

WINTER BIRD DIVERSITY

PemaGatshel: *Blissful Land of the Lotus*

Explore

Lotus Valley Trek

Norbugang Eco-Trail

Gongri-Bali Eco-lodge Campsite



BHUTAN BIRDLIFE SOCIETY

E xplore Winter Bird Diversity



Pema Gatshel

Lotus Valley Trek

Norbugang-Nyeshingborang Eco-Trail

Gongri-Bali Eco-lodge Campsite

January 2024



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Acknowledgement

Bhutan Birdlife Society (BBLs) would like to express our sincere gratitude for the invaluable support provided by the Dzongkhag in funding the recent winter bird survey conducted along the **Lotus Vallet Trek, Norbugang Eco-lodge site and Eco-trail**. This comprehensive endeavour was a collaborative effort between Dzongkhag Administration, Forest Ranger from **Royal Manas National Park** and members from **Gongri- Bali Eco-lodge community**.

Report Prepared by
Bhutan Birdlife Society (BBLs)

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Introduction

According to the published paper of FORKTAIL 7 (1992) by Clement, the study of birds in Bhutan dates back to a political mission led by R.B Pemberton to Bhutan in 1838 when some species of birds were collected. It was only in the mid-1930s that the knowledge related to avifauna of Bhutan was known when F. Ludlow and G. Sheriff studied the flora and birds in Bhutan on four collecting trips (Ludlow and Kinnear 1937, 1944). Later, between 1966 and 1973, Salim Ali, S.D. Ripley and a team from Zoological Survey of India made six collecting trips to the country (Clements 1992) that helps to understand the bird species present in Bhutan.

Some of the significant information published regarding the birds of Bhutan in the past includes Ludlow et al. (1937), Abdulali (1969 -1988), Gole (1981), Khacher (1981), Ripley (1973), Saha (1980), Ali et al. (1983), Ripley (1982), Clements et al. (1986), Dorji (1987), Gaston (1989), Chacko (1991), Wollenhaupt (1991), and Inskipp et al. (1999).

A total of 172 species of birds were recorded from 2 Trails (Lotus valley and Norbugang) and Gongribali Eco-lodge Campsite. The survey revealed a significant presence of both resident and migratory bird species, including several vulnerable and Near Threatened ones. The diverse range of habitats within the region contributes to the high bird species count, making it an attractive destination for birding enthusiasts.





Details of individual species sighted

- 1. Lotus Valley Trek**
- 2. Norbugang-Nyenshingborang Eco-trail**
- 3. Gongribuli Eco-lodge Campsite**





ASHY-THROATED WARBLER (9 CM)

Phylloscopus maculipennis

LEAST CONCERN

The bird is found in the temperate zone and the foothills, often joining mixed-species flocks. During summer, its range spans 2000-3400 m, with occasional sightings up to 3600 m. In winter, it is found at an elevation of 1200-3200 m, with the occasional sighting as low as 600 m. The bird inhabits hemlock, temperate broadleaf, and mixed forests, and migrates to lower elevations starting in August.

BLUE WHISTLING THRUSH (33 CM)

Myophonus caeruleus

LEAST CONCERN

These birds are commonly found in forested areas, particularly near small fast-flowing streams. They are frequently encountered along roadsides, with dozens or even over a hundred individuals observed during journeys. Besides forests, they also inhabit towns and villages. Blue-whistling thrushes are typically solitary or occur in pairs. They are known for their melodic songs, which are most prominent during the dark hours of dawn and dusk, when few other birds are vocalizing. Their calls are especially prevalent preceding sunrise in November.



CHESTNUT-CROWNED WARBLER (9.5 CM)

Seicercus castaniceps

LEAST CONCERN

The bird is known for its unique combination of chestnut crown with dark brown lateral stripes, yellowish-green wings, yellow belly, bright lemon-yellow rump, and a gray throat and upper breast with white lower breast and belly. The Chestnut-crowned Warbler is a common bird throughout the temperate zone and foothills in Bhutan. During the summer, it can be found at elevations between 1400-2000 m, and in winter it is found at 2600 m with occasional dispersals down to 600 m.





Hill Partridge (28 cm)
Scientific name: *Arborophila torqueola*
IUCN Status: Least Concern

These partridges are mostly seen in pairs or small groups of up to 10 individuals, which may be made up of family groups. This species shows altitudinal movement, occurring at elevations between 1600m-3600m in the summer and retreating below 3,000m and as low as 700m in the winter. The calling birds can be heard mostly from mid-March to June and occasionally until September. They are found in cool broadleaved forests, and more occasionally in fir, blue pine, hemlock, and mixed forests.



Kalij Pheasant (length M65-73cm, F50-60cm)
Lophura leucomelanos

The Kalij Pheasant is a pheasant with distinctive red facial skin, a backward-pointed crest, and a vertically compressed tail. The male is glossy bluish-black with variable amounts of white on the rump and underparts, while the female is dull grayish-brown to reddish-brown with grayish-buff fringes.

Satyr Tragopan ((67-70 cm (M) 57.5 cm (F))

Scientific name: *Tragopan satyra*

IUCN Status: Near Threatened



The male Satyr Tragopan has a distinctive black face with dark blue cheeks and chin, and a grayish-brown back and upper tail with white speckles all over. It is the only tragopan with white dots on its red breast.

RUFIOUS-THROATED PARTRIDGE (27 CM)

Arborophila rufogularis

LEAST CONCERN



The bird inhabits dense undergrowth in warm broadleaved and subtropical forests and is found throughout the temperate belt of Bhutan, at elevations ranging from 400m to 2,800m. Its preferred habitat is montane forests, especially oak forests with laurels and rhododendrons.

The black eagle is a large, distinctive dark eagle found in forested mountains and hills. From a distance, adults appear completely dark, but upon closer inspection, they have pale barring on the primaries, secondaries, and undertail, as well as a bright yellow bill and feet.

It is easily distinguishable from other large birds of prey in its range due to its unique structure and coloration. Black eagles have broad wings with distinct fingers in the tips and a long tail that is fan-shaped when open and slightly wedge-shaped when closed.



Black Eagle (69-81cm)
Ictinaetus malaiensis
Least Concern

This species primarily inhabits montane forests, where it forages for insects and small invertebrates. It is often observed in small groups, and its melodious calls contribute to the forest's natural soundscape. White-browed Shrike Babblers are known for their acrobatic movements as they move through the dense vegetation in search of prey.



White-browed shrike babbler
Pteruthius flaviscapis
Least Concern



COLLARED OWLET (17 CM)
Glaucidium brodiei
LEAST CONCERN

The species is most active from mid-March to May, and nests in natural tree hollows or chambers created by woodpeckers and barbets. It can be found in submontane and montane habitats varying between 1350–2750 m in altitude, but they have also been seen near cultivated lands as low as 700 m. The species frequently calls by day and can be located by mobbing parties of sunbirds, warblers, and small babblers that may attend a roosting bird.

Rufous-necked Hornbill (90-100 cm)
Aceros nipalensis
Vulnerable (VU)



Great Hornbill (95-105 cm)

Buceros bicornis

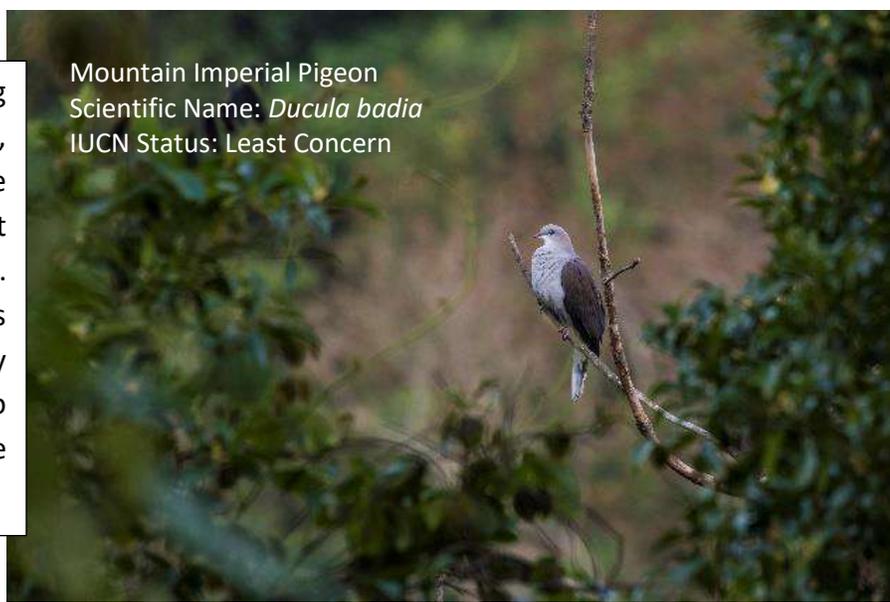
Vulnerable (VU)



Great Hornbills feed on figs, wild fruits, berries, flowers, buds, small mammals, small birds, small reptiles, and large insects. Their breeding season is from January to April, and their call is a repeated resonant, growling “rroh” sound.

It is a large pigeon native to Southeast Asia, including the Himalayas, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Recognizable by its predominantly pale bluish-gray plumage, it inhabits subtropical and tropical montane forests. Known for its direct flight, the pigeon primarily feeds on fruits and occasionally seeds. While not currently considered globally threatened, it's crucial to refer to the latest resources for the most up-to-date conservation status.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon
Scientific Name: *Ducula badia*
IUCN Status: Least Concern



RUFIOUS-BREASTED BUSH ROBIN (15 CM)
Tarsiger hyperythrus
LEAST CONCERN

The male Rufous-breasted Bush Robin has a dark blue upper body with a darker face, while the female is brown above with a white eye-ring. Both sexes have an orange underbelly. It is bulkier than blue flycatchers and has more orange below than Himalayan Bluetail. Its natural habitat is temperate forests, where it breeds in coniferous-dominated scrub above the tree line and winters in scrubby and lightly wooded edge habitats.

EURASIAN WREN (9-10 CM)
Troglodytes troglodytes
LEAST CONCERN

A bird with a short tail, characterized by its plain-brown plumage. Despite its small size, it possesses a remarkably powerful voice. The bird exhibits subtle patterns, with an indistinct pale eyebrow and diffuse dark barring on the flanks and wings. It is often seen with its tail cocked at an angle. The Eurasian Wren can be found in various forested habitats but tends to prefer wetter areas with thick tangles, particularly around fallen trees and moss-covered areas. It is renowned for its beautiful song, which consists of a long series of musical whistles and trills. During the summer season, they are commonly found within a regular range spanning from 2800 to 4600 meters in altitude.



Black-faced Warbler (9cm)

Scientific name: *Abroscopus schisticeps*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



The Black-faced Warbler has a black mask, yellow supercilium and throat, and a grey crown and nape. It has uniform olive-green upperparts without any wing bar, a whitish belly, and a pale-yellow vent. These flocks are often single-species but they also associate with other birds of small size in mixed flocks.

This species is a common resident throughout the temperate zone and in the eastern foothills and western foothills of Bhutan, found at elevations

GREEN SHRIKE BABBLER (12-13 CM)

Pteruthius xanthochlorus

LEAST CONCERN



The male showcases an olive-green back and a grey head, with a bluish-black crown. Its belly is yellow, while the throat and breast exhibit a pale ashy grey coloration. The female, slightly duller in appearance, features a gray head. This species has a diverse diet that includes insects such as ants and beetles, as well as berries and seeds

White-browed Piculet (10 cm)

Scientific name: *Sasia ochracea*

IUCN Status: Least Concern

The White-browed Piculet is a bird species in the family Picidae, with olive-green upper parts tinged with chestnut. The underparts are cinnamon or rufous, sometimes yellowish on the flanks. Males have a small golden-yellow patch on the forehead which females lack.



Speckled Piculet (10 cm)

Scientific name: *Picumnus innominatus*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



The Speckled Piculet has a whitish face broken by a blackish ear-covert patch and a malar stripe, and white to yellowish-white underparts that are heavily spotted with black. It also has a grayish crown, yellowish-green upperparts, and a short, square-ended blackish tail with white on the central and outer feathers. The male has a dull orange forehead and forecrown, barred with black, while the female has a uniform forehead and crown. It is found in temperate zones and the eastern, central and southern foothills, and is resident at altitudes of 400-2000 m, with occasional records to 200 m and 2700 m. It can be found in bushes and bamboo in forests and secondary growth, and feeds on a variety of small insects, with insect larvae and caterpillars as its primary food. The breeding season of the Speckled Piculet is from January to May.



Darjeeling Woodpecker (25cm)

Scientific name: *Dendrocopos darjellensis*

IUCN Status: Least Concern

This species is densely-streaked with a yellowish belly and pale yellow-orange on the neck and throat, and a red vent. Male Darjeeling Woodpeckers have a bright red patch on the back of the crown which is lacking in females.

It is resident at 1600-3200m, with occasional records to 900m and 3800m at the tree line and can be found in a range of forest types, from warm broadleaf and cool broadleaf forests to hemlock and fir forests at higher elevations.

The Rufous-Bellied Woodpecker is a species of bird in the family Picidae. It is recognizable by its white-barred mantle and wings, whitish face, and uniform rufous underparts. Males have a red crown and nape, while females have a white-spotted black crown and nape. This species can be found mainly in temperate zones, ranging from broadleaf forests to coniferous forests. It has declined in part of its former range due to the clearing of deciduous forests necessary for its survival. Its diet consists mainly of insects, such as beetles, grasshoppers, locusts, and some plant material.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker (19cm-23cm)

Scientific name: *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*

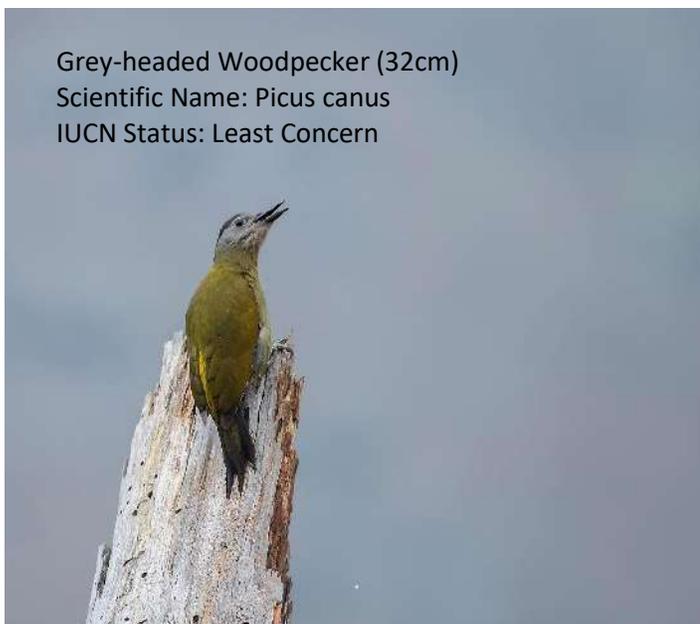
IUCN Status: Least Concern



Grey-headed Woodpecker (32cm)

Scientific Name: *Picus canus*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



The Grey-headed Woodpecker has uniformly olive upperparts that transition across the neck to a light grey, with the head being that latter color. It has a grey head with a black moustache, and the males are even more noticeable due to their red crowns. T

his species prefers not too densely populated deciduous and mixed forests and is often seen in floodplain forests and orchards. It is a common resident throughout the subtropical and part of the temperate zone, and in the latter, it is absent from the western valleys but gradually becomes more common in the east.

Besra (29-36 cm)

Scientific name: *Accipiter virgatus*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



This species is well adapted for fast maneuvering through dense vegetation and is known for its characteristic "flap-flap-glide" flight. It is darker in appearance than the widespread Shikra, with darker upperparts, strongly barred under wings, broader gular stripes, thin long legs, and toes. It is an altitudinal migrant, seen at altitudes ranging from 3000 meters to lowlands.



Mountain Hawk Eagle (72 cm)

Scientific name: *Nisaetus nipalensis*

IUCN Status: Near Threatened

This bird is a large, bulky eagle that is found in the forested hills. Its small head, immense broad wings, and large, often fanned-out tail give it the appearance of a hawk on steroids when in flight. When perched, its thin upright crest sets it apart from any hawk.

Speckled Wood Pigeon (38 cm)

Columba hodgsonii

IUCN Status: Least Concern

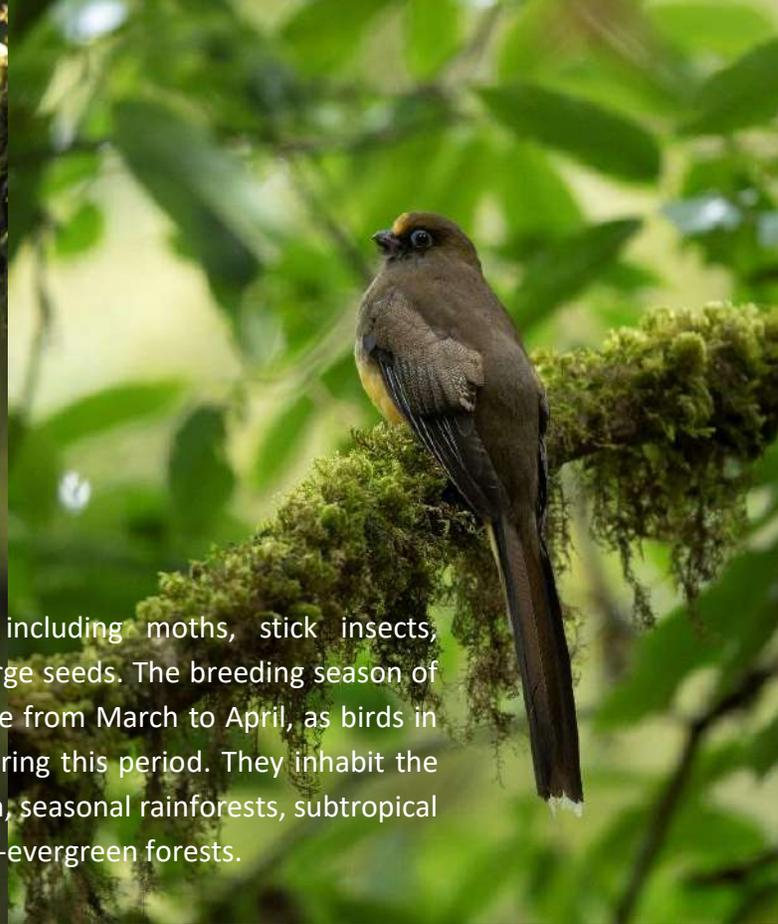
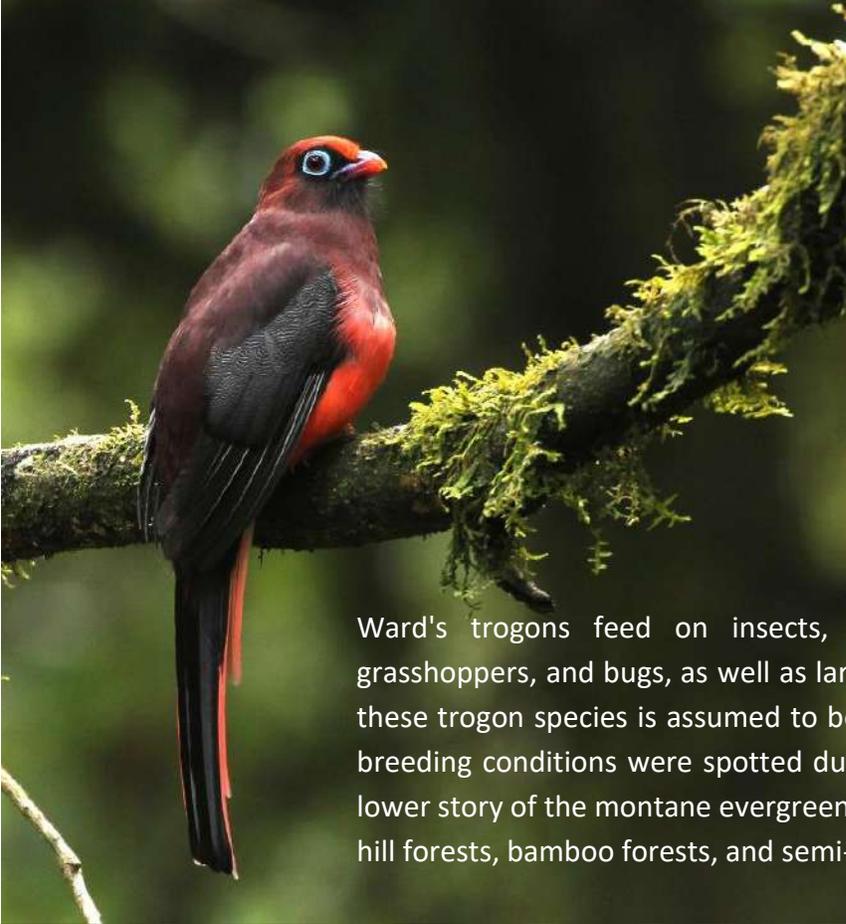
During the summer, they are found in the range of 2200-3400m (May-Nov), while in winter and early spring, they descend slightly to 1400-2800m, with occasional records down to approximately 600m. They are usually seen in pairs or small flocks and feed on fruiting trees.



Ward's Trogon (38cm)

Harpactes wardi

Near Threatened



Ward's trogons feed on insects, including moths, stick insects, grasshoppers, and bugs, as well as large seeds. The breeding season of these trogon species is assumed to be from March to April, as birds in breeding conditions were spotted during this period. They inhabit the lower story of the montane evergreen, seasonal rainforests, subtropical hill forests, bamboo forests, and semi-evergreen forests.

WEDGE-TAILED GREEN PIGEON (33 CM)

Treron sphenurus

LEAST CONCERN



This bird species is typically found at elevations of 1,000m – 2,200m, occupying higher elevations than other *Treron* species. Their vocalizations can be heard year-round, but peak territorial activities appear to be in May-July

Green-tailed Sunbird (11 cm)

Scientific name: *Aethopyga nipalensis*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



The Green-tailed Sunbird is a small bird with a unique appearance. The male boasts a metallic blue-green crown, a red upper back, and bright yellow underparts. The female is olive-yellow with paler underparts and a grayish head, and lacks a prominent yellow rump. The female also has a long, graduated tail with white tips. This sunbird is one of the most abundant members of the sunbird family and can be found at elevations between 1600-3400 m in the summer and 1200-2600 m in the winter, occasionally to 800 m.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (length: 9 cm)

Scientific name: *Dicaeumig nipectus*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



It is a common altitudinal migrant in Bhutan but relatively scarce in western valleys where conifer forests dominate the upper part of its altitudinal range. It shows altitudinal movement, with its summer range spanning 1000-2600 m, occasionally reaching 2900 m, and its winter range spanning 600-2400 m. Singing birds can be heard from February to early August, with peak vocal activity in early April to mid-May.



Fire-tailed Sunbird (12 cm)

Scientific Name: *Aethopyga nicauda*

IUCN Status: Least Concern

The male Fire-tailed Sunbird has red upper-tail coverts and red on its tail. The female has a yellowish belly, yellowish wash to the rump, and brownish-orange tail sides without white. Juvenile and non-breeding males are similar to the female, but with varying amounts of bright red on the rump and tail. It is a frequently recorded altitudinal migrant throughout the alpine and temperate zones.

The male Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker is black with a white throat and yellow belly, with two black patches on either side of the chest giving a "vested" appearance. The female is soft brown above with a darker tail and wingtips, and a pale-yellow belly that blends gradually into the breast. The female also has a vest, but it is fainter and less eye-catching than the male.



Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker (13cm)

Scientific Name: *Dicaeum melanozanthum*

IUCN Status: Least Concern

Crimson Sunbird (11 cm)

Scientific Name: *Aethopyga siparaja*

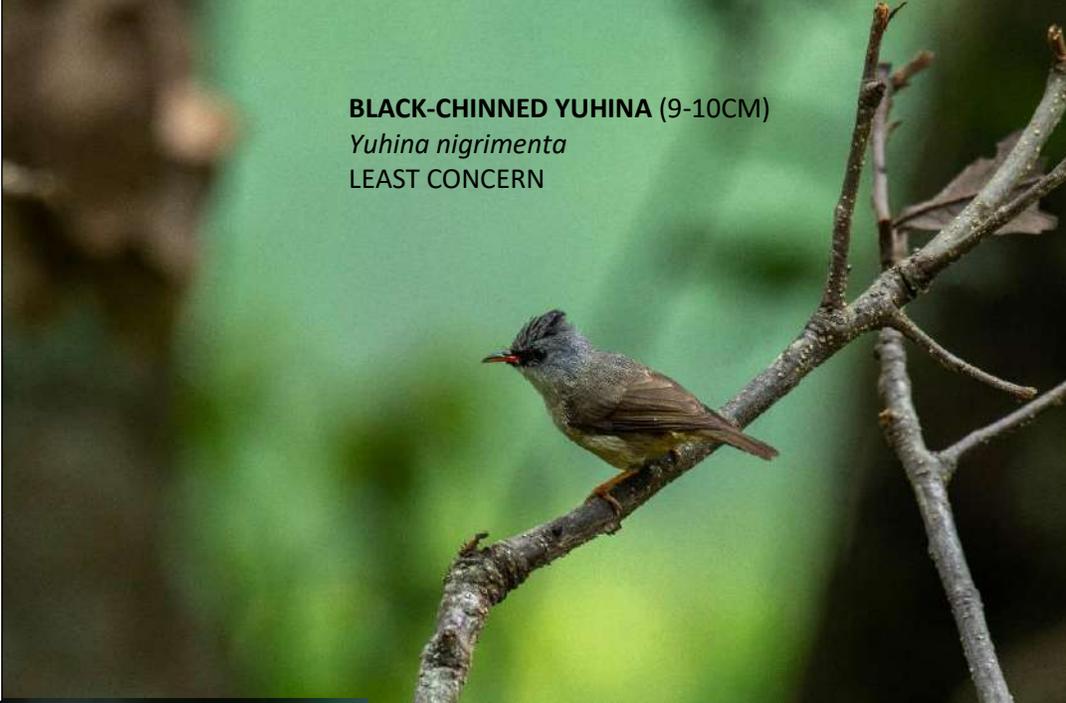
IUCN Status: Least Concern

The adult male Crimson Sunbird has a crimson breast and maroon back, with a yellow rump and an olive belly. The female has an olive-green back, yellowish breast, and white tips on the outer tail feathers. It is a fairly common resident in the western and eastern foothills. The species' altitudinal range is from 200 to 1600 m, occasionally reaching 2000 m. It inhabits bushes in forest and groves.



The Black-chinned Yuhina forages in the upper levels of vegetation, emitting a buzzing chatter and a ringing, repeated song consisting of high whistles. This species is found in temperate zones and foothills, although it is scarcer in the western regions where records are relatively fewer. It prefers habitats with broadleaf trees and overgrown vegetation, and it has been recorded at altitudes ranging from 400 to 2000 meters

BLACK-CHINNED YUHINA (9-10CM)
Yuhina nigrimenta
LEAST CONCERN



BAR-THROATED SIVA (13-14 CM)
Siva Strigula
LEAST CONCERN



They inhabit elevations ranging from 2800 to 3400 meters during their breeding season and migrate to lower elevations of 1800 to 2800 meters in winter. Bar-throated Sivas are found in various forest types, including broadleaf forests, pine forests, rhododendron forests, and bamboo stands

STRIATED YUHINA (14CM)
Staphida castaniceps
LEAST CONCERN

This species is commonly observed in mixed-species foraging flocks. While foraging, it frequently engages in chattering, twittering, and whistling, especially when moving between trees. The Striated Yuhina is primarily found in subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests, as well as subtropical or tropical forests.



WHISKERED YUHINA (13CM)

Yuhina flavicollis

LEAST CONCERN

The Whiskered Yuhina is most commonly found in broadleaf forests in the temperate zone, occurring throughout this habitat as well as in the foothills. It is typically found at altitudes ranging from 3200 to 3450m. Its preferred vegetation includes oak and open deciduous forest, as well as bushes



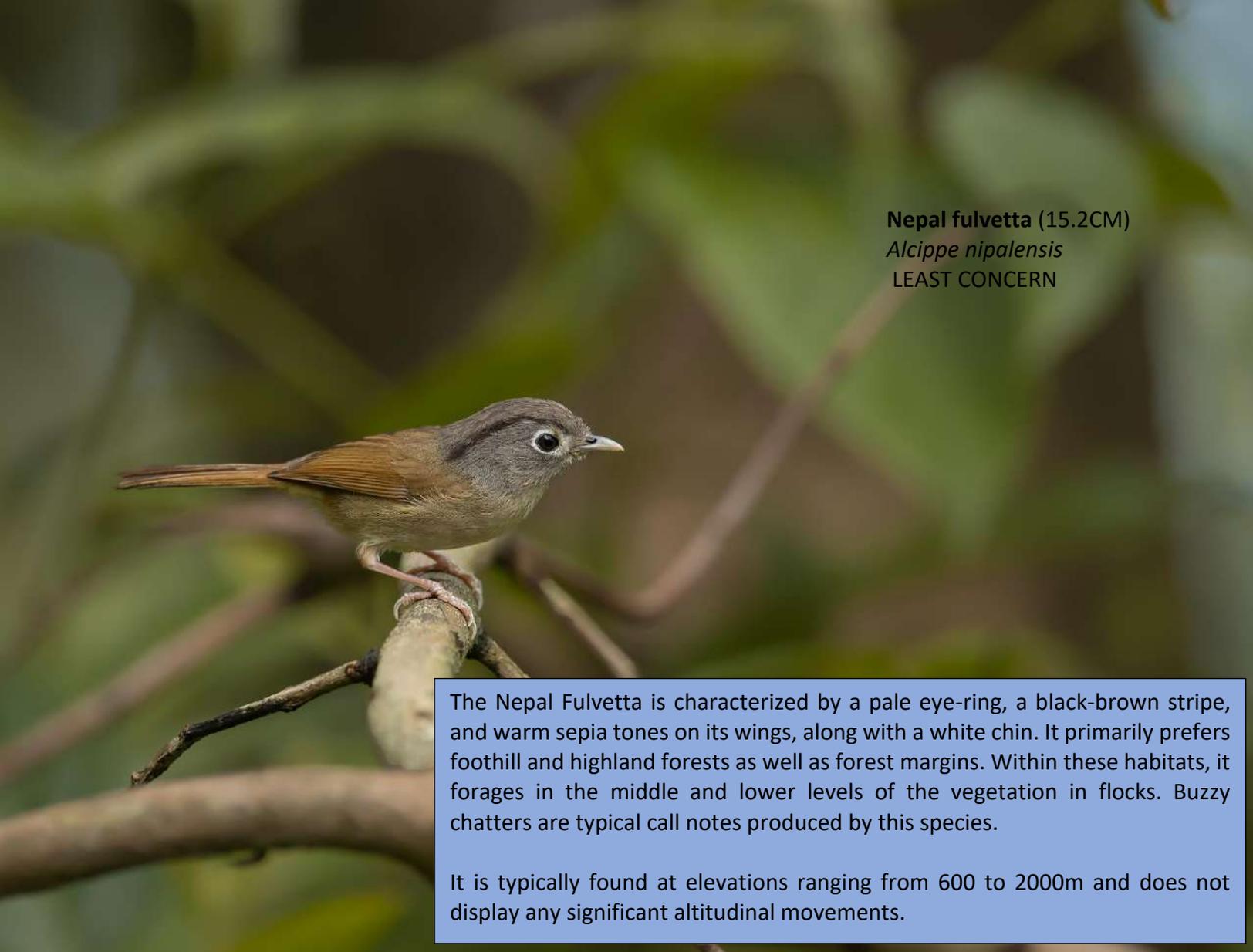
RED-TAILED MINLA (13-14.5 CM)

Minla ignotincta

LEAST CONCERN



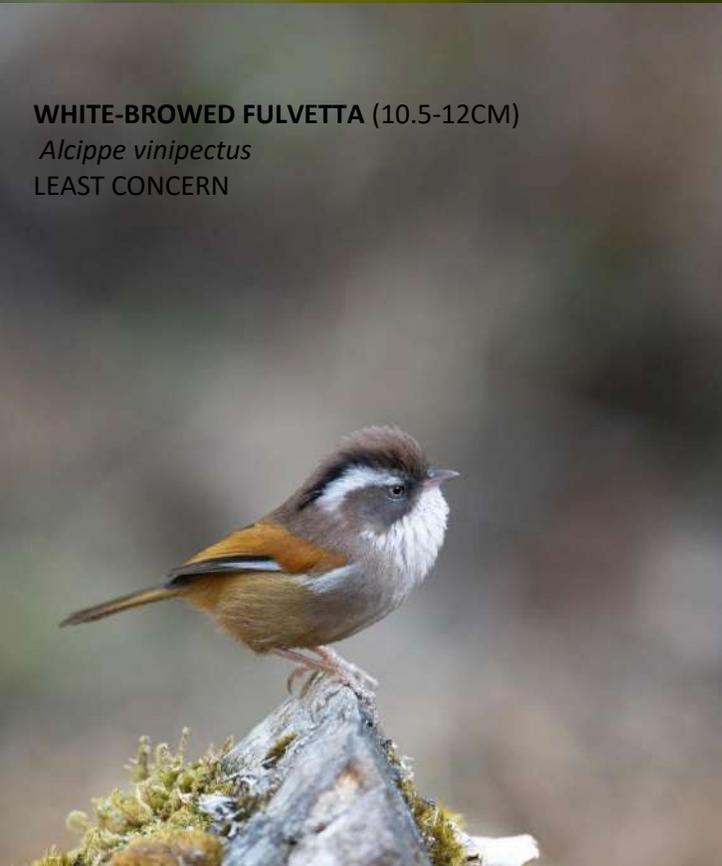
This species is typically found in broadleaf and coniferous forests at elevations ranging from 1800 to 2800 meters. It is often observed in mixed-species flocks alongside other minivets, yuhinas, and tits.



Nepal fulvetta (15.2CM)
Alcippe nipalensis
LEAST CONCERN

The Nepal Fulvetta is characterized by a pale eye-ring, a black-brown stripe, and warm sepia tones on its wings, along with a white chin. It primarily prefers foothill and highland forests as well as forest margins. Within these habitats, it forages in the middle and lower levels of the vegetation in flocks. Buzzy chatters are typical call notes produced by this species.

It is typically found at elevations ranging from 600 to 2000m and does not display any significant altitudinal movements.



WHITE-BROWED FULVETTA (10.5-12CM)
Alcippe vinipectus
LEAST CONCERN



GOLDEN-BREASTED FULVETTA (10-11.5 CM)
Alcippe chrysotis
LEAST CONCERN



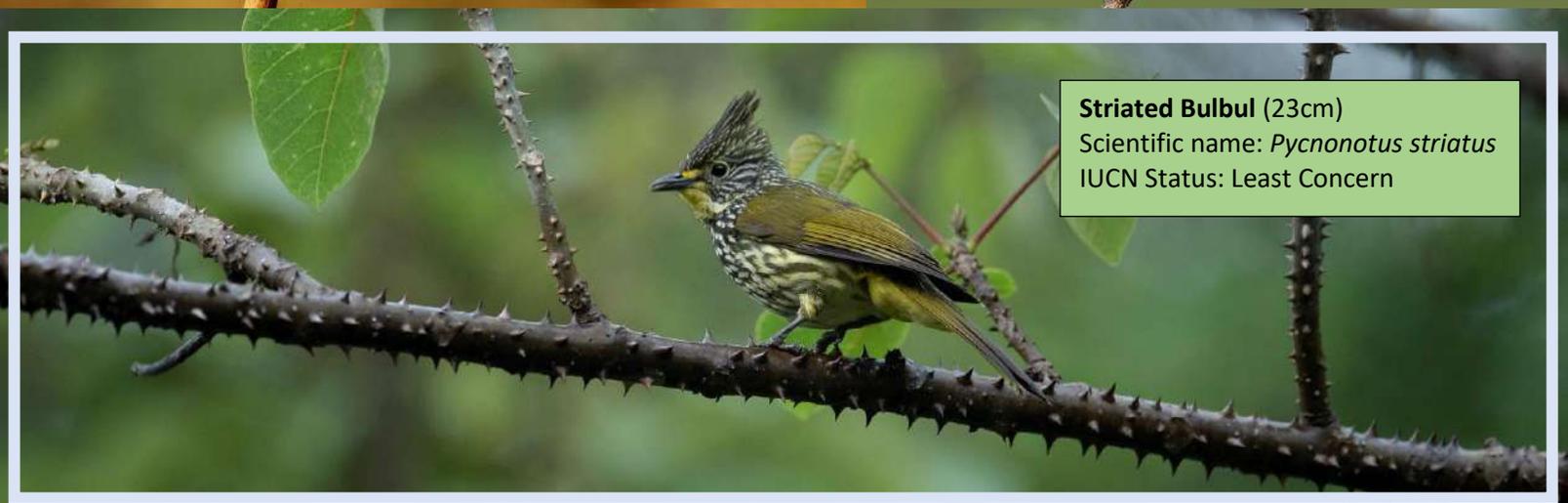
Himalayan Bulbul (20cm)
Scientific Name: *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
IUCN Status: Least Concern



Ashy Bulbul (20cm)
Scientific name: *Hemixos flavala*
IUCN Status: Least concern



Black Bulbul (25cm)
Hypsipetes leucocephalus
IUCN Status: Least Concern



Striated Bulbul (23cm)
Scientific name: *Pycnonotus striatus*
IUCN Status: Least Concern

Black-crested Bulbul (22cm)
Scientific Name: *Rubigula milanicterus*
IUCN Status: Least Concern



The Black-crested Bulbul is characterized by its greenish-yellow black upperparts, black head with a long crest, yellow underparts, white eyes with black pupils, and similar plumage for both sexes. Juveniles are slightly duller in color.

Red-vented Bulbul (20cm)

Scientific name: *Pycnonotus cafer*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



This species is abundant and widespread throughout the temperate zone and foothills, and is resident at altitudes between 600-2000m. It can be found in huge flocks in towns and villages, eating fruit, flower buds, and insects.

GREY-SIDED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (25 CM)

Garrulax caerulatus

LEAST CONCERN



This bird species is commonly found in the temperate zone from eastern valleys, where it appears to be widespread. It is a local resident from 1100m-2750m, occupying a narrow altitudinal range of 1600-2400m throughout the year.

This species is found in undergrowth and bamboo in broad-leaved and coniferous forests and rhododendron shrubberies. Vocalizing birds are active from May to September.



SPOTTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (32CM)

Garrulax ocellatus

LEAST CONCERN

RUFOUS-CHINNED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (22CM)

Garrulax rufogularis

LEAST CONCERN



The bird has a rufous chin and tail tips and irregular black spotting and barring on both the upperparts and underparts. It has a blackish cap, a diffuse black moustachial stripe, buff lores, irregular black and grey banding across wings, and a black subterminal band and rufous tip to its tail.

It has a uniformly brown in coloration, with a more uniform brown and nape (with only indistinct darker shaft streaking), grey-brown (rather than rufous) ear-coverts with white streaking, brown underparts finely streaked with white, more olive-brown coloration to wings, and much narrow white tail tips. Its habitat is found in scrub in open forest, edges, and secondary growth. It is frequently recorded in all regions, especially in the eastern and central regions. Most reside in 915-3800m. Its song is similar to that of the Streaked Laughingthrush.



BHUTAN LAUGHINGTHRUSH (21CM)

Garrulax imbricatus

LEAST CONCERN

RUFOUS-NECKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (23CM)

Garrulax ruficollis

LEAST CONCERN

It skulks on the ground and in undergrowth or low bushes. It is also often found along rivers and in reed-beds, tall grassland at forest edges, and densely mixed with shrubs and grasses.



GREAT BARBET (33CM)

Psilopogon virens

LEAST CONCERN



Great Barbets can be found in the temperate and subtropical zones of Bhutan, with altitudinal ranges from 600-2400 m, occasionally extending to 200-3300 m. Their diet consists primarily of wild fruits, figs, berries, wild plums, flowers, buds, and seeds.

BLUE-THROATED BARBET (23CM)

Megalaima asiatica

LEAST CONCERN

The blue-throated barbet is a small green bird with a red forehead and black-edged red cap. The face and throat are bluish, and there are two small reddish patches on the throat. The back, wings, and upper tail are green, while the underparts are yellowish green. The undertail is bluish green, and both sexes look similar.



GOLDEN-THROATED BARBET (23CM)

Megalaima franklinii

LEAST CONCERN



It has an overall green plumage with a yellow crown and upper throat, a whitish lower throat, and a reddish forehead. There is a broad blackish eye stripe, and the sides of the face are silvery gray. The upperparts are dark green and the lower parts are pale green. The bill is dark and heavy, with bristles around the base. They are found in eastern, central, and southern foothills of Bhutan, with ranges from 400-2800 m. They inhabit montane forests, tropical and sub-tropical moist lowland forests, evergreen forests, moist montane shrublands, moist deciduous forests, steep ravines, and riverine habitats.



BLUE-WINGED SIVA (14-15 CM)

Siva cyanouroptera

LEAST CONCERN

A vibrant bird that inhabits lowland and foothill woodlands. It is commonly observed traveling in large groups and is often a part of mixed-species feeding flocks. The face and sides exhibit a delicate gray brown tint. Both males and females share similar appearances. Known for its acrobatic behavior, the Blue-winged Siva frequently hangs upside down on branches, skillfully searching for insects and fruits hidden by foliage.

This species is occasionally recorded as a resident throughout the temperate zone, at altitudes ranging from 1800 to 3200 meters, particularly in oak and conifer forests.

WHITE-NAPED YUHINA (14CM)

Yuhina bakeri

LEAST CONCERN

The White-napped Yuhina is characterized by its stout bill, rufous crest, white nape, blackish lore, white streaking on rufous ear-coverts, white shaft streaking on the mantle, and fine brown streaking on the pinkish-buff breast. This species can be found foraging in broadleaf forests, ranging from the lower foothills to montane levels. It is social in nature and often observed in large flocks that include other.

They are occasionally recorded, particularly in the foothills and central and eastern valleys, with fewer records from the western valleys. It is typically found at elevations between 1400 and 2000m, in areas with mature broadleaf vegetation.



Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (25cm)

Pomatorhinus erythrogeus

Least Concern

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler is widespread, particularly encountered in scrubby edges, second growth, and scrub around villages. During the non-breeding season, this bird is seen in groups of up to a dozen, but pairs off in the spring and summer. Like other scimitar-babblers, it frequently duets, giving clear, gulping phrases, often with a liquid quality. It also gives harsh, aggressive chattering typical of the genus.



SLENDER-BILLED SCIMITAR BABBLER (20 CM)

Xiphirphynchus superciliaris

LEAST CONCERN

It is characterized by its long, slender, down-curved black bill, adorned with a fine and feathery white supercilium that contrasts with its slate-grey crown and ear-coverts. Its throat is streaked with grey and white, while its underparts exhibit a deep rufous coloration. The predominantly orange-brown body is accompanied by a gray head and a distinct jagged white eyebrow.



HIMALAYAN CUTIA (19 CM)

Cutia nipalensis

LEAST CONCERN

Males of this species exhibit distinctive features, including a black mask, a blue-gray head, a white throat, barred flanks, and a rufous back. Females, on the other hand, have a paler appearance, with a brown face and a yellowish back adorned with black streaks.

They are frequently encountered in temperate zones characterized by mossy broadleaved vegetation.



RUSTY-FRONTED BARWING (22cm)

Actinodura egertoni

LEAST CONCERN

It has striking features, including a pristine white belly and an orangish wash over the front of the face.

They are typically found at elevations ranging from 1000 to 2000 meters, with occasional sightings as low as 600 meters and as high as 2400 meters.



RUFOUS SIBIA (21-24CM)

Heterophasa capistrata

LEAST CONCERN

It is characterized by its black cap, rufous or cinnamon-buff nape and underparts, and a rufous tail with a gray tip and black subterminal band. It also displays gray paneling on its mainly black wings. This species is abundant throughout the temperate zone of Bhutan and is likely one of the most common forest birds in the region.

Collared Owlet (17cm)

Glaucidium brodiei

Least concern



Females are generally larger than males, with a grey-brown color, barred back and flanks, white eyebrows, a white throat patch, and prominent lemon-yellow-colored eyes.

Preferred habitat varies from evergreen forests, forest edges, mixed deciduous-evergreen forests with oak, rhododendron, and fir and open woodlands with scrub. It can be found in submontane and montane habitats varying between 1350–2750 m.

Black-throated Sunbird (11 cm)

Scientific Name: *Aethopyga saturata*



It is most common in central and eastern valleys and is a resident at elevations between 600 to 2200 m, with occasional presence at elevations of 200 m and 2800 m. Its breeding range is at the upper limit of the warm broadleaf forest zone, at 2000 m. The species inhabits Broadleaved Forest and its song is composed of shrill phrases of very high twittering trills, often slurred.

SULTAN TIT (20.5 CM)

Melanochlora sultanea

LEAST CONCERN



The Sultan Tit is a large bird that resembles a bulbul. The male has a glossy blue-black plumage, with a bright yellow crest and yellow underparts. The female is similar, but with a duller blackish-olive plumage.

The species is recorded mostly in the central, western, and southern foothills with an altitude range of 200-2000 m and occasional sightings up to 2100 m. They are found in evergreen forests and feed on caterpillars and small berries.



YELLOW-CHEEKED TIT (14 CM)

Parus spilonotus

LEAST CONCERN

These birds are common throughout the temperate zone and in the western and eastern foothills, with their core range lying in the central and eastern valleys and an altitudinal range of 1200-2400m, with occasional records to 600m and 2600m.

STREAKED SPIDERHUNTER (19 CM)

Arachnothera magna

LEAST CONCERN

The Streaked Spiderhunter is an olive yellow bird with darker streaks and a long, curved black beak. Its legs are yellow, and its underbelly is pale yellow with black streaks. It is a common altitudinal migrant, with its summer range spanning from 400 to 2000 m and being most common below 1600 m, occasionally reaching 2400 m. In winter, it retreats to altitudes between 200 and 1600 m, but reaches the upper part of its range again in April and gradually descends from August. The Streaked Spiderhunter inhabits moist, broad-leaved forests with dense undergrowth and often moves in mixed flocks.



RUFOUS-VENTED YUHINA (12-14 CM)

Yuhina occipitalis

LEAST CONCERN

This species is commonly found in the temperate and alpine zones of the eastern foothills, occasionally ranging up to 3600 meters in altitude. It prefers habitats with oak stands and a rich rhododendron understory, typically occurring in broadleaf woods at intermediate to high elevations.

RED-HEADED BULLFINCH (17 CM)
Pyrrhula erythrocephala
LEAST CONCERN

The Red-headed Bullfinch is found in the Himalayas from Himachal Pradesh to western Arunachal, and extends east to southeast Tibet. Males have an orange crown, nape, and breast and a grey mantle, while females have a yellow crown and nape. They breed in deciduous forests at higher elevations, particularly in birch, and winter in rhododendron scrub in various forest types.

In Bhutan, the Red-headed Bullfinch is a common altitudinal migrant throughout the alpine and temperate zones, with isolated records from the central and eastern foothills. They feed on seeds of various trees and plants, including birch, willows, docks, nettles, and buds.



RUFOUS-VENTED TIT (12 CM)
Periparus rubidiventris
LEAST CONCERN

With a thin and vertical crest, the Rufous-vented Tit is gray with a black head marked by bright white cheek patches. It may be confused with the Coal Tit, but has a less wispy crest, lacks wing bars, and averages darker and more contrasting overall.

This bird is a common altitudinal migrant throughout the alpine and temperate zones, but less common in the eastern valley. During the summer, it can be found at 3000-3800m, with occasional sightings at 2600m and in alpine shrubs at 4200m.



STRIATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (28 CM)

Garrulax striatus

LEAST CONCERN



The Striated Laughingthrush is a large bird with a stout black bill and floppy crest. It has a chestnut crown, russet upperparts, and brownish underparts profusely covered with white buffish-white streaking. This species is abundant and widespread in Bhutan, found throughout the temperate zone and foothills, and resident at elevations between 1200-2600m. It is distinguished from the barwings by its lack of dark barring on wings and tail.

RED-FACED LIOCICHLA (23 CM)

Liocichla phoenicea

LEAST CONCERN



The Red-faced Liocichla is primarily found at altitudes ranging from 1200m to 2000m, although it occasionally descends to 700m, especially during the winter months. Some of the best locations to observe this species include Yongkola in Mongar and Gedu in Chukha.

GREY-SIDED BUSH WARBLER (10 CM)

Cettia brunnifrons

LEAST CONCERN

The bird is generally fairly skulking, foraging in or on the ground in dense vegetation, but occasionally emerges out into the open, particularly to sing. It can be distinguished from the Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler by its paler gray upperparts, cleaner-looking white eyebrow, and smaller size.



GREY-HEADED CANARY FLYCATCHER (13 CM)

Culicicapa ceylonensis

LEAST CONCERN

The Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher is a bird with a squarish grey head, canary yellow belly, and yellowish-green upperparts. It has a very flat bill with a narrow white eyering, and the sexes are indistinguishable in plumage.

This species is a common altitudinal migrant throughout the temperate zone and foothills. Its summer range spans between 1,000 to 2,800m, occasionally 3,000m. It retreats to 600-2,000m in the month of November. The birds occupy the breeding areas from April to mid-July with peak song





GREEN-BACKED TIT (12-14 CM)

Parus monticolus

LEAST CONCERN

They are found in a variety of habitats, including temperate forests, montane forests, and coniferous forests. They prefer areas with dense vegetation, such as oak and rhododendron forests. In Bhutan, it is found throughout sub-tropical and temperate zones



GREY-HOODED WARBLER (10 CM)

Phylloscopus xanthoschistos

LEAST CONCERN

It is a resident species in Bhutan and the first singing birds are typically heard in mid-February, with most territories established in early April. This warbler is abundant throughout Bhutan's temperate zone and foothills, and can be found at elevations between 600 meters and 2200 meters, with occasional records at lower and higher elevations.

SMALL NILTAVA (13 CM)

Niltava macgrigoriae

LEAST CONCERN

This species is a fairly common altitudinal migrant throughout the temperate zone and foothills. Its summer range spans between 800-2,000m and somewhat moves to lower altitudes in winter.



GREY BUSHCHAT (15 CM)

Saxicola ferreus

LEAST CONCERN

This species habitat consists of scrub-covered hillsides and cultivated areas with scattered bushes. In Bhutan, the Grey Bushchat is an abundant altitudinal migrant throughout the temperate zone and foothills, regularly found at elevations of 800-3200 m. It can be found in all districts in Bhutan.



LONG-TAILED SIBIA (30-35 CM)

Heterophasia picaoides

LEAST CONCERN

This species forages in flocks in open hill forests, forest edges, and adjacent scrubby second growth areas. Despite its remarkable appearance, it is often heard before it is seen, emitting a loud chittering rattle. The Long-tailed Sibia is typically found in broadleaf evergreen forests, forest edges, secondary growth areas, as well as oak and pine forests



BLUE-BEARDED BEE-EATER (31-34 CM)

Nyctyornis athertoni

NEAR THREATENED



The Blue-bearded Bee-eater is a large bee-eater with an overall greenish appearance. Its most notable features are the bluish-green forehead, a long blue streak down the throat to the breast, and a dull yellow belly with green streaks. It has a dark, heavy bill and a long tail, and its flight is undulating, short, and rapid. This species is found in the central, eastern, and southern foothills of Bhutan, ranging from 400-2000

ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE (33 CM)

Streptopelia orientalis

LEAST CONCERN



They are a very common species in Bhutan, with attractive plumage featuring rufous-scaled scapulars and wing coverts, dusky underparts, and a black-and white striped patch on the side of its neck made of silver-tipped feathers. They tend to be found near settlements across Bhutan, although there are fewer sightings towards the extreme south of the country.



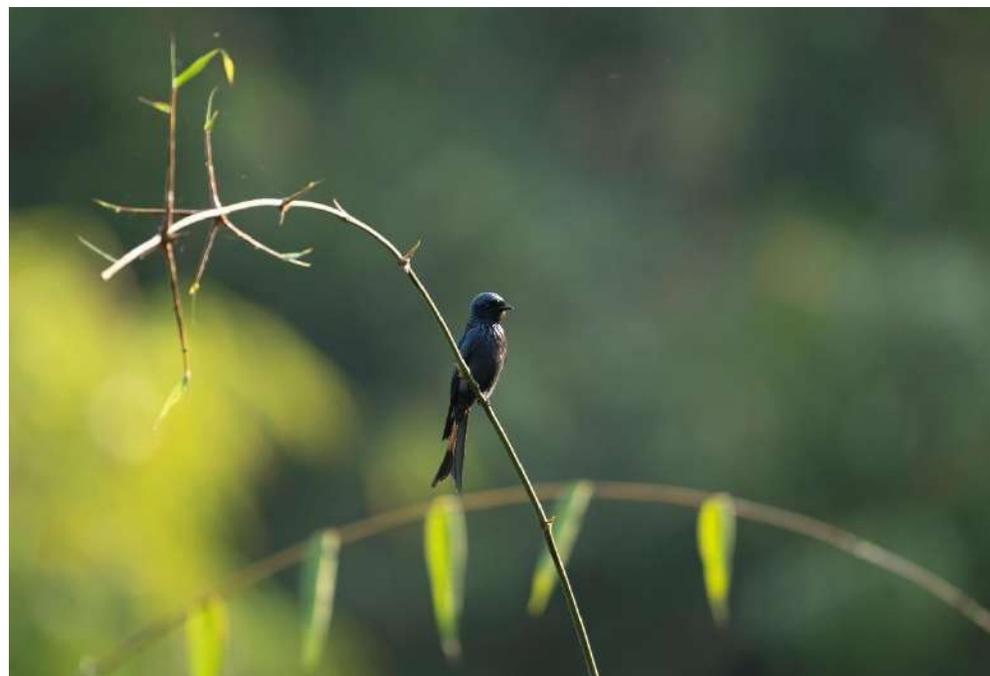
SPOTTED DOVE (36 CM)

Spilopelia chinensis

LEAST CONCERN

It has a brown overall plumage with a distinct rosy breast and a white-spotted black nape patch. It can be differentiated from the Oriental Turtle Dove by its smaller size, lack of black centers on the wing feathers, and spots instead of stripes on the neck.

The Spotted Dove is a common bird found in Bhutan, often spotted in gardens, open forests, and fields in the central and eastern regions, its sighting becomes less frequent



BRONZED DRONGO (24 CM)

Dicrurus aeneus

LEAST CONCERN

This bird is a fairly common resident throughout Bhutan's temperate zone and foothills, at elevations of 400-1800 m with occasional sightings at 200 m and 2000 m. Its breeding range is below 1600 m, with nest building observed at elevations of 1200-1600 m in April. It is scarce in western valleys



YELLOW-BELLIED FANTAIL (13 CM)

Chelidorhynch hypoxantha

LEAST CONCERN

It is an abundant altitudinal migrant in Bhutan, summering in high altitude forest and descending to the subtropical forest in the foothills during the winter.

Its summer range spans 2000-3200 m, occasionally to 3400 m, although records below 2800 m are not uncommon. It winters widely at 600-2800 m, reaching 200 m in mid-winter, and its movement to the breeding areas occurs in late March to April.

COLLARED TREEPIE (38 CM)
Dendrocitta frontalis
LEAST CONCERN

The Collared Treepie is a noisy, social bird that is often seen in flocks in the forest canopy. It has a black face, silver hood, and lacks the wing patch found in other treepies. This species is loud and has a varied repertoire of calls, including whistles, clinks, and squawks. It inhabits dense, moist evergreen forests with bamboo thickets and feeds mainly on invertebrates and fruits.

The Collared Treepie is less conspicuous than other treepies, with rare sighting records from Samtse, and occasional sightings from Gelephu, Zhemgang, and Nganglam



GREY TREEPIE (36-40 CM)
Dendrocitta formosae
LEAST CONCERN

The Grey Treepie is a medium-sized, long-tailed member of the crow family. It has a dark face and throat, a grey underside that becomes whiter towards the vent, and brownish back and scapulars. The crown and nape are grey, the wings are black with a prominent white carpal patch, and the beak is black. The eyes are red or reddish-brown and the two sexes are similar.

This species inhabits broadleaf forests and secondary growth forests and feeds on a wide range of food items, including insects, berries, nectar, grain, small reptiles, eggs, and nestlings



COMMON GREEN MAGPIE (37-39 CM)

Cissa chinensis

LEAST CONCERN



The Common Green Magpie is a vibrant and vocal bird that inhabits low land and mid-altitude subtropical forests. It has a bright green plumage with chestnut-tipped wings, a black mask, and a coral-red bill. It emits a series of piercing shrieks followed by a hollow “chup” note, and frequently whistles and chatters. This species is found in tropical and subtropical forests and typically builds its nest in trees, large shrubs, and climbing vines.

EURASIAN JAY (32-36 CM)

Garrulus glandarius

LEAST CONCERN



The Eurasian Jay is a pinkish to reddish-brown bird with a black moustachial stripe and a patch of blue barring on its wings. It has a white rump that contrasts with its black tail, which is usually obvious in flight. This bird is a common altitudinal migrant in the temperate zone and breeds at altitudes of 1400-3000 m. During the breeding season, it inhabits dense temperate broadleaf forest.

WHITE-COLLARED BLACKBIRD (24-26 CM)

Turdus albocinctus

LEAST CONCERN

The White-collared Blackbird earns its name from the prominent bright white collar around its neck, which serves as its most distinctive field mark. Males of this species are primarily black, while females display a dark brown plumage. They are frequently encountered either singly or in pairs. White-collared Blackbird breed in alpine and upper subalpine meadows, as well as open forests and gardens. Their foraging behavior primarily takes place on the ground.

In Bhutan, these birds are commonly found in the Thimphu and Paro valleys, where they have an abundance of preferred habitat. They are often observed near Blue Pine Forests in close proximity to cultivated areas. The White-collared Blackbird also occurs in various forest types within the temperate zone, further expanding its range



TICKELL'S THRUSH (21 CM)

Turdus unicolor

LEAST CONCERN

Tickell's Thrush is an omnivorous bird, with a diet that includes a wide range of insects, earthworms, and berries. Its habitat primarily consists of open forests and well-wooded areas. These birds are often observed in loose groups of two to five individuals. During the breeding season, they nest in open forests and forest edges within hilly and submontane areas. In the winter, they can be found in similar habitats at lower altitudes



MAROON ORIOLE (27 CM)

Oriolus traillii

LEAST CONCERN

The Maroon Oriole is a common altitudinal migrant in Bhutan, found throughout the temperate zone and the foothills. The adult male is glossy crimson-maroon with a chestnut-maroon tail, while the female and juvenile males have greyish-white underparts with black streaks. This bird is found in dense and broadleaf forests in the canopy, where it inhabits in pairs or small flocks. The Maroon Oriole has a melodic song and a long, airy whistle and also gives harsh, rasping calls.



ORIENTAL MAGPIE ROBIN (19-20 CM)

Copsychus saularis

LEAST CONCERN

The Oriental Magpie Robin is recognizable by its broad white wingbar and white outer tail feathers when in flight. The male has black and white plumage, while the female is greyish brown and white.

The bird is known for its melodious call, which is a series of whistles given at dawn from a high perch, and its ability to imitate other bird calls. It is commonly found in open woodland and cultivated areas close to human habitations and is an abundant altitudinal migrant in Bhutan's foothills and valleys, ranging from 200-2000 m



SLATY-BACKED FORKTAIL (22-25 CM)

Enicurus schistaceus

LEAST CONCERN



Adults of the Slaty-backed Forktail have a gray back and crown, with a white head restricted to a thick eyebrow that reaches behind the eye, giving it a smaller-headed appearance. Their habitat consists of larger streams and rivers in tropical and subtropical forests.

In Bhutan, the Slaty-backed Forktail is a common altitudinal migrant throughout the temperate zone and foothills, with the majority found in southern valleys.

SPOTTED FORKTAIL (25 CM)

Enicurus maculatus

LEAST CONCERN

The Spotted Forktail has stunning, galaxy-like white spotting on its back, which separates it from other forktails. It breeds in foothills and mountains, but sometimes descends in the winter. This species gives a loud buzzy “brzeeee!” as well as high thin whistles.

In Bhutan, the Spotted Forktail is a common resident throughout the temperate zone, and is mostly recorded in western and central foothills, ranging from 400 m to 2900 m.





CHESTNUT-TAILED STARLING (20 CM)
Sturnus malabaricus
LEAST CONCERN

It is an altitudinal migrant, and flocks of up to ten individuals are commonly observed in the foothills, particularly during the arrival period in the Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang areas.

During the nesting season, which typically occurs from March to June, these starlings build their nests in old barbet or woodpecker holes found in tree trunks. They display a preference for open woodlands and cultivated areas for nest placement.



WHITE-TAILED NUTHATCH (12 CM)
Sitta himalayensis
LEAST CONCERN

One distinctive feature of the White-tailed Nuthatch is the prominent white patch at the base of its tail, as well as a clean tan vent rather than a white-and-orange-striped one. This species can be found in a variety of forest types, including broadleaf and mixed forests, oak and rhododendron forests, mossy forests, as well as mixed forests consisting of fir, hemlock, and maple.



CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH (13 CM)
Sitta (castanea) cinnamoventris
LEAST CONCERN

It is commonly found in hill and submontane forests. The Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch's rapid and echoing trill is frequently heard in its habitat. It is a common resident throughout the temperate zone and foothills, with an altitude range of 400 to 1600 meters. Occasional sightings have been recorded down to 200 meters and up to 1900 meters.

BLACK-THROATED PRINIA (17 CM)

Prinia atrogularis

LEAST CONCERN

The Black-throated Prinia is easily recognizable by its greyish olive-brown ear-coverts and breast sides, and its upperparts, flanks, and tail which are olive-buff. During the non-breeding season, the adult has a white supercilium, buff under parts with variable streaking on the sides of the throat and breast.

This species is a common resident throughout the temperate zone in the western, eastern, and central foothills. Although it is distinctly less common in the western valley, its regular altitudinal range spans from 1000-2000m, with occasional records at 600m and 2400m



ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE (11 CM)

Zosterops palpebrosus

LEAST CONCERN

The Oriental White-eye is a small yellow bird with an off-white belly and distinctive white "spectacles" around its eyes. Known for its hyperactive behavior, it prefers open wooded regions rather than dense tangles. It often travels in flocks and can sometimes be seen mingling with other bird species. Keep an eye out for the bouncing light, as it catches the attention. areas, and wooded cultivation.





BLACK-EARED SHRIKE BABBLER (12 CM)

Pteruthius melanotis

LEAST CONCERN

In Bhutan, the Black-eared Shrike Babbler resides in the temperate zone and the western foothills. During the summer, its range extends from 1600 to 2400 meters, occasionally reaching 2500 meters. In the winter, it remains present within this zone but can also be found at lower elevations, spreading down to 600 meters. From August to March, during autumn and winter, the species typically forms part of mixed-species flocks, although its presence in these flocks is less frequent.



RUFOUS-CAPPED BABBLER (12 CM)

Stachyridopsis ruficeps

LEAST CONCERN

This species is common in temperate zones but scarce in the western valley. It also reaches the eastern foothills and is resident at 1200-2800m, occasionally to 200m and 3200m. As it approaches its western limits west of Bhutan, its lower altitudinal limits shift from 200m in the eastern foothills to 1200m in central east 1400 m and 1800 m in western valleys

GREY-THROATED BABBLER (12 CM)

Stachyris nigriceps

LEAST CONCERN

It inhabits undergrowth and bamboo thickets in open or dense broadleaved forest and secondary growth often near water. It is a common resident in the central and eastern valleys and the eastern foothills with a few records further west in the temperate zone and western foothills. It occurs at 400-1800 m, with occasional records between 200 m and 1900 m.



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