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Whispering Wings®

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHANDIGARH BIRD CLUB

Volume 2 Issue 2

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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ਜੀ ਚਾਹੇ ਪੱਛੀ ਹੋ ਜਾਵਾਂ...

I wish I would be a bird
I would keep flying, keep singing
Touch the untouchable zeniths
May I forget the ways of this world
and never ever return.
I wish I would be a bird...
— Shiv Kumar Batalvi

A bird is an epitome of freedom, unlimited by boundaries, unstopped by barriers and a master of its own or that is how we humans see it. The arts, crafts and songs of freedom use bird as a symbol and the migration inspires innumerable lyrics as well as questions in peoples' minds. The winter is here with its tawny colours and skeins of migrating ducks honking their ways to the wintering grounds, guided by some genetic memories coded into their DNA by the Creator. The water fowl and waders are the show birds which everyone wants to see. There is another group of migrants which non-birders do not know of and show utter surprise when told about them.

The altitudinal as well as latitudinal migrants of lesser fame like the fly catchers, finches, thrushes, raptors, warblers, leaf-warblers, wheatears, minivets and the likes, are ignored by general public because of lack of information. The onus of educating people about these birds lies on us. The best form of familiarization can be an exhibition of photographs of these birds at public places.

I wish all the members and readers a very happy, healthy and bird-full 2017 and pray every one of you have a "big year"!

May you always hear the bird song...

Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon
Editor-in-chief

SUMMARY OF THE CLUB ACTIVITIES

CBC monthly meetings have been well attended by members throughout.

In October, the monthly field trip was to Morni hills to try and spot some early altitudinal migrants—Chestnut-headed and Blue-bearded Bee-eaters were spotted along with lesser whitethroat and Common Chiffchaff.

Besides birding around Chandigarh in locations such as Saketri and Jawaharpur, members also posted lists from other birding hotspots like Chopta, Lansdowne, Ooty, Wellington and Pune. Visits to Taal Chappar were also undertaken.

In November the monthly fieldtrip was to Nayagaon, Forest Hill Golf Club and beyond to try and see Panjab Ravens.

Members celebrated Salim Ali's Birth Anniversary by holding a bird count at Sukhna Lake. A sampling of all the migrant ducks was seen along with a few Bar-headed Geese.

All popular birding spots around Chandigarh-Saketri, Jawaharpur, Motemajra, Sirsa Nadi, Morni, Jungeshu etc. - were visited and great birdlists were posted.

Highlights were the spotting of Great-crested Grebe at Sukhna Lake, Grasshopper Warbler from Jawaharpur and Chestnut-headed Tesia from Jungeshu.

Members away on holiday posted lists from Singapore, Australia, Goa and Hyderabad.

Fieldtrip for December was held at Jungeshu on Old Kasauli Road in the hope of seeing the Chestnut-headed Tesia.

The first Annual Dinner of CBC was held. Members and their spouses were invited .It was a great way to found off the activities for 2016.



Rima Dhillon
Secretary, Chandigarh Bird Club

CBC PARTIES THE NIGHT AWAY

On 9th December 2016, the Chandigarh Bird Club organised a dinner at the residence of its Secretary, Rima Dhillon. A very sumptuous dinner was arranged for two dozen members and their spouses. A lot of discussion on birds, birding spots and birding in general later, the party concluded.





Amandeep Singh
Chandigarh Bird Club

WHEELCHAIR FUN AT THE LAKE

On 24th December, at around 2 pm, 27 people, all smiles, chirpy full of excitement were loaded in 7 cars driven by a group of members of the Chandigarh Bird Club. We were all heading towards Sukhna Lake to show our new enthusiasts some ducks which had travelled from other parts of the World. The sheer look on their faces brought tremendous warmth to our hearts and a spring in our step.



On reaching the lake, binoculars of all makes, and cameras of all sizes were unloaded. Again a lot of commotion was due to the birds being sighted and talks on how to use the binoculars. For their convenience, a spotting scope was set up. We kept rolling on for more ducks, which were in good numbers for our new friends. There were clicks of all kinds, from mobile phones to point-n-shoots to the big bazookas as I call them. As we rolled on the CBC members pointed birds, guided new friends, and had



friendly chit-chat.

We have been taking new people and children for birding for long, BUT there was a difference today. Our friends whom we took for this outing were WHEELCHAIR BOUND. SOME OF THEM COULD NOT EVEN USE THEIR HANDS. They were the people from Chandigarh Rehabilitation Centre, Sec-28, Chandigarh.

THEIR JOY WAS WORTH WATCHING. FRIENDS LOOKING AT THEM, WATCHING THEIR JOY, MADE ME REALIZE HOW BLESSED AM I TOO BE ABLE TO USE MY LIMBS AND BE INDEPENDENT. LET'S ALL APPRECIATE WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US. LET'S SPREAD LOVE AND HAPPINESS....

Thank you Prof Sekhon for the initiative. Thank you CBC for this experience. A beautiful end to

a beautiful year. And a beautiful step to enter the NEW! The evening ended with high tea, of course bird-ers never forget the food...

Geeta Goswami

Chandigarh Bird Club

List of Chandigarh Bird Club members present:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon | 2. Geeta Goswami | 3. Saroj Gulati |
| 4. Mohit Kohli | 5. Saiyam Nagar | 6. Munish Jauhar |
| 7. Amandeep Singh Channa | | |

PRESS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT

Amar Ujala, Dated 25th December 2016

व्हील चेयर पर पहुंचे प्रवासी पक्षी देखने

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो
चंडीगढ़।

सुखना लेक पर प्रवासी पक्षियों का जगमगाहूँ लगा है। हर कोई खुबसूरत पक्षियों का दीदार करने आ रहा है। शनिवार को चंडीगढ़ बर्ड क्लब के सदस्य सेक्टर-28 स्थानल रिहैब सेंटर में मरीजों ने बर्ड वाचिंग के लिए भरी थी हामी।

सेक्टर के व्हील चेयर पर निर्भर पेशेंट को बर्ड वाचिंग के स्पॉट पर ले गए और उन्हें प्रवासियों पक्षियों के बारे में जानकारी दी। बर्ड वॉचर एमएस सेखी ने बताया कि शुक्रवार को उन्होंने रिहैब सेंटर में जाकर एक प्रजेंटेशन दी थी। इसमें पेशेंट को प्रवासी पक्षियों के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी दी गई। उनसे पूछा गया कि क्या वे पक्षियों को देखना चाहते हैं तो मरीजों ने हामी भर दी। उसके बाद सुखना लेक जाने का प्रोग्राम सेखी ने बताया कि शुक्रवार को को अपनी गाड़ियों में लेकर लेक पहुंचे। साथ में उनकी व्हील चेयर भी। इस आउटिंग का मरीजों ने काफी लुफ्त उठाया। इस मौके पर गीता, मुनीष, सरोज, मनीष सिंह, मोहित सहित कई लोग मौजूद रहे।

Dainik Bhaskar, Chandigarh Edition, Dated 26th December 2016

चल नहीं सकते तो वया, उड़ते परिंदों को देखने का शौक तो है, 6 हैंडीकैप्ड ने व्हील चेयर्स पर देखे माइग्रेटरी बर्ड्स

मिर्शिदापुर | चंडीगढ़

चंडीगढ़ बर्ड क्लब की ओर से शनिवार को एक स्पेशल बर्ड वॉक का आयोजन किया गया। खास बात ये रही कि जिन लोगों के लिए ये वॉक रखी गई, वे सभी विकलांग हैं और बर्ड्स को देखने के लिए व्हील चेयर पर आरंभ थे। सेक्टर-28 के रिहैबिलिटेशन सेंटर के 6 हैंडीकैप्ड लोगों के लिए आयोजित इस वॉक में उनके साथ नर्सिंग स्टूडेंट, फॉजिलोसिपिस्ट और केयर टैकर भी आए थे। लेक के रेगुलेटरी एंड पर उन्होंने माइग्रेटरी बर्ड्स को देखा। चंडीगढ़ बर्ड क्लब के सेंसर रो. मिर्शिदा सिंह सेखी ने बताया कि इन्होंने पहले कभी ऐसा नजारा नहीं देखा था। अपने भी उनके लिए बर्ड वॉक कराया जाएगा। सेखी ने बताया कि उनका बेटा भी हैंडीकैप्ड है और व्हील चेयर पर चलता है। वे उसे लेकर रिहैब सेंटर पर अक्सर जाते रहते हैं। हाल ही में जब वे वहां गए तो उन्होंने बर्ड्स रह रहे लोगों को बर्ड वाचिंग के बारे में बताया और पक्षियों की तस्वीरें दिखाई। तस्वीरें देखकर उनमें बर्ड्स को देखने की इच्छा जगी।



रेगुलेटरी एंड पर रखी हैं दूरबीन... सेखी ने बताया कि रिहैब सेंटर के सुखना लेक पर माइग्रेटरी बर्ड्स का स्पॉटिंग शुरू हो गई है। अंग्रेजी में कुछ और पक्षी देखे जा सकते हैं। इस वॉक में सेखी ने बताया कि शुक्रवार को रिहैब सेंटर में वॉक प्रजेंटेशन के बर्ड्स देता था। हर साल इसी समय से वे बर्ड्स देते आते हैं। चंडीगढ़ जलवायु की ओर से इन बर्ड्स को देखने को लिए रेगुलेटरी एंड पर सुरक्षित रखे जा रहे हैं, ताकि लोग इन्हें बेहतर तरीके से देख सकें।

Chandigarh Tribune, Dated 26th December 2016

DIARY



Members of a rehabilitation centre in Chandigarh watch migratory birds with birdwatchers at Sukhna Lake on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: VICKY GHARU

FIRST-EVER RECORD OF DUNLIN FROM THE ISCR

In the winter months waders and waterfowls throng the water bodies in and around Chandigarh, some in passage while others to spend the winter. Hoping to see some winter birds, I and fellow birder, Ravi Arora drove to Aerocity in Mohali (Pb) on the morning of 18th Dec 2016. We scanned many small patches of mustard cultivation along the road leading to the Airport, hoping to see the Red-headed Buntings reported from the area a week back by Vikas Sharma. But we could not find the birds around the area. However, we saw a flock of around 20 Common Rosefinches, a pair of Variable Wheatear (*O. Picata Picata*) and mostly Plain Prinias in the Mustard fields.

Soon we decided to move on to Motemajra village near Tangori (Pb) where Vikas has seen a lone Common Shelduck the previous week. Within 15 minutes we were at Motemajra that has a village pond where we have been seeing resident as well as migratory water birds over the years. We jumped of the vehicle near the pond and the first birds we saw was a flock of 5 small birds looking like Stints and busy feeding in the mud very near to the shore. We were just about to ignore them when I noticed a slight



bend in the beaks of the birds. I asked Ravi to take some snaps of the birds as I had left my camera in the jeep. On zooming-in the snaps, we could notice the definite downward bend in the beaks of the birds and I was more than sure that these are Dunlins and of course a rare sighting at any inland water body.

The dunlin is a small wader, around 17-22cm in length and has grey-brown upper parts, white under parts and indistinct supercilium. It is a winter visitor, mainly to the coasts of India. However, there have been many inland records too and most recent being from Pong Dam (HP) in November and from Dighal (HR) in early December this year. They breed in Alaska, Northern Europe and Northern Asia. It has a characteristic "sewing machine" feeding action, methodically picking up small food items like insects, molluscs, worms etc. And because of this action, it is very difficult to take clear pictures of the bird with beak above the mud bed.

Dunlin has never been recorded in the Inter State Capital Region (ISCR) before and it was a lifer for me. I rushed to my jeep to get my camera but before I could take some shots, someone bursted a few crackers to frighten away the water birds in the pond. These were the guys who have been allotted the contract of fishiculture at the village pond. The birds flew away and sat on a small island in the middle of the pond, too far away to be photographed. I was very disappointed and couldn't help mumbling the choicest punjabi abuses. But all was not over, Ravi and I waited for a few minutes and voila, the birds flew again and came very near to the shore at the far end of the pond. And thereafter, we clicked some 200 shots of the birds at very close ranges.

No Shelduck at the pond though, but Dunlins were more than what we expected. We decided to return home, Merry as Crickets.

Rajive Das
Chandigarh Bird Club

TSOKAR AND THE WOOD WARBLER: SIGHTING IN LADAKH

During a birding trip in September 2016, undertaken by four members of Chandigarh Bird Club- Dr.Mandeep Kang, Narbir Kahlon, Navjit Singh and Rima Dhillon, the Wood Warbler was sighted by the group for the first time in India.

TsoKar (33.31N, 77.96 E), a salt water lake in Rhupshu Valley of Ladakh, is a hotspot for birders to see Little Owl, Sandgrouse and Black-necked Cranes.

Having already spotted five Black-necked Cranes on the drive down from Pangyong Tso to Hanley three days before, it was decided that we go looking for our next target species – Little Owl and Sandgrouse. The Sandgrouse were obliging and we spotted a large flock near our campsite. It was easy to approach and photograph them from every which angle!

Little Owl however was a different story! We had been told that it is easy to spot them as they are all over the small village at the edge of TsoKar. A couple of birders already there since two days before us gave glowing accounts of how they had seen three, four little owls perched on walls in the village. but not so for us. the entire day we drove up and down the dusty road but nary a sight of the Little Owls!

Disappointed and disgruntled we decided to go take a look around Startsapuk, the freshwater end of Tsokar in the hope of finding some good photographic shots of ducks in their breeding habitat. The edge of the lake is inhabited by cattle herders in the summer but their hutments lay abandoned at this time of year. A ghost village.

Besides some waders, numerous Wagtails and Ruddy Shelduck, the only excitement came from spotting a little Pica peeking at the intruders from its vantage spot in some wood lying stacked up against the wall of an unoccupied hut.

The evening was turning windy and chilly so Mandeep Kang decided to head back to the warmth of the car, and there we found her a short while later in a state of excitement over having photographed a warbler from such close quarters, normally so frisky and difficult to photograph (not knowing the significance of the find just that it was so bright yellow and different from the warblers we see usually) We were intrigued at the bright yellow supercilium and breast, white belly and greenish body with no wing-bars! Narbir and I chased it around to try and get some pictures for ourselves while Navjit looked on indulgently. The Warbler indeed looked different and seemed to be enjoying feeding on the seeds of the short grass that grows all over Ladakh.

Soon the light turned too poor for photographs and we decided to head back to the homestay and look up the Warbler in the fieldguide. However after pouring over Inskipp in the poor light provided in the homestay and obsessing over the identity of the bird which didn't seem to match anything in the fieldguide, we gave up and decided to wait till we got back to Chandigarh to solve the mystery with help from more experienced quarters.



Our mystery warbler was identified as a Wood Warbler – a bird seen commonly in Europe and now for the first time in India. Wow! Suddenly we were pioneers!! The record got published in the journal-Indian Birds. Vol.12 no.4&5 written by Dr. Mandeep Kang.

It seems Wood warbler was just waiting to be discovered in India, as two days later, a group of Swedish birders also saw it in the same area around Spartsapuk. They too saw only one bird-could it be the same one?

Daniel Bengtsson, the Swedish birdwatcher who was perhaps leading the group has described it beautifully thus: “large and elegant Phylloscopus with long wings with seven primary tips visible past the tertials and secondaries, No wing bars. Ground colour of wings greyish – black, edged yellowish green to form obvious wing panel. Similar pattern on tail. Eye stripe reaching behind eye, Crown, back and mantle plain greenish. Blackish lores dividing yellow supercilium, brightest in front of eye and throat. Breast, belly and undertail coverts clean white. Legs dark grey, bill blackish with yellow gape”.

What a description!!

Rima Dhillon
Chandigarh Bird Club

Photo Credits:
Mandeep Kang

BIRDING IN SINGAPORE

I had the opportunity of birding in some of the birding areas of Singapore:- wilderness along the canal near Bedok Reservoir, Dairy Farm Nature Park, Bukit Timah and Sungei Buloh .

Banded Woodpecker: *Picus miniaceus*



Clicked in Dairy farm Nature Park, on 24th October 2016. There was a pair foraging on the trunk of a tall tree.

A Banded Woodpecker is a species of bird in the Picidae family. It is found in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand.

Its natural habitats are subtropical moist lowland forests and subtropical or tropical mangrove forests.

Size: 23-26cm, weight-79-102gm. Male had reddish brown forehead, dull red crown to nape, thin elongated crest feathers, yellow at tips, sides of head and neck dark brown.

Habitat: mainly dense , primary evergreen forests, forest edge.

Voice: single “keek” mournful, descending “kwee” or “pew” in series up to ‘7’ as territorial call.

Food and feeding: Ants and their larvae, singly or pairs, partners may feed close together.

Status and conservation: Not globally threatened , uncommon to fairly, rather uncommon in north of range, common in peninsular Malaysia and Singapore and rare in Java.

Black-backed Kingfisher: *Ceyx erithaca*



Also known as Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Three-toed Kingfisher is a species of bird in the family Alcedinidae.

Clicked in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve on 29th Nov.2016

Small red and yellow kingfisher averaging 13cm in length, yellow underparts with glowing bluish black upperparts. A widespread in lowland forests, it is endemic across much of the India subcontinent and southeast Asia.

Habitat: small streams in densely shaded forests.

Food: geckos, crabs, snails, crickets & dragonfly

Ashy Tailorbird (*Orthotomus ruficeps*)



Clicked in Sungei Buloh

Can be heard chirping away in mangroves, different from the rest in having a chestnut head, the body is mainly ashy grey with pale under parts. Under parts more grey in male, common resident breeder.

Habitat: mangrove, coastal shrubs

Size: 12 cm

Diet: insects

It is found in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, Vietnam

Sarbjeet Kaur

Chandigarh Bird Club

DISTURBING THE PARADISE



Migratory birds can be a source of income for the administration as well as can provide job opportunities for the local community of any area. But that is not the case with the Chandigarh Administration nor the locals of the city beautiful. The administration has not been putting quite an effort that is actually expected of them for the avians visiting the famous Sukhna Lake, particularly the migratory ones.

During my recent visit to the lake for bird watching and clicking some species of the migrants, I came across something that my senses found quite unusual and amusing too. The administration organises rowing competition at the lake and the rowers keep practising for it at this end of the lake which is contiguous to the Sukhna forest reserve, which in itself is nature's gift to the city beautiful. No signboards have been put to keep the people at a distance from the birds so that their habitat for this particular period is not disturbed. The regulator end of the lake which has a beautiful passage to walk through the tall grasses and woods is indeed a lovers' paradise. Young boys and girls throng the area for some cosy moments. The rowdies and vagabonds keep whistling and shouting.

I found some men hired by the administration for helping people know about the birds visiting their city. They have been deployed at the regulator end and can be seen sitting with binoculars and a bird guide book. On asking them about the nuisance being created, I was very much sure about the reply that came, "Sir, we have complained about this to the forest department and they have written a letter to the administration but these rowers keep coming up here and we can't help". "So what about the birds?" I insisted. It was a long silence which was broken by some pebbles being thrown in the lake on the birds by some young boys. We don't realise that these birds are very sensitive. A little disturbance can do a great harm in their migratory patterns or choosing the place for the season.

We, the people of city beautiful, are lucky to have them around. These visitors are our guests and their arrival should be respected. The administration should be vigilant enough and we too, the so-called civilized race, should create awareness among the masses. There are people who love nature and their souls are connected to it. Despite all this mess, I still managed to capture cormorants, shelducks, grey herons, pied kingfisher and stilts. I would like to share the impact of interference of humans on migratory birds. Studies reveal that a) change in behaviour in response to human disturbance was the most frequent-

ly cited impact to birds, b) reported impacts include immediate effects on birds such as flushing, increased vigilance behaviour, calling and changes in daily activities and c) they alter their current behaviour from foraging or resting to flying or diving as the disturbing agent approached.

Potentially adverse impacts of human disturbance could be lessened by:

1. Routing trails and access around sensitive breeding and roosting sites.
2. establishing and enforcing set-back distances or buffer zones of 250mts.
3. Designing public access features to reduce disturbance (blinds)
4. Establishing and enforcing seasonal or temporary closures of high priority.
5. Educating the public.



Vikas Sharma
Chandigarh Bird Club

FIRST-EVER PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE GRASSHOPPER WARBLER FROM PUNJAB

While birding in a village called Jawaharpur near Derabassi in the state of Punjab, I saw this un-attractive warbler for the first time in my life. It was the morning of Gandhi Jayanti of 2016 and I was looking for the Tricolored Munias in the tall reeds when I saw this bird from a distance, camouflaged perfectly. The light was poor and approach was not possible because of a pond in between us. I quickly clicked some photos of the bird before it vanished in the reeds. The habitat had tall grass and reeds with fields of paddy and millet nearby.

It was approx. 10-12 cm in size and had greyish-brown lightly streaked upperparts & breast; rounded tail, pale underparts and pinkish legs. Initially, I was confused between Lanceolated Warbler (*Locustella lanceolata*) and Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*) as both look similar and are great skulkers. I waited for the bird to come out again for half an hour but it never came out. I took help of “Ask ID of Indian Birds” Facebook forum which identified it as Grasshopper Warbler.

As such, it is the second ever sighting and the first ever photographic record of the warbler from Punjab and its nearby areas. The only other record of sighting of the bird was from Harike wetlands in Feb 2002 by veteran birder, Sh Suresh C. Sharma. I visited the same place twice within a week but could not trace out the bird again. A little research on the Internet revealed that although the bird is listed as

Least Concern species in the IUCN database, it is rarely sighted in India. Previous sightings, in India, have been from a few places in Haryana, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala. Grimmett *et al.* (2011) has shown it as a widespread winter visitor to mainly South-Western Ghats.

Kasambe et al. (2014) feel that the skulking behaviour, dull colouration, preference to stay in dense undergrowth and call being like that of an insect, make the bird inconspicuous and generally gets overlooked. Searching for it in suitable habitats may result into more sighting records.



References:

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Rajive Das
Chandigarh Bird Club

DIGHAL FIELD TRIP

Date: - 18th December 2016

Venue: - Dighal

Birders: - Vikas Sharma, and Bhupesh Kumar Goyal

BIRD LIST

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Grey Francolin | 10. Northern Pintail |
| 2. Greylag Goose | 11. Common Teal |
| 3. Lesser White Fronted Goose | 12. Red Crested Pochard |
| 4. Bar Headed Goose | 13. Common Pochard |
| 5. Knob Billed Duck | 14. Tufted Duck |
| 6. Ruddy Shelduck | 15. Little Grebe |
| 7. Eurasian Wigeon | 16. Painted Stork |
| 8. Indian Spot Billed Duck | 17. Asian Openbill |
| 9. Northern shoveler | 18. Woolly Necked Stork |

19. Greater Flamingo
20. Black Headed Ibis
21. Glossy Ibis
22. Eurasian Spoonbill

27. Intermediate Egret
28. Little Egret
29. Greater Cormorant
30. Darter



23. Pond Heron
24. Grey Heron

31. Little Cormorant
32. Indian Cormorant



25. Purple Heron
26. Cattle Egret

33. Common Kestrel
34. Shikra



B.K. Goyal (L) and Vikas Sharma (R)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 35. Egyptian Vulture | 67. Jungle Babbler |
| 36. Marsh Harrier | 68. Common Myna |
| 37. Booted Eagle | 69. Bank Myna |
| 38. Black Kite | 70. Asian Pied Myna |
| 39. Purple Swamphe | 71. Common Starling |
| 40. Common Moorhen | 72. Bluethroat |
| 41. Eurasian Coot | 73. Pied Bushchat |
| 42. Sarus Crane | 74. Stonechat |
| 43. Black Winged Stilt | 75. Common Sparrow |
| 44. Pied Avocet | 76. Indian Silverbill |
| 45. Red Wattle Lapwing | 77. Red Avadavat |
| 46. White Tailed Lapwing | 78. Yellow Wagtail |
| 47. Common Snipe | 79. White Wagtail |
| 48. Little Stint | 80. White Breasted Hen |
| 49. Common Pigeon | |
| 50. Eurasian Collared Dove | |
| 51. Rose Ringed Parakeet | |
| 52. Greater Coucol | |
| 53. Indian Roller | |
| 54. White Throated Kingfisher | |
| 55. Pied Kingfisher | |
| 56. Isabelline Shirke | |
| 57. Black Drongo | |
| 58. Rufous Treepie | |
| 59. Plain Martins | |
| 60. Wire Tailed Swallows | |
| 61. Crested Lark | |
| 62. Red Vented Bulbul | |
| 63. Graceful Prinia | |
| 64. Babbler | |
| 65. Striped Babbler | |
| 66. Large Babbler | |

THAPLI FIELD TRIP

Date: - 20th November 2016

Place: - Thapli-Nahan Road

Birders: - Rima Dhillon, Sarbjeet Kaur, Aparajita Lobana, Geeta Goswami, Saroj Gulati, and Amandeep Singh

Thapli lies on the road off the Himalayan Expressway, just half a kilometre from the toll. The road for the most part is well laid out and wide, with fields and small ponds. It eventually leads to the mountains and one can walk down to the river.



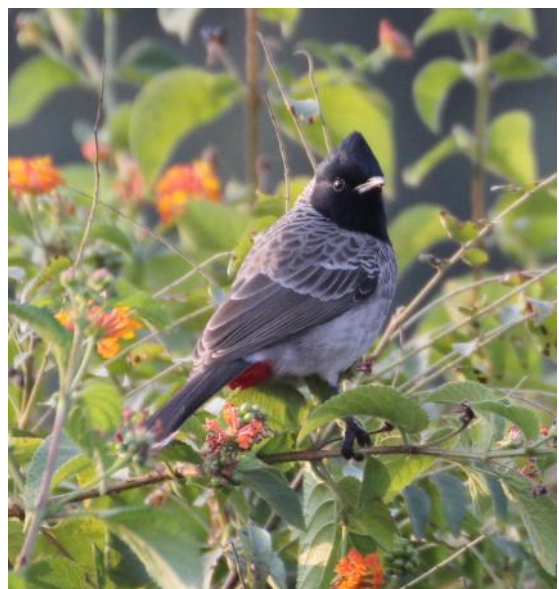
Indian Robin



Long-tailed Shrike



Yellow-bellied Fantail



Red-vented Bulbul

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS BY MEMBERS OF CBC



Variable Wheatear (*Oenanthe picata*)
Saketri, October 2016, by Munish Jauhar

Chestnut-headed tesia (*Cettia castaneocoronata*)
Jangeshu, December 2016, by Rajive Das



Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*), by Vikas Sharma

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS BY MEMBERS OF CBC

White-browed Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*), Sector-24, Chandigarh, in December 2016, by Rima Dhillon



Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*), Morni Village, April 2016, by Amandeep Singh Channa

Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*), Chappar Chirri, November 2016, by Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon



BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS BY MEMBERS OF CBC



**Asian Pied Starling (*Gracupica contra*),
Aerocity, April 2015, by Manu Mengi**

**Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*), by
Ravi Arora**



**Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*), by
Sarabjit Randhawa**

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Newsletter of 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

- President, CBC — M. S. Sekhon
- Vice-President, CBC — Narbir Kahlon
- Secretary, CBC — Rima Dhillon
- Joint Secretary, CBC — Sarbjeet Kaur
- Treasurer, CBC — Mahesh Garg

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