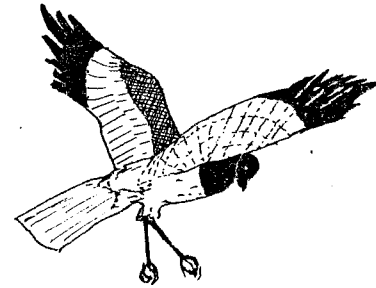


ADP

WLB

BIRD WATCHING IN NEPAL



7th December 1980 - 19th February 1981

Adrian del-Nevo Peter Ewins

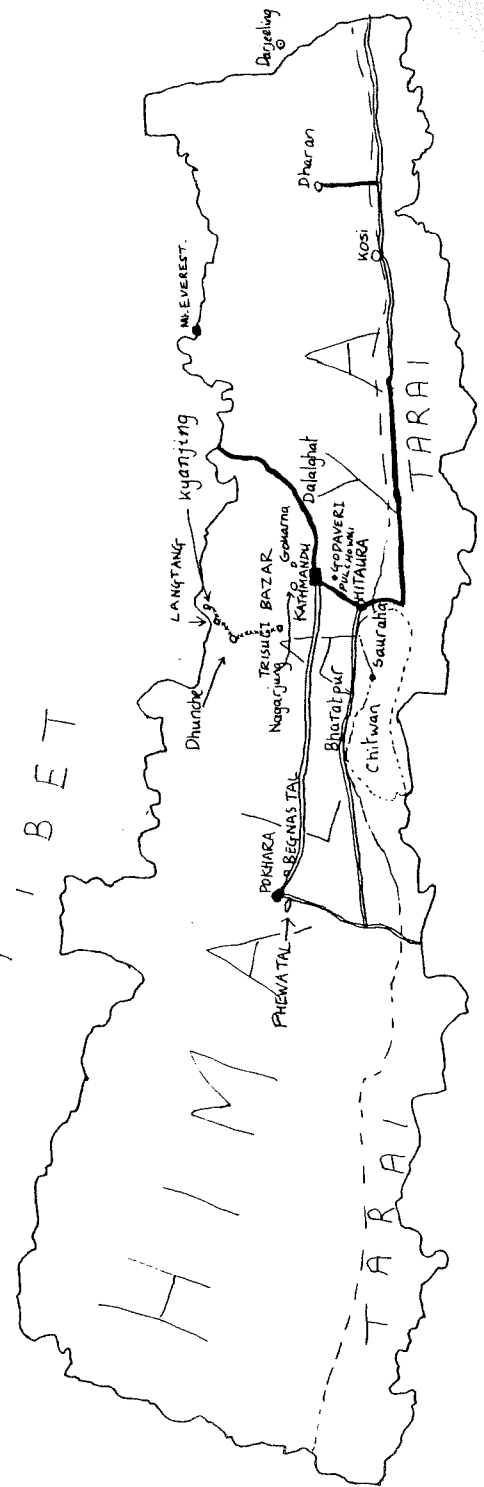
NEPAL

TIBET

HIMALAYA

TARAI

INDIA



Asphalted major way
 Unmetalled Road

Scale: approx.
 0 50 80 100 160
 km miles

Map 1.

"The mountains will retain their beauty without the animals, but when the last brown bear has disappeared from the alpine meadows and the last snow leopard from the crag, a spark of life will have gone too, turning the peaks into stones of silence."

George Schaller.

Why Nepal?

Nepal is a country of great altitudinal contrasts, from the southern plains to the Northern Himalaya. Within this physical environment is a rich and varied flora and fauna. In addition to which are a people whose culture is as colourful, intriguing and exciting as their surroundings. Nepal is host to over 800 species of birds, and so, for this alone it was an exciting place to go.

This report is intended to help other birders visiting Nepal, and we have given some advice on day to day necessities etc. We hope that this may prove useful whilst in Nepal and would certainly like to hear from you after your visit.

Two and a half months, from early December 1980 until mid February 1981 were spent in the country. We experienced most of the habitat types although we never seemed to have enough time in each area; in Nepal time seems to go so quickly. Whilst the period of our visit was very productive, we recommend going slightly later, so that more breeding birds can be seen and the weather is slightly warmer, especially at altitude. Thus an ideal time would be from early January until mid April. We've been told that Sept.-Oct. is good also.

Weather.

December and January can be very cold at night and may not warm up until mid morning. Kathmandu valley was invariably enveloped in mist, and warm clothes are a must during this period. Mid-afternoon temperatures are pleasant, but still keep that jumper handy. With increased altitude, (especially above 10,000ft.) temperatures are very much lower at night and heavy frosts are regular, with snow above 13,000ft., however mountain air is crystal clear at this time of year and it soon warms up and ensures fantastic views across the himalayyas. However, beware of increase ultra violet and reduced oxygen at altitude. It is not recommended to exceed 1,000ft. Take day long rests when trekking. Villages are quite good for birds, and the chia (tea), is always on the brew.

From late January onwards the temperatures are increasing and Kathmandu's valley fog is less common; there may be the odd shower. This is a profitable time to visit the Tarai, and in particular Chitwan. Night temperatures are still 'chilly', but rise rapidly at midday, hence sun hat recommended. By mid February the Tarai is starting to get very warm and filthy biting insects are on the increase.

What to take.

There are many books to advise you on what to take, but, basically travel light. A tent is not really needed (except perhaps at Kosi Barrage - but you could hire one quite cheaply), there ^{are} lodges/hotels everywhere, which are cheap, and perfectly adequate. A good down sleeping bag is a must, and ideally a down jacket (winter). If you use Kathmandu as a base you can leave surplus gear at the Lodges etc, it should be quite safe. Apart from Kosi Barrage and Bharatpur (India) there is no need for a telescope. A small shoulder bag is useful, but, don't bring one, you can buy them cheaply in Kathmandu. Indeed, you can get virtually anything you want in Kathmandu, shirts, water bottles, books etc, etc, so don't bother taking a load of gear when it can all be bought cheaply and on the spot. You can get trekking equipment; boots, sleeping bags, down jackets etc.

Health and Hygiene

Essentially; watch your health as there's very little hygiene in Nepal. Organise vaccinations well in advance; these should include; T.A.B. 1 and 2, Polio, Tetanus, Gamma Globulin and take sufficient Malaria tablets, but, check all of these with the doctor. (treatment in Nepal can be expensive). Make sure your vaccination certificate is counter-signed by the Area Health Authority, other-wise its not valid. Avoid all un-boiled water, no matter how high up you are in the mountains. Take a comprehensive first aid kit, and look after the smallest of scratches, or you may start to fester. If you go trekking you will be asked to treat wounds, swellings, eye injury's and a host of other ailments. It seems that many or all westerners are looked upon as being doctors, so we hope you have a strong stomach? Whilst trekking your own cutlery may be useful and hope-fully clean!'

Remember, hygiene in Nepal is 'basic' so be careful. Keep your toilet roll handy.

Trekking

You can only trek on recognised routes (and you need a trekking permit) but, you can travel anywhere within the Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys and not need a permit. The Nepalese government is trying to dissuade 'hippy' type people, consequently permits are going up in price. For similar if not practical reasons try to avoid long hair and denims (yes, of course we're serious).

Most trekking guides, do not cater for the naturalist (let alone the twitcher) ie; a four hour stage, would take us seven or eight hours (minimum) with serious birding, so allow plenty of time for your treks.

Carrying a rucksack (no matter how light) whilst walking, birding, taking photographs etc can be a pain. So its probably worth hiring a porter, the few rupees would be well worth it, especially at altitude. We strongly recommend the Trishuli-Langtang/Kyanjing trek, it crosses through several vegetation types and certainly provided us with plenty of birds. (Tibetan Snow Cock above Kyanjing-but, take it easy the airs thin up there.

Getting Around

When you first arrive in Kathmandu, don't go rushing off birding; simply walk around the streets--- get lost--- you'll experience some amazing sights, sounds, and smells.

Most westerners hire bicycles, these are a good way of seeing Kathmandu and the surrounding area. The bikes are cheap and usually reliable, try to hire one for the week; its even cheaper and you won't have to return it by a certain time each day. If you use a taxis make sure it has a meter and that its working. The driver will always 'have a friend' (sometimes more than one) in the taxis with him-but don't worry.

Buses travel through-out Nepal (well almost), some need to be booked so check in advance. They will often be cramped, smelly and full of vegetables and an assortment of livestock; plus upto 120 people. You may have to travel on the roof, don't take offence, as this is a good birding vantage point; but, keep your woolies and waterproofs handy. Some private buses are cheaper and better eg: the Swiss bus from Kathmandu - Pokhara. Internal air flights on tourist routes are expensive and may be cancelled at any time. However, flights (R.N.A.C.) to less populated areas are proportionally much cheaper eg: Kathmandu- Jumla.

Miscellaneous.

If going via India (especially) Delhi, beware of corrupt officials. Use the Y.M.C.A. or Y.H.A. whilst in Delhi. Eating in Kathmandu is generally cheap, filling and tasty, but, watch out for the ever lurking 'Kathmandu CRUD'. Obviously some places are better than others, but should you catch the 'CRUD'; then buy several packets of Jeevan-Jal (oral rehydration powder for diarrhoeal diseases) from any chemist in Kathmandu. (Its horrible, but its good for you....) If you use your hand to eat (ie: not using a fork etc---filthy things) don't use your left; its considered un-clean.

Mis'c continued;

Explore the Kathmandu valley and become familiar with its birds first of all. This will make life easier when you go outside the valley. Many people will indicate wanting to use your binoculars/camera (especially in remoter areas), this can be tricky, play it carefully. If you hire a porter go to a reputable agency eg: Sherpa Co-operative, or you 'may' have problems.

Essentially, we strongly recommend a birding trip to Nepal (its Fair Isle, Cley and Scilly's all rolled into one; plus everything else you would expect it to be) but, its advisable to do your 'homework' before you go.

Should you want any further information about a birding trip to Nepal, then please include a s.a.e. and write to the address given below, and we will assist in any way we can. On your return we would like to hear how you got on.

Finally, and very importantly we wish to express our thanks to the many people who helped us (in one way or another) before, during and after the trip, especially; B. Fleming, L. Fleming, D. Red, N. Dymond, A. Jacquemin, A. Wyman, N. Buck, K. Waterman, Pemba N. Sherpa, Chutun, B.P., Tachen, Yatsak, V. Shreashna, Kathmandu lodge, Oxonian Travel, Infectious Diseases Staff, Slade hospital Oxford, and M. Stewart (who typed this-and spent many hours listening to it all) and many many others.

Hope to see you in Nepal. Good birding,

Namaste

Adrian del-Nevo Peter Ewins

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Nepal Itinerary 7th Dec. 1980 - 19th Feb. 1981.

7th - 25th Dec. : Kathmandu and surrounding area
26th, Dec. : Swayambunath and Nagarjung; (Kathmandu valley).
27th Dec. Bus from Kathmandu to Trishuli.
28th Dec. - 8th. Jan.; Langtang trek, 1 week each way approx. Trishuli -Kyanjing.
9th-12th Jan. : Kathmandu.
13th-17th Jan : Pokhara area.
18th Jan. : Begnas Tal.
19th-21st. Jan. : Pokhara and Kaski, (on the Jomoson route).
22nd Jan. : Pokhara Kathmandu.
24th Jan. Kathmandu Tadi Bazar (Tarai)
25th Jan.- 4th Feb. Sauraha (Chitwan)
5th Feb. : Narayanghat Kathmandu, (via the 'new' Chinese road).
6th - 10th Feb. : Kathmandu and environs.
11th Feb. : Gokharna forest.
12th Feb. Godaveri Fulchowki.
14th Feb. : Godaveri
15th Feb. : Pulchowki Godaveri.
16th Feb. Kathmandu Kosi barrage.
17th-18th Feb. Kosi Barrage area.
19th Feb. Biratnagar.

Some awkward species.

The species diversity and abundance may be slightly overwhelming at first, (great eh!), and it involves a lot of hard work to keep on top of it. The brief notes given below simply outline those that we found a little tricky, and should, perhaps, be identified with care or not at all. It also includes unusual birds or those that are 1st. For Nepal!

Accipitridae :

Always a difficult group, and can only advise practice; (understatement eh?) The ridges around Pokhara are particularly good for vultures and Eagles, especially after 10a.m., when the air has warmed up a bit. The following may help to separate Shirka (A. badius) and Besra (A. virgatus) but beware of eastern and western species of Besra.

	<u>Shikra</u>	<u>Besra</u>
Iris	orange	off white
upper breast	barred	un barred
abdomen	un-barred	un barred
mesial stripe	not prominent	very prominent
mantle	brownish/grey	brownish
feet/legs	yellow	yellow
size	slight build	solid and compact
throat	greyish	buffish
head	grey	milk chocolate
pp.	uniform as mantle	dark edges

Charadriidae

Lesser sand Plover (C. mongolus). Not previously recorded in Nepal, but, 21 seen at Sauraha, and 2 near Kathmandu (records to R. Fleming and Jr., Bom. Nat. Hist.). Nordmann's Greenshank (T. Guttifer). tricky but not too stringy. 1st. for Nepal (if accepted). Record to R. Fleming and Jr. Bom. Nat. Hist. Snipe Sp. Very tricky to separate Pintail (G. Stenwa) and Fantail ; Common (G. gallinago). Ibisbill (I. struthersii) What a bird!. quite easy to see, especially on major rivers.

Laridae

Brown headed gull (L. brunnicephalus). Slow, lethargic, like a sluggish B.H.G. (L. ridibundus). Note also different wing patterning. Great Black-Headed Gull (L. ichthyaeetus) A huge gull, but of similar size to G.B.B.G. (L. marinus). Several seen in a variety of plumages, at Sauraha. no real problems. Common Gull (L. canus) 1 Sauraha, 1st for Nepal (if accepted) record to; Bom. Nat. Hist.

Strigidae

Barred Owlett (G. cucibides) and Jungle Owlett (G. radiatum) can be difficult to separate, but rufous primaries are diagnostic on Jungle Owlett.

Spotted Owlet (A. brama) white spots obvious and diagnostic.

Dicruridae

Black Drongo (D. adsimilis), Ashy Drongo (D. leucophaeus); o.k. once you've got your eye in; Ashy is very ashy (dark grey) on underparts.

Corvidae

Beware of yellow-billed Blue Magpie (C. flavirostris) with wider white area on nape than illustrated in 'Birds of Nepal'. Jungle Crow (C. macrorhynchos): hill race may be confused with larger Raven, (C. corax).

Campephagidae

Woodshrikes are flycatcher like birds and should be easily separated once your eye is in. Female large Wood Shrike (T. gubris) and Lesser Wood Shrike (T. pondicerianus); distinguished by distinct size difference. Dark Cuckoo Shrike (C. melaschistos); given bad views, its remarkably easy to make this into three other species, but, note; head shape, bill length and depth, wing length, contrast between breast and mantle, long square tail, spots in tail (just visible), general size.

Pycaonotidae

Bulbuls: noisy, gregarious, but can be difficult to see clearly.

Timatiidae

Babblers, laughing Thrushes and allies; A large and interesting group more often heard than seen. Generally gregarious, working systematically through an area, often playing 'follow my leader'. When you eventually do get good views (patience is a virtue), there shouldn't be any real problems, but, beware of confusion with Green Shrike Babblers, (P. xanthochoris) and warblers and tits with which it is often associated. For similar reasons also beware of Chestnut Headed Tit Babbler (A. castaneiceps). Black-capped Sibia (H. capistrata) very noisy and gregarious, worth waiting to see what turns up after them, often followed by Babblers, Yuhina's, Tits etc.

Sylviidae

Prinia's Warblers: can be tricky, especially in winter; care needed. Phylloscopus Warblers: We made our own key, combining S.E. Asia guide. Williamsons Warbler guide and our own field notes. We suggest that you compile your own key before you go and in doing so this will be more than adequate 'homework' on the phylloscopus group.

Turdidae

Grandala (G. coelicolor): definitely an awkward customer. A large flock (1500+) seen tumbling and turning in unison, then alighting trees. Starling like flap, glide. Deep gloss of ♂♂, ♀♀ pale brown, with white edgings to coverts; (noticeable in flight as a pale bar).

Accentors

Altai accentor (P. himalayana): common above 12,000 ft. especially along Langtang. Note obvious braces.

Paridae

Be careful not to confuse the fast moving Rufous-fronted Tit; (A. iouschistos) and White throated tit, (A. niveogularis) with the Tit Babblers; (A. castaneiceps and A. vinipectus), Yellow Browed Tit; (P. modestus) is Warbler like, but the crest is very prominent.

Motacillidae

Always a tricky group and the following may be of help;
A.n. Richardi; Richard's : variable, but often a harsh and loud beezz or pitt
pitt - pitt pitt.

- A. godlewskii; Blyth's : 'peez supp' or a rapid 'pea soup'.
- A. spinoletta; Water : tisspp, twit twit tisspp
- A. Hodgsoni : Olive-backed : Tsii tsii, often given when alighting trees.
- A. rosaeetus : Rosebreasted : psip psip.
- A. similis: long-billed: squeaky gate noise.
- A. cervinus; Red-throated: variable, but often high pitched zeeep zeeep.

Nectariniidae

Unfortunately Sunbirds are not shown in winter/early spring plumage (Birds of Nepal), and so some Mrs. Goulds (A. gouldiae) and Nepal Sunbird (A nipalensis) may be confused, indeed the ♂♂'s of these species when seen in strong sunlight and in winter plumage might also be confused.

Fringillidae

The Rose Finches are particularly tricky, (though obvious ♂♂'s are o.k.)
Can't really offer much advice other than - stick to it.

Emberizidae

Rustic Bunting; 1 ♂ seen at Sauraha; (1st. for Nepal-if accepted-record to Jr. Bom. Nat. Hist.).

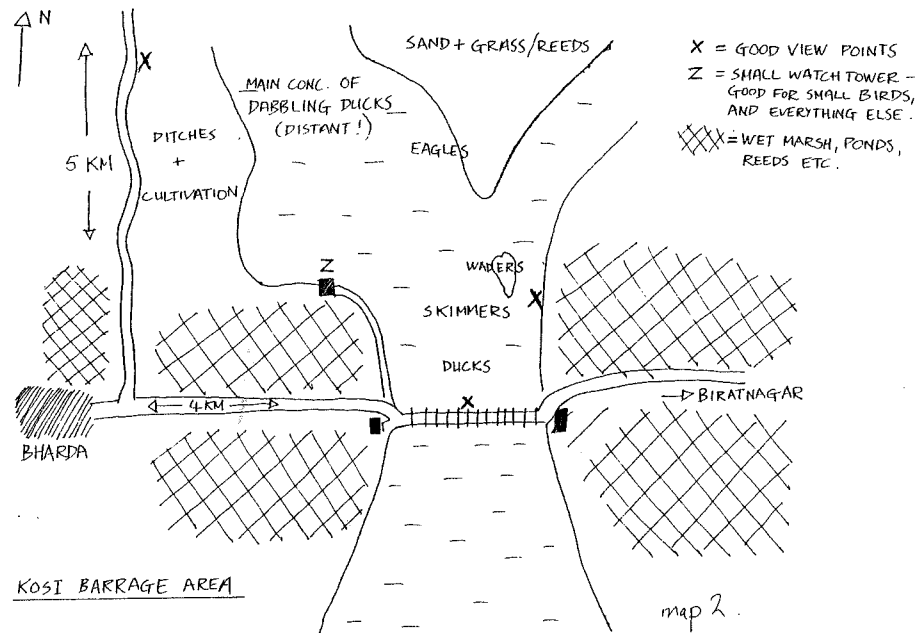
Suggested Areas/Sites:

As its relatively easy to get around, try to experience as many different habitat types as possible eg; a high trek, midland forest (as defined by R.Fleming, Birds of Nepal), southern forest/dry areas, Kosi Barrage and of course Kathmandu valley itself (very productive).

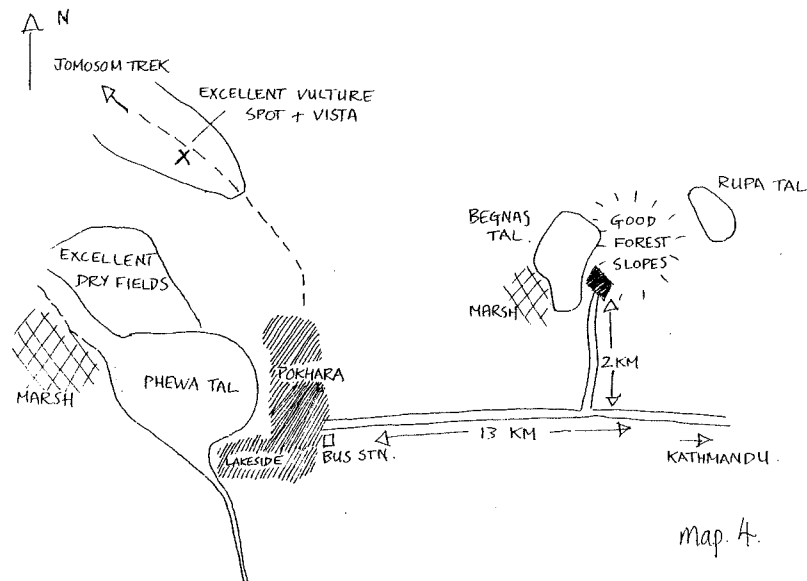
Map.1. Shows most of the sites mentioned in the systematic list, and maps 2,3, and 4 indicate three excellent areas. We did'nt have the time (or the money) to go to Tiger Tops in western Chitwan, but if you've got the money then we've been told that its quite good and has some localised species. Alternatively, Sauraha (map 3) is a similar area and we strongly recommend it,, not only for birds, but also mammals.

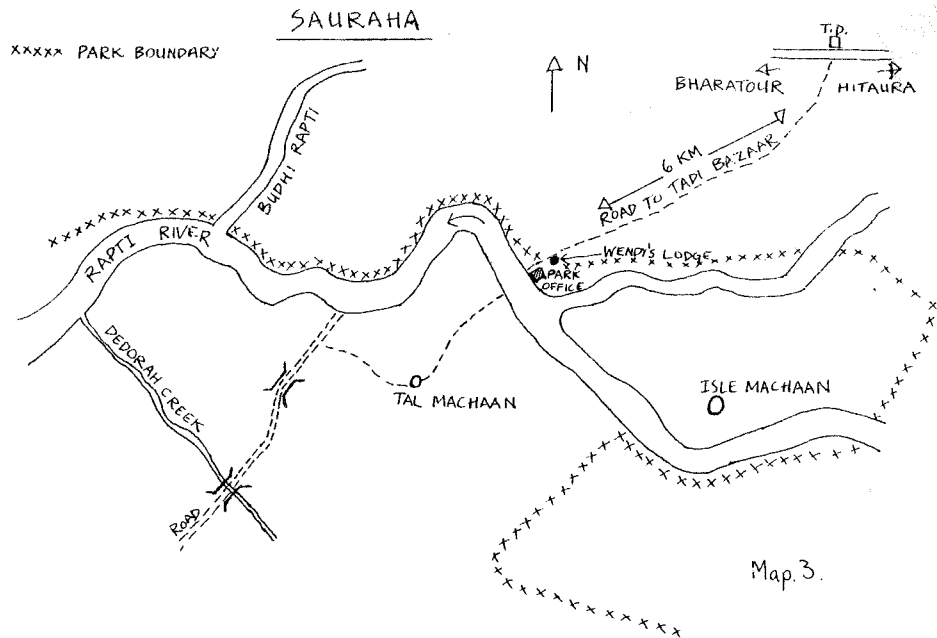
- We only had time for one trek; Trishuli-Langtang/Kyanjing, and we thoroughly recommend it. The following places are on that route and are mentioned in the systematic list, but are too small to include on map 1.
- Langtang Trek; Trishuli Bazar, Betrawati, Manigaon (3925 ft), Ramche (5500 ft), Thare (6525 ft), Dhunche (6500 ft), Syabru, Lama Hotel (Chora-Tabela 10,000 ft), Langtang (11,328 ft) Kyanjing (12,700 ft)
 - Kathmandu Valley; Virtually any where in the valley is good, but the following sites are very profitable;
 - Gokarna = mature forest, 6 km N.E. of Kath' - good.
 - Godaveri = botanical gardens and hill slope to S, (radio mast)
 - Pulchowki 12 km S.E. of Kath' - excellent.
 - Nagarjung = woodland and cliffs (owls) - 5 km N.W. of Kath - good.
 - Swayambhu = (monkey temple) - 1 km W. of Kath' - good.
 - Pashupatinath = (important religious centre) - good woodland.
 - Chovar Gorge and Bagmati river = 3 km S of Kath - worthwhile.
 - Kosi Barrage; Excellent for ducks, waders, and eagles etc, see map 2, and notes.
 - Sauraha; Chitwan National Park - via Hitauda or Mugling (1 or 2 days bus journey S.W. of Kath') - see map. 3 and notes.
 - Pokhara; Eight hour bus ride or twenty minute flight (expensive) from Kath' - see map 4 and notes.
 - Begnas Tal; Lake and woodland - 15 km east of Pokhara (off Kath' road) very good area, see map 4 and notes.

KOSI BARRAGE AREA



POKHARA AREA





Map 3.

Map 3. Sauraha- by bus via Hitaura then bus or hitch to Tadi Bazar; or via Mugling on new Chinese road (quicker). Recommend spending the night at Tadi, then walk the 6 km (Sand lark, Ashy -crowned Finch lark en route) to Sauraha. Stay at Wendy's Lodge (excellent) Entry to the National Park is expensive and a 'rip off'- but go in anyway for at least one day. You will have to be accompanied because of dangerous animals, -this is no joke. Actually you can see virtually everything there is to see, outside the park; eg; Rhino, (they are relatively common but very dangerous- practice your tree climbing) mongoose, Tiger, Leopard, several species of deer etc etc. Good for Storks at Budhi Rapti, and Muggar Crocodiles at Dedorah creek. Ask for B.P. at Wendy's Lodge- an amazing area.

Map 4. Pokhara area- 'Lakeside' is an array of student/tourist lodges and restaurants, and a good base from which to explore the surrounding habitats. Although rapidly disappearing, the forest around Begnas Tal proved very productive, as were small areas of woodland N.W. of Pokhara.

The most exciting find was large numbers of Larks, Buntings, and Pipits, feeding in the cut stubble fields at the N.W. end of Phewa Tal- these may also be reached by hiring a boat at Lakeside.

Buses to Begnas Tal are from Pokhara bus station, and there is a lodge at Begnas Tal probably worth considering.

Map 2. Kosi Barrage- There is no hotel or tea house to stay in, camping is strongly recommended, and it is advisable to take all your food with you. A telescope is really essential.

The huge concentration of Dabbling ducks fly out of the area in the evenings, returning by sunrise to their loafing areas for the day. It was only possible to get near those that were close to the Barrage itself. Possibly a boat could be hired/chartered to investigate these migrant numbers more thoroughly.

Systematic List:

The following list of birds include all those seen during our time in Nepal. 'Sauralia'; should read Sauraha, and 'Phallid' Harrier, should read Pallid Harrier. ♂ = male, ♀ = female, ∅ = indeterminate

Systematic order and nomenclature follows Walters (1980):

- Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*): c.15 Begnas Tal; 10+ Kosi.
- Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*): 13 Begnas Tal.
- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*): 25+ Phewa Tal; 20+ Begnas Tal; c.20 Kosi.
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): small no's. along Trishuli and Rapti rivers; c.300 Kosi.
- Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*): c.30 Kosi.
- Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: 3 Sauralia; 4 Kosi.
- Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*): 1 Sauralia; 30+ Kosi.
- Little Green Heron (*Butorides striatus*): 1 Phewa Tal; 4+ Sauralia.
- Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*): very common, usually roosting apart from main Egret roosts.
- Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): common up to c.5000 ft.
- Great White Egret (*Egretta alba*): 1-2 Kathmandu throughout; small no's in Tarai - max. 30+ Kosi.
- Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): fairly common near water up to c.5000 ft.
- Intermediate Egret (*Egretta intermedia*): 4+ Phewa Tal; 1 Begnas Tal; fairly common in Tairi - max. 30+ Kosi.
- Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): 1 Kathmandu 10/2.
- Open-billed Stork (*Anastomus osciitans*): quite common in Tarai.
- White-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*): 2 Pokhara; 4 nr. Mugling 5/2, regular small no's. in Tarai.
- Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*): 4 Sauralia; 4 Kosi.
- Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*): 2 Sauralia.
- Lesser Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus*): small no's in Tarai- max. c.10 Kosi.
- Red-necked White Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*): quite common at Sauralia (max. 26 tog.)
- Spoonbill (*Platalea leucordi*): 21 Kosi.
- Lesser Whistling Teal (*Deudrocygna javanica*): 7000+ Kosi 17/2, but only c.4000 next day.
- Bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*): 1 Sauralia; 7 Kosi.
- Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadonia femiginea*): 1 Kathmandu 9/1; 30+ prs. Sauralia; c.100 Kosi.
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): up to 80 Phewa Tal.
- Spot-Billed Duck (*Anas poecilornyncha*): 2 Kosi.
- Teal (*Anas crecca*): 1 Kathmandu; 15+ Begnas Tal; c.60 Phewa Tal; very common Kosi.
- Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*): 32+ Kosi (22♂ seen, probably more than 10♀ present!)
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): 700+ Kosi.
- Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*): 500+ Kosi.
- Pintail (*Anas acuta*): 29 Sauralia; numerous at Kosi.
- Garganey (*Anas querquedula*): 200+ Kosi.
- Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): c.150 Kosi.

Dabbling duck (*Anas*) sp. : a flock estimated at 50,000 at Kosi, possibly mainly pintail.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*): c.40 Kosi.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*): 3 Kathmandu (Rami Pokhari) throughout; 4 Phewa Tal; 3 Kosi.

White-eyed Pochard (*Aythya nyroca*): 1 Phewa Tal; c.120 Kosi.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*): ♂ Phewa Tal 17/1.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*): small no's. between Kath.-Pokhara; max. 64 Sauraha; 1♂ Kosi.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): up to 5 Sauraha; 1-2 Kosi.

Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*): small no's. seen regularly below c. 5,000ft.

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*): small no's. in Tarai -max. 4 Sauraha, c.10 Kosi.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): Very common, but absent from upper Langtang valley.

Pallas's Fishing Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*): 2(1ad.+1 sub.-ad.) Kosi 17/2-18/2.

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*): 2(1 ad. + 1 imm. ad.) Kosi 17/2.

Himalayan Grey-headed Fishing Eagle (*Ichthyophaga nana*): 1 Sauraha.

Grey-headed fishing Eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*): 2 Sauraha (seen displaying).

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*): common around Pokhara and in the Tarai.

Lammergeier (*Gypaetus barbatus*): 2 ad. Upp. Langtang valley; at least 6 around Pokhara.

Indian White backed vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*): small no's. Pokhara, common Tarai.

Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*): c.6 upp. Langtang valley; 3 Syabru.

Eurasian Griffon (*Gyps fulvus*): a few at Pokhara.

King vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*): up to 5 at Pokhara.

Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*): 2+ Pokhara; 2 Sauraha; 1 Kosi.

Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*): seen regularly, usually singles; below 5,000; max. 4 Sauraha.

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): 3+ Phewa Tal; 5 Begnas Tal; 6+ Sauraha; 50+ Kosi.

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*): 2 Langtang valley; ♂ Phewa Tal; 4+ Sauraha.

Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*): ♂ Syabru; ♂ Phewa Tal.

Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*): ♂ Phewa Tal; 2♂♂ (1imm.) Sauraha; 4♂♂ Kosi.

Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*): 1 Manigaon 28/12.

Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*): 1♀ Sauraha 31/1.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*): ♂ Kathmandu 26/12.

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*): ♂♂ Syabru; 2 Sauraha; 1 Kathmandu.

Sparrowhawk sp. - many widespread records of Sparrowhawk sp.!

White-eyed Buzzard (*Butastur teesa*): 2+ Sauraha.

Steppe Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): small no's. Kathmandu, Pokhara, and central tarai.

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*): 2 Kathmandu (Bagmati); 1-2 Pokhara.

Black eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*): 4 Godaveri 14/2 (some display interactions)

Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*): 1 Kathmandu 26/12; 1 Sauraha 27/1; 2 Kosi 18/2.

Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*): 1 ad. Sauraha 27-28/1.

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila rapax*): regular below 5,000 ft. c.10 around Kathmandu.

Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*): 1 ad. nr. Dhunche 5/1.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): 2 displaying nr. Syabru 4/1.

Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*): 1-2 Nagarjung. 1 Kaski.

Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*): 1 Kaski; 2 Sauraha (all dark individuals)

Mountain Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus nipalensis*): 2 Langtang valley; 1+ Fulchowki.

Red-thighed Falconet (*Microhierax caeruleus*): 1 nr. Pokhara 20/1; 1 Hetauda 16/2

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): widespread up to 13,000ft., max. c.20 Kosi, a lot of variation in plumages, from nearly white heads, to all slaty blue heads.

Red-headed Merlin (*Falco chicquera*): 1 Kosi; Biratnagar.

Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*): 1 nr. Langtang 2/1; Pashupati(kathmandu) 7/2.

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*): ♂ Sauraha 31/1

Large Falcon sp. 1 very pale bird, nearly white head and underparts, eating a Black Drongo in Kathmandu.

Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*): ♂ Kaski; 8 Kosi.

Impeyan Pheasant (*Lophophorus impejanus*): 6+ ♂, 10+ ♀♀ Langtang 1/1.

Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus*): Common in Chitwan/Rapti Dun. Not seen elsewhere.

Kalis Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelana*): 4(1♂+3♀), Syabru; 10(2 prs. +6♂♂), Nagarjung.

Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*): common only at Sauraha.

Barred Button Quail (*Turnix suscitator*): ♂ Sauraha 3/2.

Brown crane (*Amaurornis akool*): 5+ Sauraha.

White breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*): 8+ Sauraha.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): 22 Kosi.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): c.10 Sauraha, 5 Kosi.

Coot (*Fulica atra*): c.15 Begnas Tal.

Bronze winged jayana (*Metopidius indicus*): 43+ Kosi.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*): 12 Phewa Tal 14/1; 1 Sauraha 4/2; 23 Kosi 18/2

Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*): 2 Kosi in cut-over fields

Red Wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*): Widespread - on territory, possibly breeding; Kosi and Pokhara.

Spur-winged Plover (*Vanellus spinosus*): small no's. Kathmandu and Pokhara, along most major rivers, max. c.40; Sauraha; 30+ Kosi.

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): 7 on Bagmati; Kathmandu 9/1.

Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*): 21+ Sauraha; 2 on Bagmati; Kathmandu 10/2. (1st for Nepal - record to Jr. Bom. Nat. Hist)

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): 1 with Curlews; Kosi.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*): 4 nr. Hetauda; c.300 Kosi.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*): 2 Sauraha.
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): 1 Kathmandu 9/1; 3+ Sauraha.
Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*): 2 Kosi 17/2.
Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): commonest at Sauraha; 100+.
Nordmann's Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*): 1 possible Sauraha; 27/1,
1st. for Nepal?.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*): 1 Trishuli dam 28/12; 3 Kosi.
Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*): widespread-max. 20+ Sauraha;
(1 there with bright yellow legs).
Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*): 1+ Sauraha, c.30 Kathmandu (very tricky!).
Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*): 1 Begnas Tal 18/1; 1 Sauraha 29/1; 1 Gokarna 11/2.
Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): 1 Kathmandu 19/1.
Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*): 150+ Kath. 150+ Sauraha, smaller no's.,
elsewhere.
Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): 2 ♂♂ Kosi.
Ibisbill (*Ibidorhynchos struthersii*): Dalalghat; 4 feeding at edge of river,
9 along river; c.70 km west of Kath. on
Pokhara road, 22/1 and 5/2.
Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): ♂ + ♀ Kosi.
Great thick-knee (*Esacus recurvirostris*): 2 Sauraha; 2 Kosi.
Little Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*): 12+ Sauraha; 30+ Kosi.
Common Gull (*Larus canus*): 1 adult in winter plumage; Phewa Tal 21/1.
Great Black-headed gull (*Larus icthyaetus*): up to 5 Sauraha (ranging from;
sp. ads. to 1st. winter.), 1 ad.,
nr. Narayanghat 5/2, 2 ads. + 1 imm. Kosi.
Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunicephalus*): 1 ad. + 1 imm. Sauraha; 2+ Kosi.
Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): 1 imm. Phewa Tal 21/1; 55+ Kosi.
Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*): 18+ (w.p.) Kosi.
Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne tschegrava*): 9 Kosi.
Indian River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*): 3+ Sauraha; c.25 Kosi; 4+ Biratnagar.
Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna acuticauda*): 5 Sauraha; 50+ Kosi, all all sum. plum.
Indian Skimmer (*Rhynchops albicollis*): 7 Kosi.
Blue Rock Dove (*Columba livia*): apparently pure birds - widespread.
Snow Pigeon (*Columba leuconota*): c.50 Syabru: 1,000+ Upp. Langtang valley.
Ashy Wood Pigeon (*Columba pulchricollis*): 10+ Gokarna 11/2.
Rufous Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*): quite common below 9,000 ft.,
especially on roads in early morn.
Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): fairly common in the Tarai.
Red Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*): 1+ Sauraha.
Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*): small flocks, largely in lowlands and
midlands.
Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*): 6+ Sauraha.

Bengal Green Pigeon (*Treron phoenicoptera*): c.20 Sauraha.
Large Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatri*): quite common at Sauraha only.
Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*): 5 around Kathmandu; many thousands
around Sauraha.
Slaty-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula himalayana*): c.12 nr. Pokhara 20/1.
Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*): quite common Sauraha;
30+ Gokarna; Swayambhu; 4.
Rose-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*): 350+ Sauraha (always in
mature forest).
Common Hawk Cuckoo (*Cuculus varius*): 1 Begnas Tal; c.8 Sauraha; 2 Kosi.
Green-billed Malkoha (*Rhopodytes tristis*): 5+ Begnas Tal; 3 Sauraha.
Large coucal (*Centropus sinensis*): 3+ Sauraha.
Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*): 4+ Sauraha; c.10 Kosi.
Great Horned Owl (*Bubo bubo*): 1+ north face of Nagarjung, throughout, 1
calling Gokarna.
Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*): 1 pr. Sauraha.
Collared Pygmy Owllet (*Glaucidium brodiei*): 1 calling Syabru; 2 calling Pulchowka,
12/2.
Collared Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*): 2 Patan - resident.
Barred owllet (*Glaucidium radiatum*): 4+ Phewa Tal (In trees opposite 'Baba's',
restaurant-excellent food!, 1 Godateni 12/2.
Jungle Owllet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*): 3+ Sauraha.
The two above can be tricky with variable characteristics - see 'Awkward sp.'
Spotted owllet (*Athene brahma*): 3 Sauraha; 3+ Kosi.
Large White-rumped Swift (*Apus pacificus*): 2 Trishuli; c.15 Sauraha; c.30,
Tadi Bazaar.
House Swift (*Apus affinis*): 5 Trishuli; 5+ Sauraha; c.15 Kosi; no's. up by Feb;
Kathmandu.
Palm Swift (*Cypsiurnus parvus*): c.20 Biratnagar.
Crested Swift (*Hemiprocne longipennis*): 30+ Sauraha.
Large Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle lugubris*): 1 upstream from Phewa Tal 19/1,
1 Dhalaghat 16/1.
Lesser Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*): widespread in small no's (Max. 10+ Kosi),
? nesting Sauraha.
Eurasian Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*): widespread in small no's.
Blue eared Kingfisher (*Alcedo meninting*): 2+ Sauraha.
Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*): 3+ Sauraha.
White breasted kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*): Common below 5,000 ft.,
max. 15+ Kosi.
Little Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*): 10+ Trishuli 7/1; common in Tarai -
max. 100+ Kosi.
Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*): widespread, particularly common around
Pokhara, displaying at Sauraha.
Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*): 1 Kathmandu; 6+ Sauraha; 4 Kosi.
Pied Hornbill (*Antracoceros malabaricus*): up to 20 Sauraha.
Giant Hornbill (*Buccones bicornis*): 2 Sauraha 30/1.
Great Himalayan Barb (Megalaina virens): quite common in midland forests -
max. 20+ Pokhara and Gokarna.

Lineated Barbet (*Megalaima lineata*): 2 Sauraha
Golden Throated Barbet (*Megalaima franklinii*) : 2+ Betrewati (nr Trishuli)
Blue-throated Barbet (*Megalaima asiatica*) : similar distribution to 'virens';
max. c 35 Gokarna.
Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*): 1 Phewa Tal; 2 Sauraha; 3 Kosi.
Spotted Piculet (*Picumnus innominatus*): 1 Nagarjung; 3 Gokarna; 1 Godaveri;
2 Swayambhu.
Small Scaly-bellied Woodpecker (*Picus xanthopygaeus*): 2♂♂ + 1 ♀ Sauraha.
Black-naped Woodpecker (*Picus canus*) : ♂ + ♀ Gokarna.
Lesser Yellow-naped Woodpecker (*Picus chlorolophus*): ♂ Pokhara; 2 Sauraha.
Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker (*Dinopium benghalense*): 2+ prs Sauraha.
Three-toed Golden-backed Woodpecker (*Dinopium shorii*) : 8+ Sauraha.
Darjeeling Pied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus darjellensis*): 1 pr. nr Dhunche; 1 very
approachable pr. nr Syabru.
Crimson-breasted Pied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus cathpharius*): 1 nr Dhunche.
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker/ Sapsucker (*Dendrocopus hyperythrus*) : ♀ Upper Langtang
valley; 1+ Fulchowki.
Brown-fronted Pied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus auriceps*): 1 nr Dhunche; ♂ + ♀ Fulchowki
Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus macei*) : 5+ Langtang valley;
widespread in the lowlands.
Grey-crowned Pygmy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus canicapillus*): 2 nr Pokhara; common
at Sauraha.
Large Golden-backed Woodpecker (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*): ♀ Begnas Tal.
Rufous-winged Bush Lark (*Mirafra assamica*) : regular in the Tarai; max 40+ Kosi
Ashy-crowned Finch Lark (*Eremopterix grisea*) : 20+ nr Sauraha; 200+ Kosi
Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella cinerea*) : c 30 Phewa Tal 21/1
Sand Lark (*Callandrella raytal*) : fairly common in dry/sandy areas of Tarai
c 20 Kosi.
Little Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*) : widespread small parties- max 12+ Kath';
c.20 Sauraha.
Plain Sand Martin (*Riparia paludicola*) : common- widespread below 6500 ft-
starting breeding 27/12
Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) : quite common Trishuli- Betrewati;
30+ Phewa Tal.
Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) : very common, not seen above 5,000 ft.
Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*) : main areas; Kath' (common); 200+ Trishuli
Dam; 50+ Phewa Tal.
Indian Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon fluvicola*) : 1 Phewa Tal, 15-17/1
House Martin (*Delichon urbica*) : 250+ Trishuli area; small nos. Langtang valley
Nepal House Martin (*Delichon nipalensis*) : 1 nr Syabru; 7 Trishuli

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) : 1 Trishuli; fairly common in Tarai, max.
60+ Kosi (beema'and'feldegg'positively ident'
Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) : quite common in Tarai - max.40+ Kosi
Yellow/Citrine Wagtails : 2,000+ going to roost in Elephant grass, Sauraha.
Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) : widespread in suitable habitat, max 6+ nr
Trishuli Dam.
White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) : common near water everywhere. 8,000+ going to
roost, Sauraha.
Large Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*) : widespread, max 12+ Trishuli
dam, 2 displaying Biratnagar 19/2
Richards Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) : c. 30 Phewa Tal; 4+ Begnas Tal;
4+ Tadi Bazzar.
'Paddyfield Pipits' were widespread below 5,000' max c40 prs Kosi,
many displaying.
Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*): 1 Sauraha; 14 Kosi
Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsonii*) : both races found to be common,
invariably near trees.
Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) : 35+ Phewa Tal.
Rose-breasted Pipit (*Anthus roseatus*): Quite common near water. max c.50 Phewa Tal,
c.100 Kosi (some starting summer plum')
Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) : 4 Phewa Tal 21/1 (1 with trace of summer plum')
Upland Pipit (*Anthus sylvanus*) : c.10 Kaski- Pokhara 20/1. Some song-fighting
Large Cuckoo Shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*): small nos below 5,000-
max.5+ Sauraha.
Dark Cuckoo Shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*): 1 Sauraha.
Rosy Minnivet (*Pericrocotus roseus*) : c.6 Sauraha.
Small Minnivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*): 12+ Sauraha.
Yellow-throated Minnivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*) : 1 pr Fulchowki 12/2
Long-tailed Minnivet (*Pericrocotus ethologus*) : frequent in the midlands-
max.30+ Begnas Tal.
Short-billed Minnivet (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*): 1-2 nr. Kaski 19/1
Scarlet Minnivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*): frequent in the midlands- max. c.20
Pokhara and Begnas Tal.
Pied Wood Shrike (*Hemipus picatus*) 5+ Sauraha ; ♂ Gokarna.
Lesser Wood-Shrike (*Tephrodromis pondicerianus*) : c. 20 Sauraha.
Striated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus striatus*) : 2+ Fulchowki 12/2.
Black-headed Yellow Bulbul (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*) 2 Begnas Tal (feeding with
Brown-eared Bulbul)
Red-Whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) : quite common in Kapti Dun.
White-cheeked Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucogenys*) : relatively small nos. in Midlands.
Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) : common, gregarious, noisy.
Rufous-bellied Bulbul (*Hypsipetes maclellandii*) : 2 nr. Syabru; c.20 Godaveri
Brown-eared Bulbul (*Hypsipetes flavala*): 10+ Begnas Tal.

Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*): quite common-max c.100 Gokarna;
100+ Pulchowki.

Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*): only seen regularly at Sauraha; 1 nr. Trishuli,
2 Kathmandu.

Golden-fronted leafbird (*Chloropsis aurifrons*): c.6 Sauraha 3/2

Orange-bellied leafbird (*Chloropsis hardwickei*): c.10 Pulchowki, 6+ Godaveri
(♂♂ singing 14/2)

Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*): small nos. most places visited, max.7 Kosi

Rufous-backed/Black-headed Shrike: 1R+bS Chobar gorge, 9/1; 1 w of Kath' 15/12
B-hS, common.

Grey-backed Shrike (*Lanius tephronotus*): 2+ Kath'; 1 Gokarna; 1 Godaveri;
1 Syabru, 2 Sauraha.

Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasii*): widespread from 1,000-13,000ft

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): quite common in upper Langtang valley.
Altai Accentor (*Prunella himalayana*): c.100 upper Langtang valley; c.25 just
south of Rhamche 5,500 ft

Rufous-bellied Accentor (*Prunella strophiatea*): quite common in Langtang valley,
1 Pulchowki 15/2 (singing).

Maroon-backed Accentor (*Prunella immaculata*): c.25 Syabru; 3+ nr Dhunche.

Siberian Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*): Phewa Tal 19/1 (outside Baba's
Restaurant).

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*): 2 Phewa Tal; abundant in Tarai. some
singing.

Himalayan Rubythroat (*Luscinia pectoralis*): 1 Dhulikhel 16/12/80

Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*): quite common Langtang valley. A few
around Pulchowki.

Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*): common, but not seen above 6500 ft.

Shama (*Copsychus malbaricus*): 2 Sauraha.

Blue-headed Redstart (*Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus*): nr Langtang 1/1.

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*): relatively small nos. Trishuli-Dhunche.

Hodgson's Redstart (*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*): Phewa Tal; 5+ Godaveri.

Blue-fronted Redstart (*Phoenicurus frontalis*): common Langtang valley- mainly
in forests. small nos. Kath' valley

White-throated Redstart (*Phoenicurus schisticeps*): 1 Langtang 1/1; Kyanjing 2/1

Guldenstadt's Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythrogaster*): Kyanjing 2/1

Plumbeous Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*): common nr. water but not in Tarai.

Grandala (*Grandala coelicolor*): 1500+ S. of Langtang. flighty, large wader
like flocks.

Little Forktail (*Enicurus scouleri*): 2 nr. Dhunche, 1 nr. Syabru, 1 Naubise.

Black-backed Forktail (*Enicurus immaculatus*): 1 nr. Trishuli; 1 Pokhara.

Spotted Forktail (*Enicurus maculatus*): 4+ Langtang valley; 1 Pokhara;
2 Godaveri.

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*): not seen above Syabru (4,800 ft), races difficult
to determine, but basically 2 distinct types-
dark backed (sometimes nearly black), and pale-
backed. Most characteristics very variable.

Pied Chat (*Saxicola caprata*): common and widespread; nest-building at Sauraha 1/2

Dark Grey Bush Chat (*Saxicola ferrea*): 5+ Trishuli-Dhunche.

White-capped River Chat (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*): relatively common aside
water, seen upto 12,000 ft.

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*): 2 Trishuli-Dhunche.

Whistling Thrush (*Myiophobus caeruleus*): along streams and forests-regular-
absent from Tarai.

Plain-backed Mountain Thrush (*Zoothera mollissima*): 1 nr Langtang.

White's Thrush (*Zoothera dauma*): 2+ Nagarjung cliffs, at least 21 Gokarna.

White-collared Blackbird (*Turdus albocinctus*): 1 pr. Syabru, nr Dharan 24/1,
c. 100 nr. top of Pulchowki.

Black/Red throated Thrush (*Turdus ruficolus*): 60+ (mainly RT) upper Langtang
valley; rest were BF. 8+ Sauraha,
3 Pulchowki, 78+ Gokarna.

Grey-winged Blackbird (*Turdus boulboul*): 8 Gokarna; 6+ Pulchowki.

Spotted Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*): 8+ Sauraha.

Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*): 2 Syabru.

Black-chinned Babbler (*Stachyris pyrrhops*): 1 Nagarjung; 3+ Godaveri.

Black-throated Babbler (*Stachyris nigriceps*): c. 8 Godaveri.

Yellow-breasted Babbler (*Macronous gularis*): 20+ Sauraha.

Redcapped Babbler (*Timalia pileata*): c. 10 Sauraha.

Striated Babbler (*Turdoides earlei*): 4 Sauraha.

Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striatus*): quite common at Sauraha.

White-throated Laughing thrush (*Garrulax albogularis*): flocks upto 120, upp' Langtang
250+ Pulchowki.

White-crested " " (" leucolophus): c.10 Godaveri, mostly only heard

Necklaced " " (" monileger): 6+ Begnas Tal.

Gorgetted " " (" pectoralis): at least 1 Begnas Tal.

Striated " " (" striatus): 17+ N of Syabru, c. 20 Godaveri.

Variagated " " (" variegatus): c. 30 nr, Langtang, 3+ Syabru.

Rufous-chinned " " (" rufogularis): 5 Godaveri.

Spotted " " (" ocellatus): c. 6 nr Syabru.

Grey-sided " " (" caerulatus): 10+ Pulchowki.

Streaked " " (" lineatus): common Langtang valley, a few
nr. Nagarjung, and Pulchowki.

Black-faced " " (" affinis): quite common in upper Langtang
valley, and Pulchowki.

Red-billed Leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*): 30+ Godaveri/Pulchowki (some singing)

Red-winged Shrike Babbler (*Pteruthius flaviscapis*): 4+ Langtang valley; 1nr. Dharan
16/2.

Green-Shrike Babbler (*Pteruthius xanthochlorus*): 7+ N of Syabru.

Chestnut-throated Shrike Babbler (*Pteruthius melanotis*): Godaveri 14/2

Hoary Barwing (*Actinodura nipalensis*): c. 10 nr. Dhunche 7/1.

Blue-winged Minla (*Minla cyanouroptera*): 3+ Pulchowki.

Bar-throated Minla (*Minla strigula*): small groups in most suitable upland forests.

Chestnut-headed Fulvetta (*Alcippe castaneiceps*): 50+ Langtang valley, c.10 Pulchowki.

White-browed Fulvetta (*Alcippe vinipectus*): 30+ upper Langtang valley, very
common Pulchowki.

Nepal Babbler (*Alcippe nipalensis*): 25+ Godaveri.

Black-capped Sibia (*Heerophasia capistrata*): abundant in most upland forests-
usually the most obvious birds.

Yellow-naped Yuhina (*Yuhina flavicollis*): quite common Langtang valley and
Pulchowki.

Stripe throated Yuhina (*Yuhina gularis*): common syabru-Langtang valley nr. Dharan;
c.8 Pulchowki.

Rufous-vented Yuhina (*Yuhina occipitalis*): common Langtang valley and Pulchowki.

White-bellied Yuhina (*Yuhina zautholenca*): 1 Pokhara; quite common in Kath valley.

Rufous-capped Cettia (*Cettia brunnifrons*): 6+ Kaski-Pokhara 20/1.

Large Cettia (*Cettia major*): 1 Sauraha 2/2, in base of reed bed.

Aberrant Cettia (*Cettia flavolivacea*): 1 Phewa Tal 15/1.

Pale-footed Cettia (*Cettia pallidipes*): 1+ Phewa Tal, 1 Biratnagar; 40+ Kosi.

Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*): 2+ Phewa Tal.

Paddyfield Warbler (*Acrocephalus agricola*): c.10 Kosi; 1 Biratnagar.

Tailor bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) very common, nesting well begun in Feb.; Tarai.

Striated Marsh Warbler (*Megalurus palustris*): c.10 Kosi (mostly paired).

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): small no's. Trishuli and Kaski; commoner in Tarai.

Tickell's Leaf warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*): quite common lower Langtang valley and near Pokhara; 6 + Sauraha; 40+ Kosi.

Orange-barred Warbler (*Phylloscopus pulcher*) 1 nr. Dunchi; 1 Pokhara; 1 Sauraha, 1 nr. Dharan. amazingly common Godaveri/Pulchowki.

Pallas's Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*): common lower Langtang valley, nr. Pokhara, Kath. valley.

Ashy-throated warbler (*Phylloscopus maculipennis*): common upper Langtang valley; c.15 Pulchowki.

Yellow browed warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus humei*): Common lower Langtang valley and midlands; smaller no's. in Tarai.

Large-billed leaf warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*): 1 probable Begnas Tal.

Greenish/green Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides-uitidis*): 20+ Sauraha.

Smoky warbler (*Phylloscopus fulgiventis*): 1 Kosi (feeding on small rocks)

Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*): 2 Phewa Tal; 2 Phewa Tal; 1+ Begnas Tal; 1 Kosi.

Blyth's crowned Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus reguloides*): quite common below 5,000ft. -max.10+; Pashupatti.

Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler (*Seicercus burkii*): quite common below 5,000ft.; max. c. 30 Gokarna.

Black-faced flycatcher Warbler (*Seicercus schisticeps*): c.50 Syabru-Langtang; 25+ Godaveri-Pulchowki.

Chestnut-headed flycatcher warbler (*Seicercus castaneiceps*): 1 Begnas Tal; 5 Gokarna; 1 Godaveri.

Grey-headed flycatcher Warbler (*Seicercus xanthoschistus*): common below 7,000ft. max. c.10 Gokarna.

Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola juncidis*): 1 Phewa Tal; 8+ Sauraha; 20+ kosi.

Yellow-bellied Primia (*Primia flaviventris*): c.25 Kosi.

Ashy Primia (*Primia socialis*): quite common at Sauraha.

Rufescent Primia (*Primia rufesceus*): 3+ nr. Sauraha.

Brown hill Primia (*Primia criniger*): 3 Syabru.

Jungle Primia (*Primia sylvatica*): 8+ Sauraha.

Grey-capped Primia (*Primia cinereocapilla*): c.6 nr. Trishuli.

Graceful Primia (*Primia gracilis*): 3+ Kosi.

Plain Primia (*Primia inornata*): 1 Sauraha; c.15 Kosi.

Slaty-bellied Ground Warbler (*Tesia cyaniventer*): c.10 Begnas Tal 18/1; only 1 seen!

Chestnut-headed Ground Warbler (*Tesia castanescoronata*): 3+ Godaveri.

Goldcrest (*regulus regulus*): 5+ nr. Syabru.

White-throated Fantail Flycatcher (*Rhipidura albicollis*): 2 nr. Trishuli; 2 Begnas Tal, 1 Biratnagar, 1 Sauraha.

White-browed Fantail Flycatcher (*Rhipidura aureola*): 1 nr. Tadi Bazaar 25/1.

Yellow-bellied Fantail Flycatcher (*Rhipidura hypoxantha*): common below c. 6,000ft. A great wee bird!

Orange-gorgetted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa strophia*): small no's. Kath. Vall.; Pokhara area and Langtang valley.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*): common-widespread.

Slaty-Blue Flycatcher (*Muscicapa leucometanura*): 2 nr. Trishuli; 1 pr. nr.: Pokhara.

White-browed Blue Flycatcher (*Muscicapa superciliosa*): nr. Betrewati, 7/1.

Brook's Flycatcher (*Muscicapa poliogenys*): a few at Sauraha.

Small Niltava (*Muscicapa macgregoriae*): Phewa Tal and Nagarjung.

Beautiful Niltava (*Muscicapa sundara*): 1 in deep gorge; Pokhara 16/1.

Verditer Flycatcher (*Muscicapa thalassina*) 3+ Sauraha.

Grey-headed Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*): quite common below 5,000ft; smaller no's. in Tarai.

Red-headed Tit (*Aegithalos concinnus*): common Langtang valley and Pulchowki; 4 Nagarjung; 2 Gokarna.

Rufous-fronted Tit (*Aegithalos iouschistos*): fairly common Langtang valley.

Rufous breasted Black Tit (*parus rubriventer*): a few above Langtang.

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) frequent in upper Langtang valley.

Crested Brown Tit (*Parus dichrous*): c.3 nr. Langtang; 1 nr. Dunchi.

Grey Tit (*Parus major*): common-widespread.

Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus*): quite common Langtang valley; 2 Pulchowki.

Yellow-cheeked Tit (*Parus xanthogenys*): quite common Langtang valley; Pokhara, and Kath. valleys.

Yellow Browed-Tit (*Sylviparus modestus*): small no's. Langtang valley.

Wallcreeper (*Tichodroma muraria*): total of 6 Langtang trek; 1 nr. Mugling;
1 near Melkhu.

Chestnut bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta castanea*): widespread, max. c. 20; Gokarna.

White-tailed Nuthatch (*Sitta himalayensis*): quite common Langtang valley;
c.20 Pulchowki.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*): small no's. throughout, max.;
c.15 Gokarna.

(Northern) Tree Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*): 4+ upper Langtang valley 3/1.

Nepal Tree Creeper *Certhia nipalensis*): total of c.20 Langtang valley.

Sikkin Tree Creeper (*Certhia discolor*): 1 Godaveri 14/2.

Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum melanoxanthum*): 1 Pashupati, Kath. 7/2.

Tickell's Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*): 2 nr. Sauraha.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*): fairly common Langtang vall.;
and Kath. vall. max.20+, Gokarna

Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa*): v. common, widespread; gregarious,
up to 8,000ft.

Purple Sunbird (*Nectarinea asiatica*): widespread.

Nepal Sunbird (*Aethopyga nipalensis*): small no's. Langtang valley and Godaveri;
Pulchowki.

Scarlet-breasted Sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*): common Langtang valley; 1 Pokhara

Fire-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga ignicauda*): common Dhunche-Langtang; 20+ Godaveri.

Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathami*): small groups around Pokhara and Trishuli.
very common on the road between Naubise-
Palung 16/2.

Pine Bunting (*Emberiza leucocephala*): At least 21 Phewa Tal.

~~White-capped Bunting (*Emberiza Stewarti*): 2 Kosi.~~

Grey-headed Bunting (*Emberiza fucata*): 4+ Phewa Tal

Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*): 30+ nr. Kaski; c.15 Sauraha; c.10 Naubise-
Palung.

Rustic Bunting (*Emberiza rustica*): A fine at Sauraha 31/1, with little Buntings

Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*): 150+ Phewa Tal; 40+ Tadi Bazar;
'lots' roosting at Sauraha.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): 5 upper Langtang Valley 3/1.

Tibetan Siskin (*Serinus thibetanus*): 30+ Godaveri 12/2, 1 poss. upp. Langtang.

Himalayan Goldfinch (*Carduelis spinoides*): regular flocks in midlands, eg:
c.100 Phewa Tal, c.50 Trishuli.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): 2 Syabru 31/12.

Nepal Rosefinch (*Carpodacus nipalensis*): fairly common in Syabru-Langtang valley.

Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*): c.50 Sauraha.

Beautiful Rosefinch (*Carpodacus pulcherrimus*): common in upper Langtang valley.

Pink-browed Rosefinch (*Carpodacus rhodochrous*): small nos. Dhunche-Langtang,
1 nr. Pulchowki.

Spot-winged Rosefinch (*Carpodacus rhodopeplus*): 11+ Syabru-Langtang forest.

Brown Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula nipalensis*): c. 20 Pulchowki.

Red-headed Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula erythrocephala*): 3 Syabru-Langtang forest.

Spot-winged Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes melanozanthos*): up to c.30 Pulchowki.

Gold-crowned Black Finch (*Pyrrhoplectes epauletta*): 3(♂+2♀) Pulchowki 12/2

Sharp-tailed Munia (*Lonchura striat*): 6 Phewa Tal.

Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*): 80+ in Sauraha area; 30+ W. of Kathmandu 18/12

Black-headed Munia (*Lonchura malacca*): 6+ nr Trishuli 8/1.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): v. common near dwellings; absent from upper
Langtang valley.

House/Spanish Sparrow (*Passer domesticus/hispaniolensis*):

c.20 birds at Kosi showing intermediate features,

Ad♂♂ as Spanish, but with grey crown stripe,

♀♀ as Spanish.

Cinnamon Sparrow (*Passer rutilans*): 1 ♂ Kaski 20/1.

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*): Not seen in Tarai, or above Syabru (c.7,500 ft).

Tibetan Snow Finch (*Montifringilla adamsi*): c.30 Langtang(nr) on steep cliff face 1/1

Black-throated Weaver (*Ploceus benghalensis*): c.30 Sauraha 2/2 (roosting in reeds
with many other un-identified weavers)

Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*): c.40 Swayambhu; 60+ Gokarna; 60+ Sauraha.

Grey-headed Myna (*Sturnus malabaricus*): fairly common at Sauraha, in flowering
Simal trees.

Black-headed Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*): quite common at Sauraha.

Pied Myna (*Sturnus contra*): common in Tarai.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*): common especially nr. habitation.

Bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*): reasonably common in Tarai.
 Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*): widespread near villages.
 Maroon Oriole (*Oriolus trailii*): 2 (+3 singing) Pulchowki.
 Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*): common and widespread
 Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*): widespread-small numbers } both seen feeding on
 White-bellied Drongo (*Dicrurus caerulescens*): 5+ Sauraha. } fire driven insects
 Little Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*): 6+ Begnas Tal.
 Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*): 4+ Pokhara; 2 Begnas Tal; common Sauraha
 Greater Racquet-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*): 1 Sauraha 31/1
 Ashy Wood Swallow (*Artamus fuscus*): 30+ Sauraha-usually seen feeding with Black
 Drongo's on insects above burning Elephant grass.
 Eurasion Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): 20+ Dhunche-Syabru; 1 Gokarna; 25+ Pulchowki.
 Black-throated Jay (*Garrulus lanceolatus*): 4+ Pulchowki 12/2
 Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa flavirostris*): up to 5 at Syabru.
 Red-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*): 1 Godaveri.
 Indian Tree Pie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*): widespread; especially at lower altitudes.
 Himalayan Tree Pie (*Dendrocitta formosae*): fairly widespread, generally at higher
 altitude than previous species.
 Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*): c.300 upper Langtang valley.
 House Crow (*Corvus splendens*): very common, especially near habitations.
 Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*): common. Hill race common, upper Langtang valley
 and around Kaski.

Phew !!

Useful References;

- Birds of Nepal: R.Fleming Sr, R.Fleming Jr, L.S. Bangdel. Avalok- an indispensable book, available here, but £1 cheaper in Kathmandu.
 Birds of S.E. Asia: B.King, M.Woodcock, E.C. Dickinson. Collins 1975- a useful backup, good illustrations.
 Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan: 1968-1974. A.Salim, S.Dillon Ripley, 10 vols. O.U.P. Bombay- good, but slightly out of date.
 F.G. to the Birds of the Eastern Himalaya: A.Salim O.U.P. 1978- don't take it unless going to the east-useful for pre-trip homework.
 Identification Guide for Kingers. nos. 1,2,3. K.Williamson. B.T.O. 1976.
 Wild Animals of Nepal: H.R. Mishra, D.Mierow. 1976. R.P. Bhandar. Kathmandu Kathmandu and the Kingdom of Nepal; P.A Raj 1978. Lonely Planet Series- an excellent little book with lots of good advice take it with you.
 Trekking in the Himalaya: S.Armington 1980. Lonely Planet Series.-useful.
 Many excellent books are available in Kathmandu and you can often bargain your own price. So don't buy too many before you go. Nevertheless, full use of the above: books will be more than adequate.
Mammals 7th Dec 1980- 19th Feb 1981.
 Muggar or Marsh Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*)- relatively common nr Sauraha.
 Fruit Bats (*Megachiroptera* Sp):- large roost nr Royal Palace (Kath')
 1 Biratnagar 19/2/81
 1 Biratnagar 19/2/81
 Pipistrelle-like Bats
 Asiatic Wild Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)- domesticated; working at Gokarna and Saurah
 Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)- regular around Sauraha-'dangerous'.
 Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) 12+ Sauraha 12/1/81
 Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*)- common in Chitwan, one group of 40.
 Hog Deer (*Axis pornicus*)- 1 nr Sauraha.
 Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*)- 6+ seen around Sauraha.
 Yak (*Bos grunniens*)- above Langtang, but also interbred with domestic cattle
 Himalayan Thar (*Hermitragus jemlahicus*)- c. 12 on steep slopes above Langtang 31/1
 Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*)- 5+ Sauraha.
 Common Langur or Hanuman Monkey (*Presbytis entellus*). Reported through-out Langtang Trek.
 Rhesus Monkey or Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*)- common and tame in and around Kath' small nos. more timid in Tarai.
 Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*)- foot-prints and holes found, nr Sauraha.
 Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)- 1 Kosi Barrage 18/2/81
 Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)- tracks seen at Sauraha- but more common in western Tarai.
 Common Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsi*)- small nos. Sauraha forests late Jan.
 Yellow-throated Martin (*Martes flavigula*)- small groups, seen along Langtang Trek.
 Small Stoat/large Weasel Sp; 3 above Syabru 31/12/80
 Himalayan Marmot (*Marmota babak himalayana*)- 1 nr Langtang 1/1/81
 Five-striped Palm Squirrel (*Funambulus pennant*)- quite common in Tarai.
 Squirrel Sp: though possibly Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel, (*Callosciurus pygerythrus*) 1 above Syabru.
 Indian Rufous-tailed Hare (*Lepus nigricollis ruficaudatus*) 1 Sauraha 29/1/80
 and finally
 Large Hairy Mammal Sp: (*Yettus himalconnevoewinsus*) above Langtang Glacier during the night!!!!

Epilogue.

Away from you,
I escaped to the land of solitude,
Crossing hundreds of miles, walking up and down,
Fatigued, exhausted, but relieved and ecstatic,
Somewhere in the great barrier of the Himalayas
Beyond the inhabitable world,
I opened the door to heaven.

And there abounds
Shining silver and black diamond,
With much delicate living gold
And multicoloured gems sparkle all around,
Every inch of this heaven is carpeted green and soft,
Ambrosia from the lake of turquoise enhances all with eternity.

All these treasures belong to
The gliding golden eagle,
The snowy king of the cats,
The restless mouse hare,
And innocent wild sheep
Their abode and wealth are secure and protected.

I travelled to this mystic world
With the children of the mountains.
Sufficed my inner being to behold--enchantment
I saw God and talked with the angels.
So much love they have for this land;
They are reincarnated here over and over.

I heard the call of the wilderness in the avalanches,
The shrill song of the dipper in the cascades,
The mewling of the wild sheep and yelp of the cough
All these sounds of different vibrants
Symphonize here the hymns divine,
Which rolls along the butress of the mountains.

Very soon the devil called me back
The angels disappeared
The children of the mountains returned,
The rolling paradise broke
Dark clouds closed the eternal roof of the world
I came back to you, to share the life of grief, anger and
dissatisfaction.



The Land of the Yeti