

SIMON HARRAP
1000
NEPAL
1996

NEPAL

9-25 FEBRUARY 1996

TOUR REPORT

LEADERS: SIMON HARRAP

GROUP MEMBERS: GRAHAM DEACON, MARILYN SCHMITZ, PAUL SCHMITZ, IAN WADDINGTON AND DAVE WEDD

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Nepal 1996 was one of our best tours yet of this delightful country, not only for the excellent variety of birds and mammals recorded, but also because of the good accommodations and superbly friendly and knowledgeable help of our Nepali guide, Hem Sagar Baral.

We started in the rain in the Kathmandu Valley at Godaveri, finding the localised Slaty-backed Flycatcher and a party of Spotted-winged Grosbeaks. Hardly damping our spirits, the rain helped to clear the atmosphere, and next day we got great views of the high Himalayas as we headed south to Chitwan (and we also saw Wallcreepers and Brown Dippers en route). A walk through the grasslands at Chitwan on the first afternoon produced a party of enigmatic Slender-billed Babblers and Black-throated Weavers, and we settled down that evening with the far-distant snows flushed rosy pink away to the north. Three nights at Tiger Tops Tended Camp allowed us to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this idyllic location, as well as Grey-headed Fishing-Eagle, Giant Hornbills, Rufous Piculet, Blue-beaded Bee-eaters, Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Black-backed Forktail, a superb Himalayan Rubythroat, and skulking Large Grass Warblers, Spotted and Pale-footed Bush-Warblers and Dull Slaty-bellied Tesias. After dark, a party of Gaur appeared one evening in the mist outside the bar, a Collared Scops-Owl actually entered the bar, and Brown Hawk-Owls called nosily too. All too soon we transferred through the park to Sauraha at its eastern end, finding Red-breasted Falconets on the way, as well as Gaur, Sloth Bear and Rhinos. Indeed, the last gave our guides quite a start, but far from charging, our guide had to try to chase it off before we could proceed. Our full day at Gaida Wildlife Camp was relaxed, but nevertheless a morning walk produced Tickell's Thrush, a superb male White-tailed Robin, and roosting Collared

Scops-Owl, whilst that afternoon an elephant ride became an 'owl special', with Dusky Horned Owl, Brown Wood Owl and Brown Fish Owl logged in just a couple of hours.

The long drive east from Chitwan to Kosi was notable for the improved state of the roads (most of the way, at least) and a classy Ibisbill. A brief stop at Kosi Barrage turned up the first of several Falcated Ducks, and then it was onto Kosi Tappu Wildlife Camp, a superbly situated, well-run camp with Cinnamon and Black Bitterns and Ruddy and Baillon's Crakes in the garden. Over the next couple of days we found some of the local specialities, including Hodgson's Bushchat, as well as Nepal rarities Blunt-winged Warbler and Blyth's Pipit. The vast numbers of waterfowl attracted raptors, including a majestic Imperial Eagle and several Black (Cinereous) Vultures and Pied and Pallid Harriers. In the waterside vegetation, Siberian Rubythroats, Black-faced Buntings and a host of small brown warblers lurked, although we got surprisingly good views of most species ... eventually.

Bang on time, our flight to Kathmandu was notable for cloud covering all of the mountains, but we made up with some 'culture' in the Kathmandu Valley. Most of the final four days was spent at Phulchowki and Godaveri, and we eventually got good views of Spiny Babbler, whilst other highlights were Kaleej Pheasant, Rufous-bellied Sapsucker, Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler, Cutia, White's Thrushes, Dusky Thrush, another White-tailed Robin, and White-throated Redstart.

A total of 380 species were recorded on the tour, including four species that were heard only.

PODICIPEDIDAE

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*: only at Kosi.

Little Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Cormorant (Great Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

ARDEIDAE

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Little Green Heron *Butorides striatus*: two singles at Kosi.

Pond Heron (Indian Pond Heron) *Ardeola grayii*

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Large Egret (Great White Egret) *Egretta alba*

Smaller Egret (Intermediate Egret) *Egretta intermedia*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: two large roosts in Chitwan.

Chestnut Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*: one briefly in Chitwan, and then several sightings at Kosi Tappu.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*: one at Kosi Tappu was an out-of-season surprise.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*: a singleton at Kosi Tappu was very exceptional.

Bittern (Great Bittern) *Botaurus stellaris*: one at Kosi Tappu.

CICONIIDAE

Openbill Stork (Open-billed Stork) *Anastomus oscitans*

White-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*: just two, en route to Kosi.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: several in Chitwan, and up to 13 at Kosi.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*: an adult and an immature on the river at Kosi. An endangered species in the subcontinent.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*: small numbers at Chitwan, and relatively numerous around Kosi.

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Black-headed Ibis (White Ibis) *Threskiornis melanocephalus*: only at Kosi.

Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa*: a few at Chitwan (often calling from the tree tops), and relatively numerous around Kosi.

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*: only at Kosi.

ANATIDAE

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*: five flying down river at Kosi, and then one seen well by the dam.

Lesser Whistling Teal *Dendrocygna javanica*: up to 7,500 estimated at Kosi.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Pintail (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta*: up to 20,000 guesstimated at Kosi.
 Common Teal *Anas crecca*
 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
 Gadwall *Anas strepera*
 Falcated Teal (Falcated Duck) *Anas falcata*: a maximum of three drakes and three ducks at Kosi.
 Wigeon (Eurasian Wigeon) *Anas penelope*
 Garganey *Anas querquedula*
 Shoveler (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*
 Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*: one or two at Kosi Tappu.
 Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
 Ferruginous Duck (White-eyed Pochard) *Aythya nyroca*: some great views on the smaller ponds at Kosi Tappu.
 Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
 Cotton Teal *Nettapus coromandelianus*: six on roadside pools near Kosi Barrage.
 Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula*: a single female at Kosi Barrage.
 Goosander *Mergus merganser*: a few at Chitwan, mostly at Sauraha.

ACCIPITRIDAE

↪ Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered Kite) *Elanus caeruleus*
 Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: two in Chitwan.
 Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: a flock in Kathmandu included a single Black-eared Kite, 'M. lineatus'.
 Shikra *Accipiter badius*
 Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus*
 Besra Sparrowhawk *Accipiter virgatus*: a single at Nagarjung.
 Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*: one at Kosi Barrage.
 Japanese Buzzard (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo*
 White-eyed Buzzard-Eagle *Butastur teesa*: good numbers in Chitwan (at the Meghauli end).
 Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*: several vocal birds at Chitwan.
 Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*: one at Phulchowki.
 Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*: a superb adult sitting on the sandbanks in the Kosi River.
 Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*: scattered sightings, surprisingly mostly involving adults.
 Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*: seen most days on Phulchowki, including a pair together and a bird in tumbling display flight.
 Grey-headed Fishing Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*: two singletons in Chitwan, one over Tiger Tops and one sitting by the river at Gaida Wildlife Camp.
 King Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*
 Cinereous Vulture (Black Vulture) *Aegypius monachus*: up to seven at Kosi, sitting on the mud banks, with a single over Biratnagar.
 Griffon Vulture (Eurasian Griffon) *Gyps fulvus*: three en route to Chitwan.

Indian Long-billed Vulture (Indian Griffon) *Gyps indicus*: just a few, at and en route to Chitwan, and over Biratnagar.

Indian White-backed Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*: three singles, including a great adult male near Kosi Tappu.

Pale Harrier (Pallid Harrier) *Circus macrourus*: two at Kosi.

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*: several at Kosi, including good views of males.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*: singles at Kosi and at Biratnagar airport.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

FALCONIDAE

Red-breasted Falconet (Collared Falconet) *Microhierax caerulescens*: one at Tiger Tops, and then four near the crocodile farm in Chitwan.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Kestrel (Eurasian Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*

PHASIANIDAE

Black Partridge (Black Francolin) *Francolinus francolinus*: small numbers at Chitwan.

Swamp Partridge (Swamp Francolin) *Francolinus gularis*: seen daily at Kosi Tappu.

Common Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* (H): one heard at very close range at Phulchowki.

Kaleej Pheasant (Kalij Pheasant) *Lophura leucomelana*: two males and then a female showed very well on the road in the late afternoon at Phulchowki.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

GRUIDAE

Common Crane *Grus grus*: two flocks, totalling over 50 birds, at Chitwan.

RALLIDAE

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*: two at Kosi Tappu.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*: at least two elusive birds at Kosi Tappu.

Ruddy Crake *Porzana fusca*: good views at Kosi Tappu.

Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool*: two singletons in Chitwan.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Moorhen (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*

Purple Moorhen (Purple Swampphen) *Porphyrio porphyrio*: a few in Chitwan and then a couple at Kosi.

Coot (Common Coot) *Fulica atra*

JACANIDAE

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*: up to eight at Kosi.

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*: a handful at Kosi.

IBIDORHYNCHIDAE

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*: a single on the Rapti River near Hetauda. Whew !

BURHINIDAE

Great Stone Plover *Esacus magnirostris*: great views of ten birds on the island in the Kosi River whilst having lunch.

GLAREOLIDAE

Small Indian Pratincole *Glareola lactea*: very common at Kosi.

CHARADRIIDAE

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus*: several parties at Kosi.

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*: only at Kosi.

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata*

Redshank (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus*

Greenshank (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*

Fantail Snipe (Common Snipe) *Gallinago gallinago*: a few at Chitwan and Kosi.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

LARIDAE

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*: up to three immatures at Kosi.

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*: a single adult at Kosi.

Indian River Tern *Sterna aurantia*: only at Kosi.

Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*: only on the river trip at Kosi.

COLUMBIDAE

Pompadour Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora*: one at Kosi Tappu.

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicincta*: a few at Chitwan and Kosi Tappu.

Yellow-legged Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*

Blue Rock Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*

Rufous Turtle Dove *Streptopoveelia orientalis*: up to three at Kosi Tappu, then three at Godaveri.

Indian Ring Dove (Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto*

Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*: only at Gaida in Chitwan.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*: many sightings from elephant back in Chitwan.

PSITTACIDAE

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*: quite common in Chitwan. Note the short tail !

Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*: only in Chitwan.

CUCULIDAE

Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus varius*: very vocal at both Chitwan and (pre-dawn !) at Kosi Tappu, with several sightings.

Indian Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*: one seen in Chitwan.

Koel (Asian Koel) *Eudynamis scolopacea*: a single male at Kosi Tappu.

Large Green-billed Malkoha *Rhopodytes tristis*: two at Chitwan.

Coucal (Greater Coucal) *Centropus sinensis*

Lesser Coucal *Centropus toulou*: one at Kosi Tappu Wildlife Camp.

STRIGIDAE

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* (H): heard at Tiger Tops Tented Camp, but despite searching, not seen.

Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*: one coming into the bar at Tiger Tops Tented Camp to feed (and also heard there, giving the call typical of *bakkamoena* (rather than the plains form *lempiji*), and one seen at a daytime roost at Gaida Wildlife Camp.

Dusky Horned Owl *Bubo coromandus*: a single seen from elephant back at Gaida Wildlife Camp.

Brown Fish Owl *Bubo zeylonensis*: a single seen from elephant back at Gaida Wildlife Camp.

Collared Pygmy Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* (H): heard a few times on Phulchowki and at Nagarjung.

Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum*: several sightings at Chitwan.

Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*: just one, at Godaveri.

Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*: very vocal at Tiger Tops Tented Camp, and seen there twice.

Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*: several at Chitwan (Gaida) and Kosi.

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica*: a single seen from elephant back at Gaida Wildlife Camp.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*: one at Kosi Barrage.

APODIDAE

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*: a vocal flock at Kosi Barrage.

House Swift (Little Swift) *Apus affinis*: the form in Nepal is now often split from the Little Swift of the plains of India, the Middle East and Africa, as House Swift *A. nipalensis*. The identification of these in the field is unstudied however, and the form occurring in some areas (e.g. Biratnagar) open to question.

Palm Swift (Asian Palm Swift) *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: several at Biratnagar (the Asian form is sometimes lumped with African Palm Swift *C. parvus*).

Crested Tree Swift *Hemiprocne longipennis*

ALCEDINIDAE

Lesser Pied Kingfisher (Pied Kingfisher) *Ceryle rudis*

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*: one or two at Chitwan and Kosi Tappu.

White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

MEROPIDAE

Green Bee-eater (Little Green Bee-eater) *Merops orientalis*

Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni*: heard on the lower slopes of Phulchowki, and pairs seen at Gaida Camp and from elephant back near Tiger Tops.

CORACIIDAE

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

UPUPIDAE

Hoopoe (Eurasian Hoopoe) *Upupa epops*

BUCEROTIDAE

Indian Pied Hornbill (Pied Hornbill) *Anthracoceros malabaricus*: just four seen, in Chitwan.

Great Pied Hornbill (Great Hornbill) *Buceros bicornis*: great views of up to three near Tiger Tops Tented Camp.

CAPITONIDAE

Great Hill Barbet (Great Barbet) *Megalaima virens*: heard daily on Phulchowki, and seen briefly on two dates.

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*: good views at Kosi Tappu.

Crimson-breasted Barbet (Coppersmith) *Megalaima haemacephala*

PICIDAE

Wryneck (Eurasian Wryneck) *Jynx torquilla*

Rufous Piculet (White-browed Piculet) *Sasia ochracea*: one volatile bird near Tiger Tops Tented Camp.

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropterus brachyurus*: a pair at Tiger Tops Lodge.

Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker *Picus myrmecophoneus*

Black-naped Green Woodpecker (Grey-headed Woodpecker) *Picus canus*: recorded at Chitwan and Godaveri.

Small Yellow-naped Woodpecker *Picus chlorolophus*

Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker *Dinopium benghalense*: one at Gaida Wildlife Camp.

Himalayan Golden-backed (Three-toed) Woodpecker *Dinopium shorii*

Rufous-bellied Sapsucker *Hypopicus hyperythrus*: two on the upper slopes of Phulchowki.

Darjeeling Pied Woodpecker *Picoides darjellensis*
Brown-fronted Pied Woodpecker *Picoides auriceps*: one on Phulchowki.
Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker *Picoides macei*: seen commonly in Chitwan.
Grey-crowned Pygmy Woodpecker *Picoides canicapillus*
Bay Woodpecker (Red-eared Bay Woodpecker) *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*: one seen and another heard on the upper slopes of Phulchowki.

ALAUDIDAE

Bush Lark (Rufous-winged Bush Lark) *Mirafra assamica*: small numbers at Chitwan and Kosi Barrage.
Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark *Eremopterix grisea*: a few en route to Kosi Barrage and at Kosi Tappu.
Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal*: abundant at Kosi .

HIRUNDINIDAE

Plain Sand Martin (Brown-throated Sand Martin) *Riparia paludicola*
Swallow (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica*
Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*: two small parties en route to, and at, Chitwan.

LANIIDAE

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*: odd ones throughout the tour.
Rufous-backed Shrike (Long-tailed Shrike) *Lanius schach*: only the black-headed form *L. s. tricolor* was seen.
Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*: a few around Kosi , and a singleton at the Manora River, Kathmandu.

ORIOOLIDAE

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*: two sightings on Phulchowki.

DICRURIDAE

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: just three, in Chitwan.
White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens*: only at Chitwan.
Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*: one in Chitwan.

ARTAMIDAE

Ashy Swallow-Shrike (Ashy Wood-Swallow) *Artamus fuscus*: a large flock huddling together in the tree tops at Gaida Wildlife Camp, and three at Kosi Tappu.

STURNIDAE

Grey-headed Myna *Sturnus malabaricus*
Starling (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*: several groups at Kosi .

Pied Myna *Sturnus contra*
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*: a few roadside birds at Kosi .
Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*

CORVIDAE

Red-crowned Jay (Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius*
Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*: just one, briefly, in Chitwan.
Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Cissa flavirostris*: at least four near the summit of
Phulchowki.
Red-billed Blue Magpie (Blue Magpie) *Cissa flavirostris*: seen at both Nagarjung and
Godaveri.
Indian Tree Pie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
Himalayan Tree Pie *Dendrocitta formosae*
House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Jungle Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Pied Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus*
Common Wood Shrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*: only in Chitwan.
Large Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*: only in Chitwan.
Smaller Grey Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melaschistos*: again, only at Chitwan.
Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*
Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*: a few around Phulchowki.
Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*

IRENIDAE

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
Golden-fronted Leaf Bird *Chloropsis aurifrons*: only at Chitwan.
Orange-bellied Leaf Bird *Chloropsis hardwickii*: several noisy birds on Phulchowki.

PYCNONOTIDAE

Black-headed Yellow Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris*: just one, in Chitwan.
Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
White-cheeked Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus caffer*
Rufous-bellied Bulbul (Mountain Bulbul) *Hypsipetes mccllellandi*: some large flocks
on Phulchowki.
Black Bulbul (Grey Bulbul) *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*: some very large flocks on
Phulchowki. feeding on 'bottle-brush' flowers.

TIMALIIDAE

Spotted Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*: nice views at Tiger Tops Tented Camp.
Slaty-headed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*: a pair taped out near Tiger
Tops Tented Camp.
Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*: seen a couple of times on

Phulchowki.

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*

Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer*: one showed extremely well near the summit of Phulchowki, and another was seen briefly near the ravine.

Lesser Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler (Pygmy Wren-Babbler) *Pnoepyga pusilla*: only frustratingly brief views at Nagarjung and Phulchowki.

Red-billed Babbler (Black-chinned Babbler) *Stachyris pyrrhops*

Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*: seen and heard on the lower slopes of Phulchowki, and one seen well at Tiger Tops Tented Camp.

Yellow-breasted Babbler *Macronous gularis*: great views at Tiger Tops Tented Camp.

Red-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*: common at Chitwan.

Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei*: a few at Chitwan, and common at Kosi .

Slender-billed Babbler *Turdoides longirostris*: good views of two parties in Chitwan.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*

Spiny Babbler *Turdoides nipalensis*: pairs seen on two days at Godaveri, and gave excellent views on the last day there.

White-throated Laughing Thrush *Garrulax albogularis*: two parties on Phulchowki.

Striated Laughing Thrush *Garrulax striatus*: several on Phulchowki.

White-crested Laughing Thrush *Garrulax leucolophus*: only in Godaveri Botanical Gardens.

Rufous-necked Laughing Thrush *Garrulax ruficollis*: good views at Tiger Tops Lodge.

Streaked Laughing Thrush *Garrulax lineatus*: quite common on the upper slopes of Phulchowki.

Red-headed Laughing Thrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus*

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*: seen well at Godaveri Botanical Gardens.

Nepal Cutia *Cutia nipalensis*: exciting views of at least four on Phulchowki.

Red-winged Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*: a single male on Phulchowki.

Chestnut-throated Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*: two elusive birds on Phulchowki.

Hoary Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis*: seen on the upper slopes of Phulchowki.

Bar-throated Siva (Bar-throated Minla) *Minla strigula*

Blue-winged Siva (Blue-winged Minla) *Minla cyanouroptera*: just one, on Phulchowki.

Yellow-naped Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*

Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis*

White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina xantholeuca*

Chestnut-headed Tit-Babbler *Alcippe castaneiceps*: only a couple of singletons on Phulchowki.

White-browed Tit-Babbler *Alcippe vinipectus*

Nepal Babbler *Alcippe nipalensis*

Black-capped Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata*

MUSCICAPIDAE

- Red-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa parva*
Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher *Muscicapa strophciata*
Rufous-breasted Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa hyperythra* (H): heard only at Nagarjung.
Rusty-breasted Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa hodgsonii*: a male and female at Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
Slaty Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa leucomelanura*
Small Niltava *Muscicapa macgrigoriae*: eventually seen well at Godaveri.
Rufous-bellied Niltava *Muscicapa sundara*: only one, at Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
Brooks's Flycatcher *Muscicapa poliogenys*: common in Chitwan.
Verditer Flycatcher *Muscicapa thalassina*
Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
Yellow-bellied Fantail Flycatcher *Rhipidura hypoxantha*
White-throated Fantail Flycatcher *Rhipidura albicollis*

SYLVIIDAE

- Dull Slaty-bellied Ground Warbler *Tesia cyaniventer*: seen at Tiger Tops Tented Camp and, rather better, at Nagarjung.
Chestnut-headed Ground Warbler *Tesia castaneocoronata*: several sightings at Phulchowki, and also one at Nagarjung, but all were brief and elusive.
Large Bush Warbler *Cettia major*: one seen very well at Kosi Tappu.
Pale-footed Bush Warbler (Blanford's Bush Warbler) *Cettia pallidipes*: a couple near Tiger Tops Tented Camp, but very skulking.
Aberrant Bush Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea*
Rufous-capped Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons*
Spotted Bush Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus*: two at Chitwan, showing well, and two also at Kosi Tappu.
Fantail Warbler (Golden-headed Cisticola) *Cisticola exilis*: one on the picnic island in the Kosi River.
Streaked Fantail Warbler (Zitting Cisticola) *Cisticola juncidis*
Hodgson's Wren-Warbler (Grey-capped Prinia) *Prinia cinereocapilla*: only in Chitwan.
Franklin's Wren-Warbler (Grey-breasted Prinia) *Prinia hodgsonii*: only in Chitwan, but rather commoner than the above.
Streaked Wren-Warbler (Graceful Prinia) *Prinia gracilis*: several south of Kosi Barrage.
Plain Wren-Warbler (Plain Prinia) *Prinia inornata*
Ashy Wren-Warbler (Ashy Prinia) *Prinia socialis*: just three, at Chitwan.
Yellow-bellied Wren-Warbler (Yellow-bellied Prinia) *Prinia flaviventris*: only one, at Chitwan.
Large Grass Warbler *Graminicola bengalensis*: two at Chitwan, but quite skulking.
Tailor Bird (Common Tailorbird) *Orthotomus sutorius*
Striated Marsh Warbler *Megalurus palustris*: common around Kosi .
Indian Great Reed Warbler (Clamorous Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus stentoreus*: just one, at Kosi Tappu.
Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*: one at Tiger Tops Tented Camp, but quite common at Kosi Tappu.
Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*: singles at Chitwan and Kosi.

Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens*: one at Kosi Tappu.
 Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: a couple at Chitwan, and quite common at Kosi Tappu.
 Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*: common at Kosi Tappu.
 Smoky Willow Warbler (Smoky Warbler) *Phylloscopus fulgiventis*: quite common in waterside vegetation at Chitwan and Kosi Tappu.
 Dusky Leaf Warbler (Dusky Warbler) *Phylloscopus fuscatus*: abundant at Kosi Tappu.
 Orange-banded Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*
 Yellow-browed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: most were Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler *P. (i.) humei*, but birds giving the distinctive call of the nominate race were at Kosi Tappu and Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
 Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus*: only seen in Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
 Grey-faced Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*: a few on Phulchowki.
 Dull Green Leaf Warbler (Greenish Warbler) *Phylloscopus trochiloides*: quite common at Chitwan and Kosi Tappu.
 Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*: small numbers throughout.
 Black-browed Flycatcher-Warbler *Seicercus burkii*
 Grey-headed Flycatcher-Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos*
 Chestnut-headed Flycatcher-Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*: several skittish birds on Phulchowki.
 Black-faced Flycatcher-Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*: great views of several flocks on Phulchowki.

TURDIDAE

Rubythroat (Siberian Rubythroat) *Erithacus calliope*: seen well at Kosi Tappu.
 Bluethroat *Erithacus svecicus*: just small numbers at Chitwan and Kosi Tappu.
 Himalayan Rubythroat *Erithacus pectoralis*: good views of two males at Tiger Tops Tented Camp.
 Orange-flanked Bush Robin (Red-flanked Bluetail) *Erithacus cyanurus*: quite a few around Phulchowki and Godaveri, including some nice males.
 Golden Bush Robin *Erithacus chrysaeus*: heard most days in the Kathmandu Valley, but only seen once (a female on Phulchowki).
 Magpie-Robin (Oriental Magpie-Robin) *Copsychus saularis*
 Shama (White-rumped Shama) *Copsychus malabaricus*: small numbers at Chitwan.
 Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
 Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*: several around Godaveri.
 Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*
 White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps*: a male and female on the summit of Phulchowki was a surprise.
 Plumbeous Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*
 White-tailed Blue Robin *Cinclidium leucurum*: good views of males at Gaida Wildlife Camp and Nagarjung. Normally a very hard bird to see in the winter.
 Black-backed Forktail *Enicurus immaculatus*: nice views of one at Tiger Tops Tented Camp.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*: seen twice Phulchowki, but only briefly.
 Hodgson's Bush Chat *Saxicola insignis*: a male on the picnic island at Kosi Tappu.
 Stonechat (Common Stonechat) *Saxicola torquata*
 White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura*: quite common at Chitwan, and a few at Kosi .
 Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*
 Dark-grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferrea*: a few around Godaveri.
 White-capped Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
 Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*: a male on Phulchowki.
 Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*: singles en route to Chitwan and between
 Chitwan and Kosi.
 Blue Whistling Thrush *Myiophonus caeruleus*
 Golden Mountain Thrush (Scaly Thrush, White's Thrush) *Zoothera dauma*: seen very
 well at Nagarjung, and singles also at Chitwan and Godaveri.
 Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor*: a male and at least two females at Gaida Wildlife
 Camp.
 White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus*: a male on the upper slopes of
 Phulchowki.
 Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus bouboul*: several at Godaveri, and also one at
 Nagarjung.
 Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*: very few recorded, most notably about ten
 near Gaida Wildlife Camp.
 Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni*: a smashing bird by the Manora River in the
 Kathmandu Valley was a surprise.

CINCLIDAE

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasi*: three en route to Chitwan.

PRUNELLIDAE

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophciata*: one on Phulchowki.

PARIDAE

Grey Tit (Great Tit) *Parus major*: a few at Godaveri and common at Chitwan.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus xanthogenys*

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*: some great views of this aberrant tit on
 Phulchowki.

Red-headed Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*

SITTIDAE

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*: common in Chitwan, and also seen at
 Godaveri and Nagarjung, and in the centre of Kathmandu !

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Wall Creeper *Tichodroma muraria*: two en route to Chitwan.

CERTHIIDAE

Sikkim Tree Creeper *Certhia discolor*: good views of several on Phulchowki.

MOTACILLIDAE

Indian Tree Pipit (Olive-backed Pipit) *Anthus hodgsoni*

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: two singles at Chitwan, with another at Kosi . The large, long-tailed, migratory form.

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*: a flock of about a dozen at Kosi Barrage.

Vinaceous-breasted Pipit (Rosy Pipit) *Anthus roseatus*: several at Chitwan, notably on the river at Gaida Wildlife Camp.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*: just three, at Kosi .

Yellow-headed Wagtail (Citrine Wagtail) *Motacilla citreola*: three in Chitwan (Gaida) and one at Kosi Barrage.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Large Pied Wagtail *Motacilla madaraspatensis*

DICAEIDAE

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*: good views of several on Phulchowki.

NECTARINIIDAE

Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*: just one, at Kosi Barrage.

Nepal Yellow-backed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*

Black-breasted Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*: one at Godaveri.

Yellow-backed Sunbird (Crimson Sunbird) *Aethopyga siparaja*: just one, at the Ibisbill stop.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*: a few out-of-plumage birds on Phulchowki.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

White-eye (Oriental White-eye) *Zosterops palpebrosa*

PLOCEIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Yellow-throated Sparrow *Petronia xanthocollis*: one at Gaida Wildlife Camp.

Baya (Baya Weaver) *Ploceus philippinus*

Black-throated Weaver Bird *Ploceus benghalensis*: a party on the first day at Tiger Tops Tented Camp.

Avadavat (Red Munia) *Estrilda amandava*: a few at Kosi Tappu.

White-backed Munia (Sharp-tailed Munia) *Lonchura striata*: a few in Chitwan.

Spotted Munia (Scaly-breasted Munia) *Lonchura punctulata*: common at Gaida Wildlife Camp.

FRINGILLIDAE

Spotted-winged Grosbeak *Coccothraustes melanozanthos*: a party of 12 flying over on

the first afternoon on Phulchowki.

Nepal Rosefinch (Dark-breasted Rosefinch) *Carpodacus nipalensis*: five near the summit of Phulchowki.

Pink-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus rhodochrous*: about four on Phulchowki.

Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis*: great views of a feeding party on Phulchowki.

EMBERIZIDAE

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*: small numbers only at Chitwan, and rather more at Kosi Tappu (coming into roost).

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*: a couple of skulking birds at Kosi Tappu.

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami*: a couple in Chitwan, and several at Kosi Tappu.

MAMMALS

- Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus*: one at Kosi Tappu Wildlife Camp, and then a group in Biratnagar.
- Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*
- Hanuman Langur (Common Langur) *Presbytis entellus*
- Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*: several at Kosi Tappu.
- Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus*: one on the road in Chitwan.
- Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*: one briefly in Chitwan.
- Smooth-coated Otter *Lutra perspicillata*: one on the river near Tiger Tops.
- Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus*: two at Kosi Tappu.
- Indian Grey Mongoose (Common Mongoose) *Herpestes edwardsii*: several sightings in Chitwan.
- Jungle Cat *Felis chaus*: one at dusk in Sauraha Village, Chitwan.
- Indian Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*: seen from jeep, elephant back and, more excitingly, on foot, in Chitwan.
- Wild Boar (Indian Wild Boar) *Sus scrofa*
- Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) *Muntiacus muntjak*: several in Chitwan, and heard on Phulchowki.
- Spotted Deer (Chital) *Cervus axis*
- Hog-Deer *Cervus porcinus*
- Sambar *Cervus unicolor*
- Water Buffalo *Bubalus arnee*: several wild-type animals at Kosi Tappu.
- Gaur (Indian Bison) *Bos gaurus*: at least four in the mist from the bar after dark at Tiger Tops Tented Camp, and then a splendid beast from the land rover.
- Northern Palm Squirrel *Funambulus palmarum*
- Irrawaddy Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus*: one in Chitwan.
- Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah*
- Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis*: one south of Kosi Barrage.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Mugger (Marsh Crocodile) *Crocodylus palustris*: several in Chitwan.

Indian Python *Python molurus*: one at Tiger Tops, from elephant back.

Brindled House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*: several at Gaida Wildlife Camp.

Common Garden Lizard *Calotes versicolor*: two at Gaida Wildlife Camp.