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Tel : 67412036, Fax : 67410871, Email : nss@nss.org.sg, Website : <http://www.nss.org.sg>

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lk
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White-winged Tern at Kranji Reservoir on 20 May 2009 by Lee Tiah Khee



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Bird Report

May 2009

By Andrew Chow and Lim Kim Seng

SINGAPORE HIGHLIGHTS



Nesting **Little Tern** at Tampines area on 30/5 by Tan Weixing

The month of May saw little migrant activity as expected with **Whimbrel** present at two sites, Pulau Ubin and Sungei Buloh, till the end of the month, a flock of **White-winged Terns** which stayed at Kranji Reservoir till 28th and a summer **Javan Pond Heron** at Sungei Buloh on 2nd, our sixth record and a new late date by three weeks!

Residents of note included **Red Junglefowl** on Pulau Ubin, five species of resident cuckoos – **Banded Bay**, **Plaintive**, **Rusty-breasted**, **Violet** and **Asian Drongo** – mainly from Ubin and the central forests, our second offshore island record of **Blue-rumped Parrot**, once again on Pulau Ubin, **Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot** (Bidadari), **Red-wattled Lapwing** (Tuas), **Little Tern** (Tampines, Tuas and Kranji), **Changeable Hawk Eagle** (MacRitchie Reservoir, Neo Tiew and PIE), **Little Grebe** (Singapore Quarry), **Great-billed Heron** (Ubin), **White-rumped Shama** (Ubin), **Straw-headed Bulbul** (Bukit Batok) and **Black-headed Bulbul** (MacRitchie Reservoir). In addition, there were also nest records from 15 species including three which are nationally threatened.

The bird of the month was once again the mysterious **Bat Hawk**, which showed up again at MacRitchie Reservoir on 4th, just three months after reappearing here after a hiatus of half a century.

JOHOR HIGHLIGHTS

The highlights all come from Panti Forest Reserve's Bunker Track which produced nest records of **Red-crowned Barbet** and **Rufous-backed Kingfisher** and sightings of resident rarities such as **Yellow-crowned Barbet**, **White-tailed Flycatcher**, **Asian Paradise Flycatcher** and **Puff-backed Bulbul**. Also of interest were several **Arctic Warblers** present there and singing subsongs on 4th.



White-tailed Flycatcher at Panti on 11 May 2009 by YYChong

SUMMARY

This report covers noteworthy bird sightings in May 2009 for Singapore and the surrounding region. In general, the report will include but are not limited to the following categories: rarities, breeding or nesting records, arrival and departure dates for migratory species, new locality records, escapees and unusual behaviour.

In addition, contributors are also advised to be as precise as possible concerning records. Please remember to include details such as how many birds were seen, the plumage, sex and age of the birds, the type of habitat in which they were observed, the food they were eating (if possible, identify the plant or animal), the weather encountered (what was the wind direction, tide conditions, etc.). Although it is not necessary to have such details for all record submissions, it is a good habit to cultivate and is normally required for very rare or unusual species.

Please send all your records of interest to Lim Kim Seng @ Lim Kim Seng @ ibisbill@yahoo.com or Lim Kim Chuah @ pitalover@yahoo.com.sg or Yong Ding Li at zoothera@yahoo.com. Alternatively you can also post your sightings at the NSS Bird Group website at <http://wildbirdsingapore.nss.org.sg> Please send your records no later than one week after the end of every month. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

Unless stated otherwise, nomenclature and systematic follow K.S. Lim's (2007) "Pocket Checklist of the birds of the Republic of Singapore (Second Edition)", K.S. Lim & K.C. Lim's (1999) "Pocket checklist of the birds of Johor, Peninsular Malaysia" for Johor, and

B.L. Monroe Jr. & C.G. Sibley's (1993) "A World Checklist of Birds " for the rest of the region.

We would like to thank the following contributors:

Doreen Ang (DA), Howard Banwell (HoB), Jimmy Chew (JiC), Andrew Chow (CCP), YY Chong (CYY), Vicky Chong (ViC), Ender (End), Horst Flotow (HF), Sue Flotow (SF), Kenneth Kee (KK), Raj Krishnan, (RjK), Chris Lee (ChL), Lee Tiah Khee (LTK), Lim Kim Chuah (LKC), Lim Kim Seng (LKS), Lim Wen Xiu (LWX), Cyril Ng (CyN), Mithilesh Mishra (MiM), Tan Boon Chong (TBC), Tan Gim Cheong (TGC), Tan Weixing (TWX), Michael Toh (MiT), KC Tsang (TKC), Akihiko Watanabe (AW), Eiko Watanabe (EW), Yong Ding Li (YDL) as well as all those who contributed by posting their sightings in the wildbirdsingapore E-group.

In addition, we would like to thank Ender, YY Chong, Chris Lee, Lee Tiah Khee, Tan Weixing, Michael Toh and KC Tsang for allowing us to use their photos in this report.

ABBREVIATIONS USED:

BBNP Bukit Batok Nature Park
SBWR Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

SINGAPORE

KING QUAIL *Coturnix chinensis*

1 male flushed in the grassland at Tuas, 14/5 (LKC/LTK)

RED JUNGLEFOWL *Gallus gallus*

1 female seen foraging on the muddy coast on Ubin, 1/5 (LKC/LTK/MiM)

LINEATED BARBET *Megalaima lineata*

1 seen on 9/5 at BBNP (CCP), feeding on a small tree by the quarry pond.

RED-CROWNED BARBET *Megalaima rafflesii*

1 heard on 20/5 at MacRitchie Reservoir (LKC).

STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER *Pelargopsis capensis*

1 was seen been mobbed by Pacific Swallow on Ubin, 1/5 (LKC/LTK/MiM)

BLUE-THROATED BEE-EATER *Merops viridis*
4 seen 9/5 at Changi Business Park (HoB).

BANDED BAY CUCKOO *Cacomantis sonneratii*
1 seen on Ubin, 1/5 (LKC/LTK/MiM)

PLAINTIVE CUCKOO *Cacomantis merulinus*
1 heard on Ubin, 1/5 (LKC/LTK/MiM). 1 heard at
Neo Tiew Lane 2, 7/5 (LKS/LWX).

RUSTY-BREASTED CUCKOO
Cacomantis sepulcralis
1 heard on Ubin, 1/5 (LKC/LTK/MiM)

VIOLET CUCKOO
Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus
1 heard at Dairy Farm Road on 29/5 – 30/5 (LKS).

ASIAN DRONGO CUCKOO *Surniculus lugubris*
3 heard on 20/5 at MacRitchie Reservoir (LKC). 1
heard at Dairy Farm Road on 29/5 – 30/5 (LKS).

BLUE-RUMPED PARROT *Psittinus cyanurus*
1 heard on Ubin, 1/5 (LKC/LTK/MiM)

BLUE-CROWNED HANGING PARROT
Loriculus galgulus
4 on 13/5 in the woodlands around Bidadari
Cemetery (TKC)

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*
4 seen on 20/5 at MacRitchie Reservoir (LKC).

BROWN HAWK-OWL *Ninox scutulata*
1 seen 1/5 at Upper Peirce Road (End).

SAVANNA NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus affinis*
2 seen at Tuas, 13/5 (LKC/LTK) and 4 on 14/5
(LKC/LTK). 1 was feigning injury probably an
indication of nesting.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*
1 seen on Ubin, 1/5 (LKC/LTK/MiM). 15 seen on
31/5 at SBWR (HF/SF).

RED-WATTLED LAPWING *Vanellus indicus*
2 seen at Tuas, 13/5 (LKC/LTK) and 16/5 (LKC/YDL).



Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot at Bidadari on 13 May 2009 by KC Tsang



Brown Hawk-owl at Upper Peirce Rod on 1 May 2009 by Ender

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

2, in breeding plumage seen flying over the Tuas grassland, 13/5 (LKC/LTK) and 14/5 (LKC/YDL). A mixed flock with Wing-winged Terns totaling about 15 birds seen on 20/5 and 15 seen 28/5 at Kranji Reservoir (LTK).



Little Tern at Kranji Reservoir on 20 May 2009 by Lee Tiah Khee

WHITE-WINGED TERN *Chlidonias hybridus*

A mixed flock with Little Terns totaling about 15 birds seen on 20/5 and 1 seen 28/5 at Kranji Reservoir (LTK).



White-winged Tern at Kranji Reservoir on 20 May 2009 by Lee Tiah Khee

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

1 seen on 31/5 at SBWR (HF/SF).

BAT HAWK *Macheiramphus alcinus*

1 seen 4/5 at MacRitchie (TGC), flying just above the canopy height.

PIED HARRIER *Circus melanoleucos*

1 unconfirmed report of an immature female seen on 4/5 at Tuas (TGC).

CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE *Spizaetus cirrhatus*

1 juvenile pale morph seen on 5/5 at MacRitchie (TGC). An adult seen briefly in albizia woods at Neo Tiew Lane 2 on 7/5 (LKS). Another seen over PIE, near Lornie Road exit on 9/5 (LKS).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

3 seen on 30/5 at Singapore Quarry (RjK).

GREAT-BILLED HERON *Ardea sumatrana*

3 seen on Ubin, 1/5 (LKC/LTK/MiM)

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

1 seen on 14/5 in the vicinity of the Jurong East MRT station. It was hunting in the big water-logged field in front of the station (CyN).

JAVAN POND HERON *Ardeola speciosa*

1 seen in breeding plumage on 2/5 at SBWR (RjK).

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius schach*

5 seen 9/5 at Changi Business Park (HoB).

ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN *Copsychus saularis*

1 male seen on 20/5 at MacRitchie Reservoir by the golf course (LKC).

WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA *Copsychus malabaricus*

3 pairs seen building their nests on 16/5 at Pulau Ubin (ChL).

STRAW-HEADED BULBUL *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*

At least 2 seen on 5/5 at BBNP (CCP) feeding on a fruiting fig tree by the quarry pond.

BLACK-HEADED BULBUL *Pycnonotus atriceps*

1 heard on 20/5 at MacRitchie Reservoir (LKC).

CREAM-VENTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus simplex*

1 seen on 4/5 at MacRitchie (TGC), taking a bath.

WHITE-CRESTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax leucolophus*

4 seen on 5/5 at BBNP (CCP), one of which was seen picking ants off the trunk of a tree while it is on the ground.

ABBOTT'S BABBLER *Malacocinda abbotti*

1 heard 10/5 at Sentosa (KK).

SHORT-TAILED BABBLER *Malacocinda malaccensis*

A few seen on 4/5 and 9 on 9/5 at MacRitchie (TGC), taking their bath.

BREEDING / NESTING REPORTS

LESSER WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna javanica*

2 adults with 2 ducklings in a pond at Tuas, 14/5 (LKC/LTK).

LINEATED BARBET *Megalaima lineata*

1 pair seen on 17/5 nesting at Jurong Park (TBC). 1 nesting pair in Jurong Lake, 24/5 (LKC/LTK/JiC). Both adults seen bringing food to the nest hole. The nest hole was located on a dead stump about 5 m high. Food brought in consisted of berries, insects and caterpillars. It was observed that while one bird was away searching, the other would be on sentry. It was observed once to chase away a myna.

LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus macrurus*

1 seen sitting on 2 eggs at Tuas, 13/5. The eggs were laid on a bare ground below a Dillenia bush. Another nest was found not far from the first. Similarly 2 eggs were laid on the bare ground below a Dillenia bush.

PINK-NECKED GREEN PIGEON *Treron vernans*

1 young male begging food from an adult female on 18/5 at Toh Tuck area on a Rose of India (DA). 1 male sitting on a nest at Tuas, 14/5 (LKC/LTK). The nest of sticks was built on a Dillenia bush about 1.5 m above the ground. The nest contained 2 chicks. A female was seen in the nest on 16/5 (LKC/YDL).

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

1 pair seen incubating an egg on 30/5 (TWX) at Tampines area in the middle of a bike Trail.

COMMON IORA *Aegithina tiphia*

1 pair seen building nest on a Sea Hibiscus on Ubin, 1/5 (LKC/LTK/MiM)

WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA *Copsychus malabaricus*

3 pairs seen building their nests on 16/5 at Pulau Ubin (ChL).



White-rumped Shama carrying nesting material at Pulau Ubin on 16 May 2009 by Chris Lee.

ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING *Aplonis panayensis*

On 19/5, 3 fledglings were seen begging for food from an adult on a Rose of India at Toh Tuck area. The fledglings kept together and have black eyes unlike the adult which have red eye (DA).

COMMON HILL MYNA *Gracula religiosus*

1 pair seen on 17/5 nesting at Lower Peirce (TBC).

PACIFIC SWALLOW *Hirundo tahitica*

4 adults and 2 young seen on 22/5 at Toh Tuck area. The 2 young were observed approaching 2 adults while flapping their wings at the same time (DA).

ZITTING CISTICOLA *Zitting Cisticola*

1 pair was seen bringing food at Tuas on 13/5 (LKC/LTK) and 14/5 (LKC/LTK). The tubular shaped nest of dried grass was nestled very close to the ground amidst some spiny grass. Food brought in consisted of grasshopper, dragonfly, crickets, worms and caterpillars. The nest contained 2 young. The young fledged by 16/5 (LKC/YDL).

ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE *Zosterops palpebrosus*

1 seen 18/5 at Toh Tuck area stripping bark from the branch of a Rose of India, apparently for building nest (DA).

OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD *Nectarinia jugularis*

First observed on 20/4 when the female was building the nest, 2 chicks were observed being fed by their parents on 17/5 at Toh Tuck area. On 21/5, both chicks were found dead and the female was observed to pull them out of the nest (DA/MiT/ViC). Another nest observed on 26/5 on small plant on a rooftop at Burgundy Rise. Both parents were seen carrying food to the nest (DA).



Olive-backed Sunbirds at Toh Tuck area on 17 May 2009 by Michael Toh

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

2 chicks in their nest observed being fed by their parents on 25/05 at Toh Tuck area (DA).

BLACK-HEADED MUNIA *Lonchura malacca*

2 adults seen feeding 4 young at Tuas, 14/5 (LKC/YDL). Also flushed an adult from a nest. The globular shaped nest of grass was placed about 1 m above the ground on a Dillenia bush.

JOHOR

GREY-AND-BUFF WOODPECKER *Hemicircus concretus*

3 seen at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

RED-CROWNED BARBET *Megalaima rafflesii*

One seen carrying food to a nest hole 4 metres up a dead tree at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

YELLOW-CROWNED BARBET *Megalaima henricii*

1 seen at a fruiting tree at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

WREATHED HORNBILL *Aceros undulatus*

1 in flight at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

RUFIOUS-BACKED KINGFISHER *Ceyx rufidorsa*

One seen digging a nest-hole at Bunker Track on 3/5 (LKC/LKS/M/YDL) and 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

BLUE-EARED KINGFISHER *Alcedo meninting*

1 seen at the first stream at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

RAFFLES'S MALKOHA *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*

1 at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

SILVER-RUMPED SPINETAIL *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*

2 seen at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

WHISKERED TREESWIFT *Hemiprocne comata*

A pair seen mating at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

CRESTED HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis ptiloryncus*

1 seen at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

LESSER CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina fimbriata*

A male was seen eating a large caterpillar at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

WHITE-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Cyornis concreta*

1 male seen on 11/5 at Bunker Trail, Panti Forest Reserve (LKC/CYY).

ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER *Terpsiphone paradisi*

A female seen at Bunker Track, 3/5 (LKC/LKS/M/YDL).

LARGE WOODSHRIKE

Tephrodornis gularis

1 at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

PUFF-BACKED BULBUL *Pycnonotus eutilotus*

1 seen singing at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

CREAM-VENTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus simplex*

1 seen with nest material (dead leaves) at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

SPECTACLED BULBUL *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*

1 at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*

2 seen and several heard singing subsongs at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

WHITE-BELLIED YUHINA *Yuhina zantholeuca*

A flock of 3-4 at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

PLAIN SUNBIRD *Anthreptes simplex*

1 at Bunker Track, 4/5 (LKS/AW/EW).

Bhutan Reflections **1 May 2009 to 12 May 2009**

By Alfred Chia

Participants: Doreen Ang, Alfred Chia, Willie Foo, Lim Kim Keang, Tai Ping Ling & Tan Ju Lin

Text & pictures by Alfred Chia, unless otherwise stated.



Snow-capped mountain peaks of the East Himalayans

Bhutan – the mere mention of this approximately 47,000 sq km mountain kingdom evokes all at once a feeling of excitement, mysticism, awe and fascination.

Before the July 2008 marriage of Hong Kong’s Tony Leung and Carina Lau here, not many have heard of Bhutan, much less know where it is. Mention Bhutan and you get a questioning look.

And so it was, with a heightened sense of anticipation and expectation that the six of us – myself, Doreen Ang, Ju Lin, Kim Keang, Ping Ling and Willie Foo, set off from Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi Airport at the early hour of 5.50am on 1 May for Bhutan’s Paro International Airport. “Land of the Thunder Dragon” – here we come!

Bhutan is a landlocked country nestled high in the east Himalayans. She has absolutely no coastline. It is mostly mountainous with an extreme variation in elevation (97m at Drangme Chhu to 7,553m at Kula Kangri), and has only one road running from west to

east. A constitutional monarchy, it has its capital at Thimphu and currently has a population of about 680,000. The official language is Dzongkha, and over 70% of its population is Buddhists. Ngultrum is their currency but the Indian Rupee, traded at the same par value as the Ngultrum, is also widely used. It is also interesting to note that cigarettes and any other tobacco related products are forbidden in the kingdom. Payment of a 200% duty is levied on anyone intending to bring in cigarettes for personal consumption, subject to a maximum of 200 cigarettes. For this reason, Bhutan is a non-smoker's paradise as indeed, in our 12 days of travel within this country, we hardly came into contact with any cigarette smoke – even if in Thimphu.

Our Drukair flight, Bhutan's national carrier and the only airline allowed into the country, landed in chilly Paro Airport after a skilful manoeuvring of the aircraft by the pilot through the narrow valleys of the mountains. Yes, it is said that the pilots have to undergo specialized mountain flight training to be able to handle the challenging, difficult and precarious landings required. On hand to receive us were our guide Sherub and our driver for the trip, Namgay.



Happiness written all over their faces



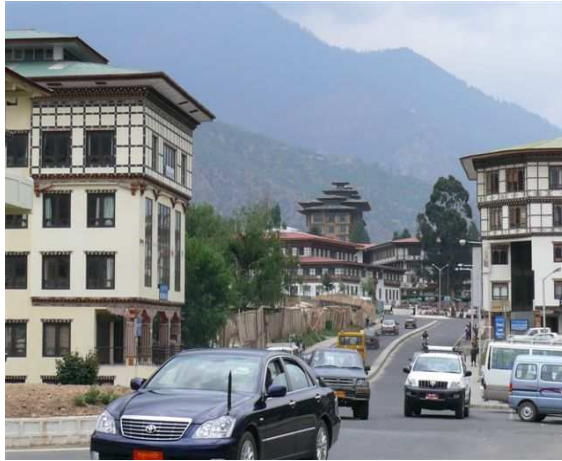
Paro's terminal building

Stepping out of the terminal building, Bhutanese men and women, dressed in their traditional *gho* and *ker*a respectively, were a pleasant sight. You do not see people hustling and waylaying you to board their taxis. Everything and everyone is all so orderly and unhurried. It brought on a spontaneous smile and agreement from me.

With our luggage, backpacks and equipment all loaded up by Namgay onto the Toyota van, we set off from the airport for the capital Thimphu, a distance of 54km.

Out onto the streets, you immediately see the ubiquitous houses typical of Bhutan. A most colourful sight, these houses are constructed through rammed-earth based structures. Roofs, usually made of wood shingles or corrugated aluminium or zinc, and are often held down by rocks. Windows and doors are almost always painted profusely in bright and loud colours.

Before long, you will be drawn to the painting of phalluses that greet you at these houses. Skillfully painted or carved, they unabashedly adorn and grace the exterior of the house. Some are even hanged on the eaves of the houses too. These pictures of penises come in all forms – a tribute to the imaginative and artistic talent of the artist. Some spew flowers, others are shaped like a rocket, most are tied with a thread, almost all come equipped with testicles and are erect. Some are even seen ejaculating! But none are anywhere obscene or pornographic. They are there to ward off demons and all things evil and to bring fertility and prosperity to the household.



Street of Thimphu



House with painting of phalluses on either side

The capital of Thimphu is a bustling city of about 60,000. There are no traffic lights here (and indeed in the whole of Bhutan). The only controlled junction in Thimphu is manned by a policeman stationed in a round podium, which also acts as a landmark of sorts. It is here that we encounter any semblance of a busy city life. You see many cars, SUVs, buses, lorries and Bhutanese going from one place to the next. Shops jostle cheek-by-jowl selling and parading Bhutanese daily necessities and luxuries. Bank of Bhutan, handicraft shops, hair saloons and other service shops add to the atmosphere. We stayed for a night in an almost 5-star hotel called The Namgye Heritage Hotel. On our return trip from the east, we were to stay here for another night. No one complained!

We begin to head eastwards from the morning of 2 May. Our final destination – the famous birding road of Lingmethang on 9 May. Through this one week of journey, we would have to pass through mountain passes (called “La”) like Dochu La (3,100m), Pele La (3,300m), Yutong La (3,400m) and Trumsing La (3,800m), many rivers or “Chhu” like Paro Chhu, Mo Chhu, Pho Chhu, Mangde Chhu and Puna Tsang Chhu, to name a few.

Dochu La was the first pass that we have to cross. Here, we had our first taste of an outdoor meal – the first of many to come in the days ahead. In the cold of the morning, we sat down for a hearty and welcomed breakfast of bread with butter or jam, corn flakes with hot milk and a more-than-enough serving of fried eggs. These can be washed down with coffee, tea, cocoa or canned juices – depending on your inclination. This quiet pass is “decorated” with 108 *chortens* amidst a sea of colourful prayer flags just across the

narrow mountain road. In the misty morning, these *chortens* evoke a sense of peace, tranquility and serenity.



Breakfast at Dochu La Pass



Misty view of some of the 108 chortens

Dzongs or fortresses, chortens or stupas, temples, monasteries and numerous sacred places dot the Bhutanese landscape as you drive through the magnificent mountain road. The dzongs are masterpieces of architecture and are said to be constructed without the use of architectural plans! These fortresses serve a multitude of uses – as religious, administrative, military, social and gathering centres of the respective districts. They are also the sites of many a religious festivals in Bhutan. They are found on mountains passes, hillocks, at confluence of rivers and river-banks as well as at some cross-roads.



The magnificent Punakha Dzong at the confluence of the Mo Chhu and Pho Chhu Rivers

Another of Bhutan's arresting sight has to be their colourful iconic prayer flags. These are liberally hung horizontally across bridges and trees while others rise majestically to heights of 6 metres or more. Red, white, blue and yellow, representing the four Buddha

families, they dance, sway and flutter with the wind and is indeed an amazing sight to behold.



Prayer flags at Dochu La Pass



Flags are also hung along bridges at river crossings



A close-up of the colourful prayer flags

Due to a lack of facilities along the journey, we had to camp-out for 5 nights. In a way, this was good as we were able to awake to a symphony of dawn chorus. And as you lay down in your tent amidst prime forest habitat, you realized that cuckoos do not really sleep in the night. Either they serenade you to dreamland or remain a constant source of anguish in keeping you awake, Large Hawk-cuckoos, Lesser, Drongo and Indian Cuckoos kept calling to one another through the night! This is perhaps true for the family as our Asian Koel also calls at unearthly hours in Singapore.

Each of us has a comfortable tent to ourselves. A bright yellow, these were set-up by our efficient camp crew and ready for us whenever we arrived at our camp ground for the night. Two toilet tents, one each for male and female, with a dug-out hole on the ground, were also available. A dining and cooking tent complete a typical camp ground. At 2,000m Chankhar, where we had to camp for two consecutive nights, an additional shower tent was built. You take a bath standing on a specially arranged rock surface, with very cold water hosed in from a nearby mountain stream. The kind crew however had a basin of hot water each waiting for us to ensure we do not go through a “cold turkey” treatment! It was primitive and uncomfortable, but nevertheless refreshing and a welcomed experience. We camped from Tingtibi at 700m to a very cold Sengor at 2,800m.



Camp ground at 2,000m Chankhar



Shower tent

Our guide Sherub is an ornithologist with the Forest Department of Bhutan. He is involved with mapping out the Important Bird Areas of Bhutan, which to me is a daunting task. Imagine a country with a 72% intact forest and you will understand what I mean! Due to his long hours spent in the fields, Sherub’s knowledge of bird calls is very impressive. Warblers, laughingthrushes, babblers, the lot – there is almost none that he is not able to tell apart. This helped a lot where our birding was concerned and we added many species to our list through this talent of his.

We were also ably assisted throughout the trip by our very professional and hardworking camp and meal crew. Handsome Tashipenjar, unassuming Hishi, playful Yontinla (cook) and eagle-eyed Sithar are 4 very energetic, responsible and happiest of crew around. Seeing them carrying our bulky and heavy luggages from the van, up a slope, jump across a drain, then up some steps, another slope and into our tents while at the same time joking, laughing and poking fun at their fellow crew cannot but remind me that theirs is a simple lot, contented with the simple fun and an unhurried pace of life. How I envy them! They took care of us city folks amazingly – from bringing us a basin of hot water at the break of dawn to our tents for our wash-up, to meal times, to setting up and dismantling our tents, to even helping to find birds for us, and to joining us in our banter and jokes – we could not have asked for more.

Driver Namgay is the sixth member of the crew. A good addition to the team, he ensured a safe journey throughout. Young, jovial and with exceptionally small eyes which tried at times to stay open during the long journey, he was always the target for interrogation, sometimes harassment by Ju Lin and Ping Ling. While driving, he was fed variously tit-bits brought from Singapore, Ricola Elderflower lozenges, nuts, and more nuts to help him stay awake during those long and tiring journeys. Despite this, he was always a careful and responsible driver and we appreciated that.



From left: Sherub, Tashipenjor, Namgay, myself, Yontinla, Hishi and Sithar

From Paro to Thimphu, from Punakha to Wangdue Phodrang, from Trongsa to Zhemgang, to Jakar and Bumthang and thence to Sengor, Lingmethang and Mongar, we drove through stunning mountain vistas and great expanse of green, forested hillsides. In the distance, you see snow-capped peaks, a resplendent white in the bright sunlight. Down in the valleys are many terraced rice fields, 2-storeyed Bhutanese houses scattered here and there and the omnipresent fast-flowing rivers. So, a typical journey through Bhutan will take you from sub-tropical forests over high alpine mountain passes, down into broad valleys and up into higher elevations again. It was within such splendid scenery that we spent our birding hours.



Houses in valley



River flowing through a valley between mountains

We had targeted the few obvious birds that we want to see on this maiden trip to Bhutan and these were of course high on our list of “wanted” birds. **Satyr Tragopan**, **Himalayan Monal**, **Kalij** and **Blood Pheasants**, **Chestnut-breasted Partridge**, the rare **White-bellied Heron**, **Ibisbill**, the precious **Ward’s Trogon**, **Rufous-necked Hornbill**, the **Yellow-rumped Honeyguide**, **Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler**, the diminutive **Wedge-billed Wren-babbler**, the beautiful **Fire-tailed Myzornis** and the pretty **Beautiful Nuthatch**. In the end, we missed the partridge, the wren-babbler and the myzornis. It was nevertheless a very good result, we all agreed.

We had missed the **Ibisbill** on 1 May. While travelling from Thimphu to Punakha on 2 May, we had all our eyes peeled down on the chhus at whichever angle that can be afforded from the narrow confines of the van’s windows. Sherub suddenly shouted, “Stopped!” when we were passing Lekithang in Punakha. “**White-bellied Heron!**” he exclaimed, as we got doubly excited over the prospect of seeing one of the 50 rarest bird in the world. The heron was resting motionless on an island in the middle of the river, amidst some reeds. A spotting scope was put onto it immediately and soon everyone was viewing this critically endangered species that totalled no more than 250 where it occurred.

As everyone was busy looking and hopefully photographing (it was a distance away) the heron, I scanned the shingle bed for the elusive **Ibisbill**. My persistence paid off when I trusted my instinct to take a second and more careful look at a blob that happened to stick out from the tons of shingles. There, well camouflaged with the shingles, was our bird – an adult **Ibisbill**! Needless to say, the heron now play second fiddle. We got long looks through the scope and it was one beautiful wader. Careful scanning through the shingle beds revealed another adult and a surprising 3 chicks, busy walking around looking for food. We were happy, really happy and everyone was grinning from face to face as not only the precious Ibisbill but 3 of its chicks were now in the bag. We were later to encounter another 2 adults and another 4 chicks at nearby Zomlingthang. Two mega-ticks within 150 metres of each other – it was almost unbelievable!



White-bellied Heron (Ju Lin)



Adult Ibisbill (Ju Lin)



Ibisbill in shingle beds

A couple of months before our trip, I had read through many birding trip reports to Bhutan that was available on the Net. From all these, it was not difficult to conclude that most of the sought-after ground birds that were seen were had when birder and vehicle surprised them on the road at first light, when vehicles are few and far between. **Himalayan Monal, Satyr Tragopan, Kalij** and **Blood Pheasants** – from Dochu La to Chele La, Pela La to Yutong La, Trumsing La to Sengor, Zhemgang and Lingmethang, these beauties were seen time and again by many birders along the roads.

The **Kalij** was easier. My birding mates who were seated on the left side of the Toyota van ran into 2 separate birds on 3 and 4 May whilst on the way to Trongsa and Zhemgang. I was seated on the right!

After these 2 sightings, ground birds were a total zilch. We were getting restless and began to think the worst. On the early morning of 7 May, Sherub was trying to lure the tragopan by playing its call. We stood attentively and obediently near him. After a long enough wait, some of us started drifting away, perhaps to try our own luck. After realising that this was no way to see a tragopan, I then asked Sherub whether it would be better if we try our luck by driving down the Lingmethang Road, since it was still very early and the road was deserted. We drove for a few kilometers without any luck and I had just whispered to Ping Ling (who was seated next to me) that perhaps it was not meant to be. Less than 30 seconds after I had whispered, the van screeched to a sudden halt, amidst a loud and unison chorus of “Stop! Tragopan!” from a bunch of ecstatic birders on board.

And there it was – a beautiful male **Satyr Tragopan** in all its splendour, utterly oblivious to the presence of a van nearby. It was at first sitting (or squatting?) on the grass patch by

the side of the road. It then stood up, fluffed up its throat and breast, as if doing some sort of courtship display to a female, which was unseen. It slowly turned around clockwise, started to peck the ground for a few seconds, and slowly made the full turn. It was displaying itself to a group of 6 birders from Singapore, caught numb by the indescribable scene that was unfolding before them. The gorgeous crimson-red neck and breast that stretches all the way to its underparts, the many white dots edged black, the bluish facial skin, the black tail – words can never fully justify the beauty of the **Satyr Tragopan!**



Male **Satyr Tragopan** by Lim Kim Keang

Ward's Trogon was another bird that eluded us until 8 May when a female and a juvenile put in an appearance when we were having our breakfast along Lingmethang Road. Even then, it took a great deal of effort and time to locate them. Both birds were quite jittery and to make matters worse, they were high up in the trees. Whenever we managed to put a scope onto one of them, it flew within seconds. It was an exasperating experience. Our second encounter with another female was 2 days later on 10 May. We were then going westwards from Bumthang to Wangdue Prodrang. In the heat of the afternoon and our lunch time, a female called. Sharp-eared Sherub picked it up immediately. This bird was luckily more co-operative than our earlier one and all of us had a good look at it through the scope. We had hope for a male to turn up on both occasions but alas, it was not meant to be. Nevertheless, a Ward's, even if it is a female or juvenile, is still a Ward's – we cherished every moment of it.

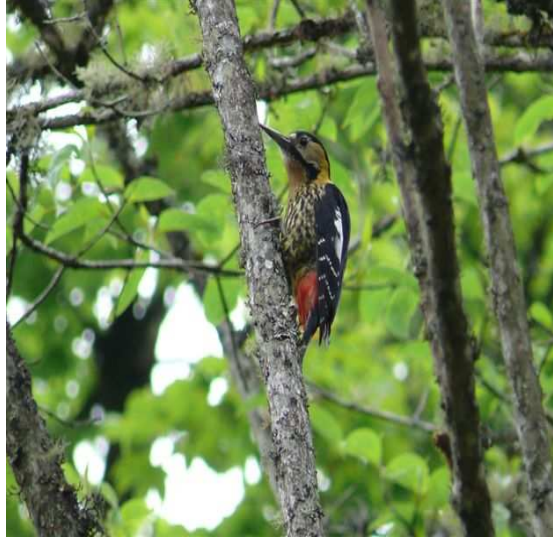
We also caught up with the **Yellow-rumped Honeyguide** at two locations. Both locations were a known haunt as there were bee hives around. The honeyguides lived up to its name as they were observed flying and hanging around these hives, very much at home.

Many other birds rolled in. **Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler** with its diagnostic decurved bill, a party of at least 10 beautiful **Cutias** at eye-level, gorgeous **Red-tailed Minlas**, the handsome **Rufous-necked Hornbill**, **Long-billed Thrush** and **Tickell's Thrush**, **Little Forktail** and **Spotted Forktail**, **Winter Wren**, **Fire-capped Tit**, the

confiding Rufous-throated Wren-babbler, **Yellow-throated Fulvetta**, 5 species of parrotbills, many warblers, yuhinas and finches.



Rufous-necked Hornbill by Ju Lin



Female Darjeeling Woodpecker

Laughingthrushes were also a mainstay and we garnered a total of 11 types – **White-throated, White-crested, Striated, Rufous-chinned**, the very beautiful **Spotted, Grey-sided, Streaked** or **Bhutan, Blue-winged, Scaly, Black-faced** and **Chestnut-crowned**. Almost all have their distinctive and diagnostic calls and Sherub was up to the task in being able to figure out the subtle differences between different species. Cheers to him!

We bird everywhere we go while making our way to our accommodation for the night. Birds call whenever there are forests, even in open country and pasture land. You cannot miss the call of the **Rufous Sibia** as they are found almost everywhere you go. Neither will you miss seeing the ubiquitous **Blue Whistling Thrush**, a bird which you will surprised ever so often on the road whilst driving.



There were at least 10 **Cutias** on epiphytes at eye-level



Male Blue-capped Rock Thrush



Stripe-throated Yuhina

Wherever you go, you see friendly, cheerful and simple Bhutanese folks. Men and women sit and chatter idly by the wooden benches outside their houses and watch the world, and our van, go by. Children, face dirtied and hair messy and crumbled, and with a pair of the most reddish rosy cheeks ever, waved spontaneously at you when you passed them by. They smile at you and shouted “hello”, and you return with same. It made their day, and ours too. Occasionally, you will see a cow herder shooing his charges to the side of the road to allow our vehicle to cross. Cows are aplenty in Bhutan. Like the birds, they are found in almost every place we go. They even kept us company at our camping grounds in Goenshari and Sengor. With cows come cow dung and we bird-watched in the midst of these “land mines”. It is safe to say that all of us had stepped at least once, if not twice or more, onto these fresh mines in the course of pursuing that bird.



Bhutanese children will pose readily for photographs



11 May and we were back at the Namgye Heritage in Thimphu. We were still missing the **Himalayan Monal** and me, the **Kalij Pheasant** as well. Our departure flight from Paro to Bangkok on 12 May was at 9am. Are we to go back to Singapore without the monal? That thought haunted and tormented us! An urgent meeting of minds was called that 11 May afternoon, Sherub included. It was decided that we forgo the luxury of more sleep at Namgye Heritage that night.

At precisely 1.45 am on 12 May, 6 bleary-eyed Singaporean birders gathered, with luggages in tow, at the entrance of Namgey Heritage – all ready to board the van for a final chance at the monal. We had decided to go to the 3,800m high Chele La Pass. We want to be at the pass by day break at 5 am and travelling time dictated that we must set off before 2 am. I remembered this broke my personal record set in 2002 in Sulawesi. Then, I had to set off at about 2.30 am to reach the summit at Anaso by day-break. Such are the pain and dedication some birders go through to get their birds! I cannot but praised myself and that of my mates for the noble sacrifice.

By 4.25 am, we were at the pass. It was still dark and the temperature must have been less than 5 degrees. It was cold, very cold indeed. Slowly but surely, dawn began to break. It was time to move down. Everyone was wide awake now and it was now or never (or maybe the next trip?). The van moved gingerly down. All eyes were on all sides of the vehicle. It's an unwritten law that you are supposed to shout in a low voice if you are the first one to see anything resembling a chicken.

Good old Sherub, his sharp eyes again came to the fore when he spied one male monal by the road. Unfortunately, the bird saw us and it flew immediately down the ravine. Fortunately, it perched midway up on a pine tree, its back facing us. We came off the van stealthily, not wanting to scare the bird, even if it was a distance away and facing away from us. We took a quick look at this marvelous bird with our binoculars. A spotting scope was set up in quick order and everyone queued patiently for their turn. It stayed long enough for all to admire its magnificence and colours. Relief and smiling faces were all around as we boarded the van. No one remembered the time we woke up!



Male **Himalayan Monal** (Ju Lin)

Driving further, we encountered also a male **Blood Pheasant** standing atop a stone culvert. It saw us and instead of flying away actually walked a few steps towards our vehicle, as if disorientated.

We were to encounter another 2 male **Himalayan Monals** on the way down, all by the road. These afforded better looks for some of us, depending on which side of the vehicle you were seated.

As for me, it was jubilation when I finally came to terms with not one but 4 males and a female **Kalij Pheasant** further on.

The trip reports were correct. The **Satyr Tragopan, Himalayan Monal, Kalij** and **Blood Pheasants** – all were encountered by the road when travelling in our vehicle, and all were seen very early in the morning when no or little vehicular traffic were around.

We recorded between 220 to 240 species of birds between us in our 12-day trip to Bhutan, excluding heard birds. From the drab to the colourful birds and from the very common to the very rare, all hold a special place in our hearts.



Bhutan had been a most memorable trip for all of us – its people, its buildings, culture, spectacular mountain scenery, rivers, broad valleys and pasture land, the endless stretches of verdant and pristine forests, its birds, mammals and the flora.

As it opens up gradually to visitors in the years to come, responsible tourism that is friendly and sustainable to its existing environment must be the way to go. We can only hope Bhutan's flora and fauna remains as intact as it is now. To lose these will indeed be a loss to mankind and a detriment to Bhutan as a country. Long live to the "Land of the Thunder Dragon"!

Acknowledgements and thanks to Doreen who sounded out the word "Bhutan" to me many months ago & for painstakingly putting the trip together and seeing it to fruition.

To all my birding and travelling mates, a big thank you for being such fabulous company, for sharing the joys & frustrations, for sticking together as one in our quest for the wanted birds and most of all, for all the jokes and banter, without which this trip would not have been that successful.

To our guide Sherub, driver Namgay, crew Tashipenjor, Hishi, Yontinla & Sithar – what more can we say except that without you guys, the trip would not have gone on so smoothly and trouble-free. All your enthusiasm, care, smiles & jokes are felt and appreciated. First-class service!

We had booked our birding trip through Mr Karma Jamtsho k.jamtsho@yahoo.com from Nature Tourism-Bhutan nattouri@druknet.bt. All logistical arrangements made were immaculate and went without a hitch. We will not hesitate to recommend Mr Karma to anyone who might want to make a trip to Bhutan in future.

More of my pictures from the trip can be viewed at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/philentoma/>

Checklist of birds seen & heard on Bhutan trip 1/5/2009 to 12/5/2009

S/No	Bird Name	Scientific Name
1	Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>
2	Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>
3	Satyr Tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>
4	Himalayan Monal	<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>
5	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
6	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>
7	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
8	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
9	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
10	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
11	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
12	Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>
13	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>
14	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>
15	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos cathpharius</i>
16	Darjeeling Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>

S/No	Bird Name	Scientific Name
17	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
18	Greater Yellownape	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>
19	Yellow-rumped Honeyguide	<i>Indicator xanthonotus</i>
20	Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>
21	Golden-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima franklinii</i>
22	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima asiatica</i>
23	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
24	Rufous-necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>
25	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
26	Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>
27	Ward's Trogon	<i>Harpactes wardi</i>
28	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>
29	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
30	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
31	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>
32	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>
33	Large Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>
34	Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx fugax (niscolor)</i>
35	Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
36	Eurasian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
37	Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>
38	Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>
39	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>
40	Asian Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx maculatus</i>
41	Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>
42	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
43	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>
44	Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>
45	Mountain Scops-owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>
46	Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>
47	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>
48	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
49	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus (jotaka)</i>
50	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
51	Snow Pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>
52	Speckled Wood-pigeon	<i>Columba hodgsonii</i>
53	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
54	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
55	Red Collared-dove	<i>Strepyopelia tranquebarica</i>
56	Barred Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>
57	Pin-tailed Green-pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>
58	Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon	<i>Treron sphenura</i>
59	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
60	Black-tailed Crake	<i>Porzana bicolor</i>
61	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
62	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>

S/No	Bird Name	Scientific Name
63	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>
64	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>
65	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
66	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
67	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
68	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
69	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
70	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo (burmanicus)</i>
71	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>
72	Mountain Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>
73	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
74	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
75	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
76	White-bellied Heron	<i>Ardea insignis</i>
77	Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>
78	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
79	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>
80	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
81	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
82	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>
83	Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>
84	Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>
85	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
86	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>
87	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
88	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
89	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
90	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>
91	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>
92	Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>
93	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
94	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>
95	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>
96	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
97	Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura hypoxantha</i>
98	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
99	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
100	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>
101	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>
102	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
103	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
104	Blue-capped Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>
105	Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>
106	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
107	Plain-backed Thrush	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i>
108	Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>

S/No	Bird Name	Scientific Name
109	Long-billed Thrush	<i>Zoothera monticola</i>
110	Tickell's Thrush	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>
111	White-collared Blackbird	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>
112	Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>
113	White-browed Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx montana</i>
114	Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>
115	Ferruginous Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>
116	Slaty-backed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hodgsonii</i>
117	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophinata</i>
118	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>
119	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>
120	Sapphire Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula sapphira</i>
121	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>
122	Large Niltava	<i>Niltava grandis</i>
123	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>
124	Pale Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>
125	Blue-throated Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>
126	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
127	Orange-flanked Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus (rufilatus)</i>
128	Golden Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>
129	White-browed Bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger indicus</i>
130	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
131	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
132	White-capped Water Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>
133	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>
134	Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>
135	Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>
136	Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>
137	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>
138	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
139	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>
140	White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>
141	Beautiful Nuthatch	<i>Sitta formosa</i>
142	Brown-throated Treecreeper	<i>Certhia discolor</i>
143	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
144	Fire-capped Tit	<i>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</i>
145	Rufous-vented Tit	<i>Parus rubidiventris</i>
146	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
147	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
148	Yellow-cheeked Tit	<i>Parus spilonotus</i>
149	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>
150	Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i>
151	Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
152	Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>
153	Nepal House Martin	<i>Delichon nipalensis</i>
154	Striated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>

S/No	Bird Name	Scientific Name
155	Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>
156	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
157	White-throated Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus flaveolus</i>
158	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flavala</i>
159	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes mcclllandii</i>
160	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
161	Striated Prinia	<i>Prinia criniger</i>
162	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
163	Chestnut-headed Tesia	<i>Tesia castaneocoronata</i>
164	Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia fortipes</i>
		<i>Cettia acanthizoides</i>
165	Yellowish-bellied Bush-warbler	<i>(brunnescens)</i>
166	Grey-sided Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>
167	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
168	Tickell's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>
169	Buff-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>
170	Lemon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>
171	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
172	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
173	Large-billed Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>
174	Blyth's Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>
175	Golden-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus burkii</i>
176	Whistler's Warbler	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>
177	Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i>
178	White-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus affinis</i>
179	Grey-cheeked Warbler	<i>Seicercus poliogenys</i>
180	Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>
181	Black-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus schisticeps</i>
182	White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>
183	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>
184	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i>
185	Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax striatus</i>
186	Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax rufogularis</i>
187	Spotted Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ocellatus</i>
188	Grey-sided Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax caerulatus</i>
189	Streaked Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax lineatus (imbricatum)</i>
190	Blue-winged Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax squamatus</i>
191	Scaly Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax subunicolor</i>
192	Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax affinis</i>
193	Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax erythrocephalus</i>
194	Red-faced Liocichla	<i>Liocichla phoenicea</i>
195	Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>
196	Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler	<i>Xiphirhynchus superciliaris</i>
197	Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i>
198	Pygmy Wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>
199	Rufous-throated Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaeornis caudatus</i>

S/No	Bird Name	Scientific Name
200	Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>
201	Cutia	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i>
202	Black-headed Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius rufiventer</i>
203	White-browed Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapris</i>
204	Green Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i>
205	Black-eared Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius melanotis</i>
206	Rusty-fronted Barwing	<i>Actinodura egertoni</i>
207	Hoary-throated Barwing	<i>Actinodura nipalensis</i>
208	Blue-winged Minla	<i>Minla cyanouroptera</i>
209	Chestnut-tailed Minla	<i>Minla strigula</i>
210	Red-tailed Minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>
211	Golden-breasted Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe chrysotis</i>
212	Yellow-throated Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe cinerea</i>
213	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe castaneiceps</i>
214	White-browed Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe vinipectus</i>
215	Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>
216	White-naped Yuhina	<i>Yuhina bakeri</i>
217	Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>
218	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>
219	Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>
220	Black-chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>
221	White-bellied Yuhina	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>
222	Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyris ruficeps</i>
223	Golden Babbler	<i>Stachyris chrysaea</i>
224	Rufous Sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>
225	Great Parrotbill	<i>Conostoma oemodium</i>
226	Brown Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis unicolor</i>
227	Grey-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis gularis</i>
228	Black-throated Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis nipalensis</i>
229	Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis ruficeps</i>
230	Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum melanoxanthum</i>
231	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>
232	Mrs Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>
233	Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>
234	Black-throated Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>
235	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
236	Fire-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>
237	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>
238	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
239	Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophiatea</i>
240	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
241	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
242	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
243	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
244	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
245	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>

S/No	Bird Name	Scientific Name
246	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
247	Scarlet Finch	<i>Haematoospiza sipahi</i>
248	Brown Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula nipalensis</i>
249	Red-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythrocephala</i>
250	Collared Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas affinis</i>
251	Spot-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas melanozanthos</i>
252	White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>
253	Crested Bunting	<i>Melophus lathami</i>

MAMMALS

S/No	Mammal name	Scientific Name
1	Assamese Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>
2	Grey Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>
3	Golden Langur	<i>Presbytis geei</i>
4	Capped Langur	<i>Presbytis pileata</i>
5	Himalayan Pika	<i>Ochotona himalayana</i>
6	Black Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>
7	Himalayan Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops macclellandii</i>
8	Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel	<i>Dremomys lokriah</i>
9	Yellow-throated Marten	<i>Martes flavigula</i>
10	Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>
11	Common Goral	<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>

Checklist by Alfred Chia