



birding HOTSPOTS

Dehradun | Surrounds

Madhukar Dhiman



Ultramarine Flycatcher

Anant Zanjale



Egyptian Vulture

Rajesh Panwar



Pin-tailed Green Pigeon

Madhukar Dhiman



Scarlet Minivet

Suniti Bhushan Datta



Yellow-bellied Fantail

This booklet, the "Birding Hotspots of Dehradun and Surrounds", introduces 12 birding hotspots with details of their habitat, trails, birding specials by season, QR site locators and a map of the hotspots.



5th Uttarakhand SPRING

www.uttarakhandbirdfestival.net

BIRD FESTIVAL

THANO

9 - 11 March 2018

JHILMIL JHEEL

Uniting Birds, Birdwatchers and Communities

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Suniti Bhushan Datta



Suniti Bhushan Datta



Dushyant Parashar



About Birding Hotspots

The hill state of Uttarakhand is a haven for birdwatching. The Updated Bibliography and Checklist of Birds of Uttarakhand by Dhananjai Mohan and Sanjay Sondhi in 2017 listed 710 bird species of the 1263 species listed from India (The India Checklist, Praveen *et al.*, 2016). Dehradun and its surrounding areas has a checklist of 556 species possibly making it one of the richest cities in the world with respect to avian diversity!

The Uttarakhand Spring Bird Festivals are held annually in Garhwal and Kumaon in Uttarakhand, to promote birdwatching in the state with the first edition of this festival having been held in 2014. This year, the 5th Uttarakhand Spring Bird Festival is being held at Thano Reserved Forest, Dehradun District and Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve, Haridwar District.

The publication of a "Birding Hotspots of Dehradun and Surrounds" booklet will hopefully spur more people to visit for birdwatching. In the preparation of this booklet, the authors have relied on their personal experiences and records and have consulted bird species records on eBird (<https://ebird.org/region/IN-UL-DD?yr=all>). The twelve locations listed here are by no means the only areas for birdwatching around Dehradun; however, an attempt was made to cover areas that are easily accessible to the general public. The Rajaji National Park, on which many publications exist, was deliberately excluded from this list, though it is a great place to watch birds. The inclusion of Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve in this booklet might be questioned, as it is closer to Haridwar rather than Dehradun. However, being a co-host to the 5th Uttarakhand Spring Bird Festival meant that we just had to include it in the booklet! The booklet has photographs of more than 80 species of birds and provides QR Code locators, linked to Google Maps, for each of the 12 destinations.

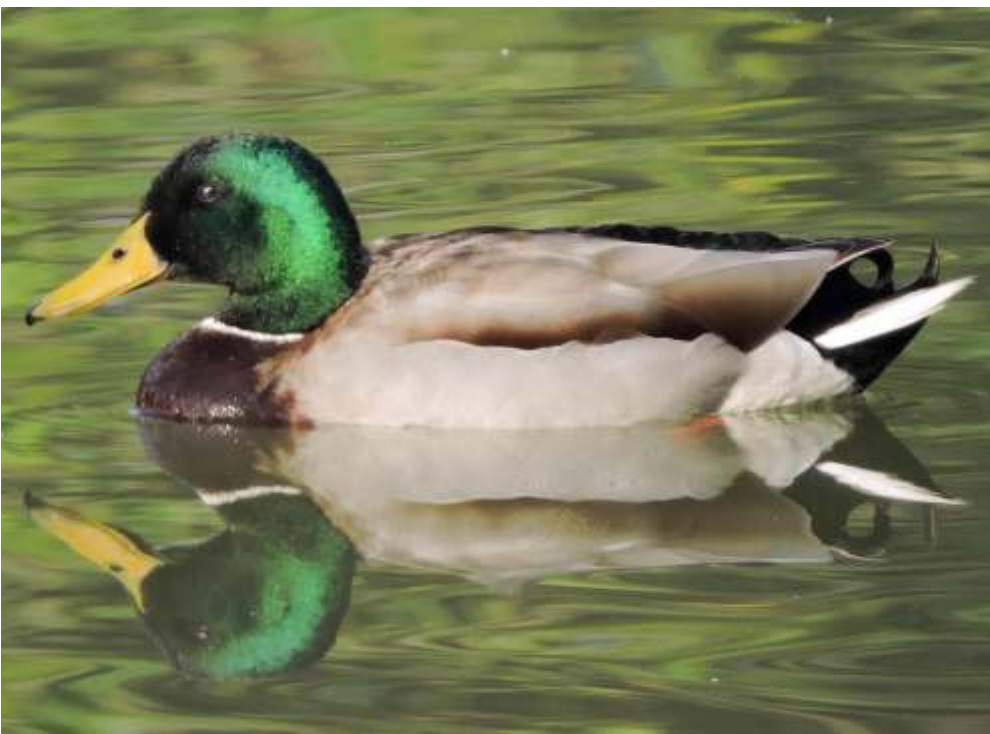
The authors would like to thank all the contributors of wonderful photographs for this booklet, and the many different people who helped to edit and provided inputs to this booklet.

Sanjay Sondhi
Suniti Bhushan Datta



birding

HOTSPOTS Dehradun | Surrounds



Dinesh Pundir

- ❖ Asan Conservation Reserve
- ❖ Danda Lakhond
- ❖ Forest Research Institute
- ❖ Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve
- ❖ Karwapani
- ❖ Lacchiwala
- ❖ Maldevta
- ❖ Rajpur-Malsi-Shikhar
- ❖ Sahastradhara
- ❖ Thano
- ❖ Upper Tons Catchment
- ❖ Wildlife Institute of India



Suniti Bhushan Datta

ASAN CONSERVATION RESERVE

Asan Conservation Reserve is located at the western edge of the Doon Valley, at the confluence of the Asan and Yamuna rivers. The reservoir formed by the barrage here has given rise to a rich wetland habitat, consisting of deep water channels, mudflats and reedbeds. Adjoining forested areas and artificial wetlands were added to the area, when this was declared India's first Conservation Reserve in 2005. Birdlife International lists Asan CR as an Important Bird Area (IBA). 319 bird species have been recorded from this site. The total area of this conservation reserve is 4.44 sq. km.



Suniti Bhushan Datta

Stork-billed Kingfisher



Gaurav Kumar

Greater Yellowthroat



Sanjay Sondhi

Barrage view

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

- Forested trail behind Rampur Mandi FRH to small artificial waterbed: 1.km
- Asan Barrage to Kunja Grant, along the southern edge of the reservoir: 1km
- Rampur Mandi Forest Rest House to Dhalipur Power House, along the northern and eastern edge of the reservoir: 2 km

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: Red-crested Pochard, Ruddy Shelduck, Ferruginous Pochard, Tufted Duck, *Common Golden-eye, *Greater Scaup, *Baer's Pochard, *Marbled Duck, *Long-tailed Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Eurasian Curlew, Painted Snipe

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: *Great Bittern, Jacobin Cuckoo, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Indian Paradise Flycatcher

Residents: Purple Heron, Pallas' Fish-eagle, Black-breasted Weaver
* rarities

Nearby Places for Birding

- Timli Reserved Forest, 12 km from Asan CR along the road to Saharanpur / Yamunanagar.
- Dakpathhar Reservoir on the Yamuna River, 9 km from Asan CR, near Kalsi.

How to get there:

40 km from Dehradun along the Rishikesh-Dehradun-Ambala Road, 7 km after Herbertpur. Paonta Sahib (Himachal Pradesh) is 8 km away.

Where to stay/how to book

- Forest Rest House and Log Huts at Rampur Mandi. Contact DFO. Chakrata: 01360-275078
- Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Tourist Rest House. Visit <http://www.gmvnl.in>

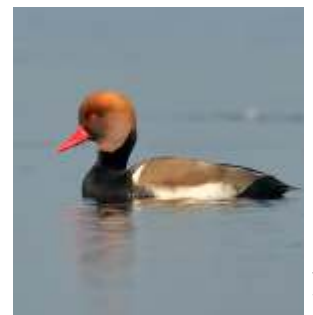


Asan Locator



Suniti Bhushan Datta

Great Crested Grebe



Rajesh Panwar

Red-Crested Pochard



Ram Soni

Red Avadavat (male)



Sanjay Sondhi

DANDA LAKHOND

Danda Lakhond is a small village, a short distance from the IT Park on Sahastradhara Road. Some marvelous Sal forest surrounds an old Shiva Temple at Danda Lakhond village. A few small streams wind their way through the village, surrounded by scrubs and bushes. The stream and forest edges are great places for birdwatching. Numerous jungle trails exist from the stream, up into the Sal forest. One of these leads to the Maata Devi Temple at the summit of the hill.



Sanjay Sondhi

European Goldfinch



Rajesh Panwar

Rufous-breasted Accentor



Anup Sah

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

- Beginning from the Shiva Temple, descend through the village to the stream. Walk downstream along the stream for as long as you like (~2 km).
- Take any one of the narrow jungle trails uphill, into Sal forest. A narrow foot track eventually leads to the Maata Devi Temple at the hill summit. (~2.5 km).

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: Small Niltava, White-tailed Rubythroat, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Rufous Sibia, European Goldfinch, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Black-throated Accentor, Pink-browed Rosefinch

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Blue-throated Flycatcher, Indian Paradise Flycatcher

Residents: Jungle Bush Quail, Savanna and Large-tailed Nightjar, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler

Nearby Places for Birding

Sahastradhara, Maldevta

How to get there:

Danda Lakhond is located just off the Sahastradhara road. Fifty meters ahead of the main gate of the IT Park, a small metalled road on the RHS leads to Danda Lakhond. The road winds its way through many twists and turns, to eventually lead to the Danda Lakhond village and the Shiva temple (2 km from Sahastradhara turn off).

Where to stay/how to book

Danda Lakhond is easily accessed by staying at Dehradun.



Danda Lakhond Locator



Sanjay Sondhi

Small Niltava



Sanjay Sondhi

Large-tailed Nightjar



Gurinderjeet Singh

Rufous Sibia



FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Forest Research Institute (FRI) was established in 1906 as the Imperial Forest Research Institute. FRI is India's premier scientific forestry research institution. It is located on Chakrata Road, in the western part of Dehradun city. Its sprawling, green campus covers an area of 4.5 sq. km. The FRI campus is home to more than 300 bird species and is designated as an Important Bird Area by Bird Life International; perhaps the only educational institute campus in India to have this status.



Ramki Sreenivasan

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker



Rajesh Panwar

Spot-winged Starling



Soumyajit Nandy

Sirkeer Malkoha

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

- The entire campus can be explored for birdwatching. However, the Botanical Garden and the Bamboo Garden are good places to begin.
- At the northern end of the campus, a small designated Nature Trail exists. From the Nature Trail, one can walk down through forest to the Tons River (1 km).

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: *Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Little Pied Flycatcher, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Wallcreeper, White-capped Bunting, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Fire-tailed Sunbird

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Indian Paradise Flycatcher, *Hooded Pitta, *Spot-winged Starling

Residents: Oriental Pied Hornbill, Sirkeer Malkoha, White-crested Laughingthrush, Orange-headed Thrush

* rarities

Nearby Places for Birding

- Jhajra Reserved Forest is another 10 km further west of FRI, along Chakrata Road.
- Asan Conservation Reserve and Timli Reserved Forest

How to get there:

From the Clock Tower, the FRI main gate is 5 km along Chakrata Road. Alternatively, one can enter from the Kaulagarh gate, also.

Where to stay/how to book

The FRI campus is easily accessed by staying in Dehradun. Entry to the FRI campus can be done by buying an entry ticket at either of the entrance gates.



FRI Locator



Surabhi Sapra

Indian Paradise Flycatcher



Arpit Bansal

Hooded Pitta



Pradeep Saxena

Oriental Pied Hornbill



Dhananjai Mohan

JHILMIL JHEEL CONSERVATION RESERVE

Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve in Haridwar District is located 20 km from Haridwar, on the banks of the River Ganga. Established as a Conservation Reserve in 2005, it covers an area of 37.84 sq. km. The Conservation Reserve has moist mixed deciduous forest, large strands of *Eucalyptus* plantations, grasslands, scrub and riverine habitat. Apart from a wonderful location for wetland birds, it is the only location in Uttarakhand where the Barasingha can be seen. The preliminary bird checklist for Jhilmil Jheel has 225 bird species.



Subhoranjan Sen

Lesser Flameback



Sanjay Sondhi

River Lapwing



Ramki Sreenivasan

Small Minivet

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

- Jhilmil Jheel Forest Rest House to Jhilmil Jheel: 1.5 km
- Jhilmil Jheel to FRH using forest trail: 3 km
- Forest Chowki on Ganga bank. Trail along the Ganga; return through forest trail: 4-5 km

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: *Northern Lapwing, Black-throated Thrush, White-capped Bunting, Eurasian Skylark, Oriental Skylark, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: *Black-bellied Tern, Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, Yellow-bellied Prinia, Bristled Grassbird, Striated Grassbird

Residents: Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark, *Mottled Wood Owl

*rarities

Nearby Places for Birding

Rajaji National Park

How to get there:

Jhilmil Jheel is 20 km from Haridwar. From the Chandi bridge on the River Ganga, take National Highway 34, which leads to Najibabad. 20 km along NH 34, well before Najibabad, and 4 km after Thana Shyampur, a large sign announces the turn off to Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve.

Where to stay/how to book

The Forest Rest House at Jhilmil Jheel CR is the only onsite

- accommodation. Otherwise, numerous accommodation options exist at Rajaji National Park near Chilla or Haridwar.

For booking at the Jhilmil Jheel Forest Rest House,

- contact DFO, Haridwar at +91 9458171109.



Jhilmil Locator



Rajesh Panwar

Yellow-bellied Prinia



Dhananjai Mohan

Barasingha



Nikhil Devasar

Bristled Grassbird



Suniti Bhushan Datta

KARWAPANI RESERVED FOREST

Once a shooting block for big game during the British Raj, Karwapani Reserved Forest is located amongst rich Sal-dominant forest along the northern slopes of the Shivalik hills, with abundant undergrowth and middle-storey. The area is intersected by seasonal streams and bordered by agricultural fields and orchards, creating excellent edge habitat for birds. Locals say that some of the fresh water sources are bitter, hence the name "*karwa pani*", literally meaning "bitter water". There is a Forest Rest House (FRH) located here dating back to British times.



Madhukar Dhiman

Blue-bearded Bee-eater



Ram Soni

Orange-headed Thrush



Surabhi Sapra

Red Whiskered Bulbul

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

- For a leisurely walk, from the FRH, one can walk for 1-3 km either way up or down the road. This forest road crosses several streams and skirts the peripheral agricultural tracts at places.
- Alternatively, one can walk from the temple at the edge of the forest, about 200 m after the bridge at Pattiyon village, behind the Wildlife Institute of India, onto the fireline 50 m behind the temple, and follow this eastward (left) for 1.5 km, until it crosses the Asarori-Karwapani road (see below). Turn right towards Karwapani (8 km).

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: Himalayan Flameback, Maroon Oriole, Whistler's Warbler, White-tailed Rubythroat, Black-throated Thrush

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Rosy Minivet (passage), Indian Pitta, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, Pale-footed Bush Warbler

Residents: Puff-throated Babbler, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler

Nearby Places for Birding

Wildlife Institute of India, Forest Research Institute, Asarori (Rajaji National Park)

How to get there:

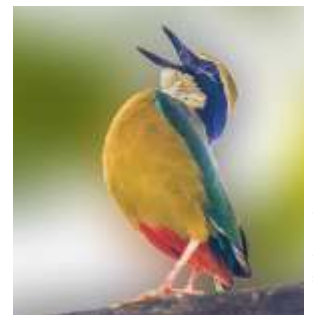
- 7km from the Inter-State Bus Terminus (ISBT), along the Delhi-Dehradun highway, turn right onto the forest road at the first police barrier at Asarori. Karwapani FRH is 11 km along this road.
- From ISBT, take Shimla Bypass Road for 12 km. From Bhuddi village a road leads to Karwapani FRH past the Manaksidh Temple.

Where to stay/how to book

Karwapani is close to Dehradun city and may be accessed directly from there. Alternatively, Karwapani Forest Rest House can be booked through the DFO, Dehradun at +91 9412085077.



Karwapani Locator



Madhukar Dhiman

Indian Pitta



Ram Soni

Rufous-bellied Niltava



Gaurav Kumar

Greater Goldenback



Sanjay Sondhi

LACCHIWALA

Lacchiwala is a well-known picnic spot, 17 km from Dehradun Railway Station, southeast of Dehradun city. The Lacchiwala Reserved Forest is bordered by Rajaji National Park on its west and south. The Thano Reserved Forest lies northeast of Lacchiwala. The Song River winds its way east of this Reserved Forest. The best area for birdwatching at Lacchiwala is the Shivalik Butterfly Park and Herbal Garden, which is located two km ahead of the picnic spot. Moist deciduous forests surrounds the Butterfly Park with Sal, clumps of bamboo, scrub and Teak plantations.



Sanjay Sondhi

Alexandrine Parakeet



Gaurav Kumar

Verditer Flycatcher



Subhoranjan Sen

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

- A walk along the road from the forest entry checkpost to the banks of the Song River. (3 km)
- A short 500 m jungle trail from inside the butterfly park through scrub forest.

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: Slaty-headed Parakeet, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Slaty-blue Flycatcher, Verditer Flycatcher, Chestnut-headed Tesia

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Indian Pitta, Indian Paradise Flycatcher

Residents: Alexandrine Parakeet, Spangled Drongo, Black-hooded Oriole, Velvet-fronted and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch

Nearby Places for Birding

- Lakshman Sidh Temple, 5 km before Lacchiwala on the Dehradun-Rishikesh Highway
- Thano
- Rajaji National Park

How to get there:

Drive along the Dehradun-Haridwar/Rishikesh Highway. Approximately 17 km from the Railway Station, a turn-off leads to the left you to Lacchiwala. A sign post announces the turnoff for Lacchiwala. When approaching Lacchiwala from Rishikesh or Haridwar, it is 7 km from Jolly Grant Airport and 3 km from Doiwala.

Where to stay/how to book

A Forest Rest House is located in the Lacchiwala Reserve Forest.

Otherwise, numerous hotels in Dehradun, Doiwala and near Jolly Grant can be used to stay and visit Lacchiwala.

The Forest Rest House can be booked through DFO, Dehradun +91 9412085077.



Lacchiwala Locator



Gaurav Kumar

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater



Sanjay Sondhi

Brown-fronted Pied Woodpecker



Amit Verma

Black-hooded Oriole



Bhumesh Bharti

MALDEVTA

Maldevta is a hilly and rocky tract on the eastern fringes of the Doon valley, and along the outer range of the Himalayas. The habitat here is a mix of riverine habitat along the Bandal and Song Rivers, and hill scrub forest, with patches of Sal in the upper reaches, which makes this an excellent birding area. The area is named after the Maldevta temple. The approach to Maldevta is along a straight road lined with tall Semal trees which attract plentiful birds when they bloom. The area's bird checklist exceeds 150 species.



Gunjan Arora

Little Forktail



Sanjay Sondhi

Orange-bellied Leafbird



Sanjay Sondhi

Slaty-headed Parakeet

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

There are several trail options here that may be followed.

- One way is to follow the metalled road from past the temple, across the iron bridge at Kumalda village and continue up into the hills for 2-3 km.
- Around 3 km past the iron bridge, the road cross a small concrete bridge and about 10 m beyond this, there is a steep and rocky path that climbs up the hillside for 2 km, through excellent mixed hill forest and scrub.
- There is also short path that starts from across the iron bridge and follows the left bank of the Bandal River upstream for about 1 km.

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: Brown Dipper, Black-throated Sunbird, Slaty-headed Parakeet, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Little Forktail, Grey-crowned Prinia, Wallcreeper, Black-throated Accentor

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Jacobin Cuckoo

Residents: Crested Kingfisher, Crested Bunting, Nepal Wren-Babbler

Nearby Places for Birding

Thano, Sahastradhara

How to get there:

From Dehradun, follow Raipur Road for 12 km, past the Ordnance Factory till you reach a crossroads. At the crossroad, take a left turn and follow this road straight till Maldevta.

Where to stay/how to book

- Maldevta Farms: <http://www.insidepassage.in>
- Camp Spillway Retreat: <http://campspillwayretreat.com/index.html/> +91 7055800041
- Camp Songbrook: <http://www.campsongbrook.com/>



Maldevta Locator



Sanjay Sondhi

Crimson Sunbird (male)



Madhukar Dhiman

Green-tailed Sunbird



Sanjay Sondhi

Wallcreeper



Suniti Bhushan Datta

RAJPUR-MALSI-SHIKHAR FALLS

This tract is located on the northern fringes of Dehradun city, at the base of the Mussoorie hills, with a mix of Sal forest, mixed hill forest consisting mostly of *Erythrina* sp., *Sapium insigne* and *Lantana camara* scrub, including perennial streams with pretty cascades. These are rich forests for birds and are easily accessible. The moderately steep trekking route to Mussoorie (Jharipani) starts at Rajpur and is a good birding walk for the intrepid. Malsi Reserved Forest has good open Sal habitat. The area's bird checklist exceeds 250 species.



Gurjan Arora

Chestnut-headed Tesia



Gurinderjeet Singh

Common Wood Pigeon



Gurinderjeet Singh

Spotted Forktail

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

There are several trail options here.

- **Shikhar Falls:** From Shahenshahi Ashram at Rajpur, follow the metalled road that branches right from under the Mango tree. About 500 m, there is a fork, with one broken road going uphill steeply (4 km to Jharipani), and the other turning right. Follow this road for 1.5 km to Shikhar Falls.
- **Malsi:** From behind the Christian Retreat Centre (opposite Shahenshahi Ashram), walk south along the road to the Ayurvedic College. About 10 m ahead, there is a small bridge over the road. Cross this bridge and continue into the Sal forest for around 1.2 km to the Sura Devi Temple.

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: Booted Eagle, Grey-crowned Prinia, Common Wood Pigeon, Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Chestnut-eared Bunting, Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, Green-tailed Sunbird, Black-throated Sunbird

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Blue-throated Flycatcher, Common Hawk Cuckoo

Residents: Kalij Pheasant, Red-billed Leiothrix, White-browed Scimitar Babbler

Nearby Places for Birding

Tons catchment, Forest Research Institute

How to get there:

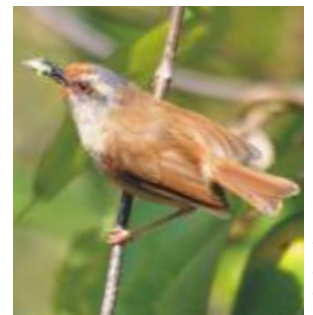
From Dehradun centre, follow Rajpur Road for 12 km to Dakpatti village. From here you can either drive up the steep road past the Tibetan School to Shahenshahi Ashram (3 km), or take the winding road that goes past the Ayurvedic College (2 km) and take a right hairpin-bend around the back of the Christian Retreat Centre.

Where to stay/how to book

Rajpur is easily accessible from Dehradun.



Rajpur Locator



Rahul Kala

Grey-crowned Prinia



Gurinderjeet Singh

Kalij Pheasant



Madhukar Dhiman

Black-throated Sunbird



Anchal Sondhi

SAHASTRADHARA

Sahastradhara, literally meaning “a thousand springs”, is 14 km from Dehradun Railway Station. It is a well known picnic spot on the banks of the Baldi River. It is famous for its limestone stalactites and hot sulphur springs. A partially metalled tar road on either bank of the Baldi River are great places to bird. Montane habitat, crisscrossed by small streams, provide good visibility for birds.



Sanjay Sondhi

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch



Subhoranjan Sen

Rufous-bellied Niltava



Santanu Manna

Fire-tailed Sunbird

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

- **On the left bank of the River:** cross the main bridge on the River Baldi, continue to the second smaller bridge, 300 m further on, to the newly constructed road. This road, leads all the way to Mussoorie (~7 km), emerging near Suwakholi, ahead of Mussoorie.
- **On the right bank of the River:** 75 m after the main bridge, a U-turn takes you onto the road leading to Karligad village. You can walk and bird all along the road to the village (~3.5 km). A few short trails up the hill slopes along small streams are great areas to explore as well.

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Visitors: Brown-fronted Woodpecker, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Winter Wren, Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler, Grey-crowned Prinia, Chestnut-headed Tesia, Chestnut-eared Bunting, Rock Bunting, Wallcreeper, Fire-tailed Sunbird

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Jacobin Cuckoo, Long-billed Thrush (passage)

Residents: Kalij Pheasant, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Mountain Bulbul, Ashy Bulbul

Nearby Places for Birding

Danda Lakhond, Maldevta

How to get there:

Located at the end of Sahastradhara Road, it can be approached from the Raipur-Sahastradhara T-junction (12 km). Alternately, one can drive along Rajpur Road, and cut across to Sahastradhara Road from numerous locations.

Where to stay/how to book

There are a few hotels and resorts at Sahastradhara where you can stay. However, one can stay in Dehradun and easily access Sahastradhara.



Sahastradhara Locator



Yash Sondhi

Rock Bunting



Sanjay Sondhi

Grey-crowned Prinia



Ram Soni

Mountain Bulbul



Sanjay Sondhi

THANO

This tract of forest has a beautiful mix of Sal-dominant forest and is located in the eastern part of the valley. It is contiguous with the outer Himalayan ranges and is also close to the Shivalik hills. The forest here is rich with tall trees and an abundant undergrowth and middle-storey, making this a good area for woodland bird species. The southern parts of this range are fringed with agricultural fields that make up good edge habitat. The area's bird checklist exceeds 175 species.



Ram Soni

Himalayan Flameback (male)



Ram Soni

Maroon Oriole



Gaurav Kumar

Scarlet Minivet

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

There are three trails here, which originate at the Forest Rest House:

- **Ranikhet Village trail (~3-7 km):** This trail leads uphill from the FRH through mixed hill forest and Sal-mixed forest.
- **Sriyon Village trail (-3 km):** This trail goes through the fringes of the crop fields before entering Sal forest towards the end.
- **Midhewala trail (-3 km):** This trail also winds through villages and crop fields before entering the Sal forest.

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: Brown-fronted Woodpecker, White-rumped Needletail, Scaly Thrush, Chestnut Thrush, White-tailed Rubythroat, Green-tailed Sunbird, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, White-capped Bunting

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Rosy Minivet, Indian Pitta

Residents: Great Slaty Woodpecker, Himalayan Flameback, Orange-bellied Leafbird, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Maroon Oriole

Nearby Places for Birding

Lacchiwala, Maldevta

How to get there:

- Thano FRH can be approached from Dehradun (28 km), along the alternate route to the airport, via Raipur.
- Another route is to follow the Dehradun-Rishikesh Road past Doiwala. 300 m beyond the turning towards Haridwar, there is a road leading to the left (to Bhaniya Wala). Follow this road for 7 km and you will come to a T-Junction at Thano village. Take a left turn and the FRH is 400 m down this road.

Where to stay/how to book

Thano Forest Rest House can be booked through DFO, Dehradun: +91 9412085077.



Thano Locator



Simon van der Meulen

Great Slaty Woodpecker



Madhukar Dhiman

Yellow-bellied Fantail



Sanjay Sondhi

Chestnut Thrush



Suniti Bhushan Datta

UPPER TONS CATCHMENT

Located along the upper reaches of the Tons River, which emerges below Mussoorie. The area is dotted with gardens and orchards, along with dense *Lantana camara* scrub along the river. Open Sal forests may be found along the upper reaches, which may be accessed by following the river upstream along its rocky banks. The area is very accessible and rich in bird and butterfly species.



Gurinderjeet Singh

Brown Dipper



Madhukar Dhiman

Great Barbet



Gunjan Arora

Nepal Wren Babbler

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

- **Shigally Hills School Road:** The road from near Walterre Cottage village towards Shigally Hills School is a good birding walk. From the fork near Shigally, you can walk left towards Sigli village and a concrete path curves around the north side of the village, as one enters.
- **Purkul:** From Antara Senior Living Pvt. Ltd., walk up the road towards Kasiga School and at the fork beyond, follow the road left towards Purkul village.

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: Great Barbet, Brown Dipper, Slaty-headed Parakeet, White-browed Rosefinch

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Blue-throated Flycatcher

Residents: Little Forktail, Nepal Wren-Babbler, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Red-billed Leiothrix

Nearby Places for Birding

Rajpur-Malsi-Shikhar Falls, Forest Research Institute

How to get there:

- From Dehradun, follow the Mussoorie Road to 1 km past Malsi (Dehradun Zoo), where there is a road on the left. Follow this down to the river and up again to the Guniyalgaon-Purkul Road.
- From Guniyalgaon, take the bend left and follow the signs through Bahmangaon to Shaheen Bagh, beyond which is Shigally Hills School.

Where to stay/how to book

The Upper Tons Catchment is close to and easily accessible from Dehradun. Walterre, a private birding lodge, is located here and can be contacted at : info@asianadventures.in, +91 9266519519.



Upper Tons Locator



Madhukar Dhiman

Pink-browed Rosefinch



Madhukar Dhiman

Verditer Flycatcher



Gurinderjeet Singh

Red-billed Leiothrix



Suniti Bhushan Datta

WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA

A premier institution for wildlife studies in India, the Wildlife Institute of India is distinguished by its tall, pyramidal buildings. The campus is well-wooded with a combination of mixed forest and Sal trees and has its own nature trail through secondary Sal, mixed forest and scrub, and skirts a small man-made lake which attracts a rich diversity of birds and other wildlife. The man-made lake is especially attractive to waterfowl during the winter. The adjoining patch of Sal forest is an excellent habitat for woodland species. The area's bird checklist is 334 species.



Rajesh Panwar

Puff-throated Babbler



Subhoranjan Sen

Red-breasted Parakeet



Madhukar Dhiman

Ultramarine Flycatcher

Birding Trails (One-way distances)

The WII nature trail is an approximately 1km trail that begins behind the Auditorium and ends behind the Officer's Hostel. The trail is paved and well-marked, and has interpretation signs indicating plant, butterfly and bird species, amongst others. The western edge of the lake has a raised embankment from where one can get a panoramic view of the lake and is a good place to view waterfowl from.

Notable Bird Species by Season:

Winter Migrants: Mallard, *Red-breasted Parakeet, Speckled Piculet, Brown Fish Owl, Scaly Thrush, White-tailed Rubythroat, Whistler's Warbler, Dusky Warbler

Summer and Monsoon Visitors: Jacobin Cuckoo, Grey-bellied Cuckoo, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Blue-tailed Bee-eater

Residents: *Rain Quail, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Orange-headed Thrush, Puff-throated Babbler

* rarities

Nearby Places for Birding

Karwapani Reserved Forest, Forest Research Institute

How to get there:

From Dehradun, follow the Delhi Road (NH72) for 11km. Go over the ISBT flyover and the turning onto Chandrabani/Wildlife Road is 300 m on the right, after the end of the flyover. WII is 1.6 km down this road.

Where to stay/how to book

The WII campus is easily accessible from accommodation in Dehradun city. Permission/queries about birdwatching on the campus may be addressed to the office of the Director, Wildlife Institute of India: +91 135 2640111-115, dir@wii.gov.in



WII Locator



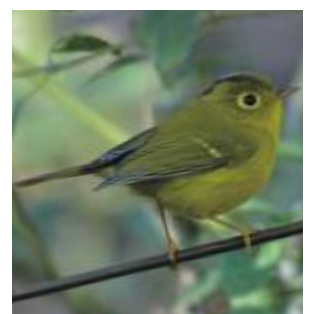
Sanjay Sondhi

White-tailed Rubythroat



Subhoranjan Sen

Jacobin Cuckoo



Rajesh Panwar

Whistler's Warbler



Forest Rest House Campus, Thano is the site of the 5th Uttarakhand Spring Bird Festival 9-11 March, 2018

