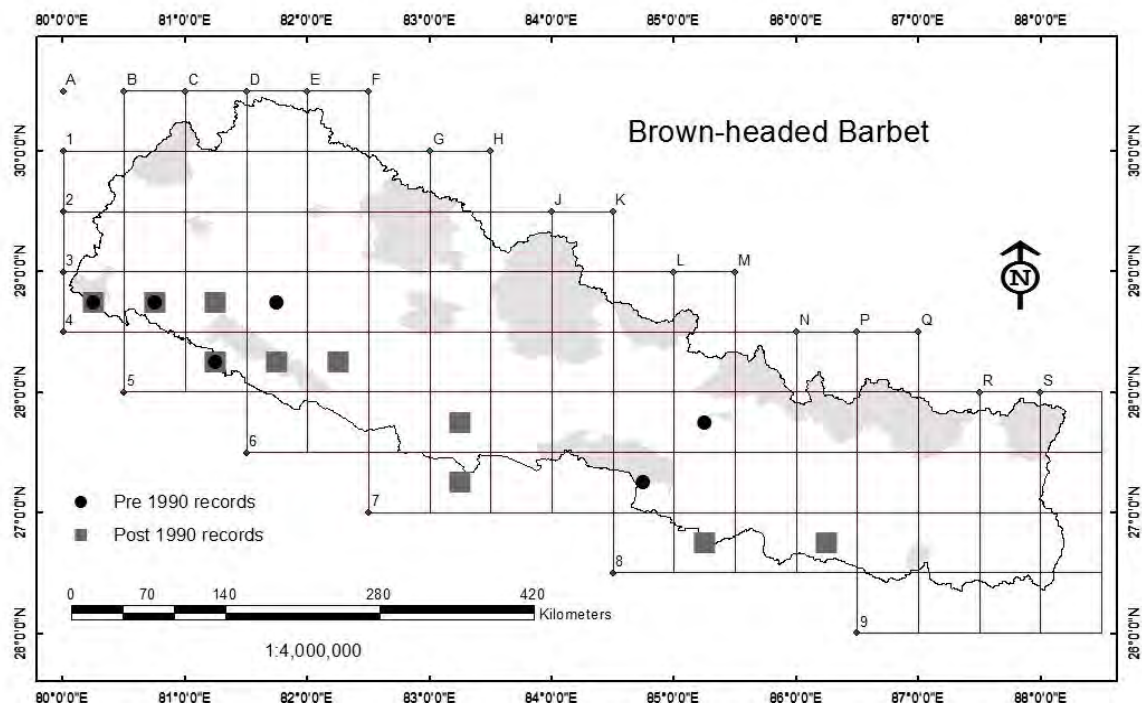
Brown-headed Barbet (English),

Kumchhirke Kuthurke (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Ramphastidae

Distribution



Brown-headed Barbet is fairly common in the far west and uncommon in other parts of Nepal. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Dharan Forest, Sunsari District (BirdLife International 2015) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in February 1937 at Bilauri, Kanchanpur District (Bailey 1938).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered the species had unclear status and distribution, due to its confusion with Lineated Barbet, and mapped it mainly in the far west lowlands with very few records in the central region.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post 1990 is: a common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001) and recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012a).

Post-1990 the species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include: a common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012), a fairly common resident in the Mohana River Corridor (B4) (Chaudhary 2012), Tikapur Park (C5), Kailali District in July

2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); recorded in Dang-Deukhuri foothill forest and west Rapti IBA (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009); in the mixed broadleaf forest at southern base of Churia hills (G6), Kapilvastu District in April 2007 (Cox 2008), and in the mango groves of Lumbini Development Area (G7), Lumbini IBA, Rupandehi District (Hanlon and Giri 2007).

In the east records include: Kamala River of Kamala-Bagmati Area (Baral *et al.* 2012b) and near Lahan Eye Hospital (N8), Siraha District on several dates between 30 August and 16 September 2003 (Giri and Chaudhary 2003).

Globally the species has also been recorded from India and Sri Lanka (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 300 m; lower limit: 100 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Brown-headed Barbet. Post 1990, as many as 12 birds were recorded in Bardia National Park on 21 February 2003 (Baral 2003). A total of 10 birds has been recorded in different localities: e.g. in Ghodaghodi Lake area, Kailali District on 9 March 1992 (Baral 1992), and in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve on 24 March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998) and 27 January 2009 (Baral 2009b).

Total population size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Brown-headed Barbet frequents lowland forests and wooded areas (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), fig and other fruiting trees along roadsides and in wooded gardens (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is mainly arboreal and usually keeps singly or in small loose parties. It is rather silent in winter but waxes extremely noisy with the hot weather (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species feeds on *Ficus* figs, and a large variety of drupes and berries; flower petals and flower nectar and also takes insects - beetles, flying ants etc. and rarely lizards (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved at Birganj (Vyas 1988).

Threats

Brown-headed Barbet is threatened by the complete clearance of trees due to the spread of urban areas and agricultural intensification. However, it has probably benefited from forest thinning.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Brown-headed Barbet. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks; and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Brown-headed Barbet has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a fairly common resident in the far west lowlands and uncommon elsewhere. It has been recorded in a few protected areas within its altitudinal

range and in suitable habitat. There has been a small increase in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, possibly because of better recording. Brown-headed Barbet is threatened by the complete clearance of trees due to the spread of urban areas and agricultural intensification but has probably benefited from forest thinning. The population is probably stable.

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Picumnus innominatus (E. Burton, 1836) LC

Subspecies: *Picumnus innominatus innominatus*

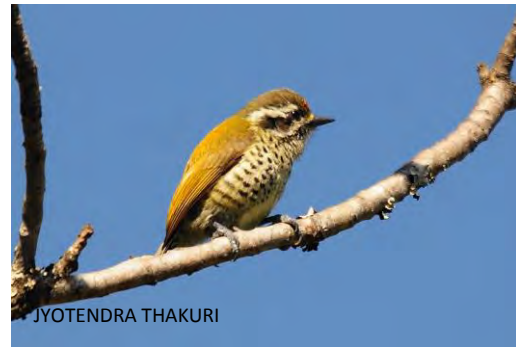
Common name

Speckled Piculet (English),

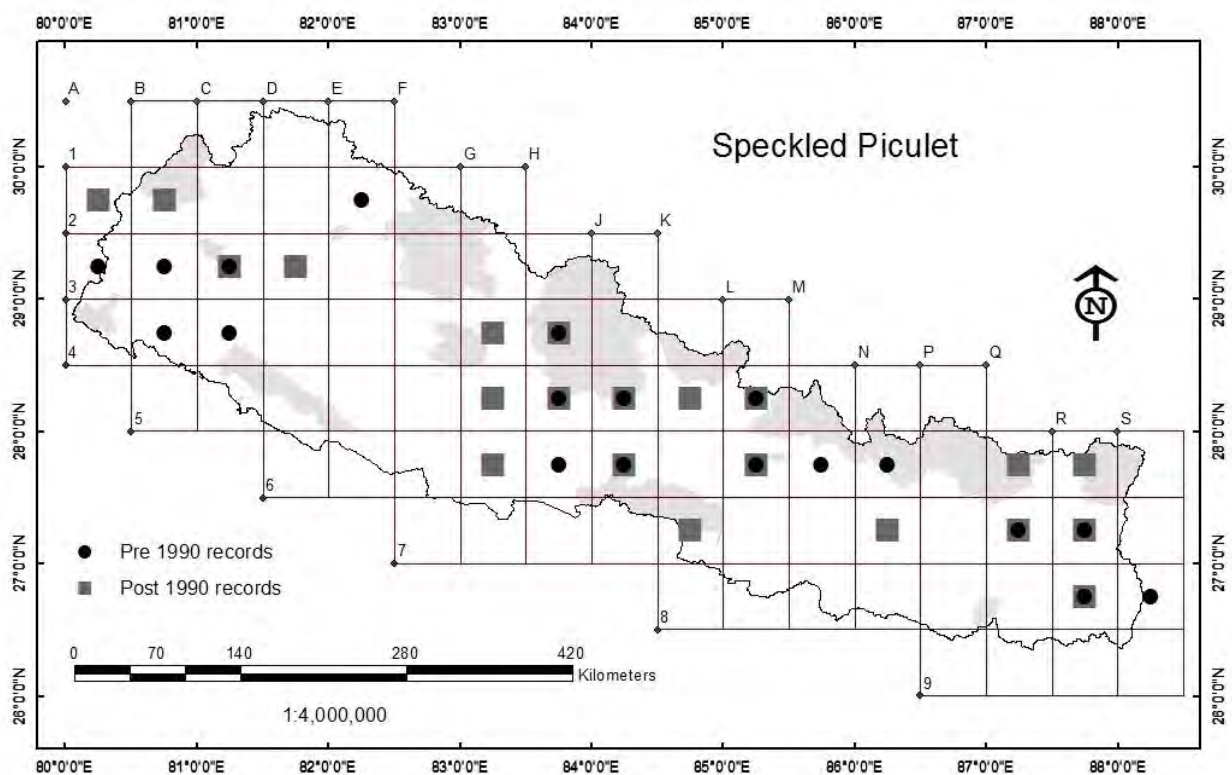
Thople Sasia (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Speckled Piculet is a locally fairly common resident. It is quite widespread with post-1990 records from Api Nampa Conservation Area in the far west (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) to Ilam District in the far east (White and White 1997).

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it locally fairly common and mapped its distribution from the far west and west-central Nepal eastwards.

Since 1990 there have been records from some additional localities in the west, compared to pre-1990; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) and in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); a fairly common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (Thakuri 2013a); a rare resident in Chitwan National Park (J6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife

Reserve (Todd 2001); a frequent resident on Shivapuri (SNP and BCN 2007) and on Nagarjun (Hem Sagar Baral) in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park; uncommon, possibly resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001), and recorded in Makalu Barun National Park in December 1992 (Cox 1992), and in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Buckton 1996 and Carpenter *et al.* 1994 in Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

The species has also been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range. Post-1990 records follow.

In the west records include: from between Beuli and Kalikot (D3), Kalikot District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); between Chandi Bhanjyang and Kavri Dharmsala, Palpa District (G6) and between ghot south of Ridhabhot and ghot past Bikos, Gulmi District (G5) in May 1999, and between Dimlatti and Bagara, Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District (G4) in June 1999 (Cox 1999); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b), and Tiger Mountain Lodge, Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012)

In central Nepal Mallalieu (2008) reported it was an uncommon resident in the Kathmandu Valley. Records from other localities include along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include from: Khatare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubhadel 2007); the lower Arun valley (Q7) (White and White 1997); between Khande Bhanjyang and Lali Kharka (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Memen (R7), Panchthar District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008), and Ilam District (R7, R8) (White and White 1997).

Globally it is also recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1830 m; lower limit: 275 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Speckled Piculet. The population is possibly stable as the species can adapt to secondary growth.

Total population size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Speckled Piculet is unobtrusive and probably under-recorded (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It inhabits bushes and bamboo in broadleaved forest (tropical and subtropical) as well as secondary growth (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). In the Kathmandu Valley the species is often in secondary growth and even scrub (Mallalieu 2008). It is a tiny bird, usually recorded singly or in pairs, often with other species present and usually on the lower third of trees or on bushes quite close to the ground (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It mainly eats ants, and their eggs and pupae. Energetic and agile while feeding, it is small enough to forage on slender twigs of trees and shrubs, twisting around small branches in typical woodpecker fashion. It also clings upside-down to branches like a tit and perches sideways across branches like a passerine. It can often be located by the sound of its vigorous pecking (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It has bred on lower slopes of Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area on a small trunk hole in *Alnus nepalensis* tree (Hem Sagar Baral).

Threats

Complete clearance of tropical and subtropical forest and secondary growth would threaten the Speckled Piculet.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Speckled Piculet. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Langtang National Parks, Api Nampa, Manaslu and Annapurna Conservation Areas and marginally in Chitwan National Park and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Speckled Piculet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally common and fairly widespread resident, occurring from the far west to the far east of Nepal. However, it is likely to be under-recorded because of its unobtrusive behaviour. Since 1990 there have been records from some additional localities in the west, compared to pre-1990; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Although it would suffer from complete clearance of forest and scrub habitat, its ability to inhabit secondary growth provides it with some resilience. Its population is possibly stable.

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Picus canus (Gmelin, 1788) LC

Subspecies: *Picus canus sanguiniceps, hessei*

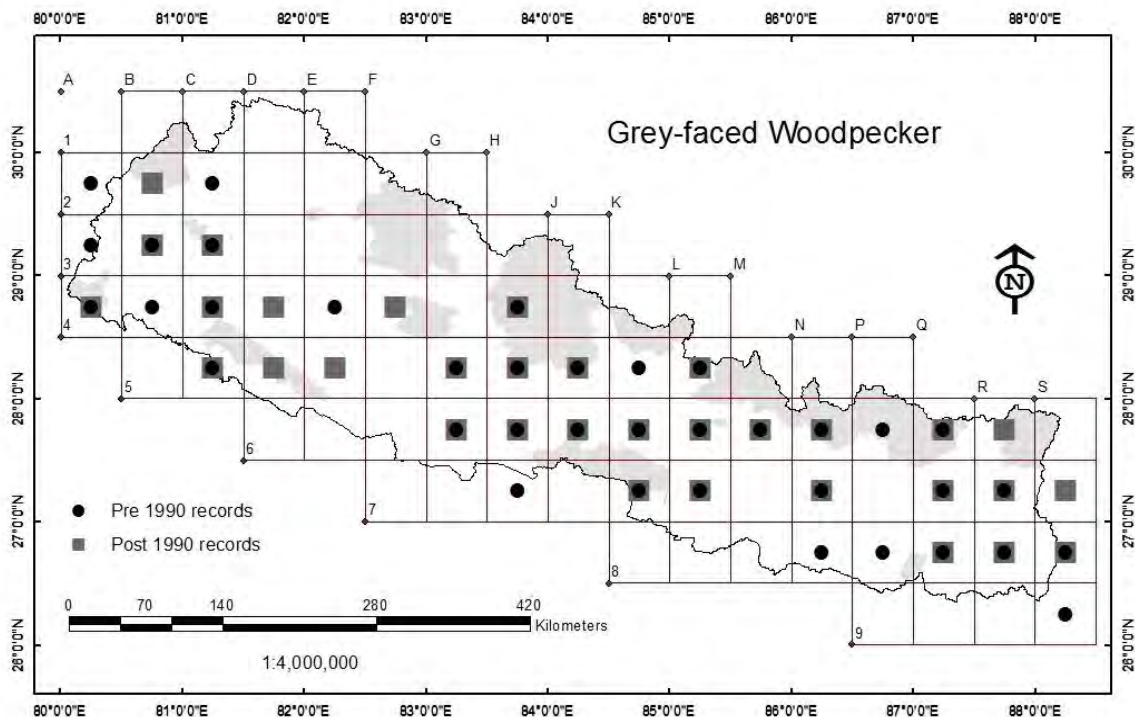
Common Name

Grey-faced Woodpecker (English),
Kalogardane Kaathphor (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes
Family: Picidae



Distribution



Grey-faced Woodpecker is a fairly common and widespread resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Romiyang, Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District (S8) (Cox 1992) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Both Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a common resident. The latter mapped a widespread distribution for the species.

Since 1990 there have been records from several more localities in the west than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage; otherwise the distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990, see map and text below.

The species' status in the protected areas' system since 1990 is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); common in the Chameliya valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area

(Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Baral *et al.* 2012); a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006). The species is listed as rare, possibly a summer visitor to Rara National Park (Regmi *et al.* 2000 in Giri 2005) but there are no later records from the park and the park's altitude is much higher than the normal range of this species. It is a fairly common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001); an uncommon resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); fairly common to frequent in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (Hem Sagar Baral); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009); a common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a); an uncommon resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The species has also been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6) in May 2009 (Cox 2009) and from Chitwan National Park buffer zone: west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010), Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District (H6) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996) and Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000).

The species has also been widely recorded outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

In the west records include from: several localities in Dadeldhura District (B3) (Baral *et al.* 2010); Tikapur Park (C5) (Baral *et al.* 2013); Rawtkot (D4), Dailekh District (Giri 1997); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); between Rimna and Chisapani (F4), Rukum District (Baral *et al.* 2013); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); between Argali, Palpa District and Sidure, Gulmi District (G6) Cox 1999b); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District e.g. (Naylor and Metcalf (2007), Baral (2009a) and Baral (2010a), and near Begnas Tal (J5), Kaski District Baral (2009b).

In central Nepal Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a fairly common resident in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006. Records from other localities include: Dhading District (K6) (Baral 2011); near Nalang (K6), Dhading District (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Sipadol, Bhaktapur District (L6) (Baral 1994); a common resident in Chitlang Forests (L6), Chandragiri Range, Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); near Kat mandir (L7), Bara District (Cox 2003); Adarsha Community Forest and national forest, Chandi Khola (L7), Rautahat District (Baral *et al.* 2013); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013), and at Ghangyul (M6), Sindhupalchok District (Dymond 2012).

In the east records include from: Katahare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubhadel 2007); near Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District (Halberg 1991); between Tumlingtar and Gothe Bazaar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District (Carter and James 2011); south of Bumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District (Cox 2009); Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Giri 2008); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); Three Community Forest (Q8), Dhankuta District (Baral 2003); between Gupha Pokhari, Sankhuwasabha District and Dobhan, Taplejung District (R7) and between Dobhan and Mitlung (R7), Taplejung District (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); above Likyang, Taplejung District (Cox 1992); Ilam (R8), Ilam District (Baral 2010b) and the lower Mai valley, Mai Valley Important Bird Area (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Bhimchauri, Morang District (R8), between Garuwa and Sukhani, Jhapa District (R8) and Romiyang, Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District (S8) (Cox 1992), and at Saktim (R8), Jhapa District and Memen (S7), Panchthar District (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Albania, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China (mainland), Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2200 m (-2600 m); lower limit: 150 m (-75 m)

Population

No surveys have been carried out specifically for Grey-faced Woodpecker. Its population is probably stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Grey-faced Woodpecker frequents a wide range of habitats: open to closed broadleaved forests and forest edges; groves in agricultural land and visits single trees or small groups of tall trees in the breeding season (Martens and Eck 1995); also well-wooded country (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). A usually solitary and somewhat shy species; edging up and down a tree trunk out of sight from the observer. It often feeds on the ground where it may hop about stiff-legged. Occasionally it perches on top of a large boulder on a hillside. It is partial to ants and also beetles, berries and nectar (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Breeding has been confirmed in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and in the Kathmandu Valley (Diesselhorst 1968, Scully 1879).

Threats

Complete loss of forests, woodland, groves and trees in cultivated areas would threaten Grey-faced Woodpecker. As it can adapt to open forests, it can withstand forest thinning. It is also resilient to a degree of forest clearance where some trees are retained in groves or small groups of tall trees in cultivation. However, intensification of agriculture, especially in the lowlands is resulting in loss of trees from cultivation (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Grey-faced Woodpecker. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Khaptad Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Grey-faced Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a fairly common and widespread resident with post-1990 records from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 there have been records from several more localities in the west than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage; otherwise the distribution has not changed significantly. The species has been recorded from many protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat, post-1990. Complete loss of forests, woodland, groves and trees in cultivated areas would threaten Grey-faced Woodpecker. However, as it can adapt to open forests, it can withstand forest thinning. It is also resilient to a degree of forest clearance where some trees are retained in groves or small groups of tall trees in cultivation. Its population is probably stable.

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Picus chlorolophus (Vieillot, 1818) LC

Subspecies: *Picus chlorolophus chlorolophus*, *simlae*

Common Name

Lesser Yellownape (English),

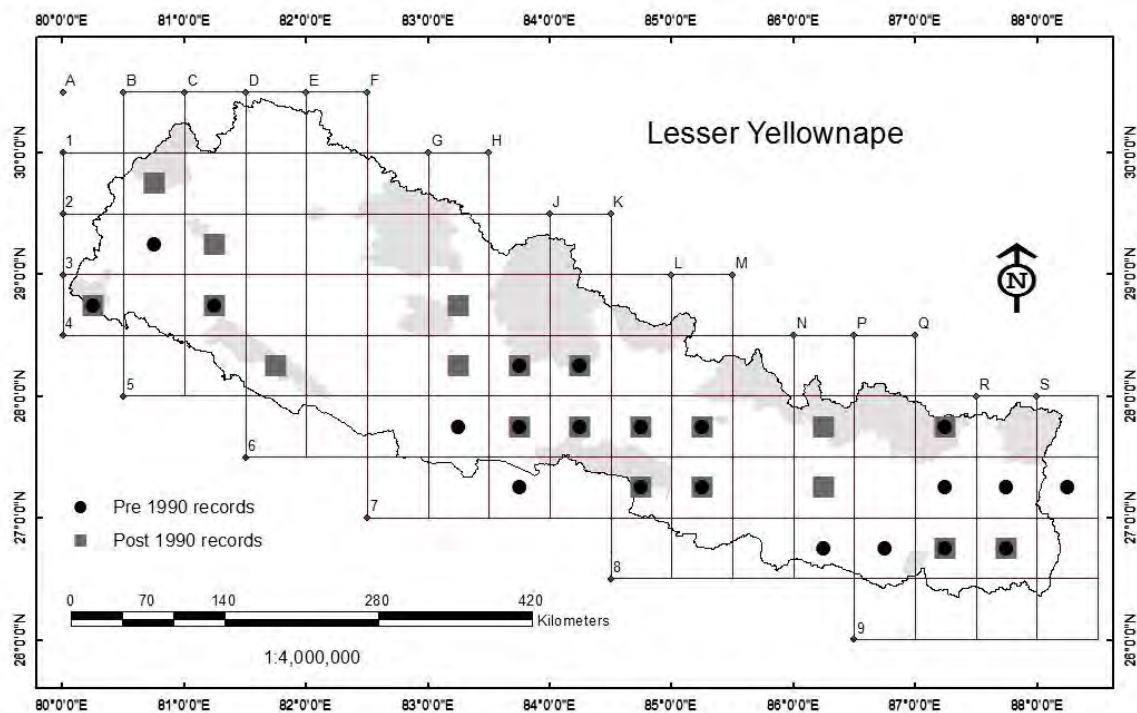
Sunjure Kaathphor (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



Distribution



Lesser Yellownape is a fairly widespread resident, locally fairly common, with post-1990 records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Jhapa and Ilam Districts in the far east (Cox 1992, Robson *et al.* 2008).

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Both Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a fairly common resident.

Since 1990 there have been records from more localities in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, see map and text below.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a rare resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Baral *et al.* 2012); one recorded at Koramando, Khaptad National Park in April 1993 (Halliday 1993); a frequent resident in Annapurna

Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001). SNP and BCN (2007) reported it is a fairly common resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but other records indicate that it is uncommon there. It is also frequently recorded from Nagarjun. The species was recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009), and is a fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a). The species has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Baral 1996), west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010), Namuna Community Forest (H6), Nawalparasi District (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012), and Janakauli Community Forest, Sauraha District (e.g. Giri 2008a); also in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6, Q7) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

The species has also been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range (see map and text below). Post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system follow:

In the west records include from: between Dimlatti and Bagara (G4), Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District (Cox 1999b); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), December 2008 (Naylor and Turner 2008) and February 2010 (Baral 2010), and near Begnas Tal (J5), Kaski District in March 2009 (Baral 2009).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was an uncommon resident in the Kathmandu Valley in Gokarna and near Chapagaon between 2004 and 2006. Records from other localities include: along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013), and near Kat Mandir, Bara District (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Kathare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubadel 2007); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in April 1999 (Chaudhary 1999) and December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), May 2008 (Giri 2008b), Basnet and Sapkota (2008); between Garuwa and Sukhani (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992), and north of Chisapani (R8), Ilam District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1750 m (-2135 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Lesser Yellownappe. Its population may be declining because of habitat loss. However, although it is threatened by complete removal of its forest habitat, it is adaptable to some forest thinning.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Lesser Yellownappe inhabits tropical, subtropical broadleaved forest and secondary growth, occurring as a rarity in lower temperate forest (Grimmett *et al.* 2000, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is fairly bold, noisy and conspicuous. It is often found with roving mixed parties of insectivorous birds, such as minivets, babblers and drongos or other woodpecker species. It eats insects, chiefly ants and termites; larvae and pupae of wood-boring and dung beetles. Berries are a secondary food (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been confirmed at Hetaura (Biswas 1961), Sauraha, Chitwan (Tika Giri pers. comm. 2013) and in the Kathmandu Valley (Scully 1879).

Threats

Lesser Yellownappe is threatened by complete deforestation, but as it can adapt to secondary growth it is able to withstand some forest thinning.

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Lesser Yellownappe. It has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Makalu Barun National Parks; Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves; Api Nampa, Annapurna and Gaurishankar Conservation Areas, and marginally in Khaptad National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Lesser Yellownappe has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a widespread resident, locally fairly common and occurring from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 there have been records from more localities in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat since 1990. Although it is threatened by complete removal of its forest habitat, it is adaptable to some forest degradation by thinning. Its population may be declining because of habitat loss, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskipp/2007_007.pdf

Picus flavinucha (Gould, 1834) LC

Subspecies: *Picus flavinucha flavinucha*

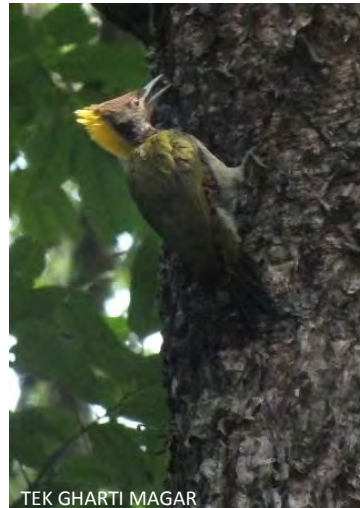
Common Name

Greater Yellownappe (English),

Thulo Sunjure Kaathphor (Nepali)

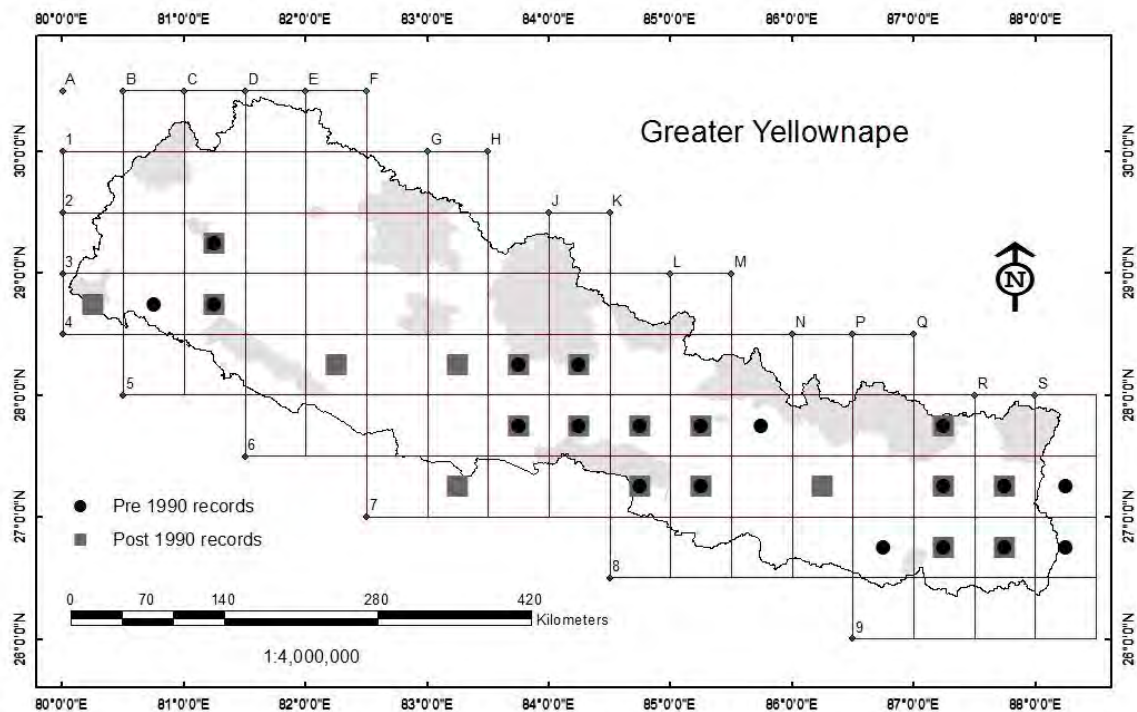
Order: Piciformes

Family: Picidae



TEK GHARTI MAGAR

Distribution



Greater Yellownappe is a fairly widespread resident, locally frequent and uncommon elsewhere. There are post-1990 records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it fairly common between 305 m and 1450 m and uncommon up to 2135 m.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage but less widely in the east compared to its pre-1990 distribution, see map and text below. Most post-1990 records have been between 300 m and 915 m.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: uncommon possibly resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a rare resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); resident in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); an uncommon resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and in Parsa

Wildlife Reserve (Cox 2003, Todd 2001). SNP and BCN (2007) reported it was a frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but it was described as an uncommon resident on Shivapuri and Nagarjun between 2004 and 2006 by Mallalieu (2008). It was described as a fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a), but this was based on Nepali (1984); later records indicate that it is now uncommon there. The species has also been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6) where it was frequently recorded in June 2009 (Cox 2009). It was recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: west of the park (H6) in Nawalaparasi District in February 2010 (Baral 2010a) and at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996).

The species has been recorded rather less widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990, see map and text below. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: Dang Deukhuri foothill forests (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Reshunga Potential Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); between Buachidi, Gulmi District and Gwalichaur, Baglung District (G5) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Acharya 2011), and Pokhara (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009), February 2010 (Baral 2010a) and October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was an uncommon resident recorded in the Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Gokarna and near Chapagaon in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006. Records from other localities include along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include from: Khatahare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubhadel 2007); between Kangduwa and Bumlingtar (Q7), Sankhwasabha District in June 2009 (Cox 2009); Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2001 (Baral 2001); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Miller 2011, Subba 1995); Raja Rana Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Sesambu south to the Tamur Khola (R7), Taplejung District in November 1992 (Cox 1992); between Gupha Pokhari, Sankhuwasabha District and Dobhan, Taplejung District (R7) in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Sidim (R7), Panchthar District and Chisapani (R8), Ilam District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008), and Ilam (R8), Ilam District in January 2008 (Baral 2010b).

Globally it is also recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (-2135 m); lower limit: 305 m (-150 m)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Greater Yellownappe. Its population is probably declining as a result of loss and degradation of forest. There is some evidence of a decline in abundance in recent years compared to pre-1990 levels.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Greater Yellownappe inhabits broadleaved forest and forest edges (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); sal and mixed forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976), mainly in the tropical and subtropical zones. The species is seen in scattered pairs or family groups, often in mixed hunting parties with other woodpeckers. It may descend to the ground for food. It is partial to the larvae of beetles such as sal borers (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Ali and Ripley (1987) give its food as ants, termites, grubs and wood-boring beetles. A shy and restless species, it feeds at all forest levels up to the

highest branches (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeding has been proved at Bhimpedi and Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1961) and in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area (Mallalieu 2008).

Threats

Greater Yellownappe is threatened by loss and degradation of its broadleaved forest habitat. Tropical and subtropical broadleaved forests are especially at risk (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Greater Yellownappe. It has been recorded in Bardia, Chitwan, Khaptad, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna Conservation Area and Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Greater Yellownappe has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a fairly widespread resident, locally frequent and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage, but less widely in the east compared to its pre-1990 distribution. Post-1990 it has been recorded in a number of protected areas and rather less widely outside the protected areas' system, within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. The species is threatened by loss and degradation of its broadleaved forest habitat, which is mainly in the tropical and subtropical zones and so especially at risk. As a result, its population is probably declining, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Picus squamatus (Vigors, 1831) LC

Subspecies: *Picus squamatus squamatus*

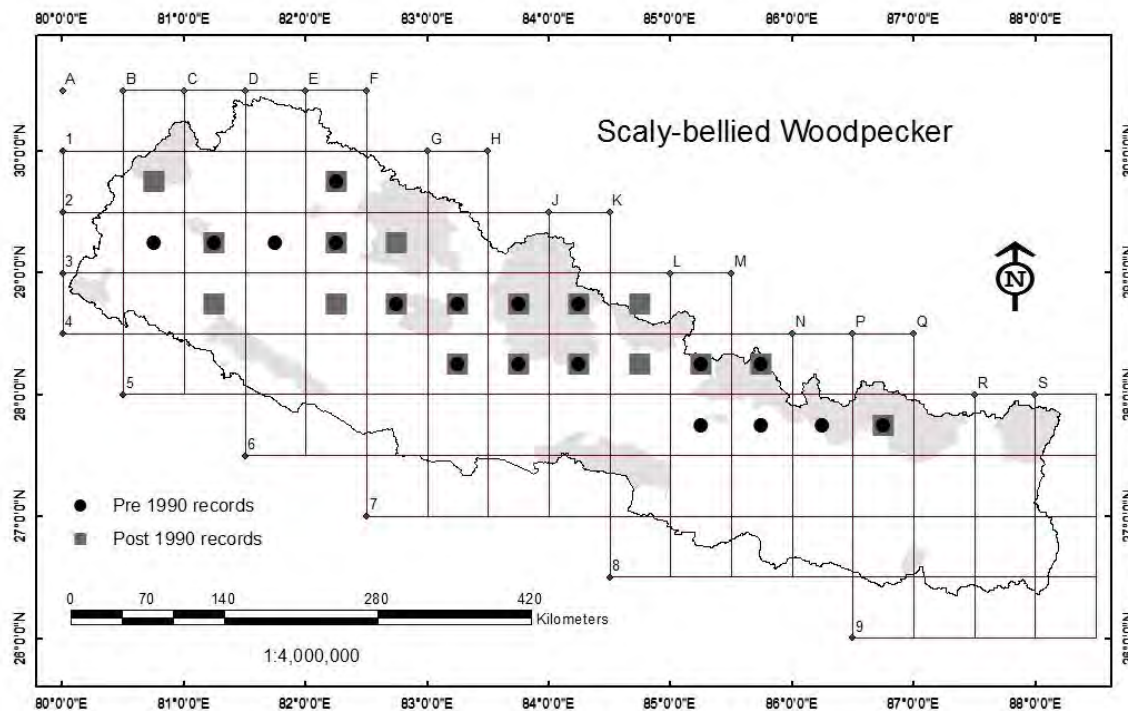
Common Name

Scaly-bellied Woodpecker (English),
Thulokatle Kaathphor (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes
Family: Picidae



Distribution



Scaly-bellied Woodpecker is a locally common or fairly common resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the Chameliya valley, Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) east to Taksindu, Solukhumbu District (Katuwal *et al.* 2013) in east-central Nepal.

The first Nepal record for the species was at Laurebina, in what is now Langtang National Park, in October 1935 (Bailey 1938).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was a scarce resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a locally fairly common resident and scarce east of the Langtang valley; the species had a widespread distribution from the far west to Solukhumbu District in east-central Nepal.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has not significantly changed compared to pre-1990, see map and text below.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: recorded in the Chameliya valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a rare resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001);

a frequent resident in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); a common resident in Rara National Park (Giri 2005, O'Connell Davidson 2009); recorded in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1995); a fairly common resident in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Subedi 2003) and in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); common in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4, K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Thakuri 2013), and a fairly common resident in Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001). The species was included in the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area checklist by Thapa and Karki (2005) without details.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded less widely outside the protected areas' system, probably because protected areas have been better recorded within its altitudinal range, see map and text below.

In the west records include from: Badimalika region (C3), Bajura District (Karki *et al.* 2003); Jumla District (E3) in April 1995 (White and White 1995); between Chaurikot (E3) Jumla District and Hurikot (F3) Dolpa District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); between Jiri Daha and Lagana, Nayakwada VDC (E4), Jajarkot District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Malika Dhuri (G5), Gulmi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009).

In the east records include: one below Lamjura Pass, just before Junbesi (P6), Solukhumbu District in November 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009) and two at Taksindu, Solukhumbu District in April 2013 (Katuwal *et al.* 2013).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Turkmenistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/13.

Elevation

Upper limit: 3700 m; lower limit: 1850 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out specifically for Scaly-bellied Woodpecker. Its population may be declining as a result of deforestation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Scaly-bellied Woodpecker inhabits forests of tall trees including spruce *Picea smithiana*, fir *Abies spectabilis*, juniper *Juniperus*, and pine *Pinus wallichiana* (Martens and Eck 1995); also coniferous/oak *Quercus* forest (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); usually on conifers (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species often keeps in pairs hitching up trees in jerky spurts. It may also feed on the ground (Fleming *et al.* 1976). A noisy species. It mainly feeds on ants, termites and larvae and pupae of wood-boring beetles; also berries, especially in winter (Ali and Ripley 1987). Scaly-bellied Woodpecker shows some altitudinal movements in winter (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Breeding has been proved in Khaptad National Park (Inskipp and Inskipp 1988 and van Riessen 1986).

Threats

Scaly-bellied Woodpecker is threatened to some degree by deforestation. However, as it mainly inhabits upper temperate and subalpine forests, it is much less at risk than forest species at lower altitudes.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Scaly-bellied Woodpecker. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Khaptad, Rara and Langtang National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna and Manaslu Conservation Areas, and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Scaly-bellied Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally common or fairly common resident, recorded from the far west to east-central Nepal. Since 1990 the species' distribution has not significantly changed compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas, but less widely outside the protected areas' system. Scaly-bellied Woodpecker is threatened to some degree by deforestation. However, as it mainly inhabits upper temperate and subalpine forests, it is much less at risk than forest species at lower altitudes. Its population may be declining as a result of deforestation, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskip/2009_006.pdf
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Picus xanthopygaeus (J. E. & G. R. Gray, 1847) LC

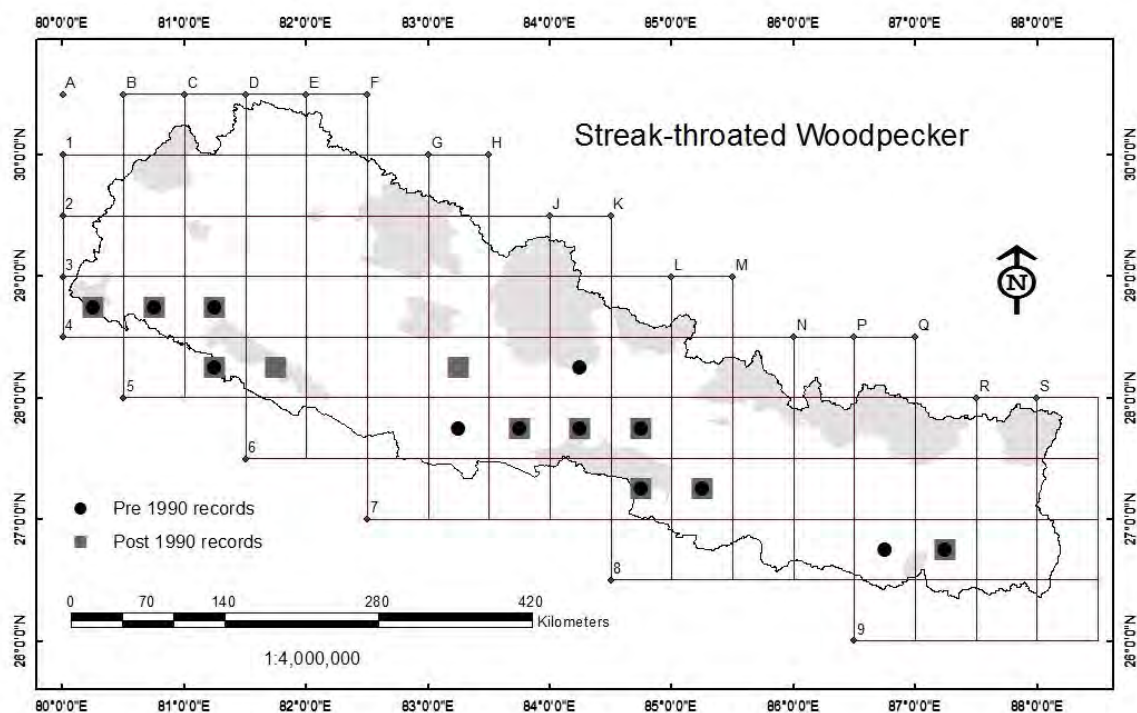
Common name

Streak-throated Woodpecker (English),
Katle Kaathphor (Nepali)

Order: Piciformes
Family: Picidae



Distribution



Streak-throated Woodpecker is a resident, locally common or fairly common in some protected areas and frequent in others, but uncommon outside the protected areas' system. It is widespread, with post-1990 records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008) in the far east.

Streak-throated Woodpecker was first recorded in Nepal by Hodgson in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as resident, occasionally seen in the terai and lower hills up to 465 m, and fairly common in Chitwan National Park.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has not significantly changed compared to pre-1990, see map and text below.

The species' status in protected areas post-1990 is: a common breeding resident Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a fairly common resident Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); common in Banke National Park (Acharya 2011); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001), and a frequent resident Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). The species has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010a), in Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), and at Bees

Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996, Giri 2008).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded less widely outside the protected areas' system, see map and text below. Post-1990 records follow.

In the west records include: a frequent resident in the Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1992, CSUWN and BCN 2012) and recorded at Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009).

In central Nepal records include: from Rautahat/Bara District (L7) in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013) and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include from: Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in April 1999 (Chaudhary 1999), February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005) and March 2010 (Baral 2010a); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010b), and in Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 465 m (-915 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Streak-throated woodpecker. Its population is probably declining because of loss of tropical broadleaved forest and secondary growth.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Streak-throated Woodpecker inhabits tropical open broadleaved forest and secondary growth (Grimmett *et al.* 1998); also dry scrub land of the terai (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Can be seen in mixed hunting parties of insectivorous birds such as wood-shrikes, minivets and drongos (Grimmett *et al.* 1998); also singly or in pairs (Fleming *et al.* 1976). After a grassland fire, the species was observed repeatedly flying to the ground from a 0.7 m high perch to catch insects. The insects were mainly caught by hawking in the air, and also on the ground (Baral 2001). It mainly feeds on the ground on ants and termites; also pecks at cattle dung for beetle larvae and takes flower nectar when available (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved at Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1961) and Koshi Camp, Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013).

Threats

Streak-throated Woodpecker is threatened by the complete removal of its tropical broadleaved forest and secondary growth habitat. Broadleaved tropical forests are especially at risk (Inskipp 1989). However, as it has adapted to secondary growth it can withstand some forest thinning.

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Streak-throated Woodpecker. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks and in Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Streak-throated Woodpecker has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, locally common or fairly common in some protected areas and occasionally recorded in others, but uncommon outside the protected areas' system. Since 1990 the species' distribution has not significantly changed compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas but less widely outside the protected areas' system. Streak-throated Woodpecker is threatened by the complete removal of its tropical broadleaved forest and secondary growth habitat and as a result its population is probably declining, although not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species. As it has adapted to secondary growth it can withstand some forest thinning.

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Passeriformes



Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*
Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

Abroscopus albogularis (F Moore, 1854) CR

Subspecies: *Abroscopus albogularis albogularis*

Common Name

Rufous-faced Warbler (English)

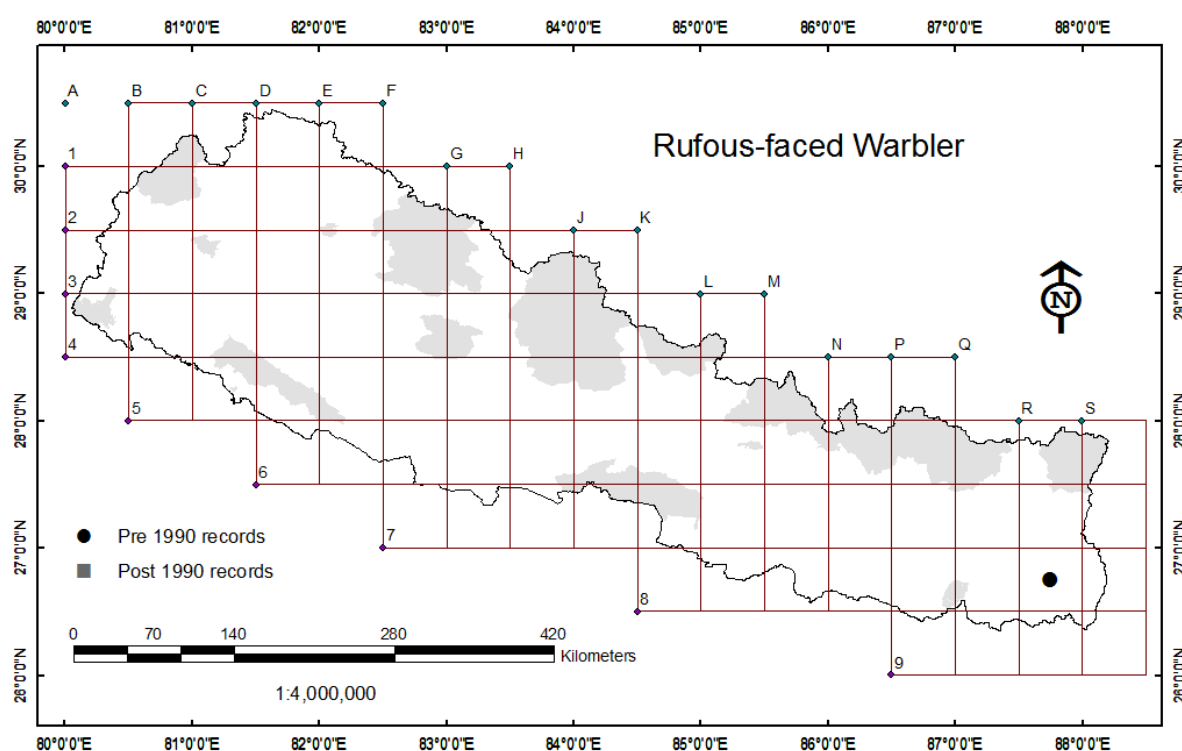
Kailokaane Phisto (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Rufous-faced Warbler is probably a former resident. There have been no known records since 1982. Only two Nepal records are known, both from the far east in Ilam District: an undated record (Fleming 1981) and three in March 1982 south of Ilam, Ilam District at about 305 m (Walinder and Sandgren 1983).

Globally Rufous-faced Warbler has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1200 m; lower limit: 305 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Rufous-faced Warbler, but observations and the lack of suitable habitat indicate that if the species still occurs, the population must be extremely small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 0; maximum population: 20

Habitat and Ecology

In Nepal Rufous-faced Warbler has been recorded in bamboo and scrub jungle in the terai (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). In the region the species frequents bamboo and scrub jungle and bamboo at the edges of moist deciduous and evergreen broadleaved forest in the tropical and subtropical zones (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects. The species is subject to altitudinal movements, but is not migratory (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Rufous-faced Warbler is seriously threatened by habitat loss and depletion. Its bamboo and scrub jungle habitat is now much degraded and reduced in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rufous-faced Warbler. There are no records from within the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rufous-faced Warbler has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. There are only two known Nepal records, both from the far east and the last in 1982. The species' habitat of bamboo and scrub jungle is now much reduced and continues to decline and to become more degraded. Rufous-faced Warbler numbers must therefore be extremely low and it is possible the species no longer occurs. Both records were outside the protected areas' system.

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Arachnothera longirostra (Latham, 1790) CR

Subspecies *Arachnothera longirostra longirostra*

Common Name

Little Spiderhunter (English)

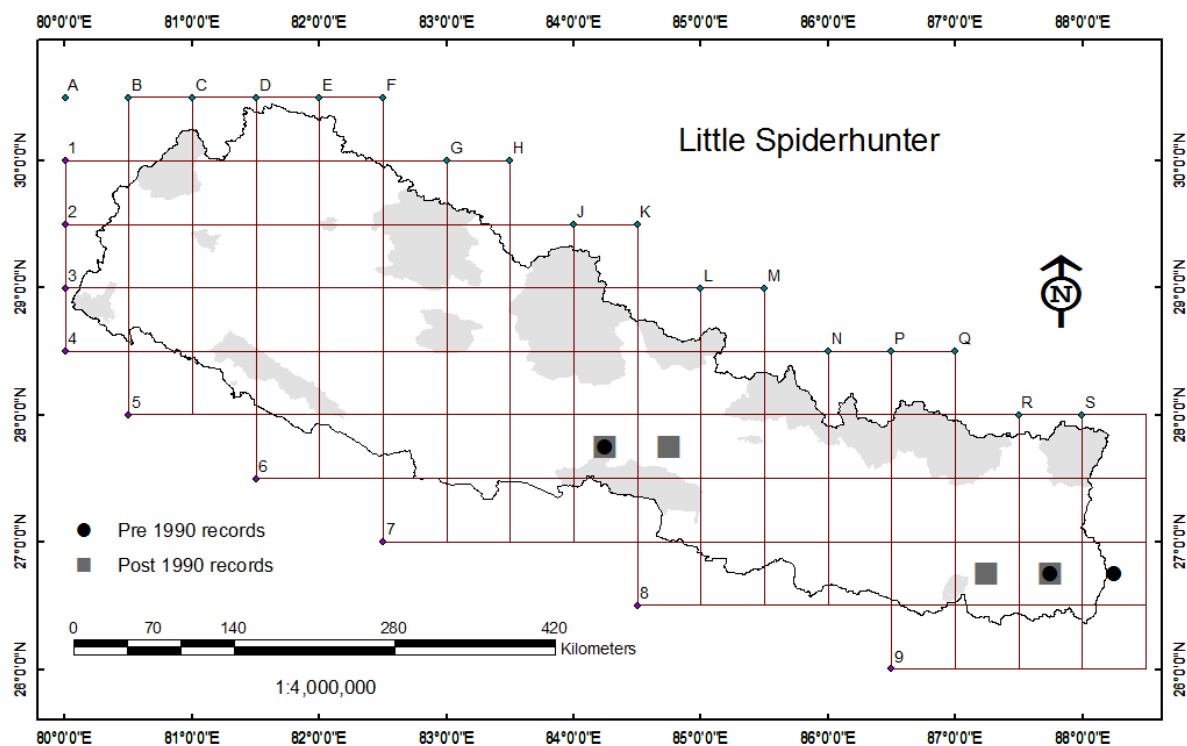
Lamothunde Makurichari (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Nectariniidae



Distribution



Little Spiderhunter is a very rare and local resident. The first Nepal record was one collected at Kankaimukh near the Kankai River, Jhapa District in February 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964, Fleming 1968).

There are a few records from north of Sunischare, Jhapa District: one in November 1978 (Cox 1978), three in January 1989 (Halliday 1989), one in December 1992 (Cox 1992) and two in March 1997 (Choudhary 1997), but no later reports from the area. The only other known record from the east is from east of Dharan, Morang District in June 1999 (Basnet 2003).

The species was described as a rare resident in Chitwan National Park by Gurung (1983). There are several later records from the park: in March 2001 (Choudhary 2004) and two birds west of Temple Tiger in January 2010 (Krishna Pariyar); also from the Churia hills - two by the Mule Khola and one by the Surung Khola in April 2009 (Subedi 2010), and recorded by the Harda Khola in April 2012 (Som GC).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Little Spiderhunter, but observations indicate that numbers must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 20; maximum population: 40

Habitat and Ecology

Little Spiderhunter frequents wild bananas in broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest, often along streams; it has once been found in Papaya *Carica papaya* gardens (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is resident. It feeds on nectar, insects and spiders (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Little Spiderhunter is seriously threatened by habitat loss; its favoured habitat has almost disappeared throughout Nepal.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Little Spiderhunter. The species is a rare resident in Chitwan National Park; there are no other known records from within the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Little Spiderhunter has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a very rare and local resident. There are no records from former localities in Jhapa District since 1997 and it is very likely that no suitable habitat remains here; indeed, its favoured habitat has almost disappeared throughout Nepal. Since 1990 it has been seen several times in Chitwan National Park, mainly in the Churia Hills, where it is very rare. No population surveys have been undertaken for the species, but observations indicate that numbers must be very small. There are no other known records from within the protected areas' system.

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Chrysomma altirostre Jerdon, 1862 CR
Subspecies *Chrysomma altirostre griseigularis*

Common Name

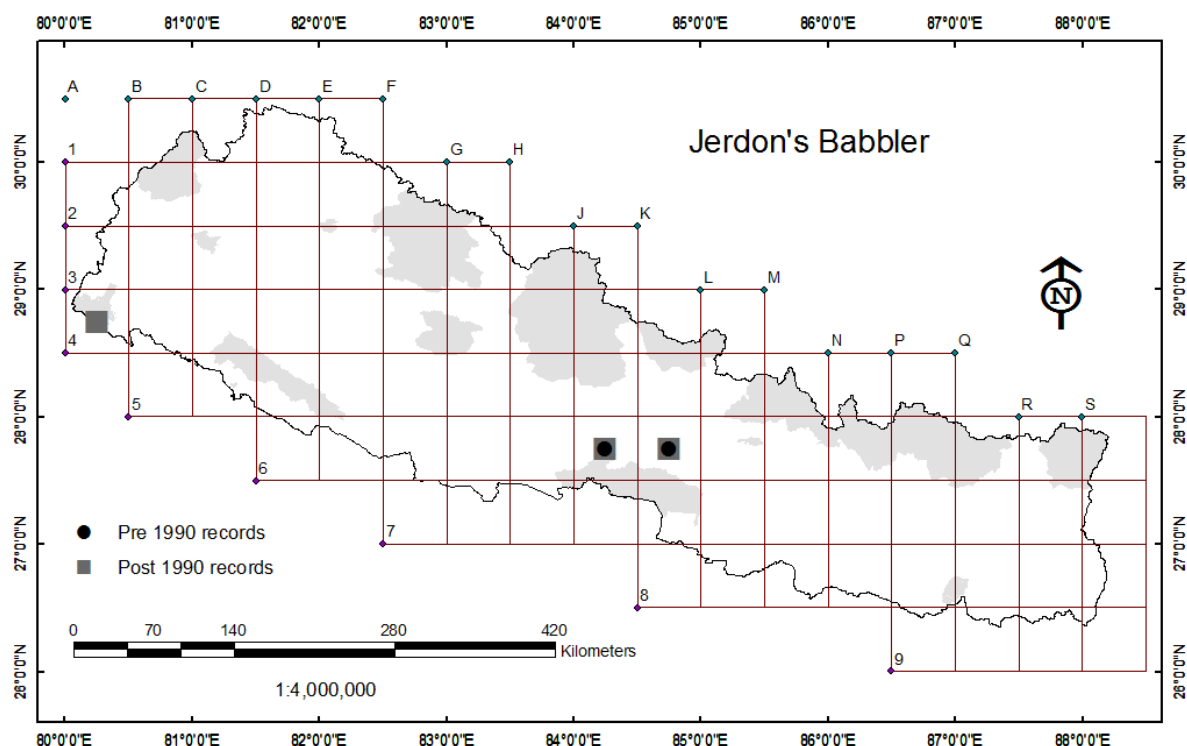
Jerdon's Babbler (English), Narkat Bhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Jerdon's Babbler is a very rare and very local resident. It has only recorded from two highly disjunct localities. The first Nepal record was in November 1989 in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Eames 1991), although it was probably overlooked previously. There are a number of later records from the park e.g. six in December 1989, also recorded in April 1990 (Baral and Eames 1991), three in January 1991 (Lama 1995), March 1993 (Lama 1993), five in February 2000 (Chaudhary 2004), one in April 2005 (Giri and Choudhary 2005) and two in March 2007 (GC 2010). It has mainly been recorded from the Sukhebar, Bhimle and Bhalu Khola grasslands, usually in March, until at least 2012; up to seven birds have been seen in Sukhebar (Hem Subedi).

The species has also been found at Rani Tal, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve: two in May 1998 (Giri 1998), two plus in April 2001 (Giri and Choudhary 2001, Inskipp and Inskipp 2001a,b) and four in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010).

Globally Jerdon's Babbler has also been recorded from India, Myanmar, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

No population surveys for Jerdon's Babbler have been carried out. However direct observations indicate that species' population is likely to be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Jerdon's Babbler inhabits reedbeds and tall grassland in the lowlands (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species seeks insects in reedbeds and mostly keeps out of sight, although the male climbs to the top of a tall reed to sing in the breeding season. It has a distinctive call (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is a sedentary resident (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Jerdon's Babbler is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of lowland grasslands. In some parts of parks and reserves it is threatened by insufficient protection resulting in overgrazing which has led to grassland degradation. It has also suffered from inappropriate management, such as untimely cutting and burning in protected areas. Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing. The species has only been recorded in two highly disjunct localities and interchange between them is very unlikely as the species is a sedentary resident.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Jerdon's Babbler. However, the species has only been recorded within the protected areas' system in Chitwan National Park and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR B2ab(iii), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Jerdon's Babbler has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria B2ab(iii) and D1. The species is a very rare and very local resident. Observations indicate that its population is extremely small and very likely to be declining. It has only been recorded from two highly disjunct localities and although these are protected areas, its lowland grassland habitat is seriously and increasingly threatened by loss and degradation.

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Dicaeum chrysorrheum Temminck, 1829 CR

Subspecies: *Dicaeum chrysorrheum chrysochlore*

Common Name

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker (English),

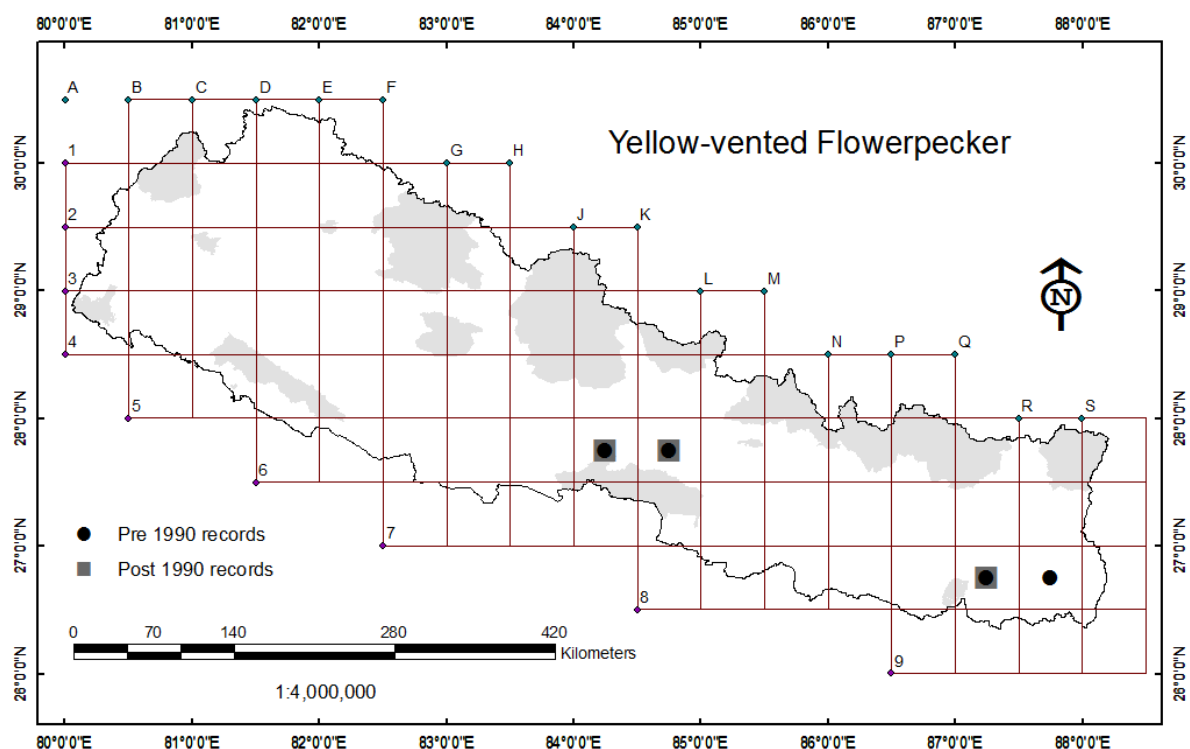
Peetnirgam Pushpakokil (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Dicaeidae



Distribution



Yellow-vented Flowerpecker is a very rare and very local resident. The first Nepal record was in 1974 (month unknown) along the Tamur R. near Dhankuta, Dhankuta District (Fleming 1974; Fleming *et al.* 1976).

There were several records from north of Sunischare, Jhapa District in March and April between 1977 and 1987 (de Witt 1982; Mills and Preston 1981; Fairbank 1982; Mills *et al.* 1982; Eve and Hibberd 1987), but none since. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered the species very local and rare, and probably resident.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker has also been recorded in the Churia Hills, Chitwan National Park: in March in 1985 and 1989 (Baral 1990), March 1997 (Harrap and Basnet 1997), three in February 2011 (Badri Chaudhary and Ramesh Chaudhary), and two in December 2011 (R. Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. and T. Inskipp, December 2011); also three in Madi in 2012 (Sunaina Raut and Bird Education Society). The only other post-1990 record is of two birds in Dharan forests, Sunsari District in April 1995 (Lama 1995).

Globally Yellow-vented Flowerpecker has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal

is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 400 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Yellow-vented Flowerpecker. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded (see Habitat and Ecology section), the limited number of observations and lack of suitable habitat indicate that it has decreased and its population must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker inhabits open forest and forest edges (Ali and Ripley 1987), especially where mistletoes Loranthaceae occur (Cheke *et al.* 2001). According to Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) the species occurs in open broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest; the species distribution in Nepal is linked to these forest types. It feeds on berries, especially Loranthaceae and presumably Viscaceae, small figs, nectar, small beetles and other insects (Cheke *et al.* 2001). The species is a small bird which frequents the tops of tall trees and so could be overlooked (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is a resident species (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The species is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forests. These forest types are now cover very limited and fragmented areas in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-vented Flowerpecker. There are a few recent records from Chitwan National Park, but all other known localities for the species are outside protected areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. The species is a very rare and very local resident. Since 1990 it is only known from several records in the Churia Hills of Chitwan National Park and one record from Dharan forests, Sunsari District. The species is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forests, which now cover very limited and fragmented areas in Nepal. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and the lack of suitable habitat indicate that the species has decreased and its population must be very small.

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Dicaeum cruentatum (Linnaeus, 1758) CR

Subspecies: *Dicaeum cruentatum cruentatum*

Common Name

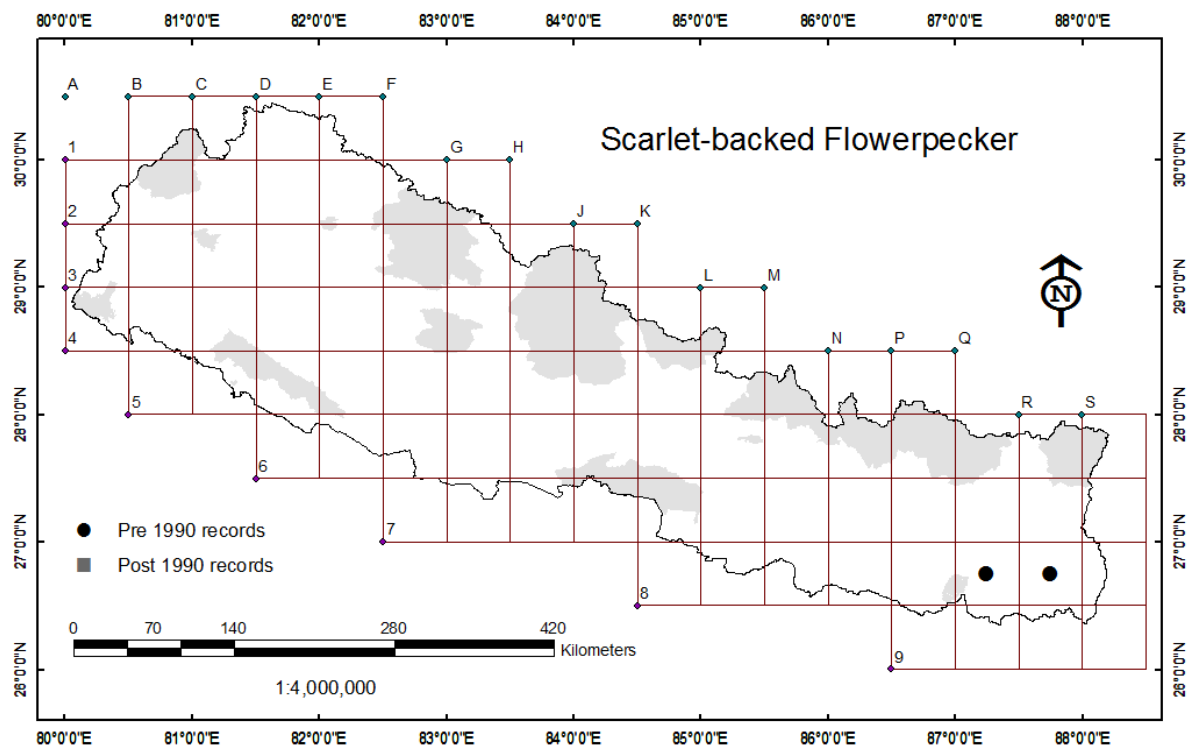
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (English),
Ratodhade Pushpakoil (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Dicaeidae



Distribution



Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker is probably a former resident. The species has not been recorded since 1979. There are only two Nepal records, both from the far east. The species was first recorded from Ilam District at the unusually high altitude of 2135 m (undated) (Fleming *et al.* 1976) and three were seen at Dharan, Sunsari District at 305 m in April 1979 (Redman and Murphy 1979; Redman *et al.* 1984).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 2135 m; lower limit: 305 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. Although direct observations indicate the population is likely to be extremely small and the species may no longer occur in Nepal, it could be overlooked as it is a small species and frequents the tops of high trees.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker has been recorded at the edges of tropical and subtropical forests in Nepal. Elsewhere in the subcontinent it frequents open forest, orchards and groves in cultivation (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species feeds on berries of mistletoe Loranthaceae, small figs, green seeds, nectar, insects, spiders (Cheke *et al.* 2001). It is a resident species (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Unknown. Although Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker has been recorded in Nepal at the edges of tropical and subtropical forests which are decreasing, elsewhere in the subcontinent the species is found in secondary habitats so it seems unlikely to be declining because of habitat loss.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. Both records of the species were outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria D1. Numbers of the species appear to be extremely low and it is probable that it no longer occurs. The last known record was in 1979. The reasons for the species' apparent decline are unknown. The only records of the species were outside the protected areas' system.

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Emberiza aureola Pallas, 1773 CR

Subspecies *Emberiza aureola aureola*

Common Name

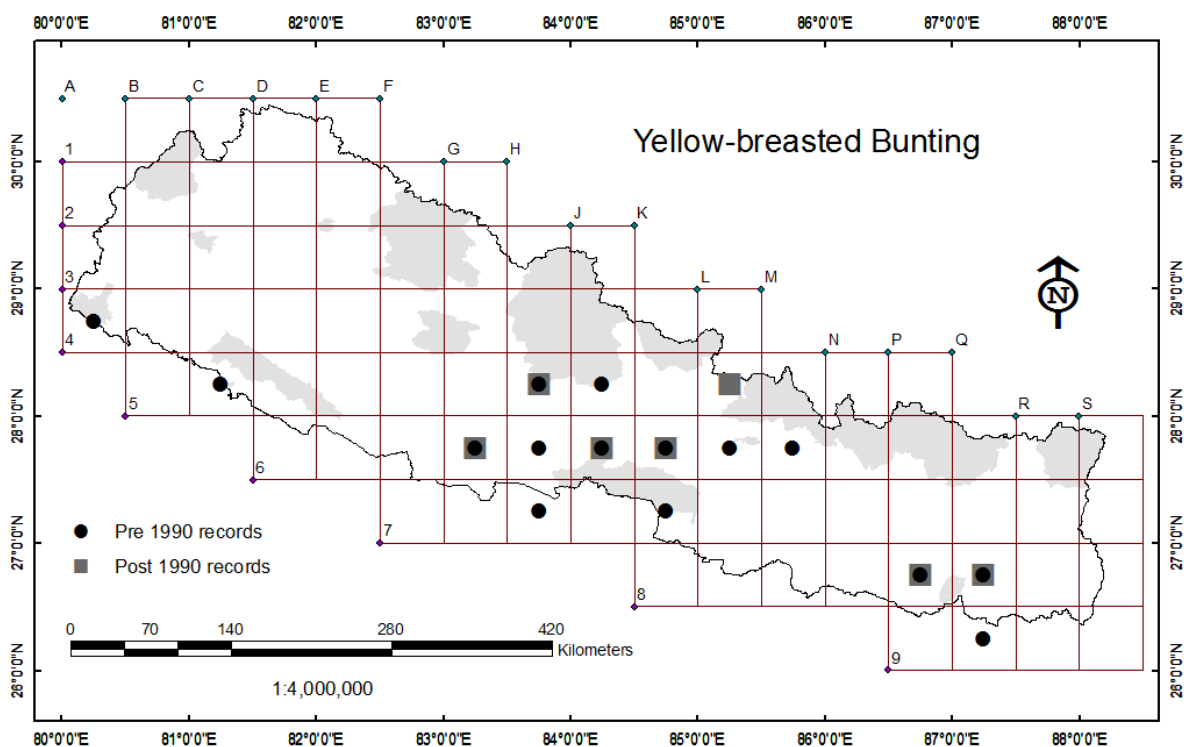
Yellow-breasted Bunting (English), Bagale Bagedi (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Emberizidae



Distribution



Yellow-breasted Bunting is a local passage migrant and winter visitor.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

In the 1970s and 1980s it was quite widespread and locally common, especially on passage (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), but has sharply declined since. Scully (1879) found it a winter visitor in flocks to the Kathmandu Valley. Proud (1955) also described it as a winter visitor to the Valley and in large flocks from the end of November to the end of April, sometimes into May. However, by 1990 it was mainly a passage migrant there, with some birds overwintering (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); there are no known records from the Valley for at least ten years.

Gregory-Smith and Batson (1976) reported flocks of up to 400 were regularly seen in the eastern terai from November to April, but the species is not recorded there today. Huge flocks were recorded near Koshi Barrage and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in the past: over 7000 in March and April 1982 (Eames 1982); thousands in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), 600 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), 300 in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), and hundreds in sugar cane fields in 2008 (Tribe 2008), but there are no known later

records from the Koshi area.

Enormous flocks were reported flying to roost in Chitwan National Park in spring 1982 e.g. Inskipp and Inskipp (1982), with the maximum of 3500 in March (Turton and Speight 1982). Gurung (1983) described it as a winter visitor seen occasionally, but there are few recent records from the park, e.g. 20 in December 2001 (Naylor *et al.* 2002) and singles in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005) and in December 2008 (Bird Education Society). It has also been recently recorded from the park buffer zone: 10-15 birds near Juwani in May 2010 (Kapil Pokharel) and one at Sauraha in April 2012 (Bird Education Society).

Yellow-breasted Bunting has been regularly recorded from fields at the northern end of Phewa Tal, Kaski District e.g. Inskipp *et al.* (1971), Fairbank (1980), Alind (1986) and also between 2001 and 2009 when there was the maximum of 100+ in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), a minimum of five in November 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005), six to seven in January 2011 (Jhalak Chaudhary) and 300+ in January 2016 (Manshanta Ghimire).

The only other recent records are a flock of 2000 north-west of Lumbini, Kapilvastu District in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006) and one bird at unusually high altitude in Langtang village, Langtang National Park in May 2003, presumably a migrant (Giri and Choudhary 2003).

The species was recorded much more widely in the past, for example there are records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Schaaf *et al.* 1980), Bardia District terai (Egger *et al.* 1990), Begnas Tal, Kaski District (Inskipp *et al.* 1971, Hall 1981), and Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District (Mills and Preston 1981), but there are no known records from these localities recently.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong (China), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Latvia, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m (- 3400 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Yellow-breasted Bunting, but observations indicate that numbers must be quite low.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 250; maximum population: 2000

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-breasted Bunting inhabits cultivation and grasslands (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It feeds on seeds (rice, grass etc) and occasionally insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Trapping for sale to restaurants is a major threat to this species e.g. at Koshi. Yellow-breasted Bunting is also threatened by changes in agricultural practices since the 1980s, notably sharp increases in pesticide use (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-breasted Bunting. Recently the only protected areas where it has been recorded are Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, and marginally in Langtang National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2acde?) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Endangered (EN)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-breasted Bunting has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2acde? The species is a local and mainly a passage migrant, with smaller numbers overwintering. The population has reduced and the number of localities has declined since 1990. In the 1970s and 1980s it was quite widespread and locally common, especially on passage in the Kathmandu Valley, Chitwan National Park and near Koshi Barrage/Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve but has sharply declined since and is now rare in these localities. There are several sites where it was recorded in the 1970s and/or 1980s, but there are no records since 1990. The species is seriously threatened by trapping for sale to restaurants and by changes in agricultural practices since the 1980s, notably sharp increases in pesticide use.

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Gampsorhynchus rufulus Blyth, 1844 CR

Subspecies *Gampsorhynchus rufulus rufulus*

Common Name

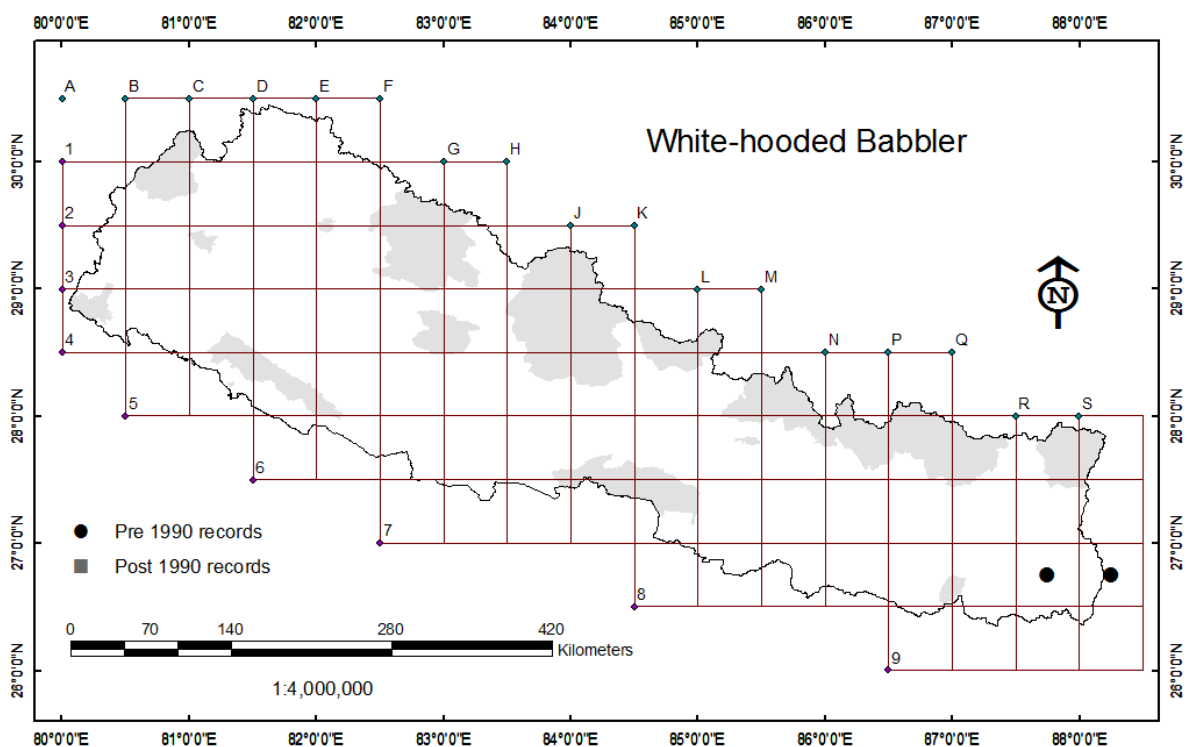
White-hooded Babbler (English), Setotauke Bhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



White-hooded Babbler is probably a former resident or possibly a former winter visitor; there have been no records since 1989. Only two Nepal records are known, both from the far east: one seen north of Bhadrapur, Jhapa District in February 1965 (Fleming and Traylor 1968) and five at Soyang, Ilam District in January 1989 (Shakya 1989).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1400 m; lower limit: 600 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for White-hooded Babbler, but observations indicate that if the species still occurs in Nepal, the population must be extremely small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 30

Habitat and Ecology

White-hooded Babbler inhabits bamboo in moist tropical and subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest and secondary growth in the evergreen biotope (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is resident and feeds on insects and also possible on berries (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

White-hooded Babbler's habitats of bamboo in tropical and subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest are highly threatened by loss and depletion. These forest types now cover very limited and fragmented areas in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out for White-hooded Babbler. The areas where the species has been recorded lie outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-hooded Babbler has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. Only two records of the species are known and it was last recorded in January 1989. Observations of the species indicate that if it still occurs the population is likely to be extremely small. Its forest habitats are highly threatened by loss and depletion and are now fragmented areas of very limited extent. The areas where the species has been recorded lie outside the protected areas' system.

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<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/sowb/countries/Nepal2010report.pdf>

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Garrulax ruficollis (Jardine & Selby, 1838) CR

Common Name

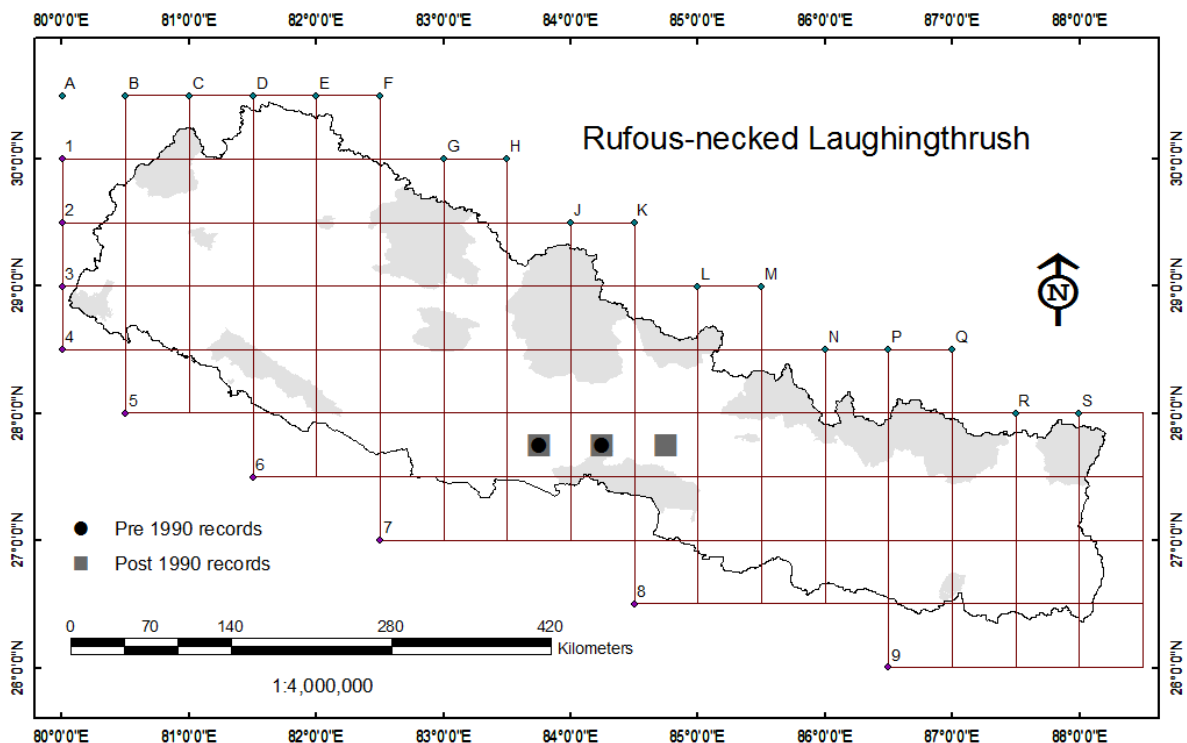
Rufous-necked Laughingthrush (English), Kalikanthe Toriganda (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Rufous-necked Laughingthrush is a very local resident, present in small numbers. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Gray and Gray 1847). Being an eastern species, it seems likely that the species once had a much greater distributional range than at present, possibly from Chitwan eastwards to Jhapa District (Baral and Chaudhary in prep.).

Up to 1990 it was chiefly recorded near Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge, Chitwan National Park where it was resident and reported in small flocks e.g. Hoare (1977), Inskipp and Inskipp (1980), Turton and Speight (1982), Goodwin (1986), Blanchon and Dubois (1987); breeding was proved in the area (Gurung 1983).

Post 1990 within Chitwan National Park it is mostly found in the western section: west of Kamal Tal with higher numbers west of Bhimle guard post and the Budhi Rapti west to the Temple Tiger area which is close to the western border of the park (Baral and Chaudhary in prep.). Although the species was previously more common in the Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge and Tiger Tops Tented Camp areas e.g. six in March 2007 (GC 2010) and 12 in December 2008 (Baral 2009), severe monsoon flooding in 2010 seriously damaged the species' habitat in these areas (Baral and Chaudhary in prep.). However, four birds were seen west of Tiger Tops in January 2011 (Tika Giri) and the large number of 37 was sighted near Tiger Tops Tented Camp in March 2011 (D. B. Chaudhary)

indicating the habitat may be recovering. A total of 16 birds was recorded from the Devi Tal area in March 2005, but habitat in this area has also drastically changed because of flooding in two consecutive monsoon seasons in 2010 and 2011. The species has also been recently reported in the Dhakre Khola area (two in April 2007) (Baral and Chaudhary in prep.) and up to ten birds have been regularly seen until at least early 2011 around the Temple Tiger area (Bikram Dhungana pers. comm. to H. S. Baral 2011). A total of 15 birds was sighted by the Budhi Rapati Khola near Sukhebhar in March 2012 (Som G C). There is one record of the species from the Mule Khola, Churia Hills in the eastern section of the park (Som G.C., Fuleshwor Chaudhary, Tek Bahadur Gurung, Raju Tamang, Anil Gurung); within Nepal this is the most easterly record of the species in Nepal (Baral and Chaudhary in prep.).

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush has colonized community forests along and west of the Narayani River and in the park's buffer zone where habitat is better protected than previously. Within the Namuna, Community Forest, Nawalparasi District the relatively large number of 25 birds was recorded in March 2010 (Chaudhary 2007, 2010). Within this community forest, Damaru Ghari is the most important area where 16 birds were found (D. B. Chaudhary pers. obs.). Up four flocks of the species were recorded in Krishnasar Community Forest and three flocks in Gundrahi Dhakaha Community Forest; both forests lie in Nawalparasi District and adjoin the Namuna Community Forest (D. B. Chaudhary pers. obs.). A flock of 19 birds was seen at Ratauli village, Nawalparasi District, also in the buffer zone (Anil Gurung). The species was previously also recorded from Tamaspur just to the west of the park in the park buffer zone in Chitwan District, e.g. Redman and Murphy (1979), Fairbank (1980), and Mills and Preston (1981); this is the western limit of the species' range. However, current occurrence here needs confirmation.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

Observations and the lack of suitable habitat indicate that numbers must be small and declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 200; maximum population: 500

Habitat and Ecology

In Nepal Rufous-necked Laughingthrush prefers grassland/forest edge moist habitat. Grasslands where the species was most frequently recorded consist mainly of *Phragmites karka*/Saccharum arundinacea and *S. spontaneum*/Narenga porphyrocoma. Within the park, forest habitat was either tropical Sal or tropical mixed evergreen forests with dense undergrowth. However outside the park in community forests in the buffer zone, the species' habitat mainly consisted of riverine forests with young *Acacia catechu* trees densely mixed with varieties of shrubs and grasses (Baral and Chaudhary in prep.). The species is resident and not known to undergo movements. It eats insects, molluscs, seeds and berries (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The small population and small area of habitat occupancy make Rufous-necked Laughingthrush highly susceptible to threats (Baral and Chaudhary in prep.). The species is seriously threatened by habitat loss and alteration. It favours mid-successional vegetation which is rapidly being lost by natural succession and in some areas by the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha*. Fires and naturally occurring frequent flooding may threaten the species and late grassland burning could destroy its nests (Baral and Chaudhary in prep.).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rufous-necked Laughingthrush. The species is now mainly found outside the protected areas' system, in community forests adjacent to Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR B2ab(iii)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria B2ab(iii). The species is a very local resident, now known from less than five locations. Observations and the lack of suitable habitat indicate that the numbers must be small. Severe monsoon flooding in 2010 severely damaged its habitat in Chitwan National Park and its population there is likely to have declined as a result. It has colonized three community forests where are better protected than previously and lie along the Narayani River in the buffer zone. The species is highly susceptible to threats because of its small population and small area of habitat occupancy. The species is seriously threatened by habitat loss and alteration. It favours mid-successional vegetation which is rapidly being lost by natural succession and in some areas by the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha*. Fires and naturally occurring frequent flooding may threaten the species and late grassland burning could destroy its nests. The species is now mainly found outside the protected areas' system.

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Heterophasia annectans (Blyth, 1847) CR

Subspecies *Heterophasia annectans annectans*

Common Name

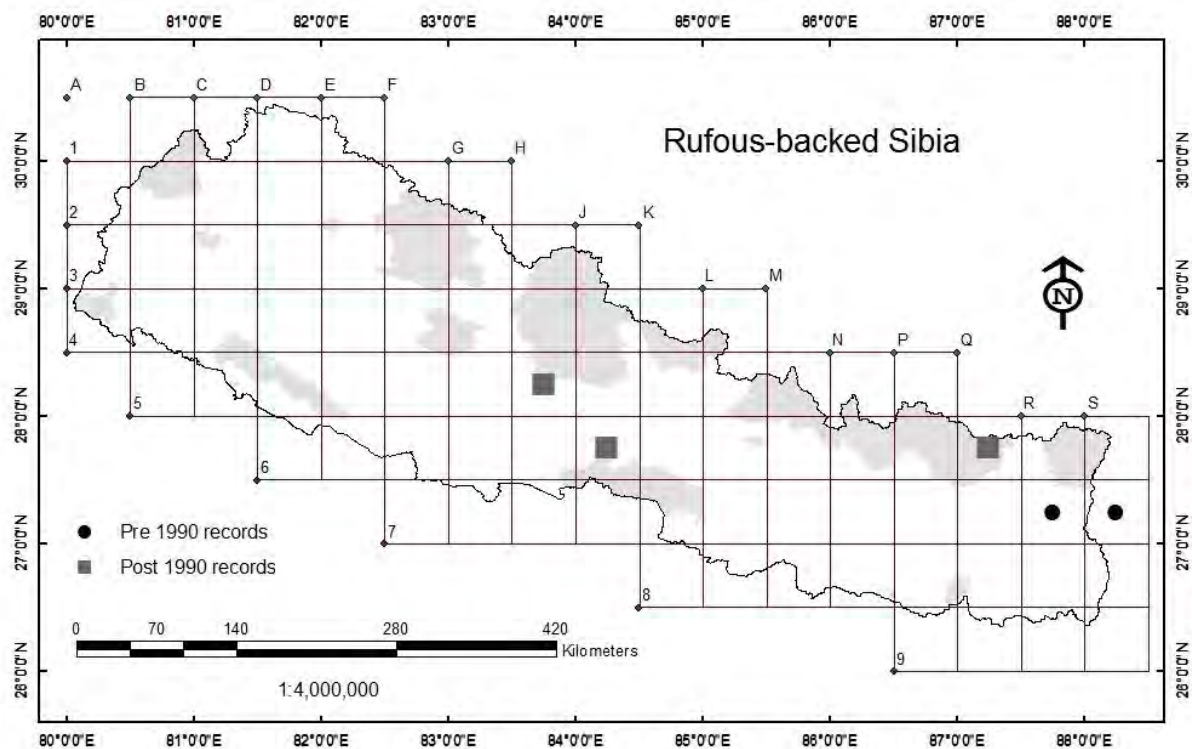
Rufous-backed Sibia (English), Sano Sibia (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Rufous-backed Sibia is very rare and local and probably resident. There are no known records since 1999. The first Nepal record of the species was near Mai Pokhari, Ilam District in September 1978 (de Witt 1982, Fleming *et al.* 1984). It was also reported from the far east near Phidim, Panchthar District in November 1978 (Cox 1978, Hall 1978), and at Hange Tham, Ilam District in March 1989 (Guinan and Dodman 1989). A single bird was located at Ghorepani, Annapurna Conservation Area in April 1999, a notable westward expansion of the species' range (Giri and Choudhary 2000, Basnet 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 2650 m; lower limit: 1450 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Rufous-backed Sibia, but the lack of observations indicates the population must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 30

Habitat and Ecology

Rufous-backed Sibia inhabits dense, humid, broadleaved evergreen forest in the subtropical and temperate zones (Grimmett et al. 1998). The species is resident subject to some minor local altitudinal movements (Rasmussen and Anderton (2005). It feeds on beetles and other insects; also seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Rufous-backed Sibia is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of forest in the subtropical and lower temperate zone, where its habitat is much reduced and fragmented, although significant suitable areas of suitable habitat may still remain in the upper temperate zone (over 2400 m) (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rufous-backed Sibia. No records are known from within the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rufous-backed Sibia has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. It is very rare and local and probably resident. There are no known records since 1999. The lack of records indicates that its population must be very small. Its habitat of dense humid, broadleaved evergreen forest is seriously threatened by forest loss and degradation in the subtropical and lower temperate zones where this habitat type is now much reduced and fragmented, although significant areas of suitable habitat may still remain in the upper temperate zone (above 2400 m). No records are known from within the protected areas' system.

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Heterophasia picaoides (Hodgson, 1839) CR

Subspecies *Heterophasia picaoides picaoides*

Common Name

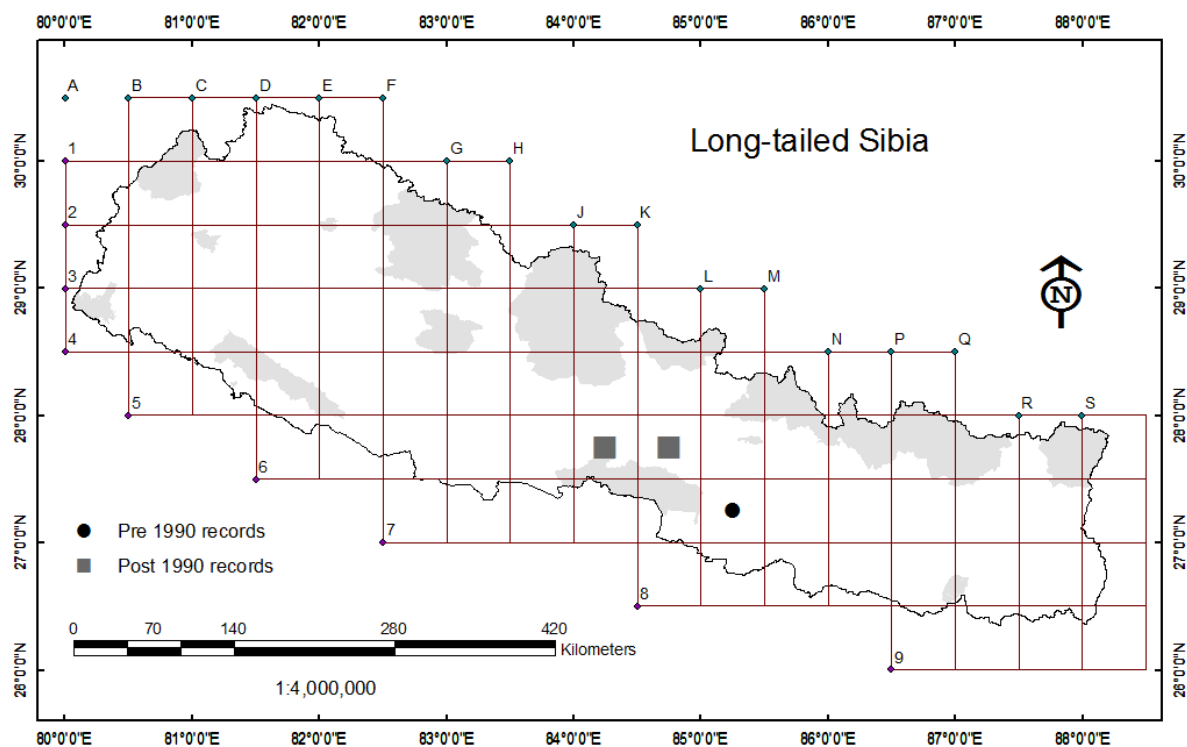
Long-tailed Sibia (English), Lampuchhre Sibia (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Long-tailed Sibia is very rare, very local and probably resident. The latest known record was in 2006. The species was first recorded from Nepal in the 19th century (date unknown) (Hodgson 1839) in the terai and lower hills (dates and further locality details are unknown) (Hodgson 1829). It was described as 'tolerably common about Nimboatar', Makwanpur District in winter 1877 (Scully 1879).

There were no later records of the species until two were reported near Sauraha, Chitwan National Park in March 1992 (S. Basnet and B. Subba in Inskipp 2006). Later one was reported from the Churia hills, Chitwan National Park in December 1996, but very few details were provided (Giri 1997). The only other record known is of two seen by the Mule Khola, upper Churia hills, Chitwan National Park in April 2006 (Basnet 2007, Subedi 2010).

Globally Long-tailed Sibia has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 900 m; lower limit: 305 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for the species. The small number of observations and the lack of suitable habitat suggest that numbers must be extremely small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 20

Habitat and Ecology

Long-tailed Sibia inhabits dense or open broadleaved evergreen forest in tropical and subtropical zones (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects, flower-buds and seeds, and regularly on nectar of *Salmalia*, *Erythrina*, *Prunus* and other flowers in company with drongos and bulbuls (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident subject to some altitudinal movements with the seasons (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The species is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest in the tropical and subtropical zones. These forest types now cover very limited and fragmented areas in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Long-tailed Sibia. All known records of the species since 1992 have been in Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Long-tailed Sibia was assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. The species is very rare, very local and probably resident. The latest known record was in 2006. Its habitats of tropical and subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest are seriously threatened and have declined so that they now cover very limited and fragmented areas; they are also threatened by degradation, especially outside protected areas. The small number of observations and the lack of suitable habitat suggest that numbers must be extremely small. Since the 19th century, known records of the species have been in Chitwan National Park.

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Irena puella (Latham, 1790) CR

Subspecies *Irena puella sikkimensis*

Common Name

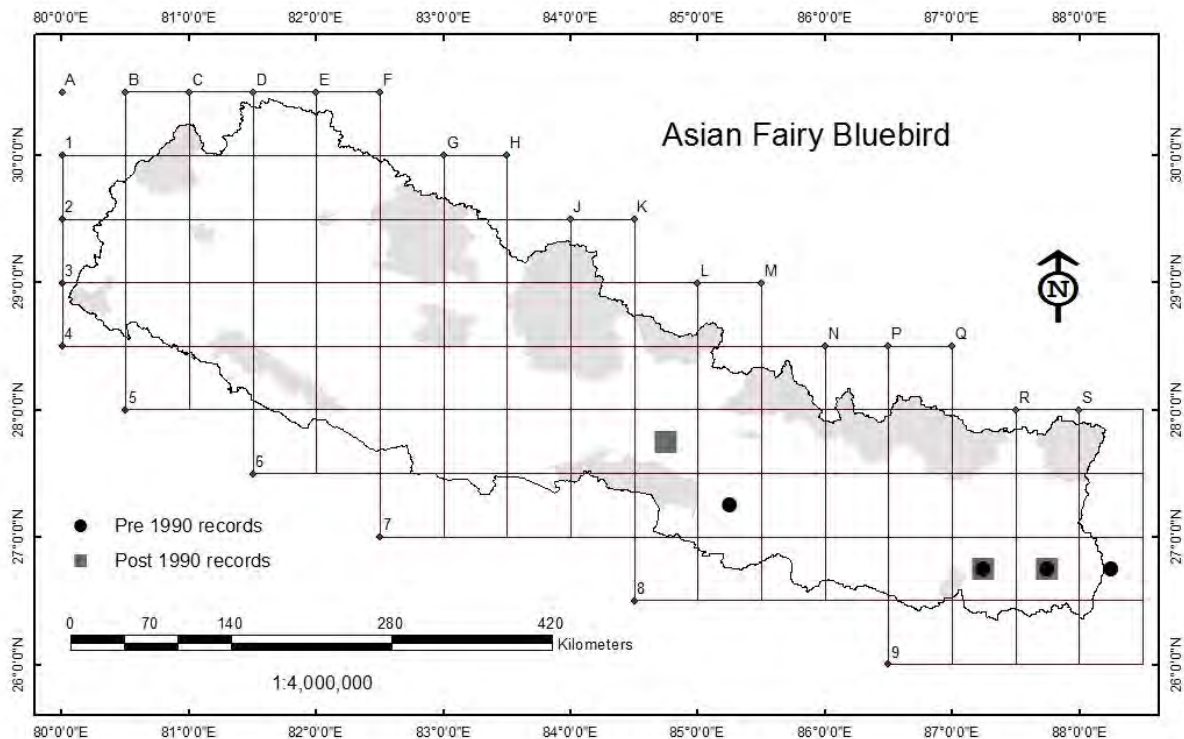
Asian Fairy Bluebird (English), Nilchari (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Accipitridae



Distribution



Asian Fairy Bluebird is very rare. The first Nepal record was north-west of Sunischare, Jhapa District in January 1965 (Fleming and Traylor 1968). It was regularly recorded there later in small numbers e.g. in February 1974 (Madge *et al.* 1974), March 1981 Inskipp and Inskipp (1981), April 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981), and March 1989 (Halliday and McKnight 1990), but there are no known records since June 1997 when two were seen (Choudhary 1997).

There are two records from near Hetauda, Makwanpur District: in December 1971 (Hopkins 1971) and in March 1978 (Lindvall and Dhital 1978). The species was described as an uncommon resident in Morang District in 1976 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976). Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered Asian Fairy Bluebird to be scarce and found in the terai and low hills of Ilam and Morang Districts. Other records from the far east are singles on Hans Pokhara Danda, Ilam District in March 1989 (Guinan and Dodman 1989) and at Sukhani, Jhapa District in March 1997 (Hathan Chaudhary). The only other record is one in Chitwan Gaida Lodge garden, Sauraha (K6), Chitwan District in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in October 2013 (Tika Giri).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland),

India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for the species. Only small numbers have been recorded by direct observations and very little suitable habitat is left in Nepal, so the population is likely to be extremely small. Its population has declined since the 1970s.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 0; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Asian Fairy Bluebird inhabits dense tropical forests: broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forests in the lowlands and lower hills. The species feeds on fruit, berries and nectar and is especially fond of figs. It probes into the blossoms of *Erythrina* and *Grevillea* for nectar and also takes insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). Asian Fairy Bluebird is resident subject to seasonal wanderings (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Asian Fairy Bluebird is seriously threatened by loss, fragmentation and degradation of tropical broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forests. Remaining areas of suitable habitat are small and fragmented (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Asian Fairy Bluebird. All records of the species have been from outside the protected areas' system, except for one in Chitwan National Park buffer zone.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Asian Fairy Bluebird has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. It is very rare. There are only two post-1990 records. The species' habitats of dense tropical broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forests now comprise very limited and fragmented areas in Nepal. Asian Fairy Bluebird is seriously threatened by further loss, fragmentation and deterioration of these forests, especially as it has only been recorded outside the protected areas' system (with the exception of one in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in 2013). Only small numbers have been recorded by direct observations and very little suitable habitat is left in Nepal, so the population is likely to be extremely small. It has declined since the 1970s.

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Lanius excubitor Linnaeus, 1758 CR

Subspecies *Lanius excubitor lahtora*

Common Name

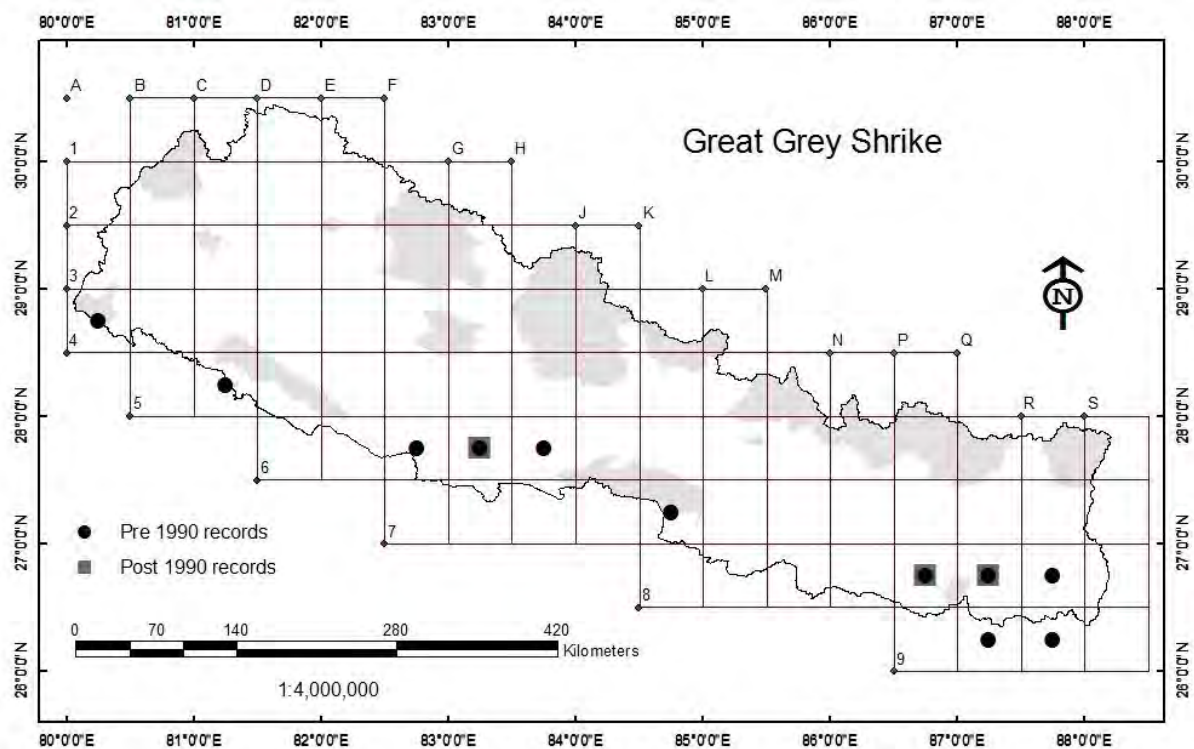
Great Grey Shrike (English), Raj Bhadrai (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Laniidae



Distribution



Great Grey Shrike is a rare and local resident in the terai. The first Nepal record was near Gauhna village, Bardia District where a specimen was collected in February 1969 (Nepali and Fleming 1971).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a locally distributed resident in the terai near the Indian border. It was fairly common year-round in Kapilvastu District in the 1970s (Cox 1978), one or two were seen there in April 1993 (Baral 1993) but none were found in a 2008 bird survey of Kapilvastu and Dang Deukhuri Districts (Cox 2008).

Gregory-Smith and Batson (1976) reported it as widespread, but uncommon near Koshi and elsewhere in the south-east in the 1970s. Subsequently it was recorded several times near Koshi e.g. Robson (1979), Eames (1982) and Andersen *et al.* (1986) and one was seen between Loki and Itahari, Sunsari District in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982). However there are very few recent records from the south-east terai: e.g. singles at Haripur, Koshi in June 1993 (Hathan Chaudhary), and February 2009 and February 2014 (Badri Chaudhary).

No recent records are known from elsewhere in Nepal. There were a few single records from localities in the terai in the 1970 e.g. four seen near Bhairawa, Rupandehi District in January 1971 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971), Bardia National Park in 1979 (Dinerstein 1979) and Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District in 1979 (Redman and Murphy

1979), but no later reports from these sites.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bermuda (to UK), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Western Sahara, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Great Grey Shrike, but the lack of recent records indicates that the population must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Great Grey Shrike inhabits dry open scrub country and bushes at cultivation edges (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It eats locusts, ants, caterpillars, beetles and bugs (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident with local movements (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Great Grey Shrike is seriously threatened by habitat loss and degradation, chiefly as a result of agricultural intensification; it is also possibly at risk from pesticides (Cox 2008, Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Great Grey Shrike. It has not been recorded within the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ace? C2a(i) D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Great Grey Shrike has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ace?, C2a(i) and D1. The

species is now a rare and local resident in the terai, with a reduced distributional range and in lower numbers compared to the 1970s. The lack of recent records indicates that the population must be very small. The species is seriously threatened by habitat loss and degradation, chiefly as a result of agricultural intensification; it also possibly at risk from pesticides. It has not been recorded within the protected areas' system.

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Megalurus palustris Horsfield, 1821 CR

Common Name

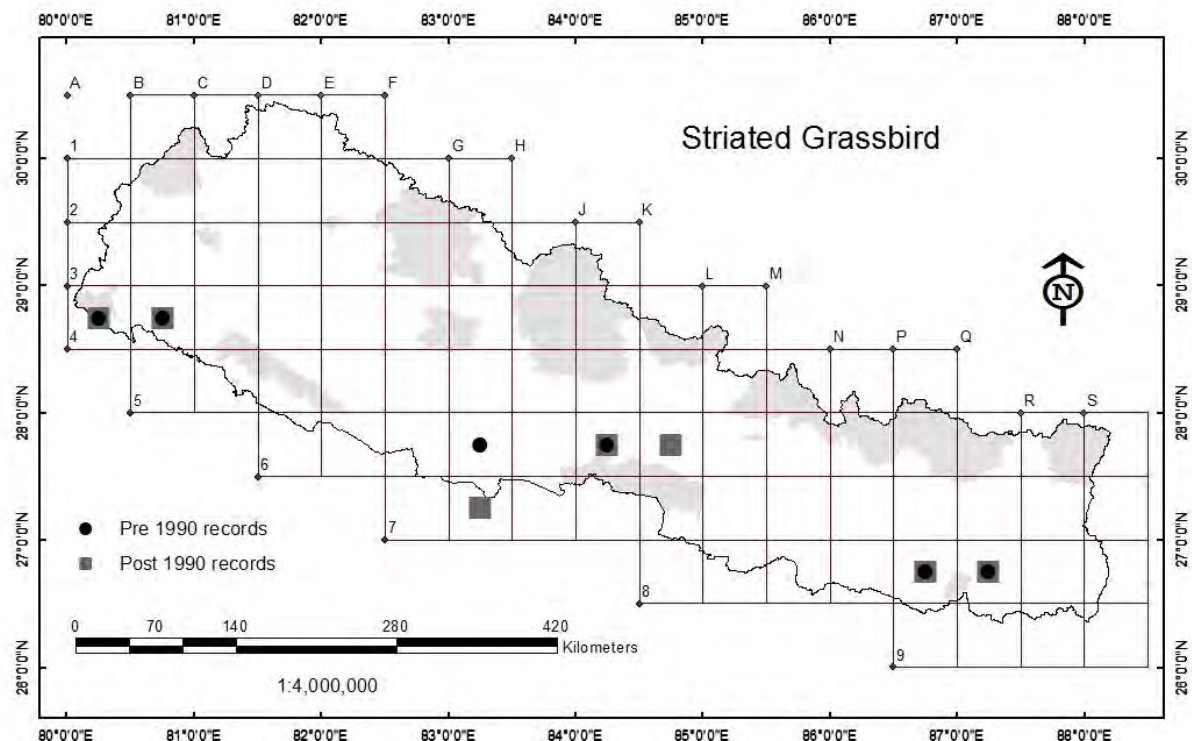
Striated Grassbird (English), Narkat Ghaanshari (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Striated Grassbird is a rare and local resident. The first Nepal record of the species was from the Koshi River where a specimen was collected in February 1938 (Bailey 1938). Rand and Fleming (1957) recorded a specimen collected from Dhanghadi, Kailali District in December 1952 and two from Emelie, Kanchanpur District in January 1953 and report the species was 'seen occasionally' but there are no later records from either area.

There is a single records from Belatari, Rupandehi District (Nepali 1982), but no subsequent reports from there. The first record from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve was of two birds in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982).

Gunung (1983) described it as a rare resident and possibly breeding in Chitwan National Park (1983).

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve was a former stronghold of the species. It was found to be common there in May 1982 when the maximum of 30 was recorded in one day from elephant back (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982); the birds were seen in an area that was flooded in the 1986 monsoon which resulted in the river changing its course markedly. The species was frequently reported from Koshi Barrage in the late 1970s and 1980s e.g. Redman and Murphy (1979), Turton and Speight (1982), Heath (1986) and Guinan and Dodman (1989). The

maximum of ten birds was found there in February 1981 (Baker 1981).

The species has declined and its distributional range has reduced since at least the 1980s. It is still most frequent at Koshi where it occurs in smaller numbers than in the past e.g. eight in December 1992 (Baral 1992), four in February 1998 (Prince 1998), five in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999a), 12 in February 2000 (Choudhary 2000), three in February 2002 (Ofner and Basnet 2002), four in February 2003 (Baral 2003), four in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), two in February 2006 (GC 2010), five in March 2007 (GC 2010), six in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), two in December 2009 (Giri 2009a) and one in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp).

It is still present in Chitwan National Park where it remains rare: one or two birds have been regularly seen there (Choudhary 1999b, H.S. Baral pers. obs., Chaudhary 2004).

Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve now appears to support the main population of the species. Two birds have been regularly recorded there (e.g. Baral 1998, Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), three in February 2009 (Giri 2009b), two in May 2010 (Suchit Basnet), and one near Beldandi post in November 2011 (Suchit Basnet).

Only two post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system are known: singles seen at Ghodaghodi Tal, Kailali District in March 1998 (Baral 1998) and in Lumbini Farmlands Important Bird Area (G7), Rupandehi District in November 2015 (Som GC and Naresh Kusi).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for the species, but observations indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 100; maximum population: 200

Habitat and Ecology

Striated Marshbird inhabits tall damp grassland and reedbeds (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), and grasses at the edges of ponds and in marshes (Rand and Fleming 1957). It often perches conspicuously on top of reeds or bushes and has habit of jerking its tail and flicking one wing half open and then the other. Feeds in thick vegetation and can climb rapidly up and down stems. In breeding season males sing from exposed perches and in short gliding flight. The species is resident (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Striated Grassbird is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its wetland grassland habitats caused by burning, flooding, overgrazing and over-harvesting of wetland resources including grass. The invasive weed *Mikania micrantha* is an additional serious threat in Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Striated Grassbird. It has been recently recorded in Koshi Tappu and Sukla Wildlife Reserves, and also in Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Striated Grassbird has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac. The species has declined and its distributional range has been reduced since at least the 1980s; now it is rare and local. Striated Grassbird is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its wetland habitats caused by burning, flooding, overgrazing and over-harvesting of wetland resources including grass. . The invasive weed *Mikania micrantha* is an additional serious threat in Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. Recently it has been recorded in three protected areas; its main population now appears to be in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. Only two post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system are known.

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Parus spilonotus Bonaparte, 1850 CR

Subspecies *Parus spilonotus spilonotus*

Common Name

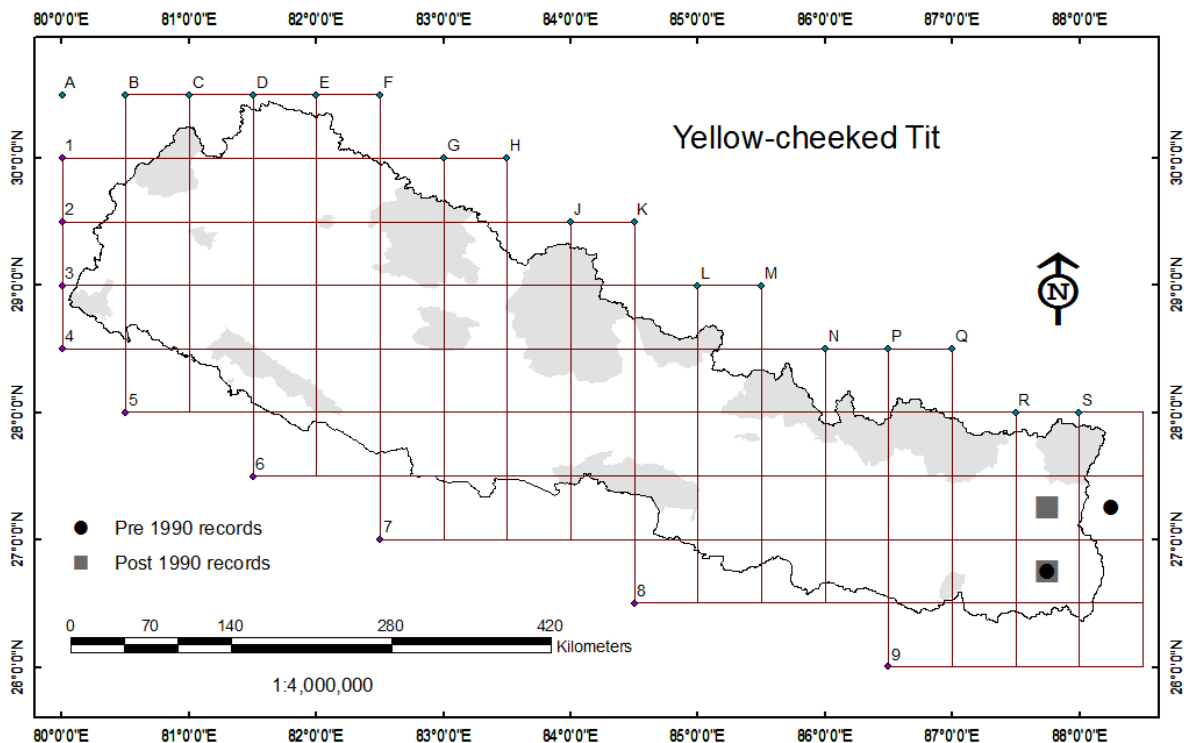
Yellow-cheeked Tit (English), A Peetmuhar Chichilkote Ansithunde (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Paridae



Distribution



Yellow-cheeked Tit is probably a former resident; there are no known records since 1997. The first Nepal record of the species was in the upper Mai valley, Ilam District in March 1912 (Stevens 1923). Almost all records are from the Mai valley where Yellow-cheeked Tit was previously a rare and local resident, recorded mainly from 1980 m to 2440 m (e.g. Fleming and Traylor 1964, Mills *et al.* 1982, McKnight *et al.* 1989). There is one record from the unusually low altitude of 450 m in the lower Mai in January 1989 (Halliday and McKnight 1990).

The only post-1990 records are: two at Hange Tham, upper Mai valley in March 1991 (Baral 1991); one bird from below Ilam, Ilam District in December 1993 (Lama 1994), and two in the upper Mai valley in March 1997 (Choudhary 1997). A 2008 bird survey of the Mai valley did not find the species (Robson *et al.* 2008) and neither did two short surveys in January 2008 and September 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010).

Globally the species has been recorded from Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, and South-East Asia (BCN and DNPWC 2011). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 2400 m; lower limit: 1980 m (- 450 m)

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Yellow-cheeked Tit, but observations indicate that if the species still occurs in Nepal, the population must be extremely small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

In Nepal Yellow-cheeked Tit inhabits open broadleaved forest, mainly in lower temperate forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It chiefly eats insects and also berries and some vegetable matter (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is an altitudinal migrant, but its vertical movements in Nepal are very poorly known.

Threats

Yellow-cheeked Tit is threatened by the fragmentation, loss and depletion of its forest habitat. Lower temperate forests are especially threatened (Inskipp 1989). The Mai valley has suffered significant deforestation and forest degradation in recent years.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-cheeked Tit. The species has not been recorded within the protected area system. However, the Nepal Government's Fourth Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2009 clearly stated giving some management status to three unprotected IBAs including the Mai valley where most birds have been recorded.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CRA2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-cheeked Tit has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. The species was last recorded in March 1997. Limited observations of the species indicate that if it still occurs, the population is likely to be extremely small. Its lower temperate forest habitat, especially in the upper Mai valley in the far east (where the species has very largely been recorded) is highly threatened by loss and depletion. Remaining areas are now highly fragmented and of very limited extent and the population is likely to be declining.

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Ploceus manyar (Horsfield, 1821) CR

Subspecies *Ploceus manyar flaviceps*

Common Name

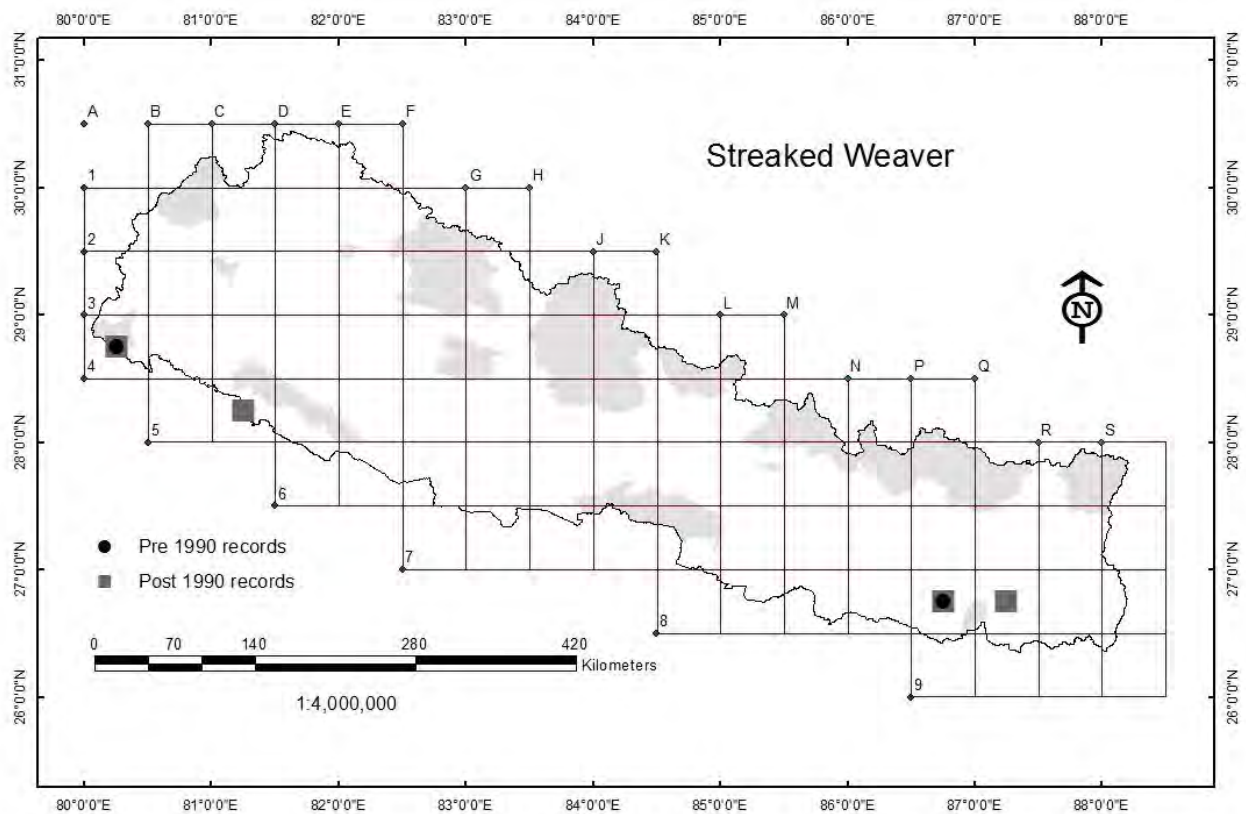
Streaked Weaver (English), Dharke Topchara (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Passeridae



Distribution



Streaked Weaver is locally distributed and probably a migrant, with only five post-1990 records from five localities in the lowlands.

The first Nepal record of the species was at Koshi Barrage, Sunsari District; a flock of 20 in February 1974 (Madge *et al.* 1974).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a scarce resident in the eastern terai. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a very local resident and local migrant in the terai, with only a few records from the Koshi area and one record from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve where 17 were seen in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982).

There are few post-1990 records. The species has been recorded from two protected areas: one bird in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in December 1997 (Chaudhary 1998) and ten in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in February 1994 (Lama 1994, Thompson 1994). Three birds were recorded from Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata forest corridor (C5), Bardia District in 2007 (Chaudhari 2007). There are two known records from

outside the protected areas' system: two birds between Bhurigaon and Khairipur (C5), Bardia District in January 2003 (Giri 2003); and one at Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District in February and April 1993 (Flack 1993).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), Egypt, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 200 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Streaked Weaver. However as there are few post-1990 records and the numbers are low, the population must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Streaked Weaver inhabits reedy marshes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Its habits are similar to those of Baya Weaver *P. philippinus*. In winter it feeds chiefly on the flowering heads of *Phragmites* reeds. It is a gregarious species, roosting and nesting communally (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Streaked Weaver is threatened by the loss of wetlands. Six were noted in the caged bird trade in Kathmandu in June 1993 (Baral 1994).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Streaked Weaver. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Streaked Weaver has been recorded as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2c and D1. It is locally distributed and probably a migrant, with only five post-1990 records from five localities in the lowlands. Since 1990 it has been recorded from two protected area, also Bardia National Park buffer zone, and the remaining two records were outside the protected areas' system. Streaked Weaver is threatened by the loss of wetlands. No population surveys have been carried out for the species, but there are few post-1990 records and numbers are small and probably declining.

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***Ploceus megarhynchus* Hume, 1869 CR**

Common Name

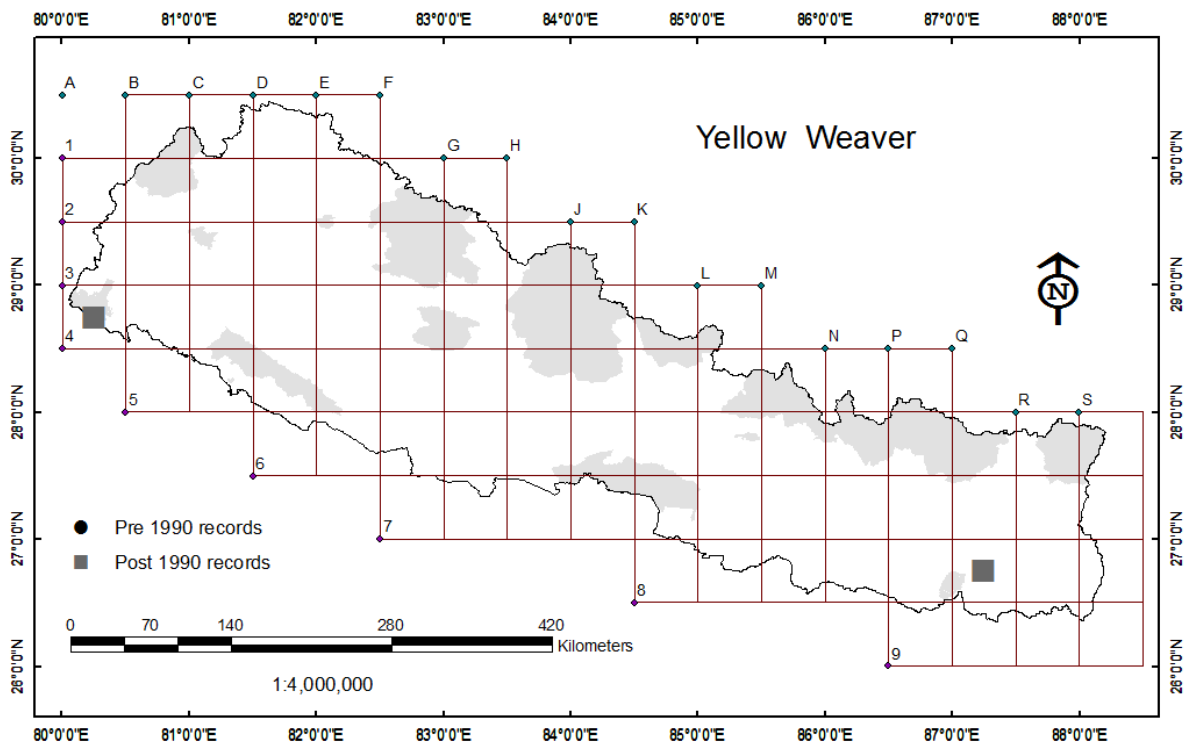
Yellow Weaver (English), Sunaulo Topchara (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Ploceidae



Distribution



Yellow Weaver is a very rare and very local resident and summer visitor. The first Nepal record was of a small population found in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in May 1996, when 12 birds were counted (Choudhary 1996, Baral 1998a, b).

There is an unconfirmed report of the species from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in February 1993 (Fouarge 1993); the species was confirmed there in October 2002 when a flock of eight was seen at Koshi Camp (Choudhary *et al.* 2003; Giri and Choudhary 2002). Two were also recorded at Koshi in December 2007 (Giri 2007).

Globally, the species has also been recorded from India (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 150 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

The maximum of c.60 birds was seen in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in June 2014 (Jyotendra Thakuri pers.comm. to C. Inskipp, March 2015). A flock of 36 birds and 20 nests were found there in May 2008 (Baral *et al.* 2008) and a total of 25 birds was counted in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010b).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <250

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow Weaver occurs in *Imperata* and *Saccharum* grassland with well scattered trees (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on small seeds and insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

In reserves Yellow Weaver is seriously threatened by human disturbance and insufficient protection resulting in overgrazing and degradation of lowland grasslands. It is also suffering from inappropriate grassland management at Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, such as untimely cutting and burning. Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing.

Conservation Measures

There have been no specific conservation measures for Yellow Weaver. The species is only known from protected areas: Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve where it appears to be a resident and summer visitor, and also Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (two or three known records).

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR B2ab(iii) D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow Weaver has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria B2ab(iii) and D1. Although the species has been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve two or three times in recent years, it is recorded regularly and breeds at Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. The two localities are very far apart, one being in the far east and the other in the far west of Nepal, so if birds occur at Koshi Tappu regularly in the near future, the two populations would be severely fragmented. The quality of the species' lowland grassland habitat is seriously threatened by human disturbance and insufficient protection resulting in overgrazing and habitat degradation. The grassland habitat is also suffering from inappropriate management. Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing. Counts of the species indicate that numbers must be very small.

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<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/sowb/countries/Nepal2010report.pdf>
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Pomatorhinus ferruginosus Blyth, 1845 CR
Subspecies *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus ferruginosus*

Common Name

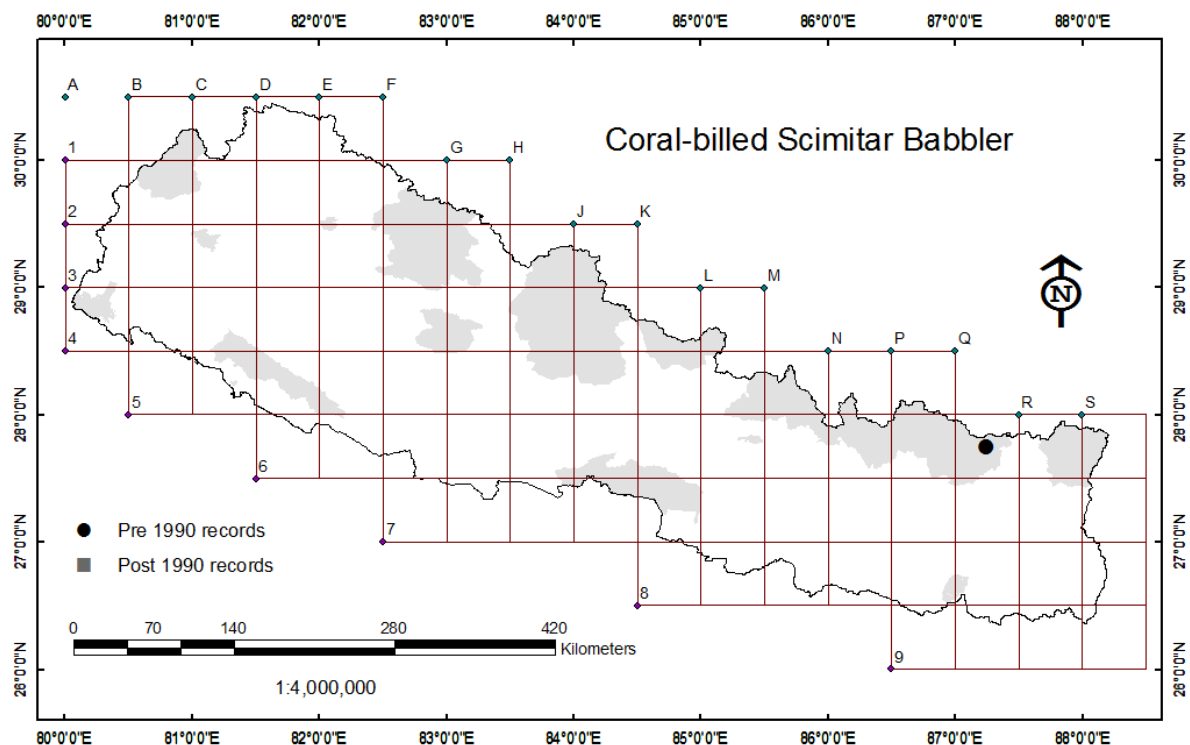
Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler (English), Mugathunde Paalkote (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler is possibly a former resident. It is only known in Nepal from a dozen sightings from the Arun valley in the east (exact locations unknown) in 1973 (months unknown) from 2745 m to 3660 m (Fleming *et al.* 1976).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 3660 m; lower limit: 2745 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler. The lack of observations suggests that if Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler still occurs, numbers must be extremely small. However the species may be less rare than the absence of records suggests as it is skulking and so could be overlooked and some suitable areas of habitat remain unexplored.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

The species' habitat in Nepal is not recorded. In the Indian subcontinent Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler inhabits bamboo thickets and dense undergrowth in subtropical and temperate broadleaved evergreen forest and is recorded at lower altitudes (400-2400 m and mainly 900-1830 m) than those noted in Nepal (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). The species feeds on insects and larvae (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is resident (Ali and Ripley 1987; Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). The species is very skulking and elusive and so could be overlooked although the call is distinctive (C. and T. Inskipp pers. obs.).

Threats

Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of its broadleaved evergreen forest habitat, especially in the tropical, subtropical and lower temperate zones. These forests in the tropical zone (which grow up to 1000 m) and subtropical zone (1000 -1700 m) now cover very limited and fragmented areas. Those up to 2100 m in the lower temperate zone (1500 m - 2400 m) have largely been cleared and at higher altitudes continue to be cut and depleted (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler. The species has not been recorded in a protected area.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2c and D1. The species is seriously threatened by loss, fragmentation and deterioration of its broadleaved evergreen forest habitat. The lack of observations suggests it is very rare or may no longer occur in Nepal. It has not been found since it was first recorded in 1973. However, the species is very skulking and so could be overlooked and some suitable areas of habitat remain unexplored. It has not been recorded in any protected areas.

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Prinia burnesii (Blyth, 1844) CR
Subspecies *Prinia burnesii nepalicola*

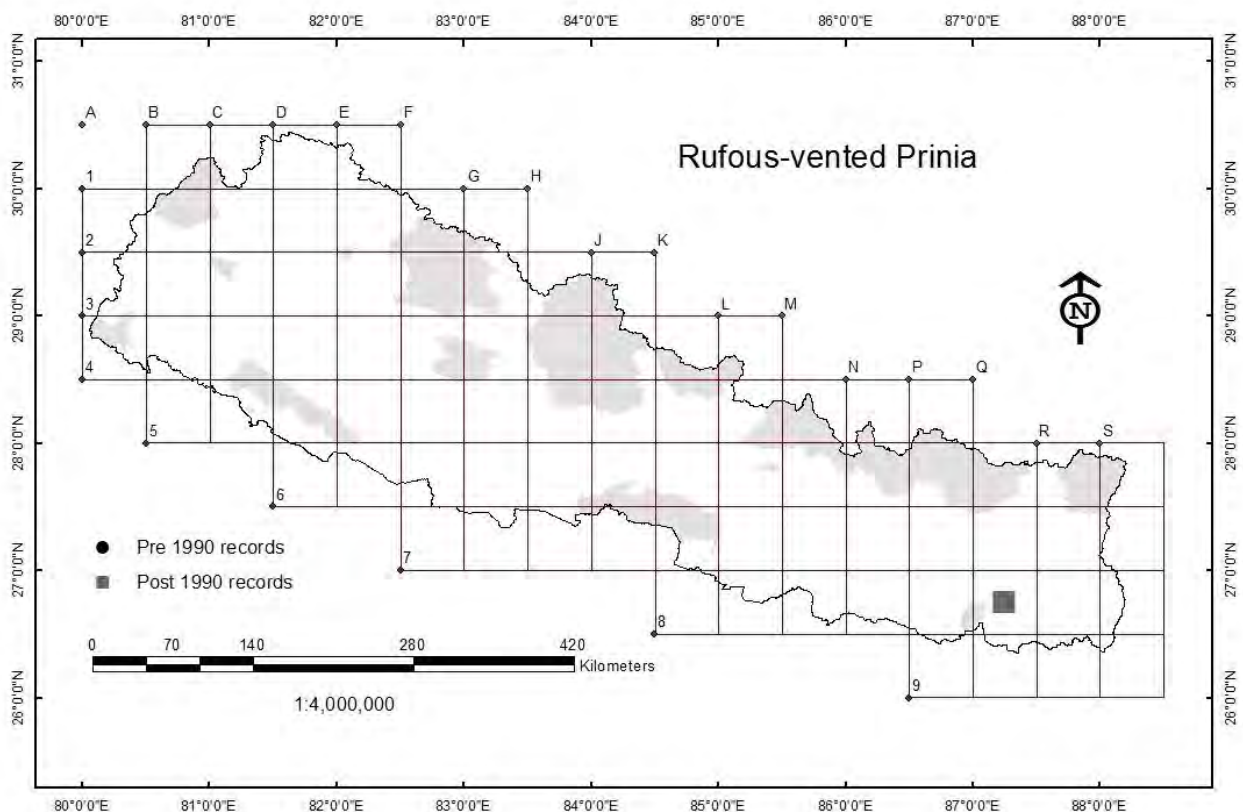
Common Name

Rufous-vented Prinia (English), Nepal Ghansephisto (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Cisticolidae



Distribution



Rufous-vented Prinia is a very rare and very local resident, only being found on islands in the Koshi River. A subspecies endemic to Nepal *nepalicola* was discovered in Nepal in April 2005 in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve when three birds were seen. One bird was trapped and three more seen in the same locality in January 2006. A total of 12 individuals was trapped and released in March 2006, including one retrap and in May 2006, four birds were collected after obtaining the necessary permission from DNPWC (Baral *et al.* 2007, 2008; Inskipp 2006). Three individuals were seen in March 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), three in April 2008 (GC 2010) and five in December 2011 (Vicente *et al.* 2011). Several birds have been heard up until to at least October 2012 (Hem Sagar Baral, Suchit Basnet, Badri Chaudhary).

The species is endemic to the Indian subcontinent and has been recorded in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 100 m; lower limit: unknown

Population

Baral et al. (2007) estimated a population of 500 birds. However, the severe monsoon flooding in 2008 may well have changed the habitat so surveys to estimate current habitat extent and population are recommended

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 200

Habitat and Ecology

Rufous-vented Prinia is found on islands in the Koshi River in grassland patches age c. 5 years and is absent from heavily disturbed grasslands (Baral *et al.* 2007). It feeds on insects and is a resident species, not known to migrate or to undertake local movements (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Rufous-vented Prinia is severely threatened by loss and degradation of its grassland habitat; the major monsoon flood of 2008 did not affect the population as the flooding was on the reserve's southern side and the major habitat of the species is on the northern side (Suchit Basnet, Badri Chaudhary). However, flooding is still a threat to the species' habitat (Ashok Ram). The species is highly vulnerable as it is localized to only one site: islands in the Koshi River.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rufous-vented Prinia. The whole Nepal population occurs in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR B1, B2ab(I, ii, iii) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rufous-vented Prinia has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria B1 and B2ab(i,ii,iii) because it is restricted to only one site (islands in the Koshi River) with an area less than 100 km² where it is resident. In addition, the species' grassland habitat is seriously threatened by loss and degradation resulting in continuing declines in its extent of occurrence, area of occupancy and habitat quality. The whole Nepal population occurs in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

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Prinia cinereocapilla F. Moore, 1864 CR

Common Name

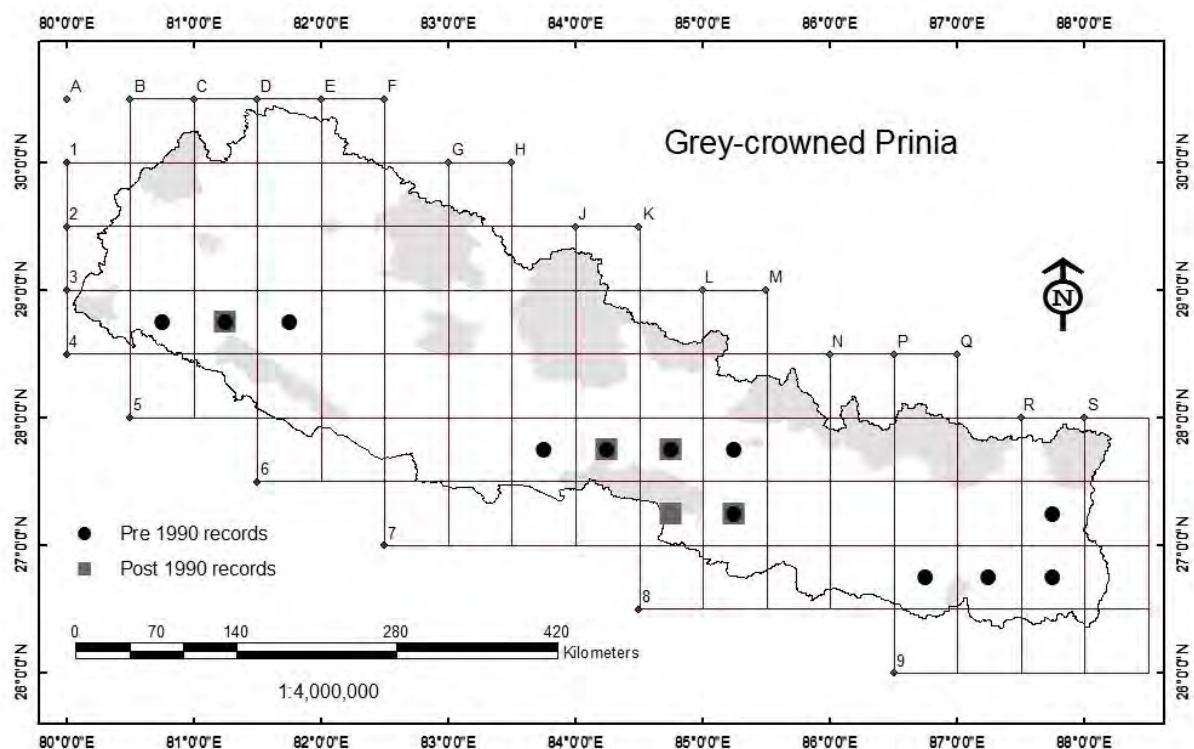
Grey-crowned Prinia (English), Gheghari Ghasephisto (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Grey-crowned Prinia is a local breeding resident. The first Nepal record was at Hetauda, Makwanpur District in May 1947 when 15 specimens were collected (Biswas 1962).

The species was described as common in the central dun during May 1947 (Biswas 1962), but there are no later reports. There are mainly single records from at least six other localities (all outside protected areas) where there are no subsequent records: single specimens collected at Badamachli, Baila and Belbahadi (=Beldandi), Kanchanpur District in December 1952 (Rand and Fleming 1957), and sightings from Surkhet, Surkhet District 1979 (Hagen 1979); Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District in 1979 (Robson 1979, Fairbank 1980), and Ilam District in 1979 (Robson 1979) and in 1982 (Walinder and Sangren 1983).

The species is now almost entirely confined to three protected areas: Chitwan National Park, and in adjoining areas of Parsa Wildlife Reserve and Bardia National Park and buffer zone. The species was collected by the Reu-Rapti River, Chitwan District in November 1964 (Fleming and Traylor 1968). Gurung (1983) reported it was fairly common in Chitwan National Park and proved breeding there. Baral (2001) also found it fairly common in Chitwan National Park and in adjoining areas of Parsa Wildlife Reserve. During a 2010 survey it was found to be common (Paras Singh *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, 2010), see population section.

A pair was recorded at Lendada, Makawanpur District (L7) in April 2008 (Yubraj Basnet and Jyotendra Thakuri).

The species was first recorded in Bardia National Park in November 1985 (Cox 1985); it was also seen in 1991 (Lama 1991), February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995) and in 1996 (Tika Giri pers. comm. to H. S. Baral 1996).

Grey-crowned Prinia was absent from grasslands of Koshi Tappu, Koshi Barrage, Bardia and Sukla Phanta that were surveyed in 1999-2000. Extensive *Themeda* grassland, a key habitat for the species was not found in these areas (Baral 2002).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, India (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1065 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

A recent survey of Grey-crowned Prinia in Chitwan National Park found up to 424 birds in 11 survey plots adjoining forests (Paras Bikram Singh *in litt.* to C. Inskipp 2010). Bardia National Park appears to only have a small population compared to Chitwan and it is possible that it may have drastically declined.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 1500; maximum population: 2000

Habitat and Ecology

Grey-crowned Prinia was found to be strongly associated with *Themeda* grasslands close to Sal and mixed forests in Chitwan National Park (Baral 2001, 2002).

In the *Themeda* grassland assemblages Grey-crowned Prinia was found to significantly dominate the bird community structure (Baral 2002).

Grey-crowned Prinia feeds on insects and flower nectar. It is a resident species (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding ecology and information about eggs and nests still remain a mystery.

Threats

Very small areas of suitable habitat remain and these lie almost entirely within protected areas.

Within protected areas the effects of repeated and late burning as well as of grass cutting on the bird's behaviour and ecology are unknown. Unlike other grassland species, Grey-crowned Prinia is not adapted to areas that can be restored quickly. *Themeda* grass grows on a well-developed soil, often close to mature forests, such as Sal or tropical evergreen forests. While it is easy to restore most other grassland habitats, it is comparatively more difficult to do so with *Themeda* (Baral 2002).

In Chitwan National Park Grey-crowned Prinia is threatened by the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha* which can smother grasslands and has had serious impacts in the park.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Grey-crowned Prinia. Almost all post-1990 records have been from protected areas: Chitwan National Park, Parsa Wildlife Reserve and Bardia National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ce) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Grey-crowned Prinia has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ce. The species has declined and its distributional range has reduced. It was formerly recorded from at least seven localities where it has not been seen for 30 years or more. It is now a local breeding resident, with a small and fragmented distribution and is almost entirely confined to protected areas (Chitwan National Park and adjoining areas of Parsa Wildlife Reserve and a relatively small population in Bardia National Park). The maximum population has been estimated as 2000 birds. Its occurrence is strongly associated with *Themeda* grassland on the edge of forest, a specialized habitat. Outside protected areas the species is seriously threatened by the disturbance and degradation of the remaining very small areas of suitable grasslands; these pressures are increasing. Within protected areas the effects of repeated and late burning as well as of grass cutting on the bird's behaviour and ecology are unknown. Further, while it is easy to restore most other grassland habitats, it comparatively more difficult to do so with *Themeda*. In Chitwan National Park the species is threatened by the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha* which can smother grasslands and has had serious impacts in the park.

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***Saxicola jerdoni* (Blyth, 1867) CR**

Common Name

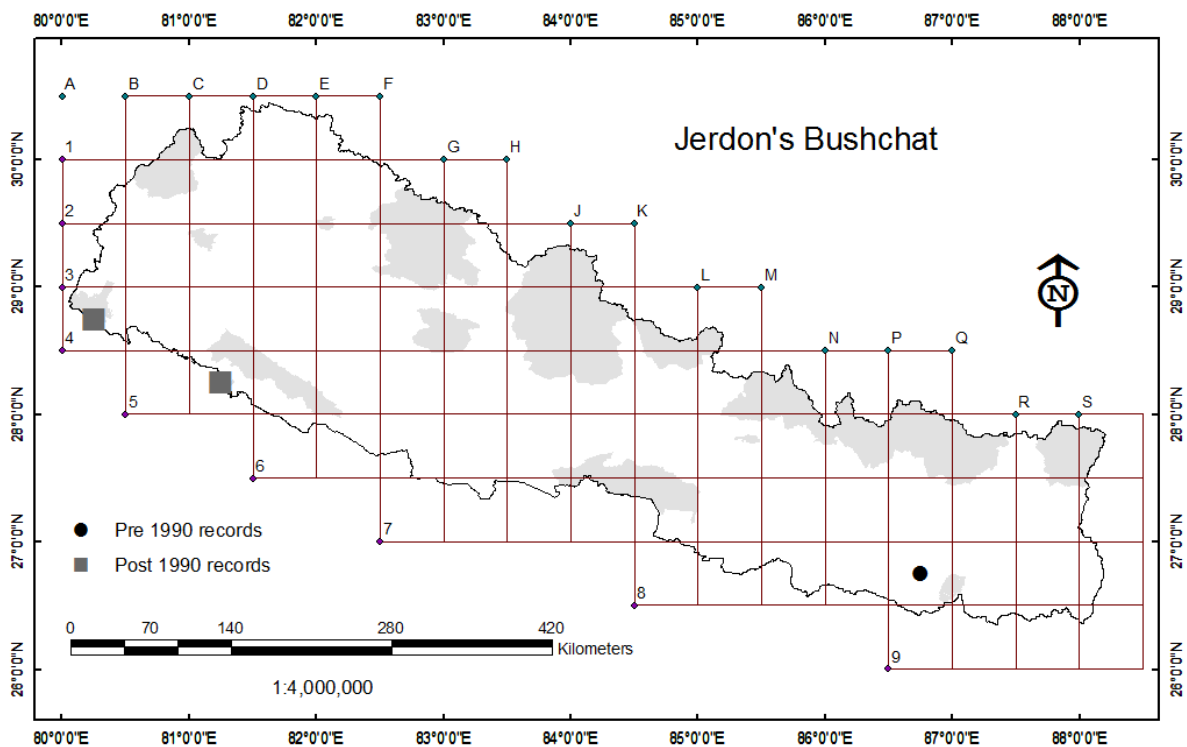
Jerdon's Bushchat (English), Narkat Jhyapsi (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Muscicapidae



Distribution



Jerdon's Bushchat is a very rare and very local breeding resident. The first Nepal record was a male in May 1975 at Koshi Barrage; another male with a possible juvenile was also recorded from the Barrage area in June 1976 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976).

With the exception of one seen in Dobhan grasslands, Bardia National Park in October 1998 (Giri *et al.* 1998), all later records of the species have been from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. Four were seen there in May 1996 (Choudhary 1996); two near Rani Tal in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), and a pair feeding two fledged immatures near Shikari Tal in May 1997 (Giri and Choudhary 1997).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). . Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 150 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

Several species' counts of up to ten birds have been made in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2000, 2001), including six in May 2008 (Baral 2008), and nine in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 15; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Jerdon's Bushchat inhabits tall moist/marshy grassland and tall grass and reeds along river or channel banks (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is resident subject to short seasonal movements. It eats insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Jerdon's Bushchat is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of moist/marshy, tall grassland. Almost all of this grassland type now lies in protected areas, where the bushchat is still threatened by insufficient protection which has resulted in grassland burning and overgrazing by livestock.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Jerdon's Bushchat. The only recent records have been from protected areas and all have been from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, with the exception of one from Bardia National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Jerdon's Bushchat has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. The species is a very rare and local breeding resident. It is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of tall moist/marshy grassland. Almost all of this grassland type now lies in protected areas where it is threatened by burning and livestock overgrazing. The very large majority of post-1990 records are from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve where species counts indicate that numbers are very small.

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Spelaeornis caudatus (Blyth, 1845) CR

Common Name

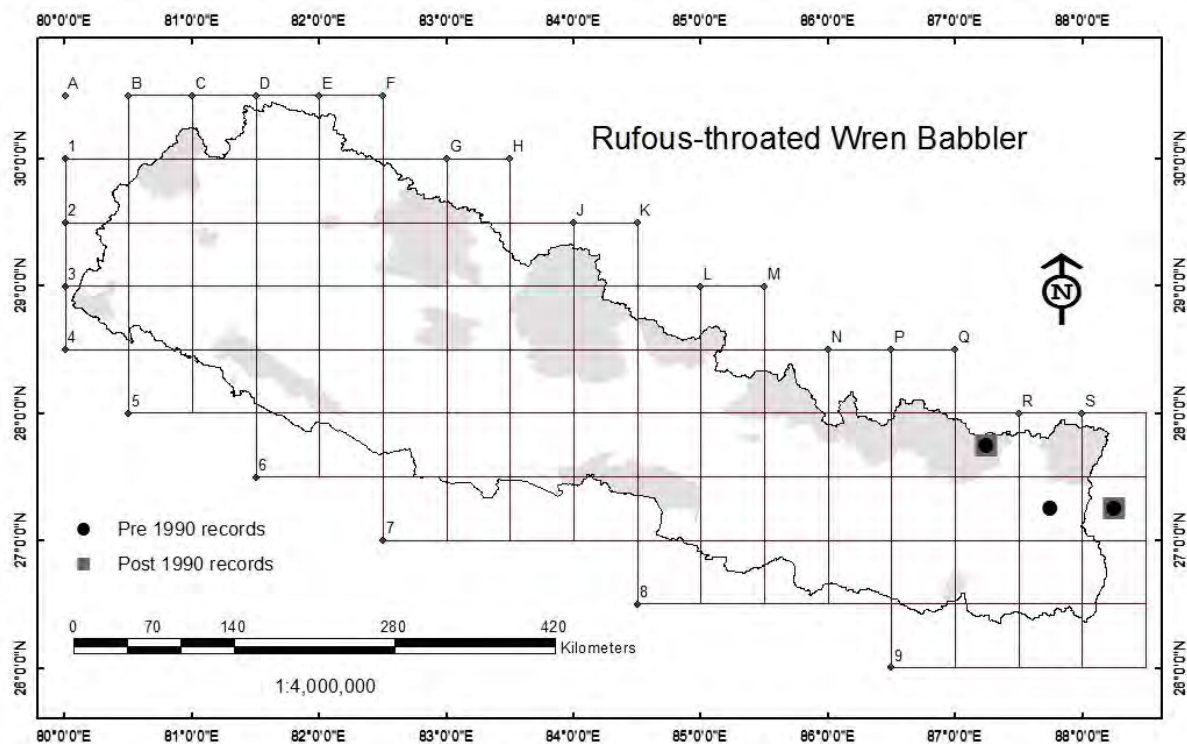
Rufous-throated Wren Babbler (English), Kailokanthe Dikurebhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Rufous-throated Wren Babbler is a very rare and very local resident. There is only one known record since 1993. The first Nepal record of the species was in the upper Mai valley, Ilam District at 2195 m in March 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964). Subsequently one or two birds were regularly recorded from the same area (near Hange Tham) e.g. in March 1979 (Lambert 1979), March 1981 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981; Mills and Preston 1981), 1982 (Robson 1982), 1986 (Heath 1986), 1987 (Gawn 1987), March 1989 (Guinan and Dodman 1989) and April 1993 (Flack 1993). There are no later records from the area although it has been visited by birdwatchers in several later years up to at least March 2008 when a Mai valley survey was carried out (Robson *et al.* 2008).

The only other records are from Shyaksila Toten, Barun valley in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park in November 1984 (Nepali 1984) and above Gaunthala in April 1990 in the park's buffer zone (Tymstra 1993), also at Paniporua, Panchthar District in April 1988 (Martens 1988; Martens and Eck 1995) and near Num in the Khandbari Num Important Bird Area in June 2015 (Jyotendra J Thakuri).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, India (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species'

range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 2440 m; lower limit: 2135 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for the species. The small number of records and lack of suitable remaining habitat suggest that the population must be extremely small. However, it is possible that the species is less rare than the absence of records suggests (see Habitat and Ecology section).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Rufous-throated Wren Babbler frequents mossy rocks, terrestrial ferns and fallen trees and also dense thickets in narrow gullies in lower temperate broadleaved evergreen forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Some areas of suitable habitat have not been surveyed, but these are unlikely to be extensive.

The species is secretive, usually keeping out of sight on the forest floor so it could be overlooked, although it has a distinctive song (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects and is resident (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The species is seriously threatened by loss, fragmentation and deterioration of its broadleaved evergreen lower temperate forest habitat. This forest type is especially threatened (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rufous-throated Wren Babbler. The only protected area where it has been recorded is Makalu Barun National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rufous-throated Wren Babbler has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. The species is very rare and very local; possibly a former resident. There is only one known record since 1993. The species' broadleaved evergreen lower temperate forest habitat is seriously threatened by loss, fragmentation and degradation. The small number of observations and lack of suitable habitat suggest that the population is likely to be extremely small. However, the species may be less rare than the absence of records suggests as it is secretive and so could be overlooked, although it can be detected by its distinctive song. Some suitable areas have not been surveyed although these are unlikely to be extensive. The species has only been recorded from one protected area (in 1984).

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Spelaornis formosus (Walden, 1874) CR

Common Name

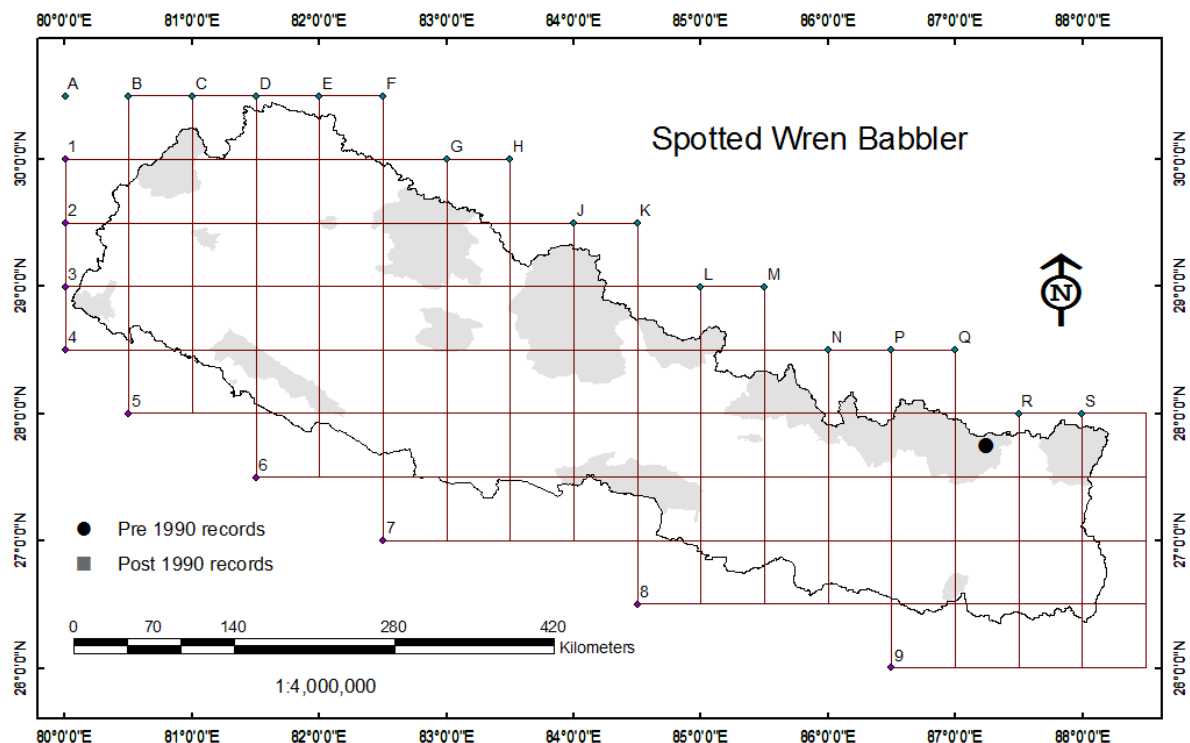
Spotted Wren Babbler (English), Thople Dikurebhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Spotted Wren Babbler is a very rare and very local resident. There is only one record: one heard north-west of Shyaksila Toten, Barun valley in what is now Makalu Barun National Park at 1785 m in November 1984 (R. L. Fleming *in litt.* September 1989; Nepali 1984).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 1785 m; lower limit: unknown

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for the species. The lack of observations suggests that if Spotted Wren Babbler still occurs, numbers must be extremely small. However, the species may be less rare than the absence of records indicates (see Habitat and Ecology section). Some areas of suitable habitat remain unexplored although these are not considered to be extensive.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

The habitat of Spotted Wren Babbler in Nepal is unrecorded. In the Indian subcontinent it frequents the understorey of broadleaved evergreen forest, 500-2300 m according to (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). Ali and Ripley (1987) describe its habitat in the region as dank rhododendron forest with thick fern ground-cover, mossy rocks and decaying trunks of fallen trees. It feeds on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident (Ali and Ripley 1987; Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). Spotted Wren Babbler is very secretive, usually keeping out of sight, although it can be located by its song (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Spotted Wren Babbler is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of its broadleaved evergreen forest habitat. These forests in the tropical zone (which grow up to 1000 m) and the subtropical zone (1000 -1700 m) now cover very limited and fragmented areas, while those up to 2100 m in the lower temperate zone have largely been cleared, and forests at higher altitudes continue to be cut and depleted (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Spotted Wren Babbler. The only Nepal record was in what is now Makalu Barun National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Spotted Wren Babbler has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2c and D1. The species' preferred habitat of undergrowth in moist broadleaved evergreen tropical and subtropical forests is seriously threatened by loss, fragmentation and degradation. Direct observations suggest that Spotted Wren Babbler is very rare as there has only been one record in 1984. Although the species is secretive and so can be overlooked, it has a distinctive song. The lack of records and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be very small. Possible suitable areas of habitat may remain unexplored, although these areas are not considered extensive.

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Sphenocichla humei (Mandelli, 1873) CR



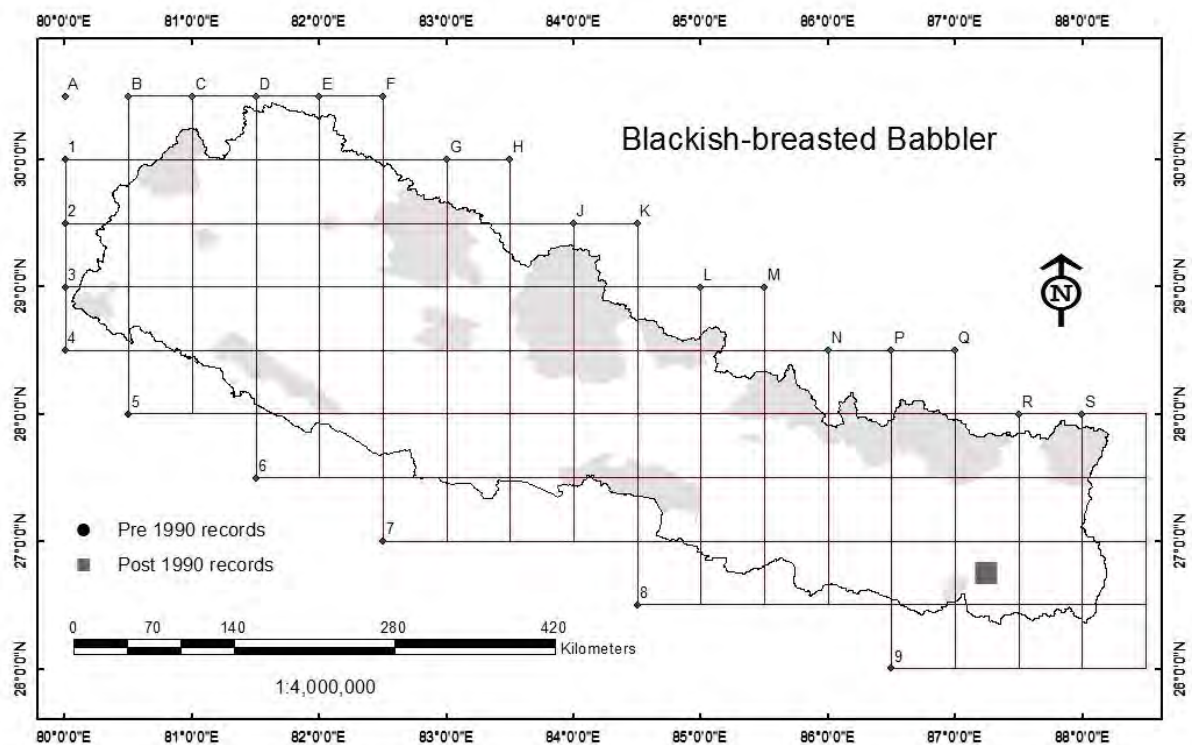
Common Name

Blackish-breasted Babbler (English), Raj Dikurebhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae

Distribution



Blackish-breasted Babbler is a very rare and very local resident. The species is known in Nepal from only one confirmed record: two birds in forests near Dharan, Sunsari District at 500 m in December 1996 (Karki and Choudhary 1997). One probable was reported in Raja Rani Community Forest, Morang District at 450 m in January 2004, but the record requires confirmation (Basnet 2005; Basnet *et al.* 2006; Inskipp 2005).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, India (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 500 m; lower limit: unknown

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for the species. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the lack of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be very small. Possible suitable areas of habitat may remain unexplored, although these areas are not considered extensive.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

In Nepal Blackish-breasted Babbler was found amongst riparian vegetation by a small forest stream (Karki and Choudhary 1997). In India it frequents the understorey of broadleaved evergreen forest with large trees and bamboo on the edge of dense jungle (Ali and Ripley 1987) and has been recorded from 400 m up to 1850 m at least (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). The species feeds on insects, mostly wood-lice and small boring beetles (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is resident (Grimmett *et al.* 1998; Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). Himalayan Wedge-billed Babbler is a skulking species and so could be overlooked.

Threats

Blackish-breasted Babbler is seriously threatened by loss, fragmentation and deterioration of its broadleaved evergreen forest habitat. These forests in the tropical zone (which grow up to 1000 m) and the subtropical zone (1000 -1700 m) now cover very limited and fragmented areas. Those up to 2100 m in the lower temperate zone (1500 m - 2400 m) have largely been cleared and forests at higher altitudes continue to be lost and depleted (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

The species has not been recorded within the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blackish-breasted Babbler has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2c and D1. The species' preferred habitat of undergrowth in subtropical and lower temperate broadleaved evergreen forest with large trees and bamboo is seriously threatened by loss, fragmentation and degradation. Direct observations suggest that Himalayan Wedge-billed Babbler is very rare as there has only been one record in 1996 which was outside the protected areas' system. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the lack of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be very small and probably declining. Possible suitable areas of habitat may remain unexplored, although these areas are not considered extensive.

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Tesia olivea (McClelland, 1840) CR

Common Name

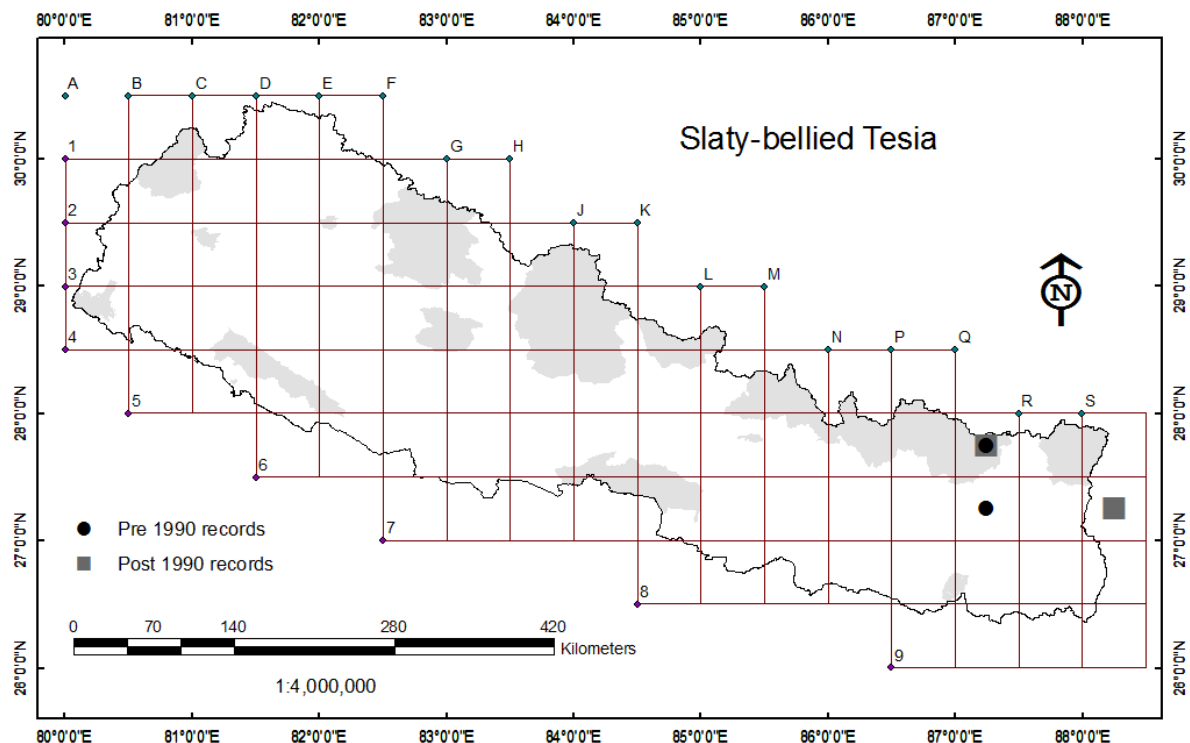
Slaty-bellied Tesia (English), Peetharit Tisia (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Slaty-bellied Tesia is very rare and local and has mainly been recorded in the east; it is probably resident. The first Nepal record of the species was in the Arun valley at Num in August and Khandbari in September 1986 (Nepali 1986). Single birds were recorded at two localities in Hange Tham forests, Ilam District in April 1999: one about 3 km up the ridge above the village and another about 1 km above the village (Inskipp 2006, Basnet 2007). Cox (2009) found the species in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone: one in May 2009 and singles at four localities in June 2009. One was collected by the Tandrang Khola, near Borlang, Gorkha District in October 1981 (Nepali 1982).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 2200 m; lower limit: 1000 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for the species.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 50; maximum population: 250

Habitat and Ecology

Slaty-bellied Tesia inhabits thick low undergrowth of ferns and nettles in dense moist subtropical forest, especially in evergreens (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects and spiders and is resident subject to seasonal vertical movements (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is very skulking and secretive, keeping close to the ground, always on the move and frequently hardly stirs the vegetation as it hops about, so it can be overlooked. However it can be detected by its distinctive song (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Slaty-bellied Tesia is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of its broadleaved evergreen forest habitat. These forests in the subtropical zone (1000 -1700 m) now cover very limited and fragmented areas while those up to 2100 m in the lower temperate zone have largely been cleared, and forests at higher altitudes continue to be cut and depleted (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Slaty-bellied Tesia. The species has mainly been recorded outside the protected areas' system although there are recent records from several sites in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Slaty-bellied Tesia has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2c and D1. The species is very rare and local and has mainly been recorded in the east. Although it may be overlooked because of its secretive habits, it has a distinctive song. Its dense, moist broadleaved evergreen forest habitat is seriously threatened by loss, fragmentation and deterioration, especially in the subtropical zone. As a result, the species is probably declining. It has mainly been recorded outside the protected areas' system.

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Turdoides longirostris (F. Moore, 1854) CR

Common Name

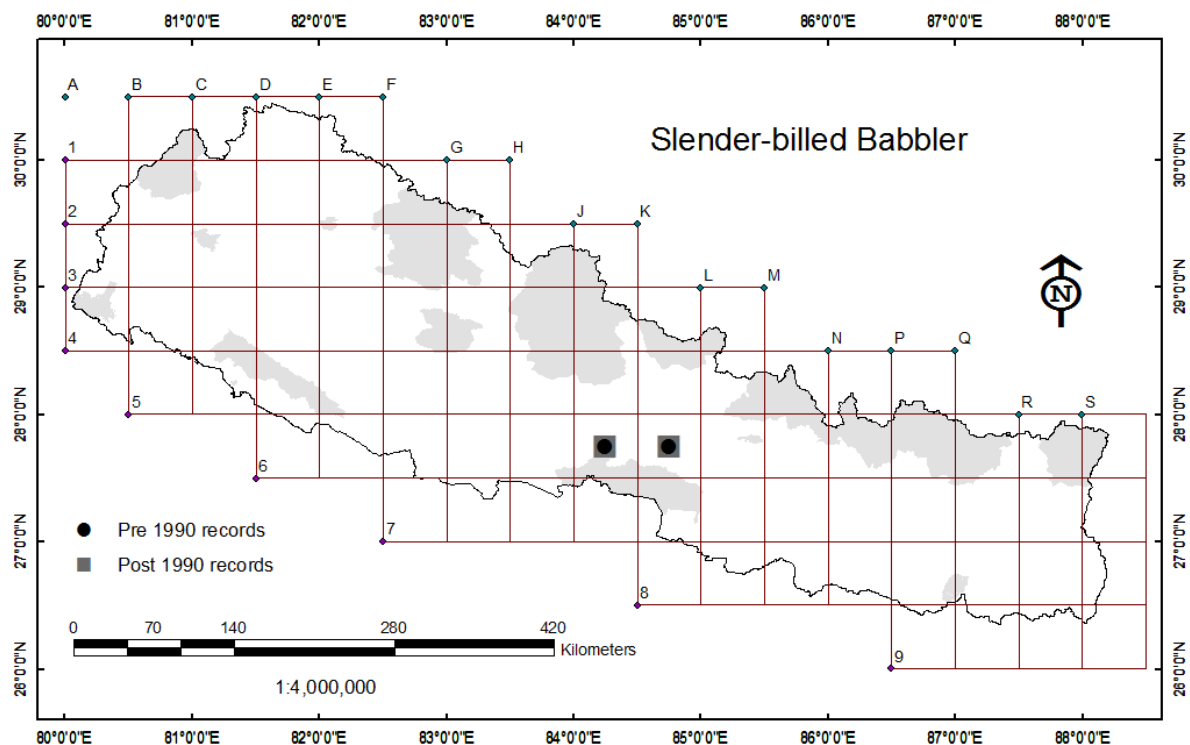
Slender-billed Babbler (English), Khadai Bhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Slender-billed Babbler is a very local resident, only recorded in Chitwan National Park, where it is widespread and locally fairly common, and also in some community managed forests/grasslands in the park buffer zone.

The first Nepal record was near Tiger Tops in April 1980 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1980). The species had probably been overlooked previously.

Records in the Chitwan National Park buffer zone include up to four near Machan Paradise Resort in 2012 (Suchit Basnet), four near Sauraha in September 2012 (Tika Giri) and six to seven at Jagalpur near Tigerland Safari Resort in March 2015 (Hathan Chaudhary).

Globally the species has also been recorded Bangladesh, India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

The Chitwan population was estimated to be more than 1,000 and probably declining (Baral 2001). A 2005 Chitwan survey found the species in 26 out of 35 grassland areas covered and based on actual sightings and potential habitat, a population of 720-1,080 pairs was estimated (Baral and Chaudhary 2006).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 1,400; maximum population: 2,200

Habitat and Ecology

Slender-billed Babbler inhabits tall grass and reeds, especially near water (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). A Nepal survey found it is associated with tall *Narenga porphyrocoma* grass assemblages (Baral and Chaudhary 2006). The species is a resident, not known to undergo movements. It feeds mostly on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The species is threatened by degradation of grasslands within protected areas, caused by inappropriate management such as untimely cutting and burning, and (in Chitwan National Park) by the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha* which can smother grasslands. In some parts of protected areas it also suffers from inadequate protection resulting in overgrazing which has led to grassland degradation. The very small extent of lowland grassland that remains outside protected areas is highly threatened by overgrazing, cutting, burning and disturbance. Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing. Eastern Grass Owl is also potentially threatened by hunting and trapping for the wild bird trade which is illegal within the protected areas' system.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Slender-billed Babbler. It has only been recorded in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR B2ab(iii)) upgraded from Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Slender-billed Babbler has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria B2ab(iii). The species is a very local resident, only recorded in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone. In the park it is widespread and locally fairly common and also in some community managed forests/grasslands in the park buffer zone. A 2005 survey estimated its population was 1,400-2,200 birds. Slender-billed Babbler is seriously threatened by untimely cutting and burning of suitable grassland habitat. It is also threatened by the growth of the invasive alien species *Mikania micrantha* which can smother grasslands and has had devastating effects in parts of Chitwan National Park.

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<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/sowb/countries/Nepal2010report.pdf>

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Yuhina bakeri Rothschild, 1926 CR

Common Name

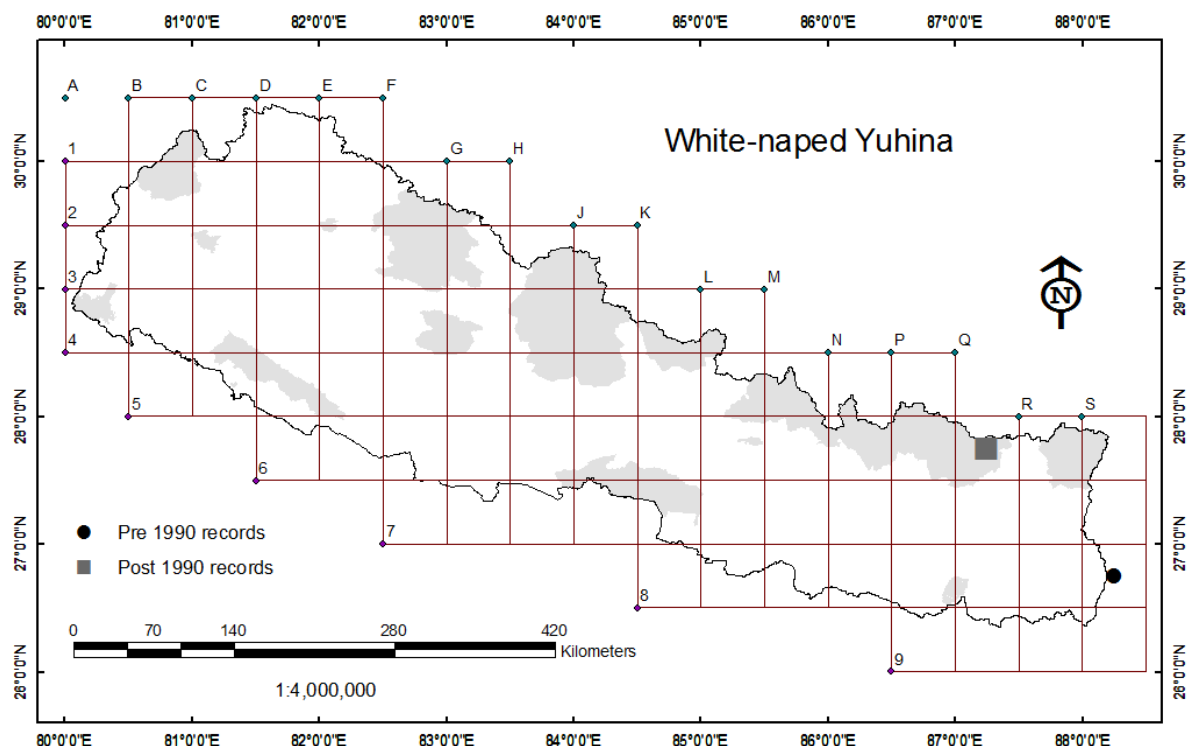
White-naped Yuhina (English), Setokane Jurechara (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



White-naped Yuhina is a rare and very local resident in the east. The first Nepal record was one collected at Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District in February 1969 (Anon. 1983). Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as fairly common in the area; one seen in April 1989 (Guinan and Dodman 1989) is the only later record from Hans Pokhari Danda.

The only other known records are from a very limited area in the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone. A pair was seen five km north-east of Nagitar in March 1990 (Tymstra 1993). Two were seen in May 2009 and four, three and one bird was seen at three sites in June 2009, all in the nearby Sangkuwa Khola valley (Cox 2009), which is the most westerly locality for the species.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 2200 m; lower limit: 915 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out specifically for White-naped Yuhina, but direct observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that the population must be small. Further fieldwork is needed in Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone to try and find additional localities for the species.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <50

Habitat and Ecology

White-naped Yuhina inhabits broadleaved evergreen forests in the subtropical and lower temperate zone. It keeps in pairs or small parties depending on the season, often with other small babblers, tits and warblers. It forages actively, mainly in the middle level of forest and in bushes (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds mainly on insects and also berries. The species is subject to vertical movements depending on the season (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

White-naped Yuhina is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forests in the subtropical and lower temperate zone. These forests types are especially threatened (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for White-naped Yuhina. The only known recent locality is in the buffer zone of Makalu Barun National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR B2ab(iii), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-naped Yuhina has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria B2ab(iii) and D1. It is a rare and very local resident, now only known from a very limited area in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in the east. It has only been recorded at one other locality (outside the protected areas' system) in the far east but there are no known records from there since 1989. The species is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forests in the subtropical and lower temperate zones. These forests types are especially threatened. Further survey work is needed in Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone to try and find additional localities for the species.

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Actinodura egertoni Gould, 1836 EN

Subspecies: *Actinodura egertoni egertoni*

Common Name

Rusty-fronted Barwing (English)

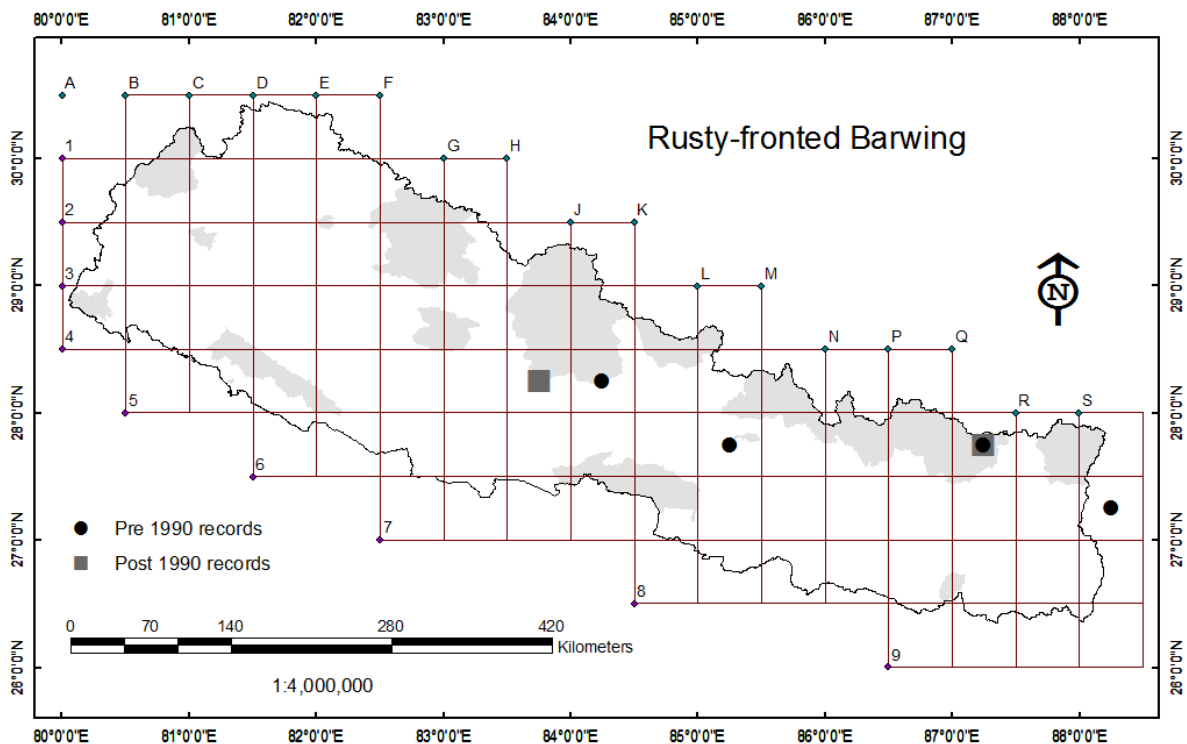
Kailotalu Banachaahar (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Rusty-fronted Barwing is a rare and local resident. The species was described from a Nepal specimen in the 19th century (Gould 1836, Warren and Harrison 1971). It was previously recorded from Santel, Seti Khola valley, Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) (Mahato *et al.* 2006) east to Hange Tham, Mai Valley Important Bird Area (e.g. Halliday 1989) in the far east. Recent records are mainly from the Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone, and also from ACA.

In west central Nepal in ACA the species has been recorded south of Lamjung Himal in October 1976 (King 1990) and in 1977 (Thiollay 1980). Recently it has been sighted in Santel forests, Seti Khola valley in May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006) and in May 2012 (Jhalak Chaudhary); this is the westernmost known locality for the species.

One was collected from a party of four at the foot of Chandrigiri above Chitlang, Makwanpur District in April 1947 (Biswas 1962), but there are no later records from the area.

The species has been reported in the past from the Phulchoki mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu

Valley as a vagrant (Mallalieu 2008).

Known records for Makalu Barun National Park are from north-west of Shyaksila in the Barun valley in November 1984 (Nepali 1984), in the upper Arun valley in August and September 1986 (Nepali 1986), 2 km north of Saisima in April 1990 (Tymstra 1993), four above Mude in December 1994 (Lama 1995) and two seen at Tashigaon in June 1995 (Hathan Chaudhary), two in April 1996 (White and White 1996), two in June 1998 (Hathan Chaudhary) and one near Seduwa in 1999, one bird (Shankar Tiwari). One dead individual was found near Simma in December 2011 (Yadav Ghimirey). A specimen was taken in Walung forest in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in January 1959 (Krabbe 1983). It was also found in the buffer zone in May 2009 (two sightings of single birds at different sites) and in June 2009 (two sightings of two birds at different sites) (Cox 2009).

There were a few pre-1990 records from Hange Tham, upper Mai valley in the Mai Valley Important Bird Area e.g. one collected in May 1970 (Anon. 1983), recorded in 1979 (Lambert 1979, Redman and Murphy 1979) and in January 1983 (Cocker and Adams 1983), and ten seen in January 1989 (Halliday 1989), but there are no known later records from the valley.

Globally Rusty-fronted Barwing has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2400 m; lower limit: 1500 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Rusty-fronted Barwing, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that the population must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <250

Habitat and Ecology

Rusty-fronted Barwing inhabits dense thickets in humid, broadleaved evergreen forest in the subtropical and lower temperate zones (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It hunts by clambering about among bushes and undergrowth although it sometimes in the canopy and keeps in small parties, usually not with other species (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds mainly on insects, also berries, figs and seeds. It is subject to seasonal altitudinal movements (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Rusty-fronted Barwing is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest in the subtropical and lower temperate zones. These forest types are especially threatened in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rusty-fronted Barwing. Recently it has been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park and the Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rusty-fronted Barwing has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a rare and local resident previously recorded from west-central Nepal eastwards, but now only known from Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone, and the Annapurna Conservation Area. It was formerly recorded in the Mai valley important Bird Area and on Chandragiri, Makwanpur District. The species is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest in the subtropical and lower temperate zones; these forest types are especially threatened.

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***Alophoixus flaveolus* (Gould, 1836) EN**

Subspecies: *Alophoixus flaveolus flaveolus*

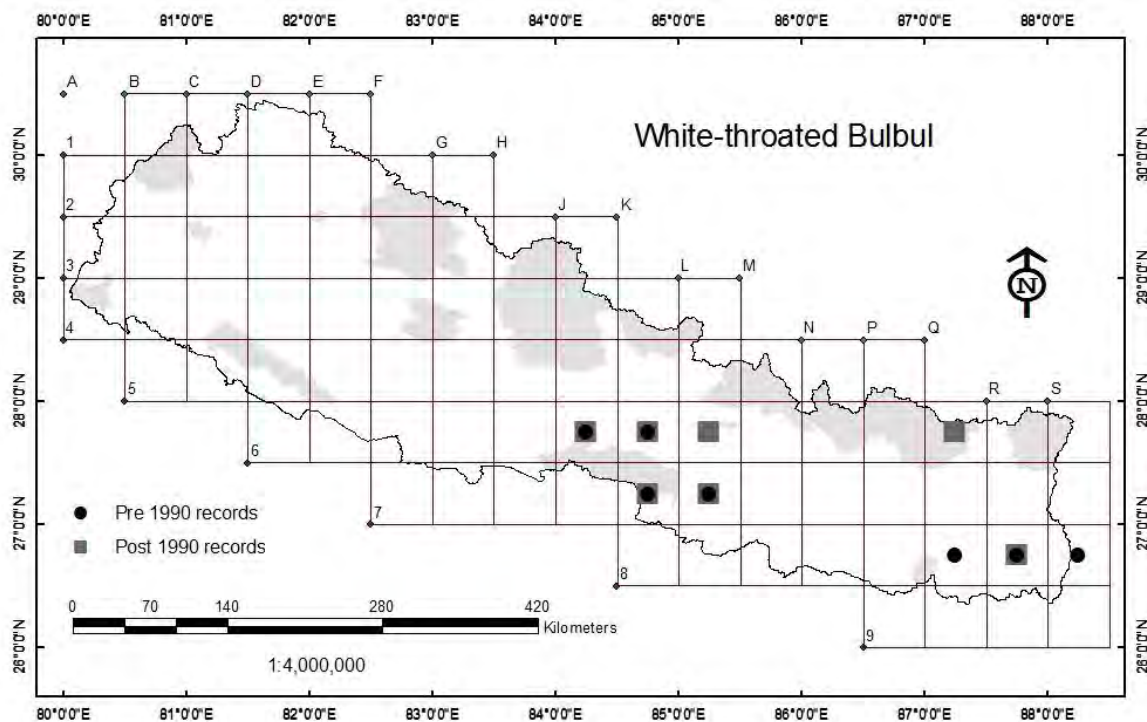
Common Name

White-throated Bulbul (English),
Setokanthe Jureli (Nepali)



Order: Passeriformes
Family: Pycnonotidae

Distribution



White-throated Bulbul is a local resident, locally frequent in Chitwan National Park, but very rare elsewhere.

The species was described in the 19th century (Gould 1836); the locality of the type was later given as Nepal (Koelz 1954).

Several specimens were collected in the 19th century by Hodgson (1844) from the lower hills in Nepal (no dates or further details of locality are available) (Hodgson 1829). Scully (1879) found it common in winter in Makwanpur District from Nimboatar to Bichiakoh in the lower hills and also collected specimens. Small flocks were observed and 11 individuals collected from Hetauda, Makwanpur District and the species was seen once at Amlekhganj, Bara District in May and June 1947, but was considered not common in central Nepal (Biswas 1961). The species was also collected at Hetauda, Makwanpur District in April 1959 (Fleming and Traylor 1961) and one was seen in the Rapti dun in December 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971), but there is only one later record from the area: three at Lendada, Makwanpur District in March 2008 (Basnet and Thakuri 2008).

The species was fairly common north of Sunischare, Jhapa District in the 1970s, 1980s and up to at least 1999, e.g. Madge *et al.* (1974), Robson (1979), Inskipp and Inskipp (1981), Calladine (1985), McKnight *et al.* (1989), Buckton and Morris (1990); in March 1997 when 15 were seen (Choudhary 1997) and at least ten in April 1999

(Shankar Tiwari). However, only one was seen there in December 2007 (Badri Chaudhary verbally 2010), and none since that date. There are single records from a few other localities in the far east, e.g. 6 km east of Kankaimukh, Jhapa District in February 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964), Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District in April 1989 (Guinan and Dodman 1989) and March 1997 (Hathan Chaudhary), Makalu Barun National Park in May 1995 (Choudhary 1995) and Juke Khadi Community Forest, Jhapa District in May 2006 (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, 2007).

Gurung (1983) noted that the species was rare in Chitwan National Park and only one other record (Kovacs 1988) is known from the park up to at least 1990. However, recently White-throated Bulbul has been regularly seen in the Churia Hills, Chitwan National Park, probably because of improved recording there. Records include: eight in 2002 (Chaudhary 2004), seven in February 2005 (Chaudhary 2010), 11 in February 2006 by the Mule Khola (Subedi 2010), two in May 2007 (GC 2010), three by the Surung Khola and four by the Panesa Khola in April 2009 (Subedi 2010), two in April 2010 (GC 2010), and also recorded by the Gangera Khola in April 2010 (Churia Hill Survey Team). There are several other records at lower altitudes in the park since at least 2000: one on Banderjholra Island in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004), up to six near Tiger Tops in March 2007 (Subedi 2010), eight there in December 2010 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2010), and seven in February 2012 (D. B. Chaudhary); five near Tiger Tops Tented Camp in February 2012 (Bird Education Society), and five near Devi Tal in February 2010 (Suchit Basnet in litt. 2010).

Three were seen at Rambhorobhata, Parsa Wildlife Reserve in 1996 (Poorneshwor Subedi). Seven were recorded near Sinti waterfall, Shaktikhor area, Chitwan District in February 2005 (Subedi 2010). A group of five was seen in November 1992 on Phulchoki, Kathmandu Valley at a much higher altitude than previously recorded in Nepal (Murphy and Waller 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Thailand (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 455 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for White-throated Bulbul, but observations of the species and the lack of suitable habitat indicate that the population must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 150; maximum population: 250

Habitat and Ecology

White-throated Bulbul inhabits tropical broadleaved evergreen biotope: bushes and undergrowth in dense forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is mainly confined to foothill forests of the lowlands (NTNC Bird RDB workshop 2012). The species is resident subject to some altitudinal movements. It feeds on berries and wild figs, also insects, which are at times taken on the wing (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

White-throated Bulbul is seriously threatened by losses, fragmentation and degradation of tropical broadleaved evergreen forest. Remaining areas of suitable habitat are small and fragmented (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for White-throated Bulbul. It is locally frequent in the Churia Hills, Chitwan National Park and at lower altitudes in the park in winter. There are single records from Parsa Wildlife Reserve and Makalu Barun National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global List status: Least Concerned (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-throated Bulbul has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a local resident, locally frequent in Chitwan National Park, but very rare elsewhere. The number of localities has decreased and the population is probably declining. The species is seriously threatened by losses, fragmentation and degradation of tropical broadleaved evergreen forest. Remaining areas of suitable habitat are small and fragmented indicating that the population must now be small. There are single records from two other protected areas.

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Anthreptes singalensis (Gmelin, 1780) EN

Subspecies: *Anthreptes singalensis rubinigenis*

Common Name

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird (English)

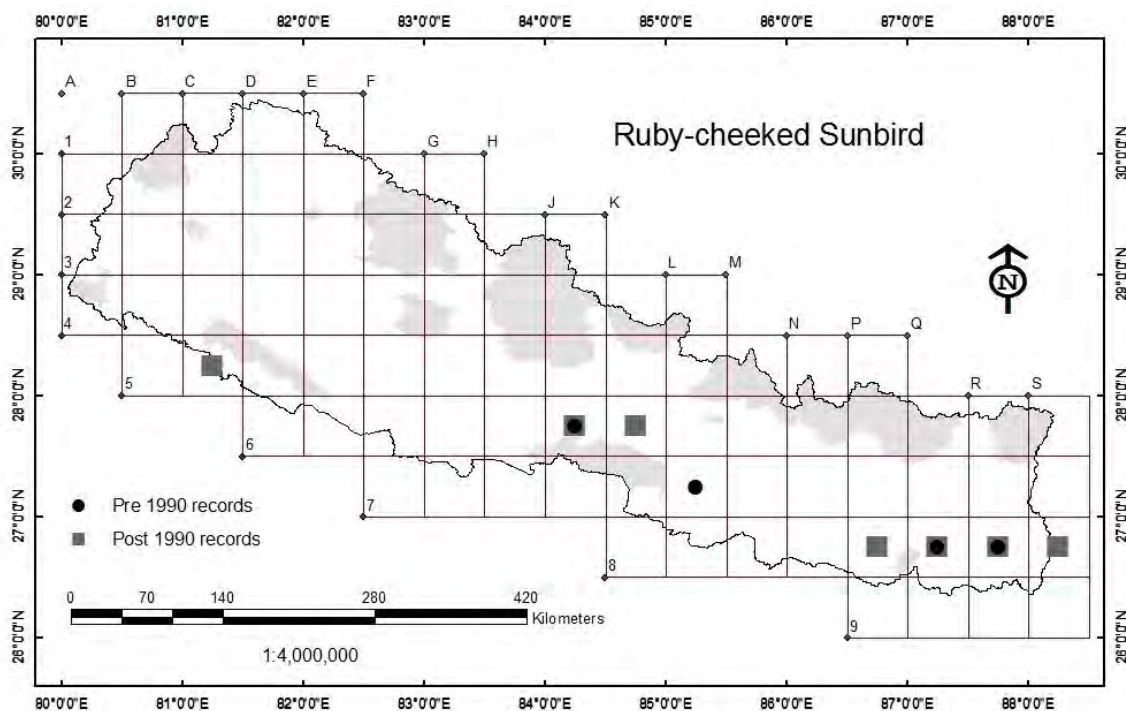
Pyajikaane Bungechara (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Nectariniidae



Distribution



Ruby-cheeked Sunbird is a rare and local resident.

The first Nepal record was a specimen collected at Chatra, Sunsari District in February 1949 (Ripley 1950); there are no later records from the locality.

The species is recorded from Bardia National Park (Kalu Ram Tamang undated in Inskipp 2001) in the far west to Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District (Baral 2010) in the far east.

In central Nepal the species was described as rare in Chitwan National Park by Gurung (1983). It was recorded in the Tiger Tops area by R. L. Fleming (undated) (Fleming *et al.* 1984), singles were regularly seen there between November 2001 and February 2004, with two in January 2002 (Chaudhary 2004), two in September 2005 (Kalu Ram Tamang), one in November 2007 (Baral 2007), and three in March 2010 (Chaudhary 2010). One was seen near Temple Tiger in March 2009 (Tek Bahadur Gurung, Sylver Corre) and five in March 2012 (Kalu Ram Tamang).

The species has also been recorded in the Churia hills, Chitwan District: singles by the Bardha Khola in March 2005 and by the Panesa Khola in April 2009 (Subedi 2010).

There is one known record from Hetauda, Makwanpur District, a single bird in October 1970 (Inskipp *et al.*

1971).

The only other area where Ruby-cheeked Sunbird has been found post-1990 is in the east where it is rare and occurs outside the protected areas' system. A specimen was taken near Dharan, Sunsari District in February 1969 (Anon. 1983); the species was seen there in February 2002 (Ofner and Basnet 2002), and one in June 2012 (Som GC). It was sighted in Morang District in December 1992 (Mackenzie 1994) and one east of Dharan in Morang District in June 1999 (Basnet 2003). One was recorded at Belkatari, Udayapur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994). There are no known later records from these localities.

Gregory-Smith and Batson (1976) described it as uncommon in the eastern terai. Fleming *et al.* (1984) reported five in the lower Mai valley, Ilam District in March (year unknown); also recorded there in Juge Khadi Community Forest in 2006 (Basnet 2006). It was also recorded in Ilam District in December 1988 (van Riessen 1989), six at Chisapani, Ilam District in March 2004 (Shankar Tiwari) and two on Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010).

A specimen was collected at Kankaimukh, Jhapa District in February 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964). There were a number of records in the 1980s in Sukhani forest north of Sunischare, Jhapa District, e.g. two in April 1982 (Fairbank 1982), two in April 1986 (Heath 1986), and three in January 1989 (Halliday 1989). However, only a few records are known since 1990: singles in December 1992 (Cox 1992), March 1997 (Choudhary 1997) and March 1998 (Suchit Basnet in litt. 2004) and none later.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 455 m; lower limit: 100 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <100

Habitat and Ecology

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird inhabits tropical broadleaved forest and favours evergreen biotope. It is a small active sunbird, continually flitting about on branches and bushes (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects and nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987). It was found breeding near TigerTops, Chitwan National Park in May 2005 when two young were seen being fed by parents (Kalu Ram Tamang).

Threats

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of tropical forest, especially evergreens. This forest type is now very reduced and highly fragmented in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Ruby-cheeked Sunbird. Almost all recent records have been from Chitwan National Park; it has also been recorded marginally in Bardia National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN B2ab(iii), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria B2ab(iii) and D1. The species is rare and very local, only known from two localities. Its population is estimated to be less than 100 birds. All recent records are from Chitwan National Park or in the east, where it occurs outside the protected areas' system. It is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of tropical forest, especially evergreen. This forest type is now very reduced and highly fragmented in Nepal.

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Brachypteryx stellata Gould, 1868 EN

Subspecies: *Brachypteryx stellata stellata*

Common Name

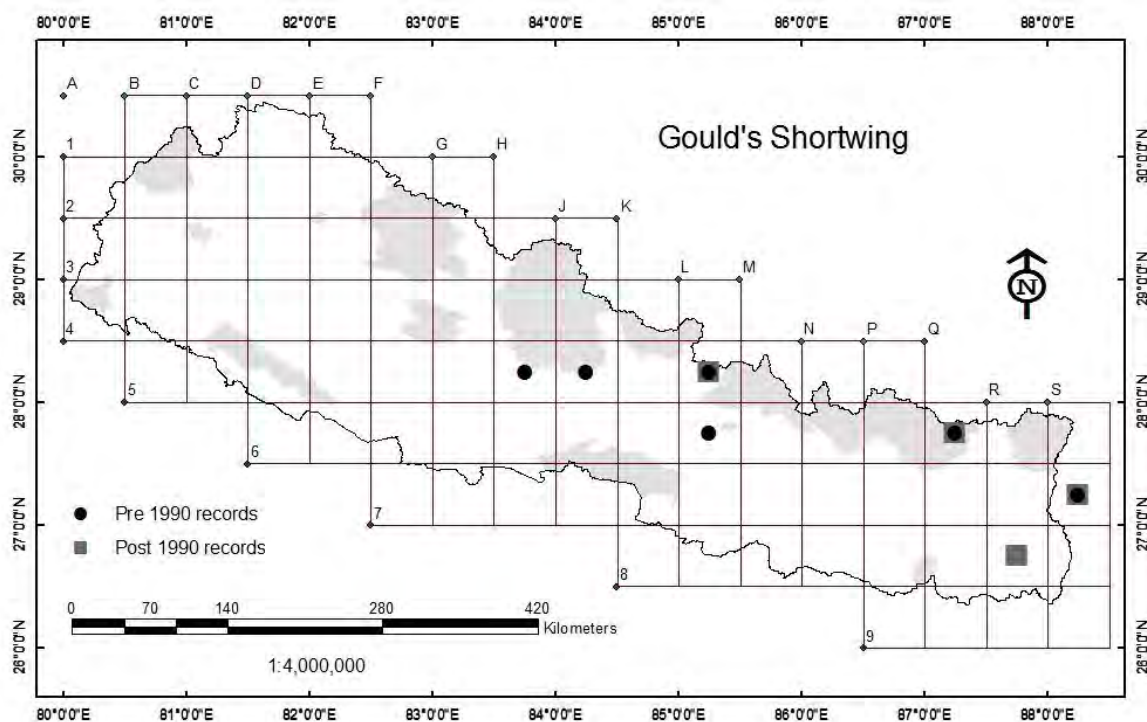
Gould's Shortwing (English),
Thople Laghupankha (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Turdidae



Distribution



Gould's Shortwing is very rare and very local; probably a resident subject to altitudinal movements. The first Nepal record was in April 1912 in the upper Mai valley, Ilam district (Stevens 1925). The only other record from the upper Mai valley was one collected in March 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964).

There were a few records in the 1970s: found breeding in the upper Arun valley in late June 1973 (Cronin 1979) and singles collected there in July and October 1973 (Anon. 1983a). It was recorded on a trek from Pokhara to the Annapurna Sanctuary in May 1974 (Gaston 1974) and south of Annapurna in 1977 (Thiollay 1980); both records were from what is now the Annapurna Conservation Area, but further details are unknown. The species was also reported from Gaucher forest, Kathmandu Valley in July 1977; presumably a migrant (Hall 1978).

The only locality where the species has been regularly recorded is near Ghopte Cave, below Gosainkund, Langtang National Park: the maximum of seven was seen in May 1982 (Robson 1982), and other records include Redman and Murphy (1979), Grimmett (1982), Harrap (1985), Goodwin (1986), and Larsen (1988). Since 1990, it has continued to be recorded at Ghopte, but mainly single birds have been seen. Singles were sighted in June 1995 (Toohig 1995), May 1997 (Cooper and Cooper 1997), June 1999 (Hathan Chaudhary and

Ben King) and May 2002 (Wallace and Wallace 2002), two in May 2007 (Byskov 2007), two or three in May 2008 (Wheatley 2010), and singles reportedly seen in April 2011 (Shankar Tiwari) and April 2012 (Som GC).

The species has only been recorded from three other localities since 1990: one seen in March 1997 between Sukhani and Garuwa, Jhapa/Ilam Districts (Giri and Choudhary 1997), recorded (numbers and date unknown) in the Sankhuwa river valley, Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone between 1993 and 1995 (Cox 1999) and one seen at Sandakpur, Ilam District in July 2007 (Yadav Ghimirey).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4000 m; lower limit: 3200 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for the species, observations indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 50; maximum population: 200

Habitat and Ecology

Gould's Shortwing breeds in dense rhododendron and bamboo, juniper shrubberies, and thick undergrowth in fir and rhododendron forest near damp ravines (Grimmett *et al.* (1998). The species' winter habitat is unknown in Nepal; outside Nepal it has been observed in a dark, damp streambed full of ferns and mosses (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is often very confiding and comes out in the open more than other shortwings (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is probably a resident subject to altitudinal movements (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It eats larvae, grubs and small beetles, also seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

In the breeding season Gould's Shortwing is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of juniper shrubberies and dense forest with bamboo. Its habitat near Ghopte Cave may be particularly disturbed as it lies on a popular tourist trekking route.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Gould's Shortwing. The species was formerly recorded regularly in Langtang National Park and may still occur; there is also one post-1990 record from Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone. All other records are from outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Gould's Shortwing has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is very rare and probably a resident subject to altitudinal movements. There is only one locality where it has been recorded regularly: near Ghopte Cave, below Gosainkund, Langtang National Park; however, mainly single birds have been sighted in recent years. There are few other post-1990 records including one from

Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone. The other records are from outside the protected areas' system. The species is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of suitable habitat in the breeding season: high altitude juniper shrubberies and dense subalpine forest with bamboo. The species' winter habitat in Nepal and threats in winter are not known.

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***Cochoa purpurea* Hodgson, 1836 EN**

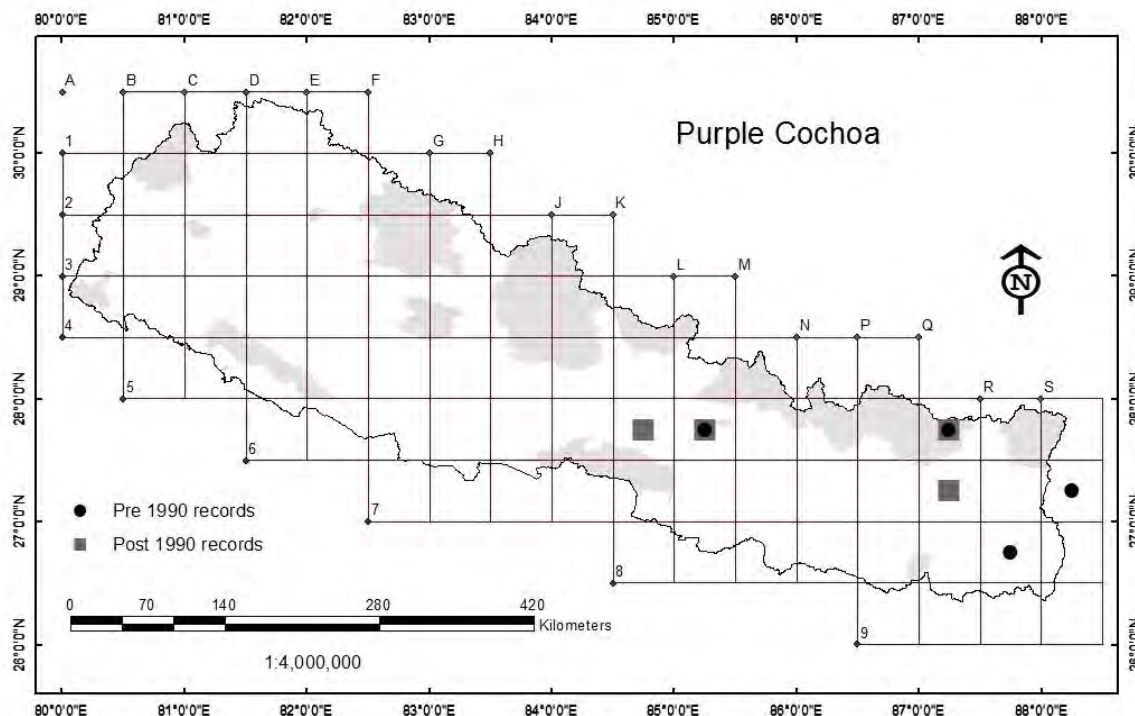
Common Name

Purple Cochoa (English),
Baijani Cochoa (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Turdidae



Distribution



Purple Cochoa is rare, local and probably resident in central and eastern areas. The species was first described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836), when it was collected in the lower hills and also collected in breeding condition in the northern hills in May (year unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

The next known records were one collected on Shivapuri ridge in what is now Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in May 1921 (Anon. 1981), and one seen in the same area between 1942 and 1945 (Smythies 1950). One was collected at Bhimpedi, Kathmandu Valley in May 1947 (Biswas 1961).

In the far east a specimen was taken near Hange Tham, Ilam District in May 1970 (Anon. 1983, Fleming *et al.* 1976). Singles were also seen in the Mai valley, Ilam District in September 1978 (Hall 1978) and near Ilam, Ilam District also in 1978 (de Witt 1982). A specimen was collected from Sukipatal, upper Arun valley in November 1973 (Anon. 1988).

Since 1990 there are only five known records: three above Dhunge Sangu on the Milke Danda in May 1994 (Lama 1994a), a nest with eggs found in Makalu Barun National Park in June 1994 (Lama 1994b), two in

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in May 2009 (O'Connell Davidson 2009), and one photographed in Kumrose Community Forest, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in October 2014 (Sadat Amin Khan and Kawsar Mostofa). A record of one seen on Phulchoki, Kathmandu Valley in April 1996 (Giri and Choudhary 1996) has been withdrawn by the observer (Suchit Basnet).

Globally the species has also been recorded in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2255 m; lower limit: 915 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Purple Cochoa. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of the extent of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 30

Habitat and Ecology

Purple Cochoa inhabits humid, dense broadleaved, evergreen forests with a well-developed understorey in the subtropical and lower temperate zones (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is quiet and unobtrusive, usually keeping well hidden amongst dense undergrowth or on the ground (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is easily overlooked except in spring when males sing from the tops of tall trees (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is resident. It feeds on berries, insects, molluscs and slugs (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Purple Cochoa is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of dense broadleaved evergreen forest leading to the loss of dense undergrowth. This forest type in subtropical and lower temperate zones is now much reduced and fragmented (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Purple Cochoa. The species has been recorded a few times (including once recently) in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park and has been proved breeding in Makalu Barun National Park. All other records are outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Purple Cochoa has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. The species is rare, local and probably resident in some central and eastern areas. It is easily overlooked because of its quiet and unobtrusive behaviour, except in spring when males can be located by their song. However, its habitat of dense broadleaved evergreen forest with a well-developed understorey in the subtropical and lower

temperate zones is seriously threatened by forest loss and degradation. Remaining suitable areas are now much reduced and fragmented. It has recently been proved breeding in one national park and seen in the breeding season in another.

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Dumetia hyperythra (Franklin, 1831) EN

Subspecies: *Dumetia hyperythra hyperythra*

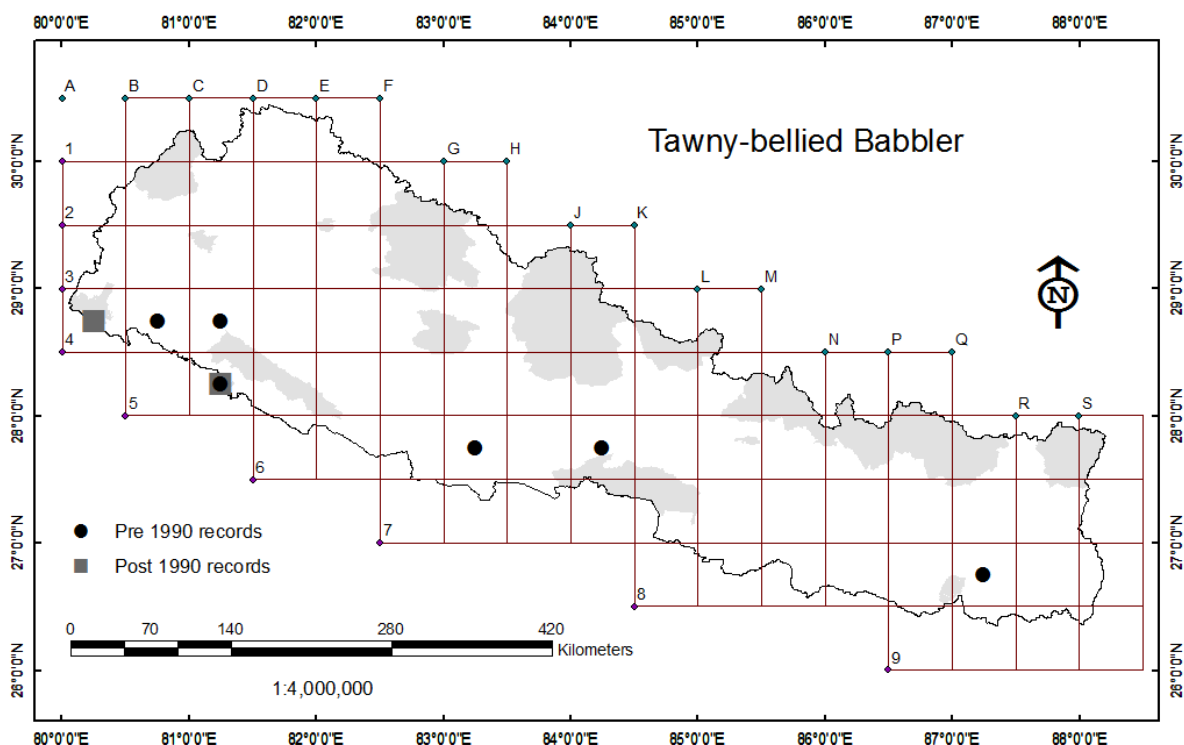
Common Name

Tawny-bellied Babbler (English),
Kailo Ghansebhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Tawny-bellied Babbler is a rare and local resident. The first Nepal records of the species were a series of specimens collected in Bardia District at Tikapur and Chisapani in December 1948 (Ripley 1950). It was described as a common species at both localities (Ripley 1950). Another specimen was collected at Dhanghadi, Kailali District in December 1952 from a flock of eight or ten birds (Rand and Fleming 1957). A party of 12 birds was recorded in the eastern terai in January 1975 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976) (further locality details are unknown). One was seen north of Butwal in Rupandehi District in August 1978 (Cox 1984). Gurung (1983) reported the species a rare, possibly resident and possibly breeding species in Chitwan National Park.

Since the 1980s Tawny-bellied Babbler has only been recorded from three localities: Blackbuck Conservation Area (Kunwar 2015), Bardia National Park and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. Known records from Bardia National Park are: flocks on two dates in January 1992 (Halliday and Baral 1992), six in March 1992 (Baral 1992), five in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), eight in March 1996 (Giri and Choudhary 1996), four in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), ten in January 2003 (Giri 2003), one in January 2007 (Shahi 2010), and three in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009). It was listed as a frequent resident in a species' overview of the park (Inskipp 2001). The species appears to be rare in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. Known records in the reserve are: three

in May 1996 (Giri and Choudhary 1996, one in April 2005 (Subedi 2010), eight in February 2009 (Giri 2009), two in February 2011 and two in March 2011 (Chaudhary 2011) and four in November 2011 (Tika Giri). During a study of birds of lowland grasslands Baral (2001) recorded the species at very low frequency (<5%) in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in both summer and winter.

Globally the species has been recorded from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Tawny-bellied Babbler, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Tawny-bellied Babbler inhabits scrub and tall grasses in the lowlands (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The first Nepal specimens occurred in scrub, mainly of *Zizyphus* and tall grasses which occurred on the banks and small islands of rivers (Ripley 1950). It has also been recorded in Nepal in tall grass in abandoned fields in the lowlands (Cox 1984). The species forms loose flocks of about ten birds which restlessly follow each other. Although skulking, it can be located by its clear whistling song and contact calls (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It mainly eats insects; flower nectar is also taken (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident and not known to undertake movements (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Tawny-bellied Babbler is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of tall grass and scrub in the lowlands.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Tawny-bellied Babbler. However, all known recent records are from three protected areas: Bardia National Park, Blackbuck Conservation Area and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN B2ab(iii)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Tawny-bellied Babbler has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria B2ab(iii). The species is a rare resident in the lowlands with a fragmented distribution. All recent records are from three protected areas in the south-west - Blackbuck Conservation Area, Bardia National Park and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. Its distributional area has reduced: in the 1970s it was recorded from one site in the far east and one in west-central Nepal and in the early 1980s it was recorded in central Nepal in Chitwan National Park. There are no

later records from these localities. Tawny-bellied Babbler is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of its habitat of tall grass and scrub in the lowlands.

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***Graminicola bengalensis* Jerdon, 1863 EN**

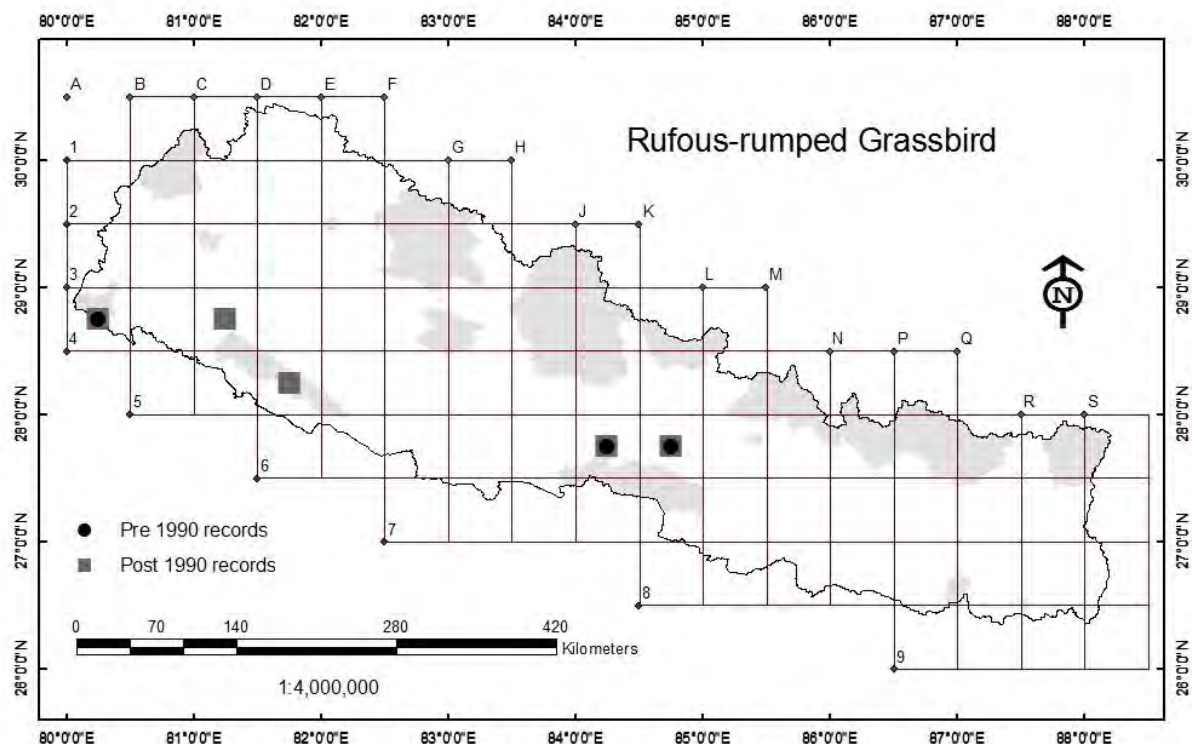
Common Name

Rufous-rumped Grassbird (English),
Ghaanshari (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Rufous-rumped Grassbird is a very local breeding resident. *Graminicola bengalensis* has recently been split into two species (*G. bengalensis* and *G. striatus*, with *G. bengalensis* occurring in the Indian subcontinent including Nepal (Leader *et al.* 2010).

The first Nepal record of the species was at Bilauri, Kanchanpur District in February 1937 (Bailey 1938); it was also collected there in December 1952 and January 1953 (Rand and Fleming 1957). There are no later records from the area and no suitable habitat is left there (Baral *et al.* 2006). A specimen was also collected near the Reu-Rapti River in November 1964 (Fleming and Traylor 1968). Gurung (1983) reported it was seen occasionally in Chitwan National Park and it possibly bred there. There have been many later reports from the park, including 10 recorded in one day in April 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982). A record of two at Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in May 1982 was the first for the reserve (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982) and there are a number of later reports, e.g. Baral and Mills (1992), and Baral (1995/1996).

A detailed study of its status and distribution in Nepal in 1998 showed that the species occurred in all major grasslands of Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and Chitwan National Park and was fairly common in these protected areas (Baral *et al.* (2006).

There are two known records of the species from Bardia National Park, a single bird in March 1997 (Roberts 1997) and two birds at Khadrapur in February 2011 (Som GC). A brief survey carried out in the park in March

1998 did not find the species, but the survey coincided with heavy grass burning, which may have biased the results and further exploration in the park will be needed to reveal a clearer picture of its status there (Baral *et al.* 2006).

In Chitwan National Park buffer zone, two birds were seen at Hattisar, Sauraha in December 2010 (Bird Education Society); one at Sauraha in September 2012 (Tika Giri); two in Janakauli Community Forest area in April 2012 (Tika Giri), and two in the same area in September 2012 (Bird Education Society).

There is one report of the species from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, a single in November 1989 (Nielsen and Jakobsen 1989). No birds were found there during a later survey; most of the tall grassland habitat has been degraded or lost from the reserve and what remains is altered every year by monsoon floods (Baral *et al.* 2006). The core part of the species' range is in Nepal.

Globally it has also been recorded in India and Bangladesh where it is rare (Leader *et al.* 2010).

Elevation

Upper limit: 270 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

The 1998 survey showed that Nepal's lowland grasslands hold an internationally important part of the world population of *G. bengalensis* (Baral *et al.* 2006, Leader *et al.* 2010)

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 2000; maximum population: 5300

Habitat and Ecology

Rufous-rumped Grassbird has been recorded in all types of relatively undisturbed, dense, tall grasslands with average sward height of grasses generally more than a metre. The species is usually absent from moderately to heavily grazed grasslands. It also avoids homogenous grasslands and shows a preference for heterogeneous and complex grasslands. Open grasslands and those away from forests were found to support a greater density of the species than grasslands close to forests (Baral *et al.* 2006). It chiefly feeds on insects (Baral *et al.* 2006). The species is a resident (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It was found breeding in grassland in the Jankauli Community Forest area, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in April 2012 (Tika Giri).

Threats

Very small areas of suitable habitat remain and these are almost entirely within protected areas. Here Rufous-rumped Grassbird is severely threatened by disturbance and inappropriate protection resulting in overgrazing and subsequent grassland degradation. It is also seriously threatened by inappropriate management, such as ploughing in protected areas. In addition, in Chitwan National Park it is threatened by the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha* which can smother grasslands and has had serious impacts in the park. Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rufous-rumped Grassbird. The species is now entirely confined to protected areas: Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Chitwan National Park and possibly Bardia National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN Bcbb(iii)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rufous-rumped Grassbird has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria B2ab(iii). The species has declined and its distributional range has reduced. It now has a small and fragmented distribution and is entirely confined to protected areas (Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Chitwan National Park and its buffer zone, and possibly Bardia National Park). It is seriously threatened by disturbance and inappropriate protection resulting in overgrazing and subsequent grassland degradation, and also by inappropriate management, such as ploughing and burning. In addition, in Chitwan National Park its habitat is seriously threatened by the invasive alien plant *Mikania micrantha*.

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***Leiothrix argenteauris* (Hodgson, 1837) EN**

Subspecies: *Leiothrix argenteauris argenteauris*

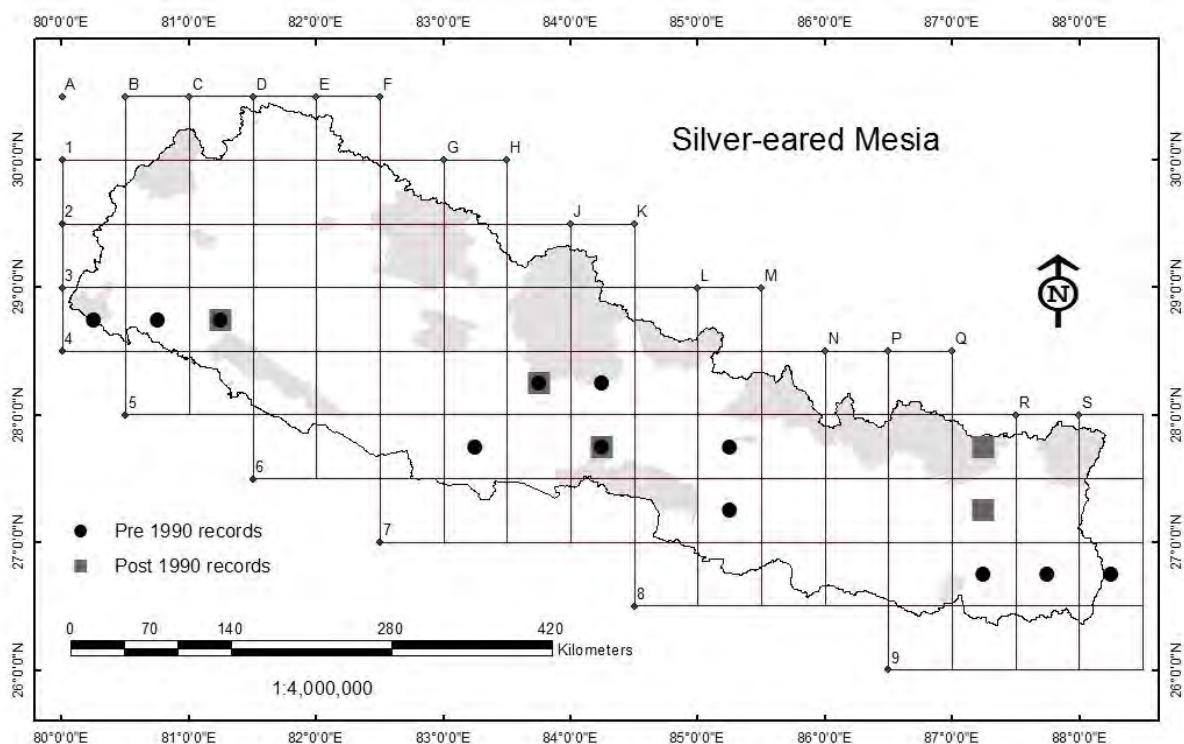
Common Name

Silver-eared Mesia (English),
Chandikane Mesia (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Silver-eared Mesia is a local resident. The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1838, Warren and Harrison 1971), when it was collected in the lower and central hills (date and further locality details are unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

It was formerly a resident, found from the far west to far east Nepal. There are several reports between 1980 and 1990, mainly from the east, but only three are known since that date, both from Bardia National Park (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Scully (1879) found it very plentiful in winter from Nimboatar to Hetauda, Makwanpur District; he collected two males from Nimboatar in December 1877. Biswas (1962) recorded it in the same area and reported it was not uncommon in the central dun, especially near Hetauda, Makwanpur district; he collected nine males and six females between Hetauda and Bhimpedi, Kathmandu Valley in May and June 1947. There is only one known later record from Hetauda: three birds seen in October 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971).

Ripley (1950) also collected a specimen at Bhimpedi, Kathmandu Valley in May 1947 and saw the species at Chisapani, Bardia District in December 1948. Cox (1985) recorded the species again in the park: four flocks of

up to 15 birds were seen between Chisapani and Mothipur guard post in November 1985. There are several known post-1990 records from Bardia National Park where the species is locally common: a flock of 45+ at Tiger Tops Karnali Tented Camp in January 1992 (Baral 1992), 30 in the park in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995) and two at the tented camp in January 1996 (Suchit Basnet verbally 2010). In the Churia hills four were seen at Rajkanda in July 2012 and eight in April 2015 (BNCC) and four there in May 2015 (Ram Shahi), four at Dharampani in April 2015 (BNCC), one at Gainekanda in April 2015 (BNCC), and two near Telpani, Dharampani in May 2015 (Ram Shahi).

Elsewhere in the west, Rand and Fleming (1957) reported two sightings of flocks of three to 15 birds and collected one at Maildhap, Palpa District in January 1952 and two at Belbahadi, Kailali District in December 1952, but there are no later records from either locality. Twenty were seen at Begnas Tal, Kaski District in December 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971) and Thiollay (1980) recorded it south of Annapurna (other locality and date details are unknown), but there are no later records from this area. A group of seven to eight was observed above the Seti River south of Bandipur, Tanahu District in December 1974 (Hendricks 1982). A flock of six was seen en route to Astam, Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District (H5) in November 2015 (Mannshanta Ghimire and Tek Gharti Magar).

In central Nepal it was seen near Narayanghat, Chitwan District (Anon. 1979), but no later records are known from this locality. However, it has been recorded elsewhere in an unprotected area in Chitwan District recently, from the Siraichuli area, Maharabhat hills where it has been seen regularly recently (BES). This is a new locality for the species which was previously not surveyed. Records include a flock of 30 in February 2011 (Hem Subedi pers. comm. to H. S. Baral August 2012), two there in April 2011 (Som G.C., Rupendra Karmacharya, Michael Dooher), seven in May 2011 (Anil Gurung, Ram Gir Prasad Chaudhary), 12 in May 2014 and four in May 2015 (Basu Bidari, Suk Ram Mahato, Tika Giri and BES). One was also seen at another new unprotected locality - in Bara District in winter 2013 (Suraj Baral).

In the east there are single records from Tribeni, Sunsari District where several birds were seen in June 1978 (Isherwood 1978) and in 1989 at Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District (Guinan and Dodman 1989, De Luce and Goodyer 1990). The species was recorded several times in the Mai valley, Ilam District: three birds between Ilam and Jamuna in March 1981 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981). It was also recorded in the valley in 1987 (Juliusberger 1987), at Soyang in January 1988 and Sablejung in June 1988 (van Riessen 1989), and 30+ near Chisapani and 20+ (in two flocks) near Soyang in 1989 (Halliday 1989). Three to four birds were sighted at Jamuna, Ilam District in 2009 (Bharat Subba). One was seen at Chichila, Suke Patal, Sankhuwasabha District in June 1995 (Hathan Chaudhary) – a new locality for the species. There are no known later records from the east.

Globally Silver-eared Mesia has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1830 m; lower limit: 305 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Silver-eared Mesia. There has been a decline in distribution indicating that the population may have declined.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Silver-eared Mesia inhabits thickets, tangles and bushes in edges and clearings of forest, also in ravines; it favours broadleaved evergreen biotope (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on insects, seeds and berries

(Ali and Ripley 1987). It is a resident, subject to slight vertical or erratic movements in winter (Ali and Ripley 1987). In April 2011 there was proof of breeding in the Siraichuli area, Maharabhat hills, Chitwan District (BES).

Threats

Silver-eared Mesia is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of forests, especially in the broadleaved evergreen biotope leading to the removal of dense bushes and thickets which it inhabits. Nepal's broadleaved evergreen forests are much reduced and fragmented (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Silver-eared Mesia. There are several reports of Silver-eared Mesia from Bardia National Park, but none from other protected areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN B2ab(i)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Silver-eared Mesia has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria B2ab(i). The species is a local resident. Since 1990 it has been regularly recorded from one protected area (Bardia National Park), where it is locally common, and an unprotected locality: Siraichuli, in the Maharabhat hills, Chitwan District in central Nepal where it is common. There are single recent records from four other unprotected localities, one in western, one in central and two in eastern Nepal. It is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of forests, especially in the broadleaved evergreen biotope, leading to the loss of dense bushes and thickets which it inhabits. Broadleaved evergreen forests are now much reduced and fragmented.

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***Lonchura atricapilla* (Vieillot, 1807) EN**

Subspecies: *Lonchura atricapilla atricapilla*, *rubroniger*

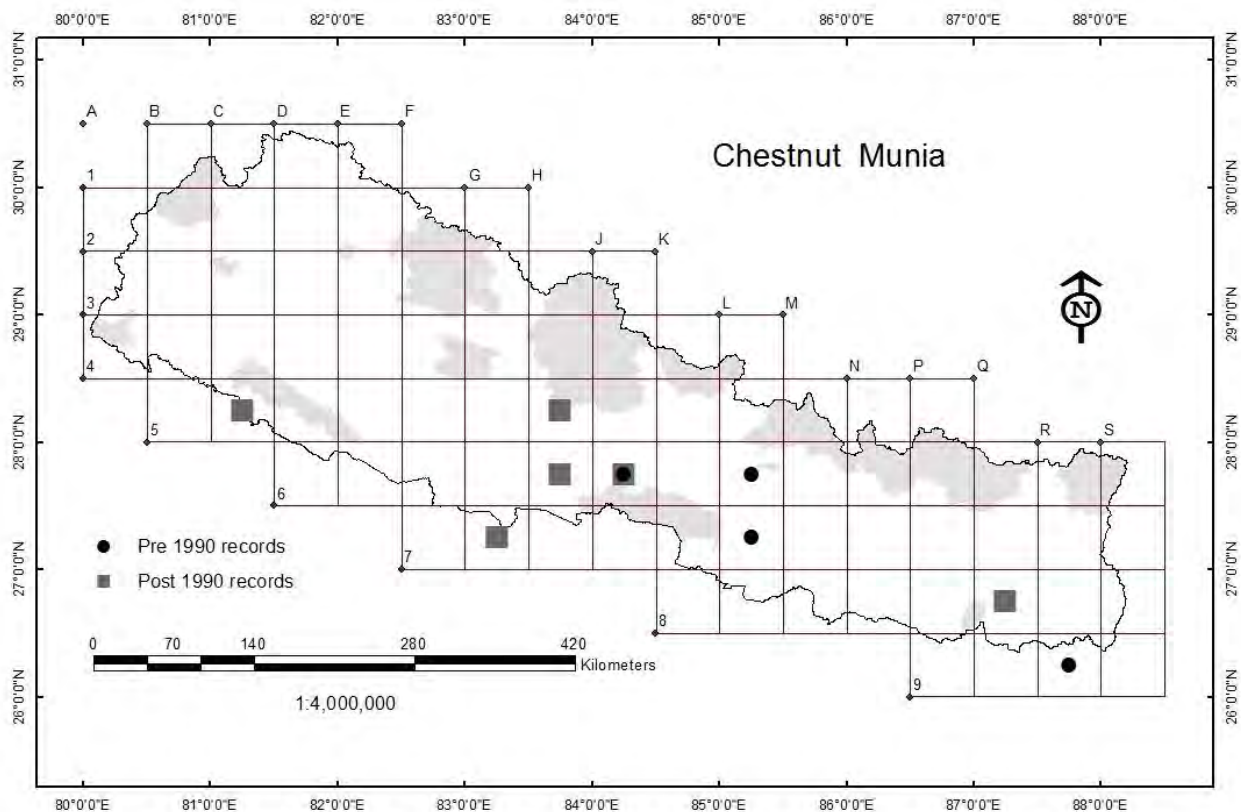
Common Name

Chestnut Munia (English),
Kalotauke Munia (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Estrildidae



Distribution



Chestnut Munia is a rare and local resident. There has been some confusion between this species and the introduced Black-headed Munia *L. malacca*, as the two species were only split fairly recently by BirdLife International and Rasmussen and Anderton (2005). Since at least 1990 Black-headed Munia has been recorded more frequently than Chestnut Munia (Hem Sagar Baral).

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was locally distributed and probably resident; fairly common in Chitwan National Park, several records from the Koshi marshes, and mainly single records from elsewhere. However, these references may refer to both Black-headed and Chestnut Munia, which were formerly considered conspecific. There are specimen records: one from Hetauda, Makwanpur in July 1948 (Biswas 1963), three from a flock of 150 birds at Jhapa, Jhapa District in February 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964), and three specimens taken from a flock of 12-15 birds 8 km west of the Reu/Rapti Rivers, Chitwan (Fleming and Traylor

1968). Scully (1877) described it as a common breeding summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley in 1877, but all later known records from the Valley appear to be of Black-headed Munia.

The species' range has decreased since the 1960s, and possibly earlier, see map and text below.

The post-1990 status of Chestnut Munia in protected areas is: recorded in Bardia National Park and buffer zone: one in the park in Baghaura Phanta in October 2013 (Ram Bahadur Shahi) and 25 in the buffer zone in the Khata corridor in March 2014 (Bardia Nature Conservation Club) and a pair there in March 2014 (BNCC). It is a rare resident in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) where it is mainly recorded during the monsoon (H. Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp 11 June 2014) and has also been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (H. S. Baral *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, June 2014).

The species has been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: one in Namuna Community Forest (H6), Nawalparasi District in February 2014 (D. B. Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014) and in Madi area, Chitwan District in May 2013 and March 2014 (BES, Basu Bidari *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, June 2014).

There are two known records outside the protected areas' system: at Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District south and north of the Telar area – singles in January and February 2011 (Dinesh Giri) and in the Khupaudi valley, Pokhara in February 2011 (Hari KC).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Laos, Malaysia, Martinique (to France), Myanmar, Palau, Philippines, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1220 m (- 1370 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Chestnut Munia. Changes in population are difficult to assess because the species was considered conspecific with Black-headed Munia *L. malacca* until fairly recently. However, from the available information the species seems to have contracted its distributional range, and is now only recorded in reduced flock sizes.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <250

Habitat and Ecology

Chestnut Munia inhabits marshes, tall grassland and cultivation. It is a typical estrildine, feeding chiefly on small seeds which it picks up from the ground or by clinging to stems and pulling the seeds directly from seed heads. Outside the breeding season it is gregarious. If disturbed, birds typically fly up together in a close-knit pack and move off with fast, whirring wingbeats to the cover of nearby trees or bushes. The flight is undulating, but the flock as a whole maintains a fairly direct course (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on grass seeds and rice (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Chestnut Munia is threatened by the loss of marshes and tall grassland and possibly by pesticides. It may well be at risk from competition with the introduced Black-headed Munia which may have replaced Chestnut Munia in its native habitat. Both species have been seen together at Chitwan and Koshi (Suchit Basnet). It may also be threatened by hunting and trapping. Large numbers of Black-headed Munias and possibly, also individuals of Chestnut Munia, have been recorded in Kathmandu bird markets (Thapa and Thakuri 2009). Suchit Basnet confirms this species was frequently on sale in Kathmandu bird market – this species and Black-

headed Munia are the most common species he has seen in captivity in Kathmandu.

Conservation Measures

Chestnut Munia has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2d?e? C2a(i)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Chestnut Munia has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2d?e? and C2a(i). It appears to be a rare and local resident. The species was split from the introduced Black-headed Munia *L. malacca* fairly recently. The species seems to have contracted its distributional range, e.g. there are no definite post-1990 records from the Kathmandu Valley where it was a common breeding bird in the 19th century, and it is now only recorded in reduced flock sizes. It may well be at risk from competition with Black-headed Munia which may have replaced Chestnut Munia in its native habitat. It is threatened by the loss of marshes and tall grassland and possibly by pesticides and may also be at risk from hunting and trapping.

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Malacocincla abbotti Blyth, 1845 EN

Subspecies: *Malacocincla abbotti abbotti*

Common Name

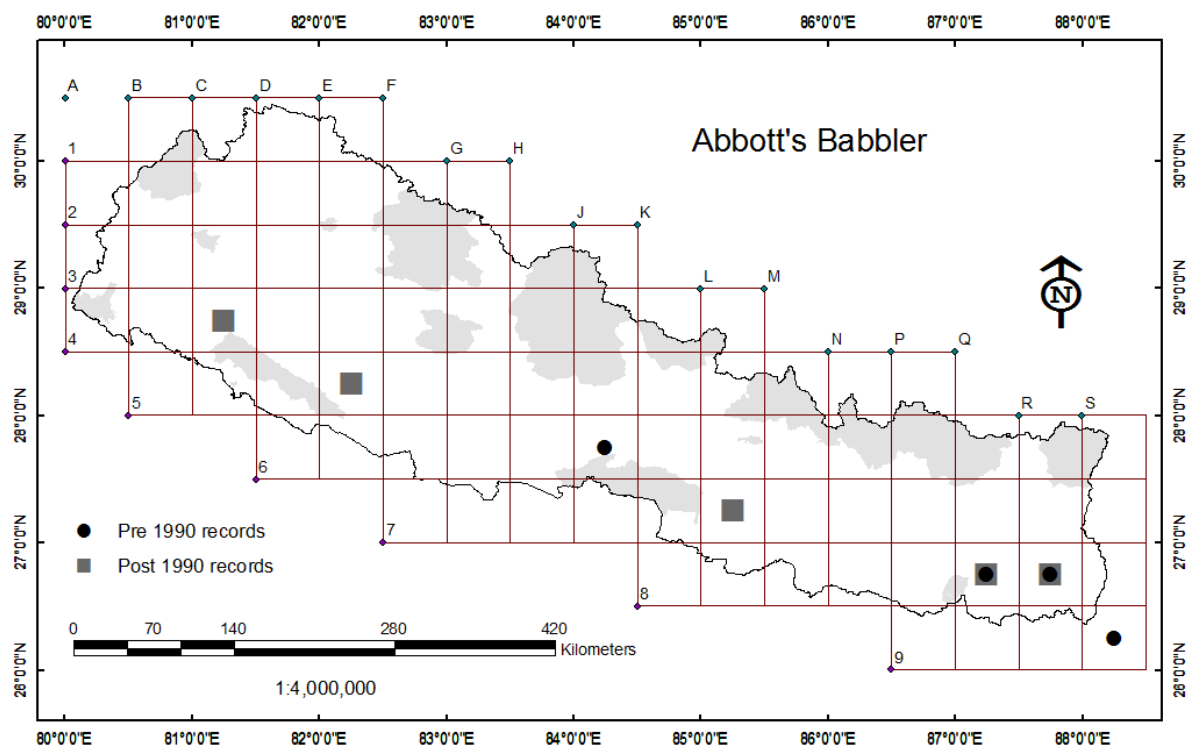
Abbott's Babbler (English),
Motothunde Bhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Abbott's Babbler is a rare and local resident, mainly recorded from the east. The first Nepal record was a specimen taken in February 1949 at Chatra, Morang District (Ripley 1950). It was collected there again in November 1957 (Fleming and Traylor 1961).

There are a very few records from Chitwan National Park and Meghauri, Chitwan District, e.g. Thiollay (1980), and none since January 1990 (Lama 1995). The only other record from central Nepal is two south of Budhune, Makwanpur District in March 2008 (Basnet and Thakuri 2008).

Since 1990 almost all records have been from outside the protected areas' system and from the east. The species was formerly fairly common north of Sunischare, Jhapa District, e.g. Madge *et al.* (1974), Calladine (1985), Heath (1986), Halliday (1989), with the maximum of 15 recorded in March 1981 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981). Post-1990 there has only been one record from the area: 20 at Sukhani in March 1997 (Choudhary 1997a). The species was recorded from Dharan forests Important Bird Area (IBA), Sunsari District in 1986 (Thorns 1987). Up to 20 birds have been observed in Patnali within the Dharan forests IBA, Sunsari District (Suchit Basnet verbally 2010) and up to ten elsewhere in the IBA between 1995 and 2010 (e.g. Lama 1995, Choudhary 1997b, Basnet and Holt 1999, Kennerley and Karki 2004, O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2007,

Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Basnet 2009a,b, GC 2010). Six were seen at Jalthal forest, Jhapa District in March 2007 (Baral 2007). The species was also reported in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in 1987 (Heinen 1988) and two were seen there in May 2008 (Giri 2008).

In the west there is a single record from Bardia National Park in November 1993 (Lama 1993) and one bird was recorded in Dang Deukhuri IBA, Dang District in October 2008 (Thakuri 2009a,b; 2010).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Abbott's Babbler. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 100; maximum population: 200

Habitat and Ecology

Abbott's Babbler inhabits dense tangles and thickets in tropical, moist forest especially at forest edges along stream banks; favours broadleaved evergreen forest. It may be overlooked but can be located by its calls (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is resident and not reported to undergo movements. It feeds on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Abbott's Babbler is seriously threatened by forest loss and depletion, especially of broadleaved evergreens leading to loss of the dense thickets which it inhabits. Broadleaved evergreen forests are now much reduced and fragmented (Inskipp 1989). At all sites where it has been recorded recently its habitat is now drastically reduced and highly threatened.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures specifically for Abbott's Babbler have been carried out. There is only one known recent record from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. All other sites where it has been recently recorded lie outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN (A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Abbott's Babbler has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a rare and local resident. Its distributional range has decreased since the early 1990s and it now occurs mainly in the east and outside the protected areas' system. It is seriously threatened by forest loss and depletion,

especially of broadleaved evergreens, leading to loss of the dense thickets which it inhabits. Broadleaved evergreen forests are now much reduced and fragmented. At all sites where it has been recorded recently its habitat is now drastically reduced and highly threatened. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small. The maximum population is estimated to be about 200 birds. Almost all post-1990 records have been outside the protected area system.

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***Melanochlora sultanea* (Hodgson, 1837) EN**

Subspecies: *Melanochlora sultanea sultanea*

Common Name

Sultan Tit (English),

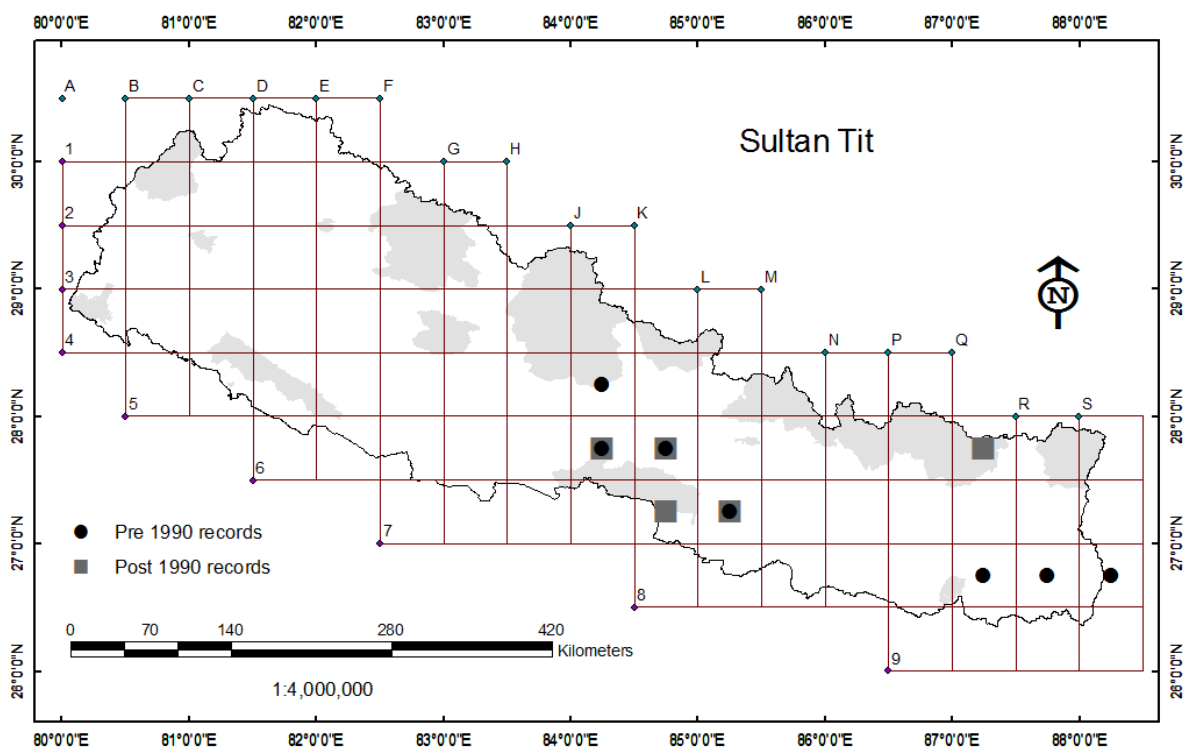
Swarnachul Rajchichilkote (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Paridae



Distribution



Sultan Tit is a rare and very local resident. The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1838, Warren and Harrison 1971); specimens were obtained from the lower hills (dates and further locality details are unknown) (Hodgson 1829). Scully (1879) reported it was fairly common between Hetauda and Nimboatar, Makwanpur District in December 1877.

A single bird was collected at Hetauda in May 1947 (Biswas 1963). The species was seen at Rupa Tal, Kaski District in 1977 (Nepali 1982), but there are no other records from the locality.

There were a few pre-1990 records from the far east: singles were collected from Chatra, Morang District in February 1949 by Ripley (1950) who only observed it once and from Shantinagar, Jhapa District in February 1969 (Anon. 1983). It was also seen north of Sunischare, Jhapa District in March 1982 (Walinder and Sandgren 1983).

There were also a few records pre-1990 from the Churia hills, Chitwan National Park: near Machan (Anon. 1988), four in February 1988 (Kovacs 1988), and Baral (1990).

Post-1990 the distributional range of the species and the number of records has reduced. Most of these are

from the Churia hills, Chitwan National Park, which have been better explored in recent years. A total of 11 birds was sighted (by the Mule Khola) in February 2006 (Subedi 2010); four in the hills in April 2009 (G.C. 2010); seven in April 2010 (Churia Hill Survey Team), and six in December 2011 (R. Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. and T. Inskipp December 2011). The exceptionally high number of up to 100 birds was counted near the Harda Khola, in the eastern section of the park in February 2010 (Hathan Chaudhary) and eight there in March 2012 (Som GC). Two or three have been regularly recorded recently from the Churia hills in the park, e.g. Salzman and Salzman (1992), Choudhary (1998), Bray and Basnet (2004), Chaudhary (2004, 2010), and GC (2010).

Other recent known records are: two at Lendada, Makwanpur District in March 2008 (Basnet and Thakuri 2008); two in Parsa Wildlife Reserve in May 2003 (Cox 2003); a flock of over 30 flying over Chisapanitar forest in the Mahabharat hills, Chitwan District in November 2004 (Subedi 2010); two by the Sunti Khola, Shaktikhor, Chitwan District in 1994 (Shankar Tiwari) and five there in February 2005 (Subedi 2010). In the Arun valley four were sighted below Num and two near Thopku Oral at the unusually high altitude of 2500 m in May 1998 (Giri *et al.* 1998).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and South-East Asia (BCN and DNPWC 2011). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m (- 2500 m); lower limit: 250 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Sultan Tit, but observations indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 200; maximum population: 500

Habitat and Ecology

Sultan Tit inhabits tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest; it favours evergreens. The species is resident not known to undergo movements (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds chiefly on insects: grasshoppers, mantises etc, but also fruits and seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Sultan Tit is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat, which is now very reduced, degraded and fragmented in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Sultan Tit. Most recent records are from the Churia hills, and many of these are from Chitwan National Park; there is one known record from Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Sultan Tit has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. It is now a rare and very

local resident with a reduced distribution post-1990. For example, there are no recent records from the south-east foothills where there were records from a few sites up to the 1980s previously. Observations indicate that the population must be small. It is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest habitat, which is now very reduced, degraded and fragmented. Most post-1990 records are from the Churia hills in Chitwan National Park.

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***Phylloscopus cantator* (Tickell, 1833) EN**

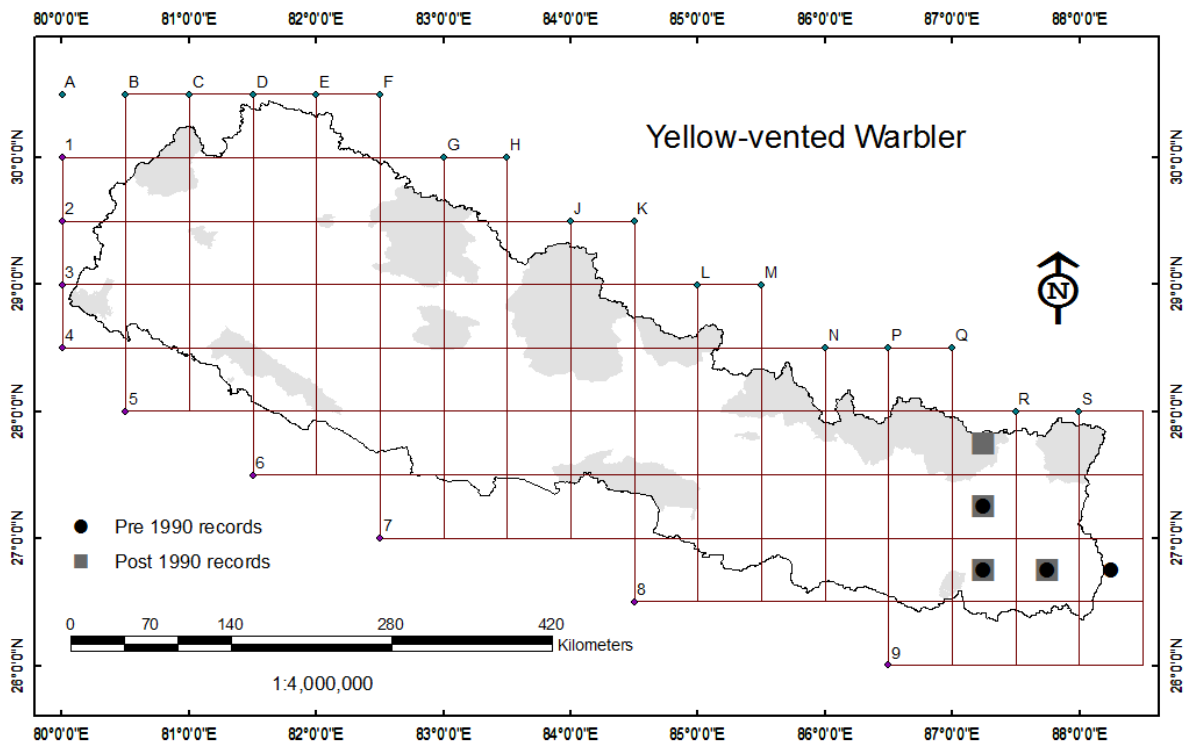
Common Name

Yellow-vented Warbler (English),
Peetnirgam Phisto (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Yellow-vented Warbler is rare and local in the east.

The first Nepal record was a specimen collected north-west of Bhadrapur, Jhapa District in February 1965 (Fleming and Traylor 1968).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was uncommon, very local and regularly seen between Sukhani and Chisapani, Jhapa District, e.g. Madge *et al.* (1974), Mills *et al.* (1982), van Riessen (1989). However, there is only one recent record from Jhapa District: in Juke Khadi Community forest in January 2006 (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, 2007).

There is a single record from near Dharan, Sunsari District in December 1978 (Bowden 1979) and one or two near Tumlingtar, District, lower Arun valley in April 1982 (Nordin and Wallander 1982).

Since 1990 there have been further records from the Arun valley: two singles in November 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995, Lama 1995a) and a pair carrying food in April 1996 by Num bridge (Choudhary 1996, White and White 1996). The species has also been recorded recently in the breeding season in Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone: five sightings of 10 birds including a pair with a recently fledged juvenile in May 2009

(Cox 2009).

The only other known recent records are from Prakashpur, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in February 1995 (Lama 1995b); three birds 700 m south of Tapan, Koshi Tappu in November 2012 (Sanjib Acharya *in litt.* to H. S. Baral November 2012); two in Patnali in the Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District in December 2008 Suchit Basnet *in litt.* 2010) and two in Sukhani Forest, Jhapa District in 2007 (Som GC and Badri Chaudhary).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1525 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Yellow-vented Warbler. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and the lack of suitable habitat indicate that the species has decreased and its numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 100; maximum population: 200

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-vented Warbler breeds in dense, moist broadleaved evergreen forest and occurs in more open forest in winter (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is possibly mainly a winter visitor, but some birds may be resident subject to altitudinal movements; it has bred. The species feeds on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Yellow-vented Warbler's habitat is seriously threatened by loss, degradation and fragmentation; the species' habitat of dense, moist broadleaved evergreen forest is now particularly threatened in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-vented Warbler. The species has recently been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone in the breeding season (and proved breeding there) and marginally in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve outside the breeding season.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-vented Warbler has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. It is rare and local in the east and possibly mainly a winter visitor, but some birds may be resident subject to altitudinal movements; the species has bred. Its subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest habitat is now very reduced, degraded and fragmented. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and the lack of suitable habitat indicate that the species has

decreased and its numbers must be small. The species has recently been recorded from two protected areas.

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***Pitta nipalensis* (Hodgson, 1837) EN**

Subspecies: *Pitta nipalensis nipalensis*

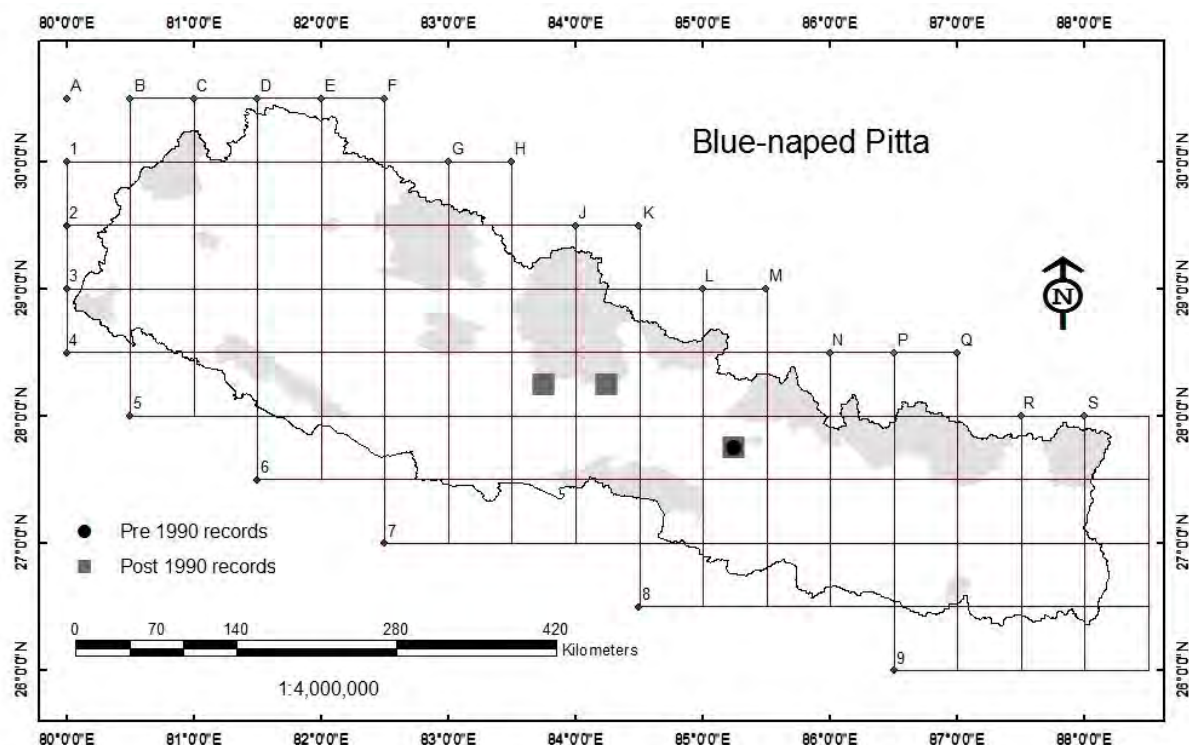
Common Name

Blue-naped Pitta (English),
Nepal Pitta (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Pittidae



Distribution



Blue-naped Pitta is very rare and has only been recorded recently in the Kathmandu Valley and Pokhara valley.

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837, Warren and Harrison 1971), when it was recorded in the Kathmandu Valley in January and December and the lower hills in September, November and December (years unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

It has most often been seen at Godaveri and on the lower slopes of Phulchoki, Kathmandu Valley. Records include singles collected at Godaveri in January 1951 (Proud 1952) and in February 1954 (Rand and Fleming 1957); it was also reported there in spring by Fleming *et al.* 1976). One or two birds were seen on Phulchoki's lower slopes in 1979 (Lambert 1979, Redman and Murphy 1979), January 1983 (Holmstrom 1983) and several sightings in March and April 2004 (Basnet 2004, Basnet 2007). Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it from Nagarjung, Kathmandu Valley in spring and it was later recorded there in November 1989 (Roberts 1989).

Singles were seen in Pokhara valley, Kaski District: at Phewa Tal in December 2005 (Giri and Choudhary 2006, Kelly 2005) and also at Fishtail Lodge in 2008 (videoed) and in 2011 (Som GC and Shankar Tiwari). Blue-naped Pitta was also recorded on Kandane Danda, near Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge regularly in spring 2007, 2008 and 2010 (Jhalak Chaudhary), and one at the lodge in April 2012 (Marcus Cotton *in litt.* to H. S. Baral 2012).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1525 m; lower limit: 915 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Blue-naped Pitta. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining and highly fragmented habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 20; maximum population: 100

Habitat and Ecology

Blue-naped Pitta has been recorded in broadleaved subtropical evergreen forest where humus is prevalent, sometimes in shaded ravines in forest (Fleming *et al.* 1976, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). However, recently in most areas it has been recorded in secondary dense forests close to water sources. It is a resident subject to seasonal movements (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species may now only be a visitor to Nepal, although it was probably a former resident. It eats ants, beetles and other insects, grubs, worms and lizards (Ali and Ripley 1987). Blue-naped Pitta is very skulking and so is easily overlooked, although it can be detected by its call in spring (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Blue-naped Pitta is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest in the tropical and subtropical zones (e.g. recently human encroachment for development at Rani Ban, Phewa Tal). These forest types now cover very limited areas which are highly fragmented in Nepal (Inskipp 1989.)

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Blue-naped Pitta. There are no recent records from within the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blue-naped Pitta has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2c and D1. The species has only been recorded in the Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys and is very rare. It is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest in the subtropical zone. The species has been recorded outside the protected areas' system since 1990. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

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Saxicola insignis J. E. & G. R. Gray, 1847 EN

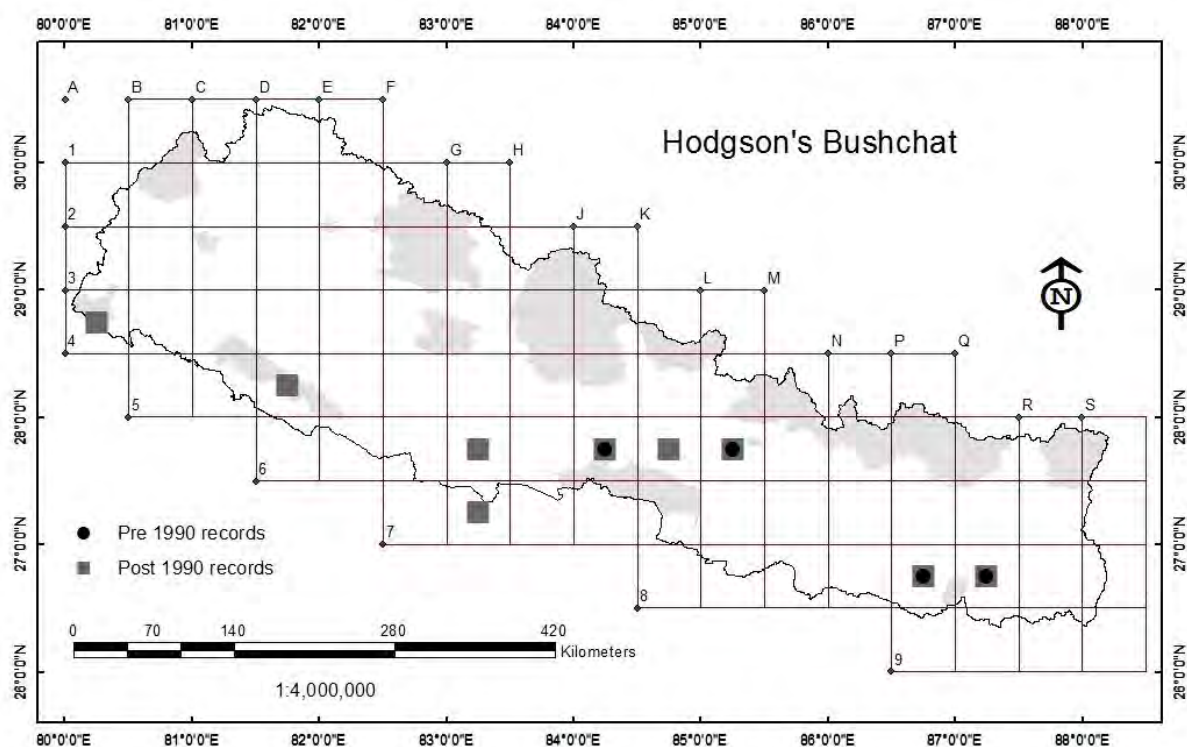
Common Name

White-throated Bushchat (English),
Setokanthe Dhipsi (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Muscicapidae



Distribution



White-throated Bushchat is a very local winter visitor.

The species was first recorded for Nepal in April 1975 from south of Koshi Barrage (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976). Subsequently and until 1986, the species was regularly recorded at Koshi Barrage and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, e.g. Grimmett (1982), Hornskov (1984), Calladine (1985), Heath (1986); the maximum of up to ten birds was observed at Koshi in 1982 (Martins *et al.* 1983). Monsoon flooding damaged the species' habitat in 1986 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and it was later seen less frequently and in smaller numbers, e.g. Kall and Wallander (1988), Bose *et al.* (1989). Since 1990 there have been only a few reports from Koshi, mainly in March: two in 1994 (Choudhary 1994), two in 1996 (Giri and Choudhary 1996), one in 2000 (Giri and Choudhary 2000a) and one in February 2002 (Malling Olsen 2004).

Pre-1990 there were only two known reports from other localities: two immature males collected at the Manora River, Kathmandu Valley at 1380 m in October 1982 (Nepali 1986) and one seen at Meghauri, Chitwan District in March 1986 (Holt *et al.* 1986).

The species was found to be fairly common in winter in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral 1998, 1999). The

reserve had been poorly surveyed until the late 1990s.

Post-1990 one or two individuals have been recorded, chiefly irregularly at other localities mainly in west and central Nepal: recorded in Banke National Park in February 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012), one male photographed in Kapilvastu District (G6) in April 2014 (Hem Sagar Baral); one at Lumbini in 1994 (Lama 1995) and a male north of Lumbini in November 2014 (Hem Sagar Baral) Rupandehi District; two near Meghauri, Chitwan District in April 1991 (Lama 1995), and singles there in February 2000 (Choudhary 2004), and January 2006 (Chaudhary 2010); one near Chisapani, Nuwakot District at 1800 m in August 2000 (Giri and Choudhary 2000); singles in Chitwan National Park in February 2004 (Chaudhary 2004) and at old Padampur in February 2011 (Bird Education Society). In the park buffer zone: two were seen at Icharni in February 2011 (Sagar Giri and Bishnu Mahato) and two there in December 2011 (Bird Education Society, Sagar Giri and Bishnu Mahato) and also one sub-adult near Jabaka in December 2014 and January 2016 (Hathan Chaudhary), and one at Kosi Bird Observatory, Sunsari District in April 2012 (Badri Chaudhary and Sanjib Acharya).

Globally it has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia (Central Asian) (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve holds an important wintering population of the species (Baral 1998, 1999). During a 1997 survey the maximum of 26 was found in December (Baral 1998). A survey was carried out after grass burning in January 2005 and found 19 birds, while a survey before grass burning in January 2006 located eight birds (Yadav 2006). Although there was a small decrease in population between December 1998 and January 2005, this is not considered significant. A 2009/2010 survey recorded 17 birds in December 2009, 19 in February and 29 in April 2010 (Thakuri 2012). However, it is difficult to conclude any changes in wintering population from these figures. However, a repeat survey carried out in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in 2013/2014 recorded a maximum of seven birds in March and April 2014 and a maximum of only five birds in December 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2014). Compared to the survey conducted in 1998, this is a huge decline, nearly 75% decline in 15 years.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 150

Habitat and Ecology

White-throated Bushchat frequents tall grassland and tall grass and reeds along rivers (Baral 1998, 1999). The 2005/2006 study showed that grass burning is important for the species as it prefers mainly burnt grass with unburnt stems and open areas. Grass burning is carried out annually for Swamp Deer on the reserve; however, this has also helped to maintain the population of White-throated Bushchat in Sukla Phanta. The species was only recorded on the main grassland where there is no livestock grazing (Yadav 2006). It feeds on insects, mostly beetles and also some vegetable matter (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is a winter visitor to Nepal (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

White-throated Bushchat is threatened in reserves and parks by disturbance and lack of sufficient protection resulting in overgrazing and degradation of grasslands. In protected areas it is also threatened by inappropriate habitat management such as untimely cutting and burning. Outside protected areas very little lowland grassland remains and this is seriously threatened by overgrazing, burning, cutting, and disturbance. Monsoon flooding in 1986 damaged the species' habitat at Koshi Barrage. Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for White-throated Bushchat. The species' main wintering population is in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. It has also been recorded recently from Chitwan and Banke National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2a, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-throated Bushchat has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2a and D1. The species is a very local winter visitor. It was fairly common in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve which formerly supported the species' largest known wintering population throughout its range. However, its population in the reserve showed a dramatic decline between 2009/10 and 2013/14. Its habitat within the reserve is threatened by inappropriate management, such as untimely cutting and burning and lack of protection resulting in overgrazing. Post-1990 one or two individuals have been recorded, chiefly irregularly at other localities mainly in west and central Nepal. Outside protected areas very little grassland remains and this is seriously threatened by overgrazing, burning and cutting.

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Stachyris chrysaea Blyth, 1844 EN

Subspecies: *Stachyris chrysaea chrysaea*

Common Name

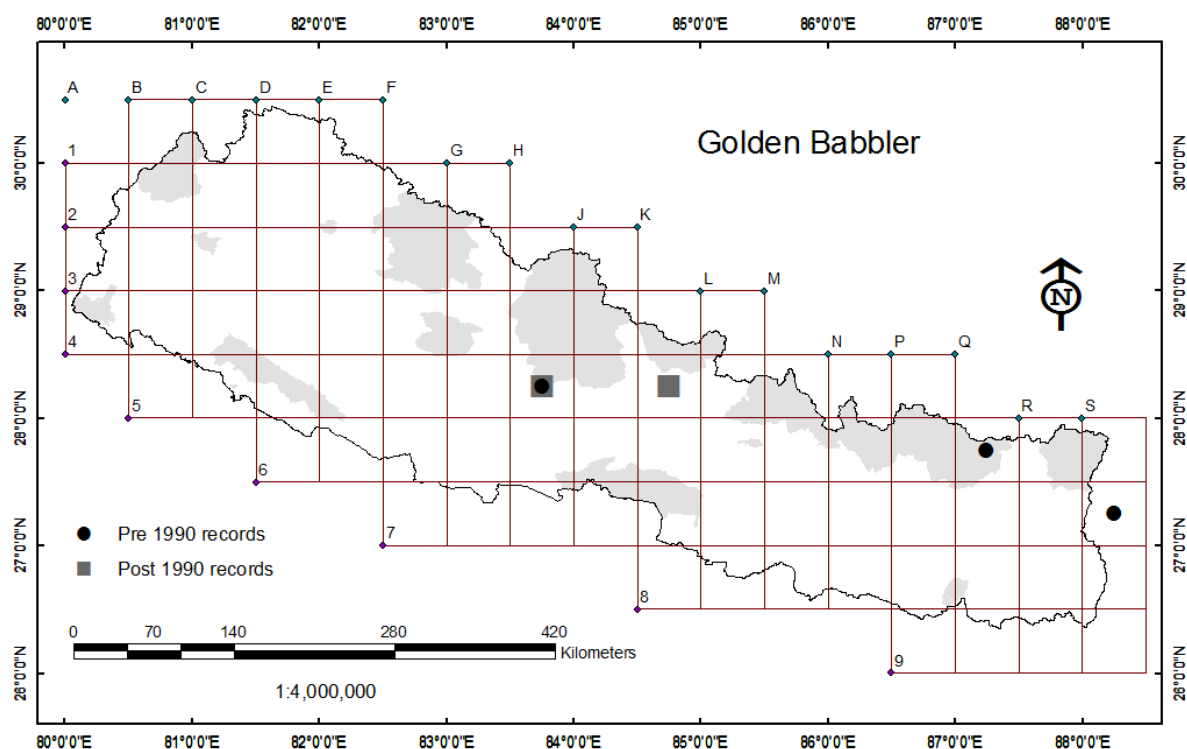
Golden Babbler (English),
Nigale Banbhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Golden Babbler is a very local resident. The species was described from Nepal from a Hodgson specimen (Blyth 1844, Warren and Harrison 1971). Almost all records of this species are from the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA); single specimens were collected from the Seti Khola valley in November 1953 (Proud 1949-54, Proud 1955) and 15 km north of Pokhara, Kaski District in November 1973 (Anon. 1983). It is fairly common south of Machhapuchhre along the Annapurna Sanctuary trek, e.g. seven from three sites in November 1986 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986), in May 1988 Murdoch (1988), three in December 1992 (Lama 1993), two in April 1995 (Lama 1995), 11 at two sites in April 2003 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2003), seven at one site in December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), nine at two sites in November and December 2006 (Naylor *et al.* 2006), 21 at five sites in February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009) and 25 at two sites in January and February 2010 (Wheatley 2010). The apparent increase in the number of sightings could be because the bamboo stands which the Golden Babbler inhabits have been opened up in the last several years, making birds easier to see, whereas in the late 1980s the bamboo stands were very dense, even reaching right across the trail overhead (C. Inskipp pers. obs.).

The species has also been recorded in Pipar forests (ACA) (Thakuri and Poudyal 2012): in May 1986 (Warwick

1986), May 1998 (Kaul and Shakya 1998) and in May 2011 (Poudyal *et al.* 2011). Other localities in ACA include Taadapani, two seen in April 2006 (GC 2010) (between Tolka and Dhamping), one in November 1996 Giri 1996), above Ghandruk in November 2000, March 2004 (Chaudhary 2004), and in March in 2009, 2010 and 2011 (Suchit Basnet *in litt.* to C. Inskipp March 2012).

Golden Babbler has only been recorded from three other localities in Nepal. It was also recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area in 1998 (KMTNC 1998). One was reported from Hange Tham, upper Mai valley, Ilam District, but is undated (Robert L. Fleming pers. comm. to C. and T. Inskipp, 1981). The only other known record from Hange Tham was one bird in March 1988 (Kall and Walinder 1988). The species has also been reported from Tashigaon in the upper Arun valley in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park in September 1986 (Nepali 1986).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 2440 m; lower limit: 1800 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for this species, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <250

Habitat and Ecology

Golden Babbler inhabits bamboo and dense undergrowth in humid, broadleaved, evergreen temperate forests (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It mainly feeds on insects and sometimes also on berries (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Golden Babbler is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of humid, broadleaved, evergreen, lower temperate forest and also by the loss of bamboo thickets. This forest type is especially threatened (Inskipp 1989). Bamboo is in high demand for a very wide range of uses, including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work (BCN and DNPWC 2011); large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Golden Babbler. Most of the known population occurs in the Annapurna Conservation Area. There is also one 1980s record from the Makalu Barun National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, B2ab(iii), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Golden Babbler has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, B2ab (iii), D1. It is a very local

resident. Almost all of the records are from the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA); the species has also been recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area. There were three 1980s records from two other localities (Makalu Barun National Park and upper Mai valley). The species is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of humid, broadleaved, evergreen, temperate forest and also by the loss of bamboo thickets. Bamboo is in high demand for a very wide range of uses, including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work; large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas including ACA. No surveys have been carried out for the species, but observations indicate that the population is small.

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Tickellia hodgsoni (F. Moore, 1854) EN

Subspecies: *Tickellia hodgsoni hodgsoni*

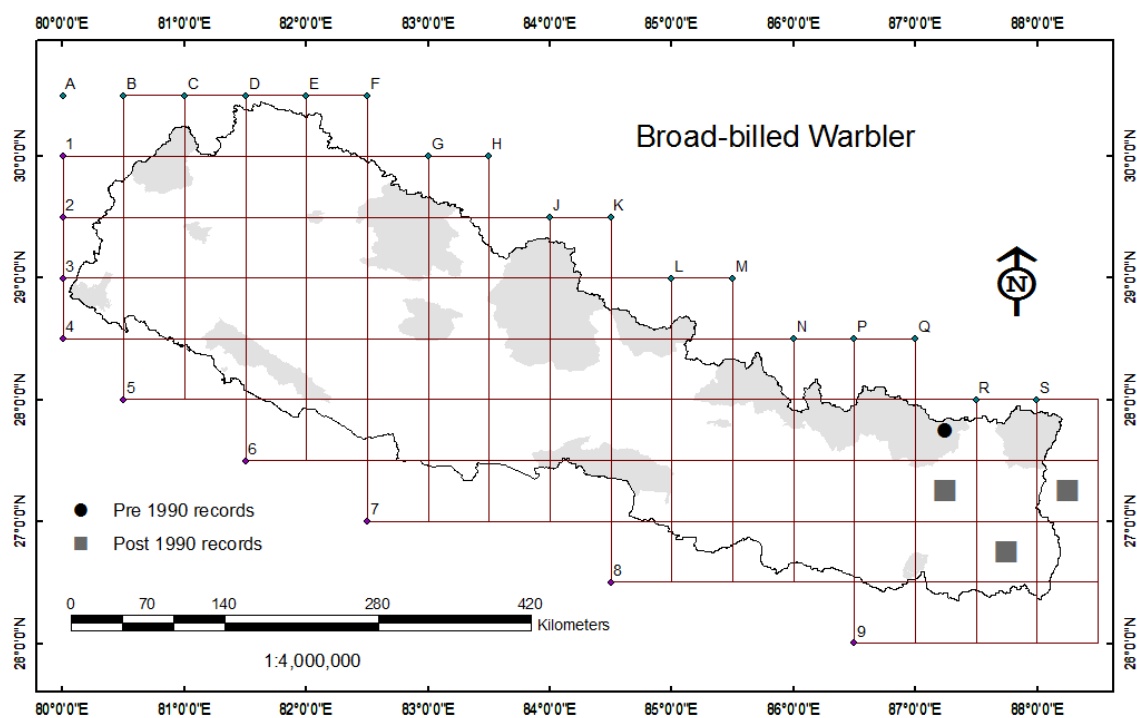
Common name

Broad-billed Warbler (English),
Katustauke Phisto (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Broad-billed Warbler is rare and local in the east; probably resident. The first Nepal record was at Shyaksila Toten, Barun valley, now in Makalu Barun National Park, at 2195 m, where one was seen in November 1984 (Nepali 1984). One was later recorded in the park's buffer zone in May 2009 (Cox 2009). Single birds were also found at Tashigaon, upper Arun valley in September 1986 (Nepali 1986) and at three sites in the Mai valley (Sidim, Memen and Hange Tham) in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

There have been no later records.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 2300 m; lower limit: 2195 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for the species. Some suitable areas of habitat remain unexplored, although these are not considered to be extensive. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations, and a consideration of its declining habitat, indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 50; maximum population: 250

Habitat and Ecology

Broad-billed Warbler inhabits bamboo and other undergrowth in dense evergreen broadleaved forest in the temperate zone (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects and is resident, possibly subject to vertical movements (Ali and Ripley 1987). Habits of the species are poorly known. It could be easily overlooked.

Threats

Broad-billed Warbler is seriously threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of its temperate broadleaved evergreen forest habitat. These forests in the temperate zone continue to be cut and depleted (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Broad-billed Warbler. The species has been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone, but all other reports have been outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN), upgraded from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Broad-billed Warbler has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2c, C2a(i) and D1. The species is rare and local in the east. It is severely threatened by loss, fragmentation and deterioration of its dense broadleaved evergreen forest habitat in the temperate zone. Some suitable areas of habitat remain unexplored, although these are not considered to be extensive. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked, and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small. Recently it has been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone, but all other records are from outside the protected areas' system.

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Abroscopus superciliaris (Blyth, 1859) **VU**

Subspecies *Abroscopus superciliaris flaviventris*

Common Name

Yellow-bellied Warbler (English)

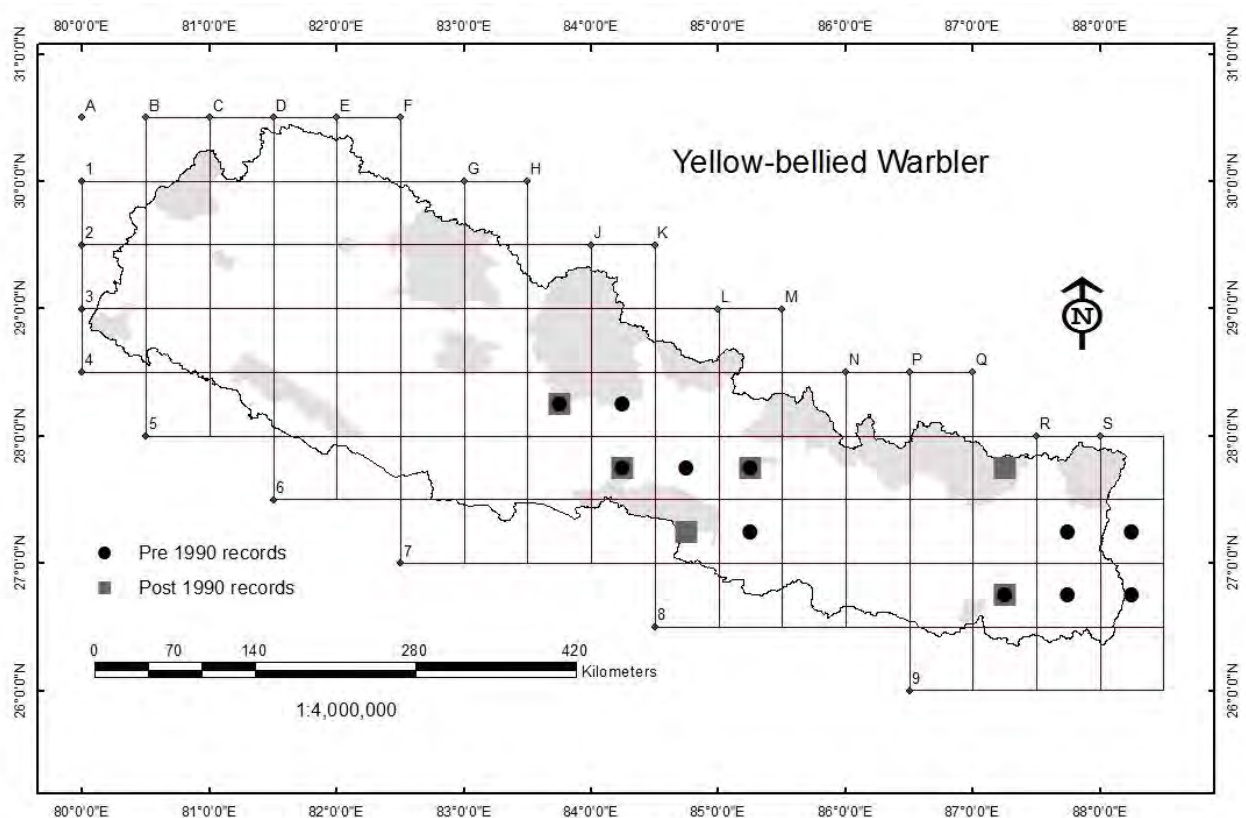
Pahelopete Phisto (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Yellow-bellied Warbler is an uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park and very local and very uncommon elsewhere; it is probably resident in Annapurna Conservation Area, west-central Nepal and in the east.

The first Nepal record of the species was from Hetauda, Makwanpur District in May 1947 (Biswas 1962); there are no later records from this locality

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species was an occasionally recorded resident.

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a resident, fairly common in what is now the Mai Valley Important Bird Area: the upper Mai valley (S7) e.g. Fairbank (1980), Inskipp and Inskipp (1981) and Mills and Preston (1981), and from Garuwa north to Ilam (R7) e.g. Hall (1981), Halliday (1989), Madge *et al.* (1974), Mills *et al.* (1982) and van Riessen (1989). It was also recorded from Hans Pokhari Danda (S8), Ilam District in March 1989 (Lalchan and Bhattachan 1990) and in April 1990 (DeLuce and Goodyear 1990). There are no later records from

the Mai valley or from Hans Pokhari Danda. One was seen in the south-eastern foothills in August 1975 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976). Since 1990 it was described as a locally fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Shakya *et al.* 1995 in Cox 1999), although there are no other records for the park. The only other post-1990 record from the east is from Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in January 2008 (Basnet and Sapkota 2008).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported Yellow-bellied Warbler was uncommon at Chitwan where it was possibly only a winter visitor. The species was also described as a winter visitor in the park by Baral and Upadhyay (2006), mainly from the Churia Hills. Todd (2001) lists it as a winter visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

In central Nepal one was seen at Galyang (H6), Baglung District in November 1985 (Grimoldby 1994); the species was recorded on Phulchoki Mountain Important Area in March 1981 (Kjellen *et al.* 1981), and a pair courtship feeding on Nagarjun in what is now Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in May 1988 (Millin and Woolner 1988). Since 1990 the only known records from central Nepal are from Phulchoki in March 1999 (Robson 2000) and reported to be an uncommon summer visitor to Chitlang Forest (L6), Chandrigiri Range, Makwanpur District in 1991/92 (Manandhar *et al.* 1992).

Yellow-bellied Warbler is rare in the west, both pre- and post-1990. Known records are: on the hills around Pokhara in mid-August 1977 (Thiollay 1980) and three by Phewa Tal, Kaski District in February 1989 (Linderstrom 1989). These are the westernmost records of the species. Post-1990 five were recorded above Tulo Kobang, Annapurna Conservation Area in January 1992 (Wartmann and Schonjan 1992) and recorded in Pipar Sanctuary, Annapurna Conservation Area in May 1998 (Kaul and Shayka 1998) and May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006, Thakuri and Poudyal 2011).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1525 m (- 2300 m); lower limit: 245 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Yellow-bellied Warbler. Its population is declining as a result of habitat loss and degradation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-bellied Warbler inhabits bamboo in moist broadleaved forest, mainly in the tropical and subtropical zone (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); at edges of forest, in wooded ravines, often near little forest streams, and usually near bamboos (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is found singly, in pairs or in mixed, roving flocks of insectivorous species. Yellow-bellied Warbler is very active, and feeds chiefly by making short aerial sallies from bamboos, bushes and lower branches (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is subject to short altitudinal movements (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Yellow-bellied Warbler is seriously threatened by habitat loss and degradation. Its moist broadleaved forest habitat in the tropical, subtropical and lower temperate zones is especially threatened (Inskipp 1989). Bamboo, which is an important feature of its habitat, is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work, especially in lower altitude forests (BCN and DNPWC

2011)

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-bellied Warbler. Post-1990 it has been recorded in Chitwan and Makalu Barun National Parks, Annapurna Conservation Area and Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-bellied Warbler has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac. It is an uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park and is very local and very uncommon elsewhere; it is probably resident in Annapurna Conservation Area in west-central Nepal and in the east. The species has apparently disappeared from two areas in the east where it was formerly fairly common, and is no longer recorded in central Nepal where it was seen in a few localities pre-1990. Yellow-bellied Warbler is seriously threatened by habitat loss and degradation. Its moist broadleaved forest habitat in the tropical, subtropical and lower temperate zones is especially threatened. Bamboo, which is an important feature of its habitat, is in high demand, especially from lower altitude forests, for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work. As a result of habitat loss and deterioration the species' population has declined and its distribution has reduced.

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Alcippe chrysotis (Blyth, 1845) **VU**

Subspecies *Alcippe chrysotis chrysotis*

Common Name

Golden-breasted Fulvetta (English)

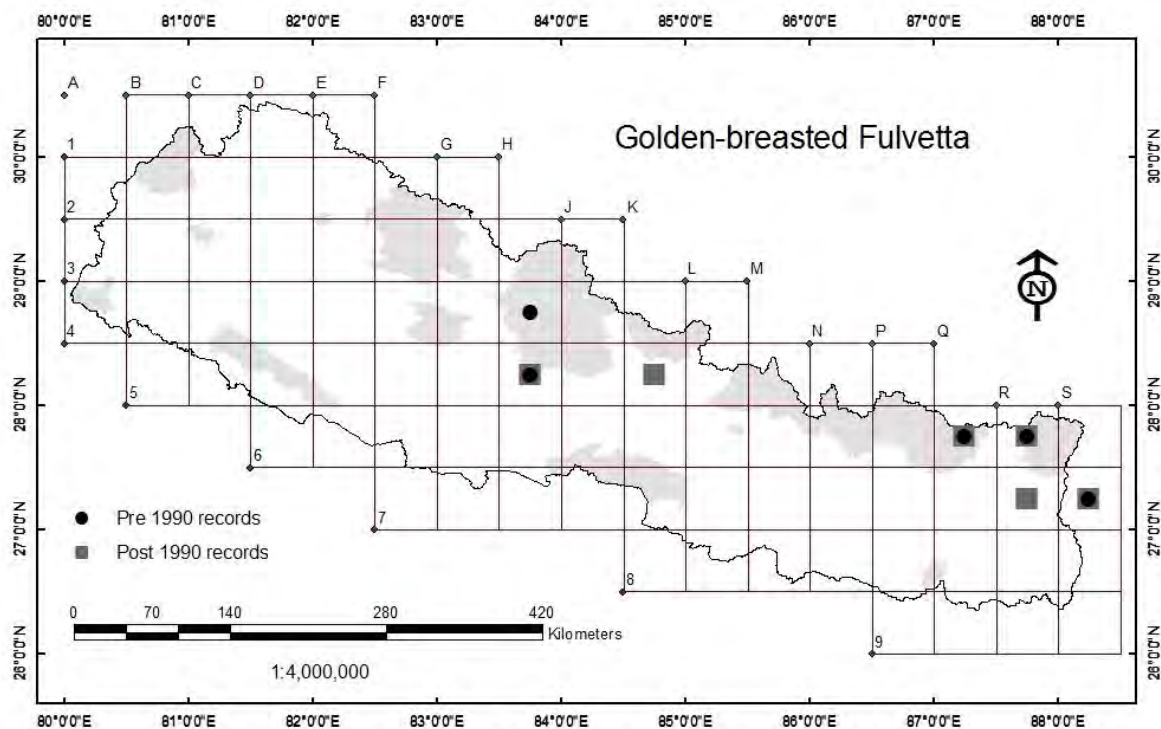
Swarnabakshya Phulbutta (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Golden-breasted Fulvetta is a local resident with a fragmented distribution from west-central Nepal eastwards. The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Blyth 1844). It was found breeding in the central region in May and June (further locality details are unknown) (Hume 1890).

The species is fairly common in the Modi Khola valley, Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA). Records include in April 1978 (Rice 1978), flock of five to seven in December 1985 (Mayer 1986), seven in three mixed bird flocks at Khuldi and 16 in three mixed bird flocks between Khuldi and Hotel Himalaya (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986), seven north of Dobhan in December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), 20 in November 2006 (Naylor *et al.* 2006), four in April 2007 (GC 2010), 13 at two localities in February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009), six plus near Khuldi Ghar, ten north of Dobhan in February 2011 (Wheatley 2011) and also sighted at Chomrong in June 2012 (Som GC). The species has also been recorded in the Seti Khola valley, ACA: in Pipar forests in May 1998 (Kaul and Shakya 1998) and in May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006) and three at Namsong in Santel forests in May 2001 (Baral *et al.* 2001) and also in Santel forests in May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006) and and three to four seen in May 2012 (Jhalak Chaudhary).

Three were recorded between Ghorepani and Ghandruk, ACA in April 1992 (Baral 1992) and also reported

below Deorali en route to Ghorepani, ACA in December 2000 (Scharringa 2000). Three seen between Ghasa and Lete, ACA in March 1986 (Heath 1986) form the most westerly record for the species. There are no later reports from the last-named localities in ACA.

The species has been recorded from Manaslu Conservation Area in 1998 (KMTNC 1998).

In the Makalu Barun National Park, four were seen 4 km north of Saisima in April 1990 (Tymstra 1993). The species was also recorded in the park in the Hongu and Irkhua river valleys in May 1995 (Cox 1999), 21 at Mangan Kharka and three at Saisima in November 2005 (Inskipp *et al.* 2005), and two in the park in May 2009 (Cox 2009); also at least four in the park buffer zone above Zigkizur in April 1990 (Tymstra 1993). The species is listed for Makalu Barun National Park in Cox (1999).

There are several records from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area: in April/May 1992 and 1994 (White and White 1999), one between Gyabla and Amjilessa in May 1994 (Halberg 1994); a pair below Gyabla in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.* 1994), in KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.* 1995), seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin in November 1996 (Buckton 1996), at Kyapra and the Sanmung Khola in April 1997 (White and White) and five at Ghunsa and one between Amjilessa and Ghunsa in April 2011 (Baral 2011). The species is listed for the conservation area in Inskipp *et al.* (2008).

Outside the protected areas system in the east records include: a specimen collected at Yanjua Dhoja, Taplejung District in April 1984 (Nepali 1986) and another by the Paha Khola, Sankhuwasabha District in June 1988 (Martens and Eck 1995); also at Kalopokhari, Ilam District in what is now the Mai Valley Important Bird Area in March-May 1912 (Stevens 1923). There are several records from Hange Tham, Ilam District, upper Mai valley in the Mai Valley IBA e.g. in February 1979 (Lambert 1979), five in January 1985 (Calladine 1985), one in March 1988 (Kall and Wallander 1988), flocks on four dates from December 1988 to January 1989 (Halliday 1989), a flock in March 1989 (McKnight *et al.* 1989), one bird in April 1993 (Flack 1994), and two in 2004 (Shankar Tiwari). It was also recorded at Doubateya, Ilam District in April 2012 (Badri Chaudhary).

Globally Golden-breasted Fulvetta also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Nepal is the western limit of the species' range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3050 m; lower limit: 2200 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Golden-breasted Fulvetta but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Golden-breasted Fulvetta inhabits bamboo stands and the understorey of bamboo in broadleaved temperate forests. In the non-breeding season it associates in flocks of up to 50 birds, often in company with parrotbills and White-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe vinipectus*. It is tame and active (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is subject to some vertical movements. It feeds on insects and small berries and seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Golden-breasted Fulvetta is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of bamboo stands. Bamboo is in

high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work (BCN and DNPWC 2011); large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Golden-breasted Fulvetta. It occurs in parts of the Annapurna, Manaslu and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and in Makalu Barun National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Golden-breasted Fulvetta has been assessed as Vulnerable based on A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. It is a local resident with a fragmented distribution from west-central Nepal eastwards. It is regularly recorded in the Modi Khola valley, Annapurna Conservation Area and there are recent records from Manaslu and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and Makalu Barun National Park. In the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) it now appears to be confined to the Modi Khola valley and Pipar and Santel forests in the Seti Khola valley and has not been recorded from other localities in ACA where it was found previously. Golden-breasted Fulvetta is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of bamboo stands. Bamboo is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work; large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas. As a result, its population is probably declining.

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***Cettia brunnescens* (Hume, 1872) VU**

Common Name

Hume's Bush Warbler (English)

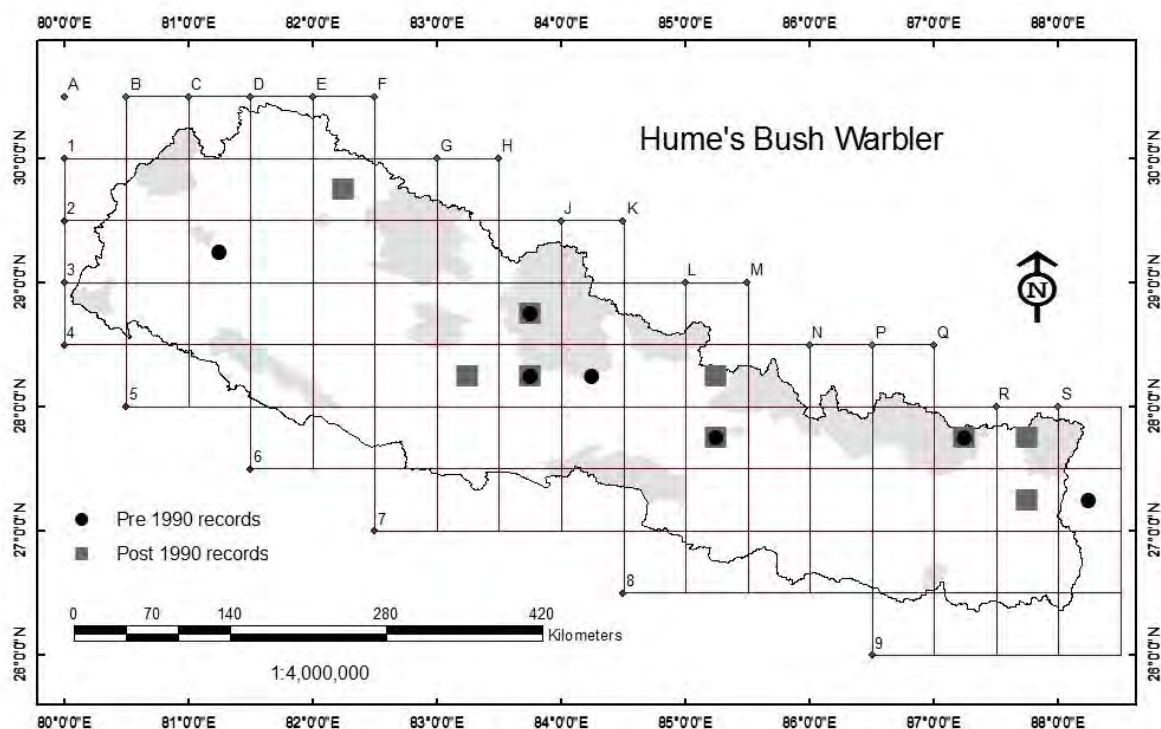
Pitodar Jhadiphisto (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Hume's Bush Warbler is a local resident. The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century when it was collected by Brian Hodgson who confused it with Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes*; the specimens were correctly identified in the British Museum (Natural History).

The species was found to be fairly common in Khaptad National Park: at least 11 singing birds were recorded on four dates in May 1988 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1988b).

Several were heard singing in Rara National Park in May 1995 (White and White 1995). The species was recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve in 2004 (BirdLife International 2013).

Two were heard singing in July 1973 above Tukche in what is now the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) (Martens 1975). One was seen in the Annapurna Sanctuary, ACA in April 1987 (Juliusberger 1987). The species was recorded south of Annapurna, ACA in 1978 (further details of date and locality are unknown) (Thiollay 1980). Singles were recorded between Deurali and Ghorepani, ACA in March 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002) and in April 2003 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2003), and two there in December 2006 (Naylor *et al.* 2006). Winter records were of birds attracted by tape playback (M. Naylor *in litt.* to C. Inskipp August 2010). The species was described as fairly common between Dobang and Deurali, on the Annapurna Base Camp trek, ACA and two

were seen between Ghorepani and Hille, ACA in April 2003 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2003).

A specimen was taken on the northern slopes of Shivapuri in March 1969 (Anon. 1983); Fleming *et al.* (1976) note its presence here. One was recorded near Shivapuri summit in May 1987 (Murphy 1987) and three on the south side of Shivapuri near the summit in what is now the Shivapuri Nagajun National Park in April 1988 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1988a). No later records are known from Shivapuri.

In Langtang National Park it has been recently recorded at Ghopte, Langtang National Park June 1999 (Hathan Chaudhary) and at Dhunche in March 2009 (Som GC).

One was also collected on the Walung ridge in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park in March 1959 (Krabbe 1983). The species was recorded in the Irhuwa Khola valley in the park in May 1995 (Cox 1999b).

In the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area the species was recorded on the ascent to Lassetham pasture from Yamphudin and on the ascent to Deura Danda from Yamphudin in May 1988 (Martens and Eck 1988). It was also recorded at Gyabla in April or May 1994 (White and White 1999) and recorded in KCA in 1997 (White and White 1999). Singles were recorded between Gyabla and Amjilessa in May 1994 and on the Deura Danda in May 1994 (Halberg 1994).

Known records outside the protected areas' system follow.

Pre-1990 a specimen was collected on the Singhalilia Ridge, Ilam District in what is the now the Mai valley Important Bird Area in April 1912 (Stevens 1924).

Post-1990 one was recorded at Malika Dhuri, Gulme Jilla, Myagdi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999a); one was seen in response to tape playback on Phulchoki in May 1999 (Hathan Chaudhary and Ben King in Mallalieu 2008), and it was heard on the Tinjure Danda, Tehrathum District in April 1992, 1994 and 1997 (White and White 1997).

Hume's Bush Warbler has not been recorded recently at several localities e.g. Khaptad and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks, and Singhalila Ridge, Ilam District. However it is possible that no-one has searched for the species or it has been overlooked because of its secretive habits.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013)..

Elevation

Upper limit: 3660 m; lower limit: 1900 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Hume's Bush Warbler. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Hume's Bush Warbler inhabits bamboo thickets in the upper temperate zone, either in pure bamboo stands or stands in forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is always associated with bamboos (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The habits of Hume's Bush Warbler are very similar to those of other bush warblers. It is very skulking in the non-breeding season, although less so when breeding when it can be located by its distinctive song. It calls frequently and is usually more often heard than seen. The bird is reluctant to fly and usually covers only short distances at low level before it drops into dense cover again. It feeds on insects and spiders (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species' altitudinal movements in Nepal are not understood.

Threats

Hume's Bush Warbler is seriously threatened by the loss of bamboo thickets. It is a specialist, only associated with bamboo (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Bamboo is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work (BCN and DNPWC 2011); large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Hume's Bush Warbler. Recently it has been recorded from Makalu Barun and Langtang National Parks, and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Hume's Bush Warbler was assessed as Vulnerable based on A2c and D1. The species is a local resident in the upper temperate zone and is a specialist, only associated with bamboo, either pure stands or stands in forest. Most records are from protected areas; post-1990 it has been recorded from four national parks and conservation areas. It is seriously threatened as bamboo is in high demand for weaving mats and baskets and for construction work; large amounts are removed each year, even from protected areas. The bird is very skulking outside the breeding season and so is likely to be under-recorded, although it can be detected by its distinctive song.

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Cettia pallidipes (Blanford, 1872) **VU**

Subspecies *Cettia pallidipes pallidipes*

Common Name

Pale-footed Bush Warbler (English)

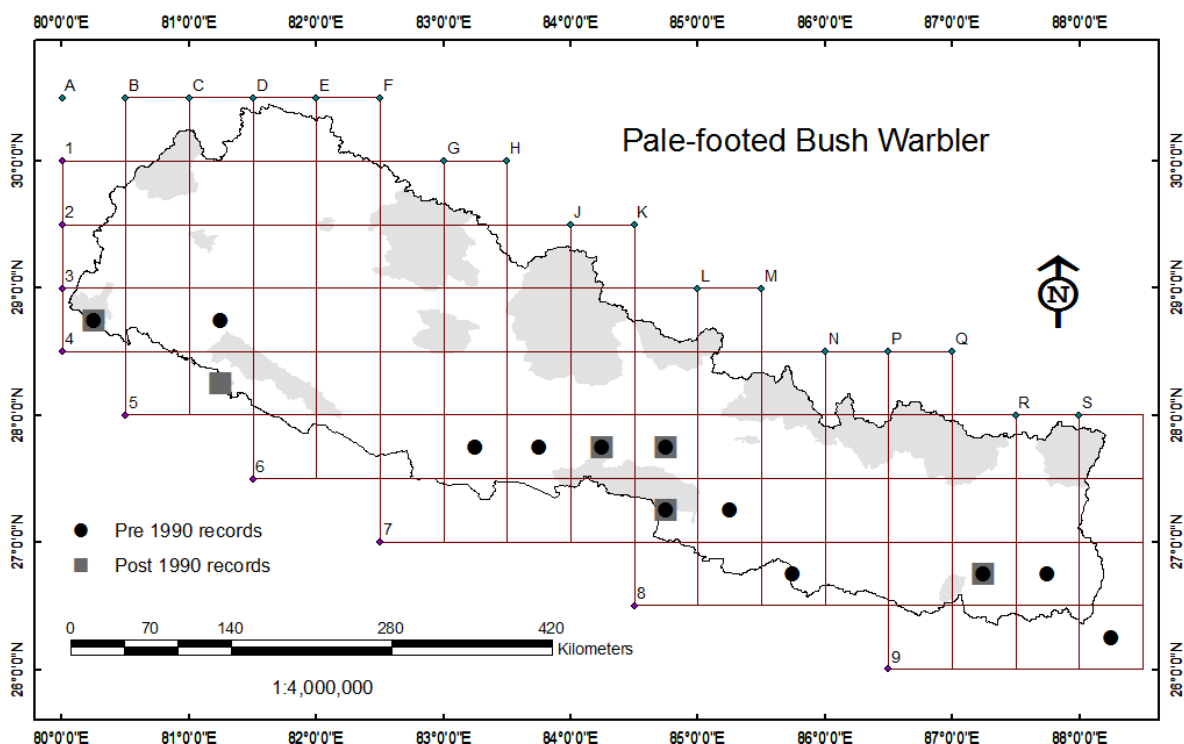
Gheghari Jhadiphisto (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Pale-footed Bush Warbler is a very local resident, possibly augmented by summer visitors. The first Nepal record of the species was at Simra, Sarlahi District in March 1947 (Biswas 1962).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported the bird as 'occasional' in Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp considered it fairly common in Chitwan National Park, but had received mainly single reports from elsewhere.

In the west, Schaaf *et al.* (1980) described the species as occasionally recorded in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. The bird has been rarely recorded there in recent years e.g. singles in January 1992 (Baral 1992) and February 2009 (Giri 2009).

A specimen was taken from Chisapani, Bardia District in December 1948 (Ripley 1950) and one was seen in Bardia National Park in November 1985 (Cox 1985). In recent years the species appears to be very uncommon or rare in the park. There are few recent records e.g. seven in January 1992 (Baral 1992), one in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001) and two in December 2007 (Giri *et al.* 2008).

One was recorded at Butwal, Rupandehi District in August 1978 (Cox 1978); there are single records from Begnas Tal, Kaski District in 1978 (Redman and Murphy 1979) and Pokhara, Kaski District in 1982 (Turton and

Speight 1982). No later records are known from these localities.

In central areas the species was collected by the Reu-Rapti, Chitwan District in October 1964 where it was quite common (Fleming and Traylor 1968). Chitwan National Park is now considered a stronghold of Pale-footed Bush Warbler where it is still a fairly common resident and has been proved breeding (Baral 2009). The main resident population is now confined only to the park and to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2009). Recent records from Chitwan National Park include three in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 40 in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), 12 in April 2007 (Baral 2007), four in April 2011 (Baral 2011), and four in February 2012 (Tika Giri). In the park buffer zone was recorded at Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District in 1979 (Fairbank 1980, Lambert 1979); up to 50 were heard in the whole of the Barandabhar Important Bird Area in February and March 2012 (Hem Subedi) and three in the Baghmara Community Forest grassland in March 2012 (Hem Subedi).

A specimen was collected at Amlekhganj, Bara District in March 1947 and two from Hetauda, Makwanpur District in May 1947; the species was considered rather scarce (Biswas 1962). There is one later record from Hetauda: two specimens collected in May 1959 (Fleming and Traylor 1961). No later records are known from these localities.

In the east Pale-footed Bush Warbler was recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve by Heinen (1988), in February 1996 (Harrap and Basnet 1996) and in March 1999 (Basnet and Holt 1999). It is now considered rare in the reserve (Baral 2009).

One was collected 8 km south of Bhadrapur, by the Mechi River, Jhapa District in January 1965 (Fleming and Traylor 1968). Three or four were recorded at Khujunabari, Jhapa District in January and February 1974 (Madge *et al.* 1974) and one north of Sukhani, Jhapa District in November 1978 (Cox 1978). Hall (1978) reported the species from Janakpur, Dhanusa District in 1978. No later records are known from any of the above-mentioned localities.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m (- 915 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

Pale-footed Bush Warbler inhabits tall grasses and bushes at forest edges and clearings (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). In Chitwan National Park it is largely associated with *Themeda* grasslands at the edge of sal and mixed forests (Baral 2001). It feeds on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Baral (2009) considers that Pale-footed Bush Warbler is chiefly a resident species, but its population during summer is possibly augmented by the arrival of breeding birds from the eastern part of its range (i.e. India). Two recent records from Koshi indicate that these birds are there only for a brief period of time, possibly passage migrants moving west to Chitwan National Park (Baral 2009).

Most Nepal records are from the lowlands, mainly below 250 m (Grimmett *et al.* 1998, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) although it has been rarely recorded in the lower hills up to 915 m (e.g. Redman and Murphy 1979, Turton and Speight 1982).

Pale-footed Bush Warbler is very skulking, but can be detected by its voice like other bush warblers (Baral 2009, Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

It has been proved breeding in Chitwan National Park (Baral 2009).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 1,600; maximum population: 3,200

Habitat and Ecology

Pale-footed Bush Warbler inhabits tall grasses and bushes at forest edges and clearings (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). In Chitwan National Park it is largely associated with *Themeda* grasslands at the edge of sal and mixed forests (Baral 2001). It feeds on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

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Pale-footed Bush Warbler is very skulking, but can be detected by its voice like other bush warblers (Baral 2009, Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

It has been proved breeding in Chitwan National Park (Baral 2009).

Threats

Pale-footed Bush Warbler is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of its habitat. *Themeda* grasslands at the edge of sal and mixed forests do not exist outside protected areas now (Baral 2009). Repeated burning may especially threaten breeding birds.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Pale-footed Bush Warbler. Recent records have all been from Chitwan and Bardia National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU B2ab(iii)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pale-footed Bush Warbler has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria B2ab(iii). It is a very local resident, although its numbers are possibly augmented by summer visitors. The species has a fragmented distribution in the lowlands, now reduced to protected areas and Chitwan National Park buffer zone. The bird is fairly common in Chitwan National Park, but in other protected areas where it occurs (Bardia National Park, Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves) it is rare. Up to 1990 it was also recorded from at least ten localities outside the protected areas' system. The species is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its habitat of tall grasses and bushes at forest edges and clearings and *Themeda* grasslands at forest edges which it favours. Repeated burning may especially threaten breeding birds

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***Chaetornis striata* (Jerdon, 1841) VU**

Common Name

Bristled Grassbird (English)

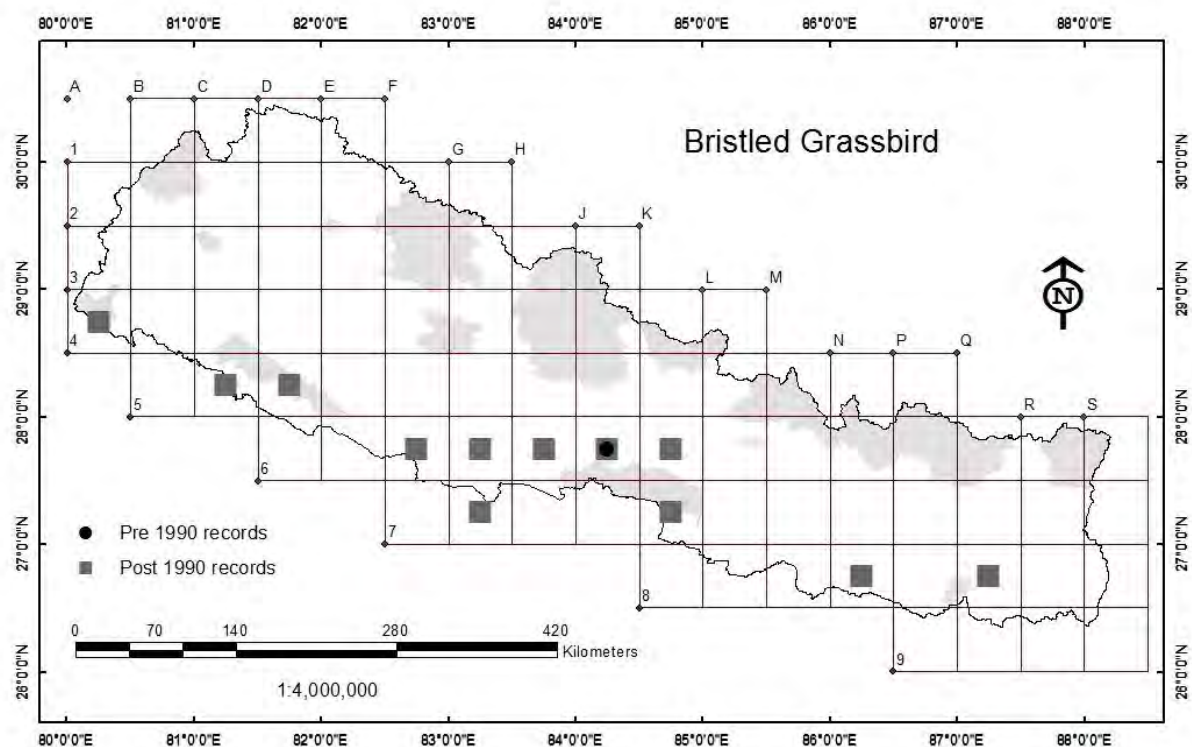
Kaanse Ghaanshari (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Bristled Grassbird is very local, and primarily a summer visitor to lowland Nepal. The first Nepal record of the species was of one singing by the Rapti River, Chitwan National Park, near Meghauri in April 1986 (R. L. Fleming Jr. *in litt.* to C. and T. Inskipp 19 January 1990 in Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). A minimum of five birds was found in the same area between 6 and 13 May 1986, including one nest-building (Heath and Thorns 1989).

A 1996-99 survey found the species to be distributed in suitable habitat from west to east Nepal (Baral *et al.* in prep). It has primarily been recorded in protected areas: in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far west, Bardia National Park in the west, Chitwan National Park, central Nepal and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in the east; also at the edge of Parsa Wildlife Reserve in September 2012 (Kapil Pokharel).

In Sukla Phanta, it was found to occur in the main grassland and also on the Shikari Tal marshes (Baral *et al.* in prep.). In Bardia National Park it has been recorded in twos or threes in grasslands by the Karnali River from March to October since 1994 (Kalu Ram Tamang). One was seen in Baghoura Phanta, Bardia National Park and seven or eight birds at Hattisar in the buffer zone in September 2014 (Ram Shahi). In Chitwan National Park birds were recorded from several grasslands along the Rapti River. At Koshi, they were found in newly formed grasslands along the north south dyke on the east side of the Koshi River, although the localities change every

year because of flooding patterns on the river. In Lumbini, birds were recorded inside and outside the Lumbini Development Trust at three different grassland sites (Baral *et al.* in prep).

Near Chitwan National Park sites where Bristled Grassbird has been recorded recently include: Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District in 2007 (Chaudhary 2007); two birds in the Meghauli Community Forest in April 2010 (DB Chaudhary); seven birds along the Dhungre River between Sauraha to Hattisar in June 2012 (Som GC, Tek Bahadur Gurung, Anil Gurung and Michael Dooher); on the Rapti River bank in April 2012 (DB Chaudhary); Icharni (Bishnu Mahato and Sagar Giri), and two adults and one young bird at Hattisar, Sauraha in August 2012 (Tika Giri).

Potential good habitat still remains to be explored including river islands at Koshi that have been colonised by *Saccharum* grasslands and degraded open grasslands in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve that were restored soon after the reserve extension including grasslands on the eastern side of the reserve (Baral *et al.* in prep.).

Bristled Grassbird has also been recorded in small numbers at sites outside the protected areas' system: at Nepalganj airport (D5), Banke District in July 2015 (Suraj Baral), two at Jagdishpur, Kapilvastu District in May 2015 (Som GC); recorded at Lumbini Farmlands IBA, Rupandehi District where the first record was in August 1997 (Giri 1997), also there in January 2008 (Dinesh Giri); at Khadara Phanta, Kapilvastu District in October 2006 (Cox 2008) and June 2012 (Dinesh Giri); four at Sedhawa, Siraha District in April 2003 (Cox 2003), and at several small grasslands outside the protected areas' system near Koshi and Chitwan (Baral *et al.* in prep).

The species is endemic to the Indian subcontinent and has been recorded in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

A survey for the species carried out from 1996 to 1999 found Bristled Grassbird present at 22 out of 31 grassland sites that were surveyed. Grasslands in Chitwan National Park and in Sukla Phanta and Koshi Wildlife Reserves were considered important for the species. The largest concentration of 15 nesting pairs in 1997 was found in the Padampur grasslands near Sauraha, Chitwan National Park, which covered nearly 1.5 km² (Baral *et al.* in prep.). If it is assumed the breeding density is 5 pairs km⁻² the population would be 1625 birds and if 10 pairs km⁻² the population would be 3,250 birds (Baral in prep.).

A 2010 breeding survey of Bristled Grassbird in three grasslands along the Rapti floodplain; Sahura-Padampur, Bhimle/Meghauli and Khagendramalli in Chitwan National Park found the populations were 257±148, 232±93 and 447±179 respectively and concluded that the total population of the bird in the Rapti flood plain ranged from 516 to 1,356 pairs (Singh 2013, Singh and Nepal 2011).

A comprehensive survey of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve counted 458 birds and estimated a population of 1,145 birds in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* in press).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 1,600; maximum population: 3,200

Habitat and Ecology

Bristled Grassbird is primarily a summer visitor to Nepal, although small numbers have been found in winter (Baral *et al.* in prep.); for example one was seen in January in Chitwan National Park, and one at Khadara Phanta in November 2011 (Dinesh Giri and Hathan Chaudhary).

In summer, it was mostly recorded in *Saccharum spontaneum* and *Imperata cylindrica* dominated grasslands. However, in the main grassland at Sukla Phanta, *Imperata* grasslands interspersed with *Narenga* patches were

also its favourite haunt (Baral in prep.).

In the 2010 Chitwan study the bird was found utilizing grassland mostly dominated by *Saccharum spontaneum* where average grass density was 81 grass shoots m⁻² and ground coverage was dense (>75%). The presence of Bristled Grassbird was found to be strongly associated with areas where the monsoon flood retreats leaving a silt plain each year so creating a favourable environment for the growth of *Saccharum spontaneum*. Other species of grass recorded were *Imperata cylindrica*, *Narenga porphyrocoma* etc. The bird was also found to require a significant component of shrubs in its habitat (Singh 2013, Singh and Nepal 2011).

Bristled Grassbird spends most of its time skulking in dense grassland. However in the breeding season and less frequently at other times, males perform a song flight when they can be detected easily; they also sing from exposed perches (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

It has been proved to breed in Chitwan National Park (Hem Sagar Baral and Bishnu Mahato).

Threats

Bristled Grassbird is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of lowland tall, riverine grassland. The major cause of grassland deterioration is overgrazing from domestic livestock in Sukla Phanta and Koshi Wildlife Reserves. Riverine grasslands at the edge of protected areas are under additional pressure from livestock grazing, illegal grass cutting and late burning, so increasing threats to the species. Disturbance of breeding habitat is another serious threat (Baral *et al.* in prep.). The invasive weed *Mikania micrantha* threatens the bird's habitat in Chitwan National Park (Singh and Nepal 2011).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Bristled Grassbird. It occurs primarily in protected areas: Chitwan and Bardia National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and also in Chitwan National Park buffer zone.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU B2ab(iii)) no change from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Bristled Grassbird has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria B2ab(iii). It is primarily a summer visitor and occurs in the lowlands. The species has a fragmented distribution as it is restricted to lowland grasslands and has a preference for *Saccharum spontaneum* and *Imperata cylindrica* dominated grasslands, or *Imperata* grasslands interspersed with *Narenga* patches. Its distribution is chiefly confined to five protected areas; Chitwan National Park and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve are considered the most important for the species. Bristled Grassbird's habitat is seriously threatened by deterioration and loss, especially outside the protected areas' system. Within protected areas degradation of grassland habitat is caused by livestock grazing and also illegal cutting and late burning in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and illegal cutting in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. The most serious threat to the grasslands in Chitwan National Park is the invasive alien *Mikrania micrantha*. Its population is declining.

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Conostoma oemodium Hodgson, 1842 VU

Common Name

Great Parrotbill (English)

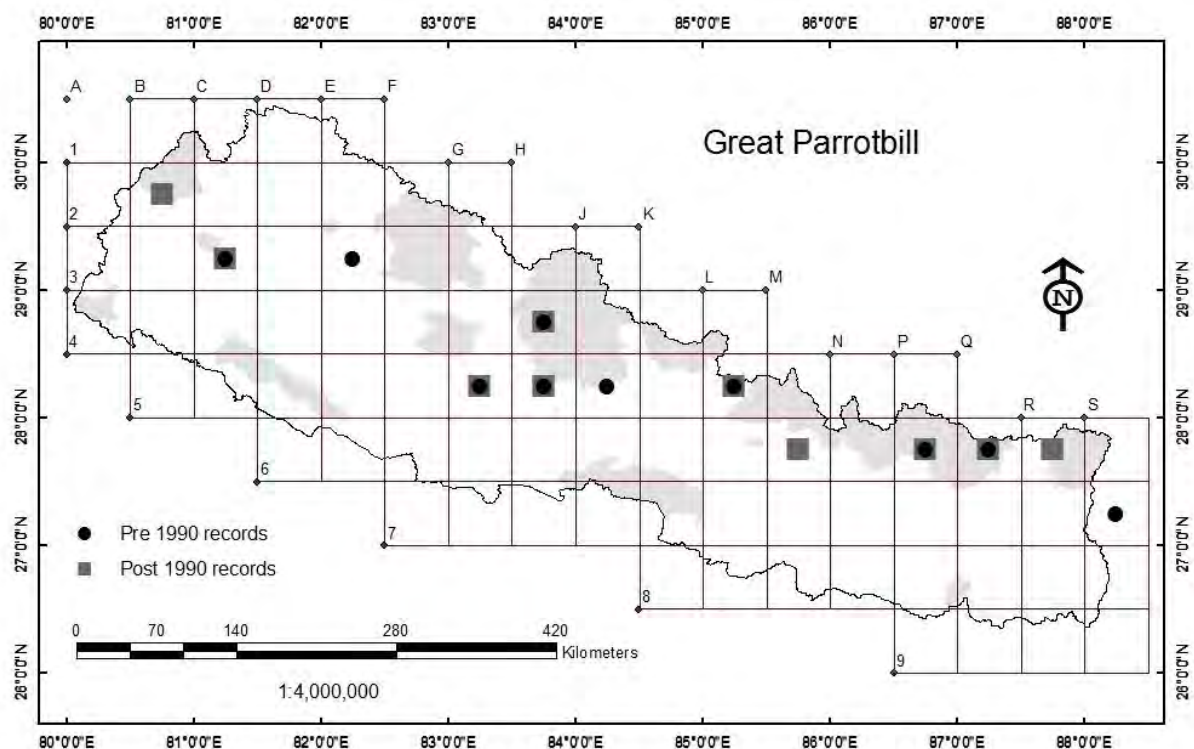
Chande Baandarchari (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Great Parrotbill is a local and uncommon resident. The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1841, Warren and Harrison 1971). One of the specimens was collected from Gosainkund (Hodgson 1829) in what is now Langtang National Park.

It was recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area in April 2012 (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012).

A specimen was collected from what is now Khaptad National Park in October 1959 (Fleming and Traylor 1961). Later the species was recorded in the national park in May and June 1983 and in May 1984 (van Riessen 1986). Two were seen in April and one in May 1988 above Choya Gadne and one at Khaptad Mai in May 1988 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1988); the species was recorded in the park by Khadka (1996) and was reported to be an uncommon resident by Chaudhary (2006).

It was also collected from Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (no date available) (Nepali 1982, 1986) and seen there in 2004 (BirdLife International 2013) and 2012 (Panthi 2013).

The species was reported south of Annapurna in 1977 (Thiollay 1980) (further details of date and locality are unknown). A specimen was collected 15 km north of Pokhara, Kaski District in November 1973 (Anon. 1983).

There are a number of records including recent records from the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) e.g. in 1979 (Redman and Murphy 1979); in 1981 (Lelliott 1981); five at Ghorepani in March 1994 (Lama 1994); two between Deorali and Ghorepani in December 2001 (Naylor *et al.* 2002); two seen and several heard on Poon Hill in March 2001 (Wright and Lawson 2001); two between Taadapani and Ghorepani in April 2003 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2003); two at Deurali, near Ghorepani and three on Poon Hill in April 2005 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2005); two between Deorali and Ghorepani in December 2006 (Naylor *et al.* 2006); one on Poon Hill in May 2007 (De Win 2007); two at Deurali in April 2010 (GC 2010), and heard at Deorali in February 2011 (Wheatley 2011).

Two were seen on the slopes of Macchapuchare, ACA in December 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971) The species was recorded in the Modi Khola valley, north of Chomrong, ACA in December 1985 (Mayer 1986) and at Hinko in the valley in December 1992 (Lama 1993).

In the upper Kali Gandaki valley, ACA one was seen north-west of Tukucho in May 1984 (Cox 1984), the species was seen at Ghasa in December 1985 (Mayer 1986) and one was also found there in March 2001 (Wright and Lawson 2001) and two in December 2002 (Brickle 2003).

There are several records from the Pipar and Santel forests in the Seti Khola valley, ACA. It was reported from Pipar in May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006); April 2007 (Emmanuel 1997); May 2011 (Poudyal *et al.* 2011) and April 2012 (Laxman Poudyal), and from Santel in May 2001 (Baral *et al.* 2001); May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006), and May 2012 (Jhalak Chaudhary). Three were recorded on the Telbrung Danda in ACA in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

One was also collected from the Gandak-Kosi watershed in May 1958 (Fleming and Traylor 1961). There are a number of post-1990 records from Langtang National Park including: singles between Phedi and Ghopte in April 1995 (Suchit Basnet) and at Phedi in May 1997 (Cooper and Cooper 1997), two at Ghopte in April 1999 (Chaudhary 1999, Francis 1999), one in April 2001 (Fischer and Fischer 2001), four near Ghopte in May 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), one between Magingoth and Thare Pati in May 2008 (Wheatley 2010), one at Thare Pati in May 2009 (Wheatley 2010), two at Ghopte in May 2009 (GC 2010), one between Thare Pati and Ghopte in March 2010 (Wheatley 2010).

A specimen was collected at Kasuwa, upper Arun valley in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park in July 1973 (Anon 1983). The species was also recorded there in April 1981 (Krabbe 1981), by Nepali (1986), and in the Hongu, Irkhua, Kasuwa and Barun valleys in the national park May 1995 (Cox 1995). Cox (1999) considered it was an uncommon resident in the park. One was seen in the Apsuwa khola valley in the park's buffer zone in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

In the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, the species was recorded on Deura Danda and above Amji Kharka in May 1988 (Martens and Eck 1995), between Nagdunga and Dhupi in November 1996 (Buckton 1996), in the Conservation Area (details of localities and dates are unknown) in May 1999 (White and White 1999), and two were seen between Torangden and the Amji Khola in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Known records outside the protected areas' system follow.

Pre-1990 single specimens were collected 4.8 km west of Gatlang, Rasuwa District in May 1968 and 16 km NNE of Jumla, Jumla District in January 1971 (Anon. 1983). It was seen at Surkhe, Solu-Khumbu District in December 1986 (Nielsen 1986) and on the Singhalila ridge in what is now the Mai Valley Important Bird Area in April 1912 (Stevens 1912); two were seen in the same area between Hange Tham and Kalo Pokhari in March 1989 (McKnight *et al.* 1989).

Post-1990 two were seen above Pinde Odar, Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999); four at Sermathang, Sindhupalchok District in January 1912 (Dymond 2012), and two between Thudam and Ghot over-hang, and Ghot to Khimboche. Taplejung District in 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally Great Parrotbill has also been recorded Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991)

Elevation

Upper limit: 3660 m; lower limit: 2700 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out specifically for Great Parrotbill, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 250; maximum population: <750

Habitat and Ecology

Great Parrotbill inhabits ringal bamboo stands in high altitude forest, usually of oak-rhododendron or fir-rhododendron. It is often found singly or in pairs and sometimes in small groups. It keeps mainly to the undergrowth. Unlike other parrotbills in Nepal although occasionally ascends trees and has a distinctive song (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species shows little altitudinal movement and has been found as high as 3355 m in January (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds chiefly on bamboo shoots, also on crab-apple seeds, wild raspberries, insects and rhododendron nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Great Parrotbill is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of stands of bamboo which is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work. Large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Great Parrotbill. Post-1990 it has been recorded in the Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas; in Khaptad, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks and in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU, A2c, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Great Parrotbill has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2c, C2a(i) and D1. It is a local and uncommon resident. The large majority of records including post-1990 records are from protected areas: Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas; Khaptad, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve. The species is a habitat specialist found in bamboo stands in upper temperate and subalpine forests. It is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of bamboo which is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work. Large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas.

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Emberiza melanocephala Scopoli, 1769 VU

Common Name

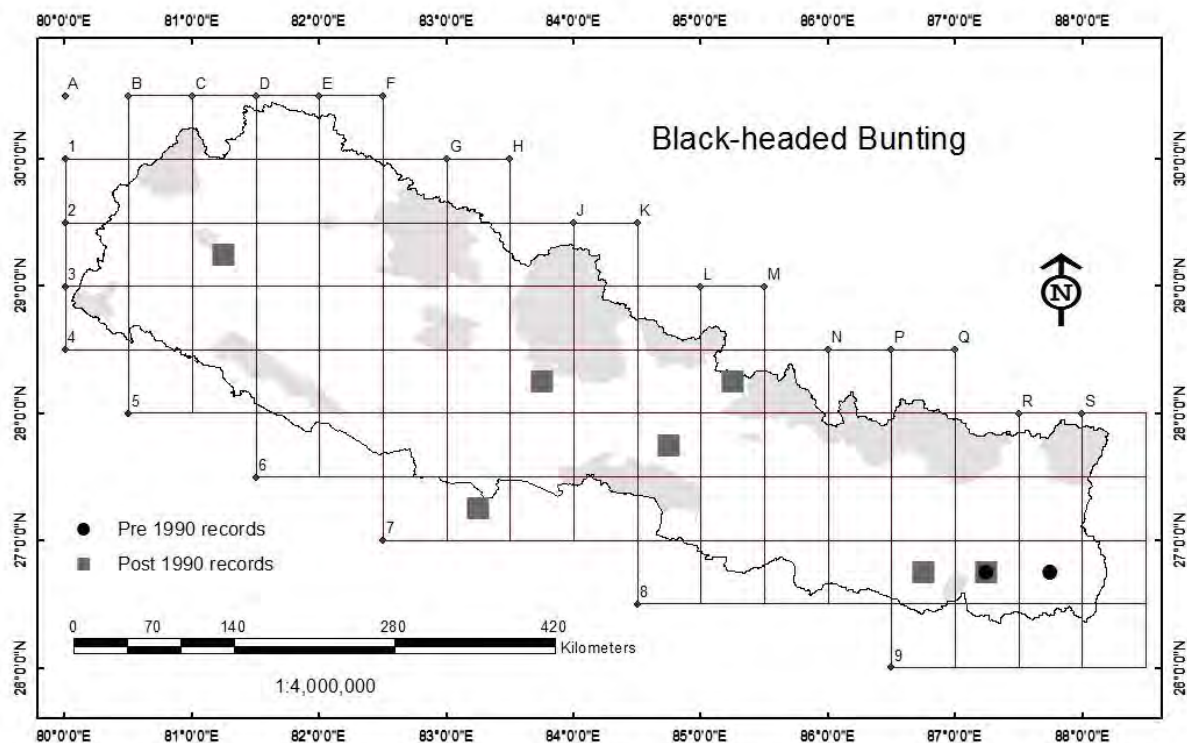
Black-headed Bunting (English), Kalotauke Bagedi (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Emberizidae



Distribution



Black-headed Bunting is a rare winter visitor in the lowlands, recorded mainly in the east. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005a) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was a specimen collected in November 1969 from Balaju, Kathmandu Valley at 1340 m (Nepali and Fleming 1971, Nepali 1986).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered the species a scarce winter visitor. .

Since 1990 the species has been recorded from a few additional localities compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage (see map and text below).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: recorded in Chitwan National Park (K6) in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004) and very few more recent records from the park (Hem Subedi); one in Parsa Wildlife Reserve in March 2012 (Kapil Pokharel), and recorded at Syabru (L5), Langtang National Park in September 2001 (Regmi *et al.* 2001). It was formerly a fairly common winter visitor in Koshi Tappu

Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a), however in recent years the species has become rare in the area (Badri Chaudhary).

It has been recorded from only a few localities outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990. These include from Badimalika region (C3) (Karki *et al.* 2003); five by Telar River, Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in December 2006 (Hanlon and Giri 2007); 15 at Sarangkot, Kaski District in January 2005 and five near Kalikasthan, Kaski District in February 2009 (Hari KC). The species has been regularly recorded recently at Jabdi (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in October 2011 (Baral 2011) and October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong (China), Iceland, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1340 m (- 2050 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Black-headed Bunting. Post 1990 a40 birds were recorded on 25 February 2005 at Koshi area (Baral 2005b). However, in recent years there have been fewer records and smaller numbers of individuals (Hem Sagar Baral, Badri Chaudhary) than pre-1990.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Black-headed Bunting inhabits grasslands, sugarcane plantations and in the agriculture fields (Hem Sagar Baral). The species keeps in flocks on its wintering grounds. If disturbed it flies to nearby trees and then returns immediately to resume feeding (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on chiefly grass seeds and cereal grains such as rice, wheat, jowar, bajra etc. and may cause serious damage to the standing crops (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Black-headed Bunting is threatened by the loss of grasslands, open fields and fallow land. In recent years hunting and trapping for popular restaurant meat 'Bagedi' may have caused local declines. However, there may be other threats affecting this species in its breeding grounds and elsewhere on its migration routes.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Black-headed Bunting. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and marginally from Chitwan and Langtang National Parks and Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2, B1ab, C1) upgraded from the Global Red list status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-headed Bunting has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2, B1ab, C1. The species is a rare winter visitor recorded at scattered localities from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 the species has been recorded from a few additional localities compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. Post-1990 it has mainly been recorded from the Koshi area, in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and nearby, and marginally from four other protected areas. There are few other known localities outside the protected areas' system both pre- and post-1990. In recent years there have been a smaller number of records of the species and lower numbers of individuals. Black-headed Bunting is threatened by the loss of grasslands, open fields and fallow land. In recent years hunting and trapping for popular restaurant meat 'Bagedi' may have caused its decline locally. However, there may be other threats affecting this species in its breeding grounds and elsewhere on its migration routes.

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Emberiza pusilla Pallas, 1776 **VU**

Common Name

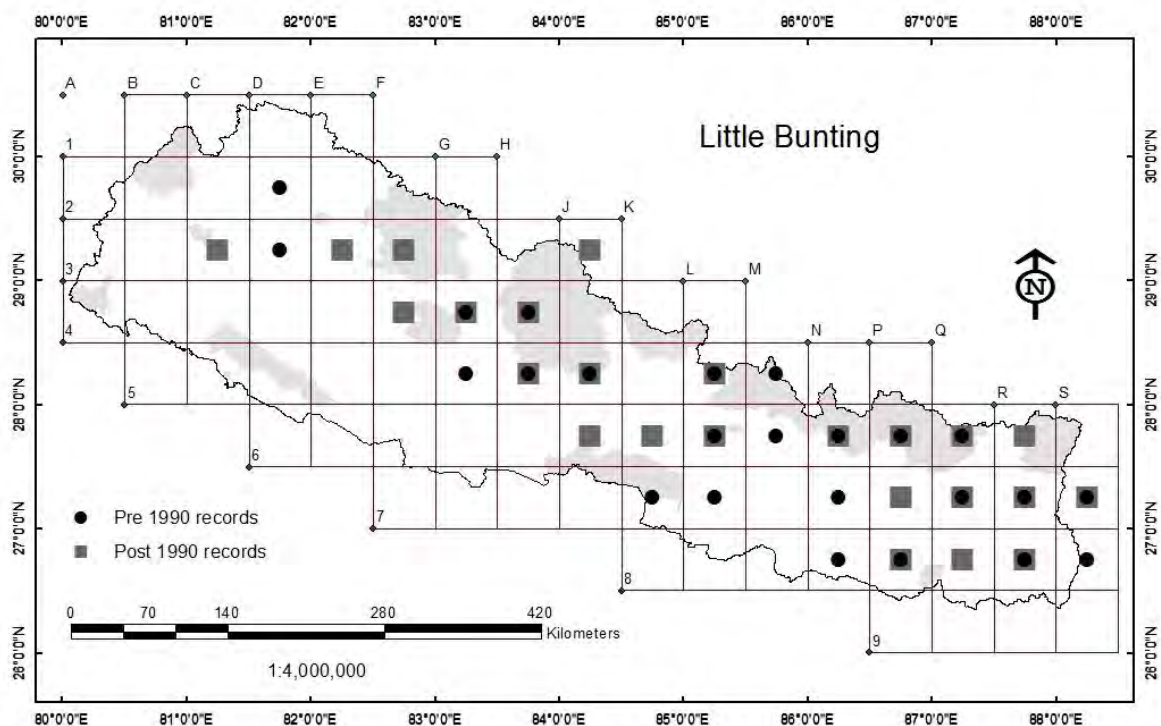
Little Bunting (English), Laghu Bagedi (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Emberizidae



Distribution



Little Bunting is an erratic winter visitor and is generally very uncommon or rare. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006) in the far west to the Mai valley, Ilam District (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common winter visitor, leaving in late April or early May. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a fairly common winter visitor, occurring mainly between 75m and 2000m, and rare up to 3050m and mapped its distribution fairly widely from the mid-west to far east.

Since 1990 the distributional range of Little Bunting and the number of records have reduced despite better coverage (see map and text below).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: recorded in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); an uncommon winter visitor in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1995); recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013). The species was listed as a fairly common winter visitor in Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003),

and a passage migrant in Upper Mustang (J3) Annapurna Conservation Area (Acharya 2002), but its current status in ACA is uncertain. It is listed as an uncommon winter visitor in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but there are no recent records from the park (RDB workshop, October 2015). The species is a vagrant in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); an uncommon winter visitor in Shivapuri (L6) of Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); a vagrant in Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004). It is now a rare winter visitor in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005); there was only one record 2010-15 - six in February 2015 (Anish Timsina, Hathan Chaudhary). It is listed as a fairly common visitor in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999), but its current status in the park is uncertain. It has been recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Little Bunting has been recorded from only a few localities outside the protected areas' system post-1990.

In the west records include from: Badimalika region (C3) (Karki *et al.* 2003); between Chaurikot (E3), Jumla District and Hurikot (F3), Dolpa District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992), and five on north side of Phewa lake, Kaski District in February 2014 (Hari KC).

In the central region records include: a rare winter visitor and passage migrant to Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008); a common winter visitor to Chitlang Forest (L7), Makawanpur District in 1991/92 (Manandhar *et al.* 1992), and recorded from Bamti Bhandar (N6), Ramechhap District in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012).

In the east records include from: Bhojpur (P7), Bhojpur District in December 2004 (Mallalieu 2005); between Mude (Q6), Bhotebas (Q7) and Khandbari (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in December 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995); Tinjure Forest (Q7), Tehrathum District (Rai 2003); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in January 2008 (Baral 2010); Mabu (R7), Jamuna (R7), Mai Majuwa (S7), Pranbung (S7) and Sidim (R8) in the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) and Dobate and Hangetham in April 2013 (Badri Chaudhary and Suchit Basnet).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, China (mainland), Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2000 m (- 3050 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Little Bunting. The unusually large numbers of 200 were seen in Dobate and 500 in Hangetham, Ilam District in April 2013, but none were found there in April 2014 and 2015 (Badri Chaudhary, Suchit Basnet).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Little Bunting inhabits grassy meadows in the vicinity of the streams (Fleming *et al.* 1976), feeds in stubble, and ploughed or grass fields (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species occurs singly or in small flocks in winter; rather secretive, occurs closely to covers on the ground and when disturbed, flushes out suddenly and dives instantly behind the next bush and readily perches in trees and bushes (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on seeds, insects and their larvae (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Little Bunting is threatened by habitat loss and changes in agricultural practices, especially more intensive methods, increasing use of pesticides, and also may be at risk from trapping and hunting.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Little Bunting. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Shey-Phoksundo, Chitwan, Shivapuri-Nagarjun, and Makalu-Barun National Parks; Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas; Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve and marginally from Langtang and Sagarmatha National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ace?) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Little Bunting has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ace? The species is an erratic winter visitor and is generally very uncommon or rare. Up to 1990 it was considered fairly common, but since 1990 its distributional range and the number of records have reduced, despite better coverage. It was formerly a fairly common winter visitor to the Koshi area, but is now a rare passage migrant of erratic occurrence. In Chitwan National Park it was once an uncommon winter visitor, but there have been no recent records. It has been recorded in several protected areas but its current status in a few of these is uncertain and there are a smaller number of localities outside the protected areas' system. Little Bunting is threatened by habitat loss and changes in agricultural practices, especially more intensive methods, increasing use of pesticides, and also may be at risk from trapping and hunting and its population has probably declined.

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Emberiza spodocephala Pallas, 1776 **VU**

Subspecies *Emberiza spodocephala sordida*

Common Name

Black-faced Bunting (English)

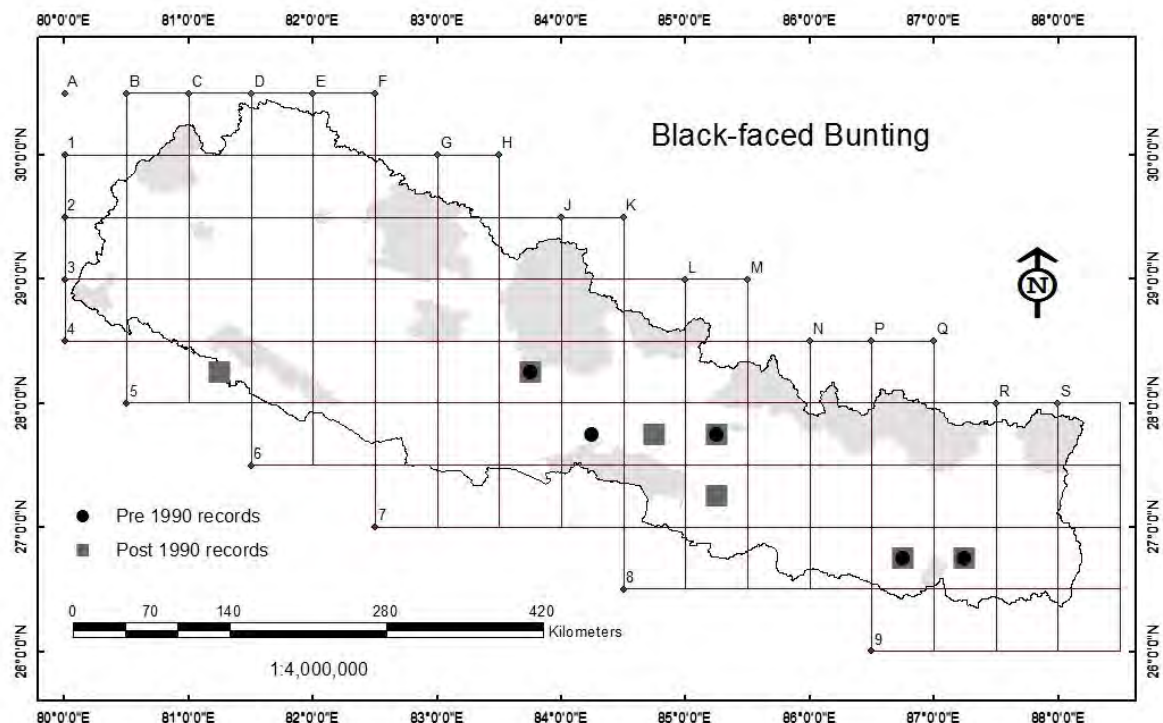
Krishnamuhar Bagedi (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Emberizidae



Distribution



Black-faced Bunting is a rare winter visitor and passage migrant. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001) in the west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844, Warren and Harrison 1971).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as an uncommon and local winter visitor and passage migrant, occurring from the tarai up to 1280m and mapped its distribution in very few locations of central and eastern Nepal.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded from a few additional localities compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a rare winter visitor in Bardia National Park (C5) (Inskipp 2001) and a rare winter visitor in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006). Baral (2005) lists it as a fairly common winter visitor in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8), but it is now rare.

It has been recorded from only a few localities outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990.

In the west records include: from Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004).

In central Nepal records include: a very rare in winter to Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008) and Hetauda (L7), Makawanpur District in March 1993 (Mackenzie 1994).

In the east records include: from Patnali Forest (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2001 (Baral 2001) and several winter reports from Jabdi, Kosi Bird Observatory (Hem Sagar Baral).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bhutan, China (mainland), Finland, Germany, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, North Korea, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), South Korea, Taiwan (China), Thailand, United Kingdom and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2014).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1280 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Black-faced Bunting. The large number of 44 birds was recorded on 9 March 1995 at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Choudhary 1995). However, its population has significantly decreased in the Koshi area where it is now a rare visitor (RDB Workshop, October 2015).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Black-faced Bunting inhabits long grass, edges of marshes, and rice paddies, and scrub and is usually found near water (Ali and Ripley 1987, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is found singly, in pairs or small flocks and forages usually in cover (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on rice and other seeds usually in damp paddy stubbles or on moist edges of jheels and tanks (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Black-faced Bunting is threatened by habitat loss, trapping and hunting.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Black-faced Bunting. Since it has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, B1a,b, C1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-faced Bunting has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2, B1a,b, C1. The species is a rare winter visitor and passage migrant recorded from scattered localities from the west to the far east. Since 1990 it has been recorded from a few additional localities compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. Post-1990 the species has been recorded in three protected areas. There are few known localities outside the protected areas' system both pre- and post-1990. Black-faced Bunting is threatened by the loss of

habitat, trapping and hunting. As a result, its population has declined.

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Ficedula monileger (Hodgson, 1845) **VU**

Subspecies *Ficedula monileger monileger*

Common Name

White-gorgeted Flycatcher (English)

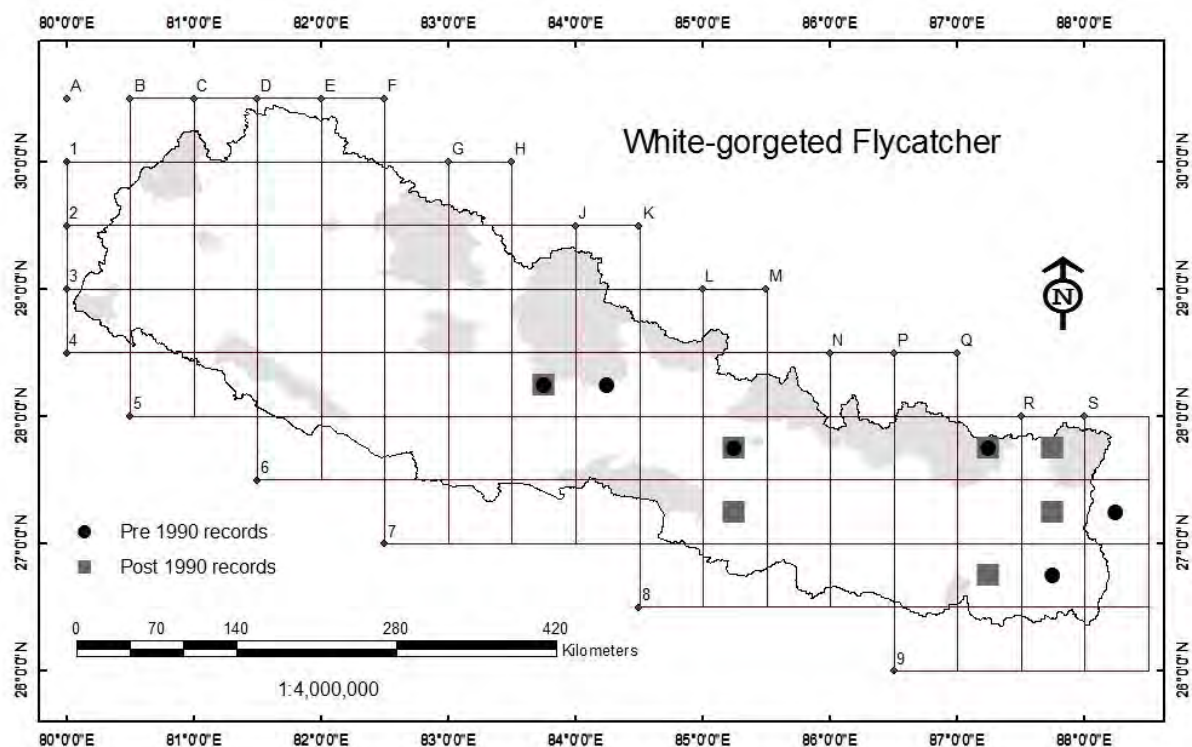
Setokantha Arjunak (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Muscicapidae



Distribution



White-gorgeted Flycatcher is a rare resident recorded from west-central Nepal eastwards. The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1845). One was collected at Godaveri, Kathmandu Valley in January 1953 (Rand and Fleming 1957) and singles were seen there in January 1993 (Tarant and Tarrant 1993) and April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004). A specimen was taken at Shivapuri (no date available) what is now the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (Nepali 1982) and the species was seen in the Kathmandu Valley in 1979 (Lambert 1979).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as scarce.

An adult and several juveniles were seen at Lumle, Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) in July 1973 (Woodcock and Woodcock 1976) and seen at Ghandruk, ACA in November 1979 (Woodcock 1979). These form the westernmost localities for the species.

There are widespread single sight records: south of Annapurna in 1977 (Thiollay 1980) (further details of date and locality are unavailable), one at Phewa Tal, Kaski District in January 1982 (Johns 1982), north-west of Shyaksila Toten, Barun Valley in the Makalu Barun National Park in November 1984 (Nepali 1984), and north of

Sunischare, Jhapa District in January 1985 (Calladine 1985). Single specimens were taken in the upper Mai valley in April 1912 (Stevens 1924), and by the Kasuwa Khola in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park in November 1972 (Anon. 1981).

Known post-1990 records include: one at Taparang, Kaski District in October 2002 (Raju Acharya); two in Rani Ban, Pokhara, Kaski District in December 2011 (Hari KC); singles between Lendada and Ranidada, Makwanpur District in March 2008 (Basnet and Thakuri 2008) and at Bhotebas, Sankhuwasabha District in April 1996 (White and White 1996); two at Mudhe, Arun valley in April 2004 (Shankar Tiwari); and singles on the Tinjure Danda, Tamur valley, Terathum District in 1998 (Rai Mala *in litt.* to Mitra Pandey 2009); in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in March 2006 (Giri and Choudhary 2006), and on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in May 1994 (Halberg 1994),.

Globally White-gorgeted Flycatcher has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3000 m; lower limit: 915 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out specifically for White-gorgeted Flycatcher. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

White-gorgeted Flycatcher inhabits dense undergrowth in moist broadleaved forest. The species is secretive, usually keeping under cover in dense undergrowth or in small trees close to the ground and so can be easily overlooked. Its altitudinal movements are poorly known (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). White-gorgeted Flycatcher feeds on insects which it captures by making little sallies in the air, occasionally taking them on the ground (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

White-gorgeted Flycatcher is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of moist broadleaved forest with dense undergrowth.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for White-gorgeted Flycatcher. There are few records from protected areas; post-1990 it has been seen in the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area and pre-1990 it was recorded in Makalu Barun and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks and the Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-gorgeted Flycatcher has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2c, C2a(i) and D1. It is a rare resident widely recorded from west-central Nepal eastwards with single records from most localities. The species may be less rare than the lack of records suggests as it is secretive and so could be overlooked. The species is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of moist broadleaved forest with dense undergrowth. The majority of records, especially post-1990 have been from outside the protected areas' system; there is only one recent record from a protected area.

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Ficedula subrubra (Hartert & Steinbacher 1934) **VU**

Common Name

Kashmir Flycatcher (English)

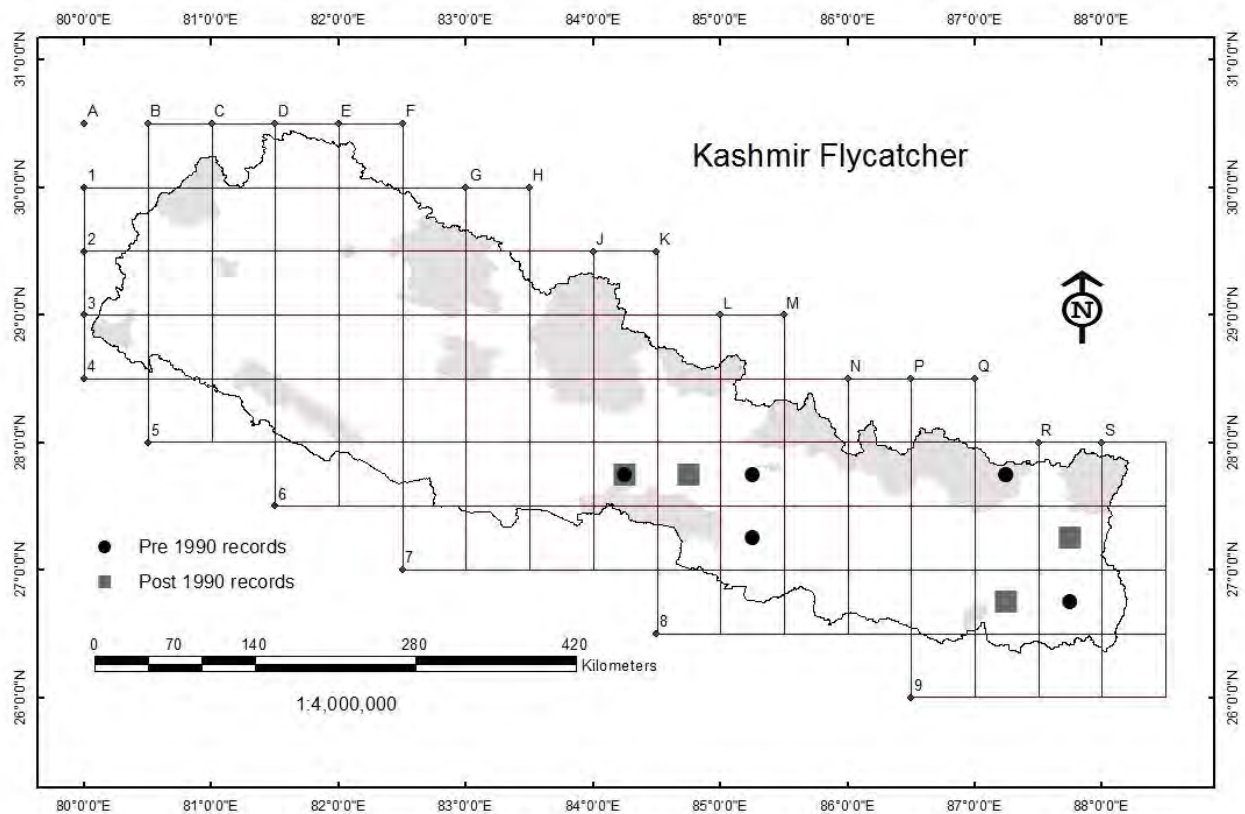
Kashmiri Arjunak (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Muscicapidae



Distribution



Kashmir Flycatcher is a very rare visitor to Nepal; details of very few post-1990 records are known. Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as a scarce winter visitor and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a scarce visitor.

The first Nepal record was in Kathmandu on 10 April 1953 (Proud 1955).

Pre-1990 it was recorded twice in winter, both records from the Kathmandu Valley: at Swayambhunath in December 1964 (Nepali 1986) and at Godavari in February 1980 (Malling 1981). There were several reports of singles in March and April 1982: at Sauraha, Chitwan District (Robson 1982); in the Kathmandu Valley at Pashupatinath (Eames 1982, Farrow 1982) and Gokarna (Nordin and Wallander 1982); Hetauda, Makwanpur District Robson 1982, Turton and Speight 1982), and north of Birtamod (Wallinder and Sandgren 1983). It was also recorded at Sauraha in April 1985 (Harrap 1985) and April 1986 (Holt *et al.* 1986). There are only two autumn records: from Godaveri, Kathmandu Valley in October 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971) and Sukipatal (Q6) in

November 1973 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981).

Post-1990 it was described as a rare passage migrant to Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006). Known records are singles at Thuthai Khola, Thori, Chitwan National Park in May 2000 recorded by Kapil Pokharel and Harka Man Lama (Basu Bidari *in litt.* to Hem Sagar Baral 20 July 2013) and from Sauraha, Chitwan District, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in April 2015 (Tek Bahadur Gurung, BES).

It was also described as a rare passage migrant in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). However, the only record that could be located was one seen near Prakashpur guard post in April 2010 (Badri Chaudhary, Badri Pudasaini and Anish Timsina).

The species is included as a rare passage migrant on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007) without further details. However, no post-1990 records could be located.

One was recorded near Sesambu (R7), Taplejung District in November 1992 (Cox 1992) and one probable near Chobar, Kathmandu Valley in February 2004 (Arend van Riessen in Mallalieu 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2135 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Kashmir Flycatcher. The species' occurrence in Nepal has declined. This may well be due to circumstances outside Nepal. The species is listed as globally Vulnerable by BirdLife International (2013) and so its global population is declining. Another possible reason for its decline in occurrence in Nepal is that the species' migration route may have changed.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Kashmir Flycatcher inhabits open broadleaved forest on passage and in winter (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); an open forest bird (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Its habits are similar to those of Taiga Flycatcher.

Threats

Threats to Kashmir Flycatcher are not understood in Nepal; it would suffer from complete forest losses.

Conservation Measures

The only confirmed records since 1990 have been from protected areas: single records from Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2a) no change from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Kashmir Flycatcher has been assessed as Vulnerable. The species is now a very rare visitor to Nepal; details of very few records are known. Pre-1990 it had been a scarce visitor. The species has declined outside Nepal as it is listed as globally Vulnerable. Another possible reason for its reduction in occurrence in Nepal is that its migration route may have changed.

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Garrulax caerulatus (Hodgson, 1836) **VU**

Subspecies *Garrulax caerulatus caerulatus*

Common Name

Grey-sided Laughingthrush (English)

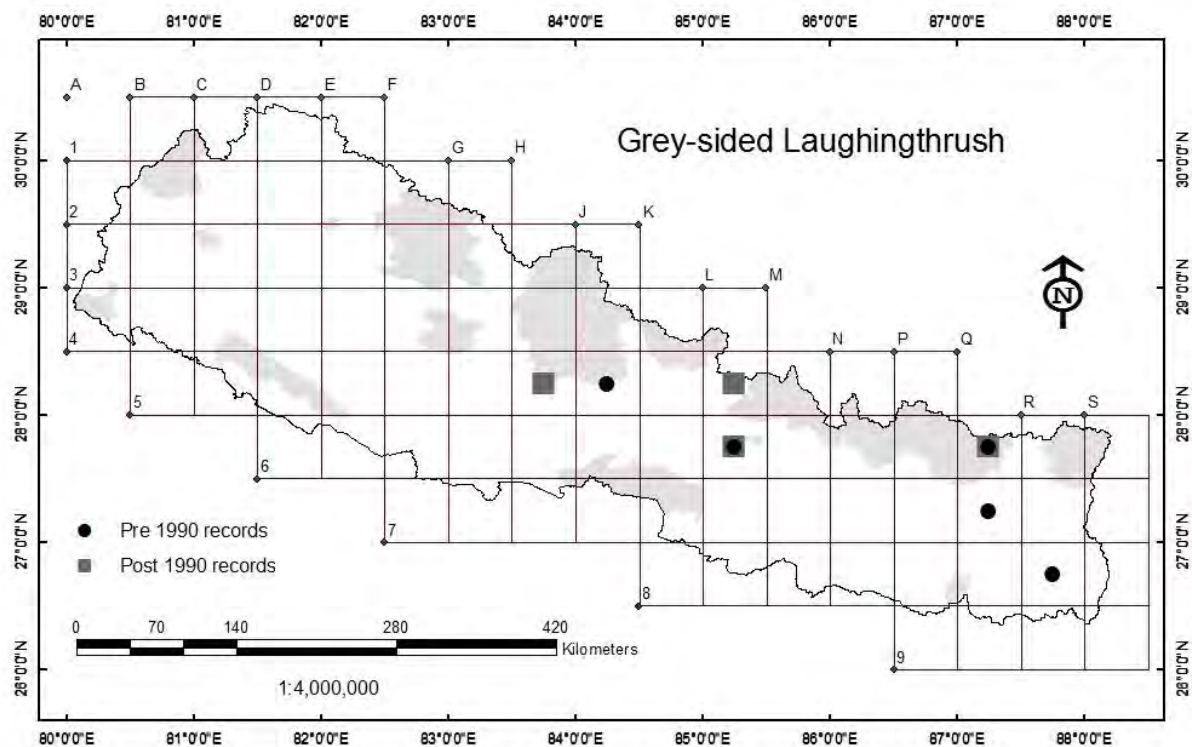
Phusrokokhe Toriganda (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Grey-sided Laughingthrush is a rare and local resident. The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836, Warren and Harrison 1971). It has been recorded from Pipar, Annapurna Conservation Area (Kaul and Shakya 1998) in west-central Nepal to Makalu Barun National Park (Nepali 1986, Round 1986) in the east.

It was recorded south of Annapurna in June 1977 (Thiollay 1980); (further locality details are not available). There is one known record from the Annapurna Conservation Area, from Pipar forests in May 1998 (Kaul and Shakya 1998), but the species has not been found there since. These two records are the most westerly for the species.

The species has been regularly recorded from Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area. A flock of the large number of 20-25 birds was seen on two visits in March 1981 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981). Other pre-1990 records include small parties in May 1947 (Biswas 1962), November 1948 (Ripley 1950) and January 1949 (Proud 1949), single specimens collected in January and March 1954 (Rand and Fleming 1957), five seen in January 1974 (Madge *et al.* 1974), 10+ in February 1981 (del-Nevo and Ewins 1981), two in May 1985 (Harrap

1985), three in December 1986 and January 1987 (Scharringa 1987), and six in January 1989 (Cooper and Cooper 1989). Post 1990 records include seven in February 1994 (Lama 1994), 10+ in April 1997 (Baral 1997), five + in February 1999 (Sterling 1999), five in April 2001 and one in March 2002 (Malling Olsen 2004), ten in January 2003 (Giri 2003), a pair nestbuilding and incubating in 2003 (Baral and Parr 2003), four in April 2012 (Tika Giri) groups of four to six from 2004 to 2006 (Mallalieu 2008), two in May 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), four in February 2010 (Baral 2010) and one in May 2011 (Baral 2011).

Smaller numbers have been seen on Phulchoki in the last few years than previously.

Fleming *et al.* (1976) found it nesting on Shivapuri in what is now the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in May. Other Shivapuri records include in February 1987 (Nicolle 1987), groups of up to four birds from 2004 to 2006 (Mallalieu 2008), one in May 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), and two in December 2010 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2010); also recorded there in November 2014 (Arend van Riessen).

In 1947 Biswas (1962) reported it as 'rather uncommon' in central Nepal where it was observed on Chandragiri above Thankot and on the Mahabharat Range about Deorali in April. Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was seen occasionally in oak-rhododendron forests surrounding the Kathmandu Valley.

There is known one record from Langtang National Park, from Thade (Ashok Kumar Ram).

The only other known area for Grey-sided Laughingthrush is Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone. The species was collected at Sukipatal, upper Arun valley, in what is now the national park in February 1973 (Round 1986) and recorded in the Arun valley in September 1986 (Nepali 1986). It was also reported from the Sankhuwa Khola valley in the buffer zone from 1993 to 1995 (James Bland in Cox 1999) and four were seen in the valley in June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Globally Grey-sided Laughingthrush has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, introduced to USA (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2745 m; lower limit: 1370 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Grey-sided Laughingthrush, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 350; maximum population: <1000

Habitat and Ecology

Grey-sided Laughingthrush inhabits undergrowth in humid, broadleaved forests and bamboo thickets in the subtropical and temperate zones. It is often found in small parties, also in larger groups, singly and in pairs. The species frequently skulks in dense undergrowth or feeds on the ground keeping under cover, but can be located by its distinctive calls. It is a resident subject to seasonal altitudinal movements (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species eats berries, seeds and other vegetable material, and probably also insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Grey-sided Laughingthrush is seriously threatened by the loss of dense, humid broadleaved forest with bamboo. These habitats are now fragmented and of limited extent in Nepal, especially in the subtropical zone (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Grey-sided Laughingthrush. It has been recently recorded in Makalu Barun and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks and there is one known record from the Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Grey-sided Laughingthrush has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is rare and local with a fragmented distribution from west-central Nepal eastwards. Most Nepal records are from the Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area on the edge of the Kathmandu Valley, a very well-watched locality, where it has declined in recent years. Small numbers have also been found in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, on the edge of the Valley. The other main locality for the species is Makalu Barun National park and buffer zone. Grey-sided Laughingthrush is seriously threatened by the loss of dense, humid broadleaved forest with bamboo. These habitats are now fragmented and of limited extent in Nepal, especially in the subtropical zone.

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Garrulax monileger (Hodgson, 1836) **VU**

Subspecies *Garrulax monileger monileger*

Common Name

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush (English)

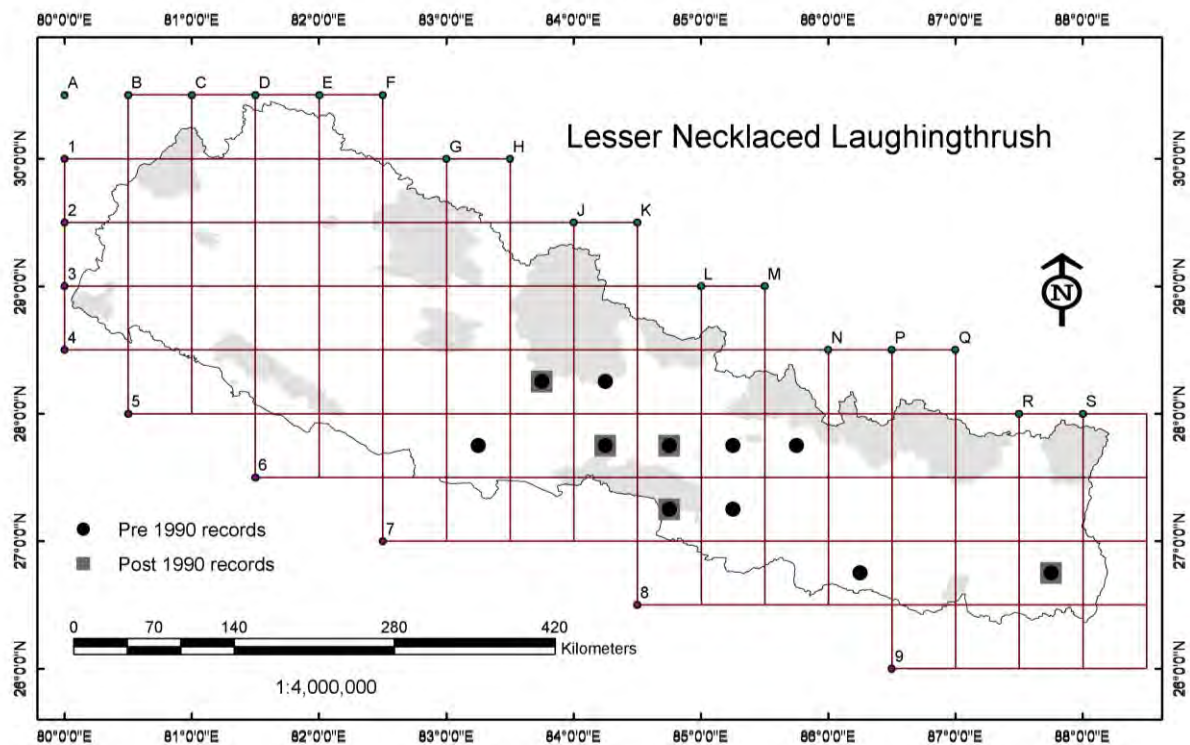
Sanokanthe Torigada (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush is a local and frequent resident in Chitwan National Park and recorded from only a few other localities post-1990 where it is probably rare.

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836, Warren and Harrison 1971).

Prior to 1990 Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) stated that it was regularly recorded from Begnas Tal and Pokhara, Kaski District; Chitwan and north Sunischare, Jhapa District. In spite of increased efforts in birding there have been few or no records in return visits to these areas. Most post-1990 records are only from Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Cox 2003) and adjoining areas e.g. Bees Hazari Tal, buffer zone of Chitwan National Park (Baral 1996). It has been described as a frequent resident in Chitwan (Baral and Upadhyay 2006).

A comparison of distribution shows the reduction in distribution outside the protected areas' system between pre- and post-1990.

Records from outside the protected areas' system follow.

The species was recorded in Marek, Kapilvastu District, the westernmost locality for the species (Rand and Fleming 1957, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) but there are no known further records from here. For almost the last three years there have been no records from the Pokhara area including Rani Ban, between Chandrakot and Biretante and in the Pothana-Dhampus area of Kaski District where it was occasionally seen previously (Hari KC pers comm. 2012). However, one bird was seen in Sikles, Annapurna Conservation Area in May 2011 (Yadav Ghimirey and Raju Acharya). There are two pre-1990 records from the Kathmandu Valley (Proud 1949, Redman and Murphy 1979) and no records since then. An EIA assessment of the North South fast track road in 2008 (Basnet and Thakuri 2008) recorded the species. There are at least two recent records from Siraichuli area: eight birds in Shaktikhori in May 2007 (Hem Subedi/BES) and six in Upardangadhi in April 2011 (Som GC and Rupendra Karmacharya). There are known post-1990 records from just a few other unprotected localities: Sukhani, lower Mai valley in March and June 1997 (Hathan Chaudhary) and again in 2006 (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from India Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species's range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2000 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush. Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as 'fairly common' and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as 'uncommon', indicating decline of the species already in this period. Lack of sightings from several of the pre-1990 localities shows a further decline in the post-1990 period. The species has declined as a result of habitat loss and degradation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 1000; maximum population: 3000

Habitat and Ecology

In Chitwan birds are mainly found in dense, broadleaved hill forests in the tropical and subtropical zone, flocks descending to riverine and mixed forests in the winter months. It shares the same ecological niche as Greater Necklaced and is often with that species (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is highly gregarious especially outside the breeding season (Ali and Ripley 1987).

It feeds chiefly on the ground and, when disturbed, hides in bushes and leafy trees (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Its main food items are insects, snails, small lizards, berries, seeds and other vegetable matter (Ali and Ripley 1987).

The breeding period is March to July and up to 5 eggs are laid (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is a multi-brooded species (del Hoyo *et al.* 2007).

Threats

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush is threatened by the loss of the forest understorey, forest thinning, deforestation and fragmentation. Its forest habitats in the tropical, subtropical and lower temperate zones are especially threatened (Inskipp 1989). There may be only one viable population in Nepal in Chitwan valley and forests that are linked to it in the immediate vicinity or linked through river vegetation corridors.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush. Chitwan National Park in the Rapti Doon, is the only protected area where the species is regularly found, and it has been recorded marginally in Parsa Wildlife Reserve and in the Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU B2ab) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush has been assessed as Vulnerable because on the criteria B2ab. It has been found in less than five locations and there is proof of its decline outside protected areas). It is a local frequent resident in the Chitwan hills. However, there are only a few post-1990 records from the east and none from the Pokhara valley, where it was regularly recorded previously. Almost all known records from protected areas are only from Chitwan National Park; it has been recorded marginally in two other protected areas. Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush is threatened by the loss of the forest understorey, forest thinning, deforestation and fragmentation. Its forest habitat which lies in the tropical, subtropical and lower temperate zones is especially threatened. There may be only one viable population in Nepal: in Chitwan valley and forests that are linked to it in the immediate vicinity or linked through river vegetation corridors.

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Garrulax pectoralis (Gould, 1836) **VU**

Subspecies *Garrulax pectoralis pectoralis*

Common Name

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush (English)

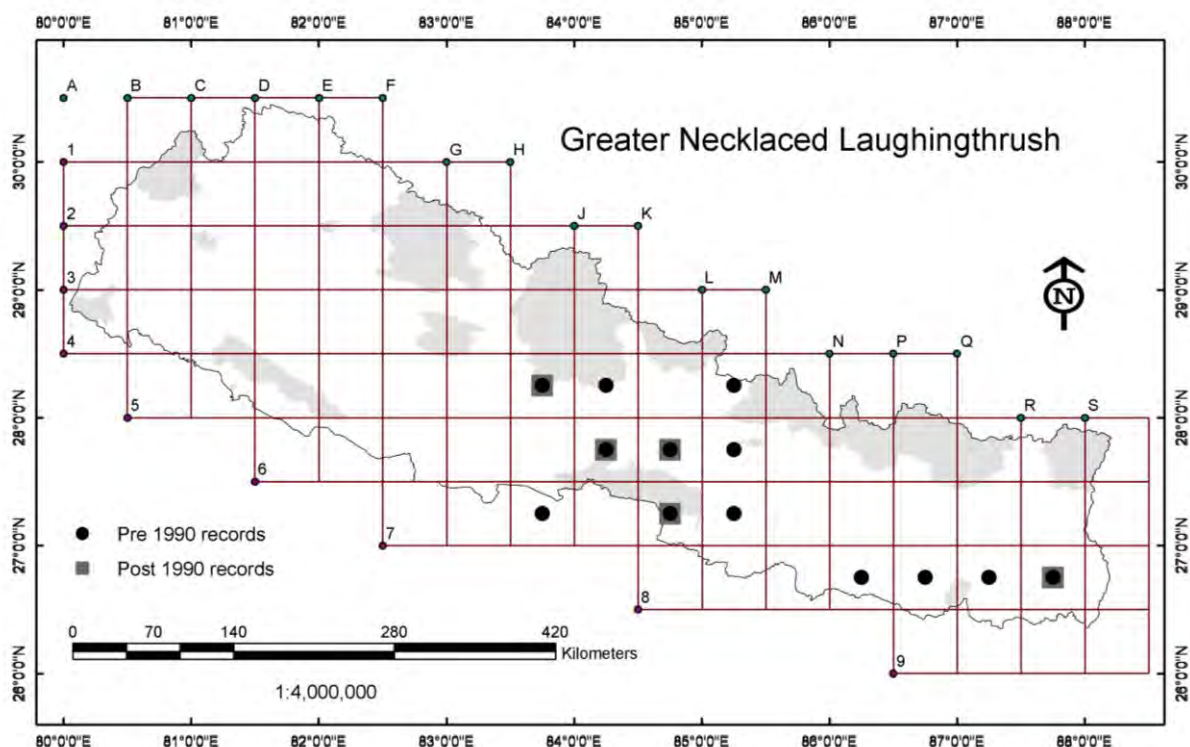
Thulokanthe Torigada (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush is a local and uncommon and only known to occur regularly in parts of Chitwan National Park where it is described as a frequent resident (Baral and Upadhyay 2006).

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

A comparison of pre- and post-1990 distribution maps shows that the species' distribution has significantly reduced.

Pokhara, Kaski District is the westernmost locality for the species (Calladine 1985, Farrow 1982, Madsen and Poulsen 1980). However, for nearly three years there have been no known records from the Pokhara area, including Rani Ban where it was seen previously (Hari KC pers. comm. 2012), apart from two birds on Kandane Danda (Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge) in 2006 (Jhalak Chaudhary). There was only one pre-1990 record from the Kathmandu Valley (Proud 1949) and there have been no records since.

One bird was seen in Parsa Wildlife Reserve in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system include at least two records from Siraichuli area,

Chitwan District in 2011, three in March (Hem Subedi/BES) and two in April (Som GC, Rupendra Karmacharya); two in Raktamala Community Forest, Udayapur District, August 2003 (Hem Sagar Baral). Pre-1990 it was fairly common north of Sunischare, Jhapa District (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), but post-1990 the only known records from this area are of one bird in Sukhani forests in November 1992 (Cox 1992), and a flock of ten at Garuwa, lower Mai valley in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, USA, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species's range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1400 m; lower limit: 100 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush. It has declined as a result of habitat loss and degradation. It was previously described as fairly common (Fleming *et al.* 1976) which is further evidence of decline. There may be only one viable population in Nepal, in Chitwan valley and forests that are linked to it in the immediate vicinity, or linked through river vegetation corridors.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 1000; maximum population: 4000

Habitat and Ecology

It inhabits dense broadleaved evergreen and sal forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976) in the tropical and subtropical zones. In Chitwan valley birds are mainly found in the hill forests, flocks descending to riverine and mixed forests in winter months. It shares the same ecological niche as Lesser Necklaced and is often with that species. It is highly gregarious, especially outside the breeding season, with flocks consisting of up to 25 birds (Ali and Ripley 1987). It forages mainly on the forest floor, sometimes moving up to the middle storey (del Hoyo *et al.* 2007). Its main food items are insects (Ali and Ripley 1987) but also some fruits (del Hoyo *et al.* 2007). Its breeding has been proved at Hetauda (Biswas 1962) and it has been photographed nesting in bamboo clumps in Sal forests in Chitwan in May 2000 (Kalu Ram Tamang).

Threats

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush is highly threatened by the loss of the forest understorey, forest thinning, deforestation and forest fragmentation. Its forest habitat which is mainly in the tropical and subtropical zones is especially threatened (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush. Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve in the Rapti Doon, are the only protected areas where the species is found, and occurrence at Parsa is only marginal.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU B2ab) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria B2ab because it is found in less than five locations and there is proof of significant declines outside protected areas. It is an uncommon resident only known to occur regularly in parts of Chitwan National Park. The species' distribution has declined significantly elsewhere; there are fewer recent records from east Nepal and the Pokhara valley. Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush is threatened by the loss of the forest understorey, forest thinning, deforestation and forest fragmentation. Its forest habitat, which is mainly in the tropical and subtropical zones, is especially threatened. There may be only one viable population in Nepal - in the Chitwan valley and forests that are linked to the valley in the immediate vicinity, or linked through river vegetation corridors

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Paradoxornis fulvifrons (Hodgson 1845) **VU**

Subspecies *Paradoxornis fulvifrons fulvifrons*

Common Name

Fulvous Parrotbill (English)

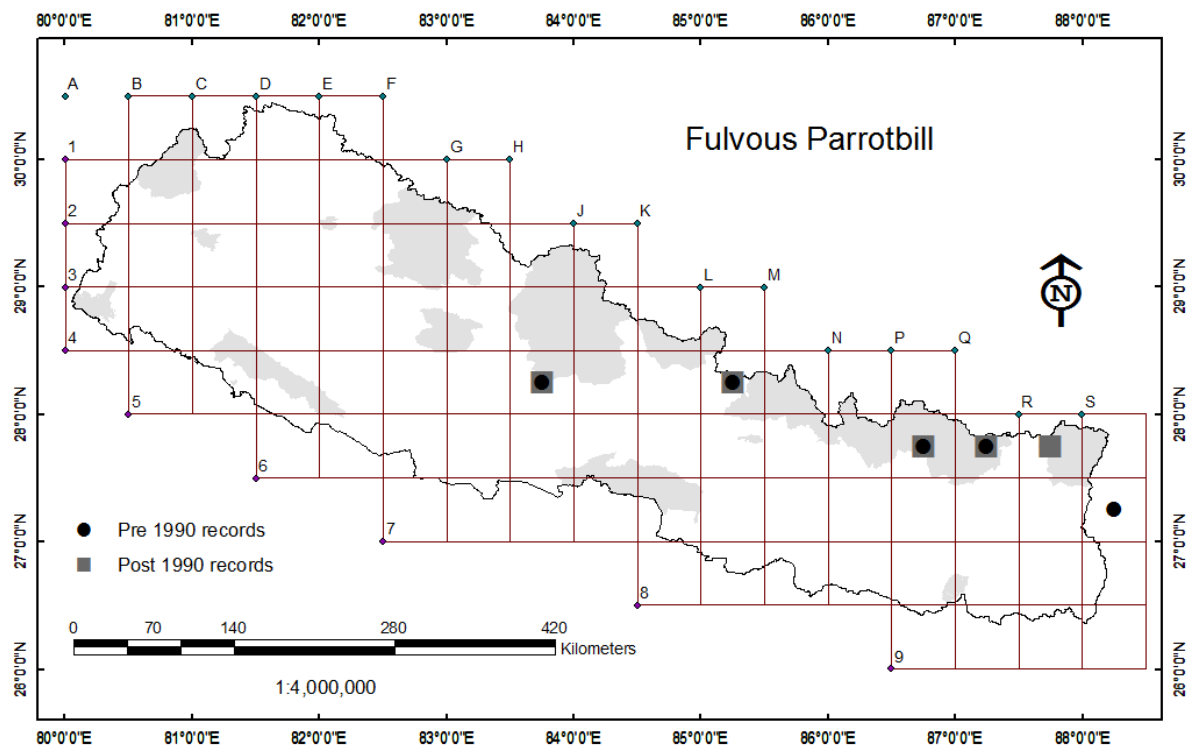
Nigale Baandarchari (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Fulvous Parrotbill is a local resident from west-central Nepal eastwards.

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1838, Warren and Harrison 1971).

In west-central Nepal in the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) there are several records including recent records from the Modi Khola valley including in April 1979 (Lelliott 1981), ten between Himalaya Lodge and Macchapuchare base camp in December 1980 (Hamon 1982) and 20 there November 1986 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986), 12 near Dobhan in December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004) and two near Bamboo Lodge in May 2009 (GC 2010). At Santel in the Seti Khola valley three to four birds were seen in May 2012 (Jhalak Chaudhary),

The species has been recorded quite frequently including recently on the ridge between Ghorepani and Deurali e.g. five in April 1982 (Eames 1982, Grimmett 1982), 30 in December 1992 (Lama 1993), 70 in December 1998 (Giri *et al.* 1999), and 75 in February 2010 (Wheatley 2010). These records are the westernmost of the species.

A party of 30 was seen and one collected in the Gandak-Kosi watershed in what is now the Langtang National Park in May 1953 (Proud 1953). Fleming *et al.* 1976) reported parties of up to 30 seen several times on the Gosainkund trail at 3505 m (no date) and collected single specimens in February and May 1969 (Anon. 1983a). Ten were recorded between Syabru and Lama Hotel in April 1981 (Richards and Richards 1981). Recent records include two at Ghopte in June 1995 (Toohig 1995); 12 between Ghopte and Thare Pati in May 1997 (Robson 1997) and 16 in June 1999 (Chaudhary 1999); 20 at Ghopte in May 2002 (Wallace and Wallace 2002) and 20 in May 2009 (Shankar Tiwari); also recorded at Thare Pati in October 2003 (Arend van Riessen).

Single specimens were collected at Kasuwa, upper Arun valley in February and March 1973 (Anon. 1983b, Nepali 1986) and seen in April 1981 (Krabbe 1981) in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park. It was recorded in the Hongu Khola valley in the park in April/May 1995 by Cox (1999) who considered the species an uncommon resident in the park. Parties were seen three times in the park in October/November 2005: 20 between Manghang Kharka and Chauri Kharka, 20 at Chauri Kharka and 40 above Chauri Kharka (Inskipp *et al.* 2005). In the park's buffer zone a flock of 30 was recorded above Dhap Kharka in March 1990 (Tymstra 1993) and three were seen above the Apsuwa Khola valley in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

In Sagarmatha National Park two were seen in the Bhote Kosi valley above Thame in May 1994 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1994, Lama 1994). There is one record of 25 between Ghat and Kharke, Solu Khumbu District May 1987 (Turin *et al.* 1987), but no known later records from either area.

In Kanchenjunga Conservation Area 50+ were seen on Deorali Danda in April 1994, and the species was also recorded in the park in May 1999 (White and White 1999).

Stevens (1923) found it 'sparingly distributed' on the Singalila Ridge on the Nepal- India border in April-May year 1912 and collected two specimens; there are no later records from the area.

Fulvous Parrotbill has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3400 m; lower limit: 2700 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Fulvous Parrotbill but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that the population must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <1000

Habitat and Ecology

Fulvous Parrotbill is a habitat specialist confined to dense bamboo stands in temperate and subalpine zones. It keeps in flocks of 20 to 30, sometimes over 70 birds which move rapidly through the bamboo and maintain contact with a continual twitter (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds mainly on vegetable matter: bamboo and birch buds and tiny seeds, also insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is not known to move altitudinally with the seasons (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Fulvous Parrotbill is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of bamboo stands. Bamboo is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work (BCN and DNPWC 2011); large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Fulvous Parrotbill. It has been recently been recorded in Annapurna and Kanchengjunga Conservation Areas and Makalu Barun and Langtang National Parks and there is one record (post-1990) from Sagarmatha National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Fulvous Parrotbill has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2c, C2a(i) and D1. It is a local resident, with a fragmented distribution from west-central Nepal eastwards. The species is a habitat specialist being confined to dense bamboo stands and is seriously threatened by their loss and degradation. Bamboo is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work; large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas. Post-1990 it has been recorded from several protected areas; almost all records are from within the protected areas' system.

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***Paradoxornis unicolor* (Hodgson, 1843) VU**

Common Name

Brown Parrotbill (English)

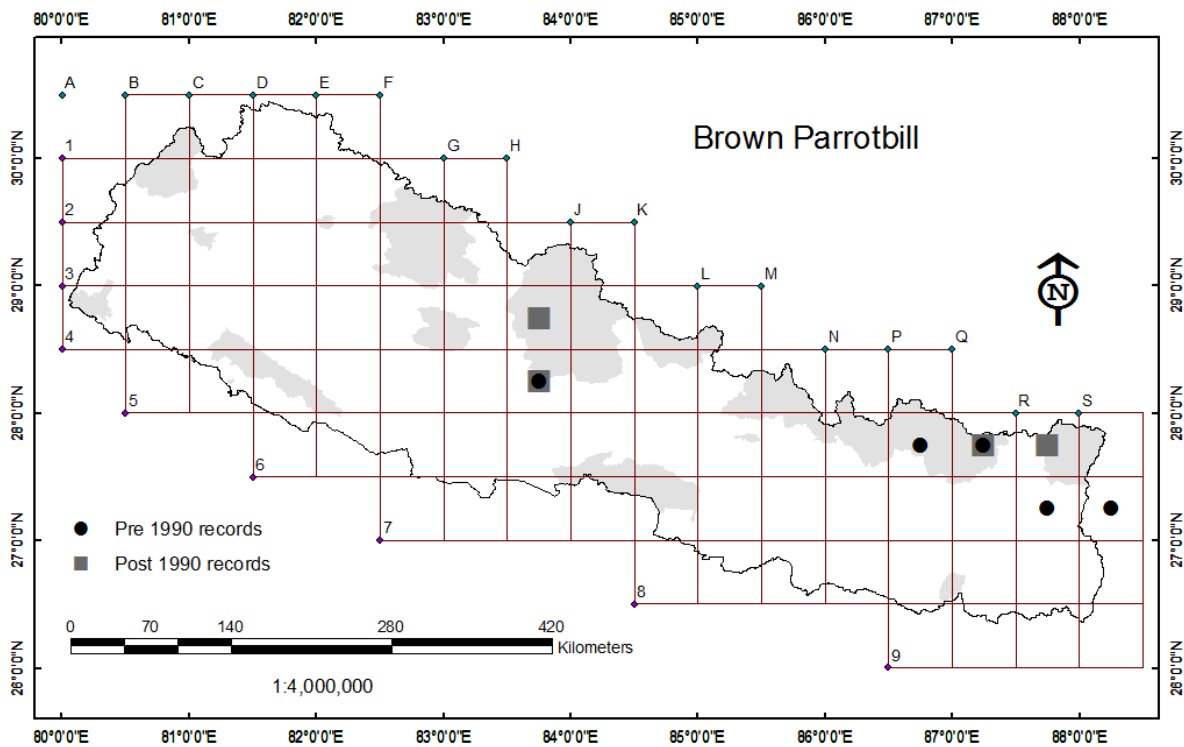
Khairo Baandarchari (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Brown Parrotbill is a very local and uncommon resident. The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1843). It has been recorded from Ghorepani, Annapurna Conservation area (Inskipp and Inskipp 1977) in west-central Nepal east to the upper Mai valley (Baker 1981, Mills *et al.* 1982).

Most records are from the Annapurna Conservation Area in west-central Nepal. One was collected 15 km north of Pokhara, Kaski District in November 1973 (Anon. 1983). Five were seen on the slopes of Macchapuchare in January 1971 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971). Five were recorded above Ghorepani in December 1977 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1977), the westernmost locality for the species. There are several records from the ridge between Ghorepani and Deorali including three in March 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002), one in April 2005 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2005), four in December 2006 (Naylor *et al.* 2006), several groups in May 2007 (De Win 2007) and two in February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009). Four were seen at Sinuwa in the Modi Khola valley in January 2010 (Wheatley 2010). The species has been reported several times from Pipar, Seti Khola valley (Thakuri and Poudyal 2011) including in May 1985 (Warwick 1985), May 1998 (Kaul and Shakya 1998), May 2006 (Mahato *et al.* 2006) and May 2011 (Poudyal *et al.* 2011).

In the east in Makalu Barun National Park one was recorded near Saisima gumpa and two near Samdaplo Kharka in May 2009 (Cox 2009). Ten were seen at Dhap Kharka in March 1990, and two at Gaunthala, 15 near Tershe Kharka and six above Zigkizur in April 1990 (Tymstra 1993) in the park's buffer zone. The species is listed as an uncommon resident in the park by Cox (1999).

One was collected from a small flock on the Tinjure Danda, Tehrathum District in February 1950 (Ripley 1950), and two were seen at Surkhe, Solu Khumbu District in December 1986 (Nielsen 1986), but there are no later records from either area.

Brown Parrotbill has also been recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008): between Amjilessa and Gyabla in November 1996 (Buckton 1996) and one in the Sanmung Khola valley in May 1997 (White and White 1999).

Stevens (1923) found it in parties of half a dozen at Kalopokhari, upper Mai valley, Ilam District and collected a specimen in May 1912. Another specimen was taken at Kalopokhari in May 1970 (Anon. 1983). Five were recorded at Hange Tham in the Mai valley in February 1981 (Baker 1981) and in April 1982 (Mills *et al.* 1982), but the species has not been recorded there since.

Globally Brown Parrotbill has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3400 m; lower limit: 2450 m

Population

No Brown Parrotbill surveys have been carried out, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that the population must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 150; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Brown Parrotbill keeps almost exclusively to dense stands of bamboo or dwarf rhododendron in the temperate and subalpine zones. It usually keeps in small parties which skulk in the undergrowth and frequently call to each other (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on bamboo and bracken buds, moss or other vegetable matter, also insects such as beetles. It is not known to undergo seasonal altitudinal movements (Ali and Ripley 1987). Brown Parrotbill is a habitat specialist being confined to dense bamboo stands and dwarf bamboo.

Threats

Brown Parrotbill is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of bamboo stands. Bamboo is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work (BCN and DNPWC 2011); large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Brown Parrotbill. All known recent records are from protected areas: Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and Makalu Barun National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Brown Parrotbill has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a very local and uncommon resident with a fragmented distribution from west-central Nepal eastwards. The species is a habitat specialist almost exclusively confined to dense bamboo stands and dwarf rhododendron. It is seriously threatened by their loss and degradation, especially of bamboo which is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work. Large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas. All known recent records are from three protected areas: Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and Makalu Barun National Park. Pre-1990 it was also recorded in a few unprotected areas.

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Pitta sordida (Statius Müller, 1776) **VU**

Subspecies: *Pitta sordida cucullata*

Common Name

Hooded Pitta (English)

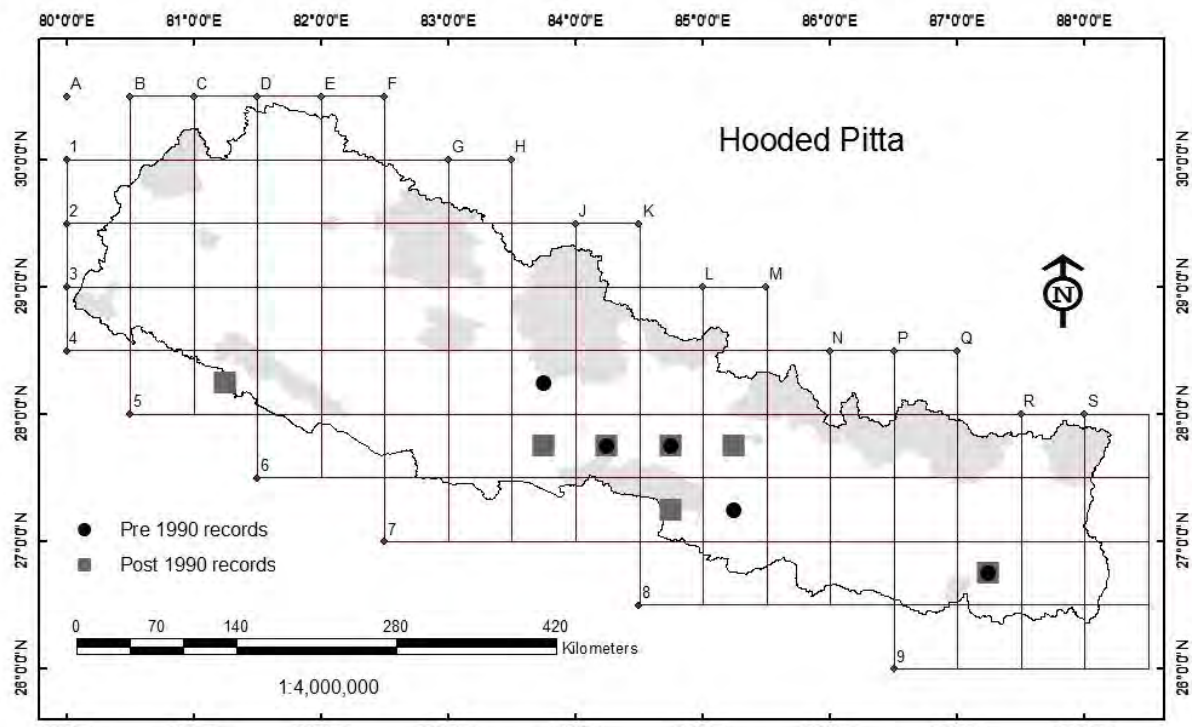
Chitrak Pitta (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Pittidae



Distribution



Hooded Pitta is a summer visitor, frequent in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone, and rare elsewhere.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century from a Hodgson specimen (Blyth 1843). A pair with a nest and young from the lower hills were illustrated in Hodgson (1829).

Biswas (1961) considered it not uncommon in dense forest in the central dun and collected nine males and three females in May and June 1947 at Hetauda and Kusumtar, Makwanpur District. The species has also been collected from Hetauda in June 1957 (Fleming and Traylor 1961); at Simery, Bara District in April 1973 (Nepali 1982), and south of Annapurna in 1977 (other details of locality and data are not known) (Thiollay 1980). There are no known later records from the above-mentioned localities.

Gunung (1983) described it as common in Chitwan National Park from April to October and proved breeding there. Recent records in the park include at least five birds calling by the Surung Khola, Churia Hills in April 2005 (Subedi 2010); one feeding two chicks by the Mule Khola, Churia Hills in May 2007 (Subedi 2010); one feeding a chick near Dhudaura Khola in May 2007 (Subedi 2010); in the park (no other locality details known) in May 2007 and April 2009 (G.C. 2010) and two seen behind Jarneli post in September 2012 (Sunaina Raut).

In Chitwan National Park buffer zone there are recent records from Barandabhar Corridor forest: two seen there by the Amasotiva stream in March 2004; one carrying nest materials near Bees Hazari Tal in May 2008, and one feeding two chicks at Chitrasen in June 2009 (Subedi 2010). In addition the species was recorded in Jankauli Community Forest in June 2006 (G.C. 2010) four from Gundrahi Dhakaha Community Forest, Nawalparasi District in June 2010 (Chaudhary 2010); one behind the park visitor centre in June and July 2010 and 2011 (Krishna Pariyar and Bird Education Society), and and five at Madi in May 2012 (Bird Education Society).

In Chitwan District one was calling near Sinti water fall area, Shaktikhor in April 2006 and two were seen there in June 2008 (Subedi 2010).

Two were sighted in Parsa Wildlife Reserve buffer zone in June and July 2011 and one in August 2012 (Kapil Pokharel).

In the Kathmandu Valley singles were recorded near Dahachok forests in June 2005 (Hathan Chaudhary), and in Nagarjun forest in the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in May 2011 (Hem Sagar Baral).

The species was previously recorded from Dharan, Sunsari District in May 1976 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976) and one was sighted in Patnali forest in the Dharan forests IBA, Sunsari District in May 2008 (Tika Giri and Badri Chaudhary).

Singles were sighted in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in October 1997 (Hathan Chaudhary and Badri Chaudhary) and in Bardia National Park in May 2002 (Jeet Khadka).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3400 m; lower limit: 2450 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Hooded Pitta. However, when considering the records of the species and the relatively small and fragmented areas of suitable habitat that remain, numbers can only be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 200; maximum population: 500

Habitat and Ecology

Hooded Pitta is a summer visitor to Nepal and inhabits moist tropical and subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), often near water. It eats insects, grubs and worms (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Hooded Pitta is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest in the tropical and subtropical zones. These forest types now cover very limited areas which are highly fragmented in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Hooded Pitta. Since 1990 it has been recorded

at a few sites in Chitwan National Park, and also marginally in Bardia and Shivapuri National Parks, and in Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Hooded Pitta has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2c, C2a(i) and D1. It is a summer visitor, frequent in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone, and rare elsewhere. Most records are from protected areas. It is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest in the tropical and subtropical zones.

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Ploceus benghalensis (Linnaeus, 1758) VU

Common Name

Black-breasted Weaver (English)

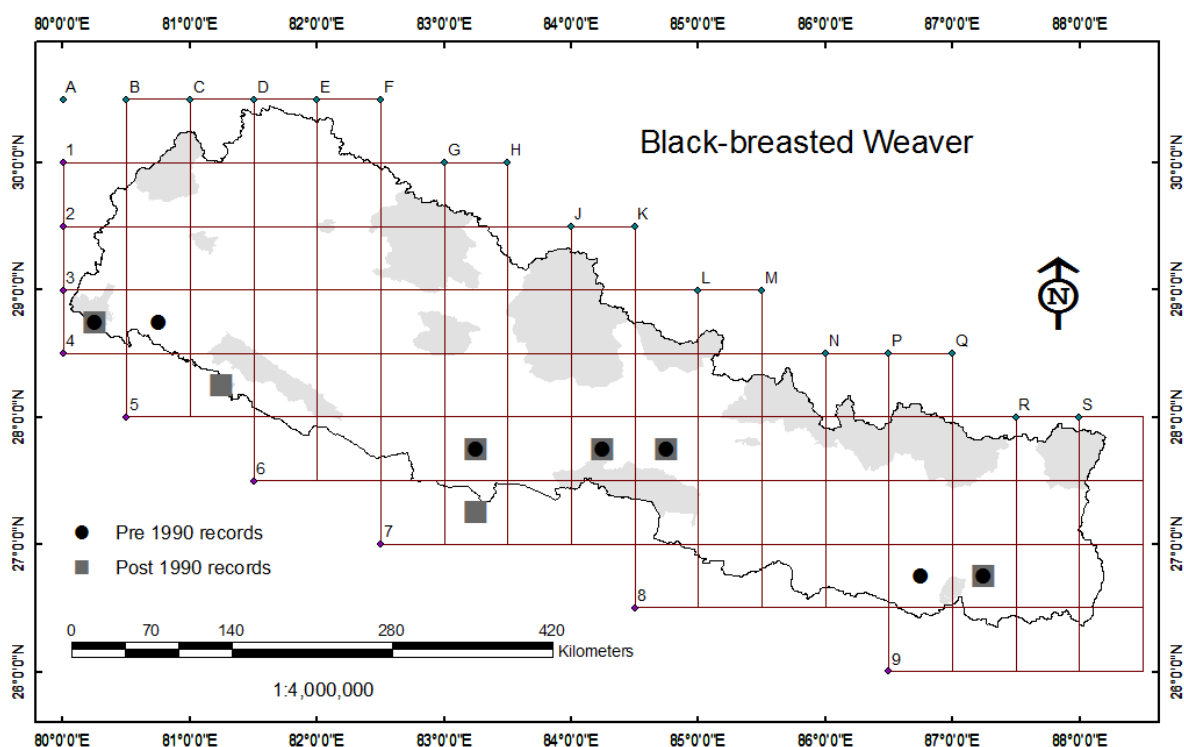
Chaatikale Topchara (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Ploceidae



Distribution



Black-breasted Weaver is a local resident in the lowlands recorded since 1990 from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in the east (e.g. Giri 2008) .

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

A total of five specimens was collected from Sundar Gundar, Morang District in February 1938 (Bailey 1938). Gregory-Smith and Batson (1976) described it as a common resident and local migrant in the south-east terai. The species was apparently fairly common on the Koshi Marshes and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in the early 1980s (see Population section).

Rand and Fleming (1957) collected two males from Dhanghadi, Kailali District in December 1952; the species did not appear to be common, although a flock of 60-70 feeding birds was found. Schaaf (1980) considered it was fairly common in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. Breeding was confirmed at Tilaurakot, Kapilvastu District in 1978 (Cox 1982). The species was collected from Belatari, Nawalparasai District in March and April 1982 (Nepali 1982).

Gurung (1983) also reported the species as fairly common in Chitwan National Park and that breeding had been confirmed. Twelve birds were recorded in the park in April 1980 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1980) and the species was found in the park near Sauraha in May 1989 (Jepson 1989).

Post 1990 Black-breasted Weaver has still been recorded from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and Chitwan National Park (see Population section). Better recording has also resulted in records from a few new sites, especially in west Nepal: 40 between Chitwan and Koshi in November 2000 (Basnet and Dowling 2000); Bardia National Park where it was listed as a rare resident by Kalu Ram Tamang (undated) in Inskipp (2001) and 40 seen there in June 2007 (Shahi 2010); recorded at Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District e.g. Mallalieu (2006) (see Population section); one in Lumbini, Rupandehi District in January 2011 (Acharya 2011), also recorded at Lumbini in April 2012 (Ram Gir and Tek Gurung).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 245 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Black-breasted Weaver. Post 1990 records include from:

Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve: 152 birds in May 1997 (Baral 1997), 50 in December 1997 (Choudhary 1998), 24 in January 2009 (Baral 2009), 106 in May 2010 (Baral 2010) and ten in February 2012 (Tika Giri).

Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District: 70 in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006), 80 there in January 2009 (Giri 2009) and 500 in December 2012 (Dinesh Giri),

Chitwan National Park: 32 birds near Tiger Tops in 1996 (Baral 1996), 30 seen nesting in Padampur grasslands in April 1999 (Hem Subedi), 40 in the park in November 2000 (Basnet and Dowling 2000) and five there in December 2003 (Stratford 2004). A total of 60 near Debauli, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in November 2015 (Dinesh Giri).

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve: 100 birds were recorded on the Koshi marshes in April 1979 (Redman and Murphy 1979), 100+ there in April 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981), and two to three flocks with a maximum of 300 birds in April 1982 also on the Koshi marshes (Grimmett 1982). The following records are all from the reserve: 450 birds in February 1984 (Hornskov 1984), 62 in February 1995 (Baral 1995), 16 in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), 40 in November 2000 (Basnet 2000) and 50 in May 2008 (Giri 2008).

A comparison of observations from Koshi (the Koshi marshes and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve) indicates a decline since the early 1980s. There has probably also been a decline in Chitwan National Park while the species still appears to be fairly common in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 300; maximum population: 1000

Habitat and Ecology

Black-breasted Weaver inhabits tall, moist, seasonally flooded grassland and reedy marshes (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is highly gregarious, roosting and nesting colonially (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species feeds on seeds from grass stalks and ripening grain fields (Fleming *et al.* 1976), and also insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is subject to some local movements (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Black-breasted Weaver is threatened by the loss and degradation of grasslands and reedy marshes in the lowlands outside protected areas and by the degradation of these habitats within protected areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Black-breasted Weaver. Recently it has been recorded from Chitwan and Bardia National Parks and from Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac, C2a(i)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC).

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-breasted Weaver has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac and C2a(i). The species is locally distributed in the lowlands and while still fairly common in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, it has declined in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and has probably also declined in Chitwan National Park. Better recording in recent years has resulted in the species being recorded from a few new sites, especially in the west, including in Bardia National Park and Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District. It is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of grasslands and reedy marshes outside the protected areas' system in the lowlands and by the degradation of these habitats within protected areas.

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***Pteruthius rufiventer* Blyth, 1842 VU**

Common Name

Black-headed Shrike Babbler (English)

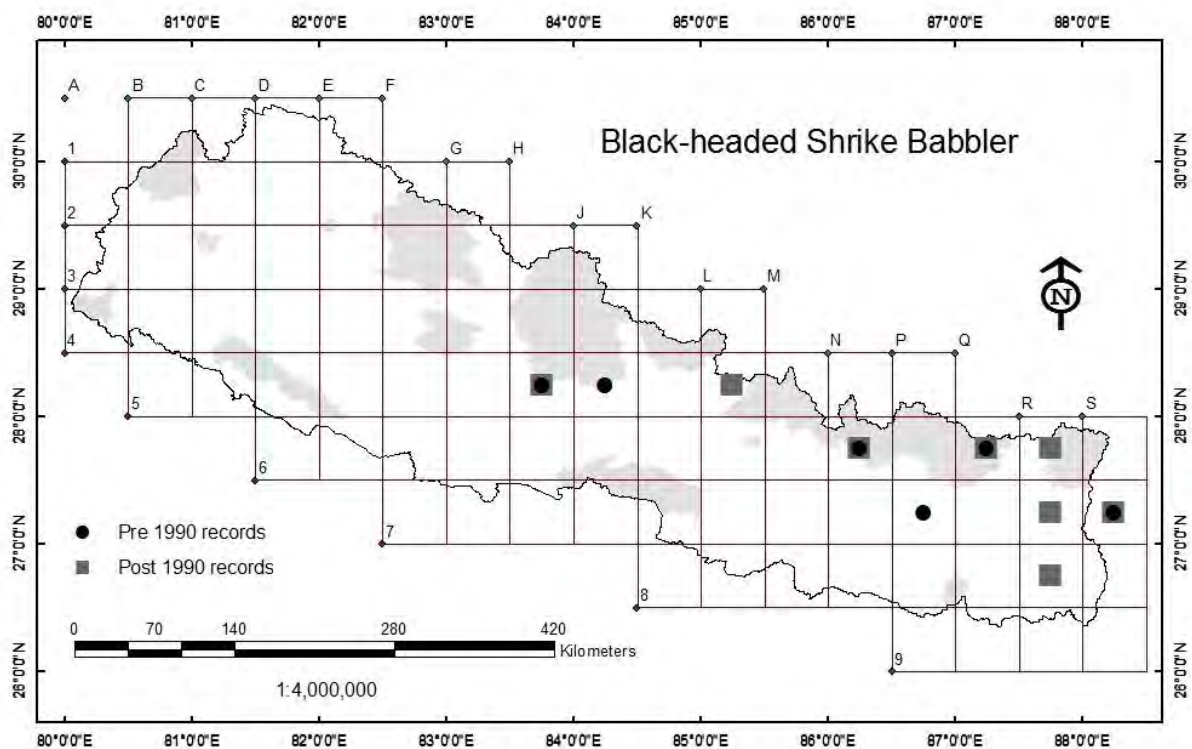
Kalotauke Bhadraibhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Black-headed Shrike Babbler is a rare and local resident with a fragmented distribution from west-central Nepal eastwards.

The first Nepal record was a specimen collected at Jiri , Dolakha District in November 1960 (Fleming and Traylor 1964). There are no later records from the area.

Thiollay (1980) recorded the species south of Annapurna in 1977 (further details on date and locality are unavailable). There are a number of reports from the Annapurna Conservation Area including in 1977 (Mischler 1977) and near Ghandruk in December 1977 (Sudbury 1978) singles on Machapuchare where found up to 3230 m in April 1979 (T. Lelliott in Fleming *et al.* 1984) and in the Modi Khola valley in December 1985 (Mayer 1986) and two west of Ghandruk in November 1986 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986). Post-1990 records include three between Sinuwa and Khulighar in the Modi Khola valley in April 1995 (Lama 1995), one at Khuldi in December 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002), in Santel forests in May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006), one on Jhinudanda in February 2011 (Wheatley 2011), and one or two above Ghandruk in November 2011 (Hem Sagar Baral). Two were recorded at Taadapani in April 2006 (GC 2010), the westernmost locality for the species.

In Langtang National Park two were seen above Bharku in April 1999 (Hathan Chaudhary); one near Bamboo

Lodge, Langtang valley, in December 2002 (Brickle 2003) and the species was also recorded at Brabal in April 2012 (Som GC).

In Makalu Barun National Park it was collected at Sukipatal, upper Arun valley in October 1973 (Anon. 1983), one was recorded at Shyaksila Toten, Barun valley in November 1984 (Nepali 1984); four above Manghang Kharka and one at Saisima in November 2005 (Inskipp *et al.* 2005). In the park's buffer zone four were seen near Zigkizur in April 1990 (Tymstra 1993) and one in May 2009 (Cox 2009). The species is listed as a scarce resident in the park by Cox (1999).

In the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area two were recorded at Torangden in April/May 1992 (White and White 1992) and one 3-5 km south of Amjilassa in November 2000 (Goble 2000).

Outside the protected areas' system post-1990 records include two seen at Dhukupan, Ramechhap District (N6) in 2011 (Som GC); one west of Sanam, Sankhuwasabaha District in March 1986 (Mayer 1986) and one heard between Gupha Pokhari and Dobhan, Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). There are several records from Ilam District: singles at Hange Tham, upper Mai valley in March 1983 (Cocker and Adams 1983) and January 1989 (Halliday 1989), also there in February 1991 (A. van Riessen *in litt.* to T. and C. Inskipp 2010) and one at Dobate, Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2500 m (- 3230 m); lower limit: 1700 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Black-headed Shrike Babbler. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Black-headed Shrike Babbler inhabits dense, mossy, humid broadleaved evergreen forests in the temperate zone. It can be seen near the ground or in the canopy of tall trees. The species moves sluggishly and is easily overlooked although it can be located by its distinctive song (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It can be found singly or in small groups with other species. Black-headed Shrike Babbler feeds on Lepidoptera, beetles and other insects. It is not known whether the species moves altitudinally with the seasons (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species was proved breeding at Chitre, Sankhuwa Khola valley in the Makalu Barun buffer zone in 1994 (Bland 1994).

Threats

Black-headed Shrike Babbler is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of temperate dense, humid broadleaved evergreen forest.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Black-headed Shrike Babbler. Recently it has been recorded in Makalu Barun and Langtang National Parks, and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-headed Shrike Babbler has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2c, C2a(i) and D1. It is a rare and local species with a fragmented distribution from west-central Nepal eastwards. Recently there have been records from a few national parks well as a few records outside the protected areas' system. Black-headed Shrike Babbler is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of temperate dense, humid broadleaved evergreen forest.

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***Pyrrhoplectes epauletta* (Hodgson, 1836) VU**

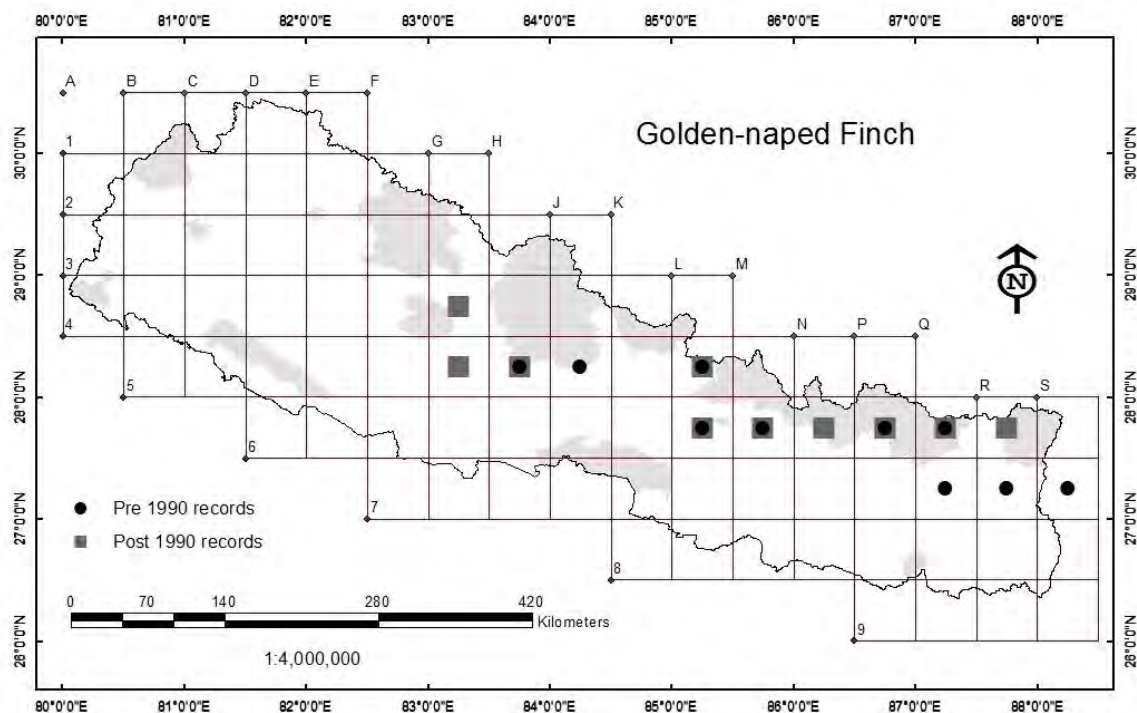
Common Name

Golden-naped Finch (English)
Suntaletauke Kalotitu (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Fringillidae



Distribution



Golden-naped Finch is a very uncommon resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from west-central Nepal (Cox 1999b) east to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (e.g. White and White 1997) in the far east.

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

The finch appears to be very uncommon in the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA). There are several records both pre- and post-1990: singles above Ulleri in February 1986 (Dymond 1986), and at Ghorepani in November 1986 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986), and in 2005 (Som GC), and two there in February 2012 (Hem Subedi); also five at Taadapani in February 2012 (Hem Subedi) and two at Deorali, near Ghorepani in May 2007 (De Win 2007). In the upper Seti Khola valley three were seen at Dhiprang in April 2001 (Baral *et al.* 2001) and four at Dhije, Santel forests in May 2001 (Baral *et al.* 2001). It was recorded in the Modi Khola valley in May 1988 (Murdoch 1988). There are a few post 1990 records from the Annapurna Sanctuary trek: one between Chomrong and Dobang, ACA in April 2003 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2003); three on the trek in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), and singles between Jinhu and lower Sinuwa in January 2010 and on Chutok La in February 2010 (Wheatley 2010), and at Ghandruk in April 2009 (Suchit Basnet) and December 2011 (Baral 2011).

The species was 'not uncommon in parties of three to six birds in the forests around Thankot, Kathmandu

Valley in March and April 1947'; 11 specimens were collected there (Biswas 1963). Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was an uncommon winter visitor to Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley. Phulchoki records up to 1990 include singles in December 1977 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1977) and in May 1980 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1980); five in February 1981 (del-Nevo and Ewins 1981); four in March 1982 (Robson 1982); two in February 1985 (Harrap 1985); one in March 1987 (Turin *et al.* 1987); and four in January 1989 (Cooper and Cooper 1989). Post-1990 there are few Phulchoki records: one in January 1994 (Baral 1994); a flock of 15 in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), and singles in December 2005 (Kelly 2005, Mallalieu 2008), January 2010 (Giri 2010) and February 2010 (Baral 2010). Mallalieu (2008) describes the species as a rare and local winter visitor to the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006. One was seen on Shivapuri in what is now the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in January 1994 (Mackenzie 1994). The species is listed for the national park by SNP and BCN (2007).

It is listed as a rare resident in Langtang National Park (Karki and Thapa 2001). One was collected in the Gandak-Kosi Watershed, probably in what is now the national park in May 1958 (Fleming and Traylor 1961). One was seen between Thare and Bharku in March 1982 (Walinder and Sandgren 1982) and three near Syabru in April 1986 (Harrop 1986). There are several known post 1990 records: singles at Syabru and Sing Gomba in May 1992 (Baral 1992); Mangengoth in May 1997 (Cooper and Cooper 1997); Thulo Syabru in April 2007 (Hem Subedi); between Sing Gomba and Gosainkund in April 2007 (Chaudhary 2007); two at Ghopte in May 2009 (GC 2010), and recorded there in May 2012 (Som GC).

One was seen in July 2011 in Gaurishankar Conservation Area in July 2011 (Badri Chaudhary).

Golden-naped Finch is included for Makalu Barun National Park by Cox (1999a). It was collected in what is now the national park at Kasuwa, upper Arun valley in August 1973 (Anon. 1983), seen at Shyaksila in the Barun valley in November 1984 (Nepali 1984) and in the upper Arun in September 1986 (Nepali 1986). It was reported from the lower Apsuwa Khola valley in the park buffer zone in April 1990 (Tymstra 1993). Post 1990 it was recorded in the Irkhuwa Khola valley in the park buffer zone in May 1995 (Cox 1999a), and in the park at Chitre in 1994 (Bland 1994) and at Kongma in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998).

In the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area one was seen at Amji Khola in April 1997 (White and White 1997) and the species (number of individuals unknown) was record in KCA (locality unknown) in April 2008 (Paudel 2008). The species is listed for the Conservation Area by Inskipp *et al.* (2008).

It was collected in the upper Mai valley, Mai valley Important Bird Area (IBA) in April and May 1912 (Stevens 1925). Other known records from the upper Mai valley are singles at Hange Tham in April 1982 (Mills *et al.* 1982), January 1985 (Calladine 1985) and in March 1988 (Kall and Walinder 1988), and a pair seen at Kalipokhari in March 1989 (McKnight *et al.* 1989). There are no known later records from the upper Mai valley IBA.

Other known pre-1990 records outside the protected areas' system are: from Ganesh Himal, Gorkha District in May (year unknown) (Fleming *et al.* 1976); a flock of four plus two other birds at Gaikharka below Surkye La, Solukhumbu District in March 1986 (Mayer 1986); one at Taplejung, Taplejung District in January 1988 (van Riessen 1989, 2010), and a pair on Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District in April 1989 (De Luce and Goodyear 1990).

Known post-1990 known records include: one seen in the Reshunga IBA, Gulmi District in February 2011 (Thakuri 2011, 2013); three records from Myagdi District in June 1999 - three at Myagdi Jilla, and two records of singles by the Myagdi Khola (Cox 1999b); ten at Chisapani, Nuwakot District, Helambu in January 2012 (Dymond 2012); two between Ynigrima and Tarkeghyang, Helambu, Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004), and one between between Chutok La and Surkhe, Solukhumbu District in February 2010 (Wheatley 2010).

The single record from Rara National Park in 1983 (Pritchard and Brearey 1983 in Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) is now considered unacceptable.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3000 m (Winter), 3355 m (Summer); lower limit: 1525 m (Winter), 3260 m (Summer)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Golden-naped Finch. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 200; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Golden-naped Finch inhabits dense undergrowth in oak and rhododendron forests, mainly in the temperate and also in the subtropical zones in winter, and subalpine rhododendron shrubberies in summer. It is subject to poorly understood altitudinal movements (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is very quiet and unobtrusive, often foraging on the ground or low down in bushes and within foliage. It eats seeds berries and insects (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Golden-naped Finch is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of dense broadleaved forest, especially in the temperate zone and also in the subtropical zone.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Golden-naped Finch. It has been recorded in the Annapurna, Gaurishankar Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas; Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks, and marginally in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Golden-naped Finch has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a very uncommon resident. It has declined in the Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area (IBA) since 1990. The species has also declined in the Mai valley IBA where it was first recorded in 1912 and seen on several occasions in the 1980s, but no records are known since 1989. It has been recorded in several protected areas and from several localities outside the protected areas' system. Golden-naped Finch is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of dense broadleaved forest, especially in the temperate zone and also in the subtropical zone. Although there have been no population surveys, observations indicate the population is quite low.

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Serinus thibetanus (Hume, 1872) **VU**

Common Name

Tibetan Serin (English)

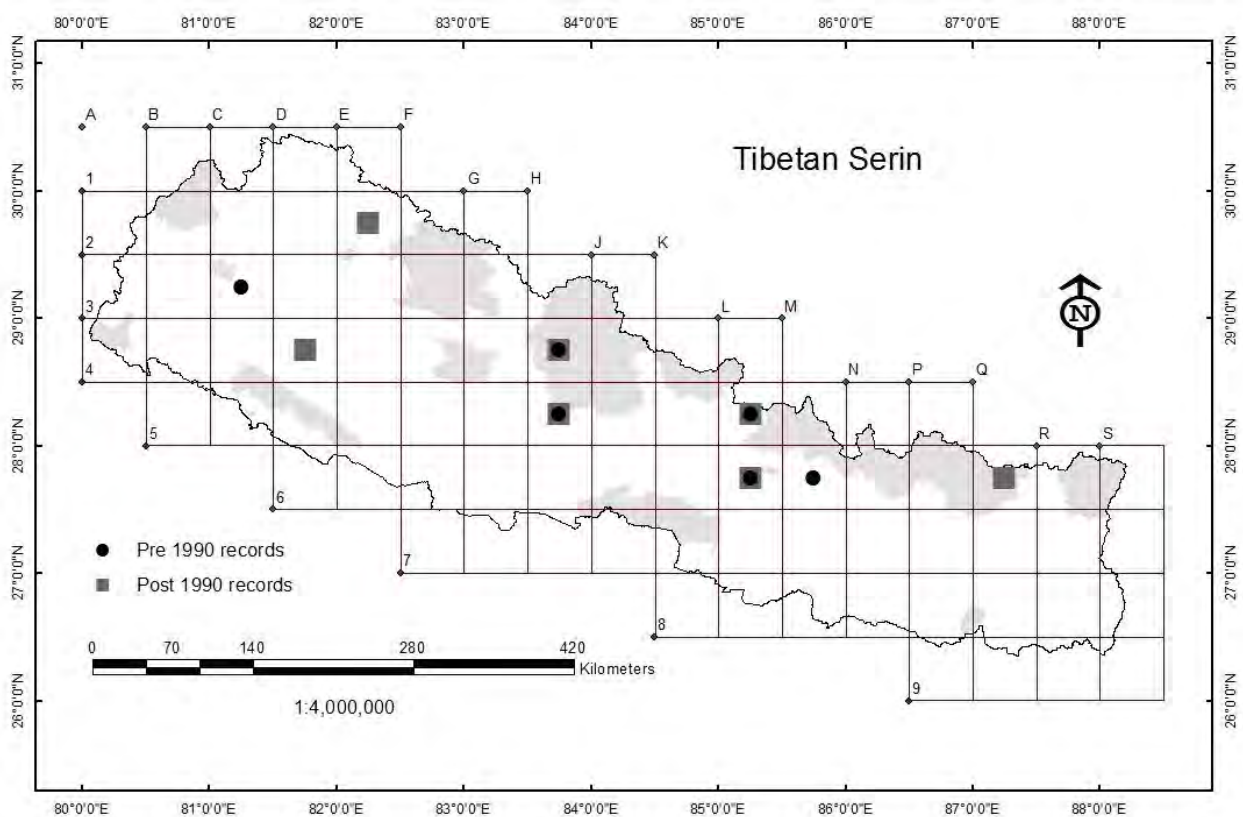
Bhot Siskin (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Fringillidae



Distribution



Tibetan Serin is a rare winter visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Rara National Park (Giri 2005) east to Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999).

The first Nepal record of the species was from Godaveri, Kathmandu Valley in January 1952 (Proud 1953).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a scarce winter visitor: Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it a local winter visitor, most frequent in the Kathmandu Valley, particularly in the Godaveri Botanical Gardens, and an uncommon winter visitor elsewhere.

Since 1990 the recorded distribution of Tibetan Serin has increased; however this is probably because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a rare winter visitor to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005), but birds exhibiting breeding behaviour (number unknown) were recorded in April 1995 (Robson 1996, White and White 1995) and one recorded in March 1997 (Giri 1997). The species is listed as an uncommon winter

visitor to the Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and an uncommon winter visitor to Langtang National Park (Karki and Thapa 2001), but recent records from both protected areas indicate that is now rare. It is a rare winter visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007 e.g. recorded in February 2004 by Rimal (2006). It is local and uncommon in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Bland 1994 in Cox 1999).

With the exception of the Kathmandu Valley the only known post-1990 record outside protected areas is four seen between Kotuwa and Gai banne (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997).

Since the early 1990s the species has no longer been recorded at its former favoured regular wintering location of Godavari Botanical Gardens, Kathmandu Valley despite reasonable coverage of this site e.g. Mallalieu (2008) reported there were no records in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006, i, see Population section for changes in population in the Valley.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Nepal (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of its wintering range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 3500 m; lower limit: 1050 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Tibetan Serin. The maximum of several hundred birds was recorded in the Godavari Botanical Gardens (Proud 1955). Records in the Valley since 1990 include 25 in April 1993 (Mackenzie 1994); two in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); two in April 2001 and in March 2002 (Malling Olsen 2004), but no later records could be located. The largest known number recorded since 1990 was 40 at Singh Gompa, Langtang National Park in April 1992 (Baral 1992). The species has disappeared from its regular wintering site at Godavari. It seems likely that the species has declined.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Tibetan Serin inhabits *Alnus nipalensis* (Fleming *et al.* 1976, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); also in *Pinus/Cupressus* forest and in *Pinus/Abies/Betula/Rhododendron* forest in Thakkhola, Annapurna Conservation Area in April (Martens and Eck 1995). In winter it keeps in flocks. It feeds mainly in tree-tops (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Typically it perches concealed, only occasionally changing position or clinging to the underside of a twig. The species can be located by its constant, faint, high-pitched twittering (Fleming *et al.* 1976).

Threats

The species' favoured wintering food source (*Alnus nipalensis*) is still common and widespread in Nepal. It is possible that some Tibetan Serins no longer move as far south as Nepal because the species has declined as a result of threats in its breeding range or possibly because of climate change. Another possibility is that there has been some change in the wintering grounds of the species. No other threats to Tibetan Serin have been identified.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Tibetan Serin. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Rara, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ae?) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Tibetan Serin has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ae? It is a rare winter visitor. The species has disappeared from its regular wintering site (Godavari Botanical Gardens, Kathmandu Valley) and has declined elsewhere. It is possible that some individuals no longer move as far south as Nepal because the species has declined as a result of threats in its breeding range or possibly because of climate change. Another possibility is that there has been some change in the wintering grounds of the species. No other threats to Tibetan Serin have been identified. Its population is probably declining.

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White, D. A. and White, K. E. (1995) Notes on birds recorded in Nepal, 8 April – 28 May 1995. Unpublished. 6 pp.

Turdoides caudata (Dumont 1823) **VU**

Subspecies *Turdoides caudata caudata*

Common Name

Common Babbler (English)

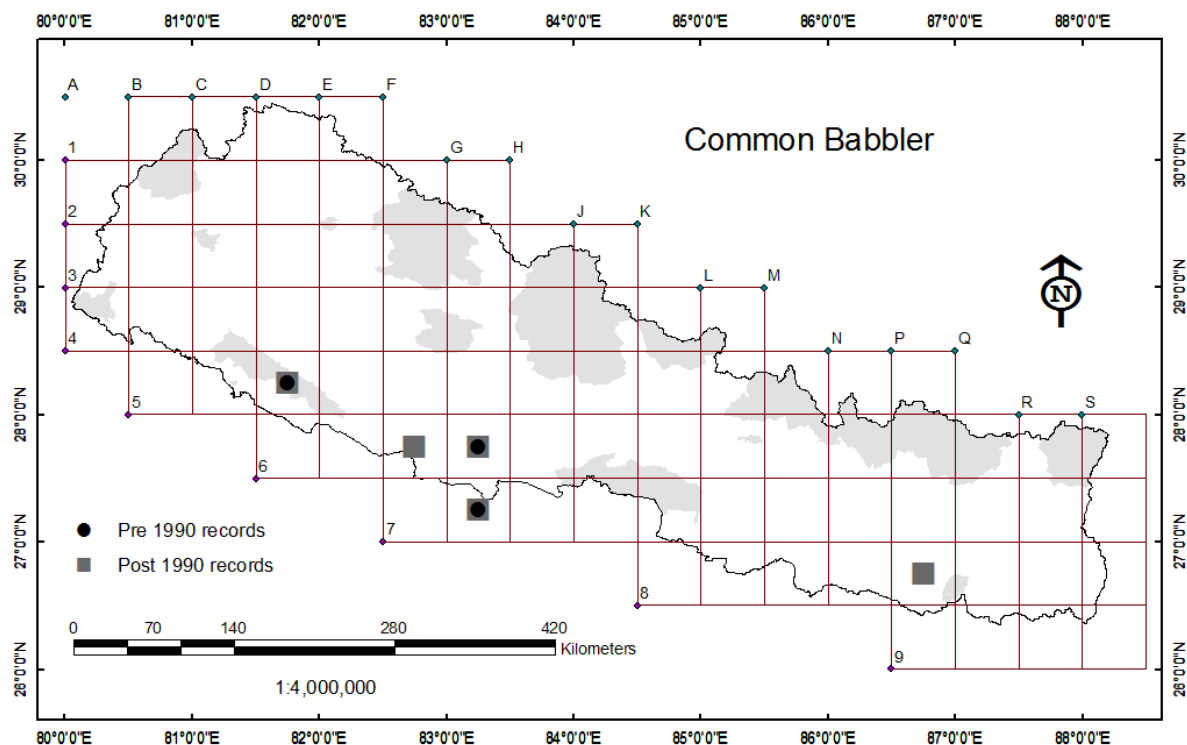
Kurubahuk Bhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Common Babbler is a local resident in the terai.

The first Nepal record of the species was a specimen collected near Nepalganj airport, Banke District in 1973 (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Later in the 1970s it was found to be fairly common in the area (Fleming *et al.* 1976, Justice 1978). Four to six birds were found at the same spot north of Tilaurokot in central Kapilvastu District in June, August and December 1978 (Cox 1978). A party was reported from near Sunauli, Rupandehi District in March 1959 (Fleming 1959) and 11 birds were seen near Lumbini, Rupandehi District in June 1988 (Suwal and Shrestha 1988).

Post-1990 records are also mainly from the west-central lowlands. Four were recorded at Nepalganj, Banke District in October 2009 (GC 2010).

In Kapilvastu District six birds were seen near Jagdisphur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District in January 2002 (Cox 2002) and four in August 2007 (Baral 2007), and 16 at Taulihawa in February 2011 (Acharya 2011). In addition during a survey of Kapilvastu District, the species was recorded from three localities in April 2007: Golaha Marthi wetlands, Kachaniya Khola scrub and grassland, and Surahi Khola sissou and riverine scrub (Cox 2008).

The species seems to be fairly common in the Lumbini farmlands Important Bird Area, Rupandehi District. Records include five in April 1993 (Baral 1993), four in May 2005 (GC 2010), seven in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006a), seven in February 2007 (Chaudhary 2010), two in January 2008 (GC 2010), ten from April to June 2009 (Ramond and Giri 2009) 22 in January 2011 (Acharya 2011), two in December 2011 (Baral 2011) and four in April 2012 (Tika Giri).

In the east, it was recorded at the edge of Gor Raja community forests, Saptari District in September 2003 (Giri and Choudhary 2003) and from Siraha District in August or September 2003 (Hem Sagar Baral); these are the only known records of the species outside west-central and west Nepal.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Kuwait, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 300 m; lower limit: 100 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Common Babbler, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <1000

Habitat and Ecology

Common Babbler inhabits dry cultivation and scrub (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Cox (1978) found four to six birds were found in the same clump of *Zizyphus* bushes at a field edge three times over a period of six months; one bird perched on the bush as a lookout while the rest of the flock searched for food in the field edge. It associates in small flocks of six to 20 birds, each flock maintaining its territory all year (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Common Babbler feeds mainly on insects, also spiders, grains and berries and nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident and not known to undertake movements (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Common Babbler is seriously threatened by the intensification of cultivation leading to the loss of uncultivated edges and corners of fields and the removal of bushes, and possibly also by pesticides. As a result of the pressure to increase agricultural production, the loss of such uncultivated margins is increasing (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Common Babbler. It is not known to occur in any protected areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU) A2c, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Babbler has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2c, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a local resident that inhabits dry cultivation and scrub in the terai; there are no known records from protected areas. Recent records are mainly from the west-central lowlands in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu Districts; also Banke District in the west. There are two known records from the east. Common Babbler is seriously threatened by the spread of cultivation leading to the loss of uncultivated edges and corners of fields and the removal of bushes, and possibly also by pesticides. As a result of the pressure to increase agricultural production, the loss of such uncultivated margins is increasing and the species' population is declining.

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Xiphirhynchus superciliaris Blyth, 1842 **VU**
Subspecies *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris superciliaris*

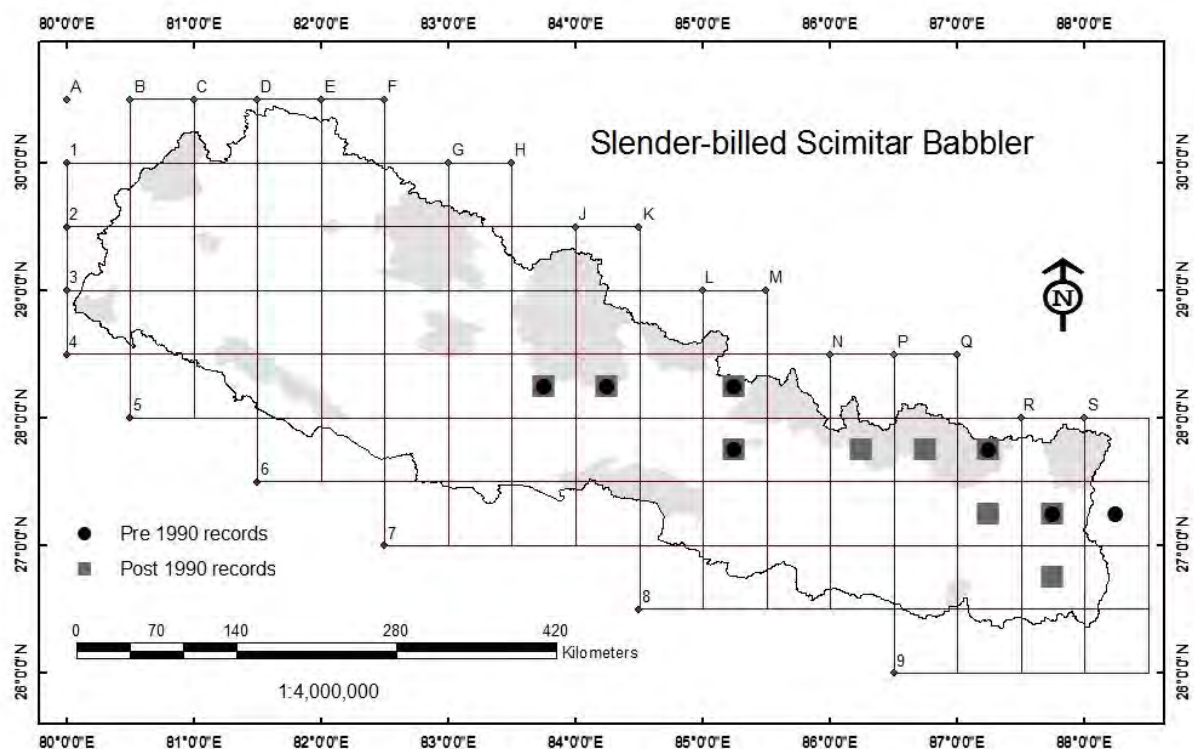
Common Name

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler (English)
Lamothunde Paalkote (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler is an uncommon and local resident from Tirkhedhunge, Annapurna Conservation Area (e.g. Naylor *et al.* 2002b) in west-central Nepal east to Ilam District (Baral 2010) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was from Kalipokhari, Ilam District in April 1912 (Stevens 1923). There were several other pre-1990 reports from the upper Mai valley e.g. a specimen collected eight km east of Jamuna, Ilam District in March 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964), occasionally recorded at Hange Tham e.g. two seen in April 1986 (Heath 1986) and one near Jamuna in January 1989 (Halliday 1989).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was an 'occasional' resident in Nepal and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered it was a scarce resident.

The species was found near Tirkhedhunge, in what is now the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) in January 1979 (Lambert 1979, Redman and Murphy 1979), March 1981 (Kjellen *et al.* 1981) and in December 2001 (Naylor *et al.* 2002b); this is the westernmost locality for the species. Other records from the ACA include 15-20 birds in different localities near Sikles in June 1998 (Raju Acharya), one at Bahuntanti in January 1987 (Scharringa 1987), heard on a number of occasions between Ghorepani and Hille in April 2003 (O'Connell

Davidson *et al.* 2003), three above Deurali in April 2009 (Ryan and Chantler 2009) and two at Ghorepani in March 2012 (Shankar Tiwari). There are a number of reports from the Annapurna Sanctuary trek e.g. three singles in the Modi Khola valley in December 1985 (Mayer 1986), three above the Chhomro Khola in October 1986 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986), two at Sinuwa in November 1994 (Lama 1994), one at Chhomrong in December 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002a), seven at three sites in November and December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), one below Ghandruk in November 2000 (Suchit Basnet), two at Ghandruk in April 2006 (GC 2010), three from two sites in February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009), two between Sinuwa and Chhomrong in January and February 2010 (Wheatley 2010), and one also there in December 2011 (Adcock and Naylor 2011).

There is an unusual record from bamboos on the north face of Shivapuri in what is now the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (Fleming *et al.* 1976).

In Langtang National Park records include above Syabru (Heath 1986), below Ghore Tabela in February 1989 (Barrett *et al.* 1989), one at Chandan Bari in April 1992 (Baral 1992), two in the park in March 1995 (Lama 1995), singles at Ghopte in May 2002 (Wallace and Wallace 2002) and May 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), one in the park in May 2006 (Chaudhary 2006), and two at Lama Hotel in April 2012 (Som GC, Anna Karlsson and Mathias Bergstron).

In the Makalu Barun National Park it was recorded in the Barun valley in November 1984 (Nepali 1984), two at Tashigaon in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994), recorded in the Irkhuwa Khola valley in May 1995 (Cox 1999) and one above Manghang Kharka in November 2005 (Inskipp *et al.* 2005). In the park's buffer zone two were seen near Dhap Kharka in March 1990, three near Zigkizur in April 1990 and one heard from Chitra Ridge in April 1990 (Tymstra 1993); also three records of singles at different localities in May 2009 (Cox 2009). The species is listed for the national park in Cox (1999).

There is only one known record from the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area: from Lassetham pasture in May 1988 (Martens and Eck 1995), although this area is under-recorded.

Known post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system include: singles on Telbrung Danda, Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000); one on Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley in April 2008 (Baral 2008) and four there in February 2010 (Baral 2010); between Bhandar and Kinja, Ramechhap District and between Nhuntala and Bupsa, Solukhumbu District in November 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009); on the Tinjure Danda, Tehrathum District in May 1994 (White and White 1994); two at Miklajong, Dhankuta District in 2002 (Bharat Subba), and two at Ilam, Ilam District in January 2008 (Baral 2010).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3000 m; lower limit: 1500 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate the population must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <750

Habitat and Ecology

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler inhabits bamboo thickets and other dense undergrowth in moist, broadleaved temperate forests. The species is skulking and shy, but can be located by its distinctive song and calls. It probably migrates altitudinally depending on the season (Grimmett *et al.* 2008). It feeds on beetles, ants and other insects, larvae and also berries and nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of moist, broadleaved temperate forest and also by the loss of bamboo thickets. Bamboo is in high demand for a very wide range of uses including weaving mats and baskets and for construction work (BCN and DNPWC 2011); large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler. Recently it has been recorded in Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks and the Annapurna Conservation Area; there is one pre-1990 record from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, but this is under-recorded.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2c and D1. The species is a local and uncommon resident. It has mainly been recorded from protected areas where it is uncommon. The bird's habitat is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of moist, broadleaved temperate forest and also by the loss of bamboo thickets. Bamboo is in high demand for weaving mats and baskets and for construction work; large quantities are removed each year, even from protected areas. No surveys have been carried out for the species, but observations indicate that the population is declining. It is recorded in Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

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Yuhina nigrimenta Blyth, 1845 **VU**
Subspecies *Yuhina nigrimenta nigrimenta*

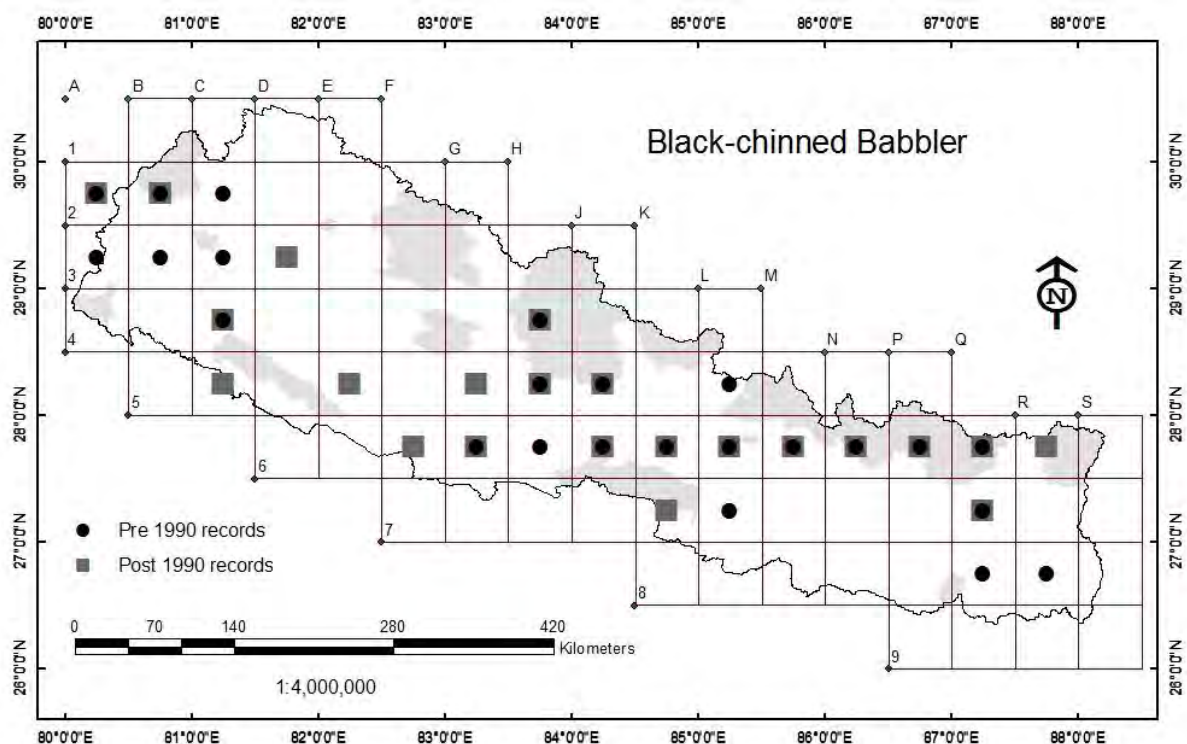
Common Name

Black-chinned Yuhina (English)
Kalokalki Jurechara (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Black-chinned Yuhina is an uncommon resident. The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1845, Warren and Harrison 1971).

Pre-1990 records in the west include: specimens collected 38 km south of Dandeldhura, Dandeldhura District in April 1965 (Fleming and Traylor 1968); birds seen at Surkhet, Surkhet District in March/April 1979 (Hagen 1979); south of Annapurna in 1977 (Thiollay 1980) (further details of locality and date are not available), and two at Bhulbule, Annapurna Conservation Area in November 1984 (Calladine 1985).

Biswas (1962) found it 'rather uncommon' in central Nepal and collected three specimens in March and May 1947 from Bhimpedi, Makwanpur District.

Pre-1990 records in the east include eight on the Sangure ridge, Sunsari District in May 1976 (Gregory Smith and Batson 1976).

There are no known later records from any of the above-mentioned localities.

Eight were seen at Koramando in Khaptad National Park in May 1988 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1988); small flocks in

the same locality in April 1993 (Halliday 1993) and it was reported to be a fairly common resident by Chaudhary (2006).

In central areas known post-1990 records include from the Churia hills, Chitwan National Park: two in November 1994 (Lama 1995), two in February 2005 (Baral 2005), four in February 2007 and two in May 2007 (GC 2010), up to 20 in February 2008 (Giri and Choudhary 2008), seven in May 2009 (Bird Education Society), seven in February 2010 (Suchit Basnet), three in April 2010 (GC 2010), and ten in May 2011 (Baral 2011). It has also been recorded from Siraichuli, Upardangaddhi hills, Maharabhat range, Chitwan District, outside the national park: eight in February 2011 (Bird Education Society), April 2011 (Shankar Tiwari), and five in May 2011 (Bird Education Society). In addition, the species was seen at Lendada in Makwanpur District in March 2008 (Basnet and Thakuri 2008) and five in the Churia hills, Parsa Wildlife Reserve in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In Makalu Barun National Park two were seen in the upper Arun valley in November 1988 (Nielsen 1988). The species was also recorded in the Kasuwa Khola valley in May 1995 (Cox 1999) and seven above Mude in December 1994 (Buckton and Baral).

In the park's buffer zone ten were found between Hedangna and Indua Khola and ten between Phyksinda and Mure in December 1992 (Cox 1992); a flock at Num in April 1996 (White and White 1996); five east-north-east of Walung village, Arun River and at least three by the Pikhuwa Khola in May 2009. Up to five were found south of Bala village, Sankhuwa Khola and at least five by the Besku Khola in June 2009. With observations made in 2002 the species was considered locally fairly common in late spring (500-1000m) in the low Sankhuwa river valley (Cox 2009).

Outside protected areas in the east records include from: three between Wahlong and Akshua, Bhojpur District, the lower Arun valley in April 1987 (Turin *et al.* 1987); six below Num, Sankhuwasabha District in December 1994 (Lama 1995) and ten at Num in May 1998 (Choudhary 1998); one at Suketar, Taplejung District in October 2000 (Goble 2000); recorded below Ilam in March 1985 (Andrews 1986); specimens taken 6 km south of Ilam, Ilam District in February 1965 in the Mai valley (Fleming and Traylor 1968); Ilam District in 2002 (Shankar Tiwari) and Sukhani, Jhapa District in January 2007 (Badri Chaudhary and Som GC).

Globally, Black-chinned Yuhina has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1500 m; lower limit: 250 m

Population

No Black-chinned Yuhina surveys have been carried out, but observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that the population must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Black-chinned Yuhina inhabits subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest and secondary growth (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). However, in Nepal it has also been found in fairly dense to dense sal forest mixed with other broadleaves, mainly evergreen in Nepal (Cox 2009). Fleming *et al.* (1976) reports its habitat as tangled thickets of the low foothills. Outside the breeding season it is found in fast-moving parties, sometimes with other species. It feeds chiefly on insects, also berries, seeds and flower nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987). Its altitudinal movements are poorly known (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Black-chinned Yuhina is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of subtropical broadleaved, especially in the evergreen biotope. These forest types now cover limited and fragmented areas in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Black-chinned Yuhina. Recently it has been recorded in Chitwan, Makalu Barun and Khaptad National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac, C2a(i), D1)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-chinned Yuhina has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is local and most recent records have been from protected areas: Chitwan, Khaptad, Makalu Barun and Khaptad National Parks. There are no later records from several sites outside the protected areas' system where it was recorded before 1990. Black-chinned Yuhina is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of subtropical broadleaved, especially in the evergreen biotope. These forest types now cover limited and fragmented areas in Nepal. As a result, the population is probably declining

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Zoothera marginata Blyth, 1847 VU

Common Name

Dark-sided Thrush (English)

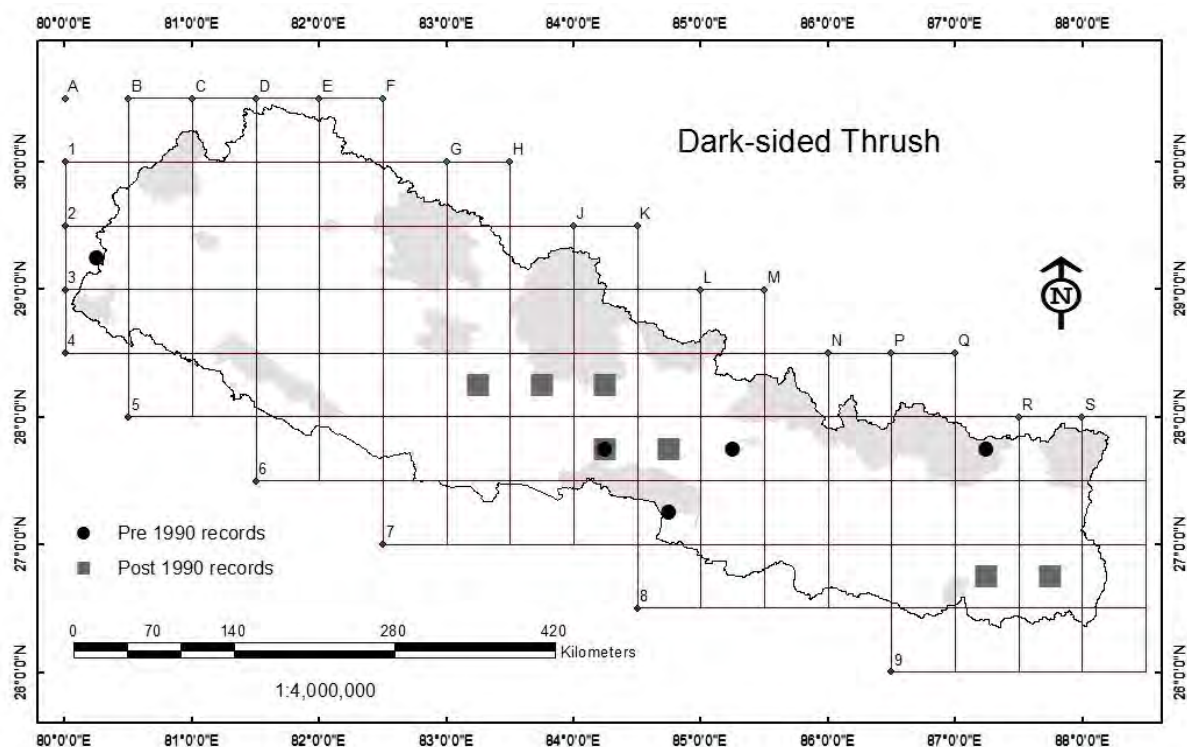
Lamothunde Sano Chaanchar (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Turdidae



Distribution



Dark-sided Thrush is rare, probably a winter visitor, occurring from west Nepal eastwards. The first Nepal record was a specimen collected at Amlekganj, Bara District in March 1947 (Biswas 1961); two specimens were also collected at Bhimpedi, Makwanpur District in May 1947 on the same expedition (Biswas 1961).

A specimen taken at Barmdeo Mandi, Kanchanpur District in January 1953 (Rand and Fleming 1957) is the westernmost record of the species. One was seen at Shyaksila Toten, Barun valley in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park in November 1984 (Nepali 1984) and at least one was seen at Chitwan Jungle Lodge in 1989 (Hem Sagar Baral). Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) describe it as scarce.

There are more post-1990 records, probably because of better recording; known records follow.

Singles have been regularly seen at Fishtail Lodge, Phewa Tal, Kaski District: e.g. in December 2001 (Naylor *et al.* 2002), December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), November and December 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005), April 2007 (GC 2010), December 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009), December 2011 (Tika Giri), and in February 2012 (Shankar Tiwari); also two in November 2006 (Naylor *et al.* 2006).

Single birds were recorded from Reshunga forest Important Bird Area, Gulmi District in March 2011 (Thakuri

2013); Sarangkhot, Kaski District in April 2007 (Oldfield 2007); Chitwan National Park in February 2000 (Giri and Choudhary 2000), February 2004 (Giri and Choudhary 2004), by the Mule Khola in 1994 (Kapil Pokharel) and in 2003 (Hem Subedi), and by the Hardaha Khola in March 2012 (Som GC, Anna Karlsson, Mathias Bergstrom); in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Chitrasen Community Forest in 2007 (Hem Subedi) and regularly on Icharni Island until 2009 (Bishnu Mahato); Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District in March 1999 (Giri and Choudhary 1999) and February 2005 (Suchit Basnet); Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in February 2005 (Giri and Choudhary 2005), and Pathivara Community Forest, Ilam District in January 2006 (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, 2007).

Dark-sided Thrush has also been recorded in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2500 m; lower limit: 2135 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Dark-sided Thrush. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Dark-sided Thrush frequents the floor of damp, dense broadleaved forest near streams. The species is shy and crepuscular, often skulking on the ground under dense undergrowth in forest and prefers to escape by hopping away into cover and so can be easily overlooked (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects and molluscs. The species is subject to short vertical movements (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Dark-sided Thrush is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of dense moist broadleaved forest.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures specifically for Dark-sided Thrush have been carried out. There are several recent records from Chitwan National Park and the thrush has been recorded marginally in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Dark-sided Thrush has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2c, C2a(i) and D1. The species is rare and probably a winter visitor. It is widely recorded from west Nepal eastwards with single records from most localities. The species may be less rare than the lack of records suggests as it is secretive and so could be

overlooked. There are several recent records from Chitwan National Park and one from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. However, most records have been from localities outside the protected areas' system. Dark-sided Thrush is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of dense moist forest and as a result its population is probably declining.

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Acrocephalus stentoreus (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833) NT

Subspecies: *Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens*

Common Name

Clamorous Reed Warbler (English),

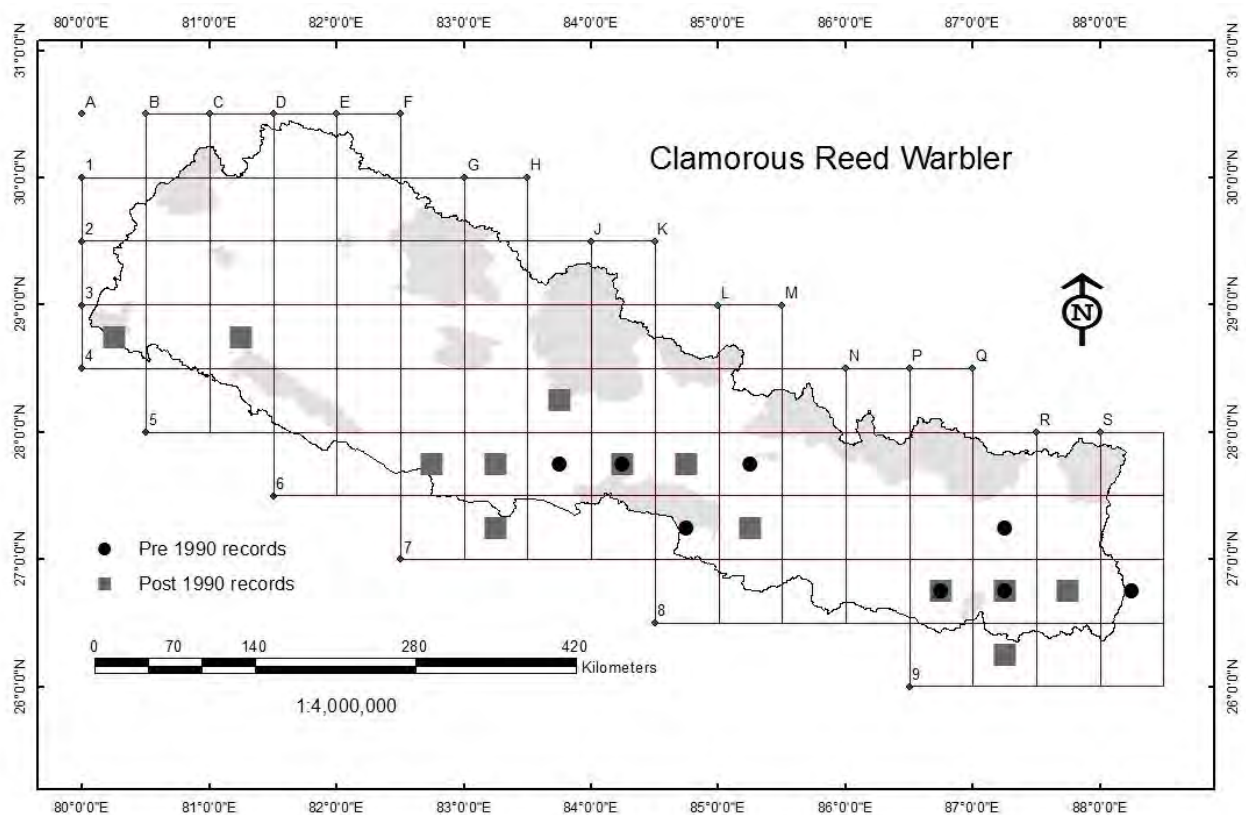
Lamthunde Tyaktyake (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Sylviidae



Distribution



Clamorous Reed Warbler is a generally uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Itahari, Sunsari District (Pandey 2003) in the far east, mainly in the lowlands.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species was an occasionally recorded winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a local winter visitor and passage migrant, occurring chiefly in the terai, and mapped it from west-central Nepal eastwards.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely in the west than previously, probably because of better coverage.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a frequent winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) e.g. 3-5 birds seen in winter 2013-15 (Tika Giri) and an uncommon

winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006). Baral (2005) described it as a fairly common winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, but in the last few years it has been seen there less frequently and in smaller numbers (Hem Sagar Baral). It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone at Chisapani (C4), Bardia District on 8 March 1997 (Giri 1997).

Clamorous Reed Warbler has also been recorded outside the protected areas' system, although less frequently than within protected areas since 1990. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include: singles from Kachaniya Khola scrub and grassland (F6), Kapilvastu District (Cox 2008); Khadara Phanta (F6), Kapilvastu District (Cox 2008, Cox and Giri 2007); Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6) Kapilvastu District e.g. in December 2010 (Baral 2011) and one in May 2015 (Raju Tamang, Tek Bahadur Gurung, Surendra Mahato, BES); three at Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994), also there recorded in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006) and by Suwal *et al.* (2002), and a few every winter (Dinesh Giri). The species has also been recorded near Pokhara (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004); December 2008 (Naylor and Turner); three in December 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009), and three in January 2013 and two in February 2014 (Hari KC) In central Nepal records include from along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include: near Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District e.g. singles in March 2001 (Baral 2001) and in October 2010 (Baral 2010); Koshi Camp (P8), Sunsari District e.g. three in February 1999 (Chaudhary 1999) and four in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005); recorded at Dharan (Q8), Sunsari District (Subba 1995); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Subba 1994), and at Itahari (R8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China (mainland), Egypt, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (- 1340 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Clamorous Reed Warbler. However, its population is probably declining because of habitat loss.

Fluctuating numbers are recorded in Koshi area, for example it was common in winter 2014-15 and spring 2015 and small numbers have been recorded in other years.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Clamorous Reed Warbler inhabits reedbeds and bushes around wetlands (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). Its habits are similar to those of other *Acrocephalus* warblers, but this species is not particularly shy. It often forages in bushes where it is more easily seen than in reeds. Its movements are slower and less agile than those of the smaller *Acrocephalus* and it causes more disturbance when moving about (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on grasshoppers and other insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Clamorous Reed Warbler is threatened by habitat loss.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Clamorous Reed Warbler. Post-1990 it has been recorded in Chitwan National Park and in Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Clamorous Reed Warbler has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a winter visitor and passage migrant, generally uncommon, and has been recorded from the far west to the far east, mainly in the lowlands. Since 1990 Clamorous Reed Warbler has been recorded more widely in the west than previously, probably because of better coverage. The species has been recorded in three protected areas post-1990. It has also been recorded outside the protected areas' system, although less frequently than within protected areas. It is threatened by habitat loss and its population is probably declining as a result. The species has been seen less frequently and in small numbers at Koshi, one of the main localities for the species in Nepal.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskip/2009_006.pdf

Amandava amandava (Linnaeus, 1758) NT

Subspecies *Amandava amandava amandava*

Common Name

Red Avadavat (English),

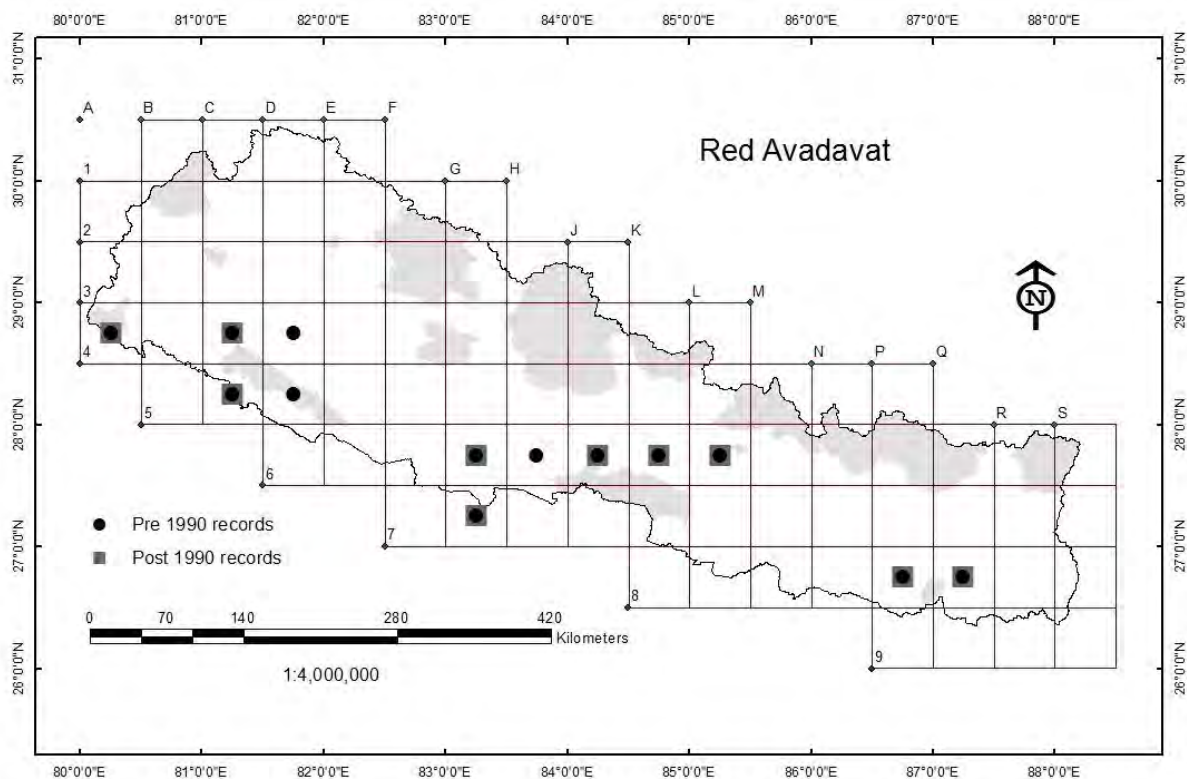
Rato Munia (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Estrildidae



Distribution



Red Avadavat is a local resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was from Bilauri, Kanchanpur District in February 1937 (Bailey 1938).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a locally distributed resident, recorded occasionally; regularly seen in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, at Koshi Barrage and in Chitwan National Park. The only pre-1990 record from the Kathmandu Valley was one seen in Kathmandu in November 1985 by Mayer (1986) and was considered to possibly be an escaped cage bird.

Since 1990 the distribution of Red Avadavat has decreased a little, see map and text below.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001). It is listed as a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve

(Baral 2005a) but has declined in both protected areas. The species has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005).

Red Avadavat is also quite locally distributed outside the protected areas' system, see map and text below.

In the west records include from: Bhairahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994a); Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994a) and January 2011 (Acharya 2011); along the Telar and Dano River courses (G7), Rupandehi District (Miller 2011a,b) and along the Kothi River course, Kapilvastu/Rupandehi Districts border (G6) (Miller 2011c).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a common resident in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006; seen between August and March and in June near the Bagmati River near Chobhar, also in the Bagmati River Nature Park. Many pairs have been breeding along the Bagmati River since at least 2004 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, 29 March 2015). The species was also recorded at Taudaha pond, Kathmandu Valley in 1997 Baral (1997) and as a vagrant to Chitlang forest (L6), Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992). The population may have originated from escaped caged birds (Mallalieu 2008).

In the east records include from Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District e.g. in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997) and February 2005 (Baral 2005b); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), and Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Guadeloupe (to France), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Italy, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Martinique (to France), Mexico, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Réunion (to France), Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, USA, Vanuatu, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m (- 1380 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Red Avadavat. The large number of 102 was recorded at Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994a) and in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in May 1998 (Baral 1998). Its population has decreased in Chitwan National Park and also at Koshi where there have been no records 2011-15 (RDB Workshop, October 2015).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Red Avadavat inhabits tall grassland and reedbeds (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). Its behaviour is typical of other estrildines (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). When flushed the flock buzzes off together in fairly close formation. It feeds on grass seeds both high on grass stalks or on the ground (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Ali and Ripley (1987) confirm the species feeds chiefly on grass seeds. Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983). It is likely that the species has at least two broods a year (before and after monsoon).

Threats

Red Avadavat is threatened by the loss of tall grassland and reedbeds. It may also be at risk from hunting or trapping. Large numbers have been recorded in the caged bird trade in Kathmandu: 92 in August 1993 (Baral 1994a) and 68 in September 1994 (Baral 1994b). The species was also recorded in a Nepal wild bird survey in 2009 when 17% of wild birds traded were munias (Thapa and Thakuri 2009).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Red Avadavat. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, and Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Red Avadavat has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local resident recorded post-1990 from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 it has been recorded in several protected areas and is quite locally distributed outside the protected areas' system. Its distribution has decreased a little post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Its population has decreased in Chitwan National Park and also at Koshi where there have been no records 2011-15. The species is threatened by the loss of tall grassland and reedbeds and may also be at risk from hunting or trapping.

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Chrysomma sinense (J. F. Gmelin, 1789) NT
Subspecies *Chrysomma sinense sinense*

Common Name

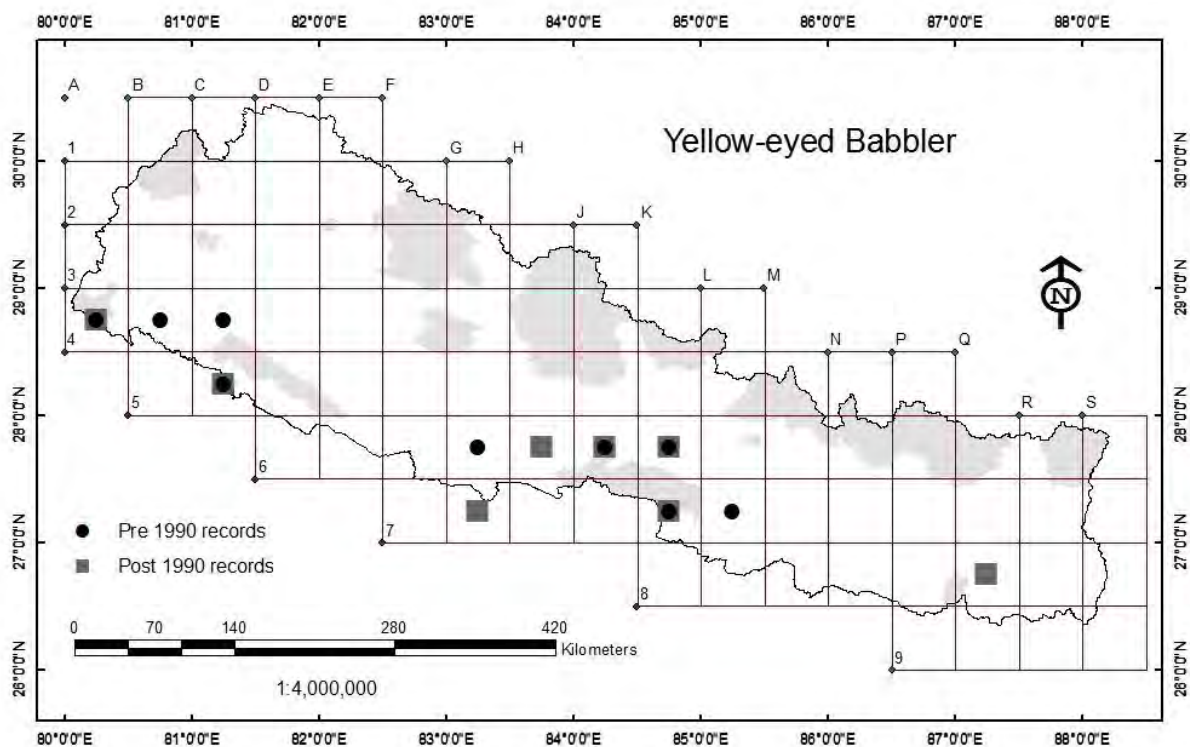
Yellow-eyed Babbler (English),
Taame Ghansebhyakur (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Yellow-eyed Babbler is a local resident in the lowlands. There are post-1990 records from the far west (e.g. Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve), central areas (e.g. Chitwan National Park) and in the far east (Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve).

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century; locality and date details are unknown (Hodgson 1844).

The species' status in protected areas is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009), a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001), a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001), and rare, possibly resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005, Basnet 2000, Giri and Choudhary 2001).

Post-1990 Yellow-eyed Babbler has been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone e.g. six in Jankauli east of the park in February 2008 (Giri 2008), six west of the park in February 2010 (Baral 2010) and seven in Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District in October 2012 (D. B. Chaudhary, Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

Pre-1990, there were a number of localities outside the protected areas' system in central and western areas and especially in the west. These were: seven specimens collected from Bilauri, Kanchanpur District in January 1937 (Bailey 1938); three collected at Dhanghadi, Kailali District in November and December 1952 (Rand and Fleming 1957); three collected at Tikapur, Bardia District in January 1949 (Ripley 1950); one seen 6 km north of Taulihawa, Kapilvastu District in December 1978 (Cox 1978); collected at Beltari, Kapilvastu District in March and April 1982 (Nepali 1982); one recorded near Simra, Parsa District in January 1981 (Hamon 1981), and also recorded in small numbers in 1947 in the central dun where five specimens were collected at Hetauda, Makwanpur District in May and June 1947 (Biswas 1962). Rand and Fleming (1957) reported the species was fairly common in grass and low bushes along roadsides in the west in 1952,

The species' distribution has apparently reduced outside the protected areas' system; the only known locality where Yellow-eyed Babbler has been recorded post-1990 is Lumbini, Rupandehi District e.g. two birds in April 1993 (Baral 1994), two in January 2011 (Acharya 2011), eight in November 2011 (Baral 2011a) and six in December 2011 (Baral 2011b).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

Yellow-eyed Babbler was surveyed together with other lowland grassland species by Baral (2001). The species has probably declined because of loss, degradation and fragmentation of grasslands.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-eyed Babbler inhabits tall moist grasslands (Baral 2000); also tall grass, thickets, bamboos and reeds, often near water (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It requires tall grasses (Baral 2001). Outside the breeding season it is usually found in parties, sometimes up to 12 birds. It is a skulking species, spending most of its time concealed in tall grass and bushes, often foraging for insects close to the ground (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Yellow-eyed Babbler is threatened by the loss, degradation and fragmentation of lowland grasslands.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-eyed Babbler. It has been recorded in Chitwan and Bardia National Parks and Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves; also marginally in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-eyed Babbler has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local resident in the lowlands and fairly common in two protected areas. Post-1990 almost all records of the species have been from within the protected areas' system, mainly in the far west and central areas, and also marginally in a reserve in the far east. The species is threatened by the loss, degradation and fragmentation of lowland grasslands. As a result its distribution has reduced in unprotected areas. Since 1990 there has been only one known locality outside the protected areas' system. However, in previous years the species was recorded from a number of localities outside the protected areas' system in central and western areas. Its population has also probably declined.

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Cisticola exilis (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) NT
Subspecies *Cisticola exilis tytleri*

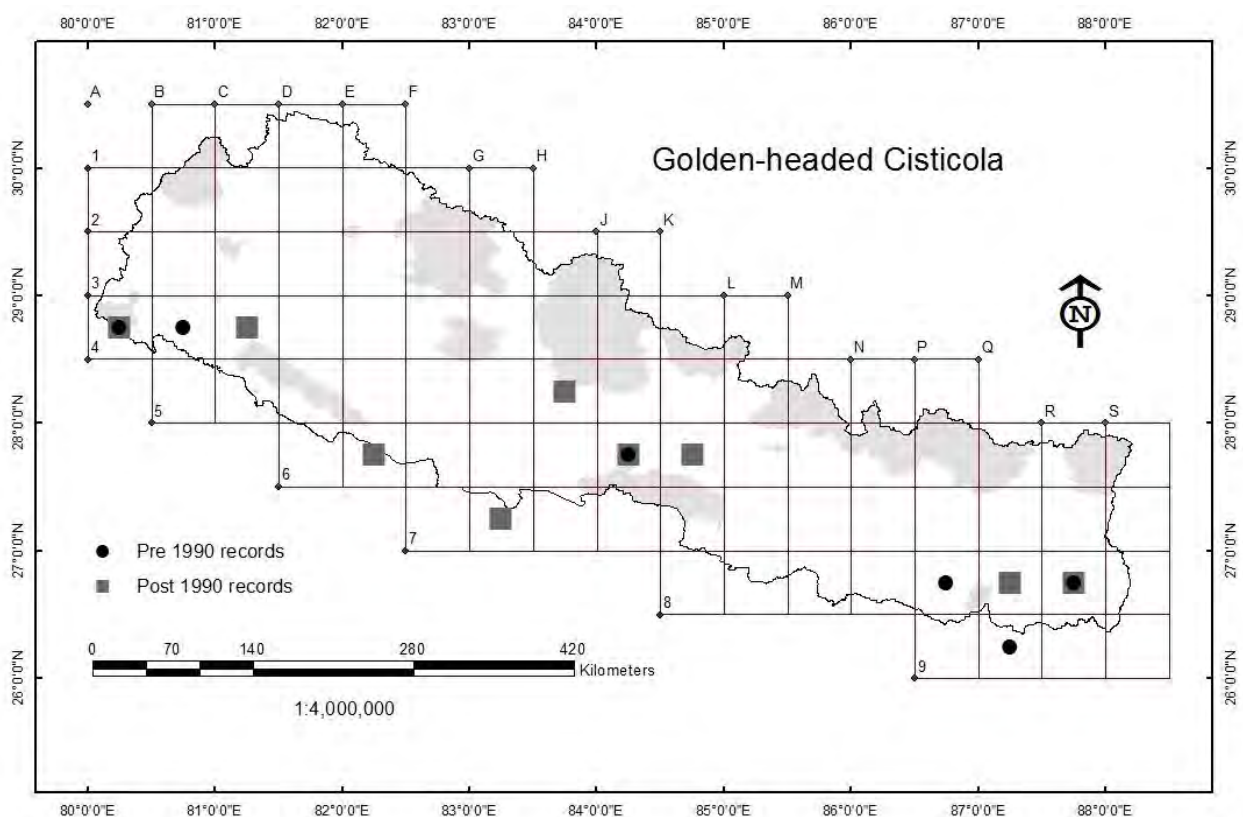
Common Name

Golden-headed Cisticola (English),
Suntauke Phirphire (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Cisticolidae



Distribution



Golden-headed Cisticola is a local resident in the lowlands. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the east.

The first Nepal record was a specimen collected from Dhanghadi, Kailali District in December 1952 (Rand and Fleming 1957).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a scarce resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was very local, probably resident and mapped it from the far west, central and eastern Nepal.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely in the west than pre-1990, probably because of better recording (see map and text below).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) e.g. about 6-10 birds regularly seen in 2013-15 (Tika Giri and Dheeraj Chaudhary); an uncommon resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001) e.g. two in November 2013 and

February 2014 (Tika Giri); a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006). It is listed as an uncommon resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005), but noted as locally common there (Anish Timsina, Suchit Basnet). In Bardia National Park buffer zone one was seen in the Khata corridor in August 2013 (NTNC/BCP) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone singles were seen near the elephant stable at Sauraha in March 2007 and 2008 (Dinesh Giri); in Kumroj Community Forest in summer 2013 and 2014 (Tek Bahadur Gurung, Dinesh Giri and Tika Giri/BES), and two at Pandabnagar, Madi in May 2015 (Fuleshwor Chaudhary and Raju Tamang/ BES).

There are a much smaller number of records outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990. Those recorded since 1990 are almost all from localities in the west. These are from: the Rapti River grasslands, Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Cox 2008, Thakuri 2009a,b); Khadara Phanta, Kapilvastu District in March 2008 (Dinesh Giri, Hem Subedi, Badri Chaudhary); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Baral 1994, Suwal *et al.* 2002) and one by Phewa Tal (H5), Kaski District in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004). There is also one record from the far east: a pair along the lower Mai Khola in Jhapa District near East-West Highway in May 2015 (Dheeraj Chaudhary/ Koshi Bird Society)

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Golden-headed Cisticola inhabits open expanses of medium to short, dense grassland and is dependent on large-sized grasslands (Baral 2001). Its habits are similar to those of Zitting Cisticola *C. juncidis*, but its display flight is faster, less jerky and ends in a nose-dive at high speed, and its normal flight is more direct (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on ants and other small insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Golden-headed Cisticola is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of lowland grasslands outside the protected areas' system. Within protected areas it is at risk from inappropriate grassland management (uncontrolled burning, grass cutting, invasive species) which has led to habitat deterioration. It is threatened throughout its range in Nepal by fragmentation of its lowland grassland habitat.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Golden-headed Cisticola. Post 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and in Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Golden-headed Cisticola has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local resident in the lowlands recorded from the western, central and far eastern lowlands. In the west the species has been recorded more widely since 1990, probably because of better recording. Post-1990 it has been recorded in several protected areas. There are a much smaller number of records outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990; those recorded since 1990 are almost all from the west. Golden-headed Cisticola is seriously threatened by

loss and degradation of lowland grasslands outside the protected areas' system. Within protected areas it is at risk from inappropriate grassland management (uncontrolled burning, grass cutting, invasive species) which has led to habitat deterioration. It is threatened throughout its range in Nepal by fragmentation of its lowland grassland habitat. As a result the species is probably declining.

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Cutia nipalensis Hodgson, 1837 NT

Subspecies *Cutia nipalensis nipalensis*

Common Name

Himalayan Cutia (English),

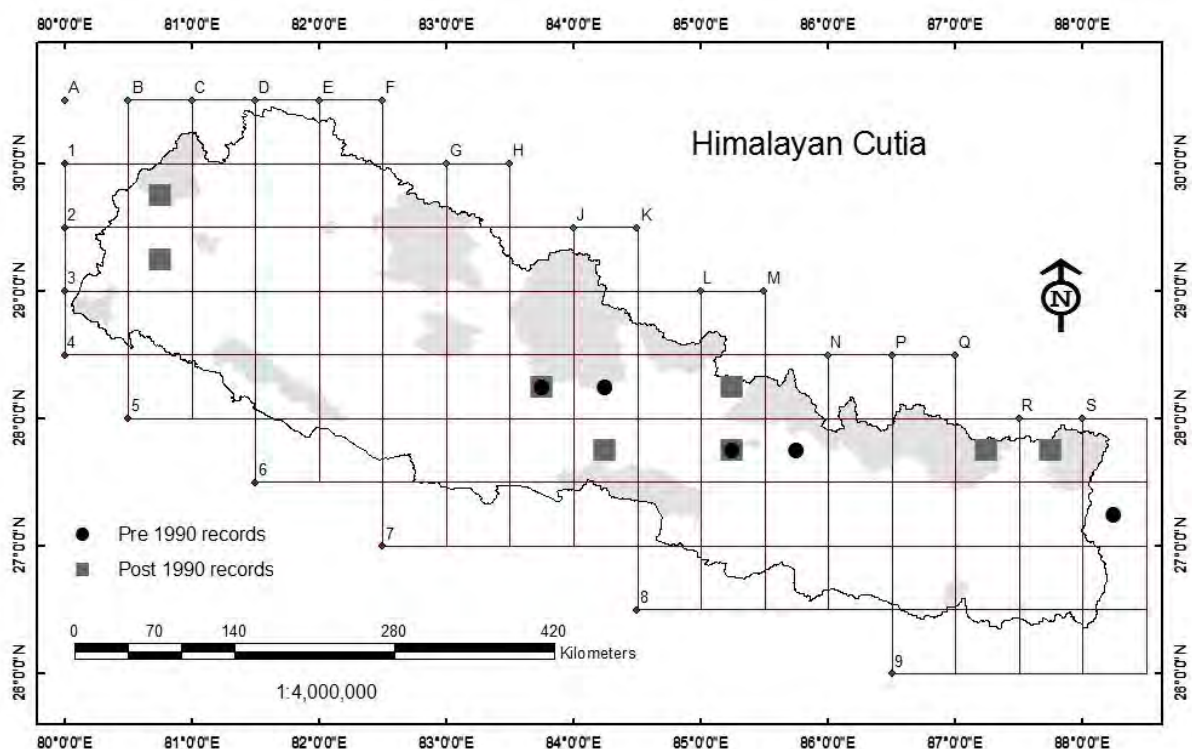
Cutia (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Himalayan Cutia is a local and locally common resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in the east (Carpenter *et al.* 1995).

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

In the west it has been recorded at three localities in Dandeldhura District in May 2010, with the maximum of 14 at Chulla, Ana Khola West (Baral *et al.* 2010), a significant western extension of the species' range in Nepal; previously forests in the far west have been very little known. The species was also recorded in the far west in Api Nampa Conservation Area in April 2012 (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012).

There are a number of records from the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA): several between Landrung and Dhampus in April 1976 (van den Berg and Bosman 1976) and one at Birethane in December 1984 (Calladine 1985), and recorded south of Annapurna in 1977 (Thiollay 1980) (further locality and date details are unknown). However, post-1990 it has been seen regularly in ACA, for example in the Modi Khola valley, ACA:

three to five south of Khuldi Ghar in January 1988 (Taylor and Abbott 1988), four at Sinuwa in November 1994 (Lama 1994), 12 at Sinuwa in April 2007 (GC 2010), ten between Khuldi and Sinuwa in February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009), one at Sinuwa in February 2009 (Wheatley 2010). Four were seen in the Kyumnu Khola valley on the Annapurna Base Camp trek in February 2011 (Wheatley 2011). The species has been recorded a few times from Pipar forests, ACA (Thakuri and Poudyal 2011) e.g. in May 1986 (Warwick 1986), May 1998 (Kaul and Shakya 1998), and in May 2011 (Poudyal *et al.* 2011), and also recorded in Santel forests, ACA in May 2001 (Baral *et al.* 2001, Mahato *et al.* 2006), and a flock of 14 was recorded in May 2012 (Jhalak Chaudhary). Six were seen between Deurali and Tadapani in April 2014 (Som GC); a flock of 50 birds was seen below Jhinu Danda, between Chhomrong and Ghandruk, ACA in May 2015 (Som GC) and a flock of 40 in upper Pitam Deurali, on Mardi Himal route, Kaski District, ACA in April 2015 (Manshanta Ghimire).

One bird was seen at Rani Ban, Pokhara, Kaski District in November 2010, Pokhara (Hari KC) – the only known record from the Pokhara valley. Four were seen at Bheri Kharka, Kaski District in March 1996 (White and White 1996).

In central Nepal pre-1990, records include four specimens were collected from Godaveri at the foot of Phulchoki in October 1962 (Diesselhorst 1968). The species was also recorded from Shivapuri, a pair in June 1948 (Proud 1949) and Nagarjun in what is now Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in 1986 (Nielsen 1986). It was also collected at Kodari Sindhupalchok District in May 1937 (Bailey 1938) and in April 1947 from deep forests at Chandragiri above Chitlang, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1962), and at Deurali on the Mahabharat range (Biswas 1962), but there are no later records from these localities.

In central Nepal Himalayan *Cutia* is regularly recorded from the Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in the Kathmandu Valley. Records include: small parties in 1947 (Biswas 1962) and in January 1949 (Proud 1949), six specimens collected in February 1954 (Rand and Fleming 1954), 12 in October 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971), 15 in January 1982 (Robson 1982), ten in December 1986 (Scharringa 1987), 20+ in January 1988 (Harvey 1988), nine in November 1998 (Chaudhary 1999), ten in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), ten in 2005 (Giri 2005), 12 in 2007 (Baral 2007), 11 in February 2008 (Tribe 2008), 32 in December 2008 (Hathan Chaudhary), 12 in March 2009 (Biggs 2009), 16 in February 2010 (Baral 2010), 38 in March 2010 (Hem Subedi and Cagan Sakercioglu), ten in January 2011 (Baral 2011) and in December 2011 (Vicente *et al.* 2011), six in March 2012 (Tika Giri) and five in March 2015 (Som GC).

Two new localities, both outside the protected areas' system have recently been found for the species in Chitwan District: at Siraichuli, Upper Dang Gadhi hills in the Mahabharat range, Chitwan District outside the protected areas' system: five birds were seen in February 2011 (Bird Education Society, Sauraha); seven in April 2011 (Som GC, Rupendra Karmacharya, and Michael Doohar), 15 in May 2012 (Rupendra Karmacharya), and 14 in June 2014 and six in June 2015 (Sum Ram Mahato and BES). The other locality is between Upper Dang Gadhi Chisapanitar where 10-15 birds were seen in June 2014 (Suk Ram Mahato and BES).

In the east Himalayan *Cutia* was recorded in the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in June 2009 where a pair was seen and at a different locality an adult was recorded carrying food with two young birds (Cox 2009). It has been reported from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.* 1995) (further locality and date details are unavailable). The species has been recorded several times in the Mai valley. It was collected in April 1912 (Stevens 1923), in 1979 (Lambert 1979, Redman and Murphy 1979), six at Hange Tham in February 1981 (Baker 1981), recorded in January 1983 (Cocker and Adams) and six in January 1985 (Calladine 1985), but no later records from the valley have been located.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2700 m; lower limit: 1095 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Himalayan *Cutia*. A flock of 40 was seen in upper Pitam Deurali, on the Mardi Himal route, Kaski District, ACA in April 2015 (Manshanta Ghimire).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Himalayan Cutia inhabits the canopy of moss-covered trunks in humid, broadleaved evergreen forests in the subtropical and temperate zones, mainly in the lower temperate zone (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); in dense oak forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It can sometimes be located by its distinctive loud, ringing calls (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Although recorded as low as 1095 m in December 1984 (Calladine 1985), and up to 2745 m (Fleming *et al.* 1976), it favours a narrow altitudinal zone of 2100 m to 2300 m (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species possibly has some seasonal altitudinal movements, but noted up to at least 2285 m in February (Rand and Fleming 1957). It feeds on beetles and other insects, larvae, pupae, insect egg, gastropods, seeds and berries (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Himalayan Cutia is threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest in the subtropical and temperate zones.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Himalayan Cutia. Recently it has been recorded regularly in Annapurna Conservation Area, and also recorded in Api Nampa and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) ungraded from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Himalayan Cutia has been assessed as Near-threatened. The species is a local and locally common resident. Since 1990 several new localities for the species have been recorded, perhaps as a result of better coverage. Its range has now been significantly extended from west-central Nepal to the far west. In very recent years it has been recorded at a few new localities and in larger flocks than previously in the Annapurna Conservation Area. There are also a few recent records from two other protected areas. Outside the protected areas' system the species has been recorded regularly in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area and a new locality in Chitwan District, and there are records from a few other unprotected localities in recent years. Himalayan Cutia is threatened by the loss, fragmentation and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest in the subtropical and temperate zones. The population is possibly increasing.

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Ficedula hodgsonii (J. Verreaux, 1870) NT

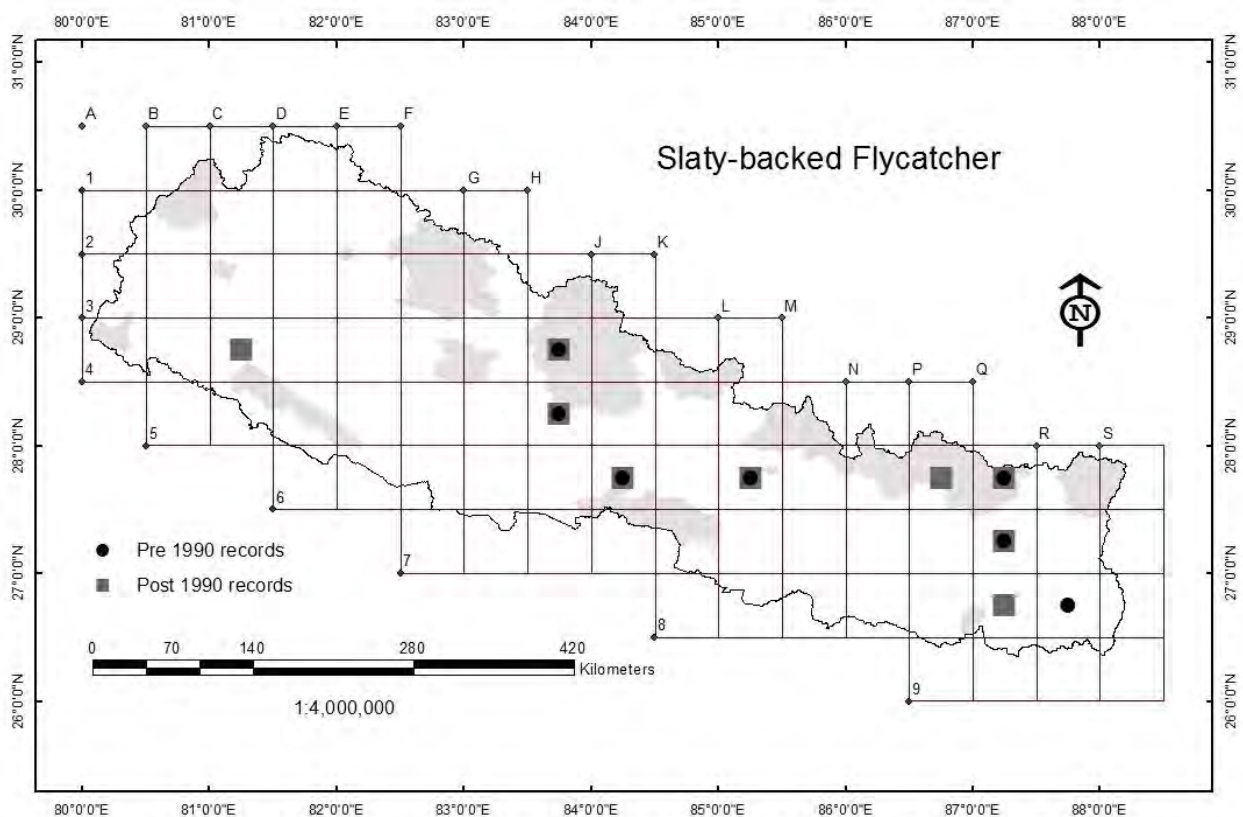
Common Name

Slaty-backed Flycatcher (English),
Nildhade Arjunak (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Muscicapidae



Distribution



Slaty-backed Flycatcher is rare and local, mainly a winter visitor, possibly also a passage migrant. All post-1990 records have been between the end of October and March. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia National Park in the far west (Baral 2007, Chaudhary 2008) to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005) in the far east. The first Nepal record of the species was in March 1947 at Thankot, Kathmandu Valley (Biswas 1962).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it was a scarce resident and winter visitor; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a scarce and local altitudinal migrant and mapped its occurrence from west-central Nepal to the far east.

A specimen from Phemantan, Barun valley described as collected before the monsoon in 1973 (Barus and Daniel 1976) was actually collected in March (Daniel and Hanzak 1993) and so probably refers to a passage migrant bird.

The species post-1990 status in protected areas is: a vagrant or rare winter visitor to Bardia National Park –

singles were recorded in November 1997 (Chaudhary 1998) and in December 2007 (Baral 2007). The species is listed as a rare passage migrant to the Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); however one record in November 2003 (Nelson and Ellis 2003), two in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), one in November 2007 (Naylor and Metcalf 2007), two in December 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005) and two in November 2011 (photographed by Tobias Berger in Vicente *et al.* 2011) indicate the species is also possibly wintering in the Conservation Area. The species is a rare winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006). One was seen at Chaurikharka, Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) at the end of October 2005 (Inskipp *et al.* 2005). It was described as an occasionally recorded winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005), but is now considered a rare passage migrant there (Hem Sagar Baral pers. comm.). The species was listed as a fairly common resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007), but the species may now be a rare winter visitor or passage migrant to the park (see population section).

Slaty-backed Flycatcher has been recorded from several localities outside the protected areas' system, post-1990. The species's western limit of its distribution has now extended to Bardia National Park in the far west (Baral 2007, Chaudhary 1998); otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990 (see map). Post-1990 records follow.

In the west known records are: one at Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in November 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005), one there in January 2008 (Cockram 2008), two in February 2008 (Giri 2008) and one at Phewa Dam, Pokhara, Kaski District in December 2013 (Ramesh Chaudhary, Manshanta Ghimire).

In central Nepal known records are: two seen at Chisapanitar, Chitwan District in March 2013 (BES 2013); one in Bajrbarahi forest, Kathmandu Valley in March 2014 (Hemu Katuwal *et al.*), and irregularly records from Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area and at Godaveri (see population section).

In the east known records are: four birds seen between Bupsa and Surkhe (P6), Solukhumbu District in November 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009); two in the lower Arun valley (Q7) in December 1991/January 1992 (White and White 1992); one at Chewabensi, by the Arun River (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District on 20 November 1994 (Baral 1995), and one in Dobate, Ilam district in April 2015 (Suchit Basnet).

Globally the species has also been recorded in Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species's range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 2745 m (- 3700 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Slaty-backed Flycatcher. Its population has decreased in the Kathmandu Valley. It was described as fairly common in the Valley during winter and early spring in 1955 (Proud 1995). However, Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it only a scarce but regular visitor to Godavari. Since 1990 known records from the Valley are: two on Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley in February 1993 (Flack 1993); one there in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997); two in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), one in April 2006 (Arend van Riessen) and one in December 2006 (Aiden Kelly and Dermot O'Mahoney in Mallalieu 2008), and one in February 2010 (Baral 2010). Two were seen at Godaveri Botanical Gardens, Kathmandu Valley in March 1993 (Puckrin 1993) two in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), two in February 1996 (Harrap 1996), two in March 1997 (Harrap and Basnet 1997), two in February 1998 (Prince 1998), one in February 2002 (Arlo 2002), one in March 2004 (Anon. 2004), one in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2008) and one in December 2014 (Suchit Basnet). In Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park known records are: one on Nagarjun in February 2005 (Witherick 2005) and singles on Shivapuri in April 2005 and April 2006 (Mallalieu 2008). No later records from the Valley could be located.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

In winter Slaty-backed Flycatcher inhabits moist broadleaved forests (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); also mixed woodlands of the terai (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It frequents the middle and under storey of forest and frequently makes aerial sallies like other flycatchers (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on insects, chiefly Diptera (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Deforestation threatens Slaty-backed Flycatcher.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Slaty-backed Flycatcher. Post-1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Chitwan and Makalu National Parks; Annapurna Conservation Area and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Slaty-backed Flycatcher has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is rare and local, mainly a winter visitor, possibly also a passage migrant. The species has been recorded in several protected areas and also at several sites outside the protected areas' system. Since 1990 the species' western limit of its distribution has been extended to Bardia National Park in the far west; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Slaty-backed Flycatcher is threatened by deforestation. It has declined in the Kathmandu Valley where it was formerly fairly common and is now very rare. Its population is probably declining. This may be due to habitat loss or to factors operating outside of Nepal.

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***Ficedula sapphira* (Blyth, 1843) NT**

Subspecies *Ficedula sapphira sapphira*

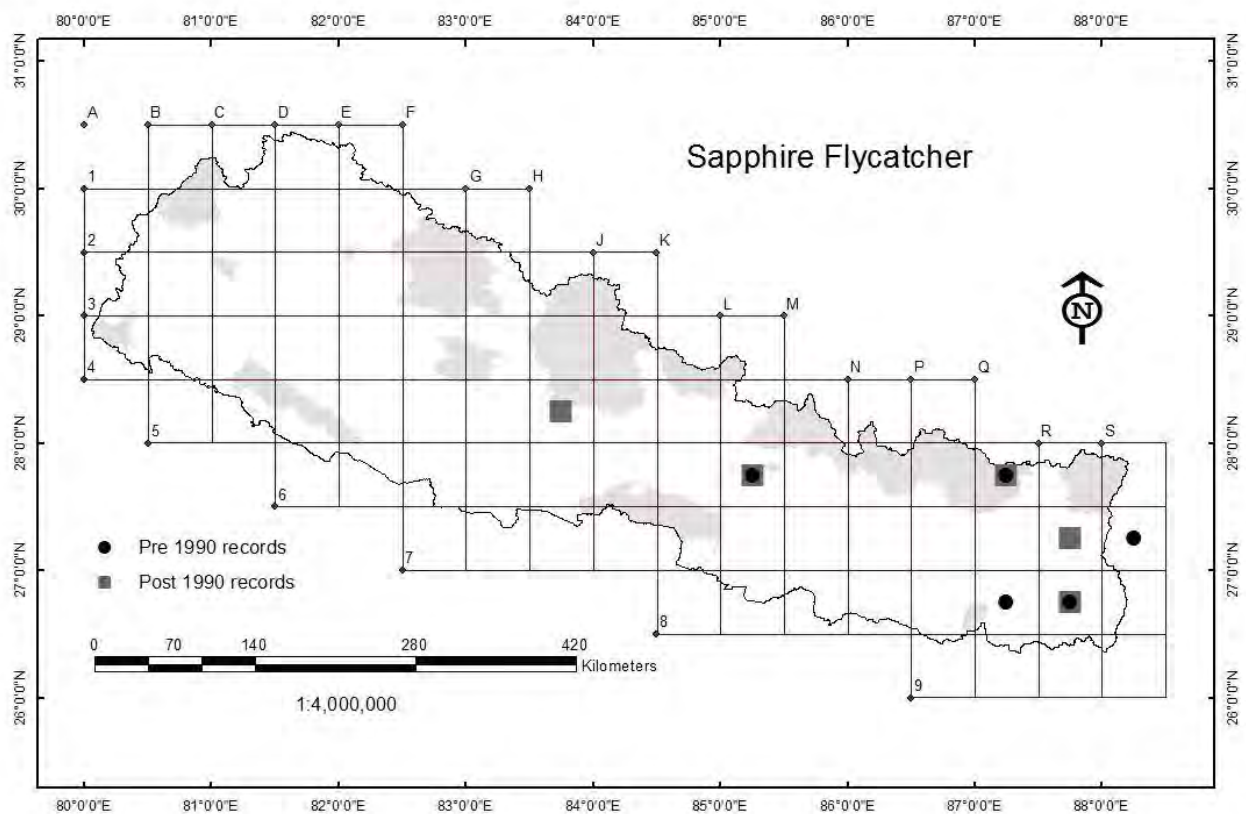
Common Name

Sapphire Flycatcher (English),
Nilmani Arjunak (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Muscipidae



Distribution



Sapphire Flycatcher is rare and possibly resident in the east. It has been recorded from Bhosiban Community Forest, Pokhara, Kaski District in February 2012 and March 2013 (TMPL), the most westerly known records of the species. The easternmost Nepal record is from Sidin, Panchthar District (Robson *et al.* 2008).

The first Nepal record was of two specimens collected in the upper Mai valley, Mai Valley Important Bird Area in April 1912 (Stevens 1925).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was a scarce resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) also described it as scarce and possibly resident and mapped all records except one from Nagarjun, Kathmandu Valley (see above) from the east.

The species' post-1990 status in the protected areas' system is scarce, possibly resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999). Four were recorded in the park at Saisima in November 2005 (Inskipp *et al.* 2005). The species has also been recorded in the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone: singles between Bhotebas

and Mude (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998) and in the Apsuwa Khola valley, Sankhuwasabha District in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

Since 1990 the species' distribution has been extended west to the Pokhara valley, otherwise there has been no significant difference in distribution compared to pre-1990 (see map). Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west singles were seen at Bhosiban Community Forest, Pokhara, Kaski District in February 2012 and March 2013 (TMPL)

In central Nepal the only known record is one from the Godavari Botanical Gardens, Kathmandu Valley in March 1996 (Daulne and Goblet 1996).

In the east records known records are: singles at Sidin (R7), Panchthar District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008) and from Sukhani (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (April and May); lower limit: 2135 m; (April and May); (150 m)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Sapphire Flycatcher. Its population is probably declining as a result of forest loss and degradation, especially outside the protected areas' system.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Sapphire Flycatcher inhabits temperate, moist, broadleaved evergreen forest in the breeding season (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is arboreal, frequenting the middle and lower storeys. Insects are pursued in extended aerial forays, the birds usually returning to the same perch (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Sapphire Flycatcher is threatened by the loss and degradation of its forest habitat, although less so than forest species breeding at lower altitudes.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Sapphire Flycatcher. Makalu Barun National Park is the only protected area where this species has been recorded.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Sapphire Flycatcher has been assessed as Near-threatened. The species is rare and possibly resident in the east. Post-1990 all records have almost all been from the east. Makalu Barun National Park is the only protected area where it has been recorded. Since 1990 the species' distribution has been extended west to the Pokhara valley, otherwise there has been no significant difference in distribution compared to pre-1990. The species is threatened by loss and degradation of temperate forest, although less so than species breeding at lower altitudes. As a result its population has probably declined.

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Galerida cristata (Linnaeus, 1758) NT
 Subspecies *Galerida cristata chendoola*

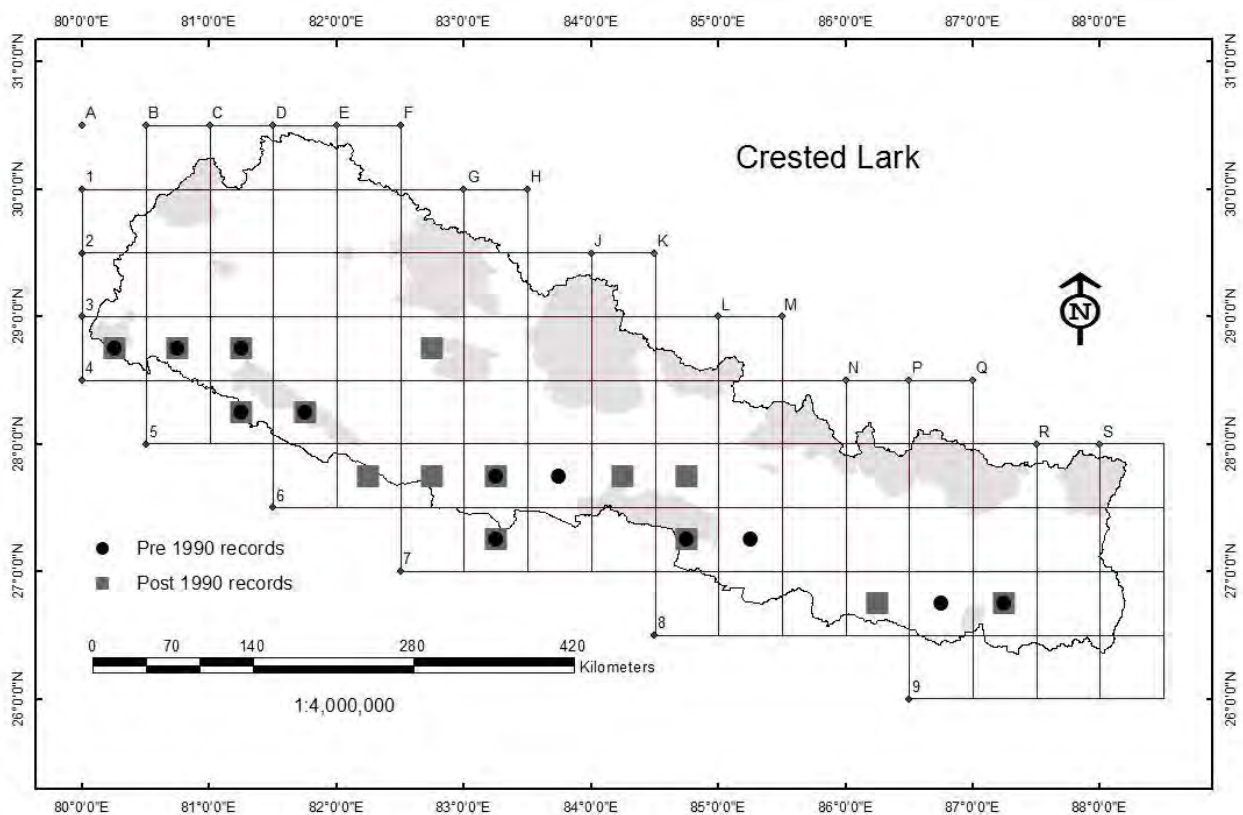
Common Name
 Crested Lark (English),
 Jure Bhardwaj (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
 Family: Alaudidae



TEK BAHADUR GURUNG MIHI

Distribution



Crested Lark is a resident or winter visitor in the lowlands; uncommon from Lumbini, Rupandehi District westwards and rare further east. The species is of marginal occurrence in Nepal and is found just north of the border with India where it is a locally common species in the northern plains.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was a fairly common resident in the lowlands; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a fairly common resident east to Nepalgunj and rare further east; found in the terai just north of the Indian border.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has increased a little, probably because of better coverage.

The species post-1990 status in protected areas is an uncommon resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) e.g. one in February 2012 (Dheeraj Chaudhary). It is listed as a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Dinerstein, 1979 and Tamang, undated in Inskipp (2001), but few later records

could be located there and the species is probably uncommon. It was recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012) and eight were seen in Blackbuck Conservation Area, Khairapur in April 2013 (Seejan Gyawali); also recorded in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001). Baral (2005) listed the species as a frequent resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, but few post-1990 records could be located and it is probably rare or uncommon there. There is an unusually high altitude record of one at Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (photographed) in September 2013 (Rishi Baral, Hari Basnet). The species has been regularly sighted from Madi, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in March 2014 (BES) and three birds were photographed at Dibyanagar in February 2015 (BES).

Most post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system have been from the west.

These include from: Geta, Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); Khata corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007); lower Karnali basin along the Bardia-Katarmiaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); 22 birds at Nepalganj, Banke District in April 2013 (Seejan Gyawali); Dang Deukhuri foothill forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Khadara Phanta (F6), Kapilvastu District in January 2011 (Acharya 2011); Bhairahawa (G6), Rupendehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994), every winter at Jagdisphur, Kapilvastu District and at Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Dinesh Giri); also recorded at Lumbini in April 1993 (Baral 1994) and January and February 2011 (Acharya 2011), listed by Suwal *et al.* (2002) and four recorded in January 2015 (Basu Bidari).

In central Nepal records include from Chitwan District (K6) in February 1991 (White and White 1991).

In the east records include singles at Koshi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in December 2008 (Anish Timsina) and October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012). The species was also recorded by the Kamala River, Dhanusa in April 2013 (Hem Bahadur Katuwal and Kanchan Parajuli) and at Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007)

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Western Sahara, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been undertaken for Crested Lark. The large number of 22 birds were seen in Nepalganj in April 2013 (Seejan Gyawali) and 12 at Lumbini, Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994). The population is probably declining as a result of changes in farming practices.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Crested Lark inhabits river beds and fields in the lowlands (Fleming *et al.* 1976); dry fallow fields and cultivation

in dry areas (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It keeps singly, in pairs or in scattered flocks. A quite tame species; it freezes if approached too closely. It walks or runs swiftly in search of food and perches readily on rocks and low bushes. During his song display the male circles either briefly and low over the ground or for a few minutes at great height; he also sings while standing in open ground or perched on a bush (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species' diet is weed seeds, paddy grains, insects e.g. grasshoppers, ground beetles and ants (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Crested Lark is probably at risk from changes in agricultural practices especially the cultivation of field edges and corners which were uncultivated previously and possibly also from pesticides (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Crested Lark. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Bardia and Banke National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and marginally from Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Crested Lark has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a resident or winter visitor in the lowlands; uncommon from Lumbini, Rupandehi District westwards and rare further east. The species is of marginal occurrence in Nepal and is found just north of the border with India where it is a locally common species in the northern plains. Since 1990 the species' distribution has increased a little, probably because of better coverage. It has been recorded in several protected areas; most records outside the protected areas' system are from the west. Crested Lark is probably at risk from changes in agricultural practices especially the cultivation of field edges and corners which were uncultivated previously and possibly also from pesticides. Its population appears to have declined as it was considered fairly common in the west up to 1990.

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Garrulax rufogularis (Linnaeus, 1758) NT

Common Name

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush (English)

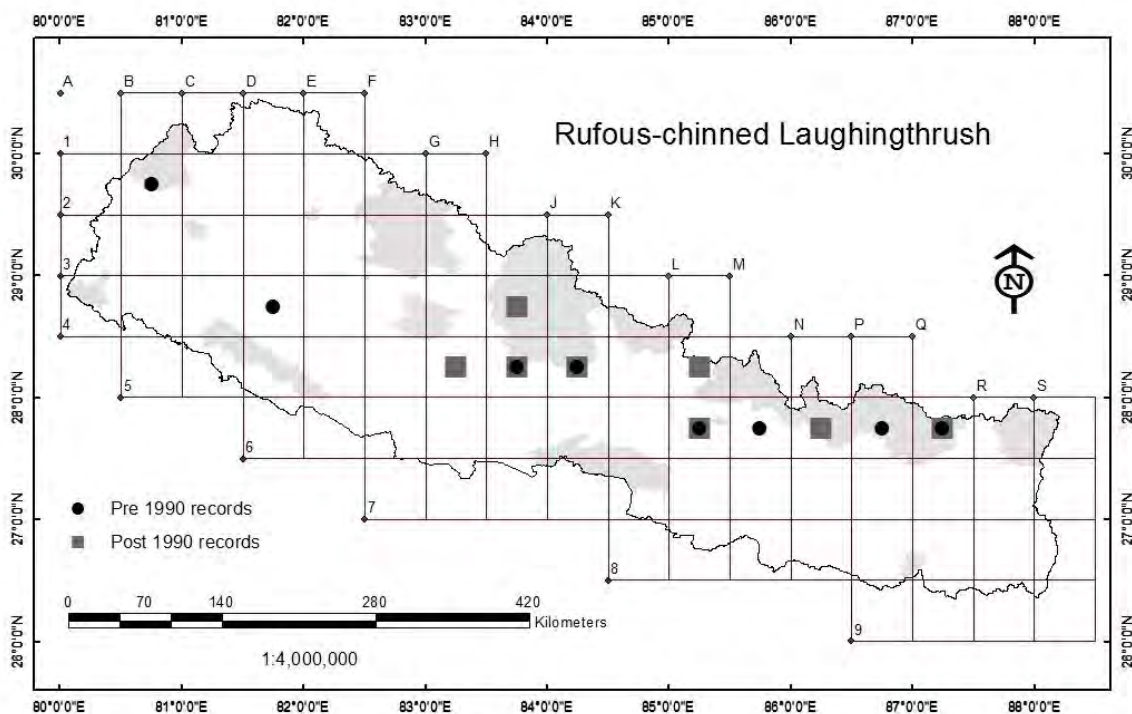
Kailokanthe Toriganda (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush is a local and very uncommon resident in the midhills at suitable altitude. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Reshunga Forest, Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011) in the west to Sankuwasabha District in the east (Cox 1992).

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as 'occasional'; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a locally distributed resident, occasionally seen.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a rare resident in the Annapurna Conservation Area (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and in Langtang National Park (Karki and Thapa 2001), and one recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009) and four in October 1996 (Cox 1996). Although described as a fairly common resident on Shivapuri in the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park by SNP and BCN (2007), only one other post-1990 record from Shivapuri could be located: in September 1992, the number of birds is unknown (Salzman and Salzman 1992). Only two post-1990 records could be found from ACA, both from Pipar Pheasant reserve – in May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006) and May 2011 (Poudyal *et al.* 2011).

Compared to the pre-1990 localities (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), there are fewer localities post-1990 (see map), thus showing a reduction in distribution. Pre-1990 the species was regularly reported from Pokhara, Kaski District and hills to the north-west (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); however, no later records are known, even though the areas are comparatively well recorded.

The species was also regularly recorded on hills surrounding the Kathmandu Valley pre-1990 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). However, Mallalieu (2008) reported the Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area was the only locality where the species was recorded between 2004 and 2006; it was uncommon in ravines in at least November and December. Other known post-1990 records from Phulchoki include: three in March 1993 (Puckrin 1993); two in March 1996 (Daulne and Goblet 1996); two in February 1997 (Harrap and Basnet 1997); nine in April 1999 (Chaudhary 1999); seven in February 2001 (Baral 2001); eight in March 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002); recorded in November 2003 (Nelson and Ellis 2003); one in March 2004 (Kennerley and Karki 2004); six in April 2007 (Bykov 2007), and two in February 2010 (Baral 2010). It has been recorded there regularly, most recently in May and October 2012 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* January 2013).

No records could be located from Nagarkot, Bhaktapur District since 1980 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1980), despite the locality being comparatively well-watched.

Post-1990 the species has been recorded from very few other localities outside the protected areas' system. Known records are: the Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area, Gulmi District in February 2011 (Thakuri 2011); five birds between Baglungpani and Ghanapokhara, Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000), two between Patibhanjyang and Chisapani, Nuwakot District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004), two above Thankot, Kathmandu Valley in December 1993 (Baral 1994). A total of 18 was counted from May to November 2006 in Dallu and Seshnarayan Community forest, Kathmandu District and four in Dallu, Pharping area in February 2009 (Jyotendra Thakuri *in litt.* January 2013). The species was also seen in the 1600-1800 m range of Machhegaon-Bosan-Champa Devi area, Kathmandu District in May 2005, May 2011, and probably May 2012, and seen regularly by Orin Pearson in that area (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* January 2013). It was also recorded between Chichila and Khandbari, Sankhuwasabha District in December 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2135 m; lower limit: 915 m

Population

There is no estimate of its population in Nepal. The reduction in distribution (see above) and the decline in status from occasionally recorded in the 1970s and 1980s (Fleming *et al.* 1976, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) to local and uncommon post-1990 indicate a population decline.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush is found in dense undergrowth in subtropical broadleaved forests and bushes at forest edges (Grimmett *et al.* 1998); also in dense, broadleaved scrub (Jyotendra Thakuri *in litt.* January 2013). Usually feeds on the ground, not so gregarious and found singly, in pairs or small parties (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

It feeds on insects, berries and seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

The breeding season is between April to September and usually three eggs are laid. Both sexes take part in incubation and the species is brood-parasitized by the cuckoos (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush is seriously threatened by the loss and thinning of subtropical broadleaved forest, and loss of the forest understorey. This forest type is especially threatened in Nepal (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush. It has been recorded in the Annapurna Conservation Area and marginally in Langtang and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks and Gaurishankar Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Near Threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush has been assessed as a Near-threatened. In the 1970s and 1980s it was a frequent resident, but since 1990 it has been considered local and very uncommon. Post-1990 the species has been reported from few former pre-1990 localities indicating a significant reduction in distribution and probably a population decline. It has been recorded in four protected areas. Since 1990 it appears to be very local and rare in the Annapurna Conservation Area and has been recorded only marginally in the other three protected areas. There are very few known post-1990 localities outside the protected areas' system. Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of subtropical broadleaved forest; this forest type is especially threatened in Nepal.

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***Garrulax squamatus* (Gould, 1835) NT**

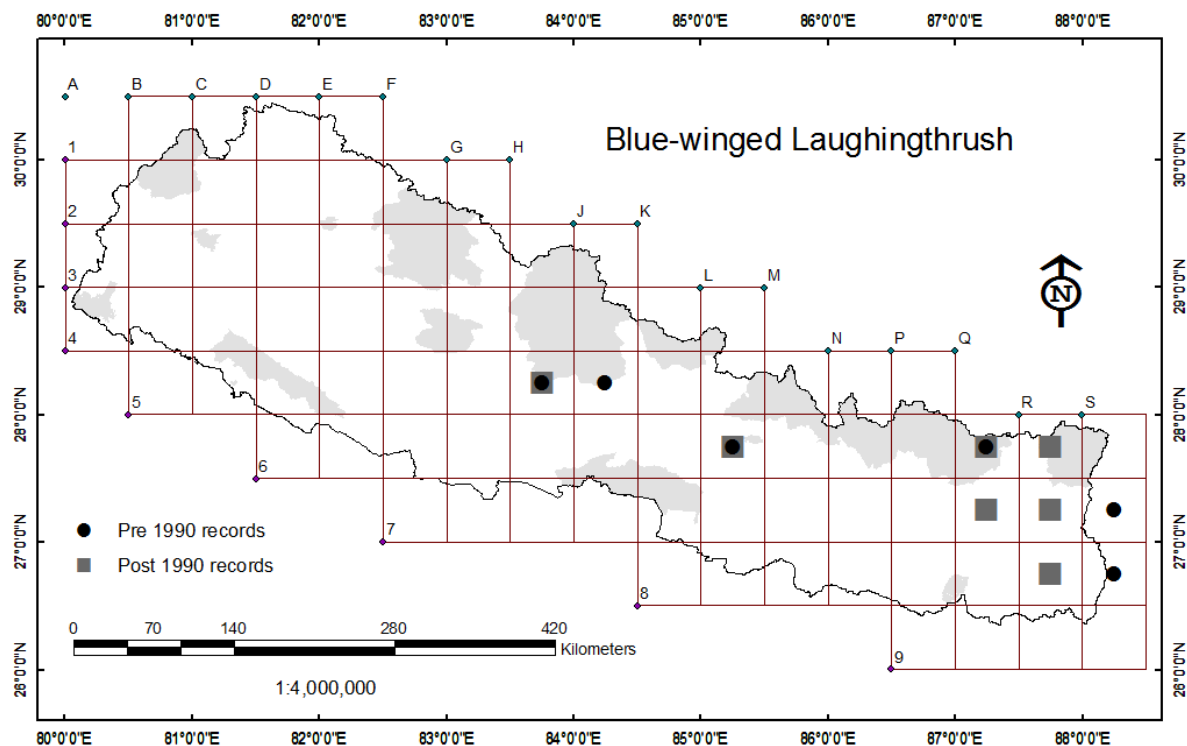
Common Name

Blue-winged Laughingthrush (English),
Nilopankhe Toriganda (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Blue-winged Laughingthrush is a local and very uncommon resident occurring from west-central Nepal eastwards. The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century when it was found breeding in the central region (Hodgson 1829, 1836; Hume and Oates 1890). It has been recorded from Karuwa, Annapurna Conservation Area (Post 1985) east to Hange Tham, upper Mai valley (Halliday 1985).

In west-central Nepal, the species was recorded south of Annapurna in 1977 (details of date and locality are unknown) (Thiollay 1980). There are two reports from the lower Marsyangdi Khola valley, Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA): one in November 1984 (Calladine 1985) and three in October 1986 (Bolding and Jorgensen 1987), but no later reports from the valley. One was recorded at Karuwa, ACA in April 1984 (Post 1985) the most westerly locality of the species' range. It was recorded in Pipar forests, ACA in May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006, Thakuri and Poudyal 2011), and in Santel forests, ACA in a previous World Pheasant Association survey (Mahato *et al.* 2006). Two were seen in the Kyumnu Khola valley on the Annapurna Base Camp trek, ACA in January 2010 (Wheatley 2010) and again in the same area in February 2011 (Wheatley 2011). Four were seen Pokhara, Kaski District in February 2011 (Hari KC) and recorded at KhaDe Bhanjyang (H5), Kaski District in October 2014 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, June 2015).

In central Nepal, Makwanpur District, one was reported 90 km north of Birganj in November 1978 (Bowden 1979) and two from Daman, Makawanpur District in April 2010 (Som GC).

A specimen was collected in in Thankot forest, Kathmandu Valley in March 1947 (Biswas 1962) and another on the south face of Shivapuri in what is now the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park where it was also proved breeding in June 1964 (Fleming and Traylor 1968). There are several reports from the Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area although considering the area is very well recorded, the number of records indicates the species must be very rare here and there are no known records from the last few years. Previous records include: two in May 1980 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1980), one in January 1994 (Lama 1994), three in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004), one in February 2003 (Lewis 2003) and two in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2008). The species was considered very rare and possibly resident in the Kathmandu Valley in 2004-2006 (Mallalieu 2008).

In the east, there have been several records from Makalu Barun National Park. Single specimens were collected at Kasuwa, upper Arun valley in July 1973 (Anon. 1983) and at Navagaon where a party was seen in December 1979 (Morioke and Takane 1981). It was also recorded north-west of Shyaksila in the Barun Valley in November 1984 (Nepali 1984). Three were seen in the Apsuwa Khola, a tributary of the Arun in November 1994 (Lama 1995) and five there in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994). One was recorded from Seduwa in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994), two between Navagaon and Tashigaon in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), two between Shunin Oral and Kongma in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), two at Saisima in October 2005 (Inskipp *et al.* 2005) and two in the national park buffer zone in June 2009 (Cox 2009). The species is listed as a scarce resident in the park by Cox (1999).

Also in east Nepal, two were recorded between Syaksila Gola and Hedangna, Sankhuwasabha District in December 1992 (Cox 1992).

There is one record from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area: five in the Amji Khola valley in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Two were recorded between Kholabari, Muwa Khola, and Yektim, Panchtar District in November 1992 (Cox 1992). Stevens (1912) saw Blue-winged Laughingthrush at Kalopokhari, Ilam District in May 1912. A total of 15 birds was seen at Hange Tham, upper Mai valley Ilam District in January 1985 (Calladine 1985) and there is a recent report of two at Memen in March 2008 from the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2700 m; lower limit: 1220 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Blue-winged Laughingthrush. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its declining habitat indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 200 m; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Blue-winged Laughingthrush inhabits dense undergrowth of humid broadleaved evergreen forests and bamboo thickets (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) in the subtropical and temperate zone (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is very skulking, often keeping out of sight in the undergrowth or feeding on the ground under thick cover, although it can be detected by its distinctive song and calls (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects, berries and seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Blue-winged Laughingthrush is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest with bamboo. These habitats are now fragmented and of limited extent in Nepal, especially in the subtropical zone (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Blue-winged Laughingthrush. Recently it has been recorded in Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Makalu Barun National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blue-winged Laughingthrush has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local and very uncommon resident with a fragmented distribution from west-central Nepal eastwards. The species appears to occur quite widely in Makalu Barun National Park and there are also recent records from the Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas. There are no known records in the last few years from the Kathmandu Valley hills where it was formerly recorded. The species is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest with bamboo. These habitats are now fragmented and of limited extent in Nepal, especially in the subtropical zone.

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Garrulax subunicolor (Blyth, 1843) NT

Subspecies: *Garrulax subunicolor subunicolor*

Common Name

Scaly Laughingthrush (English),

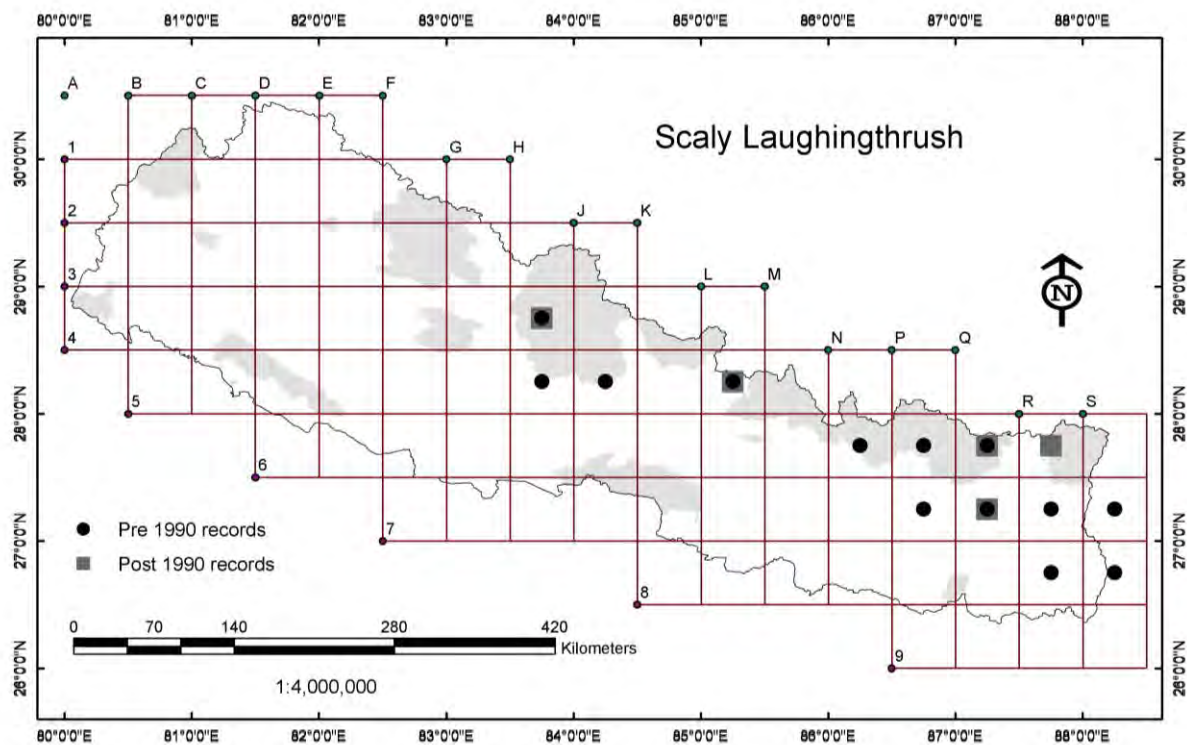
Katle Toriganda (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Timaliidae



Distribution



Scaly Laughingthrush is a local and uncommon resident. It occurs from west-central areas eastwards; north of Ghasa, Annapurna Conservation Area is the western limit of the species's range (Cox 1984, Fouarge 1993).

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century from a Hodgson specimen (Blyth 1843, Warren and Harrison 1971).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) stated that Scaly Laughingthrush was fairly common, especially in the east. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it as local and probably resident mostly in the east, including the Arun and Mai Valleys, where it was fairly common, and also frequent in the Annapurna Conservation Area.

The overall distribution of the species post-1990 has reduced compared to pre-1990 (see map).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is an uncommon resident in the Annapurna Conservation Area (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003). Karki and Thapa (2001) described it as a rare resident in Langtang National Park, but post-1990 records indicate that 'uncommon' is a better status assessment (e.g. Toohig 1995, Chaudhary 1999, 2007, Halberg 2002). The species is a locally fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999), and has been recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Halberg 1994 in Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Almost all known post-1990 records have come from protected areas.

Known post-1990 records from outside the protected areas' system are from: Dolakha District in 1993 (Poulsen 1993); Puiyan, Solukhumbu District in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012), and the upper Mai valley, Ilam District. The species was described as a fairly common resident in the Mai valley by Inskipp (1989), but there are only two known post-1990 records: in November 1992 (Cox 1992) and ten birds in 1997 (Hathan Chaudhary, Badri Chaudhary).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Myanmar, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species' range (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3450 m; lower limit: 1500 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Scaly Laughingthrush. A total of 17 birds seen at Lama Hotel, Langtang National Park in April 2012 (Som GC) and ten birds in the upper Mai Valley, Ilam District (Hathan Chaudhary, Badri Chaudhary), are the largest population record. As the distribution of the species has reduced, this indicates that the population has probably.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 200 m; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Scaly Laughingthrush inhabits thick undergrowth in moist broadleaved forest, and rhododendron shrubberies (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is a bold species (Fleming *et al.* 1976) and commonly found in pairs and sometimes flocks of up to 20 birds depending on the season (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

It chiefly feeds on insects, snails, centipedes, berries and green vegetable matter (Ali and Ripley 1987).

The breeding period is between April and June (Ali and Ripley 1987). Usually 2 to 3 eggs are laid (Ali and Ripley 1987, de Hoyo *et al.* 2007).

Threats

Scaly Laughingthrush is threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest. As it has a wide altitudinal range from the subtropical to subalpine zones, it may be less threatened than lower altitude laughingthrushes.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Scaly Laughingthrush. Almost all post-1990 records are from protected areas. It has been recorded in Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks, and in Annapurna Conservation Area, also marginally in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Scaly Laughingthrush has been assessed as Near-threatened. The species is a local and uncommon resident occurring from west-central areas eastwards. Its overall distribution has reduced post-1990 compared to pre-1990 and almost all known post-1990 records are from protected areas. It has only been recorded in four protected areas and only marginally in one of these. There are only two known post-1990 records from the Mai valley (unprotected) where it was fairly common pre-1990, indicating a decline in population. This species is threatened by loss and degradation of moist broadleaved forest and the loss of dense undergrowth. However, as it has a wide altitudinal range from the subtropical to subalpine zones it may be less threatened than some lower altitude-dwelling laughingthrushes. The species' overall reduction in distribution and threats to its habitat indicate that its population has probably declined as a result.

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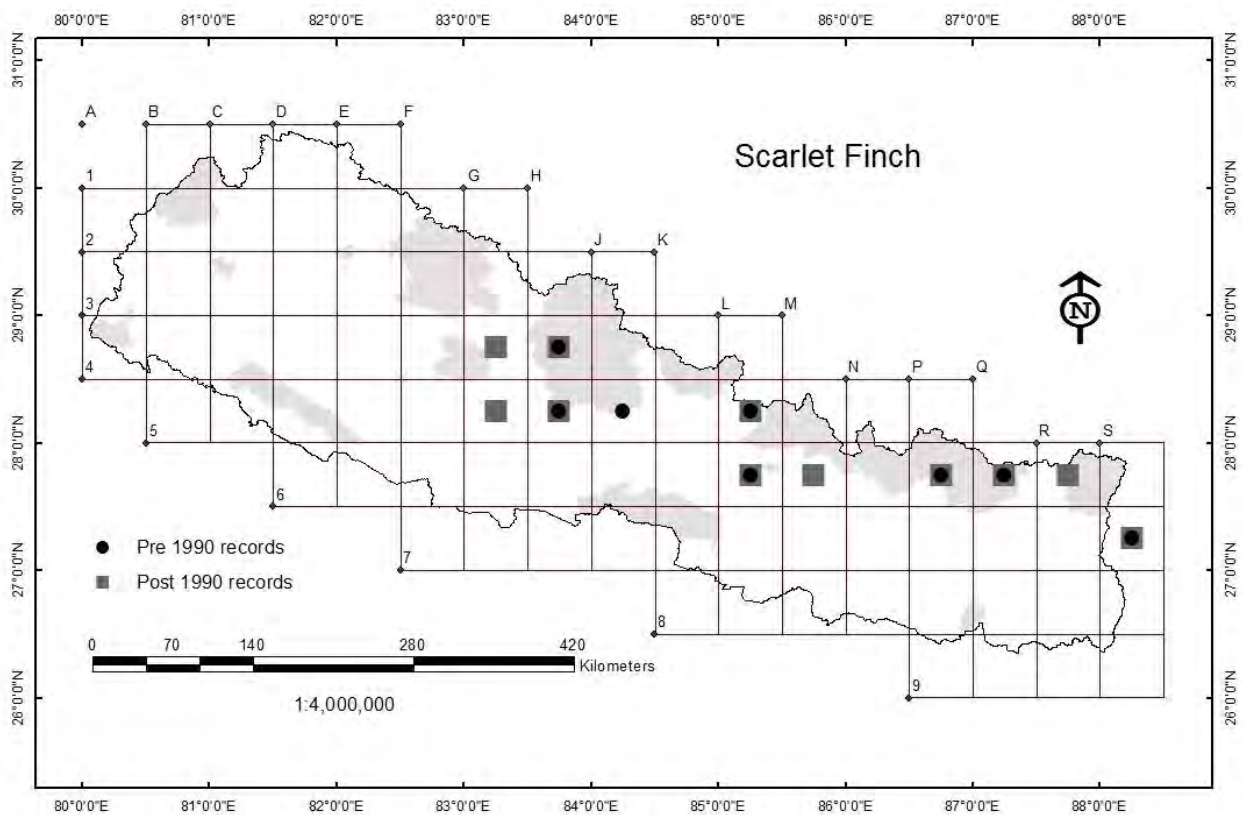
Haematospiza sipahi (Hodgson, 1836) NT

Common Name
Scarlet Finch (English),
Sipahi Titu (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Fringillidae



Distribution



Scarlet Finch is an uncommon and local resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Myagdi District (Cox 1999b, Thakuri 2011, 2013) in the west to Ilam District (Cox 1992) in the far east.

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century by B. H. Hodgson (Hodgson 1836).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was uncommon and locally distributed, presumably resident.

Since 1990 the species' recorded distribution has been extended a little to the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise its distribution has reduced a small extent, see map and text below.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013); an uncommon resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) including five at Ghorepani in December 2014 (Clyde O'Donnell). SNP and BCN (2007) reported it was a rare winter visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri National Park, but no other post-1990 records could be located for the

national park. Karki and Thapa (2001) listed it as a frequent resident in Langtang National Park (L5), but post-1990 records indicate it is an uncommon resident there. It is an uncommon and local resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a), and very uncommon, possibly resident in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6): seen at Gyabla in May 1994 (White and White 1999 in Inskipp *et al.* 2008) and on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda in May 1994 (Halberg 1994 in Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The species has been recorded in Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone: eight birds at Benkar (P6) in June 1996 (Giri and Choudhary 1996); also in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6) in May 2009 (Cox 2009) and in 2009 (Yadav Ghimirey).

Since 1990 Scarlet Finch has been recorded less frequently outside protected areas compared to within protected areas, see map and text below.

In the west records include from: between Dimlatti and Bagara, Myagdi Khola (G4), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b) and in Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013).

In central Nepal it was regularly seen in the Kathmandu Valley in the early 1990s when there were up to eight birds in winter (Hem Sagar Baral) and the species was also recorded in 2002 (Hathan Choudhary); but there were no known records from the Valley between 2004 and 2006 (Mallalieu 2008) and no other post-1990 records from the Valley could be located. Other records include: from Chitlang forest (L6), Chandrigiri Range, Makwanpur District in 1991/1992 (Manandhar *et al.* 1992) and two near Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004).

In the east records include from: Surkey and Lawishasha, Solukhumbu District (P6) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013) and above Targaun towards Romiyang (S7), Ilam District in November 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2560 m (- 3100 m); lower limit: 1220 m (- 520 m)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Scarlet Finch. However, there are no known records from the Kathmandu Valley since 2002, where it was regularly recorded up to the early 1990s. Its population has probably also declined elsewhere as a result of loss and degradation of broadleaved forests.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Scarlet Finch inhabits ravines in heavy forest and edges of forest clearings (Fleming *et al.* 1976); broadleaved forest, especially near streams (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It perches conspicuously on ends of branches or in tree tops. The species feeds close to the ground and keeps in pairs or small groups. It returns to the same winter feeding grounds in successive years (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds on seeds, berries, flower buds and other vegetable matter, and some insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is subject to altitudinal movements, but these are unclear (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Scarlet Finch is threatened by forest loss and degradation, especially in the subtropical zone.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Scarlet Finch. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (Nt) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Scarlet Finch has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is an uncommon and local resident recorded from the mid-west to the far east. Since 1990 the species' recorded distribution has been extended a little to the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise its distribution has reduced a small extent. Since 2002 there have been no known records from the Kathmandu Valley, where it was regularly recorded up to the early 1990s. The species has been recorded from several protected areas since 1990, but is less widely recorded outside protected areas. Scarlet Finch is threatened by forest loss and degradation, especially in the subtropical zone. As a result, the population has probably declined.

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Lonchura malabarica (Linnaeus, 1758) NT

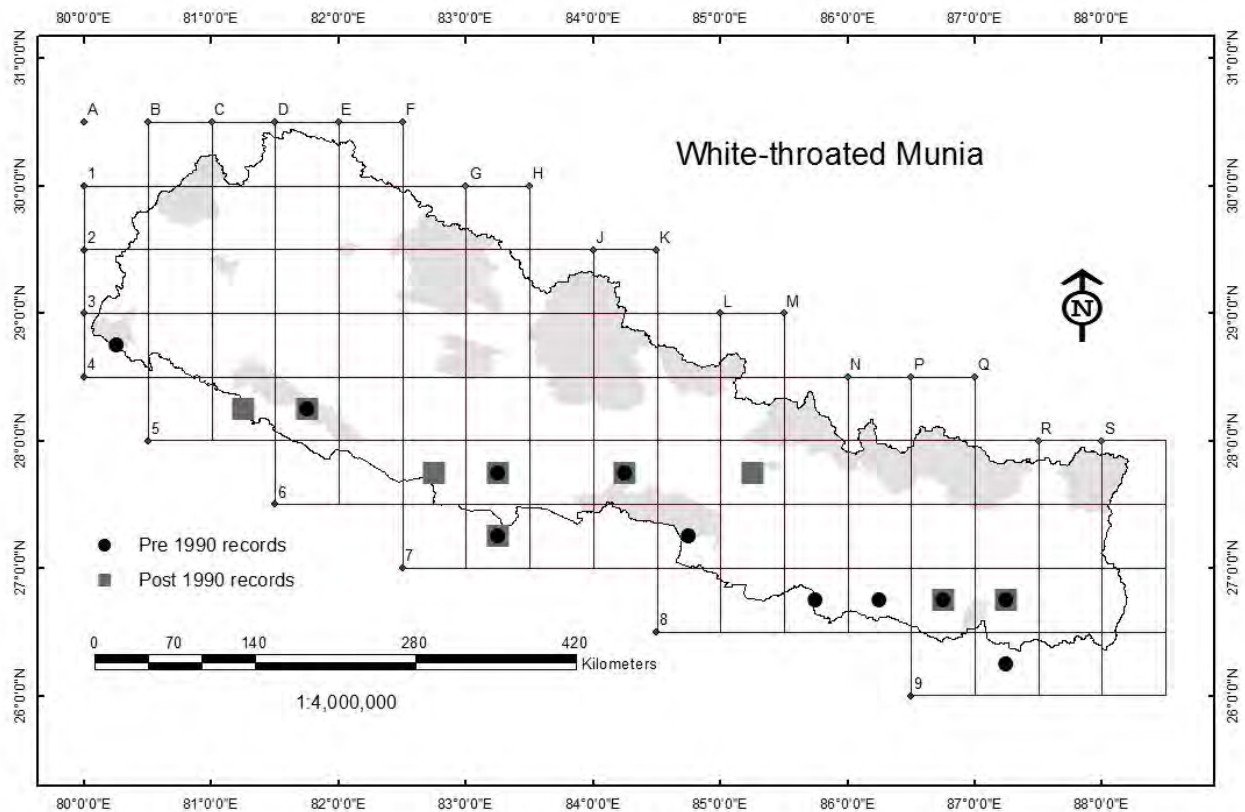
Common Name

White-throated Munia (English),
Chandithunde Munia (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Estrildidae



Distribution



White-throated Munia is a local resident; frequent at Koshi and rare elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the Blackbuck Conservation Area, Khairapur (Giri and Choudhary 2003) in the west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was from Raghunathpur (N8) in December 1953 (Rand and Fleming 1957).

Since 1990 the distribution of White-throated Munia has reduced a little, see map and text below.

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was an uncommon resident, with several records from Koshi and Nepalgunj, and mainly single records from elsewhere.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a pair recorded by the Blackbuck Conservation Area, Khairapur (C5), Bardia District in May 2003 (Giri and Choudhary 2003); a rare resident in Chitwan National Park (J6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and a frequent resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005a).

White-throated Munia is rare outside the protected areas' system, except in the Koshi area, see map and text below.

In the west records include: from Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992) and in 2015 (Ashik Gurung); Khadara Phanta (F6), Kapilvastu District in January 2011 (Acharya 2011, Cox 2008); near Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District in August 2007 (Baral 2007), and Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994a, Lama 1993) and January 2011 (Acharya 2011).

In the Kathmandu Valley two recorded in August 1994 (Lama 1994) and six in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004) were probably escaped caged birds.

In the east records include: from Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District e.g. in September 1992 (Baral 1993) and February 2005 (Baral 2005b) and Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in October 2000 (Chaudhary 2000) and February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, USA, Virgin Islands (to USA) (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for White-throated Munia. As its distribution has decreased a little and its frequency of occurrence has reduced its population has probably declined.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

White-throated Munia prefers drier habitats than other estrildine finches in Nepal (Grimmett *et al.* 1998): dry cultivation, dry grassland and thorn scrub (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); also dry open country (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Its behaviour is typical of other estrildine finches. When not breeding, it roosts communally in old nests, usually their own or of weavers. It keeps in flocks or small parties according to the season (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). A pair was observed using an abandoned nest of Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* for breeding in Koshi Camp, Sunsari District (GC *et al.* 2000). The species feeds on seeds of grasses such as *Pennisetum*, sorghum, *Saccharum*, sedges etc.; also ants, beetles and other small insects, and occasionally flower nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved at Nepalgunj airport, Banke District in 2015 (Ashik Gurung).

Threats

White-throated Munia may be at risk from habitat loss and possibly also by hunting and trapping. Four were seen in the caged bird trade in Kathmandu in June 1993 (Baral 1994a) and four in August 1994 (Baral 1994b).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for White-throated Munia. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. However it survives best in habitats outside protected areas: scrubs, lightly wooded forests and farmlands.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-throated Munia has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local resident; frequent at Koshi and rare elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from two protected areas and is rare outside the protected areas' system except in the Koshi area. However, it survives best in habitats outside protected areas: scrub, lightly wooded forests and farmlands. The species may be at risk from habitat loss and possibly also by hunting and trapping. Its population has probably declined.

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<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/24863#page/8/mode/1up>

***Muscicapa ferruginea* (Hodgson, 1845) NT**

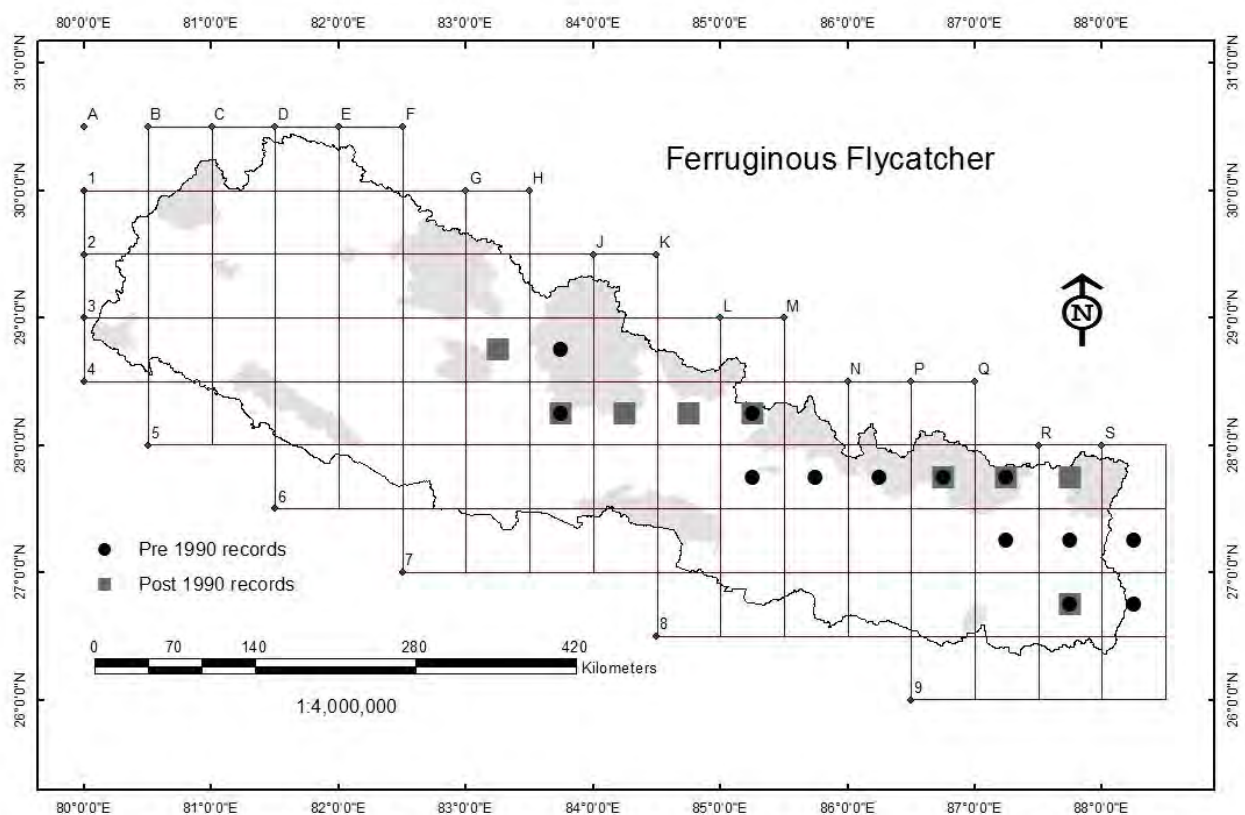
Common Name

Ferruginous Flycatcher (English),
Kailo Arjunak (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Muscicapidae



Distribution



Ferruginous Flycatcher is a very uncommon summer visitor. Post-1990 it has been recorded from the Myagdi Khola valley, Myagdi District (Cox 1999a) in the west (an extension of the western limit of the species' range) to Ilam, Ilam District (Flack 1993) in the far east.

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1845, Warren and Harrison 1971).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was a fairly common summer visitor in the east; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was scarce, probably only a summer visitor and mapped it occurring from west-central Nepal to the far east.

Post 1990 the species' status in protected areas is: listed as a rare summer visitor to the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) (J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) but only one post-1990 record could be located – in April 2005 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2005). Pre-1990 it was recorded more frequently in ACA e.g. van den Berg and Bosman (1976), Blanchon and Dubois (1987) and Rice (1978). It is listed as an uncommon summer

visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007), but no other post-1990 records could be located. The species is listed as uncommon, possibly a summer visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (Basnet 2004), but the only record that could be found is Giri (2002). It is recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (Shah 1998); is a rare summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001; a very uncommon visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (Choudhary 1995, Cox 1999b, Halberg 1991), and a very uncommon summer visitor to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Carpenter *et al.* 1995, Halberg 1994, Inskipp *et al.* 2008, White in White 1992, 1994, 1997 in Inskipp *et al.* 2008). The species has also been recorded from Makalu Barun National buffer zone in the Apsuwa Khola valley (Q6), one in May 2009 (Cox 2009) and from Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone at Phakding (P6), one in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004).

There are few post-1990 records of the species outside the protected areas' system. Its distribution outside the protected areas' system post-1990 has also reduced significantly compared to pre-1990, especially in the east, which was formerly a stronghold of the species.

In the west known records are: from near Pinde Odar, between Pinde Odar and Oraal, and near Dobhang and between Dobhang and Bajhanse Karka, Myagdi Khola valley (G4), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999a), and one by Phewa Tal, Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District in March 1999 (Chartier and Chartier 1999), and two near Australian Camp, near Dhampus, Kaski District in November 2014 (Hari KC),

The only known post-1990 record from central Nepal is one seen in the Kathmandu Valley in May 1992 (Murphy 1992). Mallalieu (2008) reported there were no records of the species from the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006.

The only known post-1990 records from the east are one recorded at Ilam (R8), Ilam District in April and May 1993 (Flack 1993) and a pair photographed near Hange Tham, Ilam District in April 2015 (Badri Chaudhary, Suchit Basnet). Previously the species had been more widespread in the east with records from the Arun valley (Krabbe 1981); upper Mai valley (Mills *et al.* 1982) and Hans Pokhari Danda, Ilam District (DeLuce and Goodyear 1990, Guinan and Dodman 1989).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013). Nepal is the western limit of the species's range.

Elevation

Upper limit: 3300 m; lower limit: 2000 m (- 915 probably on passage)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Ferruginous Flycatcher. Its population is probably declining, especially in the east, as a result of loss and degradation of its forest habitat.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 3000; maximum population: 5000

Habitat and Ecology

Ferruginous Flycatcher inhabits humid, broadleaved forests, especially of oak (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); ravines in damp, dense oak/chestnut forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species is very quiet and unobtrusive. It hawks insects from a branch in similar fashion to other brown flycatcher (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects, chiefly midges and mosquitoes (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Ferruginous Flycatcher is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat and use of pesticides in cardamom plantations.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been specifically carried out for Ferruginous Flycatcher. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Ferruginous Flycatcher has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a very uncommon summer visitor recorded post-1990 from west-central Nepal to the far east. The species has been recorded in a few protected areas, but has declined in one of these, the Annapurna Conservation Area. Its distribution outside the protected areas' system post-1990 has also reduced significantly compared to pre-1990, especially in the east, which was formerly a stronghold of the species. It is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat and its population is probably declining.

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***Mycerobas melanozanthos* (Hodgson, 1836) NT**

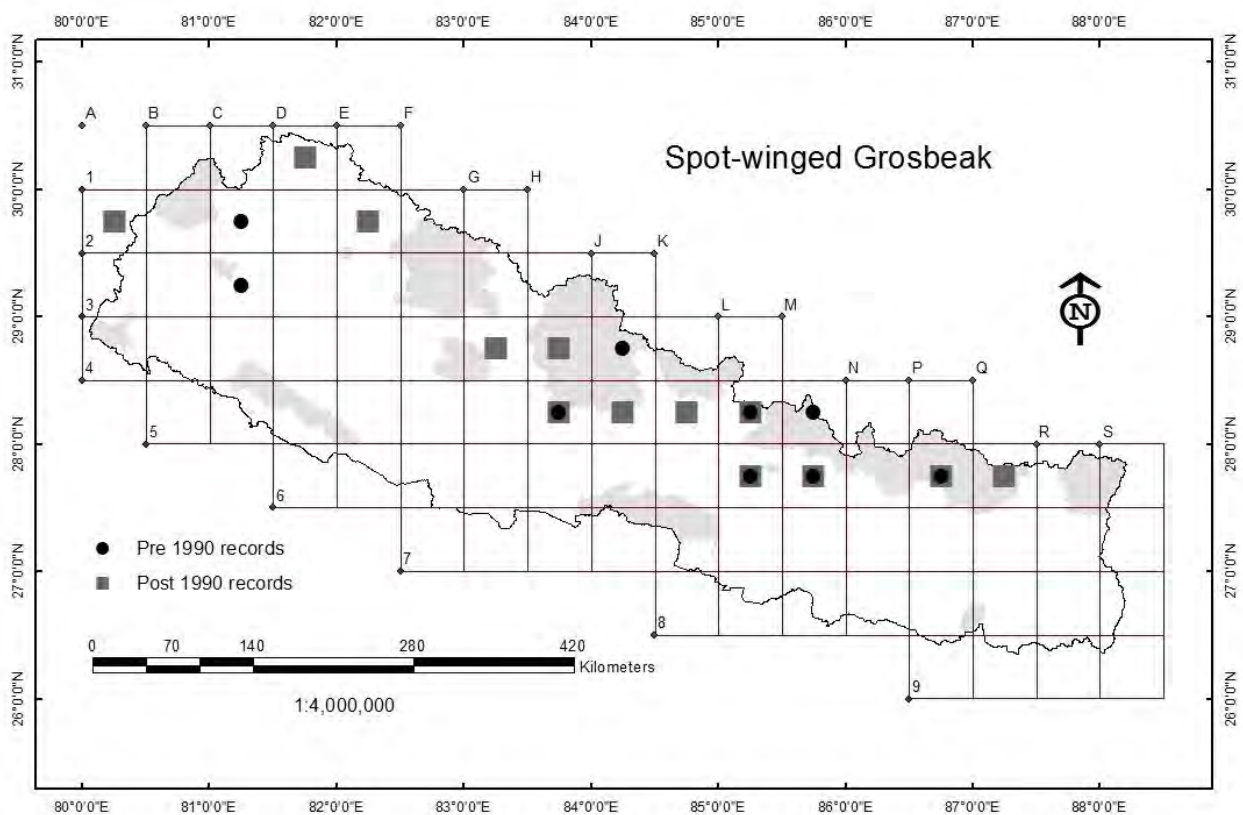
Common Name

Spot-winged Grosbeak (English),
Pankthople Mahathund (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Fringillidae



Distribution



Spot-winged Grosbeak is probably resident, frequent in Langtang National Park and rare elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded widely but sparsely from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to Makalu Barun National Park (C. Carpenter *in litt.* in Cox 1999).

The species was described from Nepal by B. H. Hodgson in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836, Warren and Harrison 1971).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was presumably resident; a regular winter visitor to Phulchoki, Kathmandu Valley; several records from north-west of Pokhara, Kaski District in winter and in Langtang National Park in spring, and single records from elsewhere. 1 in January 1976 at Dadeldhura district (Karan Shah)

Since 1990 the recorded distribution has increased, but this is probably because of better coverage. Apart from its apparent disappearance from its wintering site in Phulchoki Mountain Area since the 1990s (see below), its

pattern of occurrence is unchanged.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: one recorded in the Mahakali River watershed (A2) in December 2011, Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); one record from Rara National Park (E2): three to six birds in April 2009 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009); one record from Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (G4) (Subedi 2003); rare, possibly resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003): recorded in Modi Khola valley in spring 2000 (Suwal 2000); recorded between Santel and Dhije and Dhije and Khuine in April and May 2001 (Baral *et al.* 2001), one at Jagat (J5) in November 2003 (Nelson and Ellis 2003), four at Ghasa (H4) in March 2005 (Ameels 2005) and De Win (2007) and five in Ghandruk in Feb. 2012 (Hari KC). There is one record from Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Shah 1998). Karki and Thapa (2001) listed it as uncommon, possibly resident in Langtang National Park (L5), but it was frequently seen between 2013-15 (Tek Bahadur Gurung, Kapil Pokhrel, Basu Bidari, Hathan Chaudhary, Suchit Basnet). SNP and BCN (2007) reported it was a frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but no other post-1990 records could be located for the national park. There is one record from Sagarmatha National Park (P6): one at Dole in May 2002 (Halberg 2002) and one record from Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) in August 1999 (C. Carpenter *in litt.* Cox 1999). It has been recorded from Langtang National Park buffer zone at Dhunche where three seen in February 2013 (Naresh Kusi).

Since 1990 there have been records from outside protected areas in scattered localities, see map and text below.

In the west records include from: between Simikot and Chyakpalung (D1), Humla District in May-June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013) and from the Pokhara valley, Kaski District (H5) (Anon 2012).

In central Nepal it was seen in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley regularly in winter in the 1990s, but there were no known records for Phulchoki or anywhere else in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006 (Mallalieu 2008). The only later known record is one bird seen on Phulchoki in November 2007 (Hathan Choudhary in Mallalieu 2008). A few other species that used to occur regularly on Phulchoki up to the 1990s are no longer recorded there, e.g. Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi* and Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*. The only other known post-1990 record from central Nepal is two at Nagarkot (M6), Bhaktapur District in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4000 m (summer) 2135 m (winter); lower limit: 1400 m; (- 1220 m) (winter)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Spot-winged Grosbeak. As it is threatened by loss of forests in its wintering range and is known to have disappeared from one regularly known wintering site, its population has probably declined.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Spot-winged Grosbeak breeds in mixed broadleaved/coniferous forest, winters in broadleaved forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), and inhabits fir/hemlock/maple forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It keeps in pairs in spring and close flocks in winter. When perched it sits quietly and is easily overlooked (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds in trees, bushes and on the ground. The flight is strong and undulating (Grimmett *et al.* (1998). It feeds on kernels of wild cherry *Prunus*, *Myrica* etc. and berries of *Viburnum* (Ali and Ripley 1987). Its altitudinal movements are

poorly known.

Threats

Spot-winged Grosbeak is threatened by the loss of lower temperate and subtropical broadleaved forests where it winters. Loss of subalpine and temperate forests in its breeding range would also threaten the species but these are not considered significantly at risk. Threats are uncertain as plenty of suitable habitat. More survey work is needed on this species.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out for Spot-winged Grosbeak. Since 1990 it has been recorded rarely in Langtang National Park and Annapurna Conservation Area, and marginally in Rara, Sagarmatha and Makalu Barun National Parks, Manaslu and Api Nampa Conservation Areas, and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Spot-winged Grosbeak has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is probably resident, frequent in Langtang National Park and rare elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded widely, but sparsely from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 its recorded distribution has increased, but this is probably a result of better coverage. It has been recorded from several protected areas and from scattered localities outside protected areas. Up to the 1990s it was recorded regularly in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, but there are virtually no later records. Its pattern of occurrence elsewhere is unchanged. Spot-winged Grosbeak is threatened by the loss of lower temperate and subtropical broadleaved forests where it winters.

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Niltava grandis (Blyth, 1842) NT

Subspecies: *Niltava grandis grandis*

Common Name

Large Niltava (English),

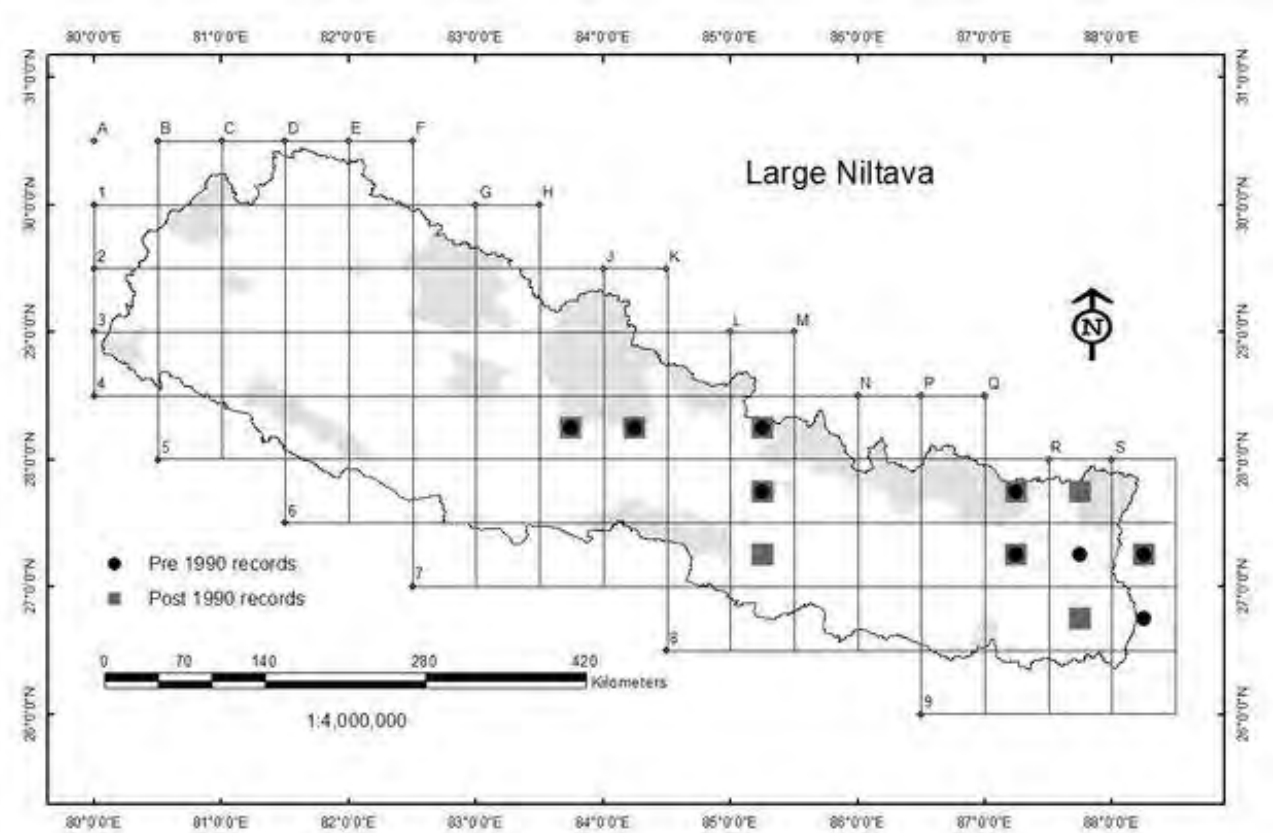
Thulo Niltava (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Muscicapidae



Distribution



Large Niltava is a locally distributed and rare resident. Post-1990 it has been recorded from the Annapurna Conservation Area (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) in west-central Nepal east to Ilam District (Baral 2010) in the far east. Pipar (Thakuri and Poudyal 2011) and Santel (Baral *et al.* 2001) forests, upper Seti Khola in ACA are the most westerly known records of the species, post-1990.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was fairly common. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it locally distributed, uncommon in the upper Mai valley and in Annapurna Conservation Area and on Phulchoki in winter, with only single records known from elsewhere.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a rare resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) including from Chichimle Kharka, Seti River valley in August 2014 (Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar)' rare resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001). One was recorded on the

Chitre Danda, Sankhuwa Khola valley (Q6), Makalu Barun National Park in June 2009 (Cox 2009) and one between Sekathum and Amjilessa, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008, Inskipp and Inskipp 2009). It was also recorded as a rare resident in Bardia National Park (Tamang undated in Inskipp 2001) and on Shivapuri in Shivapuri National Park (SNP and BCN 2007 based on Inskipp 1989), but no post-1990 records could be located from either national park.

The species was uncommon in the upper Mai Valley (R7, S7) pre-1990, but has not been recorded there subsequently. Otherwise the species' distribution has not changed significantly post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

In the west singles were recorded from Telbrung Danda (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000) and near the Tiger Mountain Compound, Pokhara, Kaski District in December in 2013 and 2014 (Hari Bhandari).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a rare resident in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006: a male was seen on Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in May 2006 (Som GC) and was tape-recorded singing at the same location in June 2006 (Orin Pearson) when a female was also present (Mark Mallieu, Som GC). One was also seen on Phulchoki in May 1995 (Lama 1995 – ref. 1466), March 2002 (Malling Olsen 2004), January 2003 (Giri 2003) and singing on the top in June 2014 (Arend van Riessen). The species was recorded on the Siraichuli trek, Chitwan District in March 2014 (BES); in Daman, Makawanpur District in March 2009 (BES) and along the North South Fast Track Road (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east the species was noted as frequent in all suitable habitat between Bhotebas (Q7) and Num (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1996 (White and White 1996). One was recorded at Ilam (R8), Ilam District in January 2008 (Baral 2010), and two near Hangetham, Ilam District in March 2015 Tek Bahadur Gurung, Hung Do) and one there in April 2015 (Suchit Basnet and Badri Chaudhary)).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2850 m; lower limit: 1525 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Ferruginous Flycatcher. Its population is probably declining, especially in the east, as a result of loss and degradation of its forest habitat.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Large Niltava inhabits moist oak-chestnut forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976); dense, moist broadleaved forests, especially near streams (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is less active than most other flycatchers, often sitting on one perch for long periods, so, easily overlooked occasionally flicking wings and tail. The species usually frequents the middle storey of forests (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It eats insects and berries (Ali and Ripley 1987). Large Niltava is probably subject to seasonal movements (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Large Niltava is threatened by forest losses and deterioration.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Large Niltava. Post-1990 it has been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Large Niltava has been assessed as Near-threatened. The species is a locally distributed and rare resident, occurring from west-central areas to the far east. Post-1990 it has been recorded in three protected areas and very locally outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range. The species has declined, especially outside protected areas, probably as a result of losses and deterioration of its forest habitat.

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Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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Ploceus philippinus (Linnaeus, 1766) NT
Subspecies: *Ploceus philippinus philippinus*, *burmanicus*

Common Name

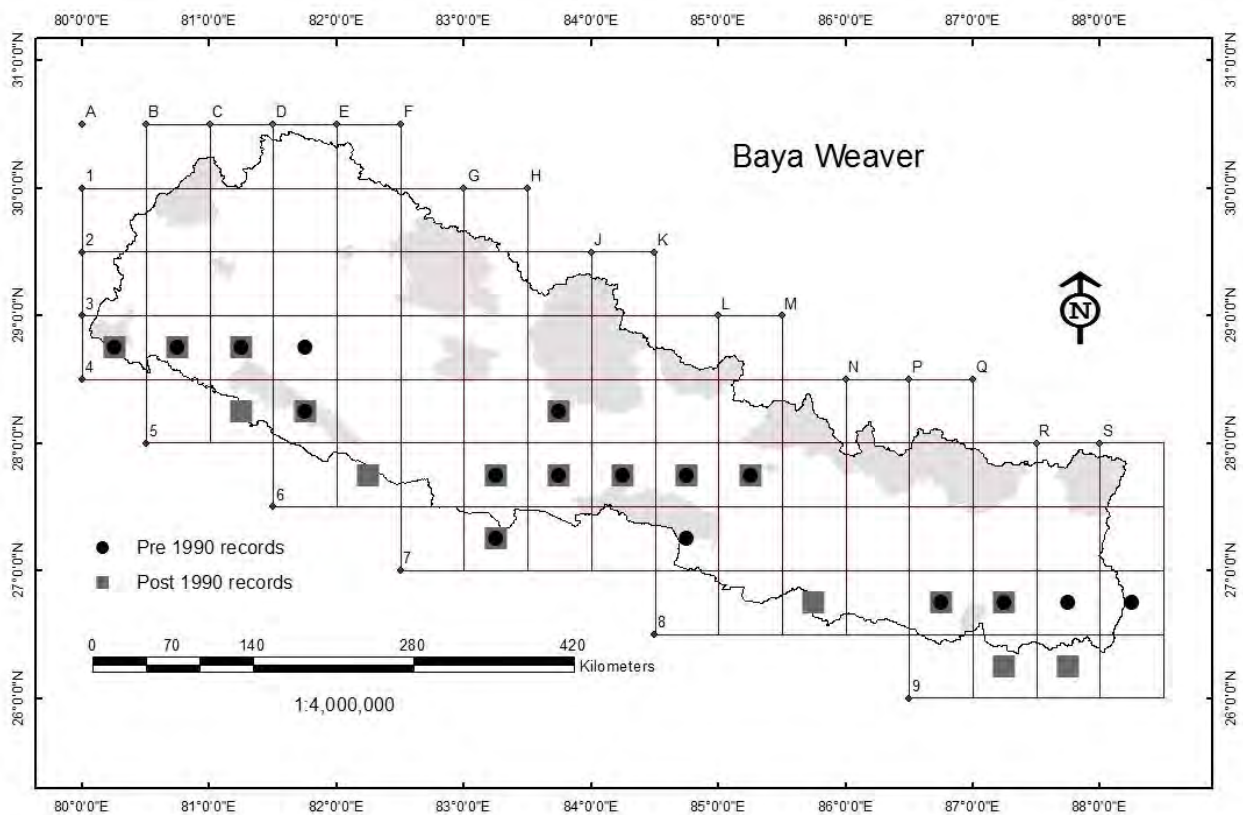
Baya Weaver(English),
Baya Topchara (Nepali)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Ploceidae



Distribution



Baya Weaver is a locally common resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the lower Mai valley, Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, 2007) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844, Warren and Harrison 1971).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) mapped it widely from the far west to the far east.

Since 1990 Baya Weaver has been more widely recorded in the west probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990, see map and text below.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral

and Inskipp 2009); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (Baral *et al.* 2012), and a rare summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003). It is listed as a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but has declined (RDB Workshop, October 2015). It is fairly common in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata forest corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudari 2007) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Tharu Cultural Jungle Resort (H6), Nawalparasi District in December 2011 (Baral 2011a); Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005); Barandabhar (Ghimire 2009), and Sauraha, Chitwan District e.g. Inskipp and Inskipp (2012).

Baya Weaver has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range (see map and text below).

In the west records include from: Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); lower Karnali basin (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Dang Deukhuri foothill forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Gaidahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Baral 2011b); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District e.g. Baral (1994) and Suwal *et al.* (2002), and Pokhara (H5), Kaski District e.g. in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004) and February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a locally common resident in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006 (Mallalieu 2008). However, in 2015 it was reported to be declining in the Valley (RDB Workshop, October 2015).

In the east records include from: by the Kamala River (M8), Sarlahi District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District e.g. in September 1992 (Baral 1993) and January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in October 2000 (Chaudhary 2000) and in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010a); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Giri 2008); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Subba 1994), and in the lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Baya Weaver. The large number of 800 was seen in Chitwan National Park in October 2010 (Baral 2010b). Flocks of up to 230 were seen near the Bagmati River below Chobar where it was present throughout the year. The species was also recorded in the Bagmati River Nature Park and up to 50 birds were observed roosting in trees near the Soaltee hotel in April 2005 (Mallalieu 2008). The species is declining in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone, the Kathmandu Valley and in the east and nesting colonies have been seen less often in recent years compared to the past (RDB Workshop, October 2015).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Baya Weaver inhabits open country with scattered bushes and tall trees; near water in the foothills and lowlands (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is highly gregarious throughout the year. The species forages by hopping on the ground seeking fallen seeds, and by picking seeds from the tops of upright grass stems. It roosts

communally all year and although it may wander locally in winter, it often returns to traditional roosts. Males build a retort-shaped nest with a long vertical entrance tube (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on grass and weed seeds and cereal grains (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved in the Kathmandu Valley in August 2005, eight active nests were found in a garden on the north side of Kathmandu (Mallalieu 2008); also by Heath (1986), Proud (1949), Scully (1877) and Thiede and Thiede (1974). Breeding was proved also near Taulihawa, Kapilvastu District (Cox 1982), north-west of Pokhara (Lelliott 1981), and Lumbini, Chitwan, Koshi Tappu (Hem Sagar Baral pers. obs.) . The species is subject to seasonal movements (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Baya Weaver is threatened by the intensification of agriculture resulting in removal of bushes and trees and possibly by the use of pesticides (Inskipp and Baral 2011). It may also be threatened by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Baya Weaver. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks, Annapurna Conservation Area and Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Baya Weaver has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a fairly common and locally common resident recorded from the far west to the far east since 1990. The species has been recorded from a number of protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. It is threatened by the intensification of agriculture resulting in removal of bushes and trees and possibly by the use of pesticides. It may also be threatened by hunting and trapping. The species is declining in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone, the Kathmandu Valley and in the east and nesting colonies have been seen less often in recent years compared to the past.

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(२) माऊलार हे भौरा
(३) बुहि सो नअगमेरुमाहे हनेरा