Ornithological Survey of Dharan Forests IBA, Eastern Lowland Nepal

By Yub Raj Basnet Jivan Sapkota



Final report submitted to Oriental Bird Club (UK)



Bird Conservation Nepal 2008

Ornithological Survey of Dharan Forests IBA, Eastern Lowland Nepal

By Yub Raj Basnet Jivan Sapkota



Final report submitted to Oriental Bird Club (UK)



Bird Conservation Nepal

SUMMARY

Dharan Forests IBA is an unprotected Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Nepal. The area is mainly located at plains and Siwalik Hills of the Sunsari and Morang districts. The forest is tropical evergreen mixed type dominated by Sal *Shorea robusta*. An exploration of bird diversity was done in the area from May 2007 to March 2008. Total four visits were done during the study period one in each season. Species discovery curve was calculated using Mackinnon list, with twenty species in each list. Altogether 72 lists were prepared, 18 in each survey.

A total of 197 bird species were recorded from the area. Among them 143 were resident, 45 were winter visitors and nine were summer visitors. Among the observed species ten were nationally threatened species including one globally threatened species, i.e. Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*. Two nesting sites of Lesser Adjutant were explored from the IBA, one at Santi Community Forest, Tarahara and another at Singhadevi Community Forest, Bhawnne. A total of 31 bird species were biome restricted species. Seven species were confirmed breeding. Total nine sites were very important for bird community in the IBA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express special thanks to Oriental Bird Club, UK for financial support without which this project would never have carried out. Thank also goes to David Buckingham for his continuous support throughout the project period.

We are also grateful to the local people of the Dharan forests IBA especially Nara Bdr Basnet, Kerabari; Yaggya Bahadur Basnet, Itahari; for their logistic support. Thanks also go to field assistant Madan Aryal, Yangshila; Chandra Basnet, Biratnagar for vehicle support; Torna Basnet and Dinesh Dahal, Kerabari for their support during field visit.

Our sincere thanks go to Carol Inskipp for her keen interest, supports and reviews throughout the project period.

We are grateful to Hem Sagar Baral, Ishana Thapa, Haris Rai, Hatan Chaudhary, Bhesh Raj Ghimire and Dev Ghimire for generous support during project period.

At last but not least Thanks to Renu Basnet and Sunita Basnet for typing and Krishna Gurung for Cover page design.

25 December 2008

TABLES

| Table 1: Field survey period and observed species | 8 |
|--|-------|
| Table 2: List number and running species. | 9 |
| Table 3: List of birds according to field survey. | 11-17 |
| Table 4: List of nationally threatened birds recorded in the study area. | 18 |
| Table 5: Bird species according to biome. | 20 |

FIGURES

| Figure 1 Map of the study area | 5 |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Figure 2 Species discovery curve | 10 |

CONTENTS

•

.

| · | Summary | ii |
|---|--------------------------|-------|
| | Acknowledgements | iii |
| | List of tables | iv |
| | List of figure | iv |
| | Introduction | 1-2 |
| | Background | 1 |
| | Objectives | 2 |
| | Study area | 3-5 |
| | Location | 3 |
| | Climate | 3 |
| | Biological diversity | 4 |
| | Flora | 4 |
| | Fauna | 4 |
| | Socio-economic aspect | 4 |
| | Material and Methods | 6-7 |
| | Bird survey | 6 |
| | Data analysis | 7 |
| | Results and Discussion | 8-24 |
| | Bird survey | 8-10 |
| | Bird diversity | 11-17 |
| | Threatened species | 18-19 |
| | Biome restricted species | 19-20 |
| | Breeding birds | 21 |
| | Important bird sites | 21-23 |
| | Threats | 24 |
| | Conclusion | 24 |
| | Recommendations | 25 |
| | References | 26 |
| | Appendix | 27-28 |

INTRODUCTION

Background.

Nepal has an exceptionally rich and diverse avifauna. Two important factors determining such diverse avifauna are Nepal's varied topography and climate. The varied physiographic zones of Nepal have facilitated the country's high diversity of fauna and flora. In Nepal 863 species of birds are recorded (Bird Conservation Nepal 2008). A total of 33 species is considered globally threatened (BirdLife International 2008, IUCN 2007) and 133 species (15%) have been identified as nationally threatened. Furthermore, 72 species are thought to be nationally critically threatened or endangered (Baral and Inskipp 2004). In addition 11 species are considered extinct in Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). As many as 78 species (59% of the total threatened) depend on forests (Baral and Inskipp 2004). BirdLife International and Bird Conservation Nepal have identified 27 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Nepal. The Dharan Forests Area is one of 12 IBAs that are unprotected (Baral and Inskipp 2005).

Dharan Forest area lies in the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area (Stattersfield *et al.*, 1998). Local users now manage some of the forests as community forest and large part of the forest area is national forest managed directly by the Department of Forests. The forests of Dharan mainly comprise tropical evergreen forest type. Most of the forest area is situated in the plain and foothills of Morang and Sunsari district.

Dharan Forests IBA area is a home for many important species. Globally threatened bird species White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Slender-billed Vulture *G. tenuirostris* and Lesser Adjutant Stork *Leptoptilus javanicus* are recorded in the area (Baral and Inskipp 2005, BirdLife International 2001). Similarly, nationally endangered species Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella* is very rare in Nepal and recorded from that area (Chaudhary 1997). Yellow-vented Warbler *Phylloscopus cantator* is also recorded from the area. This is a restricted range species as well as nationally threatened bird (Baral and Inskipp 2004, 2005). Furthermore, Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*, a rare summer visitor to Dharan forest that possibly breeds, was recorded in Nepal for the first time from this area (Basnet *et al.* 1999).

There are large areas of tropical forests that are likely to support significant populations of species characteristic of the Indo-Chinese Tropical Moist Forest and Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone biomes (Baral and Inskipp 2005). Forest areas of Dharan Forest are contiguously surrounded by village areas inhabited by caste groups such as Tharus, Rai, Limbu, Chhetri, Brahman and Tamang. As in other parts of Nepal local people of the Dharan Forests IBA are also heavily dependent on forest resources for fuel wood, fodder and timber.

There are few bird survey records from the IBA, especially in the west. So considering the potential importance of the area nationally as well as internationally for birds, this study is a baseline survey for the area.

Objectives

The general objective of this study is to make an inventory of avian diversity in the Dharan forests IBA.

The specific objectives are:

- 1. to determine the avian diversity in Dharan forests IBA; and
- 2. to assess the richness of birds in the area.

STUDY AREA

Location

The Dharan Forest is named after a small town Dharan which is located in the northern part of the forest in Sunsari and Morang district under the Koshi administrative zone in east Nepal. The area lies between 26°37' N and 26°48' N latitude and 87°10'E and 87°37' E longitude. The Dharan Forest area covers approximately 50,000 hectares at altitudes ranging from 100m to 1300m asl (Baral and Inskipp 2005). The area is easily accessible by road. Map of the study area is shown in figure 1.

This study was conducted in the forest areas of Dharan Forest in Morang and Sunsari districts at the altitude 100m-600m, where the forest area covers approximately 40,000 hectares. Some of the forests are recently developed as community forest. More than 75 forest user groups are benefitting from forest resources in the Dharan Forest IBA.

Climate

The Dharan forest area has a tropical climate. The summer monsoon starts from mid June, reaches its peak in July and continues to late September. The total mean annual precipitation was approximately 2100 mm from 1967 to 2006 at Tarahara, the nearest meteorological station from the study area. The average monthly rainfall of 700 mm was recorded in July.

The annual mean temperature recorded at Tarahara is 20.7°C with an annual range of mean monthly temperature of 8.6°C in January and 34.0°C in May. However, the mean maximum temperature ranges from 20.1°C in January to 34.6°C in April. The monthly minimum temperature ranges from 9.2°C in January to 21.5°C in August.

The mean monthly relative humidity varies from 53% in April to 92% in July and August, indicating a dry atmosphere in the pre-monsoon season and a moist atmosphere during the monsoon season.

Biological diversity

Flora.

The principal vegetation of the area comprises tropical evergreen forest. The tropical evergreen forest is characterized by dense vegetation with large sized trees and comparatively warm and heavy rainfall during summer. The community forests are mainly dominated by mature Sal *Shorea robusta*. The associated species with Sal are Karma *Adina cardifolia*, Amla *Emblica officinalis*, Hade *Lagerstroemia*, *parviflora*, Bel *Aegle marmelos*, Simal *Bombax ceiba*, Rajbrikshya *Cassia fistula* and Saaj *Terminalia alata*. Common vegetation of the area is shown in appendix.

Fauna

Wild mammals found in the area are Spoted Deer Axis axis, Barking Deer Muntiacus muntjak, Wild Boar Sus scrofa, Jungle Cat Felis chaus, Common Langur Semnopithecus entellus, Indian Hare Lepus nigricolis, Rhesus Monkey Macaca mulatta, Black Giant Squirrel Ratufa bicolor and Northern Palin Squirrel Funcambulus palmarum. Asiatic Wild Elephant Elephas maximus regularly visits the forests.

Socio-economic aspect

Dharan and Itahari are the major towns located north and south of the forests respectively. Koshi Highway connects the two towns. Furthermore, six north-south graveled roads bisect the forests. Similarly, eight seasonal streams run north to south through the forests. Rice *Oryza sativa*, wheat, corn and millet are the major crops in the area, whereas mustard *Brassica campestris*, potato *Solamum tuberosum*, legumes and sugarcane *Saccharum spp*. are grown as minor crops. Livestock is a major component of the agricultural system in the area. The main livestock are cattle, goat, buffalo, pig and poultry. In addition to farming, harvesting of forest products is the further occupation of the local people.



MATERIAL AND METHODS

Bird survey

Extensive bird surveys in forest areas of Dharan Forest IBA were carried out four times, first in pre-monsoon (May 2007), second in post-monsoon (October 2007), third in the winter season (January 2008) and fourth in the spring season (March 2008) to obtain many residential birds during their breeding season as well as migratory birds in Dharan Forest. Observations were carried out in different community forests as well as the national forest of the Morang and Sunsari districts. Birds were recorded in Sal forest, mixed forest, bushes, bamboo clumps, grasslands and streams. Most of the birds were observed by direct observation method. Calls were also noted of certain shy and skulking species such as Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*, Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*, Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*, and Red Jungle Fowl *Gallus gallus*. Bird sounds were also used to detect or identify the bird species. Mackinnon's species richness counting method (Mackinnon and Phillips, 1993) was followed to determine the species-richness of the area.

Species richness counting method

- 1. Each new species is recorded until a list of 20 is reached.
- 2. Then a new list (number 2) is started and another 20 species is recorded. Each list must contain 20 different species, but subsequent lists can include species previously listed. During the survey much care was taken not to repeat same species in the same list, but it was listed in subsequent lists.
- 3. Then list number 3 is recorded.
- 4. Ideally lists are repeatedly recorded until no new species are recorded.
- 5. A final running species total is obtained by extracting the number of species in list 2 that are not in list 1 and so on throughout all the recorded for that area.

The observed birds were identified following handbooks Grimmett *et al.* (1998, 2000). A bird list was compiled by careful recording of all the birds observed. The bird list followed the systematic order in Inskipp *et al.* (1996).

First field survey

A total of eight days was spent in the study area from 11th May to 18th May 2007 for the first phase of the study. A total of 18 lists were made during the period.

Second field survey

Second survey was done from 19th October to 31st October 2007. A total of 18 new lists were made. These are considered list number 19 to 36.

Third field survey

Third survey was done from 8th January to 21st January 2008 for the third phase of the study. A total of 18 lists were made during the period. These are considered list number 37 to 54

Fourth field survey

Forth survey was done from 23th March to 31st March 2008. A total of 18 new lists were made. These are considered list number 55 to 72.

Data analysis

A species discovery curve was plotted using Mackinnon's species-richness counting method (Bibby *et al.* 2000). The species were classified taxonomically. The threatened status of the observed birds were identified with the help of key books, i.e. The State of Nepal's birds 2004 (Baral and Inskipp 2004) and the Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2007).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bird Survey

A total of 72 bird lists was prepared between May 2007 and March 2008. The first survey was made in pre-monsoon season. A total of 102 bird species was recorded in 18 bird lists of the first field visit including four nationally threatened species. The second survey was made in the post-monsoon season. A total of 121 bird species was recorded in 18 bird lists of second field visit including five nationally threatened species. The third survey was made in the winter season. A total of 127 bird species was recorded in 18 bird lists of third field visit including five nationally threatened species. The third survey was made in the winter season. A total of 127 bird species was recorded in 18 bird lists of third field visit including five nationally threatened species. The fourth survey was made in the spring season. A total of 136 bird species was recorded in 18 bird lists of fourth field visit including seven nationally threatened species. The number of species recorded in each season and the total cumulative species is shown in Table 1.

| Survey | Time period (Date) | Total Observed species | Threatened species | Cumulative species |
|--------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| First | May 2007 | 102 | 4 | 102 |
| Second | October 2007 | 121 | 5 | 136 |
| Third | January 2008 | 127 | 5 | 164 |
| Fourth | March 2008 | 136 | 7 | 197 |

Table 1 Field survey period and observed species

Among the 121 species recorded during second survey 34 species were not recorded during first field visit. Thus cumulative species was reached 136. Similarly, 28 species and 33 species were new for third and fourth visit respectively. Therefore a total of 197 bird species were recorded from the Dharan Forests IBA. The number of running species according to list number as well as survey and the species discovery curve are shown in table 2 and figure 2 respectively. As the curve is still rising and relatively steeply this indicates that with more fieldwork it is very likely that more species will be found. Winter and spring seasons are important to find out more new species. During the survey, few unclear observations were made due to very short glance which are omitted in this report. This might obtain in further survey.

| First | survey | Secon | d survey | Thire | l survey | Forth | ı survey |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| List number | Running species | List number | Running species | List number | Running species | List number | Running species |
| 1 | 20 | 19 | 107 | 37 | 139 | 55 | 166 |
| 2 | 35 | 20 | 110 | 38 | 141 | 56 | 170 |
| 3 | 45 | 21 | . 110 | 39 | 142 | 57 | 173 |
| 4 | 53 | 22 . | 111 | 40 | 143 | 58 | 175 |
| 5 | 57 | 23 | 114 | 41 | 145 | 59 | 176 |
| 6 | 63 | 24 | 116 | 42 | 146 | 60 | 178 |
| 7 | 74 | 25 | 119 | 43 | 148 | 61 | 178 |
| 8 | 78 | 26 | 121 | 44 | 148 | 62 | 181 |
| 9 | 81 | 27 | 123 | 45 | 150 | 63 | 183 |
| 10 | 84 | 28 | 126 | 46 | 151 | 64 | 185 |
| 11 | 86 | 29 | 126 | 47 | 153 | 65 | 186 |
| 12 | 88 | 30 | 129 | 48 | 155 | 66 | 187 |
| 13 | 91 | 31 | 131 | 49 | 155 | 67 | 188 |
| 14 | 93 | 32 | 132 | 50 | 156 | 68 | 191 |
| 15 | 95 | 33 | 132 | 51 | 158 | 69 | 193 |
| 16 | 99 | 34 | 133 | 52 | 161 | 70 | 194 |
| 17 | 101 | 35 | 135 | 53 | 162 | 71 | 195 |
| 18 | 102 | 36 | 136 | 54 | 164 | 72 | 197 |

Table 2: List number and running species

During the survey 58 species were recorded in all seasons. Mostly they were residential and common species. Likewise 41 species were recorded in three seasons. Similarly, 33 species were recorded in two seasons and 65 species were recorded in only one season. Most of them were migratory and few were rare for the area. Species occurrence according to season is shown in Table 3.



÷

Figure 2 Species discovery curve

Bird diversity

Thus, a total of 197 species belonging to 14 orders and 45 families was recorded from the Dharan Forests area. Among them 143 species were residents, 45 species were winter visitors and 9 were summer visitors. The list of birds according to species occurrence in each survey is shown in table 3 along with order and family.

| S.N | Common Name | Scientific Name | Sur | veys | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th |
| | Order: GALLIFORMES | | | | | |
| | Family: Phasianidae | | | | | |
| 1 | Black Francolin | Francolinus francolinus | + | | | |
| 2 | Common Quail | Coturnix coturnix | | + | | |
| 3 | Red Junglefowl | Gallus gallus | + | + | + | + |
| 4 | Indian Peafowl | Pavo cristatus | | · | + | + |
| | ANSERIFORMES | | | | | |
| | Dendrocygnidae | | | | | |
| 5 | Lesser Whistling Duck | Dendrocygna javanica | + | | + | + |
| | PICIFORMES | | | | | |
| | Picidae | | | | | |
| 6 | Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker | Dendrocopos canicapillus | + | + | + | -+- |
| 7 | Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker | Dendrocopos macei | + | + | | |
| 8 | Yellow-crowned Woodpecker | Dendrocopos mahrattensis | | | + | |
| 9 | Rufous Woodpecker | Celeus brachyurus | + | + | + | + |
| 10 | Lesser Yellownape | Picus chlorolopus | + | + | + | + |
| 11 | Greater Yellownape | Picus flavinucha | + | + | + | -+- |
| 12 | Streak-throated Woodpecker | Picus xanthopygaeus | | | +- | |
| 13 | Grey-headed Woodpecker | Picus canus | | + | + | + |
| 14 | Himalayan Flameback | Dinopium shorii | + | + | -+- | |
| 15 | Greater Flameback | Chrysocolaptes lucidus | | + | + | |
| | Megalaimidae | | | | | |
| 16 | Lineated Barbet | Megalaima lineata | + | + | - - | + |
| 17 | Blue-throated Barbet | Megalaima asialica | + | + | + | - |
| | BUCEROTIFORMES | | | | | |
| | Bucerotidae | | | | | |
| 18 | Oriental Pied Hornbill | Anthracoceros albirostris | + | + | + | 1+ |
| | UPUPIFORMES | | | | | |

Table 3 List of birds according to field survey

Upupidae

| | | | | | + | 1 1 |
|----|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|----------|
| 19 | Common Hoopoe | Upupa epops | | + | + | + |
| | CORACIIFORMES | | | ļ | ļ | |
| | Coraciidae | | | | | |
| 20 | Indian Roller | Coracias benghalensis | + | + | + | + |
| 21 | Dollarbird | Eurystomus orientalis | + | + | | |
| | Alcedinidae | | | | ļ | |
| 22 | Common Kingfisher | Alcedo atthis | | | ļ | + |
| | Dacelonidae | | | | | |
| 23 | White-throated Kingfisher | Halcyon smyrnensis | + | + | + | + |
| | Meropidae | | | | | |
| 24 | Blue-bearded Bee-eater | Nyctyornis athertoni | + | + | + | |
| 25 | Green Bee-eater | Merops orientalis | + | + | + | |
| 26 | Chestnut-headed Bee-eater | Merops leschenaulti | | | + | + |
| | CUCULIFORMES | | | | | <u> </u> |
| | Cuculidae | | | | | |
| 27 | Common Hawk Cuckoo | Hierococcyx varius | + | + | + | + |
| 28 | Indian Cuckoo | Cuculus micropterus | + | | | + |
| 29 | Eurasian Cuckoo | Cuculus canorus | | -+- | | |
| 30 | Oriental Cuckoo | Cuculus saturatus | | | | -+ |
| 31 | Banded Bay Cuckoo | Cacomantis sonneratii | | | + | |
| 32 | Grey-bellied Cuckoo | Cacomantis passerinus | + | | | |
| 33 | Asian Koel | Eudynamys scolopacea | + | + | | + |
| 34 | Green-billed Malkoha | Phaenicophaeus tristis | + | + | | + |
| | Centropodidae | | | | | |
| 35 | Greater Coucal | Centropus sinensis | + | + | + | + |
| | PSITTACIFORMES | | | | _ | |
| | Psittacidae | | | | | |
| 36 | Alexandrine Parakeet | Psittacula eupatria | -+- | + | + | |
| 37 | Rose-ringed Parakeet | Psittacula krameri | + | +- | | |
| 38 | Plum-headed Parakeet | Psittacula cyanocephala | -+- | | -+- | + |
| 39 | Red-breasted Parakeet | Psittacula alexandri | | | | + |
| | APODIFORMES | | | | | |
| | Apodidae | | | | | |
| 40 | Silver-backed Needletail | Hirundapus cochinchinensis | -+ | | _ | |
| 41 | Asian Palm Swift | Cypsiurus balasiensis | + | | | + |
| 42 | House Swift | Apus affinis | | + | + | |
| | Hemiprocnidae | | | | · · · | |
| 43 | Crested Treeswift | Hemiprocne coronata | | | + | + |
| | STRIGIFORMES | | | | | |

| | • | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------|---|----|
| | Strigidae | | | | | |
| 44 | Oriental Scops Owl | Otus sunia | + | <u> </u> | | |
| 45 | Brown Fish Owl | Ketupa zeylonensis | + | + | | + |
| 46 | Jungle Owlet | Glaucidium radiatum | | + | + | + |
| 47 | Spotted Owlet | Athene brama | + | + | + | |
| | Caprimulgidae | | | | | |
| 48 | Large-tailed Nightjer | Caprimulgus macrurus | | + | | |
| | COLUMBIFORMES | | | | | |
| | Columbidae | | | | | |
| 49 | Oriental Turtle Dove | Streptopelia orientalis | + | + | + | + |
| 50 | Spotted Dove | Streptopelia chinensis | + | + | + | + |
| 51 | Red Collared Dove | Streptopelia tranquebarica | + | + | | + |
| 52 | Eurasian Collared Dove | Streptopelia decaocto | + | + | + | |
| 53 | Emerald Dove | Chalcophaps indica | + | | | + |
| 54 | Yellow-footed Green Pigeon | Treron phoenicoptera | | | + | |
| 55 | Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon | Treron sphenura | | | | + |
| | GRUIFORMES | | | | | |
| | Rallidae | | | | | |
| 56 | White-breasted Waterhen | Amaurornis phoenicurus | + | + | + | + |
| 57 | Common Moorhen | Gallinula chloropus | + | | + | + |
| | CICONIFORMES | | | | | |
| | Scolopacidae | | | | | |
| 58 | Marsh Sandpiper | Tringa stagnatilis | | | + | |
| 59 | Green Sandpiper | Tringa ochropus | | | + | + |
| 60 | Common Sandpiper | Actitis hypoleucos | | + | | |
| | Jacanidae | | | | | |
| 61 | Bronze-winged Jacana | Metopidius indicus | + | + | + | + |
| | Burhinidae | | | | | |
| 62 | Eurasian Thick-knee | Burhinus oedicnemus | | + | | + |
| | Charadriidae | | | | | |
| 63 | Red-wattled Lapwing | Vanellus indicus | + | | + | + |
| | Accipitridae | | | | | |
| 64 | Osprey | Pandion haliaetus | + | | + | + |
| 65 | Jerdon's Baza | Aviceda jerdoni | | | | + |
| 66 | Black Baza | Aviceda leuphotes | + | | | +- |
| 67 | Black Kite | Milvus migrans | + | + | | + |
| 68 | Grey-headed Fish Eagle | Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus | | | | + |
| 69 | Crested Serpent Eagle | Spilornis cheela | + | + | + | + |
| 70 | Crested Goshawk | Accipiter trivirgatus | | | | + |

| | • | | | | 1 | 1 |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| 71 | Shikra | Accipiter badius | + | + | | + |
| 72 | Besra | Accipiter virgatus | + | <u> </u> | | |
| 73 | Eurasian Sparrowhawk | Accipiter nisus | | | + | |
| 74 | Common Buzzard | Buteo buteo | | + | ļ | + |
| 75 | Black Eagle | Ictinaetus malayensis | + | + | + | |
| 76 | Steppe Eagle | Aquila nipalensis | | + | + | |
| 77 | Mountain Hawk Eagle | Spizaetus nipalensis | + | | | + |
| | Falconidae | | | | ļ | |
| 78 | Collared Falconet | Microhierax caerulescens | + | + | + | + |
| 79 | Common Kestrel | Falco tinnunculus | + | + | <u> </u> + | |
| 80 | Red-necked Falcon | Falco chicquera | | + | <u> </u> | |
| 81 | Amur Falcon | Falco amurensis | | + | ļ | |
| | Podicipedidae | | | | | |
| 82 | Little Grebe | Tachybaptus ruficollis | + | + | + | |
| | Phalacrocoracidae | | | | | |
| 83 | Little Cormorant | Phalacrocorax niger | + | + | + | + |
| | Ardeidae | | | | | |
| 84 | Little Egret | Egretta garzetta | | + | + | + |
| 85 | Intermediate Egret | Mesophoyx intermedia | | + | + | -+ |
| 86 | Cattle Egret | Bubulcus ibis | + | + | _+ | + |
| 87 | Indian Pond Heron | Ardeola grayii | + | + | + | + |
| | Threskiornithidae | | | | | |
| 88 | Black Ibis | Pseudibis papillosa | + | + | + | + |
| | Ciconiidae | | | | | |
| 89 | Asian Openbill | Anastomus oscitans | | | + | |
| 90 | Black Stork | Ciconia nigra | | + | + | + |
| 91 | Lesser Adjutant | Leptoptilos javanicus | + | -+ | + | _ |
| | PASSERIFORMES | | | | | _ |
| | Irenidae | | | | | |
| 92 | Golden-fronted Leafbird | Chloropsis aurifrons | + | + | -+- | + |
| | Laniidae | | | | | |
| 93 | Rufous-tailed Shrike | Lanius isabellinus | | | | + |
| 94 | Brown Shrike | Lanius cristatus | | + | + | |
| 95 | Long-tailed Shrike | Lanius schach | | + | + | |
| 96 | Grey-backed Shrike | Lanius tephronotus | | | + | |
| | Corvidae | | | | | _ |
| 97 | Red-billed Blue Magpie | Urocissa erythrorhyncha | | | | + |
| 98 | Rufous Treepie | Dendrocitta vagabunda | + | | + | + |
| 99 | House Crow | Corvus splendens | + | + | | |

| | | | 1 | (| | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----|-----|-----|----|
| 100 | Large-billed Crow | Corvus macrorhynchos | + | + | + | + |
| 101 | Ashy Woodswallow | Artamus fuscus - | + | + | | + |
| 102 | Eurasian Golden Oriole | Oriolus oriolus | | + | | + |
| 103 | Slender-billed Oriole | Oriolus tenuirostris | | + | + | |
| 104 | Black-hooded Oriole | Oriolus xanthornus | + | + | + | + |
| 105 | Maroon Oriole | Oriolus traillii | | | + | |
| 106 | Large Cuckooshrike | Coracina macei | + | + | + | + |
| 107 | Black-winged Cuckooshrike | Coracina melaschistos | | + | + | + |
| 108 | Rosy Minivet | Pericrocotus roseus | | + | | + |
| 109 | Small Minivet | Pericrocotus cinnamomeus | + | + | + | + |
| 110 | Long-tailed Minivet | Pericrocotus ethologus | + | | + | + |
| 111 | Scarlet Minivet | Pericrocotus flammeus | + | + | + | + |
| 112 | Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike | Hemipus picatus | | | | + |
| 113 | White-browed Fantail | Rhipidura aureola | | | + | |
| 114 | Black Drongo | Dicrurus macrocercus | + | -+- | + | + |
| 115 | Ashy Drongo | Dicrurus leucophaeus | + | + | + | + |
| 116 | White-bellied Drongo | Dicrurus caerulescens | + | + | + | + |
| 117 | Crow-billed Drongo | Dicrurus annectans | + | + | | + |
| 118 | Bronzed Drongo | Dicrurus aeneus | + | + | + | + |
| 119 | Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo | Dicrurus remifer | +- | + | + | |
| 120 | Spangled Drongo | Dicrurus hottentottus | + | + | | + |
| 121 | Greater Racket-tailed Drongo | Dicrurus paradiseus | + | + | + | + |
| 122 | Black-naped Monarch | Hypothymis azurea | | + | + | |
| 123 | Common Iora | Aegithina tiphia | + | + | | + |
| 124 | Large Woodshrike | Tephrodornis gularis | + | | + | + |
| 125 | Common Woodshrike | Tephrodornis pondicerianus | -+ | + | + | |
| | Muscipapidae | | | | | |
| 126 | Blue-capped Rock Thrush | Monticola cinclorhynchus | | | | + |
| 127 | Blue Rock Thrush | Monticola solitarius | | + | + | +- |
| 128 | Blue Whistling Thrush | Myophonus caeruleus | | | + | |
| 129 | Orange-headed Thrush | Zoothera citrina | | + | | |
| 130 | Scaly Thrush | Turdus ruficollis | | + | + | |
| 131 | Red-throated Flycatcher | Ficedula (parva) albicilla | | | + | |
| 132 | Verditer Flycatcher | Eumyias thalassina | | | + | |
| 133 | Pale-chinned Flycatcher | Cyornis poliogenys | -+ | + | | |
| 134 | Tickell's Blue Flycatcher | Cyornis tickelliae | | | | + |
| 135 | Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher | Culicicapa ceylonensis | | + | + ' | |
| 136 | Siberian Rubythroat | Luscinia calliope | | | | + |
| 137 | Oriental Magpie Robin | Copsychus saularis | + | -+- | + | + |

| | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | | 1 | 1 | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|----|-----|----|
| 138 | White-rumped Shama | Copsychus malabaricus | + | + | + | + |
| 139 | Black Redstart | Phoenicurus ochruros | | | + | + |
| 140 | White-capped Water Redstart | Chaimarrornis leucocephalus | | + | + | |
| 141 | Common Stonechat | Saxicola torquata | | | | + |
| 142 | Pied Bushchat | Saxicola caprata | | | + | |
| 143 | Grey Bushchat | Saxicola ferrea | | | | + |
| | Sturnidae | | | | | |
| 144 | Spot-winged Starling | Saroglossa spiloptera | | | | + |
| 145 | Chestnut-tailed Starling | Sturnus malabaricus | + | + | + | + |
| 146 | Asian Pied Starling | Sturnus contra | | | | + |
| 147 | Common Myna | Acridotheres tristis | + | + | + | + |
| 148 | Jungle Myna | Acridotheres fuscus | | | | + |
| 149 | Hill Myna | Gracula religiosa | + | + | + | + |
| | Sittidae | | | | | |
| 150 | Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch | Sitta castanea | + | + | + | + |
| 151 | Velvet-fronted Nuthatch | Sitta frontalis | | + | + | + |
| 152 | Wallcreeper | Tichodroma muraria | | | + | |
| | Paridae | | | | | |
| 153 | Great Tit | Parus major | . + | + | + | + |
| | Hirundinidae | | | | | |
| 154 | Red-rumped Swallow | Hirundo daurica | 1 | | | + |
| | Pycnonotidae | | | | | |
| 155 | Black-crested Bulbul | Pycnonotus melanicterus | + | + | + | + |
| 156 | Himalayan Bulbul | Pycnonotus leucogenys | + | -+ | + | -+ |
| 157 | Red-vented Bulbul | Pycnonotus cafer | + | + | + | -+ |
| 158 | Red-whiskered Bulbul | Pycnonotus jocosus | + | + | -+- | + |
| | Cisticolidae | | | | | |
| 159 | Zitting Cisticola | Cisticola juncidis | + | + | | |
| 160 | Grey-breasted Prinia | Prinia hodgsonii | -+ | | + | + |
| | Zosteropidae | | | | | |
| 161 | Oriental White-eye | Zosterops palpebrosus | + | | | |
| | Sylviidae | | | | | |
| 162 | Aberrant Bush Warbler | Cettia flavolivacea | | | | + |
| 163 | Paddyfield Warbler | Acrocephalus agricola | | + | | |
| 164 | Blyth's Reed Warbler | Acrocephalus dumetorum | | | | + |
| 165 | Common Tailorbird | Orthotomus sutorius | | + | | - |
| 166 | Common Chiffchaff | Phylloscopus collybita | | | | |
| 167 | Greenish Warbler | Phylloscopus trochiloides | | + | -+ | |
| 168 | Dusky Warbler | Phylloscopus fuscatus | | | | |

| 169 | Tickell's leaf Warbler | Phylloscopus affinis | | + | + | + |
|-----|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|---|-----|-----|
| 170 | Sulphur-bellied Warbler | Phylloscopus griseolus | | | + | + |
| 171 | Lemon-rumped Warbler | Phylloscopus chloronotus | | | + | |
| 172 | Grey-hooded Warbler | Seicercus xanthoschistos | | + | + | |
| 173 | Yellow-bellied Warbler | Abroscopus superciliaris | | | + | |
| 174 | Abbott's Babbler | Malacocincla abbotti | * | * | * | + |
| 175 | Puff-throated Babbler | Pellorneum ruficeps | + | + | + | + |
| 176 | Striped Tit Babbler | Macronous gularis | + | + | + | -+- |
| 177 | Jungle Babbler | Turdoides striatus | + | + | + | + |
| 178 | Lesser Whitethroat | Sylvia curruca | | + | | |
| | Alaudidae | | | | | |
| 179 | Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark | Eremopterix grisea | | | | + |
| 180 | Sand Lark | Calandrella raytal | | | | + |
| | Nectariniidae | | | | | |
| 181 | Purple Sunbird | Nectarinia asiatica | | | + | + |
| 182 | Crimson Sunbird | Aethopyga siparaja | | | + | + |
| 183 | Green-tailed Sunbird | Aethopyga nipalensis | | | | + |
| | Passeridae | | | | | |
| 184 | House Sparrow | Passer domesticus | | + | -+- | |
| 185 | Chestnut-shouldered Petronia | Petronia xanthocollis | | | | |
| 186 | White Wagtail | Motacilla alba | | + | + | |
| 187 | White-browed Wagtail | Motacilla maderaspatensis | | + | | |
| 188 | Yellow Wagtail | Motacilla flava | | _ | | + |
| 189 | Grey Wagtail | Motacilla cinerea | | | | + |
| 190 | Richard's Pipit | Anthus richardi | | | + | |
| 191 | Paddyfield Pipit | Anthus rufulus | -+- | + | + | |
| 192 | Tree Pipit | Anthus trivialis | | | | + |
| 193 | Olive-backed Pipit | Anthus hodgsoni | | | | + |
| 194 | Baya Weaver | Ploceus philippinus | | | | +- |
| 195 | White-rumped Munia | Lonchura striata | | | | + |
| 196 | Scaly-breasted Munia | Lonchura punctulata | | | | + |
| | Fringillidae | | | | | |
| 197 | Crested Bunting | Melophus lathami | | | | |

+ Present

•

*Song recorded which was confirmed in last visit

Threatened species

Four nationally threatened species were observed during first survey including one globally threatened species, Lesser Adjutant. Similarly, five, five and seven nationally threatened species were observed during the second, third and fourth survey respectively including the same globally threatened species. Among them three species were observed in all four seasons and one species was recorded in the three seasons and six species were recorded in only one season. Thus, a total of 10 nationally threatened species (three critical, two endangered and five vulnerable) were observed from the Dharan forests IBA. This constitutes 5.1% of the species observed during the survey and 7.5% of Nepal's nationally threatened birds. The list of threatened species recorded during the survey is shown in table 4 and figure 1.

| No | Common Name | Category | Location | Habitat |
|----|--------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Abbott's Babbler | Critical | Site 1, 3, 5, 8 | Dense mixed forest |
| 2 | Jerdon's Baza | Critical | Site 1 | Dense mixed forest |
| 3 | Red-necked Falcon | Critical | Site 6 | Open forest |
| 4 | Grey-headed Fish Eagle | Endangered | Site 3 | Dense mixed forest |
| 5 | Lesser Adjutant Stork* | Endangered | Site 4, 9 | Agro-forest |
| 6 | Red Junglefowl | Vulnerable | Site 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 | Dense mixed forest |
| 7 | Silver-backed Needletail | Vulnerable | Site 8 | Sal forest |
| 8 | Asian Openbill | Vulnerable | Site 9 | Wetland of Betana |
| 9 | Black Stork+ | Vulnerable | Site 5 | Forest near stream |
| 10 | Hill Myna | Vulnerable | Site 3, 5, 7 | Mixed forest |

| Ta | ble | 4 | Li | st (| of nat | ionally | y t | hreat | tened | bi | irds | record | led | İM | the | stud | y area | à |
|----|-----|---|----|------|--------|---------|-----|-------|-------|----|------|--------|-----|----|-----|------|--------|---|
|----|-----|---|----|------|--------|---------|-----|-------|-------|----|------|--------|-----|----|-----|------|--------|---|

* Globally threatened species + nationally protected species

Among the nationally threatened species Abbott's Babbler was recorded in Kalabanjar forest (site 1), Panbara forest (site 3), Budikhola watershed (site 5) and Kerabari forest area (site 8). Although the bird was conformed in last visit after close observation along its call, it was noticed frequently from first visit. The bird is critically endangered in the nationally threatened category.

Another nationally threatened species Jerdon's Baza was observed in Kalabanjar forest (site 1) near by Sardu khola south from Dharan. Probably this critically endangered species is summer visitor and only observed from the area in Nepal.

A pair of Red-necked Falcon was seen over the Budhi khola upstream (site 6) near Yangshila VDC on 18th October. Similarly, one Grey-headed Fish Eagle was observed in Panbara forest (site 3) south from Pancha Kanya VDC on 31st March.

Globally threatened species (category Vulnerable) Lesser Adjutant was observed in all four seasons. Two nesting colonies were found from the Dharan Forests IBA one at Santi Community Forest, (site 4) Hasposha VDC, Tarahara (26°42'N & 87°16'E) and another from Singhadevi Community Forest, (site 9) Dagihat VDC, Bhawnne (26°39'N & 87°27'E).

Calls of Red Junglefowl were frequently noted in both seasons from Kalabanjar forest (site 1), fireline at Sewti west (site 2), Panbara forest (site 3), Riverine forest of Budhikola (site 5) and Kerabari forests (site 8) of Sunsari and Morang districts.

One individual of Asian Openbill was recorded from Betana Pokhari, (site 9) wetland of Belbari VDC on 10th January 2008 and one individual of Black Stork was observed Budi khola (site 5) near Sunderpur VDC on 18th January 2008.

A pair of Silver-backed Needletail was soaring above the Sal forest (site 8) near Kerabari VDC on 16th May. Many flocks of Hill Mynas were recorded in all four seasons frequently from Janta community forests (site 7), Riverine forests (site 5) and Panbara forests (site 3) (Table 4).

Although the forest of the Dharan Forests IBA is large and mature type, we could not record Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* from the area. This globally near threatened species was recorded twice at Raja Rani Community Forest which is contiguous with Dharan forest (Basnet *et al*, 2005). But we recorded 26 individuals Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* in a flock on 20th January 2008 at riverine forest of Banchauri.

Biome restricted species

Dharan forests IBA supports five types of biome-restricted species. Among the observed species thirty one species (15.74% of the total species) recorded were biome-restricted species. Among them, four were Eurasian high montane biome species, one was Sino-Himalayan Temperate forest biome species, nine were Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest biome species,

three were Indo-Chinese Topical moist forest biome species, and fourteen were Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone biome species. Bird species according to the biome where they were recorded are shown in table 5.

| SN | Name of Species | Biome |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Wall Creeper | Eurasian high montane |
| 2 | Grey-backed Shrike | Eurasian high montane |
| 3 | Tickell's Leaf Warbler | Eurasian high montane |
| 4 | Sulphur-billed Warbler | Eurasian high montane |
| 5 | Aberrant Bush Warbler | Sino-Himalayan Temperate forest |
| 6 | Blue-throated Barbet | Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest |
| 7 | Slender-billed Oriole | Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest |
| 8 | Maroon Oriole | Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest |
| 9 | Black-winged Cuckooshrike | Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest |
| 10 | Rosy Minivet | Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest |
| 11 | Blue-capped Rock Thrush | Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest |
| 12 | Spot-winged Starling | Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest |
| 13 | Himalayan Bulbul | Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest |
| 14 | Grey-hooded Warbler | Sino-Himalayan Subtropical forest |
| 15 | Himalayan Flameback | Indo-Chinese Topical moist forest |
| 16 | Pale-chinned Flycatcher | Indo-Chinese Topical moist forest |
| 17 | Crow-billed Drongo | Indo-Chinese Topical moist forest |
| 18 | Indian Peafowl | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 19 | Yellow-crowned Woodpecker | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 20 | Lineated Barbet | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 21 | Plum-headed Parakeet | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 22 | Red-necked Falcon | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 23 | Yellow-footed Green Pigeon | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 24 | Small Minivet | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 25 | Ashy Woodswallow | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 26 | White-bellied Drongo | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 27 | White-browed Fantail | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 28 | Common Woodshrike | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 29 | Chestnut-tailed Starling | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 30 | Jungle Babbler | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |
| 31 | Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark | Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry zone |

Table 5 Bird species according to biome

Breeding birds

We have noticed many breeding activities during field visit. Even though May (first field visit) is considered post breeding period for most of the species, we observed few breeding activities. On 13th May 2007 Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch were observed feeding to their chicks. Similarly, on 14th May 2007 Oriental White-eye was feeding to their chicks. Active nest of Dollar bird and Common myna were also observed on 16th May 2007.

On 28th October 2007 (Second field visit) seven active nests of Lesser Adjutant were recorded along with their chicks in the nesting tree of Simal at Santi Community Forest, Tarahara, Sunsari. During third visit a total of 26 individuals of Lesser Adjutant were recorded in the nesting site of Tarahara. Similarly, a new nesting colony of Lesser Adjutant was explored from Singhadevi Community Forest, Bhawnne, Morang. Five nests were located in that colony.

On 27th March 2008 Jungle Babblers were observed carrying nest material in mixed Sal forest near Sewti Khola (Stream). On 28th March 2008 a pair of Crested Goshawk was recorded in a nest.

Bronze-winged Jacana was also recorded along with their chicks in Betana Dam.

Important bird sites

All together nine site were found very important for bird community. They are shown in figure 1 as important bird sites. Characteristic features of habitat and species of the site are as follows:

Site 1: Kalabanjar community forest:-

The site is located western part of the IBA near Kalabanjar village and found mixed Sal dominated forest with moist environment due to rich water resources. Nationally threatened species Abbott's Babbler and Jerdon's Baza were recorded there. Nest of Crested Goshawk was also recorded in this site. Biome restricted species Grey-backed Shrike, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Blue-throated Barbet, White-browed Fantail and Jungle Babbler were recorded in the site.

Site 2: National forest Sewti west fireline:-

The site is located western part of the Dharan-Itahari highway near Sewti Khola and found Sal dominated forest. Nationally threatened species Red Junglefowl was regularly recorded there. Biome restricted species Grey-backed Shrike, Sulphur-billed Warbler, Blue-throated Barbet, Himalayan Flameback, Pale-chinned Flycatcher, White-bellied Drongo, Common Woodshrike and Jungle Babbler were recorded in the site. Furthermore, Five individuals of Spotted Deer were recorded in this site. Hunting of the deer species is very high in this IBA.

Site 3: Panbara community forest, Pachkanya:-

The site is located south from Panbara village, eastern part of the Sunsari district. Forest is mixed Sal dominated forest type. Nationally threatened species Abbott's Babbler and Greyheaded Fish Eagle were recorded there. Biome restricted species Indian Peafowl, Greyhooded Warbler, Blue-throated Barbet and Jungle Babbler were recorded in the site.

Site 4: Lesser Adjutant Nesting colony, Tarahara:-

The site is located in Santi community forest near Tarahara village. Forest is much degraded in the site. Few mature Simal and Karma trees are found here which provides nesting and rusting sites for globally threatened Lesser Adjutant species. Biome restricted species Grey-backed Shrike, Plum-headed Parakeet, Blue-throated Barbet, Ashy Woodswallow, Chestnut-tailed Starling and Jungle Babbler were recorded in the site. Barking Deer was also recorded in dense bushes in this site.

Site 5: Riverine forest of Budhikhola watershed:-

The site is located southern part of the IBA at border of Sunsari and Morang district. Forest is riverine and regenerated Sal dominated forest type. Nationally threatened species Abbott's Babbler and Black Stork were recorded there. Biome restricted species Spotwinged Starling, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Lineated Barbet, Chestnut-tailed Starling and Jungle Babbler were recorded in the site. Barking Deer and Indian Hare were also recorded in this site Site 6: Budikhola upstream, Yangshila:-

The site is located northern part of the site 5 which is a tribute of Budhikhola. Forest is found mixed type. Nationally threatened species Red-necked Falcon which is very rare in status was recorded in the site. Biome restricted species Grey-backed Shrike, Slender-billed Oriole, Blue-throated Barbet, Plum-headed Parakeet, Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark and Jungle Babbler were recorded in the site.

Site 7: Janta Community forest, churia hills, Kerabari-8:-

The site is located in Janta community forest in the churia hills northern part of the IBA. Forest is found mixed type. Nationally threatened species Hill Myna was recorded in the site. Biome restricted species Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Spot-winged Starling, Himalayan Bulbul, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Blue-capped Rock Thrush, Crow-billed Drongo, Blue-throated Barbet, Lineated Barbet, White-bellied Drongo and Wall Creeper were recorded in the site.

Site 8: Sal forests of Kerabari:-

The site is located near Kerabari village in Morang district. Forest is found Sal dominated type. Nationally threatened species Abbott's Babbler, Silver-backed Needletail, Red Junglefowl and Hill Myna were recorded in the site. Biome restricted species Common Woodshrike, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Chestnut-tailed Starling, Himalayan Flameback, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Maroon Oriole, Blue-throated Barbet, Lineated Barbet, White-bellied Drongo, Rosy Minivet and Small Minivet were recorded in the site.

Site 9: Betana wetland and Lesser Adjuatant nesting colony, Bhawnne:-

The site is located near east-west highway. Forest is found mixed type. Nationally threatened species Asian Openbill was recorded in the Betana wetland where more than 500 individuals of Lesser Whistling Duck can be seen in winter. Bronze-winged Jacana breeds in this wetland. A nesting colony of Lesser Adjutant was also recorded at Bhawnne which is just two kilometer east from the Betana wetland. Biome restricted species Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Grey-backed Shrike, Himalayan Flameback, Blue-throated Barbet, Lineated Barbet, White-bellied Drongo and Jungle Babbler were recorded in the site.

Threats

- Local people are heavily dependent on forest resources which affect the bird ecology.
- Use of vehicle inside the forest to collect the timber was also noticed. In some of the places we observed recently the cutting down of large green trees for illegal trading, especially in Morang area.
- Stream and its dry open grassy embankments which run through the forest as well as agricultural lands provide good habitat for grassland species as well as stream dwellers like Eurasian Thick-knee. Activities like excessive mining of cobbles, stones and removal of woody debris from these streams and grasslands are also destroying the habitat of aquatic and grassland species.
- On 11th January 2008 at 8:30am we observed a very long track of freshly dropped red blood nearby Kalabanjar village, Sunsari where we had seen four Spotted Deer (one male and three female). Later we confirmed that local people hunted one deer on that day. According to local people they regularly hunt wild mammals (ie Spotted Deer, Barking Deer and Wild Boar). Their hunting hobby may harm birds in future or affecting from sound of guns.

CONCLUSION

Dharan Forests IBA is one of the unprotected IBAs in Nepal. The forest is tropical evergreen mixed type dominated by Sal. A total of 197 bird species was recorded from the Dharan forests area. Among them 143 species were residents, 45 species were winter visitors and nine were summer visitors. Total nine sites were recorded very important for bird communities. A total of 10 nationally threatened species including one globally threatened Lesser Adjutant which breeds in site 4 and site 9. Total 31 species were biome restricted species. Furthermore, seven species were confirmed breeding. The shape of the graph of Mackinnon's lists clearly indicates that more species are very likely to found with more survey work.

RECOMMENDATION

- Most of the forest users and community forest management committee such as Shanti Community Forest, Kalabanjar Community Forest and Janta Community Forests are unaware about importance of birds and biodiversity. Conservation awareness programme for forest management committee and school students could help them to understand the importance of birds and biodiversity along with its need of future generation. To increase the interest about benefit of biogas to the local people would be useful to reduce their dependency in forest resources. Kalabanjar forests area, Sunsari is heavily affected by local hunters. So, awareness programme to the local people along with local leaders and stake holders could be effective.
- Local people of Morang and Sunsari are heavily dependent on forest resources due to their very low economic status. Thus, income generation programme such as fire bricade development for fuel, training for juice production like *Marmelos* may increase their living status which could help to conserve the birds and biodiversity.
- This survey has covered four important seasons during field visits. But each visit is
 relatively short period and the IBA area is comparatively very large. Thus, many
 important areas especially Siwalik belt could not covered except Janta Community
 Forest during the visit. The curve is still rising and relatively steeply this indicates that
 with more fieldwork it is very likely that more species will be found. Therefore, we
 recommend a follow up programme for the IBA.
- As the IBA is home for many residential as well as winter visitor species winter season would be likely to be most productive. This season is also post breeding season for globally threatened species Lesser Adjutant which breeds in the IBA. Spring season is also good for bird survey when many species give call during their breeding time.

References

- Baral, H.S. and Inskipp, C. 2004; *The Sate of Nepal's Birds 2004*. Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Bird Conservation Nepal and IUCN-Nepal. Kathmandu.
- Baral, H.S. and Inskipp, C. 2005. Important Bird Areas in Nepal: key sites for conservation. Bird Conservation Nepal and BirdLife International, Kathmandu and Cambridge.

Basnet, S., Halt, P. and Karki, R. 1999. Jerdon's Baza Aviceda jerdoni: a new species for Nepal. Danphe 8(2-4):1-2. Bird Conservation Nepal, Kathmandu.

- Basnet, Y. R., Tamang, B. and Gautam, B. (2005) Bird diversity and their habitat status at Raja Rani Community Forest, Bhogteny, Morang, Nepal. Final report to Oriental Bird Club 2005, Bird Conservation Nepal. Unpublished.
- Bibby, C.; Jones, M. and Marsden, S. 2000. *Expedition Field Techniques: Bird Surveys*. BirdLife International.
- Bird Conservation Nepal. 2008. Birds Conservation Nepal: Press Release 5 June 2008.
- BirdLife International 2001. Threatened birds of Asia. BirdLife International, Cambridge, UK.
- BirdLife International 2008. Threatened birds of the world 2008. BirdLife International, Cambridge, UK

Chaudhary, H. 1997. Notable bird records from Nepal. Unpublished.

- Grimmett, R.; Inskipp, C. and Inskipp, T. 1998. Birds of the Indian Subcontinent. Christopher Helm, London.
- Grimmett, R.; Inskipp, C. and Inskipp, T. 2000. Birds of Nepal. Prakash Book Depot. New Delhi, India.
- Inskipp, C. and Inskipp, T.P. 1991. A Guide to the Birds of Nepal. Second edition. Christopher Helm, London.
- Inskipp, T., Lindsey, N. and Duckworth, W. 1996. An annotated checklist of the Birds of the Oriental region. Oriental Bird Club. UK.
- IUCN 2007. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. <<u>http://www.redlist.org/</u>>. Downloaded on 21 August 2008.
- Mackinnon, J. and K. Phillips, 1993. A Field Guide to the Birds of Sumatra, Java and Bali. Oxford University Press.
- Stattersfield, A.J., Crosby, M.J., Long, A.J. and Wege, D.C. 1998. *Endamic Bird Areas of the world:* priorities for biodiversity conservation. BirdLife International, Cambridge, UK.

| S. No. | Scientific Name | Local Name | Family |
|--------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | Acacia catechu | Khayar | Leguminosae |
| 2 | Acacia pennata | Arari | Leguminosae |
| 3 | Adina cardifolia | Karma | Rubiaceae |
| 4 | Aegle marmelos | Bel | Rutaceae |
| 5 | Anthocephalus chinensis | Kadam | Rubiaceae |
| 6 | Antidesma acidum | Archal | Euphorbiaceae |
| 7 | Artocarpus lakoocha | Badhar | Moraceae |
| 8 | Asltonia scholaris | Chhatiwan | Apocynaceae |
| 9 | Azadirachta indica | Nim | Meliaceae |
| 10 | Bauhinia purpurea | Tanki | Leguminosae |
| 11 | Bauhinia vahlii | Bhorla | Leguminosae |
| 12 | Bombax ceiba | Simal | Bombacaceae |
| 13 | Butea minor | Bhuletro | Leguminosae |
| 14 | Butea monosperma | Palas | Leguminosae |
| 15 | Callicarpa arborea | Kharane | Verbenaceae |
| 16 | Careya arborea | Kumbhi | Lecythidaceae |
| 17 | Cassia fistula | Rajbrikshya | Leguminosae |
| 18 | Celtis australis | Khari | Ulmaceae |
| 19 | Citrus medica | Bimiro | Rutaceae |
| 20 | Colebrookea oppositifelia | Dhusure | Labiatae |
| 21 | Cornus oblonga | Latikath | Cornaceae |
| 22 | Dalbergia latifolia | Satisal | Leguminosae |
| 23 | Dalbergia sissoo | Sisaw | Leguminosae |
| 24 | Dillenia indica | Kumbi | Dilleniaceae |
| 25 | Dillenia pentagyna | Tatari | Dilleniaceae |
| 26 | Duabanga grandiflora | Lampate | Lythraceae |
| 27 | Ficus benghalensis | Bar | Moraceae |
| 28 | Ficus carica | Nebaro | Moraceae |
| 29 | Ficus hispida | Khasre | Moraceae |
| 30 | Ficus lacor | Kabhro | Moraceae |
| 31 | Ficus neriifolia | Dudhilo | Moraceae |
| 32 | Ficus racemosa | Dumri | Moraceae |

Appendix Trees and woody vegetation of study area.

| 33 | Ficus riligiosa | Pipal | Moraceae |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 34 | Ficus semicordata | Khanyu | Moraceae |
| 35 | Garuga pinnata | Dabdabe | Burseraceae |
| 36 | Gmelina arborea | Khamari | Verbenaceae |
| 37 | Grewia elastica | Shylphushre | Tilaceae |
| 38 | Lagerstroemia parviflora | Bot dhayaro | Lythraceae |
| 39 | Lannea coromendelica | Hallunde | Anacardiaceae |
| 40 | Leea macrophylla | Galeni | Leeaceae |
| 41 | Maesa chisia | Bilaune | Myrsinaceae |
| 42 | Magnifera indica | Amp | Anacardiaceae |
| 43 | Mallotus philippensis | Sindhure | Euphorbiaceae |
| 44 | Mimosa rubicaulis | Arharikanda | Leguminosae |
| 45 | Morus rubra | Kimbu | Moraceae |
| 46 | Nyctanthes arbor-tristis | Parijat | Oleaceae |
| 47 | Origanum vulgare | Sajwan | Labiatae |
| 48 | Phyllanthus emblica | Amala | Euphorbiaceae |
| 49 | Pilea symmeria | Kamle | Urticaceae |
| 50 | Premna integrifolia | Gidari | Verbenaceae |
| 51 | Salix tetrasperma | Bains | Salicaceae |
| 52 | Sapindus mukorossi | Rittha | Sapindaceae |
| 53 | Sapium insigne | Khirro | Euphorbiaceae |
| 54 | Semecarpus anacardium | Bhalayo | Anacardiaceae |
| 55 | Shorea robusta | Sal | Dipterocarpaceae |
| 56 | Spatholobus parviflorus | Debrelahara | Leguminosae |
| 57 | Syzygium cumini | Jamun | Myrtaceae |
| 58 | Tamarindus indica | Imli | Leguminosae |
| 59 | Terminalia alata | Saj | Combretaceae |
| 60 | Terminalia bellirica | Barro | Combretaceae |
| 61 | Terminalia chebula | Harro | Combretaceae |
| 62 | Trewia nudiflora | Pithari | Euphorbiaceae |
| 63 | Vitex negundo | Simali | Verbenaceae |
| 64 | Woodfordia fruticasa | Dhanero | Lythraceae |
| 65 | Zizypus mauritiana | Bayar | Rhamnaceae |