

**CINNAMON BITTERN, *IXOBRYCHUS CINNAMOMEUS*
(GMELIN) FROM ANNAPURNA CONSERVATION AREA,
NEPAL**

Rishi Baral ¹, Tulasi P Dahal ², Suresh Thapa ³, Dhan K. Gurung ⁴ and Raju Acharya ⁵

¹⁻⁴National Trust for Nature Conservation - Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Hariyo Kharka,
Pokhara, Nepal,

⁵Friends of Nature, Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal

E-mail: right.rishi1@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The Cinnamon Bittern, *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* (Gmelin) is a common resident of marshes and rice fields which is widespread in Asia being found throughout the Indian Subcontinent, South-East Asia and North-East China (Noske and Ueda 1996; Coates and Bishop 1997) but not recorded from Australia and New Guinea (Beehler *et al.*, 1986; del Hoyo *et al.*, 1992).

This species is frequent, mainly a summer visitor, but found in all month below 250 m. It has breed at 1370 m and is small sized with uniform looking rufous flight feathers and tail in all plumages (Grimmett *et al.*, 2000). Male has cinnamon rufous crown, hind-neck and mantle/scapulars, whereas, female has dark-brown crown and mantle, and dark-brown streaking on fore neck and breast. Juvenile has buff mottling on dark-brown upperparts, and is heavily streaked with dark brown on under parts (Grimmett *et al.*, 2000).

DESCRIPTION ON SECOND RECORD

On 12th August, 2017 Saturday, at 8.00 hrs the bird was chased by four Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*, Wagler) and suddenly the bird flew inside the compound of District Police Office of Jomsom (Figure 1). The Police staff protected the bird and

informed Annapurna Conservation Area Project (NTNC-ACAP), Unit Conservation Office, Jomsom. The staff (third co-author) of Unit conservation Office, Jomsom took the bird in the office. They called to Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Head Office Pokhara about the details of the bird. Then a photograph of bird was taken and later released in nature at evening in the paddy field on the same day. Finally the bird was able to fly back to nature. Then the bird's photograph was posted in facebook for identification. By the facebook post, ornithologists Hathan Chaudhary, Som GC and Manshanta Ghimire identified as it is Cinnamon Bittern. After identification the bird was confirmed as male. It was found at the altitude of 2,727 m from sea level. The exact point of recording was 28.7834° N and 83.7307° E of Jomsom, Gharapjhong Rural Municipality, Ward number 4, Mustang. It was the second high altitude record of this bird from Annapurna Conservation Area. The first high altitude record of Nepal was from 3,715 m by Mr. Madhu Chetri.

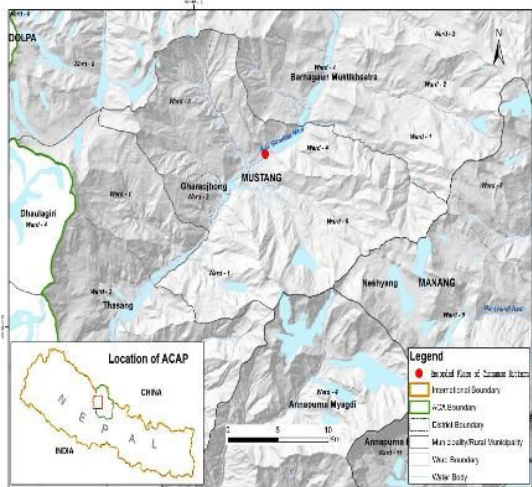


Figure 1. Location map of recorded area.



Figure 2. Cinnamon Bittern

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank District Police Office, Jomsom for the quick information about the bird. Likewise many thanks to Niraj Thakali and other staff of Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Unit Conservation Office, Jomsom for rescuing the bird and releasing it back to the nature. Special thanks to Hathan Chaudhary, Prashant Ghimire, Som G.C and Manshant Ghimire for identification. Many thanks to Basanti Khumpakha for the map.

REFERENCES

- Beehler, B. M., T. K. Pratt and D. A. Zimmerman (1986). *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, USA.
- Chapagain, N. R. and M. Chhetri (2006). *Biodiversity Profile of Upper Mustang*. National Trust for Nature Conservation, Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Upper Mustang Biodiversity Conservation Project. Kathmandu, Nepal, IV + 32 p.
- Coates, B. J. and K. D. Bishop (1997). *A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea*. Dove Publications, Alderley, Australia.
- Del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargatal (1992). *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Grimmett, R., C. Inskipp and T. Inskipp (2000). *Birds of Nepal*. Helm Field Guide, Prakash Books, New Delhi.
- Noske, R. A. and K. Ueda (1996). First record of Cinnamon Bittern for Timor. *Kukila* 8: 158-159.

(Received July 15, 2019; revised accepted September 18, 2019)