

HALE (1998)

2 Shutler Road  
Broadstairs  
Kent CT10 1HD

2<sup>nd</sup> October 1998

Dear Mr and Mrs Inskipp,

I have enclosed some notes for your consideration for inclusion in the next OBC bulletin.

My wife and I saw a variety of other scarce species including Orange-rumped Honeyguide, which we have reason to suspect is less common in and around Kasuwa Khola than previously thought.

The first honeyguide we located was feeding on the remnants of the Giant Himalayan Honeybee combs left by a Japanese T.V. crew which had visited the site two weeks before us. After filming, the Japanese paid the locals to smoke out the bees and take down the combs which they then ate the honey from. This deprived the resident male honeyguide of both his food supply and his display site = possibly preventing him from breeding this year.

If you are interested in printing a more detailed account of our trip in Forktail, let me know and I will write it up and get it off to you sharpish, if there is a deadline looming.

Yours sincerely,



**Paul HALE**

*P.S. I've sent a copy of this to Brian Sykes of the OBC.  
my phone number is 01843-601482*

## From the Field

- Paul and Yasuko Hale

On a trek up the Arun Valley in May with Hathan Chaudhary of the Nepal Bird Watching Club we came across a Blythe's Kingfisher *Alcedo hercules*, on the River Sabbhaya below Tumlingtar at an altitude of 450 metres. This was on 12/5/98 and is only the second record of this species from Nepal.

On 15/5/98 we observed 4 Sultan Tits *Melanochloris sultanea*, at 1550 meters, just below Num en route to Seduwa. This is a new record for the district and a new altitude record for the species in Nepal.

On 19/5/98 at Kongma we watched a pair of Coal Tits *Parus ater*, nest building in an area where they have not previously been recorded breeding.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May we temporarily split up south west of Tashigaon. Hathan saw two Nepal Wren-Babblers *Pnoepyga immaculata*, at Chunapu Stream west of Nurbu. All three of us heard and recorded one singing male and saw a further pair of Nepal Wren-Babblers at Zing Zing Stream (52° 80'N 22°45' E.) There are no previous records of this species from Eastern Nepal. We heard and saw 5 individuals in one afternoon.