
Whispering Wings®

Newsletter of the Chandigarh Bird Club®



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January - March 2019

From the Editor's Desk

The greatest threat facing birds is the destruction and fragmentation of habitat. The loss of their living space to human activities like agriculture, urban developments, the draining of swamps and other wetlands, and deforestation reduces potential habitats for many avian species. Construction of roads, railway lines or other such barriers cause fragmentation of habitats, making bird populations vulnerable to localised extinction. The loss of habitat to urbanisation and fragmentation by new roads in the Inter-state Chandigarh Region (ISCR) is an emerging threat to the avian life here and a matter of grave concern. Habitat loss has been implicated in a number of extinctions, the localised vanishing of House Sparrow being one. Vultures are another group of birds which have reached a critical level due to food-chain poisoning and habitat destruction.

Although the number of species sighted in the ISCR is increasing, perhaps due to a larger number of eyes in the field, the number of birds is a matter of concern. The Club must take up this matter a little more seriously and seek scientific, administrative, public and judicial recourses to combat this threat.

According to Bird Life International - "Habitat destruction and degradation (driven by anthropogenic activities like logging and agricultural expansion) currently impacts 1,354 threatened birds (93%), while direct mortality and reduced reproductive success resulting from many of the processes listed above are affecting 54% and 33% of threatened species respectively."

Agendas of unsustainable development are the main driving force in loss as well as degradation and fragmentation of habitats. The goals of habitat protection for birds, animals and plants always conflict with other stakeholders, such as farmers and builders, who can face economically damaging restrictions on their activities. The only recourses left to us are increasing awareness amongst the residents and judicial reviews of new urban or infrastructure expansion. We have the wherewithal for familiarising residents of our region with the threats and involve them in saving the avifauna of our region. We also have well meaning members who are from the legal fraternity and willing to help us in our endeavours. But this requires a much greater involvement of members and a dedicated approach to listing of species of the region which is undergoing an immediate change like the draining of Chappar Chiri swamp! We have our work cutout for us...

May you always hear the bird song

Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon

Secretary's Report

Chandigarh Bird Club has been involved in a number of projects and activities through the new year.

January was taken up with migratory bird census. As for the last several years Club members volunteered with Punjab Wildlife Department to conduct the waterfowl census at Harike Wetlands, Keshopur, Shailapattan, Ropar and Nangal. Seven members of the club were even honoured by the Punjab Government in appreciation of their selfless service.

HSBC Chandigarh Birdrace was held on 24th February 2019. There were 14 teams which covered a major part of the area designated as ISCR (Inter-state Chandigarh Region). As the area includes diverse habitats, different species were seen during the event. A total of 275 species were seen with a single team listing 188 species! With so many birders looking up every tree and under every bush, it is not surprising that some hitherto unseen species were uncovered! This time too was no exception and we were happy to add Brown Bullfinch and Southern Grey Shrike to the checklist of this region.

World House Sparrow Day was celebrated by the members by putting up nest boxes in different localities.

The monthly club activities such as the meetings and field trips were conducted and some members even went on field trips to Andaman Islands and Bhutan.

We continue the monthly bird walk in Nagar Van aimed at bringing awareness about birds in the residents of Chandigarh. The success of the venture is evident from the enthusiasm shown by the participants. Many of them have become regulars at this event.

4th May 2019 is declared as World Big Bird Day and members of CBC will be out in the field in order to make a difference. I wish you all the best.

Happy Birding.

Rima Dhillon

How to photograph flying birds

“How to photograph birds in flight”, sounds exciting and simple, but its challenging. The advancement in technology has made it easy for photo-enthusiasts to meet such challenges with ease provided they understand their photographic gear. To make photographs of birds in flight, we need a camera and a long lens plus the ability to acquire focus on the subject with lightening speed. But first how to hold a camera if you are not using a tripod. Learn to be steady. The built in stabilisation and vibration reduction technologies do help, but we should not depend too much on them. While handholding the camera, try to get support to be steady or lean against a wall or a tree or a nearby vehicle. To maintain balance, stretch your legs and keep your feet as wide as is the width of your shoulders, slightly bend your knees, right hand should firmly hold camera body and keep your left hand below the barrel of the lens. Both the elbows should touch the chest and keep your eye on eyecup to view through the view finder. Such habits help in critical situations not only in bird photography, but even others. I remember having photographed the magnificent Multnomah Falls in Oregon in low light using the same technique, but there I had also stopped my breath to avoid any shake. It became a life time experience of having captured 611 feet tall roaring Multnomah Falls.

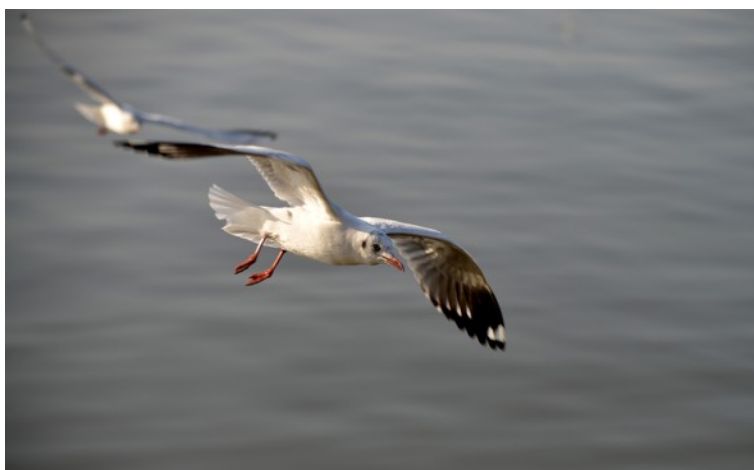


A Pelican lands at Ana Sagar Lake, Ajmer

One may begin with a DSLR and at least a 200 mm lens. For many its convenient to photograph flying birds with hand held camera. Therefore, their camera and lens combo is light enough to enable easy mobility to photograph birds in flight. Those who use heavy long lenses and camera bodies having considerable weight are advised to use tripod with gimbal or ball head.

It is always good to shoot flying birds preferably at your eye level with the thumb rule of keeping eye of the bird in sharp focus. This needs good tracking of the subject which can be achieved with continuous focus mode. Some cameras offer auto focus area modes. If your camera does not have continuous focus mode or 3D tracking, you may apply sports action mode, if it has. You may set centre weighted or spot metering and auto ISO.

Those who make images with high resolution cameras and longer lenses, should be careful as these may magnify simple shakes or motion blurs in your images. While focus issue will blur the subject, camera shake would blur the image in one direction. Remember the thumb rule which states that the shutter speed should not be less than the focal length of your lens. If you want to isolate your subject, keep the aperture wide open. While capturing birds in flight, the keen birders very well understand the approximate speed at which birds of different sizes fly. On an average, the shutter speed should not be less than 1/1600 sec. However, it depends on your preference to freeze the birds with shutter speed as high as 1/8000 sec or show motion of tips of wings by shooting at low shutter speed.



A Gull lands at Ana Sagar Lake, Ajmer

Its not necessary that you always need fast shutter speed to capture birds in flight. Those who have practiced panning on moving subjects, can use it while capturing birds in flight. The basic fundamentals of shooting birds in flight are tracking and panning. First focus on the subject with central focus point or a group of focus points depending on your choice, press the shutter button halfway down, continue to keep your eye on the subject through the viewfinder and track the bird's flight path by keeping it in the centre of the viewfinder. Your lens may constantly adjust the focus. In case the bird moves out of camera frame, try to reframe it. As the bird or flock of birds fly from one side of the frame to the other, move your body and

the camera in the same direction, but maintain your balance. Maintain visual contact through the viewfinder at all times. It's not necessary that everything is sharp in such images. Practice can give you better images. Therefore, practice, practice and practice. I am of the strong opinion that keen birders observe that the bird who dares to fall, is the one who learns to fly.



A Pelican lands at Ana Sagar Lake, Ajmer

While shooting birds in flight, we often observe that flying birds quickly move through different light conditions. Therefore, it's advisable to photograph them in RAW. Also, do not forget to check direction of the sun and that of the wind. Preferably both should be behind you, but this may not be always possible. Also, remember the golden rule of keeping the eye of the bird sharp. The whole frame may not be sharp from corner to corner, but the bird should have acceptable sharpness. We can also photograph in overcast sky and low-light by adjusting camera settings accordingly.

Take-offs and landings of birds against light, especially in water bodies make artistic images.

The flights of birds can be erratic and they can change direction any time. Therefore, we have to compose the flying birds with a lightening speed while anticipating their movements. Prefer to track your subject through the viewfinder and not the Live View. View Finder makes it easy to move or control the camera. While composing, try to keep negative space towards the direction the birds are flying.

Subhash Sapru

Hon.E USPA, APSA, PPSA, AIIPC

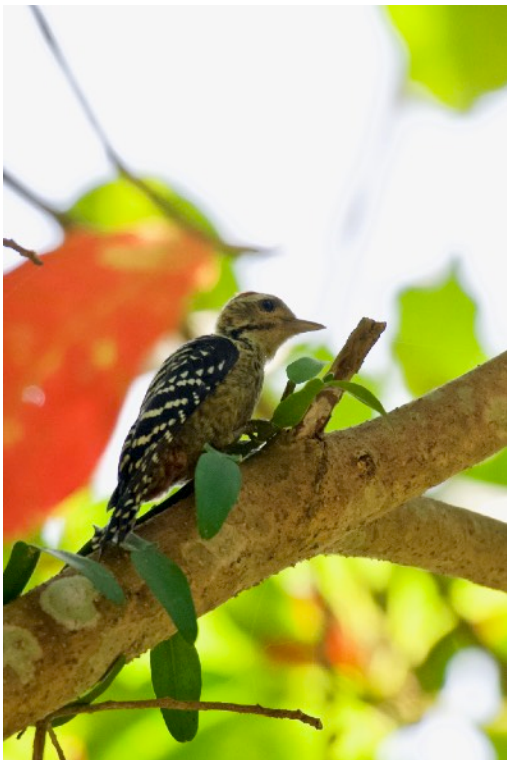
The Andaman Islands



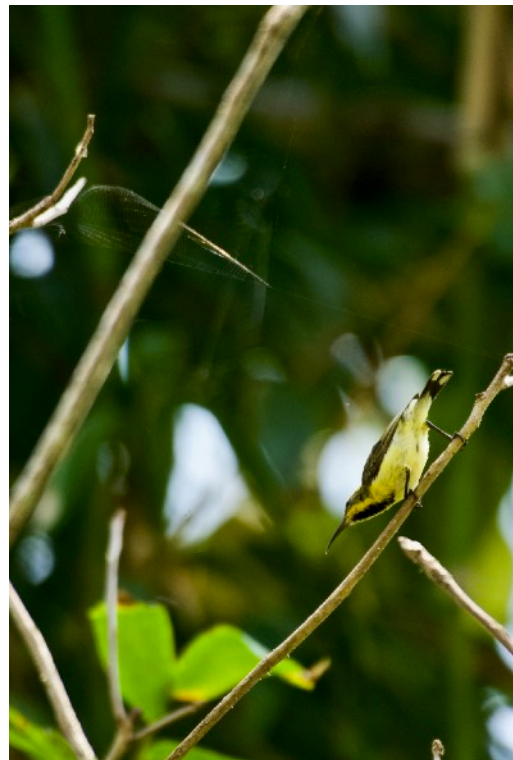
Red-breasted Parakeet



Andaman Serpent Eagle



Spot-breasted Woodpecker



Olive-backed Sunbird

In the last days of March 2019, Sarbjeet Kaur, my mother and I, made a trip to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a Union Territory of India. The Islands are about 1,200 km from the mainland so they are closer to South Asia than to the Indian Subcontinent.



White-headed Starling

We left for New Delhi, from Chandigarh on 20th March 2019, at 2200 hrs, for our early morning flight to Port Blair. The flight was at 0525 hrs via Calcutta, and the arrival at Port Blair airport at 1035 hrs. We reached our hotel and spent the 21st March, with not much birding, other than Red-whiskered Bulbuls, House Crows, Common Rock Pigeons, White-collared Kingfisher, and Brahminy Kite. That day however was made up mostly of sightseeing, and arranging guides for the next day that we spent birding.



Andaman Bulbul



Andaman Hawk Owl



Walden's Scops Owl



Hume's Hawk Owl

On 22nd March, we went birding to Chidiyatapu, the Andaman version of Chakki Mor, with a local birder and Merchant Navy-man, Gaurav, who accompanied us and provided with transportation as well. We saw many of the species one expects to see in the area; the lifers for that day were White-collared Kingfisher, Brown Shrike, Glossy Swiftlets, Andaman Drongo, Glossy Starling, Black-naped Oriole, Andaman Green Pigeon, Andaman Coucal, Red-Breasted Parakeet, Black-naped Tern, Andaman Serpent Eagle, White-headed Starling, Green Imperial Pigeon, and Long-tailed Parakeet. We ended the morning half of our birding with a cool drink of narwal paani.



Andaman Teal

The evening birding too was to Chidiyatapu, but via a very circuitous route. We first went to Sippighat, where the waters from December 2004 tsunami have been caught in, creating lakes. Here, among the many birds, were these lifers; Pacific Reef Egret, Whimbrel, Andaman Teal, Philippine Shrike (a subspecies of Brown Shrike), Yellow Bittern, Pacific Swallow, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Cotton Pygmy Goose, and Pheasant-tailed Jacana. The second half began at Chidiyatapu. After a round of snacks and tea, we went to search for owls. The guide with us that night was Arun Singh. He instructed us on our camera settings to click the owls in night. Armed with a bluetooth speaker, a medium-strength torch, and a mobile phone, he shows us the Andaman Hawk Owl, Hume's Hawk Owl, Walden's Scops Owl, and Andaman Scops Owl.

The 23rd was spent in a trip up north to the end of South Andaman, Baratang Island, home of the Jarawa tribe. The fourth day, 24th March, was occupied mostly with shifting base to Havelock Island (Swaraj Dweep), and settling in our hotel. But a great highlight that day were the clear and close sightings of about fifteen Pacific Reef Egrets, both grey and white, and White-collared Kingfisher. We also chanced upon meeting another guide, Amit Adhikari, who was recommended to us by our previous guide in Port Blair. We made plans to visit local birding hotspots in Havelock.



White-collared Kingfisher

On 25th March, at 0545 hrs, we met with Amit and went to Kalapathar. The creek is an active birding area. The lifers here were Andaman Bulbul, the elusive Andaman Cuckoo Dove, Spot-breasted Kingfisher, Andaman Flowerpecker, Slaty-breasted Rail, White-rumped Munia, Olive-backed Sunbird, and Mangrove Whistler.



Pacific Reef Egret

The very day, we again shifted base to Neil Island (Shaheed Dweep) and went for a walk to nearby Sitapur beach, where the common birds welcomed us. The next day after watching corals underwater, and a ride on a water scooter, we returned to Port Blair.

It is now 27th March, and we again went for early morning birding with Arun and Gaurav. This time however we took a local ferry to go across the bay. The birding hotspot now was Kaladang, in Winberlygunj. The area was a forest, dense with a creek where mosquitoes abound. We covered ourselves in repellents and went onwards. The new birds, among the others, were Andaman Treepie, Bar-bellied/ Andaman Cuckooshrike, Andaman Orange-headed Thrush, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Andaman Shama, Wood Snipe, Black-naped Monarch, and Violet Cuckoo.

We returned to Chandigarh on the 28th via Bangalore. Our final bird was an Andaman Coucal, at the approach road to our hotel. In total we saw 83 species, of which 42 were lifers. It was a delightful trip with a great birdlife for us to witness.

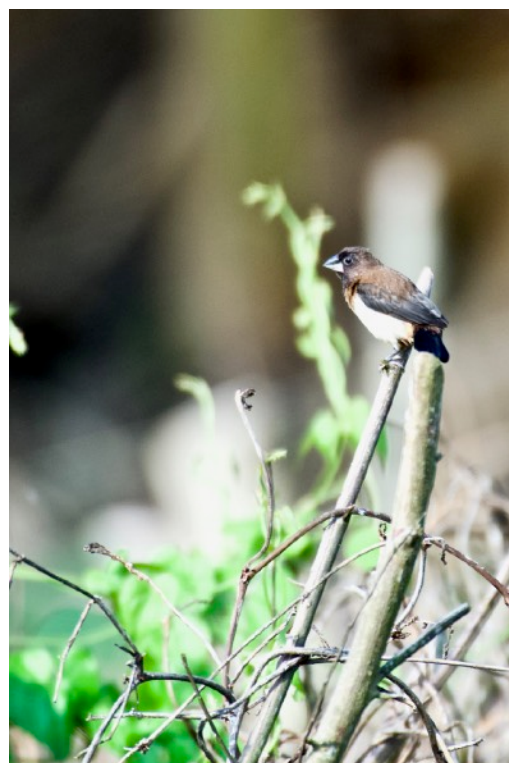
The following is the list of birds seen. In red are the lifers for me, in green are the lifers for me and Sarbjeet Ma'am.

1. Bee-eater, Chestnut-headed
2. Bittern, Yellow
3. Bluebird, Asian Fairy
4. Bulbul, Andaman
5. Bulbul, Red-whiskered
6. Coucal, Andaman
7. Crow, House
8. Crow, Large-billed
9. Cuckoo, Indian
10. Cuckoo, Violet
11. Cuckooshrike, Andaman/Bar-bellied
12. Cuckooshrike, Large
13. Dollarbird
14. Dove, Andaman Cuckoo
15. Dove, Emerald



Long-tailed Parakeet

16. Dove, Red-collared
17. Drongo, Andaman
18. Drongo, Greater Racket-tailed
19. Eagle, Andaman Serpent
20. Eagle, White-bellied Sea
21. Egret, Cattle
22. Egret, Great
23. Egret, Intermediate
24. Egret, Little
25. Egret, Pacific Reef
26. Flowerpecker, Andaman
27. Flycatcher, Asian Brown
28. Goose, Cotton Pygmy
29. Heron, Grey
30. Heron, Indian Pond
31. Heron, Purple
32. Heron, Striated
33. Jacana, Pheasant-tailed
34. Kingfisher, Common
35. Kingfisher, Stork-billed
36. Kingfisher, White-collared
37. Kingfisher, White-throated
38. Kite, Brahminy
39. Koel, Asian
40. Minivet, Scarlet
41. Minivet, Small
42. Monarch, Black-naped
43. Moorhen, Common



White-rumped Munia



Andaman Shama

44. Munia, White-rumped

45. Myna, Common

46. Myna, Hill

47. Oriole, Black-naped

48. Owl, Andaman Hawk

49. Owl, Andaman Scops

50. Owl, Hume's Hawk

51. Owl, Walden's Scops

52. Parakeet, Alexandrine

53. Parakeet, Long-tailed

54. Parakeet, Red-breasted

55. Parrot, Vernal Hanging

56. Pigeon, Andaman Green

57. Pigeon, Common Rock

58. Pigeon, Green Imperial

59. Pratincole, Oriental

60. Rail, Slaty-breasted

61. Redshank, Common

62. Robin, Oriental Magpie

63. Shama, Andaman

64. Shrike, Brown

65. Shrike, Philippine

66. Snipe, Wood

67. Sparrow, House

68. Starling, Glossy

69. Starling, White-headed

70. Sunbird, Olive-backed

71. Swallow, Barn



Andaman Orange-headed Thrush



Andaman Flowerpecker



Andaman Cuckooshrike

72. Swallow, Pacific

73. Swiftlet, Glossy

74. Teal, Andaman

75. Teal, Lesser Whistling

76. Tern, Black-naped

77. Tern, Whiskered

78. Thrush, Orange-headed (Andaman)

79. Treepie, Andaman

80. Wagtail, Eastern Yellow

81. Whimbrel

82. Whistler, Mangrove

83. Woodpecker, Spot-breasted



Andaman Drongo



Andaman Coucal

Amandeep Singh Channa

Birding in Kauai Island (Hawaii)



I left San Francisco airport on November 23, 2018 for Kauai. Except for the blue sheet of endless water and occasional cotton puffball clouds there was no sign of any land mass through the five hour journey over Pacific ocean. All of a sudden, as the plane was about to land, an island appeared with lush green sharp mountain



Nene or Hawaiian Goose, State Bird of Hawaii

spires and jagged cliffs. Kauai is an island in the the central Pacific, a part of the Hawaiian archipelago. It is nicknamed the ‘Garden Isle’. Some parts of Kauai are accessible only by air or sea, revealing views beyond one’s imagination. Due to the tropical climate much of its surface is covered with rainforest. Besides having dramatic beauty the island is home to a large variety of bird species.



Red-footed Bobby

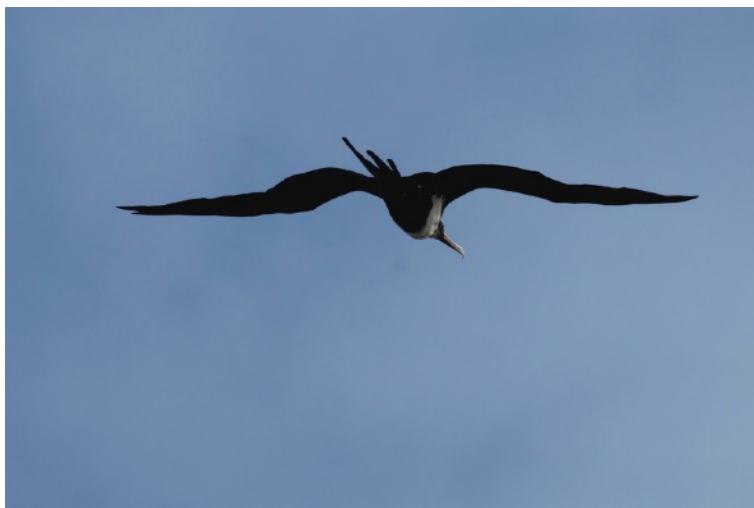


Wedge-tailed Shearwater



Laysan Albatross

Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge is home to a population of endemic Nene (Hawaiian Goose), Red-footed Boobies, Red-tailed and White-tailed Tropic bird, Great Frigatebird, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, and Laysan Albatross.



Great Frigatebird

Along with the sharp Mountain spires the island is draped in lush green valleys. One can enjoy the spectacular view of the fields with Taro plants adding beauty to the valleys. These fields filled with water is home to Coots, Moorhen, Cattle Egrets and herons.



White-rumped Shama

The Westin Princeville Ocean Resort where we stayed is home to many terrestrial birds as well as shore birds. The first shot is of White-rumped Shama. Dawn to dusk, one can enjoy watching this bird with its melodious voice.

Red-crested Cardinal, Nene the Hawaiian Goose, American Plover, Japanese White-eye, Zebra Dove, Spotted Dove, Common Myna, Cattle Egret, Chestnut Munia, Northern Cardinal, Scaly-breasted Munia, Rock Pigeon, Western Meadowlark are frequently found in and around this resort.



Red-crested Cardinal



Japanese White-eye



Northern Cardinal

Kauai is the only major Hawaiian island that doesn't have population of mongoose. Therefore it's a haven for the Junglefowl. These junglefowls are foraging with full liberty by the roadside, in a park, or any other open place - even in a market place you'd see a hen followed by her flock of cute chicks! It is also fun to watch House Sparrows. They are enjoying the full hospitality of the this island.



Tropic Bird

Kauai Botanical Garden and Wai Koa Loop Trail is a must to spot Red Cardinal, Shama, Chestnut Munia and many more birds. Had my son Tajinder and his wife Priya not planned this holiday trip, I wouldn't have got an opportunity for birding on this beautiful island with exotic birds. Even though they aren't birders they happily supported my birding adventures so I could capture these beauties in my camera during our seven days stay on this breathtaking island.

Sarbjeet Kaur

HSBC Chandigarh Birdrace

24TH MARCH 2019

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| 1. Accentor, Black-throated -
<i>Prunella atrogularis</i> | 11. Babbler, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar -
<i>Pomatorhinus erythrogastrus</i> |
| 2. Accentor, Rufous-breasted -
<i>Prunella strophias</i> | 12. Babbler, White-browed Scimitar -
<i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i> |
| 3. Avadavat, Red - <i>Amandava formosa</i> | 13. Barbet, Blue-throated - <i>Megalaima asiatica</i> |
| 4. Avocet, Pied - <i>Recurvirostris avocetta</i> | 14. Barbet, Brown-headed -
<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i> |
| 5. Babbler, Black-chinned - <i>Stachyris</i> | 15. Barbet, Coppersmith - <i>Megalaima</i> |



pyrrhops

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| 6. Babbler, Common - <i>Turdoides caudatus</i> | |
| 7. Babbler, Jungle - <i>Turdoides striatus</i> | |
| 8. Babbler, Large Grey - <i>Turdoides malcomii</i> | |
| 9. Babbler, Puff-throated -
<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i> | |
| 10. Babbler, Yellow-eyed -
<i>Chrysomma sinense</i> | |

haemacephala

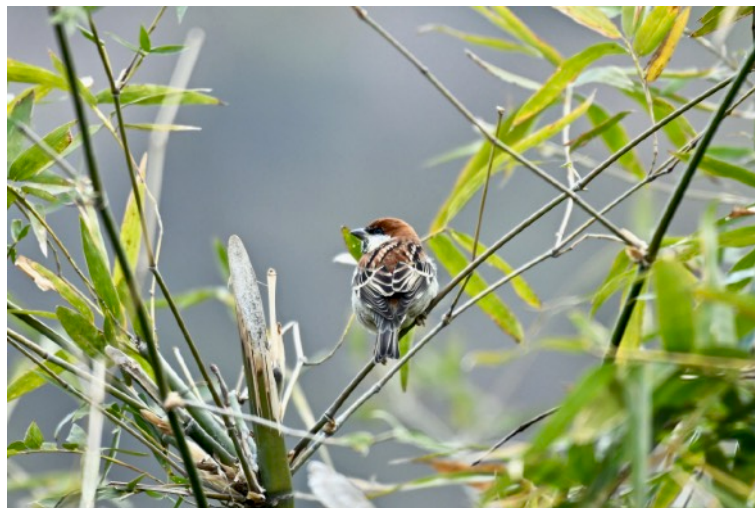
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| 16. Barbet, Great - <i>Megalaima virens</i> | |
| 17. Bee-eater, Blue-bearded -
<i>Nyctyornis athertonii</i> | |
| 18. Bee-eater, Green - <i>Merops orientalis</i> | |
| 19. Besra - <i>Accipiter virgatus</i> | |
| 20. Blackbird, Grey-winged - <i>Turdus boubol</i> | |
| 21. Bluetail, Himalayan - <i>Tarsiger (cyanurus) rufilatus</i> | |
| 22. Bluethroat - <i>Luscinia svecica</i> | |

23. Bulbul, Black - *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
24. Bulbul, Himalayan - *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
25. Bulbul, Red-vented - *Pycnonotus cafer*
26. Bullfinch, Brown - *Pyrrhula nipalensis* - new addition
27. Bunting, Chestnut-eared - *Emberiza fucata*
28. Bunting, Crested - *Melophus lathami*
36. Buzzard, Oriental Honey - *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
37. Buzzard, White-eyed - *Butasur teesa*
38. Chat, Indian - *Cercomela fuscus*
39. Chiffchaff, Common - *Phylloscopus collybita*
40. Chiffchaff, Mountain - *Phylloscopus sindianus*
41. Cisticola, Zitting - *Cisticola juncidis*
42. Coot, Eurasian - *Fulica atra*



29. Bunting, Rock - *Emberiza cia*
30. Bunting, White-capped - *Emberiza stuartii*
31. Bushchat, Grey - *Saxicola ferrea*
32. Bushchat, Pied - *Saxicola caprata*
33. Bushlark, Bengal - *Mirafra assamica*
34. Bushlark, Indian - *Mirafra erythroptera*
35. Buzzard, Common - *Buteo buteo*
43. Cormorant, Great - *Phalacrocorax carbo*
44. Cormorant, Indian - *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
45. Cormorant, Little - *Phalacrocorax niger*
46. Coucal, Greater - *Centropus sinensis*
47. Crane, Brown - *Amaurornis akool*
48. Crane, Ruddy-Breasted - *Porzana fusca*

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| 49. Crow, House - <i>Corvus splendens</i> | 61. Drongo, Hair crested - <i>Dicrurus bottentottus</i> |
| 50. Crow, Large-Billed - <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> | 62. Duck, Comb - <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i> |
| 51. Cuckoo, Common hawk – <i>Hierococcyx varius</i> | 63. Duck, Indian Spot-billed - <i>Anas poecilorhynchus</i> |
| 52. Darter - <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> | 64. Duck, Lesser Whistling - <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> |
| 53. Dove, Emerald - <i>Chalcophaps indica</i> | 65. Eagle, Bonelli's - <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> |
| 54. Dove, Eurasian Collard - <i>Streptopelia decaocta</i> | 66. Eagle, Booted - <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> |
| 55. Dove, Laughing - <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> | |



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| 56. Dove, Oriental Turtle - <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i> | 67. Eagle, Crested Serpent - <i>Spilornis Cheela</i> |
| 57. Dove, Red-Collard - <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i> | 68. Eagle, Greater Spotted - <i>Aquila clanga</i> |
| 58. Dove, Spotted - <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> | 69. Eagle, Short-toed Snake - <i>Ciercatus gallicus</i> |
| 59. Drongo, Ashy - <i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i> | 70. Eagle, Steppe - <i>Aquila nipalensis</i> |
| 60. Drongo, Black - <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> | 71. Eagle, Tawny - <i>Aquila rapax</i> |
| | 72. Egret, Cattle - <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> |
| | 73. Egret, Great - <i>Casmerodeus albus</i> |

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| 74. Egret, Intermediate - <i>Mesiphoyx intermedia</i> | 86. Flycatcher, Taiga - <i>Ficedula albicilla</i> |
| 75. Egret, Little - <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | 87. Flycatcher, Tickell's Blue – <i>Corns tickelliae</i> |
| 76. Fantail, White-browed - <i>Rhipidura aureola</i> | 88. Flycatcher, Verditer - <i>Eumyias thalassina</i> |
| 77. Fantail, White-throated - <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i> | 89. Flycatcher-shrike, Bar-Winged - <i>Hemipus picatus</i> |
| 78. Fantail, Yellow-bellied - <i>Rhipidura nypoxantna</i> | 90. Forktail, Little - <i>Enicurus scoulari</i> |
| 79. Flowerpecker, Fire-breasted - <i>Diaceum ignipectus</i> | 91. Forktail, Spotted - <i>Enicurus maculatus</i> |
| 80. Flowerpecker, Pale-billed - | 92. Francolin, Black - <i>Francolinus</i> |



Diaceum erythrohynchos

francolinus

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| 81. Flycatcher, Asian brown - <i>Muscicapa dauurica</i> | 93. Francolin, Grey - <i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i> |
| 82. Flycatcher, Dark-sided - <i>Muscicapa sibirica</i> | 94. Gadwall - <i>Anas strepera</i> |
| 83. Flycatcher, Grey-headed Canary - <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i> | 95. Garganey - <i>Anas querquedula</i> |
| 84. Flycatcher, Little Pied - <i>Ficedula westermanii</i> | 96. Goldfinch, European - <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> |
| 85. Flycatcher, Red-breasted - <i>Ficedula parva</i> | 97. Goose, Bar-headed - <i>Anser indicus</i> |
| | 98. Goose, Graylag - <i>Anser anser</i> |
| | 99. Grebe, Great Crested - <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> |

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| 100. Grebe, Little - <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | 112. Hornbill, Oriental Pied - <i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i> |
| 101. Greenfinch, Yellow-breasted - <i>Carduelis spinoides</i> | 113. Ibis, Black - <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> |
| 102. Greenshank, Common - <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | 114. Ibis, Red-Naped - <i>Pseudibis papillosa</i> |
| 103. Gull, Black-headed- <i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i> | 115. Iora, Common - <i>Aegithina tippi</i> |
| 104. Harrier, Eurasian Marsh - <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | 116. Jacana, Pheasant-tailed- <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i> |
| 105. Heron, Black-crowned Night - <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | 117. Jay, Black-headed - <i>Garrulus lanceolatus</i> |
| | 118. Junglefowl, Red - <i>Gallus gallus</i> |



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| 106. Heron, Grey - <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | 119. Kestrel, Common - <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> |
| 107. Heron, Indian Pond - <i>Ardeola grayii</i> | 120. Kingfisher, Crested - <i>Megaceyrle lugubris</i> |
| 108. Heron, Little/Striated - <i>Butorides striata</i> | 121. Kingfisher, Pied - <i>Ceyrle rudis</i> |
| 109. Heron, Purple - <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | 122. Kingfisher, White-throated - <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> |
| 110. Hoopoe, Common/Eurasian - <i>Upupa epops</i> | 123. Kite, Black - <i>Milvus migrans</i> |
| 111. Hornbill, Indian Grey - <i>Ocycceros burostris</i> | 124. Kite, Black-eared - <i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i> |

125. Kite, Black-winged - *Elanus caeruleus*
 126. Koel, Asian - *Eudynamis scolopacea*
 127. Lapwing, Red-wattled - *Vanellus indicus*
 128. Lapwing, River - *Vanellus duvaucelli*
 129. Lapwing, White-tailed - *Vanellus leucurus*
 130. Lapwing, Yellow-wattled - *Vanellus malarbaricus*
 131. Lark, Ashy-crowned Sparrow -

137. Magpie, Red-billed Blue - *Urocissa erythrorhynca*
 138. Malkoha, Sirkeer - *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*
 139. Mallard - *Anas platyrhynchos*
 140. Martin Dusky Craig - *Hirundo concolor*
 141. Martin, Plain - *Riparia diluta*
 142. Minivet, Long-tailed - *Pericrocotus ethologus*
 143. Moorhen, Common - *Gallinula chloropus*



- Eremopterix grisea*
 132. Lark, Crested - *Galerida cristata*
 133. Laughingthrush, Rufous-chinned - *Garrulax rufogularis*
 134. Laughingthrush, Streaked - *Garrulax lineatus*
 135. Laughingthrush, White-crested - *Garrulax leucolophus*
 136. Leiothrix, Red-billed - *Leiothrix lutea*

144. Munia, Indian Silverbill - *Lonchura malabarica*
 145. Munia, Scaly-Breasted - *Lonchura punctulata*
 146. Myna, Bank - *Acridotheres gingianus*
 147. Myna, Common - *Acridotheres tristis*
 148. Myna, Jungle - *Acridotheres fuscus*
 149. Myna/Starling, Asian Pied - *Sturnus contra*

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| 150. Nightjar, Large-tailed-Caprimulgus micrurus | 162. Pheasant, Kalij - Lophura leucomelanos hamiltonii |
| 151. Niltava, Rufous-bellied - <i>Niltava sundara</i> | 163. Piculet, Speckled - <i>Picumnus innominatus</i> |
| 152. Nuthatch, Chestnut-bellied - <i>Sitta castane</i> | 164. Pigeon, Common/ Rock - <i>Columba livia</i> |
| 153. Owlet, Asian Barred - <i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i> | 165. Pigeon, Yellow-footed Green - <i>Treron phoenicopterus</i> |
| 154. Owlet, Jungle - <i>Glaucidium radiatum</i> | 166. Pintail, Northern - <i>Anas acuta</i> |
| 155. Owlet, Spotted - <i>Athene brama</i> | 167. Pipit, Olive-backed - <i>Anthus hodgsonii</i> , |
| 156. Parakeet, Alexandrine - <i>Psittacula</i> | 168. Pipit, Paddyfield - <i>Anthus rufulus</i> |



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|---|---|
| <i>eupatria</i> | 169. Pipit, Long-billed-Anthus similis |
| 157. Parakeet, Plum-headed - <i>Psittacula Cyanocephala</i> | 170. Pipit ,Paddyfield-Anthus rufulus |
| 158. Parakeet, Rose-ringed - <i>Psittacula kramerii</i> | 171. Pipit, Rosy-Anthus roseatus |
| 159. Parakeet, Slaty-headed - <i>Psittacula himalayana</i> | 172. Pipit, Tree - <i>Anthus trivialis</i> |
| 160. Peafowl, Indian - <i>Pavo cristatus</i> | 173. Plover, Little-ringed - <i>Charadrius dubius</i> |
| 161. Petronia, Chestnut-shouldered - <i>Petronoa xanthocollis</i> | 174. Pochard, Common - <i>Aythya ferina</i> |
| | 175. Pochard, Ferruginous - <i>Aythya nyroca</i> |
| | 176. Pochard, Red-crested - <i>Rhodonessa rufina</i> |

177. Pochard, Tufted Duck - *Aythya fuligula*
 178. Prinia, Ashy - *Prinia socialis*
 179. Prinia, Grey-breasted - *Prinia hodgson*
 180. Prinia, Plain - *Prinia inornata*
 181. Prinia, Striated - *Prinia criniger*
 182. Quail, Jungle bush-*Perdicula asiatica*
 183. Redshank, Common - *Tringa totanus*
 184. Redstart, Black - *Phoenicurus*

190. Roller .European - *Coracias garrulus*
 191. Roller, Indian - *Coracias benghalensis*
 192. Rosefinch, Common - *Carpodacus erythrinus*
 193. Ruff - *Philomachus pugnax*
 194. Sandpiper, Common - *ctitis hypoleucos*
 195. Sandpiper, Green - *Tringa ochropus*
 196. Sandpiper, Marsh - *Tringa*



- ochruros*
 185. Redstart, Blue-capped - *Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus*
 186. Redstart, Plumbeous Water - *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*
 187. Redstart, White-capped Water – *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
 188. Robin, Oriental Magpie - *Copsychus saularis*
 189. Robin, Indian - *Saxicoloides fulicata*

- satagnatilis*
 197. Sandpiper, Wood - *Tringa glareola*
 198. Serin, Fire/Red-fronted - *Serinus pusillus*
 199. Shelduck, Ruddy - *Tadorna feruginea*
 200. Shikra - *Accipiter badius*
 201. Shoveller, Northern - *Anas clypeata*
 202. Shrike, Bay-backed - *Lanius vitatus*

203. Shrike, Long-tailed - *Lanius schach*
204. Shrike, Southern Grey - *Lanius meridionalis* - new addition
205. Sibia, Rufous - *Hetrophasia graci*
206. Snipe, Common-Gallinago gallingo
207. Sparrow, House - *Passer domesticus*
208. Sparrow, Russet - *Passer rutilans*
209. Sparrow, Sind - *Passer pyrrhonotus*
210. Sparrowhawk, Eurasian –
217. Stork, Wolly-necked - *Ciconia episcopus*
218. Sunbird, Crimson - *Aethopyga siparaja*
219. Sunbird, Purple - *Nectarinia asiatica*
220. Swallow. Barn - *Hirundo rustica*
221. Swallow, Red-rumped - *Hirundo daurica*
222. Swallow, Streak-throated - *Hirundo fluvicola*
223. Swallow, Wire-tailed - *Hirundo*



- Accipiter nidus*
211. Starling, Common - *Sturnus vulgaris*
212. Starling, Rosy - *Sturnus roseus*
213. Stilt, Black-winged - *Monticola solitarius pandoo*
214. Stint, Little - *Calidrus minuta*
215. Stint, Temminck - *Calidris temminckii*
216. Stonechat, Siberian - *Saxicola maurus*
- smithii*
224. Swamphen, Purple - *Porphyrio porphyrio*
225. Swift Alpine - *Tachymaptis melba*
226. Tailorbird, Common - *Orthotomus sutorius*
227. Teal, Common - *Anas crecca*
228. Tern, River - *Sterna aurantia*
229. Tesia, Cheatnut-headed-Oliguria castaneucoronata

230. Thicknee, Indian - *Burhinus (oedicnemus) indicus*
231. Thrush, Black-throated - *Turdus atrogularis*
232. Thrush, Blue Rock - *Monticola solitarius*.
233. Thrush, Blue Whistling - *Myophonus caeruleus*
234. Thrush, Chestnut-bellied Rock - *Monticola rufiventris*
235. Tit, Black-lored - *Parus xanthogenys*

242. Vulture, Egyptian - *Neophron percnopterus*
243. Vulture, Griffon (European) - *Gyps fulvus*
244. Vulture, Himalayan - *Gyps himalayensis*
245. Vulture, White-rumped - *Gyps benghalensis*
246. Wagtail, Citrine - *Motacilla citreola*
247. Wagtail, Grey - *Motacilla cinerea*
248. Wagtail, White-browed - *Motacilla*



236. Tit, Black-throated - *Aegithalos concinnus*
237. Tit, Cinereous - *Parus cinerous*
238. Tit, Green-backed - *Parus monticolis*
239. Treecreeper, Bar-tailed - *Certhia himalayana*
240. Treepie, Grey - *Dendrocitta formosae*
241. Treepie, Rufous - *Dendrocitta vagabunda*

- maderaspatensis*
249. Wagtail, White - *Motacilla alba*
250. Wagtail, Yellow - *Motacilla flava*
251. Wallcreeper - *Tichodroma mura*
252. Warbler, Greenish - *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
253. Warbler, Grey-hooded - *Seicercus / Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*
254. Warbler, Humes Bush - *Cettia brunnescens*

255. Warbler, Hume's Leaf - *Phylloscopus humei*
256. Warbler, Lemon-rumped - *Phylloscopus chloronotos*
257. Warbler, Sulphur-bellied - *Phylloscopus griseo*
258. Warbler, Western Crowned - *Phylloscopus occipitalis*
259. Waterhen, White-breasted - *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
260. Weaver, Streaked-Ploceus manyar
261. Wheatear, Variable - *Oenanthe*
266. Woodpecker, Fulvous-breasted - *Dendrocopus macei*
267. Woodpecker, Greater Goldenback/ flameback - *Dinopium shorii*
268. Woodpecker, Grey-capped Pygmy - *Dendrocopus canicapillus*
269. Woodpecker, Grey-headed - *Picus canus*
270. Woodpecker, Lesser Yellownape - *Picus chlorophus*
271. Woodpecker, Scaly-bellied - *Picus squamatis*



- picata*
262. Whitethroat, Lesser - *Sylvia curruca*
263. Wigeon, Eurasian - *Anas fulcata*
264. Woodpecker, Black-rumped Flameback - *Dinopium benghalensis*
265. Woodpecker, Brown-fronted - *Dendrocopus auriceps*
272. Woodshrike, Common - *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
273. Woodswallow, Ashy - *Artamus fuscus*
274. Wryneck, Eurasian - *Jynx torquilla*
275. Yuhina, Whiskered - *Yuhina flavicollis*

Unconfirmed - Red-whiskered Bulbul, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Chinese Sparrowhawk
Rima Dhillon

Besra

Accipter Vergatus

Class- Aves

Order- Accipitriformes

This Besra was found near Bhojnagar, Himachal Pradesh. Sitting on a thick branch of a Chir tree it was all cuddled up due to the cold weather and heavy winds and started preening itself after some time.



The besra is a bird of prey and is quite similar to the Shikra which is very common. Also known as Besra Sparrowhawk, this bird relies on the element of surprise to hunt its food. It flies over a hidden perch or flicks over a bush to catch its prey which mostly includes small birds such as bulbuls, thrushes, sparrows and warblers supplemented by insects, lizards and small mammals. To identify this bird and differentiate it from a Shikra, one must look at its eyes which have a golden ring surrounding them, a dark gular stripe under its chin, barring on thighs, broad tail barrings and thin long legs. It is not easily detectable in forests and is most often visible when perched on tall dead trees at the edge of evergreen forests, or when soaring over forest clearings. The female of this species is larger in size and is highly prized by some falconers to fly at partridge, dove, quail and snipe. The Besra is scarce breeding resident and is found in the Himalayan Foothills, Nepal, NE India, Western Ghats, Sri Lanka and. It spends its winters in the Northern Plains.

Karmannye Chaudhary

Crow is an Intelligent Bird but Cuckoo is Craftier

Every morning after our usual walk, we 12-15 friends, almost all above 60 years of age, sit in a hut for yoga/exercise or any other individual activities. It is a time to relax and to discuss politics/health related problems, food, jokes etc. A “Prarthna”(prayer) is held before dispersal. One day there was a discussion on DNA which was followed by many instances of ancient history and one questioned the legitimacy of father. One quoted an example that " ਯਾਰ ਛੱਡ ਪਰਾਂ -ਕਦੇ ਕੋਇਲ ਵੀ ਅਪਣੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਪਾਲਦੀ ਆ ? " (Forget it friend, does Koel ever rear its young?) This phrase was discussed threadbare quoting many myths but without any result. Since, I am a wild-life photographer, the question ultimately passed on to me to answer. One of my friend said " ਏਨੂੰ ਪੁਛੋ ਸਾਰਾ ਦਿਨ ਕੈਮਰਾ ਗੱਲ ਵਿਚ ਪਾ ਕੇ ਜੰਗਲਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਘੁੰਮਦਾ" (Ask him, he keeps roaming around day long in forests with his camera slung around his neck). I promised to find the scientific explanation and only thereafter be able to tell them. It took a week to study books, Google search the bird itself and monitor its behavior. This reminds me of a famous phrase that “Fools build houses and wise men live in them”.

The Cuckoo is also called Koyal/Koyila/Kokila which does not make a nest or hatch the eggs of their own eggs. It is a brood parasite, mostly laying their eggs in Crow's, Drongo's or other bee-eater nests as these birds cannot differentiate between their own and Cuckoo's eggs. What is more, after hatching, chicks looks like those of the host parents. The Koel is also reported to use the Jungle Crow as its foster parent in some areas and there are also rare reports of its conning oriole and drongo species. Starling and mynas are their victims in Malaysia. The Crow and Cuckoo co-exist, it is another thing that they have a love-hate relationship. It is true that the diet of the adult Cuckoos is fruits but their chicks need a lot of protein rich diet to grow quickly and healthily as is required for all baby birds. Cuckoo is a Brood parasites, which means birds that rely on others to raise their young. So female Cuckoo lays its eggs in hurry in the nest of other birds like Crow, Drongos or other bee-eater birds whose eggs mimic and resemble hosts eggs and by doing so it breaks and throws away the original eggs of the birds and replaces them with its own. Cuckoo is not the only the bird which uses this strategy. Cuckoo species and some other birds like Brown Headed Cowbirds use these tactics. The female will watch the nest in which she lays her egg. If the host pushes out the Cuckoo's egg, the female Cuckoo will return to the

nest and throw out the host's eggs. By virtue of experience host birds have come to learn that it is better to raise an extra chick than to lose their own. It hardly matters if the eggs may mimic the host's eggs or not or even identified by the host.

This behaviour of the Cuckoo cannot be called laziness, evil or negativity as the host never shows step motherly treatment but continues to nourish love and generosity while bringing up the babies. As the Cuckoo's eggs have thicker and stronger shell and hatch much faster than the original host bird eggs, the fledgelings start to chirp to catch the attention of host parents to feed them. Sometimes they destroy the host parent's eggs or even push out its chicks. Crows/Drongos or other bee-eater birds feed them until they are fledged, and when host identifies the difference between its own babies and Cuckoo's, it kicks the Cuckoo's babies out of the nest. By that time they are grown enough to fly.

The cuckoo is one of the most widespread breeding birds in Europe, and is only absent from Iceland. It also breeds throughout Asia east to Japan. Female cuckoo lays between 12 to 22 eggs per season almost one each in different nests. Unlike most birds, female cuckoos lay their eggs in the afternoon rather than the morning. Though cuckoo eggs usually resemble those of their host, around 20% are rejected so they never hatch. Cuckoos eggs hatch within 13 to 16 days whereas crows eggs hatch in 17 to 20 days. Cuckoo after laying eggs keeps a close watch over the host nests and if the cuckoo parents feel that their chicks are not taken proper care than male Cuckoo will destroy the entire nest of Crow.

Though there are 54 species of Old World cuckoos, just two live in Europe: most live in Africa, Asia and Australasia. The common cuckoo is the only member of the family that calls cuckoo-cuckoo-cuckoo while others have loud voices but totally different calls. One can hear its sounds in spring season and if you respond to its voices loudly it continues to repeat.

It is usually said that Crow is smart but Cuckoo is smarter. The female Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*) smartly approaches the un-guarded nest of the house crow in the evening, lay its eggs and slips away. The male plays the role of distracting the house crow to help the female complete the job surreptitiously. It is also reported that the Koel being fed along with young House Crows and sometimes there were only Koel young. This depends on whether the mother Koel was able to remove the crow's eggs (or may be the nestlings later on) from the nest. Unlike some parasitic cuckoos, the nestlings of Koel are reported not to eject the young of their foster parents.

I was keen to know if it has been happening for a long time then why there is no decline in the population of crows. I found the answer from Daniela Canestrari and her team at the University of Oviedo in Spain's new research which studied the nests of crows, both with and without cuckoos. However, new research is changing our understanding of this relationship. The researchers found that nests with both species actually fared better, because baby cuckoo birds defended the nests from predators, thereby boosting the crow population.

Kulbhushan Kanwar



Red-breasted Flycatcher (male)

By M S Sekhon

Verditer Flycatcher,

By M S Sekhon



Chandigarh Forest Department and Chandigarh Bird Club Nagar Van Bird Walk - January 20, 2019

Members of Chandigarh Bird Club

1. H S Pathania
2. Rick Toor
3. Karmannye Chaudhary
4. Narbir Kahlon
5. Amandeep Singh Channa

List of Bird Species

1. Babbler, Jungle
2. Chiffchaff, Common
3. Coot, Common
4. Cormorant, Little
5. Crow, House
6. Drongo, Ashy
7. Drongo, Black
8. Drongo, Hair-crested
9. Egret, Cattle
10. Fantail, White-throated
11. Flameback, Black-rumped
12. Flycatcher, Taiga
13. Francolin, Grey
14. Heron, Purple
15. Hornbill, Indian Grey
16. Junglefowl, Red
17. Kingfisher, Pied
18. Kingfisher, White-throated
19. Kite, Black
20. Lapwing, Red-wattled
21. Martin, Plain
22. Moorhen, Common
23. Munia, Scaly-breasted
24. Parakeet, Rose-ringed
25. Peafowl, Indian
26. Pigeon, Rock
27. Pipit, Tree
28. Robin, Oriental Magpie
29. Sandpiper, Green
30. Shikra
31. Sunbird, Crimson
32. Sunbird, Purple
33. Swallow, Wire-tailed
34. Teal, Common
35. Tit, Cinereous
36. Treepie, Rufous
37. Wagtail, Citrine
38. Wagtail, White
39. Warbler, Hume's Leaf
40. Waterhen, White-breasted
41. White-eye, Oriental
42. Whitethroat, Lesser

Monthly Field Trip to Chakki Mor

The monthly field trip for February was held at Chakki Mor, on 10th February 2019. Karmannye Chaudhary and Amandeep Singh Channa participated.

List of Bird Species

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Babbler, Jungle | 24. Prinia, Striated |
| 2. Babbler, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar | 25. Redstart, Blue-capped |
| 3. Barbet, Great | 26. Redstart, Plumbeous Water |
| 4. Besra | 27. Redstart, White-capped Water |
| 5. Bulbul, Black | 28. Robin, Indian |
| 6. Bulbul, Himalayan | 29. Sparrow, House |
| 7. Bulbul, Red-vented | 30. Sparrow, Russet |
| 8. Bunting, White-capped | 31. Sunbird, Crimson |
| 9. Bushchat, Grey | 32. Thrush, Blue Whistling |
| 10. Bushchat, Pied | 33. Thrush, Chestnut-bellied Rock |
| 11. Chiffchaff, Common | 34. Thrush, Streaked Laughing |
| 12. Crow, House | 35. Thrush, White-crested Laughing |
| 13. Crow, Jungle | 36. Tit, Cinerous |
| 14. Flycatcher, Verditer | 37. Treepie, Grey |
| 15. Leiothrix, Red-billed | 38. Treepie, Rufous |
| 16. Magpie, Red-billed Blue | 39. Wagtail, Citrine |
| 17. Nuthatch, Chestnut-bellied | 40. Warbler, Lemon-rumped |
| 18. Parakeet, Alexandrine | 41. White-eye, Oriental |
| 19. Parakeet, Rose-ringed | 42. Whitethroat, Lesser |
| 20. Parakeet, Slaty-headed | 43. Woodpecker, Brown-capped Pygmy |
| 21. Pheasant, Kalij | 44. Woodpecker, Brown-fronted |
| 22. Pigeon, Rock | 45. Woodpecker, Slaty-headed |
| 23. Prinia, Plain | 46. Yellownape, Lesser |

Chandigarh Forest Department and Chandigarh bird Club Nagar Van Bird Walk, February 17, 2019

Members of Chandigarh Bird Club

1. H S Pathania
2. Narbir Kahlon
3. Suraj Narayan
4. Karandeep Singh
5. Rima Dhillon
6. Amandeep Singh Channa

List of Bird Species

1. Babbler, Jungle
2. Barbet, Brown-headed
3. Bulbul, Black
4. Bulbul, Himalayan
5. Bulbul, Red-vented
6. Bushchat, Grey
7. Cisticola, Zitting
8. Cormorant, Great
9. Cormorant, Little
10. Crow, House
11. Dove, Eurasian Collared
12. Drongo, Ashy
13. Drongo, Black
14. Drongo, Hair-crested
15. Duck, Spot-billed
16. Egret, Intermediate
17. Fantail, White-throated
18. Flameback, Black-rumped
19. Flycatcher, Red-breasted
20. Francolin, Grey
21. Greenshank, Common
22. Heron, Black-crowned Night
23. Heron, Grey
24. Heron, Purple
25. Hoopoe
26. Hornbill, Indian Grey
27. Junglefowl, Red
28. Kingfisher, White-throated
29. Kite, Black
30. Lapwing, Red-wattled
31. Moorhen, Common
32. Myna, Common
33. Parakeet, Plum-headed
34. Parakeet, Rose-ringed
35. Peafowl, Indian
36. Pintail, Northern
37. Pipit, Long-billed
38. Pipit, Olive-backed
39. Pipit, Tree
40. Prinia, Ashy
41. Redstart, Black
42. Robin, Indian
43. Robin, Oriental Magpie
44. Sandpiper, Green
45. Shikra
46. Sibia, Rufous
47. Snipe, Common
48. Sparrow, House
49. Sunbird, Crimson

- 50. Sunbird, Purple
- 51. Teal, Common
- 52. Thrush, Black-throated
- 53. Treepie, Rufous
- 54. Wagtail, Yellow

- 55. Warbler, Hume's Leaf
- 56. Waterhen, White-breasted
- 57. White-eye, Oriental
- 58. Whitethroat, Lesser



Indian Paradise Flycatcher (male), Sector-10, CHD



Black-rumped Flameback, Sector-10, CHD

By M S Sekhon

Press Coverage

CHANDIGARH BIRDRACE 2019

Teams free to chart routes, sites for the day: CBC president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 23

CHANDIGARH BIRD Club will host Chandigarh Birdrace 2019 on Sunday. The teams of four members each, will cover the areas from Timber Trail to Morni Hills, Chhatbir, Mirzapur dam, Siswan dam, Nepli forest, Kansal forest and Sukhna Lake.

These teams have come together from Tricity and Nangal. CBC President, Metinder Singh Sekhon, said, "Teams are free to make their own routes and sites for the day, as long as the area covered is within 40km radius of Chandigarh. Birds imported into the zoo do not qualify and finally, all birds in parks and gardens of Chandigarh and part of Sukhna Lake wildlife, will be counted".

आज होगी बर्ड्स रेस

चंडीगढ़। बर्ड्स क्लब की ओर से बर्ड रेस का आयोजन रविवार को होने जा रहा है। इसमें बर्ड वॉचरों को चंडीगढ़ के 40 किलोमीटर रेडियस को कवर करना होगा। हर टीम में चार सदस्य होंगे। टीम को भोजपुर, चक्की मोड़, ओल्ड कसौली रोड, पिंजौर, मोरनी हिल्स, नेपली, कांसल, मिर्जापुर डैम, सिसवां डैम, पर्व डैम, छतबीड़ जू के आसपास एरिया सहित चंडीगढ़ के सभी पार्क व सुखना वाइड लाइफ को कवर करना होगा। इसके लिए नियम तय कर दिए गए हैं। इसके तहत हर टीम अपना नाम बर्ड के नाम पर रखना होगा। प्रत्येक टीम का एक कैप्टन होगा। चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब के प्रेसिडेंट एमएस सेखों ने बताया कि बर्ड्स क्लब का मकसद लोगों के बीच पक्षियों के प्रति जागरूकता फैलाना है। इसमें जो टीम सबसे ज्यादा पक्षियों को खोजेगी, उसे पुरस्कृत किया जाएगा। पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह रविवार शाम सेक्टर 24 बी होटल पार्क व्यू में होगा।

फिश ईगल टीम ने जीती बर्ड रेस, देखीं 188 प्रजातियां

अमर उजाला व्यूरो

चंडीगढ़। बर्ड्स क्लब की ओर से रविवार को बर्ड रेस का आयोजन किया गया। इसके लिए 13 टीमें बनाई गईं। हर टीम में चार सदस्य शामिल थे। प्रत्येक टीम को पूरे दिन में चंडीगढ़ के 40 किलोमीटर के रेडियस को कवर करना था। इसमें विजेता फिश ईगल टीम बनी। इस टीम ने पूरे दिन पक्षियों की 188 प्रजातियां देखीं। इस टीम में बर्ड वाचर विकास शर्मा, अल्पना, महेश गर्ग, बिप्रेन्द्रियर सरबजीत रंधावा शामिल थे। टीम के मुताबिक वे सुबह पांच बजे निकल गए थे। इस टीम ने यहां पर भोजनगर, चक्कीमोड़, थापली, मोरनी और छतबीड़ के इलाकों को कवर किया। इस दौरान के टीम के सदस्यों ने ब्लैक स्टार्क पक्षियों को कैमरे में कैद किया। वे वापस कहीं जा रहे थे और करीब सौ की संख्या में थे। दूसरे नंबर पर टीम ब्लैक बाजा रही। इस टीम ने कुल 179 पक्षियों की प्रजातियों को कैमरे में कैद किया। इस टीम में श्रुति, संदीप, गुरविंदर सिंह और दीक्षा शामिल रहे। तीसरे नंबर पर टीम फैल्कन रही। इस टीम ने पक्षियों की 171 प्रजातियों को देखा। इस टीम में गीता गोस्वामी, निरतिन, रिक टूर और कारमेनीस शामिल रहे। विजेता टीम को चंडीगढ़ बर्ड्स क्लब की ओर से सम्मानित किया गया। इस मौके पर बर्ड्स क्लब के प्रेसिडेंट एमएस सेखा ने बताया कि इसका मकसद लोगों में पक्षियों की प्रजातियों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाना और लोगों को नेचर के करीब ले जाना है।



चंडीगढ़ बर्ड क्लब द्वारा आयोजित बर्ड रेस में भाग लेने वाले बर्ड वाचर्स। अमर उजाला



यह पक्षी पहली बार दिखा

बर्ड रेस के दौरान एक पक्षी पहली बार देखा गया। इससे पहले वह पक्षी इस पूरे रीजन में नहीं देखा गया था। सउथर्न ग्रे श्रिक नामक पक्षी को बर्ड वाचर राजीव दास ने क्लिक किया। उन्होंने बताया कि जब वे एयरसिटी में थे, तब उनकी नजर उस पर पड़ी। वह बबूल के पेड़ पर बैठा था। उनका कहना था कि यह पक्षी नार्थ वेस्ट या फिर वेस्ट में देखा जाता रहा है। राजस्थान के इलाक़े नहीं आया। इसके यहां देखे जाने के कारणों पर उन्होंने कहा कि संभव है कि वह भटककर यहां पहुंच गया हो। कई बार मौसम में जबरदस्त बदलाव या तूफान की वजह से पक्षी अपना रास्ता भूल जाते हैं। यह पक्षी मैडक जैसे छोटे प्रजातियों को शिकार बनाता है। इसे खाने के लिए वह कटि कले पौधे में लेकर जाता है और वहां फंसाकर इसे खाता है।

11TH BIRD RACE HELD BY CHANDIGARH BIRD CLUB

Southern Grey Shrike and Brown Bullfinch declared birds of the day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 24

SOUTHERN GREY Shrike and Brown Bullfinch on Sunday were declared as birds of the day in the 11th Bird Race organised by Chandigarh Bird Club (CBC), which has been active in Chandigarh region since 2008. As many as 209 species of birds were spotted during the bird race.

A total of 188 bird species were observed by Team Fish Eagle, headed by Brig Sarabjeet Singh Randhawa (Rtd). As many as 179 species were observed by team Black Baza, headed by Gurminder Singh. A total of 171 species were observed by Team Falcon headed by Geeta Goswami.

Southern Grey Shrike was observed in Aero City, Mohali, by Team Kestrel headed by birder Rajeev Dass. Brown Bullfinch was observed at Chakki Mod village, which is a famous bird-watching site situated 30 km



Southern Grey Shrike

from Chandigarh in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh. Bullfinch was observed by team Black Baza, headed by Gurminder Singh.

The bird race was held in Inter-State Chandigarh Region (ISCR) comprising the area of Timber Trail to Morni Hills, Chhatbir, Mirzapur dam, Siswan dam, Nepli and Kansal forests and the Sukhna Lake. Teams came together from the Tricity and Nangal.

Meetinder Singh Sekhon, president of CBC, said, "This year,

our teams observed more species than the previous year. There are a few reasons behind this. First: This time we had more than 10 teams of birders. Second: We covered all the important birdwatching spots. At Nagar Van, which is located near Sukhna Lake, the presence of White Eyed Buzzard, a hawk, and Rufous Sibia was observed for the first time in any official bird race."

The teams were free to make their own routes and sites for the day as long as the area covered is within 40km radius of Chandigarh — from Bhojpur and Chakki ka Mor to Old Kasauli road and Pinjore to Morni Hills, Nepli, Kansal Mirzapur Dam, Siswan dam, Perch Dam to Chhatbir Zoo (birds imported into the zoo do not qualify) and finally all the parks and gardens of Chandigarh and the Sukhna Wildlife. The bird race was a full day event — dawn to dusk walk, trek, drive, dive or fly — to cover as many bird watching sites as possible.



25/02/2019

Southern Grey Shrike, Brown Bullfinch cheer Tricity bird lovers - The Times Of India - Chandigarh, 2/25/2019

Southern Grey Shrike, Brown Bullfinch cheer Tricity bird lovers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Bird lovers during the Bird Race in Chandigarh and adjoining forest reserves spotted 209 different species of birds. A maximum of 188 species were spotted by the team Fish Eye bagging the first prize in the race. The bird lovers also found rare species of Southern Grey Shrike and Brown Bullfinch as birds of the day.

The team comprising of Brigadier G S Randhawa, Mahesh Garg and Alpana bagged the first prize by spotting a total of 188 bird species. The teams in Chandigarh covered the areas from Timber Trail to Morni Hills, Chhatbir, Mirzapur dam, Siswan dam, Nephi and Kansal forests and the Sukhna Lake. Teams came together from Tricity and Nangal.

These Bird Races are dawn-to-dusk events where



Tricity birders spotted 209 different species of birds at the Bird Race

teams of bird-watching enthusiasts, from beginners to experts, spend the day, birding in and around the Inter-State Chandigarh Region (ISCR).

After a whole day of bird-watching, there was an interactive session where the participants shared

their experience, said chief coordinators Rima Dhillon of Chandigarh Bird Club supported by Meetinder Singh Sekhon.

The most exciting aspect of Bird Race was that it offered a unique platform for beginners, and especially for children to get together



with experienced birdwatchers, spend an entire day spotting and identifying birds in an effort to record as many species of birds as possible, said Sekhon.

Team Black Baza spotted 179 species and Team Falcon spotted 171 species of birds.

बर्ड रेस में दिखे 209 प्रजातियों के पक्षी



साउदर्न ग्रे शार्क

जागरण संवाददाता, चंडीगढ़ : सुखना लोक कैचमेंट फॉरेस्ट परिया में 209 प्रजातियों के पक्षी मिले हैं। इनमें बहुत से प्रवासी पक्षियों की प्रजातियां भी शामिल हैं। रविवार को चंडीगढ़ बर्ड क्लब ने बर्ड रेस का आयोजन किया।

बर्ड के नाम से चार-चार प्रतिभागियों की तीन टीमों ने सुबह ही बर्ड रेस में विभिन्न प्रजातियों के बर्ड्स को अपने कैमरों में कैद किया। ब्रिगेडियर रंधावा, महेश गर्ग, अल्पना और विकास की फिश इगल टीम ने 188 प्रजातियों के पक्षी कैमरों में कैद किए। वही टीम रेस की विजेता रही। दूसरी टीम की प्रतिभागी श्रुति, संदीप, गुरविंद सिंह, दिक्षांत ने 179 प्रजातियों के बर्ड्स ढूंढें। तीसरी टीम फाल्कन में गीता गोस्वामी, नितिन, रिक तूर और कर्मन्या ने 171 प्रजातियों के पक्षियों को कैमरे में कैद किया। इससे पहले नवंबर 2018 में आर्मी लिटरेचर फेस्टिवल से पहले भी बर्ड रेस का आयोजन किया गया था।

बर्ड रेस का आयोजन

कैमरों से शूट किए बर्ड, 209 स्पीसेज मिली रीजन में, फिश इगल पहले नंबर पर



चंडीगढ़ | सुखना लोक से लेकर मोरनी हिल्स और मिसवां डैम तक रविवार को बर्ड रेस की गई। इसमें कई टीमों ने पार्टिसिपेट किया और अपने कैमरों से अलग अलग स्पीसेज के बर्ड्स की फोटो क्लिक की। जिसने ज्यादा स्पीसेज के बर्ड्स को क्लिक किया वो इस रेस में विजेता रहे। एचएमवीसी और चंडीगढ़ बर्ड क्लब की तरफ से ये 11वीं बर्ड रेस रविवार को करवाई गई। इस रेस में कुल स्पीसेज 209 बर्ड्स की पाई गई। वहीं शाम को क्लब की तरफ से करवाए गए फंक्शन में साउथर्न ग्रे शरिक और ब्राउन बुल्फिच को बर्ड्स ऑफ दे डे डिक्लेयर किया गया। शाम को हुए फंक्शन में इस रेस में ज्यादा स्पीसेज के बर्ड्स की फोटो क्लिक करने वाली टीम को विजेता घोषित किया गया। इसमें पहले नंबर पर फिश इगल नाम से बनाई गई टीम ने पहला प्राइज जीता। टीम फिश इगल (ब्रिगेडियर रंधावा, महेश गर्ग, अल्पना और विकास) ने कुल 188 प्रजातियों की फोटो क्लिक की। टीम ब्लैक बाजा (श्रुति, संदीप, गुरविंद सिंह, दिक्षांत) इन्होंने 179 प्रजातियों के बर्ड्स को क्लिक किया। टीम फाल्कन तीसरे स्थान पर रही।

Bird race to cover Morni, Chhatbir, Nepli today

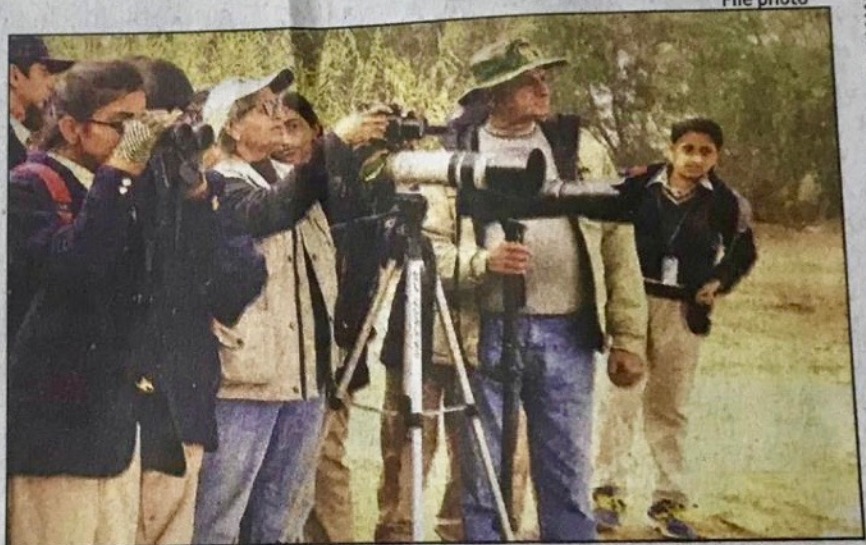
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

File photo

Chandigarh: Bird lovers will get a chance to explore new species of birds and meet other bird enthusiasts at bird race event on Sunday. At the events bird watchers — beginners to experts — from seven to 81 years of age will be seen chasing birds around Inter State Chandigarh Region (ISCR).

After spending the whole day watching birds, participants are expected to join an interactive session to share their experiences. Members of Chandigarh Bird Club are the chief coordinators of this year's bird race event. Chandigarh teams will cover areas like Timber Trail, Morni hills, Chhatbir, Mirzapur dam, Siswan dam, Nepli, Kansal forests and Sukhna Lake.

The most exciting aspect of



The event is aimed at generating awareness about birds that surround the region

the event is that it offers a unique platform to beginners, especially children, who will be spending their entire day with experienced birdwatchers, spotting and identifying as many species of birds as

possible. Region's most experienced birdwatchers will navigate the teams.

The event is also aimed at generating awareness among people about the bird life surrounding the region.

Whispering Wings®

Newsletter of the Chandigarh
Bird Club



Incepted in 2008, the Chandigarh Bird Club dedicated itself 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, Vikramjit Singh, Mrs Rima Dhillon, Mrs Sarbjeet Kaur, and Mrs Geeta Goswami.

The fundamental objectives of Chandigarh Bird Club continue to be to:

1. Bring people, especially the younger generation closer to nature, through birding and help them to enjoy the outdoors while making out a fun activity.
2. To make individuals and government more sensitive towards the environment to create a dynamic database for analysis to focus on conservation efforts.
3. To create a forum for birders to share information and discuss issues related to this activity.

Editors: -

Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon

Amandeep Singh Channa

- **President - Mitinderpal Singh Sekhon**
- **Vice President - Narbir Singh Kahlon**
- **Secretary - Rima Dhillon**
- **Joint Secretary - Sarbjeet Kaur**
- **Treasurer - Mahesh Garg**