



The Status of Nepal's Birds: The National Red List Series



Volume 2





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Keywords: Nepal, biodiversity, threatened species, conservation, birds, Red List.

Front Cover

Otus bakkamoena
 A pair of Collared Scops Owls; owls are highly threatened especially by persecution
 Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

Back Cover

Aceros nipalensis
 A pair of Rufous-necked Hornbills; species Hodgson first described for science and sadly now extinct in Nepal.
 Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

The designation of geographical entities in this book, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of participating organizations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of any participating organizations.

Notes on front and back cover design:

The watercolours reproduced on the covers and within this book are taken from the notebooks of Brian Houghton Hodgson (1800-1894). For 23 years, Hodgson was posted to Nepal as an official of the British East India Company—at a time when Nepal was virtually terra incognita to Europeans. Hodgson was an energetic polymath who, in addition to carrying out his political and diplomatic duties, published widely on the ethnography, linguistics, architecture, religion and natural history of Nepal and the Himalayas. He published more than 140 scientific papers on zoological subjects, ranging from descriptions of new species to checklists of the fauna. A projected massive volume surveying the birds and mammals of the central Himalaya was unfortunately never completed due to lack of funds, but the present paintings are taken from sketchbooks which Hodgson presented to the Zoological Society of London toward the end of his life. These voluminous collections comprise approximately 1500 pages of drawings, studies and miscellaneous notes. The species depictions were done in watercolours very largely by one Nepalese artist, Raj Man Singh trained by Hodgson to paint birds and mammals in a natural, lifelike manner surprisingly modern in comparison with European and American artists of the day.

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL), founded in 1826, is a world-renowned centre of excellence for conservation science and applied conservation (registered charity in England and Wales number 2087282). Our mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. This is realized by carrying out field conservation and research in over 80 countries across the globe and through education and awareness at our zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, inspiring people to take conservation action.



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Foreword

Nepal is situated at the heart of the great Himalayan range and at a unique juncture of two of the world's important biogeographic regions. Altitudinal variation over a short span ranges from 60 m above sea-level to 8,848 m, *Sagarmatha*, the highest point on Earth. Traversing north to south or east to west, one experiences great contrasts in vegetation and wildlife associated. This unique biogeographical setting has bestowed Nepal with rich biodiversity. Nepal is also diverse in its ethnicity, culture and religion, giving it one of the richest social settings in the world.

Nepal is exceptionally rich in terms of avian diversity. So far 878 species of birds have been reported from the country which equals 8% of avifauna recorded in the world. *Danphe*, the national bird of Nepal, is one of the most colourful birds in the world. *Kande Bhyakur* or Spiny Babbler is endemic to our country. Nepal is a very rare country where as many as nine species of vultures are recorded, a high total that no other country of this size can boast. Bar-headed Goose has been recorded flying atop the *Sagarmatha*; the world's largest living woodpecker Great Slaty Woodpecker haunts mature terai forests of west-central Nepal; the world's tallest flying bird *Sarus* dwells in farmlands of central lowland Nepal, whereas the world's largest passerine, Raven guards the mountain villages. Nepal is indeed not a small country when avian diversity is considered.

Much of the biodiversity in the country has been conserved through the establishment and commendable management of the protected area system. Protected areas cover nearly one quarter of the country's land mass and represents diverse ecosystems at various elevations. Unfortunately not all is good with birds. One fifth of Nepal's birds are nationally threatened and several are even extirpated in Nepal. In particular, ecosystems and biodiversity outside the protected areas suffer the greatest threat, primarily due to habitat loss, hunting and disturbance, poisoning, climate change, agrochemicals, and invasive species. All vulture species and birds of prey are in decline, so are many large wading birds of the country. The Nepal government remains committed to reversing this trend and conserve the rich natural heritage that it has been graced with. The Ministry and its various departments especially the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation has been working relentlessly with various conservation partners in a unified way. We must gear up support from all quarters to protect our vanishing avifauna.

This phenomenal and biblical document on birds of Nepal will be an invaluable source of reference to researchers, ornithologists, natural resource managers, conservationists, campaigners, policy makers and planners alike. This document provides important information on taxonomy, distribution, populations, ecology and finally a fair assessment of bird's status applying IUCN regional criteria for threat categories. The information contained here will form the baseline for further development and research in the field of avian conservation in Nepal and in this region. I hope much more bird research and conservation work will be initiated in the future.

I would like to thank the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Zoological Society of London, Himalayan Nature and all other conservation partners and the very large number of individuals who have been involved with coordination, supports and sharing their long-standing knowledge to complete the work. Finally I thank Zoological Society of London for generously supporting this work through the much required resources.

Uday Chandra Thakur
Secretary
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
Government of Nepal

Foreword

My first visit to Nepal was in 1978, having travelled overland with friends from the UK. I will forever remember the remarkable diversity of bird life that greeted us in the Sal forests of the Terai – the feeding parties, seemingly in a hurry, packed full of woodpeckers, drongos, flycatchers, and warblers. Bird after bird was new for me and I was in heaven. Three years later, on a second trip, a stunning male Satyr Tragopan, eventually revealing itself from a bamboo clump on the steep Himalayan slopes above Ghasa, remains one of my most memorable birding experiences.

Then, and now, Nepal's bird life is renowned and enjoyed for its splendour and extraordinary diversity. To date, 878 species of bird have been recorded in the country - putting Nepal in the premier league of bird-rich countries. This bird diversity is however under threat, and as the world over, many species are in decline.

This study has been undertaken to assess for the first time the national conservation status of Nepal's birds, and in particular to identify those species that are threatened with extinction in the country. Such an assessment is vital in order to guide conservation activities in the country. The study has been led by three renowned bird experts, Carol and Tim Inskipp, and Hem Sagar Baral. The study runs to well over 3000 pages, with over 2000 references. It would not have been possible however without the extraordinary contribution from Nepali birders who have contributed an immense amount of original material. During the assessment process two national workshops, each hosted by the National Trust for Nature Conservation, were held, in October 2012 and October 2015. These were each attended by over 60 bird experts, almost all Nepalis and comprised field workers, bird guides, field ornithologists and researchers, NGO staff and government officers who provided invaluable records and comments on the species' assessments. The findings of this review are both revealing and cause for great concern. Nearly 20% of Nepal's birds (167 species) are threatened with extinction in the country (Satyr Tragopan is one of them) including 37 species which are threatened on a global scale. A further 62 species are near-threatened nationally. Nine species are now extirpated in Nepal and have not been recorded since the 19th century. Lowland grassland specialist birds are the most threatened group of birds with 55% of the birds threatened, followed by wetland birds (25%) and tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest birds (24%). Of particular note, is the importance of Nepal for the following globally threatened species, which have globally important populations in the country: Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii*; Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis*; Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*; Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*; White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*; Grey-crowned Prinia *Prinia cinereocapilla*, and Slender-billed Babbler *Turdoides longirostris*.

Nepal is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and alongside other nations, has committed by 2020 to prevent species extinction, and to improve the conservation status of threatened species, particularly those that are most in decline. This review therefore provides an excellent basis for putting in place the necessary strategies and action plans, so that this commitment might be met and continued beyond 2020. It further provides a baseline against which progress can be measured, and Nepal's birds can be monitored over the longer term. The Status of Nepal's Birds has been an immense project and is testimony to the dedication and commitment of its main authors. It was only possible due to the contribution of many committed scientists and conservationists, and the close collaboration between: the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation; the National Trust for Nature Conservation; the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Zoological Society of London. It is vital that all involved, and others, now rally together to deliver on the conservation actions that are needed. So that Nepal can continue to be proud of its extraordinary and diverse bird life, including the spectacular Satyr Tragopan!



Richard Grimmett, Head of Conservation, BirdLife International

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Gruiformes



Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*
Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

Houbaropsis bengalensis (J. F. Gmelin, 1789) CR

Subspecies: *Houbaropsis bengalensis bengalensis*

Common Name

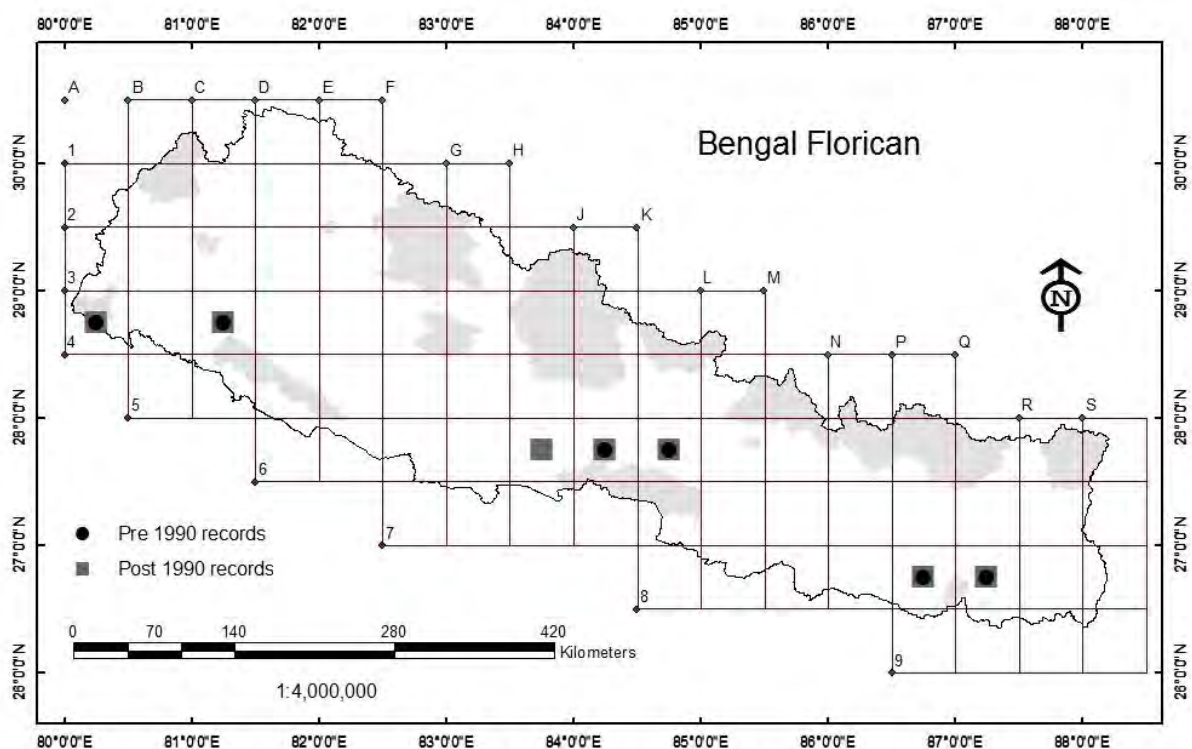
Bengal Florican (English),
Kharmajur (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Otididae



Distribution



Bengal Florican is now rare and local and its distribution is highly fragmented in the lowlands. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844) when it was found breeding in the terai (Hodgson 1829). Single specimens were taken from Morang District in 1936 and 1938 (Bailey 1938), but almost all other records have been from protected areas and buffer zones: Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Bardia National Park, and Chitwan National Park and buffer zone where it has been regularly recorded, and also Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and nearby areas adjacent to the reserve. Recent known records from Chitwan National Park buffer zone are: one in flight display at Icharni in January and February 2012 (Sagar Giri and Bishnu Mahato) and one in Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District in April 2012 (DB Chaudhary and Prem Paudel).

Dahmer (1976) described it as a resident, seen occasionally in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in 1976. There were also several records from the Koshi Barrage in the early 1980s, e.g. Baker (1981), Turton and Speight (1982), but none known since 1986 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). However, recently it has been seen more frequently at Koshi: a female in January 2003 (Giri and Choudhary 2003); a male at Devighat, north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in April 2004 (Giri and Choudhary 2004), probably the same bird at the same site in May 2004 (Badri Choudhary *verbally* 2004), and a male there in February 2007 (Badri Choudhary *verbally*

2010); also one at Chakarghatti, north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in March 2005 (GC 2010) and a female in April 2010 at Kusaha (Badri Chaudhary *verbally* 2010). In 2011 a small population was found and surveyed along the Koshi river, south from Koshi Barrage north to Kosi Bird Observatory area, including in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral *et al.* 2012) (see Population section).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

Population surveys specifically for Bengal Florican have been carried out at most of the remaining sites for the species in 1982, 1990, 2000/01, 2007, and 2012-14.

Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve has the largest population: 13 males and two females were found in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1983); 14 males and three females in spring 1990 (Weaver 1991); 12 males in May 2000 (Baral *et al.* 2001, Baral *et al.* 2003, Tamang and Baral 2000; 2001), and eight to nine males and two females in April-May 2007 (Poudyal *et al.* 2008a, b, and c).

In Chitwan National Park 8-21 birds were seen in 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1983). However, only four birds (three males and a female) were found in 2001 (Baral *et al.* 2003, Tamang 2001; Tamang *et al.* 2001) and five to seven males in 2007 (Poudyal 2007). Subsequently, a 2012 survey recorded 11 birds (seven males and four females) (Khadka *et al.* 2013).

In Bardia National Park 10 to 11 birds (eight to nine males and two females were seen in 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1983); six birds (five males and a female) in 1990 (Weaver 1991); five birds (three males and two females) in 2000 (Baral *et al.* 2003), and only one to two males seen in 2007 (Poudyal *et al.*, 2008a, b, and c). However, no floricans have been seen in Bardia National Park since 2007 (Ram Shahi pers. comm. to C. Inskipp, October 2016).

A 2007 study estimated a total of 28 to 36 Bengal Floricans in Nepal (Poudyal *et al.* 2008a). Overall in the three protected areas (Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and Bardia and Chitwan National Parks), which then supported most of the Nepal population, there was a decrease of 30% between 2001 and 2007 and 56% between 1982 and 2007 (Poudyal *et al.*, 2008a, b, and c).

However, in 2011 Bengal Florican made a come-back to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. A 2011 survey estimated as many as 12 pairs of Bengal Florican in Koshi area at nine sites along a 39 km north-south stretch of the Koshi river. Most birds (five to nine pairs) were recorded inside Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, with only five individuals outside the reserve (Baral *et al.* 2012), and a further survey in April and May 2012 counted 47 birds. This represents the largest known population in Nepal, and perhaps the most densely populated area in the Indian subcontinent (Baral *et al.* 2013).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 65; maximum population: 100

Habitat and Ecology

Bengal Florican chiefly occurs in lowland grasslands with scattered bushes (Baral and Inskipp 2004). It favours short *Imperata* grasslands for feeding and tall grasses for cover and nesting (Inskipp and Inskipp 1983). The species is omnivorous and feeds on shoots and flowers, and also insects such as grasshoppers and beetles (Ali and Ripley 1987). It breeds in Nepal. The lack of monsoon records could be attributed to the very tall height of the grasslands at this time of year which make the species extremely difficult to observe. Baral and Inskipp (2004) reported it only occasionally moves into cultivation, for example when grasslands are being cut or burned. However, Hem Subedi reported that it has been sighted in several cultivated fields adjacent to

protected areas where it has been recorded, and there are winter records of the species in mustard fields (Hem Subedi).

Six birds in Nepal were satellite-tagged in Nepal as part of the 2012-15 Darwin-funded Bird Conservation Nepal Bengal Florican Project (see Conservation Measures section). In 2014 the initial movements of birds at Koshi Tappu were the same as those tagged the previous year, moving only a few kilometres onto the banks of the mainland. However, in September, the female moved approximately 30 km away south along the Koshi River and crossed the international border into India, where she stayed a few days before returning to the area where she was originally tagged, and then remained there. The Sukla Phanta tagged birds also initially stayed in and around the grasslands. However, in August the birds started to move south of the international border into agricultural land in India (Barber 2014). Further tracking of the floricans found they left their breeding areas in the reserves before the end of the monsoon and moved into nearby (less than 30 km distant) riverine areas with adjacent agricultural land outside the protected areas. The floricans' movements were found to be linked to grass height and, when the grass in the protected areas became too high during the monsoon, they moved elsewhere (Barber 2015).

Threats

Very small areas of suitable habitat remain and these are mainly within protected areas. Even here the species is seriously threatened by insufficient habitat protection resulting in habitat degradation. It is also severely threatened by improper habitat management by ploughing, grass harvesting and intensive burning, leading to a loss of suitable habitat (Poudyal 2008 a, b). A burnt nest with four eggs was found in March 2002 (Chaudhary 2004). Other significant threats are disturbance (e.g. overgrazing), susceptibility to predators and hunting (Poudyal 2008 a, b). In addition, the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha* which can smother grasslands, has had serious impacts on Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2002, Siwakoti 2007). At Koshi, feral dogs, fern and wood collectors and an unnatural increase in native predators (Asiatic Golden Jackal and Indian Grey Mongoose) are additional threats. Both native predators have increased and are possibly still increasing at Koshi. They are more adaptable to the widespread disturbance that Koshi faces and are known to flourish in such conditions (Hem Sagar Baral). Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing.

The floricans are especially at risk during the monsoon period when they move outside the protected areas where they breed into unprotected riverine areas with adjacent agricultural fields where they are relatively unsafe.

Conservation Measures

At Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve the number of privately owned cattle inside the reserve was drastically reduced – several hundreds of cattle were driven out of the reserve. The resulting removal of high grazing pressure probably resulted in regeneration of grass communities preferred by the floricans (Baral *et al.* 2012).

Bird Conservation Nepal, Nepal's leading bird conservation organisation, undertook a Darwin Initiative funded project to look at the species' distribution and habitat requirements Nepal between 2012 and 2015. In Nepal, six birds were satellite-tagged so the birds could be tracked. As a result of the tagging work, conservationists were able to identify important areas for the species and propose suitable management regimes within the protected areas where the floricans breed (Barber 2015, BirdLife International 2015). Conservation awareness now needs to be raised in communities living adjacent to the protected areas where the floricans breed, in order to maintain some agricultural lands with vegetation height suitable for the species in the monsoon, and to protect the birds during this period (Barber 2015).

Almost the whole species' population occurs within protected areas: Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves and Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, C2a(i)) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Critically Endangered (CR)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Bengal Florican has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i). The species is now rare and local and its distribution is highly fragmented in the lowlands. It breeds in Nepal. Recent satellite tagging surveys have shown it is probably resident. Limited observations and species surveys suggest that numbers are small in the now restricted areas of suitable habitat. The species is seriously threatened with habitat loss and degradation of its grassland habitat even inside protected areas. Other significant threats are disturbance (e.g. overgrazing), susceptibility to predators and hunting. In addition the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha*, which can smother grasslands, has had serious impacts on Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. The floricans are especially at risk during the monsoon period when they move outside the protected areas where they breed into unprotected riverine areas with adjacent agricultural fields, where they are relatively unsafe. Surveys have shown there has been a continuing and sharp decline in the species' population since 1982 in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, and in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks. The species has not been recorded in Bardia National Park since 2007. However, in 2011 Bengal Florican made a comeback at Koshi where 12 pairs were estimated and a further survey in 2012 counted 47 birds, probably as a result of the removal of livestock grazing which resulted in regeneration of grass communities preferred by the floricans. A 2012-15 Bird Conservation Nepal Darwin Initiative funded project identified important areas for the species and proposed suitable management regimes within the protected areas where the floricans breed. Conservation awareness now needs to be raised in communities living adjacent to these protected areas in order to maintain some agricultural lands with vegetation height suitable for the species in the monsoon and to protect the birds during this period when they are currently unsafe.

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Rallus aquaticus Linnaeus 1758 CR

Subspecies: *Rallus aquaticus indicus*, *korejewi*

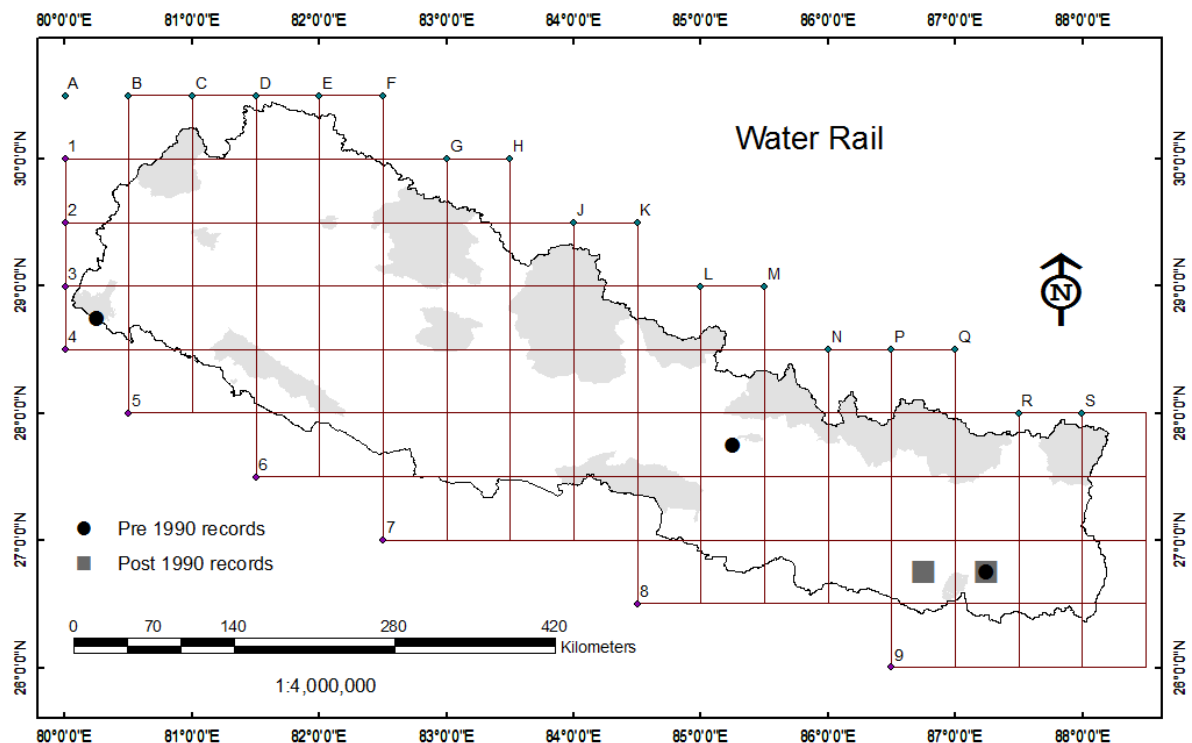
Common Name

Water Rail (English),
Kulwari (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes
Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Water Rail is a rare and very local winter visitor. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Sharpe 1894) from rice fields of the Kathmandu Valley in October (year unknown) (Hodgson 1829). The only other record from the Valley was one found dead in the Tribhuvan University campus in October 1973 (Fleming *et al.* 1976).

Singles were collected from the far south-west at Bilauri, Kanchanpur District in January 1937 (*R. a. indicus* and *R. a. korejewi* were both collected on the same date) (Bailey 1938). The latter record is the easternmost for the subspecies. The species was also collected in the far south-east: at Haraincha, Morang District (*R. a. indicus*) in February 1938 (Bailey 1938) and at Chatra, Sunsari District in November 1958 (Field Museum Chicago collection, collector unknown).

All other known records are from the Koshi Barrage area and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (subspecies unknown). Chiefly single birds have been recorded there irregularly, e.g. February 1998 (Prince 1998), March 2004 (Kennerley and Karki 2004), February 2005 (GC 2010), and February 2009 (Badri Chaudhary *verbally* 2010), although at least three were seen there in February 1993 (Lama 1993). Water Rail may have been overlooked at Koshi in the past.

The two subspecies are now often treated as separate species: Brown-cheeked Rail *R. indicus* and Water Rail *R. aquaticus* (including *korejewi* as a subspecies) (e.g. Rasmussen and Anderton 2005 and Grimmett *et al.* 2012) and were split by Tavares *et al.* (2010).

Globally Water Rail has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1340 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for the species. Observations indicate that the population is very small and thought to be declining, although the species is likely to have been overlooked.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Water Rail inhabits marshes, reedbeds and wet fields (Fleming *et al.* 1976; Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species feeds on small freshwater snails, slugs, worms, and insects; also vegetable matter such as shoots and seeds of grasses and marsh plants and occasionally paddy (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is a secretive species and usually keeps within thick cover, emerging in the early morning and at dusk (Taylor 1998). *R. a. indicus* winters in the north-east Indian subcontinent; *R. a. korejewi* breeds in Kashmir and winters south to central India (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

The species is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of its wetland habitats, hunting outside the protected areas' system, and disturbance.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Water Rail. It has been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, although most records have been outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2c, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Water Rail has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2c and D1. The species is a rare and very local winter visitor. Its population size is considered likely to be very small, even it is likely to be overlooked. The species is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of wetlands, disturbance, hunting outside the protected areas' system. It has been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve although most records have been outside the protected areas' system.

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***Sypheotides indicus* (J. F. Miller, 1782) CR**

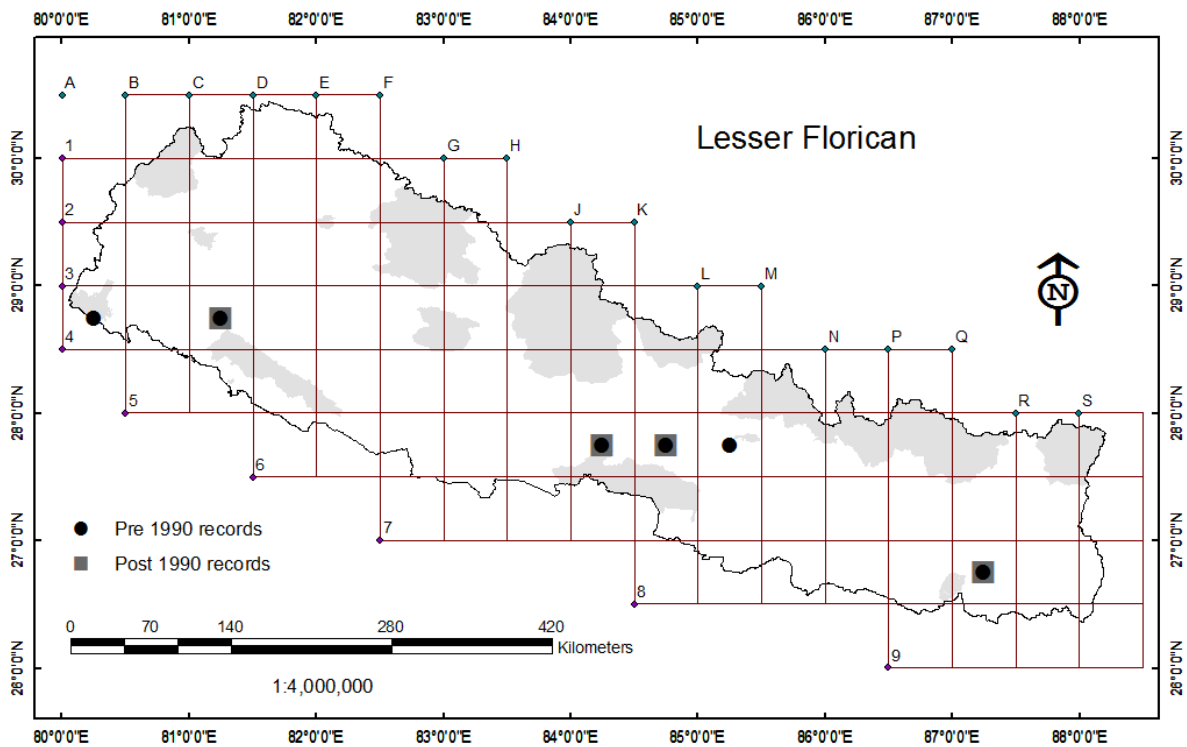
Common Name

Lesser Florican (English),
Sano Kharmajur (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes
Family: Otididae



Distribution



Lesser Florican is a very rare summer visitor. The species was formerly recorded more frequently, but may have only been a non-breeding monsoon visitor to Nepal, largely dependent on monsoon rains.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844) when it was found in the Kathmandu Valley in June (year unknown) (Hodgson 1829). Three were seen and a specimen taken from the Valley in July 1960 (Fleming and Traylor 1961), but there are no later reports from the Valley.

One was collected in the Rapti Dun between 29 March and 4 April 1962, near or within what is now Chitwan National Park (Diesselhorst 1968). There were a few records from Bardia National Park in the 1980s: a male on 17 May and a male and a female on 19 May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982), and in June 1988 (Suwal and Shrestha 1988).

There are also a few 1980s records from Chitwan National Park, e.g. in 1983 Tika Giri (*in litt.* 2004), in March 1986 (Couronne and Kovacs 1986), and in May 1987 (Halberg 1987). In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve there is only been one undated record (Heinen 1988). One was also seen near Attariya, Geta, Kailali District in September 1989 (Hem Sagar Baral).

Since 1990 there have been only four known confirmed records: a female in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in June 1995 (Cox 1995), two males in Chitwan National Park in April 1996 (Choudhary 1996) and one there in May 1999 (Chaudhary 2004), and also a male in Bardia National Park in June 2005 (Giri and Choudhary 2005). An eleven day survey specifically for the species in the Bardia National Park in May 2000 failed to find it (Timilsina *et al.* 2000).

Globally Lesser Florican has also been recorded from India, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 300 m (- 1350 m); lower limit: 250 m

Population

There are no population estimates for Nepal; it is a very rare seasonal visitor.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 10

Habitat and Ecology

Lesser Florican inhabits dry grasslands in Nepal. It feeds on insects of all kinds, mainly grasshoppers and beetles (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is subject to migratory movements, depending on rainfall (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Very small areas of suitable habitat remain and these are almost entirely within protected areas. Here Lesser Florican is severely threatened by disturbance and insufficient protection, resulting in overgrazing and subsequent grassland degradation. It is also seriously threatened by inappropriate management, such as ploughing, as well as indiscriminate burning in protected areas, leading to a loss of suitable habitat. In addition, the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha* which can smother grasslands, has had serious impacts on Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2002, Siwakoti 2007). Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing. The species is also threatened by hunting.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Lesser Florican. Since the 1980s all records have been from protected areas: Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Chitwan and Bardia National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CRA2acd, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Endangered (EN)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Lesser Florican has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2acd, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a very rare summer visitor, subject to migratory movements depending on rainfall. It has a very small, declining population, primarily due to loss and degradation of its dry grassland habitat, even inside protected areas due to inappropriate management, e.g. ploughing and also indiscriminate burning. Its population decline is predicted to continue as pressure on the remaining grasslands intensifies. Hunting is

another threat to the species. Limited records of this species in recent years suggest that numbers are extremely low in the now restricted areas of suitable habitat for the species, and it may now be completely extirpated from Nepal. Since the 1980s all records have been from protected areas.

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Rallina eurizonoides (Lafresnaye, 1845) EN

Subspecies: *Rallina eurizonoides amauroptera*

Common Name

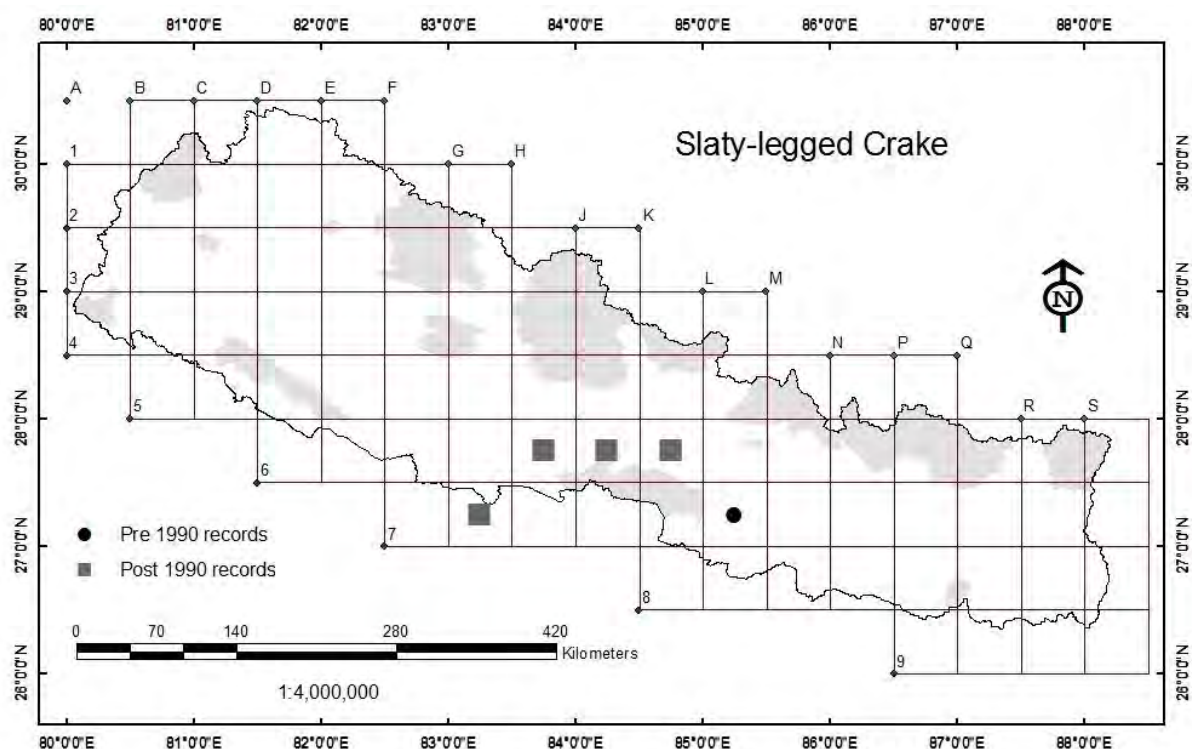
Slaty-legged Crake (English),
Deukauwa (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Slaty-legged Crake is probably a very rare and very local summer visitor. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844) from the terai (date and further locality details are unknown) (Hodgson 1829). The species was considered a vagrant by Inskipp and Inskipp (1991), as only one later record was then known: three birds seen west of Hetauda, Makwanpur District in June 1957 (Fleming and Traylor 1961, Fleming 1968).

The species was not recorded again until 1986 when it was discovered near Tiger Tops, Chitwan National Park, where it was recorded every year from 1986 up to at least 2001, arriving each year at the end May/early June. The first proved breeding record was in September 2001, when an adult and four chicks were seen (Tamang 2002, Choudhary 2003, Inskipp 2004).

Slaty-legged Crake has also been recorded in the park's buffer zone: regularly from Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District in the last few years (Chaudhary 2007a, D. B. Chaudhary verbally to C. Inskipp December 2010); also recently in Pithauli VDC, Nawalparasi District about 1 km from Namuna Community Forest, in Krishnashar Community Forest, Gundrahi Dhakaha Community Forest and also in the adjoining Tiger Tops Tharu compound (D. B. Chaudhary verbally to C. Inskipp December 2010). A pair was recorded at Sauraha and another pair in Bachhauli in August 2008 (Hem Subedi); one by the Dhungre River, Hattisar, Sauraha in

April 2012, (Tika Giri), and up to two pairs in the Madi area in May 2012 (Kalu Ram Tamang).

The only known record outside the protected areas' system is from Lumbini, Rupandehi District in 2005 (DB Chaudhary).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, Palau, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 375 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Slaty-legged Crake. Observations indicate that the population must be very small; however, the population may be larger as the species can be easily overlooked.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 250

Habitat and Ecology

Slaty-legged Crake inhabits marshes in forest and well-wooded country (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on molluscs, worms, insects, and shoots and seeds of marsh plants (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is secretive and partly nocturnal and is therefore easily overlooked, although it can be detected by its call (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is known to local Tharu communities as the Deukauwa – the God crow bird which is going to break the dam of water, i.e. predicting it will rain soon (DB Chaudhary verbally to C. Inskipp December 2010).

Threats

Slaty-legged Crake is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of wet ground and marshes in forests, illegal hunting and disturbance.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Slaty-legged Crake. The species occurs in Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Slaty-legged Rail has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2cd and D1. The species is probably a very rare and very local summer visitor. Observations indicate that the population is very small and although the species can be easily overlooked because of its secretive habits, it can be detected by its call, which is well known to local people. However, the species is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of wet ground and marshes in forests, as well as illegal hunting and disturbance. Almost all known records are from Chitwan National Park and buffer zone.

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Grus antigone (Linnaeus, 1758) **VU**

Subspecies: *Grus antigone antigone*

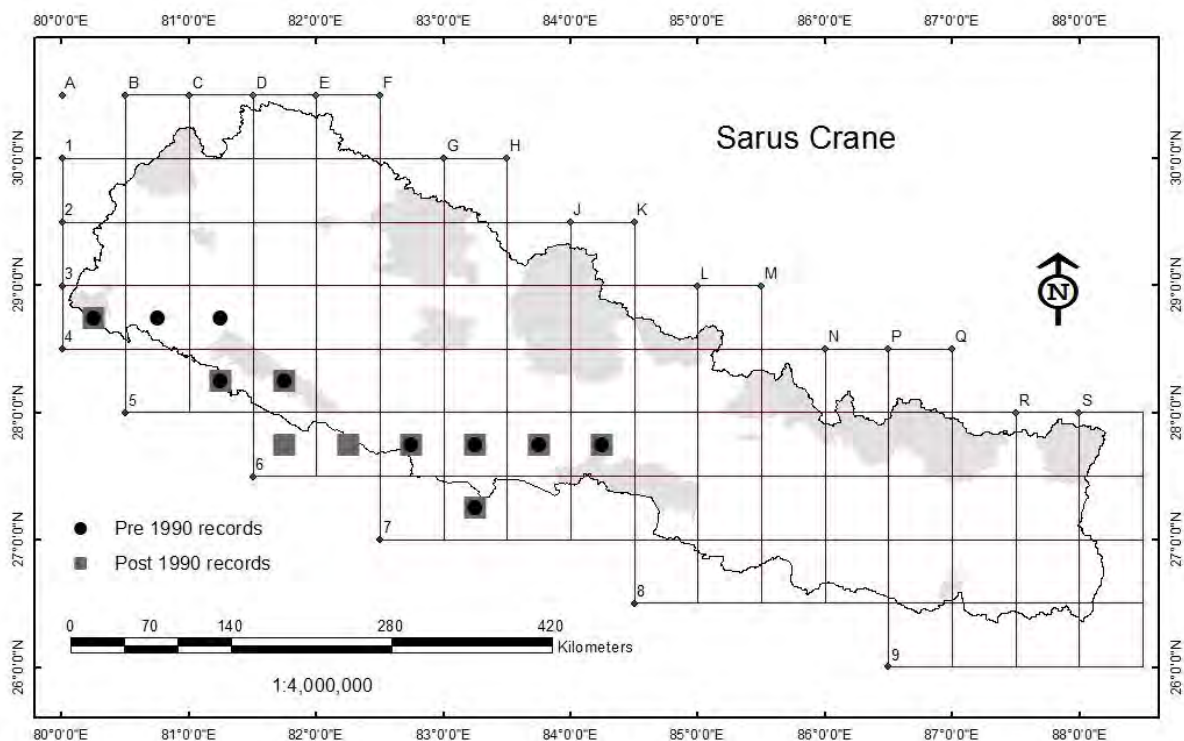
Common Name

Sarus Crane (English),
Sarus (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes
Family: Gruidae



Distribution



Sarus Crane is an uncommon and local resident in the west-central terai.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 1877 when it was found to be common in the central terai (Scully 1879). In 1992 a terai survey of the species showed that its distributional range stretched from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far west east to Chitwan National Park (Suwal and Shrestha 1992a,b).

The farmlands of Rupandehi and Kapilvastu Districts Important Bird Area (IBA) is the main known area where it breeds regularly (see Population section). Other localities where it has been recorded recently include Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, where it is a rare visitor or resident, e.g. recorded in 1997 (H. S. Baral *in litt.* 2000) and three in July 2010 (Jyotendra Thakuri *in litt.* to C. Inskipp August 2010), 11 in Beldandi area in April and May 2003 (Hem Subedi) and five there in October 2012 (Dutta Rana *in litt.* to H. S. Baral), and a pair bred near Kalikitch Tal in 2010 (Prakash Man Shrestha verbally 2010). Two were sighted at Badhaiya Tal, Bardia District in July 2011 (Ram Shahi); two at Nepalgunj, Banke District in August 2010 (Shahi 2010), 25 there from July to September 2013 and December to January 2014 and two pairs successfully bred (photographed) at Nepalgunj in 2015 (Seejan Gyawali); also a flock of 27 in Bhagwanpur, Rupandehi District (Dikpal K. Karmacharya *in litt.* to

C. Inskipp, May 2015).

In Dang District a pair was photographed in August 2015, but detailed surveys show that Sarus Crane may be an irregular visitor to this region (Chiranjeevi Khanal and Gopi Sundar).

In Kapilvastu District seven were seen in April 1993 (Baral 1993); the species was reported to regularly feed in fields adjacent to Khadara Phanta (Cox and Giri 2007). Sarus Crane has also been recorded at Jagdishpur Reservoir, e.g. 11 were seen in December 2006 (Giri 2010), two in December 2007 (Shahi 2010) and eight in March 2008 (Giri 2010). Four were seen in Pakadi and four in Nandanagar October 2014 (Dikpal K. Karmacharya *in litt.* to C. Inskipp 2015).

In Nawalparasi District seven were sighted in Namuna Community Forest, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in January 2008 (Chaudhary 2010). The species was considered a vagrant to Chitwan National Park by Baral and Upadhyay (2006). One was seen by Tamar Tal in the park in 2011 and three near Dorangi village, Bacchauli VDC, in the buffer zone in June 2009 (Hem Subedi and Bishnu Mahato).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 300 m; lower limit: 150 m

Population

A survey of the species, carried out from October to December 2003, counted 76 adults and 23 immatures in Rupandehi District and 55 adults and 13 immatures in Kapilvastu District (Aryal 2004). A total of 62 distinct individuals was recorded in Kapilvastu District between 16-27 April 2007, with a flock of 23 in the Banganga R. grassland (Cox 2008). A 2009 survey of the farmlands of Lumbini IBA, which lies in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu Districts, found the species density was 0.516 cranes per km² and, based on this figure, the population was estimated to be 503.69 cranes (Paudel 2009a,b). The 2009 species density showed a decline compared to 1994, when a comparable study found a crane density of 0.6 per km² (Suwal 1994). The largest concentration of 104 birds was found by the Dano River, Lumbini, Rupandehi District in April 2009 (Ramond and Giri 2009). Compared to 11 birds observed in 2003 (Hem Subedi) only three individuals were found in a 2010 survey for the species in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Anon. 2010a). Recent surveys have recorded greater numbers of the species, but this may be due to coverage of greater areas than previous studies, and better and more consistent effort in counting (Dikpal K. Karmacharya). Similarly, a survey in 2014 counted 166 and 71 individuals in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts, respectively (D. K. Karmacharya *in litt.* 2015).

Recently initiated robust long-term monitoring in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu has shown the following attributes of the Sarus population, which require consideration prior to comparing counts from surveys directly (Gopi Sundar, pers. comm.): (i) roadside counts provide large variations seasonally, which are due to movements related to seasonal changes in water conditions, and not the population; (ii) numbers are lowest during the monsoon, which is the breeding season of the species; this is also the season when most previous counts have been conducted leading to greatly fluctuating numbers reflective of the Sarus' habit of hiding when with young chicks, and not a reflection of population changes; (iii) breeding success of residential pairs varies with rainfall each year, which in turn changes birds counted during the breeding season and the winter immediately afterwards; (iv) flocks of Sarus outside of summer months are non-breeding birds, with many being young from the previous year of breeding, and constitute >40% of the population – these numbers are a reflection of different breeding year, and not of changing populations. Following the uncharacteristically long rainfall in 2014, breeding success of Sarus Cranes was exceedingly high, providing over 700 birds during regular monitoring counts. Numbers have reduced in recent years reflecting the dispersal behavior of non-breeding Sarus Cranes (Gopi Sundar pers. comm.).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 450; maximum population: 700+

Habitat and Ecology

Sarus Crane inhabits open wet and dry grasslands, agricultural fields, marshes and pools (Archibald *et al.* 2003). The species is increasingly being forced to use suboptimal rice paddies as breeding habitat because of the deterioration and destruction of its natural wetland habitat (Meine and Archibald 1996, Sundar 2009, D. K. Karmacharya *in litt.* 2015). It eats grain gleaned in stubbles, green shoots of grasses and cereals, tubers and corms of marsh plants, frogs, lizards, grasshoppers and other large insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is a resident, subject to local movements (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

A 1992 survey found the species was declining due to deterioration of wetlands; while inside protected areas wetlands were threatened by lack of proper habitat management (Suwal and Shreshta 1992a,b). Land use change, i.e. drainage of wetlands and conversion of farmland to village settlements and other developments, such as housing, road construction and industrialization, are now significant threats. Disturbance, power lines, vandalising of nests, theft of eggs, water pollution from untreated industrial waste and the use of agrochemicals outside of protected areas have been blamed for a decline, e.g. Prentice and Shreshta (1989), Suwal and Shreshta (1992a,b), Suwal (2002), Aryal (2004), but more recent research indicates these are potential threats (see next paragraph).

Recent monitoring has shown that (i) disturbance to nests by farmers is occurring but rarely, and breeding success of Sarus in Kapilvastu and Rupandehi Districts is the highest recorded in eight south Asian sites (India and Nepal); (ii) though pesticides are regularly applied, monsoonal rainfall appears to provide considerable dilution and chemical-related mortalities of Sarus are exceedingly minimal in lowland Nepal; (iii) one or two Sarus Cranes are recorded dying each year (2013-2015), due to collision with electricity wires, but these mortalities are not at levels to be of concern to the species; and (iv) changes in rainfall patterns in lowland Nepal due to global climate change will cause significant fluctuations in the ability of Sarus Cranes to breed successfully – if the frequency of dry years increases, it is likely that the ability of Sarus Cranes to breed will be severely reduced (Gopi Sundar pers. comm.).

Conservation Measures

The Lumbini Crane Sanctuary (LCS) was set up in 1994, through an agreement between the Lumbini Development Trust and the International Crane Foundation. An area of 265 acres of land was leased for 50 years. The purpose of the sanctuary is to combine the Buddhist percepts of environmental harmony with Lumbini's religious, cultural, and environmental restoration. Activities include restoration and management of the sanctuary, and Sarus Crane conservation outreach to the villages of the Lumbini region (Anon. 2010b). According to Paudel (2009a,b), the cranes are now considered seriously threatened inside the sanctuary (see Threats section). However, the cranes only use the Sanctuary for nesting, and most leave the LCS to forage outside. The number of nests has decreased from two to four in the past, to one to three in recent years (Gopi Sundar pers. comm.). Outside the LCS, the large majority of Sarus Cranes occur outside the protected areas' system. The species has recently been recorded in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in very small numbers (see Distribution section).

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2acd?e? C2a(i)) no change from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Sarus Crane has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2acd?e? and C2a(i). The species is an uncommon and local resident in the west-central terai. Recent surveys have found a larger population in the species' stronghold in Kapilvastu and Rupandehi Districts, but this is probably due to better coverage and the population may be largely stable or declining to a small degree. Land use change, i.e. drainage of wetlands and

conversion of farmland to village settlements and other developments, such as housing, road construction and industrialisation are major threats. Disturbance, power lines, vandalising of nests, theft of eggs, water pollution from untreated industrial waste, and the use of agrochemicals outside of protected areas have been blamed for a decline, but more recent research indicates these are potential threats. A reduction in rainfall in lowland Nepal due to global climate change will cause a severe reduction in the ability of Sarus Cranes to breed.

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***Grus virgo* Linnaeus, 1758 VU**

Common Name

Demoiselle Crane (English)

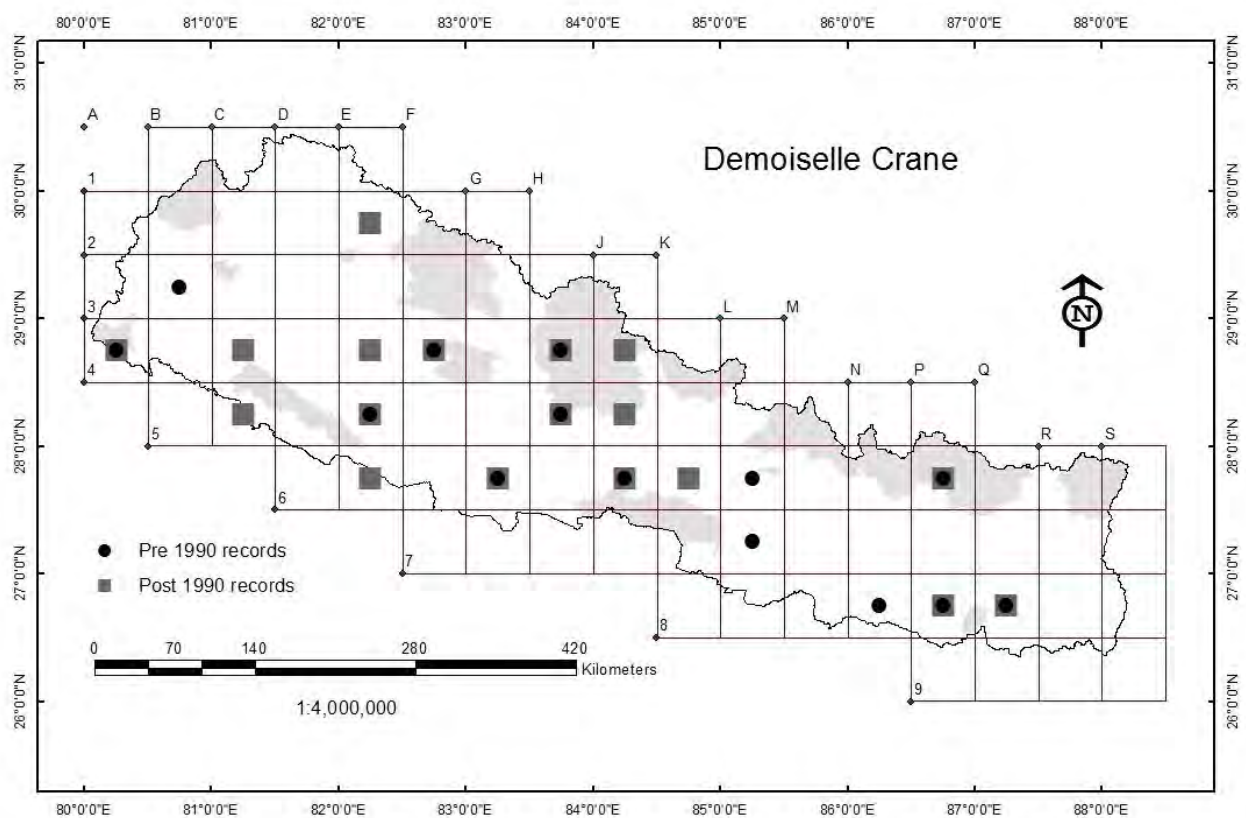
Karyaang-Kurung Saras (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Gruidae



Distribution



Demoiselle Crane is an uncommon passage migrant. Passage migration normally occurs in October/November and April/May. Since 1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th Century (Hodgson 1844).

The species was previously a fairly common passage migrant, passing over Nepal in large flocks in October and November, and again from April to May (Fleming *et al.* 1976; Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Scully (1879) described the bird as common in the central terai and Hetauda dun in winter during the 19th century. During the 1970s they were hunted at Tudikhel, Kathmandu (Karan Shah) and used to stop over in the Pokhara valley, where locals believed the cranes did significant damage to their crops (Suraj Baral). According to Gurung (1983), the bird was uncommon on passage at Chitwan and some birds remained to winter. Pre-1990 there were a few records from the Kathmandu Valley and single reports from other scattered localities

(Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Jakobsen (1993) noted two birds at Kagbeni, Annapurna Conservation Area at 2805 m in November 1989 and two were also seen there in January 1990 (Davison 1990).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a rare passage migrant to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009), Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001) and Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005). Biodiversity Conservation Data Project Team (1994) considered the species was a common passage migrant in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5), while Inskipp and Inskipp (2003) reported the species as a frequent passage migrant to the area. It was also reported to be a passage visitor to Upper Mustang (J3), Annapurna Conservation Area by Acharya (2002) and Suwal (2003). The species has always been regularly recorded on migration in that area (Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar, Manshanta Ghimire). It was recorded in Tsum Valley, Manaslu Conservation Area in March 2009 (Rajendra Gurung). The species was listed as a frequent winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but is now a rare and irregular passage migrant (RDB Workshop, October 2015). It is a rare passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004) and a frequent passage migrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005).

Demoiselle Crane has been recorded from a number of localities outside the protected areas' system since 1990. These include: Talcha (E3), Mugu District in October 2013 (Hathan Chaudhary); between Khalanga and Rimna (E4), Jajarkot District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009 a,b); between Tarakot and Dunai (F4), Dolpa District in October 1999 (Sparks 1999); four at Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District in January 2002 (Cox 2002); Phewa Lake in February 2012 (Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge team); a passage migrant to Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009), and recorded from Hongu (P6), Solukhumbu District in November 1996 (Cox 1996). An injured bird was found at Jabdi, Koshi Bird Observatory in June 2013 (Hathan Chaudhary).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Chad, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 5000 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Demoiselle Crane Nepal population counts were 0, 0, 0, 90, 0, 0 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

Demoiselle Cranes were seen flying south down the upper Kali Gandak valley in September and October between 1969 and 1978: 31,351 cranes in October 1969 (Martens 1971); about 6,000 between September and October 1973 (Beaman 1973), and Thiollay (1979) considered that 63,000 cranes he saw there in September and October 1978 were mainly Demoiselles.

Around 30,000 birds flew south over the Kali Gandaki valley, Mustang, Annapurna Conservation Area in 1992 and 1995 (Suwal 2003) and 20,000 in 2004 between the last week in September and the second week of October (R. Suwal in Acharya 2005). More than 200 were seen at Jomosom in October 1999 (Karan Shah) and 155 there in October 2012 (Hari KC). Around 10,000 were recorded between Jomosom and Lo Manthang in September and October 2014 (Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar and Hari KC).

In Pokhara valley from 2007-2009 three to five flocks of seven to eight birds were seen flying over, but now only one or two flocks are seen in October and March (Suraj Baral)

In Bardia National Park, a flock of 28 birds rested on the Karnali River bank in April 1998 (Giri *et al.* 1999).

About 100 Demoiselles stayed overnight at Bhamwada village, Mugu District in July or August 2009 (Chandra Shekhar Chaudhary)

130 birds were seen between Tarakot and Dunai, Dolpo District in October 1999 (Sparks 1999).

At least 50 birds were recorded in Tsum Valley, Manaslu Conservation Area in March 2009 (Rajendra Gurung).

1 at Gothihawa, near Taulihawa, Kapilvastu District in December 2009 (Dinesh Giri).

At Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District, one with Sarus Cranes *Grus antigone* in May 2012 (TB Gurung and Ramgir Chaudhary).

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, seven in April 1996 (Choudhary 1996).

2 at Jabdi Koshi Bird Observatory in August 2013 (KBS)

In Chitwan National Park, two recorded in April 1992 (Baral 1992) and in the buffer zone: one at Kumroj Community Forest in February and November 2013 (Sagar Giri), one by the Rapti River in December 1995 (Dinesh Giri) and ten there in December 2005 (Surendra Mahato).

In Mera Peak, five were recorded in November 1996 (Cox 1996).

At Talcha, Mugu District a flock of 300 Demoiselles landed in bad weather in October 2012 (Hathan Chaudhary).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Demoiselle Crane frequents winter crops, large rivers with sandbanks, jheels and reservoirs (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The bird is mainly vegetarian, feeding chiefly in the early morning and late afternoon and all night (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds mainly on shoots of grass and cereal crops, tubers, grains and occasionally on insects and small reptiles (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Hunting is a major threat, for example 100 Demoiselles in a flock of 300 were killed by local people, when the birds landed at Talcha, Mugu District in bad weather in October 2013 (Bhogendra Rayamajhi). The species is also at risk from disturbance, habitat loss and degradation, and possibly agrochemicals.

Conservation Measures

Demoiselle Cranes have been recorded in Bardia, Rara, Chitwan and Sagarmatha National Parks; Annapurna, Manaslu Conservation Areas and Sukla Phanta and Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserves. Conservation awareness programmes have been carried out for this species in upper Mustang, Annapurna Conservation Area (Acharya 2005, 2007).

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ad) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Demoiselle Crane has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ad. It is a fairly common passage migrant to Nepal, which occurs chiefly on passage in September/October and in much smaller numbers in March/April. Most birds migrate south down the Kali Gandaki valley in September/October. The numbers of birds recorded flying down the Kali Gandaki appear to have significantly decreased. Illegal hunting is a major threat; also disturbance, habitat loss and degradation, and possibly agrochemicals. The species has been recorded from several new localities in the west since 1990, probably because of better coverage. Further

study and research are required to find out the true population of the species migrating through Nepal.

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***Porzana pusilla* (Pallas, 1776) VU**

Subspecies *Porzana pusilla pusilla*

Common Name

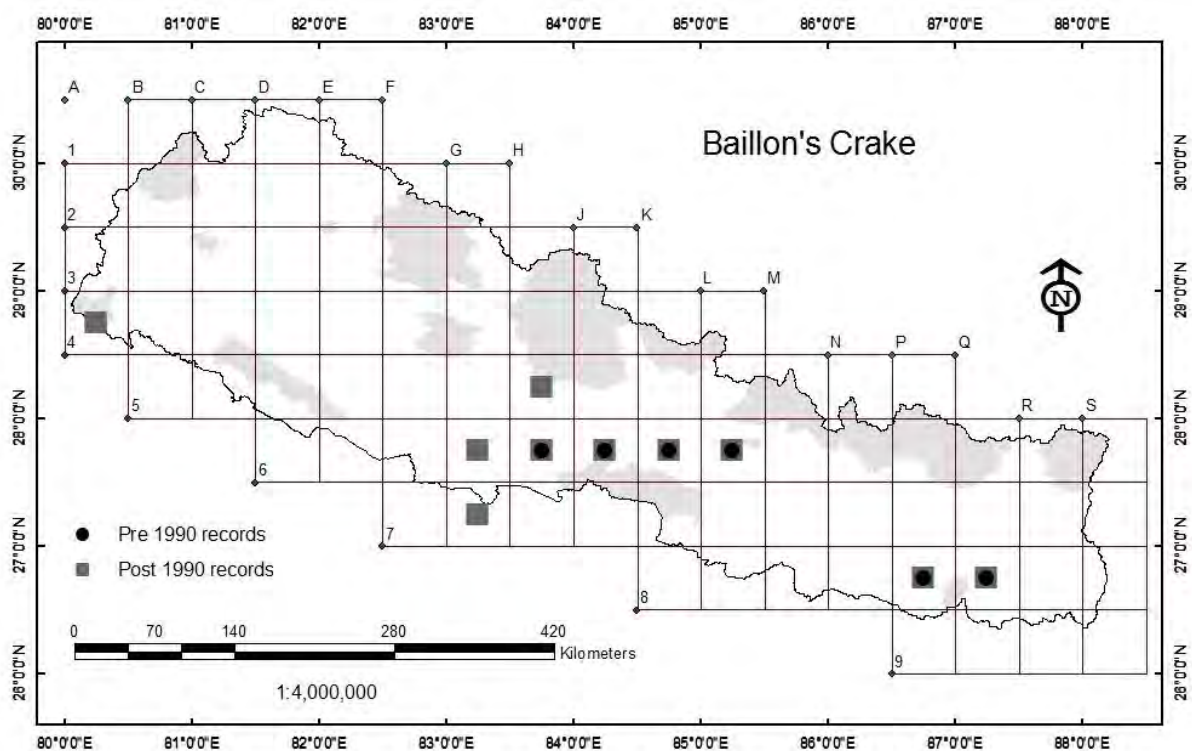
Baillon's Crake (English),
Jhili (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Baillon's Crake is a rare winter visitor and passage migrant, and has bred.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844), when it was recorded in the Kathmandu Valley in May and October and in the Terai in March (years unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as 'occasional'. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was mainly a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant that possibly breeds.

In central Nepal Scully (1879) observed that the species 'is common in the Valley from July to December, but is never seen or heard during the first half of the year. It particularly affects the fields of transplanted rice and from thence its peculiar call may be heard in morning and evening and often by night ...' There are few later records from the Valley. A specimen was collected from Kathmandu in April 1938 (Bailey 1938). Fleming *et al.* (1976) noted that it occurs on Taudaha Lake, Kathmandu Valley in spring. Single specimens were taken in the Valley in April 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964) and at Balaju in the Valley in November 1968 (Nepali 1986). One was recorded at Ram Dhuni in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999) and a juvenile was photographed on a flat Kathmandu rooftop in April 2006 (H. Gurung in Mallalieu 2008).

There are several reports from Chitwan National Park and also from the park buffer zone. Gurung (1983) found it a rare winter visitor from October to April. Singles were seen in April 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983); near Machan Lodge in April 1988 (Heathcote and Heathcote 1988); at Lami Tal in January 2009 (GC 2010), in January 2012 (DB Chaudhary) and April 2012, (Som GC, Anna Karlsson and Mathias Bergstrom); at Patna Tal, Padampur in 2009 (Kapil Pokharel), near Temple Tiger in December 2011 (DB Chaudhary) In the park buffer zone singles were seen in Namuna Community Forest in January 2011 (D B Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp February 2012) and near Kasara in March 2009 (Suchit Basnet); one was also collected at Peperpati, Nawalparasi District in March 1982 (Nepali 1982).

Baillon's Crake has been recorded the most at Koshi Barrage and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, but has declined there since the early 1980s (see Population section) and is now very rare; there are no known records from Koshi since 2005. It was proved breeding near Koshi Barrage when an adult was seen feeding two juveniles on 14 October 2002 (Giri and Bindari 2002). In March 2004, an adult and an immature were also recorded together in Koshi Barrage (Kennerley and Karki 2004). A specimen was collected at Haraincha, Morang District in February 1938 (Bailey 1938).

Four new localities have been found recently: single birds were recorded at Shikari Tal, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in February 2011 (Som GC); Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District in January 2002 (Cox 2002), May 2003 (Hem Sagar Baral and Badri Chaudhary) and January 2010 (Jyotendra Thakuri); at Phewa Tal, Kaski District in December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), and at Lumbini, Rupandehi District in March 2008 (Giri 2010) and by the Telar Khola, Lumbini in March 2009 (T. B. Gurung, Dinesh Giri, Sylver Corre).

Globally the species has also been recorded in China, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Russia, Middle East, Europe, Central Asia, East Asia, Australasia, Indonesia, South-East Asia and Africa (BCN and DNPWC 2011).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1350 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Baillon's Crake. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of the decline and deterioration of its habitat indicates that numbers must be small.

Baillon's Crake was described as common and possibly a passage migrant in 1975 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1986). It has been declining since the early 1980s at Koshi Barrage and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve: the maximum of six was seen in February 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981), one in March 1982 (Robson 1982), two in April 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983), three in February 1987 (Turin *et al.* 1987) and March 1987 (Stones 1987), recorded in 1990 (Gardiner 1990), singles in March 1991 (Baral 1991) and February 1995 (Basnet 2000), two in February 1996 (Harrap 1996) and February 1999 (Sterling 1999), singles in March 2001 (Baral 2001), April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and November 2001 (Koshi Camp 2001), an adult and two juveniles in October 2002, an adult and one immature in March 2004, and singles in January and February 2005 (GC 2010). No later records are known from Koshi.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Baillon's Crake inhabits reedy lake edges, marshes and wet paddy-fields (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It feeds mainly on adult and larval aquatic insects, also green material and seeds of aquatic plants (Taylor and van Perlo 1998). The species is secretive, although not particularly shy and can be detected by its call during the breeding season (Taylor and van Perlo 1998). The two records of adults with immature (one in March the other in October) indicate the species has bred near Koshi Barrage (see Distribution and Population sections).

Threats

Baillon's Crake is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of marshes and reedy lake edges, and by wetland plant succession.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Baillon's Crake. It has been recorded in Koshi Tappu and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserves and Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Baillon's Crake has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria VU A2c, C2a(i) and D1. It is now a rare winter visitor and passage migrant that has been proved breeding at Koshi in recent years. Since the 1980s, the species has declined at Koshi, the locality where it has been most recorded. Observations indicate that the Nepal population is small and, although the species can be easily overlooked because of its secretive habits, it can be detected by its call. Baillon's Crake is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of its habitat of marshes and reedy lake edges, and by wetland plant succession. It has been recorded in a few protected areas.

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Gallicrex cinerea Gmelin, 1789 NT

Subspecies: *Gallicrex cinerea cinerea*

Common Name

Watercock (English),

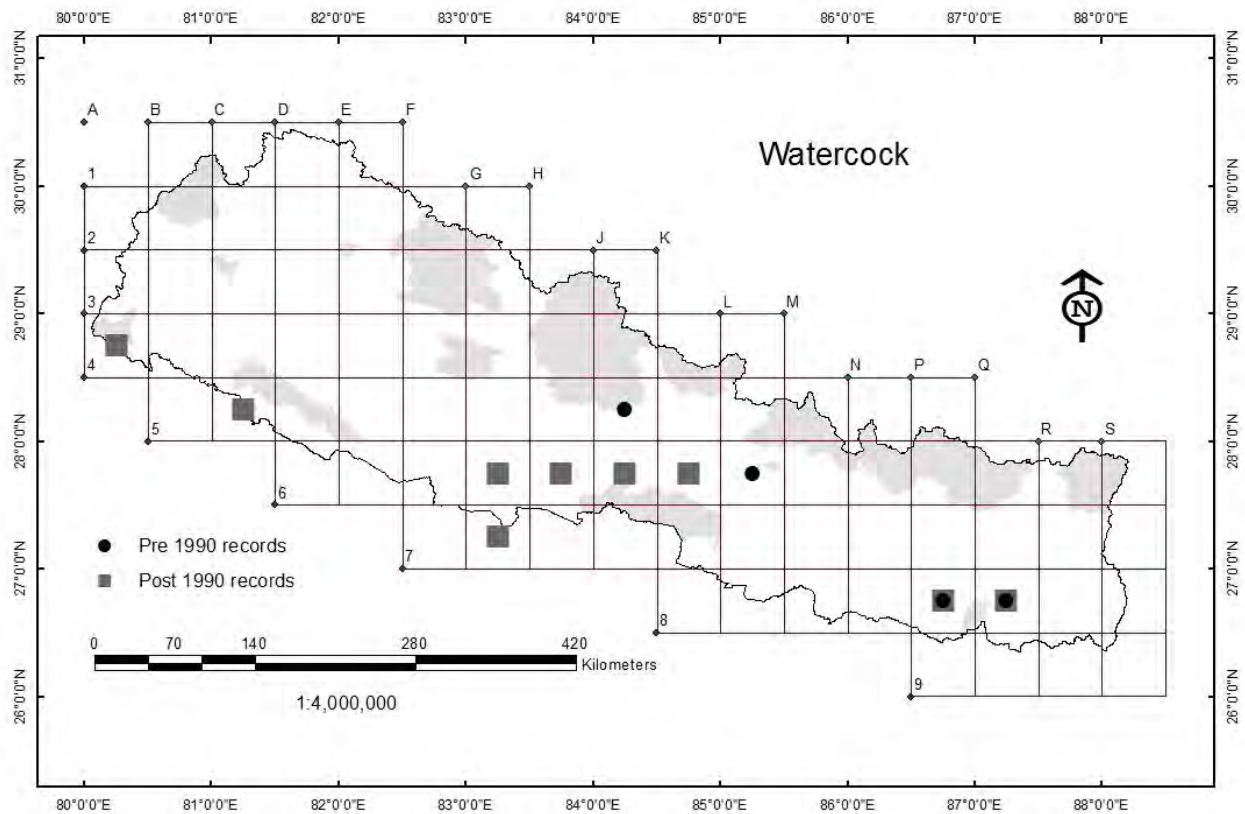
Jalkukhura (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Watercock is an uncommon monsoon visitor.

The first Nepal record of the species was in June 1975 in the Koshi marshes (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species scarce summer visitor to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a scarce monsoon visitor, although possibly under-recorded. There are a few records from the Koshi area (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), one at Begnas Tal on July 1978 (Rossetti 1978), and also recorded in the Kathmandu Valley: three at Bagmati River and four in paddy fields at Gokarna in August 1978 (Rossetti 1978), and two at Gokarna paddy fields on June 1987 (Slack 1990). There are no known later records from the Valley.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), but no sightings 2011-15 (RDB Workshop, October 2015); uncommon summer visitor to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and occasional summer visitor and breeding

resident at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Koshi Barrage [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005). It was recorded from Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar in Chitwan National Park buffer zone (Baral 1996).

Outside the protected areas' system, Watercock is a summer visitor to Tikapur [C5], Kailali District (Baral *et al.* 2013), recorded at Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002), summer visitor to Jagadishpur reservoir, Kapilvastu District [G6] (Baral 2008), recorded at Pokhara (RDB workshop) and is common though declining in Pithauli VDC, Nawalparasi District [H6], where it is seen from May to September each year (Chaudhary 2007, Choudhary 2003).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1280 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Watercock. It is reported to be slowly declining in Nawalparasi District (DB Chaudhary); declining in Bardia and in the Pokhara valley (RDB Workshop, October 2015).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Watercock is found in reedy swamps and ditches and flooded fields (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is largely crepuscular, but also emerging out during daytime in overcast weather (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is mainly vegetarian and food includes seeds, shoots of green crops, wild and cultivated rice, also aquatic insects, larvae, molluscs etc. (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeds in monsoon from May to September (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Proved breeding at Koshi Camp, Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013). Two unusually early records were one seen near Koshi Barrage in March 1997 (Harrap and Basnet 1997) and one near Tiger Tops in Chitwan National Park in March 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009). Breeding has been proved at Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly agro-chemicals are threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for the species. Post 1990, the species has been recorded from Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves and Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Watercock has been assessed as Near-threatened. The species is an uncommon monsoon visitor, although it is probably under-recorded. Post-1990 it has been recorded from three protected areas and also from several localities outside the protected areas' system. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly agro-chemicals are threats to the species. It is reported to be slowly declining in Nawalparasi District, declining in Bardia and the Pokhara valley and there have been no records in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve from 2011-2015.

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Grus grus Linnaeus, 1758 NT

Subspecies: *Grus grus lilfordi*

Common Name

Common Crane (English),

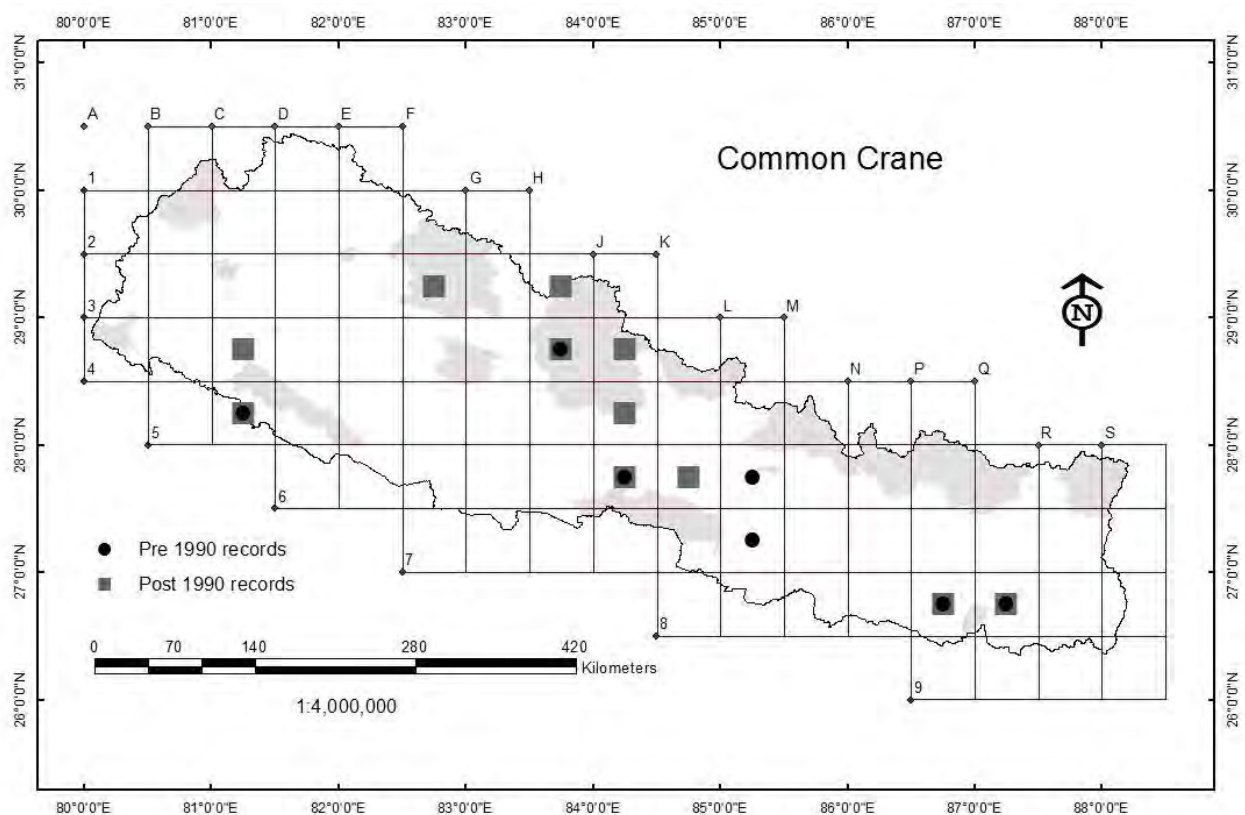
Laxman Saaras (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Gruidae



Distribution



Common Crane is mainly a passage migrant and also an irregular and rare winter visitor to the lowlands. Migration of the species has been observed through March/May and September/November.

The first record of the species in Nepal was in 19th century, when it was found to be common in winter in the terai and Hetauda dun and passed over the Kathmandu Valley on migration (Scully 1879).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a scarce passage migrant to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as mainly a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. There has been only one record in the Kathmandu Valley since 19th century, one on the Bagmati River in January 1974 (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Small flocks were reported at Chitwan in most winters (Fleming *et al.* 1984); however, in recent years this species has become very rare as a winter visitor. The only other pre-1990 records are: recorded migrating south down the upper Kali Gandaki valley, Annapurna Conservation Area in October 1973 (Beaman 1973), recorded at Kauriala Ghat (C5), Bardia District (Ripley 1950) and two records from the Koshi marshes (Hartley 1981, Nielsen and Jakobsen 1989).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a frequent winter visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a passage migrant to Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1994); a rare passage migrant in Annapurna Conservation Area (H3, H4, H5, J4, J5) (Biodiversity Conservation Data Project Team 1994) and a passage visitor in Upper Mustang (J3) of Annapurna Conservation Area (Acharya 2002); a frequent winter visitor and passage migrant to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and a frequent passage migrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). It has been recorded from Divyanagar, buffer zone of Chitwan National Park (Bed Bahadur Khadka, BES) (see Population section).

Since 1990 records outside the protected areas' system include: from Thapapur, Kailali District in January 2006 (Bijaya Shrestha); Jagadishpur, Kapilvastu District in April 2015 (Seejan Gyawali), Pokhara valley, Kaski District (Rajendra Gurung, Vimal Thapa); Narayangarh (J6), Chitwan District in April 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004) and Jabdi, Sunsari District in 2012 (Anish Timsina) and October 2013 (Badri Chaudhary).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malta, Mauritania, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3000 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

Pre-1990 a total of 37 flew south down the upper Kali Gandaki valley on 9 October and three on 12 October 1973 (Beaman 1973).

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Common Crane population in Nepal was counted as 5, 7, 150, 0, 248, 0 from 2008 to 2013 respectively (Baral 2013). Lack of records some years indicates its irregular presence in lowland Nepal.

In the Koshi area, one bird was observed from January 13 to February 16 1994 (Lama 1994), one in November 1996 (Choudhary 1996), four in February 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), five regularly from December 1998 (Giri *et al.* 1999) to at least January 1999 (Ghimire and Karki 1999), one in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001), five in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), two in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), two in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), two in February 2008 (Tribe 2008), and singles in November 2011 (Baral 2011), December 2011 (Vicente 2011) and in December 2012 (Anish Timsina).

In Chitwan National Park, 58 birds were recorded in 1996 (Baral 1995/1996), 30 in January 2004 (Stratford 2004), 49 in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 207 in 2006 (Khadka 2006), 127 in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 131 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012) and 125 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013). Also 60+ were observed circling over Megghauli (J6), Chitwan District in the park's buffer zone in January 1993 (Lewis 1993) and ten at Narayangarh (J6), Chitwan District in April 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004).

The midwinter waterbird count recorded 49 in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 127 in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 131 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012), 125 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013), 68 in February 2013, 105 in January 2014 and 97 in January 2015 (Bed Bahadur Khadka).

Other records from Chitwan National Park and buffer zone include: seven birds seen from Tharu Lodge in March 2013; 12 flying over Lamachaur in late November 2013; 11 seen at Gundrahikhola in March 2014 and

nine from Tharu Lodge in March 2015 (DB Chaudhary, Hom Mahato, Jeevan Gurung).

In Divyanagar, Chitwan National Park buffer zone ricefields and by the nearby Narayani River, 132 birds were seen in December 2012; 128 in December 2013 and 98 in December 2014 (Bed Bahadur Khadka) Locals there report they have seen the cranes there regularly in similar numbers in the past (BES).

In Shey-Phoksundo National Park, three flew north in April 1992 (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1994)

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Crane frequents winter crops, rivers with sandbanks, lakes and reservoirs (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is mainly vegetarian, feeding chiefly in the early morning and late afternoon and all night (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds mainly on shoots of grass and cereal crops, tubers, grain and occasionally on insects and small reptiles (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance; also hunting, poisoning and the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. At Dibyanagar there is an urgent threat of a change from rice farming to fish farming or poultry farming

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures specifically carried out for this species. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Shey Phoksundo and Chitwan National Parks, Annapurna Conservation Area and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Crane has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is mainly a passage migrant and also an irregular and rare winter visitor to the lowlands. It has been recorded in several protected areas and less frequently outside the protected areas' system. Common Crane faces many threats: habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, hunting, change of land use and possibly the use of agro-chemicals. It is probably declining.

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http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Nepal130409_comp.pdf

Turnix sylvaticus (Desfontaines, 1787) NT

Subspecies: *Turnix sylvaticus dussumier*

Common Name

Small Buttonquail (English),

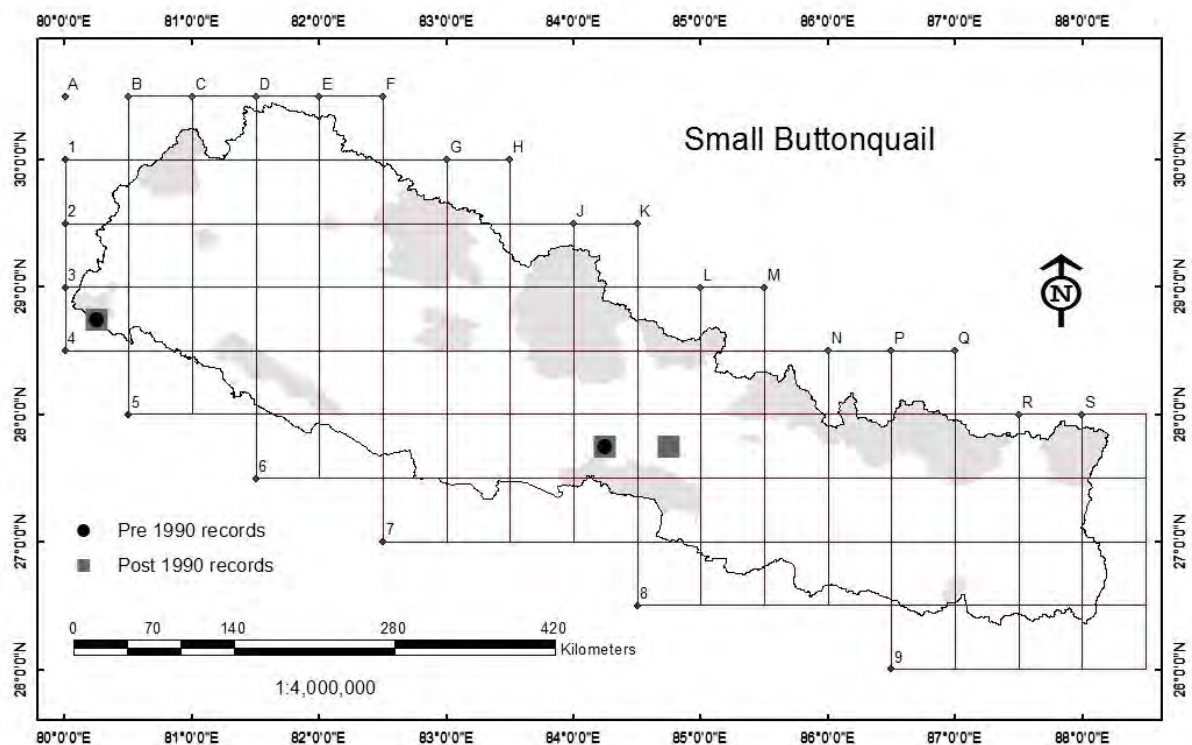
Saano Gattebattai (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Turnicidae



Distribution



Small Buttonquail is rare and local, possibly resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009, Baral 2010) in the far west to Chitwan National Park and buffer zone (Baral and Upadhyay 2006, Baral 2011) in central Nepal.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) stated that the species had not been recorded since the 19th century. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered the species as scarce, presumably resident, with only two localities: Bilauri, Kanchanpur District and Chitwan National Park.

Since 1990 Small Buttonquail has been recorded more widely and more frequently in protected areas compared to pre-1990, probably because of better recording.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 follows. It is regular in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Tika Giri, Dheeraj Chaudhary). Baral and Upadhyay (2006) listed it as an uncommon resident to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6), but later records indicate it is rare, e.g. one at Sukhebar in April 2014 (Bed

Bahadur Khadka). It has also been recorded in Parsa Wildlife Reserve: one in May 2014 (Kapil Pokharel).

The species has been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: at Barandabhar Community Forest (Ghimire 2009); two in Namuna Community Forest in March 2014 (DB Chaudhary and Jatayu Restaurant team) and two at Pandavnagar, Madi in April 2015 (Tika Giri).

There are no post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, Congo The Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France (vagrant), Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran Islamic Republic of, Italy, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman (vagrant), Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka (vagrant), Sudan, Swaziland, Taiwan (China), Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2015)).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 100 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Small Buttonquail. Post 1990, very few records have been obtained including: three on 24 April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and two on 19 May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010) in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, and three on 4 May 2011 (Baral 2011b) and two on 21 January 2013 (Tek Bdr Gurung) in Chitwan National Park.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10,000; maximum population: 30,000

Habitat and Ecology

Small Buttonquail is the smallest of the buttonquails found in Nepal (Fleming *et al.* 1976) and inhabits scrub intermixed with grass at edges of cultivation and grassland (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on grass and weed seeds, grain, green shoots and small insects (termites and black ants) (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat change (burning, grazing, invasive plant species e.g. *Mikania*) are threats to the species in protected areas and habitat loss threatens the species elsewhere.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Small Buttonquail. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Chitwan National Park and Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Small Buttonquail has been assessed as Near-threatened. It has been recorded from the far west to central Nepal. The species has been found in three protected areas including buffer zones, where it has been recorded more widely and more frequently compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. There have been no records outside the protected areas' system since 1990, possibly partly because of under-recording. Habitat alteration (burning, grazing, invasive plant species, e.g. *Mikania*) are threats to the species in protected areas and habitat loss elsewhere. As a result, it is probably declining.

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Turnix tanki Blyth, 1843 NT

Subspecies: *Turnix tanki tanki*

Common Name

Yellow-legged Buttonquail (English),

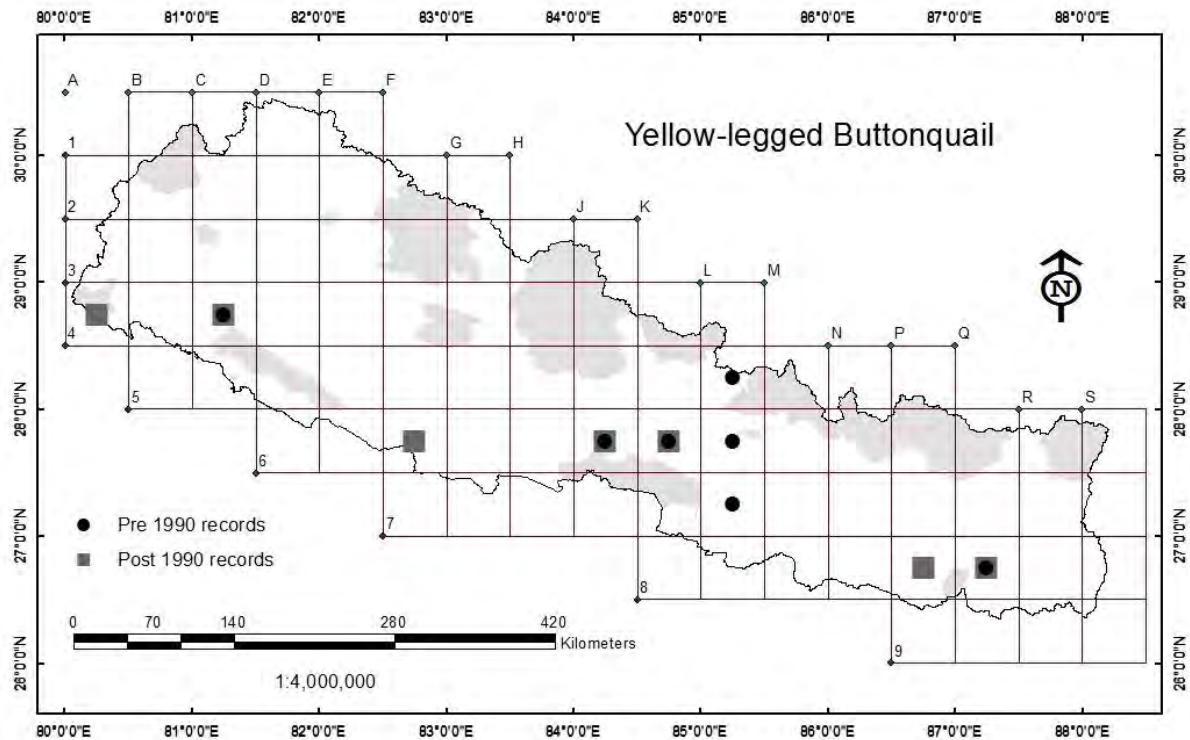
Pahelokhutte Gattebattai (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Turnicidae



Distribution



Yellow-legged Buttonquail is a local resident, mainly recorded at Koshi where it is uncommon; elsewhere it is rare. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first dated record of the species from Nepal is of the species found breeding in cornfields in the Kathmandu Valley (Hodgson 1829, Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as an occasional resident to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered the species a resident and mapped its distribution chiefly in central and eastern Nepal. The species was fairly common at Chitwan (Hoare 1977, Inskipp and Inskipp 1982, Cooper and Cooper 1989); however, scarce elsewhere (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Since 1990 the range of Yellow-legged Buttonquail has been extended west to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. The species has also been recorded more frequently compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: rare, possibly resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral 1997, Baral 2010, Baral and Inskipp 2009); a rare resident in Bardia National Park (C5) (Chaudhary 2001, Inskipp 2001); described as an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) but is now rare (Chaudhary 2001, O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009, Prince 1998); one seen on the East-West highway at Aadhabhar, Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) in February 2015 (Hem Sagar Baral) and a frequent resident to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Beeshazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005).

There are very few records outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990. Post 1990 records follow.

The species has been recorded at Khadara Phanta (F6) Kapilvastu District in April 2007 (Cox 2008) and at Koshi Camp(P8), Sunsari District in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (- 1500 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Yellow-legged Buttonquail. Since 1990, most of the records have been obtained from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve: two were recorded on 17 February 1997 (Betton 1997), singles were recorded on 4 April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), 11 December 2009 (Giri 2009) and 2 March 2010 (Baral 2010), and two in 18 March 2011 (Birdfinders 2011). Other records of the species were two on February 1996 (Prince 1998) and one in February 2012 (Metcalf and Naylor 2012) in Chitwan National Park, and singles in Bardia National Park in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001) and in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-legged Buttonquail normally occurs singly, occasionally in pairs (Ali and Ripley 1987) feeding at the edge of forests and in thickets (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It inhabits grassland, preferably damp areas mixed with low scrub and cultivation (millet and other crops) (Ali and Ripley 1987, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on grass and weed seeds, grain, green shoots and small insects (termites and black ants) (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat change (burning, grazing, invasive plant species e.g. *Mikania*) are threats to the species in protected areas and habitat loss threaten the species elsewhere.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Yellow-legged Buttonquail. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks; and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-legged Buttonquail has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local resident, mainly recorded at Koshi where it is uncommon; elsewhere it is rare. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east and in several protected areas. It has been found more frequently compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. However, there are very few records outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990, possibly because of under-recording. Habitat changes (burning, grazing, invasive plant species e.g. *Mikania*) are threats to the species in protected areas and habitat loss elsewhere. As a result, it is probably declining.

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***Amaurornis akool* (Sykes, 1832) LC**

Subspecies: *Amaurornis akool akool*

Common Name

Brown Crake (English),

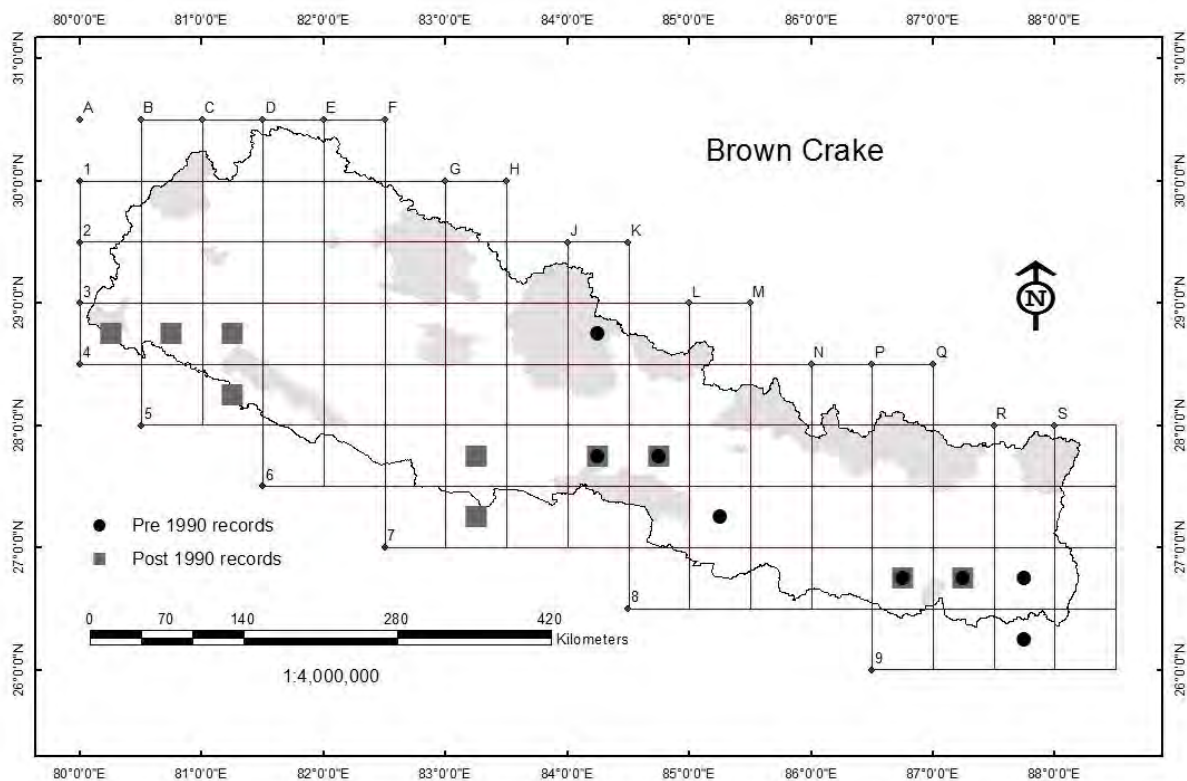
Dhwaanse Simkukhuraa (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Brown Crake is a local resident, common in Chitwan but mainly rare elsewhere. Post 1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The species was recorded for the first time in Nepal in 1947 from Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1960).

The species was considered to be a lowland resident, but one bird was collected from unusually high altitude at Ongre (3290 m) in September 1984 (Nepali 1986). Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species an occasional resident among tufts of grass along streams and ponds of the terai and duns. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was common at Chitwan; there were a few reports from Kosi and mainly single records from elsewhere.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a rare breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); reported from Bardia National Park (C4, C5) in January 2003 (Giri 2003); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a rare breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The bird has been recorded at

Janakauli Community Forest in October 2000 (Stair and Stair 2000), Bees Hazari Lake in February 2008 (Giri 2008), and Sauraha in January 2012 (Dymond 2012), in the Chitwan National Park buffer zone.

Brown Crake has been recorded from a few localities outside the protected areas' system since 1990. It is a fairly common resident in the Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); resident at Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008), and recorded from Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in November 2011 (Baral 2011a).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (-3290 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Brown Crake Nepal population counts were 14, 12, 22, 19, 19, 33 from 2008 to 2013 respectively (Baral 2013).

Most of the records of the species are from Chitwan National Park. Post-1990, four birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992), two in January 1996 (Baral 1995/1996), two in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997), six in December 1998 (Smith 1999), three in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), two in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001), two in February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002), two in January 2003 (Giri 2003), three in March 2005 (Ameels 2005), four in November 2007 (Baral 2007), two in February 2008 (Giri 2008), four in February 2009 (Baral 2009), eight in February 2010 (Baral 2010a), four in January 2011 (Baral 2011b) and four in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012). The midwinter waterbird count recorded 5 in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 10 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012), and six in February 2012 (Khadka 2013).

In Koshi Area, two birds were recorded in February 1993 (Giri 1993), six in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001) and one in October 2010 (Baral 2010b).

In Bardia National Park one bird was recorded in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997) and one in January 2003 (Giri 2003).

By the Rapti River, Chitwan six birds were recorded in January 1993 (Giri 1993).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Brown Crake inhabits reed-beds and vegetation along water courses (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). When in danger, the species bolts into cover with head and tail lowered and remains there for many minutes. It may fly feebly and reluctantly for a short distance and then drops into cover. Due to its skulking nature, the species is poorly recorded and understood (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects and their larvae, molluscs, worms, and seeds of marsh plants (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Brown Crake is threatened by the loss and degradation of wet ground and marshes, illegal hunting and disturbance.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Brown Crake. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Brown Crake has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a local resident, chiefly recorded from Chitwan. It has been recorded from four protected areas and few localities outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range. Despite wider recording, it may still be overlooked because of its skulking nature. Brown Crake is threatened by the loss and degradation of wet ground and marshes, illegal hunting and disturbance. The species' population may be in decline but there is no evidence to warrant any threat category.

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***Amaurornis phoenicurus* (Pennant 1769) LC**

Subspecies: *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Common Name

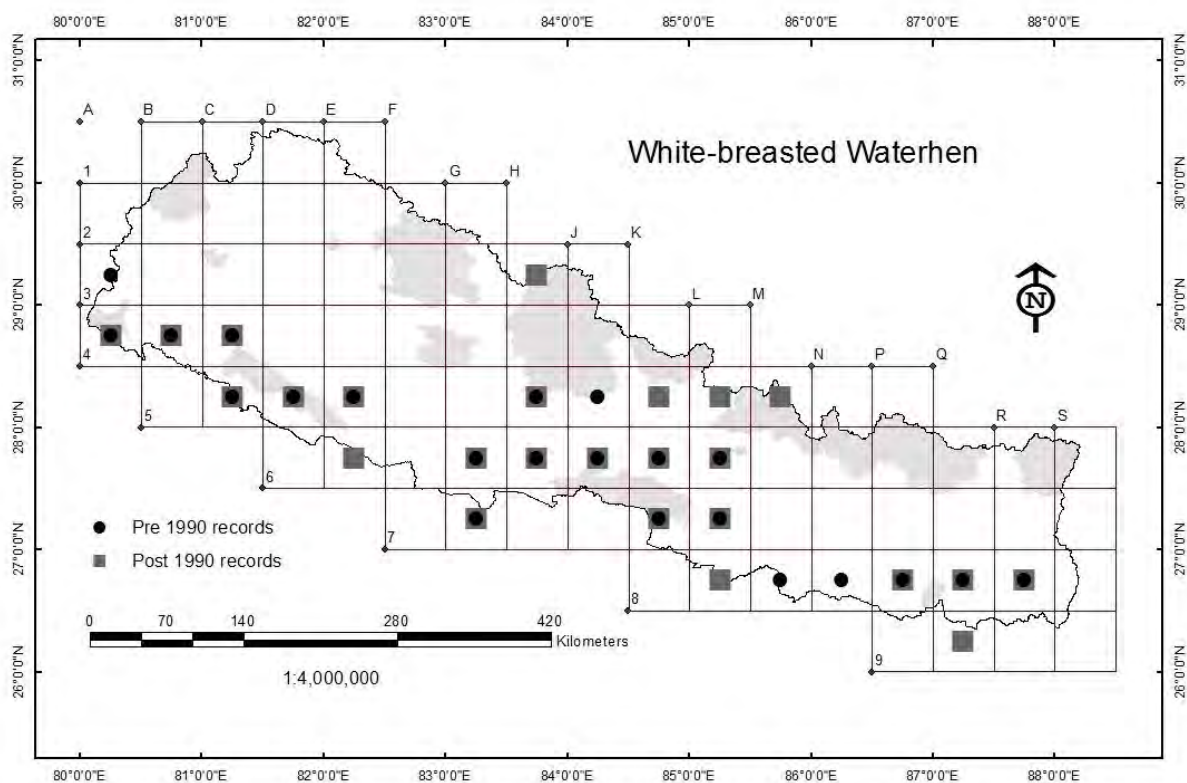
White-breasted Waterhen (English),
Simkukhura (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae



Distribution



White-breasted Waterhen is a fairly common and widespread, resident mainly in the lowlands and also up to 1370 m.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as a fairly common resident to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species to be a fairly common resident from the terai up to 915 m.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a common breeding bird in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009), common resident in Bardia National Park (C4) (Inskipp 2001), recorded from Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012), recorded from Lo Manthang Khola and Kimling Khola of Upper Mustang, Annapurna Conservation Area (H3) (Chetri 2007), a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001), a vagrant in Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001), and a common breeding resident in the Koshi Area (P8,Q8) (Baral 2005a). In Bardia National Park buffer zone it has been recorded from Khata Corridor Forest, Bardia District (C5) (Chaudhari *et al.* 2009). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it has been recorded from Barandabhar

Corridor Forest (Adhikari *et al.* 2000) and Bees Hazari Lake, Chitwan District (J6) (Baral 1994) and resident in Sauraha, Chitwan, e.g. at Chitwan Gaida Lodge (Carol Inskipp).

Since 1990, the species has been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include: from Dhangadi (Baral 1991), Mohana River (Chaudhary 2012), Tikapur (Baral *et al.* 2013); a common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area, Kailali District (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012), recorded at Nepalgunj, Banke District (D5) (Baral 1992), the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b), Jagadishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District (G6) (Baral 2011a), Lumbini (G7) (Baral 1994) and Gaidahawa Lake (G6), Rupandehi District (Baral 2011a), and Rupatal (H5) (Byrne 2000) and other lakes of Pokhara Valley, Kaski District (H5) (Baral 1994; Kafle *et al.* 2008).

In central Nepal records include from: different localities of Nawalparasi District (H6) (Choudhary 1995), and along the North South Fast Track Road (Basnet and Thakuri 2008), It is an uncommon summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008), Hetauda, Makwanpur District (L7) (Giri 2000), and different localities in Rautahat (L7) and Siraha (L7) Districts (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Itahari (Pandey 2003), Dharan Forest, Sunsari District (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Biratnagar (Q9) (Subba 1994), resident in Raja Rani Community Forest, Bhogteny (Basnet *et al.* 2005) and a common resident at Betana Pond, Morang District (Q8) (Niroula *et al.* 2011), and recorded from different localities of Ilam District (R8) (Baral 1992) and the lower Mai Valley, Ilam and Jhapa Districts (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Before 1990, there were few records of the bird from Kathmandu Valley. However, since 1990 records show that it is now frequent in the Valley, e.g. one at Taudaha in October 1992 (Baral 1993), six at Jyatha in February 1993 (Baral 1993), and one at Taudaha in February 1997 (Baral 1997). There were five observations of one at Lazimpat from January to April 2000 (Baral 2000), and also one at Phulchowki in November 2000 (Basnet 2000).

One bird was recorded at an unusually high altitude, between Langtang village and Kyangjin Gompa in May 1999 (Chaudhary 1999).

Globally the species has also been reported from Bangladesh, Bhutan, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macao (China), Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m (-3800 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal White-breasted Waterhen population counts were 58, 58, 65, 63, 53, 75 from 2008 to 2013 respectively (Baral 2013).

Koshi Tappu is the most regularly recorded site for the bird, although the number of records fluctuates. In December 1991, three birds were recorded (Baral 1992), 27 in December 1992 (Baral 1993), 20 in March 1993 (Danielsen and Falk 1993), five in January 1994 (Choudahry 1994), 17 in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 76 in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997a), 33 in April 1997 (Chaudhary 1997b), 20 in December 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 91 April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), 13 in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001), 25 in March 2001 (Baral 2001), 16 in March 2002 (Baral 2002), 25 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), 22 in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), 18 in February 2007 (Baral 2007a), 20 in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), six in February 2009 (Baral 2009), six in March 2010 (Baral 2010a), and 40 in May 2011 (Baral 2011b).

In Chitwan National Park, six birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992), four in January 1993 (Giri 1993) and April 1996 (Baral 1996), six in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997a), 23 in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999), three in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), 10 in April 2007 (Byskov 2007), more than 10 in April 2009 (O'Connell-Davidson 2009) and 10 during the midwinter waterbird count from 18-23 January 2010 (Khadka

2010).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, six birds were recorded in January 1992 (Baral 1992), four in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), three in April 2007 (Baral 2007b), and seven in May 2010 (Baral 2010b).

In Ghodaghodi Lake, 11 birds were recorded in January 1992 (Baral 1992), seven in January 2011 (Baral 2011a).

In Nepalgunj, six birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992).

In Kapilvastu District, 48 birds were seen from January to December 1978 (Cox 1978).

In Lumbini, three birds were recorded April 1993 (Baral 1994) and four in February 2011 at Gaidahawa Lake (Baral 2011a).

In Pokhara, two birds were recorded December 2002 (Naylor et al. 2002), four in December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), four in November 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005), four in December 2008 (Giri 2008a) and six in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009).

In Nawalparasi, seven birds were recorded in March 1995 (Choudhary 1995).

In Kathmandu, six birds were recorded in February 1993 at Jyatha (Baral 1993) and also in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007),

In Dharan forest, three birds were recorded in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997a), 22 in March 2001 (Baral 2001), six in May 2008 (Giri 2008b), and eight in May 2011 (Baral 2011b).

In Biratnagar, four birds were recorded in June 1993 (Baral 1994).

In Ilam District, three birds were recorded in December 1991 (Baral 1992).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

White-breasted Waterhen occurs in marsh and scrub vegetation at the edges of ponds, lakes and ditches (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is a common and most familiar rail, less shy and secretive than most of its tribe, often feeding in the open and in quite dry land (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is very noisy in the breeding season (June-October), sometimes calling throughout the night (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on insects and their larvae, molluscs, worms, seeds, and shoots of marsh plants (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved at Bagarkot (van Riessen 1986) and in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance, and possibly agrochemicals are threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for White-breasted Waterhen. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, Chitwan and Langtang National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-breasted Waterhen has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common and widespread resident mainly in the lowlands, and also up to 1370 m. Since 1990 it has been recorded in a number of protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. It has now been recorded frequently in the Kathmandu Valley where it had previously been rare. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance and possibly agrochemicals are threats to the species. There is no indication of a population decline post 1990 compared to pre 1990 and its population is possibly stable.

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Fulica atra (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Fulica atra atra*

Common Name

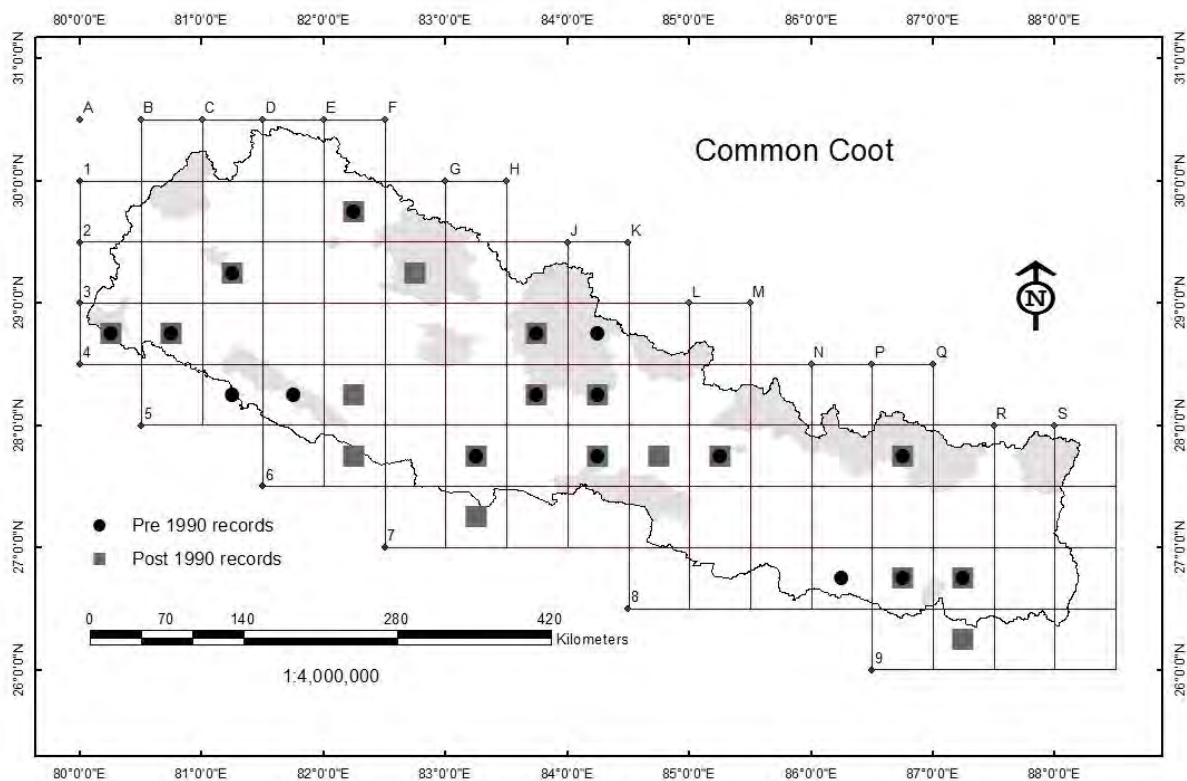
Common Coot (English),
Marmool (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Common Coot is a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Since 1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional resident and passage migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species was mainly an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a rare passage migrant to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a common winter visitor and passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); recorded in Shey- Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1994); a vagrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and recorded from upper Mustang (J3), Annapurna Conservation Area in November 1999 (Baral 2000); a fairly common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a rare passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004) and a

common winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded at Bees Hazari Lake in March 2002 (Malling Olsen 2004), buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

Common Coot has also been recorded from a number of additional localities outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

In the west records include: a frequent resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded in the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); a passage migrant in Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); a winter visitor to Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008), recorded at Gaidahawa (G6) in February 2011 (Baral 2011a) and Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Acharya 2011); Pokhara Valley (H5) in January 2012, (Dymond 2012), and Rupa Tal (J5) (Kafle *et al.* 2008), Kaski District.

In central Nepal records include: a common but local winter visitor to Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008).

In the east records include: from Jabdi area (Q8) in March 2001 (Baral 2001); a scarce migrant to Chimdi Lake (Q8), (Surana *et al.* 2007), Sunsari District and recorded from Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District in March 1994 (Baral 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guam (to USA), Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2900 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Common Coot Nepal counts were 2486, 1075, 1248, 2483, 5863, 5072 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, 152 birds were counted in December 1992 (Baral 1993a), 101 in January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994), 47 in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 65 in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997a), 40 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), 38 in February 2007 (Baral 2007), 11 in February 2010 (Baral 2010a) and four in January 2011 (Baral 2011b).

In Chitwan National Park, 14 birds were recorded in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997b), 13 in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999), three in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001), one in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), two in February 2008 (Giri 2008), four in January 2010 (Giri 2010), and two in November 2011 (Baral 2011a). The midwinter waterbird count recorded two in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 24 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012) and eight in February 2012 (Khadka 2013).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 40 birds were recorded in January 2009 at Rani Tal (Baral 2009) and 20 in January 2011 (Baral 2011c).

In Rara National Park, 25 birds were recorded in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and 20 in April 2009 (O'Connell-Davidson 2009).

In Ghodaghodi Lake, 78 birds were observed in January 2010 (Baral 2010a) and 34 in January 2011 (Baral

2011a).

In Jagadishpur Reservoir, 6000 birds were recorded in January 2006, the highest count for the country (Baral 2008), and 1500 in December 2011 (Baral 2011a).

In Pokhara, 163 were seen in February 1993 (Fourage 1993), 100 in December 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002), 225 in November-December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), 600 in January 2005 at Phewa Tal (Mallalieu 2005), 125 in December 2007 (Naylor and Metcalf 2007), 150 in February 2008 (Giri 2008), 300 in February 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009), 350 in February 2010 (Baral 2010b), and 400 in January 2012 (Dymond 2012).

In Taudaha, Kathmandu, 46 birds were recorded in January 1992 (Baral 1993b), 33 in January 1993 (Baral 1993a), 22 in November 1994 (Baral 1994), 47 in November 1997 (Baral 1997), and 35 in February 2005 (Mallalieu 2005).

The midwinter waterbird count shows an overall increase in the species' population, but this may be due to additional coverage.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Coot occurs in reed-edged open expanses of water (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is gregarious, especially in winter, when it may gather in enormous flocks in some places. The species is diurnal and not shy, forages chiefly on aquatic vegetation in water, mainly by diving. When disturbed, it prefers to skitter away along the water surface rather than fly (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on chiefly vegetable matter - shoots and seeds of aquatic plants and wild and cultivated rice; also worms, insects and molluscs, and occasionally small fish (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Common Moorhen. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Khaptad, Rara, Shey-Phoksundo, Chitwan and Sagarmatha National Parks; Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Coot has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. The species has been recorded from several protected areas and a number of additional localities outside the protected areas' system. There has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance, and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. The midwinter waterbird count shows an overall increase in the species' population but this may be due to the additional coverage of wetland sites. Its population may be stable.

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Gallinula chloropus (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

Common Name

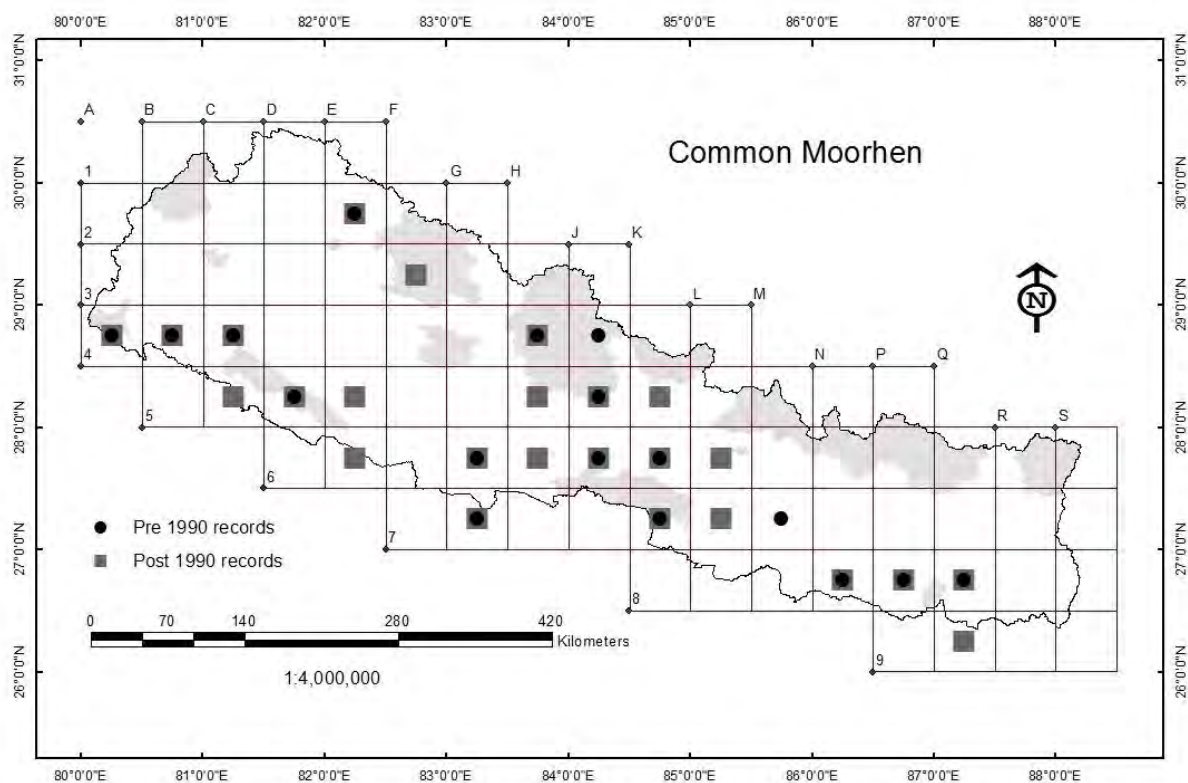
Common Moorhen (English),
Bagale Simkukhura (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Common Moorhen is mainly a locally common resident and winter visitor in the lowlands; also recorded breeding at Ghodaghodi Tal, Kailali District. Since 1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the bird was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a locally common resident and winter visitor, chiefly found in the terai and mapped its distribution mainly in the lowlands from the far west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a common winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a resident and a frequent winter visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a common passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); recorded from Phoksundo wetlands in Shey Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Bhujyu *et al.* 2007); a rare passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded at Samagaun in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) in October 2012 (Katuwal *et al.* 2013); a fairly common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6,

K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a winter visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001) and a common winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Corridor Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000), Bees Hazari Lake in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012), Chitwan District, Gundre Khola, Nawalparasi District in November 2007 (Baral 2007a) in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

Common Moorhen has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include: a common breeding resident and winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4) Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); a winter visitor to Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008a); recorded at Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994)); Phewa Lake (H5) in November 2010 (Adcock and Naylor 2011), and Rupa Lake (J5) (Kafle *et al.* 2008), Kaski District; ,

In central Nepal records include: an uncommon and local summer visitor to Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008) but recorded in Taudaha in most winters (Hem Sagar Baral), recorded at Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997); Chandranigahapur (L7), Rautahat District in January 2001 (Hofland 2001); Kamala River, Dhanusha and Siraha Districts (N8) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a frequent migrant to Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007), and recorded from Dharan Forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Sunsari District.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Anguilla (to UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba (to Netherlands), Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bolivia, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands (to UK), Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China (mainland), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Grenada, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao (China), Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte (to France), Mexico, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Réunion (to France), Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Helena (to UK), St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Martin (to France), St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3050 m (-4575 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Common Moorhen Nepal population counts were 693, 662, 1194, 1232, 865, 1064 from 2008 to 2013 respectively (Baral 2013).

In the Koshi Area, 200 were counted in December 1991 (Baral 1992), more than 100 in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), 260 in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994), 640 in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 202 in December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), 502 in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), 140 in January 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 51 in January 1999 (Ghimire and Karki 1999), 115 in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001), 75 in December 2001 (Naylor *et al.* 2002), 92 in March 2002 (Baral 2002), 350 in February 2003 (Baral 2003), 400 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), 450 in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), 250 in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), 200 in December 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), 56 in January 2009 (Acharya 2009), 120 in February 2010 (Baral 2010a), 70 in February 2011 (Baral 2011), and 30 in April 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013).

In Chitwan National Park, 101 birds were recorded in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), 40 in February 2003 (Baral 2003), 155 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), 40 in February 2007 (Baral 2007b), 106 in December 2008 (Baral 2009a), 40 in February 2009 (Baral 2009b), and 40 in February 2010 (Baral 2010a).

The waterbird count from 1989 to 1999 in the Chitwan area showed a significant decline in the population of Common Moorhen (Baral 1999). The midwinter waterbird count at Chitwan recorded 37 birds in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 141 in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 313 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012) and 201 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 120 birds were recorded in April 2007 (Baral 2007c), 150 in February 2008 at Rani Tal (Baral 2008b), 200 in January 2009 (Baral 2009c), and 200 in February 2011 (Chaudhary 2011).

In Ghodaghodi Lake, 350 birds were seen in January 2010 (Baral 2010b) and 360 in January 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Sukkhad, 180 birds were recorded in January 2011 (Baral 2011).

The midwinter waterbird count shows an increase in the species' population but this may be due to additional coverage.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Moorhen inhabits marshes and reed-edged pools with emergent vegetation (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is found singly, in pairs or small parties and may gather in flocks of 50 or more in winter. It usually forages in the open and spends most of the day swimming among aquatic plants and feeding on land (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). In order to escape, it swims into vegetation and flies reluctantly, pattering into the water before taking height. However, it is capable of sustaining long distance migration over high mountains (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It breeds during the monsoon from July to September (Ali and Ripley 1987). It has been found breeding in Ghodaghodi Lake in July 2010, the only breeding locality in Nepal (Giri and Choudhary 2010). The species is omnivorous and feeds on seeds, fruits and shoots of aquatic plants, molluscs, insects and their larvae, young frogs and small fish (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Common Moorhen. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Rara, Chitwan and Shey-Phoksundo National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and Annapurna and Manaslu Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Moorhen has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally common resident and winter visitor in the lowlands and has bred at Ghodaghodi Tal. It has been recorded from many protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system. There has been no significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. The increase in midwinter waterbird counts may be a result of additional coverage of wetland sites. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. As a result, overall its population may be declining.

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Porphyrio porphyrio (Linnaeus, 1758) LC
Subspecies: *Porphyrio porphyrio poliocephalus*

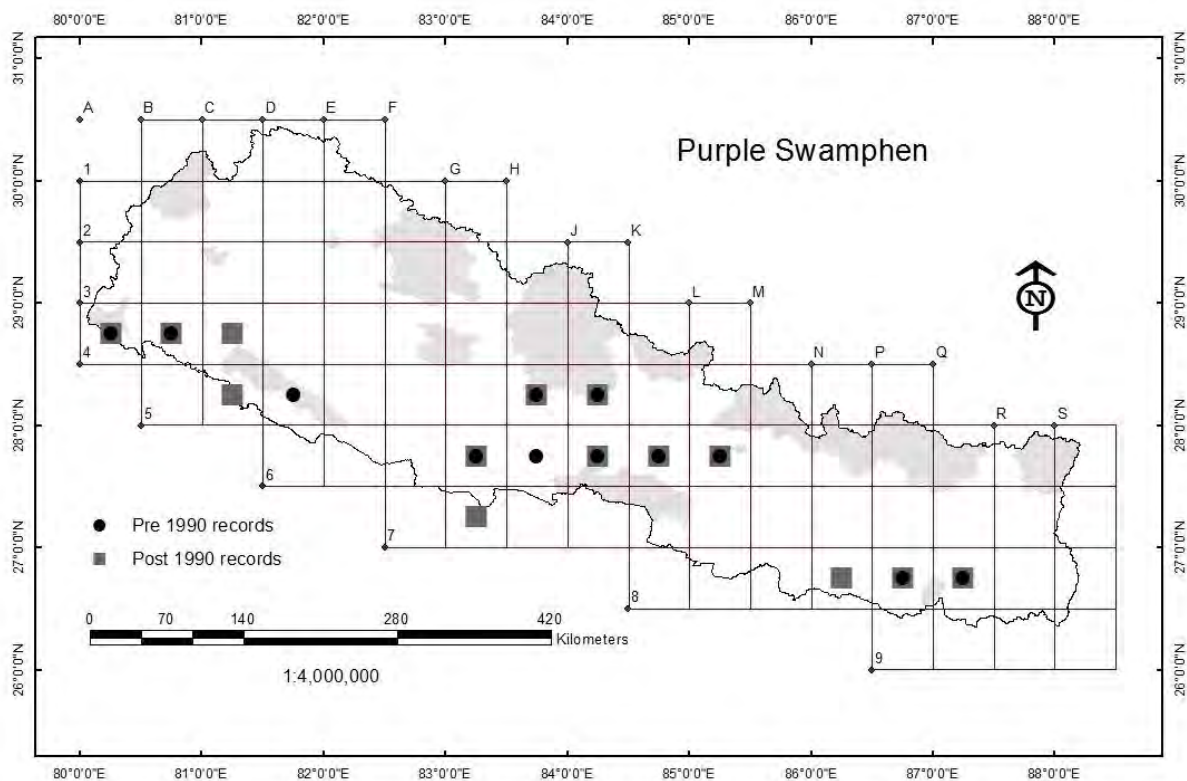
Common Name

Purple Swamphen (English),
Kurmaa (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes
Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Purple Swamphen is a local resident and winter visitor, common in the Pokhara valley, frequent in Chitwan National Park and Koshi area, and uncommon elsewhere. Post 1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional resident in extensive reed beds bordering marshy ponds of the lowlands. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the bird as chiefly a winter visitor and passage migrant that also bred; it was fairly common at Chitwan, Koshi Barrage, Sukla Phanta and Ghodaghodi Lake with single records from elsewhere.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a rare passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001). Baral and Upadhyay (2006) listed it as a frequent winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) with very small numbers recorded in winters 2013-15 at Lami Tal, Patna Tal, Devi Tal and Temple Tiger Tal (DB Chaudhary, Bed Bahadur Khadka, BES); however, it has bred recently in Lami Tal (Sagar Giri, 2015). Baral

(2005) listed it as a fairly common breeding resident and winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8), but it has since declined. The species has been recorded at Bees Hazari Lake (Baral 1996a), in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park, and it was recorded in the winter from 2013-2015 in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve buffer zone (Dheeraj Chaudhary).

Purple Swamphen has been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

In the west records include: a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded on Badhaiya lake in Bardia District in March 2013 (Ashik Gurung, Seejan Jyawali) and June 2015 (Ram Bahadur Shahi); resident in Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); recorded from Lumbini Farmlands IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002). The species is now a breeding resident in Pokhara valley, Kaski District where the population has increased significantly in recent years (see Population section). In Pokhara valley the species has been recorded from Phewa Lake (H5) (Dymond 2012, Hari Bhandari, Hari KC), Rupa Lake (J5) (Kafle *et al.* 2008), Khaste, Begnas and Deepang Lakes (Manshanta Ghimire, Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar).

In the east records include from: Kamala River (N8), Dhanusha and Siraha Districts in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); three near Thera village, Dhanusa District in January 2013 and 2014 (Om Yadav); also recorded in parts of Udayapur, Saptari and Sunsari Districts (P8/Q8) (Hem Sagar Baral, Badri Chaudhary 2013); seen regularly at Koshi Barrage in 2013-15 (Tika Giri, Dheeraj Chaudhary) and regularly recorded in Chimdi Lake, Sunsari District (Badri Chaudhary, Koshi Bird Society).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Algeria, American Samoa, Angola, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Niue (to New Zealand), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russia (European), Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Helena (to UK), Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (-1370 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Purple Swamphen population in Nepal was counted as 172, 158, 404, 355, 310, 366 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, 255 birds were recorded in December 1984 (Collins and Thomas 1986), 40 in December 1991 and 52 in March 1992 (Baral 1992), 164 in March 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 50 in January 2002 (Giri and GC 2002), 160 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), 64 in February 2007 (Baral 2007a), 50 in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), 85 in February 2009 (Baral 2009), 70 in February 2010 (Baral 2010a), 85 in February 2011 (Baral 2011), 17 in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013), 25 in 2013 (Chandra S. Chaudhary), and 75 in March 2015 (Anish Timsina). The species has declined at Koshi since 1990.

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 36 birds were recorded in May 1996 (Baral 1996b), 22 in May 1997 (Baral 1997), three in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), five in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), six in April 2007 (Baral 2007b), eight in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009) and 12 in January 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Chitwan National Park: three birds were seen in April 1992 (Baral 1992), ten in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), seven in March 1999 (Chartier and Chartier 1999), 20 in January 2011 (Baral 2011), and six in March 2015 (Surendra Mahato).

In Ghodaghodi lake, 19 birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992), 12 in January 2010 (Baral 2010a) and

seven in January 2015 (Dheeraj Chaudhary).

On Jagdisphur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District, 49 birds were counted in January 2006 (Baral 2008) and 12 in December 2010 (Baral 2011). The species was regularly monitored here 2006-2014, with the maximum of 70 recorded in 2012 and 10-20 in other years (Dinesh Giri).

In the Pokhara valley, nine birds were recorded in March 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002), 20 in January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005), 45 in December 2008 (Naylor and Turner 2008), 40 in December 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009), 180 in February 2010 (Baral 2010b), and 300 in January 2012 (Dymond 2012). In 2015, 300 were seen at Phewa Tal, 150 at Rupa lake, 36 at Maldi and Dipang, and 46 at Khaste, Gunde and Begnas Tal (Hari Bhandari, Hari KC). In October 2015. Phewa Lake had nearly 500 birds and Rupa Lake had nearly 200 birds (Manshanta Ghimire and Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar). The population has significantly increased in the Pokhara valley in recent years.

On Badhaiya Lake, Bardia District seven were seen in March 2013 (Ashik Gurung) and five in June 2015 (Ram Bahadur Shahi).

On Chimdi Lake there was a maximum of 16 birds (Koshi Bird Society).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Purple Swamphen frequents dense reed beds at pool edges and marshes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is diurnal and where undisturbed it is not shy (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Usually it occurs in small parties; it forages within marshy reed-beds or wades over matted floating vegetation (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is noisy and quarrelsome, especially in the breeding season (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is omnivorous, feeding mainly on grains, seeds, vegetable matter and also molluscs and aquatic insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is a breeding resident in Lami Tal in Chitwan National Park (Sagar Giri 2015) and in the Pokhara valley in recent years (Hari KC, Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar, Rajendra Gurung, Manshanta Ghimire). It has also bred at Ghodaghodi Tal, Kailali District and at Belatari, Kapilvastu District in 1988 (Suwal and Shrestha 1988).

Threats

Purple Swamphen is threatened by both hunting and disturbance, and the loss and degradation of wetlands. It has been widely hunted using guns, and different types of traps including mist-nets, and other trapping methods for meat. Farmers in the lowlands have used poison to kill the birds. Climate change may be affecting the species enabling it to colonise higher altitude wetlands, e.g. those in Pokhara. Local people in the Pokhara valley are complaining that the species is damaging their rice production (Hari KC verbally 2015).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been specifically carried out for this species. Post-1990 it has been recorded in small numbers from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks as well as in Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Purple Swamphen has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a local resident and winter visitor, common in the

Pokhara valley, frequent in Chitwan National Park and Koshi area, and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east. The species has recently significantly increased in the Pokhara valley, where it is common on several unprotected lakes and is now a breeding resident. The reason for this increase is unclear and is possibly the result of climate change. It has also recently bred in Chitwan National Park, where formerly it was considered only a winter visitor. Its population has decreased at Koshi, however. The species is threatened by hunting and disturbance, the loss and degradation of wetlands. Farmers in the lowlands have used poison to kill the birds. The overall population trend in the country is uncertain.

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Porzana fusca (Linnaeus, 1766) LC

Subspecies: *Porzana fusca fusca*

Common Name

Ruddy-breasted Crake (English),

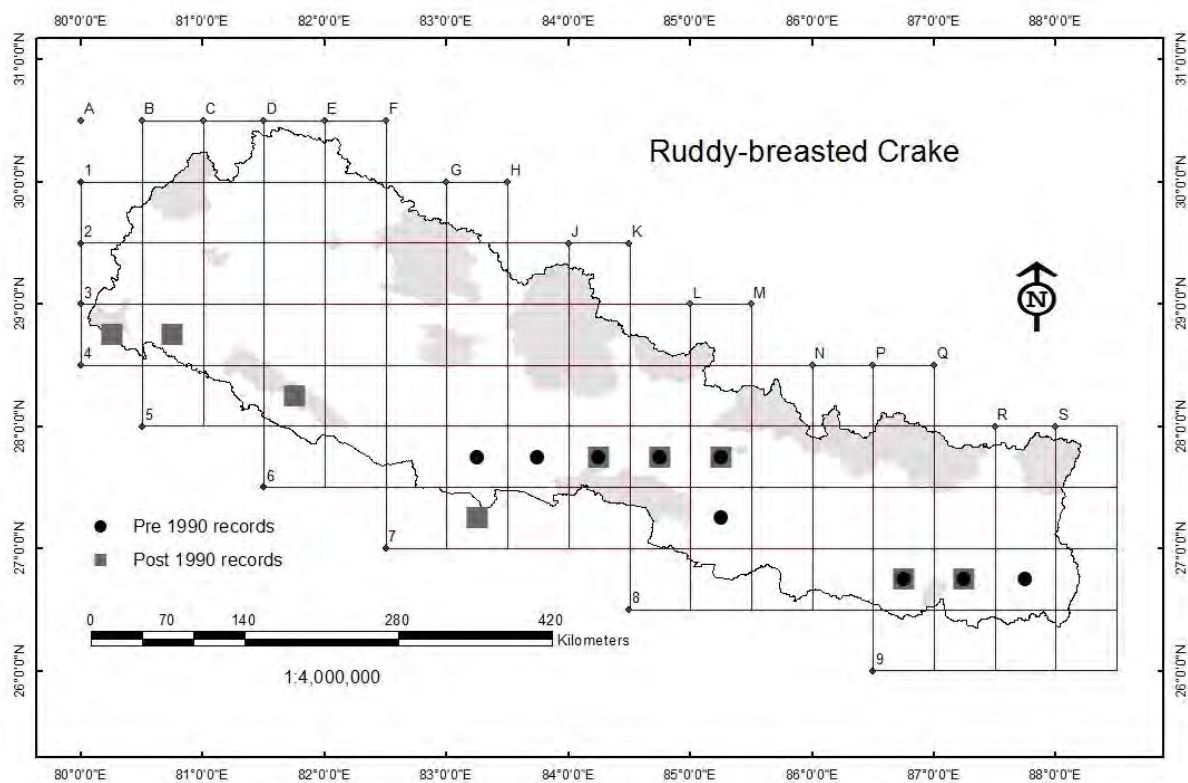
Ghol Kasdari (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Ruddy-breasted Crake is a locally fairly common resident in the lowlands and a summer visitor to the midhills.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as an occasional resident and passage migrant to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a locally distributed resident of the lowlands and up to 370m. The bird was fairly common in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983), regularly reported from Koshi and uncommon elsewhere up to 1280m (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is a fairly common breeder in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009), fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and common breeding resident in Koshi Area (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it has been recorded at Bees Hazari Lake, Chitwan District (J6) (Baral 1996).

Since 1990, outside the protected areas' system records include: a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area, Kailali District (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012), recorded from Nepalgunj, Banke District (D5) (Baral 1992), Lumbini, Rupandehi District (G7) (Baral 1994), and an uncommon visitor to Kathmandu Valley (L6) where breeding was recorded from Lazimpat in 2002 (Mallalieu 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1280 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Ruddy-breasted Crake.

Koshi Tappu is the most regularly recorded site for the species. However, the numbers of recorded individuals are small. In February 1981, four birds were recorded (Baker 1981), one in February 1989 (Cox *et al.* 1989) and in March 1989 (Guinan and Dodman 1989), four in December 1991 (Baral 1992), six in March 1992 (Baral 1992), eight in February 1993 (Giri 1993), three in January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994), five in March 1995 (Chaudhary 1995), three in December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), 11 in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), three in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a), three in February 1999 (Chaudhary 1999), one in October 2000 (Chaudhary 2000), six in 2001 (Baral 2001), three in March 2002 (Baral 2002b), three in March 2003 (Baral 2003 and Chaudhary 2003), one in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), two in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), one in February 2008 (Giri 2008), two in March 2010 (Baral 2010) and one in May 2011 (Baral 2011a) and November 2011 (Baral 2011b).

The species is also recorded in Chitwan National Park in small numbers. Singles were recorded in April 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983), February 1991 (Baral 1993), February and March 1996 (Baral 1995/1996), three in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999), one in March 1999 (Ghimire 1999), May 2003 (Cox 2003), two in February 2007 (Baral 2007), two in April 2009 (O'Connell-Davidson 2009) and one in May 2011 (Baral 2011a).

In the Kathmandu Valley, five birds were recorded in September 2002 (Baral 2002a) and one in January 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, three were recorded in May 1996 (Baral 1996), and one in December 1997 (Chaudhary 1998b) and April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001).

In Nepalgunj, one was recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992).

In Lumbini, two were recorded in April 1993 (Baral 1994).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Ruddy-breasted Crake frequents reedy lake edges, marshes and wet fields (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is very shy and secretive, slipping away into the herbage on the slightest alarm and is usually very silent, thus easily overlooked (Ali and Ripley 1987). It breeds during the monsoon from June to September (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on aquatic insects and their larvae, molluscs, seeds and shoots of marsh plants (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Ruddy-breasted Crake. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Chitwan National Park, and Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Ruddy-breasted Crake has been assessed as a locally fairly common resident in the lowlands and a summer visitor to the midhills. Since 1990 it has been recorded from four protected areas and several localities outside the protected areas' system. There is no indication of a population decline post 1990 compared to pre 1990. However, habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to the species.

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Turnix suscitator (Gmelin 1789) EN

Subspecies: *Turnix suscitator plumbipes*

Common Name

Barred Buttonquail (English),

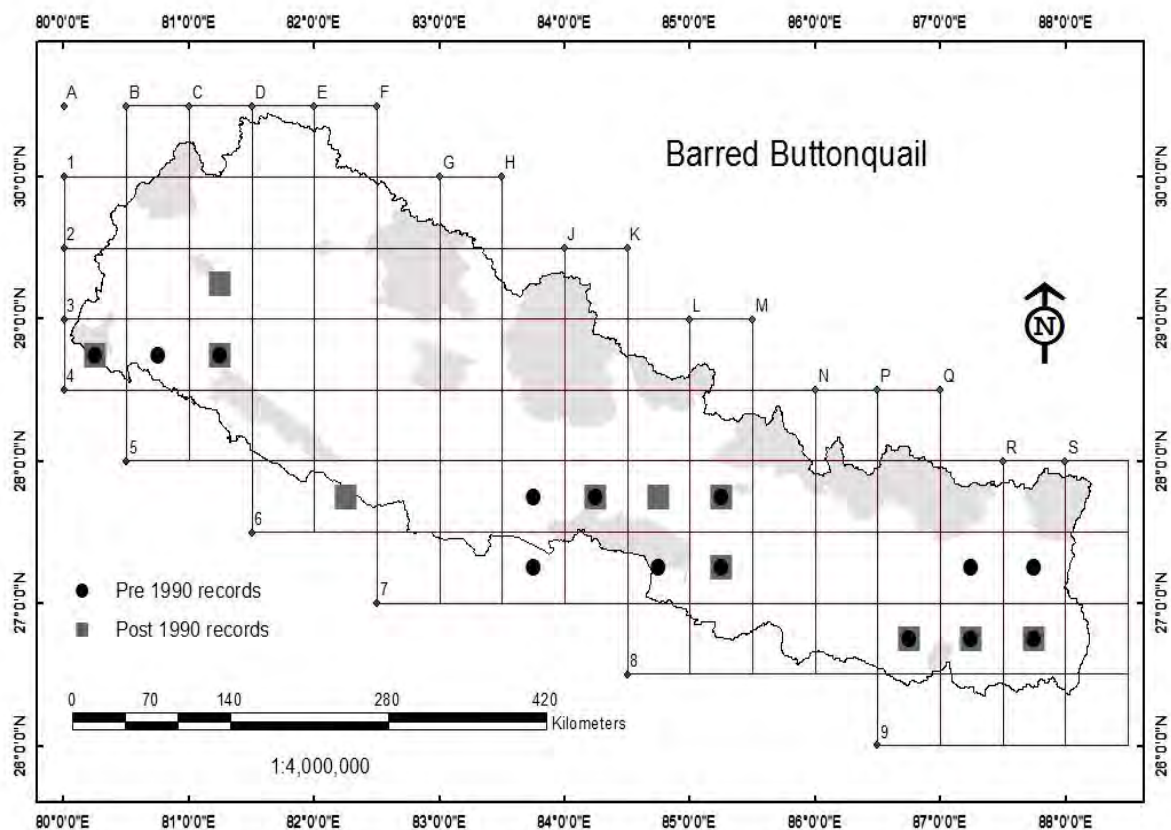
Dharke Gattebattai (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Turnicidae



Distribution



Barred Buttonquail is an uncommon resident below 300m. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the lower Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1837).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it a fairly common resident and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east.

There has been a decrease in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. The species has become significantly less widespread in central and eastern areas, although its distribution has increased a little in the west, probably because of better coverage.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: an uncommon resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); an infrequent resident in Khaptad National Park (C3)

(Chaudhary 2006); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (C5) (Inskipp 2001), Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005).

Barred Buttonquail has also been recorded outside the protected areas' system, although less frequently than within protected areas since 1990. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: Dang Deukhuri foothill forest and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was only recorded during the 19th century in the Kathmandu Valley (L6); recorded in the Bagmati and Bakaiya river valleys of Makawanpur District (L7) and Bara (L7) Districts (Basnet and Thakuri 2013), and also at Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in January 2001 (Hofland 2001).

In the east records include from the lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2015).

Elevation

Upper limit: 300m (-2050m); lower limit: 75m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Barred Buttonquail. Post 1990 records are mostly from the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve area, e.g. two in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), one on January-February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), and two in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001). Singles were seen at Hetauda in January 2001 (Hofland 2001).and in Chitwan National Park in April 2007 (Byskov 2007)

Total Population Size

Minimum Population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Barred Buttonquail frequents grassland, scrub and weedy patches at the edges of villages and cultivation (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), as well as open deciduous forest, usually not far from water (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species occurs normally singly, occasionally pairs and rarely in small parties. It is sedentary, and frequents the same spot day after day (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is great skulker that flushes with difficulty and flies low in typical quail manner (Ali and Ripley 1987). It feeds on grass and weed seeds, grain, green shoots and small insects (termites and black ants) (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Barred Buttonquail is threatened by habitat loss and possibly by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Barred Buttonquail. Post-1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Bardia, Chitwan and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks; Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Barred Buttonquail has been assessed as Least Concern. It is an uncommon resident below 300 m. Since 1990 the species has been recorded less widely overall, and significantly less widely in central and eastern Nepal. There has been a small increase in distribution in the west, probably because of better coverage. The species has been recorded in a number of protected areas post-1990. It has also been recorded outside the protected areas' system, although less frequently than within protected areas. Barred Buttonquail is threatened by habitat loss and possibly by hunting and trapping. Its population is probably declining as a result, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Amaurornis bicolor Walden, 1872 DD

Common name

Black-tailed Crake (English)

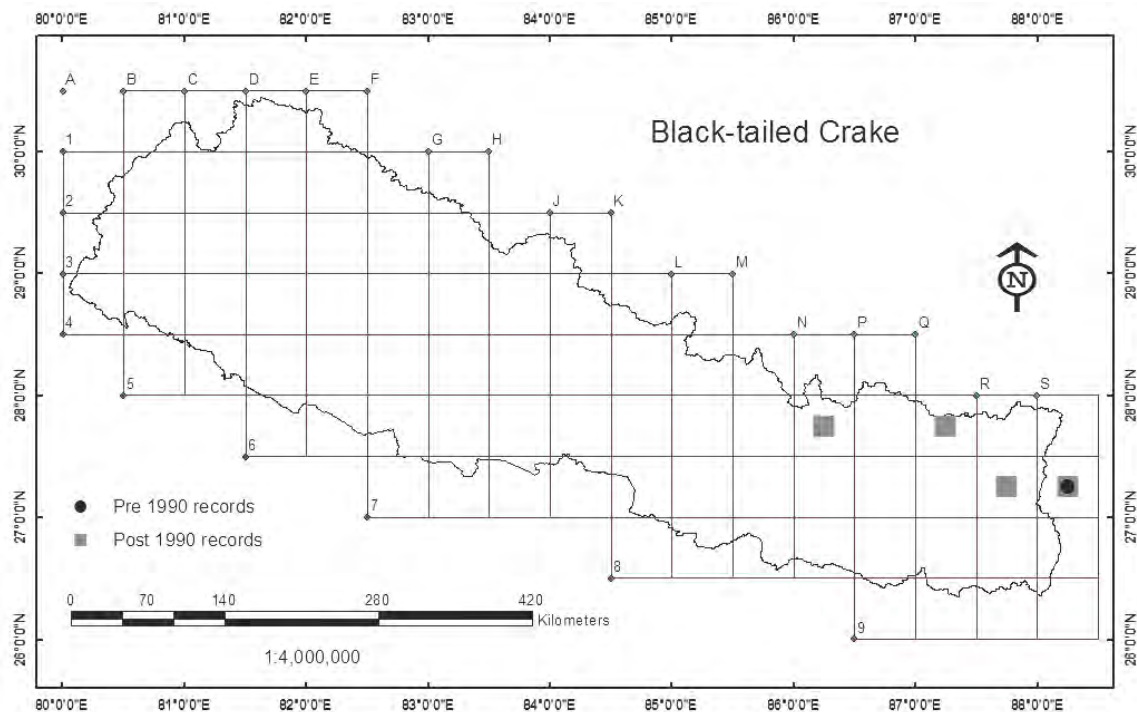
Kalopuchhre Kasdari (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae



Distribution



Black-tailed Crake is very rare and very local, and presumably resident as there is no evidence of the species being migratory. H. Stevens had three live birds brought to him in May 1912 and was told they were caught on the Nepal/Darjeeling border between 3660 m and 3960 m, but he was doubtful of the claim of the bird's origin (Stevens 1925, Inskipp and Round 1989). The species was first definitely recorded in Nepal in October 1999 when four were seen in a small marsh south of Jiri Bazaar, Dolakha District at 1925 m (Choudhary 1999).

There are only three other records: one calling at Saisima (Q6), Makalu Barun National Park November 2005 at 2135 m (Inskipp 2006, Giri and Choudhary 2006); one photographed in the vicinity of a small marsh at Mai Pokhari (R7), Ilam District in April 2015 (Martijn Bunschoek *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, 7 January 2016), and one calling in September 2010 at Dobate (S7), Ilam District at 2600m (Baral *et al.* 2010).

Globally Black-tailed Crake has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2600 m; lower limit: 1925 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Black-tailed Crake. The species can be overlooked, and so may be under-recorded.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 250

Habitat and Ecology

Black-tailed Crake has been found in upland marshes in Nepal; elsewhere it has also been recorded in pools, sometimes in forest, and dense undergrowth bordering paddy-fields (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is very skulking and so may be under-recorded, although it can be detected by its call (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is a resident species and not known to undertake migratory or altitudinal movements (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Black-tailed Crake is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of upland marshes and pools, hunting and disturbance.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Black-tailed Crake. Since 1990 it has been recorded in one protected area, Makalu Barun National Park.

Regional IUCN status

Data Deficient (DD); its Global Red List status is Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-tailed Crake has been assessed as Data Deficient. The species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded. However, it is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of upland marshes and small pools, as well as hunting and disturbance. Since 1990 Black-tailed Crake has been recorded in one protected area.

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Grus nigricollis Linnaeus, 1758 **DD**

Common name

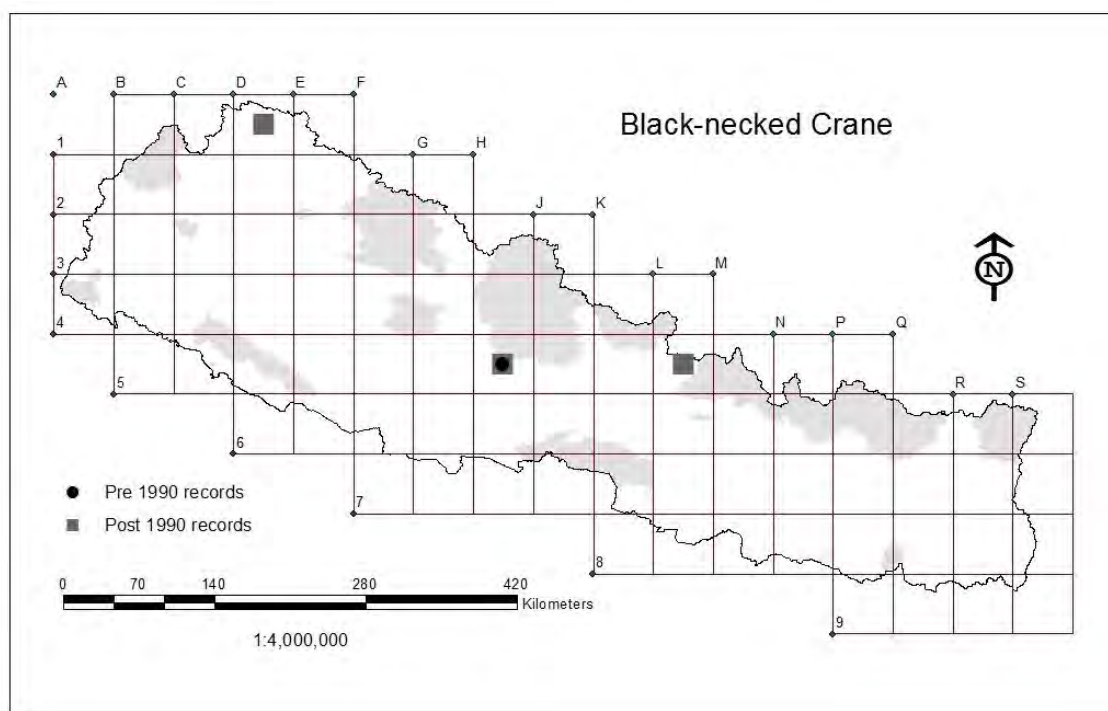
Black-necked Crane (English),
Kalikantha Saras (Nepali)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Gruidae



Distribution



Black-necked Crane possibly breeds in Humla District in the north-west and is a vagrant elsewhere in Nepal. The bird's presence in Nepal was confirmed from the photograph of an adult bird at Begnas Lake, Kaski District in 1978 (Rossetti 1978; 1979).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered the species as a vagrant to Nepal.

Other known records of the species are: a pair recorded in Ngin River valley in the Limi Valley Important Bird Area, Humla District (D1) at the end of May and early June 2013 (Acharya and Ghimirey 2013); a pair April-July 2014 and also in early July 2015 (Kusi *et al.* 2015). A flock of 15-20 cranes, which were probably Black-necked Cranes, was seen flying over Kyanjing, Langtang National Park (M5) (Hancock 2001) and a single bird was reported from Phewa Lake, Kaski District (H5) in March 2003 (Naylor *et al.* 2003).

Globally the species has also been recorded from China, India and Bhutan.

Elevation

Upper limit: 5200 m; lower limit: 915 m

Population

Surveys in the Limi valley have only found one pair of Black-necked Cranes in 2013-2015.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 2 ; maximum population <10

Habitat and Ecology

Black-necked Crane is found in upland marshes and fallow meadows. It summers by the high altitude lakes in the Himalaya and on the Tibetan plateau and winters in wet fallow and stubble fields and marshes. A typical crane and gregarious in winter (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Feeds on fallen grains and presumably has a similar diet to Common Crane *Grus grus* (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

There are no conservation measures specifically carried out for this species. Its only known locality: the Limi Valley Important Bird Area, is unprotected.

Regional IUCN status

Data Deficient (DD); its Global Red List status is Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-necked Crane has been assessed as Data Deficient considering the paucity of records and possible breeding in the north-west in the Limi valley, Humla District where, so far, only one pair has been located. It has not been recorded in protected areas in Nepal and is a vagrant outside Humla District. It is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, hunting and disturbance.

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Charadriiformes



Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola*
Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

***Esacus recurvirostris* Cuvier, 1829 CR**

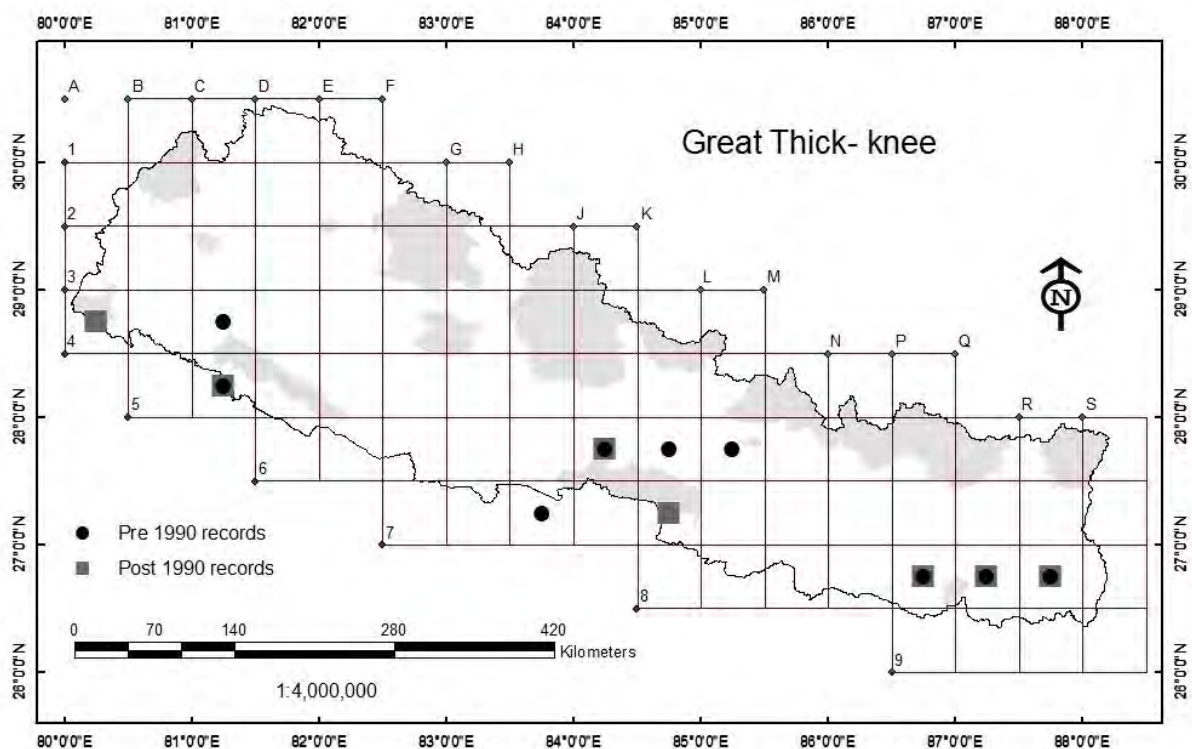
Common Name

Great Thick-knee (English),
Thulo Bagar Battai (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Burhinidae



Distribution



The current status of Great Thick-knee is uncertain. It is now rare and mainly recorded from Koshi Barrage and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. The first Nepal record was from the Kathmandu Valley in the 19th century (year unknown) (Hodgson 1836), but there is only one later report from the Valley: in November 1985 (Mayer 1986).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as 'occasional' in Nepal and rarely found away from large river banks, such as the Koshi, Narayani and Karnali; however, it has declined on all three rivers.

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered it a local resident and winter visitor to the terai and fairly common at Koshi Barrage; now it is a rare and regular visitor, possibly resident. See Population section for a summary of the species' occurrence there.

In the far south-west terai a pair was sighted in Kanchanpur District in March 2003 (Anil Gurung and Bird Education Society) and six to seven birds by the Mahakali River Dam (A4) in 2004 (T. B. Gurung). Two were seen at Pipariya, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in March 2003 (Hem Subedi).

Up to the 1990s Great Thick-knee was fairly common on the Karnali River in Bardia National Park; now it is a rare visitor. See Population section for a summary of the species' occurrence there

In Chitwan District the species was seen occasionally up to 1990 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), and proved breeding near Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge in the national park (Gurung 1983), and also near Chitwan Jungle Lodge in February 1987 (Kovacs 1987). The only known post-1990 records from Chitwan are three in March 1999, two in April 2000 (Chaudhary 2004), and also recorded in May 2006 and October 2008 (A. van Riessen *in litt.* to C and T Inskipp January 2011). Two birds were sighted between the Dudhaura Khola (6 km downstream from Sauraha) and park army checkpoint in October 2011 (Fuleshwor Chaudhary).

One was seen in Parsa Wildlife Reserve in March 2002 (Basu Bidari and Bird Education Society).

There are a few reports from the eastern terai outside the Koshi area in the 1970s (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976). However, the only recent record from the eastern terai away from the Koshi River was from the Mai River near Danabari, Ilam District (a site outside the protected area system) in May 2006 (Basnet and Sapkota 2007).

Globally the species has also been found in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Laos, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for the species, but direct observations have been and continue to be made frequently at the main known sites for the species. These observations indicate that the population has declined since the 1990s to possibly as few as 10 individuals.

At Koshi Barrage the unusually high number of 21 was recorded in November 1995 (Choudhary 1995). Up to six birds were frequently seen at Koshi up to 2004 (Suchit Basnet, Hathan Choudhary and Dinesh Giri verbally 2004). In general fewer birds have been recorded there since 2004: two were seen in March and April 2005 (GC 2010), one in February 2006 (Mallalieu 2006), three in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), one in February 2008 (GC 2010) and in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), five in February 2009 (Badri Chaudhary verbally 2010), two in March 2010 (Baral 2010a,b) and two in November 2011 (Sanjib Acharya).

In Bardia National Park four were seen in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982), 12+ in May 1994 (Irvin 1994), almost 20 in October 1996 (Giri and Choudhary 1997), and five in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999). However, only three later records are known from the Karnali: two in January 2003 (Giri 2003), one in February 2009 (Shahi 2010) and two in September 2012 (Ashik Gurung).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Great Thick-knee inhabits stony, shingle or sandy beds and banks of large rivers in the terai. It feeds mainly on crabs; also frogs, molluscs, insects and other small aquatic animals (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is mainly crepuscular and nocturnal, and usually rests during the day in full sun close to the water's edge. Great Thick-knee is known to be subject to local movements (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) and in the eastern terai the population was observed to be augmented by migrants from November to February in the 1970s (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976).

Threats

The species is seriously threatened by disturbance, for example gravel extraction, fishing and non-timber forest products collection, and by the degradation and loss of its riverine habitat, e.g. by livestock overgrazing.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Great Thick-knee. Some records have been from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, and in Koshi Tappu, Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves, but most recent records have been from the Koshi Barrage area, which is outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Great Thick-knee has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is now rare and its current status is uncertain. The Great Thick-knee population is now very small. Most recent records are from the Koshi Barrage area, which is outside the protected areas' system, although there are some recent records from five protected areas. The species is seriously threatened by disturbance, for example gravel extraction, fishing and non-timber forest products collection, and by the degradation and loss of its riverine habitat, e.g. by livestock overgrazing.

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Numenius arquata (Linnaeus, 1758) CR

Subspecies: *Numenius arquata orientalis*

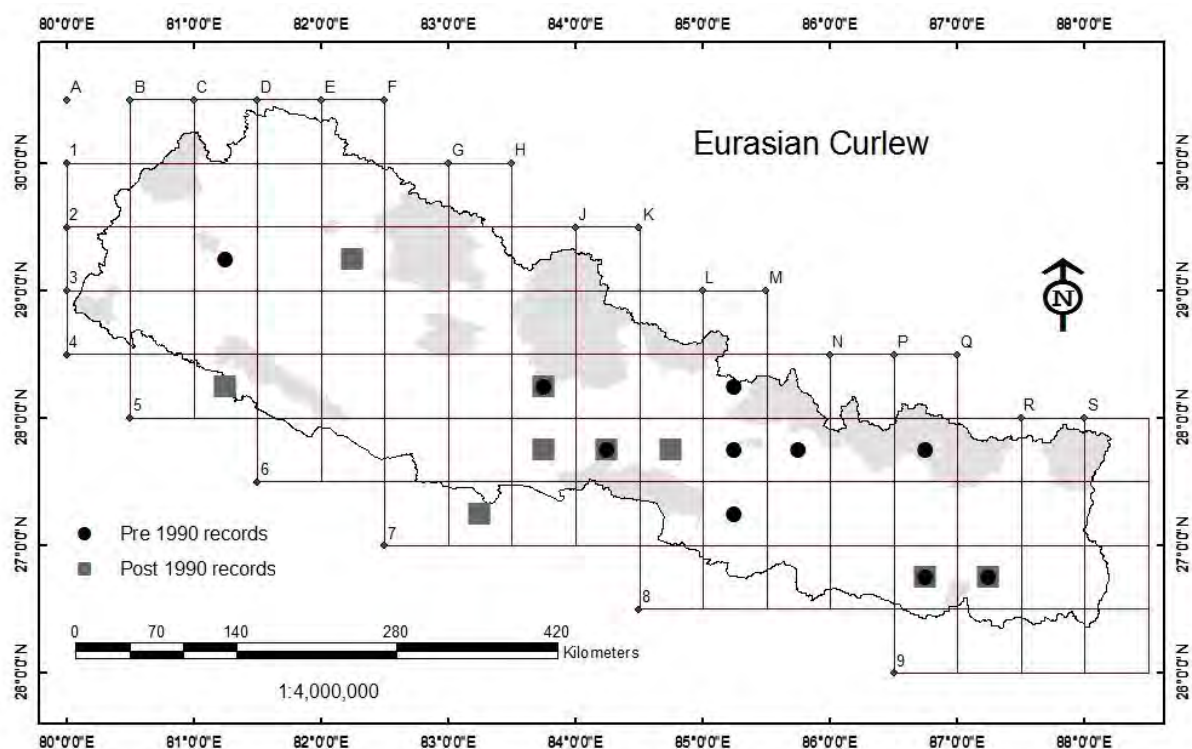
Common Name

Eurasian Curlew (English),
Aansithunde (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Eurasian Curlew is a rare passage migrant. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844) when it was recorded in the Kathmandu Valley in April, August, September and October (years unknown) (Hodgson 1829). Scully (1879) found it a rather rare winter visitor to the Valley in 1877, while Proud (1949) saw it only once in August in the late 1940s and Fleming et al. (1976) reported it to pass through the Valley in August. Specimens were collected at Gokarna in the Valley in August 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1968) and by Nepali (1982). There are no known later records for the Valley.

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a common winter visitor and passage migrant at Koshi Barrage, mainly recorded from September to April and a rare passage migrant elsewhere. The species has declined at Koshi Barrage/Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve since the early 1980s when the maximum of 750 was recorded in March 1982 (Turton and Speight 1982). Maximum numbers recorded at Koshi in February are: a total of 150 in 1979 (Redman and Murphy 1979), 250 in 1987 (Turin et al. 1987), 250 in 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), 50 in 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004), 11 in February 2005 (GC 2010), 15 in 2006 (Mallalieu 2006), 45 in 2007 (Choudhary 2007), four in February 2009 (Anon. 2009) and five in April 2012 (Badri Chaudhary).

Gurung (1983) reported it as a rare passage migrant in Chitwan National Park in small flocks in September and

April; it was heard at Tiger Tops in late August/early September 1986 (Stirrup 1986); three were seen by the Budhi Rapti (Hem Sagar Baral) in September 1990, three at Padampur (K6) (Bird Education Society) in September 1998, and five at Bankatta, Rapti River in September 2004 (Hem Subedi).

There are single reports from a few other localities pre-1990, including from Bardia National Park where it is listed as a rare winter visitor by Tamang undated in Inskipp (2001), but no recent records could be located, apart from seven near Hattisar, Karnali River in the buffer zone in December 2011 (Som GC and Alec Gillespie); two in Khaptad National Park at 3050 m in September 1989, presumably on birds on passage (Barber 1989). There are also single reports from a few localities post-1990, e.g. one bird by the Sinja Khola north-west of Jumla (Irvin 1994); one at Lumbini, Rupandehi District in April 2009 (Ramond and Giri 2009); a few heard calling over Pokhara, Kaski District in April 2002 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, January 2011); one in Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District (Chaudhary 2010), and two at Amaltari, Narayani River in March 2012 (DB Chaudhary and Shambhu Mahato).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte (to France), Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Niue (to New Zealand), North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Réunion (to France), Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3050 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Eurasian Curlew, but observations indicate that numbers must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 50

Habitat and Ecology

Eurasian Curlew occurs on muddy river banks and grassy fields (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It feeds on molluscs and crustaceans (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Eurasian Curlew is threatened by loss and degradation of wetlands, hunting and disturbance.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Eurasian Curlew. It has been recorded regularly from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve recently.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2acd, C2a(i) D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Eurasian Curlew has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2acd, C2a(i) and D1. It is a rare passage migrant. Most post-1990 records are from Koshi including Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, where it sharply declined since the mid-1990s. There are also several post-1990 records from scattered localities from the west to central Nepal. Up to the 1980s there were records of passage migrants from several other localities. The species is seriously threatened by habitat loss and degradation, disturbance and hunting.

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***Rynchops albicollis* Swainson, 1838 CR**

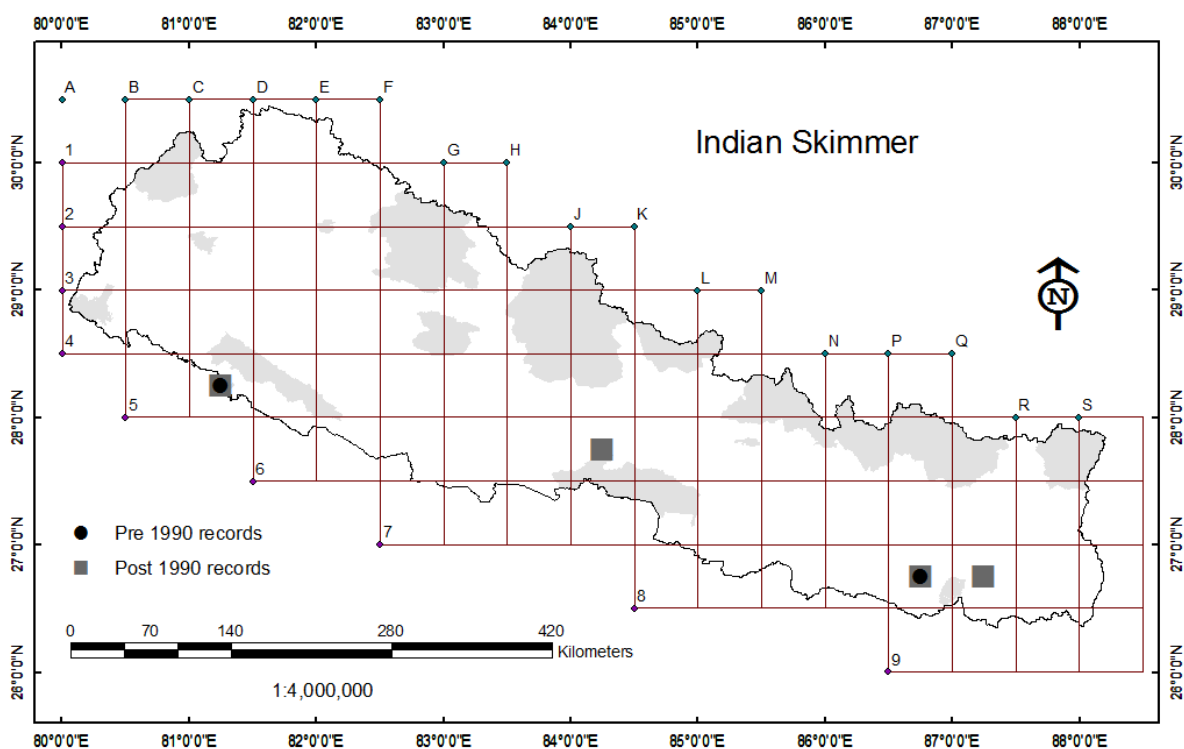
Common Name

Indian Skimmer (English),
Jhajhar Chiuwa (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Laridae



Distribution



Indian Skimmer is an irregular and very rare non-breeding visitor. There is only one known record since 2000: four seen at Koshi in February 2006 (Suchit Basnet verbally 2010). The first Nepal record was from Koshi Barrage where three were seen in April 1975 (Fleming *et al.* 1976).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as an uncommon, although still irregular visitor between February and July. The maximum of seven was noted there in February and March 1981 (del-Nevo and Ewins 1981, Inskipp and Inskipp 1981). A pair repeatedly chased other birds from a sandbank in the Koshi River in May 1979, apparently defending territory (Lister 1979).

Single birds were seen irregularly at Koshi in the 1990s, e.g. continuous reports of one in early 1994 (Lama 1994a) and in October 1995 (Choudhary 1995/1996), and also one in May 2000 (Benstead and Benstead 2000). In addition, a flock of five was seen near Kusaha, over the Koshi River in May 1997 (Giri 1997; Tiwari and Chaudhary 1997).

There are records from two other sites: just two records from the Karnali River, Bardia National Park, two birds in March 1986 (Hurrell 1988) and also seen in 1999 (K. Daly *in litt.* 1999) and only two records from the

Narayani River, Chitwan National Park, singles in March 1994 (Lama 1994b) and April 1996 (Choudhary 1996).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Laos, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org>

Elevation

Upper limit: 300 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys for Indian Skimmer have been carried out. If the species still occurs, it must be in extremely small numbers.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 10

Habitat and Ecology

Indian Skimmer inhabits large rivers in the lowlands (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species mainly feeds on small fish (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is nomadic and also locally migratory, depending on water conditions (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The species is highly threatened by hunting (illegal in protected areas) and human disturbance; loss and degradation of its riverine habitat caused partly by river barrages on two major river systems (Karnali and Koshi); food shortage caused by illegal fishing in protected areas and over-fishing outside the protected area system, and also by fish poisoning.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Indian Skimmer. At Koshi where it has been most frequently recorded, almost all records are from Koshi Barrage and outside Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. There are a very few recent records from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2acd, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Indian Skimmer has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on criteria A2acd, C2a(i) and D1. The species is an irregular and very rare non-breeding visitor. Since the 1990s it has been seen much less frequently and in smaller numbers. If the species still occurs, its population size must be extremely small. by hunting (illegal in protected areas) and human disturbance; loss and degradation of its riverine habitat caused partly by river barrages on two major river systems (Karnali and Koshi); food shortage caused by illegal fishing in protected areas and over-fishing outside the protected area system, and also by fish poisoning. There are only a few post-1990 records from protected areas.

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Sterna acuticauda J. E. Gray, 1831 CR

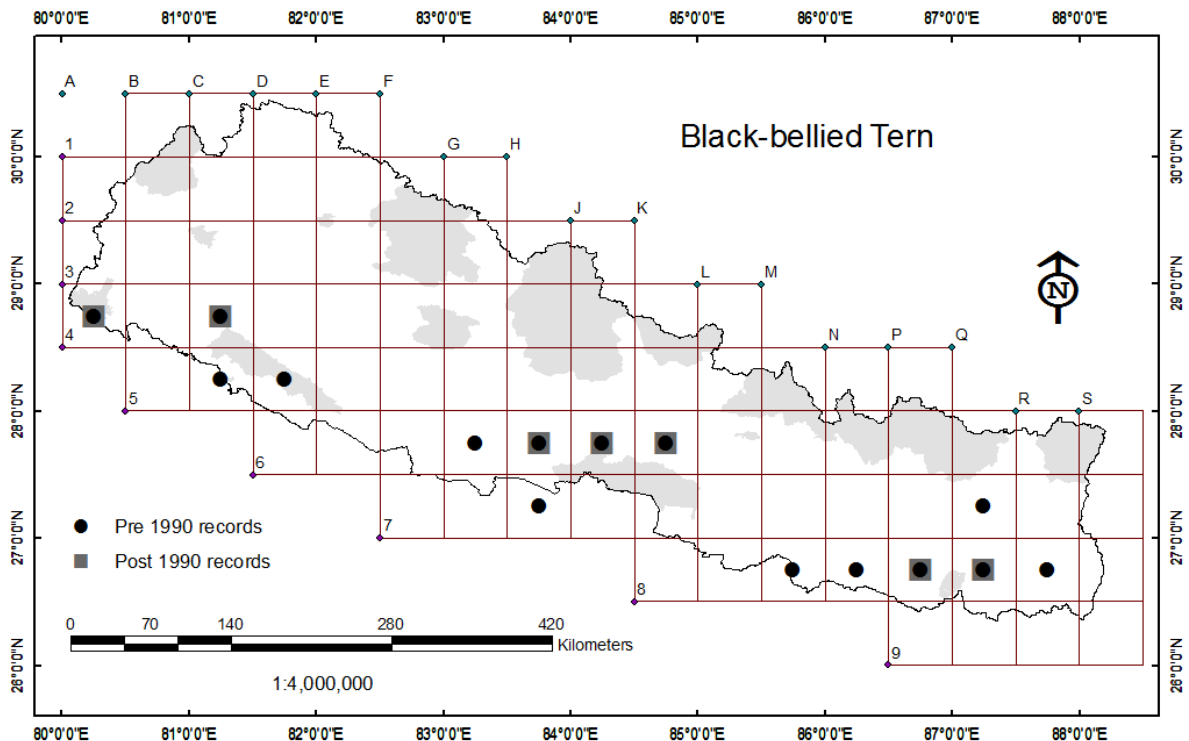
Common Name

Black-bellied Tern (English),
Utkroshi Phyalphyale (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Laridae



Distribution



Black-bellied Tern is a rare and very local visitor.

The first Nepal record was from Tribeni, Nawalparasi District in January 1936 (Bailey 1938).

In 1949-50 it was 'fairly common on ponds and rivers of terai' (Rand and Fleming 1957). Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it fairly common over watercourses in the lowlands. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a locally common resident and summer visitor to rivers of the terai and foothills up to 730 m.

The species' distributional range has decreased since the early 1990s. It is now recorded annually from Koshi Barrage and/or Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and there are just a few recent records from Chitwan National Park (see Population section).

Recent records from the only other known localities are: two at Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in May 1996 (Baral 1996); four by the Karnali River, Bardia National Park in January 1992 (Wartmann and Schonjahn 1992) and two there in March 2002 (Choudhary 2000, GC 2000), two at Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District in June 2012 (Hathan Chaudhary), and two by the Trisuli River, Dhading District (A. van Riessen *in litt.* to C. and T. Inskipp 2010).

Globally the species is also recorded from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 730 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

The maximum number of 60 was noted at Koshi Barrage in February 1984 (Redman 1984). The population of Black-bellied Tern has declined since the early 1990s at Koshi. The maximum annual numbers recorded there are: 14 in March 1994 (Baral 1994), 13 in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 41 in August 1996 (Choudhary 1996), ten in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997), six in April 1998 (Basnet 1998), ten in May 1999 (Ghimire 1999), five in February 2000 (Baral 2000), four in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001), six in February 2002 (GC 2002), two in February 2003 (Baral 2003), three in March 2004 (Kennerley and Karki 2004), four in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), three in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), six in November 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), six in February 2009 (Baral 2009), six in March 2010 (Baral 2010), five in November 2011 (Baral 2011) and five in April 2012 (Sanjib Acharya).

Black-bellied Tern has drastically declined in Chitwan National Park: Gurung (1983) considered the species to be a common resident and possible breeder in the park. Cuthbert (1986) carried out a study in the national park in the 1984 breeding season and located up to nine active nests, eight along the Narayani River between the confluence of Rapti, Reu and Narayani Rivers and Amaltari Ghat, and one nest near Kitauali, above Amaltari and upstream of the Narayani River. A total of 15 to 25 breeding pairs was estimated along approximately 10 km of the Narayani River (Cuthbert 1986). However, there are only a few recent records from the national park: two birds seen in May in 2001, 2002 and 2003; also one near Chitwan in Pithauli VDC, Nawalparasi District in June 2003 (Chaudhary 2004).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 20

Habitat and Ecology

Black-bellied Tern frequents watercourses in the lowlands (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It was formerly a resident and partial summer visitor (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), but is now only a very local visitor. The species mainly feeds on fish, and also on aquatic crustaceans and insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). A 1984 breeding season study in Chitwan National Park found that breeding commenced in about mid-March and ended by mid June with fledged young. The clutch size of the nine nests located ranged from one to three eggs. A total of 0.63 chicks/breeding pair were produced based on chick survival in eight nests in the national park in 1984 (Cuthbert 1986).

Threats

Increased human disturbance and over-harvesting of wetland products are blamed for the recent complete disappearance of the breeding population within Chitwan National Park, based on a 1984 breeding season study (F. Cuthbert *in litt.* to BirdLife International, 2002). Human disturbance included collection of eggs (Cuthbert 1986). Black-bellied Tern is currently severely threatened by food shortage (illegal fishing in protected areas and overfishing outside the protected area system), loss of breeding habitat on islands and sand spits in larger rivers, hunting, disturbance, and inadequate fish ladders at Koshi Barrage resulting in reduced populations.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Black-bellied Tern. Since the 1990s most records of the species have been from protected areas: Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, and Chitwan and Bardia National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2acd, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Endangered (EN

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-bellied Tern has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2acd, C2a(i) and D1 based on the decline in its population since at least the early 1990s and its very small population size. The distributional range of the species has also reduced since the early 1990s. Since the 1990s most records of the species have been from protected areas. Currently the species is a rare and very local visitor which is severely threatened by food shortage (illegal fishing in protected areas and overfishing outside the protected areas' system), destruction of its breeding habitats on rivers, hunting, disturbance, and inadequate fish ladders at Koshi Barrage resulting in reduced fish populations.

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Sterna aurantia J. E. Gray, 1831 CR

Common Name

River Tern (English),

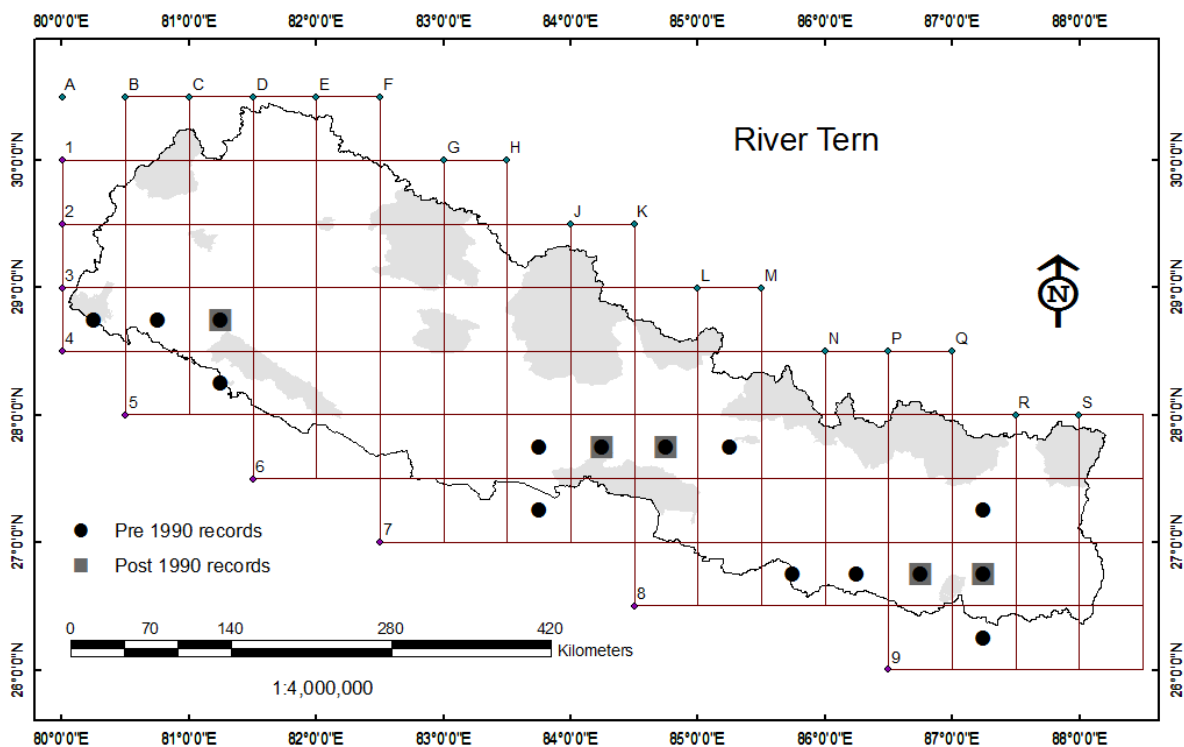
Kurari Phyalphayale (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae



Distribution



River Tern is a rare and very local visitor. The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844) in January in the terai (year and further locality details are unknown) (Hodgson 1829). Scully (1879) found it on passage in the Kathmandu Valley in 1877.

The species was 'common on big rivers in the terai' in 1947-49 (Ripley 1950). Rand and Fleming (1957) considered it 'common in the lowlands over ponds, streams and rivers' in December 1949-January 1950. In the 1970s it was 'a common resident in the SE terai with an influx in the monsoon when up to 50 were seen in a day' (Gregory Smith and Batson 1976). Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it common in Nepal.

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a locally common resident and partial migrant, mainly seen up to 610 m; regularly reported from the Karnali River in Bardia National Park, the Koshi River near Koshi Barrage and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, and rivers in Chitwan National Park. Gurung (1983) considered the species to be a fairly common resident that possibly bred in Chitwan National Park.

The distributional range of River Tern has reduced since at least the early 1990s. The species has been recorded less than annually from the Karnali River in Bardia National Park since 1992 and rarely at Koshi, see

Population section for a summary of decline at Koshi. In Chitwan National Park there are only two recent records: one bird in March 1992 (Baral 1992) and three in April 2007 (Byskov 2007). The only other locality where the species has been recorded recently is Chimdi Lake, Sunsari District where one bird was seen in April 2004 (Surana *et al.* 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1310 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

The exceptional number of 450 was estimated in November 1984 at Koshi (Andersen *et al.* 1986). Around 100 were seen there in March 1982 (Robson 1982) and in February and March 1987 (Turin *et al.* 1987, Stones 1987); 50 in April 1985 (Andrews 1986), and 60 in March 1989 (Bose *et al.* 1989). The species has been declining since at least the early 1990s. Maximum annual numbers recorded at Koshi Barrage and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve are: 21 in September 1992 (Baral 1992), 18 in November 1993 (Baral 1993), 29 in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994), 40 in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), 23 in August 1996 (Choudhary 1996), 21 in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997), 20 in April 1998 (Rogers 1998), 21 in February 2000 (Choudhary 2000), six in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001), six in January 2002 (Giri and GC 2002), one in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), two in March 2004 (Kennerley and Karki 2004), and two in May 2012 (Philip Round, H. S. Baral, Sanjib Acharya and Dhiraj Chaudhary) and Small numbers have been recorded from the Karnali River in Bardia National Park since the early 1990s: eight in March 1992 (Baral 1992), ten in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), six in February 2000 (Choudhary 2000), three in March 2000 (Choudhary 2000, GC 2000), one in January 2001 (Kumal *et al.* 2001), ten in January 2003 (Giri 2003), five in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), one in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), four in May 2008 (Giri 2008), one in January 2010 (Badri Chaudhary *verbally* 2010) and three in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* in press).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 5; maximum population: 20

Habitat and Ecology

River Tern frequents rivers, streams and marshy lakes (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It was formerly a breeding resident and partial migrant (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). One bird was noted feeding young near Koshi Barrage in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982). Now River Tern is a very local visitor. The species feeds chiefly on fish, and also on aquatic crustaceans and insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

River Tern is seriously threatened by food shortage (illegal fishing in protected areas and over-fishing outside protected areas), destruction of its breeding habitats on rivers, hunting and disturbance.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for River Tern. Most recent records have been from protected areas: mainly Bardia National Park and also two other protected areas: Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

River Tern has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a rare and very local visitor. Its population has sharply declined since at least the early 1990s and now the population size is very small. The distributional range of the species has reduced since the early 1990s; now River Tern is mainly recorded from Bardia National Park and Koshi. It is severely threatened by food shortage (illegal fishing in protected areas and over-fishing outside the protected areas' system), destruction of its breeding habitats on rivers, disturbance and hunting. Most post-1990 records have been from within protected areas.

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Sterna caspia (Pallas, 1770) CR

Subspecies: *Sterna caspia caspia*

Common Name

Caspian Tern (English),

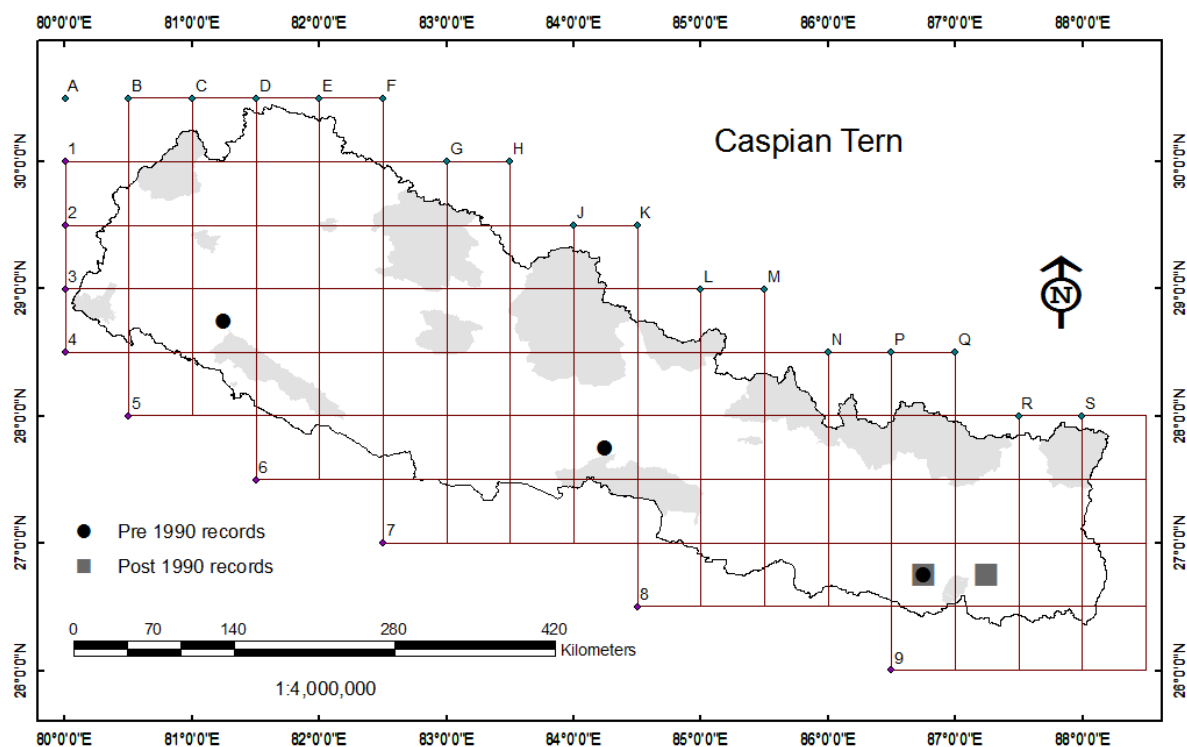
Kekara Phyalphyale (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae



Distribution



Caspian Tern is a very rare and very local visitor. The first Nepal record was at Koshi Barrage where 12 birds were seen in February 1974 (Madge *et al.* 1974). There are no known records since 2006.

The species was formerly a very local winter visitor and passage migrant; fairly common at Koshi (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Gurung (1983) reported the species as a rare winter visitor or passage migrant in Chitwan National Park. Cox (1985) recorded it in Bardia National Park in November 1985. There are no later records from either national park and all recent records are from Koshi Barrage and/or Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (see population section).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Anguilla (to UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba (to Netherlands), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands (to UK), Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea,

Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guadeloupe (to France), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mayotte (to France), Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to USA), Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

The maximum of 30 was seen at Koshi Barrage in March 1982 (Robson 1982) and February 1989 (Kennerley and Turnbull 1989). The population of Caspian Tern at Koshi has sharply declined since the beginning of the 1990s. The largest numbers recorded there annually are: seven in February 1991 (Baral and Karki 1991), four in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), 15 in February 1993 (Fouarge 1993), one in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), six in February 1995 (Choudhary 1995), up to seven in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997), three in February 1998 (Choudhary 1998), singles in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999) and February 2000 (Baral 2000), and eight in February 2006 (Suchit Basnet and Badri Chaudhary *verbally* 2010). As Koshi is the only locality where Caspian Tern has been recently recorded in Nepal then, if the species still occurs, numbers must be extremely small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 10

Habitat and Ecology

Caspian Tern frequents lakes and large rivers. It mainly eats fish, also crabs (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Caspian Tern is severely threatened by food shortage caused by fish poisoning, illegal fishing in protected areas and overfishing outside the protected areas' system, degradation of wetlands, hunting and human disturbance.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Caspian Tern. The species has recently been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR) A2acd, C(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Caspian Tern has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2acd, C2(i) and D1. The species is a very rare and very local visitor. Its population has declined since the beginning of the 1990s and it has not been recorded since 2006. The maximum population is estimated to be 10 birds. All recent records have been from Koshi Barrage and/or Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. The species is severely threatened by food shortage caused by fish poisoning, illegal fishing in protected areas and overfishing outside the protected areas' system, degradation of wetlands, hunting and human disturbance.

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Sterna nilotica (J. F. Gmelin, 1789) CR

Subspecies *Sterna nilotica affinis*?

Common Name

Gull-billed Tern (English),

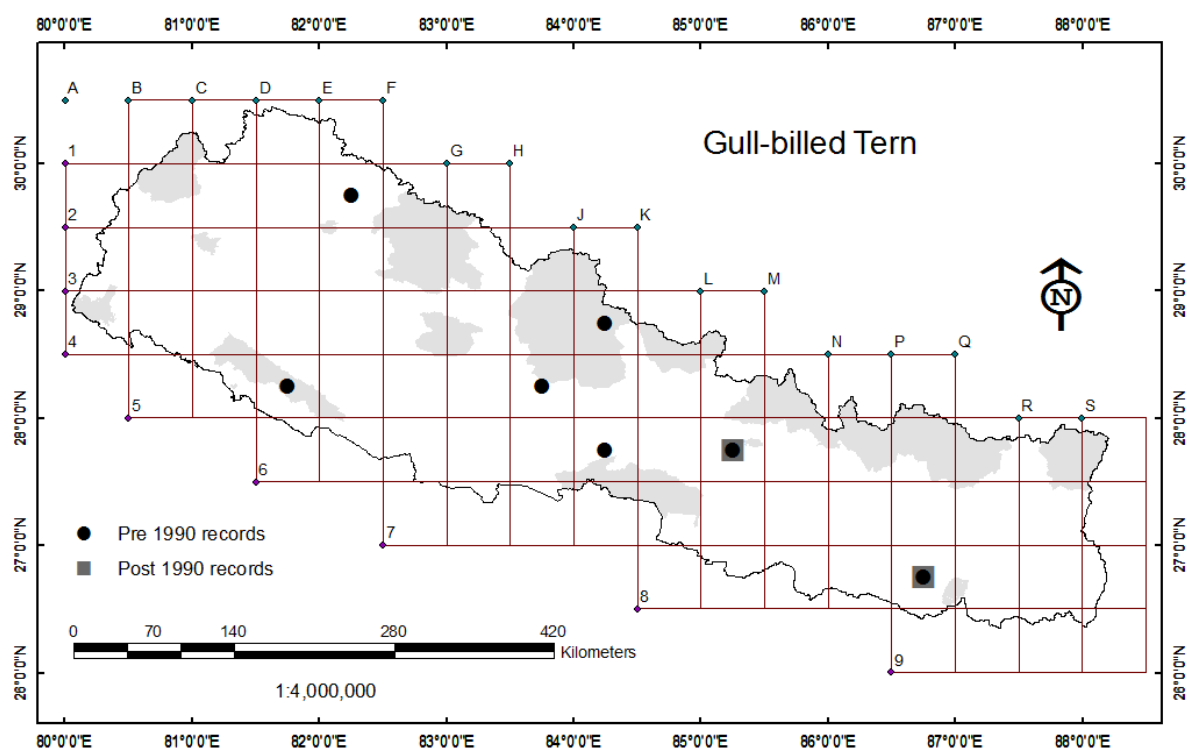
Gangachilthunde Phyalphyale (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae



Distribution



Gull-billed Tern is now a very rare and very local passage migrant; there are only two known records since 1999: in the Kathmandu Valley in August 2003 (A. van Riessen *in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp), and one in February 2007 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2007). The first Nepal record of the species was at Koshi Barrage in January 1974 (Madge *et al.* 1974).

It was formerly a very local winter visitor and passage migrant, occurring more widely, but rarely on passage (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). After the species was first recorded at Koshi Barrage it was observed regularly there in winter and on passage until 1999 (see Population section). There are only several single records from elsewhere of passage birds: at Rara Lake (number of birds and date unknown) (Bolton 1976), at Phewa Tal, Kaski District in May 1977 (Mischler 1977) and in May 1981 (Wolstencroft 1981), Kathmandu Valley in September (year unknown) (Nepali 1982) and Chitwan National Park in April 1983 (number unknown) (Alström and Olsson 1983).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Anguilla (to UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba (to Netherlands), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to

Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands (to UK), Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, China (mainland), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Martin (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA), Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 100 m (- 3100 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

The maximum number of 60 was observed at Koshi Barrage in April 1981 (Krabbe 1981). The maximum annual numbers recorded at Koshi Barrage in other years are: are: Bowden (1979), Hall (1981), del-Nevo and Ewins (1981), 10 in March 1981 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1981), 10 in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982), 30 in February 1986 (Madge (1986) and Gardiner (1990), 14 in September 1992 (Baral 1992), four in January and two in February 1995 (Choudhary 1995a,b), two in August 1996 (Choudhary 1996), 32 in April 1998 (Pettersson 1998) and seven in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999). There are no later records from the Barrage.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 20

Habitat and Ecology

Gull-billed Tern has been recorded on lakes and large rivers. It feeds on frogs, small fish and insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Gull-billed Tern is seriously threatened by food shortage, degradation of wetlands, illegal hunting and disturbance.

Conservation Measures

There is only one old record from a protected area.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2acd, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Gull-billed Tern has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2acd, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a very rare and very local passage migrant. It was formerly a very local winter and passage migrant recorded regularly and in highest numbers at Koshi Barrage, but there have been no known records at the site since 1999. It also occurred more widely, but rarely on passage and the only two known records since 1999 are of passage birds. Gull-billed Tern is seriously threatened by food shortage, degradation of wetlands, illegal hunting and disturbance.

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***Cursorius coromandelicus* (Gmelin, 1789) EN**

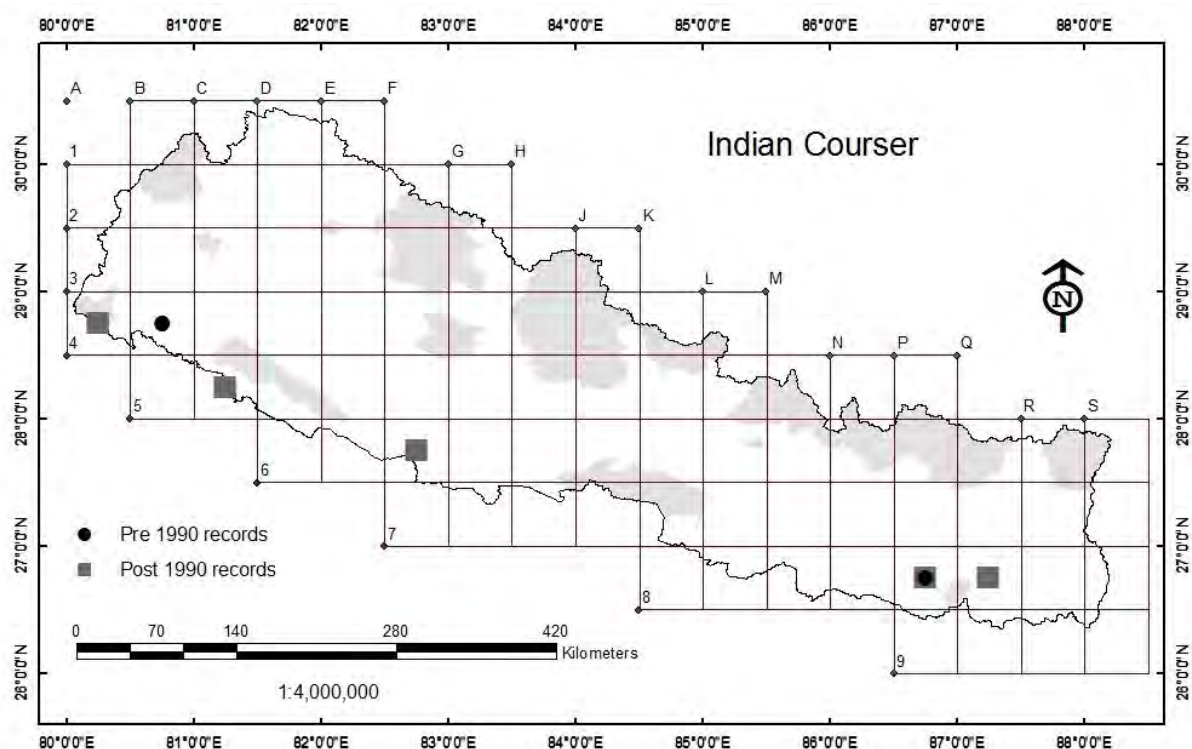
Common Name

Indian Courser (English),
Gaajale Dhawak (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Glareolidae



Distribution



Indian Courser is a local resident in the lowlands with most birds recorded from the Koshi area. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (site and year unknown) (Hodgson 1844) when it was found in the terai (Hodgson 1829).

The next record was of a specimen collected in fields north of Dhanghadi, Kailali District at 275 m in December 1952 (Rand and Fleming 1957); this is the only area mentioned by Fleming *et al.* (1976) for the species.

There are other records of Indian Courser, including recently from a few sites around the Koshi River (see population section).

The other main area for Indian Courser is Khairapur, Bardia District (see population section). There is also a record of one from Radhapur in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in February 1997 (Giri and Choudhary 1997) and two in the reserve in November 2011 (Tika Giri). One was sighted in Kapilvastu District February 2011 (S. Acharya 2011).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

Observations indicate that the total population is likely to be small, even though it is possibly under-recorded in the west. One of the two current chief localities for the species (Khairapur, Bardia District) had probably not been visited before 2002. Here a total of 19 birds was seen in January 2002, 13 in January 2003 (Giri and Choudhary 2003) and 16 in November 2008 (Shahi 2010).

A comprehensive April 2012 survey of the Koshi area which surveyed substantial parts of the reserve which had not been covered previously found 23 birds and estimated a population of 46 birds in the reserve (Baral et al. 2013), a much larger figure than previously recorded there. In the early 1980s the species was regularly seen from the old river bed south of Koshi Barrage (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and a maximum of six including a chick was seen there in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982). At the same locality a nest with two eggs was found in April 1997 (Giri and Choudhary 1997). In the Koshi area six were seen in December 1994 (Irvin 1994), two adults and two juveniles in April 1996 (Choudhary 1996), seven in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), one in February 2007 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2007), three in April 2008 (Choudhary 2008), two in December 2009 (Giri 2009) and four in March 2010 (Baral 2010). North of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve eight were seen in March 2004 (Giri and Choudhary 2004), up to four regularly from December 2009 to April 2010 (Badri Choudhary verbally 2010), four chicks in April 2010 (Suchit Basnet *in litt.* 2010), four opposite Koshi Bird Observatory in Feb 2011 (Krishna Pariyar and Sunaina Raut) and a pair with two chicks in 2012 (Hem Sagar Baral and Badri Choudhary).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 30; maximum population: 100

Habitat and Ecology

Indian Courser inhabits open country: dry areas with scattered scrub, stony ground and dry riverbeds. It feeds chiefly on insects: grasshoppers, crickets and beetles and their larvae (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is subject to local movements depending on rainfall (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

The species is seriously threatened by loss of habitat, illegal hunting and disturbance.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Indian Courser. It has been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Indian Courser has been assessed as Endangered under the criteria A2d,C2a(i) and D1 as the population is considered likely to be small and declining. The species is a local resident in the lowlands. An important population was found at Koshi during a comprehensive survey of the area in April 2012; however, the species

is thought to be rare elsewhere. It is seriously threatened by loss of habitat, illegal hunting and disturbance. Since 1990 Indian Courser has been recorded in two protected areas.

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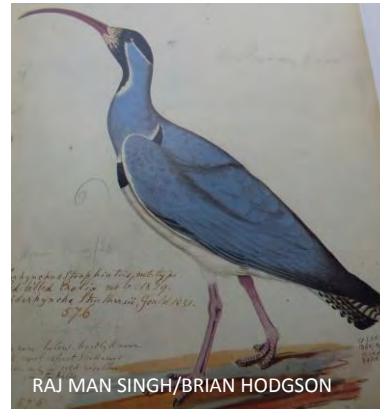
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***Ibidorhyncha struthersii* Vigors, 1832 EN**

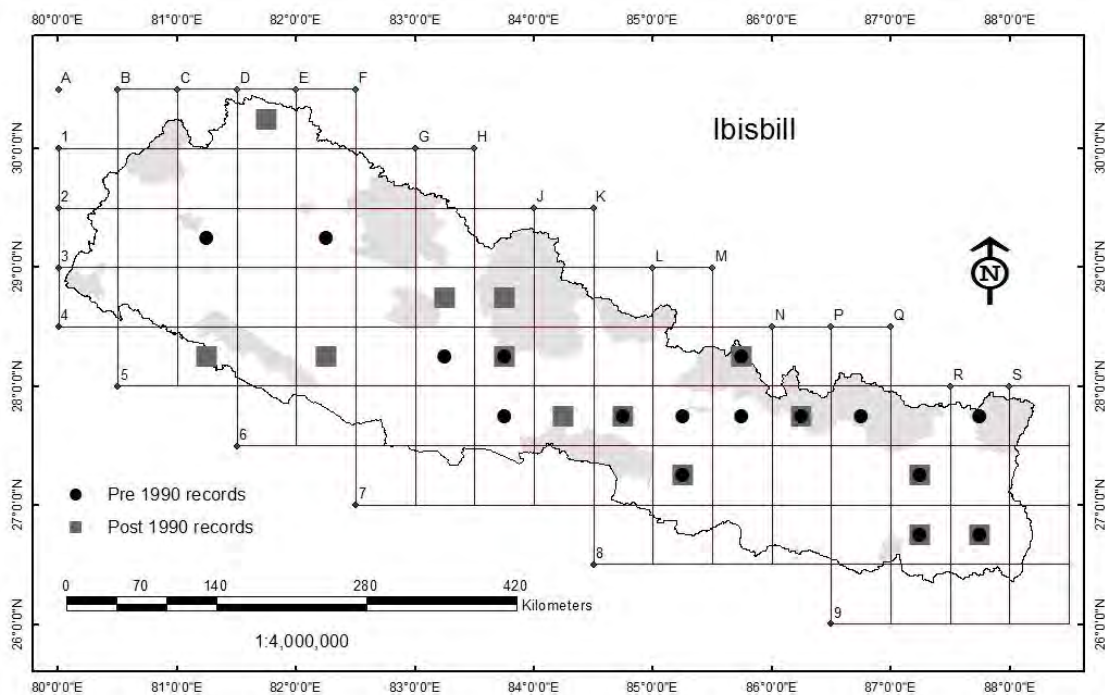
Common Name

Ibisbill (English),
Tilhari Chara (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Ibidorhynchidae



Distribution



Ibisbill is a very uncommon altitudinal migrant; it is known to breed locally in Nepal, but wintering records are widespread from the west to far east. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1835), when it was recorded as a passage migrant in the Kathmandu Valley (1829).

The species has been observed annually at its breeding site at Kyanjin, upper Langtang valley up to at least 2014 and has also been recorded breeding in Sagarmatha National Park and in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (see Habitat and Ecology section).

It is regularly sighted between late November and mid-March on the Rapti River near Hetauda, Makwanpur District, where three birds were first found in December 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971), see Population section.

There are several reports from the lower Arun River in winter e.g. Isherwood (1978), Nepali (1982), (Irvin (1994); the maximum of 12 was found there in January 1990 (Gardiner 1990). Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported mainly single records from elsewhere in winter, e.g. along the Andhi Khola, Nuwakot District in February 1952 (Rand and Fleming 1957), on the Sun Kosi River at Dolalghat, Chautara District in January 1954 (Biswas 1974).

Known post-1990 winter records are: one in Bardia National Park in December 1994 (Tika Giri); one in Dang District in 2010, 2011 and 2012 (Dinesh Giri and Sanjib Acharya); one in Dhorpatan valley, Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve in February 2009 (Tulsi Subedi); Tumkot and Tumlung, Limi valley in May-June 2013 (Acharya and Ghimirey 2013); two by Takche Khola, upper Humla (D1), Humla District in July 2014 and one in July 2015 (Kusi *et al.* 2015); two near Pokhara, Kaski District in December 2011 (Tika Giri); one near Chitwan Jungle Lodge, Chitwan National Park in December 2009 (Bird Education Society); two at Dahunga, Chitwan District in December 2011 (Basu Bidari); two at Meghauri Rapti Ghat in January 2004, and two also there in January 2008 (Kalu Ram Tamang); up to nine birds below Gairdi Kot, Sikkrauli area, Chitwan District in February 2005 (Hem Subedi and Kalu R Tamang); five by the Trishuli River at Belkhu, Dhading District in December 2010 (Suchit Basnet *in litt.* to H. S. Baral, July 2012), seven there in February 2011 (Som G. C. and Alec Gillespie) and three in December 2011 (Shankar and Rasila Tiwari); seven birds in the Netrawati Khola, Jyamrung VDC, Dhading District in March 2012 (Hem Subedi); two in Sunsari District in February 2009 (Tika Giri and Badri Chaudhary), and one at Letang, Morang District in December 1997 (Hathan Chaudhary).

Known post-1990 spring and autumn records (possibly of passage birds) are: in the Annapurna Conservation Area eight at Kobang, Mustang in October 2005 (Som GC and Martin Naylor); up to four at Tukche and Jomsom in April 2008 (Hathan Chaudhary) and four at Larjung in April 2010 (Paras Singh), and one in the Langmoche river valley, Sagarmatha National Park at over 4000 m in March 2008 (Haris Rai).

A pair in the Rolwaling valley, Dolakha District in 2009 (Hem Sagar Baral).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia (Central Asian), Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4200 m (breeding) 915 m (winter); lower limit: 3000 m (breeding) 100 m (winter)

Population

Pairs of nesting Ibisbills have been counted at Kyanjin. The maximum of 18 pairs was reported there in April 1984 (Powell and Pierce 1984), but only nine pairs were counted in May 2001 (Choudhary 2002). A 2010 study specifically aimed at climate change impacts on Ibisbill revealed only 18 adults and seven subadults in Kyanjin, confirming a decline (Ghimire and Thakuri 2010). Annual counts of Ibisbills wintering on the River Rapti near Hetauda are undertaken by B. Sharma, e.g. Sharma (1998). The maximum of 18 birds was found in a survey of six 2.5 km stretches of the river near there (Shrestha and Lakhey 2000). A total of 11 birds was observed between Sanwari Khola and the Hetauda Rapti River bridge in January 2012 (Hem Subedi) and 20 birds on the Rapti river, near Bastipur below Hetauda in January 2011 (Kapil Pokharel).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 100; maximum population: 250

Habitat and Ecology

Ibisbill breeds on braided river channels with shingle banks in glacial valleys (Pierce 1986). In winter it frequents shingle banks in rivers. It feeds on aquatic invertebrates; small fish are possibly important in the species' winter diet (Pierce 1986). The species is an altitudinal migrant (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species was first seen during the breeding season at Kyanjin, upper Langtang valley, Langtang National Park at 3800 m in the early 1950s (Polunin 1955). It bred there regularly, e.g. Lister (1979), Eames (1982), and probably annually until at least 2014. Ibisbill also breeds in Sagarmatha National Park: an incubating female was found on the Imja Khola river bed, near Pangboche at 4000 m in April 1986 (Bauer 1986) and territorial behaviour was observed at Pheriche in May 1984 (Tolk 1988). Two pairs at two nests with eggs were seen in the Dhorpatan valley, Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve in 1998 (G4) (Poorneshwor Subedi).

Threats

Ibisbill's breeding habitat is predicted to be threatened by climate change (Baral 2002). In winter it is seriously threatened by habitat loss and degradation by gravel extraction of river beds, disturbance, pesticide poisoning of rivers by local people for fishing, and hunting (Shrestha and Lakhey 2000). The habitat in the species' main known breeding area in Langtang National Park may have been damaged by the 2015 earthquakes.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Ibisbill. The species' main known breeding area is in Langtang National Park; the species is also known to breed in Sagarmatha National Park and the Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve. The species' wintering sites lie outside the protected area system. Ibisbill has also been recorded in the Annapurna Conservation Area, possibly on passage, and in Chitwan National Park in winter.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, C3a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Ibisbill has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. It is a very uncommon altitudinal migrant, known to breed locally in Nepal, but wintering records are widespread from the west to the far east. At its main known breeding area, a decline of 50% from 18 to nine breeding pairs was observed between 1984 and 2010. The species' breeding habitat has been predicted to be at risk from climate change and a survey is currently underway to study these climate change impacts. On its wintering grounds it is seriously threatened by habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, and pesticide poisoning of rivers by local people for fishing. The species' main known breeding area is in Langtang National Park, but this may have been damaged by the 2015 earthquakes. The species is also known to breed in Sagarmatha National Park and in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve. Many of the species' known wintering sites lie outside the protected area system.

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Calidris alpina Linnaeus, 1758 **VU**

Subspecies *Cutia alpina alpina*

Common name

Dunlin (English)

Thulo Jalrank (Nepali)

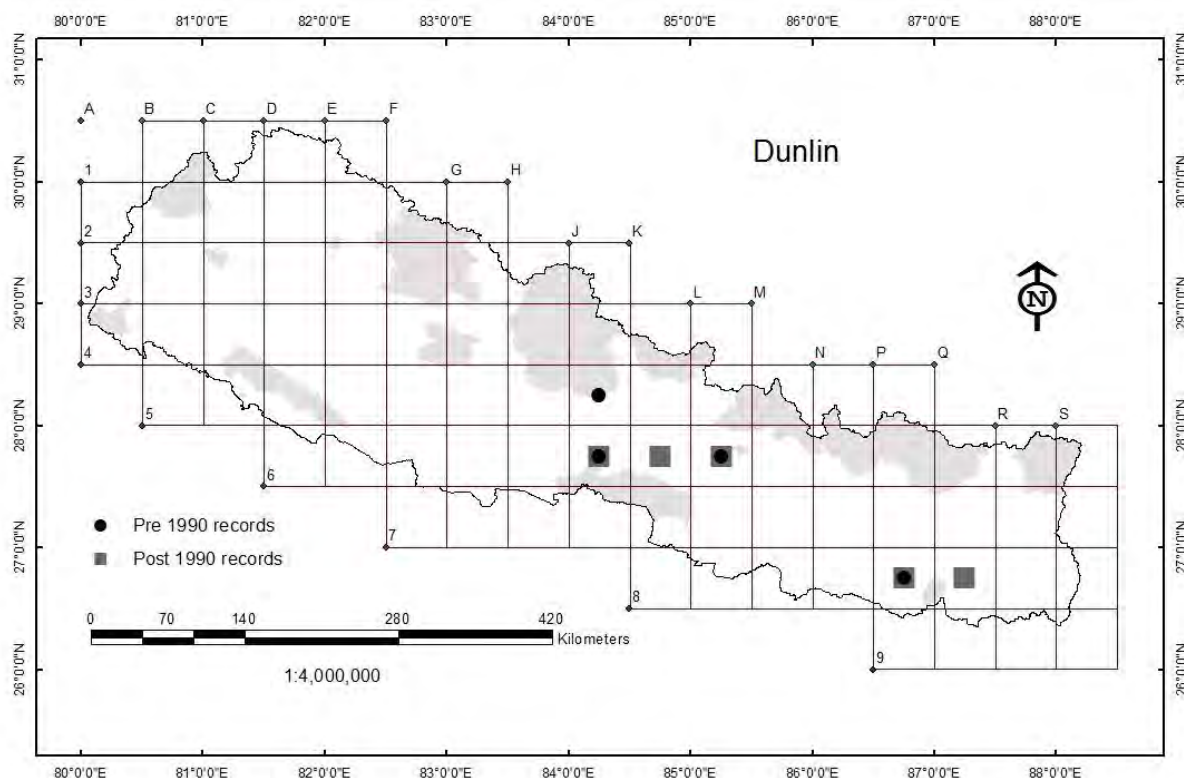
Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae



SAMYAK KANINDE

Distribution



Dunlin is very uncommon, mainly a passage migrant, but at Koshi it is also a rare winter visitor. Post 1990, it has been recorded from Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) in central Nepal to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005a) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1829 and Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a scarce winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a scarce winter visitor and mainly a passage migrant to Nepal. Pre-1990 there were several winter flocks recorded at Koshi Barrage and in Chitwan National Park. The only other known records were: one collected from the Bagmati River, Kathmandu Valley in January 1967 (Nepali 1974, 1982) and two seen at Begnas Tal, Kaski District in March 1984 (Tolk 1988).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is an uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) but there is only one known record since 1996 – one by the Rapti River in January 2013 (BES, Harka Kumal, Hathan Chaudhary). It is listed as a frequent winter visitor to

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) in Baral (2005a), but it is now an uncommon, though regular passage migrant and rare winter visitor.

Since 1990 outside the protected areas' system the species has been recorded near Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District (Baral 2005a) and on passage recently every year near Jabdi, Koshi Bird Observatory (Badri Chaudhary). The only other known record is one by the Bagmati River, Kathmandu Valley in January 2008 (van Riessen 2013).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda (to UK), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands (to UK), Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States Minor Outlying Islands (to USA), USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA), Western Sahara, Yemen (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

In the Koshi area, over 30 birds were recorded in February 1986 (Madge and Redman 1986), the maximum recorded in Nepal. Post-1990 records include: two in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), four in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), one in March 1996 (Daulne and Goblet 1996), one in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), one in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), 20 in February 2002 (Malling Olsen 2002), three in mid January 2002 (Dinesh Giri); three in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), six in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), two in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), 10 in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), six in January 2009 (Baral 2009), eight in March 2010 (Baral 2010), two in December 2011 (Vicente 2011), three in February 2013, two in March 2014, and four in February 2015 (Tika Giri).

In Chitwan National Park, during waterbird surveys in 1982, 30 birds were counted along the Rapti River and a flock of seven on the Narayani River, near the Rapti confluence in December 1982 (Halliday 1982). Other counts from the park include two birds in December 1984 (Collins and Thomas 1986), four in December 1991 (Wartmann and Schonjahn 1992) and one in November 1996 (Giri 1996). However, no birds were recorded during a survey between November 1995 and December 1996 (Dhakal 1996) and there have been no recent records from the park (RDB Workshop, October 2015).

Total Population Size

Minimum population : unknown ; maximum population : unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Dunlin occurs on mud and sand banks of rivers (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and flooded fields (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species often keeps with other waders (Ali and Ripley 1987). Typically, it has a hunched posture when foraging; makes short runs over wet mud and wading near the water's edge (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Dunlin feeds on molluscs, crustaceans, worms, sandhoppers, chironomid larvae and other insects; occasionally some seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation and disturbance are threats to Dunlin.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Dunlin. Post 1990 the species has been recorded from Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN status

Vulnerable (VU) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Dunlin has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac. It is very uncommon, mainly a passage migrant, but also a rare winter visitor. Pre-1990 it wintered more frequently than it has in later years. The species' population has sharply decreased in the Koshi area and also in Chitwan National Park from where there has been only one record since 1996. Habitat loss and degradation and disturbance are threats to the species.

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Gallinago nemoricola (Hodgson, 1836) **VU**

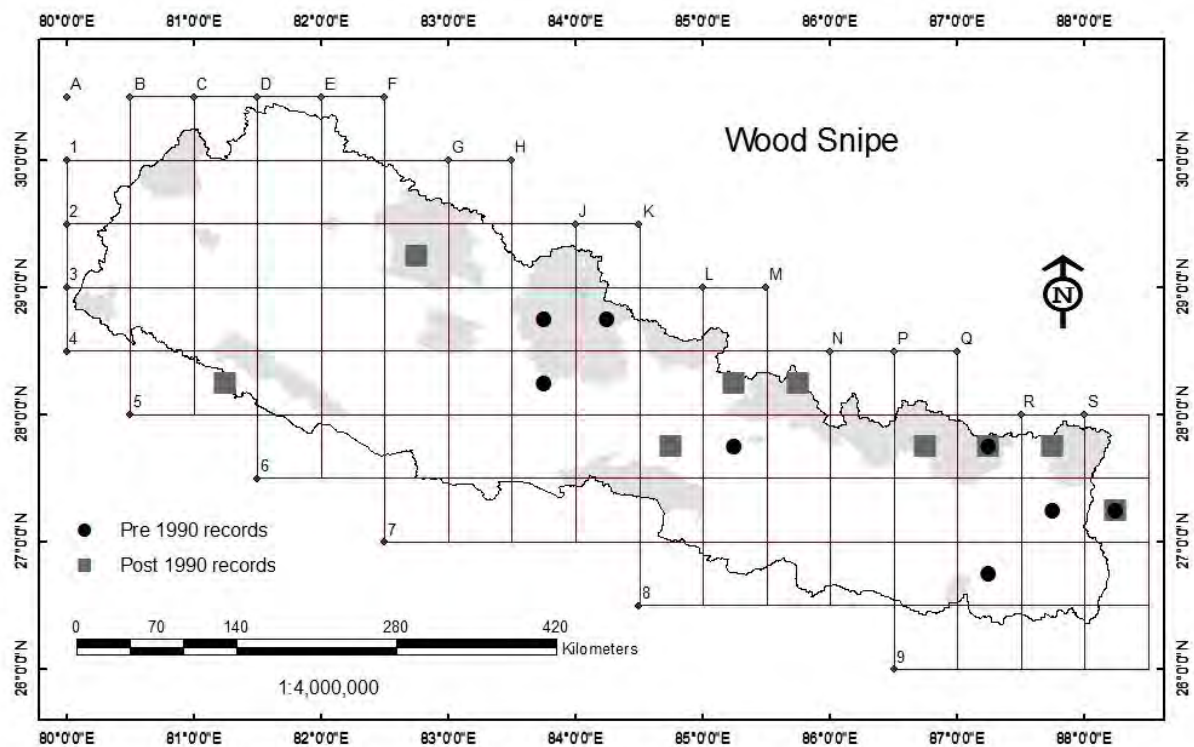
Common Name

Wood Snipe (English),
Ban Chahaa (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Wood Snipe is rare and sparsely distributed. It breeds in the subalpine zone of the Himalayas. Some birds are possibly resident, descending to lower altitudes in winter; others may migrate to winter in south India; however, there are few recent records from south India. The species was described from Nepal (Hodgson 1836, Warren 1966).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported Wood Snipe was scarce and possibly a resident that migrates altitudinally.

In west-central Nepal Inskipp and Inskipp (2003) considered it was a rare altitudinal migrant and probably a partial resident in the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA). There are single records from several sites in ACA: unspecified numbers at Ghorepani in February 1971 (Aarestrup *et al.* 1971), one at Ghasa in April 1984 (Innes and Lewis 1984), one at Bagarchap in November 1984 (Calladine 1985), one at Lete in December 1984 (Calladine 1985), two between Ghasa and Marpha in April 1991 (J Nordin *in litt.* to BirdLife International 1999). The record of a pair displaying at Pipar, Annapurna Conservation Area in May 1985 (Warwick 1986 in Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) is now thought not to refer to Wood Snipe. No later records from ACA are known.

The species is listed for Rara National Park by Giri (2005), referencing Barber (1990), but this latter reference does not include the species.

In central Nepal, Hodgson (1831) found it not uncommon in winter in the Kathmandu Valley, staying until 11 May; two specimens contained eggs (Hodgson 1829). The species was apparently rare in the Valley by 1877 as it was only recorded on two occasions in winter, on the edges of forests at the foot of the hills (Scully 1879). The last known records from the Valley were in 1948, when one or two were shot each year; it occurred singly in wooded swamps at the edge of the Valley (Ripley 1950).

Other known pre-1990 records are: singles seen near Kyanjin, Langtang National Park in May 1979 (Lister 1979); from Khangma, upper Arun valley, in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park in May 1981 (Krabbe 1981); the Barun valley in 1973 (Cronin 1979, Fleming *et al.* 1976), and at Jolbari, Ilam District in January 1989 (Halliday 1989); also specimens collected from Sundar Gundar, Morang District in February 1938 (Bailey 1938) and from the Singhalila ridge, Ilam District at 3050 m in January 1912 (Stevens 1912).

Better coverage, especially at high altitudes in the species' breeding areas has produced more records post-1990. Two were flushed by Pani Palta Khola in Shey-Phoksundo National Park in April 1992 (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1995) and one by Gokyo Lake, Sagarmatha National Park in 1998 (month unknown) (Giri *et al.* 1998).

In Langtang National Park two were found while descending from the Laurebina Pass towards Gapte in May 1990 (Buckton and Morris 1993). Singles were seen between Phedi and Gapte in May 1994 (Drijvers 1995) and May 1995 (Lama 1995). Two were observed displaying at dusk at Phedi, Gosainkund in April 1996 (Davidson and Heywood 1996). One was seen at Gapte in May 1997 (Cooper and Cooper 1997), and two between Sindum and Kyanjin in May 1997 (Robson 1997). At Kyanjin, upper Langtang valley singles were seen in April 1996 (Taylor *et al.* 1996), May 1997 (Choudhary and Karki 1997, Cooper and Cooper 1997), and April 2001 (Fischer and Fischer 2001), two in April 2005, one in May 2009 (GC 2010) and two in April 2012 (Som GC, Anna Karlsson and Mathias Bergstrom). See also the results of a 2007 survey in the park in the Population section. One was seen at Sandakpur, Ilam district in April 1999 (Giri and Choudhary (2000).

Two were recorded at Manghang Kharka, Makalu Barun National Park in April 1990 (Tymstra 1993), and two seen on Sinion La, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in May 1992 (White and White 1994), and also recorded in the conservation area in May 1999 (White and White 1999).

In Chitwan National Park one was seen in March 2002 (Malling Olsen 2004) and one probable in March 2009 (Baral 2009); one was seen in Janakauli Community Forest in the park buffer zone in February 2009 (Anil Gurung). One was sighted in Bardia National Park in January 2011 (Rajan Choudhary). These are the only post-1990 records away from the species' breeding grounds.

Wood Snipe is likely to have been under-recorded. Few birdwatchers visit its breeding areas in Nepal, especially away from the regular trekking routes, and at the right time of year in late May or June. The lack of recent winter records suggests that the species is unobtrusive in winter and/or that some birds migrate to India, but there are very few recent records from there.

Globally the species has also been recorded in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4520 m (- 4900 m Summer); (3050 m Winter); lower limit: 3650 m (Summer); 75 m (Winter)

Population

A survey for Wood Snipe was carried out in Langtang National Park between March and June 2007. After consulting with local people and gathering information from ornithologists and birdwatchers, surveys were made at Kyanjin and in the Gosainkund lake system. Seven birds were recorded around Gosainkund and associated lakes (Lauribinyak, Naukunda, Agnikunda and Phedi) in June and one at Kyanjin (on the way to Ganjala Pass) in April (Chaudhary and Khatidwada 2013; Khatiwada and Chaudhary 2008a,b; Khatiwada *et al.* 2010).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <100

Habitat and Ecology

Wood Snipe located during the 2007 Langtang National Park breeding survey were mainly on marshy grassland with patchy rhododendron scrub between 3900 m and 4520 m (Chaudhary and Khatiwada 2013, Khatiwada and Chaudhary 2008a, Khatiwada *et al.* 2010). The pair on Laurebina Pass in the park was holding territory at 4300 m in an open area with scattered bushes and a few streams, and were not associated with swampy ground (Buckton and Morris 1990). In winter, it frequents swampy ground in and at the edge of evergreen forest and marshy grassland and scrub below 3000 m. The species is partly migratory with some birds flying from the Himalayas to India (BirdLife International 2012). It feeds chiefly on worms, larvae and tiny molluscs (Ali and Ripley 1987). It was proved breeding near the tree line in the Barun valley in 1973 (Cronin 1979, Fleming *et al.* 1976). Youngman (1995) reported the possible breeding of Wood Snipe at Mani Bhuk, Kanchenjunga area, but the record was later thought to refer to Solitary Snipe (Inskipp 1996).

Threats

Wood Snipe is threatened by high livestock grazing pressure on its breeding habitat of subalpine shrubberies and grasslands. According to local people, seasonal grazing can enhance the quality of pastureland. Livestock grazing is maintained in subalpine grasslands between May and September and the breeding grounds of Wood Snipe are therefore important grazing areas for livestock. As well as altering the species' habitat, the high stocking levels were considered to cause unacceptable levels of disturbance and may result in unsustainable losses of nests to trampling (Chaudhary and Khatiwada 2013, Khatiwada and Chaudhary 2008a,b; Khatiwada *et al.* 2010).

Habitat loss and degradation in its wintering grounds are also considered key threats, with substantial losses and degradation of evergreen forest, wooded wetlands, marshes and swamps (BirdLife International 2012). In the past Wood Snipe was also threatened by hunting.

Tourism is considered a threat to the species in Langtang National Park, which is visited by about 8,000 visitors a year and is now the most accessible trekking destination in Nepal. Habitat degradation and disturbance have resulted and are likely to put the long term viability of the Wood Snipe in Langtang at risk (Chaudhary and Khatiwada 2013, Khatiwada and Chaudhary 2008a, Khatiwada *et al.* 2010). However, tourism is unlikely to threaten potential breeding areas in Makalu Barun and Shey-Phoksundo National Parks and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, at least in the foreseeable future as these are more remote.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Wood Snipe. It has been recorded in the breeding season in Langtang, Sagarmatha, Makalu Barun and Shey-Phoksundo National Parks, and Kanchenjunga and Annapurna Conservation Areas, and in winter in Chitwan and Bardia National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac, D1), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Wood Snipe has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac and D1. The species is rare and sparsely distributed. It breeds in the subalpine zone of the Himalayas. Some birds are possibly resident, descending to lower altitudes in winter; others may migrate to winter in India, although there are very few recent records. The species is under-recorded on its breeding grounds, which are rarely visited by birdwatchers

and ornithologists, especially in the breeding season. Wood Snipe is seriously threatened by high livestock grazing in its breeding habitat of subalpine shrubberies and grassland, which is causing habitat alteration and unacceptable levels of disturbance and trampling. Habitat loss and degradation in its wintering grounds are also considered key threats, with substantial losses and degradation of evergreen forest, wooded wetlands, marshes and swamps. Tourism is a threat in Langtang National Park causing habitat degradation and disturbance, but is unlikely to threaten potential breeding grounds in most other protected areas, at least in the foreseeable future as these are much more remote. In the past Wood Snipe was threatened by hunting. Most records have been in the breeding season. There are only four known non-breeding season records post-1990; however, the lack may be because it is unobtrusive in the non-breeding season. Wood Snipe has been recorded from several protected areas; the large majority of post-1990 records have been from within the protected areas' system.

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***Hydrophasianus chirurgus* (Scopoli, 1786) VU**

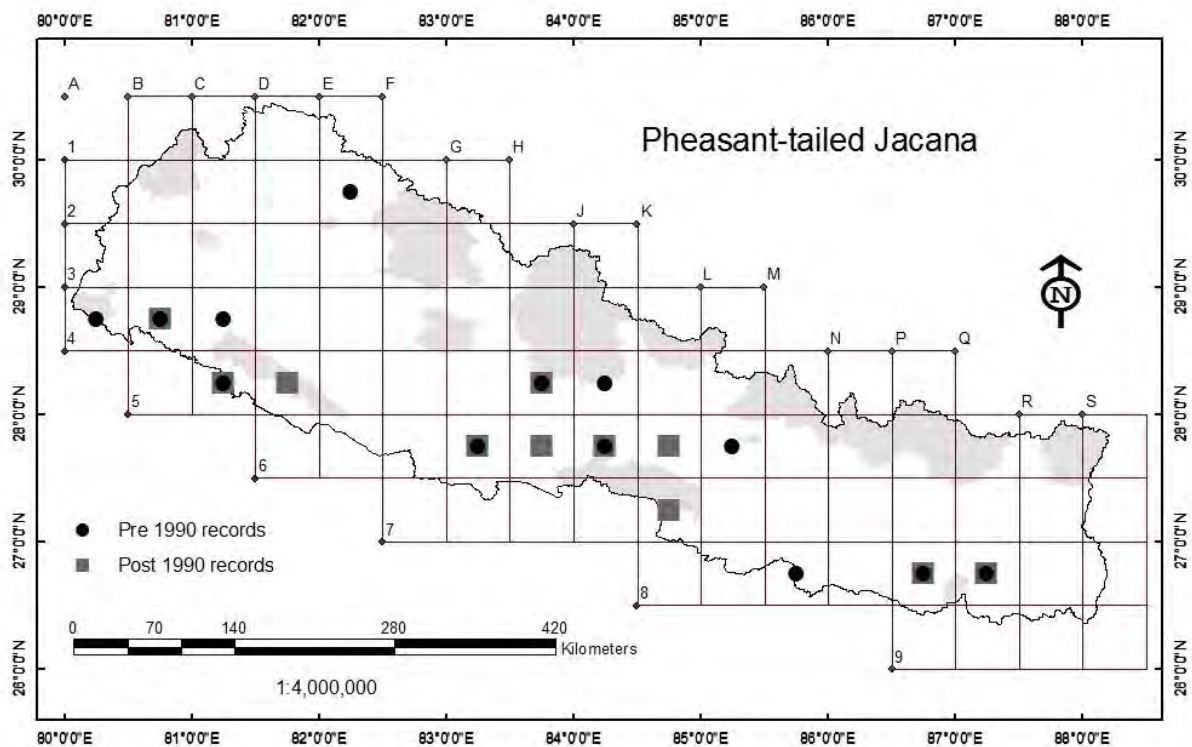
Common Name

Pheasant-tailed Jacana (English),
Jal Apsara (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Jacanidae



Distribution



Pheasant-tailed Jacana is an uncommon resident subject to local movements depending on water conditions. Post-1990 it has been recorded from west, central and far east Nepal. The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844) when it was recorded in the Kathmandu Valley in May in breeding condition (Hodgson 1829). A family party was seen in the Valley in summer 1959 (Fleming and Traylor 1961); it was also collected there by Nepali (1986) and seen in 1988 (Hurrell 1988), but there are no known later records.

It was formerly a resident occasionally seen at Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Schaaf *et al.* 1980) and was also recorded there in June 1988 (Suwal and Shrestha 1988), but there are no known subsequent records. One was found at the high altitude of 3050 m at Rara Lake, Rara National Park in October 1982 (Breary and Pritchard 1985).

The maximum of 85 was seen at Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District in June 1988 (Suwal and Shrestha 1988), 12 in April 2007 (Baral 2007), and four in August 2007 (Baral and Shah 2007).

At Phewa Tal, Kaski District 40 were seen in January 1971 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971), but it has rarely been found there later and there are no known records since 1989 (Cox *et al.* 1989). It was formerly rare at Begnas Tal, Kaski District e.g. Lambert (1979) and Suter (1983), but there are no known records from the lake since 1984 (Tolk 1988).

Gurung (1983) considered it a rare summer visitor that possibly bred in Chitwan National Park. There are regular summer records of one or two birds from Tamar Tal, Rapti River, and Patana Tal in the park (Hem Subedi, Bishnu Mahato, Hem Sagar Baral). Three were seen at the confluence of the Rapti and Khagari Rivers in April 2012 (Sunaina Raut) and two at Khageri Dogan in June 2012 (Bird Education Society). In the park buffer zone one was recorded in Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District in May 2005 (Chaudhary 2010); two at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar Forest (Shankar Tiwari) and one in a fish pond, Madi valley in January 2011 (Anil Gurung).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it as fairly common at Koshi and proved breeding there: an adult with a chick was seen in September 1989 (Gardiner 1990). The species has declined at Koshi since the 1980s, probably resulting from the loss of large marsh areas: 20 were recorded in April 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981), 25 in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982), there were five pairs from Kusaha to Bhantabari in June 1995 (Cox 1995, 1998), five birds at Koshi in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), three in May 2008 (Giri 2008b), 16 at the Barrage in November 2011 (Hathan Chaudhary) and 18 there in July 2012 (Badri Chaudhary). The high number of 67 was counted at Koshi in October 2010, but these birds may include passage migrants (H. S. Baral pers. obs. 2010).

Other localities where Pheasant-tailed Jacana has been recorded recently are Ghodaghodi Tal, Kailali District where records include 20 seen in May 2003 (Baral and Chaudhary 2003) and one in May 2007 (Paras Bikram Singh); Badhaiya Tal, Bardia District where 12 were sighted in January 2010 (Shahi 2010); one near Bagh Machan, Bardia National Park in March 2012 (Ram Shahi); one near Nepalganj, Banke District in February 2010 (Sejan Gyawali); Gaidahawa, Rupandehi District where records include eight seen in March 2008 (Giri 2010); one at Tribeni Ghath, Nawalparasi District on July 1996 (Jhalak Chaudhary), and two at Rambhauri Bhata, Parsa Wildlife Reserve in June 2012 (Kapil Pokharel).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1525 m (- 3050 m on passage); lower limit: 75 m

Population

Midwinter waterbird count data indicate the gradual decline of the species' populations: 21, 12, 13 in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. No population surveys have been carried out in the breeding season, but observations indicate that the population must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 100; maximum population: 200

Habitat and Ecology

Pheasant-tailed Jacana inhabits lakes and pools with floating aquatic plants (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds chiefly on vegetable matter: seeds, roots and also aquatic insects and their larvae, and bivalves and other molluscs (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is a resident moving locally depending on water conditions (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Pheasant-tailed Jacana is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of wetlands, disturbance and hunting (illegal in protected areas).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Pheasant-tailed Jacana. The species has recently been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, and in Chitwan and Bardia National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pheasant-tailed Jacana has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. It is an uncommon resident recorded recently from the west, central and far eastern Nepal. Since 1990 the species has recently been recorded in a few protected areas and a few other localities outside the protected areas' system. The species has declined at Koshi, Phewa Tal, Kaski District and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. Observations indicate that the population must be small. It is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of wetlands, disturbance and illegal hunting.

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***Larus brunnicephalus* Jerdon, 1840 VU**

Common Name

Brown-headed Gull (English)

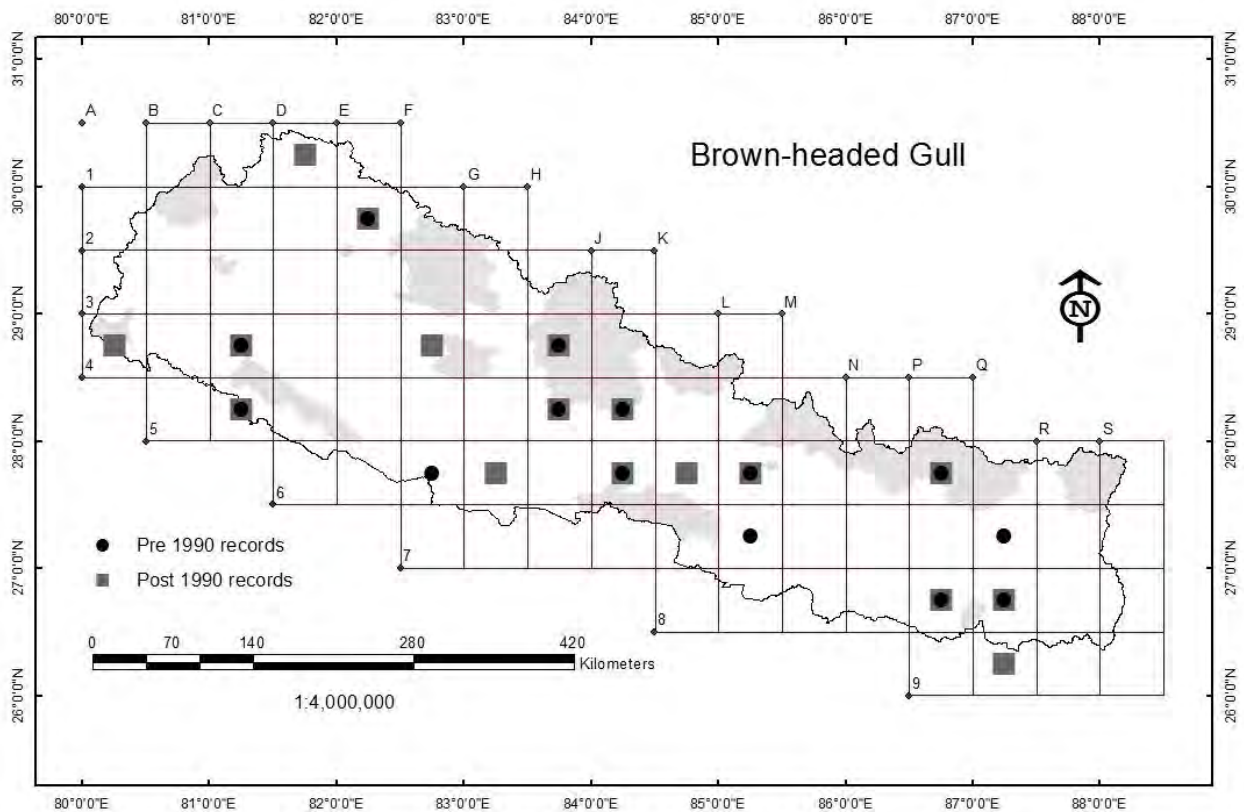
Khairotaauke Gangaachil (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae



Distribution



Brown-headed Gull is now mainly a passage migrant to Nepal. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal recorded of the species was in 1963 at Patan, by the Bagmati River, Kathmandu Valley in October 1963 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional winter visitor on large rivers. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species was a winter visitor and passage migrant, fairly common at Kosi Barrage, uncommon in Chitwan National Park and mainly single records from elsewhere from the mid-west to the far east. A party of 19 with one Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* flew over the upper Dudh Kosi valley at 5490 m in May 1977 (Fleming *et al.* 1979).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: an uncommon winter visitor and passage

migrant to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent winter visitor in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a rare passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005). Biodiversity Conservation Data Project Team (1994) considered the species was a vagrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4); Inskipp and Inskipp (2003) reported that the species had less than 5 records as a passage migrant in the area. It is listed as an uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but is now an uncommon or rare passage migrant (RDB Workshop, October 2015). It is a rare passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004), and an occasional winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it has been recorded over the Rapti River at Sauraha, Chitwan District in January 2015 (Bed Bahadur Khadka) and August 2015 (BES).

Brown-headed Gull has been recorded from a few localities outside the protected areas' system since 1990, in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range: from upper Humla (D1) in April and July 2014 (Kusi *et al.* 2015); one at Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District in Feb 2007, two in 2009, and two in 2010 (Dinesh), Pokhara Valley (H5), Kaski District in February 2008 (Giri 2008); Phewa Lake, Kaski District in May 2015 (Manshanta Ghimire), Kaski District; very rare in the Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008, Friends of Bird/Bird Conservation Nepal 2014); recorded at Koshi Bird Observatory in April 2011 (Sanjib Acharya) and recorded at Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District in March 1994 (Baral 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 5490 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out specifically for Brown-headed Gull.

In Humla District, 62 birds were observed at Chyurku in April 2014 and one at Gyau Khola in July 2014 (Kusi *et al.* 2015).

Around 50-60 birds were seen in Rara National Park in October 2014 (Hathan Chaudhary)

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Koshi Barrage area, 86 birds were recorded in October 1993 (Choudhary 1994), five in March 1996 (Daulne and Goblet 1996), six in February-March 1997 (Harrap and Basnet 1997) and two in April 2008 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2008); also 3-5 every year at Koshi Barrage from 2009-2014 (Anish Timsina),

In Chitwan National Park 12 birds were recorded in December 2000 (Scharringa 2000). In the park's buffer zone by the Rapti River: singles were seen in December 2014 (Surendra Mahato) and January 2015 (Bed Bahadur Khadka) and two in August 2015 (BES).

In Pokhara, eight birds were recorded in March 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002), ten in February 2008 (Giri 2008), two in December 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009) and two at Phewa Lake in March 2011 (Hari KC) and two in May 2015 (Manshanta Ghimire).

In the Kathmandu Valley, two birds were recorded by the Bagmati River in November 2005 (van Riessen 2007) and one there in October 2014 (Friends of Bird).

One bird was recorded at Koshi Bird Observatory in April 2011 (Sanjib Acharya)

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Brown-headed Gull occurs on lakes and rivers (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is gregarious and a scavenger. (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It also feeds on insects, grubs, slugs, earthworms and shoots of various crops (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species often feeds and roosts with other gulls, especially Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* (Grimmett *et al.* 1998)

Threats

Habitat degradation including invasive plant species, water extraction, over fishing, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Brown-headed Gull. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia National Park, Rara, Chitwan and Sagarmatha National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2acd), upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Brown-headed Gull has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2acd and also its change of status from a winter visitor to mainly a passage migrant. It is now a rare passage migrant recorded from far west to the far east. Since 1990 there has been little change in the species' distribution. However, its population has declined. Habitat degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskipp/2009_006.pdf

Larus ridibundus Linnaeus, 1766 VU

Common Name

Black-headed Gull (English)

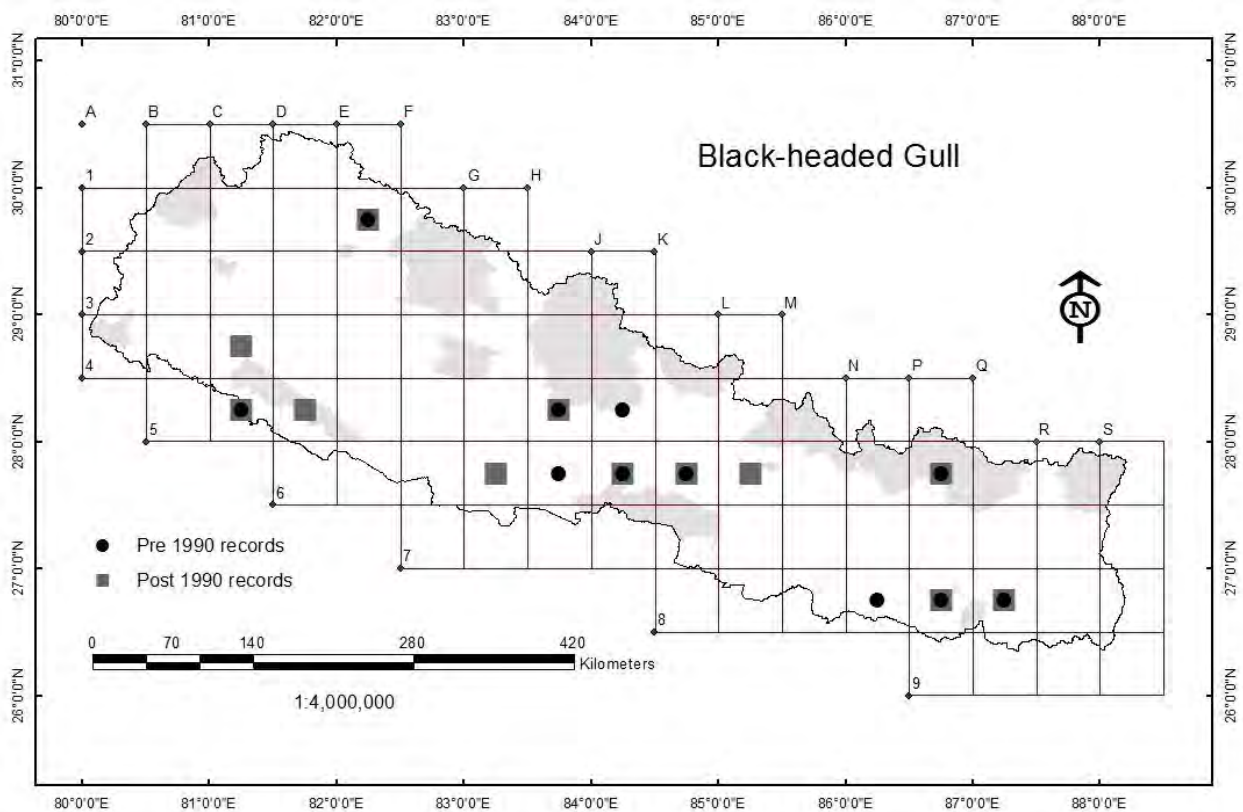
Kaalotauke Gangaachil (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae



Distribution



Black-headed Gull is mainly a passage migrant and also a rare winter visitor. Post 1990, it has been recorded from Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001) in the mid-west to the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the bird was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844, Saunders 1896).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional winter visitor on large rivers of the terai. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a winter visitor and passage migrant and mapped its distribution from the mid-west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a winter visitor with less than five records in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001), but one seen every year since 2012 (Ashik Gurung); a frequent passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005). It was described as an uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but is now a rare passage migrant. It is a rare

passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004). Baral (2005) described it a frequent winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8), but it is now mainly a rare passage migrant there. In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it has been recorded at Sauraha, Chitwan District in December 2001 (Naylor *et al.* 2002); 1-5 on Rapti River, Sauraha seen every year from 1999 -2014, and 1-2 at Bagmara and Chitrasen every year (Bishnu Mahato).

Black-headed Gull has been recorded from a few localities outside the protected areas' system since 1990, see map and text below.

Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow: from Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); 5-6 at Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District every year from 2006-2014 and 1-2 at Gaidahawa lake, Rupandehi District every year from 2006-2014 (Dinesh Giri); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in December 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005); 2-3 regularly seen at Phewa and Begnas Tal, Kaski District from 2002-2014 (Hari KC, Mann Shant Ghimire); Narayanghat (J6), Chitwan District in November 1996 (Giri 1996); very rare in the Kathmandu Valley (L6) between 2004 and 2006 (Mallalieu 2008); recorded in Bhagalpur area (P8), Udayapur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); 14 at Chimdi Lake, Sunsari District in March 2015 (Anish Timsina, Suchit Basnet), and three at Jabdi, Koshi Bird Observatory April 2015 (Anish Timsina and Suchit Basnet).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Grenada, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to USA), Western Sahara, Yemen, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013)).

Elevation

Upper limit: 5490 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out specifically for Black-headed Gull.

In Koshi Barrage as many as 700 birds were recorded on 28 February 1991 (Baral 1991), but now this number is never seen in the area, and in most years during the midwinter waterbird count, the species is completely absent (Hem Sagar Baral). In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, 50 birds were recorded in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), 50 in October 1994 (Baral 1994), 82 in November 1996 (Giri 1996), 12 in March 2001 (Baral 2001) and 20-30 in March 2013 (Suchit Basnet).

A total of 56 was recorded at Nepalgunj, Banke District in March 1992 (Baral 1992).

The species has declined in recent years when less than ten birds or no birds have been recorded annually during recent midwinter waterbird counts. Most records with numbers in the lowlands will be usually less than

ten birds.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Black-headed Gull occurs on lakes and large rivers (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is gregarious and a scavenger - similar to other gulls (Ali and Ripley 1987). It often associates with other gulls, especially Brown-headed Gull (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) and feeds on insects, grubs, slugs, earthworms and shoots of various crops (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat degradation including over-fishing and invasive plant species, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

There are no conservation measures specifically carried out for this species. Since 1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Rara, Chitwan, Sagarmatha National Parks and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU, A2acd) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-headed Gull is assessed as Vulnerable mainly based on the decline of its population A2acd, as well as its change of status from a winter visitor to mainly a passage migrant to the country. It has been recorded from several protected areas, but from few localities outside the protected areas' system. Habitat degradation including over-fishing and invasive plant species; also illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. Its population is declining.

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Sterna albifrons Pallas, 1764 **VU**

Subspecies: *Sterna albifrons albifrons*

Common Name

Little Tern (English),

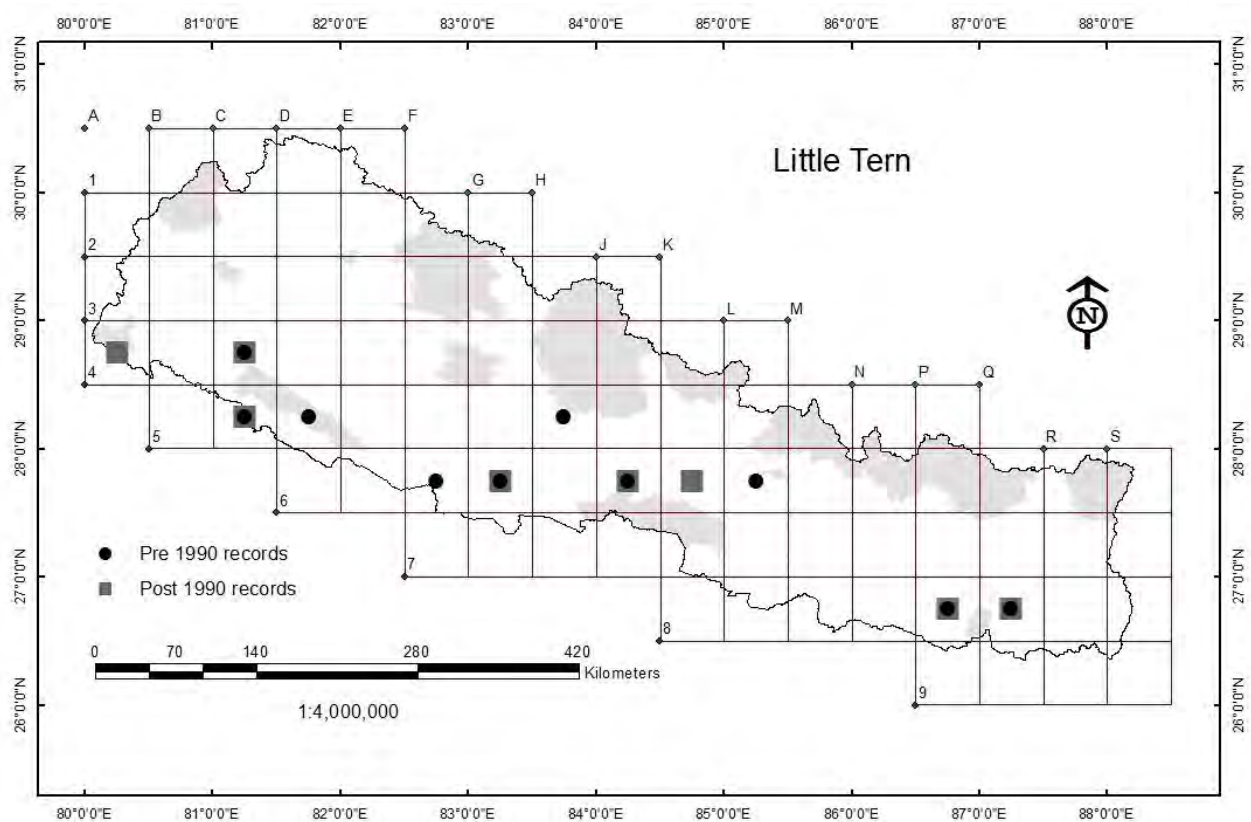
Laghu Phyaalphyale (Nepali)

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Laridae



Distribution



Little Tern is a local and very uncommon summer visitor. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first detailed record of the species in Nepal was from the Bagmati River, Kathmandu Valley (L6) in September 1973 (Fleming *et al.* 1979).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional winter visitor and passage migrant along large Terai rivers in Spring. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species was a fairly common summer visitor to Chitwan and Kosi Barrage.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: an uncommon summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009), Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001). It is listed as an uncommon summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but it has declined

and numbers in recent years have been very small (see Population section). Baral (2005) described it as a fairly common summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8), but it has declined since 1990 and is now an uncommon summer visitor (see Population section). It has been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: one over a paddyfield at Laukhani, in June 2015 (DB Chaudhary, Alina Chaudhary, Kewal Chaudhary, Buddhiram Mahato, Suraj Mahato) and one at Sauraha, Chitwan District in July 2015 (Tika Giri).

Little Tern has been recorded from few localities outside the protected areas' system since 1990. These records follow: two from Mahakali River, Kanchanpur District in March 2013 (Dheeraj R. Chaudhary); recorded at Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and two at Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District in May 2015 (DB Chaudhary and Tiger Tops team).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, China (mainland), Colombia, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 120 m (- 1280 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Little Tern.

In Koshi Area, the maximum of 100 was counted in May 1987 (Vyas 1988), 57 birds were recorded in March 1989 (Babbington 1989), 38 in August 1996 (Choudhary 1996), 29 in April 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 10 in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), five in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), 25 in February 2005 (van der Dol 2005), two in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), 100 in May 2008 (Giri 2008), 15 in March 2010 (Baral 2010), 60 in April 2011 (Thomas *et al.* 2011); 30 in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013), and 8-10 birds January- April in 2013-15 (Dheeraj R Chaudhary).

In Chitwan National Park, four birds were recorded in May 2000 (Giri 2000); one near Amaltari in April 2005 (Bed Bahadur Khadka); two along the Narayani, near Amaltari in May 2013 (DB Chaudhary and Shambhu Mahato), three there in February 2014, two in May 2014 (DB Chaudhary, Bhagirath Chaudhary, Shambhu Mahato, Gyan Bahadur Rai), and one in March 2015 (DB Chaudhary, Shambhu Mahato); also two on the Rapti River in August 2013 (BES).

In Bardia National Park, 40 birds were recorded in March 1997 (Roberts 1997), but numbers have significantly declined here in recent years (Ramdin Mahato).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Little Tern occurs on rivers and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species forages singly or in small scattered groups. The species hovers more frequently and for longer periods than other terns before plunge diving steeply after prey (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It plummets with wings pulled in to seize prey below surface, or dips steeply at a tangent to pick it off the water with a backward flick of the bill as it momentarily skims over it (Ali and Ripley 1987). It feeds on chiefly small fish and crustaceans; also aquatic insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). Baral (2005) recorded it breeds at Koshi and it still did so in 2015 (Hem Sagar Baral), It has also bred on the Karnali River, Bardia National Park but it is not known whether it still breeds.

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance, especially at breeding sites and over-fishing, resulting in food shortage are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Little Tern. Post 1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2acd) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Little Tern is assessed as Vulnerable, based on the criteria A2acd. It is a local and very uncommon summer visitor to the lowlands. It was formerly a fairly common breeding summer visitor to Koshi, but has declined. Numbers have also decreased in Chitwan National Park, where it was previously an uncommon summer visitor, but is now a very uncommon visitor. Its population has significantly decreased in Bardia National Park, where it was once an uncommon breeding summer visitor. It has been recorded from four protected areas and few localities outside the protected areas' system since 1990. Overall the national population is declining. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance, especially in its breeding areas, and over-fishing, resulting in food shortage are threats to this species.

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Vanellus malabaricus (Boddaert, 1783) VU

Common Name

Yellow-wattled Lapwing (English)

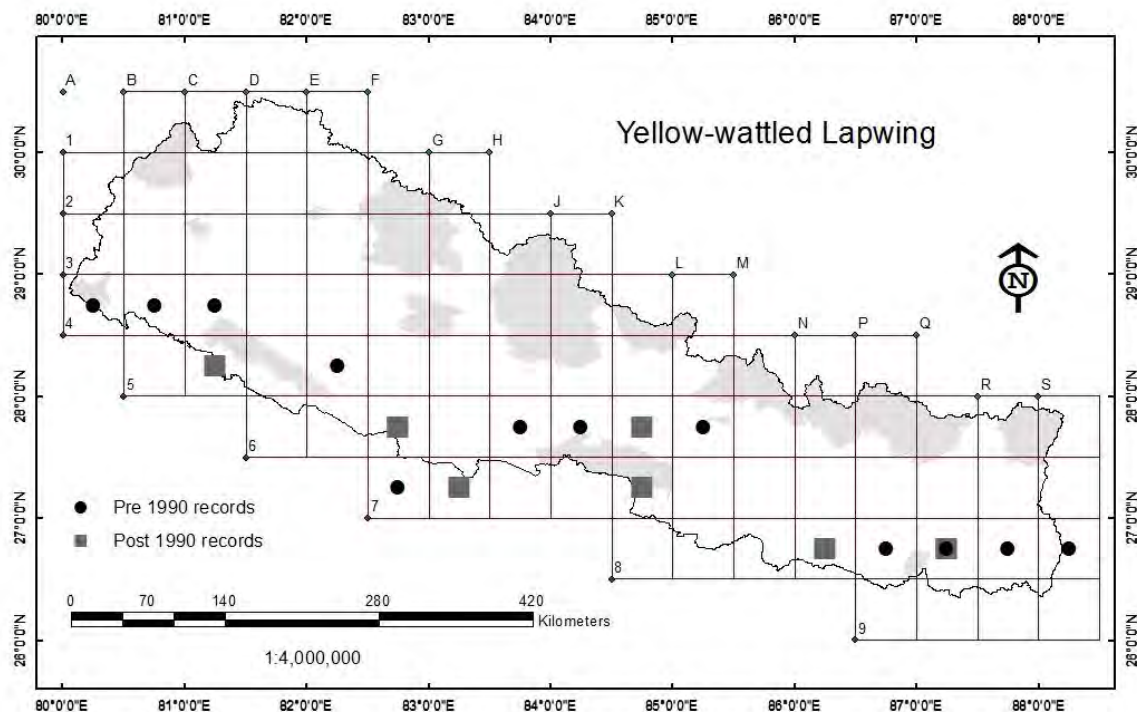
Doyam Hutityaun (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Charadriidae



Distribution



Yellow-wattled Lapwing is a local resident and visitor to the lowlands. Many post-1990 records are from the Koshi area and it is rare elsewhere but there are records from Khairapur (C5), Bardia District in the far west (Tika Giri) to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (e.g. Baral *et al.* 2013) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

It was considered an infrequent monsoon visitor to the Kathmandu Valley by Proud (1949), but there are no later records from the Valley. Fleming *et al.* (1976) found it occasionally and considered it both a resident and migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as rare. Fleming and Traylor (1968) collected one specimen three miles north of Bhadrapur, Jhapa District in January 1965 and another on Dhanghadi airstrip, Kailali District in March 1965. In 1989 it was again found near Dhanghadi (Lalchan and Battachan 1990).

Schaaf *et al.* (1980) considered it was a resident seen occasionally in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, but there are no later records; however, three were seen at Majhagaon on the edge of the reserve in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982). Gurung (1983) noted it was a rare winter visitor to Chitwan National Park and observed it in open areas at the edge of the park, but it has not been recorded subsequently. It was seen at Meghauli airport in April 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983). There are several pre-1990 records from Koshi Barrage and Koshi

Tappu Wildlife Reserve, e.g. Gregory-Smith and Batson (1976), Robson (1979), Mills *et al.* (1982) and Andrews (1986).

Many post-1990 records are from Koshi (see Population section). Since 1990 there have been records from a number of other localities from west to east Nepal; however, its distribution has reduced (see map). Known records are: four at Khairapur, Bardia District in November 2011 (Tika Giri); six at Lumbini, Rupandehi District in April 2003 (Lama 1993); in fields adjacent to Khadara Phanta, Kapilvastu District (Cox and Giri 2007, Cox 2008); in Banganga River grassland Kapilvastu District (Cox 2008) and four there in February 2011 and June 2012 (Sajeev Acharya, Hathan Chaudhary and D. Giri); two at Khorsor, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in April 2012 (Sunaina Raut) and one there in May 2012 (Fuleshwor Chaudhary) and in June 2012 (Bird Education Society); five from Parsa Wildlife Reserve in May 2012 and also recorded at Ram Ban in Parsa buffer zone in 2010 (Kapil Pokharel); five at Dhalkebar, Dhanusa District in February 2010 (Shankar Tiwari); two at Chimdi Lake, Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007), and two on the Kali Khola bank, Garamani VDC, Jhapa District in March 2012 (H. S. Baral pers. obs.).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 185 m; lower limit: 100 m

Population

An important population of 267-334 birds was estimated during a comprehensive survey of the Koshi area in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013), a much larger figure than found there previously. A total of 45 birds was seen west of Koshi Bird Observatory at Jabdi in April 2012 (Hem Sagar Baral 2012). Numbers of the species seen during casual observations of a much smaller area of Koshi in other years include 11 in November 1995 (Choudhary 1995/1996), two in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), two in February 2004 (Bray and Basnet 2004), two in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), nine in March 2007 (GC 2010), 14 in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), and five in March 2010 (Baral 2010).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 300; maximum population: 500

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-wattled Lapwing inhabits dry fields, open dry country and dry river beds in the lowlands (Fleming *et al.* 1976, Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It feeds on chiefly on insects, such as grasshoppers and beetles (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is a resident with some local movements away from wetter areas in the monsoon (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Yellow-wattled Lapwing is threatened by loss of short, dry grasslands, burning, hunting and disturbance.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-wattled Lapwing. The species has been recorded recently in Koshi Tappu and Parsa Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2c, C2a(i)) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-wattled Lapwing has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2c and C2a(i). It is a local resident and visitor. Many post-1990 records are from Koshi where an important population was found during a comprehensive survey of the area in April 2012. The species is rare elsewhere. There are a number of post-1990 records from the far west to the far east; however, the species' distribution has reduced. Yellow-wattled Lapwing is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, hunting and disturbance. Koshi Tappu and Parsa Wildlife Reserves are the only protected areas where it has been recorded post-1990. Its population is probably declining.

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Charadrius mongolus Pallas, 1776 NT

Subspecies: *Charadrius mongolus atrifrons*

Common Name

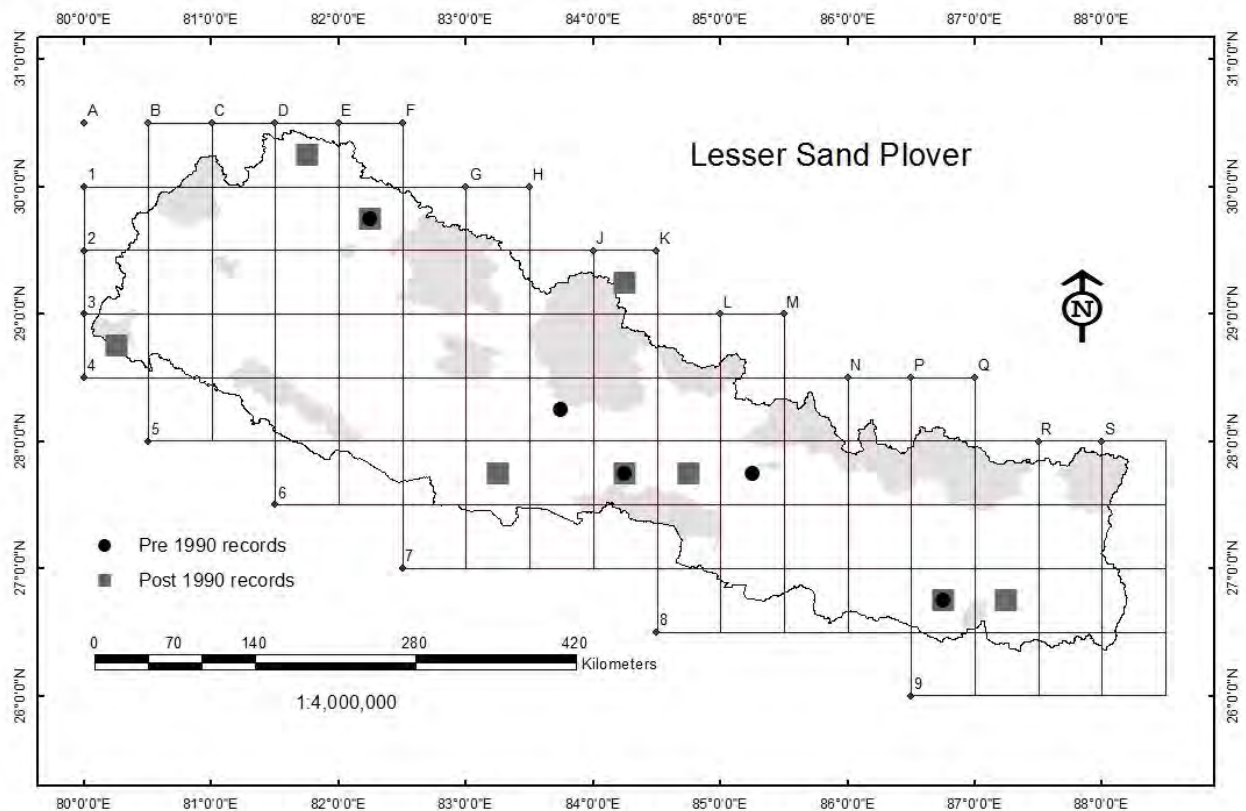
Lesser Sand Plover (English),
Mangol Raajputrikaa (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Charadriidae



Distribution



Lesser Sand Plover is a rare spring migrant and winter visitor and possibly breeds in the north-west. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century from Kathmandu Valley (Hodgson 1829, 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a scarce migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a rare winter visitor and spring migrant, probably only stopping for short periods.

Pre-1990, there were several sightings from Koshi Barrage between mid-March and late May and from Chitwan National Park between November and May (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The only other records were from Phewa Tal (H5), Kaski District (Warwick 1986) and the Bagmati River (L6), Kathmandu Valley in February 1981 (del-Nevo and Ewins 1981) and Rara Lake (E2) in May 1985 (Cox 1985).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: has less than 5 records as a passage migrant to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); recorded in upper Mustang (J3), Annapurna Conservation Area (Chetri 2007); a passage migrant to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and a rare passage migrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005).

Since 1990, outside the protected areas' system, the bird was recorded in Humla District (D1) at 4195 m, a possible breeding area – two pairs in breeding plumage were observed at the same location for three weeks in June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013, Two to three birds were also seen by the Gyau Khola, Humla District in June-July 2014 and two to three in July-August 2015 (Naresh Kusi and Geraldine Werhahn).

Two were recorded at Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District in May 2015 (Som GC) and the species was recorded near Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in May 2011 (Baral 2011).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Comoros, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, France, Germany, Guam (to USA), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Federated States of, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia (Asian), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, USA, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m (- 4500 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Lesser Sand Plover.

Pre 1990, the maximum of 43 was photographed by Phewa Tal on 21 May 1985 (Warwick 1986).

In Koshi Area, 22 were recorded in May 1992 (Anon. 1992), three in February 1993 (Flack 1993), one in April 1994 (Lama 1994), four in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), 15 in April 1998 (Rogers 1998), nine in May 2001 (Giri and Choudhary 2001), five in May 2008 (Giri 2008) and one in April 2011 (Thomas *et al.* 2011).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Lesser Sand Plover inhabits sandbanks of major rivers (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species is gregarious; keeps in scattered flocks - sometimes with other waders (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species runs about with neck drawn into the shoulders, then pauses and stoops stiffly without bending the legs to pick up small invertebrates (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). When resting, the species stands inert on one leg and when disturbed, the scattered flock flies simultaneously and rapidly, low over the ground, veering and swerving in unison (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on chiefly small crabs, sandhoppers and marine worms (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, illegal hunting and

disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Lesser Sand Plover. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Rara and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Lesser Sand Plover has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a rare spring migrant and winter visitor and possibly also breeds in the north-west. Since 1990 the species' known distribution has been extended to the far west because of better coverage. However, there is an indication of a population decline in passage and wintering birds since 1990. Habitat loss and degradation including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

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Glareola lactea Temminck, 1820 NT

Common Name

Small Pratincole (English),

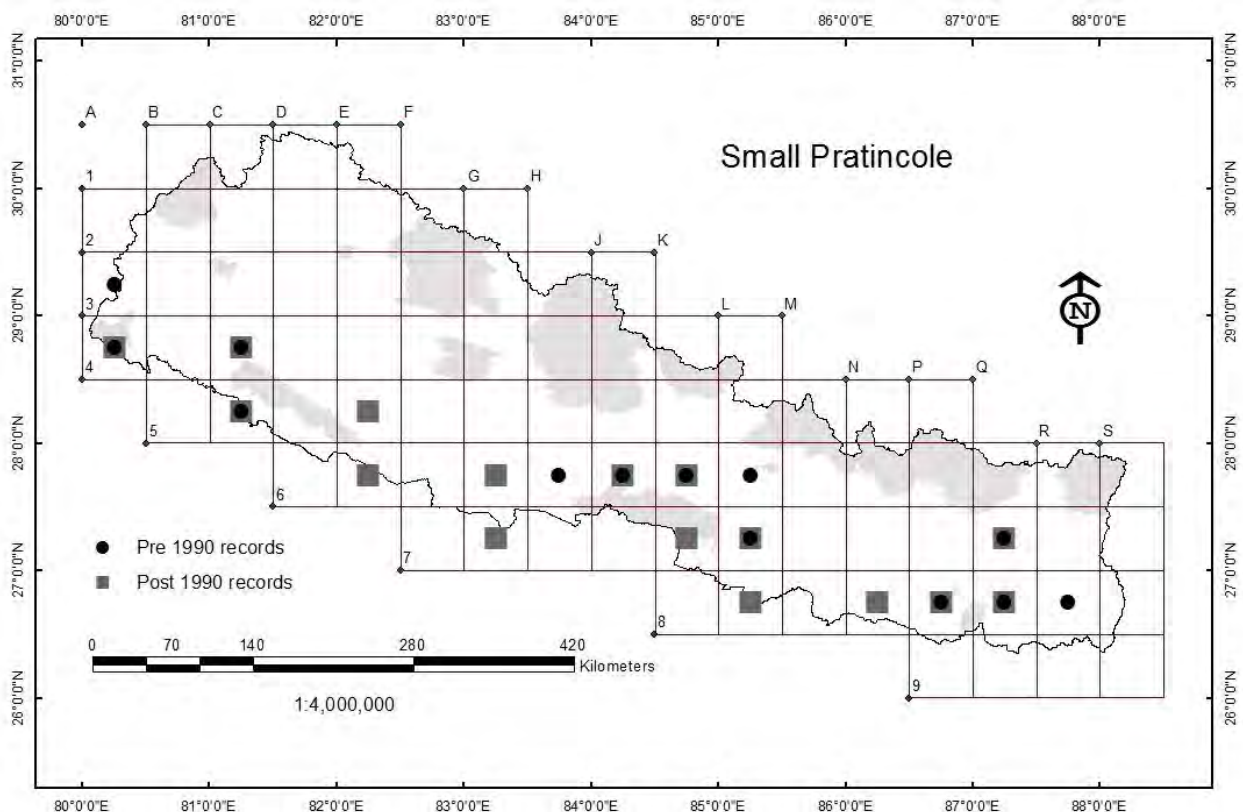
Paanigaunthali (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Glareolidae



Distribution



Small Pratincole is a locally common breeding resident and a partial migrant. Post-1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Kankai River, Jhapa District (KBS) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century from the Kathmandu Valley (Hodgson 1829, 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional resident along wide, stony river beds of Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a resident and local migrant up to 750 m. Pre-1990 it was common over the Karnali River in Bardia National Park, the Arung Khola at Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District, the Rapti and Narayani Rivers in Chitwan National Park and the Koshi River at Koshi Barrage. There were a few reports from elsewhere (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001). Baral and Upadhyay (2006) described it as a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) but it has declined, see

Population section). It is a resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001) and a fairly common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Tharu Cultural Village resort, Nawalparasi in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), and in Bardia National Park buffer zone at Chisapani gorge (C4) in March 1992 (Baral 1992) and in the Khata Corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007).

There are records from a number of other localities outside the protected areas' system. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include from: the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); possibly a summer visitor to Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008, Dinesh Giri); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Acharya 2011) and the Kali Gandaki River, Tanahu District in January 2015 (SMCRF).

In central Nepal records include: regularly recorded from Karra Khola, Hetauda, Makwanpur District, 2013-15 (BES); also along the Rapti River, Hetauda, e.g. Tika Giri, Sterling 1999); Attharabigha (L7) section of Bagmati and Bakaiya River valleys, Makwanpur District (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013) and along the Bagmati River between Rautahat and Sarlahi Districts in April 2015 (Hari Basnet and Sabita Gurung).

In the east records include from: the Kamala River, Siraha District in April 2013 (Dheeraj Chaudhary, Hem Bahadur Katuwal, Anish Timsina and Kanchan Parajuli); between Archalegaun and Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in June 2009 (Cox 2009); Jabdi, near Kosi Bird Observatory, Sunsari District (KBS); by the Mai Khola, Jhapa District in March 2015 (Dheeraj Chaudhary) and by Kankai River, Jhapa District in April 2015 (KBS).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 350 m (- 1350 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

Small Pratincole is declining at most, if not all, of its breeding habitat outside protected areas or at the boundaries of protected areas (Hem Sagar Baral). Coverage of the midwinter waterbird counts has increased since 2006 and so figures from different years are not comparable (Hem Sagar Baral). Little Pratincole population in Nepal was counted as 660, 1,303, 1,520, 1,988, 1,417, 1,666 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

According to Wetlands International the global 1% population for Small Pratincole now is 710 birds. This figure is met in Koshi, Chitwan and Karnali in most years (Hem Sagar Baral).

Pre-1990, the maximum of 2000 birds was recorded from Meghauri in January 1983 (Halliday 1982). Post-1990, the maximum of 3000+ birds was recorded in the Koshi area in April 2015 (Suchit Basnet).

In Koshi Area, 705 in March 1993 (Danielsen and Falk 1993), more than 700 in March 1994 (Baral 1994), 1000 in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997), 800 in April 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 2000 in March 2001 (Baral 2001), 1150 in February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002), 500 in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), 300 in February 2007 (Baral 2007), 300 in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), 350 in February 2009 (Baral 2009), 700 in March 2010 (Baral 2010), 350 in February 2011 (Baral 2011b), 600 in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013) and 3000+ birds in the Koshi area in April 2015 (Suchit Basnet).

In Chitwan National Park, 450 birds were recorded in November 1995 (Dhakal 1996), The midwinter waterbird count recorded 1,515 in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 60 in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 754 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012), 3,467 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013), 2,336 in February 2013, 1,527 in January 2014 and 1,010 in January 2015 (Bed Bahadur Khadka, DB Chaudhary and Tiger Tops team).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 300 birds were recorded in February 2011 mainly along the Mahakali River (Chaudhary 2011) and regular sightings of 200-300 birds, 2013-15 (Dheeraj Chaudhary).

In Bardia National Park, approximately 2000 in January 1992 (Halliday 1992), 2000 in February 2003 (Baral 2003), over 1000 in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005) and 1000 in 2015 (Ram Shahi).

In Lumbini, 150 birds were recorded in February 2011 (Acharya 2011) and 50-60 regularly, 2006-14 (Dinesh Giri).

More than 100 birds were recorded in Hetauda in February 1999 (Sterling 1999) and 50 in April 2015 (Tika Giri).

100-150 birds at Bandipur, Kamala River, Siraha District in April 2013 (Dheeraj Chaudhary, Anish Timilsina)

50-60 birds by the Mai Khola, Jhapa District in March 2015 (Dheeraj Chaudhary)

A flock of 200 by the Kankai River, Jhapa District in April 2015 (KBS).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 3000; maximum population: 5000

Habitat and Ecology

Small Pratincole occurs on rivers with sandbars or stony beds (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is gregarious throughout the year; usually crepuscular, and also active in overcast conditions; rests during the hot part of the day, squatting on the ground, hawks insects later in the evening (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on insects, chiefly flying beetles, bugs, and termites (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, collection and quarrying of gravel and sand from riverbeds, along with illegal hunting and disturbance on nesting sites (fishing etc.), and probably agrochemicals are the main threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Small Pratincole. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Little Pratincole has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a locally common breeding resident and a partial migrant, mainly occurring in summer. There is no clear trend in the national annual midwinter waterbird counts nor in counts from the two main localities – Koshi area and Chitwan National Park as coverage has increased since 2006 and so the figures are not comparable. Three Nepal sites support more than 1% of the global population in most years (Karnali River, Chitwan and Koshi). Small Pratincole is declining at most, if not all, of its breeding habitat outside protected areas or at the boundaries of protected areas. Habitat loss and degradation including collection and quarrying of gravel and sand from riverbeds, along with illegal hunting and disturbance on nesting sites and probably agrochemicals are the main threats to the species. Some important populations of the species lie outside or on the border of the protected areas making the species highly susceptible towards disturbance and hunting especially during the breeding season.

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Glareola maldivarum Forster, 1795 NT

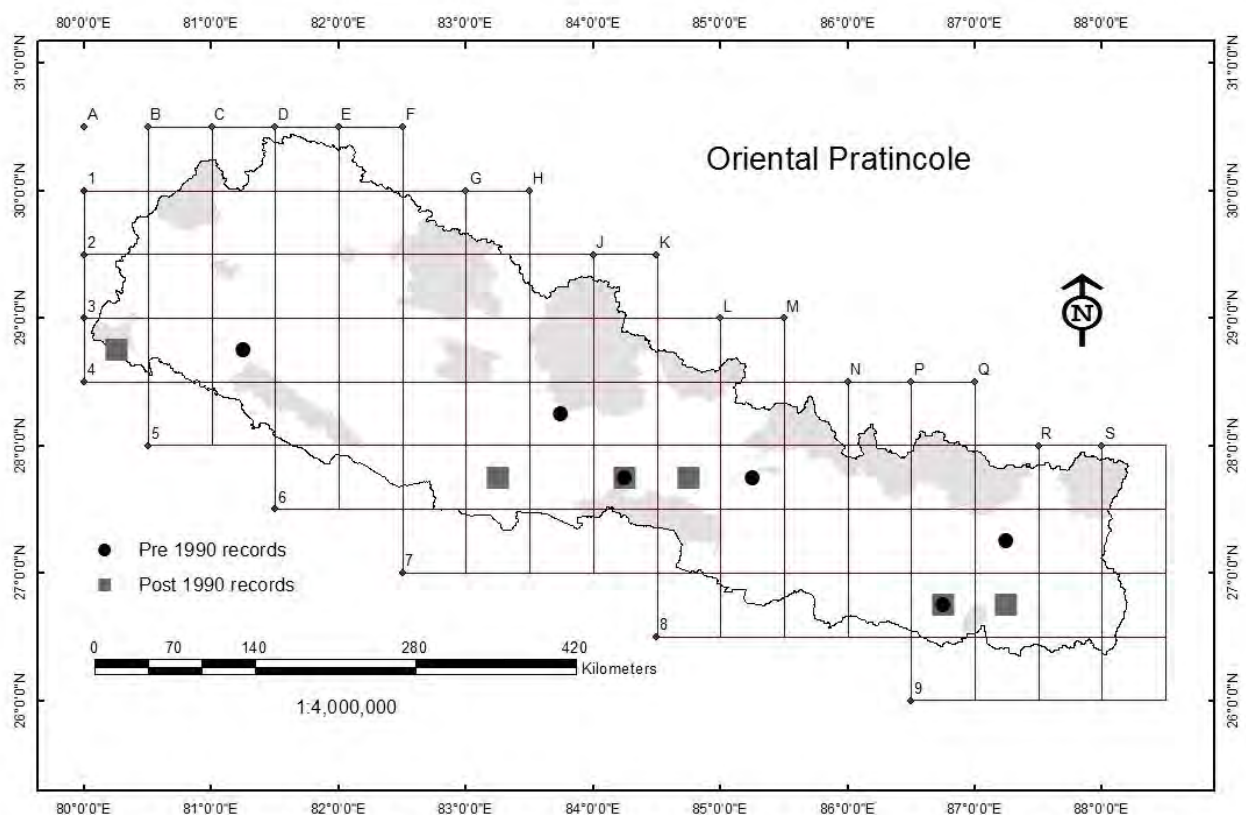
Common Name

Oriental Pratincole (English),
Thulo Paanigauthali (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Glareolidae



Distribution



Oriental Pratincole is a rare passage migrant.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the Kathmandu Valley [L6] in the 19th century (Hodgson 1829, 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as scarce; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a scarce passage migrant.

Post-1990, Oriental Pratincole has less than 5 records as a summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), vagrant to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and rare summer visitor to Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005). The only other locality is Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District where one was seen in May 2015 (Som GC); see Population section.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Cocos (Keeling) Islands (to Australia), Cyprus, Egypt, Guam (to USA), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia,

Federated States of, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1310 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Oriental Pratincole.

The species was described as a common local migrant in the Koshi area in 1976 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976), but there are only four other pre-1990 records from the area, mainly singles in April and May (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The other pre-1990 records are 25 seen at Badhaiya Tal (C5), Bardia District, the maximum recorded in Nepal, in June 1988 (Suwal and Shrestha 1988); two records from the Kathmandu Valley in September 1973 (Fleming *et al.* 1976) and October 1983 (Nepali 1986); also recorded at Phewa Tal, Kaski District in April 1977 (Mischler 1977); Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha District in May 1981 (Krabbe 1981), and Chitwan National Park (undated) (Gregory-Smith and Batson (1976).

There is a smaller number of records from fewer localities post-1990. In the Koshi area one was seen in October 1993 (Choudhary 1994), two in April 1997 (Baral 1997), one in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), one in December 2007 (Giri 2007) and one in May 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Singhpur, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve two birds were recorded in May 1996 (Baral 1996).

At Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District one was photographed in May 2015 (Som GC).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Oriental Pratincole inhabits dried out bare flats by larger rivers and marshes, also low-lying pastures and fields, often near water (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Gregarious throughout the year; usually crepuscular, and also active in overcast conditions; rests during the hot part of the day, squatting on the ground (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Feeds on insects, chiefly flying moths, beetles, bugs, and winged termites (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance threaten this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Oriental Pratincole. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Oriental Pratincole has been assessed as Near-threatened. The species is a rare passage migrant. Since 1990 it has been recorded from two protected areas and an unprotected site, but mainly from the Koshi area. The species' range has contracted and the number of records has reduced, indicating a declining population. Habitat loss and degradation, hunting and disturbance threaten this species.

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<http://archive.org/details/guidetobirdsofne85insk>

Limosa limosa Linnaeus, 1758 NT

Subspecies: *Limosa limosa limosa*

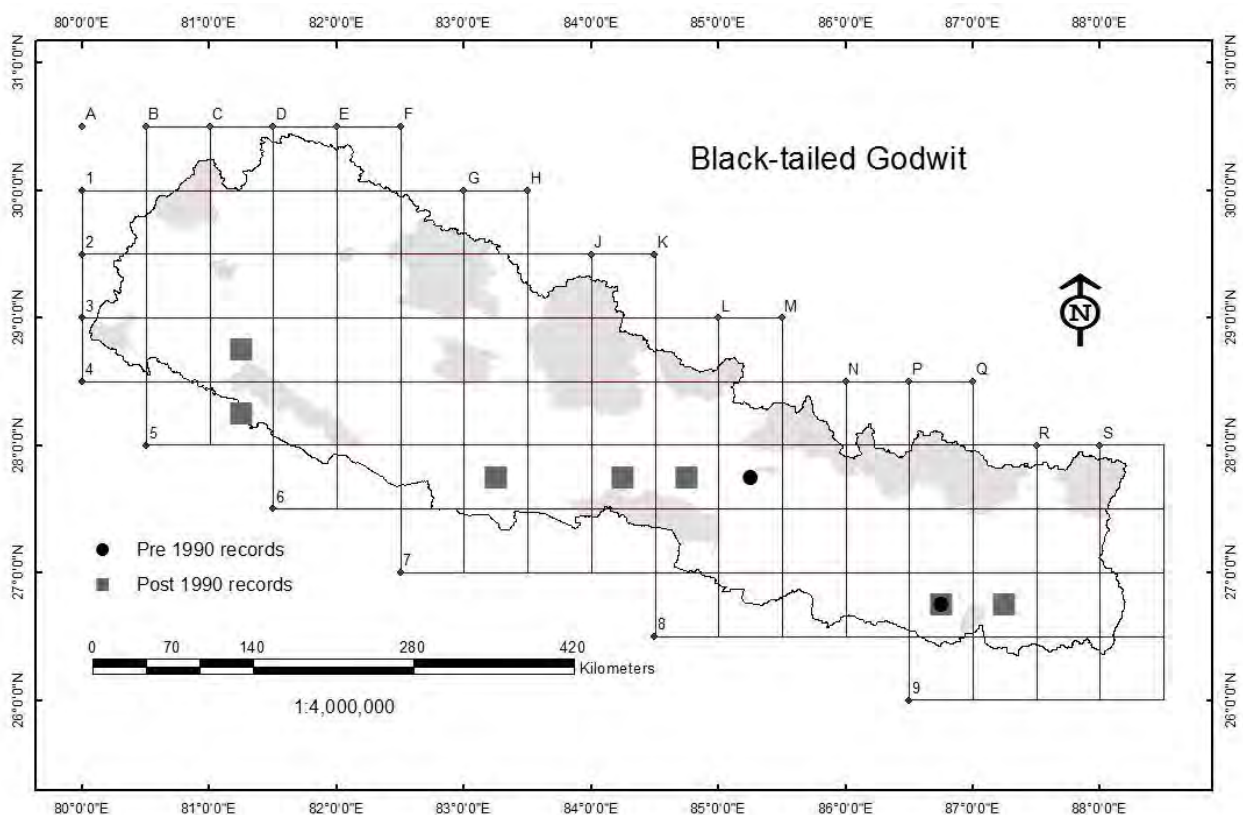
Common Name

Black-tailed Godwit (English),
Malgijha (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Black-tailed Godwit is a rare and local passage migrant below 1525 m.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species was a scarce migrant to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species was a scarce and local passage migrant. It was recorded in the Kathmandu Valley in the 19th century and described as not common there (Hodgson 1944, Scully 1879). There were three later records from the Valley but none since 1989 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It was irregularly recorded since 1979 in April and early May at Kosi Barrage. The maximum of 55 was noted in April 1981 (Krabbe 1981) and 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: one seen by the Karnali River, Bardia National Park in 1995 or 1996 (Suchit Basnet). It is a rare passage migrant in Chitwan National Park (see Population section). Baral (2005) listed it as a frequent passage migrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) but it is

now rare (see Population section). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone one was seen at Bhagmara by the Budi Rapti River in November 2010 (BES).

Outside the protected areas' system the species has been reported from Badhaiya Lake, Bardia District (C5) (Bhaju *et al.* 2007); one at Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District in March 2015 (Surendra Mahato); in several localities of Chitwan District (J6) (Subedi 2003; Chaudhary 2007) and at Koshi Barrage (P8) Sunsari District (Baral 2005).

Globally the species has been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Comoros, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to USA), Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1525 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

In Koshi Area, 55 birds were noted in April 1981 (Krabbe 1991) and in April 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983). Since 1990 known records are: nine in April 1993 (Flack 1994), and single birds in April 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); in April 2001 near Koshi Barrage (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and in March 2011 in Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Anish Timsina).

In Chitwan, single birds were seen by the Rapti River in 1997 (Dinish Giri and Suchit Basnet) and in the park in October 2002 (Subedi 2003), four birds were noted in the park in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007) and one by Rapti River, Kasara in December 2010 (Bed Bahadur Khadka).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Black-tailed Godwit occurs in shallow water and mud banks of rivers and lakes. It is gregarious, often seen in large flocks (Ali and Ripley 1987). It feeds mainly by walking slowly and probing in open soft mud or in shallows (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) and takes molluscs, crustaceans, worms and seeds of grass and marsh plants (Ali and Ripley 1987). Flocks often wade into shallow water up to the belly feeding with head and neck completely submerged (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

There are no conservation measures specifically carried out for this species. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-tailed Godwit has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a rare and local passage migrant. Since 1990 it has declined. In the Koshi area which is its main site, it was an irregular spring passage migrant since 1979, but is now rare and numbers recorded have reduced significantly. It was previously recorded in the Kathmandu Valley but there are no records since 1989. Habitat loss and degradation, hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

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Pluvialis fulva Gmelin, 1789 NT

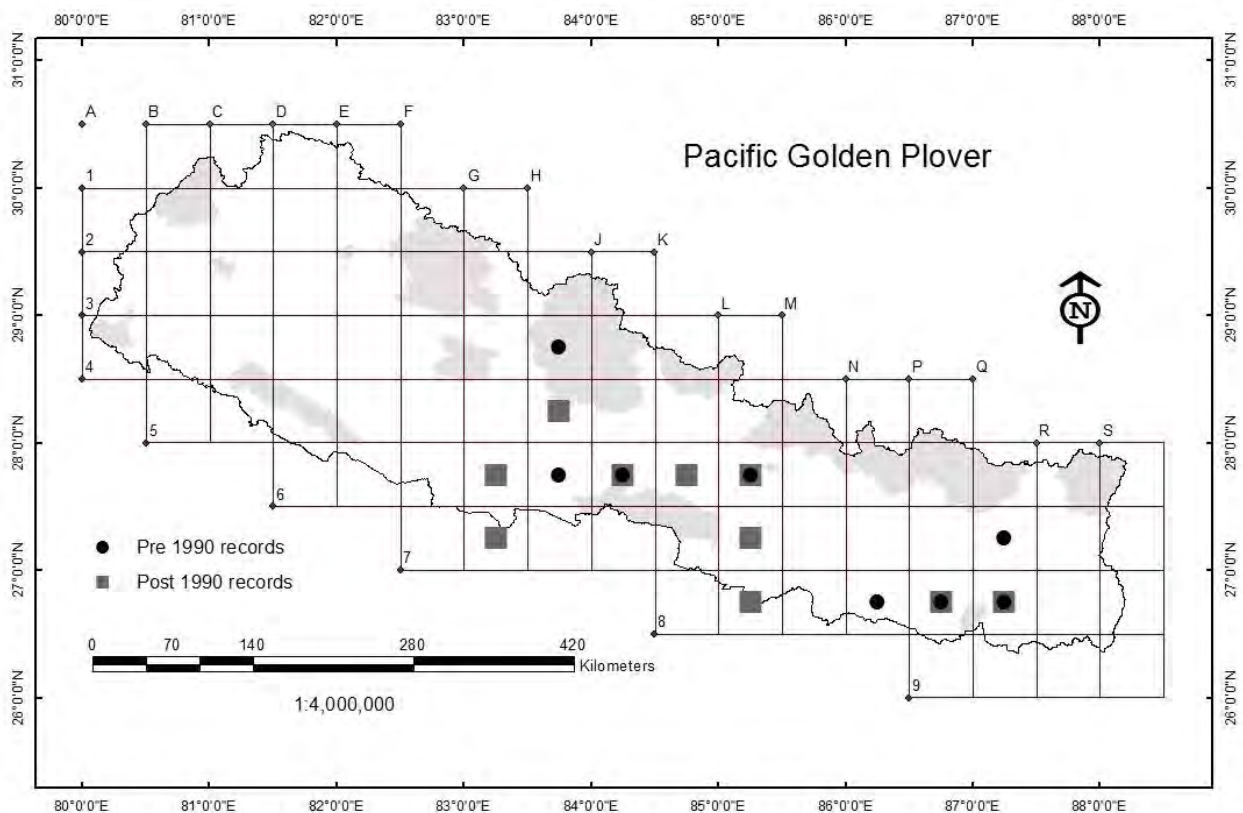
Common Name

Pacific Golden Plover (English),
Prashaant Sarsapi (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Charadriidae



Distribution



Pacific Golden Plover is mainly a passage migrant. Post 1990, it has been recorded from Lumbini, Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002) in the west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional migrant along water courses and in cutover rice field. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a common winter visitor and passage migrant to Koshi Area and scarce elsewhere.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: Inskipp and Inskipp (2003) reported the species as a vagrant in the Annapurna Conservation Area. Baral and Upadhyay (2006) listed the species with less than five winter records in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6), but it is now mainly an uncommon passage migrant in the area (RDB Workshop, October 2015). It is a frequent passage migrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005) mainly in March/April (Suchit Basnet). Chhetry (2006) considered the species a

winter visitor to Koshi Barrage (P8), buffer zone of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, but available evidence indicates that the species is chiefly a passage migrant there (RDB Workshop, October 2015). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone records include from: Bagmara Community Forest in winter 2014 and August 2015 (BES); Dibyanagar farmland in January 2015 (Hathan Chaudhary); Chitrasari in October 2014 (Ram Lal Tamang); Baagkhor in September 2014 (DB Chaudhary, and at Meghauli, Chitwan District in winter 2013-2014 (Ashik Gurung).

Pacific Golden Plover has been recorded from several localities outside the protected areas' system since 1990 (see text below and map).

Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow. Four from Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District in February 2010 (Dinesh Giri); recorded from Lumbini Farmlands IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002); Kathmandu Valley (L6) in September 1991 (Mackenzie, 1994); between Mewa Village (L8), Rautahat District and Belwa (L7), Bara District in April 2003 (Cox 2003), and a frequent winter visitor to Chimdi Lake, Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Algeria, American Samoa, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda (to UK), Brunei, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Chile, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Cocos (Keeling) Islands (to Australia), Comoros, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guam (to USA), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mayotte (to France), Mexico, Micronesia, Federated States of, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, Niue (to New Zealand), North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tokelau (to New Zealand), Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States Minor Outlying Islands (to USA), USA, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Wallis and Futuna Islands (to France), Yemen, Zambia (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2950 m; lower limit: 75m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Pacific Golden Plover.

In April 1982, a maximum of 1000 birds were estimated in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Fairbank 1982, Mills *et al.* 1982).

In the Koshi area, 157 birds were recorded in April 1993 (Flack 1993), 40 in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), 40 in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), 102 in April 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 12 in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), 35 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), 30 in February 2005 (van der Dol 2005), more than 100 in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), 12 in May 2008 (Giri 2008) and 27 in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013).

In Chitwan National Park, 10 birds were recorded in May 1986 (Bauer 1986); five in January 1992 (Wartmann and Schönjahn 1992); 17 in December 2010 (Baral 2011); 39 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013); 13 from the Rapti River in January 2013 (BES); 20 from same area in January 2014 (Hathan Chaudhary). In February 1997, 60 birds were noted between Chitwan and Koshi (Choudhary 1997). Dibyanagar farmland, Chitwan National Park buffer zone: 37 birds in February 2012 (Bed Bahadur Khadka) and 50 in January 2015 (Hathan Chaudhary).

In April 2003, 26 birds were noted between Mewa Village (L8), Rautahat District and Belwa (L7), Bara District (Cox 2003).

At Chimdi Lake, eight birds were recorded in December 2003, 12 in January 2004, 25 in February 2005 (Surana *et al.* 2007) and 20-25 in February 2015 (Suchit Basnet and Anish Timsina).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Pacific Golden Plover is found on ploughed fields and muddy riverbanks (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is gregarious, keeps in flocks, which scatter when feeding; sometimes several hundred birds together on spring and autumn passage (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is excessively wary and difficult to approach and if disturbed, rise almost simultaneously in a compact flock, twisting, turning and banking in the air in unison (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is omnivorous feeding mainly on grasshoppers, beetles and other insects, tiny molluscs, crustaceans, worms and possibly berries and seeds of marsh plants on its breeding ground (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals threaten this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Pacific Golden Plover. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Chitwan National Park, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pacific Golden Plover has been assessed as Near-threatened, mainly based on population decline and its change of status from a winter visitor to mainly a passage migrant. The species was formerly common at Koshi, its main Nepal locality, but has sharply declined. However, the species is being recorded more frequently in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone, probably because of better coverage. It is possible that the species may have declined because many individuals no longer reach Nepal nowadays. Disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals threaten this species.

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Sterna hirundo Linnaeus, 1758 NT

Subspecies: *Sterna hirundo longipennis*

Common Name

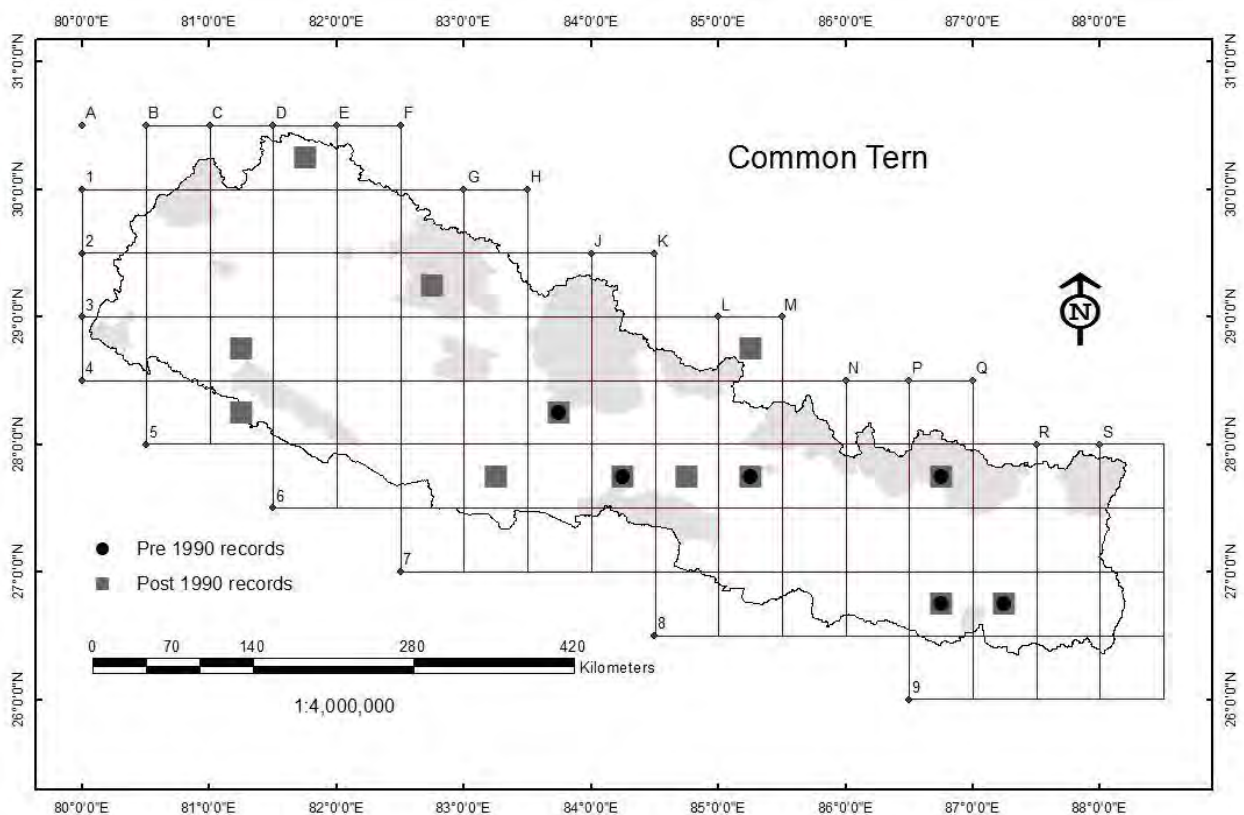
Common Tern (English),
Bayu Phyalphyale (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae



Distribution



Common Tern is a rare passage migrant and rare and very local breeder in the Trans-Himalayan zone, upper Humla District in the far northwest. Post-1990, it has been recorded from Bardia National Park (Lama 1991) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 1953 by the Manohara River (L6), Kathmandu (Proud 1949-1954, Proud 1955).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional winter visitor and passage migrant along rivers in Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species in Kathmandu Valley, chiefly from the Bagmati and Manora Rivers between August and October. The species was uncommon at Koshi, there were a few records from Phewa Tal, Kaski District (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and it was a rare passage migrant in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983). The bird was seen as high as 4000 m at Tengboche [P6] in May 1975 (Muston 1975).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: recorded in Bardia National Park (C4, C5)

(Lama 1991); Phoksundo Lake, Shey-Phoksundo National Park in September 2015 (Rajendra Gurung). It is listed as an uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but is now a rare passage migrant (RDB workshop, October 2015), and a rare, but regular passage migrant in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005) (see Population section).

Since 1990, outside the protected areas' system, records include: singles at Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District in mid February or March 2006 (Dinesh Giri); Phewa Tal, Kaski District in June 2013 (Manshanta Ghimire, Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar); two at Amaltari, Narayani river (DB Chaudhary and Shambhu Mahato); recorded at Taudaha (L6), Kathmandu Valley in August 2005 (van Riessen 2007) and Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001). Ghimirey and Acharya (2013) recorded two groups of three birds, including one juvenile, feeding in small lakes and on the river between Simikot and Chyakpalung (D1), Humla District in June 2013. This is the first breeding record for Nepal. Up to four pairs were also seen there from June to August in 2014 and in 2015 (Naresh Kusi and Geraldine Werhahn).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Anguilla (to UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba (to Netherlands), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bhutan, Bolivia, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands (to UK), Côte d'Ivoire, Chile, China (mainland), Cocos (Keeling) Islands (to Australia), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Fiji, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Réunion (to France), Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Martin (to France), St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA), Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4900 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out specifically for Common Tern.

In Koshi Area, 30 birds were counted in two flocks in April 1981 (Krabbe 1981); this is the maximum number recorded in Nepal. Other counts made are: five birds in April 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983), 10 in March 1989 (Bose *et al.* 1989), three in April 1993 (Flack 1993), three in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001); three to four seen every year in February and March (Anish Timsina), and ten in February 2015 (Hathan Chaudhary).

In Humla, four pairs were seen between June to August in 2014 and 2015 (Naresh Kusi and Geraldine Werhahn).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Tern inhabits large inland lakes, jheels and rivers (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Forages singly or in a small scattered groups (Ali and Ripley 1987). Feeds mainly by plunge-diving from the air (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds chiefly on small fish and crustaceans; also aquatic insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved in upper Humla, the first Nepal breeding record. Two groups of three birds, including one juvenile, fed in small lakes and on the river between Simikot and Chyakpalung (D1), Humla District in June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, over-fishing resulting in food shortage, illegal hunting and are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Common Tern. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Chitwan and Shey Phoksundo National Parks, and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Tern is assessed as Near-threatened. It is a rare passage migrant and is a rare and very local breeder in the Trans-Himalayan zone in the far north-west. With the exception of these breeding birds, the species has declined as a passage migrant and its range has contracted post-1990 compared to pre 1990. Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, over-fishing resulting in food shortage, illegal hunting and are threats to this species. Further study should be made of the recently discovered breeding population.

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Vanellus duvaucelii (Lesson, 1826) NT

Common Name

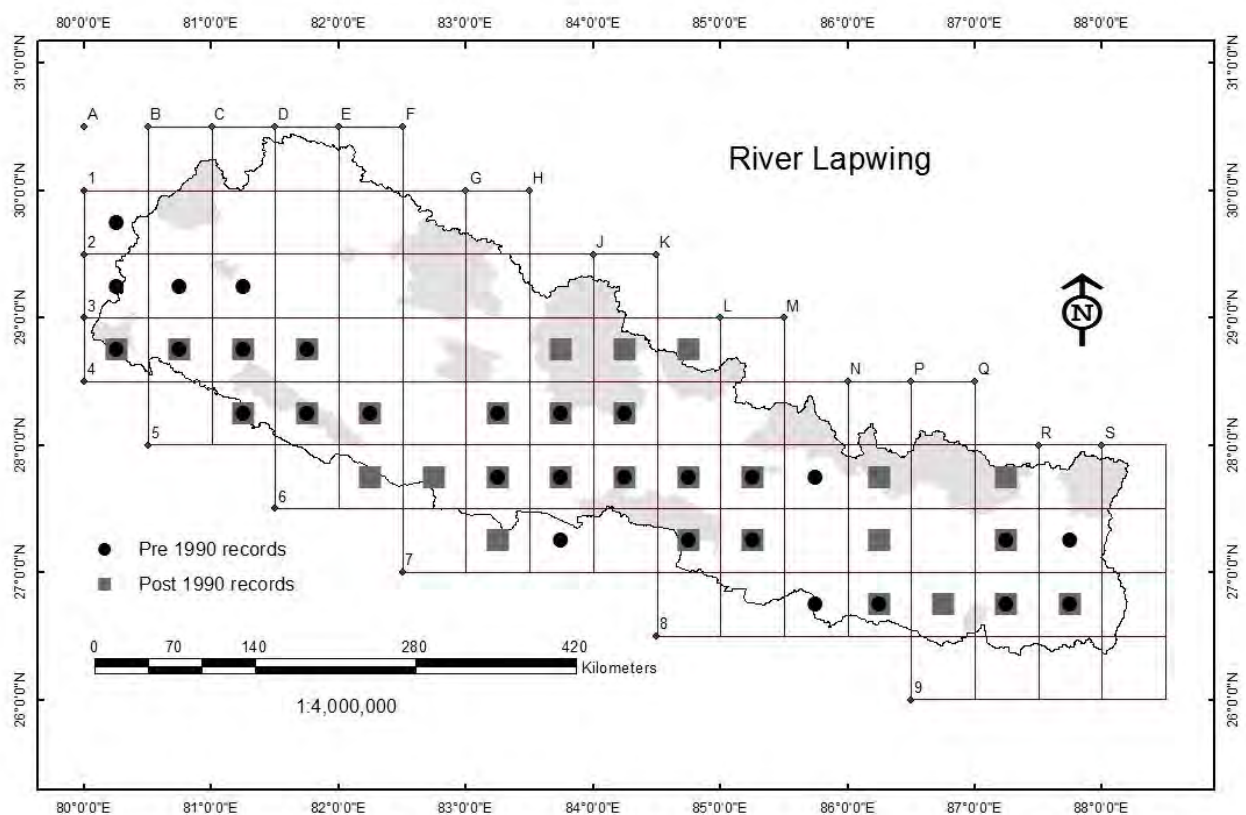
River Lapwing (English),
Khole Hutityaun (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Charadriidae



Distribution



River Lapwing is a fairly common and widespread resident of lowland Nepal and inner Himalayan foothills. Post-1990, it has been recorded from the Mahakali River, Kanchanpur District in the far west (Dheeraj Chaudhary) to the Kankai River (KBS) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a common resident and mapped its distribution widely from the far west to the far east lowlands.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a fairly common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012a); a rare resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4) (Thakuri 2013); a resident in Parsa

Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a common breeding resident in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a) and a frequent resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a). The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000), Bees Hazari Lake (Baral 1996), Chitwan District, Gundre Khola in November 2007 (Baral 2007a), Nawalparasi District, buffer zones of Chitwan National Park. It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone at Chisapani (C4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and the Khata Corridor (C5) (Chaudhari 2007), Bardia District.

River Lapwing has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990, in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range (see map and text). Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include: regularly by Mahakali River, Kanchanpur District, 2013-15 (Dheeraj Chaudhary); from Mahendranagar (A4), Kanchanpur District (Cook 1999); a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); by Kanda River and Laukahabhoukaha Lake at Kailali District in December 2014 (DR Chaudhary); Rawtkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); Badaiya Lake in June 2015, Geruwa River in March 2015, Bhagar Lake, Khairapur in March 2015, Bardia District (BNCC); the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Rapti River, Dang District in June 2015 (Chiranjeevi Khanal); between Sidure (G6), Rupakot (G6) and Buachidi (G5), Gulmi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); Banganga River, Kapilvastu (G6) (Dinesh Giri, Seejan Gyawali); Dano and Tinau Rivers, Lumbini, Rupandehi District in April 2015 (Seejan Gyawali), Lumbini (G7); 2011-15 (Baral 2011a, Hem Subedi, Rajendra Gurung, Badri Chaudhary); Saranghat, Tanahu District (Hari Basnet) in January 2015; by Madi River, and Kali Gandaki, Tanahu District in January 2015 (SMCRF); Pokhara Valley (H5), Kaski District (Baral 2007a, Hari KC); by Mardi Khola, Kaski District in November 2012 (Hari KC); Phushre Khola in April 2013, in June 2014 and 2015 (Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar, Manshanta Ghimire); by Bijayapur River, Khaste Lake, Lekhnath and by Modi River in January 2013 (TMPL, Hari KC, Hari Basnet); Rupa Lake in January 2015 (Hari Basnet); Rampur Valley (H6), Palpa District (Gautam 2003); Simaltal (J6), Tanahun District in November 1992 (Baral 1993a).

In central Nepal records include: Bharatpur (J6), Chitwan District in February 2005 (Baral 2005b); resident in Kair Khola and Sunti Khola near Shaktikhor, Chitwan District (Hem Subedi, Manoj Ghimire); recorded from Belkhu (K6) in February 2002 (Arlow 2002), Malekhu (K6) in January 1991 (Baral 1993b), Dhading District; recorded in Pharping (L6), in January 1993 (Fouarge 1993), Bagmati River (L6) in January 2001 (Hofland 2001), Kathmandu District; by Bagmati River and at Bajrabarahi at Kathmandu in 2014 (Friends of Bird, BCN, Rishi Baral, Hemu Katuwal); along Bagmati River corridor (L7) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009); Hetauda (L7) in February 2002 (Arlow 2002), Basantgaun (L7) in November 1993 (Eadson 1993), Makwanpur District; Phapabari, Makwanpur District in April 2015 (Hari Basnet); Dudhaura Khola, Bara in 2014 (Kapil Pokhrel).

In the east records include: from Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); Seleghat, Tamakoshi River (N7), Ramechhap District (Phuyal 2012); Kamala River (N8), Dhanusha and Siraha Districts in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012b); by Kamala river, Siraha District (Dheeraj Chaudhari and Anish Timilsina) in April 2013; Bhagalpur forest (P8), Udayapur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); Sankhuwa Khola (Q7), Bhojpur District in November 1994 (Baral 1995); Chewabesi to Bungling (Q7) and Tumlingtar (Q7) in November-December 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995) and other localities of Sankhuwasabha District (Q7) in May-June 2009 (Cox 2009); resident in Chatara, Sunsari District (Badri Chaudhary), Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); between Biring Khola and Prajapate (R8) in November 1992 (Cox 1992) and Sunishare (R8), between December 1989 and June 1990 (Buckton and Morris 1990), Jhapa District; lower Mai Valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008) and by Kankai River in April 2014 and two in April 2015 (KBS).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (- 1380 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal River

Lapwing population counts were 70, 79, 88, 84, 75, 162 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In the Koshi area, nine birds were recorded in November 1993 (Baral 1993c), seven in October 2000 (GC 2000), six in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), six in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), 11 in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008) and five in January 2009 (Baral 2009). A comparison of pre-1990 and post 1990 figures indicates a slight decline.

In Chitwan National Park, in a survey of waterbirds in November and December 1982 a total of 85 birds was counted on the Rapti River and 63 on the Narayani River in November and December 1982 (Halliday 1982). In November 1995 Dhakal (1996) found the much smaller number of 11 birds on the Narayani River. Later Midwinter Waterbird counts on the Narayani River indicated up to 10 birds in the area (Baral 2013), supporting Dhakal's (1996) survey and indicating more than 50% decline. Recent waterbird counts on the Rapti River indicate a decline of nearly 40%.

Midwinter Waterbird counts from Sunachuri to Triveni: 21 birds in February 2013; 38 in January 2014 and 44 in January 2015 (Bed Bahadur Khadka).

Other post-1990 records from Chitwan National Park and buffer zone include: 30 birds in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), nine in January 1993 (Giri 1993), 10 in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), five in February 1995 (Baral 1995), nine in January 1996 (Baral 1995/1996), eight in December 1997 (Chaudhary 1998), 10 in December 1998 (Smith 1999), 11 in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), 13 in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001a), eight in January 2003 (Giri 2003), six in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), six in February 2007 (Baral 2007b), seven in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008) and 28 in May 2011 (Baral 2011b). The midwinter waterbird count recorded 23 in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 18 in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 26 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012) and 18 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013). Eight to 12 birds were seen by Rapti River, Kasara to Dungaghat from 2000-15 (Suchit Basnet); four by the Rapti River near Pidreni in February 2014 (Chandra S. Chaudhary) and resident in Deuta Khola, (Hem Subedi). Up to 15 birds regularly recorded in the buffer zone (BES).

In Bardia National Park, 23 birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992), 12 in a single day between January- February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), six in December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), 16 in November 1997 (Chaudhary 1998), 17 in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001b), 10 in January 2003 (Giri 2003), six in February 2005 (van der Dol 2005), 10 in December 2007 (Baral 2008), and up to 20 birds regularly seen by Karnali River while rafting, 2013-15 (Ashik Gurung).

Badhaiya Lake: 30 in June 2015 (BNCC)

In Chisapani, Bardia National Park buffer zone 16 birds were recorded in March 1992 at the gorge (Baral 1992), 20 in March 1997 (Giri 1997).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 50 birds were recorded in March 2011 (Chaudhary 2011).

By Mahakali River, Kanchanpur District, 15-20 regularly seen, 2013-2015 (Dheeraj Chaudhary).

In Ghodaghodi Lake area, 15 birds were noted in January 1992 (Baral 1992).

By Rapti River, Dang District, 6-7 birds, January 2010-2014 (Dinesh Giri).

By Banganga River, Kapilvastu District, maximum of 10 birds, 2006-2014 (Dinesh Giri).

In Pokhara valley up to 10 birds recently recorded in Pokhara valley (Tek Bahadur Gharti Magar, Manshanta Ghimire, 2015).

By Trishuli River, Nuwakot District: six in April 2015 (Hathan Chaudhary) and five in September 2015 (Sunaina Raut).

By Rapti River, Hetauda, Makwanpur District, 10 birds were recorded in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), 15 in December 1995 (Rasmussen and Strange 1995), seven in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), five in February 1999 (Sterling 1999), five in 2000 (Chandra S Chaudhary), more than 15 in January 2001 (Hofland 2001), eight in December 2003 (Stratford 2004), four in October 2014 (Institute of Forestry, Hetauda) and six in December 2014 (Dheeraj Chaudhary).

By Kamala river, Siraha District, 10 in April 2013 (Dheeraj Chaudhari and Anish Timilsina).

In Mai Valley, eight birds were recorded at Mai Khola near Saktim in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008) and four

in March 2015 (Dheeraj Chaudhary).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

River Lapwing inhabits stony beds and sand bars of rivers (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species usually occurs singly, in pairs or in small groups (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Flight seemingly sluggish, but capable of remarkable speed when occasion demands (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species forages mainly and actively during early morning and evening and in the night (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species breeds from March–June with clutch size of normally 4 eggs, sometimes 3 eggs (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding of the species has been proved in the Kathmandu Valley (Scully 1879), Bardia National Park (Ramdin Mahato), Chitwan National Park (BES) and Pokhara valley (Tek, Bahadur Gharti Magar). It feeds on insects, worms, crustaceans - sometimes of considerable size (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, illegal hunting and disturbance, and possibly use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. Water pollution by industries in the rivers and illegal egg collection for medicine primarily in remote areas.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for River Lapwing. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, Chitwan and Makalu-Barun National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves; and Manaslu and Annapurna Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

River Lapwing has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a fairly common and widespread resident of the lowlands and inner Himalayan foothills. Since 1990 the species has been recorded from the far west to the far east. It has been recorded in several protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. Counts indicate that it has declined on the Narayani and Rapti Rivers in Chitwan National Park. Population trends elsewhere are uncertain. Habitat loss and degradation including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, illegal hunting and disturbance, water pollution from industries and possibly use of agro-chemicals; also illegal egg collection for medicinal use, primarily in remote areas, are threats to this species.

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Vanellus vanellus (Linnaeus, 1758) NT

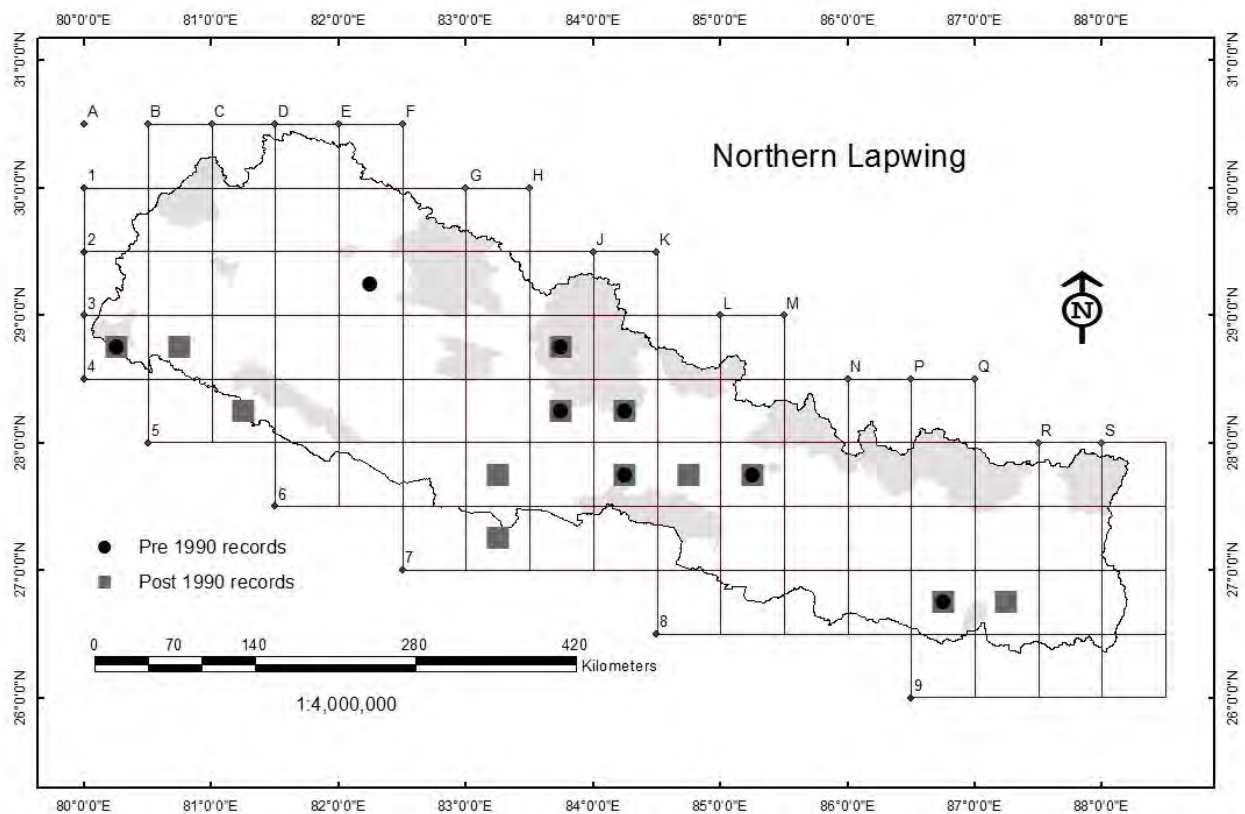
Common Name

Northern Lapwing (English),
Jure Hutityaun (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Charadriidae



Distribution



Northern Lapwing is an uncommon winter visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Chimdi Lake, Sunsari District [Q8] (Surana *et al.* 2007) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the birds was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as an occasional winter visitor to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp 1991 reported the species as an uncommon winter visitor, mainly seen at Phewa Tal [H5], the Kathmandu Valley [L6], and Kosi Barrage [P8], with a few sightings from Begnas Tal [H5] and Chitwan [J6]. One bird was seen as high as 2700 m in the upper Kali Gandaki valley [H4, H5, H6] (Fleming *et al.* 1979, Riessen 1989).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a frequent winter migrant to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), rare passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area [H4] (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), uncommon winter visitor in Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and frequent

winter visitor in the Koshi area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005).

Since 1990 outside the protected areas' system, the bird has been recorded from Ghodaghodi Lake area, Kailali District [B4] (Baral 1992), from several localities of Bardia District [C5] (Giri 2003), Gaidahawa [G6] (Baral 2011), Lumbini [G7] (Suwal *et al.* 2002) and other parts of Rupandehi District [G6] (Cox 2002), Pokhara valley, Kaski District [H5] (Naylor and GC 2005), Bees Hazari Lake, Chitwan District [J6] (Baral 1996), uncommon and local winter visitor in Kathmandu Valley [L6] (Mallalieu 2008), and a scarce winter visitor at Chimdi Lake, Sunsari District [Q8] (Surana *et al.* 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bermuda (to UK), Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Egypt, Estonia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guadeloupe (to France), Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013)).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1380 m (- 2700 m); lower limit: 100 m

Population

During the Midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal Northern Lapwing population counts were 47, 6, 3, 109, 275, 168 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, 20 birds were recorded in February 1981 (Baker 1981), 30 in March 1989 (Bose *et al.* 1989), 10 in December 1991 (Baral 1992), 71 in March 1992 (Bräunlich and Oehlschlaeger 1992), 12 in February 1993 (Flack 1994), 35 in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), 360 in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 302 in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), 400 in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 22 in February 1999 (Sterling 1999), 34 in March 2001 (Baral 2001), 21 in January 2002 (Giri and GC 2002), 30 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), 87 in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), 350 in February 2007 (Baral 2007), and 80 in February 2009 (Baral 2009) and in February 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Chitwan National Park, 50 birds were recorded in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998) and one in March 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 25 birds were recorded in November 1997 (Baral 1997).

In Ghodaghodi Lake, 18 birds were recorded in January 1992 (Baral 1992).

In Lumbini, 80 birds were recorded in February 2011 (Acharya 2011).

In Pokhara Valley, two birds were recorded in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), one bird in November 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005) and two in December 2007 (Naylor and Metcalf 2007).

In Kathmandu Valley, five birds were recorded in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), maximum single day count of 13 birds was recorded between 2004-2006 (van Riessen 2007).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Northern Lapwing is found in reedy swamps and ditches and flooded fields (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Found in pairs or small scattered flocks. Often forages in wet meadows or grazing land in proximity of cattle. Assembles in large flocks before migration or on passage (Ali and Ripley 1987). Forages mainly during the night and in early morning and evening (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Feeds on chiefly insects, molluscs and worms (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Northern Lapwing. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Annapurna Conservation Area, Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Northern Lapwing has been assessed as Near-threatened. The species is an uncommon winter visitor recorded since 1990 from the far west to the far east. Post-1990 it has been recorded in several protected areas and from a number of localities outside the protected areas' system, including several new localities, probably because of better coverage. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. As a result, it is probably declining.

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***Actitis hypoleucos* (Linnaeus, 1758) LC**

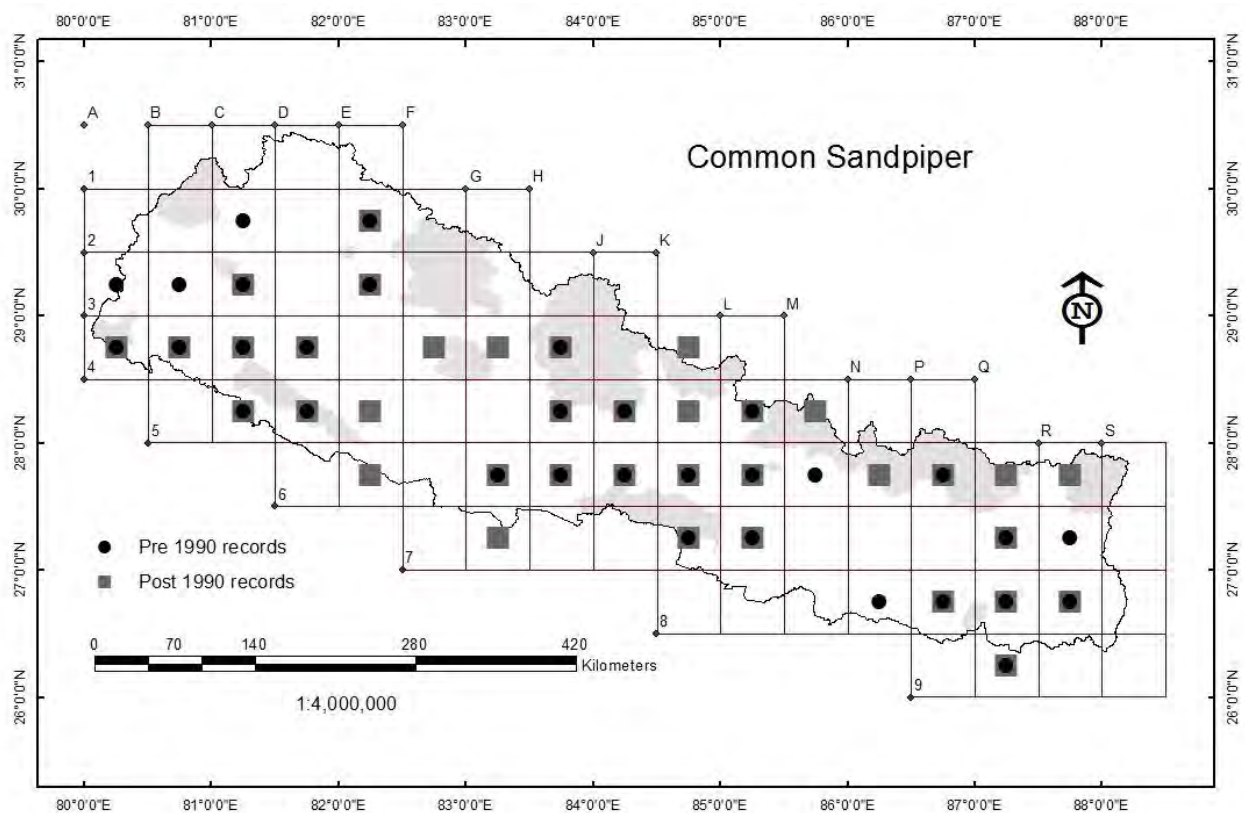
Common Name

Common Sandpiper (English),
Chanchale Sudsuiyaa (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Common Sandpiper is a common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. Post 1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Halberg 1994) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the bird was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common resident and winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a common winter visitor and mapped its distribution widely from the far west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a common winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a passage migrant to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); an occasionally recorded winter visitor and passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a fairly common passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); a fairly common passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and a passage migrant in Upper Mustang (J3) of Annapurna Conservation Area

(Acharya 2002, Suwal 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4) (Thakuri 2013); a common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a fairly common winter visitor in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001). The species has less than 5 records as a passage migrant to Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a passage migrant to Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a rare passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); a common winter visitor and passage migrant to Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999); a common winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005) and recorded at Ghunsa Khola, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Halberg 1994). The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000), Janakauli Community Forest and Bees Hazari Lake in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Sauraha at January 2012 (Dymond 2012), Chitwan District and Tharu Cultural Village Resort, Nawalparasi District in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone from Chisapani gorge (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997).

Common Sandpiper has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow:

In the west records include: from Geta, Dhangadi (B4) in March 1992 (Baral 1992) and a common winter visitor in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4), (CSUWN and BCN 2012), Kailali District; Rawakot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); between Jumla and Gothichaur (E3), in March 1992 (Priemé 1992) and between Lihie to Okharpata (E3) in March 1997 (Giri 1997), Jumla District; Salli Bazaar (E5), Salyan District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Dunai River (F4), Dolpa District in September-October 1999 (Sparks 1999); Banseri (G4), Myagdi District in October 1999 (Baral 2000); a passage migrant in Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District in August 2007 (Baral 2007); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Acharya 2011); Phewa Lake (H5) in November 2010 (Adcock and Naylor 2011), Begnas Lake (J5) in February 2013 (Musgrove 2013), Kaski District; Simaltal (J6), in November 1992 (Baral 1993) and Damauli (J6) in November 2010, (Baral 2011b), Tanahu District, and Budhigandaki River (K5), Gorkha District in February 2008 (Giri 2008).

In central Nepal records include: from Belkhu (K6), Dhading District in December 2011 (Carter and James 2011); a fairly common but local winter visitor and passage migrant in Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008), recorded along Bagmati River Corridor (L6) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009), along Lalitpur (L6) and Makwanpur (L7) District sections of Bagmati and Bakaiya River valleys (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013), and recorded in Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in February 2002 (Arlow 2002).

In the east records include: from Trijuga and Bhagalpur (P8), Udaypur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); between Tumlingtar, Chewanbesi, and Bungling (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995) and Sankhuwa River (Q7), Bhojpur District in November 1994 (Baral 1995); Dharan Forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), a fairly common winter visitor to Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007), Sunsari District; a common winter visitor in Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012), and lower Mai Valley (R8), Mai Valley Important Bird Area (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Cocos (Keeling) Islands (to Australia), Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Fiji, Finland, France, French Southern Territories, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao (China), Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte (to France), Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Réunion (to France), Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South

Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m (- 5400 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Common Sandpiper Nepal population counts were 191, 137, 186, 179, 148, 213 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, 13 birds were recorded in December 1993 (Choudhary 1994), 31 in January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994), 10 in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999), 11 in February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002), 12 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), 20 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), and 12 in October 2010 (Baral 2010).

In a waterbird survey of the Rapti and Narayani Rivers, a total of 100 birds was counted along the Rapti and 31 along the Narayani Rivers in December 1982 (Halliday 1982). Post 1990, in Chitwan National Park, 10 birds were recorded in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), 10 birds in February 1996 (Baral 1995/1996), 10 in April 1997 (Baral 1997), 18 in November 1998 (Choudhary 1998), 10 in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001a), 20 in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), 20 in April 2007 (Byskov 2007), four in February 2009 (Baral 2009). A total of 23 birds was counted along the Narayani in a December 1996 survey (Dhakal 1996). Similarly, the midwinter waterbird count recorded 63 in January 2005 (Khadka 2003), 73 in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 21 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012) and 5 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013).

In Bardia National Park, six birds were recorded in January 1992 (Baral 1992), seven in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997) and six in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001b).

In Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, 10 birds were recorded at Ghunsa Khola (Halberg 1994).

In Ghodaghodi Lake, 21 birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Sandpiper frequents marshes and banks of streams, rivers and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It usually keeps solitary or in scattered twos and threes foraging near water edges (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species first arrives in early August and leaves by the end of May (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Much rivalry for feeding territories is noticeable among first arrivals (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species characteristically rocks its rear body and bobs head constantly when feeding; runs along the water's edge and picks prey from the ground or vegetation (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on tiny molluscs, crustaceans and insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation including collection and quarrying of gravel and sand from river beds and disturbance are possible threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Common Sandpiper. Post-1990 the species has

been recorded from Khaptad, Rara, Bardia, Banke, Chitwan, Langtang, Makalu Barun and Sagarmatha National Parks; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Sandpiper has been assessed as Least Concern. It is mainly a common winter visitor and passage migrant. It has been recorded in many protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. Habitat loss and degradation, including collection and quarrying of gravel and sand from river beds, and disturbance are possible threats to the species. Its population is probably declining although not to an extent that warrants a threat category for the species.

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Burhinus oediconemus Linnaeus, 1758 LC

Subspecies: *Burhinus oediconemus indicus*

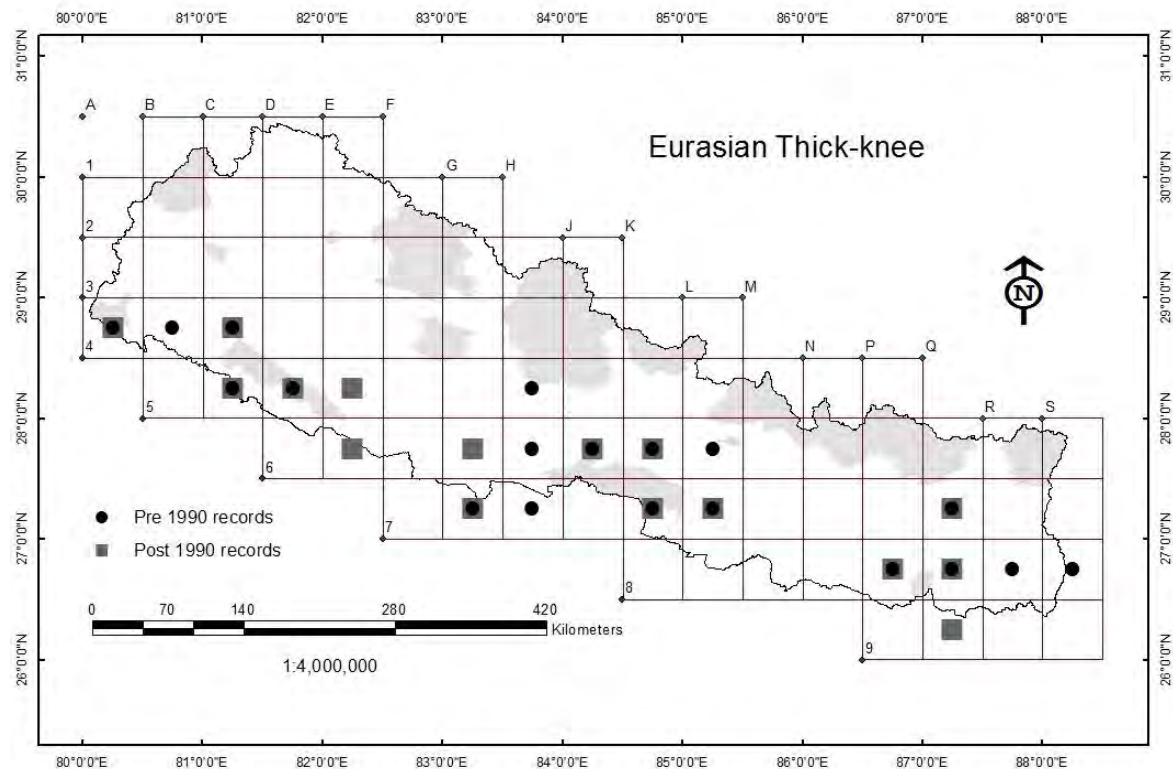
Common Name

Eurasian Thick-knee (English),
Bagarbattai (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Burhinidae



Distribution



Eurasian Thick-knee is fairly common resident of the lowlands. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far west (Baral and Inskipp 2009) to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005a) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a resident and mapped its distribution throughout the lowlands from the far west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001) and a fairly common resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a). The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and

wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Bees Hazari Lake in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Chitwan District and Gundre Khola, Nawalparasi District in November 2007 (Baral 2007), buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

Since 1990 Eurasian Thick-knee has been recorded less widely outside the protected areas' system compared to within protected areas. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow

In the west records include: from Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Sagarhawa Lake (G6) in April 1993 (Baral 1994) and Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), Kapilvastu District; Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in December 2011 (Baral 2011a).

In central Nepal records include: from Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994);

In the east records include: from Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a); Dharan Forest (Q8), (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Jabdi (Q8) in October 2011 (Baral 2011b), Sunsari District; Biratnagar (Q9) (Subba 1994) and Siwaliks (Q8) (Basnet 2003), Morang District.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 500 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Eurasian Thick-knee. The largest number recorded is 93 for Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and adjoining areas during a survey in April 2012. In the surveyed area the population was estimated to range between 93 to 186 birds (Baral *et al.* 2013).

In the Koshi area, 16 birds were recorded in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), 102 in March 1999 (Choudhary 1999), four in March 2002 (Baral 2002), four in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), three in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), two in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), four in December 2009 (Giri 2009) and six in May 2011 (Baral 2011c).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, four birds were noted in May 1997 (Baral 1997), three in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b), three in May 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and five in March 2011 (Chaudhary 2011).

In Chitwan National Park, six birds were counted in December 1982 (Halliday 1982), four in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001) and November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), four in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), 14 in November 2007 from Gundre Khola (Baral 2007), 20 in November 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), 20 in November 2009 (Chaudhary 2009).

In Bardia National Park, seven birds were recorded in January 1992 in the Karnali River (Halliday 1992), two in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), and six in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Eurasian Thick-knee frequents sandy or stony river beds and open dry fields (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is terrestrial, cursorial, largely crepuscular and nocturnal (Ali and Ripley 1987). It usually keeps in pairs, also in small groups; very wary if suspicious, runs off furtively with its head low, then squats and flattens itself on the ground, relying on camouflage for concealment (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Emerges to open clearings at dusk to feed, and is partial to roads through forest; runs in front of an approaching vehicle, taking short flights in the beam of headlights and momentarily re-alighting to be instantly disturbed again (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been confirmed at Koshi Barrage (Redman and Murphy 1979), Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Hem Sagar Baral) and Chitwan (Gurung 1983). It feeds on insects, worms, small reptiles, mice and occasionally some seeds and breeds from February to August chiefly June and July (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, illegal hunting and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Eurasian Thick-Knee. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Eurasian Thick-knee has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a frequent and locally common resident in the lowlands and recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 Eurasian Thick-knee has been recorded from several protected areas and less widely outside the protected areas' system. There are no significant changes in its distribution post-1990 compared to pre 1990. Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, illegal hunting and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. These are probable causes for the decline of its population. Currently the decline is not considered to be on a scale that warrants any higher threat categories.

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Calidris minuta (Leisler, 1812) LC

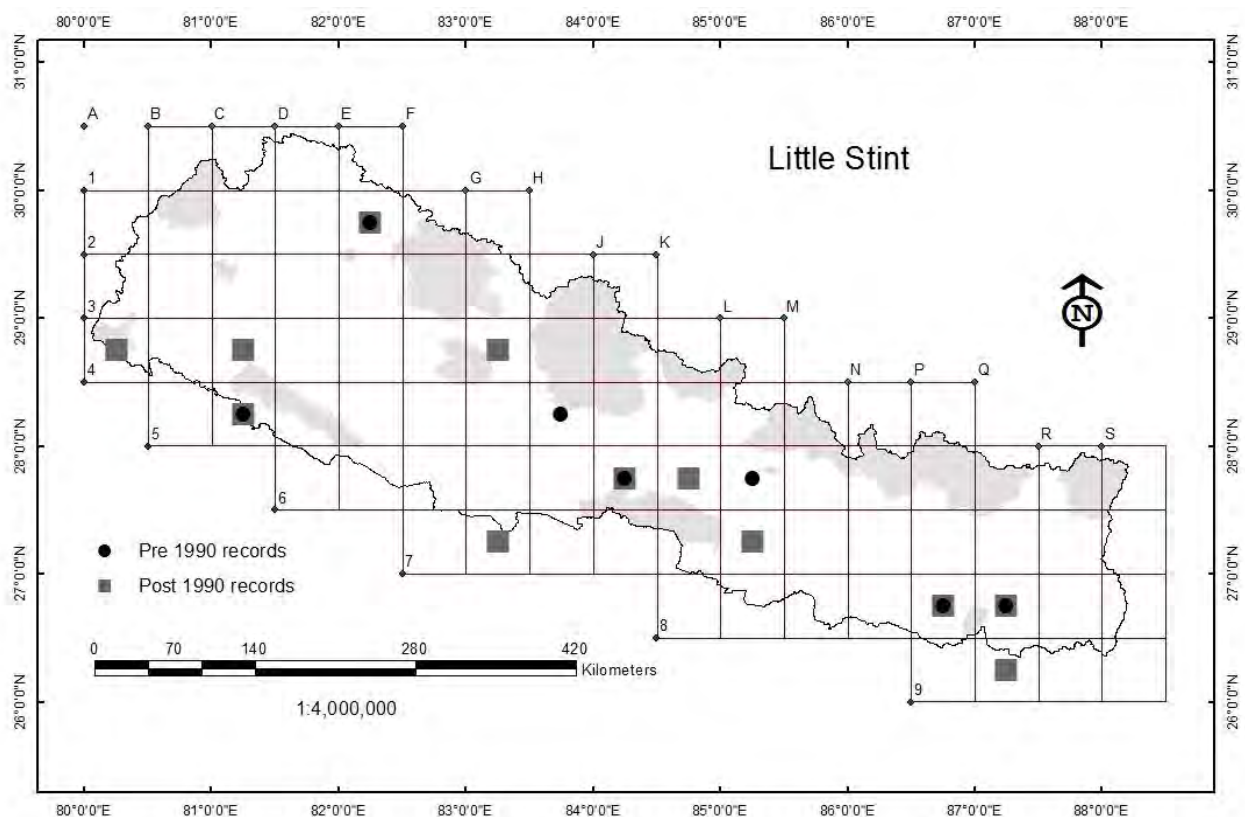
Common Name

Little Stint (English),
Kalikhutte Jalrank (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Little Stint is an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

The first Nepal record of the bird was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant mainly recorded from Chitwan, the Kathmandu Valley and Kosi Barrage, with single records from elsewhere. Pre-1990, the bird had been reported by Rara Lake (3050 m) in October 1982 (Pritchard and Brearey 1983).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: an uncommon winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), a rare winter visitor to Bardia National Park [C4] (Inskipp 2001), a frequent passage migrant to Rara National Park [E2] (Giri 2005), recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve [G4] (Panthi 2013), a frequent winter visitor to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and a fairly common winter visitor to Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005).

Since 1990 outside the protected areas' system, the species has been recorded from Lumbini, Rupandehi

District [G7] (Suwal *et al.* 2002), Narayanghat, Chitwan District [J6] (Salzman and Salzman 1992) and is a scarce winter visitor to Chimdi Lake, Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte (to France), Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013)).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3050 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the Midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal Little Stint population counts were 16, 57, 46, 18, 31, 31 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, 17 birds were recorded in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994), 10 in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), 20 in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), seven in April 1998 (Rogers 1998), eight in March 1999 (Choudhary 1999), four in February 2003 (Baral 2003), 10 in December 2007 (Giri 2002), 10 in April 2008 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2008), 10 in January 2009 (Baral 2009a), five in March 2010 (Baral 2010b) and nine in May 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Chitwan National Park, 22 birds were recorded in April 1992 (Baral 1992), 10 in November 1996 (Giri 1996). In February 1997, 10 birds were recorded from Chitwan to Koshi (Chaudhary 1997), two in April 2007 (Byskov 2007), and three recorded in February 2009 (Baral 2009b).

In Patnali forest, Dharan, six birds were observed in October 2010 (Baral 2010a).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Little Stint frequents muddy edges of lakes, streams and rivers (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Gregarious; often gathers in flocks of other waders (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The birds scatter when feeding, but never stray very far from one another (Ali and Ripley 1987). An active wader, rapidly picks at the surface and frequently darts about to catch tiny prey items (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Feeds on tiny molluscs, crustaceans, worms and insects; occasionally seeds of marsh plants (Ali and Ripley 1987). Flies in tight flocks when disturbed, twisting and turning in unison (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation and disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Little Stint. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Rara and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Little Stint has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded since 1990 from the far west to the far east. It has been recorded from several protected areas and there are a few records outside the protected areas' system. Habitat loss and degradation and disturbance are threats to Little Stint. As a result, the species is probably declining, but not to the extent that it warrants a threatened category.

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Calidris temminckii Leisler, 1812 LC

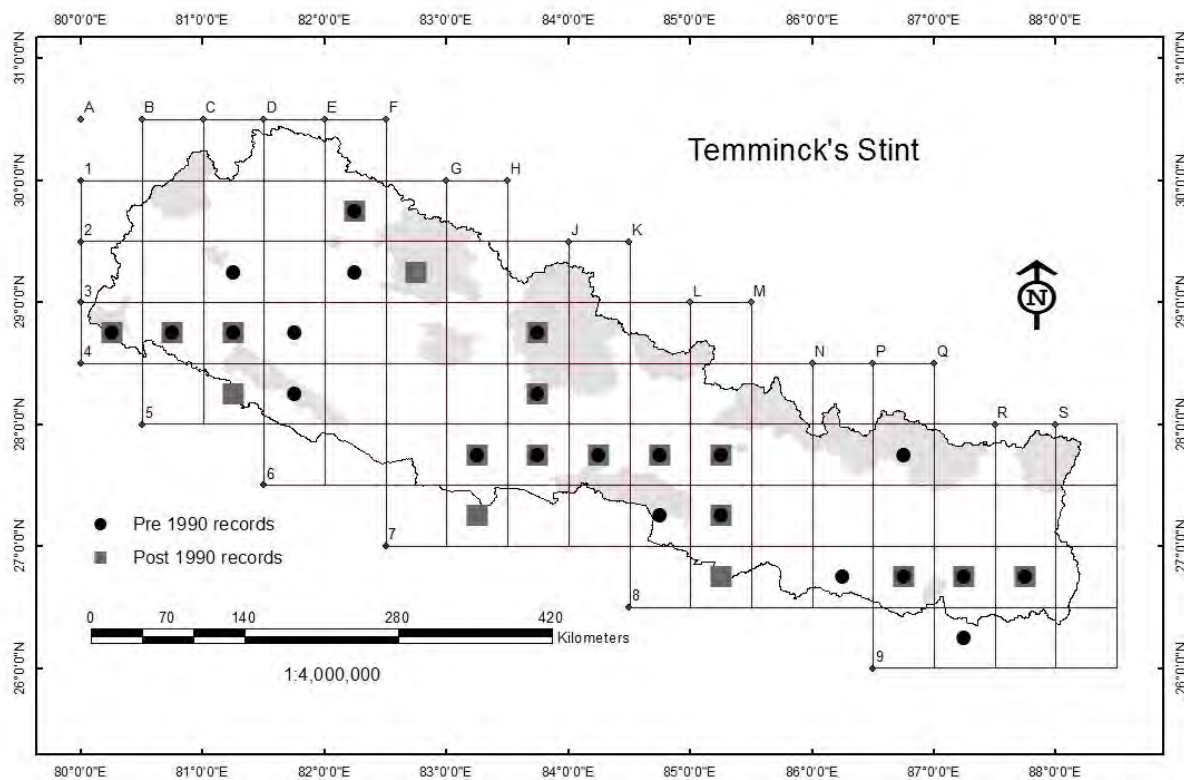
Common Name

Temminck's Stint (English),
Jalrank (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Temminck's Stint is a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant up to 1370m.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming et al. (1976) described the species as a common winter visitor to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a common winter visitor and passage migrant from the tarai up to 915 m and at about 1370 m in the Kathmandu Valley.

Pre-1990 the species had been recorded from an unusually high altitude at Tukuhe, Annapurna Conservation Area in October 1973 (Beaman 1973) and at Gokyo Lake (4710 m) in May 1984 (Tolk 1988).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: fairly common winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), frequent winter visitor and passage migrant to Bardia National Park [C4] (Inskipp 2001), frequent passage migrant to Rara National Park [E2] (Giri 2005), recorded at Dho Tarap, Shey Phoksundo National Park [F3] (Sparks 1999), a frequent migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area [H4, H5] (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), a common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), a rare passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park [P6] (Basnet 2004), and a common winter visitor to

the Koshi area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005a). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it has been recorded from Barandabhar Corridor Forest (Adhikari *et al.* 2000) and Bees Hazari Lake, Chitwan District [J6] (Giri 2005),

Since 1990 outside the protected areas' system, the species has been recorded from Geta, Kailali District [B4] (Baral 1992), Chisapani, Bardia District [C4] (Giri 1997), Sagarhawa Lake, Kapilvastu District [G6] (Baral 1994), Gaidahawa Lake [G6] (Baral 2011a), Lumbini, Rupandehi District [G7] (Baral 1994), Pokhara Valley, Kaski District [H5] (Naylor and Metcalf 2007), localities of Nawalparasi District [H6] (Baral 2011a), uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant to Kathmandu Valley [L6] (Mallalieu 2008), recorded from Hetauda, Makwanpur District [L7] (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), localities of Rautahat District [L7] (Cox 2003), Dharan Forest, Sunsari District [Q8] (Baral 2011b), and Biring Khola, Taplejung District [R7] (Cox 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guam (to USA), Guinea, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m (- 4710 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the Midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal Temminck's Stint counts were 120, 129, 172, 108, 212, 248 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In the Koshi area, 15 birds were recorded in February 1981 (Baker 1981), 24 in March 1989 (Babbington 1989), 17 in December 1991 and 30 in January 1992 (Baral 1992), 36 in October 1993 and 33 in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994), 71 in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 16 in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), 20 in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 13 in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999), 30 in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), 20 in March 2002 (Baral 2002), 28 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003a), 28 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), 18 in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), 10 in December 2007 (Giri 2007), 12 in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), 37 in January 2009 (Baral 2009a), 20 in March 2010 (Baral 2010) and 20 in February 2011 (Baral 2011b).

In Chitwan National Park, 369 birds were counted along the Rapti River in November 1982 and 100 along the Narayani River in December 1982 (Halliday 1982). Other records from the park include: 48 birds in April 1992 (Baral 1992), 17 in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), 34 in December 1995-January 1996 (Dhakal 1996), 12 February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), more than 40 in February 1999 (Sterling 1999), 12 in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001), eight in February 2002 (Arlow 2002), 16 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003b), 12 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), 13 in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), six in February 2007 (Baral 2007), 10 in February 2009 (Baral 2009b) and 576 birds were recorded during Midwinter waterbird count on 18-23 January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 10 in April 2011 (Thomas *et al.* 2011).

In Kapilvastu, 48 birds were observed from January to December 1978 (Cox 1978).

In Lumbini, 11 birds were recorded in April 1993 (Baral 1994).

In Kathmandu, 15 birds were observed in November 1985 at Manohara River (Ebels 1985), 33 in February 1991 at Bagmati River (Baral 1993), 10 in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001).

In Hetauda, 15 birds were recorded February 1981 (Baker 1981), 10 in December 1995 (Rasmussen and Strange 1995) and more than 15 birds in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997).

In November 1992, 12 birds were recorded from Biring Khola to Prajhapate (Cox 1992).

4-5 birds were recorded between Sekathum – Amjilassa near Ghunsa Khola (Halberg 1994).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Temminck's Stint frequents marshes, paddy fields, mud and sandy edges of rivers and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Usually in flocks, often keeping with other small waders (Ali and Ripley 1987). Flies swiftly in closed packs, with erratic changes in direction performed in unison (Grimmett et al. 1998). Feeds on chiefly tiny molluscs, crustaceans, worms and insects; occasionally seeds of marsh plants (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Temminck's Stint. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Rara, Chitwan and Sagarmatha National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Temminck's Stint has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant to Nepal. Since 1990 it has been recorded from a number of protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system. There is no indication of a decline or of a significant change in its distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. However, habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. As a result, the population is possibly decreasing, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Charadrius alexandrinus Linnaeus, 1758 LC
Subspecies: *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*

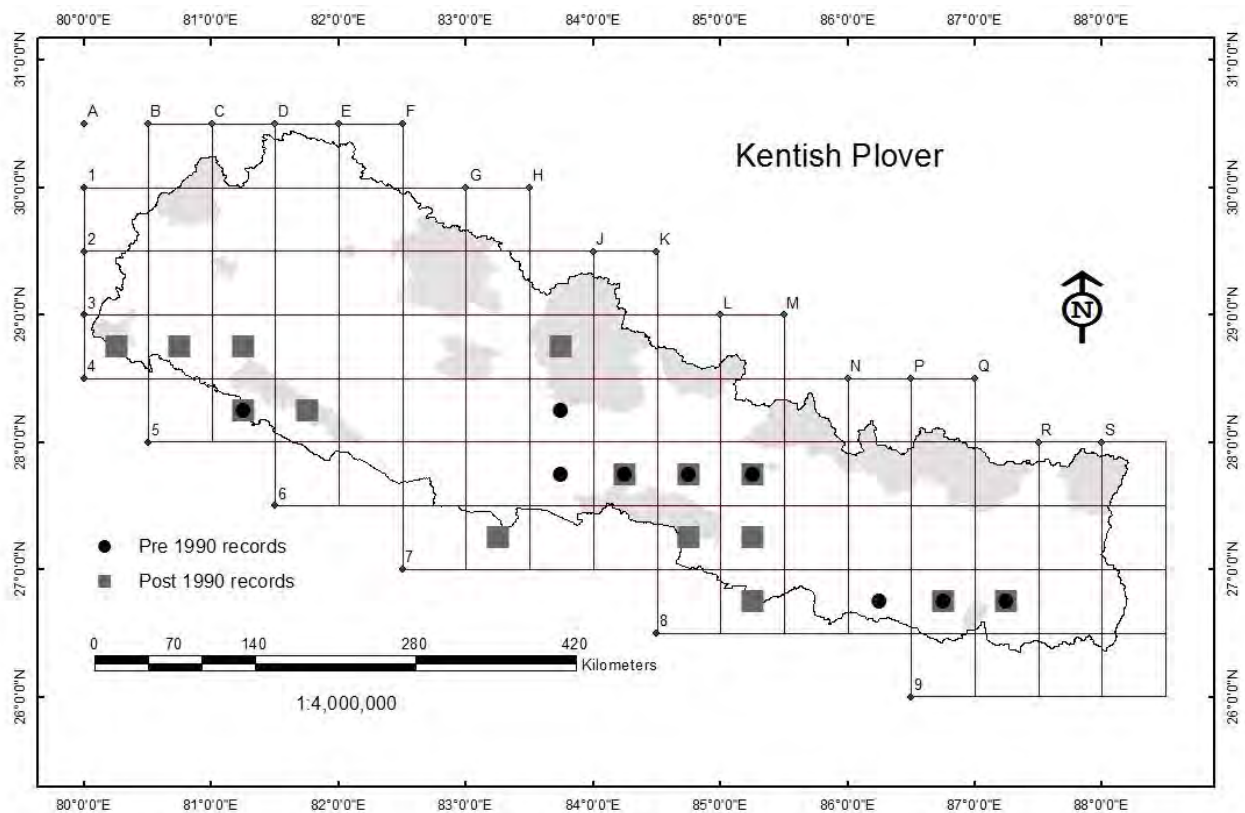
Common Name

Kentish Plover (English),
Alakchandra Raajputrikaa (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Charadriidae



Distribution



Kentish Plover is a winter visitor and passage migrant; fairly common at Koshi and mainly uncommon elsewhere. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005a) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 1953 (Rand and Fleming 1957).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species was an occasional winter visitor and passage migrant along sandy or pebbly stream beds of the terai. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species was a locally common winter visitor and passage migrant; possibly breeds and mapped its distribution from the mid-west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a rare winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); recorded from Jomosom (H4), Annapurna Conservation Area in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997); a frequent winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); winter visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd

2001) and a fairly common winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a). The species has been recorded at Janakauli Community Forest in March 2010 (Giri 2010), buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

Since 1990, Kentish Plover has been less widely recorded outside the protected areas' system compared to within protected areas. Records include: from Ghodaghodi Lake (B4), Kailali District in January 1992 (Baral 1992); Jagdishpur, Kapilvastu District in May 2015 (Som GC); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002); Bagmati River (L6), Kathmandu Valley in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997); between Sedhawa (L8), Siraha District and Lal Bakaiya (L8), Rautahat District in April 2003 (Cox 2003); Trijuga River (P8), Udaypur District and Bhagalpur (P8), Saptari District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Anguilla (to UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Aruba (to Netherlands), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands (to UK), Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Chile, China (mainland), Colombia, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Martin (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA), Western Sahara, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1380 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal Kentish Plover population counts were 101, 58, 76, 36, 70, 45 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve 20 birds were recorded in February 1993 (Fouarge 1993), 27 in January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994), 50 in a single day between January- February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), 14 in December 1996 and 26 in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), 13 in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 12 in March 1999 (Choudhary 1999), 18 in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), 12 in March 2001 (Baral 2001), 60 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), 25 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), six in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), 20 in December 2007 (Giri 2007), 21 in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), 27 in January 2009 (Baral 2009), 10 in March 2010 (Baral 2010) and 35 in December 2011 (Vicente 2011).

In Chitwan National Park, a waterbird survey on the Rapti River counted 117 birds and 11 on the Narayani River in December 1982 (Halliday 1982). 30 birds were recorded in April 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983), eight in February 1991 (Baral 1993), eight in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), and seven in February 1996 (Dhakal 1996), three in October 2002 (Subedi 2003), four in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), two in February 2007 (Baral 2007), 10 in March 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009).

In April 2003, 13 birds were recorded in Siraha-Rautahat (Cox 2003).

In May 2015, seven birds were recorded at Jagdishpur, Kapilvastu District (Som GC).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Kentish Plover frequents shingle and sandy riverbeds (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Keeps in pairs or small flocks, which scatter over a wide area when feeding and are often mixed with other waders (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species runs about with neck drawn into the shoulders, then pauses and stoops stiffly without bending the legs to pick up small invertebrates (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Feeds on small crabs, sandhoppers and other insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, and disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Kentish Plover. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia National Park, Banke National Park, Chitwan National Park, Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Parsa Wildlife Reserve and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Kentish Plover has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a winter visitor and passage migrant, fairly common at Koshi and mainly uncommon elsewhere. It has been recorded in all lowland protected areas and less widely outside the protected areas' system. The species has declined in Chitwan National Park, although no evidence could be found of a decline in population elsewhere or contraction of range post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Also, the species has also been recorded from several new localities since 1990, probably because of better coverage. Habitat loss and degradation, including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, and disturbance are threats to this species. As a result, it is probably declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Charadrius dubius Scopoli, 1786 LC

Subspecies: *Charadrius dubius jerdoni*, *curonicus*

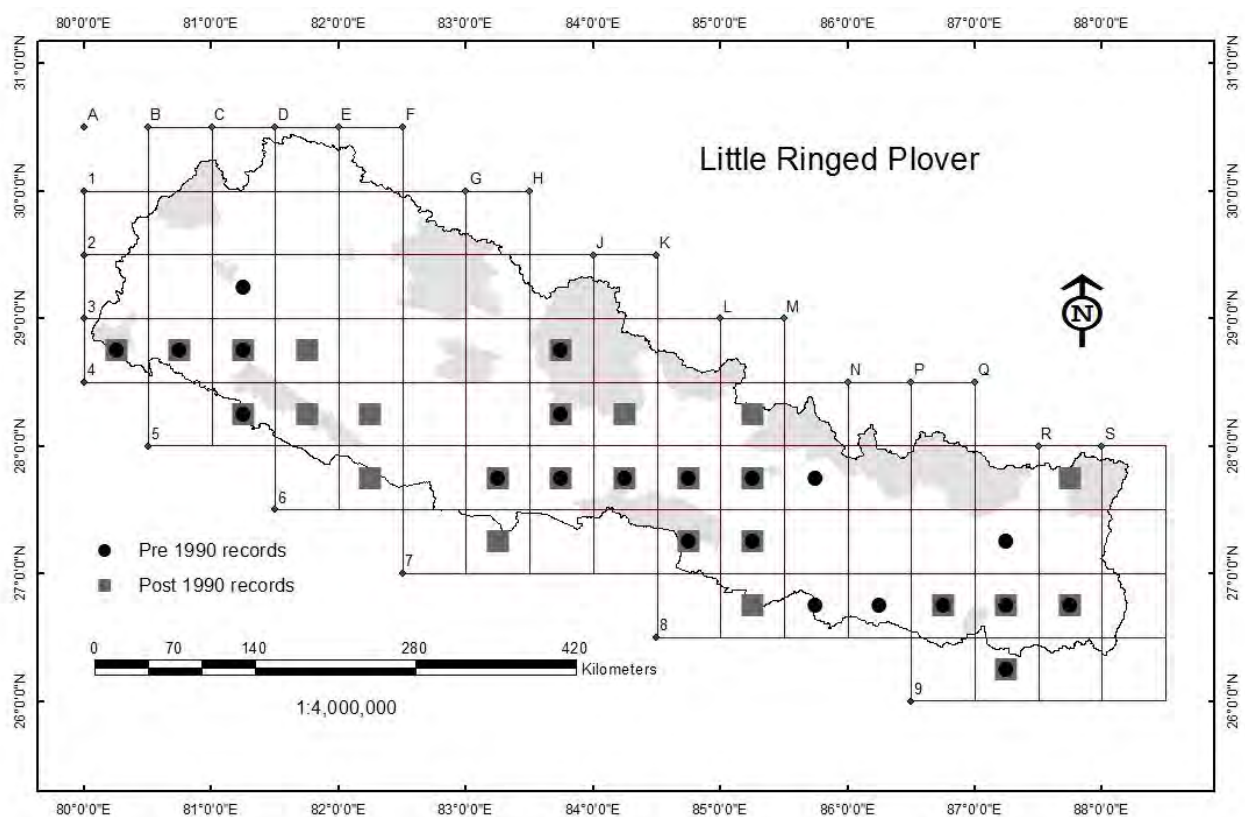
Common Name

Little Ringed Plover (English),
Laghu Raajputrikaa (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Charadriidae



Distribution



Little Ringed Plover is a common and widespread resident and winter visitor, recorded since 1990 from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Halberg 1994) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as a fairly common winter visitor to the Koshi area, and recorded all year along the rivers of the Kathmandu Valley. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a common resident up to 1500 m.

The bird was recorded from higher altitudes such as Henja (Cox *et al.* 1989) and Jomosom (Baral 1997).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a fairly common resident and winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park [C4] (Inskipp 2001), recorded in Banke National Park [D5] (Baral *et al.* 2012), a passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area [H4, H5, J5] (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), a common resident in Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006)

and Parsa Wildlife Reserve [K7] (Todd 2001), a common breeding resident in Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005) and Sekathum – Amjilassa near Ghunsa Khola [R6], Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Halberg 1994). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it has been recorded in Barandabhar Corridor Forest (Adhikari *et al.* 2000) and Bees Hazari Lake, Chitwan District [J6] (Giri 2008).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system, compared to within protected areas. Records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include: a common winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake area, Kailali District [B4] (CSUWN and BCN 2012), Badhaiya Lake, Bardia District [C4] (Bhuju *et al.* 2007), recorded from Rawkot, Dailekh District [D4] (Giri 1997), Nepalgunj, Banke District [D5] (Choudhary 1999), the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area [E5, E6], Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b), winter visitor to Jagadishpur reservoir, Kapilvastu District [G6] (Baral 2008), recorded in Lumbini, Rupandehi District [G7] (Baral 2011a), and Pokhara Valley, Kaski District [H5] (Baral 2007). In central Nepal records include: an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant in the Kathmandu Valley [L6] (Mallalieu 2008), recorded in Hetauda, Makwanpur District [L7] (Rasmussen and Strange 1995), along the North South Fast Track Road (Basnet and Thakuri 2008), and various localities in Rautahat [L7] and Siraha [L7] Districts (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Bhagalpur, Saptari District [P8] (Choudhary 1994), near Patnali, Dharan forest, Sunsari District [Q8] (Baral 2001), Biratnagar [Q9] (Subba 1994) and resident in Raja Rani Community Forest, Bhotgeny, Morang District [Q8] (Basnet *et al.* 2005), and lower Mai Valley of Ilam and Jhapa District [R8] (Basnet and Sapkota 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao (China), Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1500 m (- 2745 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the Midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Little Ringed Plover Nepal population counts were 160, 100, 190, 210, 185, 312 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, 20 birds were recorded in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), 29 in November 1993 and 21 in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994), 25 in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 80 in December 1996 and 16 in January 1997 (Choudhary 1997), 18 in February 1998 (Choudhary 1998), 18 in October 2000 (Baral 2000), 28 in December 2001 (Baral and Parr 2001), 10 in March 2002 (Baral 2002), 15 in February 2003 (Choudhary 2003a), 24 in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), 20 in December 2007 (Giri 2007), 40 in February 2009 (Baral 2009) and 40 in February 2011 (Baral 2011a).

In Chitwan National Park, a waterbird survey counted 116 birds on the Rapti River and 27 on the Narayani

River in December 1982 (Halliday 1982). Other counts in the park include: 20 birds in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), 21 in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), 18 birds were recorded in February 1995 (Baral 1995), 17 in January 1996 (Dhakal 1996), 20 in April 1997 (Baral 1997), 10 in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 12 in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), 11 in October 2002 (ArLOW 2002), 13 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003b), 18 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), 20 in April 2007 (Byskov 2007) and 11 in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), 10 in February 2008 (Giri 2008), 20 in January 2010 (Giri 2010) and 189 birds were recorded during Midwinter waterbird count on 18-23 January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 12 in December 2011 (Baral 2011b) and more than 10 in 2012 (Dymond 2012).

In Pokhara, two birds were recorded in December 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002).

In Kathmandu, 18 birds were recorded in October 1990 at Manohara river and 10 in February 1991 at Bagmati river (Baral 1993).

In Kapilvastu, 48 birds were recorded from January- December 1978 (Cox 1978).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 25 birds were recorded in March 2011 (Chaudhary 2011).

In Patnali, Dharan forest, 10 birds were noted in October 2010 (Baral 2010).

In Hetauda, 20 birds were recorded in December 1995 (Rasmussen and Strange 1995), 18 in December 2003 (Stratford 2004).

30-40 birds were recorded between Sekathum – Amjilassa near Ghunsa Khola (Halberg 1994).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Little Ringed Plover is found on shingle and mud banks of rivers, pools and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Keeps in pairs or small flocks which scatter over a wide area when feeding, and are often mixed with other waders (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeds from March to August, varying locally (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) with clutch size of four eggs (Ali and Ripley 1987). Feeds on insects (weevils, beetles, dipterous larvae), worms, tiny crabs etc. (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Wetland loss and degradation, including extraction of gravel and sand from river beds, and disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Little Ringed Plover. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Little Ringed Plover has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a common and widespread resident which has been recorded from the far west to the far east. It has been found in a number of protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system. There has been no significant change in distribution

post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Wetland loss and degradation, including extraction of gravel and sand from river beds, and disturbance are threats to this species. As a result, the species is probably declining but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category.

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Charadrius placidus J. E. Gray & G. R. Gray, 1863 LC

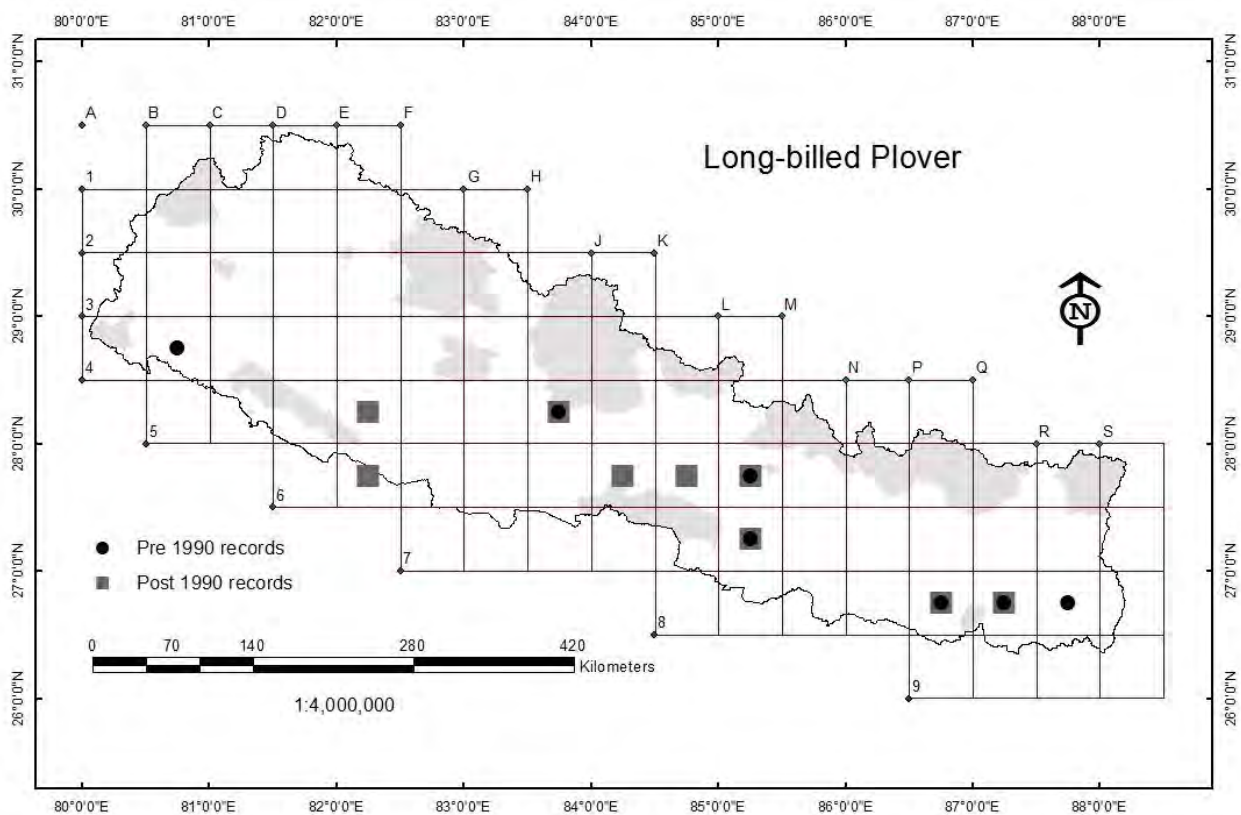


Common Name

Long-billed Plover (English),
Laamthunde Rajpurika (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Charadriidae

Distribution



Long-billed Plover is a very rare winter visitor and passage migrant up to 1380 m.

The first Nepal record of the species was in November 1877 in Nuwakot (Scully 1879).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species occasional winter visitor and passage migrant to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a rare winter visitor and passage migrant.

Post 1990, Long-billed Plover has been recorded in Chitwan National Park [J6, Q6] (Chaudhary 2001) and Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2010).

Outside the protected areas' system, the bird has been recorded from the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area [E6], Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b), Pokhara Valley, Kaski District [H5] (Collins and Thomas 1986), very rare in the Kathmandu Valley [L6] (Mallalieu 2008) with two birds seen there in December 2015 (Som GC, Naresh Kusi and Jeevan Rai), and five birds recorded from Hetauda, Makwanpur District [L7] in 1995 (Wheeldon 1995).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Russia (Asian), South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1380 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Long-billed Plover.

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, one bird was recorded in November 1998 (Choudhary 1999) and 12 in October 2010 (Baral 2010).

In Chitwan National Park, two birds were recorded in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001).

In Pokhara, six birds were noted in December 1984 (Collins and Thomas 1986).

In Kathmandu, four birds were noted in January 1985 at Chovar gorge (Collins and Thomas 1986), three birds in September 2000 (Fuller 2000).

In Hetauda, one bird was noted in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Long-billed Plover frequents shingle beds of large rivers (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is very well camouflaged on the shingle banks it frequents, rendering the bird liable to be overlooked. It feeds on small invertebrates (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Long-billed Plover. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Long-billed Plover has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a very rare passage migrant and winter visitor mainly to the lowlands. Since 1990 it has been recorded from two protected areas and from a few localities outside the protected areas' system. However, the species is so well camouflaged that it is easily overlooked and so is probably under-recorded. Habitat loss and degradation, including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species. As a result, it may be declining but not to

the extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Chlidonias hybrida (Pallas, 1811) LC

Subspecies: *Chlidonias hybrida indicus*

Common Name

Whiskered Tern (English),

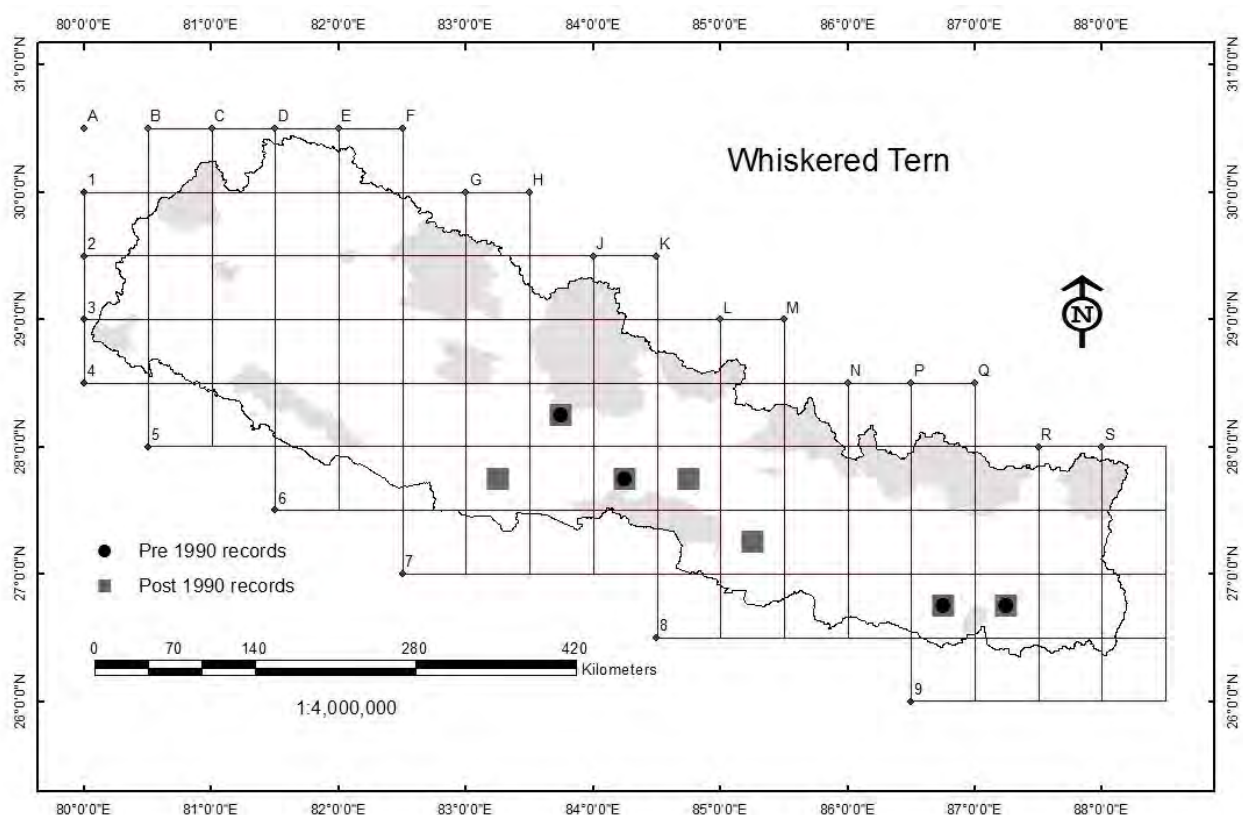
Thimaha Phyalphyale (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae



Distribution



Whiskered Tern is an irregular and uncommon autumn/late monsoon and spring passage migrant. The first Nepal record of the bird was in February 1971, when a specimen was collected in Shishawabiti-Saptari District (Nepali 1986).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as an occasional winter visitor, seen only in winter in flooded fields of the eastern Terai. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as an irregular and uncommon winter visitor and spring passage migrant to Kosi Barrage.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a passage migrant to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and a frequent passage migrant to Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005).

Since 1990 outside the protected areas' system, the bird has been recorded from different localities of Kapilvastu District [G6] (Baral 2007) and a passage migrant to Jagadishpur reservoir, Kapilvastu District [G6] (Baral 2008); also recorded from Pokhara Valley, Kaski District [H5] (Giri and Choudhary 2009) and Rapti River, Makwanpur District [L7] (Giri 2000).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Whiskered Tern.

A flock of more than 400 birds was recorded in April 1982 from Koshi Barrage (Mills *et al.* 1982), which is the largest number of this species recorded to date.

In Koshi Area, 25 birds were recorded in April 1993 (Flack 1993), three in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), 24 in April 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), three birds were recorded in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), one in April 2008 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2008), one in May 2011 (Baral 2011) and 19 in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013).

In Kapilvastu near Jagadishpur reservoir, 40 birds were recorded in August 2007 (Baral 2007).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Whiskered Tern is found in marshes, lakes reservoirs and rivers (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). Often forages in flocks; plunge diving to catch prey (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It also feeds on insects, such as dragonflies and their larvae, grasshoppers, water beetles-tadpoles, crabs, and fish (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance, over-fishing resulting in food shortage and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Whiskered Tern. Post-1990, it has been recorded in Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Whiskered Tern has been assessed as Least Concern. It is an irregular and uncommon autumn/late monsoon and spring passage migrant. Since 1990 there has been no significant population change. The species has been recorded from a few more localities, all in the west, compared to pre-1990, probably as a result of better recording. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance, over-fishing resulting in food shortage, and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. As a result, its population may be declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Chlidonias leucopterus* (Temminck, 1815) LC**

Common Name

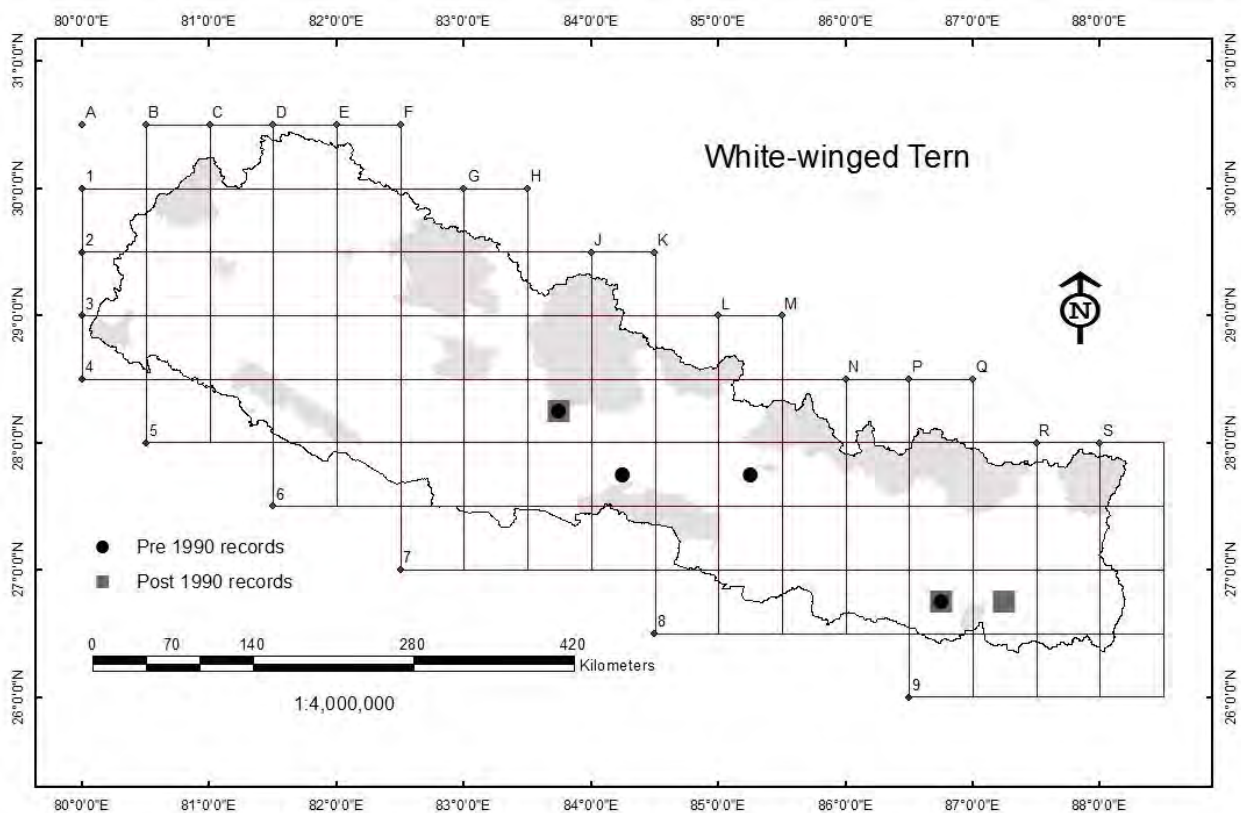
White-winged Tern (English),
Setopankhe Phyaalphyaaale (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae



Distribution



White-winged Tern is a rare spring passage migrant.

The first Nepal record of the species was in May 1981 at Phewa Lake, Kaski District (H5) (Krabbe 1981).

Fleming *et al.* (1984) considered the species a scarce migrant and possibly a winter visitor to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a rare spring passage migrant, with small numbers in April and May 1982 and also one record in May 1987 from Koshi; also singles from Sauraha, Chitwan District and the Kathmandu Valley in the early 1980s.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: listed as a passage migrant to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) by Baral and Upadhyay (2006), but no post-1990 records could be located from the park. Baral (2005) listed it as a rare passage migrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8), but no records are known since 1998 (see Population section).

Since 1990 there have been several records outside the protected areas' system. The species has been recorded from the Pokhara Valley (H5), Kaski District in April 2007 (de Win 2007), May 2009 (Giri and

Choudhary 2009) and in April 2012 (Hathan Chaudhary); at Madhuban (Q8), Sunsari District in April 1994 (Lama 1994), August 1996 (Choudhary 1996) and April 1998 (Chaudhary 1998, Rogers 1998), and at Koshi Bird Observatory in April 2011 (Sanjib Acharya) (see Population section).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Cocos (Keeling) Islands (to Australia), Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Réunion (to France), Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to USA), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (- 1350 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for White-winged Tern.

Pre 1990 records of the species include: small numbers at Koshi Barrage between 30 April and 2 May 1982 (Eames 1982, Grimmett 1982, Mills *et al.* 1982) and four on 19 May 1987 (Kratter 1987, Vyas 1988). The only other sightings are of singles near Sauraha (J6) on 8 May 1982 (Schofield 1982) and in the Kathmandu Valley on 26 April 1985 (Hurrell 1988).

At Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve the species was recorded in May 1991 (Gardiner 1991); one near a Madhuban pond, Koshi area, Sunsari District (Q8) in April 1994 (Lama 1994), and in the Koshi area, one bird was recorded in August 1996 (Choudhary 1996), two in April 1998 (Chaudhary 1998, Rogers 1998) and one in April 2011 (Sanjib Acharya).

Singles were seen at Phewa Tal, Pokhara valley in April 2007 (de Win 2007) and May 2009 (Giri and Choudhary 2009) and two in April 2012 (Hathan Chaudhary).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <50

Habitat and Ecology

White-winged Tern inhabits marshes, large rivers, flooded paddy-fields, pools, and lakes (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Gregarious; often feeds with Whiskered Terns in winter; agile in flight, plunge-diving to get prey (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species can be overlooked among Whiskered Terns (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds on insects such as dragonflies and their larvae, grasshoppers, water beetles, also on tadpoles, crabs, fish (Ali

and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, hunting, disturbance, over-fishing resulting in food shortage and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for White-winged Tern. Post-1990, it has been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

White-winged Tern has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a very rare spring passage migrant mainly recorded at Phewa Tal, Pokhara valley and in the Koshi area. Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve is the only protected area where it has been recorded post-1990. There is no indication of a change in numbers of birds recorded post 1990, compared to pre-1990. However, habitat loss and degradation, hunting, disturbance, over-fishing resulting in food shortage, and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species and it is possibly declining.

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***Gallinago gallinago* (Linnaeus, 1758) LC**

Subspecies: *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

Common Name

Common Snipe (English),

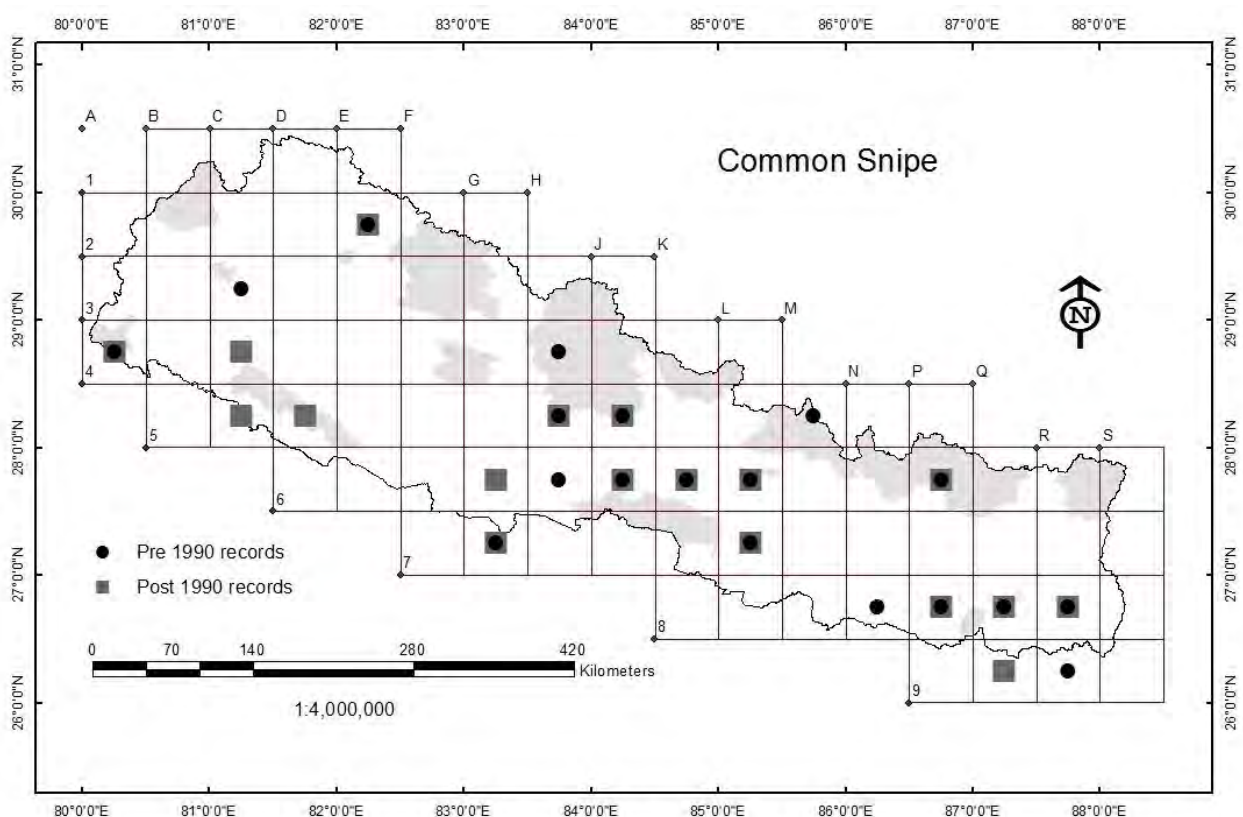
Paani Chaha (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Common Snipe is a locally fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Post-1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Biratnagar (Subba 1994) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1831).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a winter visitor, passage migrant and possibly a breeding bird for Nepal and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a rare winter visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a frequent passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); a fairly common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay, 2006); a fairly common resident in Shivapuri (L6) in Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); a rare passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004) and a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve

(P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded at Bees Hazari Lake, Chitwan District (Baral 1996), Gundre Khola, Nawalparasi District in November 2007 (Baral 2007), buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

Common Snipe has also been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow: from Badhaiya Tal (C5), Bardia District (Bhujū *et al.* 2007); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); Gaidahawa Lake (G6) in February 2011 (Baral 2011), Lumbini (G7) in April 1993 (Baral 1994), Rupandehi District; Phewa Lake (H5) and Begnas lake (J5) in February 1993, Kaski District (Fourage 1993); an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant to Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994); between Lal Bakaiya River and Kopuwa Gaun (L7), Rautahat District in April 2003 (Cox 2003); Itahari (R8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003), and Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Subba 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Aruba (to Netherlands), Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bhutan, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands (to UK), Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Colombia, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Grenada, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Martin (to France), St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States Minor Outlying Islands (to USA), USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA), Yemen, Zambia (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1500 m (- 4700 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Common Snipe Nepal population counts were 6, 53, 45, 42, 60, 66 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, five birds were recorded in December 1991 and 10 in March 1992 (Baral 1992), eight in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), eight in February 1998 (Choudhary 1998), more than five birds in February 1999 (Sterling 1999), six in February 2003 (Baral 2003), 15 in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004), six in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), 12 in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), two in February 2008 (Giri 2008), two in January 2009 (Acharya 2009), three in February 2010 (Baral 2010a).

In Chitwan National Park, seven birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992), five birds were recorded in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), six in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999), 12 in March 1999 (Chartier and Chartier 1999), five in October 2002 (Subedi 2003), three in April 2009 (O'Connell-Davidson 2009), six in February 2010 (Baral 2010b) and 11 in December 2011 (Vicente 2011).

In Nepalgunj, 14 birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992).

In Rautahat, 20 birds were recorded in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Snipe frequents marshes, wet fields and muddy edges of rivers and pools (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is usually found singly, but occasionally in small flocks (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is mainly crepuscular and nocturnal, feeding chiefly in the morning and evening, and through the night however, in undisturbed situations it feeds during the daytime (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). On flushing, the species mounts high in the air with a hoarse cry and circles widely, flying at a great speed before landing some distance away (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It chiefly feeds on worms, larvae and tiny molluscs (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, illegal hunting and possibly use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

There are no conservation measures specifically carried out for this species. Post 1990, the species has been reported from Bardia, Rara, Chitwan, Shivapuri-Nagarjun and Sagarmatha National Parks, and Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern: LC

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Snipe has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. The species has been recorded from many protected areas and quite widely outside the protected areas' system. Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, illegal hunting and possibly use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. Its population may be declining.

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Gallinago solitaria Hodgson, 1831 LC

Subspecies: *Gallinago solitaria solitaria*

Common Name

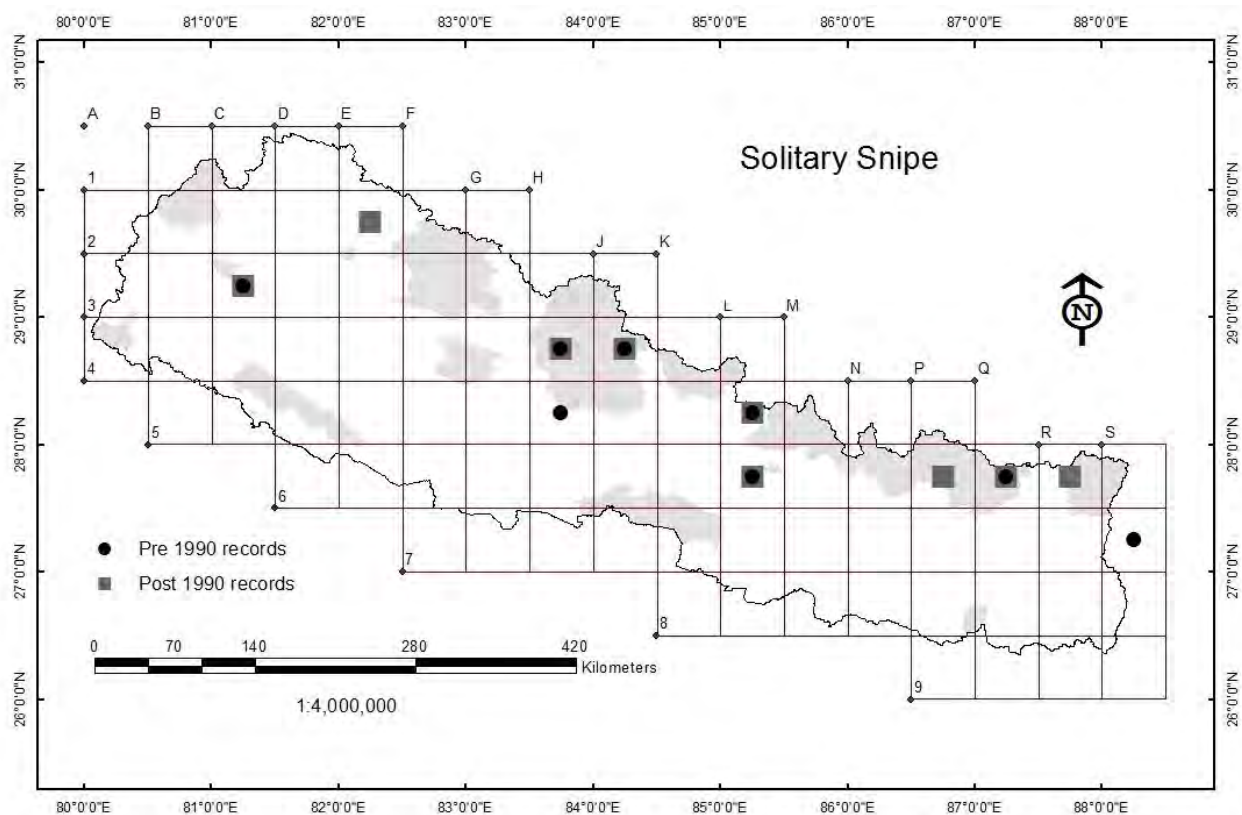
Solitary Snipe (English),
Bharka Chaha (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Solitary Snipe is an uncommon and local winter visitor and passage migrant, probably also a resident. Post 1990, it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006) in the far west to the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1831, Warren 1966).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species scarce, seen for a few days during migration, around open ponds and among reed beds. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as an uncommon and local winter visitor and passage migrant; probably also resident. The bird mainly occurs over 2135 m (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) but found at 915 m at Phewa Tal in December 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971).

Hodgson (1831) and Scully (1879) described the bird as uncommon in the Kathmandu valley from October to April although there were very few records (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Similarly, Morioka and Sakane (1981) and Nepali (1982) described the bird as uncommon in the Upper Arun valley in December 1979, and also found there in August 1986 (Nepali 1986). Inskipp (1988) described the bird as uncommon at Khaptad in April and May 1988 and Thapa (1988) found the bird in the same area during the summer of the same year.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: resident, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006), and a rare winter visitor to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005). The species is a frequent winter visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, J4) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and has been recorded from Jharkot (Rosair and Taylor 1997) and between Khingar and Muktinath (Basnet 2002). It is a rare passage migrant to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001), rare winter visitor to Shivapuri of Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and rare passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004), a local, uncommon visitor and migrant to Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999), and recorded from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Outside the protected areas' system, no records of the species are known post 1990.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4000 m; lower limit: 915 m

Population

In Mustang, three birds were recorded in March 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983), two in January 1985 (Collins and Thomas 1986), six in March 1994 (Drijvers 1995). Eight birds were recorded in pool below Muktinath and another bird in a marshy area below Jharkot in mid February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), and one in January 2008 (Cockram 2008).

In Khaptad National Park, one bird was recorded in November 1996 (Khadka 1996).

In Langtang National Park, three birds were recorded in May 1999 (Choudhary 1999), and one bird in April 2000 (Basnet 2000).

In Thorung La, four birds were recorded in December 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005), and one bird in November 2008 (Naylor and Turner 2008).

In Hanga Tham, one bird was recorded in February 1981 (Baker 1981).

In Lamini Danda Ghot camp North of Tin Pokhari, Apsuwa Khola, Sankhuwasabha District, two birds were recorded in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

The bird frequents marshy edges and beds of mountain streams (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is terrestrial, solitary, swamp-dwelling birds at high elevations in Himalayas. Feeds on worms, grubs, minute snails etc. (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

There are no conservation measures specifically carried out for this species. Post-1990 the species has been reported from Khaptad, Rara, Langtang, Shivapuri-Nagarjun, Sagarmatha and Makalu-Barun National Parks, and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Solitary Snipe has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a local winter visitor, rare passage migrant and probably resident in high altitudes. Since 1990 it has been well recorded in protected areas but no records are known outside the protected areas' system. There is no significant change in the distribution pre 1990 and post 1990. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

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Gallinago stenura (Bonaparte, 1830) LC

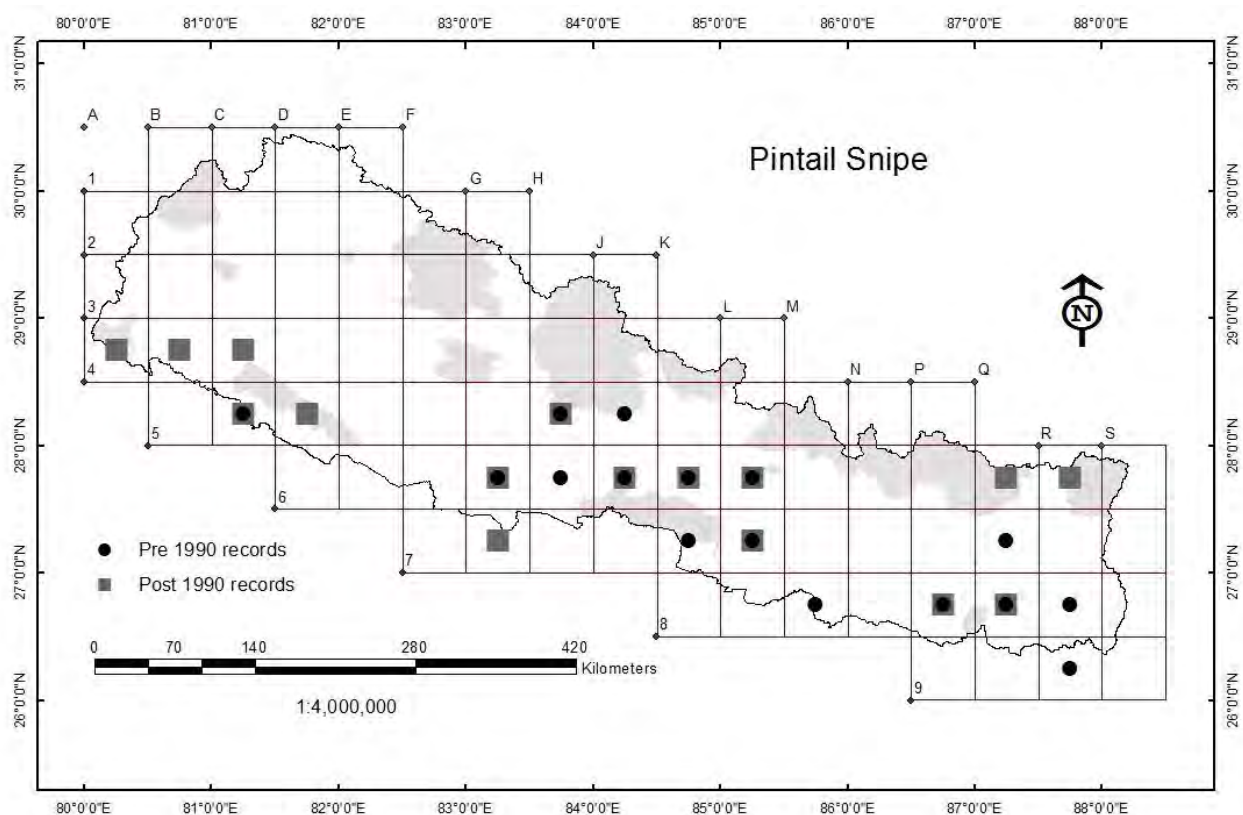
Common Name

Pintail Snipe (English),
Bharak Chaha (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Pintail Snipe is a fairly common to frequent winter visitor and passage migrant below 1370 m.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1831).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as a fairly common winter visitor to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a winter visitor and passage migrant occasionally seen up to 1370 m. It was also recorded at the unusually high altitude of 3351m at Khangsar Khola, Manang (Bolding and Jorgensen 1987).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a frequent winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), rare winter visitor to Bardia National Park [C4, C5] (Inskipp 2001); fairly common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), frequent visitor and migrant to Makalu-Barun National Park [Q6] (Cox 1999), common winter visitor to Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005), and recorded from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area [R6] (Halberg 1994).

Since 1990 outside the protected areas' system, the bird has been less widely recorded than within protected

areas.

Post-1990 records follow: a fairly common winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake area, Kailali District [B4] (CSUWN and BCN 2012), recorded at Badhaiya Lake, Bardia District [C5] (Bhuju *et al.* 2007), recorded in Nepalgunj, Banke District [D5] (Baral 1992), winter visitor to Jagadishpur reservoir, Kapilvastu District [G6] (Baral 2008), Lumbini, Rupandehi District [G7] (Suwal *et al.* 2002), Pokhara Valley, Kaski District [H5] (Fouarge 1993), rare and local winter visitor and passage migrant to Kathmandu Valley [L6] (Mallalieu 2008), and Hetauda, Makwanpur District [L7] (Rasmussen and Strange 1995).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Cocos (Keeling) Islands (to Australia), Comoros, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, USA, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013)).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the Midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal Pintail Snipe population counts were 0, 8, 3, 40, 42, 14 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013). However, this count is unlikely to reflect its true population as the species is shy and skulking.

The largest recorded number of the species pre-1990 was 10 at Koshi Barrage in March 1982 (Robson 1982).

In Koshi Area, one bird was recorded in February 1981 (Baker 1981), two in March 1989 (Babbington 1989), two in March 1992 (Baral 1992), eight in March 1993 (Danielsen and Falk 1993), 11 in January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994), three in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), two in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), one in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), one in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), four in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), four in March 2002 (Baral 2002), one in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), three in December 2009 (Giri 2009), two in March 2010 (Baral 2010).

In Chitwan National Park, one bird was recorded in March 1990 (Henson 1990), two in February 1991 (Baral 1993), six in March 1992 (Baral 1992), two in December 1998 and one in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999), six in February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002), two in December 2003 (Stratford 2004), two in March 2009 (Baral 2009), four in December 2010 (Baral 2011).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, one in March 2011 (Chaudhary 2011).

In Nepalgunj, one in March 1992 (Baral 1992).

In Kapilvastu, 48 in January to December 1978 (Cox 1978)

In Manang, one in November 1987 (Bolding and Jorgensen 1987).

In Kaski, 27 in March 1989 (Cox *et al.* 1989), three in 1993 (Fourage 1993) and five in January 2001 (Roberts 2001).

In Kathmandu, nine in October 1992 (Baral 1993), three in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001), two in December 2003 (Stratford 2004), one at Taudaha in March 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Pintail Snipe is found in harvested paddy-fields with scattered pools, marshy pool edges and dry grass and scrub areas. The species is sometimes found with Common Snipe, although it prefers drier habitat than that species (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Usually solitary; sometimes in small groups or flocks in favourable feeding areas (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Feeds chiefly on worms, larvae and tiny molluscs (Ali and Ripley 1987), mainly in the morning, evening and at night (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Pintail Snipe. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Chitwan and Makalu-Barun National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pintail Snipe has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common to frequent winter visitor and passage migrant. Since 1990 it has been recorded in several protected areas and less widely outside the protected areas' system. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. The species may well be declining, but not to a degree that warrants a threat category for the species. It can be confused with Common Snipe *G. gallinago*, which has also been assessed as Least Concern.

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Himantopus himantopus (Linnaeus 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Himantopus himantopus himantopus*

Common Name

Black-winged Stilt (English),

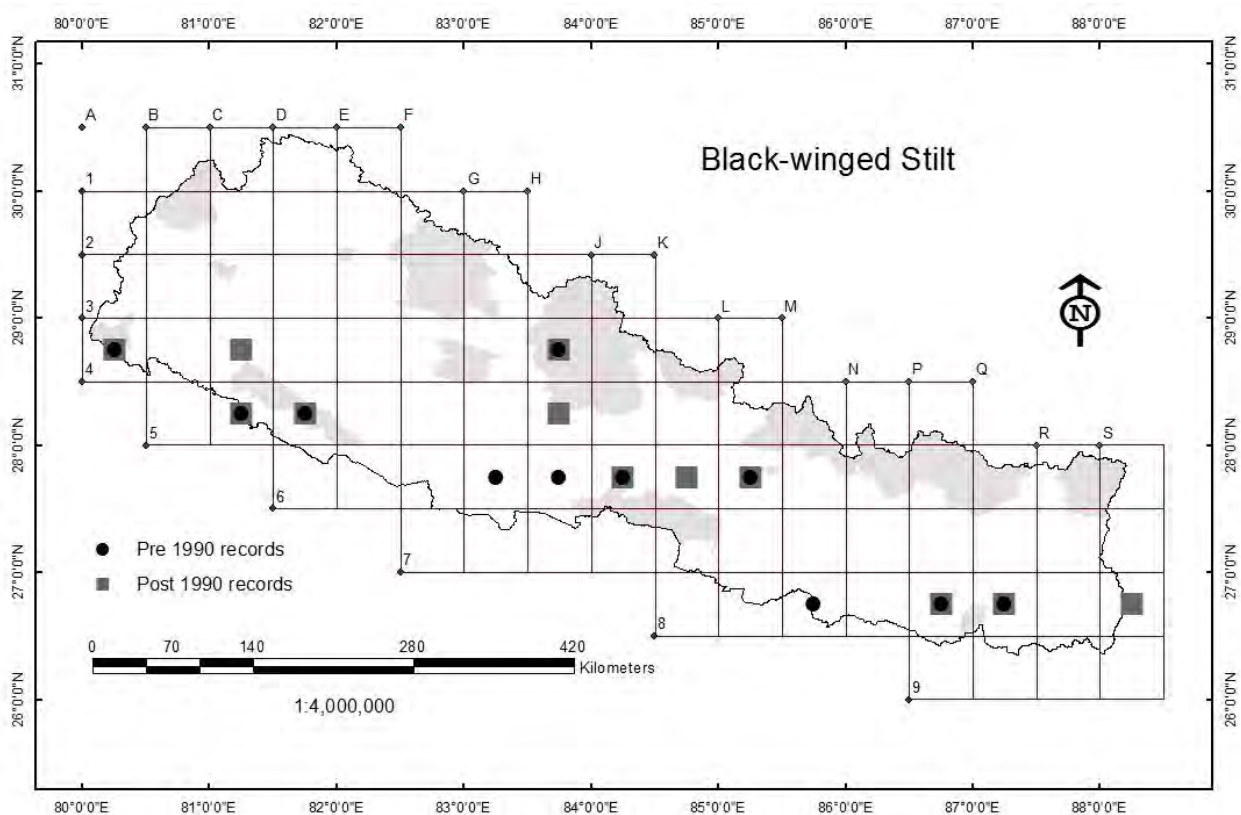
Prawaalpaad (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Recurvirostridae



Distribution



Black-winged Stilt is an uncommon passage migrant and a rare winter visitor. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far west (Baral and Inskipp 2009) to Kakarbhatta, Jhapa District in the far east (Drijvers 1995).

The first Nepal record of the bird was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species scarce. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as an uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant.

It was recorded at an unusually high altitude at Muktinath (H4) (3355 m) in August 1977 (Fleming *et al.* 1979).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: less than five records as a passage migrant to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); has less than five records as a winter visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a vagrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); and a rare passage migrant to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005).

Black-winged Stilt has been recorded from only a few localities outside the protected areas' system, both pre- and post-1990. Records include: from Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); Phewa Tal wetlands in May 2015 (Manshanta Ghimire) between Pasgaon, Libiyani (J5), Lamjung District and Rupatal (J5), Kaski District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000); an uncommon and local winter visitor in Kathmandu valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008) and Kakarbhitta (S8), Jhapa District in February 1994 (Drijvers 1995).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1380 m (- 3355 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Black-winged Stilt. The bird is mainly a passage migrant for the country and it is difficult to assess its population.

In Koshi Area, three in March 1993 (Danielsen and Falk 1993), six in April 1998 (Rogers 1998) and two in September 2010 (Baral 2010).

In Chitwan National Park, five birds were recorded in April 1990 (Henson 1991), one bird in April 1992 (Baral 1992) and one bird in October 2002 (Subedi 2003).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, five birds in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998).

In Nepalgunj, three birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992).

In Phewa Tal wetlands, Kaski District six were photographed in May 2015 (Manshanta Ghimire).

In January 2003, four birds were noted from Bardia to Khairapur [C4, C5] (Giri 2003).

In Kathmandu, one bird was recorded in September 2000 (Fuller 2000), four birds in December 2004; five in January 2005 at Chobhar (Mallalieu 2005), eight in 2007 (Riessen 2007) and three in February 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009). Chobhar is probably the only place in Nepal where half a dozen birds have been noted in most winters (Hem Sagar Bara pers. obs).

In Kakarbhitta, three birds were recorded in February 1994 (Drijvers 1995).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Black-winged Stilt is found in marshes, village tanks, reservoirs and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 1998); sometimes also in inundated ploughed fields (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is gregarious throughout the year (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). In Nepal it has been found singly or in small groups. The species walks slowly and deliberately, forages on dry mud and wades into deeper water almost to the belly; picks the prey from the surface, probes in soft mud and sweeps its bill from side to side, and while feeding, the head is often completely submerged (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on molluscs, worms, aquatic insects, small seeds of sedges and marsh plants, and small fishes (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, illegal hunting and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Black-winged Stilt. Post 1990 the species has been reported from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Black-winged Stilt has been assessed as Least Concern. It is an uncommon passage migrant and a rare winter visitor. The species has been recorded from five protected areas and from a few localities outside the protected areas' system. There is no indication of significant changes in distribution pre 1990 and post 1990. Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, illegal hunting and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

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Larus fuscus Linnaeus, 1758 LC

Common Name

Lesser Black-backed Gull (English),
Pahenlokhutte/Heuglin Gangaachil (Nepali)

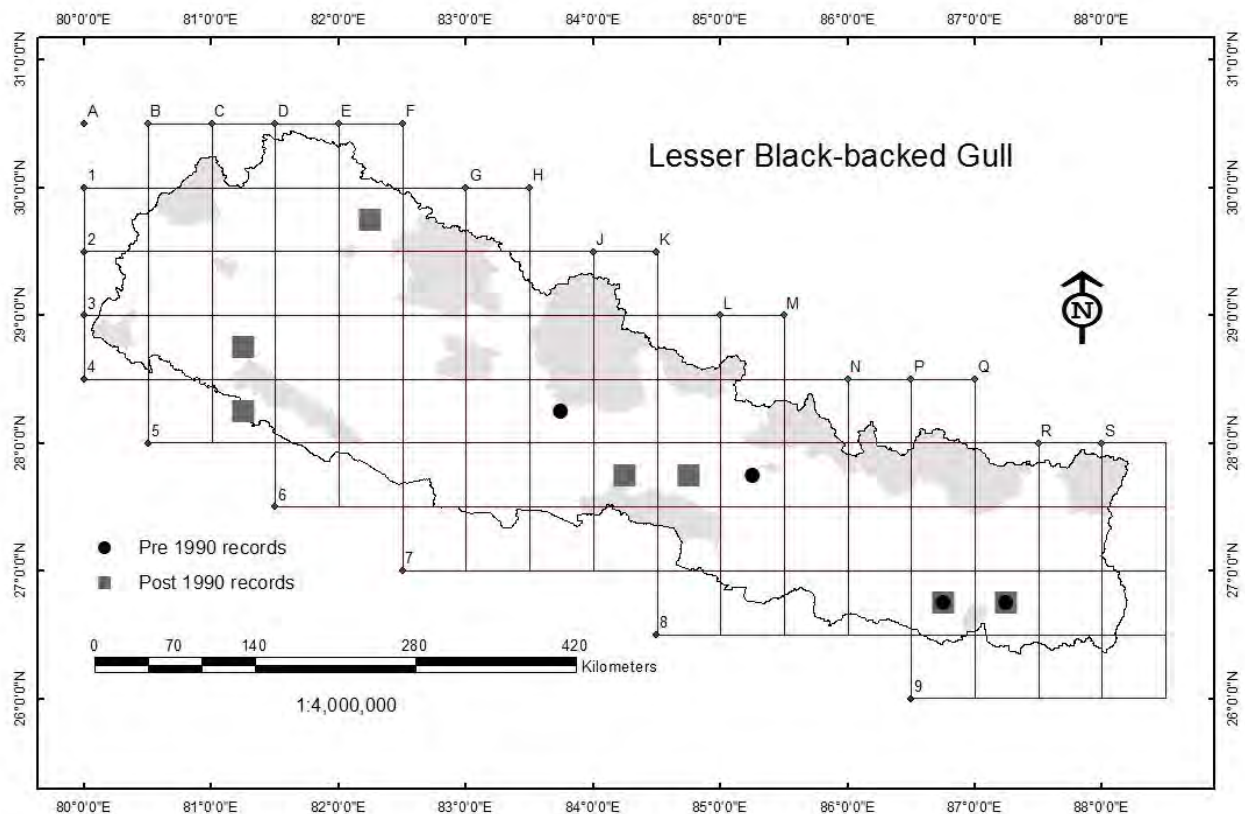
Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Laridae



General information

Here Lesser Black-backed Gull includes Heuglin's Gull *L. f. heuglini* and Steppe Gull *L. f. barabensis*. Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* may have occurred but there no definite records and all claims of this species may refer to Steppe Gull.

Distribution



The status of Lesser Black-backed Gull is unclear. It is probably a rare passage migrant and possibly also a winter visitor in very small numbers.

The first Nepal record was a specimen of a first year bird collected from the Bagmati River, Kathmandu in November 1961 (Fleming 1968, Fleming and Traylor 1968). Pre-1990 it was also recorded at Koshi Barrage in February 1979 (Lambert 1979, Redman and Murphy 1979) and April 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981); in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in February 1984 (Redman 1984), November 1988 (Nielsen 1989) and February 1989 (Kennerley and Turnbull 1989), and at Phewa Lake, Kaski District in March 1986 (Holt *et al.* 1986).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: less than 5 records as passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Anon. 1992, Halliday 1992, Inskipp 2001, Wheeldon 1995), in Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005) and in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Malling Olsen 2004) and a frequent passage migrant to Koshi Area (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005).

The only known post-1990 records for the species outside the protected areas' system are from the Koshi Barrage area.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba (to Netherlands), Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda (to UK), Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bulgaria, Canada, Cayman Islands (to UK), China (mainland), Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guadeloupe (to France), Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nicaragua, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Romania, Russia (European), Serbia, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Somalia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (China), Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States Minor Outlying Islands (to USA), USA, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA) (BirdLife International (2013)).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3000 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out specifically for Lesser Black-backed Gull. During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Lesser Black-backed Gull Nepal population counts were 0, 4, 2, 0, 2, 0 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013). The bird is mainly a passage migrant for the country and it is difficult to assess its population.

Since 1990 in the Koshi area two were seen in February 1993 (Fouarge 1993); one in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994); three in February 1996 (Harrap 1996); three in February 1997 (Betton 1997); four in February 1998 (Prince 1998); two in February 2001 (Hofland 2001); one in February 2002 (Arlow 2002); one in February 2005 (van der Dol 2005); two in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007); one in April 2008 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2008); two in February 2009 (Baral 2009); one in December 2011 (Vicente 2011); and two in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013).

In Chitwan National Park one was seen in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004).

In Bardia National Park one was seen in January 1992 (Halliday 1992).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Lesser Black-backed Gull inhabits lakes and rivers. The species is occasionally piratical on smaller gulls and terns (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Flight is graceful and buoyant. It feeds on fish, offal and miscellaneous refuse; molluscs, crabs, insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Lesser Black-backed Gull. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Rara and Bardia National Parks and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, and marginally from Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Lesser Black-backed Gull has been assessed as Least Concern. The status of the species is uncertain. It is probably a rare passage migrant or winter visitor in small numbers in large rivers and lakes. Almost all post-1990 records have been from wetlands within protected areas. Habitat loss and degradation and illegal hunting are threats to this species. As a result, the population is possibly declining.

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Larus ichthyaetus (Pallas, 1773) LC

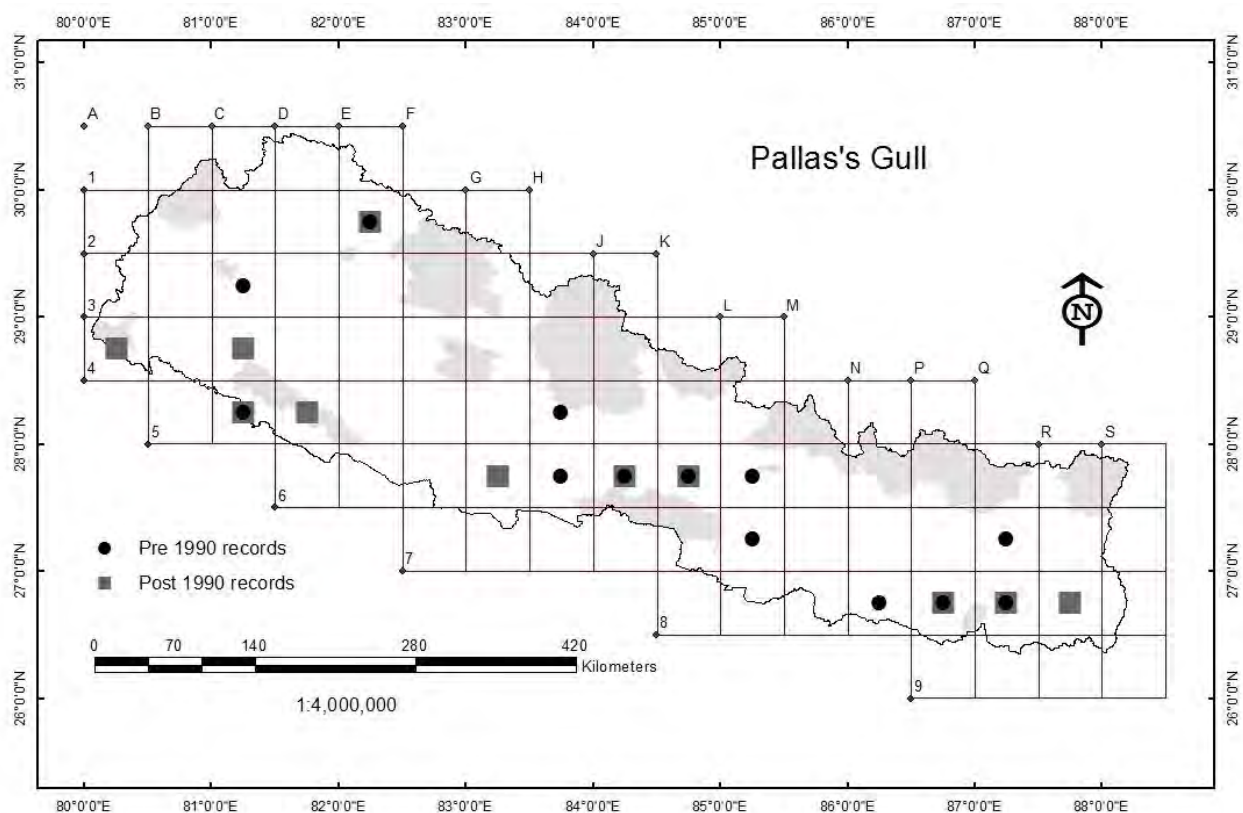
Common Name

Pallas's Gull (English),
Raaja Gangaachil (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Laridae



Distribution



Pallas's Gull is a locally fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant.

The first Nepal record of the species from the Koshi River was in February 1938 (Bailey 1938).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species scarce winter visitor and passage migrant to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a locally fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a frequent winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), frequent winter visitor and passage migrant to Bardia National Park [C4, C5] (Inskipp 2001) and common passage migrant in Rara National Park [E2] (Giri 2005). It is listed as a fairly common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) but later records indicate it is uncommon there. It is a fairly common winter visitor to Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005).

Since 1990, outside the protected areas' system, the species has been recorded from several localities. Records include from: Chisapani gorge, Bardia District [C4] (Baral 1992), Nepalgunj, Banke District [D5] (Choudhary 1999), passage migrant to Jagadishpur reservoir, Kapilvastu District [G6] (Baral 2008), recorded

from several localities of Chitwan District [J6] (Chaudhary 2007), and recorded from Bhagalpur area, Udayapur District [P8] (Choudhary 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bulgaria, China (mainland), Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Greece, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Maldives, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3050 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Pallas's Gull.

In Koshi Area, 10 birds were recorded in February 1981 (Baker 1981), 15 in March 1989 (Bose *et al.* 1989), 56 in October 1993 (Choudhary 1994), 40 in December 2007 (Giri 2007), 42 in February 2009 (Baral 2009), 25 in March 2010 (Baral 2010) and 42 in February 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Chitwan National Park four birds were recorded in January 1992 (Wartmann and Schonjahn 1992) two in February 1995 (Wheeldon 1995), and one in December 2000 (Scharringa 2000).

In Rara National Park, 19 birds were noted in October 1989 (Barber 1990), 8 birds in April 2009 (O'Connell-Davidson 2009) and 12 in October 2015 (Chaudhary *et al.* 2015).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <50

Habitat and Ecology

Pallas's Gull frequents large rivers of the lowlands (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and also lakes up to 3050 m. Often solitary, sometimes found in flocks. Feeds by scavenging and piracy, like other large gulls (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Feeds on chiefly fish and crustacean (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation and illegal hunting are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Pallas's Gull. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Rara and Chitwan National Parks, and Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pallas's Gull has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Since 1990 it has been recorded from several protected areas and several localities outside the protected areas' system. There is no indication of significant decline in population or contraction of range post-1990 compared to pre 1990. Habitat loss and degradation and illegal hunting are threats to this species. Its population is possibly stable or declining.

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pp. http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskip/1995_009.pdf

Lymnocyptes minimus (Brünnich, 1764) LC

Common Name

Jack Snipe (English),

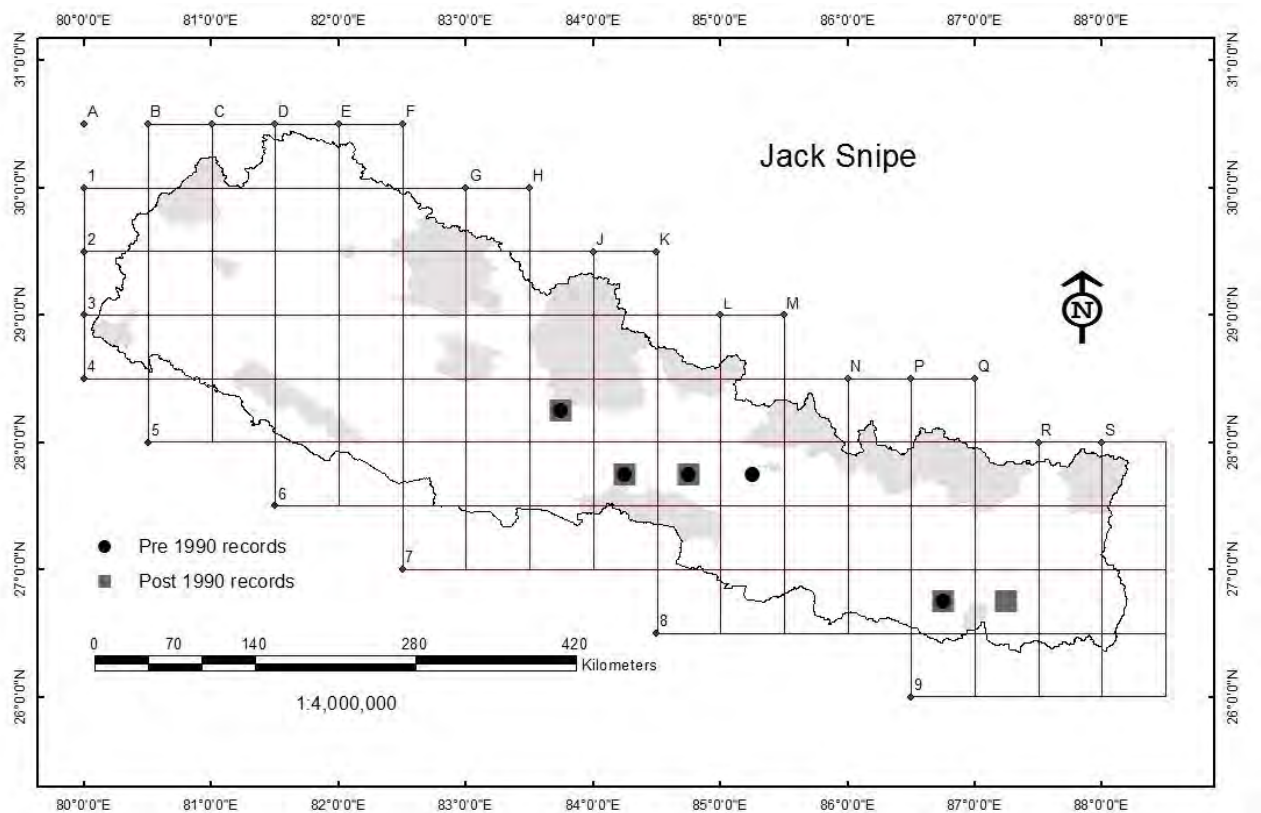
Gobhandir Chaha (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Jack Snipe is a very rare winter visitor and passage migrant below 1500m.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century from the Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Hodgson 1829, Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional winter visitor in damp areas with other snipe. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Proud (1949) found the species a scarce passage migrant in the Kathmandu Valley, a few probably staying all winter. Ripley (1950) reported that numbers of this species were severely reduced compared to 20 years previously in the Valley. The other known pre-1990 records from the Valley were singles in December 1978 (Cox 1978) and February 1975 (Fleming 1975). The only other pre-1990 records were from Phewa Tal (H5), Kaski District (Joliffe *et al.* 1981), Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District (Walinder and Sandgren 1982) and Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Andrews 1986, Kovacs 1988).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: an uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and recorded from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) in February 1993

(Fouarge 1993). The species has not been recorded at either locality for nearly 10 years (Tika Giri verbally 2014, Badri Chaudhary verbally 2014).

Since 1990, the only record outside the protected areas' system has been from Pokhara Valley (H5), Kaski District (Choudhary 1996, Baral 2010).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1500 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal Jack Snipe counts were 0, 0, 7, 2, 18, 6 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013). All records come from Pokhara wetlands.

Before 1990, one or two were seen at Phewa Tal in February 1981 (Joliffe *et al.* 1981), Koshi Barrage in March 1982 (Walinder and Sandgren 1983) and Chitwan in April 1985 (Andrews 1986) and February 1988 (Kovacs 1988).

Post-1990 four birds were seen in Chitwan National Park in March 1999 (Chartier and Chartier 1999)

In Kathmandu Valley, three birds were recorded in March 1993 (Baral 1994a), one in November 1994 (Baral 1994b) and three in November 1997 (Baral 1997).

In Pokhara, singles were recorded in January 1996 (Choudhary 1996), January 2001 (Roberts 2001) and February 2010 (Baral 2010).

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve one was seen in February 1993 (Fouarge 1993).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <50

Habitat and Ecology

Jack Snipe inhabits swampy areas and wet fields (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is mainly crepuscular and nocturnal. It is usually found singly. When disturbed it flies off silently, without zigzagging, and soon drops into cover (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), which it is reluctant to leave (Ali and Ripley 1991). When on the ground it has a characteristic bobbing action (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It chiefly feeds on worms, insects and their larvae, tiny molluscs and sometimes marsh seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987). The birds arrive in early September and most of them leave by mid-April (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Jack Snipe. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Jack Snipe has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a very rare winter visitor and passage migrant below 1500 m. Since 1990 it has been recorded from two protected areas and a few sites outside the protected areas' system. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. As a result, it is possibly declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Metopidius indicus* (Latham, 1790) LC**

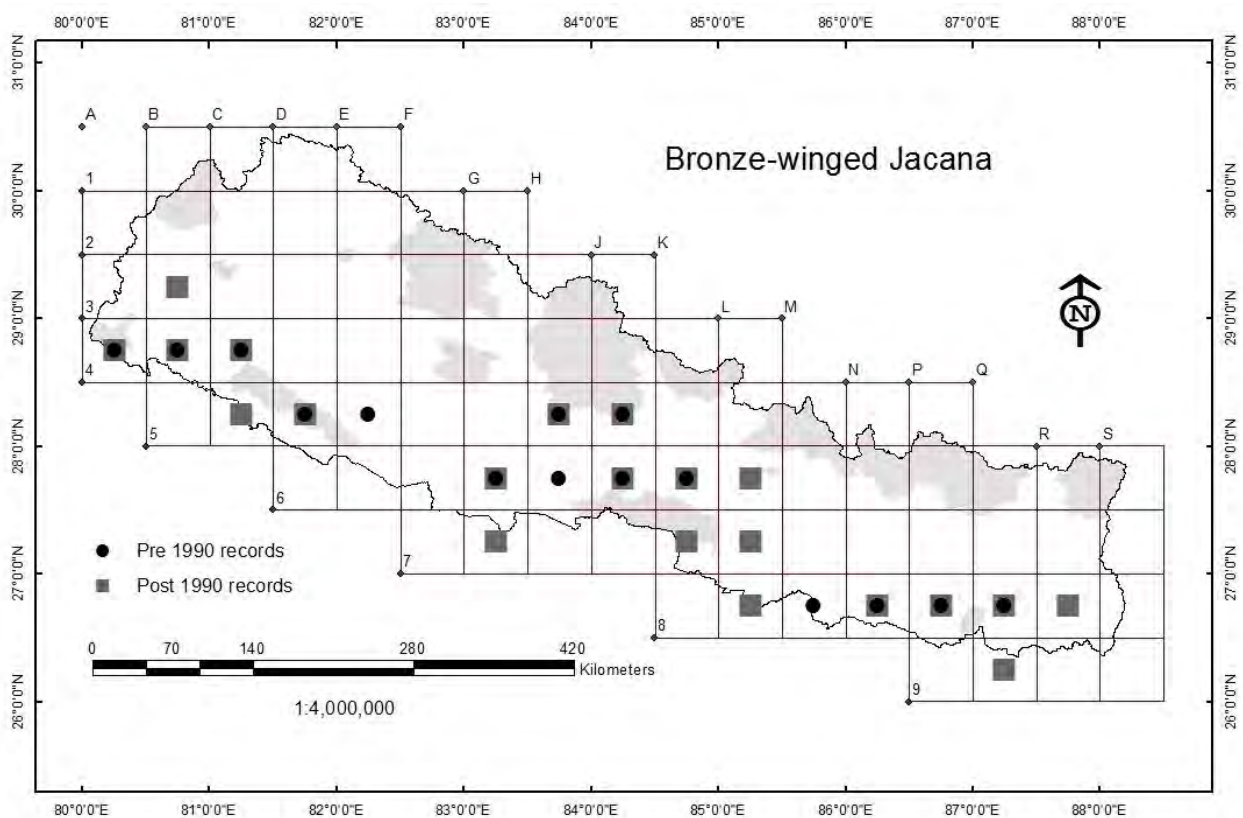
Common Name

Bronze-winged Jacana (English),
Laamaa-Aule (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Jacanidae



Distribution



Bronze-winged Jacana is a fairly common resident throughout the terai. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far west (Baral and Inskipp 2009) to Betana wetland, Morang District in the far east (Niroula *et al.* 2011, Baral 2013).

The first record of the bird in Nepal was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a common resident waterbird in still, shallow water of ponds in the dun and terai. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it as a fairly common resident throughout the terai and mapped its distribution in the lowlands from the far west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a rare resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001), and a common breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a). The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Bees Hazari Lake in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Chitwan District and Gundre Khola in November

2007 (Baral 2007), Nawalparasi District, buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. It has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata Corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007).

Bronze-winged Jacana has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990, in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow:

In the west records include: a common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012) and recorded from Deukhuri Lake and Rampur Lake (B4) (Bhujū *et al.* 2007), Kailali District; Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); Sagarhawa Lake (G6) in April 1993 (Baral 1994) and a resident in Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008), recorded from Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in November 2006 (Hanlon and Giri 2007); Phewa Lake (H5) in November 2010 (Adcock and Naylor 2011) and January 2012 (Dymond 2012), Kaski District; between Pasgaon, Libiyani (J5), Lamjung District and Rupa Tal (J5), Kaski District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include: from Kathmandu Valley (L6) in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001); between Gaur (L8), Rautahat District and Sedhawa (L8), Siraha District in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include: from Kamala River (N8), Dhanusha and Siraha Districts in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); a scarce summer visitor to Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007) and recorded from Dharan Forest (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Basnet 2009); Biratnagar (Q9) in March 1994 (Baral 1994) and a common resident at Betana Pond (Q8), Morang District (Niroula *et al.* 2011).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Bronze-winged Jacana Nepal population counts were 377, 296, 326, 250, 366, 434 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, 50 birds were recorded in December 1991 (Baral 1992), 60 in October 1993 (Choudhary 1994), 36 in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994), 39 in March 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 40 in March 2002 (Baral 2002), 38 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), 40 in November 2005 (Baral 2005b), 50 in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), 50 in December 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), 74 in January 2009 (Acharya 2009), 44 in February 2010 (Baral 2010b) and 100 in February 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Chitwan National Park, during midwinter waterbird count surveys, 39 birds were recorded in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 21 birds in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 42 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012) and 66 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 27 birds were noted in January 1992 (Baral 1992), 11 in December 1997 (Chaudhary 1998), 20 in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), and 85 in March 2011 at Rani Tal (Chaudhary 2011).

In Ghodaghodi Lake, 46 birds were noted in March 1992 (Baral 1992), 40 in May 1998 (Baral 1998), 120 in January 2010 (Baral 2010b), and 36 in January 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Sukkhad, 20 birds were recorded in January 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Sagarhawa Tal, more than 20 birds were observed in April 1993 (Baral 1994).

In Lumbini, more than 20 birds were noted in April 1993 (Baral 1994).

In Pokhara, 45 in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), 20 in December 2006 (Naylor *et al.* 2006), 28 in February 2010 (Baral 2010a)

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Bronze-winged Jacana is found on marshes, pools and lakes with floating vegetation (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is gregarious outside the breeding season (June-September). Usually it is found in the open and quite tame; if alarmed, it will partially submerge its body among aquatic vegetation with only the bill exposed (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is a good diver and swimmer, but poorer on the wing (Ali and Ripley 1987). The female is polyandrous and pugnacious; Incubation is by the male alone (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved at Belatari (Suwal and Shrestha 1988) and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Nielsen and Jakobsen 1989). The species is chiefly vegetarian and feeds on seeds, roots, etc., but also aquatic insects and their larvae, bivalves and other molluscs (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, illegal hunting and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Bronze-winged Jacana. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Bronze-winged Jacana has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common resident in lowlands of Nepal. The species has been recorded from five protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within the species' altitudinal range. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. Its population is probably stable.

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***Philomachus pugnax* (Linnaeus, 1758) LC**

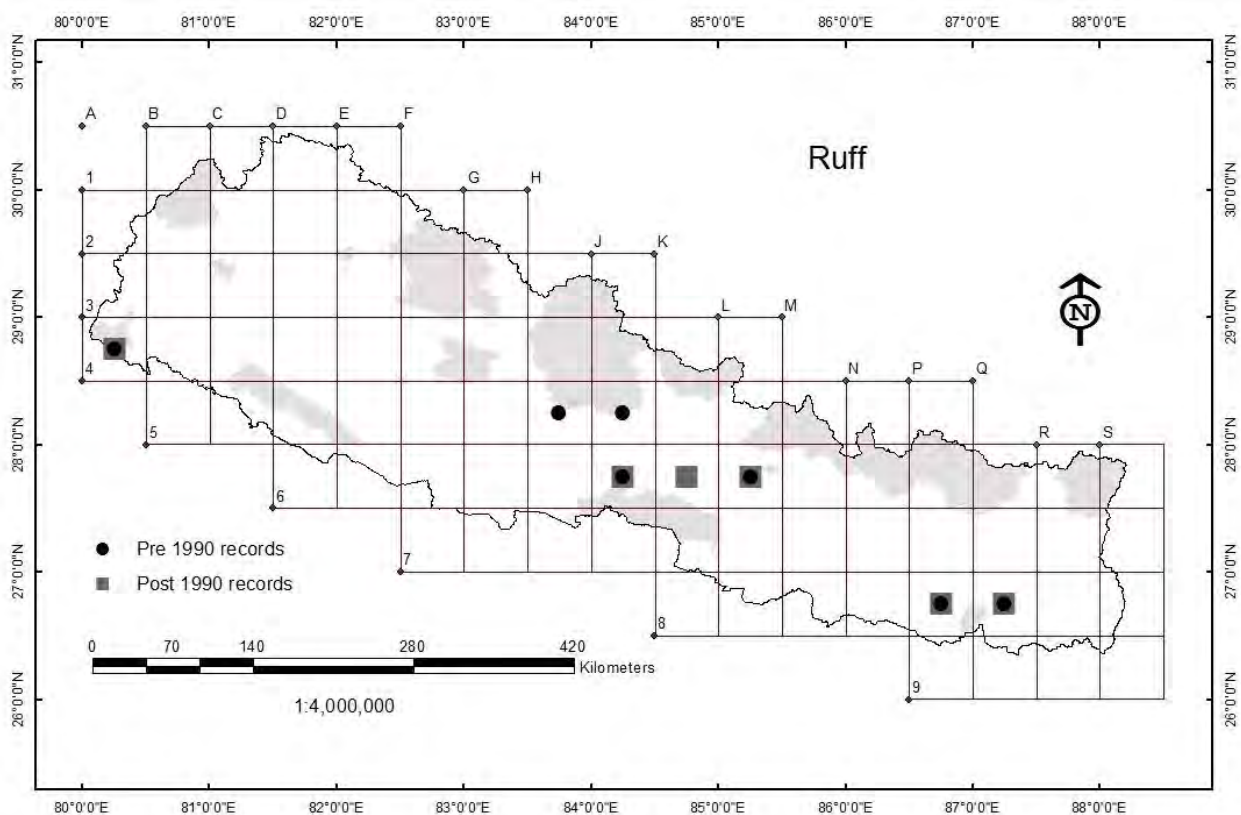
Common Name

Ruff (English),
Rajsudsudiya (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Ruff is a very uncommon passage migrant.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *at al.* (1976) described the species as occasional in Nepal along the river courses. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as very uncommon passage migrant.

Before 1990, there were several reports from the Kathmandu Valley and Koshi Barrage, two records from Chitwan National Park and single records from elsewhere (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Post-1990, the species' status in protected areas has been: an uncommon passage migrant to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and a frequent passage migrant to Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005).

Outside the protected areas' system, the bird is very rare in the Kathmandu Valley [L6] (Mallalieu 2008). No other records could be located.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Anguilla (to UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands (to UK), Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Croatia, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Grenada, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States Minor Outlying Islands (to USA), USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013)).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1310 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

The maximum of 47 was recorded near Koshi Barrage in February 1979 (Lambert 1979, Redman and Murphy 1979).

No population surveys have been carried out for Ruff. In Koshi area two birds were recorded in March 1996 (Daulne and Goblet 1996).

In Kathmandu Valley, one was seen along the Bagmati in November 2007 (Riessen 2007).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

The species is found in marshes, wet fields and mud banks of rivers and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is omnivorous, feeding on crustaceans, molluscs, insects, worms, grass and weed seeds, berries, wild and cultivated rice (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, illegal hunting and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Ruff. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Chitwan National Park, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Ruff has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a very uncommon passage migrant. Since 1990 it has been recorded from three protected areas and just one unprotected site. There are few records of the species in Nepal pre- and post-1990 and the population trend is difficult to ascertain. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

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Recurvirostra avosetta Linnaeus 1758 LC

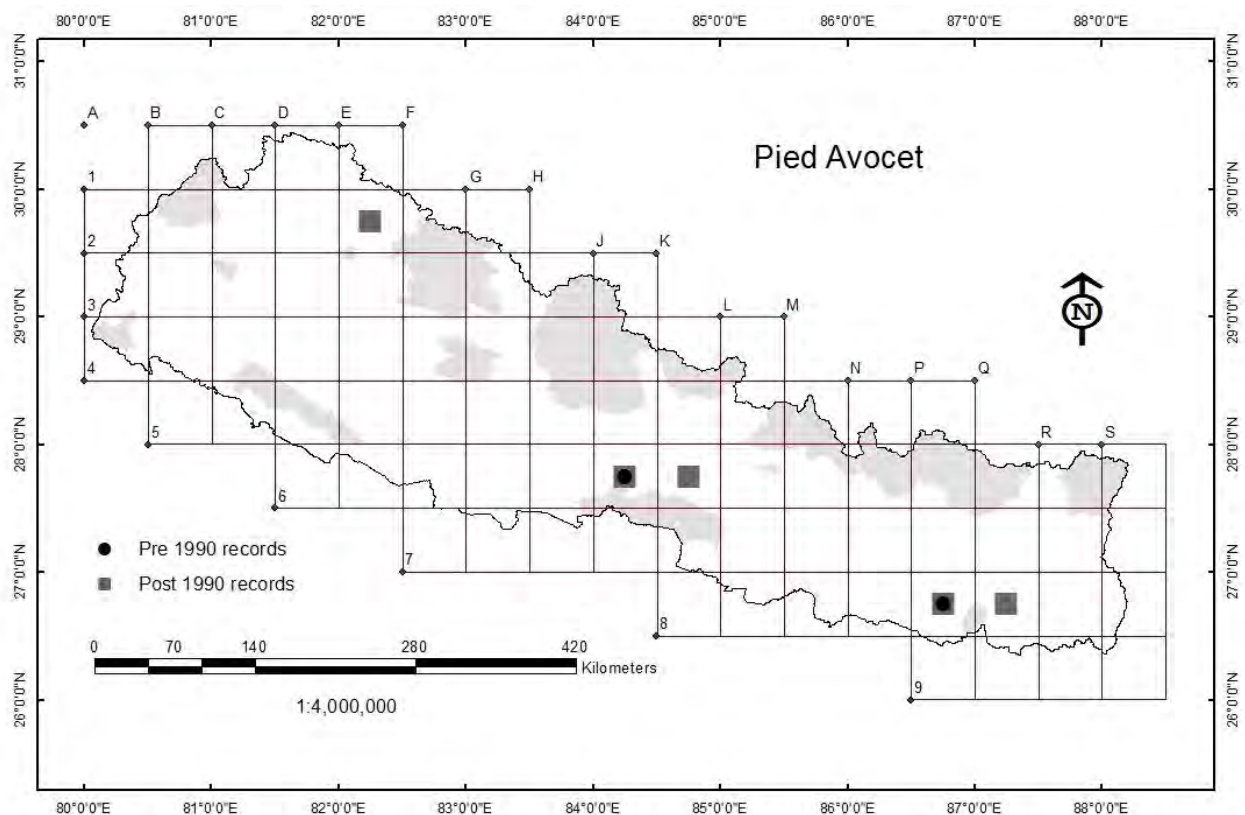
Common Name

Pied Avocet (English),
Halimukh (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Recurvirostridae



Distribution



Pied Avocet is a rare passage migrant.

The first Nepal record of the bird was in October and November in the 19th century in the Kathmandu Valley (Hodgson 1829, 1844).

Fleming et al. (1976) described the species as scarce in Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a rare passage migrant. Pre-1990 there were a few reports from Koshi Barrage in March and April and three records from Chitwan National Park in November and December (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Post-1990, Pied Avocet has been a rare passage migrant to Rara National Park [E2] (Giri 2005); has less than 5 records as winter visitor in Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and is a rare winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve [Q8] and Koshi Barrage area [P8] (Baral 2005).

There are no known records outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi,

Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m (- 3050 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Pied Avocet. The bird is mainly a passage migrant in the country and it is difficult to assess its population.

In the Koshi Area, three birds were recorded in March 1989 (Babbington 1989), one in October 1993 (Baral 1993), 11 in November 1996 (Choudhary 1996), 10 in April 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), one in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999) and six in April 2008 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2008), 75 in March 2011 (Birdfinders 2011), three in September 2010 and one in April 2012 (pers.obs.).

In Chitwan National Park, seven were recorded in November 1982 (Halliday 1982); one in December 1984 (Collins and Thomas 1986); recorded in November 1989 (Jakobsen 1993), and one in November 2012 (Basu Bidari).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Pied Avocet inhabits marshes, lagoons and mudflats (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Gregarious for most of the year. Characteristically, feeds by sweeping bill and head from side to side in shallow water; also often swims and upends like a dabbling duck, and picks prey from surface of water or mud (Grimmett et al. 1998). Feeds on tiny molluscs, crustaceans and insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Pied Avocet. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pied Avocet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a rare passage migrant and since 1990 all known records have been from protected areas. There is no indication that its distribution has changed since 1990 and there has not been a noticeable population decline. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance threaten the species.

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***Rostratula benghalensis* (Linnaeus, 1758) LC**

Subspecies: *Rostratula benghalensis benghalensis*

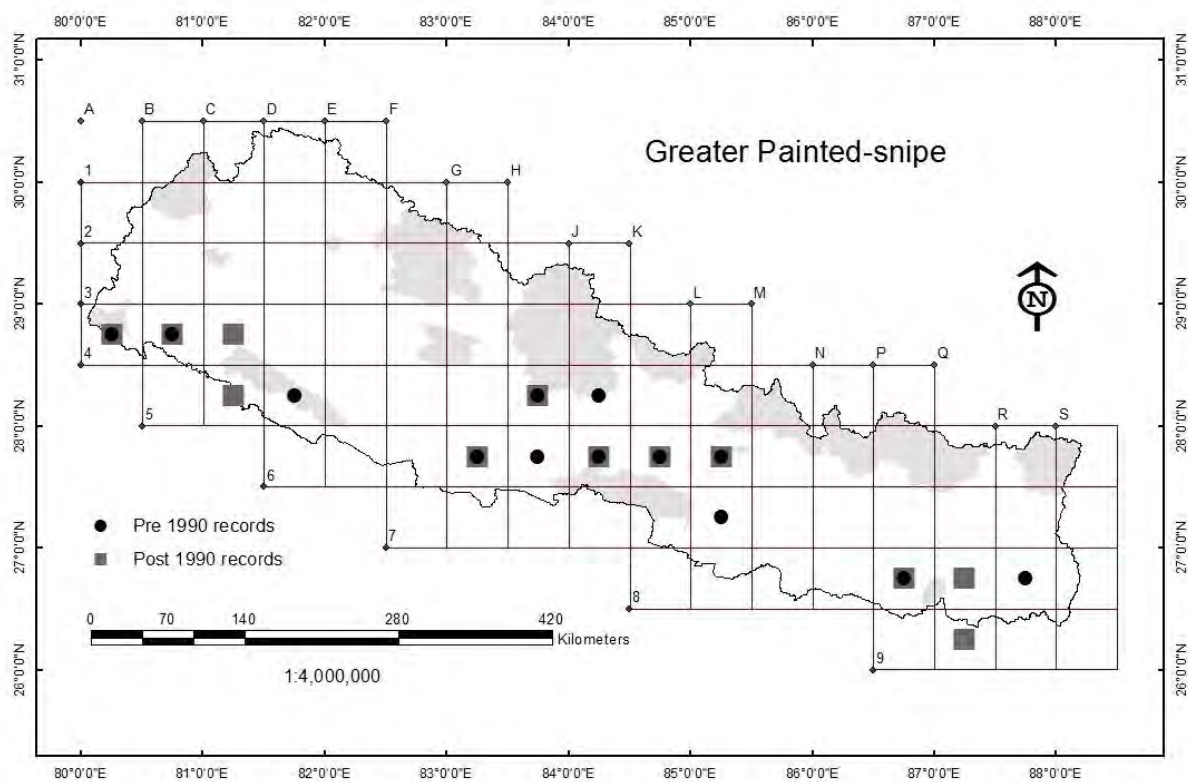
Common Name

Greater Painted-snipe (English),
Chitrangad (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Rostratulidae



Distribution



Greater Painted-snipe is an uncommon resident mainly found in the lowlands.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as occasional in Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as an uncommon resident, mainly found in the lowlands, and regarded it as an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to Chitwan and Koshi Barrage. Before 1990, it was seen in Sukla Phanta (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982), Dhangadi (Fleming and Traylor 1964), Begnas Tal (Richards and Richards 1981), Taulihawa (Cox 1982), Chitwan, Kathmandu valley, Hetauda and Koshi Barrage (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), rare resident in Bardia National Park [C4] (Inskipp 2001), frequent resident in Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and a fairly common breeding bird in Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005).

Outside the protected areas' system, the species has been recorded less widely. Records include: a frequent resident and winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake Area [B4], Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012), recorded from Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District in May 2015 (Som SC); Lumbini, Rupandehi District [G7] (Baral 1994), in Rupa Tal, Kaski District [H5] (Byrne 2000), and Biratnagar, Morang District [Q9] (Chaudhary 1997).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Taiwan (China), Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Greater Painted-snipe. As the species is crepuscular it is extremely difficult to conduct population counts of the species.

In Koshi Area, four birds were noted in January 1992 (Baral 1992), eight in March 1993 (Danielsen and Falk 1993), two in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 10 in April 1997 (Baral 1997a), six in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), three in March 1999 (Choudhary 1999), four in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), four in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), one in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), two in March 2010 (Baral 2010a), two in May 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Chitwan National Park, four birds were recorded in February 1991 (Baral 1993), three in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), two in April 1997 (Baral 1997a), two in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999), one in April 2007 (Baral 2007), two in February 2010 (Baral 2010b) and two in May 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, one bird was noted in November 1997 (Baral 1997b) and May 1998 (Baral 1998).

In Kapilvastu, three birds were seen east of Taulihawa in December 1978 (Cox 1978).

At Jagdishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu District, 16 birds were seen widely scattered, mainly in pairs on drying mud in May 2015 (Som GC).

In Lumbini, five birds were noted in April 1993 (Baral 1994).

In Kali Gandaki, one bird was noted in March 1999 (Basnet 1999).

In Pokhara, four birds were recorded in April 2000 (Byrne 2000).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Greater Painted-Snipe feeds in muddy areas in marshes, by edges of lakes and reservoirs and along stream banks (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Found singly or in small flocks. Chiefly crepuscular and nocturnal. Skulking and reluctant to fly if approached; movements are slow and deliberate (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeds throughout the year; chiefly June to September. Female polyandrous and pugnacious. In the breeding season the female performs a characteristic aerial display known as 'roding' at dusk and dawn and during the daytime in overcast weather condition (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species has bred in Ghodaghodi Lake; young were

seen in June 2009 feeding together with adult birds (Hem Sagar Baral). Feeds by probing in mud, or by sweeping bill from side to side in shallow water while bobbing rear body (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Takes molluscs, crustacean, insects, worms, vegetable matter, seeds, paddy grains etc. (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Greater Painted-Snipe. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Greater Painted Snipe has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is an uncommon resident mainly found in the lowlands. It has been recorded in several protected areas and also less widely in wetlands outside protected areas. It is crepuscular, therefore population counts to estimate their numbers are difficult make. Habitat loss and degradation, hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. As a result, it is possibly declining but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Scolopax rusticola Linnaeus, 1758 LC

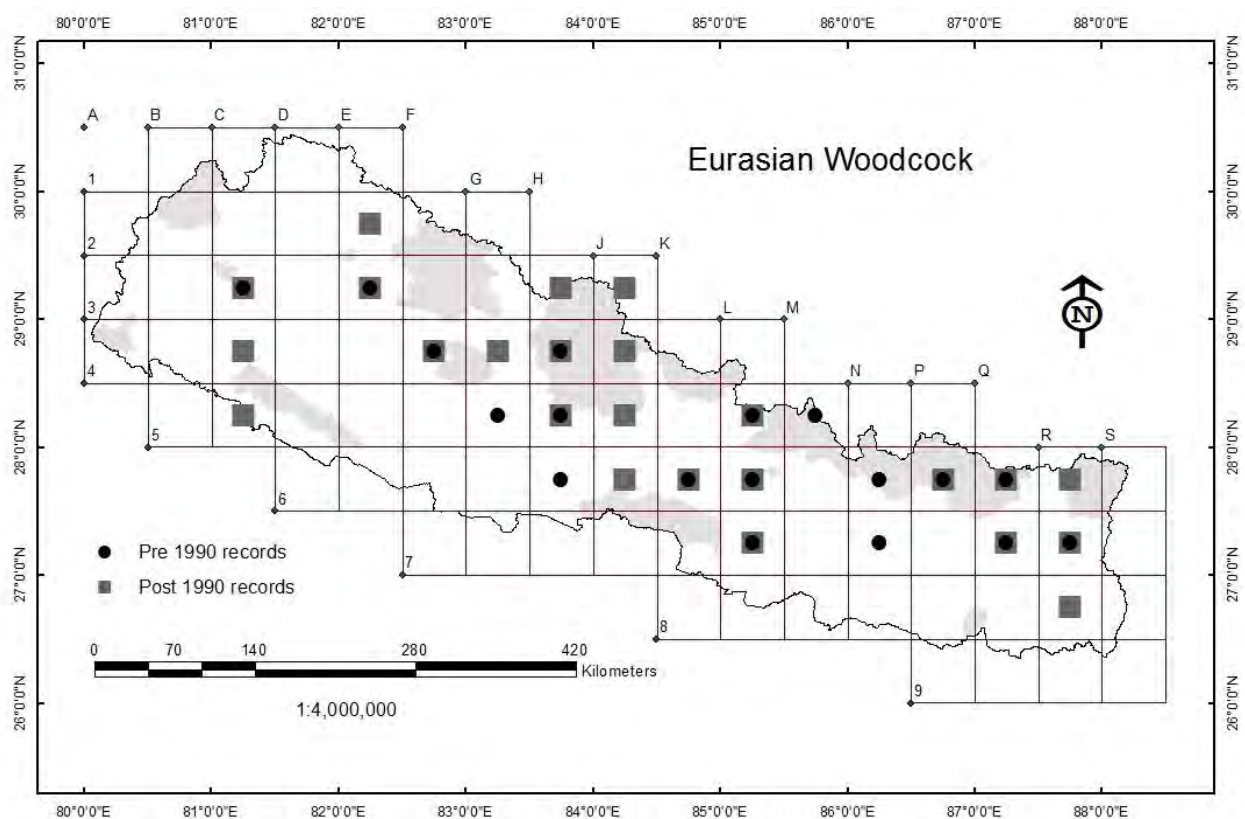
Common Name

Eurasian Woodcock (English),
Thulo Chaahaa (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Eurasian Woodcock is a widespread and locally fairly common resident. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasionally recorded resident and passage migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a fairly common resident locally, and an altitudinal migrant and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a fairly common summer visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a very rare winter visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a rare resident in Rara National Park (E2, E3) (White and White 1995; Giri 2005); recorded from Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Subedi 2003); a frequent resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H3, H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and a summer visitor in Upper Mustang (J3) (Acharya 2002) and probably breeds in Modi River Watershed Area (H5) (Suwal 2000); a rare winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral

and Upadhyay 2006); a frequent summer visitor and breeding in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a frequent winter visitor to Shivapuri (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and recorded at Nagarjun (L6) in December 1992 (Fouarge 1993) in Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park; the species has less than five records as a summer visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); local and a fairly common resident in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6, R7) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Since 1990 Eurasian Woodcock has been recorded less widely outside the protected areas' system compared to within protected areas, Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow: between Lumsum and Deorali Thanti (G4), Myagdi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); Pokhara Valley (H5), Kaski District in March 2003 (Naylor *et al.* 2003); Gokarna, Kathmandu Valley (L6) in January 1992 (Baral 1992); a common migrant to Chitlang Forest (L7), Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); Apsuwa Khola (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District (Tymstra 1993), and the Mai (Ilam District) (R8) and Tamur Valley (R7), Tehrathum District (Halliday and Mcknight 1990).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3900 m (summer); 2100 m (winter); lower limit: 1980 m (summer); 1350 m (- 100 m) (winter)

Population

In the Kathmandu Valley, two birds were recorded in January 1992 at Gokarna (Baral 1992), one in February 1997 in Nagarjun Forest of Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park (Choudhary 1997), and one in March 2001 (Baral 2001).

In Langtang National Park, one was recorded in May 1992 (Baral 1992), and one in May 1996 (Cocker 1996),

In Rara National Park, one was recorded in April 2009 (O'Connell-Davidson 2009),

In the Myagdi valley one was recorded in May 1999 (Cox 1999b).

In Annapurna Conservation Area, two birds were recorded in Khuine and Namsong in May 2001 (Baral 2001).

In Makalu-Barun National Park, six birds were recorded in May 1991 (Halberg 1991), and one in October 2005 (Baral 2005).

Available population data are not sufficient to assess a population trend.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Eurasian Woodcock occurs in swampy dense undergrowth in rhododendron and fir forests (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is solitary, crepuscular and nocturnal, passing the day in thick cover (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Easily

located during the breeding season when the male performs his characteristic aerial display known as 'roding' at dusk and dawn (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeds between April-July; nest is a depression on the ground, lined with leaves and hidden among undergrowth, usually near streams (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Eurasian Woodcock is an altitudinal migrant (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species feeds by probing into soft wet earth with its sensitive-tipped bill and chiefly eats worms and grubs; occasionally some seeds and shoots (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species. However, as it breeds in forests extending to the upper temperate and subalpine zones it is much less threatened in the breeding season than species that chiefly breed at lower altitudes.

Conservation Measures

There are no conservation measures specifically carried out for this species. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Khaptad National Park, Bardia National Park, Rara National Park, Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Annapurna Conservation Area, Chitwan National Park, Langtang National Park, Shivapuri of Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park, Sagarmatha National Park, Makalu-Barun National Park and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Eurasian Woodcock has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a widespread and locally fairly common resident. There has been no contraction of range post-1990 compared to pre 1990. Available population data are not sufficient to assess a population trend. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to this species. However, as it breeds in forests extending to the upper temperate and subalpine zones it is much less threatened in the breeding season than species that chiefly breed at lower altitudes.

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***Tringa erythropus* (Pallas, 1764) LC**

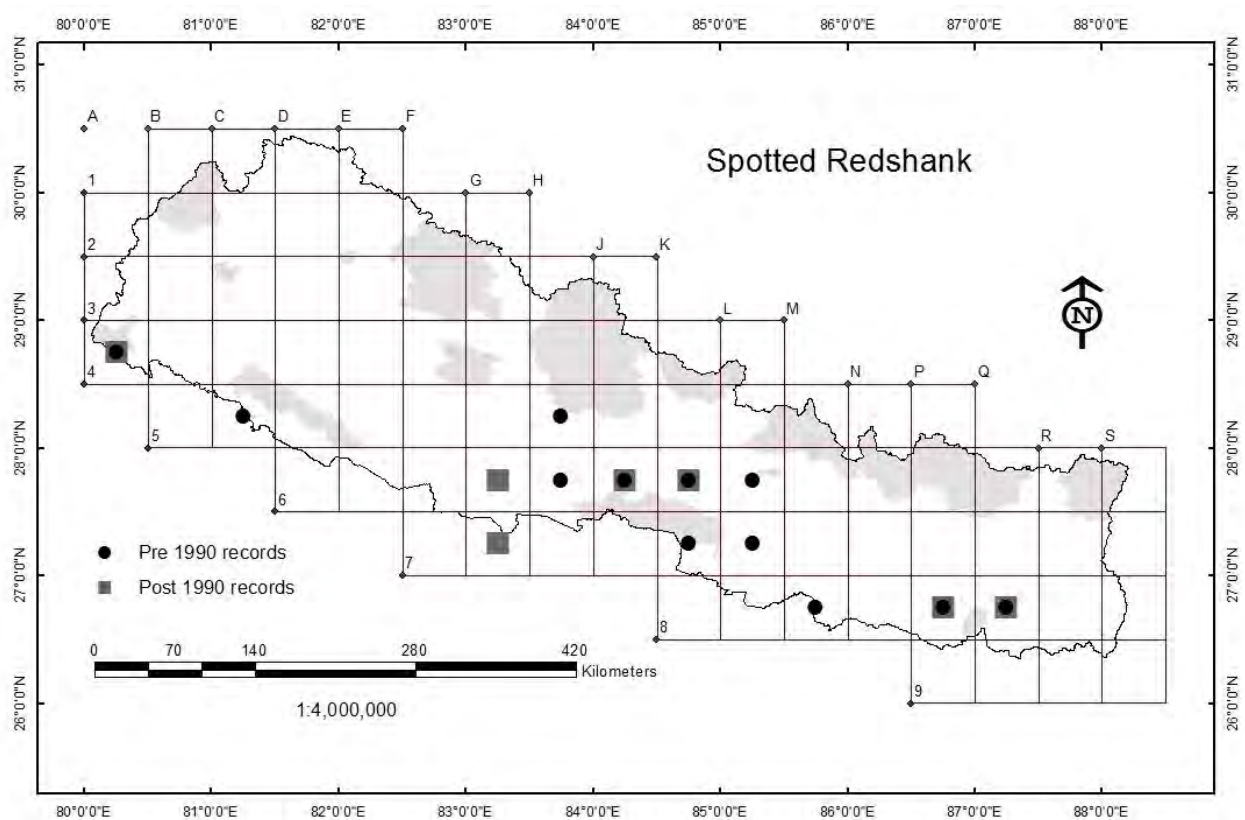
Common Name

Spotted Redshank (English),
Thople Tintima (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Spotted Redshank is uncommon, mainly a passage migrant, also a winter visitor.

The bird was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species occasional winter visitor to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a local winter visitor and passage migrant.

Before 1990, the bird was occasionally recorded from Koshi Barrage and Chitwan National Park between February and April (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), three times recorded from Phewa Tal (Lambert 1979, Wolstencroft 1981, Tolk 1988), one record from the Kathmandu Valley (Lambert 1979) and also recorded in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982).

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: an uncommon passage migrant to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), frequent winter visitor to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2005) and an uncommon winter visitor to Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005).

Since 1990 the only records outside the protected areas' system have been from Rupandehi District [G6, G7]

(Baral 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1350 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the Midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal Spotted Redshank population counts were 0, 1, 10, 9, 6, 1 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, one bird was noted in February 1981 (Baker 1981), three in March 1989 (Babbington 1989) and one in October 1993 (Chaudhary 1994), and three at Koshi Barrage in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004).

In Chitwan National Park, one bird was noted in December 1984 (Collins and Thomas 1986), April 1988 (Gaasbeck 1988), January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998) and March 1999 (Ghimire 1999) and two in February 2002 (Arlow 2002).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, four birds were recorded in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001).

In Rupandehi, six birds were noted in April 1993 (Baral 1994).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Spotted Redshank frequents muddy banks and shallow water of rivers and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is mainly a solitary bird but can be seen in small flocks, often with other waders (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on molluscs, crustaceans, worms, aquatic insects and larvae, often in fairly deep open water in a compact flock (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation including collection and quarrying of gravel and sand from riverbeds, and illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

There are no conservation measures specifically carried out for Spotted Redshank. Post 1990, the species has been recorded from Chitwan National Park, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Spotted Redshank has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is uncommon, mainly a passage migrant, and also a winter visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from a few protected areas, but from only one area outside the protected area's system. There is no indication of decline in its population or contraction of range post-1990 compared to pre-1990. However, habitat loss and degradation, including collection and quarrying of gravel and sand from riverbeds, and illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to the species. As a result, the species is possibly declining, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category.

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***Tringa glareola* Linnaeus, 1758 LC**

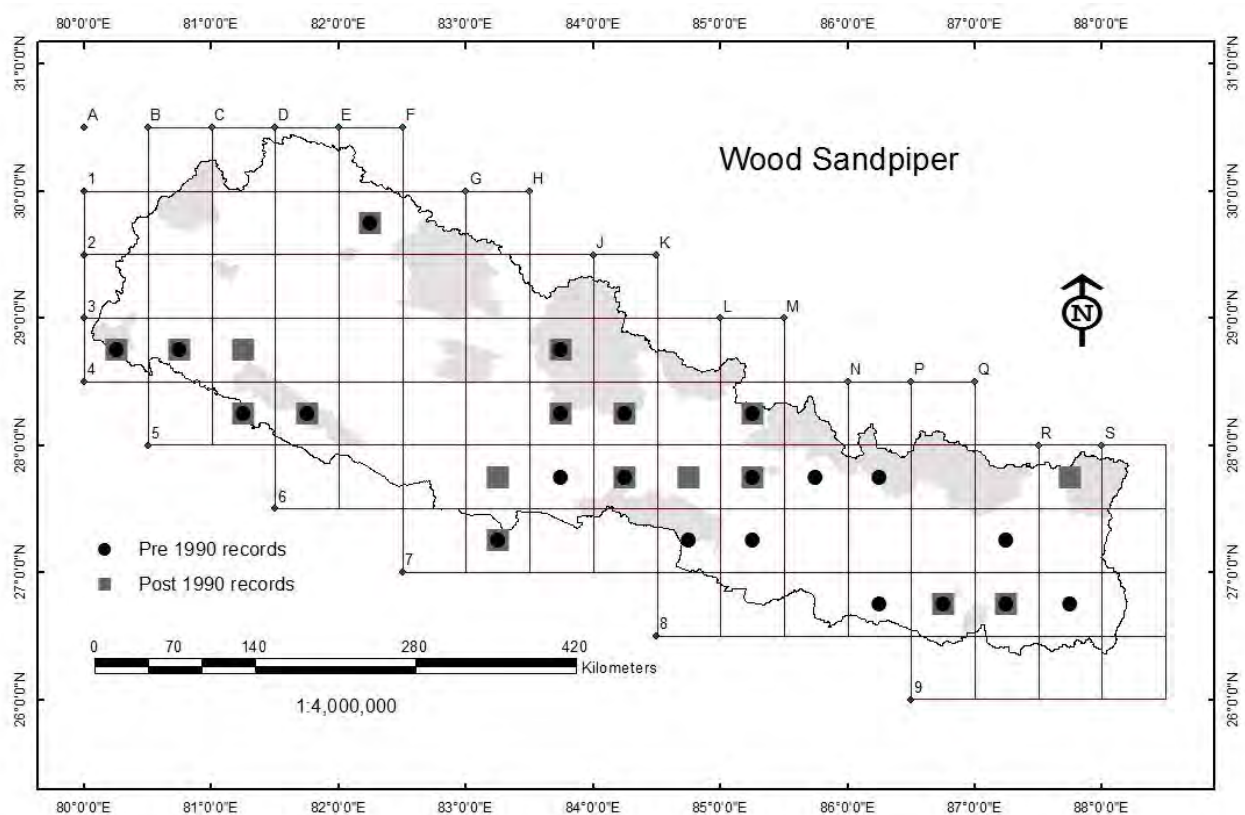
Common Name

Wood Sandpiper (English),
Ban Sudsudiya (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Wood Sandpiper is uncommon, mainly a passage migrant, and also a winter visitor.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as an occasional winter visitor to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as an uncommon winter visitor but observed more frequently on passage, mainly in April, May and September. According to Inskipp and Inskipp (1991), the bird was regularly seen at Phewa Tal, Chitwan, Kathmandu valley and Koshi Barrage before 1990.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: fairly common winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), an uncommon passage migrant to Rara National Park [E2] (Giri 2005), frequent passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area [H4, H5, J5] (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), frequent winter visitor to Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), has less than five records as a passage migrant to Langtang National Park [L5] (Karki and Thapa 2001), a fairly common winter visitor to Koshi

Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area [R6] (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Since 1990 it has been recorded from several localities outside the protected areas' system. Records include: a fairly common winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake Area, Kailali District [B4] (CSUWN and BCN 2012), recorded from Badhaiya Lake, Bardia District [C5] (Bhuju *et al.* 2007), Nepalgunj, Banke District [D5] (Baral 1992), Sagarhawa Lake, Kapilvastu District [G6] (Baral 1994) Gaidahawa Lake [G6] and Lumbini [G7], Rupandehi District (Baral 2011), and an uncommon and local winter visitor and passage migrant to Kathmandu valley [L6] (Mallalieu 2008) and Chimdi lake, Sunsari District (H. S. Baral 2012).

Globally the species has also been reported from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3780 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the Midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal Wood Sandpiper population counts were 6, 16, 1, 4, 9, 94 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

Before 1990, on passage, 14 birds were counted between September and October 1973 at Jomosom (Beaman 1973), and one at Muktinath (3780 m) on April 1984 (Innes and Lewis 1984).

In Koshi Area, three birds were noted in February 1981 (Baker 1981), 40 in April 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981); three in March 1992 (Baral 1992), 12 in February 1993 (Giri 1993), three in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), four in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 13 in December 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a), six in March 1999 (Choudhary 1999), eight in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), three in March 2002 (Baral 2002), 10 in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005), eight in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007) and three in January 2009 (Acharya 2009).

In Chitwan National Park, four birds were recorded in February 1998 (Choudhary 1998), one in February 1999 (Sterling 1999).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, two birds were noted in November 1997 (Baral 1997) and March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b) and one in April 2007 (Baral 2007).

In Nepalgunj, three birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992).

In Ghodaghodi Lake, one bird was observed in January 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Lumbini, five birds were noted in April 1993 (Baral 1994) and one in February 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Kathmandu, five birds were recorded in December 1991 (Tyler and Ormerod 1993).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Wood Sandpiper is found on marshes and banks of rivers and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Often forages in scattered parties (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Territorial rivalry is observed in newly arrived birds and before departure (Ali and Ripley 1987). Feeds by wading on small fish, tiny molluscs, crustaceans, insects, worms (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Wood Sandpiper is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly by agro-chemicals.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Wood Sandpiper. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Rara, Chitwan and Langtang National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC) unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Wood Sandpiper has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is uncommon, mainly a passage migrant and also a winter visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from several protected areas and several localities outside the protected areas' system. Its distributional range appears to have declined in central and eastern Nepal. It is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly by agro-chemicals. Its population may be declining but not to the extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Tringa nebularia* (Gunnerus, 1767) LC**

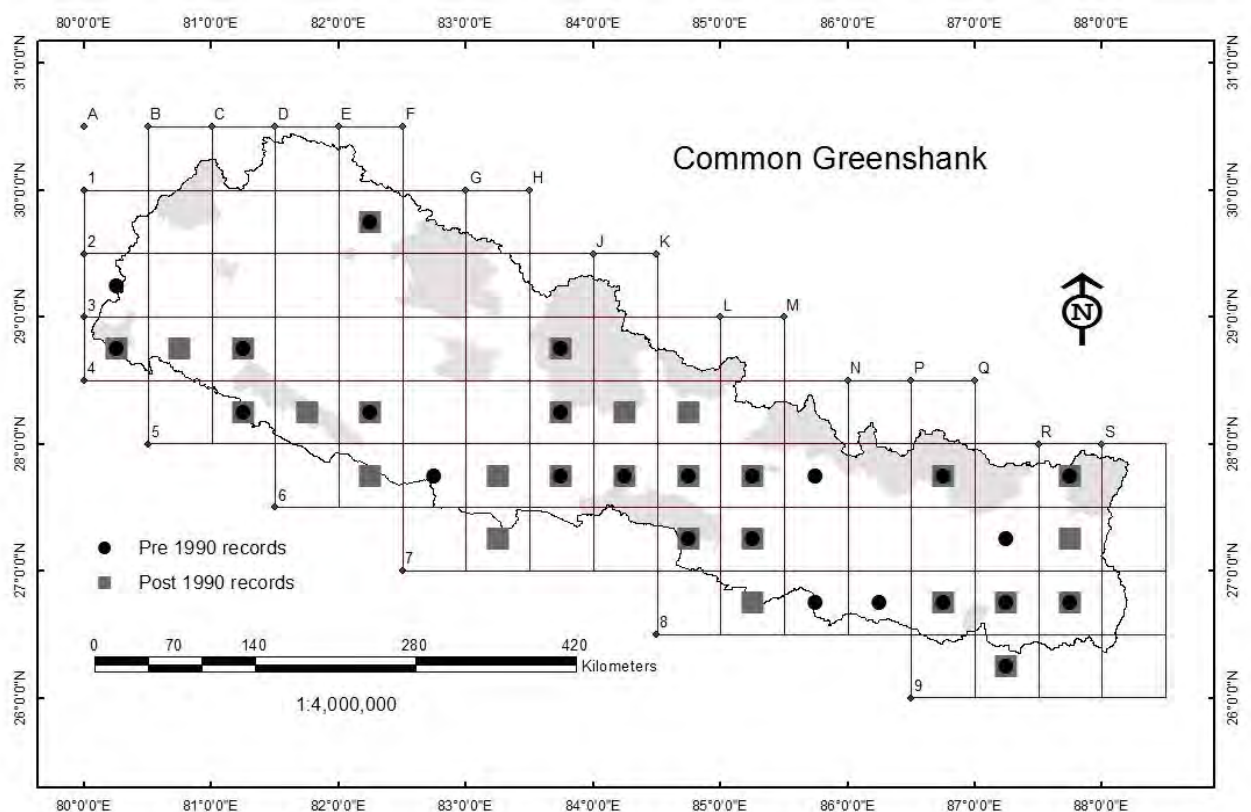
Common Name

Common Greenshank (English),
Tintimaa (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Common Greenshank is a common winter visitor and passage migrant throughout the country, especially in the lowlands. Post-1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Ilam District (Baral 2010a) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a common winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as mainly a winter visitor and passage migrant between mid-August and May and mapped its distribution from the far west to the far east.

Before 1990, the bird had also been recorded from higher altitudes such as in Khumbu (4800 m) on August 1962 (Diesselhorst 1968), Tukche in October 1973 (Beaman 1973) and at Rara Lake (Bolton 1976).

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a common winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common winter visitor and passage migrant to Bardia

National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); an uncommon passage migrant in Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); a rare passage migrant in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a winter visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); an uncommon passage migrant in Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); a common winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone the species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000), Bees Hazari Lake in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Janakauli Community Forest in October 2000 (Stairs and Stairs 2000), and Chitwan District and Tharu Cultural Village Resort, Nawalparasi District in December 2011 (Baral 2011a). In Bardia National Park it has been recorded in Khata Corridor (C5) (Chaudhari 2007), Bardia District.

Common Greenshank has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include: a fairly common winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4) (CSUWN and BCN 2012) and recorded from Dhangadi (B4) in March 1992 (Baral 1992), Kailali District; Chisapani (C4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); a winter visitor in Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); recorded in Lumbini (G7) in April 1993 (Baral 1994); Gaidahawa, Rupandehi District (G6) in February 2011 (Baral 2011b); and Budigandaki River (K5), Gorkha District in February 2008 (Giri 2008).

In central Nepal records include: Bharatpur (J6), Chitwan District in February 2005 (Baral 2005b) a fairly common but local winter visitor and passage migrant in the Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008), and along Bagmati River corridor (L6) (Thakuri and Thapa 2009); recorded from Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in January 2001 (Hofland 2001), along Makwanpur (L7) and Bara (L7) District sections of Bagmati and Bakaiya River valleys (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); recorded between Lal Bakaiya River, Gaur (L8), Rautahat District and Sedhawa (L8), Siraha District in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include: from Trijuga River (P8), Udaypur District and Bhagalpur (P8), Saptari District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); a scarce migrant to Chimdi Lake (Q8) (Surana *et al.* 2007) and recorded from Dharan Forest (Q8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), Sunsari District; Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District in March 1994 (Baral 1994); between Bhiring Khola and Prajapathe (R8), Jhapa District in November 1992 (Cox 1992), and Ilam (R8), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010a).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Cocos (Keeling) Islands (to Australia), Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, French Southern Territories, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte (to France), Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Réunion (to France), Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1300 m (- 4800 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Common Greenshank Nepal population counts were 310, 283, 319, 315, 380, 368 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

Before 1990, over 150 birds were recorded in Koshi Barrage in February 1974 (Madge *et al.* 1974) and 102 birds in Chitwan in December 1982 (Halliday 1982). However, post-1990, 619 birds were recorded in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995) in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and 100 in Bardia National Park (Chaudhary 1998a).

In the Koshi area, 112 birds were recorded in December 1992 (Baral 1993), 300 in December 1993 (Choudhary 1994), 350 in January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994), 619 in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 402 in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), 300 in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), 200 in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b), 160 in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999), 33 in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001a), 52 in March 2001 (Baral 2001), 69 in January 2002 (Giri and GC 2002), 136 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003a), 70 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), 84 in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), 156 in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), 56 in November 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), 180 in February 2009 (Baral 2009a), 61 in March 2010 (Baral 2010a), and 180 in February 2011 (Baral 2011b).

In Chitwan National Park, 46 birds were recorded in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), 60 in January 1993 (Giri 1993), 28 in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), 52 in December 1995 (Dhakal 1996), 60 in December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), 36 in December 1997 (Chaudhary 1998a), 150 in February 1998 (Prince 1998), 29 in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), 15 in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), 15 in January 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), 11 in March 2002 (Malling Olsen 2004), 25 in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003b), 13 in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004), 10 in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), 14 in February 2005 (Baral 2005b), 30 in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), three in December 2008 (Baral 2009b), 30 in December 2009 (Baral 2009c), 36 in February 2010 (Baral 2010b), and two in April 2011 (Baral 2011c). The midwinter waterbird count between 1987 and 1999 showed the decline in the population of the species (Baral 1999). Similarly, the midwinter waterbird count recorded 242 in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 85 in January 2010 (January 2010), 168 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012) and 175 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, one bird was noted in January 1992 (Baral 1992), nine in December 1997 (Chaudhary 1998b), three in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b), three in January 2001 (Baral 2001), two in January 2009 (Baral 2009d), 21 in February 2011 (Chaudhary 2011).

In Bardia National Park, 14 birds were noted March 1992 (Baral 1992), two in December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), 100 in November 1997 (Chaudhary 1998a), seven in December 1998 and two in September 1999 (Choudhary 1999), eight in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001b), 15 in January 2003 (Giri 2003), two in April 2007 (Baral 2007a), two in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009).

In Banke National Park, three birds were noted in March 1992 (Baral 1992), 14 in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999), and one in March 2011 (Acharya 2011).

In Dhangadi, three birds were noted in March 1992 (Baral 1992).

In Jagadishpur Reservoir, Kapilvastu, one in August 2007 (Baral 2007b) and seven in March 2006 (Baral 2008).

In Lumbini, seven birds were noted in April 1993 (Baral 1994), two in January 2003 (Giri 2003), and one in February 2011 (Baral 2011a).

In Nawalparasi, 10 birds were recorded in December 2011 (Baral 2011a).

In Kathmandu, 90 birds were noted in January 1985 (Collins 1986), 60 in January 1992 (Baral 1992), 51 in April 1993 (Baral 1993), 48 in January 1994 (Baral 1994), 29 in January 1995 (Baral 1995), 40 in December 1996 and 50 in February 1997 (Baral 1997), 55 in January 1999 (Fouarge 1999), 25 in September 2000 (Fuller 2000), 100 in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001), 15 in January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005), the maximum single day count of 30 birds between 2004-2006 (Riessen 2007). The species has decreased significantly in the valley, from the maximum day count of 30 in 2005 to seven in 2012 (Riessen 2013).

In Hetauda, 12 birds were recorded in December 1995 (Rasmussen and Strange 1995).

In Biratnagar, 19 birds were noted in March 1994 (Baral 1994).

In Bhiring Khola, 12 birds were recorded in November 1992 (Cox 1992).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Greenshank inhabits marshes, river banks and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Usually it forages singly, although it may gather in small parties to roost (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is generally wary; when alarmed or suspicious, it bobs its head and body nervously up and down (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds actively, with head and neck fully submerged, chiefly in shallow water or at the water's edge; detects prey mainly by sight, and makes frequent runs to seize fast-moving prey (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on molluscs, crustaceans, insects, worms and tadpoles (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting and human disturbance are threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Common Greenshank. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, Rara, Chitwan and Sagarmatha National Parks, Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Greenshank has been assessed as Least Concern. It is mainly a common winter visitor and passage migrant, although there are records throughout the year. It has been recorded in a number of protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. Habitat loss, and degradation, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to the species. The population is probably declining but not to an extent that warrants a threat category.

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Tringa ochropus Linnaeus, 1758 LC

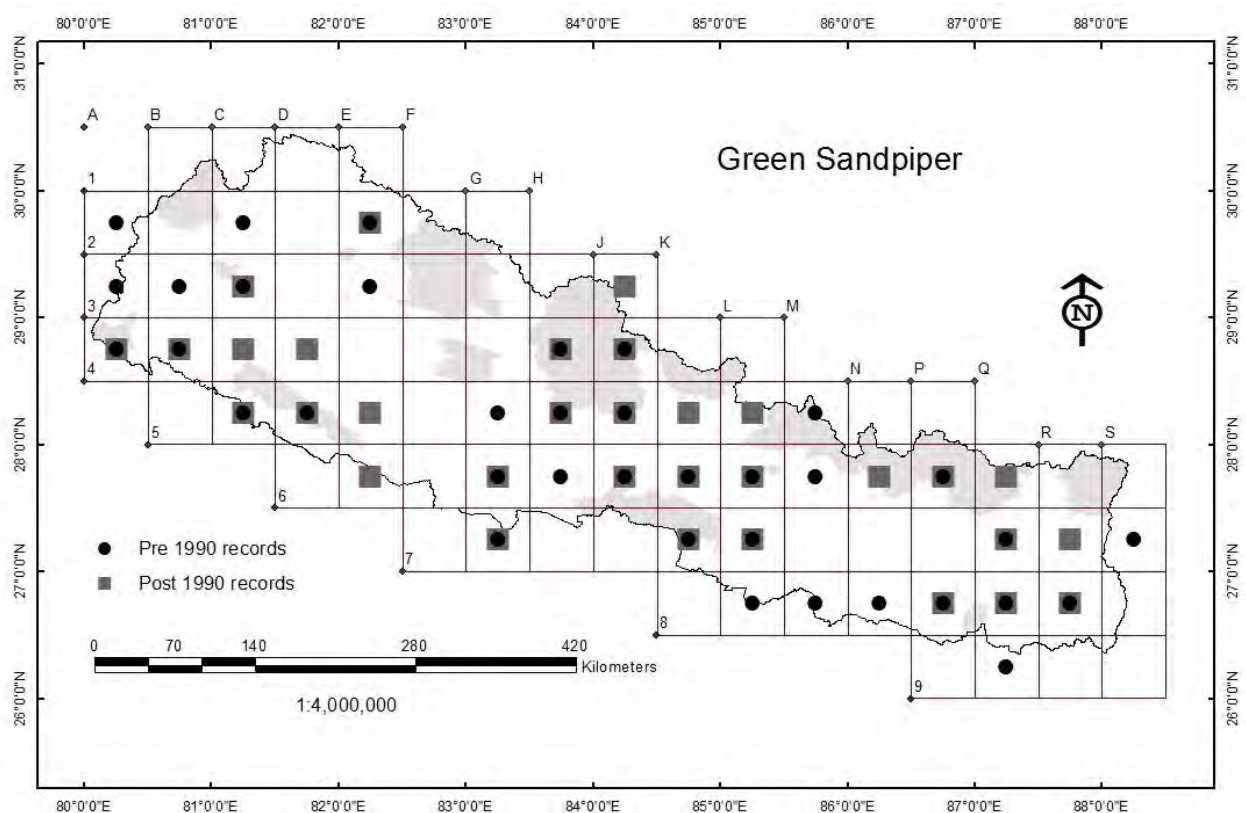
Common Name

Green Sandpiper (English),
Rukh Sudsudiyaa (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Green Sandpiper is a common winter visitor below 1300 m and a common and widespread passage migrant. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species a fairly common winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a common passage migrant and fairly common in winter up to about 370 m and mapped its distribution widely from the far west to the far east.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a common winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a passage migrant to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a frequent winter visitor and migrant to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); an uncommon passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); a

fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), a passage visitor to Upper Mustang (J3) of Annapurna Conservation Area (Acharya 2002, Suwal 2003); a common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a fairly common winter visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); has less than five records as a passage migrant to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a frequent winter visitor to Shivapuri (L6) of Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); a passage migrant to Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a rare passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); common to fairly common passage migrant in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999); a common winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005a), and recorded near Ghunsa Khola (R6) of Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Halberg 1994). The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000), Bees Hazari lake in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Chitwan District and Gundre Khola in November 2007 (Baral 2007a) and Tharu Cultural Village Resort in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), Nawalparasi District in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

Green Sandpiper has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990, in suitable habitat. Post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system follow.

In the west records include: a fairly common winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1992 (Baral 1992a); Rawtkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); a winter visitor to Jagadishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); Lumbini (G7) in December 2011 (Baral 2011a), Gaidahawa Lake (G6) in February 2011 (Baral 2011b), Rupandehi District; Begnas Lake (J5) in February 2013 (Musgrove 2013) and Phewa Lake (H5), Kaski District in February 1999 (Dannenberg 1999), and Budigandaki River (K5), Gorkha District in February 2008 (Giri 2008).

In central Nepal records include: from Bharatpur (J6), Chitwan District in February 2005 (Baral 2005b); Malekhu (K6), Dhading District (Baral 1992b); a fairly common but local winter visitor and passage migrant in Kathmandu (L6) (Mallalieu 2008), along Lalitpur (L6), Makwanpur (L7) and Bara (L7) District sections of Bagmati and Bakaiya River valleys (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in December 1995 (Rasmussen and Strange 1995); between Lal Bakaiya River and Kopuwa Gau (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003) and Rangapur Collaborative Forest (L7), Rautahat District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013), and between Belwa and Kat Mandir (L7), Bara District in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include: from Trijuga and Bhagalpur (P8), Udaypur District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); between Chewabesi and Bungling (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Buckton and Baral 1995); Sankhuwa Khola (Q7), Bhojpur District in November 1994 (Baral 1995); Dharan Forest (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); a common winter visitor and migrant to Betana Pond (Q8), Morang District (Niroula *et al.* 2011); Dobhan (R7), Taplejung District in April 1994 (Halberg 1994), and the lower Mai Valley (R8) (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Helena (to UK), Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1300 m (- 4250 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Nepal Green Sandpiper population counts were: 118, 100, 230, 123, 100, 163 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, six birds in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), five in February 2002 (Arlow 2002), five in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004), nine in February 2003 (Chaudhary 2003), three in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), 11 in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), three in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008), four in February 2009 (Baral 2009).

In Chitwan National Park, two waterbird surveys counted 72 birds on the Rapti River and 21 birds on the Narayani River in December 1982 (Halliday 1982) and 22 birds on the Narayani in December 1995 (Dhakal 1996). Other counts in the park include: four birds were recorded in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), four in March 1994 (Zerning and Braasch 1995), eight in March 1999 (Chartier and Chartier 1999), four in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), five in February 2002 (Arlow 2002), three in March 2002 and two in March 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004), four in February 2007 (Baral 2007b) and six between February-March 2009 (Harrap and Karki 2009). The Midwinter Waterbird Count in the area recorded 22 birds in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 66 in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 28 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012) and 41 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013).

In Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, 15-20 birds were recorded near Ghunsa Khola (Halberg 1994).

In Kathmandu, 16 birds were recorded at Taudaha in January 1992 (Halliday 1992), six birds were recorded from Chobhar in November 1993 (Eadson 1993), six birds from Chobhar and Bagmati river in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), 20 birds were recorded near Chobhar in 2000 (Fuller 2000), four birds were recorded in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001), 50 in February 2005 (Riessen 2013) and 10 in April 2009 (O'Connell-Davidson 2009). After the maximum count of 50 in February 2005, the number of the birds in the area has decreased (Riessen 2013).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 15 birds were recorded in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001).

In Hetauda, eight birds were recorded in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), two in February 1999 (Sterling 1999) and eight in December 2003 (Stratford 2004).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Green Sandpiper frequents marshes, streams, lakes and rivers (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). The species is usually solitary when feeding but may gather in small flocks during migration (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is shy and bobs its body when nervous (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is often the first winter visitor to arrive in the lowlands of Nepal; generally, the species reaches the lowlands before the monsoon is over – usually by August (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species forages in marginal vegetation and shallows, picking prey from water or mud (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on molluscs, crustaceans, aquatic insects, worms, and mosquito larvae (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation including collection and quarrying of gravel and sand on rivers, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Green Sandpiper. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Banke, Rara, Chitwan, Langtang, Shivapuri- Nagarjun, Sagarmatha and Makalu-Barun National Parks, Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Green Sandpiper has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a common winter visitor below 1300 m and a common and widespread passage migrant, recorded from east to west. This is one of the most widely distributed waterbirds in Nepal. It has been recorded in many protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. The species has declined in Chitwan National Park since the early 1980s, although there is no indication of a decline elsewhere or of a range contraction between pre 1990 and post 1990. Habitat loss and degradation including collection and quarrying of gravel and sand on rivers, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to the species. The overall population in Nepal is probably declining, but evidence for this is not considered sufficient to warrant a threatened category for the species.

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***Tringa stagnatilis* (Bechstein, 1803) LC**

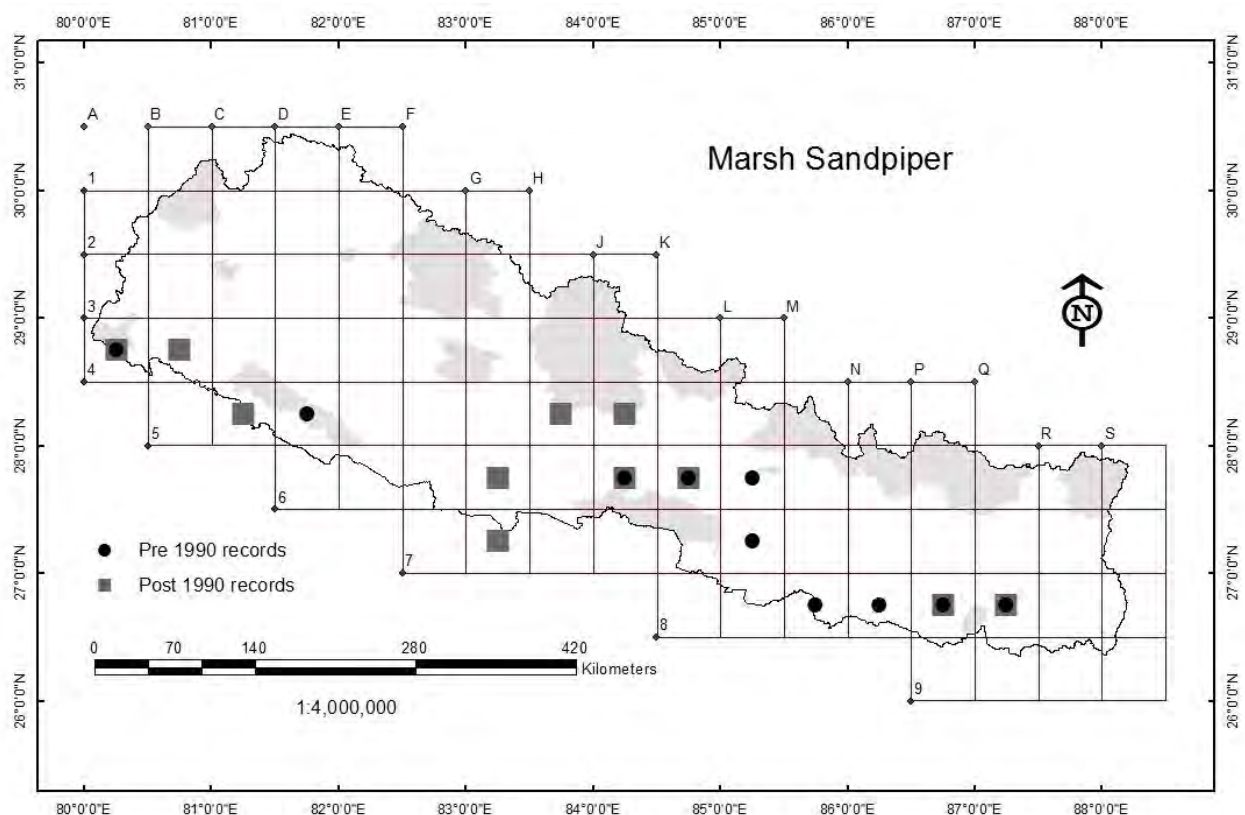
Common Name

Marsh Sandpiper (English),
Masinothunde Tintima (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Marsh Sandpiper is an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

The first Nepal record of the species was in April 1962 from the Rapti Dun (Diesselhorst 1968).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as a scarce winter visitor to Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) regarded the bird as an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to Chitwan and Koshi Barrage and only single reports from elsewhere.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: an uncommon passage migrant to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), a rare winter visitor to Bardia National Park [C5] (Inskipp 2001) and Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), and a fairly common passage migrant to Koshi Area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005).

Since 1990 outside the protected areas' system records include: a frequent winter visitor to Ghodaghodi lake, Kailali District [B4] (CSUWN and BCN 2012), recorded from Badhaiya Lake, Bardia District [C5] (Bhujaraj *et al.* 2007), Lumbini, Rupandehi District [G7] (Acharya 2011), Pokhara Valley, Kaski District [H5] (Gautam and Kafle

2007), localities of Okhaldhunga District [N7] (Drijvers 1995) and Dharan forest IBA, Sunsari District [Q8] (Basnet and Sapkota 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1300 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the Midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, the Nepal Marsh Sandpiper population counts were 12, 0, 13, 1, 2, 5 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, 11 birds were recorded in March 1982 at Koshi Barrage (Wallinder and Sandgren 1983), 12 birds were noted in February 1993 (Fouarge 1993), two birds in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), nine in April 1998 (Pettersson 1998), one in March 2002 (Baral 2002) and one in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007).

In Chitwan National Park, one bird was recorded in April 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983) and March 2010 (Baral 2010).

In Lumbini, one bird was noted in February 2011 (Acharya 2011).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Marsh Sandpiper frequents marshes and mud banks of rivers and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is often seen with other waders, ducks and egrets (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Frequently wades into shallow water feeding with head and bill completely submerged. Feeds on small molluscs, crustaceans, insects and worms etc. (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Marsh Sandpiper. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red Status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Marsh Sandpiper has been assessed as Least Concern. It is an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from a few protected areas and several localities outside the protected areas' system. Habitat loss and degradation, including extraction of gravel and sand from riverbeds, and illegal hunting and disturbance are threats to the species. As a result, its population may be declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Tringa totanus (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Tringa totanus eurhinus*

Common Name

Common Redshank (English),

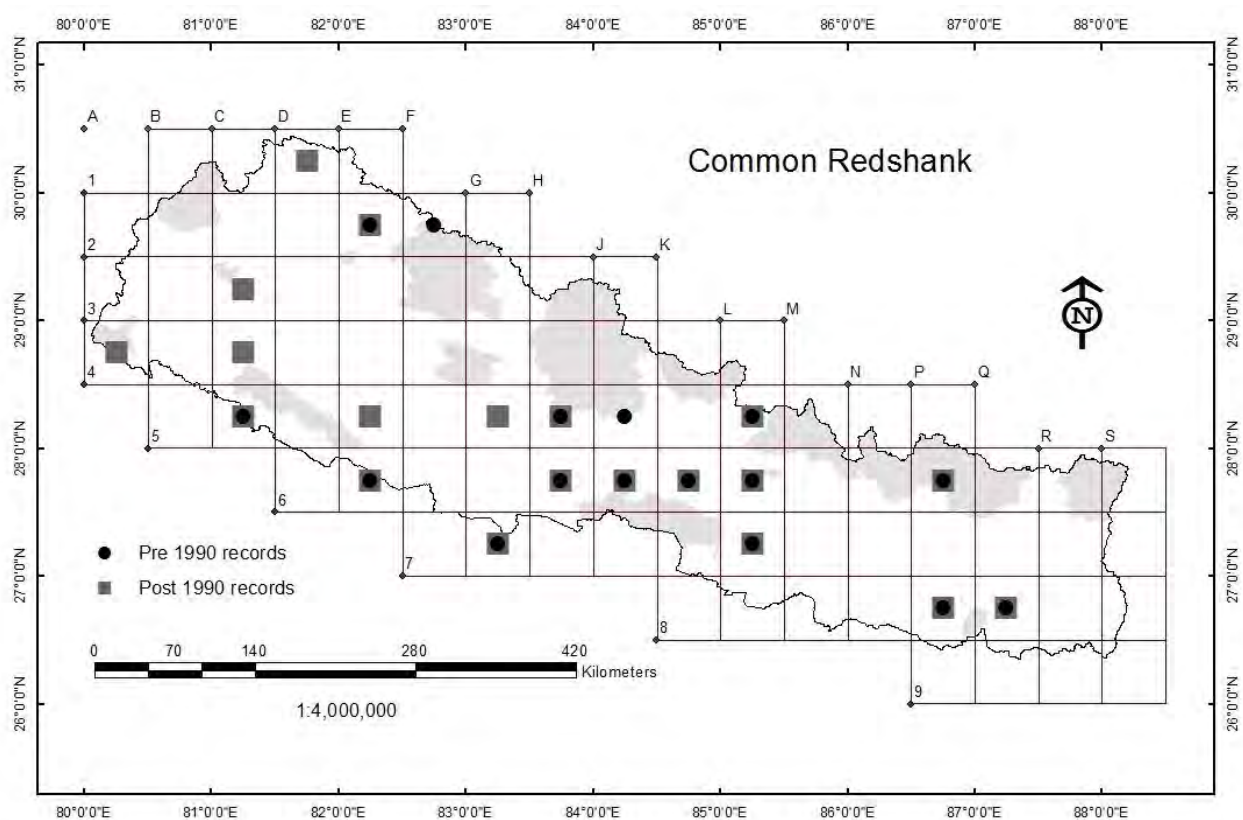
Laalkhutte Timtima (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae



Distribution



Common Redshank is a very local breeding bird in upper Humla; also a local winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded since 1990 from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported the species as a local winter visitor and passage migrant and mapped its distribution mainly in central Nepal.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: a frequent winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a passage migrant to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a fairly common passage migrant to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); a rare passage migrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a frequent winter visitor in Chitwan National Park (J6,

K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a rare passage migrant to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); an uncommon passage migrant to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004) and a fairly common winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded at Barandabhar Forest and wetlands (Adhikari *et al.* 2000) and Bees Hazari Lake (Baral 1996), buffer zones of Chitwan National Park. It has also been recorded in Bardia National Park at from Chisapani (C4), in March 1997, Kailali District (Giri 1997).

Common Redshank was seen breeding (and photographed) in upper Humla (Gyau valley, Sakya valley, Ngin valley and Chyakpalung) (D1) in August 2015 (Naresh Kusi and Geraldine Werhahn 2015).

In the non-breeding season it has been recorded from a number of other localities outside the protected areas' system since 1990. Records include: a passage migrant and winter visitor to Badhaiya Tal (C5) Bardia District (Bhujy *et al.* 2007); the Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); a winter visitor to Balewa (H5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994); Pokhara Valley (H5) in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), Begnas Lake (J5), Kaski District in January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005); an uncommon and local winter visitor and passage migrant to the Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008), and recorded at Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in February-March 1999 (Sterling 1999).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Cocos (Keeling) Islands (to Australia), Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guam (to USA), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 5010 m (breeding); 915 m (-4270 m) (winter and on passage); lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Common Redshank Nepal population counts were 48, 39, 32, 42, 26, 43 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, 12 in December 1991 and 14 in March 1992 (Baral 1992), eight in January 1995 (Choudhary 1995), 30 in April 1998 (Rogers 1998), two in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999), one in February 2003 (Baral 2003), one in February 2004 (Malling Olsen 2004), one in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007), two in February 2009 (Baral 2009) and two in February 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Chitwan National Park, two birds were recorded in February 1991 (Baral 1993), two in March 1992 (Baral 1992), three in January 1993 (Giri 1993), three in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994), 13 in December 1995 (Dhakal 1996), three in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997), three in February 1998 (Choudhary 1998), six in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999), six in January 2001 (Hofland 2001), 15 in February 2002 (Malling Olsen 2004), five in December 2007 (Choudhary 2007), 10 in February 2009 (Baral 2009) and 12 in February 2010

(Baral 2010). A waterbird survey along the Rapti and Narayani Rivers counted 100 birds on the Rapti and ten on the Narayani River in December 1982 (Halliday 1982). A total of 31 birds was recorded in January 2005 (Khadka 2005), 46 in January 2010 (Khadka 2010), 36 in February 2011 (Khadka 2012) and 67 in February 2012 (Khadka 2013) in Midwinter Waterbird Count. In Bardia National Park, one bird was noted in January 1992 (Baral 1992), three in January 1997 (Choudhary 1997) and two in December 2007 (Baral 2008).

In Kathmandu, 10 in December 1992 (Baral 1993), seven in February 1993 (Baral 1993), nine in March 1995 (Baral 1995), eight in January 1996 (Baral 1997), 15 in December 2004 (Riessen 2013) and two in January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Redshank is found in marshes and muddy edges of rivers and lakes (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is mainly a solitary bird or can be seen in small flocks, often with other waders (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is generally very noisy and wary, often giving its alarm call (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). When alarmed or suspicious bobs its head and posterior violently up and down in a seesaw action (Ali and Ripley 1987). It feeds by walking briskly and picking from the surface, sometimes wading into shallow water and feeding with the bill and head completely immersed; swims on occasion but not regularly (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on molluscs, crustaceans, worms, aquatic insects and larvae (Ali and Ripley 1987). In August 2015, at least five pairs were recorded in upper Humla, and young with two pairs of alarming adults were seen at Tso Lamgyok, a lake at 5010 m (Naresh Kusi and Geraldine Werhahn). This is the first breeding record of the species in Nepal.

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation including collection and quarrying of gravel and sand from riverbeds and disturbance, illegal hunting and disturbance are possible threats to the species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Common Redshank. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Rara, Chitwan, Langtang and Sagarmatha National Parks; Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves and Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Redshank has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a very local breeding bird in upper Humla; also a local winter visitor and passage migrant from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 it has been recorded from a number of protected areas and additional localities outside the protected areas' system. There has been no contraction of range post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Habitat loss and degradation including collection and quarrying of gravel and sand from riverbeds and disturbance, illegal hunting and disturbance are possible threats to the species. The species seems to have declined in Chitwan National Park since 1990. The overall country population is probably also declining but this is not considered large enough to warrant a threatened category for the species.

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***Vanellus cinereus* (Blyth, 1842) LC**

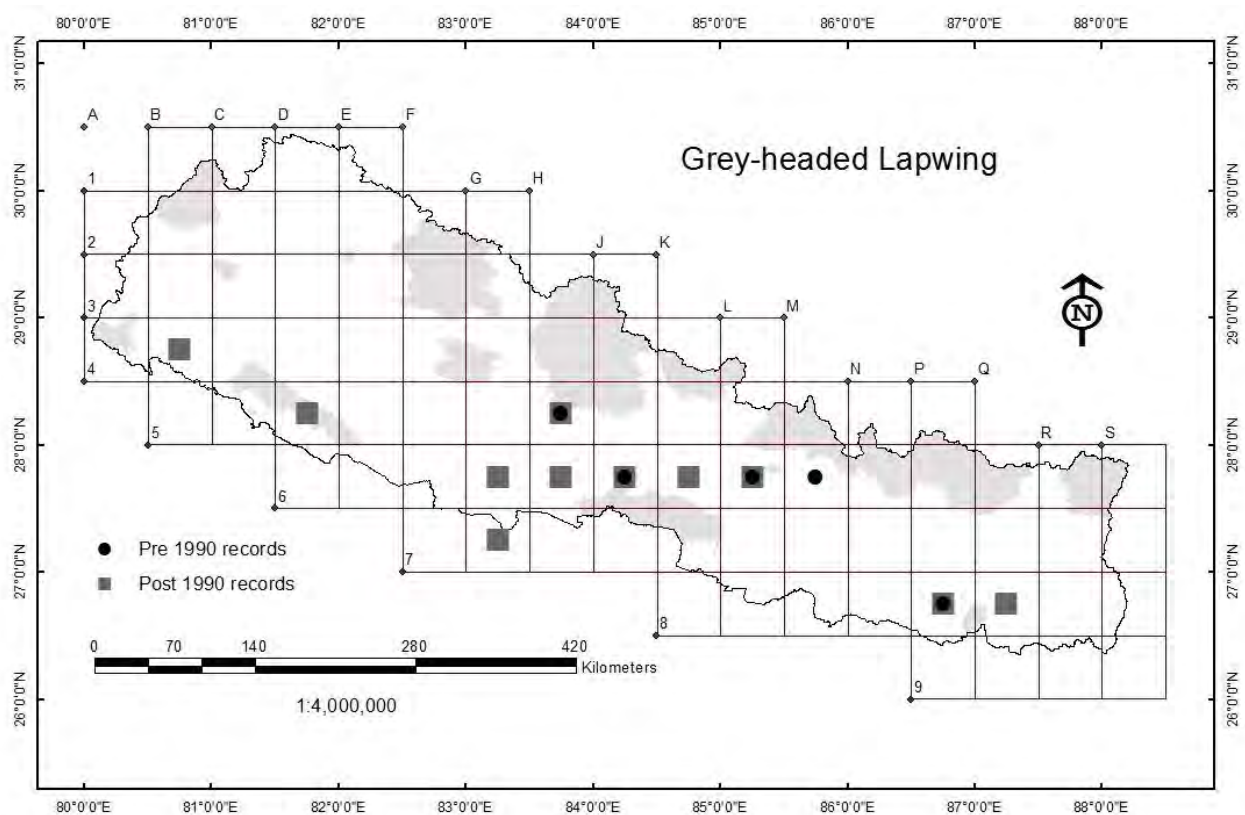
Common Name

Grey-headed Lapwing (English),
Rajhutityaun (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Charadriidae



Distribution



Grey-headed Lapwing is an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant up to 1310m. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Ghodaghodi Lake Area, Kailali District (CSUN and BCN 2012) in the far west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in April 1937 from Gauchar, Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Bailey 1938, Biswas 1968).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered the species an occasional winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp 1991 reported the species as a regular and common visitor from the end of September to the end of March in the Kathmandu Valley and mapped its distribution from a few localities of central and east Nepal.

The species' status in the protected areas' system post-1990 is: an uncommon winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and frequent winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has been recorded from Barandabhar Forest (Sharma 2003), Chitwan District

and Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District (Chaudhary 2007), in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

Grey-headed Lapwing has been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990. Records include: a frequent winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake Area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded from Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Baral 1992); a winter visitor to Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6) (Baral 2008) and recorded from Bajuwa Lake and Tulsipur marsh area (G6) in April 2007 (Cox 2008), Kapilvastu District; Lumbini (G7) (Suwal *et al.* 2002), Jinihawa Lake (G6), Rupandehi District (Aryal 2004); Phewa Lake (H5), Kaski District in February 1999 (Dannenberg 1999); fairly common but local winter visitor to Kathmandu Valley (L6) (Mallalieu 2008), along Khokana (L6), Lalitpur District section of Bagmati and Bakaiya River valley (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013), and recorded in Dharan Forest (Q8), Sunsari District in May 2008 (Giri 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1310 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Grey-headed Lapwing population in Nepal was counted as 84, 26, 13, 46, 87, 81 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In Koshi Area, five birds were recorded in February 1997 (Rosair and Taylor 1997), four in February 1998 (Prince 1998), 14 in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999), 17 in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), six in April 2008 (Chaudhary 2008) and 32 in October 2010 (Baral 2010).

In Kathmandu, 27 in October 1990 and 21 in January 1993 at Manohara river (Baral 1993), 16 in March 1992 (Mackenzie 1994), 75 in February 1997 along Bagmati River (Chaudhary 1997) and 10 in January 2005 at Chobhar (Mallalieu 2005) and 104 in a single day between 2004-2006 (Riessen 2007), 15 in March 2009 along the river at Taudaha (Harrap and Karki 2009) and 30 in December 2011 (Vicente 2011). During a survey of the Bagmati River between 2003 and 2012, van Riessen (2013) counted 25-110 birds during each fortnightly visit between the last week of September and mid-April during the period. The population of the species had not decreased much in the Kathmandu Valley and it was a common wader species during the study period (van Riessen 2013).

In Jagdishpur Reservoir, six birds were recorded in October 2005 (Baral 2008).

At Dipang Tal, Pokhara valley, Kaski District, 14 were seen in January 2016 (Manshanta Ghimire and Pokhara Bird Society).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Grey-headed Lapwing frequents river banks and wet fields (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Found in pairs or small flocks (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Feeds chiefly on insects, worms and molluscs (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly use of agro-chemicals are threats to this

species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Grey Headed Lapwing. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Grey-headed Lapwing has been assessed as Least Concern. It is an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor recorded from the far west to the far east. Most individuals have been recorded from the Kathmandu Valley. Since 1990 its distribution has significantly increased, probably due to better coverage. Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. Its population is possibly stable.

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http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Nepal130409_comp.pdf

Vanellus indicus (Boddaert, 1783) LC

Subspecies: *Vanellus indicus indicus*

Common Name

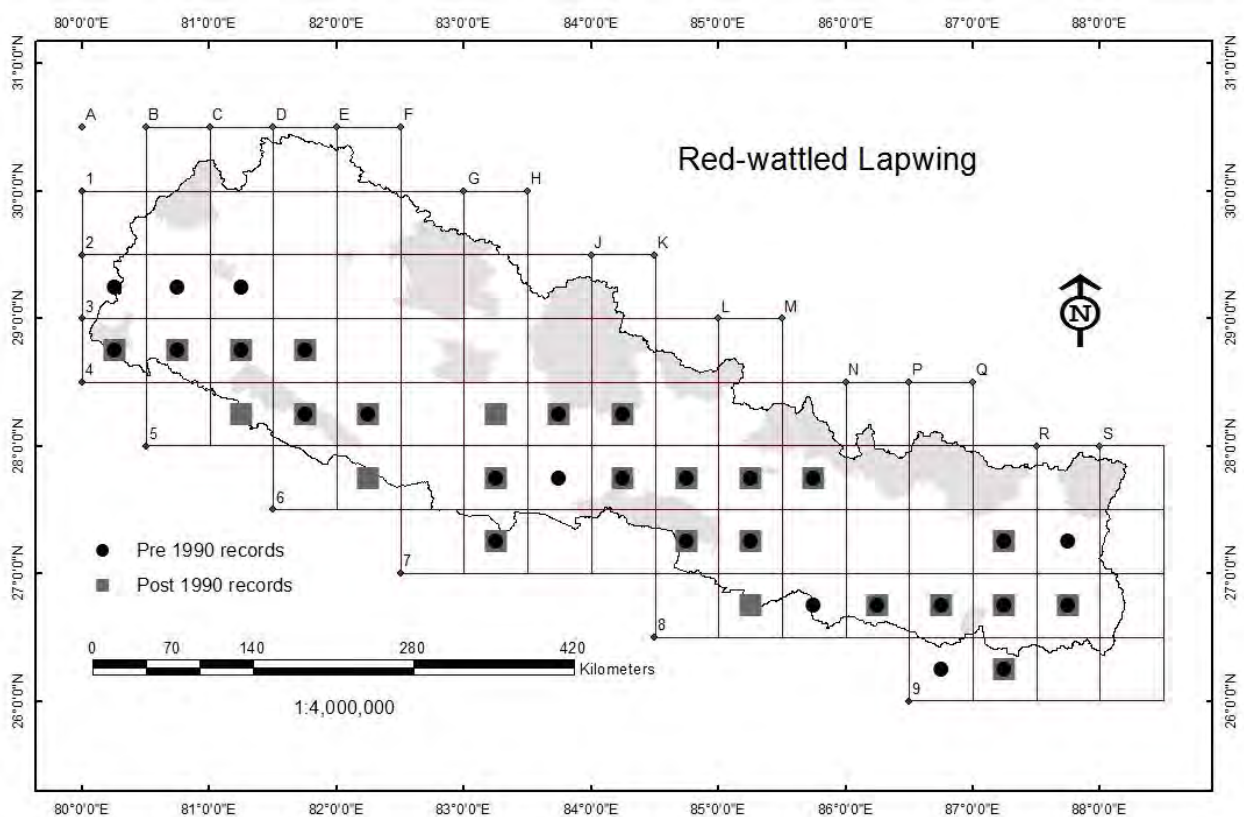
Red-wattled Lapwing (English),
Hutityaun (Nepali)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Charadriidae



Distribution



Red-wattled Lapwing is a common resident in the terai up to 1050m. The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming et al. (1976) described the species common resident in Nepal. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a common resident from the Terai up to 1050 m.

Post-1990 the species' status in protected areas is: a common breeding resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve [A4] (Baral and Inskipp 2009), a common resident in Bardia National Park [C4, C5] (Inskipp 2001), recorded in Banke National Park [D5] (Baral et al. 2012), a common resident in Chitwan National Park [J6, K6] (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), a fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve [K7] (Todd 2001) and a common breeding resident in the Koshi area [P8, Q8] (Baral 2005a). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it has been recorded in Bees Hazari Lake (Baral 1996; Giri 2008) and Barandbahar, Chitwan District [J6] (Adhikari et al. 2000),

Since 1990 the species has been found to be common throughout the lowlands and midhills and has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include: common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (CSUWN and BCN 2012), recorded from Mohana River (Chaudhary 2012) and Geta, Kailali District [B4] (Baral 1992a), Chisapani, Bardia District [C4] (Giri 1997), Rawtkot, Dailekh District [D4] (Giri 1997), Nepalgunj, Banke District [D5] (Baral 1992a), Dang Deukhuri foothills forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area, Dang District [E5, E6] (Thakuri 2009a,b), Argali, Gulmi District [G5] (Cox 1999), Khadaraphata [F6], (Acharya 2011) and resident in Jagadishpur reservoir [G6], Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008), recorded in Lumbini [G7] (Baral 1993a), Gidahiya (Baral 1994a) and Gaidahawa, Rupandehi District [G6] (Baral 2011), Rupa Lake [H5] (Byrne 2000) and other lakes of Pokhara Valley, Kaski District [H5] (Mallalieu 2005; Baral 2010a).

In central Nepal records include: from localities of Nawalparasi District [H6] (Baral 2011), Malekhu, Dhading District [K6] (Baral 1992b), an uncommon and local winter visitor in the Kathmandu Valley [L6] (Mallalieu 2008), recorded in Harisiddhi, Lalitpur District [L6] (Baral 1993b), Hetauda, Makwanpur District [L7] (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), and several localities of Rautahat [L7], Siraha [N8] and Bara [L7] Districts (Cox 2003), and Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchok District [M6] (Baral 1994b).

In the east records include: from Kamala river, Dhanusha and Siraha Districts [N8] (Baral *et al.* 2012); Chewabeshi to Bungling, Sankhuwasabha District [Q7] (Baral and Buckton 1994), Sankhuwa River, Bhojpur District [Q7] (Baral 1995), Itahari (Pandey 2003), Patnali, Dharan Forest (Baral 2011), a frequent migrant to Chimdi Lake, Sunsari District [Q8] (Surana *et al.* 2007), resident in Raja Rani Community Forest, Bhogteny [Q8] (Basnet *et al.* 2005) and recorded from Biratnagar, Morang District [Q9] (Baral 1994a), and the lower Mai valley, Ilam and Jhapa District [R8] (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam (BirdLife International 2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1340 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

During the Midwinter waterbird count globally coordinated by Wetlands International, Nepal Red-wattled Lapwing population counts were 168, 127, 132, 209, 156 and 172 from 2008 to 2013, respectively (Baral 2013).

In the Koshi area, 22 birds were recorded in December 1992 (Baral 1992a), 12 in April 1998 (Rogers 1998), 27 in December 1993 (Choudhary 1994), 20 in October 2000 (Baral 2000), 24 in March 2001 (Baral 2001), 42 in February 2003 (Baral 2003), 20 in November 2005 (Baral 2005b), 40 in February 2007 (Baral 2007a), 48 in February 2009 (Baral 2009a), 30 in January 2010 (Baral 2010b) and 48 in February 2011 (Baral 2011).

In Chitwan National Park, a waterbird survey counted 38 birds on the Rapti River and six on the Narayani River in December 1982 (Halliday 1982) and a later survey on the Narayani River counted 11 birds in December 1996 (Dhakal 1996). Other counts in the park: 30 birds recorded in March 1989 (Cox *et al.* 1989), 10 in December 1998 (Smith 1999), 15 in April 2007 (Byskov 2007), eight in November 2007 (Baral 2007b), 30 in February 2009 (Giri 2009) and 13 birds recorded during midwinter waterbird count in January 2010 (Khadka 2010).

In Bardia National Park, 10 birds were recorded in January 1992 (Halliday and Baral 1992), 40 birds were recorded in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998) and 30 in January 2003 (Giri 2003).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, 30 birds were recorded in November 1997 (Baral 1997), 23 in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), 20 in January 2009 (Baral 2009b) and 51 in March 2011 (Chaudhary 2011).

In Ghodaghodi Lake and Geta, Dhangadi, 30 birds were recorded in March 1992 (Baral 1992a).

In Nepalgunj, 30 birds were noted in March 1992 (Baral 1992a).

In Jagadishpur reservoir, 50 birds were noted in December 2010 (Baral 2011) and 40 in December 2011 (Baral

2011).

In Lumbini, more than 40 birds were recorded in April 1993 (Baral 1994a), 25 in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009), 30 in February 2011 at Gaidahawa Lake (Baral 2011). In January 2003, 20 birds were observed from Lumbini to Bardia (Giri 2003).

In Pokhara Valley, 30 birds were noted in March 1989 (Cox *et al.* 1989), 20 in February 1999 (Dannenberg 1999) four in February 2002 at Begnas Lake (Malling Olsen 2004), five in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), three in November 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005)

In Kathmandu, 20 birds were recorded in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Red-wattled Lapwing frequents fields and open areas (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Found in pairs or small scattered flocks of up to 12 birds (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). A vigilant and noisy bird; when alarmed calls loudly and frantically while circling overhead. Flight rather slow, but capable of remarkable speed when chasing intruders from nest or escaping from predators (Ali and Ripley 1987). Forages mainly and actively during early morning and evening and in the night (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) especially when moonlit (Ali and Ripley 1987). Feeds chiefly on ants, beetles, caterpillars and other insects, molluscs and a quantity of vegetable matter (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeds from March to September, varying locally (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Habitat loss and degradation, illegal hunting, disturbance and possibly use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species.

Conservation Measures

No specific conservation measures have been carried out for Red-wattled Lapwing. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks, Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Red-wattled Lapwing is assessed as Least Concern. It is a common resident in the lowlands from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 it has been recorded in all lowland protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. It has declined in Chitwan National Park, although elsewhere there is no indication of decline in population post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Habitat loss and degradation, hunting, disturbance and possibly use of agro-chemicals are threats to this species. As a result, its national population is possibly declining.

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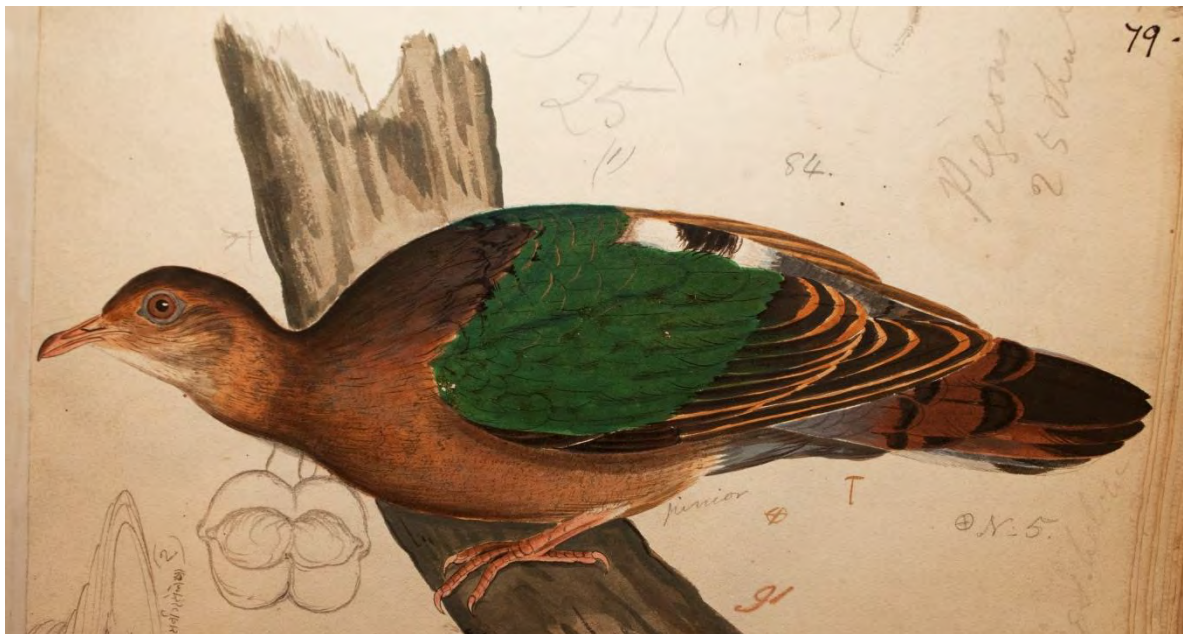
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Columbiformes



Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

Ducula badia (Raffles, 1822) CR

Subspecies *Ducula badia insignis*

Common Name

Mountain Imperial Pigeon (English)

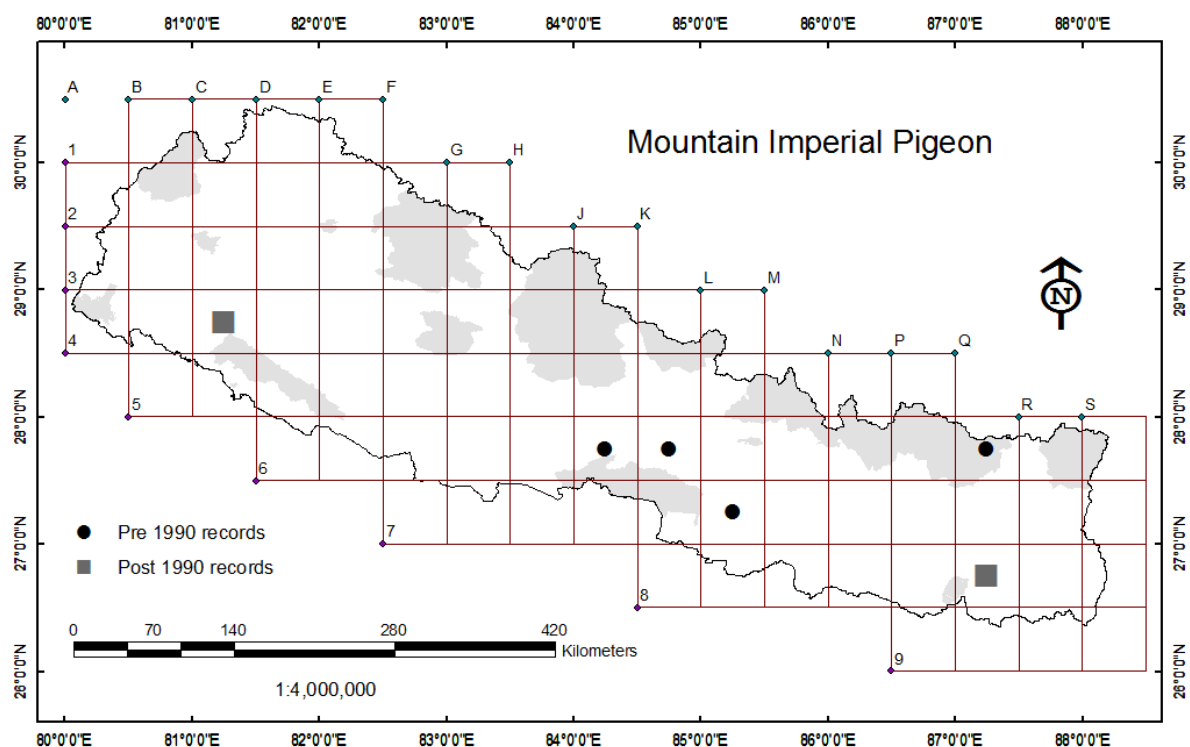
Rajkapot (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae



Distribution



The current status of Mountain Imperial Pigeon is uncertain as there are no known records since 1996. The first record of the species in Nepal was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836); a specimen in breeding condition was collected in June (year unknown) from the lower hills (locality unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) describe the species as scarce.

Other pre-1990 records include three specimens collected from Walung forest, Iswa-Arun valley in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park between 1150 m and 1250 m in February 1959 (Krabbe 1983). The other pre-1990 reports comprise one undated from the Rapti dun (Robert Fleming Jr *verbally* 1981), and a few reports from Chitwan National Park: in October and November 1978 (Thiollay 1978; 1980), March 1982 (Turton and Speight 1982) and in February 1988 Kovacs (1988).

There are only two post 1990 records: from Bardia National Park in 1995 (Lama 1995) and five birds in forests near Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District in December 1996 (Choudhary 1997).

Ali and Ripley (1987) considered the species to possibly occur in the west, but no records have been located there.

Globally Mountain Imperial Pigeon has also been recorded from Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1250 m; lower limit: 100 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out. If Mountain Imperial Pigeon still occurs in Nepal, the population is likely to be extremely small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 30

Habitat and Ecology

Mountain Imperial Pigeon inhabits tall, dense broadleaved evergreen forest in tropical, subtropical and lower temperate zones (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is exclusively frugivorous, favouring wild figs *Ficus* and nutmegs *Myristica* (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident, subject to local movements governed by the ripening of fruits (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Mountain Imperial Pigeon is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its broadleaved evergreen forest habitats in tropical, subtropical and lower temperate zones. These habitats are now highly fragmented and of limited extent in Nepal (Inskipp 1989). The species is also at risk from hunting (illegal in protected areas).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Mountain Imperial Pigeon. The only known post-1990 record in a protected area was from Bardia National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2acd, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Mountain Imperial Pigeon has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2acd and D1. It is suspected that if the species still occurs, then the population must be extremely small. Observations indicate that the species was rare and local over 40 years ago, but has since declined as there are the only two known post-1990 records, including one from a protected area (Bardia National Park). The species is highly threatened with loss and degradation of its forest habitats, which are now highly fragmented and of limited extent in Nepal, and also by hunting (illegal in protected areas).

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Treron curvirostra (Gmelin, 1789) EN

Subspecies: *Treron curvirostra nipalensis*

Common Name

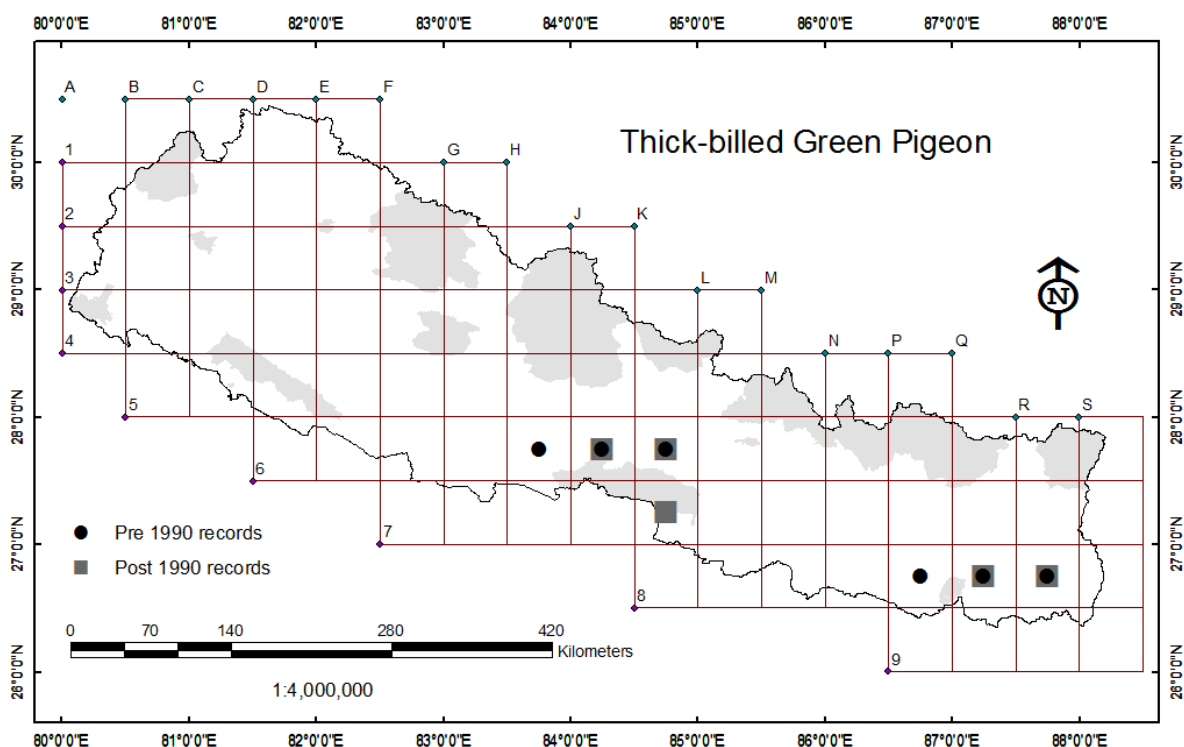
Thick-billed Green Pigeon (English),
Motothunde Haleso (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Thick-billed Green Pigeon is a rare and local resident. The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836) from the lower hills (date and further locality details are unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

One was collected at Naryanghat, Chitwan District in April 1954 by Rand and Fleming (1957), who found small flocks of the species in the central lowlands, but reported the species did not appear common. It was described as 'occasional, usually in heavy sal and mixed forests of the terai' by Fleming et al. (1976), 'occasional' in the eastern terai by Gregory-Smith and Batson (1976) and 'scarce and local' in Nepal's lowland forests by Inskipp and Inskipp (1991).

Pre-1990 there were also several records north of Sunischare, Jhapa District: Fairbank (1982), Mills et al. (1982), Heath (1986) and DeLuce and Goodyear (1990), including four seen daily between Gharuwa and Sukhani, Jhapa District in April 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981), but there are no known later records from the area. The species was described as rare in Chitwan National Park by Gurung (1983) and was also recorded by Anon. (1988) (near Machan Wildlife Resort), Heathcote and Heathcote (1988) and Cox et al. (1989) in the east of the park. In addition, there were single records from 2-3 km west of Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District in April

1978 (Cox 1984) and in Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District in April 1982 (Mills et al. 1982).

Thick-billed Green Pigeon has been recorded less frequently post 1990. There are several known records from Chitwan National Park: one in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004); four by the Harda Khola in April 2004 (Suchit Basnet *in litt.* to H. S. Baral 2010) and 15 there in March 2012 (Som GC); two in May 2006 (Chaudhary 2010), one in December 2009 (Giri 2009), six at Kasara in April 2010 (Bird Education Society and Nature Guides Association, and the relatively large number of 17 by the Bardaha Khola in April 2010 (Churia Hill Survey Team organized by Nature Guides Association) and two near old Padampur in February 2011 (Tika Giri).

Since 1990 the species is only known from five other sites: regularly seen in Patnali in the Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District and up to five noted there up until at least 2010 (Badri Chaudhary verbally 2010); singles at Koshi in September 1998 (Giri et al. 1998) and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in March 2012 (Badri Chaudhary); a male nest-building by the Meguwa Khola, Parsa Wildlife Reserve in April 2003 (Cox 2003); two in Chitrasen Community Forest, Chitwan District in January 2009 (Hem Subedi) and a pair with nest material in Juke Khadi Community Forest, lower Mai valley, Jhapa District in May 2006 (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 455 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Thick-billed Green Pigeon, but observations indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 50; maximum population: 200

Habitat and Ecology

Thick-billed Green Pigeon inhabits dense forests of broadleaved evergreens, sal and mixed broadleaves in the tropical zone (Fleming et al. 1976, Gibbs et al. 2001). It feeds exclusively on fruits and berries, figs *Ficus* spp. being the staple (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident, subject to local movements depending on food supply (Ali and Ripley 1987). It feeds on insects, mostly beetles and also some vegetable matter (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is a winter visitor to Nepal (Grimmett et al. 1998).

Threats

Thick-billed Green Pigeon is seriously threatened by forest loss and degradation. Its habitat of dense tropical forest is especially at risk (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Thick-billed Green Pigeon. It has been recently recorded from Chitwan National Park, and there are single recent records from Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves; all other sites are outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Thick-billed Green Pigeon has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a rare and local resident and appears to have declined since at least the 1980s. Currently, it is fairly regularly seen at only two sites (Patnali forests, in the Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District, which lie outside the protected areas' system, and Chitwan National Park), but only single recent records from a few other localities. Thick-billed Green Pigeon is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of its dense tropical forest habitat which is especially at risk.

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***Macropygia unchall* Wagler, 1827 VU**

Common Name

Barred Cuckoo Dove (English)

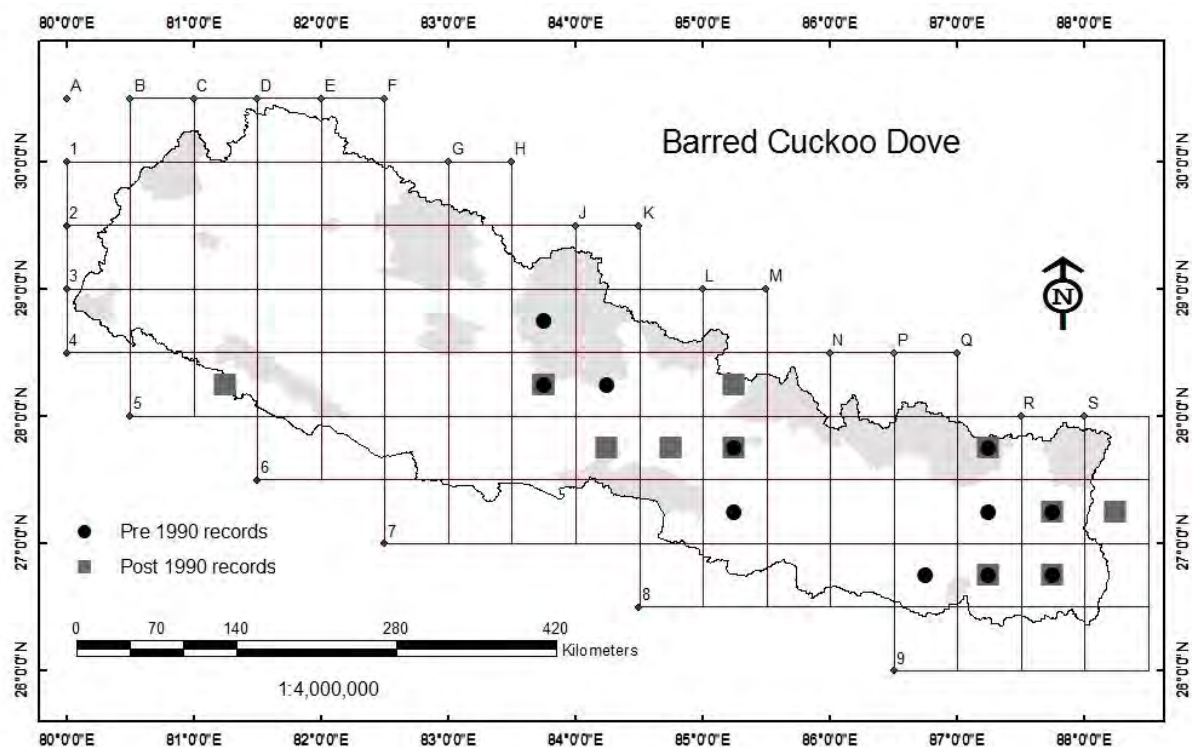
Dharke Dhukur (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Barred Cuckoo Dove is a rare resident. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844) when it was collected in the lower hills (Hodgson 1829). It has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Hem Subedi) in the far west to Hange Tham, Ilam District (Baral 2010b).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a scarce resident.

In the west it was recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve where two birds were sighted in the Churia Hills area near Arjune Check Post in April 2003 (Hem Subedi); also in Bardia National Park where it was listed as a rare resident by Kaluram Tamang (undated) in Inskipp (2001),

In west-central areas there were several pre-1990 records from the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) e.g. two at Ghachok in December 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971). south of Annapurna in 1977 (Thiollay 1980), also recorded in 1977 (Mischler 1977), two between Ghandruk and Banthanti in December 1984 (Anderson *et al.* 1986), one in the lower Modi Khola valley in March 1985 (Clugston 1985), one in the Marsyandi River valley in March 1987 (Hines 1987), three at Bichok Deurali in November 1986 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986). Post-1990 there are a smaller number of reports from ACA e.g. two between Tolka and Deurali in December 1992 (Lama

1993), one at Chhomrong in January 1994 (Lama 1994), and one between Banthanti and Ghandruk in November 1996 (Giri 1996); also recorded at Santel, Seti Khola valley in May 2012 (Jhalak Choudhary). One was seen at Pokhara, Kaski District on 31 March 1982 (Fairbank 1982) and two by the dam in March 2011 (Hari KC).

In central Nepal the species was observed in the central dun around Hetauda, Makwanpur District in May and June 1947 and a specimen was collected in May (Biswas 1960); no later records from the locality are known.

Biswas (1960) found it in small numbers in the Kathmandu Valley in forests at the base of the Chandragiri Pass near Thankot (where a specimen was collected) and on Phulchoki from March to May 1947. One was seen flying near the Chandragiri Pass on the edge of the Kathmandu Valley in the late 1940s (no other date details) (Ripley 1950). Fleming and Traylor (1961) reported the species was uncommon in the deeper forests of the Valley and collected a specimen from Shivapuri in September 1955. Fleming *et al.* (1976) recorded the species from Nagarjun in the Valley (without date). Both latter records were from what is now the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. There are several later pre-1990 records from the Valley, especially from Phulchoki e.g. two in January 1981 (Hall 1981), one to two in May 1985 (Harrap 1985), three in December 1986 (Scharringa 1987), two in March 1987 (Stones 1987), and one in February 1988 (Sorensen 1988). Post-1990 Barred Cuckoo Dove has been recorded less frequently in the Kathmandu Valley e.g. two in December 1997 (Chaudhary 1998), eight at Phulchoki in November 1998 (Giri *et al.* 1998), two at Nagarjun in February 2005 (Giri 2005), one at Phulchoki in March 2005 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2005), two at Nagarjun in February 2007 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2007), two at Phulchoki in May 2008, and singles there in May 2010 (Giri 2010) and October 2010 (Baral 2010a); also one at Godaveri in December 2011 (Tika Giri). Mallalieu (2008) in his review of species recorded in the Valley 2004-2006 considered Barred Cuckoo Dove a rare resident in the Valley.

Only recent records are known from Langtang and Chitwan National Parks. In Langtang National Park one was seen in May 2004 (Giri and Choudhary 2004) and one at Bamboo Lodge in the park in May 2006 (GC 2010). In Chitwan National Park singles were recorded in January 2005 (Chaudhary 2005, Giri and Choudhary 2005), April 2005 (Chaudhary 2010) and two sightings in February 2007 (Hem Subedi and Kalu Ram Tamang). However, the lack of other records from Chitwan and Langtang which are both relatively well recorded indicates that species must be very rare in these national parks.

In the east it was recorded in the upper Arun in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park in October or November 1986 (Nepali 1986). Singles were seen over Manghang Kharka in the park in November 2005 (Inskipp *et al.* 2005, Giri and Choudhary 2006) and in the park's buffer zone in May 2009 (Cox 2009). The species was not listed for the park by Cox (1999). The species was recorded in Raja Rani forest, Morang District in autumn 2003 (numbers of birds and other date details are unknown) (Basnet *et al.* 2006). One was seen below Ilam, Ilam District in February 1961 (Fleming and Traylor 1964), recorded in March 1988 in Ilam District (van Riessen 1989) and six at Ilam, Ilam District in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998). Nine were below Jamuna, Ilam District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008), two at Dobate, Ilam District in September 2010 and one at Hange Tham, Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010b).

Pre-1990 one was collected at Mangalbare, Tinjure Danda, Dhankuta District in February 1949 (Ripley 1950); one seen above Sirjung, Dhankuta District in March 1978 (Isherwood 1978), and one recorded 20 km west of Koshi Barrage, Saptari District in January 1979 (Bowden 1979). There were a few reports from between Sukhani and Garuwa, Jhapa District where flocks of up to seven were seen e.g. in February 1974 (Madge *et al.* 1974) and April 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981), and three in April 1986 (Goodwin 1986). One was seen in the south-east foothills in June 1975 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976). No later reports from the above localities are known.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2800 m; lower limit: 250 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Barred Cuckoo Dove, however observations and a consideration of it

declining habitat indicate that numbers must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <1000

Habitat and Ecology

Barred Cuckoo Dove inhabits dense broadleaved evergreen subtropical and temperate forests. The species is a resident (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on a range of berries and seeds, also buds and young shoots (Gibbs *et al.* 2001).

Threats

Barred Cuckoo Dove is seriously threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved evergreen forest, especially in the subtropical and lower temperate zones.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Barred Cuckoo Dove. It is recorded from Makalu Barun, Bardia, Chitwan and Langtang National Parks, Annapurna Conservation Area and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2ac, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Barred Cuckoo Dove has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2ac, C2a(i) and D1. The species is a rare resident. It has declined in the Kathmandu Valley and in the Annapurna Conservation Area where it was previously scarce, but was still reported more frequently than in recent years. The species is no longer recorded between Sukhani and Garuwa, Jhapa District where it was seen a few times pre-1990. The species' habitat of dense broadleaved evergreen forest is seriously threatened by loss and degradation, especially in the subtropical and lower temperate zones. Barred Cuckoo Dove is mainly recorded from protected area; there are several records outside the protected areas' system.

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***Syrrhaptes tibetanus* Gould, 1850 VU**

Common Name

Tibetan Sandgrouse (English)

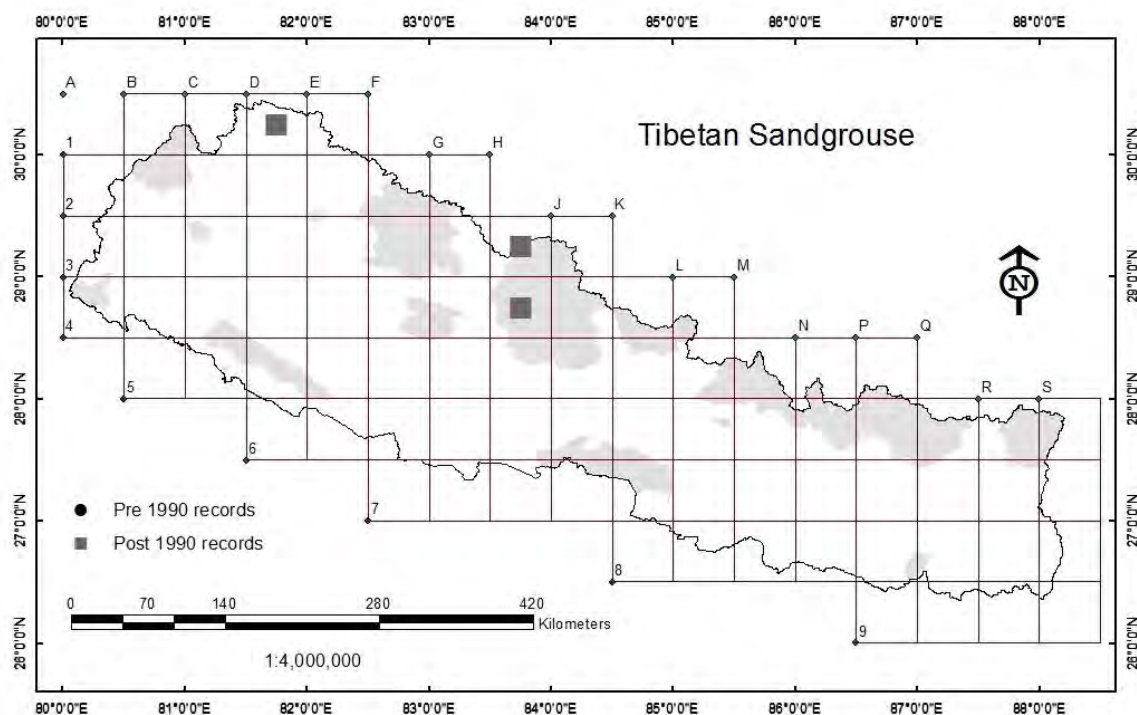
Bhot Maruparewa (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Pteroclididae



Distribution



Tibetan Sandgrouse is a rare and local resident in Upper Mustang and upper Humla. The first Nepal record of the species was from the north-east of Damodarkunda region in June 2002. A total of 11 birds was seen on 19th June, 12 on 20th and three on 21st June (up to 12 birds in total) at an elevation of 5265 m, 5400 m and 5540 m respectively and about 5-7 km from the Nepal-China border (Shah *et al.* 2002). These records were made by the Upper Mustang Biodiversity Conservation Project survey team (Shah *et al.* 2002).

Tibetan Sandgrouse was again encountered during further biodiversity surveys in 2005 and 2006. Three birds were sighted in the Dhalung-Chhujung, a new area for the species at 4800 m in June 2005. Six were observed in the Korolla border area, at 4800 m to 5000 m in July 2005. Further, nine birds were sighted in the Dhalung Chhujung area at 4900 m to 5200 m in August 2006 (Chetri 2007, Chetri *et al.* 2007).

In the lower Damodarkunda valley 11 birds were seen on 10 September 2006 and in the upper Damodarkunda valley 33 were seen on 22 September 2007 and 50+ on 28 September 2008 (Chetri 2010). Up to now Tibetan Sandgrouse has been recorded only from three areas in Upper Mustang: Damodarkunda, the Korolla border and Dhalung-Chhujung area where it is sparsely distributed (Chetri *et al.* 2007).

The species has also been recorded in Chyakpalung, Limi valley Important Bird Area, upper Humla (D1) (Humla District) in May-June 2013 (Acharya and Ghimire 2013).

Globally the species has also been recorded from China (mainland), India, Tajikistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 5540 m; lower limit: 4800 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Tibetan Sandgrouse, but observations indicate that numbers must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Tibetan Sandgrouse inhabits high altitude, barren, stony semi-desert in Tibetan plateau country (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). In Upper Mustang the species has been observed in Tibetan steppe grassland, stony pasture, open pasture and alpine meadow habitats (Chetri 2010). It feeds on buds, flowers, and green parts of plants, especially legumes, in summer and seeds of the same species in winter (Madge and McGowan 2002). Local nomads know the species as *kakaling* which they say visits Dhalung regularly during the last week of May and breeds in the area, laying four to five eggs in the desert steppe (Chetri *et al.* 2007). It is not known whether the Nepal birds undergo any movements, but elsewhere the species is mainly sedentary, moving to lower areas in late winter in order to escape snow-bound breeding sites. There is some evidence of short distance migrations in central Asia (Madge and McGowan 2002).

Threats

The habitat of Tibetan Sandgrouse is highly disturbed due to tremendous livestock grazing. The nomads of Upper Mustang highly esteem Tibetan Sandgrouse and it is not hunted here. However, the nomads have informed the observer that several times they have encountered nomads with loaded guns from China close to the border resulting in a possible threat from hunting (Madhu Chetri *in litt.* to C. Inskipp September 2010).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Tibetan Sandgrouse. The whole of its known Nepal range lies in the Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2cd? D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Tibetan Sandgrouse has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2cd? and D1. It is a rare and local resident with a small known range in the country. More work is needed to understand the status of the species in Nepal. Its habitat seriously is threatened by severe livestock overgrazing and it is possible also threatened by hunting and trapping. The whole of its known Nepal range lies in the Annapurna Conservation Area.

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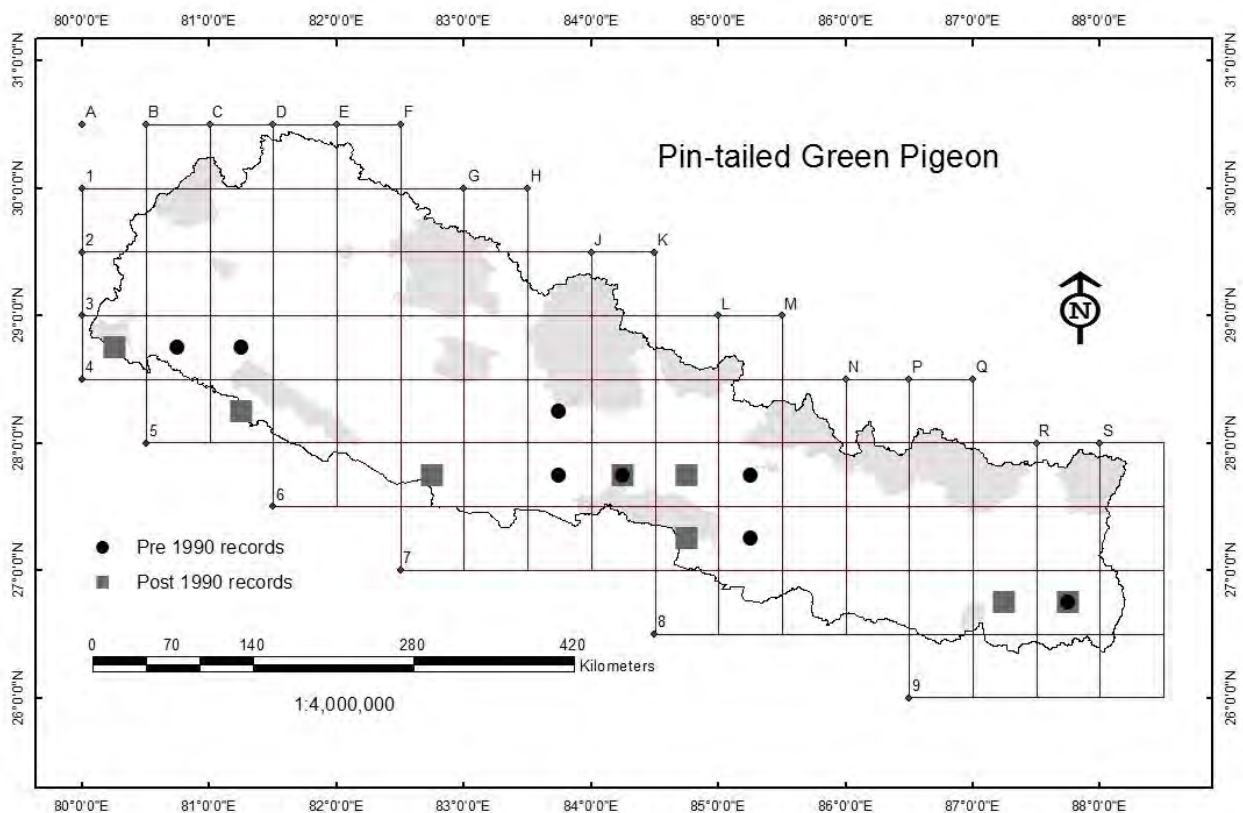
Treron apicauda Blyth, 1846 NT
Subspecies: *Treron apicauda apicauda*

Common Name
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon (English),
Suiropuchhre Haleso (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Pin-tailed Green Pigeon is a local resident with a fragmented distribution, frequent in a few protected areas and very uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Royle and Royle 2010) in the far west to Sukhani, Jhapa District (GC 2007) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident. It had declined by 1990 when Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was a scarce resident recorded in far western, central and far eastern Nepal.

The species' distribution has not apparently contracted since 1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: rare in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve: one in March 2010 (Royle and Royle 2010) and three in January 2013 and one in March 2014 (Dheeraj Chudhary). It is listed as rare in Bardia National Park (C5) (Inskipp 2001), but later records indicate it is frequent there e.g. Chaudhary (1997), Giri (2003). It is a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006, BES); and

resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Cox 2003, Kapil Pokharel, Todd 2001). It has been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Barandabhar Corridor forest in November 2014 (BES). It has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone at Chisapani in 1994/95 (Suchit Basnet) and November 2013 (Tika Giri); regularly in winter 2013-15 at Thakurdwara (Ashik Gurung), and in Betahani Community Forest in October 2014 (Ramdin Mahato). It has been recorded in Barandabhar Corridor Forest, buffer zone of Chitwan National Park in November 2014 (BES).

There are few known records outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

In the west records include: upper Chirai Khola valley (F6), Kapilvastu District (Cox 2008); four at Arjun Khola, near Lamahi bazar, Dang District in March 2013 (Raju Tamang); by the Siddhartha highway, Thuliberi village Kaski District in 2012 and 2013 (Hari KC); seven near Naudanda in 2014 (Hari KC)

In central Nepal records include: two near Bhandara, Mahabharata foothills, Chitwan District in 1994 (Dinesh Giri).

In the east records include: from Raja Rani Pokhari (Q8), Morang District (Khanal and Yonzon 2000 in Basnet (2002) and 12 at Sukhani (R8), Jhapa District in January 2007 (GC 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1150 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Pin-tailed Green Pigeon. Few records are known since 1976 and its population has probably declined since that date and is considered to be small.

In Chitwan National Park: 60 in February 2015 (Suchit Basnet).

In Bardia National Park: 40 in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997); 16 in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); three in January 2003 (Giri 2003).

In Bardia National Park buffer zone: flock of 200 Chisapani in 1994/95 (Suchit Basnet) and about 25 regularly Thakurdwara in winter 2013-15 (Ashik Gurung verbally 2015).

Flock of 24-25 in the Siddhartha highway in the Thuliberi village forest, Kaski District in 2012 (Hari KC).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Pin-tailed Green Pigeon inhabits tall broadleaved forest, especially evergreen, in the tropical and subtropical zones. Its habits resemble those of Orange-breasted. It congregates in fruiting trees in small flocks in deep forest. The species is rather sluggish but its wingbeat is strong (Fleming *et al.* 1976). A flock of 200 birds was seen feeding on *Bischofia javanica* in Chisapani, Bardia National Park buffer zone in 1994/95 (Suchit Basnet).

Threats

Outside the protected areas' system, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon is threatened by the loss and degradation of its forest habitat in the tropical and subtropical zones, and possibly also by hunting or trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Pin-tailed Green Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and in Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pin-tailed Green Pigeon has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local resident with a fragmented distribution, occasionally recorded in a few protected areas and very uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east and its distribution has not apparently contracted since 1990. It is threatened by the loss and degradation of its forest habitat in the tropical and subtropical zones, and possibly also by hunting or trapping. Its population is probably declining outside of protected areas.

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***Treron phayrei* (Blyth, 1862) NT**

Common Name

Ashy-headed Green Pigeon (English)

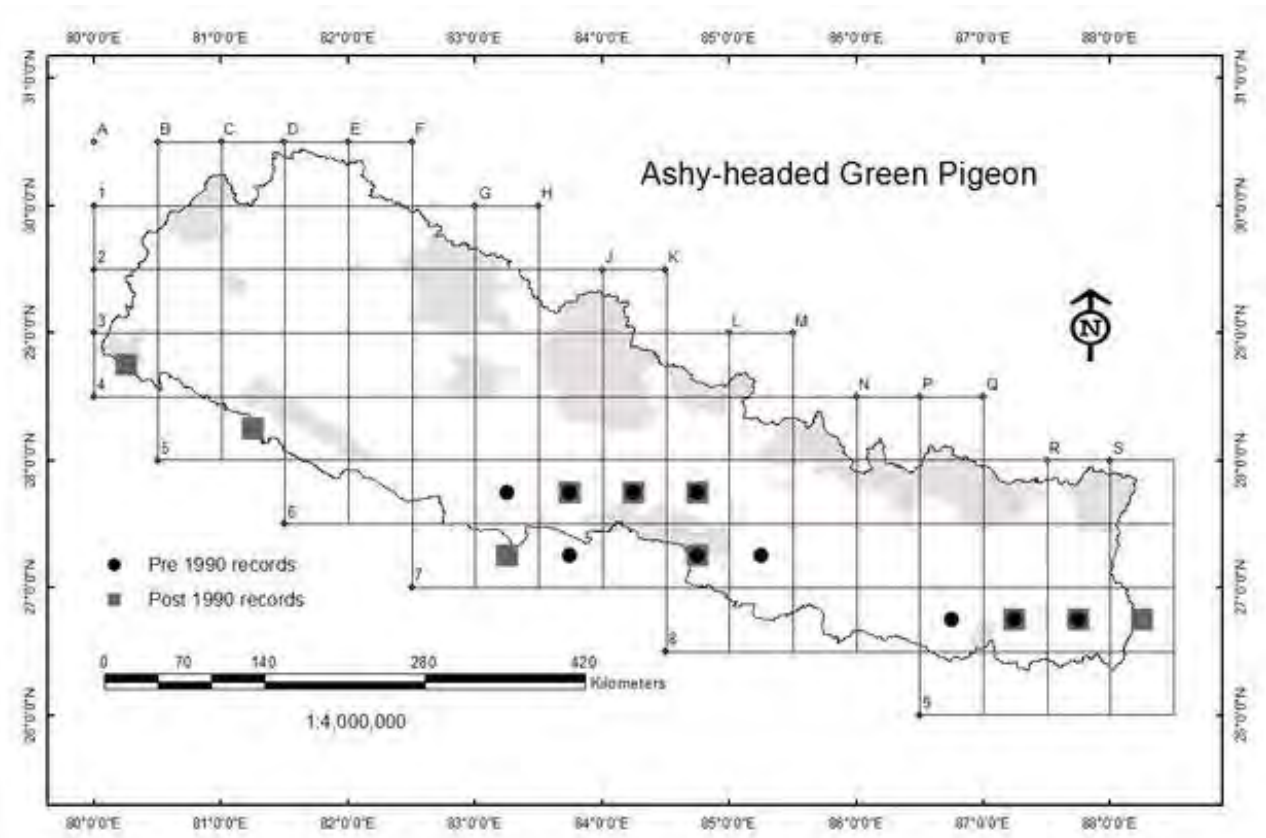
Phusrotauke Haleso (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Ashy-headed Green Pigeon has recently been split from Pompadour Green Pigeon *Treron pompdora*. It is a local resident, frequently recorded in a few lowland protected areas and rare outside from the far west to the far east. The first Nepal record of the species was a specimen collected at Butwal, Rupandehi district in January 1950 (Rand and Fleming 1953, 1957).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was fairly common and locally distributed in Chitwan National Park, and uncommon or rare elsewhere; it was mapped from west-central, central and far eastern Nepal.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded at four localities in the west and west to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. This is a significant range extension for the species and is probably due to increased coverage. No other changes in distribution have apparently occurred since 1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral

and Inskipp 2009); recorded at Karnali Tented Camp, Bardia National Park (C5) in December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997) and in the park in December 2001 (Chaudhary 2001). Baral and Upadhyay (2006) describe the species as a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park, but records indicate that it is less common and probably only frequent there. It is resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001), and a frequent resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. It has also been recorded in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District, in Bardia National Park's buffer zone (Chaudhari 2007) and west of Chitwan National Park (H6), Nawalparasi District in the buffer zone in February 2010 (Baral 2010).

There are few records outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from: Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Acharya 2011)

In the east records include from: Sukhani (R8), Jhapa District in January 2007 (GC 2007) and Sunmai (S8), Jhapa District in April 1994 (White and White 1994)

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Pompadour Green Pigeon. Its population has probably declined since 1976, especially outside the protected areas' system.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Ashy-headed Green Pigeon inhabits broadleaved forests in the tropical and subtropical zones. Its habits closely resemble those of Orange-breasted. It moves deliberately in the tree tops, sometimes clinging to undersides of branches. Flocks sun themselves in leafless trees in winter. Like other green pigeons it assembles at fruiting trees and also visits fruiting bushes close to the ground (Fleming *et al.* 1976, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It eats fruits and berries, mainly figs (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Outside protected areas, Ashy-headed Green Pigeon is threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved forests in the tropical and subtropical zones, especially of its favoured fruiting trees, and probably also by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Ashy-headed Green Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded more widely in protected areas and in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Ashy-headed Green Pigeon has been assessed as Near-threatened. The species is a local resident, frequent in a few lowland protected areas and rare outside. Since 1990 it has been recorded west to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in the far west, probably because of increased recording. The species is well represented in the protected areas' system, but is rare outside where is threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved forests in the tropical and subtropical zones, especially of its favoured fruiting trees, and probably also by hunting and trapping. Its population has probably declined since 1976, especially outside the protected areas' system.

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Chalcophaps indica (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Chalcophaps indica indica*

Common name

Emerald Dove (English),

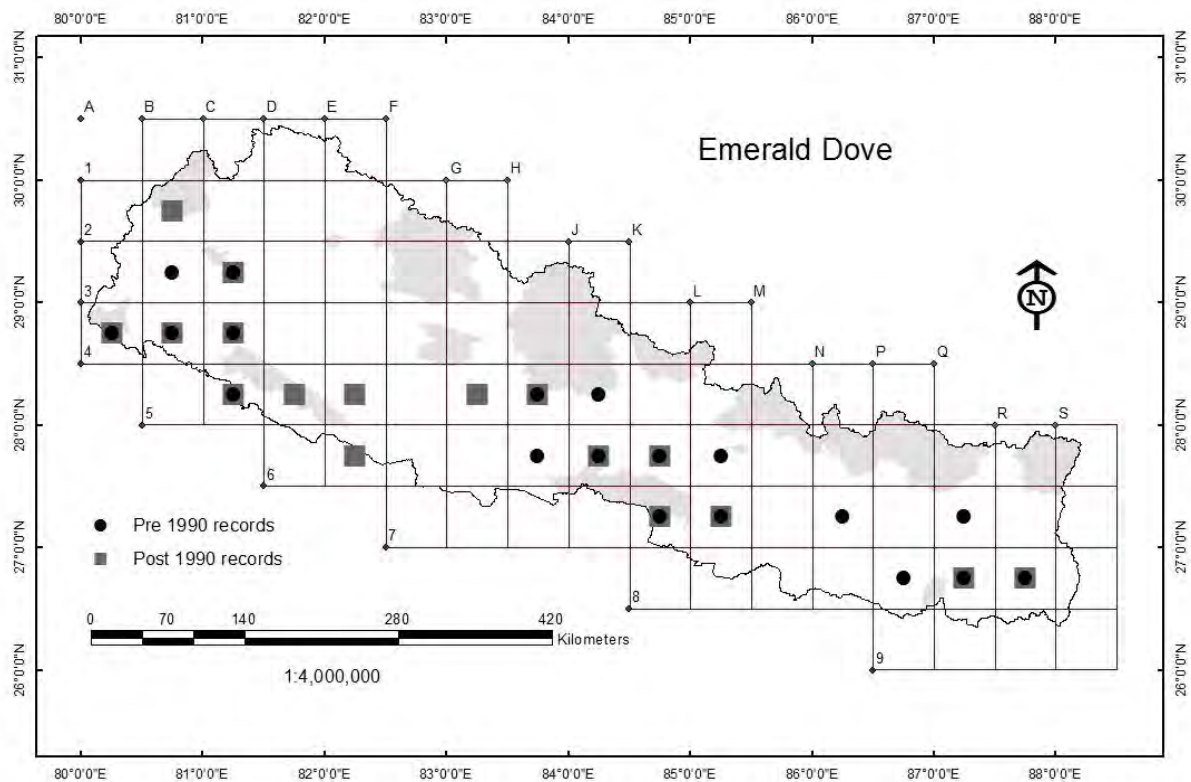
Haril Dhukur (Nepali)



Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae

Distribution



Emerald Dove is a resident, now mainly recorded in protected areas where it is locally common. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Jhapa District in the far east (Cox 1992).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was a locally common resident, recorded from the far west and west-central Nepal and eastwards.

The species was first recorded in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Since 1990 the species distribution has extended to the mid-west, probably because of better recording. However, overall its distribution has significantly reduced post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: Chameliya valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area in April/May 2012 (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) in March 2011 (Acharya 2011) and February 2012

(Baral *et al.* 2012); recorded at Pipar (H5), Annapurna Conservation Area in May 1998 (Kaul and Shakya 1998, Thakuri and Poudyal 2011); fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); and frequent in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata forest corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007); Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996), Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Janakauli in March 2010 (Giri 2010) and Sauraha in April 1992 (Baral 1992a). It was reported to be a locally common resident in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q7) (Cox 1999),

In the west records include from: Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali district (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Tikapur (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); along the Bardia Katarniaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009), and Rampur valley, Palpa District (Gautam 2003);

In central Nepal records include from: Malekhu (K6), Dhading District (Baral 1992b) and between Kat mandir, Bara District and Forest Camp N of E-W Highway (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (e.g. Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Miller 2011); the lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006), and Jhapa District (R8) in November 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Christmas Island (to Australia), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Caledonia (to France), Norfolk Island (to Australia), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Puerto Rico (to USA), Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (-1200 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population studies have been carried out for Emerald Dove. Since 1990 its overall distribution has significantly reduced and its population has therefore probably declined.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Emerald Dove inhabits broadleaved forests in the tropical and lower subtropical zones. It keeps singly or in pairs and feeds on the ground, often on forest tracks. Its diet comprises seeds, grain and fallen berries. Usually it is seen flying away rapidly and directly through the forest, only a few metres from the ground (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Emerald Dove is threatened by forest loss and degradation outside the protected areas system. It is probably also at risk from illegal hunting or trapping outside protected areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out for Emerald Dove. Since 1990 it has been recorded in

Khaptad, Bardia, Banke, and Chitwan National Parks; Api Nampa and Annapurna Conservation Areas, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu wildlife Reserves

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Emerald Dove has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, now mainly recorded in protected areas where it is locally common. The species is well represented in protected areas. Outside the protected areas' system it is threatened by forest loss and degradation and probably also by illegal hunting and trapping. Overall its distribution has significantly reduced post-1990 compared to pre-1990. As a result its population has probably declined, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Columba hodgsonii Vigors, 1832 LC

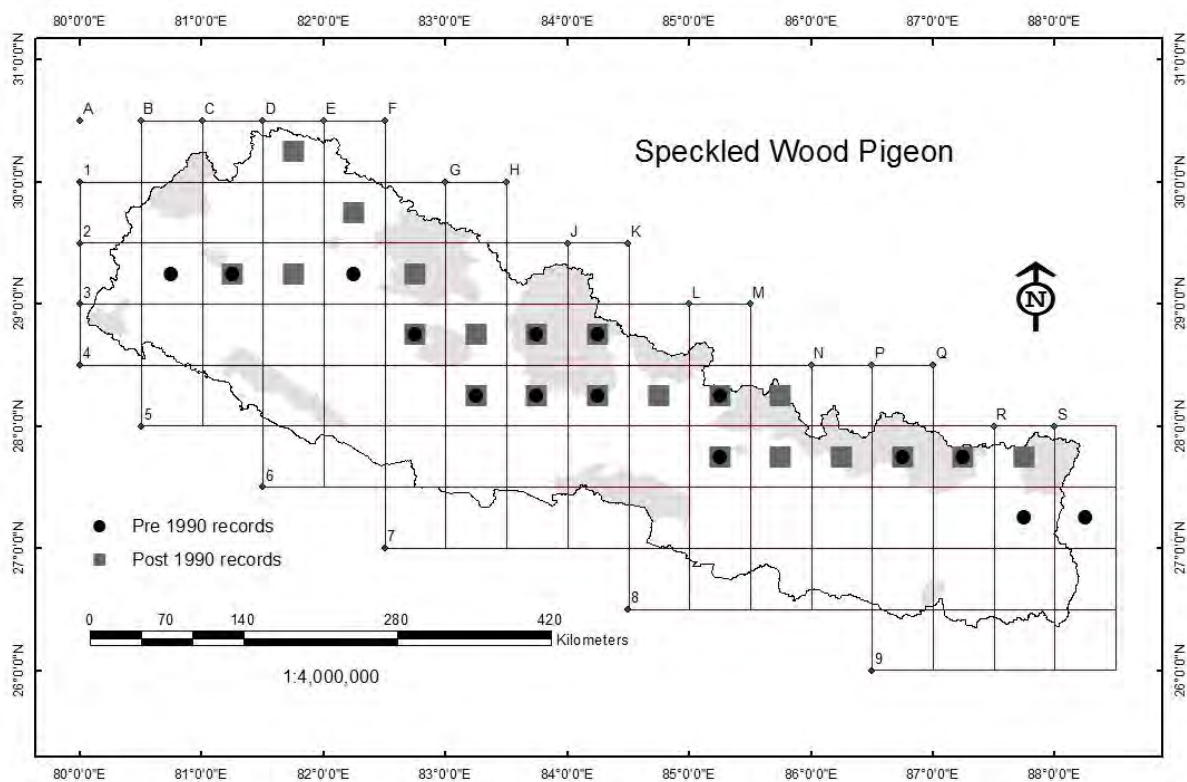
Common name

Speckled Wood Pigeon (English),
Chhibire Banparewa (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Speckled Wood Pigeon is a locally fairly common resident that wanders irregularly, depending on food supplies. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006) in the west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first definite Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) found it was an occasionally recorded resident and migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a resident subject to irregular movements and mapped it quite widely.

Since 1990 its known distribution has increased, probably because of better recording.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a frequent resident in Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); one recorded along Suli Gad River in Shey Phoksundo National Park (F3) in April 1992 (Priemé and Øksnebjerg (1992, 1995); common resident in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013, Subedi 2003); frequent resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Thakuri 2013); frequent resident on Shivapuri (SNP and BCN 2007), also

recorded on Nagarjun, e.g. Malling Olsen (2004) and recorded in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (Rimal 2006); fairly common resident in Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); an uncommon visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); frequent resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a), and rare in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

It has been recorded less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system (see map and text below).

In the west records include: between Simikot and Chyakpalung (D1) Humla District in May/June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013); between Beuli and Kalikot and Kalikot and Takula (D3), Kalikot District in March 1997 (Giri 1997), and between Deorali Thanti and Lachang, Dhola Khola (G4), Myagdi District (Cox 1999b); resident in Balewa (G5) (Basnet 2009); between Bhujung and Pasgam (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include: between Tarkeghyang and Sermathang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004) and May 2007 (Byskov 2007). Only two records from the Kathmandu Valley in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area between 2004 and 2006: one in February 2005 and at least 20 in March 2005 (Mallalieu 2008). It has occurred erratically since 1990, mainly on Phulchoki, e.g. in February 2001 (Baral and GC 2001), April 2008 (Baral 2008) and in March 2010 (Baral 2010).

In the east records include: two at Taksindu (P6), Solukhumbu District in July 2012 (Katuwal *et al.* 2013).

Globally also recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3050 m; lower limit: 1500 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Speckled Wood Pigeon. A large flock of 300 birds was recorded at Tolka, Kathmandu Valley in 1994 (Lama 1994); however, a huge flock of over 1000 was estimated near Dhampus (H5) in January 1985 (Collins and Thomas 1986).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Speckled Wood Pigeon mainly inhabits broadleaved forest and also open country. It is chiefly arboreal and frugivorous, though sometimes feeds on the ground. It clambors about branches to reach fruits when feeding, sometimes hanging upside down and will descend to small bushes for food. It often perches in exposed positions on dead branches (Fleming *et al.* 1976, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species eats acorns, drupes and berries, also cereal and weed seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Outside the protected areas' system Speckled Wood Pigeon is threatened by deforestation, especially loss of the fruiting trees that it favours and may also be at risk from hunting or trapping.

Conservation Measures

Since 1990 Speckled Wood Pigeon has been recorded in Khaptad, Rara, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang,

Sagarmatha and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation; Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve and marginally from Shey Phoksundo National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Speckled Wood Pigeon has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally fairly common resident that wanders irregularly, depending on the fruiting of its favoured trees. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the west to the far east, mainly in protected areas where it is generally well represented. Its known distribution has increased, probably because of better recording since 1990. Outside the protected areas' system Speckled Wood Pigeon is threatened by loss and degradation of forest, especially loss of its fruiting trees and it may also be at risk from hunting or trapping. There is no evidence of a population decline.

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Columba leuconota Vigors, 1831

Subspecies: *Columba leuconota leuconota*

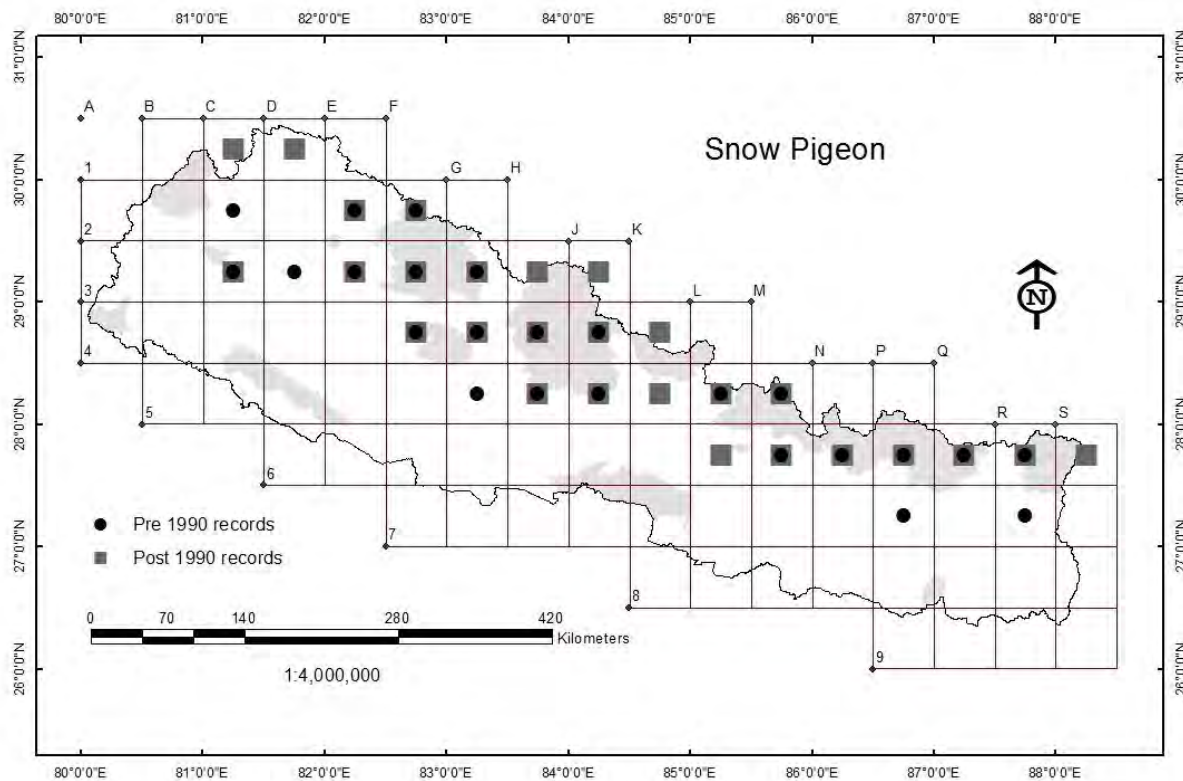
Common name

Snow Pigeon (English),
Himali Malewa (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Snow Pigeon is a common and widespread resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Humla District (C1, D1) in the far north-west (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013, Prodon 1994) to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (White and White 2000) in the far east.

The first definite Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident and winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was a common and widespread resident.

Since 1990 Snow Pigeon has been recorded rather more widely than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a winter visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); common resident in Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); common in most areas in Shey Phoksundo National Park (F2, F3, G3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1992, 1995, Sparks 1999); and recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting

Reserve (F4, G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013). It is listed as a rare resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H3, H4, H5, J4, J5) by Inskipp and Inskipp (2003), but other records, e.g. Acharya (2002) indicate it is a common resident in upper Mustang (J3). It has been recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4, K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Prodon 1992, Thakuri 2013); common resident in Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); common resident in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009, Cox 1996); common resident in Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004), Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999) and in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6, S6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008, Katuwal *et al.* 2013, White and White 1999). It was listed as common in Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone in May 1994 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1994).

Snow Pigeon has been less widely recorded outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from: Yari (C1), Humla District in September 1994 (Prodon 1994); Badimalika region (C3) (Karki *et al.* 2003); between Simikot and Chyakpalung (D1), Humla District in May/June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013); frequent in Humla District (D1) (Kusi *et al.* 2015); Navakuna (E3), Jumla District and between Charikot and Hurikot in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); around Jumla (E3) in April 2009 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009), common in Jumla District (E3) in March 2000 (Regmi 2000)

In central Nepal records include: one known record from Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in November 2000 (Basnet 2000); Sermathang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in January 2012 (Dymond 2012), and Dolakha District (N6) Poulsen 1993).

In the east records include from between Sanam and Bung (P6) and Panggom (P6), Solukhumbu in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 5200 m (-5270 m) (summer); lower limit: 3000 m (summer), 1500 m (winter)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Snow Pigeon. There is no evidence of any population change.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Snow Pigeon inhabits open high-altitude regions and requires aridity, but to a less extreme degree than Hill Pigeon *C. rupestris*. Food is always searched for among open and low vegetation such as high-altitude pastures, meadows near streams and rivers and newly ploughed fields. It is regularly found throughout the year close to human habitations and cultivations. Cultivated fields are apparently an important habitat. Snow Pigeons are found in flocks, even in the breeding season (Martens and Eck 1995).

Threats

Snow Pigeon is at risk from hunting and trapping in some areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Snow Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded

in Khaptad, Rara, Shey-Phoksundo, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kan Chengjunga Conservation Areas, and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Snow Pigeon has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and widespread resident in the Himalayas occurring from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 its recorded distribution has somewhat increased, probably because of better coverage. The species is well represented in the protected areas' system though less well recorded outside. In some areas it is at risk from hunting at trapping. However, there is no evidence of any population change.

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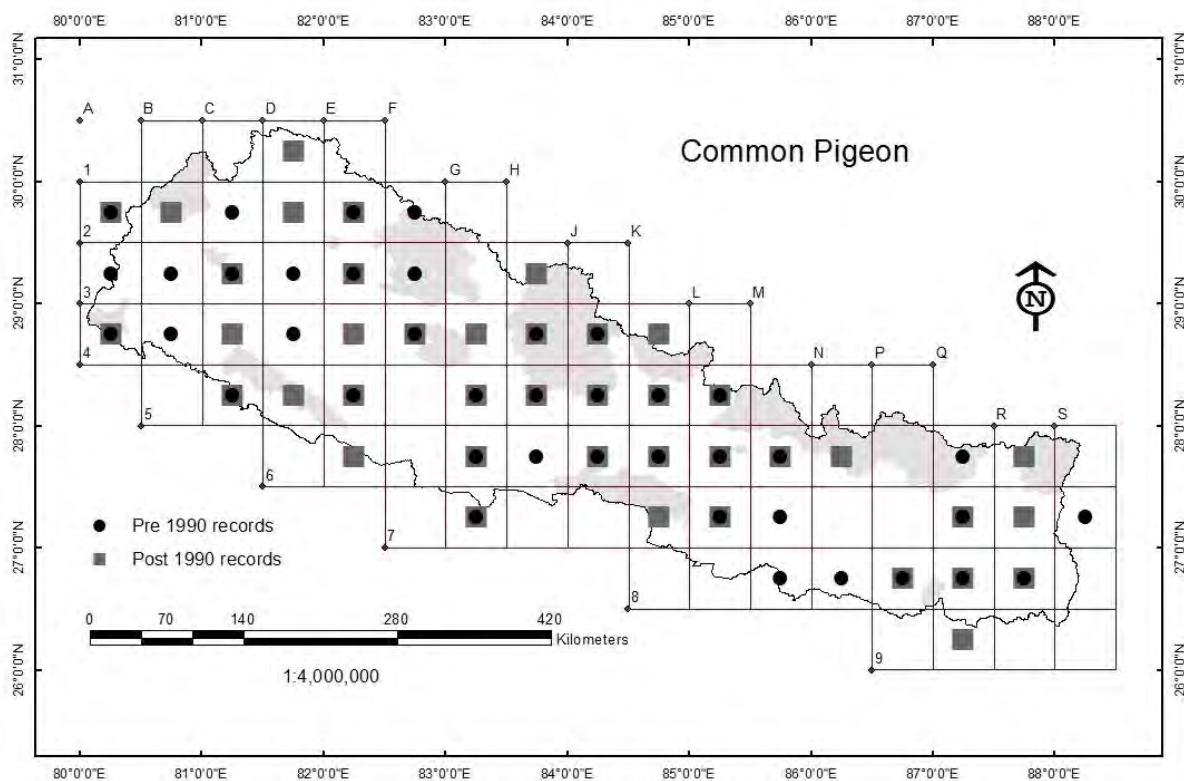
Columba livia J. F. Gmelin 1789
 Subspecies: *Columba livia intermedia*

Common name
 Common Pigeon (English),
 Malewa (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
 Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Common Pigeon is a common and widespread resident from the west to east-central Nepal and uncommon or rare and much less widespread further east. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley, Ilam District (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an abundant resident and migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was an abundant and widespread resident from the west to east-central Nepal, but much less widespread in the east.

Since 1990 there has been no significant change in distribution.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (A2, B2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); resident in Bardia National Park (C4,C5) (Inskipp 2001); winter visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3)(Chaudhary

2006); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); common in Rara National Park (Giri 2005); recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013); common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), including in Upper Mustang (H3), e.g. Baral (2000); common in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4, K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Thakuri 2013a); fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); fairly common resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); common resident in Langtang National Park (L5)(Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); rare in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Karki and Thapa 2005, Katuwal *et al.* 2013), and uncommon in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (P8, Q8)(Baral 2005). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone records include from Sauraha (K6), Chitwan District, e.g. in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

The species' is also widespread outside the protected areas' system and has the same pattern as within the protected areas' system. Post-1990 records follow.

In the west records include from: Yari (C1), Yangar (D1) and Simikot (D2), Humla District in September 1994 (Prodon 1994); Badimalika region (C3) (Karki *et al.* 2003); upper Humla (D1), Humla District (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013, Kusi *et al.* 2015); Sinja (E3), Jumla District in April 2009 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009); common in Jajarkot District (E4) and Rukum District (F4) in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); recorded in Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6) (Thakuri 2009a,b); between Jumla and Gothichaur (E3), Jumla District, between Dunai and Juphaal (F4), Dolpo District and Juphaal (F4), Dolpo District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); Tarakot (F4), Dolpo District in September 1999 (Sparks 1999); between Shivrati Khola and Darbang, middle Myagdi Khola valley (G5), Gulmi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999a); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b); resident in Balewa (G5) (Basnet 2009); recorded in Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District, e.g. in December 2010 (Baral 2011a); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. Suwal *et al.* (2002) and in November 2011 (Baral 2011b); common resident in Pokhara (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in November 2003 (Chaudhary 2003); Simalral (J5), Tanahu District in November 1992 (Baral 1992), and Besisahar (J5), Lamjung, e.g. in October 1997 (Chaudhary 1998a).

In central Nepal records include from: Nalang (K6), Dhading District, e.g. in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); a common resident in the Kathmandu Valley, most or all of which are feral birds, e.g. Mallalieu (2008); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District, e.g. in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001); and near Sermathang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004).

In the east records include from: recorded in Dolakha District (Poulsen 1993); from the upper Arun (Q6), e.g. Cox (1999b); between Tumlingtar and Bhotabesi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District, e.g. in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in December 1998 (Chaudhary 1999); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District, e.g. Jha and Subba (2012); Dobate, Mabu (R7) and Ilam (R8), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010); seen occasionally near settlements in the Mai valley (R7, R8) in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla (to UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba (to Netherlands), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda (to UK), Bhutan, Bolivia, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands (to UK), Chad, Chile, China (mainland), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Fiji, Finland, France, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe (to France), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte (to France), Mexico, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan,

Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Réunion (to France), Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Samoa, San Marino, São Tomé e Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Helena (to UK), St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Martin (to France), St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States Minor Outlying Islands (to USA), Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA), Wallis and Futuna Islands (to France), Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4280 m (summer), to at least 2810 m (winter); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Common Pigeon. Often seen in large flocks in towns and cities, e.g. in Kathmandu.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Feral birds inhabit towns and cities; wild birds frequent steep rock faces and the narrow gorges of streams, where it apparently breeds (Martens and Eck 1993); wild birds roost on cliff ledges and in fissures in cliffs (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds chiefly on seeds; it also eats green shoots (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Martens and Eck (1993) wrote, 'In towns and cities, strikingly in Kathmandu, live large flocks of 'City Pigeons' which do not seem to differ from their wild progenitors. On the other hand, variable phenotypes occur in Kathmandu, even reddish ones, which are clearly domesticated. Possibly the wild progenitors of present-day House Pigeons moved into the cities of their own accord and were only locally used economically. That the city birds hardly differ from the wild type is good evidence for this. Whether immigrants into human settlements happened in the Himalayan midlands or/and in other parts of the vast *intermedia* area, to be followed by successive dispersion of (semi-) domesticated forms by man is difficult to judge'. A colony of 100+ birds nesting on a rock face near Sinja, Jumla District in April 2009 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009); feral birds breed in Kathmandu.

Threats

Threats to Common Pigeon have not been identified.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Common Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Khaptad, Rara, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Langtang National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and marginally in Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Pigeon has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and widespread resident from the west to east-central Nepal and uncommon or rare and much less widespread further east. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 there has been no significant change in distribution. It has been recorded from many protected areas. No threats to the species have been identified. Its population may therefore be stable.

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Columba palumbus (Hodgson, 1837) LC

Subspecies: *Columba palumbus casiotis*

Common name

Common Wood Pigeon (English),

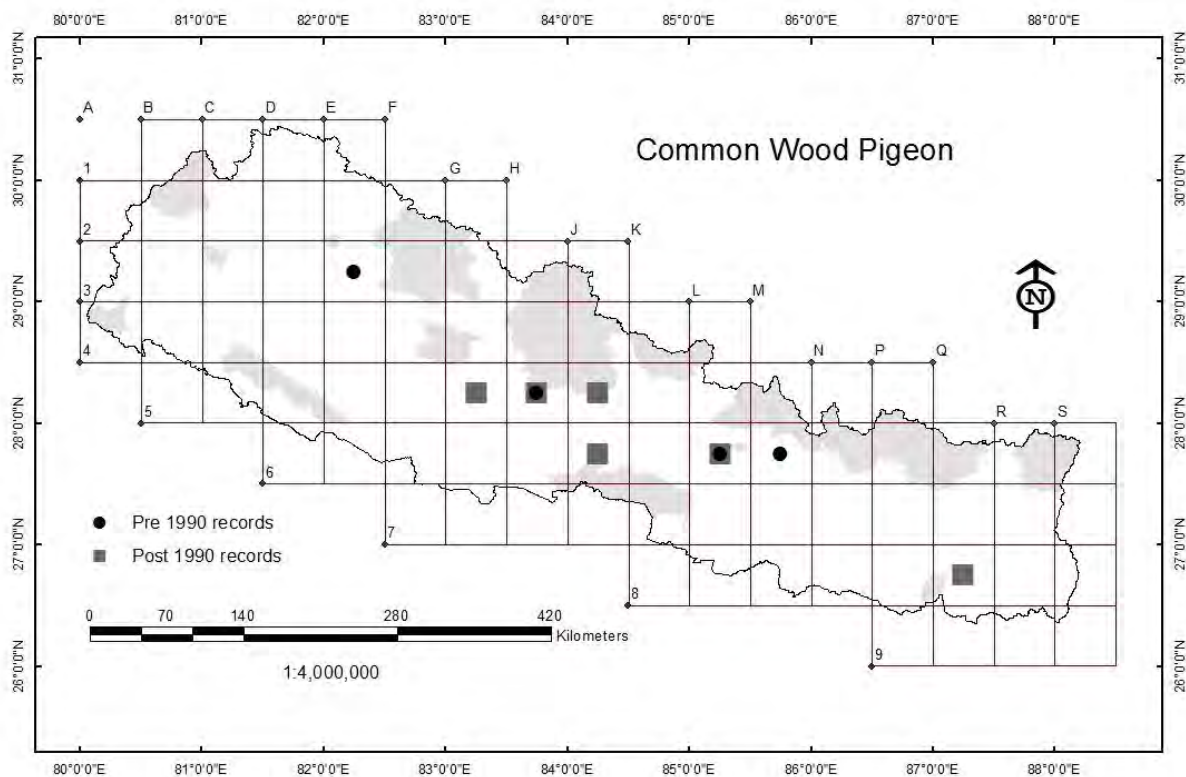
Thulo Banparewa (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Common Wood Pigeon is an erratic visitor, mainly in winter. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the Annapurna Conservation Area (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) east to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Giri 2004, Giri and Choudhary 2004).

A specimen was listed for Nepal in Salvadori (1893), but it may have originated in India. The species was first definitely recorded in Nepal at Tin Pani Bhangjang forest, Kathmandu in February 1957 (Fleming 1968, Fleming and Traylor 1961).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a scarce winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was an erratic winter visitor, recorded from west to east-central Nepal.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded from more localities than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: rare winter visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), also recorded at Pipar in ACA in May 2005 (Mahato *et al.* 2006); vagrant to Chitwan National Park (Giri and Choudhary 2005), and vagrant to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005, Giri 2004,

Giri and Choudhary 2004).

There are several records from outside the protected areas' system, post-1990, see map and text below.

In the west records include from: Balewa, Baglung District (G5) (Basnet 2009); near Phewa Tal (H5), Kaski District in March 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002); by Seti River, northwest of Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005); over Pokhara (H5) in December 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009,) and near Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include: large flocks in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley in January, February and March 2002 (Giri and Choudhary 2002a,b), also recorded there in January and February 2010 (Baral 2010).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Western Sahara (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2275 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Common Wood Pigeon. The maximum of c. 300 was seen near Phewa Tal (H5), Kaski District in March 2002 (Naylor *et al.* 2002) and flocks of up to 200 were regularly seen in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area from January to March 2002 (Giri and Choudhary 2002a,b). As the species is an irregular non-breeding visitor, its population is difficult to ascertain.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Wood Pigeon has chiefly been recorded from wooded hillsides in Nepal. Typically it clammers amongst foliage while feeding; may hang upside-down to reach food items. Its flight is fast and direct. The species has mainly been recorded in flocks in Nepal (Fleming *et al.* 1976).

Threats

Common Wood Pigeon may be at risk from hunting or trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Common Wood Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Annapurna Conservation Area and marginally from Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Wood Pigeon has been assessed as Least Concern. It is an erratic visitor, mainly occurring in winter, which has been recorded in more localities since 1990 than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. It has been recorded in a few protected areas and there are also several records from outside the protected areas' system since 1990. The species may be at risk from hunting and trapping. As the species is an erratic non-breeding visitor, its population change is difficult to ascertain.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskipp/2009_005.pdf
http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskipp/2009_006.pdf

Columba pulchricollis Blyth, 1846 LC

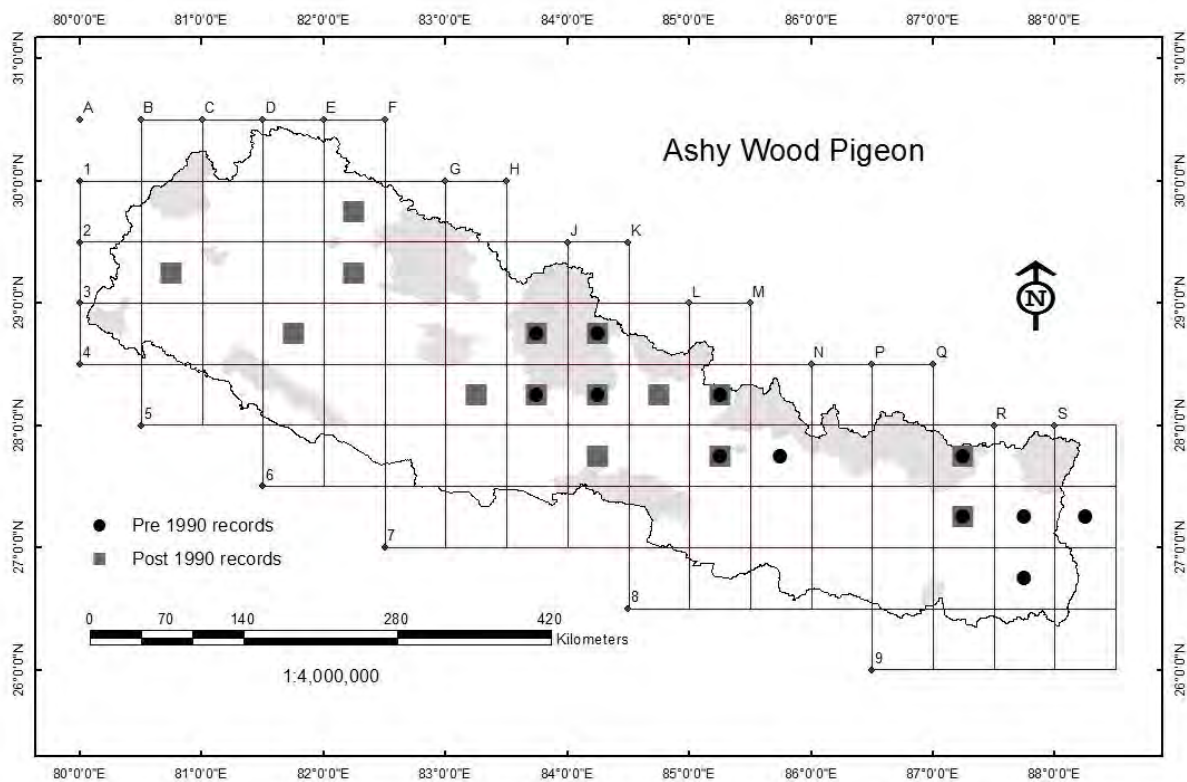
Common name

Ashy Wood Pigeon (English),
Phusro Banparewa (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Ashy Wood Pigeon is a local and frequent resident that wanders in search of fruiting trees. Since 1990 its known distribution has extended west to Dadeldhura District, almost to the Nepal/India border; however, in contrast to pre-1990 no records are known from the far east.

The species was described by E. Blyth probably from specimens taken by Hodgson in Nepal (Blyth 1844, Warren 1966). It was first definitely recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasional winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was an occasionally recorded resident from west-central Nepal and eastwards.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: recorded in Rara National Park (E2) in April 1995 (White and White 1995) and April 2009 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009); a frequent resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); rare winter visitor in Chitwan National Park (J6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Thakuri 2013a); a frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007); uncommon resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a frequent resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999). It has also been recorded at Dhunche (L5) in Langtang National Park buffer zone in June 1999 (Chaudhary 1999) and in

Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in May 1998 (Q6, Q7) (Chaudhary 1998) and May 2009 (Cox 2009).

In the west records include: recorded between Khalkhale-Dhure (B3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Kotuwa and Gai banne (D4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997); near Pina, Jumla district (E3) in April 2009 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009), and Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) recorded it was locally fairly common, but irregular, mainly in winter, in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006.

Globally species has also been recorded from Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Taiwan (China), Thailand (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2440 m; lower limit: 1100 m

Population

No population studies have been carried out for Ashy Wood Pigeon. The species' apparent range extension in the west may be because of better recording. However, the lack of records in the far east, despite better recording indicates a probable decline in population in this area.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Ashy Wood Pigeon is chiefly arboreal and frugivorous, wandering in search of fruiting trees. Typically, it sits very quietly, concealed among foliage in the canopy. It keeps singly, in pairs or in small flocks. Breeding has been proved in the Kathmandu Valley (Fleming *et al.* 1976).

Threats

Ashy Wood Pigeon is threatened by deforestation and the loss of fruiting trees on which it feeds, especially in the subtropical zone. It is probably also threatened, at least in some areas, by illegal hunting.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Ashy Wood Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Rara, Khaptad, Langtang, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna and Manaslu Conservation Areas and marginally in Chitwan National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Ashy Wood Pigeon has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a local and occasionally recorded resident that wanders in search of fruiting trees. Since 1990 its known distribution has extended west almost to the Nepal/India border; however, in contrast to pre-1990 no records are known from the far east. The

species' apparent range extension in the west may be because of better recording. However, the lack of records in the far east, despite better recording, indicates a probable decline in population in this area. However, there is no evidence that this decline is significant enough to warrant a threatened category for the species. It is well represented in protected areas. Ashy Wood Pigeon is threatened by deforestation and the loss of fruiting trees, especially in the subtropical zone and at least in some areas, probably also by illegal hunting.

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Columba rupestris Pallas, 1811

Subspecies: *Columba rupestris turkestanica*

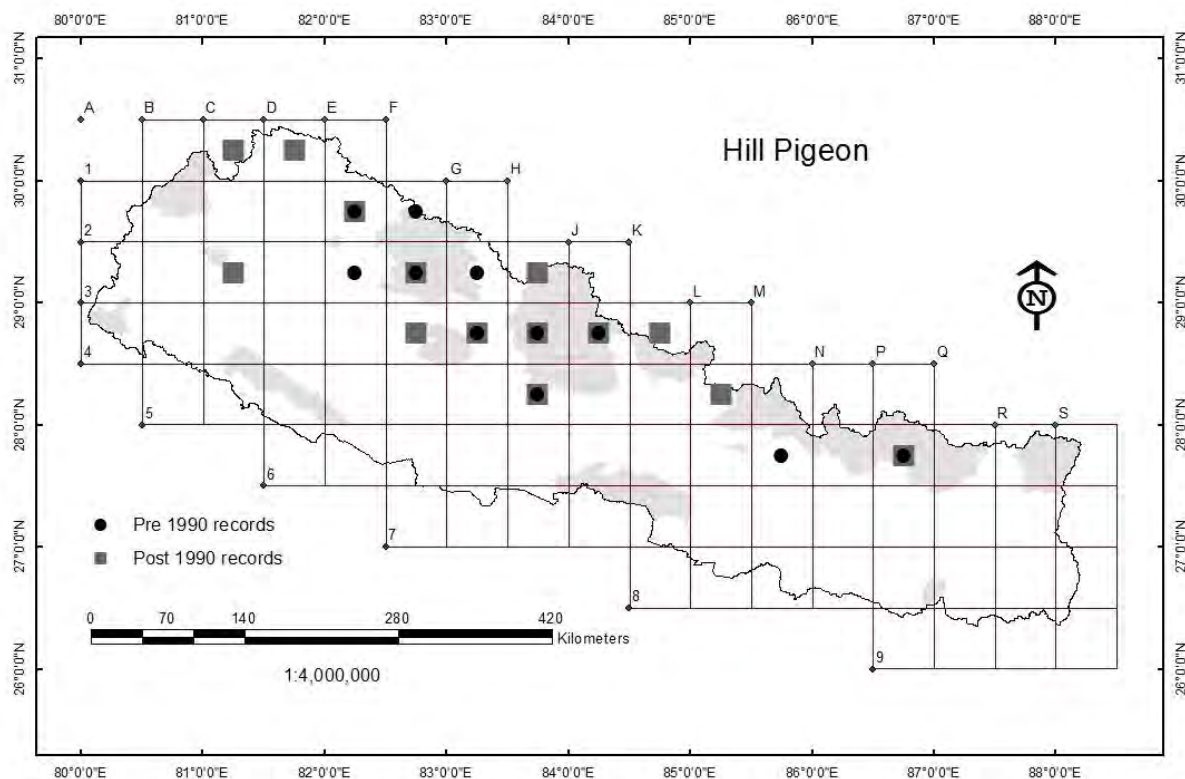
Common name

Hill Pigeon (English),
Lekali Malewa (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Hill Pigeon is a fairly common resident in Trans-Himalayan Nepal in the north-west. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Humla District (Prodon 1994, Ghimirey and Acharya 2013) east to Manaslu Conservation Area (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Thakuri 2013).

The first Nepal record of the species was from Jharkot (H4), Annapurna Conservation Area in December 1963 (Fleming 1969).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was common in the Tibetan plateau region.

Since 1990 the species' distributional range has been extended west to Humla District, probably because of better recording. There has been no other significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990).

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: winter visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); fairly common winter visitor to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); common around Shey, Shey Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1992, 1995); recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (Panthi and Thagunna 2013); fairly common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H3, H4, H5, J4) (Acharya 2002, Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Thakuri 2013); vagrant to Langtang National Park (L5) (Syabru in April 1998) (Chaudhary 1998), and a vagrant to Sagarmatha National Park (Basnet 2004).

In the west records include from: Yari (C1), Humla District in September 1994 (Prodon 1994); between Simikot and Chyakpalung, Humla District (D1) in May/June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013); Limi valley (D1), upper Humla, Humla District (Kusi *et al.* 2015). and in Badimalika region (C3) (Karki *et al.* 2003);

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), South Korea, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4700 m (-5490 m) (summer); lower limit: 2900 m (summer) (-1650 m winter)

Population

No population studies have been carried out on Hill Pigeon.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Hill Pigeon inhabits the monsoon-protected northern flanks of the Himalayas and is adapted to a dry climate. Breeding has only been recorded in open parts of the upper forest zone up to beyond the tree-line. It lives locally in close association with people and breeds regularly on houses of Tibetan-style villages, e.g. at Charka, upper Barbung Khola valley in June 1973 (Martens and Eck (1995) and on Shey Gompa (F3) (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Hill Pigeon may move south and to lower elevations in winter (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Threats to Hill Pigeon are not known.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Hill Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Rara and Shey Phoksundo National Parks; Annapurna and Manaslu Conservation Areas; Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve and as a vagrant to Langtang and Sagarmatha National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Hill Pigeon has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common resident in Trans-Himalayan Nepal in the northwest. Since 1990 its distributional range has been extended to Humla District in the far northwest, probably as a result of better recording. There has been no other significant change in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. The species is quite well represented in protected areas and threats to the species are not known. As a result its population has probably not changed significantly since 1990.

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***Stigmatopelia chinensis* (Scopoli, 1786) LC**

Subspecies: *Stigmatopelia chinensis suratensis*

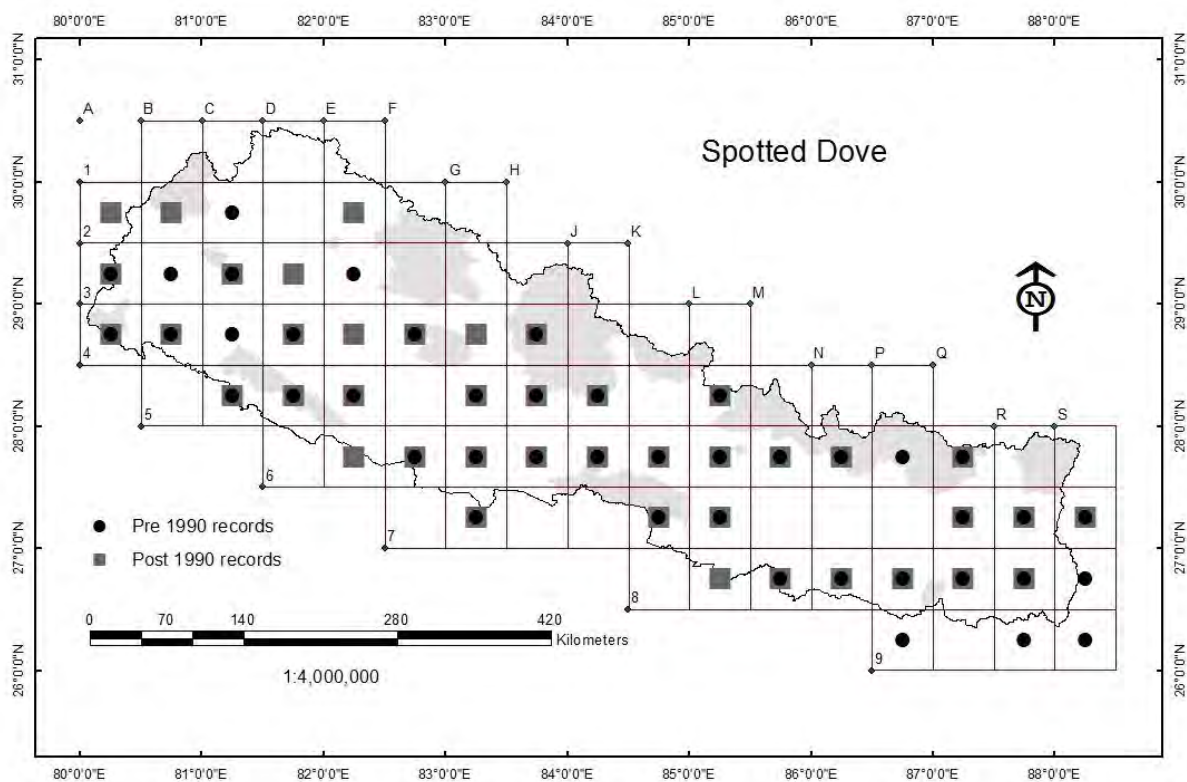
Common name

Spotted Dove (English),
Kurle Dhukur (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Spotted Dove is a very common and widespread resident, recorded since 1990 from the far west to the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) found it was a common resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as an abundant resident and mapped it widely throughout Nepal.

Since 1990 there has been a small increase in distribution compared to pre-1990, probably partly because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (A2, B2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); recorded in Banke National Park (Baral *et al.* 2012); a rare summer visitor to Rara National Park (Giri 2005); recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013); common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5)

(Thakuri 2013a); common resident in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001); recorded in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (Rimal 2006, SNP and BCN 2007); an uncommon summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapi 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (Baral and Shah 2009); a common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a); uncommon in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008), and common at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). In Bardia National Park buffer zone it was recorded in the lower Karnali basin (Singh 2007); in Chitwan National Park buffer zone it was recorded in Barandabhar, e.g. Adhikari *et al.* (2000); Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996); Janakauli Community Forest, Chitwan District, e.g. in February 2008 (Giri 2008) and west of Chitwan National Park, Nawalparasi District in February 2010 (Baral 2010a); Dhunche, Langtang National Park buffer zone, e.g. in May 2002 (Baral 2002) and in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6, Q7) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

The species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system. Post-1990 records follow.

In the west records include from: Baitadi and Dadeldhura Districts (A3, B3) in May and June 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District, e.g. Baral (1991); common in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Tikapur (C5), Kailali District, e.g. in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); in Badimalika region (C3) (Karki *et al.* 2003); recorded in Kalikot and Dailekh Districts (D3, D4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997); at Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District, e.g. in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); between Khalanga and Rimna (E4), Jajarkot District; Salli Bazaar (E5), Salyan District; between Rimna and Chisapani (F4), Rukum District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); common in spring and summer in Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); recorded at Khadara Phanta (F6), Kapilvastu District in January 2011 (Acharya 2011); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994); Balewa (G5) (Basnet 2009); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b); Jagdisphur (G6), Kapilvastu District, e.g. Baral (2008, 2011a); Bhairawa (G6), Rupandehi District, e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994); between Chandi Bhanjyang and Kavri Dharmsala (G6) and between Kavri Dharmsala and Argali (G6), Palpa District; between Argali and Sidure (G6) and Sidure and Rupakot, Bari Gad (G6), Gulmi District; between Rupakot and Buachidi (G5), Gulmi District; between Buachidi and Gwalichaur (G5), Baglung District; between Palung, Dhola Khola and Archegaun, Dhola Khola (G4) Myagdi District and between Archegaun and Dimlatti, Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District (G4) in May and June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Salyan, Parbat District, e.g. in October 1999 (Baral 2000); Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a); Begnas Tal (J5), e.g. in January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005); Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in October 1997 (Chaudhary 1998b), and between Pasgam, Libiyani and Rupatal (J5), Lamjung District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include from: Kathmandu Valley where common, e.g. Mallalieu (2008); at Dhading (K6), Dhading District, e.g. in April 2011 (Baral 2011b); Kutumsang and Patibhanjyang (L6), Sindhupalchok District in May 1992 (Baral 1992); near Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District, e.g. in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004); between the school west of Belwa and Kat mandir Bara District (L7) and between Kat mandir, Bara and forest camp north of East-West Highway in April 2003 (Cox 2003); along the proposed North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); Adarsha Community Forest and national forest, Chandi Khola (L7), Rautahat District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Kamala and Bagmati valleys (L8, M8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012), and Sipadol (M6), Bhaktapur, e.g. in September 1994 (Baral 1994a).

In the east records include from: Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); Kathare and Durga Community Forests (N8), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhouhadel 2007); Koshi Barrage (P8), e.g. in October 1993 (Chaudhary 1994); between Tumlingtar and Chewabesi, Chewabesi and Bungling and between Bungling and Pikhua (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); in Koshi Camp (Q8) Sunsari District, e.g. in September 2010 (Baral 2010b); Kosi Bird Observatory in October 2011 (Baral 2011c) Belhara (Q8), Dhankuta in September 2003 (Baral 2003); Raja Rani (Q8), Morang District (Basnet 2002, Basnet *et al.* 2005); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); Patnali, Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in January 2010 (Baral 2010c); Morang District (Q8), Panchthar District (R7), Taplejung District (R7) and Ilam District (S7) in November 1992 (Cox 1992); Itahari, Sunsari District (Q8) (Pandey 2003); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District, e.g. in March 1994 (Baral 1994b) and Jha and Subba (2012); between Mamangkhe and Kande Bhanjyang (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Ilam (R8), Ilam District, e.g. in September 2010 (Baral 2010b) and common in the lower Mai valley (R8), e.g. Basnet and Sapkota (2006) and in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally it has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China

(mainland), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, New Caledonia (to France), New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, USA, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to USA) (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2000 m (-4000 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

A total of 421 birds was counted in a survey of Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and surrounding areas in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013). No other population surveys have been carried out.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Spotted Dove inhabits cultivation, villages and towns, gardens, open deciduous woodland, and prefers more wooded and wetter habitats than Eurasian Collared Dove *S. decaocto* or Laughing Dove *S. senegalensis*. Like most other pigeons and doves, it is gregarious outside the breeding season. When disturbed, it bursts upwards with a noisy clatter of wings, then glides down to settle nearby. It eats grains of paddy and other cereals, lentils and pulses and grass- and weed seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved at Koshi Camp, Sunsari District (Choudhary 2013).

Threats

Spotted Dove may be at risk in farmed areas from pesticides and from the loss of field corners and edges through agricultural intensification (Inskipp and Baral 2011). No other threats to Spotted Dove have been identified. It may benefited from the spread of agriculture at the expense of thick forest.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Spotted Dove. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Rara, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Spotted Dove has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a very common and widespread resident, recorded since 1990 from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 there has been a small increase in distribution, probably partly because of better coverage. It has been recorded in many protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system. The species may be at risk in farmed areas from pesticides and also the loss of field corners and edges through agricultural intensification in the lowlands. However, it may have benefitted from the spread of agriculture at the expense of thick forest. Its population may be stable or possibly increasing

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***Stigmatopelia senegalensis* (Linnaeus, 1766) LC**

Subspecies: *Stigmatopelia senegalensis cambayensis*

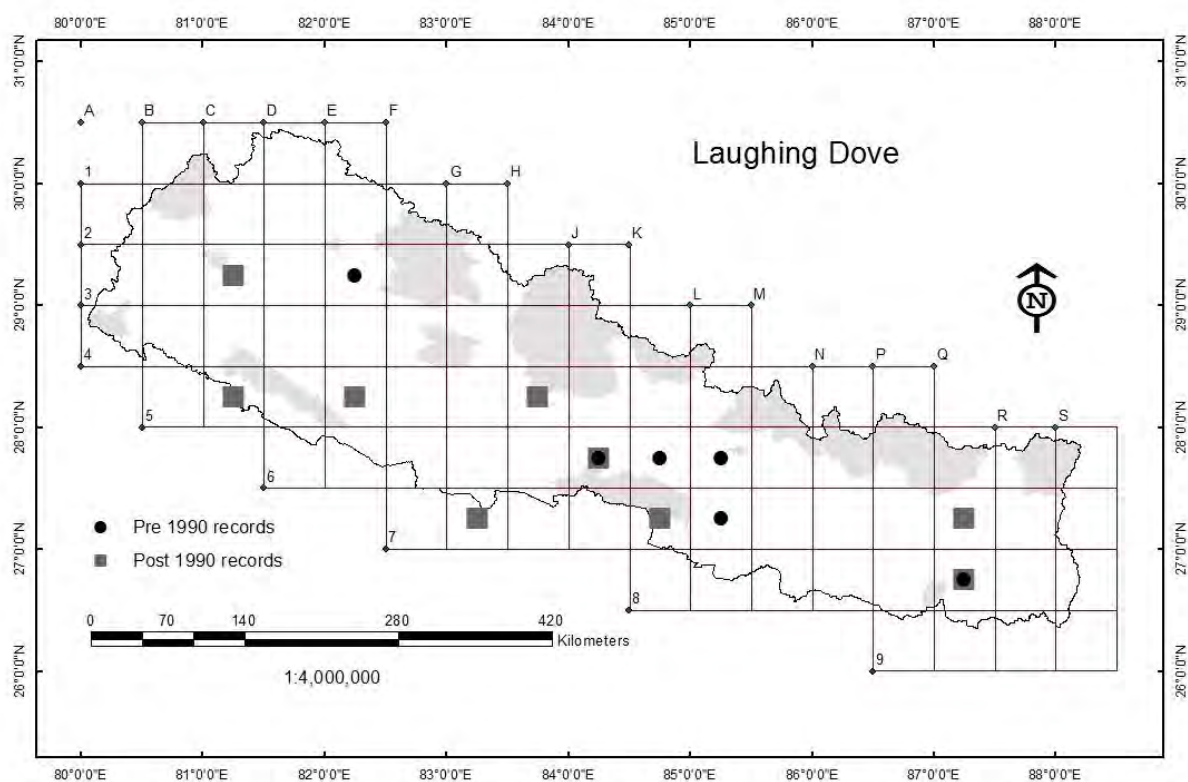
Common name

Laughing Dove (English),
Dhusar Dhukur (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Laughing Dove is a very uncommon and erratic visitor, mainly in winter. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006) in the west to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was a specimen collected at Balaju, Kathmandu Valley in December 1967 (Nepali 1986).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a scarce resident and migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was scarce and its status and movements uncertain.

Since 1990 Laughing Dove has been recorded from more localities than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: uncommon in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006); vagrant to Bardia National Park (Giri and Choudhary 2003); rare visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); vagrant to Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001), and an uncommon visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005).

There are several post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system, see map and text below.

In the west records include: three seen on the East-West Highway c.50 km west of Kusum, Dang District in December 1997 (Giri 1998); one in Lumbini Development Area (G7), Rupandehi District in January 2003 (Giri and Choudhary 2003), and two at Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in January 2009 (Baral 2009).

In the east records include from: Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in December 1991 (White and White 1992); Prakashpur (Q8), Sunsari District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994), and Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in November 1996 (Giri 1996).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, São Tomé e Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2440 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Laughing Dove. Up to eight have been recorded in the Koshi area in January (Choudhary 1994). As it is a very uncommon and erratic visitor, any population change is difficult to ascertain.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Laughing Dove inhabits cultivation around villages, and dry scrub country. It is a ground-feeder, gleaning grain from cultivation and on dusty tracks; occasionally stretches to pluck seeds from weeds. It feeds on grains of paddy and other cereals and lentils, grass and weed seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Usually found singly in Nepal.

Threats

Laughing Dove may be at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Laughing Dove. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and marginally from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, Annapurna Conservation Area, and Parsa Wildlife and Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Laughing Dove has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a very uncommon visitor, mainly in winter, recorded since 1990 from the west to the far east. Since 1990 it has been recorded from more localities than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. These localities include a few protected areas and several localities outside the protected areas' system. The species may be at risk from hunting or trapping. It is difficult to ascertain any population changes because of its very uncommon status.

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Streptopelia decaocto (Frivaldszky, 1838) LC

Subspecies: *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

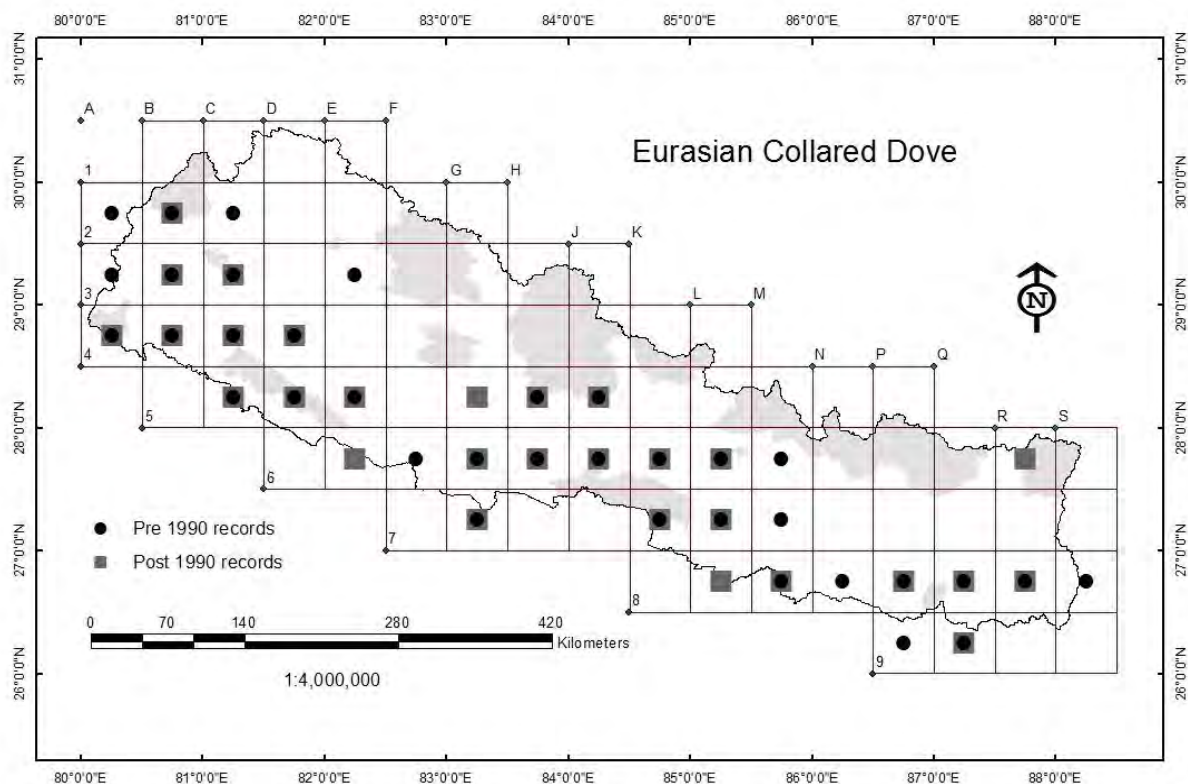
Common name

Eurasian Collared Dove (English),
Kanthé Dhukur (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Eurasian Collared Dove is a common and widespread resident, especially in the west. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Ilam, Ilam District (Baral 2010c) in the far east.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it was a fairly common resident, especially in the west. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) also found it a fairly common resident and mapped it from the far west (where it was most widespread) to the far east.

Since 1990 there has been no significant difference in distribution, compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 distribution in protected areas is: a common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); and in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); the Chameliya valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Acharya 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012a); recorded in Khaptad National Park at Bajhang (C3) in September 1995 (Giri and Choudhary 1996); rare resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve

(Todd 2001); frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); rare in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, only listed by Thapa and Karki (2005), and a common resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). It has been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009); Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005); Janakauli Community Forest (K6) (Giri 2008); Sauraha (K6) e.g. Naylor and Metcalf (2012) and west of Chitwan National Park (H6), Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010a).

Eurasian Collared Dove has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system, especially in the west, see map and text below.

In the west records include from: Amarghadi (B3), Dadeldhura District (Baral *et al.* 2010); a common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded from Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); Chepang Hills (C5), Surkhet District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); lower Karnali basin along Bardia-Katarniaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District (Grimm and Fischer 2003, Priemé 1992); common in Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6) (Thakuri 2009a,b); Kotuwa and Rawtkot (D4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997); recorded at Balewa (G5) (Basnet 2009); between Gwalichaur and Simalchaur (G5) Gulmi/Baglung border in May 1999 (Cox 1999); Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); by Kothi River (G6) (Kapilvastu/Rupandehi Districts (Miller 2011a); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1993) and January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006); by Dano, Telar and Tinaru Rivers (G7), Rupandehi District (Miller 2011 b,c,d); Rampur valley, Palpa District (H5) (Gautam 2003); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in November 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005) and November 2007 (Baral 2007)

In central Nepal Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a fairly common, but local resident and winter visitor in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006. Other records include from: Malekhu (K6), Dhading District (Baral 1992); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); Judibela Community Forest, Rautahat District, Adarsha Community Forest and national forest (L7), Chandi Khola, Rautahat District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); between Gaur, Rautahat District and Sedhawa, Siraha District (L8), between Sedhawa, Siraha and camp west of Lal Bakaiya, Rautahat District and a few other localities in Rautahat (L8) in April 2003 (Cox 2003), and along the Bagmati River (L8) and Kamala River (M8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012b).

In the east records include from: Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District, e.g. Baral (1992); recorded between Gopha Pokhari and Dobhan (Q7) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012b); Morang District (Q8) in November 1992 (Cox 1992); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet 2002); Dharan Forest (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Miller 2011e, Subba 1995); Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District (Baral 2010a); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. Baral (2010a); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012, Subba 1994); lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); between Chandragadhi and Khudunabari and around Khudunabari (R8), Ilam District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010c).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Anguilla (to UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cayman Islands (to UK), China (mainland), Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Egypt, Estonia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe (to France), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1350 m (-2440 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

A total of 333 birds was recorded during a bird survey in the Koshi area between 21 and 26 April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013). No other population surveys have counted Eurasian Collared Dove.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Eurasian Collared Dove inhabits open dry country and groves, especially around villages (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is found singly or in pairs, but often congregates in flocks where food is abundant. The species is a ground-feeder, gleaning grain from cultivation and also eats grass, bamboo and weed seeds, and often forages on dusty tracks (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeding has been proved at Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013) and in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983). It is subject to altitudinal movements depending on food supply (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Eurasian Collared Dove may be at risk from hunting and trapping; also by the use of herbicides in agricultural areas (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Eurasian Collared Dove. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Chitwan and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks; Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and marginally in Khaptad National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Eurasian Collared Dove has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a common and widespread resident, especially in the west and since 1990 has been recorded from the far west to the far east. There is no significant difference in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Eurasian Collared Dove is well represented in protected areas and is also widespread outside the protected areas' system. It may be at risk from hunting and trapping and the use of herbicides in agricultural areas.

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Streptopelia orientalis (Latham, 1790) LC

Subspecies: *Streptopelia orientalis orientalis*, *agricola*, *meena*

Common name

Oriental Turtle Dove (English),

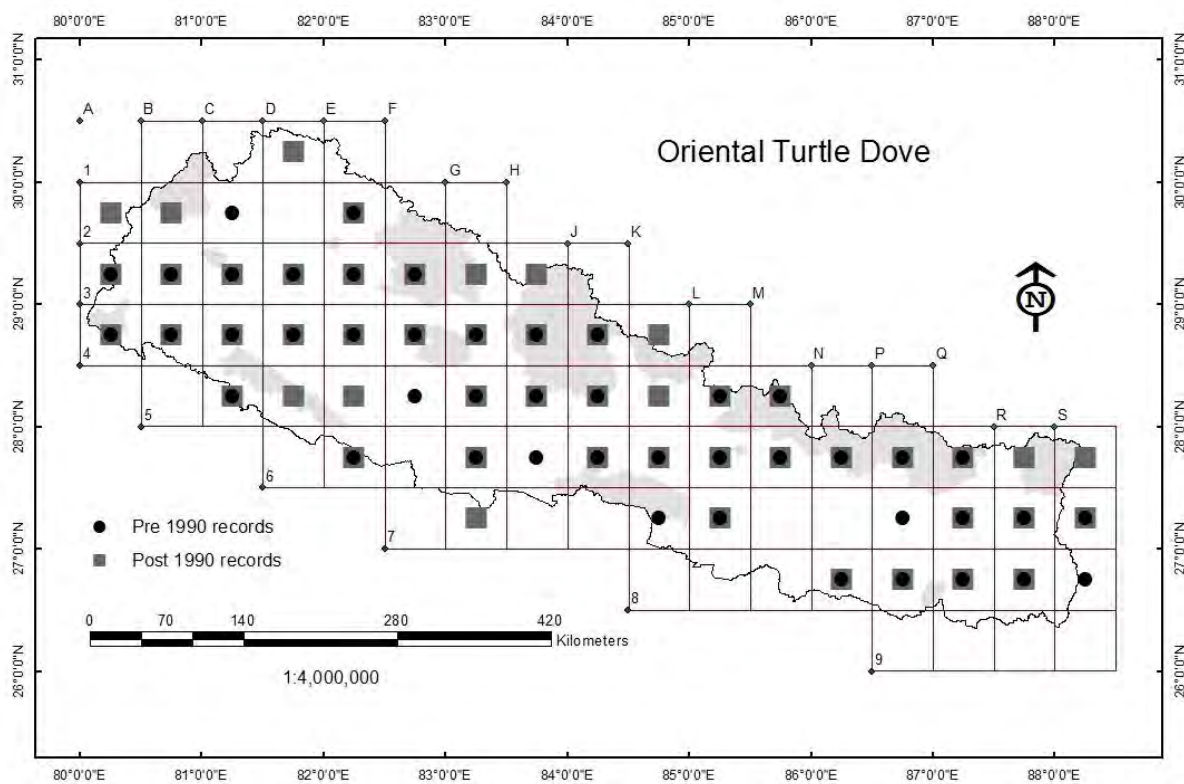
Taame Dhukur (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Oriental Turtle Dove is a common and widespread resident and winter visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the upper Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it a common resident and winter visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) mapped it throughout Nepal.

The distribution of Oriental Turtle Dove has increased a little post-1990, compared to pre-1990, probably partly because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (A2, B2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) and in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a common resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); common summer visitor to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); recorded in Shey Phoksundo National Park (F3, G3); Priemé, and Øksnebjerg

1992, 1995); common resident and winter visitor in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013, Subedi 2003) and in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), including Lo Manthang (H3), Upper Mustang, e.g. Baral (2000); common in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4, K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Thakuri 2013a); fairly common winter visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); common in Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); common summer visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); common resident and visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a); a fairly common winter visitor to Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005), and common in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6, S6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008, Katuwal *et al.* 2013). It has also been recorded at Dhunche, Langtang National Park buffer zone in May 2002 (Baral 2002); Lukla (P6), Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone, e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1996b) and Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6, Q7) in May 2009 (Cox 2009). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it has been recorded from Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996a) and Janakauli Community Forest e.g. in February 2008 (Giri 2008).

It has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from: Dadeldhura and Baitadi Districts (A3,B3) (Baral *et al.* 2010); an occasionally recorded winter visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); lower Karnali basin (C5) (Singh 2007); recorded in upper Humla (D1), Humla District (Kusi *et al.* 2015); Dailekh District (D4) and Kalikot District (D3) in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Jumla District (E3) in April 2009 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009); Jajarkot and Rukum Districts (E4) in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); common in Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6) (Thakuri 2009); recorded at Juphaal (F3), Dolpo District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); Dunai (F4), Dolpo District in September 1999 (Sparks 1999); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b); Balewa (G5) (Basnet 2009); Gaidahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Baral 2011a); between Argali, Palpa District and Sidure, Gulmi District (G5) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District in December 2011 (Baral 2011b); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994a); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in November 1997 (Chaudhary 1998); Begnas Tal (J5), e.g. in March 2009 (Baral 2009) and between Pasgam, Libiyani and Rupatal (J5), Lamjung District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include from: Dhading (K6), Dhading District, e.g. in April 2011 (Baral 2011c); common resident in Kathmandu Valley (L6), e.g. Mallalieu (2008); recorded at Kutumsang and Patibhanjyang (L6), Sindhupalchok District, e.g. in May 1992 (Baral 1992); Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District in May 1999 (Chaudhary 1999); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); Sipadol (M6), Bhaktapur in September 1994 and Dhulikhel, Kavrepalchok District in November 1994 (Baral 1994b); Sermathang and Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004).

In the east records include from: Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); Katahare and Durga Community Forests (N8), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubhadel 2007); Solukhumbu District (P6) where common (Katuwal *et al.* 2013); Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in December 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); between Tumlingtar and Gothe Bazaar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011); Tinjure Forest (Q7) (Rai 2003); Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District, e.g. in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in February 1995 (Baral 1995); north of Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010a); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997) and Basnet and Sapkota (2008); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); between Mamangkhe and Kande Bhanjyang and between Kande Bhanjyang and Lali Karka (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in January 2008 (Baral 2010b); Dobate, Mabu (R7) and Hange Tham (S7), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010c); Mai Pokhari, upper Mai valley (Basnet 2005); lower Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); common in the Mai valley (R7, R8, S7) up to 2200 m in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, China (mainland), Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong (China), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List

for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4570 m (summer), 1370 m; lower limit: 365 m (summer), 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Oriental Turtle Dove.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Oriental Turtle Dove inhabits open forest, mainly in broadleaves, sometimes in conifers, often near cultivation or orchards. It keeps singly or in pairs when breeding, and in small parties in winter and may form flocks when migrating. It is a ground feeder, gleaning grain from cultivation, and also eats grass, bamboo and weed seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It can often be seen foraging on dusty tracks. The species feeds on paddy and other cereal seeds, weed and bamboo seeds and green shoots (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Jharkot, Annapurna Conservation Area (Wolstencroft 1981), in the Kathmandu Valley and Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1960). The species is subject to altitudinal movements (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Threats

Oriental Turtle Dove would be threatened by complete loss of forest, but has probably benefitted from forest thinning and some forest degradation.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Oriental Turtle Dove. Since 1990 it has been recorded in all protected areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Oriental Turtle Dove has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and widespread resident and winter visitor, recorded since 1990 from the far west to the far east. It has been recorded from all protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system. Its distribution has increased a little since 1990, at least partly because of better coverage. However, forest degradation and thinning have probably benefited the species. Its population is stable or possibly increasing.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskipp/2007_007.pdf

***Streptopelia tranquebarica* (Hermann, 1804) LC**

Subspecies: *Streptopelia tranquebarica tranquebarica*,
humilis

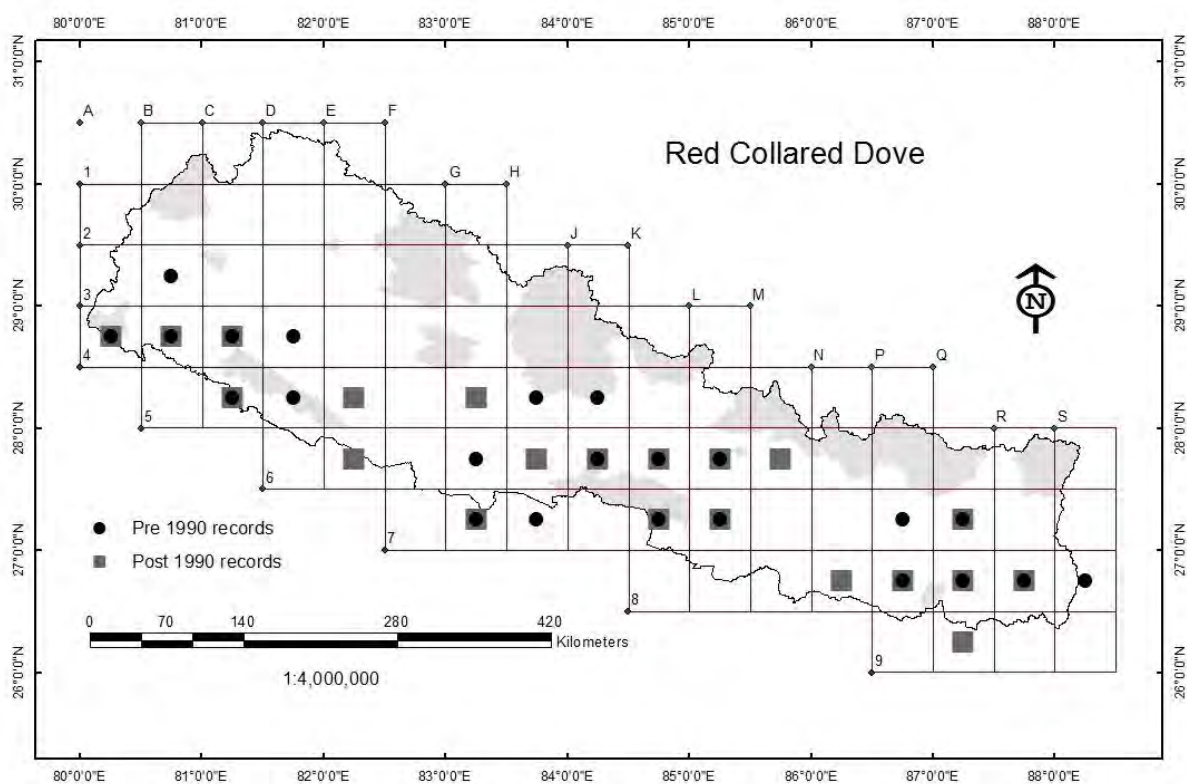
Common name

Red Collared Dove (English),
Sano Taame Dhukur (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



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Red Collared Dove is a fairly common and widespread resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the lower Mai valley, Mai Valley Important Bird Area (Basnet and Sapkota 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident and summer visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was a fairly common and widespread resident.

Since 1990 Red Collared Dove has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001), and fairly common in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). It was recorded in Chitwan National

Park buffer zone at Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009, Pradhan 2005), Sauraha, e.g. in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012), Janakauli, e.g. in March 2010 (Giri 2010), and in Namuna Community Forest (H6), Nawalparasi District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012). In Bardia National Park buffer zone it has been recorded in the Khata corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007).

The species has been fairly widely recorded outside the protected areas' system.

In the west: recorded in Kailali District (B4) in June 1994 (Baral 1996); lower Karnali basin (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6) in summer (Thakuri 2009a,b); recorded at Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009), Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1993) and January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006); near Telar River (G7) and Dano River (G7), Rupandehi District (Miller 2011a,b)

In central Nepal: In the Kathmandu Valley Mallalieu (2008) found it an uncommon summer visitor, rare in winter between 2004 and 2006, but noted as resident, often singing in April at Bosan Khola; in winter near Bagmati at Srikali temple area (max. count 36) (Arend van Riessen). The species was also recorded along the North-South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013) and between Kat mandir, Bara District and Forest Camp north of E-W Highway (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Dhulikhel (M6), Kavre District in June 2002 (Halberg 2002); by the Kamala River (N8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004); Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in April and May 1991 (Halberg 1991); Sankhuwasabha District in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009); near Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012), Dharan forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Miller 2011c, Subba 1995); Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010a); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010b); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003), Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2012, Subba 1994); and in the lower Mai valley (R8), Mai valley Important Bird Area (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Red Collared Dove. The large number of 380 was found near Kosi Bird Observatory in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Red Collared Dove inhabits open country and cultivation with some trees (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is less associated with human habitation and cultivation than other doves. It is found singly or in pairs when breeding and in small parties in winter. The species is a ground feeder, gleaning grain from the ground and also eating grass, bamboo and weed seeds (Ali and Ripley 1987, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeding has been proved at Koshi Camp, Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013).

Threats

Red Collared Dove may be at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Red Collared Dove. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Red Collared Dove has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common and widespread resident recorded since 1990 from the far west to the far east. It has been recorded in several protected areas and quite widely outside the protected areas system. Since 1990 it has been recorded more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage; elsewhere there is no significant difference in distribution post-1990 compared to pre-1990. It may be at risk from hunting and trapping. Its population is possibly stable.

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Treron bicinctus (Jerdon, 1840) LC

Subspecies: *Treron bicinctus bicinctus*

Common name

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon (English),

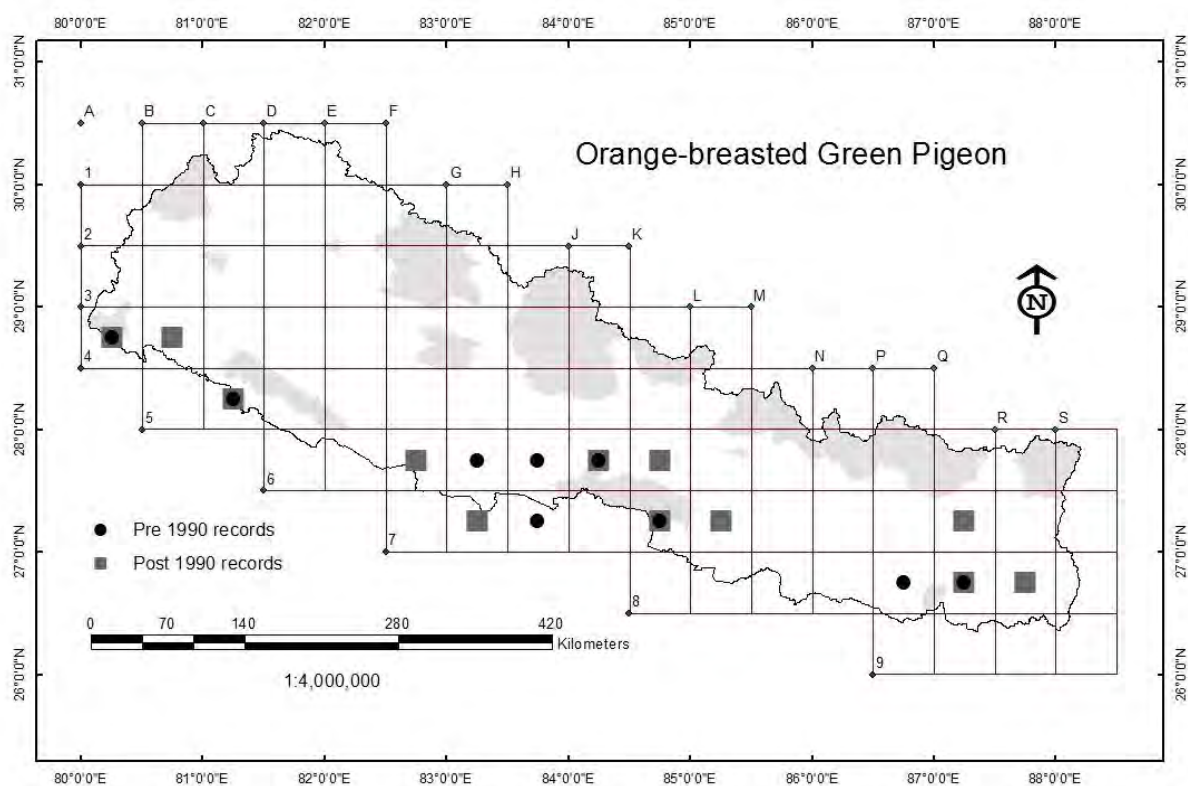
Suntalechaati Haleso (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Orange-breasted Green Pigeon is a local resident in the lowlands, most frequent in protected areas. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the lower Mai valley in the far east (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

The first definite record of the species for Nepal was a specimen collected from Butwal, Rupandehi District in January 1950 (Rand and Fleming 1957).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a scarce resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was a local resident recorded in western, central and eastern Nepal.

Since 1990 it has been recorded more widely than pre-1990; this is probably because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a frequent resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park (C5) (Inskipp 2001); common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); fairly common resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). It has been recorded from Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005) and Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata forest

corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007, Singh 2007)

The species has been less widely and less frequently recorded outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

In the west records include: a frequent resident in the Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded in Khadara Phanta (F6), Kapilvastu District (Cox 2008, Cox and Giri 2007); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in January and February 2011 (Acharya 2011), and in the Pokhara valley, Kaski District (H5) (Anon 2012).

In central Nepal records include from along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013)

In the east records include from: between Dobhan and Mitlung (Q7) in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. Chaudhary 2013); Dharan forest (Q8), Sunsari District in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1998) and the lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m (-915 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population studies have been carried out specifically for Orange-breasted Green Pigeon. Although the species has been more widely recorded since 1990, this may well be because of better coverage. No evidence has been located of a change in population.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon inhabits broadleaved forest in the tropical and subtropical zones. Usually it is found in small flocks, which unite into larger ones where food is plentiful. It is frugivorous and often keeps in mixed feeding parties, such as with other green pigeons, barbets and hornbills. It mainly keeps to the tops of tall trees, coming to the ground to drink or to pick up earth at salt-licks. The species can clamber about twigs and branches with great agility to reach fruit, sometimes hanging up-side down. It keeps well concealed in foliage; when approached it 'freezes' and becomes very hard to detect. When flushed the wings make a loud clatter as the birds burst out of the tree (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeding has been confirmed in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and at Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013).

Threats

Outside protected areas Orange-breasted Green Pigeon is threatened by loss and degradation of forest, especially of fruiting trees and may also be threatened by hunting or trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Orange-breasted Green Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a local resident in the lowlands, most frequent in protected areas and recorded from the far west to the far east. The species is well represented in protected areas. Since 1990 it has been recorded more widely than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. Outside protected areas Orange-breasted Green Pigeon is threatened by loss and degradation of forest, especially of fruiting trees and may also be threatened by hunting or trapping. No evidence has been located of a change in population. As a result the species has been assessed as Least Concern.

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Treron phoenicopterus (Latham, 1790) LC
 Subspecies: *Treron phoenicopterus phoenicopterus*

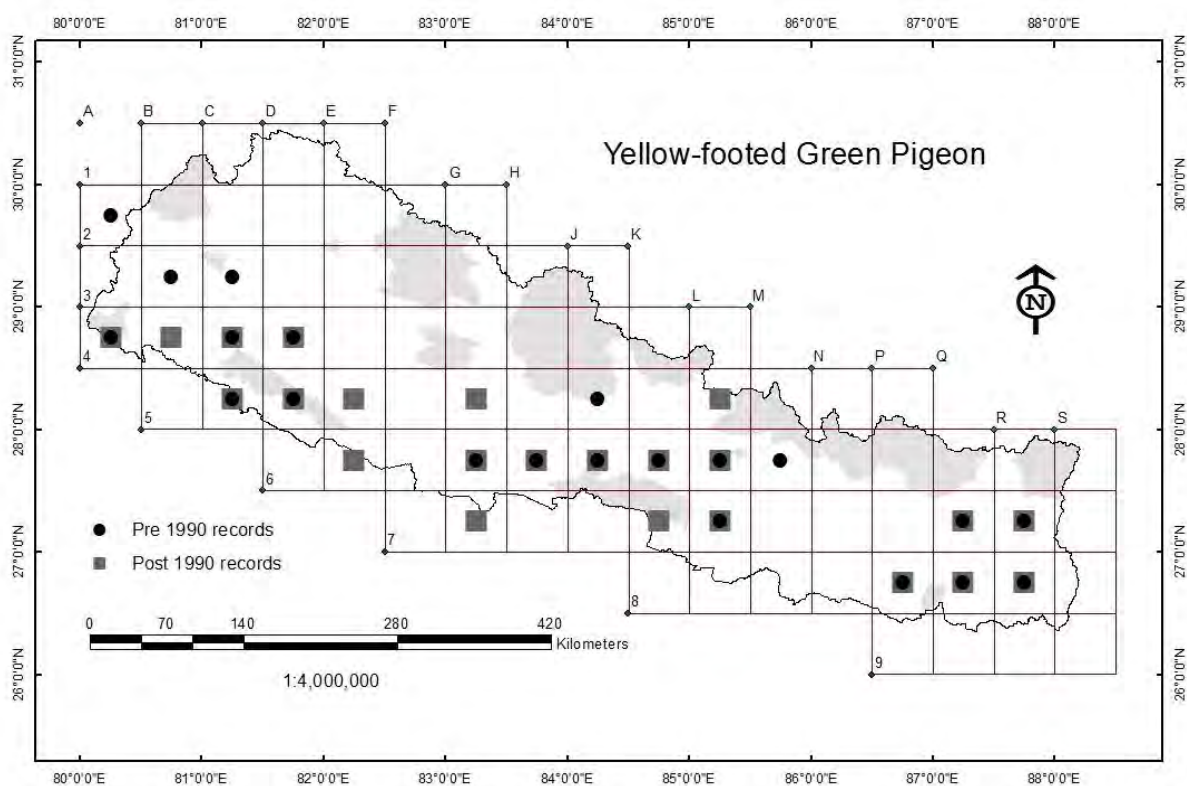
Common name

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (English),
 Haleso (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
 Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Yellow-footed Green Pigeon is a fairly common resident in some protected areas and frequent elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Ilam District in the far east (Robson *et al.* 2008).

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) found it was a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a resident, locally fairly common and occasionally recorded elsewhere; it was mapped in western, central and eastern Nepal.

Since 1990 the species has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference between pre-1990 and post-1990 distributions.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon is widely recorded in the protected areas' system in the lowlands.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009); common resident in Bardia National Park (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National

Park in March 2011 (Acharya 2011); common resident in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Todd 2001) and in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005). It has also been recorded in the Khata corridor forest, Bardia National Park buffer zone (Chaudhari 2007) and in Chitwan National Park in Barandabhar Forest (Ghimire 2009), around Beeshazari Tal (Pradhan 2005); west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District in February 2010 (Baral 2010a), and at Sauraha (K6), Chitwan District, e.g. in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012). It was recorded at Dhunche (L5), Langtang National Park buffer zone in May 2002 (Baral 2002).

It has been less widely recorded outside the protected areas' system, see map and text below.

In the west records include from: Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District in January 2010 (Baral 2010b); Rawtkot (D4) in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6) (Thakuri 2009a,b); recorded at Balewa (G5) (Basnet 2009); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); between Kavri Dharmasala and Argali (G6), Palpa District and between Sidure and Rupakot, Bari Gad (G6), Gulmi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999); Lumbini (G7), Rupendehi District (Baral 1993, Suwal *et al.* 2002), and by Tinau River (G7), Rupandehi District (Miller 2011a).

In central Nepal records include from: Malekhu (K6), Dhading District (Baral 1991); only one record from the Kathmandu Valley (L6) between 2004 and 2006 (one at Saibu in October 2006) (van Riessen 2007, Mallalieu 2008), and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include from: Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District in March 2001 (Baral 2001); Tumlingtar, Num and Khandbari (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in April 1991 (Halberg 1991); Tumlingtar and between Tumlingtar and Chewabesi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); lower Arun valley (Q7) in Sankhuwasabha District in May 2009 (Cox 2009); Koshi Camp, e.g. in November 2001 (Koshi Camp 2001); between Kosi Bird Observatory and Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in November 2011 (Baral 2011); Dharan Forests (Q8), Sunsari District (Chaudhary 1997, Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Miller 2011b); between Dorumba and Sesambu and at Sesambu, Taplejung District (R7) in November 1992 (Cox 1992); lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006), and Soktim, Ilam District (R8) in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally also recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m (-1400 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Yellow-footed Green Pigeon. Its population may have declined as a result of habitat loss and possibly also because of hunting or trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population; unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon inhabits figs and other fruiting trees in broadleaved forest and secondary growth, groves around villages, cultivation and roadsides. It is much less of a forest bird than other green pigeons and is partial to fruiting peepal trees (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is almost exclusively arboreal, descending to the ground only occasionally to drink; rarely also to feed. Usually keeps in flocks of 5-10 birds or so, sometimes congregating in large numbers to gorge themselves on ripe fruit in company with other frugivorous birds. The birds deftly clamber amongst the fruit-laden twigs, clinging side-ways or upside down and swinging out to reach a distant berry. The species eats drupes, berries, and wild figs (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Outside protected areas, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon is threatened by tree and forest loss, especially of the fruiting trees that it favours. It is probably also at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Yellow-footed Green Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Yellow-legged Green Pigeon has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common resident in some protected areas, and occasionally recorded elsewhere, and found from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 the species has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference between pre-1990 and post-1990 distributions. Since 1990 it has been well represented in protected areas and recorded less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system. Its population may have declined as a result of habitat loss and possibly also because of hunting or trapping. However, its decline is not considered large enough to warrant a threat category for the species.

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***Treron sphenurus* (Vigors, 1832) LC**

Subspecies: *Treron sphenurus sphenurus*

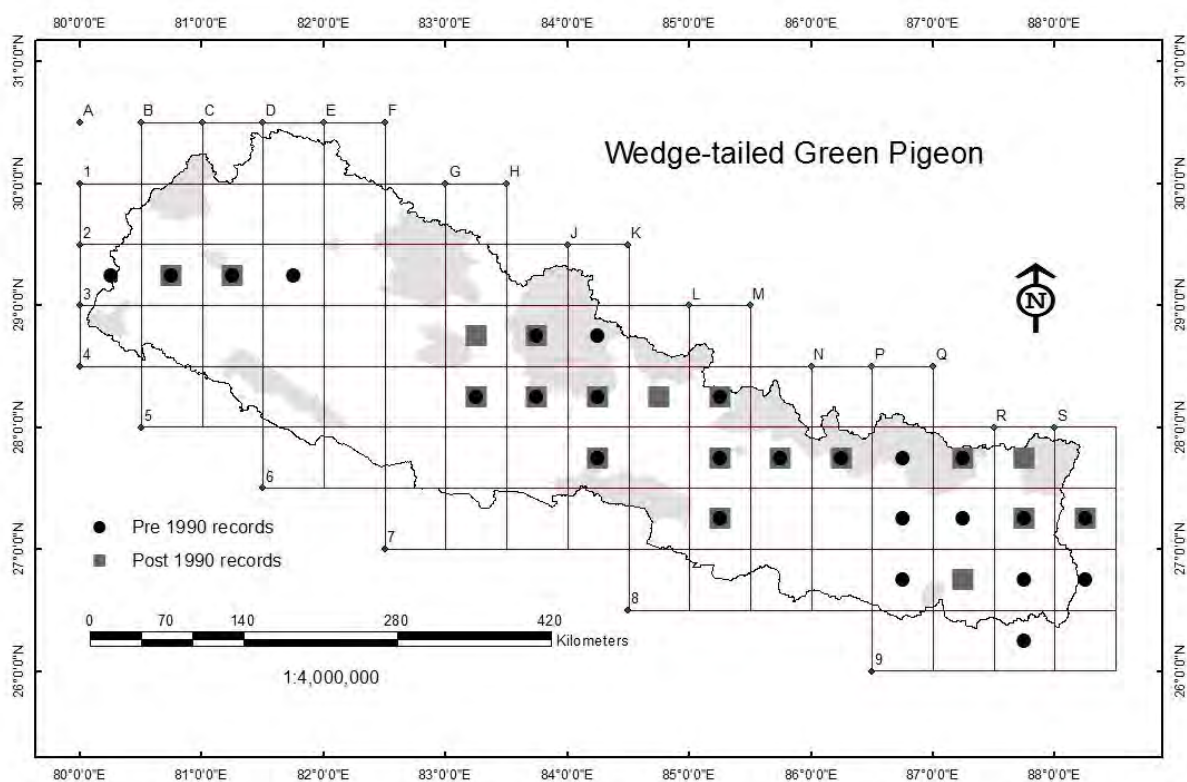
Common name

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon (English),
Pahaadi Haleso (Nepali)

Order: Columbiformes
Family: Columbidae



Distribution



Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon is a locally fairly common resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Dadeldhura District (Baral *et al.* 2010) in the far west to Ilam District (Baral 2010) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was a locally fairly common resident and mapped it in the far west and from west-central Nepal and eastwards.

Since 1990 Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon has been more widely recorded in the west, compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. However, it is now less well-recorded from the east than pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); uncommon resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Thakuri 2013a); uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park (J6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); fairly common resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001). SNP and BCN (2007) listed the species as a frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6). It has been recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and

Shah 2009); locally fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Bland 1994, Cox 1999a); uncommon in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008), and a rare winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005, Giri and Choudhary 2002). It was recorded from Dhunche (L5), Langtang National Park buffer zone in August 2009 (Baral 2009) and several times from Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon has been less widely and frequently recorded outside the protected areas' system (see map and text below).

In the west records include from: Amarghadi, Khalanga and Chulla (B3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); between Archegaun and Dimlatti and between Dimlatti and Bagara Myagdi Khola (G4), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Balewa (G5) Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b), and Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in December 2007 (Baral 2008).

In central Nepal records include from: the Kathmandu Valley, where reported to be an uncommon resident, mainly recorded in summer between 2004 and 2006, regularly recorded on Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area during May to August (Mallalieu 2008); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013), and between Melamchi and Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2007 (Byskov 2007)

In the east records include from: Dharan Forests (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Subba 1995), Patnali, Dharan Forests in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001); Ilam (R7), Ilam District and Dobate (S7), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2000 m (-2800 m); lower limit: 1525 m (-75 m)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon. However, as its distribution has reduced in the east, despite better coverage, it may well have declined in this area.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon inhabits broadleaved forest in the subtropical and temperate zones. Its habits are similar to those of Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, but it is less gregarious than other green pigeons (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Usually keeps singly or in pairs in heavy forest. Several may congregate in a fruiting tree. It sits silently for long periods and feeds quietly, reaching into awkward positions to secure fruit (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It eats fruits and berries of forest trees and is exclusively frugivorous (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon is threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved forests, especially in the subtropical zone and outside the protected areas' system, and by the loss of its fruiting trees. It may also be at risk from hunting or trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon has been assessed as Least Concern. The species is a locally fairly common resident. Since 1990 it has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of wider coverage. However, it has been less well-recorded from the east than pre-1990, despite better recording and is probably declining here. Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon is threatened by loss and degradation of broadleaved forests, especially in the subtropical zone and outside the protected areas' system. It may also be at risk from hunting or trapping. The population decline is not considered large enough to warrant a threatened category for the species.

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Psittaciformes



Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*
Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

Loriculus vernalis (Sparman, 1787) CR

Subspecies: *Loriculus vernalis vernalis*

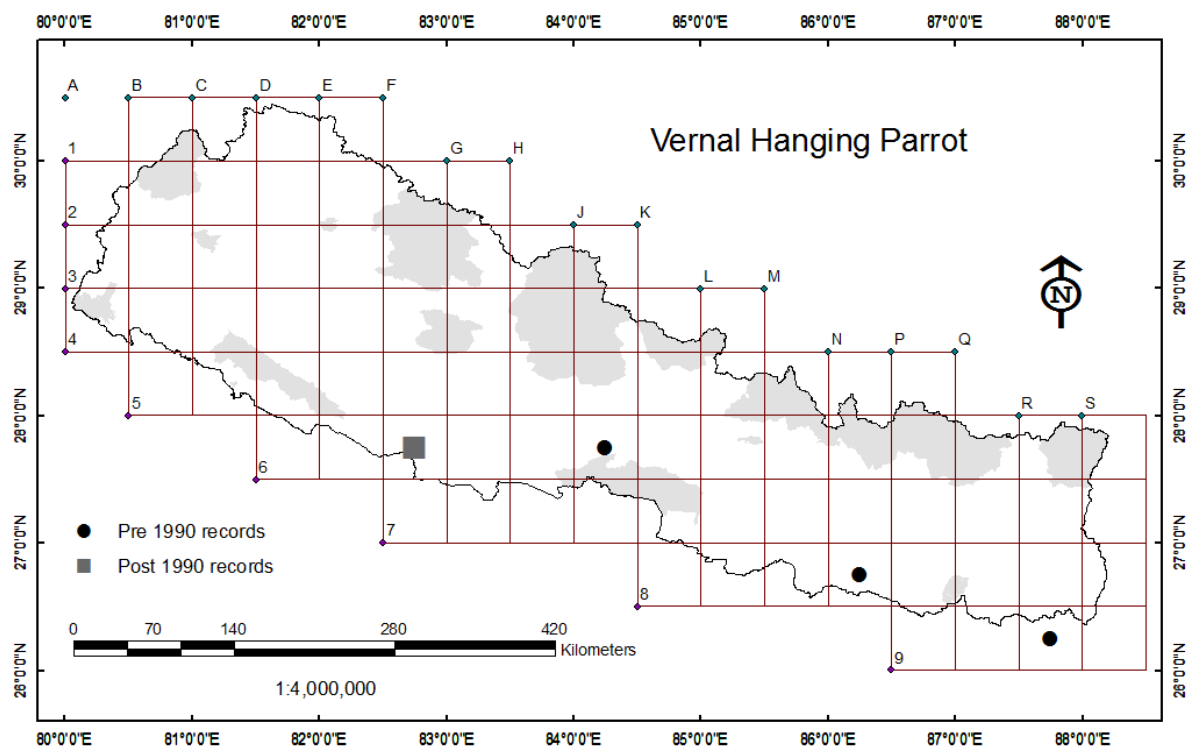
Common Name

Vernal Hanging Parrot (English),
Parna Sugaa (Nepali)

Order: Psittaciformes
Family: Psittacidae



Distribution



Vernal Hanging Parrot is a very rare resident or visitor. The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836) in June (year unknown) in the terai (further locality details unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

Since then there have only been four known records, including one recent record. The species was noted as rare in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983); found in the eastern terai in Jhapa District (undated) (Fleming and Traylor 1968), at Chisapani, Dhanusha District in June 1965 (Fleming and Traylor 1968) and 2 km west of Ramawadahawa, Kapilvastu District in November 2006 (Basnet 2007, Cox 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 275 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for the species. However, observations indicate that the population must be extremely low and probably declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 30

Habitat and Ecology

Vernal Hanging Parrot inhabits broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest in the terai in Nepal (although found up to 1800 m in India (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on the soft pulp of fruits and berries, chiefly wild figs *Ficus* spp., supplemented by flower nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is subject to poorly understood local movements (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Vernal Hanging Parrot is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of its forest habitat. This is now of very limited extent in the lowlands where the species occurs (Inskipp 1989).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Vernal Hanging Parrot. There is only one report from within the protected area's system (Chitwan National Park nearly 30 years ago).

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2ac, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Vernal Hanging Parrot has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2ac and D1. Observations indicate that the population is extremely small and probably declining. The species' forest habitat in the lowlands has decreased and become degraded, so that currently little suitable habitat remains. There is only one known post-1990 record of the species, which was outside the protected areas' system.

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Psittacula alexandri (Linnaeus, 1758) **VU**

Subspecies: *Psittacula alexandri fasciata*

Common Name

Red-breasted Parakeet (English)

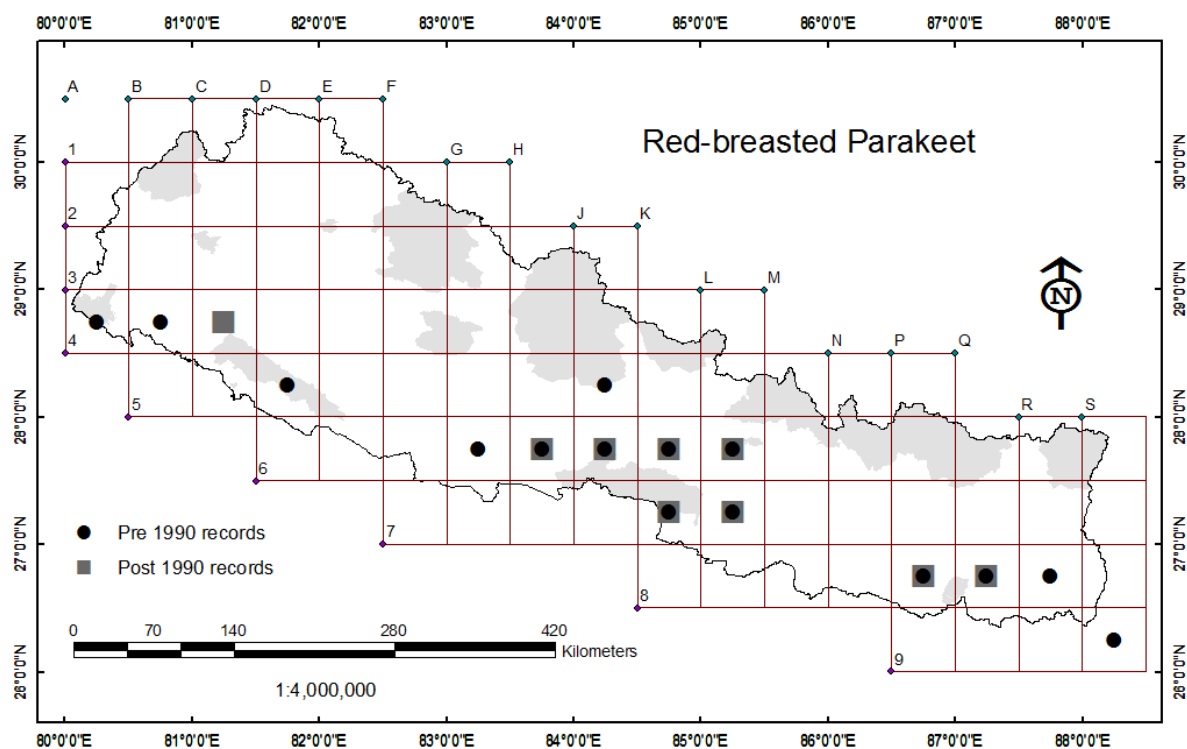
Kaagbhela Sugaa (Nepali)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae



Distribution



Red-breasted Parakeet is a local resident, frequent in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone and uncommon elsewhere. It has been recorded mainly within the protected areas' system.

The species was first recorded for Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836) when it was found in the Kathmandu Valley in January (year unknown) and in the central and lower hills in September (localities and years unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

The species is described as 'fairly common' by Fleming *et al.* 1976) and locally fairly common by Inskipp and Inskipp (1991). In the 1950s Rand and Fleming (1957) found it the common parakeet in the foothills (1220m – 1525 m) and observed it in flocks of 50 to 200 birds.

In the west there are single records from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Schaaf 1980; Baral and Inskipp 2009) and Kailali District (Lalchan and Battachan 1990) pre-1990.

Biswas (1960) found it in forests of the bhabar and dun of central Nepal in flocks of about a dozen or more in 1947 and collected specimens from Amlekhganj, Bara District in March 1947 and also Hetauda, Makwanpur

District in May, June and July 1947. There are several later records from the Hetauda area in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, e.g. Diesselhorst (1968) and Turton and Speight (1982), but none since.

Scully (1879) found Red-breasted Parakeet not common in the Valley and only observed there in August, September and October 1877, usually in flocks of about 20 birds. The only later record from the Valley was one seen on 12 December 1994 from Ghantaghar, Kathmandu (Baral 1994), which was probably an escaped bird from an aviary.

Most post-1990 records are from within the protected areas' system.

In Bardia National Park two birds were seen in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001) and in 2011 (Bhim Chaudhary verbally 2011); there are no earlier records from the park.

In the early 1980s the species was considered very common in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983). Currently the species is most frequent in Nepal in the Chitwan Valley (which includes Chitwan National Park, Parsa Wildlife Reserve and the adjoining districts of Makwanpur and Nawalparasi), although less common than in the past (see Population section).

Six birds were noted in Parsa Wildlife Reserve in April 2003 (Cox 2003); however, Kapil Pokharel reported no sightings in the core area of the reserve more recently.

In Pithauli, Kawasoti, Agyauli VDC, Nawalparasi District, Chitwan National Park buffer zone, large flocks of Red-breasted Parakeet were seen flying from south-east to north-west over a period of three weeks in September 2012. Some birds were observed flying to the base of the Mahabharat Hills (see Population section). (DB Chaudhary, Kewal Chaudhary, Alina Chaudhary and Bhagirath Chaudhary).

In the east it was described as a common local migrant from January to June in Morang District in the 1970s (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976), and was regularly recorded from north of Sunischare, Jhapa District in the 1970s and 1980s, e.g. Madge *et al.* (1974), Hall (1981) and McKnight *et al.* (1989). However, there are few post-1990 records, e.g. small numbers from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005a, Badri Chaudhary and Hathan Chaudhary *verbally* 2011), singles from the Koshi area (Sukrabare on 8 January 1994, Ramdhuni Forest on 9 January 1994) and Koshi Barrage on 20 January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994), and five birds in Patnali forest in the Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (- 1800 m); lower limit: 365 m

Population

In Chitwan National Park the largest known number recorded recently was up to 2,000 birds in one flock at Shukra Nagar in June 2012 (Hathan Chaudhary); another very large flock of 1,800 birds was recorded in February 2005 (Baral 2005b) and smaller numbers of 50 to 200 birds continue to be seen in the park.

In Pithauli, Kawasoti, Agyauli VDC, Nawalparasi District, Chitwan National Park buffer zone, large flocks of Red-breasted Parakeet were seen flying from south-east to north-west over a period of three weeks in September 2012. The maximum recorded was estimated to be 6,000 birds, although the total could have been higher (DB Chaudhary, Kewal Chaudhary, Alina Chaudhary and Bhagirath Chaudhary). A total of 50 birds was seen in the Narayanghat area, Chitwan District in February (Chaudhary 1997).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Red-breasted Parakeet is found in broadleaved forests in the lowlands. In winter it is seen in flocks of several hundred in the riverine forests close to settlements in Chitwan National Park. During the breeding season the species moves into the deeper forests, flock size is reduced and the birds are seen in smaller numbers. In the past, they have been seen raiding crops in large numbers especially maize. It is said to be the easiest species of parakeet to catch while it is raiding crops. Red-breasted Parakeet feeds on berries, fruits, crops and other vegetation. In the Kaswoti area the parakeets were seen feeding on sesame seeds and corn (DB Chaudhary, Kewal Chaudhary, Alina Chaudhary and Bhagirath Chaudhary).

Threats

Hunting, including trapping, are the major threats to this species. It is easier to catch than other species of parakeets and, because of its nasal voice, it is a popular cage bird in Nepal. Its movements in large flocks during winter months and its habit of calling frequently when breeding make the species susceptible to trappers and poachers. Crop raiding by this species is another issue which prompts farmers to persecute it. Red-breasted Parakeet is also suffering from forest losses.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Red-breasted Parakeet. The main population is now in Chitwan National Park. Since 1990 it has also been recorded marginally in Bardia National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2acd) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Red-breasted Parakeet has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2acd. It is a local resident, frequent in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 its distribution has extended to Bardia National Park, but this is probably because of better coverage. Otherwise its distribution has reduced and it is now mainly recorded within the protected areas' system. Hunting, including trapping, which is illegal in protected areas, is a major threat to the species and it is also threatened by forest losses.

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Psittacula eupatria (Linnaeus, 1766) NT

Subspecies: *Psittacula eupatria nipalensis*

Common Name

Alexandrine Parakeet (English),

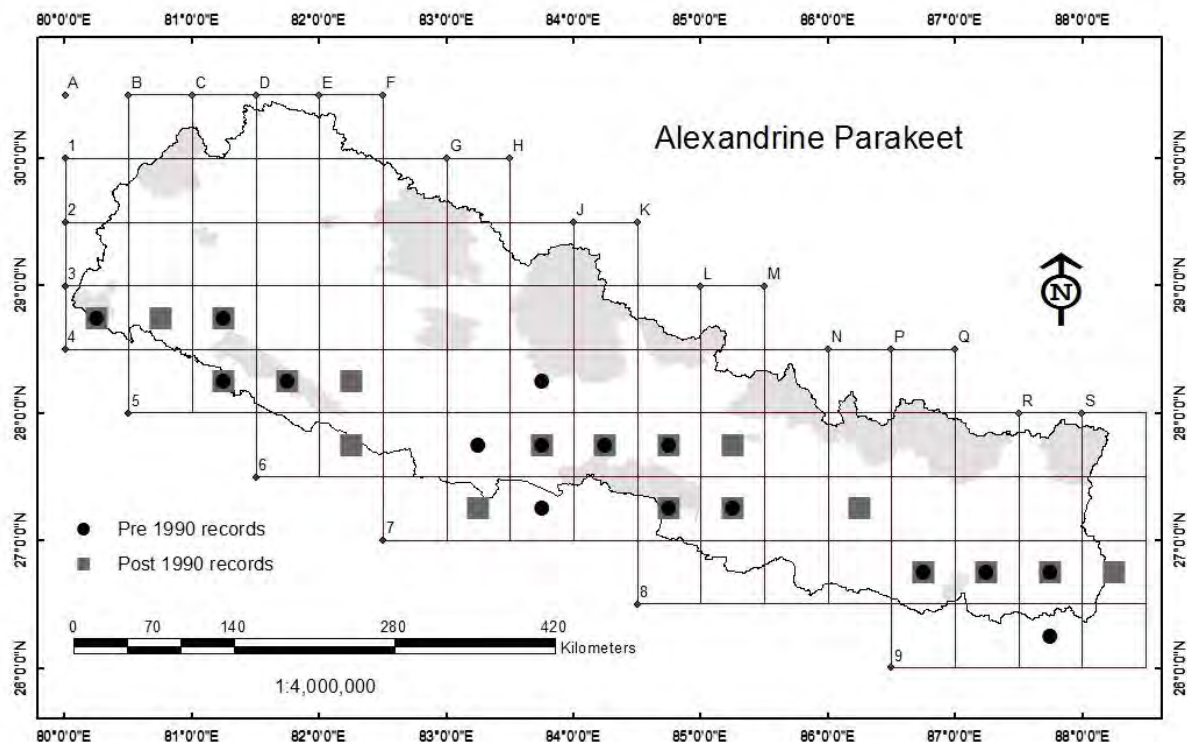
Karra Sugaa (Nepali)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae



Distribution



Alexandrine Parakeet is a widespread resident in the lowlands; common in some protected areas and generally frequent or uncommon outside the protected areas' system. Since 1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Ilam District (Cox 1992) in the far east.

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a common resident in duns and terai forests.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

Since 1990, the species' distribution has increased a little, especially in the west, possibly because of better recording, see map and text below.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Acharya 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001) and a frequent resident in Koshi Tappu

Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005). It has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Janakauli Community Forest (Giri 2008); Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996, Giri 2008); Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000); west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010a), and at Sauraha, (K6) Chitwan District (Dymond 2012).

The species is also fairly widespread outside the protected areas' system, see text and map.

In the west records include: a fairly common resident in the Ghodaghodi Tal area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded at Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); 65 at Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Tikapur Park, Kailali District (C5) in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); recorded along the Bardia-Katarniaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); seven at Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in December 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); recorded in Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b), and 16 at Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994) and 16 in February 2011 (Acharya 2011).

In central Nepal three were recorded at Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in May 2000 (Giri 2000) and 12 in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Rautahat District (L7) in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013), and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013). In the Kathmandu Valley, presumed escaped birds have been recorded, including one in February 1995 (Baral 1995), apparently the first for the Kathmandu Valley (Lama 1995a). Later records from the Valley include: two singles (male and female) in the British Embassy compound (Lama 1995b), one at Suryabinayak in the Kathmandu Valley in June 2006 (Mallalieu 2008), and a pair in the Narayanhiti Palace Museum garden, Kathmandu Valley in monsoon 2013 (Hem Sagar Baral). Subsequently the species has spread and is now regular across the Valley: localities include Bagmati, Godaveri, Sankhu and Machhegaon (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, March 2015) and is now resident in Godaveri, Chobar and Bajrabarahi (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, June 2015).

In the east records include: from Katahare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubadel 2007); three at Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); two from Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Baral 2010b); one in Dharan Forest Important Bird Area in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997) and three in February 1998 (Choudhary 1998), also recorded there by Basnet and Sapkota (2008); one at Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), March 1999 (Chaudhary 1999) and in February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002); two at Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral 2012); lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); common below Saktim (R8), Jhapa District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008), and recorded at Ilam District (S8) in November 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (- 1380 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Alexandrine Parakeet. The species is significantly more common in protected areas than outside the protected areas' system. For example, 600 were recorded in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in May 2010 (Baral 2010c) and 350 in Chitwan National Park in March 2010 (Baral 2010d).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Alexandrine Parakeet inhabits sal and riverine forests (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). Small parties climb about in high, fruiting trees (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is a quite wary bird. Flocks raid orchards and crops in large numbers and have wasteful feeding habits. The species roosts communally (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on fruit, vegetables and seeds of all kinds, wild or cultivated; also cereals like maize, wheat and paddy (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983); also a pair bred in the Narayanhiti Palace Museum garden, Kathmandu Valley in monsoon 2013 (Hem Sagar Baral).

Threats

Alexandrine Parakeet is threatened by forest loss and degradation in the lowlands. The species has also been recorded in the bird trade market (Thapa and Thakuri 2009).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out for Alexandrine Parakeet. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) unchanged from Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Alexandrine Parakeet has been assessed as Near-threatened as it is considered globally Near-threatened by BirdLife International. However, in Nepal it is a widespread resident in the lowlands; common in some protected areas and generally frequent or uncommon outside the protected areas' system. The species occurs in all lowland protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system. Records of its distribution have increased a little since 1990, possibly because of better coverage. Alexandrine Parakeet is threatened by forest loss and degradation in the lowlands and possibly also by the bird trade. Its population is possibly stable.

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Psittacula roseata (Biswas, 1951) NT

Subspecies: *Psittacula roseata roseata*

Common name

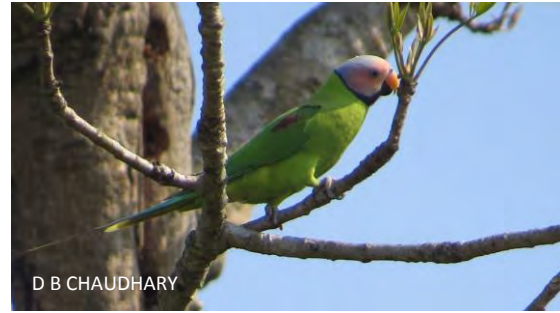
Blossom-headed Parakeet (English)

Gulaphitauke Suga (Nepali)

Upper level taxonomy

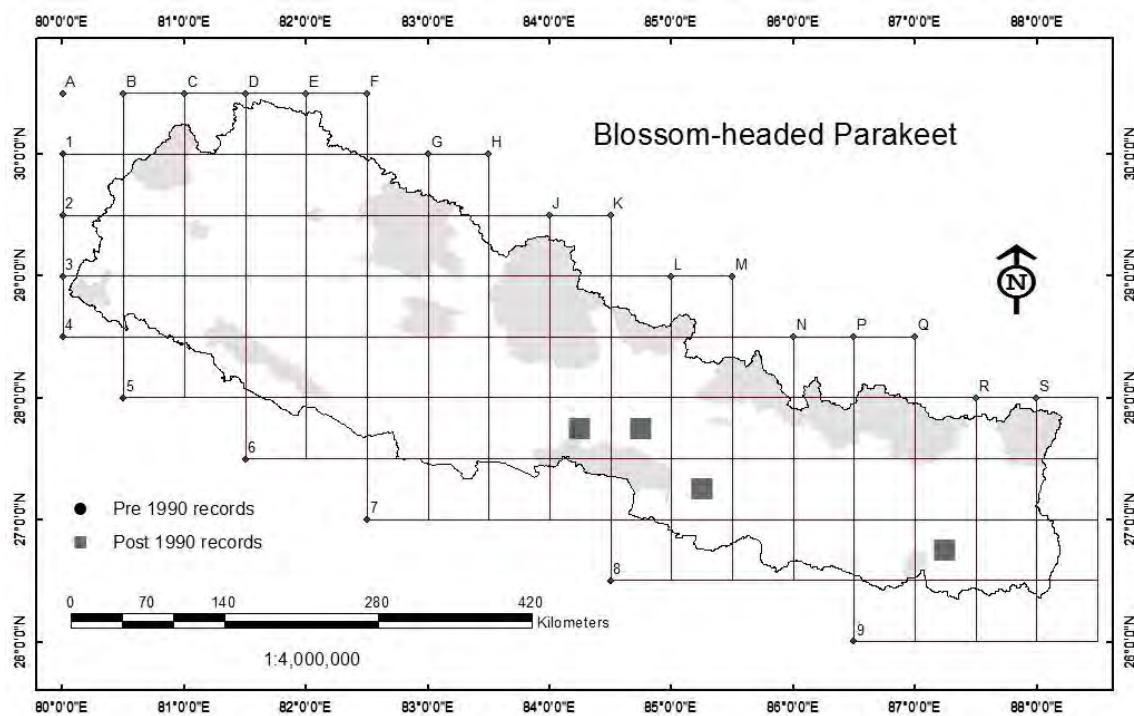
Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae



D B CHAUDHARY

Distribution



Blossom-headed Parakeet is very locally distributed, a winter visitor to Chitwan National Park and possibly a resident or, otherwise a visitor, to Koshi. It is subject to marked local movements depending on food supply.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century, but the localities are unknown. Several Hodgson skins of the species were located in the Natural History Museum, UK in 1994 by Michael Walters. Although the specimens were listed as Blossom-headed Parakeet, in the museum's register, on the specimen's labels they were named *P. rosa* (a name that was mistakenly used by many authors in the 19th century for what is now called *roseata*). The species' possible continued occurrence in Nepal was highlighted by Inskipp and Inskipp (1997).

Baral and Upadhyay (2006) described the species as uncommon, possibly resident in Chitwan National Park. However, all records that have been located from the park are from between December and February. There are a number of Chitwan National Park records between January 1999 and February 2014 (see Population section).

Baral (2005) reported the species is rare, possibly resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. There are a few known records between May 1999 and May 2011 (see Population section).

There is only one known record outside the protected areas' system: three birds in Bara forest (L7) in January 2014 (Hem Sagar Baral).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Blossom-headed Parakeet. By far the largest number recorded is over 400 birds in one flock seen in Chitwan National Park in late January 2014 by Tika Giri (T. Giri *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014). Other known records from the national park are: more than six near Kachhuwani grassland in January 1999 (Choudhary 1999, Giri *et al.* 1999, Robson 1999), the first known record since the 19th century; nine in the park November 2003 (Hathan Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014); three in tall grassland near Tiger Tops Tented Camp in February 2004 (D. B. Chaudhary in Inskipp 2005); four in the park in January 2005 (Hathan Chaudhary); a pair 3 km west of Machan Wildlife Resort on two dates in February 2008 (Som GC and H. S. Baral in Basnet 2008, Giri and Choudhary 2008, Tribe 2008); 20 in the park in January 2009 (Hathan Chaudhary); less than five in the park in March 2011 (Witherick 2011); 20 at Harda Khola, Churia in May 2011 (Baral 2011); six in the Churia Hills in December 2011 (Vicente 2011); seven in the park in February 2012 (Hathan Chaudhary); five in February 2013 (Som GC *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014), and 30 in late December 2013 (Tika Giri *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014) and about 20 near Sukhebar army post, together with Plum-headed Parakeets *P. cyanocephala* (Suchit Basnet *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014) and more than 200 near the old Machan Wildlife Resort in the park (Suchit Basnet *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014). The species is found in very good numbers west of Machan Wildlife Resort (Basnet 2008).

In Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve known records are: four north of Sukrabare with a large flock of Plum-headed Parakeets *P. cyanocephala* in May 1999 (S. N. Ghimire, B. Choudhary and Naturetrek group in Giri and Choudhary 1999); three by the river at Koshi in February 2007 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2007) and one at the reserve in May 2011 (Baral 2011).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Blossom-headed Parakeet inhabits open forest and well-wooded areas (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). Its habits are similar to those of Plum-headed Parakeet *P. cyanocephala* and it has been observed with this species in Nepal and may be overlooked as both species have rather similar plumage. The species is less associated with people than Rose-ringed Parakeet *P. krameri*. It roosts communally. In flight it can weave between forest trees with great agility (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It was observed removing bark of the Rhino tree *Trewia nudiflora* to feed on larvae underneath (Tika Giri *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014). The species was also seen feeding on *Saccharum* grass seeds, together with Plum-headed Parakeet (Suchit Basnet *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014). The flowering Silk-Cotton Tree in the grasslands or along the dry river beds in sal forests are also favourite feeding trees for this species (Hem Sagar Baral). It feeds on grain and fruit of all kinds (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Blossom-headed Parakeet is threatened by forest loss and degradation but as it frequents open forest and well-wooded areas, it is adaptable to some forest losses.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Blossom-headed Parakeet. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Chitwan National Park and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN status

Near-threatened (NT) unchanged from the Global Red List status: Near-threatened (NT)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Blossom-headed Parakeet has been assessed as Near-threatened as it has been given a globally Near-threatened category by BirdLife International. It is very locally distributed, a winter visitor to Chitwan National Park and possibly resident or a visitor to Koshi. It is subject to marked local movements depending on food supply. Nepal is the western edge of its distribution range. Since the 19th century almost all records have been from two protected areas. Blossom-headed Parakeet is threatened by forest loss and degradation but as it frequents open forest and well-wooded areas, it is adaptable to some forest losses. Its population is unknown and it is possibly overlooked as Plum-headed Parakeet *P. cyanocephala*. A survey for this species is recommended. The current population trend is unknown.

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***Psittacula cyanocephala* (Linnaeus 1766) LC**

Common Name

Plum-headed Parakeet (English),

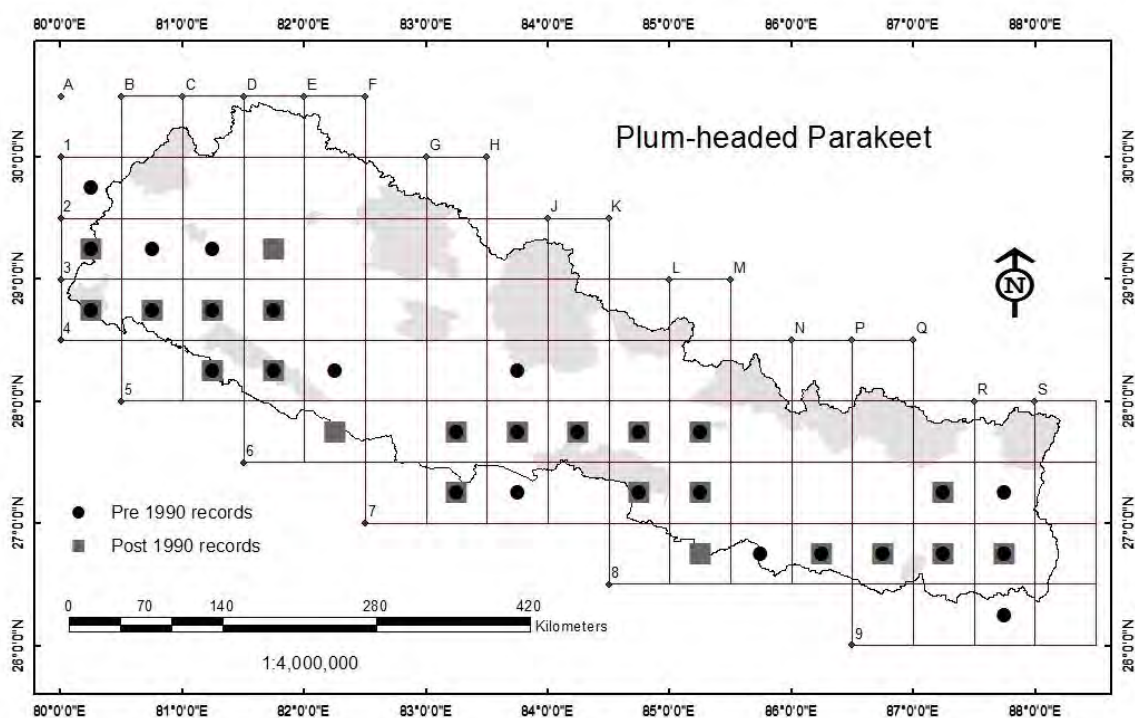
Tuisi Sugaa (Nepali)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae



Distribution



Plum-headed Parakeet is a resident, common in some protected areas and locally common outside the protected areas' system, and frequent elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Garuwa, Jhapa District in the far east (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as a common resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it a fairly common resident throughout the terai and lower hills. The species was described as moderately common in the Kathmandu Valley and surrounding hills by Proud (1949), but there are very few later records.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has reduced, see map and text below.

The species post-1990 distribution in protected areas is: a common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Acharya 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001), and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005). The species has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone, in Khata forest (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari *et al.* 2009) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Janakauli Community Forest (Giri 2008), and at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996, Giri 2008); Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000), and west of

the park (H6), Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010a).

The species is also quite widely distributed outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range.

In the west records include: 20 at Amargahdi (A3), Dadeldhura District in June 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); ten at Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); recorded at Tikapur Park (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); recorded in Karnali basin (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); ten between Daurogaon and Beuli (D3), Kalikot District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); ten at Rawtkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); six at Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); recorded in Dang Deukhuri Forests Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); 14 at Jagdishpur (G6), Kapilvastu District in December 2011 (Baral 2011a); recorded at Balewa (G6), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); 12 at Gaidahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Baral 2011b); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District, e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994a), four in January 2003 (Giri 2003) and 100 in February 2011 (Acharya 2011);

In central Nepal records include: two at Dhading (K6), Dhading District in April 2011 (Baral 2011c); Malekhu (K6), Dhading District (Baral 1992); one at Sundarijal (L6), Kathmandu Valley in January 2012 (Dymond 2012) and one at Saibu, Kathmandu Valley in November and December 2005 (Mallalieu 2008), possibly escaped birds; two between Kat Mandir, Bara District and Forest Camp N of E-W Highway (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003); 60 in Rangapur Collaborative Forest, Santapur, Rautahat District (L7) in September 2013, 11 in Adarsha Sadabahar Community Forest, Bara District (L7) and two at Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); along the North South Fast Track Road (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013), and 61 in Bagmati valley (L8) in July 2012 (Baral 2012).

In the east records include from: 85 in Kamala valley (N8) in July 2012 (Baral 2012) one in lower Arun valley (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 2009 (Cox 2009); 62 at Chewabensi (Q7) in November 1994 and 56 at Tumlingtar (Q7) in December 1994, Sankhuwasabha District (Baral and Buckton 1994); Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District, e.g. nine in October 1993 (Choudhary 1994) and two in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997); 52 in Bhagalpur Forest (Q8), Sunsari District in January 1994 (Choudhary 1994); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. 40 in October 1993 (Choudhary 1994) and 13 in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999); 80 at Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in October 2011 (Baral 2011d); 18 in Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), also recorded in Dharan Forest Important Bird Area by Basnet and Sapkota (2008); six at Belhara (Q8), Dhankuta District in September 2003 (Baral 2003); 30 in Patnali, Dharan Forest Important Bird Area in October 2010 (Baral 2010b); lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006), and five near Garuwa (R8), Jhapa District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Elevation

Upper limit: 500 m (-1525 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Plum-headed Parakeet. As its range has contracted a little, its population may also have reduced. A total of 600 was recorded in Chitwan National Park in November 2011 (Baral 2011e); 170 at Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District in February 2011 (Acharya 2011); 100 at Koshi in December 2007 (Giri 2007), and 70 at Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in March 2011 (Chaudhary 2011).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Plum-headed Parakeet inhabits broadleaved forest and well-wooded areas (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); sal forest trees at field edges (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is less associated with people than Rose-ringed Parakeet. The

species roosts communally in large numbers in forest, birds continuing to screech even after dark. In flight it can weave between forest trees with great agility (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on grain and fruit of all kinds, buds, fleshy petals and nectar. Figs are important wild items. The species can be very destructive to paddy, maize and orchard fruit (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Plum-headed Parakeet is threatened to some extent by forest loss and degradation, but it can adapt to well-wooded areas and trees at cultivation edges. Some birds are trapped for the caged bird trade, e.g. six were seen in captivity on sale in Durbar Marg, Kathmandu in September 1994 (Baral 1994b).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out for Plum-headed Parakeet. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Plum-headed Parakeet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, common in some protected areas and locally common outside the protected areas' system, frequent elsewhere. The species has been recorded in all lowland protected areas and fairly widely outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range. Since 1990 its distribution has reduced. Plum-headed Parakeet is threatened to some extent by forest loss and degradation, but it can adapt to well-wooded areas and trees at cultivation edges. Its population may have reduced, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Psittacula himalayana (Lesson, 1831) LC

Common Name

Slaty-headed Parakeet (English),

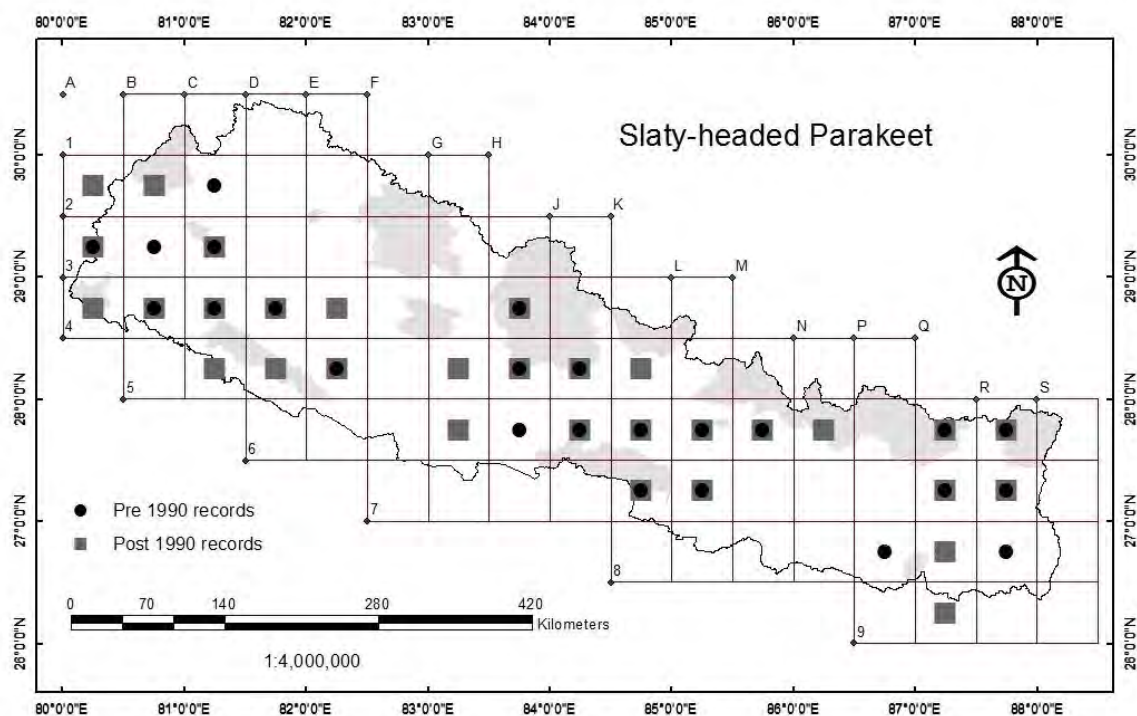
Madana Sugaa (Nepali)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae



Distribution



Slaty-headed Parakeet is a resident, locally fairly common in some protected areas and frequent elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident, confined to the hills, with rare exceptions in winter. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was common north-west of Pokhara, fairly common on hills surrounding the Kathmandu Valley and occasionally recorded elsewhere.

Since 1990 the species' range has increased compared to pre-1990, especially in the west, possibly because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 distribution is: an uncommon winter visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009; Chaudhary 1997); fairly common in Chameliya river valley (B2) and frequent in Mahakali valley (A2) in Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); uncommon, possibly a winter visitor to Bardia National Park (C4) (Inskipp

2001) and recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012). It is described as a common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) by Inskipp and Inskipp (2003), but other records indicate it is fairly common there; recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013); a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and a fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001). SNP and BCN (2007) describe the species as a rare resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6), but it is given as rare in winter in the Kathmandu Valley by Mallalieu (2008), e.g. three birds in February 1994 (Baral 1994) and 25 in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2008). The species was recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (M6, N6) (Cox 1996, Baral and Shah 2009); is a fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a); a rare winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005, Choudhary 1995/1996), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Carpenter *et al.* 1994 and White and White 1999 in Inskipp *et al.* (2008) (Goble 2000). The species has also been recorded from Bardia National Park buffer zone at Chisapani (C4), Bardia District in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000).

The species is also widely distributed outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range, see map and text below.

In the west records include: two from Amargahdi and one from Chulla (A3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); recorded in the Ghodaghodi lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded in Badimalika region (C3) in February 1998 (Karki *et al.* 2003); recorded in the lower Karnali basin (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); six at Rawtkot (D4), Dailekh District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); one between Kauli Bazaar and Jiri Daha (E4), Jajarkot District and two between Karki Jiula and Kalimati (E4) Rukum District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); recorded in Dang Deukhuri Forests Important Bird Area (E5), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); recorded in Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); one between Kavri Dharmsala and Argali, Palpa District (G6) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); recorded at Balewa (G6), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District, e.g. 20+ in January 1992 (Halliday 1992) 35 in December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004); ten in February 2010 (Baral 2010a); 250 near the Tibetan Refugee camp (H5), Kaski District in February 2008 (Giri 2008); 20+ near Baglungpani (J5), Lamjung District in December 1991 (Halliday 1992), and 27 between Bhujung and Pasgam (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include: one heard at Nalang (K6), Dhading District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012). Mallalieu (2008) reported it was rare in winter in the Kathmandu Valley (L6) between 2004 and 2006; the large number of 200 was recorded at Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley in November 2000 (Basnet 2000). Other records include: 42 birds at Tundikhel, Dhulikhel, Kavre District (M6) in November 1994 (Baral 1994); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013)

In the east records include: from Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); 15 between Bhandar, Ramechhap District and Sete, Solukhumbu District in November 2009 (Thewlis *et al.* 2009); six above Mudhe (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in December 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); lower Arun valley (Q7) in December 1991 (White and White 1992); four between Tumlingtar and Giddhe (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in April 2009 (Cox 2009); one from Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in September 1996 (Giri 1996); one from Patnali (Q8), Dharan Forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District in October 2010 (Baral 2010b); Biratnagar (Q9) (Jha and Subba 2012), and in Terhathum District (R7) (White and White 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2135 m (-3260 m) (summer); lower limit: 1000 m (-75 m) (winter)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Slaty-headed Parakeet. The large number of 250 was recorded near the Tibetan Refugee camp (H5), Kaski District in February 2008 (Giri 2008); 200 at Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley in November 2000 (Basnet 2000); 60 at Ghandruk, Annapurna Conservation Area in December 2010 (Baral 2011), and 55 in Chitwan National Park in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997). As it is adapted to some degree of forest loss, and there is no evidence for any range

contraction and possibly a range increase since 1990, the population may be stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Slaty-headed Parakeet inhabits broadleaved forests and well-wooded areas (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); usually in oak and mixed forests; also favours silk cotton trees (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It flies in close flocks wheeling in and out and flashing the yellow-tipped tail, gliding upward into a tree at the end of flight. A rather noisy and somewhat shy species (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It feeds on nuts, acorns, seeds and fruits (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is subject to seasonal altitudinal movements and nomadic wanderings depending on food supply (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Slaty-headed Parakeet is threatened by forest loss and degradation, especially in the subtropical and lower temperate zones. However, as it inhabits well-wooded areas, it is adapted to some forest losses. The species has also been recorded in the bird trade market (Thapa and Thakuri 2009).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Slaty-headed Parakeet. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Bardia, Banke, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Makalu Barun National Parks, Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Slaty-headed Parakeet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, subject to seasonal altitudinal movements and nomadic wanderings depending on food supply. The species is locally fairly common in some protected areas and frequent elsewhere. It has been recorded from many protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range. Since 1990 the species' range has increased compared to pre-1990, especially in the west, possibly because of better coverage. It is threatened by deforestation and forest degradation, especially in the subtropical and lower temperate zones. However, as it will inhabit well-wooded areas, it is adapted to some forest losses. Its population is possibly stable.

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***Psittacula krameri* (Scopoli, 1769) LC**

Common Name

Rose-ringed Parakeet (English),

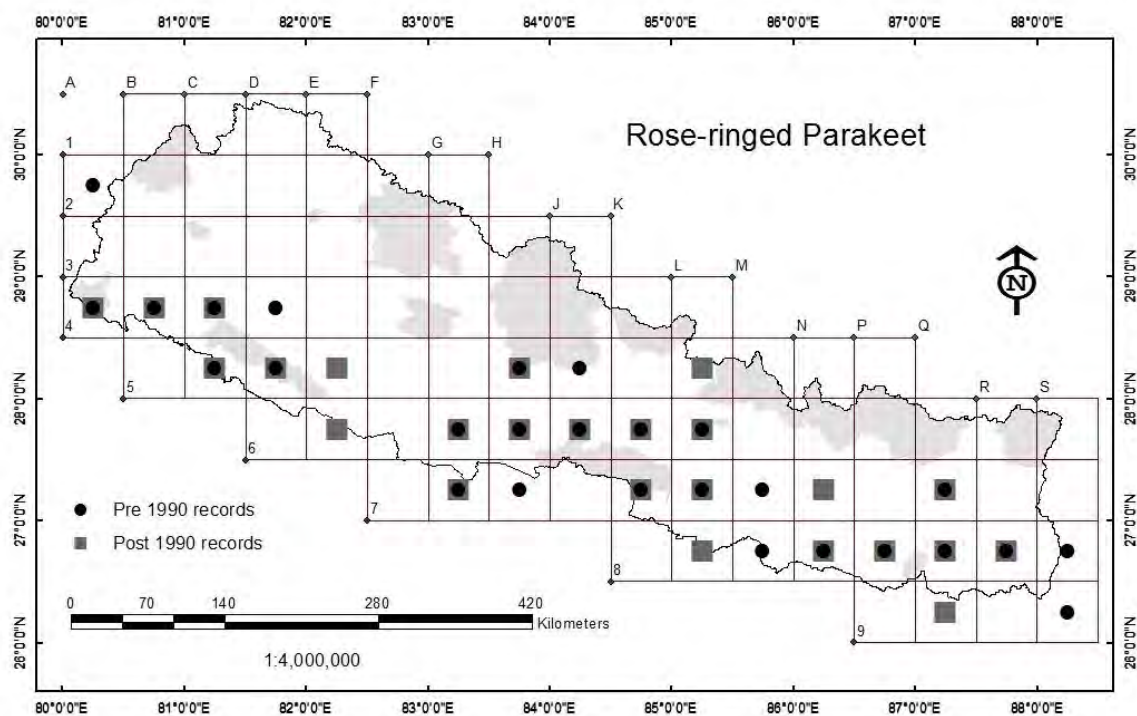
Kanthe Sugaa (Nepali)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae



Distribution



Rose-ringed Parakeet is an abundant and widespread resident in the lowlands; only occasionally seen at higher altitudes with the exception of the Pokhara and Kathmandu Valleys. Post-1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Jhapa District (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as an abundant resident. The latter mapped the species widely in the lowlands.

Since 1990 there has been no significant change in distribution compared to pre-1990 (see map and text below).

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Acharya 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001) and in Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005). One was recorded at Syabru (L5), Langtang National Park (Baral 1992). SNP and BCN (2007) reported it was an uncommon resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6). The species has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata forest (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari *et al.* 2009) and Chisapani, Bardia District (Giri 1997), and in the Chitwan National Park buffer zone: at Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996, Giri 2008); Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000); Janakauli Community Forest (K6) (Giri 2008); west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District (Baral 2010a), and common at Sauraha (K6), Chitwan District (Dymond 2012).

The species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range (see map and text below).

In the west records include: common at Mahendranagar (A4), Kanchanpur District (Dymond 2012); common resident in Ghodaghodi lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Tikapur (C5), Kailali District (Baral *et al.* 2013); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District (Chaudhary 1999, Priemé 1992); Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area (E5, E6) (Thakuri 2009a,b); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G6), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); Bhairahawa (G6), Rupandehi District (Baral 1994a); Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008, 2011a); Balewa (G6), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District (e.g. Baral 1994a, Giri 2003); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District, e.g. Chaudhary (2003), Giri (2008), Naylor and Giri (2004).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a common resident in the Kathmandu Valley below about 1400 m in urban and rural areas between 2004 and 2006 (Mallalieu 2008); also at higher altitudes on Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, e.g. Baral (2010b, 2011b). The population in the Kathmandu Valley may have originated from escaped birds (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Other localities include: Chitlang (L6), Chandragiri Range, Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District (Giri 2000); between Mewa Gau, school, Rautahat District and school west of Belwa (L7), Bara District; between school west of Belwa and Kat Mandir (L7), Bara District and between Kat mandir, Bara District and Forest Camp north of E-W Highway (L7) (Cox 2003); Rautahat and Bara Districts (L7) (Baral *et al.* 2013); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013), and the Bagmati valley (L8) (Baral *et al.* 2012).

In the east records include from Kathare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubadel 2007); the Kamala valley (N8) (Baral *et al.* 2012); Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District, e.g. Chaudhary (1994, 1997); Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District (Baral and Buckton 1994); Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Baral 2010b, Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Chaudhary 1997, Subba 1995); Koshi Camp, Sunsari District (Q8), e.g. Chaudhary (1997, 1999), Baral (2010); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. Baral *et al.* (2012); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Baral 1994a, Jha and Subba 2012, Subba 1994); Ilam (R8), Ilam District (Baral 2010c, Cox 1992); lower Mai valley, (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); between Garuwa and Saktim (R8) and Khudunabari (R8), Jhapa District (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Macao (China), Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1600 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Rose-ringed Parakeet. A total of 500 was counted over Lazimpat, Kathmandu Valley in July 2000 (Baral 2000); 610 at a Chobhar cement factory roost, Kathmandu Valley in November 2005 (Mallalieu 2008); 700 in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), and 1,000 at Bhairahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994). It faces few threats and its population is probably stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Rose-ringed Parakeet frequents around villages, mango groves, fields and forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976); also secondary growth and open woodland (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is a very adaptable species, often associated with habitation and cultivation. Flocks raid orchards and crops in large numbers and have wasteful feeding habits. The species can have enormous communal roosts, often with crows and mynas, often in trees in groves near habitation. It constantly screeches and squabbles (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on fruits, cereal, grain and seeds of all kinds, wild as well as cultivated (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982), Kathmandu Valley (Madge and Madge 1982), Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Hem Sagar Baral).

Threats

Rose-ringed Parakeet is commonly captured for the national bird trade, for example 157 birds were seen in captivity for the bird trade in Durbar Marg, Kathmandu in September 1994 (Baral 1994b). It may well be threatened by pesticides on agricultural land (Baral and Inskipp 2011). As it is an adaptable species it can flourish in a range of habitats including secondary growth, cultivation and around habitation and so is not threatened by habitat loss or degradation.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out for Rose-ringed Parakeet. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Chitwan and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves; also marginally in Langtang National Park.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rose-ringed Parakeet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is an abundant and widespread resident in the lowlands, and only occasionally recorded at higher altitudes, except for the Pokhara and Kathmandu Valleys. It has been recorded in all lowland protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range. As it is an adaptable species it can flourish in a range of habitats including secondary growth, cultivation and around habitation and so is not threatened by habitat loss or degradation. However, it is commonly captured for the national bird trade and may well be threatened by the use of pesticides on agricultural land. Its population is probably stable.

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Cuculiformes



Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

***Clamator coromandus* (Linnaeus 1766) NT**

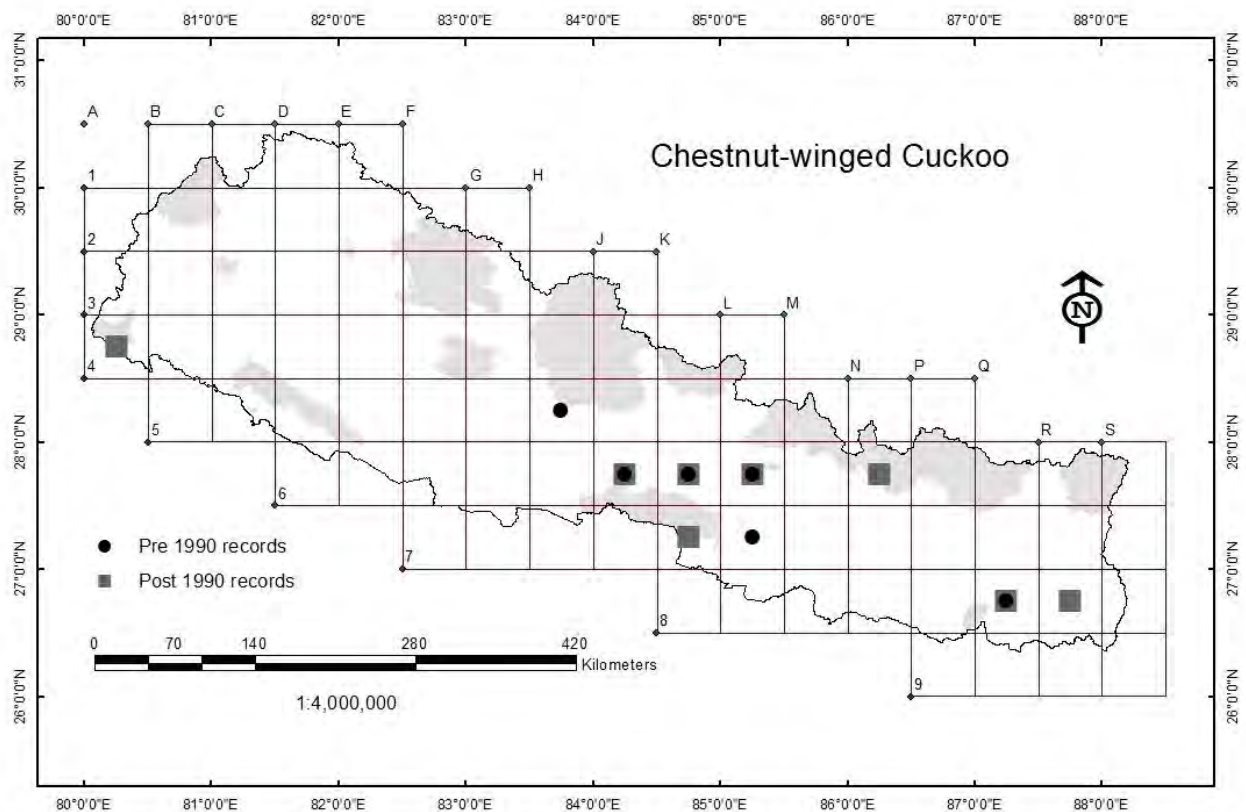
Common Name

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (English),
Thulo Jure Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes
Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Chestnut-winged Cuckoo is a local and rare summer visitor, chiefly found in lowland protected areas.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded summer visitor and passage migrant; a few passed through the Kathmandu Valley from April to June. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a very local summer visitor, mainly occurring from 250 m to 365 m. The species was fairly common in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983). It was also fairly common in the Hetauda dun in May and June 1947 (Biswas 1960), but there are no later records from the area. There were single records from Pokhara, Kaski District in 1977 (Thiollay 1980) and near Dharan, Sunsari District in April 1986 (Mayer 1986, Thorns 1986).

Since 1990, the species has been recorded more widely than pre-1990 and its range has been extended to the far west.

Its post-1990 status in protected areas is: an uncommon summer visitor in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4)

(Dev Raj Joshi *verbally* 2009 to H. S. Baral in Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but now rare (RDB Workshop, October 2015), and a frequent summer visitor (April – May) to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Cox 2003, Todd 2001). The species is listed as a rare summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007), but no other post-1990 records could be located. It was recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009), and is a rare summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005, Choudhary 1996, 1999). The species has been recorded at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar Chitwan National Park buffer zone (Baral 1996, Inskipp and Inskipp 2001).

There are few records outside the protected areas' system. Known records follow. In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was very rare in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006. Singles were recorded in the Valley in September 1991 (Mackenzie 1994) and at Taudaha and Saibu in August 2006 (Mallalieu 2008, van Riessen 2007).

In the east it was recorded in the lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District in May 2006 (Basnet and Sapkota 2006, 2007)

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Palau, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 915 m (- 2740 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Chestnut-winged Cuckoo. Its population has declined in Chitwan National Park where it was once fairly common, but is now rare (RDB Workshop, October 2015). Its population is probably declining because of forest loss, and possibly hunting and trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo inhabits broadleaved forest (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); also in cutover jungle and along rivers and streams (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is arboreal and rather retiring, sometimes keeping in in the canopy, but often descends to bushes to feed. When perched among foliage, the species is usually inconspicuous (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is brood-parasitic, usually on Himalayan laughingthrushes, often the necklaced laughingthrushes (Becking 1981). The species mainly feeds on caterpillars (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo is threatened by forest loss and possibly by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been specifically carried out for Chestnut-winged Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Chitwan National Park, Gaurishankar Conservation Area, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Near-threatened (NT) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo has been assessed as Near-threatened. It is a local and rare summer visitor, chiefly found in lowland protected areas. There are few post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system. Since 1990, the species has been recorded more widely than pre-1990, and its range has been extended to the far west, possibly because of better coverage. It has declined in Chitwan National Park where it was once fairly common, but is now rare. The species is threatened by forest loss and possibly by hunting and trapping.

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***Cacomantis merulinus* (Scopoli, 1786) LC**

Subspecies: *Cacomantis merulinus querulus*

Common Name

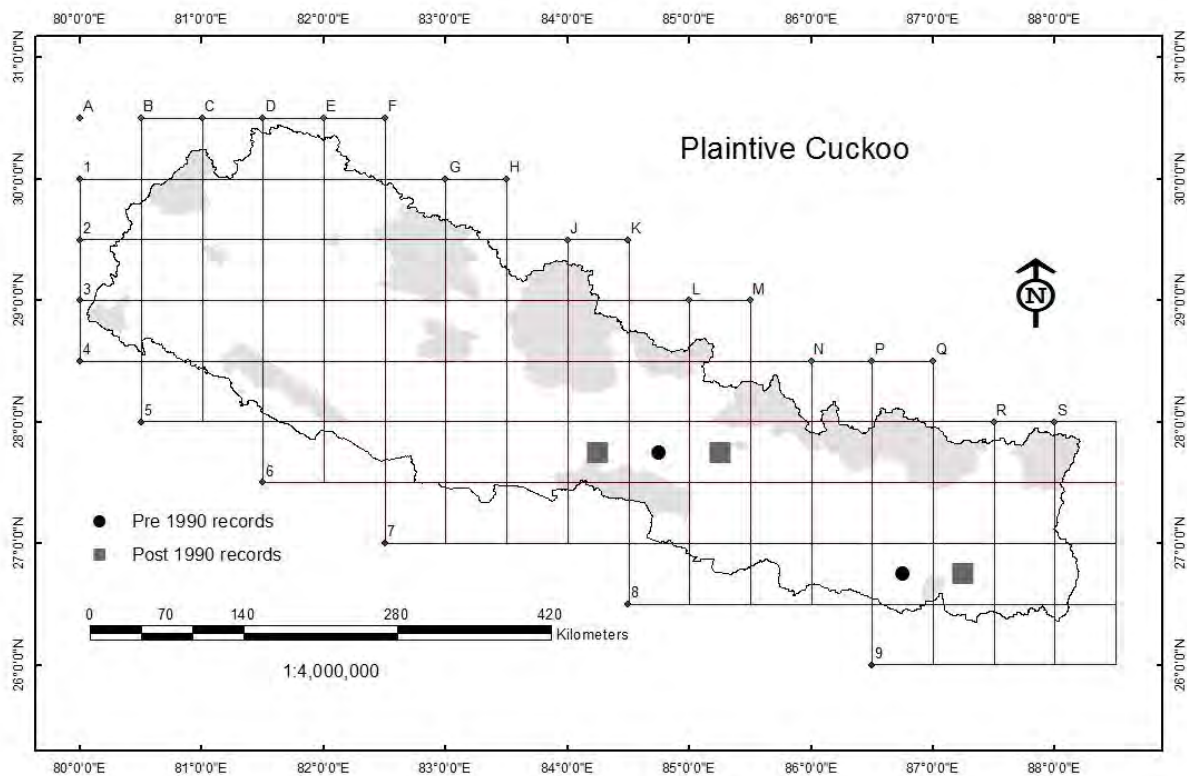
Plaintive Cuckoo (English),
Petkaile Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Plaintive Cuckoo is probably a vagrant or possibly a very rare winter visitor and passage migrant. Its status is uncertain because of possible confusion with Grey-bellied Cuckoo *C. passerinus*.

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described the species as a rare summer visitor. There are two known pre-1990 records: one seen in Chitwan National Park in February 1986 (Gawn 1987, Goodwin 1986) and one at Koshi Barrage in February 1989 (Kennerley and Turnbull 1989).

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a passage migrant in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); however, this may refer to the 1986 records. SNP and BCN (2007) reported it was a rare summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but no other records could be located. Baral (2005) described it as a rare summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. Known post-1990 records from there are: singles in January 1994 (Anon. 1994, Choudhary 1994) and February 1994 (Lama 1994), and two in April 2009 (Sanzeev Acharya *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported one a Pharping in April 2006, the first record for the Kathmandu Valley and a male was seen in the Chepang Hills, three hours walk from Shaktikhori, Chitwan District in March

2012 (Basu Bidari *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, February 2014).

Globally the species has also been recorded Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1340 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Plaintive Cuckoo.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Plaintive Cuckoo inhabits open forest and groves. Its habits, food items and habitat are very similar to those of Grey-bellied Cuckoo (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Plaintive Cuckoo is threatened by the complete loss of trees through urbanisation and intensive farming, although it may have benefited from forest thinning. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Plaintive Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List Assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Plaintive Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is probably a vagrant or possibly very rare summer visitor. Since 1990 there has been no significant change in occurrence compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. There are two confirmed post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system. Plaintive Cuckoo is threatened by the complete loss of trees through urbanisation and intensive farming, although it may have benefited from forest thinning. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping.

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***Cacomantis passerinus* (Vahl, 1797) LC**

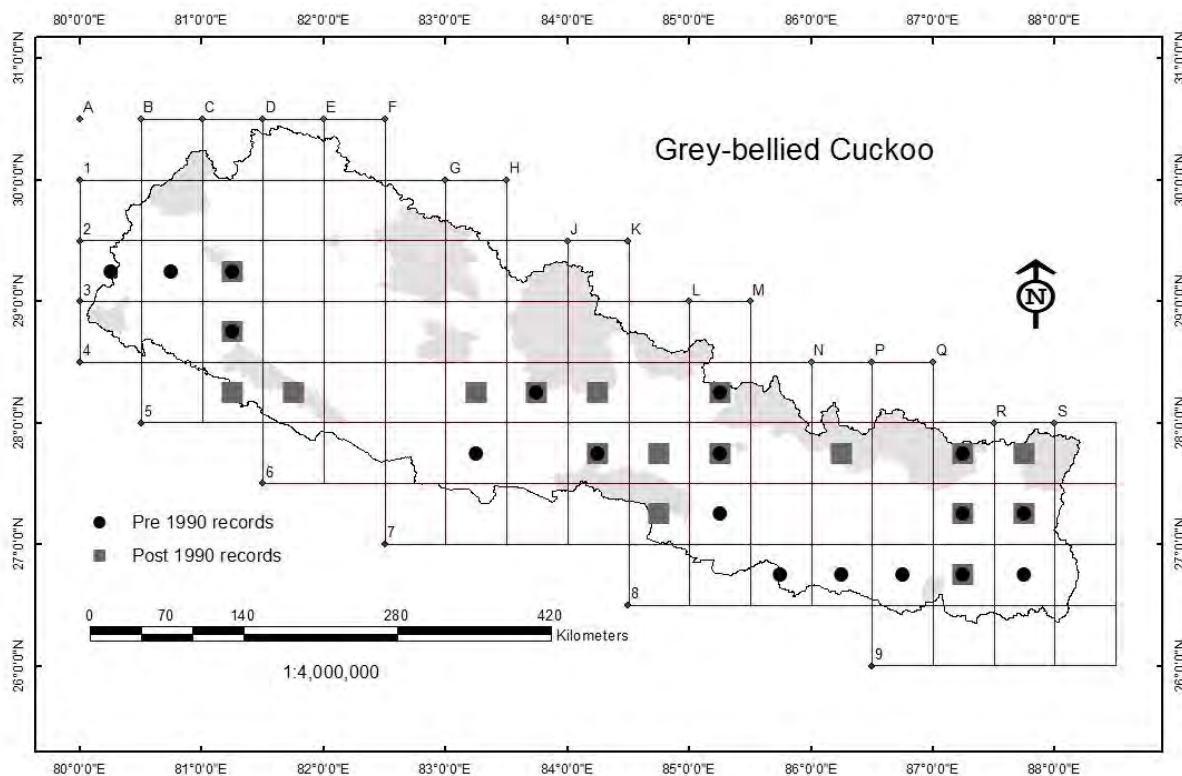
Common name

Grey-bellied Cuckoo (English),
Phusro Sano Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes
Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Grey-bellied Cuckoo is mainly a summer visitor; a few winter records. It is frequent in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006) in the west, to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common summer visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was an occasionally recorded summer visitor, mainly reported between late April and August from the terai up to 1400 m and rare up to 2135 m.

Since 1990 it has not been recorded in the far west; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution since pre-1990, see map and text below.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: an uncommon summer visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a frequent summer visitor to Bardia National Park (C4) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); a rare summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); an uncommon summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and

Upadhyay 2006); recorded several times in April 2003 in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Cox 2003), and an uncommon summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007). Karki and Thapa (2001) describe the species as a rare summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5), however other records indicate it is frequent there e.g. Baral (2002). It has been recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6); is a frequent visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Choudhary *et al.* 1998 in Cox 1999); an uncommon summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

The species has also been recorded from Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Janakauli Community Forest (K6), Chitwan District in February 2008 (Giri 2008).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded rather less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system, see map and text below.

In the west records include: from Badimalika region (C3) in February or early March 1998 (Karki *et al.* 2007); Tikapur Park (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Reshunga Potential Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013), and Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was an uncommon summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley: one at Bagmati Riverside Nature Park in September 2005 and two at Tokha in April 2006. It also occurs in the Suryavinayak and Setidevi Community Forest and at Pharping in the Valley (Dev Ghimire 2008). Singles were seen in Lazimpat, Kathmandu in December 1998 (H. S. Baral in Giri *et al.* 1999); also on Saibu Hill in May 2005, June 2008, September 2009, June-September 2011 and June 2012 and recently heard on the Champa Devi hill range (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, June 2015).

Other localities include: between Kutumsang (L6), Sindhupalchok District and Chisapani (L6) Nuwakot District, and Chisapani (L6) in May 1999 (Choudhary 1999).

In the east localities include: between Tumlingtar and Bhotebesi (Q7), Bhotebesi to Mude (Q7) and Churiabesi to Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Choudhary 1998); Patnali, Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001); Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), and near Dobhan (R7), Taplejung District in May 1994 (Halberg 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1400 m (-2135 m); lower limit 305 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Grey-bellied Cuckoo. Daily totals include: five in Patnali forest, Dharan Forest Important Bird Area Sunsari District in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and four near Syabru, Langtang National Park in May 2002 (Baral 2002). It is possibly declining because of habitat loss and possibly due to hunting and trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Grey-bellied Cuckoo inhabits open forest and groves (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); in relatively open country and in groves near villages (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species keeps mainly to the leafy tops of trees and bushes; sometimes descends briefly to the ground to pick up caterpillars, or sallies after insects. It is very active and

restless, repeatedly flying rapidly to different vantage points and calling. It often flies quite long distances between resting places. When calling, it holds the wings loosely, tail depressed and rump feathers fluffed (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Grey-bellied Cuckoo is brood-parasitic on *Prinia*, *Cisticola* and *Orthotomus* warblers (Becking 1981); also on wren babblers (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species feeds on hairy caterpillars, bugs and various soft-bodied insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Grey-bellied Cuckoo is threatened by the complete loss of trees through urbanisation and intensive farming, although it may have benefited from forest thinning. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Grey-bellied Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Bardia, Banke, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Grey-bellied Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a frequent summer visitor in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has not been recorded in the far west; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution since pre-1990. It has been recorded from many protected areas and rather less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system. Grey-bellied Cuckoo is threatened by the complete loss of trees through urbanisation and intensive farming, although it may have benefited from forest thinning. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping. Its population may be decreasing but not to the extent that warrants a threat category for the species.

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<http://www.birdlifeneal.org>

Cacomantis sonneratii (Latham, 1790) LC

Subspecies: *Cacomantis sonneratii sonneratii*

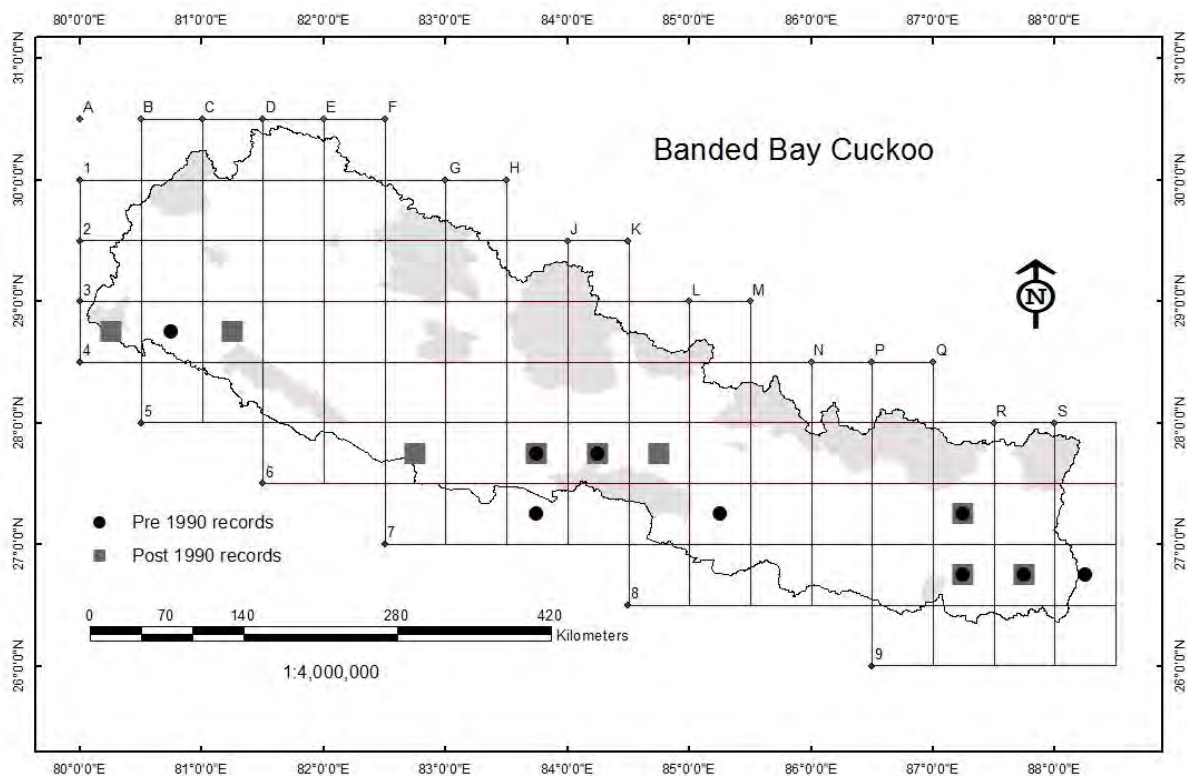
Common name

Banded Bay Cuckoo (English),
Dharke Khairo Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes
Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Banded Bay Cuckoo is an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park and a rare resident or summer visitor elsewhere.

The first Nepal record of the species was from Tribeni, Nawalparasi District in December 1935 (Bailey 1938).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a scarce summer visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was an uncommon visitor to Chitwan National Park between February and October, and mainly single records from elsewhere.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: rare, possibly resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (GC 1999 in Baral and Inskipp 2009, Giri and Choudhary 2003, Lama 1994); rare summer visitor Bardia National Park (C4) (Inskipp 2001); an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006). SNP and BCN (2007) described it as a rare summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, but no other records could be located. The species has also been recorded from Chitwan National Park buffer zone: at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar Important Bird Area (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005) and west of Chitwan

National Park, Nawalparasi District (H6) in February 2010 (Baral 2010).

In the west the only known record is from the Chirai Khola valley (F6), north-west Kapilvastu District (F6) (Cox 2008).

In central Nepal, one was noted at Pati Bhanjyang (1740 m), Sindhupalchok District in August 2000 (Giri and Choudhary 2000), an unusually high altitude record and singles recorded on Saibu Hill, Kathmandu Valley in September 2012 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, June 2015).

In the east, records include: one between south of Bumlingtar and Maruwabesi gau, lower Arun valley (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in June 2009 (Cox 2009); three in Patnali, Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (IBA) in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Dharan Forest IBA (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Subba 1995), and one singing near Garuwa, Jhapa District (R8) in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m (-2440 m); lower limit: 150 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Banded Bay Cuckoo. Its population is probably declining because of habitat loss and degradation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Banded Bay Cuckoo inhabits dense broadleaved forest (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); also scrub jungle (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species favours the bare branches of treetops from which it calls, usually holding the tail depressed, wings drooping and rump feathers fluffed out (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is brood-parasitic, primarily on Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* and also on minivets *Pericrocotus* (Becking 1981). The species feeds mainly on caterpillars and bugs (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The species is threatened to some degree by forest loss and degradation, and possibly by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Banded Bay Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Banded Bay Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park and a rare resident or summer visitor elsewhere. Since 1990 the species' distribution and status has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded from three protected areas and several

localities outside the protected areas' system. The species is threatened to some degree by forest loss and degradation, and possibly by hunting and trapping. Its population is probably declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threat category for the species.

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Centropus bengalensis (J. F. Gmelin, 1788) LC

Subspecies: *Centropus bengalensis bengalensis*

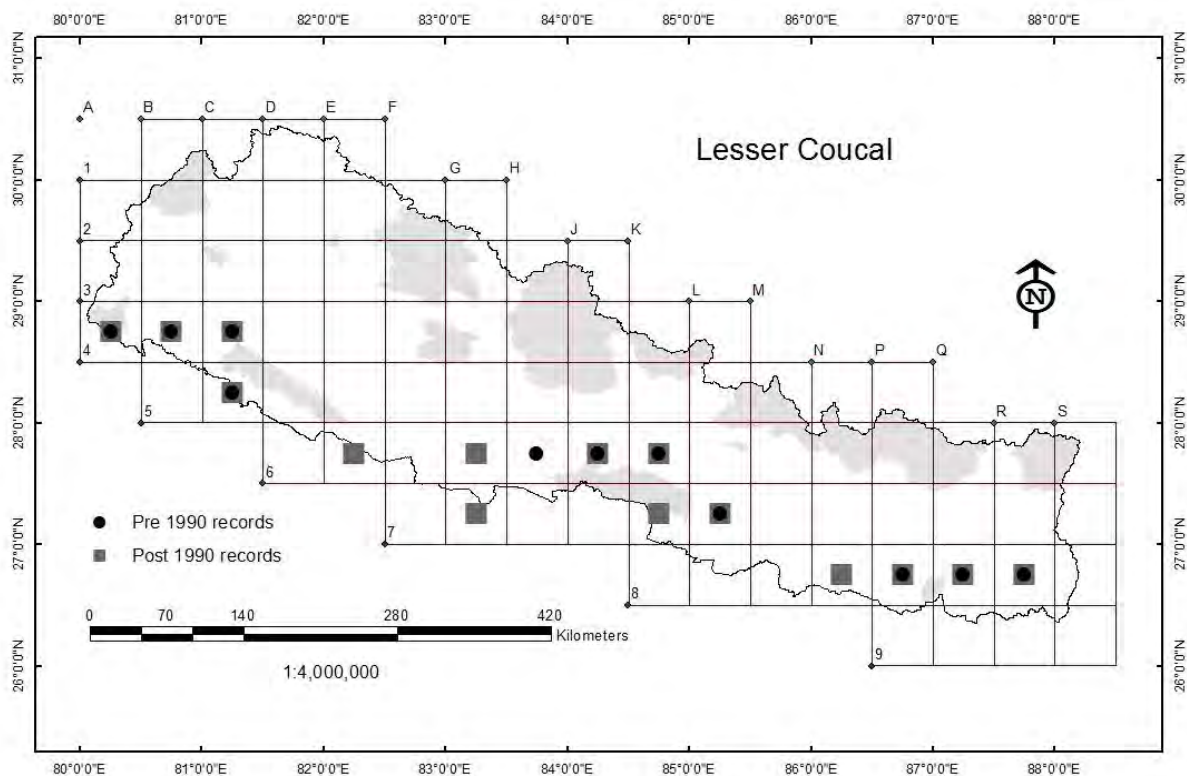
Common name

Lesser Coucal (English),
Sano Gokul (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes
Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Lesser Coucal is a resident and summer visitor; locally fairly common in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Saktim, Jhapa District (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a local resident and possibly also a summer visitor, chiefly up to 365 m. However, it was seen several times between 750 m and 1400 m at Jitpur and Siddhithumka, Ilam District in June 1988 (van Riessen 1989).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common resident and summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); an uncommon resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001), and fairly common, mainly a summer visitor, there is also a smaller

resident population in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005, Baral *et al.* 2013).

The species has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Barandabhar (Ghimire 2009).

Lesser Coucal has been recorded less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

In the west records include: a frequent resident in the Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest and West Rapti Wetlands Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Tilaurikot (G6), Kapilvastu District in January 2002 (Cox 2002); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in January 2003 (Giri 2003) and also recorded there by Suwal *et al.* (2002).

In central Nepal records include from Adarsha Community Forest and national forest, Chandi Khola (L7), Rautahat District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013).

In the east records include: from the Kamala valley (N8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Koshi Barrage (P8) in September 1992 (Baral 1993) and November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in May 2008 (Giri 2008) and September 2010 (Baral 2010); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005), and one below Saktim (R8), Jhapa District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (-1400 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

A population survey of Koshi Tappu Wildlife reserve and adjoining areas in April 2012 estimated a population size of 35-70 birds (Baral *et al.* 2013). No other population surveys of the species have been carried out in Nepal. Daily totals include 11 in Chitwan National Park in September 1992 (Baral 1993). Its population is probably declining as a result of habitat loss and degradation and possibly also due to hunting and trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Lesser Coucal inhabits large expanses of tall grassland and reedbeds in the lowlands (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); also grasses, weedy vegetation and scattered thickets in the lowlands (Cox 2002); a tea plantation (Robson *et al.* 2008), and Salima grass with bamboo clumps and scattered trees and bushes between 750 m and 1400 m in the far east in June 1988 (van Riessen 1989). However, no recent records are known from the latter habitat. Its habits are similar to those of Greater Coucal *C. sinensis*: typically, it flies with several hurried wingbeats, then a glide. It moves deliberately among bushes on the ground (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species feeds almost entirely on grasshoppers (Ali and Ripley 1987). It spends considerable periods perched and inactive (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and at Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013).

Threats

Lesser Coucal is threatened by habitat loss and degradation although it has adapted to range of habitats. It is possibly also at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Lesser Coucal. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Lesser Coucal has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident and summer visitor recorded from the far west to the far east; it is locally fairly common in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990. Post-1990 the species has been recorded from several protected areas, but less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system. Lesser Coucal is threatened by habitat loss and degradation although it has adapted to range of habitats. It is possibly also at risk from hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining, although not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskip/2007_007.pdf

Centropus sinensis (Stephens, 1815) LC

Subspecies: *Centropus sinensis sinensis*

Common Name

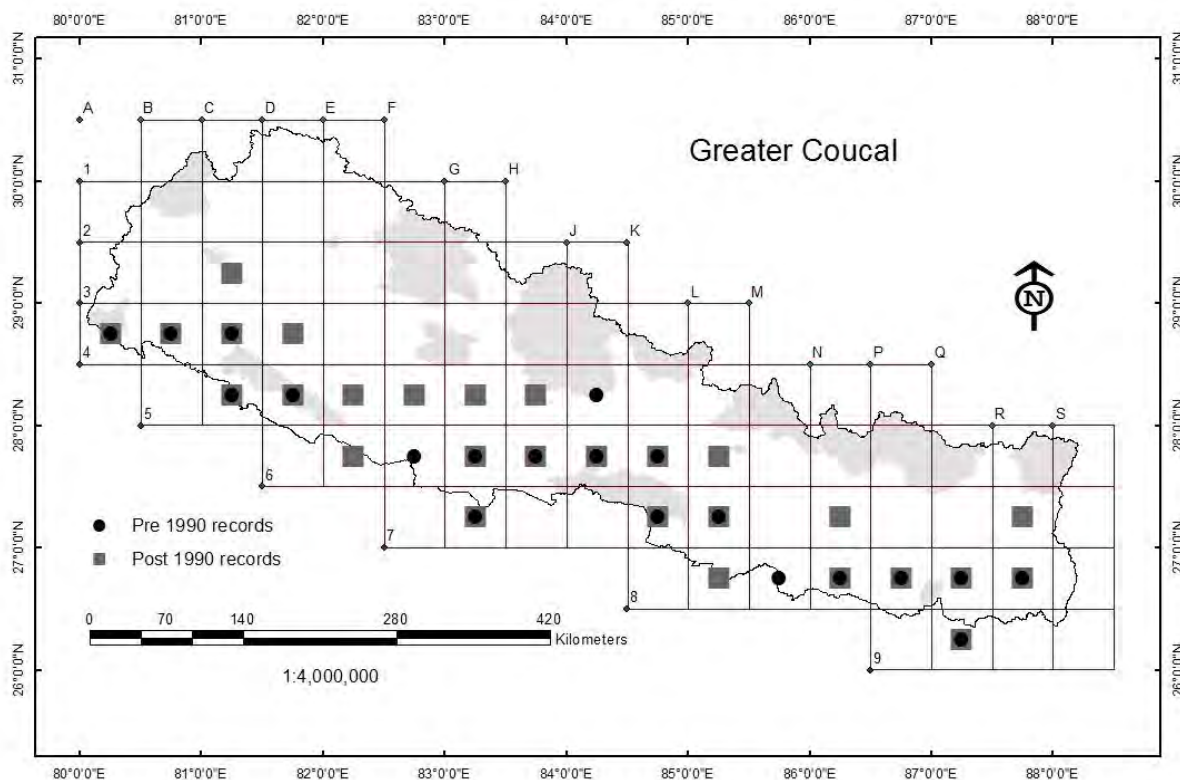
Greater Coucal (English),
Dhode Gokul (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Greater Coucal is a common and widespread resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Khudunabari, Jhapa District (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a common and sedentary resident mainly found up to about 365 m, and mapped it from the far west to the far east. Up to three were seen at the unusually high altitude of 850 m-900 m in Ilam District by van Riessen (1989).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely than pre-1990, especially in the west, probably partly because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: common in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and

Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Acharya 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a fairly common resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001), and common in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005)

The species has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone: west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District, e.g. Baral (2010a) and Inskipp and Inskipp (2012), Janakauli Community Forest (K6), Chitwan District in February 2008 (Giri 2008), Beeshazari Tal (Baral 1996, Giri 2008, Pradhan 2005), also recorded in Barandabhar by Adhikari *et al.* (2000) and Ghimire (2009), and at Sauraha (K6), Chitwan District, e.g. Dymond (2012) and Inskipp and Inskipp (2010).

Greater Coucal has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990, in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range, see map and text below.

In the west records include: from Mahendranagar (A4), Kailali District in January 2012 (Dymond 2012); a common resident in the Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); lower Karnali basin (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992) and December 1998 (Choudhary 1999); Rahaph, Achham District (C3) and Rakam (D4), Dailekh District along the Karnali River in March 2014 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to C. Inskipp 29 March 2015); Bijuwar, Pyuthan District (F5) in September 2009 and Jhimruk dam (F5), Pyuthan District in April 2012 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, 29 March 2015); Salli Bazaar (E5), Salyan District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); between Gwalichaur and Simalchaur Gulmi/Baglung Districts border (G5) in May 1999 (Cox 1999); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Rampur valley (G6), Palpa District (Gautam 2003); Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District in December 2011 (Baral 2008, 2011a); Gaidahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District e.g. in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009), December 2011 (Baral 2011b) and recorded by Suwal *et al.* (2002); Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District at 915 m in December 2005 (Naylor and GC 2005) and February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009), and Lamachaur, Pokhara (H5), Kaski District at 1000 m in September 2009 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, 29 March 2015).

In central Nepal it was recorded in the Kathmandu Valley by the Bosan Khola near Taudaha at 1280 m in April 2010 (Arend van Riessen and Orin Pearson). Since then records have been increasing and include from: Saibu Hill at 1350 m in May 2011; below Bosan at 1450 m in June 2012, and Sundarijal at 1400 m in July 2014 and March 2015, and Machhegaon at 1600 m in November 2014. The species is now considered established on the lower slopes of Champa Devi (Sim, Bosan, Machhegaon, Bosan Khola) between March and November and may be resident (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp 29 March 2015).

Other localities in central Nepal include: along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); Judibela Community Forest (L7), Rautahat District, Adarsha Community Forest and national forest, Chandi Khola (L7), Rautahat District and Bakaiya Community Forest, Nijgarh (L7), Bara District (Baral *et al.* 2013); between Kat Mandir, Bara District and Forest camp north of E-W Highway (L7) and between Gaur, Rautahat District and Sedhawa, Siraha District (L8) in April 2003 (Cox 2003), and in the Bagmati valley (L8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012).

In the east records include: from Manthali (N7), Ramechhap District in June 2005 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, 29 March 2005); the Kamala valley (N8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District e.g. in December 1992 (Baral 1993a), November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997) and November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999); October 2000 (Chaudhary 2000) and February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010b); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District, e.g. in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), October 2010 (Baral 2010c) and also recorded by Basnet and Sapkota (2008); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); Belhara (Q8), Dhankuta District in September 2003 (Baral 2003); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet 2002, Basnet *et al.* 2005); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Baral 1994, Jha and Subba 2013, Subba 1994); between Gupha Pokhari (R7), Sankhuwasabha District and Dobhan (R7), Taplejung District and between Dobhan and Mitlung (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010d); lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006), and Khudunabari (R8), Jhapa District (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1600 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Greater Coucal. Daily totals include: 32 near Koshi Camp, Sunsari District in November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004); 24 in Chitwan National Park in (Baral 2007), and 21 in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and adjoining areas in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Greater Coucal inhabits tall grassland and thickets near cultivation (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); at edge of tall marsh grass, thorn bushes, in reeds and cultivated fields (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It walks sedately like a pheasant with tail held horizontal, or skulks furtively through dense undergrowth. It hunts mainly on the ground; hops and runs strongly and actively when pursuing prey. Greater Coucal readily perches in trees, where it can clamber and hop about with ease. Its flight is weak, slow and clumsy (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Its food is mainly animals: baby mice, bats, geckos, skinks, lizards, snakes, stranded fish, frogs, crustaceans, molluscs, insects, spiders, birds' eggs and nestlings (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013).

Threats

Greater Coucal has adapted to cultivation where some bushes and thickets remain at field corners and edges, but is threatened by intensive farming which removes these features. It is also threatened by the spread of urbanisation and possibly by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been specifically carried out for Greater Coucal. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke and Chitwan National Parks, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List Assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Greater Coucal has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and widespread resident, and since 1990 has been recorded from the far west to the far east. Post 1990 the species has been recorded more widely than pre-1990, especially in the west, probably partly because of better coverage. It has been recorded from several protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Greater Coucal has adapted to cultivation where some bushes and thickets remain at field corners and edges, but is threatened by intensive farming which removes these features. The species is now

being recorded more often at higher altitudes than previously, for example it has recently been recorded regularly from the Kathmandu Valley; this may be because of climate change. It is also threatened by the spread of urbanisation and possibly by hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Chrysococcyx maculatus* (J. F. Gmelin, 1788) LC**

Common Name

Asian Emerald Cuckoo (English)

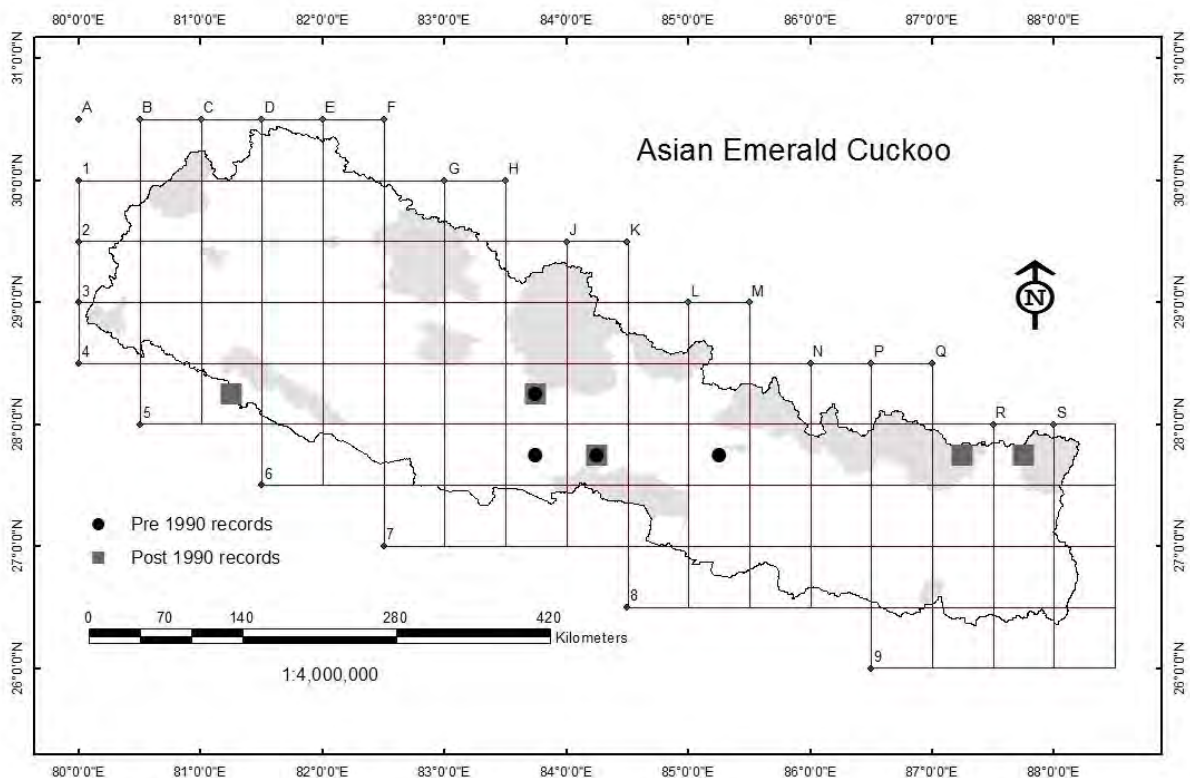
Harit Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Asian Emerald Cuckoo is a rare summer visitor, recorded between April and September from the far west to the far east since 1990.

The first Nepal record of this species was in the Kathmandu Valley and Bhimpedi in the 19th century (Hodgson 1829, 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it as scarce, possibly resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) found it was a scarce summer visitor. Records from the Kathmandu Valley included (a small party in September in the early 1950s (Proud 1955), a specimen taken by the Vishnumati River in May 1959 (Fleming and Traylor 1968) and one at Gokarna in August 1978 (Rossetti 1978); also single birds in Chitwan National Park in April 1982 (Gurung 1983, Inskipp and Inskipp 1982); near Pokhara, Kaski District (Forster 1982); at Malunga in September 1988 (Morita 1990) and Panggom (P6), Solukhumbu District in May 1990 (White and White 1990).

The species' post-1990 distribution in protected areas is: a very rare summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area: one at Dhibrang (H5), Kaski District in May 2001 (Baral *et al.* 2001, Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a rare passage migrant in Chitwan National Park (Baral and Upadhyay 2006, Zöckler 2008); a very rare

summer visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (C. Carpenter 1994 *in litt.* to J. Cox Jr.) in Cox (1999), and a rare summer visitor to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area: singles in May 1999 (White and White 1999) and April 2008 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2009, Inskipp *et al.* 2008). One was also recorded near Sikidim village in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in May 2009 (Cox 2009). The species was also recorded from Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District in May or June 2007 (Chaudhari 2007).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1800 m (-2700 m); lower limit: 1280 m (-150 m)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Asian Emerald Cuckoo. Its population is probably declining because of forest loss and degradation. There is no indication of a reduction in the number of records, although this may be because of better coverage.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Asian Emerald Cuckoo inhabits broadleaved evergreen forest (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). It usually keeps to the leafy canopy of tall trees, but on arrival in spring it often flies about conspicuously. The species is very active, moving rapidly from branch to branch and making sallies to capture insects. It has a habit of perching along a branch, rather than across it. Its flight is fast and direct (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on ants, caterpillars, bugs and other soft-bodied insects, often taken on the wing. It is brood-parasitic on sunbirds *Aethopyga* spp. and spiderhunters (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Asian Emerald Cuckoo is threatened by forest loss and degradation. It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Asian Emerald Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park and Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Asian Emerald Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a rare summer visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from April to September from the far west to the far east. It has mainly been found in protected areas post-1990. Although there is no indication of a reduction in the number of records since 1990, this may be because of better coverage. The species is threatened by forest loss and degradation and as a result its population is probably declining. However, this decline is not considered large enough to warrant a threatened category for the species.

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Clamator jacobinus (Boddaert, 1783) LC

Subspecies: *Clamator jacobinus serratus*

Common name

Pied Cuckoo (English),

Jure Koili (Nepali)

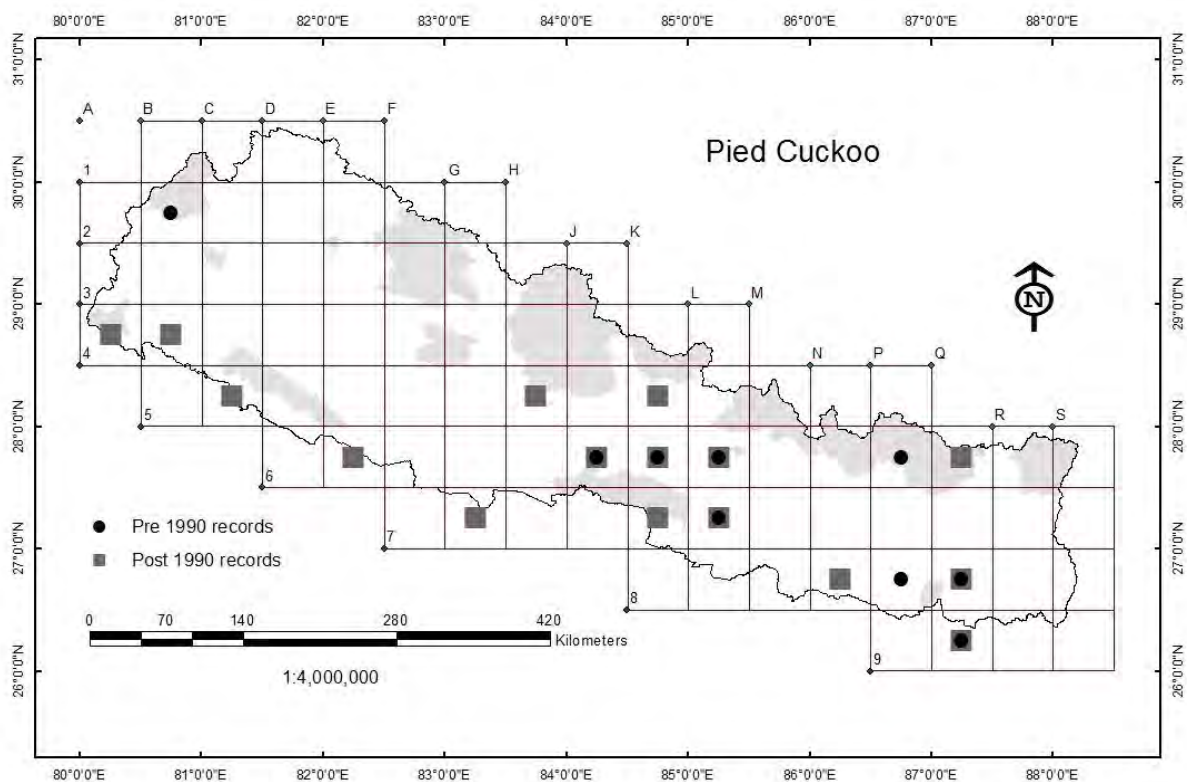
Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



RAJ MAN SINGH/BRIAN HODGSON

Distribution



Pied Cuckoo is a late summer visitor, uncommon or frequent in some protected areas and very uncommon elsewhere.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as an occasionally recorded summer visitor and passage migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a summer visitor mainly occurring up to 365 m; most reports in the monsoon; uncommon in Chitwan National Park and scarce elsewhere. The only known winter record was one collected in the Kathmandu Valley in January 1962 (Diesselhorst 1968).

Since 1990, the species has been more widely recorded in the west than pre-1990; this is probably because of better coverage.

The species' post 1990 status in protected areas is: an uncommon summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); vagrant to Annapurna Conservation Area (Paras Singh *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, 24 March 2015); an uncommon summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay

2006); a summer visitor (February to August) to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (KMTNC 1998). The species is listed as a rare summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007), but no post-1990 records could be located. It is an uncommon visitor to Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Shakya *et al.* 1995 in Cox 1999), and a frequent summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005).

The species has also been recorded from Bardia National Park in the buffer zone; recorded in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007) and Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar Important Bird Area (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005) and at Sauraha in October 2015 (BES).

The species has been less widely and less frequently recorded outside the protected areas' system compared to within protected areas (see map and text below).

In the west records include: a summer visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012), Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); by the Tinau River (G7), Rupandehi District (Miller 2011), and Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was very rare in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006: singles were recorded in Bagmati Nature Park in October 2004, near Chobar cement factory in September 2005, and on Saibu hill in September 2006. However, recently it has been recorded almost annually on Saibu Hill in: September 2005, September 2008, May and September 2009, September 2010 and Kirtipur in August 2013 (Arend van Riessen). Other records include: three in Adarsha Community Forest and national forest, Chandi Khola, Rautahat District (L7) in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013), and by the Kamala River (N8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012).

In the east records include: from Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); near Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007); recorded at Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2013, Subba 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, São Tomé e Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (-3875 m); lower limit: 305 m

Population

No population surveys have been specifically carried out for Pied Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded more frequently than pre-1990, possibly because of better coverage. Single day totals include: seven by the Kamala River (L8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012), and six near Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012).

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Pied Cuckoo inhabits broadleaved forest and well-wooded areas (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); in sal forests of the foothills (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species is conspicuous and not at all shy, often perching in the open. It is chiefly arboreal, but often also searches for food in low bushes and sometimes by hopping on the ground (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species mainly feeds on caterpillars, including large hairy ones; also mealy bugs,

beetles, ants and terrestrial molluscs (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is brood-parasitic, mainly on *Turdoides* babblers (Becking 1981); also laughingthrushes *Garrulax* (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is the last of the summer visitor birds to arrive in Nepal and by the end of October most birds have left. This late arrival of the species may mean less recording of the species, especially as its arrival mainly coincides with the full monsoon.

Threats

Pied Cuckoo has some resilience to forest degradation, although it is threatened by complete loss of trees and bushes. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Pied Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Chitwan and Makalu Barun National Parks; Manaslu and Gaurishankar Conservation Areas, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Pied Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a late summer visitor, uncommon or frequent in some protected areas and very uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990, the species has been more widely recorded in the west than pre-1990 and generally recorded more frequently in Nepal than pre-1990; this is possibly because of better coverage. It has been recorded from several protected areas, and less widely and frequently outside the protected areas' system. Pied Cuckoo has some resilience to forest degradation, although it is threatened by complete loss of trees and bushes. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping. Its population is possibly stable.

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Cuculus canorus (Linnaeus, 1758) LC
Subspecies: *Cuculus canorus canorus*, *bakeri*

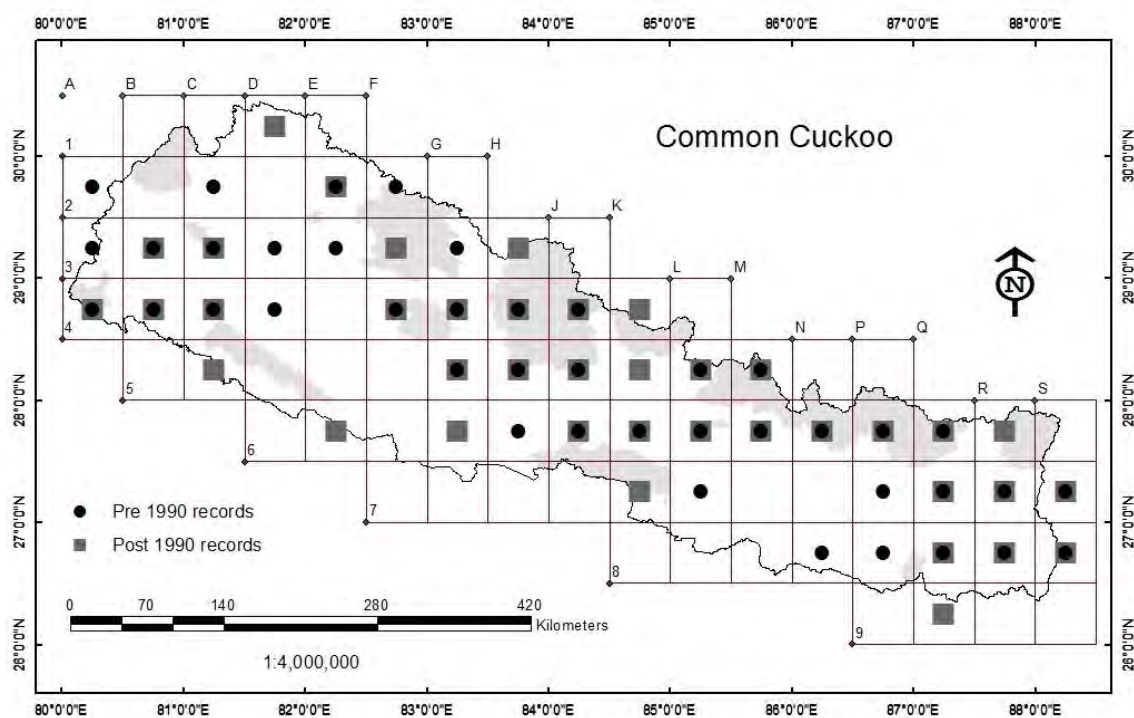
Common name

Common Cuckoo (English),
Kukku Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes
Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Common Cuckoo is a common and widespread summer visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Ilam District (White and White 1994) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it was a common resident and migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a common summer visitor from 915 m to 3800 m from March to September, and mapped it widely throughout Nepal.

Since 1990 there has been no significant change in distribution compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 distribution in protected areas is: a fairly common summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009) and to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a rare summer visitor to Bardia National Park (C4) (Inskipp 2001); a frequent summer visitor to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); recorded in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg1995); common in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Subedi 2003); a common summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H3, H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K4, K5) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013, Thakuri 2013a); a frequent summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay

2006); summer visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (April – May) (Todd 2001); a fairly common summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun (L6) National Park (SNP and BCN 2007); a common summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2008); a frequent summer visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); a common visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a); a frequent summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005), and a common summer visitor to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008, Katuwal *et al.* 2013).

The species was also recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in Khata corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007); Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Sauraha, Chitwan District in April 1992 (Baral 1992) and Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar Important Bird Area (IBA) (Baral 1996a, Pradhan 2005), Barandabhar (Ghimire 2009); Langtang National Park buffer zone in May 1992 (Baral 1992); Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone in May 1993 (Baral 1996b), and Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

The species has also been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range (see map and text below).

In the west records include: from Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Dhangadhi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); a frequent summer visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Tikapur park (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Karnali Basin, along Bardia-Katarniaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); upper Humla (D1), Humla District (Kusi *et al.* 2015); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forests Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Juphaal (F4), Dolpo District (Priemé 1992); Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b); between Argali and Sidure, Gulmi District (G6), between Sidure and Rupakot, Bari Gad, Gulmi District (G6), between Lumsum and Deorali Thanti, Myagdi District (G4) and between Lachang, Dhola Khola and Palung, Dhola Khola, Myagdi District (G4) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); from Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District e.g. Karki *et al.* (1997), in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009), and one juvenile in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

In central Nepal Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a common summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley, recorded from March to October between 2004 and 2006, usually below 1700 m. Arend van Riessen (*in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, June 2015) also considered it was a common summer visitor. Records from other localities include: common in Chitlang Forest (L6), Chandrigiri Range, Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); Dhading (K6), Dhading District in May 2011 (Baral 2011); between Pati Bhanjyang and Chisapani, Nuwakot District (L6) in May 1996 (Cocker 1996); near Sermathang (M6) and Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004); one at Tundikhel, Dhulikhel (M6), Kabhrepalanchok District in November 1994 (Baral 1994).

In the east records include: common in Solukhumbu District (P6) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013); at several localities in the lower Arun valley, Sankhuwasabha District (Q7) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009); between Tumlingtar and Bhotebesi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Subba 1995); Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2013); five between Kande Bhanjyang and Lali Karka and two between Lali Kharka and Taplejung (R7), Taplejung District (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); four at Ilam (R8), Ilam District in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998); Mai Pokhari (R7), Mai valley (Basnet 2005); lower Mai valley (R8), Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006), and Panchthar and Ilam Districts (R7, S7) (White and White 1999) and Ilam District (S8) (White and White 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China (mainland), Comoros, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mayotte (to France), Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar,

Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3800 m; lower limit: 915 m (-75 m on passage)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Common Cuckoo. Single day totals recorded include 25 between Kutumsang, Sindhupalchok District and Chisapani, Nuwakot District (L6) in April 2001 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2001) and 14 in Chitwan National Park in April 1997 (Baral 1997). The population is probably stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Cuckoo inhabits forest, well-wooded country and scrub (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); in rather open hill country (Fleming *et al.* 1976); its preferred habitats are manifold, including nearly the whole vegetational spectrum of the south and partly of the north macro-slope of the main [Himalayan] chain (Martens and Eck 1995). In the Kathmandu Valley it frequents trees in parks, gardens, protected forest, and rural locations (Mallalieu 2008). The species frequents the tops of forest trees and foliage of the canopy; sometimes also feeds close to or on the ground. It often perches conspicuously in the open when calling in the breeding season (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is brood-parasitic, mainly on small passerines chiefly: chats, warblers *Acrocephalus*, wagtails, pipits, and buntings (Becking 1981). The species feeds on insects and their larvae, particularly hairy caterpillars (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved at Manangbhot, Annapurna Conservation Area (Lowndes 1955), in the Kathmandu Valley (Scully 1879) and the upper Mai valley (Stevens 1912).

Threats

Common Cuckoo shows some resilience to habitat loss and degradation as it adapted to a wide range of habitat types. It may be at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Common Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded from almost all protected areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and widespread summer visitor, recorded since 1990 from the far west to the far east. There has been no significant change in distribution

post-1990 compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in most protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system. Common Cuckoo shows some resilience to habitat loss and degradation as it adapted to a wide range of habitat types. It may be at risk from hunting and trapping. Its population is probably stable.

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Cuculus micropterus (Gould, 1838) LC
Subspecies: *Cuculus micropterus micropterus*

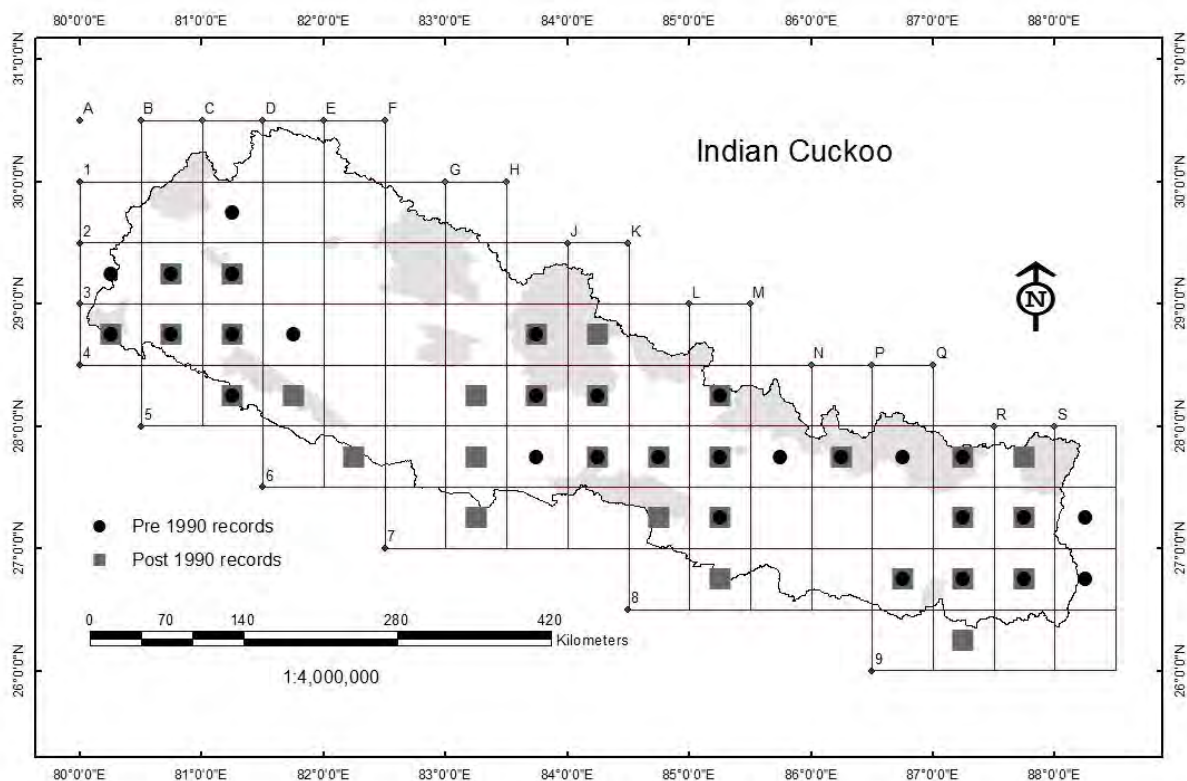
Common name

Indian Cuckoo (English),
Kaphal Pakyo (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes
Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Indian Cuckoo is a summer visitor, common in some protected areas and frequent elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common summer visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was mainly a summer visitor, although reported to be resident in the eastern terai by Dahmer (1976). It was common in spring and summer from April onwards from the terai up to 2100 m (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Since 1990 it has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise, there has been no significant change in distribution compared to pre-1990.

The species post-1990 status in protected areas is: a common summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent summer visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); a fairly common summer visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a common summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6)

(Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a summer visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a frequent summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a common visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999) and to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

The species has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007), and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005) and Barandabhar (Ghimire 2009); Langtang National Park buffer zone at Dhunche (L5), Rasuwa District in May 1992 (Baral 1992), and several localities in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6, Q7) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Indian Cuckoo has been recorded quite widely outside the protected areas' system, although rather less frequently than in protected areas.

In the west records include: from several localities in Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); a common summer visitor to Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); lower Karnali Basin (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Tikapur Park (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke District in April 1995 (White and White 1995); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Jagdishpur Reservoir (G6), Kapilvastu District (Baral 2008); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); between Rupakot and Buachidi, Gulmi District (G5) and between Buachidi, Gulmi District and Gwalichaur, Baglung District (G5) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994, Suwal *et al.* 2002), and Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was an uncommon summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley: heard in wooded suburban and rural locations below 1550 m from late March to mid-June. Arend van Riessen formerly found it common along the Bagmati River between April and June, but very scarce since 2007. Other records include: a common summer visitor to Chitlang forest (L6), Chandrigiri Range, Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); between Kutumsang (L6), Sindhupalchok District and Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District in May 1999 (Choudhary 1999); between Mewa gau school, Rautahat District (L8) and school west of Belwa Bara District (L7) and between school west of Belwa, Bara District and Kat mandir Bara District (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003). One was also heard in the Upardanggadhi hills (J6), Chitwan District in January 2012 (Dymond 2012).

In the east records include: Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District in September 1992 (Baral 1993); between Tumlingtar and Bhotebesi (Q7) and between Churiabesi and Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); several localities in Sankhuwasabha District (Q7) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999) and September 2010 (Baral 2010); Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and May 2011 (Baral 2011); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Subba 1995); Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Belhara (Q8), Dhankuta District in September 2003 (Baral 2003); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2013); Mamangkhe and Kande Bhanjyang (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Dobhan (R7) and between Dobhan and Mitlung (R7), Taplejung District in April 1994 (Halberg 1994); Mai Pokhari (R7), Ilam District (Basnet 2005); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998), and the lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006);

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2100 m (-3800 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Indian Cuckoo. Daily totals include 20 in Chitwan National Park in April 2011 (Baral 2011b); 12 there in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001) and in April 2007 (Baral 2007). Its population is probably declining as a result of forest loss and degradation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Indian Cuckoo inhabits forest and well wooded country (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); also park-like vegetation in human settlements (Martens and Eck 1995). It frequents the tops of forest trees and foliage of the canopy. Sometimes it flies hawk-like above the forest. Indian Cuckoo often calls at night during the breeding season (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is brood parasitic on drongos, mainly Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* (Becking 1981). The species feeds on hairy and other caterpillars, and various insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in the Kathmandu Valley (Proud 1949) and in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983).

Threats

Indian Cuckoo is threatened by forest loss and degradation, although it is adapted to some forest thinning. It is more at risk than higher altitude species as it inhabits tropical, subtropical and lower temperate forests. It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Indian Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Bardia, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Indian Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a widespread summer visitor, common in some protected areas and frequent elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution compared to pre-1990. However, it has declined in recent years in the Kathmandu Valley. Indian Cuckoo has been recorded in a number of protected areas and quite widely outside the protected areas' system, although rather less frequently than in protected areas. It is threatened by forest loss and degradation, although it is adapted to some forest thinning. The species is more at risk than higher altitude species as it inhabits tropical, subtropical and lower temperate forests. It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining, although not to the extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Cuculus poliocephalus* (Latham, 1790) LC**

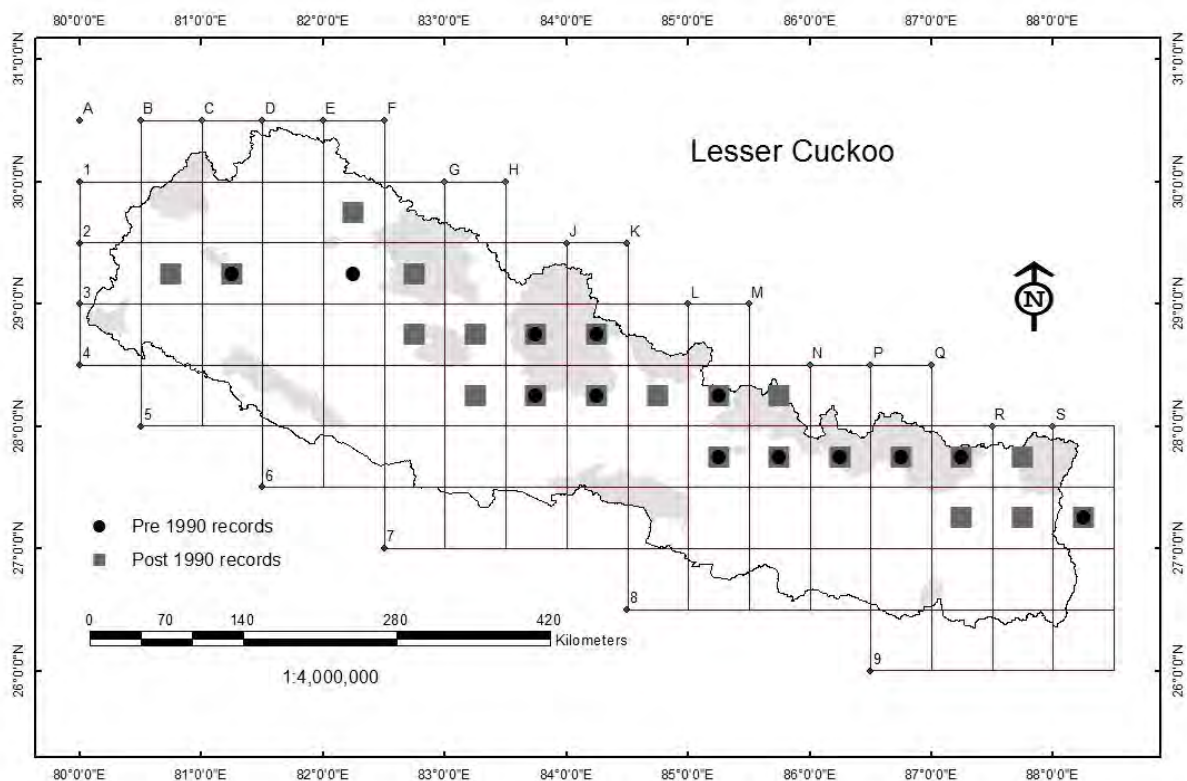
Common name

Lesser Cuckoo (English),
Sano Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes
Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Lesser Cuckoo is a locally fairly common summer visitor in some protected areas and frequent or uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Dadeldhura District (Baral *et al.* 2010) in the far west to Ilam District (White and White 1999) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was from the upper Mai valley in May 1912 (Stevens 1925).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common summer visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a fairly common summer visitor chiefly occurring between 1500 m and 3660 m and considered it may be under-recorded because of its late arrival in spring.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded significantly more widely than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common summer visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a rare summer visitor to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005, White and White 1995); recorded in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3) (Yonzon 1991 in Priemé and Øksnebjerg1995); a common summer visitor to Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Subedi 2003); an uncommon summer visitor to

Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Shah 1998); a fairly common summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and to Langtang National Park (L5, M5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); an uncommon summer visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); a fairly common visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a), and a fairly common summer visitor to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

The species has also been recorded from the Langtang National Park buffer zone at Dhunche (L5), Rasuwa District in June 1996 (Baral 1996) and several localities in the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Lesser Cuckoo has been recorded less widely outside the protected areas' system, see map and text below. Post-1990 records follow.

In the west records include: from Chulla, Ana Khola west (B3), Dadeldhura District in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); between the ghot above Patle and south face camp, Malika Dhuri (G5), Gulmi District in May 1999 and at several localities in the upper Myagdi Khola valley (G4), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b);

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a common summer visitor to Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in May and June between 2004 and 2006; confirmed still common on the top in May and June in 2015 (Arend van Riessen). Other localities include: between Kutumsang and Patibhanjyang (L6), Sindhupalchok District in May 1992 (Baral 1992); near Sermathang (M6), Sindhupalchok District and near Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004).

In the east records include: four at Gnbo, Fulelei (P6), Solukhumbu District in July 2012 (Katuwal *et al.* 2013); between Chichila and Bhotebas (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1991 (Halberg 1991); on Milke Danda (Q7), Terhathum District in May 1992 and May 1994 (White and White 1994); between Bhotebesi and Mude (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); three between Mamangkhe and Kande Bhanjyang; four between Kande Bhanjyang and Lali Kharka and four between Lali Kharka and Taplejung (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008) and Taplejung (R7) and Ilam (R7, S7) Districts in May 1997 and May 1999 (White and White 1999).

Globally it is also recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Hong Kong (China), India, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3700 m; lower limit: 1500 m (-1220 m)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Lesser Cuckoo. Daily totals include four at the following localities: between Tashigaon and Khangma in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); between Kande Bhanjyang and Lali Kharka, between Lali Kharka and Taplejung (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008), and at Gnbo, Fulelei (P6), Solukhumbu District in July 2012 (Katuwal *et al.* 2013). Its population is possibly stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Lesser Cuckoo summers in high altitude oak forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Martens and Eck state it is confined to closed and mainly dense parts of evergreen broadleaved cloud forests. It always stays among the trees,

mostly in the canopy, rarely in lower bushy zones but always close to the forest proper. Furthermore, this cuckoo keeps extremely well hidden and is rarely to be seen in the open (Martens and Eck 1995). The species frequently calls noisily in flight, often above the canopy as well as when perched (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It often calls at night. The species is brood-parasitic on leaf warblers and small babblers (Fleming *et al.* 1976); also *Cettia* warblers (Becking 1981). It feeds on insects and their larvae, particularly hairy caterpillars (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Lesser Cuckoo is threatened by forest loss and degradation. It may be at risk from hunting and trapping. However, as it breeds in the upper temperate and subalpine zones it is less threatened than species breeding at lower altitudes.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Lesser Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Rara, Shey-Phoksundo, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang, Sagarmatha and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Lesser Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a locally fairly common summer visitor in some protected areas and frequent or uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 the species has been recorded significantly more widely than pre-1990, probably because of better coverage. The species has been recorded in nearly all protected areas within its altitudinal range and with suitable habitat, and less widely outside the protected areas' system. It is threatened by forest loss and degradation and may also be at risk from hunting and trapping. However, as it breeds in the upper temperate and subalpine zones it is less threatened than species breeding at lower altitudes. Its population is possibly stable.

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Cuculus saturatus (Blyth, 1843) LC
Subspecies: *Cuculus saturatus saturatus*

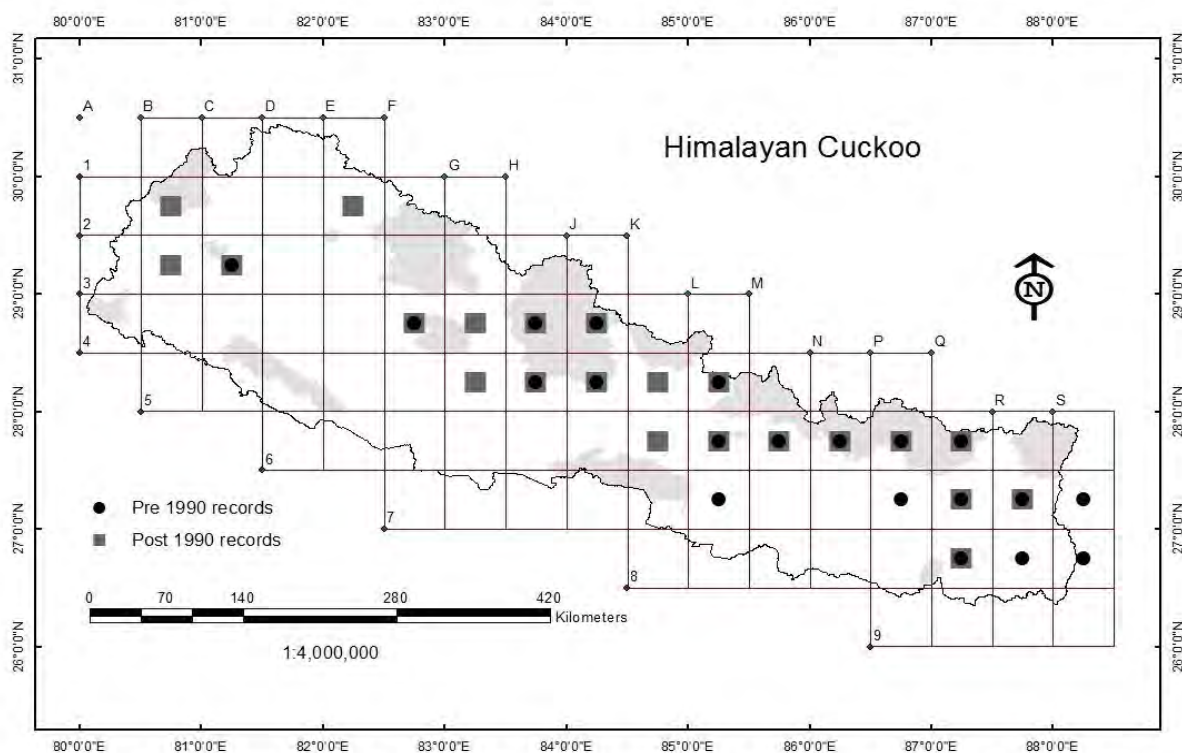
Common name

Himalayan (Oriental) Cuckoo (English),
Purbiya Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes
Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Himalayan Cuckoo is a fairly common summer visitor to most protected areas within its altitudinal range; it is frequent elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Inskipp *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The species was described from Nepal from a B. H. Hodgson specimen in the 19th century (Blyth 1843, Warren 1966).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common summer visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was recorded between the end of March to September; common between 1525 m and 3050 m in spring and summer from April onwards.

Since 1990 Himalayan Cuckoo has been recorded rather more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage, and rather less widely in the far east, compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: recorded in the Chamiliya valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a fairly common summer visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a rare summer visitor to Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); a fairly common summer visitor

to Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (F4, G4) (Subedi 2003); a common summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a rare summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006, Giri and Choudhary 1997, 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Shah 1998, Thakuri 2013a); a fairly common summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and a common summer visitor in the national park (Mallalieu 2008); a common summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5)(Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a frequent summer visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); a fairly common visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a); a rare passage migrant in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005), and a fairly common summer visitor to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

The species has also been recorded from Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone at Lukla and Phakding (P6), Solukhumbu District in May 1993 (Baral 1996); Langtang National Park buffer zone at Dhunche (L5), Rasuwa District in April 2006 (Baral 2006) and in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Himalayan Cuckoo has been recorded rather less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system, see map and text below.

In the west records include: several from Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Badimalika region (C3) in February or early March (Karki *et al.* 2003); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b); between the ghot past Bikos and the ghot above Patle, Gulmi District (G5), between Lumsum and Deorali Thanti, Myagdi District (G4), between Lachang and Palung, Dhola Khola, Myagdi District (G4) in May 1999 and the upper Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b), and Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a common summer visitor recorded from early April to early June between 2004 and 2006 in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area. Other records include: common in Chitlang forest (L6), Chandrigiri Range, Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District in May 1999 (Choudhary 1999); between Kutumsang and Patibhanjyang (L6), Sindhupalchok District in May 1992 (Baral 1992), and near Sermathang and Tarkeghyang (M6) in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004).

In the east records include: Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); near Chauki (Q7), Terhathum District and between Chauki and Gupha Pokhari (R7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1994 (Halberg 1994); between Tumlingtar and Bhotebesi and between Bhotebesi and Mude (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Subba 1995), and between Kande Bhanjyang and Lali Kharka (R7), Taplejung District (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Cambodia, China (mainland), Finland, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Micronesia, Federated States of, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, North Korea, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Solomon Islands, South Korea, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, USA, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3355 m; lower limit: 1525 m (-75 m on passage)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Himalayan Cuckoo. Daily totals include: eight between Kande Bhanjyang and Lali Kharka (R7), Taplejung District (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); eight in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley in April 2006 (Baral 2006a) and in April 2007 (Baral 2007), and eight at Dhunche, Rasuwa District (Baral 2006a). Its population is probably declining because of forest loss and degradation and possibly also because of hunting and trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Himalayan Cuckoo inhabits forest and well-wooded country (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); oak-rhododendron forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976); almost always in closed forests (Martens and Eck 1995). Its habits are similar to those of Indian Cuckoo *C. micropterus*, although it usually keeps hidden amongst foliage and is less noisy at night (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is brood-parasitic, mainly on *Phylloscopus* and *Seicercus* warblers (Becking 1981). The species feeds on insects and their larvae, particularly hairy caterpillars (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved at Godaveri, Kathmandu Valley (Biswas 1960, Inskipp and Inskipp 1982).

Threats

Himalayan Cuckoo is threatened by loss and degradation of forest, although it can adapt to some forest thinning. It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Himalayan Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Rara, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang, Sagarmatha and Makalu Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas; Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, and marginally in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Himalayan Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common summer visitor to most protected areas within its altitudinal range; it is frequent elsewhere. Since 1990 the species has been recorded rather more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage, and rather less widely in the far east, compared to pre-1990, and rather less widely and less frequently outside the protected areas' system. Himalayan Cuckoo is threatened by loss and degradation of forest, although it can adapt to some forest thinning. It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping. Its population is probably declining but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Eudynamys scolopaceus (Linnaeus, 1758) LC

Subspecies: *Eudynamys scolopaceus scolopaceus*

Common name

Asian Koel (English),

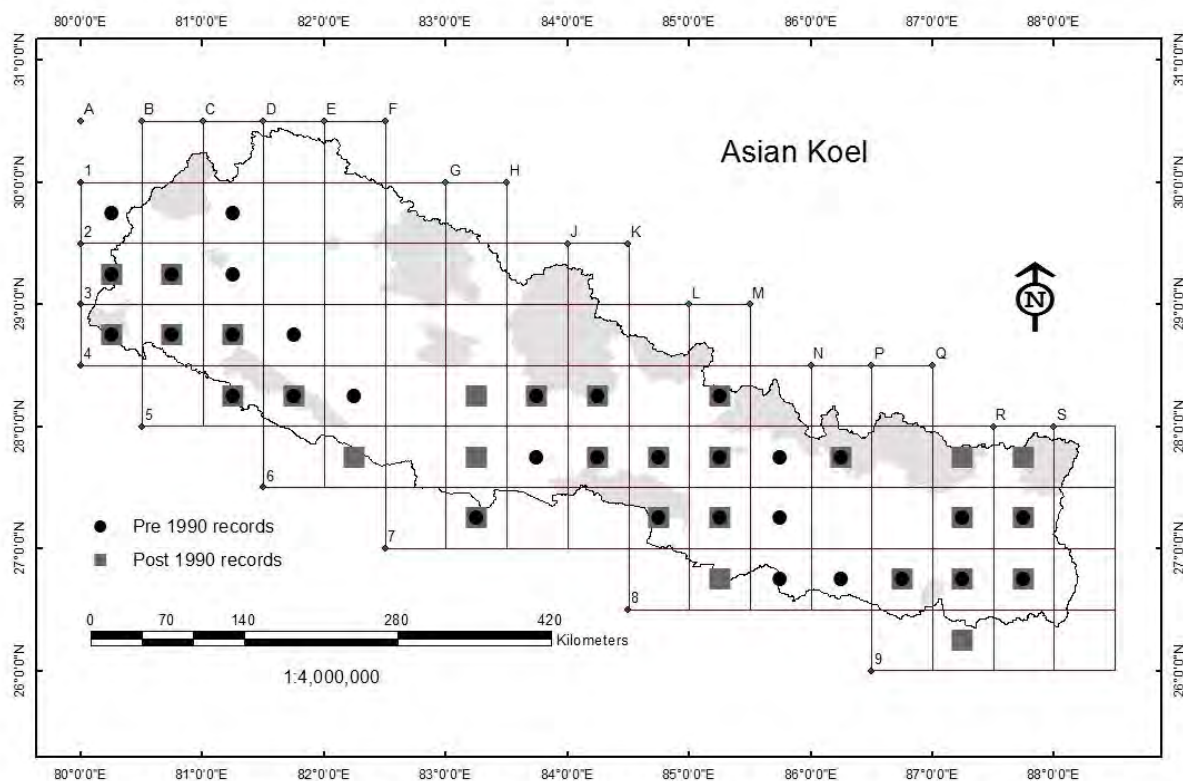
Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Asian Koel is a common and widespread resident and summer visitor. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to the lower Mai valley (Basnet and Sapkota 2006) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a common resident and summer visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was common throughout up to 1370 m; resident or possibly resident at lower altitudes and a summer visitor higher up.

Since 1990 the species' distribution has not changed significantly compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: a fairly common summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 20012); a rare summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a common summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and recorded in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Cox 2003). It is described as a frequent resident

on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) by SNP and BCN (2007), but other records indicate it is a summer visitor e.g. Mallalieu (2008). It has also been reported once in Nagarjun in January (post-1990, date details unknown (Hem Sagar Baral). The species is a rare summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009); a common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a); a common resident and summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Brown 1995) and in the Conservation Area without details by Thapa and Karki (2005).

It has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal (e.g. Baral 1996) and Barandabhar IBA (Ghimire 2009), and in Janakauli Community Forest (K6), Chitwan District (e.g. Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

The species has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat, see map and text below.

In the west records include: from Dadeldhura and Baitadi Districts (A3, B3) in May and June 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); lower Karnali basin along Bardia-Katarniaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Tikapur park (C5), Kailali District (Baral *et al.* 2013); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); between Chandi Bhanjyang, Palpa District and Kavri Dharmasala (G6), between Buachidi and Gwalichaur, Baglung District (G5) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); in Lumbini (G7) IBA, Rupendahi e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994), April 2009 (Hewatt 2009) and January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006); Bhairahawa (G6), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994), and Pokhara (H5), Kaski District e.g. in November 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004), January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005) and April 2009 (Hewatt 2009).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a common and widespread summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley: widespread in gardens and woodland within the city and at the base of the surrounding hills; mainly recorded from April to July; one male at Gokarna in February may have been an early migrant (Mallalieu 2008). Other localities include: Dhading (K6), Dhading District in April 2011 (Baral 2011); between Kutumsang and Patibhanjyang (L6), Sindhupalchok District in May 1992 (Baral 1992); common summer visitor to Chitlang forest (L6), Chandrigiri Range, Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* (1992); Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001); between Adarsha Community Forest and national forest, Chandi Khola, Rautahat District (L7) and Dudhaura Khola forest area (L7), Bara District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); between Sedhawa, Siraha District and - camp west of Lal Bakaiya Nadi, Bara District (L7), and between Gaur, Rautahat District and Sedhawa, Siraha District (L8) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include: Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District in September 1992 (Baral 1995); November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997); near Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); near Chewabesi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 2009 (Cox 2009); near Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in November 2007 (Baral 2007), May 2008 (Giri 2008) and September 2010 (Baral 2010a); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010b); Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007); Patnali, Dharan Forest Important Bird Area e.g. (Q8), Sunsari District in May 2008 (Giri 2008) and October 2010 (Baral 2010c); Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District (Jha and Subba 2013, Subba 1994); Panchthar District (R7) (White and White 1997); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010a), and the lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1370 m (-1800 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population survey of Asian Koel has been carried out. Single day totals recorded include: 26 in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and adjoining areas in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013); 16 at Lumbini, Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994) and 12 in Koshi Tappu Reserve in May 2011 (Baral 2011). The species' population is probably stable.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Asian Koel inhabits open woodland, groves, gardens, and cultivation (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). Typically, it keeps concealed in dense foliage when not feeding, although may sun itself from a tree-top in early morning. Usually it is seen when it flies hurriedly from one tree to another. Its flight is fast, strong and direct. Asian Koel feeds mainly on fruit and berries, especially of *Ficus*; also invertebrates and birds' eggs (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds largely on fruits and berries including banyan and peepul figs *Ficus* spp., also hairy caterpillars, bugs and various insects, eggs of small birds and flower nectar (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is brood-parasitic on House Crow *Corvus splendens* and Large-billed Crow *C. macrorhynchos* (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Asian Koel is threatened by the total loss of trees and bushes, but may benefit from forest thinning and the spread of urbanisation, as long as some trees and bushes are retained. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Asian Koel. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Asian Koel has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and widespread resident and summer visitor, recorded from the far west to the far east since 1990. There is no significant change in distribution post-1990, compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded in many protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. Asian Koel is threatened by the total loss of trees and bushes, but may benefit from forest thinning and the spread of urbanisation, as long as some trees and bushes are retained. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping. Its population is probably stable.

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Hierococcyx sparverioides (Vigors, 1832) LC

Subspecies: *Hierococcyx sparverioides sparverioides*



Common name

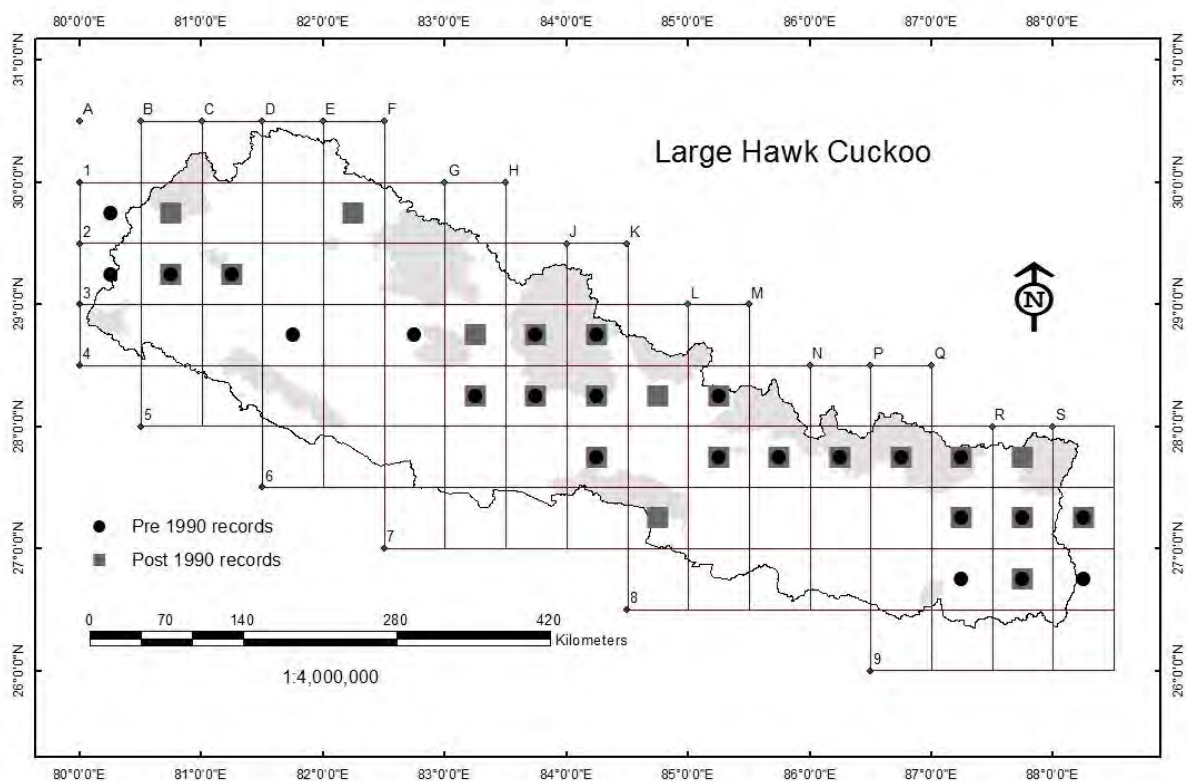
Large Hawk Cuckoo (English),

Pahadi Biu Kuhiyo, Golsimal (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae

Distribution



Large Hawk Cuckoo is a fairly common and widespread summer visitor; very rare in winter. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to the upper Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident and migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was mainly a fairly common summer visitor between 1830 m and 3000 m. There were also a few winter records: noted at 1800 m and 2460 m (Uprety 1968), and one was collected at 1830 m in Nuwakot District in January (Rand and Fleming 1957).

Since 1990 there has been no significant change in distribution, compared to pre-1990.

The species post-1990 status in protected areas is: fairly common summer visitor to Chameliya River valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a fairly common summer visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a rare summer visitor to Rara National Park (E2) (White and White 1995 in Giri 2005); a fairly common summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5) (Inskipp and

Inskipp 2003); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) (Shah 1998, Thakuri 2013a); a passage migrant in Chitwan National Park (J6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006, Malling Olsen 2004); a vagrant in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a fairly common summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007); a fairly common summer visitor to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); an occasionally recorded summer visitor to Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); a fairly common visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a), and a common summer visitor to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Inskipp *et al.* 2008, Katuwal *et al.* 2013).

The species has also been recorded in Langtang National Park buffer zone at Dhunche (L5), Rasuwa District in April 1992 (Baral 1992); in Sagarmatha National Park buffer zone at Lukla (P6) and Phakding (P6), Solukhumbu District in May 1993 (Baral 1996) and at a number of localities in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6), daily between 7 and 14 May and between 29 May and 4 June 2009 (Cox 2009).

The species has been recorded rather less widely and frequently outside the protected areas' system.

In the west localities include: daily at several localities in Dadelhdhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); between Lumsum and Deorali Thanti (G4), Myagdi District, between Palung, Dhola Khola and Archegaun, Dhola Khola (G4), Myagdi District in May 1999 (Cox 1999b) and at several localities in the upper Myagdi Khola valley (G4), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013b), and in Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District in March 2004 (Chaudhary 2004a).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was a common summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley, recorded on Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area and at Haatiban during April – June between 2004 and 2006). Records from other localities include: from between Patibhanjyang and Kutumsang (L6), Sindhupalchok District (Baral 1992); near Chisapani (L6), Nuwakot District in May 1999 (Choudhary 1999), and near Sermathang (M6) and Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004b).

In the east records include: from Dolakha District (N6) (Poulsen 1993); common summer visitor to Solu-Khumbu (P6) (Katuwal *et al.* 2013); between Chichila and Khandbari (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1991 (Halberg 1991); Tinjure forest (Q7), Terhathum District (Rai 2003); between Bhotebes and Mude (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a); ten between Chauki (Q7), Terhathum District and Gupha Pokhari (R7), Sankhuwasabha District and ten between Lali Kharka and Taplejung (R7), Taplejung District (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Ilam (R8), Ilam District in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998b), and recorded at Mai Majuwa (R7), Ilam District, Sidim (R7) Panchthar District and Hange Tham (S7), Ilam District, March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3000 m; lower limit: 1830 m (-150 m on passage)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Large Hawk Cuckoo. Maximum daily totals include: ten between Chauki (Q7), Terhathum District and Gupha Pokhari (R7), Sankhuwasabha District and ten between Lali Kharka and Taplejung (R7), Taplejung District (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); eight between Khalkhale and Dhure Camp, Dadelhdhura District on 25 May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); six on Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley in April 2007 (Baral 2007), and six between Tashigaon and Shunin Oral, Makalu Barun National Park in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b). The population is probably declining because of forest loss and degradation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Large Hawk Cuckoo inhabits broadleaved forests, usually oaks (Grimmett *et al.* 1998); oak-rhododendron forests in spring and summer (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It usually keeps well hidden among foliage of the forest canopy, even when calling. In flight it resembles an Accipiter, flying low with a few fast wing-beats followed by a glide and then rises up abruptly to land in a tree (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It parasitizes Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus* and other laughingthrushes (Fleming *et al.* 1976); also Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* and Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophris* (Becking 1981). Large Hawk Cuckoo is mainly a summer visitor, but there are a few winter records, e.g. singles recorded on Banderjhola Island, Chitwan National Park in December 2001 and in Dharan Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in December 2001 (Naylor *et al.* 2002), and in Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in February 2010 (Baral 2010). The species mainly feeds on caterpillars, including large hairy ones; also beetles, bugs, crickets, grasshoppers and hoppers of locusts, ants and spiders (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Large Hawk Cuckoo is threatened by forest loss and degradation; however, as it inhabits temperate forest in the breeding season, it is less at risk than species breeding at lower altitudes. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Large Hawk Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded in: Khaptad, Rara, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang, Sagarmatha and Makalu Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Manaslu, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and marginally in Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Large Hawk Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common and widespread summer visitor; very rare in winter, recorded from the far west to the far east since 1990. There has been no significant change in distribution, post-1990 compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded from many protected areas and rather less widely and rather less frequently outside the protected areas' system. Large Hawk Cuckoo is threatened by forest loss and degradation; however, as it inhabits temperate forest in the breeding season, it is less at risk than species breeding at lower altitudes. It may be threatened by hunting and trapping. As a result, its population has probably declined, but not to the extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Hierococcyx varius (Vahl, 1797) LC

Subspecies: *Hierococcyx varius varius*

Common Name

Common Hawk Cuckoo (English),

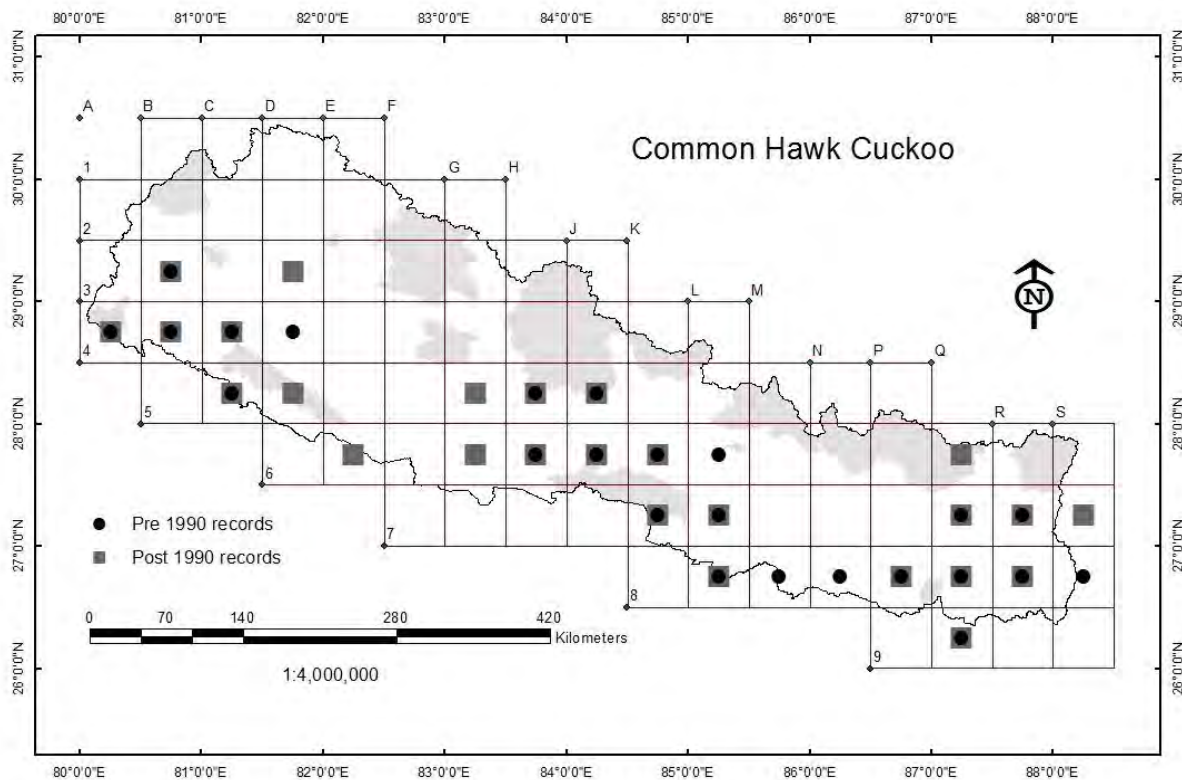
Biu Kuhiyo (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Common Hawk Cuckoo is a common and widespread resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Ilam District (Baral 2010c) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it a common resident and migrant. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a common resident from the terai up to 1000 m, but rarely found higher up. It was reported to breed in small numbers in the Kathmandu Valley in the 19th century (Scully 1879), but there are few later records from the Valley (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).

Since 1990 the species has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference between the species' distribution compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is: common in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009). It is described as a frequent summer visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001), but

other records e.g. in January 2001 (Chaudhary 2001) indicate it is resident there. The species was recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Acharya 2011, Baral *et al.* 2012); common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001). It is described as a rare summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park by SNP and BCN (2007), but no post-1990 records could be located. It has been recorded in Makalu-Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999a) and a fairly common resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005a).

The species was recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007); Chitwan National Park buffer zone: west of the park (H6), Nawalparasi District in February 2010 (Baral 2010a), Namuna Community Forest (H6), Nawalparasi District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009), Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar Important Bird Area (Baral 1996a, Giri 2010, Pradhan 2005), Janakauli Community Forest (K6), Chitwan District in March 2010 (Giri 2010) and Sauraha (K6), Chitwan District in January 2012 (Dymond 2012), and in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6, Q7) on several dates in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

The species has also been widely recorded outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat.

In the west records include: Dadeldhura District (B3) in May 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010: a fairly common resident in Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4) Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2007); Karnali basin, along Bardia-Kataniaghat corridor (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Tikapur Park (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Daurogaon and Beuli (D3), Kalikot District in March 1997 (Giri 1997); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); between Argali, Palpa District and Sidure, Gulmi District (G6) in May 1999 (Cox 1999b); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District e.g. in April 1993 (Baral 1994a) and February 2011 (Acharya 2011); recorded by the Tinau River (G7), Rupandehi District (Miller 2011); in the Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District e.g. in March 2004 (Chaudhary 2004), February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009), April 2009 (Hewatt 2009), and near Begnas Tal (J5), Kaski District in March 2009 (Baral 2009).

In central Nepal records include: from Upardanggadhi hills (J6), Chitwan District in January 2012 (Dymond 2012); one in Lazimpat, Kathmandu Valley (post-1990, date details unknown Hem Sagar Baral), between school west of Belwa, Bara District and Kat mandir (L7), Bara District, between Kat mandir, Bara District and forest camp north of E-W Highway (L7), between Sedhawa, Siraha District and camp west of Lal Bakaiya (L8), Rautahat District, and between camp west of Lal Bakaiya, Rautahat District and Kopuwa gau school (L8), Rautahat District in April 2003 (Cox 2003); Judibela Community Forest, Rautahat District (L7) and Adarsha Community Forest and national forest, Chandi Khola, Rautahat District (L7) in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013) and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include: Koshi Barrage (P8), Sunsari District e.g. in September 1992 (Baral 1993), November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997) and February 2005 (Baral 2005b); lower Arun valley (Q7) (White and White 1997); from Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District e.g. in February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), November 2007 (Baral 2007) and March 2010 (Baral 2010a); Kosi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8), Sunsari District in March 2010 (Baral 2010b); Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), also Basnet and Sapkota (2008) and Subba (1995); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); Chimdi Lake (Q8), Sunsari District (Surana *et al.* 2007); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); Patnali, Dharan Forest Important Bird Area in October 2010 (Baral 2010d); between Dobhan and Mitlung (R7), Taplejung District (Halberg 1994, Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Phidim and Sidim (R7), Panchthar District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008); lower Mai valley (R8) (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Dobate, Mabu (S7), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010c), and Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District in September 1994 (Baral 1994b, Jha and Subba 2013, Subba 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1000 m (-1500 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Common Hawk Cuckoo. Daily totals include: ten near Gaida, Chitwan National Park in April 1996 (Baral 1996b); nine in Adarsha Community Forest and national forest, Chandi Khola, Rautahat District (L7) in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013) and nine in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and adjoining areas in April 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2013). The species is possibly declining because of habitat loss and possibly also because of hunting and trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Common Hawk Cuckoo inhabits lightly wooded areas including gardens, cultivation and groves (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is a very noisy species and becomes more vocal in hot weather. Its habits are similar to those of Large Hawk Cuckoo *H. sparverioides* but it is more often seen because it inhabits less thickly wooded country (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Its monotonous scream is often repeated far into the night; it is silent in winter. The species is brood-parasitic on Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata* and allied species (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species mainly feeds on caterpillars and cutworms; also grasshoppers, locust hoppers, beetles, bugs, ants, winged termites, spiders and occasionally wild figs (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983).

Threats

Common Hawk Cuckoo is threatened by the complete loss of trees through urbanisation and intensive farming, although it may have benefited from forest thinning. It may also be threatened by hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Common Hawk Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia, Banke, Chitwan and Makalu Barun National Parks, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Common Hawk Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and widespread resident recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 it has been recorded in a number of protected areas and widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and in suitable habitat. It is threatened by the complete loss of trees through urbanisation and intensive farming, although it has probably benefited by forest thinning. It may also be threatened by hunting and trapping. Its population may be declining but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii (Lesson, 1830)

LC

Subspecies: *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii infuscatus*

Common name

Sirkeer Malkoha (English),

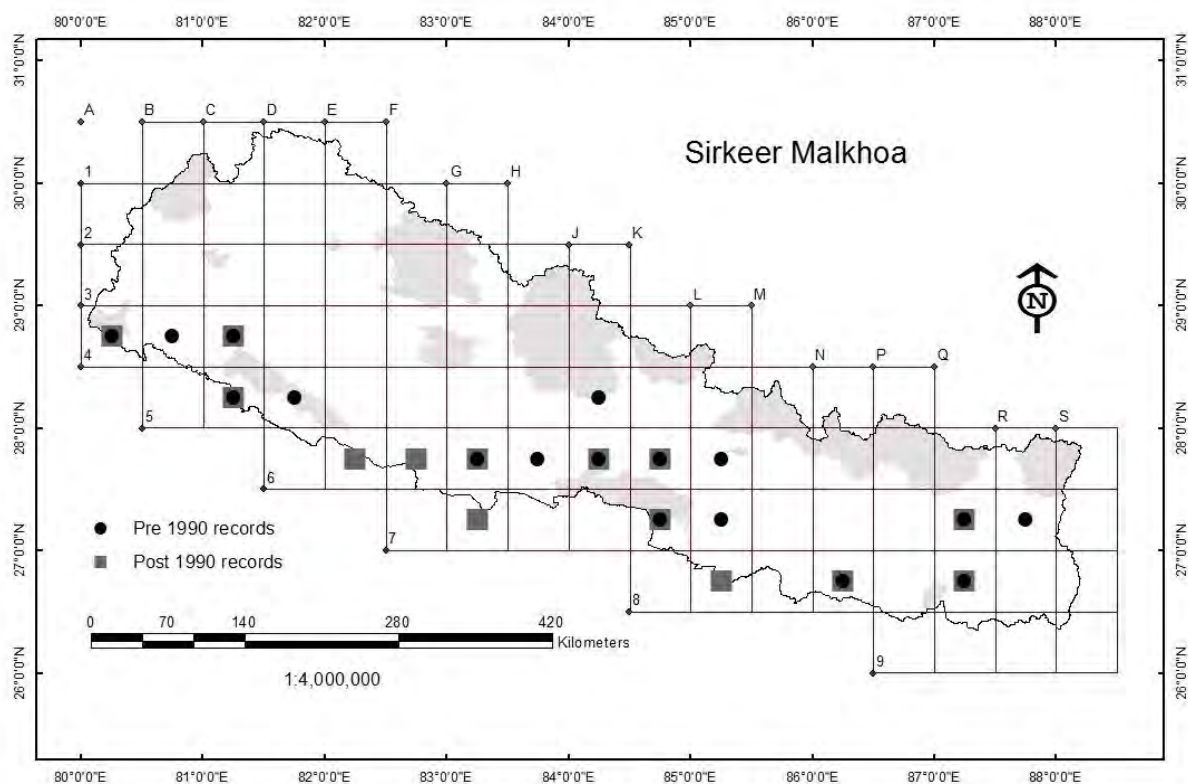
Nyauri Maalkauwaa (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Sirkeer Malkoha is a quite widespread resident in the lowlands and lower foothills; occasionally recorded in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and Bardia National Park in the far west and uncommon further east. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) east to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Baral 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a resident, occasionally recorded in the far west in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and Bardia National Park and uncommon further east.

Since 1990 the species distribution has increased a little in the west, probably because of better coverage, but has reduced a little in central Nepal; otherwise it has not changed significantly since pre-1990, see map and text below.

The species' post-1990 status in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) is described as fairly common by Baral and Inskipp (2009), but other records indicate it is frequent. Its status in other protected areas is: a frequent

resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001), and uncommon in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005).

Sirkeer Malkoha has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal in May 1993 (Baral 1994, 1996, Pradhan 2005); also in Barandabhar by Ghimire (2009).

The species is less widespread and less frequently recorded outside the protected areas' system, see map and text below.

In the west records include from: lower Karnali basin (C5), Bardia District (Singh 2007); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Surahi Khola, northern Kapilvastu District (F6) (Cox 2008); Lumbini (IBA) (G7), Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Baral 1994, Suwal et al. 2002), and by Telar and Tinau Rivers (G6), Rupandehi District (Miller 2011a,b).

In central Nepal records include from: between Kopuwa gau and Mewa gau school (L8), Rautahat District in April 2003 (Cox 2003), near Belkhu (500m), Dhading District (Hem Sagar Baral post 1990).

In the east records include from: Kamala valley (N8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); Tumlingtar and between Tumlingtar and Churiabesi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a), and Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in May 2000 (Giri 2000) and April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (-1370 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

Daily totals include: three in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b) and three in March 2011 (Chaudhary 2011); mainly one or two birds have been recorded in one day. Its population is probably declining as a result of habitat loss and possibly also due to hunting or trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Sirkeer Cuckoo inhabits sissoo and riverine scrub (Cox 2008); also bushy rocky places among thorn shrubs and acacia trees (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is largely terrestrial and stalks about the ground in search of food; sometimes it clambers among shrubs and small trees or hops from branch and branch. The species is quite shy, taking refuge in patches of dense cover when observed. It is a poor flier, often flapping laboriously from one bush to another (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds on caterpillars, locusts, grasshoppers, termites and other insects; fallen fruits and berries; lizards (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Sirkeer Malkoha is threatened by the removal of scrub caused by the spread of agriculture and urbanisation. It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping. Forest fire could be a risk to this species as it occurs in dry areas.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Sirkeer Malkoha. Since 1990 it has been

recorded in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves. Since 1990 the species distribution has increased a little in the west, probably because of better coverage, but has reduced a little in central Nepal; otherwise it has not changed significantly since pre-1990. Post-1990

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Sirkeer Malkoha has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a quite widespread resident in the lowlands recorded from the far west to the far east. The species is frequent in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve and Bardia National Park in the far west and uncommon further east. Since 1990 it has been recorded from several protected areas and is less widespread and less frequently recorded outside the protected areas' system. Sirkeer Malkoha is threatened by the removal of scrub caused by the spread of agriculture and urbanisation. It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping. Forest fire could be a threat to this species as it is mainly found in dry areas. As a result, its population is probably declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Phaenicophaeus tristis* (Lesson, 1830) LC**

Subspecies: *Phaenicophaeus tristis tristis*

Common Name

Green-billed Malkoha (English),

Harit Maalkauwaa (Nepali)

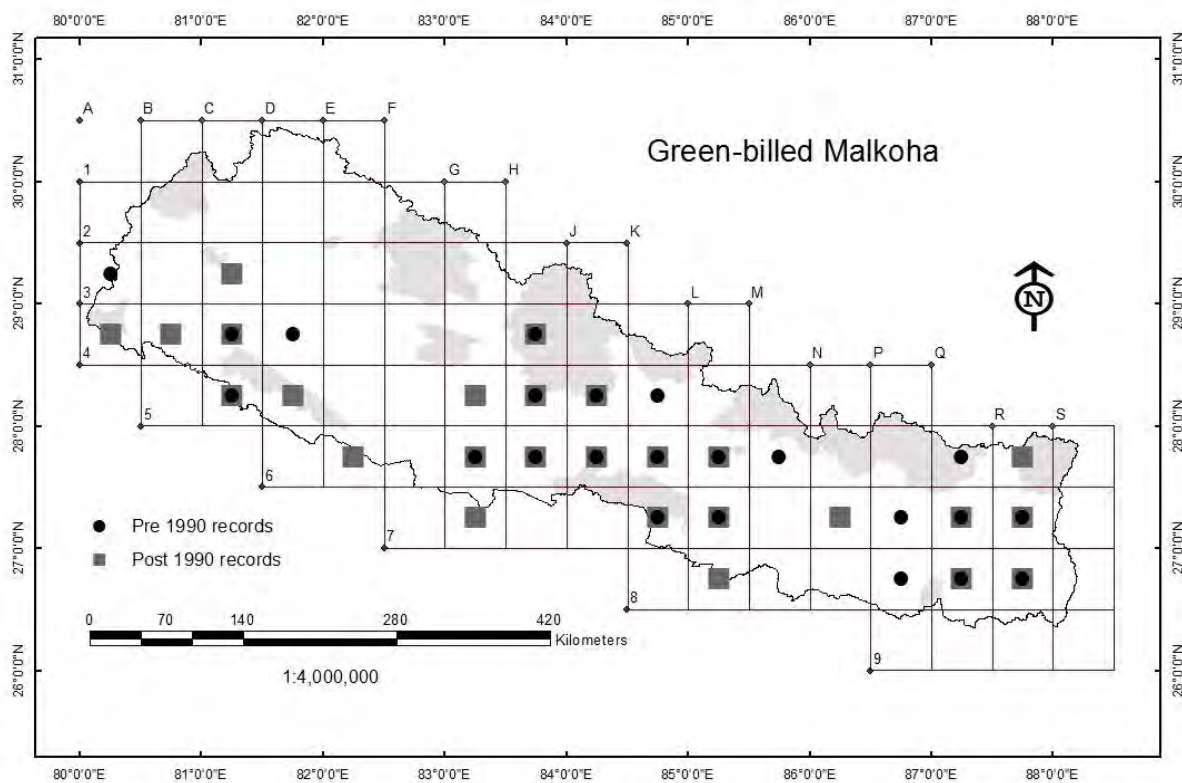
Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



RAJ MAN SINGH/BRIAN HODGSON

Distribution



Green-billed Malkoha is locally fairly common below 700 m, otherwise uncommon; resident at lower altitudes and a summer visitor higher up.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was fairly common up to about 700 m and uncommon at higher altitudes. It was resident at lower altitudes and a summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley, chiefly found between April and September.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution compared to pre-1990.

The species' post-1990 distribution in protected areas is: an uncommon resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009); a frequent summer visitor to Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) (Baral *et al.* 2012); an uncommon resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006) and in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a frequent resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007); an uncommon resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) without details by Brown (1995) and Thapa and Karki (2005).

The species has also been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the Khata corridor forest (C5), Bardia District (Choudhari 2007); Chitwan National Park buffer zone: in Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000); Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005); west of the park in Nawalparasi District (H6) in February 2010 (Baral 2010a), in Janakauli Community Forest (K6), Chitwan District in March 2010 (Giri 2010), and at Sauraha (K6), Chitwan District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

Green-billed Malkoha has also been quite widely recorded outside the protected areas' system since 1990, see map and text below.

In the west records include: occasionally recorded from the Ghodaghodi Lake area (B4), Kailali District (CSUWN and BCN 2012); Dang Deukhuri Foothill Forest Important Bird Area (E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002); between Kavri Dharmasala and Argali (G6), Palpa District in May 1999 and between Kaamla and Shivrati Khola, middle Myagdi Khola (G5), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999); Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Reshunga Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in December 2004 (Naylor and Giri 2004) and December 2008 (Naylor and Turner 2008); Banpale Danda (H5), Pokhara, Kaski District (Karki *et al.* 1997); near Begnas Tal (J5), Kaski District in March 2009 (Baral 2009), and between Pasgam, Libiyani and Rupatal (J5), Lamjung District in March 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was uncommon, perhaps resident, or early returning summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006: one at Bhasanthali in April 2006. However, the species is probably under-recorded in this report as it is considered regular in Pharping and Tokha (Hathan Chaudhary). Other records include: from Rampur valley (H6), Palpa District (Gautam 2003); Malekhu (K6), Dhading District in 1991 (Baral 1991); Chitlang Forest (L6), Chandrigiri Range, Makwanpur District (Manandhar *et al.* 1992); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013), and Bagmati valley (L8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012).

In the east records include: Kathare and Durga Community Forests (N7), Sindhuli District (Phuyal and Dhoubhadel 2007); from Tumlingtar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); between Tumlingtar and Gothe Bazaar (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011); between field house and fallow land south of Bumlingtar, Arun River and banyan tree at west bank of Arun River / Maruwabesi gau (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in June 2009 (Cox 2009); Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in October 2010 (Baral 2010b); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area in November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997) also Basnet and Sapkota (2008) and Subba (1995); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); lower Mai valley (R7), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006), and Chisapani (R8), Ilam District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2000 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Green-billed Malkoha. Daily totals include six near Gaida Camp, Chitwan National Park in September 1992 (Baral 1993) and five west of Chitwan National Park in the

park's buffer zone, Nawalparasi District in February 2010 (Baral 2010a). Its population is probably declining as a result of forest loss and degradation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Green-billed Malkoha inhabits dense forest and thickets (Grimmett *et al.* 2000). It is rather shy, usually keeping out of sight in dense tangles of vegetation and thickly foliated trees. It creeps and clammers unobtrusively through branches and low down in dense vegetation. Usually it only makes short labored flights from one thicket to another (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on large caterpillars and insects e.g. grasshoppers, mantids, and crickets; also lizards (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been confirmed in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983).

Threats

Green-billed Malkoha is threatened by forest degradation and loss in the tropical and subtropical zone. It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Green-billed Malkoha. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Chitwan Bardia, Banke and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks; Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Green-billed Malkoha has been assessed as Least Concern. It is locally fairly common below 700 m, otherwise uncommon; resident at lower altitudes and a summer visitor higher up. Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there has been no significant change in distribution compared to pre-1990. Post-1990 it has been recorded in a number of protected areas and also quite widely outside the protected areas' system in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range. Green-billed Malkoha is threatened by forest degradation and loss in the tropical and subtropical zone. It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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***Surniculus lugubris* (Horsfield, 1821) LC**

Subspecies: *Surniculus lugubris dicruroides*

Common Name

Drongo Cuckoo (English),

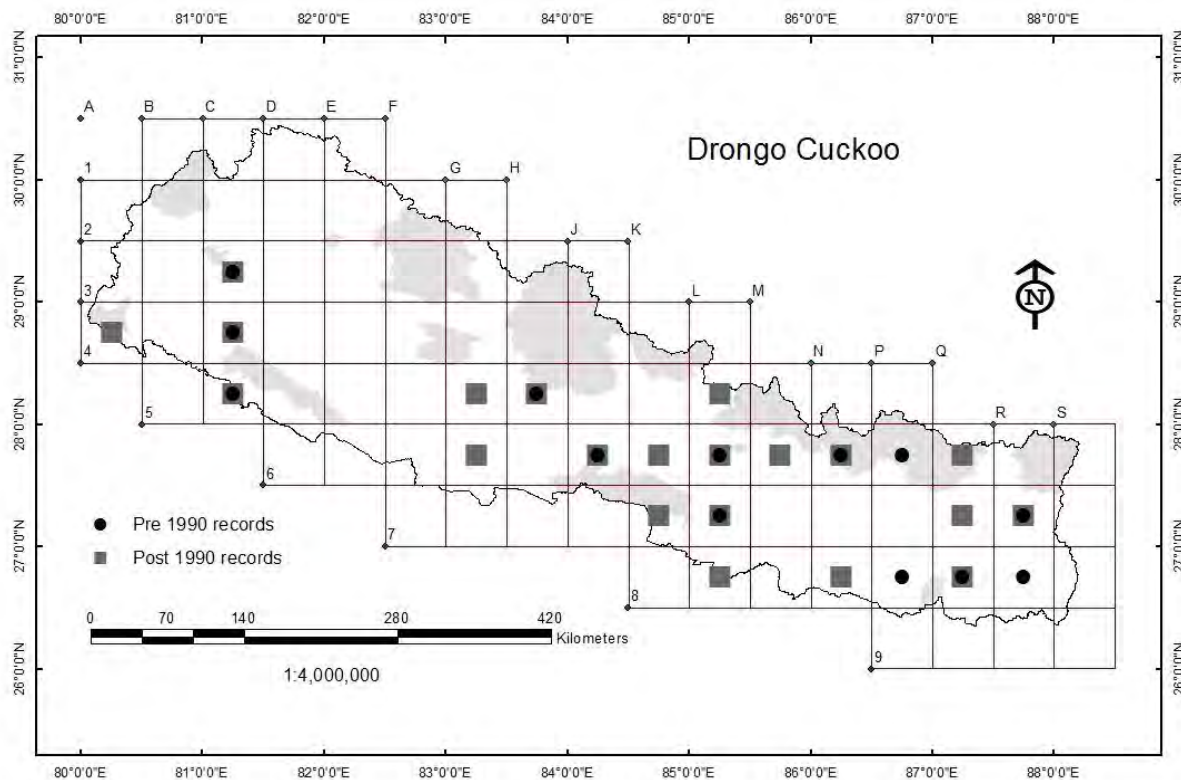
Chibe Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Drongo Cuckoo is a summer visitor, frequent or fairly common in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Panchthar District in the far east (White and White 1992).

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1839).

Since 1990 the species has been recorded significantly more widely than pre-1990, especially in west and central Nepal, possibly because of better coverage.

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident and summer visitor. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a local summer visitor, mainly occurring up to 1500 m. It was a common breeding bird in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983), fairly common in the Kathmandu Valley in spring (Fleming *et al.* 1976, Proud 1955) and there were mainly single reports from elsewhere.

The species' post-1990 distribution in protected areas is: a frequent summer visitor to Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009, Giri and Choudhary 1996) and a summer visitor to Khaptad National Park

(C3) (Chaudhary 2006). Inskipp (2001) described it as a common summer visitor to Bardia National Park (C4, C5), but other records indicate it is now frequent there. It is a frequent summer visitor to Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a fairly common summer visitor to Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); a summer visitor to Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a rare summer visitor to Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007) and to Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) (Baral and Shah 2009); a local visitor to Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (C. Carpenter *in litt.* to J. Cox Jr. in Cox 1999); a rare summer visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005), and recorded from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) without details by Thapa and Karki (2005).

The species has also been recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996, Pradhan 2005), Barandabhar Forest (Ghimire 2009), and Janakauli Community Forest (K6), Chitwan District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); also Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone at two localities along the Sankhu Khola (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in June 2009 (Cox 2009)

Since 1990 Drongo Cuckoo has been recorded rather less widely outside the protected areas' system, in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range.

In the west localities include: from Balewa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002), and Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in April 2009 (Hewatt 2009).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) reported it was an uncommon summer visitor to the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006: heard in spring at base of Chandrigiri hill on the Matatirtha side, April to May 2005 and 2006. The species was previously commonly heard March to May and noted from Godaveri, Tokha and Nagarjun (Mallalieu 2008). The species was once heard in Nagarkot (M6), Bhaktapur District (date unknown) (Hem Sagar Baral). Other localities include: Narayangadh (K6), Chitwan District in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004); between Kat Mandir, Bara District and Forest camp north of E-W Highway (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003), and in the Bagmati valley (L8) and Kamalal valley (N8) in July 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012).

In the east records include: between Bhotebesi and Mude (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 1998 (Chaudhary 1998); at two localities in Sankhuwasabha District (Q7) in May 2009 (Cox 2009); Patnali, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), Sunsari District in May 2008 (Giri 2008), also recorded there by Subba (1995); recorded in Dharan Forests in November 2012 (Sanjeev Acharya); Dobhan (R7), Taplejung District in May 1994 (Halberg 1994); between Dobhan and Mitlung (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008), and recorded in Panchthar District (R7) in May 1992 (White and White 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1500 m (-2000 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out specifically for Drongo Cuckoo. Daily totals include: 12 in Churia Harda, Chitwan National Park and six in the park in May 2011 (Baral 2011). Its population is possibly stable or may be declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Drongo Cuckoo inhabits forest edges and clearings and groves (Grimmett *et al.* 2000); in open groves at the top of tall trees (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It resembles a drongo, especially when perched upright, but is less active

and flies like a cuckoo. It has a habit of perching on a bare branch when calling, but otherwise usually keeps in the canopy foliage of trees and bushes (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is brood-parasitic on minivets and drongos (Fleming *et al.* 1976); also on Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis* (Becking 1981). The species feeds on hairy and other caterpillars, soft-bodied insects, and occasionally fruit e.g. banyan and peepul figs *Ficus* spp. (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983).

Threats

Drongo Cuckoo is threatened by the complete loss of forest and groves; although it can adapt to some forest thinning. It may also be threatened by hunting and trapping. As it inhabits the tropical and subtropical zones, it is more at risk than species at higher altitudes.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Drongo Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Bardia, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Drongo Cuckoo has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a summer visitor, occasionally recorded or fairly common in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 the species has been recorded significantly more widely than pre-1990, especially in west and central Nepal, possibly because of better coverage. It has been recorded from a number of protected areas and rather less widely outside the protected areas' system, in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range. It is threatened by the complete loss of forest and groves; although it can adapt to some forest thinning. It may also be threatened by hunting and trapping. As it inhabits the tropical and subtropical zones, it is more at risk than species at higher altitudes. Its population may be stable or possibly declining.

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***Hierococcyx fugax* (Horsfield 1821) DD**

Subspecies: *Hierococcyx fugax fugax*

Common Name

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo (English),

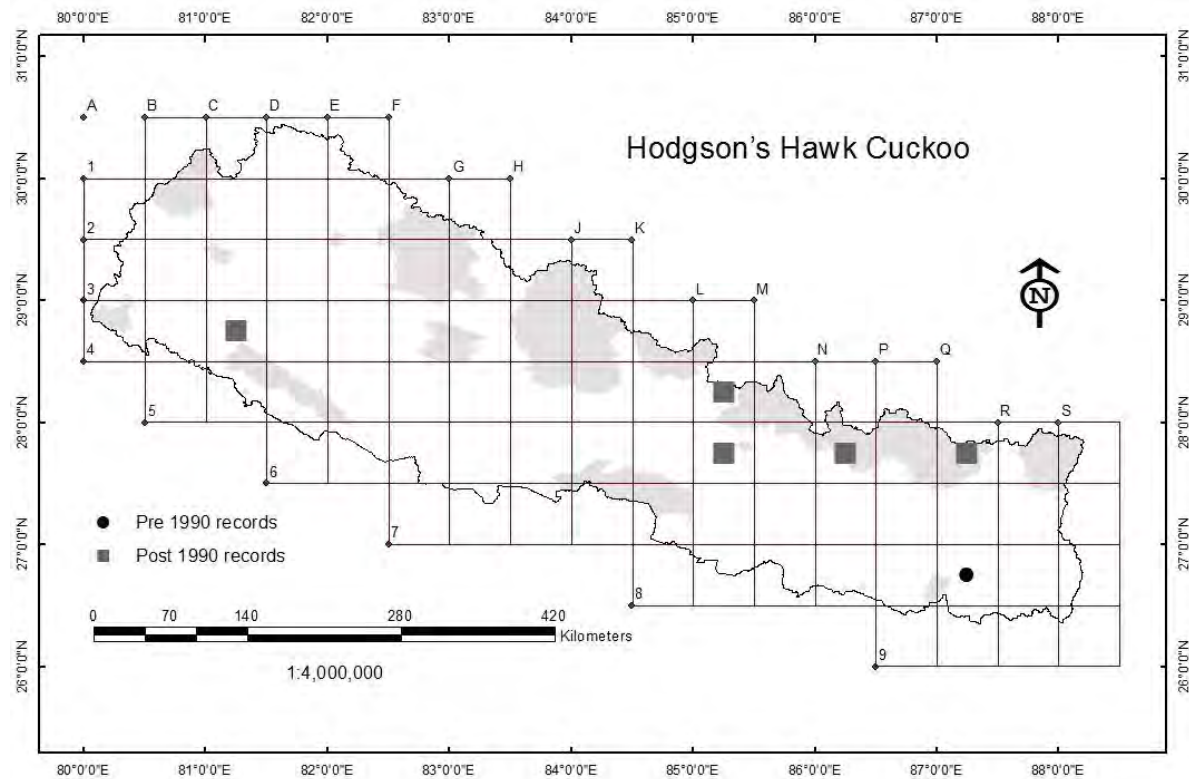
Papiha Koili (Nepali)

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae



Distribution



Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo is a rare and local summer visitor so far recorded in the east and very locally in central Nepal. One record from the far west, near Chisapani, Bardia National Park (Tika Giri and Naturetrek clients 2013) is the most westerly record for the species. However, it has probably been overlooked.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century from the lower hills (Hodgson 1829, 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) noted the 19th century records. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported only one other pre-1990 record, one seen at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in March 1988 (Heinen 1988).

In the west one was photographed in November 2013 near Chisapani (C4), Bardia National Park buffer zone (Tika Giri and Naturetrek clients 2013).

In central Nepal single birds were heard in Langtang National Park between Ghore Tabela and Bamboo Lodge and between Bamboo Lodge and Syabru in May 1997 (Robson 1997). Singles were recorded in the Kathmandu Valley in the Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in April 2006 (Baral 2006, Basnet 2007, Inskipp 2006, Mallalieu 2008) and in March 2013 (Hathan Choudhary) and also in Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in April 2009 (Giri and Choudhary 2009). These Kathmandu Valley records were probably passage migrants. One was also recorded in the Tamakoshi River valley in Gaurishankar Conservation Area in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009, Giri and Choudhary 2009).

In the east the species was found to be a regular summer visitor to the Sisuwa and Sankhola river valleys in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in June 2002 (P6, Q6) (Cox 2005). On a 2009 visit one was recorded above Saisima, Apuswa Khola valley, Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) in May and the species was again recorded in the park buffer zone: single birds in the Pikhwa Khola valley, on the Pikhwa Danda and the north face of the Chitre Danda in the Sankhuwa Khola valley on seven dates in May and June and two on the north face of the Chitre Danda (Q6) in June (Q6) (Cox 2009).

Globally the species has also been recorded in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1780 m; lower limit: 930 m (-75 m on passage)

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo. The population is small and is probably in decline because of habitat loss and degradation.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo was recorded in dense moist broad leaf forest, dense forest of mixed evergreen broadleaves and Nepal Screw pine *Pandanus nivalensis*, and scrub forest in the subtropical zone in Makalu Barun National Park and buffer zone. It is a secretive species, especially when not calling (Cox 2005). The species favours low levels in trees and bushes, but may move higher when calling. It has a very distinctive shrill, thin call: *gee-whiz.... gee-whiz...* etc repeated up to 20 times and becoming more frantic and high-pitched. Its breeding is very poorly known in the subcontinent (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species feeds on caterpillars, cicadas and other insects; also fruits and berries (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo is threatened by loss and degradation of its subtropical forest habitat. This habitat is especially threatened in Nepal (Inskipp 1989). It may also be at risk from hunting and trapping.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo. Since 1990 it has been recorded rarely in Makalu Barun and Langtang National Parks and Gaurishankar Conservation Area and regularly from Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone.

Regional IUCN status

Data Deficient (DD); its Global Red List status is Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo has been assessed as Data Deficient. It is a rare and local summer visitor, although probably overlooked, despite its distinctive call. The species has been recorded regularly in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone and rarely elsewhere. Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo is threatened by loss and degradation of its subtropical forest habitat which is especially threatened in Nepal. The species may also be at risk from hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining.

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http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/inskip/1997_006.pdf

Strigiformes



Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica*
Raj Man Singh / Brian Hodgson

Bubo coromandus (Latham, 1790) CR

Subspecies: *Bubo coromandus coromandus*

Common Name

Dusky Eagle Owl (English),

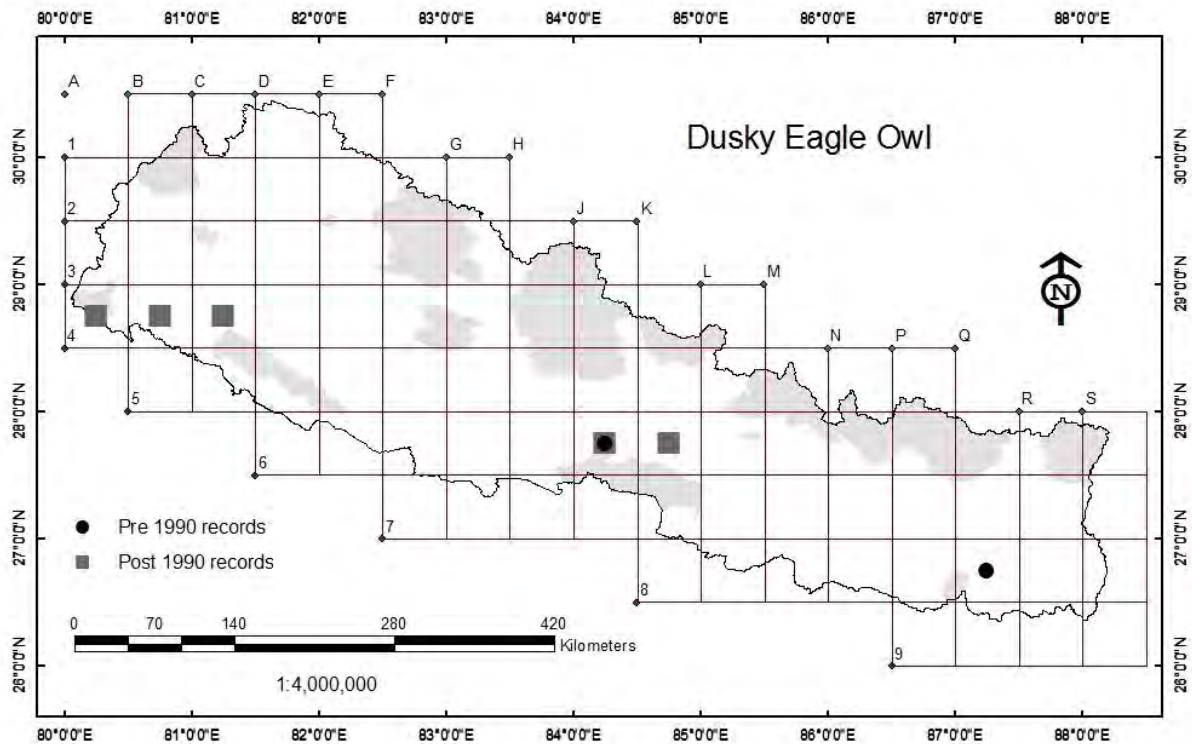
Bhasoluk (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Dusky Eagle Owl is a very rare and very local resident.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837) from the terai and lower hills (Hodgson 1829).

In 1976 it was found to be a breeding resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Dahmer 1976a,b), but there are no later records from the reserve.

The species has been reported several times from Chitwan National Park: singles in 1988 (Tyler 1988, Vyas 1988); from April to November 1992 (Baral 1992), a pair near Tiger Tops Tented Camp from 1991 to 1995, one in the park in February 1996 (Harrap 1996) and two heard regularly in Island Park. The species was also recorded near Sauraha, Chitwan District in the park buffer zone from 1987-2010 (Suchit Basnet *verbally* 2010).

In Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve two were seen in March 1997 (Giri and Choudhary 1997) and singles in 2000 (Shankar Tiwari), December 2002 (Baral *et al.* 2002), February 2009 (Giri 2009), and in 2010 (Som GC), also at Rani Tal in November 2011 (Tika Giri) and two there in March 2012 (Tika Giri).

In Bardia National Park one was found on a nest in Baghaura Phanta in January 2003 (Giri and Choudhary 2003, three were seen in the park in January 2008 (Shahi 2010) and two in September 2012 (Ram Shahi).

The only other known locality is Ghodaghodi Tal, Kailali District where two were seen in June 2009 (Badri Chaudhary) and two in January 2010 (Hem Sagar Baral).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, China (mainland), India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 300 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Dusky Eagle Owl, but records indicate that numbers must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 10; maximum population: 40

Habitat and Ecology

Dusky Eagle Owl inhabits thickly foliaged trees near water in the lowlands. It generally roosts by day in a shady tree or sometimes in a thicket, usually emerging at dusk, although it sometimes hunts in daylight, especially in cloudy weather (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is likely to be easily overlooked because of its secretive and crepuscular habits, although it can be detected by its call at night. It preys on small mammals, birds, reptiles, large insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Dusky Eagle Owl is highly threatened by forest loss and degradation, and also by illegal hunting in protected areas and by over-hunting outside the protected area system, also trapping for the wildlife trade.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Dusky Eagle Owl. Almost all records have been from with the protected areas' system: Chitwan and Bardia National Parks and Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2cd, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Dusky Eagle Owl has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2cd and D1. The species is a very rare and very local resident. Almost all records have been from within the protected areas' system. The species is seriously threatened by forest loss and degradation, and also by illegal hunting in protected areas and over-hunting outside the protected areas' system; also by trapping for the wildlife trade. The lack of records indicates that the population must be very small.

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***Ketupa flavipes* (Hodgson, 1836) CR**

Common Name

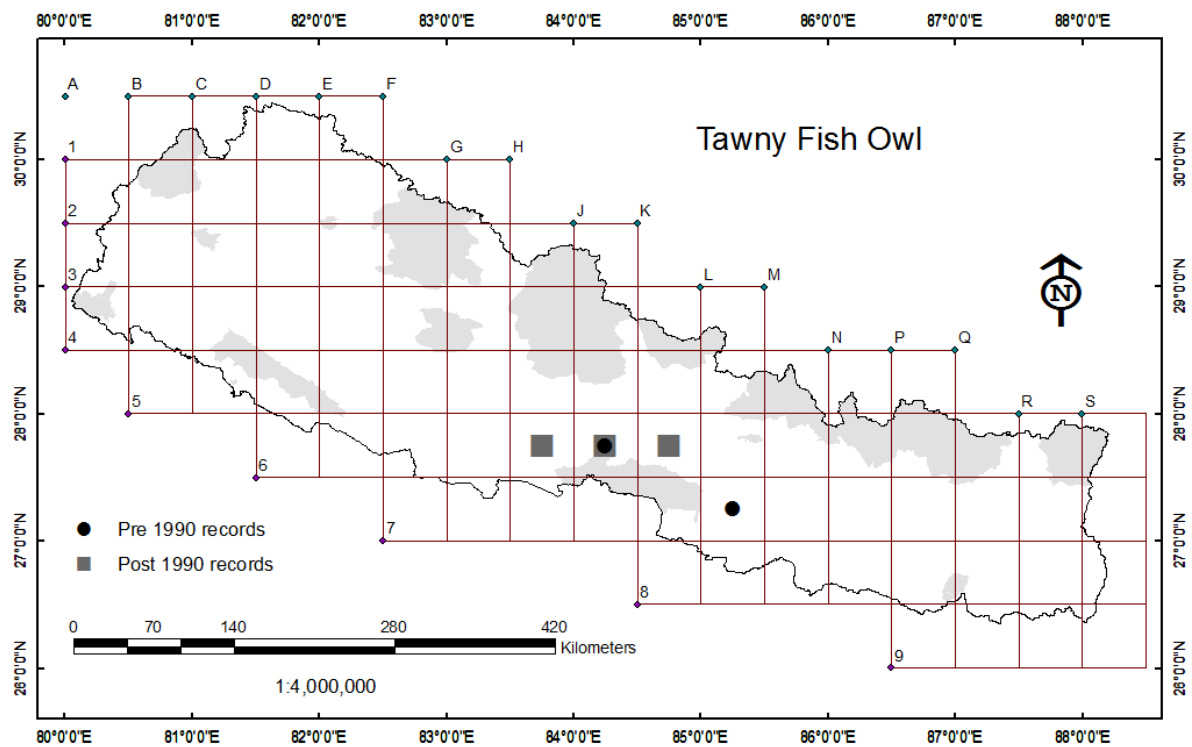
Tawny Fish Owl (English),
Kailo Malaha Hoochil (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
Family: Strigidae



RAJ MAN SINGH/
BRIAN HODGSON

Distribution



Tawny Fish Owl is a very rare and very local resident.

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836, Warren 1966); six specimens were collected from the lower hills (Hodgson 1829). One was collected at Bhugwada (location unknown) in November 1920 (Abdulali 1972). An adult and two juveniles were collected in May and June 1947 at Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1961), but there are no later reports from the area.

Almost all other known records including all recent records are from Chitwan National Park and the park buffer zone. In the park it has been recorded in October/ November 1978 (Thiollay 1978, 1980), and singles in the Tiger Tops area in August 1999, October 2000 (Chaudhary 2004), and April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004). In the park buffer zone singles were found in March 2001 (Giri and Choudhary 2001) and May 2003 (Cox 2003) near Sauraha, Chitwan District, and in Janakauli Community Forest, Sauraha in February 2014 (Tika Ram Giri and Anil Gurung pers. comm. to C. Inskipp, March 2015); also in Namuna Community Forest, Nawalparasi District (Chaudhary 2007).

Globally the species has also been found in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar,

Taiwan (China), Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 305 m; lower limit: 250 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Tawny Fish Owl. Even bearing in mind that it can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and lack of suitable remaining habitat indicate that its population must be very small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 20

Habitat and Ecology

Tawny Fish Owl occurs in heavy broadleaved tropical forest in ravines, and banks of streams, rivers and pools (Grimmett et al. 1998). It is crepuscular and partially diurnal, sometimes fishing in daylight (Ali and Ripley 1987). Tawny Fish Owl preys chiefly on fish, crabs, lizards and large insects; rodents have also been recorded (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident (Grimmett et al. 1998).

Threats

Tawny Fish Owl is seriously threatened. Its forest habitat is now much reduced and fragmented (Inskipp 1989). It is also at risk from food shortage caused by illegal fishing in protected areas and overfishing outside the protected areas system, also by fish poisoning, and by trapping for the wild bird trade.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Tawny Fish Owl. It has recently been recorded from Chitwan National Park and the park buffer zone.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2acde, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Tawny Fish Owl has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2acde and D1. It is now very rare and very local. All recent records are from Chitwan National Park and the buffer zone. The species is seriously threatened by a combination of loss and depletion of its heavy broadleaved tropical forest habitat which is now very reduced and fragmented, food shortage caused by illegal fishing in protected areas and overfishing outside the protected areas' system, also by fish poisoning, and by hunting and trapping for the wildlife trade. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and lack of suitable remaining habitat indicate that its population must be very small.

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Tyto longimembris (Jerdon, 1839) CR

Subspecies: *Tyto longimembris longimembris*

Common Name

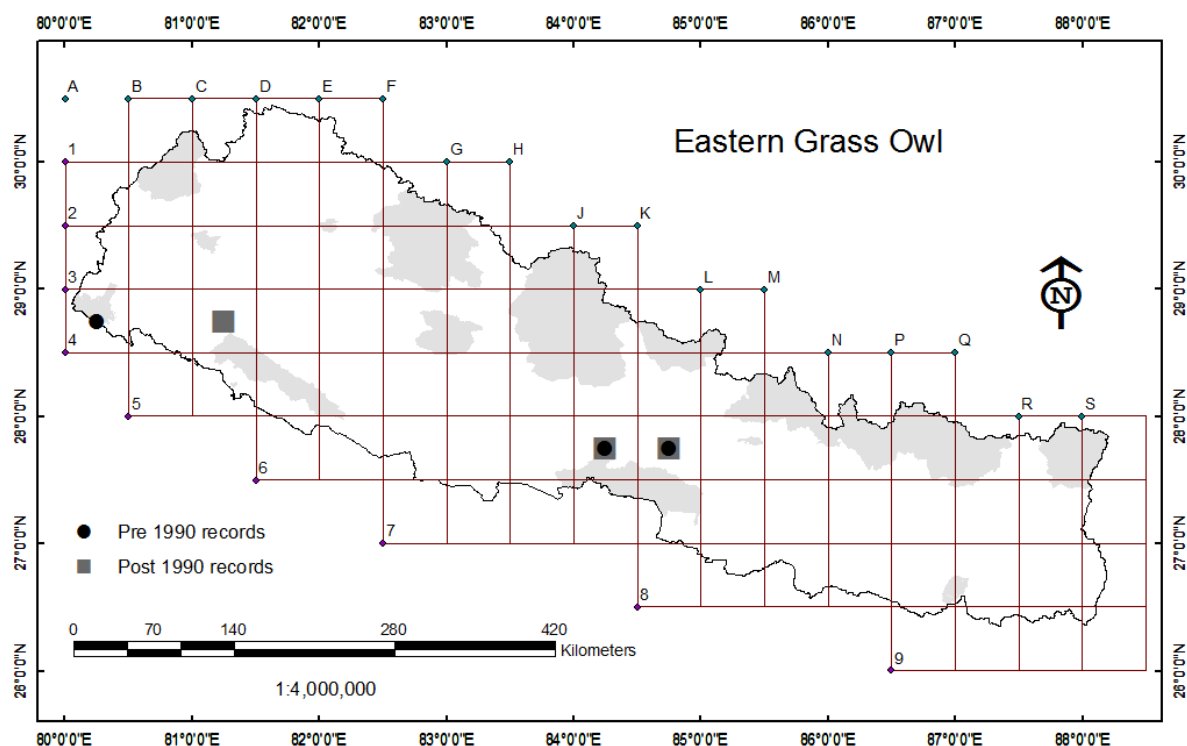
Eastern Grass Owl (English),
Ghaanse Latokosero (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Tytonidae



Distribution



Eastern Grass Owl is a very rare and very local resident. The first Nepal record of the species was in November 1964; an owlet purchased from Tharus west of the Narayani River, Chitwan National Park (Fleming and Traylor 1968).

Gurung (1983) described it as an uncommon, breeding resident in Chitwan National Park; Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported it from tall grass along rivers in the vicinity of Tiger Tops. Later records of Eastern Grass Owl from the park include singles in: 1986 (Holt *et al.* 1986), 1987 Gawn (1987), February 1996 (Choudhary 1996), and June 2001 and October 2002 (Chaudhary 2004). In October 2006, two birds were sighted at Reu Rapti confluence (Kalu Ram Tamang) and two birds were sighted in 2008 in same place (Hathan Chaudhary).

The species was formerly recorded at Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Schaaf *et al.* 1980), but there are no later records from the reserve. In Bardia National Park one was flushed in the late 1990s (Sukra Kumal *verbally* to C. and T. Inskipp April 2001) and an injured bird was found in Bardia National Park in 2011 (Bhim Ghimire, Bharat Subba)

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Bangladesh, China (mainland), Fiji, Hong Kong

(China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, New Caledonia (to France), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 225 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No population surveys have been carried out for Eastern Grass Owl. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the number of observations and a consideration of the small area of its highly threatened habitat indicate that numbers must be extremely small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: 10

Habitat and Ecology

Eastern Grass Owl frequents tall lowland grassland. It preys on mice, locusts, grasshoppers and cicadas (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is crepuscular and nocturnal and spends the day roosting in tall grass (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), and so may be under-recorded. Nests have been found on the ground in late October in Chitwan National Park (Fleming *et al.* 1976). The species is resident (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

The species is threatened by degradation of grasslands within protected areas, caused by inappropriate management such as untimely cutting and burning, and (in Chitwan National Park) by the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha* which can smother grasslands. In some parts of protected areas it also suffers from inadequate protection, resulting in overgrazing, which has led to grassland degradation. The very small extent of lowland grassland that remains outside protected areas is highly threatened by overgrazing, cutting, burning and disturbance. Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing. Eastern Grass Owl is also potentially threatened by hunting and trapping for the wild bird trade which is illegal within the protected areas' system.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Eastern Grass Owl. All records have been from protected areas: Chitwan and Bardia National Parks and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Critically Endangered (CR A2cd, D1) upgraded from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Eastern Grass Owl has been assessed as Critically Endangered based on the criteria A2cd and D1. The species is a very rare and very local resident. All records have been from protected areas. The species is threatened by degradation of lowland grasslands within protected areas caused by untimely cutting and burning, and the invasive alien *Mikania micrantha* which can smother grasslands. Pressure on lowland grasslands is increasing. Any owls that may occur outside the protected areas' system are highly threatened by habitat loss. The wild bird trade is also a potential threat to the species. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked and

so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of the small area of its highly threatened habitat indicate that numbers must be very small.

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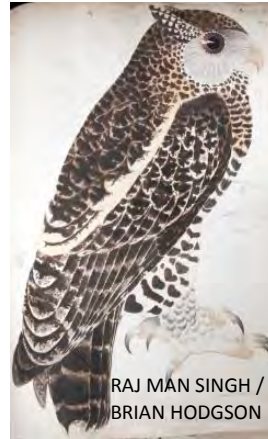
Bubo nipalensis Hodgson, 1836 EN

Subspecies: *Bubo nipalensis nipalensis*

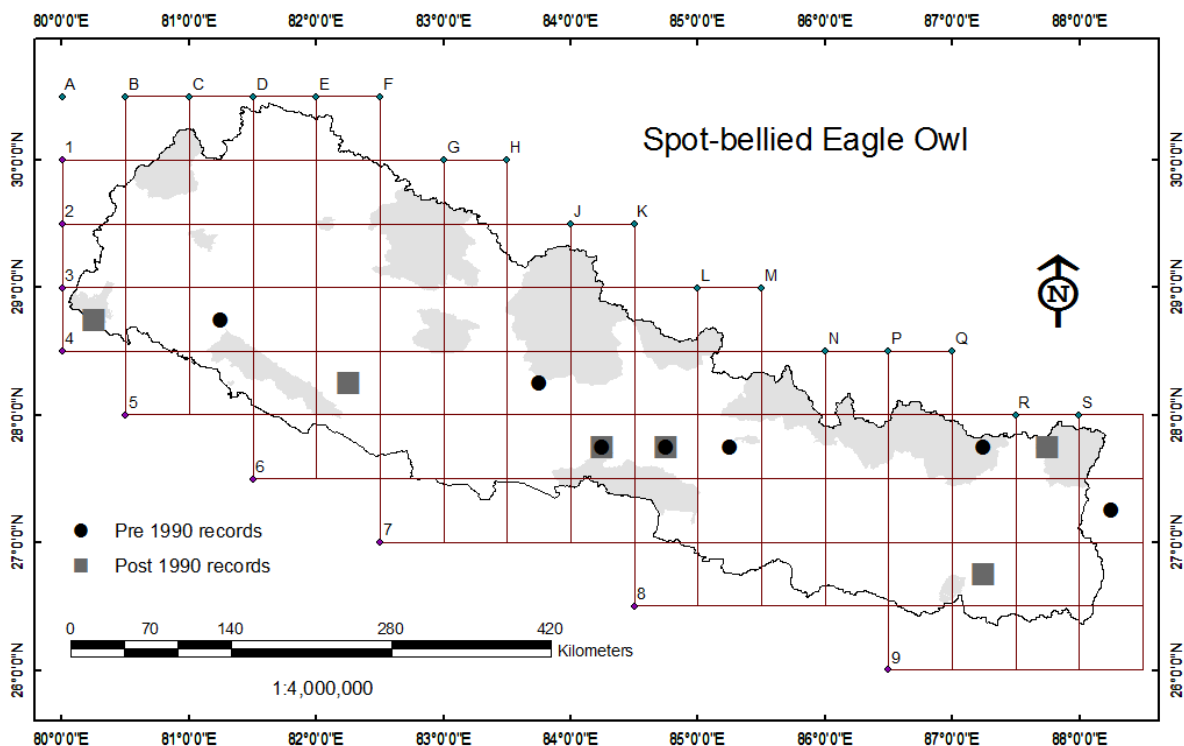
Common Name

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl (English),
Mahaakaushik (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Spot-bellied Eagle Owl is a rare and local resident.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836, Warren 1966) at Gokarna, Kathmandu Valley in December (year unknown) and in the lower, central and northern hills (years and localities unknown) (Hodgson 1829). The species was seen again at Gokarna in February 1984 (Hurrell 1988). A pair was found on Sheopuri top, Kathmandu Valley in 1877 (further date details unknown) (Scully 1879). Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported a few sightings from Nagarjung, e.g. Murphy (1979). There are no known records for the Valley since 1990.

The species was also recorded from four other areas pre-1990 where it has not been found subsequently. A nestling was taken in April 1912 in the upper Mai valley, Ilam District (Stevens 1925); the species was reported south of Annapurna in what is now the Annapurna Conservation Area in 1977 (Thiollay 1980); at Shyaksila Toten, Barun valley in what is now the Makalu Barun National Park in November 1984 (Nepali 1984), and in Bardia National Park (Wangdi 1988), but there are no later records from these areas.

Gunung (1983) described it as an uncommon resident, with breeding confirmed, in Chitwan National Park. Since 1990 singles have been recorded from at least four localities in the park: in January 1993 (Tarrant and

Tarrant 1993), March 1994 (Zerning and Braasch 1995), February 1997 (Choudhary 1997), regularly recorded between December 1999 and August 2003 (Chaudhary 2004), two recorded in November 2000 (Basnet and Dowling 2000), one in 2005 in the east of the park (Suchit Basnet verbally 2010), one in April 2007 (Byskov 2007), two in March 2008 (GC 2010) and two in March 2010 (Chaudhary 2010).

A juvenile was seen in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in April 1996 (Giri and Choudhary 1997) and single adults there in March 1997 (Giri 1997) and February 1999 (Som GC in litt. 2004). The species has also been recently recorded near Janta Community Forest, 9 km east of Dharan, in the Morang Siwalik Hills in April 1998 (Basnet 2003, Y. R. Basnet *in litt.* February 2004), in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (no other details available) (Thapa and Karki 2005), and one from Dang Deukhuri IBA, Dang District in January 2009 (Thakuri 2009a,b; 2010).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2150 m; lower limit: 250 m

Population

No population survey has been carried out for Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, and although it is likely to be overlooked, the limited extent of suitable habitat indicates that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 50; maximum population: 250

Habitat and Ecology

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl inhabits dense broadleaved evergreen and dense, moist deciduous forests in the tropical, subtropical and temperate zones (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It preys chiefly on game birds, also jackals, hares, fawns of Indian Muntjac and lizards, snakes and fish (Ali and Ripley 1987). The species is resident and is largely nocturnal, hiding by day among dense foliage in deep forest or thickly wooded valleys (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) so is easily overlooked, although it can be detected at night by its call. The species is resident (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) and is not known to undertake movements.

Threats

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl is seriously threatened by loss and depletion of its forest habitat which is now of limited extent (Inskipp 1989), and also hunting and trapping for the wild bird trade.

Conservation Measures

The species has recently been recorded from four localities in Chitwan National Park, in the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Endangered (EN A2cd, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl has been assessed as Endangered based on the criteria A2cd and D1. It is a rare and local resident. The species was formerly reported from three localities in the Kathmandu Valley, but there are no known records from the Valley since at least 1990. It was also recorded from four other areas pre-1990 where it has not been found subsequently. However, population changes based on the above are difficult to assess as the species can be easily overlooked because of its nocturnal habits, although it can be detected at night by its call. Recently it has been recorded from three protected areas: Chitwan National Park, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, as well as two other localities. The species is seriously threatened by loss and depletion of its dense broadleaved evergreen and dense moist deciduous forests in the tropical, subtropical and temperate zones. Hunting and trapping for the wild bird trade are additional threats to the species. Its population is considered to be small based on the known records of the species and the limited and declining extent of its habitat.

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Asio flammeus (Pontoppidan, 1763) **VU**

Subspecies: *Asio flammeus flammeus*

Common Name

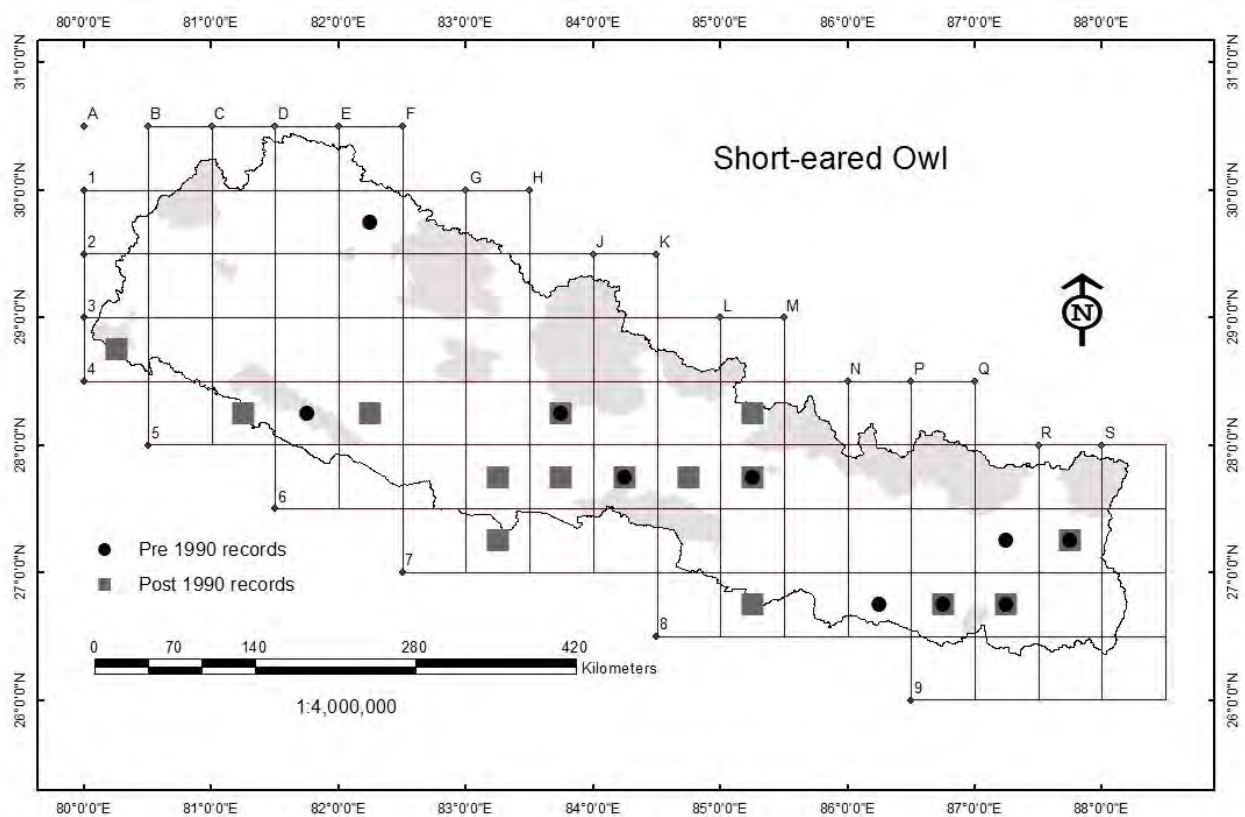
Short-eared Owl (English),
Laghukarna Latokosero (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Short-eared Owl is a winter visitor and passage migrant, regularly recorded in the Koshi area and very uncommon or rare elsewhere. Since 1990, it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Dhiraj Chaudhary and Tika Giri) in the far west to Suketar, Taplejung District (Bräunlich and Oehlschlaeger 1992) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837) when it was described as the common field owl of the Kathmandu Valley (Hodgson 1829).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described the species as an occasionally recorded resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) noted it as an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

The species' post-1990 status in protected areas is listed as rare, possibly a winter visitor or passage migrant in Annapurna Conservation Area (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003), a rare migrant in Langtang National Park (Karki and

Thapa 2001) and rare in Chitwan National Park (J6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006), but no post-1990 records could be located. One was recorded in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in February 2013 (Tika Giri and Dhiraj Chaudhary). It is uncommon, possibly a winter visitor to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005) – singles in December 1996 and January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997), February 1997 (Betton 1997) and February 2007 (Choudhary 2007); also probably a passage migrant as 11 were recorded in April 2012 by Baral *et al.* (2013). Singles were recorded from Bardia National Park buffer zone at Thakurdwara in December 2013 (Ramdin Mahato) and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Meghauli in November/December 2012. (Ashik Gurung); Namuna Community Forest in 2013 (DB Chaudhary and Kewal Chaudhary); in Papariya grassland in November 2013 (TB Gurung and Hari Lama), and at Jagatpur, in March 2015 (Badri Chaudhary).

There are a number of post-1990 records of the species outside the protected area system, mainly from the east.

In the west: singles were recorded from the Rapti River grasslands (E5), Dang Deukhuri District in November 2006 (Cox 2008); one at Jagdishpur Kapilvastu District in 2008 (Dinesh Giri); from Lumbini IBA G7), Rupandehi District in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006) and one bird each year in Lumbini paddyfields, Rupandehi District, 2007-10 (Dinesh Giri)

In central Nepal singles were recorded by the Manora River, Kathmandu Valley in November 1992 (Murphy and Waller 1992), on Saibu Hill, Kathmandu Valley in October 2013 (Arend van Riessen); in Siraichuli, Chitwan District in March 2009 (Hem Subedi), and between Sedhawa, Siraha District and the camp west of Lal Bakaiya Nadi, Rautahat District (L8) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east, known records are mainly from Koshi, Sunsari District: singles at Koshi Barrage (P8) in February 1996 (Harrap 1996), November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997) and March 1997 (Harrap and Basnet 1997); between Prakashpur and Haripur (Q8) in October 2000 (Baral 2000); at Koshi in December 2007 (Giri 2007) and December 2009 (Giri 2009); regular sightings of two birds in Koshi area (Tika Giri and Dhiraj Chaudhary) and about 1-6 at Jabdi KBO Sunsari District in 2013-2015. (Anish Timsina, Hathan Chaudhary, Suchit Basnet). The species has been regularly recorded at Chimdi, Sunsari District (KBS) and one was recorded from Suketar, Taplejung District (R7) in April 1992 (Bräunlich and Oehlschlaeger 1992, Lama 1994).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda (to UK), Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands (to UK), Chad, Chile, China (mainland), Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Faroe Islands (to Denmark), Finland, France, French Guiana, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Greenland (to Denmark), Guam (to USA), Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Federated States of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Niger, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Pierre and Miquelon (to France), Sudan, Suriname, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States Minor Outlying Islands (to USA), Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (to UK), Virgin Islands (to USA), Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3350 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

A survey of bird populations in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and adjoining areas counted 11 birds in April 2012. As the surveyors covered 50% of available habitat of the species (short grasslands and cultivation with grass or crops of average height 50 cm) the Koshi population was estimated as 11-22 birds (Baral *et al.* 2013). The limited number of observations and a consideration of its threats indicate that numbers of the species must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Short-eared Owl is found in grassland, open scrub country (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), grassy fields (Fleming *et al.* 1976), paddyfields (Dinesh Giri) and also over short crops (Baral *et al.* 2013). It keeps singly or in small flocks in the non-breeding season. Short-eared Owl is diurnal and crepuscular and hunts by quartering low over open country. Its flight is irregular and rolling, frequently hovering and gliding on slightly raised wings and occasionally flying in wide circles (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Prey items include field rats and mice, small birds, grasshoppers, locusts, and beetles (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

The species is threatened by degradation of grasslands caused by inappropriate management such as untimely cutting and burning, overgrazing and by expansion of settlement. A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009). Short-eared Owl may be more at risk because of its diurnal and crepuscular habits.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Short-eared Owl. Since 1990, the only protected areas where it has been recorded are Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves although it has also been recorded in Chitwan and Bardia National Park buffer zones.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2cd) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Short-eared Owl has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2cd. It is a winter visitor and passage migrant, regularly recorded in the Koshi area and very uncommon or rare elsewhere. Since 1990 the only known protected areas where it has been recorded are Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves. It is threatened by degradation of grasslands, expansion of settlements and also by hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining.

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Bubo bengalensis (Franklin, 1831) **VU**

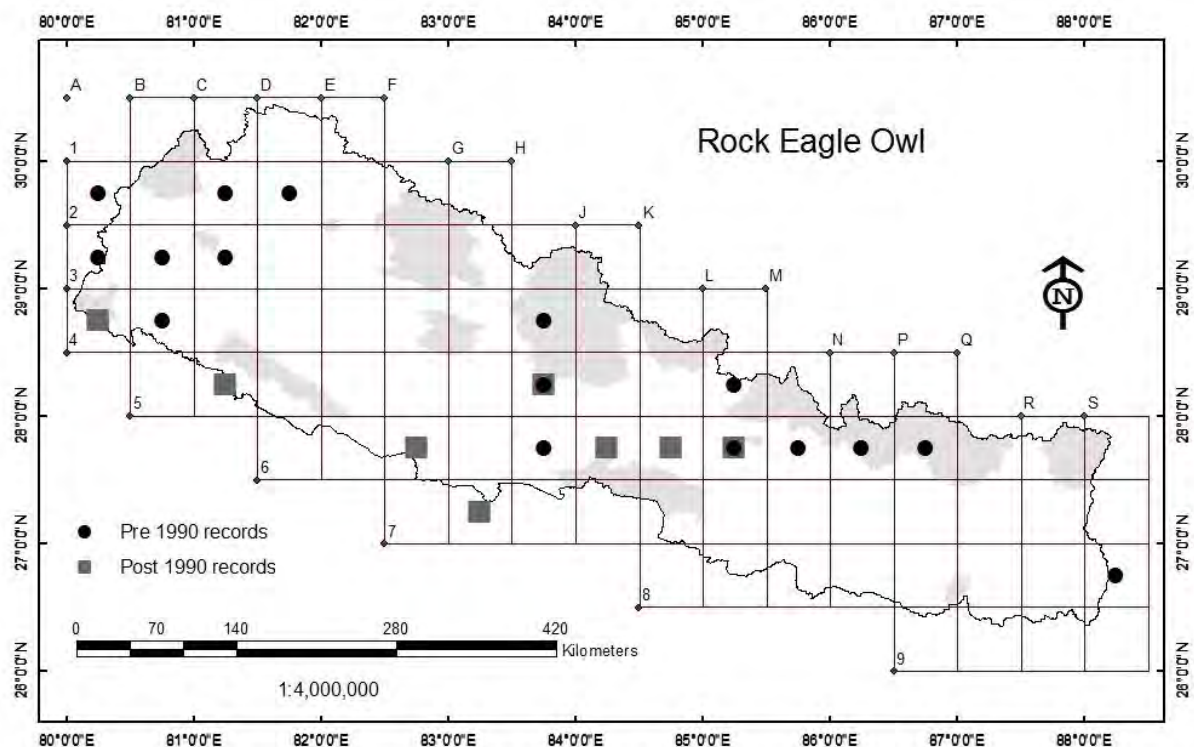
Common Name

Rock Eagle Owl (English),
Hapsilo (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Rock Eagle Owl is a very uncommon resident. The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836) when it was found in the Kathmandu Valley, including a pair breeding on Shivapuri in what is now the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (undated) (Hodgson 1829). A total of 13 Hodgson records (years unknown) are given for the Valley, so the owl must have been quite common to common in the Valley in the early 19th century; Hodgson described the owl as 'common in the hills'. In April (year unknown) Hodgson purchased two young, just fledged (Hodgson 1829).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described Rock Eagle Owl as fairly common and 'the common large owl of Nepal' and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered it a local resident.

Pre-1990 Rock Eagle Owl was reported as occasionally seen around Pokhara, Kaski District by Inskipp and Inskipp (1991). For example, one was collected there in January 1950 (Rand and Fleming 1957). Two were recorded there in December 1970 and singles in December 1970 and January 1971 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971). A pair was seen at Phewa Tal in December 1970 and one heard above Ghachok, Kaski District in December 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971). Singles were seen at Hyenga, Kaski District in December 1977 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1977), Phewa Tal in October 1983 (van Riessen 2010), and Khare, Kaski District in January 1984 (Hornskov 1984).

Diesselhort (1968) collected single specimens from Kamal Pokhari and by the Manora River in September 1962. Fleming *et al.* (1976) noted the species occurred on the south face of Nagarjun in what is now the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was occasionally seen in the Valley, especially on Nagarjun, e.g. one on Nagarjun in October 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971), two in February 1981 (Joliffe *et al.* 1981), one in January 1982 (Robson 1982), and one in January 1986 (Mayer 1986). Del-Nevo and Ewins (1981) recorded single birds on Nagarjun and at Gokarna in February 1981. A specimen was collected from Serabei, Nuwakot District in March 1972 (Nepali 1986).

Single records from other localities were reported by Inskipp and Inskipp (1991). These included records from Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Doti and Bajhang Districts between 1983 and 1985 (van Riessen 1986), two at Zhakhar Tal, Kailali District in June 1988 (Suwal and Shreshta (1988); one collected from Jiri, Dolakha District in May 1962 (Diesselhorst 1968), recorded in Ilam District in March 1987 and November 1988 (van Riessen 1989). One at 3415 m on Machapuchare in 1981 (Lelliott 1981 in Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) may refer to Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*.

Post-1990 there have been few known records from around Pokhara: one in November 2007 (Baral 2007) and one with an injured wing being looked after at a café in Pokhara in April 2011; it had been here for some weeks (Wheatley 2011).

Rock Eagle Owl has also been reported less frequently from the Valley in recent years than pre-1990, e.g. one heard from Chobar in June 2005 and January 2006 and two heard at Gokarna in February 2006 (Mallalieu 2008). Its status is described as uncertain in the review of 2004/06 Kathmandu Valley records (Mallalieu 2008). One young bird was found in Saibu Hill pines in February 2012 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, June 2015).

Several new localities have been found for Rock Eagle Owl post-1990. These include records (mainly of one or two birds) from: Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in November 1997 (Baral 1997); Daiji, Kanchanpur District in April/May 2003 (Hem Subedi/Hari Krishna Shrestha); Bardia National Park in July 2009 and July 2010 (Shahi 2010), also recorded as a rare resident in the park (Kalaram Tamang in Inskipp 2001); Lumbini, Rupandehi District in April 1993 (Lama 1993), four (probably a family group) in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), two in January 2003 (Giri 2003) and singles in January 2006 (Mallalieu 2006) and January 2011 (Acharya 2011). The species was recorded in the Khadara Phanta area, Kapilvastu District in November 2007 and Gaidahawa Tal, Rupandehi District in December 2012 (Dinesh Giri); Balewa, Baglung District (Basnet 2009); Dhading District in 2008/09 (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009); near the Gharial Breeding Centre, Kasara, Chitwan National Park (T. B. Gurung); in the Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Barandabhar Important Bird Area in March 2007 (Hem Subedi) and in Baghmara Community Forest in December 2011 (Hem Subedi). Two were seen in the Hattibang area on the Siraichuli trek, Chitwan District in February 2006; two young were caught by villagers in the same area in March 2006 (Hem Subedi).

Globally Rock Eagle Owl has also been recorded from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Pakistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1800 m (- 2100 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Rock Eagle Owl, but observations and a consideration of the threats it faces indicate that the numbers must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <500

Habitat and Ecology

Rock Eagle Owl often roosts by day in a hole in a rocky cliff and hunts near villages and in fields (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It also roosts in wooded areas with ravines (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is resident. Rock Eagle Owl is mainly nocturnal and so may be overlooked, although it can be detected by its call which it often gives after it emerges from roost. In addition, it may frequently be seen perched on a rock pinnacle or similar exposed situation well before sunset and till along after sunrise (Ali and Ripley 1987). It feeds predominantly on field rats and mice (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

During a 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal, information was collected from 22 out of Nepal's 75 districts. The study found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. Owls are believed to be dangerous creatures and bring bad omens to the people. Further, some young people kill owls purely for entertainment. During the study four hunting incidents that led to the deaths of 12 Rock Eagle Owls were observed in Dhading District; chicks were taken from the nest and killed for meat. Owl meat is eaten for medicinal purposes, such as curing asthma and relieving body pain (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009). Fleming *et al.* (1976) observed that young Rock Eagle Owls are sold for medicine.

The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, which appeared to be mainly of Rock Eagle Owl, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live. The owl trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009). A pair of Rock Eagle Owls which nested in Lumbini was killed by traders (BCN and DNPWC 2011).

In addition, Rock Eagle Owl is likely to be affected by pesticides as it frequently feeds in cultivation.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Rock Eagle Owl. Recently it has been recorded in Chitwan and Bardia National Parks and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve where it is rare; however, the large majority of known localities for the species lie outside the protected areas' system.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2de? C2a(i) D1) upgraded from Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Rock Eagle Owl has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2de?, C2a(i) and D1. The species is now very uncommon. It has declined in the Kathmandu Valley and around Pokhara where it is now rare. It is difficult to assess whether there has been any significant change in distributional range. Improved recording has led to some new localities for the species, post-1990. There are several areas where it has not been recorded since 1990, but some of these at least may not have been visited since the date of the original records. It is seriously threatened by trapping and hunting partly for the owl trade, partly because owls are believed to be bad omens and also for traditional medicines. Further some young people kill owls purely for entertainment. In addition, the owl is likely to be affected by pesticides as it frequently feeds in cultivation. Recently it has been recorded in few protected areas where it is rare; however, the large majority of known localities for the species lie outside the protected areas' system.

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Ketupa zeylonensis (J. F. Gmelin, 1788) **VU**

Subspecies: *Ketupa zeylonensis leschenaulti*

Common Name

Brown Fish Owl (English),

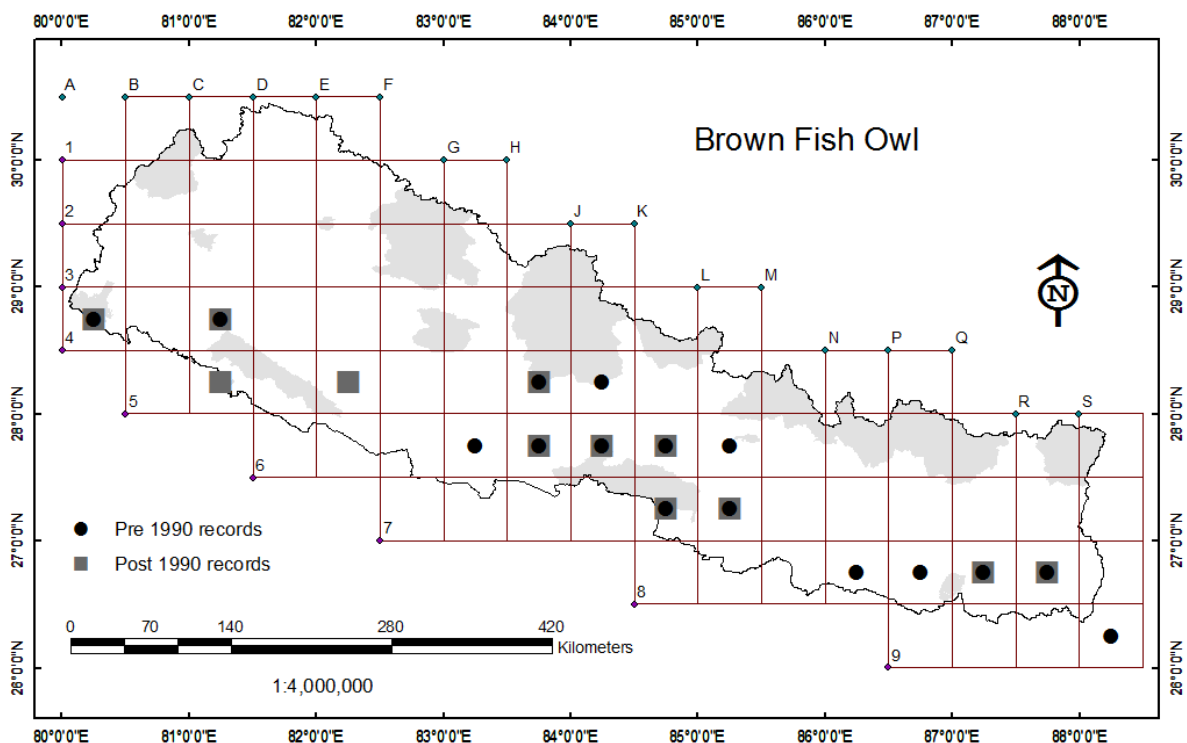
Malaha Hoochil (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Brown Fish Owl is a local and uncommon resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Ilam District (Yadav Ghimirey) in the far east.

The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836) when it was recorded in the lower hills in September (year unknown) (Hodgson 1829).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it was fairly common in Nepal, and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) noted it was seen occasionally from the terai up to 1525 m.

In the west Brown Fish Owl occurs in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve; it was first recorded in 1979 by Schaaf *et al.* (1980). Other records include one seen at Majhagaon, just outside the reserve, in May 1982 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982), singles were recorded in the reserve in January 1992 (Baral and Mills 1992), May 1996 (Baral 1996), May 1997 (Baral 1997), and March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998), two in January 2009 (Baral 2009), and one in March 2011 (Chaudhary 2011).

The owl was first recorded in Bardia National Park by Dinerstein (1979). Other records include singles in March

1992 (Baral 1992), December 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), and December 1998 (Choudhary 1999), two in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), one in January 2007 and January 2008, and two in March 2009 (Shahi 2010). Locations in the park include near the main lodge, near the Karnali Tented Camp and at Chisapani gorge.

In central Nepal Brown Fish Owl was previously recorded in the Kathmandu Valley. Ripley (1950) collected a specimen from Gokarna, Kathmandu Valley in April 1947. Proud (1955) observed several birds flying from roost at Gokarna which she thought were a family group and also recorded the owl at the foot of Nagarjun. Later records from Gokarna include: two in March 1982 (Grimmett 1982), one in March 1983 (Alström and Olsson 1983) and recorded there from 1984 to 1986 (Hurrell 1988). Fleming *et al.* (1976) reported the owl haunted fish pools at Godaveri and it was seen here in October 1970 (Inskipp *et al.* 1971). In his review of Kathmandu Valley birds 2004-06 Mallalieu (2008) reported there were no records of the owl for the period, except for one captured at Nagarjun and kept in someone's home, but the date is unknown (H. S. Baral). Arend van Riessen (*in litt.*) to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, June 2015) reported it was resident at Bajrabarahi, Kathmandu Valley and was heard and seen in April 2013 and May 2015).

In Chitwan National Park, Gurung (1983) reported Brown Fish Owl was uncommon. Later pre-1990 records include one near Chitwan Jungle Lodge in April 1987 (Hines (1987) and two in February 1988 (Kovacs 1988), and one at Sauraha in the park buffer zone (Holt *et al.* 1986). However, Baral and Upadhyay (2006) considered it was fairly common, probably because of better coverage in the park. One or two birds were regularly recorded near Gaida Lodge and Gaida Tented Camp between 1992 and 2008, also 2012 (these tourist facilities closed in 2008), with three birds at the Tented Camp in November 1992 (Baral 1993), and three at Gaida Lodge in February 1995 (Baral 1995) and November 1996 (Giri 1996). The owl has also been recorded near Chitwan Jungle Lodge, e.g. one in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999), two near Tiger Tops in April 1999 (Choudhary 1999). Later records from the park include singles in December 2009 (Giri 2009), April 2010 (Chaudhary 2010), and in the Churia Hills in January 2010 (GC 2010). DB Chaudhary (*in litt.* to C. Inskipp February 2012) gave localities for one or a pair of Brown Fish Owls at several additional localities in the park: Tiger Tops Tented Camp, Tiger Tops, by the Saksuke Khola, Devi Tal, Temple Tiger, Majur Tika, and Rato Pani, and also for localities in the park buffer zone: Tharu compound, Gundrahi Dhaka, Krishnasar and Namuna Community Forests, Nawalparasi District. Other localities from the buffer zone are: Barandabhar Important Bird Area, and Bagmara, Kumrose, Jankauli Community Forests in 2012 (Fuleswor Chaudhary, Sunaina Raut, Bishnu Mahato and Parshuram Kunda), and Madi in January 2011 (Krishna Pariyar).

It was also recorded in Shanti Kunja Community Forest outside the park and buffer zone in Nawalparasi District (DB Chaudhary *in litt.* to C. Inskipp February 2012).

In Parsa Wildlife Reserve a pair was seen in April 2001 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2001), and three birds were recorded at two locations in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

Biswas (1961) found it not uncommon in the central dun and collected two males, two females and a juvenile at Hetauda, Makwanpur District in May and June 1947. It was also collected at Hetauda in 1967 (Anon. 1983) and one was seen here in February 1981 (Baker 1981, Mills and Preston 1981); also a specimen was collected at Simary, Rautahat District in January 1971 (Nepali 1986), but no later records are known from the central dun.

Brown Fish Owl was first recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve by Guinan and Dodman (1989) in March 1989, and later by Heinen (1990). One or two birds have been regularly recorded between 1993 and 2011, e.g. two in February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998) and two in February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002). Two were seen at a nest in March 2005 (van der Dol 2005) and one at a nest in February 2006 (Mallalieu 2006) and also in February 2007 (Choudhary 2007). Three birds were recorded in the reserve in May 2011 (Baral 2011) and two in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

Up to 1990 there were records from at least eleven localities outside the protected areas' system, including the Kathmandu Valley and central dun. One was collected at Butwal, Rupandehi District in January 1950 (Rand and Fleming 1957). The species was recorded south of Annapurna in 1977 (further locality and date details are unknown (Thiollay 1980). Singles were seen at Phewa Tal, Kaski District in December 1980 (Hamon 1981) and in February 1981 (Richards and Richards 1981); Begnas Tal, Kaski District in 1979 (Redman and Murphy 1979) and February 1981 (Richards and Richards 1981), and Tamaspur, Nawalparasi District in April 1981 (Mills and Preston 1981). The owl was described as an uncommon resident in the south-east terai in 1975 (Gregory-Smith and Batson 1976). Singles were collected at Raghunathpur, Dhanusa District in January 1954 (Rand and Fleming 1957); Haraincha, Morang District in February 1938 (Bailey 1938) and at Bankula, Morang District,

date unknown (Abdulali 1972). A pair was seen at Jhalthal, Jhapa District (Cox 1989) in February 1989 and the species recorded in Jhapa District in February 1990 (van Riessen 2010). There are no known records from any of these localities in later years.

Known records from outside the protected areas' system post-1990 include: one in the Dang Deukhuri Important Bird Area, Dang District in June 2009 (Thakuri 2009a,b); two by the Seti Khola, Kaski District in January 2008 (Giri *et al.* 2008); one in a cage seen at Gainda Tal, Rupandehi District in September 2008 (Tulsi Subedi); two seen regularly for several years at Nalang, Dhading District (Shankar Tiwari); one from Belkhu, Dhading District in 2012 (Basu Bidari *in litt.* to C. Inskipp February 2012); Bajrabarahi, Kathmandu District in May 2005 (Vimal Thapa in van Riessen 2010); one to two birds in the Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District between May 2007 and March 2008 (Basnet and Sapkota 2008), and one in the Danabari VDC, Ilam District in 2007 (Yadav Ghimirey pers. comm. to C. Inskipp, February 2012).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1525 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Brown Fish Owl; however, observations and a consideration of its threats indicate that the population must be quite small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: 1000; maximum population: <3000

Habitat and Ecology

Brown Fish Owl roosts in densely wooded areas or ravines near water in the tropical and subtropical zones; it favours mature trees. The owl is semi-diurnal, emerges from its roosting place long before sunset, when pair members begin to call to each other. It sometimes hunts in day, especially in dull weather. The owl eats mainly fish, frogs and crabs (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It has bred at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve since at least 2005 (e.g. van der Dol 2005, Choudhary 2007) and has also bred in Bagmara Community Forest, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in 2012 (Sunaina Raut).

Threats

Brown Fish Owl is seriously threatened by forest loss and degradation, especially loss of mature trees. Fish poisoning and illegal fishing in protected areas and over-fishing outside the protected areas' system may well be causing food shortages for the owl, although it does eat other prey. The species is also seriously threatened by hunting including trapping (for trade and because of people's superstitious beliefs). In 2007 young people from Danabari VDC, Ilam District captured Brown Fish Owl for meat (Yadav Ghimirey, Friends of Nature pers. comm. to C. Inskipp, February 2012).

During a 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal, information was collected from 22 out of Nepal's 75 districts. The study found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. Owls are believed to be dangerous creatures and bring bad omens to the people. In addition, some young people kill owls purely for entertainment (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live. The owl trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

The species chiefly feeds outside of protected areas in agricultural lands, mainly in flooded paddy fields. In the east it also mainly nests at unprotected sites in the east, e.g. Umlabari Important Bird Area, Morang District and Dharan forests Important Bird Area.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Brown Fish Owl. Most recent records have been from protected areas: Chitwan and Bardia National Parks, and Sukla Phanta, Koshi Tappu and Parsa Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU A2acd, C2a(i), D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Brown Fish Owl has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2acd, C2a(i) and D1. The species is now local and known records are mainly from protected areas, where it is mainly an uncommon resident. Recently it has been reported from several protected areas. Most recent records have been from within the protected areas' system. It is no longer recorded from at least 11 localities outside the protected areas' system, including the Kathmandu Valley and the central dun, where the last records were mainly in the 1980s or earlier. The species is seriously threatened by forest loss and degradation, food shortage (caused by fish poisoning, illegal fishing in protected areas and overfishing outside the protected areas' system) and hunting including trapping for trade and because of superstitious beliefs.

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Strix leptogrammica (Temminck, 1832) **VU**

Subspecies: *Strix leptogrammica leptogrammica*

Common Name

Brown Wood Owl (English),

Chasme Ooluk (Nepali)

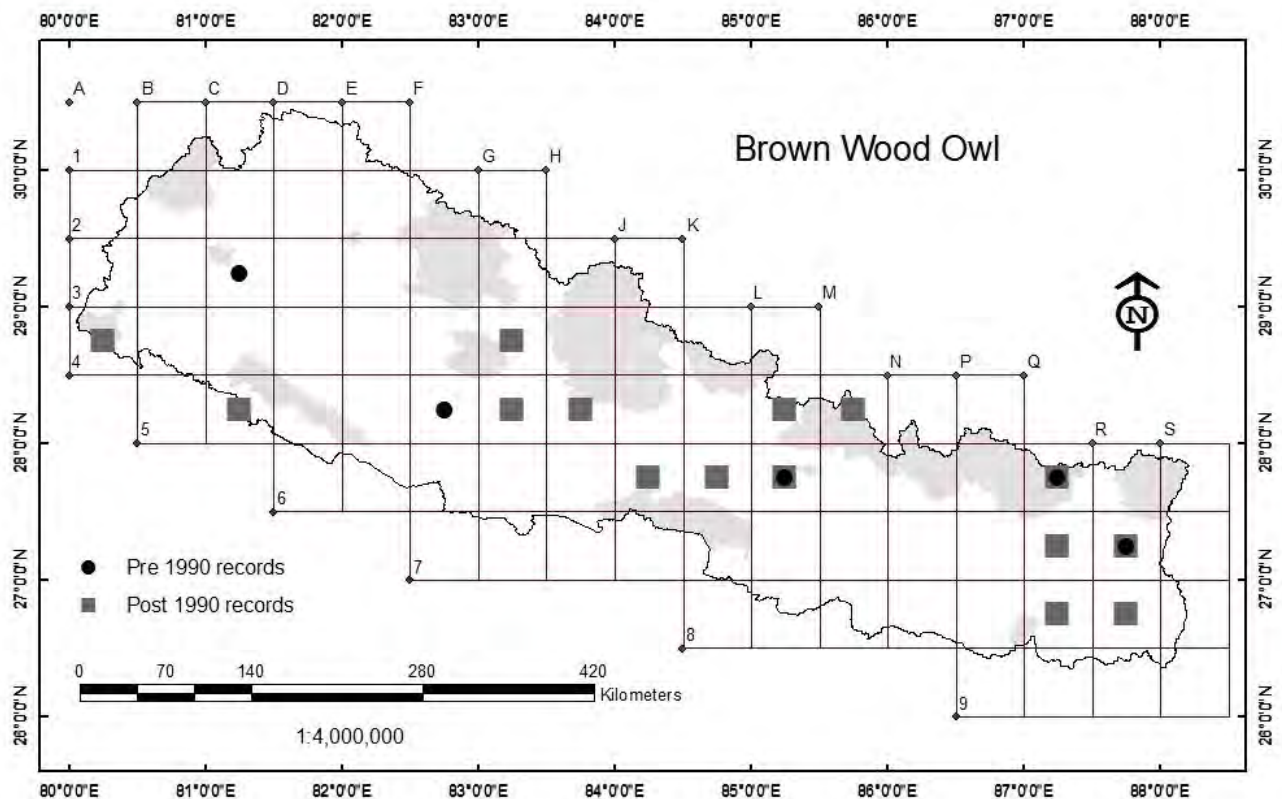
Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae



RAJ MAN SINGH/BRIAN HODGSON

Distribution



Brown Wood Owl is an uncommon and local resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Daiji, Kanchanpur District (Hem Subedi 2012) in the far west to Mai Pokhari, Ilam District (Basnet 2005) in the far east.

The first Nepal records of the species were in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836) when it was recorded in the Kathmandu Valley woods in April 1827 and also in the Valley in November (year unknown) (Hodgson 1829). Scully (1879) found it 'tolerably common' in the Valley throughout the year and in Nawakot District in winter in 1877. A pair was seen all spring in 1948 in Rani Bagh and in May was observed feeding young in daylight (Proud 1949). Fleming *et al.* (1976) also recorded it from the Valley, in Chapagaon forest and the surrounding hills; a specimen was collected from Chapagaon in January 1962 (Diesselhorst 1968). One flew over Kathmandu chased by a large crow flock in April 1976 (van den Berg and Bosman 1976). One was seen at Phulchoki in February 1983 (Cocker and Adams 1983). Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was seen occasionally in the Valley up to 1990. Brown Wood Owl was regularly seen in Gokarna in the 1980s, e.g. four pairs in March 1982 (Robson 1982), one bird in January 1985 (Collins and Thomas 1985), and two in January 1988 (Ellen 1988).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported that Brown Wood Owl's status outside the Kathmandu Valley was uncertain pre-1990, and considered the species was probably under-recorded. There were few known records. Singles were recorded in Khaptad National Park in June 1984 (van Riessen 2010) and in May 1988 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1988) and in west-central Nepal in 1977 (Mischler 1977). One was collected at Simbhangang, Makwanpur District in October 1971 (Nepali 1986), and singles seen in the Barun valley in November 1984 (Nepali 1984) and Mai Pokhari, Ilam District in April 1982 (Mills *et al.* 1982).

Post-1990 Brown Wood Owl has been reported more frequently, probably because of better coverage. Known post-1990 localities follow.

In the west records include: Daiji, Kanchanpur District in April and May 2003 (Hem Subedi 2012); Bardia National Park where it was described as a rare resident by Kaluram Tamang (undated) in Inskipp (2001); above Pinde Odar, Myagdi Khola, Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Tallo Gijyan, Parbat District two heard in September 2007 and heard regularly since (Jyotendra Thakuri 2012); two near Pokhara, Kaski District in December 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009), and a pair at Pame, Kaski District in March 2012 (Som GC, Anna Karlsson and Mathias Bergstrom).

In central areas records include from Chitwan National Park and buffer zone and the Kathmandu Valley. It was recorded from Chitwan National Park for the first time in the 1990s and one to a few birds have been reported most years since 2001. Records include: three in January 1996 (Choudhary 1996/1996); near the old Gaida Camp one was seen in February 1997 (Choudhary 1997), two in April 2001 (Malling Olsen 2004), one in February 2002 (Ofner and Basnet 2002), four in January 2003 (Giri 2003), and regularly since (NTNC workshop, October 2012); also one in the park in February 2004 (Bray and Basnet 2004); two in December 2005 (Kelly 2005); singles in January 2006 (GC 2010), December 2007 (Chaudhary 2010), in the Churia Hills in January 2010 (GC 2010), at Sukhebar in February 2012 (Anil Gurung) and by the Hardaha Khola in April 2012 (Vimal Thapa). The owl is also regularly seen near Dudhaura and Rani Khola (NTNC workshop, October 2012). Baral and Upadhyay (2006) described the owl as a rare resident in the park.

In Chitwan National Park buffer zone it has been regularly seen in Kumrose Community Forest from 2008 to September 2012 (Bishnu Mahato and Hem Subedi); Chitrasen Community Forest (Hem Subedi and Bishnu Mahato); Icharni forest, and Baghmara Community Forest (NTNC workshop, October 2012). One was also recorded at Sauraha in March 2012 (Tika Giri).

Brown Wood Owl is now uncommon in the Kathmandu Valley. Between 2004 and 2006 Brown Wood Owl was reported to still be present in Gokarna (H. S. Baral in Mallalieu 2008). Records from Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area include: one in April 1997 (Cooper and Cooper 1997), one in 1998 (Hathan Chaudhary in Mallalieu 2008) two in March 2001 (Wright and Lawson 2001), and singles in October 2002 (Som GC in Mallalieu 2008), December 2005 and March 2007 (GC 2010), and heard in May 2008 (van Riessen 2010). Arend van Riessen (*in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, June 2015) found it resident at Godaveri/Phulchoki, 1700-2600 m and young were recorded in April. One was reported from Nagarjun in what is now Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in February 1995 (Basnet 2000), and again in 1996. One was recorded in Kathmandu Singh Durbar in June 2011 (Karan Shah), and the species was also found to be resident at Bajrabarahi (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to C. Inskipp, June 2015).

Other known records from central areas include from Langtang National Park: one at Kyanjin, Langtang valley in May 1993 (Redman 1993) and near Sing Gompa Langtang National Park in May 1996 (Mauro 1996). The owl was also recorded at Shaktikhor, Chitwan District (Hem Subedi 2012) and one was caught at Daman in Makawanpur in March 2009 (Hem Subedi 2012).

In the east known records include singles from Rasuwa District in June 2012 (Dikpal Karmacharya) and Bhotebas, Sankhuwasabha District in May 1996 (White and White 1996). It is listed as an uncommon resident in Makalu Barun National Park by Cox (1999a). There are several records from Patnali forests in the Dharan forests Important Bird Area, Sunsari District: two in March 2004 (Kennerley and Karki 2004); one from mid February to mid March 1995 (Lama 1995); two in February 2007 (O'Connell Davidson *et al.* 2007); two young seen in May 2008 and two adults in April 2011 (Sanzeev Acharya, Hathan Chaudhary); also one bird in December 2011 (Hem Sagar Baral). Singles were seen at Mai Pokhari, Ilam District in May 2004 (Basnet 2005), and at Kande Bhanjyang, Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2700 m (-3300m); lower limit: 150 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for this species, but observations and a consideration of its threats indicate that numbers must be quite small. It may be overlooked as it is nocturnal, but can be located by its distinctive calls.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <700

Habitat and Ecology

Brown Wood Owl inhabits dense broadleaved subtropical and temperate forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The species is resident. Rat, dove and Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus* have been identified among stomach contents (Ali and Ripley 1987). Brown Wood Owl is almost certainly under-recorded as it is virtually entirely nocturnal, and roosts by day in large trees in heavy forest, although it can be detected at night by its calls (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

Threats

Brown Wood Owl is seriously threatened by the loss and degradation of dense broadleaved forest and loss of large mature trees, partly by tree-felling and removal of foliage and the understorey, also by forest burning.

Brown Wood Owl is also threatened by hunting and trapping. During a 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal, information was collected from 22 out of Nepal's 75 districts. The study found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. Owls are believed to be dangerous creatures and bring bad omens to the people. In addition, some young people kill owls purely for entertainment (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009). Other threats are poisoning and possibly also pesticides.

The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live. The owl trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Brown Wood Owl. It is recorded from Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Bardia, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks.

Regional IUCN status

Vulnerable (VU A2acd, D1) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Brown Wood Owl has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2acd and D1. The species is an uncommon and local resident. It has declined in the Kathmandu Valley where it is now rare. Brown Wood Owl is almost certainly under-recorded as it is virtually entirely nocturnal, and roosts by day in large trees in dense forest, although it can be detected at night by its calls. However, its habitat of dense broadleaved evergreen

forest with large mature trees for roosting is seriously threatened, partly by tree-felling and removal of foliage and the understorey, also by forest burning. In addition, Brown Wood Owl is also threatened by trapping and hunting partly for the owl trade, partly because owls are believed to be bad omens and also for traditional medicines. Some young people kill owls purely for entertainment. Other threats are poisoning and possibly also pesticides. Its population is estimated as less than 700 birds. Post-1990 the owl has been recorded in several national parks and also at a number of localities outside the protected areas' system.

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Tyto alba (Scopoli, 1769) **VU**

Subspecies: *Tyto alba stertens*

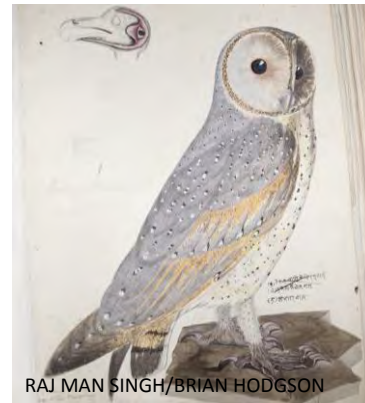
Common Name

Barn Owl (English),

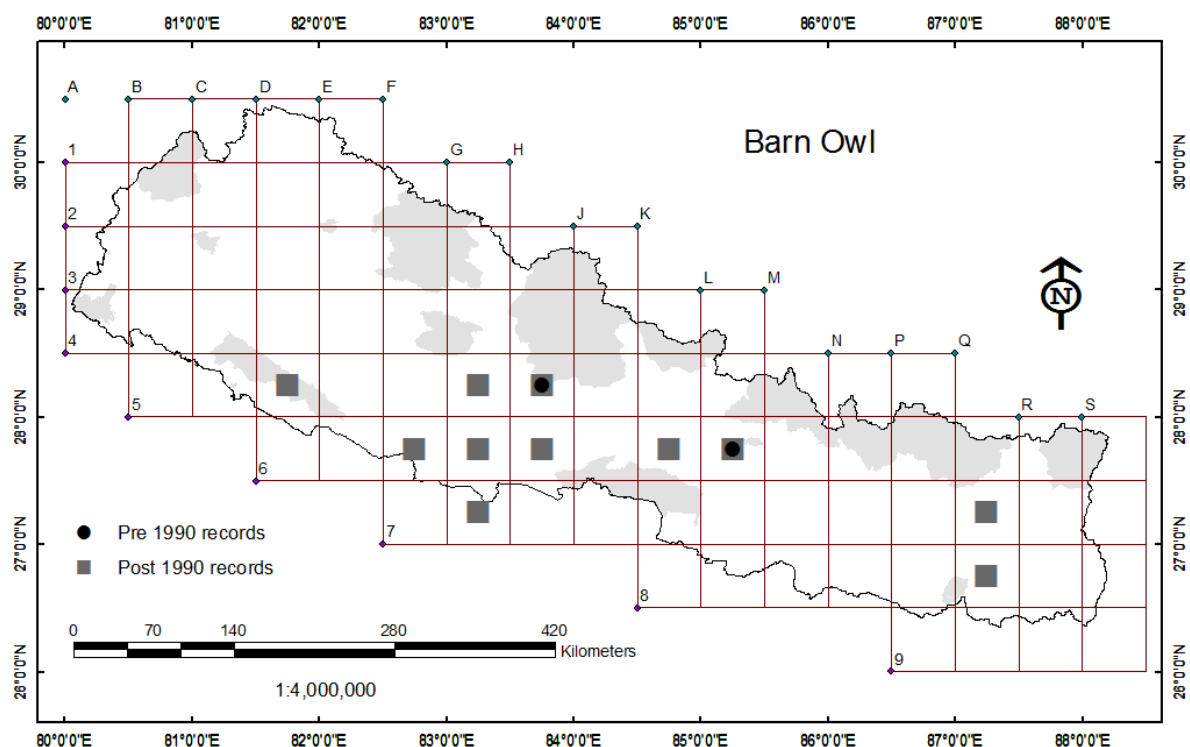
Gothe Latokosero (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Tytonidae



Distribution



Barn Owl is a local resident which is probably under-recorded. The first Nepal record was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1843) when it was found in the Kathmandu Valley in July and December, and British Residency in the Valley and central hills in January (years unknown) (1829). Scully (1879) considered the species a permanent resident in the Valley in 1877 although it did not appear to occur there in any great numbers. Fleming *et al.* (1976) described its occurrence in Nepal as 'occasional'.

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was uncommon in the Kathmandu Valley. Pre-1990 observations include a family group which was observed on the roof of Kalimati Durbar in January 1965; the species did not appear to be common in the Valley according to Fleming and Traylor (1968). Single specimens were collected in Chhetrapati, Kathmandu in January 1970 (Nepali 1986) and in November 1980 (Nepali 1982). One was seen in Kathmandu in April 1982 (Eames (1982) and a juvenile in Thamel, Kathmandu in October 1989 (Nielsen and Jakobsen 1989). The only other pre-1990 report of the species for Nepal was in 1977 (month unknown) south of Annapurna, presumably in the Annapurna Conservation Area (Thiollay 1980).

Barn Owl has been recorded more widely post-1990, probably because of greater observer coverage. Mallalieu (2008) in his review of birds recorded in the Valley between 2004 and 2006 considered it was a fairly common resident in urban areas of Kathmandu. Arend van Riessen (*in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, June 2015)

considered it common in the inner cities of Kathmandu and Patan and occasional in Kathmandu outskirts (Saibu). It had perhaps been overlooked previously because of its largely nocturnal habits.

In protected areas since 1990 it has been recorded in Chitwan National Park, with two pairs at different sites in Gaida Wildlife Camp in February 1999 (Choudhary 1999) and one bird at Sauraha in the park buffer zone in January 2003 (Giri and Choudhary 2003). One bird was also recorded in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in November 2011 (Badri Chaudhary).

Known post-1990 records outside the protected areas' system in the west include: from Nepalganj, Banke District in September 2006 (van Riessen 2010); Kapilvastu District where one was seen 2.4 km north-west of Taulihawa in January 2002 (Cox 2002) and a pair at a ruin west of Taulihawa in November 2006 (Cox 2008); singles at Lumbini IBA, Rupandehi District in March 1998 (Chaudhary 1998) and in January 2003 (Giri 2003); one in Reshunga Important Bird Area, Gulmi District in February 2011 (Thakuri 2011, 2013); recently recorded at Pokhara, Kaski District, e.g. in October 2004 (van Riessen 2010) and regularly at Lakeside (Hari KC). One found snared by Lakeside was released in April 2007 (Oldfield 2007). A local man approached a birdwatcher in Pokhara and tried to sell him an injured Barn Owl in February 2011 (Tom Wheatley *in litt.* to C. Inskipp February 2011).

In central Nepal records include one at Tharu Lodge, Nawalparasi District in February 2001 (Hem Subedi).

In the east, records include one at Koshi Barrage, Sunsari District in January 1993 (Baral 1993) and in February 1993 (Chaudhary 1993).

Barn Owl has been recorded almost worldwide (not Antarctica) (BCN and DNPWC 2011). Countries where Barn Owl has been recorded are: Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda (to UK), Bolivia, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (to Netherlands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands (to UK), Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China (mainland), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (to Netherlands), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Fiji, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Guadeloupe (to France), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Martinique (to France), Mauritania, Mayotte (to France), Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Montserrat (to UK), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue (to New Zealand), Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (to USA), Qatar, Romania, Russia (European), Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sint Maarten (to Netherlands), Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands (to Norway), Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States Minor Outlying Islands (to USA), Uruguay, USA, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Wallis and Futuna Islands (to France), Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1320 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Barn Owl. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its threats indicate that numbers must be small.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: <1000

Habitat and Ecology

Barn Owl roosts and nests in large, old buildings, especially under roofs, in cities (notably Kathmandu), towns and villages, also in ruins. It hunts in cultivation. The owl is mainly crepuscular and nocturnal and so is probably under-recorded (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It feeds predominantly on rats and mice, and also small birds and bats (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been recently recorded near Mayadevi Temple, Rupandehi District (DB Chaudhary), two pairs Lakeside Pokhara, Kaski District (Hari KC); in Kathmandu in Thamel (Hem Sagar Baral) and in Tripureshwor (Jyotendra Thakuri). A study was carried out to assess the effects of land use and land use cover on Barn Owl in the Kathmandu Valley between July 2014 and February 2015. The study found that buildings were used for breeding and roosting at over 50% of sites visited and temples were especially favoured. Rapid urbanisation may result in a smaller number of suitable cavities for Barn Owls and may also affect prey abundance and so breeding success. In addition, a scoping study carried out from mid-May till July 2015 found that the April and May 2015 earthquakes had negatively impacted on potential sites for Barn Owl in the Valley (Gurung 2015).

Threats

Barn Owl is threatened by hunting and trapping. During a 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal, information was collected from 22 out of Nepal's 75 districts. The study found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. Owls are believed to be dangerous creatures and bring bad omens to the people. In addition, some young people kill owls purely for entertainment (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live. The owl trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009). Barn Owls are sometimes trapped and sold as pets; the species has been seen kept in peoples' homes (Raju Acharya *in litt.* to C. Inskipp October 2010). Fresh meat and bones of the species are highly prized for their curative use in paralysis, rheumatism and gout (Shrestha 2000).

A birdwatcher at Pokhara was approached by a local man with a Barn Owl asking if he wanted to pay Rs5,000 for it. The owl was injured and the man said he had witnessed boys with slingshot catapults shoot it down near the airport the previous day (Tom Wheatley *in litt.* to C. Inskipp February 2011).

The increasing loss of uncultivated field edges and corners as farming becomes more intensive has resulted in a decline in good hunting areas (Inskipp and Baral 2011). The owl may well also be affected by pesticides, either by eating prey which have been poisoned by pesticides or because of a lack of prey which have been killed by pesticides (Inskipp and Baral 2011).

Barn Owl is also threatened by the loss of nesting sites by the removal of old buildings and trees.

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Barn Owl and there are no known records from protected areas except from the edge of Chitwan National Park and marginally from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Vulnerable (VU, A2acde?) upgraded from the Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Barn Owl has been assessed as Vulnerable based on the criteria A2acde? The species is a local resident, fairly common in the Kathmandu Valley but with few records from other localities. It is probably under-recorded because of its crepuscular and nocturnal habits. However, the owl faces a wide range of threats: trapping for medicinal use or for pets, being killed because owls are considered bad omens, loss of nesting sites (old buildings and trees), loss of hunting areas through the intensification of agriculture, possibly also by the effects of pesticides. There are no known records from protected areas, except from the edge of Chitwan National Park and marginally from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

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Athene brama Temminck, 1821 LC

Subspecies: *Athene brama indica*

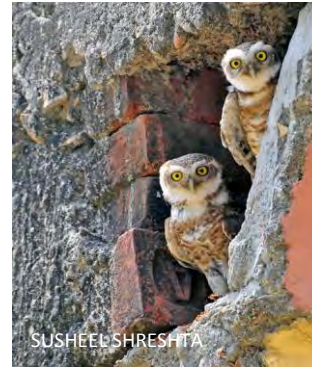
Common Name

Spotted Owlet (English),

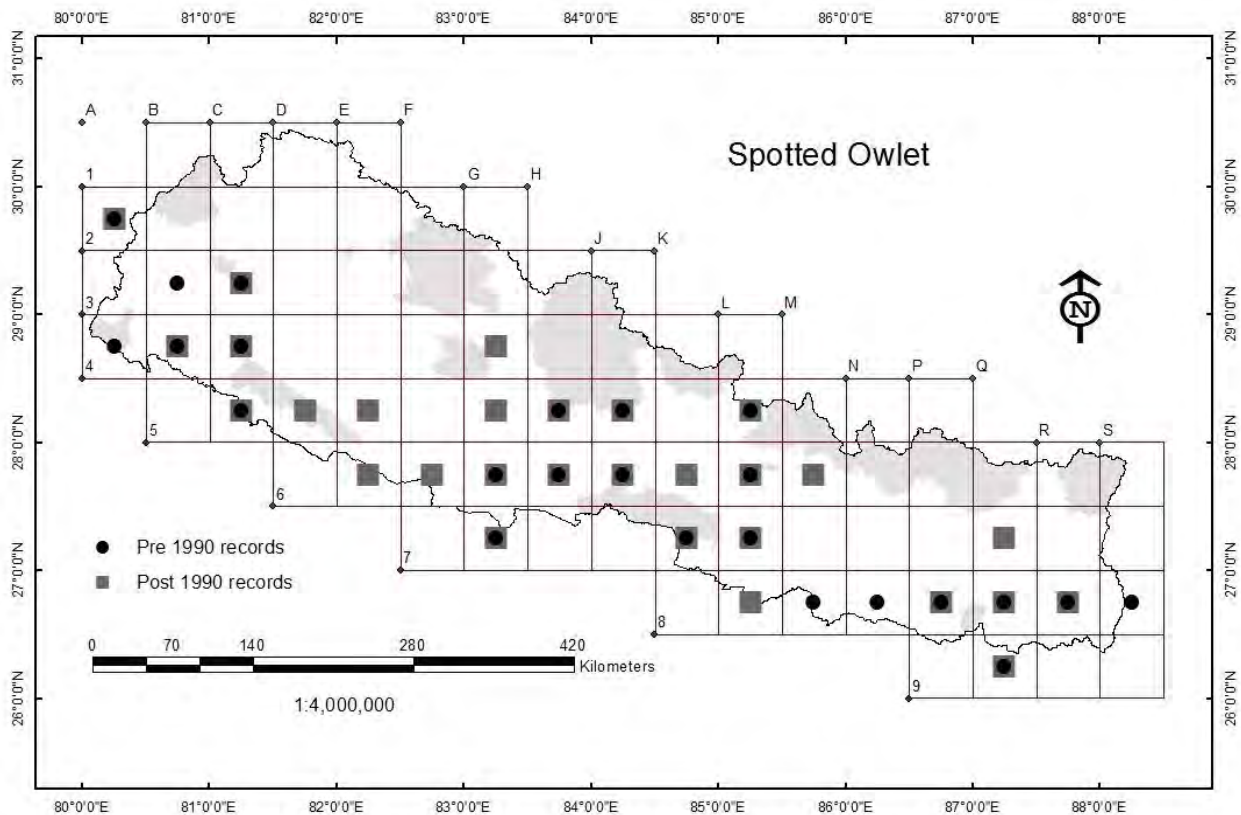
Kochalgaande Latokosero (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Spotted Owlet is a common and widespread resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009 in the far west to Ilam, Ilam district (Baral 2010b) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

Spotted Owlet was described as a common resident by Fleming *et al.* (1976) and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991). Its distribution was mapped widely by Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) except for the mid-west.

Since 1990 the species has been recorded more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage, but elsewhere there is no significant difference in distribution compared to pre-1990.

The post 1990 status of the species in the protected areas' system is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp 2009, Giri 2009, Hewatt 2009); recorded in Mahakali valley, Api Nampa Conservation Area (A2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a scarce resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a frequent resident in Bardia National Park (C4) (Inskipp 2001); recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013); a frequent resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003, Naylor and Giri 2004, Naylor and Metcalf 2007, Naylor *et al.* 2009); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral 1993, 1995, 1997a, 2010c, 2011a,c; Baral and

Upadhyay 2006; Chaudhary 1999, Cox 2003); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a fairly common resident in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007); a rare migrant in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); a common resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 2005) with many other records since 1994, e.g., Baral 1994a, 1997a, 2010c, 2011a, 2011b,c; Chaudhary 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2007; Choudhary 1998). It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone along the Khata Forest corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007); Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Laukhani and Namuna Community Forest (H6), Nawalparasi District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012), Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996a, Pradhan 2005) and Sauraha, Chitwan District, e.g. in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012).

Spotted Owlet has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990 in suitable habitat and within its altitudinal range.

In the west records include: from the Mahakali watershed area near Darchula (A2) (Thakuri 2007); Badimalika region, Bajura and Bajhang District (C3) (Karki *et al.* 2003); Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); Ghodaghodi Tal, Kailali District (B4) in January 1992 (Baral 1992a); Tikapur Park (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); Nepalgunj (D5), Banke dsitric in March 1992 (Baral 1992b). It is considered a common resident in the Ghodaghodi Tal area (CSUWN and BCN 2012); resident in Dang Deukhuri foothill forest and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a.b); resident in Balewa, Baglung District (G5) (Basnet 2009). Other records are: from Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District in June 2011 (Thakuri 2011, 2013); Gulmi District in May 2014 (Pandey 2014); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in November (Baral 1992b), February 1997 (Baral 1997a), December 2007 (Naylor and Metcalf 2007), February 2008 (Giri 2008), February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009), April 2009 (Hewatt 2009), September-October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012) and November 2014 (Baral 2014). It was recorded in Rupandehi District in Lumbini (G7) and Bhairahawa (G6) in April 1993 (Baral 1994a), Lumbini, e.g. Baral (1993), Hewatt (2009), Mallalieu (2006), Suwal *et al.* (2002) and Gaidahawa (G6) in February 2011 (Baral 2011a). Other records are: from Jagadishpur reservoir, Kapilvastu District (G6) (Baral 2008, 2011a) and Kapilvastu and Rupandehi Districts (F6, G6, G7) (Cox 2002).

In central Nepal localities include: Malekhu (K6), Dhading District (Baral 1992c); along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013); several localities in Rautahat District (L8) and Bara District (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003); Panauti (M6), Kavre District in January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005). There are many records from the Kathmandu Valley (L6), e.g. in December 2007 (Chaudhary 2007), October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); from Durbar Marg in September 1993 (Baral 1994a), Kapan Monastery in July 1994 (Baral 1994b), Manohara in November 1994 (Baral 1994b), Satikhel Community Forest and Dallu Community Forest in Seshnarayan during spring and summer 2006 (Thakuri 2007); Godavari in May 1996 (Baral 1996b); Taudaha in October 1993 (Baral 1994a); Kupandol, Lalitpur district in April 1996 (Taylor *et al.* 1996) and Thimi, Bhaktapur District in January 2014 (Ghimirey 2014). It was considered a common resident in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006 (Mallalieu 2008).

In the east records include from: between Tumlingtar and Chewabesi (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); Tumlingtar (Q7), e.g. in April 1991 (Halberg 1991) and December 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994) and a few localities in Sankhuwasabha district (Q7) in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009); There are many records from Sunsari District: from Koshi Barrage (P8) in December 1992 (Baral 1993), March 1993 (Danielsen and Falk 1993), November 1996 (Chaudhary 1997), and November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004); Prakashpur (Q8) in September-October 1994 (Baral 1994b), January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994b); between Prakashpur and Haripur (Q8) in October 2000 (Baral 2000); Madhuban (Q8) in January 2010 (Baral 2010a), September 2010 (Baral 2010b); Haripur (Q8) in January 2010 (Baral 2010a); Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8) in January and May-October 2008 (Basnet and Sapkota 2008); May 2008 (Giri 2008); January 2010 (Baral 2010a) and October 2010 (Baral 2010c); Koshi Camp (Q8), Koshi Bird Observatory (Q8) and Patnali forest, Dharan Forests Important Bird Area (Q8), e.g. in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), November 2007 (Baral 2007), and October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Ramdhuni forest (Q8) (Miller 2011); between Koshi camp and Sukrabare and Nandan Tal in March 2002 (Baral 2002); Koshi camp (Q8), e.g. in December 1993 (Chaudhary 1994), February to April 1999 (Chaudhary 1999), October 2000 (Chaudhary 2000), December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001), November 2004 (Baral and Chaudhary 2004), February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002), May 2008 (Giri 2008), and March 2010 (Baral 2010b), and Itahari (Q8) (Pandey 2003). Other records are from Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005); the lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); Biratnagar (Q9), Morang District, e.g. Baral (1994a) and Subba (1994), and Ilam (R8), Ilam District in September 2010 (Baral 2010b).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1525 m (- 2745 m); lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Spotted Owlet. Daily totals include: 10 in Pokhara in February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009); 16 from Koshi and 16 from Gaida Lodge in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994). However, the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Spotted Owlet inhabits open fields, around villages and in cities (Fleming *et al.* 1976); ruins and cultivation (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is mainly crepuscular and nocturnal, although it is sometimes seen in broad daylight if disturbed. By day it hides in a tree hollow, on a shady branch of a mature tree, chimney or under a roof. It frequently congregates around street lights at night while hunting insects. Usually it is found in pairs or family groups (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It preys chiefly on beetles, moths, locusts, and other insects; also earthworms, lizards, mice and small birds (Ali and Ripley 1987). Proved breeding records include: at Majhagaon (Inskipp and Inskipp 1982), north-west of Pokhara (Wolstencroft 1981), Kathmandu (Hurrell 1985), Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983), at Koshi Camp, Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013), and Dharan, Sunsari District (Gregory-Smith 1975).

Threats

Spotted Owlet is threatened by increased urbanisation, which is resulting in a loss of hunting areas and the removal of old buildings and trees that form its nesting and roosting sites. The increasing loss of uncultivated field edges and corners as farming becomes more intensive has caused a decline in good hunting areas (Inskipp and Baral 2011). It may also be affected by pesticides, either by eating prey which has been poisoned by pesticides or because of a lack of prey which have been killed by pesticides (Inskipp and Baral 2011). Spotted Owlet is also threatened by hunting and trapping, especially because of its close proximity to human habitation. In Gulmi District, one was kept captive with a Brown Fish Owl for the market (Pandey 2014).

A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009). Spotted Owlets are increasingly at risk from road accidents, especially in urban areas. For example, one was killed in a road accident near Bindabasini Temple, Pokhara, Kaski District (Baral 2014).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Spotted Owlet. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Langtang National Parks; Api Nampa and Annapurna Conservation Areas; Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves, and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Spotted Owlet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common resident and since 1990 it has been widely recorded from the far west to the far east. It has been recorded from a number of protected areas and also widely outside the protected areas' system within its altitudinal range and suitable habitat. Since 1990 it has been more widely recorded in the west probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution compared to pre-1990. Spotted Owlet has adapted to human settlement with old buildings and trees, but is threatened by extensive urbanisation which removes such old structures and hunting areas. It is increasingly at risk from road accidents in urbanised areas. Intensive agriculture is causing a loss of foraging areas and an increased risk of pesticide poisoning. Due to its habitat in human proximity, it is especially threatened by hunting and trapping. As result its population is probably declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threat category for the species.

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***Athene noctua* Scopoli, 1769 LC**

Subspecies: *Athene noctua ludlowi*

Common Name

Little Owl (English),

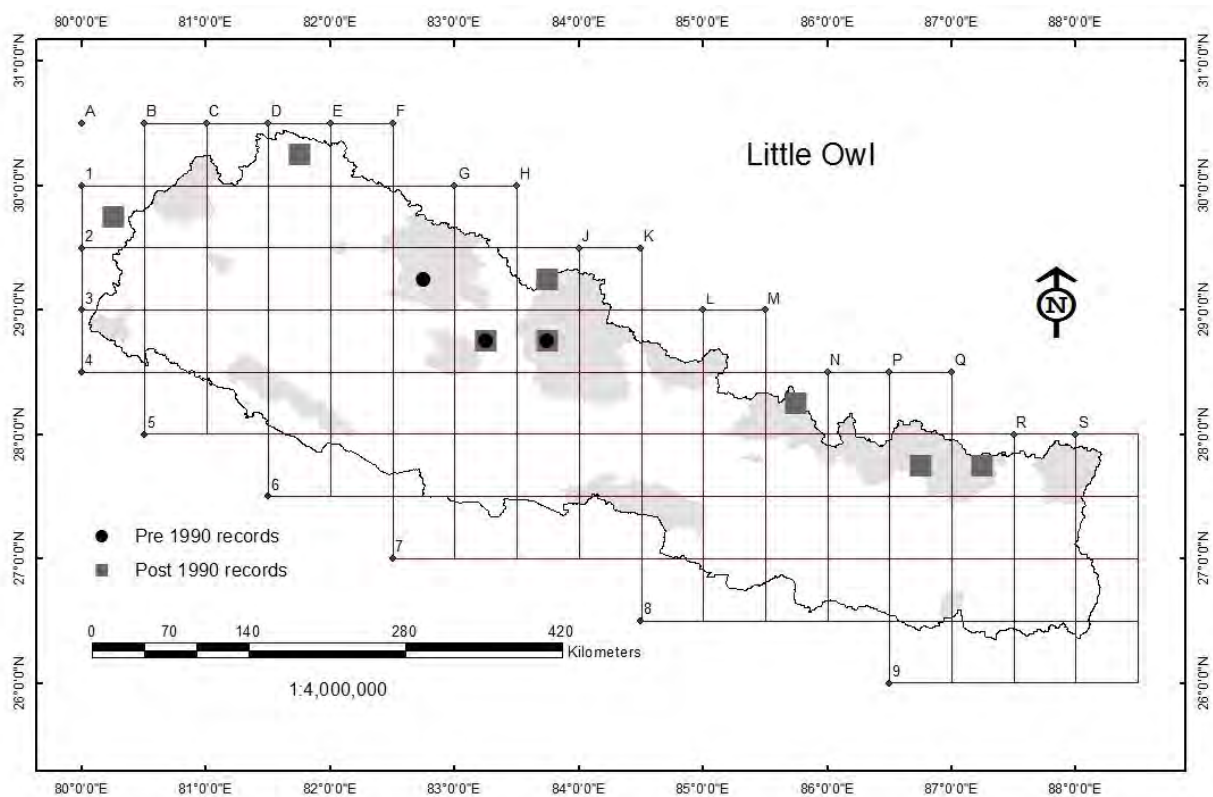
Himali Kochalgaande (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Little Owl is a rare resident in far northern Nepal. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to Makalu Barun National Park (e.g. Cox 1999) in the east.

The first Nepal record of the species was from Terengaon (G4) in June 1952 at 4115 m (Polunin 1952).

Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as scarce, presumably resident. Since 1990 its distribution has been extended to Api Nampa Conservation Area in the far west, northern Humla in the far north-west and east to central and eastern Nepal, probably because of better coverage. However, it is probably still under-recorded as some of the regions it inhabits remain poorly known.

The post-1990 status of the species in protected areas is: recorded in Mahakali valley (A2), Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013); a rare resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) (H4) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003) and recorded at Dhalung, Mustang District (H3) at 4950 m in July 2011 (Acharya and Ghimirey 2011); a vagrant or

rare resident in Langtang National Park (M5), singles in April 2001 (Isherwood 2001), and at 4710 m in February 2006 (Giri and Choudhary 2006); a vagrant or rare resident in Sagarmatha National Park (P6): one at 4500 m in October 1999 (Armstrong and Armstrong 2001, Basnet 2004), and a vagrant or rare resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999) where it was later recorded at Saisima at the unusually low altitude of 2300 m in October 2005 (Baral 2005, Giri and Choudhary 2006, Inskipp *et al.* 2005).

The only known post-1990 record outside the protected areas' system is from the far north-west at Chyakpalung, Humla District (D1) at 4870 m in June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013), a new record for that area.

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chad, China (mainland), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, North Korea, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Western Sahara, Yemen (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 4950 m; lower limit: 2715 m (- 2300 m)

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Little Owl. Some of the areas that the species inhabits remain poorly recorded. Even so considering threats to the species, its population is likely to be small and is probably declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Little Owl inhabits stone walls of old buildings and rocky cliffs (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Its main habitat in Annapurna Conservation Area includes rocky ground (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003). It is crepuscular and partly diurnal, but when feeding its young it may hunt at any time of the day. Most prey is captured by pouncing from a vantage point, but also sometimes by running on the ground. When alarmed, it stretches upwards and bobs its head in curious fashion (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It preys on beetles and other large insects, lizards, small birds and mice etc (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Little Owl is threatened by the demolition of old buildings. Since it is partly diurnal, it is at increased risk from hunting and trapping. A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls involved is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009). One was captured by local people in Dhalung, Mustang District, ACA who considered it to be a Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*, which was believed to have a large market in China (Acharya and Ghimirey 2011).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Little Owl. Since 1990, it has been recorded in Api Nampa and Annapurna Conservation Areas, and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, and marginally in Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Little Owl has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a rare resident species mainly recorded from far northern Nepal and from the far west to the east. Since 1990 its distribution has been extended to the far west, far north-west and east to central and eastern Nepal, probably because of better coverage. However, it is likely to still be under-recorded as some of the regions it inhabits remain poorly known and partly also because it is crepuscular. All records except one are from within protected areas. It is threatened by demolition of old buildings and also by hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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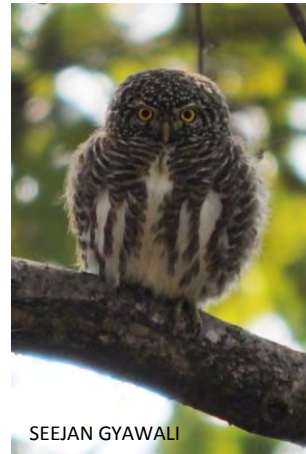
Glaucidium brodiei E Burton, 1836 LC

Subspecies: *Glaucidium brodiei brodiei*

Common Name

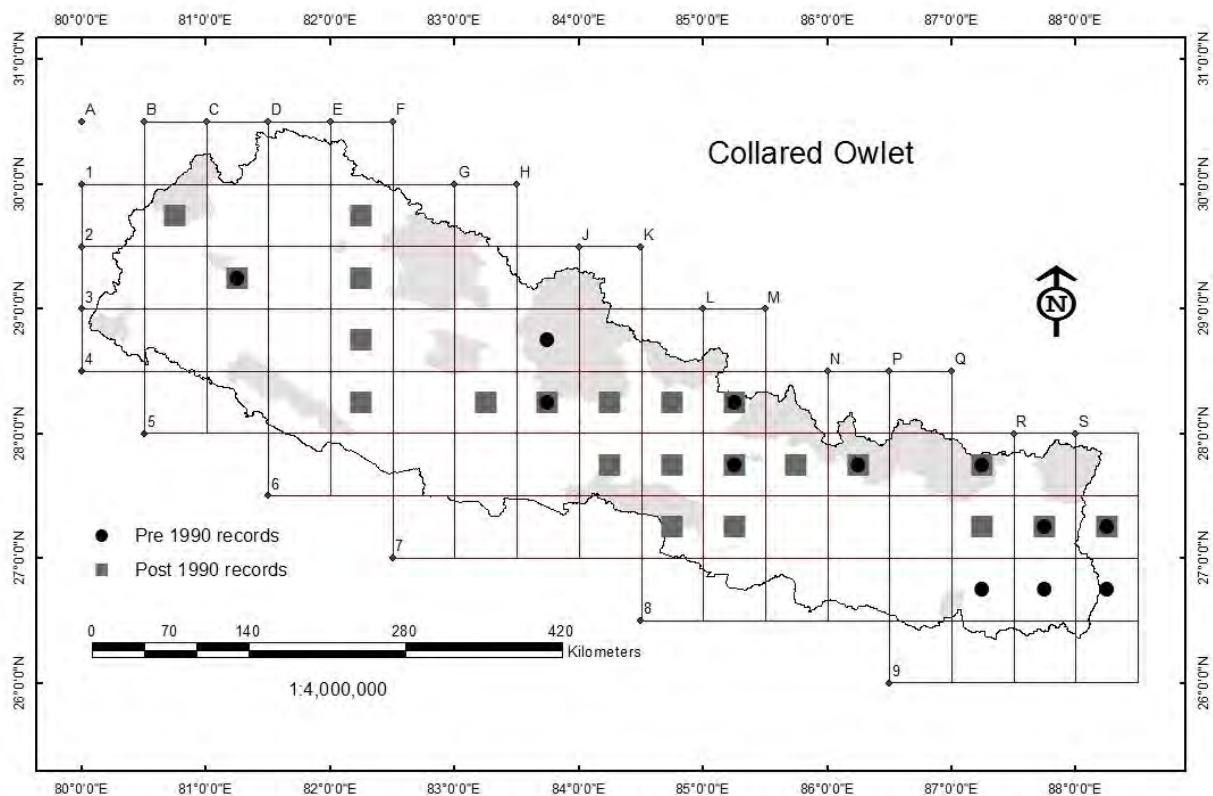
Collared Owlet (English),
Sano Dundool (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
Family: Strigidae



SEEJAN GYAWALI

Distribution



Collared Owlet is a fairly common resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the Chameliya valley, Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to the upper Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a fairly common, locally distributed resident mainly seen between 1350 m and 2900 m. Since 1990, the species has been recorded from more locations within and outside the protected areas' system, especially in the west, probably as a result of better coverage.

The species post-1990 status in protected areas is: recorded from the Chameliya valley (B2), Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a fairly common resident in Khaptad National Park (C3)

(Chaudhary 2006); resident in Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005, O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009); a fairly common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003, Naylor *et al.* 2009); a frequent resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Cocker 1996, Taylor *et al.* 1996, O'Connell-Davidson *et al.* 2001, Karki and Thapa 2001); a frequent resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Cox 2003, Baral and Upadhyay 2006); recorded in Manaslu Conservation Area (K5) Katuwal *et al.* 2013); a fairly common resident on Shivapuri (L6) in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007), but described as a frequent resident there between 2004 and 2006 (Mallalieu (2008); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009); Parsa Wildlife Reserve (Cox 2003) in April 2003; a fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999, Baral 2005, Inskipp *et al.* 2005), and frequent in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Carpenter *et al.* 1995, White and White 1999, Inskipp *et al.* 2008). It was also recorded in the Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Post-1990 records of the species outside the protected areas' system are as follows: In the west records include from: Dang Deukhuri foothill forest and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area where it was described as resident (E5, E6) (Thakuri 2009a,b); between Jiri Daha and Lagana, Nayakwada VDC (E4), between Lagana and Karki Jiula, Nayakwada, Rokayagaon (E3) and Ramidanda VDCs (E4), Jajarkot District in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); between Chaurikot (E3) Jumla District and Hurikot, (F3), Dolpa District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi district in March/June 2011 (Thakuri 2011, 2013), and Besisahar (J5), Lamjung District in October 2008 (Acharya and Ghimirey 2008).

In central Nepal, Mallalieu (2008) considered it was a fairly common resident in the Kathmandu Valley between 2004 and 2006. Later records from the Valley include from Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in April 2009 (Ryan and Chantler 2009), and March 2010 (Baral 2010a, 2010b). Other records from central Nepal include from near Tarkeghyang (M6), Sindhupalchowk District in May 2004 (Chaudhary 2004); Sermathang (M6), Sindhupalchok District in January 2012 (Dymond 2012), and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east records include from: between Bhandar (N6), Ramechhap District and Sete (N6), Solukhumbu District in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012); Arun Valley near Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha District (Q7) in November 2004 (Mallalieu 2005) and between Pikhuwa Khola (Q7) and Pikhuwa Danda (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in May 2009 (Cox 2009); Tinjure forest (Q7), Terhathum District (Rai 2003); near Basantapur (Q7), Terhathum District in April 1994 (Halberg 1994); Mamangkhe (R7), Taplejung District, between Kande Bhanjyang (R7) and Lali Kharka (R7) and between Lali Kharka and Taplejung (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Panchthar District (R7) in April 1994 (White and White 1999), and Hange Tham (S7), Ilam District in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 3050 m (- 3500 m); lower limit: 610 m (- 250)

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Collared Owlet and there is no available information on its total population. Five Collared Owlets were recorded in Reshunga forest, Gulmi; two in March and three in June 2011 (Thakuri 2011). A daily total of four was recorded in Phulchowki Mountain Important Bird Area in February 2005 (Mallalieu 2005). Its population is probably declining as a result of habitat loss, degradation, hunting and trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Collared Owlet inhabits mixed oak forests (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Usually it keeps singly and is diurnal and crepuscular, it often hunts in broad daylight and usually seeks prey by watching and listening from a prominent perch. Calls are persistent during the day in the breeding season, as well as at night (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It preys on small birds, mice, lizards, cicadas, grasshoppers, beetles and other large insects (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Collared Owlet is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat. Hunting and trapping are other threats to this species, especially because of its diurnal habits. For example, it was kept captive in a hotel to attract more guests in Besisahar, Lamjung District (Acharya and Ghimirey 2008). A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Collared Owlet. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Rara, Langtang, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Makalu Barun National Parks, Api Nampa, Annapurna, Kanchenjunga, Manaslu and Gaurishankar Conservation Areas, and Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Collared Owlet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common resident and post-1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east. Since pre-1990, the species has been recorded from more locations within and outside the protected areas' system, especially in the west, probably as a result of better coverage. Collared Owlet is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat. It is also threatened by hunting and trapping, especially because of its diurnal habits. As a result, its population is probably declining; however, not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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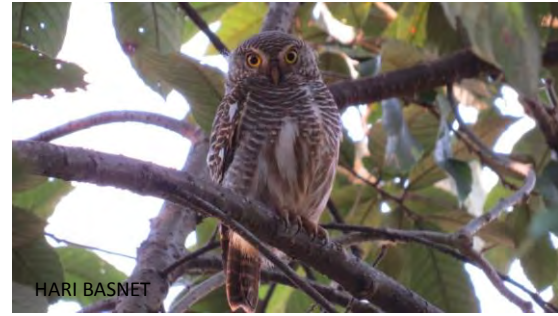
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Glaucidium cuculoides Vigors, 1831 LC
Subspecies: *Glaucidium cuculoides cuculoides*

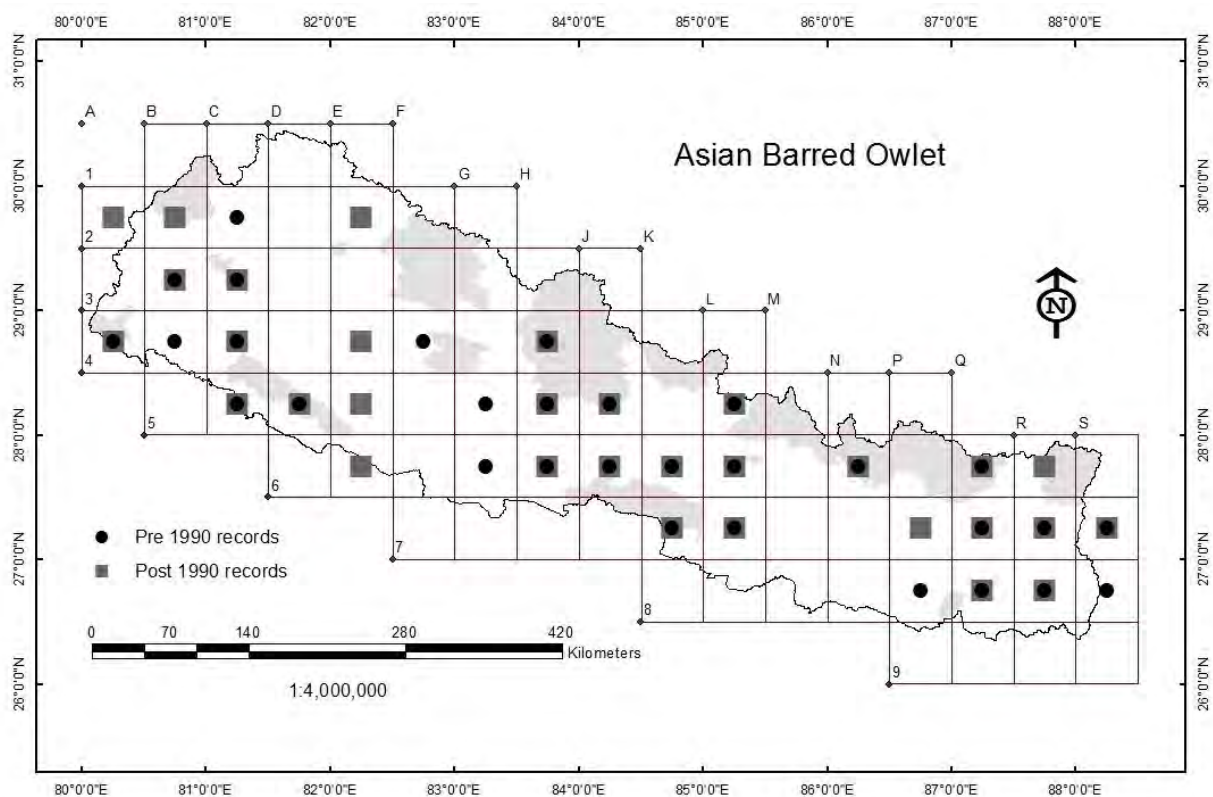
Common Name

Asian Barred Owlet (English),
Thulo Dundool (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Asian Barred Owlet is a fairly common and widespread resident species. It has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (Baral and Inskipp 2009, Chaudhary 1999) in the far west to the upper Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1837).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as a common resident, mainly occurring between 245 m and 2440 m. Its altitudinal zone overlaps with that of Jungle Owlet *G. radiatum* between 160 m and 915m and both species not only breed in the same forests but are also common there (Biswas 1961, Gurung 1983). Since 1990 it has been recorded more widely in the west compared to pre-1990, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution of the species post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The species has been recorded widely within and outside the protected areas' system. The post-1990 status of the species in the protected areas is a rare resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral and Inskipp

2009, Chaudhary 1999); a scarce resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); recorded in the Chameliya and Mahakali valleys, Api Nampa Conservation Area (A2, B2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (Chaudhary 1999, Inskipp 2001, Kumar 2001, Wartmann and Schönjahn 1992); a rare resident in Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); recorded in Banke National Park (D5) in February 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); a fairly common resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003, Chaudhary 1998a, 1999, Baral 2011a); an uncommon resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Todd 2001); a fairly common resident on Shivapuri in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (SNP and BCN 2007); a rare resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001) and recorded from Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009). Its first record in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) was reported by J. Bland *in litt.* to J. Cox Jr, 26 December 1999) and the species was later described as a fairly common resident in the area (Cox 1999). It is fairly common in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Buckton 1996, Carpenter *et al.* 1995, Inskipp *et al.* 2008, Baral 2011b).

It has been recorded from Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009) and Nawalparasi forest, Nawalparasi District (H6) (Khanal 2008), and in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q6, Q7), in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009).

Post-1990 records of the species outside the protected areas' system include following: in the west from Dandeldhura (B3) and Baitadi districts (B3) during May and June 2010 (Baral *et al.* 2010); resident in Dang Deukhuri foothill forests and West Rapti wetlands (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Jajarkot District (E4) in October 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); resident in Balewa, Baglung district (G5) (Basnet 2009); Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District (Thakuri 2011, 2013); Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002); many records from Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in March 2004 (Chaudhary 2004), December 2002-January 2003 (Brickle 2003), December 2007 (Baral 2008), and February 2010 (Baral 2010a). Other records are from the Tibetan Refugee Camp, Kaski District (H5) in February 2008 (Giri 2008); between Damauli and Devghat in January 2008 (Baral 2008); near Begnas Tal (J5), Kaski District in January 1992 (Halliday 1992), and between Pusgam, Libiyani and Rupatal (J5), Lamjung District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal records include: from the Upardanggadhi hills, Chitwan District (J6) in January 2012 (Dymond 2012) and between Nalang and Kathmandu, Dhading District (K6) in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012). It is listed as a fairly common or uncommon resident in the Kathmandu Valley (L6) between 2004 and 2006 (Mallalieu 2008). However, there are many post-1990 records from the Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area, Kathmandu Valley (L6), e.g. in October 1992 (Baral 1993), February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b), December 1997/1998, April 1999 (Chaudhary 1999), February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002), February 2008 (Giri 2008), January 2010 (Giri 2010a), March 2010 (Giri 2010b), January/February 2010 (Baral 2010b), March 2010 (Baral 2010c), January 2011 (Baral 2011c); and from Godaveri (L6) in October 1993 (Baral 1994), April 1996 (Taylor *et al.* 1996) and February 1998 (Chaudhary 1998b), indicating it is locally fairly common in the Valley. Other records in central Nepal include from between Melamchi pul and Dubachaur in March 2004 (Chaudhary 2004a); Dhading District (K6) in April 2011 (Baral 2011d), and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east localities include from: between Gothe Bazar and Phedi, Bhojpur district (P7) in November 2011 (Carter and James 2011); Pikhuwa Khola (Q7) and the Chitre Danda (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in May and June 2009 (Cox 2009); Bungling (Q7) and Pikhuwa (Q7), Sankhuwasabha District in November 1994 (Baral and Buckton 1994); Koshi camp, Madhuban in Sunsari District (R8) in September 2010 (Baral 2010a); Itahari (Q8), Sunsari District (Pandey 2003); Dharan (Q8), Sunsari District (Subba 1995); Panchthar District in November 1992 (Cox 1992); between Dobhan and Mitlung, Taplejung District (R7), Mamangkhe, Kande Bhanjyang and Lali Kharka, Taplejung District (R7) in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); the lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapktoa 2006); Ilam, Ilam District (R8) in January 2008 (Baral 2010b); numerous in suitable habitat from Khuduna Bari c. 70 m to Mai Majuwa c. 2000 m, Mai valley (R7, R8) (Robson *et al.* 2008), and at Dobate, Mabu, Ilam District (S7) in September 2010 (Baral 2010d).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2000 m (- 2745 m); lower limit: 245 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Asian Barred Owlet. Daily totals include 29 in the Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008). Its population is probably declining because of habitat loss and maybe also because of hunting and trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Asian Barred Owlet inhabits broadleaved tropical and subtropical forest; also open temperate forest of oak, pine and rhododendron. Mainly diurnal, it often perches conspicuously on bare branches, from where it scans and listens for prey. When alarmed, it has a curious habit of wagging its tail. Like other small owls, it has an undulating flight, a series of rapid wing-beats followed by a dipping glide. It also has a characteristic habit of puffing itself up into a ball before starting its bubbling call and then gradually subsiding to its normal size (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It preys on beetles, grasshoppers, cicadas and other large insects; lizards, small birds and mice (Ali and Ripley 1987). Proved breeding records include from: Pokhara, Kaski District (Heathcote and Heathcote 1988), in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983), and Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1961).

Threats

Asian Barred Owlet is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat, especially in the tropical, subtropical and lower temperate zones. It is also threatened by loss of large mature trees. Hunting and trapping are other threats, especially as it is diurnal. A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Asian Barred Owlet. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Khaptad, Bardia, Rara, Banke, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks; Api Nampa, Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Asian Barred Owlet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a fairly common and widespread resident and post-1990, it has been recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 it has been recorded more widely in the west, probably because of better coverage, otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution of the species post-1990 compared to pre-1990. It has been recorded widely within and outside the protected areas' system. Asian Barred Owlet is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat, including the loss of large, mature trees. It is also threatened by hunting and trapping, especially as it is diurnal. Its population is

probably declining, although not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Glaucidium radiatum Tickell, 1833 LC

Subspecies: *Glaucidium radiatum radiatum*

Common Name

Jungle Owlet (English),

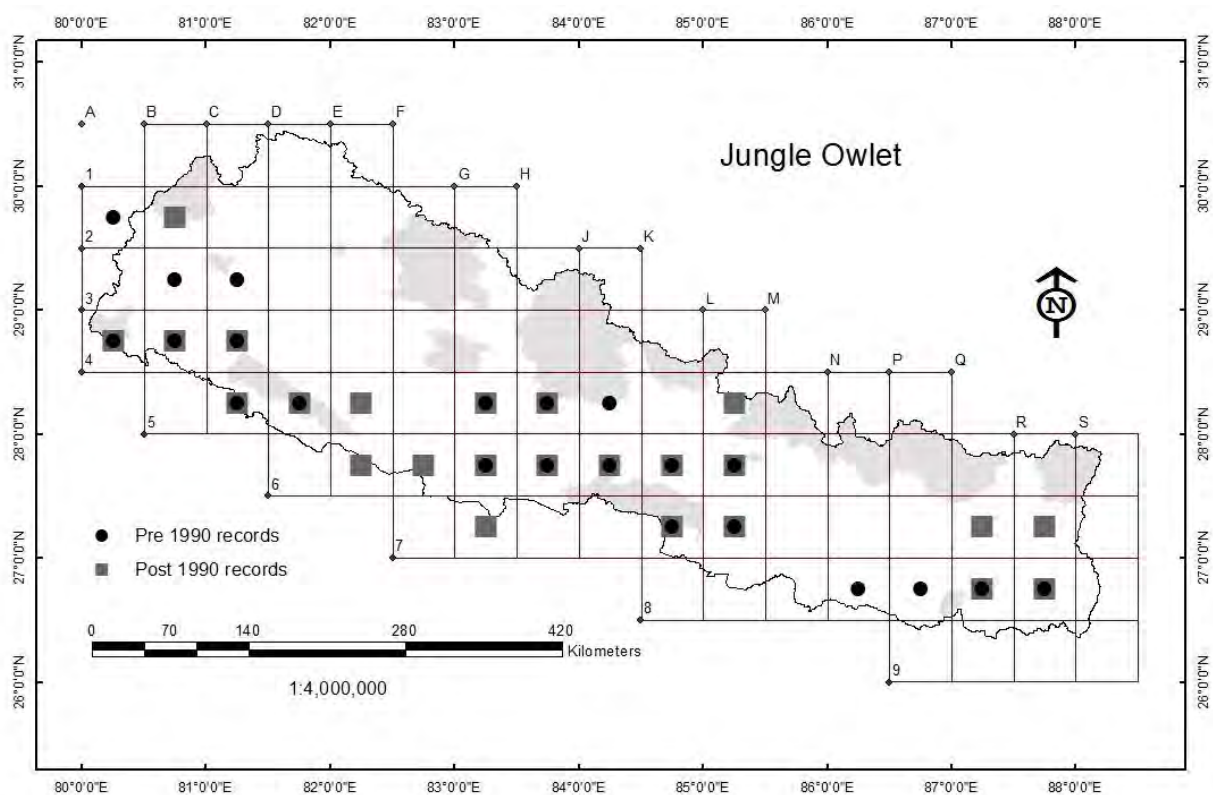
Dundool (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Jungle Owlet is a common and widespread resident. It has been recorded from Api Nampa Conservation Area (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012) in the far west to the upper Mai valley (Robson *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it as a common resident, and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) noted it as a common resident, mainly occurring from the tarai up to 915 m.

Since 1990 it has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in its distribution within its range post-1990 compared to pre-1990.

The post-1990 status of the species in protected areas is: a common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (e.g. Baral and Inskipp 2009; Baral 1997a, 2011a; Chaudhary 1998a; Giri 1997, 2009); recorded in Api Nampa Conservation Area (B2) (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012); a common resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5) (e.g. Baral 1992, 2008; Chaudhary 1997, 1999; Giri 1997; Halliday and Baral 1992; Inskipp and Inskipp 2001;

Inskipp 2001; Kumar 2001; Wartmann and Schönjahn 1992); Banke National Park (D5) in February 2012 (Baral et. al. 2012); rare, possibly resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral 1992, 1993a, 1995, 1996b, 1997b, 2007, 2009, 2010a,b, 2011b; Baral and Upadhyay 2006; Chaudhary 1997, 1998a,b, 1999, 2001; Cottridge *et al.* 1994; Cox 2003; Inskipp and Inskipp 2010, 2012); resident in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Baral and Pradhan 1992, Cox 2003, Todd 2001); Langtang National Park (L5) (GC 2000; Cocker 1996) and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) (Giri 1997); a fairly common resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife reserve (Q8) (Baral 1993a,b, 2005, 2007, 2010b, 2011b,c; Baral and Birch 2005; Chaudhary 1995, 1997, 1998a, 2007; Giri 1996, 2008b).

It has been recorded in Bardia National Park buffer zone in the in Khata forest corridor (C5), Bardia District (Chaudhari 2007) and Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996a, Giri 2008a; Giri 2010, Naylor and Metcalf 2012); Barandabhar (Adhikari *et al.* 2000, Ghimire 2009, Pradhan 2005), Sauraha, e.g. Naylor and Metcalf (2012) and Namuna Community Forest (H6), Nawalparasi District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012). It has also been recorded in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone (Q7) in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

Jungle Owlet has been recorded widely outside the protected areas' system since 1990.

In the west records include from: Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); Ghodaghodi Tal, Kailali District (B4) in January 2010 (Baral 2010a) and was described as a fairly common resident in the area (CSUWN and BCN 2012); recorded Tikapur Park (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); resident in Dang-Deukhuri foothill forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area (E5, E6), Dang District (Thakuri 2009a,b); Balewa, Baglung District (G5) (Basnet 2009); Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District in June 2011 (Thakuri 2011, 2013); Kapilvastu and Rupandehi Districts (F6, G6, G7) (Cox 2002); Pokhara valley (H5), Kaski District, e.g. in January 2005 (Mallalieu 2005), December 2007 (Baral 2008) and February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009); Butwal (G6), Rupandehi District in May 2012 (Krishna Bhusal *in litt.* to R. Acharya July 2014), and Lumbini (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002).

In central Nepal localities include: Godavari (L6), Lalitpur District in February 1994 (Cottridge *et al.* 1994); several localities in Rautahat District (L7): by the Bagmati River, Judibela Community Forest, Adarsha Community Forest, Chandi Khola national forest, Rangapur Collaborative Forest, Santapur; also Bakaiya Community Forest, Nijgarh, Bara District (L7) and Hetauda (L7), Makwanpur District in September 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013), and along the North South Fast Track Road (L7) (Basnet and Thakuri 2008, 2013).

In the east localities include: several localities in Sankhuwasabha District (Q7) in May 2009 (Cox 2009); many locations in Sunsari District: Koshi barrage (P8) in January 1994 (Chaudhary 1994); Koshi camp (Q8), e.g. in January 1997 (Chaudhary 1997) and 1998 (Chaudhary 1998a), February 1999 (Chaudhary 1999), December 2000 (Chaudhary 2001), February 2002 (Chaudhary 2002), March 2002 (Baral 2002), and February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), November 2007 (Baral 2007) and October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Koshi Bird Observatory (Q8) in September 2010 (Baral 2010c); Dharan Forest Important Bird Area (Q8) in January, March and October 2008 (Basnet and Sapkota 2008, Miller 2011a) and between Prakashpur and Maduban in April 1996 (Chaudhary 1996), Ramdhuni forest (Miller 2011b), and Haripur in January 2010 (Baral 2010a). Other records include from Raja Rani Pokhari (Q8), Morang District (Basnet 2002, Basnet *et al.* 2005); lower Mai valley (R8), Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006); between Mamangkhe (R7) and Kande Bhanjyang (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Garuwa and Soktim (R8), Jhapa District in Mai valley (R8) in March 2008 (Robson *et al.* 2008), and Ilam (R8), Ilam District in June 1997 (Chaudhary 1998a).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1600 m; lower limit: 915 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Jungle Owlet. Daily totals include ten in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in March 1997 (Giri 1997). Its population is possibly declining as a result of habitat loss and hunting and trapping.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Jungle Owlet inhabits scrub and thin forests of the dun and terai (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It is found in open forests and secondary jungle (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). It is mainly crepuscular, but is sometimes active in the daytime, especially in dull weather. Although it usually spends the day in foliage or in a tree hollow, it is easier to see than many owls as it readily flies from its roost when disturbed (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It preys on locusts, grasshoppers, cicadas and other large insects; molluscs, lizards, small birds and mice (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Jungle Owlet has probably benefited by forest thinning and forest degradation; although it is at risk from the complete clearance of trees such as for urbanisation or intensive agriculture. It is also threatened by hunting and trapping. A study by Acharya and Ghimirey (2009) revealed a wide ranging owl trade in Nepal. Owls are mainly traded live and the owl trade has accelerated within the last 15 years. As it is sometimes active during the day and is also easier to see than many owls (see Habitat and Ecology section) Jungle Owlet may be at increased risk from hunting and trapping. One injured Jungle Owlet was rescued from Butwal Technical Institute Hostel, Butwal, Rupandehi district in May 2012 (Krishna Bhusal *in litt.* to R. Acharya July 2014).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Jungle Owlet. Since 1990, it has been recorded from Bardia, Banke, Chitwan, Langtang and Shivapuri Nagarjun National Parks; Api Nampa and Annapurna Conservation Areas and Sukla Phanta, Parsa and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Jungle Owlet has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a common and widespread resident and post 1990 has been recorded widely from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 it has been more widely recorded in the west, probably because of better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in its distribution within its range post-1990 compared to pre-1990. Jungle Owlet has probably benefited by forest thinning and forest degradation, although it is at risk from the complete clearance of trees, such as for urbanisation or intensive agriculture. It is also threatened by hunting and trapping. Its population is possibly declining, but not to a degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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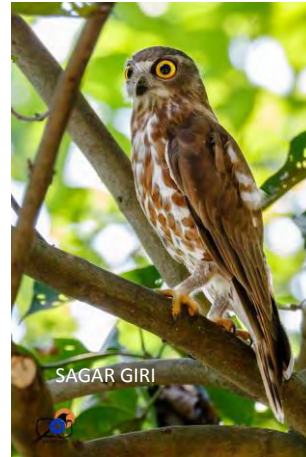
Ninox scutulata Raffles, 1822 LC

Subspecies: *Ninox scutulata lugubris*

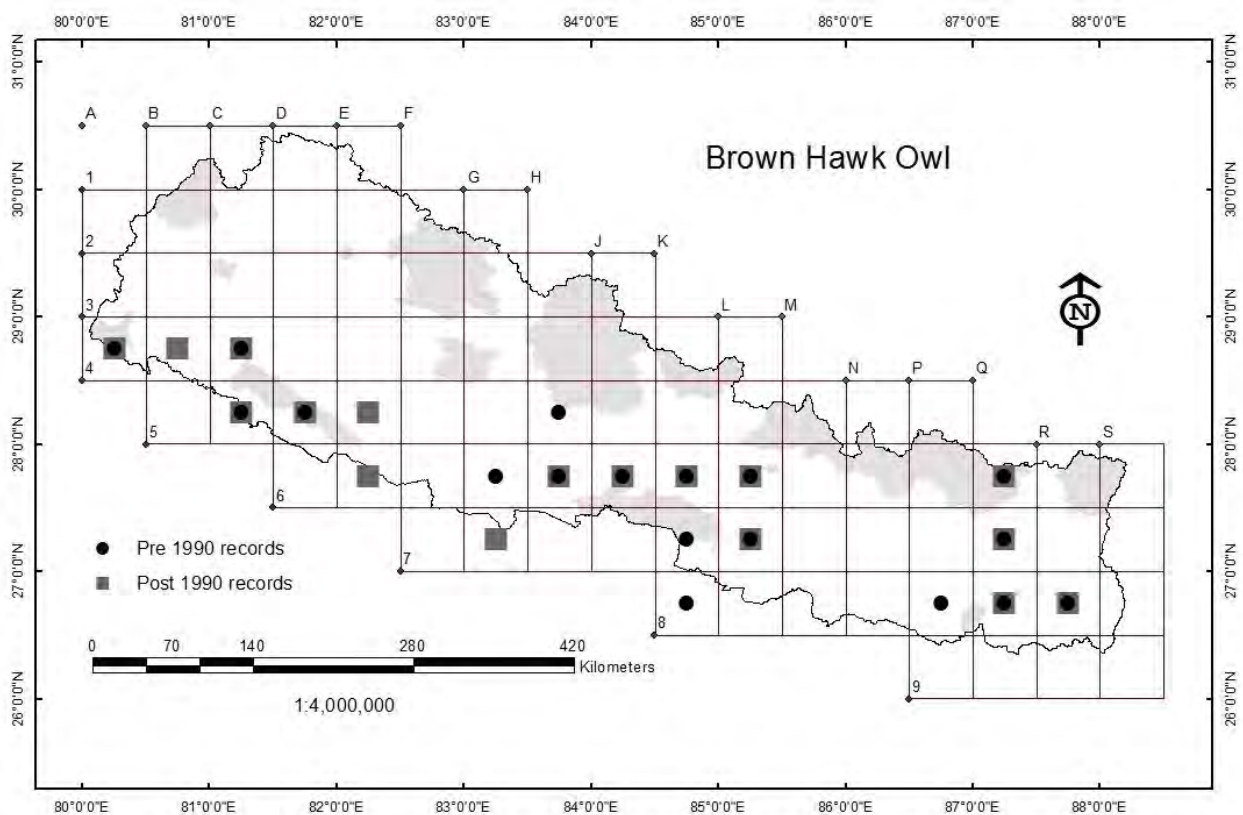
Common Name

Brown Hawk Owl (English),
Kaal Pechak (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Brown Hawk Owl is a resident, fairly common in some protected areas and frequent elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (e.g. Baral and Inskipp 2009)) in the far west to the Mai valley, Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1837).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) considered it as resident, fairly common in Chitwan National Park and occasionally recorded elsewhere.

In comparison to pre-1990, the number of records, especially outside the protected areas' system, has slightly decreased yet there is no significant difference in its distribution.

The post-1990 status of the species in protected areas' system follows. It is a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral 1996a, 1997a, Baral and Inskipp 2009, Chaudhary 1998, Hewatt 2009, Giri 1997, 2009). Inskipp (2001) listed it as an uncommon resident in Bardia National Park (C4, C5), but other

records e.g., Baral (1992, 2008), Chaudhary (1998), Giri (1997), Inskipp and Inskipp (2001), and Kumar (2001) indicate that it is frequent there. It was recorded in Banke National Park (D5) in February 2012 (Baral *et al.* 2012); is a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral 2010a, 2011, Baral and Upadhyay 2006, Chaudhary 2007, Cottridge *et al.* 1994); recorded on Nagarjun in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (L6) in March 1997 (Giri 1997); is a locally fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Cox 1999), and a fairly common resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 1997b, 2005.). It has been recorded from Chitwan National Park buffer zone in Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996b, Pradhan 2005).

Brown Hawk Owl has been less frequently recorded outside the protected areas' system, compared to within protected areas. Post-1990 records follow

In the west records include from: Dhanghadi (B4), Kailali District (Baral 1991); Tikapur park (C5), Kailali District in July 2013 (Baral *et al.* 2013); resident in Dang Deukhuri foothill forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area, Dang District (E5, E6) (Thakuri 2009a,b); recorded in Lumbini IBA (G7), Rupandehi District (Suwal *et al.* 2002), and Augeuli VDC, Baghkhori, Nawalparasi District (H6) in May 2013 (Acharya 2013).

In central Nepal records include from: Korak VDC, Chitwan District (J6) in December 2012 (Acharya 2012); Kathmandu (L6) (e.g. Baral 1993), and photographed at Swayambhunath in June 2015 (Firoz Hussain, Vimal Thapa and Pratap Gurung) and recorded between Belwa and Kat Mandir, Bara district (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: between Tumlingtar and Giddhe, Sankhuwasabha District (Q7) in April 2009 (Cox 2009); Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in November 2000 (Basnet 2000), February 2005 (Baral and Birch 2005), November 2007 (Baral 2007), March 2010 (Baral 2010a) and October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Koshi Bird Observatory (Q8), Sunsari District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in March 2010 (Baral 2010b); Raja Rani Community Forest (Q8), Morang District (Basnet *et al.* 2005), and lower Mai valley (R8) Ilam District (Basnet and Sapkota 2006).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Palau, Philippines, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1500 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Brown Hawk Owl. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its threats indicate that its population is probably declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Brown Hawk Owl inhabits leafy groves and heavy sal forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976) in the tropical and subtropical zones. It lives singly or in pairs and is crepuscular and nocturnal, typically spending the day concealed in the top of forest tree. Sometimes it hunts in daylight in cloudy weather. Typically, it hunts by flying out from a tree stump to chase insects and returns to the same perch again. It also preys on frogs, lizards and small birds and mammals. Its flight is hawk-like, a series of rapid wing-beats followed by a glide (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It preys on large insects such as beetles and grasshoppers; frogs, lizards, small birds, mice and small bats (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983) and in the

Kathmandu Valley (Vyas 1988).

Threats

Brown Hawk Owl is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat, which is especially at risk as it is broadleaved and lies in the tropical and subtropical zones. It is also threatened by the loss of large mature trees. It is threatened by hunting and trapping, especially when it hunts in the daylight. A pair of adult Brown Hawk Owls was threatened by children with catapults at Augeuli, Nawalparasi District (Acharya 2013) and a juvenile was found sold at a cost of NRP 200 in Korak VDC, Chitwan District. Its tail was cut and it was found kept in a hotel to attract more visitors (Acharya 2012). A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Brown Hawk Owl. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Bardia, Chitwan, Shivapuri Nagarjun and Makalu Barun National Parks, and Sukla Phanta and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Brown Hawk Owl has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, fairly common in some protected areas and frequent elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the east with more frequent records in the east. In comparison to pre-1990, the number of records has slightly decreased, especially outside the protected areas' system, yet there is no significant difference in its distribution. It may be under-recorded because of its nocturnal and crepuscular nature. It is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat including the loss of mature trees. Its habitat is especially at risk as it is broadleaved and lies in the tropical and subtropical zones. Brown Hawk Owl is also threatened by hunting and trapping, especially when it hunts in the daylight. As a result, its population is probably declining, but not to degree that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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Otus bakkamoena Pennant, 1769 LC
Subspecies: *Otus bakkamoena gangeticus*, *lettia*

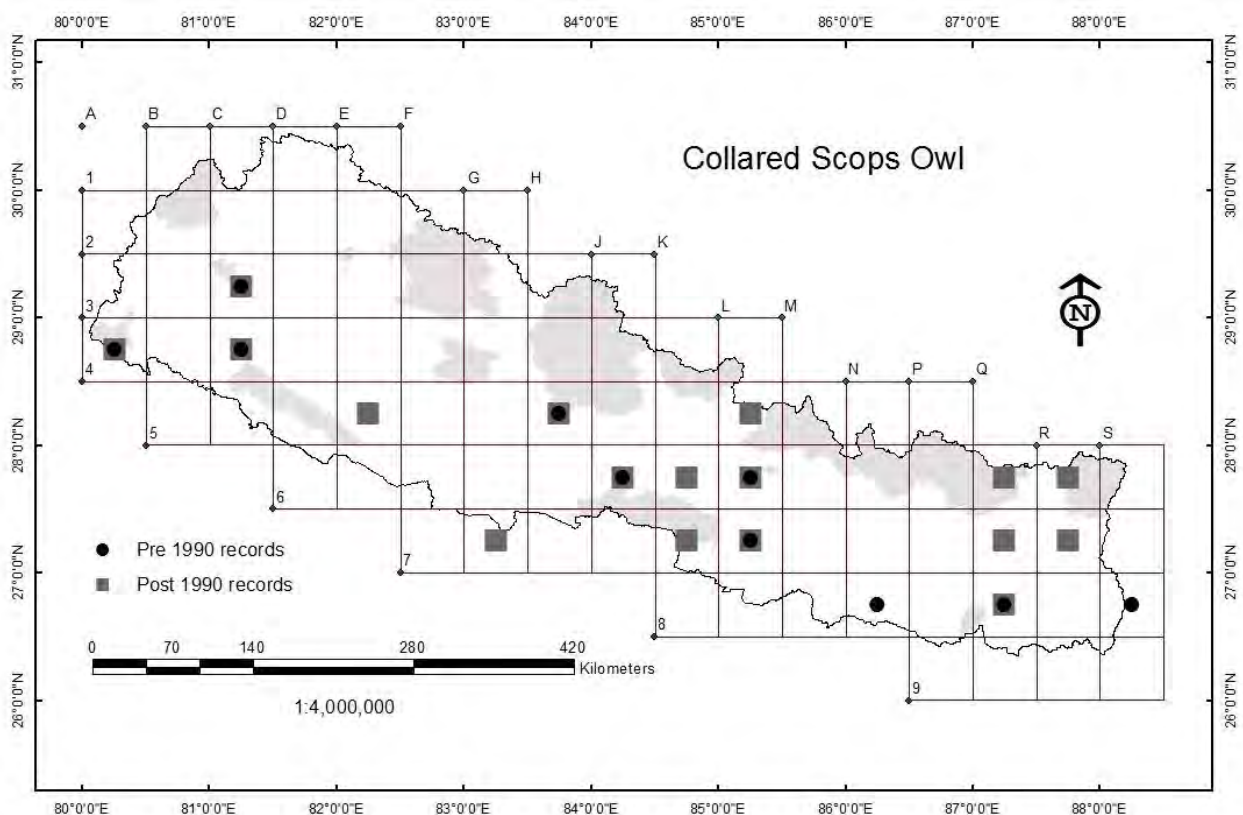
Common Name

Collared Scops Owl (English),
Chitri Ooluk (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Collared Scops Owl is a resident, fairly common in some protected areas, frequent outside protected areas in the east and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (e.g. Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Halberg 1994) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was a local resident of uncertain status, found between 185 m and 1525 m.

Since 1990, the species has been recorded from more locations within and outside the protected areas' system, especially in the east, probably as a result of better coverage. However, the species is probably still under-recorded because of its strictly nocturnal habits.

The post-1990 status of the species in the protected areas' system is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta

Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral 1997a; Baral and Inskipp 2009; Chaudhary 1998a, 1998b; Giri and Choudhary 1996); resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a rare resident in Bardia National Park (C4) (Baral 1992, Chaudhary 1998b, Inskipp 2001); recorded in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) in February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009); a fairly common resident in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral and Upadhyay 2006); recorded in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003) and recorded in Langtang Valley, Langtang National Park (L5) in April 2000 (Basnet 2000); a fairly common resident in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Q8) (Baral 1997b, 2005, 2011; Chaudhary (1998a), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) in April 1994 (Halberg 1994, Inskipp *et al.* 2008). It was recorded in Chitwan National Park buffer zone at Bees Hazari Tal, Barandabhar (Baral 1996a, Pradhan 2005), Barandabhar (Development Vision 2005) and in Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

Post 1990 records of the species outside the protected areas' system follow.

in the west records include from: Dang Deukhuri foothill forests and West Rapti wetlands Important Bird Area, Dang District (E5), where it was described as resident (Thakuri 2009a,b); Lumbini Buddha Garden hotel, Rupandehi District (G7) in December 2010 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2010); Pokhara (H5), Kaski District in November 2007 (Baral 2007) and February 2009 (Naylor *et al.* 2009), and from Tiger Mountain Lodge, Pokhara valley, Kaski District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012).

In central Nepal records include from: the lower slopes of Phulchoki Mountain Important Bird Area in April 2008 (Hem Sagar Baral in Mallalieu 2008) and regularly heard from Godaveri; singles heard from Bosan Khola, Kathmandu Valley in February and March 2008 (Arend van Riessen *in litt.* to H. S. Baral and C. Inskipp, June 2015), and near Kat Mandir, Bara district (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east records include from: Sankhuwasabha District (Q6) in May 2009 (Cox 2009); Arun Valley (Q7) near Tumlingtar in November 2004 (Mallalieu 2005); between Koshi Bird Observatory and Koshi Camp (Q8), Sunsari District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Koshi Camp, Sunsari District (Q8) in November 1996 (Giri 1996) and February/April 1999 (Chaudhary 1999); Haripur, Sunsari District (Q8) in January 2010 (Baral 2010), and Mamangkhe (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 1525 m; lower limit: 185 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Collared Scops Owl. It has significantly declined in the Kathmandu Valley: it was common there in 1949, recorded occasionally in 1970, but with few later records by 1990 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) and only one known record since 1990 (see Distribution section). Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its threats indicate its population is probably decreasing.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Collared Scops Owl inhabits mixed forest and groves near cultivation (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); open forests and near villages in the foothills (Fleming *et al.* 1976) in the subtropical zone. Like other scops owls it is probably under-recorded as it is strictly nocturnal and usually only located by its characteristic calls (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It hides by day in a densely foliated tree, often close against the trunk or in a dark tree hollow

(Grimmett *et al.* 2008). It preys on beetles, grasshoppers and other insects, lizards, mice and small birds (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983), Kathmandu (Hurrell 1988); Hetauda, Makwanpur District (Biswas 1961) and in Koshi Camp, Sunsari District (Chaudhary 2013).

Threats

Collared Scops Owl is threatened by loss and degradation of forest, especially those near cultivation and villages. It is at risk from hunting and trapping activities as well. For example, a Collared Scops Owl was captured at Kerabari (Sidhartha Highway), Palpa District (H6) by local people who traded the bird, but it was later released into the wild (Krishna Bhusal *in litt.* to R. Acharya, July 2014). A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Collared Scops Owl. Since 1990, it has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Chitwan and Langtang National Parks; Annapurna and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas and Sukla Phanta, Parsa, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Collared Scops Owl has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, fairly common in some protected areas, frequent outside protected areas in the east and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded significantly more widely within and outside the protected areas' system, especially in the east, probably due to better coverage. Even so it may be still under-recorded because of its strictly nocturnal and crepuscular nature. It is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat and also by hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining though not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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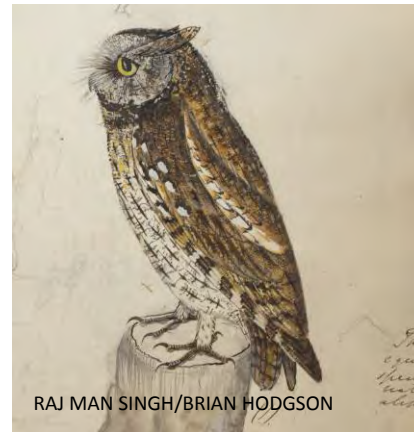
Otus spilocephalus Blyth, 1846 LC

Subspecies: *Otus spilocephalus spilocephalus*, *huttoni*

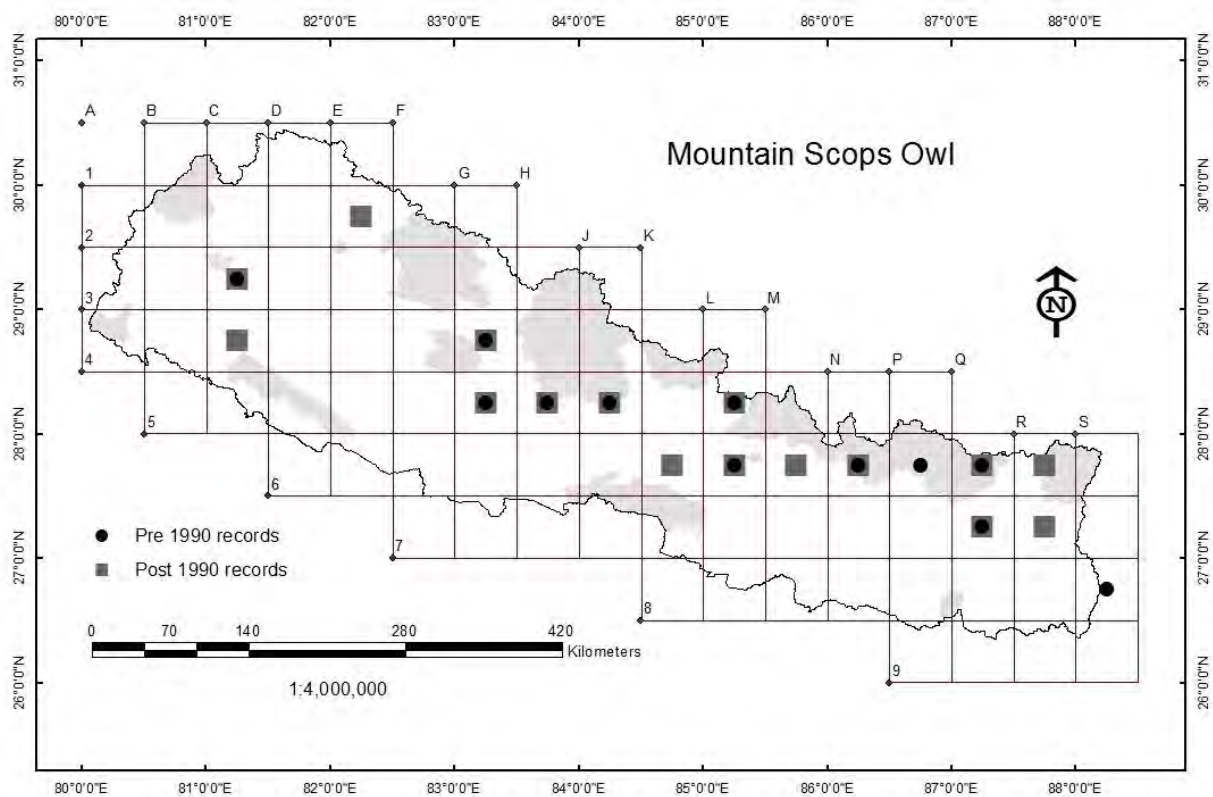
Common Name

Mountain Scops Owl (English),
Lekali Ooluk (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Mountain Scops Owl is a frequent resident. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (Halliday 1993, Chaudhary 2006) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (White and White 1999 in Inskipp *et al.* 2008) in the far east.

The species was first recorded in Nepal in the 19th century by Hodgson who found it breeding in Kathmandu Valley (Hodgson 1829, 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it a fairly common resident, and Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) noted it as resident and fairly common north-west of Pokhara and on hills surrounding the Kathmandu Valley, and with mainly single records from elsewhere.

Since 1990, the species has been recorded more widely in the west and the east, probably as a result of better coverage. However, it is probably still under-recorded (see Habitat and Ecology section).

The post-1990 status of the species in the protected areas is: regularly recorded at Koramando, Khaptad

National Park (C3) (Halliday 1993) and described as a frequent resident in the park (Chaudhary 2006); recorded from Bardia National Park (C4) (Baral 1992); a frequent resident in Rara National Park (E2,) (Giri 2005); an uncommon resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H5) (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003, Naylor and Giri 2004, Naylor *et al.* 2009). The species has been recorded as a frequent resident on Shivapuri (L6) in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (SNP and BCN 2007), but no other post-1990 records from the park could be located. It is a rare resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded from Gaurishankar Conservation Area in May 2009 (Baral and Shah 2009); a locally fairly common resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Cox 1999a), and recorded in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (White and White 1999 in Inskipp *et al.* 2008). Since 1990, Mountain Scops Owl has also been recorded fairly widely outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include from: between Lumsum and Deorali Thanti (G4), between Deorali Thanti and Lachang, Dhola Khola (G4), between Palung, Dhola Khola and Archegaun, Dhola Khola (G4), and between Bagara and Baihanse Kharka, Myagdi Khola (G4), Myagdi District and also between the ghot past Bikos and ghot above Patle (G5), Gulmi District in May and June 1999 (Cox 1999b); from Reshunga Forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District in February 2011 (Thakuri 2011, 2013); Tiger Mountain Lodge and Paudur Hill (H5), Kaski District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012); Pokhara, Kaski District at 970 m in July 2014 (Acharya 2014), and between Pasgam, Libiyani and Rupatal (J5), Lamjung District in April 2000 (Byrne 2000).

In central Nepal, records include from Phulchowki Mountain Important Bird Area in February 1996 (Baral 1996). There were no records from the Kathmandu Valley (L6) between 2004 and 2006, but night time visits were precluded during the period due to security concerns (Mallalieu 2008). Other records include from Nalang (K6), Dhading District in October 2012 (Inskipp and Inskipp 2012) and Sermanthang (M6), Sindhupalchowk District in January 2012 (Dymond 2012).

In the east records include from Sankhuwasabha District (Q7) in May 2009 (Cox 2009) and Mamangkhe (R7), Taplejung District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 2745 m; lower limit: 1525 m (- 970 m)

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Mountain Scops Owl. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its threats indicate that numbers are probably declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Mountain Scops Owl inhabits leafy ravines in oak forests (Fleming *et al.* (1976). It was regularly recorded in subtropical forest at Koramando in Khaptad National Park (Halliday 1993). Its main habitat in Annapurna Conservation Area includes subtropical broadleaved, and lower temperate and upper temperate forest types (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003). In Taplejung District it was found in open tree-rich land with forest remnants nearby (Martens and Eck 1995). The species is probably under-recorded since it is entirely nocturnal and difficult to see during the day when it often roosts in a tree hollow. It begins its calling about an hour before dark, and continues intermittently during the night (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Mountain Scops Owl chiefly eats large insects, including beetles, cicadas, mantises, and is also believed to take small rodents, small birds and lizards (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding was proved in the Kathmandu Valley in the 19th century (Hodgson

1829).

Threats

Mountain Scops Owl is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat, especially subtropical forest, including the loss of mature trees. The status of the species was considered at risk in Khaptad National Park (Halliday 1993). However, in Taplejung District it was found in tree-rich land with forest remnants nearby (Martens and Eck 1995). Mountain Scops Owl is also threatened by hunting and trapping. A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009). A juvenile Mountain Scops Owl which was found wounded in a street in Pokhara, Kaski District was rescued and later released to Raniban (Acharya 2014).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Mountain Scops Owl. Since 1990, it has been recorded from Khaptad, Bardia, Rara, Shivapuri Nagarjun, Langtang and Makalu Barun National Parks and Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Mountain Scops Owl has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a frequent resident and post 1990 it has been quite widely recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990, probably as a result of better coverage, the species has been recorded more widely in the west and the east compared to pre-1990. New locations are from both inside and outside protected areas. However, as it is entirely nocturnal and roosts in a tree hollow, Mountain Scops Owl is probably still under-recorded. It is threatened by loss and degradation of forest, especially subtropical forest including the loss of mature trees, and also by hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining, although not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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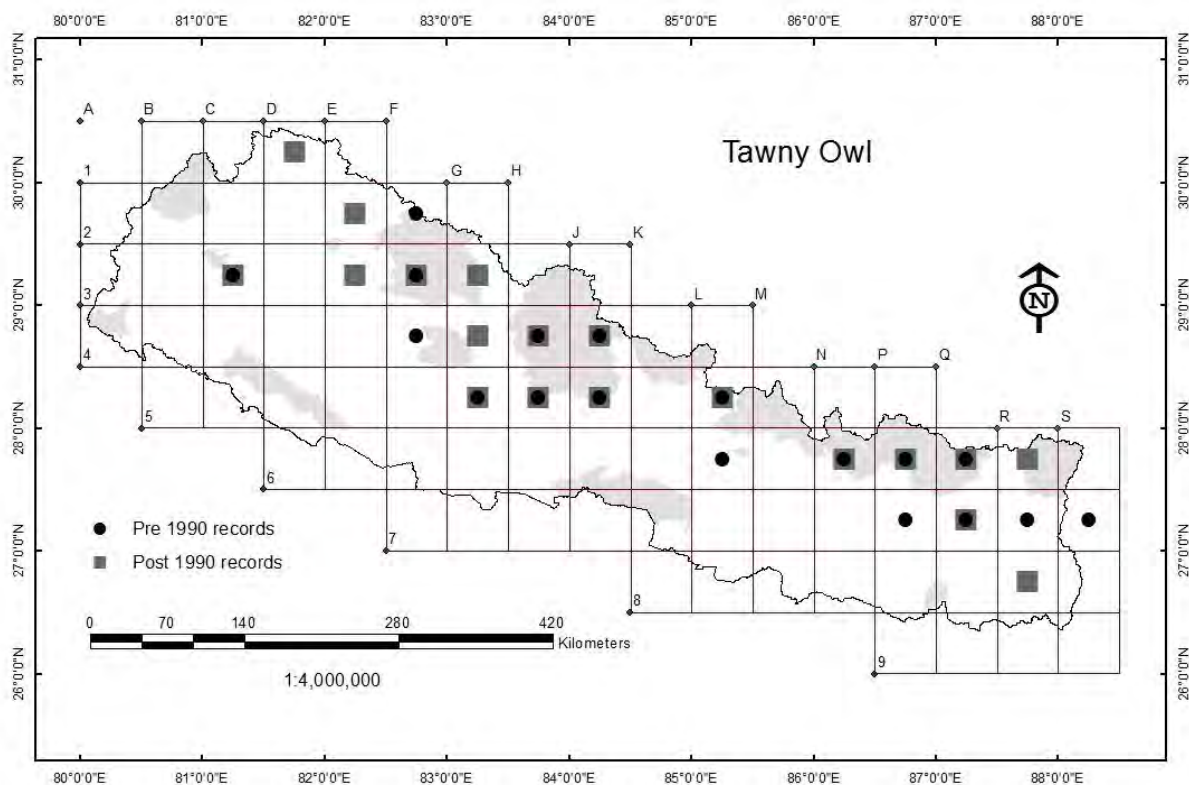
Strix aluco Blyth, 1845 LC
 Subspecies: *Strix aluco nivicola*, *biddulphi* (?)



Common name
 Tawny Owl (English),
 Kailo Pahadi Ooluk (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
 Family: Strigidae

Distribution



Tawny Owl is a resident, frequent in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad National Park (Chaudhary 2006) in the far west to Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (Carpenter *et al.* 1995, White and White 1999) in the far east.

The first Nepal record of the species was in 19th century (Hodgson 1844).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) described it as a fairly common resident; Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) reported it was an uncommon resident and mapped it quite widely from the west to the far east.

Since 1990 it has been recorded more widely in the west and its distribution has been extended to the Humla District, probably due to better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution compared to pre-1990.

The post-1990 status of the species in protected areas is: a scarce resident in Khaptad National Park (C3) (Chaudhary 2006); a frequent resident in Rara National Park (E2) (Giri 2005); a common resident in Shey-Phoksundo National Park (F3, G3) (Priemé and Øksnebjerg 1992, 1995); recorded in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (G4) (Panthi and Thagunna 2013); an uncommon resident in Annapurna Conservation Area (H4, H5, J4, J5)

(Basnet 1999, Ghimire 2009, Ghale 2010, Inskipp and Inskipp 2003); a frequent resident in Langtang National Park (L5) (Cocker 1996, Chaudhary 2007, Karki and Thapa 2001); recorded in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (N6) in October 1996 (Cox 1996); a rare resident in Sagarmatha National Park (P6) (Basnet 2004); a frequent resident in Makalu Barun National Park (Q6) (Baral and Buckton 1994, Cox 1999a, Halberg 1991, Inskipp *et al.* 2005) and found to be infrequent at Chitre in the park (Bland 1994); also recorded from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (R6) (Brown 1995, Carpenter *et al.* 1995, White and White 1999 in Inskipp *et al.* 2008).

It has been recorded from Makalu Barun National Park buffer zone in the Apsuwa Khola valley (Q6), Sankhuwasabha District in May 2009 (Cox 2009).

There are few post-1990 records of the species outside the protected areas' system.

In the west records include: from Simikot, Humla District (D1) May 2011 (Ghimirey 2011) and May or June 2013 (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013); between Gothichaur and Navakuna (E3), Jumla District in March 1992 (Priemé 1992); north of the Khali-Lagna pass (E3), Jumla District in April 2009 (O'Connell Davidson and Karki 2009); the upper Myagdi Khola valley (G4), Myagdi District in June 1999 (Cox 1999b); Belawa (G5), Baglung District (Basnet 2009), and Reshunga forest Important Bird Area (G5), Gulmi District in March 2011 (Thakuri 2011, 2013).

In the east records include: from Puiyan (P6), Solukhumbu District in February 2012 (Naylor and Metcalf 2012) and Chauki (Q7), Terhathum District in April 2008 (Inskipp *et al.* 2008); Ilam District (R8) in November 1992 and Sankhuwasabha District (Q6) in December 1992 (Cox 1992).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China (mainland), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation Upper limit: 4000 m; lower limit: 2000 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Tawny Owl. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its threats indicate that numbers are possibly declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum: population unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Tawny Owl inhabits oak/rhododendron and coniferous forests (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991); juniper and hemlock forests (Fleming *et al.* 1976). Its main habitat in Annapurna Conservation Area includes lower temperate and upper temperate forest types (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003). It is strictly nocturnal and seldom emerges before dusk. Thus it is probably under-recorded and more birds are heard than seen (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Typically, Tawny Owl roosts in a tree, perched close to the trunk with half-closed eyes, partly concealed by leaves and resembling a dead stump. It hunts mainly by looking out and listening from a perch and also seizes birds from their roosting place or nests (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It preys on rats and other small mammals, especially voles, birds, lizards, beetles etc (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Tawny Owl is less threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat than forest species at lower altitudes as it mainly occurs in upper temperate and subalpine forests. It is also threatened by hunting and trapping. A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009). In Jomosom, Mustang District two dead Tawny Owls were found hanging at the main entrance of a house. The inhabitants believed the owls would protect the house from evil (Ghimirey 2009). The same practice was found in Simikot, Humla District as well (Ghimirey and Acharya 2013).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Tawny Owl. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Khaptad, Rara, Shey-Phoksundo, Langtang, Sagarmatha and Makalu Barun National Park; Annapurna, Gaurishankar and Kanchenjunga Conservation Areas, and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.

Regional IUCN Status

Least Concern (LC), unchanged from the Global Red List assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Tawny Owl has been assessed as Least Concern. It is a resident, frequent in some protected areas and uncommon elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from the far west to the far east. Since 1990 there has been a small increase in distribution records from the west, probably due to better coverage; otherwise there is no significant difference in distribution compared to pre-1990. The species may be under recorded due to its strictly nocturnal behaviour and is more of them heard than seen. As it mainly occurs in upper temperate and subalpine forests, it is less threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat than forest species at lower altitudes. It is also threatened by hunting and trapping. As a result its population is possibly declining, but not to an extent that warrants a threatened category for the species.

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White, D. and White, K. (1999) Bird records from treks to Kanchenjunga area in 1992, 1994, 1997 and 1999. Unpublished.

Bubo bubo Linnaeus, 1758 DD

Subspecies: *Bubo bubo hemachalana*

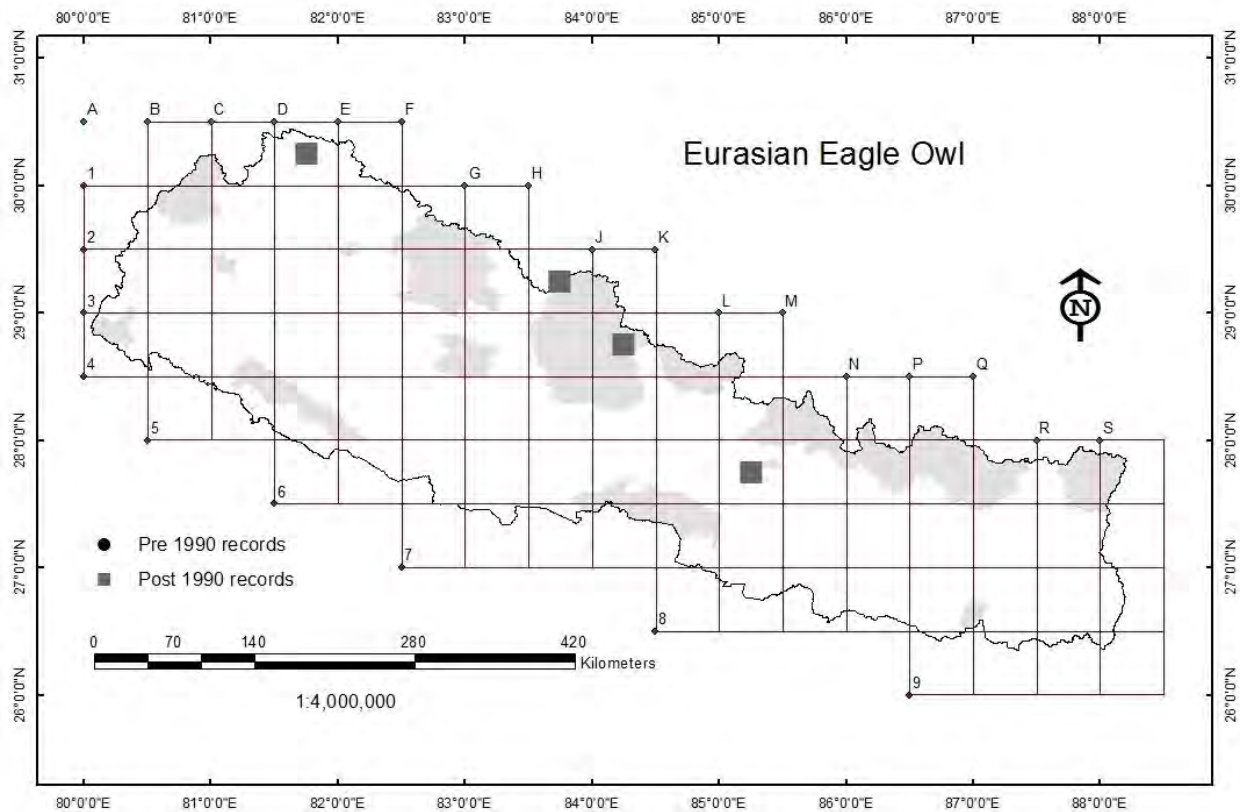
Common name

Eurasian Eagle Owl (English),
Himali Hapsilo (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes
Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Eurasian Eagle Owl is a rare resident species, chiefly recorded in the north-west, with one record from central Nepal. Since the species has recently been split from Rock Eagle Owl *Bubo bengalensis*, its pre-1990 status is unknown. There are very few post-1990 records. As a result, it is difficult to assess if there have been any changes in its distributional range since 1990.

The first confirmed Nepal record of the species was on a cliff near the Dhalung River in the Dhalung rangeland north of Lo Manthang, Upper Mustang (H3), Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) at 4900 m in August 2004 (Chetri *et al.* 2005). Later singles were seen near Lo Manthang, ACA at 3900 m in 2001 (Karan Shah, Madhu Chetri) and on the way to Panga Pasture, Upper Mustang at 3850 m in August 2006 (Chetri 2007) and in Yak kharka in Manang in October 2008 (Acharya and Ghimirey 2008). Annapurna Conservation Area is the only protected area where the species has been recorded. (Inskipp and Inskipp 2003, Acharya and Ghimirey 2008).

Only two other records are known, both outside the protected areas' system. In the west, an adult was recorded at Chyakpalung, Humla District (D1), at 5000 m, in August 2014 (Kusi *et al.* 2015), and one was recorded in central Nepal at Ranipauwa, Nuwakot District (L6) (3,700 m) in April 2009 (Ryan and Chantler 2009).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China (mainland), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (to UK), Greece, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority Territories, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia (Asian), Russia (Central Asian), Russia (European), Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 5000 m; lower limit: 3700 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Eurasian Eagle Owl. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its threats indicate that numbers must be very small and is probably declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Eurasian Eagle Owl frequents cliffs in open rocky country (Chetri 2007). It is mainly nocturnal, roosting by day in a cleft or ledge of a rocky cliff, but usually perches on a prominent rock well before sunset and again after sunrise. It detects prey chiefly by scanning from a perch; also by making short flights over open country (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). Its prey has not been recorded in the subcontinent and is presumably the same as *B. b. bengalensis*: predominantly rats and mice (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

Eurasian Eagle Owl is threatened by hunting and persecution. In April 2009, a dead Eurasian Eagle Owl was found displayed in a café at Ranipauwa, Nuwakot District; it was apparently killed locally after being taken by a cat (Ryan and Chantler 2009). A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009a).

A preliminary report on hunting and trade of Eurasian Eagle Owl (considered conspecific with Rock Eagle Owl at the time of writing the report) revealed that this bird falls in the list of species that are most traded. During the study, four local hunting incidents were observed where 12 eagle owls, including one from Mustang District which must have been Eurasian Eagle Owl, were killed. The study found that local people removed chicks from the nest, some of which were killed for food. Other chicks collected from the nest were transported to the nearest city or district headquarters, from where they were traded live to larger cities, Pokhara, Kathmandu, Itahari and Dhangadi, for example. After reaching the city, people who bought the owl

chicks cared for them and raised them to an appreciable size (> 3kg weight). Some of the owls were traded for the domestic market and others were traded to India, Bangladesh, China and some Muslim countries, especially in the Middle East, for various purposes such as scientific research, as pets, or for their social, cultural, medicinal and majestic values. The report showed that Nepal is an important hub for wildlife trade/traders of owls, especially Eurasian Eagle Owl (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009b).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Eurasian Eagle Owl. The only protected area where it has been recorded is the Annapurna Conservation Area.

Regional IUCN status

Data Deficient (DD); the species' Global Red List status is Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Eurasian Eagle Owl has been assessed as Data Deficient. It is a rare resident species and since 1990 it has been recorded mainly from the north-west with one record from central Nepal. Since the species has recently been split from Rock Eagle Owl *Bubo bengalensis*, its pre-1990 status is unknown and there are very few post-1990 records. As a result, it is difficult to assess if there have been any changes in its distributional range since 1990. Annapurna Conservation Area is the only protected area where it has been recorded and there are only two known records from elsewhere. It is probably under recorded due to its nocturnal behavior and lack of surveys. A study of the Nepal owl trade revealed that Eurasian Eagle Owl is seriously threatened by trapping and hunting, mainly for the owl trade. Its population is probably declining.

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Otus sunia (Hodgson, 1836) DD

Subspecies *Otus sunia sunia*

Common name

Oriental Scops Owl (English), Lokharke Ooluk (Nepali)

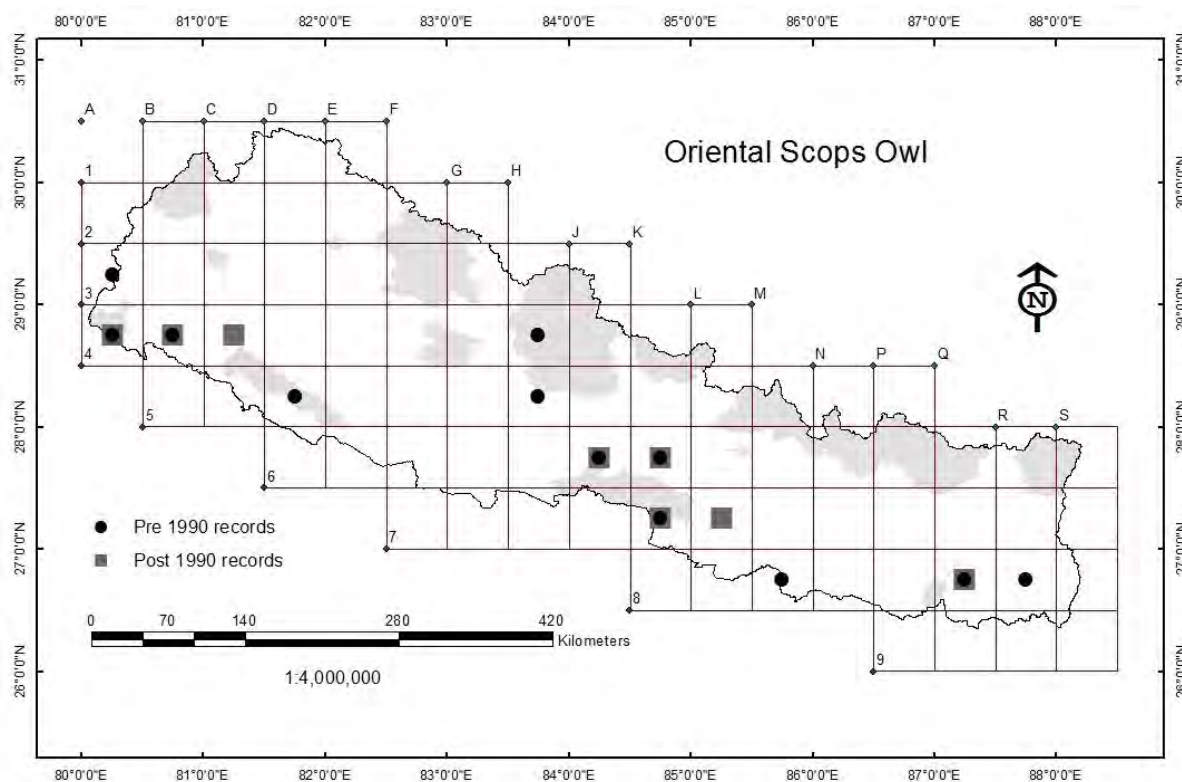
Upper level taxonomy

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Oriental Scops Owl is a resident, fairly common in Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves and Bardia and Chitwan National Parks, and very uncommon or rare elsewhere. Since 1990 it has been recorded from Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in (e.g. Baral and Inskipp 2009) in the far west to Dharan forest Important Bird Area, Sunsari District (Basnet and Sapkota 2008) in the far east.

The species was described from Nepal in the 19th century (Hodgson 1836, Warren 1966).

Fleming *et al.* (1976) considered it a common resident. Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) described it as mainly a fairly common resident of the tarai and lower hills, but noted up to 1525m by Fleming and Traylor (1968). Since 1990 the distribution of the species has apparently reduced.

The post-1990 status of the species within protected area system is: a fairly common resident in Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve (A4) (Baral 1996b,1997a; Baral and Inskipp 2009; Chaudhary 1998; Giri 1997, 2009), Bardia National Park (C5) (Chaudhary 1998, 1999; Inskipp and Inskipp 2001; Inskipp 2001; Kumar 2001, Ram Shahi 2015) in Chitwan National Park (J6, K6) (Baral 1992, 1993, 1996a, 1997b, 2011; Baral and Upadhyay 2006, Chaudhary 1999, Cottridge *et al.* 1994, Cox 2003, BES 2015), and in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (K7) (Baral and

Pradhan 1992, Cox 2003, Kapil Pokharel 2015). In Chitwan National Park buffer zone, one was recorded in Bagmara Community Forest in winter 2004 (Dinesh Giri); Bees Hazari Tal (Baral 1996c, Pradhan 2005); Barandabhar Forest (Development Vision 2005); two at Bhimpur, Sauraha, Chitwan District in April 2014 (TB Gurung) and one in Chitwan Gaida Lodge in June 2014 (BES, TB Gurung, Tika Giri). In Bardia National Park buffer zone, one was recorded in the Karnali Corridor in August 2013 (NTNC-BCP).

There are few post-1990 records of the species outside the protected areas' system. In the west known records are from Ghodaghodi Tal area, Kailali District (B4) with unknown status (CSUWN and BCN 2012) and one at Kahushivapur VDC, Tanahu District in April 2014 (Hari Basnet).

In central Nepal records include one at Shaktikhor, Sundi khola, Chitwan District in March 2015 (Raju Tamang) and one from Bara District (L7) in April 2003 (Cox 2003).

In the east, singles were recorded at Koshi (Q8), Sunsari District in December 2007 (Giri 2007) and December 2011 (Vicente 2011); one at Koshi Camp, Sunsari District in September 2011 (Badri Chaudhary, Anish Timsina) and two in February 2013 (Dheeraj Chaudhary and Laxman Chaudhary), and from Dharan Forest Important Bird Area, Sunsari District (Q8) in May 2008 (Basnet and Sapkota 2008).

Globally the species has also been recorded from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (mainland), Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia (Asian), Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (China), Thailand, USA, Vietnam (BirdLife International (2013) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 22/08/2013).

Elevation

Upper limit: 365 m (-1525 m); lower limit: 100 m

Population

No surveys have been carried out for Oriental Scops Owl. However, it has been recorded less frequently post-1990, compared to pre-1990. Even bearing in mind that the species can be overlooked (see Habitat and Ecology section) and so may be under-recorded, the limited number of observations and a consideration of its threats indicate that numbers are probably declining.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Oriental Scops Owl inhabits broadleaved tropical and subtropical forest (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) and forests of the terai (Fleming *et al.* 1976). It hides by day in dense foliage of trees, often close against the trunk or in a dark tree hollow. Oriental Scops Owl has a characteristic habit of compressing its plumage and stretching itself up while erecting the ear tufts, almost closing the eyes, becoming almost indistinguishable from its bark and lichen covered perch. The species could be overlooked. It hunts both in flight and by scanning from a perch (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It preys on beetles, grasshoppers and other insects; also mice, small birds and lizards (Ali and Ripley 1987). Breeding has been proved in Chitwan National Park (Gurung 1983).

Threats

Oriental Scops Owl is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat including the loss of mature trees. It is also at risk from hunting and trapping. A 2008/09 study of the status, threats and the ethno-ornithological relationship of owls in Nepal found that negative social and cultural beliefs are strong enough to initiate the hunting of owls in several districts. The study also revealed there was a wide-ranging owl trade in Nepal, although the number of owls in trade is unknown. The owls are mainly traded live and this trade has accelerated within the last 15 years (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Oriental Scops Owl. Since 1990 it has been recorded in Bardia and Chitwan National Parks and Sukla Phanta and Parsa Wildlife Reserves.

Regional IUCN status

Data Deficient (DD); its Global Red List status is Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Oriental Scops Owl has been assessed as Data Deficient. It is a resident fairly common in four protected areas and very uncommon or rare elsewhere. In comparison to pre-1990, the species has been recorded less frequently and less widely outside the protected areas' system. It is probably under-recorded because of its nocturnal and crepuscular nature. Oriental Scops Owl is threatened by loss and degradation of its forest habitat including the loss of mature trees. It is also at risk from hunting and trapping. As a result, its population is probably declining outside protected areas.

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Strix ocellata (Lesson, 1839) DD

Subspecies: *Strix ocellata grisescens*

Common Name

Mottled Wood Owl (English),

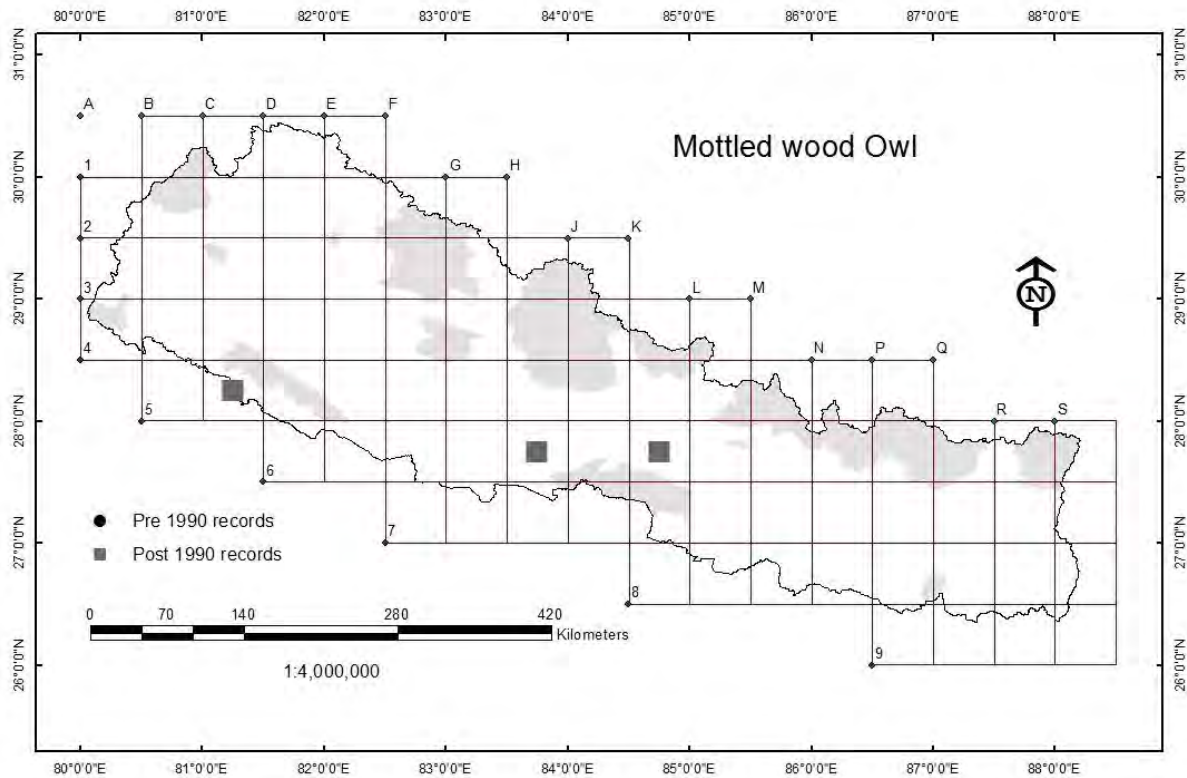
Kabrar Uluk (Kuita, Tharu) (Nepali)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae



Distribution



Mottled Wood Owl is a local resident, recorded from Bardia National Park and buffer zone and Chitwan National Park buffer zone.

It was first identified from the Khata corridor, Bardia National Park buffer zone in June 2015 when a pair of birds was recorded (Ram Bahadur Shahi and Benj Smelt) and photographed there by John Sparshatt. In September 2015 another pair was recorded on the edge of the park and in the adjacent buffer zone (Jit Bahadur Khadka and Ram Bahadur Shahi).

The species was then recorded in Gundrahi Dhakaha Community Forest, Nawalparasi District, Chitwan National Park buffer zone in September 2015 (DB Chaudhary), and in the Sauraha area in September-October 2015 (BES).

The species is endemic to the Indian subcontinent and occurs in India and formerly also in Pakistan (Grimmett *et al.* 2011).

Elevation

Upper limit: 250 m; lower limit: 75 m

Population

One pair was recorded in Bardia National Park and adjacent buffer zone and another pair in Khata corridor in the buffer zone in June and September 2015 (Ram Bahadur Shahi, Benj Smelt and Jit Bahadur Khadka).

In Chitwan National Park buffer zone based on call counts: around ten birds in Gundrahi Dhakahi Community Forest in September 2015 (DB Chaudhary); four birds including two young, regularly visited Tharu Lodge compound, Nawalparasi District at night to feed in 2015 (DB Chaudhary); one in Royal Park Hotel garden, Sauraha in September 2015 (BES) and four near Sauraha, Chitwan District (Jankauli Community Forest and Icharni Forest) in October 2015 (BES).

This nocturnal species may well be under-recorded in Nepal.

Total Population Size

Minimum population: unknown; maximum population: unknown

Habitat and Ecology

Mottled Wood Owl inhabits open wooded areas and groves of old, densely foliated trees (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It is found in broadleaved riverine forest in Bardia National Park and buffer zone (Ram Bahadur Shahi). The species is chiefly nocturnal. Keeps in pairs which hide during the day in the shady refuge of a large tree (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). It was observed feeding over cultivated fields in Bardia National Park buffer zone (Ram Bahadur Shahi). It eats rats, mice and other rodents; also birds up to the size of a pigeon, lizards, beetles and other large insects (Ali and Ripley 1987). Proved breeding near Tharu Lodge, Nawalaparasi District, Chitwan National Park buffer zone (DB Chaudhary).

Threats

Mottled Wood Owl is threatened by the loss of mature trees. It is also at risk from superstition: Tharus in Nawalparasi District, Chitwan National Park buffer zone believe that their call (which is heard from September to April) is a bad omen. These months are considered the time of seasonal change when people generally get sick, and the bird is blamed for bringing the sickness. The locals make much noise, and throw stones at the birds to chase them away (DB Chaudhary).

Conservation Measures

No conservation measures have been carried out specifically for Mottled Wood Owl. It has been recorded in Bardia National Park and buffer zone and in Chitwan National Park buffer zone.

Regional IUCN status

Data Deficient (DD); its Global Red List status is Least Concern (LC)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

Mottled Wood Owl has been assessed as Data Deficient. The species is a local resident, so far recorded from

Bardia National Park and buffer zone and Chitwan National Park buffer zone but is likely to be found elsewhere in Nepal. It was first recorded in June 2015 in Bardia and in September 2015 in Chitwan. However, this nocturnal owl may be overlooked and could be more widespread. The species is threatened by the loss of mature trees. It is also at risk from superstition. Its population trend is unknown.

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(२) माऊलार हे भौरा
(३) बुहि सो नअगमेरुमाहे हनेरा