Birding trip report
North Bengal and Sikkim
8.-26.11.2004

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Introduction

We had been planning trip to Himalaya for two year and because the political situation in Nepal had been unstable and it was not safe to travel in the country on your own we decided to do the trip to North Bengal and Sikkim. We organized the trip mainly on our own, because we wanted to keep the schedule flexible. However, we bought three days full package in Gorumara area from Help Tourism, at Siliguri. We also need to hire a guide during the Sandakphu trek, because of new rules of Singalila National Park. However, our guide was very good and definitely worth of hiring. Participants of this trip were Aleksi Lehikoinen and Mari Pihlajaniemi from Helsinki, Finland. We both had visited India (Goa) earlier once or twice, which why some of the bird species or families were already familiar.

Itinerary (times shown are local time)

7.11. Departure from Helsinki, Finland 7:45 and flight via Heathrow, London, UK to Delhi, India, where we arrived 1:30 (8.11.). Resting the night time at the airport. Flight to Bagdogra leaves from (domestic) terminal I, which is situated 10 km from (international) terminal II. There is free bus connection between these two terminals.

8.11. Departure from Delhi airport 10:30 and arrival at Bagdogra 12:30. Arrival at Darjeeling 15:30 and lodging at Hotel Pagoda. Whole evening resting after long journey.

9.11. Birding in the morning in Tiger Hill. Organizing travelling things in Darjeeling at the day time and small birding around Darjeeling. Overnight at Hotel Pagoda.

10.11. Departure early morning from Darjeeling and arrival at Siliguri, office of Help tourism, 8:00. Birding at the daytime at Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) and arrival at Garumara Jungle Camp afternoon. After lunch birding in the evening at Khunia, Gorumara. Lodging in Garumara Jungle Camp.

11.11. Early morning birding in Suntalekhola and Samsing. After breakfast birding around GJC and birding in the evening along Moorty-river. Overnight in GJC.

12.11. Early morning birding in Rhino watching-point, Gorumara National Park. After breakfast birding around GJC and birding in the evening in Chaphamari Wildlife Sanctuary, at the watching tower next to small pond. Lodging in GJC.

13.11. Early morning birding around Chukchuki Lake, Gorumara NP. After breakfast taxi-transportation to Lava, where we arrived around 13:00. Lodging in Yankee Resort. Little birding along the jeep-track to Neora-valley by foot (1km) in the evening.

14.11. Whole day birding around Lava. Walking along the roads towards Lolaygaon and old jeep track to Tiffin Dara. Overnight at Yankee’s.

15.11. Early morning birding along the track down to jeep-track. Departure from Lava 10:00 and arrival at Darjeeling via Kalimpong and Teesta-river 14:00. Whole evening resting and organizing trek to Sandakphu. Lodging in Hotel Prestige.

16.11. Departure from Darjeeling 8:00 and arrival at Manabhyang 10:00. Trekking from Manabhyang via Megma to Tonglu. Lodging in Trekker’s hut.

17.11. Early morning birding around Tonglu and after breakfast departure around 8:00. Arrival at Gairibans 12:30 and lodging Glenary’s Gateway. Birding in the evening along the abandoned jeep-track, before it started to rain slightly 16:00.

18.11. Early morning birding along the jeep-track and after breakfast departure around 8:00. Lunchbreak at Kalipokhari around 11:00 and arrival at Sandakphu 13:45. After lodging and short meal in Sherpa Chalet Lodge, birding along the road to Phalut in very thick fog.

19.11. Early morning birding around Sandakphu along the track to Gurudum and Phalut. Departure from Sandakphu 9:00 and arrival at Gurudum 13:00. Lunch in Gurudum and arrival at Siri Khola 16:00. Lodging in trekker’s hut in Siri Khola.

20.11. Early morning birding in Siri Khola and after breakfast departure around 8:00. Arrival at Rimbik 10:30, where we had lunch. While waiting for the jeep-transport we got some time to observe good migration of Steppe Eagles on the roof of restaurant. Departure from Rimbik around 12:00 with shared jeep and arrival at Darjeeling around 17:00. In the evening, organizing the transport to Sikkim. Lodging in Hotel Rinden.

21.11. Whole day transport from Darjeeling to Pelling, Sikkim via Gangtok, where we had short lunch. Lodging in Sikkim tourist centre, upper Pelling.

22.11. Birding in the morning and at the daytime in Sangachoeling. Overnight at Sikkim tourist centre.

23.11. Birding in the morning and at the forenoon around Kheckheopari Lake. Short birding along the road from Pelling to Dentam in the evening. Overnight at Sikkim tourist centre.

24.11. Birding morning and evening around Pemanyangtse and daytime in Rabdentse. Overnight at Sikkim tourist centre.
25.11. Early morning birding in Sangachoeling and after breakfast departure from Pelling and arrival at Darjeeling around 14:00. Rest of the day shopping and resting. Lodging in Bellevue Hotel.

26.11. Early morning transport from Darjeeling to Bardogora with few brief birding stops. Departure from Bagdogra around 14:20 (nearly two hours late) and arrival at Delhi around 18:20. Long dinner in restaurant of the airport.

27.11. Departure from Delhi 3:25 and flight via Heathrow, London to Helsinki, Finland.

**Accommodation, travelling and food**

During our trip 1 Euro was about 57 Indian Rupees (Rs) and 1 US dollar about 45 Rs. State banks of bigger cities change money as well as few hotels and shops, but in general money exchange places were quite scarce.

We used four different hotels in Darjeeling: Hotel Pagoda (double room 150 Rs/night), Prestige (c.250), Rinden (165) and Bellevue (600). None of these had warmed rooms or those were already reserved (Bellevue). Prestige and Bellevue had warm showers and Pagoda and Rinden had hot water in a bucket. In all hotels, except Rinden where service was little bit brusque, staffs were friendly. We liked Hotel Bellevue the most, for its sympathetic atmosphere. The room was also cosier than in other hotels with nice view to the streets of the town. We had some problems with timing in Pagoda (as well as in many other places; when you are in India you should prepare that locals may have quite different time concept than in western countries; if you have ordered taxi at 5:00 a.m., it usually comes little bit late or it may come even earlier, but seldom right on time; however it usually arrives sooner or later).

Garumara Jungle Camp is ruled by Help Tourism and it is quite cosy place situated about 30 minutes driving distance from Garumara National Park and Chaphamari Wildlife Sanctuary (between of these). The food and service at the camp was excellent, but there was little bit to improve at the ecotourism and guide services. To our mind we spend too much time in the camp instead of other good birding areas. The birding periods in morning and in the evening were about two hours each and rest of the time was spent during transport and in the camp. These short periods were part because of strict rules of Garumara NP and Chaphamari WS, where there are three visiting periods: 6:30-8:30, 8:30-10:30 and 15:00-17:00. We asked to leave earlier, but there was quite a little effect, even though some areas we visited were not inside the NP or WS. We paid 9 650 Rs for transport from Siliguri to Garumara, three nights in Garumara, including transports, meals and transport from Garumara to Lava. The people of the camp know the area well and they know some good birding places. However, it is not the only accommodation in Garumara area.

In Lava we stayed in Yankee Resort, which is mentioned in book of birding guide to India [5]. The hotel was very nice, service was friendly and food was excellent and we had a nice room in the topmost floor with a nice view to the village and mountain area. There was no heating in room and not hot shower (but hot water in a bucket), however we were fully satisfied. Double room cost 600 Rs/night and two dinners for two (including 2 beers) and one breakfast cost 440 Rs.

During Sandakphu trek our accommodation was arranged by our guide Deepesh Chhetri (deepeshchhetri2003@yahoo.co.in), who knows the accommodations along the route and we were fully satisfied to his choices. He is also interested in birds and knows a lot about local wildlife. We paid 300 Rs/day to him and food and lodging cost during our trek 300-700 Rs/day for two of us, so trekking was quite cheap. The accommodations along the trek were fairly modest. There were no heating in rooms and food is quite simple, but good.

Sikkim tourism centre in Pelling was a pleasant hotel situated at upper Pelling. There is a restaurant upstairs, where your can get good Indian food and Sikkim’s Hit-beer (strong and good). The hotel doesn’t arrange taxis, so we booked taxi to Kheckheopari Lake in the office of Vision Tours Travels next to the hotel. However, the taxi was half an hour late and we booked our return taxi to Darjeeling from hotel Phamrong, which was ok and right on time. The town of Pelling is mainly comprised by hotels (and new ones were built all the time), which why the competition of the customers is hard and prices are quite low. Our double room with hot shower cost 300 Rs/night.

Except two transports of shared taxis we used private taxis during our trip. It is definitely the quickest and the most pleasant way to travel. However, it is clearly the most expensive way too. About one third of our total budget (total 37 000 Rs) was spent on transports. For example taxi from Bagdogra to Darjeeling cost about 900 Rs. The traffic seems quite chaotic, especially in bigger cities and villages, where the roads are narrow and crowded by cars. The drivers are mainly professionals and they can handle the situation. In the mountains roads are really torturous and quite often in poor condition, which why the average speed is rarely over 25-30km/h. In lowlands the driving is quicker usually 40-50km/h.

We both found food good and tasty. Dinner for two cost usually around 200-300 Rs excluding drinks. There are plenty of restaurants in cities and bigger villages and few even in smaller ones. In most of the places it is possible to get beer (price usually about 50 Rs/bottle of 0.65 l). Nevertheless, in mountain area, especially during the treks, it may be difficult to find. In mountain area local take alcoholic drinks called ‘longba’ to relax in the evening. It is made in small berries and water, and is drunk through bamboo pipe. We tasted it during the Sandakphu trek and it was good alternative for beer.
Weather, clothing and other equipments

In lowlands it was hot (over +25 °C) and sunny at daytime and warm at night time. In the mountain area the temperature declined near zero at night time above altitude 2000m and below it above 3000m. The mornings were usually clear with good visibility, which usually turned during the forenoon cloudy or even foggy/slightly rain in the afternoon. The temperature raised usually noticeable from the morning figures at daytime. However, in the mountains the weather may change very rapidly, especially in higher altitudes. It is worth to take a lot of clothes and good sleeping bag with, while it is very cold at night. It is possible also to hire or buy extra jackets or sleeping bags at Darjeeling.

We both had good binoculars, but only one telescope, with zoom 20-60x. Other handy equipments during our trip were pocket flashlight (in case of electricity breakdowns, which happens quite often), mobile telephone (e.g. if wanted to keep contact to friends back home; the mobile network is fairly good in West Bengal and Sikkim and it was possible to send text messages even in some places along the Sandakphu trek!), and forceps (in case of ticks, see Site details; Garumara Jungle Camp). Sunrise was around 6:00 and sunset around 16:30, but it is enough light to observe nearly half an hour before sunrise and after sunset.

Site details

Most of the sites are well described by Kazmierczac and Singh (1998) and in trip reports made after that, which why descriptions of the sites are quite short unless something new information (including three maps) is performed.

Tiger Hill, West Bengal

The top of the Tiger Hill (2485m) is famous tourism point, where most of the tourists of Darjeeling (probably tens of tourists every day) spend at least one morning to see the sunrise and the snowcovered mountains. This place is easy to reach by taxi from Darjeeling, with price of around 60 Rs and 10 Rs way back from village of Ghoom. The top was too crowded for us and we walked along the main road and some side roads downwards. After sunrise the traffic back to Darjeeling may be really heavy, which why it is wise to take side roads to avoid the noises of traffic. Our first day in forests of Himalaya was mainly spent in orientation to birding in forest areas.

Gazoldoba (Teesta-river barrage), West Bengal

Teesta barrage creates large wetland area with good numbers of waterfowl and some waders. Most of area is quite easy to handle both sides of barrage, which is guarded by soldiers. It is not allowed to photograph in the area. We spent quite a short time around, but managed to see many nice birds. However, the estimated sums of species were mainly smaller than reported by Mike Prince in the end of November, which indicates that many of the wintering birds of the area were not arrived yet.

Garumara Jungle Camp, West Bengal

Garumara Jungle Camp is situated between cultivation and old, but managed forest. Forest area around the Jungle Camp is quite good for birding and there is some nice mature forest with many nice birds on the other side of road next to the gate of the camp. The undergrowth is quite thick with small paths on the other side of road. One of us got one tiny tick from the bushes of this area. We do not know, do the ticks carry some diseases in the area and it is worth to check you body in case of ticks every day if moving in bushes. Our trekking guide Deepesh told, that there are ticks also in higher altitudes.

Gorumara National Park area, West Bengal

There are several huge watching towers in Gorumara and we visited three of those: Khunia, Rhino Observation Point next to Forest Rest House and Chukhuchuki Lake. Gorumara is quite popular place of Indian tourists and the first two towers were quite crowded during our visits. Khunia watching tower is situated in the middle of open tall grass area (diameter 1-2 km) surrounded by mature forest. Locals have cut part of the grasses so, that it is possible to see better species among the vegetation (also mammals). Rhino Observation Point is situated on the edge of large open grassland and mature forest. The species diversity is very high and there is lot to see all the time. There is salt feeding place in the front of the point, which attracts especially doves and pigeons. We managed to see three endangered One-horned Rhinos and many fantastic birds from the point. The Rhino Point is worth to visit more than once. Chukhuchuki Lake tower is situated next to a small pond. The lake itself was little disappointing (only few Whistling Ducks and Moorhens), but the forest around the tower and lake were good for birding.
There are three strict visiting periods of two hours in Gorumara National Park and Chaphamari Wildlife Sanctuary: 6:30-8:30, 8:30-10:30 and 15:00-17:00, which why birding is little bit hasty with only a short time available. The tickets need to be bought advantage early in the morning before entering the park. It takes about 20 minutes to drive to Khunia from Garumara JC, 30 minutes to Rhino-point and 40 minutes to Chukchuki Lake. Banks of Moorty-river was nice birding area outside the national park on the way to Khunia. It is situated on the edge of forests of Gorumara and cultivation of villages (Map 1.). The river is quite large. However, there was not much water left after monsoon. Rare Long-billed Plovers were seen here and many other nice species by walking along the river banks.

Map. 1. Moorty-river.

Suntalekhola and Samsing, West Bengal

Suntalekhola is nice forest area in the base of Himalaya mountain area with lots of different kind of species, which are more difficult to see in lowland or high altitude forests. It is about one hour drive from Garumara JC. We made birding mainly around Forest Rest House. We had only brief stop in Samsing next to Suntalekhola at open forest area, with good view to the mountains.

Lava, West Bengal

Lava is small mountain village (around altitude 2000m), with an active Buddhist monastery. People here were really friendly and birding in the forests was also very rewarding along the roads and paths.

Sandakphu trek, West Bengal

Sandakphu trek is situated between altitudes 1900-3660m, which offers different kind of habitats and birds. We spent three whole days and two half days on this trek. The trekking route is situated along the border of Nepal and India, and because of unstable situation of Nepal, India has established small military bases along the border (at least in Gairibans, Kalipokhari, Sandakphu and Phalut), even though there hasn’t been any conflicts with Nepal’s maoists. Soldiers are checking trekkers’ passports along the route and also in the beginning of trek in Manabhayang, so it is necessary to take passport with you. According to new rules of Singalila National Park, foreigner trekkers needs local guide when entering the park. Guide’s job is to confirm safe trekking and to find cheap lodging and food. The best
forest areas were around Gairibans and on the way from Sandakphu to Gurudum. In many other areas forests were fairly managed or cut down. Forest cutting for fuel is a big threat to forest in the area.

We didn’t take any porter to carry our bags even though we took the telescope with us. Some hills are quite heavy to climb, but if you go slowly they are not so bad and it is possible to watch birds along the climbing. It is possible to hire porter at Maneybhanyang. The trekking route is quite popular with lots of foreigner and Indian tourists, and they may sometimes chase birds away inadvertently along the route. However, the abandoned jeep-track from Gairibans and route from Sandakphu to Gurudum were really peaceful. In general birding here was superb with lots of highlights.

Picture 1. Aleksi enjoys the sunrise near Sandakphu.

Pemanyangtse, Sikkim

Pemanyangtse is monastery area too surrounded by nice forest. Some suitable birding paths are shown in Map 2.

Sangachoeling, Sikkim

The forest, which was mentioned in previous trip reports, before the monastery of Sangachoeling has nearly been cut down. Locals have started to build a road to the monastery and the mature forest between Pelling and Sangachoeling is now history. However, there was still nice forest area behind the monastery with lots of birds (Map 3.). The monastery area is good place to watch Steppe Eagle migration. In the forenoon eagles and griffons may pass the monastery with very close distance.

Rabdentse, Sikkim

The path to the ruins of ancient capital of Sikkim goes through good forest and the area was quite peaceful comparing to Khecheopari Lake. Sangachoeling, Pemanyangtse and Rabdentse are easy to reach by foot situating only a few kilometres from upper Pelling.
Kheckheopari Lake, Sikkim

Kheckheopari Lake is sacred, quite a small lake between mountains about one hour drive from Pelling. The forests around lake are superb, but the lake itself offers seldom many waterfowls, but some nice species can be seen. It is important to be here as early as possible, because the area is crowded by noisy tourists during the forenoon. However, there are more peaceful paths on the other side of the lake. Beautiful place.

Map 2. Pemanyangtse monastery area.
Path enters into the good birding forest after the house about 150 m. Good place to watch raptor migration.

The road climbs up to the mountain. Only little forest left at the end of the road.

Pelling 1 km

Map 3. Changachoeling monastery area.

Systematic list

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*
At least 5 were calling in the evening of 10.11. around Khunia tower.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelana*
One female was seen on 23.11. from the road 1 km from Pelling to Dentam direction.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*
12 ind. Gorumara, Khunia on 10.11., a pair along Moorty-river on 11.11., 20 ind. Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11., one male Chaphamari on 12.11., 10 ind. along the road to Chukchuki Lake, Gorumara NP on 13.11.

Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica*
One in small pond of Khunia, Gorumara on 10.11., a flock of 9 in the pond of Chaphamari on 12.11., 2 ind. Chukchuki Lake, Gorumara, on 13.11.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
About 110 altogether Teesta River barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*
About 100 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
5 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Atleast 100 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*
10 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
15 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
5 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*
5 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*
Atleast 800 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
One lonely male was seen from Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Ferruginous Pochard *Aythya nyroca*
10 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
20 ind. Teesta river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11. and one female was seen on the pond of Kalipokhari (3100 m).
According to locals it was wild bird, which had arrived six days ago.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*
17 ind. Khecheopari Lake on 23.11.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
One was seen in the bushes of small river banks in Terai on 26.11. on the way from Darjeeling to Bagdogra near village called something like Karitura.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
One was seen outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.11. and one was seen from the watching tower of Chaphamari on 12.11..

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei*
4 ind. were seen outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.11.

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis*
One was seen along Sandakphu trek between Maneybhanyang and Megma (altitude about 2400 m).

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*
One female was seen from Gorumara, Rhino-point on 12.11.

Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha*
One outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 11. and 12.11., one along Moorty river on 11.11., one in Gorumara, Chukchuki Lake on 13.11., one in Lava on 15.11. and one in Pelling on 22.11.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*
One female was seen from Gorumara Rhino-point on 12.11., two were seen in Pemanyangtse on 24.11. and two were heart at Sangachoeling on 25.11.

Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense*
One was seen outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 12.11.
Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
Two were seen in Samsing on 11.11., one was seen from Gorumara, Rhino-point on 12.11., two were seen outside Gorumara Jungle Camp on 12.11.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
One was seen and heard well in Rabdentse on 24.11. and another one was heard in Sangachoeling on 25.11.

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*
Seen and heard in wooden hill areas: Lava (at least five), Sangachoeling (ten), Khecheopari Lake (five) and Pemanyangtse (ten).

Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineate*
Seen and heard in low land forests: Gorumara, Khunia on 10.11. two ind., Gorumara, Moorty river one ind., Gorumara, Rhino-point one ind. on 12.11., Chaphamari five ind. on 12.11.

Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*
One was seen in Lava along the path to downhill jeep-track on 15.11.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
One was calling around Gorumara, Khunia on 10.11.

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*
About seven individuals were seen nicely in Gorumara, Rhino-point on 12.11.

Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis*
Altogether four birds were seen en-route in Terai on 8. (2), 11. and 13.11.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
One was seen along Moorty-river on 11.11.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon capensis*
Two were seen in Gorumara, Rhinopoint on 12.11.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
One to six birds daily in Gorumara area and one along Teesta-river in Ranpo on 21.11.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*
One was seen en-route in Gorumara on 12.-13.11.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti*
A flock of two birds was seen sitting on the top of the leafless tree in the evening from Chaphamari watching tower on 12.11.

Grey-bellied Cockoo *Cacomantis passerinus*
One juvenile or hepatic female with unbarred tail was seen in the garden of Bagdogra airport on 26.11.

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*
One was heart in the airport of Delhi on 8.11. while waiting for connection flight to Bagdogra.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
One was seen in Gorumara near Chukchuki Lake.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*
Two were seen from Khunia watching tower, Gorumara on 10.11. and one from the tower of Chaphamari 12.11. All birds were in tall grass.

Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*
Two were seen from Chaphamari tower on 12.11. and five around Chukchuki Lake, Gorumara on 13.11. All sightings concerned flying birds above forest.

*Loriculus vernalis*
Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*
Common in Gorumara area were up to 40 birds were seen daily.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*
About five birds were seen in Gorumara on 11.11. and five in Chaphamari on 12.11.

Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*
The most common Parakeet in Gorumara area. Up to 60 (+100 unidentified parakeet) were seen daily in this area.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris*
A flock of about 100 birds was seen flying on the Hills from Samsing on 11.11.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus batasiensis*
Three to 15 birds were seen daily in Terai (mainly in Gorumara area).

House Swift *Apus affinis*
A flock of 50 birds was seen above Darjeeling just before sunset on 9.11. and a flock of 60 birds in same situation on 25.11.

Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata*
About 15 birds were seen flying above forest before sunset from Chaphamari tower on 12.11.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*
One was seen nicely just after sunrise sitting on the same branch of small tree atleast 6:00-6:30 in Siri Khola on 20.11. It reminds me from Pygmy Owls in Finland!

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*
Only seen in Sangachoeling: one on 22.11. and three on 25.11. All sightings early in the morning including one calling in dawn.

Picture 3. Asian Barred Owlet.
Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*
One was seen flying around searching for prey in evening dusk in Tonglu (3000m) on 17.11.

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*
Common in the villages and cities of lowland and bigger villages of mountain area, were up to 100 birds were seen daily. Also a flock of 11 birds was seen in Sandakphu (3600m) on 18.-19.11.

Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii*
About 70 birds (including a flock of 60 birds + 20 C.hodgsonii/puchricollis) were seen in Lava on 14.11. Two Specked or Ashy Wood Pigeons were seen also in Tiger Hill on 9.11.

Ashy Wood Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis*
One was seen in the mountain area between Bagdogra and Darjeeling on 8.11. and a flock of four was seen flying above forest near Toglu on 17.11.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
The second common dove species of the trip. Seen every second day. However most sighting were from Terai, were up to 30 birds were seen (Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11.). Recorded also in mountain area in Lava, Sandakphu trek and Darjeeling in small numbers. One bird seen in Rhino-point showed whitish sides and tips of tail indicating subspecies meena. Others showed grey sides of tail suggesting subspecies agricola.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
Seen only in Terai, were up to 30 birds (+20 Streptopelia sp) were seen daily.

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
All sightings from Terai: two in Khunia, Gorumara on 10.11., nine in Rhino-point, Gorumara and three in Chaphamari on 12.11.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
All sightings also from Terai: five in Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11., two in Garumara Jungle Camp on 13.11. and five around Bagdogra on 26.11.

Barred Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia unchall*
One was seen nicely sitting on branch of big tree around Khecheopari Lake on 23.11. and singles were seen flying at dawn in Pemanyangtse on 24.11. and in Sanghachoeleling on 25.11.

Pompadour Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora*
Two were seen from Rhino-point, Gorumara with other pigeons and doves on 12.11.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera*
About 40 birds were seen from Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11. where they came to salt in the morning along with other pigeons and doves.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*
A flock of about 20 birds was seen nicely with other doves and pigeons from Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*
About 20 (several flocks) were seen flying high in the mountains in the morning from Suntalekhola Forest Rest House on 11.11.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
All records in Gorumara area: one in small pond next to Khunia watching tower on 10.11., two in pond of Chaphamari watching tower on 12.11. and two in Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Two were seen in the pond of Chaphamari watching tower on 12.11. and about 12 were seen in Chukchuki Lake, Gorumara on 13.11.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*
Only recorded from Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11. where at least 25 were seen.
Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*
One was seen nicely walking or running away along detritus in Rabdentse on 24.11.

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
One was seen in flight from K hunia, Gorumara on 10.11.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
One was seen from Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
One was seen from Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
A large flock of at least 50 was seen from Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Two were seen along Moorty-river on 11.11. and one was seen in the pond of Chaphamari watching tower on 12.11.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
One was seen from Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11. and two were seen along the Moorty-river on 11.11.

Temminck’s Stint *Calidris temminckii*
A flock of about 7 were seen from Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus*
One of the unexpected observations of the trip! At least three (perhaps four) birds in two (three) flocks were seen on stony banks of Moorty-river, Gorumara (see specific map of the sighting site, Map 2.) on 11.11. They were quite difficult notice, because their plumage resembles much of the stones of river banks, before your were too close (about 20 meters) and plovers started to fly. However they did not fly far, usually about 100m, when it was possible to watch them with telescope. One bird gave opportunity to take few photographs.

![Picture 4. Long-billed Plover in Moorty-river.](image-url)
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Four was seen along Moorty-river on 11.11.

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*
Two birds were seen at the same place with Long-billed Plover along Moorty-river on 11.11. and two birds were seen from Rhino-point, Gorumara next to the pigeons and doves on 12.11.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
A flock of 110 was present at Gazoldoba (Teesta-river barrage) on 10.11.

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
Surprisingly scarce with just one bird seen from the Khunia watching tower, Gorumara on 10.11. and two birds were in the pond of Chaphamari on 11.11.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*
Three birds were flying and sitting on sandy banks of Teesta-river (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
Four observations of single first-calendar year birds: one bird was seen from Rhino-point Gorumara on 12.11., one bird took a brief sit on the TV-aerial of the Gorumara Jungle Camp on 13.11.!, one bird was seen sitting on tree on the way from Lava to Kalimpong on 15.11. and one bird was seen migrating west direction with Hen Harrier at Sanghachoeeling on 22.11.
Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
One bird was eating a prey on tree at Khunia, Gorumara on 10.11. and another one was seen sitting on wire in lowland on the way from Gorumara to Lava.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Small numbers (up to 20 birds) were seen daily in lowlands.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*
One was seen at Maneybhangang on 16.11., about 10 at Rimbik on 20.11. and six (+four Gyps sp) were migrating to west at Sangachoeling on 22.11. Nearly all were young birds with a few sub-adults.

Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*
Nine were seen during Sandakphu trek between Tonglu and Sandakphu on 17.-18.11., about 15 were seen migrating with Steppe Eagles at Rimbik on 20.11. and two were seen at Teesta on 21.11.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
All observations around Gorumara area: one was seen from Khunia watching tower on 10.11., one was seen at Suntalekhola on 11.11., two were seen from Rhino-point, Gorumara and two at Chaphamari on 12.11.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
One juvenile was seen migrating western direction in the morning at Sangachoeling on 22.11.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
One was seen in Lava on 15.11., four were seen migrating south-southwest directions on the way from Kalipokhari to Bhikebhanjhang on 18.11. and single migrating birds were seen at Rimbik on 20.11. and at Sangachoeling on 22.11. Two unidentified small *Accipiter* (probably *nisus* too) were seen (in Samsing on 11.11. and in Lava on 14.11.).
Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
Recorded only during Sandakphu trek: one bird (+ one Buteo sp) at Tonglu on 16.11., three around Kalipokhari on 18.11. and one at Rimbik on 20.11.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*
One was seen at Suntalekhola on 11.11., singles were seen in Lava on 14.-15.11., a flock of two birds were seen at Siri Khola on 20.11. and one was seen at Sangachoeling on 25.11.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*
Migrating birds were seen daily during the Sandakphu trek altogether about 145 individuals, with the best sightings at Rimbik were about 120 eagles migrated nicely over the village with in one hour of forenoon while we were waiting for transport to Darjeeling. Good migration was also recorded at monastery of Sangahoeling on 22.11., were 57 were counted (44 ind. 12:30-14:00) migrating western direction very nicely. Two days later the migration was poorer and we saw only tree migrating individuals from the ruins of Rabdentse. Most of eagles were juveniles or sub-adults with only few adult birds (e.g. on 22.11. 17 1cy, 17 sub-adults and five adults were identified).

Bonelli’s Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
One juvenile was seen at Gairibans on 17.11.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*
One indidual of dark-morph was gliding with Black Kite on the way from Garumara to Chaphamari on 12.11.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii*
One adult was seen nicely in flight just above us in Lava on 14.11. (2000 m).

Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*
One was seen in Lava on 14.11., two in Siri Khola on 20.11. and one in Rabdentse on 24.11.

Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens*
One was nicely in flight and sitting on the top of leafless tree from Chaphamari watching tower.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Altogether about ten birds were seen including sightings around Bagdobra (2), at Moorty-river, around Mal (2), during Sandakphu trek (4) and at Sangachoeling.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
Two were seen from Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11. and one was seen in Kheckheopari Lake (1900m) on 23.11.

Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger*
Recorded only in lowlands with the best numbers of about 70 in Gazoldoba (Teesta-river barrage) and about 70 flying to roost at Moorty-river in the evening of 11.11.

Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
One was seen from Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
About 15 at Gazoldoba (Teesta-river barrage), three flew to roost in the evening at Moorty-river on 11.11., six along Teesta-river on the way to Sikkim on 21.11. and two in Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Three at Gazoldoba (Teesta-river barrage) on 10.11., about ten along Moorty-river on 11.11. and five from Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Three were seen at Gazoldoba (Teesta-river barrage) on 10.11.

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*
Five were seen at Gazoldoba (Teesta-river barrage) on 10.11.
Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*
Two were seen in the pond of Chaphamari watching tower on 12.11.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Recorded daily (up to 100 birds) in lowlands.

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*
About 15 were seen from Khunia watching tower, Gorumara on 10.11. and about 40 birds in the pond of Chaphamari tower on 12.11. In addition, several en-route observations in lowlands.

Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa*
An unexpected flock of 29 birds was resting on river bank of Teesta-river in Gazoldoba on 10.11.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
Three were seen from the Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) and two from Khunia watching tower on 10.11.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptophilos javanicus*
One was seen from Khunia watching tower on 10.11. and another in the pond of Chaphamari tower on 12.11.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
A flock of at least three birds was seen surrounding forests of the tower of Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons*
Two were seen from Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11. and two at Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickei*
Three (two female plumages and one 1cy (?) male with few black spots on the breast) on the way from Pelling to Sangachoeling on 22.11. and 25.11. and one bird in female-plumage in Pemanyangtse on 24.11.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
Altogether ten (plus several Lanius sp) were seen in lowlands on 8.-13.11. Two observations in the middle of forest (Suntalehhola and outside Garumara Jungle Camp).

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
Altogether eight birds of the black-headed subspecies *tricolor* were seen in lowlands on 10.-13.11.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius excubitoroides*
Five were seen in Gorumara area on 12.-13.11. and one in Terai on the way to Bagdogra (Karitura?) on 26.11.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris*
Three in Tiger Hill on 9.11. and 15 during the Sandakphu trek (seven on 16.11, five on 17.11. and three on 19.11.). All observation between 2000-3000m.

Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*
One in Siri Khola (1900m) on 20.11. and one in Sangachoeling (1800m) on 22.11. were the only sightings.

Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
All sightings of about 25 birds were in forest areas in the Gorumara area on 11.-13.11.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosa*
Replaces Rufous Treepie in higher altitudes. Recorded in Tiger Hill, Suntalekhola (10), Lava (2), Sangachoeling (10), Kheckheopari Lake (15) and Pemanyangtse (10).

Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*
Eight birds were seen during Sandakphu trek on 17.-19.11 between altitudes 2200-3200m.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Common especially in the lowlands, were up to 100 birds were seen daily. Also recorded in mountain areas in the bigger villages and cities (e.g. about 150 in Darjeeling on 9.11.).
Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
Recorded nearly daily in rural mountain areas in small numbers (usually less than 15 individuals). However, a flock of 70 birds were seen between Maneybhanyang and Megma on 16.11. and a flock of 15 individuals outside Sandakphu village (3600m) on 18.11.

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*
Three at Khunia on 10.11., two at Garumara Jungle Camp and two at Moorty-river on 11.11. and five at Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11.

Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
Atleast five were seen around Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.-13.11., two at Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11. and two at Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*
One young or female seen in Pemanyantse on 24.11. was the only record.

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*
Two were seen outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.11.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos*
Two were seen from Rhino-point, Gorumara and one from the tower of Chaphamari on 12.11. One more was seen at Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*
One male was seen from Chaphamari tower on the top leafless tree in the evening of 12.11.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*
One male was seen at Gairibans on 18.11.

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*
A flock of eight birds was seen in Lava on 15.11. Two flocks of unidentified minivets were seen in the mountain area; three on the way to Pelling on 21.11. and two at Sangachoeiling on 25.11.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*
About 15 in Suntalekhola and ten outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.11. and ten at Rhino-point on 12.11.

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*
Three were seen at Suntalekhola on 11.11., three at Siri Khola on 20.11. and two at Sangachoeiling on 22.11.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*
Singles of the dark-breasted races, seen at Lava on 14.11. and Sangachoeiling (2) on 22.-23.11.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Recorded only in the open areas of lowlands, where every day five to 20 individuals were seen.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
Clearly the most numerous drongo in the lowland forestal areas. Recorded every day (up to 25 birds) in Gorumara area.

White-bellied Drongo *Dicturus caerulescens*
One was seen from Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
Only record of two individuals at forest next to Moorty-river on 11.11.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*
One in Suntalekhola and one outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.11., two at Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11. and one at Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
At least ten birds were seen at Khunia, Suntalekhola, Garumara Jungle Camp, Rhino-point, Chaphamari, Chukchuki Lake and in mountain area on the way from Darjeeling to Bagdogra.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
Two were seen at Suntalekhola on 11.11., one outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 12.11. and two at Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
One was seen at Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.

Asian Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*
One female or young bird was seen at Suntalekhola on 11.11.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
Two were seen at Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasi*
Two were seen from the bridge of Siri Khola on 20.11. and three in Teesta-river at Ranpo (seen inside the Sikkim visa office!) on 21.11.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*
Single males were seen in Lava on 13.11. and in Sangachoeling on 22.11.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
A pair was seen at Teesta-river barrage (Gazoldoba) on 10.11., one female at Garumara Jungle Camp and a pair along Moorty-river on 11.11.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
Common nearly every visited forest area, but more abundant in the middle altitude forests. The highest area where recorded was Gairibans (2600m), where three individuals were seen on 18.11. The biggest day count was 30 individuals on 23.11.

Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima*
A flock of two in Lava on 14.11., one between Maneybhanyang and Megma (2400m) on 16.11., a flock of two in Siri Khola on 19.11. (1900m) and one (+ a flock of four Zoothera sp) at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixoni*
One was seen nicely on abandoned jeep track of Gairibans on 17.11. (2700m).

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*
One was seen outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 12.11. and a flock of three was seen nicely at Pemanyangtse on 24.11.

White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus*
A flock of three (two males and one female) was seen at Tiger Hill on 9.11. and single female was seen at dawn in the village of Tonglu (3070m).

Grey-winged Thrush *Turdus boulboul*
A flock of five was seen in Lava on 15.11. (1800m) and few flocks up to 20 birds were seen at Sangachoeling and Pemanyangtse (altogether at least 45 birds) on 22.-25.11.

Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*
A flock of at least two birds were seen in Sandakphu trek between Manabhajang and Megma (2400m).

Gould’s Shortwing *Brachypteryx stellata*
One was seen very nicely from about 10 meters just before arriving Gairibans on the side of the road on 17.11.

Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiata*
Five was seen during the Sandakphu trek (one near Gairibans on 17.11. and four between Gurudum and Siri Khola on 19.11.) and at least 13 were seen in Sangachoeling, Pemanyangtse and Kheckheopari Lake altogether on 22.-25.11.
Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*
Common in Gorumara area, were about 30 birds were recorded. Easy to separate from Red-throated Flycatcher by voice, which is more drier and quicker than Red-throated’s resembling calling of e.g. Brown or Red-backed Shrike [3].

[Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*]
Two birds were calling like Red-throated Flycatcher, which voice is familiar to us from Finland, in Suntalekhola on 11.11., but they were not seen, which why they were not finally identified.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*
One male was seen at the gate of Gorumara National Park (next to the statue of one-horned rhino) in the early morning of 12.11., while we were waiting for that the park would open.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolour*
One was seen at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*
Singles were seen in Darjeeling on 9.11. and at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*
One beautiful male was seen at Pemanyangtse on 24.11.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgregoriae*
A pair was seen at Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11. and one male at Khukchuki Lake on 13.11.
Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*
One female was seen at Suntalekhola on 11.11. and one male outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 12.11.

Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni*
One was seen at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
Recorded only in lowland forests: around Garumara Jungle Camp (atleast five) and Rhino-point, Gorumara (2).

Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus*
Single adult males were seen in Lava on 14.11. and in Sangachoeling on 22.11. and one was seen in Pemanyangtse on 24.11.

Golden Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
One was seen at Sangachoeling on 22.11. + several possible ones were calling in same area (Sangachoeling and Pemanyangtse), but not managed to see.

White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus*
Three were seen (two females) and heart outside Lava village on 14.11.

Rufous-breasted Bush Robin *Tarsiger hyperythrus*
Two males were seen on the way from Sandakphu to Gurudum (in the altitude of 3200m and 3500m). Two probable ones were heart in Gairibans two days before, but not seen and confirmed.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*
Two to five birds were seen daily in Gorumara area (also in Garumara Jungle Camp) and one bird in the garden of Bagdogra airport on 26.11.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*
Only records at Chukchuki Lake, where at least five birds were seen on 13.11.

Blue-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus*
One male was seen in the village of Sandakphu (3600m) in the morning of 19.11 on the eastern edge of distribution of the species.

White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps*
One male was seen on the way to Sandakphu (3500m) on 18.11.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*
One of the most common species in the higher altitudes (2000-3000m). Altogether about 130 birds were seen in Tiger Hill, Lava (the best day count 25 birds), during Sandakphu trek, Sangachoeling, Pemanyangtse and Kheckheopari Lake. Voice resembles call of Eurasian Robin “tik”.

White-capped Water Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*
About 15 to 20 birds were seen along mountain streams and rivers (e.g. in Gairibans, Siri Kholo).

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*
About 15 birds were seen along mountain streams and rivers (e.g. Teesta, Siri Kholo, Kheckheopari Lake).

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri*
Three birds were seen along the mountain river between Gurudum and Siri Kholo (2).

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*
One tailless (!) bird was along a small stream in Suntalekhola on 11.11.

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*
One was seen nicely along very small stream of abandoned jeep track of Gairibans on 17.11.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*
About 20 birds were seen in lowlands. Most of these (about 15) at Khunia, Gorumara on 10.11.
Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*
Two males were seen along the ring-road of Lava village on 14.11. and one female was seen near Gayzing on 25.11.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus*
Common in Gorumara area, where it was recorded every day in open areas and forests as well. The biggest day count was on 11.11. about 100 birds.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
One was seen at the airport of Delhi on 8.11., while we were waiting for connection flight to Bagdogra.

Asian Pied Starling *Sturnus contra*
Common in lowlands, where few tens were recorded. The best day count was on 11.11. 40 birds.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
Common in lowlands, where few tens were seen every day and recorded also in some bigger mountain cultivation areas like Darjeeling (up to ten birds) and Kalimpong. The best day count on 11.11. 50 birds + 50 Myna sp.

Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*
Several were seen in lowlands: one was sitting on Gaur in Khunia on 10.11. and about 7 were seen from Rhino-point, Gorumara and three outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 12.11.

Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
Common in forests in Gorumara area. Recorded in Khunia (3), Samsing (50), Moorty-river (3), Rhino-point (5), Garumara Jungle Camp (5) and Chaphamari (50).

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta castanea*
Recorded only in Gorumara area: Gorumara Jungle Camp (atleast 3), forest next to Moorty-river (3) and Rhino-point (3).

White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*
Replace Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch at higher altitude sites. Recorded in Lava (6), during Sandakphu trek (20, up to 3000m) and in Sangacholing, Pemanyangtse and Kheckheopari Lake (16 altogether).

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*
Three singles in flocks of tits near Sandakphu between altitudes 3200-3500m.

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Two dark birds, probably the subspecies of *nipalensis*, were seen around Kalipokhari (3100m).

Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris*
Grey-bellied subspecies *beavani* was the most common tit-species between altitudes 3100-3600m. About 65 birds were seen in Sandakphu trek within two days 18.-19.11.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*
The second numerous tit over altitude of 3000m. About 18 birds were seen in Sandakphu trek on 18.-19.11. One was also seen in Sangacholing (2000m) on 25.11.

Grey-crested Tit *Parus dichrous*
As numerous as previous in high altitudes. About 16 birds were seen in mixed flocks of Rufous-vented and Coal Tits (above 3000m) during Sandakphu trek on 18.-19.11.

Great Tit *Parus major*
Two birds were seen in Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.-13.11.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*
The most common tit in middle altitudes. Altogether about 60 birds were seen in Lava, during Sandankphu trek (where recorded atleast up to 2800m), at Sangacholing, Pemanyangtse and Kheckheopari Lake. The biggest day count was on 23.11. 15 birds.
Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*
15 birds were seen in four flocks from Tonglu to Gairibans (Sandakphu trek) on 17.11. and two birds were seen both at Sangachoeling on 22.11. and at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*
A flocks of about ten birds were seen in Darjeenling (on 9.11.), in Lava (on 15.11.), at Kheckheopari Lake (on 23.11.) and at Pemanyangtse (on 24.11.). All flocks at the same altitude around 2000m.

Rufous-throated Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos*
Four flocks (up to 12 birds, 32 altogether) were seen during Sandakphu trek between altitudes 2500-2800m on 17.-19.11.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*
About ten birds were flying along the Moorty-river on 11.11.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
One was seen at Rimbik (altitude 2300m) on 20.11.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
Three were flying with Barn Swallow in Rimbik on 20.11.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*
Atleast five were flying with Himalayan Swiftlets in Samsing on 11.11.

Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalensis*
A flock of 60 birds were seen in Sikkim on the way to Pelling near Tarku on 21.11. and five were seen on the way from Pelling to Darjeeling on 25.11. Few other small flocks of unidentified martins or swallows were seen in the mountain area from car.

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*
About ten were seen at Pemanyangtse on 24.11. and two were seen at Sangachoeling on 25.11.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*
About 25 birds of the subspecies *flaviventris* were seen in the forests of Gorumara National Park on 12.-13.11.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
Common in Gorumara area, where a few tens were seen every day. Clearly the biggest numbers were seen at Khunia, where up to 150 birds hanging around tall grass area.

Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
About 12 birds in two flocks were seen one kilometre outside Pelling to Dentam direction on 23.11. and one bird was seen on the border of Sikkim and West Bengal on 25.11., when policeman was checking our passports.

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*
Common in Gorumara area were 10 to 20 birds were seen daily. Few records also in higher altitudes like one bird in Pelling on 25.11.

Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes mclellandii*
Two flocks were seen: At least six birds in Lava on 15.11. and seven birds in Rabdentse on 24.11.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
One of the most numerous and the loudest species in middle altitudes (1700-2200m). Recorded in big numbers in Lava (250+) and Sangachoeling-Pemanyangtse-Kheckheopari Lake area (150+). Small numbers were also seen in Tiger Hill (7) and in lower altitude in Suntalekhola (5).

Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*
A flock of two (pair?) was seen from the monastery of Sangachoeling on 25.11.
Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*
Only one bird was managed to see well but briefly in Pemanyangtse on 24.11.

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivacea*
One was seen well for 20 seconds from the path of Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes*
One was seen in Lava on 14.-15.11. and three around Pelling-Sangachoeling on 22.-25.11. All were in short shrub and were found from the “chuk”-voice.

Abberant Bush Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea*
Three were seen along the road of Tiger Hill on 9.11. and one was heart in Gurudum on 19.11. All were found from the “drr-drr-drr”-voice.

Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons*
Two were in short reeds of Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11. and three were around Pelling and Sangachoeling in short shrub on 22.-23.11. All were found from the “zip, zip, zip...”-voice.

Blyth’s Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
One was seen well outside Chaphamari WC on 12.11. “Tsak”-voice of unidentified *Acrocephalus* was also heart in Khunia.

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*
One bird was seen in bush in Terai during short stop in village called something like Karitura on 26.11.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
A few sighting in lowland. About five around Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.11.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybitus*
A flock of three birds were seen near Tonglu (Sandakphu trek) in altitude of 3000m. Greyish plumage and blackish bill and legs suggested subspecies *tristis*.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*
Three were seen in Lava on 14.11. and one was seen in the beginning of Sandakphu trek on 16.11. in altitude of 2300m.

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
The most common *Phylloscopus*-species in higher altitudes. Altogether about 100 birds were seen in Lava, during Sandakphu trek (where up to 3300m), Sangachoeling, Pemanyangtse and Kheckheopari Lake.

Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
Much rarer than previous. Four were seen during Sandakphu trek (between altitudes 2700-3500m), three were seen in Sangachoeling and one in Pemanyangtse.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Eight birds were observed at Suntalekhola on 11.11., three in Gorumara Jungle Camp on 12.11., one in Chukchuki Lake on 13.11. and two in Teesta on 21.11.

Hume’s Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*
Three were observed in Tiger Hill on 9.11., two in Gorumara Jungle Camp on 12.11., one in Chaphamari on 12.11. and four around Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Four birds were observed in lowlands including singles in Gorumara Jungle Camp on 10.11., Gorumara NP and Chaphamari WC on 12.11.

Whistler’s Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*
Only few Whistler’s or Golden-spectacled Warblers were seen and only very few were seen good enough to be identified based on criterions reported in trip report of Mike Prince (2003). All the identified birds were Whistler’s and observations were made at the garden of Garumara Jungle Camp (1) on 12.11. and at Kheckheopari Lake (5). Birds seen in Tiger Hill and Sangachoeling were not identified.
Grey-hooded Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschista*
Fairly common in Sangachoeling-Pemanyantse-Kheckheopari Lake area, where about 20 birds were seen on 22.-25.11. Other records were singles in Lava on 13.11. and Siri Khola on 20.11.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaneiceps*
Nearly all sightings at Sikkim in Sangachoeling-Pemanyantse-Kheckheopari Lake area, were 10 birds were seen. One bird was also seen in Lava on 15.11.

Broad-billed Warbler *Tickellia hodgsoni*
One bird was seen in the end of Sandakphu trek near village of Gurudum on 19.11.

Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*
A flock of seven birds were seen in Sangachoeling on 22.11.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*
At least two were seen in mixed flock with Lesser Neckled Laughingthrushes in Suntalekhola on 11.11.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*
At least five in Suntalekhola on 11.11.

Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus*
Three were seen in Lava on 14.-15.11., two in Gairibans on 17.11., four in Sangachoeling on 22.11. and two at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufogularis*
Two were seen at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11. and one in Rabdentse on 24.11.

Spotted Laughingthrush *Garrulax ocellatus*
Two were seen on the road of Tiger Hill with about ten Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes.

Grey-sided Laughingthrush *Garrulax caerulatus*
A flock of seven birds were seen at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus*
Two birds were seen at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11.

Scaly Laughingthrush *Garrulax subunicolor*
One was seen in Sangachoeling on 22.11.

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Garrulax affinis*
All sighting during Sandakphu trek were altogether six birds were seen three days (two on 16.11., two 18.11. and one on 19.11.) between altitudes 2400-3500m.

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus*
Clearly the most common laughingthrush. Altogether about 40 birds were seen in Tiger Hill (15), Lava (14), Gairibans (1), Siri Khola (3) and Kheckheopari Lake (8).

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*
Two were seen in Lava on 14.11.

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficolli*
A flock of at least five birds were seen in Pemanyantse on 24.11. and a flock of at least two unidentified scimitar babblers were seen between Pelling and Sangachoeling on 25.11.

Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer*
Only one was seen good enough to confirm the species: one in Lava on 15.11., which even displayed song a few times. At least 13 wren babblers were seen too quickly or more often just heart calling “tsek”-voice of wren babblers repeated every 5 to 10 seconds inside the thick undergrowth of jungle. Observation sites of unidentified were Lava (4), Sangachoeling (4), Kheckheopari Lake (1) and Pemanyantse (4).
Pygmy Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*
One was seen in Pemanyagtse good enough to confirm the species on 24.11.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruﬁceps*
Three were at Khecheopari Lake on 23.11. and one between Pelling and Pemanyagtse on 24.11.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*
A flock of three were seen in Lava on 15.11.

Striped Tit Babbler *Macronous gularis*
A flock of five were seen at Chukchuki Lake on 13.11.

Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus*
A flock of 20 birds was calling loudly outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.-12.11.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*
Fairly common altitudes around altitude of 2000m. About 70 individuals were seen in Tiger Hill (3), Lava (20), Gairibans (2, in altitude 2700m), Siri Khola (5), Sangachoeling (20), at Khecheopari Lake (10) and Pemanyagatse (10).

Black-headed Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer*
A flock of two birds were seen in Tiger Hill on 9.11.

Green Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*
One bird was seen well near Kalipokhari in altitude of 3000m

Black-eared Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*
Two birds were seen both in Sangachoeling on 22.11. and in Pemanyagatse on 24.11.

Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni*
Two birds were seen during the first day of Sandakphu trek between Maneybhanyang and Megma in altitude of 2400m and three birds were seen in Pemanyagatse on 24.11.

Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis*
Two were seen in Lava on 14.11., five in Gairibans (2700m) on 17.11. and two between Sandakphu and Gurudum (3000m).

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*
A flock of ten birds were seen at the monastery of Sangachoeling on 22.11.

Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula*
Nearly 30 individuals were recorded during Sandakphu trek (up to 2800m). 12 birds were seen in Lava on 14.11. and 15 birds were seen in Sangachoeling on 22.11.

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta*
Recorded only in three times: two in Darjeeling on 9.11., a flock of 20 birds in Lava on 15.11. and a flock of 10 birds at Khecheopari Lake on 23.11.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis*
Two flocks were seen during Sandakphu trek: three birds between Tonglu and Gairibans (2900m) on 17.11. and six between Sandakphu and Gurudum (2600m) on 19.11.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps*
Two in Lava on 13.11., two near Gurudum (2400m) on 19.11. and 20 birds both in Sangachoeling on 22.11. and Khecheopari Lake on 23.11.

White-browed Fulvetta *Alcippe viniceps*
Fairly common in mountain area: Tiger Hill (30), Lava (5), Sandakphu trek (70, up to 3400m) and Sangachoeling (2).
Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis*
Recorded only in Sikkim: five in Sangachoeling on 22.11., one at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11. and three in Pemanyangtse 24.11.

Rufous Sibia *Heterophasia capistrata*
One of the most numerous and the loudest birds in the middle altitudes (around 2000m). More than 400 birds were seen: Tiger Hill (10), Lava (90+), Sandakphu (20), Sangachoeling (100+), Kheckheopari Lake (100) and Pemanyagtse (100).

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*
The most numerous and common Yuhina species. Nearly 250 birds were seen in middle altitudes: Lava (50), Sandakphu trek (70, up to 2800m), Sangachoeling (50), Kheckhepari Lake (30) and Pemanyantse (40).

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*
15 were seen in Lava on 14.-15.11. and about 20 during Sandakphu trek (up to 3000m).

Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis*
Recorded in Lava, were about 50 birds were seen on 14.-15.11., and in Sandakphu trek, where 20 birds were seen (up to 2800m).

Black-face Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*
A flock of four were seen at Suntalekhola on 11.11.

White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca*
About 10 birds were seen in Lava on 14.11.

Fire-tailed *Myzornis Myzornis pyrrhoura*
One was seen in Lava on 14.11. (2300m)

Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor*
A flock of about eight birds was seen between Sandakphu and Gurudum (2500m) in thick bamboo.

Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum melanoxanthum*
One male was seen in Lava on 14.11. and a pair was seen in Pemanyangtse on 24.11.

Pale-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorynchos*
One bird was seen outside Garumara Jungle Camp on 11.11.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*
Two were seen in Lava on 13.-14.11. and one was seen Siri Khola on 20.11. More abundant in Sikkim were about 12 birds were seen in Sangachoeling, Pemanyangtse and at Khecheopari Lake.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis*
One was seen from Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11.

Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis*
The most numerous sunbird. Three were seen in Tiger Hill, about 50 in Lava and 40 in Sikkim.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*
One was seen in Lava, 12 (+25 unidentified sunbirds) during Sandakphu trek (between altitudes 2700-3000m) and two in Pemanyangtse on 24.11.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*
Two were seen in Suntalekthera on 11.11. and two in Lava on 14.11. (altitude of 2400m).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Recorded only in lowland cultivations: Siliguri (15), Gorumara (2) and Bagdogra (20).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Replaced the House Sparrow at higher altitudes in Sikkim and in Lava and Darjeeling area. The best day count on 10.11. about 50 birds. One was also seen in Siliguri on 10.11.

**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba***
Most of the records in lowlands: five in Teesta-river barrage on 10.11. (three ssp. *leucopsis* and two ssp. *baicalensis/duchunansis*), 30 along Moorty-river on 11.11. (most of these ssp. *alboides*, but few ssp. *leucopsis*) and five around Bagdogra on 26.11. (probably ssp. *pensonata*). Two birds were seen higher altitudes: one in Lava on 14.-15. (ssp. *alboides*) and one near Rimbik on 20.11.

**Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola***
Single female-plumage birds were seen along Moorty-river on 11.11. and on the pond of Chaphamari on 12.11.

**Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***
A flock of about 300 flew to roost in tall grass in Khunia on 10.11. and about 150 (+100 *Motacilla* sp) were seen along Moorty-river on 11.11.

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***
One was seen flying over Moorty-river on 11.11. and one was seen near Siri Khola along small mountain stream on 20.11. and about seven birds were seen in Sikkim along small mountain streams or at the Kheckheopari Lake (1).

**Richard’s Pipit *Anthus richardi***
Two birds were seen in flight and calling typically “Pshriuh!”

**Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus***
One bird was seen from the Teesta-river barrage on 10.11. and about five were along Moorty-river on 11.11.

**Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni***
Clearly the most common and numerous pipit. Nearly 100 birds were seen including sightings from Tiger Hill (5), Lava (60), Sandakphu trek (6) and Sikkim (20).

**Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris***
One bird was seen nicely along the jeep-track near Toglu (3000m) on 16.11.

**Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiata***
Three were seen in Tiger Hill on 9.11., eight in Lava on 14.11. and one in Rabdentse on 24.11.

**Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata***
A flock of three birds were seen both in Lava (2300m) and in Gairibans (2600m).

**White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata***
One bird was seen in lowland between on the way from Darjeeling to Bagdogra on 26.11.

**Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata***
Two males were seen at tower of Khunia, Gorumara on 10.11.

**Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides***
About 75 in Lava (including a flock of 70 birds seen from our balcony of Yankee Resort), 20 birds in Sangachoeling and six birds in Pelling.

**Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola***
Very abundant in high altitude areas (especially during Sandakphu trek), probably due to good seed year of coniferous trees, where they were often seen feeding. Birds were typically seen in quite big flocks flying over and local used to call the species “bird, which never lands”. A flock of about 50 birds were seen from Tiger Hill on 9.11. and a flock of 30 birds outside Darjeeling on 15.11. During Sandakphu trek about 1000 birds were seen, including about 500 birds between Sandakphu and Gurudum mainly eating the seeds of coniferous trees or flying around in different size of flocks (down to 2700m). The biggest flock was about 120 birds on 18.11.

**Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis***
One male was seen in Lava on 14.11. and five female-plumage birds were seen from the monastery of Pemanyangtse on 24.11.
Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
One was observed migrating from Tiger Hill on 9.11.

White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura*
Three was seen near Tonglu (3000m) on 17.11. and about 12 birds of ssp. *thura* were seen around Sandakphu (3600m)

Crimson-browed Finch *Propyrrhula subhimachala*
One female was seen near Sandakphu (3500m) on 18.11.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*
Quite good numbers in higher altitudes were probably related to good seed year of coniferous trees. Recorded in Tiger Hill (10), Lava (3) and during Sandakphu trek (50). The best numbers were at the same area with Plain Mountain Finches between Sandakphu and Gurudum.

Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala*
A flock of about seven birds were seen nicely in Lava along the path to Tiffen Dara on 14.11.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*
Two birds (at least one was female) were seen in Lava on 14.11.

Crested Bunting *Melophus lathamani*
A pair was seen at Khunia watching tower, Gorumara on 10.11. and three (two males and one female) were seen in lowlands on the way from Darjeeling to Bagdogra near the village called something like Karitura on 26.11.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Singles were seen at Kheckheopari Lake on 23.11. and in Rabdentse on 24.11. Several “tsik”-calling buntings were heart and seen flying over in Tiger Hill (3), during Sandakphu trek (3) and in Sangachoeiling (2).

**Other wildlife**

Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis*
Fairly common along roadsides (especially near Teesta) in lower altitudes (up to 50 animals were seen during the best days).

Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*
One seen near Gurudum on 19.11.

Bat-species
One small size bat was flying in dawn on 24.11. Surprisingly no bats were seen in lowlands.

Himalayan Yellow-throated Marten *Mustela flavicula*
Two were playing on the road early in the morning on the way to Kheckheopari Lake.

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah*
Two were seen in Sandakphu trek on 16.11.

Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel *Callosciurus pygerythrus*
Three in Kheckheopari Lake, two in Pemanyangtse and one in Sangachoeiling.

Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Callosciurus macclellandi*
Two in Pemanyangtse, three in Kheckheopari Lake and one in Rabdentse.

Mouse sp
One in mouth of cat near Megma on 16.11.

Indian Elephant *Elephas indicus*
A few tamed animals were seen around Rhino-point, Gorumara, but none wild animals were seen.
Great One-horned Rhino *Rhinoceros unicornis*
A herd of three was seen among tall grass from Rhino-point, Gorumara on 12.11. We needed to watch them for five minutes before we managed to see their horns!

[Wild boar *Sus cristatus*]
One probable was seen among tall grass from Khunia tower, Gorumara in the late evening.

Gaur *Bos gaurus*
A herd of 16 at Khunia, Gorumara, a herd of 10 at Rhino-point, a herd of 14 at tower of Chaphamari and one near Chuckhuki Lake, Gorumara.

Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer) *Muntiacus muntjak*
Two were heart barking near Gairibans.

Spotted Deer *Axis axis*
A herd of one male, three females and one young were seen from Rhino-poin, Gorumara.

Garial *Gavialis gangeticus*
Three were seen in a cage next to Moorty-river.

Gecko sp
One was seen inside our room in Garumara Jungle Camp.

References


[2] Grimmet, R., Inskipp, C. & Inskipp, T. 2000: Birds of Nepal. *Same as previous, but only the species that have been seen in Nepal (which why it’s practical also in Sikkim and West Bengal). Altitude distribution are better discribed here than in the bigger version. Available also in book shop of Darjeeling.*


Lots of information can also be found from internet by using keywords like birding, Sikkim, West Bengal, trip report etc.

Used trip reports:

Trip report to Sikkim and West Bengal, India 28/3-15/4 2004; Rober Ahlman; http://

Birding trip to North Bengal, India; November 2002; Mike Prince; http://www.bubo.org/trips/india_2002_northbengal.pdf

Birding trip to North Bengal and Sikkim, India; November 2003; Mike Prince; http://www.kolkatabirds.com/netrip1.htm