

OBJECTIVES

1. Environmental & Ecological Conservation
2. Ecological Research
3. Education and Awareness
4. Tourism and Recreation
5. Aesthetic Value

PROPOSED FACILITIES FOR KEEPING BIRDS

1. Research Centre, Bird Hospital, Conservation Breeding and Rescue Centre
2. Walk-through Aviary
3. Nocturnal House
4. Pheasant Paradise
5. Bird Pet Area & Bird Song Garden
6. Bird Ecosystem / Bird Trails
7. Facility Centre
8. Botanical Park & Nursery
9. Entrance Plaza
10. Information Centre



© Nityanish H. Saha



Contact Details:

Chief Wildlife Warden

Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department
Government of Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok 737102

Cover Photo: Red-bellied Nuthatch (Illustration) © Openair Ghose, Concept U. Lathurajal, Design: Sangi Nandi

Printed at: CONCEPT, 94340 44739



SIDKEONG TULKU BIRD PARK

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

SIDKEONG TULKU BIRD PARK

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

Welcome to a land of birdsong and beautiful landscapes, set atop the scenic second capital of Sikkim, Rabdentse. Perhaps the most historical site in Sikkim after Yuksom, the Sidkeong Tulku Bird Park is planned as a naturally landscaped and water-scaped open concept bird park incorporating the wilderness of the area, resident birds and



Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Anthopyga gouldiae*



Common Hill Partridge *Arborophila torquata*

other fauna with the existing tourist / archaeological attraction of the old Palace ruins. Prepare to experience the ambience of lush green Himalayan forest, where the botanical luxuriance provides sanctuary to over 200 species of wild birds.

History

The Bird Park is named after Sidkeong Tulku, 10th Chogyal of Sikkim and Founding Father of modern forestry in the state, whose short but significant reign was the cornerstone for conservation ideas far beyond his time.



CONCEPT

Early mornings are alight with the cacophonous crackling calls of the Grey Treepie, perhaps the dominant resident bird of this forest. Varied birdsongs drowning out the sounds of civilization together with the harmonious humming from the adjacent Pemayangtse Monastery, makes it a must-see destination for ornithologists and nature lovers. At present a purely wilderness haven for birds, the park is to be augmented by a free-flight walk-in aviary, breeding, research and veterinary facilities among others. The main



Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosa*

concept of this park is "Environment Education through Recreation" where visitors experience the thrills of close encounters with their feathered friends, their sights and sounds, and learn about their roles in keeping our species alive and maintaining our planet's health.



White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*

LOCATION

Sidkeong Tulku Bird Park is located at Rabdentse in West Sikkim on the road between Pelling and West District Headquarter Gyalsing about 10 km away. The famous Pemayangtse Monastery is situated north of the Bird Park site whereas the nearest large town Gyalsing is to its south. The famous archaeological ruins of the ancient second capital of Sikkim are located adjacent to the site



with present access through the site. A thickly wooded moist temperate Oak-Chestnut forest in the past abounding in mosses, lichens and many other epiphytes it attracts a rich bird life, both resident and migratory. The region provides breath-taking views of the Singalila range, our international border with Nepal.

Distance from:

- Gangtok, capital of Sikkim: 110 km
- Bagdogra Airport, West Bengal: 180 km
- Nearest Railhead Siliguri: 160 km

Long. 88° 15' 16" E; Lat. 27° 18' 5" N

Average Elevation: 1950m above mean sea level

BIRDING KALEIDOSCOPE



Common Cuckoo
Cuculus canorus (Juvenile)



Asian-barred Owlet
Glaucidium cuculoides



Oriental Turtle-Dove
Streptopelia orientalis



Green Imperial Pigeon
Ducula aenea



Crested Serpent Eagle
Spilornis cheela



Long-tailed Shrike
Lanius schach



Grey Drongo
Dicrurus leucophaeus



Blue Whistling Thrush
Myophonus caeruleus



White-collared Blackbird
Turdus albocinctus



Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher
Culicapsa ceylonensis



Plumbeous Redstart
Rhyacornis fuliginosa



White-crested Laughingthrush
Garrulax leucolophus



Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush
Garrulax erythrocephalus



Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler
Pomatorhinus ruficollis



Red-billed Leiothrix
Leiothrix lutea



Whiskered Yuhina
Yuhina flavicollis



Golden-breasted Fulvetta
Alcippe chrysolis



Mrs. Gould's Sunbird
Aethopyga gouldiae



Yellow-breasted Greenfinch
Carduelis spinoides



Dark-breasted Rosefinch
Carpodacus nipalensis

FLORA

Sikkim is very rich in floristic diversity. The Bird Park has undulating slopes with wild undergrowth and dense tree cover. The region falls within the transitional zone of Sub Tropical Mixed Broad Leaved Hill Forests (900 m to 1800 m) and Himalayan Wet Temperate



Forests (1800 m to 2700 m). The Bird Park site is dominated with trees, wild herbs and shrubs. The forests include various tree species like *Castanopsis*, *Engelhardia*, *Michelia*, *Quercus*, and *Acer*. The secondary growth consists of *Girardinia*, *Boehmeria*, *Maesa*, *Ardisia*, *Melastoma*, *Edgeworthia*. Existing vegetation includes a top canopy of Chestnut trees interspersed with *Michelia*



and *Quercus*. Open forest patches have been invaded by *Eupatorium* and *Tridax*. Shrubs like *Rubus*, *Daphne*, *Berberis* and ferns, epiphytic plants provide a distinctive character to the forest. It also has climbers like *Pathos*, *Vitis*, *Rhaphidophora*, *Smilax* etc.

BIRDS



Rufous Sibia
Heterophasia capistrata

© Usha Lachungpa

Sikkim is very rich in avifauna. Among over 8000 species of birds found worldwide, over 1200 species are found in the Indian Subcontinent. Eastern Himalayas shelter rich biodiversity and Sikkim is known to have over 550 species of colourful and rare birds using different habitats like temperate forests to alpine meadows.

The Bird Park region has been occupied by typical avifauna of Middle Hills Forests of Eastern Himalayas. The families of Timalinae and Turdinae seem to be abundant in the region. They include Owls, Eagles, Pheasant, Barbets, Treepies, Minivets, Bulbuls, Flycatchers, Babblers, Thrushes and Warblers etc. These birds are resident as well as migratory. Out of over 550 bird species recorded in Sikkim over 200 species have been recorded in this area in different seasons.



Striated Bulbul
Pycnonotus striatus

© Binj KJ Acharya

The moist forests of Rabdentse hold birds like Rufous-breasted Accentors, Green-tailed Sunbirds, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers, Blue-fronted Redstarts, Brownish-flanked Bush Warblers, Scarlet and Long-tailed Minivets, Coal, Green-backed and Black-throated Tits, various Yuhinas, Fulvettas, Shrike Babblers, Scimitar Babblers, Laughingthrushes and Babblers.



Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*

© Usha Lachungpa



Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pygmaea*

© Channing Ruppel

The rare and spectacular Fire-tailed Myzornis can easily be sighted here.

Overhead, the resident Crested Serpent Eagle, migrating Steppe Eagles, Greater Spotted Eagles and Oriental Honey Buzzards add raptor diversity in cold November.

Rabdentse has a heterogenous habitat with a diversity of microhabitats, quality of vegetation, availability of food / shelter plants and suitability of the location for growing more such plants. The Park has a variety of nature trails awaiting discovery from dense bushy undergrowth to green-lit patches dense with trees.



Pemayangtse Monastery on Bird Park Skyline



White-throated Fantail
Rhipidura albicollis

© Usha Lachungpa



Blue-fronted Redstart
Phoenicurus frontalis

© Usha Lachungpa



Area designated for Walk-in Aviary.