4. MIGRATION AND SONGS

The Spiny babbler is on the endangered list, and lives at 1,500-2,135m elevation in summer and at 500-1,830m in winter. It normally stays in thick bush, away from farmlands. According to The Status of Nepal’s Birds: The National Red List Series Volume VI, spiny babblers have been found all over Nepal, from Taplejung in the east to Baitadi in the west. They are frequently seen around Khaptad National Park and in Pokhara after the spread of community forestry.

Spiny babbler mimic other birds. Their song consist of series of alternating, quickly repeated notes, some like those of a thrush (*Turdus*),others scratchy and rather slurred, unlike songs of congeners; a phrase starts with a few fine whistles and then continues up scale, “tee-tee-ker-chee-ker-chee-ker-chee”,sometimes preceded by running thrill; many other variations; bursts of song often culminate in 3or 4 clear and loud “teer-teer-teer-teer”. A clear “el-el-el-el-ele” uttered while hopping about on ground. For contact and mild alarm a low deep musical “churrr”; female also has loud “wick-er-wick-er-wick-er”;partners occasionally burst out into wild crescendo of screaming calls similar in sound to those of *T. striata*.

REFERENCES

1. <https://www.nepalitimes.com/here-now/spiny-babbler-tourism/>
2. <https://birdsoftheworld.org/bow/species/spibab1/cur/introduction>