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Bird diversity of Manaslu Conservation Area, Central Nepal.

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Manaslu Conservation Area (MCA)

MCA was gazetted by the Government of Nepal in 1998. From the beginning it has been managed by the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) as Manaslu Conservation Area Project (MCAP). It covers an area of 1,663 km² and includes seven Village Development Committees VDCs viz. Samagaon, Lho, Prok, Bihi, Chumchet, Chhekampar and Sirdibas of Gorkha District in the

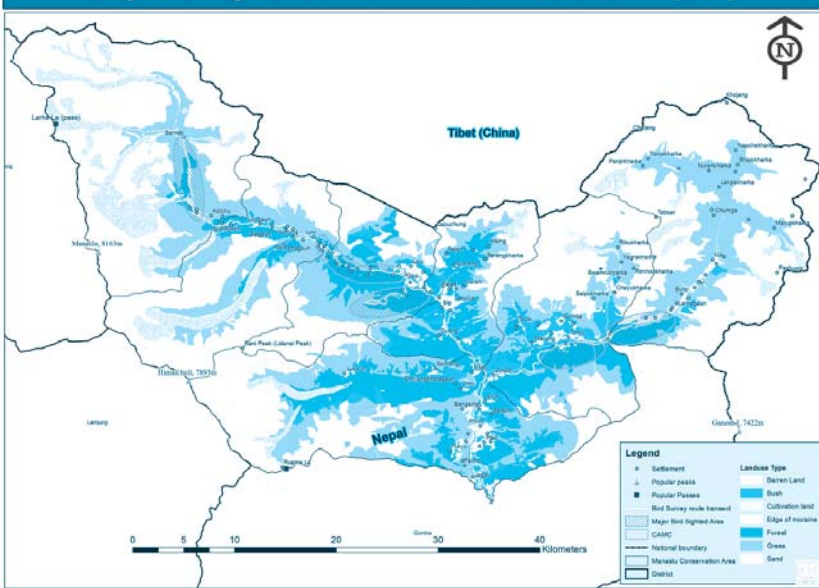
Western Development Region of Nepal. MCA lies between 28° 20' - 28° 45' latitude and 84° 29' - 85 ° 11' longitude. All VDCs, except Sirdibas borders with Tibet, the autonomous region of the People's Republic of China to the north.

The elevation of MCA ranges from 1,239m to 8,163m. Major peaks include Manaslu (8,163m), the 8th highest peak in the world, Himalchuli (7,893m) and Shringi (7,187m). Important high



Blood Pheasant by Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri

Major Bird Sighted Areas in Manaslu Conservation Area (2013)



passes include Larke La (5,205m) and Gya La (5,375m). Major rivers in MCA are Budhi Gandaki and Syar Khola, while Kalchuvan Lake (Kal Tal) and Birendra Lake are important lakes and wetlands in the area (NTNC, 2013).

The MCA has five climatic zones: sub-tropical, temperate, sub-alpine, alpine and nival. The sub-tropical zone lies between 1,000m and 2,000m with average summer and winter temperatures between 31 to 34°C and 8 to 13°C, respectively. The temperate zone occurs in the higher hills above 2,000m and below 3,000m. In this zone, average summer temperatures range from 22 to 25°C while winter temperatures range from 2 to 6°C. Frost and snowfall is common during winter (January and February). The sub-alpine zone lies between 3,000m and 4,000m with snowfall occurring for about four to six months (December to May). In this zone, winter is very cold and annual summer temperatures average between 6 and 10°C. The alpine zone, between 4,000m and 5,000m, mostly comprises open meadows. The nival zone occurs at elevations above 4,500m (DNPWC, 2013).

Nineteen vegetation types have been recorded in MCA. These are: *Pinus roxburghii*, *Schima-Castanopsis*, *Alnus nepalensis*, *Quercus floribunda*, Mixed *Quercus*, *Pinus wallichiana*, *Picea smithiana-Tsuga dumosa*, *Quercus semecarpifolia*, mixed hardwood, *Populus ciliata*, *Larix griffithiana*, *Larix himalaica*, Mixed *Larix*, *Abies spectabilis*, and *Betula utilis* forests, and *Juniperus recurva* scrub, *Rhododendron-Juniper-Betula* bushes, moist alpine scrub and dry alpine scrub.

MCA was identified as one of the five potential Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) of Nepal (Baral and Inskipp 2005). A systematic survey of the area is very much needed for effective bird conservation management of the area.

However, up to the start of the survey in December 2012 there had been very little ornithological work conducted to estimate bird diversity in MCA. The present paper presents justification for MCA to be designated an Important Bird and Diversity Area (IBA). It is hoped that the baseline information gathered in this survey will be helpful in the conservation and management of important bird habitats in MCA.

Methodology

Mackinnon's listing method

Mackinnon's species richness counting method,

developed by Mackinnon and Phillips (1993) and described by Bibby et. al. (2000) was used to find out bird species richness and diversity in MCA.

Direct observation Method

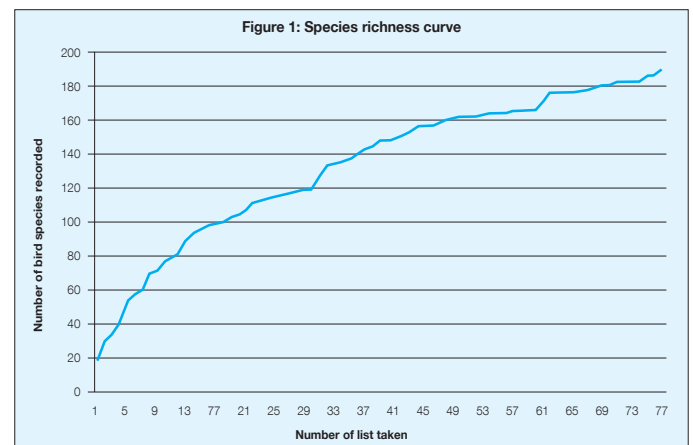
Lists of all encountered birds with the number of birds recorded were made throughout the survey on a daily basis. This method ensured the recording of bird species that were excluded in Mackinnon's listing method. For raptors flying long distances or having big home ranges, the highest number counted in one day was assumed to be the population. For birds making indistinct calls in a flock the number of birds was estimated as one for every recording.

Bird surveys were carried out between 12-23 December 2012 and 28 April to 23 May 2013. Surveys cover both spring and winter seasons and birds were recorded systematically. Two important valleys viz. Tsum and Nubri valley were covered during the study. We mostly followed the main tourist trekking trails to observe the birds. Grimmett et al. (1998, 2003, 2009, 2012), Inskipp and Inskipp (1991) and Rasmussen and Anderton (2012) were used as field guides to identify birds in the field.

Results

Bird diversity, species richness and abundance

A total of 191 bird species representing 32 families was recorded from 77 Mackinnon's lists (Annex 1). In total, 121 species were recorded during the December 2012 survey with 70 species added during April/May 2013.



Most notable bird species include globally threatened Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* and near threatened Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*, Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*, Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra* and River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*. Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* and Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bengalensis* are two additional nationally threatened species.

The top ten most counted birds with high population during separate seasons includes House Swift *Apus affinis nipalensis*, Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*, Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*, Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*, Grandala *Grandala coelicolor*, Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*, Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos*, Variegated Laughingthrush *Garrulax variegatus* and Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata*. Similarly, the ten most common birds with highest frequency of occurrence in two seasons include Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*, Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*, Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos*, Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*, Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*, Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*, Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*,



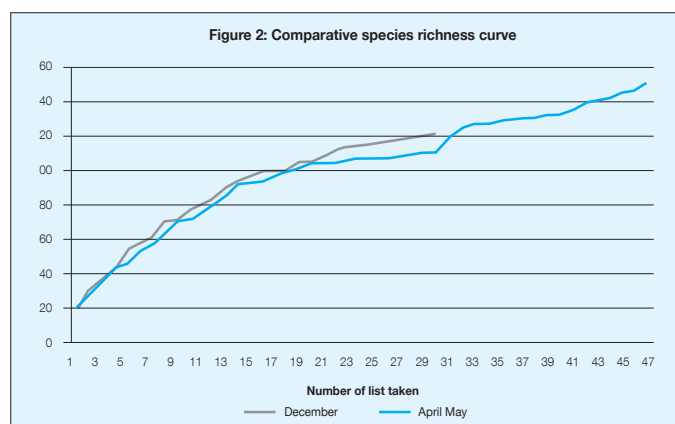
Striated Prinia *Prinia criniger*, Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata* and Fire-breasted Flower pecker *Dicaeu mignipectus*.

A total of 33 species was recorded only once and with a single individual and were considered very rare in MCA. Some examples include, Tibetan Partridge *Perdix hodgsoniae*, Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*, River Lapwing, Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*, Red-headed Vulture, Indian Pond Heron *Ardeo lagrayii*, Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* and Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii*. However, although Tibetan Partridge was recorded only once during the present study, the species is quite common in Kalung pasture of Tsum valley of MCA (Madhu Chetri, pers. obs.).

Seasonal bird diversity

Species richness curves figure 2 shows that more birds were recorded during the April-May survey in comparison to the December survey. A total of 121 bird species were recorded in 30 Mackinnon's lists in December, whereas 150 species were recorded in 47 Mackinnon's lists in the April-May survey. Critically endangered Red-headed Vulture and near threatened River lapwing were seen during December visit from Jagat and Nyak Phedi respectively. Similarly, Globally near threatened Satyr Tragopan was seen during April-May visit at Prok area, Himalayan Griffon and Lammergeier were seen at many places during both visit.

A total of 40 bird species were recorded from the winter season only, 69 species during the spring season and the remaining 82 bird species were seen in both the seasons and visits.



Evaluation of MCA for an IBA standard

A1: Globally threatened species

| Common Name | IUCN Status | Location | Visit | Number |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------|-----------|
| Red-headed Vulture | Critically Endangered | Nyak | December | 1 |
| Himalayan Griffon | Near Threatened | Phelim, Nyak, Lokpa, Chumling, Yakkharka, Chekkam, Rinjam, Dyang, Prok, Numrung, Lho, Samagaun, Ekle Bhatti, Gompa, Pawa, kal Tal, Numrung, Lhi, Shyala, and Samdo | December and April-May | 79 and 63 |
| Lammergeier | Near Threatened | Nyak, Yakkharka, Chekkam, Samagaun, Lokpa, Birendra Tal, Samdo and Dharamsala | December and April-May | 19 and 12 |
| Satyr Tragopan | Near Threatened | Pork | April-May | 1 |
| River lapwing | Near Threatened | Jagat | December | 1 |

A3: Biome-restricted assemblage

A total of 74 bird species belonging to 4 biomes was recorded during the present study. Among them the number of birds, 46 species, belonging to Biome 07: Sino-Himalayan Temperate Forest were recorded, followed by 19 species from Biome 05: Eurasian High Montane, 8 species from Biome 08: Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forest and the smallest number of species i.e. 1 species was recorded from Biome 11: Indo-malayan Tropical Moist Forest.

Discussion

Among Nepal's mountain protected areas MCA was found to be the least visited by ornithologists. MCA had compiled all previous bird watching reports (KMTNC, 1998, Groot and Steenhof, 2008, Chetri, 2009, and Chetri and Nepal 2010) which totals 201 bird species (NTNC 2013). Other study Katuwal (2013) has recorded 93 bird species. The current survey was successful in recording 57 new species that were not recorded previously in MCA.

Of the 149 nationally threatened birds of Nepal (BCN and DNPWC, 2011) only six species were recorded in MCA. Among them five species are globally threatened, listed in critically endangered and near threatened category. The altitudinal distribution of birds in Nepal and availability of habitat shows very few globally threatened birds species can be expected at the MCA (BCN and DNPWC, 2011).

Himalayan Griffon, recently included in Near Threatened category were recorded from many places in good number. Cliff at Nyak Phedi and Shyar river gorge below Chumling village (Chumchet VDC) support a breeding colony of Himalayan Griffon.

About half of the threatened birds depend on the forest habitat and the high proportion of 77 % of Nepal's breeding birds utilises forest or shrub (Inskipp 1989). The existing forest at Prok (Prok VDC), where Satyr Tragopan was heard and Rainzam and Lokpa forest area (Chumchet VDC) are very important for threatened species of birds. KMTNC (1998) has recorded the nationally threatened Golden Babbler *Stachyrido psichrysa* from Prok forest.

Nepal provides good wintering grounds for waterfowl which breed in the north. In this study a flock of Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and one Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* at Kaltal. Probably we were late to find the waterfowls at Kaltal and Birendra Tal; they start their migration on September and return to their breeding grounds in March-April. The altitudinal migration of many waders, warblers and flycatchers was also observed. Some of these



species had already moved down in December and later we found them in April-May, e.g. Ibisbill, Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*, Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* and Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii*. Therefore the species diversity is higher in April-May in comparison to December. In April-May altitudinal migrants were augmented with the summer visitors like Blue-capped Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus*, Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris*, Large Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides*, Eurasian Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* and Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*.

Records of high number bird species in both seasons from Lokpa-Chekkam and Dyang-Prok-Kaltal forest habitats shows that these forest habitats are bird-rich areas in MCA. However, the reduced number of records of forest dependent species reveals that the birds in these areas are facing threats due to existing pressure on these forest habitats.

Considering the four categories and criteria of IBAs, birds falling into two categories, A1 – globally threatened species and A3 – biome-restricted assemblages were recorded. Among them the significant number of 74 bird species from four biomes are included in A3. Therefore, considering its richness in biodiversity, MCA can be included as a new IBA of Nepal.

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Annex 1: Checklist of the birds of Manaslu Conservation Area.

| Order/Family/Common name | Scientific Name | December | | April May | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|----|-----------|-----|
| | | A | N | A | N |
| GALLIFORMES | | | | | |
| Phasianidae | | | | | |
| Tibetan Snowcock B05 | <i>Tetraogallus tibetanus</i> | | | 1 | 4 |
| Tibetan Partridge B05 | <i>Perdix hodgsoniae</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Blood Pheasant B07 | <i>Ithaginis cruentus</i> | 2 | 37 | 1 | 13 |
| Satyr Tragopan B07 | <i>Tragopan satyra</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Himalayan Monal B07 | <i>Lophophorus impejanus</i> | 4 | 6 | 13 | 14 |
| Kalij Pheasant | <i>Lophura leucomelanos</i> | 7 | 23 | 8 | 24 |
| ANSERIFORMES | | | | | |
| Anatidae | | | | | |
| Ruddy Shelduck | <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | 1 | 12 | | |
| Common Merganser | <i>Mergus merganser</i> | 1 | 2 | | |
| PICIFORMES | | | | | |
| Picidae | | | | | |
| Speckled Piculet | <i>Picumnus innominatus</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos macei</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Darjeeling Woodpecker B07 | <i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i> | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Scaly-bellied Woodpecker | <i>Picus squamatus</i> | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| Megalaimidae | | | | | |
| Great Barbet | <i>Megalaima virens</i> | 2 | 2 | 8 | 22 |
| Golden-throated Barbet B08 | <i>Megalaima franklinii</i> | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| CORACIIFORMES | | | | | |
| Cerylidae | | | | | |
| Crested Kingfisher | <i>Megaceryle lugubris</i> | | | 1 | 2 |
| CUCULIFORMES | | | | | |
| Cuculidae | | | | | |
| Large Hawk Cuckoo | <i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i> | | | 14 | 19 |
| Eurasian Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | | | 4 | 6 |
| Oriental Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus saturatus</i> | | | 5 | 6 |
| Banded Bay Cuckoo | <i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| APODIFORMES | | | | | |
| Apodidae | | | | | |
| Himalayan Swiftlet | <i>Collocalia brevirostris</i> | 2 | 9 | | |
| Alpine Swift | <i>Tachymarptis melba</i> | | | 1 | 7 |
| Fork-tailed Swift | <i>Apus pacificus</i> | 1 | 14 | | |
| House Swift | <i>Apus affinis</i> | 1 | 13 | 17 | 135 |
| STRIGIFORMES | | | | | |
| Strigidae | | | | | |
| Eurasian Eagle Owl | <i>Bubo bubo</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Caprimulgidae | | | | | |
| Grey Nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus indicus</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| COLUMBIFORMES | | | | | |
| Columbidae | | | | | |
| Rock Pigeon | <i>Columba livia</i> | 13 | 69 | 23 | 80 |
| Hill Pigeon | <i>Columba rupestris</i> | 4 | 27 | | |



| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-----|----|-----|
| Snow Pigeon | <i>Columba leuconota</i> | 10 | 98 | 9 | 84 |
| Speckled Wood Pigeon B07 | <i>Columba hodgsonii</i> | | | 10 | 60 |
| Ashy Wood Pigeon | <i>Columba pulchricollis</i> | | | 3 | 3 |
| Oriental Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i> | | | 25 | 81 |
| Spotted Dove | <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> | | | 2 | 3 |
| Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon | <i>Treron sphenura</i> | | | 4 | 10 |
| CICONIIFORMES | | | | | |
| Scolopacidae | | | | | |
| Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | | | 1 | 2 |
| Charadriidae | | | | | |
| Ibisbill | <i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i> | | | 1 | 10 |
| River Lapwing | <i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Accipitridae | | | | | |
| Oriental Honey-buzzard | <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i> | | | 2 | 2 |
| Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Lammergeier | <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> | 6 | 19 | 5 | 12 |
| Himalayan Griffon B05 | <i>Gyps himalayensis</i> | 18 | 79 | 20 | 63 |
| Eurasian Griffon | <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Red-headed Vulture B11 | <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Crested Goshawk | <i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Northern Goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | 2 | 3 | | |
| Upland Buzzard | <i>Buteo hemilasius</i> | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Golden Eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | 3 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| Booted Eagle | <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Falconidae | | | | | |
| Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | 6 | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| Ardeidae | | | | | |
| Indian Pond Heron | <i>Ardeolagrayii</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| PASSERIFORMES | | | | | |
| Laniidae | | | | | |
| Long-tailed Shrike | <i>Lanius schach</i> | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Grey-backed Shrike B05 | <i>Lanius tephronotus</i> | 3 | 3 | 17 | 33 |
| Corvidae | | | | | |
| Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Yellow-billed Blue Magpie B07 | <i>Urocissa flavirostris</i> | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| Spotted Nutcracker | <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i> | 10 | 25 | 8 | 31 |
| Red-billed Chough | <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> | 3 | 185 | 10 | 119 |
| Yellow-billed Chough B05 | <i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i> | | | 3 | 54 |
| House Crow | <i>Corvus splendens</i> | 3 | 5 | | |
| Large-billed Crow | <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> | 25 | 57 | 42 | 193 |
| Large Cuckooshrike | <i>Coracina macei</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Grey-chinned Minivet | <i>Pericrocotus solaris</i> | | | 2 | 3 |
| Long-tailed Minivet | <i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i> | 1 | 1 | 11 | 35 |
| Scarlet Minivet | <i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i> | | | 2 | 3 |
| Yellow-bellied Fantail | <i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i> | 12 | 45 | 4 | 17 |
| White-throated Fantail | <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Black Drongo | <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> | | | 3 | 4 |



| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----|-----|----|----|
| Cinclidae | | | | | |
| Brown Dipper | <i>Cinclus pallasii</i> | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| Muscicapidae | | | | | |
| Blue-capped Rock Thrush B08 | <i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Blue Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | 2 | 2 | | |
| Blue Whistling Thrush | <i>Myophonus caeruleus</i> | 17 | 36 | 34 | 74 |
| Plain-backed Thrush | <i>Zoothera mollissima</i> | 1 | 3 | | |
| White-collared Blackbird B07 | <i>Turdus albocinctus</i> | | | 1 | 2 |
| Dark-sided Flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa sibirica</i> | | | 4 | 8 |
| Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher B07 | <i>Ficedula strophiatea</i> | 4 | 7 | 5 | 22 |
| Ultramarine Flycatcher B07 | <i>Ficedula supercilialis</i> | | | 4 | 5 |
| Slaty-blue Flycatcher B07 | <i>Ficedula tricolor</i> | | | 6 | 9 |
| Verditer Flycatcher | <i>Eumyias thalassina</i> | | | 13 | 18 |
| Small Niltava B08 | <i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i> | | | 3 | 4 |
| Rufous-bellied Niltava B07 | <i>Niltava sundara</i> | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 |
| Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher | <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i> | | | 17 | 38 |
| Indian Blue Robin | <i>Luscinia brunnea</i> | | | 3 | 6 |
| Orange-flanked Bush Robin | <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i> | 7 | 10 | 7 | 46 |
| Golden Bush Robin B07 | <i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i> | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| White-browed Bush Robin B07 | <i>Tarsiger indicus</i> | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Rufous-breasted Bush Robin | <i>Tarsiger hyperythrus</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Blue-capped Redstart B07 | <i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus</i> | 6 | 12 | 1 | 1 |
| Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Hodgson's Redstart B05 | <i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i> | 5 | 12 | | |
| White-throated Redstart B07 | <i>Phoenicurus schisticeps</i> | 5 | 14 | 2 | 8 |
| White-winged Redstart B05 | <i>Phoenicurus erythrogaster</i> | 4 | 4 | | |
| Blue-fronted Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i> | 17 | 24 | 9 | 27 |
| White-capped Water Redstart | <i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i> | 10 | 27 | 13 | 25 |
| Plumbeous Water Redstart | <i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i> | 7 | 22 | 18 | 41 |
| White-bellied Redstart B07 | <i>Hodgsonius phaenicuroides</i> | | | 1 | 2 |
| Grandala B05 | <i>Grandala coelicolor</i> | 2 | 175 | 1 | 3 |
| Little Forktail | <i>Enicurus scouleri</i> | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Spotted Forktail | <i>Enicurus maculatus</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Common Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | 2 | 2 | | |
| Grey Bushchat | <i>Saxicola ferrea</i> | | | 22 | 57 |
| Sittidae | | | | | |
| White-tailed Nuthatch B07 | <i>Sitta himalayensis</i> | 11 | 19 | 7 | 18 |
| Wallcreeper B05 | <i>Tichodroma muraria</i> | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Certhiidae | | | | | |
| Eurasian Tree-creeper | <i>Certhia familiaris</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Bar-tailed Tree-creeper B07 | <i>Certhia himalayana</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Rusty-flanked Tree-creeper B07 | <i>Certhia nipalensis</i> | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Brown-throated Tree-creeper | <i>Certhia discolor</i> | 2 | 2 | | |
| Winter Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | 6 | 10 | | |
| Paridae | | | | | |
| Rufous-vented Tit B07 | <i>Parus rubidiventris</i> | 1 | 1 | 6 | 37 |
| Spot-winged Tit | <i>Parus melanolophus</i> | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Coal Tit | <i>Parus ater</i> | 8 | 14 | 5 | 20 |
| Grey-crested Tit B07 | <i>Parus dichrous</i> | 4 | 15 | 5 | 35 |



| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Green-backed Tit B07 | <i>Parus monticolus</i> | 21 | 45 | 22 | 62 |
| Yellow-browed Tit B07 | <i>Sylviparus modestus</i> | 5 | 14 | | |
| Aegithalidae | | | | | |
| Black-throated Tit B08 | <i>Aegithalos concinnus</i> | 14 | 52 | 10 | 75 |
| Hirundinidae | | | | | |
| Asian House Martin | <i>Delichon dasypus</i> | | | 1 | 8 |
| Pycnonotidae | | | | | |
| Himalayan Bulbul | <i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i> | 10 | 76 | 13 | 34 |
| Black Bulbul B08 | <i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i> | 3 | 16 | 20 | 99 |
| Cisticolidae | | | | | |
| Striated Prinia | <i>Prinia criniger</i> | 14 | 20 | 21 | 52 |
| Zosteropidae | | | | | |
| Oriental White-eye | <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i> | 1 | 5 | 8 | 30 |
| Sylviidae | | | | | |
| Chestnut-headed Tesia B07 | <i>Tesia castaneocoronata</i> | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Grey-bellied Tesia B07 | <i>Tesia cyaniventer</i> | | | 6 | 19 |
| Aberrant Bush Warbler B07 | <i>Cettia flavolivacea</i> | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Grey-sided Bush Warbler B07 | <i>Cettia brunnifrons</i> | | | 2 | 2 |
| Common Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | | | 2 | 2 |
| Smoky Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus fulgiventis</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Tickell's Leaf Warbler B05 | <i>Phylloscopus affinis</i> | | | 5 | 25 |
| Ashy-throated Warbler B07 | <i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i> | 14 | 35 | 1 | 4 |
| Lemon-rumped Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i> | | | 5 | 13 |
| Hume's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus humei</i> | | | 7 | 46 |
| Greenish Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i> | 3 | 8 | 11 | 32 |
| Western Crowned Warbler B07 | <i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i> | | | 13 | 56 |
| Golden-spectacled Warbler | <i>Seicercus burkii</i> | | | 3 | 7 |
| Whistler's Warbler | <i>Seicercus whistleri</i> | 3 | 17 | 8 | 31 |
| Grey-hooded Warbler B08 | <i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i> | 16 | 56 | 28 | 108 |
| Chestnut-crowned Warbler | <i>Seicercus castaneiceps</i> | | | 4 | 7 |
| Black-faced Warbler | <i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i> | 2 | 5 | | |
| White-throated Laughingthrush B07 | <i>Garrulax albogularis</i> | 1 | 7 | | |
| Streaked Laughingthrush B07 | <i>Garrulax lineatus</i> | 21 | 52 | 19 | 43 |
| Variagated Laughingthrush | <i>Garrulax variegatus</i> | 16 | 83 | 16 | 67 |
| Black-faced Laughingthrush B07 | <i>Garrulax affinis</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush | <i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i> | 12 | 45 | 9 | 47 |
| Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler | <i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i> | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Black-chinned Babbler B08 | <i>Stachyris pyrrhops</i> | 8 | 32 | 3 | 26 |
| Green Shrike Babbler B07 | <i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i> | 5 | 16 | 1 | 4 |
| Chestnut-tailed Minla B07 | <i>Minla strigula</i> | 4 | 22 | 1 | 5 |
| Rufous-winged Fulvetta | <i>Alcippe castaneiceps</i> | | | 1 | 4 |
| White-browed Fulvetta | <i>Alcippe vinipectus</i> | 12 | 49 | 6 | 15 |
| Rufous Sibia B07 | <i>Heterophasia capistrata</i> | 16 | 54 | 21 | 82 |
| Whiskered Yuhina | <i>Yuhina flavicollis</i> | 17 | 76 | 12 | 25 |
| Stripe-throated Yuhina B07 | <i>Yuhina gularis</i> | 3 | 74 | 5 | 11 |
| Alaudidae | | | | | |
| Greater Short-toed Lark | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | 1 | 1 | | |
| Oriental Skylark | <i>Alauda gulgula</i> | | | 1 | 1 |



| Nectariniidae | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----|----|----|
| Fire-breasted Flowerpecker | <i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i> | 2 | 2 | 21 | 38 |
| Purple Sunbird | <i>Nectarinia asiatica</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Mrs Gould's Sunbird | <i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i> | | | 10 | 15 |
| Green-tailed Sunbird | <i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i> | 8 | 13 | 6 | 14 |
| Black-throated Sunbird B08 | <i>Aethopyga saturata</i> | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Crimson Sunbird | <i>Aethopyga siparaja</i> | | | 6 | 7 |
| Fire-tailed Sunbird B07 | <i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i> | 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| Passeridae | | | | | |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | 1 | 5 | 2 | 17 |
| White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | | | 2 | 3 |
| Citrine Wagtail | <i>Motacilla citreola</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | | 5 | 6 |
| Olive-backed Pipit | <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> | 3 | 16 | | |
| Rosy Pipit | <i>Anthus roseatus</i> | | | 1 | 33 |
| Upland Pipit | <i>Anthus sylvanus</i> | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| Alpine Accentor B05 | <i>Prunella collaris</i> | | | 1 | 5 |
| Altai Accentor | <i>Prunella himalayana</i> | 1 | 8 | | |
| Rufous-breasted Accentor B07 | <i>Prunella strophiata</i> | 4 | 12 | 3 | 10 |
| Brown Accentor B05 | <i>Prunella fulvescens</i> | 5 | 15 | 1 | 3 |
| Fringillidae | | | | | |
| Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | 1 | 23 | | |
| Fire-fronted Serin | <i>Serinus pusillus</i> | 1 | 4 | | |
| Yellow-breasted Greenfinch B07 | <i>Carduelis spinoides</i> | | | 3 | 11 |
| Plain Mountain Finch B05 | <i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i> | 2 | 6 | 4 | 22 |
| Brandt's Mountain Finch | <i>Leucosticte brandti</i> | | | 1 | 30 |
| Common Rosefinch | <i>Carpodacus erythrurus</i> | | | 6 | 38 |
| Beautiful Rosefinch B05 | <i>Carpodacus pulcherrimus</i> | 9 | 11 | 11 | 42 |
| Pink-browed Rosefinch B07 | <i>Carpodacus rodochrous</i> | 2 | 2 | | |
| Dark-rumped Rosefinch B07 | <i>Carpodacus edwardsii</i> | | | 1 | 1 |
| Spot-winged Rosefinch B07 | <i>Carpodacus rodopeplus</i> | 5 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| White-browed Rosefinch B07 | <i>Carpodacus thura</i> | | | 2 | 4 |
| Streaked Rosefinch B05 | <i>Carpodacus rubicilloides</i> | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Great Rosefinch B05 | <i>Carpodacus rubicilla</i> | | | 3 | 5 |
| Red-fronted Rosefinch B05 | <i>Carpodacus puniceus</i> | 3 | 8 | | |
| Brown Bullfinch B07 | <i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i> | | | 1 | 6 |
| Red-headed Bullfinch B07 | <i>Pyrrhula erythrocephala</i> | | | 2 | 2 |
| White-winged Grosbeak B07 | <i>Mycerobas carnipes</i> | 1 | 7 | 5 | 16 |
| Rock Bunting | <i>Emberiza cia</i> | 1 | 1 | | |

Key

A: Abundance or frequency of occurrence
N: Number of counted birds

Migration

S: summer visitor
W: Winter visitor

BIOME

B05: EURASIAN HIGH MONTANE (ALPINE AND TIBETIAN)
B07: SINO-HIMALAYAN TEMPERATE FOREST
B08: SINO-HIMALAYAN SUBTROPICAL FOREST
B11: INDO-MALAYAN TROPICAL MOIST FOREST.

- 1 Bird Conservation Nepal
- 2 National Trust for Nature Conservation-
Manaslu Conservation Area Project



News

Membership

Mr. Rabi Bhakta Thapa joined BCN as a Life Member. He is a businessman by profession. Mr. Thapa is involved in bird watching tourism programmes.

Mr. Seejan Gyawali joined BCN as a Life Member. He is a keen birdwatcher and conducts bird surveys.

Mr. Deepak Rajbanshi joined BCN as a Life Member. He is member of Bardia Nature Conservation Club and nature guide by profession.

Mr. Rambahadur Shahi joined BCN as a Life Member. He is president of Bardia Nature Conservation Club and nature guide by profession.

Mr. Ramjan Chaudhary joined BCN as a Life Member. He is Secretary of Bardia Nature Conservation Club and nature guide by profession.

Mr. Ang Tenzi Sherpa joined BCN as a Life Member. He is Managing Director at AT International.

Mr. Dhan Bahadur Basnet joined BCN as a Life Member. He is Managing Director at Star Auto Centre.

31st Annual General Meeting

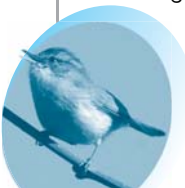
BCN organised its 31st Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Kathmandu on 30 December, 2013. The AGM was attended by government officials, patrons, advisors, members, supporters of BCN and representatives from various conservation organisations. Mr. Braj Kishor Yadav, Chief of Environment Division at the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation was the Chief Guest. The meeting was conducted in the Chairmanship of Mr. Sarbendra Pachhai, President of BCN.

On the occasion, Mr. Bheshraj Ghimire, General Secretary of BCN presented the annual progress and future plans of BCN and Mr. Yubraj Basnet, Treasurer of BCN presented the financial report of FY 2012/13. Likewise Dr. Sushila C. Nepali, Chief Executive Officer presented the strategy of BirdLife International and Dr. Navaratna Pradhan, Veterinary Officer presented on the progress of Vulture Conservation Breeding Center, Kasara Chitwan and Mr. Jyotendra Thakuri presented on the status of Bengal Florican in Nepal.

BCN representation in Fourth Asian Bird Fair in Taiwan

Former CEO, Dr Sushila C. Nepali and EC member Mr Yub Raj Basnet participated in the 4th Asian Bird Fair and 15th Taipei International Birdwatching Fair in Guandu Nature Park, Taipei, Taiwan from 26-27 October 2013. The slogan for the 4th Asian Bird Fair was "The amazing journeys of Migratory Birds Let's make them feel at home". Mr Yub Raj Basnet also presented on

Migratory Birds' habitat and current situation in Nepal to the audience of the bird fair. BCN had also put an exhibit in the fair to share its conservation work and also fundraising through merchandise sale. The fourth Asian Bird Fair was a great success and the fifth Asian Bird Fair will be hosted by Malaysian Nature Society, BirdLife partner in Malaysia.



Representation in the Third SAVE- "Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction" consortium meeting in West Bengal, India

BCN along with DNPWC, NTNC and ZSL-Nepal participated in the third meeting of SAVE- "Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction" which was held in Alipurduar, West Bengal, India from 7-9 November 2013. During the meeting all the partners of SAVE presented the country updates from each country. A blue print for vulture conservation in South Asia was circulated for the comments and the SAVE priorities were revisited during the meeting. Also some of the major progress of the year including progress on vulture safe zone was discussed in the meeting.

Representation in Asia Regional Workshop on the Management of Wetlands and East Asian- Australasian Flyway Sites

BCN was invited to facilitate training on Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site based Assessment (TESSA) in the Asia Regional Workshop on the Management of Wetlands and East Asian- Australasian Flyway Sites from 23-27 September 2013. TESSA toolkit was first piloted at four IBA sites in Nepal. Around 100 participants attended the workshop. Nepal government officials, Mr Ashok Ram and Mr Bhogendra Rayamajhi from two Ramsar sites of Nepal Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Rara National Park also attended the workshop.

10th National Annual Vulture Survey completed

Bird Conservation Nepal completed annual road count survey of vultures across terai lowland following east-west highway covering 638 km from Narayanghat of Chitawan to Gaddachowki of Kanchanpur. The survey was conducted from 2 May to 16 May 2013 in a vehicle driven at a rate of 20 Km/h. This survey identified and recorded all vultures sighted within 1000m of either side of the road. In addition to lowlands, the team also surveyed the mountain routes of Attariya-Doti-Dadeldhura-Baitadi-Darchula, Lamahi-Tulsiapur-Salyan-Rukum and Bhalubang-Pyuthan-Rolpa, Pyuthan-Argakhanchi-Gulmi-Palpa.

The survey was supported by DNPWC and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK. The current survey observed 68 White-rumped Vultures which is more than the last year number. Last year it was 43. Around 205 vultures were observed in the first survey in 2002 but the numbers declined to 55 by 2009.

Thirty four tharu community women in Bardia have been supported by BCN through the Norad project on training and marketing of modern handicraft prepared from "munj"

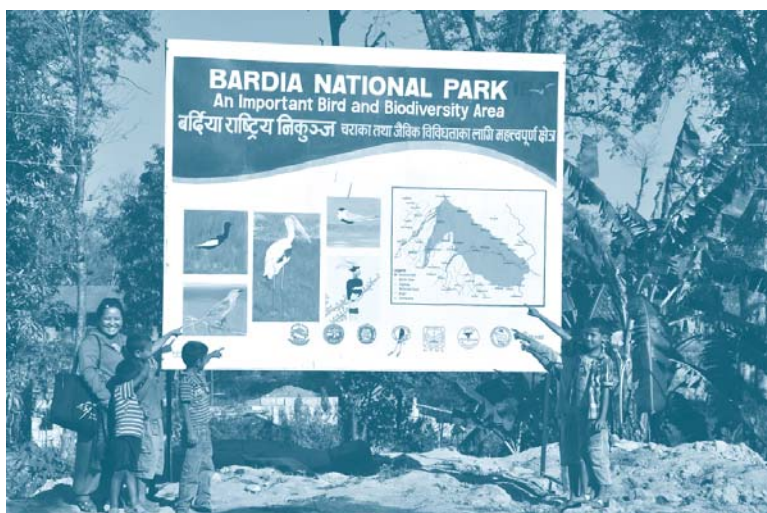
Ten days of Tharu traditional handicrafts weaving (Gounri) with modern designs and skills training and was organized at Thakurdwara VDC, Bardia by BCN with the support of NORAD for integrating livelihoods development and biodiversity conservation

at priority sites for biodiversity in Nepal. The training was held at Tharu Home resort, Bethani 5, Thakurdwara from 2 to 11 December 2013 with the participation of thirty-four women from seven different wards. The trainer was brought from HarchauliThati Handicraft women group, Nepalgunj.

The basket weaving women group who received the training are now able to produce more than 30 modernised items from "Saccharum munja" grass that easily have a market value. These modernised items like tea mats, flower vase, pen holder, fruit basket etc are now sold at the entrance gate of the Bardia National Park and Ghodaghodi Lake Area. These products have been also marketed to the local hotels as well as handicraft shops in the nearby town and big cities. These women have so far been able to make around NRs 2,00,000.00 since the training in December 2013 and the income is increasing every month.

IBA hoarding board set up

As being a BirdLife partner in Nepal, one of BCN's aims is to raise awareness about the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) hence BCN has been putting hoarding boards with IBA information in the IBA sites. This year we have put IBA hoarding boards in Bardia National Park and Ghodaghodi Lake Area. BCN is also lobbying with government for IBA formal recognition.





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अभियानमा सहकार्य गरौं।**



a BCN initiative to save Nepal's endangered birds.
PLEDGE AND DONATE TODAY



BirdLife International is a global conservation federation with a worldwide network of Partner organizations, Representatives and committed individuals.

BirdLife International seeks to conserve all bird species on earth and their habitats and, through this, it works for the world's biological diversity. It recognizes that the problems affecting birds, their habitats and our global environment are linked inseparably with social, economic and cultural factors and that these can only be resolved if human societies function in an ecologically sustainable manner and if the needs, welfare and aspirations of people form a part of all conservation action.

Birds provide BirdLife International with a uniquely valuable focus: they are sensitive indicators of biological richness and environmental trends and fulfil many key ecological functions; they contribute greatly to our understanding of natural processes; they are an important economic resource; and they have inspired and delighted people of many cultures for centuries, which makes them excellent ambassadors for the promotion of conservation awareness and international collaboration.

BirdLife International pursues a programme of:

- Scientific research and analysis to identify and monitor worldwide the most threatened bird species and the most critical sites for the conservation of avian diversity;
- Advocacy and policy development to promote the conservation of birds and biodiversity through sustainability in the use of all natural resources;
- Field action and country conservation programmes, ranging from community-based land-use and management projects to species recovery programmes benefiting both wildlife and humans;
- Network and capacity building to expand and strengthen the global partnership of conservation organizations and to promote worldwide interest in the conservation of birds and the wider environment.

Editorial Board

Dr Hem Sagar Baral (Chief Editor),
Ishana Thapa (Sub Editor),
Suchit Basnet, Yub Raj Basnet

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The newsletter is produced quarterly for members of Bird Conservation Nepal. The aim of the newsletter is to inform BCN members on the recent development of ornithology in Nepal and any other relevant news on birds. It is circulated to all members free of cost. The individual annual membership is NRs. 400 for any SAARC nationals and equivalent Nepali rupees of US\$ 15.00 for others to join as Friends of BCN.

Those who would like to donate to or be a member of BCN can do so by a direct bank transfer, to the bank details below, or via cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Bird Conservation Nepal and sent to the address below.

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नेपाल पंखी संरक्षण संघ

**Bird
Conservation
Nepal**

Established in 1982, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) is the leading organisation in Nepal, focussing on conservation of birds, their habitats and sites. It seeks to promote interest in birds among the general public, encourage research on birds, identify major threats to birds' continued survival. As a result, BCN is the foremost scientific authority providing accurate information on birds and their habitats throughout Nepal. We provide scientific data and expertise on birds for the Government of Nepal (GoN) through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and work closely in birds and biodiversity conservation throughout the country.

BCN is a membership-based organisation with a founding President, patrons, life members, ordinary members, friends of BCN and active supporters. Our membership provides strength to the society and is drawn from people of all walks of life from students, professionals and conservationists. Our members act collectively to set the organisation's strategic agenda.

We are committed to showing the value of birds and their special relationship with people. As such, we strongly advocate the need for peoples' participation as future stewards to attain long-term conservation goal.

As the Nepalese partner of BirdLife International, a network of more than 110 organisations around the world, BCN also works on a worldwide agenda to conserve the world's birds and their habitats.

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