Common Birds of Chitwan National Park, Nepal

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ABSTRACT
This research paper gives checklist of common birds of Chitwan National Park, which is a wildlife protected area in south-central Nepal. It covers tropical and sub-tropical vegetation. It is first protected area and includes 932 sq. km. Common birds observed are about 170 belonging to 48 Avian families during 2013-2014. Present investigator has very minutely observed birds in habitat conditions. Bird species were recognized by very high binocular. Birds were thoroughly studied from point of view of Taxonomy. Machans were also erected for observing birds.

KEY WORDS: Machan, Taxonomy, Strata

INTRODUCTION
Chitwan National Park (27° 30'N, 84°20'E) was established in 1973 with the beginning of conservation of biodiversity in Nepal. Chitwan National Park covers an area of 932 sq. km. and is located in south-central Nepal. In 1973, the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act was enacted and Chitwan National Park was declared the first national park of Nepal (DNPWC, 2012). By 1977, the promulgated boundaries were increased from 540 sq. km. to 932 sq. km. Recognizing its unique ecosystems of international significance; UNESCO declared the park as a World Heritage Site in 1984 and is also identified as an important bird area (IBA) by Bird Life International. In 1996, an area of 750 sq. km surrounding the park was declared a buffer zone, which consists of forests and private lands. Bishajari and associated lakes in the buffer zone of the Chitwan National Park were declared wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 2003 (DNPWC, 2012).

Extended in four districts of Central Terai, this national park includes the area of Chitwan 74%; Parsa 15%; Makwanpur 7% and Nawalparasi 4%. It is bordered by Parsa Wildlife Reserve (499 sq. km.). On the eastern side and on all other river sides make natural boundary for the park (DNPWC, 2012).
Fig No 1: *Location map of Chitwan National Park*

The Chitwan National Park consists of tropical and subtropical forests with mostly Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests. Sal forest covers 70% of the park, tall grasslands 15% and remaining by riverine and other forest types (Dinerstein, 2003). The Chitwan National Park has many rivers and lakes. Chitwan National Park is the third destination of tourists in Nepal (Office of Chitwan National Park, 2012).

The present author undertook deep and exhaustive studies on avian biodiversity of birds of Chitwan National Park during different seasons of 2013-2014. The study observed about 400 birds in Natural habitat in different seasons at different localities of the park. He noted distribution and identification of birds very carefully and minutely.

**HISTORICAL REVIEW**


**STRATA OF SITE**

The present investigator carried out his investigation in 4 stratas during different seasons of the year 2013-2014. These stratas are based on vegetation and habitats. Surveys were conducted from sunrise to noon under favourable conditions.

- **Strata 1**: Balkmiki Ashram to Temple Tiger
- **Strata 2**: Temple Tiger to Kasara
- **Strata 3**: Kasara to Sauraha
- **Strata 4**: Sauraha to Sunachari

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Different bird species have been observed in natural habitat during trips by using powerful binoculars and telescope 20 x 60 Nikkon Coy. Japan of Yashika and Ashai Pentex. For photography digital camera of Nikkon 400 x tele lens was used. Various secondary data were also collected. Migratory birds were also noted.

**RESULTS**
The present investigator observed about 400 birds. Some birds reported by earlier researchers were not seen even after extensive survey.

COMMON BIRDS OF CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

PHASIANIDAE
Francolinus francolinus, Black Francolin
Gallus gallus, Red Junglefowl
Lophura leucomelanos, Kalij Pheasant
Pavo cristatus, Indian Peafowl

DENDROCYGNIDAE
Dendrocygna javanica, Lesser Whistling Duck

ANATIDAE
Tadorna ferruginea, Ruddy Shelduck
Anas strepera, Gadwall
Anas penelope, Eurasian wigeon
Anas platyrhynchos, Mallard
Rhodonessa rufina, Red-crested Pochard
Mergus merganser, Common Merganser

PICIDAE
Dendrocopos canicapillus, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker
Dendrocopos macei, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker
Picus chlorolophus, Lesser Yellownape
Picus xanthopygaeus, Streak-throated Woodpecker
Picus canus, Grey-headed Woodpecker
Dinopium shortii, Himalayan Flameback
Dinopium benghalense, Black-rumped Flameback
Chrysocolaptes lucidus, Greater Flameback

MEGALAIMIDAE
Megalaima lineata, Lineated Barbet
Megalaima haemacephala, Coppersmith Barbet

BUCEROTIDAE
Anthracoceros albirostris, Oriented Pied Hornbill

UPUPIDAE
Upupa epops, Common Hoopoe

TROGONIDAE
Horpactes erythrocephalus, Red-headed Trogon

CORACIIDAE
Coracias benghalensis, Indian Roller
Eurystomus orientalis, Dollarbird

MEROPIDAE
Merops orientalis, Green Bee-eater
Merops philippinus, Blue-tailed Bee-eater
Merops leschenaulti, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

HALCYONIDAE
Alcedo atthis, Common Kingfisher
Halcyon capensis, Stork-billed Kingfisher
Halcyon smyrnensis, White-throated Kingfisher

CERYLIDAE
Ceryle rudis, Pied Kingfisher

CUCULIDAE
Hierococcyx varius, Common Hawk Cuckoo
Cuculus micropterus, Indian Cuckoo
Cuculus canorus, Eurasian Cuckoo
Eudynamys scolopacea, Asian Koel
Phaenicophaeus tristis, Green-billed Malkoha

CENTROPODIDAE
Centropus sinensis, Greater Coucal
Centropus bengalensis, Lesser Coucal

PSITTACIDAE
Psittacula eupatria, Alexandrine Parakeet
Psittacula krameri, Rose-ringed Parakeet
Psittacula himalayana, Slaty-headed Parakeet
Psittacula cyanocephala, Plum-headed Parakeet
Psittacula alexandri, Red-breasted Parakeet

APODIDAE
Zoonavena sylvatica, White-rumped Needletail
Apus affinis, House Swift

HEMIPROCNIDAE
Hemiprocne coronata, Crested Treeswift

STRIGIDAE
Ninox scutulata, Brown Hawk Owl
Glaucidium radiatum, Jungle Owlet
Athene brama, Spotted Owlet

CAPRIMULGIDAE
Caprimulgus macrurus, Large-tailed Nightjar
Caprimulgus affinis, Savanna Nightjar

COLUMBIANAE
Columba livia, Rock Pigeon
Streptopelia chinensis, Spotted Dove
Streptopelia tranquebarica, Red-collared Dove
Streptopelia decaocto, Eurasian Collared Dove
Chalcophaps indica, Emerald Dove
Treron bicincta, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon
Treron pompadora, Pompadour Green Pigeon
Treron phoenicoptera, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon

RALLIDAE
Amaurornis akool, Brown Crake
Amaurornis phoenicurus, White-breasted Waterhen
Gallinula chloropus, Common Moorhen

SCOLOPACIDAE
Gallinago gallinago, Common Snipe
**Tringa nebularia**, Common Greenshank
**Tringa ochropus**, Green Sandpiper
**Actitis hypoleucos**, Common sandpiper
**Calidris temminckii**, Temminck's Stint

**JACANIDAE**
**Metopidius indicus**, Bronze-winged Jacana

**CHARADRIIDAE**
**Charadrius dubius**, Little-Ringed Plover
**Vanellus duvaucelii**, River Lapwing
**Vanellus indicus**, Red-wattled Lapwing

**ACCIPITRIDAE**
**Pandion haliaetus**, Osprey
**Milvus migrans**, Black Kite
**Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus**, Grey-headed Fish Eagle
**Spilornis cheela**, Crested Serpent Eagle
**Accipiter badius**, Shikra
**Pernis ptilorhynncus**, Oriental Honey-buzzard

**FALCONIDAE**
**Falco tinnunculus**, Common Kestrel

**ANHINGIDAE**
**Anhinga melanogaster**, Darter

**PHALACROCORACIDAE**
**Phalacrocorax carbo**, Great Cormorant

**ARDEIDAE**
**Egretta garzetta**, Little Egret
**Mesophoyx intermedia**, Intermediate Egret
**Bubulcus ibis**, Cattle Egret
**Ardeola grayii**, Indian Pond Heron
**Butorides striatus**, Little Heron
**Nycticorax nycticorax**, Black-crowned Night Heron

**THRESKIORNITHIDAE**
**Pseudibis papillosa**, Black Ibis

**CICONIIDAE**
**Anastomus oscitans**, Asian Openbill
**Ciconia episcopus**, Wooly-necked Stork
**Ciconia nigra**, Black Stork
**Leptoptilos Javanicus**, Lesser Adjutant

**PITTIDAE**
**Pitta sordida**, Hooded Pitta
**Pitta brachyura**, Indian Pitta

**IRENIDAE**
**Chloropis aurifrons**, Golden-fronted Leafbird
**Chloropsis hardwickii**, Orange-bellied Leafbird

**LANIIDAE**
**Lanius cristatus**, Brown Shrike
**Lanius schach**, Long-tailed Shrike
Lanius tephronotus, Grey-backed Shrike

CORVIDAE

Urocissa erythrorhyncha, Red-billed Blue Magpie

Dendrocitta vagabunda, Rufous Treepie

Corvus splendens, House Crow

Corvus macrorhynchos, Large-billed Crow

Artamus fuscus, Ashy Woodswallow

Oriolus oriolus, Eurasian Golden Oriole

Oriolus xanthornus, Black-hooded Oriole

Coracina macei, Large Cuckooshrike

Pericrocotus cinnamomeus, Small Minivet

Pericrocotus flammeus, Scarlet Minivet

Hemipus picatus, Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike

Rhipidura albicollis, White-throated Fantail

Dicrurus macrocercus, Black-Drongo

Dicrurus caerulescens, White-bellied Drongo

Dicrurus hottentottus, Spangled Drongo

Terpsiphone paradisi, Asian Paradise-flycatcher

Aegithina tiptia, Common Iora

Tephrodornis pondicerianus, Common Woodshrike

MUSCICAPIDAE

Myophonus caeruleus, Bluewhistling Thrush

Ficedula parva, Red-throated Flycatcher

Culicicapa ceylonensis, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher

Cyornis poliogenys, Pale-chinned Flycatcher

Luscinia calliope, Siberian Rubythroat

Copsychus saualaris, Oriental Magpie Robin

Copsychus malabaricus, White-rumped Shama

Saxicola torquata, Common Stonechat

Saxicola leucura, White-tailed Stonechat

Saxicola caprata, Pied Bushchat

STURNIDAE

Sturnus malabaricus, Chestnut-tailed Starling

Sturnus contra, Asian Pied Starling

Acridotheres tristis, Common Myna

Acridotheres fuscus, Jungle Myna

SITTIDAE

Sitta castanea, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch

Sitta frontalis, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

PARIDAE

Parus major, Great Tit

HIRUNDINIDAE

Riparia paludicola, Plain Martin

Hirundo rustica, Barn Swallow

Hirundo daurica, Red-rumped Swallow

PYCNONOTIDAE
Pycnonotus jocosus, Red-whiskered Bulbul
Pycnonotus leucogenys, Himalayan Bulbul
Pycnonotus cafer, Red-vented Bulbul

CISTICOLIDAE
Prinia hodgsonii, Grey-breasted Prinia
Prinia flaviventris, Yellow-bellied Prinia
Prinia inornata, Plain Prinia
Cisticola juncidis, Zitting Cisticola

ZOSTEROPIDAE
Zosterops palpebrosus, Oriental White-eye

SYLVIIDAE
Orthotomus sutorius, Common Tailorbird
Acrocephalus dumetorum, Blyth's Reed Warbler
Phylloscopus collybita, Common Chiffchaff
Phylloscopus reguloides, Blyth's Leaf Warbler
Phylloscopus trochiloides, Greenish Warbler
Garrulax leucolophus, White-crested Laughingthrush
Garrulax montileger, Lesser-necklaced Laughingthrush
Garrulax pectoralis, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush
Pelportion ruficeps, Puff-throated Babbler
Macronous gularis, Striped Tit Babbler
Timalia pileata, Chestnut-capped Babbler
Turdoides earlei, Striated Babbler
Turdoides striatus, Jungle Babbler

ALAUDIDAE
Mirafra assamica, Rufous winged Bushlark
Calandrella ryalta, Sand Lark

NECTARINIIDAE
Aethopyga siparaja, Crimson Sunbird

PASSERIDAE
Passer domesticus, House Sparrow
Passer montanus, Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Motacilla maderaspatensis, White-browed Wagtail
Anthus rufulus, Paddyfield Pipit
Anthus hodgsoni, Olive-backed Pipit
Anthus roseatus, Rosy Pipit
Ploceus philippinus, Baya Weaver
Lonchura punctulata, Scaly-breasted Munia

Common Birds = 170, which include birds of forest, grassland and wetlands.

Families – 48

DISCUSSION
Salim Ali and Dillon Ripley (1987) have described Birds of Nepal in their extensive work.
Flemings et. al., Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp have also mentioned Birds of Chitwan. Hem Sagar Baral and Gopal Prasad Upadhyay give checklist of Birds of Chitwan. However, the present investigator has studied characters of common birds of Chitwan National Park. Considering abundance of species, fairly common, occasional, uncommon, rare and very
unlikely species. Besides, it has been noted that the seasons effect greatly on breeding and migration of Chitwan Aves. The present investigator has investigated 4 stratas during different seasons of the year 2013-2014. He reported in this paper 171 common birds of the 47 families. It has also been found on computation about species richness is as follows: Corvidae (18), Sylviidae (13), Muscicapidae (10), Passeridae (8), Columbidae (8), Picidae (8) and Phasianidae (5).

CONCLUSION

The investigator provides common list of the avian fauna of Chitwan National Park which is very significant National Park of Central Nepal, Terai and out of 851 Nepal birds more than 500 are found at this site. Data provide information on seasonal changes. It will also indicate various problems which avian fauna is facing and its solutions. Results obtained from this research will provide valuable reference for future researchers.

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