

WUSA

"Birds Observed in the SE

Terai 12-26 February 1989"

by Jack Cox

- Main sites:

- 1) Around Dharan
- 2) Ramduni Forest & surrounding fields
- 3) Kosi Thappu
- 4) Kosi Barga
- 5) Char Kose Ban (SW of Bhadrapur)

①

Kathmandu - Dharan 12 Feb. '89

Left KTOL at 5:15 PM, stopping at Flugling at 8:45 PM for Khanna. Proceeded to Itahari with short stop at Hetauda and Inara (Inawa). ~~From~~ Arrived Itahari at 5:50 AM (ten minutes earlier than schedule).

Continued within 10 minutes to Dharan aboard ~~the~~ early morning 'super' bus with several milkmaidens also aboard. Driver rather typically impatient and jerky movements. One lass spilt 1/2 a precious container - quick hands prevented even more of a loss - and acted as if nothing had happened.

By 7 AM at the town police station a young small porter was quickly hailed, but nobody really seemed to know who he was. Still he was registered and everyone swore he would easily carry 30 Kg. The backpack, though looks like it should crush him when he has it on...

13 February : Shanti Khola Bridge  
(described by Cowl as the Road  
Works Camp 1.5 Km S Dharan)

1430 - 1750 HRS

p. 2 birds 13.02.89 all located  
in grid # "Q8"

- Crested Serpent Eagle 1
- Red-thighed Falconet 1
- \*Linnateed Barbet 1
  - seen in leafless treetop with Hill Mynas  
not v. well. <sup>large</sup> sp. deduced by location.
- Gray-crowned Pygmy Woodpecker 2
  - tail not noticed; by hab. + behaviour  
but wide eyebrow noticed
- Crested Swift ~ 25 over forest + Khola
- Black-headed Oriole 1
- Ashy Drongo 1
- Talking Myna 3 or 4
- Rufous-breasted Blue Flycatcher 1 ♂
- Gray Tit 1
- Streaked Spiderhunter 1 - feeding  
in Woodfordia mistletoe at top  
of ~~lax~~ tree in sat forest.

14 February '89

Dharan - Baluwachauri  
from Dharan at 0800 arriving for our  
lunch stop at 1245. this village on  
E bank of Sardu Khola

Walked to W outskirts of Dharan  
then turned SW just after the  
Sardu Khola ford. Entered fairly  
gd sal/mixed sal ~ 50% canopy re-  
maining. Never really prevalent  
with tangled thickets! Very little  
standing deadwood, but off  
main trail not ~~taken~~ searched.  
N of Baluwachauri ~ 1 km the  
whole of the understory gone,  
grazed by cattle. Much of this  
forest patch has fair-gd undergrowth.  
Avian diversity seemed very good

Will make for Ramduni  
temple + surrounding forest  
In afternoon walked through  
Chakkarguti to Sainik (Bhutparba Sainik)  
(bazaar)

Forest 'guards' seemed to have a fair/good knowledge of major species present, but nobody immediately recognized Great Slatys when shown the Fleming plate.

and stayed the night with a re-settled (all ex-servicemen's land in this area) Limbu family just at the edge of the forest patch around Ramduni temple which is said to be owned by HMG Mr. S. to be exact. There is an <sup>district</sup> Office (Chhatra ranch) with a warden to manage Ramduni forest. Cutting of trees prohibited but people take a bit anyway. 4 forest guard checkpoints (guard post). No Great Slatys said to occur there but N of Bharauli, quite possibly that which we walked through. Looked thick enough in center to be suitable, but unlikely much other along our walk that it would have been.

~ 2 km, maybe 3 of potentially suitable habitat: many mature trees but almost no standing deadwood.

p.b birds all located in grid "Q8"

- Large-goldenback Wpecker 2 (pr)
- Barn-Swallow (together) 15
- Striated Swallow 10-12
- Brown-Shrike (Dharan outskirts) 1
- Large-Racquet-tailed Drongo 1 or 2
- Hair-custed Drongo 6+
- White-bellied Drongo 2+
- Black Drongo ~50  
on grazing goatbackes in early AM  
outside Dharan - some in pairs also.
- Gray-headed Myna 4 in simal w/ drongs
- Red Myna ~80
- Common Myna 10+
- Jungle Myna 5+
- Indian Tree Pie 1
- Large Cuckoo-Shrike 2 (pr)
- Scarlet Minivet 6+ ♀ 2+ ♂
- Lesser-Wood Shrike (?) 3+
- Pied-Wood Shrike 1
- Golden-fronted Leaf Bird 2
- Black-headed Yellow Bulbul 3+
- Red-vented Bulbul 1

forest plantation,  
largely acacia?

p. 5 birds 14.03.89 all located

in grid: "Q 8"

(5)

## Feb. Birds Observed

14 ~~March~~ - Dharan → Sainik

Pond Heron	1/2 way in canal	2
Cattle Egret		~12
Little Egret		5-6; 20
White-necked Stork		2
Lesser Adjutant Stork		1

north of Sainik in canal-side planted  
forestry with swampy floor. There  
with 20-25 egrets, pond herons  
pipit.

Crested Serpent Eagle		1
Red-thighed Falconet		1
Red-wattled Lapwing		1+2
Emerald Dove		2
Rose-ringed Parakeet		>20
Barred Owl (?)		1
Indian Roller		1
Hoopoe (in forest + open area)		2
White-breasted Kingfisher		1
Green Bee-eater		4-5
Small-yellow naped W'pecker		2 (pr.)

p. 7 birds all located  
in grid "Q8"

- Red-breasted Flycatcher 2
  - Black-naped Flycatcher 1
  - Gray-headed Flycatcher 2
  - Yellow-eyed Warbler 1
  - Robin Dayal ♀ 1
  - Grey-winged Blackbird 4♂♂
  - Black-throated Thrush 2
  - Gray Tit ~ 10
  - Pipits ----
  - Tree Sparrow (together at  
House Sparrow W Dharan)
  - Crested Bunting 1
- 
- 48 spp.

Large-Ried Wagtail - 2 prs.

TOTAL = 49 spp.

15 February 1989

Sainik - Kusaha (Reserve HQ)

Arose at 0645 for Swiss Miss after a rough nite due to fever, a cold & sore throat. Left on Limbu house at 0735 towards Ramduni temple forest. Walked along W edge of forest, inside 100-200m or so. Fairly well chopped 40% - 20% storey remaining. Some thickets & saps frequent, but also several canal road side grazing areas and small pokharis. At the first proper dirt track junction over the canal, turned W into Prakashpur for a long tea break at the <sup>interface</sup> edge of the forest (understorey vacant) and village khets. Same familiar refrain: indeed forbidden to chop live trees but people sneak in and do it anyway, esp. to build houses. Sometimes caught and jailed by the forest guards. Continued to the dyke road and walked past Moduban in early afternoon for



a short break 1310-1405 hours.  
 Sleep as well due to illness and  
 uselessness of walking in a virtual  
 dust storm, blowing 20-30 mph  
 steadily after 1300 hrs. Cooked at  
 the forest guard (army?) camp,  
 for which they were refused to  
 receive any money for fuelwood.  
 (Stove still stoppered/plugged).  
 Continued along dyke road 1405-  
 1540 HRS arriving at Kusaha HQ  
 Met Warden T.R. Adhikari and  
 settled into guest house. Upate  
 and Mishra just departed today  
 for Biratnagar and on to Biratnagar  
 tomorrow. KTM.

Usually, March before the  
 afternoon winds (loo) crank up  
 around here. Birding 1300-1600  
 very difficult to blowing dust +  
 speed, trying to hold binos steady.

\* = new bird for JC for Nepal

p. 10 birds

Grid Square:

"Q8"

♀ head creamier —  
compared to ♂ brighter  
white.

\*

Birds Observed 15 Feb. '89

Sainik - Kusaha (via W Ramduni)

Little Cormorant - canal side ponds  
outside Reserve. Several groups (5-6)  
of 5-60 individuals (100+ for day)  
most between Moduban + Kusaha

Darter — 1 in Kosi Swamp thicket

Pond Heron - 30+ ~~E~~ ponds/khats

Night Heron - 1 inside canal border

Cattle Egret - 15+

Intermediate Egret - 5+

Large Egret - 5+

Open-billed Stork - groups of 4, 5, 12,  
in E bank marshes 12, ~15 + 60 = 100

Black-necked Stork - 2 prs in E marshes

Lesser Adjutant Stork - 3+4+2+1 E marshes  
also, the group of 4 in marsh in Ramduni forest

Ruddy Shelduck - 6 prs (♀+♂) in E  
ponds + marshes - mostly in open thal.

\* Red-crested Pochard - 22 (♀♀ & ♂♂) in E  
marshes actively diving in Eichhornia  
fringed / infested pokhans.

♂ head more rufous / chestnut -  
orange; bright red bill.

p.11 birds plotted as  
grid square

"Q8"

white line down →  
center of back

similar bird w/ abdomen ←  
dk. black (!?)

large breast band →  
appeared partial  
tuft hard to see

←

- Dark Kite - 3+ over terai khets
- Osprey - 1 along E ponds/marshes
- Whitebacked Vulture - 1 over open terai
- Red-wattled Lapwing - 2
- Caspian Tern (?) several X over E ponds
- Indian Ring Dove - 2
- Rufous Turtle Dove - 3+
- Rose-ringed Parakeet - 5 or 6 + B
- Indian Roller
- Hoopoe - in forest w/ other birds
- Small Pied Kingfisher - 1 over E ponds
- (?) Large Pied Kingfisher - 3 in W bank bush during afternoon dusk storm, perched close together.
- Eurasian Kingfisher - 2
- White-breasted Kingfisher - 2
- Green Bee-eater - 1
- Rufous-headed Shrike - 3 (2 terai; 1 E marsh)
- \*Ashy Wood Swallow - 5+; one on a canal-side wire sallied for an orange (buckeye? monarch?) butterfly and gulped it down. Free looks sideways - Also flying, semi-parachuting over the dyke top road

p. 12 birds recorded as  
grid square "Q8"

Either Little Pied or Slatey ←  
Blue ♀. Under tail coverts whitish  
Tail upper coverts very dark/blackish  
No rufous - only dull grey brown  
rump. No eyering. Pale throat +  
upper breast. low in saplings  
with staccato, free, given sharp  
clicking alarm. No ♂ in sight  
Single. No tail cocking noticed.  
Wings somewhat drooped.

12

Pied Nyna - 60+  
Common Nyna - 15+  
Bank Nyna - 1 in plowed khets  
outside Sainik. Brown wing patch gd. mk.  
Jungle Nyna - 6+ outside Sainik.  
Indian Tree Pie - 1  
Jungle Crow - 1 at Edyke bank  
House Crow - 5+ over terai village  
Red-vented Bulbul - 2+  
Red-breasted Flycatcher  
(Mystery-Flycatcher)  
Gray-headed Flycatcher  
Yellow-rumped L. Warbler - 1 hovering (?)  
Collared Bush Chat (*S.t. przewalskii*) - 2 ♂♂  
Pied Bush Chat - 1 ♂ in wire dam caging  
Pied Wagtail - 10+  
44 spp.

Around Kusaha 16 Feb. '89

'spurs' →

Slept til 0715 hrs (!), but quite ill with a cold & fever. Finally ventured out w/ the warden to one of the  $\perp$  dykes to search the weed beds & pools as well as dykeside drier veg of Zizyphus jujuba, which like the tamarisks is very scant & chopped over. At end of  $\perp$  dyke several sandbars of the arm of the braided Kosi; ~~on~~ shallowest and on the shortest sandbars where most birds seemed to be. Windy til 0930 which was cold. After that calm until 1135 hrs, when started back.

p. 14 birds recorded as  
grid square: "D8" "Q8"

2 on a sand bar in Kosi. One with small white patch behind beak (facial patch) and noticeably yellow anterior bill. Next to it, of ± same size was cormorant with much more white on head and upper neck. Appeared face was ringed with black and <sup>somewhat</sup> a spiky black line of feathers down the middle of head and nape. White patch on flanks very noticeable, even while standing.

gallinule closely associated with the coot, almost as if they were her ~~chicks~~ "own".

~~both~~ Coot/Gallinule assoc. appear like a mother (the Coot) with her young in behaviour.

Birds Observed

-14-

W of Kusaha 16 Feb. '89

Darter	1	
Little Cormorant	6+	
Large Cormorant	2	
Grey Heron	3	
Pond Heron	5+	
Intermediate Egret		
Little Egret		
Open-billed Stork	3+	
Lesser Adjutant	4	
Ruddy Shelduck	20+	
* Comb Duck	8	no combs noted
Dark Kite	1	
Marsh Harrier	10	
* Indian Gallinule	3	with a Coot
Coot	1	with 3 Gallinule
Redwattled Lapwing	1	
Greenishank (?)	7	?
Caspian Tern	7	
Hoopoe	1	
White-breasted Kingfisher	1	
Green Bee-eater	4	

p. 15 birds recorded as  
grid square "Q8"

-15-

Black-headed Shrike	1	
Brown Shrike	1	(in Kusaha camp)
Black Drongo	2+	
Pied Myna	6+	
Common Myna	4+	
Red-vented Billbul	3+	
Striated Babbler	5-6	
Blyth's Reed Warbler (?)	1	(?)
Paddyfield / Blunt-winged Reed Warbler	2	(?)
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	1	
Bluethroat	1	♂
Pied Bush Chat	1 or 2	
Collared Bush Chat	3 or 4	
Tailorbird	1	
Pied Wagtail	several	
House Sparrow	several	
Red Munia	6-7	
Jungle Crow	several	
EVENING 16/2/89 SW Kusaha to 1 Km		
Eurasian Rubythroat	1 ♂; 1 ♀	
Bluethroat	1 ♂	

described Fleming as occurring  
in flooded terai fields. This one  
seen at aquatic-lined pool.

♂: much white on face.

One looked like having a wide  
whitish eyebrow (+ white face)  
and well-defined rusty throat.  
But only heads seen as they were  
squatting in cover of a thick tall  
clump of reeds. Hard to flush.  
Circled ca. the clump within 3-4m.  
At dusk... Flushed finally in  
straight line ~ 50m where set  
down on the sandy soil or in a  
small ravine it appeared. Tail  
color not seen. Possible confusion  
w/ ♀ Grey Partridge? Habitat:  
cut-over clumps of reed + tall  
grass with scattered tamarisk  
and scattered Zizyphus clumps

p.16 birds recorded as  
grid square ~~"Q8"~~ "Q8"

Yellow-headed Wagtail - 1 at HQ.  
Swamp Partridge (?) - 2 1 Km SW  
Striated Babbler 5-7  
Small Pied Kingfisher pair

(Montagu's Harrier??)

17 February 1989 at Kusaha 1 Km SW

Took a short lethargic stroll from  
1630-1545 hrs. Sick in bed almost the  
entire day with flu-like symptoms.

~~Brahminy~~ D Ruddy Shelducks 8 pr.  
Grey Heron 1  
Dusky Bush Warbler 2  
Hoopoe  
♂ Lesser Adjutant Storks 4  
Pond Heron 5+

Yellow-Wagtail - 2 (1 bird w/ distinct  
upper breast mottling; back color not  
noted well. Yellow (dirty) throat + pale  
yellow belly - outside HQ. in late afternoon



18 February '89. 1 Km SW of Kusaha

p. 17 birds recorded as  
grid square "Q8"

One of which an imm. ←  
still outside H<sub>2</sub>O in pond  
like yesterday.

Still sick with flu symptoms and a bit of diarrhea. Was to go out at 1100 for an elephant ride to see the arna (wild water buffalo), but let it pass and took an easy walk 1220-1700 HRS.

- Pond Heron 30+
- Yellow-headed Wagtail 1
- Little Cormorant 20+
- Purple Heron 2
- Grey Heron 1
- Cattle Egret 15+ (ca. H<sub>2</sub>O buffalo)
- Little Egret 3+
- Intermediate Egret 2
- Large Egret 1
- Open-billed Stork 20+
- Lesser Adjutant Stork 10+
- Black Ibis 2
- \* Eurasian Spoonbill 3
- Ruddy Shelducks 10+
- White-backed Vulture 3

p.18 birds recorded as  
grid square "Q8"

Excellent views at 4-5m ←  
the pale throat not noticed, but  
dark greyish bill, red legs, chestnut  
head, upper breast & abdomen seen well.

Faint lower flank barring not noticed, but  
white barring of undertail coverts seen.  
Had a squarish grey wing ~~bar~~ patch,  
which neither King nor Fleming make  
mention of. In grass tufts & hyacinth  
fringe of channel flowing past HQ,  
outside the reserve by a few meters, but  
first noted.

Fantail Snipe flushed near site of Ruddy  
Crake several X; no zigzagging flt.  
Dropped down in terminal spiral to hide  
with head just above grass level. Large  
pale tan/buffy eyestripe. trailing  
edge of ~~wh~~ wing noticeably pale at  
flt. Single soft cry upon being  
flushed.

Hen Harrier	1 ♂
* Ruddy Crake	1
Red-wattled Lapwing	2+
Fantail Snipe (?)	1 (see opp. pg)
* Black-headed Gull	1 juv.
Red Turtle Dove	1 pr.
Spotted Dove	8+
Spotted Owlet	3 (ca. Kusaha camp)
Hoopoe	3+
Small Pied Kingfisher	3
Green Bee-eater	5+
Black-headed Shrike	4
Brown Shrike	1 (in HQ camp)
Black-headed Oriole	1 ("do")
Black Drongo	2+
Pied Myna	20+
Common Myna	10+
Indian Tree Pie	2 (in HQ camp)
House Crow	2 ("do")
Jungle Crow	1 ("do")
Red-whiskered Bulbul	2 (4/3 of)
Red-vented Bulbul	6+

p. 19 birds recorded as  
grid square "Q8"

with bush warblers in tall grass ←  
clumps. Not shy. Yellow brightest on lower abdomen

single bird in grass clumps along ←  
side wire fence + in scrub (*Zizyphus*, etc.)  
at Kusaha. Clambered to a tall grass  
top to sing at one time. Not very shy.  
Seems to have a restricted territory.

Fine views of Khumbakarna (Makalu/  
Everest group) & Kanchenjunga himal  
in afternoon with impressive orangey  
tones at sunset. Ice ridges easily seen  
thru binox; a dusting (maybe more) of  
snow on the Mahabharats W of the  
Kosi gorge. Cool all day long

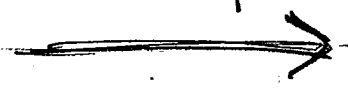
Striated Babbler lot  
Red-breasted Flycatcher 1 (in HQ campd)  
\* Yellow-bellied Prinia 1  
\* Striated Marsh Warbler 1  
Dusky Leaf Warbler 5+  
Bluethroat 3♂♂ 1♀  
Robin Dayal 1 (in HQ campd)  
Collared Bush Chat several ♀+♂  
Black-throated Thrush 1 (in HQ campd)  
Pied Wagtail 8+  
House Sparrow several  
Red Punia 2♂♂ 1♀  
Yellow-breasted Bunting 60+

50 spp.

19 February '89

Rained heavily last night + into  
the morning til 11:30. Windy but  
sunny in afternoon. Recovering from  
flu-like illness, managed birdwalk  
1-2 Km NW Kusaha in amongst dyke  
springs.

p. 20 birds recorded as "~~possible~~ grid square Q8"?



One w/ 23 Spoonbills  
on Kosi sandbar  
One w/ various waders  
in ponds E of dyke

never lifted heads; large size  
basic pattern/neck spotting observed

19 Feb. '89 Birds Observed 1-2 km NW H2

- Little Cormorant - 156+
- Pond Heron - 50+
- Large Egret - 2 in Kosi Sandbar
- Open-billed Stork - 20+
- Lesser Adjutant - 3
- \* White Ibis - 2
- Eurasian Spoonbill - 23
- Comb Duck (?) - 10 asleep on sandbar
- White-backed Vulture - 1
- Marsh Harrier - 1 ♂
- Hen Harrier - 1 ♂
- Montagu's Harrier (?)
- Indian Gallinule - 1
- Red-wattled Lapwing - 3
- Harpor - 5 (3 in one group)
- Eurasian Kingfisher - 2
- Small Pied Kingfisher - 2
- White-breasted Kingfisher - 1
- Green Bee-eater - 5+
- Barn Swallows - 4 or 5
- Brown Shrike - 1

p. 21 birds possibly  
quid square "Q8" ?

(§thickly)  
very heavily streaked below  
w/ large eyebrow / pink legs



- Common Myna - 5+
- Pied Myna - ~8
- Jungle Crow - 1
- Red-vented Bulbul - 4 or 5
- Striated Babbler - 6-8
- Red-breasted Flycatcher - 1 ♀
- Dusky Leaf Warbler - 4 or 5
- Blue-throat - 1 ♀
- Pied Bush Chat - 1 ♂
- Collared Bush Chat - 1 ♂ indica; sev. ♀♀
- Black-throated Thrush - 1 ♀
- Richards/Blyth's Pipit - 1
- House Sparrow - several
- Yellow-breasted Bunting - ~50

35 spp.

(Biratnagar-KTM flight)  
On overfly 27.02.89 it appeared  
the area to the S & SW of that  
visited on 20.2.89 was even more  
extensive in forest and tamarisk  
associations.

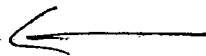
Some of the best tamarisk  
noted was at the W limit of  
the day's walk (where Swamp  
Partridge + White-breasted Water Hen  
observed). Did not cross the stream  
there, but opp. tamarisk looked  
very inviting.

would be a sin to even dart them!?!

20 February '89 2-4 Km W Kusaha  
crossed Kosi with two reserve guides  
at 9:45 to central sand banks.  
Walked across sand bars, low banks  
and pools/streamlets largely devoid  
of birds & fish fauna. Enter simal  
forest with little understorey,  
except for scattered grass/reed clumps,  
almost all of which cut 1-2' above  
ground for thatch. This activity  
for the year said to last 15 days  
only and ended for '89 yesterday.  
Very thorough harvest along embank-  
ment spurs + much of large central  
island.

Many simal to S on central island  
standing deadwood; said to be done  
by excessive siltation. Island simal  
looks more dead than alive. Nests  
only noted in live trees. Much evidence  
of wild boar, a few chital droppings +  
arna tracks. Also saw a shy herd of  
'wild' cows (~8-9) with bulls, ♀s +  
calves. Can't be removed so they say.

some patches 2m+

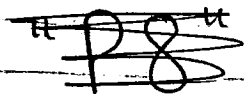


Walked through forest to long but shallow stream. Habitat to W more intact grass with tamarisk (best swath of latter yet noted). Some evidence of cutting live trees (for firewood or house construction?)

Surprised a group of ~6 fisherman with castnets seemingly very efficiently cleaning out the shallow stream for ~~the~~ mostly small carnivorous etal fish. Watched over by a soldier from the W army post who seemed embarrassed, acknowledged that it was not allowed to fish in the reserve, but that he was acting on the major-sahib's orders! Took a photo of the group. Politely showed ~~to~~ my displeasure with their activity and they retreated. My guides say this fishing happens from time to time + not too severe. Fisherman said they had to pay Rs 10-20 for the privilege and/or part of the catch. (Pd. to army).

Returned to HQ at 1500 HRS  
W excellent view of Cinnamon Bottom (w/ photos)

p.24 birds recorded as grid square:



"Q8" but very close to 87° longitude so good tamarisk but perhaps P8"

3 on Kosi sandbar; bill color not noted; legs reddish; in flight dorsal white circular patches towards tip + white line on back conspicuous.

prominent whitish, spotty streaking on lower belly abdomen noted. Good views of head; rufous/rusty coloration extended to face - white ca. eye. When at rest tail rich brown, but not rufous/rusty. In flight wings + tail have rusty/rufous color uniform.

20 Feb, '89 Birds 2-4 km W & SW of Kusaha on Kosi Tappu (island)

- Little Cormorant 40+ (2 on island outside HQ.)
- Chestnut Bittern 1
- Little Egret 3+
- Intermediate Egret 5
- Open-billed Stork 12+ (outside HQ)
- Black Stork (?) 3
- Lesser Adjutant 45 (outside HQ)
- White Ibis (10) outside HQ
- Ruddy Shelduck ~15-20
- Osprey pr. (outside HQ)
- White-backed Vulture 6-8
- Swamp Partridge (?) 1
- White-breasted Water Hen 1
- Caspian Tern 1
- Rose-ringed Parakeet ~20
- Spotted Owllet pr. (in HQ camp)
- Hoopoe 3-4 (outside HQ)
- Indian Roller 2
- Eurasian Kingfisher 1 (outside HQ)
- Stork-billed Kingfisher 2 (1 outside HQ, 1 on tappu)



Looks smaller than RLfis 8 1/2" ←

p. 25 birds recorded as  
grid square: "P8"

Pied Kingfisher	4+2
White-breasted Kingfisher	3
Green-Bee-eater	3
Blue-throated Barbet	2
Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	2
Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker	4
Bush Lark	2 (on embankment)
Sand Lark	2 ("do")
Black-headed Shrike	2
Brown Shrike	1 (in HQ compd)
Black-headed Oriole	1 ("do")
Ashy Drongo	1
Pied Nyna	8-10 (some opp. HQ)
Common Nyna	5+ (ca HQ)
Indian Tree Pie	2+2 (HQ + fayer)
House Crow	2 (in HQ compd)
Iora	1 or 2
Red-whiskered Bulbul	2
Red-vented Bulbul	10+
Jungle Babbler	6-8
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1 ♀
White-throated Fantail	1
Gray-headed Flycatcher	1

in grass clumps + tangled ←  
 thickets at large tamarisk  
 bases v. open understory - sandy open ground  
 Very dark - flicking wings + tail  
 Eyebrow dull but noticeable !???  
 Staying near the ground - No wings  
 apparent. No green coloration.  
 Seen in dim light.

~~most ♂♂~~ at least 2 ♂♂ ←  
 in breeding plumage.

omitted:  
 p. 26 birds recorded as  
 grid square:  
~~10~~ 10 8

- Dusky Leaf Warbler 2
- Smokey Leaf Warbler (?) 1
- Robin Dayal 2
- Pied Bush Chat 2 ♂♂
- Collared Bush Chat 3
- Black-throated Thrush 1 ♀ in HQ. camp
- Gray Tit 2
- Paddyfield Pipit 2
- Yellow-headed Wagtail 1 + 2 (2 ea. HQ camp)
- Pied Wagtail several
- White eye 1 or 2
- House Sparrow several (in/out HQ)
- Red Nunia 8 or 9

56 spp.

Red Jungle Fowl ≥ 4 ♂♂ small island  
 sandy understory

Said by guards to  
 be abundant here and  
 that nobody hunts them.  
 Absolutely resplendant  
 compared to domesticated fowl.

21 February '89 Kusaha-Kosi Barr.

Was given lift in new Suzuki (provided by Fto) by Sen. Warden Adhikari to the Raj Mang where a local bus <sup>was</sup> flagged down for 15 min ride to the Barrage.

E-W hiway in shocking condition. Appears almost no maintenance carried out since my last visit (10 yrs ago!). Adhikari extremely amused at my surprise and this led to quite a discussion of how things in Nepal, no matter how important, seem to fall apart.

(or new)

Walked to Pink Tower for scope views and various bush, pinnia + leaf warblers in surrounding trailside, roadside scrub & grass. After noon dahlbhat, out in small fishing boat to large sand bar (island). Returned 5 PM - walked across barrage to village for overnighting in semi-hotel (i.e. someone's room - many foreigners stay there, they say)

Birds Observed 21 Feb '89

Kosi Barrage/Pink Tower/ N islands  
(sand bars)

Little Cormorant	100+	
Large Cormorant	2	(1 in breed plum?)
Pond Heron	30+	
Cattle Egret	1	
Little Egret	many	
Intermediate Egret	several	
Large Egret	2 or 3	
Black Stork	2 (3?)	
Open-billed Stork	4-5	(Kusaha)
Lesser Adjutant	3	(Kusaha → E-W)
Black Ibis	11+8	
*Bar-headed Goose	5	(Kosi sandbank)
Ruddy Shelduck	40+	"
Pintail	20+	"
*Gadwall	40+	"
Red-crested Pochard	20+	"
*Goldeneye	1 ♂	"
Osprey	1	
Little Ring Plover	2+	

p. 28 birds recorded as  
grid square: "P8"

whitish rump seen in flt; large size; fairly wary.

with black bellies and bright orange feet; pairs chasing each other + patrolling shoreline of sandy island.

p. 29 birds recorded as grid square 'P8'

* Curlew	8	
Temminck's Stint	4+	
Great Thick Knee	6	
Brown-headed Gull	2+	
Black-bellied Tern	4	
Hoopoe	1 or 2	(Kusaha)
Small Pied Kingfisher	3+	(Kosi sandbar)
Green-Bereater	5	(Pink Tower)
Sand Lark	6-7	(Kosi sandbar)
Brown Shrike	1	(Barrage)
Black-headed Shrike	2 or 3	
Pied Myna	4+	(Pink Tower)
Bank Myna	~20	flock "
Indian Tree Pie	1	(Kusaha HQ)
Jungle Crow	2+	(n. Pink Tower)
Black Drongo	7 or 8	"
Red-vented Bulbul	3-4	
Striated Babbler	6-8	(Pink Tower)
Rufous-capped Bush Warbler	(?)	1? "
(?) Plain Prinia (?)		
Yellow-bellied Prinia	4+	( " )
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	1	(Spur before Pink Tower to W)

Brown leaf Warbler possibly also present, feeding higher - more of a brownish bird, more off the ground than Dusky; but yellow at bend of wing not noted.

p. 30 birds recorded as grid square: "P8"

Dusky leaf Warbler	3+	( " )
*Smoky leaf Warbler	1	"
Robin Dayal	1 ♀	"
Collared Bush Chat	2 or 3	"
Pipits? के गाने ?		
Paddy field Pipit	2 or 3	
Pied Wagtail	10-20	
Large Pied Wagtail	2	(K. Barrage)
House Sparrow	10+	near Pink Tower
Yellow-breasted Bunting	4-5	(Pink T. spur)

50 spp.

p. 31 birds recorded as  
grid square: "P8"

chestnut/rufous rump in flt.  
Rufous/chestnut cap with  
thick whitish eyebrow. Also a partial  
white eyeing in local region (front  
of eye). With large feet, definitely  
a jacana (dull green/greyish gr)  
Just as King describes for immature  
of sp. In bright sun lower nape/upper  
back purplish sheen. Lower mandible  
yellowish than upper

-31-

22 February '89

Morning birdwalk along W embankment after flagging down a truck at the checkpoint gate (with the help of those attending). Walked ~15-2 Km 0800 - 1200. Marshes within embankment S of the Raj Mang to the W of the Barrage (doesn't show on Carol's map) look better than those running N↔S along W embankment.

Pond Heron	5+
Collared Bush Chat	~3
Bronze-winged Jacana	5 immature
Smokey Leaf Warbler	1
Red-wattled Lapwing	1
Dark Kite	1
Hen Harrier	1 ♂
White-breasted Kingfisher	1
Black Drongo	5+
Hodgson's Tree Pipit (?)	1
Purple Heron	2
Yellow-bellied Prinia	4 or 5

p. 32 birds recorded as  
grid square: "P8"

very low flying over scrub + sand - direct line;  
underwing pattern noted. Tail color/  
pattern not seen well. Pale head  
noticeably smaller than 20"

(Bank Nyna on S marshes)

-32-

Little Cormorant  
Intermediate Egret 2  
Green-Bee-eater 2  
Yellow-headed Wagtail 3-4  
Pied Wagtail several

In afternoon 1400-1815 HRS  
walked the area S. of the barrage  
crossing over by dugout from  
the W bank. Had a bath - first  
in 10 days! - in shallows amongst  
white sands in the middle of the  
Kosi. From 1515-1815 searched  
cut tufts of grass, scattered tamarisk  
and edges of almost sand dune  
country (also w/ scattered tamarisk)  
and egg of Khets planted with  
dhuniya (Coriander).

Pond Heron several  
Dark Kite 1  
White-eyed Hawk (?) 1  
Short-toed Eagle (?) 1  
v. little doubt → 1 along barrage  
can't be certain → 1 also probably  
at Kusaha



23 February '89 Barrage - Bhadrapur

Left Kosi Barrage ~ 820 HRS on a local bus going all the way to Biratnagar (Rs 15/- ea), where we ate lunch and visited RNAE before catching a 1210 HRS semi-local that ended at Bhadrapur 1745 HRS. Packed most of the way except Birtamod - Bhadrapur.

Overnited at New Janta Hotel, only one in town. Quite small + uninfluenced by Western hotel/dining habits.

24 February '89 Bhadrapur - S Jhalthal

Left 1135 HRS, walked thru very open terai, dry khits for a little while once out of town, to Jhalthal village at edge of CharKose Forest. Took exactly 3 hrs steady walking. Walked rather leisurely S from there along a path leaving the village a little to the east of S - which the local

at dusk, almost twilight  
flying low, then landing (for the night?)  
on wide stretch of which stands w/  
scattered tamarisk. Much more of a  
grey bird than Fleming plate indicates.

p. 33 birds recorded as  
grid square: "P8"

flushed ~ 30m & watched & me  
approach with one eye just over top  
of grass tufts.

Separated from Golden-headed  
by song (head once in air) / contact  
notes and also by rufous rump.  
Tail feather tips seen, but difficult  
to say if whitish or buff

Jungle vs. Plain prinias using Fleming  
illustration. Tail tips not discernable

Could some of those dark, heavily-streaked above &  
below pipits be juv. rose-breasted?

- \* White-tailed Sea Eagle 2 (a pair)
- Hen Harrier 1 ♂
- Little Ring Plover 1
- Temminck's Stint several
- Common Sandpiper 2-4 (w/above)
- Capable smallish snipe in dry grass country
- ~~Indian~~ Indian Roller
- Bush Lark 1
- Sand Lark 1
- Little Skylark 3+
- Black-headed Shrike 2
- Black Prongo 2-4
- Indian Tree Pie 1 (Barro Colorado)
- Zitting Cisticola 4+
- Jungle Prinia 1
- Plain Prinia 1 or 2
- Bluethroat 1 ♂ 1 ♀
- Collared Bush Chat many (relatively)
- Black-throated Thrush 1 ♀ (or ♂?)
- Pipits ! ! ! ? . . . . .

~ 23 spp.

a very close call!, whether  
gid sq. R9 or S9

-35-

people said passed thru thickest jungle  
Camped ~ 2 hrs later off main  
trail when a meandering stream  
(only a very slight flow of water)  
Further S said to be thinner as  
the trail approached. village

Forest basically <40% canopy-  
crown cover. Best are the subtropical-  
tropical evergreen elements in the  
nullahs which contrast w/ open sal +  
thicket/weed understory of forest  
along 'ridges'. Rather undulating  
country for the trail. N of camp  
evergreen forest the thickest, but  
everywhere chopped to some extent.  
Some deadwood, the odd standing  
one. Quite much downing of live  
trees (sub-canopy size as well). This  
are intensively utilized. People's  
grass chopping, collecting limbs for  
firewood (and hacking up trunks)  
The only perennial stream

p. 36 birds recorded as  
grid square:  
"S8"

in the Char Kose ban in the one we  
camped near.

Birds Observed Bhadrapur - Jhal Thal

24 Feb. '89

Small Minivet 07

Iora 24

Golden-fronted Leafbird 1 in papayas  
of gardens

~~Black-headed Yellow Bulbul 5 (2+3)~~

Red-vented Bulbul several +

Red-whiskered Bulbul several +

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

[INCOMPLETE]

p. 37 birds recorded as  
grid square: "89"

Will call it grid square S9,  
because walk with compass  
from Thalthal noted as "a little  
east of S" (p. 35); then, next  
morning tracing ravines N but,  
once again to the E a bit.

Appeared to be in headwaters of little  
stream SE Thalthal which UK Min.  
Defense map shows as E of 88°  
∴ S9 grid.

25 Feb. '89

-37-

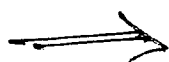
Around Campsite at S of Thal Tal.

From 0630 - 1800 Hrs, mostly along  
the evergreen nullahs (max ht 150'),  
but a late afternoon stroll up to the  
sal + thickets on the crests. Many  
sal also intermingled with strangler  
fig. Would est. canopy ca camp  
~30%, ramps to ~40% or a little  
more off the main trail spots  
(for both types of forest).

Spotted Dove	several
Rose-breasted Parakeet	2 (pr)
Blossom-headed Parakeet	4+
Rose-ringed Parakeet	4-5
Dark Grey Cuckoo-shrike	1 w/ other spp.
Brown Fish Owl	2 (pr)
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	several
Pied Hornbill	1
Linnated Barbet	2-3
Black-naped Woodpecker	2
Large or Small Y-naped W.	2

per annotated Fleming guide.  
Spotty collar low naped throat.  
Bill quite large, but can't yet  
distinguish w/ 3-toed.

p. 38 birds recorded as  
grid square: "89"



of 4 were

first group<sup>1</sup> w/ yellow-breasted  
Babblers (small flock); has a  
bit of an eyeline esp. local region;  
rufous vent good fieldmark: quite active  
(if dumpy); seen flicking bill thru leaves  
at streamside under tangled thicket; dark  
excellent views of 1 in bush;  
sep. by large-billed 'largely' by  
habitat difference: fairly sluggish  
& not shy, as 5m outside tent door  
slowly pumps tail from limb; beautiful  
singing early AM and at dusk

- \* Large Golden-backed Woodpecker 2
- Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker 1
- Brown Woodpecker 1
- Crested Swift 1
- Pied Wood-shrike ≥ 4
- Scarlet Minivet 39. 1 ♂
- Black-headed Yellow Bulbul
- Red-whiskered Bulbul
- Red-rumped Bulbul
- Yellow-breasted Babbler 5-6
- \* Abbot's Babbler 4+1+2/3
- Vindicta Flycatcher 1
- Brooks Flycatcher 1
- Black-naped Flycatcher 1 ♂
- Grey-headed Flycatcher 2
- Stacy-bellied Ground Warbler 1
- Dull-Green Leaf Warbler 2
- Plains Leaf Warbler 1
- Shama several ♂
- Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch 2
- Hodgson's Tree Pipit several
- Grey Wagtail

p. 39 birds recorded as  
grid square: "89"

A herd of rogue elephants said  
to come up from India about  
once or twice a year and  
destroy crops and houses in  
around Charkose forest. Several  
months ago killed 1 or 2 people.  
Their number: 5-9?

No signs of extensive to E slightly  
destruction in the forest  
that could be attributed to  
them, although scattered uprooted  
trees possibly their work.

Tigers, bears, leopards long since  
shut out. Small cats, deer  
& wild boar still fairly common,  
and supported by frequent  
tracks in streamside mudflats/  
sand bars.

\* Tickell's Flowerpecker 2  
Iora 4 (2+2)

37 spp.

26 Feb. '89

Around Charkose, Ban campsite  
Repeated early AM walk ~~at~~ 0630-  
1040 Has N of campsite at first  
along small crests of tangled  
sail forest, fairly well chopped  
over. 40-50% canopy at most  
remains. Descended after 1 hr to  
ravines of tropical veg, considerably  
thinned out, w/ coppiced trees  
fairly dense understory of bushes,  
short saplings & composite weeds.  
Crest forest also heavy understory  
of dead composite weeds, some  
thickets and tangles w/ stranglers.  
< 1 km N of camp site appears to  
be thickest remaining evergreen  
forest. Nowhere > 60% canopy.  
But almost all  $\geq 30\%$ , and most  
 $\geq 40\%$ .

walked S ~ 1 hour and emerged from Char Kose forest into small settlement called 'Balubari'.  
Noted as "Balubari Bazaar" on Land Resources Map # 78.B3. Sited just E of R9 / S9 dividing line. Campsite grid block very difficult call, but will go with S9.

villagers near forest edge said almost ~~all~~ all of these have been shot out. →

with Ioras, Black-naped Flycatcher + leaf warbs ←

Birds observed 26/2/89 in Char Kose Ban (NW corner?) and on way to Bhadrapur via Prithwinagar (1st was Bishalpur village, though).

- Pond Heron - Bhadrapur
- Cattle Egret - Bishalpur
- Little Egret - ca. Bhadrapur
- Dark Kite - several Bishalpur → Bhadra.
- Long-legged Buteo - (?) Bishalpur. apri
- Crested Serpent Eagle - (H) camp site.
- Common Peafowl (H) - single calling at dusk near camp site
- Spotted Dove - Bishalpur - Bhadrapur, also several ca. camp site (in pr's)
- Blossom-headed Parakeet } several ca. camp site
- Rose-breasted Parakeet } site.
- Rose-ringed Parakeet } ca. Bhadrapur
- Dark Cuckoo-shrike - 1 near camp
- Spotted Owllet - 2 SAM Bhadrapur bus station
- Long-tailed Nightjar (H) - camp site.
- Indian Roller - 1 W of Bhadrapur.
- Eurasian Kingfisher - 1 ~ 4 km W Bhadrapur



p. 41 birds all recorded  
as grid square "S9".

'Conspicuous' by their absence at  
Char Kose bar were any & all green  
pigeons, giant hornbill, great statys,  
fairy bluebird, white-throated bulbul,  
i.e. indicator species for lowland  
tropical forest.

No remaining will bamboo clumps.  
Said to have been cut out  $\geq 10$   
years (maybe 20 yrs) ago.

- Chestnut-headed Bee-eater - 2 prs - camp.  
Green Bee-eater - 3 between Pitkwi + Bhadr.  
Pied Hornbill - 1 near camp.  
Linnated Barbet - 2 near camp.  
Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker - 2 near camp.  
Little Skylark - several Bishalpur - Bhadrapur  
Brown Shrike - Lat Bhadrapur outskirts  
(1 24/2 near Chandraghadi).  
Hair-crested Drongo - 2 near camp.  
Ashy Drongo - 1 near camp.  
Black Drongo - several Bishalpur - Bhadrapur  
Jungle Nyna - 2 or 3 near camp.  
Pied Nyna - many Bishalpur - Bhadrapur  
Common Nyna - several ca. Bhadrapur  
Jungle Crow - several near "do"  
House Crow - many Bhadrapur  
Pied Wood-shrike - several prs near camp.  
Scarlet Tiniwet - ♀ & ♂ (5) in hunting party  
near camp.  
Iora - pr. near camp.  
Red-whiskered Bulbul - near camp 8+  
Red-vented Bulbul - "do" 10+  
(esp. in very chopped over sal m way  
to Bishalpur).

fairly shy; good songster.

Black-headed Yellow Bulbul - near camp  
 Yellow-breasted Babbler - 2 parties (1 camp; 1 way S)  
 Abbott's Babbler - 1+1 + 3 near camp.  
 Black-naped Flycatcher - 1 pr + 10? near camp.  
 Brooks Flycatcher - several near camp.  
 Gray-headed Flycatcher - several near camp  
 & on walk S to Bishalpur.  
 Tailor Bird - 1 or 2 in sal + weedy crest  
 N of camp site.  
 Yellow-eyed Warbler - 2 in mixed hunting  
 parties N of camp; dense tangles  
 (3) Crowned Leaf Warbler - 2 or 3 "do"  
 Velvet-fronted Nuthatch - a pr. near camp  
 Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch - 2 pr's "do"  
 Hodgson's Tree Pipit - many ca. camp.  
 Grey Wagtail - 2 or 3 along stream "do"  
 Pied Wagtail - several Bishalpur - Bhadrapur  
 House Sparrows - many ca. Bhadrapur

SI spp.