

An annotated list of the Birds seen in and around the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal 10-14 January 1988 :W G Harvey

ARDEOLA GRAYII Indian Pond Heron
1 or 2 Gokarna.

BUBULCUS IBIS Cattle Egret
Common in low country; large roost in eucalyptes north of Patan on Godawari road.

EGRETTA GARZETTA Little Egret
1 or 2 feeding in Bagmati River near Gokarna.

MILVUS MIGRANS Black Kite
Fairly common in lowlands and up to 2000m over mountain slopes. Both subspecies identified with the largest concentration, of LINEATUS, totalling 20+ in tall trees in Gokarna waiting to bathe in the stream.

GYPS HIMALAYENSIS Himalayan Griffon Vulture
Single high over Shivapura range; viewed from 1800m altitude and 1000m range.

BUTEO BUTEO Common Buzzard
Several buzzards in the agricultural country between Godawari and Patan and around Gokarna looked like this species alone.

AQUILA CLANGA Spotted Eagle
An adult drifted low over Baudda on one morning.

AQUILA RAPAX NIPALENSIS Steppe Eagle
An immature soared for an hour low over Burhanilkanth with Kites one late morning.

HIERAAETUS PENNATUS Booted Eagle
An adult dark phase in fresh plumage was harried relentlessly by Corvids low over agricultural land west of Baudda one morning.

FALCO TINNUNCULUS Kestrel
1-2 on Shivapuri range.

FALCO PEREGRINUS PEREGRINATOR Shaheen Falcon
Adult resting in pine at about 1700m on Sivapuri range near old sanatorium.

LOPHURA LEUCOMELA Kalij Pheasant
Common in open forest at c.1400-1500m on Nagarjun feeding in pairs in the last two hours of daylight.

GALLINULA CHLOROPUS Moorhen
Single near Godawari.

ACTITIS HYPOLEUCOS Common Sandpiper
Single on Bagmati river near Gokarna.

COLUMBA LIVIA Rock Pigeon
Abundant especially in and near settlements and on agricultural land.

STREPTOPELIA ORIENTALIS Oriental Turtle Dove
Single at c.1500m on Shivapuri range.

PSITTACULA HIMALAYANA Slaty headed Parakeet
Several parties in Gokarna forest.

HALCYON SMYRNENSIS White breasted Kingfisher
Fairly widespread in lowlands.

MEGALAIMA VIRENS Great Barbet
Pair duetting for over one hour in topmost, bare branches of
forest tree in Gokarna forest.

MEGALAIMA ASIATICA Blue throated Barbet
Single calling in Pasupatinath.

PICUS CANUS Grey headed Woodpecker
Single in Gokarna forest feeding low on fallen tree.

DENDROCOPOS AURICEPS Brown fronted Pied Woodpecker
Single in pines at c.1650m on Shiva puri.

DENDROCOPOS MACEI Fulvous breasted Pied Woodpecker
Several in Gokarna forest and at Pasupatinath.

RIPARIA PALUDICOLA Brown throated Sand Martin
c.10 over Bagmati river near Gokarna on one morning.

HIRUNDO RUSTICA Barn Swallow
Common and widespread in lowlands. Prospecting for nest sites
under eaves of shops in Baudda.

ANTHUS HODGSONI Olive backed Pipit
Abundant wherever short grass under or near large, usually well
spaced, trees. Particularly so at Gokarna, Pasupatinath and
Godawari, where a roost of at least 100 collecting on sports field
one evening.

MOTACILLA CINEREA Grey Wagtail
Several on streams and rivers near Gokarna and Pasupatinath.

MOTACILLA ALBA White Wagtail
Common throughout lowlands and near settlements up to
2762m(Phulcoki). At least three different races seen.

MOTACILLA MADERASPATENSIS Large Pied Wagtail
Single Gokarna.

PERICROCOTUS FLAMMEUS Scarlet Minivet
Only one party, of about 15, positively identified feeding in pines
with the next species at about 1600m on Shivapuri.

PERICROCOTUS BREVIROSTRIS Short billed Minivet
Minivets were particularly common in the pines between 1500 and
1800m on Shivapuri range up to and above the old sanatorium. Apart
from the record above all those that were identifiable (three
parties totalling about 40 birds) were of this species. I
identified them by the distribution of red on the males and the
face pattern of the females.

PERICROCOTUS ETHOLOGUS Long tailed Minivet

Apart from in the pines, this species appeared to be the most widespread and commonest minivet in the Valley. It was seen up to 2000m on Phulcoki, in Godawari and Gokarna, and in scattered riverside trees near Pasupatinath.

PYCNONOTUS LEUCOGENYS White cheeked Bulbul

Common up to 1800m on Phulcoki and Shivapuri in degraded forest and scrub. Often mixed with the next species but tended to be the commoner at the higher altitudes and much more local in the lowlands.

PYCNONOTUS CAFER Red vented Bulbul

Very common throughout the lowlands particularly in patches of thick, mixed scrub near water. Recorded up to 1800m but decidedly scarcer above 1500m.

HYSIPETES MCCLELLANDII Mountain Bulbul

A few at 1750m near old sanatorium on Shivapuri.

HYSIPETES MADAGASCARIENSIS Black Bulbul

Only recorded in Gokarna forest but abundant there with several flocks totalling over 500 birds feeding noisily in the tops of the tallest trees.

AEGITHINA TIPHIA Common Iora

Single in Gokarna forest.

TARSIGER CYANURUS Red flanked Bluetail

Single at c.2200m on Phulcoki.

COPSYCHUS SAULARTS Magpie Robin

Common in lowlands.

PHOENICURUS OCHRURUS Black Redstart

Common on terraced fields on lower slopes of Shivapuri range.

PHOENICURUS HODGSONI Hodgsons Redstart

Two near stream gullies at c1550m on Shivapuri.

RHYACORNIS FULIGINOSUS Plumbeous Redstart

Common on every suitable stretch of water. Full song heard on Shivapuri and song and pre-nuptial pursuit witnessed on Bagmati river near Pasupatinath.

SAXICOLA TORQUATA Stonechat

Abundant throughout lowlands and on open slopes up to 1800m.

SAXICOLA CAPRATA Pied Bushchat

Singles near Gokarna and Bhaktapur.

CHAIMARRORNIS LEUOCEPHALUS White capped Redstart

Several on Bisnumati river and its tributaries on slopes of Shivapuri, on Bagmati at Pasupatinath and on lower slopes of Phulcoki, including one in a stone quarry.

MONTICOLA RUFIVENTRIS Chestnut bellied Rockthrush

Female in wooded gully at 1700m on Sivapuri near old sanatorium.

MYIOPHONEUS CAERULEUS Blue Whistling Thrush

Adult on terraces near stream at c.1580m on Shivapuri.

ZOOTHERA DAUMA Whites Thrush
Common in open woodland with short grass. Recorded at Godawari, Gokarna and Pasupatinath. Invariably in pairs and eerily silent!

TURDUS ALBOCINCTUS White collared Blackbird
Common and in full song from 2200m to summit of Phulcoki.

TURDUS RUFICOLLIS Black throated Thrush
Only record was of c6 in degraded open woodland at Pasupatinath.

ENICURUS MACULATUS Spotted Forktail
Common on streams and rivers to c.1500m. Recorded at Godawari, Gokarna, Burhanilkanth and Pasupatinath.

PRINIA CRINIGER Striated Prinia
Only found in neglected cultivation on slopes of Shivapuri around 1600m.

SEICERCUS XANTHOSCHISTOS Grey hooded Warbler
Common in bird armies in Gokarna forest and on Shivapuri to 1750m.

ABROSCOPUS SUPERCILIARIS Yellow bellied Warbler
Very common in bird armies on Phulcoki below c.2400m, in Gokarna forest, Godawari and Shivapuri to about 1650m.

PHYLLOSCOPUS REGULOIDES Blyths Crowned Warbler
Common in bird armies to 2600m on Phulcoki and in Godawari and Gokarna.

PHYLLOSCOPUS OCCIPITALIS Western Crowned Warbler
Single well seen in bird army at Godawari.

PHYLLOSCOPUS PULCHER Orange barred Warbler
Abundant on Phulcoki from 2000m to summit, often dominating the bird armies. Surely one of the most easily recognisable leaf warblers with the constantly fanned white outer tail feathers a striking field mark. Also a few at Godawari but nowhere else.

PHYLLOSCOPUS MACULIPENNIS Grey faced Warbler
A few on Shivapuri in scrub below pines at 1600-1650m.

PHYLLOSCOPUS PROREGULUS Pallass Leaf Warbler
Abundant at lower levels though seen up to 1760m. Frequently the dominant in bird armies especially at Godawari and Gokarna. Also on Shivapuri, in Pasupatinath and in Valley settlements. Seemed to favour bare trees like aspen, alder and poplar but also in pines. Fed very like tits or goldcrests, different to Yellow browed, and much more sociable. I now understand why multiple arrivals of this species in Britain are almost the norm!

PHYLLOSCOPUS INORNATUS Yellow browed Warbler
Fairly common in Godawari, Gokarna and on Shivapuri to 1760m. Also in gardens in Kathmandu. Generally rather solitary though tagged onto bird armies.

FICEDULA STROPHIATA Orange gorgetted Flycatcher

Recorded in Gokarna and commonly on Shivapuri from 1500 to 1760m. Very territorial as is the next species in winter at least.

FICEDULA PARVA Red breasted Flycatcher
Common to 1600m including the agricultural lowlands where there were trees. Seen at Godawari, Gokarna, Pasupatinath, Nagarjun, Shivapuri and in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur.

CULICIPAPA CEYLONENSIS Grey headed Flycatcher
Fairly common in bird armies in Godawari, Gokarna and Shivapuri up to 1760m.

RHIPIDURA HYPOXANTHA Yellow bellied Fantail
Very common in Gokarna and also seen on Shivapuri to 1650m. Not recorded on Phulcoki.

STACHYRIS PYRRHOPS Black chinned Babbler
Small party in thick low scrub at 1600m on Shivapuri below old sanatorium with next species.

TURDOIDES NIPALENSIS Spiny Babbler
About 6 at 1600m on Shivapuri with above. Very responsive to pishing!

GARRULAX RUFOGULARIS Rufous chinned Laughing Thrush
At least 2 on edge of bird army dominated by sibilias but including Chestnut crowned Laughing thrushes in oak/rhododendron forest at c. 2600m on Phulcoki.

GARRULAX AFFINIS Black faced Laughing Thrush
One party in thick rhododendron forest at 2700m on Phulcoki.

GARRULAX ERYTHROCEPHALUS Chestnut crowned Laughing Thrush
Common on Phulcoki from c 1600m to summit. Usually in roadside scrub.

~~CUTIA NIPALENSIS~~ Nepal Cutia
One party of at least 20 feeding in moss covered oaks around 2550m on Phulcoki. Looked like huge pitta-patterned nuthatches!

ACTINODURA NIPALENSIS Hoary Barwing
Fairly common in bird armies between 2400m and 2700m on Phulcoki.

MINLA STRIGULA Chestnut tailed Minla
Common in bird armies between 2600m and summit on Phulcoki.

ALCIPPE VINIPECTUS White browed Tit babbler
Abundant often in bird armies between 2000m and summit on Phulcoki.

HETEROPHASIA CAPISTRATA Black capped Sibia
Abundant dominating most bird armies from 2000m to summit on Phulcoki. Appeared to be the most numerous species on this trail.

YUHINA FLAVICOLLIS Whiskered Yuhina
Several in bird armies between 2000m and 2650m on Phulcoki.

YUHINA GULARIS Stripe throated Yuhina
Common on Phulcoki between 2000m and summit often in bird armies with next species.

YUHINA OCCIPITALIS Rufous vented Yuhina
Fairly common above 2200m in bird armies on Phulcoki.

YUHINA ZANTHOLEUCA White bellied Yuhina
Several in bird armies between 1800m and 2400m on Phulcoki, in Godawari and Gokarna. Usually in ones or twos and with warblers not babblers. Apart from these differences from the other yuhina

species it looks and moves atypically, keeping to low thick cover and feeding like a leaf warbler.

AEGITHALOS CONCINNUS Black throated Tit
Very common on Phulcoki to 2700m, in Godawari and Gokarna and as low as 1330m at Pasupatinath. Always in bird armies.

PARUS MAJOR Great Tit
Widespread and common 1600m particularly numerous in pines on Shivapuri and here recorded to 1750m near old sanatorium. Also common in Godawari and Gokarna, Pasupatinath and in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur.

PARUS MONTICOLUS Green backed Tit
In full song at 1800m on Phulcoki and seen at 1650m on Shivapuri.

PARUS XANTHOGENYS Black lored Tit
Common in Godawari and Gokarna, usually in bird armies.

SITTA FRONTALIS Velvet fronted Nuthatch
Common in Godawari and Gokarna always in bird armies. Also in pines on Shivapuri up to 1600m.

SITTA HIMALAYENSIS White tailed Nuthatch
Several in bird armies between 2400m and 2700m on Phulcoki.

SITTA CASTANEA Chestnut bellied Nuthatch
Common in forests up to 1600m including Godawari (where nuptial display seen), Gokarna and Pasupatinath.

CERTHIA DISCOLOR Brown throated Treecreeper
Several in bird armies above 2000m on Phulcoki.

CERTHIA NIPALENSIS Rusty flanked Treecreeper
One well seen in bird army in Gokarna forest at c. 1350m.

NECTARINA ASIATICA Purple Sunbird
One in scrub above Godawari at c. 1650m.

AETHOPYGA NIPALENSIS Green tailed Sunbird
Common in roadside scrub between 2400m and 2600m on Phulcoki and in bird armies in Gokarna. Males in song.

AETHOPYGA IGNICAUDA Fire tailed Sunbird
One at about 2000m on Phulcoki.

DICAEUM MELANOXANTHUM Yellow bellied Flowerpecker
At least 10 feeding on the seeds of mistletoe berries and discarding the pulp at Pasupatinath. Very confident and oddly finch like.

ZOSTEROPS PALPEBROSA Oriental Whiteeye
Common up to 1550m particularly at Godawari, Gokarna, Pasupatinath and Shivapuri. Often in bird armies.

LANIUS SCACH Long tailed Shrike
Common in Valley including Kathmandu itself. Mainly in agricultural country and terraces but also in open pine forest up to 1700m on Shivapuri.

LANIUS TEPHRONOTUS Grey backed Shrike
Single near Gokarna.

DICRURUS MACROCERCUS Black Drongo
Fairly but locally common in Valley, notably at Gokarna and along
the Bagmati.

DICRURUS LEUCOPHAEUS Ashy Drongo
One at 1500m on Shivapuri.

GARRULUS GLANDARIUS Eurasian Jay
Fairly common between 2400m and 2700m on Phulcoki.

CORVUS SPLENDENS House Crow
Abundant near settlements and cultivation up to c.1500m.

CORVUS MACRORHYNCHOS Jungle Crow
Abundant up to 2762m (summit of Phulcoki) often near settlements
but not always indeed surprisingly frequent in forest.

ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS Common Mynah
Abundant near settlements and cultivation up to 1750m. Huge roost
in roadside trees in central Kathmandu.

ACRIDOTHERES FUSCUS Jungle Mynah
Common in Valley in cultivation, small villages and open woodland
and temple sites.

PASSER DOMESTICUS House Sparrow
Very common near and in settlements in Valley often with next
species but usually in smaller numbers.

PASSER MONTANUS Tree Sparrow
Abundant throughout Valley in and near settlements and
cultivation. Up to 1800m.

LONCHURA PUNCTULATA Spotted Munia
One party in Pasupatinath.

SERINUS THIBETANUS Tibetan Serin
One small party in Godawari.

CARDUELIS SPINOIDES Yellow breasted Greenfinch
Common on terraces between 1400m and 1600m on Shivapuri.

EMBERIZA PUSILLA Little Bunting
One party in scrubby gulley in terraces at c.1450m on Shivapuri.

END OF RECORDS