

World Migratory Bird day 2011

Final Report

Migratory birds have been called “global sentinels of environmental change” because in the course of a year they move many different places and habitats throughout the world. So their state of health provides us with a clear signal about the overall changing state of our environment. Almost all waterbird populations are declining due to rapid population growth, urbanization and economic development.

World Migratory Bird Day is a global annual initiative to celebrate migratory birds and to promote their conservation worldwide. Himalayan Nature joined and celebrated the global awareness campaign from 13th to 16th May 2011 highlighting the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. The theme for 2011 is [Land Use Changes from a Bird's- Eye View](#).

Koshi, east Nepal-13 to 16 May 2011

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR) is one of the finest birding sites in Asia. It was established as a wildlife reserve in 1976 with an aim to protect the last remaining population of Asiatic Wild Buffaloes in Nepal. The reserve has a total area of 175 sq. km. and is roughly rectangular in shape. The principal habitats in the reserve include: wetlands, grasslands and small patches of riverine forest. KTWR is also the largest heronry of Nepal. It provides habitat for 493 species of resident and migratory birds. In addition, it holds large populations of globally threatened Swamp Francolin and is home to nearly all the water birds recorded in this country.

Dharan forests stretch from east to west in Sunsari and Morang districts, and constitute a significant portion of the forest remaining in Sunsari. Tropical evergreen tree species mixed with *Sal Shorea robusta* form the main vegetation type. It is estimated that the large number of 300 bird species occurs in this forest, although a complete inventory is still to be made. The globally threatened Lesser Adjutant, White-rumped and Slender-billed Vultures are some of the globally threatened bird species found in the area. The near-threatened Wedge-billed Wren Babbler was recently recorded in Nepal for the first time from Dharan forests; it was probably overlooked previously. There are large areas of tropical forests that are likely to support significant populations of species characteristic of the Indo-Chinese Tropical Moist Forest and Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone biomes.

- i. Survey in the Dharan Forests (an Important Bird Area) and will be connected with the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Nepal's first Ramsar Site and another Important Bird Area).
- ii. Raptor survey of Koshi Tappu with a focus on vultures will be conducted.

A total of 44 species were recorded during the survey. Among them, White-rumped Shama was the most common and is followed by Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Black-hooded Oriole, Red-vented Bulbul, Scarlet Minivet, Chestnut-tailed Starling, Pale-chinned Flycatcher etc. [For detail, Annex I].

A total of 10 raptors were recorded during the raptor survey of Koshi Tappu. [For detail, Annex III].

Lumbini, Central Nepal

Bird survey was organized in the sacred pond around Maya Devi Temple, Lumbini. The place is the birth place of Lord Buddha and a World Heritage Site. A total of 34 species were recorded. The most common species was Lesser Whistling Duck followed by Greater Painted Snipe, Indian Pond Heron and Yellow-footed Green Pigeon [For detail, Annex II].

In addition, we conducted bird watching activities in Lumbini including Gaidahawa Lake, a key biodiversity area (KBA). Gaidahawa Lake is an important breeding site for Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* and Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* and also serves as a habitat for a small resident and wintering population of several species of water birds. Besides bird watching activities, our field assistants Mr Dinesh Giri and Mr Sanjiv Acharya conducted awareness activities on birds and their habitat conservation among the students of local private and government schools.

Prativa Kaspal and Prava Pandey, staff at Himalayan Nature staff took classes on the importance of raptors, migratory birds and their conservation.

Annex I: Bird Check list of Dharan Forest, IBA

Species	Total Number	Species	Total Number
White-rumped Shama	35	Eurasian Collared Dove	10
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	22	Black-crested Bulbul	9
Black-hooded Oriole	20	Lineated Barbet	9
Red-vented Bulbul	12	Oriental Pied Hornbill	8
Scarlet Minivet	15	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	7
Chestnut-tailed Starling	10	Great Tit	7
Pale-chinned Flycatcher	9	Common Woodshrike	6
Blue-throated Barbet	10	Greater Coucal	6
Golden-fronted Leafbird	12	House Crow	6
Spotted Dove	12	Dollarbird	5
Oriental Magpie Robin	19	Greater Raquet-tailed Drongo	5
Striped Tit Babbler	18	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	5
Large Woodshrike	12	Jungle Babbler	5
Large Cuckooshrike	11	Lesser Yellow-nape Wood	5
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	11	Oriental Honey Buzzard	5
Red-whiskered Bulbul	13	Plum-headed Parakeet	5
Black Drongo	18	Red Jungle Fowl	5
Bronzed Drongo	13	Rufous Woodpecker	5
Common Iora	17	Common Myna	4
Indian Cuckoo	13	Asian Koel	3
White-bellied Drongo	11	Greater Flameback	3
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	8	Indian Roller	3

Annex II: Bird checklist of Sacred Pond, Lumbini IBA

Species	Number	Species	Number
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Indian pond Heron	18	Cotton Pigmy goose	1
Greater Painted Snipe	11	Pied Bushchat	1
Bronze-winged Jacana	7	Asian Openbill	3
Little Egret	8	Large Egret	1
Little Cormorant	15	Black Francolin	1
Red Wattled lapwing	3	Intermediate Egret	2
Cattle Egret	10	Large Parakeet	4
Lesser Whistling Duck	209	Brahminy Starling	1
Blue-Tailed Bee- eater	11	Common Myna	2
Black Drongo	2	Purple Heron	2
Asian Koel	8	Small Pied Kinf Fisher	1
Yellow- Footed green Pigeon	7	White Breated Waterhen	3
Rose-Ringed Parakeet	2	Greater Coucal	2
Brown Crake	4	Black Shouldered kite	1
Plain Prinia	1	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	4
Red Avadavat	25	Eurasian Collared Dove	1
Paddy field Pipit	3	Large Billed Crow	1

Annex III Checklist of raptors of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Ramsar Site

Species	Abundance
Jungle Owlet	5
Oriental Honey Buzzard	6
Shikra	7
White-rumped Vulture	2
Black Baza	1
Spotted Owlet	1
Collared Falconet	2
Crested Goshawk	1
Red-necked Falcon	1

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