

Bird trip to Nepal 8. - 21.12.2000

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General Information

Introduction

Nepal has been in my wish list since I did a trip to India in fall 1990. It became true when a group bird trip to Ethiopia was cancelled October 2000 and I wanted quickly arrange my own trip to somewhere what for I decided to take an option to explore the most interesting places in Nepal by myself. After reading several trip reports I selected three destinations there: Koshi Tappu, Royal Chitwan National Park, and Godavari & Pulchowki mountain in Katmandu area. All these areas provide high number of species alone and they offer different biotope to ensure good selection of close to 850 species, which have been recorded in Nepal. All these places are also easy to reach in public transportation.

My assignment was ending in Turkey after few months and I had to spend my remaining vacation days until leaving Turkey which itself is an excellent birding destination. I had already very well explored it and winter is better to spend somewhere else. I practically had max 2 weeks time visit Nepal until heading for Christmas and New Year to Finland.

The trip was aimed to have some relaxation but also extensive birding and lots of walking, i.e. physical exercise. The plan was to spend 3 days in Koshi Tappu, 3-4 days in Royal Chitwan National Park and 2-3 days exploring Katmandu area, mainly in Pulchowki and Godavari. Some time was left to visit famous Nepalese temples.

Trip arrangements

I contacted The Explore Nepal P. Ltd by e-mail and I made practical arrangements during November. I defined tentative itinerary of the trip and I requested quotation for 3 days to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp, which is run by the company. The price covering everything: three meals, accommodation in high quality tents with two beds, transportation and bird guiding was \$125/day. It's a lot but the service was very good and personnel excellent. In addition, the company arranged me flight ticket from Katmandu to Biratnagar (\$85). I wanted have everything arranged in this part of trip what for I did not have much to bargain.

I reserved flights from Istanbul via Vienna to Katmandu with Lauda Air, which was the most convenient and almost cheapest option. Other choices would have required much more time to spend for flying. Return ticket was \$1030.

The rest of the trip I had left open to arrange while in Nepal, as I wanted to have some flexibility.

Nepal requires visa, which costs \$30 for 30 days.

Itinerary

- 8.12. Flight Istanbul – Vienna
- 9.12. Night flight Vienna – Katmandu, afternoon exploring Patan area; night at Hotel Aloha Inn, Patan
- 10.12. Godavari gardens, Godavari area; night at Hotel Aloha Inn
- 11.12. Flight Katmandu – Biratnagar, afternoon at Koshi Tappu near the barrage; night at low-level hotel Jay Nepal in Itahari.
- 12.12. Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp, exploring eastern shore of the Koshi Tappu, evening visit at the barrage.
- 13.12. Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp, morning at Dahran forest, afternoon eastern shore of Koshi Tappu.
- 14.12. Koshi Tappu – Hetauda – Sauraha; night at Hotel Royal Park
- 15.12. Sauraha, whole day at Royal Chitwan National Park, low land river area and Sal forests; night at Hotel Royal Park
- 16. 12. Sauraha, whole day at Royal Chitwan National Park, Churia Hills; night at Hotel Royal Park
- 17.12. Sauraha – Tikali – Narayanghat – Katmandu, morning at 20000 Lakes area, afternoon by bus Tikali – Narayanghat – Katmandu; night at Hotel Aloha Inn
- 18.12. Patan, tourist day; night at Hotel Aloha Inn
- 19.12. Phulchowki Mountain; night at Hotel Aloha Inn
- 20.12. Phulchowki Mountain and Godavari, night at Hotel Aloha Inn
- 21.12. Flight Katmandu – Vienna – Istanbul

Safety

Nepal is in overall very friendly and safe to travel except in recent years Maoist rebels have caused to threat mainly in remote and rural areas. Due to some conflicts near Bharatpur/Narayanghat, not far away of Chitwan NP, I shortened my stay in Chitwan by one day. It was recommended my nature guide in Sauraha.

Weather

Days were overall warm, around +20°C but nights were pretty cold, far below +10°C and in high elevations even below 0°C. On top of Phulchowki mountain ground was frozen in the morning. Frequently mornings were foggy even until 9-10am in Katmandu area and in Chitwan. In Koshi Tappu I did not experience any foggy. There the temperature was in daytime even close to +25°C. I did not experience rain at all.

Local bird guiding

The Explore Nepal P. Ltd.

It's one of the nature oriented local travel offices, which offers nature and culture trips in Nepal but also to Bhutan and Tibet. It runs oldest of the three camps in Koshi Tappu, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp. Other competitors are Aqua Birds Camp, and Koshi Tappu Camp, which locate closest to nature reserve entrance gate. All are tented camps. I suppose that all these have more or less the same services available as some of the guides have changed the

camp. I was very pleased with Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp as it provides convenient camp area, which holds lots of trees and bushes, and marsh area with ponds to do birding just in the camp area.

The Explore Nepal P. Ltd. is actively participating to nature related activities, like pushing the regulation to reduce air pollution in Katmandu valley, which is a real problem there. I had difficulties to breath in Katmandu/Patan due to high air pollution. You can reach them by e-mail: explore@mos.com.np.

United Jungle Guide Services

UJGS is a cooperative that was set up by 27 guides who previously worked for various hotels in Sauraha, and 20% of their profits are funneled back into conservations efforts. They all belong to the Bird Education Society of Sauraha, a non-profit organization, which seeks to promote awareness of conservation issues within the local population. I hooked up Hem Subedi who seemed to be pretty good bird guide who was recommended by an American couple who birded there a month earlier. UJGS office can be found in Sauraha town in the hotel area.

References

Books

- *Grimmit, Inskipp, Inskipp: Birds of Nepal*. A very essential guidebook and easy to carry with on the treks. It's a limited Nepal edition of the next book covering birds only possible to see in Nepal.
- *Grimmit, Inskipp, Inskipp: Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. This is more a reference book, which you don't want to carry with due to its size and weight.
- *Lonely Planet: Nepal*. A very useful book, which I used a lot to plan accommodations, contacts, traveling in Nepal, etc.

Trip Reports

- 25.4.-27.5.2000 by Phil and Charlotte Benstead
- 1.-23.3.1999 by Laura Gooch
- 10.10.-14.11.2000 by Bill and Doreen Stair
- 26.11.-10.12.1995 by Earlybird (Finnish)

All they provided some elements to my plan. Thanks for them.

National Parks and Sites

Koshi Tappu, Royal Chitwan National Park, Phulchowki Mountain, Godavari and its gardens. All these sites are well described in above mentioned books or trip reports, so I don't repeat the same.

Daily Log

8.12.

Flight from Istanbul to Vienna with Lauda Air late afternoon, waiting 4 hours at the terminal the flight to Katmandu. Flight left 11.10pm.

9.12.

Night flight and after very short sleeping we landed Katmandu 11.40am local time. Sunny and warm weather welcomed all travelers. After customs I headed out of very old terminal building and Explore Nepal representative was waiting me to transfer me first to their office to be paid the remaining part of the trip and to agree travel time from Katmandu to Birathagar by air. I had paid first half via bank transfer already from Turkey when I made my reservation. The company representative drove me to Patan, hotel Aloha Inn, which I had selected by using Lonely Planed recommendations, \$20/night. I arrived hotel and checked in 1.30pm. I did some walking near by and visited Patan's famous temples, which provided first species. I made a short view from hotel terrace to the surrounding at sunset. Early dinner and bed as the night flight and time difference required some rest before next morning early wake up. Tens of House Crows and Black Kites flew around the valley. A Peregrine sat a short while behind the hotel. Only 9 species was seen.

10.12.

Sleeping well I woke up already 6am. Hotel arranged me taxi from the hotel to Godavari botanical gardens. The trip took 30 minutes and costed 200 rupies. I walked from dusk up to 9am in the garden getting first impression about Nepal forest and garden birds. Early morning was rather foggy but sun cleared the sky until 8am. Male **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher**, **Verditer Flycatcher**, a pair **Hodgson's Redstart**, 1m3f **Plumbeous Water Redstarts**, Grey-hooded Warbler (nominal sub species), **Western Crowned Warbler**, male **Black-throated Sunbird**, 2 Oriental White-eyes, Common Tailorbird, 3 Black-lored Tits I managed to identify on top of tens of noisy Large-billed Crows and around 100 Black Bulbuls. White-throated Kingfisher and very pale colored Great Tit were commoner Western Palearctic species.

In nearby small village I ate my delicious breakfast until I headed by foot towards east up to a deer farm passing number of fishponds (10am-1pm). This slow walk provided good time to familiarize Nepalese bush birds. A **Great Barbet**, a Long-tailed Shrike, a White-throated Fantail, Fire-tailed Sunbirds were near the houses around fishponds. An **Upland Buzzard** sat on the tree.

A flock of Black-throated Tits, Lemon-rumped Warbler, Oriental White-eyes, Nepal Fulvetta, 2 **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babblers**, and Black-lored Tits kept me busy when skulking. Himalayan and Red-vented Bulbuls were numerous and 3 **Mountain Bulbuls** kept lots of noise. Dark, large hawk/eagle, possible Black Eagle, just passed behind the threes and Eurasian Sparrowhawk chased bulbuls.

I ate lunch at the same café as the breakfast. In the afternoon I explored Godavari village just west of garden area. Three Olive-backed Pipits, Buff-barred Warbler, Western-crowned Warbler were some to mention on top of Cattle Egrets and one Intermediate Egret.

I returned in a local buss to Patan and it costed only 8 rupies. In Patan flew 5 Little Swifts. Daycount was 42 species and 16 lifers.

At 6.30pm came The Explore Nepal trip guide (Sutardan) to pick me up from my hotel for a dinner in a good Nepalese restaurant. At the dinner he also brought up the concern that first ever countrywide hotel personnel strike may change my travel plans. The decision would be known next morning. I accepted to stay in a very low-level hotel in Itahari half of the their charge per day in all those days which I could not stay in their camp in case the strike could prevent me to stay at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp and explore the area from there. Food was good, and the Nepalese dancing and music presentation was standard one for more than 10 foreign persons who were there. I went bed tired at 10pm.

11.12.

I woke up very, very early and finally 6am I decided to make more than two hours morning walk to western part of Patan where I found a nice small marsh. Morning was very cold, close to zero and foggy. This small spot provided a Snipe, 2 Black Drongos, 2 Oriental Magpie Robins, ten **Rosy Pipits**, Olive-backed Pipit and several White Wagtails ssp *leucopsis* and *baicalensis*.

Back at the hotel I ate breakfast. The Explore office called and confirmed the hotel personnel strike which starts at noon. However, we agreed to proceed according to the original plan. I should have be left also from Aloha Inn. Sutardan picked me up from the hotel and we drove to the airport. Buddha Air left there 11am towards Biratnagar. During the flight I enjoyed the scenery of beautiful Himalayan white mountains when I sat on the left side of the plane.

We landed Biratnagar after 45 minutes and hot sunny weather welcomed us in eastern Terai. Jeep with a driver waited us. Then we drove to Itahari, reserved rooms in hotel Jay Nepal, and continued straight to Koshi Barrage. Whole afternoon we explored eastern side of the barrage until sunset. Ganges dolphins we did not manage to find but next day I learned that they were usually on western side of the barrage. The area provided high number of ducks, herons, egrets, kingfishers, waders, raptors, bush birds, and so on. On a way to Koshi we had to stop when a flock of **Himalayan** and Eurasian Griffon Vultures were flying low over the road. Few were sitting very close by the road that made me a chance to burn firm. Koshi Barrage area did not bring me many new lifers, only 7, but selection of species was good. Best were calling **Swamp Francolin**, 2 Greater Coucal, tens of Spotted Doves, 20 Purple Gallinules, 10+ Bronze-winged Jacanas, 10 River Lapwings, Osprey, 50+ Asian Openbills, 10+ **Lesser Adjutants**, Grey-backed Shrike, a pair Stonechat ssp *indicus*, Red-breasted Flycatcher, 30+ Asian Pied Starling, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Thick-billed Warbler, hundreds of Yellow-breasted Buntings, several Chiffchaffs ssp *tristis*. I learned also that Yellow-breasted Bunting has been much more widespread earlier but for some reason it's not anymore so numerous.

The day already showed the excellence of the area though several small birds were not identified as Sutardan did not show up to be a good bird identifier, but more a general nature

guide. He mentioned that things would get better when we can go to Koshi Tappu Nature Reserve, which is lying on eastern shore of the river 10km north from barrage.

We returned to Itahari, took a shower and enjoyed decent but tasty Nepalese dinner in our hotel. I enjoyed a beer as well. Daycount was 65 and total count already 96.

12.12.

I woke up already 5am when horns of night busses were frequent as opposite to the hotel was town's buss station. I waited until 6am when was agreed to have already the breakfast. After it we headed to Koshi Tappu and we did few stops between the main road and reserve HQ. One a way Black-shouldered Kite flew over the road, also 1m1f Pied Harrier flew over the fields. In one of the villages was Camp's main bird guide, Sankhar Bista, waiting us just after 8am. Sankhar has studied forest biology but he has changed his interest to birds already 5 years ago when he learned that bird guiding offers better way to work for living. And he was a very good bird guide. Sutardan bought us reserve entrance tickets for two days. We also learned that the strike is over, so we can stay next two nights at the camp.

Early morning was full of bird songs and new species was seen frequently. Already before the HQ we saw two singing **Striated Grassbirds** and two **Lesser Adjutants**, which are one of the special species in the area. Three hours we mainly walked the embankment of the reserve until the Wildlife Camp where we arrived 11.30am and the personnel welcomed me to the very pleasant area and offered a cup of coffee, which was enjoyable to drink in the garden nearby the marshy area and watch birds at the same time. They prepared the lunch.

This morning walk provided high number of species of which I could mention 4 **Swamp Francolins** on the road, 3 **Black-rumped Flamebacks**, **Lesser Coucal**, 3 Ashy Woodswallows, 5+ Rufous Treepies, 2 Black-hooded Orioles, Brown Hawk Owl, 3 Wrynecks, 2 Grey-headed Canary Flycatchers, 3 beautiful male **Siberian Rubythroats**, **Bluethroat**, **Chestnut-tailed Starling**, 2 Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches, 10 Red-whiskered Bulbuls, tens of Greenish Warblers, 3 **Tickler's Leaf Warblers**, 3 Jungle Babblers, **Striated Babbler**, male **Purple Sunbird**, at least 3 Paddifield Pipits among of Rosy and Hodson's Pipits, 15 **Baya Weavers**, **Scaly-breasted Munia**, and 2m2f **Crested Buntings**. Spotted Owl was looking us from its hole in the tree.

Shallow lake near the bird tower hosted hundreds of ducks, herons and egrets. 120 Lesser-whistling Ducks, 50 Ferruginous Ducks, 15 Tufted Ducks were most interesting species. Single **Black-bellied Tern** flew eastern side of the embankment forth and back. Two **Greater Spotted Eagles** and two Ospreys were sitting on the western side of the river. Little and Great Cormorants were numerous. Three **Darters** were among Little Cormorants and herons.

Camp marsh pool had 1cy **Citrine Wagtail** and 2 White-browed Wagtails.

After lunch 1pm we started to walk and drive slowly the same road back and soon we noticed tens of vultures circling near by. They landed to the ground partially hidden behind reed beds. More and more were approaching. Even my guides were surprised to see more than 100 vultures in the same flock. They mentioned that large vultures have reduced rapidly in past ten years. I counted 100 **Himalayan/Eurasian/White-rumped Vultures** with rather equal share, 3 **Long-billed Vultures**, and 4 **Cinereous Vultures**. On top of these also 4 **Steppe**

Eagles, which looked very tiny, when they were gliding. We did not see what they were eating on the ground. Tens of Himalayan/Eurasian Vultures flew to sit on a pine, which was few hundred meters away allowing us to watch them very well. Rest of them flew further away.

Sandbanks of the river shore had a flock of 43 **Black-headed Ibis**, **Black Ibis** flew to the barrage, and Pied Kingfisher flew over the river. Black Stork, **Black-necked Stork** and 50 Ruddy Shelducks were sitting on large sand beds. Several shrikes were seen, Grey-backed, **Brown**, and Long-tailed ssp *tricolor*.

Later we drove to the barrage to find again **Ganges Dolphins** and now we were luckier to see at least two to show their back now and then on western side of the barrage. On a way in eastern side we counted at least 50 Purple Gallinules. Western side of the barrage was large open natural meadow area where local people were cutting grass. There we found 2 **Red-wattled Plovers** and juvenile **Green-backed Heron**.

In the afternoon Sutardan picked up our belongings from the hotel in Itahari to the camp when we explored the area with Sankhar. We drove back to the camp at sunset and arrived 5.45pm. Was time to list day species and I was delighted to see that I got 16 lifers and 123 day species. The trip count was now 161.

During the day we saw tens of wild **Water Buffalos** walking by the river and at the sand beds. A hog deer and a mongoose were in the reed bed.

After a very delicious dinner at the camp I sat for a while outside to watch stars in the sky, listening quiet dark night and just enjoying the relaxation. Brown Hawk Owl was calling near the camp. It was time to go to the tent bed, which had hot water bottle to warm it a little bit. Night was already pretty cold.

13.12.

A mouse disturbed my sleep several times from coming to the tent and finding my biscuits. I closed very well front door as camp personnel advised but I learned that the mouse came in from the window corner. Wake up was 5.30am and morning coffee 5.50am. **Collard Scops Owl** and Brown Hawk Owl were calling in the dusk. Now we headed 6am to Dharan (or Patnali) Forest, which is almost an hour drive north of the camp. After arriving there we ate field breakfast at dusk and waited that sun came up and the birds started to call. At 7.15am we started to walk slowly forest paths first to eastwards and then several paths crisscross until 11.45am when we returned to our car. The forest provides very good amount of new species, which you don't see in Koshi or Chitwan. This area is rather much threatened by local villagers who are daily cutting trees for their use. The same ways many other forest areas have gradually deforested. The only problem to watch birds there is to get them into the sight as the trees and bushes are so dense that you usually just hear lots of calls but hardly find the bird. Sankhar was very good to spot the calls and help me to identify many of them.

Early morning walk brought following lifers: calling **Red Junglefowl**, a **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, 2m **Fulvous-breasted Woodpeckers**, mf **Lesser Yellownapes**, 2 **Blue-throated Barbets**, 2 **Oriental Pied Hornbills**, male **Plum-headed Parakeet**, 2 **Himalayan Swiftlets** and 3 **Crested Treeswifts** on the sky, a **Crested Serpent Eagle**, 2 **Collard Falconets**, 2 **Golden-fronted Leafbirds**, 1m1f Maroon Oriole, 2 **Black-winged**

Cockooshrikes, male **Rosy Minivet**, 15 Scarlet Minivets, 3 **White-bellied Drongos**, 2 **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongos**, a **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**, male **Black-naped Monarch**, 20+ Common Ioras, 20+ **Large Woodshrikes**, male **Orange-headed Thrush**, male **Little Pied Flycatcher**, 10+ White-rumped Shammas, a **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, 3 **Black-crested Bulbuls**, **Abbott's Babler**, and 5 **Striped Tit Babblers**.

In the forest I saw both monkey species, which occur in Nepal. There were also 2 large squirrels.

We returned to the camp after very successful forest trip. We did not see **Jerdon's Baza**, which was seen there in spring and earlier during the year first time in Nepal. There were several Ashy Drongos and Spranled Drongo was common in the forest.

After a lunch I took more relaxed. Camp's pond brought 3 male **Greater-painted Snipes**. Male and juvenile Besra showed up at the camp. Male **Black Bittern** stopped for a short while at the camp pond. A **Spotted Bush Warbler** was hiding in nearby branch pile. Last two species were very good observations in the area.

A **Smoky Warbler**, a **Brahminy Starling** and 10 **Jungle Mynas** were near the camp. A **Hume's Leaf Warbler** was hopping in the trees around the camp, also a Dusky Warbler and a **Golden Spectacled Warbler**. Greenish Warblers were very common.

Afternoon we were slowly walking between the camp area and the river trying to find Brown Fish Owl and few other special species in the area. We did not find the owl though we checked all usual day's hiding places. However, we saw 2 **Jungle Owls**, and a female **Streak-throated Woodpecker**. Sutardan saw also a Scaly Thrush.

Over the river flew a **River Tern** and a Black-bellied Tern. A Clamorous Reed Warbler was found from the reed bed and 10 noisy Jungle Bubbblers kept the great feeling of the day. From the river beach we found 2 **Sand Larks** and a Temminck's Stint.

When I was watching the last shines of the falling sun over the river, it had created soft orange colors to the air and gradually sky darkened. I was just thinking: What a place! Koshi Tappu Nature Reserve together with Dahran Forest gave me within two and a half days 184 species of which 60 were lifers. Day count was 109 species, 211 for the whole trip.

At dinner I enjoyed the hospitality of the camp personnel and the good food they had prepared. Last moment thanking once more the camp personnel and I went early to the bed when the wake up was very, very early.

14.12.

Wake up at 4.30am and already 5am Sutardan and another person from the camp climbed to the car which drove up to the main road from where long-haul bus picked up us 5.45am when it was still very dark. Next destination was Hetauda and its Ibisbills. I was mainly sleeping until Hetauda. From there we continued around 20km forward towards Chitwan where we jumped out with Sutardan from the bus at noon in a place where Rapti River is just following the road. We started to walk slowly down the road watching all the time the river and its stony surrounding. Tens of local people were washing laundry on the river what for we did not find the bird from the usual place. We walked 5km down the road following the river. I

was almost ready to leave already the place when I picked up two **Ibisbills** by the small river branch in a place where the river area was close to 1000m wide. What luck as very soon birds disappeared behind stony river branch corner as they walked on!

Alexandrine Parakeet and Rock Thrush were other most interested species by the river.

Happily we took a local bus and went to Tadi Bazaar where we jumped out. I thanked Sutardan and he continued to Katmandu. I took a local taxi and went to Chitrasali where a driver from Royal Park Hotel was waiting me. Taxi driver called to the hotel and mentioned that I'm coming.

I arrived Sauraha and checked in a good Royal Park Hotel for 3 nights (\$20/night with breakfast). Then I rushed to UJGS office to agree next two days bird guiding. I met Hem Subedi who was happy to meet me as my American friends had written to him that I'm coming today. We agreed that tomorrow we explore the area downwards the river and nearby Sal-forest, grass fields, etc. by foot. Day after we decided to go to Churia Hills for a whole day first driving with a bike to a village and from there walking up. Guiding fee was 800 rupies and entrance fee 500 rupies.

I enjoyed good dinner at the hotel restaurant. A group of Dutch tourists had a farewell dinner. I went early to the bed to have rest for the coming days. Today came only 25 species but Ibisbills were top bird of the trip. Five new species added my trip list.

15.12.

I had slept very well the night and I woke up 6.30am. I ate quickly my breakfast in the hotel restaurant and rushed to the shops to buy fruits and water for the day's trip. I was already 7.10am at the UJGS office and met Hem there. Area was covered by thick fog we crossed Rapti river by boat 8.10am. We started slowly walk tracks and paths, which led us south away from the river. Birds were quiet until fog started to disappear between 9-10am, and gradually we were able to identify more and more species. We walked through the area where **Lesser Adjutants** are breeding (11 nests) and at least 9 **Marsh Mugger** crocodiles were lying on a small river bench until we reached Rapti River again 5km downwards from Sauraha at 11.30am.

During morning walk tens of Red Jungle Fowls were calling, several species of woodpeckers were seen, of which I would mention 1m2f Grey-headed Woodpeckers (slightly different than in Europe), 2m2f **Greater Flamebacks**, and male **Himalayan Flameback**. A **Lineated Barbet**, 2 male **Green-billed Malkohas**, 4 **Emerald Doves**, a **Crested Goshawk**, a **Besra**, 2 male **Small Minivets**, male **Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrikes**, a **White Thrush**, a **Pale-chinned Flycatcher**, a **Tickle's Leaf Warbler**, 10+ **Puff-throated Babbler**, and a **Chestnut-capped Babbler** were good species for the morning. The area had several Bengal Tiger revir marks. One male is living in the area and it's traced with a radio transmitter by a professor who studies its movement in the area and its revir.

Returning in the afternoon by the Rapti River brought several river and water species. 60+ Ruddy Shelducks were swimming on the river. 6 **Black Ibis** were sitting on top of a tree, 20 **Plain Martin** flew over the river. 1m1f **White-tailed Stonechat**, 3 **Grey-breasted Prinias**, 5+ **Striped Tit Babblers** were other good species. Just outside of Sauraha village was loudly calling an **Oriental Pied Hornbill**. A singing **Sand Lark** and a **Rufous-winged Bushlark**, 11

juvenile Black Storks and an Upland Buzzard were other species just opposite of Sauraha by the river.

On a way back we saw 2 pairs of Indian Peafowls passing the track. We were lucky to see one half-wild work elephant and only 25 meter from us a **one-horned rhino**, both monkey species, hog deer, and spotted deers.

It was rather heavy but very productive day and I was exhausted when I returned hotel 6pm. I did some rest until I headed to dinner in one of the restaurants in the village. The day added 14 lifers and 18 new species to the trip list increasing the total to 234. Day's count was 88.

16.12.

After breakfast again 7.15am meeting Hem in the UJGS office and ready to go. We waited until 8.30am and crossed the river with bikes, started to bike now upstream through couple villages until we reached a military checkpoint where we left our bikes. At 10am we were walking the path up to the Churia Hills. Half an hour later we reached a dry river, which we walked up. It provided better visibility of birds. Soon we saw fresh killed deer and my guide, Hem, was a little bit nervous as he new that the **tiger** which had killed the deer must be somewhere near by. Soon he relaxed and we continued the river upwards several kilometers. It was already rather small when we decided to return same way back to military checkpoint where we arrived 3pm. The forest was quite quiet according to Hem. However, we managed to find several good species: female **Orange-bellied Leafbird**, a **Common Green Magpie**, several Red-billed Blue Magpie, a **Grey Treepie**, 3 **Bronzed Drongos**, a **Black-backed Forktail**, 10 **Ashy Bulbuls**, a **White-crested LoughingThrush**, a flock of 15 **Lesser Necklaced LoughingThrushes**, and a **White-browed Scimitar Babbler**. Hem saw first time in that area 2 **Sultan Tits** and he was very happy about it. For some reason I did not find it among of tens of small birds rather high on top of leaf trees until the whole flock disappeared.

Few kilometers before Sauraha we slowly explored meadow which holded tens of larks and pipits. I estimated that there were 35 **Oriental Skylarks**, 5 Paddified Pipits and a Rosy Pipit. River had nowadays a quite rare single wintering **Bar-necked Goose**, 25 Goosanders, 7 Spot-billed Ducks and female Northern Showeler among hundreds of ducks. Also 2 **Woolly-necked Storks**, 5 Black Ibis and, a Great White Egret and an **Oriental Honey Buzzard** were flying by the river. An Oriental Pied Hornbill flew just over me calling loudly and keeping the bill open when we were biking towards Sauraha at sunset 5.15pm.

Again a very good day but I was really tired after heavy exercise. Eighty-four day species brought ten new lifers, 17 new trip species, which increased my trip count to 251.

I ate the dinner at the hotel restaurant with the company of a Dutch Lucie and a Scott Greg who stayed in the same hotel several days when they were exploring around Nepal on their trip. We sat afterwards some time chatting near the outdoor fireplace until we felt too cold and went to bed.

17.12.

I woke up very early in the morning, packed my goods, and went to the breakfast immediately when it opened as the only hotel guest. I carried out my belongings to the UJGS office and loaded my goods to a very old jeep, which was expected to drive Hem and me to

the 20000 Lakes. We arrived to the gate of the area from where we started to walk the road to the lakes' main water area slowly at 8.30am. We agreed that the jeep is coming to pick up us at 2pm from the lakes. Sunny and almost non-foggy morning made the morning walk very pleasant. However, at noon heat started to be already rather unpleasant and I felt tired after three days extensive walking.

This so called buffer zone provided several good and new species: 3 **Stork-billed Kingfishers** over the road-by channal, 3 **Lesser Fish Eagle** hunting by the lakes and 10+ **White-rumped Noddletails** which were flying over the area. One Lesser Fish Eagle just got a snake, which it carried further to the forest.

Several Alexandrine Parakeets, 2 Paddified Warblers, a Pale-chinned Flycatcher, an Ospray, 30+ **Plain Martins**, male **Rubythroat**, 10 Yellow-breasted Buntings, a Brown Shrike, 4 Crested Serpent Eagles, 3 **Lesser Adjutants**, 5 Oriental Darters and 3 Wood Sandpipers were other observations to mention.

Those lakes hosted also several Marsh Mugger crocodiles and 2 Mongoose.

At 2pm jeep driver arrived to pick up us and drove me to Tikali from where I jumped to the very old local bus, which went to Narayanghat. There I changed to Katmandu express bus 3pm and I arrived Katmandu western suburbs 7.15pm. I had to pay double fee (2*110 rupies) when I placed my backpack, telescope and camera equipments to another seat. The price was based on seats to be used. The road followed beautiful river valley and the drive was sometimes rather fast considering the conditions of the buses and the driving there.

I took a taxi to go to Patan, again to Aloha Inn hotel for the remaining 4 nights. Daycount was 64 and the total count 256.

Past three days brought total of 143 species in Chitwan area. I expected to see there more but maybe later in spring would be better to see higher number of species. However, some of the MUST species I managed to see and familiarize myself to that famous national park from which I had read and heard so many times.

18.12.

I slept late and took the date just for relaxation. I spent more time at Patan's Durban Square to look at temples, statues, local people in their daily activities, shopping, writing post cards and so on. In the afternoon I spent more than an hour at the hotel roof terrace to look at the raptors gliding over the city. Strong wind from west gradually pushed away thick smog over the city and finally I managed to see whited topped Himalayan ridges further north and east. Hundreds of Black Kites were hanging on the winds but the best was a **Steppe Eagle** and an over flying **Lagger Falcon**, which was the only new species for the trip.

I agreed with The Explore Nepal personnel that they can compensate me one non-realized night in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp by offering guided whole day trip to the mountain Phulkowki and the next day we agreed to do it. Shankar Tiwari, one of their best bird guides was coming to pick me up early in the morning with their driver.

19.12.

Up at 6am and I ate quickly my breakfast, which I bought previous evening. Shankar arrived 6.40am and we drove stright up to the mountain. We arrived on the top 8am and the air was cold, below 0C. We first enjoyed the sceneries of white high Himalayan tops and even Shankar was surpriced to see so clear air that we were able to see all the tops from west, Mt. Annapurna, to the east slightly behind Mt. Everest, which was unusual. With scope we managed to get very tiny look of Mt. Everest far on east.

At 8.30am was started slowly walk down the road and identify species. On the drive up we picked up one **Kalij Pheasant**, which run out from the road. Slow walk provided a good number of new species during the first one and half hour, like 2 male **White-collard Blackbirds**, 1m3f **Black-throated Trushes**, 3 **White-tailed Nuthatches**, a female **Blue-fronted Redstart**, a female **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, a **Green-backed Tit**, 10 **White-browed Fulvettas** (ssp *vinipectus*), and 10 **Rufous-vented Yuhinas**. **Rufous Sibia** was very common along the road but commonest in the upper part. Common Rosefinches, **Chestnut-crowned Loughingthrush** and **Buff-barred Warbler** were rather common as well through all the elevations.

Somewhere before the halfway of the mountain were a **Grey Bushchat**, two **Rufous-breasted Accentor** and 3m2f **Dark-breasted Rosefinches**. Five Apline Swifts glided on the sky.

At noon we had small lunch at the abondened building in a halfway of the mountain road. An adult **Black Eagle** and 2 adult Eurasian Griffon Vultures were circling around. Eurasian Jay was calling.

We started to walk further down. A **Short-billed Minivet** pair, a Lemon-rumped Warbler, 5 Fire-tailed Sunbirds, 3 male Orange-bellied Leafbirds, 2 calling **Striated Loughingthrushes**, 2 **Rufous-chinned Loughingthrushes**, 2 **Streaked Loughingthrushes**, and 2 walking and skulking **Kalij Pheasants** were to mention. But the lowest part produced again very interesting group of species. By a small stream was a **Spotted Forktail**. A little bit later came an **Aberrant Bush Warbler**, 7 Black-throated Tits, at least 5 calling **Red-billed Leiothrixes**, a **Chestnut-tailed Minla**, 3 **Whiskered Yuhinas**, a female **Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker**, a male **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**, and a Rusty-cheeked Scimitarbabbler.

We were down at Godavari 3.30pm and the great day was over with 24 new lifers, which was more than the half of the 47 species I saw during the day increasing the total tripcount up to 286. Few very rare and good species we were not able to find out though a good try. Without a tape Wren Babbler and few others are hard to see. However, the day was excellent with gorgeoues sceneries and great birds.

We returned to Patan and I thanked Shankar and other The Explore Nepal personnel for their nice company and good arrangements.

I decided that for the last full birding day I go again by myself to Mt. Phulkowki and spend the morning at the lower part and the rest of the day in Godavari area.

20.12.

I slept a little bit later up to 7am, ate the breakfast in the hotel restaurant and ordered then the taxi to drive me to the Phulkowki mountain up to a half way brick building (price 300 rupies).

I started to walk down slowly 8.30am and I arrived Godavari at 11.30am. I met on a way a large flock of various small birds and it provided several new species: a female **Specklet Piculet**, a **Rusty-flanked Treecreeper**, a White-tailed Nuthatch, a Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, 20+ Black-throated Tits, 3 **Black-chinned Babblers**, 10 Red-billed Leiothrixes, 3m1f **White-browed Shrike Babblers**, 10 Nepal Fulvettas, 5 Whiskered Yuhinas, and 3 **Rufous-vented Yuhinas** among others.

2 Great Barbets, 4 stepping **Kalij Pheasants** in the bushes, 1m2f **Grey-winged Blackbirds**, and further down a male **Green-tailed Sunbird**, 10 **Black-faced Warblers**, 2 **Grey-sided Bush Warblers** were other good species.

After arriving Godavari I walked through the village near the botanical garden where I went to the same place for a lunch as I visited in my first day in Godavari. The lunch was very delicious and cheap. Then I could continue to the garden and its surrounding parks/forests until 3pm when I felt that I had explored the area well enough to return by local buss to Patan where I arrived 3.30pm.

Though I had visted Godavari garden in my first full day in Nepal I found several new species, like a pair of **Long-tailed Minivets**, 3 **Yellow-bellied Fantails**, a pair of **Small Niltava**, an **Ashy-throated Warbler**, and 16 **Yellow-breasted Greenfinches**. Other interesting species were female Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, a female Hodgon's Redstart, a Spotted Forktail, a male Grey Bushchat and several Hodson's Pipits.

Though I saw only 48 species but 13 lifers during the day, I felt that it was very good end to my trip increasing *my total trip count to 297 of which 145 were lifers*. I had now more time to look at more detail those birds, which I saw. No rush anymore.

Near my hotel I did a stop in a bookshop to buy a necessary local nature book as a souvenir. I had an enjoyable Chinese dinner in a nearby restaurant.

21.12.

I slept 11 hours until 8am when I went to the breakfast and packed my goods, headed to the airport 10.30am in a taxi. When we passed the river there were tens of swallows and swifts flying over. However, I managed to identify only House Swallows and Little Swifts. Taxi trip took only 30 minutes, so I had 2 hours to wait in the terminal. Checking went fast, airport tax was 1100 rupies. Small taxfree shop attracted me to buy a Nepalese shal to my mother for a Christmas present and rest of the rupies I used to buy Nepalese tee.

The Lauda Air flight left 1pm, did a stop at Delhi Airport to fuel and arrived Vienna 8pm. A quick transfer to the flight to Istanbul where I landed 11.15pm. I was finally at home a little bit after midnight.

Post thought:

Next time in April/May to visit Chitwan and to do a trekking trip to Langtang and Gosainkund that could provide around 50+ new species. Let's see when...

Bird Species List

1. Little Grebe
Common in Koshi Tappu
2. Great Cormorant
Common in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
3. Little Cormorant
Common in Koshi Tappu, 1 at 20000 Lakes
4. Oriental Darter
Few in Koshi Tappu and 20000 Lakes
5. Black Bittern
One shortly at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp pond.
6. Black-crowned Bittern
Common in Koshi Tappu
7. Green-backed Heron
11/12 & 12/12 one bird in Koshi Tappu
8. Indian Pond Heron
Very common
9. Cattle Egret
Very common
10. Little Egret
Very common in Koshi Tappu, few in Chitwan
11. Intermediate Egret
Very common in Koshi Tappu, few in Chitwan
12. Great White Egret
1-10 every day in Koshi Tappu and in Chitwan
13. Grey Heron
1-10 every day in Koshi Tappu
14. Purple Heron
Few in Koshi Tappu and 1 at 20000 Lakes
15. Asian Openbill Stork
Common in Koshi Tappu, 8 at 20000 Lakes

16. Black Stork
1-30 in Koshi Tappu, 11 storks 15/12 in Rapti River in Chitwan
17. Wolly-necked Stork
2 in Rapti River in Chitwan 16/12
18. Black-necked Stork
1 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
19. Lesser Adjutant Stork
2-10 in Koshi Tappu, 3-25 in Chitwan
20. Red-naped Ibis
1 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
21. Oriental White Ibis
43 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
22. Lesser Whistling Duck
120 in Koshi Tappu 12/12, 25 at 20000 Lakes
23. Bar-headed Goose
1 in Rapti River, Chitwan 16/12
24. Ruddy Shelduck
Common in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
25. Cotton Pygmy Goose
4 in Koshi Tappu 11/12
26. Eurasian Wigeon
Common in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
27. Gadwall
Very common in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
28. Common Teal
10-20 in Koshi Tappu
29. Mallard
Very common in Koshi Tappu and common in Chitwan
30. Spot-billed Duck
7 ducks among other ducks 16/12 in Chitwan
31. Pintail
Common in Koshi Tappu
32. Northern Shoveler
Female among the ducks 16/12 in Chitwan

33. Red-crested Pochard
Quite usual
34. Common Pochard
4 males in Koshi Tappu 12/12
35. Ferrugineous Duck
Fairly common in Koshi Tappu
36. Tufted Duck
15 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
37. Goosander
20m5f in Rapti River, Chitwan 16/12
38. Crested Honey Buzzard
1 in Chitwan 16/12
39. Black-shouldered Kite
1 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
40. Black Kite
Common in Koshi Tappu, very common in Katmandu valley
41. Grey-headed Fishing Eagle
3 at 20000 Lakes
42. Oriental Black-backed Vulture
In Koshi Tappu 3 11/12 and 30 12/12
43. Long-billed Vulture
3 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
44. Himalayan Griffon
1-30 in Koshi Tappu, 3 in Chitwan 15/12
45. Eurasian Griffon Vulture
11-30 in Koshi Tappu, 2 in Hetauda, 2 in Phulkowki 20/12
46. Eurasian Black Vulture
4 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
47. Short-toed Eagle
3 in Koshi Tappu 12/12, 1 in Chitwan 15/12
48. Crested Serpant Eagle
2 in Dahran forest, 4 at 20000 Lakes
49. Eurasian Marsh Harrier
Male and female in Koshi Tappu

50. Hen Harrier
Female in Koshi Tappu 12/12
51. Pied Harrier
Male and female in Koshi Tappu 12/12
52. Besra
2 in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp 13/12, 1 in Chitwan 15/12
53. Northern Sparrowhawk
2 in Godavari 10/12
54. Crested Goshawk
1 in Chitwan 15/12
55. Long-legged Buzzard
1 in Koshi Tappu and 1 in Hetauda
56. Upland Buzzard
2 in Godavari 19/12 and 1 in Chitwan 15/12
57. Black Eagle
1 in Phulkowki 20/12
58. Greater Spotted Eagle
2 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
59. Steppe Eagle
4 in Koshi Tappu 12/12, 1 in Katmandu 18/12
60. Booted Eagle
1 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
61. Osprey
1-2 in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
62. Red-thighed Falconet
2 in Dahran Forest
63. Lesser Kestrel
1 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
64. Common Kestrel
1 in Koshi Tappu 11/12 and 13/12, 1 in Chitwan 16/12
65. Laggar
1 in Katmandu 18/12
66. Peregrine
1 in Katmandu 9/12

67. Swamp Francolin
1 calling in Koshi Tappu 11/12, 4 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
68. Red Jungle Fowl
1 calling in Dahran Forest, 1-20 in Chitwan
69. Kalaj Pheasant
3-4 in Phulkowki
70. Blue Peafowl
7 in Katmandu 9/12, 4 in Chitwan 15/12
71. White-breasted Waterhen
2-30 in Koshi Tappu
72. Common Moorhen
Common in Koshi Tappu, common at 20000 Lakes
73. Purple Gallinule
Fairly common in Koshi Tappu
74. Eurasian Coot
Fairly common in Koshi Tappu, 7 at 20000 Lakes
75. Pheasant-tailed Jacana
2 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
76. Bronze-winged Jacana
Fairly common in Koshi Tappu, also at 20000 Lakes
77. Painted Snipe
3 at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp pond 13/12
78. Ibisbill
2 in Hetauda
79. Little Ringed Plover
Few in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
80. Kentish Plover
4 in Koshi Tappu 13/12
81. River Plover
10 in Koshi Tappu 11/12 and 2 in Chitwan 15/12
82. Red-wattled Plover
2 in Koshi Tappu 12/12 and 2 in Chitwan 15/12
83. Temminck's Stint
1 in Koshi Tappu 13/12, 10 in Chitwan

84. Common Snipe
1-2 in Koshi Tappu
85. Eurasian Curlew
70 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
86. Redshank
1 Sauraha 15-16/12
87. Greenshank
Common
88. Green Sandpiper
Every day in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
89. Wood Sandpiper
3 at 20000 Lakes 17/12
90. River Tern
1 in Koshi Tappu 12-13/12
91. Black-bellied Tern
1 in Koshi Tappu 13/12
92. Rock Dove
Abundant
93. Eurasian Collard Dove
2 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
94. Oriental Turtle Dove
20 in Koshi Tappu 13/12
95. Spotted Dove
Quite common
96. Emerald Dove
4 in Chitwan 15/12
97. Alexandrine Parakeet
1 in Hetauda 14/12 and Chitwan 15/12, 5 in 20000 Lakes 17/12
98. Ring-necked Parakeet
Almost every day
99. Blossom-headed Parakeet
1 in Dahran 13/12, 1 in Chitwan 15/12
100. Green-billed Malcoha
2 in Chitwan 15/12

101. Greater Coucal
Almost every day
102. Lesser Coucal
Single bird in 3 days (Koshi Tappu and Chitwan)
103. Collard Scops Owl
A calling bird 13/12 in Koshi Tappu
104. Jungle Owlet
2 in Koshi Tappu
105. Brown Hawk Owl
2 in Koshi Tappu
106. Spotted Little Owl
2 in Koshi Tappu
107. Himalayan Swiftlet
2 at Dahran Forest 13/12
108. White-rumped Needletail
10 at 20000 Lakes 17/12
109. Little Swift
5 in Patan 10/12
110. Alpine Swift
5 in Pulchowki 19/12
111. Crested Treeswift
3 at Dahran Forest
112. White-breasted Kingfisher
Almost every day
113. Stork-billed Kingfisher
3 at 20000 Lakes 17/12
114. Common Kingfisher
Almost every day
115. Pied Kingfisher
Almost every day
116. Little Green Bee-eater
10-15 in Koshi Tappu 12-13/12
117. Indian Roller
Few in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan

118. Hoopoe
3 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
119. Oriental Pied Hornbill
2 in Dahran Forest 13/12, 1 in Chitwan 15-16/12
120. Great Barbet
2 in Godavari 10/12 and 20/12
121. Lineated Barbet
3 in Chitwan 15/12
122. Blue-throated Barbet
4 in Dahran Forest 13/12
123. Eurasian Wryneck
3 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
124. Speckled Piculet
1f in Pulchowli 20/12
125. Lesser Yellow-naked Woodpecker
1m1f in Dahran Forest 13/12
126. Grey-headed Woodpecker
2m3f in Chitwan 15-16/12
127. Streak-throated Green Woodpecker
1f in Koshi Tappu 13/12, 1m4f in Chitwan
128. Himalayan Golden-backed Woodpecker
1m in Chitwan 15/12
129. Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker
Few in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
130. Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker
Few in Chitwan 15-16/12
131. Darjeeling Woodpecker
1f in Pulchowki 19/12
132. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker
Several in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
133. Grey-capped Pigmy Woodpecker
Few in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
134. Rufous-winged Bushlark
1 in Chitwan 15-16/12

135. Greater Short-toed Lark
25 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
136. Sand Lark
2 in Koshi Tappu 13/12, 1 in Chitwan 15/12
137. Oriental Skylark
35 in Chitwan 16/12
138. Plain Martin
20-30 in Chitwan
- . Plain/Sand Martin
2 in Koshi Barrage, 2 in Hetauda
139. Barn Swallow
Several days
140. Red-rumped Swallow
3 in Hetauda 14/12, 1 in Chitwan 16/12
141. Paddifield Pipit
3 in Koshi Tappu 12/12, 1-5 in Chitwan
142. Olive-backed Pipit
Almost every day
143. Rosy Pipit
10-15 in Koshi Tappu, 1 in Chitwan 16/12
144. Yellow Wagtail
1 in Koshi Tappu 11/12, 10 in Chitwan 16/12
145. Cirtine Wagtail
2cy male at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp 12/12
146. Grey Wagtail
Several days
147. White Wagtail
Almost every day
148. White-browed Wagtail
Several days
149. Large Woodshrike
20 in Dahran Forest 13/12
150. Bar-winged Flycatcher
1-10 in Chitwan

151. Black-winged Coccooshrike
2 in Dahran Forest
152. Scarlet Minivet
5-15 in Dahran Forest and Chitwan
153. Long-tailed Minivet
1m1f in Godavari 20/12
154. Small Minivet
2m in Chitwan 15/12
155. Short-billed Minivet
1m1f in Pulchowki 19/12
156. Rosy Minivet
1m in Dahran Forest 13/12
157. Black-crested Bulbul
3 in Dahran Forest and Chitwan
158. Red-whiskered Bulbul
Several in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
159. White-cheeked Bulbul
1 in Godavari 10/12 and 4 20/12
160. Red-vented Bulbul
Almost every day
161. Black Bulbul
Common in Godavari and Pulchowki
162. Ashy Bulbul
10 at Churia Hills 16/12
163. Mountain Bulbul
3 in Godavari 10/12
164. Common Iora
10-20 in Dahran Forest and Chitwan
165. Golden-fronted Leafbird
2 in Dahran Forest 13/12, 1 in Churia Hills 16/12
166. Orange-bellied Leafbird
1f in Churia Hills 16/12, 3m in Pulchowki 19/12
167. Rufous-breasted Accentor
2 in Pulchowki 19/12

168. Siberian Rubythroat
3m in Koshi Tappu 12/12, 1m at 20000 Lakes 17/12
169. Bluethroat
1m in Koshi Tappu 12/12
170. Orange Flanked Bush-Robin
1f in Pulchowki 19/12
171. Asian Magpie Robin
Seen in Koshi Tappu, Dahran Forest, Chitwan, and Pulchowki
172. White-rumped Shama
10 in Dahran Forest 13/12, 1m1f in Chitwan 15/12
173. Black Redstart
2m in Koshi Tappu
174. Hodgson's Redstart
2 in Godavari 10/12
175. Red-fronted Redstart
1f in Pulchowki 19/12
176. Plumbeous Redstart
4 in Godavari 10/12, 1 in Hetauda 14/12
177. Common Stonechat
2-10 in Koshi Tappu
178. White-tailed Stonechat
1m1f in Chitwan 15-16/12
179. Grey Bushchat
1m in Godavari 19-20/12
180. Blue Rock-thrush
2m in Hetauda 14/12
181. Blue Whistling Thrush
Few in Godavari and Pulchowki
182. Scaly Thrush
1 in Chitwan 15/12
183. Orange-headed Thrush
1m in Dahran Forest 13/12
184. White-collared Blackbird
2m in Pulchowki 19/12

185. Grey-winged Blackbird
1m2f in Pulchowki 19/12
186. Black-backed Forktail
1 in Churia Hills 16/12
187. Spotted Forktail
1 in Pulchowki 19-20/12, 1 in Godavari 20/12
188. Aberrant Bush Warbler
1 in Pulchowki 19/12
189. Grey-sided Bush Warbler
2 in Pulchowki 20/12
190. Spotted Bush Warbler
1 in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp 13/12
191. Fan-tailed Cisticola
1 in Koshi Barrage 11/12, 2 at 20000 Lakes 17/12
192. Graceful Prinia
1 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
193. Grey-breasted Prinia
2-3 in Chitwan 15-16/12
194. Common Tailorbird
Almost every day
195. Striated Marsh Warbler
2 singing males in Koshi Tappu 12/12
196. Paddified Warbler
2 at 20000 Lakes 17/12
197. Clamorous Reed Warbler
1 in Koshi Tappu 11/12 & 13/12
198. Thick-billed Warbler
1 in Koshi Tappu 11/12
199. Golden Spectacled Warbler
1 in Koshi Tappu 13/12
200. Grey-hooded Warbler
6 in Godavari 10/12, 10+ in Godavari 20/12
201. Black-faced Warbler
10 in Pulchowki 20/12

202. Western Crowned Warbler
2 in Godavari 10/12
203. Greenish Warbler
Very common
204. Buff-barred Warbler
Common in Godavari and Pulchowki
205. Hume's Warbler
Few in Godavari, Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
206. Lemon-rumped Warbler
1 in Godavari 10/12
207. Dusky Warbler
1 in Koshi Tappu 13/12
208. Smoky Warbler
1 in Koshi Tappu 13/12
209. Tickel's Warbler
3 in Koshi Tappu 12/12, 1 in Chitwan 15/12
210. Chiffchaff
Few in Koshi tappu and Chitwan
211. Small Niltava
1mf in Godavari 20/12
212. Verditer Flycatcher
Few in Godavari, Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
213. Little Pied Flycatcher
1m in Dahran Forest 13/12
214. Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher
1m in Godavari 10/12, 1f in Godavari 20/12
215. Red-breasted Flycatcher
Every day in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
216. Grey-headed Flycatcher
Most days in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
217. Yellow-bellied Fantail
3 in Godavari 20/12
218. White-browed Fantail
Few in Godavari, Koshi Tappu and Chitwan

219. Black-naped Monarch
1m in Dahran Forest 13/12
220. Buff-throated Babbler
12 in Chitwan 15/12
221. Abbott's Babbler
1 in Dahran Forest 13/12
222. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler
2 in Godavari 10/12, 1 in Pulchowki 19/12
223. White-browed Scimitar Babbler
1 in Churia Hills 16/12, 2 in Pulchowki 20/12
224. Black-chinned Babbler
3 in Pulchowki 20/12
225. Striped Tit Babbler
5 in Dahran Forest 13/12
226. Chestnut-capped Babbler
2 in Chitwan 15/12
227. Striated Babbler
1 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
228. Jungle Babbler
2-10 daily in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
229. White-crested Laughing Thrush
1 in Churia Hills 16/12
230. Lesser Neclaced Laughing Thrush
15 in Churia Hills 16/12
231. Striated Laughing Thrush
2 in Pulchowki 19/12
232. Rufous-chinned Laughing Thrush
2 in Pulchowki 19/12
233. Streaked Laughing Thrush
2 in Pulchowki 19/12
234. Chestnut-crowned Laughing Thrush
15 in Pulchowki 19/12
235. Red-billed Leiothrix
5-10 Pulchowki 19-20/12

236. White-browed Strike Babbler
3m1f Pulchowki 20/12
237. Chestnut-tailed Minla
1m 19/12 Pulchowki 19/12
238. White-browed Fulvetta
10 in Pulchowki 19/12
239. Nepal Fulvetta
1 in Godavari 10/12, 10 in Pulchowki 19-20/12
240. Black-capped Sibia
5-50 in Pulchowki 19-20/12
241. Whiskered Yuhina
3-5 in Pulchowki 19-20/12
242. Rufous-vented Yuhina
3-10 in Pulchowki 19-20/12
243. Black-throated Tit
5 in Godavari 10/12, 7-22 in Pulchowki 19-20/12
244. Great Tit
Several days in Godavari, Chitwan and Pulchowki
245. Green-backed Tit
1 in Pulchowki 19/12
246. Black-lored Tit
8 in Godavari 10/12, 3-11 in Pulchowki 19-20/12
247. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch
Single bird in Dahran Forest, Chitwan and Pulchowki
248. Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch
Few in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
249. White-tailed Nuthatch
1-3 in Pulchowki 19-20/12
250. Rusty-flanked Treecreeper
1 in Pulchowki 20/12
251. Purple Sunbird
1m in Koshi Tappu 12/12
252. Green-tailed Sunbird
1m in Pulchowki 20/12

253. Black-throated Sunbird
1 in Godavari 10/12
254. Fire-tailed Sunbird
1-12 in Godavari and Pulchowki
255. Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker
1f in Pulchowki 19/12
256. Buff-bellied Flowerpecker
1m in Pulchowki 19/12
257. Oriental White-eye
Few in Godavari, Chitwan and Pulchowki
258. Maroon Oriole
1m1f in Dahran Forest 13/12, 2 in Pulchowki 19/12
259. Black-hooded Oriole
Several in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
260. Brown Shrike
Several in Koshi Tappu and few in Chitwan
261. Long-tailed Shrike
Few almost in every day
262. Grey-backed Shrike
Single in Koshi Tappu every day
263. Black Drongo
Very Common
264. Ashy Drongo
3 in Dahran Forest 13/12
265. White-bellied Drongo
3 in Dahran Forest 13/12, single in Chitwan 15/12 & 17/12
266. Bronzed Drongo
3 In Chitwan 16-17/12
267. Spangled Drongo
10 in Dahran Forest 13/12, 10 in Chitwan 15-16/12
268. Greater Racked-tailed Drongo
1 in Dahran Forest 13/12
269. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo
2 in Dahran Forest 13/12

270. Ashy Wood Swallow
3 in Koshi Tappu 12/12, 2 in Chitwan 15/12
271. Eurasian Jay
1 in Pulchowki 19-20/12
272. Red-billed Blue Magpie
1-2 in Chitwan 15-16/12
273. Green Magpie
1 in Churia Hills 16/12
274. Rufous Treepie
1-5 every day in Koshi Tappu and Chitwan
275. Grey Treepie
1 in Churia Hills 16/12
276. House Crow
Abundant
277. Jungle Crow
Abundant
278. Chestnut-tailed Starling
1 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
279. Brahmany Starling
3 in Koshi Tappu 13/12
280. Asian Pied Starling
Common in Koshi Tappu, 10 at 20000 Lakes 17/12
281. Common Myna
Abundant
282. Jungle Myna
10 in Koshi Tappu 13/12
284. House Sparrow
Abundant
285. Tree Sparrow
Rather common in Patan-Godavari, and in Koshi Tappu
286. Baya Waeaver
15 in Koshi Tappu 12/12
287. Scaly-breasted Munia
Singles in Koshi Tappu 12-13/12, 1m3f in Chitwan 15/12

288. Yellow-breasted Greenfinch
16 in Godavari 20/12

289. Dark-breasted Rosefinch
3m2f in Pulchowki 19/12

290. Common Rosefinch
1-5 in Koshi Tappu, 3m15f in Pulchowki 19/12

291. Yellow-breasted Bunting
30-100 in Koshi Tappu, 10 in 20000 Lakes 17/12

292. Black-headed Bunting
15 in Koshi Tappu 12/12

293. Crested Bunting
4 in Koshi Tappu 12/12