

# Birdquest Swift Nepal 2-11 April 1999

Simon Hartup

## PHASIANIDAE

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*: One or two seen or heard at Godaveri, and then several at Chitwan, with a nice view of a pair on the last evening.

Hill Partridge (Common Hill Partridge) *Arborophila torqueola* (H): Heard on Phulchowki.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*: Common at Chitwan.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelana*: Several sightings on Phulchowki, but all were brief. We then saw two groups near Tiger Tops in Chitwan, totally seven birds, which showed well.

Indian Peafowl (Common Peafowl) *Pavo cristatus*

## DENDROCYGNIDAE

Lesser Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*: A distant flock in flight at dusk near Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

## ANATIDAE

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*: Around six at the river crossing at Sauraha.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*: A dozen or so as above.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*: Two at Sauraha.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*: Two at Sauraha. Distant in the heat-haze, <sup>they inevitably</sup> caused some discussion as to their identity.

Common Merganser (Goosander) *Mergus merganser*: A single hauled out on a mudbank at Sauraha.

## PICIDAE

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*: Seen on two dates at Godaveri.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (Grey-capped Woodpecker) *Dendrocopos canicapillus*: A couple of brief sightings in Chitwan.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei*: Common in Chitwan.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*: Beautiful views of this often elusive species at two places on Phulchowki.

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis*: A single <sup>nosy bird</sup> near the summit of Phulchowki.

Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*: Two seen on our last morning in Chitwan,

including a bird that responded spectacularly to a tape of its drumming.

Lesser Yellownappe *Picus chlorolophus*: Seen at Nagarjung and in Chitwan.

Greater Yellownappe *Picus flavinucha*: A couple in Chitwan.

Streak-throated Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus*: One posed very nicely on the morning walk from the Tented Camp to Tiger Tops Lodge.

Grey-headed Woodpecker (Black-naped Woodpecker) *Picus canus*: Probably the commonest woodpecker in Chitwan.

Himalayan Flameback *Dinopium shorii*: Eventually, we all had good views in Chitwan.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*: One at Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*: One seen briefly in flight on Phulchowki (just well enough to see the pale bill), at the 'Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush gully'.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* (H): Heard distantly <sup>near</sup> the Tiger Tops Tented Camp.

#### MEGALAIMIDAE

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*

Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*: A couple seen well on Phulchowki.

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*: Seen on the first afternoon at Nagarjung, and then heard in Chitwan.

#### BUCEROTIDAE

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* (H): Heard only at Chitwan (at both Chitwan Jungle Lodge and the Tented Camp).

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*: After some elusive early morning birds in the trees near the Tented Camp, some nice flight views near Bhimle.

#### UPUPIDAE

Common Hoopoe (Eurasian Hoopoe) *Upupa epops*: Just a couple in Chitwan.

#### TROGONIDAE

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*: Some prolonged whistling and taping eventually brought a handsome bird into view near Chitwan Jungle Lodge,

allowing scope views.

#### CORACIIDAE

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*: Common in Chitwan (a summer visitor).

#### ALCEDINIDAE

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

#### HALCYONIDAE

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon capensis*: A couple of nice fly-bys at Chitwan Jungle Lodge, and then a perched bird at the Machan at Tiger Tops Lodge.

White-throated Kingfisher (White-breasted K) *Halcyon smyrnensis*

#### CERYLIDAE

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

#### MEROPIDAE

Green Bee-eater (Little Green Bee-eater) *Merops orientalis*: Just four at Chitwan, all in the grassland areas.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*: Abundant at Chitwan, especially in the Chitwan Jungle Lodge area (a summer visitor).

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*: Common in Chitwan.

#### CUCULIDAE

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* (H): Heard commonly on Phulchowki.

Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius*: Heard commonly in Chitwan, and a couple seen, including a recently fledged bird begging food from Jungle Babblers.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*: Plenty calling in Chitwan, with an evocative 'one more bottle', and several seen.

Eurasian Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (H): Heard in the Kathmandu Valley and at Chitwan.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* (H): Heard on Phulchowki.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* (H): Heard twice in Chitwan.

Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* (H): Just one distant bird calling near Tiger Tops.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*: Two or three at Nagarjung, very responsive to the tape and showing very well.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*: One at Nagarjung, and then several sightings at Chitwan.

Sirkeer Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*: One from Elephant back at Chitwan Jungle Lodge for Simon, Hilary and Huw (causing a few cricked necks!).

#### CENTROPODIDAE

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*: As usual, most were in a streaky-headed non-breeding plumage, but some were developing black heads.

#### PSITTACIDAE

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Rose-ringed Parakeet (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri*

Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*: Eventually, we had good scope views of all the parakeet species at Chitwan, but it was initially frustrating!

#### APODIDAE

White-rumped Needletail *Zonotrichia sylvatica*: Two birds seen on two dates at Chitwan Jungle Lodge. A scarce bird in Nepal, whose status is obscure.

Silver-backed Needletail (White-vented Needletail) *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*: A single at Chitwan Jungle Lodge and then two seen well enough near Tiger Tops to see the silver mantle.

Fork-tailed Swift (Pacific ~~S~~) *Apus pacificus* (NL): One seen at the airport on our arrival in Nepal.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

#### HEMIPROCNIDAE

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*: Some nice views of perched birds.

#### STRIGIDAE

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* (H): Heard at Tiger Tops Tented Camp.

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*: Two roosting birds seen, at Chitwan Jungle Lodge

and near Tiger Tops, allowing great scope views.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*: One or two at Godaveri Botanical Gardens.

Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum*

Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*: Seen at dawn at Chitwan Jungle Lodge, and then a repeat performance for the benefit of Phil at the Tented Camp.

#### CAPRIMULGIDAE

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*: Several heard (and eyeshine seen) at the Tented Camp, and then one flushed ultra close range (three feet) in a gully near Tiger Tops (after ~~11~~ 11 of us had been stomping about there for 10 minutes). There was no nest, just two eggs.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*: A few birds at dusk over the grassland near Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

#### COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*

Oriental Turtle Dove (Rufous Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia orientalis*

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Red Collared Dove (Red Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia tranquebarica*: Quite common in Chitwan, where its rather horse <sup>La</sup> call is one of the characteristic background sounds.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Emerald Dove (Green-winged Pigeon) *Chalcophaps indica*: Some lovely views of this little gem in Chitwan.

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicincta*: Good views in Chitwan.

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura*: At least two at the foot of Phulchowki allowed critical scope examination.

#### OTIDIDAE

Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*: After a sighting from Elephant-back at Chitwan Jungle Lodge, it was great to <sup>see</sup> a single in flight there, and then two birds on the ground on the drive through the park to Tiger Tops, one of which even treated us to a short display flight. A critically endangered and very handsome bustard.

## RALLIDAE

Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool*: Just one seen, hiding in the reeds at Lami Tal.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*: Great views this year of a single at Lami Tal  
and then another (on two days) at the machan near the Tented Camp.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

## SCOLOPACIDAE

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: One in the grassland at Chitwan Jungle Lodge,  
and then three at Lami Tal.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: Two on the river at Sauraha, and then  
another on the river crossing at Meghauli as we left Chitwan.

## ROSTRATULIDAE

Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*: Good views of a female at Lami Tal.

## JACANIDAE

Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus*: Two handsome birds showed very well at  
Lami Tal.

## CHARADRIIDAE

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*: Whew! What a relief. After missing it at the 'usual'  
spot (where, in fact, I have never seen it) a short detour towards Hetauda  
produced a single immaculate bird in full, black-faced breeding plumage,  
which showed as well as we could have wished.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

## ACCIPITRIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: Two or three at Chitwan.

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*: Seen on three dates at Chitwan (at Chitwan Jungle Lodge and at Lami Tal), and great views both at rest and in flight. A summer visitor.

Oriental Honey-Buzzard (Crested Honey-Buzzard) *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: Unusually conspicuous at Chitwan, where several very dark birds were seen.

Black-shouldered Kite (Black-winged Kite) *Elanus caeruleus*: Just a couple near Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: An immature at Lami Tal.

Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*: A distant bird at Lami Tal, and then rather better views of an adult at Kamal Tal.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*: Only one seen, on the journey to Chitwan.

White-rumped Vulture (Indian White-backed Vulture) *Gyps bengalensis*: Very scarce this year.

Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*: Three seen very well along the Trisuli River on the journey to Chitwan.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter nisus*: One circling high near Tiger Tops.

White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa*: Just a couple seen in Chitwan.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*: One adult soaring near Tiger Tops.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*: A brief view of a pale bird at Chitwan.

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*: Good views of a circling bird on the lower slopes of Phulchowki.

#### FALCONIDAE

Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens*: Three beautiful, fierce but 'fluffy' birds on the last morning near the Tented Camp.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Peregrine Falcon (Peregrine) *Falco peregrinus*: One at Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

#### PHALACROCORACIDAE

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: A few on the river at Sauraha.

## ARDEIDAE

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: Two or three sightings in Chitwan.

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*

Little Heron (Striated Heron) *Butorides striatus*: One on the river by Chitwan Jungle Lodge, and another on the river at Meghauli.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: A large roost in the trees above the compound at Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*: A couple of immatures at Lami Tal, and then a smart adult at the Machan by the Tented Camp.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*: One seen well in flight at the Machan by the Tented Camp.

## THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Black Ibis (Red-naped Ibis) *Pseudibis papillosa*: Several in Chitwan.

## CICONIIDAE

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*: One at Chitwan Jungle Lodge, and good views of another at Lami Tal.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: A single on the drive from Sauraha to Chitwan, and three seen by Hilary from Elephant back at the Tented Camp.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*: Just one, at Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*: A scatter around Chitwan.

## IRENIDAE

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*: Two sightings in Chitwan.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*: A single at Nagarjung.

## LANIIDAE

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*: A scatter from the bus, jeep and Elephants.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*: A well-behaved bird appeared for breakfast in the gardens of the Hotel Himalaya.



## CORVINI

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Red-billed Blue Magpie (Blue Magpie) *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*: Seen at Nagarjung, Godaveri and in Chitwan.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*: Only a couple around Godaveri.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

## ARTAMINI

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*: Seen on a couple of days at Chitwan.

## ORIOLINI

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*: Relatively numerous around Chitwan Jungle Lodge. A summer visitor to Nepal.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*: Nice views of a well-behaved bird on Phulchowki.

Large Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina macei*: A few noisy birds at Chitwan.

Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melaschistos*: Seen both at Godaveri and Chitwan, mostly in flight.

Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus roseus*: A pair nest-building at Chitwan Jungle Lodge; this species is often hard to catch up with.

Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*: Just a few in Chitwan.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*

Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus*: Seen at Godaveri, and also in Chitwan, where one was seen sitting on a neat, cup-shaped nest attached to the upperside of a branch.

## RHIPIDURINI

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*: Several at Phulchowki.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*: Seen at Godaveri and (to Hilary and Huw's relief) several times at Chitwan.

## DICRURINI

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocerus*

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*: Just one seen at Chitwan.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*: One at the bottom of Phulchowki and one seen briefly near the Tented Camp.

Spangled Drongo (Hair-crested Drongo) *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*: A couple near the Tented Camp, but they were unusually elusive.

#### MONARCHINI

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*: Good numbers at Chitwan; a summer visitor.

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*: Abundant in Chitwan (especially around the Chitwan Jungle Lodge), with numerous superb white males, complete with long wispy tails. Another summer visitor.

#### AEGITHININAE

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*: Heard regularly at Chitwan, but relatively few seen.

#### MALACONOTINAE

Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*: A pair at Chitwan.

#### CINCLIDAE

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasi*: Three seen on the journey from Chitwan back to Kathmandu. In the heat of the day they were elusive, and seemed to prefer hiding in the shadows of small caves and overhangs to sitting around on sun-drenched rocks!

#### TURDINAE

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*: One from the bridge at Mugling.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*: Common in Chitwan, with some tame birds around Chitwan Jungle Lodge. Another summer visitor, the song is reminiscent of a Blackbird.

Scaly Thrush (White's ~~T~~) *Zoothera dauma*: Up to four around Chitwan Jungle Lodge

(much to Rodney's delight), eventually allowing superb views at close range:  
Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor*: A couple at Chitwan Jungle Lodge.  
Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus bouboul*: One was seen briefly on Phulchowki, but it  
escaped several of us (including me).

#### MUSCICAPINI

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*: Two at Godaverī. Yet another summer  
visitor.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa daurica*: Three seen in Chitwan (where it is a  
migrant).

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophliata*: A single in the tree-tops near the  
summit of Phulchowki.

Red-throated Flycatcher (~~R~~-breasted ~~P~~) *Ficedula parva*: Seen at Godaverī and  
Chitwan, including several red-throated (but not red-breasted) males. Such  
males with restricted red on the throat, bordered below by soft grey, belong to  
the race *albicilla* from eastern Siberia, sometimes treated as a distinct  
species.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: A single male on Phulchowki.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*: What a colour!

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*: A couple on Phulchowki.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*: Again, a couple on Phulchowki, but rather  
more obliging.

Pale-chinned Flycatcher *Cyornis poliogenys*: Commonly heard in Chitwan, and a  
couple seen. A subtly attractive species.

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher (G-h Flycatcher) *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

#### SAXICOLINI

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*: Super views of an adult male singing at the  
machan near the Tented Camp (and another two or three seen more briefly).  
Voted bird of the trip.

White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis*: Two or three elusive birds in Chitwan,  
which never really showed themselves.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*: Some nice views in Chitwan.

Golden Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* (H): One heard 'croaking' in the scrub whilst  
searching for the Spiny Babbler.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*: Some nice views in Chitwan.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: Unusually common in Chitwan.

Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*: Several sightings at Godaveri.

White-capped Water Redstart (River Chat) *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*: A real stunner.

Plumbeous Water Redstart (Plumbeous Redstart) *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*: Seen in the gardens at Godaveri, and on the rivers going to and from Chitwan. More subtly attractive than the preceding species.

Black-backed Forktail *Enicurus immaculatus*: One near Tiger Tops in Chitwan quickly gave us the slip as it vanished into the forest.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*: Two at Godaveri showed rather well (it is becoming harder each year to find this species in the Kathmandu Valley).

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura*: Several in Chitwan, the white in the tail really is obvious.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*: Showed nicely at Godaveri. The females can be mistaken for a small chat or flycatcher!

#### STURNIDAE

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*: Abundant in Chitwan.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*

Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*: Two seen on two dates in Chitwan.

#### SITTIDAE

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*: Common in Chitwan, the 'referee's whistle' call, given from the tree-tops, is a familiar sound of the forest.

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*: Plenty in the oak forest on Phulchowki.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*: Some great views of this stunning nuthatch.

#### PARIDAE

Great Tit (Grey T) *Parus major*

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*: Just two, on the upper slopes of Phulchowki.

Black-lored Tit *Parus xanthogenys*

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*: A couple in the oak forest on Phulchowki, they showed well (but nevertheless gave Rodney the slip, much to his chagrin). They seldom show the yellow brow.

#### AEGITHALIDAE

Black-throated Tit (Red-headed Tit) *Aegithalos concinnus*: Some nice views (eventually for all) of this charming sprite.

#### HIRUNDINIDAE

Plain Martin (Brown-throated Sand Martin) *Riparia paludicola*: Some sizeable colonies nesting in the river banks at Chitwan.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*: Seen on the journey to Godaveri, and also around some houses just beyond the rim of the Kathmandu valley on the journey to Chitwan.

#### PYCNONOTIDAE

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*: Seen on a couple of dates in Chitwan.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Himalayan Bulbul (White-cheeked Bulbul) *Pycnonotus leucogenys*

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus caffer*

Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes maclellandii*: A group of noisy birds on Phulchowki responded well to the tape, but were fast-moving.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*: Seen at both Nagarjung and on the lower slopes of Phulchowki.

#### CISTICOLIDAE

Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler) *Cisticola juncidis*

Bright-headed Cisticola (B-capped C) *Cisticola exilis*: A superb summer-plumaged bird at Chitwan convinced me that 'Golden-headed Cisticola' is a far better English name.

Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger* (H): heard at Godaveri and on the journey back from Chitwan.

Grey-crowned Prinia *Prinia cinereocapilla*: Common in the forest undergrowth at

Chitwan, but only a few actually seen.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*: Just two in Chitwan, in the grassland by Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

#### ZOSTEROPIDAE

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosa*

#### ACROCEPHALINAE

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*: One seen near the summit of Phulchowki showed well...to some.

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*: Typically teasing, several heard on Phulchowki, and also one heard at Chitwan, but hard to get good views (unless your name was Phil).

Pale-footed Bush Warbler *Cettia pallidipes*: A superbly responsive bird at Chitwan sat and sang for several minutes, giving full-frame scope views. Many other S heard there too.

Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia major*: One in the grassland near Chitwan Jungle Lodge responded well to the tape and, for a while, gave unusually good views. It would not respond again L an illustration that 'a bird in the hand...'. have on

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea*: Eventually showed well to all at Chitwan.

Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons*: Just one or two heard at Godaveri, and only one e seen, creeping in silhouette through the scrub.

Spotted Bush Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus*: A couple of skulking birds in Chitwan.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*: Plenty of good views at the Tented Camp in Chitwan. Not that difficult to identify, especially if they go 'chak'.

Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon*: A couple by the machan at the Tented Camp.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Smoky Warbler *Phylloscopus fulgiventis*: Seen by almost all the water bodies in Chitwan.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*: A few near the summit of Phulchowki. Look for the white in the tail.

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculifennis*: Some lovely views on the upper slopes of Phulchowki.

Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus*: Just two on Phulchowki.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*: A couple at Godaveri, and also a couple in Chitwan (seen well by Rodney). The call is by far the most reliable way of separating them from Hume's Warbler.

Hume's Warbler (Hume's Leaf Warbler, Buff-browed Warbler) *Phylloscopus humei*: Perhaps the commonest warbler in the Kathmandu Valley.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*: Many heard and a few seen in Chitwan.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*: Almost as common as Hume's in the Kathmandu Valley. Look for the big pale bill.

Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii*: A couple at Phulchowki, and one for Phil in Chitwan.

Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos*

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*: Some hyperactive birds on Phulchowki.

Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*: One party on Phulchowki.

#### MEGALURINAE

Rufous-rumped Grassbird (Large Grass Warbler) *Graminicola bengalensis* : Great . .

#### GARRULACINAE

White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis*: Seen daily on Phulchowki, always birds crossing the road.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*: Heard at Nagarjung and Godaveri, and a couple of birds seen briefly at the latter site.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*: Eventually, a party tracked down at Tiger Tops, and seen well enough through the scope to pin down the species.

Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax ruficollis*: Great views of a flock of ten at Tiger Tops Lodge.

Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus*: Seen by Anne and Hathan at Phulchowki.

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufogularis*: Excellent views of two pairs on Phulchowki. Often hard to find.

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus*: A couple near the summit of Phulchowki.

#### TIMALIINI

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*: First seen at Nagarjung, the song and calls were a familiar sound at Chitwan.

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*: Plenty heard at Godaveri, but only a couple seen (and also seen by Simon in Chitwan).

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*: Several heard at Godaveri/Phulchowki, but only brief views.

Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*: One performed well near the top of Phulchowki, and gave some good prolonged views. The first time I have scoped the 'egg on legs'.

Black-chinned Babbler *Stachyris pyrrhops*: Nice views in Chitwan.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*: Two groups of two in the area of the Tented Camp.

Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*: The rhythmic 'chonk-chonk-chonk...' was a familiar sound at Chitwan.

Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*: Some good views of this grassland skulker.

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*: Less common than the preceding species, but a couple of nice groups.

Spiny Babbler *Turdoides nipalensis*: Oh woe is me! Despite several hours of effort, we could not persuade them to give more than the briefest of flight views. This unresponsiveness is atypical, perhaps they were on eggs? *Search for the Spiny Babbler* by Dillon Ripley should be essential reading before every Nepal tour.

Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei*: A few in the grasslands at Chitwan.

Slender-billed Babbler *Turdoides longirostris*: Seen well, and very easily, at Chitwan.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*

White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis* (H): Heard only on the upper slopes of Phulchowki.

Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis* (NL): One seen by Phil on Phulchowki during a picnic lunch stop.

Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula*: Just one, in the small valley below the summit of Phulchowki.



Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps*: Common on the upper slopes of Phulchowki.

White-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe vinipectus*: As above.

Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nepalensis*: A few skulking parties in the undergrowth around the base of Phulchowki.

Rufous Sibia (Black-capped Sibia) *Heterophasia capistrata*: THE sound of Phulchowki.

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*: Two or three seen nicely on Phulchowki.

White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina xantholeuca*: Parties at Nagarjung and in Chitwan.

#### ALAUDIDAE

Rufous-winged Bushlark *Mirafra assamica*: Nice views of a couple of singing birds at Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal*: A few around the rivers in Chitwan.

#### NECTARINIIDAE

Pale-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*: Up to three near Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (Buff-bellied Flowerpecker) *Dicaeum ignipectus*: Common on Phulchowki.

Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*: A few in the lowlands.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*: Just a handful on Phulchowki.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*: Seen at the drinks stop on the way to Chitwan, and in the gardens of the Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

#### PASSERINAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Chestnut-shouldered Petronia (Yellow-throated Sparrow) *Petronia xanthocollis*: A few in Chitwan, but mostly dreadful views! /

#### MOTACILLINAE

White Wagtail (Pied Wagtail) *Motacilla alba*

White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla madaraspatensis*

Citrine Wagtail (Yellow-hooded Wagtail) *Motacilla citreola*: One at Sauraha and one (for Guy) at Meghauri.

especially

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*: Three in Chitwan. Best separated from Paddyfield by the 'pschiou' call and longer tail.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

Olive-backed Pipit (Olive Tree P) *Anthus hodgsoni*: A notable roast of at least 500 birds in the grass near the Tented Camp.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*: A few around the muddy banks of rivers at Chitwan Jungle Lodge. Sounds like a Meadow Pipit.

#### PLOCEINAE

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*: Nice views of a flock by the Elephant stables at Tiger Tops Lodge.

#### ESTRILDINAE

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*: A couple of groups in the grassland at Chitwan.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: Nice views of a flock by the Elephant stables at Tiger Tops Lodge.

#### FRINGILLINAE

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*: Two near Chitwan Jungle Lodge.

#### EMBERIZINAE

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami*: Some good views in Chitwan.

- Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*: Seen en route to Chitwan, and also in the park (several Macaques seen on Phulchowki were not seen well enough to exclude Assamese Macaque).
- Hanuman Langur (Common Langur) *Presbytis entellus*: Plenty in Chitwan (especially around Tiger Tops).
- Yellow-throated Marten (Himalayan Yellow-throated Marten) *Martes flavigula*: Relatively good views of one foraging in the early morning near Chitwan Jungle Lodge.
- Indian Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*: Up to 12 in one day at Chitwan.
- Tiger *Panthera tigris*: One seen oh so briefly on the drive to Tiger Tops. Only Hathan and the local guide saw enough to identify it, for the rest of us it was merely a shadow (if that).
- Wild Boar (Indian Wild Boar) *Sus scrofa*: Plenty in Chitwan, including a lone 'Tusker'.
- Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) *Muntiacus muntjak*: A few in Chitwan.
- Spotted Deer (Chital) *Cervus axis*: Common in Chitwan.
- Hog-Deer *Cervus porcinus*: Just a few in Chitwan, a subtly attractive, yet unobtrusive, little deer.
- Sambar *Cervus unicolor*: Just one in Chitwan, a stag with only one antler.
- Northern Palm Squirrel (Five-striped Squirrel) *Funambulus pennanti* (NL)
- Irrawaddy Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus*: A few on Phulchowki.
- Mugger (Marsh Crocodile) *Crocodylus palustris*: A few in Lami Tal in Chitwan.
- Brindled House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*: One or two at the drinks stop on the way back to Kathmandu.
- Common Garden Lizard *Calotes versicolor*: The lizard with the blue 'ear' spot by the staff quarters at Chitwan Jungle Lodge.