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Cover: A digital art of water birds of Noyyal River and its wetlands in Coimbatore District by Megha A. Kashyap.



A checklist of avian fauna of Suang Reserve Forest, Nagaon, Assam, India with notes on some species of interest

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Abstract: This study presents the first avian checklist from the Suang Reserve Forest of Nagaon, Assam, India. The study conducted between 2018 and 2023 documented 228 bird species belonging to 18 orders and 64 families of which four are globally threatened according to the IUCN Red List. Passeriformes was the most dominant order, with 128 species. Among non-passerines, Piciformes exhibited the highest richness (15 species), followed by Cuculiformes and Accipitriformes (13 species each). The family Muscicapidae had the greatest species diversity (21 species), followed by Accipitridae (13 species), Phylloscopidae (11 species), and Picidae (11 species). We also documented 38 winter visitors and seven summer migrants in the reserve forest. Noteworthy findings included rare sightings of the White-cheeked Partridge and Grey Peacock-Pheasant, and unusual sightings of Wreathed Hornbill and Pacific Golden Plover. The results showed the healthy condition of the forest and its high biodiversity value, despite the study limitations due to inaccessible terrain. We recommend extensive documentation of avifauna and other biodiversity for this region for future conservation planning.

Keywords: Accipitriformes, biodiversity, birds, conservation, documentation, IUCN, migrants, Passeriformes, Piciformes, threatened.

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Author contributions: Conceptualization: NB and CB; Data collection: CB, NB, RD, RJD and CBh; Methodology: CB and NB; Software: CB and CBh; Writing-original draft: NB, CB and CBh; Writing- review and editing: NB, CB and CBh. The final draft of the manuscript was read and approved by all the authors.

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INTRODUCTION

Birds are an essential part of the ecosystem and provide varied services that support life that depends on them (Michel et al. 2020). They carry out a variety of functions such as pest control, pollination, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling (Ceia et al. 2023). Monitoring bird populations can yield valuable information about the health of an ecosystem (Fraixedas et al. 2020). The Indian subcontinent recorded 317 bird species, which is over 12.5% of the world's bird species (Praveen & Jayapal 2022). The confluence of the Indo-Malayan, Indo-Chinese, and Indian biogeographical areas, the northeastern region of India provides a diverse range of habitats that support a wide variety of avian species (Chatterjee et al. 2016). The state of Assam in northeastern India has a notably diverse bird population. Substantial contributions have been made to study the diversity, distribution, and ecology of birds in Assam in recent years (Barua & Sharma 2005; Choudhury 2006; Das & Deori 2010; Ahmed & Dey 2014; Chakdar et al. 2019; Kakati et al. 2022; Rahmani et al. 2023). Therefore, extensive surveys are very much needed to uncover all such unexplored regions. The Suang Reserve Forest in Nagaon district of Assam is one such undocumented region. It is a dense forest with undiscovered biodiversity. This moist deciduous forest features evergreen vegetation creating a unique habitat, complemented by its hilly terrain, hill streams, and nearby tea gardens. However, in terms of biodiversity documentation, no literature is available. Thus, the current study presents the first avian checklist documentation of the region and establishes baseline data for future studies and conservation efforts.

STUDY AREA

Suang Reserve Forest (26.2832°N, 92.8619°E & 26.3552°N, 92.9475°E) is located near the Karbi Hills of Nagaon District in central Assam, under Nagaon Forest Division. The reserve forest, characterized by a dense forest cover covers an area of 2,645 ha (Figure 1). The predominant forest type is primarily moist deciduous or moist deciduous-mixed type. However, characteristics of tropical semi-evergreen forests are also observed in the study area. The reserve forest is surrounded on the north by Lungsung tea garden, on the south by Chapong pahar, on the east by Chapanala tea garden, and on the west by Balijuri and Jiajuri tea gardens. A prominent hill stream called Champawati also runs through it. The study area experiences a hot sub-tropical humid climate and is characterized by four distinct seasons,

with summer (25.3–33 °C) and winter (11.2–25.2 °C) temperatures.

During the survey, prominent flora recorded included plantations of *Tectona grandis* and *Shorea robusta* as well as a variety of wild flora like *Artocarpus chama*, *Mangifera indica*, *Dysoxylum gotadhora*, *Artocarpus lakoocha*, *Spondias pinnata*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Ficus benghalensis*, and *Ficus racemosa*. Notably, prominent mammalian fauna spotted during our surveys included *Macaca mulatta*, *Macaca assamensis*, *Nycticebus bengalensis*, *Hoolock hoolock*, *Elephas maximus*, *Axis porcinus*, and *Muntiacus muntjac*.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Field surveys were conducted for five years from January 2018 to January 2023 covering all four seasons (Pre-monsoon: March to May, Monsoon: June to September, Retreating Monsoon: October to November, and Winter: December to February). However, the tracks around the hill-stream were deliberately avoided in winter to avoid public interference.

The surveys were conducted during morning hours (0600–1000 h) and afternoon hours (1430–1530 h) by a team of two or three observers, following the point count method (Bibby et al. 2000), and at each point, GPS data was collected. The distance between two consecutive points was ~50 m. At each point, the observers recorded the number of bird species for 15 minutes. After arriving at each point of the count, a five-minute settling period was allowed for birds to resume normal behaviour. In the case of the birds that could not be seen but heard, counts were also made for those whose location was obvious from their songs/calls. Songs and calls were also recorded for later identification if necessary. Additionally, all other observations are entered as opportunistic sightings while moving from one point to another. Avian fauna was documented through direct observation using binoculars Nikon Prostaff (8 × 42 mm) and digital cameras (Nikon P900 and Nikon D500 with Nikkor 200–500 mm lens) for photographs. GPS data were collected using Garmin eTrex-10 and calls were recorded using a Zoom H1 handheld recorder. Birds were identified using a field guidebook (Grimmett et al. 2011).

The bird calls recorded were analysed later with the help of Raven Pro (1.6.5), using the machine learning model "BirdNET_GLOBAL_6K_V2.4" (Kahl et al. 2021). After that, the results were cross-checked at <http://www.xeno-canto.org/> online database.

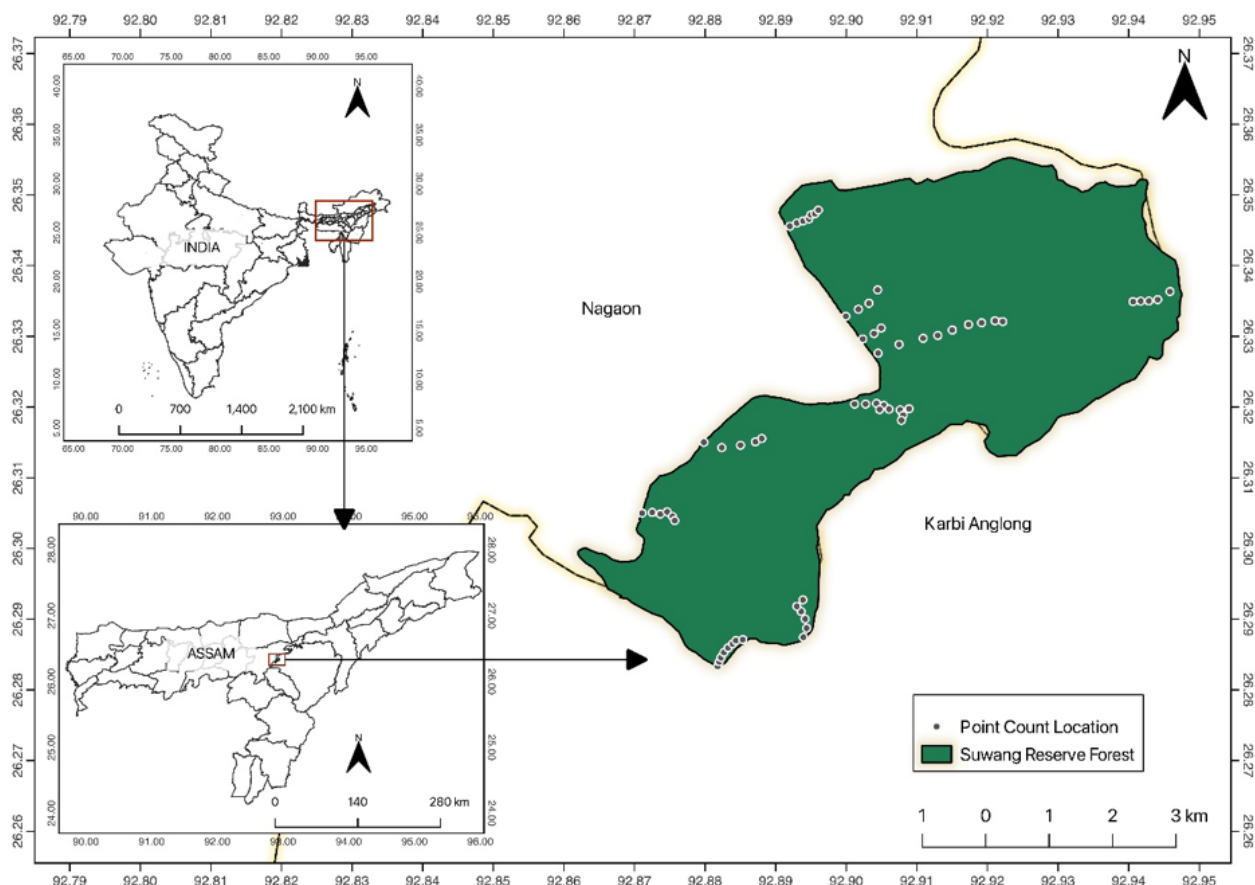


Figure 1. Location map of Suwang Reserve Forest in Assam, India, showing point count locations within the reserve.

The threatened status of the birds was assessed as per the IUCN Red List status (IUCN 2023). The migratory status of the birds is given as per 'Birds of the World (2022)' (Billerman et al. 2022). Local names of the birds were compiled from available literature on birds in Assamese (Gogoi 2006; Dutta 2011).

RESULTS

The present study documented 228 species of birds belonging to 18 orders and 64 families. Order Passeriformes was the most dominant one with 128 species. Among the non-passerines, maximum richness was represented by the order Piciformes with 15 species followed by Cuculiformes with 13 species, and Accipitriformes with 13 species (Figure 2). The family Muscicapidae shows the highest species richness (21 species), followed by Accipitridae (13 species), Phylloscopidae (11 species), and Picidae (11 species). Among the 228 bird species recorded, 183 (80%) are resident birds. Winter Visitors (WV) account for 38 species (17%) of the total bird population, and seven

species are Summer Migrants (SM). Eight (4 Vulnerable and 4 Near Threatened) species were threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2023).

We recorded four species of Pheasants from this region out of which White-cheeked Partridge *Arborophila atrogularis* and Grey Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* are rare records. Also, some unusual sightings from the study area are Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus* and Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*.

A detailed account of some interesting species like Grey Peacock-Pheasant, White-cheeked Partridge, Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*, Wreathed Hornbill, Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*, Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*, Bristled Grassbird *Schoenicola striatus*, Jackobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*, Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*, Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*, Pacific Golden Plover, Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* and Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* is additionally provided with IUCN Red List status.

Table 1. Checklist of birds in Suang Reserve Forest.

	Common name	Scientific name	Local name	IUCN Red List	Migration status
Order: ANSERIFORMES					
Family: ANATIDAE					
	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	Xoru Sorali Hah	LC	R
Order: ACCIPITRIFORMES					
Family: ACCIPITRIDAE					
	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i> (Desfontaines, 1789)	Kola deuka xen	LC	R
	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	Chiloni	LC	WV
	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i> (Temminck, 1821)	Moukhap	LC	R
	Black Baza	<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i> (Dumont, 1820)	Kola tikoni xen	LC	R
	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i> (Latham, 1790)	Sap-Kota	LC	R
	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i> (Gmelin, 1788)	Eagle	LC	WV
	Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1788)	Deu-Eagle	LC	R
	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i> (de Sparre, 1835)	Mamor Petia Eagle	NT	R
	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Tunstall, 1771)	Pahari Xen	LC	R
	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i> (Pennant, 1769)	Pokhora Xen	LC	WV
	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Masua-Xen	LC	WV
	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1788)	Bori Xen	LC	R
	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Tuni-khua Chiloni	LC	WV
Order: APODIFORMES					
Family: APODIDAE					
	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasienis</i> (J.E. Gray, 1829)	Tal Botahi	LC	R
Order: BUCEROTIFORMES					
Family: BUCEROTIDAE					
	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i> (Shaw, 1812)	Chaya Dhonesh	VU	R
	Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Raj Dhonesh	VU	R
Family: UPUIDAE					
	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Kakoi-Xira	LC	R
Order: CHARADRIIFORMES					
Family: CHARADRIIDAE					
	Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Xunali-loriyoli	LC	WV
	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i> (Blyth, 1842)	Dol-Ghura	LC	WV
	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	Bali-Ghura	LC	R
	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i> (Latham, 1790)	Dol-Punga	LC	R
	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Balituka	LC	WV
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Bali-khusora	LC	WV
Family: LARIDAE					
	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> (Pallas, 1811)	Gonga-Chiloni	LC	R
Family: TURNICIDAE					
	Barred Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Bota-Sorai	LC	R
Order: CICONIIFORMES					
Family: CICONIIDAE					
	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	Samuk-bhonga	LC	R
	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	Bortokola	NT	R
Order: COLUMBIFORMES					
Family: COLUMBIDAE					
	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Paro-Sorai	LC	R
	Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i> (Hermann, 1804)	Harua Kopou	LC	R

	Common name	Scientific name	Local name	IUCN Red List	Migration status
	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> (Frisvaldszky, 1838)	Sweto Kopou	LC	R
	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	Til Kopou	LC	R
	Oriental Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i> (Latham, 1790)	Xon-Kopou	LC	R
	Asian Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Sil-Kopou	LC	R
	Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron phaeocephalus</i> (Latham, 1790)	Haitha	LC	R
	Thick-billed Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron curvirostris</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Bor-Haitha	LC	R
	Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron sphenurus</i> (Vigors, 1832)	Solokha-nejia Haitha	LC	R
Order: CORACIIFORMES					
Family: ALCEDINIDAE					
	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Masruka	LC	R
	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Boga-bukua Masruka	LC	R
Family: CORACIIDAE					
	Indochinese Roller	<i>Coracias affinis</i> (Horsfield, 1840)	Kau-Sorai	LC	R
	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Nila Kau Sorai	LC	R
Family: MEROPIDAE					
	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i> (Jardine & Selby, 1828)	Nila-pakhi moukhua	LC	R
	Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i> (Latham, 1801)	Jiya-Khati	LC	R
	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	Nila-neji Jiya Khati	LC	R
Order: CUCULIFORMES					
Family: CUCULIDAE					
	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i> (Stephens, 1815)	Bor-Kukuha	LC	R
	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1788)	Ulu-kukuha	LC	R
	Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i> (Lesson, 1830)	Bomura	LC	R
	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Badam Pakhiya Kuli	LC	SM
	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	Piu kaha	LC	SM
	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Kuli	LC	R
	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	Fesu-Kuli	LC	SM
	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i> (Vahl, 1797)	Xen-kuli	LC	R
	Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus Micropterus</i> (Gould, 1838)	Keteki	LC	SM
	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Bilati keteki	LC	SM
	Large Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparveroides</i> (Vigors, 1832)	Bor Xenkuli	LC	SM
	Asian Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx maculatus</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1788)	Rongosua kuli	LC	SM
	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	Mamor-Petia Kuli	LC	R
Order: GALLIFORMES					
Family: PHASIANIDAE					
	White-cheeked Partridge	<i>Arborophila atrogularis</i> (Blyth, 1849)	Gal-Boga Hoikoli	LC	R
	Common Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i> (Valenciennes, 1825)	Koira	LC	R
	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Bon-Kukura	LC	R
	Grey Peacock-Pheasant	<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Deu-Dorik	LC	R
	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i> (Latham, 1790)	Dorik	LC	R
Order: GRUIFORMES					
Family: RALLIDAE					
	Slaty-breasted Rail	<i>Lewinia striata</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Jikor	LC	R
	Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Kura-Dhekor	LC	R
	Grey-headed Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i> (Latham, 1801)	Kam-Sorai	LC	R
	Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Pani-kukura	LC	R
	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> (Pennant, 1769)	Dauk	LC	R

	Common name	Scientific name	Local name	IUCN Red List	Migration status
	Brown Crane	<i>Zapornia akool</i> (Sykes, 1832)	Muga-Jikor	LC	R
Order: PASSERIFORMES					
Family: ACROCEPHALIDAE					
	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Arundinax aedon</i> (Pallas, 1776)		LC	WV
	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i> (Jerdon, 1845)		LC	WV
	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i> (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833)		LC	WV
Family: AEGITHINIDAE					
	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Bihuyoti Sorai	LC	R
Family: ALAUDIDAE					
	Bengal Bushlark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i> (Horsfield, 1840)	Rongosua bhardwaj	LC	R
Family: ARTAMIDAE					
	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	Botahi sorai	LC	R
Family: CAMPEPHAGIDAE					
	Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i> (Blyth, 1846)	Rupohi	LC	R
	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i> (Vigors, 1831)	Suti thutiya rupohi	LC	R
	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i> (Bangs & Phillips, JC, 1914)	Dighol-nejia Rupohi	LC	R
	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i> (Latham, 1790)	Rupohi	LC	R
	Large Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i> (Lesson, 1831)	Kuli Erakhaiti	LC	R
	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melaschistos</i> (Hodgson, 1836)		LC	R
FAMILY: CETTIIDAE					
	Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus supercilialis</i> (Blyth, 1859)	Tiposi	LC	R
Family: CHLOROPSEIDAE					
	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis moluccensis</i> (Gray, JE, 1831)	Patsorai	LC	R
	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i> (Temminck, 1829)	Xun kopali Patsorai	LC	R
Family: CISTICOLIDAE					
	Grey-bellied Tesia	<i>Tesia cyaniventer</i> (Hodgson, 1837)	Tesia	LC	R
	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> (Pennant, 1769)	Patxia sorai	LC	R
	Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i> (Temminck, 1836)	Patxia sorai	LC	R
	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i> (Rafinesque, 1810)	Tiktik sorai	LC	R
	Rufescent Prinia	<i>Prinia rufescens</i> (Blyth, 1847)		LC	R
Family: CORVIDAE					
	Common Green-Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	Xeujiya kuklunga	LC	R
	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i> (Latham, 1790)	Sekseki	LC	R
	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	Pati Kauri	LC	R
	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> (Wagler, 1827)	Dhura kauri	LC	R
Family: DICAELIDAE					
	Yellow-vented Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum chrysorrheum</i> (Temminck, 1829)	Fultuka	LC	R
	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum</i> (R. Swinhoe, 1870)	Fultuka	LC	R
	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Fultuka	LC	R
Family: DICRURIDAE					
	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	Fesu	LC	R
	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	Motiya Fesu	LC	R
	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i> (Temminck, 1823)	Xoru Bhrimraaj	LC	R
	Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Kexoraaj	LC	R

	Common name	Scientific name	Local name	IUCN Red List	Migration status
	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Bor Bhrimraaj	LC	R
Family: EMBERIZIDAE					
	Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i> (Pallas, 1776)		LC	WV
Family: ESTRILDIDAE					
	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Futuki tuni	LC	R
	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Tuni sorai	LC	R
	Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i> (Vieillot, 1807)	Kola tuni	LC	R
Family: EURLAIMIDAE					
	Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i> (Jameson, 1835)		LC	R
Family: HIRUNDINIDAE					
	Asian Plain Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i> (J. E. Gray, 1830)	Teltupi	LC	R
	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Teltupi	LC	R
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Teltupi	LC	WV
Family: IRENIDAE					
	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i> (Latham, 1790)	Nilpori	LC	R
Family: LANIIDAE					
	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Muga Era khaiti	LC	WV
	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Dighol-nejia bagh sorai	LC	WV
	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i> (Vigors, 1831)	Bagh sorai	LC	WV
Family: LEIOTHRICHIDAE					
	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax monileger</i> (Hodgson, 1836)	Hahiyoti	LC	R
	Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	<i>Pterorhinus pectoralis</i> (Gould, 1836)	Boiragi Hahiyoti	LC	R
Family: LOCUSTELLIDAE					
	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i> (Horsfield, 1821)		LC	R
	Bristled Grassbird	<i>Schoenicola striatus</i> (Jerdon, 1841)		VU	R
Family: MONARCHIDAE					
	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	Rajkumar	LC	R
Family: MOTACILLIDAE					
	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Balimahi	LC	WV
	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> (Tunstall, 1771)	Balimahi	LC	WV
	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i> (Pallas, 1776)	Halodhimuriya Balimahi	LC	WV
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Boga Balimahi	LC	WV
	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i> (Vieillot, 1818)	Matimahi	LC	R
	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i> (Blyth, 1847)	Gulapi Matimahi	LC	WV
	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> (Richmond, 1907)	Matimahi	LC	WV
Family: MUSCICAPIDAE					
	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Dohikotora	LC	R
	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	Shama	LC	R
	Pale-chinned Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis poliogenys</i> (Brooks, 1880)	Makhiyoti	LC	R
	Small Niltava	<i>Niltava macgrigoriae</i> (Burton, 1836)	Xoru Nilmoni	LC	R
	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i> (Swainson, 1838)	Nilmoti	LC	R
	Lesser Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx leucophris</i> (Temminck, 1828)		LC	R
	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Nilakantho	LC	WV

	Common name	Scientific name	Local name	IUCN Red List	Migration status
	Blue Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	Nilomoti	LC	R
	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i> (Pallas, 1811)		LC	R
	Black-backed Forktail	<i>Enicurus immaculatus</i> (Hodgson, 1836)	Ketepa tip	LC	R
	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i> (Pallas, 1776)	Tez tip	LC	WV
	Chinese Rubythroat	<i>Calliope tschebaiewi</i> (Przevalsky, 1876)	Tez tip	LC	WV
	White-tailed Robin	<i>Myiomela leucura</i> (Hodgson, 1845)		LC	R
	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i> (Blyth, 1843)	Makhiyoti	LC	R
	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i> (Pallas, 1811)	Nasoni	LC	WV
	Slaty-backed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula erithacus</i> (Blyth, 1861)	Makhiyoti	LC	WV
	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i> (Pallas, 1773)	Hilkatora	LC	WV
	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i> (Gray, JE & Gray, GR, 1847)		LC	R
	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i> (Gmelin, S.G., 1774)	Kola somoka	LC	WV
	White-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i> (Vigors, 1831)	Boga rongili	LC	R
	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i> (Vigors, 183)		LC	R
Family: NECTARINIIDAE					
	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Moupiya	LC	R
	Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i> (Raffles, 1822)	Ronga Moupiya	LC	R
	Purple sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i> (Latham, 1790)	Bengunia Moupiya	LC	R
	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i> (Latham, 1790)	Xoru Mokorakhua	LC	R
	Streaked Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera magna</i> (Hodgson, 1836)	Mokorakhua	LC	R
Family: ORIOLIDAE					
	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Xokhiyoti	LC	R
	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus trailii</i> (Vigors, 1832)		LC	R
Family: PARIDAE					
	Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i> (Vieillot, 1818)	Bhodorkoli	LC	R
	Sultan Tit	<i>Melanochlora sultanea</i> (Hodgson, 1837)	Mukutpindha	LC	R
Family: PASSERIDAE					
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Gharsirika	LC	R
	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Bonsirika	LC	R
Family: PELLORNEIDAE					
	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i> (Swainson, 1832)	Khupoti	LC	R
	Buff-breasted Babbler	<i>Pellorneum tickelli</i> (Blyth, 1859)		LC	R
	Abbott's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla abbotti</i> (Blyth, 1845)		LC	R
Family: PHYLLOSCOPIDAE					
	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i> (Blyth, 1842)	Tiposi	LC	WV
	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i> (Brooks, 1878)	Tiposi	LC	WV
	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i> (Tickell, 1833)	Tiposi	LC	WV
	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i> (Blyth, 1842)	Tiposi	LC	WV
	White-spectacled Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus intermedius</i> (La Touche, 1898)	Tiposi	LC	R
	Green-crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus burkii</i> (Burton, 1836)	Tiposi	LC	WV
	Whistler's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus whistleri</i> (Ticehurst, 1925)	Tiposi	LC	R
	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i> (Sundevall, 1837)	Tiposi	LC	WV
	Yellow-vented Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus cantator</i> (Tickell, 1833)	Sotsoti	LC	R
	Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i> (Blyth, 1842)	Tiposi	LC	WV
	Grey-cheeked Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus poliogenys</i> (Blyth, 1847)	Tiposi	LC	R

	Common name	Scientific name	Local name	IUCN Red List	Migration status
Family: PITTIDAE					
	Blue-naped Pitta	<i>Hydrornis nipalensis</i> (Hodgson, 1837)	Nila Pithia Bahtoli	LC	R
	Hooded Pitta	<i>Pitta sordida</i> (Statius Müller, 1776)	Kiriti Pindha Bahtoli	LC	SM
Family: PLOCEIDAE					
	Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	Tukura Sorai	LC	R
	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Tukura Sorai	LC	R
	Black-breasted Weaver	<i>Ploceus benghalensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Tukura sorai	LC	R
Family: PNOEPYGIDAE					
	Pygmy Cupwing	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i> (Hodgson, 1845)		LC	R
Family: PYCNONOTIDAE					
	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Rubigula flaviventris</i> (Tickell, 1833)	Kola muriya Bulbuli	LC	R
	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Bulbuli	LC	R
	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Tikoni Bulbuli	LC	R
	White-throated Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus flaveolus</i> (Gould, 1836)	Gol boga Bulbuli	LC	R
	Ashy Bulbul	<i>Hemixos flava</i> (Blyth, 1845)	Kojola Fesuluka	LC	R
Family: SITTIDAE					
	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i> (Blyth, 1842)	Dalbogua	LC	R
Family: STENOSTIRIDAE					
	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i> (Swainson, 1820)	Bari-nasoni	LC	WV
	Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus</i> (Blyth, 1843)	Nasoni	LC	R
Family: STURNIDAE					
	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Moina Sorai	LC	R
	Indian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Kankurika	LC	R
	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	Kath Xalika	LC	R
	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Ghar Xalika	LC	R
	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i> (Wagler, 1827)	Sutia-Xalika	LC	R
	Great Myna	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i> (Moore, F, 1858)	Bor Xalika	LC	R
Family: TIMALIIDAE					
	Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Mixornis gularis</i> (Horsfield, 1822)		LC	R
Family: TURDIDAE					
	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i> (Latham, 1790)	Komola-muriya Matikotora	LC	R
Family: VANGIDAE					
	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i> (Temminck, 1824)	Bor kathariya	LC	R
	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i> (Sykes, 1832)		LC	R
Family: VIREONIDAE					
	White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i> (Blyth, 1844)	Horu khupati	LC	R
Family: ZOSTEROPIDAE					
	Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i> (Temminck, 1824)	Patmugi	LC	R
Order: PELECANIFORMES					
Family: ARDEIDAE					
	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	Itaguria	LC	R
	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Ajan	LC	R
	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i> (Wagler, 1829)	Maju Bog	LC	R
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Bamun Bogoli	LC	R

	Common name	Scientific name	Local name	IUCN Red List	Migration status
	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Gu-Bog	LC	R
	Indian Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i> (Sykes, 1832)	Kona musori	LC	R
	Malayan Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i> (Raffles, 1822)	Potiyori	LC	R
Order: PICIFORMES					
Family: PICIDAE					
	Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i> (Burton, 1836)		LC	R
	White-browed Piculet	<i>Sasia ochracea</i> (Hodgson, 1837)		LC	R
	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i> (Blyth, 1845)	Xoru Barhoituka	LC	R
	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i> (Vieillot, 1818)	Pokhora Kathruka	LC	R
	Greater Flame-back	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i> (Tickell, 1833)	Rongamuriya Barhoituka	LC	R
	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i> (Vieillot, 1818)	Barhoituka	LC	R
	Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i> (Temminck, 1826)	Bor saya barhoituka	VU	R
	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Xun barhoituka	LC	R
	Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i> (Vieillot, 1818)	Xoru halodhiya Barhoituka	LC	R
	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1788)	Barhoituka	LC	R
	Greater Yellownape	<i>Chrysophlegma flavinucha</i> (Gould, 1834)	Bor halodhiya Barhoituka	LC	R
Family: MEGALAIMIDAE					
	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i> (Statius Müller, 1776)	Hetuluka	LC	R
	Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Psilopogon cyanotis</i> (Blyth, 1847)	Nila Pakhia hetuluka	LC	R
	Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i> (Vieillot, 1816)	Kojola hetuluka	LC	R
	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i> (Latham, 1790)	Nilakantho Heteluka	LC	R
	Great Barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	Jomdakini	LC	R
Order: PSITTACIFORMES					
Family: PSITTACULIDAE					
	Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Golpura bhatou	NT	R
	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i> (Scopoli, 1769)	Golmonika	LC	R
Order: STRIGIFORMES					
Family: STRIGIDAE					
	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i> (Vigors, 1830)	Kuruli fesa	LC	R
	Collared Owlet	<i>Taeniopteryx brodiei</i> (Burton, 1836)	Fesa	LC	R
	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i> (Temminck, 1821)	Futuki Fesa	LC	R
	Spot-bellied Eagle-owl	<i>Ketupa nipalensis</i> (Hodgson, 1836)	Dudhkusi hudu	LC	R
Order: SULIFORMES					
Family: ANHINGIDAE					
	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> (Pennant, 1769)	Moniyori	NT	R
Family: PHALACROCORACIDAE					
	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	Pani Kauri	LC	R
Order: TROGONIFORMES					
Family: TROGONIDAE					
	Red-headed Trogon	<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i> (Gould, 1834)	Kathoni Buwari	LC	R

LC—Least Concern | NT—Near Threatened | VU—Vulnerable | R—Resident | WV—Winter Visitor | SM—Summer Migrant.

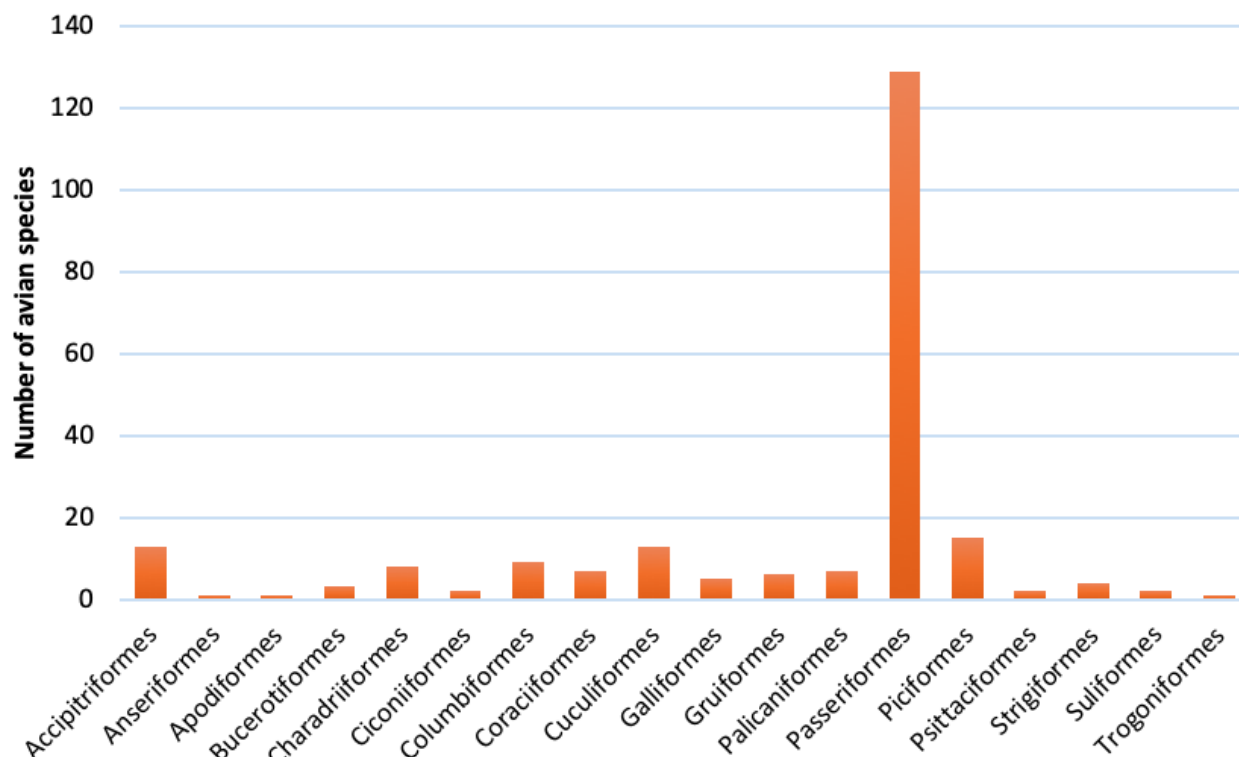


Figure 2. Order-wise species richness of avian fauna in Suang Reserve Forest.

DISCUSSION

This is the first study of avian fauna from the Suang RF in Nagaon. We recorded 228 species of birds. The findings are similar to observations from Behali Wildlife Sanctuary with 283 species belonging to 18 orders and 64 families (Kakati et al. 2022) of Assam with similar habitats. A higher species richness of order Passeriformes with 127 species, suggests that the study area consists of heterogenous habitat types (Hilaluddin & Sharma 2008).

The sampling in this area initially started as bird watching, which was only for three months during the first year of the study as part of forest trekking and casual bird-watching activities. However, after recognizing the potential richness of birds in the forest, we decided to have a more structured approach and integrated proper scientific methodologies for appropriate documentation and data curation. The fact that there are eight species of globally threatened birds; four Vulnerable: Wreathed Hornbill, Great Hornbill, Bristled Grassbird & Great Slaty Woodpecker, and four Near Threatened: Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*, Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*, Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*, and Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*, suggests

that the area needs maximum protection to preserve these bird species. Frugivorous forest birds, like the Wreathed Hornbills and Great Hornbills were observed in eight easily accessible locations in the study area. These findings reveal that the forest is in pristine condition and habitat quality suggesting that the region has a high biodiversity value (Saikia & Rabha 2006). The record of Grey Peacock-Pheasant is the first photographic documentation, from middle Assam, suggesting that the study area is unexplored and needs extensive documentation (Bora & Bora 2023). The study's limitation arises from the steep hilly terrain, so certain study areas were inaccessible and could not be explored. The felling of trees by local inhabitants was the only threat to the habitat we observed during the study period. We recommend that a comprehensive and proper scientific study be conducted on the biodiversity, including the avian community of the reserve forest, as no documentation was done earlier in this forest. This helps in future conservation planning of the reserve forest.

NOTES ON SPECIES OF INTEREST

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus* (IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable)

Observed commonly in the hilly tracks of the study area (26.3191°N, 92.9427°E). Often observed in pairs. Mostly seen perched on fig trees (*Ficus religiosa*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Ficus racemosa*) near the Champawati hill-stream that runs through the forest. Once nine individuals were seen together in flight.

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* (IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable)

Great Hornbill pairs are frequently seen perched on large trees on the hilly slope or in flight in the trek towards the Champawati waterfall (26.3196°N, 92.9427°E).

Bristled Grassbird *Schoenicola striatus* (IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable)

It is a common resident from the grasslands of Kaziranga (Barua & Sharma 1999). During our survey, one individual was observed in a grassland (26.3389°N, 92.8256°E), adjacent to the reserve forest.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* (IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable)

Largest woodpecker found in the Indian subcontinent. Observed rarely in the study area, only twice during the study period in flight (26.3320°N, 92.9221°E). It is identified based on obvious visual cues. However, no photograph could be captured in any of the encounters.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* (IUCN Red List status: Near Threatened)

An uncommon raptor for the study area. Only one individual was photographed (26.3197°N, 92.9088°E) in November 2023, during flight.

Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus* (IUCN Red List status: Least Concern)

A rare species for the study area. Several sighting reports are from Kaziranga National Park. (Barua & Sharma 1999; Rahmani 2018). In the reserve forest, we encountered a bird near bushes (26.3197°N, 92.9088°E). It was an elusive bird and was observed only once in July 2018.

White-cheeked Partridge *Arborophila atrogularis* (IUCN Red List status: Least Concern)

A little-known resident of the Assam Valley and southern Assam hills with a relatively small and declining population (BirdLife International 2023). The White-Cheeked Partridge is confined to moist undergrowth and bamboo jungle in evergreen forests (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). It is found in Panbari, Kukurakata, and Bagser reserve forests of Kaziranga, and the nearby foothills of North Karbi Anglong WLS. (Rahmani et al. 2023). In the study area, the species' call is often heard from several locations (26.3306°N, 92.9142°E).

The bird was encountered once near a dense bamboo undergrowth (26.3204°N, 92.9024°E), and only a record shot of the bird could be captured.

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* (IUCN Red List status: Least Concern)

It is a winter visitor to the study area. One male individual was observed near the hill stream (26.3204°N, 92.9024°E), foraging between the rocks in December 2018.

Grey Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* (IUCN Red List status: Least Concern)

Due to its illusive behaviour the bird was mostly heard than seen. During the breeding season, the territory call of the male bird is frequently heard from several locations (26.3189°N, 92.9079°E; 26.3204°N, 92.9038°E), which indicates the presence of a population of Grey Peacock Pheasant in the study area. We also reported the first photographic documentation of the bird from the central region of Assam from the study area (Bora & Bora 2023). Earlier it has been reported from Dihing-Patkai National Park (Bhuyan et al. 2024), and Behali Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam (Kakati et al. 2022).

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* (IUCN Red List status: Least Concern)

One male bird was seen only in June 2017. The bird was perched on a shrub (26.3297°N, 92.9108°E) but was disturbed by our presence and flew away before capturing any picture.

Jackobian Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* (IUCN Red List status: Least Concern)

A rare summer visitor to the study area. Only one individual was observed in the same grassland where the bristled grassbird was observed. The bird was perched on a small tree near a waterbody in the grassland (26.3283°N, 92.9018°E).

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (IUCN Red List status: Least Concern)

A common winter visitor to Assam. However interestingly, deviating from the typical seasonal behaviour of the species, one individual was observed with its breeding plumage during summer in July 2023. The bird was seen in a paddy field (26.3268°N, 92.8542°E) adjacent to the reserve forest along with Red Wattled Lapwings.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* (IUCN Red List status: Least Concern)

Two individuals were spotted on two occasions in the summer of 2018. They were perched on tall tree branches on both occasions (26.3297°N, 92.9110°E). They were spotted with their distinct calls. Photographs

were taken during these encounters. No individuals of this species were encountered in subsequent surveys.

Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* (IUCN Red List status: Least Concern)

Several nesting pairs of the bird were observed from the adjacent grassland (26.3345°N, 92.8404°E) of the reserve forest during the years 2017–2018. However, in recent years, the species has become less frequently seen, most likely due to the negative effects of overgrazing and excessive hay collection in the area.

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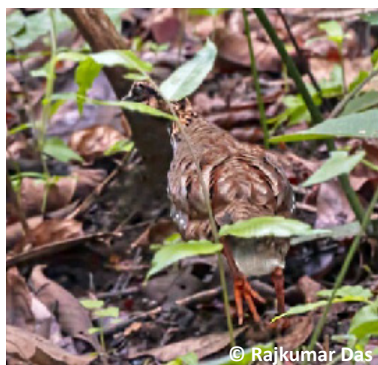


Image 1. White-cheeked Partridge.



Image 2. Slaty-breasted Rail.



Image 3. Rufous-bellied Eagle.



Image 4. Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher.



Image 5. Grey Bushchat.



Image 6. Common Green-Magpie.

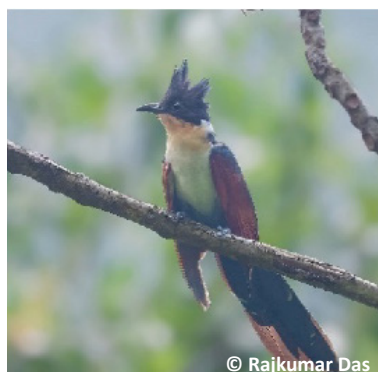


Image 7. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo.



Image 8. Black Baza.



Image 9. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike.

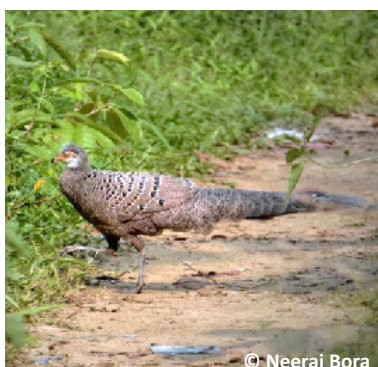


Image 10. Grey Peacock-Pheasant.

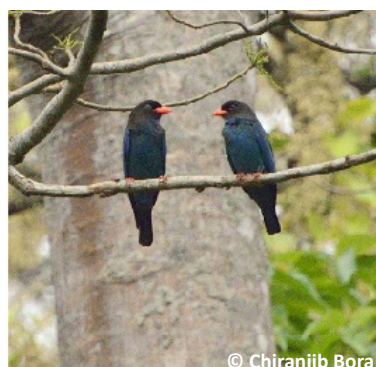


Image 11. Dollerbird.

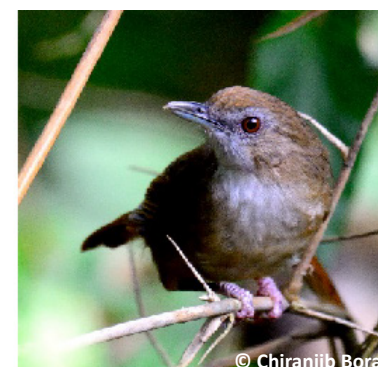


Image 12. Abbott's Babbler.



Image 13. Clamorous Reed Warbler.



Image 14. Large Hawk-Cuckoo.



Image 15. Emerald Cuckoo.



Image 16. Black-breasted Weaver.



Image 17. Blue-eared Barbet.



Image 18. Eurasian Sparrow Hawk.



Image 19. Oriental Honey-buzzard.



Image 20. White-tailed Robin.



Image 21. Green-crowned Warbler.



Image 22. Grey-bellied Tesia.



Image 23. Malayan Night Heron.



Image 24. Yellow-browed Warbler.



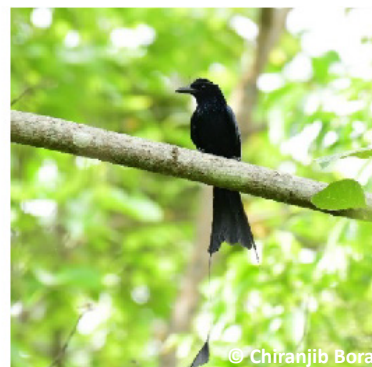
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Image 25. Asian Barred Owlet.



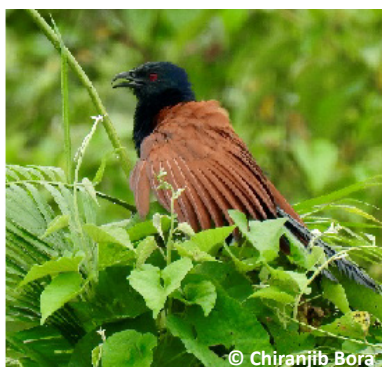
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Image 26. Sultan Tit.



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Image 27. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo.



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Image 28. Greater Coucal.



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Image 30. Kalij Pheasant.



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Image 31. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher.



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Image 32. Lesser Whistling-Duck.



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Image 33. Plaintive Cuckoo.



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Image 34. Shikra.



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Image 35. Peregrine Falcon.



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Image 36. Bristled Grassbird.



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Image 37. Long-tailed Broadbill.



Image 38. Great Hornbill.



Image 39. Wreathed Hornbill.



Image 40. Pacific Golden-Plover



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