

Gadhi-Siraichuli—An important bird and biodiversity area in Nepal under serious threat

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Abstract

Gadhi-Siraichuli, which lies in the Chepang Hills in the Mahabharat Range of central Nepal, Chitwan District, is one of 37 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (*henceforth*, IBAs) identified in Nepal. It supports significant populations of bird species in the Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest biome as well as four globally threatened, two globally near-threatened and 20 nationally threatened species. The IBA includes the largest extent and the highest quality of subtropical mixed broadleaved forest now known to remain in Nepal. A new road that is now under construction seriously threatens these forests. Local people are objecting strongly to the road construction because it will disrupt their only water supply and result in landslides. Another road, which is far less damaging to forest diversity already exists. The full attention and support of conservation organisations and independent conservationists in Nepal is urgently sought to counter these threats.

Introduction

Gadhi-Siraichuli is one of 37 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas identified in Nepal (Bird Conservation Nepal, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Department of Forests and Soil Conservation *In press*; *henceforth*, BCN, DNPWC and DoFSC). It lies in the Chepang Hills in the Mahabharat Range of central Nepal, Chitwan District (27.80–27.74°N, 84.57–84.65°E). The area covers around 37.65 sq. km. Siraichuli (1,945 msl) is the highest point in the district (Fig. 1). Above 1,000 msl the principal vegetation is dense subtropical mixed broadleaved forest with a well-developed understorey, and climbers, and epiphytes [76]. It comprises both, the largest extent, and the highest quality of this forest type now known to remain in Nepal. Tropical broadleaved forest, mainly of *Sal Shorea robusta* grows between 250 and 1,000 msl. Parts of the area are cultivated and abandoned terraces partly overgrown with shrubs occur widely. The area is thinly populated—mainly by the Chepang tribe.

Methods

Members of the Bird Education Society, an NGO based in Sauraha, Chitwan National Park Buffer Zone (www.besnepal.org/), have been visiting Gadhi-Siraichuli regularly from May 2002 up to June 2019 and the study is ongoing. They have covered over half the area, including the best quality forest areas. A bird checklist, annotated with species' status, comprising 238 species, was compiled in 2004 based on survey work carried

out up till that year (Bird Education Society 2004). Since then, bird-watchers and ornithologists from the Bird Education Society (HSB, BB, TRG, TBC, CI, RK, and HS) have made several annual visits, up to 2019, in March–May (spring), June–August (summer), and November–February (winter), and a number of species has been added (Appendix). Species were identified using Grimmett *et al.* (1999, 2011). No formal census was conducted, and, hence, abundance measures are not available; however, seasonality, breeding, and rarity status are indicated based on casual observations. Global and national threat status and biome restricted species are also listed. Observations on butterflies and mammals, to date, consist of casual observations and are far from complete.

Formal scientific biological surveys are planned in November 2019 and March and November 2020 by *Objectif Sciences International*, a Geneva-based NGO, under its biodiversity and conservation biology program called *Biodiversita*. The aim of the project in Gadhi-Siraichuli is to conduct participatory biodiversity surveys together with national biologists and conservationists to facilitate the process towards effective conservation of the IBA (Sylvain Allombert, *in litt.*, e-mail dated 05 December 2018). This paper is intended as a baseline for the avian data for the upcoming biological surveys.

Results

Up to February 2019, a total of 318 bird species had been recorded in the Gadhi-Siraichuli IBA. Considering its biogeographic

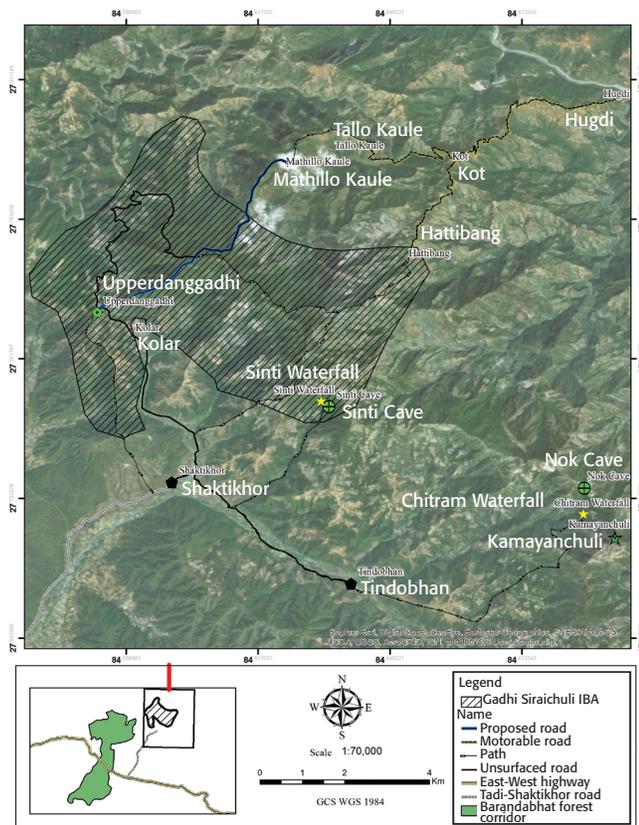


Fig. 1. Location of Gadhi-Siraichuli IBA in Nepal. Credit: Zoological Society of London Nepal office



Carol Inskipp

76. Extensive subtropical mixed broadleaved forest in the Gadhi-Siraichuli Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.

position in Nepal and the lack of birding in certain months of the year, and vagrants, we expect a total species richness of about 400–450 species.

Qualification as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area Globally Threatened Species

Grey-crowned Prinia *Prinia cinereocapilla*: Gadhi-Siraichuli holds a significant population of this globally threatened species, assessed as Vulnerable (BirdLife International 2019). Grey-crowned Prinia is mainly confined to protected areas in Nepal and this IBA is only the second locality outside the protected area system where it has been recorded in the country (Baral *et al.*

2018). The species is listed in the first checklist of the IBA (Bird Education Society 2004) and has been regularly recorded since; it probably breeds here. On 10 February 2019, for example, five to six individuals were recorded between 500 and 1,100 msl (Giri *et al.* 2019). Within protected areas, the species is strongly associated with *Themeda* grassland, which often grows close to mature sal or mixed broadleaved forests (Baral 2001, 2002). In the Gadhi-Siraichuli IBA the species has been recorded in *Themeda* grassland, which grows amongst bushes on degraded slopes, close to sal and tropical mixed broadleaved forest.

Three other globally threatened species have been recorded (BirdLife International 2019). Indian Spotted Eagle *Clanga hastata* (Vulnerable) is probably a rare visitor; it breeds close to the southern part of the IBA in Chitwan National Park. Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* (Vulnerable) and Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* (Endangered) are passage migrants and possibly also winter visitors. In addition, two globally near-threatened species have been recorded: Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* and Alexandrine Parakeet *P. eupatria*.

Restricted-range species

Spiny Babbler *Acanthoptila nipalensis*: Gadhi-Siraichuli supports a significant population of this species, Nepal's only endemic bird [77]. In May 2016, individuals were seen carrying food, indicating they bred in the area (Baral *et al.* 2018). The Spiny Babbler is also a restricted-range species belonging to the Central Himalayas Endemic Bird Area. The abandoned terraces of the Chepang tribe form important bird habitats for this species. Gadhi-Siraichuli may potentially hold a higher population of Spiny Babblers than any of the other Nepal IBAs, but this needs to be established by formal studies.



Sagar Giri

77. Spiny Babbler is Nepal's only endemic bird and is common on Chepang terraces in the Gadhi-Siraichuli. Important Bird and Diversity Area.

Biome-restricted assemblages

The extensive subtropical broadleaved forests in this IBA support 69% (38 of 55) of the characteristic species of the Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest biome that breed in Nepal; this was a criterion for its qualification as an IBA (BCN, DNPWC and DoFSC in press) (see Table 1).

Table 1.

Species	Global Status	National Status
Mountain Imperial Pigeon <i>Ducula badia</i>		CR
Himalayan Vulture <i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	NT	VU
Indian Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga hastata</i>	VU	VU
Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga clanga</i>	VU	VU
Steppe Eagle <i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	EN	VU
Common Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>		VU
Red-headed Trogon <i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>		EN
Red-breasted Parakeet <i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	NT	VU
Alexandrine Parakeet <i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	NT	
Blue-naped Pitta <i>Hydrornis nipalensis</i>		EN
Hooded Pitta <i>Pitta sordida</i>		VU
Little Spiderhunter <i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>		CR
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>		VU
Sultan Tit <i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>		EN
Grey-crowned Prinia <i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i>	VU	CR
White-throated Bulbul <i>Alophoixus flaveolus</i>		EN
Black-chinned Yuhina <i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>		VU
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax monileger</i>		VU
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>		VU
Silver-eared Mesia <i>Leiothrix argentauris</i>		EN
Red-faced Liocichla <i>Liocichla phoenicea</i>		CR

Nationally threatened species

A total of 20 nationally threatened species has been recorded, but the Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* has not been recorded since 2004 (Table 1).

This is the only known locality for Red-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea*, a characteristic species of the Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest, and was rediscovered here in 2016 (Baral *et al.* 2018). It has been assessed as Critically Endangered, nationally, because of its small population size and because it is currently only known from this locality in Nepal (Baral *et al.* 2018).

The other species in Gadhi-Siraichuli, assessed nationally as Critically Endangered, the Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*, is regularly recorded; in recent years, singles were recorded on 22 May 2016 (Baral *et al.* 2018), and on 08 February 2019 (Giri *et al.* 2019).

Five species recorded in the IBA have been assessed as nationally Endangered (Inskipp *et al.* 2016). These include the Blue-naped Pitta *Hydrornis nipalensis*, which was found breeding in May 2016 (Hathan Chaudhary & Ramesh Chaudhary *verbally* in May 2018) and the White-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus flaveolus*: both species are characteristic of the Sino-Himalayan subtropical zone. Other endangered species are: the Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* [78], which is regularly recorded, e.g., four were found on 07 February 2019 (Giri *et al.* 2019); the Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris*, which is also regularly recorded, for instance, six in May 2016 (Baral *et al.* 2018), over 100 birds seen together on 09 February 2017 (Giri *et al.* 2017), and 40 in a flock on 07 February 2019 (Giri *et al.* 2019); and the Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*, which is rare: records include single birds seen on 07 and 08 February 2019 (Giri *et al.* 2019).



Utsab Jung Thapa

78. Red-headed Trogon, a nationally Endangered bird, is regularly recorded in Gadhi-Siraichuli.

Other wildlife

Casual surveys have recorded fifteen mammal species, including Common Leopard *Panthera pardus*, which is very rare, Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*, and Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis* (BCN, DNPWC and DoFSC, in press). There has been no formal documentation of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, or fresh water fishes. A total of 56 butterfly species has been recorded (TBMG) but this is incomplete at this point in time and formal surveys are needed for all insect fauna.

Gadhi-Siraichuli is an important functional north–south link for Chitwan National Park and Buffer Zone within the highly biodiverse Terai Arc Landscape and Chitwan Annapurna Linkage: two landscape level initiatives identified and prioritized by the government of Nepal for conservation (WWF 2019a, b). This IBA lies directly to the northward of the Barandabhar Corridor Protected Forest, further highlighting its value for conservation. Barandabhar connects the Chitwan National Park, through its buffer zone, to the mid-hills of which Gadhi-Siraichuli is an important segment. As Nepal's premier wildlife site, Chitwan's best connectivity is currently recognized through this area of forest. Therefore, the position and the intactness of the forest are significant reasons for its protection.

Land management

Gadhi-Siraichuli is outside the network of protected areas. There are seven community forests (*henceforth*, CF): Amalachuri, Janapragati, and Jamuna CFs on the south-eastern side of the IBA, Jharana CF and Sampharang CF on the southern side, Batauli CF on the south-eastern side, and Ajambari CF on the northern side.

The main inhabitants, the Chepang people, followed a nomadic lifestyle until late into the twentieth century. Living off the rich forests of the region as hunters and gatherers, their lives were inextricably intertwined with the local environment. A variety of external forces, including the immigration of new ethnic groups, forced the Chepang to take up a more sedentary life based upon simple agriculture. However, due to the steep terrain of their homeland, agricultural productivity is limited and the Chepang people are still dependent on gathering wild food (Bird Education Society 2004; Karmacharya 2015).

Threats

The construction of a new road was started in May 2019 and is posing a serious threat to the subtropical broadleaved forests of Gadhi-Siraichuli. No Environmental Impact Assessment (*henceforth*, EIA) has been carried out on the damage that this road will cause. The planned route is from Mathillo Kaule village towards Chisapanitar (Fig. 2), the most important area for birds in Gadhi-Siraichuli, the only known locality for Red-faced Liocichla in the entire country, and vital habitat for all the nationally threatened forest breeding species. Beyond Chisapanitar the planned route will proceed down a steep slope, covered in subtropical broadleaved forest, to Gadhi village. This section of the road will be at high risk of erosion and landslide [79]. The people of Gadhi village are deeply concerned about the risk of landslides, and by the fact that the road will disrupt their only water source; the planned route of the road would cross water pipes leading down the mountainside and through the forest to the villages (Inskipp & Karmacharya 2019). The condition of the local watersheds will determine the fate not only of wildlife that migrate through the Barandabhar Corridor Forest but also of people living directly



Prem Thapa

79. Road construction cutting through a section vulnerable to erosion and landslides.

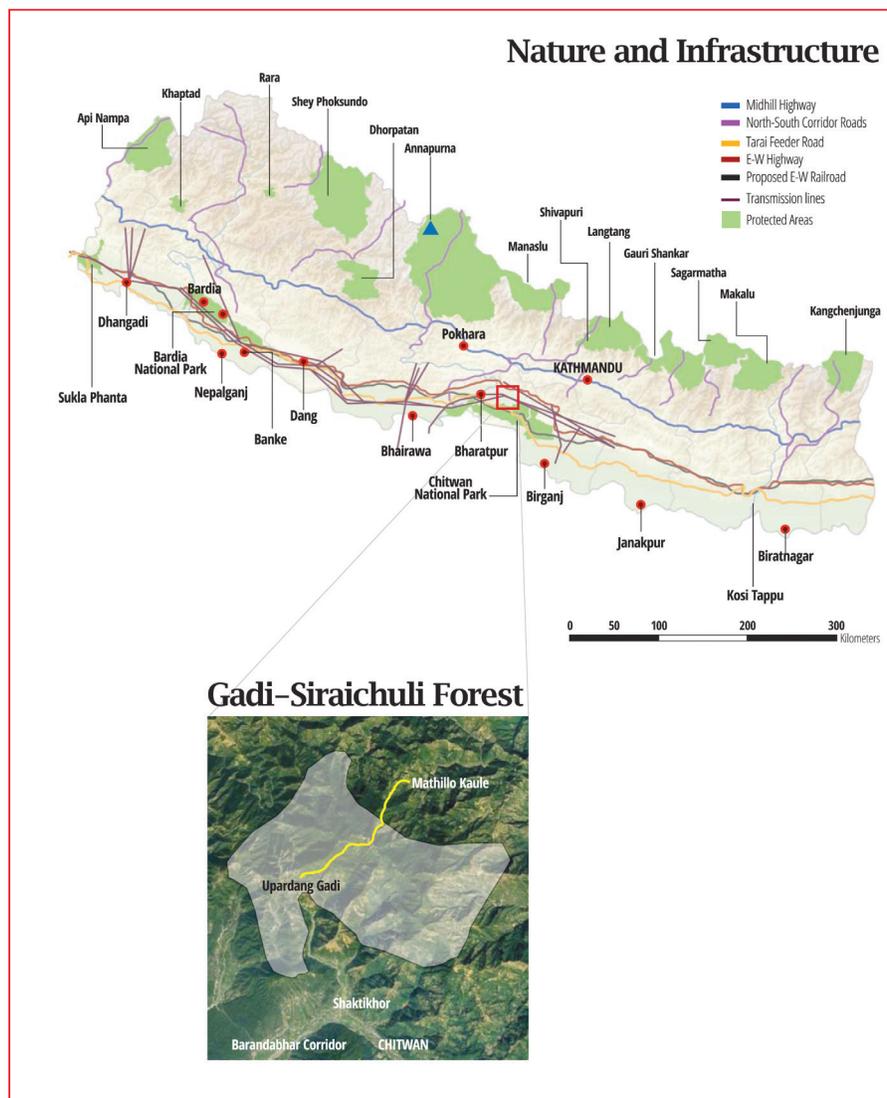


Fig. 2. Map of Gadhi-Siraichuli IBA with proposed road construction. Credit: The Nepali Times

below the watersheds—in terms of water availability and how that will seriously affect their livelihoods. The new road is only a short cut, and an alternative route, which is somewhat longer, but has far fewer adverse effects on forest biodiversity, exists. Written objections and personal representations pertinent to the new road have been made to all the relevant authorities in Nepal; the construction was successfully stopped in June 2019, by the Nepal government Ministry of the Environment, as they had been alerted to the fact that no EIA had been carried out. However, the forest remains seriously at risk until it has legal protection, perhaps, as a Conservation Area, or a Protected Forest of Nepal.

Conservation awareness amongst local communities is low. Hence, hunting, trapping, and forest encroachment are the other main threats. Although the Chepang tribe has become agrarian nowadays, members continue to hunt game birds, which are now rare in Gadhi-Siraichuli. Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos* is especially favoured, while pigeons and doves are rare/uncommon considering the high-quality broadleaved forests in the IBA, and are also probably hunted. In addition, children collect young birds from nests for pets (Karmacharya 2015).

A quarry lies close to the IBA's southern boundary, very near to the main site where the Grey-crowned Prinia has been regularly recorded. The quarry increases the risk of landslides and erosion, which would threaten both, wildlife habitats, and local peoples'

livelihoods (Rupendra Karmacharya *in litt.*, to Carol Inskipp, dated 25 February 2017). The quarry has been closed recently, and is currently only a potential threat; however, local opinion is that it could be re-opened at any time.

Conclusions

Forests of the Gadhi-Siraichuli IBA, especially the subtropical broadleaved forests, are of high quality and are now a rare and declining habitat in Nepal. These forests support large populations of species of threatened and range-restricted birds and are an invaluable resource to the local Chepang communities. These forests face a serious threat due to a road development project, and the full support of conservation organisations and independent conservationists, especially those within Nepal, is urgently needed to counter these threats. All IBAs automatically qualify as Key Biodiversity Areas, which were adopted as priority sites for conservation under IUCN's new policy and strategy. As Nepal is a state member of the IUCN, the Nepal government is obliged to provide a certain level of protection and management for critically important sites like Gadhi-Siraichuli.

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Appendix

Species	Status
Common Hill Partridge <i>Arborophila torqueola</i>	R
Rufous-throated Hill Partridge <i>Arborophila rufogularis</i>	s,R
Indian Peafowl <i>Pavo cristatus</i>	R
Black Francolin <i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	R
Red Junglefowl <i>Gallus gallus</i>	R
Kalij Pheasant <i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>	R
Rock Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i>	R
Common Wood Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	WV
Oriental Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	R, WV
Eurasian Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	R
Red Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	R
Spotted Dove <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	R
Yellow-legged Green Pigeon <i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	R
Asian Emerald Dove <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	R
Mountain Imperial Pigeon <i>Ducula badia</i>	V*
Grey Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>	R?
Large-tailed Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	R
Crested Treeswift <i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	R
White-rumped Spinetail <i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>	Vi
White-throated Needletail <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	Vi
Silver-backed Needletail <i>Hirundapus cochinchinensis</i>	Vi
Himalayan Swiftlet <i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>	R
Alpine Swift <i>Tachymarpis melba</i>	Vi
Nepal House Swift <i>Apus nipalensis</i>	R
Greater Coucal <i>Centropus sinensis</i>	R
Sirkeer Malkoha <i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>	R
Green-billed Malkoha <i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>	R
Pied Cuckoo <i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	SV
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo <i>Clamator coromandus</i>	SV
Asian Koel <i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	R
Banded Bay Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	R
Grey-bellied Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	SV
Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo <i>Surniculus dicruroides</i>	SV
Large Hawk Cuckoo <i>Hierococcyx sparveroides</i>	SV
Common Hawk Cuckoo <i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	R
Indian Cuckoo <i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	SV
Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	SV
Himalayan Cuckoo <i>Cuculus saturatus</i>	SV
Lesser Cuckoo <i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>	SV
Indian Pond Heron <i>Ardeola grayii</i>	R
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	R
Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	WV, PM
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	R, PM
Red-wattled Lapwing <i>Vanellus indicus</i>	R
Eurasian Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	WV
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	WV, PM
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	PM
Crested Serpent Eagle <i>Spilornis cheela</i>	R
Himalayan Vulture <i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	WV, PM
Griffon Vulture <i>Gyps fulvus</i>	PM?

Species	Status
Mountain Hawk Eagle <i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	R
Black Eagle <i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>	R?
Indian Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga hastata</i>	Vi
Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga clanga</i>	WV, PM
Steppe Eagle <i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	WV, PM
Bonelli's Eagle <i>Aquila fasciata</i>	PM?
Booted Eagle <i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	WV, PM
Shikra <i>Accipiter badius</i>	R
Besra <i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	R
Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	WV?PM?
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	R
Himalayan Buzzard <i>Buteo refectus</i>	WV, PM
Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	WV, PM
Upland Buzzard <i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	WV, PM
Common Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	R?
Brown Hawk Owl <i>Ninox scutulata</i>	R
Collared Owllet <i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>	R
Asian Barred Owllet <i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	R
Jungle Owllet <i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	R
Spotted Owllet <i>Athene brama</i>	R
Mountain Scops Owl <i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	R
Collared Scops Owl <i>Otus lettia</i>	R
Red-headed Trogon <i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	R
Common Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	R, PM
Speckled Piculet <i>Picumnus innominatus</i>	R
Himalayan Golden-backed Woodpecker <i>Dinopium shorii</i>	R
Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker <i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	R
Rufous Woodpecker <i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>	R
Greater Yellow-naped Woodpecker <i>Chrysoplegma flavinucha</i>	R
Lesser Yellow-naped Woodpecker <i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	R
Grey-headed Woodpecker <i>Picus canus</i>	R
Bay Woodpecker <i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>	s,R
Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker <i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>	R
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>	R
Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	R
Brown-fronted Pied Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos auriceps</i>	R
Great Barbet <i>Psilopogon virens</i>	R
Lineated Barbet <i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>	R
Blue-throated Barbet <i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>	s,R
Coppersmith Barbet <i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	R
Blue-bearded Bee-eater <i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>	R
Green Bee-eater <i>Merops orientalis</i>	R, SV
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater <i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	SV
Blue-tailed Bee-eater <i>Merops philippinus</i>	SV
Indian Roller <i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	R
Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	R
Pied Kingfisher <i>Ceryle rudis</i>	R
White-throated Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smymensis</i>	R
Collared Falconet <i>Microhierax caerulescens</i>	R
Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	PM
Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	R, WV, PM
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	R, WV, PM
Slaty-headed Parakeet <i>Psittacula himalayana</i>	s,R
Plum-headed Parakeet <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	R
Red-breasted Parakeet <i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	R
Alexandrine Parakeet <i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	R
Rose-ringed Parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	R
Blue-naped Pitta <i>Hydromis nipalensis</i>	s,R? SV?
Hooded Pitta <i>Pitta sordida</i>	SV
Long-tailed Broadbill <i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>	R
Small Minivet <i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	R
Grey-chinned Minivet <i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	R?
Long-tailed Minivet <i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	WV
Scarlet Minivet <i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	R
Rosy Minivet <i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>	s,R?
Large Cuckooshrike <i>Coracina javensis</i>	R
Black-winged Cuckooshrike <i>Lalage melaschistos</i>	s,R

Species	Status
Black-headed Cuckooshrike <i>Lalage melanoptera</i>	SV
Blyth's Shrike-babbler <i>Pteruthius aeralatus</i>	R? WV?
White-bellied Erpornis <i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>	R
Maroon Oriole <i>Oriolus traillii</i>	s,R
Black-hooded Oriole <i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	R
Indian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus kundoo</i>	SV
Ashy Woodswallow <i>Artamus fuscus</i>	R
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike <i>Hemipus picatus</i>	R
Large Woodshrike <i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>	R
Common Woodshrike <i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	R
Common Iora <i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	R
Black Drongo <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	R
Ashy Drongo <i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	R? SV? PM?
White-bellied Drongo <i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	R
Bronzed Drongo <i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	R
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo <i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	R
Hair-crested Drongo <i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	R
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo <i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	R
White-browed Fantail <i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	R
White-throated Fantail <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	R
Brown Shrike <i>Lanius cristatus</i>	WV PM
Long-tailed Shrike <i>Lanius schach</i>	R
Grey-backed Shrike <i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	WV PM
Rufous Treepie <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	R
Grey Treepie <i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	s,R
Red-billed Blue Magpie <i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>	R
Common Green Magpie <i>Cissa chinensis</i>	R
Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	R
House Crow <i>Corvus splendens</i>	R
Large-billed Crow <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	R
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	R? WV?
Little Spiderhunter <i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	R
Streaked Spiderhunter <i>Arachnothera magna</i>	s,R
Purple Sunbird <i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	R? SV?
Fire-tailed Sunbird <i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>	WV
Black-throated Sunbird <i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	s,R
Green-tailed Sunbird <i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>	R? WV?
Crimson Sunbird <i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	R
Golden-fronted Leafbird <i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	R
Orange-bellied Leafbird <i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	s,R
Rufous-breasted Accentor <i>Prunella strophiate</i>	WV
Baya Weaver <i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	R
White-rumped Munia <i>Lonchura striata</i>	R
Scaly-breasted Munia <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	R
Tricoloured Munia <i>Lonchura malacca</i>	R?
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	R
Eurasian Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	R
Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	WV PM
Paddyfield Pipit <i>Anthus rufulus</i>	R
Western Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	WV PM
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	R
Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	WV PM
White-browed Wagtail <i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	R
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	WV PM
Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	WV
Scarlet Finch <i>Carpodacus sipahi</i>	R?
Brown Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>	R
Dark-breasted Rosefinch <i>Procarduelis nipalensis</i>	WV
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch <i>Chloris spinoides</i>	WV
Crested Bunting <i>Emberiza lathami</i>	R
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	V
Yellow-bellied Fairy-fantail <i>Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus</i>	WV
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	R
Yellow-browed Tit <i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	WV
Sultan Tit <i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>	R?
Green-backed Tit <i>Parus monticolus</i>	R
Cinereous Tit <i>Parus cinereus</i>	R
Black-lored Tit <i>Machlolophus xanthogenys</i>	R

Species	Status
Zitting Cisticola <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	R
Striated Prinia <i>Prinia crinigera</i>	s,R
Grey-crowned Prinia <i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i>	R
Grey-breasted Prinia <i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	R
Common Tailorbird <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	R
Thick-billed Warbler <i>Arundinax aedon</i>	WV PM
Booted Warbler <i>Iduna caligata</i>	WV PM
Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	WV PM
Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	WV PM
Pygmy Wren Babbler <i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	R
Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler <i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i>	WV
Northern House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	PM
Asian House Martin <i>Delichon dasypus</i>	WV PM
Nepal House Martin <i>Delichon nipalense</i>	R
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i>	R
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	R SV
Eurasian Crag Martin <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	WV PM
Grey-throated Martin <i>Riparia chinensis</i>	R? PM?
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	PM
White-throated Bulbul <i>Alophoixus flaveolus</i>	s,R?
Ashy Bulbul <i>Hemixos flavala</i>	R
Mountain Bulbul <i>Ixos mcclellandii</i>	s,R
Black Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	s,R
Striated Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>	s,R
Black-crested Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i>	R
Red-whiskered Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	R
Himalayan Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus leucogenis</i>	s,R
Red-vented Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	R
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	WV?
Hume's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	WV
Lemon-rumped Warbler <i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	WV
Buff-barred Warbler <i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	WV
Ashy-throated Warbler <i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>	WV
Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	WV
Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	WV
Tickell's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	WV PM
Grey-cheeked Warbler <i>Phylloscopus poliogenys</i>	WV?
Green-crowned Warbler <i>Phylloscopus burkii</i>	R
Whistler's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus whistleri</i>	WV
Chestnut-crowned Warbler <i>Phylloscopus castaniceps</i>	WV
Greenish Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	WV
Blyth's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	WV
Western Crowned Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>	WV PM
Grey-hooded Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i>	s,R
Grey-bellied Tesia <i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>	R
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler <i>Cettia major</i>	WV
Grey-sided Bush Warbler <i>Cettia brunneifrons</i>	WV
Chestnut-headed Tesia <i>Cettia castaneocoronata</i>	WV
Aberrant Bush Warbler <i>Horornis flavolivaceus</i>	WV
Black-throated Tit <i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	s,R
Black-chinned Yuhina <i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	s,R
Stripe-throated Yuhina <i>Yuhina gularis</i>	WV
Whiskered Yuhina <i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	R? WV?
Oriental White-eye <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	R
White-browed Scimitar Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i>	R
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	R
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler <i>Erythrogonys erythrogonys</i>	s,R
Grey-throated Babbler <i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	R
Pin-striped Tit Babbler <i>Mixornis gularis</i>	R
Black-chinned Babbler <i>Cyanoderma pyrrhops</i>	s,R
Rufous-winged Fulvetta <i>Schoeniparus castaneiceps</i>	R? WV?
Puff-throated Babbler <i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	R
Nepal Tit Babbler <i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	s,R
Striated Laughingthrush <i>Grammatoptila striata</i>	R
Himalayan Cutia <i>Cutia nipalensis</i>	s,R
Spiny Babbler <i>Acanthoptila nipalensis</i>	s,R
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax monileger</i>	R
White-crested Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	R

Species	Status
Spotted Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax ocellatus</i>	WV
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax rufogularis</i>	s,R
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>	R
White-throated Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax albogularis</i>	R
Blue-winged Laughingthrush <i>Trochalopteron squamatum</i>	s,R
Streaked Laughingthrush <i>Trochalopteron lineatum</i>	R
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush <i>Trochalopteron erythrocephalum</i>	R
Rufous Sibia <i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>	WV
Silver-eared Mesia <i>Leiothrix argentauris</i>	R
Red-billed Leiothrix <i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	s,R
Red-tailed Minla <i>Minla ignotincta</i>	WV
Red-faced Liocichla <i>Liocichla phoenicea</i>	s,R
Blue-winged Minla <i>Siva cyanouroptera</i>	s,R
Chestnut-tailed Minla <i>Chrysominla strigula</i>	R
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch <i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>	R
White-tailed Nuthatch <i>Sitta himalayensis</i>	R
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch <i>Sitta frontalis</i>	R
Wallcreeper <i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	WV PM
Asian Pied Starling <i>Gracupica contra</i>	R
Chestnut-tailed Starling <i>Sturnia malabarica</i>	R
Common Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	R
Jungle Myna <i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	R
Common Hill Myna <i>Gracula religiosa</i>	R
Brown Dipper <i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	R
Oriental Magpie Robin <i>Copsychus saularis</i>	R
White-rumped Shama <i>Kittacinda malabarica</i>	R
Pale-chinned Flycatcher <i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>	R
Blue-throated Flycatcher <i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>	SV
Rufous-bellied Niltava <i>Niltava sundara</i>	R
Small Niltava <i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	s,R
Verditer Flycatcher <i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>	SV
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	WV PM
Little Forktail <i>Enicurus scouleri</i>	WV
Black-backed Forktail <i>Enicurus immaculatus</i>	R
Slaty-backed Forktail <i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	s,R
Spotted Forktail <i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	R
Blue Whistling Thrush <i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	R
Himalayan Rubythroat <i>Calliope pectoralis</i>	WV
Siberian Rubythroat <i>Calliope calliope</i>	WV PM
White-tailed Robin <i>Mylomela leucura</i>	s,WV
White-browed Bush Robin <i>Tarsiger indicus</i>	WV PM
Golden Bush Robin <i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>	WV
Himalayan Bush Robin <i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>	WV
Rusty-tailed Flycatcher <i>Ficedula rufigaunda</i>	WV PM
Taiga Flycatcher <i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	WV
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula strophiate</i>	WV PM
Little Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	R?
Slaty-blue Flycatcher <i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	WV
Blue-fronted Redstart <i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	WV PM
Blue-capped Redstart <i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>	WV? PM?
White-capped Water Redstart <i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>	R
Plumbeous Water Redstart <i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>	R
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	WV PM
Blue-capped Rock Thrush <i>Monticola cinclorhyncha</i>	s,SV
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush <i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	R
Blue Rock Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>	WV
Pied Bushchat <i>Saxicola caprata</i>	R
Grey Bushchat <i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	R
Pied Thrush <i>Geokichla wardii</i>	s,SV
Orange-headed Thrush <i>Geokichla citrina</i>	SV
Grey-winged Blackbird <i>Turdus boulboul</i>	s,R
Tickell's Thrush <i>Turdus unicolor</i>	s,R? SV?
Tibetan Blackbird <i>Turdus maximus</i>	WV
Chestnut Thrush <i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>	WV
Black-throated Thrush <i>Turdus atrogularis</i>	WV

KEY: Status: PM Passage migrant; R Resident throughout the year; SV Summer visitor; V Vagrant; Vi Visitor—species has been recorded at any time of the year, is not a passage migrant and is not known to breed; WV Winter visitor; *Species not recorded since at least 2004; s Characteristic species of Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forest Biome.