

Birds of the upper catchment of Ravi River, Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh, India

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Introduction

Early records of Chamba's ornithology come from papers by Marshall (1884), and Littledale (1898). The latter recorded the Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* in June while camping at Hul c. 25 km above Chamba. He had also recorded the nesting of Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*. Both, Marshall, and Littledale recorded a number of game birds in Chamba: Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii* (Vulnerable; IUCN 2009), Western Tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus* (Vulnerable: IUCN 2009), Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus*, Koklass *Pucrasia macrolopha*, Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos*, and Chukar *Alectoris chukar*. More recently, Tak (1987) recorded five individuals of Western Tragopan on 19 September 1987 in Saho-Sara Reserve Forest (2,425–3,100 m; Fig. 1) lying 30 km north–east of Chamba town. Marshall's (1884) list includes c. 260 taxa from Chamba. Mahabal (1993) listed 98 species of birds from Chamba district during a monsoon survey (July 1990) based on the altitudinal distribution of birds from Sultanpur, Chamba town, Chaned, Sahoo, Ranikhet, Dalhousie, Bharmour, Hadsar, Dhancho, and Mani Mahesh (Fig. 1), areas lying mainly along the Ravi River catchment. The list included unique sightings of White-rumped Vulture *G. bengalensis* (Critically Endangered; IUCN 2009), Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica*, and White-winged Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogaster*. Later, Thakur *et al.*, (2002) surveyed the birds of Kalatop-Khajjjar Wildlife Sanctuary (20.69 km²; 1,185–2,768 m alt.) located in the south–western part of the district, twice, during September 2001, and May 2002, and listed 66 species including Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* (Near-threatened; IUCN 2009), and White-cheeked Nuthatch *Sitta leucopsis*. Saikia *et al.* (2008) made preliminary observations on the avifauna of Pangi valley, in the northern part of Chamba district (Fig. 1), along the Chandrabhaga River, located in the north–western part of the district, and listed 62 species including the uncommon Orange Bullfinch *Pyrrhula aurantiaca*, a species endemic to the Western Himalayas. In addition there are some more records of pheasants from Chamba district (Jandrotia *et al.* 1995; Katoch *et al.* 1997; Bashir 2000; Kaul *et al.* 2001).

Study area

Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh (HP) state, India, (32°11'30"–33°13'06"N, 75°49'–77°3'30"E) is surrounded by Jammu & Kashmir state on its north–west, Lahaul and Spiti district (HP) on its north–east and east, Kangra district (HP) on its south and south–east, and Gurdaspur district (Punjab) on its south–west (Fig. 1). It covers an area of c. 6,528 km² (11.72% of HP). The entire district has catchments of two major rivers. The

Ravi River flows east–west in the Punjab, covering nearly two-thirds of the district. Chandrabhaga (Chenab) River also flows east–west into Jammu & Kashmir, but in the northern part of this district. The climate is sub-tropical to sub-arctic. The mean annual rainfall in the district is c. 1,485 mm (Mahabal 1993), which falls mainly during the monsoon, and winter, when most of the higher reaches remain under snow cover.

As per Champion & Seth (1968) the vegetation in the area is mainly 'Moist Deodar Forest 12/C1(c)'; 'Western Mixed Coniferous Forest 12/C1 (d)' interspersed with 'Alpine Pastures 15/C3' at higher elevations. deodar *Cedrus deodara* and blue pine *Pinus wallichiana* are dominating tree species that occur intermixed with horse chestnut *Aesculus indica*, rhododendron *Rhododendron arboreum*, oak *Quercus ilex*, *Pyrus* sp., walnut *Juglans regia*, etc. The shrub layer comprises *Berberis aristata*, *Prinsepia utilis*, *Rosa moschata*, *Rubus* sp., *Daphne* sp., *Cannabis sativa*, etc. Further up these conifer species are replaced by Himalayan silver fir *Abies pindrow* and yew *Taxus baccata* that are more common. Stands of *Alnus nitida* dominate the eroded riverbanks of Ravi in this area.

The environmental parameters recorded during the study period are presented below. The weather during May was dry, while it was wet during September and the area received winter rains and snow during February.

Methodology

An ornithological survey was conducted along the upper Ravi River, between coordinates 32°18.15'N–32°27.94'N, 76°31.85'E–76°39.00'E, at an altitudinal gradient between 1,730–2,700 m during three seasons: summer (14–17 May 2008), late monsoon (11–14 September 2008), and peak winter (5–8 February 2009). The survey area included villages: Kuther–Batola–Holi–Deol–Nayagaon (up to Ilake-wali-mata temple where the road ends), and adjoining mountain slopes located on the left bank of Ravi River. This area lies in the south–eastern part of Chamba district, south of Mani Mahesh and Kukti Wildlife Sanctuary and north of the Dhawaladhar Range, which runs parallel to Ravi River.

Environmental parameters	14–17 May 2008	11–14 September 2008	5–8 February 2009
Relative humidity (%) (day)	47.0–61.7	58.1–67.7	51.0–94.2
Temperature (°C) (day)	20.5–27.4	21.7–27.0	3.0–11.1
Wind speed (m/s) (day)	0.3–0.4	0.4–0.8	0.4–6.4



Fig. 1. Map of Chamba district depicting the study area and locations of sites as mentioned in the text.

Results & Discussion

A total of 103 species (see Appendix) were recorded during the study of which 47 spp., are common with Mahabal (1993); 43 spp., are common with Thakur *et al.* (2002), and 40 spp., with Saikia *et al.* (2008). Whereas, 16 spp., marked with an asterisk in the Appendix, have not been reported by the earlier authors from Chamba district. Numbers of species observed were highest during May (63), followed by September (54), and were the least in February (43).

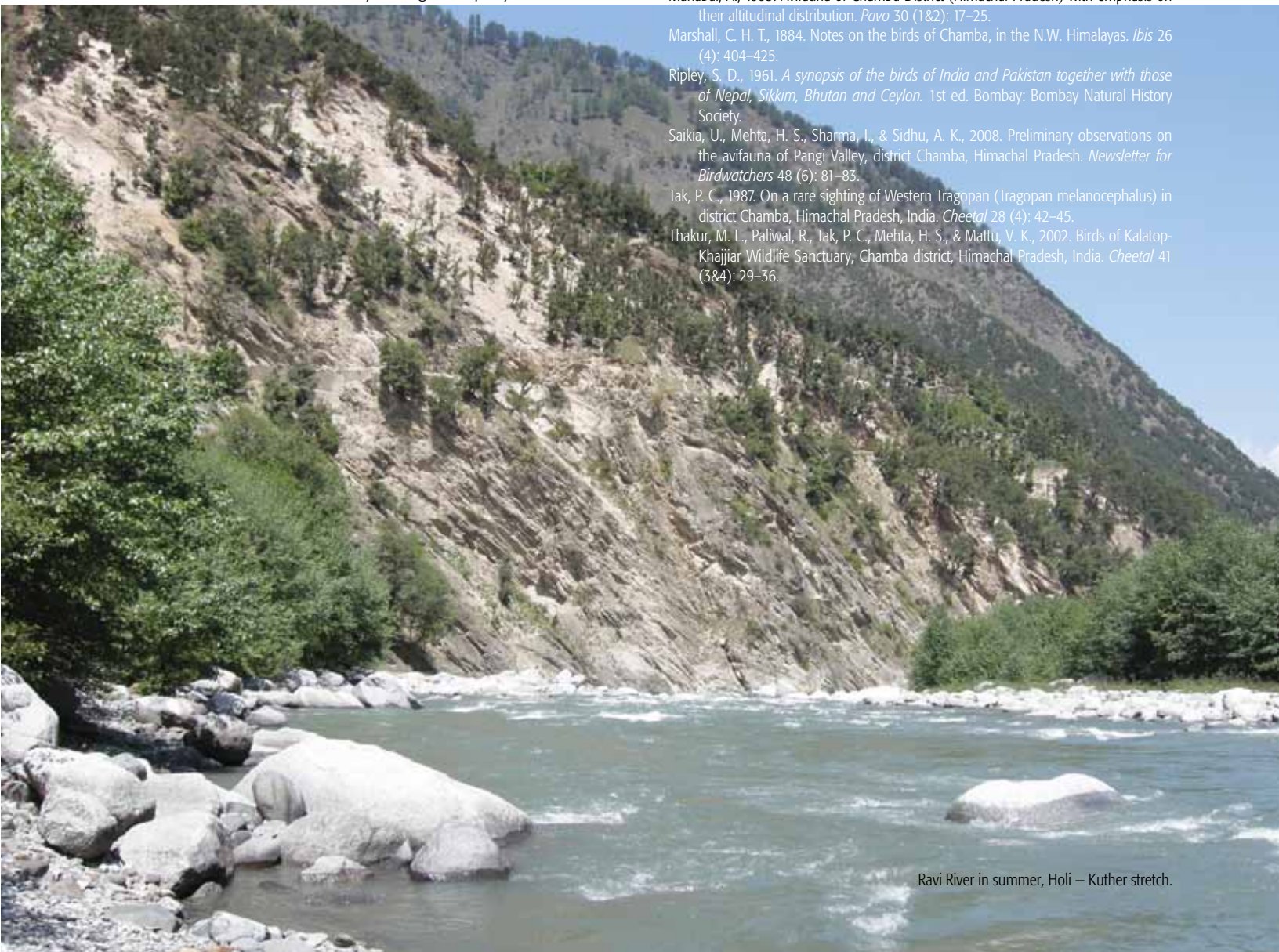
Of these 16 new records for the district, seven are worth mentioning as they were recorded at the western-most limits of their distribution range in the Himalayas. These species were Nepal Wren Babbler, *Pnoepyga immaculata*, Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula*, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata*, Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*, Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*, Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*, and Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus*.

The record of Nepal Wren Babbler is a range extension as there are very few records of this species from Himachal Pradesh and none from Chamba district. It was observed at Holi and Deol villages in 'nullahs' along the streamlets leading into the Ravi River and was identified by its high a rapidly uttered vocal

note, 'ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti,' descending slightly in tone (Kazmierczak 2000). The annotated checklist for Chamba district now touches 289 species.

References

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Ravi River in summer, Holi – Kuther stretch.

Appendix: Checklist of birds recorded on the Kuther–Batola–Holi–Deol–Nayagaon route in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, during three season surveys (2008–2009), and other records from the district

S. No	Species	May 2008	Sep. 2008	Feb. 2009	Relative Abundance	S. No	Species	May 2008	Sep. 2008	Feb. 2009	Relative Abundance
1	Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	–	–	+	U	56	Chestnut-headed Tesia	+	+	–	U
2	Black Eagle <i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	+	+	–	U		<i>Tesia castaneocoronata*</i>				
3	Himalayan Griffon <i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	+	+	+	C	57	Brownish Flanked Bush Warbler <i>Cettia fortipes</i>	+	+	–	FC
4	Eurasian Griffon <i>G. fulvus*</i>	–	–	+	U	58	Striated Prinia <i>Prinia criniger</i>	+	–	+	U
5	Lammergeier <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	–	–	+	U	59	Tickell's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus affinis*</i>	+	–	–	U
6	Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	+	–	–	U	60	Hume's Warbler <i>P. humei</i>	+	–	–	C
7	Hill Partridge <i>Arborophila torqueola</i>	+	–	–	U	61	Western-crowned Leaf Warbler <i>P. occipitalis*</i>	+	+	–	C
8	Chukar <i>Alectoris chukar</i>	+	+	–	FC	62	Greenish Warbler <i>P. trochiloides</i>	+	+	–	U
9	Himalayan Monal <i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>	–	–	+	R	62	Ashy-throated Warbler <i>P. maculipennis*</i>	–	–	+	U
10	Kalij Pheasant <i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>	+	+	+	C	64	Large-billed Leaf Warbler <i>P. magnirostris</i>	+	–	–	R
11	Koklass Pheasant <i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>	–	+	–	R	65	Lemon rumped Warbler <i>P. chloronotus</i>				C
12	Oriental Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	+	+	–	C	66	White-tailed Rubythroat <i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	+	–	–	U
13	Snow Pigeon <i>Columba leuconota</i>	–	–	+	R	67	Indian Blue Robin <i>L. brunnea*</i>	+	–	–	FC
14	Rock Pigeon <i>C. livia</i>	+	+	–	U	68	Blue-capped Redstart	–	–	+	FC
15	Speckled Wood Pigeon <i>C. hodgsonii*</i>	+	–	–	U		<i>Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus*</i>				
16	Slaty-headed Parakeet <i>Psittacula himalayana</i>	+	+	–	C	69	Plumbeous Water Redstart	+	+	+	C
17	Himalayan Swiftlet <i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>	+	+	–	U		<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>				
18	Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	+	+	–	FC	70	White-capped Water Redstart	+	+	+	C
19	Great Barbet <i>Megalaima virens</i>	+	–	–	U		<i>Chaimarornis leucocephalus</i>				
20	Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	+	+	–	U	71	Spotted Forktail <i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	+	–	–	U
21	Brown-fronted Woodpecker	+	–	+	C	72	Little Forktail <i>E. scouleri</i>	–	+	–	U
	<i>Dendrocopos auriceps</i>					73	Brown Dipper <i>Cinclus pallasi</i>	+	–	+	FC
22	Himalayan Woodpecker <i>D. himalayensis</i>	+	+	+	C	74	Common Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquata</i>				U
23	Ashy Drongo <i>Dicurus leucophaeus</i>	+	+	–	C	75	Grey Bush Chat <i>S. ferrea</i>	+	+	–	C
24	Long-tailed Shrike <i>Lanius schach</i>	+	–	+	C	76	Blue-capped Rock Thrush	+	–	–	U
25	Common Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	+	–	–	U		<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>				
26	Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	+	+	–	C	77	Blue Whistling Thrush <i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	+	+	+	C
27	Black-headed Jay <i>G. lanceolatus</i>	+	+	–	C	78	Dark-throated Thrush <i>Turdus ruficollis</i>	–	–	+	FC
28	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie <i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	+	+	+	C	79	Green-backed Tit <i>Parus monticolus</i>	+	+	+	VC
29	Grey Treepie <i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	+	–	–	U	80	Black-throated Tit <i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	+	+	+	FC
30	Spotted Nutcracker <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	+	–	+	U	81	Spot-winged Tit <i>Parus melanolophus</i>	–	+	+	U
31	Red-billed Chough <i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>	–	–	+	U	82	Grey-crested Tit <i>Parus dichrous</i>	–	–	+	R
32	Large-billed Crow <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	+	+	+	C	83	Bar-tailed Treecreeper <i>Certhia himalayana</i>	–	–	+	C
33	Long-tailed Minivet <i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	+	+	–	FC	84	White-cheeked Nuthatch <i>Sitta leucopsis</i>	–	–	+	R
34	Black Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	+	+	+	C	85	Wallcreeper <i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	–	–	+	C
35	Himalayan Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>	+	+	+	C	86	Upland Pipit <i>Anthus sylvanus*</i>	–	+	–	U
36	Winter Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes*</i>	–	+	–	U	87	White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	–	+	–	C
37	Nepal Wren Babbler <i>Pnoepyga immaculate*</i>	–	+	–	U	88	Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	–	+	–	C
38	Black-chinned Babbler <i>Stachyris pyrrhops</i>	–	–	+	U	89	Oriental White-eye <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	+	+	–	U
39	Chestnut-tailed Minla <i>Minla strigula*</i>	–	–	+	U	90	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	+	+	–	U
40	Rufous Sibia <i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>	+	–	–	U	91	Russet Sparrow <i>Passer rutilans</i>	+	+	–	C
41	Whiskered Yuhina <i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	–	–	+	U	92	House Sparrow <i>P. domesticus</i>	+	+	–	C
42	Streaked Laughing Thrush <i>Garrulax lineatus</i>	+	+	+	C	93	Alpine Accentor <i>Prunella collaris*</i>	–	–	+	U
43	Variiegated Laughing Thrush <i>G. variiegatus</i>	–	+	+	C	94	Plain Mountain Finch <i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>	–	–	+	FC
44	Dark-sided Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>	–	+	–	FC	95	European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	–	–	+	C
45	Ultramarine Flycatcher <i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>	+	–	–	U	96	Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	–	+	–	C
46	Slaty-blue Flycatcher <i>F. tricolor</i>	–	–	+	U		<i>Carduelis spinoides</i>				
47	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher <i>F. strophiata*</i>	+	–	–	U	97	Fire Fronted Serin <i>Serinus pusillus</i>	–	–	+	FC
48	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	–	+	–	C	98	Red-headed Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula erythrocephala</i>	–	–	+	U
	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>					99	Black and Yellow Grosbeak	–	+	–	U
49	Verditer Flycatcher <i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	+	+	–	FC		<i>Mycerobas icterioides</i>				
50	Asian Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	+	–	–	U	100	Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	+	+	–	U
51	White-throated Fantail <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	–	+	–	R	101	Pink-browed Rosefinch <i>C. rhodochrous*</i>	+	–	–	U
52	Yellow-bellied Fantail <i>R. hypoxantha*</i>	–	+	–	U	102	White-capped Bunting <i>Emberiza stewarti</i>	+	+	–	C
53	Grey-hooded Warbler <i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i>	+	+	+	C	103	Rock Bunting <i>E. cia</i>	+	+	+	C
54	Whistler's Warbler <i>S. whistleri</i>	+	–	–	U						
55	Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	–	–	+	R						

Other species recorded from other areas of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh	References
104 Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Ma
105 Little Cormorant <i>P. niger</i>	Ma
106 Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Ma
107 Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Ma
108 Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Ma
109 Gadwall <i>A. strepera</i>	Ma
110 Eurasian Wigeon <i>A. penelope</i>	Ma
111 Mallard <i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	Ma
112 Northern Shoveler <i>Anas cypeata</i>	Ma
113 Common Teal <i>A. crecca</i>	Ma
114 Ferruginous Pochard <i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Near threatened-IUCN)	Ma
115 Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans (lineatus & govinda)</i>	Ma; Mh; S
116 Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	T; S
117 White-rumped Vulture <i>Cyps benghalensis</i>	Mh
118 Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Ma; T
119 Red-headed Vulture <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Ma
120 Crested Serpent-Eagle <i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Ma
121 Shikra <i>Accipiter badius</i>	Ma
122 Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>A. nisus</i>	Ma
123 Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Ma
124 Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Ma
125 Imperial Eagle <i>A. heliaca</i>	Ma
126 Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Ma
127 Bonelli's Eagle <i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>	Ma
128 Mountain Hawk-Eagle <i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	Ma; S
129 Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Ma
130 Himalayan Snowcock <i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>	Ma
131 Black Francolin <i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	Ma
132 Western Tragopan <i>Tragopan melanocephalus</i>	Ma; L; Tk; B; K
133 Jungle Bush Quail <i>Perdica asiatica</i>	Ma
134 Cheer Pheasant <i>Catreus wallichii</i>	L; Ri
135 Red Junglefowl <i>Gallus gallus</i>	Ma
136 Button Quail <i>Turnix sp.</i>	Ma
137 Common Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Ma
138 Common Coot <i>Fulca atra</i>	Ma
139 Pheasant-tailed Jacana <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	Ma
140 River Lapwing <i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	Ma
141 Red-wattled Lapwing <i>V. indicus</i>	Ma
142 Eurasian Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Ma; L
143 Solitary Snipe <i>G. solitaria</i>	Ma
144 Wood Snipe <i>G. nemoricola</i> (Vulnerable-IUCN)	Ma
145 Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Ma
146 Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	Ma
147 Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Ma
148 Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Ma
149 Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Ma
150 Hill Pigeon <i>C. rupestris</i>	Ma; S
151 Yellow-eyed Pigeon <i>Columba eversmanni</i>	Ma
152 Common Wood Pigeon <i>C. palumbus</i>	Ma
153 Spotted Dove <i>S. chinensis</i>	Ma
154 Red Collared-Dove <i>S. tranquebarica</i>	Ma
155 Eurasian Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Ma
156 Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon <i>Treron sphenurus</i>	Ma; T
157 Rose-ringed Parakeet <i>P. krameri</i>	Mh
158 Plum-headed Parakeet <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Mh; T
159 Large Hawk Cuckoo <i>Hierococcyx sparveriioides</i>	Mh
160 Eurasian Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Ma; T
161 Indian Koel <i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	Mh
162 Indian Cuckoo <i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	Ma
163 Sirkeer Malkoha <i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>	Ma
164 Greater Coucal <i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Ma
165 Mountain Scops Owl <i>O. spilocephalus</i>	Ma
166 Oriental Scops Owl <i>Otus sunia</i>	Ma
167 Collared Scops Owl <i>O. bakkamoena</i>	Ma
168 Dusky Eagle Owl <i>Bubo coromandus</i>	Ma
169 Brown Wood Owl <i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	Ma
170 Asian Barred Owlet <i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Ma; T
171 Collared Owlet <i>G. brodiei</i>	Ma
172 Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	Ma

Other species recorded from other areas of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh	References
173 Large-tailed Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	Ma; T
174 Savannah Nightjar <i>C. affinis</i>	Ma
175 Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	Ma; S
176 Pallid Swift <i>Apus pallidus</i>	Ma
177 Fork-tailed Swift <i>A. pacificus</i>	S
178 House Swift <i>A. affinis</i>	Ma; T
179 Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Ma
180 White-throated Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Ma; Mh
181 Crested Kingfisher <i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	Ma
182 Green Bee-eater <i>Merops orientalis</i>	Mh
183 Blue-throated Barbet <i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	Ma; Mh
184 Eurasian Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Ma
185 Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	Ma
186 Yellow-crowned Woodpecker <i>D. maharattensis</i>	Ma
187 Grey-crowned Pigmy Woodpecker <i>Picoides auriceps</i>	Mh
188 Scaly-bellied Woodpecker <i>Picus squamatus</i>	Mh; T; S
189 Grey-headed Woodpecker <i>P. canus</i>	Mh; T
190 Black-rumped Flameback <i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Ma
191 Oriental Skylark <i>Alauda gulgula</i>	Ma
192 Eurasian Crag Martin <i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	Ma
193 Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Mh
194 Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i>	T; Ma
195 Wire-tailed Swallow <i>H. smithii</i>	Ma
196 Northern House Martin <i>Delichon nipalensis</i>	Ma
197 White-browed Wagtail <i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	Ma
198 Citine Wagtail <i>M. citreola</i>	Ma
199 Yellow Wagtail <i>M. flava</i>	S
200 Paddyfield Pipit <i>Anthus rufulus</i>	Ma
201 Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	Mh
202 Tree Pipit <i>A. trivialis</i>	Ma
203 Water Pipit <i>A. spinoletta</i>	Ma
204 Black-winged Cuckooshrike <i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	Ma
205 Small Minivet <i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	Mh
206 Scarlet Minivet <i>P. flammeus</i>	Mh; S
207 Red-vented Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Ma; Mh
208 Bay-backed Shrike <i>Lanius vittatus</i>	Ma; S
209 Grey-backed Shrike <i>L. tephronotus</i>	Ma
210 Southern Grey Shrike <i>L. meridionalis</i>	Ma
211 Altai Accentor <i>Prunella himalayana</i>	Ma
212 Rufous breasted Accentor <i>P. strophiota</i>	Ma
213 Chestnut-bellied Rockthrush <i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	T
214 Blue Rock Thrush <i>M. solitarius</i>	Ma
215 Orange-headed Thrush <i>Zoothera citrina</i>	Ma
216 Plain-backed Thrush <i>Z. mollissima</i>	Ma
217 Small-billed Mountain Thrush <i>Z. dauma</i>	Mh
218 Tickell's Thrush <i>Turdus unicolor</i>	Ma
219 White-collared Blackbird <i>T. albocinctus</i>	Ma; T
220 Grey-winged Blackbird <i>T. bouboul</i>	Ma; T
221 Eurasian Blackbird <i>T. merula</i>	Ma; Mh
222 Mistle Thrush <i>T. viscivorus</i>	Ma; T
223 Orange-flanked Bush Robin <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	S
224 Golden Bush Robin <i>T. chrysaeus</i>	Ma
225 Oriental Magpie Robin <i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Mh
226 Indian Robin <i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	Mh
227 Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Mh
228 White-winged Redstart <i>P. erythrogaster</i>	Ma; Mh
229 Pied Bushchat <i>Saxicola caprata</i>	S
230 Variable Wheatear <i>Oenanthe picata</i>	Ma
231 White-throated Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax albogularis</i>	Ma
232 White-crested Laughingthrush <i>G. leucolophus</i>	Ma
233 Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush <i>G. rufogularis</i>	Ma
234 Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush <i>G. erythrocephalus</i>	Ma
235 Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus erythrogegens</i>	Ma
236 Red-billed Leiothrix <i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	Mh
237 Whiskered Yuhina <i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	Ma
238 ?Hill Prinia <i>Prinia atrogularis</i>	Ma
239 Rufous-fronted Prinia <i>P. buchanani</i>	Ma
240 Graceful Prinia <i>P. gracilis</i>	Ma

Other species recorded from other areas of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh	References
241 Pale-footed Bush Warbler <i>Cettia pallidipes</i>	Ma
242 Grey-sided Bush Warbler <i>C. brunniifrons</i>	Ma
243 Paddy-field Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	Ma
244 Common Tailorbird <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Ma; Mh
245 Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Mh; T
246 Yellow-browed Warbler <i>P. inornatus</i>	Ma
247 Greenish Warbler <i>P. trochiloides</i>	Ma
248 Blyth's Leaf Warbler <i>P. reguloides</i>	Ma
249 Yellowish-bellied Warbler <i>Abroscopus superciliosus</i>	Ma
250 Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	S
251 Brown Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa latirostris</i> ¹	Mh
252 Snowy-browed Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	Ma
253 Little Pied Flycatcher <i>F. westermanni</i>	T
254 Rufous-bellied Niltava <i>Niltava sundara</i>	Ma
255 Blue-throated Flycatcher <i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>	Ma
256 Fire-capped Tit <i>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</i>	Ma
257 Rufous-naped Tit <i>Parus rufonuchalis</i>	S
258 Great Tit <i>P. major</i>	T; S
259 Black-lored Tit <i>P. xanthogenys</i>	Ma; S
260 Yellow-browed Tit <i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	Ma
261 Kashmir Nuthatch <i>Sitta cashmirensis</i>	Ma
262 White-tailed Nuthatch <i>S. himalayensis</i>	S; Ma
263 Eurasian Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	S
264 Pale-billed Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	Mh
265 Purple Sunbird <i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	Ma; Mh
266 Crimson Sunbird <i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	Ma; Mh
267 Fire-tailed Sunbird <i>A. ignicauda</i>	Ma
268 Crested Bunting <i>Melophus lathami</i>	T
269 Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	Ma

Other species recorded from other areas of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh	References
270 Spectacled Finch <i>Callacanthus burtoni</i>	Ma
271 Dark-breasted Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus nipalensis</i>	S
272 Red-fronted Rosefinch <i>C. puniceus</i>	Ma
273 Orange Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula aurantiaca</i>	Ma; S
274 Spot-winged Grosbeak <i>Mycerobas melanozanthos</i>	Ma; Mh
275 Red Avadavat <i>Amandava amandava</i>	Mh
276 Scaly-breasted Munia <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Mh
277 Eurasian Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	Ma
278 Chestnut-shouldered Petronia <i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	Ma
279 Brahminy Starling <i>S. pagodarum</i>	Ma; Mh
280 Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Ma
281 Jungle Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Ma; Mh; T
282 Eurasian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> ²	Ma; Mh
283 Black-Drongo <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Mh; T
284 Ashy Drongo <i>D. leucophaeus</i>	Ma
285 Red-billed Blue Magpie <i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	T
286 Rufous Treepie <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Mh
287 Black-billed Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	Ma; Mh
288 Yellow-billed Cough <i>Pyrocorax graculus</i>	S
289 House Crow <i>Corvus splendens</i>	Mh

Abbreviations: B=Bashir 2000; C=Common; FC=Fairly common; K=Katoch *et al.* 1997; L=Littledale 1898; Ma=Marshall 1884; Mh=Mahabal 1993; R=Rare; Ri=Ripley 1961; S=Saikia *et al.* 2008; T=Thakur *et al.* 2002; Tk=Tak 1987; U=Uncommon; VC=Very common; ?= identity doubtful

¹ *M. dauurica*; ² *Oriolus kundoo*

Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus*



A moist temperate forest with Himalayan silver fir *Abies pindrow* in the study area in May 2008.



Photos: Arun P. Singh

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*



Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*