

# Danphe

*Bird Conservation Nepal*

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## The Birds of Saibu, Bagmati & Taudaha, 2004-2006

Arend van Riessen

### Introduction

The small lake of Taudaha and the neighbouring stretch of the Bagmati river are just outside Kathmandu, but still very rich in birds. The area is situated in the south-south-west corner of the Kathmandu valley (1300m ASL) and consist of the Bagmati river with adjacent areas between Chobar gorge and Bosan Khola river. It is about 2.5km long and 500m wide, amounting to a total of less than 150 hectare. This area, very close to the urban areas of Kathmandu and Patan, is under ever increasing pressure from urbanisation and habitat destruction. It is unprotected and no major conservation effort exists.

**Figure 1 Area Location within Kathmandu Valley**



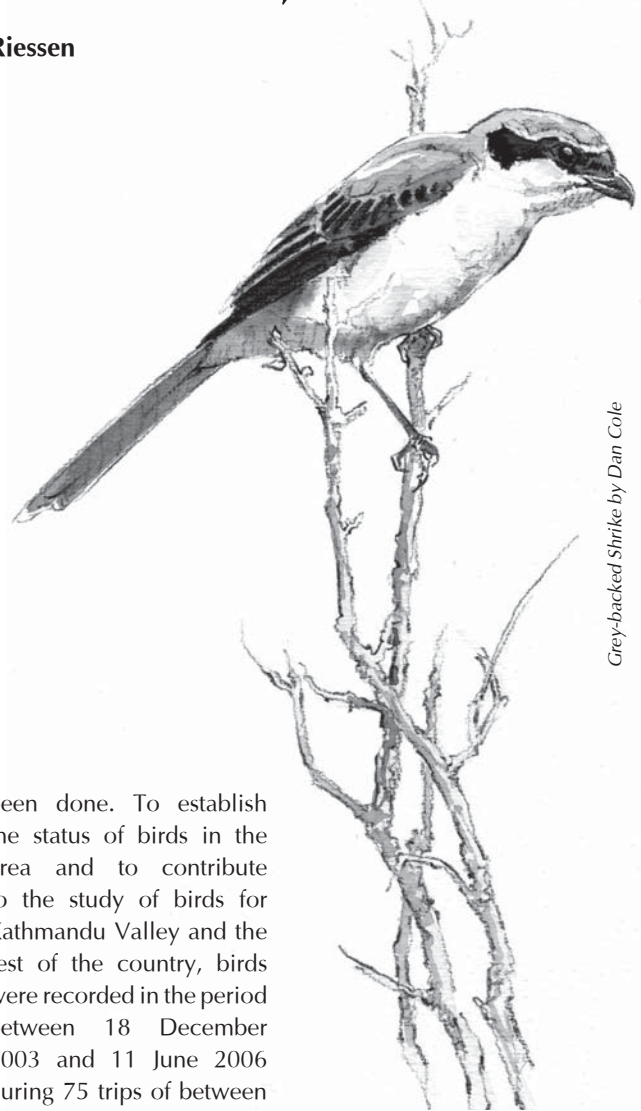
The area has a wide variety of habitats within a relatively small area, with irrigated rice fields, rain-fed maize and mustard fields with hedges, pine woods, extensive shrubbery, an old cement factory, temples, a small wooded stream, muddy river banks and shingle beds, the Bagmati river itself and the small lake of Taudaha. The area provides shrubs and wetland on North-South and on West-East migration routes and lies at the foot of the wooded Chandragiri hill range that rises 2500m ASL.

### The Bird Records

Although over the last few decades numerous birdwatchers have visited this area, no comprehensive bird survey has ever

been done. To establish the status of birds in the area and to contribute to the study of birds for Kathmandu Valley and the rest of the country, birds were recorded in the period between 18 December 2003 and 11 June 2006 during 75 trips of between four and five hours, every trip ideally following the same optimal route that includes all habitats and which is shown in Figure 2. The seasonal bridge is only in place during three-five months per year.

All birds are covered in a comprehensive table of all bird species shown in Table 3. The two year bird inventory has found a total of 194 different species, of which 39 are residents, 22 passage migrants, 24 summer visitors, 16 stragglers from neighbouring hill areas, 11 stragglers from other parts of Nepal, while 87 are winter visitors.



*Grey-backed Shrike by Dan Cole*



The table shows per bird also the maximum number recorded for one trip, the presence throughout the year, and the presence per sub-area (++ common, + fairly common/frequent, 0 occasional/infrequent, - scarce, -- rare).

The terms used for frequency of recording like “common” and “rare” apply to the appropriate season and habitat and are based on an average of 32 trips of 4-5 hours per year that cover each time each type of habitat with additional regular observations on Saibu ridge.

### Importance for Birds

A few birds of vulnerable or near-threatened status have been recorded in the area. Of these only the Ferruginous Pochard has been recorded frequently; the other birds only once or twice each. See Table 1

Figure 2 Map of the Area

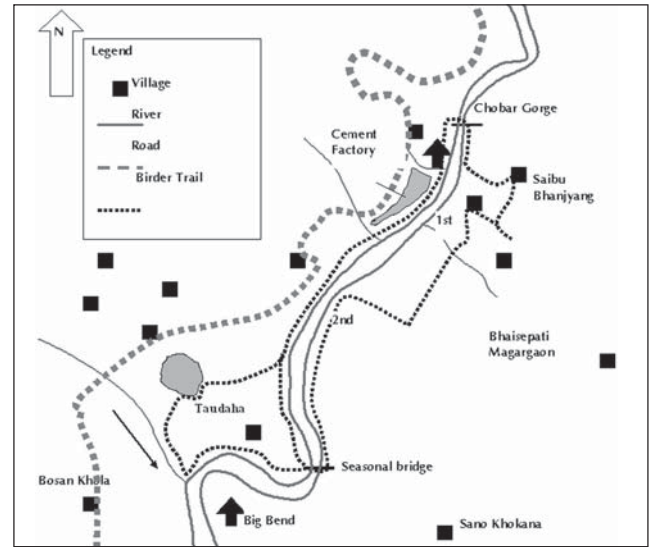


Table 1 Vulnerable and Near-threatened Bird Species recorded

Bird Species	Status	Records for the area
Baikal Teal	Vulnerable	9 May 2005, single male at Taudaha
Kashmir Flycatcher	Vulnerable	Possible record, single male 26 Feb'04
Ferruginous Pochard	Near-threatened	Uncommon on passage; scarce in winter
Red-headed Vulture	Near-threatened	24 Apr'05 & 12 Dec'05 single birds at Saibu
White-tailed Eagle	Near-threatened	3 & 29 December 2005, single juveniles
Oriental Darter	Near-threatened	30 September 2005 single bird Chobar

The importance of the area is mostly local. Ramsar criteria are not met for any wetland species. When calculating the highest number of recorded birds as percentage of wetland bird populations that are depending on South Asia, using Waterbird Population Estimates (3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2002, Wetlands International), Gadwall, Mallard, Common Teal, Northern Lapwing, and Grey-headed Lapwing score highest but stay within 0.05 and 0.2%.

Its local importance the area derives from the presence of Grey-headed Lapwings and from being the only wetland with so many birds close to the largest concentration of birdwatchers in Nepal. Its ideal location for nature conservation education is its biggest importance.

The valley is the westernmost wintering area for the Grey-headed Lapwing and with the urbanisation and vanishing of its old winter haunts along the Manohara river north and east of Kathmandu, the study area has become probably its most important wintering area within Nepal. A flock of 104 individuals counted on 24 December 2004 along the Bagmati has been the highest number recorded in Nepal.

Within the Kathmandu Valley most ducks, waders, gulls, and terns can only be seen in this area. The waders solely depend

on the riverbanks, while most ducks depend on both the riverbanks (for grazing at night) and Taudaha for day rest. The old cement factory further can boast sizeable autumn roosts of Cattle Egret (up to 2500) and Rose-ringed Parakeet (up to 600).

Further, the status of a number of birds that have been reported so far only as scarce, rare or absent from the Kathmandu valley (Inskipp & Inskipp 1991), probably needs to be updated on basis of the 2004-2006 records for this area. See Table 2.





*Tune in to*

# Panchhi Sansar

on **IMAGE FM 97.9**  
at **7.45 am**

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**Second and Fourth Saturday**  
of **Nepali Month**

Table 2. Birds for which Kathmandu Valley status needs update

Bird species	Inskipps 1991 on occurrence in Kathmandu	Status 2004-06
Falcated Duck	No records KTM	Scarce winter visitor 2004
Baikal Teal	No records KTM	One record 2005
Mallard	Rare in KTM valley	Common Nov – March
Gadwall	Former migrant, but few recent records	Common Oct-Apr
Spot-billed Duck	Only single reports	Uncommon Nov – Mar
Shoveler	Reported in November	Uncommon Nov – May
Garganey	Former migrant, but few recent records	Uncommon Oct, Apr – May
Ferruginous Pochard	A few records from Kathmandu Valley	Uncommon Oct – Feb
Black-winged Stilt	Few records from August and September	Common Sep- Apr
Black-headed Gull	No records KTM	One record 2004
Little Cormorant	No records KTM	One record 2004
Great Egret	Only recent records are Feb-March'81	Uncommon winter visitor
Intermediate Egret	Two records, both Feb'79	Uncommon winter visitor
Common Quail	Common before 1900, only one record since	One record 2004
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Uncommon > 400m, reported, no breeder	Frequent, resident/winter visitor
Rufous Treepie	Uncommon 900m- 1370m, not breeding	Frequent, resident
Brahminy Starling	Only one record, probably escaped bird	Single records 2005 and 2006
Red Avadavat	One record, probably escaped bird	Common resident

## Bagmati and Taudaha Birds 2004-2006

Annex

S. No.	Bird	Max per day	Max one group	Seasonality												Occurrence by Area							
				January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Saibu	Chobhar	Bagm. 1st	Bagm. 2nd	Bagm. Bend	Taudaha	Bosan K	
1	Common Quail	1	1																				
2	Lesser Whistling Duck	1	1																				
3	Bar-headed Goose	1	1																				
4	Ruddy Shelduck	8	8																				
5	Gadwall	120	120																				
6	Falcated Duck	1	1																				
7	Eurasian Wigeon	4	4																				
8	Mallard	62	62																				
9	Spot-billed Duck	16	16																				
10	Northern Shoveler	5	5																				
11	Northern pintail	14	14																				
12	Garganey	22	22																				
13	Baikal Teal	1	1																				
14	Common Teal	350	350																				
15	Red-crested Pochard	1	1																				
16	Common Pochard	6	6																				
17	Ferruginous Pochard	41	41																				
18	Tufted Duck	8	4																				



S. No.	Bird	Max per day	Max one group	Seasonality												Occurrence by Area						
				January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Saibu	Chobhar	Bagm. 1st	Bagm. 2nd	Bagm. Bend	Taudaha	Bosan K
19	Eurasian Wryneck	1	1															--				
20	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	3	2															0	0			0 0
21	Great Barbet	3	1																		0	
22	Blue-throated barbet	5	2															+	++	++	--	0 ++
23	Coppersmith Barbet	1	1															--				
24	Common Hoopoe	5	2															-	-	0	0	0 -- --
25	Indian Roller	1	1															--				
26	Common Kingfisher	1	1																	--	0	--
27	White-throated kingfisher	6	2															+	++	++	0	+ ++ ++
28	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	1	1															--				
29	Pied Cuckoo	1	1															--	--	--		
30	Indian Cuckoo	3	1															++	++	++		0 ++
31	Eurasian Cuckoo	5	1															++	++	++	0	++ +
32	Asian koel	4	1															++	++	++		+ ++
33	Green-billed malkoha	1	1																			--
34	Rose-ringed parakeet	610	250															++	++	++	++	++ ++ ++
35	Plum-headed parakeet	1	1															--				
36	House swift	55	40															++	0	0	++	0 ++ 0
37	Barn owl	1	1															-				
38	Eurasian eagle owl	1	1															--				
39	Spotted Owlet	3	1															++	0	0	0	0 ++
40	Rock Pigeon	500	200															+	+	+	+	+
41	Oriental Turtle-Dove	45	30															0	++	++	-	- +
42	Spotted Dove	20	20															+	+	+	+	+
43	Red Collared Dove	18	18																--	--		-
44	Eurasian Collared Dove	15	10															+	0	0	+	+ 0
45	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	1	1															--				
46	White breasted waterhen	4	4																0			+ -
47	Common moorhen	2	2																			-
48	Common coot	87	87																	--	--	++
49	Pintail Snipe	3	1																		-	-
50	Common snipe	14	5																	+	+	
51	Common Redshank	15	15																	-	+	+ --
52	Common Greenshank	30	30																+	++	++	--
53	Green Sandpiper	50	20															0	++	++	++	0 0
54	Wood Sandpiper	1	1																--	-	--	
55	Common Sandpiper	30	2																++	++	++	--
56	Temminck's Stint	7	7																	0		
57	Ruff	1	1																	--		
58	Black-winged stilt	8	8																--	++	0	
59	Little Ringed plover	6	3																	0	+	
60	Northern Lapwing	13	13																	0	--	
61	Gray-headed lapwing	104	104															0	+	++	+	
62	Red-wattled lapwing	2	2																-	-	-	
63	Brown-headed Gull	2	2																	--		
64	Black-headed Gull	1	1																			--
65	Common tern	1	1																			--



S. No.	Bird	Max per day	Max one group	Seasonality												Occurrence by Area										
				January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Saibu	Chobhar	Bagm. 1st	Bagm. 2nd	Bagm. Bend	Taudaha	Bosan K				
66	Black kite	70	70																++	++	++	++	++	+		
67	White-tailed Eagle	1	1																-					-		
68	Egyptian Vulture	1	1																-							
69	Himalayan Griffon	3	1																				-	-		
70	Red-headed Vulture	1	1																-							
71	Crested Goshawk	1	1																						-	
72	Shikra	1	1																-							
73	Besra	1	1																-							
74	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1	1																-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
75	Northern Goshawk	1	1																-							
76	Common Buzzard	1	1																-	-						
77	Long-legged Buzzard	4	4																0	0	0	+	-	-	-	
78	Upland Buzzard	1	1																				-	-	-	
79	Black Eagle	1	1																-							
80	Steppe Eagle	24	20																++	++	++	++	+	0	-	
81	Bonelli's Eagle	1	1																-			-				
82	Booted Eagle	1	1																-	-		-				
83	Mountain Hawk Eagle	1	1																-							
84	Eurasian Kestrel	3	2																-	-	-	-	-			
85	Eurasian Hobby	1	1																-							
86	Peregrine falcon	1	1																-	-	-					
87	Little Grebe	3	3																					0		
88	Oriental Darter	1	1																							
89	Little Cormorant	1	1																					-	-	
90	Great Cormorant	24	22																					+		
91	Little Egret	6	2																-		0	0	0	-	-	
92	Grey Heron	1	1																-					-	-	
93	Great Heron	1	1																-					-	-	
94	Intermediate Egret	1	1																-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
95	Cattle Egret	2500	2500																++	++	++	++	++	++	++	0
96	Indian pond heron	20	2																-	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
97	Black-crowned Nightheron	8	8																-	-	-			+		
98	Brown Shrike	1	1																-	-	-	-			-	
99	Long-tailed Shrike	5	2																++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
100	Grey-backed Shrike	4	2																++	+	+	0	0		+	
101	Red-billed Blue magpie	1	1																-							
102	Rufous Treepie	6	4																+	+	+	-	-	0	-	
103	Gray treepie	8	5																-							
104	House crow	200	50																++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
105	Large-billed Crow	10	4																+	0	+	+				
106	Eurasian Golden Oriole	3	2																-	0	+	-		-	+	
107	Large Cuckooshrike	1	1																-	-						
108	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	2	2																-						0	
109	Long-tailed Minivet	10	10																-						-	
110	Scarlet Minivet	3	3																-						-	
111	Black Drongo	20	8																++	++	++	++	++	++	-	
112	Ashy Drongo	5	4																	-	-				+	



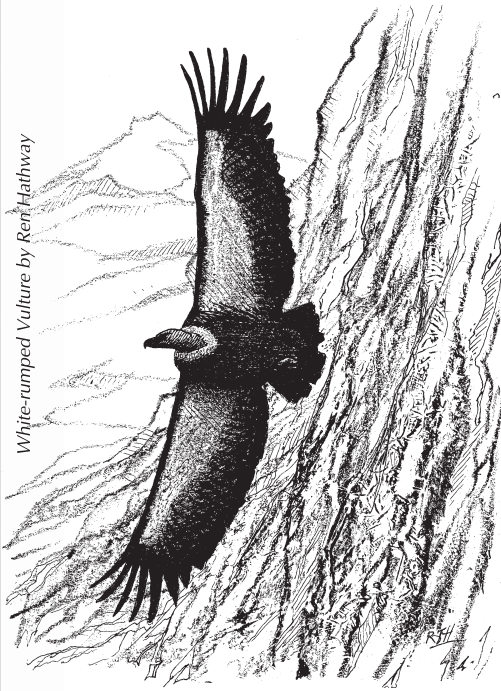
S. No.	Bird	Max per day	Max one group	Seasonality												Occurrence by Area						
				January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Saibu	Chobhar	Bagm. 1st	Bagm. 2nd	Bagm. Bend	Taudaha	Bosan K
113	Bronzed Drongo	1	1																			
114	Paradise flycatcher	1	1																			
115	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	1	1																			
116	Blue Rock thrush	1	1																			
117	Blue Whistling-Thrush	5	4																			
118	Scaly thrush	1	1																			
119	Orange-headed ground Thrush	2	2																			
120	Dark-throated Thrush	17	15																			
121	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	1	1																			
122	Red-throated Flycatcher	6	1																			
123	Slaty-blue Flycatcher	6	1																			
124	Verditer Flycatcher	1	1																			
125	Gray-headed flycatcher	2	2																			
126	Siberian Rubythroat	2	1																			
127	White-tailed Rubythroat (pect)	2	1																			
128	Bluethroat	1	1																			
129	Golden Bush Robin	1	1																			
130	Oriental Magpie Robin	20	4																			
131	Black Redstart	1	1																			
132	Hodgson's Redstart	12	2																			
133	Blue-fronted Redstart	1	1																			
134	White-capped Redstart	3	1																			
135	Plum beous Redstart	8	1																			
136	Spotted Forktail	3	2																			
137	Common Stonechat	12	2																			
138	Pied Bushchat	1	1																			
139	Grey Bushchat	3	2																			
140	Chestnut-tailed Starling	117	25																			
141	Brahminy Starling	1	1																			
142	Common Mynah	589	200																			
143	Jungle Mynah	100	50																			
144	Wallcreeper	1	1																			
145	Great Tit	4	2																			
146	Plain Martin	14	14																			
147	Barn Swallow	100	100																			
148	Red-rumped Swallow	110	110																			
149	Himalayan Bulbul	3	3																			
150	Red-vented Bulbul	50	35																			
151	Black Bulbul	60	25																			
152	Zitting Cisticola	6	6																			
153	Oriental White-eye	2	2																			
154	Aberrant Bush Warbler	3	1																			
155	Gray-sided Bush warbler	1	1																			
156	Blyths Reed warbler	18	2																			
157	Thick-billed Warbler	3	1																			
158	Common Tailorbird	10	2																			
159	Chiffchaff	3	2																			





# Sightings of Nests of White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* around Deepang Lake, Pokhara

Som Bahadur Bohora and Gandhiv Kafle



White-rumped Vulture by Reni Hathway

On 15 January 2007, we were on the programme of Asian Waterbird Count 2007 around Deepang Lake at 11h 10 counting water birds of the lake. Deepang Lake lies approximately 13 km north-east from the centre of Pokhara

which takes 45 minutes by public bus and 15 minutes walk from Sisuwa bus stop to the North. Along with counting water birds, we were also observing if any globally threatened soarsers would be sighted. Then, we observed two White-rumped Vultures *Gyps bengalensis* flying over us and predicted if there were any nests around the lake as there were some Simal trees *Bombax ceiba* that are primarily used for nesting.

When we were moving from first spot to another vantage point of lake for further water bird counting, the local children informed us that there were some nests of vulture to the northeast of the lake. Then, we moved towards the nesting site of White-rumped Vulture. While on the way to the nesting site, we observed some White-rumped Vultures flying towards the Simal *Bombax ceiba* trees. So, we all were excited if we would be lucky to see nests of White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* for the first time. We were delighted when we

noticed some nests with our binocular. When we reached the nesting site, we could clearly see the vulture nests, 3 nests in Simal *Bombax ceiba* and 2 in Mithifal trees, made up of twigs and leaves of Chilaune *Schima wallichii*, Simal *Bombax ceiba*. A total of four White-rumped Vultures were recorded, one was still using the nest for hatching. We observed those birds approximately for an hour from a distance of about 15m using 7x35 Bushnell and 10x50 Olympus binoculars and "Birds of Nepal" by Grimmett *et. al.* (2000) as reference guide. We also noticed one White-rumped Vulture building nest by bringing twigs from another Simal tree. We also came to know that both the parents take part in nest building. The existence of one extra nest was confirmed in that site (Rajesh Gurung per. comm.) as one White-rumped Vulture went towards another tree which we couldn't locate. After observing the nests of globally threatened White-rumped Vulture for about an hour, we moved to another vantage point for water bird count. We also recorded some other birds of prey like Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*, Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*, Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*, Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*, Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis* throughout that luckiest day.

We are grateful to the entire team member Hari Pariyar and Hari Bhakta Adhikari from Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge, Sakuntala Paudel, Umesh K. Chaudhari and Binayak Manandhar (Committee members, BCN, Pokhara branch), Sarmila Paudel and Pratima Neupane.

## References

- Chaudhary, J. and Pariyar, H. 2004. Vulture Sightings in Pokhara Valley Danphe 13(3/4):8  
 Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C. and Inskipp, T. 2000. A Guide to the Birds of Nepal. Second Edition. Christopher Helm, London, UK.

*Bird Conservation Nepal, Pokhara Branch, Institute of Forestry, P.O.Box 43, Pokhara*

## Additional Sightings!

Two Brown Rock Chat *Cercomela fusca* were noted by the Korean Temple in Lumbini on 10 December 2006. (DG) A rare visitor to Lumbini!

As maximum as 37 Greater Short-toed Lark *Calendrella brachydactyla* has seen feeding on the cultivated land at Basnet Gaun (across Chobhar Cement Factory) on 20 January 2007 (DG, HC, SS, JT). A rare visitor to Kathmandu Valley!

Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes* seen in Sukla Phanta on 10 April 2007 and Phulchoki on 20 April 2007 (HSB,

SG, MG). A new record for both places!

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* heard on 20 April 2007 at Godavari. (HSB, SG, MG). A rare visitor to Kathmandu Valley!

DG: Dinesh Giri  
 DG: Dev Ghimire  
 HSB: Hem Sagar Baral  
 HT: Hathan Chaudhary

JT: Jyotendra Thakuri  
 MG: Mike Gee  
 SG: Sarah Gee  
 SS: Sangita Shrestha

**Compiled by Tika Giri and Hathan Chaudhary**





# News

## Membership

### Life Member

Professor Karan Bahadur Shah, Chief of the Natural History Museum and adviser for BCN has joined BCN as a Life Member. Prof Shah is foremost and well known herpetologist of Nepal with deep interest in other parts of natural history such as birds and mammals. BCN is proud to have such a professional as its life member and look forward for his strong support in strengthening BCN.

Janak Raj Chaudhary has joined BCN as a Life Member. He has been working at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge since 1998 as Guest Relation and Operation Officer. Janak is a keen birder and leads the annual Asian Waterbird Census from Tiger Mountain Pokhara in coordination with BCN Pokhara branch.

Hari Bhakta Adhikari has joined BCN as a Life Member. He is a guide at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge. He is currently completing his MA in English literature from TU / PN Campus Pokhara. Hari Bhakta is from Kandani Danda and knows the local culture and history of the area in detail as well as has a keen interest in birdlife.

Hari Pariyar has joined BCN as a Life Member. He is a guide at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge. Currently he works as a guide at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge. He is an excellent birding guide and extremely popular with guests for his knowledge and easy way of explaining local flora and fauna.

Dibya Devi Gurung has joined BCN as a Life Member. Divya is a long time BCN friend and strong supporter of BCN. She also shares her professional expertise as Executive Member in current Executive Council of BCN. Currently she works at the Swiss Development Corporation as a Senior Programme Officer. We hope that she will continue her support in strengthening BCN at various capacities.

## Publications

### Danphe Special Issue

Bird Conservation Nepal has published 2000 copies of special issue of Danphe quarterly newsletter to mark its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The newsletter contains some 38 articles and research and survey papers on birds and biodiversity. Mrs



Dr Uday Raj Sharma, Acting Secretary of MoFSC releasing Danphe special issue on the occasion of 12<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Week.  
BCN photo archive

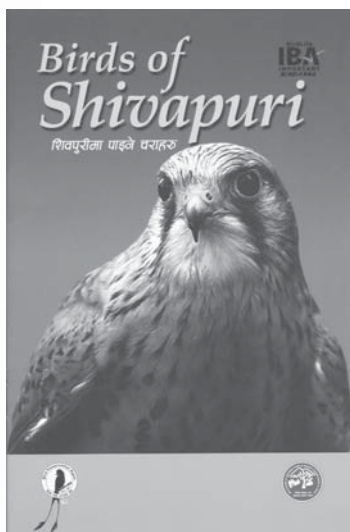
Carol Inskipp, longtime supporter of BCN supported us to bring out this special issue. This newsletter was released on the occasion of 12th Wildlife Week at DNPWC by Acting Secretary of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) Dr Uday Raj Sharma. Carol Inskipp has guest edited BCN's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary special issue of Danphe, both have been hugely popular and much in demand!

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge and Social Welfare Agency of Nepal (SWAN) kindly sponsored the newsletter.

## Garden and Grove Birds

Bird Conservation Nepal and Himalayan Nature have published 1000 copies of field guide to "Garden and Grove Birds" in Nepali language. This booklet "Bagaicha, Bankunja ra upan ka charaharu" consists of colour illustrations and brief description of 46 most common garden birds. It was released on the occasion of 12th Wildlife Week at DNPWC by Acting Secretary of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) Dr Uday Raj Sharma. Social, Educational and Environmental Developmental Services (SEEDS) kindly cosponsored the booklet.





### Bird Checklist of Shivapuri National Park

Shivapuri National Park and Bird Conservation Nepal have jointly produced 1000 copies of bird checklist of Shivapuri National Park. The checklist consists of a total of 318 species recorded so far. This list will serve as the authentic list for the information of birds found in Shivapuri and will certainly be a valuable reference for

all interested in birdwatching and bird record keeping at Shivapuri National Park. This checklist was published as part of the annual programme of Shivapuri National Park

### Meetings/Workshops

#### Nepal Stakeholder Workshop on Conservation of High Altitude Wetlands

Mr Bhagwan Raj Dahal, Project Officer participated in Nepal Stakeholder Workshop in support for the conservation of high altitude wetlands through application of the Asian wetland inventory approach and stakeholder-led catchments management in Bhutan, China, and India Nepal Himalayan initiatives on 21 May 2007. The workshop was organized by International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in collaboration with Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC).

The workshop discussed about the stakeholder-led catchments management and DPSIR (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impacts and Response) frame work for the long term management of the water and wetlands. Many research papers were presented to highlight the importance of the high altitude watershed and its role in the low land wetland conservation. It was an excellent forum for BCN to elaborate our wetland conservation activities.

#### Managing Protected Areas: Shifting Paradigm

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) in association with Ministry of Forest and Soil

### Regular Birding

Date	Birding Place	Participation Number	Total Number of Species Recorded	Expert
17 March 2007	Nagarjun forest	15	50	Vimal Thapa
21 April 2007	Sakhu	10	60	Vimal Thapa
5 April 2007	Gokarna Forest	14	48	Vimal Thapa
19 May 2007	Shivapuri Forest	7	51	Vimal Thapa

Conservation (MoFSC), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) organised 4 days regional conference on Managing Protected Areas: Shifting Paradigm. The objectives of the conference were: sharing regional experience and knowledge in protected area (PA) management, learning from best practice in PA management in the region and strengthening protected area network in the region. Mr Dev Ghimire, Administrative Officer represented BCN in this conference.

Dr Hem Sagar Baral, CEO attended a Learning-Cum Review Workshop from 3-5 May 2007 organised by UNDP/SGP in Dhulikhel. During the workshop, BCN's work on vulture conservation and proposed vulture restaurant was discussed. A number of other grantees showed much interest in our work.

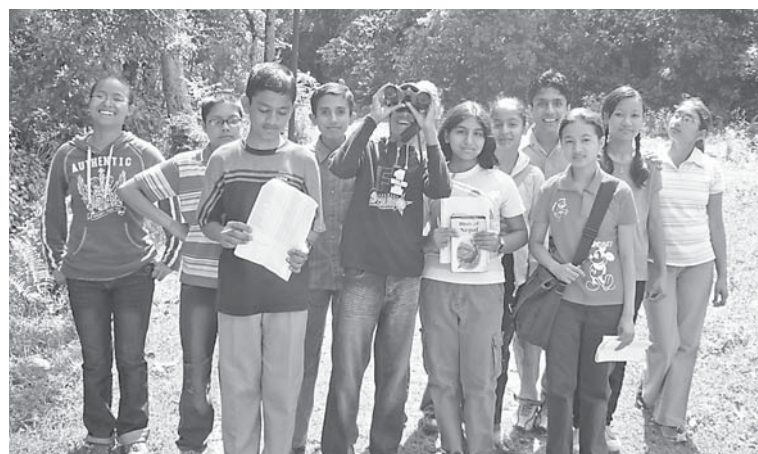
### Project Grant Support

#### UNDP/SGP

BCN has received small grant from UNDP/SGP for establishing Community managed Vulture Restaurant and Visitor Centre in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park, Nawalparasi District, Central Nepal.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Week

BCN has supported Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) by providing experts on birdwatching, one of the events of 12<sup>th</sup> wildlife week 2004. Eight expert members assisted some 90 students and 25 teachers of 12 different schools in Godavari. 64 bird species were recorded in 4 hours time by 6 different groups



Students participating in birdwatching programme at Godavari on the occasion of 12<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Week. BCN photo archive



## Appointments

Mr Yadav Ghimirey who was working as a Field Biologist for the Vulture Conservation Programme is now appointed as a Project Officer for CEPF project. He has done MSc in Environment Science from SchEMS/PU.

Mr Chandra Pokharel has been appointed by BCN and HUCODEC as the Facilitator for CEPF project. Moreover HUCODEC has appointed 3 additional local staff Shiva Kumar Shrestha, Kumar Khatri and Arpan Magar for successful completion of the project.

Mr Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri who has done MSc in Zoology (Ecology) from Tribhuvan University (TU) has been appointed as a short term Field Biologist for the Vulture Conservation Programme.

## Support to students and local organizations

BCN has provided a small grant to Ms Sharada Paudel to support her MSc thesis work on Surveys and monitoring of Gyps species vultures in Lumbini Farmlands IBA, central Nepal. Likewise BCN has also provided a small grant to Mr Narendra Upadhyaya to support his MSc thesis work on Surveys and monitoring of Gyps species vultures in Nawalparasi Forests IBA, central Nepal

BCN has provided partial financial support to Swarnim Samudaek Bikas Pratisthan to carry on long term bird conservation activities at Panchanagar VDC of Nawalparasi District. Similarly, BCN also provided Jeevan Bikas Samaj of Biratnagar, Morang District some financial support to conduct Gyps species vulture conservation awareness programme. This support also includes plantation of Simal *Bombax ceiba* trees in key vulture nesting colonies in eastern Nepal.

## Donation

Dr Richard Cuthbert, Vulture Conservation Programme Manager from RSPB has kindly donated a pair of second hand binoculars.

### Errata for Danphe 16(1):73

The valley-wise Inter-technical college quiz contest-2007 organized by BCN Pokhara branch was coordinated by Hari Adhikari.

### Editorial Board

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

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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.

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- 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.



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 पंखी संरक्षण संघ

## Bird Conservation Nepal

Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) is the largest and oldest civil society organization 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, 16 Patrons, 116 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.

It 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 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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