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## Birds of Dharan Forests IBA, Eastern Lowland Nepal

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### Background

The Dharan Forest is named after a small town Dharan which is located in the northern part of the forest in Sunsari and Morang district under the Koshi administrative zone in the east Nepal. The area lies between 26°37' N and 26°48' N latitude and 87°10' E and 87°37' E longitude. The Dharan Forest areas covers approximately 50,000 hectares at altitudes ranging from 100m to 1300m asl (Baral and Inskipp 2005). Most of the forest area is situated in the plain and foothills of Morang and Sunsari district. The Dharan Forests area is one of 12 IBAs that are unprotected (Baral and Inskipp 2005). The area is easily accessible by road. Dharan Forests area lies in the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area (Stattersfield *et al.*, 1998). Large part of the forest area is national forest managed directly by the Department of Forests and some of the forests are recently developed as community forest. More than 75 forest user groups are benefiting from forest resources in the Dharan Forests IBA.

Forest areas of Dharan Forest are contiguously surrounded by village areas inhabited by caste groups such as Tharus, Rai, Limbu, Chhetri, Brahman and Tamang. As in other parts of Nepal local people of the Dharan Forests IBA are also heavily dependent on forest resources for fuel wood, fodder and timber. There are large areas of tropical forests that are likely to support significant populations of species characteristic of the Indo-Chinese Tropical Moist Forest and Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone biomes (Baral and Inskipp 2005). This study was conducted in the forest areas of Dharan Forest in Morang and Sunsari districts at the altitude 100m-600m, where the forest area covers approximately 40,000 hectares.

### Flora

The principal vegetation of the area comprises tropical evergreen forest. The tropical evergreen forest is characterized by dense vegetation with large sized trees and comparatively warm and heavy rainfall during summer. The community forests are mainly dominated by mature Sal *Shorea robusta*.

The associated species with Sal are Karma *Adina cardifolia*, Amla *Phyllanthus emblica*, Hade *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, Bel *Aegle marmelos*, Simal *Bombax ceiba*, Rajbrikshya *Cassia fistula* and Saaj *Terminalia alata*.

### Fauna

Wild mammals found in the area are Spotted Deer *Axis axis*, Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjak*, Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*, Jungle Cat *Felis chaus*, Terai Grey Langur *Semnopithecus hector*, Indian Hare *Lepus nigricolis*, Rhesus Monkey *Macaca mulatta*, Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* and Northern Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennanti*. Asiatic Wild Elephant *Elephas maximus* regularly visits the forests.



Dharan Forest by Yub Raj Basnet



## Bird survey methods

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

## Results and Discussion

### Bird diversity

A total of 197 species belonging to 14 orders and 45 families was recorded from the Dharan Forests IBA within the 72 bird lists between May 2007 and March 2008. Among them 143 species were residents, 45 species were winter visitors and 9 were summer visitors. Winter and spring seasons are important to find out more new species. The number of running species according to list number as well as survey and the species discovery curve are shown in figure 1. As the curve is still rising and relatively steeply this indicates that with more fieldwork it is very likely that more species will be found. During the survey, few unclear observations were made due to very short glance which are omitted in this report. This might obtain in further survey.

During the survey 58 species were recorded in all seasons. Mostly they were residential and common species. Likewise 41 species were recorded in three seasons. Similarly, 33

species were recorded in two seasons and 65 species were recorded in only one season. Most of them were migratory and few were rare for the area.

### Threatened species

A total of 10 nationally threatened species; i.e. three critical, two endangered and five vulnerable (Baral and Inskipp 2004) were observed from the Dharan forests IBA. This constitutes 5.1% of the species observed during the survey and 7.5% of Nepal's nationally threatened birds. The list of threatened species recorded during the survey is shown in table 1.

Among the nationally threatened species Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* was recorded in Kalabajar forest (site 1), Panbara Community forest (site 3), Budikhola watershed (site 5) and Kerabari forest area (site 8). The bird is listed as critically endangered in the national red data book on birds. Another nationally threatened species Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* was observed in Kalabajar forest (site 1) near by Sardu khola south from Dharan. Probably this critically endangered species is summer visitor (Basnet *et al* 1999) and Dharan forest is the most important site in Nepal.

A pair of Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera* was seen over the Budhi khola upstream (site 6) near Yangshila VDC on 18 October 2007. Similarly, one Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* was observed in Panbara forest (site 3) south from Pancha Kanya VDC on 31 March 2008.

Globally threatened species (category Vulnerable) Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* (BirdLife International 2008) was observed in all four seasons. Two nesting colonies were found from the Dharan Forests IBA one at Santi Community Forest, (site 4) Hasposha VDC, Tarahara and another from Singhadevi Community Forest, (site 9) Dagihat VDC, Bhawnne. Calls of Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* were frequently noted in both seasons from Kalabajar forest (site 1), fireline at Sewti west (site 2), Panbara forest (site 3), Riverine forest of Budhikola (site 5) and Kerabari forests (site

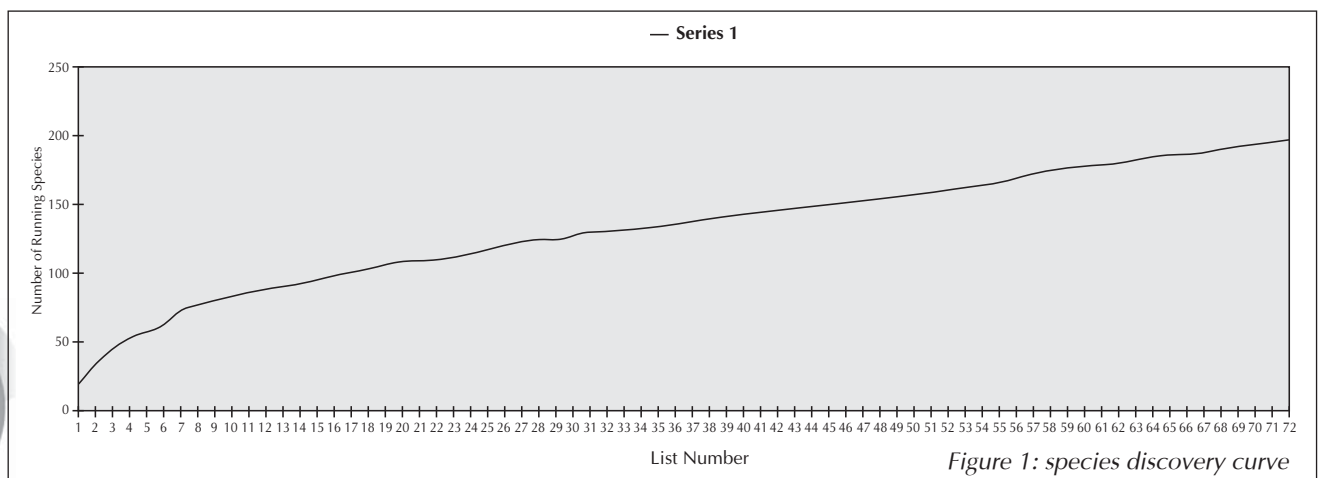


Figure 1: species discovery curve





Lesser Adjutant by Paul Sterry

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

A pair of Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* was flying above the Sal forest (site 8) near Kerabari VDC on 16 May 2007. Many flocks of Hill Mynas *Gracula religiosa* were recorded in all four seasons frequently from Janta community forests (site 7), riverine forests (site 5) and Panbara forests (site 3). Although the forest of the Dharan Forests IBA is large and mature type, we could not record Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* from the area. This globally near-threatened species was recorded twice at Raja Rani Community Forest which is contiguous with Dharan forest (Basnet *et al*, 2006). But we recorded 26 individuals of Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* in a flock on 20 January 2008 at riverine forest of Banchauri.

## Biome restricted species

Dharan forests IBA supports five types of biome-restricted species. Among the observed species 31 species (15.74% of the total species) recorded were biome-restricted species. Among them, four were Eurasian High Montane Biome species, one was Sino-Himalayan Temperate Forest Biome species, nine were Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forest Biome species, three were Indo-Chinese Topical Moist Forest Biome species, and 14 were Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone Biome species.

## Breeding birds

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

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

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

**Table 1 List of nationally threatened birds recorded in the study area**

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

\* Globally threatened species

+ nationally protected species



*Accipiter trivirgatus* was recorded in a nest. Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus* was also recorded along with their chicks in Betana Dam.

## Threats

- Local people are heavily dependent on forest resources which affect the bird ecology.
- Use of vehicle inside the forest to collect the timber was also noticed. In some of the places we observed recently the cutting down of large green trees for illegal trading, especially in Morang area.
- Stream and its dry open grassy embankments which run through the forest as well as agricultural lands provide good habitat for grassland species as well as stream dwellers like Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedicnemus*. Activities like excessive mining of cobbles, stones and removal of woody debris from these streams and grasslands are also destroying the habitat of aquatic and grassland species.
- On 11 January 2008 at 08h30 we observed a very long track of freshly dropped red blood nearby Kalabanjar village, Sunsari where we had seen four Spotted Deer (one male and three female). Later we confirmed that local people hunted one deer on that day. According to local people they regularly hunt wild mammals (ie Spotted Deer, Barking Deer and Wild Boar). Their hunting hobby may harm birds in future or already affecting from sound of gunshots.

## Recommendations

- Most of the forest users and community forest management committee such as Shanti Community Forest, Kalabanjar Community Forest and Janta Community Forest are unaware about importance of birds and biodiversity. Conservation awareness programme for forest management committee and school students could help them to understand the importance of birds and biodiversity along with its need for future generation. To increase the interest about benefit of biogas to the local people would be useful to reduce their dependency in forest resources. Kalabanjar forests area, Sunsari is heavily affected by local hunters. So, awareness programme to the local people along with local leaders and stake holders could be effective.
- Local people of Morang and Sunsari are heavily dependent on forest resources due to their very low economic status. Thus, income generation programme such as production of fire briquette for alternative fuel, training for juice production like *Marmelos* may increase their living standard which could help to conserve the birds and biodiversity.

- This survey has covered four important seasons during field visits. But each visit is relatively of short period and the IBA area is comparatively very large. Thus, many important areas especially Siwalik belt could not be covered except Janta Community Forest during the visit. The curve is still rising and relatively steeply this indicates that with more fieldwork it is very likely that more species will be found. Therefore, we recommend a follow up programme for the IBA.
- As the IBA is home for many residential as well as winter visitor species winter season would be likely to be most productive. This season is also post breeding season for globally threatened species Lesser Adjutant which breeds in the IBA. Spring season is also good for bird survey when many species give call during their breeding time.

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# Ornithological Survey of Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest and West Rapti Wetlands IBA

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## Background

Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest and West Rapti Wetlands (28°00'N 82° 25'E) lies in Dang district but also encompasses part of Banke and Kapilvastu district. It covers an area of 150,000ha with an altitudinal range of 200m to 900m. It lies outside of Nepal's protected area system. It has been identified as one of Nepal's Important Bird Areas (IBAs) by BirdLife International (Baral and Inskipp 2005). It is intersected by East West Mahendra highway from Bhalubang to Kusum. The west Rapti river flows through the length of Deukhuri Valley, in inner terai after emerging through the Mahabharat gorge at Bhalubang. To the south, the study area adjoins Uttar Pradesh of India. Most of the forests are managed as community forest in Dang Deukhuri.

This area comprises *Shorea robusta* dominant dry tropical forest. Due to lack of proper survey birdlife of this area was very little known. Habitats, especially forests and wetlands, potentially support a good variety of birds. The main aim of the study was to assess the species diversity and species richness of avifauna in the IBA as well as threats to avifauna.

## Methodology

Bird surveys were carried in four seasons autumn (19-29

October 2008), winter (15-21 January 2009), spring (18-24 March 2009) and summer (3-11 June 2009). Mackinnon's species richness counting method (Mackinnon and Phillips, 1993) was followed to estimate the species richness of the IBA. Similarly, standard questionnaire survey and informal interview using open-ended questions was carried with the local communities to assess the level of conservation awareness and threats to birds.

## Results

### Bird Diversity

Total of 246 bird species belonging to 15 order and 47 families were recorded from October 2008 to June 2009. Overall, 120 lists were made. Globally threatened species like Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*, Red-headed Vulture *Sacrogyaps calvus* and Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* as well as globally near threatened species namely Cinereous Vulture *Aegyptius monachus* and Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* were recorded during the survey. Likewise Red Jungle Fowl *Gallus gallus*, Abbott's Babbler *Malaconincla abbotti*, Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulveripicus pulverulentus*, Black



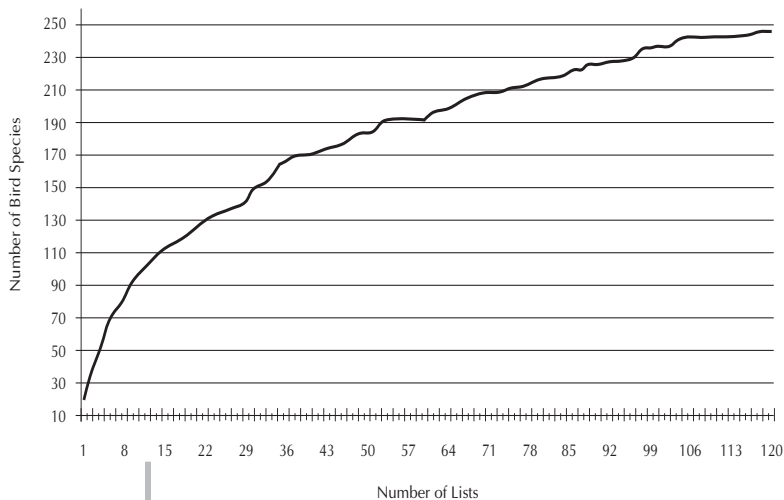
Dang Deukhuri Forest by Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri



Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus* Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis* and White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura* are nationally threatened birds recorded.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* was highly abundant bird with highest frequency of observation. Other birds with high frequency of observation are Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys*, Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*, Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*, Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*, Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus* and Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*.

Species-richness Curve



Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Intermediate Egret *Mesophox intermedia*, Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Eurasian Wigeon *Anas Penelope*, Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, Common Teal *Anas crecca* Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* and Demoiselle Crane *Grus vigor* are some wetland associated birds recorded from Rapti river.

### Seasonal Bird Diversity

Highest number of birds was recorded in autumn with 148 species followed by 146 species in winter, 138 species in spring and 137 bird species in summer. Thirty lists were prepared for each season. 27 bird species were recorded in autumn season only, 21 in winter, 14 in spring and 19 in summer.

Majority of birds with 185 species were resident, 50 species were winter visitor and 11 species were summer visitor to this area.



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### Important Habitats for Bird

**Wetland:** West Rapti river is the major wetland habitat for birds. Arjun Khola, Gurung Khola, Baura Khola, Subel Khola, Budi Khola are some tributaries of Rapti River. Like wise Jakheda Lake at Sonpur VDC is also a good habitat for bird but it is in degraded condition.

**Grassland:** Patchily distributed Khar *Typha angustifolia* dominant and mixture of Khar *Typha angustifolia* and Kans grass *Saccharum spontaneum* grassland along the bank of Rapti River is a major grassland habitat for grassland birds. Such grassland was observed in good condition at Chaulahi, Sonpur and Sisahania VDC. In other part the grassland was in degraded condition.

**Forest:** Forest is an important habitat for Dang Deukhuri's birdlife. In valley *Shorea robusta* is dominant. In hilly regions there is mixed dry tropical deciduous forest. From Lalatiya to Chaulahi the forest is degraded but in regeneration process. Shisham *Dalbergia sissoo* was observed to be dominant. In most of the visited area big and old *Shorea robusta* trees were not seen. Most of the area had dry forest but west from Rihar the forest is wet and *Shorea robusta* dominant. In Rajpur there is big Simal *Bombax ceiba* forest with no undergrowth. In the valley Saj *Terminalia alata* is the most associated tree with *shorea robusta*.

### Threats

- Deforestation and encroachment: Forest of Dang Deukhuri has been heavily exploited during Maoist insurgency. Ghandev Community Forest of Lalatiya, Mahadev CF, Durga CF and santi CF of Gobardiya and Saljhundi CF of Gangaparasapur are some highly deforested community forests.
- Hunting and trapping: Both questionnaire and informal survey respondents accept that there persists hunting and trapping. Nest picking of bird like Peacock and rearing with domestic chickens was recorded and a Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* was found trapped for sale. Gunshots were heard from Gadhwa and Rihar. Similarly, herders were noticed with catapult.

- Forest Fire: Dang Deukhuri forest is characteristic tropical dry deciduous forest, susceptible to forest fire during spring season. During third survey forest fire was observed from 12 places on 7 June and throughout the whole survey period.
- Diclofenac and pesticides poisoning: During informal interview with Veterinary technician it was found that they still use Diclofenac for livestock treatment. Similarly, farmers commonly use some pesticides like Thiodon, Nuvan, Doom, Butachlorol, Metacid and Cypermethane 10 %.
- Poor knowledge: Formal questionnaire survey and informal interview has indicated that people of Deukhuri have very little knowledge about bird and their importance. In some areas bird study was new and amazing topic for general public.
- Overfishing: People of different age and sex were found involved in fishing in Rapti river in winter season while the water level is very low.
- Cattle grazing: Although most of the forest is managed as community forest cattle grazing was not restricted. Few to as many as 100 cattle were found grazing in the forest and Rapti bank.
- Disturbances: Negative impact of disturbance was observed for aquatic birds at Rapti river due to sand harvesting at Kapilvastu and Rapti of Deukhuri.

## Discussion

A high number of 246 bird species were recorded during this survey. However, some birds like Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*, Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus*, Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*, Pale-chinned Flycatcher *Cyornis poliogenys* and Vernal Hanging Parrot

*Loriculus vernalis* which were recorded in Cox 2008 were not recorded during this survey. Considering the diversity of recorded bird species, winter and spring seasons are bird rich seasons in comparison to other two seasons. However, the number of days spent in the field was different for different season. Number of White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* nest are down to 20 from 51 recorded earlier (Baral and Choudhary 2003). Among these 20 nests, nine from Lalmatiya were located before this survey.

Interestingly very common birds of other areas of Nepal like Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*, Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*, House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*, Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* etc. were recorded with low frequency of observation and population.

## Recommendations

- Further detail study of vulture breeding colony should be done. Ornithological survey along the Dundua range (southernmost of Deukhuri) is recommended.
- Most of the people of Deukhuri are unaware about importance of birds and biodiversity. Conservation awareness programme for CF users', students and general public is very important.
- The Churia range of this IBA still contains remaining good area of forest but is under threat due to deforestation so formal protection is needed.
- This area should be declared as Diclofenac free zone.

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Orange-headed Thrush by Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri



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## Annex I: Bird Checklist

### Order/Family/English Name/Scientific Name

#### GALLIFORMES

##### PHASINIDAE

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*  
 Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*  
 Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*  
 Red Jungle fowl *Gallus gallus*  
 Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos*  
 Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

#### ANSERIFORMES

##### DENDROCYGNIDAE

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*

#### Anatidae

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*  
 Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*  
 Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*  
 Common Teal *Anas crecca*  
 Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*

#### TURNICIFORMES

##### Turnicidae

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*



Shikra by Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri





**PICIFORMES****Picidae**

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*  
 Brown-capped Pigmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nanus*  
 Grey-capped Pigmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*  
 Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei*  
 Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*  
 Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*  
 Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*  
 Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*  
 Himalayan Flameback *Dinopium shorii*  
 Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*  
 Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*  
 White-naped Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes festivus*  
 Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulveripicus pulverulentus*

**Megalaimidae**

Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica*  
 Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata*  
 Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*

**BUCEROTIFORMES****Bucerotidea**

Indian Grey-Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris*  
 Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoscerus albirostris*

**UPUPIFORMES****Upupidea**

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

**CORACIFORMES****Coraciidae**

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*

**Alcedinidae**

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

**Dacelonidea**

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

**Cerylidae**

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

**Meropidae**

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Nyctornis athertoni*  
 Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*  
 Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*  
 Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*

**CUCULIFORMES****Cuculidae**

Pied Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*  
 Common Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius*  
 Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*

Eurasian Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*  
 Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*  
 Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*  
 Sirkar Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus leschenaulti*

**Centropodidae**

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*  
 Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

**PSITTACIFORMES****Psittacidae**

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*  
 Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*  
 Slaty-headed Parakeet *Psittacula himalayana*  
 Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*

**APODIFORMES****Apodidae**

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*  
 Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

**Hemiprocnidae**

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocene coronata*

**STRIGIFORMES****Strigidae**

Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoen*  
 Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis*  
 Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*  
 Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*  
 Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*  
 Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum*  
 Spotted Owlet *Athene Brama*  
 Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*

**Caprimulgidae**

Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*

**COLUMBIFORMES****Columbidae**

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*  
 Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*  
 Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*  
 Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebaria*  
 Eurasian Collard Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*  
 Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*  
 Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*

**GRUIFORMES****Guridae**

Demoiselle Crane *Grus vigro*

**Rallidae**

White-breasted Waterhen *Amauornis phoenicurus*





White-throated Fantail by Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
Common Coot *Fulica atra*

#### CICONIFORMES

##### Scolopacidae

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*  
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*  
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

##### Burhinidae

Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedicnemus*

##### Charadriidea

Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus*  
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*  
River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*  
Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

##### Glareolidae

Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*

##### Accipitridae

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*

Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*  
Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*  
White-rumped vulture *Gyps bengalensis*  
Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*  
Himalayan Griffon *Gyps Himalayensis*  
Eurasian Griffon *Gyps falvus*  
Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*  
Red-headed Vulture *Sacrogyps calvus*  
Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*  
Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeroginusus*  
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* 1  
Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*  
Shikra *Accipiter badius*  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*  
Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*  
Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*  
Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*  
Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*  
Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*

#### Falconidae

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*  
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

#### Phalacrocoracidae

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*  
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

#### Ardeidae

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*  
Great Egret *Ardea purpurea*  
Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*  
Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*  
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*  
Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*  
Little Heron *Butorides striatus*  
Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

#### Threskiornithidae

Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa*

#### Ciconiidae

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*  
Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

#### PASSERIFORMES

##### Pittidae

Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura*

##### Irenidae

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*



**Laniidae**

Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*  
 Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*  
 Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*  
 Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

**Corvidae**

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*  
 Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*  
 House Crow *Corvus splendens*  
 Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*  
 Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*  
 Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*  
 Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*  
 Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos*  
 Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*  
 Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*  
 Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*  
 Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*  
 Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*  
 White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*  
 White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura aureola*  
 Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocerus*  
 White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus careulescens*  
 Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectans*  
 Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*  
 Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*  
 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*  
 Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*  
 Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*  
 Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*  
 Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*  
 Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

**Muscicapidae**

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*  
 Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*  
 Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*  
 Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*  
 Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor*  
 Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*  
 Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*  
 Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides*  
 Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickellidae*  
 Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*  
 Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*  
 Bluethroat *Luscinia avecula*  
 Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*  
 White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*  
 Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata*  
 Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*  
 Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*  
 Black-backed Forktail *Enicurus immaculatus*  
 Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*  
 White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucura*  
 Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*  
 Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*

**Sturnidae**

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*  
 Brahminy Starling *Sturnus pagodarum*  
 Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*  
 Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*

**Sittidae**

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*  
 Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*  
 Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*

**Paridae**

Great Tit *Parus major*

**Hirundinidae**

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*  
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
 Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*  
 Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalensis*

**Pycnonotidae**

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*  
 Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jacosus*  
 Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys*  
 Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*  
 Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocapalus*

**Cisticolidae**

Bright headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*  
 Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*  
 Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger*  
 Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsoni*  
 Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica*  
 Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis*  
 Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

**Zosteropidae**

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

**Sylviidae**

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*  
 Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*  
 Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*  
 Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*  
 Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*  
 Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*  
 Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*



Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*  
 Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*  
 Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos*  
 Abbott's Babbler *Malaconincla abbotti*  
 Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*  
 Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrognys*  
 Black-chinned Babbler *Stachyris pyrrhops*  
 Striped Tit Babbler *Macronous gularis*  
 Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi*  
 Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*

#### Alaudidae

Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark *Eremopterix grisea*  
 Oriental Sky Lark  
 Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal*  
 Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

#### Nectariniidae

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*  
 Pale-billed flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*  
 Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*  
 Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*  
 Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*

#### Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
 Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*  
 Yellow-throated Sparrow *Ptornia xanthocollis*  
 White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
 White-browed wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis*  
 Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
 Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*  
 Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*  
 Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*  
 Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*  
 Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*  
 Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*  
 Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*  
 Black-headed Munia *Lonchura malacca*

#### Frangillidae

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*  
 Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami*

## Donation

BCN welcomes all kinds of support from individuals and institutions. You can even help us by providing us your camera, binocular, telescope, scientific equipment etc. Further more, we will also be grateful if any one provides educational materials for our library. All support will be duly acknowledged.



BirdLife International is a global conservation federation with a worldwide network of Partner organizations, Representatives and committed individuals.

BirdLife International seeks to conserve all bird species on earth and their habitats and, through this, it works for the world's biological diversity. It recognizes that the problems affecting birds, their habitats and our global environment are linked inseparably with social, economic and cultural factors and that these can only be resolved if human societies function in an ecologically sustainable manner and if the needs, welfare and aspirations of people form a part of all conservation action.

Birds provide BirdLife International with a uniquely valuable focus: they are sensitive indicators of biological richness and environmental trends and fulfil many key ecological functions; they contribute greatly to our understanding of natural processes; they are an important economic resource; and they have inspired and delighted people of many cultures for centuries, which makes them excellent ambassadors for the promotion of conservation awareness and international collaboration.

#### BirdLife International pursues a programme of:

- Scientific research and analysis to identify and monitor worldwide the most threatened bird species and the most critical sites for the conservation of avian diversity;
- Advocacy and policy development to promote the conservation of birds and biodiversity through sustainability in the use of all natural resources;
- Field action and country conservation programmes, ranging from community-based land-use and management projects to species recovery programmes benefiting both wildlife and humans;
- Network and capacity building to expand and strengthen the global partnership of conservation organizations and to promote worldwide interest in the conservation of birds and the wider environment.

# News

## Public Awareness on World Environment

Bird Conservation Nepal, PO Box 12465, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Day 2009

BCN celebrated the 2009 World Environment Day with various events to draw the attention of the general public on the need to protect the environment and combat climate change in Nepal.



Exhibition at Ratna Park

On the occasion, a one-day Street Exhibition and Public Awareness Campaign was organised on June 5 at Shanti Vatika, Ratna Park. Informative leaflets, posters, brochures and newsletters were distributed to the visitors, which helped to increase knowledge on birds and environment. Various publications, merchandises such as t-shirts, badges, postcards were put on display. A quiz contest was held to evaluate the knowledge of birds among the general people.

People from various walks of life visited the exhibition



Art competition on World Environment Day

stall. Some of the visitors also joined BCN membership. In addition, BCN also organised greeting card art competition entitled "Birds: A Unique Gift of Nature". The competition was divided into two categories: one within students of art colleges and another between school students. Altogether, 34 students from art colleges (Sirjana College of Fine Arts and Lailitkala Campus) and 11 students from 6 different schools took part in the competition.

## National Conservation Day 2009

As a member of the Conservation Consortium of Nepal, BCN jointly organised the second National Conservation Day in Kathmandu on 23 September 2009. The members of the Conservation Consortium include WWF Nepal, Bird Conservation Nepal, Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, IUCN Nepal, Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Wildlife



Exhibition on National Conservation Day

Conservation Nepal, The Mountain Institute and Wildlife Watch Group. The Government of Nepal has declared the day to commemorate the tragic loss of the conservation heroes who lost their lives in a helicopter crash on 23 September 2006 at Ghunsa, Kangchenjunga. Rt. Honorable President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav inaugurated the function which was chaired by Honorable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, Deepak Bohora.

On the same occasion BCN organised an exhibition focused at the climate change theme in which merchandise items,



publications and materials on birds and biodiversity were displayed, sold and distributed to the participants. It was a good opportunity to showcase BCN's ongoing activities to the conservation community of Nepal.

## First International Vulture Awareness Day Celebration



BCN organised various public awareness raising events on 5 September 2009 to celebrate the First International Vulture Awareness Day. The week-long programme primarily focused on generating awareness amongst the local communities and influencing stakeholders and agencies in positioning the vulture range districts as the diclofenac-free zone. People's active participation has led to the success of the event which is amply illustrated by wider media coverage.

BCN supported different organisations to organise these awareness raising programmes such as vulture



School Awareness Programme at Kathmandu

photography exhibition and art competition at Pokhara; school awareness rally and interaction programme at Rupandehi district; vulture conservation rally and discussion programme for the declaration of Diclofenac free zone in Dang district; felicitation, rallies and interaction programmes in Bardiya, Kailali and Palpa districts; and street puppetry shows in Nawalparasi and Chitwan districts.

In Kathmandu, talk programmes were organised targeted at the higher secondary schools, namely, Glacier College, St. Lawrence College and Alok Bidhya Ashram. Altogether, 258 students participated in the talk programme. Similarly, an interaction programme was organized at the Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University on 4 September 2009 aimed at providing updated information to the university students. Anand Chaudhary presented on the introduction and types of vultures found in Nepal and also highlighted on various vulture conservation activities at Nepal. Similarly, Dr. Surya Paudel shed light on the consequences of vulture decline and its alternatives.

## Technical Seminar at Nawalparasi

A technical seminar entitled "Vulture Initiatives: Achievements and Issues; Role of Veterinary Professionals in Vulture Conservation" was organised by Jatayu Restaurant, Nawalparasi with support from BCN. The programme was dated on 23 June 2009 at seminar hall of Himalayan Community Development Forum.

Tulsi Ram Subedi from BCN delivered the summary of vulture issues in Nepal along with description of vultures found in Nepal. Dr Surya Paudel from BCN addressed the drug issues related to vulture decline and appealed veterinary practitioners to stop the illicit use of Diclofenac which is a banned product.

Rally at Rupandehi



D.R. Subedi, Chief Guest of this programme expressed his optimism to see the vulture population like it was before with support from vet technicians. Similarly Dhan Bahadur Chaudhary, Jatayu Restaurant committee member and chairperson of the programme narrated the success story of the Jatayu Restaurant.

“Of course we had been using Diclofenac for veterinary practice, but today we have realized our pivotal role for vulture conservation so we have a group commitment that we will never sell or use this drug from today onwards”, Dhruva Raj Pandey from Pandey agrovet expressed their commitment. Veterinary practitioner from east Nawalparasi declared their area as a Diclofenac free zone following the technical seminar at Kawasoti on 23 June 2009. We also encourage and appreciate their sensible and cooperative efforts for vulture conservation.

### Technical Seminar at Rupandehi

Jatayu Restaurant, Gaidahawa organized a technical seminar cum interaction programme with local vet technicians and concerned authorities on 25 June 2009 at Rudrapur School. The programme was supported by BCN.

Starting with brief introduction of BCN, Bhupal Nepali, Community Mobilization Officer, detailed on the general morphology of vultures found in Nepal. Dr Surya Paudel, Veterinary Officer of BCN highlighted the fear of vulture decline, conservation efforts done so far and drug issues associated with vulture decline. He also asked vet technicians to curb the unethical practice with Diclofenac.

VDC Secretary, Ramji Prasad Gautam who was the chief guest of the programme sincerely requested veterinary professionals to establish the area as a Diclofenac free zone. “This associates with our reputation too” he added further.

### Vulture Conservation and Scientific Monitoring Training at Pokhara

BCN organized a training on “vulture conservation and scientific monitoring” from 5 to 6 August 2009 at Pokhara. Altogether 34 students from Institute of Forestry (IOF) participated in the training. Opening session was marked with the presence of Dr Keshab Datta Awasthi, Dean of IOF as a chief guest. Dr Surya Poudel and Tulsi Subedi from BCN presented and discussed on various facets of vulture conservation. Participants were also trained for NSAID monitoring, carcass monitoring and nest monitoring.

### Staff Training

#### Monitoring and Communicating Biodiversity Course

Vulture Field Biologist, Tulsi Ram Subedi participated in Monitoring and Communicating Biodiversity course under the Darwin Scholarship Programme from 14 – 24 August 2009 at Preston Montford Field Centre, Shrewsbury, UK. The training has been useful in enhancing his knowledge in record keeping, better identification of data requirements, generating appropriate data and managing them properly.

The skills he has learnt from this course will be imperative for vulture conservation efforts of BCN.

#### Vet Training at Vulture Breeding Centre, Buxa

Veterinary Officer, Dr Surya Paudel participated on vet training at Buxa from 9-11 July 2009. This training was mainly focused on technical aspects of vulture breeding centre. Dr Andrew Routh Chief Veterinary Officer from Zoological Society of London (ZSL) shared his professional knowledge and experience for the management of vultures at captive breeding centre. He emphasized primarily on the management of fracture with pinning, use of microchips, general examination of bird, laboratory examination, radiography and its interpretation, meat inspection techniques of animals that are to be fed for vultures, sample collection and their storage, postmortem examination of birds and clinical examination of vultures. Beside these discussions was also made on various complications noticed on captive vultures of three breeding centers in India.

The technical knowledge gained at the training will surely benefit in providing proper care to the captive vultures at our breeding centre.

#### Editorial Board

**Dr Hem Sagar Baral** (Chief Editor),  
**Ishana Thapa** (Sub Editor),  
**Deependra Joshi, Suchit Basnet, Yub Raj Basnet**

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The newsletter is produced quarterly for members of Bird Conservation Nepal. The aim of the newsletter is to inform BCN members on the recent development of ornithology in Nepal and any other relevant news on birds. It is circulated to all members free of cost. The individual annual membership is NRs. 200 for any SAARC nationals and equivalent Nepali rupees of US\$ 10.00 for others.

Those who would like to donate to or be a member of BCN can do so by a direct bank transfer, to the bank details below, or via cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Bird Conservation Nepal and sent to the address below.

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नेपाल पंछी संरक्षण संघ

**Bird  
Conservation  
Nepal**

Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) is the largest and oldest civil society organisation dedicated to the interests of ornithologists, birdwatchers and conservationists in Nepal. It seeks to promote an interest in birds among the general public, encourages research on bird biology and ecology, identifies the major threats to birds' continued survival, and acts to conserve birds and their habitats. It also provides the most authentic information on birds and their habitats all over Nepal.

BCN is a membership-based organisation. At present, it is supported by a Founder President, 19 Patrons, 143 life members and several ordinary members. Members are the major strength of this organisation and people from various backgrounds viz. students, teachers, professionals, bird enthusiasts, conservationists, and the general public are involved.

BCN is committed to educate the public on the value of birds and the relationship between birds and people. It has also prioritized the significance of peoples participation as future stewardship to attain long-term national conservation goal.

Our staff form the heart of BCN but the lifeline is provided by the invaluable contributions of volunteers and supporters. Both financial and in-kind support is greatly appreciated and we welcome any kind of help that can be offered. For further information, please write to:

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**Tiger MOUNTAIN**

## TIGER MOUNTAIN POKHARA LODGE



Lodge in Royal Bardia National Park. For high altitude birding expeditions, ask Mountain Travel - the pioneers and leaders of Himalayan trekking.

We are honoured to sponsor the publication of Danphe Newsletter for Bird Conservation Nepal.

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge is the ultimate relaxing retreat just outside Pokhara. Winner of several sustainable tourism awards with delightful, secluded rooms, award winning cuisine and a fully stocked bar; the lodge makes an ideal base for bird watching walks in the surrounding forest and farmland. Our bird list stands at some 135 species positively identified. Culture walks and visits to Pokhara are also easily arranged. All rooms have attached bathrooms and mountain views.

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