

Whispering Wings®

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHANDIGARH BIRD CLUB

Issue 02

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon

Editor-in-chief

It is that time of the year when mountain comes to Mohammed as hundreds of avi-

an species migrate from far and near to Inter-State Chandigarh Region (ISCR). Ruddy Shell-ducks, the 'Surkhhab' of idiom and 'Chakwa-Chakwi' of Granny's tales, Little Ringed Plovers with their outlandish yellow framed goggles, Pintails, Pochards, Blue throats, pipits, and countless other feathered friends warm the cockles of every birder's heart.

Cameras with bazooka lenses, binoculars, camo-clothing dusted and aired, we are all ready for this annual tryst with our winged friends.

As the family of Chandigarh Birders has grown, they have ventured deeper into the region and the ISCR Bird List has

grown. Many scintillating pictures of birds have been added to the group Facebook Page and Google group. The enthusiasm and hard work is showing. Regular columns in news

papers, bird-walks for school children, forays of local birders into biomes in other parts of the World or India are glittering examples of growing interest.

As human greed and urban sprawl claim wetlands, grass lands, pastures, forested tracts like Mote Majra, Chappar Chiri,

Siwalik piedmont, the foot-hill village fields as well as pastures like Sketri, the time has come to adopt a more proactive role. The members need to raise awareness about loss of habitat of avi-fauna by personal contact, news papers and lectures or any methods suitable to disseminate the information. Time has come to concretise



Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon
Editor-in-Chief

Inside this issue:

Summary of the club activities	2
Sukhna Lake	2
Indian Grey Hornbill	3
Post-processing	4
Jangeshu-Baddi Field Trip	7
Mirzapur Field Trip	9
Chakki ka Mor Field Trip	11
Himalayan Adventure	13
Hyderabad Hyper Birding	18
Calendar of the Club	26

the efforts of club members, publish booklets on common birds of ISCR as well as adopt biomes for habitat protection and species conservation.

“May you always hear the bird song!”

SUMMARY OF THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES

Amandeep Singh

A very happy New Year
This quarter of the year, from October to December, the members of the Chandigarh Bird Club celebrated the festive months, with their own way of celebrations.

Members of the club went far and wide in the City Beautiful and the ISCR. Ranging from Motemajra, Aerocity and Bakarpur, in the south, the Lake in the North-East.

Some members went on a field trip to Sangla and Chitkul, the report of which can be found further in the newsletter. A very rewarding and satisfying trip it was, and highly en-

joyed as well. It comprised a group of birders with a sprinkling of bird photographers as well.

As it is expected, the trip did not deter the monthly field trips. The month of October, saw the members of the club going to Jangeshu, via the old Kasauli road, and returning via Baddi. This new route was added to the club's map and it was decided to make further trips relatively early in the mornings.

The November field trip was to Mirzapur, some were new to the area, others were returning after a long time. The trip saw a turnout of more than a dozen members of the club, largest turnout to be seen on a monthly field trip.

In December, Chandigarh Bird Club members went to Chakki ka Mor, and some returned via Parwanoo.

All-in-all, this quarter of the year, the final quarter of 2015, was a very successful one, with many sightings. But over the course of one year the depletion in number of migratory birds and reckless destruction of habitat, hastens the end of bird life in Chandigarh and elsewhere.

With hopes that the new year brings with itself, new opportunities to go birding and, many beautiful sightings to everyone.

Once again a very happy New Year from the Chandigarh Bird Club.

EXPERT'S ADVICE: SUKHNA LAKE

Rima Dhillon

Lying in the North-East of Chandigarh, Sukhna Lake is the pride of Chandigarh.

It is a manmade lake, a result of damming the seasonal Sukhna Choe.

The Lake and its catchment areas are home to a large number of mammals, insects, reptiles and birds. Diverse habitats have developed — forest, grassland, agricultural fields, wetland — which have resulted in rich fauna.

The lake itself has nearly 200 species of birds both resident and migratory which makes for interesting birdwatching throughout the year.

Indian Spot-billed Duck and Lesser Whistling Duck can be seen breeding here. Come October and the lake becomes a bustling stopover for the migratory water fowl.

Bar-headed Geese and Graylag Geese, Common, Ferruginous & Tufted Pochards, Pintails and Mallards could all be seen jostling for space with Cormorants, and Common

Coots. The banks of the lake teemed with waders, Redshanks, Green-shanks, Stints, Sandpipers, Herons and Egrets.

Down the years we have seen species not commonly seen in this area like, Little Tern, Northern Skimmer, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Pied Hornbill, and Northern Merganser.

Over time the lake itself developed interesting little islands and reed-beds which provided security for the resident breeders as well as great food source for the migratory wa-

terfowl. Hordes of waders were seen in these little ponds within the lake, busily foraging.

The shy Bristled Grassbird chose the lake as its breeding ground and its melodious chirping could be heard across the water all monsoon.

Sukhna Lake gets its water from the rain fed streams flowing into it from the Shivaliks.

The flipside to this source of water is that silt from the Shivaliks is carried down by the choe and tends to end up in the lake.

The Sukhna catchment area has sandy and clayey soil which is prone to extensive erosion. To prevent erosion, massive afforestation was carried out in this area resulting in the

beautiful forests of Nepli and Kansal. In spite of a large number of check dams, tons of silt still makes its way into the lake thereby raising its depth, which in turn causes increased evaporation in the summer.

The silting up of the lake and its decreasing area became a matter of concern so the Chandigarh Administration decided to start a desilting programme. The reed beds were dug up in an attempt to deepen the lake hoping this would prevent excessive evaporation and keep the lake from drying up in the harsh summer heat.

Now there is little area left for the waders and dabbling ducks while the lake has become a flat ex-

panse of water.

Though the wintering waterfowl can be seen every winter their numbers per species have decreased.

In order to popularise birdwatching at Sukhna Lake, the forest & wildlife department has made a bird walk on the opposite side of the lake from the promenade and spotter scopes are setup for public use. Through winter, school children can be seen availing of this opportunity for a close look at our winged foreign visitors.

Sukhna Lake plays a pivotal role in the lives of Chandigarh birders. Here's hoping we can maintain a safe and healthy environment for our winged friends.

SPECIES UNDER THE SCOPE: INDIAN GREY HORNBILL

Sarbjeeet Kaur

its Latin name is *Ocyrceros birostris*.

Indian Grey Hornbill is the state bird of Chandigarh, and easily recognizable with its grey feathers, spread all over the body, with a light grey or dull white belly. The casque of this half a metre bird is short and pointed, the male has a larger casque and a dark bill. It is locally called as the Chota Dhanesh, and this species is listed as least concerned (LC) in the International Union for



Indian Grey Hornbill

The species is found mainly on the plains up to 2000 feet. It is found from the foothills of the Himalayas southwards, bounded to the west by the Indus system and to the east by the Ganges Delta. It is found even in cities that have old avenue trees. Chandigarh is full of fig trees like peepal, banyan, jamun, gular, pilkhan etc., they get attracted all the time as these figs comprise most of their diet. They are

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Scientifically, mostly arboreal in nature, so one can see them in the

morning moving high up in the canopy. They can easily be sighted in pairs or flock of 5-6 in the parks, Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary and even one can enjoy watching them taking dust bath on the kutchra track in the reserve forest, behind Sukhna lake.

The call is a squealing call somewhat like that of a Black Kite. The nesting season is April to June and the clutch varies from one to five very symmetrical white eggs. It uses natural hole in the tree for nesting. The female starts to seal the nest cavity once she enters inside, with mud, fruit pulp and with her own droppings. Only a narrow slit remains open, from where the male feeds the female.

MAKE YOUR PHOTOGRAPH A PICTURE

BASIC POST-PROCESSING TECHNIQUES

Rajive Das

From a technical standpoint, no camera can give a photograph so wonderful that it doesn't need post-processing. Especially when the camera is set to capture in a format called RAW. RAW is a file format that captures all image data recorded by the sensor when you take a photo. When shooting in a format like JPEG, image information is compressed and lost. Because no information is compressed with RAW you're able to produce higher quality images, as well as correct problem images that would be unrecoverable if shot in the JPEG format.

The electronic sensors in our current digital cameras are pretty amazing, but very far from perfect. They are improving significantly with every new generation, but the signal coming out of them is not "clean." Part of the valuable technology inside your camera is the algorithms built specifically to compensate for this. Even if the settings of the camera are absolutely perfect for the shot, the raw data from the sensor requires that some work be done to make it be the best it can. When shooting JPEG the camera is doing this for you in a pre-determined way that can't be reversed.

It is advisable that photographers use Adobe RGB 1998 colour space for shooting and post-processing images since it covers broader gamut of colours (50% of the visible colours). However, the most common computer display devices are able to approximate color gamut of sRGB colour space which covers roughly 35% of visible colours. Since sRGB serves as a "best guess" for how another person's monitor produces color, it has become the standard color space for displaying images on the Internet. The digital post-processing workflow is described here keeping this aspect in mind.

Apart from having a good equipment and good technique in photography, it is equally important to have knowledge of at least basic post-processing techniques to produce better results. The steps mentioned below are good for processing an image to be uploaded on websites and social networking sites on the Internet. For printing purposes, the settings will depend on the size of the poster to be printed. The process steps explained here are for Photoshop. For different post-processing software the steps will vary accordingly.

Step 1: Open Raw Image

=====

1. Open your image using Photoshop. The image can first be seen using Bridge that comes with Photoshop. Double clicking on the image should open it inside Adobe Camera Raw (ACR).
2. Make adjustments in ACR using the options on the right in the order they are shown and click open image. This should bring the image to Photoshop.

Step 2: Photoshop Settings

=====

1. Go to Edit > Colour Settings
2. Enter these values:

Settings: Custom

Working Space:

RGB: Adobe RGB (1998)

CMYK: Leave it to U.S. Web Coated (SWOP) v2

Gray: Gray Gama 2.2

Spot: Dot Gain 20%

Color Management Policies:

RGB: Convert to Working RGB

CMYK: Preserve Embedded Profile

Gray: Preserve Embedded Profile

Rest settings, kept to default.

Step 3: Cropping

=====

1. Open the image in Photoshop.
2. Go to the Crop tool.

3. Enter the width and height to crop in pixels (for web choose around 1500 pixels on the longer side for horizontal images and around 1000 pixels for vertical images). Enter Resolution as 96 pixels/inch.
4. Choose the crop area in your image by clicking & dragging and crop your image by clicking on the tick mark on the top menu bar. You can compose your image inside the highlighted box by altering its size by dragging the dotted lines or moving the whole highlighted box around before cropping.

Step 4: Image Adjustments

=====

1. Go to Image > Adjustments > Levels
2. The left triangle is to adjust shadow details, right triangle to adjust highlights, and the center triangle to adjust brightness/darkness. Visually check and adjust the triangles to give your image a deep look.
3. You can use other tools to make colour corrections - Saturation, selective colour corrections etc.

Step 5: Sharpen Image

=====

1. Select the subject with the help of the Quick Selection tool or the Lasso tool placed on the left side of the Photoshop window.
2. Go to Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask
3. Enter Amount 100%, Radius 0.5 and Threshold 2.
4. You can increment or decrement the Radius to get a clearer image.

Step 6: Noise Reduction

=====

1. Now right click the already selected subject and choose invert selection.
2. Use neat image to get a clean noise free background. Free download available at <http://www.neatimage.com/>.

Step 7: Saving for Web

=====

1. Once the image is ready, go to Image > Mode > Convert to profile
2. Make the "Destination Space" profile: sRGB IEC61966-2.1

3. Keep the others to default.
4. Hit Ok.
5. Now go to File > Save As, give the file name, keep the Format to JPEG.
6. Once you say ok, in the JPEG Options, change the quality to 8, 9 or 10 depending on the Size which is displayed below. Keep it to below 400kb.

That's It Image is ready to be posted. For ethical reasons, do not add elements to the image that were not originally present while shooting the bird.

ALONG TO JANGESHU AND BADDI

Amandeep Singh

On the 11th of October, at around 5:30 a.m., the nine of us, i.e. Rima Dhillon, Sarbjeet Kaur, Brigadier Sarabjit Randhawa, Dr. Aparajita, Dr. Samir, Dr. Manu Mengi, Saiyam Nagar, Mohit Kohli and I, Amandeep Singh, left for the old Kasauli Road.

Birding along the road, our first major stop was at Masulkhana, where we saw House Sparrow, Scaly-breasted Munia and the Verditer Flycatcher

and later we stopped at a settlement ahead. Later, we had our breakfast at Jangeshu, which was on the upper road from the two-road junction. There we saw the Spotted Forktail, Indian Black-lored Tit, and Citrine Wagtail. There Dr. Manu, Saiyam sir and Mohit Sir, took there leave.

The remainder of us also went down from Jangeshu and took the turning onto Gunai and Barotiwala. Birding along the road we stopped at a

slow rivulet, where we recorded the Jacobin Cuckoo.

On entering Baddi, we halted at a pond and listed Little Grebe and White-breasted Waterhen. Among our final stops was the Sirsa river banks, where we spotted the Red Avadavat, which has alluded me for quite some time. Moving ahead we finally reached the bridge overlooking the Siswan reservoir, we added the Darter to our bag, returning at about a quarter past two.

JANGESHU AND BADDI BIRD LIST

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Babbler, Black-chinned — <i>Stachyris pyrrhops</i> | 9. Chiffchaff, Common — <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> |
| 2. Babbler, Jungle — <i>Turdoides striatus</i> | 10. Crow, Indian Jungle — <i>Corvus (macrorhynchos) culminatus</i> |
| 3. Barbet, Brown-headed (heard) — <i>Megalaima virens</i> | 11. Crow, Large-billed — <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> |
| 4. Barbet, Great — <i>Megalaima zeylanica</i> | 12. Cuckoo, Jacobin/Pied — <i>Clamator jacobinus</i> |
| 5. Bulbul, Black — <i>Hypsipetes maclellandii</i> | 13. Dove, Spotted — <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> |
| 6. Bulbul, Himalayan — <i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i> | 14. Drongo, Spangled — <i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i> |
| 7. Bulbul, Red-vented — <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> | 15. Fantail, White-throated — <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i> |
| 8. Bushchat, Grey — <i>Saxicola ferrea</i> | 16. Flycatcher, Dark-sided — <i>Muscicapa sibirica</i> |

17. Flycatcher, Verditer — *Eumyias thalassina* tos
 18. Forktail, Spotted — *Enicurus maculatus*
 19. Junglefowl, Red — *Gallus gallus*
 20. Laughingthrush, Rufous-chinned — *Garrulax ocellatus*
 21. Laughingthrush, White-crested (heard) — *Garrulax leucolophus*
 22. Leiothrix, Red-billed — *Leiothrix Lutea*
 23. Magpie, Red-billed Blue — *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
 24. Munia, Scaly-breasted — *Lonchura punctulata*
 25. Parakeet, Alexandrine — *Psittacula eupatria*
 26. Parakeet, Rose-ringed — *Psittacula krameri*
 27. Pigeon, Rock — *Columba livia*
 28. Prinia, Grey-breasted — *Prinia hodgsonii*
 29. Redstart, White-capped Water — *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
 30. Robin, Indian — *Saxicoloides fulicata*
 31. Rock-chat, Brown — *Cercomela fusca*
 32. Rockthrush, Blue-capped — *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
 33. Sparrow, House — *Passer domesticus*
 34. Sunbird, Crimson — *Aethopyga siparaja*
 35. Tailorbird, Common — *Orthotomus sutorius*
 36. Thrush, Blue Whistling — *Myophonus caeruleus*
 37. Tit, Black-lored — *Parus xanthogenys*
 38. Tit, Cinereous — *Parus cinereus*
 39. Treepie, Grey — *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
 40. Treepie, Rufous — *Dendrocitta formosae*
 41. Wagtail, Citrine — *Motacilla citreola*
 42. Warbler, Blythe's Leaf — *Phylloscopus reguloides*
 43. Warbler, Grey-hooded — *Seicercus xanthoschistos*
 44. Warbler, Hume's — *Phylloscopus humei*
 45. Warbler, Tickell's Leaf — *Phylloscopus affinis*
 46. White-eye, Oriental — *Zosterops palpebrosus*
- Baddi — Siswan List**
1. Avadavat, Red — *Amandava amandava*
 2. Bushchat, Pied — *Saxicola caprata*
 3. Cormorant, Little — *Phalacrocorax niger*
 4. Darter — *Anhinga melanogaster*
 5. Dove, Eurasian Collared — *Streptopelia decaocto*
 6. Dove, Laughing — *Streptopelia senegalensis*
 7. Duck, Indian Spot-billed — *Anas poecilorhyncha*
 8. Egret, Cattle — *Bubulcus ibis*
 9. Egret, Little — *Egretta garzetta*
 10. Grebe, Little — *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
 11. Kingfisher, White-throated — *Halcyon smyrnensis*
 12. Kite, Black — *Milvus migrans*
 13. Lapwing, Red-wattled — *Vanellus indicus*
 14. Lapwing, River — *Vanellus duvaucelii*
 15. Peafowl, Indian — *Pavo cristatus*
 16. Prinia, Plain — *Prinia inornata*
 17. Shikra — *Accipiter badius*
 18. Shrike, Long-tailed — *Lanius schach*
 19. Swallow, Wire-tailed — *Hirundo smithii*
 20. Waterhen, White-breasted — *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

OFF TO MIRZAPUR

Amandeep Singh

Mirzapur dam has been a very rich area for birding. However, for me it was only the second time in the seven years that I have been birding.

So, on 22nd November, at the stroke of five, the ten of us, i.e., Rima Dhillon, Sarbjeet Kaur, Alpana NP Singh and her daughter, Dr. Aparajita, Dr. Manu Mengi, Saiyam Nagar, Siddharth Nagar, Narbir Kahlon, Jasbir Randhawa, Abhey Bhardawaj, Janinder Rana, Col. S.S. Cheema, Anil Chauhan,

Sanjay Kumar Iddalgi and I, Amandeep Singh, went to the dam, in an impressive caravan of six cars.



Spotted Owlet

The trip was an overall rewarding

one, with two sightings of spotted owlet and short-toed snake eagle. The track on which we were walking, was behind the forest rest house. There, the group divided into smaller groups of twos and threes separated by a few yards.

Later, on the way back, some members, i.e., Siddharth Sir, Dr. Manu, Saiyam Sir, Abhey Sir, Anil Chauhan and S.K. Iddalgi, left. And the rest of us were also about to do so, but were asked by the owner of the Siddhu Farms to come and see the area, which were active with many species, especially

MIRZAPUR BIRD LIST

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Babbler, Jungle — <i>Turdiodes striata</i> | 10. Drongo, Black — <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> |
| 2. Babbler, Scaly-breasted Wren — <i>Pnoepyga albiventer</i> | 11. Duck, Lesser Whistling — <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> |
| 3. Bulbul, Himalayan — <i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i> | 12. Eagle, Short-toed Snake — <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> |
| 4. Bulbul, Red-vented — <i>Pycnonotus cafer bengalensis</i> | 13. Eagle, Steppe — <i>Aquila nipalensis</i> |
| 5. Coot, Eurasian — <i>Fulica atra</i> | 14. Egret, Cattle — <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> |
| 6. Coucal, Greater — <i>Centropus sinensis</i> | 15. Fantail, White-browed — <i>Rhipidura aureola</i> |
| 7. Crow, House — <i>Corvus splendens</i> | 16. Goldenback, Lesser — <i>Dinopium benghalense</i> |
| 8. Crow, Large-billed — <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> | 17. Flycatcher, Verditer — <i>Eumyias thalassinus</i> |
| 9. Dove, Laughing — <i>Stigmatopelia senrgalensis</i> | 18. Flycatcher-shrike, Bar-winged — <i>Hemipus picatus</i> |
| | 19. Heron, Purple — <i>Ardea purpurea</i> |



Common Stonechat

- | | |
|---|--|
| 20. Honey-buzzard, Oriental — <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i> | 43. Robin, Indian — <i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i> |
| 21. Hoopoe, Eurasian — <i>Upupa epops</i> | 44. Robin, Oriental Magpie — <i>Copsychus saularis</i> |
| 22. Hornbill, Indian Grey — <i>Ocyrceros birostris</i> | 45. Roller, Indian — <i>Coracias benghalensis</i> |
| 23. Junglefowl, Red — <i>Gallus gallus</i> | 46. Sandpiper, Common — <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> |
| 24. Kestrel, Eurasian — <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | 47. Sandpiper, Green — <i>Tringa ochropus</i> |
| 25. Kingfisher, White-throated — <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> | 48. Sandpiper, Wood — <i>Tringa glareola</i> |
| 26. Kite, Black — <i>Milvus migrans</i> | 49. Shelduck, Ruddy — <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> |
| 27. Kite, Black-Winged — <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> | 50. Shikra — <i>Accipiter badius</i> |
| 28. Lapwing, Red-wattled — <i>Vanellus indicus</i> | 51. Shrike, Bay-backed — <i>Lanius vittatus</i> |
| 29. Magpie, Red-billed Blue — <i>Urocissa flavirostris</i> | 52. Shrike, Long-tailed — <i>Lanius schach</i> |
|  | |
| Cattle Egret | |
| 30. Martin, Plain — <i>Riparia paludicola</i> | 53. Starling, Common — <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> |
| 31. Minivet, Long-tailed — <i>Pericrocotus ethlogus</i> | 54. Stilt, Black-winged — <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> |
| 32. Moorhen, Common — <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | 55. Stonechat, Siberian — <i>Saxicola torquatus</i> |
| 33. Myna, Common — <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> | 56. Swallow, Barn — <i>Hirundo rustica</i> |
| 34. Owlet, Spotted — <i>Athene brama</i> | 57. Swallow, Wire-tailed — <i>Hirundo smithii</i> |
| 35. Parakeet, Plum-headed — <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i> | 58. Tit, Black-lored — <i>Parus xanthogenys</i> |
| 36. Parakeet, Rose-ringed — <i>Psittacula krameri</i> | 59. Treepie, Rufous — <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i> |
| 37. Parakeet, Slaty-headed — <i>Psittacula himalayana</i> | 60. Wagtail, White — <i>Motacilla alba</i> |
| 38. Peafowl, Indian — <i>Pavo cristatus</i> | 61. Wagtail, White-browed — <i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i> |
| 39. Pipit, Olive-backed — <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> | 62. Wagtail, Yellow — <i>Motacilla flava</i> |
| 40. Pipit, Tree — <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | 63. Waterhen, White-breasted — <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> |
| 41. Prinia, Plain — <i>Prinia inornata</i> | 64. White-eye, Oriental — <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i> |
| 42. Redstart, Black — <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | 65. Whitethroat, Lesser — <i>Sylvia curruca</i> |

CHAKKI KA MOR BIRDING

Saiyam Nagar

Four of us me, Col. Bhupesh Goyal, Jasbir Randhawa and Dr. Manu Mengi had reached early and Started birding from Chakkimod at 7 am in cold and cloudy weather, the temperature was around 5 degrees centigrade.

Travelling towards Bhojnagar we found Mahesh Garg and Parveen Malhotra clicking some awesome shots of Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker at Factory.

Lucky enough to see around 50 species before reaching Bhojna-



Blue-throated Barbet

gar, motivated and excited three of the birders me, Jasbir Randhawa and Col. Bhupesh Goyal decided to go further.

After having lunch at Bhojnagar we decided not to take the road back to Chakkimod and took the parwanoo road.

This time we have not been that lucky, no birds for first 10 kms except Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush after few kms Asian barred Owlet then there's a place full of birds few kms before Parwanoo. We have seen some 6 to 7 bird species there.

At last I can say it was really a fruitful day for birding.

CHAKKI KA MOR BIRD LIST

1. Babbler, Black-chinned — *Stachyridopsis pyrrhops*
2. Babbler, Jungle — *Turdoides striata*
3. Babbler, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar — *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*
4. Barbet, Blue-throated — *Megalaima asiatica*
5. Barbet, Great — *Megalaima virens*
6. Bulbul, Black — *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
7. Bulbul, Himalayan — *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
8. Bulbul, Red-vented — *Pycnonotus cafer*
9. Bunting, Chestnut-breasted — *Emberiza stewarti*
10. Bushchat, Grey — *Saxicola ferreus*
11. Crow, Large-billed — *Corvus macrorhynchos*
12. Drongo, Black — *Dicrurus macrocercus*
13. Egret, Little — *Egretta garzetta*
14. Fantail, White-throated — *Rhipidura albicollis*
15. Flameback, Black-rumped — *Dinopium benghalense*
16. Flowerpecker, Pale-billed — *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*
17. Forktail, Little — *Enicurus scouleri*
18. Hoopoe, Eurasian — *Upupa epops*
19. Junglefowl, Red — *Gallus gallus*
20. Kingfisher, Crested — *Megaceryle lugubris*



Whiskered Yuhina

- | | |
|--|---|
| 21. Laughingthrush, Rufous-chinned — <i>Garrulax ru-</i>
<i>fogularis</i> | 42. Sibia, Rufous — <i>Heterophasia capistrata</i> |
| 22. Laughingthrush, Streaked — <i>Trochalopteron linea-</i>
<i>tum</i> | 43. Sparrow, House — <i>Passer domesticus</i> |
| 23. Laughingthrush, White-crested — <i>Garrulax leu-</i>
<i>colophus</i> | 44. Sparrow, Russet — <i>Passer rutilans</i> |
| 24. Leiothrix, Red-billed — <i>Leiothrix lutea</i> | 45. Sunbird, Crimson — <i>Aethopyga siparaja</i> |
| 25. Magpie, Red-billed Blue — <i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i> | 46. Sunbird, Fire-tailed — <i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i> |
| 26. Martin, Dusky Crag — <i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i> | 47. Swallow, Barn — <i>Hirundo rustica</i> |
| 27. Minivet, Long-tailed — <i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i> | 48. Swallow, Wire-tailed — <i>Hirundo smithii</i> |
| 28. Myna, Common — <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> | 49. Tailorbird, Common — <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> |
| 29. Nuthatch, Chestnut-bellied — <i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i> | 50. Thrush, Blue Whistling — <i>My-</i>
<i>ophonus caeruleus</i> |
| 30. Owlet, Asian Barred — <i>Glau-</i>
<i>cidium cuculoides</i> | 51. Tit, Cinereous — <i>Parus cinere-</i>
<i>us</i> |
| 31. Parakeet, Plum-headed — <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i> | 52. Treepie, Grey — <i>Dendrocitta</i>
<i>formosae</i> |
| 32. Parakeet, Rose-ringed — <i>Psit-</i>
<i>tacula krameri</i> | 53. Treepie, Rufous — <i>Dendrocitta</i>
<i>vagabunda</i> |
| 33. Parakeet, Slaty-headed — <i>Psittac-</i>
<i>ula himalayana</i> | 54. Wagtail, Grey — <i>Motacilla</i>
<i>cinerea</i> |
| 34. Pigeon, Rock — <i>Columba livia</i> | 55. Warbler, Grey-hooded — <i>Phyl-</i>
<i>loscopus xanthoschistos</i> |
| 35. Prinia, Grey-breasted — <i>Prinia hodgsonii</i> | 56. Warbler, Lemon-rumped — <i>Phylloscopus chloro-</i>
<i>notus</i> |
| 36. Prinia, Striated — <i>Prinia crinigera</i> | 57. White-eye, Oriental — <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i> |
| 37. Redstart, Plumbeous — <i>Rhyacornis fuliginosa</i> | 58. Woodpecker, Fulvous-breasted — <i>Dendrocopos</i>
<i>macei</i> |
| 38. Redstart, White-capped — <i>Chaimarrornis leuco-</i>
<i>cephalus</i> | 59. Woodpecker, Grey-capped Pygmy — <i>Dendro-</i>
<i>copos canicapillus</i> |
| 39. Robin, Indian — <i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i> | 60. Woodpecker, Grey-headed — <i>Picus canus</i> |
| 40. Rock Chat, Brown — <i>Cercomela fusca</i> | 61. Yuhina, Whiskered — <i>Yuhina flavicollis</i> |
| 41. Rock-Thrush, Chestnut-bellied — <i>Monticola ru-</i> | |



Chestnut-breasted Bunting

HIMALAYAN SAGA OF THE CLUB

Amandeep Singh

In a completely, unexpected turn of events, the Chandigarh Bird Club decided to take a field trip to Narkanda, Rakchham and Chitkul. The last time the trip was made was in the October of 2009, six years ago. The trip was to be made in the first week of November, from 1st to 6th to be precise.

All the arrangements were made by Narbir sir. We were to stay one night in Narkanda, three nights in Rakchham and then another night in Narkanda on our way back. So with all these arrangements made and the itinerary prepared, nine members of the club, namely, Narbir Kahlon, Navjit Singh, Dr. Mandeep Kang, Dr. Aparajita, Alpana N.P. Singh, Sarbjeet Kaur, Rajive Das, Parbhat Bhatti, and I, Amandeep Singh. We were also joined by Col. Talwinder Singh, affectionately called Tanny by all of us, who was not an avid birder, which I am sure he is by now, but an active trekker.

We all started on the 1st of November from our residences to meet up at Narbir Sir's house, at about half past four and making arrangements of who in whose car, we left for Narkanda. I was with Sarbjeet ma'am and Alpana ma'an,

who was driving her car. In the second car were the two doctors and Tanny sir, who was driving Dr. Mandeep's car. And waiting at his residence for Bhatti sir, Narbir sir was taking his car with the rest with him.

We made one major stop after crossing Solan, for our breakfast when we were joined by the third



Chitkul Village, by Sarbjeet Kaur

car. Eventually we made our way to Sadhopul and looked about there, both on the main road, and on the banks of the Aasan River. We didn't dolly much in Chail, and continued onwards to Narkanda.

Narkanda, being the first stage of our trip, was a comfortably situated township, with a bustling main street, where we had our lunch. Our stay was at Hattu Valley Home Stay, which provided us with dinner as well. The home stay is two kilometres away from Narkanda and isolated in the valley. Hattu valley and Hattu peak are known for their beauty

and the temple. It is also known as a very good birding area. So after settling down, we all went to the temple and surrounding area, birding all along the way, where we saw the Koklass pheasant, and the Hodson's Treecreeper, both of them lifers for me. We returned just after sun down.

Early in the morning, i.e., on 2nd November, we divided into two groups, Narbir Sir, Navjit Sir, Alpana Ma'am, and Dr. Mandeep went again to Hattu peak, while the rest of us went along the track down the home stay. After the arrival of the second team from Hattu peak, we left for Rakchham.

Occasional stops, first to have breakfast at the hotel in Narkanda, then to fuel up the cars and one again to have lunch followed, interspersed with birding stops. The road to Rakchham is very beautiful. Mountainous terrain with dams and hydro-electric power plants, all along the Sutlej River. We passed through Rampur-Bushahr, Nathpa, Karcham, from where we left the Sutlej and went along the Baspa River, a tributary, Sangla and finally at Rakchham, in the dark. The whole way from Sangla was covered in the shroud of darkness.

Rakchham, on the morning of 3rd

November, turned out to be a very scenic place. Our stay was at Hotel Rupin River View, just on the outskirts of Rakchham. In the morning, we went for a walk down into the valley. It was there we saw Beautiful Rosefinch, and the two Choughs. Also, we saw the Variegated Laughingthrush and the Hill Pigeon, all of which were lifers for me. Narbir sir saw the Winter Wren.

Later in the morning, we went to Chitkul. On the way, we saw the Blue-capped Redstart, another lifer, and Alpine Accentor. There wasn't much in Chitkul, except tourists. But on the return leg, close to the apple orchards near Rakchham, we spotted the Himalayan Buzzard, and Lammergeier, again lifers for me. In the evening, we separated into groups and went our own merry way.

On 4th November, the group divided into three; Rajive Sir, and Bhatti Sir, went into the valley, by a different route, and Rajive sir clocked the Brambling; Narbir sir, Navjit sir, Tanny sir, Alpama ma'am, Aparajita ma'am, Sarbjeet ma'am, and Dr. Mandeep, went to Nagasthi, beyond Chitkul. I, on the other hand went uphill after crossing the river. In the evening, we all went to see the Brambling, which we could-

n't, but saw the Upland Pipit instead.



Members of the CBC, by Parbhat Bhatti

When we went to sleep, none of us expected what we saw in the morning. On 5th November, when we woke up, we found ourselves surrounded by snow. Our cars were covered under snow. While waiting for the others to have breakfast

cleared the snow off of our cars and went back to Narkanda, but not before buying the famous Kinnaur rajmah.

We reached the home stay in the evening. Since it was already losing light, we did not go out for birding. All of us sat down together, which had been a regular occurring for the rest of the days. After dinner we all kipped in our beds, with plans for the morning prepared.

On the last day, i.e., 6th November, we again split into two, Sarbjeet ma'am, Alpama ma'am,

Aparajita ma'am, Rajive sir, Bhatti sir, and I, went along the road down from the home stay. Meanwhile, the rest went to Hattu peak temple. We were graced by the viewing of the mountain weasel, Spotted Nutcracker and European Goldfinch, all of them were lifers for me. The Hattu

peak team saw the Black and Yellow Grossbeak and Plain Mountain Finch among others.

On our way back, from Narkanda, we also added to our bag, the Tawny Eagle, and the Steppe Eagle. This had followed a large group of Vultures, both the Himalayan and the Gryffon. Finally we

stopped short of Chail and added Short-toed Snake Eagle among others.



Rock Bunting, by Sarbjeet Kaur

some of us went and saw the birds on close quarters, them being immobile due to the cold. Then we vigorously

HIMALYAN FIELD TRIP BIRD LIST

Kandaghat-Geora-Chail-Narkanda

1. Babbler, Black-chined — *Stachyridopsis pyrrhops*
2. Babbler, Jungle — *Turdoides striata*
3. Babbler, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar (heard) — *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*
4. Barbet, Great (heard) — *Megalaima virens*
5. Bulbul, Himalayan — *Pycnonotus striatus*
6. Bulbul, Red-vented — *Pycnonotus cafer bengalensis*
7. Bunting, Rock — *Emberiza cia*
8. Bushchat, Grey — *Saxicola ferreus*
9. Bushchat, Pied — *Saxicola caprata*
10. Crow, Large-billed — *Corvus macrorhynchos*
11. Eagle, Short-toed Snake — *Circaetus gallicus*
12. Eagle, Steppe — *Aquila nipalensis*
13. Fantail, White-throated — *Rhipidura albicollis*
14. Forktail, Spotted — *Enicurus maculatus*
15. Kite, Black — *Milvus migrans*
16. Laughingthrush, Streaked — *Garrulax lineatus*
17. Laughingthrush, White-crested (heard) — *Garrulax leucolophus*
18. Lammergeier — *Gypaetus barbatus*
19. Magpie, Red-billed Blue — *Urocissa flavirostris*
20. Minivet, Long-tailed — *Pericrocotus ethologus*
21. Myna, Common — *Acridotheres tristis*
22. Nutcracker, Spotted — *Nucifraga caryocatactes*
23. Nuthatch, Chestnut-bellied — *Sitta castanea cinnamoventris*
24. Parakeet, Alexandrine — *Psittacula krameri*
25. Parakeet, Plum-headed — *Psittacula cyanocephala*
26. Parakeet, Slaty-headed — *Psittacula himalayana*
27. Pheasant, Kalij — *Lophura leucomelanos*
28. Pigeon, Rock — *Columba livia*
29. Redstart, White-capped Water — *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
30. Robin, Indian — *Saxicoloides fulicatus*
31. Sparrow, Russet — *Passer rutilans*
32. Thrush, Blue Whistling — *Myophonus horsfieldii*
33. Tit, Cinereous — *Parus cinereus*
34. Tit, Rufous-naped — *Periparus rufonuchalis*
35. Treepie, Grey — *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
36. Vulture, Griffin — *Gyps fulvus*
37. Vulture, Himalayan — *Gyps himalayensis*
38. Wagtail, Grey — *Motacilla cinerea*
39. Wagtail, White — *Motacilla alba*
40. Warbler, Greenish — *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
41. Warbler, Grey-hooded — *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*



Variegated Laughingthrush, by Rajive Das

42. White-eye, Oriental — *Zosterops palpebrosus*
43. Woodpecker, Brown-fronted — *Dendrocopos auriceps*
44. Woodpecker, Himalayan — *Dendrocops himalayensis*

Narkanda-Hatu Peak

1. Accentor, Rufous-breasted — *Prunella strophinata*
2. Bunting, Rock — *Emberiza cia*
3. Buzzard, Himalayan — *Buteo buteo burmanicus*
4. Crow, Large-billed — *Corvus macrorhynchos*
5. Finch, Plain Mountain — *Leucosticte nemoricola*
6. Flycatcher, Rufous-gorgeted — *Ficedula strophinata*
7. Flycatcher, Ultramarine — *Ficedula superciliaris*
8. Goldfinch, European — *Carduelis carduelis*
9. Grosbeak, Black and Yellow — *Mycerobas icteroides*



Yellow-billed Chough, by Sarbjee Kaur

10. Laughingthrush, Streaked — *Garrulax lineatus*
11. Laughingthrush, Variegated — *Garrulax variegatus similis*
12. Monal, Himalayan — *Lophophorus impejanus*
13. Nutcracker, Spotted — *Nucifraga caryocatactes*
14. Nuthatch, White-cheeked — *Sitta leucopsis*
15. Nuthatch, White-tailed — *Sitta himalayensis*
16. Owl, Brown Wood (heard) — *Strix leptogrammica*

17. Owl, Tawny (heard) — *Strix aluco*
18. Pheasant, Koklass — *Pucrasia macrolopha*
19. Redstart, Blue-capped — *Phoenicurus coerulescephala*
20. Redstart, Blue-fronted — *Phoenicurus frontalis*
21. Thrush, Blue Whistling — *Myophonus horsfieldii*
22. Thrush, Mistle — *Turdus viscivorus*
23. Tit, Black-lored — *Parus xanthogenys*
24. Tit, Black-throated — *Aegithalos niveogularis*
25. Tit, Coal — *Periparus ater*
26. Tit, Cinereous — *Parus cinereus*
27. Tit, Green-backed — *Parus monticolus*
28. Tit, Grey-crested — *Lophophanes dichrous*
29. Treecreeper, Hodgson's — *Certhia hodsoni*
30. Vulture, Himalayan — *Gyps himalayensis*

31. Warbler, Buff-barred — *Phylloscopus pulcher*

32. Warbler, Lemon-rumped — *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
33. Warbler, Whistler's — *Seicercus whistleri*
34. Woodpecker, Himalayan — *Dendrocopos himalayensis*
35. Woodpecker, Scaly-bellied — *Picus squamatus*

Narkanda-Rakchham

1. Bulbul, Himalayan — *Pycnonotus striatus*

2. Bunting, Rock — *Emberiza cia*
3. Chough, Red-billed — *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
4. Chough, Yellow-billed — *Pyrrhocorax graculus*
5. Cormorant, Little — *Phalacrocorax niger*
6. Crow, Large-billed — *Corvus macrorhynchos*
7. Dipper, Brown — *Cinclus pallasii*
8. Forktail, Spotted — *Enicurus maculatus*
9. Greenfinch, Yellow-breasted — *Carduelis spinoides*
10. Kestrel, Common — *Falco tinnunculus*

11. Kite, Black —
Milvus migrans

12. Minivet, Long-tailed — *Pericrocotus ethologus*

13. Pigeon, Hill —
Columba rupestris

14. Pigeon, Rock —
Columba livia

15. Pigeon, Snow — *Columba leuconota*

16. Redstart, Plumbeous Water — *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*

17. Redstart, White-capped Water — *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

18. Vulture, Himalayan — *Gyps himalayensis*

19. Warbler, Grey-hooded — *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*

Rakchham

1. Accentor, Rufous-breasted — *Prunella strophiatea*

2. Bluetail, Himalayan — *Luscinia calliope*

3. Brambling — *Fringilla montifringilla*

4. Bulbul, Himalayan — *Pycnonotus striatus*

5. Bunting, Rock — *Emberiza cia*

6. Chiffchaff, Common — *Phylloscopus collybita*

7. Chough, Red-billed — *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

8. Chough, Yellow-billed — *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

9. Crow, Large-billed — *Corvus macrorhynchos*

10. Dipper, Brown — *Cinclus pallasii*

11. Dove, Oriental Turtle — *Streptopelia orientalis*

12. Dove, Spotted — *Stigmatopelia chinensis*

13. Forktail, Little — *Enicurus scouleri*

14. Goldfinch, European — *Carduelis carduelis*

15. Laughingthrush, Streaked — *Garrulax lineatus*



Brambling, By Rajive Das

16. Laughingthrush, Variegated — *Garrulax variegatus similis*

17. Pigeon, Hill — *Columba rupestris*

18. Pigeon, Rock — *Columba livia*

19. Pigeon, Snow — *Columba leuconota*

20. Pipit, Upland — *Anthus sylvanus*

21. Rosefinch, Beautiful — *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*

22. Rosefinch, Pink-browed — *Carpodacus rodochroa*

23. Sparrow, House — *Passer domesticus*

24. Tit, Coal — *Periparus ater*

25. Tit, Rufous-naped — *Periparus rufonuchalis*
26. Warbler, Hume's Leaf — *Phylloscopus humei*
27. Warbler, Lemon-rumped — *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
28. Wren, Winter — *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Rakchham-Chitkul

1. Accentor, Alpine — *Prunella collaris*
2. Accentor, Rufous-breasted — *Prunella strophiata*
3. Buzzard, Himalayan — *Buteo buteo burmanicus*
4. Goldcrest — *Regulus regulus*
5. Goose, Bar-headed — *Anser indicus*
6. Laughingthrush, Streaked — *Garrulax lineatus*
7. Lammergeier — *Gypaetus barbatus*



Red-billed Chough, by Sarbjeet Kaur

8. Redstart, Blue-capped — *Phoenicurus coerulescephala*
9. Redstart, Blue-fronted — *Phoenicurus frontalis*
10. Rosefinch, Beautiful — *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*
11. Sparrow, House — *Passer domesticus*
12. Treecreeper, Bar-tailed — *Certhia himalayana*

Nagasthi

1. Bunting, Rock — *Emberiza cia*
2. Chough, Red-billed — *Pyrrhoroax pyrrhoroax*
3. Chough, Yellow-billed — *Pyrrhoroax graculus*

4. Laughingthrush, Variegated — *Garrulax variegatus similis*
5. Lammergeier — *Gypaetus barbatus*
6. Redstart, Blue-fronted — *Phoenicurus frontalis*
7. Tit, Rufous-naped — *Periparus rufonuchalis*
8. Warbler, Hume's Leaf — *Phylloscopus humei*

HYDERABAD HYPER BIRDING

Colonel S.S. Cheema

Here I am back at Hyderabad and here comes another birding opportunity. This time however the opportunity turned out to be like no other so far. Firstly, I had a number of free days and I was lucky to join two groups of highly active birdwatchers. And the birding knew no end thereafter.

SPOT NO 1: NEHRU ZOOLOGICAL PARK (HYDERABAD ZOO)

Let me start from the beginning. First two days of my visit at Hyderabad told me that I will have some free days in my hand. I looked up the 'birdseye' and 'hotspots', the two apps on ios that I use for homing on to the birding hotspots where ever I go and Nehru Zoological park (the Zoo) popped up. It was not a bad

idea, the last I had visited was in 1997 and my daughter was just a laptop.

So to the Zoo I went. Like I would have done anywhere else, I checked out on-line the timings and misc. and - I was outside the gates as the gates opened. It turned out to be a brilliant idea. The day being 29th Nov 15 (a sunday) - the place was swarming with people by the time I

left four hours later. I would not have got any birds worth a penny had I been so late. My experience with all the zoo in India is that the place provides wonderful area for the natural fauna to flourish as the place is safeguarded and has water bodies, empty pens and great forested areas around with local trees and plants. The birding did not disappoint at all. I saw a total of 33 species and the notables included India Thick-knee, White-bellied Drongo (my first good shot of the bird), Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike, Indian Cormorant (Indian Shag) and the Great Cormorants. Apart from them I did see the birds and animals as I walked around the entire (roughly 8 km in all) and took time to walk past, especially the birds of Australia. I also saw a huge gathering of Catfish in one of the ponds. I made a small movie that I am posting below. All in all it was a wonderful experience and did not regret at all my decision to start the season birding of Hyderabad in the Zoo.

The list of the birds that I saw in the Zoo are (like always) given at the end of this blog entry.

All in all that was a great finish to a great day and starting planning my next birding. As it turned out - next spot that I picked was a tricky one. The Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park, Hyderabad. It was

tricky as when I tried to find some information I hit road blocks. It had bird list listed on eBird as a hotspot



White-bellied Drongo

but when I read travel review - it said - no cameras allowed inside. It sort of confused me.

ALL THE SAME THE DECISION WAS TAKEN SPOT NO 2: KASU BRAHAMANANDA



Black-headed Ibis

REDDY NATIONAL PARK HYDERABAD IT WAS

I had some odd job trickling in here and there so I finally made it to the

National park on 05th Dec. Second problem was that I reached the park almost at 0930. All the birders know that that is late as in late for birding. I went to the window at the entrance that said - tickets. I was surprised to find the booth empty. I asked the guard at the gate - he said the time was up and no entry was allowed. I had to trick him saying something inconsequential but look important enough to be allowed inside. I finally said that I wanted to meet the supervisor, to the supervisor I said that I wanted to meet DFO and finally I was in his office sitting across him. I introduced myself as a retired Col from Army and a Birdwatcher with all the sincerity. He really turned out to be a very positive person (Mr K Mohan, Divisional Forest Officer). He heard me and allowed me inside with my camera and gave me a guide instructing him to take

me to some core places around. It was a sigh of relief and it turned out to be a great experience.

The birding per-se was just about okay. I did get a wonderful sighting of Blue-faced Malkoha, only problem was it refused to pose so did not get even a single worthwhile shot. All in all I

walked about 5 odd kms inside and birded for 2 hrs and 45 min and logged 31 species. It was the Malkoha that made my day. The most common birds inside were the

Indian Peafowl, Scaly-breasted Munia, Indian silverbills. These birds were literally hundreds. Like always the list is in the end of this blog entry.

Apart from going to this place I did what I did last time and posted on various groups and posted a request that I was available for birding and if anyone had a spot to please take me along.

I had just returned from the National Park when I got a message in the Hyderabad Birding Pals on the whatsapp as to if I was free as the group was planning a trip to Fox Sagar Lake the next day. Ready I was and Mr Vincent volunteered to pick me up.

SPOT NO 3: FOX SAGAR LAKE

I reached the nominated spot and we set course to the lake. The lake seemed to be in middle of the city with narrow lanes leading up to the lake. I was apprehensive but as we entered inside the lake was fairly large. There was fishing going on inside the lake. The lake was littered like most of the places in India. Dirt seems to be

integral part of the life. It is then I learnt the good job being done by some members of this birdwatching



Common Kingfisher group.

They have been actively organising clean up drive at the various places. I have to admit, I had seen the pictures of clean-up off and on at many lakes around Hyderabad. To hear about it and meet some persons actually doing it and organising it was heart warming and humbling.

The worst image during this visit to

throat that I spotted and the exclamation was - No way man !! At the end of the birding day we logged 44 species and some good birding even though the ducks were more or less missing. The list at the end of blog...

One birders that I met here offered me a birding trip to Osman Sagar, and you can guess my answer. The camera battery recharged,

CF cards washed clean and I was up and out of the room at 5, I was to reach some place called Kukatpally - I perhaps pronounced it wrong and was going around in circles before I looked up the place on Google and reached the place.

Off we went to SPOT NO 3: OSMAN SAGAR LAKE

On way to Osman Sagar we were joined with Mr Siriram Reddy. He was a sort after birder on Raptors of Osman Sagar. The place was good and without the hustle and the crowd I saw at the other places. I had visited this place earlier and has been covered earlier, the time I got Indian Courser as a lifer. But



Painted Stork

this lake was a dead Darter - perhaps entangled in the fishing net. Apart from this the highlight of the day was the Blue-

then the weather was different and the approach we took was not the same. After this sight of the sunrise I was sure that birding will go rocking... and Rocking it went. All in all

we saw 34 species in 2 hours, 15 odd min and travelling 5 odd km criss-crossing the

lake. The notable species were Common Teals, Glossy Ibis, Red-naped Ibis, Black-headed Ibis, Eurasian Marsh-harrier, and Blue-tailed Bee-eater to name a few. If this day went rocking then an invitation to repeat visit to Os-

man Sagar was taking it to another level itself.

Once again Mr Rajeev asked me if I was free for birding on 10th and I

SPOT NO 4: REPEAT OSMAN SAGAR BIRDING



Grey Heron

happily accepted the offer and was waiting at our rendezvous at 5:45.

If Osman Sagar was rocking on last visit then this time over it was through the roof. Though it got me only one lifer (Blue Rock Thrush), but the day was many times over with the best snaps ever I got of Common Kestral, River Terns, Black-headed Ibis and

others. The count too was not bad for 3 odd hours spent there at 38 species. The list is at the bottom of the article.

HYDERABAD BIRD LIST

Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, Telangana, IN

November 29, 2015

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Babbler, Yellow-billed — <i>Turdoides affinis</i> | 12. Egret, Great — <i>Ardea alba</i> |
| 2. Bee-eater, Green — <i>Merops orientalis</i> | 13. Egret, Little — <i>Egretta garzetta</i> |
| 3. Bulbul, Red-vented — <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> | 14. Heron, Black-crowned Night — <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> |
| 4. Cormorant, Great — <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | 15. Heron, Pond — <i>Ardeola grayii</i> |
| 5. Cormorant, Indian — <i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i> | 16. Heron, Purple — <i>Ardea purpurea</i> |
| 6. Cormorant, Little — <i>Phalacrocorax niger</i> | 17. Jacana, Bronze-winged — <i>Metopidius indicus</i> |
| 7. Crow, House — <i>Corvus splendens</i> | 18. Kingfisher, Pied — <i>Ceryle rudis</i> |
| 8. Cuckooshrike, Black-headed — <i>Lalage melanoptera</i> | 19. Kingfisher, White-throated — <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> |
| 9. Dove, Spotted — <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> | 20. Kite, Black — <i>Milvus migrans</i> |
| 10. Drongo, Black — <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> | 21. Lapwing, Red-wattled — <i>Vanellus indicus</i> |
| 11. Drongo, White-bellied — <i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i> | 22. Myna, Common — <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> |
| | 23. Myna, Jungle — <i>Acridotheres fuscus</i> |
| | 24. Oriole, Golden — <i>Oriolus kundoo</i> |

- | | |
|--|---|
| 25. Parakeet, Rose-ringed — <i>Psittacula krameri</i> | 12. Fantail, White-browed — <i>Rhipidura aureola</i> |
| 26. Redstart, Black — <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | 13. Flycatcher, Tickell's Blue — <i>Cyornis tickelliae</i> |
| 27. Robin, Oriental Magpie — <i>Copsychus saularis</i> | 14. Heron, Pond — <i>Ardeola grayii</i> |
| 28. Stilt, Black-winged — <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | 15. Heron, Purple — <i>Ardea purpurea</i> |
| 29. Stork, Painted — <i>Mycteria leucocephala</i> | 16. Iora, Common — <i>Aegithina tiphia</i> |
| 30. Sunbird, Purple — <i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i> | 17. Kingfisher, White-throated — <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> |
| 31. Sunbird, Purple-rumped — <i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i> | 18. Kite, Black — <i>Milvus migrans</i> |
| 32. Thick-knee, Indian — <i>Burhinus indicus</i> | 19. Lapwing, Red-wattled — <i>Vanellus indicus</i> |
| 33. Waterhen, White-breasted — <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> | 20. Malkoha, Blue-faced — <i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i> |

Kasu Brahmananda Reddy NP, Hyderabad, Telangana, IN

December 5, 2015

1. Babbler, Yellow-billed — *Turdoides affinis*



Common Redshank *chura punctulata*

2. Barbet, Coppersmith — *Psilopogon haemacephalus*
3. Bee-eater, Green — *Merops orientalis*
4. Bulbul, Red-vented — *Pycnonotus cafer*
5. Bulbul, White-browed — *Pycnonotus luteolus*
6. Coucal, Greater — *Centropus sinensis*
7. Dove, Laughing — *Streptopelia senegalensis*
8. Dove, Spotted — *Streptopelia chinensis*
9. Drongo, Black — *Dicrurus macrocercus*
10. Duck, Indian Spot-billed — *Anas poecilorhyncha*
11. Egret, Intermediate — *Mesophoyx intermedia*

21. Minivet, Small — *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
22. Munia (Silverbill), White-throated (Indian) — *Euodice malabarica*
23. Munia, Scaly-breasted — *Lonchura punctulata*

24. Peafowl, Indian — *Pavo cristatus*
25. Prinia, Ashy — *Prinia socialis*
26. Prinia, Plain — *Prinia inornata*
27. Robin, Indian — *Copsychus fulicatus*
28. Robin, Oriental Magpie — *Copsychus saularis*
29. Shikra — *Accipiter badius*
30. Sunbird, Purple — *Cinnyris asiaticus*
31. Sunbird, Purple-rumped — *Leptocoma zeylonica*

Fox Sagar Lake, Rangareddy, Telangana, IN

December 6, 2015

1. Bluethroat — *Luscinia svecica*
2. Cisticola, Zitting — *Cisticola juncidis*

3. Coot, Eurasian — *Fulica atra*

4. Cormorant, Great — *Phalacrocorax carbo*

5. Cormorant, Little — *Phalacrocorax niger*



River Tern

6. Drongo, White-bellied — *Dicrurus caeruleus*
7. Duck, Indian Spot-billed — *Anas poecilorhyncha*
8. Francolin, Grey — *Francolinus pondicerianus*
9. Garganey — *Anas querquedula*
10. Grebe, Little — *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

11. Harrier, Eurasian Marsh — *Circus aeruginosus*

12. Heron, Grey — *Ardea cinerea*

13. Heron, Pond — *Ardea purpurea*



Eurasian Spoonbill

14. Heron, Pond — *Ardeola grayii*

15. Hoopoe, Eurasian — *Upupa epops*

16. Ibis, Red-naped — *Pseudibis papillosa*

17. Kingfisher, Common — *Alcedo atthis*

18. Kingfisher, Pied — *Ceryle rudis*

19. Kingfisher, White-throated — *Halcyon smyrnensis*

20. Kite, Black — *Milvus migrans*

21. Kite, Brahminy — *Haliastur indus*

22. Lapwing, Red-wattled — *Vanellus indicus*

23. Lapwing, Yellow-wattled — *Vanellus malabaricus*

24. Lark, Rufous-tailed — *Ammomanes phoenicurus*

25. Peafowl, Indian — *Pavo cristatus*

26. Pigeon, Blue Rock — *Columba livia*

27. Pipit, Paddyfield — *Anthus rufulus*

28. Plover, Little Ringed — *Charadrius dubius*

29. Prinia, Ashy — *Prinia socialis*

30. Prinia, Plain — *Prinia inornata*

31. Sandpiper, Common — *Actitis hypoleucos*

32. Shoveler, Northern — *Anas clypeata*

33. Shrike, Bay-backed — *Lanius vittatus*

34. Shrike, Brown — *Lanius cristatus*

35. Starling, Brahminy — *Sturnia pagodarum*

36. Stilt, Black-winged — *Himantopus himantopus*

37. Stork, Painted — *Mycteria leucocephala*
38. Sunbird, Purple — *Cinnyris asiaticus*
39. Swallow, Barn — *Hirundo rustica*
40. Teal, Common — *Anas crecca*
41. Tern, River — *Sterna aurantia*
42. Wagtail, White — *Motacilla alba*
43. Wagtail, White-browed — *Motacilla maderaspatensis*
44. Warbler,
Clamorous
Reed — *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

**Osman Sagar
Lake, Rangareddy,
Telangana, IN**

December 7, 2015

1. Bee-eater,
Blue-tailed
— *Merops philippinus*
2. Bluethroat — *Luscinia svecica*
3. Dove, Laughing — *Streptopelia senegalensis*
4. Drongo, Black — *Dicrurus macrocercus*
5. Duck, Indian Spot-billed — *Anas poecilorhyncha*
6. Egret, Great — *Ardea alba*
7. Harrier, Eurasian Marsh — *Circus aeruginosus*
8. Heron, Grey — *Ardea cinerea*
9. Heron, Pond — *Ardeola grayii*
10. Ibis, Black-headed — *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
11. Ibis, Glossy — *Plegadis falcinellus*

12. Ibis, Red-naped — *Pseudibis papillosa*
13. Kestrel, Eurasian — *Falco tinnunculus*
14. Kingfisher, Common — *Alcedo atthis*
15. Kingfisher, Pied — *Ceryle rudis*
16. Kingfisher, White-throated — *Halcyon smyrnensis*
17. Lark, Ashy-crowned Sparrow — *Eremopterix griseus*
18. Lark, Rufous-tailed — *Ammomanes phoenicurus*

19. Peafowl,
Indian — *Pavo cristatus*
20. Plover, Little
Ringed —
Charadrius dubius
21. Prinia, Ashy
— *Prinia socialis*
22. Prinia, Plain
— *Prinia inornata*
23. Redshank,
Common — *Tringa*



Little Ringed Plover

totanus

24. Robin, Indian — *Copsychus fulicatus*
25. Sandpiper, Common — *Actitis hypoleucos*
26. Stilt, Black-winged — *Himantopus himantopus*
27. Stint, Little — *Calidris minuta*
28. Stonechat, Siberian — *Saxicola maurus [maurus Group]*
29. Stork, Painted — *Mycteria leucocephala*
30. Swallow, Barn — *Hirundo rustica*
31. Teal, Common — *Anas crecca*
32. Tern, River — *Sterna aurantia*

33. Wagtail, White-browed — *Motacilla maderaspatensis*
34. Warbler, Clamorous Reed — *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

Osman Sagar Lake, Rangareddy, Telangana, IN

December 10, 2015

1. Babbler, Large Grey — *Turdoides malcolmi*
2. Bulbul, Red-vented — *Pycnonotus cafer*
3. Dove, Laughing — *Streptopelia senegalensis*
4. Drongo, Black — *Dicrurus macrocercus*
5. Duck, Indian Spot-billed — *Anas poecilorhyncha*
6. Egret, Cattle — *Bubulcus ibis*
7. Egret, Great — *Ardea alba*
8. Egret, Intermediate — *Mesophoyx intermedia*
9. Egret, Little — *Egretta garzetta*
10. Flamingo, Greater — *Phoenicopterus roseus*
11. Goose, Bar-headed — *Anser indicus*
12. Harrier, Eurasian Marsh — *Circus aeruginosus*
13. Heron, Grey — *Ardea cinerea*
14. Heron, Pond — *Ardeola grayii*
15. Ibis, Black-headed — *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
16. Ibis, Glossy — *Plegadis falcinellus*
17. Kestrel, Eurasian — *Falco tinnunculus*
18. Kingfisher, Common — *Alcedo atthis*
19. Kingfisher, Pied — *Ceryle rudis*
20. Kingfisher, White-throated — *Halcyon smyrnensis*
21. Lark, Ashy-crowned Sparrow — *Eremopterix griseus*
22. Martin, Dusky Crag — *Ptyonoprogne concolor*

23. Openbill, Asian — *Anastomus oscitans*
24. Osprey — *Pandion haliaetus*
25. Peafowl, Indian — *Pavo cristatus*
26. Plover, Little Ringed — *Charadrius dubius*
27. Prinia, Ashy — *Prinia socialis*
28. Prinia, Plain — *Prinia inornata*
29. Redshank, Common — *Tringa totanus*
30. Sandpiper, Common — *Actitis hypoleucos*
31. Sandpiper, Marsh — *Tringa stagnatilis*
32. Spoonbill, Eurasian — *Platalea leucorodia*
33. Stint, Little — *Calidris minuta*
34. Swallow, Barn — *Hirundo rustica*
35. Teal, Common — *Anas crecca*
36. Tern, River — *Sterna aurantia*
37. Thrush, Blue Rock — *Monticola solitarius*
38. Wagtail, White-browed — *Motacilla maderaspatensis*

Schedule of Events for January

- ◆ Saturday, January 2nd — Chandigarh Bird Club meeting.
- ◆ Sunday, January 10th — Club's Field Trip - Kumarhatti, return via Chakki ka Mor.

Schedule of Events for February

- ◆ Saturday, February 6th — Chandigarh Bird Club meeting.
- ◆ Sunday, February 14th — Club's Field Trip - Morni Hills.

Schedule of Events for March

- ◆ Saturday, March 5th — Chandigarh Bird Club meeting.
- ◆ Saturday, March 12th (proposed date) — Chandigarh Bird Club Meeting for Bird Race.
- ◆ Sunday, March 13th — Chandigarh Bird Race

WHISPERING WINGS®

Google Groups:
birds-
chandigarh@googlegroups.com

Facebook:
Chandigarh Bird Club

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CHANDIGARH BIRD CLUB

Incepted in 2008, the Chandigarh Bird Club has been dedicated to its goal of protecting the environment. The Club owes its existence to those few dedicated and expert members, who started this club in the Chandigarh Boat Club, namely, Navjit Singh, Narbir Kahlon, Vikramjeet Singh, Mrs. Rima Dhillon, Mrs. Sarbjeet and Mrs. Geeta Goswami.

The Basic objective of the Chandigarh Bird Club continues to be to:

- Bring people specially the younger generation closer to nature through birding and help them to enjoy the outdoors while making it a fun activity
- To make people and government more sensitive towards the environment to create a dynamic database for analysis in order to focus conservation efforts.
- To create a forum for birders to share information and discuss issues related to this activity