

**BIRD SURVEY OF THE KANCHENJUNGA  
CONSERVATION AREA, APRIL 2008**

**Report to Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

**Bird Conservation Nepal  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
2008**

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## SUMMARY

Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) organised a bird survey of the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) as a contribution to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund initiative in Nepal. Team members were Paul Collin (on RSPB sabbatical), Tim Inskipp (BCN), Carol Inskipp (BCN), Mitra Pandey who works for BCN's CEPF project in eastern Nepal, Angus Robin (also the team doctor), Jyotendra Thakuri (BCN staff), and Richard Winspear (on RSPB sabbatical). The survey was supported by Nepal Trekking & Expedition P. Ltd. The survey entailed a 20-day trek from 8 to 27 April, although it was only possible to spend 12 days in the survey area because of the logistics of reaching this remote region of the country. The trek started at Basantapur and finished at Taplejung. The survey route in the KCA went north from Chhiruwa to Ghunsa along the Tamur and Ghunsa Khola valleys, over the Selele and Mirgin La to Tseram, and south down the Simbuwa Khola, Amji Khola and Kabeli Khola valleys to Yamphudin and Mamangkhe. On nine of the 12 days spent in the KCA the team trekked from one campsite to another throughout the day and birds were surveyed en route. Bird surveys were carried out throughout the three other days, although two had to be spent at relatively high altitude where bird diversity was low.

Detailed notes were made on localities and numbers of individuals of bird species recorded, altitudes of unusual bird species, habitat type and quality, mammal records, and human land and natural resource use. The MacKinnon's List and Timed Species Counts methods were also used. These methods provide an estimate of species richness and the Timed Species Counts also give some indication of relative abundance of the more common species.

The survey ranged from 1240 m to 4710 m from subtropical to alpine zones in the KCA and covered all the main habitats in the Conservation Area. During the survey snow still covered ground over 4200 m. Extensive mature forests very little impacted by human activity were observed in the KCA. These included *Abies spectabilis* / *Rhododendron* spp. forest between Ghunsa and Tama La. In the Simbuwa Khola valley almost unbroken forest stretched from Tseram to Torangden and the Deorali Danda; between 3500 m and 3950 m there was mature *Juniperus indica* on north facing slopes and *Rhododendron* shrubberies with *Abies spectabilis* on south-facing slopes; *A. spectabilis* was dominant on both valley sides from 3050 to 3500 m, replaced by *Tsuga dumosa* with bamboo in the understorey from 2600 to 3050 m. The southern slopes of the Deorali Danda and the Amji Khola valley were densely forested with *Rhododendron* on uppermost slopes (to 3410 m), lower down mixed broadleaved forest with *Rhododendron* and bamboo stands stretched to the valley bottom at 2430 m. Unbroken dense broadleaved forests were noted on the eastern Ghunsa Khola valley between Amjilessa and Ghunsa.

A total of 246 bird species was recorded during the trek, including 185 species in the KCA, of which 17 species were new to the Conservation Area. The majority of these species had not reached their breeding grounds and were moving up. The most significant finds in the KCA were the globally near-threatened Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra*, nationally threatened Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni*, Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus* and Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium*, the restricted-range Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis*, and a potential addition to the list of species recorded in Nepal – the Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus mandelli*. A small number of mammals of seven species were recorded in the KCA. The most notable record was of two footprints of Snow Leopard *Uncia uncia* photographed near Selele Bhanjyang.

151 species were recorded in the 74 hours of Timed Species Counts (TSC) and 184 species in 60 MacKinnon's lists. The relative abundance of the 20 most frequently recorded species in

KCA was calculated by ranking their TSC scores. Relative abundance was also calculated of the 10 most frequently recorded species in the six areas surveyed, which were categorised by both altitudinal range and broad habitat type. However the assessment of relative abundance was limited because the survey was too early in the year to properly evaluate the abundance of summer visitors and altitudinal migrants, as many were missing from higher altitudes.

Slash and burn agriculture and hunting were identified as threats to birds in the KCA, although both are reported to have decreased since the Conservation Area was established. Numbers of pheasants, pigeons and doves were much lower than expected considering the large areas of good quality habitat, the timing of the survey when these species should be conspicuous and comparisons with these species' populations in other parts of Nepal. As these species are frequently targeted by hunters, it seems likely that hunting has reduced their populations.

Recommendations for bird conservation are made. Conservation awareness programmes for all schools in the KCA and local communities, notably forest user groups, are highly recommended. Contents of conservation awareness programmes are suggested. A further reduction in the practice of burning for slash-and-burn agriculture by enforcing existing regulations more widely would be highly beneficial for many bird species, especially those characteristic of dense, moist forests, many of which are declining in Nepal. Direct and adequate compensation paid to villagers for crop raiding by birds and mammals at the household level would help to encourage a more positive attitude by villagers to wildlife. Further bird surveys are strongly recommended especially in the forest areas identified as the most intact, extensive and of good quality: the Simbuwa Khola valley between Deorali Danda, Torangden and Tseram; the Amji Khola valley, eastern Ghunsa Khola valley and the Deura Danda to the Ghatte Khola valley near Yamphudin (the latter area partly covered by a previous survey).

A comprehensive, updated bird checklist for the KCA, annotated with details of all bird species recorded in this survey and in previous reports, is presented. A total of 330 bird species has been recorded so far in the KCA, including 42 without any details of date or locality, and it is considered likely that quite a few more species occur. Bird species recorded include the globally threatened Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* and Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*; the globally near-threatened Satyr Tragopan; the restricted-range species Spiny Babbler *Turdoides nipalensis* (Nepal's only endemic bird) and Hoary-throated Barwing; and 16 nationally threatened species. A summary of all bird records plotted by grid squares demonstrates that the KCA is still poorly recorded, with half of the squares having no records, and even the best recorded square (which includes the unspoilt forests in the Amji Khola valley) may be lacking records for at least 25% of the potential species.

The KCA has been identified as an Important Bird Area in Nepal and is one of the most poorly known in the country. Considering the Area's location in the East Himalayan Endemic Bird Area and the high quality of extensive remaining forests, it is important for many east Himalayan species.

A total of 179 bird species was recorded outside the KCA on the trek in and out of the Conservation Area. These included 59 species not recorded in the KCA during the survey. There were quite large forest patches of good quality found outside the KCA, notably subalpine *A. spectabilis/Rhododendron* spp. and temperate broadleaved forests between Gupha Pokhari and Dobhan; lower temperate broadleaved forest patches in side valley of the Kabeli Khola valley between Yamphudin and Mamangkhe; lower temperate and subtropical broadleaved forest areas between Mamangkhe and Kande Bhanjyang, and upper temperate

broadleaved on the ridge between Lali Kharka and Suketar. A rich variety of bird species was found, including the globally near-threatened Satyr Tragopan and nationally threatened Black-headed Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer* which were recorded between Gupha Pokhari and Dobhan, the nationally threatened Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni* above Lali Kharka, and the restricted-range species Hoary-throated Barwing between Basantapur and Chauki.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are especially grateful to Bird Conservation Nepal for inviting us to take part in the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area survey, and for making all the arrangements for our survey. Special thanks go to Dev Ghimire for his key role in organising our visit and the trek and to Hem Sagar Baral, Ishana Thapa and Ian Barber for their initial work in setting up the survey. We are grateful to Shyam Bajimaya, Joint Secretary and former Director General and Jhamak Karki (Under Secretary) of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation for their advice and support. This survey could not have taken place with funds provided by CEPF and financial contribution made by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) UK, which fully covered all costs. We warmly thank all members of the team from Nepal Trekking & Expedition P. Ltd who accompanied us and gave us invaluable support throughout our trek, and its Managing Director, Sarbendra Pachhai for his organisation of the trek. We much appreciate the hard work of all our team members from Nepal Trekking & Expedition P. Ltd, especially the Sirdar and Cook Suman Ghising and the Sherpas, Dhana and Keshab. Carol and Tim Inskipp are grateful to Dr Ghana Shyam Gurung, Ang Phuri Sherpa and Dr Sarala Khaling for meeting them after the survey and for sharing their valuable information and views on the KCA. A special thank you goes to Hem Sagar Baral, Ishana Thapa and xxxx who provided comments on a draft of this report.

## ITINERARY

Places names follow Gurung and Gurung (2002). The trek started at Basantapur and finished at Taplejung. The survey route in the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area went north from Chhiruwa to Ghunsa along the Tamur and Ghunsa Khola valleys, over Selele Bhanjyang and Mirgin La to Tseram, south down the Simbuwa Khola, Amji Khola and Kabeli Khola valleys to Yamphudin and Mamangkhe (see map).

**7 April** Survey team members and trek sirdar met at Itahari. Minibus ride to Basantapur and campsite where we met the team sherpas, kitchen staff and porters.

**8 April** Started trek. Basantapur (2310 m) – Tinjure Danda (2900 m highest point reached) – Chauki 2660 m.

**9 April** Chauki – Lam Pokhari (2905 m highest point reached) - Gupha Pokhari (2870 m).

**10 April** Gupha Pokhari – Akar Deorali (2950 m highest point reached) – Dobhan (680 m) – a continuous descent via Gorja (2165 m) and Nesum (1470 m).

**11 April** Dobhan – Mitlung (995 m highest point reached) following the Tamur River.

**12 April** Mitlung – Sinhua (1005 m) Chhiruwa (1240 m) – highest point reached 1330 m. Route continued to follow the Tamur River. The KCA was entered at around 1500 hr at 1300 m altitude, about two hours survey walk before reaching Chhiruwa.

**13 April** Chhiruwa – Tapethok (1330 m) - Hellok - Sekathum (1590 m) Highest point reached 1735 m. The trail followed the Tamur Khola for most of the walk, before crossing the Simbuwa Khola and turning into the Ghunsa Khola valley just before Sekathum.

**14 April** Sekathum – Amjilessa (2400 m – highest point reached) – trail followed the Ghunsa Khola before climbing up the western side of the Ghunsa Khola valley to Amjilessa.

**15 April** Amjilessa – Gyabla (2730 m highest point reached).

**16 April** Gyabla – Phaley (3150 m) – Ghunsa (3440 m highest point reached).

**17 April** Ghunsa (3440 m – 3700 m); survey and acclimatisation day.

**18 April** Ghunsa – Tama La (3980 m) – Selele Bhanjyang (4225 m – highest point reached) – campsite below Selele pass (4215 m).

**19 April** Campsite below Selele pass – Sinion La (4620 m) – Mirgin La (4710 m – highest point reached) – Tseram (3870 m).

**20 April** Tseram 3870-3970 m; survey day.

**21 April** Tseram (highest point) – Torangden (3000 m).

**22 April** Torangden – Simbuwa Khola crossing (2850 m) - Deorali Danda (3410 m highest point reached) – Campsite by Amji Khola (2430 m).

**23 April** Amji Khola valley 2430 m – 2900 m; survey day.

**24 April** Amji Khola campsite – Dhupi Danda pass (2580 m) – Yamphudin (1690 m) – Mamangkhe (1780 m) Left the KCA between Yamphudin and Mamangkhe (unmarked boundary) mid-afternoon.

**25 April** Mamangkhe – Takshewa Khola crossing (1520 m) – Kande Bhanjyang (2150 m highest point reached).

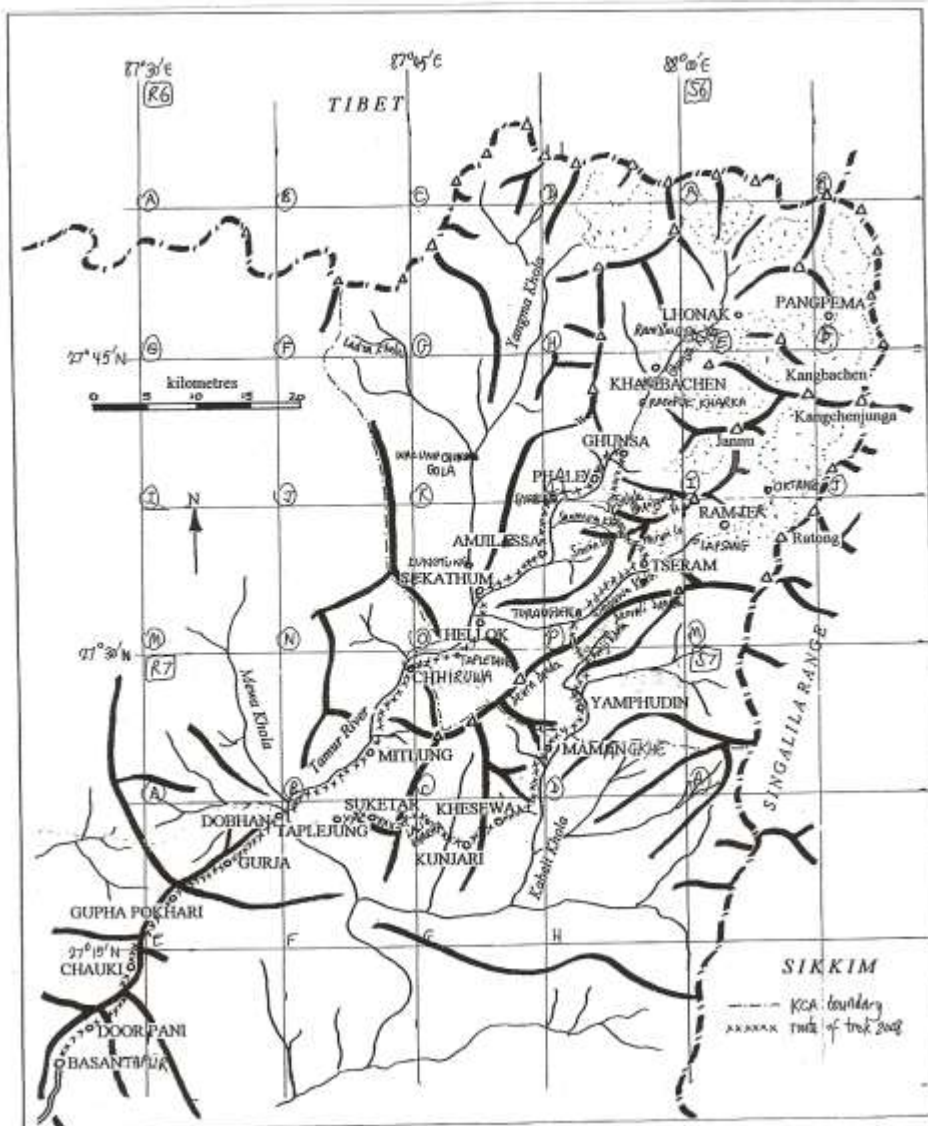
**26 April** Kande Bhanjyang – Phawa Khola crossing (1410 m) – Lali Kharka (2250 m highest point reached).

**27 April** Lali Kharka – Taplejung (end of trek).

**28 April** Bus Taplejung – Phidim, jeep taxi Phidim – Ilam.

**29 April** Jeep taxi Ilam – Bhadrapur, flight to Kathmandu.

During the survey the team made a 20-day trek, supported by Nepal Trekking & Expedition P. Ltd. The trek comprised a total of 12 days inside the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) and eight days outside. The relatively high proportion of time spent outside the KCA was a result of the remoteness of the area we surveyed. While it is possible to fly to Suketar near Taplejung from Biratnagar and so reduce the time spent walking into the KCA by around two days, these flights are often cancelled because of low cloud over Suketar airstrip (Gurung 2006) and would have added significantly to survey costs. On nine of the 12 days spent in KCA bird surveys the team trekked from one camp site to another throughout the day and birds were surveyed en route. Two of the other three survey days were spent at relatively high altitude: one day at Ghunsa (3340 m) to acclimatise, and one day at Tseram (3800 m) where some team members recovered from snow-blindness.



Map of the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area and surroundings

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## METHODOLOGY

The bird survey was organised by Bird Conservation Nepal as a contribution to the CEPF initiative in Nepal. Survey team members were: Paul Collin (on RSPB sabbatical), Tim Inskipp, Carol Inskipp, Mitra Pandey who works for CEPF in eastern Nepal, Angus Robin (also the team doctor), Jyotendra Thakuri from Bird Conservation Nepal, and Richard Winspear (on RSPB sabbatical).

Detailed notes were made on numbers of individuals of bird records, altitudes of more unusual records, habitat type and quality, mammal records, and human land and natural resource use.

Bird names follow Grimmett *et al.* (2000).

The MacKinnon's List and Timed Species Counts methods were also used. These methods provide an estimate of species richness and Timed Species Counts also give some indication of relative abundance of the more common species.

### MacKinnon's List Method

1. Each new species is recorded until a list of 20 species has been obtained.
2. A new list is then started and another 20 species recorded.
3. Any one species can be included only once on any one list, but can also be included on subsequent lists.
4. Individuals that have already been recorded on a previous list are not recorded again.
5. Lists are collected continuously throughout the fieldwork period.
6. The number of lists taken and the running total of species recorded are noted at the end of the survey.
7. A graph can be drawn of the number of lists taken and the running total of species recorded.

### Timed Species Count Method

1. A chronological list was compiled of species recorded over the course of an hour. Altitude and habitat was also recorded at the start of the hour.
2. The list is subdivided into ten minute intervals, so that each species recorded during the hour is categorised by which ten minute interval it was first seen.
3. A new timed species count is started every hour.
4. Species recorded in the first 10 minutes of any hour are given a rating of 6; additional species recorded in the next 10 minutes are given a rating of 5 etc until species recorded in the last 10 minutes of any hour are given a rating of 1. This is based on the assumption that common species will be recorded earlier in the hour than rarer species. It works well for comparing relative abundances of species recorded regularly during the survey, but this scoring is less useful for rare species that are only recorded once or twice during the survey.
5. At the end of the survey the mean rating for each species is calculated (including 0 scores for hours when the species was not recorded).

## RESULTS

An overall total of 246 bird species was recorded on the 20-day trek.

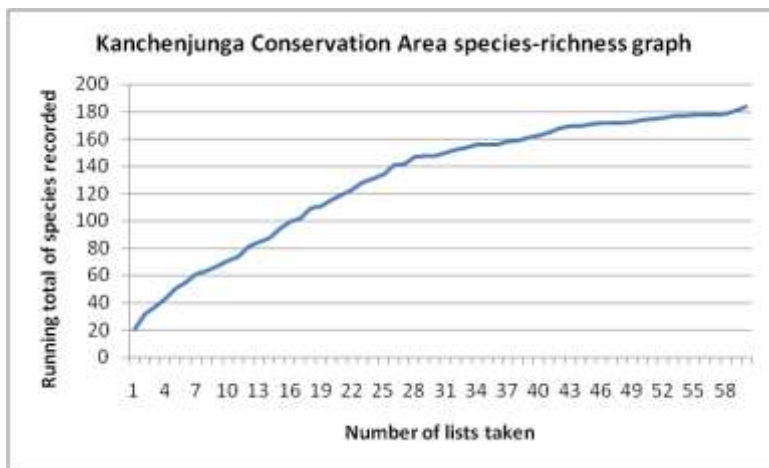
### Bird species recorded in the KCA

A total of 185 bird species was recorded during the 12-day survey of the KCA, of which 17 species were new to the Conservation Area. The species included the globally near-threatened Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra*, the restricted-range Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis* and the nationally threatened Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni*, Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus* and Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium*. One species recorded, Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus mandelli*, is a potential addition to the list of species recorded in Nepal. Unfortunately, the bird was heard, not seen, and no recording of the song was secured.

A total of 71 species, which are common or fairly common summer visitors or altitudinal migrants in eastern Nepal, are considered to be under-recorded in the KCA survey. The majority of these species had not reached their breeding grounds and were moving up. Full details of bird species recorded during the survey in the KCA are given on pp.28-70.

### MacKinnon's List results

A total of 60 MacKinnon's lists was taken. The running totals of species recorded versus the number of MacKinnon's lists taken are included in Appendix 3 and the lists of species compiled using this method are set out in Appendix 4. The graph showing the running total demonstrates that new species were still being recorded at the end of the survey, illustrating that further work would undoubtedly have produced more species.



### Analysis of the bird lists

151 species were recorded in the 74 hours of Timed Species Counts (TSC) within the KCA, of which 41 species were only recorded in one TSC (Appendix 6). Only 43 species were recorded in at least 10% of the lists. 184 species were recorded in the 60 MacKinnon's lists within the KCA, of which 55 were only recorded in one list. 71 species were recorded in at least 10% of the MacKinnon's lists.

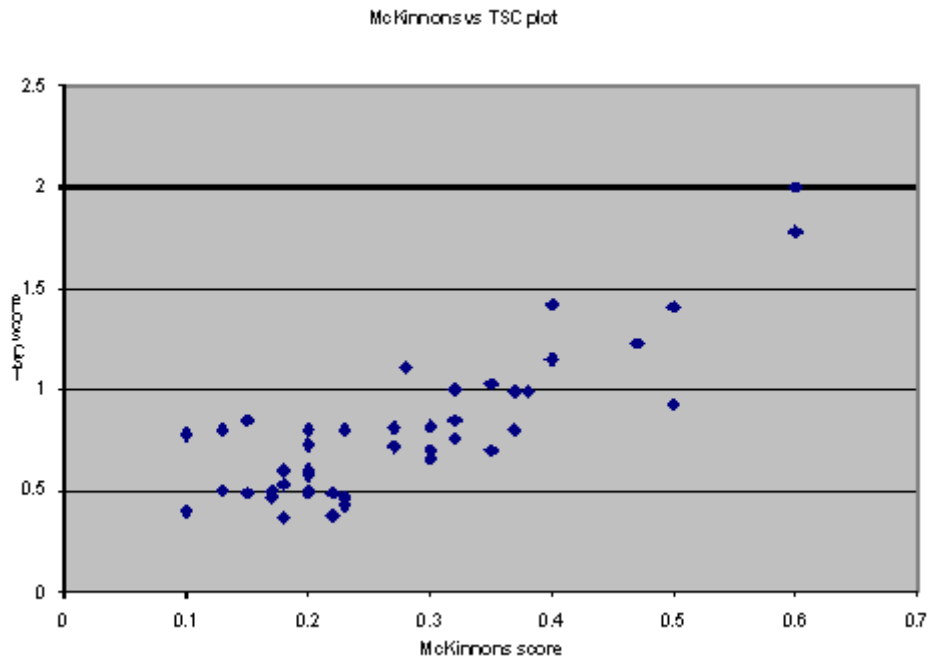
Table 1 shows the relative abundance scores of the 20 most frequently recorded species throughout the KCA, ranked by their TSC score. 15 of these 20 species also ranked within the top 20 according to the MacKinnon's rankings. Figure 1 shows the relationship between the TSC score and the MacKinnon's score for the 43 species that occurred in at least 10% of lists under both recording methods.

In general, species were recorded in a greater proportion of MacKinnon's lists than TSC because the average number of species per hour was only 12.16, compared with the 20 species on each MacKinnon's list. However, species richness was so low in the highlands that few MacKinnon's lists were completed, so high altitude species tend to be under-represented using the MacKinnon's method.

**Table 1: species with highest mean TSC scores throughout the KCA**

	TSC score	Proportion of TSC lists	Proportion of MacKinnon's lists	MacKinnon's ranking
Large-billed Crow	2	0.45	0.6	1=
Blue Whistling Thrush	1.78	0.41	0.6	1=
White-capped Water Redstart	1.42	0.31	0.4	6=
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	1.41	0.37	0.5	3=
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	1.23	0.28	0.47	5
Rufous Sibia	1.15	0.28	0.4	6=
Buff-barred Warbler	1.11	0.23	0.28	19
Black-faced Laughingthrush	1.03	0.3	0.35	10=
Large Hawk Cuckoo	1	0.23	0.32	13=
Hill Partridge	0.99	0.24	0.38	7
Lemon-rumped Warbler	0.99	0.24	0.37	9=
Whistler's Warbler	0.93	0.24	0.5	3=
Green-backed Tit	0.85	0.2	0.32	13=
Rufous-vented Tit	0.85	0.22	0.15	42=
Ashy Drongo	0.82	0.2	0.3	16=
Long-tailed Minivet	0.81	0.2	0.27	33=
Whiskered Yuhina	0.8	0.2	0.37	9=
Yellow-bellied Fantail	0.8	0.22	0.23	22=
Stripe-throated Yuhina	0.8	0.18	0.2	27=
White-winged Grosbeak	0.8	0.18	0.13	47=

### Plot of TSC and MacKinnon's scores



The above analysis masks the variability of habitats, and hence species composition along the route. Within the survey route of the KCA, the altitude varied from 1240 m to 4710 m. The broadest habitat categories were broad-leaved forest below 3000 m, coniferous forest between 3000 m and 4000 m and open grassland above 4000 m. The avifauna varied with the altitude and habitat types. The avifaunas were compared at different altitude bands along the route by splitting the TSC lists by areas along the route into sections relating to the broad habitat categories above. The route up from Chhiruwa to 3000 m was further split into areas, below and above Amjilessa, as a number of species were more prevalent in the earlier, lower section (e.g. Great Barbet, Black Bulbul, Grey-hooded Warbler, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker and Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher). It was not possible to compare MacKinnon's lists in this way, as there were too few completed lists at higher altitudes.

The main limitation of the data in assessing the relative abundance of species in the different areas is that the time of the survey was too early in the year to properly evaluate the abundance of summer visitors to Nepal, and also altitudinal migrants (Nepal residents which move altitudinally with the seasons), as many were missing from higher altitudes. The majority of these species were not on their breeding grounds or only present there in relatively small numbers e.g. Fork-tailed Swift, Grey-backed Shrike, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Indian Blue Robin and Large-billed Leaf Warbler, which were moving up. Some species had not yet arrived on their breeding grounds e.g. Lesser Cuckoo, which was recorded on the last three days of the survey, but only after we had left KCA. This partially explains the low species richness in areas above 3000 m found during the survey. For the same reasons a number of species were probably over-recorded at altitudes lower than their breeding ranges, e.g. Blue-fronted Redstart, Buff-barred Warbler and Lemon-rumped Warbler. The differences between areas largely reflect altitudinal preferences as described in Grimmett, Inskipp and Inskipp (2000). Some species were found at higher altitudes on the descent from Tseram than on the ascent to Ghunsa. This is likely to be due to migrants moving higher up later in the survey.

The species richness tended to be higher at lower altitudes, but also generally greater on the eastern side of the passes between Ghunsa and Tseram.

Another limiting factor in the number of bird species and birds recorded during the survey was that on 17 of the 20 days in the KCA, between nine and 11 hours were spent walking and bird surveys were made en route.

The descriptions of the avifaunas in the six areas are given below.

**Area 1: Chhiruwa – Amjilessa**

Altitude: 1240 – 2430 m

Number of TSC's: 11

Total number of species: 63

Average species per timed species count: 13.45

Ten most recorded species:

Rank	Species	TSC score
1	Blue Whistling Thrush	3.6
2	Great Barbet	3.0
3	Black Bulbul	2.7
4	Blyth's Leaf Warbler	2.6
5	Plumbeous Water Redstart	2.3
6	Grey-hooded Warbler	2.2
7	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	2.0
8	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	1.7
9=	Striated Prinia	1.6
9=	Himalayan Griffon	1.6

**Area 2: Amjilessa – below Gyabla**

Altitude: 2400 – 3000 m

Number of TSC's: 10

Total number of species: 58

Average species per timed species count: 13.70

Ten most recorded species:

Rank	Species	TSC score
1	Blyth's Leaf Warbler	3.8
2	Green-backed Tit	2.8
3=	Blue Whistling Thrush	2.7
3=	White-capped Water Redstart	2.7
5=	Whistler's Warbler	2.2
5=	Large Hawk Cuckoo	2.2
7=	Oriental Cuckoo	2.1
7=	Rufous Sibia	2.1
9=	Whiskered Yuhina	1.9
9=	Black-faced Laughingthrush	1.9

**Area 3: Below Gyabla – above Ghunsa**

Altitude: 3000 - 4000 m

Number of TSC's: 15

Total number of species: 51

Average species per timed species count: 10.80

Ten most recorded species:

Rank	Species	TSC score
1	Large-billed Crow	4.0
2	Black-faced Laughingthrush	3.0
3	White-winged Grosbeak	2.7
4	Rufous-vented Tit	2.5
5	Buff-barred Warbler	2.0
6=	Yellow-bellied Fantail	1.7
6=	Lemon-rumped Warbler	1.7
8=	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	1.5
8=	Blue-fronted Redstart	1.5
8=	Snow Pigeon	1.5

**Area 4: above Ghunsa - Tseram**

Altitude: 4000 – 4710 m

Number of TSC's: 12

Total number of species: 17

Average species per timed species count: 3.50

Ten most recorded species:

Rank	Species	TSC score
1	Winter Wren	4.2
2	Large-billed Crow	1.9
3=	Blue-fronted Redstart	1.0
3=	Red-billed Chough	1.0
5	Grandala	0.9
6=	Rosy Pipit	0.8
6=	Plain Mountain Finch	0.8
8=	Snow Partridge	0.7
8=	Robin Accentor	0.7
10	Rufous-breasted Accentor	0.5

**Area 5: Tseram – above Amji-Khola**

Altitude: 2980 – 3860 m

Number of TSC's: 14

Total number of species: 62

Average species per timed species count: 13.86

Ten most recorded species:

Rank	Species	TSC score
1=	Buff-barred Warbler	3.1
1=	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	3.1

3	Stripe-throated Yuhina	2.6
4	Whistler's Warbler	2.5
5	White-capped Water Redstart	2.2
6	Lemon-rumped Warbler	2.1
7	Grey-crested Tit	2.0
8=	Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler	1.9
8=	Rufous-vented Tit	1.9
10	Chestnut-tailed Minla	1.8

#### Area 6: above Amji-Khola – KCA exit

Altitude: 1780 – 3000 m

Number of TSC's: 12

Total number of species: 73

Average species per timed species count: 18.08

Ten most recorded species:

Rank	Species	TSC score
1	Rufous Sibia	4.3
2	Ashy Drongo	3.6
3	Large Hawk Cuckoo	3.2
4	Hill Partridge	2.9
5	Large-billed Crow	2.5
6	Green-backed Tit	2.1
7	Himalayan Swiftlet	2.0
8=	Long-tailed Minivet	1.9
8=	Eurasian Cuckoo	1.9
8=	Blyth's Leaf Warbler	1.9
8=	Striated Prinia	1.9

#### Mammal species recorded in the KCA

A small number of mammals of seven species were recorded in the KCA (Appendix 2). The most notable record was of footprints of Snow Leopard *Uncia uncia* (photographed) above the campsite near Selele Bhanjyang on 18 April and possible footprints on the west side of Sinion La on 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### Habitat observations in the KCA

The following accounts cover descriptions of habitats and habitat quality encountered during the survey. Comparisons with earlier habitat accounts are included where these are available.

##### KCA entrance to Chhiruwa - Tapethok – Hellok - Sekathum

The trail ran mainly through rather degraded subtropical riverine forest dominated by Himalayan Alder *Alnus nipalensis* interspersed with cultivation that extended on terraces up the mountainsides. The forest habitat seems to have deteriorated to some degree since 1994. Halberg (1994) noted patches of *Alnus nipalensis* and *Duabanga grandiflora* along the river, otherwise cleared, but with a fine forest on the mountain slopes. He also described the forest on the Deura Danda (which he misspelt as Deorali Danda), from a few kilometres south of Hellok to the Ghatte Koha, as a very fine, virtually untouched forest of oak, rhododendron,

*Tsuga dumosa*, fir and other species, with a fantastic under forest of bamboo. Carpenter *et al.* (1994) described forests of *Alnus nipalensis* and *Engelhardtia spicata* dominating stands on either side of the Tamur River, together with a rich assemblage of other subtropical tree species. Steep slopes supported stands of *Castanopsis tribuloides* in shaded locations and *Pinus roxburghii* on sunny exposures.

On the two hour trek between the KCA entrance gate and Chhiruwa, our party did not observe any improvement in habitat quality compared to the Tamur River valley area walked through earlier in the day. A family was seen cultivating a recently burnt area of forest soon after entering the KCA entrance gate.

### **Sekathum – Amjilessa**

Around Sekathum there was subtropical broadleaved forest with some patches of fairly good quality that had a well developed understorey. The trail to Amjilessa followed the Ghunsa Khola through partly degraded subtropical and lower temperate broadleaved/riverine forest with some *Alnus nipalensis* and small cultivated patches of cardamom under the trees.

At 2125 m, by a lone teahouse, the old trail climbed very steeply up a grassy slope with no trees on the western side of the Ghunsa Khola. In sharp contrast slopes on the eastern side of the river were covered in dense subtropical and temperate broadleaved forest. Access to these dense forests was possible by a very rickety looking bridge and a huge boulder, close to the teahouse and the owner told us an old and now very little used trail leads from here to the Ghatte Khola valley near Yamphudin via the Deura Danda.

Carpenter *et al.* (1994) also noted a dense forest cover of broadleaf tree species, composed of evergreens at lower elevations and deciduous trees at higher elevations, on the eastern side of the Ghunsa Khola. The lack of forest and grassland on the east side of the river was also observed by Carpenter *et al.* (1994) but, although they noted the grassy slopes were heavily grazed, they pointed out that evidence suggests this ecological community is not of anthropogenic origin. Hooker (1855) also referred to extensive grasslands on slopes above the Ghunsa Khola. Carpenter *et al.* (1994) suggested a possible explanation for the lack of forest cover is the high evapo-transpiration and pre-monsoon drought stress on the sunny slope, which would be exacerbated by the high winds and lack of precipitation that is characteristic of the deep Himalayan valleys like the Ghunsa Khola.

Our party followed a new trail constructed by the cardamom cultivators which follows the Ghunsa Khola, crosses the river at 2000 m and then climbs steeply through degraded lower temperate broadleaved forest with a little flowering rhododendron (the first we had seen in the KCA), then scrub, before crossing a deforested hillside to the small village of Amjilessa.

### **Amjilessa - Gyabla**

On the western slopes of the Ghunsa Khola, after a short steep climb of 100 m from Amjilessa, the trail entered bamboo growth with only scattered *Quercus semecarpifolia*. and rhododendron trees. There were old burned stumps from previous fires and extensive burnt vegetation from recent fire(s), especially close to Amjilessa. Apart from a very few temporary teahouses and shelters no habitation was seen on the western slopes of the Ghunsa Khola valley. On the eastern side of the river, which was uninhabited, the habitat was in much better condition with no signs of fire and dense broadleaved forest with less bamboo.

Carpenter *et al.* (1994) pointed out that the dense bamboo cover is an early successional stage caused by recent fires and that, during the previous 30 years at slightly higher elevations, the slopes above Gyabla have been burned repeatedly, according to local villagers. Gurung and



Gurung (2002) also mentioned a burned area across the valley and extensive stands of bamboo dominating the forests due to fire disturbance. Burning is a practice used by some villagers in parts of the KCA for slash-and-burn agriculture.

### **Gyabla – Phaley - Ghunsa**

Phaley village was the only habitation seen on the western slopes of the Ghunsa Khola valley between Gyabla and Ghunsa. These slopes were observed to support good quality forest habitat, with some mature trees and well-developed undergrowth, except for clearings for yak pastures and potato fields on wide terraces at Phaley. No signs of recent fires were visible, although there were some old charred tree trunk stumps indicating fires in the past. Forest above Gyabla was initially of Hemlock *Tsuga dumosa* with some bamboo and a little flowering rhododendron. Himalayan Fir *Abies spectabilis* and Himalayan Larch *Larix griffithiana* (not yet in leaf) replaced Hemlock at higher altitudes, and became the dominant canopy species just below Phaley at about 3000m. There was continuous forest cover, apparently in good condition, on the eastern side of the river, where there was no habitation.

Between Amjilessa and Ghunsa, Halberg (1994) described a virtually virgin forest of oak, rhododendron and *Tsuga dumosa* on both sides of the river, only cleared around villages and a few patches in the forest, with a very fine under cover of bamboo. No signs of fires were noted, in contrast to Carpenter *et al.* (1994) writing in the same year (see above). However, it is possible that Halberg (1994) may have overlooked or did not recognise the effects of earlier fires, especially if he did not observe recent fires.

### **Around Ghunsa**

The Ghunsa Khola valley broadens around Ghunsa (3440 m). In the vicinity of the village there were yak pastures and potato fields enclosed by stone walls and wooden fences. *Juniperus indica* forests with many mature trees clothed the lower slopes on the eastern and western sides of the valley with a few *Rhododendron* just coming into flower. On higher eastern slopes, mature *Betula utilis* forest, still leafless, replaced the juniper and birch forests were overgrazed with almost no understorey. Maskey (1997) described the forests close to Ghunsa as already showing signs of human-related disturbance.

### **Ghunsa – Tama La – Selele – Mirgin La - Tseram**

At the southern end of Ghunsa village the forest has been felled recently to make way for a new micro-hydro plant, which is currently under construction. Above the micro-hydro plant and associated large pipes, the trail climbed up the valley sides to Tama La (3980 m). It passed through a beautiful, relatively undisturbed subalpine forest of *Abies spectabilis* / *Rhododendron* spp. with many mature trees and trunks, branches, many fallen trunks and logs and boulders covered in thick moss and with grey-green lichens trailing from branches and a well-developed under-storey. Maskey (1997) referred to the combinations of *Juniperus indica*, *Rhododendron* spp. and *Betula* spp. that were impressive in this area.

Tree cover finished just above Tama La at about 4000 m. Much of our route between Tama La and Mirgin La was under snow and the ground was frozen above about 4000 m. Alpine pastures and stony mountainsides were dominant in this region. A few largely frozen marshy areas were noted. Maskey (1997) identified Ghunsa to Mirgin La as one of the priority areas for conservation in the Kanchenjunga region, partly because it was prime habitat for Snow Leopard *Uncia uncia*, although a few of the alpine pastures were noted as overgrazed by yak.

The steep, rocky mountainside that leads from Mirgin la to Tseram was found to be eroded and covered in dwarf *Rhododendron* shrubberies on the upper slopes and mature *Juniperus indica* forest on lower slopes and on the Simbuwa valley bottom close to Tseram.

### **Simbuwa Khola valley**

During our survey, forests in the Simbuwa Khola valley were observed to be very old and very little disturbed by human impact. In the past however, there had been some forest clearing to make way for yak pastures near Tseram on the southern side of the valley. Very little habitation was seen in the valley between Tseram and the Deorali Danda. At Tseram there was a house-cum-shop at the camp site (a yak pasture), a couple of houses at the Torangden camp site and a few temporary yak herders shelters.

Between 3500 m and 3950 m the comparatively dry north facing slopes of the Simbuwa Khola valley were clothed in mature forests of *Juniperus indica*, while dense mature shrubberies of *Rhododendron* spp. (not yet in flower) with trees of *Abies spectabilis* covered the moist south-facing slopes. *Abies spectabilis* was dominant on both sides of the valley between 3050 m and 3500 m, replaced by Hemlock *Tsuga dumosa* from around 2600 m to 3050 m. Bamboo was present as part of the understorey between about 2600 m and 3050 m. Large quantities of dead timber, including huge trunks, were present on the forest floor, particularly between Tseram and Torangden. Along the trail there was evidence of a relatively small degree of grazing and also some signs of limited burning, perhaps to encourage fresh growth of vegetation for cattle or yak.

Shrestha and Shengji (1997) described the valley's forests as comparatively intact and virgin and this was confirmed by Carpenter *et al.* (1995) who described the valley as possessing superb examples of three upper elevation conifer types in Eastern Nepal.

### **Deorali Danda and Amji Khola valley**

Mature forest of *Abies spectabilis* with some flowering *Rhododendron hodgsonii* and other *Rhododendron* spp., with some clearings for pastures covered the northern slope of the Deorali Danda. There was a massive landslide on this slope, which apparently has been present for some years and had cleared the whole hillside from the pass to the river valley some 1000 m below. On the ridge top and upper southern slope of the ridge the forest is chiefly *Rhododendron* spp. with scattered *Abies spectabilis*. On the ridge top, the trail passed through a few cattle pastures used in spring and summer.

The southern slopes of the Deorali Danda form the northern side of the Amji Khola valley. Below the pure rhododendron on the uppermost slopes this steep slope is clothed in thick mixed broadleaved forest with *Rhododendron* spp. and bamboo stands. The forest extends unbroken until almost the valley bottom where there are some cattle pastures. The watershed of the Amji Khola, a tributary of the Kabeli Khola is almost completely forested with mixed broadleaves, except for a relatively small area of cattle pastures, including one close to the river, which also acts as a campsite.

The forest was very old, intact, extensive and apparently little impacted by human activity with large quantities of dead timber, although very close to the trail there was evidence of some very limited grazing, signs of burning and tree removal. The good quality forest condition in the Amji Khola valley is confirmed by Gurung and Gurung (2002) who described the area as heavily forested with typical upper temperate trees and having seen relatively small amounts of human disturbance. Carpenter *et al.* (1995) described Dupi Danda Karka, the saddle at 2480 m that connects the valleys of the Amji Khola and Kabeli Khola above Yamphudin as supporting the most diverse forest stands encountered in the Kanchenjunga region.

Maskey (1997) identified the Deorali Danda – Amji Khola valley as one of the priority areas for conservation in the Kanchenjunga region.

### **Dupi Danda Karka to the KCA boundary between Yamphudin and Mamangkhe**

On the south side of the Dupi Danda Karka saddle the vegetation changed sharply. This change is documented similarly by Gurung and Gurung (2002). All that remained of the original forest on this slope were small areas of secondary growth with small thin trees and shrubberies. Most of the slope had terraced cultivation or was covered with short grass. The grassy slopes were presumably used for pasture - a large sheep flock was seen here. Much of this southern area of the KCA, which lies in the Kabeli Khola watershed was used for terraced agriculture. On the valley bottom there were some woodlands dominated by *Alnus nipalensis* and with cardamom grown in the understorey. Relatively small areas of other broadleaved woodland remained on the mountainsides. During our visit, the southern boundary of the KCA between Yamphudin and Mamangkhe was not marked; apparently the boundary marker had been removed during the insurgency.

A local resident told our party about three nests of Giant Rock Bee *Apis dorsata* on a cliff face only 30 minutes walk from the main trail south of Yamphudin, and reported seeing a bird resembling Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus* near the nests. However, on investigation, members of our party found that the nests had all been removed a month previously and there was no sign of the bird.

### **Birds and forests outside the KCA**

Some quite large forest patches of good quality with a rich variety of bird species were found outside the KCA, notably:

*Abies spectabilis/Rhododendron* spp. and temperate broadleaved forests between Gupha Pokhari and Gorja, including the pass at Akar Deorali (2950m);

Lower temperate broadleaved forest patches in side valleys to the Kabeli Khola valley between Yamphudin and Mamangkhe;

Lower temperate and subtropical broadleaved forest areas between Mamangkhe and Kande Bhanjyang; and

Upper temperate broadleaved forest on the ridge top between Lali Kharka and Suketar.

Some forests outside the KCA, notably those listed above were of better quality than some forests inside the Conservation Area.

A total of 179 bird species was recorded on the eight day trek in and out of the KCA (Appendix 1), including 59 species that were not found in the Conservation Area during the survey. Important bird species were a male Satyr Tragopan (photographed and tape-recorded) (globally near-threatened) below Gupha Pokhari and a Black-headed Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer* (nationally threatened) near Gorja on 10 April, and a Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni* (nationally threatened) above Lali Kharka on 27 April. A Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* was heard below Gupha Pokhari on 10 April.

## DISCUSSION

### **KCA management**

In Nepal, a Conservation Area is managed in accordance with an integrated plan for the conservation of the natural environment and the sustainable use of natural resources. The KCA is one of three of Nepal's Conservation Areas. Following a series of feasibility, socio-economic and biodiversity studies between 1994 and 1996, the area was declared as the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) in 1997. To manage the area, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and the WWF Nepal Program jointly launched the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP) in 1998. The KCAP aims to safeguard biodiversity of the area and improve living conditions of the local residents by strengthening capacity of local institutions responsible for making decisions, which will effect long term viability of genetic conservation and economic development of the area (WWF-Nepal 1998 in Gurung 2006). Management responsibilities have gradually been handed over to locally built organisations.

### **Land and natural resource use and impacts on bird diversity**

The Conservation Area comprises rocks and ice (64 per cent), forests (16.1 per cent), shrubland (10.1 per cent), and lake and landslide (0.1 per cent). Grassland covers only 9.2 per cent and agricultural land a mere 0.5 per cent of the KCA (KCAMC 2003 based on topo map 1978). According to Yonzon (1996), 82 per cent of the total area lies between 4000 m and 7000 m and only 5 per cent remains below 3000 m, leaving very little space for human settlements and agriculture.

#### **Agriculture**

The overwhelming majority of households in the KCA are dependent on subsistence agriculture (Gurung 2006).

#### ***Terraced cultivation***

During this survey terraced cultivation was observed in the vicinity of villages in the Tamur, Ghunsa, Amji and Kabeli Khola valleys. The main crop grown on the terraces at lower elevations was rice. A variety of crops was noted at higher elevations including potatoes and wheat. Yak pastures with grazing yaks were seen at higher altitudes in the Ghunsa valley and in the Simbuwa Khola valley. There were grazing cattle on pastures on Deorali Danda and in the Amji Khola valley. One herd of sheep was noted in the Amji Khola valley north of Yamphudin.

#### ***Cardamom plantings***

Cardamom plantings were found to be widespread at lower elevations, especially in Yamphudin and Tapethok VDCs. The cardamom was usually planted as an understorey under *Alnus nipalensis* and sometimes only in small patches.

According to Gurung and Gurung (2002), cardamom has become an important source of supplementary income since the 1980s and is planted on land that is too steep or too wet for agriculture. *Alnus nipalensis* is planted with the cardamom and provides additional benefits of stabilising hillsides and providing fodder, fuelwood and timber for local residents. Recently, 42 per cent of households in the KCA were growing cardamom, which contributes to household income and has reduced livestock holdings (WWF-Nepal 2001 in Gurung 2006).

### ***Slash-and-burn agriculture***

Evidence of burning for slash-and-burn agriculture was observed between Amjilessa and Ghunsa, and especially near Amjilessa in the Ghunsa Khola valley (see habitat section above). Slash-and-burning farming and the expansion of agricultural land continue in the KCA, even though these practices are illegal under the 1957 Forest Nationalization Act, the 1964 Land Reform Acts, the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 and Conservation Area Regulations 2000 (Gurung 2006). A total of 170 households in the KCA have been, and most of them are still, involved in some form of slash-and-burn agriculture due to the low productivity of agricultural land and unclear or unsettled land ownership rights (WWF-Nepal 2005 in Gurung 2006). However, since the establishment of the KCA, slash-and-burn agriculture has stopped on government land and has decreased on private land (Gurung 2006).

Slash-and-burn agriculture has a significant negative impact on bird diversity. The burning opens up forests, resulting in the damage and loss of some trees, a reduction of the forest understorey and the forest becoming much drier with the loss of mosses and epiphytes. Dense, moist forests with mature trees, well-developed shrub and ground layers of vegetation and thick growths of mosses and epiphytes provide habitats for many Himalayan forest species including babblers, warblers, chats, thrushes, tits, and woodpeckers (Inskipp 1989). Specialists such as the globally near-threatened Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra* are dependent on thick undergrowth in moist temperate forests. Moss-covered trunks and branches are vital for feeding of numerous bird species, notably the restricted range species Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis*, whose main distributional range is centred on Nepal (Grimmett *et al.* 2000).

Species that prefer open forests and scrub may well benefit from forest thinning caused by burning, such as Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* and Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*. However most species in this category are common and widespread in Nepal, whilst many forest specialists are declining (Inskipp 1989). The more open habitat structure means that birds present are often more conspicuous than in dense forest habitats. This may give the impression that the number of bird species is more numerous in open habitats than in dense forests, whereas the reverse is true.

### ***Livestock pastures***

Observations by the survey could not be made on high altitude grazing as the pastures were largely snow-covered.

There is no agreement amongst researchers on the impact of livestock grazing on pastures. According to Yonzon (1996), the number of livestock was not high enough to exert grazing pressure. However Carpenter *et al.* (1994) reported high grazing pressure and Brown (1994) and Amatya *et al.* (1995) in Gurung (2006) observed the degradation of high elevation grasslands and forests with increased livestock numbers. Livestock numbers have decreased since the late 1980s due to tourism, children attending school instead of herding cattle and the increase in cardamom production, although the number of livestock owners has increased in recent years (WWF-Nepal 2001).

### **Forests**

Overall, forest conditions have slightly improved in the KCA in recent years (Gurung 2006) and this should have had a positive impact on bird numbers and distribution. The most recent forest cover area studies show an increase of about 1 per cent between 1989 and 2000 and an improvement in general forest conditions (Schubiger 2006 in Gurung 2006). This is in sharp

contrast to the continued degradation of forest observed since 1978 (Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council 2005 and WWF-Nepal 2005 in Gurung 2006). This finding was confirmed by local respondents, over 83 per cent of whom reported a slight growth in forest cover area; whereas the remaining 17 per cent believed the forest condition to be unchanged since the inception of the KCAP (Gurung 2006). Reasons for improved forest condition were: restrictions on fuelwood and timber collection by the KCAP and KCA institutions; voluntary control of forest fires by local people; halting the timber trade with Tibet; stopping slash-and-burn farming in public forests and decreasing this practice on private land; planting of *Alnus nipalensis* (the shade tree for cardamom plantings which is also used for fuelwood), and the introduction of alternative energy sources. These alternative energy sources are kerosene (which trekkers are required to use), hundreds of solar lighting sets, over 100 back-boiler systems (to heat water while cooking), and micro-hydro schemes (five have been designed) (Gurung 2006). The reversal of deforestation in the KCA can therefore be attributed to the KCAP, particularly its conservation measures (Gurung 2006).

Forest resources are of vital importance for local people in the KCA to meet their needs for fuelwood, fodder, construction and heating (Baral and Inskipp 2005). During the survey, local people were frequently observed making use of forest products, for example piles of fuelwood were noted at villages and some trees had recently been cut near Ghunsa, presumably for construction use. Many village houses had solar panels on the roof. A micro-hydroelectricity scheme was seen under active construction at Ghunsa.

### **Hunting**

During the survey single gun shots were heard on four dates in the KCA.

On 15 April four youths were observed hunting and killing Black-faced Laughingthrushes *Garrulax affinis* and Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes *G. erythrocephalus* at Gyabla using catapults (photographed). The youths walked down a wooded gully throwing stones to frighten the birds ahead of them and then surrounded bushes at the gully bottom, hurling stones into the bushes to systematically kill the birds. Younger children who were relatives reported that four birds had been killed that day and would be eaten; they also said that this practice was common around Gyabla village. Considering the youths' dress it was hard to believe that these small birds could have supplied a significant contribution to the families' diet. Even though the killed birds would be eaten by the villagers, the youths may have been hunting the birds primarily for sport or amusement.

Two bird snares were found in the Amji Khola valley by one of our team (Jyotendra Thakuri). The snares were bamboo carved, nearly rectangular in shape and insects were used to attract birds. They were set by a poor cattle herder and were intended for thrushes, which would be eaten.

No other direct evidence of bird hunting was observed in the KCA, although children with catapults and a dead chat were seen in forest below Gupha Pokhari. The children said they planned to eat the bird and to catch more that day. Children with bird catapults were also seen at Tude Deorali, above Basantapur.

During the survey, good quality pheasant habitat was observed in some forests surveyed, notably in the Simbuwa Khola and Amji Khola valleys, on Deorali Danda and in the Ghunsa Khola valley between Gyabla and Ghunsa and between Ghunsa and Tama La. The survey was being carried out in the pheasants' breeding season when the birds could be expected to be vocal and relatively conspicuous. However, the numbers of pheasants recorded during the survey was particularly low.

There were only two records of Satyr Tragopan: one heard between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April and a female seen on Deorali Danda on 22 April. Another individual was seen and heard outside the KCA below Gupha Pokhari on 10 April. Only two Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* were seen in the KCA during the survey: a male above Ghunsa on 17 April and another male seen and heard a few times on 19 and 20 April at Tseram (all Tseram records almost certainly refer to the same individual). One Himalayan Monal was also heard outside the KCA near Gupha Pokhari on 10 April. There were a few sightings of relatively small numbers of Blood Pheasants *Ithaginis cruentus*: eight in the Ghunsa valley on 17 April, nine between Ghunsa and Tama La on 18 April, and singles heard near Tseram on 20 April and on Deorali Danda on 22 April. Considerable quantities of pheasant droppings were seen on trails in *Juniperus* and *Rhododendron* forests near Tseram on 20 April. Almost all of the pheasant individuals observed were shy. Despite the widespread good habitat for Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos*, one of the most common of Nepal's pheasants, no individuals of this species were located, either inside or outside the KCA.

In contrast, far higher numbers of pheasants have been regularly recorded at some other sites in Nepal in similar habitats, for example in Santel forests in the Annapurna Conservation Area, central Nepal, 31 Satyr Tragopans were heard with a density of 12.2 pairs/km<sup>2</sup> in spring 2005 (Mahato and Subedi 2005). In Sagarmatha National Park where Himalayan Monal and Blood Pheasant are widely distributed and not hunted, they are noticeably tame. Coveys of up to 30 or more Blood Pheasants are frequently seen here (Inskipp and Inskipp 1998). It seems likely that hunting has reduced the pheasant population in the KCA, at least in the past, although it is not possible to conclude from the 2008 survey whether hunting pressure on pheasants is now reduced in the area.

Pigeon and dove numbers were also low and much lower than expected considering the large area of suitable habitat available. For example Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*, a common and widespread resident in Nepal from 365 – 4570 m, was only recorded on five of the 12 survey days in the KCA, with a maximum number of only four on two days; this species could be expected in flocks of 10-20 birds. Only one Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* was observed (in the Amji Khola valley on 21 April); a frequent and quite widespread resident in forests from 1500-3050 m in Nepal. Members of this family are also vulnerable to hunting.

Bird of prey numbers were also observed to be low, despite good viewing conditions on most survey days. There were only three sightings of Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* (singles above Gyabla, between Gyabla and Ghunsa, and above Ghunsa) and one of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (above Ghunsa), for example. The low numbers could possibly be attributed to low prey availability.

Amatya (1997) noted that hunting appeared to be rampant in the Kanchenjunga area and was common among the local Rai, Limbu and Gurung ethnic communities. Hunting is integrated into the cultural traditions and subsistence economy of Rais and Limbus. The Walunpas, Bhotes and Sherpas of the region may also trap and hunt although they are discreet in their activities, which are therefore much less noticed. Kalij Pheasant was specifically mentioned as one of the hunted species by Hellok villagers. All 250 Limbu and eight Rai households in Hellok were reported to hunt regularly (Amatya 1997).

However, Gurung (2006) reported an increase in sightings of larger birds like Blood Pheasant, Himalayan Monal and Kalij Pheasant, and cereal crops raided by many species of birds. An

increase in frequency of sightings of various mammal species including endangered species such as Red Panda *Ailurus fulgens* and Snow Leopard was also reported (Gurung 2006).

Reasons for increases that are applicable to bird species have been attributed to: the KCAP threatening legal action against poachers; increased conservation awareness; the perceived threat of the KCA becoming a national park, with the army enforcing the rules, if people fail to support the project; and local people involved in wildlife monitoring. There was also a growing expectation of eco-tourism development and a perceived fear that the KCA would invest in strong conservation measures, instead of community development activities, if the local people failed to deliver conservation results (Gurung 2006).

Many local respondents believe that the Maoist insurgency contributed to wildlife conservation. Almost all of the local guns were confiscated by Maoists and people avoided entering the forests for fear of Maoist presence. Maoists rebels were not reportedly engaged in wildlife hunting or poaching (Gurung 2006). In other parts of Nepal the insurgency led to a marked reduction in hunting and a significant increase in Galliformes for the same reasons e.g. Phulchowki IBA in the Kathmandu Valley where noticeable increases in Kalij Pheasant, Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* and Rufous-throated Partridge *A. rufogularis* were observed (Baral and Inskipp 2005).

Although KCAP staff and a few local respondents viewed the increasing wildlife as a conservation success, most of the local people interviewed considered this mostly as a threat to their livelihood because of crop raiding which has increased along with wildlife populations. An overwhelming majority of local respondents stated that sustainable conservation of many endangered species and wildlife that raided crops and livestock, which they called 'pest animals', remains uncertain without continued external support. Almost all of them suggested that, either people should be compensated for their crop and livestock losses or they should be allowed to kill crop-raiding animals. Nearly everyone interviewed mentioned that wildlife conservation was not their interest. Nevertheless most of the local people consulted expressed confidence in people protecting wildlife, provided a sustainable income mechanism is established by the KCAP to compensate crop losses and conduct regular wildlife monitoring (Gurung 2006).

### **Tourism**

In 1988, the Nepal Government opened the Kanchenjunga region to organised trekking groups; prior to this foreign tourists were allowed to visit the area only as part of expedition teams. To date fewer than 1000 adventure tourists visit the area annually, and around half of these do so in October and November (Gurung 2006, Gurung and Gurung 2002). During the survey only a handful of trekking groups were seen. Unfortunately, the positive economic impact of trekking tourism on local people has been very limited because the organised trekking groups that visit the KCA bring with them all their equipment and leave very little room for local spending (Gurung 2006).

Gurung (2006) considered that even with the opening of the KCA to independent trekkers, no significant increase in tourism is expected in the near future because of the short trekking season due to an early monsoon, lack of tourism infrastructures and difficult access. The only air and road link is a few days walk from the KCA, the road to Taplejung is in very poor condition, and flights are often cancelled due to low cloud over the airstrip.

The exceptional beauty of the mountains and forests, the remoteness of the area and lack of other trekkers are key attractions. However, wildlife tourists will find Himalayan birds and mammals easier to see in other protected areas, such as the Annapurna Conservation Area,



and Langtang and Sagarmatha National Parks, where the terrain also makes for less difficult trekking.

## IMPORTANCE OF THE KCA FOR BIRDS

The KCA has been identified as an Important Bird Area in Nepal and is one of the most poorly known in the country (Baral and Inskipp 2005). A total of 330 bird species has been recorded so far (including 42 without details of localities and dates) and more are considered likely to occur. Considering the Area's location in the East Himalayan Endemic Bird Area and the high quality of extensive remaining forests, it must be important for many east Himalayan species. Three globally threatened or near-threatened, 16 nationally threatened and two restricted range species have been recorded to date.

### Globally threatened

Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola*

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

### Globally near-threatened

Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra*

### Restricted range species

Spiny Babbler *Turdoides nipalensis* (Nepal's only endemic bird)

Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis*

### Nationally threatened species

A list of nationally threatened species in Nepal was identified by Baral and Inskipp (2004).

Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra*

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis*

Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola*

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*

White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula monileger*

Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*

Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni*

Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus*

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*

Cutia *Cutia nipalensis*

Black-headed Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer*

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis*

Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium*

Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor*

Fulvous Parrotbill *Paradoxornis fulvifrons*

## **Bird species recorded in the KCA during the April 2008 survey and a summary of all previous records**

**Globally threatened, nationally threatened and restricted range species are annotated accordingly.**

### **Snow Partridge *Lerwa lerwa***

2008: 14 seen below Selele on 18 April at 4235 m, 2 seen below Mirgin La on 19 April.

Previous records: 2 collected on Ladza Kharka, 22-23 May 1988 at 4250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Tseram & Oktang in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

### **Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus***

Previous records: Tseram & Oktang in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); c. 20 at Lhonak on 1-2 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); often heard in the north above Khangbachen (4000 m) in October/November 1994 but seen only once, at Pangpema (5000 m) (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Lhonak and Pangpema on 8 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

### **Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

### **Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola***

2008: 1 heard at Amjilessa on 14 April; 1 heard between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 2 heard between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 10 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 7 heard at Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 3 heard between Amji Khola valley and KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Amjilessa in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

### **Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus***

2008: 8 seen above Ghunsa on 17 April at 3500 m; groups of 2, 2 and 5 seen above Ghunsa on 18 April at 3660 m and 3700 m; 1 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 1 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: 2 snared on the west slope above Khangbachen in December 1848 (Hooker, 1855); seen in pairs and small flocks up to 5 in the upper Simbuwa Khola valley in May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 3 between Rampuk Kharka and Ghunsa on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); 10+ seen above Ghunsa in October/November 1994 at 3400 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

### **Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra***

2008: 1 heard between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 1 female seen at Lamite Bhanjyang on 22 April at 3350 m.

Previous records: descent from Deura Danda to Hellok on 17 May 1988, seen on Amji Kharka on 2-3 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in

April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); male feather found at Amji Khola valley on 26 April 1997 (White & White, 2000). **Globally near-threatened.**

**Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus***

2008: 1 male seen above Ghunsa on 17 April; 1 male seen above Tseram at 4070 m on 19 & 20 April.

Previous records: in the KCA in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos***

Previous records: 1 female collected on Amji Kharka on 5 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); pair seen near Hellok in October/November 1994 at 1555 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994).

**Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus***

2008: 2 flew north high above Ghunsa on 18 April.

Previous records: None.

**Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea***

Previous records: Lhonak in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope***

2008: 1 male seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: None.

**Common Pochard *Aythya ferina***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus***

2008: 1 seen between KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April.

Previous records: seen in the KCA area in October/November 1994 at 1543 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea***

Previous records: 1 at Sekathum on 23 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus***

2008: 2 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola on 22 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 7 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1994 at 3500 m (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis***

2008: 4 seen above Torangden on 22 April; 2 at Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 above Amji Khola on 24 April.

Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola on 13 May 1988, Lassetham pasture on 6-8 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); 1 on Deura Danda on 9-10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Ghunsa in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Scaly-bellied Woodpecker *Picus squamatus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus***

2008: 1 heard just inside KCA boundary on 12 April; 3 heard between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 25 September 1989 at 2700 m (?) (Dunkley, 1989).

**Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis***

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 3 May 1988 at 2400 m, Yamphudin on 29 April 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**Great Barbet *Megalaima virens***

2008: heard between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; heard between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; heard between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 26 [not 24 as published] April 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Sekathum in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 10-15 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 3-4 at Hellok on 8 May 1994, 1 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 at 2800 m (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii***

2008: 2 heard between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 2 heard between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: Kabeli Khola valley close to Yamphudin on 26-30 April 1988 at 1650-1950 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Yamphudin in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Phaley on 4-5 May 1994, 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 7 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Yamphudin in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica***

2008: 2 heard between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April.

Previous records: included in Thapa and Kharki (2005) without details; also recorded in 2008 by Paudel (2008).

**Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops***

2008: 1 seen at Phaley on 16 April.

Previous records: Ramjer on 19 September 1989 at 4500 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis***

2008: 1 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris***

Previous records: Yamphudin on 27 September 1989 at 2700 m (?) (Dunkley, 1989).

**Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Common Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius***

2008: 1 heard at Chhiruwa on 12 April.

Previous records: None.

**Large Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides***

2008: 2 heard between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 5 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 1 heard between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 3 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 6 heard in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 10 heard between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 1-6 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Phaley in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 3300 m (White & White, 2000); 6-7 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 1 at Gyabla on 26 April 1994, 5-6 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 5-7 May 1994, 4-5 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 2-3 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Torangden on 27 April 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Eurasian Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

2008: 1 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 4 in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 5 between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Ladza Khola on 23 May 1988 at 4240 m, Amji Kharka on 2-3 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Phaley in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2-3 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 1 at Gyabla on 26 April 1994, 1 at Phaley on 4-5 May 1994, 3 between Gyabla and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 1 at Sekathum on 8 May 1994, 1-4 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10-11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus***

2008: 2 heard between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 2 heard between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 2 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 1 heard between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 1 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 2 heard in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 5 between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 2-3 May 1988 at 2400 m, Yamphudin on 29-30 April 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Phaley in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 5-6 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 1 at Gyabla on 5 May 1994, 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, 2 between Gyabla and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 1 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus***

Previous records: Walungchung Gola on 20-21 May 1988 at 3200 m, upper Tamur valley below Walungchung Gola on 19 May 1988 at 2450 m, Deura Danda on 17 May 1988 at 3420 m, upper Simbuwa Khola on 10 May 1988 at 5250 m, Lassetham pasture & descent to Simbuwa [sic Kabeli] Khola on 7-9 May 1988 at 3250-3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 8 May 1994, 2 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10-11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Grey-bellied Cuckoo *Cacomantis passerinus***

2008: 1 heard at Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus***

2008: 1 seen just north of the KCA boundary on 12 April at 1320 m.

Previous records: Amji Khola valley in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Slaty-headed Parakeet *Psittacula himalayana***

Previous records: seen in the KCA area in October/November 1994 at 1372 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris***

2008: 300+ seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 60 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 40 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 50 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 35 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 45 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 40 seen at Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 30 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: 5 seen on ascent from Yamphudin to Lassetham on 1 May 1988 at c. 2000 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amjilessa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 100 at Chhiruwa on 22 April 1994, 50 between Chhiruwa and Tapethok on 23 April 1994, 1 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 25 at Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 100 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, 50 at Sekathum on 8 May 1994, 50 on Deura Danda on 10 May 1994, 100 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus***

Previous records: 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 7 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus***

2008: 2 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 50 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 10 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 4 seen above Ghunsa on 18 April.

Previous records: 7 seen in the upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10 May 1988 at 3250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amjilessa in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 10 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 5 at Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 15 between Hellok and DL on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**House Swift *Apus affinis***

Previous records: Sekathum in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus***

Previous records: near Yamphudin on 25 April 1988 at 2000 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Yamphudin on 25 April 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena***

Previous records: 1 heard at Chhiruwa on 22 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details. **Nationally threatened.**

**Tawny Owl *Strix aluco***

2008: 1 heard at Ghunsa on 17 & 18 April; 1 heard at Tseram on 21 April.

Previous records: Ghunsa in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei***

2008: 1 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 2 heard between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 1 heard at Ghunsa at 3250 m on 17 April.

Previous records: Ghunsa in April/May 1994 at 3500 m (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides***

2008: 1 seen Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus***

2008: 1 heard at Amjilessa on 14 & 15 April; 1 heard at Gyabla on 16 April; 1 heard at Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Lungtung on 18 May 1988 at 1870 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1994 at 3500 m (White & White, 2000); 2 heard at Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 1 heard at Phaley on 3 May 1994, 1 heard between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, 1 heard at Sekathum on 7 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.



**Rock (Common) Pigeon *Columba livia***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota***

2008: 60 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April at 1350 m; at Ghunsa 25 on 16 April, 100 on 17 April and 30 on 18 April; at Tseram 6 on 20 April and 9 on 21 April.

Previous records: Walungchung Gola on 21 May 1988 at 3200 m, Ladza Khola on 23 May 1988 at 4250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Oktang in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 45 at Ghunsa on 27 April 1994, 15 at Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 30 between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994, 2 at Ramdang on 30 April 1994, 15 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 12 between Lhonak and Khangbachen on 2 May 1994, 35 between Khangbachen and Phaley on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); flocks of 30+ were abundant in the KCA area in October/November 1994 between 2378 and 3293 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii***

2008: 1 at Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: None.

**Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis***

2008: 4 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 4 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 2 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April.

Previous records: Phaley & Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 at Chhiruwa on 22 April 1994, 2 at Phaley on 26 April 1994, 3 at Ghunsa on 27 April 1994, 1 at Ghunsa on 3 May 1994, 2 at Phaley on 4-5 May 1994, 2 at Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 2 at Hellok on 8 May 1994, 6-8 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis***

2008: 2 seen at Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Hellok in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 at Hellok on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura***

Previous records: Sekathum in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola***

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Torangden in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 displaying on the south-east slopes

of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria***

Previous records: 1 seen at Selele on 2 May 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola***

Previous records: 2 seen on Sinion La on 9 May 1992 at 4200 m (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000). **Globally threatened.**

**Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

Previous records: below Ramjer on 19 September 1989 at 4400 m (Dunkley, 1989).

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii***

Previous records: near Lapsang on 19 September 1989 at 4200 m (Dunkley, 1989).

**Nationally threatened.**

**Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus***

2008: 1 seen at Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: None.

**Black Kite *Milvus migrans***

2008: 2 *lineatus* seen at Ghunsa on 17 April.

Previous records: Tseram on 6 May & Oktang on 7 May 1992 (White & White, 2000), recorded in KCA in 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 at Ramdang on 30 April 1994, 1 at Ghunsa on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture) *Gypaetus barbatus***

2008: 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 2 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April.

Previous records: N of Ghunsa on 12 September 1989 at 3800 m (Dunkley, 1989); Oktang in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 3 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 1 at Khangbachen on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); singles seen near Gyabla (2744 m) and between Ghunsa and Khangbachen (3659 m) in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); 1 seen at Lapsang on 30 April 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Himalayan (Griffon) Vulture *Gyps himalayensis***

2008: 12 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 4 seen Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 6 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 2 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 4 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: 1 collected at Amji Kharka on 2 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amjilessa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 2 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 4 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 4 at Ramdang on 30 April

1994, 5-6 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 1 at Lhonak & 1 at Khangbachen on 2 May 1994, 1 between Khangbachen and Rampuk Kharka on 3 May 1994, 2-3 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA area in October/November 1994 at 3034 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 6 November 1996 and between Selele and Nagdunga on 11 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999, including at Lhonak (White & White, 2000).

**Eurasian Griffon (Griffon Vulture) *Gyps fulvus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela***

2008: 1 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: Amjilessa in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 3 between Tapethok and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 2 between Sekathum and Hellok on 8 May 1994, pair in courtship display on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus***

2008: 2 seen above Ghunsa on 17 April.

Previous records: seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); seen in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus***

2008: 1 seen at Amji Khola valley on 23 April at 2600 m.

Previous records: None.

**Shikra *Accipiter badius***

2008: 1 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: None.

**Besra *Accipiter virgatus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus***

2008: 2 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 4 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 1 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 seen at Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Tseram & Ramjer in April/May 1992, Khangbachen in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 female between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 1 female between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994, 1 female between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 1 female at Lhonak on 2 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis***

2008: 1 seen above Ghunsa on 17 April; 2 seen at Tseram on 20 April.

Previous records: 1 collected in the upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 14 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 2409 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 and

between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); seen at Ghunsa in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

2008: 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 6 seen above Ghunsa on 17 April; 3 seen at Selele on 18 April at 4200 m.

Previous records: 1 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 2 at Ramdang on 30 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994), seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); and seen in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius***

2008: 2 pairs seen above Ghunsa on 17 April.

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis***

2008: 1 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April at 3400 m.

Previous records: included in Thapa and Kharki (2005) without details; also recorded in 2008 by Paudel (2008).

**Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis***

2008: 2 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: Tseram on 6 May & Oktang on 7 May 1992 (White & White, 2000); seen above Pangpema in October/November 1994 at 5762 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Imperial Eagle (Asian Imperial Eagle) *Aquila heliaca***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos***

2008: 3 seen above Ghunsa on 17 April.

Previous records: Ramjer in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 adult between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 1 immature at Lhonak on 1 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); 2 seen between 3268 m and 4573 m in the KCA in October/November 1994, including above Ghunsa (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); seen Between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 and between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); 2 seen at Khangbachen on 5 May 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis***

2008: 1 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 3 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: 2 between Chhiruwa and Tapethok on 23 April 1994, 1 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus***

2008: 1 seen above Amji Khola on 23 April; 2 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Lhonak in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

2008: 3 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 4 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 14 April; 1 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April.

Previous records: Amjilessa in April/May 1992 & 1994, Oktang in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000); 3 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 2-3 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 1 at Amjilessa on 25 April 1994, 1 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 1 between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994, 1 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 1 between Amjilessa and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 1 between Sekathum and Hellok on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded commonly in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1677 m and 4573 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November 1996, and between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

Previous records: Amjilessa in 1999 (White & White, 2000);

**Oriental Hobby *Falco severus***

Previous records: 1 seen between Tapethok & Sekathum on 23 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Nationally threatened.**

**Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug***

Previous records: 1 at Ramdang on 30 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994). **Globally threatened.**

**Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus***

2008: 5 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 1 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April.

Previous records: 1 *calidus* at Lhonak on 1 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

Previous records: seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Little Heron *Butorides striata***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii***

2008: 4 seen between the KCA Boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 1 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 1 seen at Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Kabeli Khola near Yamphudin on 30 April 1988 at 1650 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); a pair seen at Chhiruwa on 3-4 September 1989 at 1200 m; Hellok in April/May

1992 (White & White, 2000); 4-5 at Sekathum on 24 April 1994, 1 at Amjilessa on 25 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach***

2008: 2 seen at Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus***

2008: 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 5 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 2 seen at Ghunsa on 17 & 18 April.

Previous records: Walungchung Gola on 23 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Khangbachen on 12 September 1989 at 4030 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2-3 at Gyabla on 25-26 April 1994, 1 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 2 at Khangbachen on 2 May 1994, 5-6 at Gyabla on 5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999, including at Lapsang (White & White, 2000).

**Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius***

2008: 1 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 1 at Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 heard between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Sanmung Khola 9 May 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris***

2008: 2 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 1 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 9 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 3 May 1988, below Lassetham pasture on 6 May (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 at Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 2 on Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 2-3 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha***

2008: 1 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae***

2008: 3 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 8 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 1 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 4 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: 5-8 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 1 at Sekathum on 8 May 1994, 4-5 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 1311 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and

Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes***

2008: 3 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 1 heard between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 5 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 1 heard in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 5 May 1988, Lassetham pasture on 6 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Gunsa in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 7-8 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994, 1 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Hume's Groundpecker *Pseudopodoces humilis***

Previous records: 7 seen between Lhonak and Pangpema on 8 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); 3 seen between Lhonak and Pangpema on 6 May 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Red-billed Chough *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax***

2008: 60 seen above Amjilessa on 14 April; 4 seen at Ghunsa on 17 & 18 April; 40 seen below Selele on 18 April; 5 seen between Selele and Tseram on 19 April; 3 seen at Tseram on 20 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988, 2 seen at Ladza Khola on 22 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ramjer on 19 September 1989 at 4500 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 100 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 50 at Khangbachen on 29 April 1994, 2 Ramdang on 30 April 1994, 30 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 10 between Lhonak and Khangbachen on 2 May, 2 at Phaley on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 3720 m and 5030 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, between Lhonak and Pangpema on 8 November, and between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Yellow-billed Chough *Pyrhcorax graculus***

Previous records: Ramjer in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 30-40 between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994, 60 at Ramdang on 30 April 1994, 50-70 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 100 between Lhonak and Khangbachen on 2 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, and between Lhonak and Pangpema on 8 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**House Crow *Corvus splendens***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos***

2008: 6 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 5 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 6 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 20 seen at Ghunsa on 16 & 17 April; 15 above Ghunsa on 18 April; 10 seen between Selele and Tseram on 19

April; 5 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 2 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 6 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 5 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 5-6 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 4-5 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 4-5 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 3-4 between Gyabla and Gunsa on 26 April 1994, 10 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 10 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 2 between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994, 4-5 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 4-5 between Lhonak and Khangbachen on 2 May 1994, 15-20 between Khangbachen and Phaley on 3 May 1994, 4-5 between Phaley and Amjilessa on 5-6 May 1994, 15 between Gyabla and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 10 between Sekathum and DL on 8 May 1994, 5-6 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 30 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1616 m and 3293 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November, between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November, between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November 1996, between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November, between Selele and Nagdunga on 11 November, between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999, including at Pangpema (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

#### **Common Raven *Corvus corax***

Previous records: Lhonak on 11 September 1989 at 4700 m (Dunkley, 1989); 1-2 at Lhonak on 1-2 May 1995 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 4573 m and 5030 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, and between Lhonak and Pangpema on 8 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

#### **Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus***

Previous records: Hellok on 18 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

#### **Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris***

Previous records: pair seen at Yamphudin on 28-29 April 1994 at 1600 m (White & White, 2000).

#### **Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus***

Previous records: 1 between Tapethok and Sekathum on 23 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

#### **Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii***

2008: 1 was seen near Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Kabeli Khola near Yamphudin on 27-29 April 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995).

#### **Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000).



**Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos***

2008: 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 2 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 & 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 27-30 April 1988 at 1650 m, Amji Kharka on 2-3 May 1988 at 2400 m, above Hellok on 17 May 1988 at 2450 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Gyabla in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus***

2008: 16 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 6 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 3 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 5 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 4 seen at Ghunsa on 17 & 18 April; 6 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 4 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10 May at 3250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 5-6 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 2 at Phaley on 4-5 May 1994, 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 5 May 1994, 1 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 1-2 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10-11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November, and between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris***

2008: 3 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: pair feeding immature between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1944, female (with food or nesting material at Gyabla on 26 April 1994, 1 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus***

Previous records: 1 at Hellok on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1220 m and 1341 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha***

2008: 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 6 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 7 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 2 seen above Ghunsa on 18 April; 15 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 6 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 11 May 1988, Ladza Khola on 21 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 3-4 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994, 2 at Phaley on 3 May 1994, 5-5 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994, 2-3 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, 10 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 15 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis***

2008: 1 heard between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 1 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April at 2460 m.

Previous records: seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus***

Previous records: 5-6 (one with nesting material) between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus***

2008: 1 between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 12 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 6 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 4 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 15 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 15 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 27-29 April 1988, Amji Kharka on 1 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amjilessa in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus***

2008: 2 seen just north of the KCA boundary on 12 April.

Previous records: Hellok in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus***

Previous records: breeding pair at Ladza Khola on 21-22 May 1988 at 4150 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); near Ramjer on 19 September 1989 at 4400 m (Dunkley, 1989).

**Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii***

2008: 2 adult feeding 2 young at Sekathum on 13 & 14 April; 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 3 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 5 seen (including feeding young) between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 1 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 5 seen at Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: nest found on the Simbuwa Khola in May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Yamphudin on 26 September 1989 at 2650 m (?) (Dunkley, 1989); Ghunsa & Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 3 (one feeding fledged young at Hellok) between Tapethok and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 1 at Sekathum on 24 April 1994, 1 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 5-6 (adult feeding fledged young at Ghunsa) between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 26 April 1994, 3 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 1 at Rampuk Kharka on 3 May 1994, 2 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994, 2 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, 1 between Amjilessa and Sekathum on 7 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Blue-capped Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus***

2008: 1 seen near Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Amjilessa in April/May 1994 at 2400 m (White & White, 2000); 1 at Gyabla on 26 April 1994, 1 at Hellok on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris***

2008: 1 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: Phaley in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Lhonak on 6 May 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus***

2008: 10 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 20 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 30 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 25 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 15 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 6 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April and 1 on 18 April; 10 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 10 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 8 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Ladza Kharka on 23 May 1988 at 4250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Torangden in April/May 1992 & April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 40-50 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 10-15 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 5-6 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 10 between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 26 April 1994, 2 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 4 at Phaley on 3 May 1994, 4-5 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994, 5-6 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, 20 between Gyabla and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 5-6 at Sekathum on 8 May 1994, 2 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 1 on Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1220 m and 2774 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November, between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November, between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Pied Thrush *Zoothera wardii***

Previous records: Yamphudin in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000).

**Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima***

2008: 1 seen just north of the KCA boundary on 12 April; 1 singing between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April.

Previous records: Oktang in April/May 1992 at 4500 m, Whata in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixonii***

2008: 1 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April at 3300 m; 2 seen at Tseram on 20 April.

Previous records: Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 3900 m (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma***

Previous records: Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 3900 m (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Long-billed Thrush *Zoothera monticola***

Previous records: pair in upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 11 May 1988 at 3250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor***

Previous records: Gyabla in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus***

2008: 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 6 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 8 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April and 3 seen on 18 April; 1 seen above Tseram on 19 April; 1 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 6 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 2 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: adults carrying food on the descent from Lassetham to the Simbuwa Khola on 19 May 1988, Deura Danda above Yamphudin on 16 May 1988, Walungchung Gola on 20-21 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa & Deorali Danda in April/May 1992 at 3700 m; Ghunsa in April/May 1994 at 3700 m (White & White, 2000); 3 at Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 1 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 10 between Khangbachen and Phaley on 3 May 1994, 3-4 at Phaley on 5 May 1994, 1 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul***

2008: 1 singing between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 4 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 2 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 27 April 1988, Amji Kharka on 2 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus***

Previous records: 1 seen in Amji Khola valley on 25 April 1997 (White & White, 2000);

**Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis***

2008: 1 *T. r. ruficollis* seen at Tseram on 20 April.

Previous records: seen between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (*atroglaris*), between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November (*ruficollis*), and between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 (*ruficollis*) (Buckton, 1996).

**White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana***

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 2 May 1988 at 2400 m, between Deura Danda and Hellok on 17 May 1988 at 2700 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amjilessa in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 5 May 1994, 1 on Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); Ghunsa in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica***

2008: 2 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 10 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 6 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 4 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 1 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 3 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Phaley in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 3300 m (White & White, 2000); 1 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 2-3 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994, 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 7 May 1994, 2 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Rusty-tailed Flycatcher *Muscicapa ruficauda***

Previous records: singing at Ghunsa on 10 May 1994 at 3600 m (White & White, 2000).

**Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea***

2008: 1 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 between Tapethok and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 2 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 1 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Yamphudin in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophhiata***

2008: 3 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 4 seen Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 6 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 5 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 5 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 15 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 10 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 12 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 10 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 6-7 May 1998, upper Simbuwa Khola valley 10-15 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Whata & Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 4-5 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 5-6 between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 26 April 1994, 3-4 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 3 between Rampuk Kharka and Phaley on 3 May 1994, 3-4 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994, 2 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 7 May 1994, 3-4 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 5-6 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1311 m and 2393

m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Red-throated (Taiga) Flycatcher *Ficedula parva albicilla***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula monileger***

Previous records: 1 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Nationally threatened.**

**Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni***

2008: 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 27 April at 1800 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris***

2008: 1 *aestigma* seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April.

Previous records: Amjilessa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 2393 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor***

2008: 1 female seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus***

2008: 3 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 5 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 2 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 10 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 29 April 1988, ascent to Amji Kharka and at Amji Kharka on 1-3 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Yamphudin on 25 September 1989 at 2700 m (?) (Dunkley, 1989); Sekathum in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Sekathum on 24 April 1994, 2 at Amjilessa on 25 April 1994, 2 between Sekathum and Hellok on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Large Niltava *Niltava grandis***

2008: 1 male seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April at 1950 m.

Previous records: None.

**Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae***

2008: 3 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 1 May 1988 at 1650 m (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara***

2008: 4 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Phaley in April/May 1994 at 3300 m (White & White, 2000); 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 1223 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor***

Previous records: 1 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May at 2000 m (Halberg, 1994). **Nationally threatened.**

**Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni***

2008: 1 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April at 2430 m.

Previous records: None. **Nationally threatened.**

**Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis***

2008: 4 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 25 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 3 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 1 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 2 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 3 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 1 & 3 May 1988, Amji Kharka on 3 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Phaley in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 3300 m (White & White, 2000); 10 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 4-5 at Sekathum on 24 April 1994, 10 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 5-6 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994, 1-3 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 5-7 May 1994, 5-6 between Sekathum and Hellok on 8 May 1994, 10-15 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 2 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10-11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 1543 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis***

Previous records: Tseram & Lapsang in April 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Indian Blue Robin *Luscinia brunnea***

2008: 4 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 4 between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka and Amji Khola valley near Yamphudin on 2 & 15 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amji Khola valley on 22 September 1989 at 2700 m (Dunkley, 1989); Amjilessa in April 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Golden Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus***

2008: 1 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April.

Previous records: Ghunsa & Whata in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Ghunsa on 2 May 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus***

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 7 May 1998, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 12 May 1988, above Yamphudin on 17 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus***

2008: 1 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 1 seen at Tseram on 20 April.

Previous records: Deura Danda above Yamphudin on 16-17 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); Ghunsa in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Rufous-breasted Bush Robin *Tarsiger hyperythrus***

2008: 1 seen at Tseram on 20 April.

Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 12-13 May 1988, between Deura Danda and Hellok on 17 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Whata, Tseram & Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 on Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis***

Previous records: 2 at Hellok on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Rufous-backed (Eversmann's) Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

2008: 2 seen at Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: 2-3 at Lhonak on 1-2 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 1311 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Oktang & Lhonak in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in KCA in 2008 (Paudel 2008).

**Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni***

Previous records: seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); and recorded in 2008 without details by Paudel (2008).

**White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps***

2008: 1 female seen at Ghunsa on 17 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, and between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**White-winged (Güldenstädt's) Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus***

Previous records: pair seen on Jannu glacier moraines on 9 May 1994 (White & White, 2000); seen between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, and between Lhonak and Pangpema on 8 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis***

2008: 3 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 5 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 6 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 6 seen at Ghunsa on 17



April; 5 seen above Ghunsa on 18 April; 10 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 4 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 8-9 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 15 May 1988 at 3350 m, Ladza Kharka on 22-23 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa on 8 & 13 September 1989 at 3600 m (Dunkley, 1989); Oktang & Lapsang in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 1 at Amjilessa on 25 April 1994, 10 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 10 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 20-25 between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994, 20 at Ramdang on 30 April 1994, 10 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 15 between Lhonak and Khangbachen on 2 May 1994, 25-30 between Khangbachen and Phaley on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1311 m and 3034 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November, between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, and between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

#### **White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus***

2008: 1 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 5 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 10 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 6 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 7 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 5 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April and 1 on 18 April; 2 seen at Selele on 19 April; 5 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 10 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 1 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 2 seen at Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 2-5 May 1988, Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10-15 May 1988, Lungtung on 19-20 May 1988, above Walungchung Gola to Ladza Khola on 21 May 1988, Ladza Khola on 21-23 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); NE of Ghunsa on 13 September 1989 at 3600 m, near Ramjer on 19 September 1989 at 4400 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 5 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 1 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 6-8 between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 26 April 1994, 4-5 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 4-5 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 5-6 between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994, 2 at Ramdang on 30 April 1994, 2 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 4-5 between Lhonak and Khangbachen on 2 May 1994, 10 between Khangbachen and Phaley on 3 May 1994, 10 between Phaley and Amjilessa on 5 May 1994, 3 between Amjilessa and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 5-6 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 2 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

#### **Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosa***

2008: 3 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 10 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 15 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 10 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 3 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 2 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 4 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 13 May 1988, below Walungchung Gola on 20 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Whata in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 20-25 (several pairs carrying food to holes under rocks) between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 1 at Sekathum on 24 April 1994, 2-3 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 4-5 between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 26 April 1994, 1 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 1 at Rampuk Kharka on 3 May 1994, 5-6 between Phaley and Amjilessa on 5 May 1994, 3 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, pair between Gyabla and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 1 at Sekathum on 8 May 1994, pair on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1189 m and 2668 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura***

2008: 1 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 1 seen Torangden on 21 April.

Previous records: Ghunsa in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Grandala *Grandala coelicolor***

2008: 21 seen below Selele on 18 April at 4130 m; 7 seen below Mirgin La on 19 April.

Previous records: 3 seen at Ladza Khola on 23 May 1988 at 4460 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Tseram, Deorali Danda & Lapsang in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri***

2008: 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April at 1800 m; 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April.

Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10 May 1988, Lungtung on 19 May 1988, above and below Walungchung Gola on 20-21 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amji Khola valley on 22 September 1989 at 2650 m, Yamphudin on 24 September 1989 at 1600 m (Dunkley, 1989); Torangden in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000); 2 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November, between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Black-backed Forktail *Enicurus immaculatus***

2008: 1 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: None.

**Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus***

Previous records: seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details, and in the KCA in 2008 by Paudel (2008), without details.

**Common (Eurasian) Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus***

2008: 2 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: Ramjer in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1216 m and 1311 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); breeding recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus***

2008: 5 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 2 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 29 April & 16 May 1988, ascent to Walungchung Gola on 19 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amjilessa in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 5-6 at Amjilessa & 1 at Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 3 between Amjilessa and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, pair on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 8-9 May 1994, 2-3 pairs on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10-11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis***

2008: 2 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 2 seen at Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 1226 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis***

2008: 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 3 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 heard between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: below Yamphudin to Kabeli Khola on 30 April 1988 at 1650-1900 m with breeding proved at the lowest elevation (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 3500 m (White & White, 2000); 1 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 1 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 1 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 2433 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); seen between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis***

Previous records: seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Amjilessa and Sekathum on 7 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); Lhonak in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***

2008: 3 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April and 1 on 18 April; 4 seen at Tseram on 20 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000); seen between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis***

2008: 2 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 1 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 11-12 May 1988, Deura Danda on 17 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Whata in April/May 1992 at 3300 m (White & White, 2000); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 3600 m (White & White, 2000); 1 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

2008: 5 seen between Ghunsa and Selele on 18 April max. altitude 4225 m; 10 seen between Selele and Tseram on 19 April; 2 seen at Tseram on 20 April and 1 seen on 21 April.

Previous records: Ladza Khola on 22 May 1988 at 4250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); near Ramjer on 19 September 1989 at 4400 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 at Ghunsa on 26 April 1994, 1 at Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 1 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 3 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 1 at Lhonak on 2 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, between Khanbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November, between Selele and Nagdunga on 11 November, and between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris***

2008: 10 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April at 3250 m; 10 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 10 seen above Ghunsa on 18 April; 10 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 20 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 10 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: Gunsa on 11 September 1983, Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 15 May 1988, Deura Danda W of Yamphudin on 17 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Ghunsa on 26 April 1994, 5-6 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 5-6 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 8-10 between Rampuk Kharka and Phaley on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 3293 m and 3354 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in

the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Kangbachen on 6 November, between Ghunsa and Selele, and between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

#### **Coal Tit *Parus ater***

2008: 2 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 5 seen Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 8 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 8-9 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10-14 May 1988, Deura Danda W of Yamphudin on 17 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Phaley on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 2857 m and 3506 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, between Ghunsa and Kangbachen on 6 November, and between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

#### **Grey-crested Tit *Parus dichrous***

2008: 4 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 5 seen above Ghunsa on 18 April; 2 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 5 seen Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 8 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 14 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa on 8 September 1989 at 3600 m, below Tseram on 21 September 1989 at 3400 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 4-5 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 1 between Rampuk Kharka and Ghunsa on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Kangbachen on 6 November, and between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); on recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

#### **Great Tit *Parus major***

2008: 1+ seen just north of the KCA boundary on 12 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

#### **Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus***

2008: 6 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 10 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 5 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 8 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 5 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 26 April to 1 May 1988, Amji Kharka on 1-6 May 1988, Lungtung on 19 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 4-5 at Sekathum on 24 April 1994, 5-6 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 10 (one with nesting material at Phaley) between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 26 April 1994, 5-6 between Rampuk Kharka and Phaley on 3 May 1994, 5-6 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994, 2 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6-7 May 1994, 2 at Hellok on 8 May 1994, 5-6 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 1311 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November, between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Black-lored Tit *Parus xanthogenys***

2008: 4 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 27-30 April 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Sekathum in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 10 (one with food in bill Chhiruwa, one taking food to nest hole near Tapethok) between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 2 at Sekathum on 24 April 1994, 1 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000) and the KCA in 2008 (Paudel 2008).

**Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus sylonotus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus***

2008: 2 seen Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 2 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 4 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 4 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 4 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: 1-2 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, and between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); Gyabla in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus***

2008: 2 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 2 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 5 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 5 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 3 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Sekathum in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 12 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Rufous-fronted Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos***

2008: 3 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 10 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 2774 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel 2008).

**Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

Previous records: 1 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Eurasian Crag Martin *Hirundo rupestris***

2008: 10 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April and 5 seen on 18 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

Previous records: 2 between Hellok and DL on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Amjilessa in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus***

2008: 30 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April and 20 seen on 18 April at 3600 m; 10 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 3 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalense***

2008: 50 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 250 seen around nests on cliff between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April at 1750 m; 10 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 10 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April.

Previous records: Gunsa Khola valley near Gyabla on 12 September 1983 (2 adults) and 18 May 1988 (flocks, breeding) at 2520 m, descending to Hellok from Yamphudin on 17 May 1988, flocks of 20-30 near Lungtung on 19 May 1988 at 1870 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Chhiruwa on 22 April 1994, 100 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 200-300 at Amjilessa on 25 April 1994, 50-80 at Sekathum on 7-8 May 1994, 25 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 8-9 May 1994, 100 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1220 m and 2521 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***

2008: 2 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April.

Previous records: None.

**Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus***

2008: 2 seen near Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: None.

**Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys***

2008: 2 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 10 seen Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 1 heard between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: Sekathum in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 15-20 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 2 at Hellok on 8 May 1994, 2 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details, and in KCA in 2008 by Paudel (2008), without details.

**Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes (Ixos) mccllellandii***

2008: 1 seen just north of the KCA boundary on 12 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus***

2008: 50 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 30 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 20 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 27-29 April 1988, Lungtung on 19 May 1988 at 1870 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Sekathum in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 50 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 15-20 at Sekathum on 24 April 1994, 15 (pair with nesting material) at Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 20 between Sekathum and Hellok on 8 May 1994, 30 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1311 m and 1585 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger***

2008: 1 heard between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 4 heard between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 6 heard between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 8 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 1 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 10 heard between the Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: below Walungchung Gola on 19 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amjilessa in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 2400 m (White & White, 2000); 10-15 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 5-6 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 6-7 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 5-6 between Gyabla and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 10 between Sekathum and DL on 8 May 1994, 3-4 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus***

Previous records: seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata***

2008: 1 heard between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 3 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 2 heard between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 6 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 7 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 3 heard between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: ascent to Lassetham pasture on 6 May 1988, below Deura Danda W of Yamphudin on 17 May 1988, below Walungchung Gola on 20 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Gyabla in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 1 on Deura Danda on 10 May 1994, 1 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer***

2008: 5 heard between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 1 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 3 heard in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 28 April 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes***

2008: 1 heard between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 1 heard between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 4 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April.



Previous records: Yamphudin on 27 April 1988, Amji Kharka on 5 May 1988, Lungtung on 19 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Sanmung Khola on 9 May 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Aberrant Bush Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea***

Previous records: seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia major***

Previous records: 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 7 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler *Cettia acanthizoides***

Previous records: ascent to Lassetham pasture from Yamphudin on 15 May 1988 at 3200 m, ascent to Deura Danda from Yamphudin on 16 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Gyabla in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 5-6 May 1994, 1 on Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons***

2008: 1 heard between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 5 heard in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 7 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 12 May 1988, Deura Danda W of Yamphudin on 17 May 1988, Ladza Khola on 21 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus mandelli***

2008: 1 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April at 2470 m. This bird was initially identified as this species by TI and CI, based on previous experience of the song from Bhutan. On subsequent listening to a recording of Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris* (Connop, 1994), and without access to a recording of Russet Bush Warbler, we decided that the song referred to the former species. However, having now secured a copy of a recording of Russet Bush Warbler (Scharringa, 2005), we are convinced that the initial identification was correct. Unfortunately, no recording of the song of this individual was made, and it is likely that the addition of this species to the list of Nepal's birds will have to wait for further confirmation.

Previous records: none.

**Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis***

Previous records: Khangbachen in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 3506 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999, including in Lhonak (White & White, 2000).

**Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher***

2008: 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 2 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 1 heard at Ghunsa on 17 April; 3 seen above Ghunsa on 18 April; 2 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 200 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 20 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 4 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture to upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 7-9 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10-13 May 1988 at 3250 m, Ladza Khola on 21 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 15 between Khangbachen and Phaley on 3 May 1994, 2 at Phaley on 5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis***

2008: 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 1 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 5 seen Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 3 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 2 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April. Previous records: Yamphudin on 27 April 1988 at 1800 m, Amji Kharka on 5 May 1988, ascent to Deura Danda from Yamphudin on 17 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Phaley in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994, 10 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 7 May 1994, 25-30 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 20 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1311 m and 1543 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November, between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus***

2008: 5 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 15 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 6 April; 10 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April at 3000 m; 5 seen above Ghunsa on 18 April; 30 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 50 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 80+ seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April. Previous records: Walungchung Gola on 20 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 at Ghunsa on 3 May 1994, 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 7 May 1994, 1 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November, between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, and between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Hume's Leaf/Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus humei/inornatus***

Previous records: Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 2393 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides***

2008: 2 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April. Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 10 between Rampuk Kharka and Phaley on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris***

2008: 2 heard between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 5 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 3 heard in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 heard between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Kabeli Khola near Yamphudin with pasture Amji Kharka on 28 April to 3 May 1988, Simbuwa Khola valley with Lassetham on 7-9 May 1988, Walungchung Gola on 20 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 2900 m (White & White, 2000); 10 on Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 10 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Western Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus occipitalis***

Previous records: Taplethok in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides***

2008: 5 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 50 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 20 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 10 seen Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 15 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 27 April 1988, Walungchung Gola on 20 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 25-30 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 50 between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 26 April 1994, 20 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 10 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 10 between Rampuk Kharka and Phaley on 3 May 1994, 20-25 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994, 10 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1338 m and 3354 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, and seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri***

2008: 1 heard between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 4 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 12 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 15 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 5 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 15 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 20 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 10 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 27 April 1988 at 1650 m and 1950 m, Lassetham pasture and Amji Kharka pasture on 1-8 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10-11 May 1988, Deura Danda between Yamphudin & Hellok on 17 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 10 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 4-5 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994, 10 at Phaley on 4 May 1994, 10 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994, 4-5 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, 20-25 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 10 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos***

2008: 10 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 10 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 10 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April. Previous records: Kabeli Khola above Yamphudin on 16 May 1988, N Lungtung on 19 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Sekathum in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 10 between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 23 April 1994, 3-4 between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 24 April 1994, 2 at Sekathum on 7-8 May 1994, 1 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 2-3 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 1311 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps***

2008: 4 seen in the Amji Khola valley on 23 April. Previous records: recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 2348 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); Gyabla in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis***

2008: 4 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 16 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 3 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 25 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: 10 seen between Deura Danda and Hellok on 17 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Phaley in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Gyabla on 26 April 1994, 15-20 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus***

2008: heard just north of the KCA boundary on 12 April. Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000); heard at Sekathum on 7 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus***

2008: 5 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 1+ seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 10 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 2+ heard between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 3-5 September 1983 and 26-30 April 1988, ascent to Amji Kharka from Yamphudin on 1 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Spotted Laughingthrush *Garrulax ocellatus***

2008: 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 2+ heard at Ghunsa on 17 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); 2 heard at Gyabla on 5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded at Yamtori Khola above Ghunsa in October/November 1994 at 3415 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Streaked Laughingthrush *Garrulax lineatus***

2008: 2 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 6 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 5 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); 2 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Phaley in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus***

2008: 5 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: None. **Nationally threatened.**

**Scaly Laughingthrush *Garrulax subunicolor***

Previous records: 1 collected in the upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 13 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); 1 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Black-faced Laughingthrush *Garrulax affinis***

2008: 15 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 15 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 12 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April and 5 seen on 18 April; 4 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 10 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10-15 May 1988, Deura Danda W of Yamphudin on 17 May 1988, ascent to Walungchung Gola on 20 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa & Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 3-4 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994, 10 at Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 5-6 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 20-25 between Rampuk Kharka and Phaley on 3 May 1994, 10 at Phaley on 5 May 1994, 2 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 2744 m and 3293 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Kangbachen on 6 November, and between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus***

2008: 3 seen at Gyabla on 15 April.

Previous records: between Hellok and Lungtung on 19 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Phaley in April/May 1994 at 3300 m (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys***

2008: 4 heard at Amjilessa on 15 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 16 May 1988 at 2100 m (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps***

Previous records: seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris***

Previous records: Lassetham pasture on 9 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**Nationally threatened.**

**Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer***

2008: 6 heard between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 7 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 4 May 1988, Lassetham pasture on 8 May & 15 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10-13 May 1988 at 3250 m & 3570 m, ascent to Walungchung Gola on 20 May 1988, Ladza Khola on 21 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); near Ghunsa on 8 September 1989 at 3600 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 Phaley on 26 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 1189 m and 2982 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Pygmy Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla***

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 2-6 May 1988, from Deura Danda to Kabeli Khola valley on 17 May 1988 at 2640 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); 1 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps***

2008: 3 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 5 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 3 heard between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 2-5 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Amjilessa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps***

Previous records: Yamphudin on 28-30 April 1988 at 1650 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Spiny Babbler *Turdoides nipalensis***

Previous records: Yamphudin in 1997 (White & White, 2000). **Restricted range species and Nepal endemic.**

**Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea***

2008: 4 heard between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 heard in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 heard between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: None.

**Cutia *Cutia nipalensis***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Nationally threatened.**

**Black-headed Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer***

Previous records: 2 seen at Torangden in April/May 1992 at 3000 m (White & White, 2000).

**Nationally threatened.**

**White-browed Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis***

2008: 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 2-3 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**Green Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus***

2008: 1 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 1 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 3 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: pair nest-building between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Black-eared Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis***

Previous records: seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis***

2008: 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 3 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 4 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 2 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); 1 at Phaley on 26 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Torangden on 26 April 1997 (White & White, 2000). **Restricted range species.**

**Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera***

2008: 1 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 3 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 5 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula***

2008: 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 6 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 1 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 15 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 15 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 2 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 6 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 12 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Phaley on 3 May 1994, 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 5 May 1994, 2 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta***

2008: 2 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 10 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 15 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 4 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994, 1 at Phaley on 4 May 1994, 2 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 7 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 5 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 2600 m (White & White, 2000); 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); pair recorded

below Gyabla in October/November 1994 at 2439 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000). **Nationally threatened.**

**Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps***

2008: 1 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 4 seen at Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 2 seen nest-building between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin at 2470 m on 24 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 2 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**White-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe vinipectus***

2008: 2 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 4 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 1 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 2 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 5 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: Phaley in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Phaley on 26 April 1994, 1 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, 2 on Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 2744 m and 2835 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata***

2008: 10 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 20 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 10 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 30 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 50 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 40 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 29 April 1988 at 1900 m, Amji Kharka on 1-6 May 1988, between Hellok and Lungtung on 19 May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); Phaley in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 3300 m (White & White, 2000); 10 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 5-6 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994, 3-4 between Ghunsa and Phaley on 3 May 1994, 20 between Phaley and Amjilessa on 6 May 1994, 15 between Gyabla and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 2-10 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 8-9 May 1994, 25 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November, and between Dhupi and Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis***

2008: 4 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 20 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 15 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 10 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 25 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 30 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 20 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Amji Kharka on 2 May 1988 at 2400 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Torangden in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 2900 m (White & White, 2000); 4-5 at Sekathum on 24 April 1994, 203 between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 2 at Phaley on 26 April 1994, 2 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6-7 May 1994, 3 between Amjilessa and Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 5-6 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 5-6 on the south-east



slopes of Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November, between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

#### **Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis***

2008: 10 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 10 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 40 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 20 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 5 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10-12 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); 4-5 between Gyabla and Phaley on 26 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 2774 m and 3110 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); Ghunsa on 8 May 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

#### **Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis***

2008: 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 3 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 20 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 3 seen above Ghunsa on 18 April; 10 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 5+ seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April.

Previous records: ascent to Lassetham pasture on 6 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 10 & 12 May 1988 at 3250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 15 at Phaley on 3 May 1994, 15 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

#### **Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhoura***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details, and in 2008 by Paudel (2008) without details.

#### **Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium***

2008: 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.

Previous records: above Amji Kharka on 15 May 1988 at 3100 m, ascent to Deura Danda from Yamphudin on 16 May at 2930 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Chittre in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); seen between Nagdunga and Dhupi on 12 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000). **Nationally threatened.**

#### **Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor***

Previous records: seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 4 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); 1 seen in Sangmung Khola valley on 9 May 1997 (White & White, 2000). **Nationally threatened.**

#### **Fulvous Parrotbill *Paradoxornis fulvifrons***

Previous records: flock of 50+ seen on Deoral Danda on 29 April 1994 at 2800 m (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000). **Nationally threatened.**

#### **Black-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis nipalensis***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); Sanmung Khola valley on 9 May 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris***

Previous records: 3 at Lhonak on 1 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum melanoxanthum***

Previous records: Amjilessa in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000).

**Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus***

2008: 2 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 8 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 3 heard between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 6 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: fledgling being fed at N Lungtung on 19 May 1988 at 1850 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Sekathum in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Sekathum and Hellok on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 1543 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae***

2008: 2 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis***

2008: 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 10 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 3 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April; 10 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April including one collecting nest material; 20 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 5 seen between Amji Khola valley and the KCA boundary on 24 April.

Previous records: Phaley at 3300 m and Torangden at 2900 m in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 3 at Gyabla on 25 April 1994, 1 at Phaley on 26 April 1994, 10 at Phaley on 4-5 May 1994, 3-4 between Gyabla and Amjilessa on 6-7 May 1994, 2 at Sekathum on 7 May 1994, 25-30 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994, 5 on Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata***

2008: 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 29 April 1988 at 1800 m (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja***

2008: 1 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April.

Previous records: Gunsu Khola valley below Gyabla on 12 September 1983 at 1800 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda***

2008: 2 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April and 1 on 18 April; 7 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April.

Previous records: dozens feeding at *Rhododendron* flowers in the upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 12-14 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Tseram & Whata in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2-3 at Phaley on 26 April 1994, pair between Rampuk Kharka and Ghunsa on 3 May 1994, 2 pairs at Phaley on 4-5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); breeding at Phaley in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***

Previous records: 5-6 at Hellok on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Tibetan Snowfinch *Montifringilla adamsi***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

2008: 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 1 *alboides* and 2 *leucopsis* seen at Ghunsa on 16 April.

Previous records: below Ramjer on 19 September 1989 at 4300 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Ghunsa on 27 April 1994, 1 at Khangbachen on 29 April 1994, 1 at Ghunsa on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola***

Previous records: Ghunsa on 8 September 1989 at 3600 m (Dunkley, 1989); 1 seen at Taplethok on 10 May 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

Previous records: Pangpema in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

2008: 3 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 1 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 6 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 3 seen at Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 26 April & 1 May 1988, upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 15 May 1988 at 3350 m, ascent to Deura Danda on 16 May 1988, Walungchung Gola on 21 May 1988 at 3200 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ramjer on 19 September 1989 at 4500 m (Dunkley, 1989); Ghunsa in April 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 between Chhiruwa and Taplethok on 23 April 1994, 1 at Amjilessa on 25 April 1994, 1 at Gyabla on 26 April 1994, 2 between Rampuk Kharka and Ghunsa on 3 May 1994, 1 Sekathum on 8 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996, and between Dhupi and

Yamphudin on 13 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 1232 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994).

**Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni***

2008: 1 seen between the KCA boundary and Chhiruwa on 12 April; 2 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 13 April; 1 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 1 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April; 1 singing at Ghunsa on 17 April; 1 singing above Ghunsa on 18 April; 2 seen at Tseram on 20 April; 2 seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April; 5 seen in Amji Khola valley on 23 April; 1 seen between Amji Khola valley and Yamphudin on 24 April.

Previous records: Yamphudin on 26 April 1988 at 1800 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Whata & Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 5-6 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 6-7 between Rampuk Kharka and Ghunsa on 3 May 1994, 2 (one carrying food) on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 8-9 May 1994, 4-5 on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus***

2008: 8 seen at Ghunsa on 16 and 17 April; 8 seen at Selele on 18 April and 1 on 19 April.

Previous records: upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 12-13 May 1988 at 3350 m, Ladza Khola on 21 May 1988 at 4250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Ghunsa, Whata & Oktang in April 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 10 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 1 at Ramdang on 30 April 1994, 10 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 5-6 at Lhonak on 2 May 1994, 2-3 at Khangbachen on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus***

Previous records: Amjilessa in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 2400 m (White & White, 2000); seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 3 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris***

2008: 2+ seen below Selele on 18 April at 4165 m; 1 seen at Selele on 19 April.

Previous records: Oktang in April/May 1992, Deorali Danda in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, between Lhonak and Pangpema on 8 November, and between Selele and Nagdunga on 11 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and also in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana***

2008: 15 seen between Amjilessa and Gyabla on 15 April.

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November, and between Selele and Nagdunga on 11 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides***

2008: 1+ seen below Selele on 18 April at 4165 m; 1 seen at Selele on 18 April.

Previous records: 6-8 at Lhonak & 4 at Khangbachen on 2 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 between 4573 m and 4756 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 seen between Chhiruwa and Sekathum on 2 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); (Buckton, 1996); Lhonak on 6 May 1997 (White & White, 2000); Lhonak & Pangpema in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiata***

2008: 3 seen between Sekathum and Amjilessa on 14 April; 5 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 5 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April; 2 seen above Tseram on 19 April; 5 seen at Tseram on 20 April.

Previous records: ascent to Anda Deorali [= Mirgin La] on 9 September 1983 at 4200 m, Ladza Kharka on 22-23 May 1988 at 4250 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Yamphudin in April/May 1992, fledgling found at Lapsang in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 2 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 1 between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994, 3 at Ramdang on 30 April 1994, 5-6 between Ramdang and Lhonak on 1 May 1994, 6-8 between Lhonak and Khangbachen on 2 May 1994, 7-8 between Khangbachen and Rampuk Kharka on 3 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata***

Previous records: near Ramjer on 19 September 1989 at 4400 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 2652 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994).

**Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides***

Previous records: Yamphudin in April/May 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995); recorded in the KCA in October/November 1994 at 2524 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Twite *Carduelis flavirostris***

Previous records: Lapsang & Ramjer in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000).

**Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola***

2008: 40 seen at Selele on 18 & 19 April; 20 seen at Tseram on 20 April.

Previous records: Ghunsa, Whata, Lapsang & Oktang in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 10 between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Brandt's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti***

2008: 50 seen below Mirgin La on 19 April.

Previous records: Lapsang & Ramjer in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 30-40 at Lhonak on 2 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November, and Lhonak and Pangpema on 8 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis***

Previous records: 1 collected at Lassetham pasture on 8 May 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus***

Previous records: Phaley in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 singing at Phaley on 26 April 1994, 1 singing on the south-east slopes of Deura Danda on 11 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus pulcherrimus***

Previous records: below Ramjer on 21 September 1989 at 4000+ m (Dunkley, 1989); Tseram & Ramjer in April/May 1994 (White & White, 2000); 2 at Lhonak on 1-2 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); seen between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Spot-winged Rosefinch *Carpodacus rodopeplus***

2008: 1 female seen between Torangden and Amji Khola valley on 22 April.  
Previous records: Tseram in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura***

2008: 5 seen at Gunsang on 16 April and 3 on 17 April; 2 seen at Tseram on 19 April and 5 seen on 20 April; 1 seen between Tseram and Torangden on 21 April.

Previous records: Lapsang in April/May in 1992, Whata in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, and between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Streaked Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides***

Previous records: recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilla***

Previous records: 2 seen on Sinion La on 9 May 1992 (White & White, 2000); seen between Khangbachen and Lhonak on 7 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996).

**Red-fronted Rosefinch *Carpodacus puniceus***

Previous records: 2 seen at Ramjer on 7 May 1992 & also seen in 1994, Khangbachen in April 1994 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Crimson-browed Finch *Propyrrhula subhimachala***

Previous records: NE of Ghunsa on 13 September 1989 at 3600 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995).

**Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi***

Previous records: male seen at Gyabla on 11 May 1994 at 2500 m (White & White, 2000); 3 on the north-east slopes of Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994).

**Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

Previous records: 10 (feeding in *Tsuga dumosa*) on Deura Danda on 9 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); pair recorded below Phaley in October/November 1994 at 2982 m (Carpenter *et al.*, 1994); breeding at Torangden & Phaley in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala***

Previous records: a small flock was seen in the upper Simbuwa Khola valley on 8 September 1983 at 3450 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); NE of Ghunsa on 13 September 1989 at 3600 m (Dunkley, 1989); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1992 & 1994 at 3500 m (White & White, 2000); 4 at Phaley on 4 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000).

**Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis***

Previous records: Lassetham on 9 May [sic April] 1988 at 3350 m (Martens & Eck, 1995); Deorali Danda & Ghunsa in April/May 1992 & Ghunsa in 1994 (White & White, 2000); 1 on Deura Danda on 10 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes***

2008: 3 seen between Gyabla and Ghunsa on 16 April; 7 seen at Ghunsa on 17 April and 3 seen on 18 April; 40 seen at Tseram on 20 April and 5 seen on 21 April.

Previous records: Ghunsa on 9 September 1989 at 3600 m (Dunkley, 1989); Lapsang in April/May 1992, Tseram in April/May 1992 & 1994 (White & White, 2000); 15-20 between Ghunsa and Rampuk Kharka on 27 April 1994, 5-6 between Rampuk Kharka and Khangbachen on 28 April 1994, 1 between Khangbachen and Ramdang on 29 April 1994, 3-4 between Rampuk Kharka and Ghunsa on 3 May 1994, 2 between Phaley and Gyabla on 5 May 1994 (Halberg, 1994); recorded in the KCA in April/May 1995 (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995); seen between Ghunsa and Khangbachen on 6 November, and between Ghunsa and Selele on 10 November 1996 (Buckton, 1996); recorded in the KCA in 1997 (White & White, 2000); recorded in the KCA in 1999 (White & White, 2000).

**Gold-naped Finch *Pyrrhoptectes epauletta***

Previous records: 1 seen in Amji Khola valley on 25 April 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Crested Bunting *Melophus lathamii***

Previous records: Yamphudin on 26 [sic 16] April 1988 (Martens & Eck, 1995).

**Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia***

Previous records: included in Thapa & Karki (2005) without details.

**Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla***

Previous records: Yamphudin on 24 April 1997 (White & White, 2000), and in the KCA in 2008 (Paudel, 2008).

**Plotting records of bird species in the KCA in grid squares to determine variation in the extent of recording**

All of the records for species recorded in the KCA were plotted in grid squares (based on the ½ degree squares used for mapping species in Inskipp & Inskipp (1991), but with each of the

relevant ½ degree squares subdivided into 16 smaller squares to provide a grid more useful for an area of this size). The KCA falls within R6, S6, R7 and S7 and there are 22 grid squares within this area (see map). The number of species occurring in these squares ranged from 0 (10 squares), to between 3 and 34 (7 squares), and between 84 and 145 (5 squares). The square with most species (145) was R7D, which includes the largely unspoilt forests in the Amji Khola valley and the low altitude habitat around Yamphudin. This summary provides an indication of the level of recording in different parts of the KCA and demonstrates that much more survey work is required before the Area can be considered adequately covered. Even R7D cannot be considered adequately surveyed and further visits, especially if made in May, could be expected to add at least 45 species (25%) to the number recorded.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Further reduction in slash-and-burn agriculture**

A further reduction in the practice of burning for slash-and-burn agriculture would be highly beneficial for many bird species, especially those characteristic of dense, moist forests, many of which are declining in Nepal. These species include the globally near-threatened Satyr Tragopan. Prime breeding habitat for this pheasant occurs between Amjilessa and Gyabla where evidence of recent burning was found and also between Gyabla and Ghunsa, an area where evidence of past burning was found. If existing regulations that make slash-and-burn agriculture illegal could be more widely enforced by the KCAP this practice could be reduced.

### **Compensation for crop raiding**

Direct and adequate compensation paid to villagers for crop raiding by birds and mammals at the household level. This is also recommended in Gurung (2006). Some compensation for crop raiding is already being paid to villagers at the present time.

### **Provide income generating activities for communities in KCA**

#### **Conservation awareness programmes**

Considering the negative attitudes to wildlife conservation prevalent in the KCA and the hunting tradition, which is embedded in the culture of many ethnic groups in the KCA, a conservation awareness programme at all the primary and secondary schools in the KCA is highly recommended. Community groups such as forest user groups and women's groups, and also community leaders, and yak/sheep herders should also be the focus of conservation awareness programmes. The programmes should aim to:

- discourage young peoples' pastime of catapulting birds and later on taking part in hunting and snaring of birds, and
- develop pride in their valuable and exceptional natural heritage of birds, especially globally threatened species, and other wildlife.

Key points to stress include:

- the forests are some of the best in Nepal and the world
- they take thousands of years to evolve
- they are fragile and once destroyed are very difficult to recreate
- they support a huge complex of plants and animals
- they provide many resources of value to the community
- stabilise and enrich soils
- reduce flooding
- produce oxygen

A conservation awareness programme could include:

- production of a colourful poster of birds occurring in the KCA, highlighting some species for which KCA is important and also some common species that should be familiar to local people; the poster could be displayed in schools in the KCA and in KCA offices;
- one or two illustrated talks on birds, their habitats, value to Nepali people and reasons for bird and wildlife conservation;
- field outings to watch some local birds with the aid of binoculars;
- essay and art competitions on birds and their conservation;
- quiz competition at the end of the programme

- prizes of footballs to encourage boys to take up an alternative sport to catapulting (the donation of footballs has proved popular on other conservation awareness programmes in Nepal, e.g. at Bardia National Park and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

A successful conservation awareness programme for birds was carried out by Suman Sharma at Pipar Pheasant Reserve, funded by the World Pheasant Association and Oriental Bird Club in 2007 and a useful report is available (Sharma 2007).

#### **Further bird surveys**

Bird surveys are recommended in the forest areas identified as the most intact, extensive and of good quality: Simbuwa Khola valley between Deorali Danda – Torangden and Tseram, the Amji Khola valley, and also forests on the eastern Ghunsa Khola valley and Deura Danda to the Ghatte Khola valley near Yamphudin. Only the eastern Ghunsa Khola valley was viewed by the survey team, but Halberg (1994) walked the rest of this route, which is currently very little used and found very fine, virtually untouched forest. The last week in April and first two weeks of May would be the best time to carry out fieldwork.

A comprehensive survey for the globally threatened, altitudinal migrant Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* in the KCA is recommended. This species has been recorded twice in the KCA; one of the records was on Sinion La on 9 May 1992 at 4200 m; no details are available for the other record. Although the ground was frozen and partly snow-covered, suitable habitat for Wood Snipe was noted by one of our party at Selele and a few other nearby sites on the trail between Ghunsa and Mirgin La (Jyotendra Thakuri) who surveyed this species in Langtang National Park in 2007. Other known marshy areas in the alpine zone that could be suitable breeding sites should also be surveyed. The last three weeks of May would be a good time to carry out this survey.

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