AVIFAUNAL STUDIES AT SUHELDEV WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

BNHS INDIA CONSERVING NATURE SINCE 1883

U.P. Forest Department

सारस संरक्षण समिति


uhetdev
wildlife sanctuary

The Project Team and Supporters

BNHS Mission

Conservation of nature, primarily biological diversity through action based on research, education and public awareness.

Bombay Natural History Society

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AVIFAUNAL STUDIES AT SUHELDEV WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Final Report

Funded by

SARUS SANRAKSHAN SAMITI /
UTTAR PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT

Project Team

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Bombay Natural History Society

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This report would have not been possible without the constant support and hospitality of Mr Satish Jain and Mr Vipin Agarwal for making this report a reality.

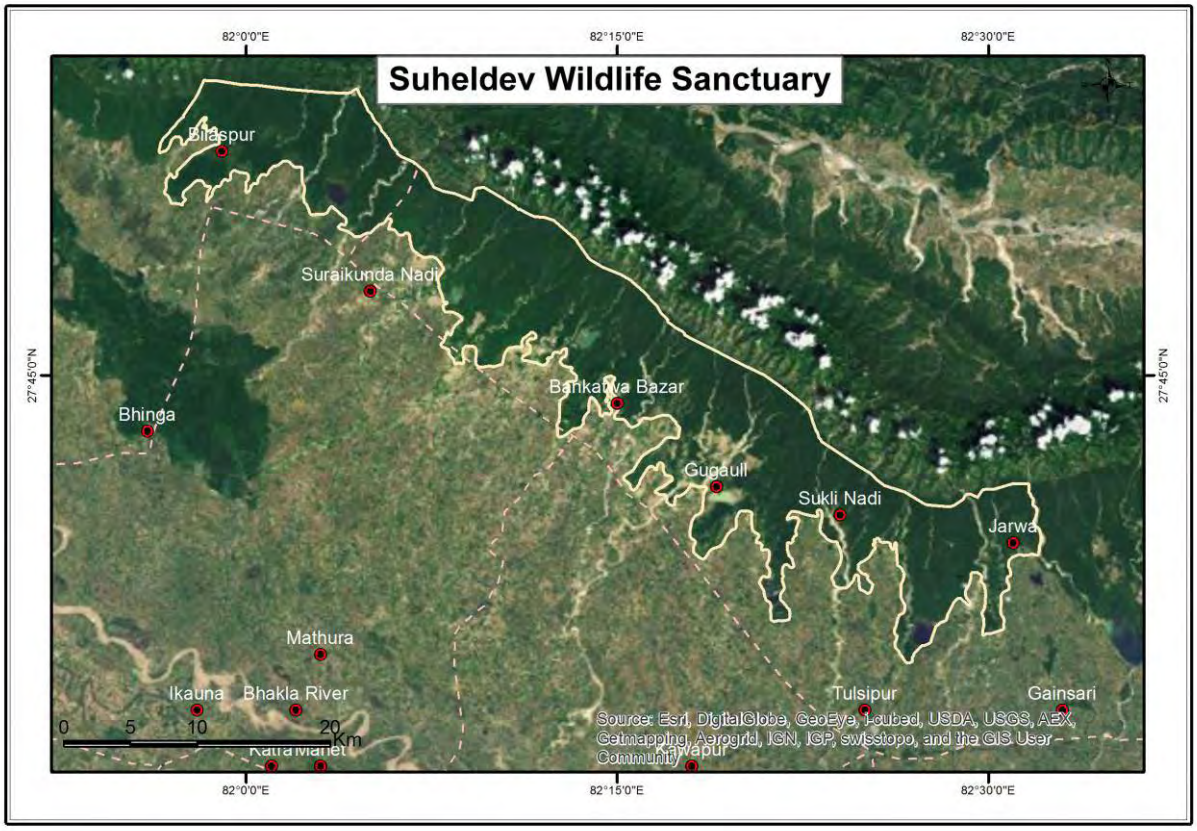
Vultures are a common sight during winter in most ranges of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary. Picture taken near Chittaurgarh reservoir, Rampur range in buffer zone.

INTRODUCTION

The Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on the Indo-Nepal international border in Tulsipur *tehsil* of Balrampur district and Bhinga *tehsil* of Shravasti district in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. This Sanctuary, named after a local king Suhel Dev, is approximately 120 km long and 6-8 km wide, and lies between 27° 30' 1" N to 27° 55' 42" N and 81° 55' 36" E to 82° 48' 33" E. The area was famed as the hunting grounds of the erstwhile princely states of Balrampur and Tulsipur. The total core area of the Sanctuary is 45,200 ha and the buffer zone is 23,000 ha. The sanctuary area falls under the Terai-Bhabhar biogeographic subdivision of the Upper Gangetic Plain (7A), according to the Biogeographic classification of Rodgers and Panwar (1988). It is also known as Soheldev Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary was established vide UP Govt. Notification No. 5299/14-3-74-83 dated 14.11.1988. It comprises Tulsipur and Barhawa ranges of the erstwhile East Bahraich Division. Earlier, the control of the forest area of the Sanctuary continued to remain with the territorial forest division of North Gonda and East Bahraich. Finally in June 1998 vide UP Govt. Order No. 2034/14-1-98-30(1)/97 dated 25.06.1998, the Sohelwa Wildlife Division was notified, encompassing the Suheldev Sanctuary, Rampur and Bhabhar range of North Gonda Division with its administrative headquarters at Balrampur.

Forest areas which constitute the Sohelwa Wildlife Division were brought under government control in 1967. Prior to 1952, only Tulsipur reserve forest of Gonda district and Sohelwa reserve forest of Bahraich district were under government control and the remaining forests were under the control of Balrampur Estate.



The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in November 2013 was assigned a one-year study by Sarus Sanrakshan Samiti, Uttar Pradesh Forest Department to conduct 'Avifaunal Study at Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary with special reference to threatened species' such as Sarus Crane, Bengal Florican, Black-necked Stork and Swamp Francolin, and also to find out what type of tourism facilities could be developed in the Sanctuary.

As Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary is surrounded by villages, particularly in its southern fringe, there is an intense pressure on the Sanctuary for livestock grazing, wood and non-timber forest produce (NTFP). The dependence of villagers on Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary has not


Kabahi Nala, Tulsipur

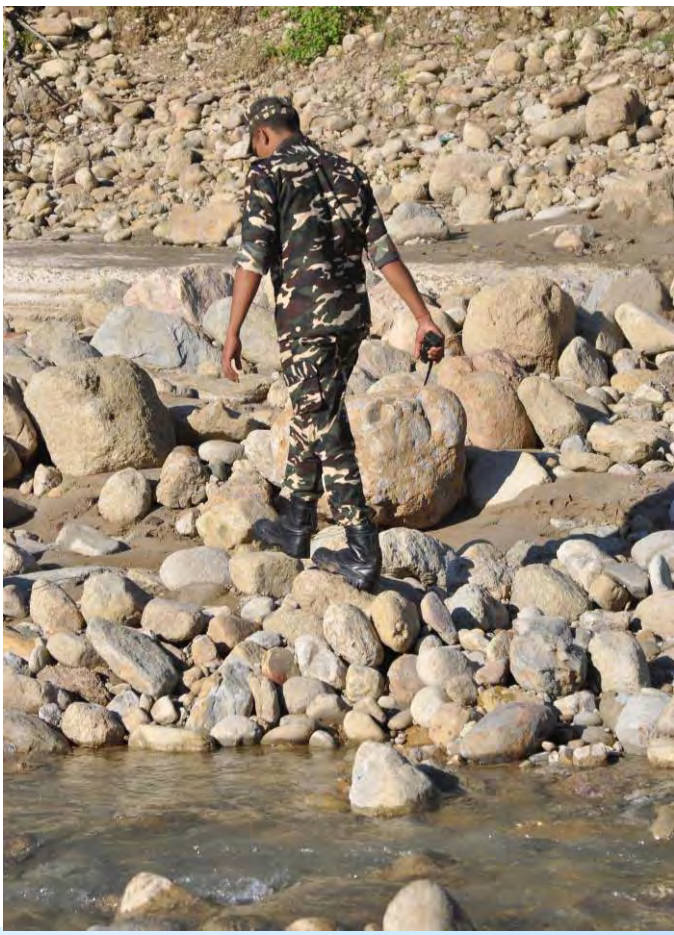
been studied so far. However, the Sanctuary has a great tourism potential as far as bird diversity is concerned. The present study was planned to document the avifauna of the Sanctuary, with special focus on how this could attract tourists and benefit the local communities.

OBJECTIVES OF OUR STUDY

1. To make a detailed inventory of birds species
2. To find out the status and abundance of threatened bird species
3. To study tourism potential, particularly with a view to train local youth as tourist guides, birdwatchers etc.
4. To involve and benefit local communities in bird tourism (home stay concept).
5. To bring Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary on the eco-tourism map of India

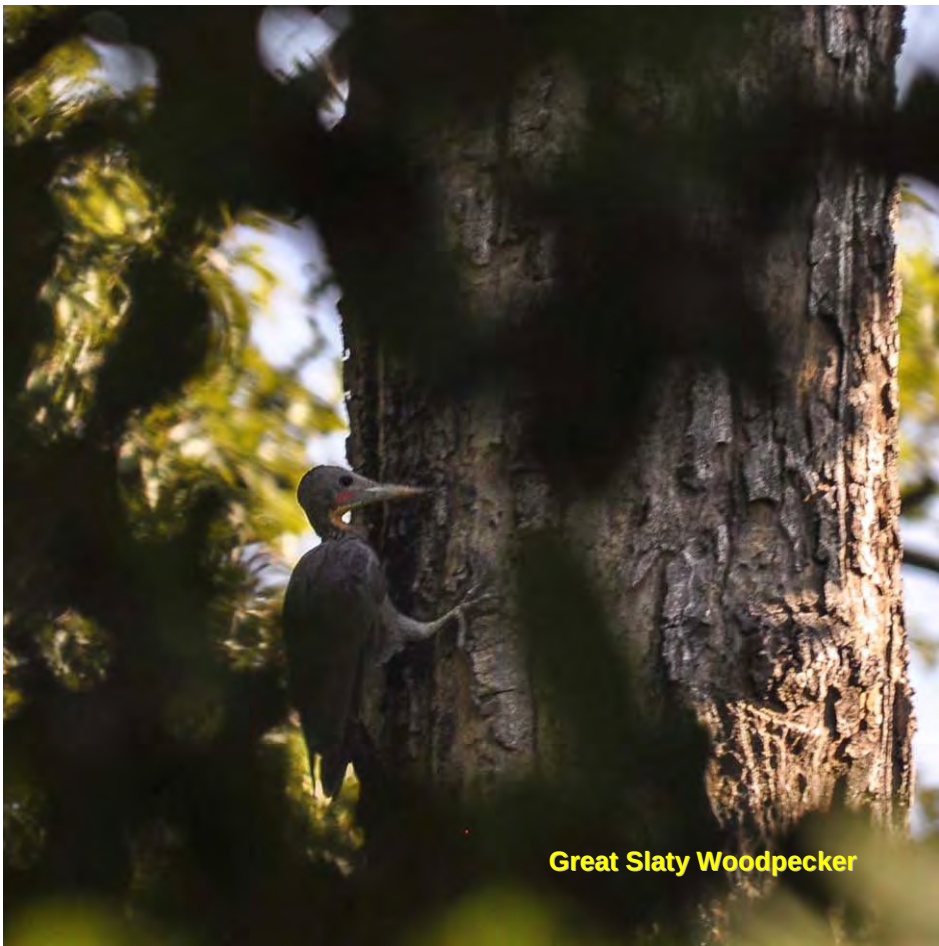
UNDERSTANDING SUHELDEV WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, flanked by the Nepal border on three sides, lies immediately south of Churia hills in Nepal and the area primarily comprises rugged mountains and boulder-strewn riverbeds especially along the northern boundary (Chanchani *et al.* 2014). Suheldev is contiguous with the forests of Dang in Nepal, and is connected to Banke National Park, which is part of the Bardia forest complex. The south-western boundary of the park is close to Shravasti Forest Division in India while the south-eastern boundary lies close to Pachperwa town. Towards the southern boundary, the Bhabhar terrain gives way to flat Terai-like floodplains. The area is drained by 8-10 major seasonal rivers, many of which drain into artificial reservoirs built along the southern boundary of the Sanctuary.



The boundaries of the Sanctuary are dotted by numerous villages which depend heavily on the forests for their fuel wood, fodder and other NTFP Many Nepali villages are situated along the northern border. Their reliance on Indian markets necessitates frequent travel to habitations on the Indian side. Consequently, the forest is bisected by numerous foot trails running in a north-south direction (Chanchani *et al.* 2014). Besides these trails, the Seema Suraksha Bal (SSB) maintains a few roads within the forests leading to their posts located at regular intervals all along the border.

The Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary forms a part of the Terai Arc but it is perhaps the most neglected Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh. This site was selected as an Important Bird Area (IBA Site Code: IN-UP-23) on the presence of A1 (Threatened species – Swamp Francolin) and A3 (Biome restricted species) criteria (Islam and Rahmani 2004; Rahmani *et al.* 2011). While extensive research has been carried at the Dudhwa National Park by BNHS, Wildlife Institute of India and WWF-India, practically no avifaunal studies have been conducted in Suheldev. So much so that despite its immense potential to host threatened and biome restricted bird species, the Sanctuary was previously considered as a Data Deficient site by BNHS, BirdLife International and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, in their *book Important Bird Areas in India* (Islam and Rahmani 2004). Even a proper checklist of birds in the Sanctuary was previously unavailable before the current BNHS study.



Great Slaty Woodpecker

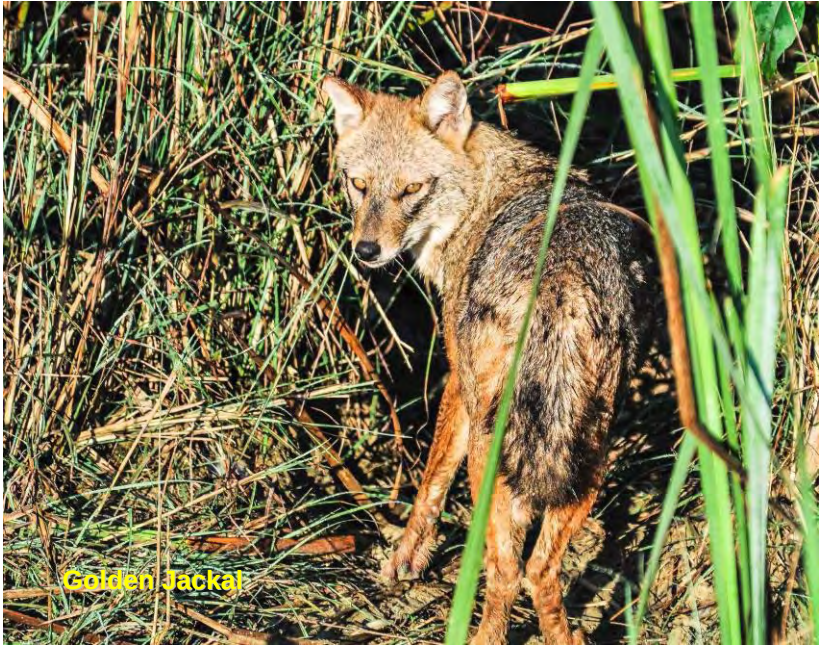
VEGETATION

The Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary is characterised by elements of the Bhabhar zone typified by porous rocky riverbeds and undulating terrain along the Himalayan foothills. Terai habitats such as tall grass stand are absent in Suheldev. With an altitude between 120-202 msl, 1300 mm rainfall and temperatures ranging between 4°C to 40°C, the tropical moist deciduous forest is dominated by Sal *Shorea robusta* interspersed with Jamun *Syzygium cumini,* Imli *Terminalia tomentosa*, Khair *Acacia catechu* and grasses of the genera *Vetiveria, Themeda, Arundo donax, Imperata* and *Saccharum*. *Calamus* thickets may be found along some river banks. Teak *Tectona grandis* was planted by the Forest Department but since the Sanctuary was declared, planting has been stopped.

The unique geophysical attributes of the area, its plantation history and numerous drainages and reservoirs have given rise to a mosaic of varied forest types such as pure Sal, Teak, broadleaf moist deciduous, semi-evergreen and small patches of grasslands fringing the reservoirs.

The Sanctuary area is also rich in medicinal plants such as *Chlorophytum borvivilianum, Piper longum, Adhatoda vasica, Tinospora cardifolia, Swertia chirayita, Holarrhoena antidysentrica, Acorus calamus, Nyctanthes arbortristic, Withania somnifera, Rauvolfia serpentina, Murraya koenigii, Asparagus racemosus* and *Acacia concinna*.

KEY FAUNA


Golden Jackal

Owing to great vegetation diversity, the area is a mosaic of diverse habitats, as a result of which faunal diversity is also high. Over the years, this lone representative region of the Bhabhar ecosystem in UP has experienced considerable habitat degradation. According to the Management Plan of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary from 2011-12 to 2020-21, nearly 40 species of mammals, including Tiger, are found in the Sanctuary, although there has been a significant decline in the Tiger population here. Jhala *et al.* (2008) of Wildlife Institute of India estimated that this Sanctuary supports 3-5 Tigers. A similar survey by Jhala *et al.* (2011), repeated two years later reported Tiger occupancy in 441 sq. km. of Suheldev (~ 80% of the park), and concluded that the Sanctuary supported a stable Tiger population of 3-5 individuals. However, recent report by WWF-India on the "Status and Conservation of Tigers and their prey in the Uttar Pradesh Terai" by Chanchani *et al.* (2014) reports on the status of Tigers at this site which has received little conservation attention otherwise and aims to extend Tiger monitoring efforts to the entire Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary. According to this report, the Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, in the context of the Terai Arc Landscape in India, together with the forest fragments of Shravasti, constitutes Tiger hatitat and lies disconnected from other such habitats to its east (Pilibhit-Kishanpur-Dudhwa-Katerniaghat) and west (Sohagi


Leopard

Pix by Mukesh Kumar


Chital

Barwa and Valmiki). Although Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary is isolated from other Tiger habitats in the Indian Terai, this region assumes significance owing to extensive connectivity with forests in Nepal such as the newly declared Banke National Park and Bardia National Park. To the east of Suheldev, Chitwan National Park and Valmiki Tiger Reserve lie disconnected from the remaining patches in the Terai Arc Landscape. WWF-India report suggests that there is a possibility of the occurrence of one or more Tigers in Suheldev but severe paucity of regular Tiger signs in the Sanctuary actually shows that Tigers here may be visitors from neighbouring forests of Dang and Banke in Nepal.

Studies on mammals in the Sanctuary by Jhala *et al*. (2008), Johnsingh *et al*. 2004 and Chanchani *et al.* (2014) indicate the presence of sparse signs of Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus*. Large prey species such as Chital *Axis axis,* Wild Boar *Sus scrofa,* Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocalemus,* Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolour,* Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjak* and Hog Deer *Axis porcinus* appear to be rare in Suheldev. Leopards *Panthera pardus* and Striped Hyenas *Hyaena hyaena* appear to be widely distributed across Suheldev. Unambiguous evidence for the presence of Wild Dogs or Dholes *Coun alpinus* in Suheldev lacks supporting documentation such as photographs (Chanchani *et al.* 2014).

It seems water is a critical resource for sustaining wild populations. In Suheldev, water scarcity especially through the dry season (November to June) may be severely limiting the populations of both predators and prey. It is possible that the scarcity of water in Suheldev may produce strong seasonal trends in habitat use by mammals who may find disturbance-free water sources in the area during the monsoon months alone.


Hanuman Langur

SUHELDEV WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AT A GLANCE

The Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary is divided into seven ranges: five ranges constituting the core area and two ranges occurring in the buffer area. The core area totalling to 452 sq. km comprises the following five ranges: 1) West Sohelwa 2) East Sohelwa 3) Bankatwa 4) Barhawa and 5) Tulsipur ranges and the buffer zone area totalling to 227 sq. km consists of 6) Rampur and 7) Bhambhar ranges (see table I). The West Sohelwa and East Sohelwa ranges are in Shravasti district while all other remaining ranges are in Balrampur district. All the ranges are further divided into beat and compartments.

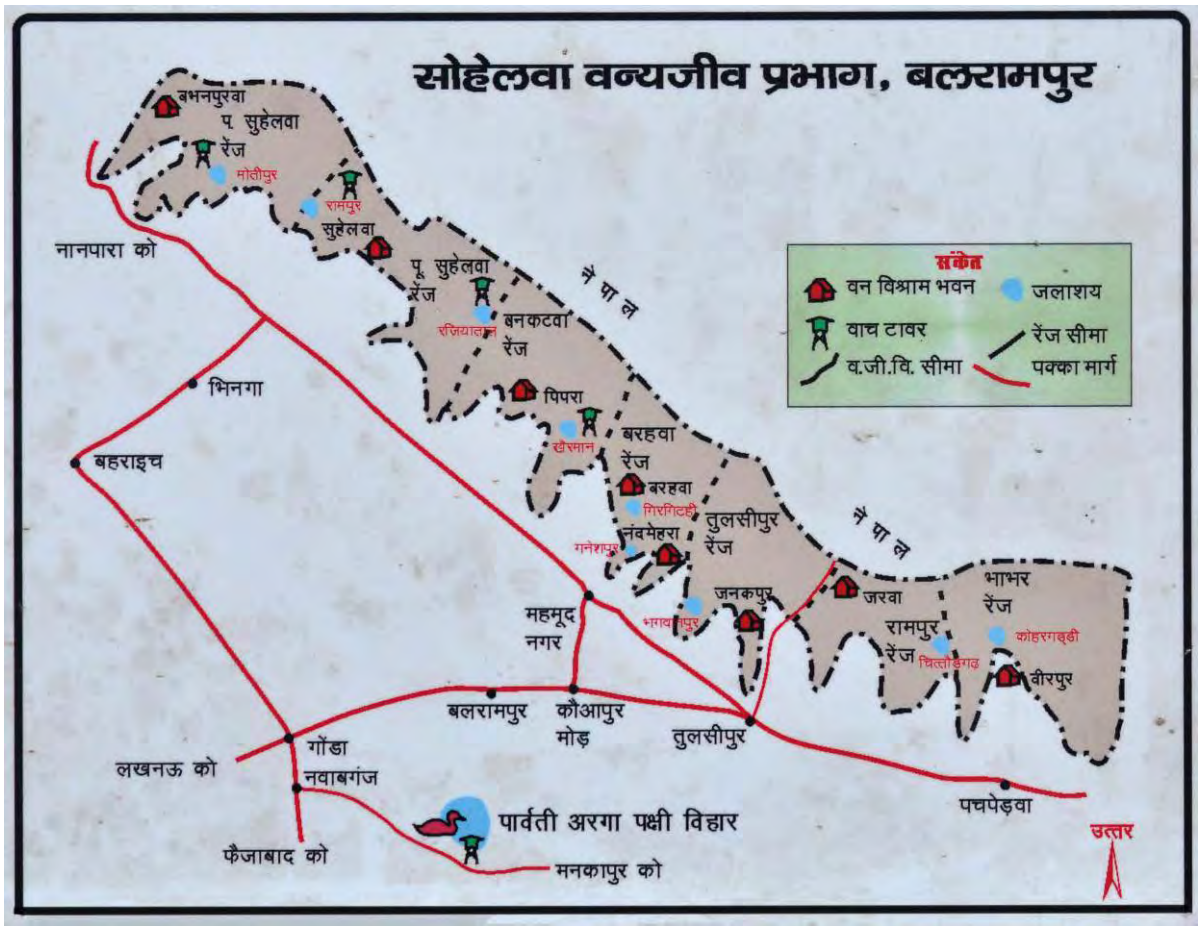


Table I: Ranges of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary

	Name of the Range	*Total Area in hectare*	*Range Head Quarter*	*District*	*Distance from Balrampur*
1.	West Sohelwa	9,035.70	Bamanpurva	Shravasti	102 km
2.	East Sohelwa	8,031.60	Sohelwa	Shravasti	80 km
3.	Bankatwa	9,672.10	Bankatwa	Balrampur	60 km
4.	Barhawa	10,115.90	Girgitahi	Balrampur	50 km
5.	Tulsipur	8,407.10	Janakpur	Balrampur	38 km
	Total Area of core zone	**45,262.40**			
6.	Rampur	10,366.90	Ramwapur	Balrampur	52 km
7.	Bhambhar	12,414.80	Semra	Balrampur	68 km
	Total Area of the Buffer Zone	**22,781.70**			

Barring the West Sohelwa range, there are six Forest Rest Houses in the remaining six ranges of the Sanctuary (see Table II). These six rest houses namely Sohelwa, Pipra, Nandmahra, Janakpur, Jarwa and Beerpur are open for tourists on nominal payment; however visitors to these areas will need prior approval from the Divisional Forest Office at Balrampur for accommodation. Most of these rest houses have two double bed rooms and most of them are inside the Forest Range campus with easy access to wildlife and nature trails leading to the wetlands or to various beats of the ranges.

Weaver birds feeding on grass seeds

Table II: Forest Rest Houses (FRH) at Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary

	Forest Rest House	*Name of the Range*	*Distance from Range HQ*	*Distance from Tulsipur*	*Range FRH Coordinates*
1.	Sohelwa FRH	East Sohelwa	0 km	54 km	N 27° 50’ 35.8” E 82° 05’ 27.5”
2.	Pipra FRH	Bankatwa	15 km	36 km	N 27° 46’ 40.7” E 82° 11’ 34.1”
3.	Nandmahra FRH	Barhawa	15/45 km	25 km	N 27° 39’ 33.7” E 82° 23’ 10.1”
4.	Janakpur FRH	Tulsipur	0 km	15 km	N 27° 35’ 51.6” E 82° 28’ 14.9”
5.	Jarwa FRH	Rampur	9.5 km	25 km	N 27° 38’ 58.9” E 82° 31’ 30.7”
6.	Beerpur FRH	Bhambhar	1 km from Semra	30 km	N 27° 36’ 00.4” E 82° 39’ 17.9”

Forest Rest House, Poorvi Sohelwa

The Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department, in order to control flooding and monitoring water level for agricultural and other purposes, have constructed 11 water reservoirs in and around the Sanctuary in coordination with Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary. These wetlands namely Motipur, Rampur, Vanghoghwa, Khairman, Girgitahi, Ganeshpur, Baghelkhand, Bhagwanpur, Majgaowan, Chittaurgarh and Kohargaddi were built between the years 1955 and 1980, and are mainly filled with rainwater to provide water for irrigation in non-rainy season (see Table III). Among these water bodies, water in most reservoirs tend to dry up by February end, except for the Chittaurgarh and Kohargaddi reservoirs, which are large and present near forest areas. These two reservoirs are the main water sources for wildlife in the Sanctuary. However the Irrigation Department tries to maintain about 50-60 cm water level in at least one-third areas of most reservoirs for use in the dry seasons.

These water bodies with area ranging from 3 to 900 ha harbour a variety of water birds, especially during winters. Some of the seepages from these reservoirs provide excellent refuge for both resident as well as migratory birds that include waterfowls, egrets, herons, grassbirds, babblers, pipits, wagtails, munias and weaver birds. The close proximity of these wetlands to the Forest Rest Houses are beyond doubt a major attraction for the visiting tourist who can easily get to watch the wintering waterfowl through the *pucca* or forest roads, depending on the season. These wetlands play an important role in conserving the avifaunal diversity of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary.

Chittaurgarh Dam

Table III: Important Water Reservoirs in Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary

Name of Reservoir	*Area of Reservoir in hectare*	*Coordinates*	*Forest Range*	*Nearest Forest Rest House*	*Distance from nearest FRH (approx.)*
Motipur Reservoir	5.50	N 27° 52' 32.5" E 82° 01' 50.7"	West Sohelwa	Sohelwa FRH	11 km
Rampur Reservoir	308.04	N 27° 51' 07.0" E 82° 08' 34.2"	East Sohelwa	Sohelwa FRH	9 km
Vanghoghwa Reservoir	93.40	N 27° 47' 36.9" E 82° 08' 17.0"	East Sohelwa	Pipra FRH	7 km
Khairman Reservoir	185.27	N 27° 46' 14.9" E 82° 13' 18.6"	Bankatwa	Pipra FRH	20 km
Girgitahi Reservoir	384.80	N 27° 40' 35.6" E 82° 18' 57.0"	Barhawa	Nandmahra FRH	12/45 km
Ganeshpur Reservoir	890.60	N 27° 36' 55.1" E 82° 21' 06.1"	Barhawa	Nandmahra FRH	4/15 km
Baghelkhand Reservoir	70.08	N 27° 37' 22.3" E 82° 25' 16.6"	Tulsipur	Janakpur FRH	21 km
Bhagwanpur Reservoir	352.10	N 27° 35' 20.3" E 82° 27' 21.1"	Tulsipur	Janakpur FRH	1 km
Majgaowan Reservoir	2.80	N 27° 37' 32.7" E 82° 32' 04.2"	Rampur	Jarwa FRH	4.5 km
Chittaurgarh Reservoir	416.20	N 27° 34' 38.5" E 82° 35' 57.6"	Rampur Bhambhar	Jarwa FRH Beerpur FRH	13 km 9 km
Kohargaddi Reservoir	70.50	N 27° 37' 09.6" E 82° 38' 56.0"	Bhambhar	Beerpur FRH	2 km

Wet tall grasslands are ideal habitat for several birds.

Himalayan Bulbul
Red-whiskered Bulbul
Red-vented Bulbul
Black Bulbul
Black-crested Bulbul

Bulbuls of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary

AVIFAUNA OF VARIOUS RANGES OF SUHELDEV WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

1) West Sohelwa Forest Range (N 27° 51’ 22.2” E 82° 56’ 51.1”)

The westernmost range of this Sanctuary with its headquarters in Bamanpurva, Shravasti district forms part of the core area and covers 9,035.70 ha. This range comprises six beats: Billi (Bamanpurva), Bhachkahi, Katkuiya, Madargadh, Rampur and Raniyapur.

The Motipur reservoir, spread over an area of 5.5 ha and also part of Rampur reservoir, is present in this range. Although there is no Forest Rest House in this range, the Sohelwa Forest Rest House of East Sohelwa range is only 11 km from the Motipur wetland. During winter, several species of waterbirds can be seen in the Motipur wetlands, especially the deep diving ducks. Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* and Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* are found when the reservoir water level is high. Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus,* Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger* and several species of egret and herons are also present in large numbers.


Black Stork

Motipur Reservoir

Fish-eagle

The riparian forest next to the wetland is home to the Near Threatened Lesser Fish-eagle *Icthyophaga humillus* and Grey-headed Fish-eagle *Icthyophaga ichthyaetus*. The mixed forest area in this range is very good for several arboreal birds and the BNHS team recorded more than 100 species of birds from this part alone. The BNHS team marked a Line Transect in Bankatwa beat to study birds in various seasons. In this range one can easily see five species of drongos, six species of woodpeckers, five species of owls, and the Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* is a species that may be encountered in the core forest areas.

Six species of vultures, White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis,* Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris,* Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus,* Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis,* Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* and Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* were

Vultures feeding on a carcass.

recorded between West and East Sohelwa range during our surveys in the winters. The Katkuiya beat in this range has been listed as a Priority-3 Grassland (Rahmani and Islam 2000), considering the conservation requirements of the Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis*. However the BNHS team could not locate this important grassland species during its survey.

The Tharu villages in the West Sohelwa range on way to the core Sanctuary areas, with their distinctive lifestyle and culture, are an added tourist attraction. The eco-friendly traditional handicrafts from these areas are ideal souvenirs for visitors.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater

2) East Sohelwa Forest Range (N 27° 50’ 35.8” E 82° 05’ 27.5”)

Out of the seven ranges of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, the East Sohelwa range in the core area is perhaps the most tourist-oriented, beautiful, and diversified part of this Sanctuary. Blessed with a well-equipped Forest Rest House, Interpretation Centre and forest complex at Sohelwa, this range has access both from Balrampur and Bahraich via Bhinga.

This range, with an area of 8,031.60 ha, is made up of the following four beats: Jarmauli West, East Jarmauli, Merkia and Sohelwa East. Two important water reservoirs—Rampur reservoir (308.04 ha) and Vanghoghwa Wetland (93.40 ha)—found in the region are located at a distance of approximately 10 km from the Forest Rest House. The Rampur reservoir is one of the most popular bird watching centres in the Sanctuary where several water birds, both migratory and breeding visitors are seen throughout the year. The highlight of this water

Rampur Wetland


White-eyed Buzzard


Brown Hawk-owl

Raptors of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary


Black-winged Kite


Shikra


Vanghoghwa Wetland

body is the sighting of rare and threatened avifaunal diversity varying with seasons. This includes species such the Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Painted Stork *Myteria leucocephala,* Black-necked Stork *Ephipporhynchus asiaticus*, Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*, Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*, Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*, River Tern *Sterna aurantia,* Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*, Brown-headed Gull *Chroicecephalus brunnicephalus,* Common Black-headed Gull *Chroicecephalus ridibundus* and Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis.* The mixed forest next to the wetland is home to Forest Eagle-owl *Ketupa nipalensis* and several eagle species. The scrub forest on the tracks surrounding the reservoirs attracts several warbler species.

The Vanghoghwa Wetland is also an excellent birding area especially for raptors during winters. Ranging from spotted eagles *Clanga* spp., fish-eagles *Icthyophaga,* Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus,* Changeable Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus limnaeetus,* Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchu* to commonly seen Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus,* any interested birdwatcher can see 10-15 raptor species during a visit on a winter morning. Common duck species such as Gadwall *Mareca strepera,* Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*, Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* and Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* are also easily seen in the wetland along with egrets, herons and other water birds.

Amur Falcons

The BNHS team recorded more than 150 Amur Falcons *Falco amurensis*, about 10 km before the Poorvi Suhelwa Forest Rest House on 9th November 2013. This is the first record of this species from Uttar Pradesh (Bhargava *et al.* 2014).

The forest tracks in this range are home to numerous species of birds. The team documented nearly 200 species from this range. Owing to the great avian diversity present in the mixed forest of this range, the BNHS team based on their preliminary surveys selected three Line transects in this range, one in Bhawanaka and two in Baisahinaka, both good areas for bird watching. The density and number of species encountered during winters in these transects were very high. White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*, Magpie Robin *Copsychus*

Plum-headed Parakeets

saularis, drongos *Dicrurus* spp., orioles *Oriolus* spp., bulbuls *Pycnonotus* spp., Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*, parakeets *Psittacula* spp., Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* and Fantail *Rhipidura* spp. were noted in this area.

The sighting of Leopard is not uncommon in this range. Chital and Golden Jackal are also encountered on the forest tracks throughout the transects.

This range of the Sanctuary also has three major tourist attractions where hundreds of people visit for religious purposes throughout the year. 1) Vibhootinath Temple (locally also known as Guptkashi) located in the Merkia beat: It is believed that this ancient temple was established by the Pandava King Karana and has the ancient linga of Lord Shiva. 2) The Razia taal, located in the Jarmauli beat: It is said to be developed and named after Razia Sultan. This small wetland with water throughout the year is located in between rich mixed forest and is host to several water birds including the resident Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica* and Cotton Teal *Nettapus coromandelianus*, both species of jacanas and raptors such as the Lesser Fish-eagle *Icthyophaga humillus*. 3) Sonpatri Ashram located on Nepal border in Sohelwa range: It is known for the mediation site and Samadhi of Swami Shri Sidhnathi. According to the locals, this place was also the ashram of Agastya Muni and now also has a Goddess Durga temple.

Sonpatri Ashram

Hornbills of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary

Indian Grey Hornbill and Oriental Pied Hornbill

3) Bankatwa Forest Range (N 27° 44’ 09.8” E 82° 15’ 02.7”)

This central part of the core Sanctuary range in Balrampur district, encompassing an area of 9,672.10 ha, is further divided into six beats: Chaudhridih, North Khairman, South Khairman, Pipra, Rehtawal and Tikuligarh.

The excellent Forest Rest House at Pipra is famous for Leopard sightings. Other wildlife seen in this range is Spotted Deer, Sambhar, Barking Deer, Wild Pig and Golden Jackal. With forest trails from Pipra, visitors can go on nature walks in any direction and see plenty of bird species everywhere. Some major species one can expect to encounter are the Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*, Blue-naped Monarch *Hypothymis auzrea*, Tawny-bellied

Khairman Reservoir

Ruddy Shelduck

Himalayan Flameback

Babbler *Dumetia hyperythra*, Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris*, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae*, Orange-breasted Green-pigeon *Treron bicinctus* and Ashy-headed Green-pigeon *Treron phayrei* apart from the species such as woodpeckers, drongos and bulbuls.

About 20 km from the Pipra Rest House is the Khairman reservoir (185.27 ha), the only water body in this range. Surrounded by forest on most sides, this wetland is host to several species of water birds. Several species of egrets, herons, cormorants, Little Grebe, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Common Moorhen are see throughout the year in addition to migratory ducks such as Ruddy Shelduck, Garganey, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail.

Water Birds of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary


Bronze-winged Jacana


Black-winged Stilt


Little Grebe


Great Cormorant


Indian Pond-heron


Grey-headed Lapwing

4) Barhawa Forest Range (N 27° 40’ 39.0” E 82° 18’ 26.9”)

Another part of the core Sanctuary area is the Barhawa range in Balrampur district with its range office at Girgitahi. This 10,115.90 ha range comprises seven beats: Barhawa, Ganeshpur, Lauki, Nandmahra, North Bhadwar, South Bhadwar and Tenduanagar. There are two water reservoirs in this range, Girgitahi (384.80 ha) and Ganeshpur (890.60 ha) and the Forest Rest House is in Nandmahra beat, 25 km from Tulsipur. The Ganeshpur wetland 15 km from the main road can be also approached from inside the forest. Similarly the Girgitahi reservoir, 12 km from the Forest Rest House inside the forest road or 45 km from the main roads, gets water birds during the winters depending on the water level. Sometimes in the winters, huge flocks of water birds stay for a few days until water level is low and submerged aquatic vegetation is within the reach of the ducks.

The various beats in the range, quite approachable by forest tracts from the Nandmahra Forest Rest House, can surprise any birdwatcher. In a radius of 5 km from this guest house, in a day a visitor can easily see 60-80 species including birds inhabiting agricultural areas or transitional species which include species such as the Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus h. hodgsoni*, Richard’s Pipit *Anthus richardi* and Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*. One will be easily

Grassland Birds of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary


Crested Bunting


Bluethroat


Ashy-crowned Finch-lark


Bengal Bushlark


Paddyfield Pipit


Pied Bushchat


'Black-headed' Long-tailed Shrike

rewarded with the sighting of seven species of shrikes in and around this range namely the 'Black-headed' Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach tricolor,* 'Rufous-backed' Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach erythronotus,* Great Grey Shrike *Lanis excubitor lahtora,* Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus,* Brown Shrike *Lanis c. cristatus,* Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* and Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*. The high density of Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris,* Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina maceii and* Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* is a visitor's delight in this range.

Further, towards the Nepal hill, one can see Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris,* Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys,* Black Bulbul *Hepsipetes leucocephalus,* Gold-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* and Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*.


Ganeshpur Wetland

5) Tulsipur Forest Range (27° 35’ 47.0” N, 82° 28’ 11.9”E)

The Tulsipur Forest range in true sense is the gateway to the Sanctuary. This 8,407.10 ha range in the core area in Balrampur district comprises seven beats: Baghelkhand, Bhaisasur, Hasanapur, Janakpur, Navanagar, Udaipur and Nawalgarh**.** With a large Forest Rest House in Janakpur Forest Complex, this range also has two water reservoirs, one of which attracts quite a large number of water birds.

The Baghelkhand reservoir (70.08 ha), although a small water body 21 km from Janakpur Forest Rest House, is a bird watcher’s paradise especially during the winters. During visits by the BNHS team to this wetland not less than 2,000 water birds of 30 species were recorded within an hour. Among them the most conspicuous were the Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*, Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Indian Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa,* Great Egret *Egretta alba*, Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* along with large flocks of Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica* and Comb or Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*. The Bhagwanpur reservoir (352.10) only one kilometre from the Janakpur Forest Rest House attracts water birds depending on the water level availability.

Baghelkhand Reservoir

Drongos of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary

White-bellied Drongo, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Hair-crested Drongo and Black Drongo.

During early winter mornings, the tree plantation at Janakpur Forest Rest House attracts a variety of drongos species—Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*, Ashy Drongo *Edolius leucophaeus*, White-bellied Drongo *Edolius caerulescensi*, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseusi* and Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*—all can be seen at this campus from the Rest House. Apart from birds, this range has a good population of Golden Jackal and Hanuman Langur.

The Devipatan Mandir at Tulsipur is a well-known Goddess Durga temple, visited by thousands of people each year for religious purposes.

Flying Fox at Devipatan Temple

6) Rampur Forest Range (N 27° 35’ 48.8” E 82° 34’ 06.7”)

Despite being a range present in the buffer zone with an area of 10,366.90 ha, with headquarters in Ramwapur, this part of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary is perhaps the most promising for any birding tourist. The Rampur range is divided into seven beats: Jarwa, Mansurwa, Pathkhauli, Rajderwa, Rampur, Sakra and Songarha. The easy approach to the Jarwa Forest Rest House, leading to Koilabas in Nepal in the northern side, caters to a variety of birds. From conservation point of view, this range is very important for two reasons: firstly, out of the 26 species Globally Threatened recorded in this Sanctuary by the BNHS team, 12 species were from this range. Also the easy access to hill birds because of the *pucca* road leading to Nepal foothills is a bonus for visitors. However the increasing human habitation is a direct threat to the rare bio-diversity of this range, and hence it is important that the wildlife here is conserved and protected from the emerging socio-economic threats.

The large cattle population in the villages supports a constant food supply to several vulture species such as the White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis,* Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris,* Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus,* Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis,* Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* and Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* seen throughout (especially winters) in this range.


Koilabas


Open-billed Stork

As most menfolk from the villages work in far-flung cities, Tharu and other community women, along with old men, mostly practice traditional agriculture. This includes pulse, paddy and wheat cultivation without much weed eradication or use of insecticides. Many times fallow field are also a common sight in this region. This kind of agriculture combined with huge stands of wet tall grasses such as *Typha, Sacchrum* and *Arundo* inhabiting seepages of the Chittaurgarh reservoir attract several birds to breed, roost and feed on grass seeds. The occurrence of more than 200 Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* near Chittaurgarh is a testimony to this. This buffer area with or without cultivation in between forest patch and villages is home to several munia species, weaver birds, finch-larks, larks, pipits, francolins, quails and wagtails.

During the BNHS survey, the repeated sighting of another Vulnerable species, the Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus,* in Mansurwa forest beat added to make this range special. According to Rahmani *et al.* (2014), the Great Slaty Woodpecker has been uplisted to the Vulnerable category by BirdLife International and IUCN as it has suffered a rapid population decline mainly due to forest destruction and forest degradation. Kumar *et al.* (2011) found that the Great Slaty Woodpecker is almost absent in managed forest and teak plantations. Most of the observations were in stands of mature Sal trees with a diameter >60 cm.

Forest Birds of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary


Black-hooded Oriole


Orange-headed Thrush


White-rumped Shama


Crimson Sunbird


Verditer Flycatcher


Gold-fronted Leafbird

Swallows and Sand-martins are common near reservoirs.

The Jarwa beats on the Koilabas road, on either side, are again excellent area for birding. The high density of eight species of woodpeckers, five species of drongos, four species of parakeets, ten species of doves and green-pigeons, minivets, sunbirds, ioras, owls, warblers are a delight for casual birders with a bonus sighting of Leopard in most cases. On the northern end of the range towards Nepal, during the winter one can expect to see hill birds such as the Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha,* White-capped River-chat *Phoenicurus leucocephalus,* Blue Whistling-thrush *Myophonus caeruleus,* Slaty-headed

Lesser Whistling-duck

Parakeet *Psittacula himalayana* and Himalayan Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris*. We have to inform the Seema Suraksha Bal about our movements before going for bird-watching.

There are two water bodies in this range—Majgaowan reservoir and Chittaurgarh reservoir—barely 5 km and 13 km from the Jarwa Forest Rest House. The water cricks from the Majgaowan Reservoir leaking into nearby sugarcane plantations attract several species of starling to roost sometimes in large numbers (>3000) in different seasons. The insects generated here attract bee-eaters, swallow, swifts and sand-martins throughout the year apart from egrets and other water birds. The Chittaurgarh Reservoir is the key point for several water bird species and on a winter day one can easily see 50 or more bird species around this wetland. The wetland area near the Suganagar Dumri is a heaven for wintering ducks where one can see up to 1,500–2,000 birds. The conspicuous species found in this wetland are the Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula,* Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca,* Common Pochard *Aythya ferina,* Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina,* Gadwall *Mareca strepera,* Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca Penelope,* Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus,* Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus,* Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus,* Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus,* Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitansi* and Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus.*


Suganagar Dumri

Water-birds of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary


Eurasian Coot


Grey Heron


Tufted Duck


Purple Swamphen


Common Pochard


Bar-headed Goose

7) Bhambhar Forest Range (N 27° 35’ 34.5” E 82° 39’ 04.8”)

The last range of the Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, with an area of 12,414.80 ha and range headquarters in Semra, is located in the Balrampur district. The boundary of the Bhambhar range touches Siddharth Nagar district in the east and Nepal in the north. The Beerpur Forest Rest House is an ideal guest house and can be approached via Pachperwa or from Jarwa via Chittaurgarh Reservoir, which is also a part of this range.

The ten beats of this range, Belbharia, Bhagwanpur, Birpur, Marni, Narihwa, North Chandanpur, Rehra, South Chandanpur and Thulwadia, are interspersed with cultivation and are promising areas for small passerines such as Crested Bunting *Emberiza lathami*, Common Rosefinch *Erythrina erythrina,* Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata,* Yellow-throated Sparrow *Gymnoris xanthocollis* and Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*. In the buffer area of the forest both the Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundooi* and Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolous xanthornus* can be seen in the summers.

The small Kohargaddi Reservoir (70.50 ha) less than two kilometres from the Beerpur Forest

Kohargaddi Reservoir

Black Francolin

Rest House is full of water birds in the winter, depending on the water-level. It is good to highlight that apart from wintering water birds found in most wetlands of this area, the resident birds such as Cotton Teal *Nettapus coromandelianus,* Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica,* Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha,* Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus,* Indian Pond-heron *Ardeola grayii,* Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticoraxnycticorax,* Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea,* Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus* and Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* may be seen even in the summer months, depending on the water availability.

Tricoloured Munias feeding on grass seeds

Mynas of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary


Brahminy Starling


Grey-headed Starling


Asian Pied Starling


Jungle Myna


Common Myna


Bank Myna

METHODOLOGY

From November 2013 to November 2014, the BNHS team visited all ranges and wetlands of the Sanctuary. During the surveys spread over a period of one year, our attempt was to cover the diversity of habitats—mixed forest, monoculture Sal and Teak plantations, grasslands and wetlands—to obtain diversified checklist of birds inhabiting different niches.

A total of six transects of one kilometre each were randomly selected to represent the various habitat types. In all, we conducted 36 Line Transects, six each as appropriate, in a particular marked transect during the peak activity period of birds, to check bird species richness, relative abundance and diversity in respective habitats. During the line transects, the bird name, number, sex, its activity and approximate perpendicular distances from the observer were noted down.

Coordinates of Line Transects	
Bhawanaka	**N 27° 52' 15.4" E 82° 03' 09.7" to N 27° 52' 45.3" E 82° 03' 17.6"**
Baisahinaka FRH	**N 27° 51' 12.2" E 82° 05' 57.9" to N 27° 51' 50.2" E 82° 05' 38.9"**
Baisahinaka SSB	**N 27° 52' 05.6" E 82° 06' 28.1" to N 27° 51' 36.4" E 82° 06' 12.0"**
Bankatwa	**N 27° 52' 41.0" E 81° 58' 26.7" to N 27° 52' 41.6" E 81° 58' 55.0"**
Mansurwa	**N 27° 37' 52.9" E 82° 33' 58.0" to N 27° 38' 01.4" E 82° 33' 29.9"**
Jarwa	**N 27° 40' 21.9" E 82° 31' 17.4" to N 27° 40' 13.8" E 82° 30' 46.6"**

Besides transect monitoring, opportunistic observations were made on all bird species encountered in different parts of the Sanctuary. The aim was to compile an inventory of all bird species and families by careful recording, and particularly to find the status of threatened birds of Suheldev. An annotated checklist of birds recorded in various seasons was maintained and a list of all bird species was prepared (see Appendix). Photographs of birds and their habitat were taken in most cases. The focus was also on arrival and departure of migratory birds especially at the wetlands during the winter surveys, taking into consideration the weather conditions, and point counts were carried in wetlands and water bodies.

For each species recorded, it was tried to assign its status, i.e. whether it is a year-round Resident (RB), Winter visitor (WV); Breeding visitor (BV); Local migrant (LM); Spring migration (SM); Fall migration (FM); Two-way migration (TWM). This was based on our

year round observation and also on previous published sources or from information gathered from other researches.

We tried to identify the main habitats of each species and categorised them broadly as Mixed Forest (MF); Wetland (WL); Monoculture Sal or Teak Forest (MC); Marshland (ML); Riparian Forest (RF); Grassland (GL); Agricultural crop fields on forest edges (AGR) and Wooded Grassland (WGL). If a species was found in many habitats, then all were included in the Appendix. However, to study the proportion of threatened species in each habitat category, only the main habitat was considered. Wetland and marshland species were clamped together because of the practical difficulty in delineating the habitat boundaries for certain species.

Further the team tried to categorise each species as Common (C = seen frequently, more than 10 sightings); Occasional (O = less than 10 sightings) and Uncommon (U = less than 5 sightings, and irregularly seen).

Special emphasis was given to globally threatened species such as vultures, storks and cranes. The Appendix also cites the level of threat for each species based on the list prepared by BirdLife International for IUCN. This includes Critical (CR); Endangered (EN); Vulnerable (VU); Near Threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC).

RESULTS

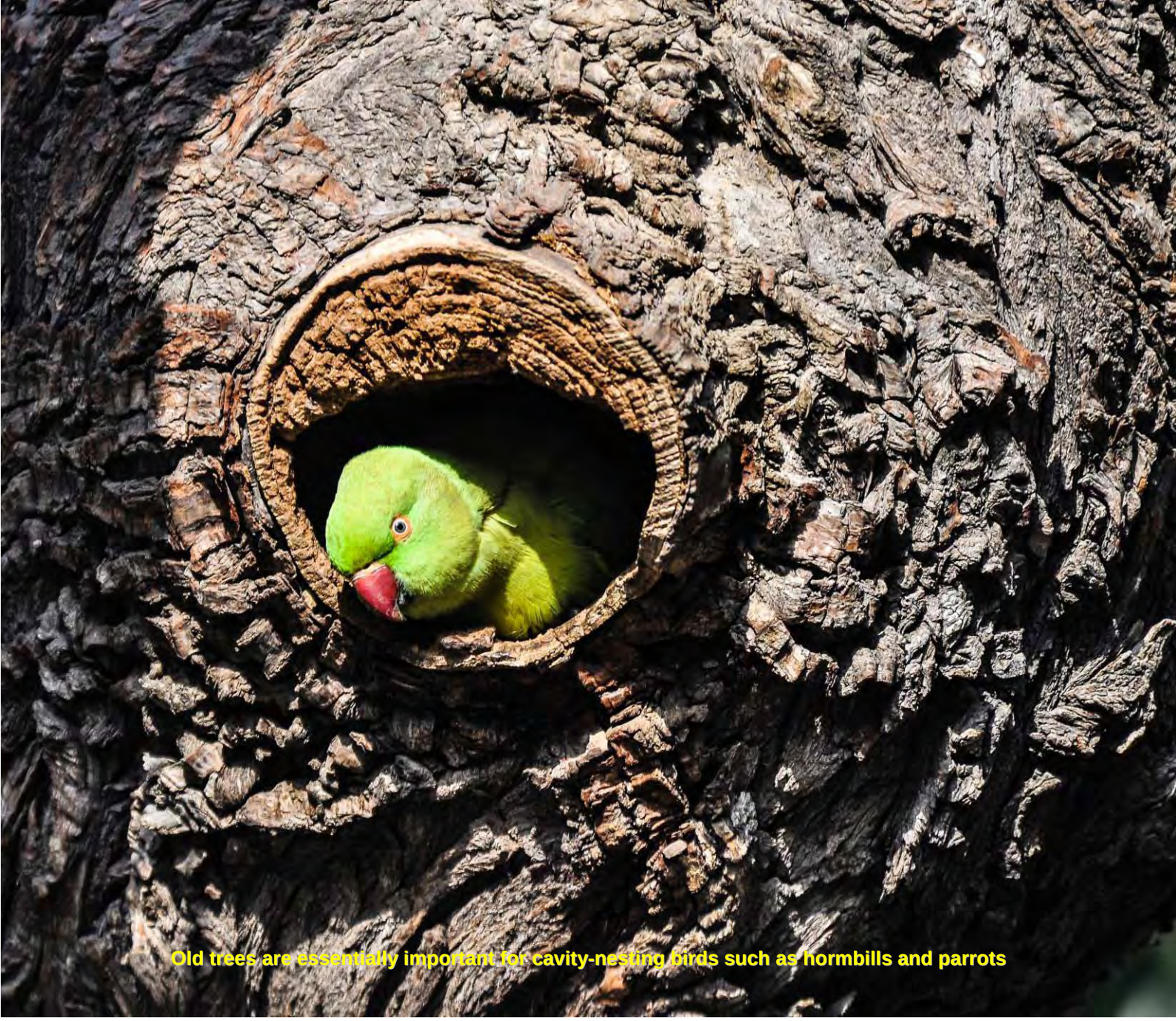
A total of 281 species of birds (see Appendix) were recorded at the Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary during the one-year study by BNHS spread over six visits in different seasons between November 2013 and November 2014. Prior to the current BNHS studies, there were no published record of birds found in this Sanctuary. However, there is a comprehensive list of birds mentioned in the Management Plan for this Sanctuary (2011-2012 to 2020-21) prepared by the UP Forest Department.

According to this document, there are 223 species found in the Sanctuary, out of which, 210 are common to the present 281 species list, based on direct sighting of each species by the BNHS team. Therefore, the present study records 71 new species, in addition to the previous list, and analysis also shows that the BNHS team missed on 13 species included in the Forest Department list. These include the Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*, Great White Pelican *P. onocrotalus*, Striated Heron *Butorides striata*, White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius*, Laggar Falcon *Falco jugger*, Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis*, Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea*, Lesser Florican *Syheotides indicus*, Brown Crake *Porazana akool*, Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis*, Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata* and Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*. Taking into account the above species, the list would total up to 294 bird species for the Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary. Though the 13 unrecorded species during the present BNHS survey are new to BNHS list in addition to the recent study records, one needs to look into the reasons for missing out on these species mentioned earlier. As some of them are in the threatened list, the BNHS team actually gave special focus to locate them, but it is a chance that the presence of these species could not be detected during the one-year study, despite some species being really large and conspicuous. Moreover, we did not see the Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* and Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*. Both these species are Critically Endangered species distributed in this belt. Although we saw six species of vultures during our survey, we never saw the Red-headed or King Vulture. This species was expected around this area with a good vulture population.

Of the 281 species recorded from this area during the present study, 174 (62%) species are year-round resident species, supposed or suspected to be breeding in the Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary. True breeding status of most species needs to be further researched in particular relation to the Sanctuary area, as BNHS team has not seen nests or young birds of all the year-round resident species recorded during their limited study period. The winter migrants constitute at least 73 (26%) species. The majority of these are waterfowl and also other species such as flycatchers, warblers and wagtails. Six species are breeding visitors (summer migrants) and 17 (6%) show local movements. There are just three species which pass through the area and stay for one or two days or sometimes for a week or so. The Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* is a fall migration species i.e., it passes only at the onset of migration in November, the Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* is a Spring migrant and passes through this area in March during its return journey, while the Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo* is a two-way migrant species i.e. passes at the start and end of winter migration from this area.

The BNHS study on habitat utilisation for various species at Suheldev show interesting results:

- 109 species of birds use mixed forest habitat, however 13 of these bird species do not use any other habitat and exclusively prefer mixed forest.
- 60 species of birds may use monoculture Sal or Teak forest habitat, however there is not a single bird species that only prefers monoculture plantation.
- 93 species of birds use wooded grassland (Shrubland) for their habitat, but only three of them prefer just wooded grassland.
- 25 species of birds use grassland habitat, but out of them, nine species use only grassland as their main habitat.
- 86 species of birds use agriculture crop fields (farmland and scrubland) on forest edges as their habitat, however nine species prefer only agriculture habitat.
- 67 species of water birds use wetland as their habitat, but out of these birds, 33 species exclusively prefer wetland.
- 55 species use marshland habitat, but out of these, 21 bird species would prefer marshland.
- 24 species in combination with other habitats use Riparian Forest, but only two species prefer largely the Riparian Forest habitat.



Old trees are essentially important for cavity-nesting birds such as hornbills and parrots

Analysing the above observations with regard to the preference of species for combination of various habitats shows that 103 species of birds use mixed forest and monoculture (Sal or Teak) forest habitat as their preferred home range. Among these, 53 species commonly use mixed forest and monoculture plantations.

Similar analysis shows that 107 species of birds use grassland and wooded grassland as their habitat, out of which 11 species frequently use both habitats. There are 160 species that use mixed forest and wooded grassland, although out of these 29 species from both habitats use a combination of habitats.

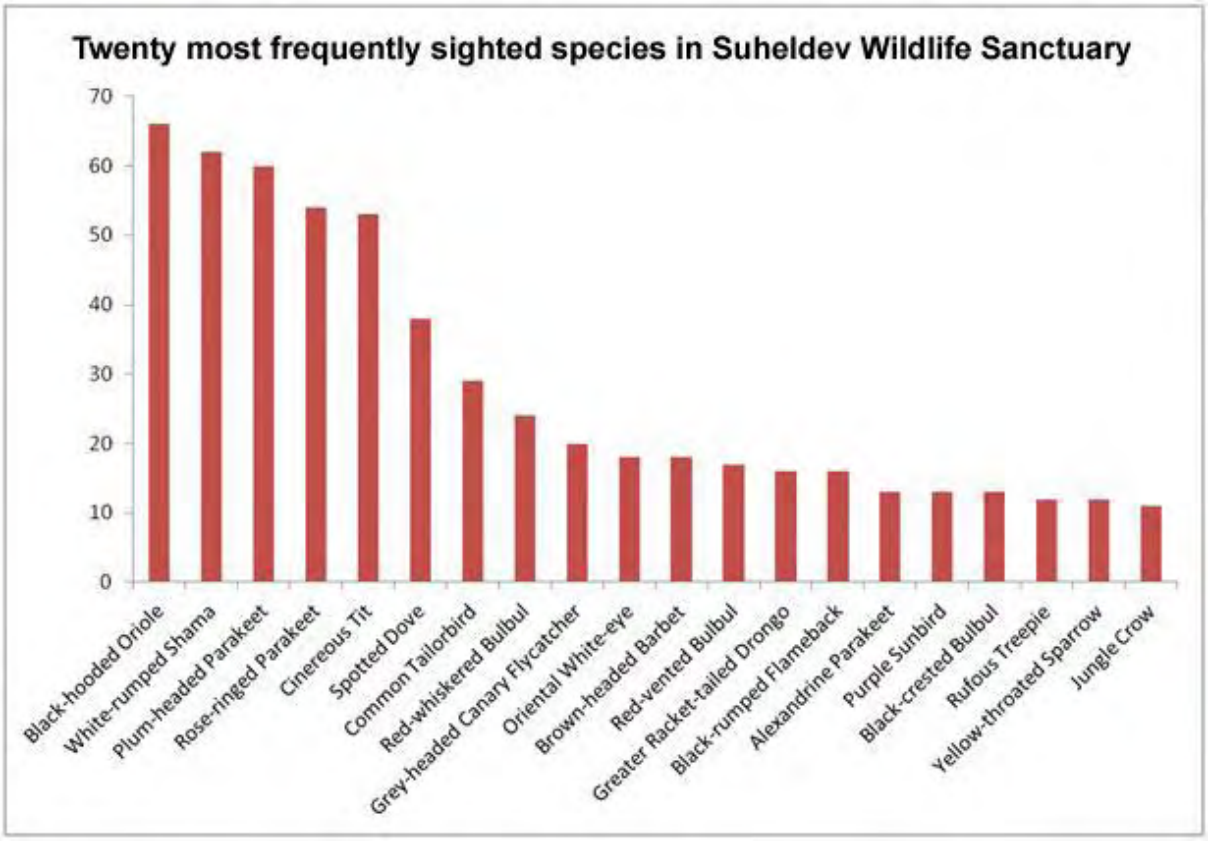
About 100 species of water birds use the wetland and marshland habitat as their home, out of these, 25 species actually use both habitats. Ninety-six species of birds are found in grassland and agriculture, although only fifteen use both habitats.

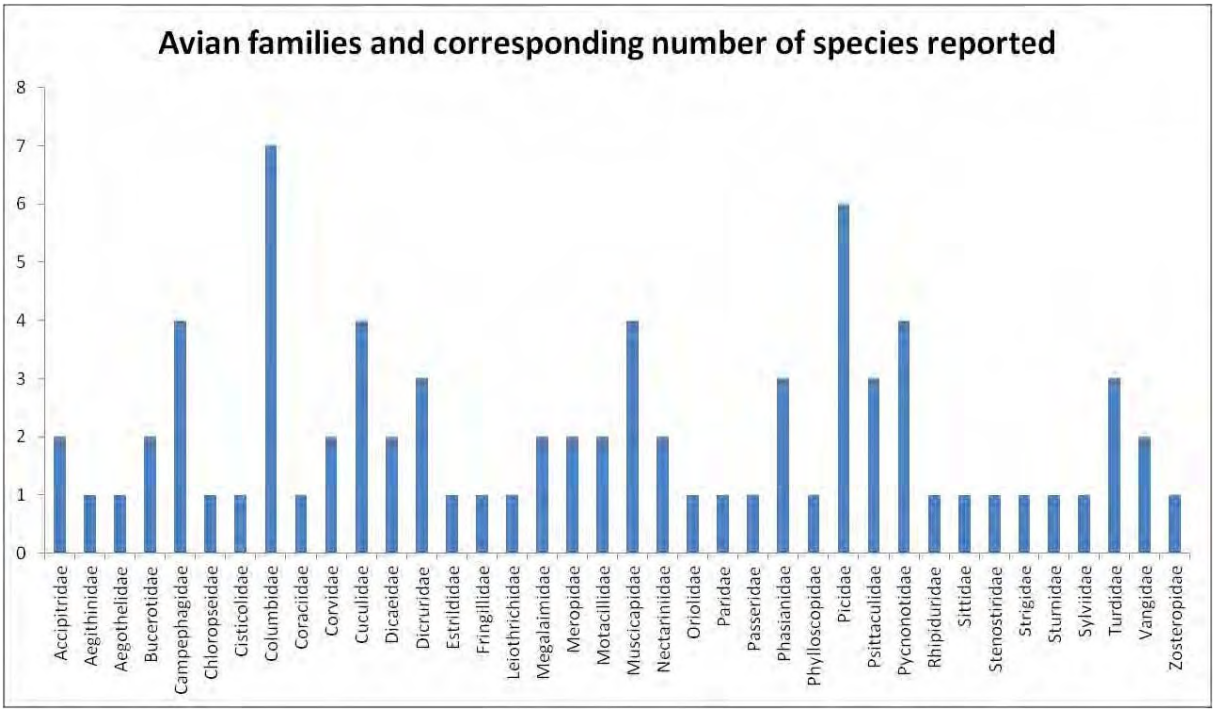
Table : Density of birds per hectare based on Line Transect data analysis

Species	No. of birds	Density per hectare
White-rumped Shama	62	12.4
Spotted Dove	38	7.6
Rose-ringed Parakeet	54	10.8
Cinereous Tit	53	10.6
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	16	3.2
Common Tailorbird	29	5.8
Warbler spp	85	17
Black-hooded Oriole	66	13.2
Red-whiskered Bulbul	24	4.8
Rufous Treepie	12	2.4
Black-rumped Flameback	16	3.2
Jungle Crow	11	2.2
Red-breasted Flycatcher	10	2
Plum-headed Parakeet	60	12
Oriental White-eye	18	3.6
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	20	4
Eurasian Collared-dove	4	0.8
Jungle Babbler	4	0.8
Pipit spp	3	0.6
Brown-headed Barbet	18	3.6
Alexandrine Parakeet	13	2.6
Common Hawk-cuckoo	6	1.2
Jungle Owlet	9	1.8
Bulbul spp	12	2.4
Purple Sunbird	13	2.6
Indian Peafowl	2	0.4
Woodpecker spp	15	3
Oriental Pied Hornbill	10	2
Common Iora	4	0.8
Red-vented Bulbul	17	3.4
Drongo spp	13	2.6
Oriental Magpie Robin	3	0.6
Red Junglefowl	3	0.6
Large Cuckooshrike	4	0.8
Fantail spp	2	0.4
Emerald Dove	3	0.6
Indian Grey Hornbill	3	0.6
Orange-breasted Green-pigeon	2	0.4
Greater Coucal	1	0.2
Little Green Bee-eater	1	0.2
Spangled Drongo	10	2
White-bellied Drongo	7	1.4
Coppersmith Barbet	5	1

Species	No. of birds	Density per hectare
Lesser Whitethroat	3	0.6
Minivet spp	3	0.6
Grey Wagtail	2	0.4
Asian Koel	1	0.2
Flycatcher spp	1	0.2
Flowerpecker spp	2	0.2
Himalayan Flameback	2	0.4
Thrush spp	2	0.4
White-browed Fantail	2	0.4
Cuckoo spp	1	0.2
Grey-headed Starling	1	0.2
Indian Nuthatch	1	0.2
Mixed Hunting Party	1	0.2
Rufous Woodpecker	1	0.2
Black-crested Bulbul	13	2.6
Yellow-throated Sparrow	12	2.4
Common Woodshrike	8	1.6
Indian Roller	8	1.6
Gold-fronted Leafbird	5	1
Long-tailed Minivet	4	0.8
Oriental Turtle-dove	3	0.6
Crimson Sunbird	2	0.4
Great Slaty Woodpecker	2	0.4
Small Minivet	2	0.4
Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker	2	0.4
Ashy-headed Green-pigeon	1	0.2
Black Francolin	1	0.2
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	1	0.2
Common Rosefinch	1	0.2
Green-billed Malkoha	1	0.2
Green-pigeon spp	1	0.2
Grey-winged Blackbird	1	0.2
Himalayan Bulbul	1	0.2
Indian Pygmy Woodpecker	1	0.2
Nightjar spp	1	0.2
Orange-headed Thrush	1	0.2
Phylloscopus spp	1	0.2
Pied Flycatcher-shrike	1	0.2
Scaly-breasted Munia	1	0.2
Scarlet Minivet	1	0.2
Shikra	1	0.2
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	1	0.2
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	1	0.2


White-throated Munia





The prime focus of this study was to find the status of threatened species found in this area. Out of the 281 species recorded in the Sanctuary, 26 (nearly 10%) species belong to globally Threatened or Near Threatened category (see Table below) as per the latest IUCN list. This includes two Critically Endangered, three Endangered, six Vulnerable and 15 Near Threatened species.

Rahmani *et al.* (2011) mention about 500 species of birds recorded from Uttar Pradesh. This Sanctuary with nearly 300 birds is home to 60% of the State's birds and also host to nearly 25% of India's bird species (of the approximately 1200 Indian birds). Rahmani *et al.* (2014) mention 42 Threatened or Near Threatened species found in UP in their latest book THREATENED BIRDS OF UTTAR PRADESH. With 26 of these species occurring in the Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, this area with 61% of UP's threatened birds qualifies as a First Class birding destination of Uttar Pradesh, no less than Dudwa Tiger Reserve or any other park of India. According to the recent updates in the IUCN Red List of Threatened birds for India, there are 174 species listed now in the Threatened or Near Threatened category. With 26 of those species occurring in Suheldev, this Wildlife Sanctuary with 15% of India's Threatened birds again stands as a very important birding area.

Prior to our study, according to Islam and Rahmani (2004) this site was selected as an Important Bird Area on the basis of A1 (Swamp Francolin) and A3 (Biome Restricted Species) criteria. They also concluded that "As this site has great potential to host threatened and biome species, it is designated as a Data Deficient site".

This present study in true sense highlights the birding potential of this Sanctuary, being host to several threatened species. Taking into account the importance of conservation of these species, we highlight them in detail in this report.


Yellow-breasted Bunting

List of threatened birds recorded at Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary (recorded between November 2013 and November 2014)

Sr. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	
1	Slender-billed Vulture	*Gyps tenuirostris*
2	White-rumped Vulture	*Gyps bengalensis*
	ENDANGERED	
3	Egyptian Vulture	*Neophron percnopterus*
4	Black-bellied Tern	*Sterna acuticauda*
5	Yellow-breasted Bunting	*Emberiza aureola*
	VULNERABLE	
6	Woolly-necked Stork	*Ciconia episcopus*
7	Lesser Adjutant	*Leptoptilos javanicus*
8	Indian Spotted Eagle	*Clanga hastata*
9	Greater Spotted Eagle	*Clanga clanga*
10	Sarus Crane	*Grus antigone*
11	Great Slaty Woodpecker	*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*
	NEAR THREATENED	
12	Oriental Darter	*Anhinga melanogaster*
13	Painted Stork	*Mycteria leucocephala*
14	Black-necked Stork	*Ephipporhynchus asiaticus*
15	Black-headed Ibis	*Threskiornis melanocephalus*
16	Ferruginous Duck	*Aythya nyroca*
17	Lesser Fish-eagle	*Icthyophaga humillus*
18	Grey-headed Fish-eagle	*Icthyophaga ichthyaetus*
19	Himalayan Griffon	*Gyps himalayensis*
20	Cinereous Vulture	*Aegypius monachus*
21	Pallid Harrier	*Circus macrourus*
22	Red-headed Falcon	*Falco chicquera*
23	River Lapwing	*Vanellus duvaucelii*
24	River Tern	*Sterna aurantia*
25	Ashy-headed Green-pigeon	*Treron phayrei*
26	Alexandrine Parakeet	*Psittacula eupatria*

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE THREATENED BIRDS OF SUHELDEV

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*

The Slender-billed Vulture is perhaps the most threatened vulture in the world, with a very narrow distribution range, from north of the River Ganga and up to sub-Himalaya in north India, West Bengal and east to Assam (Rahmani 2012). The last estimate of population is below 1,000 individuals (Rahmani *et al*. 2014).

During the BNHS surveys in Suheldev, this species was recorded at four ranges—East Sohelwa, West Sohelwa, Rampur and Tulsipur—of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary on seven occasions. Based on current sighting of not less than 20 Slender-billed Vultures during the winter of 2013-14, the Sohelwa population, although small, stands significant for this Sanctuary. It probably breeds in the Poorvi Sohelwa range in the Sanctuary, thus making Suheldev again a very important site for this species.

Distribution

Its present stronghold in India is mainly in the lower Himalaya and Gangetic plain from Himachal Pradesh and Haryana in the west, to Uttar Pradesh, southern West Bengal, and east through Assam and the Northeastern Hill states. Historically, the Slender-billed Vulture ranged throughout the Himalayan foothills of India, Nepal, north and central Bangladesh, Myanmar (except the north) and Southeast Asian countries namely Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos.

In India and Nepal, the Slender-billed Vulture was common till the mid-1990s, but since the introduction of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) diclofenac, it has suffered a massive decline along with the White-backed (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Long-billed Vultures.

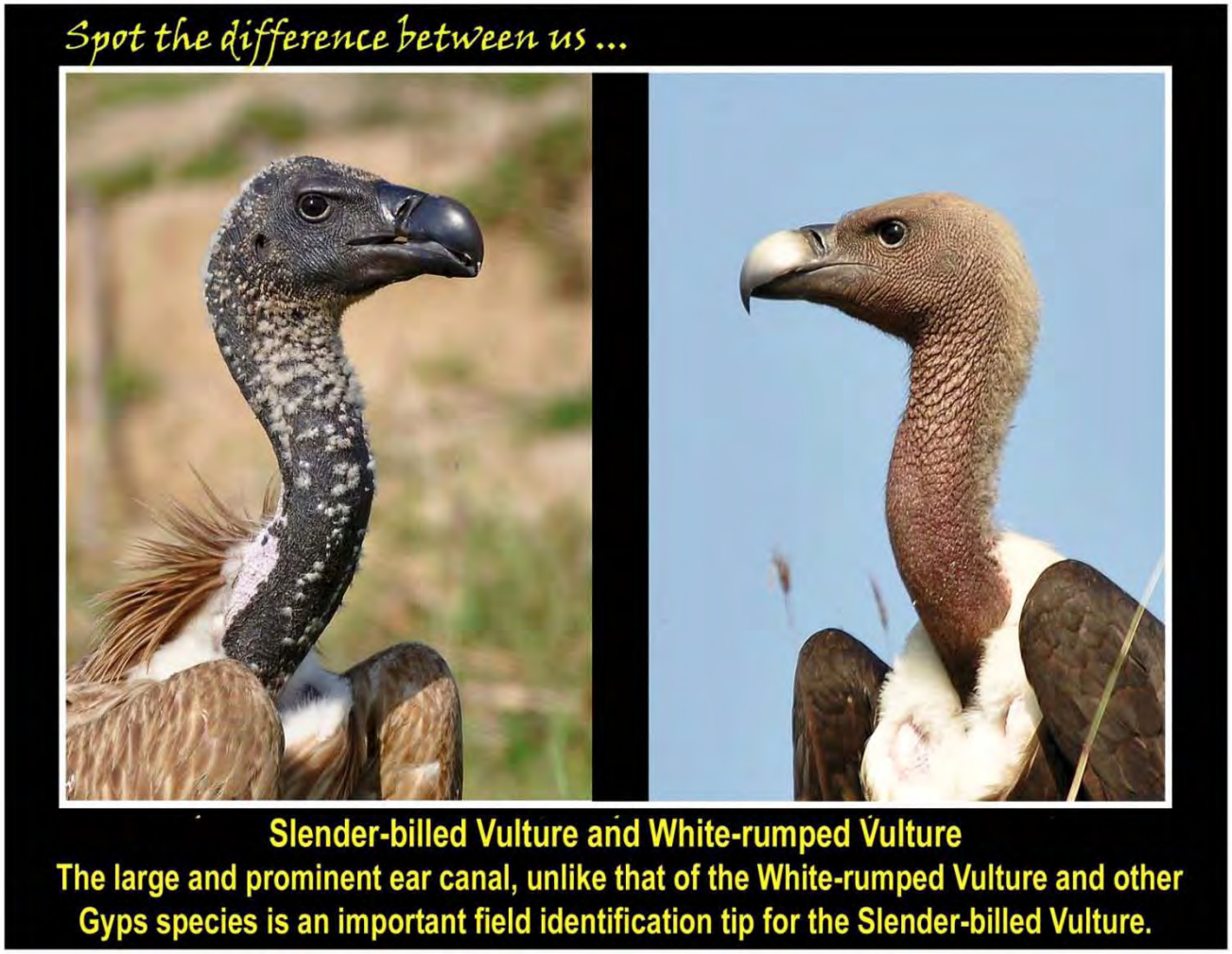
Habitat

The Slender-billed Vulture is a bird of open dry country, often seen near human habitations, mainly at carcass dumps where it feeds, along with White-backed Vulture on carrion. Despite its hooked bill and sharp claws, it does not kill its prey but feeds on carcasses of large or medium sized ungulates. It tolerates human presence and sometimes breeds near villages on tall trees. It is a social bird, feeding, roosting, and resting in large loose flocks, often with other species of vultures.

The breeding season is in winter, from November to May. The nest is found on large tall trees, from 8–12 m, often in loose colonies. Only one egg is laid and both parents help in incubation and raising the chick.

Threats

The main threat to the Slender-billed and other species of *Gyps* vultures in Asia is from the veterinary use of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, (NSAID) diclofenac. This drug is used as a pain killer for domestic livestock. If the animal dies within 2–5 days of ingestion of diclofenac and the vultures feed on its carcass, they suffer renal failure causing visceral gout. Other contributory factors are changes in disposal method of dead livestock, unintentional poisoning and vehicle/train accidents, but these probably have minor significance.



White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*

The White-rumped or White-backed Vulture qualifies as Critically Endangered because it has suffered an extremely rapid population decline, primarily as a result of feeding on carcasses of animals treated with the drug diclofenac (Rahmani *et al.* 2014; BirdLife International 2014).

During the BNHS surveys, this species was recorded from four ranges—East Sohelwa, West Sohelwa, Rampur and Tulsipur ranges. More than 60 White-backed Vultures among mixed flocks of Slender-billed and Himalayan Griffon were recorded from the buffer areas of the Sanctuary. The presence of more than 60-70% juveniles among the vultures recorded by the team indicated a good breeding success of this species at Suheldev. The presence of livestock around the Sanctuary ensures a good food supply for these birds, nevertheless there is equal threat from livestock if in case the drug diclofenac is used for treatment.

Distribution

Before the 1990s, the White-backed was probably the most abundant vulture in the world, particularly in the northern states of India. It was also reported from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and southern Vietnam, and earlier from southern China and Malaysia, but nowhere as abundant as in India, southern parts of Nepal and the Punjab province of Pakistan. It has been recorded from southeast Afghanistan and Iran where its status is currently unknown. According to BirdLife International (2001), it disappeared from most of Southeast Asia in the early 20th century and the only viable populations in the region are found in Cambodia and Myanmar.

In Uttar Pradesh, White-backed Vultures are now limited to certain pockets and are found in limited numbers. According to published records provided by Rahmani *et al.* (2014), there

are numerous records of White-backed Vultures from Suheldev in the recent years: mixed flock of 50+ birds along with Himalayan and Eurasian Griffon were recorded on Balrampur-Tulsipur road in March 2009. Similarly, in December 2009, over 30 vultures were recorded roosting on a Mango and a dry Silk cotton tree in a grassland near Motipur reservoir. Regular sighting of 20 to 60 vultures was reported from between August 2010 to February 2011 from east and west Sohelwa ranges, mostly around Hathiakunda and Bhainsahi streams. During January 2012, over 70 Vultures were recorded on a leafless tree from Navashahr beat in Tulsipur range. Mixed flock of more than 100 vultures was recorded near Bankatwa during early 2013.

Habitat

The White-backed Vulture is a bird of open countryside, avoiding thick forests and wooded hilly areas. As it feeds on large carcasses, it has to locate them visually, so it soars regularly on thermals, covering vast areas of hundreds of square kilometres in a single day. It finds food either by its own sightings or by looking at other descending vultures and scavengers.

The White-backed Vulture is a resident species with a large home range. It lives in flocks and breeds on tall trees in loose scattered colonies. However, young birds may nest solitarily.

Since the continuing decline of the White-backed Vulture populations from the mid-1990s, domestic animal carcasses are now mainly attended by dogs and crows. It is presumed that the population of pie dogs has increased correspondingly, triggering a scare of rabies in humans.

Threats

The White-backed Vulture, like the other two Gyps species, is in real danger of becoming extinct in another 5–10 years if diclofenac is not effectively and completely banned from veterinary use.

ENDANGERED

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

The Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* is perhaps the most widespread vulture of the Old World. In its wide range, it is declining rapidly, therefore it has been listed it as Endangered (BirdLife International 2014). It is a long-lived and slow breeding bird with very few predators on adults, therefore any decrease in breeding or increases in adult mortality could spell doom to this species. India, where a good population used to be present 20 years ago, has also seen a sharp decline.

During the present survey, 27 Egyptian Vultures were seen, solitary or in 2-3 numbers in almost all ranges of the Sanctuary, particularly in East Sohelwa, West Sohelwa, Tulsipur and Rampur ranges, sometimes in the company of other vultures.

Distribution

The Egyptian Vulture has a very wide range in Africa, southern Europe, the whole of the Middle East, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. It is found all over India from the plains to c.2500 msl, sometimes very close to human habitation. It is still widespread in India

and frequently seen in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and decreasingly so in south India.

Habitat

The Egyptian Vulture is often seen sauntering around villages searching for carrion, offal, garbage and human excrement. It opportunistically picks up crickets, frogs and alates of emerging termites. It feeds on dead animals but can also kill stranded fish and turtles, and perhaps small prey.

It is usually solitary or found in pairs with juveniles, but on good feeding sites several can be seen together in the winters. It roosts singly or in small groups, generally on tall trees, but electric pylons are frequently used where tall trees are absent.

It mainly nests on cliffs, rocky outcrops, ledges of occupied buildings, abandoned forts and ruins, but occasionally on tall trees when its preferred nesting habitat is not available. A single egg is laid and both parents share incubation and chick-rearing duties.

Threats

In its vast distributional range, threats vary from country to country and region to region. In India, the main threat could be poisoning by feeding on cattle carcasses contaminated by diclofenac, as has been seen in Gyps species of vultures.

Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*

IUCN, based on the assessment done by BirdLife International (2015), has recently uplisted the Black-bellied Tern to an Endangered status. This species is almost extinct in a large part of its range and is thought to be in very rapid decline overall, owing to a multitude of threatening processes that affect riverine species in southern Asia. In India, monitoring of this species is urgently needed to better assess trends. Its total population could be between 10,000 and 25,000 but re-assessment is required.

During the present survey 25-30 individuals of this species were recorded in East Sohelwa range during the second week of April 2014, at Rampur Bandha. In addition, one or two individuals were recorded in Bhambhar and Rampur ranges during the same period.

Distribution

The Black-bellied Tern is found on all the major rivers of South and Southeast Asia. In India, it is a resident in all major rivers of north, central and eastern India, becoming uncommon southwards where it is a winter migrant. It is essentially an inland and freshwater tern, not found on the sea coast (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Habitat

It inhabits large rivers, foraging methodically over long stretches of placid waters, and resting on river islands and sandbanks. It feeds mainly on fish, also on insects and crustaceans. It is gregarious and hunts in groups. It breeds colonially in the summer (April to June) in the north, and February onwards in the south. The nest is a mere scrape on the sand, where 2-3

eggs are laid. Incubation and fledgling periods are unknown. Call is a pleasant *krek-krek*, constantly uttered as it flies about. Not much is known about its breeding and feeding ecology (Rahmani *et al*. 2014).

Threats

As human population increases, these birds face numerous threats, particularly during the breeding period. Most of the large rivers in South Asia are now dammed and their islands heavily cultivated, leaving not many undisturbed areas for these birds to breed. As a result of dams and utilisation of water (through pumps and pipes) for cultivation or supply to towns and villages for drinking, there is very little water left in the rivers in the summer, exposing the islands to terrestrial predators. In India, there is threat from dogs, cats and crows that destroy whole colonies. Sometimes sudden release of water from dams also washes away eggs and chicks (BirdLife International 2014).

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

The Yellow-breasted Bunting is listed as Vulnerable because its population has undergone a very rapid decline owing mainly to trapping on wintering grounds (BirdLife International 2014).

During the BNHS survey in Rampur range, a population of nearly 200 Yellow-breasted Bunting was observed during the last week of March, 2014 near the Chittaurgarh dam before Suga-nagar Dumri. These individuals were on their way to the wintering grounds as they were not recorded during any other season. In UP, it had been only reported from Dudhwa (Rahmani *et al*. 2014) until it was recorded at Suheldev Sanctuary during this survey. The

birds were mainly seen foraging in fallow fields in the company of munias and weaver birds in the morning and evening. However during the day time, most birds were observed to be resting in the *Arundo* and *Ipomea* vegetation on the edges of the Chittaurgarh dam.

Distribution

The Yellow-breasted Bunting has a wide breeding range from Finland in Europe to eastern Siberia, and winters in a relatively small area in South and Southeast Asia which includes eastern Nepal, northeast India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, southern China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand (BirdLife International 2014).

In India, it is reported as a winter visitor mainly in the eastern states: Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Manipur (Rahmani 2012).

Habitats

In India, it is found from early October till April in small to large flock of up to 200, commonly in association with other buntings, Spotted or Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) and other munias (Ali and Ripley 1987). It feeds on grass seeds, including bamboo seeds, along with munias, and was reported to hawk winged termites (alates). Its song is a series of loud, ringing, musical, compact, brisk strophes composed of a variety of note-types, mostly rich, short and slurred, but rather shrill (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). Call note is a short *zipp*, and soft-trilling *trssit*. No breeding record from India.

Its food consists of insects when feeding young, otherwise seeds (BirdLife International 2011). It winters in large flocks, keeping to cultivated areas, rice fields and grasslands for foraging and reedbeds for roosting.

Threats

According to BirdLife International (2001, 2012) trapping for food, particularly in mainland China could be the major threat. Although trapping is illegal in some areas, over a million individuals are killed annually to be sold as snacks. In China, thousands of males are also stuffed and sold as mascots since their presence in homes is thought to confer happiness. In some areas, birds are trapped for “merit release” in temples. Agricultural intensification, the shift to irrigated rice production and consequent loss of winter stubble have reduced the quality and quantity of wintering habitat, and the loss of reedbeds has reduced the number of available roost sites. Decline caused by pressure on the wintering grounds is compounded by a reduction in habitat quality on the breeding grounds in parts of its range, particularly drying of meadows caused by changes in the flow pattern of rivers, a result of dam construction upstream (BirdLife International 2014).

VULNERABLE

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

This species is listed as Vulnerable because it is suspected to be undergoing a rapid population decline owing mainly to habitat loss and persecution (BirdLife International 2015).

In Suheldev, this species was present in most of the ranges, although in very low numbers. A maximum of seven birds was recorded near Rampur Bandha in East Suheldev during April 2014, while solitary birds or two to three birds were recorded around Kohargaddi, Baghelkhand and Chittaurgarh reservoirs on more than one occasion.

Distribution

The Wooly-necked Stork, earlier called White-necked Stork, is found patchily across South Asia and Southeast Asia. Its range extends from Pakistan through India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and southeast through Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Peninsular Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sumatra and Java. The population in

South Asia appears to be stable overall with an estimated number of up to 35,000 individuals, although further research is required to determine the status of this species.

Habitats

In India, the species tends to breed during the rains (between July and September in the south and December to March in the north). It breeds in solitary pairs. When not breeding it is normally seen solitarily or in pairs, but will gather in flocks at permanent natural or human-made wetlands in dry landscapes.

The Wooly-necked Stork shows a preference for natural wetland habitats in savannah and grassland, including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, water-holes, lagoons, dams, flood plains, marshes, and freshwater and peat swamp forests, although it may also use artificial habitats such as rice paddy-fields, flooded pastures, and cultivated fields. The species is predominantly carnivorous, its diet consisting of fish, frogs, toads, snakes, lizards, large insects and larvae, crabs, molluscs and marine invertebrates.

Threats

The main threat to this species in Southeast Asia is severe habitat loss and fragmentation, particularly that of lowland forests with tall trees used for nesting. The species is also threatened by habitat loss and degradation, disturbance and possibly the use of agro-chemicals.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*

The Lesser Adjutant is considered Vulnerable due to its small declining population, particularly as a result of hunting in some countries of its range (BirdLife International 2014). Its numbers are estimated to vary between 6,500 and 8,000. During the current survey in the first week of April 2014, only one individual was recorded near Semra, the range headquater of Bhambhar range, in the buffer zone.

Distribution

The Lesser Adjutant has an extensive range across South and Southeast Asia. It is found all over India, particularly in well-watered tracts. It is regularly seen in the Terai regions, and

breeding has been confirmed from Dudhwa National Park. This species is quite common in and around Sohagi Barwa Wildlife Sanctuary.

Habitat

The Lesser Adjutant is found in forest pools, shallow open jheels, human-made wetlands, edges of reservoirs, drying roadside pools and coastal wetlands. It nests on tall trees preferably in forests, but wherever it has not been disturbed or hunted, nests have been found on roadside avenue trees and even inside towns. Nesting is either in loose scattered colonies, sometimes up to eight nests found on a tree, or solitarily (e.g., Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh). Although it is solitary or seen in small scattered groups, sometimes 10 to 15 are seen in an area.

Threats

The main threat to this species in India is destruction of wetlands and overfishing. Intensive use of pesticides in paddy fields is another indirect threat, as it results in loss of prey and biomagnification of pesticides in its body.

Indian Spotted Eagle *Clanga hastata*

This widespread but poorly known species is thought to have a small and declining population. It therefore qualifies as Vulnerable (Birdlife International 2015).

It is a stocky, medium-sized eagle with short, broad wings and a rather short tail. Adults are essentially brown and successfully identifying this species requires good views. The gape has 'lips' that are extensive and fleshy and extend to the middle of the eye. It is however very similar to the Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* and not all individuals can be reliably identified. This species apparently occurs at very low density and nowhere is it common, so, despite its large range, the global population is believed to fall below 10,000 individuals.

In Suheldev, a solitary individual was recorded in Tulsipur range on February 10, 2014, near Baghelkhand reservoir. However, this single record needs verification. Keeping in mind, the Vulnerable status of this species, we have mentioned this in our list. However, owing to the lack of a good photo-evidence, we put this species as an unconfirmed sighting for this Sanctuary.

Distribution

The Indian Spotted Eagle appears to be a widespread species that has always been recorded at very low densities in the lowlands of the Indian subcontinent, occurring in Pakistan, Nepal, India and Myanmar and may be extinct in Bangladesh. There are several sightings in Cambodia. This raises the possibility that the species may have occurred historically across other parts of Southeast Asia, although today it has almost certainly been extirpated from much of this area due to habitat loss.

Habitats

This species is a powerful predator that seizes its prey, mostly mammalian, from the ground whilst quartering over open areas within, or near the forest. It also preys on frogs and birds. It

is a tree-nesting species, favouring open habitats such as low intensity agriculture, wetlands and open forest and forest clearings year-round.

Threats

Although poorly known, this species is undoubtedly threatened by conversion and disturbance of forested habitats within its range. According to BirdLife International (2014), a number of other threats have had negative impacts on many raptor populations in Asia and further research into the threatening processes that may be affecting this species is required. The species is thought to be on a decline at a slow to moderate rate owing to ongoing habitat conversion within its large range. Further research, however, is required to provide a more accurate estimate of its rate of decline, and identify the causes.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga*

It is a Vulnerable species since it has a small population which appears to be declining owing to extensive habitat loss and persecution (BirdLife 2014). During this survey there was only one (unconfirmed) record of this species in January 2014 at Baghelkhand reservoir.

Distribution

In India, the Greater Spotted Eagle is a regular but uncommon winter visitor. It breeds in eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia, Mongolia and China. Passage or wintering birds are

seen in many countries. Their wide range appears to be deceptive as the species has fragmented populations which are undergoing an overall decline.

Habitat

The Greater Spotted Eagle is invariably found near water where it sits and waits for hours for the right prey. It preys upon waterfowl, particularly sick and injured, and chicks from heronries. In some parts of the world it mainly feeds on terrestrial prey—for example, in wet grasslands, it feeds on amphibians and small mammals (BirdLife International 2014). It is also found on rubbish dumps and mangroves. Its diet is very variable.

Threats

In India, drainage and degradation of wetlands is the biggest threat to this species, and all water birds in general. The most urgent need is to start regular surveys to know its status, range and population trends in the State by developing simple identification literature (Rahmani *et al.* 2014).

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*

Sarus is the State Bird of Uttar Pradesh, harbouring nearly 50% of India's Sarus population. It is listed as Vulnerable by BirdLife International (2014) since it has suffered a rapid population decline, which is projected to continue as a result of widespread reductions in the extent and quality of its wetland habitats, poisoning and pollutants.

Despite our best effort to locate this species in and around the Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, only a total of five Sarus Cranes were recorded during our survey—a pair with a juvenile at Rampur Banda and another pair on the outskirts of East Sohelwa—on more than one occasion during April 2014. We estimate a population of not more than 10 birds in and around the Sanctuary. However, on the way to Sohagi Barwa Wildlife Sanctuary from Suheldev, a very good Sarus population is seen especially in and around Siddarthnagar (Bhargava and Singh 2014).

Distribution

The Sarus Crane has three disjunct populations—in the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia and northern Australia. According to the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department census, its population is between 15,000 and 18,000 in the State.

Habitat

The Sarus uses open wet and dry grasslands, agricultural fields, marshes and jheels for foraging, roosting and nesting. Wetlands, even those of very small size and close to roads and human habitation, are preferred habitats to construct nests. For foraging, Sarus usually uses

crop fields to a lesser extent and prefers feeding in wetlands. It is omnivorous, feeding on a variety of roots and tubers as well as invertebrates and amphibians. In drought years, Sarus concentrates in the remaining wetlands, particularly in the summer (Rahmani 2012; Rahmani *et al.* 2014).

Sarus has a long breeding season, starting just at the onset of monsoon (July) and extending to October-November. Both parents select the nest sites and help in nest building. Clutch size is usually one or two eggs, but mostly one chick is successfully raised. The juvenile moves with the parents for almost a year, till the next breeding season. In areas with perennial water supply through wetlands and irrigation canals, pairs maintain discrete territories throughout the year. The Sarus makes very large nests (up to 2 m in diameter). Most nests are constructed entirely of grasses and other wetland plants.

Although sexes are similar in Sarus, the adult male is slightly larger than the female (clearly seen when both are together). When they call in unison, males droop their primaries and touch the secondaries over their back, which can be also used for rapid sexing.

Threats

In India, Sarus is considered a sacred bird, so hunting is not the main problem. But habitat destruction and habitat alteration are taking their toll on the bird. Wetlands are under tremendous pressure from human use, drainage and conversion to agriculture, housing colonies and even construction of highways. The other main reason for the decline in numbers of the Sarus Crane is egg mortality. Predation on eggs and chick by dogs and crows is increasing, as their numbers are on a rise following the decline of vultures on the Indian subcontinent.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*

In 2001, BirdLife International uplisted this species to Vulnerable as it has suffered a rapid population decline over the past 20 years (three generations) due to loss of primary forest cover throughout much of its range. However, the true rate of decline may be greater than currently estimated, and evidence of such a decline may result in the species being uplisted in the future.

The large patches of old Sal forest in the core areas of Suheldev have excellent habitat for the Great Slaty Woodpecker. During our Line Transects at Mansurwa beat of Rampur range in the buffer area, we encountered this resident species twice. During January 2014, we saw 3–5 birds and again in October in the same area, we recorded 9–10 birds including four juveniles with the adults. In East Sohelwa during July 2014, a group of five birds were recorded 3 km from the Forest House on the SSB Road, Bhaisahinaka. Further our team heard its call near Sonpatri Ashram in October 2014.

One of the largest woodpeckers in the world, it is slightly larger than the House Crow, c.51 cm long. As the name indicates, it is overall slaty grey. Chin, throat and foreneck are buffy yellow and bill long and pale. The male has a short, broad, crimson moustachial stripe (Ali and Ripley 1987). Juvenile is brownish with a paler throat and indistinct white scaling on crown (Rasmussen and Anderton 2012).

Distribution

The Great Slaty Woodpecker has a wide distribution from India and Nepal foothills to southern China, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, and through peninsular Malaysia and Singapore to the western islands of Indonesia and the Philippines (BirdLife International 2014).

In India, it is found in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. It occurs in climax semi-evergreen, evergreen and moist deciduous forests, from plains to c.1000 msl. In its northwestern distribution, it is mostly associated with Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests. It is uncommon everywhere, perhaps due to its specific habitat requirement of mature old trees. In Uttar Pradesh, it is mainly found in the mature Sal forests of Dudhwa National Park, Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Pilibhit Reserve Forest (Rahmani 2012, Rahmani *et al*. 2014).

Habitat

It is a social bird and found in small parties of 3 to 6 in tall dense forest, and keeps in constant contact with others by a loud, raucous call. It feeds woodpecker-like on trunks, moving up on the trunk or branches in search of insect grubs. It flies from one patch of forest to another in

follow-my-leader style through the tree-tops or high above the forest canopy (Ali and Ripley 1987). Nesting starts in spring (March) and extends up to late summer (July). Nest hole is excavated on a trunk of a large tree, sometimes very high up. Clutch size is 3-4, incubation period not known. There is circumstantial evidence that the Great Slaty Woodpecker has cooperative breeding (involving more than two individuals), besides pair breeding.

Threats

The main threat to this large woodpecker of climax forest with mature trees is forest destruction and forest degradation.

NEAR THREATENED

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

IUCN, based on the assessment done by BirdLife International (2013), places this species in the Near Threatened category because its population is declining at a moderately rapid pace owing to pollution, drainage, hunting and collection of eggs and nestlings. It may not be so rare in Uttar Pradesh, but its global population is declining, particularly in Southeast Asia.

Oriental Darter was recorded in most wetlands of the Sanctuary. In certain seasons, up to 20 birds were counted during roost at Chittaurgarh dam before Suga-nagar Dumri in Rampur and also at Rampur reservoir in East Sohelwa range during our monthly waterfowl census. We recorded a total of 40 birds along with other cormorants during our visits. There is an also a good population of this species (>30) in wetlands of neighbouring Bhinga range (not part of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary).

Distribution

The Oriental Darter or Snakebird is widespread in suitable wetlands in South and Southeast Asia. In India it is found from coastal wetlands to about c.300 m in the Himalaya. Its only requirement is clear, deep, unpolluted water with plenty of fish. It is also found in jheels with deep pools of 1-2 m, larger rivers and human-made reservoirs (Ali and Ripley 1987, Rahmani 2012).

Habitat

It generally occurs singly or in small discrete groups, each one hunting fish independently. In good hunting grounds, up to 100 are seen, solitarily or in small groups. It is an expert diver and feeds almost exclusively on fish caught by its stiletto-shaped bill. It often swims with only the neck above water: the long neck and pointed bill give it the appearance of a snake, hence its popular name Snake Bird.

It nests colonially with egrets, storks and herons, on thorny trees, generally half-submerged or near water. It makes a platform nest, sometimes very close to other nests, and lays 3-6 eggs which become soiled as the incubation progresses. Chicks are blind and naked but soon develop white down feathers which may persist even when almost fledged.

Threats

The main threat to this and all piscivorous species is from excessive fishing all over its range, particularly in north India where fishing is very intensive (Rahmani 2012, Rahmani et al. 2014). Pollution and the spread of invasive species such as Water Hyacinth *Eichhornea crassipes* and *Ipomea carnea* are other problems. Hunting and disturbance at nesting colonies are not such a problem, at least in most parts of India as it is a protected species and traditionally protected by local communities.

Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*

Although one of the most abundant Asian storks, and particularly common in the wetlands of Uttar Pradesh, the Painted Stork has been classified as Near Threatened because it is thought to be undergoing a moderately rapid population decline in Southeast Asia, owing to hunting, drainage and pollution in its whole range (IUCN and BirdLife International 2014).

In Suheldev, more than a dozen Painted Storks was recorded from east Sohelwa range at Rampur Bandha during monthly survey in April 2014. Also few solitary or 2-3 individuals were recorded at various dams but not in significant numbers.

Distribution

In India, the Painted Stork is found throughout the plains. It is becoming much more common

in south India where many nesting colonies are protected by villagers and also in the sanctuaries. Recently, Rahmani *et al.* (2014) have collated all the important records from Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, it can be seen in any wetland, sometimes even in roadside ditches.

Habitat

It frequents freshwater marshes, lakes and reservoirs, flooded fields, rice paddies, freshwater swamp forest, river banks, intertidal mudflats and salt pans. They forage in flocks in shallow waters along rivers or lakes. They immerse their half-open beaks in water and sweep them from side to side and snap up their prey of small fish that are sensed by touch. As they wade along, they also stir the water with their feet to flush hidden fish. They nest colonially in trees, often along with other water birds. The only sounds they produce are a weak moan or clattering of bills. They make short-distance movements in some parts of their range in response to food and for breeding. Like other storks, they are often seen soaring on thermals (Ali and Ripley 1987).

They breed colonially in single species or mixed heronries and if not molested, such heronries become traditional. The birds arrive just before the monsoon break and spend

considerable time on the selected nesting trees, perhaps waiting for the right cue to start making nests of sticks and leaves. Mating frequently takes place on the nest or a nearby branch, and the female lays 3–4 eggs, rarely five. Both parents incubate and rear the chick.

Threats

The increasing impact of habitat loss, disturbance, pollution, drainage and hunting of adults and collection of eggs and nestlings from colonies is a cause for concern in many range countries. However, in India, it is protected traditionally in many areas, but poaching by tribal and amateur hunters, and pesticide poisoning are major threats. Nest predation by mammalian and avian predators is the major threat in some colonies, aggravated by human interference (Rahmani 2012).

Black-necked Stork *Ephipporhynchus asiaticus*

IUCN, based on the assessment done by BirdLife International (2014), has classified this species as Near Threatened. This species has undergone a moderately rapid overall population reduction, which is projected to continue, and it has a moderately small population. The population estimate varies between 10,000 and 20,000 in the whole world.

In Suheldev, a pair each was recorded from Rampur Bandha and Razia taal in April 2014, both water bodies in East Sohelwa Range.

Distribution

The Black-necked Stork is found in South and Southeast Asia but nowhere is it common. In India, it is found all over the Indian plains in wetlands, shallow river beds and mangrove swamps. In UP the best

known population is present in Etawah and Mainpuri districts with an estimated population of 200–250 individuals, i.e., at least 20% of the estimated Indian population of this bird (Sundar 2003). Dudhwa, Kishanpur, Katerniaghat and Sohagi Barwa, all in Uttar Pradesh, are other important areas for this species (Rahmani 2012).

Habitat

The Black-necked Stork prefers large marshes and jheels, and margins of large rivers and brackish lagoons where it feeds on fish, frogs, snakes, small turtles, injured and unwary birds, and any animal which it can swallow.

It is generally found in pairs, even outside the breeding season and pairs maintain large feeding territories throughout the year. It is very rare to see 3-4 adult birds together. In summer months, when jheels and ponds dry up and food is reduced, it becomes more aggressively territorial, and fights over food and space are frequent (Maheswaran and Rahmani 2001). It has a characteristic stork habit of soaring and circling aloft in the heat of the day. The nest is built on large trees, mostly near water.

Threats

The main threat to the Black-necked Stork is destruction and degradation of its habitat and overfishing.

Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Based on the assessment done by BirdLife International (2014), IUCN has included the Black-headed Ibis in Near Threatened category as it is undergoing population decline in many countries due to hunting and disturbance at breeding colonies, and drainage of wetlands for agriculture purpose. In India, it is widespread and locally common in all the wetter parts of the country, less common in the east. In Uttar Pradesh, it is widespread and very common in marshes and irrigated crop fields.

In Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, this species was frequently recorded around Baghelkhand Reservoir, Rampur and Chittaurgarh dams. Eight to ten birds were encountered on various visits.

Distribution

The Black-headed Ibis, also called White Ibis, is a resident, nomadic and local migratory bird, depending upon the availability of water. It is widespread in Uttar Pradesh and can be seen in any wetland and irrigated field. It can also be spotted in the lowlands/ marshland along the different network of canals in the State. This bird is fairly common in most parts of

UP. Wherever a little water or marshy patches are available, possibility of sighting of this bird is almost certain..

Habitat

The Black-headed Ibis is found in all sorts of wet areas, from paddy fields, freshwater marshes, lakes, rivers, flooded grasslands, to tidal creeks, mudflats, salt marshes and coastal lagoons, from lowlands to 950 msl. It is gregarious, easily mixing with other waders such as storks, egrets, spoonbill and other small waders. It is never found far from water. It feeds almost entirely on animal matter, fish, frogs, aquatic insects, crustaceans and worms, the last two generally probed out from squelchy mud by it down-curved bill.

It nests colonially with other heronry species, during the monsoon, in partially submerged thorny trees to avoid ground predators. A platform nest is made where 2 to 4 eggs are laid. Incubation and chick rearing are shared by both parents. Heavy predation of eggs and small chicks by House Crow *Corvus splendens*, and pre-fledged chicks by eagles has been noted. Where not harmed, it nests on trees growing even in crowded villages, sometimes away from water, with other colonial nesters such as Painted Stork, Grey Pelican and egrets.

Threats

It suffers from the usual threats which all wild birds dependent on natural wetlands are suffering in South and Southeast Asia: drainage, disturbance, pollution, agricultural conversion, hunting and collection of eggs and nestlings from colonies. A combination of these factors has probably caused the decline in some countries.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Though it is said to be on a rapid decline in Europe, evidence of decline in the larger Asian populations is sparse and sometimes contradictory. Therefore the species is currently listed as Near Threatened (BirdLife International 2014). Evidence of rapid decline in Asia would qualify the species to be upgraded to Vulnerable (Rahmani *et al.* 2014).

During the present study, the BNHS team recorded less than 10 Ferruginous Ducks at Chittaurgarh dam during the winter water birds surveys in December near Suga-nagar Dumri, along with pochards.

Distribution

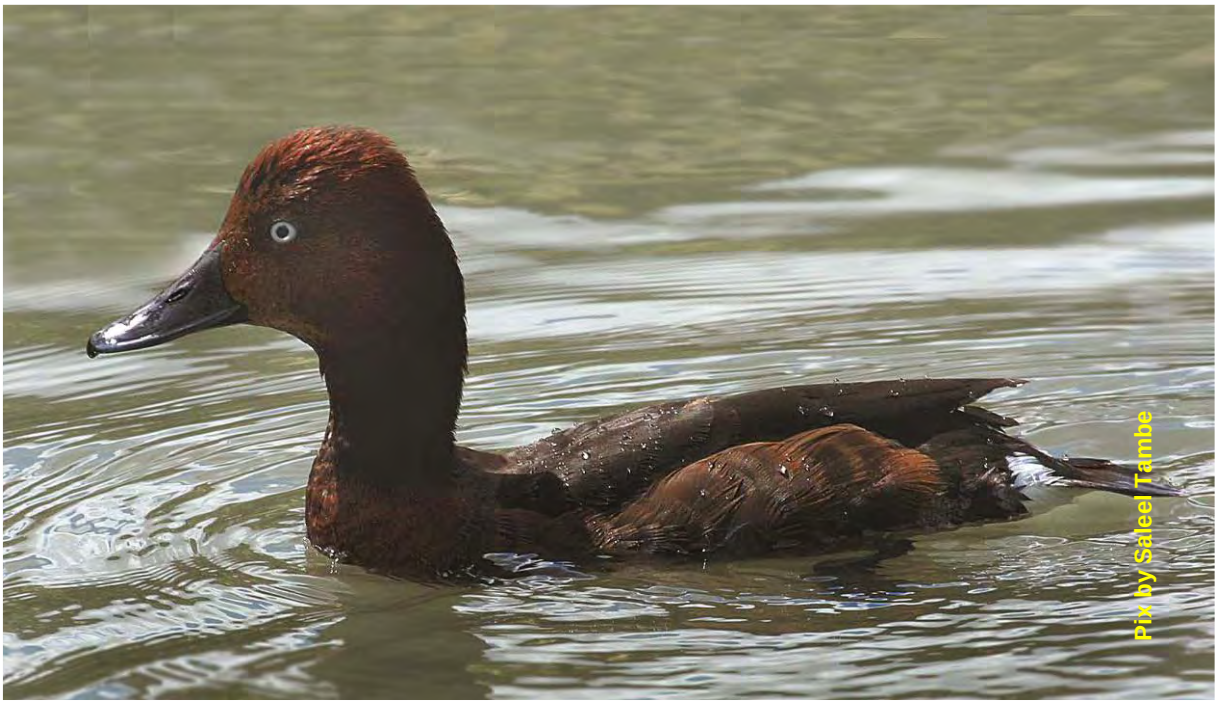
The Ferruginous Duck or White-eyed Pochard is widely distributed in the Palaearctic region. In north India, it is a common winter migrant mainly to northeast India, with scattered records from north and south India.

Habitat

In India, it can be seen in shallow ponds, pools, and marshes near vegetated shoreline, large marshes, wetlands and sometimes in the rivers. It prefers shallower and more vegetated areas than other *Aythya* species and seldom sits out in open water. It feeds on seeds, roots and the green parts of aquatic plants. It also feeds on insects, worms, molluscs, crustaceans, amphibians and small fish. It often feeds at night, upending (dabbling) for food as well as indulging in characteristic diving. It is a gregarious species, forming large flocks in winter, often mixed with other diving ducks.

Threats

In India, it is mainly threatened by habitat destruction and modification, and by trapping and poisoning.



Lesser Fish-eagle *Icthyophaga humillus*

The Lesser Fish-eagle is thought to be undergoing a moderate population reduction owing to forest degradation, overfishing and, perhaps, especially pollution. It is consequently classified as Near Threatened (BirdLife International 2014). One or two individuals were regularly recorded at Razia taal in East Sohelwa range. It also probably breeds in the Sanctuary.

Distribution

In UP, the Lesser Fish-eagle is reported from Dudhwa and is likely to occur in Katerniaghat and Kishanpur, and may be North Pilibhit Reserve Forests (Rahmani *et al.* 2014).

Habitat

The Lesser Fish-eagle frequents large forested rivers and wetlands in the lowlands and foothills up to 2,400 msl, but usually found below 1,000 msl and also occurs at sea level. It prefers clear rapid forest streams in the lower Himalaya (Bhabhar and the Terai), large jheels and reservoirs, preferably surrounded by forest. However, sometimes it is seen on open reaches of rivers, looking for fish—its favourite food. It still hunts from regular waterside perches, usually from bare branches or mid-stream rocks, dropping to snatch prey at or near the surface (Ferguson-Lee and Christie 2001)

Threats

Loss of forest habitat along rivers, siltation, overfishing and increasing human disturbance in waterways are causing widespread decline. Pesticide contamination coupled with overfishing, damming of rivers and destruction of riverine forests are major threats to this species.

Grey-headed Fish-eagle *Icthyophaga ichthyaetus*

Although widespread, this species is now only locally common and may have a moderately small population, which is thought to be undergoing a moderately rapid population reduction owing to habitat degradation, pollution and overfishing. It is therefore classified as Near Threatened (BirdLife International 2015). Its global population is preliminarily estimated at 10,000-100,000 mature individuals on the basis that it may not exceed a five-figure total.

In Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, this species was recorded in the first week of April, 2014 at Razia taal, in East Sohelwa. Due to identification difficulties between this species and Lesser Fish-eagle *I. humilis,* either of the species may be misidentified.

Distribution

In India, it is widespread and locally frequent in the northeast, scarce and local in the peninsula. Also found in South Asia. Although widely distributed, the species is local and declining in most parts of its range through loss of forested wetlands.

Habitats

It is found near slow-moving rivers and streams, lakes, reservoirs and tidal lagoons in wooded country, usually in lowlands but ascending locally to 1,525 m.

Threats

The most pertinent threats are the loss of undisturbed wetlands, overfishing, siltation, pollution and persecution.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*

This year this species has been listed as Near Threatened on the basis that it will possibly undergo a moderately rapid population decline over the next three generations owing to the impacts of diclofenac use in livestock.

In Suheldev, this species was encountered throughout the surveys during the winters, seen feeding along with the other vulture species. Based on the current study, the BNHS team recorded between 80 to 100 individuals, from almost all ranges of the Sanctuary. A maximum number of birds (up to 40-50) were seen mainly in Bhambhar, Rampur, West and East Sohelwa ranges.

Distribution

The Himalayan Griffon is distributed from western China, Kazakhistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajakistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan, east through the Himalayan mountain range in India, Nepal and Bhutan, to central China and Mongolia. In India, it is fairly common in parts of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and vagrant in southern India.

Habitat

This species inhabits mountainous areas, mostly at 1,200-4,500 m, but has been recorded up to 6,000 m. In winter it moves lower down, with juveniles wandering into the plains. It feeds on carrion.

Threats

The most serious threat to this species is thought to be mortality caused through ingestion of diclofenac (NSAID), widely used in livestock, particularly in South Asia.

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

The Cinereous Vulture is a Near Threatened species. It has a moderately small population which appears to be suffering an ongoing decline in Asia (BirdLife International 2014).

In Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, the BNHS team recorded three individuals on three occasions in eastern and western Sohelwa ranges during February 2014, along with other vulture species.

Distribution

The Cinereous Vulture has a large range from southern Europe, North Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, the Middle East, central Asia, up to Mongolia and east China. It has a small reintroduced population in France. It is resident except in those parts of its range where hard winters cause limited movement. In India, it is a winter visitor.

Habitat

In India, it is seen singly or in twos or threes, roosting early morning on large trees or sitting on sand dunes or mounds, commanding a grand view of the surroundings. In its breeding areas, it is also found in forested hills, as also alpine grasslands and steppes. It is generally a solitary nester, but sometimes it nests in very loose colonies. It feeds mainly on large

mammal carcasses, but is also reported to feed on stranded turtles and large dead birds (Rahmani 2012). It dominates the jostling rabble of other vultures at carcasses, and is sometimes quite aggressive. It is equipped to tear open tough carcass skins, using its powerful bill (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Threats

BirdLife International (2014) has listed two major threats to Cinereous Vultures: direct mortality caused by humans (either accidentally or deliberately) and decreasing availability of food. However, diclofenac poisoning through livestock carcasses could be a major threat, though it is still not confirmed.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

IUCN, based on the assessment done by BirdLife International (2014), places this species in the Near Threatened category because of the rapid population decline overall. The global population is estimated at 9,000-15,000 pairs, and has shown marked declines and range contractions.

In Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, this species was recorded twice in January 2014 in and around agricultural fields between East and West Sohelwa ranges.

Distribution

Pallid Harrier breeds primarily in the steppes of Asiatic Russia**,** Kazakhstan and northwest China. Small populations breed in Azerbaijan, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. A minority of them winter in southeast and central Europe, north Africa and the Middle East, but most migrate to the Afrotropics and the Indian subcontinent.

Habitats

It breeds in semi-desert, steppe and forest-steppe up to 2,000 m, where its favoured nesting sites are wet grasslands close to small rivers and lakes, and marshlands. The species is migratory, with most birds wintering in sub-Saharan Africa or Southeast Asia. They leave their breeding grounds between August and November and return in March and April.

Threats

In its breeding range it is primarily threatened by the destruction and degradation of steppe grasslands through conversion to arable agriculture, burning of vegetation, intensive grazing of wet pastures and the clearance of shrubs and tall weeds.

Red-headed Falcon *Falco chicquera*

IUCN, based on the data provided by BirdLife International (2015) has classified it as Near

Threatened. This falcon is suspected to be undergoing a moderately rapid population decline over three generations owing to the effects of ongoing habitat degradation.

A small, dashing falcon with a chestnut crown and neck, white throat, plain, pale blue-grey upperside, and tail with a black subterminal band and white tip. Underparts are white with fine black barring. It has a denser black barring below.

During the BNHS survey, this species was occasionally recorded from most ranges of the Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary mainly near open areas adjacent to wetlands.

Distribution

Red-headed falcon is found across much of South Asia including Pakistan**,** India**,** Sri Lanka**,** Nepal**,** Bhutan**,** Bangladesh**,** and Myanmar. This species is noted to have disappeared from many parts of India, in what is perceived as an overall decline; it is widespread but uncommon in Pakistan and rare in Bangladesh.

Habitats

It is found in open country with patches of trees close to water, often in regions of low rainfall. It frequently nests around villages or even within densely populated cities in India. It is recorded generally from sea-level to 1,000 m. Mostly takes small birds caught on the wing and frequently hunts in pairs. Egg laying takes place from January to May in India and February to April in Pakistan. It is nomadic in some areas, but mostly resident in greater parts of its wide range.

Threats

The species was probably naturally distributed sparsely and required large territories. Rapid urbanisation and development could be the main causes for the decline of the species in parts of the range. Another cause of this decline is uncertain but may relate to widespread and intensive pesticide use.

River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*

IUCN, based on data from BirdLife International (2014), has uplisted this species to Near Threatened on the basis that it is expected to undergo a moderately rapid population decline over the next three generations owing to human pressures on riverine ecosystems and the construction of dams.

This species is regularly recorded at Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary especially around wetlands of East Sohelwa range. During our monthly surveys, we could record 5-6 River Lapwings around Rampur Wetlands during most of our water bird surveys. The species was also recorded at Kohargaddi, Vanghoghwa, Girgitahi and Baghelkhand reservoirs.

Distribution

It is a resident species throughout the large river systems of North India and foothills of Himalayas from West Himachal to Arunachal and Assam Valley; South Assam Hills; Central India and North-eastern Peninsula (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2012). According to Ali and Ripley (1983) it is resident with some nomadic movement. In Uttar Pradesh, it is found in all larger rivers and their tributaries, particularly the Ganga, Yamuna, Ghagra, Sharda, Chambal, Ramganga, Gomti and Rapti (Rahmani *et al.* 2014).

Habitat

It is normally found single or in pairs. In general, the ecology is very similar to other lapwings. The colouration is remarkably obliterative in its habitat of dry river sand and shingle. It feeds on insects, worms and crustaceans. It breeds from March to June and the nest is a shallow scrape on exposed sand or shingle. It generally lays four eggs.

Threats

Disturbance to breeding birds by humans, dogs, cats, crows etc. is the biggest danger to this and other species of large Indian rivers as the ecology of the rivers is under great pressure. Construction of dams and reservoirs, sudden release of water, or depletion and diversion of water exposing the nests to ground predators, increasing watermelon cultivation on sandy river islands and consequently constant human presence are pressures that may be working against the species.

River Tern *Sterna aurantia*

This species has been uplisted to Near Threatened on the basis that increasing human disturbance and dam construction projects are expected to drive a moderately rapid population decline over the next three generations (BirdLife International 2015).

In Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, this species is seen throughout in and around the various reservoirs and water bodies, flying singly or in group of 3-4 birds.

Distribution

The River Tern occurs across a wide range in southern Asia, being found in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and southern China, with vagrant records from Iran and Afghanistan, although it is generally a resident in most of its range.

Habitats

It inhabits rivers and freshwater lakes, also occurring rarely on estuaries, and breeds on sandy islands. It has been recorded up to 600 m in Nepal. It feeds predominantly on fish, small crustaceans and insects. Breeding occurs mainly in February-May.

Threats

Nesting areas are vulnerable to flooding, predation and disturbance. The negative population trend is probably due to excessive human disturbance on sandbars. The multitude of dam construction projects completed, underway or planned may also threaten the species through changes to flow regime and flooding of nest-sites.

Ashy-headed Green-pigeon *Treron phayrei*

Based on the assessment done by BirdLife International (2015), IUCN has included this pigeon in Near Threatened category as it is suspected to be undergoing moderately rapid population decline owing to the effects of habitat loss and hunting pressure.

In Suheldev, this species was recorded from five ranges on more than several occasions especially during the early summers when this species was nesting and therefore there were more chances of seeing these birds in their courtship display. The majority of the sightings were in the mixed forest patches of Jarwa and Mansurwa forest beats in the Rampur range and also in most forest patches of West Sohelwa, East Sohelwa, Bankatwa and Barhawa ranges.

This mostly green medium-sized pigeon with a short bill have prominent yellow edging on the flight feathers and a yellow bar across the coverts. Both sexes have a greyish-green head, greyer on the crown, and an orange-yellow breast patch. The male has a chestnut back, this is all green in the female.

Distribution

This species is widely distributed, occurring in Nepal**,** Bhutan, Bangladesh**,** eastern India**,** south Yunnan (China), Myanmar**,** Laos**,** Cambodia and Vietnam.

Habitats

It is found in lowlands and hill forests and moist-deciduous forests up to 1,000 m, (1,500 m in Himalayas), where it may be locally common (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005) but strikingly localised.

Threats

It is presumably very sensitive to hunting pressure and may be reliant on semi-evergreen / evergreen forest at low elevations, making it potentially more at risk.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

It is suspected to be in moderately rapid decline overall owing to ongoing habitat destruction and unsustainable levels of exploitation (IUCN 2014). It may be common in India but declining in rest of the parts of its range, hence BirdLife International (2014) has categorised it as Near Threatened.

In Suheldev, this species was recorded in every range. It breeds in the Sanctuary especially in mixed forest with old trees.

Distribution

It is widespread in South and Southeast Asia. It is found all over UP in orchards, gardens, agricultural fields and forests.

Habitat

This species inhabits a variety of moist and dry forests and woodlands, as well as cultivated areas, mangroves and plantations, mainly below 900 m, but reaching c.1600 m locally. It feeds on a range of wild and cultivated seeds, flowers, flower buds, nectar, grain, fruit and vegetables. It nests in tree cavities, palms and, very rarely buildings, and generally breeds from November to April, depending on the location.

Threats

This species is widely captured and traded as a cage-bird.

Appendix: LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN SUHELDEV WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (between November 2013 to November 2014)

STATUS	HABITAT	OCCURRENCE	THREAT CATEGORY
WV = Winter visitor	MF = Mixed Forest	C = Common	CR = Critical
RB = Year-round Resident	GL = Grassland	(seen frequently, more	EN = Endangered
BV = Breeding visitor	WL = Wetland	than 10 sightings)	VU = Vulnerable
LM = Local migrant	ML = Marshland	O = Occasional	NT = Near threatened
SM = Spring migration	RF = Riparian Forest	(less than 10 sightings)	LC = Least Concern
FM = Fall migration	MC = Monoculture Sal or Teak Forest	U = Uncommon	
TWM = Two-way migration	AGR = Agri. crop fields on forest edges	(less than 5 sightings,	
	WGL = Wooded Grassland	irregular)	

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Occurrence	Threat Category
	PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes)					
1.	Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	RB	WL	C	LC
2.	Great Crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*	WV	WL	O	LC
	PHALACROCORACIDAE (Darters and Cormorants)					
3.	Indian Shag	*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*	LM	WL	U	LC
4.	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	RB/LM	WL	C	LC
5.	Little Cormorant	*Microcarbo niger*	RB	WL	C	LC
6.	Oriental Darter	*Anhinga melanogaster*	RB	WL	O	NT
	ARDEIDAE (Herons, Egrets, Bitterns)					
7.	Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	RB	WL	C	LC
8.	Great Egret	*Egretta alba*	RB	WL	C	LC
9.	Intermediate Egret	*Egretta intermedia*	RB	WL	C	LC
10.	Eastern Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus coromandus*	RB	WL/ML/RF/AGR	C	LC
11.	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	RB/LM	WL/ML	O	LC
12.	Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea*	RB	WL/ML	O	LC
13.	Indian Pond-heron	*Ardeola grayii*	RB	ML/RF	C	LC
14.	Black-crowned Night-heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	RB	WL/ML	O	LC
15.	Black Bittern	*Dupetor flavicollis*	BV	WL/ML	U	LC
16.	Chestnut Bittern	*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*	UC	ML	O	LC

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Occurrence	Threat Category
	CICONIIDAE (Storks)					
17.	Asian Openbill	*Anastomus oscitans*	RB	ML/WL/AGR	C	LC
18.	White Stork	*Ciconia ciconia*	WV	ML/WL	U	LC
19.	Woolly-necked Stork	*Ciconia episcopus*	WV	ML/WL	O	VU
20.	Painted Stork	*Myteria leucocephala*	WV	ML/RF	O	NT
21.	Black Stork	*Ciconia nigra*	WV	WL	C	LC
22.	Black-necked Stork	*Ephipporhynchus asiaticus*	RB	WL	U	NT
23.	Lesser Adjutant	*Leptoptilos javanicus*	WV	WL/ML/AGR	U	VU
	THRESKIORNITHIDAE (Ibises and Spoonbills)					
24.	Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	WV	WL/ML	O	LC
25.	Black-headed Ibis	*Threskiornis melanocephalus*	RB	WL/ML	O	NT
26.	Eurasian Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia*	LM	WL/ML	U	LC
27.	Indian Black Ibis	*Pseudibis papillosa*	RB	WL/ML	C	LC
	ANATIDAE (Ducks & Geese)					
28.	Bar-headed Goose	*Anser indicus*	WM	WL/AGR	C	LC
29.	Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*	WM	WL/AGR	C	LC
30.	Lesser Whistling-duck	*Dendrocygna javanica*	RB/LM	WL/ML/AGR	C	LC
31.	Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	WV	WL	C	LC
32.	Ruddy Shelduck	*Tadorna ferruginea*	WV	WL/AGR	U	LC
33.	Knob-billed Duck	*Sarkidiornis melanotos*	RB/LM	WL/ML	C	LC
34.	Common Teal	*Anas creca*	WM	WL/ML	C	LC
35.	Gargeny	*Querquedula querguedula*	WM	WL	C	LC
36.	Gadwall	*Mareca strepera*	WM	WL	C	LC
37.	Eurasian Wigeon	*Mareca Penelope*	WM	WL	C	LC
38.	Northern Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*	WM	WL	C	LC
39.	Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	WM	WL	C	LC
40.	Indian Spot-billed Duck	*Anas poecilorhyncha*	RB	WL	C	LC
41.	Tufted Duck	*Aythya fuligula*	WM	WL	C	LC
42.	Ferruginous Duck	*Aythya nyroca*	WM	WL	U	NT
43.	Common Pochard	*Aythya ferina*	WM	WL	C	LC
44.	Red-crested Pochard	*Netta rufina*	WM	WL	C	LC

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Occurrence	Threat Category
45.	Cotton Teal	*Nettapus coromandelianus*	RB/LM	WL/ML	C	LC
	ACCIPITRIDAE (Hawks, Kites, Eagle & Vultures)					
46.	Black-winged Kite	*Elanus caeruleus*	RB	WGL/AGR	C	LC
47.	Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	RB	WGL/AGR	C	LC
48.	Shikra	*Accipiter badius*	RB	MF/WGL	C	LC
49.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*Accipter nisus*	WV	MF/WGL	U	LC
50.	Long-legged Buzzard	*Buteo rufinus*	WM	MF/WGL	U	LC
51.	Oriental Honey-buzzard	*Pernis ptilorhynchus*	RB	MF/MC	O	LC
52.	White-eyed Buzzard	*Butastur teesa*	RB	AGR/WGL	C	LC
53.	Crested Serpent-eagle	*Spilornis cheela*	RB	MF/RF/MC	C	LC
54.	Short-toed Eagle	*Circaetus gallicus*	RB	WGL/MF	U	LC
55.	Booted Eagle	*Hieraaetus pennatus*	WM	WGL/MF	U	LC
56.	Changeable Hawk-eagle	*Nisaetus limnaeetus*	RB	MF/WGL	U	LC
57.	Indian Spotted Eagle	*Clanga hastate*	RB	MF/AGF	U	VU
58.	Greater Spotted Eagle	*Clanga clanga*	WM	MF/AGF	U	VU
59.	Steppe Eagle	*Aquila nipalensis*	WM	MF/WGL	U	LC
60.	Tawny Eagle	*Aquila rapax*	RB	MF/WGL	U	LC
61.	Western Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	WM	WL	O	LC
62.	Lesser Fish-eagle	*Icthyophaga humillus*	RB	RF	U	NT
63.	Grey-headed Fish-eagle	*Icthyophaga ichthyaetus*	RB	RF	U	NT
64.	White-rumped Vulture	*Gyps bengalensis*	RB	AGR/WGL	C	CR
65.	Slender-billed Vulture	*Gyps tenuirostris*	RB	AGR/WGL	O	CR
66.	Griffon Vulture	*Gyps fulvus*	WV	AGR/WGL	C	LC
67.	Himalayan Vulture	*Gyps himalayensis*	LM	AGR/WGL	C	NT
68.	Egyptian Vulture	*Neophron percnopterus*	RB	AGR/WGL	O	EN
69.	Cinereous Vulture	*Aegypius monachus*	WV	AGR/WGL	O	NT
70.	Pallid Harrier	*Circus macrourus*	WV	AGR/WGL	U	NT
71.	Pied Harrier	*Circus melanoleucos*	WV	AGR/WGL	U	LC
72.	Western Marsh Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus*	WV	ML/WL	O	LC
	FALCONIDAE (Falcons)					
73.	Common Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	WV	AGR/WGL	C	LC
74.	Amur Falcon	*Falco amurensis*	FM	AGR	U	LC

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75.	Red-headed Falcon	*Falco chicquera*	RB	WGL/AGR/	O	NT
76.	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	WV	WL/WGL	U	LC
	PHASIANIDAE (Pheasants. Partridges. Quail)					
77.	Grey Francolin	*Francolinus pondicerianus*	RB	AGR/WGL	C	LC
78.	Black Francolin	*Francolinus francolinus*	RB	AGR/WGL	C	LC
79.	Common Quail	*Coturnix coturnix*	WV/RB?	AGR/WGL	O	LC
80.	Rain Quail	*Coturnix coromandelica*	WV/RB?	AGR/WGL	O	LC
81.	Blue-breasted Quail	*Excalfactoria chinensis*	RB	AGR/WGL	U	LC
82.	Barred Buttonquail	*Turnix suscitator*	RB	AGR/WGL	C	LC
83.	Red Junglefowl	*Gallus gallus*	RB	MF/MC	C	LC
84.	Indian Peafowl	*Pavo cristatus*	RB	MF/MC/AGR	C	LC
	GRUIDAE (Cranes)					
85.	Sarus Crane	*Grus antigone*	RB	ML/AGR	U	VU
86.	Demoiselle Crane	*Grus virgo*	TWM	ML/WL	U	LC
	RALLIDAE (Rails and Coots)					
87.	White-breasted Waterhen	*Amaurornis phoenicurus*	RB	ML/ACF	C	LC
88.	Watercock	*Gallicrex cinerea*	RB	ML/WL	O	LC
89.	Purple Swamphen	*Porphyrio [porphyrio] poliocephalus*	RB	ML/WL	C	LC
90.	Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	RB	ML/WL	C	LC
91.	Eurasian Coot	*Fulica atra*	WV	WL	C	LC
	RECURVIROSTRIDAE (Stilts & Avocets)					
92.	Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	WV	ML	C	LC
	JACANIDAE (Jacanas)					
93.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*	RB	ML/WL	C	LC
94.	Bronze-winged Jacana	*Metopidius indicus*	RB	ML/WL	C	LC
	BURHINIDAE (Curlews, Thick-Knees)					
95.	Great Thick-knee	*Esacus recurvirostris*	RB	WL	U	LC

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96.	Indian Stone-curlew	*Burhinus indicus*	RB	AGR/WGL	O	LC
	CHARADRIIDAE (Plovers, Sandpipers & Snipe)					
97.	Small Pranticole	*Glareola lacteal*	RB	ML	U	LC
98.	Indian Courser	*Cursorius coromandelicus*	RB	AGR	U	LC
99.	Red-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*	RB	AGR	C	LC
100.	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus malabaricus*	WV	AGR	U	LC
101.	Grey-headed Lapwing	*Vanellus cinereus*	WV	ML	U	LC
102.	River Lapwing	*Vanellus duvaucelii*	RB	WL/ML	O	NT
103.	Little Ringed Plover	*Charadrius dubius*	WV	ML	C	LC
104.	Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	WV	ML	O	LC
105.	Wood Sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	WV	ML	O	LC
106.	Green Sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*	WV	ML	O	LC
107.	Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	WV	ML	O	LC
108.	Marsh Sandpiper	*Tringa stagnatilis*	WV	ML	C	LC
109.	Common Redshank	*Tringa tetanus*	WV	ML	O	LC
110.	Spotted Redshank	*Tringa erythropus*	WV	ML	O	LC
111.	Ruff and Reeve	*Philomachus pugnax*	WV	ML	C	LC
112.	Temminck's Stint	*Ereunetes temminckii*	WV	ML	O	LC
113.	Little Stint	*Ereunetes minutus*	WV	ML	C	LC
114.	Great Painted-snipe	*Rostratula benghelensis*	RB	ML	O	LC
115.	Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	WV	ML	U	LC
	LARIDAE (Gulls & Terns)					
116.	Brown-headed Gull	*Chroicecephalus brunnicephalus*	WV	WL	C	LC
117.	Common Black-headed Gull	*Chroicecephalus ridibundus*	WV	WL	C	LC
118.	Black-bellied Tern	*Sterna acuticauda*	RB	WL	U	EN
119.	River Tern	*Sterna aurantia*	RB	WL	O	NT
120.	Whiskered Tern	*Chlidonias hybrida*	RB	WL	O	LC
	COLUMBIDAE (Pigeons & Doves)					
121.	Blue Rock pigeon	*Columba livia*	RB	AGR	C	LC
122.	Oriental Turtle-dove	*Streptopelia oreintalis*	RB	MF	C	LC

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123.	Laughing Dove	*Spilopelia senegalensis*	RB	AGR	C	LC
124.	Red Collared-dove	*Streptopelia tranquebarica*	RB	AGR	C	LC
125.	Spotted Dove	*Spilopelia chinensis*	RB	MF/MC/AGR	C	LC
126.	Eurasian Collared-dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	RB	AGR/MF/WGL	C	LC
127.	Emerald Dove	*Chalcophaps indica*	RB	MF/MC	C	LC
128.	Orange-breasted Green-pigeon	*Treron bicinctus*	RB	MF	O	LC
129.	Yellow-footed Green-pigeon	*Treron p. phoenicopterus*	RB	MF	C	LC
130.	Ashy-headed Green-pigeon	*Treron phayrei*	RB	MF	U	NT
	PSITTACIDAE (Parrots)					
131.	Plum-headed Parakeet	*Psittacula cyanocephala*	RB	MF/MC	C	LC
132.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	*Psittacula krameri*	RB	MF/MC/AGR	C	LC
133.	Alexandrine Parakeet	*Psittacula eupatria*	RB	MF/MC	C	NT
134.	Slaty-headed Parakeet	*Psittacula himalayana*	LM	MF	U	LC
	CUCULIDAE (Cuckoos)					
135.	Green-billed Malkoha	*Phaenicphaeus tristis*	RB	MF/MC	U	LC
136.	Sirkeer Malkoha	*Taccocua leschenaultia*	RB	MF/MC/AGR	U	LC
137.	Lesser Coucal	*Gentropus bengalensis*	RB	GL	O	LC
138.	Greater Coucal	*Centropus sinensis*	RB	WGL/AGR	C	LC
	STRIGIDAE (Owls)					
139.	Common Barn-owl	*Tyto alba*	RB	WGL/MF	U	LC
140.	Spotted Owlet	*Athene brama*	RB	AGF/MF	C	LC
141.	Jungle Owlet	*Glaucidium radiatum*	RB	MF/WGL/MC	C	LC
142.	Indian Eagle-owl	*Bubo bengalensis*	RB	MF/MC	U	LC
143.	Forest Eagle-owl	*Ketupa nipalensis*	RB	MF/MC	U	LC
144.	Brown Fish-owl	*Ketupa zeylonensis*	RB	MF/MC	U	LC
	CAPRIMULGIDAE (Nightjars)					
145.	Indian Little Nightjar	*Caprimulgus asiaticus*	RB	MC/MF	O	LC
	APODIDAE (Swifts)					
146.	Asian Palm-swift	*Cypsiurus balasiensis*	RB	MF/WGL	C	LC

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147.	Little Swift	*Apus affinis*	RB	MF/WGL	C	LC
	CORACIIDAE (Rollers)					
148.	Indian Roller	*Coracias b. benghalensis*	RB	MF/GL	C	LC
	UPUPIDAE (Hoopoes)					
149.	Common Hoopoe	*Upupa epops*	RB	AGR/WGL/MF	C	LC
	ALCEDINIDAE (Kingfishers)					
150.	Stork-billed Kingfisher	*Pelargopsis capensis*	RB	RF/WL	C	LC
151.	White-throated Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	RB	RF/WL/WGL	C	LC
152.	Himalayan Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle lugubris*	LM	WL	U	LC
153.	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*	RB	WL	C	LC
154.	Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	RB	WL	O	LC
	MEROPIDAE (Bee-eaters)					
155.	Little Green Bee-eater	*Merops orientalis*	RB	WGL/AGF	C	LC
156.	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	*Merops leschenaulti*	BV	MF/WGL	O	LC
157.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	*Merops philip*inus	BV	WGL/MF	C	LC
	BUCEROTIDAE (Hornbills)					
158.	Indian Grey Hornbill	*Ocyceros birostris*	RB	MF/MC/WGL	C	LC
159.	Oriental Pied Hornbill	*Anthracoceros albirostris*	RB	MF/MC	O	LC
	CAPITONIDAE (Barbets)					
160.	Coppersmith Barbet	*Xantholaema haemacephala*	RB	MF/MC	C	LC
161.	Brown-headed Barbet	*Megalaima zeylanica*	RB	MF/MC	C	LC
	PICIDAE (Woodpeckers)					
162.	Eurasian Wryneck	*Jynx torquilla*	WV	MF/WGL	U	LC
163.	Indian Pygmy Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos nanus*	RB	MF/WGL/RF	O	LC
164.	Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*	RB	MF/MC/RF/WGL	O	LC
165.	Rufous Woodpecker	*Micropternus brachyurus*	RB	MF/MC	U	LC

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166.	Himalayan Flameback	*Dinopium shorii*	LM	MF/MC	O	LC
167.	Black-rumped Flameback	*Dinopium benghalense*	RB	MF/MC/RF	C	LC
168.	Greater Flameback	*Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*	RB	MF/MC	O	LC
169.	Great Slaty Woodpecker	*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*	RB	MC/MF	U	VU
	ALAUDIDAE (Larks)					
170.	Oriental Skylark	*Alauda gulgula*	RB	AGR	C	LC
171.	Bengal Bushlark	*Mirafra assamica*	RB	AGR/WGL	C	LC
172.	Ashy-crowned Finch-lark	*Eremopterix grisea*	RB	AGR/WGL	O	LC
	HIRUNDINIDAE (Swallows)					
173.	Grey-throated Sand-martin	*Riparia chinensis*	RB	ML	C	LC
174.	Red-rumped Swallow	*Hirundo daurica*	RB	ML	C	LC
175.	Wire-tailed Swallow	*Hirundo smithii*	RB	ML	C	LC
176.	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	WV	ML	C	LC
	MOTACILLIDAE (Pipits & Wagtails)					
177.	Western Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	WV	ML/AGR/MC	C	LC
178.	Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	WV	ML/AGR	C	LC
179.	Citrine Wagtail	*Motacilla citreola*	WV	ML/AGR/MC	C	LC
180.	WhiteWagtail	*Motacilla alba dukhunensis*	WV	ML/AGR	C	LC
181.	White-browed Wagtail	*Motacilla maderaspatensis*	RB	ML/AGR	C	LC
182.	Olive-backed Pipit	*Anthus h. hodgsoni*	WV	GL	C	LC
183.	Richard's Pipit	*Anthus richardi*	WM	GL	O	LC
184.	Paddyfield Pipit	*Anthus rufulus*	RB	GL	C	LC
185.	Common Woodshrike	*Tephrodornis pondicerianus*	RB	MF/WGL	O	LC
186.	Pied Flycatcher-shrike	*Hemipus picatus*	RB	MF/RF/WGL	U	LC
187.	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	*Lalage melaschitos*	WV	WGL/MF	U	LC
188.	Large Cuckooshrike	*Coracina macei*	RB/LM	MF/MC/WGR/WGL	C	LC
	CAMPEPHAGIDAE					
189.	Long-tailed Minivet	*Pericrocotus ethologus*	WV	MC/MF/RF	C	LC
190.	Scarlet Minivet	*Pericrocotus speciosus*	WV	MC/MF	O	LC
191.	Small Minivet	*Pericroootus cinnamomeus*	WV	MC/MF	C	LC

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	PYCNONOTIDAE (Bulbuls)					
192.	Red-vented Bulbul	*Pycnonotus cafer*	RB	MF/MC/WGL/RF	C	LC
193.	Red-whiskered Bulbul	*Pycnonotus jocosus*	RB	MF/MC/RF	C	LC
194.	Himalayan Bulbul	*Pycnonotus leucogenys*	RB	MF	C	LC
195.	Black Bulbul	*Hepsipetes leucocephalus*	LM	MF	O	LC
196.	Black-crested Bulbul	*Pycnonotus flaviventris*	RB	MF	C	LC
	IRENIDAE (Fairy Bluebirds, loras & leaf Birds)					
197.	Common lora	*Aegithina tiphia*	RB	MF/MC	C	LC
198.	Gold-fronted Leafbird	*Chloropsis aurifrons*	RB	MC/MF	O	LC
	LANIIDAE (Shrikes)					
199.	'Black-headed' Long-tailed Shrike	*Lanius schach tricolor group*	WV	WGL/AGR	C	LC
200.	'Rufous-backed' Long-tailed Shrike	*Lanius schach erythronotus group*	WV	WGL/AGR	C	LC
201.	Great Grey Shrike	*Lanis excubitor lahtora*	RB	WGL/WL/AGR	C	LC
202.	Grey-backed Shrike	*Lanius tephronotus*	WV	WGL/AGR	O	LC
203.	Brown Shrike	*Lanis c. cristatus*	WV	WGL/AGR	C	LC
204.	Isabelline Shrike	*Lanius isabellinus*	WV	WGL	U	LC
205.	Bay-backed Shrike	*Lanius vittatus*	RB	WGL/AGR	O	LC
	TURDINAE (Thrushes & Chats)					
206.	Orange-headed Thrush	*Geokichla citrine*	WV	MF/RF/MC	C	LC
207.	Blue Whistling-thrush	*Myophonus caeruleus*	LM	MF	U	LC
208.	Black-throated Thrush	*Turdus atrogularis*	WV	MF/AGR	O	LC
209.	Bluethroat	*Luscinia s. svecica*	WV	WL/AGR	O	LC
210.	White-rumped Shama	*Copsychus malabaricus*	RB	MF/MC/RF	C	LC
211.	Oriental Magpie-robin	*Copsychus saularis*	RB	MF/RF	C	LC
212.	Indian Black Robin	*Copsychus fulicatus*	RB	WGL/AGR	C	LC
213.	Brown Rock-chat	*Oenanthe fusca*	RB	AGR	C	LC
214.	Black Redstart	*Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris*	WV	WGL/AGR/MF	C	LC

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215.	White-capped River-chat	*Phoenicurus leucocephalus*	LM	Stream	U	LC
216.	Pied Bushchat	*Saxicola caprata*	RB	WGL/AGR	C	LC
217.	Grey Bushchat	*Rhodophila ferrea*	WV	WGL	U	LC
218.	Siberian Stonechat	*Saxicola maurus*	WV	WGL/AGR	C	LC
	MUSCICAPIDAE (Flycatchers)					
219.	White-browed Fantail	*Rhipidura aureola*	RB	MF/MC	C	LC
220.	White-throated Fantail	*Rhipidura albicollis*	WV	MF/MC	C	LC
221.	Blue-naped Blue Monarch	*Hypothymis auzrea*	RB	MF/MC	O	LC
222.	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	*Terpsiphone paradisi*	BW	MF/RF/MC	O	LC
223.	Red-breasted Flycatcher	*Ficedula parva*	WV	MF/WGL/RF	C	LC
224.	Ultramarine Flycatcher	*Ficedula superciliaris*	WV	MF	U	LC
225.	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	*Cyornis tickelliae*	WV	MF/RF	O	LC
226.	Verditer Flycatcher	*Eumyias thalassinus*	WV	MF/MC	O	LC
	MUSCICAPIDAE (Babblers, Flycathchers, Warblers, Thrushes & Chats)					
227.	Yellow-eyed Babbler	*Chrysomma sinense*	RB	WGL	O	LC
228.	Tawny-bellied Babbler	*Dumetia hyperythra*	RB	WGL/MF	U	LC
229.	Common Babbler	*Turdoides caudate*	RB	WGL/AGR	C	LC
230.	Striated Babbler	*Turdoides* ear1ei	RB	GL	C	LC
231.	Large Grey Babbler	*Turdoides malcolmi*	RB	AGR/MF	C	LC
232.	Jungle Babbler	*Turdoides striata*	RB	MF/MC/AGR	C	LC
233.	Puff-throated Babbler	*Pellomeum ruficeps*	RB	MF/MC	O	LC
	SYLVIINAE (Warblers)					
234.	Striated Grassbird	*Megalurus palustris*	RB	GL	C	LC
235.	Zitting Cisticola	*Cisticola juncidis*	RB	GL	C	LC
236.	Ashy Prinia	*Prinia socialis*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	C	LC
237.	Plain Prinia	*Prinia inornata*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	C	LC
238.	Grey-breasted Prinia	*Prinia hidgsoni*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	U	LC
239.	Indian Reed-warbler	*Acrocephalus [stentoreus] brunnescens*	WV	GL	U	LC
240.	Blyth's Reed-warbler	*Acrocephalus dumetorum*	WV	GL	U	LC
241.	Common Tailorbird	*Orthotomus sutorius*	RB	MF/WGL	C	LC

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242.	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	*Culicicapa ceylonesis*	WV	MC/MF	C	LC
243.	Smoky Leaf-warbler	*Phylloscopus fuligiventer*	WV	WL/ MF	U	LC
244.	Greenish Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochiloides*	WV	MF	O	LC
245.	Lesser Whitethroat	*Sylvia curra halimodendri*	WV	WGL/MF	C	LC
	PARIDAE (Tits)					
246.	Cinereous Tit	*Parus cinereus*	RB	MF/MC/WGL	C	LC
	SITTIDAE (Nuthatches & Creepers)					
247.	Indian Nuthatch	*Sitta castanea*	RB	MF/MC/WGL	C	LC
	DICAEDAE (Flowerpeckers)					
248.	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	*Pachyglossa agile*	RB	MF/MC	O	LC
	ZOSTEROPIDAE (White-eyes)					
249.	Oriental White-eye	*Zosterops palpebrosus*	RB	MF/MC	C	LC
	NECTARINIIDAE (Sunbirds)					
250.	Purple Sunbird	*Cinnyris asiaticus*	RB	MF/MC/WGL	C	LC
251.	Crimson Sunbird	*Aethopyga siparaja*	RB	MF/MC	O	LC
	EMBERlZlDAE (Buntings)					
252.	Crested Bunting	*Emberiza lathami*	RB	WGL/AGR	C	LC
253.	Yellow-breasted Bunting	*Emberiza aureola*	SM/WV?	AGR/GL	U	EN
	FRINGILLIDAE (Finches)					
254.	Common Rosefinch	*Erythrina erythrina*	WV	AGR/MF	O	LC
	PLOCEIDAE (Weaver Birds)					
255.	Red Avadavat	*Amandava amandava*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	C	LC
256.	Chestnut Munia	*Lonchura atricapilla*	1 record	GL/AGR	U	LC
257.	Tricoloured Munia	*Lonchura Malacca*	BV	GL/AGR	C	LC
258.	Indian Silverbill	*Euodice malabarica*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	U	LC
259.	Scaly-brested Munia	*Lonchura punctulata*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	C	LC

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260.	House Sparrow	*Passer* domesticus	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	C	LC
261.	Yellow-throated Sparrow	*Gymnoris xanthocollis*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	C	LC
262.	'Indian' Baya Weaver	*Ploceus p. philippinus*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	C	LC
263.	Streaked Weaver	*Ploceous manyar*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	U	LC
264.	Black-breasted Weaver	*Ploceous benghalensis*	RB	GL/WGL/AGR	C	LC
	ORIOLIDAE (Orioles)					
265.	Indian Golden Oriole	*Oriolus kundoo*	BV	MF/WGL/RF	O	LC
266.	Black-hooded Oriole	*Oriolous xanthornus*	RB	MF/MC/WGL	C	LC
	DICRURIDAE (Drongos)					
267.	Black Drongo	*Dicrurus macrocercus*	RB	MC/WGL	C	LC
268.	Ashy Drongo	*Edolius leucophaeus*	WV	MC/MF	U	LC
269.	White-bellied Drongo	*Edolius caerulescens*	RB	MC/MF/RF/WGL	C	LC
270.	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	*Dicrurus paradiseus*	RB	**MC/MF/RF**	C	LC
271.	Hair-crested Drongo	*Dicrurus hottentottus*	RB	MC/MF	C	LC
	STURNIDAE (Starlings & Mynas)					
272.	Grey-headed Starling	*Sturnusm alabarica*	RB	MF/WGL	C	LC
273.	Brahminy Starling	*Sturnia pagodarum*	RB	MF/WGL/AGR	C	LC
274.	Asian Pied Starling	*Gracupica contra*	RB	WGL/MF	C	LC
275.	Bank Myna	*Acridotheres ginginianus*	RB	AGR/GL	C	LC
276.	Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*	RB	AGR/WGL	C	LC
277.	Jungle Myna	*Acridotheres fuscus*	RB	MF	C	LC
	CORVIDAE (Magpies & Jays)					
278.	House Crow	*Corvus splendens*	RB	AGR/WGL/MF	C	LC
279.	Jungle Crow	*Corvus [macrorhynchos] culminates*	RB	AGR/MF/MC	C	LC
280.	Red-billed Blue Magpie	*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*	LM	MF	U	LC
281.	Rufous Treepie	*Dendrocitta vagabunda*	RB	MF/MC/WGL	C	LC

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Preview of presentations and talks on Avifaunal Diversity of Suheldev Wildlife Sanctuary delivered at various seminars and meetings, between November 2013 and November 2014, by the BNHS team


अशुभ का विनाश
ज्ञान प्राप्ति
संस्कृत
हिन्दी


WWF
प्रशिक्षण
वन्य जीव अनुश्रवण
आयोजक
विश्व प्रकृति निधि-भारत (WWF-INDIA)
एवं
सुहेलवा वन्य जीव प्रभाग, बलरामपुर


Sohelwa
wildlife sanctuary
जैव विविधता विचार गोष्ठी
सोहेलवा वन्य जीव प्रभाग, बलरामपुर
सह प्रायोजक : द टाइगर नेचर क्लब (डब्लू.डब्लू.एफ.)
स्थान : प्रेक्षागृह, महारानी लाल कुँवरि स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय, बलरामपुर


जैव विविधता विचार गोष्ठी


WORKSHOP ON ANIMAL & BIRD IDENTIFICATION
INVOLVING YOUTH IN CONSERVATION
Celebrating 26 Years of Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary
(Nov. 1988 - Nov. 2014)
At M. L. K. (P.G.) COLLEGE, BALRAMPUR
Sunday, November 16, 2014
Supported by Suhelwa Suraksha Samiti

Some Press coverage by local media regarding BNHS work on Suheldev birds

कुछ अलग

पक्षियों का एक वर्षीय बेस लाइन सर्वे

प्रवासी पक्षी सोहेलवा को देंगे विश्व में नई पहचान

बलरामपुर | सचिन मदान

सेंचुरी में प्रवास करने वाले विदेशी पक्षी सोहेलवा को विश्व में नई पहचान देंगे। रायल बंगाल टाइगर के प्राकृतिक आवास के रूप में विख्यात सेंचुरी में पक्षियों की चहचहाहट सैलानियों को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करेगी। बाम्बे नेचुरल हिस्ट्री सोसाइटी सेंचुरी की एक वर्षीय स्टडी में जुटी है। बीएनएचएस के प्राथमिक रिपोर्ट में काफी उत्साहपूर्ण तथ्य सामने आए हैं। लगभग चालीस प्रवासी पक्षियों की मौजूदगी सेंचुरी में दर्ज की गई है। इनमें एमर फाल्कन सहित कुछ ऐसे पक्षी शामिल हैं जिन्हें इससे पहले यूपी में रिपोर्ट नहीं किया

सोहेलवा में मौजूद एमर फाल्कान पक्षी

गया है। सोहेलवा का इको सिस्टम भारत में कार्बेट नेशनल पार्क तथा यूएसए में यलो स्टोन नेशनल पार्क से मिलता जुलता है। जिसमें विश्व के एक प्रतिशत विलुप्त प्राय पौधे, पशु व पक्षी पाए जाते हैं। **बीएनएचएस का अध्ययन बना सकता है सेंचुरी को लोकप्रिय**:पेज-09

बीएनएचएस का अध्ययन बना सकता है सेंचुरी को लोकप्रिय

बलरामपुर | हिन्दुस्तान संवाद

सोहेलवा को विश्व में नई पहचान दिलाने के लिए यहां पाए जाने वाले ऐसे पक्षियों को सामने लाने का जिम्मा बीएनएचएस को सौंपा गया है। जहां एक ओर सोहेलवा को टाइगर रिजर्व बनाने सम्बंधी फाइल शासन में लम्बित है वहीं बीएनएचएस की यह स्टडी सेंचुरी को अलग दर्जा दिला सकती है।

एक वर्षीय स्टडी का लक्ष्य सोहेलवा में पाए जाने वाले तथा प्रवास के दौरान आने वाले पक्षियों की सूची बनाना। टूरिज्म क्षमता की पहचान करना तथा स्थानीय लोगों को लाभान्वित करने के लिए योजना बनाना। स्थानीय युवाओं को बर्ड टूरिज्म के लिए प्रशिक्षित करना तथा सोहेलवा को देश के ईको टूरिज्म के नक्शे पर लाना है। यह पहली बार है जब सोहेलवा में पक्षियों से सम्बंधित बेस लाइन सर्वे किया जा रहा है। बीएनएचएस की शुरुआती स्टडी में पक्षियों की 150 स्पीसीज़ तथा सब स्पीसीज की पहचान की गई है। सेंचुरी में स्थित कई जलाशय पक्षियों को प्रवास के दौरान अपनी ओर आकर्षित करते हैं। बीएनएचएस के सीनियर रिसर्चर रजत भार्गव बताते हैं कि जलाशय तथा मैदान के साथ-साथ क्षेत्र में पाए जाने वाले साल तथा टीक के पेड़ भी पक्षियों के लिए आकर्षण है। इन पेड़ों में पाए जाने वाले दीमक भी पक्षियों के यहां ठहराव का कारण है। उनके मुताबिक विश्व में पक्षियों की लगभग तेरह सौ प्रजातियां पाई जाती हैं। भारत में अब तक सर्वाधिक 500-600 प्रजातियां कार्बेट नेशनल पार्क में पाई जाती हैं तथा सोहेलवा में कुल चार सौ प्रजातियों के मिलने की संभावना है। शुरुआती स्टडी में मिला एमर फाल्कन पक्षी भारत में अब तक सिर्फ नागालैण्ड में रिपोर्ट किया गया है। इस पक्षी को साल भर में सिर्फ 15-20 दिनों के लिए ही देखा जा सकता है। बीएनएचएस टीम को सोहेलवा में भारी मात्रा में राज्य पक्षी सारस, गिद्ध की एक प्रजाति इजिप्टियन वल्चर तथा शिकारी पक्षियों की 10 प्रजाति देखने को मिली है। डायरेक्टर, बीएनएचएस डा. असद रहमानी ने बताया कि सोहेलवा में प्रवास के दौरान आने वाले विदेशी पक्षियों की भारी मात्रा मिलने की प्रबल सम्भावना है। हमारे अब तक के प्रोजेक्ट से सोहेलवा भिन्न है। दुर्लभ पक्षियों की मौजूदगी के बारे में पूरे विश्व को पता लगना आवश्यक है। इससे सेंचुरी में टूरिज़्म के विकास में काफी सहयोग मिलेगा।

सोहेलवा में मिली अब तक मिली पक्षियों की प्रमुख प्रजातियां-

कूकू श्राइक, एमर फाल्कन, ब्लैक हेडेड यलो बुलबुल (बसंती बुलबुल), किंग फिशर, व्हाइट बेलीड ड्रान्गो, पिग्मी वुड पेकर, स्ट्राइटेड बाब्लर, मिनिवेट्स, श्रिंकस।

सोहेलवा वन्यजीव प्रभाग व टाइगर नेचर क्लब की गोष्ठी, जैव विविधता के बिना मानव जीवन असम्भव:यादव

विकास प्रक्रिया से जैव विविधता पर खतरा :मंत्री

गोष्ठी

बलरामपुर | निज संवाददाता

जैव विविधता के बिना मानव जीवन संभव नहीं है। सृष्टि का अस्तित्व बचाए रखने के लिए जैव विविधता को बनाए रखना जरूरी है। ये बातें 'जैव विविधता' विषय पर आयोजित गोष्ठी में शनिवार को जन्तु उद्यान राज्यमंत्री डॉ.एसपी यादव ने 'सोहेलवा वन्य जीव प्रभाग एवं टाइगर नेचर क्लब' के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में एक गोष्ठी में कहीं।

कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि जन्तु उद्यान राज्यमंत्री डा. एसपी यादव ने कहाकि विकास की प्रक्रिया से जैव विविधता पर खतरा बढ़ा है। इससे मानव का आधा मंडल खतरे में है। सोहेलवा के डीएफओ ने कहाकि जैव विविधता घटती जा रही है और आबादी बढ़ती। ये स्थिति मानव समाज के लिए घातक है। दोनों का संतुलन बिगड़ने से रोकना होगा।

• हिन्दुस्तानगोष्ठी के पूर्व दीप प्रज्ज्वलित करते डॉ.एसपी यादव

कार्यक्रम अध्यक्ष एमएलके कालेज के प्राचार्य डॉ. एके सिंह ने आधुनिकता का दुष्प्रभाव वन्य जीवों पर पड़ना बताया। कहा कि हम विकास की दौड़ में जितना आगे होंगे पर्यावरण के मामले में उतना ही पीछे जाना होगा। बाम्बे नेचुरल सोसायटी के डा. रजन भार्गव ने पक्षी व मानव संघर्ष की विस्तृत जानकारी दी। उप प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी एएन सिंह ने तेंदुआ व मानव के बीच चल रहे संघर्ष का खाका खींचा।

उन्होंने कहाकि जैव विविधता को बचाने में विज्ञान वर्ग के छात्र आगे आएं। डॉ. नागेन्द्र सिंह ने कहा कि सोहेलवा का एक भी तेंदुआ नरभक्षी नहीं है। वह धोखे से आकर बच्चों को मार देता है। हमें जंगल पर कब्जा करने की नीयत का त्याग करना होगा। वन्यजीव प्रेमी पाटेश्वरी प्रसाद सिंह ने सोहेलवा में टाइगर की संख्या घटने के कारणों पर प्रकाश डाला। कार्यक्रम में दबीर हसन और राकेश यादव आदि ने महत्वपूर्ण बातें कहीं।

भूले पर्यावरण संरक्षण : मंत्री

ऑक्सीजन की कमी

- एमएलके महाविद्यालय में जैव विविधता विचार गोष्ठी का आयोजन

जागरण कार्यालय, बलरामपुर : विकास की अंधी दौड़ में हम पर्यावरण संरक्षण को भूलते जा रहे हैं। जो मानव विनाश का कारण बनता जा रहा है। वायुमंडल में ऑक्सीजन की लगातार कमी हो रही है। जैव विविधता को भी नुकसान पहुंच रहा है। प्रदेश सरकार वन्य जीवों के संरक्षण के लिए प्रयासरत है।

यह बातें सूबे के जंतु उद्यान राज्यमंत्री डॉ. एसपी यादव ने नगर के एमएलके महाविद्यालय में सोहेलवा वन्य जीव प्रभाग द्वारा जैव विविधता पर आयोजित गोष्ठी में कही। सारस की संख्या प्रदेश में सबसे अधिक है। ईकोटूरिज्म को बढ़ावा दिए जाने पर बल देने की जरूरत है। वन्य जीवों के साथ इकोफ्रेंडली व्यवस्था बनाया जाना चाहिए। प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी एसएस श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि जैव विविधता प्रत्येक मानव के लिए आवश्यक है। जैव विविधता के बिना मानव जीवन की कल्पना नहीं की जा सकती है। बर्ड्स संरक्षण के डॉ. रजत भार्गव ने कहा कि बर्ड्स की 1300 प्रजातियां हैं। दिल्ली में ही 450 प्रजाति के पक्षी हैं। बलरामपुर जिला इस मामले में धनी हैं कि यहां कई प्रकार के बर्ड्स पाए जाते हैं। सहायक प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी एएन सिंह ने तेंदुआ, गुलदार में मानव संघर्ष पर अपनी बात रखी। विश्व प्रकृति निधि के प्रतिनिधि दबीर हसन, पाटेश्वरी प्रसाद सिंह ने कहा कि तराई के जंगल अन्य जंगलों से अधिक अच्छे हैं। गोष्ठी की शुरूआत मुख्य अतिथि जंतु उद्यान राज्यमंत्री डॉ. एसपी यादव व प्राचार्य एके सिंह ने दीप प्रज्ज्वलित एवं मां सरस्वती के चित्र पर माल्यार्पण करके किया। छात्रों ने सरस्वती वंदना की। कार्यक्रम में डॉ. रामानंद सिंह, डॉ. दिव्य दर्शन तिवारी, डॉ. आरके पांडेय व डॉ. केके सिंह आदि ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए।

जैव विविधता गोष्ठी का उद्घाटन करते प्रदेश के जंतु उद्यान राज्यमंत्री डॉ. एसपी यादव

'वैज्ञानिक विधि से करें खेती-बलरामपुर : सूबे के जंतु उद्यान राज्यमंत्री डॉ. एसपी यादव ने किसानों से पचपेड़वा में स्थित कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र का लाभ लेने की अपील की। किसानों की खुशहाली से ही देश, प्रदेश व जिला खुशहाल होगा। कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र की प्रयोगशाला और वैज्ञानिकों के सहयोग से उत्पादकता बढ़ाकर लाभ कमाएं। कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र पर टोल फ्री नंबर की व्यवस्था कराने की बात कही।

विकास भवन परिसर में आयोजित जिला स्तरीय खरीफ किसान मेला का फीता काटकर उद्घाटन करने के पश्चात राज्यमंत्री ने कहा कि इस तरह के आयोजन तहसील व ब्लॉक स्तरों से भी होने चाहिए। जिससे किसानों के हितार्थ संचालित योजनओं का लाभ कृषक उठा सके। कहा कि किसानों की सुविधा के लिए कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र पचपेड़वा में टोल फ्री नंबर की सुविधा कराई जाए। जिससे कृषक अपनी फसलों आदि के बारे में आसानी से जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकें।

ईको टूरिज्म को विकसित होगी सुहेलवा बर्ड सेंक्चुरी

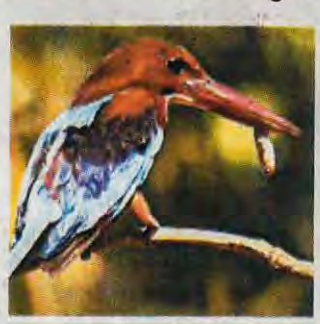
पक्षी विशेषज्ञ डॉ. रहमानी की टीम अध्ययन में जुटी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

लखनऊ। सूबे में ईको टूरिज्म की संभावनाएं विकसित करने के लिए सुहेलवा बर्ड सेंक्चुरी में एक अध्ययन शुरू किया गया है। अध्ययन पक्षी विज्ञानी सलीम अली से जुड़ी संस्था बाम्बे नेचुरल हिस्ट्री सोसायटी (बीएनएचएस) कर रही है। इसी के आधार पर बीएनएचएस वन निगम के साथ मिलकर वहां ईको टूरिज्म की संभावना का खाका तैयार करेगी।

पक्षी विशेषज्ञ व प्रोजेक्ट के निदेशक डॉ. एस रहमानी ने शनिवार को एक सप्ताह के अध्ययन में मिले तथ्यों को वन निगम व वन विभाग के अधिकारियों के साथ साझा किया। एक साल के इस प्रोजेक्ट पर डॉ. रहमानी के निर्देशन में बीएनएचएस सुहेलवा में पक्षियों की प्रजाति, उनकी मौजूदा परिस्थिति, गणना के साथ स्थानीय लोगों को प्रशिक्षित करने पर भी काम करेगी।

25 साल पहले नेपाल सीमा से सटे बलरामपुर-श्रावस्ती जिलों में विकसित किए गए इस सेंक्चुरी पर पहली बार अध्ययन शुरू किया गया है। शनिवार को लखनऊ स्थित वन निगम के कार्यालय में डॉ. रहमानी के सहयोगी रजत भार्गव ने कृषि मंत्री आनंद सिंह के साथ ही विभाग के अन्य अधिकारियों की मौजूदगी में अध्ययन से जुड़े तथ्य रखे। बताया कि बर्ड सेंक्चुरी में अब तक पक्षियों की 150 प्रजातियों का पता चला है। यह संख्या 500 के पार जा सकती है। कॉर्बेट पार्क में भी अभी तक पक्षियों की 550 प्रजातियां मिली हैं।



- कृषि मंत्री आनंद सिंह की मौजूदगी में गिनाईं समस्याएं
- गणना के साथ स्थानीय लोगों को किया जाएगा प्रशिक्षित

दिखे दुर्लभ जीव

टीम को सुहेलवा में राज्य पक्षी सारस के अलावा गिद्ध की नौ में से एक प्रजाति वहां देखने को मिली। शिकारी पक्षियों की 10 प्रजातियां वहां अब तक मिल चुकी हैं। प्रवासी पक्षी फॉल्कन यूपी में पहली बार दिखे। इसकी वजह वहां सात वेटलैंड का मौजूद होना है। बसंती बुलबुल, ग्रासलैंड बर्ड, स्ट्राइक भी मिले। मकड़ी और गीदड़ की कई प्रजाति भी पाई गईं।

दिए सुझाव

- स्थानीय लोगों को जागरूक किया जाए
- पक्षियों को लेकर लगे साइन बोर्ड
- उनकी रक्षा में युवाओं की भागीदारी बढ़े

सूबे में ईको टूरिज्म को बढ़ावा देने की कवायद शुरू कर दी गई है। सुहेलवा सेंक्चूरी इसका हिस्सा बनेगा। इसे ईको टूरिज्म के लिए विकसित किया जाएगा। हर दिसंबर को बर्ड वॉच कैंप लगाने की तैयारी हम कर चुके हैं। इससे लोगों को पक्षियों की दुनिया के बारे में करीब से जानने का मौका मिलेगा।

-एसके उपाध्याय, सहायक प्रबंध निदेशक, वन निगम

सुहेलवा में पक्षियों की ज्यादा प्रजाति मिलने की संभावना है। यह हमारा आठवां प्रोजेक्ट यूपी में है। सुहेलवा इन सबमें अलग है। इसके महत्व को पूरी दुनिया के सामने उजागर करने की जरूरत है।

-डॉ. एस रहमानी, निदेशक, बीएनएचएस

इस बर्ड सेंक्चुरी को बचाने में पूरी मदद की जाएगी। मेरा सिर्फ इतना ही कहना है कि प्रकृति के संतुलन का ध्यान रखा जाए। जानवर व पक्षी दोनों को रहने का अधिकार है। किसानों को भी रहने का अधिकार मिलना चाहिए। दोनों में संतुलन बहुत अहम है।

- आनंद सिंह, कृषि मंत्री, यूपी सरकार

ये हैं चुनौतियां

सेंक्चुरी में तेजी से खत्म हो रहा ग्रासलैंड एक बड़ी चुनौती है। बिना रोक-टोक पॉलीथिन जानवरों व पक्षियों तक पहुंच रही है। अगर पॉलीथिन के उपयोग को न रोका गया तो बड़ी समस्या खड़ी हो जाएगी। मछलियों का शिकार कर रहे लोग पक्षियों का खाना बनने वाली छोटी मछलियों को भी नहीं छोड़ रहे।

12 साल से लड़ाई

सुहेलवा को बचाने के लिए 12 साल से स्थानीय महिला निहारिका सिंह लड़ाई लड़ रही हैं। वहां स्थानीय लोगों को जोड़कर वह आर्थिक रूप से मदद के लिए भी प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का उपयोग कर रही हैं।

चिड़ियों के लिए घास के मैदान व तालाब बचाएं

- पक्षियों के संरक्षण में स्थानीय समुदाय को भागीदार बनाया जाए : डॉ .रहमानी

जागरण ब्यूरो, लखनऊ : भारत में पक्षियों की तकरीबन 150 संकटग्रस्त प्रजातियों में से लगभग 70 की रिहायश घास के मैदानों में है। घास के मैदानों के खत्म या बर्बाद होने के कारण यह स्थिति पैदा हुई है। यदि चिड़ियों को संरक्षित करना है तो घास के मैदानों और तालाबों को बचाना होगा। यह कहना है देश में पक्षियों के संरक्षण में लगी अग्रणी संस्था बॉम्बे नेचुरल हिस्ट्री सोसाइटी (बीएनएचएस) के निदेशक डॉ. असद आर. रहमानी का।

शनिवार को वह उप्र वन निगम के सभागार में बलरामपुर के सोहेलवा और महाराजगंज के सोहागी बरवा वन्यजीव विहारों में बीएनएचएस की ओर से शुरू किये गह पक्षियों के अध्ययन के बारे में जानकारी दे रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि घास के मैदानों में रहने वाले बंगाल फ्लोरिकन प्रजाति इसीलिए लुप्तप्राय हो गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि स्थानीय समुदायों को भी पक्षियों के संरक्षण में भागीदार बनाने के साथ उन्हें ईको-टूरिज्म के क्षेत्र में प्रशिक्षित किये जाने की जरूरत है। इससे पहले बीएचएनएस के रजत भार्गव ने बताया कि सोहेलवा में उनकी टीम ने बीते दो हफ्तों में पक्षियों की 150 प्रजातियों को चिन्हित किया है जिनमें से 40 प्रकार के प्रवासी पक्षी जलाशयों में दिखायी दिये। उन्होंने कहा कि कई क्षेत्रों में एक प्रजाति के पेड़ों की वजह से उनमें पक्षियों की प्रजातियां कम है। इस पर ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। मुख्य अतिथि कृषि मंत्री आनंद सिंह ने वन्यजीवों और मानवों के बीच तकरार रोकने पर जोर दिया। सोहलेवा में पक्षियों के संरक्षण में लगी निहारिका सिंह ने कहा 'बर्ड टूरिज्म' दुनिया में अरबों का व्यवसाय है। हमें वन्यजीवों के संरक्षण के लिए. ईको-टूरिज्म को बढ़ावा देने की जरूरत है।

फोन : 0512–2

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