

N. Freeman
1984



NEPAL : 12.2.84 - 9.3.84.

Supplementary notes to Bird List.

Ducks: maximum counts at Kosi barrage 14-15/2.

Lesser Whistling Teal	3000	
Ruddy Shelduck	1200	
Pintail	1000	
Teal	150	
Gadwall	1500	
Wigeon	150	
Garganey	50	
Shoveler	300	
Red-crested Pochard	2	
Pochard	1	
Ferruginous Duck	60	
Tufted Duck	20	
Comb Duck	4	
Goosander	15	
Falcated Duck	16	
		Total: 7,468.

Upland Buzzard. 1 probable over Ghandrung ridge 1.3.84. ca 3000 m.
Huge size with comparatively long wings and tail.
Head & breast brownish becoming slightly paler on belly. Flanks/thighs blackish not extending across belly. Tail pale brownish-white with smudgy indistinct barring noticeable at closest range.
Prominent large blackish carpal patches. Rest of underwing coverts pale brownish, similar to underparts but slightly paler. Extensive white on base of primaries, dark tips to primaries.
Upperparts not seen.

Pallid Harrier 1 ♂ imm. at Lete 23.2.84 ca 2400 m.

Impeyan Pheasant. 1 ♀ above Ghasa 25.2.84 ca 2500 m.

Cheer Pheasant. 2 ♀♀ above Ghasa 25.2.84.

Koklass Pheasant. 1 ♀ above Lete 23.2.84 ca 2650 m.

1 ♂ above Ghasa 25.2.84 ca 2450 m.



Bengal Florican: Kosi Barrage 14.2.84 (area south of barrage on west side).
5 birds seen, flight typically bustard-like: long thin neck, deep belly,
slow flight, broad wings.

1 ♂ ad: 07.30 ca 1½ m south of village in uncultivated area.

Plumage (at a distance) wholly black except for white wings.

1 imm ♂: 08.20 ca 3 miles south of village in peripheral cultivation (north side).
On ground looked mottled brown all over (like ♀). Belly not seen.

2 ♀♀: 08.45 seen together in same area as imm ♂ (in flight only)
Plumage tan and mottled. Paler upperwing coverts. No white in wings.

1 ♀: 09.20 flushed from tall wheat field at distance of 15-20 ft on east
side of cultivation. Mantle and upperwing coverts golden brown, well
mottled, with paler wedge on outermost part of upperwing coverts.

Plumage of imm ♂ in flight: Head, neck, back and upperwing coverts mottled brown.
Primaries and secondaries pure white except for small black tips to primaries.
Underwing and belly jet black.

Solitary Snipe: 7 below Muktinath 19.2.84.

1 on small stream close to south side of Lele bridge 24.2.84.

Ibisbill 3 on river ca 5 km west of Hetauda 16.2.84

Lesser Black-backed Gull. 1 ad Kosi on 14.2.84.

Comparison of size with other gulls not made. Mantle grey, distinctly
darker than normal *argentatus* in UK (but not as dark as British LBBGulls).
Legs yellow, and obvious even at long range. Presumably ssp. *heuglini*.

Herring Gull. 1 ad Kosi 15.2.84.

Again no comparison of size made but mantle paler grey than the bird
seen previously. Legs pink. In fact, looked more or less identical with
British Herring Gulls. (I am not able to say whether mantle was paler or
darker than British Herring Gulls).

Grandala: Flock of 80 in clearing along Ghandrung ridge 1.3.84.

Altitude of approx 10,000 ft. The weather of the preceding few days
had been particularly windy with much snow at higher altitudes.

Little Bronzed Drongo. 3 on 1.3.84 on Ghandrung ridge above Ghorepani
at an altitude of about 9,500 ft.



Hodgson's Bush chat. 8 birds seen in Florican area at Kosi on 14.2.84.
5♂♂ and 3♀♀ identified. Descriptions taken, particularly of the males
whose plumage varied from bird to bird, viz colour & extent of orange
on breast and width & colour of collar.

Large Long-billed Thrush } One of each in same small wooded garden
Plain-backed Mountain Thrush } beside the Namaste Lodge in Tatopani on 28.2.84.
altitude 3900 ft. The long-billed Thrush was
in a damp, shady patch close to a leaking hose
pipe underneath a Tangerine tree. The other thrush
was hopping along the garden wall. Both were
shy and disappeared quickly.

Spot-winged Black Tit x Coal Tit hybrids:

Two birds at Lete on 23.2.84 showing some of the characters of
Spot-winged Black Tits correspond almost exactly with sketches
of hybrids by Martens (J. Orn 116 p. 374, 1975) and must be considered
as such.

Spot-winged Grosbeak. 1 on Phulchowki on 7.3.84 was omitted in error
from main list.

Nepal Rosefinch: 3 birds (1♂ + 2♀♀) feeding on frozen snow underneath
dense bushes in the big clearing along Ghandrung ridge
on 1.3.84 (altitude about 10,000 ft).

Vinaceous Rosefinch. 1 ♂ joined party of Beautiful Rosefinches feeding
amongst patches of snow under a thick canopy
of bushes.
Size quite small, comparable or slightly smaller than
Beautiful. General colouration dark vinaceous and
untreated wings & tail looked blackish in dull light.
Tone of upper & underparts apparently uniform. Prominent
pink supercilium, narrower than pink-browed. Pale spots
on tertials were quite obvious (exact colour not determined)
[Identification confirmed by reference to skins]