

Whispering Wings®

Newsletter of the Chandigarh Bird Club®

Volume 9 Issue 3 — January to March 2025



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Front Cover - House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) by Vikas Sharma



Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) by Amandeep Singh

From the Editor's Desk

Rima Dhillon



AS NATURE BURSTS INTO BLOOM AND FIELDS SWAY WITH GRAIN,
MAY WE BE INSPIRED TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ALL LIVING THINGS.

Once again birders have come together to share their experiences with the readership of our newsletter *Whispering Wings*.

Kunal Bamby writes about his birding trip to the Sichuan region of China. The beautiful photographs and scintillating text are both outstanding. Bhupesh K Goyal's account of the star birds of Jessami brings to the readers the wonders of that area.

For weeks now, bird forums across the country have been consumed by heated debates, arguments, and angry exchanges around unethical practices in birding. No longer is it the tranquil pastime it used to be. The new-age birder is driven by competition: photo likes on social media, life lists chasing milestone numbers, and exclusivity in sightings - one willing to go to extreme lengths, often paying large sums of money to stay relevant in this fast-evolving scene. As a result, birdwatching is now viewed in some quarters almost like a criminal act — on par with poaching. Several birding hotspots have seen government notices banning birdwatching, citing heavy fines for violations. Incessant calls, back clearing vegetation and luring birds in hides are the reasons for this ban.

Sattal was once a beloved birding haven. The famous “Studio” was no more than a small trickle of water from leaking tanks, naturally flowing down a slope toward a cattle pound. The surrounding bushes provided protection and some stones and dead branches provided ideal perches. Birders could sit within a few feet of the action, without disturbing the birds. With sandwiches, coffee flasks, cushions, and folding chairs in tow,

they spent hours photographing the birds that came by. The mood was relaxed, marked by camaraderie and shared passion



Birdwatchers and Bird photographers at Sattal,
Uttarakhand, by Rima Dhillon

All over the world, hides are used to facilitate ethical birdwatching, offering excellent opportunities for observation without disturbing the birds. The real issue lies in how these tools are used — or misused. The hides, in themselves, are not the problem but their unethical commercialisation. Between the guides, the hides, and the ambitious birders, it all boils down to a cycle of demand and supply.

We need to pause. It's time to bring back the patience, the stillness, and the respect — not only for the birds, but for the spirit of birdwatching itself.

Indian White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*)
by Rima Dhillon



Secretary's Report

Amandeep Singh



The first quarter of 2025 has been especially fruitful for Chandigarh Bird Club. The months of January, February and March saw a flurry of activities, both in the field and behind a podium.

In January, Club members participated in the annual waterfowl surveys conducted in Nangal, Gurdaspur and Harike. Over the course of four days, members surveyed the wetlands and counted over 50,000 birds of over 40 waterfowl species.



Members of CBC with Punjab Forest Department Officers at Gatti Forest, Harike

In February, CBC held an exhibition on World Wetland Day at Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh, to raise awareness about the destruction of wetlands. CBC President Rima Dhillon and CBC Secretary Amandeep Singh were also invited by Akal Group of Institutions in Sangrur, Punjab, to take their students for a field trip and give them a talk

about birdwatching and avian habitat protection. The students showed us the nests they had built themselves and presented us with plants as a token of their appreciation.



CBC celebrates World Wetlands Day at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh



CBC with students of Akal Group of Institutes in Sangrur, Punjab

February is never complete without our annual Chandigarh Wings. As always, members of Chandigarh Bird Club participated enthusiastically and in great numbers, 45 birders and 15 teams went about the ISCR and saw over 260 species. This

year, the event was made even more special by the presence of Guide and Author Jennifer Nandi, who launched her book 'No Half Measures', and regaled us with her stories about her journeys and inspired us.



Jennifer Nandi interacting with CBC members after the launch of her book 'No Half Measures'

In March, CBC President Rima Dhillon, and CBC Secretary Amandeep Singh were invited by Rotary Club, Chandigarh to address its meeting and talk about birds and birders. The Rotary Club members were very inquisitive and asked a lot of questions.



Rima Dhillon addresses a meeting of Rotary Club, Chandigarh on Birdwatching

One can be assured that there will be new birders among them soon. CBC members also attended a three-day symposium conducted by IISER, Mohali. One such lecture was conducted by Dr Suhel Qureshi, Nature Conservation Foundation, India, about the contribution of citizens in recording data for avian research.



CBC members attend a citizen science lecture conducted by IISER, Mohali

March is also the month in which we celebrate World Sparrow Day. To that end, CBC provided bird nests for people to put up for sparrows to nest.



Bird Nests provided by CBC for its members

As I said in the beginning that this quarter was very fruitful, I have every hope that the next will be as fruitful, if not more.

Three Rarities of Jessami

Bhupesh K Goyal

Jessami is a village on the Manipur side of the Nagaland-Manipur border, in Ukhrul district and is famous for the Battle of Jessami of March 1944, during the Second World War, when a company of the 1st Assam Regiment resisted the relentless march of the marauding Japanese forces long enough for the Allied Forces to dig their defences in Kohima so strong that they could repulse the Japanese back into Burma, saving Indian soil from their footprint. The Jessami War Memorial, erected for the brave soldiers of the Assam Regiment, speaks eloquently of their invaluable contribution towards shaping the course of the World War history.



Jessami War Memorial, Manipur

For the birding community, Jessami is famous for its three rarities, namely Yellow-throated Laughingthrush, Moustached Laughingthrush and the Mrs. Hume's Pheasant. When the opportunity came knocking, we packed our bags and our photography gear and rushed to Jessami to try our luck.



Yellow-throated Laughingthrush
(*Pterorhinus galbanus*)

We reached the Military Outpost in Jessami for our stay for the next two days. As a military doctor of nearly four decades standing, there is a spontaneous ‘at home’ feeling in any military setting.

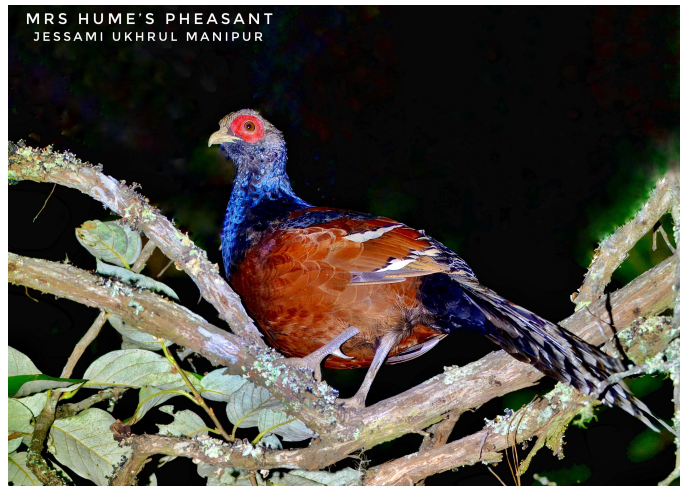
Soon after lunch, we left for the likely spot for the Yellow-throated Laughingthrush. Exactly where Rofik, the celebrated guide from Kaziranga hoped to find them, they were there. A large flock of a few dozens of them. And they all made a hurried reconnaissance sortie, from one bush to another, ensuring some cover for themselves at all times, trying to figure out who was calling them. Despite their conscious efforts to stay concealed, we did manage some ordinary record shots, just enough to check the ‘lifer’ box.



Yellow-throated Laughingthrush
(*Pterorhinus galbanus*)

During the next hour or so, we looked out for them, engaged with them but they wouldn't come out. As they seemed to be moving downhill, we chose to go down a few bends in the road to see if we could receive them there as they came down. Lo and behold, they rained past us down the slope and came to rest on the trees below us. They were rushing towards their roosting spots further downhill, moving from tree to tree. And this is when we got a better opportunity to capture them in our cameras. Fairly satisfied with what we had got, within a couple of hours of coming to Jessami, we started back to meet the Village Council members, leaving the Yellow-throated till the next morning.

Asset Wezah, the Council Secretary and Eyekhwete Wezah, the Council Chairman welcomed us to their village with an understated exuberance, so typical of the people of North East. It was the first time that a senior ranking Army officer was visiting their village in a bush jacket rather than military fatigues. They were completely aware of the purpose of our visit from what Rofik had already told them and they expressed their deep conviction in getting Mrs Hume's Pheasant for us. Now that's the Trophy Bird for Indian Birders, just like the Sclater's Monal, probably even rarer. The bird isn't uncommon in Thailand or even Mynamar but its sightings are very few and far between on Indian soil.



Lady Amherst's Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*)

The Village Council had despatched four of their best spotters (erstwhile hunters for the same bird!) into the forests at 4:00 p.m. around 11 km from the village where it usually roosts for the night. With the clearly defined mandate that they are not to come back empty-handed that evening! Such was the resolve of the entire village in helping us achieve our target.

We came back to the Military Camp for Dinner, where our host, Major Gurung, planned to organise a bonfire for us the next evening. When he realised that the campfire next evening would only happen if we did not go to the forest once again in search of the pheasant, he seriously began to pray that we get the bird that day itself. He did not want to lose the opportunity of having a campfire on his remotely located and rather isolated company base when, fortuitously, he had some company.

At around 8:00 p.m. we decided to drive to the Pheasant Point and wait for the 'news'. As we were reaching there, Asset Wezah received a call from one of the spotters that there was no luck so far. Despite almost four hours of search for the bird, with torch lights of four spotters relentlessly flashing on every tree in the forest. We discussed amongst ourselves and decided to call off the mission for that day and restart the search the next evening again. Just as we were turning the car around to pick up the spotters and head back, Asset's phone rang again. The excitement in his voice was a dead give away. The bird was found! Our hearts went racing. And we started running up the almost vertical trail on the hill, guided by one of the spotters who had come down to escort us to the exact location. We would all get breathless frequently, even young Rofik, and were forced to take many breathers, but eventually we reached 'the' spot. We were asked to set up our cameras for night shooting and then the torchlights flashed their beams on a specific branch of one of the million trees out there. The utterly beautiful male of Mrs Hume's Pheasant stood perched on that branch in its finest attire looking straight in our eye. We clicked and clicked and yet some more till Rofik found an even

better angle for a clearer view. We went about our business so gingerly that neither was the bird much alarmed nor did it take a frightened flight to escape our intrusion. It could possibly perceive the friendliness of our energy. Once done, the spotters took us a few trees away for clicking the female as well. What a heavenly bounty! Boundless joy for us all! Answer to the prayers - ours, Village Council's and Major Gurung's! Seen for the first time after September 2022. Sheer hard work of the determined spotters became our luck!

Our only remaining target for the next day was Moustached Laughingthrush. However, we started our next day's birding from the same point where we had left the Yellow-throated to roost the previous evening. We did get to see them once again, but their stealth movement did not allow us to take good pictures. Then we moved on, a few kilometers away, where the day's target was likely. The fog had lifted from that spot now. Rofik reached a certain spot and called for the bird. Prompt came the response and then the bird itself. The Moustached Laughingthrush did not take more than 5 minutes to come out into open and pose for us, literally, to take excellent pictures. When, all the while we had been hearing that, most other birders who come to Jessami invariably miss the Moustached. We were thrilled to bits at what came to us on a platter!

It was now time to visit the Jessami War Memorial. The little 'extra' when added to a birding trip makes it so wholesome and complete. Major Gurung had arranged for the Wreath Laying. The War Memorial instantly brought to the fore the story of the courage with which the Assam Regiment soldiers engaged the Japanese and we were truly immersed in a feeling of reverence for all those brave hearts.

The afternoon was once again spent on the Yellow-throated's trail, hoping for better pictures. We did get some more open shots but more distant ones. We were quite unmindful of that, having got far more than what we had bid for when coming to Jessami.



YELLOW-THROATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH
JESSAMI UKHRUL MANIPUR

Yellow-throated Laughingthrush
(*Pterorhinus galbanus*)



Yellow-throated Laughingthrush
(*Pterorhinus galbanus*)

The call of the Chinese Blackbird showing up rather strangely in Port Blair, took away Harish from our group a little prematurely. But we stayed back to enjoy Major Gurung's bonfire, along with the Village Council members, over some drinks, celebrating the successful culmination of our birding trip to Jessami. To raise awareness among the people of Jessami about their avian wealth, I promised to send them flex prints of their three star species that could surely be called 'Jessami's Pride'. Which I did, first thing when I reached Delhi.



Moustached Laughingthrush (*Lanthocincla cineracea*)

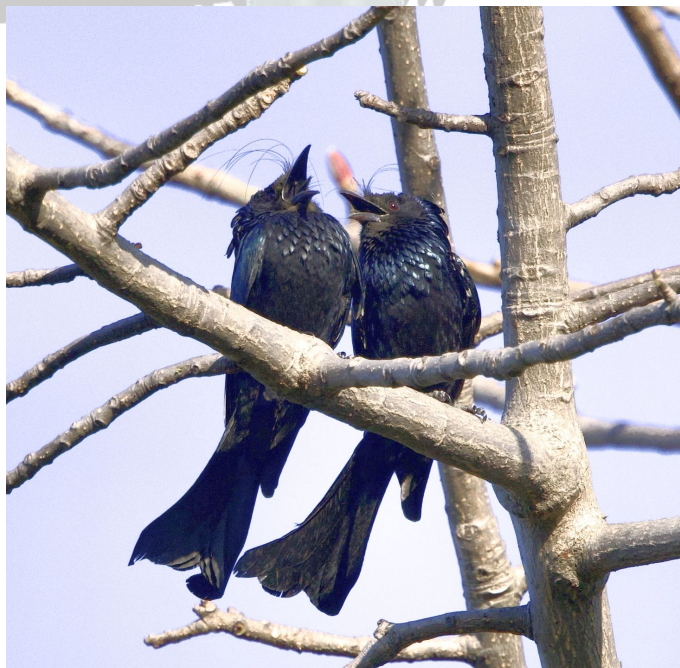
We left Jessami a little early next morning, for our next destination Khonoma, near Kohima. The route back from Jessami once again crossed the Yellow-throated's location and we dutifully stopped once again to see whether we would get them in more obliging positions that morning. And we did. As if the whole flock had shed their shyness

by now, seeing us for the third day in a row. We captured them in our cameras to our heart's content and moved on. Just then Rofik heard the call of the Gray-headed Parakeet and saw it flying away. By the time I got alerted to sight what would be another lifer for me, it was too late. The bird had flown away.



Moustached Laughingthrush (*Lanthocincla cineracea*)

With a very heady feeling after a delightful and satisfying Jessami trip, we drove on, and very soon, were knocking at Khonoma. Now, Khonoma is another story for another edition of Whispering Wings.



Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)
by Sarbjeet Kaur

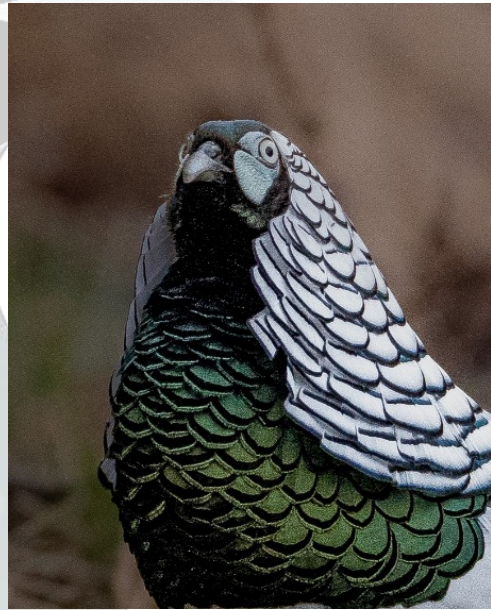
It's Raining Pheasants

Part One: Sichuan, China

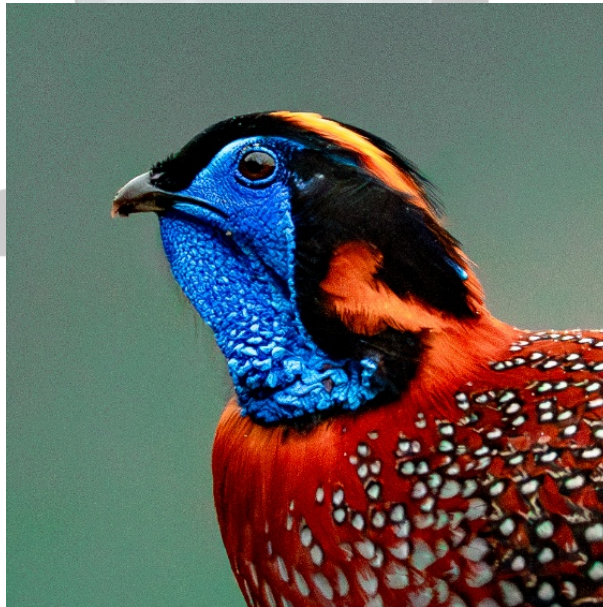
Kunal Bamby



Chinese Monal (*Lophophorus lhuysii*)



Lady Amherst's Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*)



Temminck's Tragopan (*Tragopan temminckii*)

There have been numerous times that I have gone to Arunachal Pradesh for birding. During my recent birding trip to Walong, the eastern-most tip of India situated in Arunachal Pradesh, I came across 2 species, namely Yunnan Nuthatch and Sichuan Leaf Warbler and I wondered that these two species might have got their names from the adjacent Chinese provinces, Yunnan and Sichuan respectively.

I had an upcoming work trip to Guangdong province of China, and the word Sichuan just crashed my mind and I thought of covering some of the big pheasants of the place, and therefore I added a 3-night trip to Sichuan along with the trip to Guangzhou. I contacted one of the local guides but he was reluctant to guide me for a short trip, though finally I was able to convince him that I keep visiting China for work and I'll keep adding such short birding-excursions with him.

Sichuan is a south-western province of China that contains a stretch of Asia's longest river, *Yangtze*. It is also home to the Giant Pandas and various other vivid variety of wildlife. Chengdu, being the headquarters of the same, was set to be the gateway for my short trip. Thai Airlines flight from Delhi to Chengdu is one of the quickest and most-reasonable ones, with a very short transit time at Bangkok Airport. Upon reaching, it came to my mind that I was travelling on a Business Visa to China, but I have arrived in one of the tourism spots, therefore I asked my Chinese supplier to arrange some relevant documents in support to my visit to the province of Sichuan, to show to the immigration officer at the Chengdu Tianfu International Airport.



The drive was supposed to be directly to the village of Lianghekou Village, part of the Kangding county in Sichuan. The first four hours were absolutely smooth and quick, but the last 2 hours of journey turned into a very rough and bumpy drive of 3 hours due to the construction activity at the various locations. Reaching the homestay at about 11 PM, the owner of the property instructed me to be ready on time as our target for the morning is going to be one of the toughest to photograph and it would be almost impossible to spot if there is sun shining the next morning. The temperature was minus 2 degrees Celsius and the altitude of the stay was 3450 meters ASL. The primary target was Chinese Monal, a cousin species to the Himalayan Monal and Sclater's Monal.

On getting geared up for the ride the next morning, after we got out of the homestay, I was stunned to see the magnificent views of the snow-covered peaks and valleys around. The homestay owner took his SUV, with the steel chains attached to the wheels, to the snow-covered roads for 4 kms, and then off-roading 2 kms with at least 12-14 cm of snow covering the entire path leading us to the altitude of about 4000 meters ASL and luckily it was snowing moderately. I was in the front seat so got my eyes on the 2 male Monals and we immediately got out trying to get the record shots of the birds. We realised that there are 6-7 female monals and a male monal chasing them and displaying too. The whole display scenes were happening behind the bushes on the mountain, while we could only see the lovely male doing so, but not able to film this secret affair of Chinese Monals. Further moving up in the SUV, we encountered a couple of female monals right on the road track, and the guide prompted me to move out of the car as he was expecting some of the male monal to follow the females and thus, we could have a chance to shoot the male monal from a closer distance. We were continuously shooting the male monal but we struggled to get the right angles and then, this noble male monal gave me a fair chance to photograph it, considering the improving bilateral relations between India and China. It was planned to devote a morning and an evening session to photograph the Chinese Monal, but I was satisfied in just one session.



Footprints of Chinese Monal
(*Lophophorus lhuysii*)



Chinese Monal (*Lophophorus lhuysii*) male on the left and female on the right

Thereafter we had our plans to come back to the homestay and rest for a while, have brunch and depart back to Kangding town. The guide and the homestay owner dropped me off outside the homestay but I decided to take a short walk around the place. I came across the very beautiful White-throated Redstarts, Brown Dippers, Rufous-vented Tits, Eurasian Wrens, Rosy Pipits, Daurian Redstarts, Hodgson's Redstart and some White Wagtails. Also, I could get a Godlewski's Bunting, and as many as 40 Mongolian Short-toed Larks, and a lots of Elliot's Laughingthrush, a couple of Giant Laughingthrush too.



Giant Laughingthrush
(*Garrulax maximus*)

Red-throated Thrush
(*Turdus ruficollis*)





Pink-rumped Rosefinch
(Carpodacus eos)



Mangolian Short-toed Lark
(Calandrella dukhunensis)

During a brief brunch sitting in the kitchen of the homestay, I had a chance to photograph a Red-throated Thrush from the window of the kitchen, a Rufous-throated Accentor and some Black-browed Tits. Thereafter we took a short drive in the proximity of 2 kms by car, and we saw a Wallcreeper, and a dozen Pink-Rumped Rosefinches. He then heard the calls of Blood Pheasants, which I asked him to skip as I was able to photograph them well at the Sela Pass, Arunachal Pradesh during one of my past trips. But he insisted that the colour/plumage of the Sichuan based Blood Pheasant will please me and we must photograph it. Therefore, we waited for 9-10 minutes and these 4 guys came relatively near (about 35-40 meters away) out of the group of total 13 or 14 individuals. After shooting these beautiful pheasants, we headed back to Kangding to photograph one of the very beautiful pheasant along with some other specialties.



Chestnut Thrush (grey-headed) (*Turdus rubrocanus*)



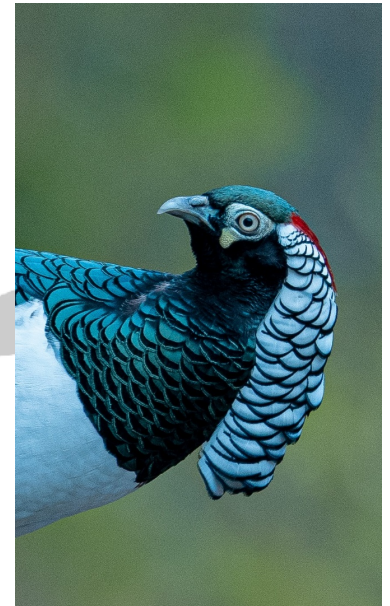
Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)



Blood Pheasant (*Ithaginis cruentus*)

Left: at Sela Pass, Arunachal Pradesh, India; Right: Sichuan, China

The next morning, while loading the luggage into the car, the guide noticed a Great Spotted Woodpecker near the gate of our hotel, and I went to capture it and found a Chestnut Thrush, Bar-tailed Treecreeper and a couple of Sichuan Leaf Warblers in the backyard of the hotel. The plumage of the Chestnut Thrush is gray-headed here, unlikely the white-headed found in Himalayas or Eastern Himalayas. We started a very short drive to one of the locally set feeders to photograph Lady Amherst's Pheasant and that short bumpy ride with steep ascents lead us to the place where we were welcomed by a large group of Goldcrests on the dry trees at the entrance. As we went inside the showcase gallery, I was stunned to see the elusive male of Lady Amherst's Pheasant displaying while there were a couple of females around him. It was such a magnificent sight to witness. At first instance, I was not willing to photograph the bird as it was simply such a beautiful treat to the eyes to watch the male dancing around, spreading its head and neck feathers and just blooming up its long tail like a pretty white flower. I am sorry but I am unable to describe the exact actions that were performed by the displaying male.



Lady Amherst's Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*)

We got 2 additional chances to see this pheasant coming back to the feeder hide again after it observed females feeding on the hide, so I didn't let this opportunity go and took all advantages of my gear to film and photograph it. In India, I thrived a lot to see the last of my Fulvetta species belonging to India, and luckily, I photographed it in China just outside this hide, it was White-browed Fulvetta (*below*). Along with, the other birds that came to the hide were Chinese Babax, Barred Laughingthrush, Giant Laughingthrush, Elliot's Laughingthrush and Brown-breasted Bulbul.

The other birds seen outside the Feeders were Buff-Throated Warbler, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, White-Collared Yuhina and the rare Barred Laughingthrush. The target for the next day was Temminck's Tragopan, but since it got sunny and rather than

spending more time at the feeders, we decided to take an evening chance to go for the Tragopan and took a 5-hour drive to Mount Longmen and transported ourselves in the local vehicle to the elevation of 2000 metres ASL inside the tourist area of Longmen. We were able to reach the destination by 5.20 pm and the light was getting very bad. The Tragopan is supposed to cross a patch of forest anytime between 6 to 7 pm daily. At about 6.20 pm, a sub-adult male tragopan passed by the patch foraging the ground and it stayed for about 4-5 minutes in spite of the human presence nearby. Till 6.45 pm, there was no sign of the male adult until I noticed a very silent blue-headed bird approaching the patch. Yes, the bird came up along with 2 more sub-adult males, but the spark of the fully-grown male can be described in the photos that the bird left for me. This was our 3rd



White-browed Fulvetta (*Fulvetta vinipectus*)



Elliot's Laughingthrush
(*Trochalopteron elliotii*)



Brown-breasted Bulbul
(*Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*)



Chinese Babax (*Babax lanceolatus*)

prime target of the Sichuan Trip and it was such a relief to photograph this bird after I missed photographing it a couple of years ago at Mandala Top (Arunachal Pradesh). The other birds seen in the forest were Black-faced Laughingthrush, Davis's Fulvetta and a female Necklaced Woodpecker. We covered the target bird for the next morning in the previous evening only.



Temminck's Tragopan (*Tragopan temminckii*)

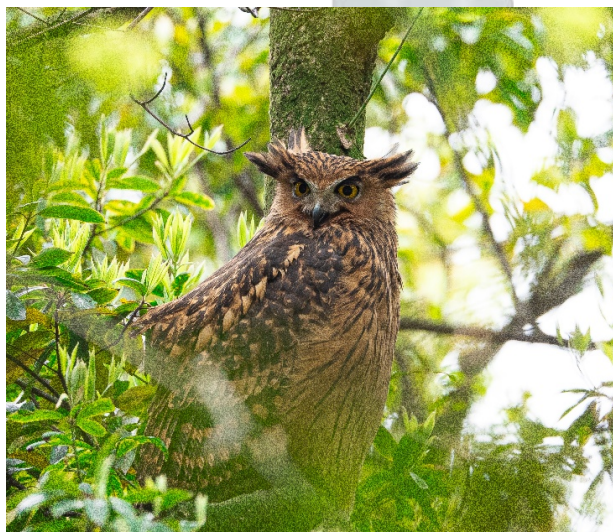
The fourth day was a rest day for me, still I insisted that the guide take me to an area where I might not find any new bird, but my camera keeps clicking. So, he suggested a nearby foothill area where the local birding groups have discovered a roosting spot of the Tawny Fish Owl. Since it was a festival day in Sichuan, the roads were heavily flooded with cars and the tourist spots with lots and lots of people. Amidst such a heavy crowd, the owl maintained its perch, and there were lots of small birds nearby, Speckled Piculet, Green-backed Tit, Asian Tit, Pallas's Warbler, White-collared Yuhina, Black-chinned Yuhina, Stripe-throated Yuhina, Blue-winged Minla, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker and Light-vented Bulbul. It took us 2 hours to reach Chengdu Tianfu Airport, while the journey was merely 30 minutes only on normal days. It was time to say goodbye to the beautiful area and the lovely birds, and instead of going to Guangzhou for my business purpose, I rather decided with my guide to change the plans and yes, we got all the logistics arranged within 6-7 hours upon my decision, and of course my family's consent to continue birding. Rather, say hello to my next Minding-my-own-Birding business destination, Fujian and Henan provinces, where we see lots of exclusive pheasants and other important birds. Thank you so much for reading and hope my short story encourages anxious birders to visit this part of the world too for birdwatching and to see other wildlife. Stay tuned for the next part of the trip.



Barred Laughingthrush
(*Lanthocincla lunulata*)



Black-throated Tit
(*Aegithalos concinnus*)



Tawny Fish Owl
(*Ketupa flavipes*)



Fire-breasted Flowerpecker
(*Dicaeum ignipectus*)



Black-chinned Yuhina
(*Yuhina nigrimenta*)



Speckled Piculet
(*Picumnus innominatus*)



Great Tit (*Parus Major*)



White-collared Yuhina
(*Parayuhina diademata*)



Kunal Bamby
(*Kunalus bambii*)

World Sparrow Day

Amandeep Singh

A LITTLE BIRD, WITH PLUMAGE BROWN,
BESIDE MY WINDOW FLUTTERS DOWN,
A MOMENT CHIRPS ITS LITTLE STRAIN,
TEN TAPS UPON MY WINDOW-PANE,
AND CHIRPS AGAIN, AND HOPS ALONG,
TO CALL MY NOTICE TO ITS SONG;
BUT I WORK ON, NOR HEED ITS LAY,
TILL, IN NEGLECT, IT FLIES AWAY.

SO BIRDS OF PEACE AND HOPE AND LOVE
COME FLUTTERING EARTHWARD FROM ABOVE,
TO SETTLE ON LIFE'S WINDOW-SILLS,
AND EASE OUR LOAD OF EARTHLY ILLS;
BUT WE, IN TRAFFIC'S RUSH AND DIN
TOO DEEP ENGAGED TO LET THEM IN,
WITH DEADENED HEART AND SENSE PLOD ON,
NOR KNOW OUR LOSS TILL THEY ARE GONE.

Paul Lawrence Dunbar

2^{0th} March 2025 was World Sparrow Day, a day when we celebrate the House Sparrow and also all the other types of Sparrow. World Sparrow Day began due to an initiative of Mr Mohammed Dilawer, an Indian conservationist and founder of Nature Forever Society and was first celebrated in 2010 in different parts of the world. Over the years, the purview of World Sparrow Day has expanded to include other common birds as well. In this article, I will try to discuss the cultural significance and impact of sparrows on humans.

Sparrows are probably the most recognisable bird as well as the first bird that comes to one's mind when discussing birds. It is also one of the most researched bird in the world, with an average of 10,000 research papers published on sparrows. It is also recorded in ancient cultures – for example there is an Egyptian hieroglyph based on house sparrow, used to indicate small, narrow, or bad (most likely due to its habit of eating the crops). Ancient Greeks associated sparrows with Aphrodite, the Goddess of love, which was later echoed by writers such as Shakespeare and Chaucer. Sparrow is used as an example of divine providence by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, which inspired Shakespeare to use the sparrow in Hamlet.



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

But sparrows have not always been revered, or at the very least looked upon with apathy. They have been seen as enemies. In the 1950s and 1960s, Chairman Mao of China launched the Great Leap Forward Campaign to transform China from an agrarian society to an industrial superpower. Among other parts of this campaign, there was one labelled the 'Four Pests Campaign'. The four pests that were to be eliminated in the campaign were rodents, flies, mosquitoes, and sparrows.



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

The Chinese people were told that one sparrow could eat around 2 kg of grain every year. Incensed by this, the farmers started destroying their nests, broke their eggs, and killed their chicks. People went around in groups and hit pans to create a ruckus that would not let the sparrows rest. Their goal was for the sparrows to drop dead from exhaustion. People also used sling shots or guns to shoot the sparrows.

Sparrows found refuge in the extraterrestrial premisses of diplomatic missions in China. But the Chinese people were undeterred. When the Polish embassy in Beijing denied the Chinese request of entering the premisses of the embassy to scare away the sparrows who were hiding there, the Chinese surrounded the building and beat drums or

two days, without break. The Poles had to use shovels to clear the embassy of dead sparrows.

However, nature had its revenge. Unbeknownst to the Chinese populace and its leaders in the Politburo, their actions had disturbed the balance. As pointed out by Chinese ornithologist Tso-hsin Cheng, sparrows ate a large number of insects, as well as grains. The imbalance, that is, the death of millions of sparrows caused the locust population to balloon to such levels that they swarmed the country and destroyed crops. This, compounded with other environment-destroying steps like the overuse of pesticides and misuse of poisons to kill other pests, and over-reporting yield to please Beijing, led to the Great Chinese Famine where an estimated 15 – 55 million Chinese people dies due to starvation. Chairman Mao ended the campaign in April 1960, in part due to the influence of Cheng, but it was too late.



House Sparrow
(*Passer domesticus*)

The Great Chinese Famine, a direct result of ecological imbalance caused by heedless and unscientific approach to industrialisation, stands as a horrifying example of nature exacting its revenge. It also shows us that every life form on earth has its purpose.

Sparrows, or indeed any bird, must be protected, must be preserved. Often times, when I talk of birds with my family, the first question I am asked is “Aaj kal woh choti si chidiya nahi dikhti?”. I tell them that the houses no longer have niches, the households now buy flour from the shop, they don’t wash the wheat and put it to dry on the terrace or in the verandah, that the fields are moving away from you and ever decreasing. The sparrow is just going where it can find these conditions.

Sparrow Photography Competition



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
by Amandeep Singh Channa

Russet Sparrow (*Passer rutilans*)
by Simmi Waraich



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
by Vikas Sharma

Birding in Ubud, Bali: A Rainy yet Rewarding Experience

Sarbjit Kaur



Javan Pond Heron
(*Ardeola speciosa*)

After a three-day stay in Singapore, my family and I boarded a morning flight to Bali. The 2-hour 45-minute journey was smooth, and upon arrival at Bali's Ngurah Rai Airport, we swiftly exited to find our waiting taxi. Our destination was Desa Visesa Ubud, a resort known for its lush surroundings and traditional Balinese charm.

En route to Ubud, we stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. The location was breathtaking, offering an ethnic ambiance with a stunning view of endless rice fields. As we dined, a large flock of over twenty five Javan Pond Herons, accompanied by Eastern Cattle Egrets, foraged gracefully in the fields. In a quiet corner, three Zebra Doves searched for food, while a pair of Scaly-breasted Munias carried dry leaves - busy with nest-building. I took a few shots of these avian beauties before continuing our journey.



Javan Pond Heron
(*Ardeola speciosa*)

Covering a distance of 40-45 km, we finally reached Desa Visesa. The resort, set in a vast landscape of greenery, was surrounded by rice paddies, a pond, and a rivulet flowing alongside it. While exploring, I spotted a Javan Kingfisher perched near the rivulet. After nearly two hours of patience and effort, I managed to capture only a flight shot, but it was worth the wait.

After settling in, I picked up my binoculars and camera and ventured out to investigate the bird calls resonating through the area. Cave Swiftlets zoomed over the trees, too quick for my lens, as they playfully entered and exited verandas in the blink of an eye. I captured a few shots, though none were exceptionally sharp. Nearby, a few Spotted Doves perched peacefully on the rooftop edge, clearly a favourite spot for these resident birds.



Spotted Dove
(*Spilopelia chinensis*)

The next day, torrential rain poured down for four continuous hours. Though the downpour was intense, the birds remained unbothered, not even seeking shelter. Javan Munias, resembling house sparrows in their familiarity, perched inside the buildings, in the trees, and in the fields, ubiquitous and unafraid. The rain persisted throughout our three-day stay, but whenever it ceased, even briefly, I seized the opportunity to venture out with my camera.



Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon
(*Treron griseicauda*)

One morning at breakfast, my attention was drawn to a large shady tree bustling with activity. A flock of 18-20 Grey-cheeked Green Pigeons fluttered about, while, in the opposite direction, a Javan Kingfisher made a fleeting appearance on a small tree bordering the rice fields before vanishing. Javan Munias and Scaly-breasted Munias were actively gathering nesting material, preparing for their future offspring.



Scaly-breasted Munia
(*Lonchura punctulata*)

Later, I headed to the nearby rice fields. There, 10-12 Red-rumped Swallows hovered over a cattle shed, while Javan Pond Herons and Eastern Cattle Egrets continued their search for food.



Zebra Dove
(*Geopelia striata*)

A flock of domestic ducks happily flapped their wings in the water, and Zebra Doves chased each other in playful pursuit. High up in a tall palm tree, five Yellow-vented Bulbuls perched momentarily before taking off.

Meanwhile, a female Brown-throated Sunbird presented an excellent photo opportunity, whereas the male remained elusive, hidden within the thick foliage.

On the morning of February 11th, our departure day, I took a short walk to explore the surroundings outside the resort. The area featured some commercial

establishments interspersed with rice fields. Fortunately, the rain held off for two hours, granting me a window for birding.



Brown-throated Sunbird
(Anthreptos malacensis)

Golden-headed Cisticola
(Cisticola exilis)



Golden-headed Cisticola
(Cisticola exilis)



Javan Munia (*Lonchura leucogastroides*)

A Golden Cisticola hopped energetically in the rice fields, while Javan Munias and Scaly-breasted Munias feasted on golden paddy grains. In the distance, I heard the deep calls of a Greater Coucal. A pair of Scaly-breasted Munias were busy building their nest in a medium-height palm tree, and Short-tailed Starlings perched on nearby wires.

As I made my way back to the resort, a delightful surprise awaited me. A Javan Kingfisher was perched in a small flowering tree near the restaurant. Just as I prepared to take a shot, a worker cleaning the area startled it, and it took off. Undeterred, I followed it toward the rivulet, hoping for another glimpse. After 40 minutes of patient

Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker
(*Dicaeum trochileum*)



waiting, my persistence was rewarded—the kingfisher reappeared, offering me a perfect flight shot before vanishing once more.

Satisfied with my birding adventures, I packed my gear and picked up a packed lunch. It was time to move on to our next destination, Seminyak, a mere 40-45 km away. However, the journey took us a long 4 hours and 30 minutes due to narrow roads and heavy traffic, with numerous tourists crowding the routes connecting the cities.

By the time we arrived in Seminyak, it was evening. Due to the long journey and congestion, we didn't explore the city. Instead, we took the opportunity to enjoy the greenery within the hotel campus. There, an adult and a juvenile Javan Pond Heron perched in the trees, while Yellow-vented Bulbuls hopped energetically from branch to branch. Eurasian Tree Sparrows gathered along the edge of the rooftop, observing their surroundings.



Yellow-vented Bulbul
(*Pycnonotus goiavier*)

Pink-necked Green Pigeon
(*Treron vernans*)



That night, I heard the distinct call of a Savanna Nightjar near the swimming pool. Hidden in the thick foliage of a nearby tree, it remained unseen, but its call echoed through the quiet night.



Javan Kingfisher
(*Halcyon cyanoventris*)

The next morning, I spotted a female Pink-fronted Pigeon perched in a palm tree, providing a wonderful photographic opportunity. Meanwhile, Zebra Doves continued their playful chasing, and Yellow-vented Bulbuls visited the veranda, scavenging for leftover food left outside by guests.



Ornate Sunbird
(*Cinnyris ornatus*)

Reflecting on my experience, I found Ubud to be a paradise for birders. Despite the frequent rain, the sheer diversity and abundance of birdlife made every outing worthwhile. It is truly a rewarding destination for any bird enthusiast.

The Best Experience: CBC WINGS

Aaryan Bhalla

“EVERY FLUTTERING WING TOLD A STORY, EVERY CHIRP WAS A MELODY—MY FIRST WINGS WAS A JOURNEY INTO NATURE’S HEART!”



15th HSBC Chandigarh BirdRace by Chandigarh Bird Club®

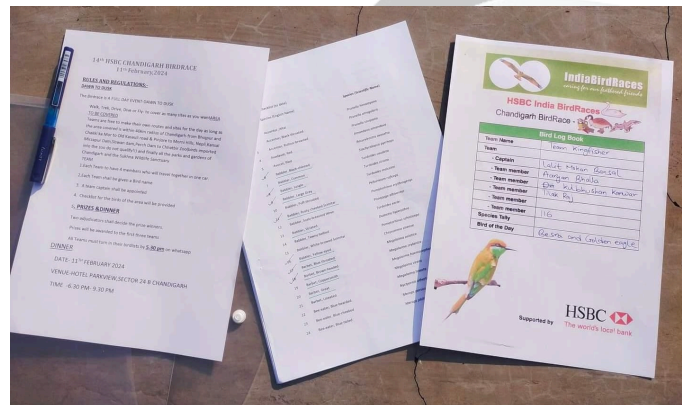
You guys must be thinking and curious to know which experience I am talking about. It was almost 4 years ago, when it was for the first time ever in my life that I held a pair of binoculars in my hands. I was a new entrant to the ‘world of birding’ and extremely keen.

Every year, as February paints the landscape with soft sunlight and cool breezes, bird lovers across the region eagerly await one of the most exciting events – the Chandigarh Bird Club WINGS. This one-day adventure brings together birding enthusiasts, nature lovers, and photographers in a friendly race to spot the maximum number of bird species in and around Chandigarh.



The HSBC WINGS organised by the Chandigarh Bird Club is an annual event where birdwatching enthusiasts come together to spot and identify as many bird species as possible within a specified time frame. It's a great initiative to promote bird conservation and raise awareness about the diverse avian species in the region of Chandigarh ISCR. Participants are usually given a list of birds to look out for, and the team that spots the

highest number of species wins. The event also serves as a platform for networking among bird enthusiasts and promotes the sharing of knowledge and experiences. The thrill of the chase combined with the beauty of nature makes it a day to remember.



Team Kingfisher in action

This year, I was fortunate to be a part of this unforgettable experience. With teams formed, binoculars around our necks, cameras ready, and the checklist in hand – the race began at the crack of dawn!

“IN THE SILENCE OF NATURE, THE BIRDS SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF THE SOUL.”

Chakki Morh & Bhojnagar Road via Morni and Thapli!...



“THE THRILL OF SPOTTING, THE JOY OF LEARNING, AND THE BEAUTY OF BIRDS—MY FIRST WINGS WAS NOTHING SHORT OF MAGICAL!”



It's typically held in areas known for rich bird diversity, offering participants a chance to explore and appreciate the avian fauna. We were driving slow, so that any bird sighting could be ticked on the list and we would try to capture them too. We captured Red-billed Blue Magpies, Common Chiffchaff, Grey-hooded Warblers, Cinereous Tits, Indian Chats, Spotted Doves, Barn Swallows, Barbets, and Dusky Crag Martins and many more.



Our journey began as the sun slowly rose behind the Shivalik Hills. Chakki Morh, nestled along the winding road to Kasauli, welcomed us with the cold morning breeze and the distant calls of the Himalayan Bulbul. The place was alive – Grey Bushchats flitted on thorny bushes, while a Plumbeous Water Redstart danced on the rocks near the stream.



T-B, L-R

1. Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Chrysomma sinense*)
2. Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*)
3. Himalayan Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucogenys*)
4. Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassinus*)
5. Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush (*Monticola rufiventris*)
6. Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*)
7. White-crested Laughingthrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*)
8. House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
9. Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*)
10. Streaked Laughingthrush (*Garrulax lineatus*)
11. White-capped Redstart (*Chaimorrornis leucocephalus*)
12. Red-billed Leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*)

The Chandigarh Bird Club WINGS is not just about winning or counting birds – it's about reconnecting with nature. Every binocular raised opens up a new world. Every click of the camera captures not just birds, but memories. It's a day where time slows down, worries fade away, and the only thing that matters is the song of a bird and the joy of being part of something bigger than ourselves.



By mid-morning, we reached the serene Sukhna Lake and Saketri, one of the best birding hotspots for water birds. The pond was buzzing with life – Little Grebes diving into the water, flocks of Northern Shovelers gliding peacefully, and a majestic Pallas's Gull circling overhead.



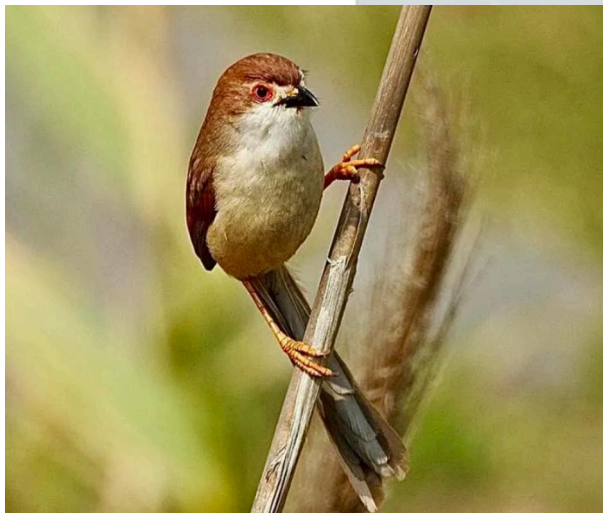
Thanks a lot for organising and taking all the initiative for this long awaited event CBC. It's like a birders' family get together and having food together gives the feeling of oneness. May this family flourish more and more. This event is not just a race but also an effort to promote bird conservation, raise awareness about local bird species, and encourage birdwatching as a hobby. The garden birds and nocturnal calls had awakened my curiosity and interest in the feathered occupants around me, and now there I am!



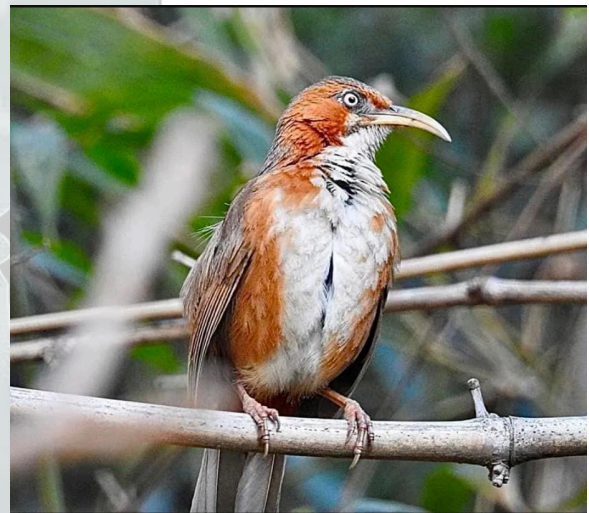
“NOT JUST A RACE, BUT A CELEBRATION OF NATURE, CURIOSITY, AND PASSION!”



Our team was eventually able to spot 117 species. I am feeling proud as I was a part of the team during the WINGS and was in charge of making the checklists. I love birding because it lets me discover new things that I didn't even know about, the thing which can give you patience and peace. Our team captured off this Bird for the most "awesome capture of the day". The first time Black Eagle was recorded. It was a lifer bird for me! Had a fabulous day filled with birding, eating and clicking together.



Yellow-eyed Babbler
(*Chrysomma sinense*)



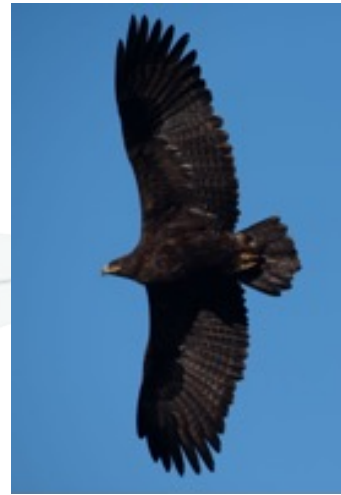
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler
(*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*)

From Dawn to dusk, the 'Team Kingfisher' encountered a total of 117 species from Chakki Morh and Bhojnagar road in Himachal to Sukhna Lake and Saketri in Chandigarh and finally winding up at Motemajra Pond in Punjab. We sat down for a quick breakfast, sharing homemade sandwiches and sipping tea, all while watching Glossy Ibises feeding along the water's edge. It was not just birding – it was living in the moment for real.

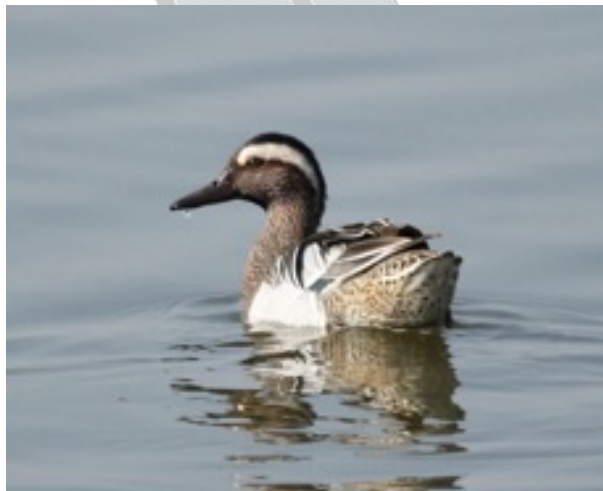
If you've never experienced a day like this – you're truly missing out on one of life's greatest adventures. So, next February, pack your binoculars, grab a flask of tea, join a team, and let the birds lead you into their secret world. Who knows? You might just fall in love with birding – like I did.



White-crested Laughingthrush
(*Garrulax leucolophus*)



Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*)



Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)



“EYES ON THE SKY, EARS TO THE CALLS—RACING AGAINST TIME BUT WINNING
MEMORIES FOR LIFE!”

May you hear the Birdsong Forever

Happy Birding!!

Indian Flying foxes

Gagan

The Sukhna Reserved Forest provides shelter and food to a vast number of species, one of which is the Indian Flying Fox (*Pteropus medius*), a species of flying fox native to the Indian subcontinent. This nocturnal creature feeds mainly on ripe fruits, such as mangoes and bananas, and on nectar.



It was in the month of May when I made a visit to the trail, walking down off the trail for a minute or so I spotted a pair of bats. Not knowing the name of the species, I started clicking photos of this black rusty-furry mammal. In some time my attention grew towards a small flock of 6-7 bats, this made me click some more shots through trusty binocular and phone combination. Drawn by curiosity, I took a few steps further and turned to find myself with a mesmerizing sight: a colony of over 350 Indian flying foxes. Mesmerized by their sound and seeing them in such large number for the first time, was the memory, that I recollected while sitting in my office, thinking which experience I should share with my readers.

Churdhar Birding with Rick Toor

Chandigarh Bird Club Field Trip | 14th - 16th March 2025

Rima Dhillon

Birders:

1. Gajinder Bains
2. Gurdip Boparai
3. Rima Dhillon
4. Saroj Gulati
5. Mandeep Kang
6. Alpana NP Singh



It was the Holi weekend, and we chose to celebrate with the vibrant colours of the Churdhar Valley's birdlife. Tempted by Rick Toor's sightings of grosbeaks and chaffinches, six of us set off from Chandigarh early on the morning of Holi, avoiding the rush of revelers.

Our route took us through Kumarhatti to Nauni University, where the birding began just beyond the campus at a spot fondly referred to as "Dipper Point." Though the Brown Dipper eluded us this time, we spotted a Blue Whistling Thrush and a lively mixed flock of Grey-hooded Warblers, Black-throated Bushtits, Green-backed Tits, and Bulbuls.

After a four-hour drive, we reached Rajgarh and stopped for tea at the Tourist Inn. While the offerings were modest, the blooming bottlebrush trees treated us to views of a Crimson Sunbird and a Fire-breasted Flowerpecker.

We met Rick at Hotel Lotus near Nohradhar and continued birding en-route to the homestay at Charna, about 20 km further on the Haripurdhar road. Crisp mountain air, blossom-laden orchards, and flaming rhododendrons set the tone. The

homestay, arranged by Rick and hosted by Mr. Thakur and family, was cozy and welcoming. The local fare – chicken and fish curry, wild greens saag, nettle chutney, and sweet siddu – was delightful and served with generous dollops of homemade ghee.



Later that afternoon, we birded further toward Haripurdhar and were rewarded with flocks of Plain Mountain Finches foraging in the fields. A post-dinner attempt to spot owls was rained out, though we did hear a Collared Owlet nearby.



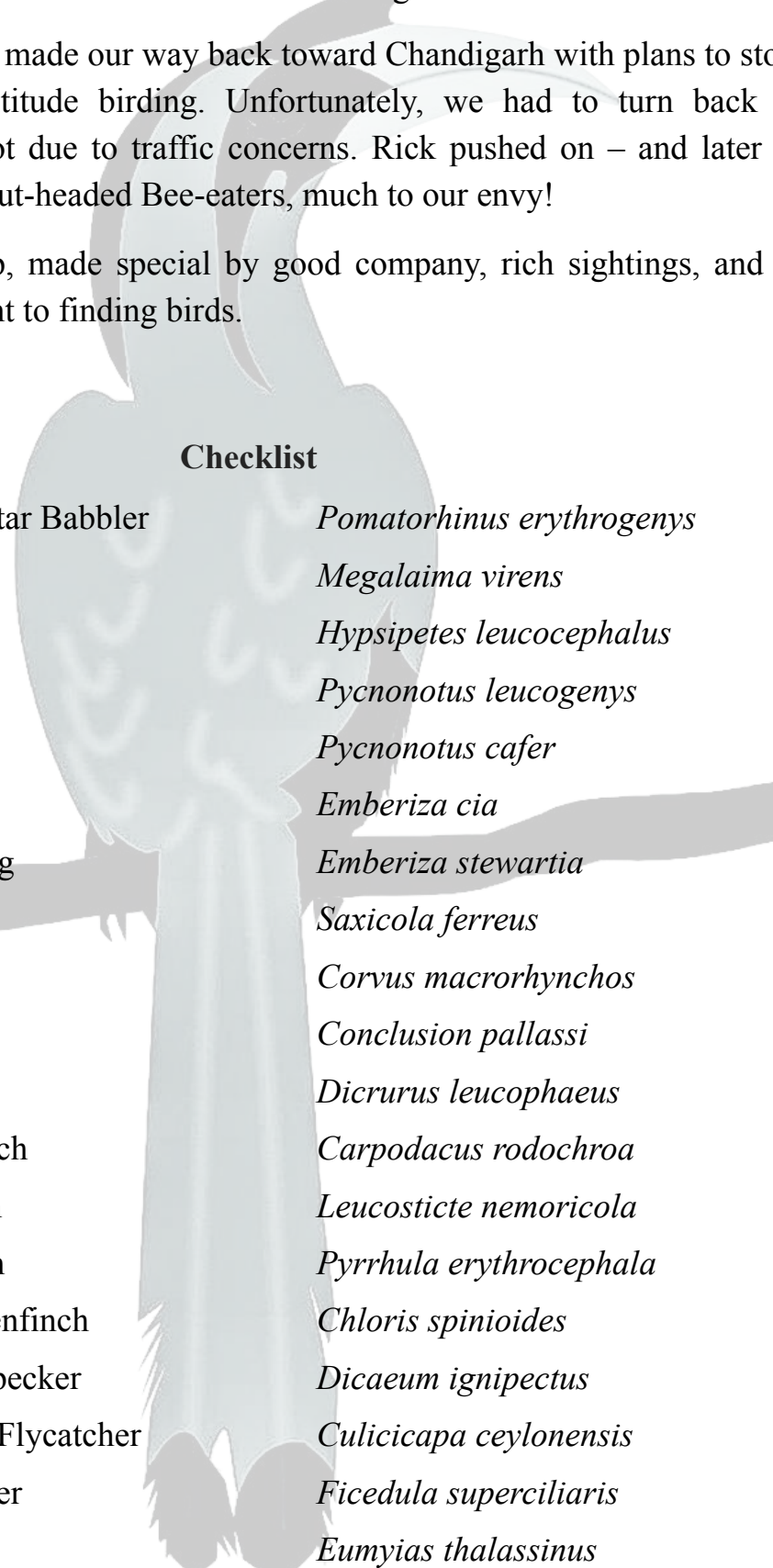
The next morning brought overcast skies and drizzle. Still, we ventured up to the village of Talangna, nestled 2 km above the roadhead. Slushy tracks led to stunning scenery – red rhododendrons blazing against pine forests and the snow-draped Churdhar Peak. Here, we were thrilled to see Black-and-yellow Grosbeaks, Accentors, and Red-headed Bullfinches. The Chaffinches teased us with brief flybys.

After lunch, we drove up to another village to search for the Himalayan Wood Owl. As dusk settled, we watched Himalayan Vultures glide in at eye level. When we finally spotted the owl, it was perched deep in a pine, camouflaged but watchful. A couple of hoots and it vanished into the dark – a thrilling tick on our lifelist.

The following day, we made our way back toward Chandigarh with plans to stop near Rajgarh for lower-altitude birding. Unfortunately, we had to turn back before reaching the bee-eater spot due to traffic concerns. Rick pushed on – and later posted stunning images of Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters, much to our envy!

It was a memorable trip, made special by good company, rich sightings, and Rick's unwavering commitment to finding birds.

Checklist



1 Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus erythrogenys</i>
2 Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>
3 Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
4 Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>
5 Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
6 Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
7 White-capped Bunting	<i>Emberiza stewartia</i>
8 Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>
9 Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
10 Brown Dipper	<i>Conclusion pallasi</i>
11 Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
12 Pink-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rodochroa</i>
13 Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>
14 Red-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythrocephala</i>
15 Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	<i>Chloris spinioides</i>
16 Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>
17 Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
18 Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>
19 Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>
20 Spotted Forktail	<i>Epicurus maculatus</i>
21 Black-and-yellow Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas icteroides</i>



22 Black-headed Jay	<i>Garrulus lanceolatus</i>
23 Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulous glandarius</i>
24 Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>
25 Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>
26 Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethology's</i>
27 Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
28 Southern Nutcracker	<i>Nusifraga hemispila</i>
29 Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei</i>
30 Himalayan Wood Owl	<i>Strix nivicolum</i>
31 Plum-headed parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
32 Slaty-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula himalayana</i>
33 Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
34 Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>
35 Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>
36 Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophuro leucomelanos</i>
37 Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
38 Snow Pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>
39 Upland Pipit	<i>Anthus sylvanus</i>
40 Himalayan Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera</i>
41 Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo reffectus</i>
42 Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
43 Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
44 Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
45 Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
46 Blue-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>
47 Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosa</i>
48 White-capped Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>
49 Rufous Sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>
50 House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
51 Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>
52 Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>
53 Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
54 Streaked Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron lineatum</i>

55 Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Grammatoptil striata</i>
56 Blue Whistlingthrush	<i>Myophonus caruleus</i>
57 Chestnut-bellied Rockthrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>
58 Himalayan Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>
59 Asian Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>
60 Black-throated Bushtit	<i>Argithalos concinnus</i>
61 Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
62 Fire-capped Tit	<i>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</i>
63 Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
64 Bar-tailed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia himalayana</i>
65 Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
66 Wallcreeper	<i>Trichodorma muraria</i>
67 Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis fortipes</i>
68 Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschisos</i>
69 Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
70 Lemon-rumped Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i>
71 Himalayan Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus himalayensis</i>
72 Scaly-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Picus squamatus</i>

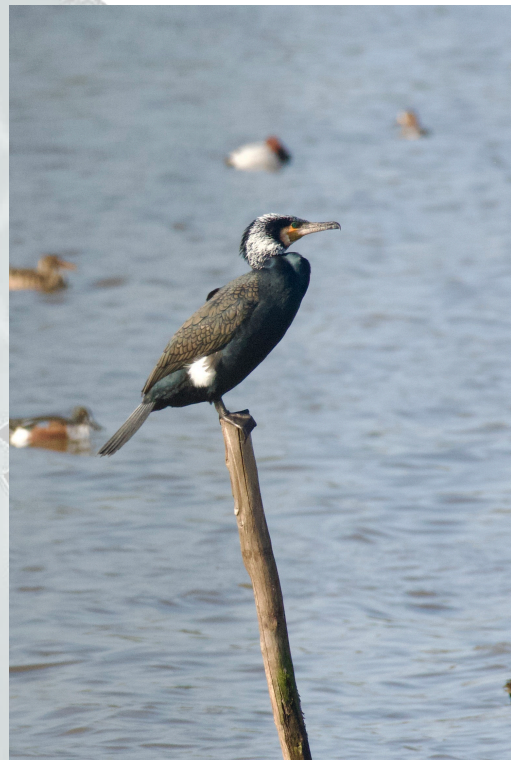


Chestnut-tailed Starling (*Sturnia malabarica*)
by Sarbjeet Kaur



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
by Simmi Waraich

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
by Amandeep Singh Channa



Chestnut-tailed Starling
(*Sturnia malabarica*) and
Rose-ringed Parakeet
(*Psittacula krameri*)
by Sarbjeet Kaur

Chandigarh Bird Club®

Chandigarh Bird Club® is a registered organisation formed by a group of local birdwatchers. The idea is to record the local avifauna, its habitats and help make the residents of Tri-City aware of birds in our region and protect them.

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 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:

- **Bring people, especially the younger generation closer to nature, through birding and help them to enjoy the outdoors while making out a fun activity.**
- **Make individuals and governments more sensitive towards the environment to create a dynamic database for analysis to focus on conservation efforts.**
- **Create a forum for birders to share information and discuss related to this activity.**



President - Rima Dhillon

Vice President - Narbir Kahlon

Secretary - Amandeep Singh Channa

Joint Secretary - Navjit Singh

Treasurer - Mahesh Garg

Editors:

Rima Dhillon

Amandeep Singh Channa

Back Cover - Blue-throated Barbet (*Megalaima asiatica*) by Gurjeet Virk

