

Mike Roberts

NEPAL BIRD LIST SELECTION

30th APRIL TO 30th MAY 1993

ROBERTS, M. (1993)

The following bird list is only a selection of the bird species seen on this trip and generally does not feature the more common species that would be expected to be seen in a particular area. The total species seen on this trip came to 376.

30th April 1993 - Nagajung

Golden throated barbets

Bay woodpecker (Near entrance)

Small niltava

Orange bellied leaf birds

White crowned laughing thrushes (very common)

White throated fantail flycatcher

Scaly breasted scimitar babblers

Black and Booted eagle

Oriental hobby (One bird hunting low over the forest near the trail that leads up to the peak)

Fire breasted flowerpeckers

Kalij pheasant

Rufus bellied bulbuls

Chestnut crowned warblers

I spent nearly 10 hours on this mountain climbing up by the track shown in your book and returning via the road. I checked out the Blue naped pitta site but not surprisingly I was unable to locate them anywhere.

1st to 6th May 1993 - Chitwan

Blue bearded bee eaters	(2 birds seen near Tiger Tops)
Chestnut headed, Little green and Blue tailed bee eaters	
Orange headed ground thrush	(Mainly at Tiger Tops but one bird seen at the area known as a Thousand Lakes north west of Saurha)
Rufus necked laughing thrush	(Tiger Tops)
Greater and Lesser necklaced Laughing thrush	(Tiger Tops and Tented Camp)
Indian pittas	(Tiger Tops, the forest near the park HQ and a Thousand Lakes)
Giant hornbills	(2 birds flew over the grassland near Tiger Tops and 2 more birds were feeding near Tented Camp)
Pied hornbills	
Red winged crested cuckoos	(Tiger Tops and Tented Camp)
Brown wood owl	(Tiger Tops)
Bengal florican	(One male bird was seen in the grassland near the Bison tower near Saurha. The bird was disturbed by a jeep tour and flew half a mile away before landing. The jeep tours are very common but many of the guides and drivers have little understanding of the local wildlife. They regularly drove off the main tracks pursuing wildlife and this is how they disturbed the Florican. The jeeps could easily avoid this area taking the track around the perimeter. It is interesting to note that despite the huge number of jeeps driving through this area our Florican sighting was the talk of the town, only one guide knew of the

existence of the Florican in this area despite the number of sightings by British birders that has been recorded. It may be the Floricans are used to the disturbance but I feel greater controls are needed particularly with regards jeep tours)

Spotted and sharp tailed munias
White capped and White throated fantail flycatchers
Cinnamon bittern (Tiger Tops area)
Black ibis
White ibis (Near Saurha)
Lesser adjutant stork
Open billed stork (Very common)
Banded bay cuckoo
Grey bellied plantive cuckoo
White bellied, Crow billed and Hair crested drongos
Orange breasted, Emerald and Yellow legged green pigeon
Shama
Little pratincole
Stone curlews
White throated needletails (Tented Camp area)
Pacific swifts (2 birds flying over the large lake near the park headquarters)
Crested tree swifts
Ashy woodswallow
White tailed stonechat
Large grass warbler (Several birds seen near Tiger Tops and Tented Camp)
Pale footed bush warbler

Barred button quail (Near Saurha)
Stork billed kingfisher
Rusty cheeked scimitar babbler
Cotton pygmy teal (Thousand Lakes)
Pallas' fishing eagle (One bird was seen flying east along the Rapti river about 2 miles west of Saurha. Also seen on several occasions by local guides this summer)
Changeable hawk eagle (near Tented Camp)
Shikkra
Crested serpent eagles (Common)

9th May 1993 - Gorkana

Blue throated, Great hill barbet (Coppersmith heard)
Blue throated flycatcher
Purple sunbird
Ashy woodpigeon
Kalij pheasant
Verditer flycatcher
Velvet fronted nuthatch
Black naped and Small yellow naped woodpeckers
Fulvous breasted woodpecker

9th May 1993 - Sheopori (Torkha)

Tickell's thrush (One male)
Black eagle
Black headed yellow and Rufus bellied bulbul
Wedge tailed green pigeon
Black and Crested serpent eagle

Speckled piculet

Nepal babbler

Despite attempts to tape for Spiny babbler by the Birdquest group I joined for the day, there were no signs of this species (weather conditions were very poor).

10th May to 21st May 1993 - Langtang Trek

Dunche to Lama Hotel

Bonellis eagle

Honey buzzard

Hodgsons hawk eagle

Wedge tailed green pigeon

Speckled woodpigeon

White throated, Streak headed,
Striated and Red headed
Laughing thrushes

Pied ground thrush (One female above Balaju)

Blue capped rock thrush (Near Dunche)

Blue throated barbet

Little, Indian and Eurasian
cuckoos

White browed blue, Sooty,
Ultramarine and Verditer
flycatchers

Rufus bellied niltava

Orange flanked and White browed
bush robins

Kalij pheasant (2 males on the path near
Syabru village)

Nutcracker

White cheeked and Moustached
yuhina

Yellow backed and Mrs Gould's
sunbirds

Green shrike babbler (At Lama Hotel)

Red fronted tit

Black faced flycatcher warbler

Brown hill prinia

Large billed, Chestnut crowned
and Golden spectacled warblers

Grey bellied tesia

(Near Landslide Lodge)

Streak breasted scimitar babbler

Orange rumped honeyguide

(Only one bird was seen perched on branches high on the cliffs above the bee nests which hang from the cliffs 10 minutes upstream of Landslide Lodge)

Nepal wren babbler

(*Proopyga immaculata* - I viewed what I believed to be a Lesser scaly breasted wren babbler. When I later described it's call as a fluid musical call, I was told by members of the Birdquest group that the Lesser scaly breasted wren babbler has a two note call. Their group had located several Nepal wren babblers in the same area. The bird I saw was just downstream of Bamboo Lodge. Without hearing the tape of it's call I could not say for certain which species this was though I do know for certain it was not a Greater scaly breasted wren babbler, a species I viewed later above Syabru)

Scarlet finch

(One male 5 minutes upstream of the suspension bridge)

Lama Hotel - Kyangjin

Small billed minivets

(One pair half an hour beyond Lama Hotel)

Five tailed and Mrs Gould's
Sunbirds

Black faced, Variegated and
White spotted laughing thrushes

Himalayan griffon vulture

Snow pigeon

Nepal tree creeper

Stripe throated yuhina

Bar throated sivia

Orange gorgetted, Snowy browed,
Rufus tailed flycatcher

Orange flanked bush robin

Blue fronted, Blue capped
redstarts

Rufus breasted and Robin accentor

Rosy and Olive backed pipits

Yellow billed and Red billed
choughs

Common, Nepal, Pink browed,
Spot winged and Beautiful
rosefinches

Plain backed mountain finch

Monal pheasants

(3 males displaying on the
cliffs above Lantang
village)

Kyangjin and Upper Valley

Ibis bills

(Approximately 8 birds seen
near the air strip and on
the river beds of the upper
valley)

Northern goshawk

(Female)

Tickells warbler

(Common)

Nepal, Beautiful and Pink
browed rosefinches

Blue fronted redstart

Lammergier

Golden eagle

Pied wagtail

(One bird on the river bed
one hour upstream of the air
strip)

Snow pigeons

Brown dipper

Robin accentor

Kyangjin Ri

Snow partridge

(2 groups of 4 and 5 seen on
Kyangjin Ri)

Grandala

(22 birds seen between
Kyanjin Ri and Yala Hill)

Lammergier

Golden eagle

Kestrel

Peregrine

Snow pigeons

I climbed this hill after heavy snow and had the misfortune to loose my sunglasses on this climb, the result being I later suffered a temporary loss of sight for several hours. The valley between Kyangjin Ri and Yala Hill is extremely dangerous, I descended down the scree slopes of this valley which are highly unstable and there were many rock falls into the gully down which I had to travel, particularly as the valley sides warmed up.

Kyangjin - South slopes including the Lower Ganja La

Lower slopes and forest

Blood pheasant

(2 birds disturbed at the
lower eastern end of this
wood. I saw only these
birds but I believe the
Birdquest groups saw around
8)

White browed rosefinch

(In the meadows next to the
woods lower edge)

Black faced and Variegated
laughing thrush

White winged grosbeaks

(2 males near the upper edge of the woodland)

Common tree creeper

Higher slopes above the forest

Gould's shortwings

(I followed the Ganja La pass as the trail went up through the oak forest. Above the forest it enters meadows and you pass through a currently unoccupied yak herders settlement. Continuing up the pass you enter a broad valley which is dominated by boulder slopes particularly on its eastern side. Many of the boulders are covered in a carpet of bilberry and juniper. It was in a hollow area on these boulder slopes that I disturbed two shortwings, which took off quickly and disappeared out of sight. They were small dark birds with wings as one would imagine that were very small for their body size. I got very poor views and could not relocate them. Unable to confirm their identification I tried again to find them the following day. I returned to the area and headed a little higher up the valley, approximately 4,000 to 4,400 m high. A Gould's shortwing was perched on a very large boulder that stood proud of the boulders around it. It was a small bird with reddy/brown wings, back, head and tail. Its throat and belly were dark grey with clearly visible triangular spots on the belly. It remained on the boulder, flew a short distance into the scrub growth and then flew off down the valley in the direction I had first seen the two birds the day before. I could not follow

very easily as traversing the boulder slope was quite dangerous, as the bilberry and juniper growth would often give way when walking on it to reveal deep gaps between the boulders. This is good ankle breaking country, though the west side of the valley is easier going)

Smoky warbler

(In the scrub not far above the tree line)

Rufus breasted and Alpine accentors

Wren

Northern goshawk

(A large female bird hunted on the slopes just above the forest)

The lodge keepers showed some concern that I had been up on the Ganja La on my own. Not just because of the boulder slopes and possible bad weather, but they also said bandits were often seen here, who came over the pass from Helaubu. I would definitely recommend that people do not travel alone both on the Ganja La or the hills of Kyanjin Ri and Yala Peak (I only made day visits up the Ganja La and did not cross it).

Syabru - Sing Gomba

Satyr tragopan

(One male and two females seen. The male was viewed at dawn for nearly 15 minutes just above the Chorten in the forest. The females were seen on the forest edge and below a trail to Sing Gomba. The family at the Ganesh View Lodge said they still see the "Wa Wa" birds throughout the forests in this area)

Greater scaly breasted wren babbler

Indian plantive cuckoo

Allied grosbeaks

Scaly thrushes

(One pair in the fir forest understorey near Sing Gomba)

White browed tit babbler

White collared blackbird

White browed bush robin

Great hill barbets

Ashy woodpigeon

Chestnut capped warbler

24th to 26th May - Pokhara

South Shore Woodland

Long tailed broadbills

(3 birds seen not far from
the deserted settlement
site)

Shama

Green magpie

Less racket tailed drongo

Great hill and Coppersmith barbet

Eurasion griffon vulture

White crowned laughing thrushes

Kalij pheasant

Phewal Tal

Bronze winged jacanas

Ruddy shelduck

(Only bird seen on trip)

Lesser fulvous whistling teal

Indian river tern

Grey headed fishing eagle

(One adult hunting over the
west end of the lake)

Black backed and Slaty backed
forktails

Little green heron

Crimson sunbird

(In gardens on the south
shore at the western end)

29th May - Phulchouki

Pied ground thrush

(One male bird flew over the valley near the Drug Research Centre)

Cutia

(One pair seen feeding in the upper oak canopy, two bends above the huts. They were feeding with a tree creeper and jay. I was separated from the Birdquest group who had given me a lift here but they also saw the birds though we are unsure it was the same pair. If I had stayed with the Birdquest group I would probably have had better views but they were none the less amazing birds to end the trip on)

Green billed malkoha

Scarlet minivet

Black throated and Black chinned babbler

Lesser racket tailed drongo

Grey winged blackbird

Black eagle

Spotted forktail

(The ravine area)

White browed fantail

Wedge tailed green pigeon

Yellow naped yuhina

White throated and Striated laughing thrushes

Crested serpent eagle

Again despite attempts to tape for Spiny babblers the birds proved to be elusive and I failed to see them on this trip.

GANGA LA.

