



BIRDS IN AND AROUND THIMPHU VALLEY



Published By Thimphu Thromde


A pictorial guide to the birds around Thimphu valley.

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Foreword

Thimphu; the capital city of Bhutan is located in the Central West region of Bhutan along the Wang Chhu (River). It is the largest city in the country located at an altitudinal range between 2,248 m (7,375 ft) and 2,648 m (8,688 ft). Thimphu Thromde falls within the Thimphu Dzongkhag (District) and covers an area of 26 Sq.km extending from Dechencholing in the North to Babesa in the South. It is the political and economic centre of Bhutan attributes to 45% of the country's GNP.

Thimphu is developing at a very rapid phase and it is important to harmonize these developmental activities with nature. Urban birds play an important role in seed dispersal, pollination and as predators of insects and rodents. More so, birds in the city connect us with nature and provide environmental and health benefits to the urban dwellers.

The purpose of this pictorial guidebook is to keep an inventory of bird species found in and around Thimphu city and Thimphu valley to serve as educational material for students, researchers, and all relevant users and also for conservation of bird species and their habitats. The book also intends to promote ecotourism and inspire environmental consciousness among younger generations.

In this book, there are pictures of 98 bird species with their description, habitat and distribution in Thimphu. There are total of 141 bird species found in and around Thimphu and the checklist is given in the annexure.



Thrompon



Alpine accentor - *Prunella collaris*

Description: This is a robin-sized bird at 15–17.5 cm in length. It has a streaked brown back, somewhat resembling a house sparrow, but adults have a grey head and red-brown spotting on the underparts.

Habitat: It is a bird of bare mountain areas with some low vegetation.

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Alpine thrush - *Zoothera mollissima*

Description: Chocolate-brown thrush with finely scaled white underparts and has thin but prominent pale wingbars.

Habitat: Alpine Thrush breeds in open rocky alpine areas with scattered shrubbery, though it descends lower into the foothills during winter.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Ashy-throated warbler - *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

Description: With its grey head and snow-white brown stripe, this species is fairly distinctive for a leaf warbler.

Habitat: Its natural habitats are temperate forests and subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests.

Distribution: Thimphu Ecological Park (TEP)

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Asian barred owlet - *Glaucidium cuculoides*

Description: Medium-sized, rotund owl often found during the day on exposed perches such as telephone wires. Brown overall with brown-barred underparts.

Habitat: Found in a wide range of wooded habitats, including large parks and gardens.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Bar-headed goose - *Anser indicus*

Description: The stout-bodied goose with double bars of dark feathers that wrap around the back of its white head. Its body is light grey and its legs and bill are bright orange. Males and females are identical.

Habitat: Dense bamboo clumps, birch and Juniper forests which are near water source. They are migratory birds.

Distribution: Babesa STP and Wangchhu River

Black bulbul - *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Description: The medium-sized songbird with predominantly dark plumage, a very short crest, and crimson bill and legs. Long tail and bill impart an elongated appearance.

Habitat: Broadleaf evergreen and mixed deciduous forests, regularly visits gardens and lowland forests.

Distribution: Langjophakha, Taba forest, Golf ground, Thimphu Ecological Park, Pangrizampa.



Black-necked crane - *Grus nigricollis*

Description: Endemic to Tibetan Plateau. Passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Male has red bill while female has brown bill. Male has rusty-orange head.

Habitat: Winters at lower altitudes, along the shorelines of large lakes and flooded agricultural fields.

Distribution: Does not stay for long in Thimphu.





Black-throated thrush - *Turdus atrogularis*

Description: A dark, somberly-colored thrush. Male is with a grey back, white belly, and a pitch-black throat and chest. Females are streaky brown below.

Habitat: Breed along the edges of clearings in coniferous or mixed deciduous forest, along watercourses or in swampy areas.

Distribution: Babesa STP, Golf ground and T/phu Eco Park.



Black-tailed crane - *Porzana bicolor*

Description: It is slate-grey with a chestnut brown back. Its eyes are red. Its slender legs are pinkish-red.

Habitat: Forest patches in and around rice cultivation; swampy patches and streams in forest; grass-bordered streams and pools, often shaded by trees.

Distribution: Thimphu Ecological Park (TEP)

Blood pheasant - *Ithaginis cruentus*

Description: Males average 1.5 feet and female is 1.3 ft. Males have vivid red colouring on the feathers of the breast, throat and forehead. Female uniformly coloured with reddish brown.

Habitat: Mountains prefers coniferous or mixed forests and scrub areas near the snowline.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Blue-fronted redstart - *Phoenicurus frontalis*

Description: Male is unmistakable, with his orange breast, belly, and tail and ultramarine-blue head and back. Female is brown with no wing bars and an orange tail and lower belly

Habitat: Its natural habitat is temperate forests.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Blue whistling thrush - *Myophonus caeruleus*

Description: They are altitudinal migrant. Dark purple with tiny silvery spots on head, back, and wings.

Habitat: Found along streams in forested hills and mountains.

Distribution: Thimphu Ecological Park, Taba, Langjophakha, marsh land below Motithang HS School, Pangrizampa and Golf ground.



Brown dipper – *Cinclus pallasii*

Description: A chocolate-brown, short-tailed thrush-like bird of clear, flowing streams. No other stream bird in its range is dark brown all over (adult) or dark brown mottled with pale (juvenile)

Habitat: Marshes around small streams and rivers.

Distribution: Taba and Babesa

Brown parrotbill - *Paradoxornis unicolor*

Description: Dark brown parrotbill with a stout yellow bill and an arching black eyebrow that moves about noisily in small flocks.

Habitat: Mountain streams and rivers, affinity for bamboo thickets.

Distribution: Taba, Thimphu Ecological Park and Pangrizampa



Brown-headed gull - *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*

Description: Breeding adult's head is milk chocolate, lightening towards the bill. Non-breeding and first-winter birds have a dark ear patch and faint traces of the dark hood

Habitat: Breeds on high-altitude lakes on the Tibetan Plateau and winters on marshes, estuaries, lakes and rivers, most often in coastal areas.

Distribution: Babesa Sewerage Treatment Plant





Chestnut-crowned laughingthrush - ***Trochalopteron erythrocephalum***

Description: Brownish plumage with brilliant green-gold panels on wings and sides of tail. Heavy black spots on upper mantle and scales on breast.

Habitat: Understorey, dense undergrowth and bamboo in broadleaf evergreen, pine and mixed forests.

Distribution: Youth Centre, Pangrizampa and Below MHS.



Chestnut-tailed minla - *Minla strigula*

Description: It has orange crown, black-and-white barring on throat. The wings having orange-yellow panel in wing, and yellow sides on tail.

Habitat: Montane Forest

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Common hoopoe - *Upupa epops*

Description: Orange bird with a zebra-striped wings, a Chinese fan of a crest (usually held closed, but often raised just after landing), and a rapier of a bill.

Habitat: Favours semi-open habitats such as heathland, farmland, orchards, grassy lawns, where it feeds on the ground

Distribution: Babesa, Pangrizampa, Golf ground, Thimphu Ecological Park.



Common kingfisher - *Alcedo atthis*

Description: This sparrow-sized bird has the typical short-tailed, large-headed kingfisher profile; it has blue upperparts, orange underparts and a long bill.

Habitat: Found along rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds—almost any fresh or brackish habitat with small fish.

Distribution: Thimphu Valley





Common pochard - *Aythya ferina*

Description: The adult male has a long dark bill with a grey band, a red head and neck, a black breast, red eyes and a grey back. The adult female has a brown head and body and a narrower grey bill-band.

Habitat: Inhabits marshy and reed-fringed lakes to open reservoirs; locally on the sea in winter

Distribution: Babesa Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP)



Common shelduck - *Tadorna tadorna*

Description: Resembles a small short-necked goose in size and shape but with a reddish-pink bill, pink feet, a white body with chestnut patches and a black belly, and a dark green head and neck.

Habitat: Less numerous and more local inland at lakes and along rivers.

Distribution: Babesa Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP)

Common teal - *Anas crecca*

Description: Males have a brown head with a wide green swatch behind the eye, creamy speckled breast, and mostly gray body. Females are brown, darker overall than other dabbling ducks.

Habitat: Aquatic vegetation

Distribution: Babesa Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP)



Coal tit – *Periparus ater*

Description: Small, active tit. Combination of large black bib, white wingbars, and broad white stripe on nape distinctive.

Habitat: Common in coniferous and mixed woodland, forest, parks, gardens; visits bird feeders. Associated with foothills and montane areas.

Distribution: Thimphu valley.





Darjeeling woodpecker – *Dendrocopos darjellensis*

Description: A medium-sized pied woodpecker with yellow neck sides. Black upperparts with large white, scapular patches and white barred flight feathers and tail sides. Males have a bright red patch on the back of the crown which females lack.

Habitat: Its natural habitats are subtropical/tropical moist lowland forest

Distribution: Thimphu



Ashy Drongo - *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Description: A slim, medium-sized drongo with bright red eyes and grey plumage that is almost black. It has a long slim tail with a deep fork.

Habitat: Common in wooded habitats.

Distribution: Thimphu Valley

Dark-breasted rosefinch - *Procarduelis nipalensis*

Description: Dark medium-sized rose finch. Male is dark pink with a lighter throat and eyebrow. Female is dark brown with light wingbars.

Habitat: Forages on the ground in montane and hill forest, forest edge, and rocky meadows and slopes.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Dark-rumped rosefinch- *Carpodacus edwardsii*

Description: Dark medium-sized rose finch. Male is dark pink with a lighter throat and eyebrow. Female is dark brown with light wingbars.

Habitat: Forages on the ground in montane and hill forest, forest edge, and rocky meadows and slopes.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Eurasian jay - *Garrulus glandarius*

Description: The whitish throat is bordered on each side by a prominent black moustache stripe. The forehead and crown are whitish with black stripes.

Habitat: An inhabitant of woodland, forest, parkland, and gardens with larger trees, especially oaks.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Eurasian wigeon - *Mareca penelope*

Description: Breeding males are distinctive with rich reddish-brown head, pearly gray body, and pinkish breast. Females are plainer warm brown overall, with a small pale bill.

Habitat: Typically, in flocks on lakes and wetlands, often grazing in nearby fields.

Distribution: Babesa Sewerage Treatment Plant

Ferruginous duck - *Aythya nyroca*

Description: Breeding male has a dark chestnut on the head, breast and flanks with pure white undertail coverts, and has a yellow eye. Females are duller and browner than male, with dark eye.

Habitat: Prefers shallow fresh water bodies with floating vegetation

Distribution: Babesa STP



Fire-breasted Flowerpecker - *Dicaeum ignipectus*

Description: Male has glossy blue-black upperparts. The underside is buffy but a bright red breast patch. The female is dark olive above and buff below

Habitat: It prefers forested vegetation, temperate forest to Subtropical moist montane forest

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Golden-naped Finch - *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta*

Description: A small dark finch. Male is glossy black with a bright yellow nape. Female is brown overall with a pale yellow suffusion to the back of the head and black wing tips.

Habitat: Dense undergrowth and edges of submontane oak and rhododendron forest, also mixed deciduous forest.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Golden-breasted fulvetta - *Lioparus chrysotis*

Description: It a small bird, measuring 10–11.5 cm in length. The head and crown are black or grey and the black wings have orange–yellow slashes.

Habitat: Found in broad-leaved evergreen forests and montane bamboo

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Goosander - *Mergus merganser*

Description: Large duck with thin red bill. Breeding males have a dark green head. Females and immature males have rusty brown head and gray bodies with a cleanly demarcated white throat.

Habitat: Lakes, rivers and ponds

Distribution: Babesa STP and Wangchhu River



Great cormorant - *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Description: Passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Does not stay for long in Thimphu. Male has red bill while female has brown bill. Male has rusty-orange head.

Habitat: Lakes with deep open water and rivers. Breeds in lowland marshes.

Distribution: Babesa STP and Wangchhu River





Grey-cheeked warbler- *Phylloscopus poliogenys*

Description: Striking small warbler with bright white spectacles around each large dark eye and uniquely dark grey head.

Habitat: Active primarily in the lower levels of broadleaf forests in hilly and montane areas with dense undergrowth.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Green-tailed sunbird - *Aethopyga nipalensis*

Description: Male has bright greenish-blue head with his red upper back and bright yellow underparts. Female is olive-yellow with paler underparts and a greyish head.

Habitat: Inhabits montane and hill forests and forest edge.

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Greenish warbler - *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Description: Green on the back and pale below; has a strong white eyebrow which is broad behind the eye and goes all the way to the forehead. Usually has one broad pale wingbar. Can be very unobtrusive and difficult to spot.

Habitat: Breeds in lowland and montane deciduous and mixed forest.

Distribution: Thimphu Ecological Park and Taba Forest



Grey bushchat - *Saxicola ferreus*

Description: Male is silvery grey overall with black face and white supercilium, throat, belly, and wing patches. Female dull brown overall, with a rufous tail and faded version of the male's head pattern. Bold but not very active.

Habitat: Small songbird of forest edges, open scrub, and farmland, usually seen in pairs or small flocks.

Distribution: Taba Forest





Green-backed tit - *Parus monticolus*

Description: Tit in appearance but with a bright yellow belly, greenish back, and two narrow white wing bars rather than one broad one.

Habitat: Forages at middle and upper levels in forests

Distribution: Taba forest, Langjophakha, TEP, Below MHS, Golf ground and Pangrizampa.



Grey-headed canary-flycatcher - *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Description: The grey-headed canary-flycatcher is about 12 – 13 cm long with a squarish grey head, a canary yellow belly and yellowish-green upperparts.

Habitat: Upland to montane oak (*Quercus*) and other broadleaved forests

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Grey-winged blackbird - *Turdus boulboul*

Description: Males are black and females are brown, but both have flashing silvery wings. Bright orange bill and eye ring are eye-catching in dark forests.

Habitat: Often found solitary but occasionally in flocks in the winter. Found in broadleaf evergreen forests.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Hill partridge - *Arborophila torqueola*

Description: A brightly-coloured game bird with an intricate head pattern and a body shaped like a football.

Habitat: Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical moist lowland forest and subtropical or tropical moist montane forest.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Himalayan bluetail - *Tarsiger rufilatus*

Description: Male has blazing sapphire blue with orange flanks and white throat and belly. Female is brown with a white throat, orange flanks, and pale blue rump and tail.

Habitat: Short-distance altitudinal migrant species, breeding in the Himalaya in bush layer.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Himalayan monal – *Lophophorus impejanus*

Description: The bird is about 70 cm. The adult male has multicoloured plumage throughout, while the female is more subdued in colour.

Habitat: It lives in upper temperate oak-conifer forests interspersed with open grassy slopes, cliffs and alpine meadows

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Hoary-throated barwing - *Actinodura nipalensis*

Description: The combination of the Barwing's pale throat and weak eye-arcs is unique.

Habitat: Its natural habitats are temperate forest and subtropical or tropical moist montane forest.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Hodgson's redstart - *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

Description: Male has restricted silver on the forehead and less distinct wing panel. Females lack white wing patch with bright eye-ring.

Habitat: Breeds in hilly and montane open forests and forest edge; descends in the winter, favouring scrubby edge.

Distribution: Dechencholing, Golf ground, Babesa, Youth Centre, CBS Area





House crow – *Corvus splendens*

Description: A slender, blackish medium-sized crow with a long bill. The greyish nape and sides form a paler collar and a glossy black body.

Habitat: Primarily a scavenger, feeding on leftover rubbish from humans. Found in a wide range of habitats mostly around human habitation.

Distribution: Below MHS, Taba, Youth Centre, Golf ground.



Ibisbill – *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

Description: They are altitudinal migrant. They have grey body with white underparts. And have red legs and long down-curved bill, and a black face and black breast band.

Habitat: Usually seen foraging solitarily, moving slowly around and between stones and boulders and picking out aquatic invertebrates with its blood-red bill.

Distribution: Babesa STP and Wangchhu River

Indian cuckoo - *Cuculus micropterus*

Description: It has grey upperparts while the underside has broad black barring. The tail is barred with a broad subterminal dark band and a white tip.

Habitat: The preferred habitat is deciduous and evergreen forests but also occur in garden lands and thick scrub

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Indian pond heron - *Ardeola grayii*

Description: They appear stocky with a short neck, short thick bill and buff-brown back. Adult in breeding plumage have a dark reddish brown back that contrast with a yellowish head, neck and breast.

Habitat: Common in most aquatic habitats across the Indian subcontinent

Distribution: Wangchhu River





Kalij pheasant - *Lophura leucomelanos*

Description: A distinctive pheasant with bare red facial skin, a backward-pointing crest, and a vertically compressed tail. Males are iridescent black and silver. Males are of 63 to 74 cm and females 50 to 60 cm.

Habitat: Occurs in forested areas, usually in hilly or mountainous regions.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Little egret - *Egretta garzetta*

Description: It is a white bird with a slender black beak and long black legs. Its plumage is normally entirely white, although there are dark forms with largely bluish-grey plumage. The adult little egret is 55–65 cm.

Habitat: Shores of lakes, rivers, canals, ponds, lagoons, marshes and flooded land.

Distribution: Babesa STP and Wangchhu River.

Large-billed crow - *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Description: The overall size – length 46–59 cm. Entirely black with a variable amount of glossiness relatively long, daggerlike bill with curved top.

Habitat: Wide range of habitats including woodlands, urban landscapes, agricultural fields, and open scrub forests.

Distribution: Babesa, Youth centre, Golf ground, Langjophakha



Little forktail – *Enicurus scouleri*

Description: The sexes are alike, with black and white plumage. Black above, with white forehead. The adults are black with a white forecrown, belly, rump, and wing patches.

Habitat: Found at mountain streams, waterfalls and small shaded forest puddles

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Mallard - *Anas platyrhynchos*

Description: Males are distinctive with iridescent green head, yellow bill, chestnut breast, and gray body. Females are mottled brown with orange and black splotches on the bill. Both sexes have an area of white-bordered black or iridescent blue feathers on their wings

Habitat: Anywhere with water including city parks

Distribution: Babesa



Mountain buzzard – *Buteo oreophilus*

Description: The adult has brown upperparts with paler underparts with heavy brown blotches on the breast, belly, flanks and underwing coverts. Juveniles are buffier below and less heavily marked than the adults.

Habitat: Found in mountain forest and adjacent open habitats.

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Mrs. Gould's sunbird - *Aethopyga gouldiae*

Description: Male is bright scarlet with a blue tail and yellow underparts. Female is duller, with olive upperparts, yellow underparts, and a greyish head.

Habitat: Found in evergreen broad-leaved forest, monsoon forest and deciduous broad-leaved forest. Occasionally found in orchards and bamboo forest within its range.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Northern goshawk - *Accipiter gentilis*

Description: The northern goshawk has relatively short, broad wings and a long tail. The adults are distinctive with overall gray, paler below, blackish crown and cheek, white eyebrow, and red eye.

Habitat: Generally restricted to wooded areas as it typically requires extensive mature forest.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Northern pintail - *Anas acuta*

Description: Elegant, slender duck with long neck and tail. Males have a chocolate brown head with a white slash coming up the neck, white breast, and mostly gray body. Females are patterned light brown.

Habitat: Forages in wetlands and in fields on agricultural waste grains.

Distribution: Babesa STP



Plumbeous water redstart – *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*

Description: Male is slaty gray-blue with a brilliant orange tail that is often fanned. Female and juvenile are gunmetal gray with scaly undersides and bright white on the upper half of the tail.

Habitat: Fast-flowing streams and rivers. Regularly ventures into waterside human settlements, dams, and canals

Distribution: Taba, Langjophakha, and Babesa

Common Sandpiper - *Actitis hypoleucos*

Description: Small bicolored sandpiper which often bobs its tail in a distinctively wagtail-like manner. Plain brown with white underparts; a prominent white spur at the shoulder.

Habitat: Found in a variety of wetland habitats; breeds on stony ground along rivers and lakeshores, with migrants occurring on muddy and rocky substrates

Distribution: Thimphu valley.



Feral pigeon - *Columba livia domestica*

Description: Also known as city dove. The blue-barred pattern which the original wild rock dove displays is generally less common in more urban areas. Urban pigeons tend to have darker plumage than those in more rural areas.

Habitat: Common in cities and farmland, often in large flocks.

Distribution: Thimphu city





Red billed chough – *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Description: Its plumage is velvet-black, green-glossed on the body, and it has a long curved red bill and red legs. The sexes are similar but the juvenile has an orange bill and pink legs until its first autumn, and less glossy plumage.

Habitat: Found in pairs or groups around cliffs, probing in adjacent grassy areas and fields.

Distribution: Golf ground, TEP, Below MHS



Red-billed leiothrix - *Leiothrix lutea*

Description: The leiothrix is about six inches in length, generally olive green, and has a yellow throat with orange shading on the breast. It also has a dull yellowish ring around the eye that extends to the beak.

Habitat: Babbler of dense forest understory.

Distribution: Taba and Pangrizampa

Red-crested pochard - *Netta refina*

Description: Adult male has a rounded orange head, red bill and black breast. The flanks are white, the back brown and tail black. Female is mainly plain brown, with a darker back and crown and a whitish face. It is a migratory bird.

Habitat: Nest near slow-current rivers with clearings of open water or islands with shrubs and grasses.

Distribution: Babesa STP



Red-tailed minla - *Minla ignotincta*

Description: It has a black crown and ear-coverts, broad white supercilium and striking pale eye. There is presence of prominent white colour on the tips of the black coloured wings and yellowish underparts.

Habitat: Subtropical or tropical moist montane forests.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





River lapwing – *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Description: It has a black crest, crown, face and central throat and grey-white neck sides. Has a grey-brown breast band and white underparts with a black belly patch. The back is brown, the rump is white and the tail is black.

Habitat: Primarily tied to rivers, often seen foraging in pairs on riverbanks or exposed islands.

Distribution: Babesa



Ruddy breasted crane – *Zapornia fusca*

Description: The ruddy-breasted crane is about 22–23 cm long. Colouring includes a pale brown back and chestnut head and underparts, with white barring on the flanks and undertail. The bill is yellowish, and the eyes, legs, and feet are red.

Habitat: Inhabitant of marshes, swamps and wet areas.

Distribution: Thimphu Ecological Park (TEP).

Ruddy shelduck - *Tadorna ferruginea*

Description: Striking and distinctive gooselike duck. Plumage bright ruddy overall with contrasting pale creamy head and neck; male has narrow black neck ring. Big white forewing patches striking in flight.

Habitat: Prefers the saline lakes; also, reservoirs and agricultural fields

Distribution: Babesa STP and TEP



Rufous fronted tit - *Aegithalos iouschistos*

Description: The rufous-fronted bushtit is 11 cm long. The adult has grey upperparts and reddish-brown underparts. The head is reddish-buff with a black mask and a silver bib with black streaks and a black edge.

Habitat: It occurs in montane forests, both broad-leaved and coniferous. It typically feeds in flocks.

Distribution: Dechencholing, Pangrizampa and Taba





Rufous sibia - *Heterophasia capistrata*

Description: Attractive orange arboreal bird with blue-tinged wingtips and a black, weakly crested head.

Habitat: Common in foothill and montane forests, where it forages in the crowns of trees.

Distribution: TEP, Langjophakha and Below MHS



Rufous-bellied woodpecker - *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*

Description: Bright orange neck and belly, as well as black-and-white spotted wings. Bright red crown is found only on the male; the female has a patchy black and white one

Habitat: Found in a wide range of foothill and lowland forest and montane forests.

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Rufous-gorgeted flycatcher- *Ficedula strophciata*

Description: Male is brown above with a black face, white eyebrow, and orange throat patch (gorget). The female is a faded version of the male with a dark gray face and a pale, largely unnoticeable gorget.

Habitat: Found in subtropical or tropical moist montane forests.

Distribution: Pangrizampa.



Rufous-vented yuhina - *Yuhina occipitalis*

Description: Bright orange patch on the back of the crest. Brown wings, orange vent and grey head.

Habitat: Inhabits broadleaved forests at middle to high elevations, preferring oak stands with a dense rhododendron understory.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Satyr tragopan - *Tragopan satyra*

Description: Male has a black face with dark blue cheeks and chin, and a greyish-brown back, have white dots on the red breast. Female is similar in shape, but all brown with thin white streaks in the back and reddish-brown wings.

Habitat: Reside in moist oak and rhododendron forests with dense undergrowth and bamboo clumps

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Snowy-browed flycatcher - *Ficedula hyperythra*

Description: Large-headed and stub-tailed appearance. Male blue above with short white supercilium and bright orange throat that fades towards the belly. Female brown above with rufous-tinged wings, pale eye ring.

Habitat: Inhabits shady forests and bamboo at upper elevations

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Solitary snipe - *Gallinago solitaria*

Description: A barrel-chested snipe with a dark brown back and frosty-pale face and belly. Much darker and more silvery-gray in coloration than other snipe species, which are a paler brown overall.

Habitat: Many birds are sedentary in the high mountains, or just move downhill in hard weather.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Spot-winged grosbeak - *Mycerobas melanozanthos*

Description: Male is black above and white below with white streaks and spots on the wings. Female is patchy black above and yellow below with heavy black streaking all over the underparts

Habitat: Inhabits submontane areas, particularly in the mixed forests.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Spotted laughingthrush - *Inanthocincla ocellata*

Description: Wing and tail are coffee- colored with blue-gray highlights along the edges. Black-and-white spotting on the upper body is denser on the back and breast.

Habitat: Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist montane forests.

Distribution: Thimphu



Spotted nutcracker – *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

Description: The spotted nutcracker is a dark brown, broad-winged, short-tailed corvid. Body plumage is mid-to-dark chocolate brown, heavily spotted with white on face, neck, mantle and underparts. Range from 32–38 cm in length.

Habitat: Inhabits coniferous and mixed forests, from lowlands up into high montane forests.

Distribution: Dechencholing, Pangrizampa, Taba and TEP

Striated bulbul - *Pycnonotus striatus*

Description: Olive-green above with a pale-yellow throat and extensive white streaks on a dark breast and pale belly.

Habitat: Found in subtropical or tropical moist montane forests in broadleaf forests, both evergreen and deciduous.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Striated laughingthrush - *Grammatoptila striata*

Description: Brown overall with pencil-thin white lines all over the body. Crest is dark brown, and wings are dull rufous.

Habitat: Inhabits forests and adjoining areas with dense undergrowth in the Himalayan foothills.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Stripe-throated yuhina - *Yuhina gularis*

Description: Large brown yuhina with a tall, upswept crest and black-and-orange panels on the wings. Streaked throat is diagnostic but difficult to see.

Habitat: Inhabits broadleaved and mixed forests in hilly and subtropical or tropical moist montane areas.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Verditer flycatcher – *Eumyias thalassinus*

Description: It has vivid turquoise–blue colour. Adult male has dark lores while Juvenile is duller, with noticeably grayer underparts.

Habitat: Open lowland and lower montane forests, including edges, clearings and bushes along streams, edges of cultivation, tall tree and parks.

Distribution: Thimphu valley

Wedge-tailed green-pigeon - *Treron sphenurus*

Description: Brightly-coloured. Both male and female are green with red feet and bright blue bill, but males have an orange chest path and wine-red patches on the wings which is absent in the females.

Habitat: Subtropical or tropical moist montane forests and subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Whistler's warbler - *Phylloscopus whistleri*

Description: It is a Medium-sized warbler that has a bright yellow eye-ring, a pale and indistinct wing bar, and a greyish crown bordered by two long black stripes.

Habitat: High-altitude temperate broadleaf forest from around 2000 meters up to the treeline.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





White browed fulvetta - *Fulvetta vinipectus*

Description: Chunky fulvetta of scrubby, stunted subalpine forests. Striking and unmistakable, with orange-suffused wings, a dark crown, and a bright white throat and brow.

Habitat: Its natural habitat is temperate forests.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



White-throated laughingthrush - *Garrulax albogularis*

Description: Warm brown with an ochre-coloured belly and pure white throat.

Habitat: Common in foothill forests and edges but will also occasionally venture into parks and gardens.

Distribution: Golf Ground, Pangrizampa and Taba

White-browed bush-robin - *Tarsiger indicus*

Description: Adult males are slaty above with dusky ochre underparts. Female is similar but with thinner brow and earthy brown upperparts.

Habitat: Breeds in dense forests, edges, and secondary growth at high elevations descending to foothills during the winter.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



White-browed rosefinch - *Carpodacus thura*

Description: Male is found with a streaked rich brown back and lilac-pink cheeks, brow stripe, and underparts. Female is streaky brown above and streaky off-white below, with a rusty breast patch.

Habitat: Inhabits Forest with dense undergrowth, as well as shrubby edges and grassy areas.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





White-browed scimitar babbler – *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*

Description: Slightly decurved yellow bill. Somewhat similar in appearance to Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, but has a clean white breast instead of a marked one.

Habitat: Found from the upper lowlands up into mountainous regions where it inhabits forest with dense undergrowth, as well as shrubby edges and grassy areas.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



White-capped water redstart - *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*

Description: Chunky, brightly-coloured redstart found along rushing boulder-strewn mountain streams. Black with a wine-red belly and tail and a blazing white cap.

Habitat: Its natural habitat is temperate forests.

Distribution: Babesa and CBS area

White-collared blackbird - *Turdus albocinctus*

Description: This species has a bright white collar, which is its most notable field mark. Males are predominantly black while females are dark brown.

Habitat: Breeds in alpine and upper subalpine meadows, open forests, and gardens

Distribution: Langjophakha, Taba, Golf ground, TEP and Pangrizampa.



White-tailed nuthatch - *Sitta himalayensis*

Description: Gray upperparts and pale orange underparts. Has a bright white spot on the tail base and a clean tan vent instead of a white-and-orange-striped one.

Habitat: Prefers subtropical/tropical moist lowland forest and subtropical/tropical moist montane forest.

Distribution: Thimphu valley





Yellow-bellied fantail - *Chelidorhynchus hypoxanthus*

Description: About 8 cm in size. It is yellow below and has a black eye-stripe, white wing-bar and broad black tail tipped white.

Habitat: Most common in the foothill and sub-montane broadleaf forests.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Yellow-billed blue magpie - *Urocissa flavirostris*

Description: This colorful long-tailed corvid forages in noisy flocks. Yellow-billed is paler blue overall, with a small white patch at the back of the crown and a bright yellow bill

Habitat: Primarily found in Himalayan hill forest.

Distribution: Taba

Yellow-breasted green finch - *Chloris spinoides*

Description: The yellow-breasted greenfinch is 12–14 cm in length and weighs between 15 and 21 g. It has a brown conical bill and bright yellow wing bars. The underparts are bright yellow.

Habitat: Inhabits forests, edges, and grassy or brushy outskirts in montane and foothill areas.

Distribution: Pangrizampa and Taba



Yellow-rumped honeyguide - *Indicator xanthonotus*

Description: Looks like a large, stretched-out finch. Dark brown overall with pale streaking on the back and flashes of bright yellow on the head and rump.

Habitat: Found in coniferous and dry-deciduous forest with rocky boulders and cliffs.

Distribution: Thimphu valley



Annexure

Checklist of birds in and around Thimphu valley

	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Alpine accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>
2	Alpine thrush	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i>
3	Ashy-throated warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>
4	Asian barred owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>
5	Bar-headed goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>
6	Black bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
7	Black-necked crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>
8	Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
9	Black-throated thrush	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>
10	Black-tailed crane	<i>Porzana bicolor</i>
11	Blood pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>
12	Blue-fronted redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
13	Blue whistling thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
14	Brown dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
15	Brown parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis unicolor</i>
16	Brown-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>
17	Brownish-flanked bush warbler	<i>Cettia fortipes</i>
18	Chestnut-crowned bush warbler	<i>Cettia major</i>
19	Chestnut-crowned laughingthrush	<i>Trochopteron erythrocephalum</i>
20	Chestnut-tailed minla	<i>Minla strigula</i>
21	Citrine wagtail	<i>Motacilla citiela</i>
22	Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
23	Common hoopoe	<i>Upupa epos</i>
24	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>

	Common Name	Scientific Name
25	Common kestrel	<i>Falco timunculus</i>
26	Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
27	Common merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
28	Common pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
29	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
30	Common shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
31	Common stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
32	Common teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
33	Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
34	Crested kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>
35	Darjeeling woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>
36	Dark throated thrush	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>
37	Dark-breasted rosefinch	<i>Procarduelis nipalensis</i>
38	Dark-rumped rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus edwardsii</i>
39	Dark-sided flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>
40	Daurian redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>
41	Ashy drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
42	Dusky warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
43	Eurasian cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
44	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
45	Eurasian Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
46	Eurasian wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
47	Himalayan bluetail	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>
48	Ferruginous duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
49	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>
50	Golden-breasted fulvetta	<i>Lioparus chrysotis</i>
51	Golden-naped Finch	<i>Pyrrhoplectes epauletta</i>
52	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
53	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
54	Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>

	Common Name	Scientific Name
55	Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropu</i>
56	Green-backed tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
57	Greenish warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
58	Green-tailed sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>
59	Grey bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>
60	Grey crested tit	<i>Parus dichrous</i>
61	Grey-backed shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>
62	Grey-cheeked warbler	<i>Phylloscopus poliogenys</i>
63	Grey-headed canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
64	Grey-winged blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>
65	Hill partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>
66	Himalayan monal	<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>
67	Hoary-throated barwing	<i>Actinodura nipalensis</i>
68	Hodgson's redstart	<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>
69	House crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
70	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
71	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>
72	Indian cuckoo (Juvenile)	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
73	Indian pond heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
74	Kalij pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>
75	Large billed crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
76	Lemon-rumped warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>
77	Little bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>
78	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
79	Little forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>
80	Long-tailed minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
81	Long-toed stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>
82	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
83	Mountain buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>

	Common Name	Scientific Name
84	Mrs. Gould's sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>
85	Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
86	Northern pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
87	Olive-backed pipit	<i>Anthus hogsonii</i>
88	Oriental turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
89	Pale-footed bush warbler	<i>Cettia pallidipes</i>
90	Plumbeous redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosa</i>
91	Plumbeous water redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>
92	Red-billed chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
93	Red-billed leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>
94	Red-crested pochard	<i>Netta refina</i>
95	Red-tailed minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>
96	River lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>
97	Rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
98	Rosy pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>
99	Ruddy breasted crane	<i>Zapornia fusca</i>
100	Ruddy shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
101	Rufous breasted accentor	<i>Prunella strophiatea</i>
102	Rufous fronted tit	<i>Aegithalos iouschisto</i>
103	Rufous sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>
104	Rufous-bellied woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>
105	Rufous-gorgeted flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophiatea</i>
106	Rufous-vented yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>
107	Russet sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>
108	Satyr tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>
109	Siberian rubythroat	<i>Luscinia calliope</i>
110	Small niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i>
111	Smoky warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>
112	Snowy browed flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>
113	Solitary snipe	<i>Gallinago solitaria</i>

	Common Name	Scientific Name
114	Spotted laughingthrush	<i>Inanthocinclla ocellata</i>
115	Spotted nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>
116	Spot-wing grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas melanozanthos</i>
117	Streak-breasted scimitar babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>
118	Striated bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus striatus</i>
119	Striated laughingthrush	<i>Grammatoptila striata</i>
120	Stripe-throated yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>
121	Tickell's leaf warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>
122	Tickell's thrush	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>
123	Ultramarine flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>
124	Verditer flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>
125	Wedge-tailed green-pigeon	<i>Treron sphenurus</i>
126	Whistler's warbler	<i>Phylloscopus whistleri</i>
127	White browed fulvetta	<i>Fulvetta vinipectus</i>
128	White throated laughing thrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>
129	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
130	White-browed bush-robin	<i>Tarsiger indicus</i>
131	White-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus thura</i>
132	White-browed scimitar babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i>
133	White-capped water redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>
134	White-capped water redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>
135	White-collared blackbird	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>
136	White-tailed nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>
137	Yellow-bellied fantail	<i>Chelidorhynx hypoxanthus</i>
139	Yellow-billed blue magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>
140	Yellow-breasted greenfinch	<i>Chloris spinoides</i>
141	Yellow-rumped honeyguide	<i>Indicator xanthonotus</i>

