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Birds of Pipar in Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal

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Background

Upper Setikhola valley in the west central Nepal is a flagship area for bird conservation. This valley includes two most important bird sites i.e. Pipar and Santel which have been identified as the most important bird areas in the Annapurna Conservation Area (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003). Pipar (28°25'N 83°57'E) was discovered as an exceptionally rich area for pheasants in 1976, and has been the site for a long-term project by the World Pheasant Association (WPA) with an informal endorsement as the *Pipar Pheasant Reserve*. The reserve provides habitat for five Himalayan pheasants (Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra*, Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*, Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus*, Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos* and Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia maculophya*) in an area of 43 km² (WPA 2004). One additional which is also a globally threatened species, the Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii*, occurs relatively nearby.

Ecological studies on pheasants began in the seventies and these were followed by other surveys on pheasants, avifaunal diversity and ecology of this area especially in Pipar Bowl and Pipar Kharka at the altitude of 3000-3400m (see Lelliott and Yonzon 1980, Tamarkar and Lelliott 1981, Picozzi 1984 and 1987, Howman and Garson 1993, Kaul and Shakya 2001, Gyawali 2004, Poudyal 2005, Poudyal *et al.* 2009). An expedition was accomplished in 2011 to continue and follow-up the past surveys by monitoring the Galliformes population in addition to recording birds in a systematic manner. This paper provides a checklist of birds in the Pipar area.

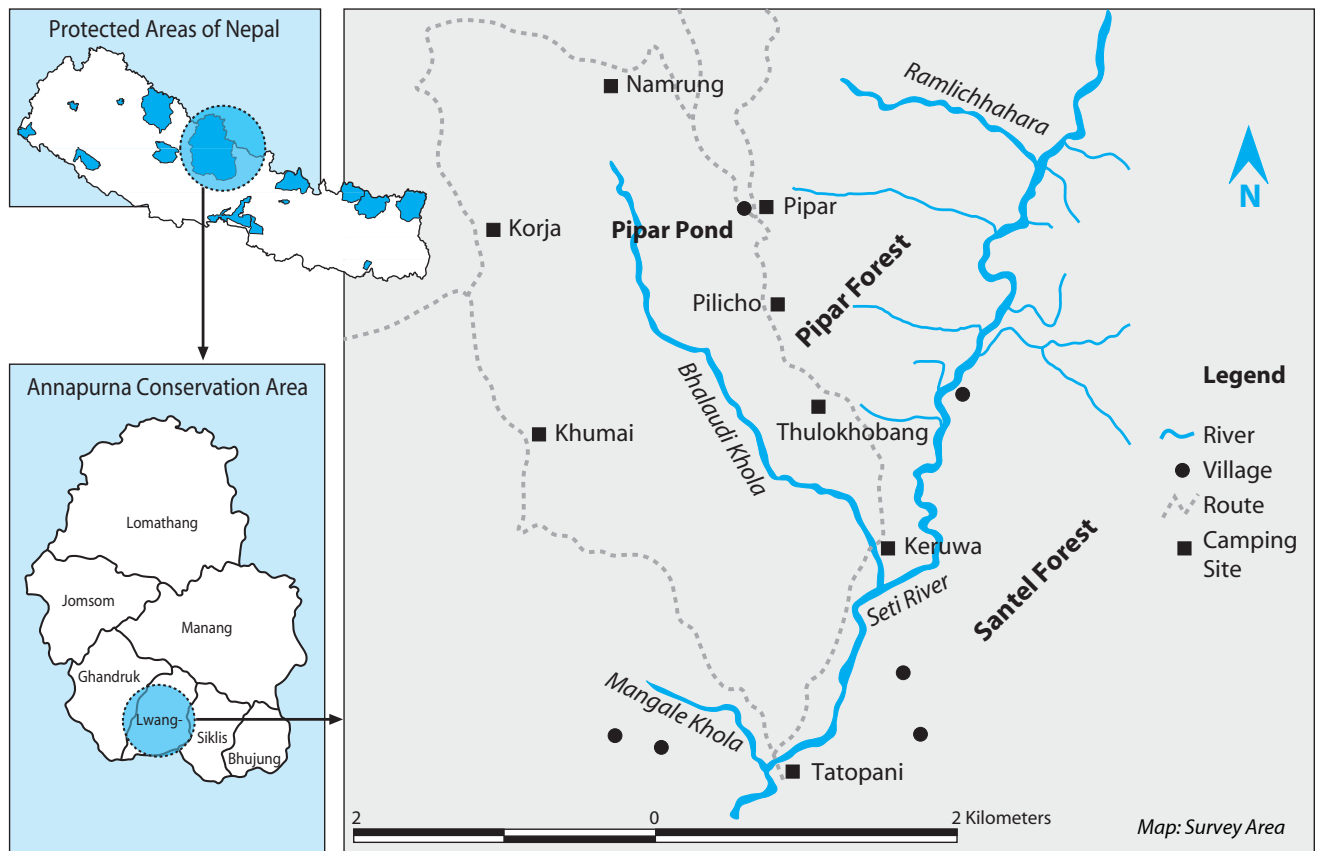
Method

The expedition members were Laxman Prasad Poudyal, Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri, Simon Poulton, Suman Sharma, Willow Outhwaite, Lina Chalise and Sobhit Koirala.



Hoary Throated Barwing by Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri





The study methods involved recording the birds during the trail walks on identified routes and camping stations between 2 and 20 May 2011. The route started from Tatopani (Kharpani) on 2nd May followed by Keruwa 1300m, Thulokhobang 2200m, Pilicho 2700m, Pipar Bowl 3300m, Pipar up hills 3933m, Namrung 3660m, Korja 3698m, Khumai 3250m and ended at Tatopani on 20th May. This route covers the assemblage of different habitat types i.e. human settlement and cultivated land in the lower altitudes at 1300-1600m, mixed forest (1600-2500m), rhododendron forest (2500-3300m), birch forest (3300-4000m) and moist alpine scrub in the higher altitudes (Poudyal *et al.* 2007). Keruwa, Thulokhobang, Pilicho, Pipar, Namrung, Korja and Khumai were the campsites where we stayed 3 nights each. In other two campsites, Namrung and Keruwa, we stayed single nights only. All birds seen and heard were recorded using The Mackinnon's species richness counting method as described by Bibby *et al.* 2000. Binoculars (Viking 10x42, Nikon Action 8x40, Leica 8x20, Pentax 8x40), and field guide Birds of Nepal (Grimmett *et al.* 2000, Fleming *et al.* 1984) were used to identify the species. Previous references (Poudyal 2008, Mahato *et al.* 2006, Kaul and Shakya 1998, Emmanuel *et al.* 1997, and Warwick J. 1985) were on hand and were also consulted to prepare the final bird list.

Result

A total of 152 bird species was recorded representing nine orders, 29 families and 98 genera. 145 birds were recorded from 21 Mackinnon's list (see figure below). The greatest number of lists (seven) were prepared from Thulokhobang to Pilicho followed by five lists from Pilicho to Pipar, four lists from Keruwa to Thulokhobang, and four from Pipar up hill side to Namrung and a single list from Tatopani to Keruwa.

A checklist of total 295 birds recorded so far in the area was prepared which represent 11 orders 38 families and 146 genera (Table 1).

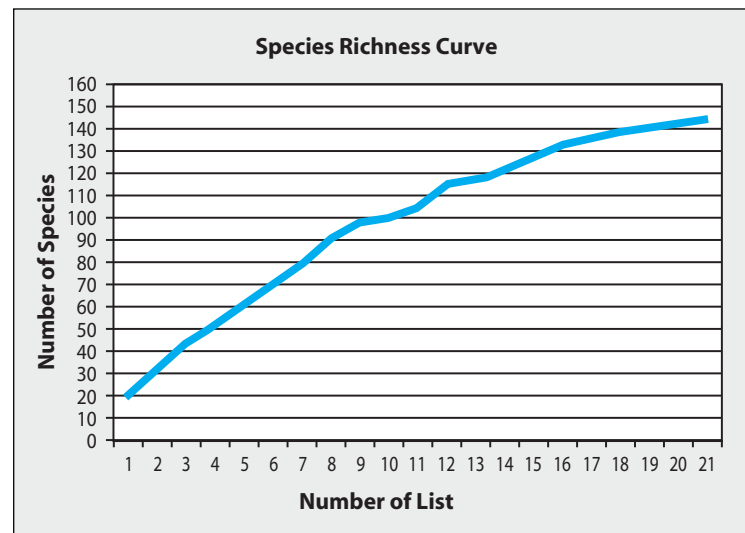


Figure: Species richness curve

Discussion

Pipar is especially important for Galliformes. Out of 12 species recorded so far in the area, Kalij Pheasant, Himalayan Monal, Koklass Pheasant, Satyr Tragopan, Blood Pheasant, Common Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola*, Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis*, Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* and Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus* were recorded in this survey. The Koklass Pheasant was absent in Pipar Bowl for first time since 1980s. The Tibetan Snowcock was a new record for the area.

The globally threatened Endangered Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* was also recorded. This bird is listed as Vulnerable in the nationally threatened list. Other nationally threatened



birds recorded were Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*, White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*, Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea*, Cutia *Cutia nipalensis*, Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium* and Satyr Tragopan (BCN and DNPWC 2011). White browed Piculet was identified as new bird for Annapurna Conservation Area. The Satyr Tragopan is Near-threatened in the IUCN red list category (BirdLife International 2011). The globally and nationally Critically Endangered White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* and Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* which were recorded in the past were not recorded in this survey.

We were unable to record the nationally threatened Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*, Grey-sided Laughingthrush *Garrulax caerulatus*, Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus*, Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis* and Gold-naped Finch *Pyrrhoptectes epaulette* which were recorded in the past.

Three restricted range species Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis*, White-throated Tit *Aegithalos niveogularis* and Spiny Babbler *Turdoides nipalensis* which is also an endemic bird of Nepal were recorded during this survey.

Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus*, Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* and Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* were seen with nesting materials. Eurasian Woodcock *Scelopax rusticola* was seen incubating in a nest at Pipar and Large-billed Crows *Corvus macrorhynchos* were seen rearing their nestlings at Khumai.

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Table 1: List of birds in Pipar recorded so far (1985-2011)

Order/Family/Common Name	Scientific Name	Observed Location in 2011	References
GALLIFORMES			
Phasianidae			
Snow Partridge	<i>Lerwa lerwa</i>		2,5,6
Tibetan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus tibetanus</i>	E	1
Himalayan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>		5
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>		4
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	A	1,4,5
Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>	CDE	1,2,3,4,5
Rufous-throated Partridge	<i>Arborophila rufogularis</i>	C	1,2,4
Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>	E	1,2,3
Satyr Tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>	CDE	1,2,3,4,5,6
Koklass Pheasant	<i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>	E	1,2,3,4,6
Himalayan Monal	<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>	E	1,2,3,4,5
Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>	A	1,2,3,6
Tibetan Partridge	<i>Perdix hodgsoniae</i>		7
ANSERIFORMES			
Anatidae			
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	E	1
PICIFORMES			
Picidae			
Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>	B	1
White-browed Piculet	<i>Sasia ochracea</i>	B	1
Darjeeling Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>	CD	1,2
Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos cathpharius</i>		2
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>		2
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		4,5
Greater Yellownape	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>		3
Scaly-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Picus squamatus</i>		4
Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	C	1
Megalamidae			
Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	B	1,2,4
Golden-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>	BCD	1,2,4,5
Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>	BC	1,2,3,4,5
UPUIFORMES			
Upupidae			
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		3,5
CORACIIFORMES			
Alcedinidae			
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	A	1,4
Dacelonidae			
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		4
Cerylidae			
Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	A	1,3
CUCULIFORMES			
Cuculidae			
Large Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>	C	1,2,3,4
Common Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	B	1,5
Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	B	1,2,4
Eurasian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	D	1,2,3,4,5
Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>	BC	1,2,3
Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>	BC	1,2
Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	A	1
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	A	1
Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>		3
APODIFORMES			
Apodidae			
Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>		3
House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		3,4
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		3
STRIGIFORMES			
Strigidae			
Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	B	1



Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	BCD	1,4
Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	B	1
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		4
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	A	1
Caprimulgidae			
Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	C	1,4
Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>		4
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COLUMBIFORMES			
Columbidae			
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>		4
Speckled Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba hodgsonii</i>		3
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	A	1
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		3
Ashy Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba pulchricollis</i>	BC	1
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	A	124
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	A	1234
Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sphenura</i>	BC	14
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CICONIIFORMES			
Scolopacidae			
Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	D	1,2,3,5
Charadriidae			
River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>		3,4
Accipitridae			
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		3,4
Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>		2
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		2
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		3,4,5
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	B	1,4,5
Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>		3
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		4
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		3
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	E	1,2,3,5
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>		4
Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	ABC	1,2,4,5
Eurasian Griffon	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		2
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	BC	1,3,4,5
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	ABD	1,3,4
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	A	1,3,4,5
Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>		3
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	B	1,2,3,5
Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>		4
Mountain Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>		2,3,4
Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	C	1
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		5
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		5
Falconidae			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		3,4,5
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		3
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		5
Ardeidae			
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		3,4
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PASSERIFORMES			
Eurylaimidae			
Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>		2
Irenidae			
Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	BC	1,3
Laniidae			
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	A	1,2,3,4
Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	A	1
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	A	1,3
Corvidae			
Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>		3
Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	A	1
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	A	1,3
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	ABCD	1,2,3,4,5
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		5
Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	BC	1,2,3,4
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>		2,4
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>		3,4
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	AB	1,2,3,4
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	B	1,3,4



Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	D	1,4
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		4
Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	B	1,3,4,5
Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	BC	1,2,3,4
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>		2,3,4
Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>		2,5
White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	BC	1,2,3
Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>	C	1,2,3,4
Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>		4
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	BC	1,4
Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	CD	1,2,3
Cinclidae			
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	A	1
Muscicapidae			
Blue-capped Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>		3
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	CD	1,2,3,4,5
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	BC	1,2,3,4
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		4
Dark-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus ruficollis</i>		2,4,6
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		3
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrine</i>		4
Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>		4,5
Plain-backed Thrush	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i>		5
Long-tailed Thrush	<i>Zoothera dixonii</i>		5
Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>	C	1,2
White-collared Blackbird	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>		2,3,4,5
Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		2
Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>		3,4
Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>		3,4
Rusty-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ruficauda</i>		2
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophiatea</i>	CD	1,2
Red-throated Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		2,3
Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>		2,3,4,6
Slaty-backed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hodgsonii</i>		2
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>		2
Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	BCD	1,2,3,4,5
Large Niltava	<i>Niltava grandis</i>	C	1,3,5
Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	BC	1,2,3,5
Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>	CD	1,2,3,4,5
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	BCD	1,3,4,5
Pygmy Blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapella hodgsonii</i>	C	1
Orange-flanked Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>		2,4
Golden Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>	CE	1,5
White-browed Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger indicus</i>		3,6
Rufous-breasted Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger hyperythrus</i>		5
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	A	1,3,4
Rufous-backed Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythronota</i>		3
Blue-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus</i>		2,3
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>		2,3,4
Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	E	1,2,3,4,5
White-throated Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus schisticeps</i>		2
White-capped Water Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>		2,3,4
Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	A	1,2,3,4
Grandala	<i>Grandala coelicolor</i>	E	1,2
Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>		4
Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>		2,3,4,5
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		3
Sturnidae			
Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>		4
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	A	1,3,4
Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>		3,4
Sittidae			
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>		3,5
White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>		2,3,4
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	BC	1
Certhiidae			
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		2
Rusty-flanked Treecreeper	<i>Certhia nipalensis</i>	CD	1,2
Paridae			
Fire-capped Tit	<i>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</i>	C	1
Rufous-vented Tit	<i>Parus rubidiventris</i>		1,3,5
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		3
Grey-crested Tit	<i>Parus dichrous</i>		2,3,4,6
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		3,4



Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	BC	1,2,3,4,5
Black-lored Tit	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>		2,3,4
Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>		3
Rufous-naped Tit	<i>Parus rufonuchalis</i>		4
Aegithalidae			
Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	B	1,2,3,4,5
White-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos niveogularis</i>	DE	1
Hirundinidae			
Nepal House-Martin	<i>Delichon nipalensis</i>		2
Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		3
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		4
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>		4
Pycnonotidae			
Striated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>	BC	1,2,3,4,5
Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>	ABC	1,2,3,4
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	A	1,2,3,4
Mountain Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes mccllellandii</i>	BC	1,3,4,5
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	AB	1,2,3,4
Cisticolidae			
Striated Prinia	<i>Prinia criniger</i>	AB	1,2,3,4
Zosteropidae			
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	B	1,3
Sylviidae			
Chestnut-headed Tesia	<i>Tesia castaneocoronata</i>	D	1,3,4
Grey-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>	C	1
Black-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopeus schisticeps</i>	BC	1,3,4
Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopeus superciliaris</i>		3,4
Spotted Bush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus thoracicus</i>		3
Grey-sided Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>		2,3,4,5
Aberrant Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia flavolivacea</i>		2,3
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia major</i>		2
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	ABC	1,3,4
Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	C	1,3,4
Lemmon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	D	1,3,4
Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	B	1,3
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		3
Ashy-throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	BC	1,3,4
Large-billed Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>		4
Western-crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>		4
Buff-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	BC	1,3,6
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>		2,3,6
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	B	1,2,3,4,6
Golden-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus burkii</i>	C	1,3,4,5
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>	CD	1,2,3,4
Grey-cheeked Warbler	<i>Seicercus poliogenys</i>		3
Whistler's Warbler	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>	CD	1,3
Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i>	BC	1,3,4
Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax affinis</i>		2,3,4,5
White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>	BC	1,2,3,5
Grey-sided Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax caerulatus</i>		4
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i>	CD	1,4
White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	B	1,2
Streaked Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax lineatus</i>	C	1,3,4
Spotted Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ocellatus</i>	CD	1,2,3,4
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax rufogularis</i>	B	1,3
Blue-winged Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax squamatus</i>		3
Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax striatus</i>	CD	1,2,3,4
Variiegated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax variegatus</i>	C	1,2,3,5
Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler	<i>Xiphirhynchus superciliaris</i>	BC	1
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	BC	1
White-browed Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>	BC	1
Black-eared Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius melanotis</i>		3
Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler	<i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i>	CD	1
Golden Babbler	<i>Stachyris chrysaesa</i>	C	1,4,6
Black-chinned Babbler	<i>Stachyris pyrrhops</i>	BC	1,3
Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>		3
Spiny Babbler	<i>Turdoides nipalensis</i>	B	1
Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	CD	1,2,3
Cutia	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i>	CD	1,2,4,6
Black-headed Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius rufiventer</i>		2
Green Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i>	D	1,3,4
Nepal Wren Babbler	<i>Pnoepyga immaculata</i>		2
Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler	<i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i>		5
Hoary-throated Barwing	<i>Actinodura nipalensis</i>	CD	1,2,3



Blue-winged Minla	<i>Minla cyanouroptera</i>	CD	1
Red-tailed Minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>	C	1,3,6
Chestnut-tailed Minla	<i>Minla strigula</i>	CD	1,2,4,5
Rufous-winged Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe castaneiceps</i>		2,3
Golden-breasted Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe chrysotis</i>		3,4
Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>		3
White-browed Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe vinipectus</i>	CDE	1,2,3,4,5
Rufous Sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>	BC	1,2,3,4,5
Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	BCD	1,2,3,4,5
Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>	CDE	1,3,4,5
Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>	CD	1,2,3,4,5
White-bellied Yuhina	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>		3,4
Black-throated Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis nipalensis</i>		4
Brown Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis unicolor</i>		2,3,4,6
Fulvous Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis fulvifrons</i>		2
Great Parrotbill	<i>Conostoma oemodium</i>	DE	1,2,3,5
Alaudidae			
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>		2
Nectariniidae			
Mrs Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>		2,3,6
Fire-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ingnicauda</i>	CDE	1,2,3,4,5
Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	CD	1,2,4,5
Black-throated Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	B	1,2,3,4,5
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	BC	1,3,4,5
Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>		3
Passeridae			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		3
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	B	1,4
Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>		3
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	B	1,2,3
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		2,3
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>		4
Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>		4
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>		2,4,5
Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	E	1,2,3,4,5
Upland Pipit	<i>Anthus sylvanus</i>	E	1,4
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		5
Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>		3
Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophiate</i>		4,5
Altai Accentor	<i>Prunella himalayana</i>		5
Fringillidae			
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		3
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis spinoides</i>	B	1,2,3
Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>		3,4,5,6
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	D	1,2,3,4
Dark-breasted Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus nipalensis</i>		2,3,4
Beautiful Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus pulcherrimus</i>		3
Pink-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rodochrous</i>	D	1,3,4,5
Vinaceous Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus vinaceus</i>	D	1
Spot-winged Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rodopeplus</i>	CD	1,3,5,6
White-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus thura</i>	CD	1,3,4
Great Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rubicilla</i>	E	1
Brandt's Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte brandti</i>		2
Scarlet Finch	<i>Haematospiza sipahi</i>		3,4,6
Red headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythrocephala</i>	C	1,2,3,4,5
Brown Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>		2,3
Crimson-browed Finch	<i>Propyrrhula subhimachalus</i>		2,3
Collared Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas affinis</i>		2,3,4
White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>		3
Gold-naped Finch	<i>Pyrrhoptes epauletta</i>		3,4
Crested Bunting	<i>Melophus lathamii</i>	B	1,2,3,4
Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>		3
Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>		2,3

Key to the list:

References (1: Poudyal *et al.* 2011, 2: Poudyal 2008, 3: Mahato *et al.* 2006, 4: Kaul and Shakya 1998, 5: Emmanuel *et al.* 1997, 6: Warwick J. 1985, 7: This species had been mentioned in previous reports. We do not have on hand references)

Locations (A: Tatopani-Keruwa (1200-1300m), B: Keruwa-Thulokhobang (1300-2200m), C: Thulokhobang-Pilicho (2200-2750m), D: Pilicho-Pipar (2700-3400m), E: Pipar-Korja (3300-4000m).

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News

Membership

Mr. Prem Thapa, Program Director, Adventure Samsara joined BCN as a Life Member. He is interested on birds and promoting birdwatching tourism in Nepal.

Mr. Bishnu Bahadur Thapa 'Raj' joined BCN as a Life Member. He is a naturalist and keen birdwatcher working at Adventure Samsara.

Mr Ajay Man Gurung is an entrepreneur has joined BCN as a Life Member. He runs Krishna Villa Resort which is located in Budhanilkantha height and it is an example of eco friendly resort. He shows great interest on promoting birdwatching tourism.

Birdwatching Tourism Training

The first ever Birdwatching Tourism Training was conducted at Pokhara from 28 to 29 August 2011 to contribute to the birdwatching tourism in Nepal by enhancing the capacity of nature guides and other people interested in birds and biodiversity. A total of 36 participants including trekking guides, conservationists, University students and media personals participated in the training. BCN will be conducting more of this training at various key sites in future. The training was divided in two session i.e. theoretical and field visit.



Participants of birdwatching tourism training at Pokhara

Celebration of 3rd International Vulture Awareness Day

BCN celebrated 3rd International Vulture Awareness Day organising several events at various part of the country: Kathmandu, Palpa, Kaski Chitwan to Kanchanpur districts. Conservation awareness rallies, awareness campaigns, awareness workshops, interaction and talk programs, awareness through FM radio, Bombax sps. (*Simal*) plantation, street drama were carried out throughout the country in coordination and collaboration with Department of National Parks and Wildlife conservation (DNPWC), Department of Livestock Service (DLS), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), College and University, veterinary communities, community forest user groups and other local CBOs and NGOs. In Kathmandu Vulture Conservation Awareness and Raptor Observation Programme was organised at Kakani, Nuwakot on 3 September 2011. Raptor observation was done in landfill site,



Participants of international vulture awareness day celebration at Kakani

Okharpauwa in order to observe the decline of vultures and overall raptors in comparison with the past population. Hari Saran Nepali "Kaji", founder president of BCN presented on the past and present status of birds in Nepal.

National Conservation Day

We along with other partner organisations celebrated National Conservation Day on 24 September 2011 at Pragya Bhawan, Kamaladi, Kathmandu. On that day, a major new report on the *State of Nepal's Birds 2010*, produced by Bird Conservation Nepal and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation was officially launched by Parmanand Jha, the Right Honorable Vice President of Nepal. Two students studying Environment Science in Tribhuvan University were awarded a Jatayu Scholarship to do research on vulture for their Master level thesis on the same day. We also exhibited our merchandises and distributed our brochures and newsletters to visitors.



The Right Honorable Parmananda Jha, Vice President of Nepal inaugurating the programme

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.





Promotion and awareness materials

- 1000 copies of Bird Call CD, Bird Songs of Kathmandu valley have been produced to raise the conservation awareness among the peoples on birds. CD contains songs/calls of 30 common birds around the Kathmandu Valley. CD cover also include photos of 30 birds along with their short description of each of them.

- 100 pieces of birdwatching jackets have also been produced. This jacket

along with "Promote Birdwatching Tourism" on its back is important for raising awareness as well as raising fund for bird conservation.

Five years MoU signed for Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre

A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among DNPWC, BCN and NTNC) was signed on 30 August 2011 for construction of new colony aviary and overall management of Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC) at Kasara, Chitwan National Park. Mr. Krishna Prasad Acharya, Director General, DNPWC; Dr. Hum Gurung, Chief Executive Officer, BCN and Mr. Juddha Bahadur Gurung, Member Secretary, NTNC signed and agreed that this will be a great step in conserving critically endangered vulture species in Nepal and South-Asia as well. The financial support for the new aviary construction and operation has come from Royal Society for the Protection of Birds/Darwin Initiative, UK.



MoU signing ceremony at DNPWC

Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre has been running since 2008 in Kasara, Chitwan National Park and now holds captive 60 White-rumped Vultures.

Transboundary meeting on Vulture Safe Zones in India

Meeting for establishing Vulture Safe Zones in Terai region of Uttar Pradesh took place on 6 August 2011 in Lucknow, India. The objective of the meeting was to launch Vulture Safe Zone (VSZ) project in Uttar Pradesh, India. The meeting was focused on transboundary conservation of critically endangered vulture species between Nepal and India by creating vulture safe

zones along the Terai border. As Nepal has already declared 16 diclofenac free zones covering an area of 30, 247 sq. km along the border, India is now going to replicate the same projects by taking Nepal's experience and learning. Mr. Mohan Chandra Bishwakarma, Vulture Conservation Officer of BCN presented on Nepal's achievement on creating vulture safe zones so far.

Darwin Ecosystem Services Project

The ecosystem services survey work and data analysis on Tourism, Harvested Wild Goods, Hydrology, Carbon and Cultivation at two sites Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park and Phulchoki Mountain Forest has been completed. Scientific papers on these two case studies have been developed to be shared in the expert consultation meeting planned in early November.

Two thousand copies of Nepali brochure on Ecosystem Services has been produced and distributed to various partner organizations at national and local level. Likewise documentary on Ecosystem Services has also been developed with the help of Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) that will be shared among all the Birdlife Partners.

As we have already been through a year on this project, a project update newsletter has also been developed and circulated.

State of Nepal's Birds 2010

The state of Nepal's bird 2010 the national red data book on birds have been published. It is one of the major publications of BCN which follow the standard of world birds that BirdLife International publish. This publication aims to raise awareness amongst policymakers, the general public and conservation organizations of the plight of Nepal's birds and the response needed to help to secure their conservation. It shows since the last assessment of Nepal's birds in 2004, the status of the country's avifauna has deteriorated, this book shows 149 bird species are considered nationally threatened, 16 more than in 2004. Free electronic copy can be downloaded from BirdLife International's website (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb/sonb>) for its wider availability among the relevant readers and conservationist. Hard copy is available at BCN.





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a BCN initiative to save Nepal's endangered birds.

PLEDGE AND DONATE TODAY

BCN's representation in IUCN Regional Conservation Forum

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, held its 5th IUCN Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) from 27 to 30 September 2011 in Incheon, Republic of South Korea with a slogan of Greening Asia's Growth Nature +. The RCF brought together representatives from IUCN's membership, Commissions, Council, Donors and Conservation Partners in Asia. The RCF facilitated the identification of critical conservation issues facing the Asia region. The four-day programme was consisted of high level panel discussions, plenary sessions, side events, knowledge fair and eco tours.



Dr. Hum Gurung, CEO presenting the status and challenges of wild bird trade in Nepal

Dr. Hum Gurung, Chief Executive Officer presented the status and challenges of wild bird trade in Nepal on 28 September 2011 at the side event. Similarly, Mr. Prasana Yonjon, Chief Executive Officer of Wildlife Conservation Nepal made a presentation on knowledge on wildlife poaching and crime in Nepal. The side event was a useful platform to share the conservation issues and challenges facing in Nepal with the participants from the Asia region. The side event was chaired by Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal, Member Secretary of National Planning Commission and co-chaired by Mr. Krishna Prasad Acharya, Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and Mr. Rajendra Khanal, Office Incharge, IUCN Nepal.

BCN is proud to be a member of IUCN since November 2004.

Illegal Bird Trade

BCN has been constantly monitoring the illegal bird trade in Kathmandu Valley jointly with government and other relevant partner organizations. More than 1000 birds of various species have already been confiscated so far. Some exotic species like African Grey Parrot have been kept in the central zoo.



Birds confiscated at Ratopul during monitoring



Together for birds and people

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.

Editorial Board

Dr Hem Sagar Baral (Chief Editor),
Ishana Thapa (Sub Editor),
Suchit Basnet, Yub Raj Basnet, Dr Hum Gurung

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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. 300 for any SAARC nationals and equivalent Nepali rupees of US\$ 15.00 for others to join as Friends of BCN.

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 पंखी संरक्षण संघ

**Bird
Conservation
Nepal**

Established in 1982, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) is the leading organisation in Nepal, focussing on conservation of birds, their habitats and sites. It seeks to promote interest in birds among the general public, encourage research on birds, identify major threats to birds' continued survival. As a result, BCN is the foremost scientific authority providing accurate information on birds and their habitats throughout Nepal. We provide scientific data and expertise on birds for the Government of Nepal (GoN) through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and work closely in birds and biodiversity conservation throughout the country.

BCN is a membership-based organisation with a founding President, patrons, life members, ordinary members, friends of BCN and active supporters. Our membership provides strength to the society and is drawn from people of all walks of life from students, professionals and conservationists. Our members act collectively to set the organisation's strategic agenda.

We are committed to showing the value of birds and their special relationship with people. As such, we strongly advocate the need for peoples' participation as future stewards to attain long-term conservation goal.

As the Nepalese partner of BirdLife International, a network of more than 110 organisations around the world, BCN also works on a worldwide agenda to conserve the world's birds and their habitats.

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