

## Common Birds of Chitwan National Park, Nepal

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### ABSTRACT

*This research paper gives checklist of common birds of Chitwan National Park, which is a wild-life protected area in south-central Nepal. It covers tropical and sub-tropical vegetation. It is first protected area and includes 932 sq. km. Common birds observed are about 170 belonging to 48 Avian families during 2013-2014. Present investigator has very minutely observed birds in habitat conditions. Bird species were recognized by very high binocular. Birds were thoroughly studied from point of view of Taxonomy. Machans were also erected for observing birds*

**KEY WORDS:** Machan, Taxonomy, Strata

### INTRODUCTION

Chitwan National Park (27° 30'N, 84°20'E) was established in 1973 with the beginning of conservation of biodiversity in Nepal. Chitwan National Park covers an area of 932 sq. km. and is located in south-central Nepal. In 1973, the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act was enacted and Chitwan National Park was declared the first national park of Nepal (DNPWC, 2012). By 1977, the promulgated boundaries were increased from 540 sq. km. to 932 sq. km. Recognizing its unique ecosystems of international significance; UNESCO declared the park as a World Heritage Site in 1984 and is also identified as an important bird area (IBA) by Bird Life International. In 1996, an area of 750 sq. km. surrounding the park was declared a buffer zone, which consists of forests and private lands. Bishajari and associated lakes in the buffer zone of the Chitwan National Park were declared wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 2003 (DNPWC, 2012).

Extended in four districts of Central Terai, this national park includes the area of Chitwan 74%; Parsa 15%; Makwanpur 7% and Nawalparasi 4%. It is bordered by Parsa Wildlife Reserve (499



eastern side and on all other river sides make natural boundary for the park (DNPWC, 2012).

#### Fig No 1: Location map of Chitwan National Park

The Chitwan National Park consists of tropical and subtropical forests with mostly Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests. Sal forest covers 70% of the park, tall grasslands 15% and remaining by riverine and other forest types (Dinerstein, 2003). The Chitwan National Park has many rivers and lakes. Chitwan National Park is the third destination of tourists in Nepal (Office of Chitwan National Park, 2012).

The present author undertook deep and exhaustive studies on avian biodiversity of birds of Chitwan National Park during different seasons of 2013-2014. The study observed about 400 birds in Natural habitat in different seasons at different localities of the park. He noted distribution and identification of birds very carefully and minutely.

### HISTORICAL REVIEW

Flemings, *et. al.* (1979) described in their pioneer book on Birds of Nepal, distribution of birds in Chitwan National Park. Similarly, Inskip, *et. al.* (2000) also have given locality of birds with reference to Chitwan National Park. Bird Education Society: Sauraha has also published a bird checklist of Chitwan. In the first edition of the book 401 species of birds are described. In the second edition, 590 species representing 59 families have been included in the checklist while in the recent edition (2014), about 625 species have been listed. Baral, *et. al.* (2006) published a checklist of birds of Chitwan. About 35 globally threatened birds have been seen in Chitwan National Park. (Baral and Inskipp, 2005). Recently, Shakya (2014) has written an illustrated book on Birds of Chitwan.

### STRATA OF SITE

The present investigator carried out his investigation in 4 stratas during different seasons of the year 2013-2014. These stratas are based on vegetation and habitats. Surveys were conducted from sunrise to noon under favourable conditions.

Strata 1: Balkmiki Ashram to Temple Tiger

Strata 2: Temple Tiger to Kasara

Strata 3: Kasara to Sauraha

Strata 4: Sauraha to Sunachari

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Different bird species have been observed in natural habitat during trips by using powerful binoculars and telescope 20 x 60 Nikkon Coy. Japan of Yashika and Ashai Pentex. For photography digital camera of Nikkon 400 x tele lens was used. Various secondary data were also collected. Migratory birds were also noted.

### RESULTS

The present investigator observed about 400 birds. Some birds reported by earlier researchers were not seen even after extensive survey.

## **COMMON BIRDS OF CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK**

### **PHASIANIDAE**

*Francolinus francolinus*, Black Francolin

*Gallus gallus*, Red Junglefowl

*Lophura leucomelanos*, Kalij Pheasant

*Pavo cristatus*, Indian Peafowl

### **DENDROCYGNIDAE**

*Dendrocygna javanica*, Lesser Whistling Duck

### **ANATIDAE**

*Tadorna ferruginea*, Ruddy Shelduck

*Anas strepera*, Gadwall

*Anas penelope*, Eurasian wigeon

*Anas platyrhynchos*, Mallard

*Rhodonessa rufina*, Red-crested Pochard

*Mergus merganser*, Common Merganser

### **PICIDAE**

*Dendrocopos canicapillus*, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker

*Dendrocopos macei*, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker

*Picus chlorolophus*, Lesser Yellownappe

*Picus xanthropygaeus*, Streak-throated Woodpecker

*Picus canus*, Grey-headed Woodpecker

*Dinopium shorii*, Himalayan Flameback

*Dinopium benghalense*, Black-rumped Flameback

*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*, Greater Flameback

### **MEGALAIMIDAE**

*Megalaima lineata*, Lineated Barbet

*Megalaima haemacephala*, Coppersmith Barbet

### **BUCEROTIDAE**

*Anthracoceros albirostris*, Oriented Pied Hornbill

### **UPUPIDAE**

*Upupa epops*, Common Hoopoe

### **TROGONIDAE**

*Horpactes erythrocephalus*, Red-headed Trogon

### **CORACIIDAE**

*Coracias benghalensis*, Indian Roller

*Eurystomus orientalis*, Dollarbird

### **MEROPIDAE**

*Merops orientalis*, Green Bee-eater

*Merops philippinus*, Blue-tailed Bee-eater

*Merops leschenaulti*, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

### **ALCEDINIDAE**

*Alcedo atthis*, Common Kingfisher

### **HALCYONIDAE**

*Halcyon capensis*, Stork-billed Kingfisher

*Halcyon smyrnensis*, White-throated Kingfisher

**CERYLIDAE**

*Ceryle rudis*, Pied Kingfisher

**CUCULIDAE**

*Hierococyx varius*, Common Hawk Cuckoo

*Cuculus micropterus*, Indian Cuckoo

*Cuculus canorus*, Eurasian Cuckoo

*Eudynamis scolopacea*, Asian Koel

*Phaenicophaeus tristis*, Green-billed Malkoha

**CENTROPODIDAE**

*Centropus sinensis*, Greater Coucal

*Centropus bengalensis*, Lesser Coucal

**PSITTACIDAE**

*Psittacula eupatria*, Alexandrine Parakeet

*Psittacula krameri*, Rose-ringed Parakeet

*Psittacula himalayana*, Slaty-headed Parakeet

*Psittacula cyanocephala*, Plum-headed Parakeet

*Psittacula alexandri*, Red-breasted Parakeet

**APODIDAE**

*Zoonavena sylvatica*, White-rumped Needletail

*Apus affinis*, House Swift

**HEMIPROCNIDAE**

*Hemiprocne coronata*, Crested Treeswift

**STRIGIDAE**

*Ninox scutulata*, Brown Hawk Owl

*Glaucidium radiatum*, Jungle Owlet

*Athene brama*, Spotted Owlet

**CAPRIMULGIDAE**

*Caprimulgus macrurus*, Large-tailed Nightjar

*Caprimulgus affinis*, Savanna Nightjar

**COLUMBIDAE**

*Columba livia*, Rock Pigeon

*Streptopelia chinensis*, Spotted Dove

*Streptopelia tranquebarica*, Red-collared Dove

*Streptopelia decaocto*, Eurasian Collared Dove

*Chalcophaps indica*, Emerald Dove

*Treron bicincta*, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon

*Treron pompadora*, Pompadour Green Pigeon

*Treron phoenicoptera*, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon

**RALLIDAE**

*Amaurornis akool*, Brown Crake

*Amaurornis phoenicurus*, White-breasted Waterhen

*Gallinula chloropus*, Common Moorhen

**SCOLOPACIDAE**

*Gallinago gallinago*, Common Snipe

*Tringa nebularia*, Common Greenshank

*Tringa ochropus*, Green Sandpiper

*Actitis hypoleucos*, Common sandpiper

*Calidris temminckii*, Temminck's Stint

**JACANIDAE**

*Metopidius indicus*, Bronze-winged Jacana

**CHARADRIIDAE**

*Charadrius dubius*, Little-Ringed Plover

*Vanellus duvaucelii*, River Lapwing

*Vanellus indicus*, Red-wattled Lapwing

**ACCIPITRIDAE**

*Pandion haliaetus*, Osprey

*Milvus migrans*, Black Kite

*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*, Grey-headed Fish Eagle

*Spilornis cheela*, Crested Serpent Eagle

*Accipiter badius*, Shikra

*Pernis ptilorhynncus*, Oriental Honey-buzzard

**FALCONIDAE**

*Falco tinnunculus*, Common Kestrel

**ANHINGIDAE**

*Anhinga melanogaster*, Darter

**PHALACROCORACIDAE**

*Phalacrocorax carbo*, Great Cormorant

**ARDEIDAE**

*Egretta garzetta*, Little Egret

*Mesophoyx intermedia*, Intermediate Egret

*Bubulcus ibis*, Cattle Egret

*Ardeola grayii*, Indian Pond Heron

*Butorides striatus*, Little Heron

*Nycticorax nycticorax*, Black-crowned Night Heron

**THRESKIORNITHIDAE**

*Pseudibis papillosa*, Black Ibis

**CICONIIDAE**

*Anastomus oscitans*, Asian Openbill

*Ciconia episcopus*, Woolly-necked Stork

*Ciconia nigra*, Black Stork

*Leptoptilos Javanicus*, Lesser Adjutant

**PITTIDAE**

*Pitta sordida*, Hooded Pitta

*Pitta brachyura*, Indian Pitta

**IRENIDAE**

*Chloropsis aurifrons*, Golden-fronted Leafbird

*Chloropsis hardwickii*, Orange-bellied Leafbird

**LANIIDAE**

*Lanius cristatus*, Brown Shrike

*Lanius schach*, Long-tailed Shrike

*Lanius tephronotus*, Grey-backed Shrike

**CORVIDAE**

*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*, Red-billed Blue Magpie

*Dendrocitta vagabunda*, Rufous Treepie

*Corvus splendens*, House Crow

*Corvus macrorhynchos*, Large-billed Crow

*Artamus fuscus*, Ashy Woodswallow

*Oriolus oriolus*, Eurasian Golden Oriole

*Oriolus xanthornus*, Black-hooded Oriole

*Coracina macei*, Large Cuckooshrike

*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*, Small Minivet

*Pericrocotus flammeus*, Scarlet Minivet

*Hemipus picatus*, Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike

*Rhipidura albicollis*, White-throated Fantail

*Dicrurus macrocercus*, Black-Drongo

*Dicrurus caerulescens*, White-bellied Drongo

*Dicrurus hottentottus*, Spangled Drongo

*Terpsiphone paradisi*, Asian Paradise-flycatcher

*Aegithina tiphia*, Common Iora

*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*, Common Woodshrike

**MUSCICAPIDAE**

*Myophonus caeruleus*, Bluewhistling Thrush

*Ficedula parva*, Red-throated Flycatcher

*Culicicapa ceylonensis*, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher

*Cyornis poliogenys*, Pale-chinned Flycatcher

*Luscinia calliope*, Siberian Rubythroat

*Copsychus saularis*, Oriental Magpie Robin

*Copsychus malabaricus*, White-rumped Shama

*Saxicola torquata*, Common Stonechat

*Saxicola leucura*, White-tailed Stonechat

*Saxicola caprata*, Pied Bushchat

**STURNIDAE**

*Sturnus malabaricus*, Chestnut-tailed Starling

*Sturnus contra*, Asian Pied Starling

*Acridotheres tristis*, Common Myna

*Acridotheres fuscus*, Jungle Myna

**SITTIDAE**

*Sitta castanea*, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch

*Sitta frontalis*, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

**PARIDAE**

*Parus major*, Great Tit

**HIRUNDINIDAE**

*Riparia paludicola*, Plain Martin

*Hirundo rustica*, Barn Swallow

*Hirundo daurica*, Red-rumped Swallow

**PYCNONOTIDAE**

*Pycnonotus jocosus*, Red-whiskered Bulbul

*Pycnonotus leucogenys*, Himalayan Bulbul

*Pycnonotus cafer*, Red-vented Bulbul

**CISTICOLIDAE**

*Prinia hodgsonii*, Grey-breasted Prinia

*Prinia flaviventris*, Yellow-bellied Prinia

*Prinia inornata*, Plain Prinia

*Cisticola juncidis*, Zitting Cisticola

**ZOSTEROPIDAE**

*Zosterops palpebrosus*, Oriental White-eye

**SYLVIIDAE**

*Orthotomus sutorius*, Common Tailorbird

*Acrocephalus dumetorum*, Blyth's Reed Warbler

*Phylloscopus collybita*, Common Chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus reguloides*, Blyth's Leaf Warbler

*Phylloscopus trochiloides*, Greenish Warbler

*Garrulax leucolophus*, White-crested Laughingthrush

*Garrulax monileger*, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush

*Garrulax pectoralis*, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush

*Pellorneum ruficeps*, Puff-throated Babbler

*Macronous gularis*, Striped Tit Babbler

*Timalia pileata*, Chestnut-capped Babbler

*Turdoides earlei*, Striated Babbler

*Turdoides striatus*, Jungle Babbler

**ALAUDIDAE**

*Mirafra assamica*, Rufous winged Bushlark

*Calandrella raytal*, Sand Lark

**NECTARINIIDAE**

*Aethopyga siparaja*, Crimson Sunbird

**PASSERIDAE**

*Passer domesticus*, House Sparrow

*Passer montanus*, Eurasian Tree Sparrow

*Motacilla maderaspatensis*, White-browed Wagtail

*Anthus rufulus*, Paddyfield Pipit

*Anthus hodgsoni*, Olive-backed Pipit

*Anthus roseatus*, Rosy Pipit

*Ploceus philippinus*, Baya Weaver

*Lonchura punctulata*, Scaly-breasted Munia

Common Birds = 170, which include birds of forest, grassland and wetlands.

Families – 48

**DISCUSSION**

Salim Ali and Dillon Ripley (1987) have described Birds of Nepal in their extensive work. Flemings *et. al.*, Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp have also mentioned Birds of Chitwan. Hem Sagar Baral and Gopal Prasad Upadhyay give checklist of Birds of Chitwan.

However, the present investigator has studied characters of common birds of Chitwan National Park. Considering abundance of species, fairly common, occasional, uncommon, rare and very

unlikely species. Besides, it has been noted that the seasons effect greatly on breeding and migration of Chitwan Aves. The present investigator has investigated 4 stratas during different seasons of the year 2013-2014. He reported in this paper 171 common birds of the 47 families. It has also been found on computation about species richness is as follows: Corvidae (18), Sylviidae (13), Muscicapidae (10), Passeridae (8), Columbidae (8), Picidae (8) and Phasianidae (5).

## **CONCLUSION**

The investigator provides common list of the avian fauna of Chitwan National Park which is very significant National Park of Central Nepal, Terai and out of 851 Nepal birds more than 500 are found at this site. Data provide information on seasonal changes. It will also indicate various problems which avian fauna is facing and its solutions. Results obtained from this research will provide valuable reference for future researchers.

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