

# A report on



Prepared by  
Hemanta Dhakal and Manshanta Ghimire  
**Pokhara Bird Society**



## Acknowledgments



giving  
nature  
a home



## A. Introduction

In Nepal, about 887 species of birds are found (MoFSC) including 133 nationally threatened species, of which 4 species are vultures. Vultures play an important ecological role through rapid consumption of animal carcasses and also of the human dead bodies in the form of sky burials within Nepal and Tibet. Twenty two species of vultures are found in the world. Nine species of vultures have been recorded in South Asia, of which eight are resident and one migratory. Nepal supports 6 resident vulture species viz. White-rumped Vulture (WRV) *Gyps bengalensis*, Slender-billed Vulture (SBV) *Gyps tenuirostris*, Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, Red-headed Vulture (RHV) *Sarcogyps calvus*, Himalayan Griffon Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* and Lammergier *Gypaetus barbatus*, one winter visitor i.e., Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*, one passage migrant i.e., Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* and one vagrant i.e., Long-billed Vulture *Gyps indicus*. (DNPWC, 2015-2019). IUCN has categorized WRV, SBV and RHV as Critically Endangered and EV as Endangered.

Pokhara valley is also famous for its rich biodiversity and abundance of raptors. Among 472 species birds recorded in Pokhara (Ghimire et al. 2019) 9 species of vultures are recorded in here. Vultures in Nepal are found distributed in different forest habitat types and also the landfill sites of the city areas. The Landfill site of Pokhara-14 and Damauli, Byas are also a good habitat for the vultures that support globally threatened species of birds. Vulture Safe feeding site at Ghachowk is also famous for good sighting of vultures.

International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) is an annual event that is celebrated on the first Saturday in September each year. The IVAD has grown from Vulture Awareness Days run by the Birds of Prey Program of the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa and the Hawk Conservancy Trust in England, who decided to work together and expand the initiative into an international event. It is now recognized as a coordinated international day that publicizes the conservation of vultures to a wider audience and highlights the important works being carried out by the world's vulture conservationists.

On the occasion of International Vulture Awareness (IVA) week, Pokhara Bird Society (PBS) had been celebrating IVAD since last 5 years. This year also in collaboration with Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Institute of Forestry Pokhara Campus and Prithivi Narayan Campus

(PNC) a day monitoring of vulture in Pokhara valley was conducted. Further awareness campaign couldn't be conducted due to COVID-19.

We targeted some of the major hotspots in Pokhara i.e.

1. Location : Dobilla, Kaski, Nepal
2. Location : Hemja, Kaski, Nepal
3. Location : Kanhun Danda, Kaski, Nepal
4. Location : Vulture Safe Feeding Site-Ghachowk, Kaski, Nepal
5. Location : Pumdikot, Kaski, Nepal
6. Location : Landfill Site, Kaski, Nepal
7. Location : Landfill Site-Byas, Damuli, Tanahun, Nepal

## **B. Objectives:**

Main objective of the program was to conduct awareness and monitoring the vulture population in Pokhara Valley.

## **C. Methods and Results:**

On the occasion of 13<sup>th</sup> IVAD 2021, Pokhara Bird Society conducted Vulture monitoring at six different places in Pokhara and one in Damauli. All the observation was conducted at same time morning 8:00 am to 11:00 am at different fixed vantage points (These are the same points we used to monitored vulture in previous IVAD). Direct monitoring method was used using binoculars and DSLRs. Unidentified species were identified later with photographs. Species were recorded according to their age group separated as Adult, sub-adult and Juvenile.

Total 29 participants were distributed in 7 observation site (vantage points). Total 356 individuals were recorded from 7 different sites in Kaski, with highest number of Egyptian Vulture - 223(Adult-165, Sub-adult-54 and Juvenile-4) and Lowest number of Cinereous vulture- 1 adult. Similarly 20 Egyptian and 16 WRV were recorded in Damauli, Land filled site.

Even though we were unable to do any awareness campaign due to covid-2019. We were able to make local people convince to publish our pictures of vulture in their 2500 calendars recently published together with slogan, "Save Vultures Save Environment", which will also aware people and support conservation of vultures in our locality(Figure 8). Books (Birds of Pokhara Valley and Vultures of Nepal) were distributed to Mayor of Pokhara Metropolitan city, suggesting making more implementable plan within the municipality/Metropolitan city for conservation of birds and vultures (Figure 9). Books were also handed to some school libraries, Prithivi Narayan campus library, local Clubs libraries and libraries of renowned colleges in Pokhara (Prativa Higher Secondary School., SOS Hermann Gmeinar Gandaki, Srijana Boarding School and KEF secondary school) targeting to aware more than 10,000 students in Pokhara.

# Pokhara Bird Society

## International Vulture Awareness Day-2021

### Vulture Count in Pokhara Valley

Date : 4th September, 2021	Location : Dovilla, Kaski, Nepal
Starting Time : 08:00 AM	Ending Time : 11:00 AM
GPS : 28°16'13.36" N, 84°00'08.84" E	Weather : Sunny, 20% cloud coverage
Observer : Manshanta Ghimire, Tshring Lama Sherpa, Puspa Pun, Sima Acharya, Dipika Adhikari, Asmita Khatri, Nikita Phuyal, Anu Poudel, Tirtha Raj Kafle	
Samir Rawal & Manas Ghimire	

S. N.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Adult	Sub-Adult	Juvenile	Total	Activities
1	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
2	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	64	22	4	90	Roosting, Soaring
3	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	16	5	1	22	Roosting, Soaring
4	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	2	1	1	4	Roosting
5	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x
6	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
7	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
8	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sacrogyps calvus</i>	3	1	x	4	Roosting, Soaring
9	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Total</b>			<b>120</b>				

#### Other Species (Birds/Mammals)

S. N.	Common Name	Popu;	Remarks
1	Large-billed Crow	18	Chasing with Black Kite and Egyptian Vulture.
2	Black Kite	13	Chasing with crows.
3	Street Dog	3	Chasing with Egyptian Vulture.
4	Indian Cucukooshrike	2	Roosting at silk cotton tree.
5	Grey Treepie	6	Feeding.

6	Red-billed Blue Magpie	4	Flying.
7	Common Kestrel	2	Flying in river bank.
8	Common Hoopoe	4	Feeding in ground.
9	Shikra	2	Soaring over roosting area of Egyptian Vulture.
10	Cattle Egret	43	Feeding with catel in river bank.
11	Himalayan Buzzard	1	Flying

Date : 4th September, 2021	Location : <b>Vulture Safe Feeding Site- Ghachowk, Kaski,</b>
Starting Time : 08:00 AM	Ending Time : 11:00 AM
GPS : 28°31'97.65, 83°95'20.81	Weather : 80% cloud coverage
Observer : Aman Sunar, Sudarshan Parajuli, Raju Pariyar, Prem Bahadur Kunwar, Baman Chalise, Manish Pokhrel	
Anisha Pokhrel, Ben White, Samir Shreepali, Shanti Bharati,	

S. N.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Adult	Sub-Adult	Juvenile	Total	Activities
1	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
2	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	2	x	x	2	Soaring
3	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	12	6	1	19	Roosting, F. Caracas
4	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	1	x	x	1	Roosting
5	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x
6	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
7	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
8	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sacrogyaps calvus</i>	8	5	x	13	Roosting, F. Caracas
9	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Total</b>			<b>47</b>				

#### Other Species (Birds/Mammals)

S. N.	Common Name	Popu;	Remarks
1	Ashy Drongo	2	
2	Golden Oriole	1	
3	Grey Treepai	2	
4	Common Hoopoe	1	

5	Black Drongo	4	
6	Large-billed Crow	2	
7	Common Hoopoe	2	
8	Blue Whistling Thrush	1	
9	Cattle Egret	3	
10	Long-tailed Shrike	1	

Date : 4th September, 2021	Location : Hemja, Kaski, Nepal
Starting Time : 08:00 AM	Ending Time : 11:00 AM
GPS : 28°27'04.43" N, 83°9'57.951" E	Weather : Sunny, 20% cloud coverage
Observer : Punam Giri, Yam Gurung	

S. N.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Adult	Sub-Adult	Juvenile	Total	Activities
1	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
2	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	2	x	x	2	Flying
3	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	8	2	x	10	Flying
4	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	1	x	x	1	Flying
5	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	x	4	x	4	Flying
6	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
7	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	1	x	x	1	Flying
8	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sacrogyaps calvus</i>	3	x	x	3	Flying
9	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
Total			21				

#### Other Species (Birds/Mammals)

S. N.	Common Name	Popu;	Remarks
1	Grey Treepie	3	
2	Red-vented Bulbul	13	
3	Himalayan Bulbul	2	
4	Black Kite	7	
5	Crimson Sunbird	2	
6	Rose-ringed Parakeet	2	
7	Great Barbet	2	

8	Large-billed Crow	1	
9	Long-tailed Shrike	1	
10	Black Bulbul	11	
11	Blue Whistling Thrush	1	
12	House Swift	6	

Date : 4th September, 2021	Location : Pumdikot, Kaski, Nepal
Starting Time : 08:00 AM	Ending Time : 11:00 AM
GPS : 28°20'00.08 N, 84°9'29.838 E	Weather : Sunny, 20% cloud coverage
Observer : Durga Timilsina, Bishnu Devkota & Tulasi Ram Poudel	

S. N.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Adult	Sub-Adult	Juvenile	Total	Activities
1	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
2	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	6	x	x	6	Soaring
3	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	6	4	x	10	Flying
4	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	x	x	x	x	x
5	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	x	5	x	5	Roosting, Flying
6	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
7	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
8	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sacrogyps calvus</i>	4	x	x	4	Soaring
9	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Total</b>			<b>25</b>				

#### Other Species (Birds/Mammals)

S. N.	Common Name	Popu;	Remarks
1	Crimson Sunbird	6	
2	Himalayan Bulbul	6	
3	House Crow	9	
4	Black Drongo	3	
5	Great Tit	1	
6	Blue-throated Barbet	3	
7	Red-vented Bulbul	14	
8	Long-tailed Shrike	2	
9	Red-billed Blue Magpie	2	



10	Large Cuckooshrike	5	
11	Grey Treepie	10	
12	Balck Kite	25	

Date : 4th September, 2021	Location : <b>Kanhun Danda, Kaski, Nepal</b>
Starting Time : 08:00 AM	Ending Time : 11:00 AM
GPS : 28°230319 , 84°021412	Weather : Sunny, 20% cloud coverage
Observer : Milan Baral & Sunita Gurung	

S. N.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Adult	Sub-Adult	Juvenile	Total	Activities
1	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
2	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
3	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	8	3	x	11	Soaring
4	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	x	x	x	x	x
5	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x
6	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
7	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
8	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sacrogyaps calvus</i>	2	x	x	2	Soaring
9	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
Total			13				

#### Other Species (Birds/Mammals)

S. N.	Common Name	Popu;	Remarks
1	Bonellie's Eagle	2	
2	Black Kite	4	
3	Large Cuckooshrike	1	
4	Spotted Dove	4	
5	Oriental Turtle Dove	2	
6	Himalayan Bulbul	5	
7	Red-vented Bulbul	14	
8	Black Drongo	3	
9	Grey Treepie	4	
10	Long-tailed Shrike	3	
11	Blue-throated Barbet	1	

Date : 4th September, 2021	Location : Landfill Site, Kaski, Nepal
Starting Time : 08:00 AM	Ending Time : 11:00 AM
GPS : 28°16'41.86" N, 84°01'04.09" E	Weather : Sunny, 20% cloud coverage
Observer : Hemanta Dhakal & Hira Kumari Malla	

S. N.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Adult	Sub-Adult	Juvenile	Total	Activities
1	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
2	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	91	32	x	123	Roosting, Feeding
3	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	x	17	x	17	Roosting, Soaring
4	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	6	1	x	7	Roosting, Soaring
5	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x
6	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
7	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	x	x	x	x	Soaring
8	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sacrogyaps calvus</i>	2	x	x	2	Soaring
9	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
Total			149				

#### Other Species (Birds/Mammals)

S. N.	Common Name	Popu;	Remarks
1	Black Kite	3	Soaring.
2	Indian Cuckooshrike	1	Flying.
3	Large-billed Crow	8	Chasing with street dog.
4	House Crow	1	Chasing with Egyptian Vulture
5	Common Myana	32	Flying.
6	Street Dog	4	Feeding Scavange and chasing with crows.
7	Common Hoopoe	2	Roosting on tree
8	Cattle egret	42	Feeding on debris
9	Jungle Myna	12	Feeding on debries
10	Common myna	22	Feeding on debries

**Total Vulture population in Pokhara Valley, 4th September, 2021**

S. N.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Adult	Sub-Adult	Juvenile	Total	Remarks
1	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	x	x	x	x	
2	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	165	54	4	223	
3	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	50	37	4	91	
4	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	10	2	1	13	
5	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	x	9	x	9	
6	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	x	x	x	x	
7	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	1	x	x	1	
8	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sacrogyaps calvus</i>	22	6	x	28	
9	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	x	x	x	x	
<b>Total</b>			<b>356</b>				

Date : 4th September, 2021	Location : Landfill Site-Byas, Damauli, Tanahun, Nepal
Starting Time : 08:00 AM	Ending Time : 11:00 AM
GPS : 27°974719 , 84°264341	Weather : Sunny
Observer : Ram Babu Bastakoti & Shes Kanta Sharma	

S. N.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Adult	Sub-Adult	Juvenile	Total	Activities
1	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
2	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	12	8	x	20	Roosting
3	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	13	3	x	16	Roosting
4	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	x	x	x	x	x
5	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x
6	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
7	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
8	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sacrogyaps calvus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
9	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x
Total			36				

#### Other Species (Birds/Mammals)

S. N.	Common Name	Popu;	Remarks
1	Black Kite	10	
2	Common Pigeon	14	
3	House Crow	12	
4	Large-billed Crow	8	
5	Cattle Egret	5	
6	White-throated Kingfisher	1	
7	Common Myna	10	
8	Plain Martin	16	
9	Long-tailed Shrike	3	



Figure 1: Egyptian vultures near Landfilled site, Pokhara-14 ©Hemanta Dhakal, September 2021



Figure 2: Vultures roosting near land filled site, Pokhara-14, © Hemanta Dhakal





Figure 3: Himalayan Vulture (Sub-Adult) and White-rumped vulture (Sub-Adult).



Figure 4: White-rumped Vultures (Sub-Adult) and Slender-billed Vulture (Center, Sub-Adult).



Figure 5: Red-headed Vulture



Figure 6: Observers with flex board at Dobilla.





Figure 7: vultures feeding carcass at Landfilled site, Pokhara-14 ©Hemanta Dhakal, September 2021

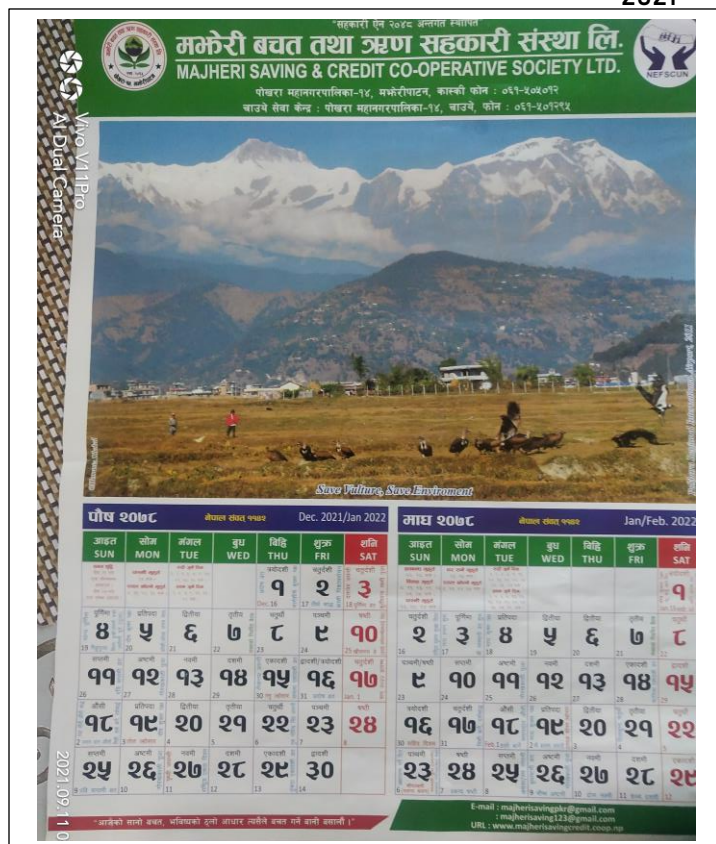


Figure 8: vultures awareness message with picture in Local saving and cooperative society, Pokhara-14 ©Hemanta Dhakal, September 2021

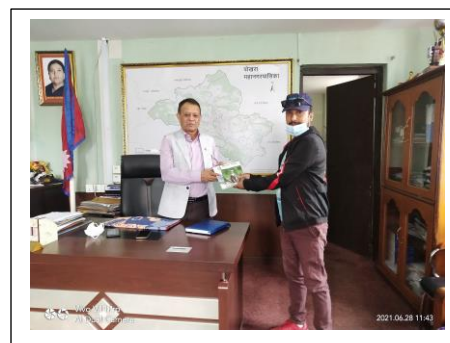


Figure 9: Book handed to Mayor of Pokhara.