

GRIMMETT (1982)

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Richard Grimmett. 1.

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Notes of the more important or interesting records
From a Trip to Nepal - March - June 1982. Order
Following Checklist of The Birds of Nepal - Tim & Carol Inskip.

SPOT-BILLED PELICAN. Kosi Barrage maximum of 6 on April 18th.

BLACK-NECKED STORK. Kosi Barrage 1 adult & 2 newly Fledged Young.

GREATER ADJUTANT Kosi Barrage 1 on May 2nd.

SPOONBILL Kosi Barrage 16 on April 17th.

CRESTED HONEY BUIZARD Kosi Barrage 1 soaring E on April 17th presumably on Passage

BRAHMINY KITE Kosi Barrage 1 adult April 16th

MARSH HARRIER Kosi Barrage Individuals thought to be of the eastern Race
(C. a. *Sphenotus*) April 18th & 19th. more details to

Following inspection of museum specimens. (see accompanying notes)

GOSHAWK. Lokarna 1 on 3rd March.

GOLDEN EAGLE Thorong Pass 1 on March 22nd, Ghaza 2 on March 29th.

BOOTED EAGLE Ghaza 1 on March 30th, Silcha 1 on April 1st.

BOWELL'S EAGLE Silcha 3 on March 31st.

PEREGRINE FALCON. Gopani Ridge 2 on 10th March.

TIBETAN SNOWCOCK. Thorong Pass 3 on March 22nd 2 above Yala, near Kyanjing.
May 29th.

QUAIL Shabru, Langtang 1 singing. June 1st.

BLOOD PHEASANT. Gopte 1♂ May 20th, Between Gopte & Gosainkunda
2♂ in Dwarf Juniper May 30th. Kyanjing max of
10 in Birch Forest.

SATYR TRAGOPAN. Ghaza 1♂ march 18th. Gopte calling in The evening on May 20th, an animal like waaows, and a different individual calling at Dawn on May 22nd.

At least 2 birds seen by The others between Chantabani & shabru

KOKLAS PHEASANT. Ghaza 1♀ on March 14th and a live ♂ snared. 1♂ on March 27th and 4 March 29th. Govepani 2 croaking from The forest, morning April 2nd.

Himalayan MONAL. Ghaza 3♀ on The high grassy slopes. Thorepati 1♂ below settlement May 17th & 2♀ with 4 young on The 19th. Gopte 3♂ 1♀ on 14th May with probably at least 7 seen by all observers. maximum of 8, 6♂ 2♀ on May 21st. Langtang 1 heard May 27th.

CHEER PHEASANT. Ghaza 2 on ^{March} May 27th with 5+ on March 30th. on The open grazed hillside above The village cultivation. dropping down into ravines of scrub, Bamboo & grass when disturbed.

BENGAL FLORICAN Kosi Barrage 1♂ on April 15th, 2♂ on April 19th, 1♂ 1♀ May 3rd.

AVOCET Kosi Barrage 1 on April 16th, 17th, 2 on 18th.

GREAT STONE PLOVER. Kosi Barrage 2 pairs found.

INDIAN CURLEW. Max 3 on April 19th Kosi Barrage.

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLÉ Kosi Barrage 1 East April 16th.

LESSER SANDPLOVER. 1 on April 16th, Flock of 9 April 17th heading off North that morning, 1 in April 19th Kosi Barrage.

LITTLE STINT. 2 on Kosi Barrage 2 on April 18th 1 on May 2nd.

TEMMINCK'S STINT. Kosi Barrage max of 50 on April 18th.

SOLITARY SNIFE Muktimath max 4 on March 21st.

BLACK TAILED GODWIT Kosi Barrage 2 on April 18th and 2 on May 2nd see accompanying notes.

MARSH SANDPIPER. Kosi Barrage. 1 on April 17th.

GREENSHANK. Kosi Barrage max 50 on April 18th.

COMMON SANDPIPER Tomoson 1 on March 24th presumably in Passage.

TERRICK SANDPIPER. Kosi Barrage 1 on April 18th see accompanying notes.

COMMON TERN. Kosi Barrage 1 on April 16th see accompanying notes.

WHITE WINGED BLACK TERN. Kosi Barrage. 6 on May 2nd (First seen winyard et al)

BROWN FISH OWL Gokarna 1 on March 2nd.

LITTLE OWL Muktimath 1 on March 21st

BROWN WOOD OWL Gokarna 2 on March 2nd

WHITE RUMPED SPINETAIL SWIFT Chitwan 1 on May 12th.

SWIFT Between Kagbeni + Muktimath 9 on March 21st.

WHITE VENTED SPINETAIL Chitwan up to 10 Daily.

HONEYGUIDE between Shabri + Lama Lodge ^{Langtang} on May 26th.

LARGE SCALY BELLED GREEN WOODPECKER Chuzi 4 March 28th, Gopani 8 + 9 March 11th. below Kutumsang (Helambu) 17th May.

RAY WOODPECKER Gopani Godavari June 7th.

HUMER SHORT-TOED LARK. Between Marpha + Tomoson 1 probable - more details following

SAND MARTIN Kosi Tapu - see accompanying notes. inspection of skins.

CLIFF SWALLOW Kosi Tapu 1 on April 22nd on The wire's with other hirundines

TREE PIPIT Kosi Barrage 2 on April 16th.

ROSY PIPIT At muktinath in summer plumage by march 21st. also visible
Passage of small Flocks ~~to~~, about 50 birds up valley From
Lete area in clear weather march 27th.

YELLOW WAGTAIL See accompanying notes.

CITRINE WAGTAIL see accompanying notes.

MAROON-BACKED ACCENTOR. Ghara Flock of 6+ on several Dates in March.

GOULD'S SHORTWING Gopte 2 on 20th May 1 between Gopte & Gosainkunda Pass 22nd ^{May} _{others saw 7 on May 22nd.}

HIMALAYAN RUBYTHROAT. Kyanjing ♂ singing May 28th.

INDIAN BLUE ROBIN Kosi Barrage 1 ♂ presumably on Passage April 17th.

RUFOUS BREASTED BUSH ROBIN Gopte maximum 3 ♂ 3 ♀ 14th May.

GULDENSTADT'S REDSTART Manpha 1 ♀ 17th March, Manpha - Jomsom - 2 ♂ 2 ♀

WHITE BELLED REDSTART. Kyanjing, Langtang mymax 1 ♂ 1 ♀ May 28th

WHITE TAILED STONECHAT. 5 pairs some with Fully Fledged Young
North of Barrage Kosi April 18th.

HODGSON'S ~~OR~~ BUSHCHAT. Kosi Barrage April 5th 3 ♀ 3 ♂. Dave Farrow
saw about 10 on That Date.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR. LETE 1 March 27th presumably a Migrant.

DESERT WHEATEAR. Jomsom 1 ♀ March 18th.

PIED GROUND THRUSH. Between Chabra & river lodge 1 ♂ & nest May 26th } LANGTANG
1 ♂ Between Sheba - Dungal Village and ♂ Singing back Dungal. }

THICK BILLED WARBLER. Kathmandu Valley 1 on 4th march.

BOOTED WARBLER: Kosi Barrage 1 on April 18th.

YELLOW BROWED WARBLER (P.I. inornatus) only 2 possibly identified Godavari April 9th.

CHIFFCHAFF Marpha 1 on 16th march presumably on passage despite cold conditions. This was surprisingly the only chiffchaff seen in Nepal. Migration of Indian wintering birds seems to bypass Nepal presumably either round the main Himalayan range or straight over the Top. Unlike Greenish warbler & Yellow browed both species breeding North of Nepal but passing through Nepal i.e. Kathmandu-K in large numbers.

SMOKE WARBLER. Kosi Barrage 1 on April 18th and Gopte → GoranKunda 2 on approach

SULPHUR BELLIED WARBLER. 1 Below Naudanda. April 5th.

To the pass in Dwarf Juniper on May 22nd

LARGE NILTAVA Gurepani Godavari K.V. 1 on 7th June.

RUFOUS TAILED FLYCATCHER Godavari Botanical Gardens 2 on Ap 9th.

Nagajun 1 on Ap 8th.

BROWN FLYCATCHER. Pashupatinath 1 on Ap 13th

SLATY BACKED FLYCATCHER. Godavari 1 on April 9th.

FULVOUS PARROTBILL Gurepani Ridge 5 on April 2nd.

FIRE TAILED MYZORNIS ^{Fairly} Common at Gopte at least 3 different nests Found.

RUFOUS FRONTED TIT (BLACK BROWED TIT) 4 at Gurepani March 10th.

FIRE CAPPED TIT Between Lete and Ghaza 1 on March 27th.

MRS GOULD'S SUNBIRD. Ghaza 1 ♂ on March 28th, and 3 Pairs Feeding in Rhododendron
in Flower March 30th.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE Between Kosi Tapu, Kosi | on Ap 22nd.

YELLOW THROATED SPARROW Kosi Tapu April 22nd.

BLACK ~~BREAST~~ THROATED WEAVER max of c300 in 2-3 Flocks Kosi April 19th.

CHAFFINCH max 7 Kalopani March 26th.

BRAMBLING 1 ♀ Kalopani March 28th.

RED BROWED FINCH Gorepani 3 ♂ 3 ♀ March 10th.

CRIMSON BROWED FINCH. Gopte 1 ♂ 1 ♀ May 21st.

COLIARD GROSBEAK. Ghaza 3 13th March.

BLACK FACED BUNTING. 1 ♀ April 19th Kosi Barrage 1 ♀ April 20th Kosi Tapu.

PINE BUNTING. Marpha 1 counted 50 Marpha 16th March. but John saw more.

YELLOW BREASTED BUNTINGS. c7000 Kusaha Kosi Tapu overhead West
in many Flocks April 21st. not seen on
other evening's There Migration or more
regular roosting movement ?

Smaller than other hirundines i.e. swallows when perched together on wires. Plumage greyer with a more diffuse greyer breast band not as prominent in flight as the breast band of *R.v. riparia*

Salim Ali states *R.v. riparia* "is darker on the underparts (presumably he means upperparts), & with a more clear cut breast band than Siberian Collared Sand Martin (*R.v. diluta*)"

Amongst the skins examined at Tring were individuals labelled (*R.v. diluta*) that were identical to the birds at Tapu as large and as pale. There was considerable variation however other specimens of (*R.v. diluta*) were smaller & browner and as good as identical to *R.v. riparia*

Yellow wagtail

White headed Yellow wagtails (*M.f. Leucocephala*) were seen at Kosi on April 14th & 22nd.

On April 14th there were probably at least 15 birds in amongst a flock of roosting *Flavia* arriving from the west at the western end of the Barrage

On April 22nd 1919 in the puddles between Kusaha and the Kosi Barrage. The description that follows is of these individuals

A superbly distinct and beautiful race. ♂ bright grass green upperparts and yellow underparts chin to vent. Wings blackish with broad white median & greater coverts and tertial fringes. crown & nape very pale blue grey or whitish with blue grey tint, ear coverts entirely white. At distance entire head appears white*. Due to paleness of head bill & eye strikingly black. * no supercilium or dark through eye.

head pattern very different from blue of *M.f. beema*
call clear as Yellow wagtail (*M.f. flavissima*) not harsh or 'nasal' as grey headed wagtail (*M.f. thunbergi*)

Noted as scarce passage migrant (possibly winter visitor) to Indian subcontinent, records from western areas (ie Rawalpindi) only. It seems these records constitute the first for Nepal.

identification of other races difficult many of the Flavas seen were in untidy plumage.

Birds put down as "gray headed types" Dark grey heads with blacker masks with yellow throats were presumably m.f. Thunbergi with a flock of 30 on the Parade ground Kosi on April 18th.

Other types described from Kosi had grey crown & ear coverts with prominent white supercilium were possibly short-tailed

1 better check this with S. Al. again.

→ Yellow wagtail (m.f. ? see Salim Ali.) although Salim Ali has no record of it from Nepal.

Citrine wagtail

1. Feet we recorded all races of citrine wagtail at Kosi Barrage.

m.c. citreola, m.c. Calcuttana, m.c. wevae.

Individuals showing the characteristics of m.c. wevae - head and underparts a paler less sulphurous yellow than the other two races, mantle lacking visible dark collar & paler grey (a similar grey to mantle of white wagtail) were noted at Kalopani on March 21st presumably in passage, April 21st Kosi Tapu and Kosi on May 3rd.

The other two races were regularly identified at Kosi.

Maximum of 50+ citrine wagtails at Kosi on May 3rd.

Marsh harriers 2 individuals Thought to be of the race Eastern Marsh harrier (c.a. *Spilonotus*) have been scraped. Looking at skins at Tring museum. These birds have been identified as ♀ Pied harriers. No skins of E. Marsh harrier could be found in the collection.

Black Tailed Godwit 1. Felt at the time that these birds were possible of the eastern race L.L. *melanoides* although no detailed descriptions were made at the time. They appeared smaller and deeper red on the throat & breast than birds seen in summer plumage in Europe.

Salim Ali notes only L.L. *limosa* for Nepal although both are equally likely to occur.

However looking at skins briefly differences between L.L. *limosa* and L.L. *melanoides* were difficult to detect.

Terrick Sandpiper.

Feeding with a large flock of Greenshanks on a freshly exposed sandbar north of the Barrage. Fairly distant but views sufficiently for a reasonably easy identification. Watched for about half an hour but without telescope following waters edge moving methodically backwards and forwards around the edge of the sandbar. Considerably smaller than Greenshank, horizontally held body with little 'neck' as tall as the legs of greenshank only. Characteristic waddling movement moving along without feeding followed by several quick probes into the sand. Feeding action quite similar to Common Sandpiper short orange legs and noticeably long upturned bill, visible even at the distance involved. Grey brown / brown mantle and band across breast contrasting with whitish underparts but other plumage features not observed. In flight paler secondaries bar noted but wing bar not as prominent as Redshank.

Common Tern - The individual at Kosi Barrage on April 10th was very different from Common Terns in Summer plumage in Europe (*S. h. hirundo*) Greyer above & below it had a very dark bill with no obvious orange red/red basal $\frac{2}{3}$ rds and is thought to be of the race *S. h. longpenis*.

From skins at Tring all *S. h. longpenis* had bills almost black whereas *S. s. hirundo* and *S. s. Tibetana* had characteristic Common Tern bill patterns allowing for variation and fading.

Hume's Short Toed Lark. Happy with the identification.

All skins examined had pale orangy buff rumps - rump on bird near Marpha described as pale Fawn.

Sand martin

Feeding over fields close to The National Parks headquarters. Kusaha difficult to count but at least 20 in company with other Hirundines. Particularly obvious when perched on telegraph wires when size comparison with Plain sand martin possible.

Differences from Plain sand martin - Appeared noticeably larger at times almost twice the bulk with head larger & broader than Plain sand martin at times some individuals appeared almost the same size as swallow with which direct 'alongside' comparison was possible. Paler grey brown than Plain sand martin decidedly 'grey' rather than brown with paler grey rump. Underparts white, throat merging into grey of cheeks a grey brown breast band not as clean cut as in *R. v. riparia* in some individuals extending down center of breast.

Differences from European Sand Martin *R. v. riparia* appeared larger in comparison with swallows alongside than I remember *R. v. riparia* appearing - *R. v. pro riparia* or is quite noticeably