

Bird Diversity Along the Trans-Bhutan Trail (TBT)

*Latongla to
Zhongar*

Bhutan Birdlife Society (BBLs)

2023



Wards Trogon

Great Hornbill



Introduction

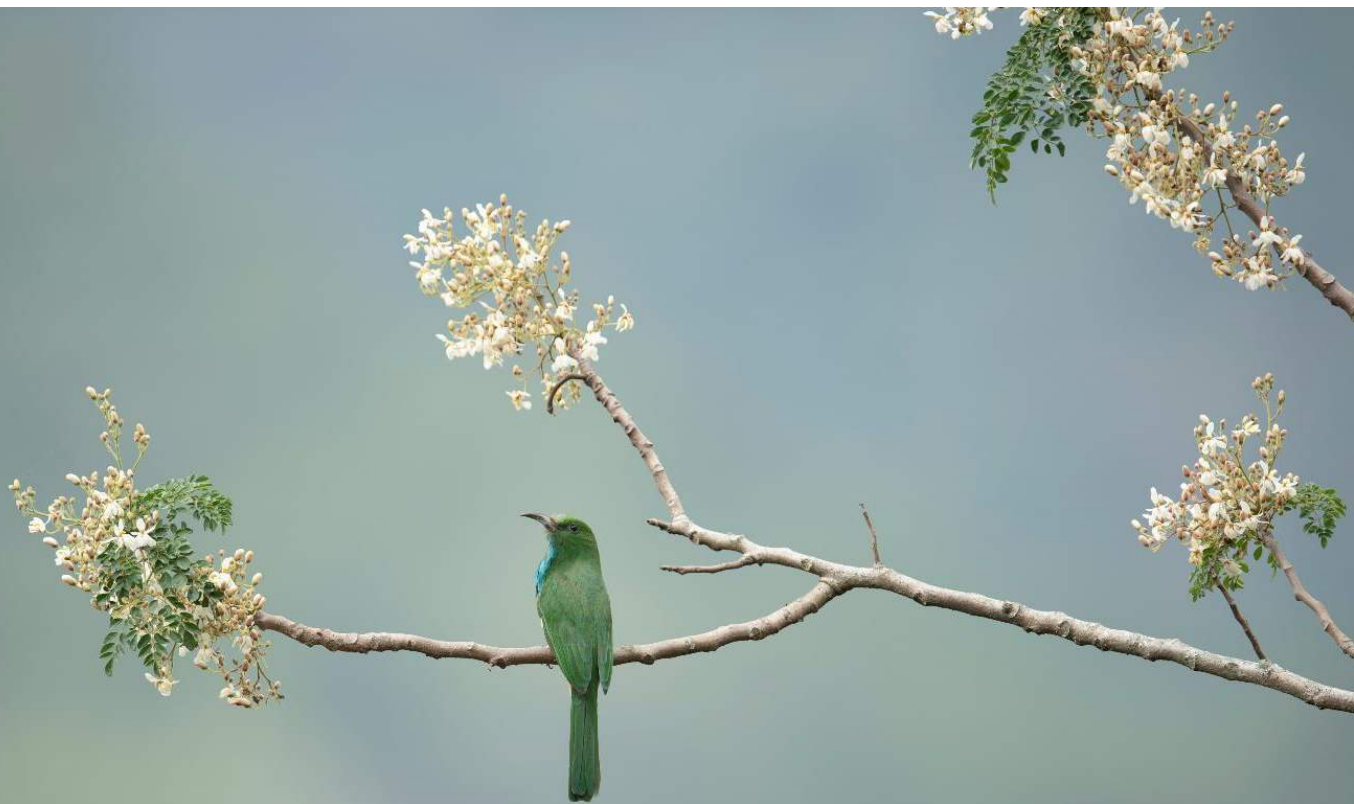
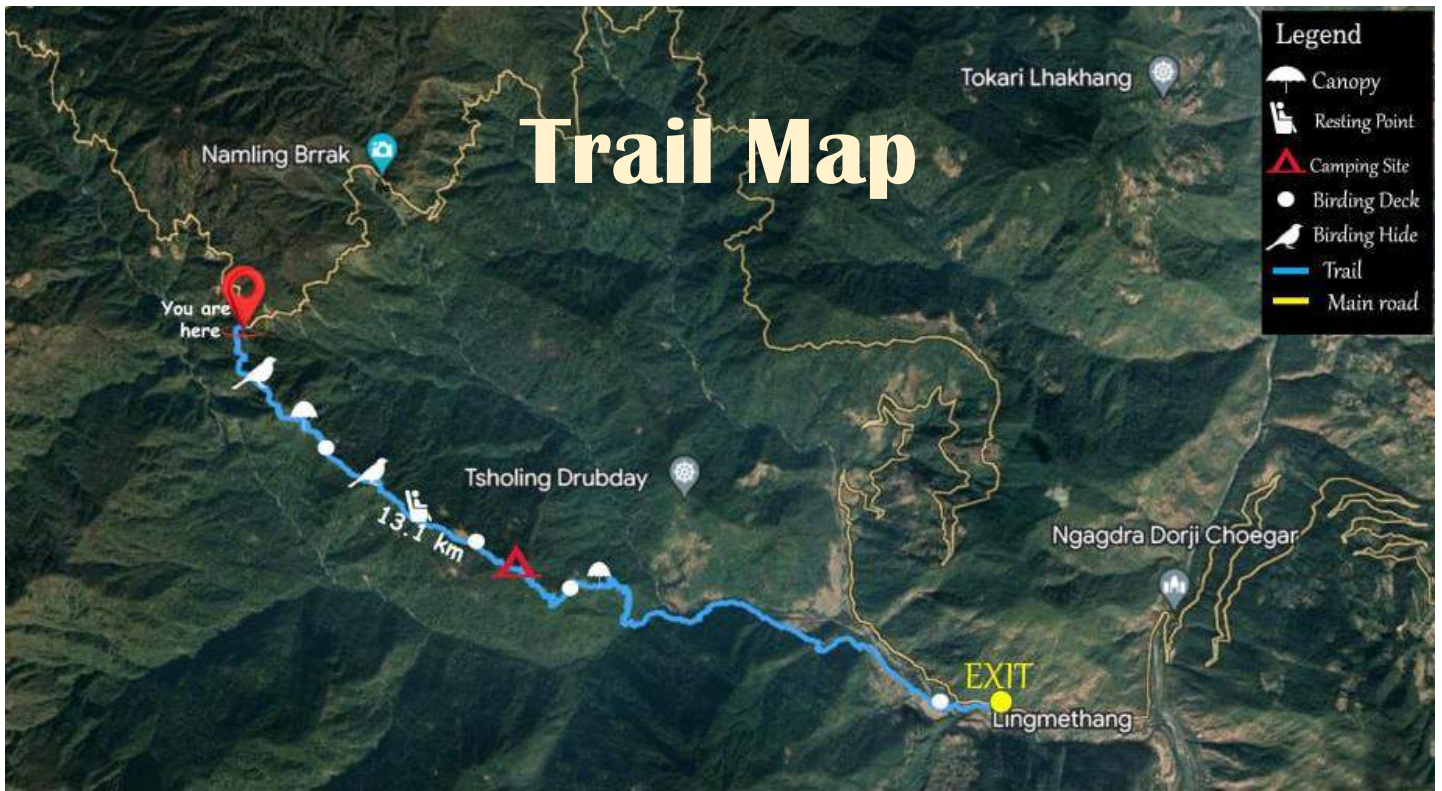
According to the published paper of FORKTAIL 7 (1992) by Clement, the study of birds in Bhutan dates back to a political mission led by R.B Pemberton to Bhutan in 1838 when some species of birds were collected. It was only in the mid 1930s that the knowledge related to avifauna of Bhutan was known when 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).

Today, Mongar Dzongkhag with only a size of 1940.26 sq.km is gaining popularity as the "Bird Paradise of Bhutan "The areas of Yongkola, Namling, Tshamang and Lingmethang are considered to be one of the finest birding spots in the world.

Some of Bhutan's most sought-after birds found in Mongar are:

- Chestnut-breasted Partridge; globally vulnerable
- Ward's Trogon; near threatened and another top target for Bhutan
- Yellow-throated and Golden breasted Fulvettas
- Himalayan Wedge-billed Babbler; rare
- Long-billed Wren Babbler; rare elsewhere in Bhutan and the world
- Rufous-throated Wren Babbler; another near threatened species but fairly easy to find in Yongkola Spotted Elachura; formally known as Spotted Wren Babbler
- Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler; another mega bird
- Broad-billed Warbler
- Black-headed Shrike-babbler; Namling valley is the only known regular site for this species in Bhutan
- Nepal House Martin; big colony of nests on a overhanging cliff near Namling waterfall
- White-naped Yuhina; undoubtedly the most beautiful Yuhinas in Bhutan
- Black Bulbul
- Scaly Laughingthrush,
- Orange-bellied Leafbird
- Gould's Sunbird
- Yellow-bellied Fantail
- Rusty-fronted Barwing; often seen in mixed feeding flocks
- Lesser Shortwing
- White-gorgeted Flycatcher



Blue-bearded bee-eater
Nyctyornis athertoni

A total of 301 species of birds were recorded along the TBT from Latongla to Zhongar on two survey visits spanning from a day to a week. The bird checklists were prepared on 30th May, 2023 during the trek for consultation with Saling Gewog involving multiple sectors from Mongar Dzongkhag, Mongar Forest Range and the Saling Gewog administration. The second comprehensive check listing was done by three Birders from BBLs from 1st to 7th June, 2023 along the trail.

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.

The trail from Latongla to Zhongar was found to host few of the globally threatened birds which are listed here:

SL	Name	Scientific Name
1.	Beautiful Nuthatch	<i>Sitta formosa</i>
2.	Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler	<i>Sphenocichla humei</i>
3.	Chestnut-breasted Partridge	<i>Arborophila mandellii</i>
4.	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
5.	Rufous-necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>
6.	Rufous-throated Wren-babbler	<i>Spelaeornis caudatus</i>
7.	Satyr Tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>
8.	Ward's Trogon	<i>Harpactes wardi</i>
9.	Rufous- Necked Hornbill	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>

List of globally threatened bird species found on Latongla to Zhongar trail

Details of individual species of the birds sighted along the TBT



Hill Partridge (28 cm)

Scientific name: *Arborophila torqueola*

IUCN Status: Least Concern

Males of the Hill Partridge have a rufous crown and ear-coverts, black eye-patch and eye-stripe, white neck sides streaked with black, and a white collar. Females lack the distinctive head markings and have a grey chest and upper belly. Their flanks are colored with white-streaked ginger-brown feathers that extend further up and across the belly. The legs and feet are dark. 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 1,600m-3,600m 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)

Scientific name: *Lophura leucomelanos*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



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.

During summer, it can be found at altitudes from 1,000-2,800 m, with occasional records up to 3,000 m. In winter, it retreats to below 2,400 m and can be found as low as 800 m, occasionally reaching 400 m. The Kalij Pheasant is mostly encountered singly or in small flocks, but single-sex flocks may be seen occasionally from September to mid-February.

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. The female is similar in shape, but all brown with thin white streaks on the back, reddish-brown wings, and white spots and freckles. During mating season, male satyr tragopans grow blue horns and a gular wattle. During courtship display, the male inflates its horns and performs an attractive display, stretching to its full height and showing off its vibrant colors.

Blood Pheasant (38 cm)

Scientific Name: *Ithaginis cruentus*

IUCN Status: Least Concern

Males of this species are silvery gray with extensive pale streaking all over their body, a crimson-tinged face, tail, breast, and tail, which gives the species its name "blood." Females are more uniformly colored with a warm dull brown overall coloration, an orange face, and often some gray to the nape. Both sexes have a small head with a weak crest that may occasionally be raised, red feet, and a distinct ring of crimson-colored bare skin around their eyes. They are usually seen in small flocks during winter and in pairs or alone during the summer. The Blood Pheasant is a common resident throughout the temperate and alpine zones and is the most common pheasant in high altitude treks.



The adult male Himalayan Monal is a colorful bird with a long metallic green crested head, coppery feathers on the back and neck, blue back, orange tail, black underparts and a prominent white rump that is most visible in flight. The female has a pale blue eye patch and a prominent white patch on the throat and a white strip on lower tail coverts, barred with black and red. The first-year male and the juvenile resemble the female, but the first-year male is larger and the juvenile is less distinctly marked.

The species is common in the temperate mixed conifer forest and alpine zones found between 2,500m-4,575m.

Himalayan Monal (70 cm)

Lophophorus impejanus

IUCN Status: Least concern



Black Eagle (69-81cm)

Scientific name: *Ictinaetus malaiensis*

IUCN Status: Least Concern

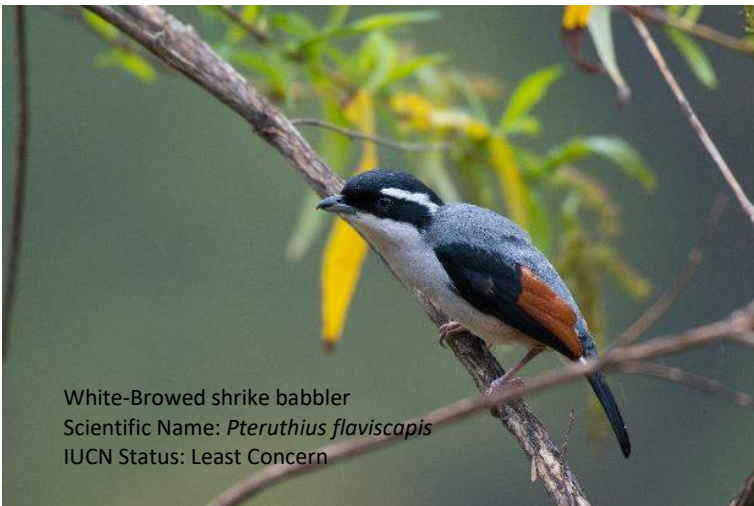


The black eagle is a large, distinctive dark eagle found in forested mountains and hills. From a distance, adults appear completely dark, but upon closer inspection, they have pale barring on the primaries, secondaries, and undertail, as well as a bright yellow bill and feet. It is easily distinguishable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

White-Browed shrike babbler

Scientific Name: *Pteruthius flaviscapis*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



Mountain Imperial Pigeon

Scientific Name: *Ducula badia*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



Rufous-necked Hornbill (90-100 cm)

Aceros nipalensis

Vulnerable (VU)



The Great Hornbill is a large, distinctive bird with a massive yellow bill and casque. The black face, wings, and breast contrast with the white neck, belly, and tail. These birds can be found in the central, eastern, and southern foothills of Bhutan, at altitudes ranging from 400-1400 m. They are commonly found in various natural ecosystems such as tropical and subtropical moist montane forests, wet evergreen forests, primary evergreen forests, mixed deciduous forests, and dense old growth forests in hilly regions. 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.

Great Hornbill (95-105 cm)

Buceros bicornis

Vulnerable (VU)



The common cuckoo is 32–34 centimeter long from bill to tail, with a tail of 13–15 centimeters and a wingspan of 55–60 centimeter. The legs are short. It has a greyish, slender body and long tail, similar to a sparrowhawk in flight, where the wingbeats are regular. During the breeding season, common cuckoos often settle on an open perch with drooped wings and raised tail. There is a rufous color morph, which occurs occasionally in adult females but more often in juveniles



Common cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)
Least Concern



Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo (29cm)
Scientific name: *Hierococcyx fugax*
IUCN status: Least Concern



Indian Cuckoo (33cm)
Cuculus micropterus
Least Concern

Common Hawk Cuckoo (34cm)
Scientific name: *Hierococcyx varius*
IUCN Status: Least Concern



The Common Hawk Cuckoo is an uncommon summer visitor in Bhutan, found throughout the foothills, with occasional records in the western, central and eastern valleys. They are about the size of a pigeon with ashy grey plumage above and whitish below, cross-barred with brown. The tail is broadly barred. The sexes are alike, with a distinctive yellow eye ring. Sub-adults have the breast streaked, similar to the juvenile shikra, and there are large brown chevron marks on the belly. They can be confused with the Large Hawk Cuckoo, which, however, has dark streaks on the throat and breast. Young birds have a pale chin but young Large Hawk Cuckoos have a black chin

BEAUTIFUL NUTHATCH (16.5CM)
Scientific name: *Sitta formosa*
IUCN Status: VULNERABLE



The Beautiful Nuthatch is aptly named for its stunning appearance. Its upperparts are adorned black and azure, while the underparts display a vibrant orange coloration. The black mantle and crown are marked with pale blue and white streaks, and the back, rump, and scapulars are a striking azure blue. Its flight feathers exhibit black with faint white edges, creating two narrow wing bars. The uneven dark eyestripe accentuates its eye, and the brow and throat are white and buff. In flight, the white base of the main coverts contrasts with the gray undertail coverts, creating a distinct feature.

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. The Black-faced Warbler frequently follows other species in mixed flocks, predominantly foraging in the middle layers with warblers and fulvetas. With its striking greenish-yellow wings and white underbelly, this bird is similar to many other warblers, but its combination of a gray head, black face, and bright yellow eyebrows and throat sets it apart from any other similarly-sized species. This species is a common resident throughout the temperate zone and in the eastern foothills and western foothills of Bhutan, found at elevations between 1400-2400 meters

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 grey 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. Usually seen single or in pairs, they are often found drumming away on tree trunks. In Bhutan, this species is frequent throughout the temperate belt, with a few records from the eastern foothills. It is resident at 1600-3200m, with occasional records to 900m and 3800m at the treeline 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. This 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



The Besra is a medium-sized bird of prey with short broad wings and a long tail. 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

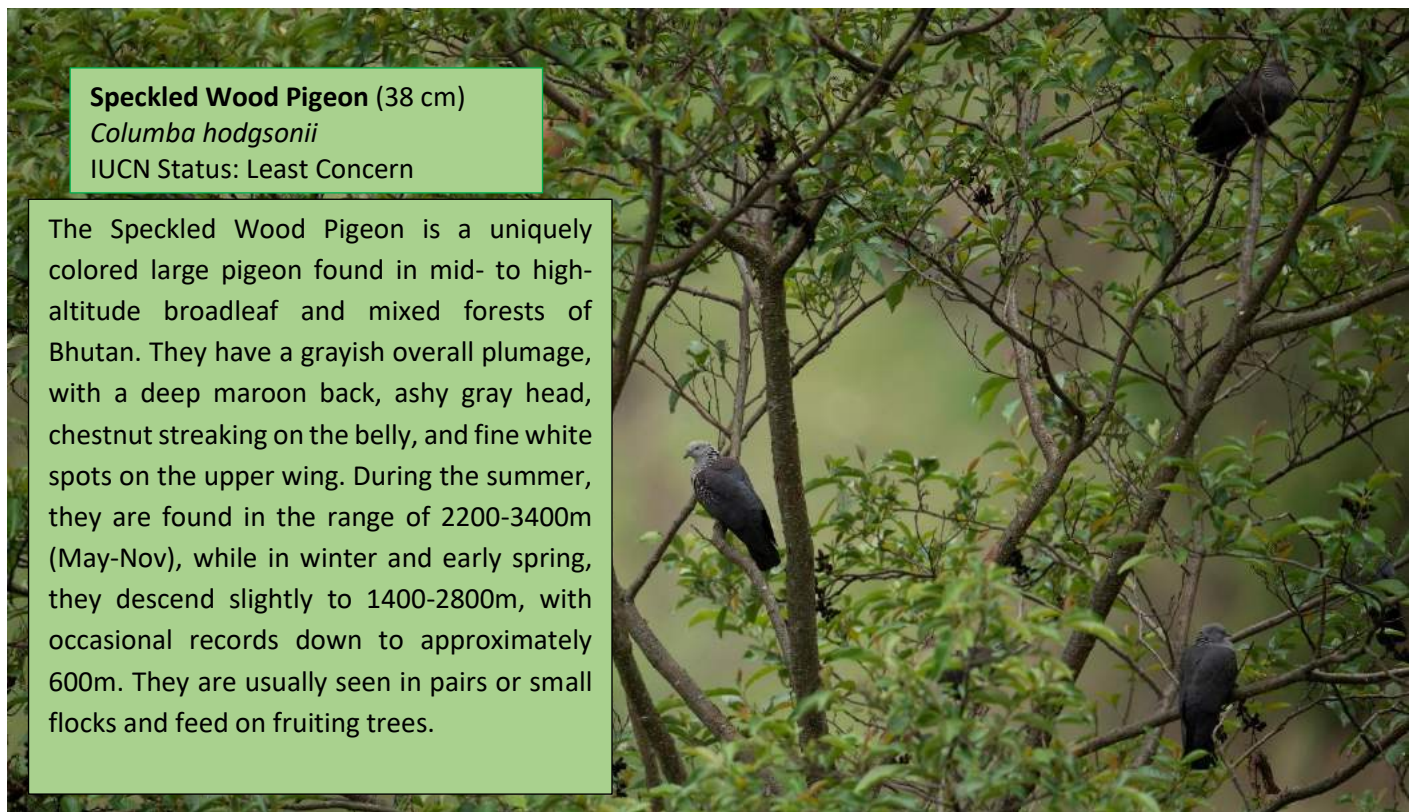
This bird is a large, bulky eagle that is found in the forested hills. Its small head, immense broad wings, and large, often fanned-out tail give it the appearance of a hawk on steroids when in flight. When perched, its thin upright crest sets it apart from any hawk. Adults are dark brown above, with thick brown bars on their belly and vertical black streaks on their throat. Juveniles are paler below, with brown upperparts that show neat pale-edge feathers, and a mostly pale head that is lightly stippled or streaked with brown.

Speckled Wood Pigeon (38 cm)

Scientific name: *Columba hodgsonii*

IUCN Status: Least Concern

The Speckled Wood Pigeon is a uniquely colored large pigeon found in mid- to high-altitude broadleaf and mixed forests of Bhutan. They have a grayish overall plumage, with a deep maroon back, ashy gray head, chestnut streaking on the belly, and fine white spots on the upper wing. 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

Male



Female



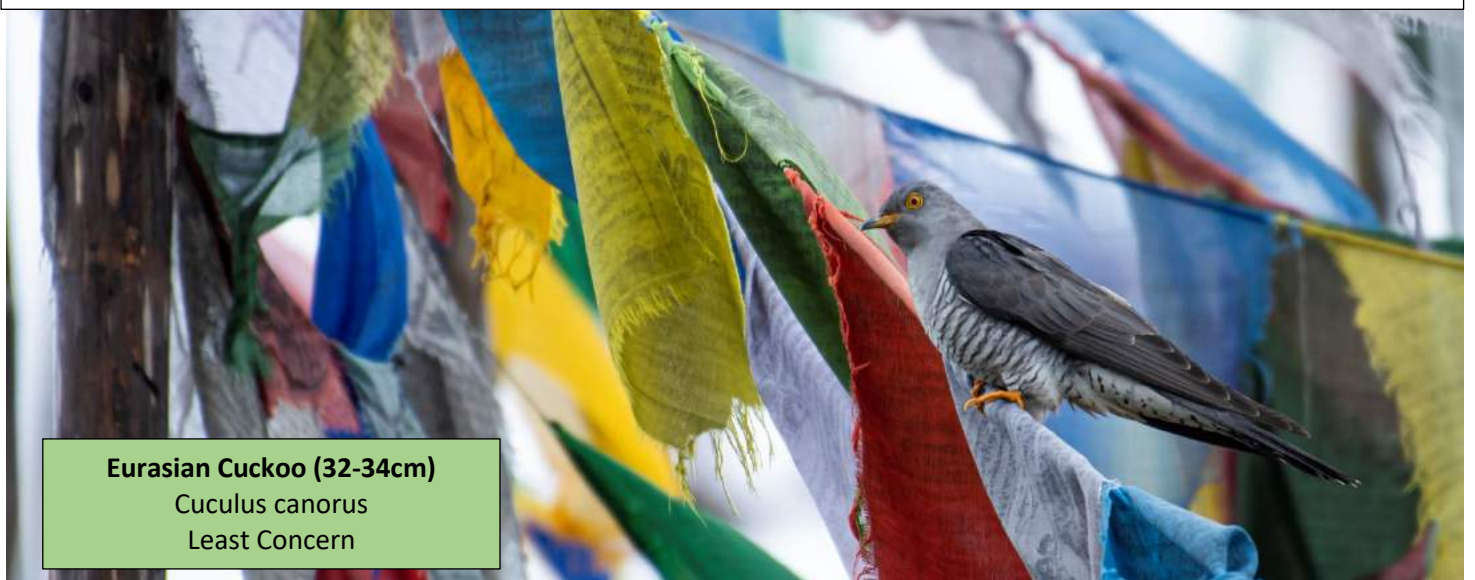
With a small head and prominent pale eye-ring, Ward's trogon has a comically surprised appearance. The male has a wine-purple back, a scarlet belly, and a red plush patch on the forehead. The female is brownish with a yellow cap and underparts.

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. The species is classified as near-threatened by the IUCN due to habitat loss and fragmentation.

Eurasian Cuckoo (32-34cm)

Cuculus canorus

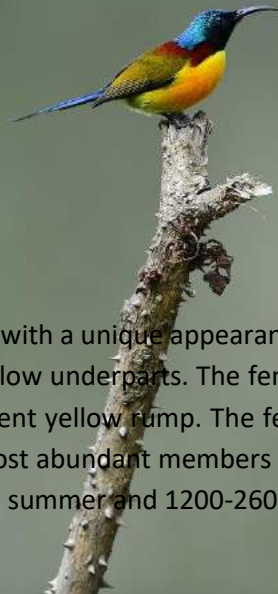
Least Concern



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

The Fire-breasted Flowerpecker is a tiny songbird with a small and dark bill. The male is dark blue above and pale creamy white below, with black stripes and a brilliantly red patch on the breast. The female is much plainer, with brownish-olive upperparts and off-white underparts. 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.

Black-throated Sunbird (11 cm)

Scientific Name: *Aethopyga saturate*

IUCN Status: Least Concern



The male Black-throated Sunbird has a black throat and breast, grayish-olive underparts, and a crimson mantle. The female, on the other hand, has dusky olive-green underparts and a yellow rump. It is a common altitudinal migrant and is abundant throughout the temperate zone and foothills. 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.



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 is a small bird with a less obvious black chin compared to its prominent black crest. It has a brown body on the upper parts and pale tan color underneath. One distinctive feature of this species is its vivid red bill base, which is unusually visible among yuhinas. 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



The Bar-throated Siva is a social bird often encountered in mixed-species flocks. It stands out with its vibrant colors and patterns adorning its brownish body. Adults exhibit distinct features, including changed crowns and noses, as well as gray ear coverts and barring on a white throat. The upper parts are olive-brown, while the underparts have a yellowish hue. A prominent black moustachial strip adds to its distinctive appearance. 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

The Striated Yuhina is characterized by its less prominent crest compared to other yuhinas. It displays white on its tail and a short white supercilium. The rufous ear-coverts feature fine white streaking, while the underparts have a greyish-white coloration. The tail ends with white tips in a graduated pattern. 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. It is occasionally recorded as a resident species in the central and eastern valleys and foothills of Bhutan, occurring at elevations ranging from 600 to 1400m.

STRIATED YUHINA (14CM)

Staphida castaniceps

LEAST CONCERN



WHISKERED YUHINA (13CM)

Yuhina flavicollis

LEAST CONCERN

The Whiskered Yuhina is a medium-sized Yuhina species with a grey head and crest, golden-yellow hind collar, black moustache, and yellowish-white underside. The nominate race of this species has elongate and erectile brown crown feathers, pale grayish-brown lateral feathers behind the eye, including the supercilium, pale brownish-grey upper nape, rufous lower nape and neck side, shading to golden-yellow on the hind neck, and fading into yellowish-grey-tinged olive-brown on the upperparts.

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



A small babbler with a black head, yellowish-white throat and supercilium, brown upperparts, and pale-yellow underparts. Its most distinctive feature is its red tail. The male of the nominate race displays a black crown and nape, a long broad yellowish-white supercilium, a narrow broken white eyering, and a large black mask extending from the lores to the nape and neck side. The upper parts are maroon-brown, transitioning to ochrous on the rump and upper tail-coverts. The upperwing is black, with white fringes and tips on the wing-coverts, and the primaries have red basal fringes that become yellower towards the tips. The tail is black with red and some white edges on the feathers. 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. The Nepal Fulvetta is a common resident throughout the foothills of Bhutan, including the Sunkosh, central, and eastern valleys. It is typically found at elevations ranging from 600 to 2000m and does not display any significant altitudinal movements.

With its orange-suffused wings, black head, and a striking combination of dazzling white throat and brow, this bird stands out. It moves in large flocks through low vegetation, sometimes accompanied by other species. Its song consists of a pair of ear-piercingly high notes followed by a momentary splutter. Trills, chatters, and whistles are among its various calls. It inhabits scrubby, stunted subalpine forests and displays distinct characteristics. It can also be seen in forest edges, clearings with plenty of undergrowth, and stunted oak forests.

A small bird with a black or grey head and crest. Its wings display orange-yellow slashes against a black background, and the secondary feathers have white tips. The brown tail features an orange-yellow line at two-thirds of the base. The underparts of this species are generally yellow, while the throat can be grey or yellowish. The presence, prominence, and color of the median crown stripe can vary among different populations. This bird species is typically found in dense undergrowth, often dominated by bamboo, within or adjacent to temperate forests.



WHITE-BROWED FULVETTA (10.5-12CM)

Alcippe vinipectus

LEAST CONCERN



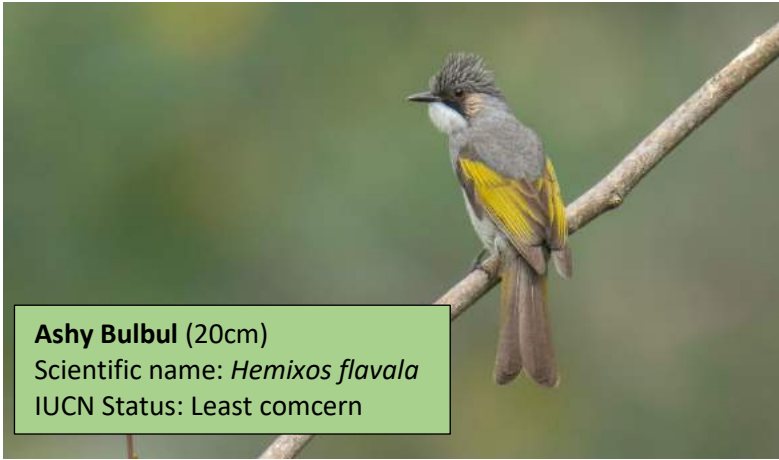
GOLDEN-BREASTED FULVETTA (10-11.5 CM)

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

Red-vented Bulbul (20cm)
Scientific name: *Pycnonotus cafer*
IUCN Status: Least Concern

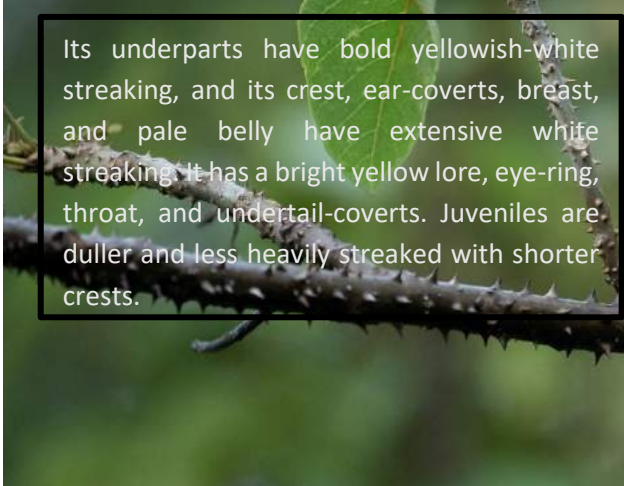


This species is abundant and widespread throughout the temperate zone and foothills, and is resident at altitudes between 600-2000m. It can be found in huge flocks in towns and villages, eating fruit, flower buds, and insects.



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.



Its underparts have bold yellowish-white streaking, and its crest, ear-coverts, breast, and pale belly have extensive white streaking. It has a bright yellow lore, eye-ring, throat, and undertail-coverts. Juveniles are duller and less heavily streaked with shorter crests.

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

GREY-SIDED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (25 CM)

Garrulax caerulatus

LEAST CONCERN



It has a dark rufous color on its upper parts and is grayish-white on its lower parts. It has a silver ear patch, a bright white throat, and a black patch around the eye. It also has a bluish-slate eye patch, black face, and white cheek patch, with black scaling on its crown and more rufescent edges to flight feathers and tail. They prefer to occupy dense, stunted broadleaf forest on a steep slope with some bamboo in the undergrowth. It forages in flocks of up to a dozen or so in thick undergrowth, moist broadleaved forest, bamboo thickets, and lower bushes. 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.

It is a large chestnut laughingthrush with distinctive blackbased white spotting on chestnut upperparts. It has a blackish cap, rufous supercilium, lores, and chin, deep chestnut ear-co - verts, and a blackish throat that diffuses into black barring on the breast. The lower breast and belly are buff, and the wings are chestnut and black with a grey panel and white tips to the primaries. The tail is grey and black with white tips to the chestnut, grey, and black feathers. 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

It has a dark face, olive-brown coloration with black scales on the upperparts, and greenish-white coloration with black spots on the underparts. 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 is a small, mainly olive-brown laughingthrush with a prominent rufous patch on the sides of its neck and a black face and throat. It has a grey crown and nape, and rufous vent and center of the lower belly. The tail is uniform brownish-black, and the juvenile is duller with a browner crown. It forages on or near the ground and gives loud whistles and burbling phrases, as well as harsh chattering and rasping notes. 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

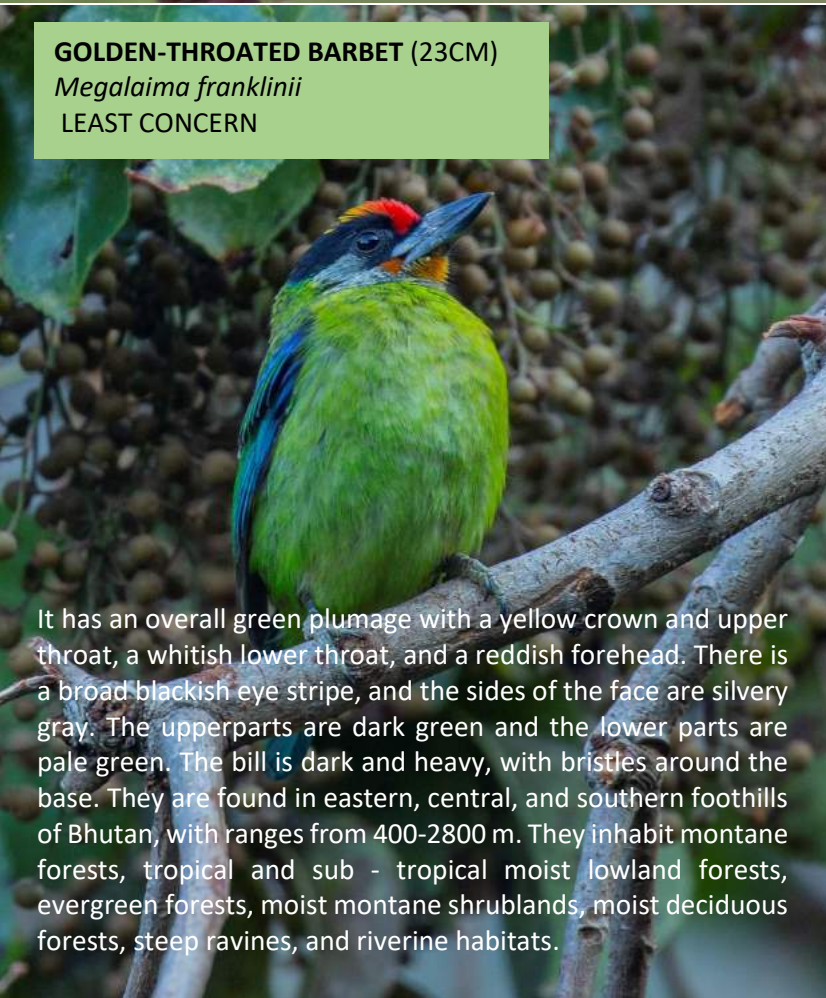


The Great Barbet is the largest of the barbets found in Bhutan. It is a colorful bird but often appears all-dark from a distance. This species is easily recognized by its massive pale bill, black head, and dark olive back. They are slow and shy and tend to stick to the dense forest canopy, making them difficult to spot. 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.

GOLDEN-THROATED BARBET (23CM)

Megalaima franklinii

LEAST CONCERN

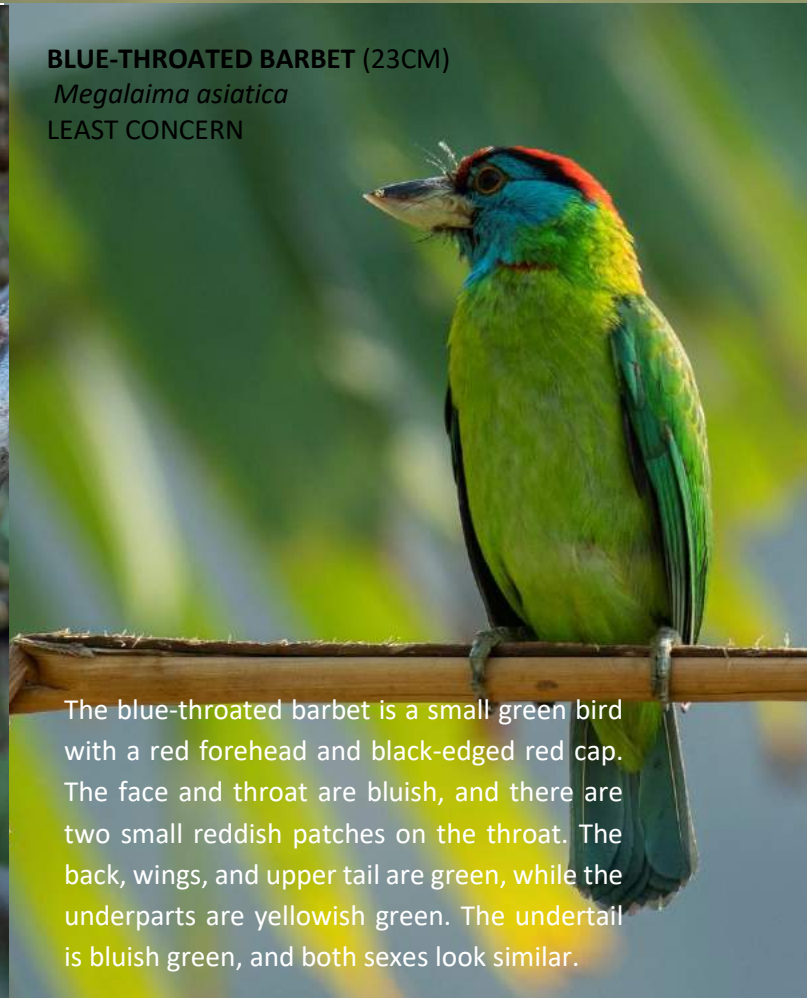


It has an overall green plumage with a yellow crown and upper throat, a whitish lower throat, and a reddish forehead. There is a broad blackish eye stripe, and the sides of the face are silvery gray. The upperparts are dark green and the lower parts are pale green. The bill is dark and heavy, with bristles 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-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.



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. Adults display an overall powdery gray-blue coloration with distinct blue highlights on the wings and tail. 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-naped 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 erythrogenys

Least Concern

It is a greyish-brown bird with an ochre-colored face and flanks, and white throat, breast, and belly. It lacks a supercilium and has rufous forehead and ear-coverts, side of the throat, and upper breast. The spotting is well-defined, but the pattern is continuous with the throat. 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.

In Bhutan, the Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler is commonly found throughout the temperate zone, with its highest abundance observed in the eastern, western, and central foothills.





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.



TAWNY FISH OWL (61CM)

Ketupa flavipes

NEAR THREATENED

The tawny fish owl has large ear tufts that hang to the sides of the head and are distinctly messy and tousled looking. They have yellow eyes and are an orangey-rufous color on the crown and upperparts.



Conclusion

The bio diversity of Mongar is very rich with its altitude range from 400 to 4000 masl and more so with the bird diversity. The attention to birding in Mongar is renewed with the support of Department of Tourism and the GEF Ecotourism Project to develop the birding trail from Latongla to Zhongar. The birding community in the country and from around the world should embrace the revival of the ancient trail - the Trans-Bhutan Trail, and the opening of the birding trail. The Bhutan Birdlife Society and the Mongar district administration have collaborated to bring out this birding book as part of the GEF ecotourism project to give a first glance information for the interested birders and also to develop amenities to promote birding tourism on the Latongla to Zongar Trans-Bhutan Trail.

Bird checklist (Latong-Zhongar TBT)

SL No	Common Name	SL No	Common Name
1	Hill Partridge	46	Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl
2	Chestnut-breasted Partridge	47	Asian Barred Owllet
3	Rufous-throated Partridge	48	Collared Owllet
4	Blood Pheasant	49	Brown Wood-Owl
5	Satyr Tragopan	50	Red-headed Trogon
6	Himalayan Monal	51	Ward's Trogon
7	Kalij Pheasant	52	Eurasian Hoopoe
8	Rock Pigeon	53	Great Hornbill
9	Snow Pigeon	54	Rufous-necked Hornbill
10	Speckled Wood-Pigeon	55	White-throated Kingfisher
11	Oriental Turtle-Dove	56	Common Kingfisher
12	Spotted Dove	57	Crested Kingfisher
13	Barred Cuckoo-Dove	58	Blue-bearded Bee-eater
14	Asian Emerald Dove	59	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater
15	Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon	60	Great Barbet
16	Asian Emerald Cuckoo	61	Golden-throated Barbet
17	Plaintive Cuckoo	62	Blue-throated Barbet
18	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	63	Yellow-rumped Honeyguide

19	Large Hawk-Cuckoo	64	Speckled Piculet
20	Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo	65	White-browed Piculet
21	Lesser Cuckoo	66	Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker
22	Indian Cuckoo	67	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker
23	Himalayan Cuckoo	68	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker
24	Common Cuckoo	69	Darjeeling Woodpecker
25	Hodgson's Frogmouth	70	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker
26	Gray Nightjar	71	Bay Woodpecker
27	White-throated Needletail	72	Lesser Yellownappe
28	Himalayan Swiftlet	73	Gray-headed Woodpecker
29	Blyth's Swift	74	Greater Yellownappe
30	Dark-rumped Swift	75	Eurasian Kestrel
31	House Swift	76	Peregrine Falcon
32	Asian Palm Swift	77	Long-tailed Broadbill
33	Crested Serpent-Eagle	78	Gray-chinned Minivet
34	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	79	Short-billed Minivet
35	Rufous-bellied Eagle	80	Long-tailed Minivet
36	Black Eagle	81	Scarlet Minivet
37	Steppe Eagle	82	Black-winged Cuckooshrike
38	Crested Goshawk	83	Black-headed Shrike-Babbler
39	Shikra	84	White-browed Shrike-Babbler
40	Besra	85	Green Shrike-Babbler
41	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	86	Black-eared Shrike-Babbler
42	Northern Goshawk	87	White-bellied Erpornis
43	Himalayan Buzzard	88	Maroon Oriole
44	Mountain Scops-Owl	89	Indian Golden Oriole
45	Collared Scops-Owl	90	Slender-billed Oriole
91	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	138	Dusky Warbler
92	yellow-bellied Fairy Fantail	139	White-spectacled Warbler
93	White-throated Fantail	140	Gray-cheeked Warbler
94	Ashy Drongo	141	Green-crowned Warbler
95	Bronzed Drongo	142	Whistler's Warbler
96	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	143	Greenish Warbler
97	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	144	Large-billed Leaf Warbler
98	Long-tailed Shrike	145	Chestnut-crowned Warbler
99	Gray-backed Shrike	146	Yellow-vented Warbler
100	Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie	147	Blyth's Leaf Warbler
101	Common Green-Magpie	148	Gray-hooded Warbler
102	Rufous Treepie	149	Gray-bellied Tesia
103	Gray Treepie	150	Slaty-bellied Tesia
104	Eurasian Nutcracker	151	Gray-sided Bush Warbler
105	Red-billed Chough	152	Chestnut-headed Tesia
106	House Crow	153	Black-faced Warbler
107	Large-billed Crow	154	Mountain Tailorbird

108	Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher	155	Broad-billed Warbler
109	Fire-capped Tit	156	Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler
110	Yellow-browed Tit	157	Hume's Bush Warbler
111	Sultan Tit	158	Aberrant Bush Warbler
112	Coal Tit	159	Black-throated Tit
113	Rufous-vented Tit	160	Black-browed Tit
114	Gray-crested Tit	161	Fire-tailed Myzornis
115	Green-backed Tit	162	Golden-breasted Fulvetta
116	Yellow-cheeked Tit	163	White-browed Fulvetta
117	Common Tailorbird	164	Gray-headed Parrotbill
118	Himalayan Prinia	165	White-breasted Parrotbill
119	Black-throated Prinia	166	Black-throated Parrotbill
120	Rufescent Prinia	167	Pale-billed Parrotbill
121	Scaly-breasted Cupwing	168	Striated Yuhina
122	Pygmy Cupwing	169	Black-chinned Yuhina
123	Nepal House-Martin	170	Whiskered Yuhina
124	Black-crested Bulbul	171	White-naped Yuhina
125	Striated Bulbul	172	Stripe-throated Yuhina
126	Red-vented Bulbul	173	Rufous-vented Yuhina
127	Himalayan Bulbul	174	Indian White-eye
128	White-throated Bulbul	175	Golden Babbler
129	Black Bulbul	176	Rufous-capped Babbler
130	Ashy Bulbul	177	Rufous-throated Wren-Babbler
131	Mountain Bulbul	178	Bar-winged Wren-Babbler
132	Ashy-throated Warbler	179	Black-crowned Scimitar-Babbler
133	Buff-barred Warbler	180	Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler
134	Yellow-browed Warbler	181	Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler
135	Hume's Warbler	182	Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler
136	Lemon-rumped Warbler	183	Gray-throated Babbler
137	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	184	Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler
185	Yellow-throated Fulvetta	232	Blue-throated Flycatcher
186	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	233	Large Niltava
187	Long-billed Wren-Babbler	234	Small Niltava
188	Nepal Fulvetta	235	Rufous-bellied Niltava
189	Striated Laughingthrush	236	Verditer Flycatcher
190	Himalayan Cutia	237	Lesser Shortwing
191	Scaly Laughingthrush	238	Himalayan Shortwing
192	Blue-winged Laughingthrush	239	Blue Whistling-Thrush
193	Bhutan Laughingthrush	240	Little Forktail
194	Black-faced Laughingthrush	241	Spotted Forktail
195	Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	242	Slaty-backed Forktail
196	Rufous Sibia	243	White-tailed Robin
197	Hoary-throated Barwing	244	Blue-fronted Robin
198	Blue-winged Minla	245	Himalayan Bluetail

199	Chestnut-tailed Minla	246	Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin
200	Rusty-fronted Barwing	247	White-browed Bush-Robin
201	Red-billed Leiothrix	248	Golden Bush-Robin
202	Red-tailed Minla	249	Slaty-blue Flycatcher
203	Red-faced Liocichla	250	Pygmy Flycatcher
204	White-crested Laughingthrush	251	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher
205	Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush	252	Sapphire Flycatcher
206	Spotted Laughingthrush	253	Little Pied Flycatcher
207	Rufous-necked Laughingthrush	254	Ultramarine Flycatcher
208	White-throated Laughingthrush	255	Blue-fronted Redstart
209	Gray-sided Laughingthrush	256	Plumbeous Redstart
210	Goldcrest	257	White-capped Redstart
211	Wallcreeper	258	Hodgson's Redstart
212	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	259	Black Redstart
213	White-tailed Nuthatch	260	Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush
214	Beautiful Nuthatch	261	Blue-capped Rock-Thrush
215	Hodgson's Treecreeper	262	Blue Rock-Thrush
216	Rusty-flanked Treecreeper	263	Siberian Stonechat
217	Sikkim Treecreeper	264	Gray Bushchat
218	Eurasian Wren	265	Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker
219	Spotted Elachura	266	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker
220	Brown Dipper	267	Fire-tailed Sunbird
221	Long-tailed Thrush	268	Black-throated Sunbird
222	Alpine Thrush	269	Mrs. Gould's Sunbird
223	Scaly Thrush	270	Green-tailed Sunbird
224	Gray-winged Blackbird	271	Crimson Sunbird
225	White-collared Blackbird	272	Streaked Spiderhunter
226	Black-throated Thrush	273	Orange-bellied Leafbird
227	Red-throated Thrush	274	Scaly-breasted Munia
228	Dark-sided Flycatcher	275	White-rumped Munia
229	Oriental Magpie-Robin	276	Rufous-breasted Accentor
230	White-gorgeted Flycatcher	277	Maroon-backed Accentor
231	Pale Blue Flycatcher	278	Russet Sparrow
279	Eurasian Tree Sparrow		
280	Gray Wagtail		
281	White Wagtail		
282	Rosy Pipit		
283	Olive-backed Pipit		
284	Collared Grosbeak		
285	Spot-winged Grosbeak		
286	White-winged Grosbeak		
287	Common Rosefinch		
288	Scarlet Finch		
289	Dark-rumped Rosefinch		

290	Crimson-browed Finch
291	Brown Bullfinch
292	Red-headed Bullfinch
293	Blanford's Rosefinch
294	Gold-naped Finch
295	Dark-breasted Rosefinch
296	Plain Mountain Finch
297	Yellow-breasted Greenfinch
298	Red Crossbill
299	Tibetan Serin
300	Crested Bunting
301	Little Bunting