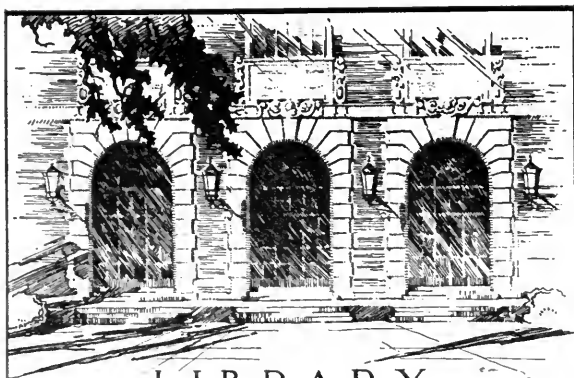




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DISTRIBUTIONAL  
NOTES ON NEPAL BIRDS

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AND

MELVIN A. TRAYLOR

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VOLUME 53, NUMBER 3

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# DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES ON NEPAL BIRDS

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AND

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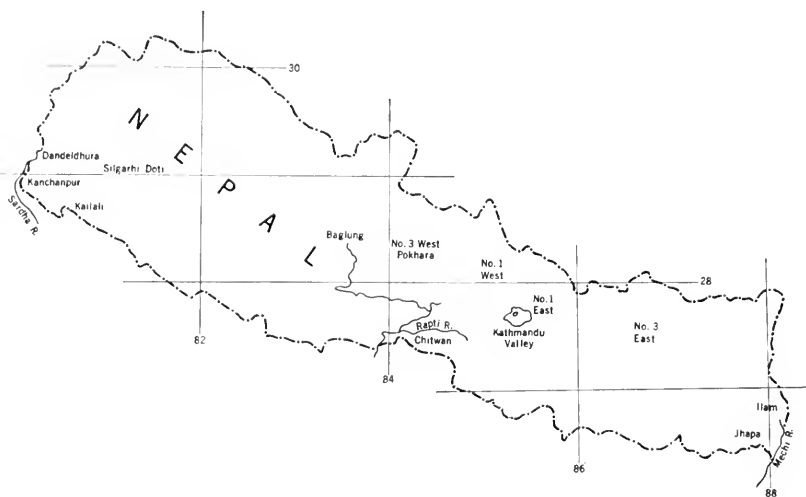
## Distributional Notes on Nepal Birds

### INTRODUCTION

The specimens that are the subject of the present report were collected in Nepal by the senior author during the years 1962-1966. The majority were taken between May, 1964 and April, 1965 when Fleming was on leave from the United Mission to Nepal to conduct research on the ferns and birds of Nepal under a Fulbright Grant.

The total number of birds collected was not large, but through careful choice of collecting localities and selection of specimens in the field, Fleming was able to add considerably to our knowledge of the distribution of Nepal birds. He succeeded in taking 76 species and subspecies that he had not previously found, and of these 24 are here recorded for the first time from the country. The known ranges of many others were extended, or apparent gaps in their ranges were filled in. The 24 forms reported for the first time from Nepal are listed below; an asterisk means that the species was not previously recorded.

- \**Sarkidiornis melanotos*  
*Lophura leucomelana hamiltonii*
- \**Larus argentatus* subsp.?  
*Streptopelia tranquebarica tranquebarica*
- \**Tyto capensis longimembris*  
*Otus bakkamoena gangeticus*
- \**Megalaima australis cyanotis*  
*Dendrocopos canicapillus semicoronatus*
- \**Chrysocolaptes festivus festivus*  
*Hirundo daurica japonica*
- \**Delichon urbica urbica*
- \**Irena puella sikkimensis*  
*Minla strigula simlaensis*  
*Heterophasia capistrata capistrata*  
*Muscicapa superciliaris superciliaris*  
*Cettia fortipes pallidus*
- \**Acrocephalus concinens*



\**Phylloscopus tytleri*

*Phylloscopus fuscatus weigoldi*

\**Phylloscopus cantator cantator*

\**Anthus spinoletta*

*Ploceus philippensis burmanicus*

\**Carpodacus rubicilla severtzovi*

*Emberiza fucata fucata*

The accompanying map (Fig. 1) shows the districts in which Fleming collected. As noted above, these were chosen to cover areas which had not previously been thoroughly worked, and to cover the widest variety of habitats. They cover the country from the eastern to the western border, and range in altitude from 800 to 14,000 feet. The individual localities are listed in the Gazetteer.

## GAZETTEER

Bagmati River . . . . .	Kathmandu Valley
Baile, Silgarhi-Doti District . . . . .	28° 57' N; 80° 39' E
Banduki Chowki, Ilam District . . . . .	27° 06' N; 87° 59' E
Baramdeo, Kanchanpur District=	
Barmdeo Mandi . . . . .	
Barmdeo Mandi, Kanchanpur District . .	29° 06' N; 80° 10' E
Bhadrapur, Jhapa District . . . . .	26° 32' N; 88° 05' E
Bhanghat, Dandeldhura District . . . . .	29° 07' N; 80° 16' E
Bilauri, Kanchanpur District . . . . .	28° 41' N; 80° 24' E
Chandanbari, West No. 1 . . . . .	28° 09' N; 85° 18' E
Dana, Baglung District . . . . .	28° 16' N; 83° 37' E
Dandeldhura, Dandeldhura District . . .	29° 18' N; 80° 35' E
Dhabung, West No. 1 . . . . . ca.	28° 10' N; 85° 20' E
Dhangarhi, Kailali District . . . . .	28° 42' N; 80° 36' E
Dupuk, East No. 1 . . . . .	28° 03' N; 85° 36' E
Ghukyo Pokhari, East No. 3 . . . . .	27° 53' N; 86° 42' E
Gokarna . . . . .	Kathmandu Valley
Ilam, Ilam District . . . . .	26° 55' N; 87° 56' E
Jhawani, Chitwan District . . . . .	27° 36' N; 84° 31' E
Jogbura, Dandeldhura District . . . . .	29° 08' N; 80° 21' E
Jomosom, Baglung District . . . . .	28° 47' N; 83° 44' E
Julthal, Jhapa District . . . . .	26° 30' N; 88° 00' E
Kakani . . . . .	Kathmandu Valley
Kalikathan, West No. 1 . . . . .	28° 00' N; 85° 08' E
Kathmandu City . . . . .	Kathmandu Valley
Khumjung, East No. 3 . . . . . ca.	27° 50' N; 86° 43' E
Lakhung Gompa, East No. 1 . . . . .	28° 00' N; 85° 37' E
Lam Pokhari, Ilam District . . . . .	27° 06' N; 88° 00' E
Lothar Khola, Chitwan District . . . . .	27° 36' N; 84° 42' E
Mahendranagar, Kanchanpur District . .	29° 01' N; 80° 09' E
Manora River . . . . .	Kathmandu Valley
Muktinath, Baglung District . . . . .	28° 48' N; 83° 53' E
Pani Pokhari . . . . .	Kathmandu Valley
Pheakal, Ilam District . . . . .	26° 53' N; 88° 04' E

Pokhara, West No. 3 . . . . .	28° 14' N; 84° 00' E
Rapti River, Chitwan District . . . . . ca.	27° 34' N; 84° 20' E
Reu-Rapti junction, Chitwan District . . .	27° 32' N; 84° 13' E
Rupal, Dandeldhura District . . . . .	29° 17' N; 80° 23' E
Sankhu . . . . .	Kathmandu Valley
Sardha River, Dandeldhura District . . .	western border
Sharmathan, East No. 1 . . . . .	27° 58' N; 85° 37' E
Sheopuri . . . . .	Kathmandu Valley
Shukla, Kanchanpur District . . . . .	28° 50' N; 80° 10' E
Small Rapti River, Chitwan District . . .	27° 33' N; 84° 15' E
Sunaschhari, Jhapa District . . . . .	26° 42' N; 88° 00' E
Tarké Ghyang, East No. 1 . . . . .	28° 00' N; 84° 33' E
Trisuli, West No. 1 . . . . .	27° 56' N; 84° 08' E



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A project such as ours—collecting a few specimens of every bird in Nepal—would be impossible except for sympathetic assistance on the part of His Majesty's Government. Such assistance has been accorded to us in full measure these past 18 years and to His Majesty in particular and to His Majesty's Government I am forever grateful. The easier part of our work has been done while the more difficult task is yet to be achieved. It is largely along border regions and especially those remote sections of Nepal lying north of the Himalayan ranges that the larger number of additions to the list of Nepal birds is to be found. We were very glad to be allowed to visit the Darchula area.

Members of the Department of Foreign Affairs H. M. G., Chief of Protocol, P. C. Thakur and S. Rana were exceptionally helpful. The Home Department kindly gave permission for required ammunition while the Forest Department issued needed passes to forest areas. Everywhere we went, government officials, from the Anchala Desh to the lowest ranking forest guard, received us cordially. It is difficult to express adequate thanks to all who aided us these past years.

We must also thank the Government of India for granting us permission to travel through Almora District along the western border of Nepal. What takes 12 or 14 days of difficult trekking in Nepal, can be negotiated by bus in as many hours. We are grateful to the Government of India for letting us take the Pithoragarh route to get to and from northwestern Nepal.

Great is my debt to the United States Educational Foundation of Nepal, through Mr. Aryal, for a Fulbright grant (1 May 1964 – 31 April 1965) to carry on a full research program. The results tabulated in this paper are largely due to this generous award. At the same time, I thank the Methodist Mission Board in New York and Mr. Henry Lacy, India Secretary, who allowed me to take a year's leave, and the Executive Committee of the United Mission to Nepal for approving this action.

Mention must be made of some of the persons who have gone out of their way to assist us. In the Rapti Dun, Kirti Man Tamang offered us housing and transportation to various points of interest. Mr. John Coapman, who was beginning work on Tiger Tops Hotel, afforded Dr. Robert E. Berry and me an opportunity to check on bird populations of western Rapti Dun.

Forest officials, D. B. Khatri and his colleague, K. B. Karkee, at Dhangarhi, provided a place to stay, jeep, and porters for our party. The Peace Corps kindly lent our "binoculars man," David Chesmore while Dr. Ronald O'Connor and his brother, Terry, offered their services as medical officer and cook. Swami Vivikananda Swarasati, of Rupal, gave us a fine camp site and called porters for us. Bara Hakim Lakan Lal Amataya at Dandeldhura assisted us when he could, while Dr. Kate Young and Miss Andrew were hostesses at their dispensary a few miles away. Padam Bahadur Singh gave us food and shelter when we unexpectedly turned up in Malaketi without any of our porters.

Again in Central Nepal, people were very helpful. Dr. L. O'Hanlon arranged for porters through Sheti Gurung and gave us food and lodging in Pokhara; Mrs. Gerald Turner entertained us upon our return. Old acquaintances, the Sher Chans of Tukuche, befriended us at Sikha, while at Dana, Mangal Singh made us at home in his house where we left some of our luggage during the climb to Muktinath. Deva Nara Singh was a fine guide, as he had been 14 years before. My colleagues, Dr. Denis Roche, who was my effective medical officer, Masters Richard Friedericks, John Lindsey, and Ronald Colman, who enlivened the party, and our son Bob all made up an excellent trekking team to West No. 3. Our visits to both West No. 1 and East No. 1 were made easier by the help of Mr. Agarwal, Chief Engineer of the Trisuli Project, Mr. Richard Willan, Forest Adviser to H. M. G., P. Lama, my medical officer and my ever-faithful "Kazi."

On our visit to far East Nepal we met Karmachariya Thakur Das whom we had known years before, Bhairab Prasad Achariya and his son; Captain Laxman Chandra Singh, all of Bhadrapur. Forest Officer Tulsi Ram (also a poet) was of great assistance, as were Bert Despain, Don Carter, and James B. Hunt, Jr. and the forest officer at Ilam, S. Shrestha, all of whom had a part in making our problems lighter. These and numerous other officials and local residents extended their kindness to us.

G. B. Gurung contributed to our collection as did Dinesh Shumshere, J. B. Rana and Lachman Shah. Sri Dhariya Shumshere, as always, helped us at any time.

I must give most hearty thanks to my hunter-skinner who accompanied me the year of my Fulbright grant, Hari Sharan Nepali (Kazi). He is a knowledgeable bird man, a careful shot, an indefatigable trekker, and an excellent skinner. He acted as our liason officer and interpreter. Finally, it was a pleasure to have our son, Bob, accompany me on three of the longer trips. He would collect at the higher altitudes which required the more strenuous climbing. And now with his Ph.D. in zoology (ornithology) I suspect he will continue to climb Himalayan hills for some time to come.

R. L. FLEMING

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

The nomenclature and order of families and species follows that of Ripley's (1961) *Synopsis of the Birds of India and Pakistan*. Biswas' (1960-1963) *Birds of Nepal*, with its careful summation of previous work, has been of inestimable assistance to us in our studies. The field notes under each species are Fleming's and the taxonomic notes are Traylor's.

**Phalacrocorax niger** (Vieillot). Little or Pygmy Cormorant.

Jhapa District, 1 mile north of Bhadrapur: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; January 11, 1965.

A dozen or more birds were on the Mechi River, eastern border of Nepal. The species is not common in Nepal. We had seen a single bird on a small stream in western Jhapa District as well as one some years earlier on a forested stream at Bilaury in Kanchanpur District, far western Nepal. These are the first specimens since the time of Hodgson.

**Egretta intermedia palleuca** Deignan. Smaller Egret.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti, 1,000 feet: 1 ♀; August 24, 1964.

Of the four species of white egrets in Nepal, this one can be distinguished by its thin body and a rather long, angular neck. Several birds fed at intervals along the shallows of the Rapti River, sometimes three or four together and again singly. They were occasionally back in fields bordering the river in areas which were grassy and damp. It was rather difficult to approach them. They seemed to be the least abundant of the egrets.

**Ixobrychus cinnamomeus** (Gmelin). Chestnut Bittern.

Kathmandu Valley, Pani Pokhari, 4,300 feet: 1 ♂; June 20, 1964 (Pravat Rana).

Kathmandu Valley, Gokarna: 1 ♂; June 17, 1961 (Mrs. Proud).

The chestnut bittern comes to Kathmandu Valley during the rainy season in summer when the rice fields afford it cover. During the day it keeps out of sight but in the evening it flies across the upper

Bagmati River below Gokarna, quite regularly. We saw one stalking through a flooded rice field behind the Indian Embassy, during a forenoon. They leave the valley by the time the rice is harvested in October.

**Ibis leucocephalus** (Pennant). Painted Stork.

Kanchanpur District, Bilauri, 800 feet: 1 ? ♂; March 26, 1965.

We had looked for the Painted Stork throughout the *terai* but found it only in far western Nepal. A pair alighted near the top of a silk cotton tree above a lagoon. They had occupied the same tree the day before. Later in the western part of Kanchanpur District we saw a flight of six birds. A very common bird in Uttar Pradesh, India, a few miles to the south, we found them to be scarce in areas near the base of the Himalayas. The first record since that of Hodgson.

**Anser indicus** (Latham). Barheaded Goose.

Kathmandu Valley, Manora River, 4,200 feet: 1 unsexed; March 7, 1963.

Five barheaded geese fed in a field along the Manora River, Kathmandu Valley on spring migration. One had been collected about 25 years earlier on the Nepal border at Nepalganj Road, western Nepal. Mr. Richard Willen reported hundreds of this species along with graylag geese on the Karnali River, west Nepal about the first of March. They tend to follow the larger rivers into the Himalayas and only occasionally visit Kathmandu Valley.

**Anas acuta** (Linnaeus). Pintail.

Kathmandu Valley, Taudha-Farping Road, 4,300 feet: 1 ♀; February 17, 1962 (Sagar Rana).

A casual visitor to Kathmandu Valley, this pintail was collected by Sagar Rana off of Taudha pond on the Farping Road. It was in company with a red-headed pochard. Numbers of pintail have been reported on migration on rivers such as the Kali Gandak-Narayani, central Nepal.

**Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos** (Pennant). Comb Duck.

Kailali District, 2 miles east of Dhangarhi, 800 feet: 1 ♀; March 16, 1965.

The only place in Nepal we have seen the comb duck is in the vicinity of Dhanghari, Kailali District. Fifteen years before, a single

bird flew over a large size pond about two or three miles east of town. We returned to the same area to find about 25 birds resting on a point of land next to the water. The presence of this species was unknown to the forest officers of that area. This is the first record of the comb duck in Nepal.

**Accipiter trivirgatus indicus** (Hodgson). Crested Goshawk.

Kanchanpur District, Mahendranagar, 800 feet: 1 ♀; March 30, 1965.

A fairly common bird; this one was along the banks of the Sarda River which divides India and Nepal just south of Mahendranagar. It is the first record from far western Nepal.

**Falco subbuteo subbuteo** Linnaeus. Hobby.

Kathmandu Valley, Kakani, 7,400 feet: 1 ♀; May 27, 1961.

Five of this species were hawking insects the last of May on Kakani ridge, Kathmandu Valley at 7,400 feet. There was a great flight of butterflies and the hobbies were after them, cutting circles in the air in strong and graceful flight. After some time a bird would perch to rest in the top of an oak tree. The bird we collected had eaten so many butterflies it could not swallow the last one, but held it in its bill.

This is the first record of the hobby from Nepal since Hodgson.

**Falco amurensis** Radde. Eastern Redlegged Falcon.

2 miles east of Kathmandu, Manohar River, 4,300 feet: 1 ♂; November 1, 1965.

The redlegged falcon is an uncommon straggler in Kathmandu Valley, appearing in November. This was the only time we found it and it is the first record since the time of Hodgson.

Because of the marked distinctions between females of *vespertinus* and *amurensis*, their strikingly different migration patterns, and the lack of known intergrades, I believe that the two should be kept as distinct species.

**Coturnix chinensis chinensis** (Linnaeus). Bluebreasted Quail.

Kathmandu, 4,300 feet: 1 ♂; June 6, 1963.

A student at Tri-chandra College, Kathmandu, collected this specimen of the bluebreasted quail on the campus. It is not at all common and we have not come across it elsewhere. No one has recorded it for Nepal since the time of Hodgson.

***Lophura leucomelana hamiltonii* (Gray).** Kalij Pheasant.

Dandeldhura District, below Dandeldhura Town, 6,300 feet: 1 ♂; April 18, 1965.

Dandeldhura District, 5 miles north of Rupal, 5,500 feet: 1 ♂; April 9, 1965.

The western race of Kalij pheasant is fairly common. We had seen it on previous expeditions singly and in groups from about 1,000 or 1,500 feet above sea level on up to 5,000 feet. They are strong runners but quickly fly from one ravine to another. When alarmed they give a series of staccato notes, taking wing as soon as danger is sighted. Dusting areas indicated that birds return to their favored places. They preferred heavy underbrush in the vicinity of water, where they rested during the day, to move uphill to their usual roosting place in higher oak trees in the evening. These are the first specimens of the white-crested *hamiltonii* from Nepal.

***Vanellus vanellus* (Linnaeus).** Lapwing.

Kathmandu Valley, Manora River, 4,200 feet: 1 ♂; February 1, 1966.

The lapwing is a bird of passage through the Kathmandu Valley but in very small numbers. In April in west Nepal we saw our first in a large, empty rice field north of Mahendranagar. The present specimen was secured by G. B. Gurung on the Manora River in the Valley.

***Vanellus cinereus* (Blyth).** Greyheaded Lapwing.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti, 1,000 feet: 1 ♀; October 25, 1964.

This fall bird, on a sand bar on the Rapti River, was the only one we saw during our six weeks' stay there. We had previously found the species in Kathmandu Valley but in limited numbers. The species is not recorded by Biswas (1960, pt. 2).

***Vanellus malabaricus* (Boddaert).** Yellow-wattled Lapwing.

Jhapa District, 3 miles north of Bhadrapur: 1 ♂; January 9, 1965.

Kailali District, Dhanghari Airstrip, 800 feet: 1 unsexed; March 20, 1965.

Two pairs of yellow-wattled lapwings in far eastern Nepal occupied an area around a water hole immediately surrounded with grassy banks and cultivated fields. Of two calls we heard, one was a slow "tee-air," the other a rapid "wig-wig-wig-wig." The single bird in

far western Nepal was on the Dhanghari airstrip. The species does not seem to be common in Nepal.

***Numenius arquata orientalis* Brehm.** Curlew.

Kathmandu Valley, Gokarna, Bagmati River, 4,300 feet: 1 ♂; August 15, 1961.

An uncommon bird in Kathmandu Valley, this eastern curlew was found on the Manora River below Gokarna, by G. B. Gurung. Numbers were reported on the Kosi River, eastern Nepal, in the spring migration. Their flight route must be along major Nepalese rivers.

***Philomachus pugnax* (Linnaeus).** Ruff and Reeve.

Kathmandu Valley, Manora River, 4,300 feet: 1 ♂; September 20, 1965 (H. S. Nepali).

The ruff seldom passes through Kathmandu Valley. This one, like others previously reported, was on the down migration from Tibet.

***Himantopus himantopus himantopus* (Linnaeus).** Black-winged Stilt.

Kathmandu Valley (north), 4,300 feet: 1 ♂; October 1, 1965.

Another casual visitor to Kathmandu Valley is the blackwinged stilt; this specimen was found along the Manora River below Gokarna. It was one of a pair on the banks of the river, in open, empty rice fields. An Indian river tern was there also, another unusual species in the valley. This is the first record of the stilt since Hodgson.

***Burhinus oedicnemus indicus* (Salvadori).** Stone Curlew.

Jhapa District, 6 miles north of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 1 ♂; February 12, 1965.

Kailali District, Dhangarhi, 800 feet: 1 ♀; March 18, 1965.

Kanchanpur District, Mahendranagar, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 30, 1965.

A bird of the lowlands, the stone curlews were in pairs in February and March. During the day they were silent, but right after dark and on through the night their loud, double-noted call of "parr-eek" at short intervals, indicated that they were fairly common. When flushed during the day they were near streams. When approached, they would start out on a run then fly rather close to the ground, the pair separating and taking different directions. Their calls at night



indicated that they were in cultivated fields, some distance away from water.

The species has now been collected from far eastern to far western Nepal.

***Esacus magnirostris recurvirostris*** (Cuvier). Great Stone Plover.

Jhapa District, 15 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 700 feet: 1 ♂; February 12, 1965

The only time we came across the great stone plover was in a broad sandy river bed in far eastern Nepal. A pair started moving away as we traveled across a stretch of sand. The flight was slow but powerful. We heard no call. This is the first record since the time of Hodgson.

***Glaireola lactea*** Temminck. Small Indian Pratincole.

Kanchanpur District, Barmdeo Mandi, 900 feet: 1 ♂; April 3, 1965.

In the broad Sarda River course, the small Indian pratincole were flying like miniature terns, up and down the river bed. The dark feathers under the wing were distinctive. There were six or eight of them, moving about 20 or 30 feet above the sand. At intervals they would alight and rest on the ground with wings held close to their sides. This is the first record from far western Nepal.

***Larus argentatus*** subsp. Herring Gull.

Kathmandu Valley, Bagmati River, 4,200 feet: 1 unsexed; November, 1961.

Binode Shah sighted two herring gulls on the Bagmati River, near Patan. One was floating on the river and the other flying above, and he got one of the two. As far as we can determine, the herring gull has not before been reported from Nepal.

***Larus brunnicephalus*** Jerdon. Brownheaded Gull.

Kathmandu Valley, Patan, Bagmati River, 4,200 feet: 1 imm. unsexed; October 24, 1963.

A pair was spotted near the Shanka Mool bridge, Patan, by Dinesh Rana. It was a rainy, cloudy afternoon and one of the birds was on the river and the other circling around above. This is the only record of the brownheaded gull since the time of Hodgson.

**Columba hodgsonii** Vigors. Speckled Wood Pigeon.

Dandeldhura District, Dandeldhura Town, 6,400 feet: 1 ♂; April 19, 1965.

A small flock of the speckled wood pigeon was on a ridge in a wooded area at 6,400 feet near Dandeldhura town where they were feeding. We had also found a flock of 20 or 30 birds in West No. 1 at 7,500 feet that were feeding on Mussoorie berries (*Cosaria nepalensis*). This was our first record from far western Nepal, though they are not uncommon around Mussoorie in the northwestern Himalayas.

**Streptopelia orientalis agricola** (Tickell). Rufous Turtle Dove.

Jhapa District, 17 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 1,000 feet: 1 ♀; February 9, 1965.

Rufous turtle doves are birds of wooded areas. Usually they are found in the vicinity of water. They are rather shy and when disturbed fly out of cover with a heavy, rapid wing beat. They usually sit high up in a tree and when flying away, will put several trees between themselves and their observer. One finds several together and can locate them by their rough four-note calls. Several races inhabit Nepal and are found throughout the foothills from about 1,000 to 7,000 feet. True *agricola* is confined to the far eastern districts.

**Streptopelia tranquebarica tranquebarica** (Hermann). Red Turtle Dove.

Kailali District, Dhangarhi, 800 feet: 2 ♂; March 15 and 18, 1965.

The red turtle dove is quite common in the open forests of the far western *terai*. In the middle of March they were in pairs and their calls from the top of tall *semel* trees (silk cotton) could be heard quite a distance. They seemed partial to the edge of forest groves near the edges of cultivated fields. Occasionally a bird would fly a short distance upward from his perch, then return to continue his calling. The race here proved to be the same as that in U. P., India, farther west, as Biswas suggested in his *Birds of Nepal* (1960, pt. 2, p. 534).

**Psittacula cyanocephala bengalensis** (Forster). Blossomheaded Parakeet.

Kanchanpur District, Bilauri, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 22, 1965.

The blossomheaded parakeet is very common in far western Nepal. Large groups chattered loudly from the tops of tall trees in the more

open area above cultivated fields. This is the first record from far western Nepal.

**Loriculus vernalis vernalis** (Sparrrman). Indian Lorikeet.

Jhapa District: 1 ?♂; June 23, 1965.

The Indian lorikeet proved to be an uncommon bird in Nepal. It is reported only from the eastern *terai* at Chisapani above Raghathpur and from Jhapa District. H. S. Nepali brought a specimen from Jhapa, though we had failed to see it on our visit there. Hodgson is the only other collector who has reported it from Nepal.

**Cuculus poliocephalus poliocephalus** Latham. Small Cuckoo.

Kathmandu Valley, Vishnumati, 4,200 feet: 1 ♂; January–February, 1962 (G. B. Gurung).

Kathmandu Valley, Shanta Bhawan, 4,300 feet: 1 ♀; September 12, 1963.

The small cuckoo passes through Kathmandu on the fall migration in September and returns on its way north in May. It is silent in autumn, but has been heard calling from the higher ridges of Sheopuri in spring. We watched one at 8,000 feet on a ridge in West No. 1 in May. It sat on the top of a tree for several minutes, flared out its tail, and its notes seemed to say "Preilly-peel-lay-ka-béet." The initial series was half strength, but the next two or three were very loud. One time a bird continued on 51 times. We saw one being chased by a greyheaded flycatcher-warbler.

**Cacomantis sonneratii sonneratii** (Latham). Indian Banded Bay Cuckoo.

Jhapa District, 3 miles north of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 1 ♂; January 9, 1964.

Kailali District, 22 miles north of Dhangarhi, 1,200 feet: 1 ♀; April 26, 1965.

The banded bay cuckoo seemed to be one of the less common species. During winter we found it in Jhapa District, eastern Nepal, in the top of a tall tree. Then in April we collected one in the foothills of far western Nepal.

**Cacomantis passerinus** (Vahl). Indian Plaintive Cuckoo.

West No. 1, Kalikathan, 5 miles north of Trisuli, 5,000 feet: 1 ♂; May 13, 1964.

One of the frequent calls in Kathmandu Valley and vicinity in spring and early summer is that of the plaintive cuckoo. It is usually on open hillsides near cultivation, where it quietly sits upright in the lower part of a tree. Of two or three calls, the more frequent ones are a series of ascending notes "please don't do it," starting slowly, with each of the series a little higher, and "ca-teer," a loud drawn-out sound every other second which can be heard a mile away. The flight is rather deliberate and the bird often covers some distance before alighting again.

We follow Biswas (1951) in considering *passerinus* a species distinct from *querulus* and *merulinus*.

**Chalcites maculatus** (Gmelin). Emerald Cuckoo.

Kathmandu Valley, Vishnumati; 1 ♂; May 11, 1959.

Of the numbers of cuckoos which pass through Kathmandu Valley or nest there, this little emerald cuckoo is one of the least common. G. B. Gurung found this bird sitting quietly in a tree along the banks of the Vishnumati River north of the Balaju Road, in mid-May.

**Tyto alba stertens** Hartert. Barn Owl.

Kathmandu Valley, Museum Building, 4,400 feet: 1 ♂; August 9, 1965.

The barn owl nests in roofs of older buildings but does not appear to be common. One January, a family group including young, was in the roof of Kalimati Durbar. The present specimen, one of three in the roof of the Museum building, was collected in August.

**Tyto capensis longimembris** (Jerdon). Grass Owl.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti Rivers, 1,000 feet: 1 downy ♂; November 21, 1964.

Several *Tharu* (aborigines) men from west of the Narayani River, Chitwan District, came to a town with four young grass owlets. Local medicine men took three of them; my hunter-skinner purchased the remaining bird and brought it in. About three weeks old, it was hatched about the first of November. This was the first record of this species from Nepal.

**Otus bakkamoena gangeticus** Ticehurst. Collared Scops Owl.

Jhapa District, 10 miles northeast of Bhadrapur, Mechi River: 1 ♂; January 31, 1965.

Our record is from far eastern Nepal. We put a mist net across a ravine bordered by a tangle of trees, vines, and shrubs and as we beat along the sides, the little owl flew into the net. The subspecific identification is by Dr. G. P. Hekstra who is preparing a monograph of this difficult genus.

**Otus scops** subsp. Scops Owl.

Jhapa District, 17 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; February 8, 1965.

Kanchanpur District, Barmdeomandi, 900 feet: 1 unsexed; April 3, 1965.

For a number of years we kept hearing the nocturnal call—dash dot dash—of the Scops Owl but were unable to locate the bird. When one began to call a half-hour before dark from the upper half of a heavily wooded area in Jhapa District, it was possible to catch up with it. Others we had heard calling as many as 230 times without pausing from cut-over forests and areas with grassy glades. This species is quite common in the lowlands of the eastern and western *terai*, but also extends into the hills up to 5,000 feet.

The subspecific identification of these birds awaits Dr. Hekstra's monograph. In western Nepal at about 5,000 feet the scops and spotted scops owl, *Otus spilocephalus*, whistled in the same area, the latter giving a series of about 100 double notes.

**Alcedo meninting coltarti** Baker. Blue-eared Kingfisher.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti Rivers, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; October 27, 1964.

Jhapa District, 17 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; February 17, 1965.

The two specimens of the blue-eared kingfisher taken in central and far eastern Nepal were both on wooded streams winding through forest. In appearance and habits they were similar to the common kingfisher, though these birds were both taken in the heavier wooded areas while the common variety frequents the banks of larger rivers and more open spaces. The bird usually selects a perch just a few feet above running water or above vegetation along the edge of a stream from which it secures its prey. It is limited in numbers and one seldom sees it.

**Merops leschenaulti leschenaulti** Vieillot. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater.

Jhapa District, 4 miles north of Bhadrapur: 1 ♀; January 10, 1965.

Kanchanpur District, Barmdeo Mandi, 900 feet: 1 ♀; April 2, 1965.

January and April were the months we took specimens of the chestnut-headed bee-eater in the far east and far west, extending the range of the species throughout the *terai*. They were in small flocks in scrub jungle where they frequently flew in short sallies after insects. Our earlier records show them to be at 3,000 feet in the foothills in September and October. The winter specimen from Jhapa proves that the species remains in Nepal throughout the year.

**Merops philippinus philippinus** Linnaeus. Bluetailed Bee-eater.

Kanchanpur District, Bilauri, 800 feet: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; March 24, 1965.

In far western Nepal we ran onto a group of 15 or 20 of these bluetailed bee-eaters hawking little orange butterflies from acacia trees in cultivated *gram* fields. Like others of this group, they fly out or down after an insect only to return to their original perch. Here in the *terai* late in March, they would soon be moving up into the lower foothills. This species has now been found throughout the Nepalese *terai*.

**Anthrococeros malabaricus malabaricus** (Gmelin). Indian Pied Hornbill.

Jhapa District, 3 miles west of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 1 ♀; January 19, 1965.

The pied hornbills, with their noisy, metallic chorus of screams, extend throughout the *terai*. They keep to the top of the larger trees, usually sitting in towards the center of branches. Quite keen-sighted, they usually do not allow a close approach. This specimen in Jhapa District, east Nepal, was one of three or four in a *sal* forest. It was sitting crosswise on a branch with tail straight down and head slightly curved forward. The "klak-klak-klak-klak" and "klak-klak-squawk" can be heard about a half-mile away.

**Buceros bicornis homrai** Hodgson. Great Pied Hornbill.

Chitwan District, Rapti Dun, Lothar Khola: 1 im. ♂; January 16, 1964.

The giant hornbill is not so conspicuous as the smaller pied birds except when flying; then the wing beat is quite noticeable. One sees

first one, then another following, usually in a small group, as they pump their way, then glide, over tops of forest trees. We have observed birds several times in the Rapti Dun along the Lothar Khola, as well as in the forests at Tiger Tops in the western dun. At dusk a single bird lodged in a large tree near camp and seemed preparing to stay there for the night. We also found this species in the foothills in far eastern Nepal. The call is a deep "hoo" like that of a larger owl. It is wary and difficult to approach.

**Megalaima australis cyanotis** (Blyth). Blue-eared Barbet.

Jhapa District, 12 miles north of Bhadrapur, 900 feet: 1 ♂; February 2, 1965.

Jhapa District, 17 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; February 7, 1965.

On our first trip through Jhapa District to Ilam we had heard a barbet call of "trrrrr trrrrr trrrrr trrrrr," like a faint police whistle, at the outer edge of the foothills. Upon our return four years later, we again heard the call coming from the top of a tall forest tree. It took some time to locate but we finally got a little blue-eared barbet, the first record from Nepal. Another perched in the top of a tree above our tent, far up toward the end of the branch. It hunched forward with head pulled in very much like the crimson-throated barbet and was slightly larger. The species did not appear to be in great numbers. Each one we saw was solitary.

**Indicator xanthonotus xanthonotus** Blyth. Honeyguide.

Baglung District, 3 miles above Dana, 7,000 feet: 1 ♂; December 20, 1963.

Our first honeyguides from East No. 2 were taken in November from a rocky ravine along cliffs. This one in western Nepal, low in a tree in a heavy forest, was taken in December. Its call was a "tzt" and it looked gray like a female bullfinch. A little farther on we came to a stream with rather high cliffs which we had not seen from among the trees. Evidently this bird's source of wax was there somewhere on that hillside. It was silent and we could not find others.

**Dendrocopos canicapillus semicoronatus** (Malherbe). Grey-crowned Pygmy Woodpecker.

Jhapa District, 3 miles north of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; January 9 and February 12, 1965.

The grey-crowned pygmy woodpecker was common in the *sal* forests of the eastern *terai*. They were in one's and two's and often with other species. The male specimen has the red occiput characteristic of the eastern race *semicoronatus*, here recorded for the first time from Nepal.

**Chrysocolaptes festivus festivus** (Boddaert). Blackbacked Woodpecker.

Kailali District, Dhangarhi, 800 feet: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; March 18 and 19, 1965.

Kanchanpur District, Bilauri, 800 feet: 1 imm. unsexed; March 23, 1965.

Most of our blackbacked woodpeckers were found in light forests near a stream. They were in twos, or threes, sometimes working well down on the boles of trees. Their chattering calls were the first attraction and one thought they might be some kind of babbler across a ravine, on the ground. However, they proved to be beyond the shrubbery edging the ravine, and were, in fact, over on the trunks of trees out in a field. Others were in a stretch of forest, three being a family group with one young bird. These birds from far western Nepal are a first record for the country.

**Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacristatus** (Tickell). Larger Golden-backed Woodpecker.

Jhapa District, 3 miles north of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 1 ♂; February 13, 1965.

One of the common inhabitants of the *sal* forests of eastern Nepal, this *terai* bird has a habit of flying into the higher trees and hiding on the opposite side of a large limb until one passes by. Its call is a loud "tin-pany" clatter of notes given in rapid succession. There always seemed to be more than one in the same area, climbing the boles of larger trees or looking about over their larger branches.

This specimen belongs to the small eastern race *guttacristatus* on the basis of wing size, 172 mm. Recorded measurements of *guttacristatus* males are 171–175 mm., while the larger *sultaneus* measures 173–186 mm.

**Psarisomus dalhousiae dalhousiae** (Jameson). Longtailed Broadbill.

Dandeldhura District, 22 miles north of Dhangarhi, 4,400 feet: 1 ♂; April 24, 1965.



The longtailed broadbills of the eastern *terai* in January were in the heavy forest at an altitude of 1,000 feet. There was a flock of 12 to 15 birds, moving fairly rapidly through tall trees. Our specimen from far western Nepal in April was solitary. It flew onto a vine in a forested glade and sat upright and still. It is not too common, though we have seen it throughout the lower foothills of Nepal.

***Alauda gulgula gulgula* Franklin. Eastern Skylark.**

Kailali District, Dhangarhi Airstrip, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 20, 1965.

Kanchanpur District, Bilauri, 800 feet: 1 ♂, March 13, 1965.

This small race of the eastern skylark evidently occupies the whole of the *terai*, having been taken at various localities from far eastern to far western Nepal. (See Fleming and Traylor, 1961, p. 474; 1964, p. 525.) Wing lengths of five males from this area are 89, 90, 90, 91, 92 mm.

***Hirundo daurica japonica* Temminck and Schlegel. Striated Swallow.**

Chitwan District, Lothar Khola, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; January 21, 1964.

There were many swallows skimming over the Lothar River in Rapti Dun and cutting through the air over the drier areas on either side of the stream. This specimen, gathered in the middle of January, proved to be the Japanese race of the striated swallow, not recorded from Nepal before.

***Delichon urbica urbica* (Linnaeus). House Martin.**

Dandeldhura District, 22 miles north of Dhangarhi, 1,500 feet: 1 ♀; April 26, 1965.

Hundreds of martins covered ridges in the foothills of western Nepal. Occasionally a single bird or two would swoop down into a valley and skim over the surface of a broad stream. This one proved to be a house martin, here recorded for the first time from Nepal. This bird, with snowy white underparts, is definitely the nominate race and not *cashmeriensis*, the breeding race of the Himalayas from Kashmir to Sikkim and Bhutan. The latter has not yet been found in Nepal.

***Delichon nipalensis nipalensis* Horsfield and Moore. Nepal House Martin.**

Dandeldhura District, 22 miles north of Dhangarhi, 1,500 feet: 1 imm. unsexed; April 26, 1965.

This specimen was with hundreds of others winging and circling over a broad stream in the foothills of far western Nepal; it is the first record from west of the valley. Previously we had noted large flocks of martins from 7,000 feet in May and June in central Nepal. On May 13 at 3,000 feet a few miles above Trisuli Bazaar, a flock of 20 to 30 birds was catching insects on a ridge just above a *banyan* tree.

**Lanius vittatus vittatus** Valenciennes. Baybacked Shrike.

Dandeldhura District, 7 miles south of Dandeldhura Town, 4,500 feet: 1 ♂; April 16, 1965.

One of our least common shrikes is the baybacked shrike. We had seen it in the eastern *terai* in winter, but this specimen was collected in the foothills of Dandeldhura District, west Nepal in mid-April, extending the range across the country. This particular bird was in a shrub in cultivated fields bordering a stream at 4,500 feet. We have only seen a single bird at a time.

**Saroglossa spiloptera** (Vigors). Spottedwing Stare.

Jhapa District, Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 1 ♂; January 11, 1965.

Kanchanpur District, Bilauri, 800 feet: 1 ♂; April 22, 1965.

Kanchanpur District, 5 miles east of Barmdeo Mandi, 800 feet: 1 ♀; March 30, 1965.

Some years ago at Amlekhganj on the road from India to Kathmandu we had seen a small flock of noisy stares in a fig tree. Two years later we saw one bird in the top of a tall pipal tree with 200 grayheaded mynas. In the far eastern *terai* we collected one from a silk cotton tree which was in flower and had attracted mynas, drongos, and crows. In the far western *terai*, stares became as abundant as mynas, consorting in large flocks near villages.

**Sturnus malabaricus malabaricus** (Gmelin). Greyheaded Myna.

Jhapa District, 1 mile north of Bhadrapur: 1 ♂; January 11, 1965.

Greyheaded mynas were as common in the eastern *terai* as in the western. Many haunted the flowering silk cotton trees along with a half-dozen or more other species. We noted that at one place where such a tree grew near the edge of a forest, red jungle fowl as well as barking deer (muntjac) came to eat flowers which had dropped to the ground.

***Sturnus pagodarum*** (Gmelin). Blackheaded or Brahminy Myna.

Dandeldhura District, Sardha River, 1,200 feet: 1 ♂; April 4, 1965.

The first brahminy myna was located in the upper part of a very tall silk cotton tree in the far western *terai*. Then, on a later tour to the same area, two were glimpsed in a leafy tree full of stares and grayheaded mynas. As we started through the foothills, a single bird perched high in a leafless tree over cultivated fields. The species has proved uncommon in Nepal, but not a great distance south in India it is abundant, especially in Indian cities such as Delhi. This is the first record since Hodgson.

***Acridotheres fuscus fuscus*** (Wagler). Jungle Myna.

Kanchanpur District, Bilauri, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 24, 1965.

The jungle myna proved very common in the western *terai*. They were usually in and around villages. In Kathmandu both common and jungle mynas nest in our compound. A number of years ago in Mussoorie, U. P., India, most of the mynas were common mynas, but of late years the jungle mynas have increased so that at this altitude, 6,500 feet, they now predominate.

***Kitta flavirostris flavirostris*** (Blyth). Yellowbilled Blue Magpie.

Ilam District, Lam Pokhari, 10,000 feet: 1 ♀; January 24, 1965.

Ilam District, Banduki Chowki, 10,000 feet: 1 ♂; January 21, 1965.

The two specimens collected on the far eastern border were between 11,000 and 12,000 feet. Above Kathmandu Valley, the yellow-billed birds are always higher than those with red bills with a small altitudinal interval between the two at about 5,500 to 7,000 feet. One of their calls closely resembles that of the Himalayan jay; another is a "cluck cluck," etc. Usually in small groups of three or four, one tends to follow another as they beat their wings then glide like miniature planes across a ravine.

A previous specimen from Jamnagaon, Ilam District, was misidentified (Fleming and Traylor, 1964, p. 526) as *K. f. cucullata*, the western race. When first examined, this specimen had a pale buffy-yellow wash below. Now, however, after six years the yellow wash has faded, revealing a violet wash on the breast characteristic of the eastern *flavirostris*. The two recent specimens still have a yellow wash below, masking the violet. According to Ali (1962, p. 323), the yellow wash itself is a character of *flavirostris*.

**Dendrocitta vagabunda vagabunda** (Latham). Indian Tree Pie.

Kailali District, Dhangarhi, 800 feet: 1 ♀; March 16, 1965.

Kanchanpur District, Mahendranagar, 980 feet: 1 ♂; April 2, 1965.

The Bengal tree pie ranges throughout the lowlands and lower foothills. Several moved among tall *sal* trees around a lake in western Nepal where we found comb ducks. Since it was March, birds were in pairs.

The most recent review of the northern races of *Dendrocitta vagabunda* is that of Paynter (1961, p. 379). Paynter points out that the large birds of the western Himalayas, previously included in *pallida*, actually belong to a more richly colored race, which he describes as *bristoli*. He gives the range of *bristoli* as the lower Himalayas from Hazara District, West Pakistan to Dehra Dun, India. It might be expected that birds from far western Nepal are *bristoli*. However, our measurements show that although there is a slight cline of increasing size from Bengal and Bihar to west Nepal, the Nepalese population as a whole is best kept with nominate *vagabunda*. Comparative measurements (in mm.) are:

	♂ ♂		♀ ♀	
	Wing	Tail	Wing	Tail
Bengal and Bihar	153, 157 164	233, 268	145, 154, 154, 155, 158	217, 220, 230, 243, 244
E. + C. Nepal	163	247	150, 150, 152, 153, 153	223, 224, 225, 232, 240
W. Nepal	161, 163	263, 265	158, 161	253, 254
Dehra Dun ( <i>bristoli</i> )	170, 173	287, 305		

For comparison, Paynter's measurements of topotypes of *bristoli* are:

♂ ♂		♀ ♀	
Wing	Tail	Wing	Tail
174, 177, 179	334, 342, 363	163, 166, 174	312, 349

**Pyrrhocorax graculus digitatus** Hemprich and Ehrenberg. Yellowbilled Chough.

Baglung District, 3 miles north northwest of Tilicho Pass, Jomosom, 14,000 feet: 1 ♀, 1 unsexed; December 22 and 23, 1963.

Like the magpies, yellowbilled choughs occupy ranges above those of the red-billed species. There were large flocks of redbilled choughs around Tukche, 9,000 feet, west Nepal. On up the trail toward Muktinath, at 12,500 feet, the yellowbilled birds had taken over. During the day flocks of choughs circled slowly around at quite great heights up to 17,000 feet, only to glide gradually to the ground where they fed. Later in the day, birds were again airborne, ascending to rock ledges among the higher mountains to roost for the night.

**Corvus macrorhynchos levaillanti** Lesson. Jungle Crow.

Jhapa District, 1-6 miles north of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 2 ♂, 1 unsexed; January 10 and February 11, 1965.

**Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus** Sykes. Jungle Crow.

Kailali District, Dhangarhi, 800 feet: 1 ♀; March 18, 1965.

Our specimen of this race of jungle crow was near the Indian border in western Nepal where birds were common around villages and at the edges of forests.

As suggested by Biswas (1963, pt. 11, p. 654) and Fleming and Traylor (1964, p. 527), jungle crows from the lowlands of Nepal all belong to the small Indian forms, *culminatus* and *levaillanti*, which have gray bases to the nape feathers. The large race *intermedius* with white bases to the nape feathers is found in the mountains of Nepal above about 3,000 feet. Intergrades between the two races are not known from Nepal, and according to Biswas (*loc. cit.*), they are readily distinguished in the field.

The racial designations above are based on average characters, for the Nepal *terai*, like the adjoining Indian plains (*cf.* Whistler and Kinnear, 1932, p. 510), lies in an area of intergradation between the western *culminatus*, with a slender, fairly straight bill, and the eastern *levaillantii* with the deep, highly arched bill. The best measure of the shape of the bill is the ratio between the height at the anterior edge of the nostril and the length. In four birds from Jhapa District, far east Nepal, this ratio (as per cent) is 34, 35, 37, 37, while in four west Nepal birds (including two from Nichlaul, U. P., on the west Nepal border) it is 32, 33, 34, 35. A single bird from Hitaura in the central Nepal *terai* has a ratio in the area of overlap, 34.5. While specimens from the extremes of east and west Nepal may fairly safely

be designated *levaillantii* and *culminatus* respectively, the remainder of the *terai* is in an area of intergradation.

***Coracina novaehollandiae nipalensis*** (Hodgson). Large Cuckoo-shrike.

Kailali District, 1 mile south of Dhangarhi, 800 feet: 1 ♂; April 18, 1965.

The double note of the large cuckoo-shrike directed us to the edge of cultivated fields bordered by tall trees. Two or three birds were feeding and would fly down to the fields, then in labored flight get up to the top of the next tree. This is a common species ranging from the lowlands to several thousand feet altitude. The large race *nipalensis* is found throughout Nepal. The far western male has a wing length of 179, while five other Nepalese males measure 180–185.

***Coracina melaschistos melaschistos*** (Hodgson). Smaller Grey Cuckoo-shrike.

Kanchanpur District, 5 miles east of Shukla, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 27, 1965.

The smaller gray cuckoo-shrike usually inhabits forested areas. This one was in thin *terai* woods near a stream. It stayed inside and well up in a leafy tree and was silent, so that it might have been easily overlooked. Others we had found were higher in the foothills in spring but this specimen was still in the lowland. We have now collected it from far western to eastern Nepal.

***Pericrocotus ethologus laetus*** Mayr. Longtailed Minivet.

Ilam District, 4 miles west of Pheakal, 6,000 feet: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; January 14, 1965.

This eastern race of the long-tailed minivet we found in Ilam District at about 6,000 feet. There were several birds in a grove. They ranged from the tops of higher trees, in their feeding, to low bushes and grassy hillsides where they frequently lit near the ground. A frequent call was a mellow "tweet tweet" usually sounded in flight or from trees. Although their bright colors made them conspicuous, they were not at all shy.

We agree with Biswas (1961, pt. 4, p. 458) that only east Nepal birds are *laetus*, and that those from central Nepal are *laetus*  $\leq$  *favillaceus*.

**Pericrocotus roseus roseus** (Vieillot). Rosy Minivet.

Kanchanpur District, 5 miles east of Barmdeo Mandi, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 30, 1965.

Dandeldhura District, 2 miles south of Banghat, 1,000 feet: 1 ♀; April 5, 1965.

Dandeldhura District, 4 miles north of Jogbura, 2,500 feet: 1 ♂; April 7, 1965.

The first of our rosy minivets were in the lowlands in early spring. Two were in one group and four in another. They preferred thin, dry forest where they kept on the move for insects. A few weeks later a small group was among low trees along a stream at 2,500 feet, and a second in a similar situation at 4,500 feet. Our only specimens have come from far western Nepal, but Dr. Diesselhorst found them in the forests of Rapti Dun, central Nepal.

**Irena puella sikkimensis** Whistler and Kinnear. Fairy Bluebird.

Jhapa District, 14 miles northwest of Sunischare, 1,100 feet: 1 ♂; January 1, 1965.

Jhapa District, 13 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 900 feet: 1 ♀; February 6, 1965.

The fairy bluebird, for which we had been looking for a number of years, occasionally flew over our camp in twos, or threes. We found them at two other places in far eastern Nepal also, from about 900 feet to 1,100 feet altitude. Our birds kept to the taller trees, sometimes resting on dead branches near the tree tops. A loud two-note call could be heard from some distance. This was the first record of this species from Nepal; it was previously known from as far west as Darjeeling.

**Pycnonotus cafer bengalensis** Blyth. Redvented Bulbul.

Dandeldhura District, 4 miles east of Banghat; 1,200 feet: 1 ♀; April 6, 1965.

A common bird throughout the *terai* and foothills of Nepal, it was found in the vicinity of cultivations, especially where there might be fruit available. The call is a short, somewhat varied series of notes. Often found in pairs, bulbuls enjoy each other's company and often perch close together on a curving bamboo or near the tops of trees, directing their attention to each other in a most attentive manner.

A few of the west Nepal birds, including this worn specimen, approach the paler *intermedius* of Kumaon in color.

**Pomatorhinus schisticeps schisticeps** Hodgson. Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler.

Jhapa District, 17 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; February 8, 1965.

This appears to be the first record of this species from far eastern Nepal. We had collected it in western Nepal at slightly higher altitudes where it was much more abundant.

**Garrulax squamatus** (Gould). Bluewinged Laughing Thrush.

Kathmandu Valley, Sheopuri, 6,800 feet: 1 ♂, 1 juvenal; June 15, 1964.

It was stimulating to have lived in an area for some time and to suddenly come across a species not seen there before. A family group of four of this laughing thrush occupied the heavily wooded slopes of a deep ravine. When an adult appeared in the vegetation ahead, it resembled the rufous-chinned laughing thrush but with darker wings. This blue-winged species is not common but had nested here and the male was directing the two immature birds into the ravine. The young bird must have been barely out of the nest, for the rectrices are only 15 mm. long, with only the tips of the sheaths open. The adult birds perched crosswise on a branch with head bent forward and tail flicking; they moved short distances with a heavy flight. The adult call was "cur-white-to-go" and "free for you." When scolding it sounded similar to the streaked laughing thrush, *G. l. lineatus*. The call of the young was a "cre-e-e-e-e."

**Garrulax erythrocephalus kali** Vaurie. Redheaded Laughing Thrush.

Dandeldhura District, Dandeldhura Town, 6,500 feet: 2 ♂, 1 ♀; March 19–April 20, 1965.

These are as pale as Kumaon birds and could just as well be called *erythrocephalus*. The race *kali* has been collected as far east as Kathmandu Valley.

The red-headed laughing thrushes of Dandeldhura town were on oak ridges at 6,500 feet where they were common. They kept to dense vegetation not too far from the ground and were usually in pairs. They seemed to prefer ravines near water. Not very shy, they respond to squeaks produced on the back of one's hand.

**Myzornis pyrrhoura** Blyth. Firetailed Myzornis.

East No. 1, Dupuk, 10 miles northeast of Tarke Ghyang, 12,800 feet: 1 ♀; July 26, 1964.



We had previously observed the myzornis in two places. Several were in the virgin forest along the eastern border of Nepal at 8–9,000 feet and another near the Tibetan border in East No. 2. This specimen is from the Kosi–Gandak watershed just north of Kathmandu. It came out of a thick rhododendron grove (*Rhododendron campanulatum*) near the tree line at 12,800 feet. It was near the ground and quickly disappeared among the boles of the short trees. It is an uncommon bird in central Nepal.

**Minla strigula simlaensis** (Meinertzhagen). Stripethroated Siva.

West No. 1, 9 miles east northeast of Trisuli, 7,000 feet: 1 ♂; May 14, 1964.

Dandeldhura District, 5 miles east of Dandeldhura Town, 6,400 feet: 2 ♀ ♀; April 21, 1965; 7 miles south of Dandeldhura Town, 8,100 feet: 1 ♂; April 22, 1965.

Our far western stripethroated sivas were quite common. One flock of about 15 birds flew across the main road below Dandeldhura Town and worked among low trees in grassy fields. A smaller party came through the heavy forest on the northern slopes of ridges at about 6,400 feet. They are noisy, inquisitive birds and become alarmed upon hearing squeaks made by sucking the back of one's hand, and investigate the sound. In higher oak forests they were usually in mixed hunting parties.

These specimens are paler on the upperparts than recently taken examples of nominate *strigula* from central and eastern Nepal. The underparts fade too fast to have any significance taxonomically.

**Yuhina flavicollis albicollis** (Ticehurst and Whistler). Yellow-naped Yuhina.

Dandeldhura District, 5 miles north of Rupal, 3,500 feet: 1 ♂; April 11, 1965.

This western race of the yellownaped yuhina inhabited dense undergrowth on steep, forested hillsides. They were busily moving about through vegetation, then one after another would fly a short distance to the next thicket. It was easy to call them out of the brush by squeaking on the back of one's hand.

**Yuhina gularis gularis** Hodgson. Stripethroated Yuhina.

Dandeldhura District, 7 miles south of Dandeldhura Town, 8,100 feet: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; April 22, 1965.

This species occupied the crests of oak-rhododendron forests of western Nepal. In April they appeared to be solitary or in pairs. Their usual place was near the tops of oak trees. They were not so common here as farther east.

Ripley (1961, p. 409) suggests that the western race *vivax* may reach far western Nepal. The present specimens, however, are typical *gularis*.

**Yuhina occipitalis occipitalis** Hodgson. Rufousvented Yuhina.

West No. 1, 22 miles east northeast of Trisuli, 11,000 feet: 1 ♂; May 19, 1964.

The rufousvented yuhina is a rather smaller bird, found from 10,000 to 11,000 feet in oak trees. We saw them in West No. 3 near Kali-Gandak River at 10,000 feet. There were five or six in large oak trees. Later we found them in trees on grassy slopes of steep hills in West No. 1 where parties of from five to a dozen worked through the upper half of oak trees. A high-pitched note indicated the whereabouts of such a flock.

**Yuhina nigrimenta nigrimenta** Hodgson. Blackchinned Yuhina.

Ilam District, 4 miles south of Ilam, 2,000 feet: 1 ♂; February 1, 1965.

Dandeldhura District, 24 miles south of Dandeldhura, 2,500 feet: 1 ♀; April 25, 1965.

The specimen of the blackchinned yuhina collected in far eastern Nepal was in a dense tangle of vines and ferns at about 2,000 feet altitude. Those we found in far western Nepal were also near the ground in more open vegetation, in a ravine with flowing water at 2,500 feet. A group of five or six along with a mixed group of a half-dozen other species were constantly on the move and at the slightest disturbance would plunge out of sight.

**Yuhina zantholeuca zantholeuca** (Hodgson). Whitebellied Yuhina or Herpornis.

Dandeldhura District, 22 miles south of Dandeldhura Town, 4,400 feet: 1 unsexed; April 24, 1965.

This species has now been observed in the foothills throughout Nepal. One usually finds one or two or three in company with numerous other birds—tits, willow-warblers, nuthatches, etc. This far western specimen was taken in a wooded ravine near a stream.

**Heterophasia capistrata capistrata** (Vigors). Blackcapped Sibia.

Kanchanpur District, 10 miles south of Rupal, 5,500 feet: 1 ♀; April 8, 1965.

The blackcapped sibia was more common and ranged at a higher altitude in eastern Nepal. This specimen from far western Nepal was only at 5,500 feet. Its clear call could occasionally be heard from the tops of tall oaks but was rather difficult to locate. Its call is "do do do do; te te te; la la" or "do do; te te; le." Each series of notes is about a half-tone lower.

This specimen is a well-marked representative of the small pale western race—the first time that it has been reported from Nepal. The previously recorded specimen from Baitidi (Fleming and Traylor, 1961, p. 479), a locality about 20 miles north of Rupal, was small in size like *capistrata*, but dark in color like *nigriceps*. For the use of *capistrata* instead of *pallida* for this race, see Ripley (1961, p. 416).

**Muscicapa sibirica cacabata** Penard. Sooty Flycatcher.

East No. 1, 5 miles southeast of Tarki Ghyang, 8,000 feet: 1 juv.; August 5, 1964.

Kanchanpur District, 5 miles northwest of Barmdeo Mandi, 900 feet: 1 ♂; April 3, 1965.

The sooty flycatcher is a conspicuous summer nester from about 8,000 feet up to 11,000 feet. We collected a young bird on a ridge in Helumbu in August. The one we found in the far western *terai* extends the range from central to western Nepal.

**Muscicapa superciliaris superciliaris** Jerdon. Whitebrowed Blue Flycatcher.

Kanchanpur District, Kailali, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 22, 1965.

Kanchanpur District, Barmdeo Mandi, 900 feet: 1 ♂; April 3, 1965.

Dandeldhura District, Dandeldhura, 6,000 feet: 1 ♀; April 21, 1965.

The whitebrowed blue flycatcher is a conspicuous bird, calling often and usually from a dead branch or a tree-top. Those we came across in March were in pairs at 800 feet altitude, in a thin forest of the far western *terai* but by the end of April they had ascended to the oak-rhododendron forests at 6,000 feet.

These specimens are the first records of the western race *superciliaris* from Nepal. They have the conspicuous white patches on

the base of the outer rectrices and distinct white superciliaries characteristic of that form, and are also paler above than specimens from central Nepal. The latter belong to *aestigma*, which ranges east to Assam.

**Tesia cyaniventer** Hodgson. Dull Slatybellied Ground Warbler.

Kathmandu, Sheopuri, 8,000 feet: 1 ♀; June 24, 1964.

Jhapa District, 3 miles north of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 2 ♀; January 12, February 13, 1965.

In May the slatybellied ground warbler was among bamboos on a dark, damp hillside at 8,000 feet. But in winter we found it at 500 feet in the *sal* forests of Jhapa District, far eastern Nepal. Here these birds lived under dark tangles of the fern *Diplazium esculentum*, on or near the ground uttering a "churr, churr," etc. They were solitary. Near West Bengal, we had expected to find *T. olivea* but neither of our two birds was of that species.

**Cettia pallidipes pallidipes** (Blanford). Palefooted or Blanford's Bush Warbler.

Jhapa District, Mechi River, 5 miles south of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 1 ♀; January 24, 1965.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; October 28 and 29, 1964.

The bright little song of Blanford's bush warbler seems to rise out of the ground or the base of tufts of jungle grass in heavy forest. In Rapti Dun it is quite common but this is the first record from east Nepal.

**Cettia fortipes pallidus** (Brooks). Strongfooted Bush Warbler.

Dandeldhura District, 16 miles north of Rupal, 6,000 feet: 1 ♂; April 14, 1965.

The strongfooted bush warblers are small birds with a loud call. Like those of the eastern race we secured in Ilam District, this representative of the western race was calling from a watered ravine. It was an active bird, keeping very near the ground and constantly submerged in vegetation. On rare occasions it appeared for an instant, only to return to cover. Recorded from Kashmir to Almora, this was the first record of *pallidus* in Nepal.

**Prinia cinereocapilla** Hodgson. Hodgson's Longtail Warbler.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti River, 1,000 feet: 1 unsexed; November 10, 1964.

Our previous record for this species was from far western Nepal. Its call is a trilled note with a rising inflection (like an iora), then a loud drawn-out "swe-e-e-e-e chor."

***Prinia flaviventris flaviventris*** (Delessert). Yellowbellied Longtail Warbler.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti Rivers, 1,000 feet: 1 juv. October 25, 1965.

The Rapti Dun in colder months is a gathering place for birds like rubythroats and longtail warblers. Some seem to be quite common, such as the brown and the jungle longtail warblers. Our net yielded a single yellowbellied species which did not appear to be common. This is the first record of it since the time of Hodgson.

***Graminicola bengalensis bengalensis*** Jerdon. Large Grass Warbler.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti River, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; November 19, 1964.

Of the various places we put up mist nets in the Rapti Dun, the most rewarding area was among the clumps of high grass at the edge of the Rapti River. Here we caught numbers of striated babblers, rubythroats, bluetthroats, longtail warblers, etc. Among these was a single large grass warbler, which we had collected before in far western Nepal. This specimen extends the range of the species to central Nepal.

***Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens*** (Jerdon). Indian Great Reed Warbler.

Jhapa District, Mechi River, 10 miles northeast of Bhadrapur: 1 ♀; January 30, 1965.

The great reed warbler was netted in a narrow strip of reeds among cultivation. These strips of reeds were also a favored haunt of the paddyfield warbler and grayheaded bunting. This is the first record of the great reed warbler since Hodgson.

***Acrocephalus concinens*** (Swinhoe). Bluntwinged Paddyfield Warbler.

Jhapa District, 15 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur: 1 ♂; February 10, 1965.

In the northern part of Jhapa, within sight of the Himalayan foothills, there are large patches of reed beds, at about 800 feet, sometimes a quarter-mile long and two or three hundred feet wide. Netting during the day was not too rewarding for birds tended to fly quite high above the reeds. The ideal time was shortly before dusk when birds came from fields and groves to shelter in the reed beds for the night. Bluethroats, wagtails, weaver birds, warblers, etc., flew into our nets. Among these was a bluntwinged paddyfield warbler, widely distributed from Afghanistan to China but never before reported from Nepal.

We use the binomial for this specimen because of uncertainty over the racial designation. It is not *stevensi* of Assam, being much less buffy below. It resembles closely *haringtoni*, but that race has been recorded no nearer than Kashmir. We have no material of the palaearctic race *concinens*, which winters in southeast China and possibly Siam. Whichever race it turns out to be, it is far outside its normal range.

**Phylloscopus tytleri** Brooks. Tytler's Leaf Warbler.

Dandeldhura District, 4 miles south of Rupal, 7,000 feet: 1 ♀; April 9, 1965.

One of the birds we took from a mixed hunting party proved to be Tytler's leaf warbler. It breeds from Gilgit to Kashmir and has been taken in the Siwaliks of the U.P., India, on passage. This species had not been reported from Nepal before and represents a considerable extension eastward.

When compared to three wintering *tytleri* from Bombay and Madras, this specimen is a trifle brighter green. This is probably due to the fact that it is in fresh nuptial plumage, while the other birds are in worn winter plumage.

**Phylloscopus fuscatus weigoldi** Stresemann. Dusky Leaf Warbler.

Jhapa District, 15 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 700 feet: 1 ♂; February 10, 1965.

A winter visitor from the north proved to be the Szechwan race of the dusky leaf warbler. It was in one of the larger reed beds in sight of the foothills of Jhapa District, far eastern Nepal. This is the first record of this subspecies from Nepal.

**Phylloscopus occipitalis occipitalis** (Blyth). Large Crowned Leaf Warbler.

Dandeldhura District, Dandeldhura Town, 6,200 and 6,000 feet: 1 ♂, 2 ♀; April 19 and 20, 1965.

The first time we met with the large crowned leaf warbler was on the wooded oak ridge in Dandeldhura Town. Numbers of them were working in the upper two-thirds of the oaks and were constantly on the move. They were quite conspicuous as oversized leaf warblers. We have not found them east of this district, although Biswas (1962, pt. 7, p. 419) records one from Deorali, central Nepal; they are common in the northwestern Himalayas around Mussoorie.

**Phylloscopus cantator cantator** (Tickell). Blackbrowed Leaf Warbler.

Jhapa District, 17 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; February 8, 1965.

There were many birds in the heavy mixed forests of the low foothills in northern Jhapa District. At 1,000 feet R. L. Fleming, Jr. followed a mixed hunting party in lower trees for over an hour. There was one small species which would show itself for an instant, then disappear among the foliage and about 60 others of the group. At long intervals it would reappear and at such a time he was fortunate to get it. The black browed leaf warbler has been reported from Sikkim and Bengal but never before from Nepal.

**Erithacus pectoralis pectoralis** (Gould). Himalayan Rubythroat.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti Rivers, 1,000 feet: 2 ♂, 2 ♀; October 30–November 22, 1964.

Jhapa District, 12 miles north of Bhadrapur, 900 feet: 1 ♂; February 4, 1965.

We netted four specimens in the Rapti Dun in November. We also found both the common rubythroat and the Tibetan rubythroat in the same area. They were usually on or near the ground in tall swamp grass and once in the low branches of a tree. One could detect the call of the rubythroat hidden in these areas but there did not seem to be a great difference between the different species and races. The nominate race, *pectoralis*, extends to far east Nepal in winter, although the breeding form of this area is stated to be *confusus*.

**Hodgsonius phoenicuiroides phoenicuiroides** (Gray). Whitebellied Redstart.

Butwal District, Marek, 3,000 feet: 1 ♀; January 17, 1950.

East No. 3, Khumjung, 13,400 feet: 1 ♂; April 5, 1962.

The male came from above Khumjung, collected by G. B. Gurung on the Diesselhorst expedition. We failed to find it in a similar area in Helumbu, north of Kathmandu in July–August. The female from west Nepal has been sitting in the Field Museum collection for 15 years, masquerading as an unidentified warbler. The junior author would like to thank Prof. Stresemann and Dr. Diesselhorst for saving him the embarrassment of describing it as a new genus!

**Grandala coelicolor** Hodgson. Hodgon's Grandala.

East No. 3, Ghokyo Pokhari, 15,000 feet: 1 im. ♀; July 31, 1962.

This specimen was taken at Ghokyo Pokhari in Khumbu on the Diesselhorst expedition, by G. B. Gurung. The grandala is also reported by Colonel Richard Proud on the southern slopes of the pass through the Kosainkund Range, directly north of Kathmandu. M. Desfeyes found it in the same area at 14,000 feet, netting a bird and recording its song.

**Saxicola leucura** (Blyth). Whitetailed Stone Chat.

Chitwan District, 5 miles south of Jhawani, 850 feet: 1 ♂; January 23, 1964; Reu-Rapti Rivers, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; November 7, 1964.

Kanchanpur District, Bilauri, 800 feet: 1 imm. unsexed; March 23, 1965.

The whitetailed chats are winter visitors. We saw them perched on the top of tall jungle grass in uncultivated areas, but more often they preferred positions along the banks of rivers where they also perched near the tops of long, arching grass stems. They were somewhat wary and flew some distance before alighting again.

**Zoothera wardii** (Blyth). Pied Ground Thrush.

Dandeldhura District, Dandeldhura, 6,300 feet: 1 ♂; April 16, 1965.

West No. 1, 8 miles north of Trisuli, 7,200 feet: 1 ♂; May 23, 1964.

Our far western specimen of the pied ground thrush was at 6,300 feet in mid-April and the second, in central Nepal, at 7,200 feet in May. Both birds were rather secretive, preferring well-wooded streams and staying in low bushes or on the ground. We have seen a pair approach Kathmandu Valley from rocky hillsides to the south



in the latter part of April, but have not noted them in the valley itself. None of these birds was singing. The species is far from common.

***Zoothera mollissima mollissima* (Blyth).** Plainbacked Mountain Thrush.

East No. 1, Dupuk, 10 miles northeast of Tarke Ghyang, 12,800 feet: 1 juv. ♂; July 28, 1964.

East No. 1, 11 miles northeast of Tarke Ghyang, 12,900 feet: 1 juv.; July 29, 1964.

Baglung District, 3 miles above Dana, 7,000 feet: 1 ♂; December 25, 1963.

Our juvenals of this species were found on open, grassy hillsides in the vicinity of a stream. There were also a few adult birds and all of them spent much time on the ground.

***Zoothera dixonii* (Seeböhm).** Longtailed Mountain Thrush.

East No. 1, 8 miles northeast of Tarke Ghyang, 11,500 feet: 1 juv. ♂; August 2, 1964.

We found this young mountain thrush in a juniper forest north of Kathmandu at 11,500 feet. There were several scattered over a distance of a mile or so; they fed on the ground in the vicinity of streams, then rested in low trees. This is apparently the first authenticated breeding record for Nepal.

***Turdus viscivorus bonapartei* Cabanis.** Mistle Thrush.

Dandeldhura District, 4 miles east of Rupal, 7,300 feet: 1 ♀; April 9, 1965; 3 miles south of Rupal, 7,000 feet: 1 ♂; April 10, 1965.

We saw the mistle thrush several times in western Nepal in oak forests at 7-7,500 feet. They spend some time on the ground and when disturbed, fly within the heavily-leaved oak trees. Several years before a single bird perched high in a pine tree in Doti District, western Nepal, and was rather wary. This species is a solitary bird. It seems to be much more abundant in the Himalayas farther northwest of Nepal, and these are the first records for Nepal since Hodgson.

***Troglodytes troglodytes nipalensis* Blyth.** Wren.

East No. 1, 10 miles northeast of Tarke Ghyang, 13,000 feet: 1 juv. ♀; July 28, 1964.

This specimen is from central Nepal where it inhabited a stone wall at 13,200 feet. There were two or three others in the vicinity

but they always seemed to be solitary. One can usually hear the call, a sharp "tzit" before he can detect a tiny, dark object emerging from between rocks.

We have re-examined our wrens from Patale to see if they might be *kinneari* Biswas (1955, p. 87); Khumbu, type locality of *kinneari*, is only 50 miles northeast of Patale. When specimens from Patale are compared to typical *nipalensis* from Tukeche and Sikkim, there are no differences in color or size. Comparative measurements (in mm.) are:

		Wing	Tail	Bill
Patale	3 ♂ ♂	51-53	32-33	14-15
	2 ♀ ♀	49	30, 31	13.5, 14
Tukche	1 ♂	49	32	13.5
	1 ♀	47	27	13
Sikkim	3 ♂ ♂	50-53	31	14-14.5
	5 ♀ ♀	47-51	27-30	12.5-14

These specimens are all *nipalensis*. If *kinneari* is indeed valid, it must have a restricted distribution.

***Prunella collaris nipalensis* (Blyth).** Alpine Accentor.

Baglung District, 5 miles above Dana, 8,500 feet: 1 ♂; December 18, 1963.

Baglung District, 2 miles east of Muktinath, 15,000 feet: 1 ♂; December 20, 1963.

Baglung District, 3 miles east southeast of Jomosom, 10,000 feet: 1 ♀; December 22, 1963.

East No. 1, Dupuk, 11 miles northeast of Tarke Ghyang, 14,000 feet: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; July 28, 1964.

The alpine accentor has quite an altitudinal spread in winter. In the Kali Gandak area of western Nepal in December we found one in the top of a leafless tree near Dana at 8,000 feet. A little later that same month they were at Jomosom, 10,000 feet, and Muktinath, 15,000 feet. In East No. 1, in July, a pair inhabited large rocks at 14,000 feet. One, then the other would fly down into green grass then across a wide ravine from one rock cliff to another. Their call was a series of six notes, the first four a little higher each time and slurred upward, then ending with a short "tee, dee." We had previously collected this bird as low as 7,000 feet near Mussoorie, U.P., India, in winter, but these were our first records from Nepal.

**Parus rubidiventris beavani** (Jerdon). Rufousbellied Crested Tit.

Ilam District, Lam Pokhari, 9,900–11,000 feet: 2 ♂; January 23–26, 1965.

This eastern race of the rufousbellied crested tit was taken along the border between 10,000 and 11,000 feet. One flock was in the tops of rhododendrons while others preferred fir and hemlock forests 90 feet high. Birds usually traveled in small groups of a half-dozen and were only occasionally seen in those areas.

**Parus modestus modestus** (Burton). Yellowbrowed Tit.

Dandeldhura District, 4 miles south of Rupal, 7,000 feet: 1 ♀; April 9, 1965.

The little yellowbrowed tit has proved to be more common than at first believed, and is now recorded from throughout the country. Almost always in company with a mixed party of willow warblers, tits and others, it is easily overlooked. They act much like warblers without the wing-flicking tendencies. There are several calls, one of which is like the red-headed tit. Our specimen was in an oak in a heavy forest at about 7,000 feet, along with a dozen other birds. In the hills around Kathmandu, one runs onto this species quite often.

**Aegithalos iouschistos iouschistos** (Hodgson). Rufousfronted Tit.

Baglung District, 5 miles above Dana, 8,500 feet: 2 unsexed; December 21, 1963.

Since finding the rufousfronted tit in East No. 2, we have come across it on the Kosi–Gandak watershed north of Kathmandu and now in the hills along the western bank of the Kali Gandak River in Baglung District, the westernmost extension of its range. There were several in the oak forests at 8,500 feet where they worked through the middle of trees. These confiding birds are interesting to watch as their pale little heads pop out from among green oak leaves.

**Sitta castanea castanea** Lesson. Chestnutbellied Nuthatch.

Kanchanpur District, Mahendranagar, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 31, 1965.

A bird of the *terai*, this nuthatch was in a large tree in a thin cut-over forest near a stream. One saw nuthatches occasionally at this altitude, 800 feet above sea level, and they were usually solitary.

The range of *castanea* in Nepal is limited to the western *terai*, south of the Siwalik Hills. A male from Jogbura, only 15 miles north-

east of Mahendranagar but in the Duns behind the Siwaliks, is typical *almorae*, the race of the western Himalayas. In western Nepal and apparently in Kumaon (see Vaurie, 1950, p. 7) this ecological separation is very rigid, but in central Nepal *almorae* spreads out into the *terai* and *castanea* is not known to occur. In peninsular India, where the large billed *almorae* does not occur, *castanea* is found in both lowlands and hills.

**Sitta castanea** subsp. Chestnutbellied Nuthatch.

Jhapa District, 3 miles north of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 1 ♀; January 9, 1964.

A common bird of the *sal* forests of eastern Nepalese lowlands, this nuthatch was almost never found alone but in mixed companies of forest birds. One could often hear the nuthatch first and, in some cases, it seemed to pilot the group from one tree to another.

This bird probably belongs to the Sikkim race *cinnamoventr*, but it is not possible to distinguish the females.

**Anthus trivialis trivialis** (Linnaeus). Tree Pipit.

Dandeldhura District, 4 miles south of Rupal, 7,000 feet: 1 ♀; April 9, 1965.

Dandeldhura District, 16 miles north of Rupal, 5,800 feet: 1 ♂; April 14, 1965.

The tree pipit seemed to be more common in far western Nepal than in other parts of the country. Several were in fields at 7,000 feet in Dandeldhura District early in April and a few days later we saw a small flock of them on the forest floor at 5,800 feet. These were probably all passage migrants.

**Anthus spinoletta** (Linnaeus). Water or Alpine Pipit.

West No. 3, Pokhara, 3,000 feet: 1 ♂; December 31, 1963.

A winter visitor to Nepal, the water pipit was present in an empty rice field bordering a stream in the upper end of Pokhara Valley, western Nepal. There were a number of skylarks, pipits and bush chats in that area, which was mostly open fields and sandy stretches, with little vegetation and almost no trees. Ridges rose on either side of the valley which was about a mile wide.

This is the first record of *spinoletta* from Nepal. We are unable to identify it to subspecies with any degree of certainty.

***Anthus sylvanus*** (Hodgson). Upland Pipit.

Dandeldhura District, 3 miles north of Rupal: 1 ♂; April 11, 1966.

We had found the upland pipit in far eastern and central western Nepal where the usual drawn-out call of "fir-chee," repeated seven or eight times, recalls open, rocky slopes of the Himalayan foothills. We met this species for the first time in far western Nepal in April. This time the bird was in a tree on a steep, rocky hillside and its five-note call was quite different from the one we had always heard before.

***Aethopyga gouldiae gouldiae*** (Vigors). Mrs. Gould's Sunbird.

West No. 1, 18 miles north northwest of Trisuli, 8,300 feet: 1 ♂; May 17, 1964.

Mrs. Gould's sunbird is a familiar species in Mussoorie in very specific places, usually at a wooded pass at about 8,000 feet. In similar places in Nepal the species always turned out to be the Nepal sunbird, *A. nipalensis*. In mid-May in West No. 1, we were about 8,300 feet altitude on a hillside with a thick canopy of vines and vegetation about ten feet over heads, and taller trees above, filled with bronzy-leaved mistletoe. At a spring where we ate lunch we saw several sunbirds, one of which edged its way toward the water. It was not the Nepal sunbird I had first thought it was, but Mrs. Gould's. Upon our return a week later we found another under the same canopy.

***Passer rutilans cinnamomeus*** (Gould). Cinnamon Tree Sparrow.

Kanchanpur District, Banghat, 1,200 feet: 1 ♂; April 6, 1965.

The few times we have seen the cinnamon sparrow in Nepal, they have been in trees beyond the outskirts of villages. The above specimen was near the banks of the Sarda River, far western Nepal in an area which had been cultivated but was now abandoned. The nest was in a hole far up in a tall, dead tree. The throaty chirp could be heard some distance away. Birds of the northwestern Himalayas, such as those in Mussoorie, nest along city streets.

***Petronia xanthocollis xanthocollis*** (Burton). Yellowthroated Sparrow.

Kailali District, Dhangarhi, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 15, 1965.

Although we had occasionally collected the yellowthroated sparrow in eastern and central Nepal, it was in the far western *terai* that

we found them really abundant. In open fields around Dhangarhi, flocks of 75 to 100 were found feeding on grass seed. The entire flock would swoop down onto the ground, hop around, then take to the air, circle and alight in a leafy tree.

**Ploceus philippinus burmanicus** Ticehurst. Baya.

Jhapa District, 4 miles north of Bhadrapur, 500 feet: 1 ♂; January 10, 1965.

Jhapa District, 15 miles north northwest of Bhadrapur, 700 feet: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; February 11, 1965.

The eastern weaver birds were fairly often found at the edges of cultivation or in the areas of reed swamps. As a rule the flock (of 20–30 birds) flew rather high over the reeds and it was difficult to net them until almost dark, when they moved through the reeds on being dislodged from their usual roosting places.

Although this series is composed only of males in eclipse or females, they differ markedly from nominate *philippinus* from west Nepal and central India. They are more richly and darker colored both above and below, and have noticeably longer bills. This is the first record of *burmanicus* from Nepal.

**Estrilda amandava amandava** (Linnaeus). Red munia or Avadavat.

Chitwan District, Reu-Rapti, 1,000 feet: 1 ♂; October 25, 1964.

Kanchanpur District, Bilauri, 800 feet: 1 ♂; March 23, 1965.

Our first contact with the red munias was in the Rapti Dun where there were flocks in scrub jungle eating grass seeds. In far western Nepal several flocks of from 20 to 30 birds, along with black-breasted weavers and yellowbreasted buntings, chose areas full of long spikes of dried grass six to eight feet tall. When disturbed the munias would buzz off with a series of high pitched chirps, circle, then alight rather close together in another locality. Indians are fond of them as cage birds and one finds 20 to 30 of them in a single small cage.

**Lonchura malacca rubroniger** (Hodgson). Blackheaded Munia. Chestnut Mannikin.

Chitwan District, 5 miles west of Reu-Rapti Rivers, 1,000 feet: 2 ♂, 1 ♀; November 2 and 4, 1964.

The chestnut mannikin seems to be one of the least common of Nepalese munias. The one flock we saw in far eastern Nepal was

large, but the one in Rapti Dun did not have more than 12 or 15 birds and these were scattered most of the time, appearing in two's and three's, while there were many of the spotted species in the same area. It was a wet section with fields of rice and jungle grass in between. These birds were rather shy but seemed to follow a set route in their movements. Too often a bird would simply disappear into the depths of the rice field to emerge in an unexpected direction and fly out of sight.

The two males have deep maroon rumps, upper tail coverts and edgings to the rectrices, the characters that distinguish *rubroniger* from *atricapilla*. However, the female has these areas yellow as in *atricapilla*, as does a female from Hitora, 60 miles to the east (cf. Fleming and Traylor, 1964, p. 551). Birds from Ilam district, eastern Nepal, are typical *atricapilla*. It appears that central Nepal is probably the meeting place of *atricapilla* and *rubroniger*, or possibly *rubroniger* is a race in which the males have the rump and tail dark maroon, and the females have them yellow.

***Mycerobas affinis* (Blyth). Allied Grosbeak.**

West No. 1, Dhabung, 24 miles east northeast of Trisuli, 11,500 feet: 1 ♂; May 18, 1964.

East No. 1, 5 miles east of Tarke Ghyang, 9,900 feet: 1 juv. ♀; July 22, 1964.

This grosbeak has now been found generally distributed at high altitudes in Nepal. In July at Helumba, East No. 1, there was a party of three, including a single young one hopping around on the forest floor.

***Carduelis carduelis caniceps* Vigors. Goldfinch.**

Dandeldhura District, Rupal, 5,000 feet: 1 ♀; April 10, 1965.

Our first contact with the goldfinch was in the village of Rupal, Dandeldhura District, at 5,000 feet. They were in the tops of tall pine trees surrounding a shrine. There must have been 10 or 12 in the group and they carried on an animated twittering as they occasionally changed from one place in a tree to another. This is only the second record from Nepal.

***Leucosticte nemoricola nemoricola* (Hodgson). Hodgson's Mountain Finch.**

Baglung District, 3 miles above Dana, 8,000 feet: 1 ♂; December 7, 1963.

Baglung District, Muktinath, 13,000 feet: 1 unsexed; December 21, 1963.

West No. 1, 23 miles east northeast of Trisuli, 10,500 feet: 1 ♂; May 20, 1964.

This mountain finch has been previously taken in eastern and central Nepal, and the present specimens show that it is generally distributed at high elevations throughout the country.

**Carpodacus rubicilla severtzovi** Sharpe. Great Rose Finch.

East No. 3, Ghokyo Pokhari, 15,000 feet: 1 ♂; August 1, 1962.

This specimen was obtained from G. B. Gurung, who was part of the Diesselhorst expedition to Khumbu. There were a number of these rose finches in the same area with *C. rubicilloides lucifer*. They were on rocky ground at about 15,000 feet altitude and would take refuge under overhanging rocks. This is the first record of the great rose finch from Nepal.

**Haematospiza sipahi** (Hodgson). Scarlet Finch.

Kathmandu Valley, Sheopuri: 1 ♀; February 10, 1957.

A small flock of scarlet finches was in a heavily wooded ravine above Godaveri School, Kathmandu Valley, in winter. Mrs. Richard Proud saw two or three on the northern rim of the Valley in February at 7,300 feet. A pair was above the Trisuli River, West No. 1 in May at about 7,000 feet. It certainly is not a common bird, but one of the most delightful.

**Pyrrhula nipalensis nipalensis** Hodgson. Brown Bullfinch.

Dandeldhura District, 4 miles south of Rupal, 7,000 feet: 1 ♂; April 9, 1965.

We have never found the brown bullfinch to be common. They seemed to be more abundant in Kathmandu Valley hills for this is the first time that they have been taken in west Nepal. Two or three were in an oak forest and one kept calling from a tree along the road.

**Emberiza fucata fucata** Pallas. Greyheaded Bunting.

Jhapa District, Mechi River, 10 miles northeast of Bhadrapur: 3 ♂; January 30, 1965.

The only time we encountered the greyheaded bunting was in far eastern Nepal about ten miles northeast of Bhadrapur. They flew into nets stretched across long, reedy strips between empty rice fields.



Neither Ripley (1961, p. 634) nor Biswas (1963, pt. 9, p. 191) records nominate *fucata* from Nepal. The only previous specimen from the country was one taken by Hodgson that Biswas considered *arcuata*, the race of northwest India. However, our specimens are well-marked examples of the Palaearctic *fucata*, which, according to Vaurie (1959, p. 687), winters as far west as Bengal.

***Emberiza pusilla* Pallas.** Little Bunting.

Ilam District, 6 miles east of Ilam, 5,200 feet: 1 ♂; January 14, 1965.

The little bunting evidently winters regularly from the valley east to the border. They spend quite a lot of time on the ground eating grass seeds, then when disturbed, get away with a strong, undulating flight.

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## APPENDIX

### Bird Observations

Bird-watching can be a fascinating, never-ending activity. The more one knows about it the more he sees and understands. Now that I have been studying birds for 30 years, I find I am only beginning to observe them as I should. Where do birds live? How do they move about? With whom do they associate? What do they eat? How do they communicate? No wonder one keeps finding answers year after year.

In the next few pages, bird observations are roughly grouped according to altitude, beginning with species which inhabit the low, southern plains of Nepal, to Rapti Dun, then those of the mid-Himalayas and finally those of the higher Himalayas.

*The Terai*, 400 to 900 feet.

A half-dozen cattle egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) stalked through grass and reeds at the edge of a pond near a village. One stabbed into the water and came up with a good-sized frog. Two other birds immediately gave chase but egret no. 1 moved out of reach and tried to swallow the frog. It was too large to be handled comfortably. Finally, with bill held skyward and with a half-dozen large gulps, breakfast was over. Soon afterward, another egret searched the same area, made a noise like a croaking frog, stopped, looked and listened. No amphibious response. The bird's croak really sounded genuine!

The *sal* forest (*Shorea robusta*, Gaertn.) about three miles north of Bhadrapur, Jhapa District, East Nepal, has numerous birds. A flock of 25-30 grackles (*Gracula religiosa*) flew over the treetops calling a metallic "clink" as they went.

Birds often move in mixed hunting parties and we watched two different ones several miles apart. Party 1 was dominated by some 18 or 20 scarlet minivets (*Pericrocotus flammeus*), many of which worked near the ground. A little above them were two redbreasted flycatchers (*Muscicapa parva*), while in the lower branches and up to the middle of *sal* trees were a dozen large wood shrikes (*Tephro-*

*dornis virgatus*). In the tree-tops were two bronzed drongos (*Dicrurus aeneus*) and three streaked spiderhunters (*Arachnothera magna*).

Party 2 was dominated by wood shrikes, 20 of the larger ones and 12 of the smaller common ones (*T. pondicerianus*). Scarlet minivets were reduced to seven or eight. This group also contained two large yellownaped woodpeckers (*Picus flavinucha*), one pigmy woodpecker (*Dendrocopos nanus*) and two haircrested drongos (*Dicrurus hottentottus*), all of which worked at a level above the wood shrikes.

Closer to the foothills, some 15 miles northward and at about 2,000 feet, also in a *sal* forest, another hunting party was again dominated by minivets. There were several spiderhunters at the tops of the trees. In addition, there were two whitethroated bulbuls (*Criniger flaveolus*), several chestnut-headed bee-eaters (*Merops leschenaulti*), yellowbreasted babblers (*Macronus gularis*), and a whitebellied yuhina (*Yuhina zantholeuca*). A little distance away, a pair of blue-bearded bee-eaters (*Nyctyornis athertoni*) sat on either side of a hole in a large, dead tree, grabbing and swallowing bees as they came out of their hive.

In another group in a *sal* forest, besides spiderhunters, drongos, wood shrikes, and woodpeckers also were redbreasted parakeets (*Psittacula alexandri*), tailor birds (*Orthotomus sutorius*), and green bee-eaters (*Merops orientalis*). It pays to examine a hunting party closely for the odd or exceptional species. In such a group appeared a whiteheaded shrike-babbler (*Gampsorhynchus rufulus*), not yet recorded for Nepal.

Abbott's babbler (*Trichastoma abbotti*), a few years previously seemed to say "Poor Ol' Bear;" "Dear, dear." The male apparently has the first phrase and the female the second. Now the duet sounded more like "Duzzt Bzzp! Duzzt Bzzp! Dzzzt."

*Rapti Dun, Central Nepal, 1,000 feet.*

Tiger Tops area is a heavy mixed forest at the edge of great swamps of jungle grass. The deeper one penetrated the forest, the greater the silence. Bird life largely centered along the fringe of trees at the edge of the tall forest, especially on the path leading eastward from the hotel.

About mid-morning a large hunting party of 50 to 75 birds moved slowly among the trees. There were the scarlet minivets as usual, accompanied by numbers of leaf warblers (*Phylloscopus*), several grayheaded flycatchers (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*), a gray tit (*Parus major*), pygmy woodpecker (*Dendrocopos nanus*), and a yellownaped

woodpecker, numbers of redbilled babblers (*Stachyris pyrrhops*), pied flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus picatus*), redvented bulbuls (*Pycnonotus cafer*), tailor birds and others. A velvet-fronted nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*) dislodged a large moth from the bole of a tree and a white-throated fantail flycatcher (*Rhipidura albicollis*) swooped after it. A moment later a neat little rufous piculet (*Sasia ochracea*), an uncommon species so far west, worked its way up a tree trunk from near the ground.

The plaintive wisp of melody of that fantail flycatcher begins with an initial ascending three notes, a pause, then the first note over again, a pause, and the next note just a half tone higher, with a little slide of descending grace notes, ending just as one expects the melody to continue. Even then, this song is twice the length of the white-browed fantail flycatcher (*R. aureola*), which also leaves one sort of suspended in mid-air.

Probably the greatest aggregation of birds near Tiger Tops is some six or seven miles down river from the hotel. Near where the village of Kuriya Mahan used to be, is a lagoon about a mile long and 200 yards wide. When we visited that area in November we counted some 25-30 cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), one open-billed stork (*Anastomus oscitans*), four large egrets (*Egretta alba*), four smaller egrets (*Egretta intermedia*), between 35 and 40 night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) in reeds along the far bank, more than 20 moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*), 10 bronzewing juncos (*Metopidius indicus*), three whitebreasted waterhens (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*), many collared sand martins (*Riparia riparia*), darter (*Anhinga rufa*), many spotted doves (*Streptopelia chinensis*), Indian ring doves (*S. decaocto*), a few red turtle doves (*S. tranquebarica*), at least 100 blossomheaded parakeets (*Psittacula cyanocephala*), a few redwattled lapwings (*Vanellus indicus*), two whitenecked storks (*Ciconia episcopus*), spotted munias (*Lonchura punctulata*), red munias (*Estrilda amandava*), chestnut mannikins (*Lonchura malacca*), common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*), jungle mynas (*A. fuscus*), and pied mynas (*Sturnus contra*), pipits (*Anthus*), stone chats, including the whitetailed stone chat (*Saxicola leucura*), jungle crow (*Corvus macrohynchos*), house crows (*C. splendens*), black drongos (*Dicrurus adsimilis*), crow-billed drongos (*D. annectans*), whitebellied drongos (*D. caerulescens*), Indian rollers (*Coracias benghalensis*), large cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*), blackheaded orioles (*Oriolus xanthornus*), rufous-backed shrikes (*Lanius schach tricolor*), two teal (*Anas*), a common sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*), and a brown crane (*Amaurornis akool*).

Around the western end of the lagoon and up along the forest edge I watched four spotted deer (*Axis axis*) for about half an hour. There were fresh tiger tracks in the sand. A rhino had been there a couple of days before.

In semel cotton trees (*Bombax malabaricum* DC) just north of the lagoon were wood shrikes, scarlet minivets, velvetfronted nuthatches, a fulvousbreasted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos macei*), a pygmy woodpecker, gray tits and a common iora (*Aegithina tiphia*). In a neighboring tree a bluebearded bee-eater sat bolt upright on a branch with its tail straight down. As it called "tya-key tik," which it repeated several times at two- or three-second intervals, it puffed out its beard feathers on the first note and on the second moved its tail forward. (The final note was two tones higher than the first.) In a wet area between fields, an Indian darter had held its wings in spread-out fashion for an hour without apparent movement.

On our way back from the lagoon we heard the red turtle dove call a "crew crucru crook" while the ring doves called "croo Croo kruk." A little redbreasted falconet (*Microhierax caerulescens*), sat very straight on an overhead branch, unconcerned by our arrival. It glanced from side to side, slowly swinging its tail forward and backward. All at once it took off with a weak flutter, described a circle and returned to the next tree. Some 15 crested swifts (*Hemiprocne longipennis*), swooped over a stream next to the river then flew up over the tree tops, calling "teek teek" as they went. Yelloweyed babblers (*Chrysomma sinensis*) perched on swaying stems of jungle grass and called a rapid "whit-tit-tit-tit." At the top of a tree on the edge of the forest a streaked spiderhunter gave a loud "chi-chi-chits." A larger goldenbacked woodpecker (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*), shrieked about a dozen rapid "klacks."

The tiny brown wren-babbler (*Microura pusilla*), called from a damp ravine. We listened to its slow, drawn-out "se-e-e s-a-w," each syllable a second in length, followed by a two-second interval. There were 15 "see saws," a pause, 28 more, a pause and a final three a little farther away. When we investigated further we saw it flick its wings over its back, then peer from one side to another. Upon seeing us, it scolded with a "tzook! tzook!"

About dusk we noted a red jungle cock (*Gallus gallus*) and six hens near a village. As we approached, some domestic chickens of the same hue stood their ground with heads up while the wild ones sank toward the earth, stretched their necks parallel to the ground and quickly scuttled away through the grass. A few days later we

heard an alarmed jungle cock and a strange call. Upon investigation we discovered a crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) attacking the cock. Near the end of the trail that way we heard a deep double moan which I took to be a langoor monkey (*Presbytis entellus*). Suddenly a great pied hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) scraped out of a tall tree and pumped with heavy wing beats over the tops of the trees, followed by a second bird, then a third. The wind through the feathers sounded like "whew, whew, whew," etc. This was a fitting climax to an exciting day.

Various species of birds act so differently when taken from mist nets, banded and released. Sand martins follow a pattern. They leave one's hand with a little jump, speed straight away for about 150 yards at a height of 30 or 40 yards. Then they make a right angle turn, going for another 100 yards, reverse and fly twice the distance, wheeling upward and sideward with quick turns.

The common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) plummets into a net taking numbers of strands with him. As these are removed, the head begins to swing slowly from side to side then all the way around as though something had become loose. It slowly blinks its eyes, then when free, gives a farewell jab with its mandibles, springs into the air and flies straight away with a very fast wing beat.

The wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) acts stranger still. He moves his head stiffly to one side as though he had a kink in his neck. Upon release, he quickly recovers his equilibrium but one always wonders whether the bird won't collapse before reaching the next bush, his flight is so irregular.

#### *The Mid-Himalayas, 3,000-9,000 feet*

When camping on the northern rim of Kathmandu Valley (Sheopuri, 8,000 ft.) at the beginning of the rains in June, the first bird heard to call, at 4:30 A.M., was an unidentified species (a cuckoo?), "sig frid." Next was the large hawk-cuckoo (*Cuculus sparveroides*) with its "brain fever," then the Indian cuckoo (*C. micropterus*) "Kaiphal pakiyo," and the small cuckoo's (*C. poliocephalus*) "pretty peel lay ka beet." Two thrushes joined the chorus, the graywinged blackbird (*Turdus boulboul*) and the whitecollared blackbird (*T. albocinctus*) followed by blackcapped sibilias (*Heterophasia capistrata*). All stopped but the sibilias, then the little grayheaded flycatcher tuned up and woodpeckers called to each other. The jay (*Garrulus glan-darius*) uttered his "cu er blink blink" and the day had begun.

The greysided laughing thrush (*Garrulax caerulatus*) is the joker of Sheopuri. His wide vocabulary is very expressive. "Treat you for uncle," "joy to weep!," a drawn-out "Whee-ee-oo-oo," "chu chu wo ho be," "Ko Ku ree," "cher-u-lee" at three- or four-second intervals; "cheer-ru, cheer-ree," "poor ka ree," "chewwww" like a hoarse cat call, and, when disturbed, "chick, chick, chick, chick."

Hunting parties on Sheopuri tend to be in more compact and smaller groups than those of the *terai* or Rapti Dun. A group working through bamboos and oaks at 8,000 feet included babblers, tits, warblers, and green shrike-babblers (*Pteruthius xanthochloris*). A party at 10,000 feet in Helumbu, E. No. 1, seemed to be piloted by whitetailed nuthatches (*Sitta himalayensis*) followed by two species of leaf warblers, greenbacked tits (*Parus monticolus*), and yellowbrowed tits (*P. modestus*), while near by were the hoary barwing (*Actinodura nipalensis*), the redheaded laughing thrush (*Garrulax erythrocephalus*), stripethroated yuhina (*Yuhina gularis*), whitecollared blackbird and the blue chat (*Erithacus brunneus*). At the edge of an old clearing, two male crimson tragopans (*Tragopan satyra*) kept company with about 15 whitethroated laughing thrushes (*Garrulax albogularis*).

#### BIRD CALLS FROM THE MID-HIMALAYAS IN SUMMER:

Hoary barwing—"te liri tare," and a scolding note "Jit" repeated rapidly about ten times.

Large-billed leaf warbler (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*)—three ascending notes accompanied by tail movement "do, re, re, mi, mi."

Brown wood owl (*Strix leptogrammica*)—a long drawn-out "who-ooo" four or five times at dusk at two- or three-minute intervals.

Striated laughing thrush (*Garrulax striatus*)—"per far riger" and "pre fr r ree."

Blue chat—"tee tee three four amoebic!"

Collared pygmy owlet (*Glaucidium brodiei*)—calls in daytime as well as night: -.- -.- -.- etc.

Stripethroated siva (*Minla strigula*)—three descending notes, "Three blind mice."

#### OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

Spiny babbler (*Turdoides nipalensis*) at 4,700 feet, on the southern rim of Kathmandu Valley. In July three in one tree were flaring out their tails. The nest is yet to be identified.



Stripethroated yuhina were eating raspberries from a twining vine at 7,600 feet in September.

Cinnamon tree sparrows (*Passer rutilans*) were seen perched around holes in a dead limb of an alder tree near a stream, December at 6,500 feet.

Green magpies (*Kitta chinensis*), a pair of which occupied a pine and mixed forest, were observed in December at 5,200 feet.

Yellowbellied flowerpeckers (*Dicaeum melanozanthum*) on Chandragiri Ridge, Kathmandu Valley, 7,500 feet, were pursuing each other through trees festooned with mistletoe.

### *Higher Himalayas, 9,500 to 16,000 feet*

We camped a week at Lakhung Ghompa, Helumbu, in mid-July at 9,900 feet. Birds of that area included Hodgson's tree pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*), Nepal rosefinch (*Carpodacus nipalensis*), pinkbrowed rosefinch (*C. rhodochrous*), whitebrowed rosefinch (*C. thura*), Beavan's bullfinch (*Pyrrhula erythaca*), spottedwinged grosbeak (*Mycerobas melanozanthos*), allied grosbeak (*M. affinis*), redheaded laughing thrush, hoary barwing, whitecollared blackbird, smallbilled mountain thrush (*Zoothera dauma*), orange-gorgetted flycatcher (*Muscicap strophiiata*), slaty blue flycatchers (*M. leucomelanura*), Nepal house martin (*Delichon nipalensis*), leaf warblers, jungle crow, yellowbellied fantail flycatcher (*Rhipidura hypoxantha*), blue chat, dark-grey bush chat (*Saxicola ferrea*), whitecapped redstart (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*), plumbeous redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*), brown dipper (*Cinclus pallasi*), longtailed minivet (*Pericrocotus ethologus*), white-tailed nuthatch, tree creeper (*Certhia*), blue whistling thrush (*Myiophoneus caeruleus*), stripethroated yuhina, firetailed sunbird (*Aethopyga ignicauda*), common hill partridge (*Arborophila torqueola*), yellowbilled blue magpie (*Kitta flavirostris*), blackbrowed flycatcher-warbler (*Seicercus burkii*), small cuckoo, stripethroated siva, brown crested tit (*Parus dichrous*), greenbacked tit, coal tit (*P. ater*), yellowbrowed tit, and the impeyan pheasant (*Lophophorus impejanus*), the Nepalese national bird.

Numbers of bird calls at higher altitudes in summer included:

Orange-gorgetted flycatcher, "rhizt rhizt rhizt chirt chirt," repeated several times.

Rufouscapped bush warbler (*Cettia brunnifrons*), "spit ziggy ziggy zigar." Golden bush robin (*Erithacus chrysaeus*), "tse, tse, tse, tse, tse, tse, chur-r-r-r." Slaty blue flycatcher, "cheep che cha." Whitebrowed rose finch, "deep, deep" etc.; "deep de de de."

### Mating began the 31st of July

Blood pheasant (*Ithaginis cruentus*), "chuk." A cock and four hens in the fir-rhododendron forest, 11,500 feet.

Spottedbreasted laughing thrush (*Garrulax merulinus*), "chur-ee curio chour," and varied calls. Partial to junipers.

Redbreasted rosefinch (*Carpodacus puniceus*) sounded like a loud canary from a rhododendron grove at 12,000 feet.

Spottedwinged grosbeak, "add-a-dit." Several flew out of an unused cowshed.

Allied grosbeak, "dip dip chick a dee" and a "dip dip di-di-dee-do."

Nepal rosefinch was carrying feathers in its bill on the 28th of July. A few days later, a male sat in an overhanging bush at the top of a rock cliff and twittered some ten minutes like a house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

A pair of blackfaced laughing thrushes (*Garrulax affinis*) pecked bits of moss on a steep hillside, their wings aflop and tails twitching.

### Birding in Nepal

Nepal is only the size of Florida or Michigan but has as many kinds of birds (including races) as the whole United States. Species number about 700 with a possible 100 additional subspecies. The terrain, from 400 feet to 29,000 feet and migrations contribute to this variety. One must of necessity, collect a specimen or two to prove the bird is in Nepal. Mrs. Richard Proud's sight record of the Tibetan Siskin (*Carduelis thibetana*) was not accepted until she sent the British Museum specimens.

I have compiled a list of about a hundred "wanted" species and subspecies I should have to complete my collection of Nepal birds. This tabulation is drawn up from three sources. First, are birds which have already been collected in Nepal by Hodgson, Stevens, Koelz, Biswas, Proud, Ripley, and others. Hodgson, for example, reports such species as oyster catchers, four species of sand grouse, avocet, and numbers of others which I have not yet found. In fact, it was Hodgson's enormous collection (some 9,500 skins) which inspired me to concentrate on the study of Nepalese birds. When I visited the British Museum (Natural History) in London, Hodgson's skins that I examined were simply marked "Nepal," lacking all other essential data required for the complete study of a species. The reason for this lack of information is well known. Hodgson, in 1821-43, was

not allowed beyond the northern rim of hills encircling Kathmandu Valley. He sent hunters out who returned with many specimens new to science, which he described and had Nepalese artists paint. These are recorded in a volume *Catalogue of the Specimens and Drawings of Mammalia and Birds of Nepal and Thibet presented by B. H. Hodgson, Esq. to the British Museum*, by J. E. Gray. Printed by order of the trustees, London, 1846. Nepal birds needed to be collected again and labeled with tags with full data. I have made this project my hobby since 1949.

A second source I have drawn from is sight records. American expeditioners to Everest found the raven (*Corvus corax*) quite common but it has not yet been collected in this country. Mr. James Colman of US-AID, when inspecting schools, flew by helicopter over an extensive swamp in the Dangs Dun where he saw a large white bird with black edges to its wings and a black stripe across its back, the Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*). In Tak, on my first visit to the Dhaulagiri-Annapurna country, hunters told me of a game bird like a snow cock but smaller. They call it a "koko." I found the "koko" or pheasant-grouse (*Tetraophasis szechenyii*) in the Lenin-grad Museum of Natural History but it has not yet been collected in Nepal.

A third source is from literature. The beautiful nuthatch (*Sitta formosa*) is common around Darjeeling on the eastern border of Nepal. A race of honeyguide, *Indicator xanthonotus radcliffi*, inhabits the Kumaon hills on our western border. Birds of the Gangetic basin, like the wiretailed swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) should be present in the Nepal *terai*.

The first stage in the study of birds of an area is to determine what is to be found there. The second stage is the study of the living bird to fill in life histories. For most of the birds in Nepal we have reached the second stage. However, there are quite a few species about whose nidification we know little or nothing. Take for example, the spiny babbler around Kathmandu Valley. Two different nests and sets of eggs were brought to Hodgson but he could not determine which belonged to this species. That was 130 years ago and as yet the nest is still unknown. Other species here in Kathmandu Valley, such as the Nepal cutia (*Cutia nipalensis*) or the yellowbrowed tit, have never had their nests discovered. No one has found the eggs of the honeyguide.

Much also remains to be done on migratory routes. We have found that during the down migration in fall, almost none of the long

distance migrants stopped along the Narayani River in Rapti Dun. All we could turn up were a wigeon (*Anus penelope*), a gadwall (*A. strepera*), a Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and a gray-headed lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*). We concluded that in fall most birds must fly right over Nepal to India. In spring, on the other hand, they move up gradually into the foothills before they begin their longer flight. Mrs. Proud found that certain wagtails (*Motacilla*) come down one river in Kathmandu Valley in fall and go up a different one in spring. These rivers are only about two miles apart.

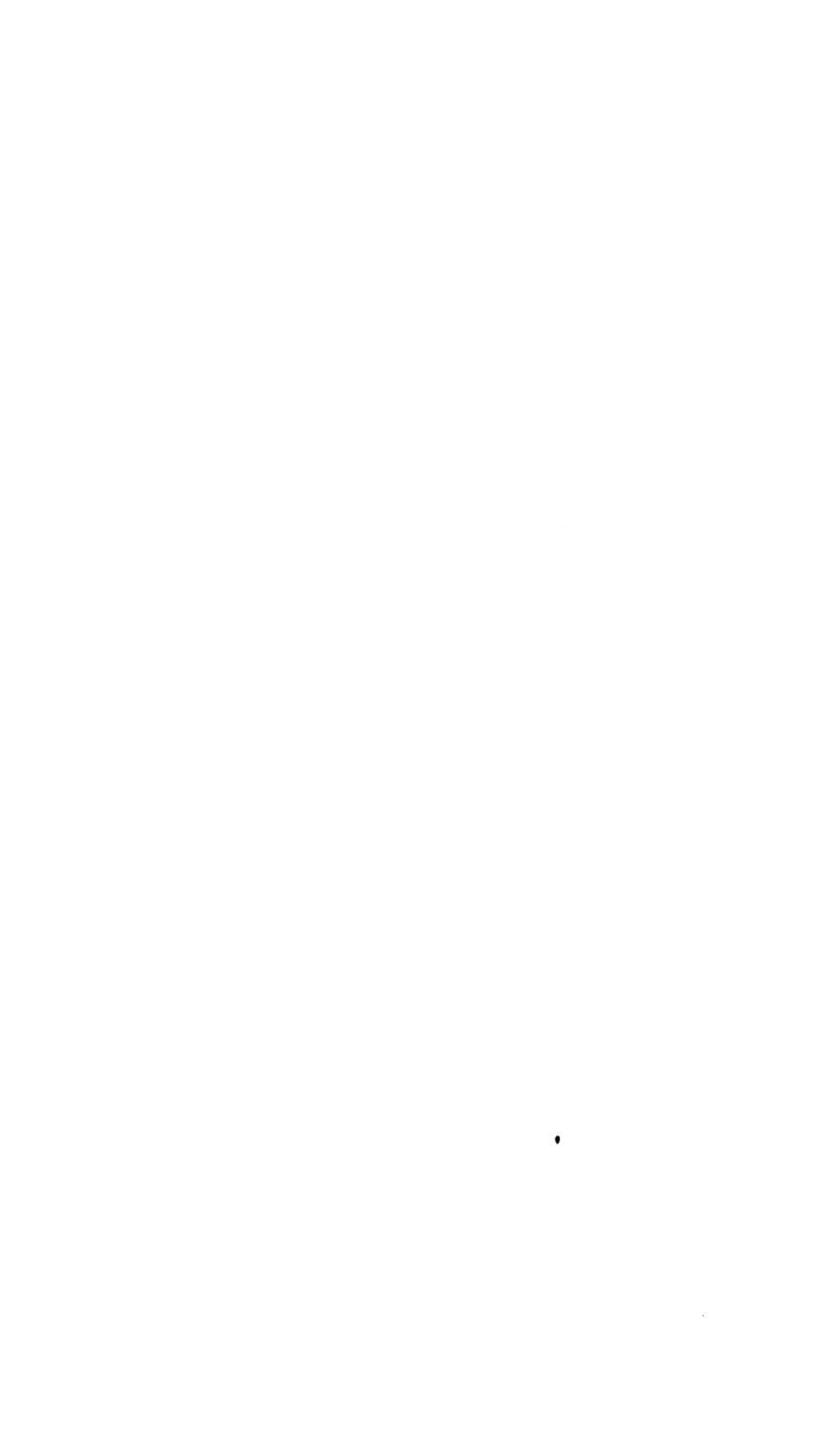
As far as we know, there is only one indigenous species in Nepal, the spiny babbler. All others are also found in India, Tibet, Siberia, Europe, or China. Wintering snipe from China and Europe are found in the same wet fields in Kathmandu Valley. In spring the pintail snipe (*Capella stenura*) migrate northeastward while the fantail snipe (*C. gallinago*) fly to the northwest.

If one has spent some time in Almora or Darjeeling, he will be familiar with many of the hill birds of Nepal. However, the birds as far away as Kashmir differ quite a lot from those of Nepal, Sikkim, and Bhutan. Nepal does have numbers of races found only in this country. There are three races of kalij pheasant (*Lophura leucomelana*): in the west the whitecrested kalij (*L. l. hamiltonii*) found also in Kumaon; central, the blackcrested kalij (*L. l. leucomelana*) which is indigenous; in the east, the blackbacked kalij (*L. l. melanota*) also found in Bengal or Sikkim. A series of kalij cocks taken at intervals of say 50 miles, would make a fine display in a Nepal museum, for it would show the gradual cline from one race to the next. Nepal is the meeting place for races of birds from east and west, from north and south.

Nepalese folklore places crows high in the scale of bird life. A whole festival day is devoted to them and special food is available. The owl is down on the other end of the scale. It is the "lazy" bird, listening to your conversation from the roof at night, in order to bring you bad luck. A few of the Nepalese folk beliefs are: oil extracted from any of the hornbills is a hair-restorer. The eating of the eggs of any species of lapwing causes women to lactate. The bill of a shrike containing a grain or two of boiled rice must touch the lips of a six-month-old baby at the rice-feeding ceremony to make him clever.

Rani Ban, near the Indian Embassy, is a convenient place for bird walks. Here is a temple grove containing two wooded hillocks surrounded by rice fields. During 75 visits here over a period of six

or seven years we have recorded over a hundred species from this small forest area. A short drive to one of the streams of the valley, such as the Manora, will add other names to one's list. Should one climb the surrounding hills, say Chandragiri to the southwest, Sheopuri to the north or Phulchauki to the southeast, he will get still another series of birds. One should be able to find about 200 species in the 300 square miles around Kathmandu. There is always a surprise element in birdwatching because of the continual movement of birds throughout the year. One can never be quite sure what unusual bird may be around the next bend in the trail.























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