

Project Update: March 2013

Sixteen researchers were deployed in seven known habitats of white-bellied heron habitat on April 27th 2013. The bird observation started from 6.30 am and ended at 6.30 pm. With 12 hours observation effort, 10 individuals were counted in Punatangchu basin between 6.45 am to 12.05 pm. Another two individuals were observed at Mangdechu River at 12.30 pm. Altogether, there were 12 herons counted on a single day. However, with local people reporting 24 birds, we see that we have only probably recorded 50 % of birds in April. Although the local people suggest that there are about 4 nesting sites, we have seen only one nest at Punatsangchu basin that is currently occupied. One nest in Mangdechu valley was found destroyed and abandoned. With the current observation, there is only one breeding pair. However, the low count at this time might be attributed to nesting period which takes place from March to June.