



जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DoWR, RD & GR



BIRD DIVERSITY OF NAINI LAKE CATCHMENT

Authors
Nidhi Singh
Manya Singh

Illustrator
Nidhi Singh

NOTE

Seasonality at
Nainital is
indicated by color.



Summer visitor



Winter visitor



Throughout the year



Passage visitor



Rarely seen

In the interest of clarity and convenience, the area specific bird species have been arranged into different categories based on their foraging and habitat behaviour.

Disclaimer

CEDAR always supports law abiding act of birdwatching and photography and does not specifically encourage any kind of call playback or bird nest photography, as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"Bird Diversity of Naini Lake Catchment" is a cooperative effort that was not possible without the help, contribution, hard work, and support of many individuals.

We were especially inspired by the local bird watchers of Nainital who shared their interests, insights, and knowledge with us. This book could not have taken its present shape without Nainital's citizen scientists, bird watchers, and photographers Mr. Sumit Bhakuni, Mr. Sanjay Bora, Mr. Rajesh Panwar, Ms. Sheela Panwar, Mr. Mahendra Mohan Bisht, Mr. Ramesh C. Pandey, Dr. Renu Suyal, Mr. Akshat Pratap, Mr. Shikhar Kaushik and Mr. Virendra Singh Bisht, who provided us with data of trails, treks, the distribution, checklist, and related information about the birds we have documented here. We, at CEDAR, would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all of them.

We remain immensely grateful for the funding support we have received from Ms. Archana Verma (Secretary, NWM), Shri J.P. Singh (Deputy Secretary, NWM), Shri Karambeer (Deputy Director, NWM), Shri Lokesh Meena (Assistant Director, NWM), Shri Suneel Arora (Advisor, NWM) and Dr. R. P. Pandey (Member Secretary, INCCC NIH). The support and encouragement from our funding partners to make data and research accessible to the public have been the reason behind the timely completion of this book.

We sincerely thank Ms. Vandana Singh District magistrate of Nainital, who has been supportive in our efforts. We are grateful for the institutional support we have received from the Irrigation Department, Jal Sansthan, Lake Development Authority, Nagar Palika of Nainital and an active group of locals popularly known as "Citizens for Nainital".

We are also thankful to the District Disaster Management Office, Nainital for their support.

We would like to express our special gratitude and thanks to Dr. Ghazala Shahabuddin for helping in conceptualize the idea, methodology and referring us to the basics of ornithology. We are grateful for her time and guidance.

The list would remain incomplete without credit to Mr. Shikhar Kaushik for making the checklist and Mr. Laraib Ahmad for designing a well-informed map of the trails.

Lastly, we are grateful to our Chairman, Dr. Rajesh Thadani and Coordinator, Dr. Anvita Pandey for making this venture possible. Last but not least, we are extremely grateful to Dr. Vishal Singh, Principal Investigator for allowing us to pursue the idea.



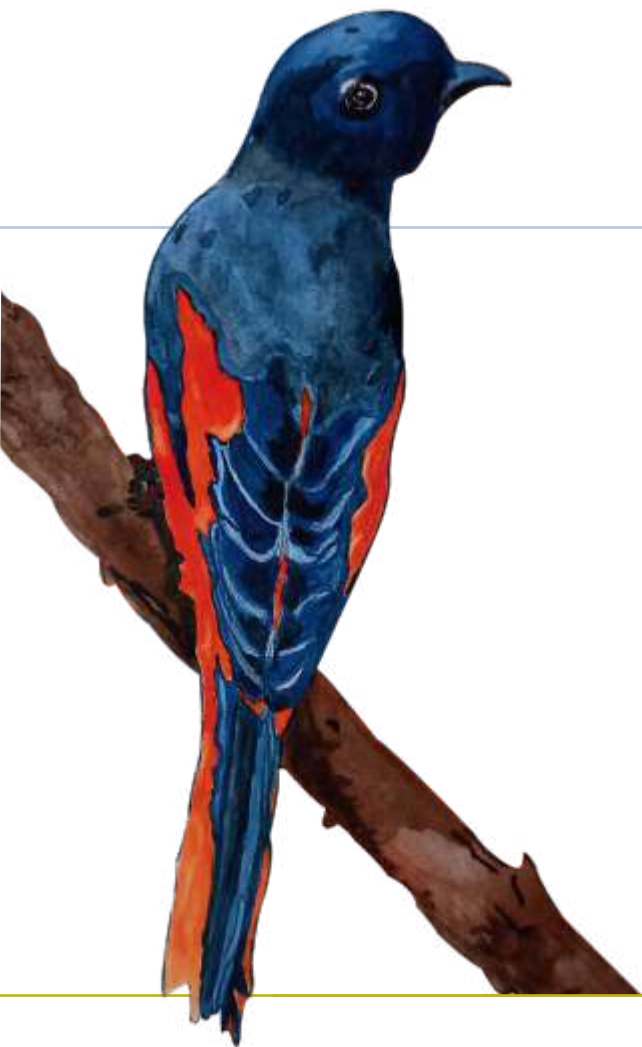
PREFACE

The project "Hydro-geological Assessment and Socio-Economic Implications of Depleting Water Resources in Nainital" funded by National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti (M- 65022/3/2018-NWM/1542) provided an opportunity to explore all that is not easily seen and understood to the common eye in a tourist town, named Nainital. Nainital is bestowed with a bean shaped lake, which is set in a valley at an altitude of 1937m above sea level surrounded by seven hills (Devpatta, Ayarpatta, Hani Bani, Ladiyakata, Sher ka Danda, Naina, and Alma) and is essentially a gateway to the upper reaches of Himalaya in the Kumaon.

To understand the complete community structure of the lake, it is important to understand the interactions between the lake and its bio-physical environment.

Various studies indicate that birds are good indicator of environment health because they occur in almost all habitats and are sensitive to environmental change. The current study is an attempt to document the bird species found in Nainital lake catchment. Since such studies are lacking, this document will act as a baseline for the future researchers under rapidly urbanizing and changing landscape of Nainital due to anthropogenic and climate change scenarios.

There are many bird hotspots in the Nainital region such as Kilbury-Pangot Bird Sanctuary, Maheshkhan forest, Sattal lake, etc., but very few individuals know about the unfamiliar trails inside the town. We have curated a list of birds found in seven interesting treks and trails with the data contribution from the citizens of Nainital.



In this book, we have documented 131 birds from the Himalayas inhabiting Nainital town (catchment and sub-catchment area of Naini lake). We have also mentioned birds in the checklist for which photographic evidence was not available through crowdsourcing method. To avoid the mix-up because of the inconsistency in the common and vernacular names, we have not kept them in the description. In the spirit of educating beginners effortlessly about the birds of the Himalaya, we have used simple parameters. For the size of the birds, popular method by famous ornithologists Salim Ali have been used for the sake of consistency.



I N T R O

Citizen science initiatives contribute essential insights in monitoring and understanding the health and dynamics of ecosystems (Njue, et al., 2019). Collecting pictures and basic information of birds through citizen science can play a crucial role in demonstrating birds as ecological indicators of ecosystems. Engaging local communities and citizen scientists in basic bird data collection fosters a sense of responsibility for their local ecosystems and encourages their active participation in conservation efforts (Kobori, et al., 2016). This collaborative effort involves enthusiasts and birdwatchers of all skill levels, making it a powerful tool for democratizing science and broadening public awareness about the environment and avian diversity.

Birds are charismatic and easily observable creatures that play integral roles within ecosystems, such as in pollination and insect control. Some bird species are recognized as indicator species due

D U C T I O N

to their sensitivity to environmental changes.

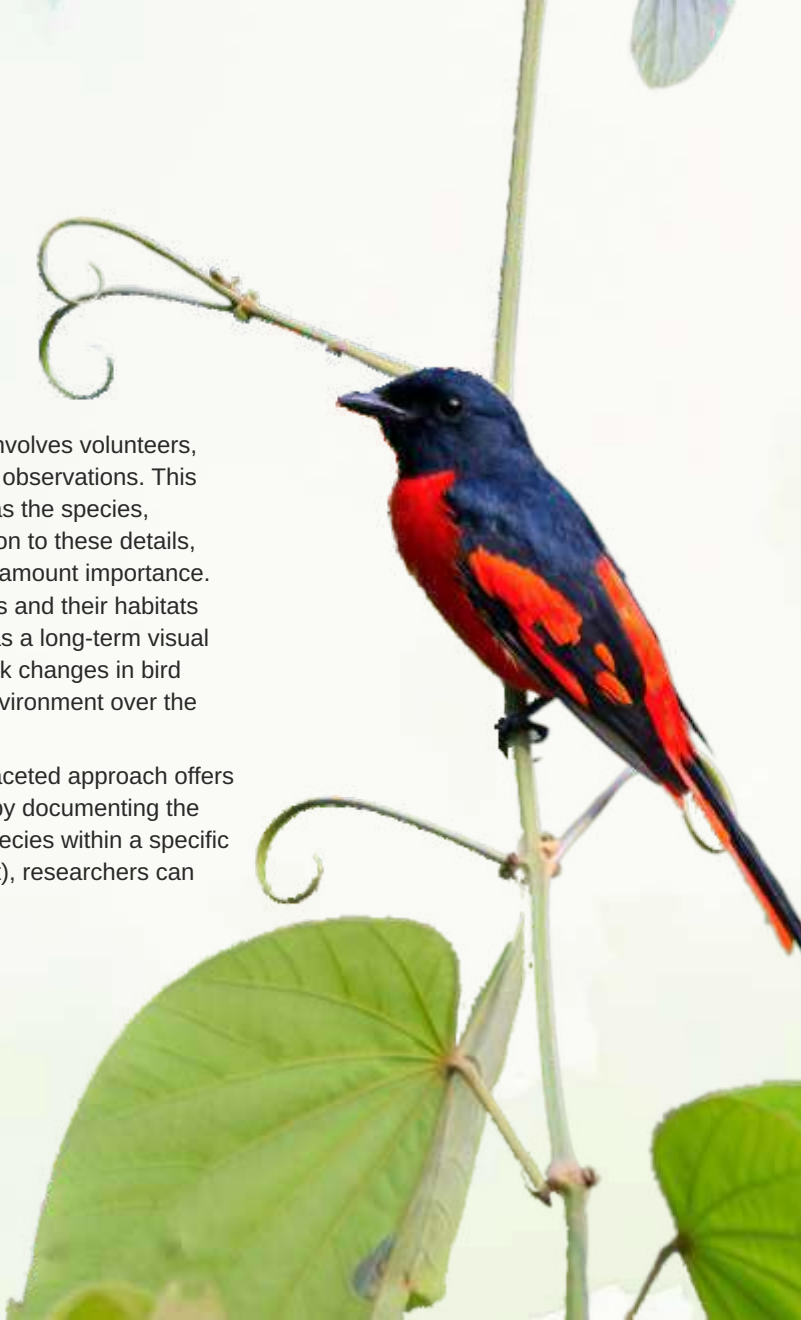
Documenting the presence and behavior of these species through pictures can provide early warning signs of ecosystem disturbance in terms of habitat degradation or pollution.

Moreover, changes in bird distribution and behavior can be indicative of broader environmental changes, including the impacts of climate change.



Citizen bird monitoring typically involves volunteers, recording various aspects of bird observations. This includes basic information such as the species, location, date, and time. In addition to these details, the collection of pictures is of paramount importance. The visual documentation of birds and their habitats through photographs can serve as a long-term visual record, enabling scientists to track changes in bird populations as well as in local environment over the time.

In the current context, this multifaceted approach offers several key advantages. Firstly, by documenting the presence and behavior of bird species within a specific ecosystem (Naini lake catchment), researchers can



obtain valuable insights into the overall health and biodiversity of that area. Secondly, a comprehensive check list of bird species and photographic evidence of their presence can serve as a tangible record of the ecological richness of the catchment area. Thirdly, birds are often highly specialized in their habitat requirements, and capturing images of them in their specific habitats can help identify and protect critical ecosystems. For instance, the presence of water birds indicates the state of lake ecosystem, while forest-dwelling bird species are indicative of the health of forests come under the catchment area. Furthermore, migratory patterns of birds may also provide valuable data on ecosystem conditions of Nainital.

This book not only catalogues the numerous bird species of Naini lake catchment area but also explores their behavior, habitats, seasonality and the conservation status which can further contributes to a comprehensive database that can be used to assess the health of ecosystems. Additionally, pictures of birds serve as powerful educational tools for informing the public and policymakers about the significance of preserving natural ecosystems of Nainital and the role of birds as ecological indicators. By comparing data from different locations in the same catchment area over a long time period, researchers can easily identify trends and potential threats to both bird species and the ecosystems they inhabit. Above all of that, involving citizens not only promotes environmental stewardship but also fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among local communities for their natural surroundings. In this way, citizen scientists can become advocates for conservation and drive local initiatives to protect their environment. Additionally, such collaborative initiative often establishes a stronger connection between people and nature in their own backyards.

GLOSSARY

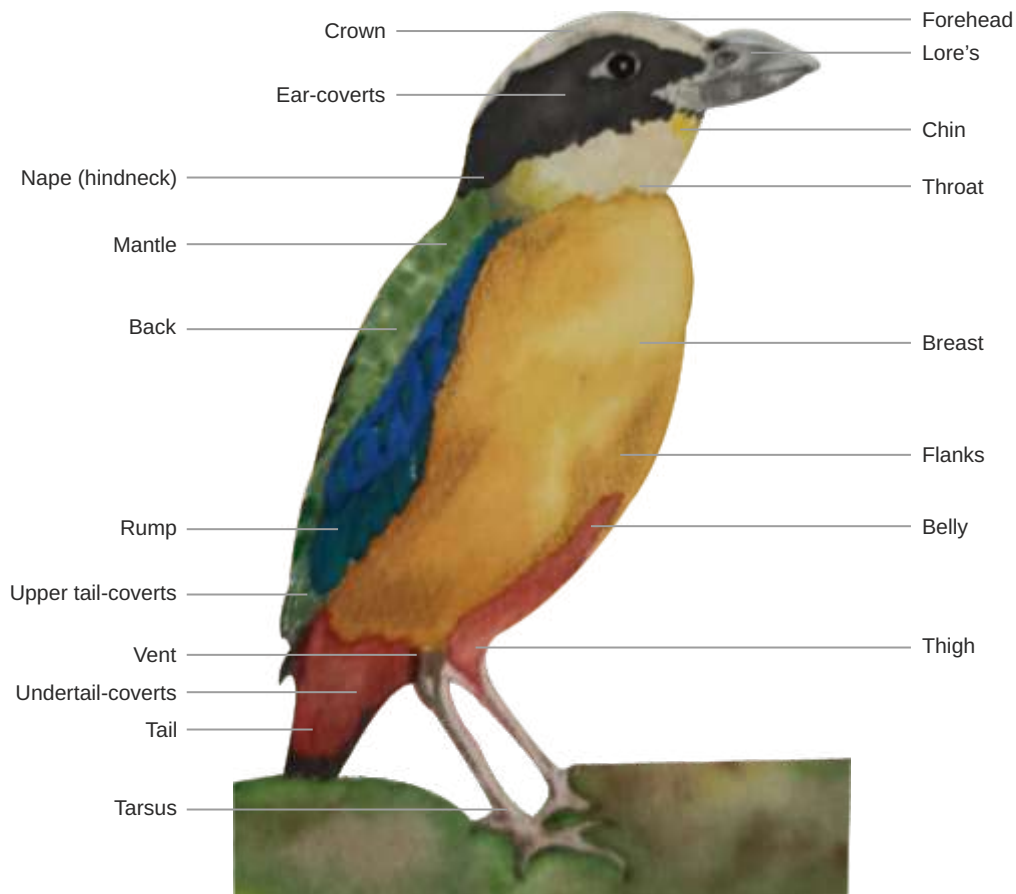
Acorn	A small nut of Oak tree
Arboreal	Living in trees especially upper branches
Alpine	Climatic zone occurs at high elevation
Barred	Having horizontal bands
Bill	Beak
Bib	Patch on the throat known as bib
Breeds	Produce young ones
Brood parasite	Birds that outsource another breeding bird's nest for the raising of their young ones
Canopy	Top layer/crown of the tree
Corvid	Member of crow family
Coverts	Smaller feathers
Contact call	Birds make call to keep in touch with each other
Crown	Upper part of the head
Crest	Group of feathers on the top of a bird's head
Cryptic colored	Camouflage
Endangered	A species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction
Feral	Living wild
Flank	Side part of the body
Foliage	Leaves of a plant
Forage	Search for food
Frugivorous	Feeding on fruit
Game	Particular category of bird especially used for food and sport
Gorget	Band across the breast like a necklace
Ground dwelling	Birds that are generally found on the ground not only for foraging but also for nesting
Hover	Kind of bird flight

Lobed toes	A swimming foot with a series of lateral lobes on the toes
Lore	Region between the eye and bill
Mallard	Wild duck
Migrant	Bird that moves from one place to another according to the season
Mixed species	A flock of different species
Nape	The back part of neck
Omnivorous	Birds that have the ability to eat and survive on both plant and animal matter
Passerine	Perching birds including song birds
Plumes	Arrangement of long and short feathers
Plumage	Bird's feathers
Prey	Bird that primarily hunt and feed on vertebrates
Raptor	Preys also known as raptor
Raucous	Loud and unpleasant
Repertoire	Multiple versions of song performed by male bird
Ruddy	Wading bird
Rufous	Reddish brown in colour
Rump	Body part immediately above the tail
Sap	Substance comes out from the openings/wounds of tree trunk
Salmon colored	A range of pinkish-orange to light pink colours
Sedentary	Not active much
Supercilium	Plumage feature found on the heads of some bird
Treeline	Edge of the habitat at high elevation where trees can grow
Threatened	At risk
Understory	An underlying layer of vegetation
Vegetation	An assemblage of plant species
Vent	Area closer to under tail coverts
Vulnerable	Likely to become endangered
Wetland	Distinct ecosystem that is flooded by water
Wingbar	A stripe found on the upper wing

HOW TO

There are many indicators to identify birds such as bills, plumage colour, crests, wing bars, eye lines, rump and vent patches, white superciliary (eyebrow feathers), legs, tails, breast, throat and chin colour etc. Behavioural practices generally pertain to - bird hitching up or down a tree, is it running or hopping, hovering, gliding, or soaring, flapping constantly, having undulating flight, etc. Songs and call notes are all species-specific. There are lots of clues. All you must do is put them together and mark them in the book. We are here to help!

IDENTIFY



TRAILS

We have focused on the lesser traipsed trails which are known to the locals of the town and provide a "more than tourist" experience to the people, those who are beginning their journey within nature and trying to understand the mysteries of the natural world.

1

3.2 Km

Around the Naini lake

2

1.5 Km

DSB campus to Ayarpata

3

1 Km

Land's end to Tiffin top

4

3.2 Km

Botanical Garden to Barapatthar

5

1.5 Km

Polytechnic to Satyanarayan temple

6

1 Km

Monastery area (Mallital rickshaw stand to Snow viewpoint)

7

3.2 Km

Governor's residence



Governor's
Polytechnic

Botanical
Garden

4



Satya Narayan
Temple

China Peak

Snow View

Sukhatal

High Court

B.D. Pandey
Hospital

Rickshaw
Stand

Stadium

Mallital

Naini Lake

Mall Road

Tiffin Top

Kumaon
University

D.S.B. Campus

Ayarpata

Sherwood
College

G.B Pant High
Altitude Zoo

Tallital

Bus
Stand

Temple

St. Joseph's
College

Governor's
Residence

In the interest of clarity and convenience, the area specific bird species have been arranged into the following seven categories based on their foraging and habitat behaviour -

Arboreal Birds

Arboreal birds spend most of their time in trees and dense foliage. These birds have adapted legs and feet for perching. They forage in holes and tree cavities looking for insects and seeds and tend to be insectivorous or frugivorous.

(Bulbuls, Barbets, Parakeets, Woodpeckers, Cuckoos, Tits, warblers, Flycatchers, Drongos, Sunbirds and Green Pigeon, Flowerpeckers, Tailorbirds, Bullfinches, Grossbeaks and Broadbills)

Ground Feeding

Ground feeding birds are those which prefer to feed from the ground. It is Birds a variegated group, mainly terrestrial.

(Doves, Babblers, Chats, Thrushes, Finches, Partridges, Pheasants, Redstarts, Magpies, Crows, Sparrows, Munias, Pipits, Accentors and Buntings)

Aerial Feeding

These birds accomplishing many essential activities in the air and Birds spending much of its life in flight. They also have a variety of other physical and behavioural adaptations that support a life lived primarily in the air.

(Swallows, Sibilas and Bee eaters)

Water Birds

There are many kinds of water bird. It is a diverse group, consists of those birds that swim and walk in water or live near the water, especially lakes and rivers.

(Cormorants, Ducks, Redstarts and Forktails)

Birds of Prey

Birds of prey, also known as raptors, include species of birds that hunt, kill and eat other birds and animals.

(Kites, Eagles, Accipiters and Falcons)

Nocturnal Birds

These birds are active at night and mainly have dull plumage colour, larger eyes, camouflaged patterns and enhanced senses.

(Owls and Nightjars)

Bush Birds

Bird species of this group live in and around the bushes. Some live in the same bush all year while others prefer to move to increase their foraging range.

(Prinias, Jays, Orioles, Minivets, Fantails, Nuthatches, White eye, Treepies, Yuhinias, Few Babblers and Thrushes also)

ARBOREAL BIRDS

HIMALAYAN BULBUL

*Pycnonotus
leucogenys*



Size (cm)
20 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A social songbird who is not afraid of people and often found in pairs or small flocks. The song is composed of a beautiful 4-piece whistle.

BLACK BULBUL

*Hypsipetes
leucocephalus*



An extremely noisy, medium-sized songbird identified with dark plumage, a very short crest, crimson bills, and legs.

Size (cm)
25 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

MOUNTAIN BULBUL

Ixos mcclellandii



Size (cm)
24 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A loud and easily detected bird of the forests of Oak, Rhododendron and Pine. It is popular for its sharp, repetitive, and echoing calls.

GREAT BARBET

Psilopogon virens



The largest barbet in the family with magnificent colours and large bill. It is identified with its incessant and far-reaching call “piho-piho”.

Size (cm)
33 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

RUFOUS-BELLIED WOODPECKER

Dendrocopos hyperythrus



Size (cm)
20 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A beautiful woodpecker with a striking bright red crown and can be seen feeding on sap from tree trunks in mixed forests and a wide range of foothills.



GRAY-HEADED WOODPECKER

Picus canus

This woodpecker is easily identified with its plain grey face, black nape and moustachial stripe. It can be often seen foraging on the ground in leaf litter.

Size (cm)
32 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

HIMALAYAN WOODPECKER

*Dendrocopos
himalayensis*



Size (cm)
24 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A relatively large woodpecker that can be found solitary or in pairs. It can be seen searching for invertebrates along the trunks of trees in Oak, Pine, and mixed forests.

GREATER YELLOWNAPE

*Chrysophlegma
flavinucha*



Found in forest and forest edges but not in small parks and cities, a large-sized woodpecker with the tufted yellow nape and powerful pale bill.

Size (cm)
33 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

BROWN-FRONTED WOODPECKER

Dendrocoptes auriceps



Size (cm)
20 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Common mid-sized woodpecker of the Himalayas generally descends to lower altitudes in winter.

LESSER YELLOWNAPE

Picus chlorolophus



A medium-sized woodpecker with bright yellow nape with a tinge of red near the head. It can be found foraging along trunks, branches and on the ground in forested lowlands and foothills.

Size (cm)
27 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

SPECKLED PICULET

*Picumnus
innominatus*



Size (cm)
10 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality

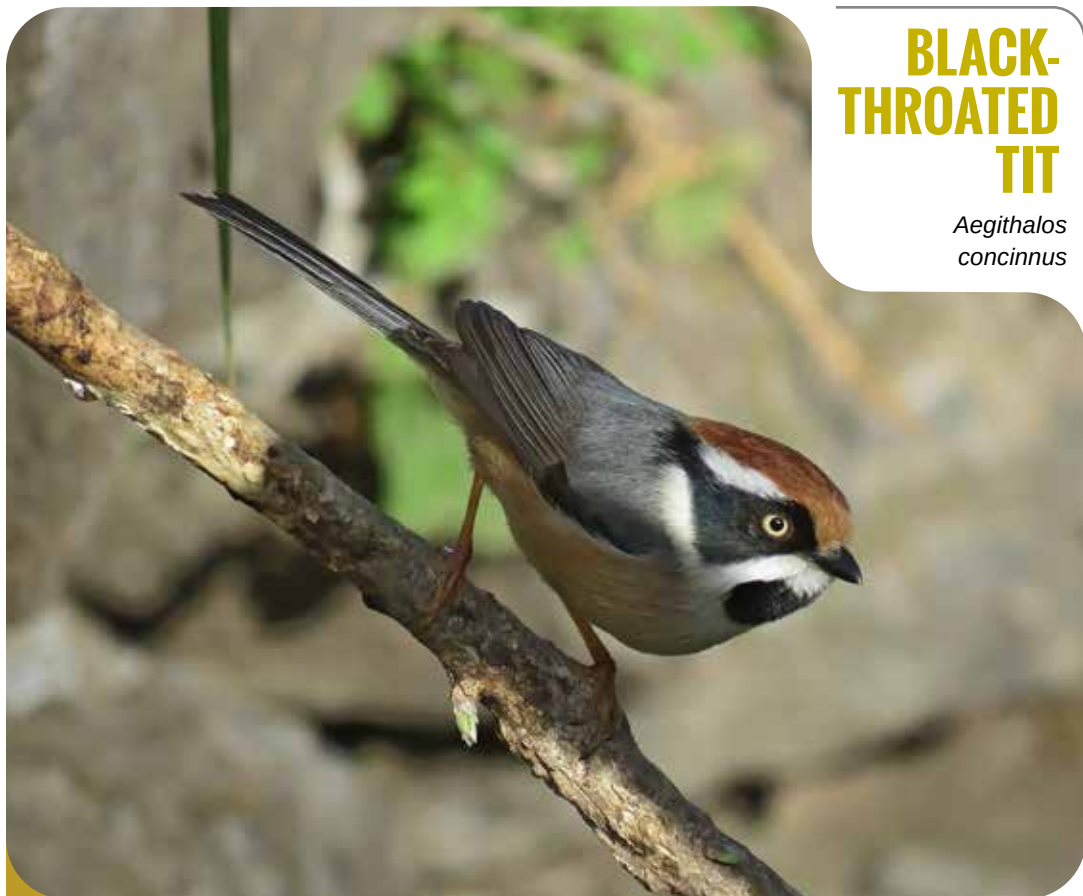


Conservation status
Least Concern

A unique tiny woodpecker with olive-yellow wings, brown-and-white striped head and black-spotted white breast and belly. The call drums very loudly with a “tsik tsik tsik”.

BLACK-THROATED TIT

Aegithalos concinnus



A tiny bird with a bold pattern, black mask, and black throat, primarily found in broadleaf and mixed forest, especially Oak and Pine.

Size (cm)
10 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GREEN-BACKED TIT

Parus monticolus



Size (cm)
12 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Short-distance altitudinal migrant tit, identified by its black cap and broad black ventral line. It can be seen in pairs foraging in the middle and upper levels of temperate and sub-tropical forests.

BLACK-LORED TIT

Parus xanthogenys



A medium-sized crested black and yellow tit found in the foothills of Western Himalaya. It has high pitched vocals and can be seen in flocks.

Size (cm)
13 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

YELLOW-BROWED TIT

Sylviparus modestus



Size (cm)
10 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

The smallest member of the family is often found in Oak, Rhododendron and mixed forest. It is a resident bird with a short-distance altitudinal migratory pattern.

COAL TIT

Periparus ater



A small passerine bird with great geographical variations. It frequently forages on the ground and usually has a habit of storing food for hard winters.

Size (cm)
11 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

BLACK-FACED WARBLER

Abroscopus schisticeps



Size (cm)
9 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Stocky, unusual, handsome, and forest-dwelling short-winged warbler with a graduated tail of ten feathers. The male sings a long series of high, penetrating whistles.

GRAY-HOODED WARBLER

*Phylloscopus
xanthoschistos*



Beautiful small warbler with whitish supercilium and grey crown with pale central stripe. It has yellow underparts and no wings bar. The calls are high with thin double notes.

Size (cm)
14 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Endangered

BUFF-BARRED WARBLER

Phylloscopus pulcher



Size (cm)
10 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

An altitudinal migrant, small and active leaf warbler with a long yellow brow stripe and pale rump, often found as part of mixed-species flocks.

LEMON RUMPED WARBLER

*Phylloscopus
chloronotus*



This small leaf-warbler shows well-patterned plumage, often found in Oak, Pine and Rhododendron forests.

Size (cm)
9 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

WHISTLER'S WARBLER

*Phylloscopus
whistleri*



Size (cm)
11-12 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A medium-sized warbler with a bright yellow eye-ring. The song consists of 2 or 3 noted whistled phrases repeated 2-3 times without any pause.

TYTLER'S LEAF WARBLER

*Phylloscopus
tytleri*



This medium-sized migratory leaf-warbler has a comparatively long and slender bill. It sometimes joins mixed species foraging flocks containing nuthatches and tits.

Size (cm)
11 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Near Threatened

GRAY-HEADED CANARY FLYCATCHER

Culicicapa ceylonensis



Size (cm)
13 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

It has a grey head and upper breast with a narrow white eyering; upperparts are olive-green. The breast and belly are bright yellow. It is an active member of mixed species foraging flocks.

VERDITER FLYCATCHER

Eumyias thalassinus



A medium-sized, slim, long-tailed, upright, verditer-blue flycatcher found in lowland, hill forests and forest edges.

Size (cm)
16 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER

Ficedula superciliaris



Size (cm)
12 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Small, beautiful flycatcher that actively forages in middle to upper canopy of forest trees occasionally forage at lower levels and on the ground.

SLATY-BLUE FLYCATCHER

Ficedula tricolor



An altitudinal migrant, small to medium-sized, slim, short-billed, long-tailed forest flycatcher.

Size (cm)
13 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

RUFIOUS GORGETED FLYCATCHER

Ficedula strophciata



Size (cm)
14 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Rare flycatcher with prominent face pattern, rufous patch on breast and white patches at the base of the tail. Sometimes, it can be seen joining mixed flocks in winter.

INDIAN PARADISE FLYCATCHER

Terpsiphone paradis



A distinctive graceful looking flycatcher, chiefly found in wooded habitats. Calls by both sexes include repeated, short, and harsh "shreew".

Size (cm)
20 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GREEN-TAILED SUNBIRD

Aethopyga nipalensis



Size (cm)
11 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Long-tailed and a long-curved bill sunbird, whose tail is bluer than green, and head is distinct shiny greenish-blue. It is commonly seen singly or in pairs in hill forests.

CRIMSON SUNBIRD

Aethopyga siparaja



A medium-sized sunbird with a common sight easily seen in parks, gardens, plantations, and forest edges environment. It calls frequently, giving various squeaks and “tsip” notes while foraging.

Size (cm)
11 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

WEDGE TAILED GREEN PIGEON

Treron sphenurus



Size (cm)
33 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Brightly coloured, a frugivorous bird with a short, rounded tail and are primarily found in broad-leaved forests of Oak, but can also be sighted in plains, foothills and hills.

SLATY HEADED PARAKEET

*Psittacula
himalayana*

A medium-sized parakeet that is distinctly noticed by its bluish-grey head and can be commonly seen in the Deodar Forest. The male has a red patch on his wings.

Size (cm)
41 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

RED BREASTED PARAKEET

Psittacula alexandri



Size (cm)
38 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Near Threatened

Sedentary parakeet with a grey head, black specific moustache, and salmon-coloured chest.

COMMON CUCKOO

*Cuculus
canorus*



It has a notable 'Coo-koo' song like a cuckoo clock with long dark grey wings and a tail with white barred underparts. It lays eggs in the nest of other birds.

Size (cm)
32-34 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

HIMALAYAN CUCKOO

Cuculus saturatus



Size (cm)
32-33 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Rings a high tone of “hoop-hoop”.
It is ashy grey from above and
white-black barred underparts
and has distinct yellow eyering. It
can be found in high altitudes.

BLACK-WINGED CUCKOO SHRIKE

Lalage melaschistos



Sooty coloured large cuckoo shrike with songs of loud series of whistles and can be seen in the mixed Oak Forest.

Size (cm)
19-24 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

ASHY DRONGO

Dicrurus leucophaeus



Size (cm)
29 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A bird common for forested mountain areas, a slimmer drongo with greyish blue colour with a deeply forked tail.

BLACK DRONGO

*Dicrurus
macrocerus*



Commonly found songbird, black coloured with a forked tail and is a skilled mimic.

Size (cm)
28 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GREATER RACKET TAILED DRONGO

*Dicrurus
paradiseus*



Size (cm)
32 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Large distinctive black drongo with a large bill, typical crest, glossy neck, and long forked tail. It is very noisy with a large variety of vocalizations.

LESSER RACKET TAILED DRONGO

Dicrurus remifer

A medium-sized glossy black drongo with red eyes, tufted forehead without crest and two extravagantly long tail feathers tipped with plumes. It has an impressive vocal range and giving highly variable songs.

Size (cm)
25 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

FIRE-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER

Dicaeum ignipectus



Size (cm)
9 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

True to its name, has a fire patch on the throat. It is a small songbird found in montane forests and has a blue-black upper body and creamy white underparts.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF

*Phylloscopus
collybita*



Its name is its feature, sings with a double noted chiff-chaff. It is a medium-sized dull grey coloured warbler.

Size (cm)
11 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

BROWN BULLFINCH

Pyrrhula nipalensis



Size (cm)
16-17 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A small faced, blunt billed grey bird with black details on wings and notched tail. It inhabits the undergrowth of dense Abeis, Oak and Rhododendron forests.



BLACK-AND-YELLOW GROSBEAK

Mycerobas icteroides

Chunky dual-toned bird with yellow and black detailing. It is identified with a pale massive bill, and it works on berries, shoots, seeds and buds, etc.

Size (cm)
22 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

COLLARED GROSBEAK

Mycerobas affinis



Size (cm)
22 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Heavy billed large-sized finch with yellow and black detailing. The male has a pitch-black head whereas, the females are olive-yellow with a grey head. It is common in high altitude broad-leaved mixed forests.



LONG TAILED BROADBILL

Psarisomus dalhousiae

A resident of Himalayan foothills and is unmistakable with a green body, large green tail and a black-yellow patterned head.

Size (cm)
28 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

RED BILLED LEIOTHRIX

Leiothrix lutea



Size (cm)
13 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Small babbler with distinct red bill and yellow-orange breast with a peculiar outward curved tail. It has melodious phrases of call.



BLUE WINGED MINLA

Actinodura cyanouroptera

Usually found in groups, a small pale bodied babbler with bluish-black crown and blue highlights on wings and tail.

Size (cm)
15 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GROUND FEEDING BIRDS

ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE

Streptopelia orientalis



Size (cm)
33 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Large dove with attractive plumage and are found in open forests.

SPOTTED DOVE

Spilopelia chinensis



Brown overall with a rosy breast and a unique white-spotted black nape patch. It is also a common game species found in a variety of environments.

Size (cm)
30 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

ROCK PIGEON

Columba livia



Size (cm)
33 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Another domestic which has gone feral all over the continent. It is a pale grey bird with two black wingbars with iridescent purple or green at the back.

HIMALAYAN SHRIKE BABBLER

Pteruthius ripleyi



It is a small-sized babbler with distinct white eyebrows and white underparts. A resident of Oak-Rhododendron forests. The females are paler with grey heads and back.

Size (cm)
14 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GREEN SHRIKE BABBLER

*Pteruthius
xanthochlorus*



Size (cm)
13 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

An inhabitant of montane forest, a grey-headed, pale-bellied, olive-green bird with a round head and short bill.

ROCK BUNTING

Emberiza cia



A large bunting with short wings and long tail, upperparts are grey and streaked but underparts are chestnut coloured. It is common in rocky slopes and high mountains.

Size (cm)
16 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

UPLAND PIPIT

Anthus sylvanus



Size (cm)
17 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

The bird is identified by thick and dense streaks with a stout and short bill. It shows altitudinal movements and descends from the higher Himalayas.

SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA

Lonchura punctulata



An attractive small songbird with a broad stout bill, chestnut coloured upperparts and a scaly patterned belly on pale underparts. It can be commonly seen in flocks.

Size (cm)
11 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

RUSSET SPARROW

*Passer
cinnamomeus*



Size (cm)
15 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Small songbird like a sparrow is mostly found in mountain open forests, fields, and pastures. The male has a distinct chestnut coloured cap.

HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus



Common small birds found in flocks, often chattering with one another and are widespread in houses, cities, and farmlands. The male has a distinct black bib and rufous nape while the female is plain brown.

Size (cm)
15 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

LARGE-BILLED CROW

Corvus macrorhynchos



Size (cm)
40 cm

Size (Reference)
Kite -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

An omnivorous scavenger, large but varies across its range and has a dry kaaaa-kaaaa call. Their nests are parasitized by common Koel.

RED-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE

*Urocissa
erythroryncha*

A raucous, large-sized crow-like bird with black head, blue upperpart, white belly and scarlet billed. A very long tail that trails behind with white tips at the end. These can be seen in groups.

Size (cm)
66 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon + plus tail

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

ORIENTAL MAGPIE ROBIN

*Copsychus
saularis*



Size (cm)
20 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Medium-sized robin with broad white wingbar, male has black body whereas, the female has greyish brown. The bird is blessed with a repertoire of melodious calls.

HILL PARTRIDGE

Arborophila torqueola



A brightly coloured game bird detected by two or three drawn-out whistles, followed by three to six double whistles.

Size (cm)
28 cm

Size (Referenc
Village hen-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

KALIJ PHEASANT

*Lophura
leucomelanos*



Size (cm)
65 cm

Size (Reference)
Village hen+

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Pheasant with bare red facial skin and backwards-pointing crest with a vertically compressed tail. This is often seen in groups.

CHEER PHEASANT

Catreus wallichii



Quite noisy, large, pale pheasant with a long tail, an untidy crest, and red skin around the eye. The bird is often found in small groups along steep, grassy hillsides in the Himalayas.

Size (cm)
90-118 cm

Size (Reference)
Village hen+

Seasonality



Conservation status
Vulnerable

KOKLASS PHEASANT

*Pucrasia
maculosa*



Size (cm)
58-64 cm

Size (Reference)
Village hen+

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A fully feathered face, medium-sized pheasant and can be easily seen in high-to-mid-altitude forests. They are mostly observed singly or in pairs, and mainly forages in the early morning and late afternoon.

COMMON ROSEFINCH

*Carpodacus
erythrinus*



A dumpy compact finch with a short stout bill and it forages on the ground in grasses and bushes or low herb vegetation.

Size (cm)
14 cm

Size (Referenc
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

PINK BROWED ROSEFINCH

*Carpodacus
rodochroa*



Size (cm)
14 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Beautiful slender rosefinch with a prominent face pattern and a pointed bill. It forages in pairs and small groups of up to eight individuals.

YELLOW-BREASTED GREENFINCH

Chloris spinoides



Medium-sized greenfinch with yellow supercilium and underparts, conical bill, bright yellow wingbars and notched tail.

Size (cm)
14 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

VINACEOUS ROSEFINCH

*Carpodacus
vinaceus*



Size (cm)
13-16 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A stoutly built dark rosefinch of hilly and montane forests. It forages on the ground near or in dense shrubs and bushes.



BLUE-CAPPED ROCK THRUSH

Monticola cinclorhyncha

Brightly coloured male thrush with black mask, sky-blue head, an orange rump, and underparts. They descend from montane areas in winter and favours secondary forests and plantations.

Size (cm)
17 cm

Size (Referenc
Bulbul -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

CHESTNUT-BELLIED ROCK THRUSH

Monticola rufiventris



Size (cm)
23 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A bird of montane forests with songs of buzzy whistles. The male has blue upperparts and orange below with a dark face and the female is grey-brown with scaly underparts. These are seen usually in pairs.

BLUE WHISTLING THRUSH

Myophonus caeruleus



The bird is identified by dark violet-blue with shiny spangling on the tips of the body feathers other than on the lores, abdomen and under the tail. It is also popular for its loud human-like whistling song.

Size (cm)
33 cm

Size (Referenc
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

LONG-BILLED THRUSH

Zoothra monticola



Size (cm)
28 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna +

Seasonality




Conservation status
Least Concern

An uncommon large grey-brown thrush with a large bill and short tail and is mostly seen in moist, dense forest favour streamside.

SCALY THRUSH

Zoothera dauma

A photograph of a Scały Thrush (Zoothera dauma) perched on a dark, textured tree branch. The bird has a golden-olive to yellowish body with bold, dark brown or black scaling patterns on its upperparts and underparts. It has a large, dark eye and a straight, dark beak. Its legs are a reddish-pink color. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a forest or wooded area.

A large, golden-olive to yellowish looking thrush which has boldly scaled upperparts and underparts. It forages on the ground or in low vegetation with shivering nervous bobbing walks.

Size (cm)
27 cm

Size (Referenc
Myna +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

PIED THRUSH

Geokichla wardii



Size (cm)
22 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A migratory thrush with a slender body and ground-dwelling habit. The song is a protracted unmusical sequence of spaced whistled phrases.

ORANGE HEADED THRUSH

Geokichla citrina

Brightly coloured, beautiful, and shy ground-dwelling thrush, which hops about foraging in the leaf litter in forested areas.

Size (cm)
21 cm

Size (Referenc
Myna -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GRAY-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Turdus boulboul



Size (cm)
28 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A forest thrush with flashy silvery wings, bright orange bill and eyering are eye-catching in dark forests. It is often seen in small flocks in winter.

WHITE-COLLARED BLACKBIRD

Turdus albocinctus



This thrush has a bright white collar, which is its most notable field mark. It also makes seasonal vertical movements.

Size (cm)
27 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

CHESTNUT THRUSH

Turdus rubrocanus



Size (cm)
27 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

An attractive thrush that has a combination of grey head and chestnut upperparts and underparts. It favours areas with dense, shady understory and extensive ground cover.

TICKELL'S THRUSH

Turdus unicolor



A uniformly brown coloured thrush, usually found in open forest and well-wooded areas. It forages on bare ground and leaf litter.

Size (cm)
21 cm

Size (Referenc
Myna -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

HIMALAYAN RUBYTHROAT

Calliope pectoralis



Size (cm)
14 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A shy, olive-brown, songbird with a ruby red chin found in the foothills of Himalaya up to 1500m elevations. It forages mainly on the ground in cover.

ORANGE- FLANKED BUSH ROBIN

Tarsiger rufilatus



An unmistakable sapphire blue songbird, sighted frequently in forest tracks of the Himalaya. It has orange flanks, white throat, and belly but the female is greyish brown with a blue rump and tail.

Size (cm)
14 cm

Size (Referenc
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GOLDEN BUSH ROBIN

Tarsiger chrysaeus



Size (cm)
15 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

This songbird is commonly seen in the bushy understorey of the Himalayan mountains. The male is identified by shining yellow colour with blackish mask, wings, and tip of tail whereas, female is dull and less variegated.

RUFOUS-BREASTED ACCENTOR

Prunella strophiatea



Identified with bright orange breast, white throat and streaked back. A common resident of high-altitude deciduous forests; moves to lower elevation in winters.

Size (cm)
15 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GRAY WAGTAIL

Motacilla cinerea



Size (cm)
19 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Bright yellow bird with greyish upperparts and white eyebrows and is identified with its characteristic wagging of tail on rocks, near mountain streams and flowing water.

AERIAL FEEDING BIRDS

CHESTNUT-HEADED BEE-EATER

Merops leschenaulti



Size (cm)
19 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A beautiful, vocal, distinctive bee-eater with a bright reddish head and yellow throat.

BARN SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica



The bird has a notable forked tail with dark blue upperparts, orange forehead and throat. It is a glider and builds a cuppy mud nest near human habitations.

Size (cm)
18 cm

Size (Referenc
Sparrow +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

RED RUMPED SWALLOW

Cecropis daurica



Size (cm)
16-17 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Almost like a barn swallow but with a distinct pale reddish rump. It forages in an open area and builds mud nests in mountains, sea cliffs and on buildings and other structures.

RUFIOUS SIBIA

*Heterophasia
capistrata*



A resident of Oak Forest, sighted due to its big slender rufous coloured body with black-crested head and a tinge of black-blue on its wing and tail.

Size (cm)
21 cm

Size (Referenc
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

WATER BIRDS

LITTLE CORMORANT

Microcarbo niger



Size (cm)
51 cm

Size (Reference)
Kite +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A black duck-like waterbird found in freshwater bodies in lowland, breeding adult has white plumes on the sides of the head.

GREAT CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax carbo



Worldwide known bird with a distinct white patch on the throat in a duck-like black body, it can be found in a variety of water bodies, freshwater as well as marine environments.

Size (cm)
80-100 cm

Size (Reference)
Village hen+

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

NORTHERN SHOVELER

Spatula clypeata



Size (cm)
44-52 cm

Size (Reference)
Village hen+

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Dabbling duck with long spatulate bill and bluish forewing. The bill is ideally suited for straining small swimming crustaceans from water.



PLUMBEOUS REDSTART

*Phoenicurus
fuliginosus*

A passerine bird with a slaty blue body with an orange tail and lives near fast-moving streams and rivers.

Size (cm)
12 cm

Size (Referenc
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

BLUE CAPPED REDSTART

*Phoenicurus
coeruleocephala*



Size (cm)
15 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

An odd small redstart with magpie robin like features and is commonly found in dry forests of Pine, Deodar and Juniper and an altitudinal migrant to outer foothills of Himalayas.

BLUE FRONTED REDSTART

Phoenicurus frontalis



The only redstart with an inverted-T pattern on the tail and it wags the tail up and down with frequent quivers.

Size (cm)
15 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

WHITE-CAPPED REDSTART

Phoenicurus leucocephalus



Size (cm)
19 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A black redstart with a wine-red belly and a blazing white cap found in mountain streams and rivers. It takes food from the surface of water or in erratic flycatching sallies.

SPOTTED FORKTAIL

Enicurus maculatus



A black-bodied forktail, slightly different from others with white spots on the back. It can be easily identified with its tail, deeply forked, graduated white and black.

Size (cm)
27 cm

Size (Referenc
**Bulbul +/- plus
tail**

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

BIRDS OF PREY

BLACK KITE

Milvus migrans



Size (cm)
55-68 cm

Size (Reference)
Kite +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Dark rufous-brown kite with variable whitish crescent at primary bases on the underwing. It has a shallowly forked tail that twists in flight.

STEPPE EAGLE

Aquila nipalensis



A heavy raptor with rich brown plumage, a well-projecting large head, bill, and well-feathered legs. They are the only eagle to nest primarily on the ground.

Size (cm)
77 cm

Size (Referenc
Kite +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Endangered

MOUNTAIN HAWK EAGLE

Nisaetus nipalensis



Size (cm)
72 cm

Size (Reference)
Kite +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A common large raptor with a short but strong bill, long and often erect crest, short wings, longish tail, and powerful feet.

SHIKRA

Accipiter badius



The small, common widespread raptor is identified with grey upperparts and orangish barrings in the underparts. The flight is typical with flaps and glides.

Size (cm)
35 cm

Size (Referenc
Pigeon +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

BESRA

Accipiter virgatus



Size (cm)
25-36 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A medium-sized raptor is found in forested areas, like Shikra with darker streaks.

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK

Accipiter nisus



A small bird of prey with golden-yellow eyes barred underparts, cheeks and flanks with a reddish tinge. It nests in woods, preferably coniferous or mixed forest.

Size (cm)
31-36 cm

Size (Referenc
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

COMMON KESTREL

Falco tinnunculus



Size (cm)
33 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A small falcon with a distinct grey head, rusty back and grey pointed tail. It is also identified with black spotting on the breast. The bird hovers on open country, can be found perching on wires and posts.

NOCTURNAL BIRDS

INDIAN NIGHTJAR

Caprimulgus asiaticus



Size (cm)
24 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna -

Seasonality

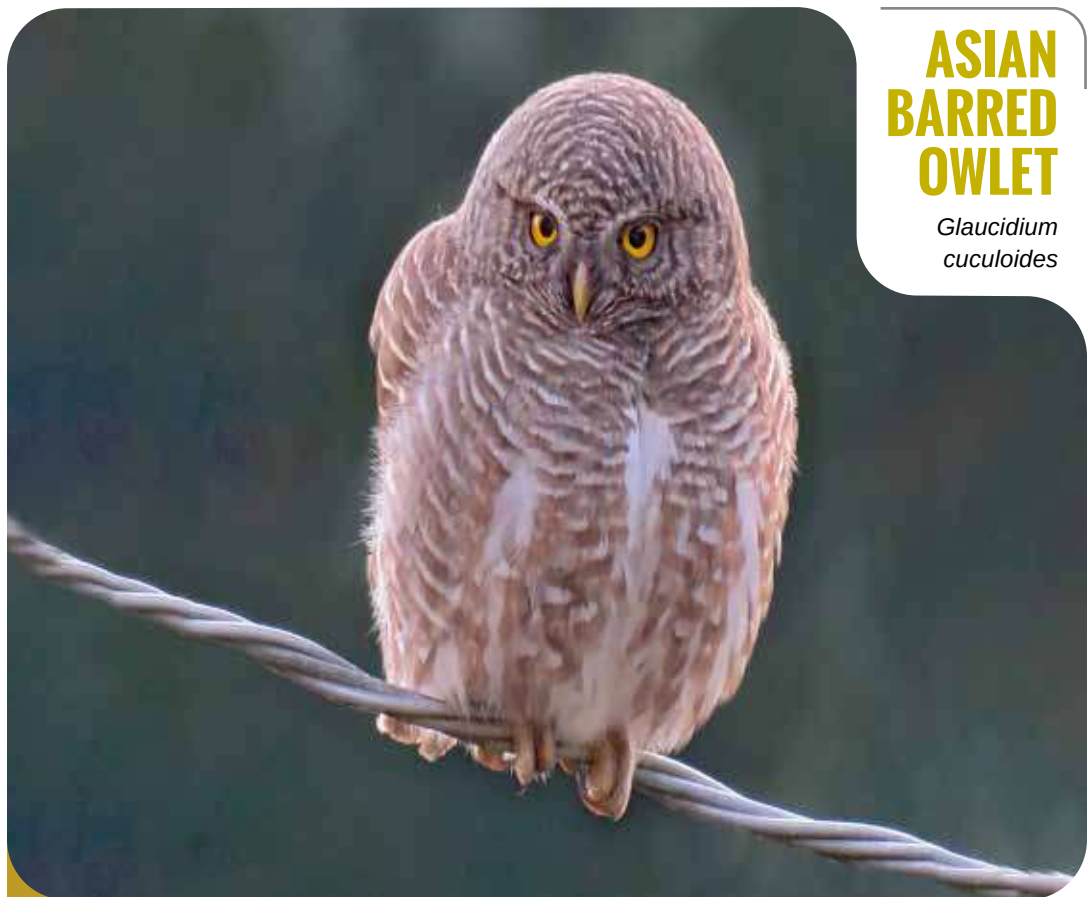


Conservation status
Least Concern

A cryptically coloured nightbird, found in highly variable habitats. It occasionally takes prey from the ground, and mainly hunts in continuous flight.

ASIAN BARRED OWLET

*Glaucidium
cuculoides*



A small heavily barred bird that is easily seen in the open forest of Pine and Oak. The call is a continuous bubbling whistle.

Size (cm)
23 cm

Size (Referenc
Myna -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

COLLARED OWLET

Glaucidium brodiei



Size (cm)
17 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Asia's smallest owl species. It has a spotted crown with a white throat patch and is mostly detected by its four noted whistlings.

BROWN WOOD OWL

*Strix
leptogrammica*



A large owl with deep black eyes and a dark brown crown. It is often found in dense streamside.

Size (cm)
45 cm

Size (Referenc
Kite -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

BUSH BIRDS

STRIATED PRINIA

Prinia crinigera



Size (cm)
16 cm

Size (Reference)
**Sparrow-plus
tail**

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A grey bird with blackish streaks on head and mantle and a long-pointed tail, which is found in the open mountain, grassy, scattered shrubs.

ASHY PRINIA

Prinia socialis



Like common prinia, it is found in the undergrowth of trees and has pale underparts and a greyish blue head and back. It sings in a loud singing tone.

Size (cm)
13 cm

Size (Referenc
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GREY BREASTED PRINIA

Prinia hodgsonii



Size (cm)
11 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A short-tailed prinia with a grey breast band and is usually found in flocks. It sings buzzy songs.

EURASIAN JAY

Garrulus glandarius

A shy bird with stout bill, black moustache, and blue patch on shoulders. It is estimated that a single jay could store 3000 acorns in one month, making this species one of the most prolific planters of Oak.

Size (cm)
34 cm

Size (Referenc
Pigeon +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

BLACK HEADED JAY

*Garrulus
lanceolatus*



Size (cm)
33 cm

Size (Reference)
Pigeon +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A familiar sight in Western and Central Himalaya, like another corvid but has a distinct black head, white streaks on throat, scruffy crest and blue on shoulders and tail.

MAROON ORIOLE

Oriolus traillii



Pairs often engage in an ethereal duet and forage secretively alone, in pairs or small flocks. Also, they often join mixed-species flocks.

Size (cm)
27 cm

Size (Referenc
Myna +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

LONG-TAILED MINIVET

*Pericrocotus
ethologus*



Size (cm)
20 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Typical colourful minivet with red-and-black males and grey-yellow females. The bird gives a distinctive “pi-ru” whistle.

SCARLET MINIVET

Pericrocotus speciosus



A brilliantly scarlet red coloured bird-like long-tailed minivet with black blotches on the wings. It is mostly residential and breeds in the Himalayas but descends in winter.

Size (cm)
22 cm

Size (Referenc
Bulbul +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

WHITE THROATED FANTAIL

*Rhipidura
albicollis*



Size (cm)
19 cm

Size (Reference)
Bulbul -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A songbird that occupies wooded habitats and has a distinct fan-shaped tail in flight with a dark body, white throat, and eyebrow. It makes harsh and squeaky contact calls.

WHITE-TAILED NUTHATCH

Sitta himalayensis



It is very common in the Himalayas. A small and relatively short-billed nuthatch with grey upperparts and orange underparts and distinct white spot on the tail.

Size (cm)
12 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE

*Zosterops
palpebrosus*



Size (cm)
10 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A small olive-green bird with pale white underparts and characteristic white rings around the eye giving it a spectacled look.

GRAY TREEPIE

Dendrocitta formosae



An omnivore sedentary treepie with a loud ringing (almost metallic) call and can be seen in the woodland of all kinds, often in Banj, Oak and Rhododendron forests in the Himalaya.

Size (cm)
38 cm

Size (Referenc
Pigeon +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

STREAKED LAUNGHING THRUSH

*Trochalopteron
lineatum*



Size (cm)
20 cm

Size (Referenc
Bulbul +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Orange-brown bird with fine streaking all over the body. It is often found around human habitation, forest edge or bushy areas and forages on the ground in pairs or small flocks.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED LAUGHING THRUSH

Trochalopteron erythrocephalum



A medium-sized shy beautifully patterned olive-grey laughing thrush with a chestnut crown. The call is musical, repetitive, and loud in summer.

Size (cm)
28 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

STRIATED LAUGHING THRUSH

*Grammatoptila
striata*



Size (cm)
28 cm

Size (Referenc
Myna +

Seasonality

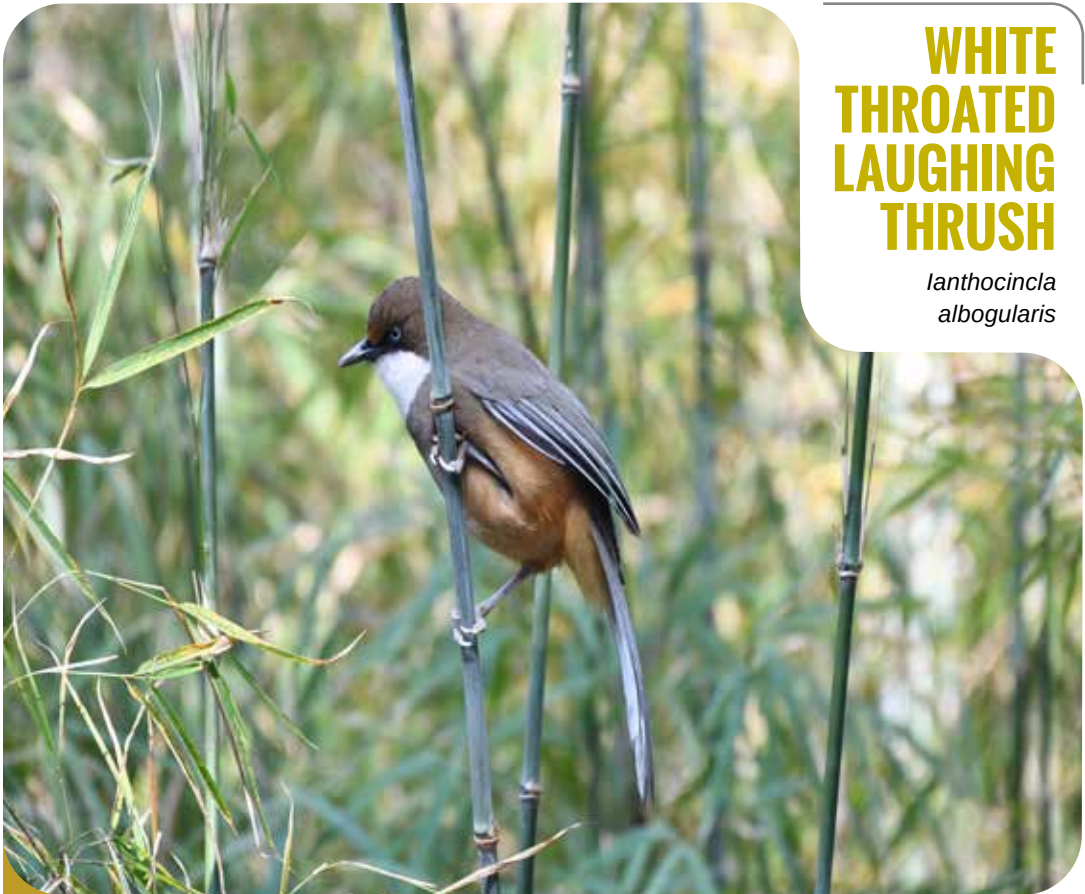


Conservation status
Least Concern

This bulky laughing thrush is highly social and has brown and white streaks, a bushy crest, and a stout bill. It is commonly found in flocks.

WHITE THROATED LAUGHING THRUSH

*Ianthocincla
albogularis*



A dull brown laughing thrush with pure white breast, ochre-coloured belly, and broad white tail tips. It is common in foothill forests, edges, parks, and gardens; foraging in groups.

Size (cm)
28 cm

Size (Reference)
Myna +

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

RUFOUS CHINNED LAUGHING THRUSH

*Ianthocincla
rufogularis*



Size (cm)
22 cm

Size (Referenc
Myna -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Fairly large thrush identified with exquisitely intricate patterning, colouration with rufous chin and tail tips. It favours broadleaf forest and forest edge with dense understory.

BLACK-CHINNED BABBLER

Cyanoderma pyrrhops



A biscuit-coloured bird with a black mask on eyes and chin and can be found in a flock of 8-10 individuals on the forest edge.

Size (cm)
10 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR BABBLER

Megapomatorhinus erythrogenys



Size (cm)
25 cm

Size (Referenc
**Myna +/- plus
beak**

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

It is known for its harsh and aggressive chattering. A large scimitar babbler with distinct olive-brown above and orange-rufous from head side to flank with a decurved bill.

WHISKERED YUHINA

Yuhina flavicollis



A social songbird with a feature of upright grey crest and head, spectacled eyes and golden yellow-black collar. It can be found foraging in the Himalayan broad-leaved forest.

Size (cm)
13 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

RUFOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA

Niltava sundara



Size (cm)
18 cm

Size (Referenc
Bulbul -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

Stumpy and brightly coloured flycatcher with a broad-based bill. It is mainly active in the middle and upper layers of broadleaf and mixed hill forests.

SMALL NILTAVA

*Niltava
macgrigoriae*



A smaller version of large niltava which is double its size. The male is bright blue with the brightest patches on the shoulder and forehead. It is a resident that forages in the montane forests, usually singly.

Size (cm)
13 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow -

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

GREY BUSHCHAT

Saxicola ferreus



Size (cm)
15 cm

Size (Reference)
Sparrow +/-

Seasonality



Conservation status
Least Concern

A small songbird with silvery grey overall with black face and white supercilium, throat, belly, and wing patches. The female is dull brown with a faded version of the male's head. The song is bright and melodious.

REFERENCES

Ali, S. 1941. The Book of Indian Birds; The Bombay Natural History Society

Birds of Mukteshwar, Pamphlet; CEDAR & Titli Trust

Birds of Mangar, A pocket guide to 136 familiar birds; CEDAR, early bird & Mangar Eco Hub

Bhatia, G and Kumar, R. Birds of Uttarakhand, A Pocket Guide to 171 Familiar Birds; Nature Science Initiative, early bird & Rohini Nilekani

Kobori, H., Dickinson, J.L., Washitani, Sakurai R., Amano, T., Komatsu, N., Kitamura, W., Takagawa, S., Koyama, K and Ogawara, T. 2016. Citizen science: a new approach to advance ecology, education, and conservation. *Ecol Res* 31, 1–19.

Kumar, S. 2014. Birds in and around Mussoorie; Katarniaghat Foundation

N. Njue, J. Stenfort Kroese, J. Graf, S.R. Jacobs, B. Weeser, L. Breuer and M.C. Rufino. 2019. Citizen science in hydrological monitoring and ecosystem services management: State of the art and future prospects. *Science of The Total Environment*, V-693.

Richard, G., Inskipp, C. and Inskipp, T. 2007. Birds of the Indian Subcontinent, Pocket guide; Oxford University Press

e-Bird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology). Access link <https://ebird.org/>

Birds of the World (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) Access link <https://birdsoftheworld.org/>

CHECKLIST

Bird Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Accentor	Rufous-Breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophciata</i>
	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>
	Black Throated Accentor	<i>Prunella atrogularis</i>
Accipiter	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>
	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Barbet	Great Barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>
	Brown Headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>
	Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>
	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>
	Blue Throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>
Babbler	Black-Chinned Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma pyrrhops</i>
	Rusty-Cheeked Scimitar Babbler	<i>Megapomatorhinus erythrogenys</i>
	Himalayan Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius ripleyi</i>
	Green Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i>
Bee Eater	Chestnut-Headed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
	Blue Bearded Bee-Eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>
	Blue Tailed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
Broadbill	Long Tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>
Bulbul	Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>
	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flava</i>
	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
	Black Crested Bulbul	<i>Rubigula flaviventris</i>
	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mcclellandii</i>

Bird Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Bullfinch	Brown Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>
Bunting	Rock Bunting Crested Bunting White Capped Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i> <i>Emberiza lathami</i> <i>Emberiza stewarti</i>
Bushchat	Grey Bushchat Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i> <i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Chat	Himalayan Rubythroat Orange-Flanked Bush Robin Golden Bush Robin	<i>Calliope calliope</i> <i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i> <i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>
Coot	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Cormorant	Little Cormorant Great Cormorant Indian Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> <i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
Cuckoo	Common Cuckoo Himalayan Cuckoo Black-winged Cuckooshrike Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Cuculus canorus</i> <i>Cuculus saturatus</i> <i>Lalage melaschistos</i> <i>Coracina macei</i>
Coucal	Greater Coucal Green Billed Malkoha	<i>Centropus sinensis</i> <i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>
Crow	Large-Billed Crow Common Raven	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> <i>Corvus corax</i>
Dabbling Duck	Northern Shoveler Spot Billed Duck Mallard	<i>Spatula clypeata</i> <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i> <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Dipper	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
Diving Duck	Tufted Duck Red Crested Pochard	<i>Aythya fuligula</i> <i>Netta rufina</i>

Bird Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Dove	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Drongo	Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus dicruroides</i>
	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
	Greater Racket Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
	Lesser Racket Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>
	Hair Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
Eagle	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
	Mountain Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>
	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>
	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
	Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
Egret	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Egret	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Falcon	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Fantail	Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
	White Throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
	White Browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
Finch	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
	Pink Browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rodochroa</i>
	Yellow-Breasted Greenfinch	<i>Chloris spinoides</i>
	Vinaceous Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus vinaceus</i>
	Dark Breasted Rosefinch	<i>Procarduelis nipalensis</i>
	Blyth's Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus grandis</i>
	Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>
	Scarlet Finch	<i>Carpodacus sipahi</i>

Bird Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Flowerpecker	Fire-Breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>
	Pale Billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
Flycatcher	Gray-Headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>
	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula supercilialis</i>
	Slaty-Blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>
	Rufous Gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophiaata</i>
	Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradis</i>
	Blue Throated Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>
Forktail	Barwinged Flycatcher Shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
Forktail	Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>
	Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>
Francolin	Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>
	Gray Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
Goose	Bar Headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>
Grosbeak	Black-And-Yellow Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas icterioides</i>
	Collared Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas affinis</i>
	Spot Winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas melanozanthos</i>
Hornbill	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
Jay	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
	Black Headed Jay	<i>Garrulus lanceolatus</i>
Kingfisher	White Throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>
Kite	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Lapwing	Red Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>

Bird Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Laughing Thrush	Streaked Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron lineatum</i>
	Chestnut-Crowned Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron erythrocephalum</i>
	Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Grammatoptila striata</i>
	White Throated Laughingthrush	<i>lanthocincla albugularis</i>
	White Crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>
	Rufous Chinned Laughingthrush	<i>lanthocincla rufogularis</i>
	Variegated Laughing Thrush	<i>Trochalopteron variegatum</i>
Magpie	Red-Billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorynch</i>
	Yellow Billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>
	Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>
Mesia	Red Billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>
Minla	Blue Winged Minla	<i>Actinodura cyanouroptera</i>
Minivet	Long-Tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>
Munia	Scaly-Breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
	White Rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
Myna	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
Nightjar	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>
	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>
Niltava	Rufous-Bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>
	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>
Nuthatch	White-Tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>
	Chestnut Bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>
Oriole	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus trailii</i>
	Black Hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
	Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>

Bird Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Owl	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>
	Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>
	Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>
	Spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
Parakeet	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
	Slaty Headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula himalayana</i>
	Red Breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
	Plum Headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
Partridge	Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>
	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
Pheasant	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>
	Cheer Pheasant	<i>Catreus wallichii</i>
	Koklass Pheasant	<i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>
	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
Pigeon	Wedge Tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sphenurus</i>
	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Pipit	Upland Pipit	<i>Anthus sylvanus</i>
	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Prinia	Striated Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera</i>
	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
	Grey Breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
	Grey Crowned Prinia	<i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i>
Redstart	Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>
	Blue Capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>
	Blue Fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
	White-Capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>

Bird Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Robin	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
	Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>
Rock Thrush	Blue-Capped Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhyncha</i>
	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
	Chestnut-Bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>
Sandpiper	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Shelduck	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Sibia	Rufous Sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>
Shrike	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
	Long Tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
	Grey Backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>
Sparrow	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Starling	Spot Winged Starling	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
	Chestnut Tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>
Sunbird	Green-Tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>
	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
Swallow	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
	Red Rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Swift	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>
Swiftlet	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>
Tailorbird	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>

Bird Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Tit	Black-Throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
	Black Crested Tit	<i>Periparus ater melanolophus</i>
	Green-Backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
	Black-Lored Tit	<i>Parus xanthogenys</i>
	Yellow-Browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>
	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
	Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>
Treecreeper	Bar Tailed Treecreeper	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>
Treepie	Gray Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>
	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
Turdus Thrush	Gray-Winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus bouboul</i>
	White-Collared Blackbird	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>
	Chestnut Thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>
	Tickell's Thrush	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>
Vulture	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>
	Lammergeier	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>
	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>
	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>
Wagtail	Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
	White Browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>
Warbler	Black-Faced warbler	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>
	Grey Headed Warbler	<i>Basileuterus griseiceps</i>
	Grey Hooded Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i>
	Yellow Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>
	Buff-Barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>
	Lemon Rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>
	Ashy Throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>

Bird Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
	Whistler's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus whistleri</i>
	Tytler's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tytleri</i>
Waterhen	White Breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>
Whistling Thrush	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
White-Eye	Oriental White-Eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Woodpecker	Rufous-Bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>
	Gray-Headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
	Himalayan Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos himalayensis</i>
	Greater Yellownap	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>
	Brown-Fronted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes auriceps</i>
	Black Rumped Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
	Scaly Bellied Woodpecker	<i>Picus squamatus</i>
	Lesser Yellownap	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
	Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
Yuhina	Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>
	Black Chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>
	Stripe Throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>
Zoothera Thrush	Long-Billed Thrush	<i>Zoothera monticola</i>
	Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>
	Pied Thrush	<i>Geokichla wardii</i>
	Orange Headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>
	Long Tailed Thrush	<i>Zoothera dixonii</i>
	Dark Sided Thrush	<i>Zoothera marginata</i>