

NANDHAUR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, UTTARAKHAND



in association with Himalayan Shepherd

BIRD CENSUS '25

19-21 Dec 2025



FOREWORD

The Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, forming an integral part of the Terai Arc Landscape of Uttarakhand, supports a rich mosaic of forest, riverine, wetland and grassland habitats. Regular and systematic monitoring of avifauna is essential for evaluating ecosystem health and strengthening science-based management.

The Bird Census 2025, conducted in December 2025 in the Haldwani Forest Division / Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, presents a detailed assessment of avifaunal diversity using standard scientific methodologies. The survey documented 215 bird species, reflecting a net increase of 47 species compared to 2023 census, with notable enhancement in winter migrants, raptors, forest-dependent and wetland species.

The census also recorded globally threatened species and rare eastern Himalayan elements such as the Black Baza and Red-headed Trogon, underlining the unique conservation value of the Nandhaur landscape.

This exercise was made possible through the dedicated efforts of frontline forest officers and staff of Haldwani Forest Division, trained nature guides and experts, and with the continued guidance and support of senior officers of Forest Department. The findings provide a robust baseline for long-term biodiversity monitoring and conservation planning.

Kundan Kumar,
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Haldwani Forest Division, Haldwani

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About Nandhaur

Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, located within the Terai Arc Landscape, forms an integral part of the renowned Kumaon forest region famously described in the writings of Jim Corbett. Covering an area of approximately 269 square kilometres, the sanctuary is recognised for its exceptional ecological significance and has emerged as one of the most important source populations for tigers and other key wildlife species in Uttarakhand.

Notified in 2012, Nandhaur is the youngest wildlife sanctuary in the state. Despite its recent designation, it supports remarkable biodiversity, including more than 31 species of mammals, around 235 species of birds, and nearly 277 species of plants. The sanctuary derives its name from the Nandhaur River, which flows for nearly 30 kilometres through its core area, and it falls under the jurisdiction of the Haldwani Forest Division.

The sanctuary was carved out of the heart of the Nandhaur Valley, a vast expanse of nearly 1,000 square kilometres of high-quality forest drained by the Nandhaur and Ladhya rivers, with the Sarada River forming its eastern boundary and the Gaula River to the west. Administratively, it spans the districts of Nainital, Champawat, and Udham Singh Nagar (Rudrapur). As part of the Haldwani Forest Division—one of the oldest forest divisions in northern India—Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary serves as a crucial ecological corridor linking protected areas of India and Nepal, thereby playing a vital role in regional wildlife conservation and landscape connectivity.



Biodiversity of Nandhaur

The Shiwalik-Bhabar Tract between Gola and Sharda rivers is one of the most important forest area in the whole "Shiwalik and foothill" landscape of country due to two reasons- First, even without having status of a Protected Area, this landscape still support a viable "breeding population" of flagship species like tiger and elephant. Second, it connects Corbett and Rajaji landscape on West with Pilibhit-Dudwa along with Terai area of Nepal in East. Further, Whole of Haldwani Forest Division and Nandhaur WLS is part of Shiwalik Elephant Reserve, which is very important landscape for conservation of Mega species like elephant in its western most landscape under Shiwalik-Bhabar-Terai Tract.

Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary plays a very important role in gene flow between Western most limits of tiger towards Rajaji National Park and Terai landscape of Uttar Pradesh and Nepal.

Several endangered species such as the Striped Hyena, Himalayan Black Bear, Sloth Bear, Gharial, Leopard Cat, Goral, Serow, Mahasheer etc. have a significant presence in the region. Along with, several identified and unidentified elements of biodiversity such as grasses, mosses, lichens, fungi, insects, etc. are also represented in this region. The area is also reportedly home to about 230 species of resident and migratory birds. This bird diversity is no less than the avian diversity in Rajaji National Park and Corbett Tiger Reserve.



Forest of Nandhaur

Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Terai–Arc Landscape of Uttarakhand, supports a diverse mosaic of forest and riverine habitats. This habitat heterogeneity is a key reason for its high bird diversity.



1

Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest

2

Mixed Deciduous Forests

3

Riverine Forests

4

Grasslands and Open Scrub

5

Wetlands and Riparian Zones

6

Foothill and Shivalik Forest Patches



Trails Explored

Team Members

Chorgaliya & Jaulasal

- Deepak Dharmshaktu (Team Leader)
- Anand Ballabh Tiwari
- Divesh Mehra
- Mukesh Kumar Pargai
- Deepak Kumar Chausali
- Kunal Chausali
- Yashpal Gauniya

Danda

- Chandan Kumar (Team Leader)
- Vinod Kumar Chausali
- Lata Malra
- Deepa Binwal
- Chandani
- Mohan Chandra Suyal

Chhakata

- Pawan Koranga (Team Leader)
- Umed Singh Chufal
- Prashant Kumar
- Kanu Singh Sambhal
- Deepa Devi

Sharda

- Kishan Anand (Team Leader)
- Ganga
- Kamal
- Tara Dutt Semwal
- Rohit Lal

Identified Birding Trails

As part of the Haldwani Forest Division's eco-tourism initiative, five dedicated bird-watching trails and one promising trail of Dubailbheeda have been identified around Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary and neighbouring forested areas to showcase the region's rich avifaunal diversity and support conservation awareness. These trails provide excellent opportunities to observe both resident and migratory bird species in their natural habitats, with features ranging from riverine environments to dense Sal forest edges



01

Ratighat (Chakata Range)

02

Sumanthapala (Nandhaur Range)

03

Dubailbheeda (Nandhaur Range)

04

Sharda Barrage (Sharda Range)

05

Kalonia (Sharda Range)

06

Sarpacheeda (Danda Range)

Methodology

The bird census in Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary was carried out using standard line transect and point count methods across all major habitat types, including Sal forests, mixed deciduous forests, riverine forests, grasslands, wetlands, and forest edge areas. Surveys were conducted during peak bird activity hours in the early morning and late afternoon to maximize detectability. Birds were recorded through direct visual sightings using binoculars as well as through identification of calls and songs. Observations included both solitary individuals and flocks, and care was taken to avoid double counting.

Methods Applied

Point count surveys & Line
Transects

Timing

07:00 -10:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m. -02:00 p.m.
03:00 p.m. -05:30 p.m.

Gears

Binoculars, GPS,
Rangefinders, Books,
Apps merlin & e-bird,
camera



Gears Used in Bird Census

Binoculars

Olympus 8X40, Nikon 12X48,
Nikon 8x25

Rangefinders

Nikon Forestry Pro II Laser

GPS

eTrex 30x,

Apps Merlin & e-Bird

checklists & Trails

Books & Camera

Richard Grimmett , Nikon & Canon

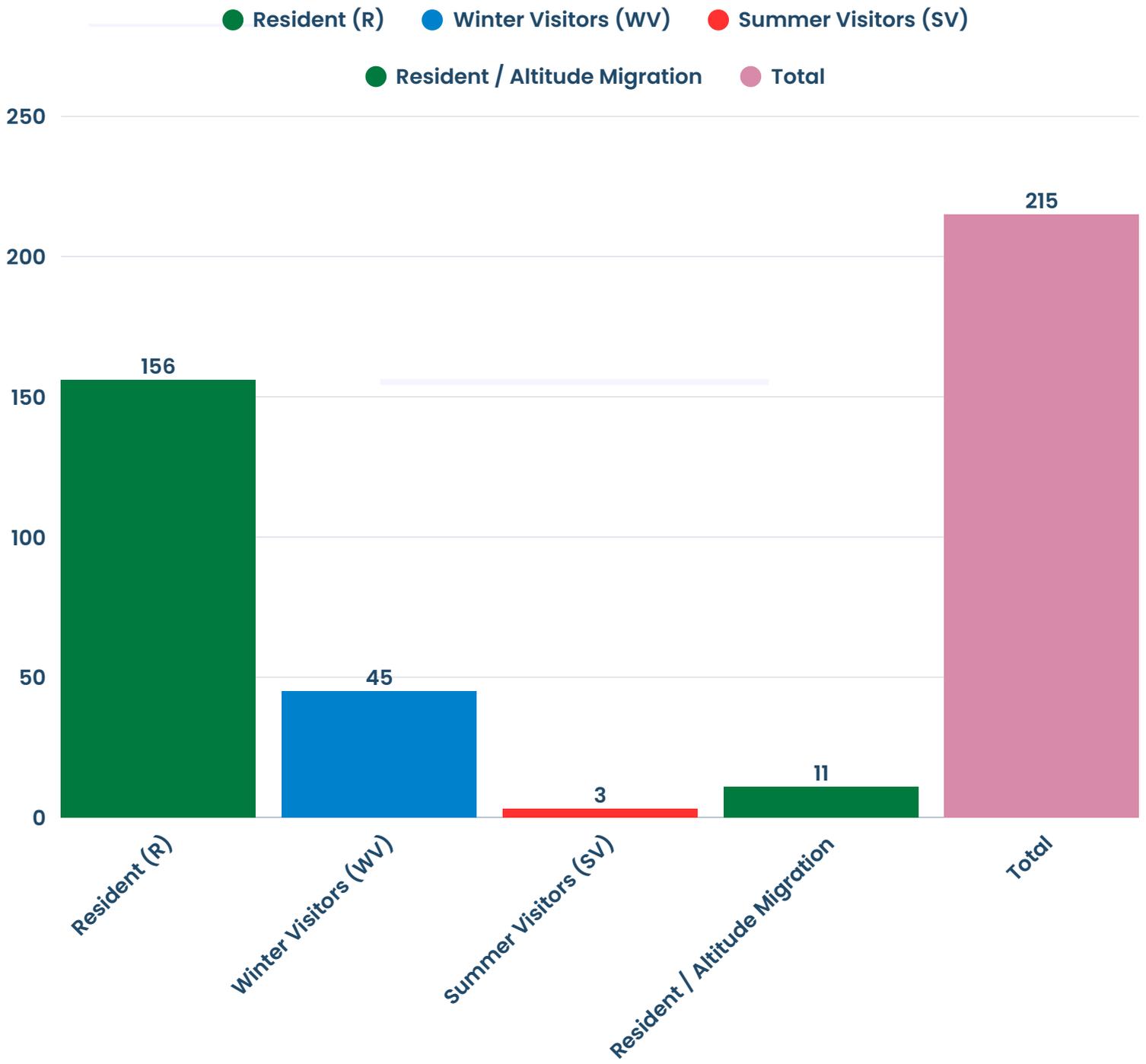


IUCN STATUS OF KEY SPECIES

NT Near Threatened	VU Vulnerable	EN Endangered	CR Critically Endangered
Himalayan Griffon, Cinereous Vulture, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Lesser Fish Eagle, River Lapwing	Great Hornbill , Great Slaty Woodpecker	Steppe Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle	White-rumped Vulture
LC 205 Bird Species	Hotspot The presence of globally threatened bird species underscores the conservation value of Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary at a regional and national level		



Migratory Status of Bird Species



Black Baza : A Significant finding

The sighting of Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*) during the December 2025 Bird Census represents an important new avifaunal record for Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, as this species was not documented in earlier surveys, including the February 2023 census conducted by Oriental Trails. Black Baza is a forest-dependent raptor that prefers undisturbed forest edges, semi-evergreen forests, and canopy-rich woodland mosaics. The species is partially migratory, with winter movements bringing individuals into suitable habitats across northern and central India. Its occurrence in Nandhaur during December suggests that the sanctuary functions as a seasonal refuge and stopover habitat for migratory forest raptors.

Although listed as Least Concern by the IUCN, Black Baza is considered locally uncommon and sensitive to habitat degradation. Its presence indicates good forest canopy integrity, healthy insect prey availability, and minimal disturbance, thereby serving as a valuable ecological indicator species.

The addition of Black Baza contributes to the increased raptor diversity documented in the 2025 census and reinforces the importance of continued seasonal monitoring to detect such significant but previously unrecorded species.

Date : 20 Dec 2025, Time : 02:07 p.m.

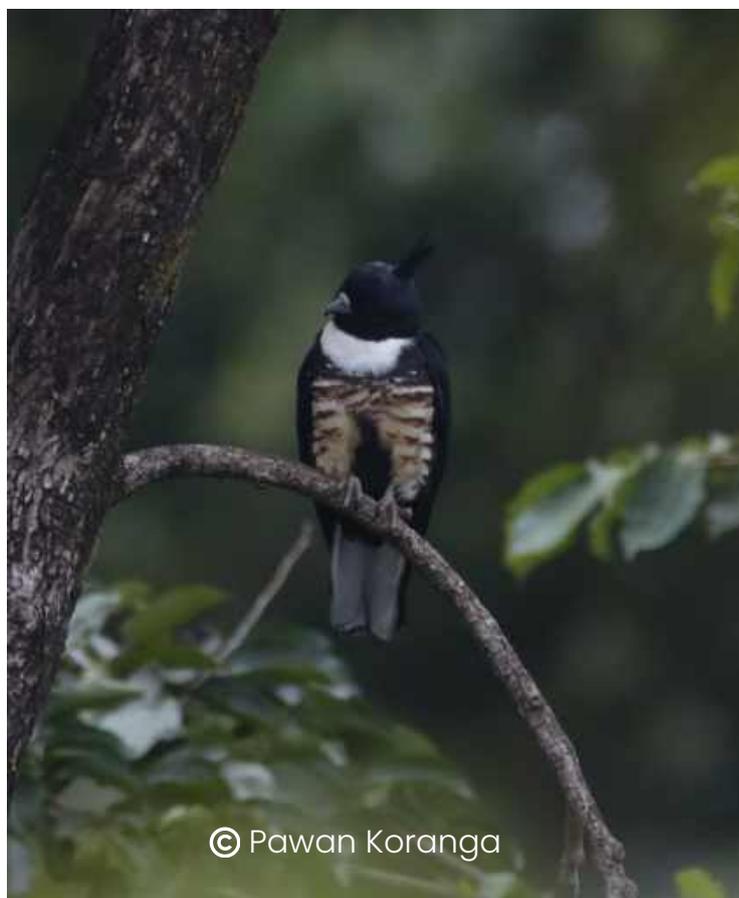
Place : Chrogaliya, Nandhaur

Co-ordinates : 29°7'52" N 79°42'19" E

Elevation : 350 M

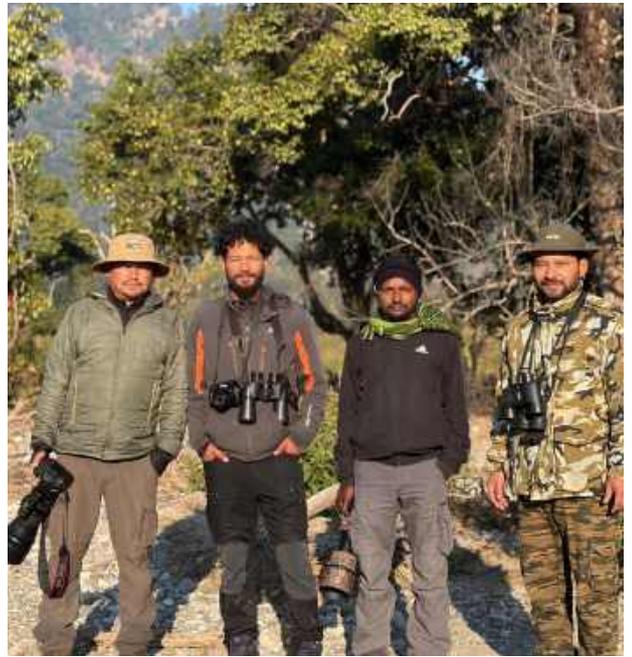


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© Pawan Koranga

FIELD WORK



HIGHLIGHTED SPECIES



Steppe Eagle



Brown Fish-owl



Great Slaty Woodpecker



Rufous Woodpecker



Ruddy Shelduck



Common Merganser

HIGHLIGHTED SPECIES



Red-headed Trogon



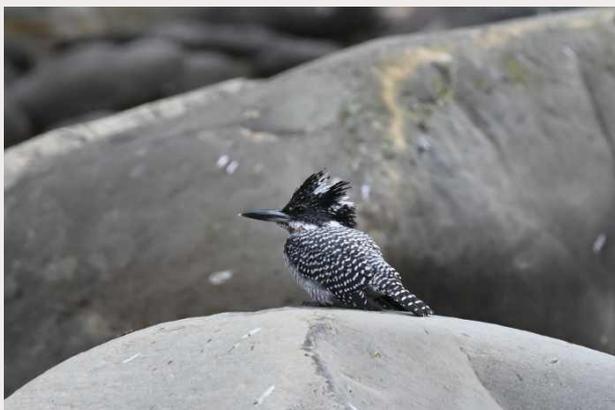
Silver-eared Mesia



Coppersmith Barbet



Blue-throated Barbet



Crested Kingfisher

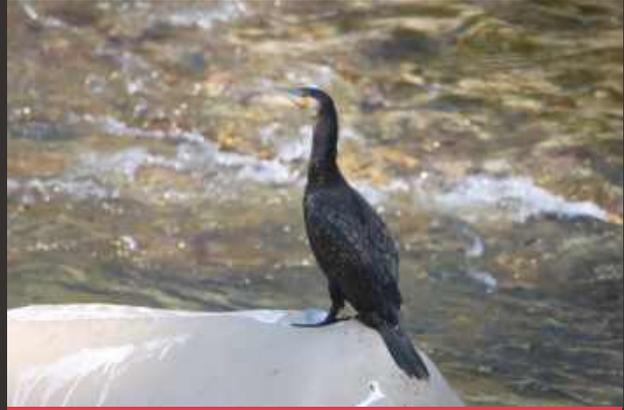


Pallas's Fish-Eagle

HIGHLIGHTED SPECIES



Little Egret



Great Cormorant



Little Heron



River Lapwing



Common Green Magpie



Indian Roller

Family: Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles & Vultures)

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
1	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	LC	Schedule I	Forests, wooded hills	R
2	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	LC	Schedule I	Montane forests	R
3	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>	LC	Schedule I	Forests, open woodland	R
4	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	LC	Schedule I	Dense forests	R
5	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	EN	Schedule I	Open grasslands,	WV
6	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>	LC	Schedule I	Evergreen & moist forests	R
7	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchi skienerii</i>	NT	Schedule I	Forested hills	R
8	Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	EN	Schedule I	Large rivers, wetlands	WV
9	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	CR	Schedule I	Open areas	R
10	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	NT	Schedule I	Open country, cliffs	WV
11	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	NT	Schedule I	High-altitude cliffs	R/AM
12	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	LC	Schedule I	Urban & rural landscapes	R
13	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	LC	Schedule I	Grassland & Shrub	WV
14	Lesser Fish Eagle	<i>Icthyophaga humilis</i>	NT	Schedule I	forest-fringed waterbodies	R
15	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	LC	Schedule II	Dense forests, open wooded	R/SV
16	Black Baza	<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	LC	Schedule I	Forest canopy, hill	R
17	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges, open	R
18	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	LC	Schedule I	Open fields, farmlands	R
19	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Streams, ponds	R
20	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rivers	WV
21	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Large water bodies	WV
22	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Wetlands, farmland	R
23	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Lakes, rivers	WV

Family: Anatidae (Ducks & Shelducks)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
24	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rivers, lakes, reservoirs	WV
25	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Fast-flowing rivers, large	WV
26	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Lakes, reservoirs	WV
27	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Shallow wetlands,	WV
28	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Lakes, reservoirs	WV

Family: Apodidae (Swifts)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
29	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Cliffs, open skies	WV
30	House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Urban areas, cliffs, forest	R

Family: Ardeidae (Heron & Egrets)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
31	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rivers, wetlands,	R
32	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Ponds, marshes,	R
33	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Marshes, flooded fields	R
34	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rivers, lakes, wetlands	R
35	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Large wetlands,	R/WV

Himalayan Griffon



himalayanshepherd.org

Family: Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	WPA Schedule	Habitat	Migratory Status
36	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	LC	Schedule I	Dry deciduous forests	R
37	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	LC	Schedule I	Riverine forests	R
38	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	VU	Schedule I	Mature evergreen forests	R

Family: Burhinidae (Thick-knees)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
39	Indian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open grasslands, riverine flats, sandy areas	R
40	Great Thick-knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Sandy riverbanks,	R

Family: Campephagidae (Minivets & Cuckooshrike)

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
41	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Broad-leaved forests, forest	WV
42	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open woodland,	R
43	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Moist deciduous	R
44	Oriental Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina javensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges,	WV
45	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open forests, forest edges,	R
46	Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open woodland,	WV

Family: Caprimulgidae (Nightjars)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
47	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Scrub, open woodland,	R
48	Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest clearings,	R

Family: Certhiidae (Treecreepers) & Cettiidae

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
49	Bar-tailed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia himalayana</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Montane and temperate	R
50	Gray-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia cyaniventer</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Dense undergrowth	R

Family: Charadriidae (Lapwings)

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
51	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	NT	Schedule IV	Riverine sandbars,	R
52	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Riverbanks, sandy shores,	R/WV
53	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open wetlands,	R

Family: Chloropseidae (Leafbirds)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
54	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest canopy,	R
55	Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sharadwickii</i>	LC	Schedule II	Evergreen and semi-evergreen	R

Family: Cinclidae (Dippers) & Ciconiidae

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
56	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Fast-flowing forest streams,	R
57	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	LC	Schedule I	Forested wetlands,	WV
58	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	LC	Schedule I	Open wetlands	R

Family: Cisticolidae (Prinias & Allies)

S.No	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
59	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Scrub, grassland	R
60	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Scrublands, gardens,	R
61	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Shrubland	R

Blue-bearded Bee-eater



Family: Corvidae (Magpie, Crows & Treepie)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	WPA Schedule	Habitat	Migratory Status
62	Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>	LC	Schedule I	Forests	R
63	Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhynch</i>	LC	Schedule I	Hill forests	R
64	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynch</i>	LC	Schedule V	Urban & forests	R
65	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	LC	Schedule V	Human settlements	R
66	Gray Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forests	R
67	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open woodland	R

Family: Columbidae (Pigeons & Doves)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	WPA Schedule	Habitat	Migratory Status
68	Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron apicauda</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest canopy	R
69	Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sphenurus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forests	R
70	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron Phoenicopter</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Deciduous forests	R
71	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Woodlands	WV
72	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Urban & cliffs	R
73	Asian Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest floor	R
74	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open country	R
75	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges	WV
76	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Human settlements	R
77	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Scrub & villages	R

Family: Cuculidae (Koel & Coucal)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	WPA Schedule	Habitat	Migratory Status
78	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Scrub, wetlands	R
79	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Urban & woodland	R

Family: Dicruridae (Drongos)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
80	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open forest, agricultural	R
81	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest canopy, woodland	SV
82	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Moist deciduous &	R
83	Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Dense forest, mid-canopy	R
84	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges, scrub	R
85	Greater Racket-tailed	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Mature forest, riverine	R
86	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Hill forests, mid-canopy	R

Family: Emberizidae (Buntings)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
87	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rocky slopes, open hills, scrub	WV

Family: Estrildidae (Munia)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
88	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Grasslands, agricultural	R

Family: Falconidae (Kestrel, Hobby & Falcons)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	WPA Schedule	Habitat	Migratory Status
89	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open grasslands	WV
90	Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges	R
91	Collared Falconet	<i>Microhierax caerulescens</i>	LC	Schedule I	Forested areas	R

Black-hooded Oriole



Family: Fringillidae (Finches)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
92	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges, scrub, open woodland	WV

Family: Hirundinidae (Swallow & Martin)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
93	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open areas near water,	WV
94	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open countryside,	WV
95	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rivers, streams, open	R

Family: Laniidae (Shrikes)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
99	White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest understorey,	R
100	Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush	<i>Ianthocincla rufogularis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Hill forests	WV
101	Nepal Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe nipalensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Subtropical forests	R
102	Green Shrike-Babbler	<i>Pteruthius xanthochloru</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Broadleaf forests	R
103	White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Pterorhinus albobularis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Subtropical broad-leaved	R
104	Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Erythrogenys erythrogenys</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Understorey, scrub	WV
105	Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argentauris</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Evergreen and moist	R
106	Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Subtropical forests, forest	R
107	Rufous Sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Evergreen and mixed	R
108	Blue-winged Minla	<i>Minlacyanour optera</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Evergreen and mixed	R
109	Jungle Babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Scrub, open woodland,	R
110	Large Gray Babbler	<i>Argya malcolmi</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Dry scrub, thorn forest,	R
111	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest floor	R

Family: Megalaimidae (Barbet)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Habitat	Migratory Status
112	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forests	R
113	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephal</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Urban gardens	R
114	Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Wooded areas	R
115	Great Barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Hill forests	R
116	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Deciduous forests	R

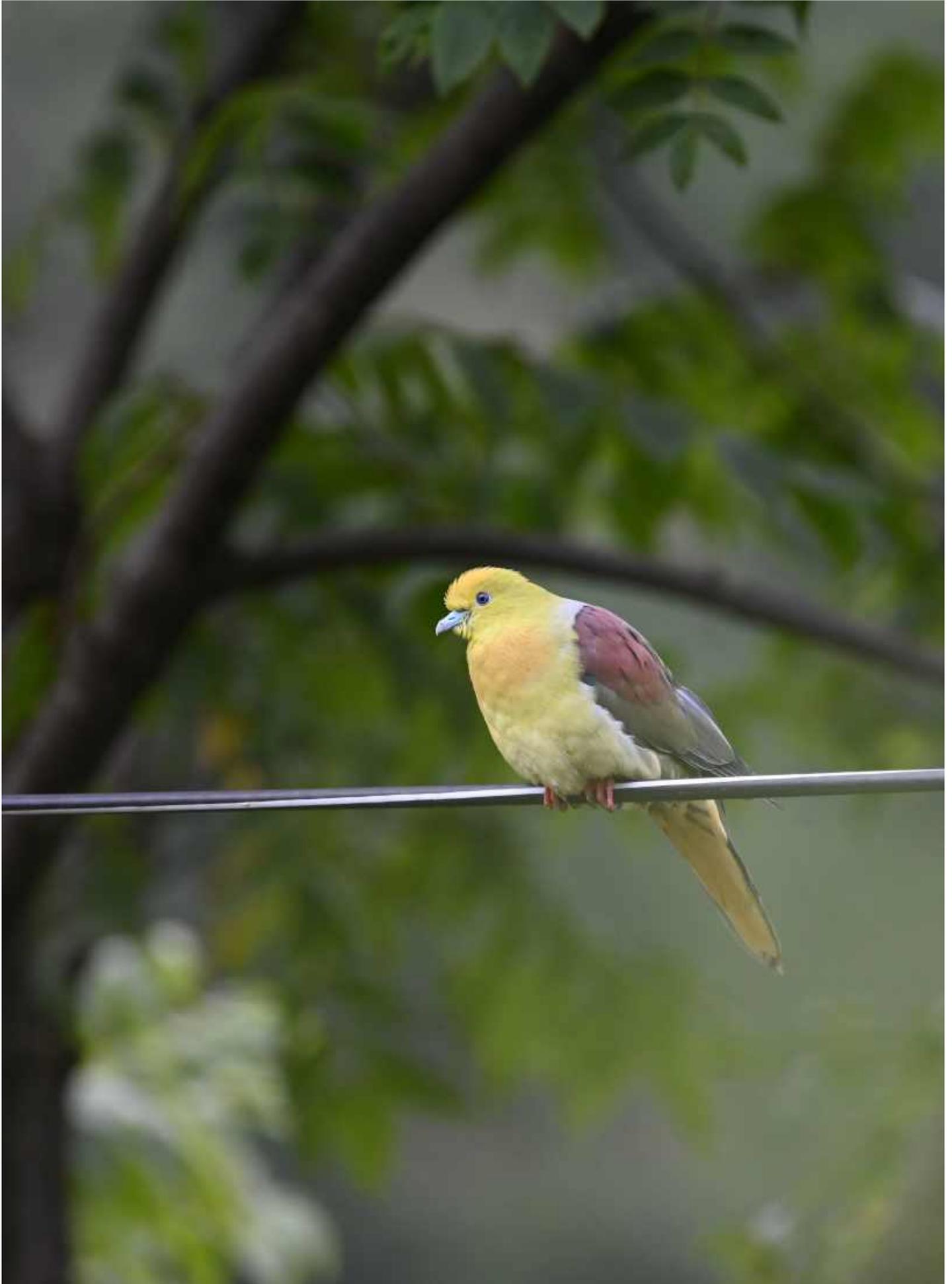
Family: Meropidae (Bee-eater)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
117	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges, open	R
118	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open scrub, grasslands,	R

Family: Motacillidae (Wagtails & Pipits)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
119	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest streams,	WV
120	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspat</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Large rivers, water edges	R
121	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Large rivers, water edges	WV
122	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Large rivers, water edges	WV
123	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Large rivers, water edges	WV
124	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Large rivers, water edges	R

Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon



Family: Muscicapidae (Robin & Flycatchers, Bushchat, Forktail, Thrush)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
125	Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Moist broadleaf	R
126	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Dense forest	AM
127	Slaty Blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest understorey	AM
128	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges	AM
129	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges	WV
130	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rocky areas	R
131	Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	streams & Rivers	AM
132	White-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalu</i>	LC	Schedule IV	streams & Rivers	AM
133	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rocky cliffs	R/WV
134	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest streams, ravines	R
135	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest floor, leaf litter	R
136	Brown Rock Chat	<i>Oenanthe fusca</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rocky terrain, open scrub	R
137	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Dense forest undergrowth	R
138	Gray Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open scrub, forest clearings	R
139	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Grasslands, agricultural fields	R
140	Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open scrub, rocky areas	R
141	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges, gardens	R
142	Spotted Forktail	<i>Enicurus maculatus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest streams, rocky riverbanks	R
143	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Evergreen and mixed forest	AM
144	Slaty-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Fast-flowing forest streams	R

Family: Nectariniidae (Sunbirds)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	WPA Schedule	Habitat	Migratory Status
145	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Gardens, scrub	R
146	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forests	R
147	Fire-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Montane forests	R
148	Black-throated Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Hill forests	R

Family: Oriolidae (Orioles)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
149	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open forest, edges,	R
150	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Evergreen forest	R

Family: Paridae (Tits)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
151	Asian Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forests, gardens	R
152	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Montane forests	R
153	Himalayan Black-lored Tit	<i>Machlolophus xanthogenys</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Hill forests	R/AM

Family: Passeridae (Sparrow)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
154	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Human settlements,	R

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch



Family: Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
155	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rivers, ponds, wetlands	R
156	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Large rivers, reservoirs,	WV

Family: Phasianidae (Pheasant & francolin, Jungle fowl)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	WPA Schedule	Habitat	Migratory Status
157	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges	R
158	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>	LC	Schedule I	Montane forests	R
159	Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Scrub, farmland	R
160	Gray Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Scrub, farmland	R
161	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	LC	Schedule I	Open forests, villages	R

Family: Picidae (Woodpeckers & Piculets)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	WPA Schedule	Habitat	Migratory Status
162	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forests	WV
163	Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges, open woodland, secondary	R
164	Brown-capped Pygmy	<i>Leiopicus nanus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open woodland	R
165	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forests	R
166	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Deciduous forests	R
167	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open forests	R
168	Himalayan Flameback	<i>Dinopium shorii</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Montane forests	R
169	Greater Yellownappe	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Evergreen forests	R
170	Lesser Yellownappe	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Hill forests	R
171	Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>	VU	Schedule I	Old-growth forests	R

172	Fulvous Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Woodland	R
173	Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Bamboo & scrub	R

Family: Psittaculidae (Parakeets)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
174	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges, plantations, villages	R
175	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	LC	Schedule I	Mature forest, riverine woodland	R
176	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Moist deciduous forest	R

Family: Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
177	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Temperate forests	WV
178	Lemon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Mixed forests	R/AM
179	Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Hill forests	R
180	Buff-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Conifer forests	AM
181	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open woodland, forest edges	WV
182	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Woodland	WV

Family: Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
183	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flavala</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forests	R
184	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Rubigula flaviventris</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Wooded hills	R
185	Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges	R

Wallcreeper



186	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Urban, scrub	R
187	Red-whiskered	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Urban, scrub	R
188	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalu</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Urban, scrub	R

Family: Rhipiduridae (Faintails)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
189	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest understorey,	R
190	Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Moist broadleaf forests,	R

Family: Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
191	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest streams	WV
192	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Riverbanks, lakeshores	WV
193	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Mudflats, marshy edges	WV

Family: Sittidae (Nuthatches)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
194	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest canopy, mid-storey trees	R
195	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Moist deciduous &	R
196	White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Hill forests, mature trees	R

Family: Stenostiridae

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
197	Gray-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapacey lonensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest understorey, dense shrubs,	R

Family: Strigidae (Typical Owls)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
198	Brown Boobook	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Dense forest, forest edges	R
199	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forests, dense understorey	R
200	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>	LC	Schedule I	Large rivers,	R
201	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open woodland	R

Family: Sturnidae (Starlings & Mynas)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
202	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Urban areas, forest edges,	R
203	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open forest, scrub, villages	R
204	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Near water bodies,	R
205	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open woodland,	R
206	Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open forests, village	R

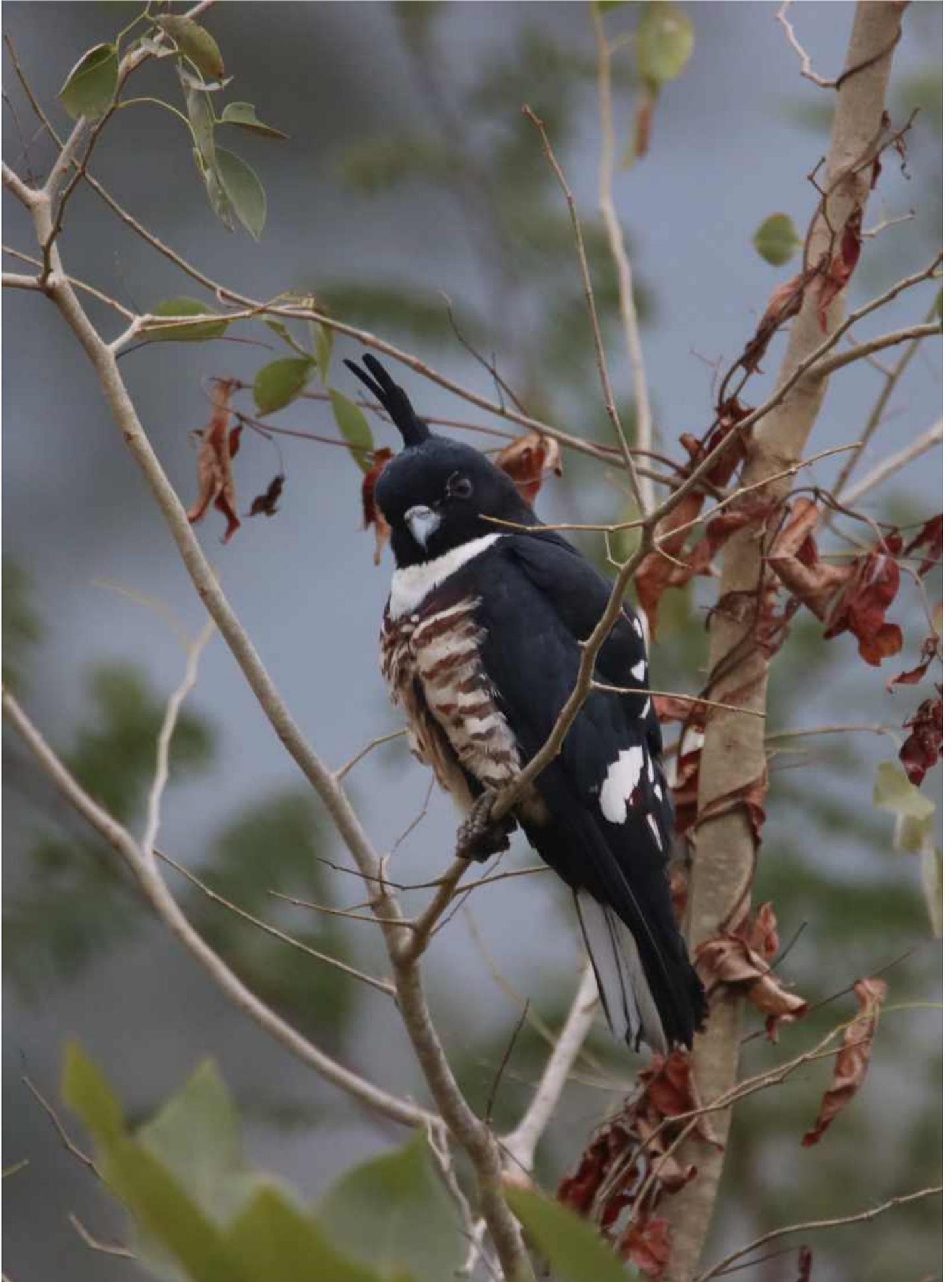
Family: Tichodromidae (Wallcreeper)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
207	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Rocky cliffs, mountainous areas,	R

Family: Trogonidae (Trogon)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
208	Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Dense evergreen	R

Black Baza



Upupidae(Hoopoe)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
209	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open woodland, forest edges	R/WV

Family: Vangidae(Flycatcher shrike)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
210	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest canopy,	R

Zosteropidae

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
211	Whiskered Yuhina	<i>Yuhina flavicollis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Broadleaf evergreen forests, mixed	R
212	Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Forest edges, gardens, plantations	R

Family: Coraciidae(Rollers)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
213	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Open forests, farmlands,	R

Laridae(Gull & Skimmer)

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
214	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Lakes, reservoirs,	WV

Family: Podicipedidae

S.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule	Primary Habitat	Migratory Status
215	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	LC	Schedule IV	Large lakes, reservoirs,	WV

Key Observations

Increase in Species Richness

The December 2025 census recorded 77 additional species, reflecting improved habitat coverage and peak winter migration.

Raptor Diversity

Higher number of raptors and vultures indicates availability of prey base and relatively undisturbed habitats

Forest Health Indicators

Presence of hornbills, woodpeckers, laughingthrushes, and understory specialists suggests healthy forest structure.

Wetland Importance

increased records of ducks, waders, and riverine birds highlight the ecological significance of wetlands within the sanctuary.



COVERAGE

Bird census launched in Corbett landscape after 2 years: Officials

Ankur Sharma

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HALDWANI: The state forest department on Friday launched a three-day bird census in the Corbett landscape, covering the Haldwani forest division and the Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, officials said.

The census, launched after a gap of two years, will be conducted from December 19 to 21.

Officials said the exercise aims to generate scientific data on the diversity, distribution and population of bird species in the region.

Divisional forest officer (DFO), Haldwani forest division, Kundan Kumar said birds play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. "Birds are a vital part of the ecosystem and contribute significantly to the pollination of various plant spe-



The participants of the census try to locate birds in Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary on Friday. HT

cies. The census is being conducted to create reliable scientific data on bird species in the Haldwani forest division and the Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary," Kumar said.

He added that participants in the census include trained forest staff, registered nature guides and volunteers, all of whom were given a one-day training session at the Nan-

dhaur forest rest house on December 18. "The bird count will be carried out across several forest ranges, including Nandhaur, Jaulasal, Sharda, Chhakata and Danda, along with other ranges under the division," officials said.

"This initiative is also aimed at increasing awareness about bird conservation among students, nature enthusiasts, wildlife researchers and the general public," the DFO said, adding that such exercises help in long-term conservation planning.

Forest officials said a similar survey was conducted in the Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary in 2023, which recorded more than 235 bird species. An earlier survey conducted in 2018-19 had documented 218 bird species, including several critically endangered and threatened species.

COVERAGE

हल्द्वानी वन प्रभाग एवं नंधौर वन्यजीव अभयारण्य में पक्षी गणना शुरू

संक्षेप: हल्द्वानी में 19 से 21 दिसंबर 2025 तक पक्षी गणना का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। इस गणना का उद्देश्य स्थानीय पक्षियों की संख्या, प्रवासी पक्षियों की उपस्थिति, और जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों का अध्ययन करना है। कार्यशाला में प्रतिभागियों को प्रशि...

Dec 19, 2025 03:32 pm IST

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हल्द्वानी। पक्षी हमारे पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा हैं और विभिन्न प्रजातियों के परागण एवं जैव विविधता संरक्षण में अहम भूमिका निभाते हैं। पूर्व गणनाओं में हल्द्वानी वन प्रभाग एवं नंधौर वन्यजीव अभयारण्य क्षेत्र में कई दुर्लभ पक्षी प्रजातियां दर्ज की गई हैं। प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी कुंदन कुमार के निर्देशन में 19 से 21 दिसंबर 2025 तक हल्द्वानी वन प्रभाग एवं नंधौर वन्यजीव अभयारण्य में पक्षी गणना (बर्ड सेंसस) का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। गणना से पूर्व 18 दिसंबर को नंधौर राजि के स्वागत कक्ष में सभी प्रतिभागियों के लिए एक दिवसीय कार्यशाला आयोजित की गई, जिसमें पक्षी गणना के लिए आवश्यक प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया गया। इस

गणना का मुख्य उद्देश्य पूर्व गणनाओं की तुलना में स्थानीय पक्षियों की संख्या में वृद्धि, प्रवासी पक्षियों की उपस्थिति, क्षेत्र में पक्षियों का वितरण तथा जलवायु परिवर्तन का पक्षियों पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों का अध्ययन करना है। यह पहल विद्यार्थियों, प्रकृति प्रेमियों, वन्यजीव शोधकर्ताओं एवं आम जनता को पक्षी संरक्षण के प्रति जागरूक करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम साबित होगी। सर्वेक्षण हल्द्वानी वन प्रभाग के चिन्हित बर्ड वाचिंग ट्रेल्स पर पंजीकृत नेचर गाइडों, वन कर्मियों तथा अन्य इच्छुक प्रतिभागियों द्वारा किया जाएगा। गणना के बाद प्रभाग की इन बर्ड ट्रेल्स पर इको-टूरिज्म गतिविधियों में वृद्धि की प्रबल संभावना है। गणना के लिए टीमों का गठन किया गया है तथा सभी प्रतिभागियों को पूर्ण सहयोग देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया है।

Recommendations

- Conduct quarterly bird censuses covering multiple seasons
- Strengthen monitoring of raptors and vulture populations
- Protect riverine and wetland habitats from anthropogenic disturbance
- Encourage capacity building of forest staff and local guides in bird monitoring
- Integrate avifaunal data into long-term sanctuary management plans
- Monitor breeding activity and nesting success of key resident species to assess reproductive health.





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Word of Thanks

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We also acknowledge the dedicated contributions of **Mr. Prashant, Mr. Yashpal Gauniya, Team Himalayan Shepherd members Mr. Pawan Singh Koranga, Mr. Deepak Kumar Dharmasaktu, and Mr. Chandan Kumar**, whose expertise, field experience, and commitment played a crucial role in data collection, species identification, and overall survey success.

We extend our appreciation to all frontline staff, nature guides, and support personnel who worked tirelessly under challenging field conditions. Their collective efforts have significantly contributed to strengthening the avifaunal database of Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary and will aid future conservation planning and management initiatives.

Learn. Respect. Conserve

Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary

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