LOWLAND NEPAL 2009

Day 1 Monday 30th November

After an uneventful but thoroughly preofessional service with Qatar Airways we arrived in Kathmandu at around 5pm and met our ground co-ordinator Badri. A short drive through the chaotic traffic brought us to our hotel in the Thamel District and after some time to freshen up, we visited Kilroys for our first evening meal together.

Day 2 Tuesday 1st December

As ever the first morning's birdng in a new country is always eagerly anticipated and today proved no exception. Over a buffet breakfast at 5.30am we discussed the day's possibilities and targets with our guide and good friend Tika before driving in a convoy of 3 Landcruisers to Phulchowki. Our plan was to drive straight to the summit but needless to say birds got in the way! In fact we didn't make it a kilometre of the way from the main road before a flock of **Red-billed Blue Magpies** prompted a mass exodus from our vehicles. Several birds were present in this area including our only **Large-billed Crows** of the tour, as well as **Spangled Drongo**, **Grey-winged Blackbird**, **Long-tailed Minivet**, **Lemon-rumped Warbler**, **Black-lored Tit**, **Oriental White-eye** and a flock of **Himalayan Black Bulbuls**.



A little further up the road but still at the base of the mountain, a Chestnut-headed Tesia was heard as we drove by. We didn't connect with this one, but after several attempts with different individuals in the same vicinity at least a few people caught a glimpse. Also here was a flock of Black-throated Tits, several Green-backed Tits, Lemon-rumped Warbler, a brief Black-chinned Babbler, Blue Whistling-thrush, Red-billed Leiothrix, a flock of Nepal Fulvettas, Greyhooded Warbler and a Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler for Geoff P and Tika.

Pheasant ran across the road before we stopped next for a few Yellow-browed Tits amongst an assortment of other tits, Striated Laughingthrush and Great Barbet. At the next corner we had Fire-

breasted Flowerpecker, **Blue-winged Minla**, **Golden Bush-robin**, **Maroon Oriole**, the first of many **Buff-barred Warblers** to be seen today and a delightful flock of **Black-faced Warblers**. Walking up from here we had a flock of 15+ **Black-headed Jays** moving across the hillside above us with a couple of **Eurasian Jays** and 2 **Greater Yellownapes**.

So by late morning we made it to the top of the forested mountain and parked just above the small pool before having our packed lunch. There are several species you only find at this altitude and we did very well to find a **Brown-fronted Woodpecker** perched on top of a dead tree. Other important species up here were **Stripe-throated** and **Rufous-vented Yuhinas**, **Rufous-winged Fulvettas** were common and a pair of **White-browed Fulvettas** showed well to some of us. However, with many of the trees heavily laden with fruit it was the numerous flocks of **White-collared Blackbirds** that provided the biggest spectacle. Smaller numbers of **Grey-winged Blackbirds** were present, but best of all were at

least 2 **Chestnut Thrushes** present and we even had all 3 species present in the same scope view at one point!

By slowly walking down we notched up several other new birds for the trip, with **Rufous Sibia** being the dominant species, although **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** was quite common around the pool. A fine and very inquisitive **Green Shrike-babbler** put in an appearance, we counted 30+ **Great Barbets** attracted to all the fruits, a few delightful **Chestnut-tailed Minlas**, 3 **Steppe Eagles** soared low



overhead and a fine male **Kalij Pheasant** feeding on a bend in the road completed the picture for today.

We celebrated a good days birding back at Kilroys with some of the local Everest beer.

Day 3 Wednesday 2nd December

Once our luggage had been loaded onto our coach we drove out of Kathmandu and the road followed the Trisuli River between tall hills on either side. Black Kite, Oriental Turtle Dove, Jungle Myna, Eastern Cattle Egret and several Long-tailed Shrikes were seen from the vehicle. Our first walk



when the road came very close to the river gave us good views of Brown Dipper, Plumbeous Water Redstart, Rufous Treepie, Long-tailed Minivet, and brief Rufous-bellied Niltava and Crested Bunting. The first of two Little Forktails to be seen today was much appreciated as it perched on a rock in the the fast-flowing river, whilst overhead a flock of Nepal House Martins congregated over the hillside behind us. Our next stop began with a Sirkeer Malkoha flying

across the river, our second **Little Forktail** in a small side-stream was almost immediately overlooked when a delightful **Black-backed Forktail** appeared. There were more dippers at this spot, along with great views of **White-capped Water Redstart** as well.

But the highlight of the day and the undoubted bird of the trip was yet to come. Within a few minutes of leaving the vehicle at our next site, we were scoping a distant **Ibisbill** nestled between the grey boulders beside a particularly turbulent stretch of water. However things got much better when Geoff P spotted another **Ibisbill** feeding right below our vantage point – unbelievable. As we watched this amazing bird another 2 flew in and joined it feeding in the shallows. We had such fantastic views and wer enjoying these much-wanted birds so much that we ended up staying much too long but the day was warming up nicely and we were also finding other birds. A female **Hodgson's Redstart** was very confiding and a pair of **Red-headed Vultures** also put on a great show as they flew around us before

one landed on a carcass mid-stream. There was also **Pied** and **White-throated Kingfishers**, Greythroated Sand-martin, **Himalayan Bulbul**, **Crested Goshawk**, **White-browed Wagtail** and **Greybreasted Prinia**. But eventually we had to leave and drove down to a roadside restaurant where we had our picnic lunch and some much needed cold drinks. A **Hume's Warbler** showed well in the surrounding trees before we left on our final birding mission of the day. And it didn't take too long before we found a pair of **Wallcreepers** a few miles downriver at a traditional site, with one bird in particular showing very well for over half an hour. The remainder of our journey to Chitwan was spent eating up the miles, with only a Woolly-necked Stork somehow spotted by Tika of note.

It was late afternoon by the time we rolled in to the parking area of Machan Paradise View Lodge but this gave us just enough time to scan the grassland and marsh from the viewing ara. The light was stunningly clear as the sun began dipping down behind the distant trees and in a short space of time, and over a nice cup of tea and biscuits, we saw Indian Peafowl, Lesser Adjutant, Brown Crake, Bronze-winged Jacana, Eurasian Wryneck, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, White-tailed Rubythroat, Siberian Stonechat, Verditer Flycatcher and Plain Prinia.

Just before dinner we managed to spotlight a **Jungle Owlet** and ended the day with an excellent meal and a few drinks around the bonfire. Simply perfect!

Day 4 Thursday 3rd December

After a 6am breakfast we drove the short distance to the bridge over the Trisuli River and walked across in the thick mist, struggling to see any birds at all. Then we boarded our two jeeps and drove into the Sal forest of Chitwan National Park and it was frustrating to begin with due to the mist, but we managed to dig out **Grey-crowned Prinia**, **Grey Tit**, **Jungle Babbler**, and best of all, a spectacular **Blue-eared Kingfisher** at a small lake. We made several attempts at **White-tailed Rubythroat** throughout the morning, with only a single male found amongst the 3 or 4 females seen. It's always an enjoyable experience driving around these parks in jeeps, stopping to view game of when any birds



appear and we soon began racking up an impressive list with Common Woodshrike, Scarlet Minivet, Whiterumped Shama and a perched Changeable Hawk-eagle.

As we were just about to leave the forest for the extensive grassland we came across a huge flock that was slowly making its way out into the grassland to feed. A couple of **Puff-throated Babblers** were very confiding, both **Chestnut-capped** and **Yellow-eyed Babblers** were also seen, and there was also **Striped Tit-babbler**, **Lesser Yellownape**, **Himalayan Flameback**, both **Grey-capped Pygmy**

and Fulvous-breasted Woodpeckers, Common Iora, White-bellied Drongo, Velvet-frontd Nuthatch, Black-hooded Oriole, and a brief Grey-sided Bush-warbler.

Out in the grasslands the weather began to clear by mid-morning and we found more Yellow-eyed and then a group of much scarcer Slender-billed Babblers, as well as Lineated Barbet, flocks of Plumheaded and some Alexandrine Parakeets, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Lesser Coucal, our first Rhino, Grey-fronted Green-pigeon, Velvet-fronted and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches and Greater Racket-



tailed Drongo. Just then we heard the alarm calls of Spotted Deer and drove quickly to the vicinity but everything went quiet, but by now we were close to the river so waded across and walked around the Tiger Tops area. It didn't take us long to find a noisy flock of 30+ Greater Necklaced

Laughingthrushes and there were also a couple of spectacular Common

Green Magpies tagging along as well.

Walking on there was a Green-billed

Malkoha, Western Crowned,

Greenish, Hume's and Chestnut-crowned Warblers, Grey-headed

Canary-flycatcher, leader only Black-chinned and Grey-throated Babblers, 2 flyover Himalayan Griffon Vultures, Black-backed Forktail, male Crimson Sunbird, and finally after a couple hours searching a fine male Red-headed Trogon and later a White-tailed Robin.

After lunch and a Pied Kingfisher, White-browed and alboides race White Wagtail we drove down to the river again and scanned, seeing Ruddy Shelduck, Red-naped Ibis, Little Ringed Plover, Temminck's Stint, Green Sandpiper and Asian Openbill. Driving back we had Streak-throated Woodpecker, a mother and calf Rhino, Red Junglefowl, Indian Peafowl and Yellow-footed Greenpigeon. Mammal highlights not already mentioned included Spotted, Barking and Sambar Deers, and Rheseus Macaque and Common Langur.

Day 5 Friday 4th December

A later breakfast was a real luxury this morning, but with the mist very thick there was no point in going out too early. As it happened our walk around the lodge turned out to be very profitable with a **Jungle Owlet** scoped in the gardens before we walked out to view the grassland and marsh before following the trail beside the road. A large flock held **Whistler's Warbler** and **Pale-chinned Flycatcher**, both star birds. The flock remained very close to us and we had decent views of **Hume's** and **Greenish Warblers**, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, **Striped Tit-babbler**, and both **Fulvous-breasted** and **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers**. Out in the grass a group of 3 **Chestnut-capped Babblers** gave repeated views, there was a **Brown Crake** in the creek, as well as **Large Cuckooshrike**, **Common Tailorbird**, brief **Blyth's Reed-warbler** and an obliging **Taiga Flycatcher**.

At 10am we boarded our **Elephants** and headed out for a very enjoyable couple of hours ride into the Sal forest and grassland. The main focus on this excursion is on seeing mammals, which were in short supply but we'd already seen **Rhino** so settled back and enjoyed a few good birds such as **White-rumped Shama**, brief **Paddyfield Pipit** and **Black-rumped Flameback**, as well as many commoner species.

John stayed behind at the lodge and enjoyed fine views of a **Collared Falconet** perched in the gardens of the lodge and a **Blyth's Reed-warbler** as well, whilst an adult **Black-crowned Night-heron** posed nicely in the gardens for us all.

After lunch we drove back to the Rapti River where Little, Eastern Cattle, Great and Intermediate Egrets fished in the shallows all together allowing an excellent comparison. There was also Ruddy Shelduck, a single Bar-headed Goose, a flock of Common Greenshank held 4 Common Redshank,



Little Ringed
Plover, Gadwall
and 2 Woollynecked Storks.
Then we boarded
a couple dugout
canoes and spent
a leisurely half an
hour sailing
downriver where
the highlights
were a distant
Blue-bearded
Bee-eater and
Collared

Falconet in a large dead tree before landing and scanning a small marsh. Here a couple of Small Pratincoles were scoped, along with Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, Green Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover, Citrine Wagtail, Sand Lark, Bluethroat, White-tailed Stonechat and Striated Babblers. Jeff then spotted a huge gathering of Small Pratincoles feeding further downriver and we enjoyed watching them through the scopes. From here we walked back to the lodge through a small village and across the fields seeing Indian Roller, Himalayan Buzzard, Pied Bushchat, many Longtailed Shrikes, Marsh Mugger and a Spotted Owlet.

Day 6 Saturday 5th December

Our last full day in Chitwan (or so we thought) began with a **Paddyfield Pipit** in a roadside field, followed by a few of the commoner birds as we walked across the bridge over the Rapti River and in to



the National Park. A Crested Serpent-eagle posed nicely in a trackside tree just inside the entrance, and we set off deep into the park seeing all the usual birds as well as Greyheaded Woodpecker, Brown Fish-owl, Alexandrine and Plum-headed Parakeets, Blyth's Leaf-warbler, Red-headed Trogon much to Geoff W's delight, Black-crested and Himalayan Bulbul, Streaked Spiderhunter, Spangled, Bronzed, Ashy and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos in a flock and a White-rumped Shama.

After a nice picnic lunch we began slowly driving back, getting much better views of the trogon and a **Green-billed Malkoha** put in an appearance right next to it. We took a different track on our return

journey, which bordered an oxbow lake where we hoped to see **Grey-headed Fish-eagle**. Unfortunately there was no sign in its favourite tree so we decided to hang around and see what happens, which turned out to be a good move as a **Collared Falconet** flew into the tree right next to us and gave outstanding views for everyone. We also had **Greater** and **Himalayan Flameback**, **Stork-billed Kingfisher** and **Pied Flycatcher-shrike** as well, before the fisheagle flew over and landed in its tree. Then we drove to another oxbow lake where we had nice close flight views of a **Bluebearded Bee-eater**, a few **Himalayan**



Parakeets, Indian Baya Weaver, and a large gathering of Red-vented and Red-whiskered Bulbuls.

Day 7 Sunday 6th December

With a last minute nationwide strike called by the Maoists we found ourselves heading back into Chitwan NP rather than driving to Koshi Tappu this morning. C'est la vie! So we drove deep into the park and came across a big flock of **Greater** and **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes** feeding beside the track. So we took the opportunity to get good views of both species, which took quite a while as they were very shy but eventually everyone was happy and we also had another **Common Green Magpie** as well. A short while later a large, mixed flock of passerines came quite close to the track with **White-bellied Yuhina** being the pick of a good bunch of commoner species. Another big flock a short while later gave us much better views of **Blyth's Leaf-warbler**, as well as **Chestnut-crowned Warbler**, several **Striped Tit-babblers**, **Blue-throated Barbet** and another **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**.

Our long walk was enlivened even further when a **Tiger** began roaring from the forest ahead and numerous fresh pug marks could be seen on the sandy track, so we kept close to the Jeeps after that!

After lunch a pair of **Great Pied Hornbills** flew low over the treetops and the sound of their wings was incredible! Leaving here we drove to an area which produced a calling **Pale-footed Bush-warbler** and great views of a male **White-tailed Rubythroat** before we left the park and headed back to the lodge a little earlier than usual. Along the way, most of the group took the opportunity to walk through the villages and across the fields on their way back.

Day 8 Monday 7th December

4am is never a good time to start the day, but that's what time we set out on the long drive to Koshi Tappu this morning. It took nearly an hour to get out onto the main road due to the poor visibility but we eventually made it and we were soon making good time. Our route took us across the Terai, the lowlands of southern Nepal, passing through numeropus small villages and by the time we crossed the Churia Hills the light was good enough to see the surrounding countryside. A pair of **Oriental Pied Hornbills** wee the cause of our first stop, as Tika spotted them perched in a dead tree not far from the road. The rest of the drive was spent dosing or watching the world go by, along with the typical lowland Nepalese birds as we crossed the fertile plain covered in arable fields.

About 20kms from Koshi Barrage we stopped when an Indian Spotted Eagle and a female Pied Harrier flew over the road, then a group of Himalayan Griffon Vultures flew over with a Longlegged Buzzard. The wetlands held a rare Glossy Ibis, Grey-headed (Purple) Swamphen, a few Pintail and a couple of Pintail Snipe were flushed by a hunting Hen Harrier.

At the barrage a couple of **Gangetic River Dolphins** put in a few brief appearances and a pair of **Great Black-headed (Pallas's) Gulls** flew over. The wetlands on the east side of the Barrage had our only **Pheasant-tailed Jacanas** and **Cotton Pygmy-goose** of the tour, along with a bunch of more familiar wildfowl and another **Long-legged Buzzard**.



Eventually we reached Koshi Camp at a little after 1.30pm and it was good to see many of the same staff still present as on our previous visits making this a real home from home. We avidly consumed our picnic lunch and a much needed cup of tea whilst watching 4 Yellow-breasted Buntings and a female Crested Bunting perched in the reeds outside the dining hall. And after some time off to get settled into our tents, we saw a Pied Harrier flying over, along with 30+ Lesser Kestrels and a soaring Lesser Adjutant. Other birds

around camp included Grey-headed (Chestnut-tailed) Starling, a heard only Thick-billed Warbler, White-browed and White-throated Fantails, Blue-throated Barbet, Jungle Myna, Long-tailed Shrike and groups of Asian Pied Starlings before starting our afternoon walk.

As we approached the first pool a **Black Bittern** flew up onto the bank and promptly disappeared, but we were soon distracted by a warbler-fest with **Hume's**, **Greenish**, **Tickell's Leaf**, **Dusky** and **Blyth's**

Reed Warblers in the surrounding trees! Just then a Small-billed Scaly Thrush was spotted by Koshi Camps excellent resident birder Badri but only lingered long enough for a few of us to get on it. Up on the embankment a fine male Siberian Rubythroat perched out in the open for some of the group, whilst Purple Heron and Verditer Flycatcher were more obliging, and John had a quick look at a Swamp Francolin. Further along the track a mother and kitten Jungle Cat frolicked on the track some distance away and as we



watched them a Fishing Cat strolled across behind them!

Day 9 Tuesday 8th December

We kick-started a great days birding at 6.15am with tea and biscuits before exploring the immediate vicinity of camp. A male **Siberian Rubythroat** perched out in the open always takes some beating,

although a Thick-billed Warbler perched on a small grass stem for several minutes after giving us the runaround for ages sure did feel special. And speaking of special, the 4 Swamp Francolins we watched flying and then strolling across the track was also a highlight. There ws also several Tickell's Leaf-warblers, Large Cuckooshrike and Blackrumped Flameback as well, followed by Blyth's Reed-warbler, Grey-sided Bush-warbler, Streakthroated Woodpecker, Common Rosefinch and Siberian Chiffchaff. A pair of **Red-necked Falcons** flew by and ended what had been a very species pre-breakfast excursion right



on the edge of camp where we literally spent ages watching everything really well.

After breakfast back at camp we headed up to the embankment once again, but got side tracked by a strange call in the camp grounds which led us to a **Spotted Bush-warbler** skulking at the edhe of the marsh. Then we drove a few kilometres north before beginning our walk and this time everyone had great looks at a **Small-billed Scaly Thrush** through the scope after it gave us the runaround for ages. The rest of the morning was spent walking along the embankment that was bordered on either side by mature trees and dense secondary growth. Amongst numerous birds seen there was **Yellow-footed Green-pigeon**, **Grey-headed Starlings** feeding in an area with lots of **Plum-headed Parakeets**, **White-bellied**, **Spangled**, **Ashy** and **Bronzed Drongos**, 3 **Spotted Owlets** in a tree, but best of all was



a **Small Niltava** we found and which is the first record of for Koshi.

After a late lunch we drove south and scanned the marsh bordering the embankment, seeing 20+ Red-naped Ibis, Striated Grassbird, 4 Indian Thick-knees, Rosy Pipit, Bluethroat, Eurasian Hoopoe, a Cinnamon Bittern for Jeff, Golden Jackal, and best of all were the 2 male Pied Harriers that flew over.

Day 10 Wednesday 9th December

We drove a few kilometres upriver to where a couple of boats were waiting for us, seeing **Red Collared Dove**, **Paddyfield** and **Olive-backed Pipits**, **Black Redstart** of the *Rufiventris* race, and **Common Rosefinch** as we walked the last stretch to meet them.

We started the boat ride with lots of **Kentish** and **Little Ringed Plovers**, **Bar-headed Goose** and a fine **Black-bellied Tern** before sailing to the opposite bank across the shallow Koshi River. Upon reaching the far bank we walked across a kilometre long sand bank, which prior to the floods 2 years ago had all



been underwater! But once on solid ground the open woodland was found to be alive with birds and we quickly found the first of several very fine-looking Bay-backed Shrikes. The carpet of short grass was proving attractive to numerous Citrine and White Wagtails, Paddyfield and Richard's Pipits, and best of all we found at least 2 Blyth's Pipits. Probably the chief prize of our walk was the flock of 10 Himalayan Griffons and a single White-rumped Vulture.

Continuing downriver in our **rubber rafts** was sometimes slow going due to the river being extremely shallow in places but eventually we made it to our site for a picnic lunch. Afterwards we carried on and got pretty close to a **Steppe** and **Indian Spotted Eagle** perched side by side on the river bank, and the hot weather was onviously conducive to soaring raptors as we followed this with a group of 4 raptors: an adult and immature **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, **Short-toed Eagle** and another **Indian Spotted Eagle**. Further on we sailed past 2 **Great Black-headed Gulls**, lots of **Ruddy Shelducks**, **Dunlin**, 2 **Ganges River Dolphins**, **Striated Babbler**, **Striated Heron**, another adult **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, and

We finally landed several kilometres downriver of the camp and walked along the embankment in the late afternoon sunshine, seeing Jungle Owlet, Blyth's Reed and Dusky Warblers, whilst the marsh held Little and Temminck's Stints, Green Sandpiper, Dukhunensis White Wagtail, Citrine and Yellow Wagtails, with 3 Common Grey Mongoose seen nearby.

finished off with a Booted Eagle.



Day 11 Thursday 10th December

For a change of scenery and the chance of some nw birds we drove north for a couple of hours, passing through numerous small villages towards Patnali Forest, stopping to look at a **Besra** perched in a roadside tree and a little later an **Oriental Pied Hornbill** feeding in a large fruiting tree. We passed through a nice brushy area that prompted a short walk as there were numerous **Crested Buntings**

feeding along with a few **Common Rosefinches**, and apart from a buttonquail species that Geoff & Jackie saw running in front of the vehicles there was nothing new so we carried on to the forest.



On arrival we drove much further along the dried riverbed than i've ever done before, parked the vehicles and immediately set the scopes up on a **Collared Falconet** perched some distance away in a tall tree. We followed a trail into the forest where we spent the rest of the morning in what turned out to be a productive but sometimes frustrating few hours – typical forest birding in fact! We initially found a couple of big mixed flocks that held **Large** and **Black-winged Cuckooshrikes**, **Blyth's Leaf-warbler**, as well as a good selection of commoner species that took some sorting through and really delayed us quite a while. From here Tika led us along a narrow trail into the forest where we found a

very cooperative **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, **Little Pied Flycatcher**, a perched **Common Hawk-cuckoo**, a pair of **White-tailed Robins**, an **Orange-headed Thrush**, **Rufous-bellied Niltava**, and another very showy **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**. Tika found a **Yellow-vented Warbler**, but apart from yours truly no one else managed to see it, as it was present in a very fast moving warbler flock that also held numerous **Western Crowned** and **Hume's Warblers**. However, a **Rufous Woodpecker** was more obliging before we returned to the vehicles for our picnic lunch where we enjoyed the antics of 5 **Collared Falconets** at very close range as they hunted for dragonflies from some low bushes right

beside us!

Afterwards, we drove back to some vast open fields beside the river and spent the rest of the afternoon walking across them which turned up a veritable pipit-fest with numerous Blyth's, Richards, Tawny and Paddyfield Pipits, as well as an Indian Thick-knee, and our first Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark, Crested & Oriental Skylarks of the tour. However, everything else literally paled into insignificance when a pair of Indian Coursers seared one of the most unforgettable sightings of the tour into our eyeballs! We drove a little closer to these beauties and watched them for a good half an hour before leaving them undisturbed. What a bird!



Day 12 Friday 11th December

Sadly we had to leave the wonderful Koshi Camp this morning and drive to Biratnagar where we were due to catch our morning flight back to Kathmandu. However, the weather was delaying departures and we ended up flying with Buddha Air some 4 hours late so spent a frustrating time in the airport gardens. Anyway, we had excellent views of the mighty, snow-clad Himalayas, including **Mount Everest** before reaching Kathmandu. A short drive took us to our hotel where some of us watched the **Black** and **Black-eared Kites** from the roof garden, whilst others took the opportunity for some shopping before we had another fine evening meal.

Day 13 Saturday 12th December

Left early for Godaveri Botanical Gardens at the base of Phulchowki and had what was probably the best days birding of the whole tour. We started with an **Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher** and a **Rufous-bellied Niltava** that performed very well by the entrance gate. A short distance away we came across a large flock of **White-throated Laughingthrushes** moving through the woods, and in the same area a flock of **Red-billed Leiothrix** appeared with single **Grey-throated Babbler** and **White-tailed Robin** tagging along behind. A **Grey Treepie** then began calling from the treetops and when everyone had decent views we concentrated our efforts on what turned out to be an extraordinarily cooperative **Grey-bellied Tesia** that enthralled us for a good half an hour.

Walking back towards the small stream a **Pygmy Wren-babbler** showed well and a **Small-billed Scaly-thrush** perched up in a big tree, before a superb **Golden Bush-robin** was spotted perched on a nearby fence post. As we walked back down through the gardens, a **Spotted Forktail** obliged us with an appearance along the stream and there was also a few **Mountain Bulbuls** present as well. Further on, an **Asian Barred Owlet** was found by Jeff and as we lingered in this area we also found a pair of **Slaty-backed Flycatchers** and a couple of **Blue-fronted Redstarts** as well.

We were having a really good morning and things just kept getting better and better as first a female, then a cracking male **Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-robin** appeared and we watched it feeding in a

small bush. So we walked over for better views and had further views of the redstart, this time a fine male plus both Red-breasted and Taiga Flycatchers as well. Then a flock of warblers passed by and we saw our first Yellow-browed, as well as Hume's, Lemon-rumped and a few Greenish Warblers. A much larger flock then dallied in the large trees in front of us and although nothing new was seen it was very pleasant watching all these birds in the sunshine and we enjoyed watching all the previously seen tits, plus Brown-throated Treecreeper, and both Velvet-fronted and Chestnutbellied Nuthatches.



But by now it was late morning and time for us to head off to Phulchowki, but after hearing a **Chestnut-headed Tesia** on the slope above us we had to try and wandered up in search of it. Some of us had brief views although kept getting distracted by our 3rd very obliging Snowy-browed **Flycatcher** of the tour. But as we rejoined the path a thrush flew along the stream and aused on a rock a few metres away and it turned out to be a truly outstanding **Long-billed Thrush** which then proceeded to feed amongst the leaf litter beside the stream. We watched this early Xmas cracker for ages and simply soaked up the views! We finished the morning session with **Yellow-bellied Fantail**, **Black-throated Sunbird** and a flock of **Red-headed** (**Black-throated**) **Tits**.

Afterwards we drove up to the mid section of Phulchowki and had our picnic lunch in the sun before walking back down the road. We saw many of the same species as on our previous visit, but best of all was when John found a **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker** perched on top of a dead tree which is quite a scarce bird here. Other goodies included **Black Eagle**, both **Chestnut-crowned** and **Striated Laughingthrushes**, **Green-tailed** and **Fire-tailed Sunbirds**, **Green-Shrike-babbler**, **Yellow-browed**

Tit, a heard only Brown Bullfinch, Chestnut-tailed Minla, Whistler's Warbler and 2 obliging White-browed Fulvettas. It was hard to tear ourselves away but in the fading light we made one final stop at the base of the mountain when some White-crested Laughingthrushes were heard and we had a brief appearance by a pair of Grey-sided Laughingthrushes, our final new bird of the tour.

We ended the day at a different restaurant where we enjoyed some fine local cuisine complimented by a cultural show and was a fine way to end a superb tour.

Day 14 Sunday 13th December

We said our farewells to Tika this morning before setting out on the return flight to London where the tour concluded later this afternoon.

On behalf of Tika and myself I would like to thank everyone in this group for making it such a pleasure to lead. By the end of the tour we had seen 345 species, one of the highest toals ever for this time of the year and this included many special birds. Our Top 5 birds of the tour were very difficult to pick out and the fact that 22 different species were picked shows the quality of the birds seen. Needless to say, Ibisbill was voted number one, with Long-billed Thrush and Indian Courser joint second. We had been fortunate to have the excellent guiding skills of Tika Ram Giri who had not only impressed us all with his birding and leadership skills, but had been a constant source of good humour and was always willing to impart his extensive knowledge on all things Nepalese. I am indebted to him for his huge role in making this such a wonderful tour.

Nick Bray.

BIRDLIST FOR LOWLAND NEPAL 2009

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Notes
1.	Swamp Francolin e	Francolinus gularis	Endemic to the Indian Subcontinent. Nice views of a group of 4 on our first morning at Koshi Tappu.
	Yellow-legged Buttonquail	Turnix tanki	A couple of brief sightings at Chitwan and Koshi were probably of this species.
2.	Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus	A daily sighting at Chitwan.
3.	Kalij Pheasant	Lophura leucomelanos	A grand total of 9 were seen on our first day at Phulchowki.
4.	Indian Peafowl	Pavo cristatus	A few seen each day at Chitwan.
5.	Bar-headed Goose	Anser indicus	A few were seen at Chitwan.
6.	Lesser Whistling-duck	Dendrocygna javanica	Seen on 6 dates in the lowlands.
7.	Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea	Very common.
8.	Gadwall	Anas strepera	Seen on 7 dates.
9.	Eurasian Wigeon	Anas penelope	Just a single at Chitwan was seen.
10.	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Only seen during our boat ride at Koshi.
11.	Indian Spot-billed Duck	Anas poecilorhyncha	This species subject to a relatively recent split according to birds of South Asia – The Ripley Guide. Chinese Spot-billed Duck <i>Anas zonorhyncha</i> now treated as full species and found in areas further east. Seen during our boat excursion at Koshi.
12.	Cotton Pygmy-goose	Nettapus coromandelianus	Just a couple at Koshi Barrage.
13.	Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca	A few present at Koshi.
14.	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	Seen in small numbers at Chitwan and Koshi.
15.	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata	Small numbers seen at Koshi.
16.	Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina	A female was seen during our boat trip at Chitwan.
17.	Common Pochard	Aythya ferina	A female was beside Koshi Barrage.
18.	Ferruginous Pochard	Aythya nyroca	A group of 6 at Koshi Camp showed well.
19.	Common Merganser	Mergus merganser	Seen on 4 dates.
20.	Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla	Singles on 4 dates at Chitwan and Koshi.
21.	Rufous Woodpecker	Celeus brachyurus	A pair showed well at Patnali Forest.
22.	Grey-capped Woodpecker	Dendrocopos canicapillus	Relatively common and seen on 7 dates.
23.	Brown-fronted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos auriceps	Single showed well near the summit of Phulchowki on our first visit.
24.	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos macei	A daily sighint at Chitwan.
25.	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	Dendrocopos hyperythrus	Single seen on our first visit to Phulchowki.
26.	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos cathpharius	Single seen well on our second visit to Phulchowki.
27.	Lesser Yellownape	Picus chlorolophus	A daily sighitng at Chitwan.
28.	Greater Yellownape	Picus flavinucha	Pair seen following a flock of Black-headed Jays on our first day on Phulchowki.
29.	Streak-throated Woodpecker	Picus xanthopygaeus	Seen several times at both Chitwan and Koshi.
30.	Grey-headed Woodpecker	Picus canus	A scattering of sightings at Chitwan and Koshi.
31.	Himalayan Flameback	Dinopium shorii	Seen very well a few times at Chitwan.
32.	Black-rumped Flameback	Dinopium benghalense	Common at Koshi Tappu

33.	Greater Flameback	Chrysocolaptes lucidus	A couple showed well at Chitwan.
34.	Great Barbet	Megalaima virens	We probably underestimated 30+ present in
			the mass of fruiting trees below the summit
			of Phulchowki.
35.	Lineated Barbet	Megalaima lineata	Scarce this year with on a couple seen at
			Chitwan.
36.	Golden-throated Barbet	Megalaima franklinii	A single amidst the fruiting trees at
27	DI di da la	16 1 1 1 1 1	Phulchowki was a good record.
37.	Blue-throated Barbet	Megalaima asiatica	This beautiful bird was seen on 8 dates.
38.	Coppersmith Barbet	Megalaima haemacephala	Just a few seen at Chitwan and Koshi.
39.	Oriental Pied Hornbill	Anthracoceros albirostris	First seen from the coach as we drove to
			Koshi. Also pair at Koshi and 3 at Patnali forest flew over.
40.	Great Pied Hornbill	Buceros bicornis	Good views of a pair at Chitwan.
		Upupa epops	Seen on 3 dates at Koshi.
41.	Eurasian Hoopoe	Harpactes erythrocephalus	Two different pairs found at Chitwan and
42.	Red-headed Trogon	Tiurpacies eryinrocepnaius	we all enjoyed great views of this stunning
			species.
43.	Indian Roller	Coracias benghalensis	Ouite common in the lowlands.
44.	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	Nyctyornis athertoni	Seen distantly during our boat ride at
	Bide bedided Bee edici		Chitwan, then had close flight views the
			following day.
45.	Green Bee-eater	Merops orientalis	Quite common at both Chitwan and Koshi.
46.	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	Singles seen on 6 dates.
47.	Blue-eared Kingfisher	Alcedo meninting	A major surprise when a single appeared
.,.		_	right beside us at a small lake in Chitwan.
48.	Stork-billed Kingfisher	Pelargopsis capensis	Good views on 4 dates.
49.	White-throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis	Common and seen on 10 dates.
50.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	Quite common and seen several times at
			Chitwan and Koshi.
51.	Common Hawk-cuckoo	Cuculus varius	Singles observed at Chitwan and Koshi.
52.	Green-billed Malkoha	Phaenicophaeus tristis	Singles on 3 dates at Chitwan, on two
			occasions following Red-headed Trogons!
53.	Sirkeer Malkoha	Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii	Single flying across Trisuli River as we
<i></i>	0 1	Control of the control	drove to Chitwan from Kathmandu.
54.	Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis	Seen at scattered localities.
55.	Lesser Coucal	Centropus bengalensis	One showed quite well at Chitwan.
56.	Alexandrine Parakeet	Psittacula eupatria	A common sight and sound at Chitwan.
57.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	Psittacula krameri	Abundant.
58.	Himalayan Parakeet	Psittacula himalayana	A recent split from Slaty-headed Parakeet.
50	Diama hardad Damalarad	Psitta ayla mano conhala	At least 2 observed one evening at Chitwan.
59.	Plum-headed Parakeet	Psittacula cyanocephala Aerodramus brevirostris	Relatively abundant this year.
60.	Himalayan Swiftlet		Only seen once at Koshi Tappu.
61.	Asian Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus balasiensi	Quite common at Koshi.
62.	House Swift	Apus affinis nipalensis	Only seen around Kathmandu.
63.	Crested Treeswift	Hemiprocne coronata	Several small flocks seen at Chitwan and Patnali Forest.
64.	Brown Hawk-owl	Ninox scutulata	One seen at a day roost near our lodge at
04.	DIUWII HAWK-UWI	Timos scatatata	Chitwan.
65.	Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus	Single observed on our drive to Patnali
05.	Short-carea Owi		Forest.
66.	Indian Scops-owl	Otus bakkamoena	The resident bird at Koshi Camp played
			hard to get and called every night. We
			eventually tracked it down in the spotlight
			for excellent views one evening.
67.	Brown Fish-owl	Ketupa zeylonensis	Day roosting birds at Chitwan and Koshi.

68.	Asian Barred Owlet	Glaucidium cuculoides	Single present at Godaveri Botanical Gdns.
69.	Jungle Owlet	Glaucidium radiatum	A few seen in the lowlands.
70.	Spotted Owlet	Athene brama	Single at Machan Lodge, and several birds present around Koshi Camp.
71.	Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	Common.
72.	Oriental Turtle-dove	Streptopelia orientalis	Seen on the way from Kathmandu to Chitwan.
73.	Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis	Common.
74.	Red Collared-dove	Streptopelia tranquebarica	A few seen at Koshi Tappu.
75.	Eurasian Collared-dove	Streptopelia decaocto	Seen on 8 dates.
76.	Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica	A couple of brief flybys at Chitwan.
77.	Orange-breasted Green-pigeon	Treron bicincta	A brief view at Chitwan.
78.	Grey-fronted Green-pigeon	Treron affinis	One of several splits from Pompadour Green-pigeon. A couple were feeding in a fruiting tree at Chitwan during our first visit
79.	Yellow-footed Green-pigeon	Treron phoenicoptera	Seen on 4 dates in the lowlands.
80.	Brown Crake	Amaurornis akool	Several nice views from our lodge at Chitwan.
81.	White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus	Common and seen on 9 dates.
82.	Grey-headed Swamphen	Porphyrio poliocephalus	Treated by some authorities as a recent split from Purple Swamphen. Seen at Koshi.
83.	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	Seen on 9 dates.
84.	Common Coot	Fulica atra	Only seen at Koshi Tappu.
85.	Pin-tailed Snipe	Gallinago stenura	A couple were seen in flight after being flushed by a hunting Hen Harrier near Koshi Barrage.
86.	Common Redshank	Tringa totanus	Seen on 2 dates at Chitwan.
87.	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	Seen on 5 dates.
88.	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	Small numbers at Chitwan and Koshi.
89.	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	A few seen at Chitwan.
90.	Little Stint	Calidris minuta	A few seen along the Koshi River.
91.	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii	Quite common at Chitwan and Koshi.
92.	Dunlin	Calidris alpina	Just 2 seen along the Koshi River.
93.	Indian Courser	Cursorius coromandelicus	The pair at Koshi was voted equal 2 nd best bird of the tour. Says it all!
94.	Indian Stone-curlew	Burhinus indicus	A recent split from Eurasian Stone-curlew. A few seen wll at Koshi.
95.	Ibisbill	Ibidorhyncha struthersii	Voted THE bird of the tour by a country mile! Excellent views on the Trisuli River of 4 birds.
96.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirurgus	Just a few seen near Koshi Barrage.
97.	Bronze-winged Jacana	Metopidius indicus	Widespread in the lowlands and seen on 9 dates.
98.	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius	Locally common in the lowlands.
99.	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	Several seen along the Rapti and Koshi Rivers.
100	Small Pratincole	Glareola lactea	A large feeding flock were present over the Rapti River at Koshi.
101	1 5	Vanellus spinosus duvaucelii	Several seen at Chitwan.
102	Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus	Common.
	Heuglin's Gull	Larus fuscus heuglini	A bird seen whilst sailing down the Koshi River was thought to be this species.
103	Great Black-headed Gull	Larus ichthyaetus	2 adults over Koshi Barrage and 2 2 nd cy birds seen whilst sailing down Koshi River.
	Black-headed Gull	Larus ridibundus	A few seen flying along the Rapti River.
105	Black-bellied Tern	Sterna acuticauda	Fine views of several of these stunning

			birds on the Koshi River.
106	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	A daily sighting at Koshi.
	Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus caeruleus	A frequent sighting in the lowlands and
			seen on 8 dates.
	Black Kite	Milvus migrans	Seen on 5 dates.
109	Black-eared Kite	Milvus migrans lineatus	Some authorities treat this as a distinct
			species. Seen in Kathmandu and around
110	C 1 1 1 1 1 1	I - lade language - lade	Biratnagar. Fine views of an adult at Chitwan.
	Grey-headed Fish-eagle	Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus Gyps bengalensis	
	Indian White-rumped Vulture	,, e	Single bird perched in a tree during our boat excursion at Koshi Tappu.
112	Himalayan Griffon Vulture	Gyps himalayensis	Several nice views this year, with a pair
			present at Chitwan and groups of 4 and 10 being seen around Koshi.
113	Red-headed Vulture	Sarcogyps calvus	A pair showed really well at the Ibisbill site.
	Short-toed Snake-eagle	Circaetus gallicus	Seen on 3 dates in the lowlands.
	Crested Serpent-eagle	Spilornis cheela	Seen on 7 dates.
	Black Eagle	Ictinaetus malayensis	Brief views on our last day on Phulchowki.
	Pied Harrier	Circus melanoleucos	One of the stars of the tour with 4 birds seen
11/	i ica Hailici	C. Cus mountaine	at Koshi, including a fine male.
118	Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Singles appeared on 3 dates at Koshi.
	Crested Goshawk	Accipiter trivirgatus	A hunting bird along the Trisuli River was
			the only one seen this year.
120	Shikra	Accipiter badius	Just a couple seen at Chitwan.
121	Besra	Accipiter virgatus	Singles on Phulchowki and at Koshi.
122	Himalayan Buzzard	Buteo burmanicus	A relatively recent split from Common
			Buzzard Buteo buteo. A few individuals
100	T 1 1D 1	Posta a mofinio	present at scattered sites.
	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus	At least 3 seen in the Koshi area.
124	Indian Spotted Eagle	Aquila hastata	A split from Lesser Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i> . Seen 3 times at Koshi.
125	Greater Spotted Eagle	Aquila clanga	Seen during our boat journey at Koshi.
	Steppe Eagle	Aquila nipalensis	The commonest <i>Aquila</i> species and seen on
120	Steppe Lugie		5 dates at both Chitwan and Koshi.
127	Eastern Imperial Eagle	Aquila heliaca	3 present along the Koshi River on 9 th Dec.
128	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	Just a couple at Koshi.
	Changeable Hawk-eagle	Spizaetus cirrhatus	This species has been split to include
			Crested Hawk-eagle Spizaetus cirrhatus in
			peninsular India and Sri Lanka. Several
120	Calland Falson -t	Mignohianay a samulas sama	decent views at Chitwan this year.
130	Collared Falconet	Microhierax caerulescens	A couple seen at Chitwan with one bird perched in a tree above us and seen chasing
			some prey through the forest. At Patnali
			Forest we had very close views of several
			birds hunting and eating dragonflies.
	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni	A flock of 20+ flew over Koshi Camp.
	Eurasian Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Seen on 9 dates.
133	Red-necked Falcon	Falco chicquera	A pair of fast moving birds was seen on 2
15.0	D	T. 1 .	consecutive days at Koshi.
	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	Seen a few times at Koshi.
135	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	A small group beside Koshi Barrage were
126	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	the only ones seen this year. Just a few at Koshi.
	Darter Darter	Anhinga melanogaster	Seen on 6 dates.
	Little Cormorant	Phalacrocorax niger	Reasonably common in the lowlands.
-		Phalacrocorax arbo	Quite common at Koshi Tappu.
139	Great Cormorant	1 natacrocorax carbo	Quite common at Kosin Tappu.

140	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Common and seen on 9 dates.
	Great Egret	Ardea alba	Common and seen on 10 dates.
	Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia	Seen on 4 dates and probably overlooked.
	Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus	A recent split from Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis. Very common.
144	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	Just a few seen at Koshi Tappu.
	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	A couple of sightings at Koshi including a
	•		nicely plumaged adult at Koshi Camp.
	Indian Pond-heron	Ardeola grayii	Very common.
147	Striated Heron	Butorides striatus	The 2 seen whilst on our boat trip at Koshi were the only ones seen.
148	Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	An adult perched in trees beside our lodge at Chitwan was the only one seen this year.
	Cinnamon Bittern	Ixobrychus cinnamomeus	Jeff was fortunate to see one flying into cover at Koshi Tappu.
149	Black Bittern	Dupetor flavicollis	1 at Koshi Camp.
150	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	Single bird observed on western side of Koshi Barrage is a rarity here.
151	Black-headed Ibis	Threskiornis melanocephalus	A few seen along Koshi River.
152	Red-naped (Black) Ibis	Pseudibis papillosa	A few at Chitwan, but commoner at Koshi with the highest count of 20+ on our way back from Patnali Forest.
153	Asian Openbill	Anastomus oscitans	Common and seen on 9 dates.
154	Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus	A sprinkling of sightings from various sites.
155	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	Only seen once at Koshi Tappu.
156	Lesser Adjutant	Leptoptilos javanicus	Seen on 7 dates.
157	Golden-fronted Leafbird	Chloropsis aurifrons	Single at Patnali Forest.
158	Brown Shrike	Lanius cristatus	A daily sighting at Koshi.
159	Bay-backed Shrike	Lanius vittatus	A small population resides on the west side of the mighty Koshi River and we saw at least 6 birds there.
160	Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach	Very common and seen daily.
161	Grey-backed Shrike	Lanius tephronotus	Seen on 8 dates.
162	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	A few were moving with a flock of the following species on Phulchowki.
163	Black-headed Jay	Garrulus lanceolatus	A flock of 15+ were seen on Phulchowki. Quite a scarce bird here.
164	Red-billed Blue Magpie	Urocissa erythrorhyncha	The first bird we had on our first visit to Phulchowki. Also seen at Chitwan.
165	Common Green Magpie	Cissa chinensis	Great views of a pair moving with Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes near Tiger Tops at Chitwan.
166	Rufous Treepie	Dendrocitta vagabunda	Common and seen most days.
167	Grey Treepie	Dendrocitta formosae	Finally caught up with this species at Godaveri Botanical Gardens on our final morning.
168	House Crow	Corvus splendens	Seen daily.
169	Large-billed Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos	A few sightings at the beginning of the tour.
	Indian Jungle Crow	Corvus culminatus	Seen most days.
	Ashy Woodswallow	Artamus fuscus	Several large gatherings were seen.
172	Black-hooded Oriole	Oriolus xanthornus	Common in the lowland sites and seen on 9 dates.
173	Maroon Oriole	Oriolus traillii	Several fine views on Phulchowki.
174		Coracina macei	A frequent sight flying overhead giving its distinctive call in the lowlands.
175	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	Coracina melaschistos	A scattering of sightings throughout the tour

176	Small Minivet	Pericrocotus cinnamomeus	A few small groups at Chitwan.
	Long-tailed Minivet	Pericrocotus ethologus	Seen on 5 dates.
	Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus flammeus	This species has been recently split with Orange Minivet <i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i> found in peninsular India and Sri Lanka.
179	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus picatus	Just a few seen in mixed flocks at Chitwan.
180	Yellow-bellied Fantail	Rhipidura hypoxantha	Seen during both visits to Phulchowki.
181	White-throated Fantail	Rhipidura albicollis	Several sightings at Chitwan and Koshi.
182	White-browed Fantail	Rhipidura aureola	Present at Koshi Camp.
183	Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus	Common.
	Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus	Quite common and seen at all forested sites.
185	White-bellied Drongo	Dicrurus caerulescens	Only seen a few times at Chitwan and Koshi.
186	Bronzed Drongo	Dicrurus aeneus	Seen on 7 dates at various ites.
187		Dicrurus hottentottus	Seen on 6 dates at various sites.
188	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus paradiseus	Several good views at Chitwan.
	Common Iora	Aegithina tiphia	Seen on 8 dates.
	Large Woodshrike	Tephrodornis gularis	Only heard at Chitwan and Patnali Forest.
190	Common Woodshrike	Tephrodornis pondicerianus	Seen sevel times in the lowland forests.
191	Brown Dipper	Cinclus pallasii	Very nice views along the Trisuli River.
192		Monticola rufiventris	A female was present on Phulchowki.
193	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius	Males seen along the trisuli River and the dried river bed at Patnali Forest.
194	Blue Whistling-thrush	Myiophonus caeruleus	A widespread species seen in small numbers.
195	Orange-headed Thrush	Zoothera citrina citrina	Showed briefly at Patnali Forest.
	Small-billed Scaly-thrush	Zoothera dauma	After frustratingly brief views beside Koshi
197	Long-billed Thrush	Zoothera monticola	Camp, we scoped an individual as it perched in a tree a few kilometres from camp. Another showed briefly in Godaveri Botanical Gardens. Voted equal 2 nd best bird of the tour. We were privileged to watch this beauty feeding
			for ages beside the stream in Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
198	White-collared Blackbird	Turdus albocinctus	Several feeding parties were present on the fruiting trees just below the summit on Phulchowki. We estimated 50+ present but could well have been double that!
199	Grey-winged Blackbird	Turdus boulboul	Smaller numbers than the previous species were on Phulchowki.
200	Chestnut Thrush	Turdus rubrocanus	At least 3 birds were seen just below the summit of Phulchowki on our fist visit.
201	Slaty-backed Flycatcher	Ficedula hodgsonii	2 birds were seen in Godaveri Gardens.
202	<u> </u>	Ficedula strophiata	Good views at Godaveri.
203	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Ficedula parva	Seen at Chitwan and Godaveri.
204	Taiga Flycatcher	Ficedula albicilla	Common and seen on 10 dates.
205	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	Ficedula hyperythra	Close and prolonged views of 2 individuals at Patnali Forest and another at Godaveri.
206	Little Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula westermanni	Single bird seen at Patnali Forest.
	Slaty-blue Flycatcher	Ficedula tricolor	Only heard at Chitwan.
207	·	Eumyias thalassina	Seen on 7 dates at various sites.
208	•	Culicicapa ceylonensis	Seen on 10 dates.
209		Niltava macgrigoriae	The 1 st record for Koshi Tappu was an individual a few kilometres north of the camp beside the embankment.

210	D 0 1 11 13 71	37:1.	
210	Rufous-bellied Niltava	Niltava sundara	One beside the Trisuli River whilst searching for Ibisbill showed briefly, but better views were had at Patnali Forest and
211	D 1 1' 1E1 (1	C : 1:	Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
211	Pale-chinned Flycatcher	Cyornis poliogenys	A good run of sightings this year with several seen well at Chitwan and also at Patnali Forest.
212	Siberian Rubythroat	Luscinia calliope	It's just one of the best feelings when everyone gets their binoculars on a male. And that's what we all did at Koshi – eventually!
213	White-tailed Rubythroat	Luscinia pectoralis	A very common sound at Chitwan, but seeing them was a different matter. Yet we eventually saw several females and 2 males.
214	Bluethroat	Luscinia svecica	Singles at Chitwan and Koshi Tappu.
215	Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail	Tarsiger rufilaus	A distinct species from nominate Red- flanked Bluetail <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i> . A stunning male showed well in Godaveri Botanical Gardens. A female was present there as well.
216	Golden Bush-robin	Tarsiger chrysaeus	A male showed to some of the group on our first visit to Phulchowki, but a female in Godaveri Botnical Gardens was very cooperative.
217	Oriental Magpie Robin	Copsychus saularis	Common and seen on 9 dates.
218	White-rumped Shama	Copsychus malabaricus	A daily sighting at Chitwan and also present at Patnali Forest.
219	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris	A couple of the <i>Rufiventris</i> red-bellied race at Koshi looked very different to the ones we are used to seeing in Europe.
220	Hodgson's Redstart	Phoenicurus hodgsoni	A confiding female did her best to distract us from Ibisbill-watching!
221	Blue-fronted Redstart	Phoenicurus frontalis	Great views of a superb male in Godaveri Botanical Gardens. Also at least 2 females present here as well.
222	White-capped Water Redstart	Chaimarrornis leucocephalus	This stunner showed well when searching for Ibisbill, and at Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
223	Plumbeous Water Redstart	Rhyacornis fuliginosus	A common bird of all rivers during the tour.
224	White-tailed Robin	Cinclidium leucurum	Seen briefly at Tiger Tops, but much bette at Patnali Forest and Godaveri Gardens.
225	Little Forktail	Enicurus scouleri	2 were seen along the Rapti River.
226	Black-backed Forktail	Enicurus immaculatus	First seen with the preceeding species and also near Tiger Tops in Chitwan.
227	Spotted Forktail	Enicurus maculatus	Showed well at Godaveri Botanical Gardens
	Siberian Stonechat	Saxicola torquata maura	Common and seen on 10 dates.
229	White-tailed Stonechat	Saxicola leucura	Seen daily at Chitwan.
230	Pied Bushchat	Saxicola caprata	Seen daily at Chitwan.
231	Grey-headed Starling	Sturnia malabarica	Formerly lumped under Chestnut-tailed Starling with Malabar White-headed Starling <i>Sturnia blythii</i> which is found in SW Peninsular India & Western Ghats. Common at Koshi Tappu.
	Asian Pied Starling	Gracupica contra	Common.
233	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	Seen daily.
234	Bank Myna	Acridotheres ginginianus	Small flocks observed at Koshi and Chitwan.
235	Jungle Myna	Acridotheres fuscus	Common and seen on 9 dates.

226	Cl. 4 4 1 11' 1 N 4 1 4 1	Sitta castanea	This are the first and the fir
236	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	Sitta castanea	This species has been split with Indian Nuthatch <i>Sitta castanea</i> found in India
			south of the Himalayan region. Regularly
			seen at Chitwan and also noted at Patnali
			Forest and Godaveri Gardens.
237	White-tailed Nuthatch	Sitta himalayensis	Seen well on the higher parts of
	1, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11,		Phulchowki.
238	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	Sitta frontalis	Present in most mixed flocks in the
			lowlands.
239	Wallcreeper	Tichodroma muraria	Stunning views along the Trisuli River of a
			pair, one of which came quite close to us as
240	D 4 (1 1 1 T	Certhia nipalensis	it fed amongst the boulders beside the river.
240	Rusty-flanked Treecreeper	Cerinia nipaiensis	Single bird below the summit of Phulchowki was a new bird for this tour.
2/11	Brown-throated Treecreeper	Certhia discolor	Seen on Phulchowki and Godaveri.
242	Grey Tit	Parus cinereus	A long overdue split from Great Tit <i>Parus</i>
242	Grey Tit	Turus emercus	major . Common!
243	Green-backed Tit	Parus monticolus	Seen on Phulchowki and at Godaveri.
244	Black-lored Tit	Parus xanthogenys	Present on both visits to Phulchowki.
245	Yellow-browed Tit	Sylviparus modestus	Seen on both visits to Phulchowki in small
			groups.
246	Black-throated Tit	Aegithalos concinnus	This delightful species was seen well in
			small flocks at either end of the tour.
247	Grey-throated Sand-martin	Riparia chinensis	A recent split from Plain Martin. Seen along
2.40	D 0 11	Tr. 1	the Rapti and Koshi Rivers in good numbers
	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	A daily sighting.
	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica	A scattering of sightings from the lowlands.
250	Nepal House-martin	Delichon nipalensis	A large flock were congregating over the hillside as we searched for Ibisbill.
251	Black-crested Bulbul	Pycnonotus melanicterus	Only seen in Chitwan in small numbers.
252	Red-whiskered Bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus	Very common at Chitwan and also present at Koshi Tappu as well.
253	Himalayan Bulbul	Pycnonotus leucogenys	Seen on Phulchowki and at Chitwan in
	-		small numbers.
	Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer	A daily sighting.
255	Mountain Bulbul	Ixos mcclellandii	Only seen in Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
256	Himalayan Black Bulbul	Hypsipetes leucocephalus	This species has been split with Square-tailed Black Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i>
			being found in peninsular India and Sri
			Lanka.
257	Grey-crowned Prinia	Prinia cinereocapilla	Seen on our first visit to Chitwan NP.
258	Grey-breasted Prinia	Prinia hodgsonii	Common at Chitwan in small numbers.
259	Plain Prinia	Prinia inornata	Seen in small numbers at various sites.
260	Ashy Prinia	Prinia socialis	Scarce this year and only seen near our lodge at Chitwan on one occasion.
261	Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	Seen once at Chitwan.
	Oriental White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus	Seen regularly in most areas visited.
263	Chestnut-headed Tesia	Tesia castaneocoronata	Several were singing on the lower slope of
203	Chestilut-headed 1 esta	_ ssra castantocoronana	Phulchowki but hard to see well. Another in
			Godaveri Gardens only showed to a few.
264	Grey-bellied Tesia	Tesia cyaniventer	Amazing views of a bird reacting to the tape
			in Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
265	Common Tailorbird	Orthotomus sutorius	Common and seen most days.
	Pale-footed Bush-warbler	Cettia pallidipes	Heard only at Chitwan.
266	Chestnut-crowned Bush-warbler	Cettia major	Seen a couple of times in the grassland at
0.55	G III II II	C w: 1 · · · · · ·	Chitwan National Park.
267	Grey-sided Bush-warbler	Cettia brunnifrons	A tricky individual gave several brief views

			on the embankment above Koshi Camp.
268	Spotted Bush-warbler	Bradypterus thoracicus	Heard near our lodge at Chitwan. Another
	•		at Koshi Camp reacted strongly to the tape and showed to some of the group.
269	Blyth's Reed-warbler	Acrocephalus dumetorum	Very common at Koshi Tappu and also a few seen at Chitwan.
270	Thick-billed Warbler	Acrocephalus aedon	After a few brief views, one perched on a small stick for several minutes gave amazing views.
271	Striated Grassbird	Megalurus palustris	Only seen at Koshi Tappu.
272	Siberian Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita tristis	Seen at Chitwan, but far commoner at Koshi Tappu.
273	Dusky Warbler	Phylloscopus fuscatus	Common at Koshi and seen daily there.
274	Tickell's Leaf-warbler	Phylloscopus affinis	Common at Koshi and we were treated to very close views.
275	Western Crowned Warbler	Phylloscopus occipitalis	A small flock was seen at Chitwan and also several seen at Patnali Forest.
276	Blyth's Leaf-warbler	Phylloscopus reguloides	Some good views at Chitwan was followed by further views at Patnali Forest.
277	Buff-barred Warbler	Phylloscopus pulcher	Common on Phulchowki.
278		Phylloscopus maculipennis	Scarce this year and just a few seen on our first visit to Phulchowki.
279	Lemon-rumped Warbler	Phylloscopus chloronotus	A large flock was present on the lower section of Phulchowki, followed by further sightings at Chitwan and Godaveri.
	Hume's Warbler	Phylloscopus humei	Common and a daily sighting.
281	Yellow-browed Warbler	Phylloscopus inornatus	At least 2 birds were found in Godaveri.
282	Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopus trochiloides	Seen on 8 dates.
	Yellow-vented Warbler	Phylloscopus cantator	A leader only sighting at Patnali Forest.
283	Whistler's Warbler	Seicercus whistleri	A sprinkling of sightings at Kathmandu, Chitwan and Patnali Forest.
284	Grey-hooded Warbler	Seicercus xanthoschistus	A common bird at Phuchowki and Godaveri
285		Seicercus castaniceps	A few were seen at Chitwan.
286	Black-faced Warbler	Abroscopus schisticeps	A couple of nice, close flocks on Phulchowki at either end of the tour.
287	White-throated Laughingthrush	Garrulax albogularis	Good views of a flock of 30+ at Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
	White-crested Laughingthrush	Garrulax leucolophus	Sadly, only heard this year on Phulchowki.
288	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	Garrulax monileger	Eventually had tickable views of at least 10 at Chitwan in company with the following species.
289	Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	Garrulax pectoralis	A flock of at least 30 gave repeatedly good views near Tiger Tops at Chitwan.
290	Striated Laughingthrush	Garrulax striatus	A couple of decent views on Phulchowki.
291	Grey-sided Laughingthrush	Garrulax caerulatus	Our last new bird of the tour, seen at dusk by a lucky few as we left Phulchowki.
	Streaked Laughingthrush	Garrulax lineatus	A leader only sighting on Phulchowki.
292	Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	Garrulax erythrocephalus	Quite common on Phulchowki on both visits this year.
293	Puff-throated Babbler	Pellorneum ruficeps	Seen several times in small groups at Chitwan National Park.
294	5	Pomatorhinus erythrogenys	A brief view on our first visit to Phulchowki
295		Pomatorhinus schisticeps	Seen on our first visit to Phulchowki.
296	, , ,	Pnoepyga pusilla	Good views of a single bird as it fed beside a small stream in Godaveri Gardens.
	Black-chinned Babbler	Stachyris pyrrhops	Only heard at Phulchowki and Godaveri.
297	Grey-throated Babbler	Stachyris nigriceps	After a leader only sighting at Chitwan, one

			was seen following a flock of Red-billed
			Leiothrix at Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
298	Striped Tit Babbler	Macronous gularis	A daily sighting at Chitwan and also present at Patnali Forest.
299	Chestnut-capped Babbler	Timalia pileata	Excellent views on consecutive days in the grassland at Chitwan National Park.
300	Yellow-eyed Babbler	Chrysomma sinense	Seen in company with the previous species.
301	Striated Babbler	Turdoides earlei	Seen well at both Chitwan and Koshi.
302	Slender-billed Babbler	Turdoides longirostris	This scarce grassland specialist gave us a couple of nice views at Chitwan.
303	Jungle Babbler	Turdoides striatus	Common and seen on 10 dates.
	Red-billed Leiothrix	Leiothrix lutea	Flocks seen at either end of the tour.
	White-browed Shrike-babbler	Pteruthius flaviscapis	Heard at Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
305	Green Shrike Babbler	Pteruthius xanthochlorus	Very close birds were seen on both visits to Phulchowki.
306	Blue-winged Minla	Minla cyanouroptera	A fast-moving flock was seen at the mid- section of Phulchowki.
307	Chestnut-tailed Minla	Minla strigula	Seen on both visits to Phulchowki.
	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	Alcippe castaneceps	Very nice views of several flocks at Phulchowki on both visits
309	White-browed Fulvetta	Alcippe vinipectus	A pair seen on both visits to Phulchowki.
310	Nepal Fulvetta	Alcippe nipalensis	Nice views of a couple flocks at either end of the tour.
311	Stripe-throated Yuhina	Yuhina gularis	Seen well just below the summit of Phulchowki on our first visit.
312	Rufous-vented Yuhina	Yuhina occipitalis	Seen in company with the previous species.
313		Yuhina zantholeuca	Formerly known as White-bellied Yuhina but recent DNA analysis suggests it is not related at all to the Babblers and may indeed be a vireo!
	Rufous Sibia	Heterophasia capistrata	A very common resident on Phulchowki.
315	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	Eremopterix grisea	On our way back from Patnali forest we explored an open, grassy area and found several feeding parties.
316	Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella cinere brachydactyla	Seen severl times in the fields north of Koshi Camp.
317	Sand Lark	Calandrella raytal	Seen along the Rapti and Koshi Rivers.
318	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	A few present in fields at Koshi Camp.
319	Oriental Skylark	Alauda gulgula	Quite common in the right habitat at Koshi.
320	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	Dicaeum ignipectus	Severl very nice views on Phulchowki.
321	Purple Sunbird	Cinnyris asiaticus	Only seen by a few people at Koshi Camp.
322	Green-tailed Sunbird	Aethopyga nipalensis	Common on Phulchowki.
323	Black-throated Sunbird	Aethopyga saturata	Very close views of a family group in Godaveri Botanical Gardens.
324	Crimson Sunbird	Aethopyga siparaja	A male showed well near Tiger Tops.
325	Fire-tailed Sunbird	Aethopyga ignicauda	A few eclipse-type birds seen on our last day on Phulchowki.
326	Streaked Spiderhunter	Arachnothera magna	One bird flew in to the clearing when we were watching a large mixed flock in Chitwan National Park.
	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Common.
	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	Good views at either end of the tour.
329	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba dukhinensis	Seen at Koshi in small numbers.
	White-faced Wagtail	Motacilla lugens leucopsis	Seen throughout the tour.
	Black-backed Wagtail	Motacilla lugens alboides	Quite common throughout the tour.
330	White-browed Wagtail	Motacilla alba madaraspatensis	Common and seen on 9 dates.

331	Citrine Wagtail	Motacilla citreola	Seen on 5 dates.
332	Syke's Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava beema	A few seen one evening on the embankment at Koshi.
333	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Seen a few times at either end of the tour.
334	Richard's Pipit	Anthus novaeseelandiae richardi	Severl nice views at Koshi.
335	Paddyfield Pipit	Anthus richardi rufulus	Fairly common and seen on 6 dates.
336	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris	A few present during our boat trip at Koshi.
337	Blyth's Pipit	Anthus godlewskii	An adult and immature were seen during one of our shore excursions during our boat ride at Koshi. Also a few seen and heard the following day when looking for coursers.
338	Olive-backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni	Common and seen on 9 dates. Several small groups around our lodge at Chitwan gave exceptionally good views.
339	Rosy Pipit	Anthus roseatus	Just a couple seen at Koshi.
340	Indian Baya Weaver	Ploceus p. philippinus	A few seen at Chitwan and Koshi.
341	White-rumped Munia	Lonchura striata	A small group seen as we followed the Trisuli River at the start of the tour.
342	Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata	Seen on 7 dates in the lowlands.
343	Common Rosefinch	Carpodacus erythrinus	A few seen at both Chitwan and Koshi.
	Brown Bullfinch	Pyrrhula nipalensis	Heard on Phulchowki.
344	Crested Bunting	Melophus lathami	Seen on 6 dates in the lowlands.
345	Yellow-breasted Bunting	Emberiza aureola	A group of 4 were roosting in Koshi Camp.

345 species seen, plus 11 heard only or single observer sightings, 356 species recorded in total.

	Mammals & Other	Scientific Name
	Animals	
1	Wild Boar	Sus sciofa
2	Water Buffalo (semi wild)	Bubalus arnee (bubalis)
3	Spotted Deer	Tragulus meminna
4	Indian Muntjac	Muntiacus muntjai
5	Sambar	Cervis unicolor
6	Ganges River Dolphin	Platanista gangetica
7	Indian Elephant (domesticated)	Elephas maximus
8	Indian (Bengal) Fox	Vulpes bengalensis
9	Golden Jackal	Canis aureus
10	Tiger (Heard only)	Panthera tigris
11	Jungle Cat	Felis chaus
12	Fishing Cat	Prionailurus viverrinus
13	Weasel	Mustela nivalis
14	Assamese Macaque	Macaca assamensis
15	Rhesus Macaque	Macaca mulatta
16	Common (Grey) Langur	Presbytis entellus
17	Indian Grey Mongoose	Herpestes edwardsi
18	Indian Rhinoceros	Rhinoceros unicornis
19	Gharial	Gavialis gangeticus
20	Marsh Mugger	Crocodylus palostris
21	Indian Flying Fox	Pteropus giganteus
22	Orange-bellied Squirrel	Dremomys lokriah
23	Indian Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus coromandra
24	Common Garden Lizard	Calotes versicolor
25	Hard-shelled Terrapin	Lissemys punctata
26	Common Monitor Lizard	Varanus albigularis
27	Giant Wood Spider	Nephila maculata
28	Northern House Gecko	Hemidactylus frenatus