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Review on Distribution of Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii* in Nepal

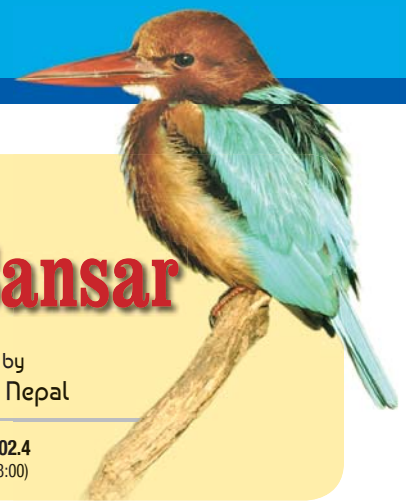
¹Hari Basnet and ²Laxman Prasad Poudyal

Introduction

Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii* is a relict, monotypic species of the genus *Catreus* (Del Hoyo *et al.* 1994) and order Galliformes. It is an endemic species of the Himalayas (Grimmett *et al.* 1998)

restricted within a narrow belt from northeast Pakistan, through northern India to the Kaligandaki Valley in Western Nepal (Delacour 1977, Ali & Ripley 1998). The Cheer Pheasant's small population is naturally fragmented as it lives in successional habitats that are patchy in distribution. The global population of Cheer is estimated





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to be 2,000-2,700 mature individuals (BirdLife International 2017) whilst the Nepal population is estimated to be less than 1,000 birds (Inskipp *et al.* 2016). This species is categorized as Vulnerable (IUCN 2016), included under Appendix I of CITES and is one of nine protected birds of Nepal listed in the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2029 (NPWC 1973). It has been recently assessed as Endangered (based on the criteria A2acd and C2a (l)) (Inskipp *et al.* 2016) in Nepal. Cheer favours open forest with some grass cover and rocky crags, very precipitous terrain with scrub, tall grasses and stunted trees, and craggy hillsides supporting scrub and stunted trees (Singh *et al.* 2011). It breeds during the spring season (late April-early June) (Ali & Ripley 1983) when it gives sporadic and irregular calls throughout the day, but especially at dawn.

Although a number of studies has been conducted on Cheer in Nepal most of them have only concentrated in few areas around Kali Gandaki valley. The distribution map of cheer in Nepal is based on Inskipp *et al.* 2016.

Results and Discussion

All the information of the past Cheer records together with the recent study results are summarised in the table (see table 1).

The first Nepal record of the Cheer was in the 19th century (Hodgson 1844). First survey of Cheer was carried out by Lelliott and Yonzon 1980 but failed to encounter the species in western part of Nepal. The survey next year (1981) in Dhorpatan valley estimated about 50 to 100 individuals of Cheer (Lelliott 1981). Fleming *et al.* (1984) and Roberts (1980) have also reported an unspecified number of Cheer in Dhorpatan area. After a long gap of 22 years Subedi (2003) conducted field studies in Dhorpatan valley where he estimated Cheer population between 179 and 229 pairs (Subedi 2003, Singh *et al.* 2011). Similarly, in the lower Kali Gandaki valley

the population of Cheer was estimated to be 85-111 pairs in June 2004 (Acharya 2004) and 20-97 pairs in June 2006, a marginal decline, but considered statistically insignificant (Acharya *et al.* 2006). A survey in 2005 in the Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (DHR) buffer zone estimated 148-188 pairs of Cheer (Singh *et al.* 2011). A June 2009 survey of the Kaligandaki valley estimated a population of 25-37 pairs, a substantial decline by more than 54% and a low population density of 1 pair per km² but Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test suggesting that Cheer still survives in good numbers in the lower Kali Gandaki valley (Subedi 2009, Subedi 2013). In Rara National Park (RNP), 2005 survey estimate the Cheer population 9.48 to 14.22 pairs and a low population density of 2 pairs per km² (Budhathapa 2006, Singh 2009). In 2009 only 2 calling birds were recorded in RNP buffer zone (Singh 2009b, Singh and KC 2008). However, Thakuri (2012) who surveyed in a different area of the buffer zone to the north located 33 calling birds. Follow up survey by Basnet (2015) after a decade in Dhorpatan valley estimated 19 pairs with a mean population density of 6.61 birds/km² in 13 calling station. A comparative analysis between 2013 and 2003 revealed there was a decline of 36.7% in Cheer population. Similarly, survey of Cheer in Bajura by Basnet (2016) estimated

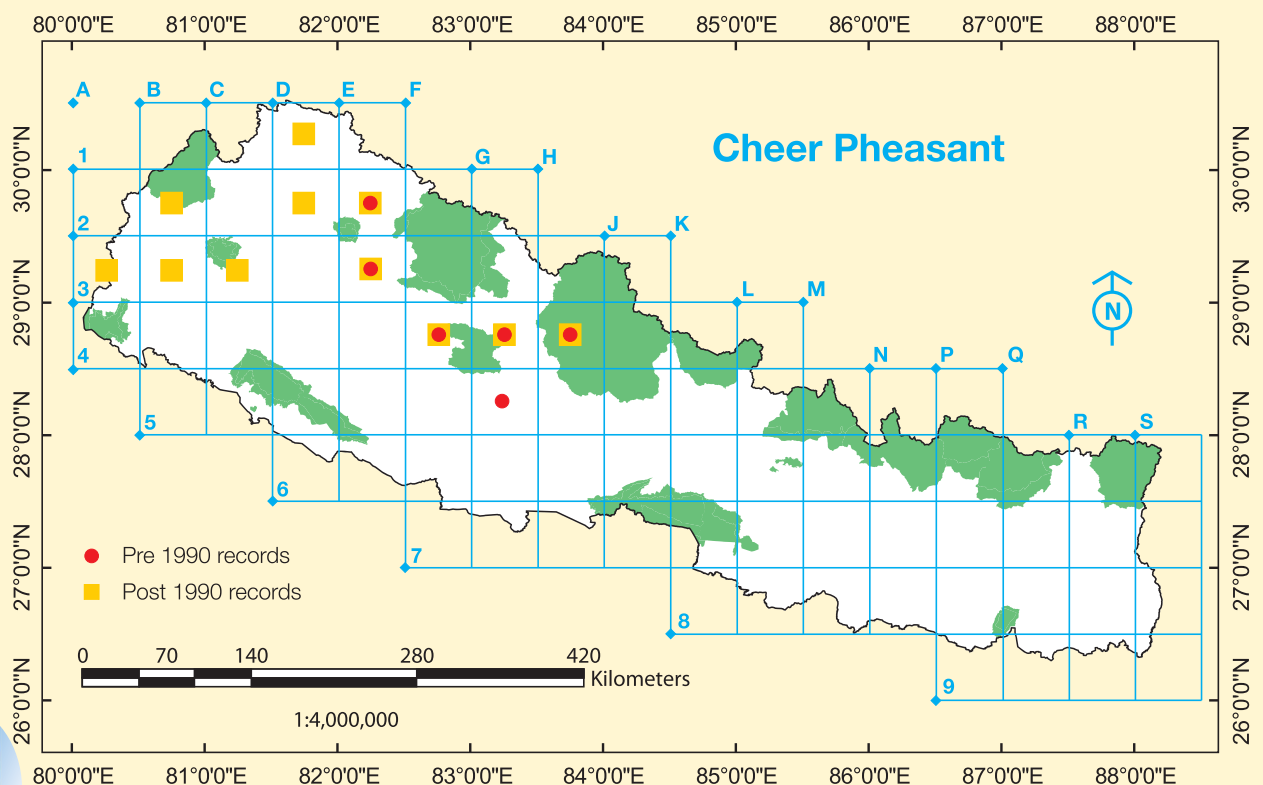


Figure 1. Distribution map of Cheer Pheasant (source Inskipp *et al.* 2016)



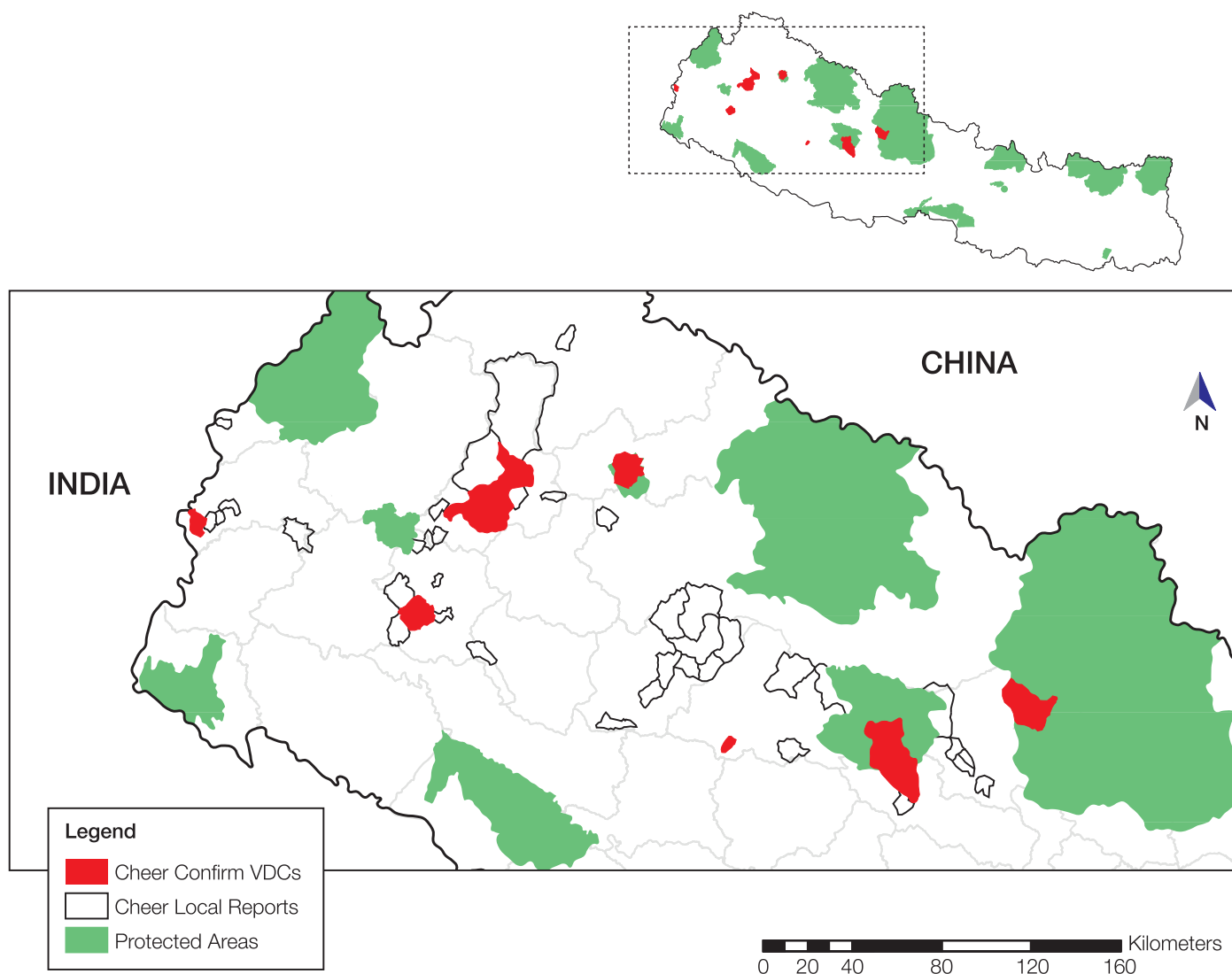


Figure 2. Cheer Pheasant distribution in different VDCs of Nepal with dark green indicating the presence of Cheer by scientific survey

the density of 7.77 pairs/km² in five calling station in Badimalika municipality. An ornithological survey of Api Nampa Conservation Area (ANCA), Nepal by Bird Conservation Nepal reported two calls heard at Kshetti village, Khandeswori VDC of ANCA (Thakuri and Prajapati 2012).

Based on available literature, altogether 12 scientific surveys on Cheer has been carried out in Nepal with focus on Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve and its proposed buffer zone, Kaligandaki Valley, Rara National Park and its buffer zone area and Far-west Nepal (Bajura, Achham, Baitadi districts). Most of these areas fall under protected area although Poudyal 2014, and Basnet 2016 carried out survey in far-west Nepal to validate its presence outside the protected area. Cheer is reported from 62 Village Development Committees (VDCs) from 14 districts in western, mid-western and far-western Nepal (Fig 1, Table 1). Within these VDCs, scientific survey confirms the Cheer presence from 15 VDCs from eight districts whereas local people and researcher reported Cheer presence from 47 VDCs in thirteen districts which is yet to be confirmed (Table 1). Cheer presence in Dadeldhura, Doti, Jajarkot, Rukum, Jumla districts are reported by different researchers and local people with high potential are predicted by the species distribution modelling done by Basnet 2015. But nothing can be commented on presence and current status of Cheer due to lack of scientific survey. Cheer receives some protection inside PAs but current data indicate 52 VDCs fall outside the

protected area. Snaring, hunting, overgrazing, deforestation and uncontrolled forest fires to promote grazing have been identified as the main threats to Cheer in Nepal (Acharya et al. 2011, Basnet 2016). These threats are particularly seen outside the protected areas where people are unknown about the Cheer and other species' conservation. Furthermore, Cheer habitats are patchy and populations are scattered in small numbers, isolated found near the human settlement partially dependent on the traditional agricultural landscape so encounter with Cheer and its nest is higher in those area where local people frequently go for cattle rearing, grasses and fodder collection. So, survey and conservation awareness should be focus outside the PAs where anthropogenic threat is maximum.

Cheer population is declining in most of its distributional range in Nepal and most of the potential area falls outside the protected area so conservation campaign should be launched to these areas to safeguard the remaining population of globally Vulnerable Cheer Pheasant. Presence/absence survey followed by population status, ecology and conservation in 47 VDCs reported by local people will be milestone for future management and conservation of Cheer in Nepal. Table 1. Survey carried out in Nepal along with presence of Cheer Pheasant reported by local people.

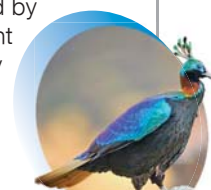


Table 1. Survey carried out in Nepal along with presence of Cheer Pheasant reported by local people.

SN	District	VDC	Confirm by survey	Reported by Local people	Source
1	Achham	Kuntibandali			Poudyal 2014
2	Achham	Basti			Poudyal 2014
3	Achham	Khaptad			Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
4	Achaam	Marku			Poudyal 2014
5	Achham	Bhairabstan			Budha 2006, Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
6	Achham	Devistan			Poudyal 2014
7	Achham	Batala			Budha 2006, Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
8	Achham	Siudi			Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
9	Achham	Sera			Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
10	Baglung	Bobang (DHR)			Singh et al. 2011
11	Baglung	Muri			Singh et al. 2011
12	Baitadi	Kulau			Poudyal 2014
13	Baitadi	Mahakali			Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
14	Baitadi	Maharudra			Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
15	Baitadi	Durgastan			Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
16	Baitadi	Shivanath			Basnet 2016
17	Baitadi	Aamchaur			Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
18	Bajura	Dogati			Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
19	Bajura	Aatichaur			Basnet 2016
20	Bajura	Barbish			Basnet 2016
21	Bajura	Manakot			Basnet 2016
22	Bajura	Jukot			Basnet 2016
23	Bajura	Dahakot			Basnet 2016
24	Bajura	Pandusain			Basnet 2016
25	Bajura	Bichchya			Basnet 2016
26	Bajura	Martadi			Basnet 2016
27	Bajura	Jugada			Basnet 2016
28	Bajura	Kolti			Basnet 2016
29	Bajura	Budiganga			Basnet 2016
30	Dadeldhura	Belapur			Poudyal 2014 and Basnet 2016
31	Doti	Timilsain			Budha 2006
32	Doti	Kanachaur			Budha 2006, Poudyal 2014
33	Humla	Simikot			Ghimirey 2011
34	Jajarkot	Nayakwada			Kantipur daily
35	Jajarkot	Rokayagaun			Kantipur daily
36	Jajarkot	Ragda			Kantipur daily
37	Jajarkot	Bhagwati			Kantipur daily
38	Jajarkot	Dhime			Kantipur daily
39	Jajarkot	Sagla			Bhusal and Poudel 2015
40	Jajarkot	Ramidanda			Kantipur daily
41	Jajarkot	Laha			Kantipur daily
42	Jajarkot	Jhapra			Kantipur daily
43	Jajarkot	Sima			Kantipur daily
44	Jajarkot	Khagenkot			Kantipur daily
45	Jumla	Dhapa			Budha 2006
46	Jumla	Jumlabazzar			Inskippet al.2016
47	Mugu	Dhanaikot			Budha 2006
48	Mugu	Rara (RNP)			Thakuri 2012
49	Mustang	Kochepani(ACA)			Subedi 2003
50	Mustang	Lete (ACA)			Acharya 2005
51	Mustang	Kobhang (ACA)			Acharya 2005
52	Mustang	Kunjo (ACA)			Acharya 2005
53	Myagdi	Dana			Birdlife International 2001
54	Myagdi	Arman			
55	Myagdi	Thakam			Basnet 2015
56	Myagdi	Muna			Basnet 2015
57	Myagdi	Gurgakhani (DHR)			Basnet 2015, Subedi 2003



58	Myagdi	Sisne, Okharbot			Subedi 2003
59	Rukum	Mahat			Basnet 2015
60	Rukum	Takasera(DHR)			Subedi 2003, Basnet 2015
61	Rukum	Maikot (DHR)			Subedi 2003
62	Darchula	Kandeshwori (ANCA)			Thakuri and Prajapati 2012
		Total	15	47	

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our deep gratitude to Oriental Bird Club (OBC) and World Pheasant Association (WPA) for funding the survey work at Far-western Nepal. Similarly, Special thanks go to IUCN SSC Galliformes Specialist Group and Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF) for technical support. Furthermore, we would like to thank Mr. Ganga Shah, Mr. Gobinda Rana and Mr. Nanda Lal Joshi for assisting during the field survey.

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The Story of a BCN Volunteer's Adventurous Journey to Nepal's Far West Region.

Benj Smelt

When coming from India to Nepal, on 3 April 2015, I never expected life to become as intense and fascinating as it did. For me, being an experienced travelling ornithologist all over South America, Asia, and now especially Nepal, brings a totally new dimension to this experience.

While waiting to be sent to Bardia National Park by the BCN, on the 25th of April occurred this unforgiving natural event that we call the disaster of the earthquake. I remember being in a house that suddenly had changed in to a rollercoaster while the floor shook up and down so hard that it was difficult to walk away from it. When coming outside we saw a 10 story building sway like a reed in the wind, nonstop for almost half an hour. While aftershocks never seemed to stop for a week, Nature surely had a crush on us, expressing its innate universal powers.

With a delay of 10 days, Ishana Thapa (BCN) send me to the quake unaffected Area of Bardia Where Puja Gurung, BCN field staff and Ram Shahi, Chairman of Bardia Nature Conservation Club (BCN Local Conservation Group) received me with a whole range of activities: Training, Awareness, Survey's, Bird Checklist and Maps. Ram, a major bird specialist in Bardia, and I found two new species for the official Bardia Checklist, one being the Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera* and the other being new also for the official Nepali Bird list: the Mottled Wood Owl *Strix ocellata*. Here the description of the event:

One evening, on 17 June, just before sunset, I decided to take the bicycle from Ram's 'Royal Tiger Lodge', where I was staying, to go for some night-birding in the riverine forests of Dalla Corridor, close to shores of the Karnali River.

When I heard some unknown sounds coming from a grove near the river, known as a Rhino corridor, I walked over to record it. As I approached the spot, recognizing as the roosting place of the Owls, they started flying in the trees around me. Having still some light of day I could have a good look at them: having no horns and being large Owls it was clear they were Wood Owls, of the 'Stix' family. Because of hearing two so different types of calls, there was a hooping and a quavering resonance, my first erroneous impression was that two types of Owls were present.

Back home, I listened through my collection of sounds and confirmed the Stix related hooping but could not find the resonant sound, neither in the Xeno Canto data base. The more surprised we were when an exact match was found in Ram's extended collection of Indian Sub-Continent species. This time of a Stix not previously recorded in Nepal: the Mottled Wood Owl. Now I did find the sounds in Xeno Canto and posted my recordings in the site's 'Mystery Sounds' pages, from where some interesting responses confirmed the ID saying that this was the waking-up call for the species.

Needing a witness, I took Ram, three days later, to the area where we saw and heard the same scene. The sounds, were send to the BCN-Rare-Species-Team, where it was identified as a new species for Nepal. Since then the species has been photographed at the same site.

It is clear that this species was 'overlooked' before, having been reported from India close to the Nepali border, there was no good reason for it not to be in Nepal. Just now, a new report of a sighting had come to us, from Vulture Restaurant area in Chitwan National



Park. A previously as Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* identified couple proves to be a Mottled Wood Owl. Hopefully more recordings and sightings will soon follow elsewhere in the lowlands of Nepal.

April, May and June, I stayed in Bardia, being the hottest season of the year with temperatures rising up to 45 degrees. It's being also the most devastating season because of its notorious forest fires. A shocking experience to see the forest floors, a vital habitat and food source for many species, being burned down, especially when learning that those are mainly man made. Locals burn to get new fresh grass for their livestock and are allowed to do so in some cases. But as this happens uncontrolled in most occasions, it then spreads and burns the undergrowth in protected areas also. This problem should urgently become Bardia's first priority, now, after having tackled successfully poaching problems in the past. This is to allow the Park's eco-systems to flourish and eco-tourism popularity to grow.

As it is an annual short term problem it is easily forgotten, and when it happens again nobody seems to notice anymore. Its catastrophic impact on the biodiversity and on the public image of the NP is underestimated though and crippling its progress.

Then June came, all desperately hoping for the monsoon to arrive, BCN send me even further West:

To the wetland of Ghodaghodi Lake Area (GLA). Here it was Hirulal Dangaura (BCN field staff) who took me under his wings to survey the area and to discover all the new species possible. We made a comprehensive compiled checklist with all the surveys conducted since 1992. Also including one of the Churia Hills (up to 1400 m. altitude) apparently belonging to the GLA. A total of 34 new species were added to the previous list of which eight were discovered by us. Mainly in the nightly hours, I discovered an incredible three new Owl species and two new Nightjars.

Now, if this sounds all so magnificent, you might be disappointed again. First consider that most of those 'new' species were previously overlooked due to difficult altitudinal or nightly conditions. Then reality shows us that the area's biodiversity is severely degraded. Its ecosystem is in a critical state and more species are missing than new have been found. Some important species have become rare or locally extinct; indicator species like the Asian Woolly-neck *Ciconia episcopus*, Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* and Open-bill Stork *Anastomus oscitans*, Yellow-wattled *Vanellus malabaricus*, Gray-headed *Vanellus cinereus* and River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*, Pheasant-Tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* and even the 'easy' Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*. Lacking wetland raptors like Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Gray-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*, and Brown Wood Owl used to be common breeding

species just a few years ago. This, to name but the most obvious.

Human dependency and with that human pressure on nature is so big that its resilience is collapsing. Locals, especially migrating from the mountain, come encroaching in and take whatever is left of this precious gem and manmade fishponds are turning the lakes into ecologically dead water bodies. Everybody is allowed in, groups of hunters with forbidden weapons can be seen roaming around, and nobody is there to keep a watchful eye. Evidence of the damage is everywhere: nesting holes of Owls and Hornbills have been cut open to steal the young for trade, trees with Storks or Ibis nests are carved in to be able to climb up and steal the eggs. Last year 14 Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* chicks were found at a house of a poacher and 'fisherman' where caught using pesticides to hunt waterfowl. No wonder why you never hear a Peacock or see one of the three species of Turtles, our indigenous fellow man has devoured them all.

One day, after having conducted a successful awareness program in the idyllic community village of Lathuwa, we were told by the local chief of the community forest, that someone there was having an Owl captive in his house. So when we asked for it to be seen our surprise was enormous when a juvenile male Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* with cut wing-feathers was brought out to us. Their story was that they had found it injured in the forest, but when I told them that it was illegal to take away a protected species from its habitat, they got nervous and left the bird with us. I had no other option then to take it to my homestay to take care of it. And bring it back to nature.

The bird was traumatized, injured on one leg, crippled by its wing-cuttings, starved and dehydrated, the latter of which was the first to resolve by giving it some syringes of water down its throat.

The next few days it was fed loads of frogs, good that there were plenty, and it recovered quickly from its leg-injury and trauma. Soon it got used to me started to communicate with soft quacking sounds. I had made it a nice perch in front of the window where it could climb up and down as it was given live frogs to catch, it also could flap its wings as juveniles do. After a week it started to exercise its wings more intense and it showed its desire to get away, back home. So after some improvements in feeding itself I came up with a flight test, a try-out. I would let it out on a flat area to see how far it would fly while I still would be able to get it back for feeding.

First day it flew only two meters, not getting up at all. Second day I put it up on a higher perch when it flew 10 meters and landed on the ground where it was still easy to catch. Then the third day it first flew an incredible 50 meters and as it landed on a low treetop, it started to cry a victory call so impressively. It got down to be fed again, after which I raised it to its high perch and when it flew once more I lost it, or better to say, it got back to where it belonged: the jungle.

As a true father to his lost son, I got worried sick, but deep in my heart I knew it was alright. Five days after that it was seen by a shepherd boy, who had tried to catch it, scaring it away.

A success story of saving one bird was an example of how to be with nature for everybody. Pragmatic conservation is urgently necessary in difficult to protect areas as GLA. Awareness, direct care and protection through monitoring and patrolling habitats by the community that is depending upon it, is the only way to save this jewel of a wetland.

I want to thank BCN for their efforts to do so, and for sending me to the Far West as a witness of its vital state and to publish this article as a journal of an incredible journey.



**‘चरलाई चार’
अभियानमा सहकार्य गरौं।**

**a BCN initiative to save Nepal's endangered birds.
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News

Membership

Dipak Bishwokarma has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Bishwokarma has long experience in working with (I/NGOs) on community based natural resource management, climate change adaptation, and local livelihood sectors in Nepal.

Kriti Nepal has joined BCN as a Life Member. She is currently working as a Policy and Advocacy Officer at BCN.

Prakash Lamsal has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Lamsal is a highly experienced forester and currently Under Secretary at Community Forestry Division of Department of Forest.

Ankit Bilash Joshi has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Joshi is currently working as a Field Biologist at BCN.

Bikalpa Karki has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Karki is currently working as a Veterinary Officer at BCN.

Ishwari Chaudhary has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Chaudhary is currently working as a Vulture Field Technician at BCN.

Programme/Project Update

Inauguration of Ranibari Community Forest - Bird & Biodiversity Learning Center on the Occasion of BCN Day

On the occasion of BCN Day, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) inaugurated Bird & Biodiversity Learning Center on 24 April 2017 at Ranibari Community Forest, Kathmandu. With an objective to conserve the urban biodiversity and manage the LCF as a model forest for bird and biodiversity conservation, BCN along with RCF initiated its construction last September. The learning center was inaugurated by Hari Saran 'Kazi', founder president of BCN.



Ishana Thapa, Director, BCN said that the research center is an attempt to benefit all the urban conservation enthusiasts like students and BCN members who could learn about birds, biodiversity at convenient location.

"It is a coincidence that our first bird observation began from this very place some 40 years ago. I still

remember we observed almost 62 species of birds back then", said Hari Saran Kazi. Mr. Kazi also showcased almost century old bird paintings by Raj Man Chitrakar. The event came to its closure with concluding remarks from Yubraj Basnet, President of BCN.

World Environment Day 2017 Celebration

World Environment Day - Connecting people to nature, 2017 concluded with "Rally and Award Distribution Program" organized by NTNC ZOO, Lalitpur Metropolitan, IUCN, WWF Nepal and BCN on June 5, 2017 at Lalitpur.



The event began early morning with a parade round the city. Thousands of people including students, teachers, and consortium partners participated holding play cards, attractive banners that sent the message of strong bond between human and nature. Veteran Culture expert and Litterateur Satya Mohan Joshi and newly elected Mayor of Lalitpur, Chiri Babu Maharjan graced the event as Chief and Special guests respectively. Various schools, students, teachers were awarded by the guests for their creative and constructive artworks for environment conservation. On the very occasion, poster of "Cranes of Nepal" published by BCN was launched by the chief guest.

World Environment Day is an annual phenomena celebrated with various activities prior to the event. BCN with support of NTNC and NTNC- ZOO lead "Nature Walk and Bird Watching" for government officials, bird lovers on 27th May at Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, Panimuhan, Kathmandu and "Bird Watching at Ranibari" for student members of Friend of Zoo on 30 May 2017.

Sixth Regional Steering Committee for Vulture Conservation Meeting Held in Kathmandu

Sixth Regional steering committee for vulture conservation meeting was held in Kathmandu on 28 June 2017. The meeting brought together a number of organizations and experts from vulture range countries in South Asia; Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan to develop and implement a regional response to save the critically endangered South Asian vulture species from extinction.





The meeting was chaired by the Secretary for Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation Mr. Prakash Mathema, under the Co-chairmanship of the Deputy Regional Director of IUCN Asia Dr. Tej Pal Singh, comprised of member delegates and representatives from government line ministries, national vulture recovery committee, conservation partners, institutions, researchers and specialists. Representatives from Nepal included those from the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Department of Forests, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), IUCN Nepal, WWF Nepal and ZSL Nepal.

Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, joint secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation presented the review of 5th RSC meeting minutes and followed the country-wise presentations made by the respective delegates from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

The meeting focused on the progress on vulture conservation and breeding centers (VCBC), the establishment of vulture safe zones (VSZ), Vulture Safe Feeding Site (VSFS), pharmacy surveys, awareness and advocacy, carcass monitoring and sampling, activities related to vulture tagging, release and monitoring, research and findings with country-specific success cases, lessons and challenges. In addition to the RSC member countries presentation Mr. Krishna Bhusal, Vulture Conservation Program Officer at BCN presented the pioneer initiation and progress on Nepal Vulture Release Plan. Nepal along with its other RSC members fully committed to heighten focus in some of the persistent challenges in the South Asia Vulture Recovery Program.

Nepal handed over the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Chair to Bangladesh on this meeting and the 7th RSC meeting is expected to be conducted by Bangladesh later this year in November.

Training of Trainers to forest officials at Kathmandu for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry

Four days long Training of Trainers (ToT) for forest officials

(Trainers) was organized by BCN on 18th May to 21st May at Kathmandu.

The main objective of the programme was to provide training to forest officials from different districts of Nepal based on recently prepared training manual to make them aware about incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem services related components into the operation plan of community forests.

Altogether 25 participants from district forest offices, DoF, FECOFUN, HIMAWANTI, Regional Forest Training Centers, COFSUN and DNPWC were present.



Regional training to forest officials in Surkhet and Pokhara

Five days long Regional level training for rangers and forest officers was organized by BCN on 26 to 30 May 2017 at Mid-western region, Surkhet and Western region, Pokhara.



The main objective of the programme was to provide training to forest officials from different districts of mid-western region and Western region based on recently prepared training manual to make them aware about incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem services related components into the operation plan of community forests.

Altogether 24 participants from district forest offices and national parks were present representing from Humla, Jumla, Banke, Bardia, Piuthan, Salyan, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Bajura and Surkhet at the program in Surkhet. Similarly, 22 participants were present representing Parbat, Syanja, Kaski, Baglung, Manang, Lamjung, Myagdi, Baglung and Nawalparasi at the program in Pokhara.



Conservation pond constructed

With financial support of BCN, D-gaira community forest users group (CFUG) has constructed a conservation pond within the area of D-gaira community forest Resunga. Conservation pond will collectively help in water resources, biodiversity conservation and also benefit farmers with irrigation facility within area of conservation pond.



Drip Irrigation System Distributed

BCN is implementing a three year project "Integrating livelihood and conservation" in Resunga forest of Gulmi district. With an objective to uplift the livelihood of the poor communities, drip irrigation system was

distributed to the poor farmers of Balithum, Jhuhung and Paralmi VDCs where there is shortage of water. Farmers from these VDCs expressed their happiness as they can irrigate their field with sufficient water and increase their production.



Training on Bird Identification and Monitoring to Forest Guards and Ex-poachers Committee

Bird Conservation Network with BCN organized Training on Bird Identification and Monitoring to forest guards on 18-19 May 2017 at sukhad, kailali. Altogether 38 forest guards actively participated in the training.



Likewise similar training was organized to Ex-poachers committee and CFUGs on 28-29 May 2017 at sukhad, kailali. Altogether 28 CFUG representatives and Ex poachers actively participated in the training.

Support for Vegetable farming in Rara

BCN supported greenhouse for vegetable farming to ten bufferzone user committee. Among them six user committee Rajakot, Kailash Bajedi, Khesuwa mailka, Rawalkot, Kanaka Sundari and Botamalika are doing very well since they are producing vegetable for self-consumption as well for selling also. The user committees are capable of producing different kind of vegetables varieties such as Cauliflower, Radish, Carrot, Tomato, Chilli, Onion, Mustard leaf, Potato. They are farming vegetables in two seasons.



In Murma village, the Greenhouse number increased from ten to thirty. Ten was supported by BCN; ten was supported by Rara Agriculture Co-operative Ltd. and other was by individual themselves.



Bio gas support to local communities in Bardia

Sixty households in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park, 30 in Manau VDC and 30 in Kareliya VDC has been supported with biogas and toilet construction where they have reduced their forest dependency to 50% and also health benefit through no smoke on cooking and toilet facilities.



Donation

BCN welcomes all kinds of support from individuals and institutions. You can even help us by providing us your camera, binocular, telescope, scientific equipment etc. Further more, we will also be grateful if any one provides educational materials for our library. All support will be duly acknowledged.



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.

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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 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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**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 120 organisations around the world, BCN also works on a worldwide agenda to conserve the world's birds and their habitats.

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